



2019

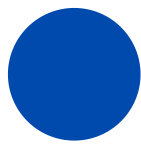
REPORT





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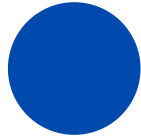
A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Waste management is one of the most pervasive issues of our times. Mass production and consumption and indiscriminate disposal of waste seems to have proliferated every tier of our society. However, in an era of global Environmental change, Guyana has to position itself to implement robust but practical and effective systems to stymie the repulsive habit of littering and poor waste management practices. Undoubtedly, the country has made significant strides in regard, from the enactment of the Litter Regulations in 2013 and the banning of importation of Styrofoam on January 1, 2016; to the draft Solid Waste Management Bill and the numerous efforts by the EPA and Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to arrest the waste management issue.

Further, in 2019, the Government of Guyana has carved a comprehensive plan for Guyana's development through the finalisation of the Green State Development Strategy. Moreover, on the brink of the impending ban on single-use plastics in 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency reaffirms its commitment to clean and healthy environment. This is seen not only in our improved policies and programmes but also in the Agency's ardent support for education and awareness and by extension International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) over the years. ICC targets the source of the waste problem; the people and their attitudes towards the environment. The Agency by collaborating with various organisations and volunteers' collects data on types, quantities and categories of waste on our shorelines for informed decision making.

The report focuses on data from two of the common recreational spots in Georgetown and Berbice; the Kingston Seawall and the #63 Beach. Additionally, it highlights status and trends, types, quantities and categories of data collected and relevant data to effect policies and systems necessary for behavioural change. The EPA will be the guardians of the environment to ensure our coastal and marine resources are protected. We want to send a resounding message to all Guyana, that ICC is not just about picking up garbage and making way for people to dirty the area again, it speaks in a very candid way to us as Guyanese and our lifestyles, what? and how much? we consume. It helps us to understand the source of the problem! Styrofoam for example, use to be a major items which littered the shorelines. However, with the ban on Styrofoam, it's almost nonexistent in the marine debris collected during the cleanup exercises. Our coastlines doesn't have to be littered with garbage, what we need is citizen participation! Remember the change starts with YOU!!!!





A MESSAGE FROM THE ORGANIZERS

Every year thousands of tons of garbage winds up in the seas and oceans with about 60% of that being composed of plastic material. Plastics especially, last a very long time in the ocean, and are in such abundance that there are more than 46,000 individual pieces of plastic litter for every square mile of ocean. Plastics are very perilous to human life, marine life, killing more than a million birds and over 100,000 turtles, whales and an immense number of fish in our oceans. Coastal clean ups like the International Coastal Cleanup empowers us to play an intrinsic part in curbing the problem.

The Caribbean Youth Environment Network in Guyana (CYEN) is a non-governmental organization whose mission in this process is to (inter alia) protect marine life and build public awareness of the anthropogenic activities that trigger environmental issues. The health of our waterways and community is indicative of the health of our planet. That is one of the things CYEN takes to heart as we are committed to creating significant improvements to promote sustainability at local, regional and even global levels. Considering that there has been a lot of accumulating and littering of trash and debris on coastlines in recent times especially at the Number 63 beach, Berbice and Kingston shores in Georgetown; CYEN decided to carry out a two-day project to clean up the coastline of the said areas. The project involved the total cleaning of all sorts of debris that could be seen on the coastline, with particular interest on plastics and its accessories. The data we collected over this period of time was phenomenal and truly indicative of the pollution problem that we have been grappling with for so long.

The work to protect marine life and curb the marine debris littered on our beaches and in our waterways is far from done and we are dedicated to seeing changed attitudes of citizens. The International Coastal Cleanup is just one phase of what is needed for this ultimate goal and it is through continued support and effort from all stakeholders can we achieve. This year, we saw the most persons attending the cleanup than we have in years. We believe this to be a signal of awareness of the problem and a step in the direction of positive change to the society.





FROM AROUND THE WORLD - GLOBAL NUMBERS FROM 2018



1,080,358 people participated
23,333,816 pounds of trash
collected
97,457,984 items collected



Did you know?
In 2017 and 2018, all the top 10
items collected were made of
plastic!

Tiny trash makes a BIG impact!



In 2018, there were:
45,748,045 plastic pieces;
21,685,143 foam pieces; and
2,808,975 glass pieces.



ICC IN GUYANA - 2019



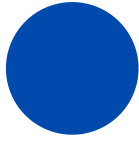
This year's events attracted more than 500 volunteers across both locations



ICC 2019 was held at 2 locations:
In Georgetown at the Kingston Seawalls on September 21-22; and
at #63 Beach on September 28



36,849 pieces of trash were collected



IN OUR BACKYARD - COUNTRY TOTALS 2019



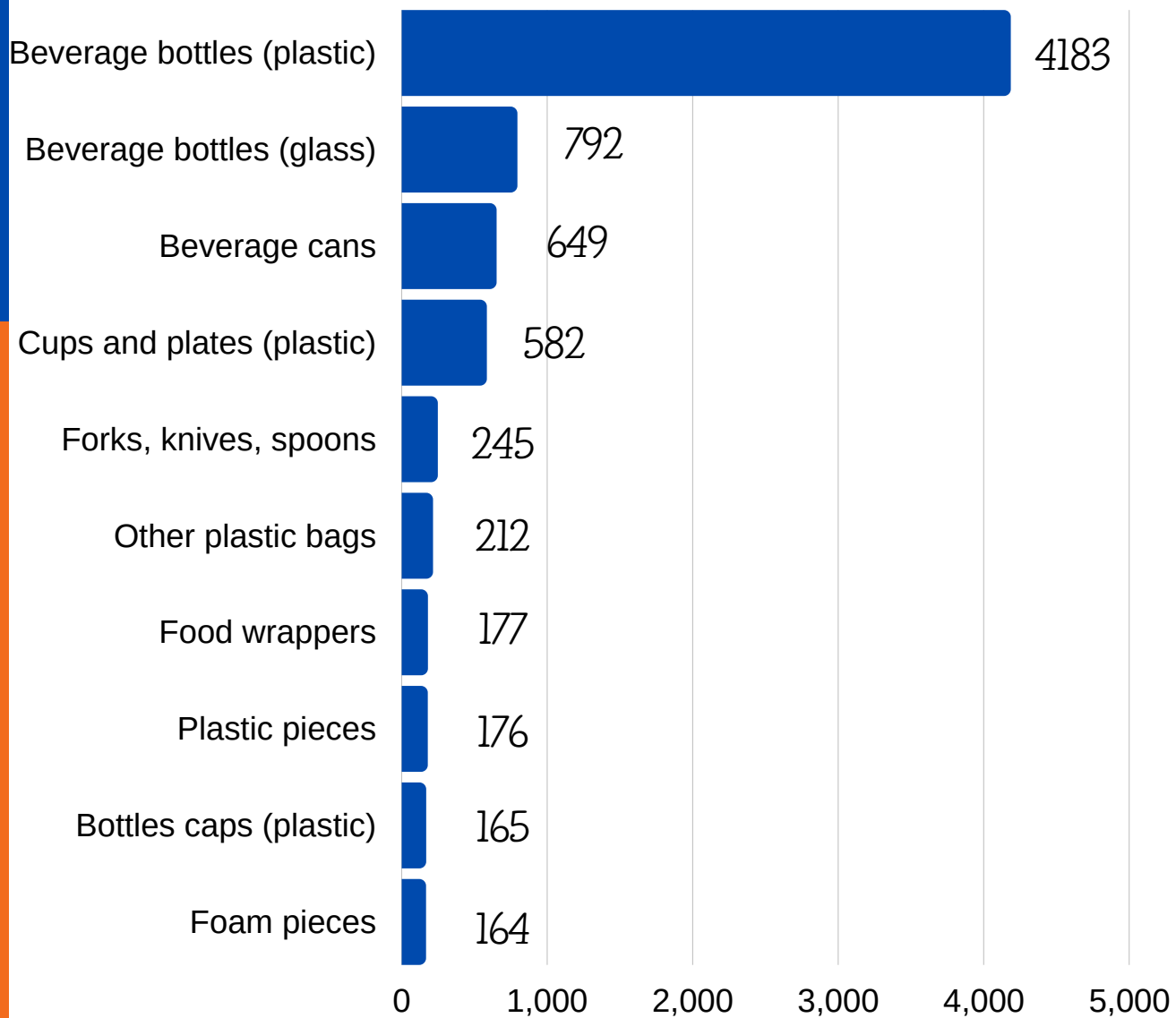


IN OUR BACKYARD - FROM THE KINGSTON SEAWALLS





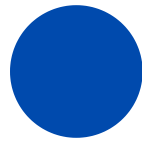
IN OUR BACKYARD - FROM #63 BEACH





WHAT IN THE WORLD? UNUSUAL FINDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD





WHAT IN THE WORLD? UNUSUAL FINDS FROM GUYANA



2 hangers



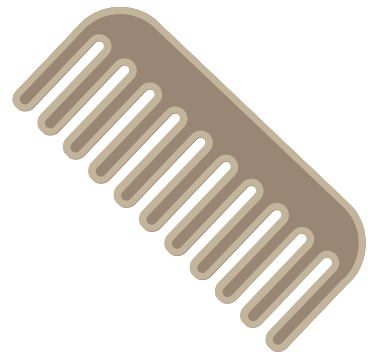
68 batteries



18 toothbrushes



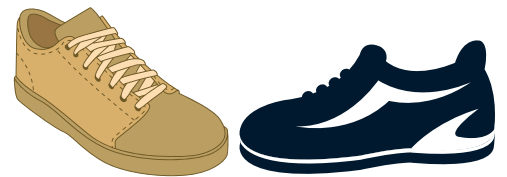
2 cellphone cases



2 combs



4 travelling bags

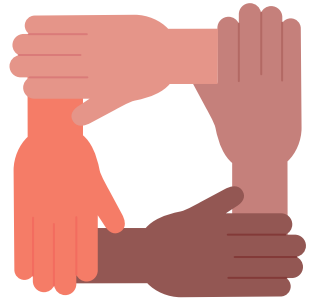


133 pieces of
footwear





**WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS**



BUSINESSES

EEPGL

Tiger Rentals Guyana

Repsol

Global Technology

Everything Craft

Banks DIH

DTS Trading and Shipping

NGOS AND CBOS

Lions Club of Bel Air

Lions Club of Ruimveldt

Leo Club of Ruimveldt

Leo Club of South Georgetown

Leo Club of Georgetown Stabroek

Red Cross Society

JCI

Come Alive Network Inc

Eco Alliance

Youth Action Movement

Rotaract Club of Georgetown

Miss East Coast Pageant

Child Link

Korean International Martial Arts

Guyana

SCHOOLS

Queens College

School of the Nations

Georgetown

International Academy

Government Technical

Institute

Marian Academy

Brickdam Secondary

The Bishops' High

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA SOCIETIES

Biology Club

Chemistry Club

Dentists Students

Association

Geographical Society

Economics Society

Rotaract Club

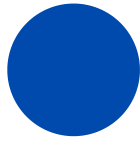
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Guyana Police Force

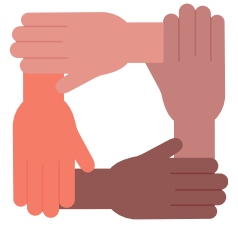
Presidents Youth Award

Programme- Guyana

EPA-Guyana



**WITH A LITTLE HELP
FROM OUR FRIENDS**



**UNIVERSITY
OF GUYANA**

University of Guyana Tain
Campus

SPONSORS

Banks DIH
Tiger Rentals
EPA-Guyana



THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS

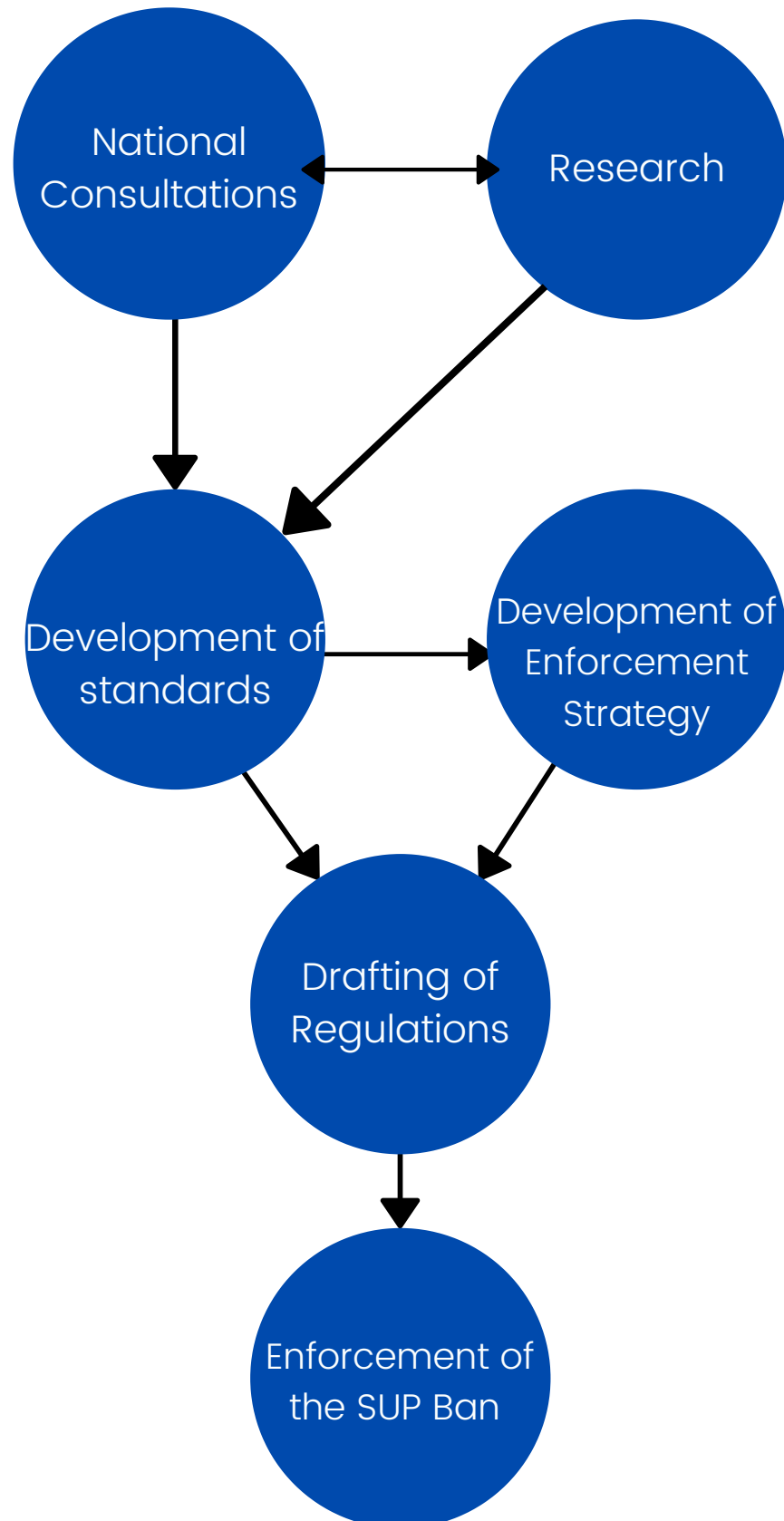
It is evident that our world is evolving rapidly. Over the past decade, there have been unprecedented changes not only in our environment, but also in the areas of health, science and technology, consumption patterns, even the way we socialise. We have become accustomed to convenience and living in the fast lane; we are always on the go. Moreover, we have grown accustomed to plastic products; they make up almost everything we own. Plastics, however, while they are useful, cheap and easily accessible, have had long-term consequences on our health and the environment.

Moreover, single-use plastics have become very problematic and plastic pollution has now become a global problem. Therefore, regulation and appropriate systems to deal with plastic pollution have to be implemented. Guyana will therefore, join with countries around the world to ban some single-use plastic products in 2021.

The proposed ban is on the importation, manufacture, distribution and use of SINGLE USE PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS AND OTHER SINGLE USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS including plastic plates, food containers, cups, straws, and utensils (spoons, knives, forks), in 2021.



THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS





THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS



Ministry of the Presidency
Department of Environment



GUYANA | *Single-Use Plastics Ban*

Proposed Items to be Banned:



Plastic Straws

Take up to 200 years
or more to degrade.

Plastic Utensils

Take up to 1000 years to
degrade.



Plastic Containers

Take up to 450 years
to degrade.



Plastic Cups & Plates

Plastic plates take up to 1000 years
to degrade.

Plastic Bags



1-5 trillion plastic bags are used each year.
Take up to 20-400 years to degrade.

Join the Conversation at
#592SaysNoToSUP



THE BAN ON SINGLE USE PLASTICS



Ministry of the Presidency
Department of Environment



GUYANA | *Single-Use 2021 | Plastics Ban*

Think ALTERNATIVES:



Cutlery

Paper, bamboo,
natural fibres, enamel (reusable)



Cups & Plates

Paper, glassware, corn starch, bagasse,
natural fibres



Straws

Bamboo, paper,
plant-based materials

Food Containers

Paper, corn starch, bagasse,
natural fibres



Bags

biobags from paper, jute
canvas, hemp, natural fibres, reusable cloth bags

CONTACT US:

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Fax: 225-5481
Email: epa@epaguyana.org
Website: www.epaguyana.org



Join the Conversation at:

#592SaysNoToSUP





WASTE MANAGEMENT TIPS



Repair rather than replace

Make your own household cleaners with vinegar, baking soda

Compost your kitchen and yard waste



Perform transactions online to reduce paper waste

Develop a meal plan to avoid food waste



Buy in bulk to avoid excess packaging

Donate used clothing and toys



Participate in paper recycling programs

Buy supplies in bulk whenever possible

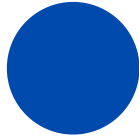
Get a reusable bottle for drinking water

Share your agenda digitally



Try reusable metal or glass straw alternatives or opt for no straw





WILDLIFE SPOTLIGHT

Jellyfish, plastic bags, balloons; these all look like food to a hungry sea turtle. But plastics and trash don't belong inside a sea turtle or in the ocean at all. They can lead to a number of environmental problems. They are especially dangerous for marine animals that can become entangled or accidentally ingest these items while feeding. Once ingested, the plastic items can cause a variety of issues. Digestive tracts can become blocked, which can lead to starvation and death. Over 100 million marine animals die each year due to marine debris, according to the Sea Turtle Conservancy. And more than half of the world's sea turtles have ingested some plastic or human trash, according to a University of Queensland study.

Here are a few facts about our sea turtle friends.

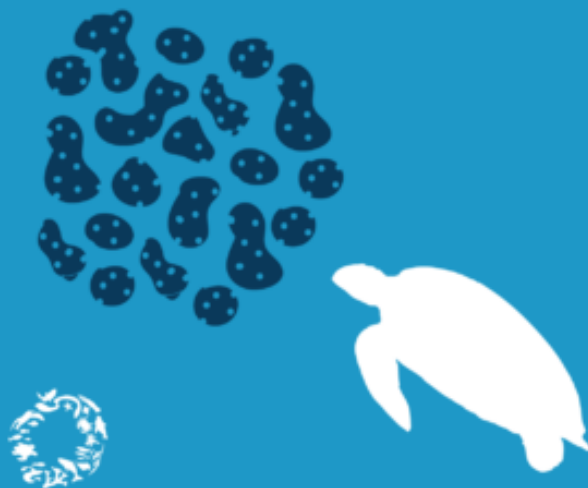
Leatherback turtles are the largest sea turtle in the world.



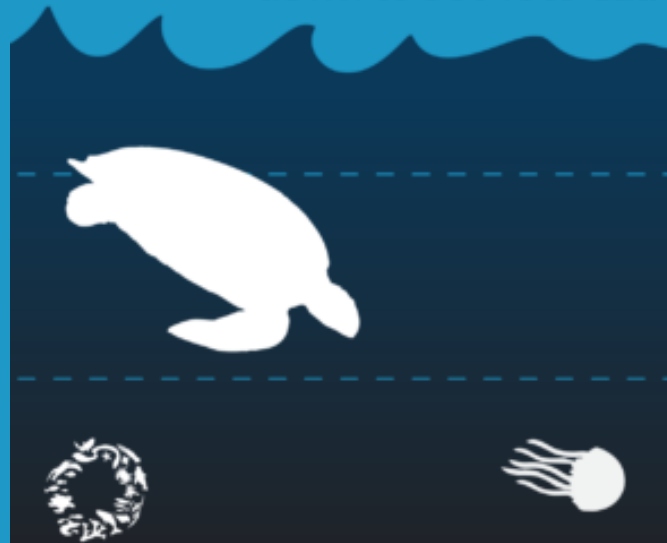
Green sea turtles in the Eastern Pacific actually have darker shells and are known locally as "black turtles."



Hawksbills eat 1,000 pounds of sponge every year.



Male olive ridleys can dive down to 500 ft to eat.



<https://mission.cmaquarium.org/news/plastic-problem-inside-sea-turtles/>





ABOUT INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

**HELD IN OVER 100 COUNTRIES
AROUND THE WORLD EVERY
SEPTEMBER, THE INTERNATIONAL
COASTAL CLEANUP (ICC) — AN
INTEGRAL PART OF OCEAN
CONSERVANCY'S TRASH FREE
SEAS® PROGRAM — IS THE
WORLD'S LARGEST EFFORT TO RID
THE OCEAN OF PLASTICS AND
MARINE DEBRIS.**

This citizen science event contains two components – 1. cleanup of beaches and shorelines, and 2. data collection.

Make a Difference Year-Round.
Download our [Clean Swell app](#) and
document the trash you collect around
the clock or start your own Cleanup at
a beach near you.



**[HTTPS://UNWORLDOCEANSDAY.ORG/EVENT/INTERNATIONAL-
COASTAL-CLEANUP-OCEAN-CONSERVANCY](https://unworldoceansday.org/event/international-coastal-cleanup-ocean-conservancy)**



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Fax: 225-5471

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Linden
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Plantation Whim
Berbice
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Follow us on social media



EPA-Guyana



epagyig



Environmental Protection Agency- Guyana



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