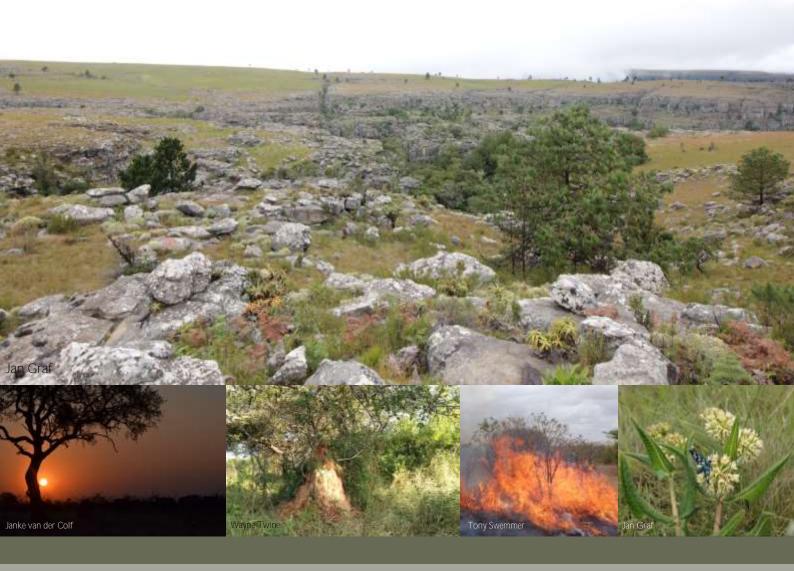


GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Advancing Rangeland Ecology and Pasture Management in Africa



52nd Annual GSSA Congress

WITS RURAL FACILITY, NEAR HOEDSPRUIT,

MPUMALANGA-LIMPOPO BORDER, SOUTH AFRICA

23 TO 28 JULY 2017



09:00 - 10:30

10:30 - 17:00

09:00 - 12:00

12:00 - 13:00

13:00 - 16:00

18:00 - 19:15

07:30 - 08:30

10:30 - 11:30

19:15

18:30

GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

52nd Annual Congress

Advancing Rangeland Ecology and Pasture Management

Registration open throughout

day until 17:00

23 to 28 July 2017, Wits Rural Facility, near Hoedspruit, Mpumalanga-Limpopo Border, South Africa

Monday, 24 July 2017

GSSA Council Meeting

Tuesday, 25 July 2017

Urs Kreuter,

Texas A&M

University

Rina Grant,

Wednesday, 26 July 2017

Thursday, 27 July 2017

Friday, 28 July 2017

Workshop: Policy & Practice - The influence of legislation, policy and strategies on effective resource management and planning

The challenges of managing protected areas in the Lowveld Savannas: perspectives from national parks, provincial parks and private reserves

NMMU

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH REFRESHMENTS

Sam Fuhlendorf, Oklahoma State University

Louise Swemmer, SANParks - Kruger National Park

Planted Pastures: Cultivar Adaptations and Management

Planted Pastures: Production Systems and Management

Planted Pastures: Fertilizer Applications for Maximum Production

Workshop: Social and legal barriers and opportunities for using

prescribed fire on private land in the Southern Great Plains, USA

Livestock Diet and Nutrition

Land Transformation and Restoration

Communal Livestock Farming Systems

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS	

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Sunday, 23 July 2017

Registration for Research Skills Workshop

of direct local impacts of the Kruger National Park

Keynote address: Social and legal barriers and

opportunities for using prescribed fire on private land in

Keynote address: Managing African rangelands using

TEA AND STANDARD POSTER VIEWING

Research Skills Workshop

DINNER

Research Skills Workshop

LUNCH

Research Skills Workshop

Opening of the 52nd Annual Congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa

Welcome: Dr Mike Peel, Agricultural Research Council - Animal Production Institute

Presidential Address: Dr Julius Tjelele, Agricultural Research Council - Animal Production Institute

Opening Address: Dr John Job, Kruger-to-Canyons Biosphere - Grasslands, Bushes and a Biosphere

MEET & GREET

Registration (continues)

Opening Plenary Session

LUNCH

DINNER

LUNCH

Rangeland Ecology

Rangeland Management

the Southern Great Plains, USA

heterogeneity characteristics

Registration (continues)

Tree-Grass Interactions

Rangeland Fire Ecology

Registration (continues)

GALA DINNER

QUIZ EVENING AND DINNER

TEA AND STANDARD POSTER VIEWING Rangeland Assessment and Monitoring

Biodiversity Initiatives and Conservation Planning

Herding 4 Health: rangeland management in an FMD area

WITS Rural Facility: Savanna ecology field experiments

TEA AND STANDARD POSTER VIEWING

Mid-Congress Tours with PACKED LUNCH:

Registration for Policy & Practice Workshop

TEA AND RESEARCH PROPOSAL POSTER VIEWING AND EVALUATION

Workshop: Grasses as Invasive Aliens (with further discussion session after lunch)

Invasive alien plant control and biomonitoring: ecosystem restoration from grasslands to rivers

Keynote address: Heterogeneity as the basis for rangeland

08:30 - 10:30 Keynote address: Biodiversity for society – a reflection on the diversity

13:30 - 14:30 14:30 - 16:50 17:00

19:00 07:00-08:00 08:00-10:00

10:00-11:00

11:00-13:00

13:00-14:00

14:00-15:40

15:40-17:00 18:00

07:00-08:00

08:00-09:30

09:30-10:00

10:00-12:30

13:00-18:00

19:00 08:00 - 09:00 09:00 - 16:00



	TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2017							
08:30- 10:30	Opening Plenary Session							
08:30	Welcome and introductions	Mike Peel						
08:40	Keynote address: Heterogeneity as the	ne basis for rangeland	d management	Sam Fuhlendorf				
09:20	Keynote address: Biodiversity for soci the Kruger National Park	iety – a reflection on	the diversity of direct local impacts of	Louise Swemmer				
10:00	Discussion led by session chair			Mike Peel				
10:30- 11:30	TEA and S	STANDARD PO	STER VIEWING SESSION					
	Rangeland Ecolo	ogy	Planted Pastures: Cultivar and Managemen					
	Effect of rest and distance from water on the vegetation in the Gamka Karoo, South Africa	Nelmarie Saayman	Evaluation of forage yield of pigeon pea (<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (L.) Millspaugh) varieties in Eastern Cape, South Africa	Asiphe Mhlelembana				
	Big trees and elephant in the Associated Private Nature Reserves	Mike Peel	The characterisation of an <i>Opuntia</i> ficus-indica (cactus pear) collection conserved by the ARC-National Forage Genebank	Letty Masemola				
	Do grazing response groups explain the relative defoliation tolerance of mesic grassland species? Naledi Zama		Planted Pastures: Production and Management	on Systems				
	The effect of land-use on herbaceous production and grazing capacity in the Molopo district of the North West Province	Franci Jordaan	Seasonal effect on quality, yield and botanical composition of cultivated beef pasture	Josef van Wyngaard				
	The influence of rainfall zone, catenal position, and distance from village on composition and structure of herbaceous vegetation in a communal rangeland	Wayne Twine	Intake of grass hay by Jersey cows as affected by supplementation with essential oils and its effect on milk yield and composition	Portia Moshidi				
	Rangeland Management		Planted Pastures: Fertilizer for Maximum Produ	7.7				
	Current range condition in relation to land ownership types in Gauteng province, South Africa	Lucas Letsoalo	The effect of phosphorus application and Rhizobium inoculation on growth	Sanele				
	The effects of holistic planned grazing, continuous grazing and 4-camp rotational grazing systems on tick loads and worm counts on grazing animals	Monde Rapiya	performance and biomass production of <i>Lablab purpureus</i> in Alice, South Africa	Saneie Mpongwana				



	TUESDAY, 25 JULY 2017						
	Parallel Sessions: 11:30 - 13:30						
	Rangeland Ecology Planted Pastures: Cultivar Adaptations and						
11:30	Patterns of grass productivity in communal rangelands and protected areas in semi- arid Mopaneveld, and implications for rehabilitation	Tony Swemmer	The production potential and botanical composition of kikuyu over-sown with temperate grass-legume mixtures using different establishment methods	Janke van der Colf			
11:50	The impact of livestock grazing on inselberg vegetation along a grazing gradient in three biomes in South Africa	Laetitia Piers	Effect of cutting on dry matter and total non-structural carbohydrate percentages of ten selected Italian ryegrass cultivars	Khutso Mohubedu			
12:10	What are the long-term effects of high density, short duration stocking on the soils and vegetation of mesic grassland in South Africa?	Kevin Kirkman	Morphological differences between chicory varieties and the potential of using plant height as a measure of dry matter yield	Sigrun Ammann			
12:30	Effect of bush control on species composition, tiller and leaf production of grasses	Mthunzi Mndela	Effects of salinity on germination performance of selected <i>Lolium</i> and <i>Eragrostis</i> grass species	Mziwanda Mangwane			
12:50	The importance of ecosystem state factors to the hydrologic responses of woodlands to land management activities	Jason West	Effect of cutting stages on re-growth dry matter production and nutritional value of the five winter cereal cultivars in Moloto district Gauteng and Nooigedacht, Mpumalanga province	Patrick Rakau			
13:10	Browsing effects on species composition, structural diversity and biomass production under pastoral and commercial ranching in semi-arid savanna, northern Kenya	Staline Kibet Did not present	Biomass production of perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne (L)), cocksfoot (Dactylis glomerata (L)) and tall fescue (Festuca arundinacea (Schreb)) varieties grown under irrigation at Alice, South Africa	Sizwe Tikwayo			
13:30		LU	INCH				
	Pa	rallel Sessic	ons: 14:30 - 16:50				
	Rangeland Management	14:30 - 16:50		14:30 - 15:10			
14:30	Keynote address: Social and legal barriers and opportunities for using prescribed fire on private land in the		The effect of nitrogen fertilisation on dry matter production and botanical composition of grass-legume pastures in the southern Cape	Bernhard Jordaan			
14:50	Southern Great Plains, USA		The effect of nitrogen fertilisation on the yield and botanical composition of kikuyubased pastures	Charne Viljoen			
15:10	Keynote address: Managing African			15:10 - 16:50			
15:30	rangelands using heterogeneity characteristics	Rina Grant	Designing diverse forage crop mixes for weed suppression	Chloe MacLaren			
15:50	Consolidation of the wildlife estate: management challenges at differing spatial scales with special reference to drought	Mike Peel	Influence of social dynamics on intensification of fodders innovations in communal areas of Limpopo province	Ntuwiseni Mmbi			
16:10	Comparison of holistic, conventional rotational and communal grazing management practices in the Eastern Cape grassland biome of South Africa: impacts on grass and soil properties	Solomon Tefera Did not present	Yield and chemical composition of native pastures in six semi-arid communal grazing lands located in three soil types: effect of disturbance and season	Ayanda Kwaza			
16:30	Holistic Planned Grazing™ fails to beef up farm production: an ox's-eye view	Zander Venter	Discussion led by session chair				
17:00	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING O		SLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRIC SHMENTS	CA WITH			
19:00	DINNER						



	WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017							
	Parallel Sessions: 08:00 - 10:00							
	Tree-Grass Interactions							
08:00	Coppice dynamics of two common savannas trees species under different post-harvest treatments	Wayne Twine	Workshop: Social and legal barriers and opportur for using prescribed fire on private land in the Sou Great Plains, USA					
08:20	Comparing the effects of canopy cover increase on grass biomass between Dichrostachys cinerea and Terminalia sericea	Tilly Randle						
08:40	The effects of environmental factors on Seriphium plumosum L. encroachment susceptibility	Gilbert Pule						
09:00	Woody plant densities, cover, height class distribution and their uses in six semi-arid communal grazing lands located in three soil types	Ayanda Kwaza						
09:20	Effects of <i>Pteronia incana</i> (blue bush) invasion on grass biomass production, species distribution and soil chemical characteristics under systematic control methods	Thando Ntutha						
09:40	The effect of fire, frost and simulated grazing on the survival of <i>Vachellia</i> sieberiana (formerly Acacia sieberiana) seedlings along an altitudinal gradient	Jennifer Russell						
10:00- 11:00								
	Tree-Grass Interactions		Livestock Diet and Nutrition					
	The effect of temperature and growth medium on germination potential of unpalatable <i>Seriphium plumosum</i> L. seeds in growth chamber	Khwezi Myeki	Assessing diet selection, preferences and grazing parameters of herded sheep in the Succulent Karoo biome in South Africa	Amy Schroeder				
	Efficacy of different control methods on Seriphium plumosum on degraded rangeland of Mpumalanga province	Thabile Mokgakane	Bioactive compounds and rumen potency of leaf extracts of selected Savanna Mixed Bushveld trees	Claude Muya				
	Invasion of <i>Prosopis</i> species along riparian areas of the Molopo River, North West province, South Africa	Simanga Nkosi	Seasonal variation in nutritive value of four indigenous browse species used for livestock supplementation in the Eastern Cape	Siza Mthi				
	Rangeland Assessment and Mo	nitoring	The efficacy of acetone leaf extracts of Chicorium intybus L. and Lespedeza cuneata on egg hatching of Heamonchus contortus: in vitro studies	Peter Oosthuizen				
	Scientific grazing capacity norms for the North West province	Franci Jordaan	Land Transformation and Resto	ration				
	Ecological monitoring to inform management of semi-arid African savannas: an assessment of techniques across the wildlife-livestock interface and the evaluation of a long term data set	Graeme Wolfaard	An investigation into the control of the invasive <i>Phymaspermum acerosum</i> (Curry's Post weed) in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands Mistbelt Grassland	Michelle Keith				
	A comparison of the belt transect and adapted point-centred quarter sampling approaches to assessing woody savanna vegetation	Cobus Botha	Influences of land-use types on soil organic carbon, total nitrogen and related soil properties in semi-arid area, Pretoria	Abubeker Hassen				
	Rangeland Fire Ecology		Effects of bush clearing on soil respiration in north-central Namibia: Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and Erichsfelde	Wilhelmina Nuule				
	Effects of fire history on ground dwelling arthropods' abundance, species richness & diversity in an arid woodland savanna, Waterberg Plateau Park, central Namibia	Nekulilo Uunona	Germination and seedling establishment of indigenous legume species: assessing the potential for rehabilitation of mine soils	Zanele Ndhlazi				
	Impacts of heavy grazing and fire on aboveground net primary productivity in a Highveld grassland	Alekzandra Szewczuk	potential for renabilitation of mine soils					



WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017

Parallel Sessions: 11:00 - 13:00

	Rangeland Assessment and Mo	onitoring	Livestock Diet and Nutrition	l				
11:00	Savanna Long-Term Research Initiative in the Southern Great Plains	John Walker	Retrogression in rumen and body metabolism of starving cattle on communal area grazing lands: case study of smallholder dairy cattle in Vhembe district, South Africa	Florence Nherera- Chokuda				
11:20	An assessment of woody biomass as a sustainable energy source in a bush thickened area of northern Namibia	Nico Smit	Comparing production of Zulu and Merino sheep on veld and grazing maize—preliminary report	Peter Oosthuizen				
11:40	Assessment of grass species composition and nutritive value as influenced by soil characteristics in two different grazing areas under North West province, South Africa	Sesupho Manyedi	Anti-nutrients and <i>in vitro</i> digestibility of Lablab purpureus and Vigna unguiculata forage legumes	Soul Washaya				
12:00	Competition and defoliation tolerance of Themeda triandra and Eragrostis curvula	Naledi Zama	A systematic study of <i>Themeda triandra</i> Forssk.: anatomy, genetics and cytology	Sinethemba Ntshangase				
12:20	Development of a robust, easy-to-use biodiversity index for mesic grasslands	to-use Silands Lize van der Discussion led by session chair						
12:40	TAKING OF C	TAKING OF CONGRESS 52 DELEGATE GROUP PHOTO						
13:00	LUNCH							

Parallel Sessions: 14:00-15:40

	Rangeland Fire Ecology		Land Transformation and Restoration	
14:00	Hercules and the Hydra revisited: combining traditional management efforts with fire to control resprouting woody plant encroachment and restore savanna ecosystems	Bill Rogers	Containing desertification in arid northern Kunene region, Namibia	Axel Rothauge
14:20	Fire ecology and management of wildfires in Indonesian rain forests growing on peat beds and its potential relevance to ground fires in southern African wetlands	Trevor Wilson	Targeted livestock grazing to improve and restore rangelands	John Walker
14:40	The native, C3 grass <i>Festuca costata</i> alters grassland fuels and fire spread in the Drakensberg	Devan McGranahan	Challenges to measuring carbon fluxes in the Albany Thicket	Tony Palmer Did not present
15:00	Does fire facilitate biodiversity or forage productivity in renosterveld rangelands in the Kamiesberg Uplands?	Megan Simons	Soil nutrient content and forage quality on old lands in the Umzimvubu Catchment	Ntomboxolo Mamayo
15:20	Application of fire in savanna conservation areas	Bruce Brockett	Discussion led by session chair	

WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017

15:40- 17:00

TEA and RESEARCH PROPOSAL POSTER VIEWING and EVALUATION

The effect of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, <i>Rhizobium inoculum</i> and phosphorus fertiliser on soil properties, biomass yield and nutrient content of three herbaceous legumes in Alice, South Africa	Sanele Mpongwana			
The effect of applying different phosphorous fertiliser levels on four leguminous pastures planted at Dohne and Bathurst nurseries in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa	Nobulungisa Mgujulwa			
Determining rainwater use efficiency, dry matter production and soil nutrient replenishing potential of dryland pastures produced in the old arable lands of Krwakrwa communal rangelands, Eastern Cape, South Africa				
Assessing rainwater use efficiency of different grass species, biomass production and basal cover in two veld types of Krwakrwa communal rangelands in Alice, Eastern Cape				
Impact of drought and elevated CO ₂ level on species diversity, productivity and water use efficiency of key forage species in semi-arid grassland in Gauteng province	Thabo Magandana			
Transpiration rate of <i>Senegalia mellifera</i> in relation to diurnal pattern, seasonal pattern, rainfall, size of the tree, tree density and environmental factors in a semi-arid Namibian Thornbush Savanna	Nelago Iiyambo			
Assessing parasitism of small ruminants in arid communal rangelands of South Africa	Saloshni Govender			
Assessing the relationship between genetic diversity and diet selection in a semi-arid communal livestock farming system	Amy Schroeder			
Assessing the relationship between landscape functionality and small mammal assemblages in the arid communal drylands of Steinkopf, Northern Cape	Laetitia Piers			
Assessment of bush clearing on grass production, woody structure and plant diversity in a semi-arid savanna, central Namibia	Visto Amputu			
Investigating active veld restoration by means of alternative fertilisation practices in the North West province	Yvette Brits			
Control of bush encroachment on <i>Lopholaena corrifolia</i> shrub and soil properties around mixed bushveld region of Thembisile Hani, Mpumalanga province	Oupa Keromecwe			
The impacts of alien infestations on veld grazing capacity	Ayanda Mnikathi			
The role of biodiversity in providing ecosystem goods and services in agricultural landscapes	Sizwe Tikwayo			
Analysing competition strategies for invasion success of <i>Solanum mauritianum</i> (bugweed) in Eastern Cape province, South Africa **Theorem Cape Province Cap				
Effects of long-term fire exclusion on grass species composition, tuft density and soil physical properties in the Dohne Sourveld	Nolonwabo Jokani			
18:00 QUIZ EVENING AND DINNER				



THURSDAY, 27JULY 2017							
Parallel Sessions: 08:00 - 09:30							
	Biodiversity Initiatives and Conservation	on Planning	Communal Livestock Farming S	Communal Livestock Farming Systems			
08:00	Planning for the maintenance of floristic diversity under global change	Debbie Jewitt mission withheld	Climate change adaptation strategies in the communal areas of Namibia and South	Igshaan Samuels			
08:20	The Gauteng Biodiversity Stewardship Programme	Emily Taylor	The future of communal livestock farming in semi-arid Namaqualand	Khululiwe Ntombela			
08:40	Carbon tax and the need for carbon sequestration and offset	Josef van Wyngaard	Using the socio-ecological system in understanding the challenges in collective management of communal rangelands in the rural Eastern Cape	Andiswa Finca			
09:00	Strengthening rangeland stewardship and restoration through Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) learning platforms	Dan'sile Cindi	Addressing constraints to increase livestock production in Taleni and Shweni communities, Chris Hani District municipality, South Africa	Nobuntu Matyholo- Mapeyi			
09:30-	TEA and STANDARD POSTER VIEWING SESSION						
	Biodiversity Initiatives and Conservation Planning Communal Livestock Farming		Systems				
	Response of migratory Falco amurensis to common grassland roost sites after short-term drought	Norman Magoro	Performance of livestock production in north Eastern Cape communal areas: a stochastic frontier analysis	Bukho Gusha			
	Rangeland biodiversity research in sub- Saharan Africa lacks attention to spatial,	Devan McGranahan					
	Railway side mapping of alien plants distribution in Mpumalanga, South Africa	Collen Rabothata					
	Special Session: Gras	ses as Inva	sive Aliens: 10:00 - 12:30				
10:00	Grasses as invasive plants in South Africa			Vernon Visser			
10:20	Global impact assessment of alien grasses occurring in South Africa Khensani Nkuna						
10:40	Are invasive grasses (<i>Poaceae</i>) suitable targets for biological control? A case study of two African <i>Sporobolus</i> spp. invading Australia			Guy Sutton			
11:00	Competitive ability of vetiver grass: Does vetiver allow germination and establishment of native grasses? Lindokuhle Dlamini						
11:20	Developing management guidelines for the cul	Developing management guidelines for the cultivation of alien bamboos in South Africa Susan Canavan					
11:40	Discussion led by session chair						
13:00- 18:00	Mid-Congress Tours with PAC	Mid-Congress Tours with PACKED LUNCH Special Session: Grasses as		sses as			
1.	Wildlife breeding						
2.	Herding 4 Health: rangeland management in						
3.	The challenges of managing protected areas in the Lowveld Savannas: perspectives from national parks, provincial parks and private reserves Discussion session continue			tinues			
4.	Invasive alien plant control and biomonitoring: ecosystem restoration from grasslands to rivers		n				
5.	WITS Rural Facility: Savanna ecology field	experiments					
19:00		GALA D	INNER				





GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Policy & Practice Workshop

The influence of legislation, policy and strategies on effective resource management and planning

DETAILED DRAFT PROGRAMME AS AT 4 JULY 2017

08:00- 09:00	Registration for the Policy & Practice Workshop	
	Legislation: Overview of NEMA, NEMPAA, NEMBA and other legislation as it may pertain to ecologists and grassland specialists, particularly those involved in natural resource management.	
	Identification of critical thresholds for EIAs	
	Requirements of the Protected Areas Act including monitoring and management plans	Andrew Rossaak.
09:00- 10:30	Role of Biodiversity Act (and alien and invasive species regulations)	Emross
10.30	Others such as National Water Act, Conservation of Agricultural Resources	Consulting
	Discussion on how to address issues, to monitor compliance and react to regulations.	
	Discussion on the changing regulatory landscape and impact on natural resource management – how to keep up?	
10:30- 11:00	TEA	
	List of all relevant legislation for a farmer.	
11:00- 12:30	History of rangeland legislation according to publication in 1991 and relevancy for today.	Izak Venter, Free State Department
12:30	Way forward according to publication.	of Agriculture
	Examples of Table of Contents of different Strategies.	
12:30- 13:30	LUNCH	
13:30- 14:30	A discussion on developing National/Provincial policies, strategies and legislation into management plans for rangelands and steps going forward for institutions and landowners.	Izak Venter, Free State Department of Agriculture
14:30- 15:00	TEA	
15:00- 16:00	A discussion on how to fit policies, strategies and legislation into management plans—steps going forward for institutions and private landowners.	Andrew Rossaak, Emross Consulting



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