INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS OF CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY, AS A LIMITING FACTOR OF THE NATURAL TOURIST RESOURCES UTILIZATION IN BULGARIA

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Abstract: Recent developments in the scope of tourism show that along with the positive, mainly economic and recreative effect, it can negative influence the environment. This negative influences all the basic environmental components, and mainly the nature. The most popular tourism tapes (winter and water sports and sea recreation) are strongly dependant of the most sensitive natural environments – mountain and seaside. This fact, along with the global concern about the environments as well as the need of healthy lifestyle, including ecological clean environment, necessitate demand of new, attractive alternative forms of tourism and consequently – new policy for strategic development of tourism in our country. At the same time, some of the most valuable habitats were overbuilt during the last decade, which influenced negatively the biodiversity. International conventions, directives, and treaties, signed by the Republic of Bulgaria are one of the possible ways to stop the urbanization of these territories. This paper is intended to analyze the main treaties, signed by our country, mainly in the context of the imposed restriction and the opportunities of developing the alternative forms of tourism.

Key words: international conventions and treaties, alternative tourism

The biodiversity of Bulgaria and exist system of protected territory are one of the factors being favorable for tourism development. On the same time in the last ten years in Black Sea cost and inside at recuperative assimilation on the tourist recourses were allowed serious weakness expressive first of all in to rebuilding of the most value in this attitude territory. There is a real risk of loosing valued genetic fund.

If the tendency from last few years preserve, Bulgaria will be put in situation to loss materially part of biological diversity. Especially vulnerability in this attitude is high vegetation, ripeness forest tree, and different kind of animals – earth, water, reptile, bird and mammal.

This from itself will get in serious rout of development of ecological tourism and other different forms of alternative tourism. That why on the same time with legislative statute and initiative of the different international conventions, Directives and programs are solid base for international collaboration with protecting biological diversity and protected territory, in regional and national scale. This way Bulgaria will continue being attraction for the tourist of the entire world.

Conventions are international contracts; ahead of collaboration basis they realize general purpose for all countries. In accordance with clause 5, paragraph 4, from Constitution of Republic Bulgaria, international contracts, ratified of constitution line, accepted and strategic for Bulgaria, are part of inside law in the country. They have priority in front of norm of inside legislation, with which they are in contradiction.

Republic of Bulgaria is side of next international conventions:
1. Conventions of Biological Diversity.
2. Convention of wild European Flora and Fauna and Natural habitat (Bern convention).
5. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands/Rams convention/.
7. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.
8. Rio convention project.
9. The European Landscape Convention

Biological resources on the Earth are vital to important for economical and social development on the World. The threat for different species and ecological system has never been as big as today. The coddling and migration of different animals the last ten – years had dangerous sizes. That's why the UN Environment Program (United Nations Environments Program- UNEP) call a meeting in 1988, emergency conference of expert group, which to decide necessaries of international convention of biological diversity protection. The meeting attention was about necessity of share expenses and benefits between developing and progressive countries, and ways to motivate local people to support novelty. The culmination was in 22 may 1992 in UNEP conference at Nairobi for accepting the text about protecting the biodiversity.

Conventions of Biological Diversity – was signed in 5.06.1992 in Rio de Jeneiro, during the United Nation Conference of Environment and Development (Earth summit) from 3- 14 June1992. Only for year this conference incorporates 168 countries, which are 190 today. This International Conference came into force at the end of 1993, 90 days after thirtieth ratified. Bulgaria is ratified in 29.02.1996, but came into force at 16.07.1996.

Project "Convention of Rio" – includes three of convention of UN, which is open to sign in Conference of Environment and Development. They are:
- Convention of biodiversity
- Rams Convention of climate changing
- Convention of struggle with wilderness

In Rio more than 108 countries have ratified the agreement, which purpose is changing the traditional way to development:
- Agenda XXI century – whole program of action in global scale in all scope to stable development.
- Declaration of Rio for Environment and Development – contain different principals, which definite rights and responsibilities of countries for conservation of environment and development.
- Declaration of forest principals – composition of principal, which support stable management in world forest resources

Convention of UN of Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992 Rio de Jeneiro, left marks over all following conference of UN, because the social-economical question cease to reproduction separate of ecology needs and stable development.

Convention of conservation of European Wildlife flora, fauna and Natural Habitat /Bern Convention/ - was signed in 19.09.1979 in Bern, Switzerland. Bulgaria is ratified in 01.05.1991, with decision of National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria. The purpose of the members is conservation different species wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially for endangered and vulnerable species, including migrations.


The members of this convention admit that the international co-operation is important for conservation of wild species
flora and fauna of excessively exploitations. They decide to regulate and control these activities. They defense trade with the wild species from Appendix I, II, III. The Washington Convention is not to old, but showing convincing results and effectiveness.

CMS - Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species Wild Animals (Bon Convention) was sign in 23.06.1973 in Bon, Germany enter in force in 1983. It purposes of this conservation is preservation of the migratory species wild animals, to be necessity all the time. To realize this problems are necessity international collaboration and assistance. Ratified from Bulgaria in 30.08.1999 and enforce in 01.11.1999.

Connect with this conversation are: Agreement of Conservation of Migratory species of Water like birds in Africa and Asia (Bonn Convention). Basic task is conservation of the migratory species between Asia-Europe-Africa water like birds by coordination, rehabilitate of different species and support them in optimum condition. The purpose of the Bonn Convention is to develop international cooperation with a view to the conservation species of wild animals.


Today Ramsar Convention include 154 countries with 1650 wetlands and embrace 149 600 000 hectare. Bulgaria had 10 Ramsar places with area of 20 360 hectare in this international initiative. They are: Island “Ibiza”(370 ha); complex “Belenski Islands”(6898 ha); Support reserve “Srebarna”(1357ha); Defended place “Shabla”(530 ha); Defended place “Durankulak”(450 ha); Support reserve “Atanasovsko lake ”(1404he); “Pomoriisko” lake and mouth of river “Aheloi”(814 ha); Lake “Vaya”(2900 ha); Lagoon with bay “Foros”(307 ha) and Complex “Ropotamo”(5500 ha).

Obviously the mission of this convention is conservation and sensibly use on wetlands by national and international collaboration. The purpose is stable development in global scale. The main purpose of these documents is to manage wetlands like object with economical, cultural, scientific and natural value, avoid the losing and protect them by continuously development.

Convention of Conservation of the Black Sea against Pollutions - (This report was signed for conservation of biodiversity and landscape in Black Sea). Was sign in 24.02.1992 in Bucharest, Romania. Enforce in 1994. The purpose of this convention is to frustrate proceeding of separate pollute in Black Sea, including inside pond and keep the natural habitat and species. The convention made report for protection of biodiversity, connecting with problems over exploitation of industrial species; waste of extinction species in a Black Sea, wetland and lack of protection of national habitats and landscape. /Kostadinova, Dobreva, 2002/

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage – Was signed in 16 November 1972, in Paris, in general conference of the United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), at its seventeen sessions. The beginning of practical realization is in 17.12.1973, when USA first adds to this convention, fallowing by 19 countries. Bulgaria is one of these 19 countries. In Bulgaria is accepted by Department of Republic of Bulgaria Council of Ministers decision in 04.02.1974. Enforce in 17.09.1975. In 31.07.2006 under convention protection are 851 objects, between them 660 with cultural meaning.
and 166 with natural characteristics. The rest 25 are with mixed character. Located in territory of 141 countries, most of them are in Italy – 40; Spain – 39; Germany – 31; China – 32; France – 30; India – 27; Mexico – 25; Russia – 23; USA – 20; Greece – 16 and etc. The members of this convention are 184 countries. 350 of them are in territory of European Continent. The exist list-roll with objects of world-heritage in a risk. Bulgaria participates with 9 objects in this international initiative. In 1979 for world-heritage was acknowledging “Boyanskata” – church; “Madarskiya konnik” (Madar horseman); “Kazanlashkata grobnitsa” (tomb); Rock churches, near to Ivanovo village, Ruse. Later in 1983 this list-roll included “Rila monastery”; Old town “Nesebar”; reserve “Srebarna”; National park “Pirin”, in 1985 “Thracian tomb”, in Sveshtary village. Soon 12 objects of cultural – historical heritage in our lands will be accepting similar recognition in this including “Perpericon and Tatul”; hill of vale of Thracian king’s and more.

The European landscape convention – is international agreement, signed in 2000 in Florence, Ratified from Bulgaria in 13.10.2004. Enforce in 01.03.2005. The convention base idea is that exist unique landscape. The cultural and natural aspects have meanings of character and present conditions. The general purpose of landscape condition is preservation of European cultural and natural habitat, which defines aspect of European landscape. To reach this purpose, the convention only effort of contract countries is to organize effective co-operation of realization in European level. On the same time help them to develop a policy of protection, management and planning of European landscape, on national and local level. Other purpose of the convention is demonstration, showing that the natural and cultural component of landscape being protected became stronger without publication of historical records.

With popularity is using the program of MAB “Man and the Biosphere” - is a UNESCO and creating the world system of biosphere reserve. Accept in seventeen session of General Conference in 1970. The general principals of this program are developed from International Co-ordination Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program of first session in 1971. MAB initiated work in 14 projects, like Program 8 – which is interest of natural ecosystem and content genetic fund; provide creating of system of biosphere reserve in general planet scale. The purpose is to be use as a standard, which help to estimate the changes in the nature. With differentiates of biosphere reserve conducts complex ecological examination of one problem and methods. The base task is the results from investigation to be used from whole world. In 1973 was develop criterion and statute of biosphere reserve. In third session in International Co-ordination Council of the Man and the Biosphere program (MAB), in Washington from 17-19 September 1974, was proclamation existence of first biosphere reserve in Austria, Great Britain, USA, The Philippines and France. Since 20.09.1977 biosphere reserve are 529, situated in territory of 105 countries, including Africa – 69, biosphere reserve in 30 countries; Arabian - 24, biosphere reserve in 11 countries; Asia - 95, biosphere reserve in 27 countries; Europe - 254, biosphere reserve in 33 countries; Latin America and Caribbean basin - 101, biosphere reserve in 19 countries; etc. Developed are border reserve between – Benin, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria; Czech Republic, Poland, France and German; Poland, Slovenia, The Ukraine and Rumania.

On the territory of European Continent are located 170 biosphere reserves. Bulgaria is one of the first countries, which support UNESCO for development the world system of biosphere reserve. Today 15 reserve and one support reserve with general area 32420 hectare are with status of biosphere reserve. There are: Supporter reserve “Srebarna” (902.1ha); reserve “Chuprene” (1439.2 ha); reserve “Boatin” (1597.2 ha); reserve “Tsarichina” (3418.7ha); reserve “Steneto”
(3578.7 ha); reserve “White river” (Djendema – 4220.6 ha); reserve “Parangalitsa” (1509.0 ha); reserve “Bajovidupki” (Djendjiritsa – 2873.0 ha); reserve “Mamtaritsa” (1062.2 ha); reserve “Dupkata” (1210.4 ha); reserve “Kupena” (1761.1 ha); reserve “Chervenata stena” (3029.0 ha); reserve “Bistrishko branishte” (1061.6 ha); reserve “Alobotush” (1628.0 ha); reserve “Uzunbodjak” (Lopushna – 2589.6 ha) and reserve “Kamchia” (842.1 ha).

The program OBM – Ornithology important palace is realized by Bird Life International, like part of world program of conservation of places. Has purpose to develop and execute rules conservation of the most important bird places in the world and continental scale. This is modern and effective method and complex conservation, not just for birds, but also for biological diversity. This program exists not just in Europe, but also in Africa, South and North America. In Bulgaria is coordinate and realize of Bulgarian Association for Bird Protections (BDZP). The task of this program OBM is to determine and defense system of places in biogeographically scale, critical for the existence is the long-term plan on natural population of bird, this bird’s method based in OBM program. The OBM is important not just because of method ornithology species, but also for their value as an ecosystem biodiversity of flora and fauna. Today 35 species of European and 21 species of Bulgarian ornithology are threatened with extinction from the planet. 38% European and 30% of Bulgarian ornithology has not gratifying natural status, which is put under doubt their existence in the beginning of 21 century (Kostadinova, 1997).

The last purpose of OBM program is building a scientific capacity of unit system of ornithology protected territory in Bulgaria, which to be inseparable part of European system with only purpose protection of biodiversity in the continent. In Bulgaria now we have 50 of these places, they include above 350 bird species, which is 86% of birds species in Bulgaria and above 64% of birds species in Europe (Kostadinova, 1997, 1999).

Program “CORINE” – Coordination of Information of Environment - is a European program initiated in 1985 by the European commission, includes 25 countries from Europe. This is experimental model for collecting, co-ordinate and assures the information about the condition of environments and natural resources in Europe.

Part of this program is project “CORINE Biotopes” - it purpose is local protection and description of biotopes of European meaning for conservation and creating a general European base of information, kept in European agency for environment with main office Copenhagen. Bulgaria is part of the CORINE Biotopes program from 1994. The collected information is estimate for the places with European meaning. (Kostadinova, 1997)

The program “Park Life” – is accepted in answer of the World Congress of national park (Karakas, 1992)- realize county level connection between world purpose and national and local action of conservation of conservation protection territory. It is prepare of five International Non-Government Organizations (IUCN, FNPE, WWF, WCWC, Bird Life International), with purpose to provide suitable, effective and good managing system for protection territory in Europe of conservation in a big stage natural and biodiversity on the continent. The effective management of protective territory will reach by accepting of laws; regulate creation; management; preservation of different category protected territory and development and acceptation a plans from managing every one of them. Attention has big protection territory to create condition for protection of territory occupation of population and for eco tourism development. On this way will create premise for rise of prosperity of the people and secure high professional level for the workers. This program is for 37 countries in Europe. In Bulgaria is realizing from MOCV and from different non-
Within the framework of legislation of EU concerning protection of nature, preservation of the species and the habitats are defined thought tow main Directives:

- **European Directive 79/409 for preservation of the wild birds**

- **Directive 92/43 for preservation of the natural habitats of the wild flora and fauna.**

(Phrichard, D. Z., Vipitski; Dobreva, 2002)

**European Directive 79/409 for preservation of the wild birds**, shortly named the Birds Directive, was adopted in 02.04.1979 was put into force in April 1981. Its main purpose is to impose measures for sustaining the population of the naturally existing wild bird in the member countries of the EU, as well as to preserve the necessary diversity and the habitats needs for their protection. This should be achieved through sustaining and management of the habitats within the protected areas, through restoring the resource biotopes and creating of new ones. The rare, vulnerable and endangered species (the species from Appendix I of the Directive), as well as all regularly met migrating species, are subject to special environment protection measures in regard to their habitat. This requires of the Special Protection Areas (SPAs), imposing a measures of averting of pollution and deterioration of the habitats and etc.

For the migrating species, all the possible should be done for the protection of their nesting locations, brooding and winter serving places, and for the key places alongside of their migration routes. A necessary attention should also be paid to the wet zones of international importance. Similar measures are envisaged for imposing also for the regularly met migrating bird species, which included in Appendix I.

Special Protection Areas are defined for this subject for the time of they’re nesting, brooding and winter periods alongside of their migration routes.

**The Directive 92/43 of preservation of the natural habitats of the wild flora and fauna** Was adopted in 21.05.1992. The member states are obliged to take necessary action and measures for implementations of its requirements in the national legislation. The directive was altered in 1994 in response to the accession to the EU of Austria, Finland, and Sweden. The Directive 97/62, adopted a little bit later, changed Appendix I and II. The main goal of this international initiative is to contribute of preserving of the biological diversity, while the local economic, cultural and regional specific are also to be observed. This directive is considered to contribute of the Sustainable development Concept.

The core of the directive is the part, which affects the preservation of the species themselves. It entitles six Appendices. In the first one, all the types of natural habitats of public interest pointed out, and the conservation of which requires Special Areas of Conservation to be declared.

Subject of protection under the both Directives are more than 140 natural habitat and more than 600 plant and animal species of Community importance (EU importance). Both member and the accessing countries are obliged to determine the spread of this habitats and species within their territories and to set certain part of them under protection order to manage them with an aim of conservation and sustainable usage.

The European Commission as part of the Bern convention accepted the convention with base those 2 directives and put requirement about creating the NATURA 2000. NATURA 2000 is network of protected zones it is European Community of preservation of natural habitats and population of species. This environment network is engagement of members of the EU, accordance with Directive of natural habitat and Bird Directive. NATURA 2000 is necessary
obligation for all countries, members of the EU. By NATURA 2000 EU is part of environment network EMERALD, accordance with Bern Convention, which embraces Europe and part of North Africa.

Developing NATURA 2000 in Bulgaria is one of the requirements imposed Bulgaria by the EU, about incorporation. Preliminary process of NATURA 2000 includes following obligations, which have to be realized by incorporate date:
- Indicated the full list of the project – territory with meaning for the Europe community, Appendix III of Directive of habitat.
- Indicated protected territory including suitable protective status from the members and information about protected zones.

The average of the protected zones for the habitats in EU is 12% of the territory of the member countries. Under the Bird Directives this percentage is 9.6%.

By a special decision of Bulgarian government, the Council of Ministers, of 02.03.2007 in the State Gazette was published a list of the Protected Zones for preservations of the wild birds and the similar one for the preservation of natural habitat of the wild flora and fauna. The first list include 88 protected zones covering 1.255.110.65 ha, including in this figure some 1.254.309.75 ha of land territory and 800.90 ha has water areas, which is 11.3% of the countries territory. The second List includes 180 protected zones of an area of 1.484.377.9 ha; including 1.472.069.3 ha land territories and 12.308.6 ha water areas. This is 13.4% of the international range of country. Recently, the Council of Ministers approved some more 27 sites of this kind.

The declaration of the protection zones in regard to the birds once may start immediately after the publishing of the list in State Gazette, while for those concerning the habitats; this can be done after their review and approval by the European Commission on the specially organized for these purpose bio geographical seminars.

In Bulgaria, the management of the Protective Zones will be entitled to the owners and the users within and of the zone through the development of the purpose of Management Plans. The management shall be coordinate controlled by the Ministry of Environment and Waters. The long-term preservation of the valuable habitats and species within the zones under the NATURA 2000 network will take place be the means of encouraging such king and agricultural, recreational and forest business practices, which preserve of sustain the different types of habitats and the species in good conditions. The measures include also the limiting of some activities, which could damage significantly these habitats and species. The investment intentions, plans and programs, which affect NATURA 2000, shall be endorsed or not in the basic of the assessment of their impact on the valuable habitats and species, subject to protection in a certain zone. The activities connected with NATURA 2000 will be financed by EU funds under the Operative Program “Environment”. Under the program financial means will be provide for the development of Management Plans for sites under the NATURA 2000, as well as various activities envisaged for this territory, such as environmental investment project, information campaigns, training and etc.

The philosophy of preservation in the Protected Zones, through the regime of the activities pointes in the Ordinance for the declaration of the zones, dos not come in the face of total ban of any kind of construction, but in balanced decisions based on evaluation of the particular site under protection for the zone concerned. In regard to the agricultural lands the forest there are no specific bans foe usage, but
the principal is to preserve the type of the habitat.

Even the initial stages of the selection of the protected zone in Bulgaria some very extreme reaction accrued from a whole range of business organizations, including representative of the tourism business as well. The reason for this can be find in a fact that the NATURA 2000 included such territory as part of the National Park “Pirin”, National Park “Rila”, The national Park “Central Balkan”, The Pomorie lake, the Chengene skele lake, the Atanasovo and Burgas lakes, the “Ropotamo” complex, the Durankulak and Shabla lakes, the Strandza mountain, the Natural park “Zlatni piasaci” (Golden send), the Black Sea cost of the Dobrudja region, the beach strip at the estuary of the Kamchia river, The Shumen Plato, the Rila Monastery, the Kaliakra cape, the Galata area, Botova, the Rupite site, Trigrad – Murshalica, the Shkorpilovci beach, Balchic, Irakly and other territories which attract serious investors interests.

A significant part of this territory has been seriously affected by the mass-scale construction of high category hotels at the Black Sea cost, in many of mountain resorts and etc. Serious speculation has accrued also due to the possibility all construction activities to be prohibited in this zone in the future, as well as business activities to be diminished to their minimum and any other. Is has been disregarded the fact that one of the main requirements for using of the areas which come in the frames of NATURA 2000, including also all tourism activities regardless of weather they are directed to recreation, business or ecological tourism and etc., is sustainability. This means that the planning and the development of the tourism infrastructure, its functioning and marketing, should focus on the environment, social, cultural and economic criteria for sustainability.

Taking into account the abovementioned requirements, in some other papers published by the author of the present material (Gergiev, 2005), criteria and indicators for recreational assessment and evaluation of the biological diversity of similar types of territories have been developed. In the assessment and evaluation of the vegetation and animal world four criteria have been introduced: presence, uniqueness, conservations significance and attractiveness. The significance of each of those criterions is defined by a certain number of indicators. A scope evaluation is being applied.

In conclusion, it is worth emphasizing that the establishment of the NATURA 2000 network is positive step forward in the preservation of the biological diversity of Bulgaria. It can be stated out that the development in the future of a scientifically tourism will contribute to the efforts for overall tourism development in Bulgaria.

Connected with these problems are: The Agreement of the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS) and the Agreement of Conservation of cet in Europe.

The Agreement of the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area – include all sea water in Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and their bays and inside water connected with them and Atlantic Areas, which is connected with Mediterranean Sea, west of high tide Gibraltar. Ratified in 23.09.1999, enforce in 01.06.2001.

The countries members of this agreement assume an obligation about co-ordination rules for read and keep optimum natural status for cetacean. The purpose is connecting with defense and elimination of intentional whaling. The countries are collaborating in development and protection of the network of special territory. In condition with this, they took agreement about accepting and apply of national legislation, connected with species and also management and interaction between the people and cetaceans; preservation of natural habitat, examination, monitoring, training, education and action in critical situation. In Black Sea this agreement is
about porpoise (Phocaena, L), dolphin (Delphinus delphis) of family Delphinidee.

The Agreement of Conservation of bet in Europe – Accepted in Bulgaria in 23.04.1994, enforce in 09.12.1999. This normative document “Bet” means population of Chiroptera (Appendix I of this agreement), in Europe and other countries. Including 37 species of bets – Pteropodidee; 1 species – Emballonuridee; 5 species – Phinolophidee; 29 species – Vespertilionidee; 1 species – Mullossidee;

In all of these countries members of this agreement, defended catch with intention; killing bets, except the case of protection of some territory inhabit of bets, and also accepting the rules limited anthropology influence of them.

Businessman with serious invest interest doesn’t like the different rules and convention that the government and other organization accepted about conservation and development of the biological diversity in the world.

Against the serious engagements of Bulgaria about the convention of conservation of world cultural and natural heritage, investment interest of the tourism branch cause a serious defeat in natural resources in National Park “Pirin”.

In the last few years Bansko transform to one of the most attractive ski resort in Bulgaria. Were build a cabin line, a few ski races, lifts and pursues equipment. Bansko as a ski resort has been visited by 90% of all tourists stream in Bulgaria. The Pirin Mountain has 12 mountain hostels, with capacity of 1800 beds; most of them are in good conditions, responding the hygiene and comfort criteria. Sandanski and Melnik – are tourism center, one of the attractive places in Pirin, visiting by tourist usually during the summer. National Park “Pirin” has 27-tourist route. The territory of the National Park “Pirin” has missing a camping site, responding the modern views. All of this moves away The National Park “Pirin” of serious requirement of conventions, and concern the international prestige of our country Bulgaria. If we look the Black Sea cost- Bulgaria has many infractions of the Rams convention, especially in Durankulashko Lake, The Foros bay, Ropotamo complex and etc.

Practically the MAB – “Man and the Biosphere” is stop, especially in National Park “Pirin”, “Rila”, and “Central Balkan”. This is a serious precondition of breach from the tourists visiting those places. Bulgaria also has serious problems with clauses of Bon Convention, The Convention of Protection of Black Sea against Polluted, Bird Life international ornithology wetlands and etc.

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