Protecting People and Planet



IMPACT REPORT 2014/2015



The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) is a charity registered in England and Wales (No 1088128).

1 Amwell Street, London, EC1R 1UL United Kingdom www.ejfoundation.org

With a global staff of around 30 people, our headquarters are in the UK, with offices and teams based in Spain, Germany, South Korea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.

EJF's work is overseen and governed by a Board of Trustees in the UK. EJF continues to be led by the Founding Directors, Steve Trent and Juliette Williams.

EJF Patrons:

Benedict Allen, Lily Cole, Emilia Fox, Sir Antony Gormley OBE RA, Katharine Hamnett CBE, Tony Juniper, Rachel Whiteread CBE

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Letter from the Executive Director

When Juliette Williams and I founded the Environmental Justice Foundation 15 years ago, we had a vision of creating a lean and dynamic organisation that would be responsive to the greatest needs for environmental protection and the defence of basic human rights. Guided by the core values of integrity, innovation and impact, EJF is an organisation that has remained true to these commitments. Over the years, we have seen this vision become a reality, as we continue to produce strong and creative campaigns of the highest quality; delivering high impact at low cost and with great efficiency. It is this that our patrons, trustees, partners and supporters know us for today.

EJF has investigated, documented and exposed threats to environmental security and human rights across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Central Asia. From combating pesticide misuse in the rice paddies of Cambodia, to addressing child labour in the cotton fields of Uzbekistan, and from ensuring the protection of vital mangrove forests in Brazil to tackling slavery in the seafood sector in Thailand, EJF has investigated and exposed issues that are under the radar. In doing so, we have inspired action and acted as a catalyst for local and global change.

We are a small organisation – with an average 30 members of staff across eight countries – but we are dynamic and nimble. We react quickly and work across all levels of society. From the grassroots to the major negotiating tables and businesses across the world. We fight for lasting change in our core areas: oceans, climate and pesticides.

2016 marks a turning point for the organisation. As we look ahead to the next 15 years, we aim to increase our capacity, continuing to build our team worldwide and expanding the scope of our work. But we will also remember the strengths that make EJF the unique, powerful and respected organisation it is today. Film is one of the most powerful tools available to us as campaigners. Film transcends linguistic, national and cultural boundaries. EJF is committed to strengthening our use of film and photos to breathe life into our campaigns and present powerful and irrefutable evidence of environmental and human rights abuses. We will continue to look for new and innovative ways to guide our work and ever more compelling ways to tell our story.

At the core of EJF is a simple, but powerful, belief: that ultimately we all depend on the natural environment for our livelihoods and well-being, and that environmental security is a human right. As we step into 2016 and beyond, despite the massive challenges ahead of us, we can feel optimistic and use the strength of our experience to increase the speed and magnitude at which change happens. To all the people who have supported and collaborated with us, we say a huge thank you. With your help and support we will continue to create innovative, effective and high impact solutions and to promote environmental justice. We will do all we can to drive change to protect our natural world and to help create a fairer, sustainable future for all.

This report highlights just some of key work and achievements towards our goals over the last 2 years. Thank you for sharing our vision.

Steve Trent, Founder & Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To Protect People and Planet

EJF believes environmental security is a human right

EJF strives to:

- Protect the natural environment and the people and wildlife that depend upon it by linking environmental security, human rights and social need.
- Create and implement solutions where they are needed most training local people and communities who are directly affected to investigate, expose and combat environmental degradation and associated human rights abuses.
- Provide training in the latest video technologies, research and advocacy skills to document both the problems and solutions, working through the media to create public and political platforms for constructive change.

OUR VISION

Our vision is for a world where natural habitats and environments can sustain and be sustained by the communities that depend upon them for their basic needs and livelihoods.

OUR VALUES

Human rights and environmental security

We believe environmental security is a human right and that the health, security and effective conservation of our natural world is essential to the well-being of all humankind. We believe in the equality of all people and in their equal and inalienable rights as described in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Effectiveness and efficiency

We believe in focusing on outcomes rather than processes and strive to ensure that our work is appropriate, highly cost-effective and efficient.

Innovation

We are dedicated to exploring innovative, inspirational and creative solutions to our goals.

Independence

We are committed to independence and freedom from any political or religious affiliations, or any support that seeks to compromise our independence, aims, objectives or integrity.

Responsiveness

We are streamlined and focused, enabling us to respond quickly to needs and opportunities.

Transparency

We believe in transparency and accountability in our working practices. We take account of and value diversity and are committed to non-discrimination.

Equity, non-discrimination & inclusiveness

We believe in equity and justice and a need to respect, protect and engage disempowered and marginalised communities most at risk from environmental degradation. We respect diverse cultures and beliefs.

Non-violence

We believe in and will always adhere to the principles of non-violence.

INVESTIGATIVE



EJF uncovers and documents environmental injustices across the globe. In 2014 and 2015, EJF produced eight reports and 16 films that provided compelling evidence to decision makers, opinion leaders and the public around the world.

COLLABORATIVE



DYNAMIC

CATALYST



EJF believes in the power of collective action and we are working in both the NGO and business community to build the coalitions needed to strengthen the call for strong environmental governance and for human rights obligations to be enshrined into policy at all levels.

From strengthening the work of grassroots campaigns to campaigning in major negotiating rooms, EJF's small and nimble team exposes issues that are 'under the radar' and works across all levels of society to bring about lasting, positive change.

By building strength in numbers, and bringing compelling evidence to the right decision makers at a national, regional and international level, EJF is able to broaden the reach and strengthen the effectiveness of its messages and act as a catalyst for global change.

OCEANS CAMPAIGN

DEVELOPING UNIQUE WAYS TO END ILLEGAL FISHING AND PROTECT MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

Goal

To eradicate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) – pirate – fishing in West Africa, Asia and globally, protecting coastal communities and wildlife from its disastrous impacts.

Our Approach

EJF uses a unique blend of investigations, vessel tracking and the very highest levels of political and corporate campaigning to leverage changes and drive the enforcement of laws and policies in coastal, port and 'flag' States across the world, within the EU, and with industry that have a demonstrable positive impact on our oceans and those that depend on them.

Our Success

EJF has helped rid coastal waters of foreign trawlers in West Africa, prompted new laws to monitor and control illegal fishing in Asia, and shown that strong evidence can lead to arrests, penalties and sanctions for those operating illegally and dishonestly across our oceans. EJF has shown that together we can stop illegal fishing fleets.





Illegal fish catch is estimated at between 11 and 26 million tonnes annually – representing 13-31% of global catch.

Illegal fishing costs the global economy up to US\$23.5 billion each year.

RMS

37% of total catch in West Africa is illegal, costing the region over US\$1 billion.

Context

Our oceans cover 70% of our planet. They are a primary source of food and income for 3.5 billion people around the world. Yet fisheries are being pushed to the brink, as 'pirate' fishers unscrupulously pillage our already exploited oceans. These fleets operate without licenses and in protected or reserved areas, use banned fishing gear, and target protected species. Operating outside of the law, they steal from the world's poorest people, undermine global fish stocks and decimate ocean species, including turtles, sharks, seabirds, whales and dolphins. In West Africa, hard-pressed government enforcement agencies, and the corrupt interests that often control them, are powerless to stop the Asian and European-owned fishing fleets that are plundering coastal waters.

> Illegal fishing threatens 85% of fish stocks, including threatened species such as sharks, seabirds and turtles.

2014/2015 successes:

• Expanding our investigations and impact in West Africa

Beginning in Sierra Leone in 2011 with one vessel and one fisherman, EJF's Fisheries Information Network now operates across West Africa, the Horn of Africa and South East Asia. The information gathered in 2014-15 led to a dozen official investigations, the delisting of illegal vessels, and criminal proceedings brought against ship owners.

Promoting strong fisheries governance in South Korea

In 2015, EJF became an official advisor on fisheries governance to the government of South Korea. We prompted key legal reforms, including the introduction of laws to penalise nationals involved in illegal fishing and to monitor vessels entering port. The Korean government also banned four vessels operating illegally in Somalia's coastal waters and seven pirate vessels in Sierra Leone.

Driving unprecedented action against pirate fishers in Spain

Having signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Spanish government to help verify fishing licenses in West Africa, EJF inspired reforms aimed at prosecuting nationals engaged in illegal fishing on foreign boats. This led to an unprecedented investigation that saw sanctions against Spain's most notorious fishing company and arrests of its staff.

Supporting the EU in its fight against illegal fishing

In coalition with WWF, Pew and Oceana, EJF supported the implementation of the EU's Regulation to combat illegal fishing. The coalition convinced the EU to require IMO numbers – likened to 'number plates for ships' – on all large vessels operating both in EU waters and with EU-flags in distant waters – to prevent vessels from avoiding detection for their crimes. EJF evidence also helped the EU apply the Regulation: issuing 'yellow cards' to Thailand, Ghana, Panama and South Korea and keeping a 'red card' for Guinea. The carding system aims to leverage positive steps to reduce pirate fishing by offering sanctions for inaction and rewards – having a card removed – for positive action.

• Promoting an industry approach to combat pirate fishing

In 2015, EJF also teamed up with British Retail Consortium to produce an "Advisory Note on IUU Fishing" for UK retailers and led campaigns to help companies identify high risk areas in their supply chains, and engage them in the fight to eradicate illegal fish from our plates. EJF also hosted an event at the Seafood Expo in Brussels in 2015, where its Executive Director, Steve Trent, shared a stage with the EU Commissioner, the Korean Government and the British Retail Consortium (BRC) to inspire international support to combat illegal fishing.

Winning awards in the fight against illegal fishing

EJF's unique use of community-based surveillance, remote vessel monitoring and in-depth investigations saw us win the Seafood Champion Award for Advocacy at the 2014 Seaweb Seafood Summit, and second place in the 2015 IMCS Network 'Stop IUU Fishing' Award.

What's next?

EJF will work to create the next generation of oceans defenders in West Africa, working with coastal communities to build resilience, share knowledge, inspire action and protect their local environments. We will work at a local level to document the abuses of the illegal fishing industry and use this evidence to drive change at a regional and international level.

OCEANS CAMPAIGN

TACKLING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND PIRACY PLAGUING THAILAND'S SEAFOOD SECTOR

Goal

To end illegal fishing and slavery in Thailand's fisheries.

Our Approach

EJF has used in-depth research and field investigations to expose pirate fishing, slavery and human rights violations within Thailand's seafood sector and the on-going failure of the Thai government and industry to do more to address these interconnected issues. We use the evidence to push for greater action to end Thailand's pirate fishing and slave labour epidemic.

Our Success

Through a series of private meetings with the Thai Deputy Prime Minister to which EJF's Executive Director, Steve Trent was invited, we have been able to provide detailed recommendations to the government and leverage political will at the very highest level of government. We are already seeing the results in the form of new laws and technical advances to monitor the Thai fleet.



The 'catch per unit effort' – or kilos of fish caught per hour – in Thai fisheries has dropped 85% since 1961.

Thailand's fishing industry is worth over US\$5.5 billion. The Thai seafood industry employs more than 800,000 people.

Context

Thailand's fish stocks and marine biodiversity are in crisis. Rapid industrialisation and astonishingly poor fisheries management over the 20th century have meant too many vessels, using destructive and unsustainable fishing methods, have been catching far too many fish. With fish stocks exhausted, vessels are going further afield – often fishing illegally in other nations' territories – and staying longer at sea, just to bring back ever diminishing catches. This is opening the door to a wave of trafficked workers, being brought into the country and pushed into slave labour to crew vessels and reduce companies' costs. Largely an exportfocused industry, these human rights abuses allow the fishing industry to continue supplying western markets with cheap products.

> Over 90% of workers on Thai fishing boats are migrants.



2014/2015 successes:

• Exposing human rights abuses in Thailand's seafood sector

EJF conducted major undercover investigations that resulted in three groundbreaking reports and films: *Slavery at Sea, Pirates and Slaves* and *Thailand's Seafood Slaves*. The evidence collected by EJF during this time was presented to the Royal Thai Government, and to policymakers worldwide.

• EJF evidence leads to action by US State Department and the EU

Our evidence contributed to the US State Department downgrading Thailand to the lowest tier in its 2014 and 2015 Trafficking in Persons Reports – placing it alongside Iran, North Korea and Uzbekistan for failing to combat slavery. It also prompted the European Commission's decision to give Thailand a 'yellow card' under its IUU Regulation.

• Working with business to end slave labour in our supply chains

EJF was the catalyst for the formation of an Industry Task Force aimed at combating slavery within Thailand's fisheries by reviewing seafood supply chains from the country. The Task Force includes major international businesses and retailers including Tesco and Walmart.

• Supporting anti-slavery laws in Europe

EJF undertook research and investigations in EU ports, and provided expert advice and input to the UK and German governments on issues of trafficking and forced labour, with the former helping prompt the UK Modern Slavery Bill coming into force.



EJF's lasting impact on Thailand's illegal fishing industry:

September 2015: EJF's Executive Director Steve Trent was invited to an unprecedented private meeting with Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, key ministers and the head of the Royal Thai Navy. Here he was able to discuss and secure key commitments towards ending illegal fishing and human trafficking in the seafood sector.

November 2015: The Royal Thai Government introduced new legislation to control its fishing fleet, including banning destructive gears, introducing new fines and setting inshore exclusion zones.

What's next?

EJF will continue to expand its use of world-leading investigations, using video and realtime evidence to inspire action and end the use of slave labour across global fisheries. We will continue to support the Thai Government as it seeks to introduce much-needed new legal frameworks to eradicate the human rights abuses that plague its seafood sector. We will expand our work on seafood slaves in the region and across the globe, as we work with governments and businesses to review seafood supply chains and combat abuses.



Front page news:

In October 2015, EJF's investigation into Thailand's most high-profile trafficking cases generated global media attention and shone the spotlight on the plight of the slave labourers working to produce seafood for our plates.

International coverage included a front-page expose in the Guardian, and articles in the Washington Post, Reuters, the Financial Times and Bloomberg.









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FINANCIAL TIMES











CLIMATE CAMPAIGN

ADDING A HUMAN RIGHTS LENS TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATE FIGHT

Goal

To build international support for climate refugees and see the introduction of a UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change.

Our Approach

Through the use of human stories, and by highlighting the links between climate change and mass displacement, EJF aims to add a human rights dimension to the global debate around climate change, secure international protection for those forced to flee in the wake of climate impacts, and support global efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Our Success

Working in Kenya and Bangladesh, EJF documented the testimonials of those communities living on the frontlines of climate change, brought their voice into the climate debate and promoted the concept of climate refugees at the UN climate talks in Paris and beyond.



Over the last seven years, an average 21.5 million people have been displaced by climate related disasters each year – around 41 people every minute.

Around 70% of countries see climate change as a threat to national security.

Between 1970 and 2012 there were 8,835 climate, weather and water related disasters.

Photo by Neil Palmer (CIAT)

Context

Climate change is happening now. From floods and freak storms, to droughts and heatwaves, no continent is being left untouched. In 2015 alone, weather related disasters displaced 14.7 million people; over 170 million have been forced to flee their homes over the last eight years. Meanwhile, climate change continues to act as a threat multiplier for existing economic and political tensions, to increase the risk of conflict and to intensify the impact and spread of disease. As climate disasters become more frequent and more extreme, bringing an even greater toll on people and communities, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable – who have contributed least to our changing climate – who will bear the brunt.

Between 1995 and 2015, more than 600,000 people lost their live to extreme floods, storms, heatwaves and other weather related events.

2014/2015 successes:

• Shining the global spotlight on climate injustice

Interviewing people in Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp in northern Kenya, and low lying coastal areas of Bangladesh, EJF documented the story of 'Climate Witnesses' and heard first-hand about life on the frontlines of climate change. EJF also highlighted the urgent need for legal recognition for climate refugees in two reports *Falling Through the Cracks* and *The Gathering Storm*, which outlined the security threat and increased levels of violent conflict associated with worsening climate change.

• Growing a strong supporter base for climate refugees

EJF worked with high-profile individuals to grow awareness for the plight of climate refugees. This included a foreword – in *Falling Through the Cracks* – written by former Irish Prime Minister and pre-eminent climate justice campaigner Mary Robinson, and interviews with Sir David King, UK Climate Change Envoy and Rear Admiral Morisetti, former UK Special Representative for Climate Change and Energy Security.

• Taking climate impacts to the Paris climate talks

EJF worked to promote the concept of climate refugees amongst international audiences, including in the run-up to the UN climate talks in Paris – COP21, where the issue was included in the newly formed Paris Agreement and will be addressed as part of the newly created 'Loss and Damage Mechanism'.



What's next?

EJF will continue to focus on the most pressing issue of climate change, and work to bring human rights to the forefront of discussions. We will use human stories and new and creative communications tools to embed the term climate refugee into the international debate, and leverage support for strong legal protection for the world's most vulnerable.



PESTICIDES CAMPAIGN

PROTECTING BEES AND WILDLIFE FROM HARMFUL PESTICIDES

Goal

To protect bees and other pollinators and sustain the wild places vital to their existence and ours.

Our Approach

EJF works with like-minded NGOs to highlight the pressure facing bees from neonicotinoid – neonic – pesticides, coordinating the UK Bee Coalition, creating inspirational visuals to capture the public imagination, and helping to leverage mass support for an end to neonics in farming and in our gardens.

Our Success

EJF helped co-ordinate a coalition of UK NGOs to build public and industry support for the protection of bees and other pollinators, taking our call to the heart of government.



Pollinators are responsible for one in every three mouthfuls of food we eat.

In the UK alone, pollinators contribute £690 million worth of crops to the economy. Over half of UK bee, butterfly and moth species have declined in the last 50 years.

Context

Pesticides do not discriminate. They do not know which species are their target, and – along with the potential tragic effects on human health – they have been linked to rapid declines in a diversity of species, including bees, fish, bats and birds. Amongst the many deadly chemicals at use across the world, the relatively recent use of neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides is shown to be responsible for the collapse of bee populations, as well as those of other pollinators, and in turn is having disastrous consequences for the food crops that we all rely on. Losing our pollinators would have terrible consequences for the UK economy; they provide an estimated £690 million in free services pollinating the crops our food and drinks industry relies upon.

> In 2012 an area three times the size of the UK was treated with pesticides, with many fields being treated multiple times.

2014/2015 successes:

• Building public support for the plight of bees

EJF helped build public and industry support for the protection of bees and other pollinators through its Bee Happy campaign. As part of the campaign, EJF hosted an event on the Roof Terrace of Firmdale's Ham Yard Hotel in London to raise awareness of the harmful impacts of pesticides; bringing together wildlife filmmakers, presenters, chefs, authors, fashion designers and bee-keepers, helping to forge a diverse community working to protect pollinators.

• Taking the pesticides fight to the heart of government

As part of the Bee Coalition, and with 38 Degrees, EJF helped to organise a petition and a 'swarm' protest on Downing Street. The action called on Prime Minister David Cameron to resist industry calls for a relaxation of controls over the use of neonics in farming. In the Bee Coalition's report *Policies for Pollinators* EJF and partners also gave detailed recommendations to policymakers on how current UK pesticide policies should be improved. The report was widely disseminated and distributed to MPs at a parliamentary hearing.

• Fighting misinformation on pesticides and pollinators

EJF and the Bee Coalition fought back against misinformation being perpetuated by the agribusiness lobby, and collaborated on a 'Myth Buster' (*Myths and Truths about neonicotinoids*) that laid out the best scientific evidence on the impact of pesticides on bees and pollinators.



What's next?

EJF will continue to collaborate with like-minded NGOs and businesses to raise greater awareness of the threats pesticides pose to UK wildlife, launching a digital presence for the Bee Coalition and reaching new audiences who can take action in their homes and gardens to protect bees and other pollinators.



FINANCE & FUNDERS

We couldn't do it without you

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the teams and Trustees working with: Adessium Foundation, Arcadia Fund, Body Shop Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Humanity United, MAVA, Northwick Trust, Oak Foundation, Oceans 5, Paul M Angell Family, Rufford Foundation, the Funding Network, Waterloo Foundation.

Thanks to the wonderful companies and individuals who share our passion for environmental justice:

- Tom's Kitchen and over 20 restaurants for supporting us on World Oceans Day, and to Fish4Ever for supporting the oceans campaign;
- Bee Good, B Skincare, Filberts, Heron Valley, Munchy Seeds, PIP Organic, Rude Health, Seedball, Wild Hives, and Neal's Yard Remedies for supporting our Bee Happy campaign at the Fabulous Ham Yard Hotel in London;
- Firmdale Hotels for donations to our Save the Sea campaign and for their generosity in donating Ham Yard Hotel's cinema and roof terrace to host events, and donating all the hospitality for our guests;
- Po-Zu and Inbro for continued support and annual donations from sales;
- Listeners of Benedict Allen's BBC Appeal, which raised over £10,000 for our work in West Africa;
- Rachel Wyndham of Wyatts Partnership for pro bono accountancy support.

Our work to reduce illegal fishing in Sierra Leone and Liberia has been supported with a five-year grant from the **EU Commission's EuropeAid fund**; and the **EU's DG DEVCO** provided a grant to promote actions to end human trafficking in fisheries.

EJF is implementing a strategic plan to both increase and diversify our sources of income, including unrestricted funds, which are essential for us to respond to opportunities and urgent needs.

To find out more: contact Juliette Williams at info@ejfoundation.org

This small and steadily-growing organisation has achieved considerable impact with small resources.

> Tony Juniper EJF's organisational review 2014



EJF is one of the most cost-efficient organisations working in the environmental and human rights sector. Our work is lean, direct and focused. Our impact is disproportionate to our size and income.



Income vs. Expenditure 2014/15

Accounts for the financial years 1st January 2014 – 31st December 2015 have been audited by Knox Cropper (8/9 Well Court, London, EC4M 4DN) and comply with the Charity Commission's requirements and the Charity's Trust Deed (29th June 2000). Copies of the full audited accounts are available from info@ejfoundation.org).

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

2016 will be EJF's 15th year investigating and campaigning against environmental injustices and human rights abuses. At the cutting edge, our team is lean, focused and efficient, able to seize opportunities with an unsurpassed dynamism and approach.



As we look ahead into 2016 and beyond, EJF will continue to push the boundaries, and set the agenda for environmental justice. We will build on the success of our world-leading investigations, using film and real-time evidence that can and does change the world; we will provide a voice for those who bear witness to environmental injustice; and we will continue to highlight the need for an integrated approach to environmental protection and the defence of human rights.

EJF believes in the power of collective action, and we will continue to work, not just for, but with communities, to build resilience, share knowledge and best practice and inspire active participation in protecting the environmental resources they depend upon. By providing training and equipment, we will empower and help communities to document and expose abuses, and create a new generation of environmental defenders across our core areas – oceans, pesticides and climate change. In doing so we hope to 'connect the dots' between the local and the global, and show that many of the challenges facing our global environment can and do have local solutions.

We will also continue to develop new collaborations with like-minded individuals, organisations, businesses and policymakers, act as a catalyst for change and create a truly global appetite for environmental justice. As we expand the depth and breadth of our campaigns, scaling and replicating grassroots and high-level achievements, we will look to create leadership roles amongst governments, lifting the benchmarks on the laws and enforcement needed to protect our natural world.

Film will remain at the core of EJF operations going forward, but as we look to expand the scope of our story-telling, we will look for ever more creative means to communicate environmental injustices to the world and take our fight to new audiences. We will invest in the latest technologies and work to ensure the highest standards of branding, communications and digital campaigning across all of our work to break through the increasingly crowded online and media space, and to provide new access points for engagement with our campaigns.

Fifteen years on from EJF's founding, our vision remains the same: a world where natural environments can sustain and be protected by the communities that depend on them. We cannot protect our natural world without safeguarding those communities, and failing to protect our environment will leave the poorest and most vulnerable disproportionately impacted. By linking environmental security, human rights and social justice, we have the potential to create positive change for both people and planet. As EJF looks to the next 15 years, our focus is firmly on this vision, and on delivering our pledge to end environmental injustice, protecting wildlife, wild places and people.



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