The Impact Of International Environmental Agreements On National Policy

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Abstract:

In order to directly address climate change and wildlife protection, this study looks into how international environmental agreements (IEAs)have affected India's national policy framework. This paper is aimed at analysing different international environmental agreements and their impact on Indian environmental policy through the examples of the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. India has integrated these international commitments into its national strategies, which include the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Wildlife Action Plan to combat greenhouse gas emissions and conserve wildlife. The paper also covers how IEAs ensure the availability of financial and technical resources, create new policies, and cause legislative changes. The paper also seeks to investigate India's opportunities and constraints in meeting its international commitments, as well as the issue of balancing the country's interests with international environmental standards. It envisions sustainable development that is also socially and technologically inclusive. India uses global accords to meet regional growth goals while also seeking long-term environmental resilience.

Keywords: *International environmental agreements, India, national policy, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, comparative analysis, sustainable development, global commitments, socio-economic disparities, legislative changes.*

INTRODUCTION

International environmental agreements, or IEAs, are treaties that are written, agreed upon, and officially approved by different countries to deal with environmental problems that affect everyone. Lobbying and smart delegation are very important during the acceptance and negotiation stages. But what really matters inputting these deals into action is the choice of national policy tools, which is affected by lobbying and, in turn, affects negotiations. IEA analysis using game-theoretic models has mostly looked at the reasons why countries sign and accept agreements from a theoretical point of view. Models of the political steps that lead to an agreement have only recently become popular. In comprehending the dynamics of IEAs, empirical results, particularly those from experimental study, complement theoretical methods.

Effective environmental mitigating strategies for transboundary pollutants require international coordinationandpartnershipsincetheyaffectpeople across boundaries (e.g., Ostrom, 1990). Though countries are usually able to develop and carry out environmental policies inside their own boundaries, there is no global equivalent of a government to oversee and enforce rules. Property rights are sometimesnotproperlydefinedormaintained,much as emission rights for resources and pollutants that traverse borders. IEAs are meant to provide these propertyrightsanddealwithenvironmentalanarchy (Buchanan, 1975; Weikard, 2011). This paper will mainly focus on climate policies for simplicity because reducing greenhouse gas emissions is considered to be a global public benefit. Thus, it is remarkablethatawiderangeofproblems,including pollutionandresourceexploitation,canbeaddressed by international environmental accords at the local, regional, or global levels.

Several research directly look at the negotiating processandtheresultsrelatedtothecreationofIEAs (e.g., Young 1994, Miles et al. 2002, Barrett 2003, Mitchell2009).Analysisofenvironmentaleconomic policy provides important advice for creating successfulandefficientenvironmentalpolicies.Still, the models that are usually applied in this study frequently presuppose that governments function as kind social planners that want to maximize the welfare of their people. Public choice academics counter that this presumptionis unduly limiting and simple (Persson and Tabellini 2000; Oates and Portney 2001; Mueller 2003).

International environmental agreements(IEAs) are essential in the current global context for resolving pressing environmental issues that cut over national boundaries.Throughinternationalcooperation,IEAs seek to lessen environmental damage and promote sustainable development everywhere. They provide a methodical means of international cooperation on problems including pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

IEAs further facilitate the sharing of resources, technology, and expertise amongst members, improving their ability to address environmental concerns.Theyalso advancejustice bymakingsure that, taking into consideration various degrees of developmentandaccountability,theadvantagesand responsibilities of environmental preservation are shared fairly. All things considered, international environmental agreements are important to forming international environmental policy, promoting international cooperation, and advancing international initiatives toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

the term "environmental justice" (Martinez-Alier et al., 2014) originated from The movement that developed in the United States in response to 1982 protests against waste dumping in North Carolina . MembersofChristiancongregationsandcivilrights leaders like Robert Bullard (1993) described themselves as environmental justice champions. By October1991,aconferenceof"leadersofpeoplesof color" in Washington, DC, had developed the 17 principles of Environmental Justice, which went beyond focusing just on the US. Though the convention was held in Washington, DC, the words "environment" and "justice" were used to question US economic dominance rather than to glorify racism and Western colonialism. The statement resisted military occupation, repression, and exploitationoflands,peoples,cultures,andotherlife forms; it also affirmed the sanctity of Mother Earth andtherighttobeprotectedfromecologicaldamage; itpromotedpeople's right toself-determination;and it underlined the need of participation and enforcement of informed consent principles.

In the later part of the 20th century, growing concerns about socioeconomic disparity and environmental degradation gave rise to the concept of sustainable development. Meeting current needs without jeopardizing the capacity of future generations to meet their own is the goal of sustainabledevelopment(WCED,1987).Itadoptsa thoroughstrategythatcombinessocial,economic, and environmental concerns to guarantee long-term prosperity for both people and the planet.

This paper briefly highlights the many Indian laws and treaties on the issue, with a focus on the legislationandinternationalagreementsmostcrucial to protecting and improving the environment in India. It goes into great length on the reach, applicability, and restrictions of these statutes.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

EnvironmentalpolicyofIndiaandothernationshave been greatly influenced by international environmental accords. Numerous research have examined the potential and difficulties India has integrating these accords into its own domestic policyaswellashowtheyaffectitsnationalpolicies.

In2015,TiwariandGhoshconductedananalysisof India's institution building in response to its commitmenttotheKyotoProtocol,whichresultedin the establishment of the NAPCC in 2008. As evidencedintheirstudy,theyexplainhowtheCDM isacriticalaspectofIndia'ssupportforgreenenergy.

The authors, like Dubash and Rajamani (2010), conducted a similar study. Similar studies were conducted in 2010 by Dubash and Rajamani, wherein the focus was the impact of the Paris Agreement on India. Notably, large policy shifts in the direction of low-carbon growth and ecological development appeared. It also reaffirms India's commitment to the intended nationally determined contributions, that is, to raise the share of non-fossil fuel energy in its energy mix and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Srivastava et al. (2015) and Ghosh et al. (2012) examinetowhatextentIndiahasbeeninfluencedby the CBD in the formulation of its biodiversity policy.
They claim that India was able to formulate its NationalBiodiversityActionPlan(NBAP)andother state-level plans on biodiversity due to their direct involvement in the CBD.

Key Theories and Models Discussed in Relation to India's Participation in International Environmental Governance

Modelsandtheoreticalframeworkssimplifytheway that international environmental agreements impact national policies. Especially game theory has been widely used to the study of national strategic relations in the setting of IEAs (Barrett, 2003).

Important new views on the internal political processes affecting India's environmental policy choices are offered by public choice theory.

The main argument presented by Persson and Tabellini (2000) is that governments are not always benevolent social planners, as they are often influenced by various special interest groups and political constraints.

OatesandPortney(2001)alsohavethesimilarview that the formulation and implementation of environmental laws in India are influenced by lobbying from industrial and environmental groups.

India's environmental governance is greatly shaped bythenotionof'environmentaljustice,asdescribed by Martinez-Alier et al. (2014). This paradigm therefore underlines the need for the distribution of thepositiveandnegativeimpactsoftheenvironment andenvironmentallawsinamannerthatensuresthat vulnerablepeoplearenotdisadvantagedinanyway.

Ostrom (1990) analyzed the structures of collective action and the management of common pool resources, which can be used to explain India's commitment to international environmental agreements. Some of her concepts on good governance,suchas decentralizationandflexibility, align with India's decentralized approach to environmental management. These theories and models demonstrate how complicated it is in general to incorporate international environmental commitments into the Indian national policy system. They emphasize the importanceofunderstandingthevariousnationaland internationalfactorsthatshapeIndia'sunderstanding of environmental governance.

Environmental Justice

Environmental justice seeks equal distribution of environmental equity as well as to ensure that a particulargroupofpeopleisnotsubjectedtoahigher levelofnegativeenvironmentalimpactsascompared to others, especially vulnerable groups.

The emergence of the concept of environmental justice can be traced back to the early 1980s in the UnitedStates,wherecommunitymembers'sprotests against the disposal of hazardous waste in minority areas were born as a new form of social movement (Bullard, 1993; Martinez-Alier et al., 2014).

Since then, this idea has been more well-known around the world for stressing the link between racial, social, and economic factors and environmental issues. India is a multiethnic country where the effects of environmental problems vary according to the particular conditions of each social group.

Deforestation, industrial garbage, and pollution of theairandwaterheavilyaffectIndia'spoorandmost disenfranchisedpeople(Martinez-Alier,2002).This emphasizes the need of legislation that considers these variations so that everyone may benefit from healthy development and natural protection.

EncouragingEnvironmentalJusticeinIndia:The Function of International Agreements

International environmental agreements (IEAs) that require member countries—India included—to accept previous standards and methods greatly improve environmental justice. These deals provide fairandequitablegovernmentandcontainideasthat help environmental justice.

The UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement stress the requirement of valuing the interests and rights of vulnerable people when conducting climate action. Launched as part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), initiatives such as the NationalSolarMissionandtheNationalMissionfor a Green India are aimed at providing sustainable livelihoods and reducing the adverse effects of climate changeonvulnerablepopulations(Dubash&Rajamani, 2010).

Similar efforts to protect wildlife while ensuring benefit-sharing among tribal and local people have been sparked by India's membership in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP), which shows the fair share of the benefits from the utilization of bio resources, demonstrates this commitment (Ghosh et al.,

2012).

SustainableDevelopment

A characteristic of sustainable development is meeting current needs without risking the ability of future generations to satisfy their own (WCED, 1987) for both people and the environment, it balances social, economic, and environmental elements.

The large population, rapid economic growth, and majorenvironmentalchallengesincludingpollution, deforestation,andwaterscarcityinIndiamake sustainable development extremely important (Ghosh et al., 2012).

SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Integration into Indian Policy Framework and International Commitments

TheUnitedNations'SustainableDevelopmentGoals (SDGs),whichprovideacomprehensiveframework forachievingsustainabledevelopmentby2030, have India's committed backing. The Indian government has included these goals into its national policy framework by a number of projects and activities. For example, the country's top policy think tank, NITI Aayog, has been given responsibility for overseeing the SDGs' implementation all across the country. The Aayog has methodically linked every SDG to current Indian programs and policies to ensure coherence and successful execution (NITI Aayog, 2017).

EXAMPLES OF INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONALAGREEMENTSPROMOTINGSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. ParisAgreement:

India is determined to pursue sustainable development, as seen by its adherence to the Paris Agreement. By 2030, the country has promised to lower the GDP's emissions intensity by 33–35% from2005levelsandincreasetheproportionofnon-fossil fuel-based energy sources to 40% of installed electricpower capacity(GovernmentofIndia,2015). Theprinciplesofsustainabledevelopmenthavebeen embracedbyinvestmentsinrenewableenergy,most notably solar electricity.

2. ConventiononBiologicalDiversity(CBD):

TheNationalBiodiversityActionPlan(NBAP)was formed as a result of India's involvement with the CBD and tries to protect and preserve biodiversity while encouraging sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing. Incorporating tactics to promote biodiversity hotspot conservation and involve local populations in conservation activities, this strategy embodies the idea of inclusive growth within the framework of sustainable development (MoEFCC, 2008).

TheEffectofInternationalEnvironmental Policy on National Policy in India

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS' INFLUENCE ON INDIAN NATIONAL POLICY: MECHANISMS

Through a number of methods, international environmental agreements affect Indian national policy:

- **Legal Changes:** National laws often need to be changed in order to comply with international standards under international agreements. For instance, after concerns from around the world and India's participation in the 1972 Stockholm UNConferenceontheHumanEnvironment,the EnvironmentProtectionActof1986 was passed (Cullet, 2017).
- **Policy Development:** Guidelines provided by international frameworks affect how national policies are drafted. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) mandated that India develop a National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) (Dubash & Rajamani, 2010).
- **Financialandtechnicalassistance:**Takingpart in international accords usually means having access to both financial and technical help in order to meet obligations. For example, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides finance for programs meant to protect the environmentworldwidetodevelopingcountries, including India (GEF, 2020).

EXAMINATION OF PARTICULAR INDIAN POLICIES INFLUENCED BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

1. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):

Shaped by India's UNFCCC commitments, the NAPCC has eight missions that deal with different aspects of sustainable development and climate change. Missions include:

• NationalSolarMission:Designedtosupportsolar energysothatby2022,itstotalcapacityhits100GW (MNRE, 2015).

• The National Water Mission is focused on 20% more efficient water usage, sustainable water government,andwaterpreservation(MoWR,2011).

Theseprojectsshowcase howIndiauses theseinternationalstandardstodirectnationalpolicy while mixing climate change prevention with sustainable development goals.

2. NationalClean AirProgramme(NCAP):

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is an initiative launched as India involves itself in global deliberations concerning the quality of air. The objectiveofNCAPistoreduceparticulatematter pollution by 20–30% till 2024 and this includes a number of strategies. Among these strategies there are public sensitization programs, city-specific actionplansandtighterindustrialemissionstandards based on the location (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2019). The connection of the NCAP with international agreements highlights how policies are shaped by global deals whichinturnuphold anation's commitmenttosuch programmes:Indialinks itsactivitiesunder UNEP's air quality programs.

3. NationalBiodiversityActionPlan(NBAP):

India's involvement in the CBD led to the NBAP's emergence. This strategy ensures sustainable utilizationandjustsharingofbenefitswithprograms that include protection of biodiversity hotspots, coupled with the participation of local communities in conservation actions (MoEFCC, 2009).

OPPORTUNITIES AND DIFFICULTIES FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN MEETING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

Challenges:

- Meetingobligationsdemandsbothtechnological investments. India struggles to get enough money and advanced technology to properly meet these responsibilities (Chakrav, 2018).
- Handling coordination problems means getting everyone on the same page, but in India's setup, sticking to agreements can get tricky (Ghosh, 2015).
- Managing differences involves looking after whatpeopleneedwhilemakingsurerulesarethe same for everyone. For example, making sure everyone can get energy and water is hard in different places (TERI, 2018).

Opportunities:

- Internationalagreementsoffermoneyandknow- how to help India reach its goals for making things sustainable. Groups like the Green ClimateFund(GCF)lendahandtocountriesthat need help dealing with climate change (GCF, 2020).
- Being part of international agreements can push Indiatocomeupwithnewwaystomakeenergy and save resources, especially with things like solar power. India's leading the charge in solar energy with the help of the International Solar Alliance (ISA, 2018).
- Bykeepingits promises,Indiacanshow that it's a responsible playeron the world stage, which brings in partnerships and money. India being active in climate talks has made it look good around the world and has boosted its chances of making money (Dubash, 2019).

Environment and Sustainable Development in India: Movements and Case Studies

Indiahasalonghistoryofenvironmentalmovements that have greatly impacted its laws and raised awarenessofsustainabledevelopment.Thefact that grassroots organizations and local communities often lead these campaigns emphasizes how interrelated social justice, ecological preservation, andsustainabledevelopmentare.Movementsofnote include:

Chipko Movement (1973): The 1973 Chipko Movement was born out of the vast deforestation endangeringthelocalenvironmentandwayoflifein theHimalayanareaofUttarakhand(previouslyapart of Uttar Pradesh). Women in particular shown their commitment to protecting their natural environment byhangingtotreestostoploggersfromcuttingthem down. Through its promotion of sustainable forest managementtechniques,thismovementclarifiedthe importanceofforestsfortheecosystemandthelocal people. Raising awareness of deforestation and its negative effects, the Chipko Movement acted as a sparkforsimilarcampaignsaroundtheworld(Guha, 2000).

Narmada Bachao Andolan (1985): Founded in 1985,theNarmadaBachaoAndolan(SaveNarmada Movement) was led by social activists like Medha PatkarandBabaAmteandfoughtthebuildingofbig dams on the Narmada River. A concern from these dams was the displacement of thousands of people and the flooding of vast areas of agriculture and forest. The campaign promoted sustainable and just development alternatives by highlighting the negative social and environmental effects of such projects. The NBA's efforts brought great attention to the need for more ecologically friendly and inclusive development strategies in India (Dwivedi, 2006).

Silent Valley Movement (1978): The successful 1978 Silent Valley Movement sought to stop the development of a hydroelectric plant in Kerala's unspoiled tropical rainforest, the Silent Valley. Stressing the biological importance of preserving biodiversity, environmentalists, scientists, and local people banded together to protect this unique area. Thecampaigncametoaheadin1985whenSilent Valley was declared a national park, setting the standard for other conservation projects and emphasizing the value of community action in environmental protection (Gadgil & Guha, 1992).

AppikoMovement(1983): TheAppikoMovement (1983), which sprang up in Karnataka's Western Ghats to oppose deforestation and promote sustainable forest management, was modeled after the Chipko Movement. Women and children in particular in the area embraced trees to stop them from being felled. The movement also focused on raising knowledge of the need of protecting biodiversity andpromotingsustainablewaysof life. The Appiko Movement made clear how important regional communities are to sustainable development and environmental protection (Gadgil, 1993).

Case Studies Demonstrating International Agreement Implementation in India

Case Study 1: India's Kyoto Protocol Engagement

In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was implemented, which required industrialized nations to limit their greenhouse gas emissions. India is a developing nation,yetithasdeclareditsintentionstoreducethe intensity of emissions and promote cleaner technology. India was still referred to as a third- world nation by then, but it made a pledge to decreasethelevelofharmfulgasesadmittedintothe air and use advanced methods instead. This action has since influenced India's internal strategies for combating climate change.

IntroducingthePerform,Achieve,and Trade (PAT) SchemeTheintroductionofthePATschemein2012 is aimed at enhancing energy efficiency in significant energy intensity sectors. In this way, organizations are allowed totradeexcess savings so that it outlines specific areas where each industry needs to make savings on energy. This project is driven by India's commitment to global climate goals and seeks to reduce total energy consumption and carbon emissions from the industrial sector (BEE, 2012).

The Rise of Renewable Energy: India has set ambitious targets for solar and wind power, significantly increasing its focus on renewable energies. The National Action Plan on Climate ChangecontainedtheNationalSolarMission,which initiallytargeted20GWofsolargeneratingcapacity by 2022 before later being revised to the current target of 100 GW. The zeal to get more renewable energyisadirectresultofglobalcommitmentsto mitigategreenhousegasemissionsaswellasreduce

dependence on fossil fuels (MNRE, 2015).

Case Study 2: India's Participation in the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, which was adopted in 2015, aims at limiting global warming to less than two degrees Celsius. In 2030, India pledged to reduce GDP emissions intensity by 33–35% below 2005 levelsandincreasethesshareofnon-fossilfuel-based powercapacityto40percent. NationalStrategies forCarbonEmissionReduction:

EnhancedRenewableEnergyObjectives:Bytheend of 2022, India seeks to have a renewable energy capacity of up to one hundred and seventy-five gigawatts (GW) composed of sixty GW from wind and 100 GW from solar. This makes it clear that India is fully bought into the Paris agreement and wants to move towards a low-carbon economy. Additionally, increased focus on renewable energy has led to job creation as well as advancements in energy-relatedtechnology(MNRE,2018).Under the FAME program, which stands for Faster AdoptionandManufacturingofHybridandElectric Vehicles, electric mobility was promoted to reduce reliance on fossil fuels while cutting air pollution within urban areas. Through incentives offered for the adoption of electric vehicles, this program helps facilitate the expansion of infrastructure as well as developmentsupportfortheEVindustryinIndia.As per the climate agreements, the project aims to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in the transportation sector (NITI Aayog, 2019).

CaseStudy3:ConventiononBiologicalDiversity Initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation by India

India pledged to conserve biological resources, sustainablyusethem,andensurethatallstakeholders benefit from the use of genetic resources upon signing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Other elements were as follows- Sustaining the special species, setting aside protected areas as well as incorporating biological diversity into industry systems according to the 2008 NBAP. Hence,inconsonancewiththeobjectivesspelledout intheConventiononBiodiversity(MoEFCC,2008), thisplanenunciatescertainspecificactivitiesthatare to be undertaken both at the federal and state levels toconservethewildlifeofIndia.Alegalrequirement stemmingfromtheBiologicalDiversityActof2002 is that India must establish people's biodiversity registers (PBRs) to capture local knowledge about biodiversity. It should ensure that all benefits from conservingbiodiversityaresharedordividedfairly, and that the locals should also participate in the conservation process. In this regard, irrespective of native know-how, these records contribute to the useful resource safety and utilization of environmental facilities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Withthehelpofthepresentedexamples,peoplecan learn how international conventions affect India's environmental protection laws. They demonstrate actions that India has taken to balance its policies with commitments it has undertaken, particularly in areas like conservation of biological diversity and addressing climate change.

TomeettheKyotoProtocolobligations,thePerform, Achieve,andTrade(PAT)Scheme andotherpolicy measures have been created.

Thus, Indian initiatives indicate the country's willingness to curb greenhouse gas emissions while fostering economic growth. To sum up, supporting energy efficiency schemes in various industries can be supported by international agreements. The measures that India has taken in order to reduce carbon emissions and increase clean power generation have changed dramatically due to the Paris Accord.

The backing of electric cars by FAME and the goal set by the National Solar Mission demonstrate that India has committed to fulfilling climate objectives through the utilization of sustainable technologies while at the same time supporting international climate initiatives and other issues concerning the environment, economy, energy security, and air pollution as well. This led to the evolution of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), consequently validating India's commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

These are some of the efforts that show how communal involvement coupled with cultural practices enhances fairness and sustainability by advocating for the conservation of biological diversity. India has been successful in balancing

betweenequitabledevelopmentandtheconservation of its large biological diversity by interlinking with eachotheratthegrass-rootslevelandintegratingthe protection of biological diversity into the overall national   plans.

It has more to do with questions and choices about how to apply international conventions at the nationallevel.WhileitistruethatIndiahasrecently embarkedontheprocessofaligningitspolicieswith the global environmental agenda, there are cases where the pursuit of national interests, economic necessities, and conditions provided in international treaties   may   clash.

Through the case studies, foreign environmental agreements are positively linked with the internal policy framework of India. As a result, India has developed innovative policy solutions to global environmental problems while prioritising regional development through policy analysis in light of global commitments.

A lot of time and effort must be dedicated to understanding the intricacies of these agreements in order to support self-determination processes while also minimizing gaps between people.

CONCLUSION

As shown by comparing several case studies, it is equally evident that international environmental treaties impact Indian domestic policies. In fulfilment of commitments under such international agreements as the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol, domestic creativity such as the Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme has emerged, as wellasrenewableenergyprojects.Inadditiontothe   support   of   the   Convention   on   Biological   Diversity, communityparticipationandindigenous knowledge have been called for in the development of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and People's Biodiversity Registers.

Nevertheless, the application of international agreements at the national level involves a delicate mechanism for implementing national interests and meeting international commitments. This is a challenge that India has to balance in order to accommodate competing economic needs and environmental objectives. There is therefore a need to come up with policies that will try to meet the developmental needs of the country while at the same time satisfying the global community.

Despite the shortcomings, there is strategic synergy betweenglobaltreatiesandIndiandomesticlawsand policies that demonstrate a vision for equitable and sustainable development coupled with an international responsibility towards environmental conservation.

Theyhavetobepersistentinthefuturetomakesure that national interests are aligned with international responsibilities. Thus, it is imperative to understand thattoachieveabalanceandworkontheidentified trade-offs, the discussion of policies and their interaction with stakeholders must be ongoing. If India continues on this course, it can achieve permanent environmental equilibrium and social- economicdevelopment, thus providing asignificant contribution to the efforts of the international community for the sustainability of the world.

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