



Community Empowerment Balalak in Landak Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This research tries to analyze the empowerment of the Balalak community in the Landak Regency. By uncovering the challenges and opportunities that exist in the process. A study of community empowerment as facilitators in Balalak highlights how communities can empower institutions to meet needs by encouraging development. By examining regional community empowerment, this research provides insight for stakeholders and policymakers. This research is qualitative research with an exploratory approach; The use of an exploratory approach in this research aims to analyze more deeply and describe the circumstances of the phenomena that occur and are directly related to the situation or place. It is hoped that the research results will provide in-depth insight into Community Empowerment to improve the sustainability of development at the local level. With this approach, this research not only tries to detail the concept and role of Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom but also tries to understand its implementation in everyday community practice. Through these steps, it is hoped that this research can positively contribute to the sustainable development literature and pave the way for similar developments in various local contexts.

INTRODUCTION

Landak Regency, an area rich in local wisdom and culture, offers a unique and complex landscape when facing the dynamics of sustainable development. Amid globalization and modernization, Landak Regency maintains the diversity of its local wisdom, one of the manifestations of which is through the Community Empowerment realized through the Balalak Local Wisdom. This local wisdom includes cultural values passed down from generation to generation and becomes the basis for active community participation in natural resource management and sustainable development.

Context of Sustainable Development in Landak Regency Landak Regency, located in West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, offers stunning views with its unspoiled natural beauty. Even though it is rich in natural resources, Landak Regency is not free from complex development challenges. Rapid economic growth, urbanization, and environmental pressure are the main dynamics that require targeted and sustainable strategies (Jamaliah et al, 2023). In this context, Balalak Local Wisdom emerges as great potential to become a pillar in the Community Empowerment that guides development in the Landak Regency.

Balalak Local Wisdom as the Foundation of a Community Empowerment Balalak Local Wisdom is a cultural heritage and a guide in the decision-making and actions of local communities (Eka et al, 2021). Balalak, in the local language, includes the meaning of wisdom inherited and implemented by the community over time. This wisdom includes cultural values, local knowledge about natural resource management, and sustainability mechanisms in living daily life. In the context of this wisdom, the Community Empowerment model is realized through active community participation in various aspects of life, especially those related to development and the environment.

The Role of Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom The Community Empowerment model inspired by Balalak Local Wisdom has positively impacted sustainable development in the Landak Regency. The main role in this model involves the community directly in taking roles and responsibilities for environmental sustainability and shared prosperity. Balalak Local Wisdom is the basis that motivates and empowers the community to contribute to local development. Sustainability of Natural Resources and Local Wisdom Balalak Local Wisdom provides an in-depth understanding of the importance of maintaining balance and sustainability in managing natural resources.

Traditional understandings of local ecosystems and sustainable land use policies are reflected in community actions. Practices such as agroforestry, customary forest management, and spring conservation are concrete manifestations of local wisdom in supporting the sustainability of natural resources in Landak Regency. Community Empowerment through Local Wisdom The Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom encourages community empowerment from various levels.

In this context, the community and local community leaders have an active role in the decision-making and implementation of sustainable development programs. Informal education and local training are important in building community capacity to better understand and apply local wisdom principles in everyday life. Local Wisdom in Maintaining Cultural Values The Community Empowerment oriented by Balalak Local Wisdom emphasizes aspects of environmental sustainability and maintains the sustainability of cultural values.

The tradition of cooperation, traditional ceremonies, and local wisdom in using traditional medicinal plants are important elements passed on from one generation to the next (Acua et al, 2021). In this case, Community Empowerment becomes an agent for preserving cultural heritage and local identity. Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing Balalak Local Wisdom Although Balalak Local Wisdom offers great potential, challenges also face its implementation. Globalization, climate change, and pressure from urban development can threaten the sustainability of this Community Empowerment.

Therefore, understanding and responding to these challenges is key to keeping local wisdom relevant and effective in the modern context. Research Plan This research aims to dig deeper into the role of Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom in Landak Regency. Using a qualitative approach, this research will involve in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis to thoroughly understand how Balalak Local Wisdom contributes to sustainable development.

It is hoped that the research results will provide in-depth insight into the dynamics of this Community Empowerment and provide policy recommendations to improve the sustainability of development at the local level. With this approach, this research not only tries to detail the concept and role of Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom but also tries to understand its implementation in society's daily practices. Through these steps, it is hoped that this research will positively contribute to the sustainable development literature and pave the way for developing similar in various local contexts.

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Empowerment

Community empowerment has been a focal point in various fields, including community development, social work, public health, and urban planning (Azhari, 2019). It is a process that aims to enhance the capacity of individuals and groups within communities to take control of their lives, address their needs, and shape their futures. This review will explore key themes and findings from the literature on community empowerment, focusing on its definitions, theoretical frameworks, factors influencing empowerment processes, and outcomes. First and foremost, defining community empowerment is crucial to understanding its conceptualization and operationalization in practice. Empowerment can be viewed as a multidimensional concept encompassing individual, organizational, and community levels of analysis.

At the individual level, empowerment involves enhancing people's confidence, skills, and knowledge to participate effectively in decision-making processes (Dediansyah & Wibowo, 2022). At the organizational level, empowerment refers to the capacity of community-based organizations and grassroots movements to mobilize resources and advocate for change. At the community level, empowerment entails building social capital, fostering collective action, and promoting democratic governance structures. Theoretical

frameworks underpinning community empowerment emphasize the importance of power dynamics, participation, and social change processes.

For instance, Freire's concept of critical consciousness highlights the role of education in empowering marginalized groups to challenge oppressive systems and advocate for their rights. Similarly, social-ecological models emphasize the interconnectedness between individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and societal factors influencing empowerment outcomes. These frameworks provide valuable insights into the complex and dynamic nature of empowerment processes. Several factors have been identified as influencing community empowerment, including structural barriers, social inequalities, cultural norms, and political dynamics.

Structural barriers such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to basic services can undermine community agency and limit opportunities for empowerment. Social inequalities based on race, class, gender, and other intersecting identities can perpetuate power imbalances and marginalize certain groups within communities. Cultural norms and values may either facilitate or hinder empowerment efforts, depending on the extent to which they promote inclusion, diversity, and social justice. Political dynamics, including governance structures, policy environments, and state-society relations, can shape the enabling or constraining conditions for community empowerment initiatives. Empowerment outcomes encompass a range of individual, organizational, and community-level changes, including increased self-efficacy, improved well-being, enhanced social capital, and strengthened civic engagement. At the individual level, empowerment can lead to greater feelings of autonomy, mastery, and purpose in life.

At the organizational level, empowerment may result in more responsive and accountable institutions capable of meeting the diverse needs of community members (Haridison & Alfri, 2019). At the community level, empowerment can foster solidarity, resilience, and collective action to address shared challenges and pursue common goals. In conclusion, community empowerment is a multifaceted process that involves enhancing the capacity of individuals and groups within communities to take control of their lives, address their needs, and shape their future.

Drawing on diverse theoretical frameworks and empirical research, this literature review has highlighted the importance of understanding empowerment as a dynamic and context-specific phenomenon influenced by various factors at individual, organizational, and community levels. By recognizing the complexities of empowerment processes and outcomes, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers can design more effective interventions and policies to promote community empowerment and social change.

Balalak Local Wisdom

Describes the rich and complex cultural framework of Landak Regency, Indonesia. This local wisdom includes a series of traditional values, norms, and practices passed down from generation to generation, forming the foundation

of local community life (Wulandari et al, 2022). An in-depth understanding of Balalak Local Wisdom is essential to detail its contribution to environmental sustainability, local wisdom in managing natural resources, and its role as a guide for society in facing modern-day challenges. Balalak Local Wisdom has roots in the local culture of Landak Regency, and over time, this wisdom has become a marker of local community identity.

In the dimension of environmental sustainability, the literature highlights the role of local wisdom in maintaining a balanced ecosystem. This concept is reflected in practices such as agroforestry, sustainable agricultural systems, and efforts to preserve customary forests. Traditional knowledge about local ecology is the basis for society in maintaining a balance between humans and nature.

Balalak Local Wisdom also serves as a guideline for managing natural resources. The literature records how local communities, through local wisdom, develop sustainable management systems to maintain the sustainability of forest products, springs, and agricultural land. The concept of cooperation in implementing these practices reflects local wisdom, which prioritizes collective interests above individual interests. Identified Balalak Local Wisdom as an instrument of education and local knowledge. Local people, especially the younger generation, learn about daily life, ethical values, and social norms through stories and traditional practices.

Local wisdom is integral to informal education passed on from generation to generation, ensuring its continuity and relevance in the modern context. However, the literature also highlights the challenges faced by Balalak Local Wisdom in the era of globalization. Climate change, modernization, and urbanization can significantly pressure local wisdom. Understanding how local wisdom can adapt to or combat these challenges is key to ensuring its survival and relevance. Exchange It is important to note that Balalak Local Wisdom does not only cover environmental aspects and natural resources (Fitriasari, 2022).

Local wisdom also plays a role in maintaining cultural values and community identity. Cooperation traditions, traditional ceremonies, and kinship systems are an integral part of Balalak Local Wisdom, which enriches the community's spiritual life and maintains the sustainability of cultural heritage. In the context of the local community of Landak Regency, Balalak Local Wisdom also functions as a tool of empowerment. Local communities, especially women and youth, are involved in decision-making, implementing development programs, and preserving Balalak Local Wisdom.

In the literature, discussions about community empowerment through local wisdom highlight how directly involving the community can create collective responsibility for the environment and sustainability. Empirical research on implementing Balalak Local Wisdom in the Landak Regency is also the focus of the literature. Case studies and situational analysis enrich an understanding of how local wisdom is applied in real contexts and the factors that support or hinder its implementation. This creates a foundation for developing more effective and sustainable policy strategies.

To increase understanding of Balalak Local Wisdom, the literature review also details the important role of media and communication in promoting and preserving local wisdom. Public awareness about local wisdom can be increased through creative approaches, including social media, visual documentation, and educational campaigns. The Balalak Local Wisdom literature review offers a rich and multidimensional view of this concept. An in-depth understanding of the environmental, social, cultural, and economic aspects of Balalak Local Wisdom is the foundation for developing sustainable development strategies that consider local wisdom a valuable asset.

Active community involvement, government support, and in-depth understanding from researchers and practitioners are the keys to ensuring that Balalak Local Wisdom remains alive and effective in facing the dynamics of changing times. The literature review also details the important role of media and communication in promoting and preserving local wisdom. Public awareness about local wisdom can be increased through creative approaches, including social media, visual documentation, and educational campaigns.

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METHODOLOGY

This research used qualitative analysis by collecting data from sources related to Community Empowerment in Balalak in Landak Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia such as indexed journals and reference books, to analyze problems. These findings are then linked to relevant theoretical concepts, forming the basis for understanding the implications of the research results. The reliability of the analysis is improved through triangulation, that is, by comparing findings from various data sources. The results are then

systematically arranged in a report, including a clear description of the analysis process, Direct quotes from the data support the conclusions and provide rich context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community Empowerment in Balalak Landak Regency

Community participation in Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom creates exceptional dynamics that enrich and expand the community's participatory space in the development of a region. Balalak local wisdom, which refers to local traditions and values passed down from generation to generation, is the main element in mobilizing community participation. This participation covers various aspects of community life, from environmental management to social and economic development. First of all, Balalak Local Wisdom is the primary driver of community participation in environmental management. Local traditions and wisdom often include a deep understanding of local ecosystems, natural resources, and sustainable ways to utilize them.

In Community Empowerment, society is the user of natural resources and the leading actor in environmental conservation and rehabilitation (Elyta & Sahide, 2021). This Participation Exchange involves formulating local ecological policies based on local wisdom, increasing public awareness of the importance of sustainability, and active involvement in nature conservation practices. Furthermore, community participation in the Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom also involves the economic sector. Local financial practices passed down from generation to generation, such as sustainable agricultural systems, traditional crafts, and regional trading systems, form the basis for sustainable economic development. The community is consumers and producers who actively participate in local economic development.

Through this, financial sustainability is measured by numerical growth and balance and fairness in the distribution of economic results. Balalak Local Wisdom also plays a central role in community participation in social development. Social and cultural values embedded in local wisdom become the foundation for community identity and bridge differences. Community participation in this Community Empowerment involves recognizing and empowering cultural diversity, supporting local social initiatives, and building collaborative networks between residents to improve shared prosperity. A critical aspect of community participation in Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom is the preservation and development of local knowledge. Local wisdom is often closely related to oral traditions, rituals, and daily practices that are passed down orally.

In this, the community plays a role in conveying, documenting, and preserving local knowledge. This involves engagement in local education programs, joint research activities, and the application of local expertise in contemporary contexts. The importance of community participation in

Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom is also reflected in local governance (Elyta et al, 2023). An inclusive and participatory governance system allows communities to be involved in decision-making that affects their daily lives. This process requires dialogue between the community, local government, and other related parties in developing policies that reflect regional aspirations, needs, and wisdom.

The importance of community participation in Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom is also reflected in local governance. An inclusive and participatory governance system allows communities to be involved in decision-making that affects their daily lives. This process requires dialogue between the community, local government, and other related parties in developing policies that reflect regional aspirations, needs, and wisdom. Community participation in Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom forms a strong foundation for sustainable development.

By utilizing local knowledge, the community not only becomes the object of development but also the leading player who defines the direction and meaning of development itself. This creates space for close collaboration between society, government, and the private sector, forming a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive foundation for the development of a region and inclusive for the development of an area inclusive for the development of a region.

Challenges and Opportunities Community Empowerment in Balalak Landak Regency

The integration of the Community Empowerment with Balalak Local Wisdom faces several challenges and, at the same time, provides significant opportunities for sustainable community development (Islam et al, 2023). The process of unifying these two elements requires an understanding between the parties involved and a paradigm shift in the development of thought patterns and practices. Various challenges and opportunities arise during this integration, forming complex dynamics that influence the direction and results of community involvement in local development. The first challenge faced in integrating Community Empowerment with Balalak Local Wisdom is the inequality in community empowerment. Local wisdom is often accumulated in small groups or certain figures in society.

At the same time, the concept of inclusive Community Empowerment emphasizes the participation of every individual in the decision-making process. Therefore, ensuring equitable community representation and empowerment is an important challenge in integrating these two. In addition, differences in communication patterns between local wisdom, which is often oral and involves local symbols, and Community Empowerment, which tends to use a formal and written approach, can create gaps in perception and understanding. This challenge requires extra effort in building effective communication bridges so that all parties can interact and contribute well. The legal and regulatory aspects of this integration are also complex.

Local wisdom is often not documented formally, while Community Empowerment requires a strong legal basis. Harmonizing these regulations can create administrative and bureaucratic obstacles that can slow the integration process. Finding harmony between formal law and local wisdom norms is a challenge that needs to be overcome. Opportunities arise in the context of increasing the capacity of local communities. The integration of the Community Empowerment with Balalak Local Wisdom can be a driver for developing community capacity.

Involving communities in local decision-making processes, policy implementation, and development programs can strengthen their skills and knowledge. Thus, this opportunity increases community capacity in various aspects of life, from resource management to economic participation. Technology adoption and innovation are important opportunities in this integration. Local wisdom can be combined with modern technology to increase development efficiency and effectiveness. For example, Participatory approaches in environmental mapping and monitoring using technology can combine local knowledge with scientific data.

Information technology can also document and share local wisdom with future generations (Haridison & Alfri, 2019). Another opportunity is creating a wider space for dialogue and knowledge exchange. Integrating Community Empowerment with Balalak Local Wisdom opens up opportunities to hold discussion forums, workshops, and community meetings. In this context, people can share experiences, strengthen social ties, and create stronger networks. This exchange enriches local wisdom and provides new insights for parties involved in the development process. In the local economic context, this integration can create opportunities for local product development and sustainable marketing.

Communities can integrate local wisdom in producing goods and services with sustainable values (Taggok & Hawari, 2021). This creates new economic opportunities, promotes local economic independence, and reduces dependence on unsustainable economies. However, to optimize this opportunity, it is important to overcome existing challenges. Better collaboration and communication must be improved to ensure all parties can synergize effectively. Local regulations and policies must also be adjusted to create an environment that supports this integration. In responding to challenges and taking advantage of opportunities, building a holistic and inclusive approach is important. Integrating Community Empowerment with Balalak Local Wisdom requires active involvement and commitment from all stakeholders.

Only in this way can this integration effort achieve its goal of building a sustainable and balanced society. Communities can integrate local wisdom in producing goods and services with sustainable values. This creates new economic opportunities, promotes local economic independence, and reduces dependence on unsustainable economies. However, to optimize this opportunity, it is important to overcome existing challenges. Better collaboration and communication must be improved to ensure all parties can

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Community Empowerment as Facilitator in Balalak Landak Regency

As a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, the Community Empowerment creates rich and mutually beneficial dynamics to explore, support, and preserve local wisdom in a community. As a framework that emphasizes community participation, local government, and the private sector, Community Empowerment forms a solid foundation for integrating local wisdom into various aspects of community life. As a facilitator, the Community Empowerment responds to the needs and values upheld by Balalak Local Wisdom, creating synergies that can enrich life experiences and development at the local level.

First of all, Community Empowerment becomes a platform for community participation in identifying, respecting, and preserving the Local Wisdom of Balalak. Through participatory forums, cross-sector dialogue, and joint workshops, communities can convey their experiences, share local knowledge, and actively contribute to decision-making. This creates an inclusive space where every element of society has a valued role and voice in forming local policies and practices. Furthermore, the Community Empowerment provides institutional support and capacity for the sustainability of Balalak Local Wisdom.

Community Empowerment helps communities adapt and develop their local wisdom in facing global challenges and environmental changes. This can include training programs, joint research, and innovative projects that support the preservation and development of Balalak Local Wisdom. As a facilitator, the Community Empowerment opens the door for closer collaboration between academics, local practitioners, and the government. In addition, Community Empowerment functions as an intermediary between Balalak Local Wisdom

and government policy. By understanding the values and needs of local communities, the Community Empowerment Model can encourage and fight for policies that support the preservation of local wisdom.

As an extension of the community's voice, the Community Empowerment Model can form a constructive dialogue with the government to create regulations that support environmental sustainability, social justice, and community participation. Furthermore, Community Empowerment creates opportunities to integrate Balalak Local Wisdom into local development projects. This includes developing a locally based economy that respects wisdom values, empowering communities to implement locally based educational programs, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices that follow Balalak Local Wisdom. Through active involvement in these projects, Community Empowerment becomes an agent of change that drives positive transformation at the local level. Furthermore, Community Empowerment functions as a bridge between local wisdom and the private sector.

In raising funds for local development projects or supporting sustainable business initiatives, Community Empowerment can facilitate mutually beneficial cooperation between the private sector and local communities. This creates opportunities for community economic empowerment and business development based on local wisdom and values. In addition, Community Empowerment has an important role in documenting and preserving Balalak Local Wisdom. The Community Empowerment helps record local knowledge, traditions, and wisdom practices for future generations through research and documentation programs.

By making people aware of the importance of preserving their cultural heritage, Community Empowerment motivates efforts to preserve local wisdom as an integral part of community identity and sustainability. Even though Community Empowerment significantly contributes as a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, several challenges remain. Coordination between these requires care to ensure that local wisdom is respected and not distorted in the integration process. Expectation management is also a key factor because sometimes people have different expectations of the role of Community Empowerment.

As a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, the Community Empowerment Model plays an important role in supporting, preserving, and integrating local wisdom in community development. In playing this role, Community Empowerment creates space for community participation, provides institutional support, mediates with government and the private sector, and bridges local policies and practices. Through active and sustainable involvement, Community Empowerment can help local communities achieve sustainability and balanced prosperity by maintaining and respecting Balalak Local Wisdom and wisdom practices for future generations.

By making people aware of the importance of preserving their cultural heritage, Community Empowerment motivates efforts to preserve local wisdom as an integral part of community identity and sustainability. Even though Community Empowerment significantly contributes to and facilitates Balalak

Local Wisdom, several challenges remain. Coordination between these requires care to ensure that local wisdom is respected and not distorted in the integration process. Expectation management is also a key factor because sometimes people have different expectations of the role of Community Empowerment.

As a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, Community Empowerment plays an important role in supporting, preserving, and integrating local wisdom in community development. In playing this role, the Community Empowerment Model creates space for community participation, provides institutional support, mediates with government and the private sector, and bridges local policies and practices (Yohanes et al, 2023). Through active and sustainable involvement, Community Empowerment can help local communities achieve sustainability and balanced prosperity by maintaining and respecting Balalak Local Wisdom and wisdom practices for future generations.

By making people aware of the importance of preserving their cultural heritage, Community Empowerment motivates efforts to preserve local wisdom as an integral part of community identity and sustainability. Even though Community Empowerment significantly contributes as a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, several challenges remain.

Coordination between these requires care to ensure that local wisdom is respected and not distorted in the integration process. Expectation management is also a key factor because sometimes people have different expectations of the role of the Community Empowerment. In conclusion, as a facilitator of Balalak Local Wisdom, the Community Empowerment plays an important role in supporting, preserving, and integrating local wisdom in community development.

In playing this role, Community Empowerment creates space for community participation, provides institutional support, mediates with government and the private sector, and bridges local policies and practices. Through active and sustainable involvement, Community Empowerment can help local communities achieve sustainability and balanced prosperity by maintaining and respecting Balalak Local Wisdom.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The integration between Community Empowerment and Balalak Local Wisdom has had a positive impact that can be seen in various aspects of community life. Community empowerment, environmental preservation, and local-based economic development are concrete results of the synergy between these. As a facilitator, the Community Empowerment can open up space for inclusive community participation. Cross-sector dialogue, participatory forums, and joint workshops enable every element of society in Landak Regency to contribute and voice their aspirations. The community feels empowered in the policy-making process, which aligns with the values of Balalak Local Wisdom, which emphasizes togetherness and cooperation. Furthermore, maintaining Balalak Local Wisdom through Community Empowerment creates the foundation for environmental preservation. Utilization of local wisdom in natural resource management, sustainable agricultural practices, and local wisdom-based environmental conservation programs provide concrete solutions to ecological challenges. The community, an active agent in protecting the environment, feels the positive impact of the policies and programs initiated by the Community Empowerment. In the economic realm, it is proven that Community Empowerment presents opportunities for sustainable local economic development. Integrating local wisdom in regional economic projects, promoting locally based products, and collaborating with the private sector creates a balanced business environment that respects the values of local knowledge. In this way, the people in Landak Regency experience economic benefits that positively impact their welfare. However, while celebrating this achievement, challenges remain a part of this journey. Effective coordination between the Community Empowerment and Balalak Local Wisdom needs to continue to be strengthened to avoid distortions and ensure that the implementation of projects and policies is based on local values. Managing community expectations is also essential to provide ongoing engagement and support. In facing this challenge, it is crucial to maintain the collaborative and inclusive spirit built by the Community Empowerment through Balalak Local Wisdom in Landak Regency. Continuous evaluation, supporting regulatory updates, and adaptation to contextual changes are vital to maintaining the sustainability of this synergy. The success of sustainable development in Landak Regency will depend significantly on how to continue to integrate Balalak Local Wisdom in its efforts, ensuring that this initiative becomes not just a temporary project but an integral part of sustainable positive change.

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations so further research on the topic is still needed "Community Empowerment Balalak in Landak Regency, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia"

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