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EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA FOREST OBSERVATORY

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East and Southern Africa Forest Observatory

Inception Meeting

March 10, 2021

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Project overview

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Overall objective

Support the improvement and implementation of OFESA prototype, create a reliable system of monitoring to assist countries in reporting on their climate obligations.

Rationale

Accessible and reliable data is key for improved management of multifunctional landscapes and strengthening monitoring systems.
However, main barriers that inhibit these monitoring systems remain:

- Limited technical capacity of lead forestry agencies, partners to collect data on forest cover trends.
- Limited capacity to analyse data, identifying trends and threats to forests.
- A negative attitude towards data sharing limiting potential for regional meta-analysis and use in decision making.

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OFESA will support national and regional level tracking of performance under several obligations such as Paris Agreement and AFR100.

Duration: 36 months (Aug 2020-Aug 2023)

Geographical scope: 5 countries


Ethiopia


Kenya


Mozambique


Tanzania


Uganda

Contribution to the SDGs:

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Background

OFESA II builds on the recommendations of OFESA I. The report *The current state of Eastern Africa's forests* provided recommendations for the long-term implementation of the observatory.

Key elements identified for a functioning observatory system:

1. Governance structures (e.g. rules, data sharing policies, frameworks)
2. System of incentives
3. Funding
4. Capacity building
5. Collaborations

1. Governance structures

- Data sharing policy and framework – mechanism to control the access to data for accountability & prevent the misuse of data developed with all relevant stakeholders.

- Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) & contracts – needed for the coordination of collaborations by specifying roles & responsibilities of the different actors in data chain including timeframes; data contribution by various actors to the observatory.

- Communication strategy.

2. System of incentives

To motivate the actors to contribute data & create demand for the observatory.

Should be based on stakeholders/actors needs.

Examples: addressing pressing policy & management pressing issues, value addition aspects - including country-specific indicators or thematic areas.

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3. Funding

For the data generation process, capacity building & facilitation of meetings through supplementing budgets especially for data that isn't available or collaboratively mobilize funds to support the processes.

4. Capacity building

(tailored towards stakeholders needs)

Training
Upgrade existing equipment or provision of new equipment & software
Learning Platform
Assistance with recruiting new staff to improve their capacity in terms of human resources
Facilitation to attend conferences and exchange visits to partner states for learning

5. Collaborations

- **Engage with actors & involve them from the beginning (bottom-up approach)**
  - Develop a relationship, build trust & good will which affects the willingness to share data.
  - Create awareness about the project.

- **A network for data generation & analysis**
  - Identify and work with an actor with authority and power to mobilize other actors and push the agenda particularly political bodies to create this network.
  - Include multiple actors at various levels.
  - Have mandated institutions in the sector for a continuous data flow & align activities with the work plans of the institutions.

- **Linkages with similar initiatives to reduce duplication of efforts**

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Key result areas

Result 1. Development of a sustainable governance framework for the long-term service of the OFESA.

Result 2. Human capacities in terms of management and use of environmental information are strengthened, and information is available.

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	Result 1	Result 2
Activities	• Mapping of the key actors • Development of a governance framework for data sharing • Development of a targeted communication strategy and a monitoring and learning framework • Data analysis to generate information • Populating and maintaining the database of the observatory with updated data • Address the absence of regionally comparable datasets, due to different forest definitions, classification standards and data collection methods, gaps and data quality issues	• Collaboration with training and environmental information institutions (e.g. JRC-Ispra), to build the capacity of national agencies in forest monitoring techniques, data analysis and reporting • Capacity building to raise capacity in, and awareness of the benefits of data sharing • Pilot low-cost data gathering and monitoring in selected countries • Development of a 2023 synthesis report on the State of Forests focusing on key topics
Expected outputs	• A map of identified key actors and their current cooperation dynamics, potential support • A data sharing framework e.g. data-sharing policy, to facilitate sharing of data among participating • A communication strategy • Story maps and info graphics are published, analytical dashboard • Case studies from selected areas are developed and disseminated • Reference datasets developed, which enable generation and systematic validation of data products	• A gap analysis identifying the needs and informing the development of capacity building programs • Workshops and learning forums conducted, A training tool/modules developed • A guide with examples of low-cost data-gathering systems connected to and supporting the OFESA tested in selected locations • State of the Forests, leading to enhanced awareness of the OFESA use and potentials, and informed decision making of national forest agencies, policy makers and other actors

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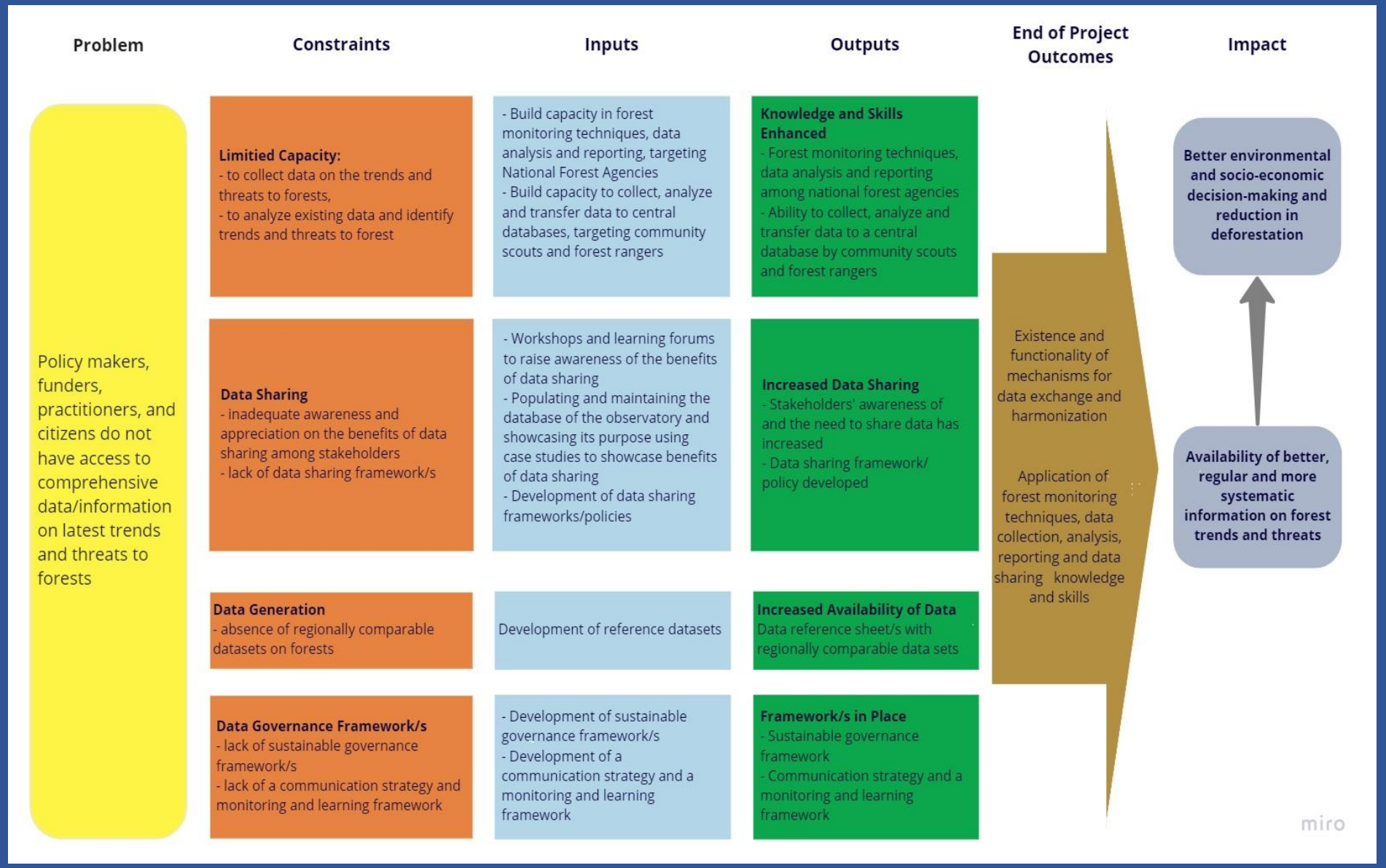
Theory of Change



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What OFESA is building from the prototype

Eric Wabwile
Ngugi Kimani
RCMRD

Countries and institutions involved

FDRE ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHAN
COMMISSION
EFCC
ኢ ት ዮ ጵ ያ
ETHIOPIA

KENYA
Forest Service

WAKALA WA HUDUMA ZA MISITU TANZANIA
TFS
MISITU NI MALI

NFA
National Forestry Authority

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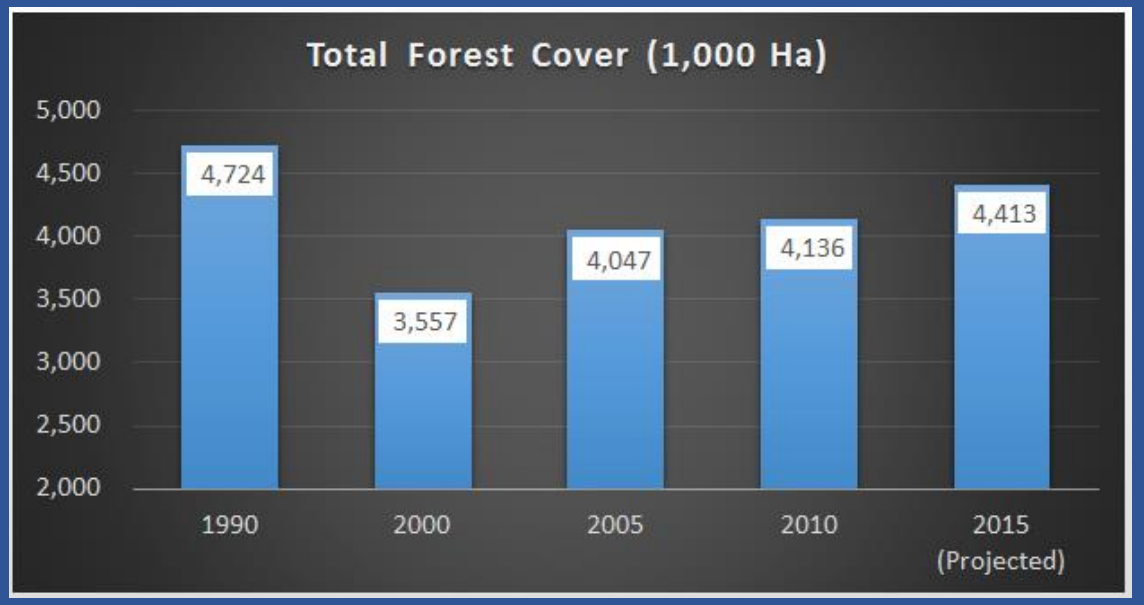
What is contained in the observatory?



People and Economy

(a) Employment

22 thousand people are directly employed by the

(b) Economic Value

The forestry sector contributed USD 330.3 million

Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL LOGGING AND CHARCOAL
- WOODFUELS
- FOREST FIRES
- INFRASTRUCTURE EXTENSION
- POPULATION GROWTH

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Hotspot areas

- Working with the 5 countries to identify their exact needs and challenges in the selected thematic areas and choosing hotspot areas that can be used for monitoring.
- Provide links to data and information relevant to inform decisions on forest management.

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Partners

Implementation

Including IUCN, UN – WCMC, EU-JRC, IGAD, IOC, EAC and SADC, and the national governments of the 24 participating countries.

Including partners such as COMIFAC, RAPAC, RIFFEAC, and the EU-JRC.


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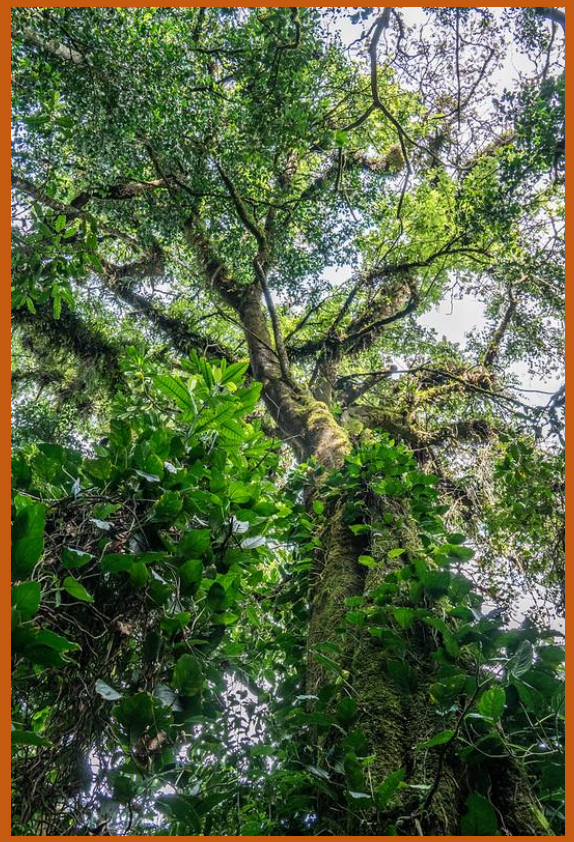
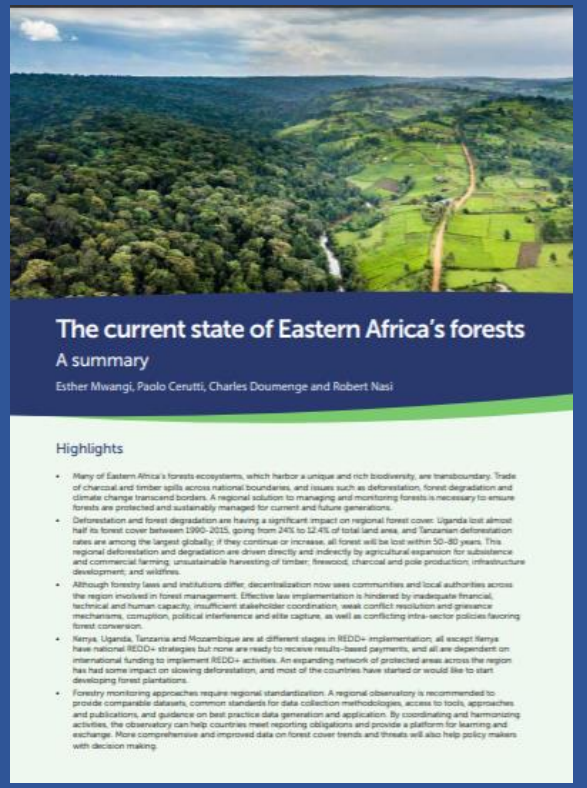
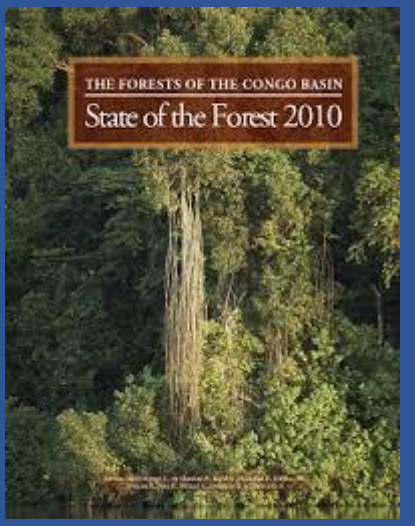
Communications and visibility

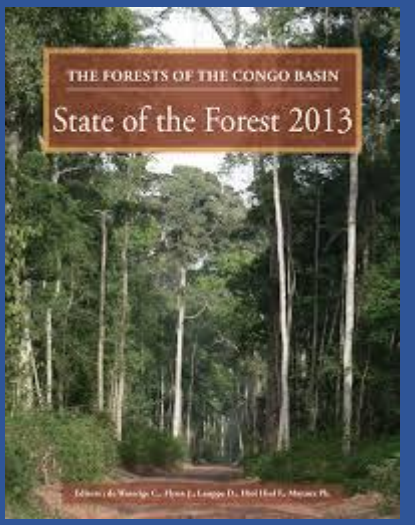


The State of the Forests

- Key output to be developed in collaboration with partners.
- Will present comparable multi-country information on priority themes that provide a regional overview of the state of forests
- Preliminary topics established, consultations planned with countries, regional economic communities and the EU.
- Initial topics identified from review of country strategies/plans include:
  - Forest restoration
  - REDD+
  - Forest governance
  - Forest monitoring
  - Biodiversity conservation in protected areas
- **Next step**: Feedback from countries on priority themes







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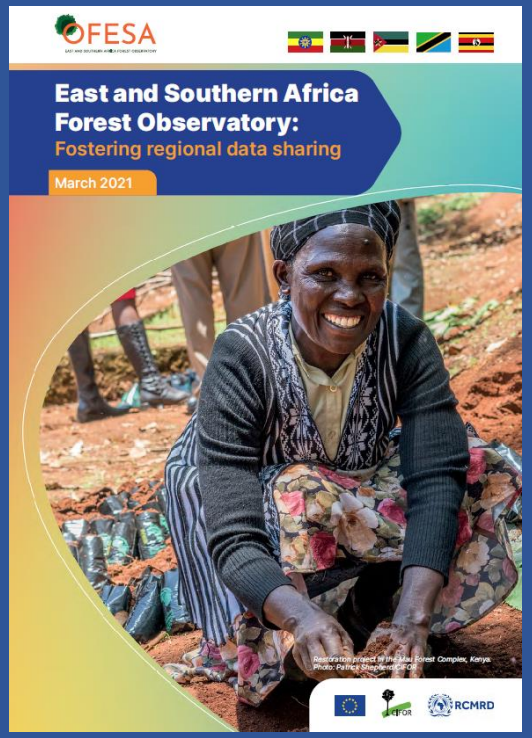
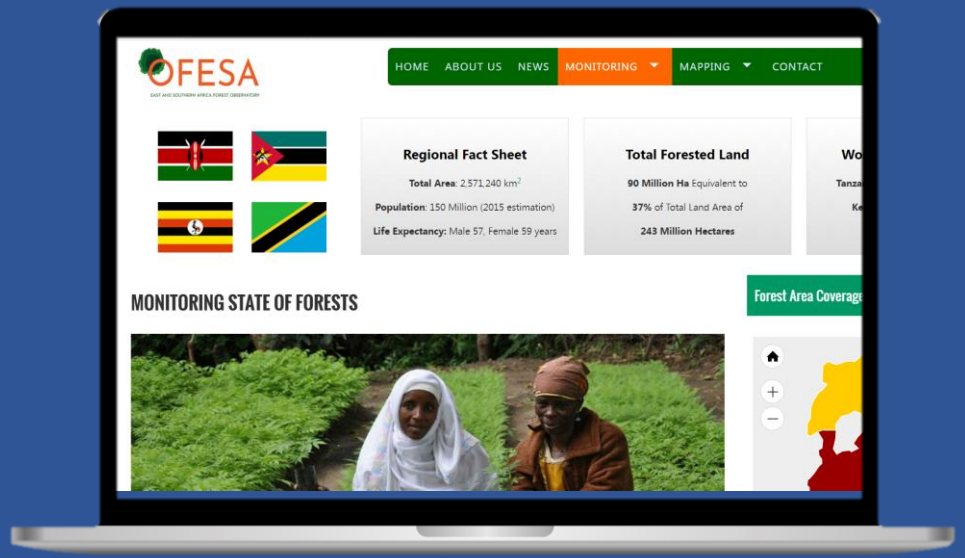
Brochure

- Upcoming activities
- Proposed priority topics
- OFESA's contributions



Website

- apps.rcmrd.org/ofesa → ofesa.net
- Update – first half of 2021
- Newsletter/news section
- User feedback welcome



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OFESA is not only about gathering streamlined data, but also making it accessible. To succeed, our communications must be user-centric.

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