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Federal Department of the Environment,
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Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Economics section

Planetary Boundaries and Policy – Experiences from Switzerland



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Planetary boundaries - Europe's life on a knife-edge
Webinar by MEPs Jutta Paulus and Sven Giegold, 11.6.2020
Andreas Hauser, Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland



Europe: Global sustainability leader?

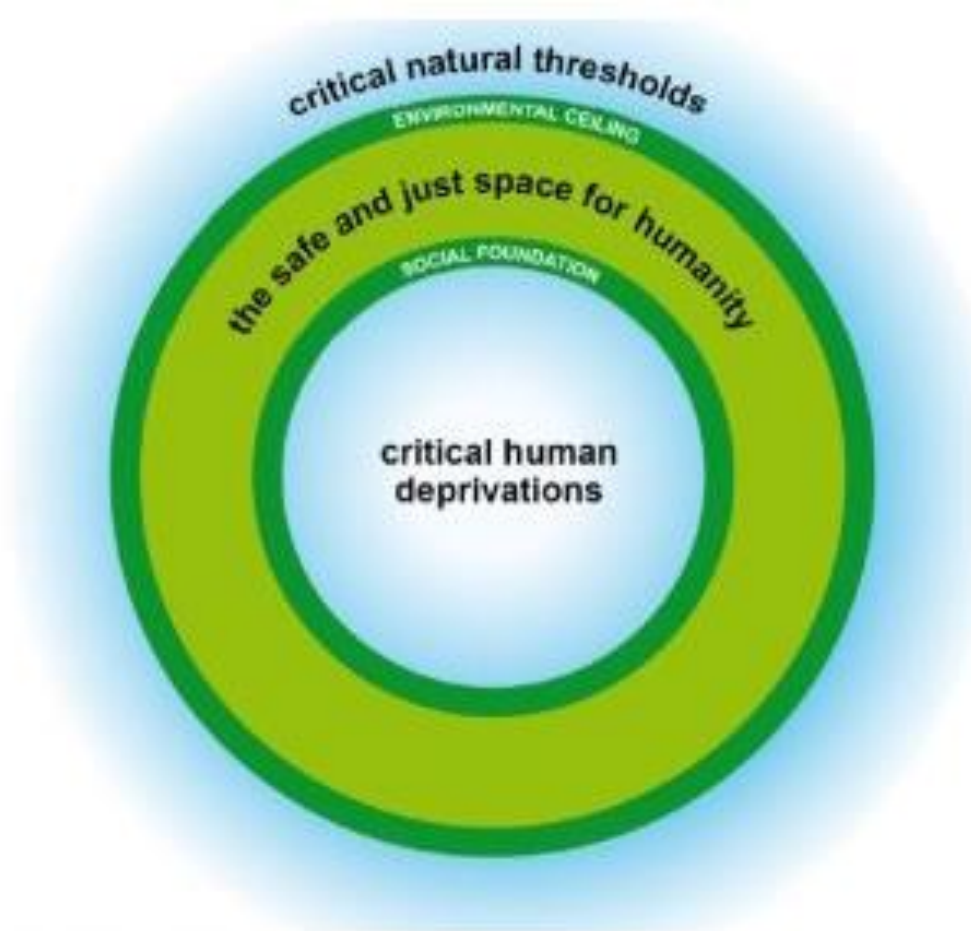
Country	Region	SDGs	Rank [▲]	Score
Denmark	OECD members		1	85.2
Sweden	OECD members		2	85.0
Finland	OECD members		3	82.8
France	OECD members		4	81.5
Austria	OECD members		5	81.1
Germany	OECD members		6	81.1
...				
Switzerland	OECD members		17	78.8

Source: Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2019): Sustainable Development Report 2019. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org>



«Doughnut»: A stronger message

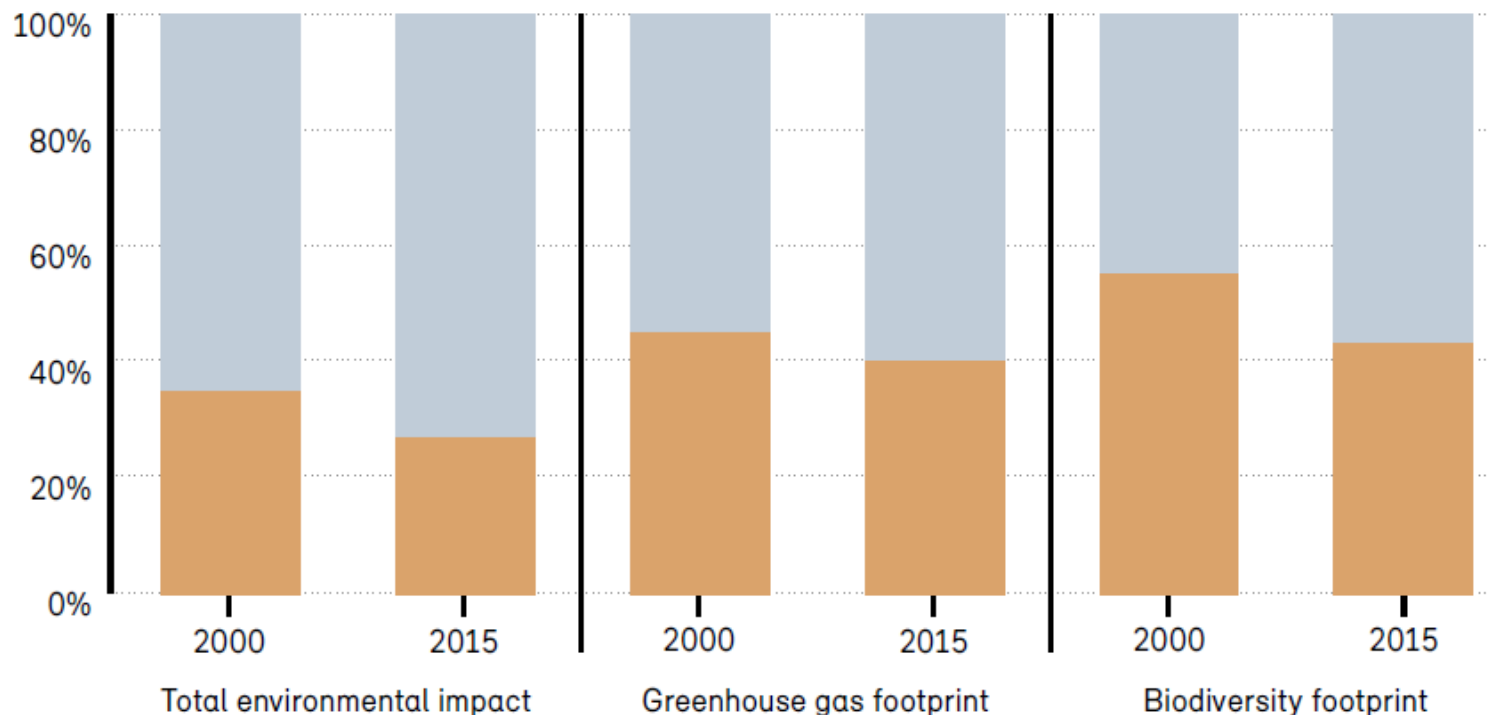


Source: Kate Raworth
See <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>



Footprints: Bring the demand-side of the economy on board!

Development of the foreign share of selected footprints for Switzerland



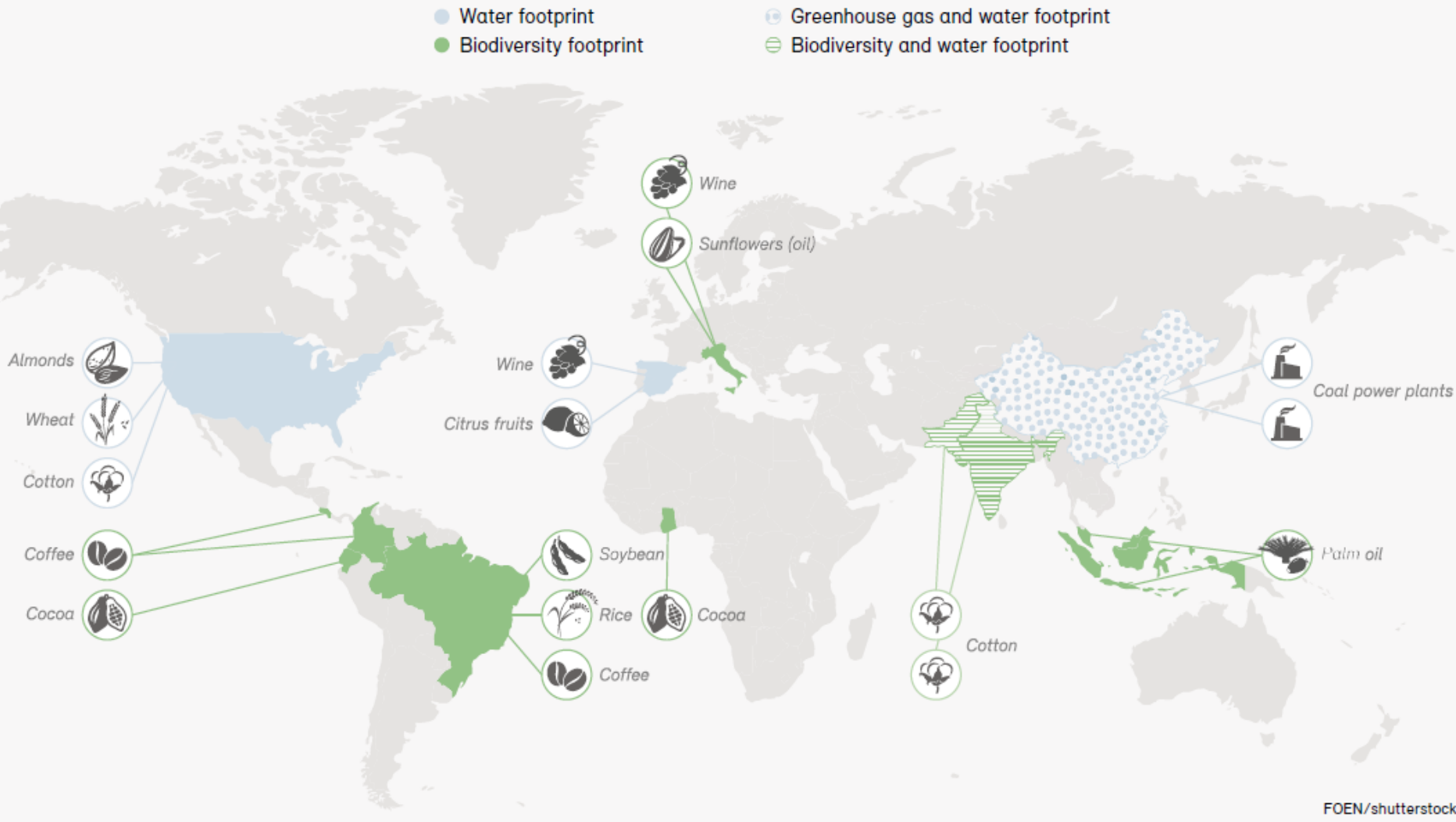
■ Domestic share ■ Foreign share

Footprints related to Swiss consumption

Source: FOEN



Swiss consumption – global impacts

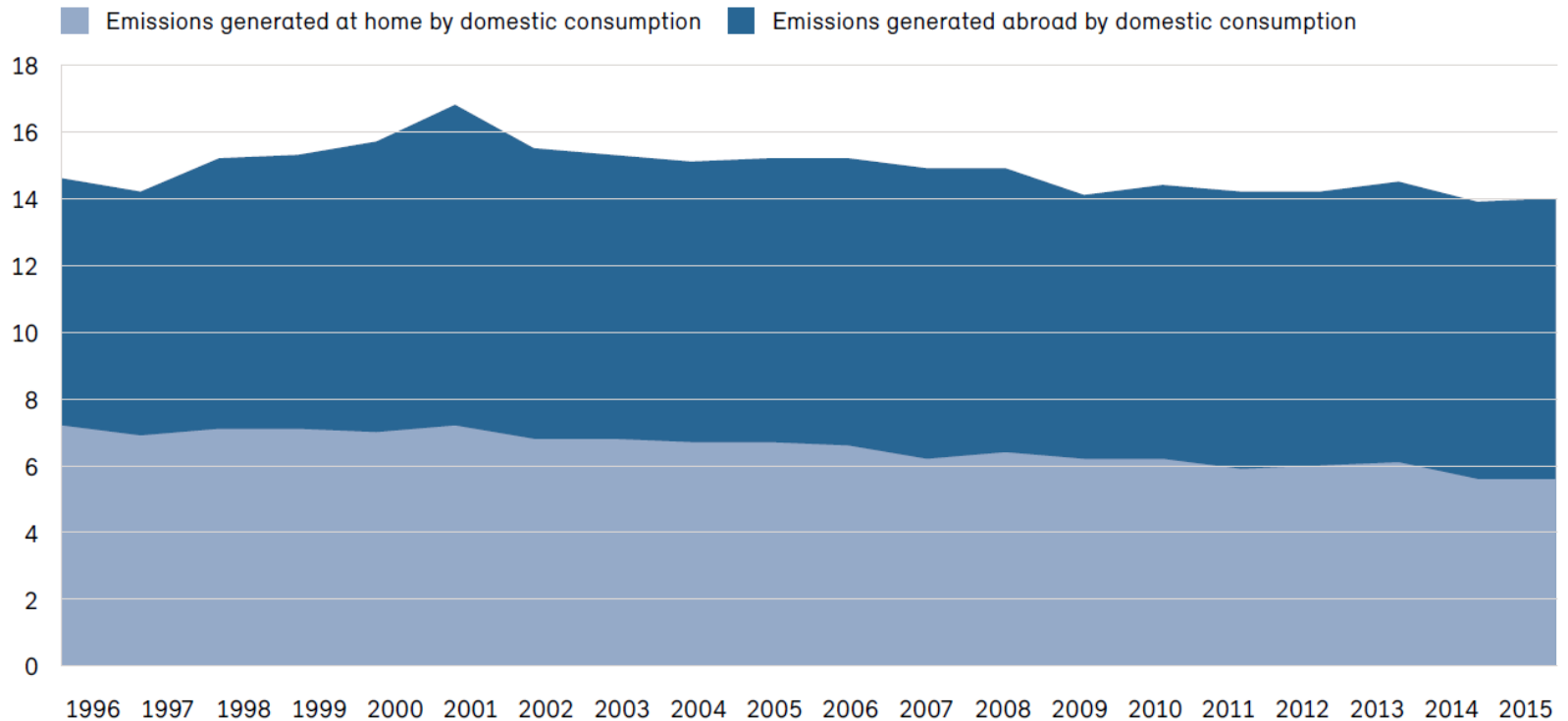


FOEN/shutterstock

The map highlights countries from which Switzerland imports large quantities of high impact products.



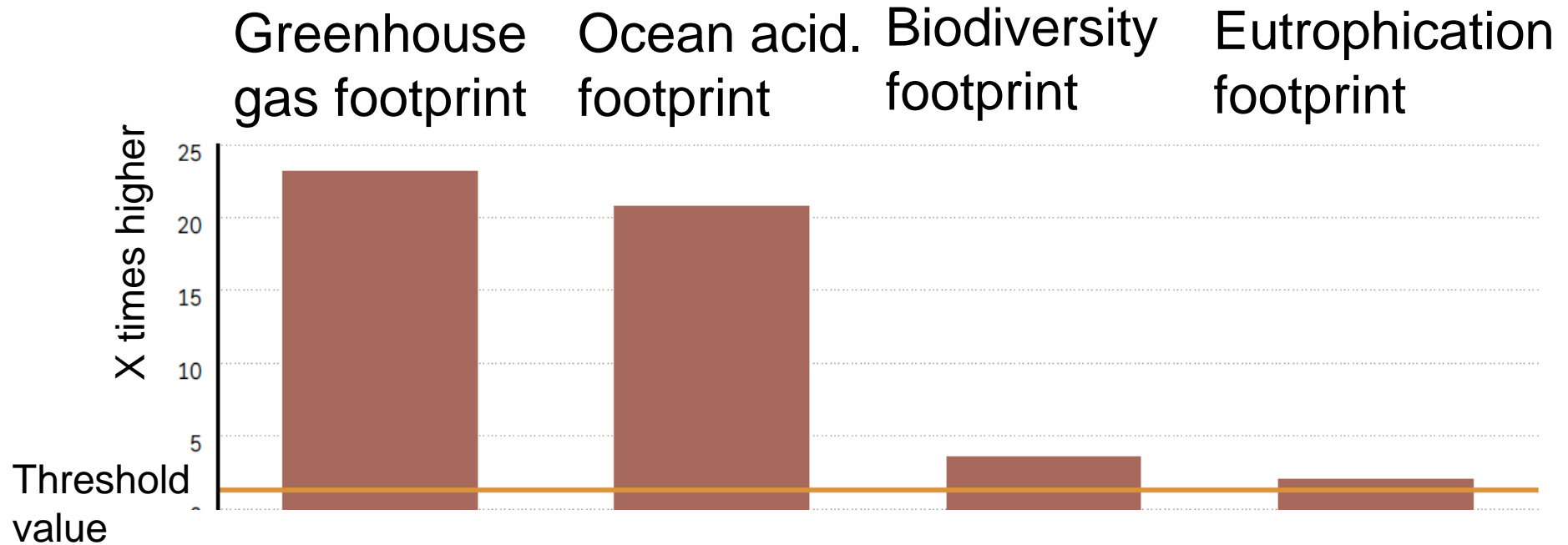
Is decoupling enough?



Source: Calculations treeze and Rütter Soceco. (2018)

Switzerland's Greenhouse gas footprint per capita

Planetary boundaries and Swiss footprints



Sources: Dao et al. (2015), Frischknecht et al. 2018



Lessons learnt

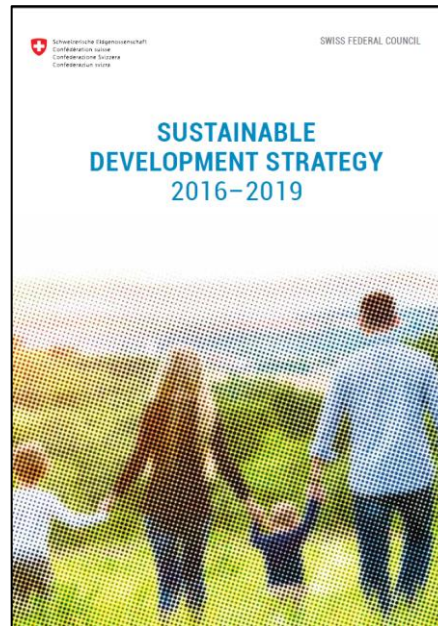
- **Footprint perspective** leads to a fundamentally different assessment than territorial perspective
→ **Act along the whole product chain!**
- Assessing footprints against **Planetary Boundaries** leads to a fundamentally different assessment of the magnitude of the need for action.



Vision: the Swiss version of „living within“

«Environmental impacts are kept low **along the entire value chain**, and natural resources are used sparingly.»

«The quantitative and qualitative capacity and usage **limits of the planet's** natural resources are respected»



<https://www.are.admin.ch/are/de/home/nachhaltige-entwicklung/politik-und-strategie/strategie-nachhaltige-entwicklung-2016-2019.html>



Strategic anchors for systemic change in a national context

- Develop a vision for critical systems
 - food,
 - housing
 - transportation
- Identify hot spots along the value chain
- Set footprint targets
- Act beyond thematic and sectoral policies



Options for national policy: On multiple levels

Actors	Options for Swiss government
Research institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “technological progress”• “inventiveness”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know-how transfer• Standards
Business and finance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “the market decides”• “healthy competition”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dialogue and agreements• Incentives
Civil society: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “ways of living”• “engagement”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information, promotion• Networking
Public sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “regulation”• “role model function”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal framework• Funds, public procurement

Source: Selected from: Federal Council (2018): Environment Switzerland



Farm follows fork (and vice-versa)



- Balance our diets
- Love food, fight waste

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Thank you



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