



Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment

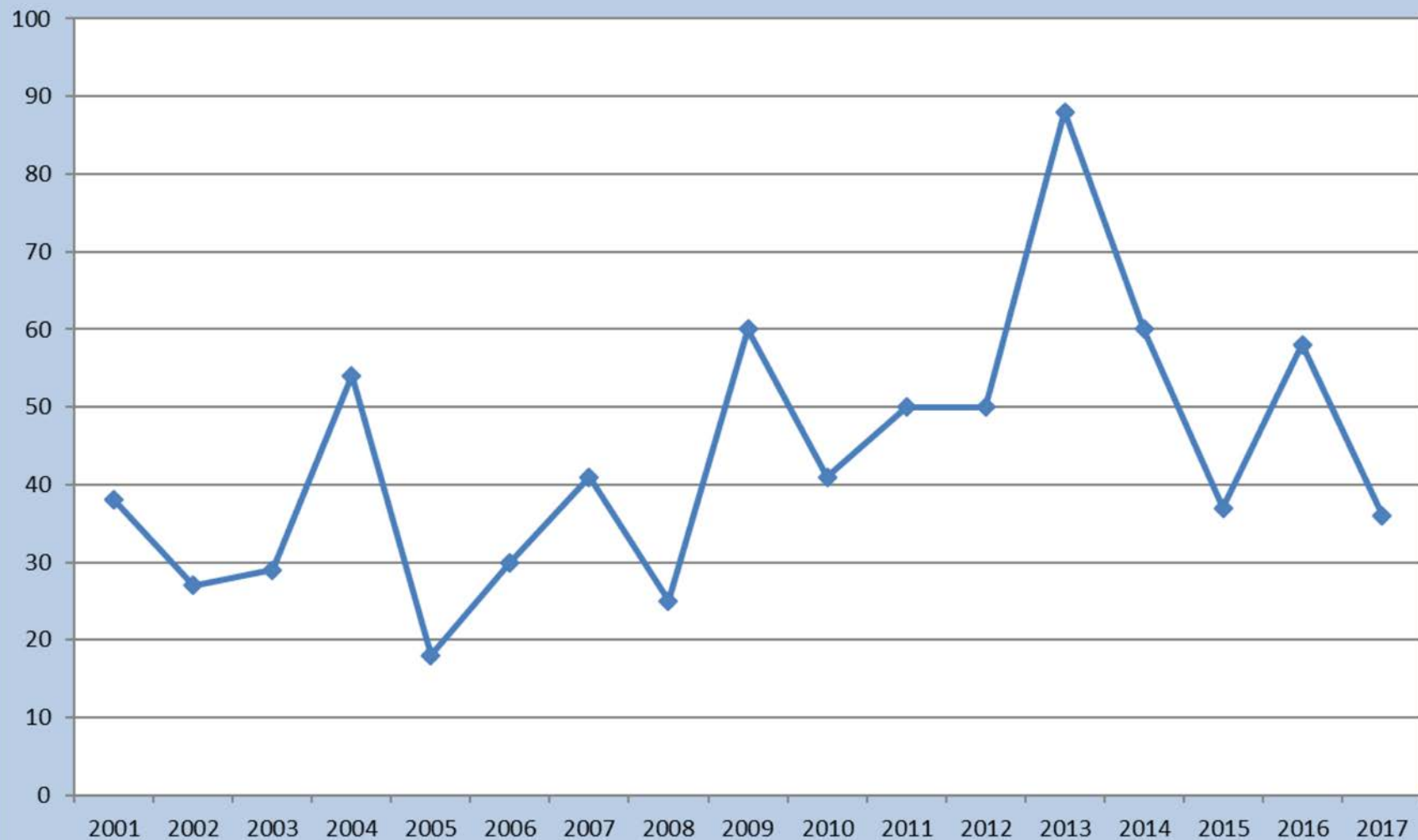
# Human-Wildlife Conflict in Nunavut

- Impacts are both social and economic
  - Damage to structures and equipment
  - Can greatly affect traditional harvesting / meat caching practices
  - Compromising community safety

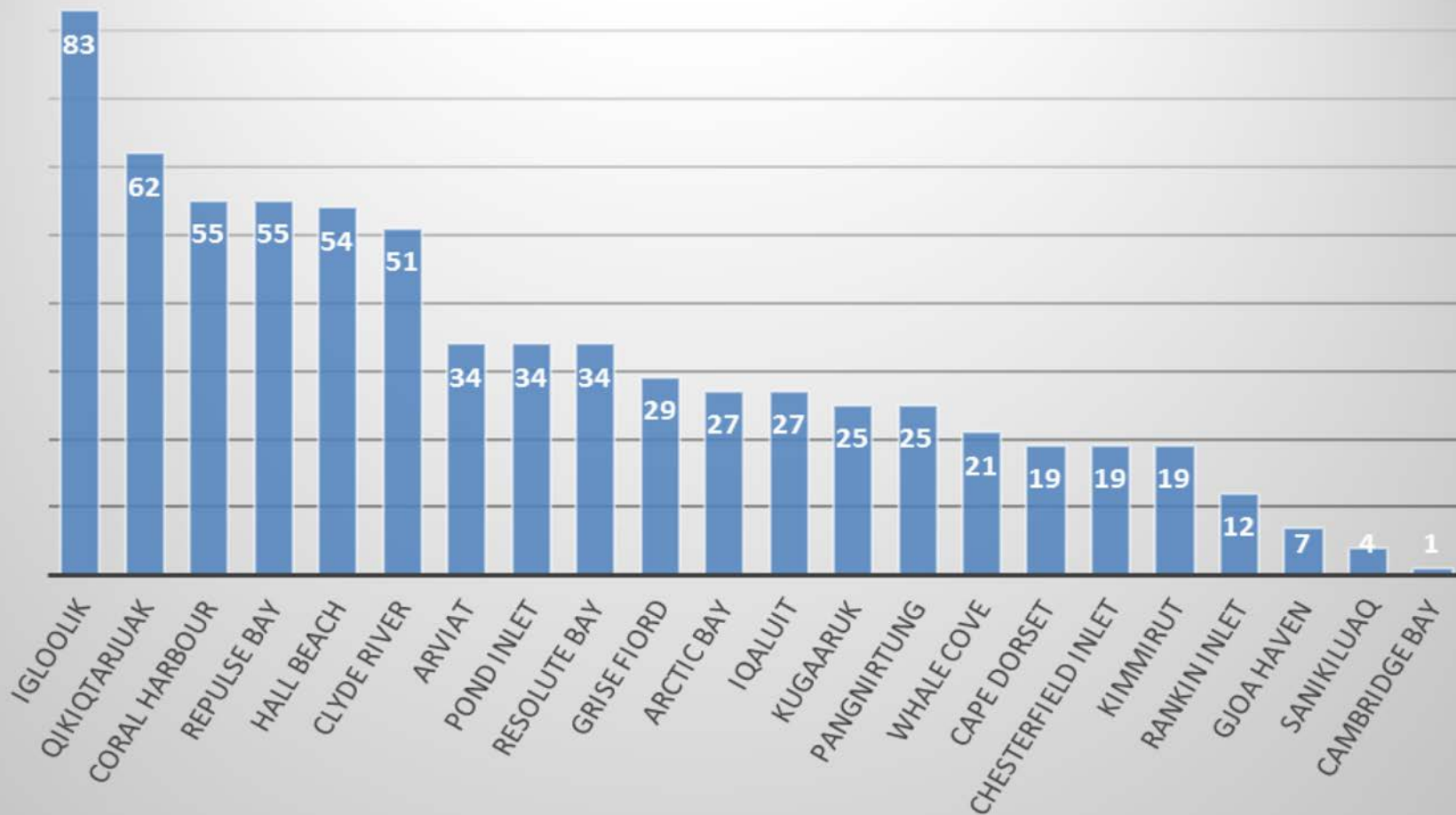


# Human-Wildlife Conflict in Nunavut

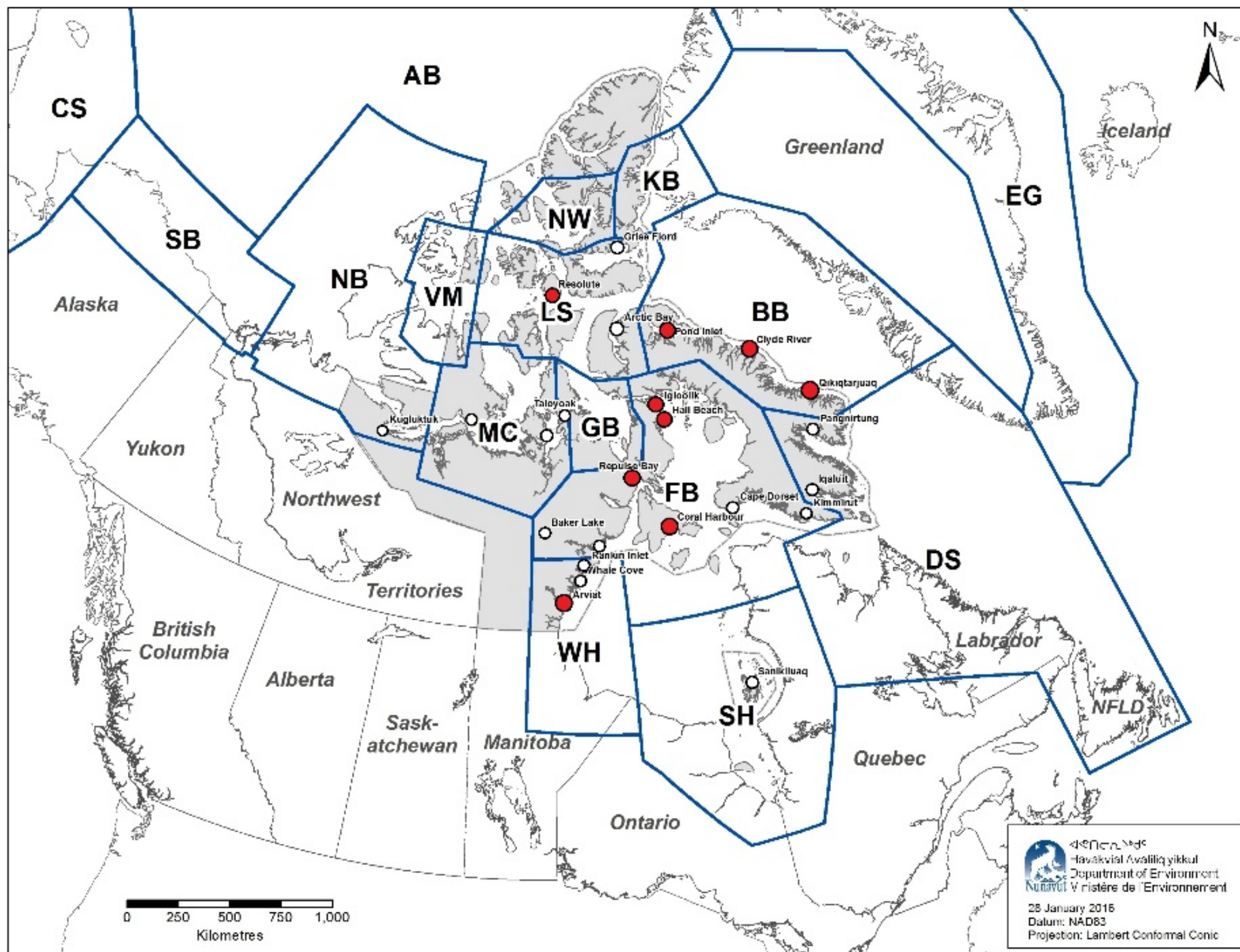
**Polar Bear Defence Kills in Nunavut 2001-2017**



# Defence of Life or Property Kills by Community 2000-2016 (NU)







# Collaborative Patrol Work

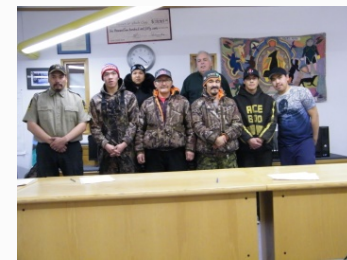
- Patrols primarily handled by conservation officers
- Impediments to effective patrolling
  - Seasonal high volume
  - Officer fatigue
  - Vacancies
- Working with HTO, Municipalities and NGO to fill gaps
  - HTO provides PBG's > local knowledge
  - WWF funding > Arviat program
  - Hamlet office channels funding and provides support from By-Law
  - Training opportunities





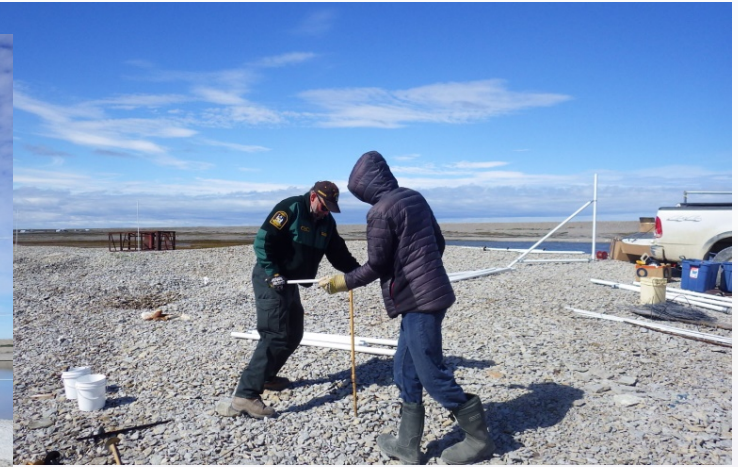
# Polar Bear Guard Training

- Developed by Bearwise®, GN and Parks Canada
  - Provides exposure to deterrents / safe practices
  - Certificate of training
- Creating group of trained PBG's with pre-existing land based skills
  - Collaborative patrol work
  - Tourism / industry hired bear guards
  - Bolster community safety



# Experimental Conflict Mitigation Measures

- Electric Fencing
  - Protection for cached meat
  - Dog yards / dog food
  - Portable or permanent
  - Solar /deep cycle
  - High maintenance
- Permanent fencing on raised beaches
  - Meat fermented for long periods (4 months)
  - Increased risk of conflict





# Experimental Conflict Mitigation Measures

## Camera traps

- Used to evaluate the effectiveness of electric fencing to deter bears from entering meat cache locations (Igloolik, NU)



# Experimental Conflict Mitigation Measures

- Live Trapping
  - Location: Arviat, NU
  - Infrastructure dependent
  - Family groups not relocated
- Luring Stations
  - Location: Arviat, NU
  - Limited to use where migration patterns are known
  - Divert bears away from dog yards and open dump
- Data collection
  - repeat offenders?





# Wildlife Damage Compensation Program (W.D.C.P)

- Direct financial compensation to individuals
  - Covers damage to property by wildlife
  - conservation officer verifies
  - Reduce potential for future conflict
  - Compensation only given where due diligence observed
- Able to track wildlife related damage and better focus prevention efforts





# Wildlife Damage Prevention Programs (W.D.P.P)

- Funding to individuals and non profit organizations
  - Electric fencing
  - Auditory deterrents
  - Pyrotechnics
  - Bear proof bins
  - Structural reinforcement
  - Sea-cans
  - Electric fencing
  - Trip wire / motion sensing alarms
- Able to track usage
  - What works?
  - Feedback?



# Community Based Bear-Human Conflict Mitigation Plans

- Tailored response / mitigation plans
  - Nature of conflict varies among communities
- Goals are to identify..
  - Conflict history / stats
  - Risk areas / scenarios
  - Mitigation strategies
  - Acceptable deterrent practices
  - Opportunities for education and outreach
- Must involve key stakeholders
  - CO, HTO, RCMP, Municipality, Health and general public
  - Coordinated efforts and understanding roles

# Bear-Human Conflict Mitigation -Continued Efforts

- Improve reporting and quality of occurrence records (deterrence narratives) through officer training
- Continue to enter a large number of occurrence records for analysis
- Continue with training of community bear monitors and conservation officers
- Continue to develop partnerships in communities where bear-human conflict is high in order to help implement bear-human conflict mitigation plans



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THANK YOU  
QUANAQUTIN  
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