


Saving habitats  
Saving species  
since 1989

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## SAVING BORNEO'S ORANGUTAN CORRIDORS

Help us reconnect  
a rainforest at  
breaking point

### Inside this issue:

- Maya Forest: New Belize reserve renews WLT's founding mission
- Tanzania's coastal forests: 49,000+ acres saved as appeal succeeds
- WLT supporters help protect bear and eagle havens in the Andes
- A legacy to remember: Critical elephant work funded by gift to WLT

# A season of conservation breakthroughs

## The impact of WLT supporters in spring 2021

**What six months for WLT supporters!** As 2021 approaches its halfway point, so the list of wild places saved with help from people like you grows ever longer. April to June has seen incredible successes: over these past three months alone our partners have, thanks to you, safely been able to tackle the flames in Mexico and secured vast new habitats in Ecuador and Peru (see news below.) They have saved the home of elephant from deforestation in Tanzania (see P3) and protected 236,000 acres in Belize (see P7).

Behind all these breakthroughs lies the same force driving WLT's work since its foundation – people. This season we've been celebrating them all. In March we dedicated International Women's Day to the female change-makers of WLT and our partners, while in April we used World Earth Day to cheer on our incredible fundraisers; the people like Henry and Bea (see picture to the right), who have acted to make a stand for a living Earth by saving land with us.



Self-styled 'Warriors of the Wild' Henry and Bea – the siblings who raised 538% of what they were aiming through weekly runs for WLT – are an example of the impact everyone can make when they act to save nature.

### A critical year for Earth: What you can do

With world leaders set to discuss the planetary crisis at the G7 summit (June), the UN Biodiversity Convention talks (mid-October) and the UN climate talks of COP26 (November), 2021 has been described as a 'super year' for Earth.

There is much you can do. Our News section will keep you posted about what's at stake on each date, and the many ways for you to make a difference through us.

[worldlandtrust.org/news/](http://worldlandtrust.org/news/)

### 34,000+ new acres! Key corridor expanded in Ecuador



Funded in part by donations to our Action Fund, the declaration of our partner NCE's Santiago Reserve in southern Ecuador has not only saved 34,051 acres (13,800 ha) for the endangered Black-and-chestnut Eagle (pictured); it has also protected a clean water source for 15,000 people and linked a corridor of around 4 million acres – an area nearly twice the size of Cyprus.

### Peruvian people drive protection of Spectacled Bear haven



The expansion of our partner NCP's Llamapampa-La Jalca private conservation area in Peru is our favourite sort of news: 21,500+ acres saved for Spectacled Bears and the critically endangered Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey in one of the world's most biodiverse eco-regions – land protection led by the people who own and run this reserve, helped by donations from WLT supporters!

### WLT-funded brigade prevents catastrophic fire in Mexico



When you back our Wildfire Appeal, you save wildlife from the flames – and so it was recently for the Bearded Wood Partridge. Only 5,400 of these birds endemic to Mexico are left in the wild and in early April, training and kit funded by WLT supporters allowed our partner GESG to stop a blaze from entering a sanctuary for this Vulnerable partridge in Sierra Gorda.

### The reserves of tomorrow: Becoming a WLT Friend

These stories (see our News web section for the full details) are only a selection of the conservation breakthroughs our supporters make possible every quarter – and the work goes on.

Committing to regular support as a WLT Friend will allow you to fund the saving of nature wherever and whenever it's most needed. Head on to [worldlandtrust.org/get-involved/friends/](http://worldlandtrust.org/get-involved/friends/) for more info.

# Tanzania's coastal forests: 49,000+ acres saved

## Appeal smashes target thanks to WLT supporters

From all of us here at World Land Trust (WLT) and our partner Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), thank you. Thank you for choosing to make a difference for a disappearing biodiversity hotspot – a precious part of the last 10% of East Africa's coastal forests has now been saved from destruction.



activities as these arise (supporting additional surveys, patrols and community engagement) to ensure the project is a success.

*"The funds that have been raised ... will go to create new Village Land Forest Reserves," said Charles Meshack, TFCG Executive Director.*

*"The reserves will connect one forest to another. These corridors are used by wildlife, especially elephants, lions and leopards. So we are very happy to say that we will be protecting the corridors for these unique species. Thank you very much."*

### Conservation led by Tanzanians

With the funding now secured, TFCG will now be able to establish 10 Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFRs) around the Rondo Plateau. These will allow to safeguard over 49,000 acres (20,000 ha) in all of a key corridor for southern Tanzania's African Savanna Elephant herds, a species recently uplisted to Endangered. Our partner will

now be able to keep a crucial migratory route open at a time when others are being blocked off and narrowed.

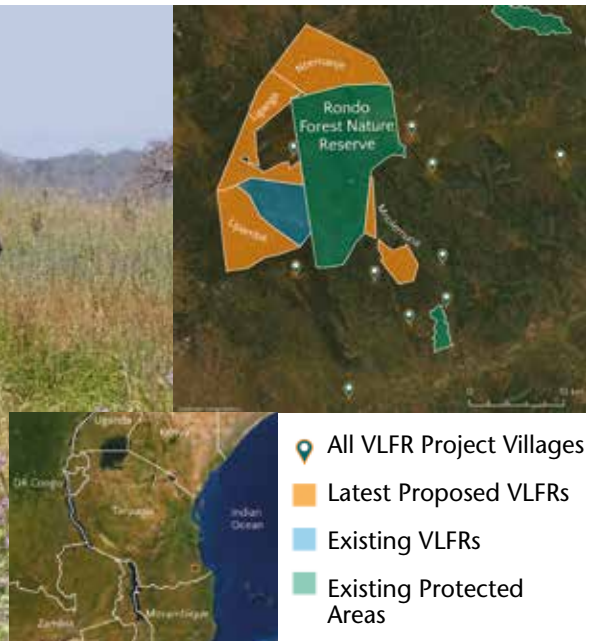
The appeal's timely completion doesn't only hand a lifeline to elephants, to leopards, migratory birds like the African Pitta or the locally dwindling populations of lion; it will also result in a better future for local communities. The three-year project funded by WLT's campaign will see land remain in local hands: the 10 villages involved will decide the parameters of their own reserves, serve as their stewards and benefit through schemes for community-based forest management, climate-smart agriculture and loans associations.

*"TFCG's project promises to be truly transformative for the communities of Lindi", says Mary McEvoy, WLT Project Manager. "What's more, the habitats saved by this appeal are among the most important remnants of coastal forest left in East Africa. Building connectivity between Rondo – a place renowned for its high levels of endemism – and the surrounding VLFRs will preserve the exceptional biodiversity found in this special corner of Tanzania."*

Our first appeal of 2021, 'Saving Tanzania's Coastal Forests', has raised a total of £400,000 in just five weeks – some way above the appeal's original £360,000 target and an incredible achievement made possible by WLT donors the world over.

In the last issue of WLT News, we brought you the news that roads and commercial plantations were threatening the forests of Lindi District in southern Tanzania – the home of iconic species like the African Savanna Elephant, Lion, and Leopard as well as lesser-known specialists like the Bearded Pygmy Chameleon and Rondo Dwarf Galago, one of the most endangered primates on Earth.

Thanks to you, TFCG can now start – in concert with Lindi District's communities – saving land from the cashew and sesame farms advancing all over the region. And because our appeal has exceeded its original £360,000 target, our partner is now in a position to deliver even more conservation action for coastal forests – they will have the flexibility to provide extra funds to key



### WLT supporters have done it again

Your decision to stand up for the natural world has secured 49,000+ acres of coastal forest and we'd love you to celebrate with us. Follow the link below to discover the impact you've made – watch our videos of the landscape you've saved, and the committed Tanzanians you've saved it with:

[worldlandtrust.org/news/tags/saving-tanzanias-coastal-forests/](https://worldlandtrust.org/news/tags/saving-tanzanias-coastal-forests/)

# Saving Borneo's Orangutan Corridors

## Our new appeal at a glance

### APPEAL TARGET £150,000

In both 2013 and 2017, WLT supporters came together to save critical wildlife habitat in Malaysian Borneo with our partner Hutan, setting up protected corridors on either side of the Kinabatangan River. Now this legacy goes on, and you have the chance to be part of it: you can preserve a crucial stretch of Bornean Orangutan habitat in a landscape dominated by commercial plantations; a rainforest pushed to breaking point by habitat fragmentation.

At stake (see next page) in Kinabatangan is not just the home of these Critically Endangered great apes. Sunda Pangolin, Sun Bear and eight species of Asian hornbill – all threatened by the illegal wildlife trade – will also benefit if this riverside corridor is expanded, as well as Borneo Pygmy Elephants whose range is decreasing and Edible-nest Swiftlets that are only now recovering thanks to Hutan's intervention.

We hope you'll join us in writing this latest chapter of the Kinabatangan story – a story that has already shown the transformative power of conservation and those that support it.

### Urgent action is needed. Here's why

#### Reconnecting a battered wildlife haven

The Kinabatangan Floodplain already lost 80% of its primary forest to logging that started in the 1960s, with crops like oil palm plantations following decades later. The land that can still be saved is some of the most biodiverse on the planet, and with this appeal, we have a chance to reconnect vital forest fragments. The strategic location of Hutan's Pangli Corridor will ensure its impact far exceeds its acres.

#### Rescuing local orangutans from the brink

Over a century ago, the Lower Kinabatangan was home to an estimated 20,000 Bornean Orangutans. Today there are only 785 – a collapse of more than 95%. Habitat fragmentation has confined the remaining



Our partner Hutan has spent decades saving land so that orangutan populations can recover and they can now protect two new reserves – with your help.

### Our partner Hutan's plan

Our appeal will fund Hutan's planned purchase of two properties – 10 acres in all – connecting the Pangli Virgin Jungle Reserve to the banks of the Kinabatangan River. As the map above shows, the two plots will link Pangli to the WLT-backed Keruak Corridor across the river, granting elephants safe passage between the two.

It's hard to overstate the strategic value of our partner's proposed plots. When joined to other Pangli reserves further south, these two properties will serve as a buffer zone for the unprotected forest to the west, shielding it from conversion to other

land uses. Wildlife protection aside, they will safeguard the river banks against erosion and help preserve the freshwater prawn fishery that local communities rely upon. If our initial fundraising target is exceeded, Hutan will be able to proceed with the second stage of their plan, securing further properties to expand Hutan's corridor network. If they succeed, a green heart will be protected along this bend of the Kinabatangan River – a fragmented landscape, connected for posterity.



■ Proposed Purchases  
■ HUTAN Reserves  
■ Protected Areas



populations into splintered communities, but Hutan can save them from a fate of genetic isolation – if you help them save the land that matters.

#### Saving elephants from conflict with humans

The intense fragmentation of the Kinabatangan landscape has also disrupted elephants' traditional migratory routes, forcing herds to cross villages and oil palm plantations. Creating and expanding corridors such as Pangli is absolutely essential for elephants to safely roam, defusing human-wildlife conflict that is claiming more elephant lives every year.



# The life at stake in Pangli

## Why it matters to protect Borneo's biodiversity

Borneo's forests – among the oldest in the world – boast some of the highest biodiversity levels on Earth, and the Kinabatangan Floodplain is no exception. It would be impossible to fully list here the life of the rainforests on either side of the longest river of Malaysia's Sabah State: the 215 mammal species recorded to date (40% of which are of conservation concern), the 314 bird species, the 101 reptile species, 33 amphibians and many others. Your donations to our new appeal will save 10 acres in an area – Pangli – home to the iconic species below: endangered life you can protect from habitat loss.

### Bornean Orangutan

The world's largest tree-dwelling mammal is facing extinction, and at Kinabatangan numbers have plummeted from 20,000+ in 1900 to about 785 today. Aware that forest fragmentation could trap these Critically Endangered great apes into genetic islands, Hutan has spent decades saving and restoring their home – and now they can secure two new properties that would grant orangutans safe access to the river. It's time to turn the tide for the species that inspired Hutan's creation 25 years ago, an ape we humans share nearly 97% of our DNA with; saving habitat so that populations can recover.

### Borneo Pygmy Elephant

Whether they are bathing in the Kinabatangan River, migrating through forest or foraging for food, Borneo's largest mammal are an irreplaceable resident of these rainforests. For an estimated 250 individuals, the Lower Kinabatangan Floodplain harbours the most genetically diverse population on the entire island, making the survival of every elephant absolutely critical. Habitat fragmentation is forcing elephants to enter villages and plantations, but by helping Hutan save the two new properties at Pangli, you can offer them a protected exit to the river – and onto the Keruak Corridor across the water.

### Sunda Pangolin

Trafficking has pushed the global population of these mammals to Critically Endangered status. Covered in keratine scales and fibrous hair, Sunda Pangolin are excellent climbers and can eat 200,000 ants in one sitting thanks to their incredibly long – up to 40 cm – and sticky tongues. These charismatic creatures lie under great stress because of the international bushmeat trade, but for decades Hutan has made a difference through the protection and restoration of their forest home; a legacy you can help build on by securing these new properties by the Kinabatangan River.

### Rhinoceros Hornbill

By supporting our appeal, you will be helping Hutan protect all eight of Borneo's hornbill species, including the dazzling Rhinoceros Hornbill. Like other hornbills, this species has a fascinating breeding process: pairs build together a nest in a hollow tree and seal the female inside, leaving only a small hole through which the male passes her food while she incubates the eggs. Deforestation has destroyed many viable hornbill nest sites in Kinabatangan, but Hutan's Hornbill Nesting Programme has helped improve breeding rates – a success story they can replicate in the new properties, if you help secure them.

### And much more...

If you help Hutan save land in Pangli, you'll be saving the home of incredible life

Clouded Leopard (Vulnerable according to the IUCN)  
Bornean Leopard Cat (Least Concern)  
Marbled Cat (Near Threatened)

Flat-headed Cat (Endangered)  
Proboscis Monkey (Endangered)  
Philippine Slow Loris (Vulnerable)  
Northern Gray gibbon (Vulnerable)



Bornean Orangutan



Borneo Pygmy Elephant



Hornbills



Broadbills



Sunda Pangolin

# “A better future for Kinabatangan, together” Hutan’s Isabelle Lackman writes to WLT supporters



*The life of Malaysian Borneo called Isabelle Lackman to the island over two decades ago, and there she stayed. Having co-founded WLT partner Hutan in 1996, the primatologist has witnessed the impact made since on the Kinabatangan forests by the grassroots conservation group she leads: a movement of local people who save crucial orangutan and elephant habitats, and benefit as a result. This is, in Isabelle’s own words, why it is paramount to protect two new properties through our new appeal – the latest chapter of decades restoring a landscape battered by deforestation.*

My dream had always been to research the orangutans in the Borneo rainforests, but when we arrived more than 20 years ago to the village of Sukau we soon realised that conservation issues were too pressing – if we didn’t do something there’d be no orangutans left to study.

I look back at all our conservation work at Kinabatangan since that day and I feel proud of the dedicated team we have built: 60 people, almost all from the village itself, who started with little education but have become expert conservationists. Together, we’ve followed various approaches to reconnect and restore a landscape torn by decades of deforestation. We’ve used land purchases to save the 460-acre Keruak Corridor and enlisted local women to plant 52,415 trees in the Genting Corridor. We’ve combined this with extensive research on orangutans and other species, mediating the creation of smaller corridors within plantations and many others.

Wherever we look, we see signs of how impactful this work has been; how key it is for it to continue. Despite our progress over the years, Kinabatangan remains at breaking point. Logging followed by commercial plantations has created a landscape of small fragments of protected forest – leaving big species with no choice but to cross through private land. From an estimated 20,000 individuals in 1900, the area’s orangutan population has crashed to about 785, split into clusters in isolated forest patches where genetic diversity is at risk. As for Borneo Pygmy Elephants, habitat fragmentation is pushing them to plantations and villages – conflicts, and resulting elephant casualties, are getting worse every year.

This is a future for Kinabatangan that we cannot accept and if you help us, we won’t have to. Having protected the crucial Keruak Corridor in recent years – and seen the difference it has made – a chance

exists this year to replicate this success just across the river, at Pangli. This is an area we’ve already been protecting, acre by acre, with help from past WLT appeals and WLT patron Steve Backshall. Now a new opportunity has emerged: two properties that are available for purchase.

For proof of how strategic they are, take a look at our map of the area ([page 4](#)). With help from your donations to WLT’s new appeal, the protection of this stretch of land will connect the existing Pangli Virgin Jungle Reserve to the river, a safe passageway for elephants to swim across. It will allow to cordon off a significant and as of yet unprotected expanse of rainforest along the river bend, making its conversion to crops less likely. It will safeguard river banks Indigenous people rely on for sustainable prawn fishing.

Land protection in a place like Malaysian Borneo can be costly but the high price tag also reflects the astonishing biodiversity here, among the highest on Earth. The size of the properties we can secure – 10

acres across the two – might not sound like much, but the life they pack is spectacular; and every acre counts. Orangutans and elephants aside, these rainforests are home to the critically endangered Sunda Pangolin, 10 primate species, 314 bird species (eight hornbill species included), Clouded Leopard, Malay Sun Bear and many more.

Looking at today’s world, a planet where nature is increasingly fragmented, it’s easy to wonder whether coexistence is possible. If there’s a legacy for Hutan after decades of work, I believe it’s this: having shown that all sides – wildlife, the local economy, Indigenous people – can thrive together when conservation is inclusive. That is our vision, and that is what we can continue to deliver at Pangli this year, with your help.

A better future is possible for the rainforests of the Kinabatangan Floodplain. Let’s create it together!

*Isabelle Lackman  
Director of Hutan*



# Maya Forest: 236,000 acres saved in Belize!

## WLT renews founding vision for a living planet

Earlier this spring, news of a conservation story broke in Belize – and for us at WLT, it couldn't have been more significant.

With World Earth Day as the backdrop, a coalition including WLT announced the declaration of the Maya Forest protected area to the west of the Caribbean nation. This is a breakthrough of incredible scale, as evidenced by the numbers: 236,000 acres (95,500 ha) saved in an area where tropical rainforest was being cleared at rates almost four times Belize's national average; legal protection for 200 tree species, over 400 bird species and some of Central America's largest surviving populations of Jaguar and Puma. All of it, delivered by a global alliance of over a dozen conservation organisations – a union that saw WLT work alongside The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Trust, Mass Audubon and many others.

On its own, the Maya Forest project is momentous enough. But for WLT, this new reserve holds profound meaning: it will sit right alongside the land WLT was created to save in 1989 – the Rio Bravo Conservation Management Area. Combined, Maya Forest and Rio Bravo represent (see map to the right) 9% of the landmass of Belize and secure a vital wildlife corridor in Central America's dwindling forests. Together, both reserves fill a critical gap in the vast Selva Maya network – 38 million acres of protected land across Central America.

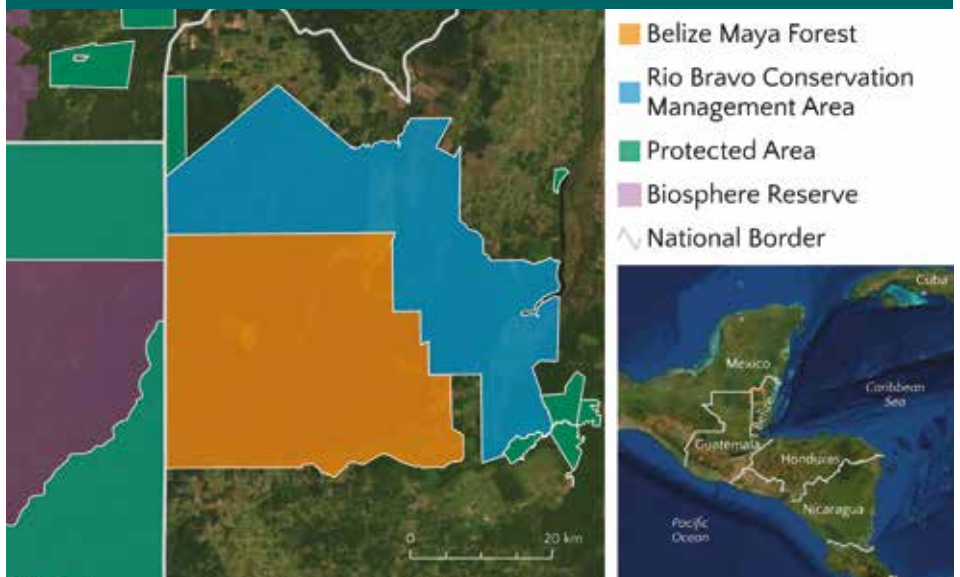
### Back to Belize: The country that saw WLT's formation

For proof of how consequential the Belize Maya Forest announcement is to us at WLT, three words will suffice – those of this organisation's name when it was created.

For a charity founded in 1989 as the UK representatives of "Programme for Belize", this vast new reserve brings us back to the rainforests that inspired our formation. It pays to look back to how it all started – with the meeting between conservationists Dr Gerard (Jerry) Bertrand and John Burton in late 1988. Jerry, at the time Executive President of Massachusetts Audubon Society, enlisted John into a land-saving project in Rio Bravo and soon they were joined by others: husband-and-wife naturalists Gerald and Lee Durrell



By helping fund Rio Bravo's protection over the years and Maya Forest more recently, WLT supporters have allowed to save vast rainforests home to some of Central America's largest surviving Jaguar populations.



colunched Programme for Belize (UK) in May 1989, going on to raise the campaign's £150,000 target with help from colourful posters by Bob Linney and newspaper features by Sir David Attenborough.

Three decades on, the now-neighbouring natural sanctuaries of Rio Bravo and Maya Forest offer something of incalculable value in 2021's world of interlinked health, biodiversity and climate crises: a blueprint of where the way out lies. This is how we

save the planet: by coming together in great numbers to protect land at scale; by putting local people at the helm, and understanding that what we give to Belize today will come back to heal the whole planet.

To WLT supporters – thanks for making this vision possible since 1989! We look forward to continuing to work for a living planet in Belize and beyond, with your support.

### Help us fund Keepers in Belize

With Maya Forest and Rio Bravo now protected, the work to keep wildlife safe goes on – and this is where Keepers of the Wild come in. Your donations will allow Programme of Belize's Fanuel Cordoba and Emmanuel Baeza to continue patrolling Rio Bravo. Head to our website to donate – help fund guardians of nature for the home of Jaguar!

[worldlandtrust.org/appeals/keepers-of-the-wild/](https://worldlandtrust.org/appeals/keepers-of-the-wild/)

# A better tomorrow for Africa's elephants

## Celebrating the impact of legacy giver Keith Elliot

Time and time again we hear that biodiversity loss is too big an issue to tackle. And yet time and time again our supporters prove otherwise, delivering tangible victories that save nature for posterity.

World Land Trust (WLT) would like to use this opportunity to celebrate and pay tribute to Keith Elliot, a staunch supporter of conservation action. Having become a WLT Friend in 2013, he later decided to remember us in his will – and left behind a legacy that will now last a lifetime.

Through the gift in his will, Keith generously donated enough to fund more than half of the 'Kilombero Elephant Corridor' project, created by our partner Southern Tanzania Elephant Programme (STEP) to save land crucial to 35% of East Africa's elephant population.

Africa's elephants have not had it easy over the past few years. Only this March, the IUCN reassessed the conservation picture and concluded that both of the continent's subspecies are threatened with extinction. African Savanna Elephants, the type found in Kilombero, were uplisted from Vulnerable to Endangered.

Today's fragmented Kilombero forests are a far cry from the continuous canopy



Keith's legacy gift has helped fund an elephant corridor in Tanzania.

that stretched all across the valley less than 50 years ago but with Keith on their side, our conservation partner STEP can now make a major difference.

In protecting a corridor, STEP will not only be saving the only link still left in Kilombero for the elephants who have been using this route for thousands of

years. In addition, our partner will be creating a better future for local people, ensuring elephants do not need to cross villages and crops as they migrate.

Our thanks to Keith, and we hope this legacy of creating a better tomorrow for the elephants of southern Tanzania will honour his life to the fullest degree.

### Farewill: A trouble-free way to leave a legacy to nature

To help our supporters change the planet for the better with a gift in their wills, WLT has joined forces with the UK's top online will-writing service: Farewill.

Our partnership offers you a free, straightforward online process for will writing – the easiest it's ever been for WLT supporters to leave a legacy to nature.

We hope to add Farewill's telephone service in future, so let us know if this would interest you and we'll keep you updated.

To use this free service, all you have to do is follow the link at [www.farewill.com/wlt-news](http://www.farewill.com/wlt-news). You will then be able to write your will at a time and place that works for you.



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[carbonbalancedpaper.com](http://carbonbalancedpaper.com)  
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