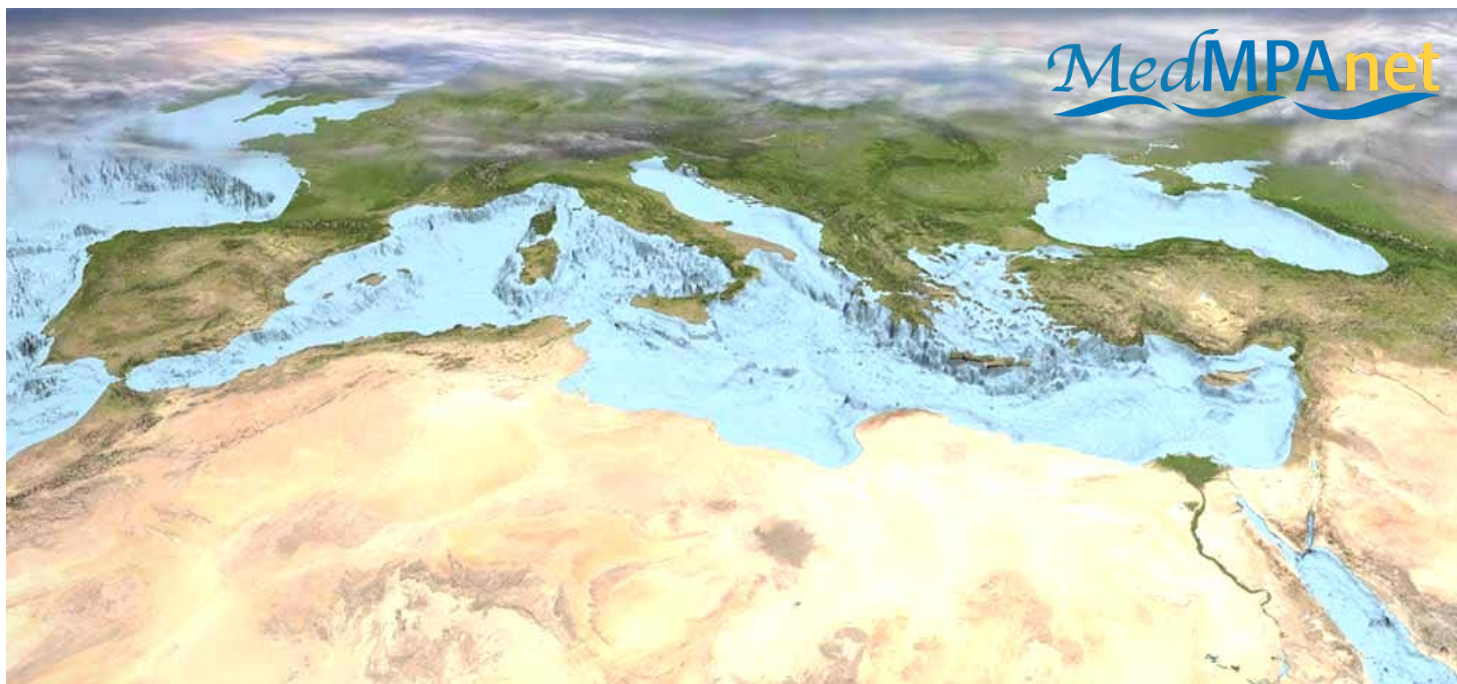




Assistance to Mediterranean countries in the setting-up of national networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):



Case studies from Lebanon, Libya,
Montenegro and Morocco



Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem

MedPartnership

Together for the Mediterranean Sea





General scope and Objective



UNEP/MAP-GEF MedPartnership

“Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (MPAs) Network through the Boosting of MPAs Creation and Management”

The MedMPAnet Project will build on the network of existing MPAs and will assist countries to improve its representativeness





Demonstration projects for MPA creation and planning, including the setting-up of local stakeholders participation and financial sustainability mechanisms



Boosting the creation of 7 new MPAs

Preparation of “participatory” Management Plans for marine and coastal sites (ecological and socio-economic characterization, zoning proposals, mechanisms of involvement of stakeholders and financial sustainability mechanisms)

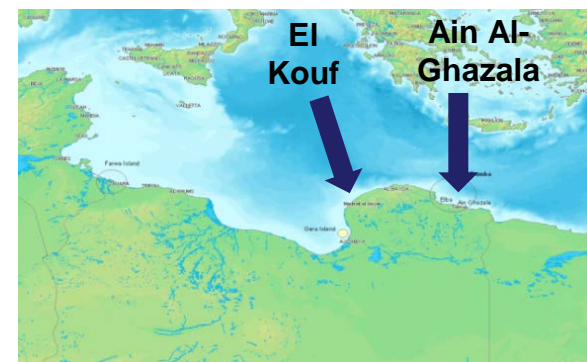
Porto Palermo Bay (AL)



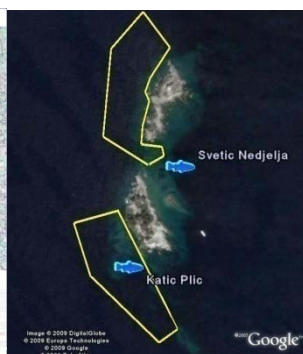
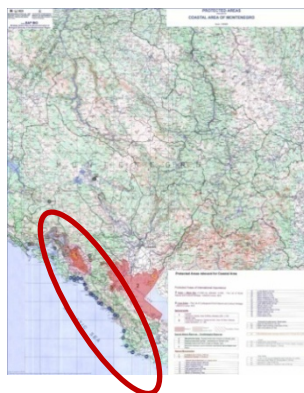
Réghaïa coasts (DZ)



Ain Al-Ghazala and El Kouf (LY)



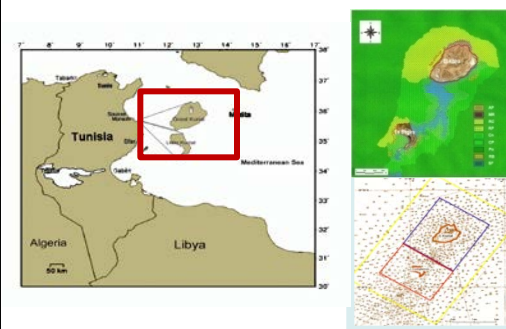
Kotor Bay (MN)



Cap des Trois Fourches (MA)



Kuriat Islands (TN)





Identification of national priorities and characterization of marine sites suitable to become MPAs



Establish priority activities needed to create MPAs & Identify stakeholder group and potential partnerships

(Albania, Croatia, Libya, Montenegro and Morocco)



Characterization of marine sites suitable to become MPAs
(14 potential sites in Croatia, Lebanon and Montenegro)





Technical assistance and Capacity-building to improve new/existing MPA management

19 trainings for **204** trainees

- Organization of regional and national training workshops on MPA creation and management
- Organisation of regional training sessions on ecological monitoring in MPAs
- On-job-trainings during the field surveys
- Teaching packages, guidelines and technical tools





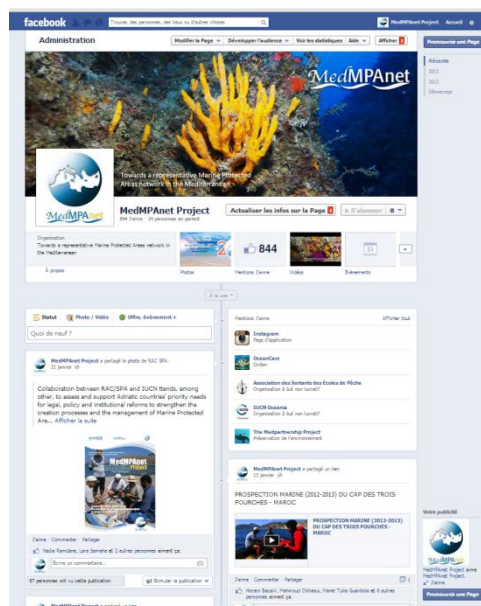
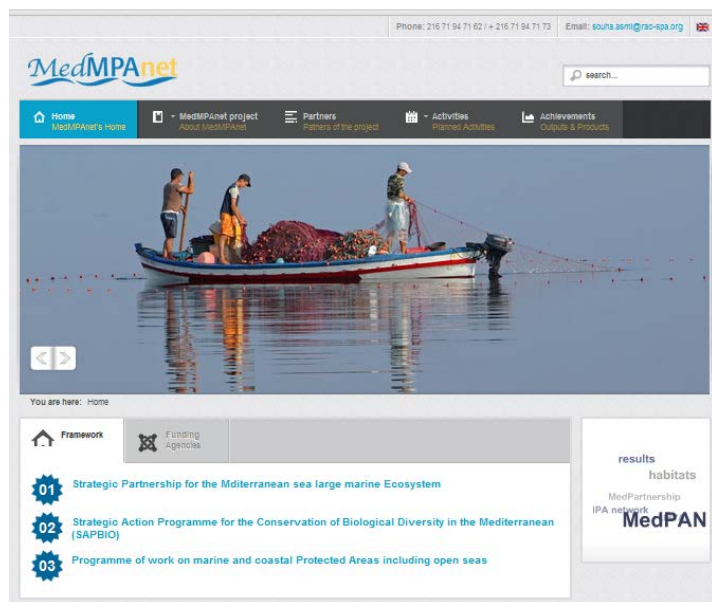
Communication and public awareness of key stakeholders on MPAs roles and values



Disseminate the project results and communicate its achievements

medmpanet.rac-spa.org

facebook.com/MedmpAnet



Meetings, discussion with local stakeholders (diving clubs, fishermen, local authorities,...), raising their awareness on MPA values





Towards the development of a national network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Lebanon





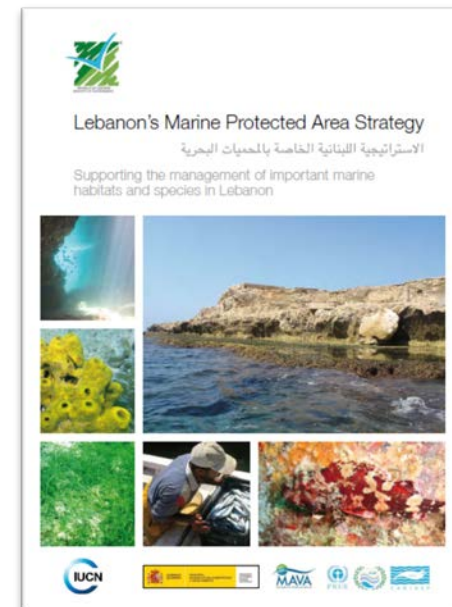
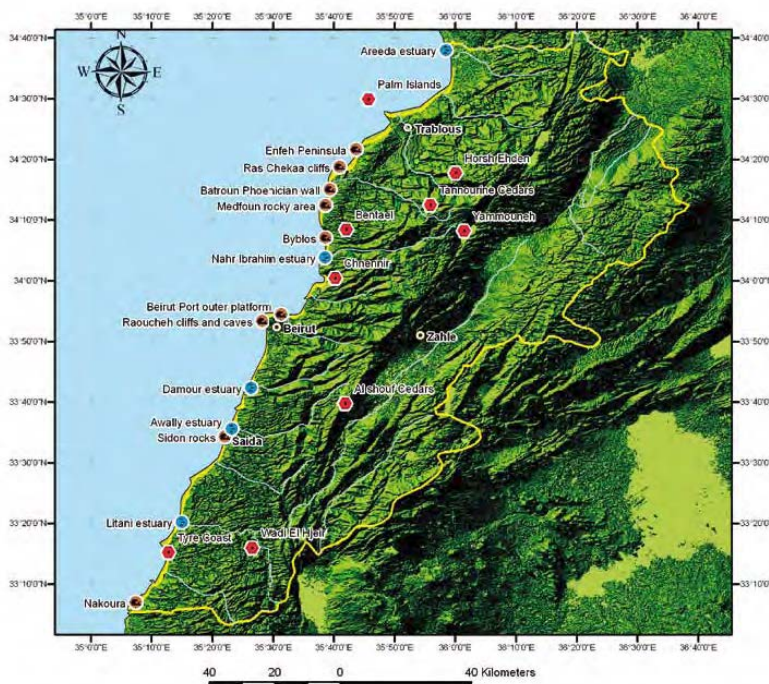
Institutional policy settings

Lebanon's Marine Protected Area Strategy



Vision “An effective marine protected areas network contributing to sustainable development by enhancing natural and cultural diversity ”

The proposed Marine Protected Area Network



Proposed marine protected areas (9)



Network design and approach in Lebanon



The objectives of the Lebanon MPA network are:

- **To conserve marine biodiversity and natural resources**
- **To address local marine resource management needs**

The scientific design and approach

**Scientific
assessment of
biodiversity values**

**Assessment of
socio-economic
aspects**

**Interviews and
exchanges with
local stakeholders**



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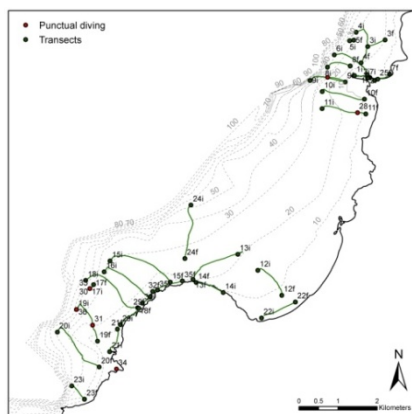
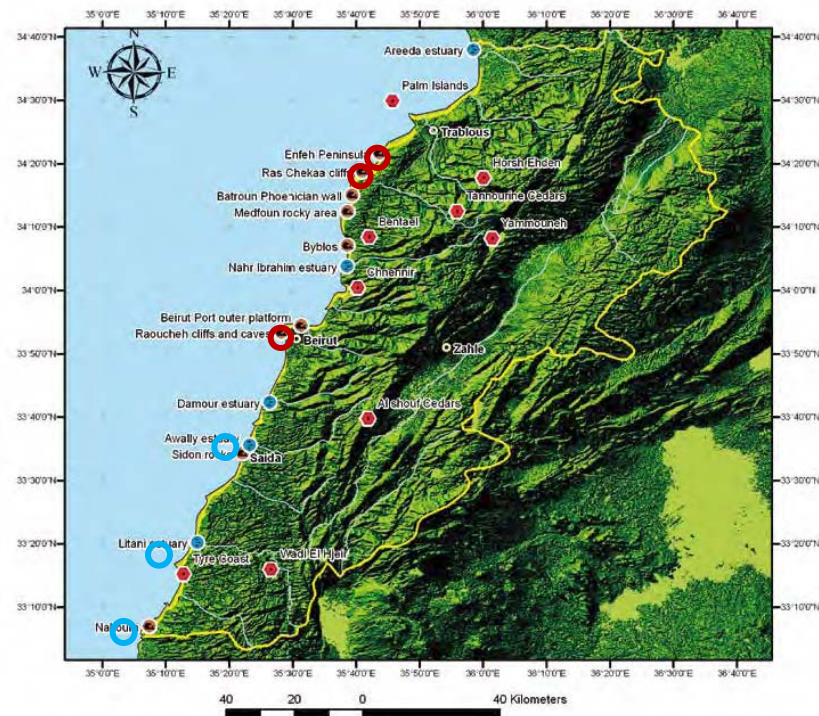


Activities undertaken to boost the set up of the national network



- ✓ Ecological characterisation
- ✓ Evaluation of the areas, including human impacts
- ✓ Management recommendations of the studied areas and zoning proposal

Areas	Enfeh	R.Chek.	Raou.	Total	h/diving
Depth (m)	0-47	0-46	0-5		
Hydroplane (5-47m)	4	10	-	14	7
Deep diving (≥20m)	2	6	-	8	4
Shallow diving (<20m)	3	6	1	7	16
Snorkelling (0-5m)	2	1	1	4	11
Visual Census (0-42m)	2	7	1	10	14
Total stations	13	30	3	46	52h



Zone	Habitats	Fishery Interest	Aesthetic Value	Human impacts	Evaluation
NE	3	3	2	2	10
SE	2	3	2	2	9
E-C	1	1	1	1	4
NRC	2	2	2	2	8
CRC	3	3	3	3	12
SRC	3	2	2	2	9
Ra	3	2	3	2	10





Key lessons and recommendations



Lebanon has achieved an important step towards the development of a national MPA network ...:

➤ **Continue improving biodiversity assessments and inventories of habitats and species of the proposed MPAs**

➤ **Strengthen MPA governance systems:**

Establish and strengthen a PA Unit at the MoE

Draft and issue required management plans and legal texts for new MPAs

Capacity building (trainings and exchange visits)

➤ **Establish a sustainable financing mechanism for MPAs**

➤ **Increase public awareness and education on MPA values and benefits to obtain the support of local population, civil society and decision-makers**

A crucial factor is the involvement of relevant stakeholders in particular local populations and civil society in the setting-up of MPAs





Towards the development of a national network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Libya: Marine extension of El Kouf National Park





Institutional policy settings



The absence of a National Strategy on Biodiversity conservation represents the main cause of the fragile situation of nature conservation in Libya.

EGA is collaborating with RAC/SPA, IUCN-Med, WWF-MedPO and others regional organizations to:

- (1) Launch the process for **creating new marine and coastal protected areas**
- (2) Boost the **legal framework** for marine protected areas (**ongoing under the MedMPAnet project**)
- (3) Compile an **inventory of marine sites of conservation interest** and elaborate a programme for establishing a national network of marine protected areas (**in progress**)



Towards a Representative Network of Marine Protected Areas in Libya



Based on those results, the MedMPAnet Project has carried out a marine field survey in El Kouf NP aiming to provide strong ecological and socio-economic argument in favour of the declaration of new MPAs in Libya.





Criteria for the identification of sites of conservation interest



Priority 1 criteria (CBD, SPAMI, IBAs) are:

- **Uniqueness** or rarity
- Special importance for **life history stages of the species** concerned: fish nursery areas, coastal lagoons
- Importance for **threatened or endangered species and habitats**:
 - Turtles (nesting sites, trawling areas with high concentration of turtles)
 - Monk seal
 - Cartilaginous fish species
 - Bird species (areas fulfilling IBA criteria)
- **Naturalness**
- **Existence of threats** likely to impair the ecological, biological, aesthetic or cultural value of the area

Priority 2 criteria are:

- Vulnerability, fragility, sensitivity
- Low recovery, biological productivity, biological diversity



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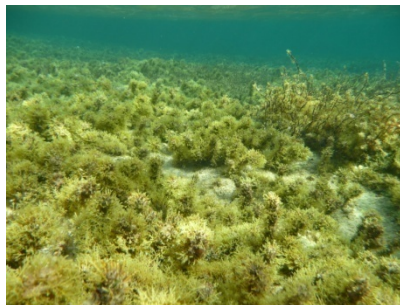
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Tools and techniques



1. Identification of marine biotopes



2. Inventory of species



3. Human activities and threats



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4. On-the-job training and stakeholders engagement





Key lessons and observation



Two Libyan sites (**Farwa Lagoon** and **Ain Al-Ghazala**) are already declared as **MPAs** and **23 others** are selected as sites of conservation interest to be included in the Libyan network of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas.

The data collected (ecological and socio-economic data) in the Kouf NP are used by EGA to elaborate **a management proposal**. In fact, the General Public Committee of Agriculture, Animal and Marine Wealth (the Ministry in charge of MPAs), has **officially declared** Ain Al-Ghazala, Bomba Gulf and Al-Elba Island as **Natural Protected Area** for the conservation of marine turtles and sea birds using the data collected during previous ecological surveys by RAC/SPA and others regional partners.

It is necessary for Libya to set up short-term and long-term goals within a well-prepared **National Strategy for Marine Protected Areas**, based on consultations with all national stakeholders, including the private sector and NGOs.

There is an urgent need to **update the legal and institutional framework of conservation** in Libya, with more accent on marine and coastal protected area selection, funding and governance, national red-listing of protected species, trade in wildlife regulations, enforcing the regulations and other related issues.



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Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Morocco



Field survey (first half of 2012) for 1 potential site: National and International experts

- ✓ Survey of main marine habitats and species and their distribution
- ✓ On-job training for local experts
- ✓ Preliminary zoning outlined



Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts
et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification



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Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Morocco



- ✓ Rapid assessment reviewing and summarizing the existing biophysical and ecological information in marine sites suitable to become MPAs
- ✓ List of 10 potential sites suitable to become MPAs



Sites identifiés d'intérêts pour la protection en Méditerranée marocaine (1) Embouchure de la Moulouya, (2) Lagune de Nador, (3) Cap des Trois Fourches, (4) Parc National d'Al Hoceima, (5) Cirque de Jebha, (6) Côte des Rhomara, (7) Koudiat Taifour, (8) Lagune de Smir, (9) Jbel Moussa, (10) Cap Spartel.



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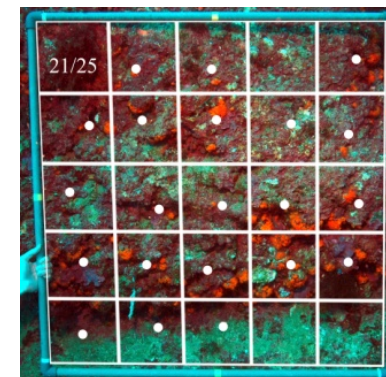
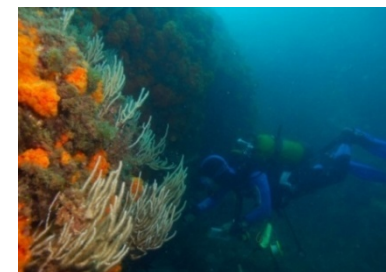


Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs in Morocco



Field survey (first half of 2012)

- ✓ Survey of main marine habitats and species and their distribution
- ✓ On-job training for local experts
- ✓ Preliminary recommendations for the area management





Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs - Country coast assessment in Montenegro



A 1st Rapid Assessment of natural habitats along the coast of Montenegro has been undertaken (25 October - 3 November 2011) with the involvement of national experts (IMB of Kotor, Nautilus local NGO, and RAC/SPA international experts)





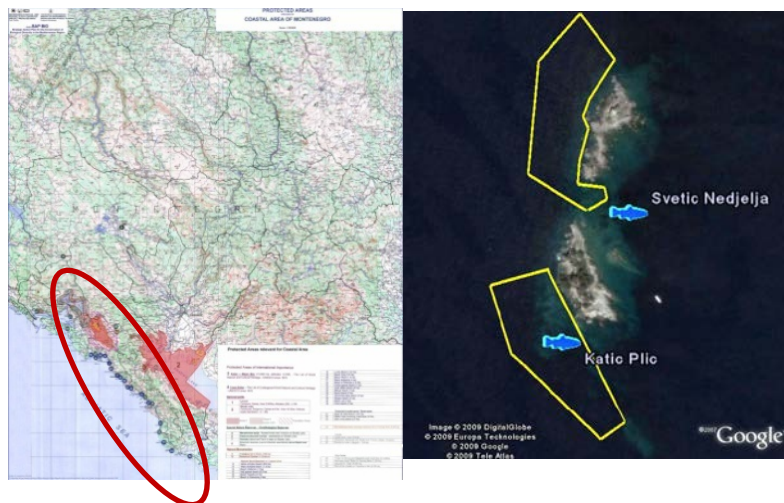
Characterization of priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs - Country coast assessment in Montenegro



A 2nd Rapid Assessment of natural habitats along the coast of Montenegro has been undertaken (June 2012) with the involvement of national experts (IMB of Kotor, Nautilus local NGO, and RAC/SPA international experts)

A list of 8 priority marine sites suitable to become MPAs was proposed:

Ulcinj, Katici, Platamuni, Bar, Buljarica, Jaz, Tivat and Kotor.





THANK YOU for your attention !!!

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