

Conservation with Communities



Everyone's job

The context for working with communities

Drivers

- Treaty partnership obligations
- The community wish for involvement
- Sheer size of task – combined effort

Challenges

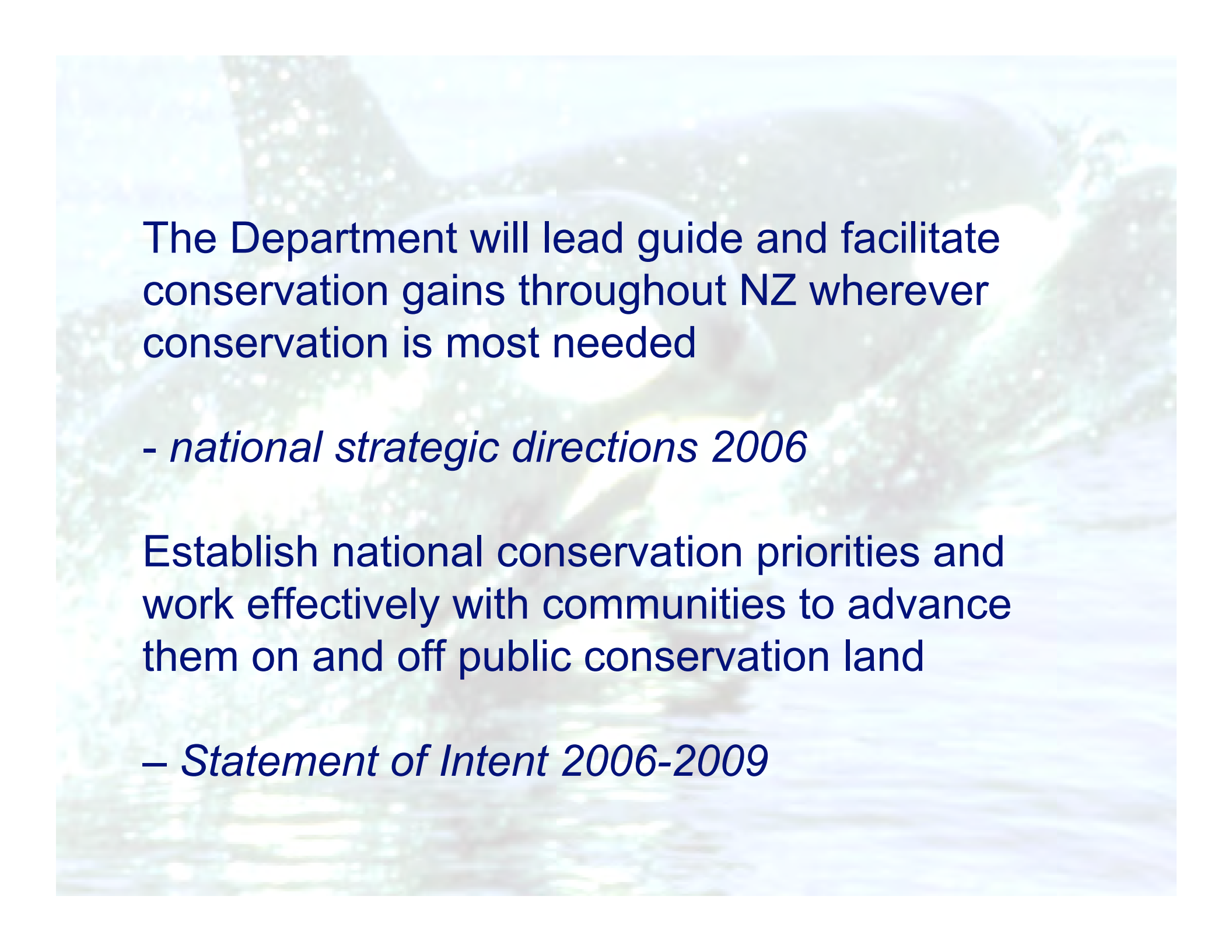
- Capacity (resources & people)
- Capability (skills)
- Complexity of local situations
- Community constraints



Strategic drivers for DOC



- Statement of government intentions for improved community govt relationship
- Conservation general policy 2005
- Conservation with Communities strategy 2003
- Green package money 2000/2001
- DOC Strategic direction 2006



The Department will lead guide and facilitate conservation gains throughout NZ wherever conservation is most needed

- *national strategic directions 2006*

Establish national conservation priorities and work effectively with communities to advance them on and off public conservation land

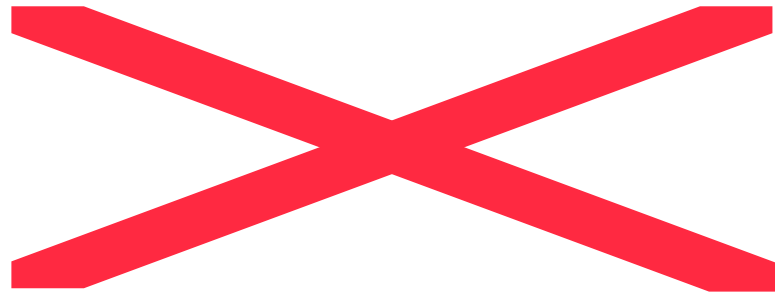
– *Statement of Intent 2006-2009*

Who is the community?

- Geographic
- Demographic and ethnic
- Interest based
- Key associates
- Special partners
- Community partners
- Project sponsors



Spectrum of Involvement





Informing - 86% get information from TV, newspapers.
46% visitor centres. 118 education initiatives annually

Seeking Help

7000 volunteers (volunteer programmes)
300 events and initiatives to build skills and
knowledge



Consultation

Hundreds of Consultation Processes

Formal

- Management planning, changes to policy
- Concessions – grazing to tourism
- Marine protection
- Pest control programmes
- Hut management

Informal

- Sounding board consultation on ideas/issues

Partnerships



- **Over 350 partnerships**
- **28% involved tangata whenua**
- **91% rate their contribution as moderate or significant**

Otago rail trail – economic boost to community



Partnerships

*Releasing skinks.
Whangaokena
restoration partnership
East Coast*

Empowering

Technical expertise to support initiatives beyond conservation lands

East Taranaki
Environment Trust

Trapping stoats



Empowering

Moehau Kiwi protection –
Coromandel Peninsula



What have we learned so far?

social science research -

- Developing effective partnerships between DOC and community groups
- Effective techniques for sharing scientific skills and knowledge to strengthen community capacity
- Contribution that voluntary groups add to conservation work including time/financial

Features of effective groups

- Strong leadership
- Community commitment
- Group stability
- Skills and knowledge on committees
- Clear vision, goal, project plan
- Security of funding
- Legal structure & business approach
- Internal communication

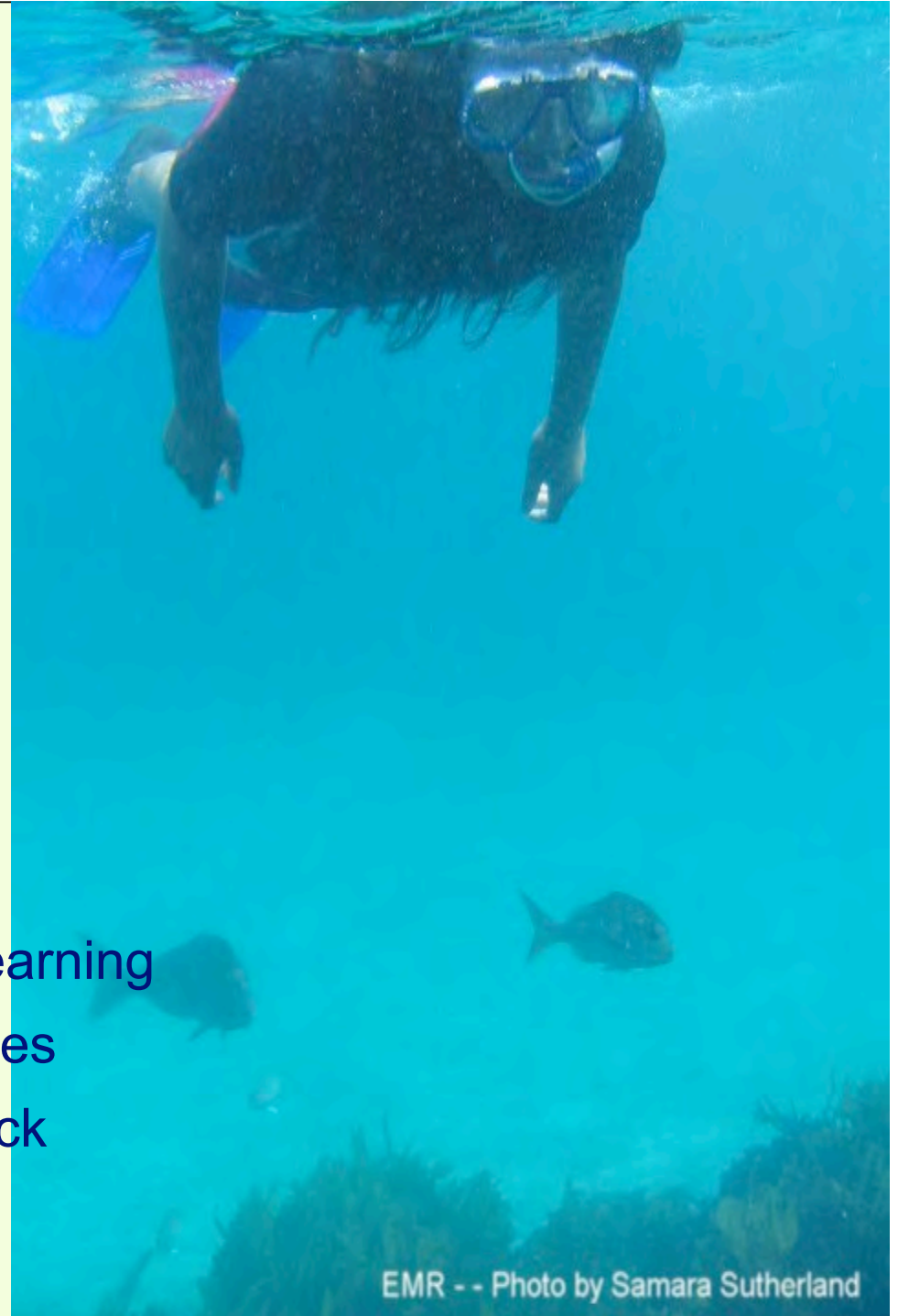
Other Issues for groups

- Groups lacking iconic species can struggle to compete for funds
- Tensions may arise when leaders make decisions without community or when new members introduce different ideas and goals



Issues for DOC: partnership/empowerment role

- Staff continuity
- Appropriateness of staff style
- Consistency of support
- Level of bureaucracy
- Definition of DOCs role
- Regular communication
- Careful planning
- Importance of collaborative learning
- Group management techniques
- Monitoring/evaluation/feedback

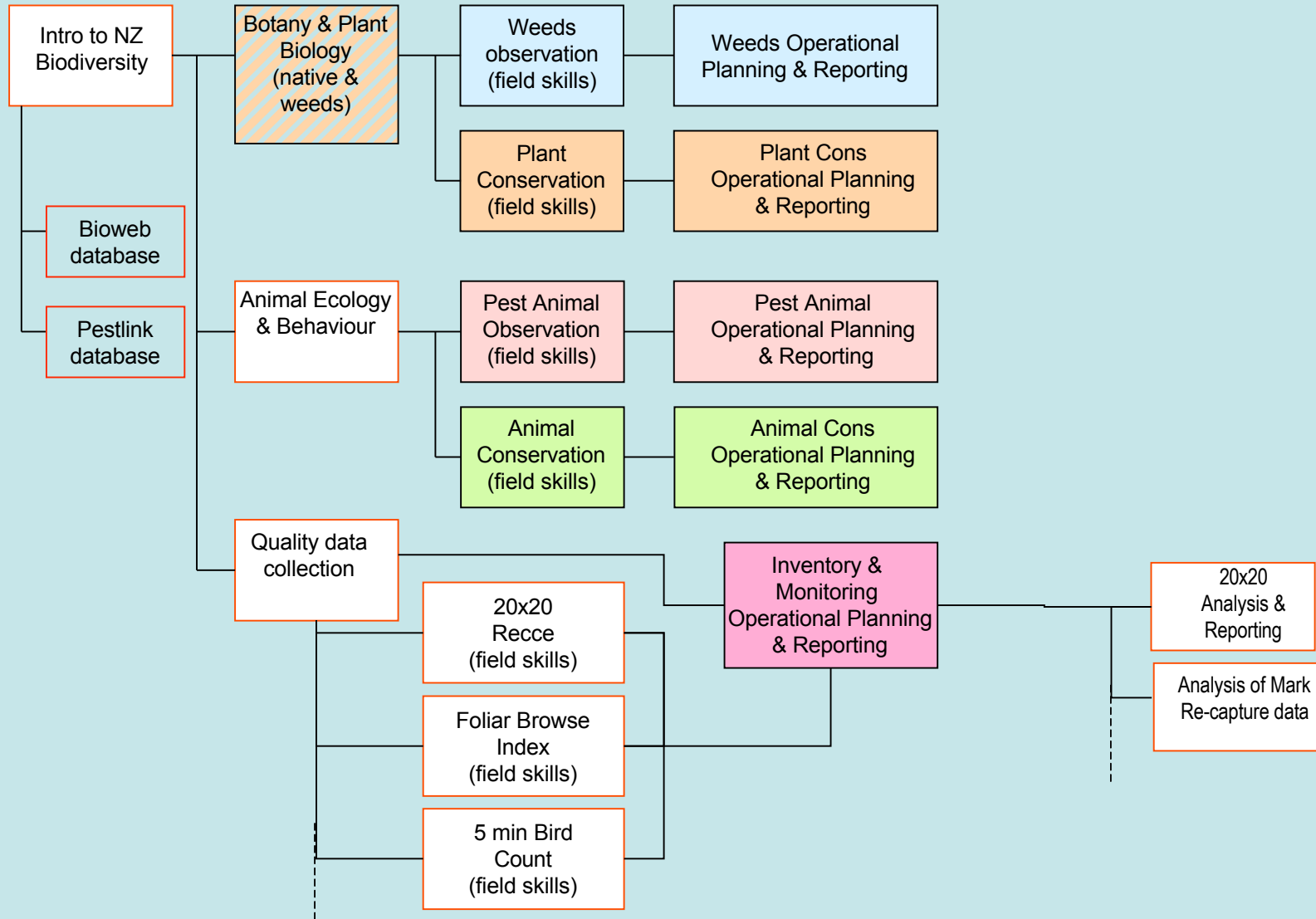


Tools

DOC community partnerships training

- Guide for DOC staff – style & prioritising
- Guide for community conservation projects – participatory planning, getting started, setting direction, working as a group, checking progress
- Toolkit for community conservation projects – facilitation, consulting, conflict, group planning, meetings & events

Tools - DOC Biodiversity Training Model July 2006



Tools

- User friendly legal documentation
- Evaluation framework for community conservation projects – how to develop framework in project planning, research methods and tools, interpret data and report results



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