

BUILDING CAPACITY IN THE NETWORK

SARUA WEBINAR SERIES

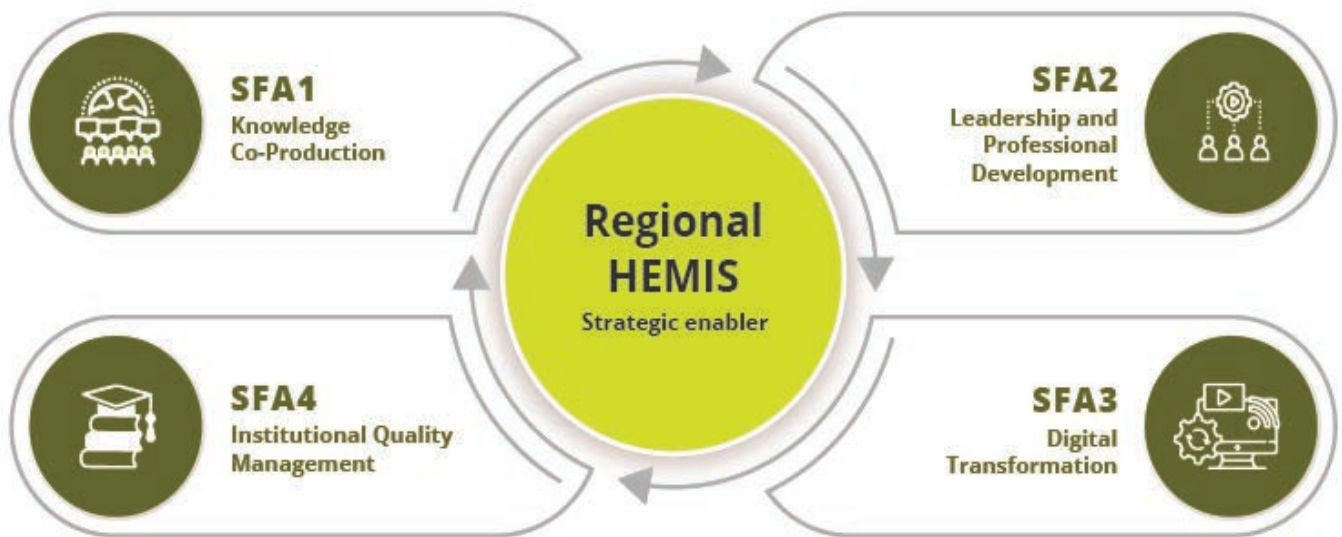
SEMESTER AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023

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FOREWORD

Welcome to our webinar and workshop programme for August to November 2023. Our programme takes its cue from our draft strategic plan, in which we have identified four strategic focus areas and a strategic enabler:



Our webinar and workshop series will present information, discussion and capacity development opportunities relating to all four strategic focus areas and our strategic enabler. Some webinars will provide updates on our projects, while others will provide opportunities for our network members to become part of important regional and continental initiatives. There also will be opportunities to learn more about our plans for various focus areas, and to contribute to the planning process. We look forward to engaging with our network members in this coming semester.

Interpretation Services: We are pleased to announce that we have subscribed to an AI translation platform called Wordly, which provides simultaneous translation and captioning services during online meetings. This means that you will be able to follow SARUA webinars and workshops in the language of your choice, and also to make contributions in your preferred language. We trust that this will increase the attractiveness of our webinars to our valued colleagues from Francophone and Lusophone countries in the SADC.

Prof Martin J Oosthuizen
SARUA Executive Director

1. INFORMATION SESSION ON SARUA STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose: The webinar aims to present the draft Strategic Plan for the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA) for the period 2023-2027. This strategic plan will serve as a roadmap that outlines SARUA's strategic purpose, focus areas and strategic goals to advance higher education in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Additionally, the webinar will provide a platform to engage SARUA network members in a consultative process, seeking their valuable inputs and contributions to further enhance and shape the proposed strategic plan.

Agenda:

- Explanation of the strategic plan's key components, including strategic purpose, values, focus areas and strategic goals.
- Consultative Process: Making Inputs to the Proposed Strategic Plan
- Overview of the consultative process.
 - Explanation of the mechanisms and channels through which SARUA network members can actively participate and contribute their insights to the strategic plan.
- Q&A Session.

Expected Outcomes: By the end of the webinar, participants will have gained a comprehensive understanding of the draft SARUA Strategic Plan 2023-2027. They will be equipped with the knowledge of how to actively contribute to the plan through the consultative process.

Target Audience: This webinar is open to all members of the SARUA network, including university leaders, administrators, faculty, and other stakeholders with an interest in contributing to the development and growth of higher education in the SADC region.

Presenter: Prof M J Oosthuizen

Date: 29 August 2023

Time: 14:00 – 16:00.

Registration Link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpdeqhrDloGNHe11jvmj1I2DOCSx-DDOyz>

2. KNOWLEDGE CO-PRODUCTION

2.1 Participatory approaches to knowledge production

Webinar 1: The use of participatory approaches towards SDG implementation in SADC HEIs

This webinar will discuss the selection of participatory approaches as well as the institutional level at which the implementation of such approaches is managed and hosted (i.e. centralized at the institutional level or spiralled within faculties/departments/individuals).

Facilitators: Prof Marirajan Thiruppathi (DVC Research & Innovation: Unicaf University, Zambia), Dr Thabiso Nyabanyaba (Director Development Planning: National University of Lesotho).

Date: 27 July 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwkcOGorjshHdMeSEypTWFzZ1VNU7jLmUMv#/registration>

Webinar 2: Requirements towards engagement and impact

This webinar will discuss the capacity requirements or lack of planned support (i.e. policies, frameworks, guidelines and knowledge of approaches) towards being engaged with the community in regard to SDG implementation.

Facilitators: Dr Albert Manyani (Bindura University of Science Education), Dr Thabiso Nyabanyaba (Director

Development Planning, National University of Lesotho), Ms Bibi Bouwman (Director of Sustainability and Community Impact, North West University)

Date: 3 August 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scOyqpjlpHNWEy7f-9eWymf61ewlCNlr4#/registration>

Webinar 3: The way forward in adopting PAs towards SDG implementation

This webinar will discuss which actions are required to move forward in terms of research and innovation, and teaching and learning to ensure that universities remain engaged in the adoption of participatory approaches for SDG implementation.

Topics and facilitators

Translating science: ensuring relevance for societal decision-making (Dr Sabine E Apitz (Director, SEA Environmental Decisions, UK, Editor in Chief, IEAM)

Integration of indigenous knowledge systems into the sustainable development agenda of Africa (Prof Beatrice Opeolu (Director, BEE Solutions and Consultancy Services, Fellow, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Associate Editor, Science of the Total Environment, Vice-President, SETAC World Council)

'Perspectives on a "living implementation" model for ensuring sustainable development beyond 2023 communities (Dr Laurel Royer, US)

Date: 10 August 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclfuuhrTMtHNZA1XqdyZofqjTzZ0OBhQxq#/registration>

2.2 Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations

Purpose: The *Africa Charter for Transformative Research Collaborations* aims to radically transform how equitable research partnerships are conducted between Africa and the Global North. The process of the making of the charter was intentionally a firmly collaborative endeavour, involving UCT, UNISA and the University of Bristol as anchor institutions. This webinar will present the background to the development of the Charter, the principles on which it is based, and the proposed way forward in terms of the formation of a coalition of partners that will work towards the implementation of a set of core values to which each partner subscribes. The three core members – University of Bristol, UCT and UNISA – have agreed to form a secretariat and will commit resources to take the charter forward. The members are also setting up a steering committee to include other key stakeholders in taking the work forward and implementing the charter.

Facilitator:

Presenter: Professor Aboderin (University of Bristol); Professor Lenka-Bula (Vice Chancellor: Unisa).

Respondents:

Date: 24 October 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration Link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsce6uqjgtG9Wepa6PH8Sh-LoFA4sVMY0j>

2.3 Climate change and the SDGs: Workshops and Short Learning Programmes

Due to public demand, these events are repeats of the capacity development workshops hosted during April/May 2023.

Background: The SARUA Programme on Climate Change forms part of the SARUA strategic focus area for Knowledge Co-production. The programme formed part of the Intra-ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) initiative in the Southern African Development Community region which was funded by the European Union and administered by the SADC. Within the overall programme, which aims to increase the

capabilities of SADC Member States (MS) to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, SARUA's responsibility is to strengthen the capacity of SADC universities to provide research and education services in support of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Overall outcome: The overall outcome of SARUA's Programme on Climate Change is:

- The collaborative development of a curriculum framework of the revised Southern African master's degree In Climate Change and Sustainable Development, as well as two short learning programmes on Climate Change and Sustainable Development.
- The development of a digital academic eco-system to host the curriculum materials.
- The revitalization of an SADC climate change higher education network.

Purpose – The Four Workshops: The purpose of the four workshops is to develop skills and capacity with respect to the components of curriculum design and development with respect to a master's (postgraduate) programme on climate change and sustainable development in a transdisciplinary HE setting. This entails a sequence of four workshops starting with the development of a context specific framework, teaching and learning considerations, assessment strategies and lastly, the issue of transdisciplinarity in an HE setting.

Target audience: Academics and administrators who need a better understanding of designing and implementing a curriculum on climate change at the master's level.

Event	Facilitators	Dates
<p>Workshop 1: Preparation for implementation: Curriculum Framework of The Revised Southern African master's Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlce2hqjsqHtSrfBteRhufefXm9UBs1GV5</p>	<p>Dr M Bester Dr D Scholtz Prof R Pellissier</p>	<p>2 November 2023</p>
<p>Workshop2: Teaching & Learning Teaching and Learning Considerations Related to The Curriculum Framework of The Revised Southern African master's Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlduytqDovHNM6Qio6W3FWjM9KL64H6c-9</p>	<p>Dr M Bester Dr D Scholtz Prof R Pellissier</p>	<p>6 November 2023</p>
<p>Workshop3: Assessment Assessment Considerations Related to The Curriculum Framework of The Revised Southern African master's Degree in Climate Change and Sustainable Development Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlduCqjMsHNL4s5NmqlI1cupwSwpF24d</p>	<p>Dr M Bester Dr D Scholtz Prof R Pellissier</p>	<p>8 November 2023</p>
<p>Workshop 41[1] A trans-disciplinary approach in a curriculum (added) Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvd-6hqDkpGta4bB06Y7W1zfwNXmnu2ff</p>	<p>Dr M Bester Prof R Pellissier</p>	<p>16 November 2023</p>

The Two Short Learning Programmes: The second set of activities focuses on developing decision-making skills in climate change and sustainable development to inform members of government, NPOs and small businesses about the factors that are pertinent to Climate change.

Target audience: Decision makers in Government and the private or public sector who require a better understanding of the fundamentals of climate change to make informed decisions. No prior knowledge in the field is required.

¹ This is new. It satisfies the need expressed on understanding issues of transdisciplinarity in thinking, curriculum design and implementation.

Short Learning Programme 1	Facilitators	Dates
Foundations of Climate Change Science and Sustainable Development. Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdu2urTMtGdwQ8TFdtZ4Z9MfTpXTs_rP2	Dr N Chicho Dr A Manyani Dr K Tlhalerwa Prof Pellissier	20-21 Nov 2023
Short Learning Programme 2	Facilitators	Dates
Climate Policies and Governance Registration Link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwofu2qrTsqHNejW_UuzJsr71d7XaD53GBY	Dr A Babugura Prof M Thiruppathi Prof R Pellissier	27-28 Nov 2023

3. ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION (HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Webinar 1: Results of the IDRC-funded ARUA Research Project & A Call to Action

Purpose: The webinar will introduce the work of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in supporting gender equality in STEM fields in research systems in the global South, after which it will focus on the research project that the Alliance of Research Universities in Africa (ARUA) recently conducted on gender equality within ARUA institutions. The research focused on strategies and successes in tackling systemic barriers to gender equality, with a special focus on women faculty in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)-related fields and women in university leadership.

Objectives:

- To present the IDRC's programme on gender equality as it impacts on higher education in the global South – *Dr Katie Bryant*.
- To present the findings of the ARUA project with respect to:
 - Gender-related institutional policies and structures within ARUA institutions.
 - Statistics on the representation of women in senior leadership and management positions at individual ARUA institutions.
 - Lessons learned and best practices in promoting gender equality.
- To share the research findings widely with the SARUA network and beyond – *Prof Roseanne Diab*.

Expected Outcomes: By the end of the webinar, participants will be invited to join the SARUA network in developing a comprehensive programme of action to support gender equality in higher education institutions within the SADC. The first step towards this will be a follow-up webinar on 19 October, providing an opportunity to discuss how the SARUA network can collectively advance the important work on gender equality.

Target Audience: This webinar is open to all members of the SARUA network and SADC stakeholders interested in fostering gender equality within higher education.

Facilitator:

Presenters: Dr K Bryant (Programme Officer, International Development Research Centre, Canada); Prof R Diab (Emeritus Professor, UKZN)

Date: 24 August 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvceigqj0vGd0r6m_c-QVILOBZ38LPpEpB

Webinar 2: Roundtable discussion on gender equality in SADC higher education institutions.

Purpose: The goal of Webinar 2 is to foster a collaborative and inclusive discussion on gender equality among higher education institutions within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The webinar will consider how the findings of the ARUA study on gender equality can be applied and advanced within the context of SADC higher education institutions. The aim is to develop a comprehensive programme of action through which the members of the SARUA network may collectively address gender equality challenges in the SADC region.

Objectives:

- To reflect on the research findings of the ARUA study on gender equality within higher education institutions and assess their relevance to SADC member institutions.
- To discuss the representation of women in senior leadership and management positions in SADC higher education institutions and explore strategies for improvement.
- To share best practices and lessons learned from the ARUA study and other successful initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in higher education.
- To engage all members of the SARUA network in developing a joint programme of action to promote gender equality within the SADC higher education landscape. This programme of action includes the identification of specific gender-related institutional policies and structures that need to be strengthened or established within SADC higher education institutions.

Expected Outcomes: By the end of the webinar, participants will have a deeper understanding of the ARUA study's findings and their relevance to SADC higher education institutions. The webinar will set the foundation for future collaborative efforts among SARUA network members to address gender-related challenges and promote a more inclusive and equitable higher education environment within the SADC.

Target Audience: This webinar is open to all members of the SARUA network and SADC stakeholders interested in actively participating in initiatives to foster gender equality within higher education institutions in the Southern African Development Community.

Facilitator: Dr Phumzile Mmope.

Panellists: Prof Sunungurai Chingarande (Rector, Womens' University in Africa); Prof Loretta Feris (DVC: Academic, UP); Prof Kenneth Matengu (Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia).

Date: 19 October 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdu6rpzMoHt0gKxLDMbrq_hk-1-CyZyjY#/registration

4. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

4.1 Information Sessions on the HAQAA 3 Project

Background: The HAQAA (Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation) Initiative, which currently is entering its third phase, aims to establish a harmonised quality assurance and accreditation system at institutional, national, regional, and Pan-African continental levels. Funded by the European Union in partnership with the African Union, the HAQAA 3 Initiative is being implemented by a consortium, including the University of Barcelona, the Association of African Universities (AAU), the European University Association (EUA), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). SARUA serves as the regional implementation partner for the HAQAA Initiative in the SADC region. This webinar series will provide an orientation to the various activity areas that form of the HAQAA 3 Initiative.

Webinar 1: Introducing the HAQAA 3 Project

Purpose: As the HAQAA Initiative currently is entering its third phase, the webinar will provide an overview of HAQAA 1 (2016-2018) and HAQAA 2 (2019-2022), as well as an outline of the various projects that will form part of HAQAA 3. The session will highlight the main outputs and benefits of the HAQAA Initiative thus far, with a specific focus on the impact on universities and external and internal quality assurance systems in the SADC region.

Topics:

- Outline of the HAQAA 3 Programme – *Elizabeth Colucci* (OBREAL)
- Continental perspectives on the HAQAA Programme – *Prof Olusola Oyewole* (AAU)
- The role of SARUA as the HAQAA implementation partner for the SADC region – *Prof Martin Oosthuizen* (SARUA)

Facilitator: Prof Maria Luisa Chicote (CNAQ (National Council for Quality Evaluation of Higher Education) Mozambique).

Presenters: Ms Elizabeth Colucci (Director of Global Projects, OBREAL); Prof Olusola Oyewole (Secretary General, AAU); Prof Martin Oosthuizen (Executive Director, SARUA).

Date: 14 September 2023

Time: 14:00–15:30 (SADC Time)

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtceiqqDsuHtW4Ai4Yd2iwtNZQ3cHICsY5>

Webinar 2: Capacity Development for IQA and EQA

Purpose: Webinar 2 will outline the plans for Institutional Quality Assurance (IQA) and External Quality Assurance (EQA) capacity development under the HAQAA 3 Initiative. Against the background of the key achievements of HAQAA 1 and 2, the session will provide insights into the following projects that all form part of the Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework:

- The development of the *African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ASG-QA) – *Anna Gover*
- The development of a methodology to assess, externally, QA agencies in Africa in order to guarantee their transparency and ensure that they uphold common and internationally agreed principles and practices – *Anna Gover and Juru Eglantine*
- The development and implementation of the *African Quality Rating Mechanism* (AQRM) – *Juru Eglantine*
- The provision of a capacity development programme for Internal Quality Assurance – *Tobias Wolf, Sarah Lang & Bella Sattar*.

Facilitator: Ms Bella Sattar (Strategic Focus Area Lead for IQM, SARUA)

Presenters: Ms Marie Eglantine Juru (Project Officer, AAU), Mr Tobias Wolf (Head of Section, Development Cooperation: DAAD), Ms Sarah Lang (DAAD) and Ms Anna Gover (Director: ENQA); Ms Bella Sattar (SARUA).

Date: 18 September 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvce2urzwwHdel4KEYiM4k3U6WwkGsHaDe#/registration>

Webinar 3: The PAQAA and the ACTS

Purpose: Webinar 3 will provide information on the proposed development of the African Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and offer a progress report on the establishment of the Pan African Quality Assurance Agency (PAQAA). The session aims to update participants on the developments related to these crucial components of the HAQAA 3 Initiative.

The ACTS, which was launched in 2022, intends to establish a common credit transfer system that will recognize learning credentials amongst institutions and between countries across the African continent. The mandate of the PAQAA will be to coordinate, promote, and facilitate harmonisation of QA and accreditation systems in Africa. As this Agency is not yet established, certain tools of the PAQAF are currently being developed, tested, and implemented by African stakeholder organisations in the higher education sector, supported by international partners like the European Union.

Agenda:

- Purpose and development of the ACTS – *Olusola Oyewole and Pablo Benetoiné*.
- Purpose and development of the PAQAA – *Bella Sattar*.

Facilitator: Ms Elizabeth Colucci (Director of Global Projects: OBREAL).

Presenters: Ms Bella Sattar (Strategic Focus Area Lead for IQM, SARUA); Prof Olusola Oyewole (Secretary General, AAU); Prof Pablo Benetoiné (OBREAL).

Date: 28 September 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfu-qpzosHdYID59jBg7HJrnUsCXc0h7S>

4.2 SARUA Community of Practice for Institutional Quality Management

Purpose: The research report on the State of Play of IQA in the SADC clearly indicated the need for a forum for QA practitioners in the SADC to engage on relevant aspects of IQA, share good practices and provide a support group to engage with challenges. SARUA established the Community of Practice (CoP) for IQM towards the latter part of 2022. The webinar will serve as an information session on the formalisation of the CoP, the need for identifying a coordinating group of five members from among its members, the roles and responsibilities of the coordinating group, setting up Special Interest Groups (SIGs), etc.

Facilitator: Ms Bella Sattar (Strategic Focus Area Lead for IQM, SARUA)

Presenters: TBC (Dr Mark Hay; Dr Tess Goodliffe)

Date: 31 October 2023 (TBC)

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYof-ivpjojHdLSDhMvHq4ysbXvGUsGAZ6V#/registration>

5. REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Webinar: HE Data for Policy-Making

Purpose: The webinar's primary focus is to shed light on the crucial role of data-driven policy-making in enhancing higher education outcomes in Africa. The lack of reliable systems for collecting higher education data in Africa has been a significant challenge. In response, HAQAA 2 introduced a project for establishing a Policy Development Unit (PDU) with the aim of creating an African higher education data capability. This capability will facilitate the verification of the CESA 16-25 strategy and beyond. The HAQAA Higher Education Data for Policy project, coordinated by the AAU, takes a regional approach to establish effective higher education data policy units across the continent, with SARUA serving as the implementation partner for the Higher Education Data Unit within the SADC. This webinar will introduce the objectives and timeframes for the project on higher education data for policy-making.

Topics:

- Framing data collection in HAQAA3 - *Elizabeth Colucci* (OBREAL).
- Main outputs of the PDU Development Team under HAQAA2 and objectives under HAQAA3 - *Nodumo Dhlamini* (AAU).
- The development of a regional HEMIS for the SADC- *Dr Charles Sheppard* (SARUA)

Participants will gain valuable insights into the key planned outputs and outcomes of the Higher Education Data Project, and the plans for the establishment of a Regional HEMIS for the SADC region.

Facilitator: Prof Martin Oosthuizen

Presenters: Ms Elizabeth Colucci (Director of Global Projects: OBREAL); Ns N Dhlamini (Director ICT Services & Knowledge Management: AAU) and Dr Charles Sheppard (Director: Management Information, Nelson Mandela University & SARUA Consultant)

Date: 10 October 2023

Time: 14:00–16:00

Registration link: <https://sarua-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApduupqTouHtehfafEQWhpRHJdM98887Us>

6. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SARUA is planning three webinars on digital transformation, with a focus on generative artificial intelligence for November 2023. The details of these webinars will be made available at a later date.

- **Webinar 1:** The new focus on AI in digital transformation: Implications for policy, practice and planning in universities.
- **Webinar 2:** Academic learning programmes in the age of Generative AI: Conceptualisation and assessment.
- **Webinar 3:** Accommodating and embedding Generative AI in academic activities of universities:



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