CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND

Scope of Work

Update of the Ecosystem Profile for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

1. BACKGROUND

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. CEPF supports civil society organizations to conserve critical ecosystems in the biodiversity hotspots.

In each hotspot, CEPF's investment is guided by an "ecosystem profile:" an investment strategy framed by an analysis of the environmental, economic and political context for conservation, including an in-depth analysis of conservation priorities, and threats to biodiversity and their drivers. Each ecosystem profile is developed through an extensive consultation process involving a wide range of stakeholders.

CEPF is currently implementing a program financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through AFD as the Accredited Entity, titled "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean." The goal of the program is to reduce the vulnerability of island populations by securing the critical ecosystem services they need to be resilient to climate change. In this context, the ecosystem profile will be used to identify and prioritize Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) actions by civil society organizations in four target countries in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot: the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The current ecosystem profile for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot was published in 2014. It needs to be updated, both to take account of the evolving context and to establish priorities for investment in EbA under the GCF program. The necessary work has been organized into three work packages, which are set out in the following sections.

2. WORK PACKAGE 1 – IDENTIFICATION OF IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND AREAS FOR EBA

Ecosystem services are the contributions by ecosystems to benefits used in economic and other human activity. They can be categorized into: *provisioning services* (all nutritional, material and energetic outputs from living systems); *regulating services* (the ways in which living organisms can mediate or moderate the ambient environment that affects human performance); *cultural services* (non-material and non-consumptive outputs of ecosystems that affect people's physical and mental states); and *supporting services* (outputs of living systems that are not used directly by humans but that maintain services that are).

Ecosystem services important to human populations in the target countries will be identified through literature review and stakeholder consultations. The identified ecosystem services

will be ranked according to the importance of their contribution to the resilience of human populations to climate change, resulting in a list of between five and 10 priority ecosystem services.

Each priority ecosystem service will then be mapped spatially, in a GIS, using available national, regional and/or global data sets. Where suitable data sets are not available, expert opinion may be used to map areas and/or individual sites of importance for particular ecosystem services.

These data sets will then be overlaid on the existing map of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the hotspot. KBAs are sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. The 2014 Ecosystem Profile identified 306 KBAs, comprising 20 in the Comoros, 212 in Madagascar, 17 in Mauritius and 57 in the Seychelles. There will be no requirement to identify new KBAs or to update previous KBA analyses, although new KBAs may be incorporated where they have been identified through other exercises. A multi-criterion analysis will be conducted to identify those KBAs most important for providing priority ecosystem services necessary for people to adapt to climate change. The draft results of the KBA+ analysis will be verified through the consultation process, under Work Package 2, to reach a broad consensus on priorities for CEPF investment in EbA. The verified results will be documented in tables and maps.

The key outputs of Work Package 1 will be:

1. Draft report on priority ecosystem services

2. Tables of KBAs with scores/ranking according to KBA+ methodology

3. GIS data layers showing relative importance of KBAs for prioritized ecosystem services

3. WORK PACKAGE 2 – STAKEHOLDER CONSULATIONS TO SET PRIORITIES FOR CEPF INVESTMNET IN EBA

The ecosystem profile will be updated through an extensive consultation process involving a wide range of stakeholders, from academic institutions, NGOs, government agencies, donors, community groups and private companies. In this way, priorities for CEPF investment will be established in a bottom-up manner, establishing a foundation for future collaboration and paving the way for the partnerships that are the hallmark of CEPF's approach.

Consultations will be conducted with a wide range of stakeholders in the four target countries. In each country, consultations should be conducted at both the national level and the sub-national level. The number and scope of sub-national consultations will vary by country. In the Comoros and Mauritius, they might cover the main islands. In the Seychelles, one consultation might cover the granitic islands and another the coralline islands. In Madagascar, they might be held region by region, focusing on those regions with concentrations of KBAs important for providing priority ecosystem services identified under Work Package 1.

The results of these consultations will be documented in a series of reports, which will be incorporated into the updated ecosystem profile under Work Package 3. The draft

ecosystem profile will then be validated through a regional consultation meeting, involving selected stakeholders from among those engaged during the national and sub-national consultations. Depending on the restrictions in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the stakeholder consultations may be conducted online or in person.

Special attention will be paid to engaging the Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) for the GCF in the consultation process in order to build their ownership of the CEPF investment strategy. In particular, the NDAs' approval should be sought for the selection criteria for the identification of eligible grants and KBAs (i.e., "priority sites"). Particular attention should also be given to consulting national and regional offices of AFD in the hotspot.

The key outputs of Work Package 2 will be:

1. National and sub-national stakeholder consultation reports

2. Regional stakeholder consultation report

3. Full list of stakeholders who participated in the consultations, with email addresses

4. WORK PACKAGE 3: DRAFTING OF AN UPDATED ECOSYSTEM PROFILE

The current ecosystem profile was prepared between June 2013 and January 2014, under the leadership of Conservation International's Madagascar country program. Much has changed in the time since the ecosystem profile was prepared. While the biological priorities defined in the document have generally stood the test of time, there have been significant changes in the relative severity of threats to biodiversity and their social, economic and political drivers. There have also been changes to the capacity of civil society in each country, as well as to the political space in which it operates. Moreover, there have been major changes in the operating context for biodiversity conservation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential that these trends are reflected in the updated ecosystem profile so that the next phase of CEPF investment addresses the highest priorities, takes advantage of emerging opportunities and aligns well with investments by other funders.

The English version of the ecosystem profile will be updated to incorporate the outputs of the KBA+ analysis conducted under Work Package 1 and the stakeholder consultations conducted under Work Package 2. A review of published and unpublished literature will be carried out and complemented by targeted consultations with academics and conservation practitioners, and other appropriate data gathering methods. Each chapter of the ecosystem profile will be updated to incorporate new information and analysis that has become available since 2014 and to integrate gender dimensions.

The key outputs of Work Package 3 will be:

1. Draft ecosystem profile

2. Final ecosystem profile incorporating comments from the CEPF and GCF Secretariats and CEPF's global donors

The updated profile will be drafted in English and adhere to the structure below. A draft document will be prepared and submitted to the CEPF Secretariat, the GCF Secretariat and

the technical working group of CEPF's global donors for review. After comments have been incorporated, a final document that is professionally edited and formatted will be submitted to the CEPF Donor Council for approval. Upon approval of that version, the CEPF Secretariat will arrange for the ecosystem profile to be translated into French.

Chapter	**Approximate Page Length***
Executive Summary	5
Chapter 1. Introduction	3
Chapter 2. Background	5
Chapter 3. Past CEPF Investment and Lessons Learned	7
Chapter 4. Biological Importance of the Hotspot	20
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Chapter 6. Ecosystem Services and Key Biodiversity Areas *Plus*	20
Chapter 7. Threat Assessment	15
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Chapter 17. Conclusion	1
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References	TBD
Appendices	TBD

* Page count inclusive of tables and figures.

Executive Summary. This section briefly summarizes the main messages from the ecosystem profile.

This chapter will be mostly based on the existing ecosystem profile, with updated text.

Chapter 1. Introduction. This chapter introduces CEPF and the GCF program and gives a general overview of the hotspot. It describes the approach to defining conservation outcomes and identifying a niche for CEPF investment.

This chapter will be mostly based on the existing ecosystem profile, with updated text.

Chapter 2. Background. This chapter describes the process behind the development of the profile, including a summary of the stakeholder consultations conducted under Work Package 2.

This chapter will require significant updating to describe the process followed for the update.

Chapter 3. Past CEPF Investment and Lessons Learned. This chapter provides an overview of CEPF's investments in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot since 2001, in particular since 2015, including summaries of the grant-making approach, the grant portfolio (number of grants awarded, budgetary division) and lessons learned. The chapter should also present data and analysis provided by the CEPF Secretariat on the

impacts of CEPF investment to date. Finally, the chapter should summarize the findings of an independent evaluation of lessons learned in relation to the regional implementation team.

This is a new chapter, which did not appear in the 2014 Ecosystem Profile. It requires compilation of data from the mid-term assessment (PDF – 1.5 MB), the 2020 portfolio overview (PDF – 55 KB) and the independent evaluation (to be prepared during 2021). The emphasis will be on drawing out learning that is relevant to future investment.

Chapter 4. Biological Importance of the Hotspot. This chapter describes the geography, climate and biological diversity of the hotspot. The chapter will provide a summary of species diversity, levels of endemism and global threat status among major taxonomic groups, focusing on those groups for which data are available.

This chapter will be mostly based on the existing profile, with updated information as relevant.

Chapter 5. Conservation Outcomes for the Hotspot. This chapter describes and summarizes the conservation outcomes for the hotspot. Conservation outcomes are defined at three scales: species (i.e., globally threatened species), sites (i.e., KBAs) and corridors (i.e., conservation corridors).

1. **Species outcomes** will be based on a comprehensive list of globally threatened species occurring in the hotspot, corresponding to the following categories in the current IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU).

   The section on species outcomes will be updated using the most up-to-date information from the IUCN Red List website.

2. **Site outcomes** will be based on a comprehensive list, with accompanying maps, of KBAs in the hotspot. The site outcomes will be based upon the list of KBAs identified in the 2014 Ecosystem Profile. If time and resources permit, new KBAs identified since the 2014 profiling exercise could be added, based upon data in the World Database of KBAs, but no identification of new KBAs or revisions of boundaries should be undertaken as part of the profile update.

   The section on site outcomes will be largely based upon the existing profile, with additional sites included if time and resources permit.

3. **Corridor outcomes** will be based on a comprehensive list, with accompanying maps, of higher-scale spatial units necessary to maintain ecological and evolutionary processes at the land-/seascape scale. The text will discuss the importance of specific conservation corridors to the provision of specific ecosystem services.

   The section on corridor outcomes will be mostly based on the existing profile.

Chapter 6. Ecosystem Services and Key Biodiversity Areas *Plus*. This chapter will summarize the ecosystem services provided by the natural ecosystems of the hotspot (freshwater flows, fisheries production, carbon sequestration, soil erosion control, support to cultural and economic services, flood protection, etc.), and describe their contribution to the resilience of human populations to climate change. It will discuss the priority ecosystem services in greater detail and explain how they were selected. This chapter will also

summarize the KBA+ methodology and explain how this has been applied to identify those KBAs most important for providing priority ecosystem services.

This chapter will be based largely on the results of Work Package 1, which will update the analysis of ecosystem services based on new literature and expert consultations, update the KBA+ analysis for Madagascar to incorporate new ecosystem services and datasets, and extend the analysis to the Comoros, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Chapter 7. Threat Assessment. This chapter is a study on threats to biodiversity and their drivers in the hotspot. This chapter should include, at minimum, the following:

1. Narrative description of threats to biodiversity and their drivers as well as a brief historical overview thereof.

2. Ranking of threats, based upon expert opinion of consulted stakeholders and/or available quantitative data, to help prioritize conservation approaches for inclusion in the CEPF investment strategy (Chapter 14).

3. Discussion of the implication of highly ranked threats for the provision of ecosystem services and delivery of EbA actions.

This chapter will be based upon the existing profile, with inclusion of new, emerging threats and updates on threats identified in the earlier analysis. The stakeholder consultations under Work Package 2 will be used to gather additional information and prioritize threats.

Chapter 8. Socioeconomic Context. This chapter provides an overview of the socioeconomic context for conservation in the hotspot and how it could influence the CEPF investment strategy. The chapter should provide information and analysis on population, including demographics, migration and distribution trends (e.g., urban versus rural). The chapter should also discuss relevant social and economic data, including poverty and welfare distribution, and economic activities as they relate to natural resource use (e.g., agriculture, energy, fisheries, forestry, tourism), and linguistic/social/religious distinctions if they have relevance to civil society engagement and/or conservation. The chapter should also analyze the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to achieving the conservation outcomes. As relevant, there should be discussion on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups as they relate to conservation. There should be a separate section on the role of gender in development and conservation.

This chapter should not only include a general discussion of the private sector but should be specific about private sector actors with the ability to exert significant influence (positive or negative) on conservation. In particular, it should discuss opportunities for private sector partnerships with civil society organizations to deliver EbA.

This chapter will be mostly based upon the existing profile but with a specific focus on recent social and economic trends and updated socio-economic data.

Chapter 9. Policy Context. This chapter reviews and analyzes policies related to the environment, with special emphasis on natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. The chapter should provide a broad overview of the political situation in each country of the hotspot before going into detail about specific aspects of the policy context that have a strong bearing on biodiversity conservation in general and EbA in particular, whether in terms of presenting threats or opportunities, and thus have a

bearing on the CEPF investment strategy and grant-making modalities. The chapter should provide:

1. Overview of governance structures, level of decentralization, political conflicts and security issues.

2. Overview of regional organizations with conservation mandates.

3. Overview of public policies in relation to natural resources management.

4. Overview of the institutional framework for conservation, including description of the mandates and capacity of relevant government agencies, major national laws, and regional and international conventions.

5. Overview of other policies and regulations related to the financing of conservation, including taxes, protected area revenue streams, licensing for resource use, payment for ecosystem services, carbon credits, and environmental trust funds.

6. Overview of regional, national, provincial or other economic development policies as they relate to conservation.

7. Overview of political conditions and trends at regional, national and sub-national levels as they relate to conservation.

8. Overview of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans of each country.

9. Review of opportunities for mainstreaming EbA into public policies.

This chapter will be mostly based upon the existing profile but with a specific focus on recent political developments in the hotspot. A key additional section will be the review of opportunities for mainstreaming EbA into public policies, which should be identified in consultation with the NDAs and other relevant government agencies in each country.

Chapter 10. Civil Society Context. A central tenet of CEPF is that more effective and sustainable conservation can be achieved with the engagement of civil society. This chapter provides an extensive examination of civil society actors and their current or potential roles in conservation. CEPF uses a broad definition of civil society, which includes local, regional and international NGOs; scientific, research and academic institutions (including universities); professional organizations; producer associations, resource user groups and other community-based organizations; religious organizations; media organizations; advocacy groups; outreach/education/awareness groups; and private sector actors concerned with the sustainable use of natural resources.

This chapter will be mostly based upon the existing profile but incorporate new information based on the stakeholder consultations. It should also present data and analysis on the CEPF monitoring tools completed by civil society organizations in the hotspot, particularly the civil society tracking tool and the gender tracking tool, which will be made available by the CEPF Secretariat.

Chapter 11. Climate Change Assessment. This chapter should be based on recent overviews and reports for the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot. It should describe the climate change risks that increase the vulnerability of people and ecosystems

in the hotspot. No new analysis or original work, apart from synthesis, is expected for this. The chapter should include:

1. Overview of the hotspot's climatic history and how this has shaped the biota.

2. Overview of the projected impacts of climate change on human populations and biodiversity.

3. Description of current and potential climate adaption and mitigation opportunities in the hotspot, including adequacy of the protected area systems to promote resilience.

4. Review of policy responses, including major climate change initiatives, the extent to which climate change analyses and policies are in place for adaption and mitigation, and their effectiveness in integrating biodiversity considerations and potential future needs.

5. Overview of the role of civil society in advancing climate change adaption and mitigation to date and key bottlenecks to their constructive engagement and potential responses.

6. Recommendations for strengthening policies and approaches for adaptation and mitigation for conservation and ecosystem service resilience, with an emphasis on fostering civil society engagement in EbA.

7. Potential impacts of the human response to climate change on protected areas, natural areas and biodiversity (e.g., displaced populations due to sea level rise or droughts, increased dependency on natural resources).

This is a new chapter, that did not appear in the 2014 Ecosystem Profile. It should be based on review of published and unpublished literature, supplemented where necessary through correspondence with key experts. No new analysis or original work is required, apart from synthesis.

Chapter 12. Current Investments. This chapter provides an overview and analysis of investments in conservation and restoration of ecosystems by governments, donors and the private sector, with a particular emphasis on EbA. The chapter should consider both direct investments, such as creation of protected areas or restoration of natural habitats, as well as indirect investment that support conservation objectives, such as promotion of sustainable livelihoods or strengthening of local governance. As such, the chapter should discuss the work of traditional development donors and actors as it influences CEPF's niche for investment.

Further, the chapter needs to describe in detail the work of CEPF's donors, including the GEF Small Grants Programme, in each country as well as funding by other donors that have or are planning investments in the hotspot. The chapter should include trend analyses, looking at changes in conservation investment over time. This chapter should include:

1. Overview of major sources of investment in biodiversity conservation and related goals by source (donor), country and theme. (This should include both quantitative and qualitative analysis.)

2. Description of trends in conservation investment over the last decade by governments and major donors.

3. Analysis of current funding opportunities available to local civil society organizations.

4. Description of sustainable financing schemes, both existing and in preparation.

5. Analysis of gaps in conservation funding with respect to geographic priorities and thematic areas.

6. Recommendations for alignment and collaboration with other conservation and development funders with current or planned programs in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot, as well as for potential new sustainable financing mechanisms.

This chapter will require a major overhaul because the information in the existing profile is out of date.

Chapter 13. CEPF Niche for Investment. Based on the preceding description of the conservation outcomes and investment context, this chapter identifies how CEPF investment will complement (and build upon) investments by other funders discussed in Chapter 12. The niche frames the investment strategy (Chapter 14) by outlining the types of activities for which grant funding will be provided, the types of organizations to receive this funding, and the geographic focus of this work.

This chapter will require a major overhaul to reflect the results of the stakeholder consultations and take into consideration the lessons learned from the current CEPF investment phase, including but not limited to the results of the mid-term assessment and independent evaluation, which will be made available by CEPF. The CEPF niche itself may be substantively different to that in the existing profile. In particular, there will need to be a much greater emphasis on EbA actions that strengthen the resilience of human populations to climate change.

Chapter 14. CEPF Investment Strategy and Program Focus. This chapter elaborates the niche for CEPF investment by presenting a detailed strategy for grant-making by CEPF over a five-year period, from 2022 to 2027. The strategy will comprise geographic priorities, in terms of priority sites for CEPF investment, selected from among the KBAs identified in Chapter 6 as being most important for providing priority ecosystem services. The selection of priority sites will be guided by eligibility criteria in a manner consistent with the "initial criteria" for the GCF program (Annex 1). The priority sites may or may not be nested within priority corridors at the land-/seascape scale.

The investment strategy will also comprise thematic priorities for CEPF grant-making, articulated as between 12 and 24 "investment priorities" grouped into between four and six "Strategic Directions." The selection of investment priorities should be informed by the results of the stakeholder consultations and the analysis in the preceding chapters. Investment priorities should focus on areas where CEPF investment in civil society can add the greatest value to current investments in conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems by governments and other donors.

Based upon the geographic and thematic priorities, the investment strategy should also present eligibility criteria for the selection of grants. Again, these should be consistent with the initial criteria of the GCF program (Annex 1).

This chapter will be based upon the existing profile but may require substantive changes based on the results of the stakeholder consultations.

Chapter 15. Logical Framework. This chapter presents the logical framework for CEPF investment in the hotspot, incorporating relevant indicators and setting targets for each investment priority. For each indicator, the logical framework should define means of verification, and important assumptions. The logical framework will be a distillation of CEPF's objectives for its grant-making in the hotspot over the next five years and will be used to monitor impact at the portfolio level. The indicators should be SMART (i.e., Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound), and the targets should be realistic in view of the anticipated volume of investment by CEPF over the next five years.

This chapter will be based upon the existing profile but may require substantive updates, based upon the changes that are made to the investment strategy.

Chapter 16. Sustainability. This chapter describes how the proposed strategic directions will result in sustainable conservation outcomes.

This chapter will be based upon the existing profile but may require substantive updates, based upon the changes that are made to the investment strategy.

Chapter 17. Conclusion. This chapter provides a brief conclusion, looking forward to implementation of the strategy.

This chapter will be mostly based on the existing ecosystem profile, with updated text.

References. Include complete references for all literature cited in the profile.

Appendices. Suggested appendices include:

1. Globally threatened species in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

2. Key Biodiversity Areas in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

3. Conservation corridors in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

4. Key Biodiversity Areas important for providing important ecosystem services in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

5. Annotated list of investments in biodiversity conservation and climate change in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot (with a particular focus on those using nature-based solutions to combat climate change)

Note: Any modification to the scope of work should be done only in consultation with CEPF.

Annex 1

Initial Criteria of the Green Climate Fund Program

The selection of priority sites and grants under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) program "Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean" shall be consistent with the following criteria:

For selection of eligible sites for grants (i.e., priority sites):

All grants for site-based EbA activities must be located at priority sites identified in the updated ecosystem profile following the KBA+ methodology. It is expected that these sites will be concentrated in coastal ecosystems, given the nature of climate change threats to small islands, but forests and other terrestrial ecosystems will also be considered based on their critical role in supporting climate resilient livelihoods and the delivery of essential ecosystem services. Given that many communities have livelihood strategies that depend on coastal and terrestrial resources, particular attention will be given to sites that present opportunities for "ridge-to-reef" approaches to conservation and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services.

For selection of eligible grants:

Eligible grants shall meet the following requirements:

(i) Are in line with EbA thematic and geographic priorities identified in the ecosystem profile;

(ii) Contribute to achieving the Fund's investment criteria, as defined in Annex III of Decision B.09/05, "Initial investment framework: activity-specific sub-criteria and indicative assessment factors";

(iii) Demonstrate that the proposed EbA activity addresses vulnerability based on a clear climate change risk;

(iv) Adopt EbA approaches that increase the resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services in the relevant KBAs that are critical to local or national populations;

(v) Reflect on the climate change mitigation potential of the grant;

(vi) Address priorities identified in national climate change policy or strategy documents of the relevant host country;

(vii) Avoid or fully mitigate negative environmental and social impacts, for purposes of ensuring consistency with the CEPF's environmental and social safeguard policies and to finance only category C grants pursuant to the GCF Environmental and Social Risk Categories;

(viii) Meet the requirements of GCF Environmental and Social Standards and all relevant GCF policies;

(ix) Meet the due diligence requirements of CEPF (including the operational manual);

(x) Demonstrate positive gender impacts;

(xi) Demonstrate effective and efficient use of funds;

(xii) Demonstrate a clear strategy for achieving financial sustainability;

(xiii) Their implementation must be completed prior to the completion date; and

(xiv) Involve exclusively activities and interventions which are category C pursuant to the GCF Environmental and Social Risk Categories.

Priority will be given to proposed grants that are the closest fit to the investment strategy set out in Chapter 14 of the ecosystem profile. Preference will also be given to grants that:

(1) demonstrate a leading role for local organizations and/or an explicit focus on capacity building for local civil society; and

(2) show that they will coordinate with other organizations to prevent duplication of efforts, such as grants that work with partnerships and alliances.

Other considerations that will strengthen an application include:

(i) Endorsement from relevant government authorities, through the corresponding NDAs;

(ii) Clear plans for continuing the work after the funding under the CEPF grant has been deployed; and

(iii) Support for Indigenous and local communities in community-based or co-management activities for EbA and actions that enhance local communities' tenure and resource use rights.