

CDM-EB91-AA-A03

Concept note

Expansion of the scope and scale of Regional Collaboration Centres' assistance activities in developing countries

Version 01.1



United Nations
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TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
1. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND.....	3
2. PURPOSE	3
3. KEY ISSUES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS	3
3.1. Key issues	3
3.2. Proposed new activities and expansion of current activities	5
4. IMPACTS.....	11
5. SUBSEQUENT WORK AND TIMELINES.....	14
6. BUDGET AND COSTS	14
7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD	17

1. Procedural background

1. At its eleventh session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) requested¹ the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board), taking into consideration the mandate to ensure transparent and prudent management of resources of the CDM, to expand the scope and scale of Regional Collaboration Centres' (RCC) assistance activities in developing countries by exploring the emerging technical and methodological areas in the context of the CDM where specific assistance is identified as needed by the countries underrepresented in the mechanism.
2. At its ninetieth meeting, the Board considered an initial concept note on the aforementioned CMP mandate. The Board requested the secretariat to revise the concept note to further elaborate on how the RCCs can support the mandated technical and methodological work, including the development of cost estimates for carrying out additional CDM-related activities, for the consideration of the Board at its ninety-first meeting. During the meeting, the Board also noted an invitation by the secretariat to provide input on possible activities to be proposed under the concept note. One submission was received (please see paragraph 3.1.3 below for details).

2. Purpose

3. The purpose of this note is to propose potential CDM-related RCC activities in the light of the CMP mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above to expand the scope and scale of RCCs while ensuring the prudent management of resources in the form of:
 - (a) Expanded and/or refocused current activities;
 - (b) New activities.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

3.1. Key issues

4. Assistance provided to countries currently underrepresented in the mechanism is only likely to lead to results (in terms of the enhanced use of the mechanism and its infrastructure) if the two following elements are taken into account:
 - (a) The evolving context in which the CDM operates (noting that since the inception of the CDM this context has significantly changed);
 - (b) The type of assistance identified as needed by these countries.

3.1.1. Evolving external environment

5. The context in which the CDM operates is marked by a growing relevance of climate finance, action by non-Party stakeholders, national climate action in a non-compliance environment, and, voluntary demand for climate neutrality.

¹ Decision 6/CMP.11.

6. A detailed overview of the external environment in which the CDM operates can be found in the two-year business plan 2016–2017 and management plan 2016.

3.1.2. Input from CDM stakeholders considered

7. From 12 to 29 May 2016, the secretariat gathered input from designated operational entities (DOEs), designated national authorities (DNAs) and project participants (PPs) to report on perceptions of the current market situation. Among other things, commonly quoted barriers to developing CDM projects include: (i) no clear link between the CDM and new and emerging carbon markets; (ii) the current perception of the CDM due to uncertainties in the carbon market; and (iii) the unavailability of local expertise (e.g. access to locally experienced staff with global knowledge of the CDM). The results were included as appendix 1 to the concept note “Analysis of the need for measures to ensure the continued participation of DOEs, in particular in regions underrepresented in the CDM”.
8. In 2016, RCCs within the framework of the Nairobi Framework Partnership, surveyed DNAs on their relationships to their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), climate finance, and the use of the CDM. Around 80 per cent of the responses received were from DNAs in countries underrepresented in the CDM. A large majority (85 per cent of respondents) agreed or strongly agreed that the development and implementation of CDM projects activities and PoAs would facilitate the achievement of the objectives set out in the NDC. Similarly, 90 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the development of standardized baselines would facilitate the achievement of the objectives set out in the NDC. Furthermore, the detailed analysis of the responses indicated (i) a substantial intention to use PoAs in the context of NDC implementation; and (ii) that some Parties envision a link between their CDM activities, the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of the achievement of their NDC, market-based approaches, national policies and sources of financing.
9. Finally, RCCs also considered the wealth of feedback gathered from PPs, DNAs and DOEs as part of their routine operations.

3.1.3. Input received from Board members

10. In addition to the input from DNA, the secretariat invited Board members to propose activities to achieve the mandate given by the CMP.
11. Following this invitation, one Board member suggested that the RCC could include any areas within the frameworks of the UNFCCC as well as the Paris Agreement that have a bearing on CDM. The input received suggests that the RCC should scale-up its CDM-related capacity-building for underrepresented countries in the CDM and carry out awareness-raising on the CDM and its linkages with other mechanisms and actions that have a bearing on the CDM.

3.1.4. The RCC independent evaluation

12. In 2015, an independent evaluation of the RCC initiative was conducted. The evaluation highlighted that the RCCs were performing well against the initial objectives of supporting the CDM among its stakeholders and provided recommendations. These recommendations were to strengthen the focus on underrepresented countries, improve the visibility of RCCs through enhanced websites and communication activities,

strengthen the capacity of the staff provided to the RCCs by the host partners and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework aligned with the RCC objectives. In addition, the evaluation indicated that the on-the-ground presence of the RCCs improved the capacity of the secretariat to deliver CDM-related work, such as data collection for standardized baselines as well as details on individual projects. The RCCs have built strong and easily accessible networks of local and regional stakeholders that could be used to support a further expansion of the work of the RCCs. In particular the evaluation indicated that RCCs could assist with work on intended nationally determined contributions when CDM methodological tools are being used.

3.2. Proposed new activities and expansion of current activities

13. To respond to the CMP mandate, the secretariat proposes activities to expand the technical and methodological support to underrepresented countries. This proposed support may consists among others in one or more of the following:

- (a) New activities;
- (b) Up scaling of existing activities;
- (c) Refocusing existing activities on the specific needs of underrepresented countries;
- (d) Proposed RCC support for activities proposed as part of other concept notes.

3.2.1. Support for the development and use of methodologies and baselines in underrepresented countries.

14. The secretariat proposes activities to enhance the ability of the CDM to provide an MRV approach for mitigation measures which underrepresented countries intend to put in place.

3.2.1.1. Expanded support for standardized baselines and other DNA submissions.

Table 1. Proposed activity 3.2.1.1.

Item		Description
Related item(s):	Type:	Current work / mandate (on-going mandates to support the submission of standardized baselines)
	Description:	Currently, RCCs support a range of stakeholders with the submission of standardised baselines
Needs identified:		Need for technical support for the development of standardized baselines
Proposed work:	Type:	Expansion of current work
	Description:	Currently, RCCs support a range of stakeholders with the submission of standardised baselines. Nevertheless, some DNAs have expressed interest in technical support for the development of standardised baselines. Based on the needs of DNAs and project participants, it is proposed that the secretariat provide support in determining which data are relevant, ways to collect data, ways data can be aggregated, ways data quality and transparency can be ensured, and ways in which a system for continuous updating can be put in place;

3.2.1.2. Increased support in relation to on-going developments of top-down methodologies.

Table 2. Proposed activity 3.2.1.2.

Item		Description
Related item(s):	Type:	Current and future work mandated by the Board to broaden the applicability of the CDM
	Description:	Current work on top-down development of methodologies and standardized baselines
Needs identified:		Need for standards which fit the MRV needs of underrepresented countries
Proposed work:	Type:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refocus of current work with a specific emphasis on underrepresented countries - Provision of guidance to current work to better meet the needs of underrepresented countries The work is to be carried out as part of or in complement to current and future activities mandated by the Board.
	Description:	<p>Using the RCC presence in countries currently underrepresented in the CDM to evaluate the applicability of top-down methodologies developed under current mandates. A key expected benefit could be to ensure that methodologies can also be applicable to the circumstances of countries currently underrepresented;</p> <p>Using the RCC presence to evaluate the need and potential for further methodologies developed top-down in underrepresented countries. To achieve this, RCCs could in particular make use of their knowledge about national priorities, policy developments and discussions in specific countries.</p>

3.2.2. Focus on a greater participation of projects from underrepresented countries in the voluntary cancellation platform under the Climate Neutral Now (CNN) initiative.

Table 3. Proposed activity 3.2.2.

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Current work/mandate
	Description:	The CDM two-year business plan 2016-2017 and management plan 2016 contains the objective to "enhance the use of the CDM for voluntary purposes".
Needs identified:		At the moment, only 35 CDM projects from six countries (of which none are underrepresented in the CDM) proposed their CERs under the CNN initiative. Increasing the number of projects from underrepresented countries which propose their available CERs on the CNN platform would increase the attractiveness of the platform through a larger and more diverse range of projects and at the same time increase the chances for projects to generate income from their CERs.
Proposed work:	Type:	Continuation of current work but with refocus on underrepresented countries
	Description:	It is therefore proposed that the secretariat proactively contacts project participants from underrepresented countries to suggest listing their available CERs under the CNN platform.

3.2.3. Technical support and capacity-building for the development and use of the CDM as an accepted vehicle for development and climate finance.

15. The CDM two-year business plan 2016–2017 and management plan 2016 contains the objective to “further develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying outcomes of mitigation finance”. In addition to that, the CMP, at its eleventh session, encouraged the Board to explore opportunities for financing the CDM through international financing institutions, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), taking into account the transparent and prudent management of the resources of the CDM, and report back to the CMP at its twelfth session.
16. A number of RCC partner institutions active in regions where countries underrepresented in the CDM are located are already GCF-accredited entities or have applied to become accredited. In particular, the Development Bank of Latin America is a GCF-accredited entity, while the West African Development Bank (WADB) is undergoing the GCF accreditation process. The African Development Bank, as a shareholder and Board member of the WADB, is itself already a GCF-accredited entity. The secretariat proposes making use of this opportunity to work towards achieving the aforementioned objective.
17. At its ninetieth meeting, the Board considered a concept note on financing the CDM through international climate finance institutions and requested the secretariat to prepare a revised concept note to be presented at the ninety-first meeting of the Board.
18. In conjunction with the consideration of the aforementioned concept note, the Board may wish to consider specific RCC activities to facilitate the use of the CDM as an accepted vehicle for development and climate finance to countries currently underrepresented in the CDM. To this end, activities 3.2.2.1 to 3.2.3.4 are proposed.

3.2.3.1. Support to enhance the use of the CDM by actors of climate finance

Table 4. Proposed activity 3.2.3.1

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Support activities by RCCs as part of a proposed concept note “Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutionsFinancing the CDM through international financial institutions” (to be considered at EB91)
	Description:	As per the concept note “Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutionsFinancing the CDM through international financial institutions” (in particular Appendix 1 and 2)
Needs identified:		Need to provide information to climate finance stakeholders on the opportunities to make use of CDM pipeline of activities
Proposed work:	Type:	New work to be conducted as part of current routine activities (To maximise the cost-efficiency, it is proposed to conduct the in the frame of RCC's regular interactions with a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. RCCs regular interactions and outreach with DNAs, project participants, RCC partner organisations and other institutions with which RCCs maintain regular contacts) and in the frame of RCC scheduled participation to regional events)

Item		Description
	Description:	<p>Provision of support to international sources of climate finance, their accredited agencies (including GCF-accredited entities) and Nationally Designated Authorities (NDAs) to boost the potential for CDM projects (either existing projects and programmes or new ones) to form part of funding proposals. The support could in particular involve capacity-building, an analysis of the pipeline for new and existing CDM project activities and PoAs, as well as promotion and outreach.</p> <p>The expected benefit of the measure is the greater use of the CDM by sources of climate finance to generate mitigation outcomes and utilise the MRV systems provided under the CDM</p>

3.2.3.2. Support CDM stakeholders access new sources of finance

Table 5. Proposed activity 3.2.3.12

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Support activities by RCCs as part of a proposed concept note "Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutionsFinancing the CDM through international financial institutions" (to be considered at EB91)
	Description:	As per the concept note "Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutionsFinancing the CDM through international financial institutions", Table 2 (in particular Appendix 1 and 2)
Needs identified:		Need to provide information to CDM stakeholders on opportunities for funding (or refinancing) CDM projects from sources of climate finance and the green bond market
Proposed work:	Type:	<p>New work to be conducted as part of current routine activities</p> <p>(To maximise the cost-efficiency, it is proposed to conduct the in the frame of RCC's regular interactions with a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. RCCs regular interactions and outreach with DNAs, project participants, RCC partner organisations and other institutions with which RCCs maintain regular contacts) and in the frame of RCC scheduled participation to regional events)</p>
	Description:	<p>Information-sharing with project participants and DNAs on opportunities for funding (or refinancing) CDM projects through sources of climate finance and the green bond market. Actions to be undertaken include in particular a proactive dissemination of information, technical support on financing options, as well as participation in events aimed at sharing information, bringing together sources of finance and matching CDM projects to these sources.</p> <p>The expected benefit of the measure is the enhanced likelihood of CDM projects to find adequate financing for their implementation and/or continued operation, in particular for countries underrepresented in the CDM where projects face difficulties in securing financing.</p>

3.2.3.3. Improve the usability of the CDM for climate finance

Table 6. Proposed activity 3.2.3.13

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	On-going work/mandate
	Description:	On-going work on simplification and streamlining of the CDM
Needs identified:		As per CDM two-year business plan 2016-2017 and management plan 2016: 2(c) Develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance
Proposed work:	Type:	Collection of input to offer guidance to an existing stream of work
	Description:	This activity is to use possible feedback received from climate finance stakeholders in relation to the CDM to explore how the mechanism can be improved and expanded to better match their needs. To maximize synergies, the secretariat proposes feeding the inputs received and any recommendations from existing projects into improving, expanding and simplifying the CDM. This activity is expected to trigger improvements to the CDM so it can be used to a greater extent by sources of climate finance.

3.2.3.4. Support for the deployment of the CDM for monitoring, reporting and verifying outcomes of mitigation finance

Table 7. Proposed activity 3.2.3.14

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Existing work/mandates on expanding the applicability of the CDM
	Description:	Current work on top-down development of methodologies and standardized baselines
Needs identified:		As per CDM two-year business plan 2016-2017 and management plan 2016: 2(c) Develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance
Proposed work:	Type:	Refocus and/or expansion of current work
	Description:	Technical support for the deployment of the CDM for monitoring, reporting and verifying outcomes of mitigation finance. This type of support could in particular include technical support to the development of standardised baselines, methodologies, or other related methodological work. The activity is expected to remove barriers and provide concrete solutions for the use of the CDM and in particular its MRV systems by sources of climate finance.

3.2.4. Provision of support in areas within the frameworks of the UNFCCC and specifically the Paris Agreement that have a bearing on the CDM

Table 8. Proposed activity 3.2.41.1

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Objective (a) of the CDM two-year business plan 2016-2017 and management plan 2016: Facilitate the acceptance of CERs for compliance purposes.
	Description:	CDM capacity-building; Engagement activities.
Needs identified:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As suggest by one Board member: perceived need for supporting countries underrepresented in CDM in areas within the frameworks of the UNFCCC and specifically the Paris Agreement that have a bearing on the CDM. - As per survey on perceptions of the current market situation.
Proposed work:	Type:	Reshaping and/or expansion of current capacity building activities
	Description:	<p>In line with the suggestion from the Board member, the secretariat proposed scaling up RCC capacity-building efforts on the CDM and raising awareness on the CDM and its linkages with other mechanisms and actions that have a bearing on the CDM. Activities proposed include providing information and capacity-building on the evolving uses of the CDM and developments which may affect the recognition of the CDM and its CERs.</p> <p>The proposed activity would contribute to achieving objective 2a of the CDM two-year business plan 2016–2017 and management plan 2016: Facilitate the acceptance of CERs for compliance purposes. It should be noted in particular that, as part of this objective, “the Board intends, inter alia: to continue to engage in dialogue with emission trading systems and sectoral programmes on the use of CERs to help close the pre-2020 mitigation gap and possibly facilitate meeting post-2020 international mitigation targets”.</p> <p>The activity is expected to increase the use of the CDM by making stakeholders in countries more aware of the usefulness of the CDM in different contexts and for various purposes.</p>

3.2.5. Technical support to designated national authorities requesting assistance for the local stakeholder consultation process.

Table 9. Proposed activity 3.2.41.15

Item		Description
Related item:	Type:	Current mandate as per EB90.
	Description:	At its ninetieth meeting, the Board considered the concept note on assistance to DNAs for the development of guidelines for local stakeholder consultation and provided guidance to the secretariat on the sequential steps to take to provide technical assistance to support DNAs in developing the guidelines.
Needs identified:		As per the concept note: “Assistance to designated national authorities for the development of guidelines for local stakeholder consultation”.

Item		Description
Proposed work:	Type:	New activity / Implementation of current mandate.
	Description:	In line with the guidance provided, the secretariat proposes using RCC capacity and outreach to provide part of this technical assistance, as appropriate, with an emphasis on support for underrepresented countries. The activity is expected to remove barriers by providing assistance for this step of the CDM process.

4. Impacts

19. The achievements of the goals listed above would serve to achieve the CMP mandate and contribute to objectives listed in the CDM two-year business plan 2016-2017 in relation to countries currently underrepresented in the CDM. In particular, the proposed RCC expansion is related to the activity "Partnerships" under objective 2a: Facilitate the acceptance of certified emission reductions (CERs) for compliance purposes; objective 2b: Enhance the use of the CDM for voluntary purposes; objective 2c: Further develop the CDM as a key tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying the outcomes of mitigation finance, with a resource allocation as indicated in table 5 in the appendix to the CDM two-year business plan 2016–2017 and management plan 2016 (CDM-EB87-A01).
20. The expected impacts of proposed solutions from actions suggested in chapter 3.2.1 to 3.2.5 are summarised in Table 10.

Table 10. Proposed new or expanded activities: expected impact

Proposed new or expanded activities	Sub-items	Relation to other activities (proposed or existing activities)	Expected impacts for projects in countries underrepresented in the clean development mechanism (CDM)
3.2.1 Support for the development and use of methodologies and baselines in underrepresented countries	3.2.1.1 Expanded support for standardized baselines and other DNA submissions	Expansion of current work	- Lowered barriers for developing and updating standardized baselines (and possibly other DNA submissions)
	3.2.1.2 Increased support in relation to the on-going development of top-down methodologies	Partial expansion of current work Partial refocus of current work	- Increased usability of methodologies in the local context - Better alignment of top-down methodological work and existing/emerging needs for methodological support in the countries considered
3.2.2 Focus on a greater participation of projects from underrepresented countries in the voluntary cancellation platform under the Climate Neutral Now (CNN) initiative		Continuation of current work but with refocus on underrepresented countries	- Greater opportunities to attract funding from the voluntary market
3.2.3 Technical support and capacity-building for the development and use of the CDM as an accepted vehicle for development and climate finance	3.2.3.1 Support to enhance the use of the CDM by actors of climate finance	Support activities by RCCs as part of a proposed concept note	- Increased chance for CDM activities to form part of funding proposals
	3.2.3.2 Support CDM stakeholders access sources of climate finance	“Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutionsFinancing the CDM through international financial institutions”	- Increased chance for CDM activities to secure funding and reach the implementation stage
	3.2.3.3. Improve the usability of the CDM for climate finance	RCC input/contribution to on-going work on simplification and streamlining of the CDM	- Lowered barriers for the use of the CDM as an MRV tool by sources of climate finance (by making the CDM more amenable to them)
	3.2.3.4 Support for the deployment of the CDM for monitoring, reporting and verifying outcomes of mitigation finance	Expansion of current work (top-down development of methodologies and standardized baselines)	- Lowered barriers for the use of the CDM as an MRV tool by sources of climate finance (by providing support to the development of adequate approaches)

Proposed new or expanded activities	Sub-items	Relation to other activities (proposed or existing activities)	Expected impacts for projects in countries underrepresented in the clean development mechanism (CDM)
3.2.4 Provision of support in areas within the frameworks of the UNFCCC and specifically the Paris Agreement that have a bearing on the CDM		Refocus and/or expansion of RCCs capacity building activities	- Lowered barriers to the use of the CDM (in particular in conjunction with activities not aimed at the achievement of targets under the Kyoto Protocol) through a better understanding of the dynamic context in which the CDM operates
3.2.5 Technical support to designated national authorities requesting assistance for the local stakeholder consultation process		Implementation of EB90 mandate – as required depending on needs arising.	- Lowered barriers for conducting local stakeholder consultations - Improved quality of local stakeholder consultations

5. Subsequent work and timelines

21. The proposed work plan is as follows:

- (a) Incorporate the new activities as part of RCC work;
- (b) Propose and discuss, if required, the work that may require new resources as part of discussions on the management plan for 2017.

6. Budget and costs

22. In 2016 a substantial share of the activities proposed in this document can be carried out within the existing budget and mandates of the RCCs. An overview of the estimated resources for the activities proposed for responding to the CMP mandate is provided in table 2. Since some of the activities could build on existing RCC activities, the table indicates the current costs allocated as well as the estimated cost increase for the proposed activities (3.2.1) to (3.2.5):

Table 11. Expected impacts of proposed new or expanded activities

Proposed activities	Sub-items	Current budgeted total cost for RCC in 2016	Incremental cost for carrying out the propose activities
3.2.1 Support for the development and use of methodologies and baselines in underrepresented countries	3.2.1.1 Expanded support for standardized baselines and other DNA submissions	To support 20 SBLs in 2016 the costs are: Staff Costs: 18.5 staff months Non-Staff costs: USD 36,000	Assuming 10 additional Methodologies and SBLs to current expected workload and an higher level of support: CDM MAP staff Costs: 4 staff months Partners staff costs: 3 staff months CDM MAP Non Staff Costs: USD 12,000 Partners Non staff costs: USD 10,000
	3.2.1.2 Increased support in relation to the on-going development of top-down methodologies		
3.2.2 Focus on greater participation of projects from underrepresented countries in the voluntary cancellation platform under the Climate Neutral Now (CNN) initiative		The CDM MAP 2016 included support for 250 projects at a cost of 65 staff months and USD 150,000 non staff costs	The volume of projects is expected to remain the same in 2017 and therefore the proposed activities can be carried out in the context of project support activities and without incremental costs.
3.2.3 Technical support and capacity-building for the development and use of the CDM as an accepted vehicle for development and climate finance	3.2.3.1 Support to enhance the use of the CDM by actors of climate finance		A detailed costing is presented in the concept note "Financing and use of the CDM by international finance institutions". The required RCC resources will need to be first approved and budgeted under that item
	3.2.3.2 Support CDM stakeholders access sources of climate finance		
	3.2.3.3 3.2.3.3 Improve the usability of the CDM for climate finance		
	3.2.3.4 Support for the deployment of the CDM for monitoring, reporting and verifying outcomes of mitigation finance		

Proposed activities	Sub-items	Current budgeted total cost for RCC in 2016	Incremental cost for carrying out the propose activities
3.2.4 Provision of support in areas within the frameworks of the UNFCCC and specifically the Paris Agreement that have a bearing on the CDM		See above	Staff costs will be covered by the staff from the Host Partner institutions. RCC staff will mainly facilitate and supervise CDM MAP staff cost: 3 staff month Partners staff costs: 15 staff months CDM Non-staff costs: none Partners Non staff costs: USD 100,000
3.2.5 Technical support to designated national authorities requesting assistance for the local stakeholder consultation process		See above	In line with the discussion at the 90 th meeting of the Board 1 staff month for first request. No additional staff time will be necessary for subsequent request
		Subtotal	Staff Costs: 8 staff months Non staff costs: USD 12,000
		Budget as in MAP 2016	Proposed budget 2017 with additional activities
TOTAL		USD 191,000 Staff Costs: 83.5	USD 203,000 Staff costs: 91.5

7. Recommendations to the Board

23. The secretariat recommends that the Board agree on the proposed activities (3.2.1 to 3.2.5) and the associated additional cost to expand the scope and scale of RCC operation.

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Document information

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