Including Indigenous Knowledge in Ocean and Coastal Evidence-Based Decision-Making Request for Proposals



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Request For Proposals (RFP): Including Indigenous Knowledge in Ocean and Coastal Evidence-Based Decision-Making

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Geographical limits: United States and Canada

Important dates:

Issuance of RFP	July 10 th , 2023
RFP Informational Webinar	July 12 - 13 th , 2023
Deadline for submission of Proposals	October 16 th , 2023
Anticipated start date of awarded agreement(s)	January 1st, 2024
Required end date of awarded agreement(s)	March 15 th , 2025, or
	earlier

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1. Introduction

About The Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts ("Pew") is a global charitable and educational organization that applies a nonpartisan, rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life. Pew partners with a diverse range of donors, public and private organizations, and concerned citizens who share its commitment to practical, fact-based solutions and goal-driven investments to improve society. Pew is a nonprofit organization and section 501(c)(3) public charity, with offices located in Philadelphia, Washington DC, Brussels, and London, and staff that span other regions of the United States, the European Union, and Australia. For more information about Pew, please visit www.pewtrusts.org.

About the Lenfest Ocean Program

Based at The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Lenfest Ocean Program (LOP) is a philanthropic effort supporting scientific research that is useful to those managing and making decisions about the ocean environment¹. Scientific research provides critical information required to maintain sustainable ocean ecosystems and communities. This research is more likely to be useful if it directly informs conservation and resource management questions and knowledge gaps.

2. Approach to Grantmaking

The Lenfest Ocean Program supports science that is designed to be useful and usable and can stem from different ways of knowing. This principle guides our grantmaking decisions as well as the outreach and engagement strategies undertaken in projects. The projects that we support require intentional thought and planning to include relevant individuals and institutions in the proposed work who can use its results. Our grantmaking decisions and project development process is guided by a list of criteria and questions that can be found on our website², and is illustrated further in Landrum et al., 2022.³ Guided by these resources, evaluation of proposals submitted through this RFP will be assessed using selection criteria found in section 7. For this specific RFP, a review panel of Lenfest and Pew staff alongside external Indigenous experts will be convened to develop a scoring rubric that aligns with the criteria (below) and brings a broad set of experiences and expertise to guide project selection.

Overall, successful proposals in this RFP will outline inclusive and participatory approaches and activities that engage Indigenous Peoples and elevate their traditions, culture, knowledge, and wisdom by leveraging the principles and practice of co-design and co-production of knowledge to inform ocean and coastal planning and management. Proposals that highlight how they were developed, and/or conceived of, by rights holders and/or Indigenous Knowledge holders, and

¹ For more information and publications about the Lenfest Ocean Program go to: https://www.lenfestocean.org/en/about-us/resources

² https://www.lenfestocean.org/en/about-us/research-focus

³ https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2021.809953/full

that are intended to be included in decision-making will be prioritized⁴. All project proposals must describe their plans for engagement with rights holders, managers, technical experts, and other potential partners or community groups that are involved in the decision-making context and/or processes that the proposals aim to inform.

3. Scope of Work

Background

Including multiple ways of knowing can result in the creation and execution of more holistic and representative evidence-based decision-making for the management, conservation, and restoration of coastal marine species, habitats, and ecosystems. Historically, ways of knowing stemming from Indigenous Peoples have not been routinely considered or included into planning or management decisions, prompting recent calls to increase this practice. For example, the United States Office of Science and Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality recently issued a statement reiterating the significant value and validity of Indigenous Knowledge⁵ as a form of evidence that should be included in federal policy, research, and decision-making in the United States.⁶

Broader inclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing into management decisions requires funding that supports: 1) the identification, analysis, and/or communication of Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom (where it is culturally appropriate), and 2) engagement approaches that facilitate the consideration of this knowledge in decision-making. To meet these needs, the LOP intends to fund multiple 15-month grant awards (total funding available for grant awards: \$1M USD) that support Indigenous Peoples to elevate and share their traditions, culture, knowledge, and wisdom so that this information can inform evidence-based decision-making on the topical priorities identified below. The intent of this RFP is also to create opportunities where information from different knowledge systems, including Indigenous Knowledge, can be brought together to inform evidence-based decision-making in an equitable and complementary fashion. The LOP encourages applicants to consider equity and inclusivity as they develop their project ideas, which includes determining where they will work geographically, who will be in a leadership position on the project, who they will partner with, how the budget is allocated, and how the proposed work seeks to address local needs.

The geographical limit for project proposals is the United States, including its territories, and Canada. Applicants should ensure their proposal speaks to why the location or region they

⁴ Latulippe, N., and N. Klenk, 2020: Making room and moving over: knowledge co-production, Indigenous knowledge sovereignty and the politics of global environmental change decision-making. *Curr. Opin. Environ.*

Sustain., **42**, 7–14, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2019.10.010

⁵ Indigenous knowledge is now widely accepted as "a cumulative body of knowledge, practice and belief evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and with their environment" (Berkes, 2018).

⁶ U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy and Council for Environmental Quality, November 30, 2022. Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge. Accessed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/OSTP-CEQ-IK-Guidance.pdf

propose to work in is well-suited to this call for proposals and how the project is drawn from a need identified by individuals or communities in that region. Furthermore, while all groups are encouraged to apply, applications must demonstrate that the ideas presented were codesigned/co-developed with Indigenous Peoples directly, and where possible and preferred, those groups should be recognized as leads/co-leads for projects. Finally, proposals that are led and submitted by Indigenous Peoples and/or organizations/institutions will be prioritized over those submitted by Indigenous serving, but not Indigenous led organizations/institutions, unless the Indigenous partners indicate a preference for a specific grant host organization/institution.

Project Focus

The Lenfest Ocean Program has identified four topical priorities for which applicants may submit proposals for consideration: fisheries management, coastal development, coastal restoration, and marine spatial management. All proposals must include substantial discussion about the planned collaboration and relationship building approaches and activities the project team will use to facilitate the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom in decision-making in collaboration with the relevant rights holders, stakeholders, practitioners, and/or managers.

Grant awards supported by this open call can run for up to 15 months and proposals should clearly communicate: 1) the geographical scope as well as the specific regional or sectoral management and/or decision-making context that Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom could help inform, 2) the identified opportunity(ies) to include Indigenous Knowledge in this management and/or decision-making context and/or any existing barriers to applying Indigenous Knowledge for evidence-based decision-making, which the proposed work would help address; 3) how the proposed activities will position Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing to be heard, considered, and included in discussions and/or decisions, 4) any proposed activities (if relevant to project needs) to identify, collate, safeguard, and/or analyze knowledge and wisdom stemming from Indigenous communities, and 5) an overview of the team's plans for active engagement with groups using different types of knowledge so as to facilitate sharing and applying collective knowledge to decision-making within the identified context, if appropriate.

For planned activities, proposals should describe approaches that facilitate better communication and inclusion of information stemming from diverse knowledge systems. For example, several conceptual frameworks have been developed to ensure that diverse ways of knowing can be introduced, valued, and included in evidence-based decision-making^{7,8}. These

⁷ Reid, Andrea J., et al. ""Two-Eyed Seeing": An Indigenous framework to transform fisheries research and management." *Fish and Fisheries* 22.2 (2021): 243-261.

⁸ Yua, Ellam, Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Raychelle Aluaq Daniel, and Carolina Behe. "A framework for co-production of knowledge in the context of Arctic research." (2022).

and other approaches could be considered when structuring collaborative activities and knowledge sharing among different groups of individuals.

Topical Priorities

The LOP is interested in proposals that address or advance work on one or more of the following themes below. In addition to these specific priorities, projects are welcome to address themes that are intersectional in nature, such as community health, cultural heritage, coastal resilience, and food security, and applicants should make sure to articulate how they are aligned with one or more of these major topical priorities. Where applicable we also encourage applicants to include Indigenous perspectives on defining project success.

- 1. Fisheries management Proposed projects may include identifying opportunities where Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing could inform fisheries management where they aren't currently being considered or applied. Proposals may focus on management of individual species that hold cultural, economic, livelihood, and/or subsistence importance, or on ideas that consider multiple species, and/or broader habitats and ecosystems that support those fisheries.
- 2. Coastal development Proposed projects may include identifying opportunities where Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing could inform ongoing or future coastal development activities in areas currently or previously occupied by Indigenous rights holders and communities. Priority will be assigned to proposals that detail how Indigenous Knowledge could inform the determination of how, where, and to what extent coastal waters are developed and used and how they can maintain their resilience over time.
- 3. Coastal restoration Proposed projects could include identifying opportunities where Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing could inform the identification and/or selection of potential sites and/or best practices and approaches to apply Indigenous Knowledge to in-field activities for restoration of marine habitats and ecosystems.
- 4. Marine spatial protections Proposed projects could include identifying opportunities where Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing could inform the creation of new, or supporting existing, spatial protections or management at various stages of their development: from establishing the location and bounds of newly proposed protected areas, to setting their goals/objectives to executing planned actions and monitoring required to reach the intended impact of the spatial protections.

4. Eligibility Criteria

Grant proposals to this competition are expected to align with the Scope of Work above. Please review the information below before submitting a proposal.

To receive grant funds, grant host organizations/institutions must be in good financial standing and be able to fulfill the following requirements below:

- be able to accept and administer the award as the grantee and/or on behalf of the grantee;
- be able to pass Pew's financial due diligence review, which requires submission of audited financial statements or similar documentation;
- Pew funding from any open agreements and from this proposal will not represent greater than 50% of the grant host institution/organization's gross revenue; and
- agree to Pew's indirect rate on salaries and benefits.

Additionally, the Lenfest Ocean Program cannot support:

- Any efforts at lobbying, advocating to establish, change, or remove government regulations or policies, or related legal analysis that has the express purpose of informing such activities,
- Institutions from countries without U.S. diplomatic relations or the ability to conduct financial transactions with U.S. institutions, and
- U.S. or Canadian national and/or state/provincial government institutions and staff salaries and benefits (these individuals can still participate in the project).

If you have questions about your eligibility to apply to this Request For Proposals please contact info@lenfestocean.org.

5. Request For Proposal Process and Timeline

Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted electronically to info@lenfestocean.org. Proposals must be received by 24:00 ET on Monday, October 16th, 2023. Submissions must include the proposal (PDF or Microsoft Word document format) and budget spreadsheet using the Microsoft Excel template provided in Appendix C (Note: please do not modify the template layout when you complete your budget). Please include "[Principal Investigator last name] - RFP submission" in the subject line of your email. Proposals received after the specified time and date will be considered late and will only be considered at the discretion of the Lenfest Ocean Program. The Lenfest Ocean Program does not require: 1) proposals to have gone through university budget approval or 2) submission of supporting financial documents at this stage. However, applicants should follow the requirements of their home institutions or organizations.

By submitting a proposal, each respondent grants the Lenfest Ocean Program/Pew and its designees the right to duplicate, use, disclose, and distribute all submitted materials (and information contained therein) for the purposes of evaluation and review. In addition, each

respondent guarantees that: 1) it has full and complete rights to all information and materials included in the proposal, and 2) all such materials are not defamatory and do not infringe upon or violate the privacy rights, copyrights, or other proprietary rights of any third party.

Additionally, each respondent agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Lenfest Ocean Program/Pew with respect to any claims or losses arising from the aforementioned guarantees.

Each respondent further agrees that any submission to Lenfest Ocean Program/Pew (including, without limitation, all materials and information contained therein) will become the property of Lenfest Ocean Program/Pew (not including any of respondent's intellectual property rights contained in such submission), and Pew is not required to return any submitted materials to any respondent.

Opportunities for more information:

Webinars – The Lenfest Ocean Program will host two webinars, during work hours in different time zones, on Wednesday, July 12th at 9pm Eastern Time and Thursday, July 13th at 2pm Eastern Time to share information about the RFP. One webinar **will be recorded** and the recording will be posted online at lenfestocean.org. The webinars will each share the same content, applicants should choose to join the one that works best for their schedule.

Register for the July 12th at 9pm ET webinar at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN COV3H7BqS9uDk71 TrW8lg

Register for the July 13th at 2p ET webinar at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8IztQD7VR8G0YUG8WJ8bOQ

6. Proposal Content

Please refer to the Program's <u>Grant Criteria Guidance Questions</u> and visit the Program's <u>Research Focus</u> webpage to inform your submission.

I. PROJECT NARRATIVE

The project narrative is a short, written statement explaining the project and how it will help to inform decision-making. This narrative should be concise, not to exceed **6 pages** (single-spaced, 12 pt font). This page limit includes all sections listed here under Project Description, Outcomes, Other Considerations, and Expertise. Length requirements will be enforced and submissions that exceed these requirements will not be considered.

A. Project Description

Title. Provide a brief title for the project.

Purpose. Summarize the purpose and relevance of the project in one sentence.

Background and Context.

- A. Describe the origin of this project. Include a discussion of the planning or management context, detailing the need and/or opportunity for equitable inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing into ongoing or future discussions around marine management, conservation, and/or restoration. Outline the proposed collaboration between Indigenous Peoples and other non-indigenous researchers, practitioners, managers and/or decision-makers on the identified topical theme and why the project is salient and timely.
- B. Briefly describe the project activities. Proposals should include: 1) a description of the geographical scope as well as the specific regional or sectoral management and/or decision-making context that Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom could help inform, 2) a description of the identified opportunity(ies) to include Indigenous Knowledge in this management and/or decision-making context and/or any existing barriers to applying Indigenous Knowledge for evidence-based decision-making, which the proposed work would help address; 3) a description of how the proposed activities will position Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing to be heard, considered, and included in discussions and/or decisions, 4) any proposed activities (if relevant to project needs) to identify, collate, safeguard, and/or analyze knowledge and wisdom stemming from Indigenous communities, and 5) an overview of the team's plans for active engagement with groups using different types of knowledge so as to facilitate sharing and applying collective knowledge to decision-making within the identified context, if appropriate.

Project Activities.

Describe the project activities. This section should describe the specific proposed activities to be undertaken, including what types of activities will be considered and any other relevant details required to execute them.

Data Sources. For proposals that propose knowledge identification, collation, and/or analysis, please list and describe any potential sources of data that will be needed to complete the proposed work. Please also include whether these data sources are publicly available, already in-hand, or would require additional action to purchase and/or acquire. If any of the data sources are considered sensitive (e.g., personally identifiable information, culturally sensitive information that must be kept confidential), please indicate how you will protect such data in accordance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, as well as existing standards of practice for Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom.

Challenges. A. Describe any potential limitations to the proposed project, and how the project team takes them into account. B. Describe any potential barriers that may limit the project's success towards facilitating the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and ways of knowing into the specific context identified.

References: Please list any references included in the project description, including Indigenous Knowledge citations and grey literature.

B. Outcomes

Measurable Deliverables. Provide a bulleted list of specific measurable deliverables you expect to accomplish within the grant period, including any specific products or events that will result from this grant. These deliverables will be lifted from the final proposal and used in internal decision-making documents, so they need to be able to stand alone and should be phrased in plain language. Below are specific types of deliverables that could be included in all projects:

- > Some grants may have deliverables that describe research activities to be conducted and associated outputs.
- ➤ All grants should have deliverables that describe the collaborative and engagement activities to be conducted and include the individuals and/or groups required to execute those activities.
- All grants should include the following deliverable: Upon completion of the project, provide an oral report to Lenfest Ocean Program staff and partners on the activities and outcomes (details on what this entails will be shared with awardees at a later date).
- All grants should include the following deliverable: Collaborate with the Lenfest Ocean Program staff and partners on outreach and communications about the supported project.

Project Timeline. Please include estimated dates for achieving the deliverables. Grants may not end past March 15, 2025.

C. Other Considerations

To contribute to our project development process and spur discussion about your project and approach, please include brief information on the following areas of consideration.

Consideration of Climate (Max 100 words): The Lenfest Ocean Program encourages grantees to consider the implications of climate variability and change to their work from a variety of potential angles, even if the project is not directly focused on climate impacts. If applicable, discuss any likely challenges that may arise due to the impacts of climate variability and change—whether from a policy/decision-making or a scientific standpoint. For example, a project proposing research on coastal restoration could discuss the potential impacts of sea level rise on the research plan and approach.

Consideration of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Transparency (Max 150 words): The Lenfest Ocean Program believes that inclusion, diversity, equity, and transparency are foundational for developing useful and usable scientific research. This section is intended to help us understand how you are planning to incorporate these concepts into the project's design and execution. The Lenfest Ocean Program defines these concepts as follows:

- 1. **Inclusion** fostering an open, diverse, welcoming, and accessible environment that integrates dialogue among people with unique backgrounds, circumstances, needs, perspectives, and ways of thinking and/or knowing.
- 2. **Diversity**⁹ seeking and embracing ideas and individuals across multi-dimensional attributes, including age, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, culture, religion, education level, income, and socioeconomic status.
- 3. **Equity** expanding and strengthening scientific research and relationships with all communities, especially individuals and communities whose perspectives, knowledge, and wisdom have been overlooked, underrepresented, and/or undervalued.
- 4. **Transparency** distributing and communicating research goals, methods, results, and products to broad audiences in an equitable, open, and accessible manner.

Please provide a brief description of how you are considering the above areas in your proposed work.

D. Expertise

Personnel. Identify and summarize the background and qualifications of the project team needed to carry out the work, including the project director(s), other principal staff and outside collaborators or consultants. Please also include the team's past or ongoing experiences and expertise working directly with Indigenous Peoples, communities, or populations.

Organization Information. Provide no more than one short paragraph on your organization's history, scope, and mission. Please include any information about whether the organization/institution is based in and/or serving Indigenous Peoples, communities, or populations.

II. PROJECT BUDGET

The proposal's budget should include project expenses and a descriptive budget narrative. The budget should be itemized for each year in which support is requested. Use the attached excel file (Appendix A) and budget definitions (Appendix B).

⁹ We recognize that diversity and indigeneity are not always aligned and can be in conflict. If this is the case, please respond to this part of the application as best as possible, and if not please explain your perspectives in this area.

The Program expects proposals for a maximum of 15 months of work and a maximum of \$150,000 total award amount.

A. Project Expenses

The Lenfest Ocean Program limits the amount of indirect costs it will cover directly for projects, which represents a percentage of total salaries and employee benefits for investigators at the host institution and is set by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The Lenfest Ocean Program limits employee benefits to no more than 32% of employee salaries.

Where appropriate, the Lenfest Ocean Program encourages budgets to include compensation for individuals outside of the project team that play a significant role as advisors and/or contributors, especially if their participation contributes to inclusion, diversity, equity, and transparency for the project and its potential impact.

Note that the Lenfest Ocean Program cannot pay for costs incurred prior to the date that a project is approved by the Lenfest Ocean Program.

The final proposal budget must use only the categories included in Appendix B.

Please round all expenses, including line items and annual and project totals, to the nearest dollar amount.

B. Budget Narrative Spreadsheet Template

Appendix A. The detailed budget narrative of project expenses should include both dollar amounts and a description of how those amounts were determined. Describe in detail who, what, where, when and why.

7. Evaluation of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by a selection panel composed of Lenfest Ocean Program staff, Pew staff with expertise related to the priority topics in this RFP, and an external expert panel of Indigenous technical experts and leaders. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria below, weighted by the percentages denoted in parentheses. The expert review panel will have the opportunity to review and refine the more detailed scoring rubric for proposals to ensure that it aligns with the intent of the RFP and these general criteria and is informed by their experiences and expertise where necessary and appropriate.

Relevance (25%): This criterion will be assessed on whether the proposals align with the geographical bounds and the overall intention of this RFP, as outlined in Section 3, as well as whether the project has a high likelihood of including Indigenous ways of

knowing and Indigenous Knowledge into ocean management, conservation, and/or restoration.

Usable Knowledge (25%): This criterion will be assessed on whether proposals have articulated a sound, feasible approach to elevate Indigenous Peoples' traditions, culture, knowledge, and wisdom by leveraging the principles and practice of co-design and co-production of knowledge. Proposed activities will be assessed based on whether the methods, approaches, and/or planned activities are feasible, technically sound, and have clear goals that align with the intent of this RFP and can be realized by the work proposed.

Collaboration and Engagement (20%): This criterion will be assessed based on whether the proposals have included the team members, partners, and collaborators whose engagement is necessary to meet the needs and intent of the project.

Project Team/Qualifications (20%): Supporting both Indigenous led organizations/institutions as well as Indigenous team members and personnel contributing to the project represents a high priority for this funding opportunity.

This criterion evaluates whether the project team has demonstrated the appropriate skill set(s) to conduct the proposed activities and to achieve all proposed project deliverables. This also includes expertise and experience working directly with Indigenous Peoples, communities, or populations.

Budget (10%): The budget criterion assesses whether the proposed budget is realistic and commensurate with the project needs. The proposal will also be assessed for whether it adequately budgets for the proposed engagement activities.

Additional considerations:

In addition to the five primary evaluation criteria above, the Lenfest Ocean Program will also consider the following areas when making the final award selections:

- Balancing funded projects across geographies and topical areas
- Avoiding duplication of similar efforts
- Considering diversity, equity, inclusion, transparency

Appendix A: Budget Narrative Template

Download the Microsoft Excel budget narrative template $\underline{\text{here}}$.

Appendix B. Budget Definitions

A. Revenue

The Lenfest Ocean Program: Include the amount of support requested from the Lenfest Ocean Program for each year.

B. Expenses

- 1. Salaries: Include all staff salaries allocated to the project. Identify each position, salary and amount of time devoted to the project per year.
- 2. Employee benefits: Include related benefits allocated to the salaries listed above. Identify percentage of salary expenses. The Lenfest Ocean Program limits employee benefits to no more than 32% of employee salaries.
- 3. Other labor costs: Include the cost of non-salaried labor such as honoraria for Elders, youth or knowledge holders, internships, stipends, and graduate student tuition payments.
- 4. Consultants: Include all fees and expenses paid for consulting and professional services, Elders, youth or knowledge holders. Generally, consultants provide services to help with a phase of the project but are not directly involved in the fulfillment of grant deliverables. Where possible, identify individual consultants and subcontractors, and provide a detailed breakdown of how the budget was derived (e.g. percentage of salary, benefits, and travel costs contained within the subcontract).
- 5. Conferences/meetings: Include facility, lodging, honoraria, food and beverages, and other expenses. Identify purpose and attendees.
- 6. Travel: Include all air and rail fares, and auto allowances for project staff, consultants, and conference attendees. List the purpose, number of trips and destinations.
- 7. Supplies: Include office supplies, subscriptions, books, and other materials.
- 8. Equipment: The expenses in this category include all equipment purchases over \$500 and equipment maintenance costs. Identify each item and cost of equipment to be purchased. Identify equipment being maintained and its relevance to the project.
- 9. Indirect Costs: This includes rent, utilities, etc. The Lenfest Ocean Program limits the amount of indirect costs it will support to no more than 10 percent of salaries and employee benefits for investigators at the host institution that are covered directly by the Lenfest Ocean Program.
- 10. Other: Include any items not listed above. Identify the components and the methods of allocating expenses included in this category.

11. Printing & Publications – The Lenfest Ocean Program requires that all publications produced as part of Lenfest-funded projects are published as open access articles in peer-reviewed journals. Please build in sufficient funds to cover any potential open access costs.