

Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO

Forty-Eighth Series of Meetings Geneva, September 20 to 29, 2010

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY: BIODIVERSITY ON THE WIPO CAMPUS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this document is to present to the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO ("the Assemblies"), for the first time, information on biodiversity on the WIPO Campus within the particular framework of year 2010 which is the International Year of Biodiversity, as declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization in December 2006.

OUTLINE OF THE MAIN EXAMPLES OF BIODIVERSITY ON THE WIPO CAMPUS

2. The WIPO park and buildings present a variety of existing and soon-to-be-implemented examples of biodiversity, which are outlined below.
3. The WIPO park, facing Avenue Giuseppe Motta, which took its present shape in 1979 in front of the AB and GBI Buildings, was designed by the famous Brazilian landscaping architect, Roberto Burle Marx, around several century-old oak trees as masterpieces. Other significant pieces were added in the course of the following years, such as magnolias, bushes, shrubs and small creeping plants, a weeping cedar and other cedar and pine trees. This park then constituted a major existing landscaping element when the GBII and PCT Buildings were subsequently added to the South side of the WIPO campus, and it has become, for WIPO, the local Geneva community and the neighbors, a popular element of a pleasant strolling itinerary in the *Quartier des Nations*.
4. On the North-West side of the WIPO Campus, facing the Chemin des Colombettes, about 60 rose plants (of about 30 years of age) had to be removed at the end of 2008 when the construction site for the New Construction Project opened. The WIPO gardeners had

indicated that, in view of the age of the plants, it was not recommended to transplant them for just a few years to a temporary location and to replant them after completion of the new construction. The Secretariat therefore decided to invite all staff members to register for choosing one of the rose plants which had been unearthed professionally by the WIPO gardeners so that they could find a new home in gardens or balconies of staff members' houses or apartments. The waiting list of staff members had well over one hundred names. Staff members have since reported that many of these rose plants have re-acclimatized well to their new homes.

5. On the PCT Building first floor terrace, a mixture of local species constitutes a plot of wild grasses, which requires no herbicides, no fertilizer, no mowing and no watering except rain water.
6. As part of the exterior landscaping features for the new building, and as required by the building permit granted by the local authorities in 2007, the Secretariat is committed to undertake the following:
 - (a) replacement by younger trees of the six Austrian black pine trees which were located at the foot of the AB Building, near the former access ramp to the AB Building underground parking; the new trees have been reserved for several years at a local greenhouse; they should be planted alongside Route de Ferney, before the end of 2010;
 - (b) planting of about ten new trees on the terrace of the future cafeteria of the new building; eight of these trees were already planted in April 2010; the remainder will be planted before the end of 2010;
 - (c) planting of other trees, of various species, in future years, in and around the new building depending on the stage of advancement of the other construction sites that will open in 2011 (the new conference hall and certain security features), in order to replace other trees which had to be taken down because of the construction site;
 - (d) sowing of a variety of wild grasses typical of the Canton of Geneva (species from meadows, rocks and cliffs) on the roof of the new building around the three glass roof tops; this will cover an area of about 1,500 m² on the usable roof top, which will have added environmental benefits in terms of rain water disposal on the roof and cooling the ceiling of the top floor; these grasses will require no fertilizer, no watering other than rain water, no mowing, and no herbicides;
 - (e) recreating adequate habitat on the roof of the new building for local species (mainly, bats and birds), noting that several families of these species lived in the neighborhood before the construction site opened a few years ago.
7. Furthermore, on the basis of the features included by the architect and reflected in the dossier which won the architectural competition in 1999, trees will be planted inside the new building, at groundfloor level in the lobby, and in two gardens which will be created over the height of two floors each in the upper floors of the building, one facing North-East, and the other South-West.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

8. The Secretariat will continue to inform the Assemblies in the future on new initiatives having a biodiversity component.

9. *The Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO and of the Unions administered by it are invited to take note of the present document.*

[End of document]