

FOR INFORMATION

Accommodation and Staffing Report

Purpose

To provide Members with an update on the Trust staffing profile and its accommodation situation within FAO.

Issue

Staffing

The Trust is building a team of scientists and project and financial management staff to oversee the implementation, monitoring and reporting for the Global System Project. As highlighted at the EB1, 10 new positions are being recruited, of which 3 were filled in April 2007 (Project Manager, Senior Science Coordinator, Project Officer). The Trust is just finalizing a second round of recruitment that has filled the remaining 7 positions; the majority of appointees should all be in place by September. They include:

- 2 Scientists
- Associate Scientist
- Finance Assistant
- 3 Programme Assistants

An additional staff member (Kerri Wright-Platais) has joined the Trust as a senior programme officer on a 16 month contract. Kerri will work with Cary Fowler and Julian Laird on an 80% basis from Washington DC, USA on administrative, fundraising and US-specific activities.

As mentioned in Item 7, a Coordinator (Ola Westengen) for the Operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault has been employed by the Nordic Gene Bank and for the remainder of this year will be primarily based with the Trust. It is envisaged he will leave Rome in 2008 and be based in Sweden. Ola has served for nearly two years as an associate professional officer with the Trust. His departure effectively reduces Trust staff, but at the same time it bolsters an important Trust-supported initiative where significant staff time, including his, was already being devoted. His selection as Coordinator for the Seed Vault, will further enhance the positive cooperation that exists between the Trust and the Nordic Gene Bank.

Brigitte Laliberte leaves the Trust in September to take up a position with Bioversity International in the Secretariat of the CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Programme (SGRP). Brigitte will be the Coordinator of the 2nd phase of a World Bank-funded project that is improving the Centres' management of the in trust collections and strengthening their role in the development of a global conservation system. This project is important to the successful implementation of the Trust's Global System Project, and her transfer to this position certainly serves to strengthen an initiative that is vital to the work of the Trust.

The full complement of Trust staff is shown in Annex A.

Accommodation

The arrival of new staff has meant that additional offices have had to be found to accommodate the growing Secretariat. FAO has provided 5 additional offices on a temporary basis to address this immediate need. Currently the Trust occupies 10 offices in FAO and 7 offices in Bioversity in Maccarese. However, this represents a slightly inflated number as some staff have an office in both location.

The Trust is currently working with FAO to establish a semi-permanent home within the FAO building. The Trust has been granted a relatively self-contained area on the second floor that comprises 14 offices and one large space suitable for an open plan arrangement. Current indications are that the space will be vacant for the Trust to move into during September, subject to the successful relocation of FAO staff from these offices.

It is envisaged that the Trust will not require the use of any offices at Bioversity in Maccarese in 2008.

As per the existing MOU between the Global Crop Diversity Trust, Bioversity International and FAO regarding the operation of the Secretariat of the Trust, FAO will provide furniture for 5 offices free of charge as well as computers, telephones and fax communication at cost. No additional charges have been envisaged or identified at present except as noted in the following bullet point.

The Trust proposes to refurbish the entire space to generate a consistent and identifiable look and feel. As mentioned in Item 4, this outlay may be funded through an advance by the Italian Government.

The Trust also plans to purchase computers directly, as opposed to a rental system through FAO, in order to better meet needs. Where possible, photocopiers, fax machines and computing equipment will be ordered through FAO suppliers to minimize costs.

Action

That Members note the information provided in this report.



Organization Chart 2008

