

WIPO: Environmental Mandate & Activities

World Intellectual Property Organization

Environmental mandate

WIPO's approach towards economic development is rooted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and its eight Millennium Development Goals, at reducing poverty across the world and creating an environment conducive to development. In the current Program and Budget document, Member States approved as WIPO's core development objective: "To support developing and least developed countries in their initiatives to maximize the use and effectiveness of IP as a tool for economic, social and cultural development."

Environmental activities

The growing importance attached to Traditional Knowledge, and related concerns about preserving cultural and biological diversity, have raised policy, ethical and legal questions at the national, regional and international levels. Traditional Knowledge arises as an issue in relating to food and agriculture, biological diversity and the environment, biotechnology innovation and regulation, human rights, cultural policies, and trade and economic development.

Working in co-operation with other international organizations and in dialogue with NGOs, WIPO provides a forum for international policy debate concerning the interplay between intellectual property and traditional knowledge, genetic resources, traditional cultural expressions (folklore). It is developing draft legal mechanisms and a range of practical tools aimed at enhancing the IP interests of the holders of such knowledge, resources and expressions.