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## Women in Europe for a Common Future

**WECF The Netherlands**  
PO Box 13047  
3507 LA, Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
Phone: +31 - 30 - 23 10 300  
Fax: +31 - 30 - 23 40 878

Website: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)  
E-mail: [wecf@wecf.eu](mailto:wecf@wecf.eu)

WECF is an international network of over 100 women's and environment organisations in 40 countries. WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All. We strive for balancing environment, health and economy. WECF's activities are based on its partners visions and needs. Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

**WECF France**  
BP 100  
74103 Annemasse Cedex  
France  
Phone: +33 - 450 - 49 97 38  
Fax: +33 - 450 - 49 97 38

**WECF Germany**  
Sankt-Jakobs-Platz 10  
D – 80331 München  
Germany  
Phone: +49 - 89 - 23 23 938 0  
Fax: +49 - 89 - 23 23 938 11



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WECF Activity Report 2009

**Working for a Healthy Environment for all**

Women in Europe for a Common Future | **WECF**



Activity Report 2009

**Impressum**

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Editor: Sascha Gabizon  
Production: Chantal van den Bossche  
Layout: Véronique Grassinger



**WECF The Netherlands**  
Biltstraat 445  
3572 AW Utrecht  
P.O. Box 13047  
3507 LA Utrecht  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31/30/231 03 00  
Fax: +31/30/234 08 78  
wecf@wecf.eu

**WECF France**  
BP 100  
74103 Annemasse Cedex  
France  
Tel: +33/ 450 / 49 97 38  
Fax: +33 / 450 / 49 97 38  
wecf@wecf.eu

**WECF Germany**  
St.-Jacobs-Platz 10  
D-80331 München  
Germany  
Tel: +49/89/23 23 938 0  
Fax: +49/89/23 23 938 11  
wecf@wecf.eu

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- WECF is an official partner of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- WECF represent ECO-Forum in the European Environment & Health Committee (EEHC)

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**Germany**  
Stadtsparkasse München,  
Munich  
Account Number 1313 90 50  
Bank code 701 500 00  
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# Activity Report

Overview of WECF's accomplishments in 2009

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About WECF

In June 2009 WECF celebrated its first 15 years of achievement in working for a healthy environment for all. Now, in a time of global economic crisis, accelerating climate change and persistent poverty and inequality, we will gather forces as a network together with our partners to meet the next set of challenges facing us in the next 15 years: to continue to empower and support women and men all over the world to gain access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation, energy and food whilst respecting their human rights and promoting gender equality as a tool of development. We're ready for this challenge.

Will you join us?

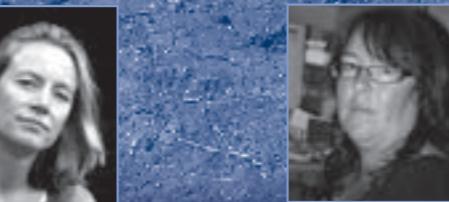
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### Our dreams and drives



Anne Barre | WECF France director



Lies de Bloois | Financial controller of WECF



Chantal van den Bosche | Coordinator Communication at WECF



Farida Shorokova | ELA project assistant



Fedde Jorritsma | Head of Office Central Asia



Elisabeth Ruffing | Advocacy officer at WECF France

*"We all bear the responsibility of ensuring a safe future for our children. Especially at times of economic and environmental crisis. WECF believes in women's potential to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals through their involvement in their communities and at a global level. By helping women, we help to build a better world."*

*"Financial responsibilities and transparency are considered vital for all projects; by staff and partners! In what I consider excellent teamwork together we are able to show to all our stakeholders that we are financially reliable. The stakeholders are important to us, we could not do it alone. They are the donors, the partners, our suppliers and experts, all personnel involved and last but not least all members of civil society!"*

*"WECF forms a bridge between European and Central Asian environmental and women's organisations, allowing transfer of knowledge, experience and partnership in both directions. WECF is one of the few organisations which grows whilst also promoting the growth of its partners."*

*"As a major from Europe, I work for WECF in Central Asia where I give support to WECF's strong and motivated local partner organisations. I support the Chinese saying, and WECF motto: 'We need 2 eyes to see straight'. There is a lot of work to do in Central Asia. The change is in us, we only need instruments to put them into action. WECF and its partners empower women and men by environmental-friendly and profitable technologies adapted to local circumstances. I enjoy an angle that I can help facilitate this process."*

*"Protecting the health of future generations from adverse environmental effects is a key to the future; we're raising and advocating to solve issues to promote an approach of health and environmental based on the precautionary principle."*



## Working for a Healthy Environment for All

### Our Mission, Roots and Network

#### Our Mission

For an Equitable and Sustainable Future. We work for a healthy environment for all. We strive for balancing environment, health and economy, taking different needs and perspectives of women and men into account. We enable women and men to participate at local and global level in policy processes for sustainable development. Our network's activities are based on our partners' own visions and needs. WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

#### Governance and Organisation

WECF has 3 coordinating offices in Utrecht (NL), Munich (DE), and Annemasse (FR) which manage the network, projects coordination and finances. WECF employs 40 part time staff and also collaborates closely with scientists, researchers, engineers and hundreds of volunteers. Along with the Board of Trustees, which is legally responsible for the workplan, accounts and budget, WECF has an International Advisory Board representing the member organisations, which leads the thematic working groups and advises on strategic direction and annual workplans.

#### WECF's roots

Women from the European region who participated in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, agreed to create the network WECF, as they recognized the catalyzing role women play in sustainable development, as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future". It was also at the Earth Summit that women were defined as a 'major group' among 8 other major groups.

#### Network

The WECF is a network of over a 100 organisations and individual members which are concerned with promoting a healthy environment for all and strengthening the role of women and promoting a gender approach in environment and sustainable development policy and implementation at local, regional, national and international level.

#### Issues & Projects

Our project work brings safe ecological solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, sanitation, energy and food production. Our policy work at national, European, UN and international level brings women's perspectives to policymakers. WECF works on five key issues:

- *Safe Chemicals & Health for All*
- *Safe and Sustainable Energy & Climate Protection for All*
- *Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All*
- *Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All*
- *Gender Equity in Sustainable Development & Environmental Rights and Public Participation*

#### WECF's strategic approach

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a strategic approach to lead us into the next decade and set key goals for the organisation in the period 2010-2015 within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1,3 and 7. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities. The right of access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water, sanitation and food. The right to a daily environ-



Working worldwide for a Healthy Environment for all: WECF conference "Innovation for Sustainability" in The Hague

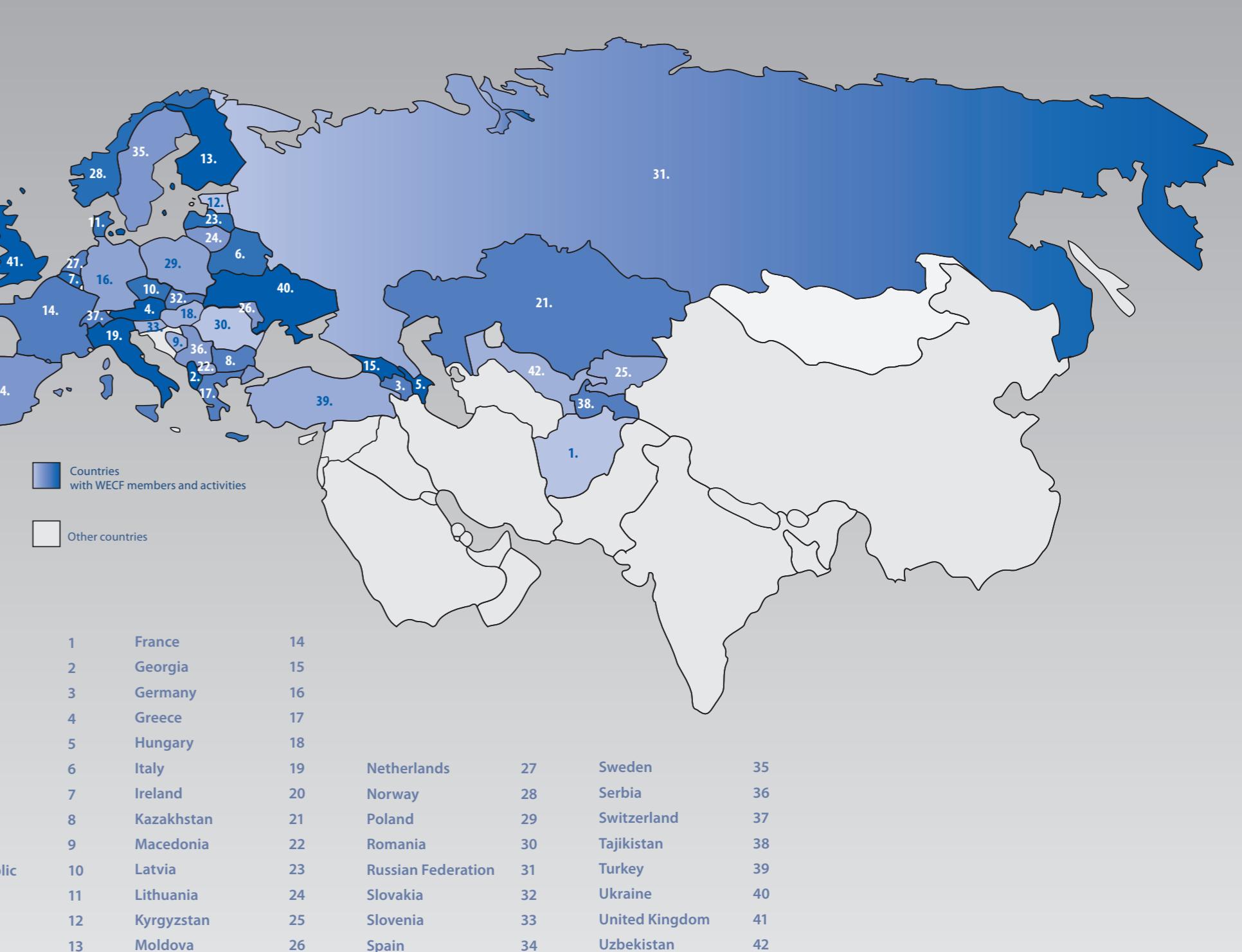
ment free of hazardous chemicals and pollutants. The responsibilities of all to protect our natural resources and live within the boundaries of the earth's carrying capacity.

#### WECF's strategic approach

WECF's strategic approach is people focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts. Keywords are poverty reduction in rural areas, small-scale, affordable technologies, public participation, gender equality and human rights.

#### WECF's work in Europe

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development and over 100 implementations at local and national level with 100 member organisations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA (Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), SEE, as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development adjusted to



## Women in Europe

### Voice and Choice

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands following an initiative of European women to work together on sustainable development with a special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, following the 1992 Rio Summit.

The philosophy of WECF was to enable the local project partners and network members to conduct advocacy work themselves with support from WECF, whether at local, national or international level, thus giving a voice to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work proved to be successful and became one of the strong points of the WECF network.

### Why Women

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 women were defined as a "major group" in sustainable development and environmental policy. But despite this fact, women suffer disproportionately from poverty and the effects of the environmental degradation and are still not equally involved in policy processes. The potential of women as agents of change and as important stakeholders, and giving their perspective to the processes of implementing environmental policies and of accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals, is still neglected. The reason for this is that the gender divide, due to different roles and tasks of women and men, is still great and that discrimination against women has not yet been, in many coun-

tries, overcome. WECF wants to pave the way for increased public participation in general, and women's participation in particular, in environmental and health policy making. Women see different priorities and are often more engaged in issues related to health and livelihood.

### Why in Europe?

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. Now that the barriers between the East and West have disappeared it is time for the West to take up its responsibility and assist the East with sustainable development. There are many challenges in the new EU member states and neighbouring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and in some areas are worsening due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management. The WHO indicates that child mortality caused by water borne diseases in the EECCA region are high claiming the lives of 13,000 children dying each year. Lack of safe sanitation, waste water and waste systems contribute significantly to water pollution. Indoor air pollution from burning biomass and (plastic) waste is another main cause of child mortality in the region.

The widespread uninformed use of asbestos as a building material in homes, schools and playgrounds and the large amounts of uncontrolled POPs stockpiles are further characteristics of the region, and pose a great threat to public health. With the entry of the new Member States into the European Union, these environmental health

challenges have become part of the EU's challenges.

### Challenges European Union

In the European Union the health effects of environmental pollution are often underestimated and not sufficiently known. WECF works on developmental disorders of children, linked to prenatal exposure to low doses of common hazardous chemicals found in food, toys and bodycare products, this affects increasingly large parts of the population.

WECF's publications on the "Environmental Burden of Disease" show the economic costs and need for stronger environmental measures in the areas of air pollution, water pollution, climate change and hazardous chemicals. The loss of biodiversity in our region and worldwide aggravates existing environmental problems such as biodiversity loss, desertification, and increase of water and vector borne diseases.

At the same time eco-innovation in the areas of green chemistry, renewable energy and re-use of waste water to mention only three examples, are areas where Europe has a competitive edge, and WECF is deeply engaged in bringing innovative solutions to rural areas at low cost.





Advocacy Activities in 2009

**Location:** The Hague  
**Donor:** EC DG Environment  
**Contact:** Chantal.vandenbosche@wecf.eu

## WECF celebrated its 15 year anniversary with the conference "Innovation for sustainability – the crisis as opportunity"

Critical analyses and inspiring ideas on the fundamental causes of the current economic crisis were presented as an opportunity for a more sustainable world by experts in the field of economics, politics, science and technology at WECF's 15 year anniversary in The Hague.

**The key message was that innovation for sustainability is already around us today.** Plenty of examples testify to this: kerosene burners accessible even to poor villagers in Laos highlands, safe wooden toys made in solidarity by Bosnian women from different religious backgrounds as an alternative to plastic toys containing heavy metals and hormone disrupting chemicals, and onsite decentralized sustainable wastewater treatment systems for municipalities with over 1 million inhabitants, turning human waste into a source of energy, fertilizer or irrigation water. The emphasis of the debates was on stimulating discussion on initiatives being taken by women and men in the field of innovation. The panelists presented examples from the Netherlands and from WECF partner organisations in Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

The afternoon debates addressed the following questions: How can initiatives taken by pioneers at the local level be translated to the national and international level? How will they lead to increased sustainability in the fields of energy and water and sanitation, agriculture and consumer products? Financial representatives suggested how greater investment can support and stimulate local economies and initiatives. Government representatives and politicians showed new ways in which barriers

can be removed and people can be stimulated. Andy Schroeter, Director of Sunlabob, winner of the Sasakawa sustainability award (UNEP) told how even the poorest can afford light from solar energy. Special attention was given to the role of women and in their participation in sustainable innovation.

### Noreena Hertz

The keynote speech was given by Professor Noreena Hertz, the well known economist and author, from the University of Cambridge, who is currently visiting Professor of Globalisation at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam.

**She presented a critical analysis of the roots of the current economic crisis, and ways out towards a sustainable economy. With a special focus on the anger felt by many people about the bailing out of banks whilst others lose their jobs: "If people are denied basic prerequisites - they cannot take responsibility".**

In her speech Noreena Hertz questioned and analysed economic, social and political global developments of the past 20 years in response to the current financial crisis. The era of Gucci capitalism, as Noreena Hertz likes to call this period, caused an ever deeper division, gaping chasms even, between the economy and social justice. Women have scarcely profited from the era of Gucci Capitalism: only 1 percent of the world's wealth is owned by women, only 14 percent of leadership positions are occupied by women, but above all, 70 percent of the poorest people globally are women. An open and critical attitude towards new technologies is needed and new



*Women Leadership: New WECF president Christine von Weizsaecker, Founding and Honorary president Marie Kranendonk, Dutch Minister for the Environment Jacqueline Cramer and professor Noreena Hertz, Pictures by Pauke van den Heuvel*

14

15

**Location:** EECCA and Europe  
**Donor:** EC, DG Environment  
**Contact:** anke.stock@wecf.eu

## Public Participation and Rights

Ensuring the protection of rights, in particular human rights, and ensuring real public participation leads to better decisions and policies related to the environment. A growing recognition of the interdependence of human rights and the environment demands an intensive monitoring of human rights since the status of their enforcement reflects on the status of a healthy environment.

### Lobbying at the International Level

Since the beginning of 2009 WECF was involved in advising the UN Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe

drinking water and sanitation. In April WECF was invited to a consultation meeting on sanitation in Geneva. The discussion amongst the experts evolved around the question of a separate right to sanitation and threats by regional Russian authorities. WECF informed embassies and the EC Delegation in

Russia about her situation and created international publicity in order to help to protect her. In August the EC Delegation in Moscow invited Kutepova for a meeting with representatives. During the two-hour meeting Kutepova informed the EC Delegation about the human rights activities of "The Planet of Hope" aiming to protect the rights of people living in the closed cities in Russia; she also talked about people affected by the radioactive contamination in the Chelyabinsk region; as well as her involvement as a representative of the victims of contamination at the European Court of Human Rights. The EC Delegation agreed to monitor the situation.

### Work with Partners

WECF also helped to protect the rights of its partners. Nadezhda Kutepova, the head of the Russian NGO "The Planet of Hope" had to face intimidations and threats by regional Russian authorities. WECF informed embassies and the EC Delegation in

Russia about her situation and created international publicity in order to help to protect her. In August the EC Delegation in Moscow invited Kutepova for a meeting with representatives. During the two-hour meeting Kutepova informed the EC Delegation about the human rights activities of "The Planet of Hope" aiming to protect the rights of people living in the closed cities in Russia; she also talked about people affected by the radioactive contamination in the Chelyabinsk region; as well as her involvement as a representative of the victims of contamination at the European Court of Human Rights. The EC Delegation agreed to monitor the situation.

### Minister Cramer

Minister of Environment for the Netherlands, Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Environment for the Netherlands presented her vision on how innovation can create a sustainable economy and pointed at the large number of green investments the Dutch government has made over the past few years. She ended her speech with a special note of appreciation on what WECF and especially

President Marie Kranendonk in WECF's 15 years of existence have achieved both politically and practically on issues of environment, health and women. Summarising, the WECF conference showed that we now need to address the fundamental causes of the financial crisis, that we need to turn our backs on "Gucci Capitalism", in which greed and money ruled, to societies based on the "might of the right", the right to equal opportunities, to sustainable development and to a healthy environment. A long-term supportive legally binding framework is es-

for the first time. The Meeting of the Parties decided at its third session to address implementation of the Convention's provisions on public participation by establishing an inter-sessional body under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties in the form of an Ad Hoc Expert Group on Public Participation. The Ad Hoc Expert Group was given a mandate to coordinate information-sharing on public participation in decision-making, and to advise the Working Group of the Parties on the terms of reference for a Task Force on Public Participation.

The Expert Group focused on the draft terms of reference for a future Task Force. Kazakhstan is one of the biggest producers and consumers of asbestos. People are exposed to asbestos in their homes, schools and workplace, in regions of asbestos mining and when in contact with asbestos waste. There is no evaluation of diseases caused by asbestos and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), not even information on the dangers. Action needs to be taken as vulnerable groups such as miners and inhabitants, inhabitants of mining areas suffer from exposure without even knowing. To raise awareness, provide information, educate trainers, build networks, strengthen citizen capacities and develop solutions to present to state authorities, WECF in cooperation with EcoCentre, GreenWomen and the University of Kassel have convened a High-Level Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Astana, held in April 2009, and conducted trainings in seven cities of Kazakhstan. The aim: to reduce the use of asbestos and POPs and cleanup contaminated waste sites.

### High-Level Conference in Astana

For the first time in the history of Kazakhstan a public open debate was held in April 2009 to discuss the issue of chrysotile asbestos. The High Level International Expert Conference on "Asbestos and POPs – policies and practices in Kazakhstan and the European Union" in Astana, brought together, 75 participants from all sectors to discuss strategies for asbestos and POPs. The vice-minister of environment of Kazakhstan chaired the conference

**Location:** Kazakhstan  
**Donor:** EC, DG Europe Aid, Federal Environment Agency Germany  
**Contact:** alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

## Civil society and sound hazardous waste management, asbestos and POPs, in Kazakhstan

The Ambassador of France, Germany and the Netherlands explained how asbestos has caused great loss of human life and economic damage. The World Health Organization presented all the international evidence on the link between asbestos exposure and different types of cancer. The WHO explained that a "safe" low level of exposure has been found, and therefore more than 40 countries worldwide have decided to ban all types and uses of asbestos. The head of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, Donald Cooper, explained why adding chrysotile asbestos to the list of prohibited substances would also protect Kazakhstan from unknown imports of asbestos. The director of the chrysotile asbestos mine presented how his mine organizes summer camps and playgrounds for children, as it would compensate for the death of asbestos victims. The Russian asbestos industry was present with a large delegation, putting pressures on their Kazakh industry colleagues not to believe the health effects presented by the WHO. The conference adopted a resolution with recommendations on asbestos and POPs to the Kazakh government and offered support for a national program to eliminate asbestos related diseases.

**Trainings in seven cities**  
 Project partners organised 7 trainings in different areas in Kazakhstan for 25 multi-stakeholders (NGOs, local authorities, inhabitants, workers). The trainings were designed and held by the German expert of the University of Kassel in Germany. Outcomes of the trainings were: information, education and awareness raising of multi-stakeholders, preparation for further training manual development of regional strategy on hazardous waste, selection of best practices and the publication of a training manual for other regions or Russian speaking countries. The asbestos industry was present and argued that there is no risk from asbestos, and that those who argue against asbestos are motivated by interest of foreign companies who want to enter the Kazakh market.



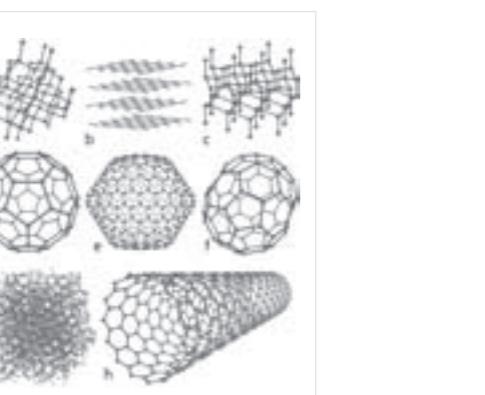
ban hazardous chemicals in a wider environment. WECF stressed that the majority of chemicals we propose to ban under RoHS are category 1 endocrine disruptors according to EU EDS database that was developed within the EU-Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters. The WECF work on the revision of the RoHS will be continued in 2010. WECF also attended the European Parliament conference on RoHS organized by Jill Evans in November. WECF wrote to the Dutch, German and French members of the ENVI and ITRE committees at the European Parliament calling attention for the WECF's position regarding the revision of RoHS. In November 2009, WECF position on phthalates and health was covered by one of the main major Dutch newspapers.

#### Biocides

WECF has provided input for amendments to the European Commission proposal for the revision of the Biocides directive. WECF stressed the need to protect vulnerable groups and the need for a good definition of law risk biocides. The WECF work on the revision of the Biocides regulation will be continued in 2010.

#### Cumulative effects and EDCs

WECF wrote together with other NGOs a letter to the EU Ministers of Environment to ask for a EU legal framework that addresses the serious threat to public health and environment due to combined exposures to Multiple Endocrine Disrupters.



A nanometre is one-billionth of a metre and around 1000th of the width of human hair

**Location:** Geneva

**Donor:** SMOM, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands

**Contact:** alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

## 2nd International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2)

The second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) took place from May, 11 to 15, in Geneva. ICCM2 met to assess progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and to make plans to reach its 2020 goal. WECF and representatives of seven partner organisations took actively part in the conference and conducted a side event with the title "Through women's eyes: female perspective to chemical threats".

**WECF side event**  
WECF organised an official side event during ICCM2, with the title "Women, Health and Chemicals", presenting work by WECF member

the JUSCANNZ region. In two of four emerging issues – nanotechnology and chemicals in products – WECF is involved. In the field of nanotechnology WECF prepared, together with the IPEN working group on nano, a folder on "Nano and Unborn Babies" and a WECF position paper. Our work on healthy toys contributed to the chemicals in products working group. At ICCM the plan of an International Safe-Toys-Campaign was born.

#### Outcomes

Despite several decisions concerning the future and the organisational body of the SAICM, the member states endorsed a global partnership to promote the phase-out of lead in paint and reaffirmed the need for adequate and accessible funding via an expanded GEF and a better engagement of the private sector.

#### WECF side event

WECF is one of the focal points of SAICM and took part in the preparation meetings of the CEE and



Hidden toxic chemicals: how safe is your child's teddy bear?

**Location:** The Hague

**Donor:** Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands  
**Contact:** chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu

## Symposium WECF: Substitution is good for business, for people and for the environment

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) co-organised a mini-symposium with the Dutch Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with employers union VNO/NCW and the Chemical industry. The issue was substitution (replacement) of hazardous chemicals. The symposium was held at the Hotel Mercure in The Hague on April 1.

#### SIN: Substitute It Now!

Within the new European Chemicals Regulation - REACH - a list of chemicals used for authentication and possible substitutes is being put together.

In addition to the still short list of official European Chemical Agency (ECHA), there are alternative lists, including the "Substitute It Now" list, or the "SIN List". This list is compiled by the Swedish NGO CHEMSEC, together with several environmental organisations, including WECF. The European Trade Union Movement also has a list of substances of very high concern that needs to be replaced. During the afternoon, a number of international companies such as Sara Lee, Fred Butler, Sony Ericsson and Unilever presented concrete examples on how to succeed in the substitution of dangerous substances, how they use the alternative lists and which benefits they see in substitution.

The discussion focussed on how more companies can get actively engaged with substitution, and which tools, support and incentives are needed from industry,

civil society, consumers and government.

- Gavin ten Tusscher (Prof. Dr. Med), Health Care Without Harm, spoke about DEHP in PVC and Health effects on babies/children
- Nardono Nimpuno from ChemSec presented the SIN List and European NGO priorities
- Dirk van Well, Dutch Cefic representative from VNCI, VNO-NCW, described how difficult substitution really is.
- Tatiana Santos from ISTAS/ETUC presented the ETUC List

#### SIN Advisory Committee

WECF has worked as member of the SIN advisory committee on the enlargement of the SIN list with chemicals such as hormone-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and the development of a campaign to promote the SIN list with policy makers and companies.

WECF action in the streets of Manila to raise awareness on the use of toxic chemicals in consumer goods





*Audience and panel during Panel Debate on Sanitation at the World Water Forum in Istanbul, March 2009*

## WECEF in Istanbul: The Way Forward in the 21st Century – WECEF Panel Debate on Sanitation during European Regional Session

Sanitation and waste-water treatment remain a challenge even in the European region. While the majority of Western Europeans have access to sanitation and properly functioning waste water treatment, there are still many who have no access to adequate provision of water and sanitation. The challenges of providing proper sanitation for all was the topic of the second part of the European Region Session at the World Water Forum in Istanbul.

"Providing sanitation for the ten million inhabitants of Paris means treating 4 million cubic waste water per day" said Jean Duchemin of Agence

**Location:** Istanbul  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** [margriet.samwel@wecf.eu](mailto:margriet.samwel@wecf.eu)

de l'Eau Seine Normandie at the panel debate on sanitation organized by WECEF during the Session. The construction and operation of the big wastewater treatment plant Achères of Paris led to considerable improvements of the Seine water quality including the success that different fish species returned again. Sociologic surveys in France showed that a majority of people are in favour of low-cost or free water but are not really aware of the need of continuity for river's life and aquatic biodiversity and thus the need to invest in wastewater treatment.

### Need to raise awareness among parliamentarians

Peter Cook of the European Water Association warns that not enough is being invested to maintain and renovate the existing sewerage systems. And Thomas Zeller of Switzerland said that we need to raise awareness with parliamentarians that such investments are necessary and might require an increase of taxes. "We do not need centralized systems under all conditions", comments

Helmut Bloech from the European Commission, "we need to invest in decentralized innovative sanitation solutions, such as dry ecological toilets or ecological waste-water filters (reedbeds, soil-filters) as long as they reach their aim of decent sanitation and hygiene, and do not pollute your neighbour's garden".

Marga Kool,

president of the Water Board Rees&Wieden, the Netherlands, explains that Dutch waste water treatment companies are look-

**Location:** Finland  
**Donor:** European Commission DG Env. Life+  
**Contact:** [claudia.wendland@wecf.eu](mailto:claudia.wendland@wecf.eu)

- A case-study from Burkina Faso where mobile UDD toilets became a good business for festivals.
- The barriers faced in Sweden for scaling up Ecosan including the lobby from the sewage system sector.
- The need for organic fertiliser especially, phosphorus to ensure the world's food production.

## Dry Toilet Conference, Finland and the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden

The 3rd International Dry Toilet Conference was held in Tampere, Finland, on 12-15 August 2009 and organised by the Global Dry Toilet Organisation Finland. During those few intensive days, 184 delegates from 47 countries gathered to discuss various aspects of dry/ecological sanitation. Many technical as well social aspects were presented as experimental research and or case-studies. All papers and presentations can be downloaded on <http://www.drytoilet.org/dt2009/index.html>. Dr. C. Wendland of WECEF gave a presentation about the link between gender and sanitation.

### WECEF visibility

WECEF was clearly visible during the conference. (Vishvanath Srikantai), a media-expert on sanitation from India, was quite impressed, see his remarks on twitter: <http://twitter.com/zenrainman> stating "This is one of the most amazing groups of women I've ever come across <http://www.wecf.eu/> and their work on sanitation is wonderful"

### Some of the highlights were:

WECEF also organised a workshop on sustainable sanitation. Some of the issues which were discussed were:

- The persistence of helminth eggs in faeces.
- The latest research on medicines in urine and its behaviour in agriculture.

*Participants of the Dry Toilet Conference, Finland, on an excursion organised by the Global Dry Toilet Organisation*

**Location:** Khoni, Georgia  
**Donor:** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation  
**Contact:** [gero.fedtke@wecf.eu](mailto:gero.fedtke@wecf.eu)

## Georgia Open Space: Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Sanitation in Western Georgia

41 participants from 9 ECCA Countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), the Netherlands, and Germany gathered in Khoni in Western Georgia. During a 4 day knowledge exchange meeting 41 participants from WECEF's "Empowerment and Local Action (ELA)" programme - which aims at reaching the MDG-7 on water and sanitation - visited 3 demonstration sites on sustainable sanitation and rural development and took part in a 2-day meeting, exchanging their practical experience.

### Developing plans for the future

Drawing conclusions from their experiences, participants developed plans and strategies on how to work towards formulating a legal basis for ecological sanitation in the ECCA countries, how to raise awareness, knowledge, and acceptance of UDT and reuse of nutrients in agriculture among community leaders, general public, and stakeholders, how to set up structures for servicing ecological sanitation systems. The knowledge exchange was completed by excursions to the demonstration center of the Rural Communities Development Agency near Tbilisi and to a biological farm in Erda, which is using Urine Diverting Dry Toilets, solar fumigation, and biogas. A special excursion lecture on conventional latrines close to Khoni, where solar collectors for water heating, biogas plant, and Urine Diverting Dry Toilets are being used.



*Demonstrating sustainable sanitation and development in Georgia*

as well as effects of fertilizing with urine of plains on different soils, with different amounts of urine, and during different phases of growth. A legal basis is still lacking in the ECCA countries. Many technical aspects were discussed like smell prevention, production of seeds and labs, and urine storage. A special section was devoted to school toilets. Participants discussed cultural behaviour patterns and the effects on changing sanitation behaviour.



## World Toilet Day 2009: WECE focuses on school sani- tation during at Development Agency

School Sanitation was the theme of the brown bag lunch organised by German development aid agency GTZ for the world toilet day 2009 on 19th. November Margriet Samwel from WECF presented the challenges of implementing and operating school toilets in a sustainable way based on WECF's experiences with more than 20 school toilets in the EECCA region.

School sanitation is an important but often neglected issue for public health. Children are very vulnerable and easily affected by poor sanitation conditions. Related diseases, particularly diarrhoea and parasite infections hinder children's physical and intellectual development. In a number of countries, evaluations have shown that pupils are dropping out of school due to bad toilet conditions. This seems to be particularly the case for adolescent girls and leads to lower educational achievement. However, policy makers and the public mostly do not consider school sanitation a priority. Also in the national and global policies, it is mostly not an issue of relevance. The national budgets do not include the specific requirements (investment and operation) for adequate school sanitation in their national budgets. WECF issued a brochure on school sanitation in 2009 which is available on the WECF website.



*Children are very vulnerable and easily affected by poor sanitary conditions, here an example of an old schooltoilet which WECF replaces with indoor, hygienic toilets*

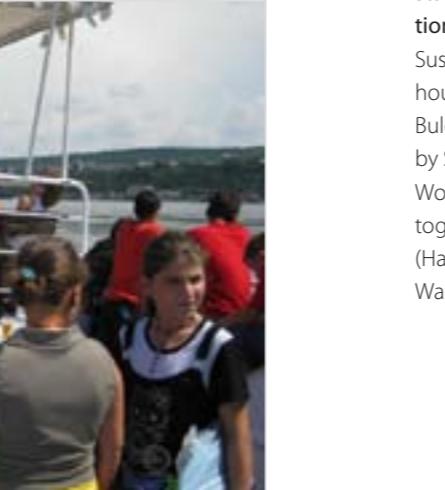
**Location:** Romania, Danube  
**Donor:** Fondation Ensemble co-financed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest  
**Contact:** Olivia.radu@wecf.eu

## International Danube Day, 2009 – WECF awards prize for best Water Safety Plan

International Danube Day, which takes place every year on the 29th. June, has been celebrated since 2004 by all 9 countries which border this European river. It is a popular event and the opportunity for many official gatherings and festive events. The Danube is the second largest river in Europe and this celebration day was created with an environmental objective: it aims to motivate the inhabitants and all stakeholders for the protection of the Danube River Basin ecosystems. WECF decided to award a prize for the best Water Safety Plan, in order to raise awareness about this programme and to give the engaged pupils and teachers recognition for their great involvement.

The winner was selected following criteria set by WECF: taking into account the management of activities, involvement of citizens, quality and number of water tests conducted, quality and number of water source maps created. The winning school is located in Tiganesti village, Teleorman county. The school was involved in the project Safe Sanitation Health and Dignity project in Romania co-financed in Romania by the Dutch Embassy in Bucharest and Fondation Ensemble France. The Water Safety Plan is a practical instrument developed by WECF on the basis of guidelines published by the World Health Organisation. WSP are designed to identify risks which could affect water safety and human health in every stage of the water supply, and to define measures to minimise and manage these risks. WECF and its partners use the WSP to develop practical activities for primary and secondary schools. On the 29th of June, in Teleorman, as in many other regions in Romania, special events took place. Turnu Magurele a town on the left bench of the Danube, in the south of Teleor-

*Boat trip on the  
Danube for Romanian  
pupils and teachers,  
winners of the Water  
Safety Plan competition*



*United Nations in Geneva*

**Location:** Amsterdam, Geneva  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## WECE present at International Conferences on Water

### Soroptimists Conference in Amsterdam 9-11 July 2009

**Soroptimists Go For Water:** WECF partners and staff present their work on Ecological Sanitation in Eastern Central Europe Sustainable sanitation projects for schools and households in Eastern Central Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova) were presented by Sascha Gabizon and Margriet Samwel (WECF Women in Europe for a Common Future), together with Dr. Ing. Claudia Wendland (Hamburg University of Technology, Institute of Wastewater Management and Water Protection).

**Location:** Amsterdam, Geneva  
**Donor:** European Commission DG Environment  
**Contact:** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## Consultation Meeting on the Right to Sanitation - the Human Rights Council

WECE was invited to the Consultation Meeting on the Right to Sanitation. In March 2008, the UN created a new special procedure: the Human Rights Council established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In September 2008 Catarina de Albuquerque was appointed as Independent Expert, she took up her mandate on 1 November 2008. Her mandate encompasses the development of a dialogue with all stakeholders on best practices related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation; to undertake a study on the further clarification of the content of human rights obligations, including non-discrimination, in relation to access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and to make recommendations that could help the realisation of the MDGs, in particular MDG 7.

the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights presented the issue of sanitation in international law and practice. She pointed out that the right to sanitation needs to include a certain quality, availability, access and acceptability. After that a discussion evolved around different elements the right should include and the question whether a separate right to sanitation was needed or whether this should be included in the right to water. Civil society called for a separate right to sanitation and remembered participants of the need to take gender issues into consideration. This was also the main focus of WECF's statement.



*The right to safe water, especially important  
for small children*



**Location:** Istanbul  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** [margriet.samwel@wecf.eu](mailto:margriet.samwel@wecf.eu)

## Safe Toilets for Girls and Women: WECF and UN Taskforce on gender and water, Istanbul

### Special Gender Session co-organised by WECF during the opening of the World Water Forum 5

Health, Dignity and Economic progress are the way forward to gender equity. Many poor women lack safe access to drinking water and sanitation. Three ministers of women's affairs, water and rural development, from Ethiopia, India and Turkey met to discuss with experts and participants during the special session "Health, Dignity and Economic Progress: The Way Forward for Gender Equity", on Monday 16th of March during the opening of the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul, Turkey.

In many countries the effect of the lack of safe sanitation is different for women – and children – than for men. In most countries school sanitation policies do not take into account dif-

**Sheela Nair, Secretary of State of the Indian Ministry of Rural Development pleads for gender equity in Istanbul during WECF session**

ferences between boys and girls, "boys can use the bushes, girls in some countries do not go to school for lack of a toilet, for lack of privacy", explained Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson, of the UN-Water, Gender and Water Taskforce, "which is why we propose to add new indicators to our national monitoring, to assess if school sanitation takes girls needs into account". Uschi Eid, co-chair of UNSGAB and German member of parliament, added to this "I was proudly shown around a newly built school recently, built with donor funds from my country, but when I asked to see the toilets there were none, this is of course unacceptable, no school should be built without it having separate toilets for girls and boys".

Santha Sheela Nair from India, passionately pleaded for leaving taboos surrounding sanitation behind us as 'reproductive health is dependent on menstrual health' therefore we should build toilets for young girls which do not smell, provide privacy and are not very far away from the school building and where young girls do not face the risk of being raped. Her suggestion: 'build girls' toilets next to the headmasters' room! The special session was organised by the UN WATER Gender and water Taskforce, in coopera-

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)

## WECF's gender perspective during UNEP Government Council Meeting: Governments come and go, but women stay

**The executive director of WECF, Sascha Gabizon, represented the Women's major group at the Governing Council Meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya. All 9 major groups take part as civil society representatives, in the meetings of the ministers of environment.**

tion with other UN agencies and civil society organisations. Technological solutions alone are never a solution was Elmira Joldosheva from Kyrgyzstan and it is women that are the main "potty trainers", they can teach their families about improved hygienic behaviour, which is why we have seen a 66% reduction in lambliasis, caused by parasites, after a training programme from women to women on hygiene and sanitation improvement.

The special session concluded that the indicators currently used at national and global level need extension with more gendered and qualified indicators, such as school sanitation criteria which

provide enough and safe toilets for girls, and that a number of countries will take the lead in piloting these indicators till 2015, presenting their results for the conclusions on the MDG 7. "This is our last chance to still get the conditions right for achieving the Millennium Development Goal 7 on sanitation", said Sascha Gabizon, executive Director of WECF. Sheela Nair, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Rural Development India, concluded, we should tell our men, "if you love your wife and daughter, don't give them sweets or new clothes, give them a toilet".

**Women's Major Group at the Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, February 2009**



development, instead, the women asked for a simplified CDM mechanism to benefit households and poor communities, and help create decent and healthy jobs for women. WECF organised 2 side events on the need to keep nuclear power out of the CDM mechanism, exemplified by the case-study of longterm nuclear contamination of Kazakhstan, presented by Kaisha Athakanova, Director of Eco-Forum of NGOs, Kazakhstan and the need for improving the accessibility for sustainable household and community level CDM projects.

As member of the Network of Women Environment Ministers and Leaders, WECF Executive Sascha Gabizon was invited to speak at the High Level Gender and Environment conference, which took place on 15th February, where she presented the need for investments in the green economy to be not only green, but also fair and in support of women, creating decent and healthy jobs. She exemplified this by comparing the planned 3000 billion euro investment in a quadrupling of nuclear powerplants, creating few and often dangerous jobs, with the same amount invested in household level renewable energy systems, which would create 150 million decent jobs, accessible for women, safe costs for poor families and reduce CO2 emissions in a much greater extent than nuclear power.

The women gave 4 interventions during the plenary sessions, including on the need for stronger environmental management, which lead the Swiss delegation to conclude that "Governments come and go... but women stay".

**Location:** EU (Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark), USA, Kenya,  
**Donor:** European Commission, WISE – World Information Service on Energy  
**Contact:** [karin.adolph@wecf.eu](mailto:karin.adolph@wecf.eu)

## Keeping Nuclear out of Climate Protection Financial Instruments

**Due to the German Parliamentary elections and the UNFCCC Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, 2009 was a busy year for raising awareness about the unsustainable effects of nuclear energy.**

WECF's delegation from several EU and EECCA countries was present at the UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, and at two UNFCCC meetings in Bonn, Germany, and presented their policy statement on keeping nuclear power out of the CDM or any other UNFCCC mechanism. German Director Sabine Bock also contributed to the Masterclass meeting of WISE in the Netherlands, thus updating journalists, scientists and politicians on nuclear and climate change.

**Successful book launch both in English and German**

The biggest media campaign undertaken in 2009 was the realisation – including on- and offline marketing and distribution – of a book project

about the threats of nuclear energy. The unique characteristic about "The Critical Question" was its personal and female focus achieved by the inclusion of interviews from radiation victims from all over the world. While researching for the book WECF attended the Indigenous Uranium Forum in New Mexico, USA, thereby conducting interviews with Native Americans affected by uranium mining. The book was launched on strategically



**Sabine Bock, Director WECF Germany and coordinator Climate and Energy in Copenhagen**

**Location:** Copenhagen  
**Donor:** European Commission, German Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety  
**Contact:** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

## Women and gender constituency officially recognized at UNFCCC

WECF advocates for a gender-sensitive post Kyoto Regime. To achieve this, WECF worked jointly with the other women and gender networks such as ENERGIA, GenderCC, IFE, VAW and WED to obtain recognition for the women and gender caucus at the UNFCCC, aiming for an officially recognized Women and Gender Constituency. This status was achieved in 2009: a big success. This status allows a much more effective participation and better possibilities for the ongoing advocacy work of the women and gender groups like getting official spots for intervention to speak at the international negotiations. At the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Women's caucuses from over two countries, Germany and Iceland, which have continued to promote a strong gender focus in the negotiations of COP 15. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the Gender Champion of the Week Award, Sascha Gabizon of WECF presented the first Gender Champion Award to the Minister of Environment of Ghana, because "we want to honor our fact that Ghana has committed itself to the promotion of gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation, through setting up a focal point on gender and climate change at the Ghana Environmental Protection Agency; collaboration between the gender focal point of the EPA with government institutions and civil society organisations to incorporate gender responsive measures in combating desertification; incorporating gender issues and indicators into the proposal for the National Adaptation Plan to ensure that the different experiences and knowledge and perspectives of women and men



become core issues to be addressed and having developed a gender responsive national disaster risk programme in collaboration with civil society. WECF shared its good practises on expertise in climate change education, training and public awareness at different occasions e.g. at the UNFCCC European Regional workshop on Article 6 of the Convention (Education, training and public awareness) in Stockholm, Sweden, at the invitation of the Government of Sweden, 18 to 20 May 2009 and as a delegate of the women and gender caucus.

Sascha Gabizon handed the Minister a "no-energy flashlight", to "shine light on the path towards an equitable global climate agreement". The second Gender Champion Award was presented to Iceland, for including a strong gender language into the "shared vision" document last Friday. The award was handed over to the winners during the side event "Climate Change -- Women as Agents of Change" which included the ministers of environment of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ghana and The Gambia.

*More Equity in Climate Protection, WECF at the UNFCCC Climate Negotiations*

**Location:** Bonn, Ladakh, Nairobi  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

## Access to safe energy – advocacy work for decentralized sustainable and safe energy technologies as climate mitigation activities in the framework of the UNFCCC CDM (Clean Development Mechanism)

WECF advocates for the access to safe energy. But often lack of financial means hinders the dissemination of decentralized sustainable energy systems such as solar collectors or energy efficient stoves. Therefore, WECF together with its cooperation partner Atmosfair, a German non-profit CDM implementation company, calls for better accessibility of household and community level projects within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This will – especially for women – increase access to global climate funding mechanisms. Furthermore, it reconciles the need for reducing poverty whilst mitigating climate change and contributes to real sustainable development as required by the Kyoto Protocol.

WECF, Atmosfair and partners advocated throughout the year for the improvement of the CDM for household and community level projects with four policy statements at the UNFCCC and UNEP GC meetings and four submissions to the UNFCCC, two as part of CAN International. Apart from this they organised five side events on the issue during UNFCCC and UNEP meetings, presentations at seminars like the International Seminar on Energy and Climate change in cold regions in Ladakh, India, April 21 to 24 2009, and were invited to the Practitioners Workshop on CDM methodologies for household cooking energy supply on the 26 October 2009 in Bonn, Germany. As a result of this workshop, the methodology was improved.

### WECF's side event "Towards Sustainable CDM projects"

This event conducted on 3 April put an emphasis on the special challenges faced by household and community level projects under CDM have to face. This type of projects is very important, because they can provide a much needed contribution to improving livelihoods in poor communities. They are better adapted to the local realities and able to reconcile the needs of reducing poverty whilst mitigating climate change. Members of partner organisations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Georgia

described the specific energy situation in their countries of origin and outlined how important it is to create a simplified CDM mechanism and especially to facilitate upfront funding for this kind of small-scale projects. Such projects should be developed in consultation with the local communities, including women, and should be accessible to them. Atmosfair



**Location:** Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan  
**Donor:** International Climate Protection Initiative (ICI), German Ministry\*, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Friends of the Earth Norway  
**Contact:** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu), [regina.drexel@wecf.eu](mailto:regina.drexel@wecf.eu)

## Preparation for Copenhagen – climate protection and renewable energy as a chance for economy, policy and civil society in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia

### The need for a just and ambitious Post-Kyoto regime

The world faces a huge challenge to agree on a just and ambitious post-Kyoto regime. But not all countries are engaged in a similar way.

The countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus – with the exception of the Russian Federation – are not much involved in the process. The main reason for that is the missing expertise and knowledge in relation to climate and energy-relevant issues.

\* The German Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Therefore WECF and its regional partners organized two regional conferences on climate policy and one on technology solutions:

**Ways towards more climate protection – regional climate conference and the UNFCCC process as a contribution to an ambitious and just Post-Kyoto-agreement**

The Regional Conference "Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change Mitigation Measures in Caucasus" took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 27-28. The conference was part of the official climate week from 26. – 30. October 2009. 82 representatives from governments (e.g. the environment minister and the deputy energy minister of Georgia) and different NGOs from the three South Caucasus countries Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, took part, as well as different diplomatic corps and ambassadors (e.g. from France, Germany, The Netherlands) and regional and international organisations like the REC Caucasus and the GTZ.

The Conference was opened by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia, Mr. George Khachidze, the Head of European Commission Delegation to Georgia, Ambassador Per Eklund and Co-chair of WECF member Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia. The conference served as dia-

logue platform for participants from the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) to talk about the problems, priorities and perspectives on climate change, to share ideas and experiences among Governmental and non-Governmental institutions, to elaborate joint country positions for COP 15 and to decide on future actions. The NGOs presented a joint position paper

position of South Caucasus countries for COP15, which identifies and covers the most important topics for implementation of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in South Caucasus countries. The Georgian Minister of Environment officially expressed his support towards the NGO position and promised to take into account the topics indicated within the position papers.

**Strengthening NGO involvement in Climate and Energy Policy through the WECF Climate Conference 12-13.11.2009 in St. Petersburg, Russia.**

During the Petersburg Climate Conference more than 47 NGOs participants critically analysed national policies and international negotiation processes, developed common NGO policy positions, and dialogued with government and business representatives. The conference lead to actions to strengthen public involvement and inter-NGO cooperation- and campaigning on climate protection. Participating NGO leaders and activists came from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. They also developed policy recommendations on the necessary national climate/energy policies in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, aiming at reduction of GHG emissions and improved energy efficiency as input for the upcoming UN climate conference in December 2009 in Copenhagen.

As a special activity WECF organized together with the NGO side event 20 side events 200 NGOs in Asia & Africa for Sustainable Energy, Proposing Simplified CDM - Development Successes with Sustainable Energy by NGOs from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Uganda, South Africa and from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECA) Region – proposals for

WECF as part of the the international "Don't Nuke the Climate" campaign presented government delegates with a giant postcard and 50,000 signatures calling for a nuclear free climate agreement in Copenhagen





(genetically modified organisms) are also part of an international division of labour, which makes us all dependent on GM," said Künast further. "GM-soya is produced in the South and fed to our animals, which led to record harvests, but also to record poverty for the people who live there. 9 kg GM-soybeans produce just 1 kilogramme of meat 1 kilograms of meat for us. That is not fair. Europe is also responsible for this division of labor."

#### Right of co-existence, not of contamination

Democracy means an equal existence of organic and conventional agriculture, if it is with or without genetic engineering. But by pollen flight, insects, pollution and mixing of seed and animal feed during transport and storage, a purely organic farming can no longer be guaranteed. The use of genetic engineering in agriculture constricts the rights of consumers to organic food. A co-existence is therefore impossible. Consumers no longer have freedom of choice - which is the basic principle of democracy. Austria and Switzerland have already understood this and have already declared their countries as GM-free zones.

Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, farmer and member of the European Parliament says: "The right to GMO-free agriculture and GMO-free food is the basis of the EU legislation: There is no right of contamination. About the Article 26a of the release line, the member States are obliged to take such co-existence measures to enforce and conserve the protection of GMO-free agriculture in the long run."

#### Genetic engineering: a success story?

Latest figures speak against the impression that the genetic engineering industry wants to suggest to consumers and politicians: An investigation by Friends of the Earth Europe clearly comes to the conclusion that genetic engineering by far is not yet established throughout the whole world.

After at least already 15 years of commercial crop growing, it is only 2.4% of the arable land worldwide on which GMOs are cultivated. In Europe it is just 0.2%, of which 75% is in Spain. Worldwide, only five countries grow GMOs on a large-scale and it is only two main variants (pesticide resistant varieties and Bt-maize). Overall, there is only four species on the market (soybeans, corn, cotton, canola-Colza).

"And the corporations want us to see this as a success story?" asks Sabine Brückmann, coordinator for agriculture from WECF, Women in Europe for a Common Future.

The real economic success for the handful of major corporations involved (Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer ScienceCrop and DuPont) lies in the monopolization of the seed market. For example, Monsanto in recent years, has bought up many companies. Vandana Shiva, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, remarked on the 4. conference: "Of course, the farmers believe that they have a choice, because they get 20 different brand names. They have no idea that each of these 20 companies is licensed by Monsanto. 95% of genetically modified seeds which are now sold around the world come from Monsanto."

Genetic engineering is and remains a high risk, as too many questions are unanswered. At that, nobody recognizes a real advantage for the consumer. "Why are you researching in an area where there are no market needs?" wonders Hansjörg Walter, president of the Swiss Farmers' Association, and deservedly so. Berlakovich: "The consequences are definitely not predictable. We all live in a common, large ecosystem. Therefore we need to bring together common initiatives for a diverse, multi-functional agriculture in Europe."

**Location:** Rotterdam  
**Donor:** City of Rotterdam  
**Contact:** sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

## Rotterdam Global Urban Summit, 3rd and 4th December

City of Rotterdam hosted a unique international conference on sustainable urban area development. For two days cities, scientists, experts and businesses discussed the best blueprint for cities. High profile international speakers like EU-adviser Jeremy Rifkin and top architect Winy Maas captured the hearts and minds of more than 400 delegates, of which 40% came outside the Netherlands.

#### City farms

Food used to be locally produced. Over the years city and farmland have grown apart, resulting in the trade and transport of food from far outside the city. Now by modern innovations, new networks and developments have been established to build a more integral rural environment. Space will be used more efficiently, people will be more aware of the product and the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> will be reduced. On the last day the participants collectively undersigned a statement with the aim to co-create New Green Deals. These signatures were to be presented to the Copenhagen summit to show that cities worldwide can really make the difference.



The more than 200 Unser Land products are being sold in markets, supermarkets, bakeries and restaurants

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**Location:** Warsaw, Poland  
**Donor:** Slow Food, SIE, Theatre Institute, eTTe (fair trade), WECF  
**Contact:** sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

## Meetings in Poland: Apple Action

Traditional apple varieties are hard to find these days. In Warsaw, the SIE (Social Ecological Institute) co-organised with WECF a celebration of the traditional apple'. Because of standardisation of the apple market, only a few varieties have remained widely available for consumers. We are experiencing not only a climate crisis but also a biodiversity crisis. The traditional orchard has become a fruit deliverer, instead of a biodiverse environment, with over 80 thousand organisms living in balance with each other. And not only that.

Old apple sorts contain more vitamin C, are much more nutritive, contain phenol compound and oxidants protecting against cancer cells. Therefore SIE (Social Ecological Institute) and WECF have taken an action to remind and mobilize consumers for smart consumer behaviour.

#### Terra Madre Day

On December the 10th the SIE together with WECF, Warsaw Convivium Slow Food and the Theatre Institute organised a Terra Madre Day in Poland dedicating it to traditional apple trees.

How many people would like to enjoy the old varieties: Glogierowka, Boiken, Kosztela, Kronselska, Koksa, Szara or Zlota Reneta as in years past. Traditional old orchards have disappeared, replaced by fast growing monocultures.

To remind consumers about the richness of biodiversity the partners organised many events, starting with a press conference in the Theatre Institute. The guests: Sabine Brückmann (WECF), Prof. Ewa Rembalkowska (SGGW), Piotr Petryka (Convivium Varsavia), Elzbieta Priwieziencew (SIE)

**Location:** Poland, Warsaw, Mazovia region  
**Donor:** German-Polish Cooperation Foundation (Stiftung für Deutsch-Polnische Zusammenarbeit)  
**Contact:** sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu, magdalena.black@wecf.eu

## .....

### German-Polish exchange to promote sustainable rural development; WECF and Bavarian partners visit Polish region of Masovia

A colourfully mixed delegation from the German town of Glonn, consisting of a mayor, cultural agents, farmers and energy consultants visited the Mazovia region in Poland, sharing and exchanging

information and inspiration on sustainable rural development, community work, rural tourism and renewable energy.

In 2008 the Polish group had paid a visit to the network Unser Land (Our Region) in Bavaria. In return, a delegation of WECF and its partner SIE (Social Ecological Institute) were invited to the Masovia Region.

During these 3 days in August the participants visited different agricultural, marketing and eco-tourist organisations and became familiar with the subject of Polish farming and sustainable development in Polish communities.

The participants came mostly from the community of Glonn, but also the Bavaria region a. inter alia: Mayor from Glonn Martin Esterl, the Honourary president of WECF Marie Kranendok, farmers, members of the Bavarian network Unser Land, representatives of "Civil Courage", the Initiative for GMO free products, a sustainable building specialist and others. One highlight was the visit to the agricultural school in Goladkowo. SIE (Social Ecological Institute) is planning to establish the first



Delegation from Glonn visits the Mazovia region in Poland

containing also a Centre for Sustainable Rural Development. The aim of the Centre - Social - Ecological Institute Mazovia XI is to support the Region by sustainable development. Especially the cooperation between the local farming communities and support the foreign partners are important to achieve these aims. The guests not only visited traditional farms, but also ecological farms and learned more about the political and economic dimensions of sustainable agriculture during a meeting with the policy makers in the Marshal Office in Warsaw. There they got to know partners between farmers, producers, manufacturers and customers in Poland.

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#### Tradition and innovation

The German visitors were very impressed. Poland combined tradition and progress successfully with a strong determination to keep traditional cooking alive and to protect traditional varieties and a variety of forms from extinction. The visit of three parishes: Dlugosiodlo, Brzozow and Lachow, 60 km from Warsaw, gave insight into their sustainable development. The geographical position, surrounding of woods, farmlands, a small distance from a big city was a common denominator in comparing the properties of the Polish communities and the community of Glonn. They met similar challenges: how to feed the area by, while promoting local economic development and protect nature and traditions.



Implementing Solutions in 2009



**Nesting partners from eight European countries work together in helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns**

## Implementing Solutions

One of WECF's strategies is to demonstrate sustainable alternatives. When addressing specific environmental health problems, WECF's projects include demonstration components, which show how pollution and exposure can be reduced, whilst improving health and well-being. WECF implements demonstration activities in its four thematic areas.

This chapter will highlight a few examples, particularly in the area of improving water supply and sanitation, with WECF's innovative ecological toilet projects. WECF also works on regional marketing of safe and fair food products, on reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and on affordable safe and sustainable energy solutions.

Project Nesting ([www.projectnesting.org/](http://www.projectnesting.org/)) provides support to parents who want to choose renovation materials, furniture and baby-products that are safe and healthy for their newborn child. In fact babies and young children spend 90% of their time indoor, where the air quality is generally much more polluted than outdoors. This fact is recognized by many countries as a major public health issue. The project aims at providing new parents and professionals in child health and childcare with precise information and helpful practical advice so that they can make informed choices for healthier products and adopt new practices.

Project Nesting informs, via a web platform and training sessions, about the quality of the air and environment inside homes and in day care centres, and describes the way in which products such as furniture and carpeting, cleaning agents and baby care products can affect indoor air

### Nesting – the concept

#### Helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns – the continuation of the Nesting Project.

When expecting a baby, you start wondering, planning and questioning. Things are changing and exciting times are ahead. Everything should be ready for the child. The baby should feel snug and safe in her or his new home, the nest.

Project Nesting ([www.projectnesting.org/](http://www.projectnesting.org/)) provides support to parents who want to choose renovation materials, furniture and baby-products that are safe and healthy for their newborn child. In fact babies and young children spend 90% of their time indoor, where the air quality is generally much more polluted than outdoors. This fact is recognized by many countries as a major public health issue. The project aims at providing new parents and professionals in child health and childcare with precise information and helpful practical advice so that they can make informed choices for healthier products and adopt new practices.

Project Nesting informs, via a web platform and training sessions, about the quality of the air and environment inside homes and in day care centres, and describes the way in which products such as furniture and carpeting, cleaning agents and baby care products can affect indoor air

**Location:** France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Estonia  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** [anne.barre@wecf.eu](mailto:anne.barre@wecf.eu)

**Location:** France, the Netherlands, Germany, UK, Greece  
**Donor:** Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM), The Netherlands, Ministry of Environment, Germany  
**Contact:** [elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu](mailto:elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu)

### Indoor air pollution – Test Your Nest. First European-wide study on Indoor air in baby rooms

The European study Test your Nest was conducted by WECF (WECF France, Germany, the Netherlands, Clean Up Greece) in partnership with the French National Consumer Institute (INC) and its Magazine (60 Millions de Consommateurs) and a French laboratory (Quad Lab). The recruiting campaign was launched in July 2009 in 4 countries, with the objective of measuring and comparing indoor air quality

in newly renovated or furnished baby rooms, and presenting the results during the Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment - Parma, March 2010. Indoor air quality is one of the priorities of the CEHAPE (Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe). Indoor air pollutants have long been recognized as a major hazard for children's health, with some of them triggering asthma, allergies or sometimes cancer. More than 70 families in 4 countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece) have taken part to the study. All participants had newly renovated the room or bought new furniture. In 40% of the rooms, tests revealed levels of formaldehyde and total VOC above accepted guidelines. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen, used in plywood, glues, etc. VOC - Volatile Organic Compounds – among them hydrocarbons, terpenes, alcohols – are substances known as allergens and irritants, some can be neurotoxic or carcinogenic. A unique European study, Test your Nest was conducted in the framework of WECF's Nesting project and paves the way for targeting specific pollutants impacting on children's health.

After having tested the workshops in Paris and Annemasse (near Geneva), WECF trained 15 workshop facilitators in order to spread the concept across the Parisian and Rhône-Alpes regions.



Young parents participating in unique interactive workshops developed by WECF France

The facilitators training started in June 2009, conducted by our experts Nita Chaudhuri and Philippe Perrin, who continue tutoring today the trainees. They focus not only on the scientific knowledge to be passed on, but also on the pedagogical methodology for a qualitative animation of the workshops. WECF France created and published a complete toolkit for the facilitators, which includes scientific background on the human fetus development, health impacts of indoor pollutants, sources of exposures, many fact sheets and pedagogic materials. The toolkit is going to be translated into Dutch and German to expand the workshops to other countries in 2010.

In order to disseminate this type of awareness raising, WECF established a partnership with Botanic, a chain of green gardening stores, to offer nesting workshops in the stores. WECF's workshops have gained media attention at local and national levels on several occasions.

The Nesting website in France was fully redesigned as a pilot for the international nesting webplatform: the objective was to make the website more informative, attractive and interactive. Advice on indoor air pollutants was extended with many factsheets on specific substances; new sections were created: "publications", info on "nesting workshops" for parents, a "question" page was opened and the "news section" is now updated several times a week with up-to-date articles on studies, research or news related to infant health and indoor pollution.

WECF founded a Nesting Expert Committee, consisting of scientists, journalists, health and consumer protection experts, who provide diverse expertise on the orientations of the project, the elaboration of communication or educational materials, and help answering the many questions of our website visitors: these are mainly young parents eager to learn more on how to protect their children from indoor air pollution.

**Location:** the Netherlands  
**Donor:** European Commission, Ministry of VROM  
**Contact:** [chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu](mailto:chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu)

### Nesting the Netherlands

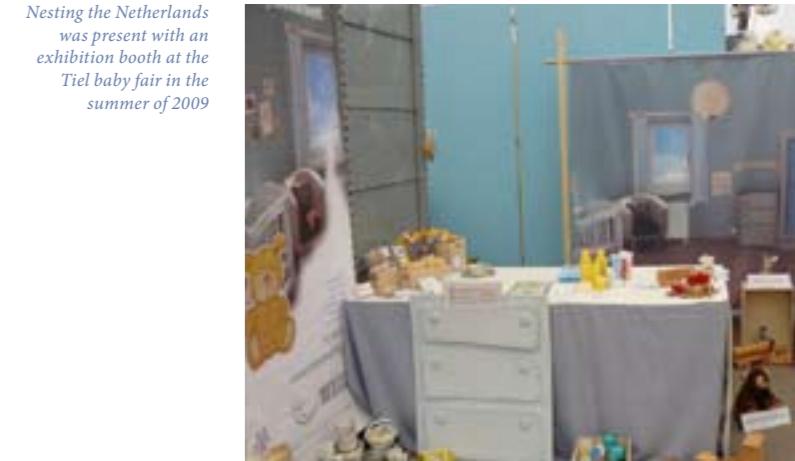
**Location:** the Netherlands  
**Donor:** European Commission, Ministry of VROM  
**Contact:** [chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu](mailto:chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu)

### Nesting Germany

**Location:** Germany  
**Donor:** EU DG Environment LIFE+ BIAU and UBA  
**Contact:** [info@nesting.de](mailto:info@nesting.de), [jo.hanau.naumann@wecf.eu](mailto:jo.hanau.naumann@wecf.eu)

Several interviews were given to participants and lifestyle magazines. New linking partner organisations were acquired. The German Nesting team kept the website updated with news and new links from other relevant sites to guarantee the continuation of the project. Positive feedback came from the authorities. The environment ministry published an article in a calendar for 2010 on indoor pollution. "Environmental justice right from the beginning" – a consultation program for deprived families and ethnic minorities is the German addition of follow up to the Nesting project. WECF released this project through funding from the German Ministry of Environment (BfU) and the German Agency of Environment (UBA) together with our project partners MAGIS in Munich and Silvia Piletska in Berlin.

*Nesting the Netherlands was present with an exhibition booth at the Tiel baby fair in the summer of 2009*



**Location:** Hungary, Spain, Estonia, United Kingdom, Greece  
**Donor:** European Commission  
**Contact:** anne.barre@wecf.eu

## Project Nesting in the other countries

Greece

Environmental and health awareness in Greece is still very low. Therefore the aim of the Nesting Project is to help parents in Greece to create a safe and healthy environment for their newborns. As the Greek population is not yet as familiar with information through the internet there is a definite need for printed material. In addition to this the animation the TV Spot from 2008 was re-launched and a mailing was sent out to all hospitals in the main cities. The Greek website had about 80 percent newcomers and only 15-20 percent second users. The average visiting time was about five minutes which points at a genuine interest in the issue.

Spain

The Spanish Nesting website was translated, adapted to the national context and launched at the end of 2008. In 2009, the main activity was promoting Nesting in Spain. Information about Nesting appeared on different web pages, electronic bulletins and blogs. Initial contacts have been established with Ecología y Desarrollo and an electronic bulletin on Health and Environment. The Nesting internal meeting in Madrid in October 2008 identified the need to develop a Nesting Strategy. The Spanish partner took the lead to develop this Strategy further in 2009 with the collaboration of the partners.

United Kingdom

In UK stakeholders ask for more scientific based information. Therefore more focused information for

the nesting website has been researched and produced, so far in the issues of bisphenol A and cosmetics. Those factsheets show problems, current scientific findings and probable solutions. It adds to the information already available on the website. Furthermore Nesting UK contributed to the design of the new Nesting website, proofed and edited information, promoted Test your Nest in the UK via the media and interested networks including Mumnet, sought participants for test your Nest in the UK and liaised with participants for TYN in the UK.

Hungary

Nesting Hungary updated its website every two weeks with news throughout 2009. Nesting Hungary participated at events of the Large Families Association with presentations, while introducing and informing participants on the international project. A leaflet was developed and cooperation started with NGOs working in the field of environmental health and hazardous chemical substances.

Estonia

Nesting Estonia is the new branch of the International Nesting Project. Up until now there was no webpage in Estonian informing parents on a healthy environment. To launch the new website, Nesting Estonia organised a special session in which representatives from various national stakeholders like consumer associations, midwives, kindergartens, primary schools and national authorities such as ministries and the Health Protection Inspectorate were invited.

Postcards and leaflets were translated and adapted to the local situation. Furthermore the Nesting concept was presented at an international training in Kiev. Participants of the seminar were mainly representatives from Russian and Belarus environmental NGOs, educational NGOs (e.g. teachers, youth organisations) and health and consumer protection NGOs, trainers were from Lithuania, Denmark and Estonia.

**Location:** Germany, Munich, Berlin  
**Donor:** German Ministry of Environment (BMU), Umweltbundesamt Deutschland (UBA)  
**Contact:** johanna.hausmann@wecf.eu

## Umweltgerechtigkeit von Geburt an -Environmental Justice right from the beginning

"Environmental justice right from the beginning" is a consultative program for deprived families run by WECF Germany. The German Children's Environmental Survey (KUS) confirms that children from families with low socio-economic status are more exposed to secondhand smoke, mould, lead, and disinfectants. Therefore

the project places the focus upon improving the skills of the families affected by these issues. WECF provides information to families on environmental health risks. Previous successful projects have shown that families can be reached primarily through a third party or through lectures in nearby facilities. This project can be seen as an addition to the WECF internet project [www.nestbau.info](http://www.nestbau.info) for families and parents which are not classical internet users.

### On-site consultations and lectures

Within this project WECF offers family centres and similar facilities in Berlin and Munich, continuous on-site consultations, consultations and lectures on simple measures which create a healthy living environment and that can be realized by the families on their own and without (large) financial expenses. To better reach the families in a more direct way, WECF and its partners, MAGs in Munich and Silvia Pleschka in Berlin also train multipliers (family nurses, midwives, etc.). WECF provides a so-called "multipliers folder" from brochures and manuals for

workshops, which could be used by the multipliers and which will be presented to authorities of other cities in the framework of the meetings of the network of "Healthy Cities". In 2009 more than 250 families and 150 multipliers were reached by consultations, workshops, presentations in Munich and Berlin, as well as the authorities of other cities via the network of "Healthy Cities".

### Bilingual brochures and an award for the project

The families can also get information, tips and advice from information leaflets, specifically

designed by WECF. So far there are flyers on the subjects "Ecological cleaning" and "Prevention and handling of mould". The true novelty of the brochures is their bilingual nature: Russian / German and Turkish / German. This guarantees that

- the information in the brochures can be compared with (German) products,
- that immigrants of the first and second generation who may only be able to speak their native language and not read it, can then read the information in German,
- Multipliers, who don't speak any Russian or Turkish, still understand the information.

The brochures met with good response and therefore the 3000 pieces we printed was not enough to fulfill the demand. WECF was honoured for this project at the 9th annual meeting of the Network Kindergesundheit und Umwelt e.V. KGU in September in Bonn/Germany. The project has been presented within the congress "Armut und Gesundheit" which took place in Berlin in December 2009.

### Demonstration projects

Project partners and communities were trained by WECF and partners in early 2009 on solid waste management, flood prevention and flood management, Water Safety Plans, Sustainable Sanitation and nature friendly fish manage-



**Local NGO partners in Transdnistria (Dniester River Basin) have cooperated with local authorities to repair and put back in service 3 rural drinking water systems**

**Location:** Afghanistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan  
**Donor:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBuza), Development Cooperation, DGIS, The Netherlands; European Commission, Fondation Ensemble, France  
**Contact:** anna.samwel@wecf.eu

## To-Ni Finder : WECF provides information about nitrate contamination with new tool

With a new tool, the ToNi finder, WECF provides information about nitrate contamination and about sustainable school sanitation demonstration projects in villages of the ECECA region. In rural areas shallow groundwater is often used for human consumption. This water source is very vulnerable to contamination, and often contains high levels of nitrates as a result of mismanagement of wastewater, latrines or septic tanks, animal manure or fertilizers. In general there is a low awareness on water contamination. Drinking water quality of small scale water supply systems is often not analyzed and not included in international water monitoring programmes. In addition providing safe and sustainable sanitation mostly

has low or no priority for local and national politicians. In the project countries school sanitation is mostly in a very poor condition. The latrines are unhygienic and a threat to safe water as they're neither a closed system nor connected to a central sewage system.

### The interactive ToNi map on the WECF website shows the locations of UDDT sites and the results of our nitrate monitoring activities



WECF and its local partners raise awareness on water contamination, measure water protection and demonstrate sustainable and safe sanitation in the rural areas of the project countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

### What you can see using the ToNi map?

This is an interactive map on the WECF website presenting two projects on the locations and locations of the implemented projects (UDDT) in schools built by WECF and its partners, and on the other hand the results of our nitrate monitoring activities which show the water quality in the villages. These projects have been carried out together with local partners in rural areas of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian countries.

### More about nitrates

Why do we monitor nitrates in water? Testing levels of nitrates is cheap and easy way to get an idea of water quality in a given location. WECF uses quick test strips for this. In rural areas shallow groundwater is often used for human consumption. This water source is very vulnerable to contamination, and often contains high levels of

nitrates as a result of mismanagement of wastewater, latrines or septic tanks, animal manure or fertilizers. Therefore nitrate testing can serve as an indicator of man-made water pollution. As nitrate contamination is often caused by animal or human excreta, water with high levels of nitrates is highly suspected to be contaminated with bacteria and viruses as well. The best way to decrease nitrate levels is to find the source of the contamination and remove it, if possible, or protect the water circle of influx. This can be done by concrete manure pits or closed sanitation systems, such as urine diverting dry toilets. You can find out systematically what to do by making a water safety plan (WSP).

#### Waterborne diseases connected to nitrates

Nitrates in the drinking water can aggravate "Blue Baby Disease" as they are converted to nitrites in the body. These subsequently react with haemoglobin in the red blood cells to form methaemoglobin, affecting the blood's ability to carry enough oxygen to the cells of the body. Infants under three months are particularly at risk, when they are not exclusively breast fed. The haemoglobin of infants is more susceptible and the condition is made worse by gastrointestinal infection. The intake of tea or other baby food prepared with nitrate-rich water can have the effect that the baby does not get enough oxygen anymore and turns blue. This disease can be lethal or damage the baby's brain or nervous system. Older people may also be at risk because of decreased gastric acid secretion.

**Location:** Belarus, village of Smilovicy  
**Donor:** Matra program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands  
**Contact:** Bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu

### Finalizing the implementation of pilot projects in rural communities in Belarus

In 2009 the MATRA project "Developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of water, waste and energy efficiency in Belarus" implemented 4 reference and 11 pilot projects.

WECF

together with its Belarusian partner NGO Ecoproject partnership have continued working

for successful implementation of these demonstration projects: In school N19 in Minsk an energy efficient classroom- windows and radiators were changed, a temperature difference was observed in comparison with the other classrooms, the energy efficient classroom is warmer and cosy. The results were presented to the local authorities with the hope that this project can serve as an example for improving the energy situation in schools and buildings in small communities. School N145 in Minsk developed a programme for making paper products from waste-paper – in 2009 the teacher together with the involved pupils were invited

several

times to present their postcards and souvenirs made from their recycled paper. The national authorities are considering putting the program in the curriculum. In terms of ecological sanitation, the first reference project on Ecological sanitation implemented in the village of Smilovichy served as an example for people who have dachas. Additional 10 urine diverting toilets were constructed in summer houses. In "Nadejda centre for Rehabilitation and Health for Children" 10 composters were provided.

In Smilovichy, Water Safety Plans were developed

in the school, their results were introduced to the

national authority which took a decision to give priority to providing central water supply to neighbourhoods of Smilovichy where it does not exist. At the moment and where the highest concentrations of nitrates were observed.

In June 2009 Members of Dutch Embassy in Poland, visited Smilovichy- a reference community which implemented projects in the topic water and sanitation. Representatives of Ecoproject and WECF presented 2 pilot projects. The Ambassador Mr. Krop was impressed by the achieved results and wished success to the further activities of Ecoproject Partnership and WECF. He hopes that the model from Belarus can serve as an example for replication of other communities with similar problems in Belarus and Eastern Europe.

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*The ecological toilets which were built, serve as an example to other rural communities in Stara Zagora, Bulgaria*

zens in the rural communities of Stara Zagora and Pravets Municipalities. The 3 public toilets built in Stara Zagora Municipality were inaugurated with local authorities. The toilets were built in cultural houses and public places and not only do they significantly improve the populations' living conditions but they are also as an innovative model solution for other rural communities in the vicinity. A constructed wetland is being prepared for treating black water for a centre for disabled children in Vidrare, Pravets Municipality. This will be the first facility of this type in Bulgaria and it will serve 100 children and staff. The constructed wetland was designed by a joint cooperation between German and Bulgarian engineering companies.

#### Romania

WECF works in Romania on the SSHD project with: EuroTeleorman Association -Teleorman county, Women for a Clean Future - Mehedinți county and O Ilo Romano - Giurgiu county. WECF's partners worked with local authorities to obtain legal authorisation for (this type of) ecological sanitation, as it is new in the country. 20 household urine diverting toilets and (4) 1 school toilet were built. The 20 households use urine as a fertilizer while a demonstration garden planted

near the school enables to show the positive results of this fertilisation.

The school toilet in Vrata – Mehedinți was finalized and inaugurated on November 27, 2009, in the presence of local citizens, county authorities and representatives from neighbouring schools. As this is the first indoor Urine Diverting Dry School Toilet in Romania, it received high official and media attention. The building offers 2 indoor toilet rooms and 1 hand wash facility. The toilet benefits 140 pupils and their teachers.

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Odessa. WECF is working with two partners: Mama-86 and Black See Women's Club Odessa. Ecosan systems are very successful in Ukraine which is partly due to the strong involvement of the local authorities (over 70 authorities involved). This support allowed WECF and its partner BSWC in Odessa to plan 2 additional school toilets within this project: in total 6 school toilets will be built between 2008 and 2010 in Ukraine. Three school toilets in Nizhyn, Stepovoe and Gradanitz were inaugurated in 2009, with filters for treating grey water and 3 demonstration gardens were planted. For EACH school a demonstration garden for the reuse of urine as has been prepared. Next to EACH newly built school toilet a pump system based on EMAS technology was installed for pumping, diluting urine with water and applying it as fertilizer in the garden.

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#### Ukraine

The SSHD project runs in 10 regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yaremche, Ternopil, Mykolayiv, Nizhyn, Artemivsk, Nova Kakhovka and

From February to June 2009, 4 students of the

University Annecy (France) spent 4 months in Georgia for a technical and practical training on the field organized by one of WECF's long time partner RCDA. Their mission was to conceive, build and install affordable and replicable solar panels for the Georgian rural populations, who suffer from energy poverty. The experience was very positive, both for the four students and for RCDA, WECF's Georgian partner. After one week of technical training by Solar Partner Sud, a German pioneer in solar energy, the trainees were sent to the region of Misaktsieli, close to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, where they contributed to building the capacity of over 20 citizens coming from different villages. The region benefits from a lot of sun – even in winter, which makes solar panels not only a sustainable but also a very efficient source of energy. WECF in France and Germany, the Region Rhône-Alpes and University of Annecy, Solar Partner Sud and RCDA have all contributed to the success of this training.



*Students and WECF France Director pose for a press photo before their departure to Georgia*

**Location:** Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

**Donor:** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBUZA); German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

**Contact:** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Empowerment and Local Action

#### Introduction

2009 was the second year of the Empowerment and Local Action (ELA) Programme, launched in 2008 with 31 partners from most ECCA countries and Afghanistan. The ELA program is designed to build the capacity of poor local communities in rural areas, citizens' organisations, private sector, science and authorities to work in partnerships to contribute to a sustainable rural development, which leads to reduction of poverty in rural areas and increased gender equity.

In this section, you will find information about the implementation and demonstration projects, while information on international advocacy activities linked to these projects can be found in the previous chapter of this annual report.

## Energy training in Georgia: Successful construction and installation of solar panels by trainees

71 new household toilets have been built since project start, and 10 more are under construction in 2010. Our Odessa partner BSWC innovated with a new pump system based on EMAS technology to facilitate the application of urine on the plants.

*WECF and Georgian partners working on sustainable water and sanitation projects*

levels towards a sustainable future for themselves. Members of the WECF network make the voices of the local communities heard, and lobby politicians on the regional, national, and international level to include the integrated approaches in their policies.

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**Summary**

Implementation projects of the ELA program in 2009 covered all four thematic issues, as in 2008. The 26 partners continued their projects of 2008, improving their approaches, technical solutions, and strategies based on the lessons learnt in 2008. The projects of 2009 demonstrate sustainable ecological tools for improving the quality of life in the rural regions of the EECCA region and Afghanistan in a sustainable and ecological way. All technical solutions are adapted to the locally available materials, craftsmanship, and budgets.

All projects continued to demonstrate **sustainable sanitation solutions**: in Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT), urine and faeces are collected separately, avoiding the strong smell of pit latrines. The urine and the faeces are sanitized and reused as fertilizer in agriculture. Two important effects are felt directly by users of UDDT: there is a direct increase in quality of life due to increased comfort, and the fertilizer provided for free, contributes to better harvests from homestead gardening, which provides for a considerable part of the food. Villagers have available for consumption. Chemical or organic fertilizers are too expensive for most villagers or not available at all. Many villagers were not prepared to manage a farm cycle on the small plots of land they received during the privatization processes after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Hence, project partners worked on promoting **sustainable agriculture** approaches and techniques, from application of urine as fertilizer, composting of organic matter, up to organic agriculture on farm level, including marketing and finance.

**Solar energy** was the second focus of the year – especially solar collectors for generating warm water that can be used for e.g. showers. This complements the improvements in sanitation and hygiene and further improves the quality of life. For the majority of villagers in the EECCA region,

fuel is expensive; widespread illegal logging leads to deforestation. Using solar energy is easy on the villagers' wallet as well as on the environment.

UDDT contribute to protection of **drinking water** sources by avoiding groundwater pollution through human excreta. ELA partners did more to address issues in drinking water supply, namely the monitoring of drinking water quality; and improvement of supply systems in some cases.

The networks of the ELA partner organisations acquired additional strength in regions and countries. Georgia and Kyrgyzstan continue to be the anchor countries of the ELA program, with strong national networks and cooperation of WECF ELA partners.

Integrated demonstration centres bring everything together. In Georgia, the RCDA demonstration center in Misaktsieli near Tbilisi was developed further; newly added are a solar greenhouse made of straw bales (the first straw bale building in the region), different kinds of solar collectors, a solar heated bathroom with UDDT, solar dryers, a biogas plant, indoor UDDT and agricultural demonstration plots. A farm nearby, managed by the farmer in cooperation with ELA partner SEMA, demonstrates organic agriculture, UDDT, biogas, warm water provided by solar collectors. The farm is receiving many visitors each year.

**Solar energy** was the second focus of the year – especially solar collectors for generating warm water that can be used for e.g. showers. This complements the improvements in sanitation and hygiene and further improves the quality of life. For the majority of villagers in the EECCA region,

**The following sections describe selected projects, which were conducted in the four thematic areas. ELA in figures:**

Result	2009	2008	Total
Users of household Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	3498	1770	5268
Users of school Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	4347	6414	10761
Household Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	360	277	637
School Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	17	19	36
Population with improved water supply	2198	18791	20989
Energy saving and renewable energy supply systems	87	47	134
No of users applying energy saving and renewable energy	735	725	1460
Publications in 11 languages	106	162	268
Participants to trainings on sustainable sanitation	24383	14143	38526
Participants to trainings on solar energy	1791	2620	4411
Participants to trainings on water	11998	3800	15798
Participants to trainings on agriculture	4246	2613	6859
Population whose drinking water quality is monitored	6680	149508	156188
Demonstration centers / demonstration farms	3	9	12



Asor Jomeev's UDDT: the toilet that made a neighbourhood happy

pave the way to broad acceptance. This is illustrated by the following story, witnessed by ELA partner NGO ALGA during their work in Northern Kyrgyzstan.

Pit latrines are the norm in the village of Ivanovka.

Normally, they are located in the backyard, so

that the smell is kept away from the house and

the street. But Asor Jomeev's pit latrine stood

directly next to Kirov street in front of his house,

smelling heavily into the street especially in the

hot summer months. Here, broad Kirov street,

normally a point where neighbours meet and chil-

dren play, lay deserted. Jomeev's neighbours said

they preferred to walk through the gardens rather

than pass the street nearby his pit latrine. The

relationship between Jomeev and his neighbours

became increasingly strained. Then Jomeev con-

structed a UDDT. The situation greatly improved.

His neighbour Galina Plotnikova said: "I grew up

in this neighbourhood. In my childhood I used to

play in Kirov street. There are so many memories...

But the toilet's smell was so bad I ceased to walk

down this street and even forgot my memories.

You said you helped him built a new toilet?

"I never realised your neighbour getting a toilet

was a reason to be happy for them". Now many

neighbours started a new relationship with Asor;

they want to learn from him more about UDDT

and its construction, as they plan to build UDDT

for themselves.

**Dry Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health**

Once people get used to it, the acceptance of

Dry Sanitation is high. ELA partner NGO CAAW

in the south of Kyrgyzstan, who constructed 91

UDDT in 2009 and 26 in 2008, asked the users:

"How does the Dry Toilet change your life?"

Almost all respondents (96%) saw only positive

aspects. The families also noticed a positive

health impact, including saving of money they

previously used to buy medicines.

It is not the dry toilet alone, which makes people

healthier. A pit latrine poses health risks, e.g. due

to its attracting flies. More important, pit latrines

are often not cleaned at all; people used to hav-

ing no other toilet often lack hygiene habits

such as washing hands after using the lavatory.

Constructing toilets is hence always supported

by trainings helping people change their hy-

giene behaviour accordingly. In 2009, WECF ELA

partners in Central Asia developed a special

tool to conduct such trainings. "Participatory

Hygiene and Ecological Sanitation Transfor-

mation" (PHEAST) is an adapted version of PHAST

a methodology originally developed by WHO.

PHEAST participants analyze and categorize hy-

giene behaviour, discuss safe and unsafe toilets,

and learn about pathogens in excreta. They also

conduct a gender analysis. Maintenance and

operation of UDDT, including handling and ap-

plying fertilizer are taught in a participative way.

Central Asian ELA partners successfully use the

PHEAST method.



Hand wash basins in Tianeti school toilet, Georgia





*The UDDT of Al-Buhari Madrasah*

ELA partners in Central Asia use the PHAEST method to train school children. One example is the "Saidakmatov" school in Nooruz village in Kyrgyzstan. Every pupil now brings his or her own towel and soap to use at the school's UDDT. The children have even begun to teach their parents at home that if you don't wash your hands with soap, then you will be an ill daddy or mama.

#### **Closing the nutrient loop: sustainable sanitation and sustainable agriculture**

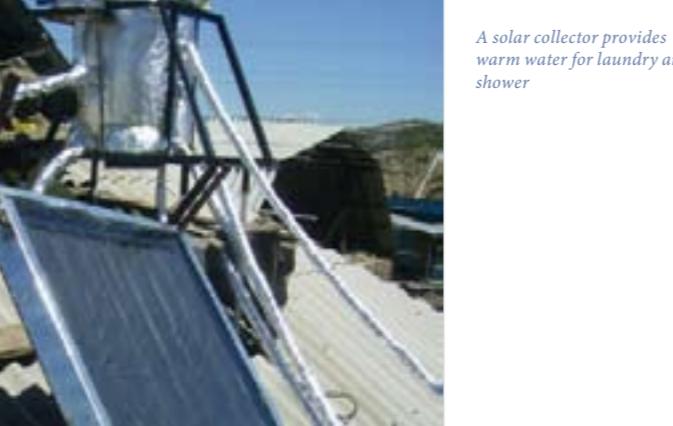
In order to be truly sustainable, the UDDT sanitation system requires the reuse of sanitized urine and faeces in gardening or agriculture. Household toilets normally produce just enough fertilizer for the homestead plot close to the house. Large amounts of urine are collected in school toilets, providing fertilizer for agricultural fields; e.g. a school with 600 children produces fertilizer for about 10 ha. The fertilizing effects speak for themselves: "After one week, the cucumber watered with urine clearly acquired velvety green colour. As for the cucumber on the control plot, which was only watered, it had its fruit flowers poorly developed" (NGO SEMA, Georgia). Anora, a farmer collaborating with the Kyrgyz NGO CAAW, reported: "After using urine in our garden, our plants grow much faster. I now have a better strawberry harvest than my neighbours.

My strawberries are also bigger and more tasty." ULGU, a farmers' NGO in Southern Kyrgyzstan, conducted many experiments, fertilizing potatoes, corn, wheat, alfalfa, and nut and poplar saplings with different concentrations of urine, and combinations of urine and compost or biohumus. The harvest was between 20% and even 90% higher than in the unfertilized control plots, depending on the crops and the fertilization amounts and periods.

Closing the nutrient loop is only one aspect of successful sustainable agriculture. Partners also supported farmers to convert to ecological farming methods such as crop rotation, applying green manure and compost, or phytotherapy to combat pests in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. They also covered economical issues, and the formation of farmer groups.

#### **Religious implications: Islam and Ecological Sanitation**

When confronted with the sustainable sanitation concept for the first time, villagers in Central Asia frequently cite their religion as a reason why they would not accept the ideas of UDDT or using excreta as a fertilizer. But by far not all Muslim believers think that way. To the contrary, many religious leaders found the concept of ecological sanitation to be very well in line with Islam and its



*A solar collector provides warm water for laundry and shower*

commandment of cleanliness. The Al-Buhari Madrasah in Aravan county commissioned a UDDT for its 244 students and teachers. The construction received permission from the Local Islamic Leaders Council (Kaziyat). The design of the toilet had to be adapted to the religious requirements: when using the toilet, people should not look towards the Kaaba. Places for ablution are included.

#### **Sustainable Energy**

Throughout the EECCA region, energy supply is a problem: households rely to a high degree on fossil fuels or firewood with excessive logging causing increasing deforestation. A major problem is providing heat during winter; but also the daily routines such as cooking or heating water for bath or laundry put a stress on both the environment, women's work burden and the villager's budgets. In all ELA project regions, solar energy is abundant. It can be tapped with relatively simple and cheap technologies.

#### **Joint development of a new solar collector and trainings for implementation**

WEFC concentrated on solar collectors, which heat water using solar energy. The small market for solar equipment is dominated by imported devices. Local production hardly exists,

although effective low-cost solar collectors can easily be constructed from materials available on local markets. The knowledge gap between the EECCA region and western European countries is very large.

As a step towards closing this gap, WECF in cooperation with students of Université de Savoie / IUT Annecy (France), RCDA (Misaktsieli, Georgia), and Solar Partner Sued company (Kienberg, Germany) developed a simple, but effective iron flat-plate solar collector with heat exchanger, which can be constructed with locally available materials. It is capable of working the whole year, providing warm water even in the cold winters of the Caucasian mountains.

26 such collectors are already working in 7

villages in Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine. Connected to a shower and a Urine Diverting Dry

Toilet room with a sink, they provide for warm

water

in a comfortable way in village houses,

which before lacked such sanitary facilities.

Another important technology of trainings are self-made cost-effective solar fruit dryers. Dried fruit offer good market opportunities for villagers in the South Caucasus countries; effective drying enhances their incomes and can be installed by women..

Solar collectors and a solar house heating system were the topic of a workshop conducted in Lenger, South Kazakhstan in cooperation with Solar Partner Sued, Germany, and the Kazakh NGOs UGAM and MCJM. This workshop was supported by the German Federal Environment Ministry. Knowledge transfer was complemented by internships of 4 partners from Georgia and Kazakhstan at Solar Partner Sued. Due to these activities, there is a growing interest and awareness of partner organisations especially in solar collectors and solar fruit driers.

**Improving drinking water supply in villages**

Safe drinking water is an important precondition for human health, as is observing basic hygiene rules. A high nitrate level in the groundwater is an indicator of anthropogenic pollution from pit latrines. All ELA partner collect data on the nitrate content in the drinking water of their project communities. In many cases, nitrate levels found are far beyond the limits safe for human consumption. The data is accessible at: [wecf.eu/toni](http://wecf.eu/toni). By replacing pit latrines with Urine Diverting Dry Toilets, this source of pollution is eliminated. The effect will show, however, only over the course of many years.

**Water Users' Associations**

The centralized water supply system Sverdlov village in northern Armenia used to have in Soviet times had completely stopped to functioning. There was only one public tap left providing water for some hours once or twice a week. In 2009, the villagers took the initiative to rebuild their old supply system, exchanging rotten pipes and resealing the reservoirs. Since the community lacked the funds to acquire new pipes or construction materials, Lore Eco Club and World Vision Armenia supported the villagers' efforts by providing materials, machinery and the services of a water supply engineer. Most of the 1300 villagers now have an almost daily water supply, but work still remains to be done to assure a daily supply for all villagers. A self-managed water users' association is currently being formed, which will guarantee the sustainability of this project. The WECF-ELA network supports the villagers in setting up this association by connecting them to functioning associations in Kyrgyzstan.

#### **Water Safety Plans**

The water supply system in many villages of the EECCA region has been deteriorating since the downfall of the Soviet Union. Rights, competencies, and ownership have been changing, villagers lack sufficient information. One way to address this situation are Water Safety Plans (WSP) with schools.

In 2009,

groups in 13 schools in Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine, and Moldova conducted their own water safety plans, incorporated into the schools' curricula. The plan of the Secondary Public School in Sepiati village in western Georgia involves 55 pupils and 9 teachers. The children started by making a special map localizing polluted drinking water sources in their village, visualizing results of water analyses and their own research into the state of drinking water supply. They conducted nitrate quick tests: the water in 9 of 45 analyzed wells had too high nitrate contents. As the children found out, these wells are close to drainage channels, which are blocked and filled with cattle manure, probably the main source of the nitrate pollution. They made the results known by organizing quizzes and competitions with their fellow pupils and families. They plan to bring all stakeholders together in 2010 and jointly work out a plan how to improve their situation.

#### *safe school sanitation: helping girls to attend schools*



*Improving drinking water supply in villages*



WECEF organisation in 2009

## Overview of WECF publications and Press in 2009

WECF received noticeably more press coverage over the last couple of years. On the next pages we will present you the highlight of press coverage on WECF in Europe and worldwide. The press coverage presented here is in English, Dutch, German or French. For press releases and press coverage in Russian and other Central Asian and Eastern European languages, visit our [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu).

### DVD – Image Film

WECF released an image film on DVD on all facets of her work. Presenting: 15 years of Women in Europe for a Common Future Working for a Healthy environment for all. Produced by WECF.

**Most prominent press releases – International**  
16.01.2009 | Art exhibition "Entropia" with the art work of David Cherni where Bulgaria was portrayed as a cluster of squatting toilets, WECF calls attention to the Bulgarian sanitation problems.

17.02.2009 | Nairobi UNEP GC: women's, indigenous, environmental, youth groups around the world call for action to keep nuclear out of the clean development mechanism.

17.03.2009 | Special Gender Session at World Water Forum 5 in Istanbul calls for attention to the problems caused by a lack of safe access to the water and sanitation whose victims are mostly poor women.

07.04.2009 | European Parliament voted for the elimination of new food with tiny nanoparticles from the stores until there are good tests which show that nanotechnology is safe for the environment and public health.

24.04.2009 | The first ever high level international expert conference on chrysotile asbestos and health in Kazakhstan: participants agreed on a resolution.

08.06.2009 | Anti-Nuke-Action during UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Bonn was organized by Ecodefense, Gendercc, Life and WECF on June 08.

19.06.2009 | Russian human rights organisation "Planet of Hopes" from Ozersk has won court case against government's tax department.

24.08.2009 | Stockholm World Water Prize was for the first time ever awarded to the sanitation sector, to the Indian activist Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.

### Most prominent press releases in Dutch

14.03.2009 | **Vijf minutenklus voor uw gezondheid.** De recente wetgeving van de Europese Unie geeft de consument het recht om te weten of bepaalde giftige chemische stoffen worden gebruikt in alledaagse producten.

09.09.2009 | **Op de Dag van de Duurzaamheid** fietste WECF met een bakfiets vol badeendjes door een Utrechtse jonge gezinnen woonwijk om aandacht te brengen aan chemische stoffen als PVC en ftalaten die badeendjes en andere speelgoed kunnen bevatten.

12.12.2009 | **WECF vraagt ouders om Sinterklaas** zijn werk naar eer en geweten te doen want recent onderzoek van de Voedsel Waren Autoriteit laat namelijk zien dat bijna dertig procent van speelgoed gemaakt van zacht kunststof verboden ftalaten bevat.

19.06.2009 | **Rotterdam Convention website** WECF at Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan (pictures and report).

**Media Highlights in 2009 – International**  
14.01.2009 | **Pesticides Action Network (PAN) newsletter** Article on WECF symposium on Development Disorders in European Parliament

04.03.2009 | **Blip TV**

Interview with Doris Moeller from WECF.

27.04.2009 | **Environmentalexpert.com**

WECF symposium on substitution of hazardous chemicals.

04.05.2009 | **Article in Bangladesh's The New Nation, Internet Edition**

Kazakhstan open to debate on asbestos.

12.05.2009 | **globalpost.com**

"Do you know what's in that teddy bear?", interview with WECF Director Sascha Gabizon during SAICM conference in Geneva.

13.05.2009 | **SIN Reporter 1**

"Playing with Chemicals".

30.06.2009 | **Environment Management Blog**

Link to WECF's Safe Sanitation film.

30.06.2009 | **Three articles by IRC,**

co-organiser of the special session at WWF5 in Istanbul, on Gender, Water and Sanitation.

23.06.2009 | **Water 21 magazine (magazine of the International Water Association)**

A sanitation shortfall of Europe's small communities.

19.06.2009 | **Rotterdam Convention website**

WECF at Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan (pictures and report).

24.08.2009 | **Blip TV**

Interview with Dr. Claudia Wendland on sanitation in Europe, WECF featured during Stockholm Water Week.

24.11.2009 | **The Connexion, France**

Toxic toy warning for Xmas shoppers, an article on WECF France's Toxic Toys Campaign in English.

30.10.2009 | **The Ecologist, UK's leading environmental magazine**

How to reduce toxins and 'green' your baby's nursery, an article on Project Nesting.

**Media Highlights in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2009**

19.03.2009 | **Kanaal Z and Knack/Le Vif website**

Interview with WECF Director Sascha Gabizon on Belgian business channel on reaching the water and sanitation MDG

13.05.2009 | **SIN Reporter 1**

"Playing with Chemicals".

30.06.2009 | **Environment Management Blog**

Link to WECF's Safe Sanitation film.

30.06.2009 | **Three articles by IRC,**

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A sanitation shortfall of Europe's small communities.

19.06.2009 | **Rotterdam Convention website**

WECF at Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan (pictures and report).

05.06.2009 | **Reformatorisch Dagblad**

Badeendje kan zomaar gifkikker zijn.

05.06.2009 | **Reformatorisch Dagblad**

Veel speelgoed bevat foute stoffen.

05.06.2009 | **Reformatorisch Dagblad**

Brochure is bangmakerij, a reaction of the Organisation of the Dutch Toys Suppliers on WECF Toys Guide.

19.06.2009 | **KidsDaily.nl**

Deze milieuvriendelijke Speelgoedwijzer geeft tips voor het kopen van veilig speelgoed!

12.03.2009 | **TF1 Daily news**

Nesting workshop, one of the major French TV channels filmed a Nesting workshop.

03.08.2009 | **Ikvader.nl** (Dutch fathers' website)

Milieuvriendelijke speelwijzer geeft advies.

21.08.2009 | **Brussels Log, Financieel Dagblad**

WECEF edits a guide to help choose non toxic toys.

24.08.2009 | **duurzaamnieuws.nl**

Test je Nest! Onderzoek naar luchtkwaliteit babykamer.

31.08.2009 | **Brussels Blog van het Financieel Dagblad**

Babykamerrichtlijn, about WECF's 'Test Your Nest' campaign.

30.09.2009 | **Radio Netherlands World Service**

TV report on WECF Toxic Toys event in residential area of Utrecht.

09.07.2009 | **Le Messager**

Training of workshops facilitators by WECF France.

12.10.2009 | **De Betere Wereld**

Een veilig en gezond nest voor baby's.

10.08.2009 | **afnor.fr**

A guide for toxic free toys.

09.10.2009 | **Water Special, P+ Magazine**

Te droog, te nat, an article about problems in the Romanian countryside.

11.11.2009 | **C'est Notre Affaire**

Toxic toys under the Christmas tree, a TV program with presentation of a Nesting workshop, toys guide and interview of Anne Barre.

26.11.2009 | **Mondial Nieuws, Belgium**

Lood, cadmium, chroom en tin in speelgoed.

12.11.2009 | **Agrarisch Dagblad**

Vrouwen spelen een belangrijke en bepalende rol in de landbouw.

28.11.2009 | **Le Monde**

Workshops to empty cupboards from toxic products, the major national newspaper reports on Nesting interactive workshops for parents.

16.12.2009 | **France 3 Ile de France, daily news**

Interview of WECF on toys guide and Project Nesting activities in France.

December 2009 | **Consumer Protection**

Magazine 60 Millions de Consommateurs.

December 2009 | **Radio Suisse Romande**

Chemicals in toys, WECF interview on the new toys Safety Directive and why toys still contain hazardous chemicals.

April 2009 | **cdurable.info**

Safety Directive and why toys still contain hazardous chemicals.

April 2009 | **Le Dauphiné**

Protecting babies' health.

April-June 2009 | **L'Ecologiste, nr 10**

The EU authorizes toxic chemicals in toys.

May 2009 | **Infobébés**

Bisphenol A, what should we do?, a major parents magazine interviewed Anne Barre.

30.09.2009 | **Radio Netherlands World Service**

TV report on WECF Toxic Toys event in residential area of Utrecht.

09.07.2009 | **Le Messager**

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12.10.2009 | **De Betere Wereld**

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26.11.2009 | **Mondial Nieuws, Belgium**

Lood, cadmium, chroom en tin in speelgoed.

24.11.2009 | **fenetreeurope.com**

Consumers: how to make the good choice for toys.

28.11.2009 | **Le Monde**

Workshops to empty cupboards from toxic products, the major national newspaper reports on Nesting interactive workshops for parents.

16.12.2009 | **France 3 Ile de France, daily news**

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December 2009 | **Consumer Protection**

Magazine 60 Millions de Consommateurs.

December 2009 | **Radio Suisse Romande**

Chemicals in toys, WECF interview on the new toys Safety Directive and why toys still contain hazardous chemicals.

10.02.2009 | **spielzeugonline.de**

Schadstofffreies Spielzeug.

10.02.2009 | **chthi.de**

WECF veröffentlicht Ratgeber im Tipps zu Kauftipps für schadstofffreies Spielzeug.

10.02.2009 | **spielzeug.suitel101.de**

Ratgeber schadstofffreies Spielzeug; rechtzeitig zur Spielzeugmesse Nürnberg. Verbrauchertipps der WECF.

25.02.2009 | **4family.at**

WECF veröffentlicht Ratgeber im Tipps zu Kauftipps für schadstofffreies Spielzeug.

06.03.2009 | **süddeutsche Zeitung**

Raus aus der Defensive! Geliebte Rechtsgutachten? Eine Umfrage zum Verbrauchertag.

11.03.2009 | Apug Newsletter Nr. 20  
"Nestbau". Neues interaktives Spiel zum gesunden Kinderzimmer.

18.03.2009 | dradio.de  
Privates Geld für EU-geprüfte Vorhaben Deutschlandfunk.

20.03.2009 | umweltschau.de  
Sie denken, Sie leben in einer gesunden Umwelt? Irrtum! Frauen fordern eine gesunde Umwelt für alle – WECF!

23.03.2009 | DNR EU-Koordination –EU – News  
Weltwassertag und EU-Wasserpolitik Wenn die EU sämtliche Potentiale für ein sichere sanitäre Grundversorgung nutzen würden, wären 20 Millionen Menschen in den armen Ländern der EU nicht mehr auf menschenunwürdige Plumpsklos angewiesen.

March 2009 | Umweltschutz schafft Perspektiven, BMU. Wir brauchen ehrliche Produkte, Interview mit Sonja Haider, S.90.

April 2009 | Hydrologie und Wasserbewirtschaftung, S.117 Sanitäre Grundversorgung in Europa: aus "Europe's Sanitation Problem", Report of the World Water Week Seminar.

06.04.2009 | lenz-aktas.de  
Politischer Frühling" im Zeichen Europas. Die Kreis SPD startet den "Politischen Frühling".

07.04.2009 | mt-online.de  
Mit Giftstoffen im Kinderzimmer spielen. Mindener Tageblatt – Minden atuell.

April 2009 | Der Spatz Nr. 1/09, S. 34  
Spielerisch zu gesunden Kinderzimmer. Nestbauwebsite lädt mit interaktiven Spiel zur Sicherheitstour durch's Kinderzimmer.

14.04.2009 | chemie.de  
Europäische Union weist Verwendung von Nanopartikel in ihre Schranken. WECF sieht den Beginn eines kritischen Umgangs mit neuen Technologien.

April 15 | Eltern 5/2009, S.127  
Einkaufsführer für Spielzeug.

April 2009 | Renovation, Das Fachmagazin für Bauherrn, Planer und Handwerker, Nr. 2/09, S. 23  
Nestbau.

May 19 | eu-koordination.de

International Chemikalienpolitik auf dem richtigen Weg? – Gastkommentar. Bericht aus Genf von Sonja Haider.

June 2009 | Spielen und Lernen, Zeitschrift für Eltern und Kinder, 06/09, S.10 Sicheres Spielzeug. Ratgeber gibt Eltern konkrete Kaufhilfen.

June 2009 | ENDSreport, Ausgabe 6, S. 6ff  
Kleine Teilchen, große Verantwortung

November 2009 | energie Zukunft, Heft 7/2009, S. 31, Buch: Die Kernfrage.

10.12.2009 | eco-world.de Anti-Atom-Aktion bei der Meerjungfrau in Kopenhagen.

December 2009 | DNR umwelt aktuell, 12.2009/1.2010, S.41f Gesellschaftliche Kernfrage.

#### Publications of WECF in 2009

20.01.2009 | Europe's Sanitation Problem  
WECF report on seminar during Stockholm World Water Week.

14.02.2009 | Linking breast cancer and our environment The politics of prevention, a WECF publication available in English, Dutch and French.



June 2009 | Kidy swiss family, Nr.40, S. 67  
Interaktive Tour durch's Kinderzimmer.

13.08.2009 | Schweizer Familie 33/2009, S. 37  
Der grüne Tipp – "Gesundes Spielzeug".

09.09.2009 | contratorm.de Neuerscheinung: "Die Kernfrage" Insider berichten über ihre Erfahrung mit der Kernfrage.

24.09.2009 | UmweltBriefe 19/ 2009 Über ihre Berührung und Erfahrung der Kernenergie.

27.10.2009 | schattenblick.de  
Koalition missachtet Gefahren der Atomkraft. WECF veröffentlicht Interviews von Insidern über ihre persönliche leidvolle Erfahrung mit der Atomkraft.

28.10.2009 | genenet.de  
Frauen aktiv gegen Atomenergie.

October 2009 | Profi Kosmetik, Nr. 10, S. 20  
EU-Schranken für Nanopartikel.

16.10.2009 | "Wrack ab!" – 100 good reasons against nuclear energy. A WECF publication in German.

30.10.2009 | WECF Toys Guide. A guide of how to choose toxic-free toys in English, French, German, Dutch, Greek and Chinese.

20.11.2009 | Ecological cleaning and prevention of mould. A WECF publication in German.

01.12.2009 | WECF's position on biofuels.  
WECF critical towards use of biofuels.

11.12.2009 | The Critical Question and Die Kernfrage. A WECF publication in German and English on nuclear's impact on people's lives.

03.03.2009 | Making Sustainable Sanitation work for women and men, A publication by WECF integrating a gender perspective into sanitation initiatives.

03.03.2009 | Digestion of Blackwater and Kitchen Refuse. Dissertation by Claudia Wendland, WECF Sanitation Coordinator.

21.04.2009 | Introducing Sustainable Sanitation in Kyrgyzstan Case Study: an analysis of success factors and barriers.

15.07.2009 | Developing water safety plans involving schools. A WECF manual in Romanian, Russian and English.

24.08.2009 | Sustainable and Safe School Sanitation. A WECF publication in English and Russian.

10.10.2009 | Ecological sanitation and hygienic considerations for women. WECF factsheet on ecosan for women available in English and Russian.

16.10.2009 | "Wrack ab!" – 100 good reasons against nuclear energy. A WECF publication in German.

30.10.2009 | WECF Toys Guide. A guide of how to choose toxic-free toys in English, French, German, Dutch, Greek and Chinese.

20.11.2009 | Ecological cleaning and prevention of mould. A WECF publication in German.

01.12.2009 | WECF's position on biofuels.  
WECF critical towards use of biofuels.

11.12.2009 | The Critical Question and Die Kernfrage. A WECF publication in German and English on nuclear's impact on people's lives.

## Members

WECF has had active members since 1996 that are classified in 3 categories.

### Full members (with full voting rights)

- NGOs with articles of association that endorses the mission of the WECF network.
- Individual members (<50% of the votes at any meeting)
- Environment & Sustainable Development committees or working groups within larger organisations

### Associate members (no voting rights)

### Individual members

#### Full Members (full voting right)

Nr.	Name	Country
1	Katachel e.V.	Afghanistan
2	Eden Center (Environmental center for Development, Education and networking	Albania
3	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)	Armenia
4	Charitable Women	Armenia
5	Lore Eco Club NGO	Armenia
6	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG	Armenia
7	Eco-Lur	Armenia
8	Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO	Armenia
9	Rural Sustainable Development	Armenia
10	Digital Development	Azerbaijan
11	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative	Belarus
12	Ecosphere	Belarus
13	Viktorija 99	Bosnia
14	Earth Forever Foundation	Bulgaria
15	Agentura Gaia	Czech Republic
16	WECF France	France
17	Akhaltiske Center of Social Development	Georgia
18	Caucasus Environment Foundation, NGO	Georgia
19	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA	Georgia
20	Georgian Association of Toxicologists	Georgia
21	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
22	Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
23	Women NGO "Paros"	Georgia
24	Rural Communities Development Agency	Georgia
25	SEMA	Georgia
26	VHUE e.V. - Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter	Germany
27	WECF Germany	Germany

28	Green City	Germany
29	Clean up Greece	Greece
30	Large Family Association Nagycsaládosok Országos Egyesülete	Hungary
31	Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)	Ireland
32	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency	Kazakhstan
33	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"	Kazakhstan
34	Alga, Rural Women's NGO	Kyrgyzstan
35	BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
36	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water	Kyrgyzstan
37	ULGU, public association	Kyrgyzstan
38	UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
39	Camp Alatoo	Kyrgyzstan
40	SO SPS (Mutual Aid Association)	Latvia
41	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia	Macedonia
42	Ecotox	Moldova
43	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)	Moldova
44	Ecospectrum	Moldova
45	Eco-Tiras	Moldova
46	Terra 1530	Moldova
47	Ecobaby, Stichting	Netherlands
48	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)	Netherlands
49	Meldpunten Netwerk Gezondheid en Milieu	Netherlands
50	Nederlandse Bond van Plattelands-vrouwen	Netherlands
51	ZijActief	Netherlands
52	Network of East-West women Polska	Poland
53	Social Ecological Institut	Poland
54	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC	Romania
55	Geo San	Romania
56	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia	Romania
57	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Help Nuclear Victims	Russia
58	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'D'it'ha'	Russia
59	Nabat Muslyomovo	Russia
60	Planet of Hopes	Russia
61	Step Forward Snezinsk	Russia
62	Ural's Women Network - Argayash	Russia
63	Ural's Women Network - Kashli	Russia
64	Global Action Plan	Sweden
65	Environmental Protection Network	Sweden
66	Youth Ecological Center	Tajikistan
67	SAFO Sughd	Tajikistan
68	ASDP Nau	Tajikistan
69	Bugday	Turkey
70	EKOBA	Turkey
71	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe	UK
72	Women's Environmental Network - WEN	UK



## Full Members (full voting right)

Nr.	Name	Country
73	Black Sea Women' Club	Ukraine
74	Mama-86 Artemivsk	Ukraine
75	Mama-86 Kharkiv	Ukraine
76	Mama-86 Kiev	Ukraine
77	Mama-86 Poltava	Ukraine
78	Mama-86 Sevastopol	Ukraine
79	Mama-86 Yaremche	Ukraine
80	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS	Ukraine
81	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"	Ukraine
82	Vozrozhdenie	Ukraine
83	Mehriban	Uzbekistan
84	SABR Trust Center	Uzbekistan
85	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa	Uzbekistan

## Associate Members

Nr.	Name	Country
1	"Meghvik" children and youth NGO	Armenia
2	Ecolor Information NGO	Armenia
3	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace	Austria
4	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights	Azerbaijan
5	ECOS NGO; Environmental Sustainability	Azerbaijan
6	TETA-KHAZRI	Azerbaijan
7	ISS Independent Social Support	Belarus
8	Association Eco-world 2007	Bulgaria
9	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique	France
10	Unser Land	Germany
11	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption	Kazakhstan
12	Eco-Museum	Kazakhstan

## Associate Members

Nr.	Name	Country
13	Public Ass Medical Alliance	Kyrgyzstan
14	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology	Lithuania
15	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC	Lithuania
16	Eco-sense/ Eko-svest	Macedonia
17	Cutezatorul Public Association	Moldova
18	Institutul de Cercetari Pentru Culturile de Cimp 'Selectia' ICCC "Selectia"	Moldova
19	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling	Netherlands
20	Euro Teleorman	Romania
21	Eco Accord	Russia
22	Environmental Youth Club	Russia
23	Environmental Ambassadors	Serbia
24	Ozone	Serbia
25	Centerwomen	Sweden
26	Women for Environment	Ukraine
27	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation	Ukraine
28	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation	Ukraine
29	Concord	Uzbekistan

## Individual Members

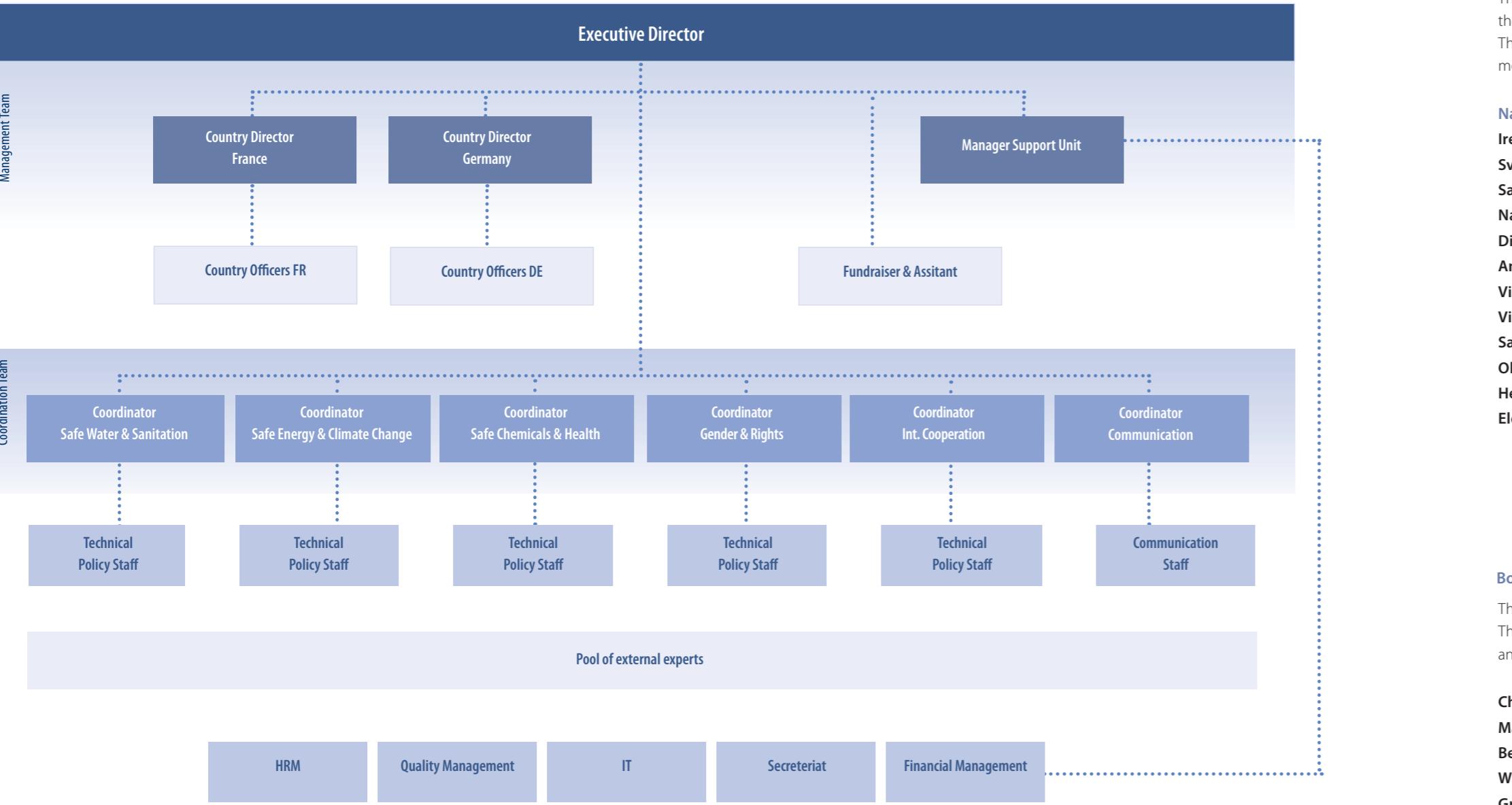
Nr.	Name	Country
1	Karine Danielyan	Armenia
2	Inga Zaratyan	Armenia
3	Catherine Wattiez	Belgium
4	Muborak Sharipova	Denmark
5	Elisabeth Ruffingo	France
6	Nita Chaudhuri	France
7	Dalila Khorava	Georgia
8	Dr Minnu Hemmati	Germany
9	Sabine Brückmann	Germany
10	Silvia Pleschka	Germany
11	Caterina Chorefaki	Greece
12	Angela Klauschen	Greece
13	Olivia Scuderoni	Italy
14	Svetlana Bashtovenko	Kyrgyzstan
15	Inese Eistere	Latvia
16	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezian	Lebanon
17	Adriana Debora Hulsmann	Netherlands
18	Irene Dankelmann	Netherlands
19	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute	Netherlands
20	Kitty Bentvelsen	Netherlands
21	Pamela Lawson	Netherlands
22	Rosemarie b.j. Oude Luttkhuis-Merz	Netherlands

## Individual Members

Nr.	Name	Country
23	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink	Netherlands
24	Willy Douma	Netherlands
25	Anita Harting	Netherlands
26	Livia de Metz	Netherlands
27	Sophia Hiddema	Netherlands
28	Olga Senova	Russia
29	Patimat Gadzhieva	Russia
30	Victoria Elias	Russia
31	Ivana Blagojevic	Serbia
32	Katarina Korytarova	Slovakia
33	Maja Baydaz Solce	Slovenia
34	Isabel Ripa	Spain
35	Viviana Avendano	Spain
36	Anne-Sofie Andersson	Sweden
37	Mildred Thulin	Sweden
38	Karin Sondergard	Sweden
39	Mine Yapar	Turkey
40	Clare Flenley	UK
41	Helen Lynn	UK
42	Sonia McLay	UK
43	Galushkiva Tatijana	Ukraine
44	Victoria Yurescue	Ukraine
45	Claire Greensfelder	USA
46	Mark Hengen	USA
47	Karimova Nodira	Uzbekistan

## Associate Partners (partners in WECF projects)

Za Zemjata	Bulgaria
Baltic Environment Forum	Estonia
Global Dry Toilet Association	Finland
SERA – Santé Environnement	France
Geres	France
Atmosfair	Germany
Women Life On Earth	Germany/USA
Otterwasser	Germany
Borda	Germany
Energia Klub	Hungary
SPARE	Norway
Swedish Society for Nature Cons	Sweden
Women's Institute	UK



### International Advisory Board

The WECEF international Advisory Board represents the WECEF members, leads the WECEF working groups and helps to develop strategies for the organisation. The IAB is elected by the WECEF members. IAB elections take place every 3 years, mostly during the general members meetings.

Name	Function	Country
Irene Dankelman	Chair / gender & environment	Netherlands
Svetlana Slesarenok	Co-chair	Ukraine
Sascha Gabizon	Director WECEF	Netherlands
Nadjesda Kutepova	Energy - alternate	Russia
Diana Iskreve	Sanitation	Bulgaria
Anna Tsvetkova	Water & Sanitation	Ukraine
Victoria Elias	Biodiversity & Public Participation	Russia
Viviane Avandana	Sustainable Rural Development & Sanitation	Spain
Sabine Brückmann	Sustainable Rural Development	Germany
Olga Speranskaya	Chemicals & Health	Russia
Helen Lynn	Chemicals & Health	UK
Elena Manvelian	Health	Armenia

### Board of Trustees

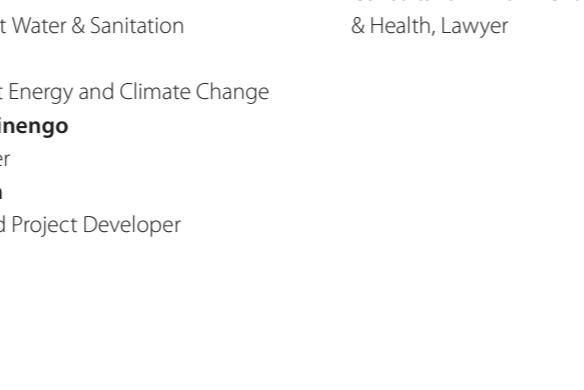
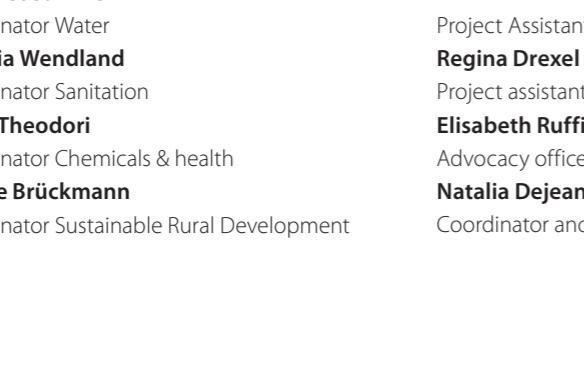
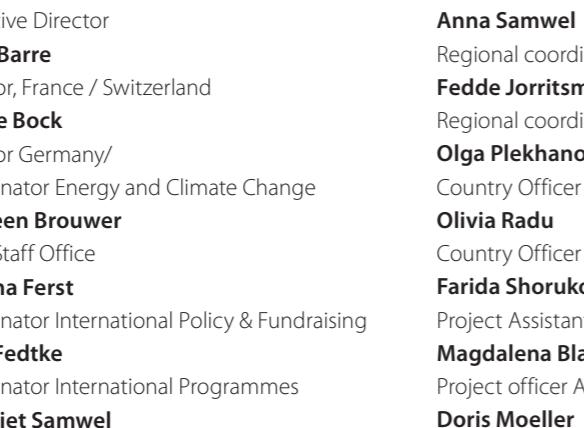
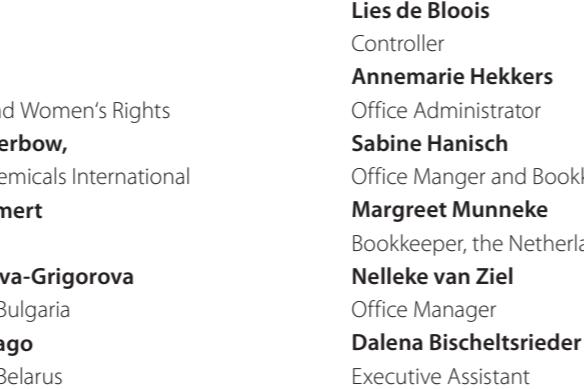
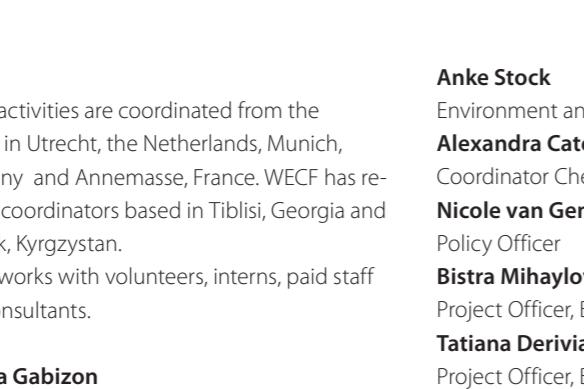
The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECEF. The Board of Trustees meets at least 2 times per year to approve the years accounts and report, and to approve the upcoming years budget and workplan.

Christine v. Weizsäcker	President
Marjon Reiziger	Vice-president
Bert Kuiter	Treasurer
Willy Douma	Secretary
Grietjes Zeeman	Member
Marianne Nugteren	Member

### WECEF Working Groups

The WECEF network currently works through 5 working groups. WECEF working groups prepare common statements and exchange information through 7 email mailing lists.

	<b>Safe Chemicals</b> safechemicals@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>Safe food production and Rural Development</b> agri@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>Health and Environment</b> health@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>Safe Water and Sanitation</b> water@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>Safe Energy and Climate Change</b> energy@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>Cross-cutting: Gender mainstreaming in Sustainable Development</b> gender@mailman.wecf.eu
	<b>WECEF members and partners</b> wecfnews@googlegroups.com

**Staff**

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Munich, Germany and Annemasse, France. WECF has regional coordinators based in Tbilisi, Georgia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants.

**Sascha Gabizon**

Executive Director

**Anne Barre**

Director, France / Switzerland

**Sabine Bock**

Director Germany/

Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

**Maureen Brouwer**

Head Staff Office

**Gemma Ferst**

Coordinator International Policy & Fundraising

**Gero Fedtke**

Coordinator International Programmes

**Margriet Samwel**

Coordinator Water

**Claudia Wendland**

Coordinator Sanitation

**Demi Theodori**

Coordinator Chemicals & health

**Sabine Brückmann**

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

**Anke Stock**

Environment and Women's Rights

**Alexandra Caterbow,**  
Coordinator Chemicals International

**Nicole van Gemert**

Policy Officer

**Bistra Mihaylova-Grigorova**  
Project Officer, Bulgaria

**Tatiana Deriviago**

Project Officer, Belarus

**Anna Samwel**

Regional coordinator Caucasus

**Fedde Jorritsma**

Regional coordinator Central Asia

**Sabine Bock**

Director Germany/

Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

**Maureen Brouwer**

Head Staff Office

**Gemma Ferst**

Coordinator International Policy & Fundraising

**Gero Fedtke**

Coordinator International Programmes

**Margriet Samwel**

Coordinator Water

**Claudia Wendland**

Coordinator Sanitation

**Demi Theodori**

Coordinator Chemicals & health

**Sabine Brückmann**

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

**Stefan Deegner**

Ecological Sanitation Management

**Chantal van den Bossche**

Public Relations, Press and Website

**Johanna Hausmann**

Public Relations & Press Germany

**Karin Adolph**

Press Officer Germany

**Lies de Bloois**

Controller

**Annemarie Hekkers**

Office Administrator

**Sabine Hanisch**

Office Manager and Bookkeeper Germany

**Margreet Munneke**

Bookkeeper, the Netherlands

**Nelleke van Ziel**

Office Manager

**Dalena Bischeltsrieder**

Executive Assistant

**Véronique Grassinger**

Corporate Identity & Publications

**Experts****Patrick Meyer**

Webdesigner

**Herbert Danner**

Consultant Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy

**Farida Shorukova**

Project Assistant Central Asia

**Magdalena Black**

Project Officer Agriculture and Energy

**Doris Moeller**

Project Assistant Water & Sanitation

**Regina Drexel**

Project Assistant Energy and Climate Change

**Elisabeth Ruffinengo**

Advocacy Officer

**Natalia Dejean**

Coordinator and Project Developer

**WECF Balance as per 31 December 2009 in Euro**

	2009	2008
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	10.865	21.738
<b>Current assets</b>		
Receivables and prepayments	410.069	339.54
Cash at banks and in hand	179.425	48.61
	589.494	388.515
<b>Total</b>	600.359	410.253
<b>Capital and liabilities</b>		
<b>Capital</b>		
Continuity reserve	66.774	3.4528
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Work in progress		
Project expenses	-5.221.699	-2.794.439
Advance payments	5.515.571	2.972.114
	293.872	177.675
Trade payables and accruals	210.883	195.186
Payables from related parties	28.830	2.864
	533.585	375.725
<b>Total</b>	600.359	410.253
<b>Continue to reserve</b>		
Balance as at 1 January	34.528	3.1352
Result for the year	32.246	3.176
	66.774	34.528
For more information and the auditors opinion we refer to the annual reports 2009. The audited annual financial report is available on the WECF website.		

## WECF Statement of income and expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2009

	Actual 2009*	Budget 2009	Actual 2008
<b>Source of Income</b>			
Income from received grants governments	2.850.173	3.212.774	3.001.401
Contributions from WECF eV.	39.391	78.750	
Contributions from private foundations	69.753	105.000	120.724
Other income	27.603	23.000	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2986.920</b>	<b>3.419.524</b>	<b>3.122.125</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Sanitation	1.285.436	1.940.890	1.233.093
Water	374.655	267.833	280.440
Energy	280.222	218.533	235.892
Health	402.325	288.075	247.218
Capacity building	73.300	78.435	334.769
Democracy	110.919	93.545	120.849
<b>Expenses relating to objectives</b>	<b>2.526.857</b>	<b>2.887.311</b>	<b>2.452.261</b>
Expenses relating to acquiring funds and grants	40.208	31.300	30.074
Operational and administrative expenses	387.609	513.318	636.414
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2.954.674</b>	<b>3.431.929</b>	<b>3.118.749</b>
<b>Result for the year</b>	<b>32.246</b>	<b>-12.405</b>	<b>3.376</b>

\* The actual expenditures 2009 exclude the expenses of WECF France (100.000 Euro) and WECF Germany (500.000 Euro). Consolidated accounts are aimed at for the year 2010. The German and French WECF financial accounts are available from the offices in Munich and Annemasse.

## Observations of the Board of Director

verify the possibility to obtain funding from the global carbon finance market.

WECF obtained continued funding of €307.764 for its annual work plan from the European Commission DG Environment, which allowed to continue the European policy activities as well as the network activities, such as the network's anniversary conference "Innovation for Sustainability" (June, Netherlands), the Thematic meeting on Healthy Environments (January, Luxembourg) and the two meetings of the Safe Energy working group during the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn (June) and Copenhagen (December).

### Financial year 2009

The financial year 2009 was a year of consolidation for the organisation, in which quality improvement processes started in 2008 were continued and or finalized, and steps were taken to integrate the financial systems in WECF's three offices.

WECF invested in diversification of its funding sources, and verified the possibility of obtaining support from new institutional donors and international funding mechanisms. As many funding application processes for larger grants require several months, most results of this effort are expected to bring its fruits in the second half of 2010 and early 2011.

The safe energy program was further developed, WECF organised 3 trainings on how to construct solar collectors, providing hot water for sanitation and heating-support, and organised training on insulation and energy efficiency (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia). French and Dutch students also participated in the programme, and support was provided by a German solar company. In cooperation with Atmosfair, implementing organisation for the Clean Development Mechanism, project identification notes were prepared in order to

more than 30,000 low income people with access to improved water, sanitation, energy and agricultural conditions. A further € 1.406.000 went into capacity building, training, policy development, monitoring, evaluation, up scaling activities and sharing of the lessons learned. More than 20 school toilet buildings were build and in operation, and more than 5000 people received access to safe water and sanitation in low-income rural communities. More than 40 participants from 9 EECRA Countries, the Netherlands and Germany participated in the the Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Sanitation in Western-Georgia.

The environmental rights working group contributed to the work of the Aarhus Convention secretariat, for instance with the participation in the meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and of the Expert Group on Public Participation, with co-funding from the EC DG Environment support.

The water and sanitation working group contributed to international policy processes with more than 5 new publications and the organi-

sation of a Special General Session at World Water Forum 5 in Istanbul, together with the UN Taskforce on gender and water. WECF was invited to contribute to 2 of the consultation meetings of the independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, who will make recommendations for a more sustainable realisation of the MDGs, in particular MDG 7 (CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction). Funding by the Netherlands Ministry of Environment (€169.299) allowed the working group on Safe Chemicals and Health to contribute to national policy processes, including the stakeholder meeting on chemical substances. WECF organised one of the stakeholder meetings on the theme of 'substitution of hazardous chemicals - best practice', where representatives from industry and hospitals presented how they were already phasing out hazardous chemicals in their products and processes. Furthermore, WECF actively contributed to the policy processes on EACH, SAICM, RTR and Biodiversity and the nanotechnology dialogue.

The 3-year projects on democracy building and sustainable development in Belarus and Moldova, funded by the MARD programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued in 2009, and allowed 2 demonstration projects to be carried by local communities to show best practices in the area of solid waste management, sanitation, water protection, energy saving and composting, and to share lessons learned and recommendations with policy makers.

A 2-year project on asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan, supported with €100.000 by the European Commission and €4.000 by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, started in 2009, and included a first ever high level

policy conference on chrysotile asbestos and health in Kazakhstan, followed by training sessions in 7 cities and testing of asbestos exposure by an accredited laboratory. It also supported public participation in the Rotterdam Convention meeting.

The 3 year funding by Fondation Ensemble France (€ 69.753 in 2009), with co-funding from the Matra program of the Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest, allowed the organisation of the School Award for the best Water Safety Plan, during International Danube Day, 2009 in Romania. Also, the first Indoor Urine Diverting Dry School Toilet was inaugurated in Romania.

Funding by the Ministries of Environment and Health of Austria, Denmark, Germany\*, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden allowed us to organise the Children's Environmental Health Good Practice Award, in preparation of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Italy, which received more than 130 entries from over 34 countries.

A charity concert organized by WECF president in Zaltbommel, the Netherlands, brought together circa € 1.000 for housing improvements in a Roma settlement in Romania, where WECF has been engaged for the past 8 years. With €30,000 co-funding from the French Ministry of Environment\*, WECF France started a train the trainers programme and published the trainers handbook. Furthermore, WECF France launched the "Test your Nest" project, in cooperation with the French National Consumer Institute and an independent laboratory, allowing parents in 4 EU countries to test the indoor air quality of their baby's rooms on VOC's and formaldehydes.

Additional funding from the German Ministry of Environment's \* "International Climate Initi-

ative" (€160.000) allowed the active participation of NGO representatives from the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian region in the international climate negotiations. WECF and its EECCA members organised high level preparatory climate policy meetings in Tbilisi and Moscow, prepared policy papers and presented them during more than 7 side events at UNFCCC SB and COP meetings.

Support by the Polish-German Batori Foundation\* allowed the visit of German mayors and farmers to the Polish region of Mazovia, to promote cooperation for sustainable rural development. The EU DG environment funding provided additional support for WECF working group promoting agro-biodiversity and supporting regions to develop guidelines on how to become GMO-free.

WECF France brought WECF's German partner organisation "Unser Land" to French trade fair "Salon Access" to present its programme with more than 200 local, fair and equitable food products.

The results of the Water Safety Plan projects\* in Romania and Bulgaria, and another 5 Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, were published on the new google-maps based website To-Ni Finder (<http://www.wecf.eu/toni/>), where the independent water quality tests results can be found.

### Outlook 2010

As 4 large programmes are moving into their last year of implementation, WECF's budget for 2010 amounts to 2.300.000 Euro, which is a 31% reduction compared to 2009. Measures have been taken to limit expenses. Results regarding outstanding applications for new

programmes will be known in the first half of 2010, and will provide insight into the further development of 2010 and the period 2011-2015. WECF expects several funding applications to be granted, allowing for steady development starting from 2010, and extending WECF's implementation activities to a global scope, as its policy activities already have a global focus. Furthermore, WECF will focus on evaluating and monitoring the results of its main programmes in 2010, bringing the lessons learned into further consolidation and strengthening of its operations and network. WECF will develop its fundraising efforts with the general public to increase its share of project-independent resources.

**Sascha Gabizon,**  
*Executive Director WECF*

Activities marked with an \* are (partly) funded through WECF Germany or WECF France and not or only partially included in the financial accounts.