



# Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All

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



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# Annual Report 2012



“Women in Europe working together with women and men all over the world for an equitable and sustainable future”





Eliminating the root causes of inequality are a pre-requisite for sustainable development. At the Rio+20 summit on sustainable development in 2012 it became once more clear, that better laws to ensure gender equality and reduce income inequalities are an essential first step, alongside reforming the macro-economic causes, such as unfair and unsustainable trade and investment regimes.

More than 50,000 representatives of social movements and civil society organisations took the streets in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, to demonstrate against unfair and unsustainable economic policies. At the same time, 30,000 participants of the United Nations "Rio+20" conference contributed to the document "the Future we Want" which has set the path towards the "Sustainable Development Goals", which will replace the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

WECF took a leading role in the 2012 Rio+20 conference, as co-facilitator of the "Women's Major Group", one of the nine groups of civil society which have a space in the UN policy process, and are allotted speaking time and contribute to the proposed negotiation text. WECF's role was to facilitate the 300 organisations through virtual and face to face meetings, develop joint text proposals for the negotiation text, organise meetings with country negotiators, as well as organising events in which to present the priorities of women's organisations. One of the main highlights was the "Women Rio+20 Award": out of 100 applications women's organisations from the global South were celebrated for their successful and innovative projects on sustainable development. In total 10 female ministers took part in the Award Ceremony, as well as 300 participants and a lot of Brazilian TV and newspapers. As a result of all these many activities by all civil society groups some positive commitments on equality and environmental safe-guards were assured in the results of the Rio+20 conference. In the coming 2 years these commitments need to lead to implementation and commitments for a financial reform towards investments in sustainable and equitable development.

For WECF and partners, the main effort in 2012 was of course to demonstrate local solutions for inclusive and environmentally friendly development, with full participation and leadership of women. In Uganda and South-Africa women training and development of food gardens and organic agriculture started, as part of the "Empower Women benefits All - EWA" program. In Ukraine, Georgia and 5 other EECCA countries, "Switch to Sun" was launched, a program to improve and up-scale solar heaters for household and public building in rural areas where the energy services are not or little developed. In Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan WECF and partners transferred knowledge and built ecological sanitation systems for schools and households, with the addition of solar technologies to supply hot water for bathrooms, and solar food processing solutions. Through our capacity building and training programmes more than 500 trained trainers are now able to share their skills.

Many members continued to build skills in the area of policy analysis and advocacy, to propose and push for better legislation and governance. This included the Climate Negotiations in DOHA, where a delegation of WECF members promoted the lessons learned from the local mitigation projects. Partners in Albania, Serbia and Macedonia organised consumer information and media events to raise awareness about product and chemicals risks, and the need to better protect our children from carcinogenic and hormone-disrupting chemicals. The WECF offices in France, Germany and the Netherlands shared their expertise in the area of sound chemicals management with the Balkan partners, as well as with partners of the Baltic Sea region. The challenge of strengthening legislation regarding the hundreds of hazardous chemicals in our daily food and products is a common problem for all countries in the world, and we need to share our best practices such as the WECF Nesting Program which informs consumers and parents on how to avoid and better regulate these harmful substances in the environment of our children.

I am proud to present this annual report to you, as WECF and its partners have achieved admirable results! We invite you to join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Healthy Environment for All!

**Sascha Gabizon**  
Executive Director WECF



“WECF - Giving  
women voice  
globally for a fair,  
sustainable and  
healthy world for all,,

Photo: Civil Society Activity by youth groups at Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012

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## Working for a Healthy Environment for All WECF and WICF

### WECF in Short

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and its international branch Women International for a Common Future (WICF) are a network of over 150 member organisations and several hundred individual members, aiming to promote a healthy environment for all and strengthening the role of women in policy and implementation of sustainable development at the local, national and international level.

### WECF's Work Worldwide

Historically, the majority of WECF members have come from European, Caucasus, Central Asian and Balkan countries, though membership is open to organizations worldwide, and increasingly WECF implements projects with partners from Africa and Asia. WECF empowers its member organisations to bring their policy recommendations to international policymakers and into global policy processes by increasing the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organizations. Specifically, in the context of our work on Climate Justice, Asbestos, Toxic Toys and Rio+20, we work together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Latin-America, Africa and Asia, as well as with strategic partners who have expertise on women's economic empowerment, green and equitable economic development and international agreements.

### WECF's Roots

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in the Netherlands in 1994, after women from all over the European region who

participated in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 recognised the catalysing role women were playing in sustainable development as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future." The philosophy of WECF has always been to support local project partners and network members in conducting advocacy work themselves, whether at local, national or international levels - thus giving direct voices to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work has proved to be very successful and has become one of the strongest distinguishing aspects 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 20 years on, women are still not equally involved in policy processes and continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty and the effects of environmental degradation. The potential of women to be agents of change and important stakeholders is often neglected. This is because the different roles and tasks of women and men have caused a continuing gender divide. Further, discrimination against women has not yet been eliminated in many countries. However, the reality is that women often have different priorities to men and are often more engaged in issues related to health and sustainable livelihoods. As this diversity of views and concerns needs to be reflected in policy-making, WECF wishes to pave the way for increased public

participation in general, and women's participation in particular, in policy-making on development, environment and health.

### **Why Europe?**

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and the EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the new republics faced many problems. Today, there continue to be many challenges in the new EU member states and neighbouring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and are in fact worsening in some regions due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management.

### **WECF's works in Europe, EECCA and Internationally**

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development for more than 150 member organisations operating in the EU, the EECCA region (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), Turkey, Afghanistan, India, Uganda and South Africa. WECF develops alternative, sustainable solutions that are adjusted to the local culture, market and climate, and based on local needs. At the same time, it brings lessons learned from the field to policy makers.

### **Our Mission**

WECF works for a healthy environment for all, and for an equitable and sustainable future. WECF strives to find a balance between the environment, health and the economy, taking into account the needs and perspectives of men and women. We enable women and men to participate at a 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 is coordinated through WECF organizations in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), and France (Annemasse), and has about 30 part-time staff members. Each national organization has a board as well as its own national member organizations, which work in a coordinated manner and present a consolidated account and overall work plan and strategy. WECF has an international Board of Trustees (BoT) which bears the final responsibility for the strategic and financial management of the foundation. The International Advisory Board (IAB) represents WECF's member organisations. The IAB works in an advisory capacity on strategic issues and organizational development. IAB members (of which there are currently eleven) are elected by the members of WECF. The BoT and the IAB maintain close connections through representation at each other's meetings.

### **Implementing projects with partners & engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy**

WECF implements projects with its partners which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas

of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, which are often inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grass roots level and which aim to represent women's perspectives. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

### **WECF and Cooperation**

WECF cooperates with other organizations, networks and research institutes such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Hamburg Technical University, and private companies such as Solar Partner Sud in Germany. Next to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WECF's donors include the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Rhône-Alpes region (France), European Commission (DG Environment and EuropeAid), the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (I&M), Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation France Libertés (France) and the Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland). Natracare is an example of a private sector company supporting WECF.

### **Issues & Projects**

WECF works at five key issues:

1. Safe chemicals and protection of health.
2. Safe and sustainable energy & climate protection for all.
3. Safe food production & sustainable rural development for all.
4. Safe water and sustainable sanitation for all.
5. Gender equality and human rights.

### **WECF's strategic approach**

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a strategic approach and set key goals for the organisation in the period 2010-2015. These fall within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1, 3 and 7 and the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities. The right to access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water and food. The right to a daily environment free of hazardous chemicals and pollutants. The responsibility of all to protect our natural resources and live within the boundaries of the earth's carrying capacity. WECF's strategic approach is people-focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts. Keywords are: poverty reduction in rural areas, sustainable and affordable technologies, public participation, gender equality and human rights.

# What we have achieved!

## A selection of some of our highlights and accomplishments

### Working on safe chemicals, waste and health for all

WECF's "Nesting— safe indoor environment for your child" program along with its related "toxic free toys" campaign, has continued to mobilise parents and policymakers alike. Two new Nesting partners in Albania and Macedonia were added to the existing programmes in 8 EU countries. Partners in the three Baltic countries translated WECF's key consumer guides on how to avoid harmful chemicals in children's products. This comes in addition to the twelve languages, including Chinese, in which products such as WECF's Toxic Free Toys guide is already available. The new WECF consumer guides on EDCs and Home DIY were also written, published and widely disseminated.

The French Nesting program gave 100 training workshops for parents and health professionals, and doubled the number of visitors to its website. WECF Netherlands created a "community" of concerned parents and socially responsible SMEs, called "MAMA GREEN", which launched a newsletter, website, twitter account and visited 10 Dutch members of Parliament, calling on them to strengthen EDC legislation, whilst giving them toxic-free toys for their children. The WECF offices in France, Netherlands and Germany were very active in the European NGO campaign for better protection against Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, and WECF Germany facilitated the first-ever inter-Ministerial meeting on EDCs in Berlin and started developing an APP to help parents find EDCs in children's products. WECF France has launched a question and answer service for concerned parents on their website. WECF Netherlands analysed all the pesticide residue data on EDCs, and published its report in a press release, achieving broad press attention and tripling website visits.

### Gender equality and human rights in environmental policy

WECF coordinated 350 women and environmental organisations worldwide in the negotiations leading up to and during the Rio+20 UN conference on Sustainable Development. This brought together civil society organisations from all sectors and expertise – from thematic knowledge on issues such as water, forests and energy to specific expertise on technologies, trade and finance – and lead to effective contribution and additions to the negotiated text. It also resulted



in a broad outreach on the issues at hand to media and press, both within the UN conference with its 30,000 participants and beyond, in the People's Summit with its 50,000 participants. As co-chair for the Women's major group for Rio+20, WECF consulted with all its members (355 organisations in 80 countries) and developed its position on the zero-draft for Rio+20 at the end of 2011. This was submitted to the United Nations and in January 2012 translated into French, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese and presented to different governments. When the United Nations secretariat came out with its Zero Draft (from the 6000 pages it received) the Women Major Group analysed it and presented its position paper with recommendations for strengthening the draft. The summary was translated into four languages (English, German, French, and Dutch). The position paper addresses the sectors on climate change and energy. In February 2012, the WECF director presented the positions of the Women Major Group on the Rio+20 zero draft to the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment at the UNEP CG in Nairobi. At Rio+20, with the financial support of German GIZ, WECF organised a Women Rio20 Good Practice Award. Ten female Ministers for the Environment gave awards to 16 winners, in 6 categories, including the category of 'Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy'. Winning projects from this category were from Guatemala, Benin and Uzbekistan.

### Working on Safe energy and climate protection

In cooperation with the German company 'Solar Partner Sued' and other local partners, WECF organized two 8-day follow-up training sessions on the construction, use and maintenance of low-cost solar collectors for water heating, with the aim of scaling up the solar energy solutions in Georgia and Ukraine. Twenty newly-certified specialists on the construction, use and maintenance of solar collectors are now able to independently pass on their newly acquired information to others. In cooperation with local partners, WECF organized several policy roundtables in rural communities to present these sustainable technologies to policymakers and citizens. As a result, the Georgian Government asked WECF and its Georgian Partner to develop a proposal for a NAMA (National Appropriate Mitigations Action) based on the solar collectors as developed and demonstrated by WECF. WECF shared its lessons at the international policy level, and continued to co-facilitate the technology hub at the COP18 "Gender Day". It was also asked to give a key note presentation at the Meeting of Network of Women Ministers for the Environment, and to provide input into the Climate Action Network's Doha Milestone Paper.



## Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

WECF implements affordable, innovative and sustainable sanitation systems as demonstration projects. WECF demonstration projects focus on creating access to safe water and sanitation for schools and households in low-income rural areas. WECF raises awareness and mobilizes citizens for sustainable water and wastewater management. WECF promotes community-based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas without centralised drinking water supply. WECF develops Water and Sanitation Safety Plans in order to make them accessible to small communities and schools. WECF brings lessons from these projects to the policy table. WECF and partners represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health policy process and advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resource and waste water management. WECF contributes to the implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health programme on small scale water supply and sanitation. WECF also contributes to the work of UN organisations on access to water and sanitation in schools (the UNICEF Wash Campaign), with a focus on menstrual hygiene, aiming to increase the number of girls going to school.

WECF contributes to the post-2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators in the water and sanitation area. In the European region, WECF monitors and contributes with its lessons learned to the adaptation and implementation of the drinking water directive and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

**50** people trained on working with water safety plans

**200** people trained on operation and maintenance of ecosan (UDDT) toilets and the use of urine and faecal matter

**1100** people visited demonstration objects (UDDT)

**3** toilet buildings for schools and kindergartens (UDDT)

**52** soil filters for wastewater treatment for households and schools

**1000** of people and school children gained access to sanitation

**10.000** people's water quality tested



## Safe Chemicals for All

WECF and its members advocate non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, and for the implementation of three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes strengthening of chemicals legislation, in particular, to protect the most vulnerable. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions about the products they purchase and use. WECF's core awareness-raising program is "Project Nesting", which involves a combination of online media in eight languages, workshops, information guides and product databases testing.

The consumer information is flanked by policy advocacy through the international "toxic free toys" campaign. In addition to advocating the elimination of toxics in consumer products and food, with a distinct focus on EDCs (Endocrine Disruptors), WECF also addresses hazardous waste and building materials. In Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine old pesticide stockpiles pose a serious threat to the environment and public health. Partner organizations try to attract attention to these problems and cooperate with the local and national authorities to isolate or remove the stockpiles and reduce exposure for humans, animals and the environment. In Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, WECF works with local partners on alternatives to asbestos as a building material, raising awareness about the lethal risk from the wide-spread chrysotile asbestos use in buildings.

**80** Project Nesting trainers (in France and the Netherlands) as off 2009

**250** Nesting workshops organized since 2009 in France and the Netherlands

**1** hospital training medical staff on "nesting";

**6** trainings for technical staff at Test Lab, 12 trainings in municipalities and 20 trainings for various associations

**600** parents educated on creating a safe environment for their new born child

**10 000** parents have been informed through fairs and have been contacted directly and are motivated to create a safe environment for their new born

**71000** policy makers and decision makers from business and civil society informed about the health risks of asbestos and alternative building materials

About **a million** people have been reached via media channels (TV and radio, websites and printed media)



## Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

WECF's overall goal for Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development is that all children, women and men have access to safe, regional, diverse and affordable food. This food should be free of hazardous chemicals, nano particles and GMOs, based on fair trade and produced in harmony with nature and the landscape, protecting water, soil, air and biodiversity. WECF implements projects which aim at closing the loop; in which waste from one process becomes a resource for another process. In particular, WECF demonstrates safe use of human excreta (urine and faecal compost) and composting of organic waste as fertilizer in agriculture. WECF members train other members on making plant-based tinctures against pests in horticulture, and on setting up local economic value chains based on cooperation between farmers and consumers. Through these demonstration projects, WECF promotes examples of sustainable and organic farming that: provides healthier food; improves the livelihoods of rural people (nutrition, knowledge and well-being); and protects natural resources and ecosystems.

**1** farming incubator, "Initiaterre" to help young farmers start their enterprise in local and sustainable agriculture, and promote regional, fair and sustainable food

**1** network of women working in the rural areas of the Rhône-Alpes region, France, to promote gender equality in the rural-professional environment

**1** network of women working in agriculture in Armenia, to support revenue-generating activities, and promote safe food production and a chemical-free environment

**6** countries (Austria, France, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Turkey), involved in cross-border cooperation for climate sensitive agriculture

**200** farmers trained on different eco technologies : composting, solar energy, ecological sanitation and water treatment by the Ormax and Cutzatorul partners in Moldova, coordinated by SEI (Poland) and WECF

**Georgia:** Rural women savings and loans groups created in Ninotsminda

**South Africa:** **8** women from low-income township grow their sustainable food in "urban food garden"; 1 permaculture fruit and vegetable garden established, and 3 food gardener jobs created

**Uganda:** **100** demonstration fields on pesticide-free Conservation Agriculture established

**Kyrgyzstan:** **200** people trained on the use of urine in agriculture; the urine is now being used as fertilizer in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

**Georgia:** **120** female refugees trained on sustainable agriculture and ready to apply it at the start of 2013



## Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time and poses a serious and global threat to sustainable development, poverty elimination and peace in the coming decades. Climate change is inextricably linked with energy concerns as two thirds of global emissions come from energy consumption.

WECF implements interrelated programmes on both issues. WECF aims to provide safe, affordable and renewable energy for low-income households, bringing successful pilot projects to scale via innovative financial instruments. WECF promotes a switch away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralized alternatives. WECF empowers vulnerable groups to benefit from climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. Through its role as co-coordinator of the 'women and gender constituency' at the climate negotiations, WECF promotes gender-positive energy solutions and integrates a gender perspective into global UN climate change negotiations.

**5** women from Egypt, India, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Paraguay took part in UNFCCC negotiations as part of Fostering Women for Leadership and engaged actively at UNFCCC Doha COP 18 negotiations with interventions, presentations, demonstrations and strategic talks with a focus on gender equality, equity, technology, forest and mitigation issues.

**18** demonstration objects consisting of solar collectors and energy efficient stoves were exposed at public places in cooperation with local partners and Community Development Water User's Unions (CDWUU's) in Kyrgyzstan in 9 villages, demonstrating advantages of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

**9** more solar collectors and 138 energy efficient stoves have been constructed for private households (of which 118 have been financed 100% by the owners). Furthermore, 22 solar driers have been constructed.

**87** solar collector crafts men and 49 crafts women were trained as part of the EU Energy Project; 10 women and 30 men were trained on insulation, and 37 certified; 10 men trained on house heating. A total of 249 people trained, of which 34% were women; A further 20 people were trained as trainers on solar collectors.

**119** solar collectors were constructed and nine solar heaters and 37 houses were insulated



## Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

**Cross Cutting Issue:** WECF believes that the right to a healthy environment is the birth-right of every person regardless of gender, race, colour, national origin, or income. This requires that respect is given to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that are least empowered are the ones most likely to suffer from environmental pollution and lack access to safe water and sanitation. One example of this is the Roma communities who live near (toxic) waste dumpsites in Eastern European countries.

WECF's overall goal of "achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies and programmes. Women and men are differently affected by environmental pollution and the lack of basic resources, such as water or energy. Women's views, knowledge and capacity to work towards a sustainable development and a healthy environment have to be taken into account when looking for local as well as global answers. WECF implements projects with partners in local communities, organizing community dialogues and gender assessments to raise awareness on gender roles and the value of unpaid women's labour. All activities are monitored with gender-differentiated indicators, and the impact on boys and girls, women and men is assessed and analysed. Lessons learned and (policy) recommendations are shared with peers and decision makers. WECF facilitates women's participation and leadership in local, national and international policy-making processes. Direct results of the public participation processes that WECF organises for a number of EU and UN policy processes were, amongst others:

**1** Guide on public participation for Parties and Non-Parties to the Protocol on Water & Health and civil society

Gender-sensitive and participatory assessments at country, regional and local level, approx **800**

Gender trainings or technical trainings with gender focus:

**12** Gender training -

**155** Agriculture/ horticulture -

**47** Energy

**190** Business skills

**60** savings

Publications/presentations on gender, human rights and the environment, **20** Publication/presentations on public participation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, women participation in international conferences, **25**



“

Sustainable development can only be reached with equal input from women and men. Therefore, the empowerment of women, in particular of rural women, has to include access to resources, land and services.”

**Anke Stock, Senior Specialist, Gender and Rights WECF**

A photograph of two women speaking at a conference. The woman on the left, with dark hair and a blue blazer, is speaking into a microphone. The woman on the right, with long dark hair and glasses, is listening attentively. They are seated at a table with a blue cloth, and a green bottle is visible on the table. The background shows a large audience in a auditorium.

# Campaigns and Advocacy

# Campaigns and Advocacy



WECF coordinated the Women's Major Group at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil, June 2012



WECF France visiting women's tree oil cooperatives in Morocco



WECF raised awareness about unacceptable costs and damage of nuclear energy at the Rio+20 summit, Brazil



Fedde Jorritsma presenting WECF at the Dry Toilet Conference in Finland



WECF event at the European Parliament with expert on chemicals safety of toys



WECF presenting its results at a meeting of the World Health Organisation on Water and Sanitation



WECF chemicals coordinator speaking at UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya



Sabine Bock, WECF's Energy & Climate coordinator in Doha, during the Climate COP18



WECF

# Campaigns and Advocacy

## The core of WECF's work: Implementing projects with partners & engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy



WECF implements projects with its partners, which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grass-roots level and always representing women's perspectives.

### WECF represents women and civil society in a number of international policy processes and United Nations organisations

#### WECF and UNEP United Nations Environment Programme:

- The WECF director is co-chair of the UNEP major group and stakeholder facilitating committee. The WECF president is a member of the UNEP advisory group on International Environmental Governance.
- WECF facilitates the work of the NGO coalition "Rotterdam Convention Alliance – ROCA," which advocates the implementation of prior informed consent on trade in hazardous substances, including chrysotile asbestos.
- WECF implements an awareness-raising programme under the Quick Start Fund of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

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### WECF and UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

WECF is core member of the gender and women constituency of UNFCCC.

**Contact:** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

### WECF and UN CSD Commission on Sustainable Development:

WECF is a focal point for the Women's Major Group for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which holds the secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development, and organises the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

**Contact:** [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)

### WECF and UN WOMEN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

WECF cooperates with UN WOMEN on the preparations for the Rio+20 UNCSD conference and the SEED award.

**Contact:** [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)



Sascha Gabizon representing WECF at a UNEP meeting

### WECF and UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

WECF co-chairs the NGO alliance 'European Eco Forum' which is the focal point for the 'Environment for Europe' policy process. WECF is an implementing partner for UNECE and WHO of the 2011-2013 workprogramme of the 'Protocol on Water and Health'. WECF experts are members of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making and contribute to 'public participation in international forums' under the Aarhus Convention on access to public participation, information and justice on environmental matters.

**Contact:** [claudia.wendland@wecf.eu](mailto:claudia.wendland@wecf.eu) and [anke.stock@wecf.eu](mailto:anke.stock@wecf.eu)

### WECF and WHO World Health Organisation:

WECF represents the environmental NGOs of the Eco Forum in the WHO-Euro ministerial policy process 'Environment & Health', and is a member of the task force on Environment and Health. WECF cooperates on the implementation of the Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), and the Parma Ministerial Declaration.

**Contact:** [margriet.samwel@wecf.eu](mailto:margriet.samwel@wecf.eu)

### WECF and other UN programmes:

WECF cooperates with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) in national development activities - for example, those relating to gender, or to chemicals management. WECF cooperates with UNSGAB (United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation) on the '5 year drive for sustainable sanitation'. WECF cooperates with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) on the WASH in School. **WECF has consultative status with ECOSOC (UN economic and social council) and is an accredited partner of UNEP.**

# Campaigns and Advocacy in The European Region (Europe, Caucasus And Central Asia)



## WECFs advocacy work in the European Region on Water and Sanitation:

### UNECE water and health policy processes

Worldwide, 2.8 billion people lack safe sanitation and one billion, safe drinking water. Even in the EU and EECCA region, nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply; and even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation. Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Further, in the Western part of the region, where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants - including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products - have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health. The UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. WECF is one of the implementation partners of the three-year Work Programme 2011-2013 of the Protocol on Water and Health, alongside the German and Czech governments, for the working group on "small scale water supply and sanitation".

In 2012, through its water and sanitation advocacy work, WECF continued to implement projects to monitor drinking water quality, to share lessons from its water and sanitation demonstration projects, and to advocate for better policies and government programmes to assure safe water and sanitation for all.

### Margriet Samwel representing WECF at a meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO)



### Human Right to water and sanitation

In 2010, the United Nations declared the access to water and sanitation a human right. However, in Europe, access to these services is threatened. Pilot projects, across the whole of Europe, of privatised water and sanitation have delivered negative results, namely increasing costs and decreasing quality. Nevertheless, the European Commission is trying to push through a complete privatization of water and sanitation. Many people who are already in a financially precarious situation cannot afford the steep rise in prices which privatization brings. They are facing the loss of adequate access to water, despite its being a human right. Because of this, WECF supports the European Citizens' Initiative, which positions itself clearly against the privatization of water and sanitation within the EU. Water and Sanitation need to remain public goods, ensured by the state to be universally affordable.

### The Right to Water and Sanitation at home and in school

One of WECF's key focuses is the provision of sustainable school sanitation conditions, because children are vulnerable and most affected by poor sanitation. In rural areas of the EECCA countries, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in schools are often terrible. Related diseases, particularly diarrhea and parasite infections, hinder the children's physical and intellectual development. WECF, along with partners worldwide, advocates making school sanitation a policy priority. This should especially involve work on the elimination of parasites, such as intestinal worms (STH), in children. These continue to pose a serious health burden across the world and in Europe.

### Safe and Sustainable Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene

In some areas of the world, menstruation is considered an impure and shameful act. For this reason, girls try to hide the fact that they are menstruating. Unfortunately, due to a lack both of safe facilities and of a supply of feminine hygiene products, many young girls are forced to drop school during their period. Each month they are deprived of their basic right, namely the right to education. WECF has continued to call for action on improving the WASH infrastructure, whilst demonstrating what an impressive results have been achieved in its projects by simply improving the livelihood of young school girls in rural areas.



## WECFs advocacy work in the European Region on Chemicals and Health

### Children's and Women's Environmental Health

Preventing negative environmental health effects for women and children by raising awareness and promoting precautionary policies is important to WECF. The general public in EECCA and SEE countries is still insufficiently informed about the particular



**Michèle Rivasi, Member of European Parliament and Member of ITRE Commission at the WECF toys press meeting at the European Parliament, Brussels, along with WECF France President Anne Barre**

vulnerability of children and women to environmental hazards, including "well-known" hazards like asbestos, dioxins, pesticides, second hand tobacco smoke (ETS), mould and radon. Even less information is available on other harmful chemicals. WECF aims to raise awareness of the specific vulnerabilities of children and women to environmental pollutants and of the preventive and precautionary measures which can be taken.

WECF's aim is to promote precautionary legislative measures that take into account the specific vulnerabilities of children and women. In 2012, WECF aimed to inform 17,000 decision makers and 50,000 parents of the need to take women and children's specific vulnerability into account in chemical and product regulations.

#### **Reduce Exposure to Endocrine Disruptors**

In 2012, WECF strived hard to achieve, at EU level (via German and French decision makers), a better EU legislation to protect both mother and developing child from hormone-disrupting (endocrine-disrupting) chemicals (EDCs), such as phthalates, bisphenol A and pesticides. WECF did this with the aid of EEHI, the European Environment and Health Initiative.

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) have been linked to several health problems, including reproductive abnormalities, cancer, obesity and early puberty. Among the chemicals that interfere with the hormone system are phthalates, pesticides, bisphenol A and many others found in our everyday food and consumer products. During perinatal and prenatal phases, children are most sensitive to exposure to EDCs. WECF aims with its work on EDCs to provide satisfactory information for pregnant women and parents and to advocate for better policy regulations. For years, WECF has been calling for a strategy on the primary prevention of (breast) cancer by eliminating the hazardous influence of endocrine disruptors on women's reproductive health. Via decision-makers, WECF advocates better EU legislation to protect women and the developing child from hormone-disrupting chemicals.

#### **REACH: eliminating toxic chemicals**

People in the European region continue to be exposed to hazardous chemicals in their everyday lives, encountering them in household products, cosmetics, furnishings and toys. The European chemicals regulation, REACH - in force for 4 years - is starting to have an effect on the market. Companies have started

to register most used chemicals and legislators have started to list most harmful chemicals, steps leading to their substitution. However, the process is slow and there are numerous exemptions. Moreover, people outside the EU also continue to be unprotected from harmful chemicals by legislation. WECF aims, therefore, to promote stronger chemicals legislation, internationally and in the EU, with the aim of informing citizens on how to exercise their rights under the existing legislative frameworks. In 2012, WECF aimed to convince 12,000 policy makers on measures to strengthen chemical policies in the EU and internationally

#### **International "Nesting" programme – A Healthy Environment for Healthy Children**

Through its "Nesting" programme, WECF helps parents to create a safe and healthy environment for their children. The 'Nesting' programme informs expecting parents and parents of young children on how to create a healthier and safer environment for their baby. Nesting disseminates this information via a web platform in eight languages (Estonian, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian and English), via user-friendly publications and via interactive workshops. Besides providing information on the Nesting websites, WECF also publishes various pocket guides about toys, detergents, baby care cosmetics, care products for pregnant women and electromagnetic fields. The increasing number of visitors on the Nesting websites proves that parents are in need of reliable and precise information to better protect their children from harmful substances. In 2012, the Nesting programme evolved significantly towards an even better-developed project, targeting not only new and future parents, but also health and childcare professionals. As the primary source of information and advice for parents, these professionals are well-placed to help raise awareness on environmental health amongst the general public.

#### **Toys and consumer products**

The particular vulnerability of the developing child and of women in general is not sufficiently taken into account in existing legislation. Even very small doses of harmful chemicals like EDCs can cause long-term and irreversible damage to a child's health. Further, women's bodies and hormone systems suffer different damage from harmful chemicals than men. For example, many toys on the European Market still contain such materials as lead, cadmium, CMRs, EDCs, neurotoxins and allergenic fragrances. The revised EU toys safety directive does not sufficiently improve the chemical hazardousness of the content. The CE mark is a self-made declaration by the manufacturer that their product meets all relevant legislation; it is not a guarantee of safety or quality which parents can trust. More information is necessary if consumers are to make truly informed decisions. In 2012, WECF continued to advocate safer toys free of hazardous chemicals, by means of steps such as the stricter regulation and labeling of toys. WECF France published numerous articles on this topic. It also organised a press conference on the issue in December. WECF the Netherlands created a network of concerned parents and companies, which published the MAMA GREEN newspaper and presented toxic-free toys to Dutch members of parliament, along with a call for stronger regulation.



**Alexandra Caterbow giving a statement at the Stockholm Convention in Geneva**

### **Informing consumers, parents and policymakers about precautionary measures and the substitution of substances**

The growing body of evidence on the long-term health effects of EDCs – which, as stated earlier, affect the human hormone system, a.o. fertility and reproductive health – should lead to immediate precautionary action for the protection of vulnerable groups. However, REACH regulation does not allow speedy measures, and individual measures are therefore required. One example of an individual measure is the recent EC decision to ban Bisphenol-A from baby bottles. Further, increasing evidence is revealing the effects of chemical mixtures, to which the REACH regulation can also not provide a fast response. Nano materials serve as one example. They are not recognized as new chemicals and nor do they fall below the tonnage limitation. As they are covered by REACH, WECF therefore calls for precautionary measures.

In 2012, WECF aimed to inform and convince 400 policymakers about measures required to substitute harmful substances and apply the precautionary principle to nano materials in consumer applications. This was, to a large extent, achieved.



### **WECF's advocacy work in the European Region on Climate and Energy:**

#### **Nuclear Power is not a solution to Climate Change**

WECF partner Nadezhda Kutepova, from the partner organization The Planet of Hopes, Russia, was invited to give a speech on the impact of nuclear energy for local people. This was presented at the First International Convention of Environmental Laureates, Freiburg, Germany, in March 2012.

Nadezhda Kutepova – Questioning the “Normalization” Of Nuclear Power Energy in Russia

*„I had never known about nuclear energy and nuclear materials, I was a common Soviet girl, I only had seen how many people around my family died or became disabled. And I thought it was normal! The question „why“ did not come to my head. These horrible things were normal for me.“*

These were the opening lines of Ms. Kutepova's speech at the First International Convention of Environmental Laureates. The event

in March 2012 in Freiburg, Germany took place midway between the Durban and Rio +20 climate and sustainable development conferences. Under the motto “On the way to Rio +20”, the convention was pushing for the development and adoption of “The Declaration on Rio +20 by International Environmental Laureates”. The aim is to send a positive signal for achieving ambitious climate and sustainability goals as well as necessary innovations.

Ms. Nadezhda Kutepova, a member of WECF's international advisory board, a head of the Ozersk-based NGO The Planet of Hopes, a lawyer and also a recipient of the award for Nuclear-Free Future, contributed to the event with a very powerful, moving and engaging speech. She expressed her deep criticism against the passive attitudes of the Russian decision-makers in relation to the lack of greater investments and stronger emphasis on alternative methods of energy supply.

Nadezhda Kutepova noted that “we have to promote an alternative energy system, based on high efficiency and clean, cheap and sustainable sources, which do not harm, which can work in case of any natural and technological disaster, and will be available for all the people still living in poverty and without energy today”.

#### **The German Energy Turn Around**

WECF was also invited to give two presentations by Skype, one for Georgia and one for Kazakhstan, on sharing the experiences of the German energy turnaround with these two countries. Germany's energy turnover is underway. Following the Fukushima nuclear disaster in March 2011, the centre-right coalition under German Chancellor Angela Merkel has decided to embark on a sustainable energy turnaround with the long term aim of switching off all of the country's 17 nuclear reactors by the year 2022. The nuclear phase out isn't yet the energy turnaround but is a crucial milestone towards a low-risk, economic and free of carbon dioxide energy supply.

WECF was invited to present the challenges in Germany regarding nuclear phase out and energy turn around on September 25 in Tbilisi, Georgia during a conference on “Promotion of use of renewable energy sources and introduction of energy-efficient technologies in Georgia”. Only a few weeks later in October Ecoforum NGO RK organized a round table to discuss in Astana, Kazakhstan „One year after Fukushima: present challenges”.

#### **WECF board member Nadezda Kutepova speaking at the Convention for Environmental Laureates in Freiburg, Germany, March 2012**





WECD director Sascha Gabizon (left) preparing to speak at a UN WOMEN high-level event, alongside Gro Harlem Brundtland and Michele Bachelet, at the Rio+20 summit, Brazil

## Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy worldwide

WECD implements projects with its partners which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECD also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, often inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grassroots level and with a focus on representing women's perspectives. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

### Join Women on the Road to Rio

For the 2012 Sustainable Development summit, Rio+20, WECD had a leading role as "organising partner" for all the women's organizations worldwide. The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, brought "sustainable development" to the global agenda. The Earth Summit led to a number of key Conventions designed to reduce environmental degradation and limit the impacts of climate change, and to move the world towards fair and green development and the eradication of poverty. The Earth Summit also led to Agenda21, in which women were – for the first time – defined as one of the nine "major groups" with a critical role to play in the formulation and implementation of policies for sustainable development. WECD was asked by its peers to be one of three "organising partners" for the UN secretariat and help organise the effective participation of women worldwide in the Rio+20 policy process.

### Preparations for the Summit

In 2012, through its Women Rio+20 campaign, WECD facilitated the Women's Major Group Rio +20 leading up to the Rio+20 summit in

June 2012 and beyond. WECD asked all women's organizations working on sustainable development issues in their broadest sense to join forces in the Women's Major Group Rio+20. In total more than 300 women representatives of 200 organisations worldwide have joined the Women's Major Group Rio+20. In addition, WECD and the Women Major Group cooperated closely with UN DESA (secretariat for Rio+20), UNEP and UN WOMEN in the preparations for the Rio+20 summit. WECD, as organising partner, supported the participation of a delegation of 30 women in the Rio+20 summit. The delegation included eight women environmental leaders of the WECD network, of whom two were nuclear energy experts from Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

### Consultations for the Zero Draft

WECD, as co-chair of the Women's major group for Rio+20, consulted with all its members (355 organisations in 80 countries) and developed its position on the zero-draft for Rio+20 at the end of 2011. This was submitted to the United Nations and in January 2012 translated into French, Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese, and presented to the various governments. When the United Nations secretariat came out with its Zero Draft (from the 6000 pages received) the Women Major Group analysed the draft and presented its position paper with recommendations for how it could be strengthened. The summary was translated into four languages (English, German, French and Dutch). The position paper addresses the sectors on climate change and energy. In February 2012, WECD director Sascha Gabizon presented the positions of the Women Major Group on the Rio+20 zero draft to the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment at the UNEP CG in Nairobi.

## Key priorities for Rio

Reaffirmation of Women's Rights Key to Rio+20 success  
IPS U.N. Bureau Chief Thalif Deen interviewed SASCHA GABIZON, executive director of Women International for a Common Future in April 2012

**WECF Executive Director Sascha Gabizon was interviewed to give her views as organizing partner of the Women's Major Group on the Rio +20 process. UNITED NATIONS - The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, unanimously adopted by 178 governments at the June 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, specifically recognised that "women have a vital role in environmental management and development." And Principle 20 of the Declaration was emphatic that sustainable development can be achieved only with the "full participation" of women. At the same time, chapter 24 of Agenda 21, the action plan for a sustainable future, contained 11 different commitments with specific recommendations to strengthen the role of women in sustainable development and the elimination of all obstacles to their equal and beneficial participation, particularly in decision-making. But 20 years later, there is an attempt to renege on these commitments at the upcoming Rio+20 summit in Brazil in June, says a coalition of women's groups. Taking a strong stand on the gender issue are two women's organisations: Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Women International for a Common Future (WICF), described as a network of over 100 grassroots women and environmental organisations worldwide. Asked what gender equality principles have been deleted so far from the Rio+20 draft outcome document, Sascha Gabizon, executive director of WECF/WICF, said the Vatican, represented by the Holy See, proposes to delete**



**gender equality and also all references to sexual and reproductive rights. In an interview with IPS, Gabizon said, "It is of course very strange the Holy See can make these types of proposals, because they are not a country. "And women, as 50 percent of the world's population, should have at least as much a right to propose text proposals (which they are not permitted to do)." She pointed out the United States has also proposed deletion of references to equity. And specific references to human rights, such as the right to water and sanitation, which the U.N. General Assembly has already adopted in a 2010 resolution, are proposed for deletion by several countries and groups including the European Union (EU) and Canada. She said the United States also supports deletion of human rights language, while the 132-member Group of 77 (G77) developing countries has proposed deletion of a reference to women's right to land tenure.**



**Female Ministers and civil society Prize Winners at the Women Rio+20 Good Practice Award Ceremony**

### Achievements in Rio: The Award

At Rio+20, with the financial support of German GIZ, WECF organised a Women Rio20 Good Practice Award. Ten women Ministers for the Environment gave awards to 16 winners in six categories, which included Climate Protection and Sustainable Energy. Climate protection winning projects were from Guatemala, Benin and Uzbekistan. SEE OUR INTERNATIONAL PROJECT SECTION

### Women's Major Group Post Rio & Post 2015/SDGs

The Women's Major Group was created as a result of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro which recognized women as one of the nine major groups of society whose participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development.

The role of the Women's Major Group is to assure effective public participation of women's non-governmental groups in the UN policy processes on sustainable development.

The Women's Major Group contributes to the intergovernmental processes on Sustainable Development Goals and its link to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and other outcomes of the RIO processes.

The Women's Major Group is an open-ended group of organisations which work on women's rights, sustainable development and environment themes. There are over 400 list serve members of the Women's Major Group who are organisations and individuals from every region of the world, who work on gender, sustainable development and environment.

The coordination for the UN Sustainable Development process is assured by two organising partners - Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Development Alternatives with Women

for a New Era (DAWN) - and two core group members - Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and Global Forest Coalition (GFC).

The coordination for the UN Environment program, is facilitated by - WECF International, Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Soroptimists Kenya, Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development, with support of focal points o.a. Earth Care Africa and Asian Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development.

### WECF advocating Equitable Climate Policies and Solutions

At UNFCCC, WECF advocated the need for equitable climate protection instruments. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily since they constitute the majority of the world's poor and their livelihood is more dependent on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. But they are also effective actors and agents of change. Women often have knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The MDG summit 2010 concluded that there was a real need up until 2015 to focus on women as catalysts of development and change. Therefore, WECF promoted climate policies and programmes which give women access to resources, knowledge and income-generating opportunities.

WECF brought several issues into their collaboration with the Women Major Group, the Women and Gender Constituency and the Climate Action Network Europe and International, of which it is a member. These included, namely: the need for equity within countries; awareness of gender disparities; the need for earmarked windows for women projects and work; the necessity of access to

sustainable energy and technology, finance and capacity-building; and the necessity of keeping out high-risk technologies.

**Rio+20: Unsustainable energy – education and information on the risks and costs of fossil and nuclear based energy**

WECF presented the Women Major Group policy statement and recommendations to delegates negotiating the outcome document of Rio+20 UNCS. This highlighted the need to address irreversible damage from unsustainable energy sources and the need for financial mechanisms for the clean-up of historic uranium mining waste. During the high-level plenary sessions, WECF conducted the side event "Nuclear Energy – a barrier to a Green Economy, Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction" at the Peoples Summit in Rio. WECF also organised four side events during the official UN Rio+20 summit, and obtained a permit for one anti-nuclear demonstration with Japanese groups from Fukushima.

**Women and Gender Constituency at the UNFCCC**

WECF staff were engaged in all the UNFCCC sessions in 2012 (Climate Talks Bonn, focus on the integrated Workshop on Equal Access to Sustainable Development) and in the Talks in Bangkok, Thailand in August and September. They also facilitated a delegation of ten women leaders for Doha, Quatar, COP18/CMP8. WECF discussed its human rights approach with a focus on the non-discrimination principle and especially the gender focus developed by addressing the role of women and men in regards to the main issues under the UNFCCC (mitigation, adaptation, technology, finance and capacity building).

### **Doha**

The question of disparities was also taken up in the Doha Milestone Paper of CAN, the foundation for advocacy work at COP 18 in Doha. WECF started this dialogue within the WECF network with the WECF Doha delegation members via email and three preparatory

Skype calls, as well as at least three group meetings in Doha. WECF also engaged with other interested members and participants in the Women and Gender Constituency. Further, WECF was invited to, and took part in, the "Equitable Access to Sustainable Development" Round Table in Doha, Quatar, organized by the Vasudha Foundation of India. WECF members drafted and delivered various interventions in the name of the Women and Gender Constituency (for example, at the ADP Special Event at the UNFCCC on Saturday, the 8th of December in Doha). WECF also engaged with different delegations and issues (for example, on renewable energy solutions with both the partner from Paraguay, the Global Forest Coalition, and the partner from Georgia, the Greens Movement.). The WECF Energy and Climate Change Coordinator gave the presentation "Bringing gender equality into the equity discussion - Input for a dialogue on Equity and the gender dimension" at the Network of Women Ministers & Leaders for the Environment (NWMLE), in Doha, Qatar, on the 4th of December, 2012.

WECF was also one of the organizing partners for the demonstration action "Not in my name" on the 5th of December in Doha, Quatar. This aimed to demonstrate to the relevant governments that serious and ambitious decisions at the negotiations were being demanded. WECF also engaged with a broad range of other NGOs before Doha, as it was invited to participate in the "Dialogue on Transformation - NGO Strategy Dialogue on Energy and Climate, Agriculture and Food Security towards the Great Transformation", from the 1st to the 2nd of November 2012 in Bonn, Germany, organized by the NGO Germanwatch. Additionally, WECF took part in the Belgium and Sweden Equity Event in Brussels on the 6th of November 2012, with scholars, stakeholders and negotiators from over 30 countries, to discuss Equity in the context of the UN climate change negotiations.

### **Demonstration in Doha**





“

We grow people! If you teach the people to grow their own healthy and sustainable food, you feed them for life. Many people have learned how to grow their own food just on the smallest space in their backyard, they learn how to preserve it and they learn how to sell it. It is food for their bodies, minds and souls!

**Annemarie Mohr, Senior Programme Manager WECF / WICF**



# Countries & Projects

# Country Projects Overview in 2012

## The Netherlands

MamaGreen workshop at the Nine Months Fair in Amsterdam



## Moldova

Safe Sanitation for all



## France

Lifelong learning program for health professionals



## Uganda

Focus on low-income small-holder farmers



## Germany

Workshops and tools for schools and kindergartens



## South Africa

Organic Agriculture in Blikkiesdorp



## Ukraine

Switch to Sun , Live in Comfort!



## Azerbaijan

Solar collectors and solar water distillers for rural communities



## Afghanistan

Kunduz: Preparing women and their families for a severe winter



## Kyrgyzstan

Strengthening Gender Potential of EWA Project Partners in Kyrgyzstan



## Tajkistan

Gender Trainings: Men have to be taken along this path



WECF



# WECF France

WECF France supports international WECF network projects and carries out projects at regional and national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below.

**Location:** Annemasse, France (Rhône-Alpes)

**Donor:** European Commission (FSE), French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy (MEDDE), Region Rhône-Alpes and FEDER, City of Strasbourg, Fondation France Libertés, Fondation Lemarchand, France Actives, Jennifer Altman Fondation, Church World Services, companies and private donors.

**Contact:** Chemicals and health, Nesting : [elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu](mailto:elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu) / Water and sanitation: [Natalia.dejean@wecf.eu](mailto:Natalia.dejean@wecf.eu) / Agriculture: [catherine.martin@wecf.eu](mailto:catherine.martin@wecf.eu) / Energy and climate change, Gender: [anne.barre@wecf.eu](mailto:anne.barre@wecf.eu)



## Chemicals & Health: awareness-raising and information for public and professionals

Nesting in 2011 focused on widening the national access of the broad public to the Nesting parent workshops, with events in Paris, Aix en Provence and Corsica, and via the training of new facilitators in Lyon and Rennes (Brittany). Nesting facilitators form today a dynamic community of diverse health and environment specialists dedicated to the Nesting project in France. In total over a 100 workshops were proposed to parents in 2011. Training and informing health and childcare professionals also belonged to the important Nesting activities in 2011. Especially municipal authorities were demanding WECF's practical expertise on how to create a healthy environment of children. The Nesting website ([www.projetnesting.fr](http://www.projetnesting.fr)) remains a very popular internet tool for parents and professionals with over 15 000 visits per month, in regular expansion.

WECF France published two new consumer guides in 2011, under guidance of the Nesting Expert Committee: a guide on Cosmetics for pregnant women and one on the risks of Electro-Magnetic Fields. Both guides have been disseminated to over 10 000 people.



„Chef de cabinet“ of the French Ministry of Health and Occupation receiving WECF France for the toys petition

## New: Lifelong learning program for health professionals

Responding to the growing need for health professionals to be better informed and trained in environmental health, WECF France developed a brand new lifelong learning program in partnership with Philippe Perrin and different educative and associative partners: ATC, C2DS, IFSI St Egrève, SERA. It received funding support from the EU and from SEVENE Pharma, an innovative lab creating preventive medicines based on organically grown plants.

## French Toxic Free Toys Campaign

WECF France enquired this year on how toy producers and distributors are adapting to the new chemicals regulation within the Toys Safety Directive adopted in 2009. The results of this survey, which was addressed to 16 French companies, was published in December. We noticed very little transparency within the toys industry, as only two producers had indicated precisely how the new regulation had impacted on their processes. Therefore WECF France decided to launch a petition asking French authorities to ban EDCs in toys. 30 000 signatures were collected within 2 weeks - the wider public is very concerned about the issue.

## Policy work on Chemicals and Health

In the framework of the EU chemicals policy, WECF France worked specifically on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), those substances which interfere with our hormone system. A national conference for decision-makers and specialists of the Ministries and regulation agencies was organized together with RES (HEAL member). Renowned scientists : Dr. Shana Swann, Dr. Annie Sasco, Dr. Ernesto Burgio and Prof. Charles Sultan were invited to express their growing concern about the high toxicity of EDCs on foetal life, on the human reproductive and nervous systems, and general metabolism. In October 2012, WECF France released "Menace sur la santé des femmes", the French version of "Girl, disrupted". This publication originating from a Californian research institute, compiles a body of evidence on the links between exposure to EDCs and women's reproductive health disorders. The french translation was edited by Yves Michel, and launched during a press conference in Paris. WECF France disseminated around 400 copies. WECF's contribution to national health and environment policies is also ensured by our regular participation in the follow-up process of France's Health & Environment Action Plan (PNSE), as well as in national working groups on specific issues (nano, EMF, toys) involving members of our Expert Committee. At the EU level, WECF France contributed to four consultations and four international conferences.



Participants of a workshop „ma maison ma santé“ preparing an ecological detergent (WECF's recipe)



Exhibition „Femmes rurales“ presented in Haute-Savoie on October 12, during the regional week on gender equality



## Water and Sanitation

The World Water Forum, held in March 2012, gave WECF France the opportunity to actively represent our network on the topic of Water and Sanitation, and to be an active member of the French Coalition Eau, which contributes to important advocacy work on the Right to Water, and Water as a Common Good for Humanity, together with Fondation France Libertés.

The project "Safe Water and Sanitation for All in Moldova," supported by Fondation France Libertés and Church World Services, continued in 2012, with training modules on ecological sanitation and the construction of six individual ecosan toilets. WECF France coordinated this field project in Moldova with two local partners, involving 13 Moldovan villages and reaching out to 35 000 citizens.



## Energy & Climate Change

WECF France is a member of the French Climate Alliance RAC and takes active part in its strong advocacy work on Climate and Energy policy at national level. In March 2012 WECF France participated in a Human Chain organized between Lyon and Avignon by the NGO "Sortir du Nucléaire". Over 200 000 citizens lined up in a 250km human chain to call for an energy transition away from the nuclear, as a logical consequence of the Fukushima disaster.

In terms of solar energy promotion, the partnership with Annecy University was pursued in 2012 for the fourth year. Two French students participated in a project conducted by WECF's partner KAWS in Kyrgyzstan, training villagers in the building, installation and maintenance of efficient and low-cost solar collector systems. The students traveled around different rural areas of Yssik Kul region, and contributed to the installation of 18 solar collectors.



## Food and Rural Development

WECF France is now responsible for the coordination of WECF's agriculture and biodiversity thematic area. Activities have been conducted both at the French and EU level. The Collective group for local and Sustainable Agriculture, "ADP-Léman", which was created in 2011 with local and regional partners in France and Switzerland, continues to foster the development of an agricultural incubator – Initiaterre, based in Massongy, Haute-Savoie. It will support the start-up of new farming enterprises based on agro-ecological techniques and local direct distribution (local producers' markets, collective shop, community-supported agriculture). Initiaterre will start operating in 2013.

WECF France started a new European project, Climate Needs Farmers, involving partners in 6 countries: Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, France and Turkey. Experience exchanges on agriculture and climate adaptation, as well as field trips, are organized in each country.



## Gender activities: rural women network

The regional network of rural women created by WECF France in 2011 gained visibility in 2012, when a book presenting 30 portraits of women and their professional projects established in Rhône-Alpes was published in October. The book was launched with a cultural photo exhibition aimed at promoting gender equality in rural areas and enhancing women's professional recognition and their access to employment and higher responsibilities. The book was disseminated in agricultural chambers and different rural organizations. This very concrete field project links local action to WECF's global involvement in the Post 2015 process, with the coordination of the Women's Major Group.



## WECF The Netherlands

The Netherlands is the country where WECF was created. The WECF Netherlands organisation targets stakeholders in the Netherlands and Flanders and supports international partners with expertise and project funding, it coordinates advocacy campaigns – with a focus on European legislation - and implements awareness-raising and advocacy projects at national level, with a focus on the protection of women's and children's health from harmful chemicals.

**Location:** Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium)

**Donor:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, private donors

**Donor:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, private donors

**Contact:** [chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu](mailto:chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu)



### Development aid, poverty reduction and gender

One focus area for WECF, the Netherlands, is strengthening the gender focus for developing aid programmes. WECF has been an active member of the Dutch Gender Platform WO=MEN. Through this partnership WECF contributes to strengthening the gender focus in Dutch international policy, promoting a gender stand-alone policy.

### Dutch input for Human Rights/Gender/SRHR and Sustainable Development

The networks WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, Share-Net and Rio+20 Women's Major Group representing the Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), joined hands to initiate a dialogue with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure that Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Human Rights and Sustainable Development are included in the new framework for global development. A consultation meeting "Post 2015: What is the future we want?" was organized in Utrecht in December 2012.



Dutch Members of Parliament receiving an EDCF free gift box



### European Chemicals Regulation REACH

Every six months (in April and October), a multi-stakeholder symposium on chemicals policy is initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. Thematic input is given in turns by WECF, as representative of Dutch Civil Society, and by the chemical industry association.

WECF was in charge of defining the program of the October 2012 meeting, which was organized in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of the Environment, the employers union VNO/NCW and the chemical industry (VNCI). WECF focused in its presentation on the need for better consumer information and better implementation of the 'Right to Know'. During the April 2012 meeting WECF had a key note speakers slot. Due to its work of many years on the subject, WECF has become the main NGO in the Netherlands to work on policies regarding harmful substances there.

#### The Right to Know

Adding to this, WECF also worked on a project for the Dutch Ministry of Environment on REACH Article 33.2/123 on "The Right to Know". The project provided input for the development of an official national strategy to implement this article and inform the public. Within this project three meetings were organised, one with government representatives (eight attending) and two with representatives from politics, industry and retailers.

#### Tracing Nano

Currently many products on the market incorporate nanomaterials for which a proper risk assessment cannot be made. Contrary to the REACH principle 'no data no market', the presence of nano materials in is generally not reported.

How to deal with nano materials in REACH has therefore been an issue of great concern for WECF. The network participated in the "Choices for safety nano materials" Conference organized by the Ministry of Environment with 50 participants, including 14 EU member states representatives. The resulting summary of the conference was published as policy recommendations for the EU. In 2013 more activities on EU level will follow, and the final results will be presented to the Dutch Ministry of Environment.



WECF Chemicals staff at work meeting in Brussels



Ingrid Elbertse presenting a workshop on REACH at the Dutch Ministry of Environment

In 2012 WECF participated in the project "Tracing Nano for Downstream users" financed by the Dutch Government. WECF took part in several meetings with other stakeholders to develop positions on the traceability of nano materials.

#### **Creating a Healthy Environment for Children**

Concerned parents reached out successfully to politicians during an action in Dutch Parliament in November 2012, which marked the end of the three-year-funded project *Een Veilig Nest* in the Netherlands. A collection of green parent initiatives, supported by WECF and calling themselves *Mama Green*, presented toxic-free gifts to politicians to raise awareness on the fact that consumer products and food meant for children still, too often, contain excessive doses of hazardous substances or endocrine disrupting substances (EDCs). Promises were made that questions would be raised in Parliament during Question Time. WECF's invitation was accepted by Joel Voordewind, Carla Dik-Faber, Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Pieter Heerma, Pieter Omtzigt, Liesbeth van Tongeren, Marianne Thieme, Marit Maij, Loes Ypma and Lutz Jacobi. Dutch national newspaper *Algemeen Dagblad* published a picture of MP Marianne Thieme with her baby daughter. The same night, exactly at 8pm, the online glossy magazine *MamaGreen*, [www.mamagreen.nu](http://www.mamagreen.nu) was launched an innovative way of reaching young parents.

#### **"Een Veilig Nest"**

In 2012, as part of "Een Veilig Nest" (Project Nesting), WECF organized outreach and awareness-raising activities – exhibition stands at commercial baby product fairs, website and blogs, publications and newsletters – which reached over 20,000 people. For example, Nesting the Netherlands successfully gained attention for the problems of toxic chemicals in everyday products by appearing on national television presenting the toys with toxic chemicals in them on sale shortly before the holiday celebrations. WECF presented its work on toxic-free products for children at the sustainable "PuurBabyPlaza" and at the biggest fair for young parents, the Nine Months Fair.

The WECF 'Nesting' project in the Netherlands is supported by an expert group of scientists, including key professors in the area of pediatrics, endocrinology and chemicals, who advise on its work. WECF also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy.



## **Agriculture and Food Safety: Pesticides**

WECF contributed an article on safe and pesticide-free food for the most vulnerable consumers in the Dutch magazine "Boerderij". An initiative was also started with the Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN-Europe) and WECF translated the consumer guide on Pesticide residues in European fruits and vegetables from English into Dutch. This translation is available only as a download, via the website <http://www.disruptingfood.info/en/>.

In December WECF disseminated a press release on residues of endocrine disrupting pesticides in food from the Dutch market, which was published widely by the media and attracted several thousand extra visitors to the WECF website.



# WECF Germany



Alexandra Caterbow at the UNEP ICCM and SAICM global negotiations in Nairobi, September 2012, where WECF was present with a delegation of member organizations. Unfortunately governments could not agree to ban the 7 most harmful pesticides.

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WECF Germany carries out projects at a national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below, as well as supporting the international WECF projects with partners in EU, EECCA and developing countries.

**Countries:** Germany; Munich, Berlin

**Donors:** Private Donors, European Commission, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), German Environmental Agency (UBA) **Issues:** Chemicals & Health, Energy & Climate, Food & Agriculture, Water & Sanitation

**Contact:** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)



## Chemicals & Health

Nestbau' is the German version of the International Nesting Campaign, helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns. In 2012, the German Nesting project informed parents through its Nestbau website. New weblinking partner organisations were acquired and positive feedback was received from the authorities. In the frame of the project guides for consumers renovation and cosmetics were published. Several workshops and tools for schools and kindergartens were developed to avoid toxic chemicals in their environment.

Advocacy for non toxic children's products has been one of the main tasks of the WECF chemical coordinator, who was involved in several events and policy activities concerning toxic chemicals in toys, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level.

Following the work on the 2011 brochure "on the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) on the health of women "Die Gestörte Weiblichkeit" advocacy work was expanded on EDCs. The publication on EDCs marked the beginning of a wider program on EDCs to raise awareness among most vulnerable groups like pregnant women and to advocate for a better regulation and a ban of certain EDCs within German and the EU. In August a high-level round table on EDCs was organized and took place in Berlin. One of the main topics of the chemical work of WECF is to work towards a ban of chrysotile asbestos in the EECCA region. The chemical coordinator participated in several UNEP and WHO conferences and meetings, and worked with partner organizations in EECCA region to achieve this goal.



February 2012, WECF Germany organised a Toilet Seminar in Iffeldorf on sustainable sanitation



WECF was invited many times in 2012 to present the challenges in Germany regarding nuclear phase out and energy turn around



## WASH – Water & Sanitation in Germany

WECF is a founding member of the German WASH Alliance, it helped to create this alliance of NGOs working on water and sanitation issues in 2011. WECF cooperates with the German Environment Agency (UBA) on the implementation of the 3 year work program of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO) in the working group on small scale water supplies and sanitation (see under 'International Policy Work'). WECF co-organised workshops on sustainable sanitation in Berlin and Munich for German NGOs together with the German Toilet Organisation.

A water safety plan project in Bulgarian villages funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) started in August 2011 and continued throughout 2012. The local WSP educational and working material worked out by WECF and the local partners EcoWorld2007 and EarthForever were provided to teachers. Five schools participate in this project, two of them situated in small rural communities. A further three are in Pravets, Vidrare und Razliv, communities around 70 km northeast of Sofia. Two teachers per school conducted the theoretical lessons and the practical part with excursions, surveys and water related experiments and tests

transition in Germany from different perspectives. The trialogues are structured in that way that they have a forum and main triologue and then several groups who meet for a specific area to focus on. WECF was involved in the triologue on process responsibility and the one on Europe as it is seen as very important to think the German energy transition also in the context of the EU. The EU trialogues were visited by several EU ambassadors, also an EU representative of the European commission delegation in Berlin and different actors from the above mentioned actors as science, civil society and business. WECF also supported the trialogues in logistic ways (suggesting participants, writing minutes).

WECF Germany was part of several press releases and actions as active member of the German Climate Alliance (since November 2012 again member of the steering committee) concerning stopping coal projects in Germany and advocacy for ambitious climate protection commitments and a sustainable energy transition as well as active member of the Bavarian Climate Alliance regarding the energy transition and necessary supporting laws for it and to call attention to costs and risks of nuclear power throughout 2012



## Climate & Energy

WECF was also very much involved to insist and advocate on necessary CO<sub>2</sub>-reductions and the crucial switch to safe and sustainable energy in Germany, the energy transition. WECF stayed involved in the Bavarian Climate Alliance and the German Climate Alliance. The WECF sustainable energy manager was elected in November to be a member in the steering committee of the German Climate Alliance.

WECF is also involved in the so called "Energy Trialogues" of the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance in Berlin under the leadership of Gesine Schwan, the president of the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and twice a candidate to be the president of Germany. The Energy Trialogues bring together civil society, politicians, science, business and also the media to talk about the challenge of the energy

### Regional Sustainable Development

WECF Germany continued to share its best practices on creating regional economic value chains. The cooperation between the Polish community Dlugosiodlo and German community Glonn, and NGO and culture representatives, farming schools, and farmers was continued. 21 students and 3 teachers from an agricultural school in Poland visited the German rural areas in Glonn in October 2012. This visit was important for the Polish visitors as they could see best practice in organic farming and distribution, marketing of organic products, they visited model farm in Herrmansdorf and learned about the "Unser Land" concept of local economic value chains.

# Accomplishments and partnerships in 2012 in the EECCA region



## Safe Water and Sanitation for all in Moldova

### **Mobilizing citizens and authorities from Moldova to respect and realize the right to access to safe water and sanitation for all**

The Republic of Moldova remains one the poorest countries in Europe. According to recent studies, in 2006 only 15% of the rural population in the Republic of Moldova had a house connection for drinking water, and only 55% of the population living in rural areas had access to basic sanitation.

The Moldovan National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) calculated the social and economic impact of water pollution in the country and reached the conclusion that the cost to the economy was in the range of 5%-10% of GDP. The rural citizens in the Republic of Moldova rely on small-scale water supply systems or on shallow wells which are often contaminated with micro-organism and nitrates. Latrines are the primary form of sanitation used, representing a significant source of environmental pollution. In addition, animal waste is often not adequately stored and treated, resulting in the cross contamination of water bodies.

**The project's objective is to mobilise citizens and authorities from Moldova to respect and realise the right to access to safe water and sanitation for all, now and in the future, by sustainable management of local resources.**

The Safe Water and Sanitation for all in Moldova initiative aimed to improve the situation in rural Moldova by mobilizing citizens and the authorities to realize and respect the right to access safe water and sanitation through the sustainable management of local resources. This implementation included maintaining clean water sources to improve human health, which also helps to maintain the environmental integrity of aquatic ecosystems, and thus contributes to protecting biological diversity.

**The impact of these activities is visible in the community's behaviour: no more solid waste is dumped near the public or private wells and spring-cleaning of wells is once again a tradition in the communities where awareness was raised during the project. Adding to that, the project empowered children and citizens**

**to address their right to safe water and sanitation through their own action, initiative and participation.** By developing water and sanitation safety plans students, citizens and authorities became aware of their rights, duties and capacities for restoring and protecting the environment and water sources.

The Moldovan WECF member was consulted in preparing the project activities for the production of Terra Preta compost, demonstrating a safe reuse of nutrients and the value of a particular compost product. A joint publication was written for the Dry Toilet Conference in Finland.

**Donor:** Foundation Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés, Milieukontakt International, Church World Service

**Partners:** WiSODM, ORMAX, Renașterea rurală

**Duration:** 10/2010 - 02/2012



## Bulgaria: Water Safety Plans

Environmental education for teachers as conduits to children and young people, in rural communities in Bulgaria:

**The project aims to raise awareness about environmental protection - to encourage the population through the creation of 'drinking water safety plans' for local water supply systems.**

In Bulgaria, more than three million people lack access to safe sanitation. Sanitation is especially scarce in the rural areas with pit latrines a common sight. Toilets are often not emptied regularly and waste water is thrown onto the streets and courtyards. Nitrogen and micro-organisms contaminate the ground water, polluting the environment. Safety plans protecting drinking water sources are usually ignored. The general population is often unaware of the links between the quality of the water, sanitation, hygiene, and their own health.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed an innovative tool in the Water Safety Plans, or WSP, to ensure the quality of water-



systems, including small wells and small-scale local centralised water-supply systems. This serves to minimise health risks. In those WSPs the civil society is of crucial importance, as well as the authorities and the local suppliers. WECF has developed this tool further within the Water Safety Plan project in Bulgaria, by not only raising awareness about the necessity of environmental protection – especially the importance of (drinking) water quality – but by, together with local youth and teachers in five pilot schools, developing a WSP especially for local small water supply systems.

Teachers and pupils analysed their drinking water, assessed the water supply system and developed a concept to improve it. The local water

suppliers, different authorities, experts and community members were involved in the process, too.

WECF has published a Water Safety Plan Compendium called "Local Action for Safe Water". Separate chapters and modules of this WSP Compendium are downloadable from the WECF website, providing knowledge and guidance for developing Water Safety Plans for small water supplies.

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**Donor:** Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

**Partners:** EfE, Eco World

**Duration:** 08/2011 - 11/2012

## Ukraine: the success of ecosan toilets

**"Thank you WECF!" - Ecosan toilets are making organic farming possible in Ukrainian eco-village**

**Oksana Inte, one of WECFs beneficiaries, explains how her ecosan toilet allows her to compost and fertilize her farm land in Lubsky, Ukraine**

**Oksana Inte has been busy creating an eco-village in Lubsky, near Kiev, Ukraine. One of their core pieces is the ecosan toilet, financed by WECF, which supports their organic farming methods and serves as an educational demonstration object on safe sanitation and water issues.**

**Oksana has set up a praxis-oriented educational centre in Lubsky on organic farming and permaculture. Employing natural methods in framing, such as old hedge-growing techniques and the breaking up of monocultures, ideal situations are created for the vegetables she grows.**

**Compost is used and made from the ecosan toilet which was built in 2009. Faeces are collected in a separate tank, which is covered by earth. Oksana remarks: "In summer, within only two weeks the excrements turn into humus which can be used on the fields!" Also, separately collected urine is diluted with water and then used as fertilizer when watering the gardens and fields. "And the best of it all, there is no bad smell and no flies with our ecosan toilet," Oksana adds.**

**"You can use the humus on the vegetable beds, and cover it with mulch from mowed grass," Oksana explains her methods. "I can fertilize all my vegetables, and no groundwater is contaminated by treating and reusing human excrements!"**

**Educating people on a healthy life-style, Oksana also incorporates safe sanitation and water supply systems into her educational program. As a matter of fact,**

**the ecosan toilet is a demonstration object. "All visitors are delighted with the toilet. They like it that there is no bad smell, and that ground water stays protected and clean." With big windows, natural light is used as much as possible in the toilet building, making it a beautiful place, overlooking the garden – contrary to most, usually inadequate sanitation facilities in rural areas of Ukraine.**

**"Many people who have visited and also seen the toilet are really inspired by it and want to construct one as well. I have to say thank you to the developers of the toilet system, and thank you WECF for constructing this one here!"**

**WECF is glad to have been able to help Oksana and her village and hopes that the idea of their eco-village will inspire many more people in Ukraine to switch to a healthy, natural, and sustainable lifestyle.**

**WECF's work on ecological sanitation is bearing fruit. Fortunately more and more international NGOs are expanding and upscaling our work. For example, Oxfam Novib, in Georgia, who are reprinting WECF manuals and spreading the word about Ecosan.**



## Seven Eastern European Countries: "Switch to Sun – Live in Comfort"

Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and the Russian Federation

This project contributes to improved health, reduced poverty and increased energy security in 22 rural communities in seven EEC countries, by demonstrating domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation measures and Do-it-Yourself Solar House Heating Systems. All of these methods are based on available local capacities and materials. The aim is to create institutional capacity by up-scaling via certified trainers, craftsmen and women, while formulating lessons for effective financial, institutional and legal instruments for widespread replication of sustainable energy options.

Families in rural areas spend a great deal of their income on energy, primarily in the form of wood to heat their homes, which significantly contributes to deforestation and climate change. Together with local NGO partners, the Swiss organisation CDE and GERES from France, WECF has developed training modules which have been used extensively by local trainers in target communities. With a special focus on gender, WECF organized training units for women and men on:

- The construction, maintenance and use of solar collectors, including training of local trainers
- Insulation measures – technology adaptation and implementation
- Solar house heating

To make the promoted technologies accessible to the target groups, financial instruments to facilitate the acquisition of technologies by village populations (with a focus on women) were developed on the basis of existing institutions or mechanisms, such as microfinance products, savings groups and revolving funds.

Hand in hand with practical implementation, policymakers at national, regional and local levels are informed of the benefits of strengthening policies and implementing programmes that provide incentives for rural communities to invest in renewable energies and energy efficiency measures as demonstrated in this project. They also have draft policy instruments referring to EU legislation available as a basis for their further action.



## Baltic countries: Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances

Many products used in everyday life, like toys, cosmetics and plastic products, contain hazardous chemicals. In the Baltic States people are often not aware of this and sufficient regulation is not in place. To have a chance to avoid these substances if they wish, people need to know about the substances in their products and the related health effects.

The overall goal of the project is to encourage public demand in the three Baltic States for children's and consumer products free of hazardous substances via awareness-raising activities.

The project partners inform Baltic society about substances which are considered harmful for people's health and the environment and whenever and where these products, used in everyday life, can be substituted with safer products. In the course of the project, clear, comprehensible information about the potential impact of hazardous substances on human health and the environment, targeted to the needs of the particular stakeholder group, was published. This information was presented in such materials as interactive games and web competitions. The project started in 2011, and WECF has contributed widely in 2012 with its special expertise on harmful substances and their health effects, in particular on women and children. WECF publications on how to avoid harmful substances in children's and consumer products were translated and used in all three Baltic countries.

**Countries:** Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia

**Donor:** EU Life+

**Partners:** Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia (BEF EE), Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia (BEF LV), Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (BEF LT), WECF, Environmental Film Studio (VFS), Tallinn University (TLU), Liepaja University (LiepU), Rautakesko AS Estonia (Rautakesko EE)

**Duration:** 10/2011 - 03/2015



**Countries:** Georgia, Ukraine Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation

**Donor:** Directorate-General (DG) EuropeAid Development and Cooperation of the European Commission

**Partners:** Europe: WECF, CDE (Center for Development and Environment), GERES (Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités) Georgia: The Greens Movement of Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency, Social Development Center Akhaltsikhe, SEMA Ukraine: Eoclub Rivne, National Ecological Center of Ukraine, Vozrozhdenie Tatarbunary

**Duration:** 01/2011 - 12/2014

## Window insulation at the Maneyvichi School - „Up to 50 % of heating expenditures can be saved by repairing windows“

### Sustainable House Insulation training of windows and roofs in Ukraine – trainings by WECF and GERES

*The local Elementary school of Maneyvichi, Ukraine, desperately needed to replace many broken and badly damaged windows before the country headed into the next winter where temperatures will plummet lower than -20 degrees. Insulated windows are needed to combat the severe temperatures experienced during the winter, as they stop draughts and massively reduce the school's heating costs. At the school that was badly in need of new or repaired windows, participants learned how to repair old wooden windows. Some windows cannot be repaired because they are in too bad a condition, but if they are still possible to repair, up to 50% of heating expenditures can be saved by this measure.*

*Between September 24 and 28, a training on house insulation took place in Manevichi, Ukraine. The training was organized by local partner Ecoclub and 16 participants from Manevichi and Tatarbunary region joined in. The main topic of the training was the insulation of windows and rooves. Roof insulation and its theoretical background was presented by expert Marc Glass from GERES, and windows insulation by Andriy Martin- iuk and Illya Eremenko from Ecoclub. The training consisted of two consecutive days of theoretical lessons and two days of practical training (one day windows insulation, one day roof insulation). Window insulation was conducted in a school in Manevichi, a small rural community in western Ukraine with a population of only 4000.*

*Roof insulation was conducted in a typical rural house in a very small village nearby. There, the group learned to implement three different methods of insulation, all of them with natural and local materials. The insulated house will serve as a demonstration object, so visitors can see three different kinds of roof insulation: insulation of the ceiling with straw and clay, insulation of the ceiling with wood chips and wood casing, and insulation of the roof with straw in a wood casing.*

*On the last day of the training, the monitoring strategy was discussed and positive feedback was given by the participants. All of them are now able to insulate their own houses using the techniques they have learned in the training. The same kind of training took place in Georgia, Akhaltsikhe, from 3-7 September 2012 and was organized by the Social Development Center of Akhaltsikhe*

*WECF, in cooperation with the local partners, organized several policy roundtables in rural communities and developed practical recommendations in the ENPI countries Georgia and Ukraine. (Activity costs will not be part of the workprogramme). In Lutsk, Ukraine, on the 13th of December 2012,*



*a roundtable was conducted. Participants were representatives from the Manevyshi Administration, the energy department of the Volyn oblast administration, regional media, local project participants and others. In Georgia more round table meetings were organized than planned in order to raise awareness and interest in the project. Altogether the Georgian partner NGOs organized nine roundtables and four seminars. At the roundtables the project results were presented and further proceedings discussed. Seminars had the purpose of informing the villagers about the project technologies. As a result of the mobilisation and information work in the target communities, the interest in solar collectors and, to a lesser extent, in insulation measures, is increasing. It can also be observed that an increasing number of neighbouring villages are requesting to take part in training and showing interest in constructing solar collectors. The increasingly important role of the resource centres, established by WECF partners, should be noted. They serve as a meeting and information point. In many cases the solar collectors are constructed in the resource centers, because all necessary tools are available there.*

*Low-income communities, households and schools in rural areas in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia lack energy resources in winter, leading to bad health, increased deforestation and poverty. WECF continued adapting renewable energy to these situations, creating affordable energy solutions, built and maintained with locally available materials and expertise.*



## Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans

"Civil society cooperation on EU acquis and on values for consumer and corporate responsibility"



**The goal of the project is to address the lack of knowledge amongst consumers, producers and policymakers about the EU acquis in the area of product and chemical safety.**

Many day-to-day products, like toys, contain hazardous chemicals. In regions like the Western Balkans people are not aware of this and sufficient regulation is not in place. Whilst they will increase consumer protection, the economic changes resulting from the introduction of the acquis will create new challenges for producers and retailers. In the dialogue between producers, consumers and policymakers, best practices which bring added value and benefits for consumers and local market actors are identified. The European Union has legislated on consumer protection, product and chemical safety and a number of policies to strengthen sustainable production and consumption, such as in the area of European Eco-Label. Products imported from outside the EU have to comply with many of these regulations. For many consumers, producers and policymakers, this area of legislation is difficult to understand. At the same time, it is part of the EU acquis which new EU member states will have to comply with. Product and chemical safety are of great concern to consumers, as severe health effects and even death can occur from the use of and exposure to unsafe products and substances. Children are more vulnerable to exposure to hazardous substances and unsafe products. Women make up the majority of daily consumer decisions and are mostly responsible for the health and care of their families, which is why they have a special interest in this topic. Along with local partners, WECF tries to identify the needs of consumers, politics and the economy in this area, and presents best practices that will improve the protection of health and the environment.

WECF's Balkan partners, the Women's Movement for Integral Development (LGZHI Albania), Journalists for Human Rights (Macedonia), and the Resource Center Leskovac (Serbia) have been busy with updating the Inventory, which compares each country's actual and legal situation of chemical safety to the EU situation. They have also been developing an internet tool and training kit in their own language and capacity-building multi-stakeholder trainings held in each country, while at the same time strengthening cooperation among Balkan, EU, and international civil society organizations. They have also conducted awareness-raising and press activities.

In Serbia, for example, a stable partnership was established with the Serbian Schema Chemical Agency. In Macedonia the NGO "Journalists for Human Rights" has taken a particular interest in how the chemical safety topic applies to nurseries and kindergartens. In addition to the main projects activities, they have worked extensively in developing a "Protocol for Standardization of Ecosafe Nurseries" for Macedonia and starting cooperations with kindergartens in Skopje's Cair municipality. In Albania "The Women's Movement for Integral Development" has

been busy with lobbying and has influenced the adoption of two new laws regulating the consumer product safety and market surveillance in Albania. A Toys Test was conducted by the Institute of Applied Nuclear Physics, University of Sciences in Tirana, showing that some of the tested toys contained hazardous substances which might cause significant problems in children's health.

**Donors:** European Commission, IPA Socio Economic Partnership Programme

**Partners:** Baltic Environmental Forum, Women's Movement for Integral Development, Journalists for Women and Children Rights and Environmental Justice, Resource Center Leskovac Issues: Chemicals & Health

**Duration:** 02/2011 - 02/2013



## Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries

"Potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives - tools for Georgia and the EECCA region"

The specific objective of the project is to create awareness of the sanitary impact of hazardous chemicals used in construction and agriculture and to promote the implementation of safer, preferably non-chemical alternatives. After all, the awareness of stakeholders and the rural population on the dangers of these materials is extremely low.

WECF and its Georgian partners have launched a project aimed at reducing exposure to specific hazardous chemicals (namely asbestos, heavy metals, biocides and pesticides) in Georgia, because they pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The project specifically focuses on the hazardous substances used in insulation, heating, water supply, and housing materials (in particular asbestos, heavy metals in paints and piping) and on the pesticides and biocides used in agriculture, in the home and by municipalities.

### Analysis of Chemical Safety

An analysis of the chemical legislation and the situation regarding hazardous chemicals and their alternatives in the agricultural and construction sectors in Georgia has been published in an inventory report which summarizes a wide range of chemical safety issues. Most importantly, it documents that very little information is available, and that



there are major gaps in both government monitoring of hazardous chemicals and in the legal framework regulating them.

The primary reasons for these gaps is the weakening of the main chemical safety law since 2003. This was due to the liberalization of the economy and the decline in resources available to the government departments responsible for monitoring and enforcing the laws and regulations.

WECF has therefore supported its members in Georgia to develop a national Pesticide Data Base, providing information on nationally-used active substances, including the related environmental and health concerns and environmental friendly- substitutions. The support is based on European expertise and already available at European Pesticide Data bases. The Pesticide Data base will be published on the Internet.

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**Country:** Georgia

**Donor:** SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, UNEP

**Partners:** Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), Georgian Ecological Agricultural Association (SEMA)

**Duration:** 07/2010 - 07/2012



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## Kyrgyzstan: Increasing awareness on asbestos and asbestos-waste

**Asbestos and asbestos waste are hazardous to human health and the environment. Kyrgyzstan is one of world's biggest consumers of asbestos. Asbestos-containing materials are used without restriction in public buildings like hospitals, schools and kindergartens, and in many other consumer products such as brakes and building materials. The project aims at increasing awareness on asbestos in Kyrgyzstan and, in doing so, to strengthen and support Civil Society.**

The people of Kyrgyzstan are exposed to asbestos in their homes and livelihoods, and are thus in contact with asbestos waste. There is no evaluation of diseases caused by asbestos and the general public and even many non-governmental organisations are unaware of the hazardous health effects of asbestos. The topic is relevant to the public, especially vulnerable groups like the poor and children, highly-exposed groups like workers and inhabitants of waste areas because they suffer from exposure and do not even know that the places surrounding where they live might be highly dangerous.

To raise awareness, provide information, build networks, strengthen citizens' capacities and develop solution strategies to present to state authorities, this WECF project helped to reduce the use of asbestos and the cleanup of contaminated waste sites. People now and in the future will benefit greatly from these activities.

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**Donor:** European Commission, EuropeAID; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany

**Partners:** BIOM Kyrgyzstan

**Duration:** 01/2010 - 10/2012



## Kyrgyzstan: Home Comforts

### Creating local capacity for improved rural living standards via sustainable energy and sanitation

The aim of this project is to reduce poverty via sustainable development, specifically through improved access to basic resources such as energy and safe sanitation. WECF and its local partners KAWS, ALGA and Camp Alatoo are working together with the aim to create local capacity for improved rural living standards through affordable and sustainable energy and sanitation solutions.

Some of the major core activities of the project are the building and installation of solar collectors (or solar water heaters) and solar food dryers. The former device will benefit the local Kyrgyz villagers with affordable hot water much needed for daily tasks, such as washing the dishes and personal hygiene. Further, the solar food dryers are a cheap, fast and wonderful means for the production of clean dried fruits that can be consumed all year-round. Finally, in regards to sanitation, the urine-diverting dry toilet (UDDT) or ecosan toilet is an innovative technology which can be installed within the house or attached to it. The ecosan toilet does not need water for flushing, and neither smells nor attracts flies.

**In the Issyk Kul region in Kyrgyzstan, more than 100 ecosan or urine diverting dry (UDD) toilets have been installed in past years. The technology has been well accepted and the villagers, especially the women, appreciate the new sanitation technology because the toilets can be installed inside or adjacent to the house and do not smell.**

Adding to that, users increasingly acknowledge the benefit of the use of urine as organic fertiliser in their gardens. Therefore WECF organized workshops on productive sanitation, namely the use of human urine from ecosan toilets as fertiliser in agriculture.

When conducting their activities, WECF and its Kyrgyz partners employ local staff and experts with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of their initiatives. The project "Home Comforts" within which these activities are implemented in Kyrgyzstan is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by WECF.

**Donor:** European Commission with the additional aid of Natracare

**Partners:** KAWS, ALGA, Camp Alatoo

**Duration:** 01/2011 - 07/2013

## Home comforts in Issyk-Kul villages: affordable rural infrastructure and new business opportunities

Article by Claudia Wendland, Sanitation Expert WECF, for the Times of Central Asia

*The winter is beautiful in the Kyrgyz landscape, which is once more covered in cold and snow. These have, however, been-recurring yearly challenges for the rural people. Winter in the villages is much more difficult than in the cities and there is a large divide between the conditions of infrastructure, water, sanitation and heating. This hinders, in the cold months especially, economic development such as rural touristic activities. The EuropeAid-funded project "Home comforts" gives solutions on how to find affordable and sustainable ways to improve living conditions in the rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. "It is so important to bridge the divide between rural and urban areas in Kyrgyzstan", says Anara Choitonbaeva, chairman of the Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS), "thus applying adapted and sustainable technologies for rural areas." She coordinates the activities taking place in nine villages in the Issyk-Kul oblast. "Especially women and girls are suffering from insufficient infrastructure in the villages", adds Aijamal Bakashova, gender expert of ALGA, who prepared the baseline study about the situation in the villages.*

*The selected adapted technologies cover three aspects essential for improved living standards: comfortable heating, warm water and safe sanitation in the house. Energy-efficient stoves, solar collectors for warm water and ECOSAN toilets have been installed in each of the nine villages for demonstration. They are located in public places, mostly in the Community Drinking Water Users Unions (CDWUU), so that the villagers can see and touch the new technologies. For example, in the vil-*



Picture of Anara Choitonbaeva,  
Project Coordinator from KAWS



*Ecosan toilet in the demonstration center in Munduz village*



*Ecosan toilet in the demonstration center in Munduz village*



*Energy-efficient stove in the demonstration center in Munduz village*

*lage Chyrak the energy-efficient stoves were installed in the post office and in Toguz Balak, in the village ambulatory. "The energy efficient stove is an advanced stove technology which saves fuel, heats more space and protects the indoor air quality better than a traditional stove", argues Ruslan Isaev, expert of Camp Ala-Too. 18 stove masters were trained by Camp Ala-Too in October this year and more than 20 stoves have been constructed so far by the new stove masters.*

*The ECOSAN toilet is an innovative technology which does not need water for flushing and neither smells nor attracts flies. "We appreciate that the ECOSAN toilet can be implemented inside the house or attached to the house," says Imash Azarbaev, chairman of CDWUU in Chyrak and elected president of the CDWUU's network of Jeti-Oguz rayon. The CDWUUs will support the construction, operation and maintenance of the ECOSAN sanitation facilities in the villages. The toilet seats and the doors are produced in the installed resource centre.*

*The solar collector built from local materials makes use of the sun's energy, provides warm water for the houses and will suit the home infrastructure. Bakyt Choitonbaev, chairman of Territorial Self-governance Public Union "Bokonbae-Manjyl" of the village Bokonbaev, underlines that "the energy efficient stove, the solar collector and the ECOSAN toilet are the infrastructure needed for a guest house to set up tourist business activities."*

*After successful installation of demonstration objects, the key challenge for sustainably implementing and up-scaling the environmental infrastructure technologies are the lacking financing options for the villagers", explains Claudia Wendland, the overall project coordinator at WECF, Women in Europe for a Common Future. "There are many micro finance opportunities in Kyrgyzstan available, however they offer commonly high interest rates which are unaffordable for many villagers. Thus social financial mechanisms for this type of infrastructure up-scaling in rural areas are needed. The project foresees a social housing microcredit scheme being made available for the villagers." The governor of Issyk-Kul oblast, Mirbek Asanakunov, welcomed a delegation from the village and the project coordinators on 14 December 2011: "these activities are very important for the Issyk-Kul oblast and will be integrated into the strategy development plan". He promised to visit the project villages soon and to support all project activities.*

# WICF: Women International for a Common Future



## Empower Women – Benefit (for) All (EWA)

The overall goal of the WECF EWA programme is to contribute to the economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in six developing countries (Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uganda).

**WECF started 2012 with a new ambitious programme – “Empower Women – Benefit (for) All (EWA)” The overall goal of the EWA programme is to contribute to the economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in six developing countries (Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uganda). Further, the programme builds on WECF’s multi-annual approach for 2010 - 2015, which aims to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7.**

The activities of “Empower Women – Benefit (for) All” will be spread over the period of four years from the beginning of 2012 until the end of 2015. EWA has been made possible by a FLOW subsidy of the value of € 1,86 million, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

**According to the World Bank, investing in women is the best investment in communities’ development. WECF shares this idea but also acknowledges the structural barriers (e.g. lack of decision-making power and basic livelihood conditions) many women around the world are facing on a daily basis.**

Due to the fact that women (and children) comprise the majority of the world’s poor, WECF has focused its involvement in the EWA programme on the issue of economic empowerment. An overall goal of the programme is to increase women’s participation in the formal economy (resulting in higher income and greater financial independence). Nevertheless, WECF also regards the need to invest in the “care economy” to be of significant importance. The second strategy for women’s economic empowerment is thus to assure basic sustainable livelihood conditions.

Through its activities, the programme aims to contribute to the political empowerment of women. All of the abovementioned countries face an enormous gap between their legal frameworks and their practices, especially in rural areas. Customary inequality between men and women results in women’s lack of time for productive activities, lack of ownership and control over productive assets and inputs, lack of professional skills, lack of access to finance and lack of decision-making power. By focusing on women’s political and economic empowerment, the EWA programme aims to achieve greater gender equality and lasting poverty reduction in the targeted communities.

The expected results of the EWA programme are that: 12,000 women and men will have improved, affordable access to livelihood resources; 14,900 women and men will have increased economic independency and incomes increased by >50%; 5,000 women in 20 low income rural communities will have had access to credit; in 4 countries women’s participation in local decision making structures will have improved by 30%; and 10 million people will be aware of the benefits of women’s economic and political empowerment by the end of 2015.

**Countries:** Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan, Uganda

**Donor:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**Duration:** 01/2012 - 12/2015

**Partners:**

Afghanistan : Katachel,

Kyrgyzstan: KAWS, CAAW, Mersh Kavat, STA, Alga

South Africa: Soil for Life and Urban Harvest,

Uganda: ATU, Tadzhikistan: YEC and ASDP NAU,

Giorgia: Greens, RCDA, CSDA, Akhalsikhe, SEMA, PAROS





## Kyrgyzstan

### Strengthening Gender Potential of EWA Project Partners in Kyrgyzstan

"Men are the real losers of the new Kyrgyzstan", was a comment made by one participant of a Gender Training. This highlights the difficulties faced by men in a society that has a high unemployment rate and requires a lot of flexibility in people looking to secure their livelihood. But as others focused on the strong traditional and religious influence prevailing in the south of Kyrgyzstan as being an obstacle on gender equity, it seems that gender equality is perceived differently even within the country itself.

The added value of WECF as a network lies in its international experiences regarding the integration of gender issues into sustainable development work, respectively in policy and advocacy work. This experience has highlighted the importance of gender training with local partners, training which emphasises the need for gender sensitivity. Alga, one partner NGO from Kyrgyzstan, has been conducting exercises on this subject and the NGO "Social Technologies Agency (STA)" has been working on the development of a gender policy in Kyrgyzstan, including a detailed gender action plan for 2012-2014. The policy aim chosen by all Kyrgyz partners of EWA is to lobby for the ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health by the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.



## South Africa

### Developing Urban Food Gardens

In 2012, WECF supported partners in South Africa to develop "urban food gardens" with and for low-income women in former townships. These included the ecological treatment of surface water for irrigation, and the reuse of nutrients and waste for biogas (in-community food kitchens) and soil improvement. Community food gardens have been set up in Blikkiesdorp and Lavender Hill, South Africa. The food gardens will provide an opportunity to empower women to provide more nutrition for themselves and their families and gain income from selling surplus food.

The peri-urban areas of Blikkiesdorp and Lavender Hill have some of the highest poverty and malnutrition rates in South Africa. Therefore, WECF has committed to breaking the vicious circle of malnutrition, hunger and poverty. Together with the local partners Urban Harvest, Soil for Life, and Decentralised Environmental Solutions, the Food Garden has been created.

The food garden in Blikkiesdorp is located centrally, just next to a communal Multi Purpose Centre. This ensures that many people will pass by and experience the change of atmosphere a patch of green can make. The food grown in the garden will be used directly for a street pop-up restaurant or will be sold wholesale to various food vendors on-site and simplify trading. Circumventing complicated bureaucratic structures and costly intermediary vendors, profit margins will be high for the people selling the food produce.



## Tajikistan

### Men have to be taken along this path

The overall goal of the WECF Empower Women – Benefit for All (EWA) programme is to contribute to economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in Central Asia and Southern Africa. The main issues of gender and environment within EWA are how women can access different resources in order to create their own livelihood. This is especially important in Central Asia and Tajikistan. As more and more men leave the rural areas in order to work abroad, women have to be supported and provided with income for the survival of their families. Resources which are needed include, *inter alia*, access to land (land titles), access to loans, seeds, markets and know-how.

Although it is difficult to tackle these issues, WECF tries to give critical input to inspire a policy campaign targeted at the agricultural reform in Tajikistan. In addition, the constant empowerment of women, on the level of the local community, as well as on district and national levels, by leadership trainings, is important as a corner-stone to establishing a long-term and sustainable change towards gender equality. However, men have to be taken along on this path.





## Uganda

### Focus on low-income small-holder farmers

WECF supported its EWA partners in Uganda in developing "conservation" agriculture, avoiding further deforestation by improving the soil-quality of existing agricultural lands and increasing women farmers' positions.

Uganda remains among the poorest countries in the world. 88 percent of Ugandans live in rural areas, where land and water resources are central to their livelihood. The Ugandan economy and the welfare of the population are intricately linked to the natural environment. Households engaged in crop farming remain the largest group of the poverty-stricken population, accounting for about 38 percent of the households below the poverty line. On average, rural households derive nearly three-quarters of their income from crop farming. Smallholders dominate the agricultural sector with over 90 percent of crops being produced on farms averaging less than two hectares. With 3.57 percent population growth annually, Uganda has one of the highest rates of population increase in the world. This is far above the agricultural growth rate of 2.6 percent. Using existing agricultural systems and technologies, this implies an ever-increasing pressure on land



resources to produce ever-greater levels of food. However, land degradation has already reached alarming levels.

#### Low-income smallholder farmers

Low-income smallholder farmers in Kapchorwa and Kween Districts are the target group identified, totalling to 2500 beneficiaries, with a focus on women. One strategy of this project will be to improve the capacity of farmers (especially women) and their advisers to reassess practices and innovate, by helping them to recognize changing conditions. Much of the farmland in the proposed project area was cleared of forest and savannah vegetation in response to needs for increased food production over the last 30 years. Subsequently, the accumulated soil organic matter was exposed, leading to rapid mineralization and leaching as a result of heavy seasonal rains. Repetitive plowing has also not helped to conserve the soils.

#### Farmer groups

One of the key activities of the project will be to develop and implement demonstration programmes on organic conservation farming, conduct training of trainers on organic conservation agriculture, and train groups on marketing and farming as a business, together with partner AT Uganda. In the two target districts, 100 groups of farmers have already shown interest in participating in

the project. In cooperation with AT Uganda, the farmers will establish demonstration fields on organic conservation agriculture. The farmers will be trained on non-chemical weed and pest control, how to make compost and crop rotation. They will also be sensitised on gender aspects, while partner the AT will promote women's participation in income -generating activities.



## Afghanistan

### Kunduz: Preparing women and their families for a severe winter - Sewing project in Afghanistan

With the aid of WECF and as part of EWA, German charity Katachel e.V. initiated a sewing project for young women and girls in Kunduz, Afghanistan. This offers long-term prospects in sustainable development.

Two teachers were employed to train 15 girls and young women in an intensive course in sewing. Funding the project entirely by donations, it was also possible to employ helpers to keep the teaching facilities clean, and to provide tea and bread for the students' children. In December, at the end of the successful training, every student received a certificate, along with a sewing machine. Especially during the cold winter in Afghanistan, the skill to sew is useful and even essential for families and women.

The development minister in charge of Kunduz, the minister of women, and representatives of the Ghazi Khan School were present and praised the new project. With the cooperation of WECF and Katachel e.V., women gained sustainable means of existence and independence by being able to make their own, and sell extra, clothes.

**Katachel has been WECF's partner in Kunduz, Afghanistan, for years. Katachel was financially supported in previous years by the MFS program, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mainly focusing on building better washrooms for poor and vulnerable families in need.**





## Georgia

Georgia is a post-Soviet country where the infrastructure - especially water supply, adequate sanitation and wastewater management - has been deteriorating more and more over the last 20 years. The situation in rural areas is drastic and the people are left alone with insufficient infrastructural support from the local authorities. There is a high rate of



## "Join Women on the Road to Rio+20"

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or 'Rio+20') took place June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, 20 years after the historic Earth Summit. As women's participation in the process and input on the themes and objectives were crucial to a successful outcome, WECF was co-organising partner in the lead up to the UN Conference, coordinating all activities closely with the Women's Rio+20 Steering Committee.

### Part of the Official Process

WECF, in its capacity as co-organiser of the Women's Major Group/Rio+20 Steering Committee (WMG), facilitated ways to make links among the many women, men, organizations and movements from all corners of the world which were taking action for a gender-responsive Rio+20. The WMG submitted its policy recommendations for Rio+20, which were signed by over 70 organisations and numerous individual contributors, to the United Nations. Input was given by organizations and individuals through monthly conference calls and by a very active participation in the WMG Listserv for Women's Major Group Rio+20 Steering Committee, where the members circulated information about meetings, conferences, position papers, ideas and activities. Other means to create a following were Facebook and Twitter, where the word was spread successfully via the @Women\_Rio20 with tweets like "I'm joining Women on the Road to Rio+20" and hashtags as #RioPlus20 #UNCSD"

**Countries:** International

**Duration:** VAM - Voices of African mothers; WEDO, ENERGIA; WOCAN, Global Forest Coalition, Earth Care Africa, Earth Day Network and many other regional and global networks

**Donors:** International

**Duration:** 06/2010 - 06/2012

unemployment and people lack of ideas for business, marketing and alternatives solutions for sustaining livelihoods.

WECF partner SEMA organized training for rural women in the village of Galavani, entitled "Ecological agriculture as an alternative trend and its principles". It became apparent that the rural population experiences a lack of information pertaining to, and awareness of, alternative agricultural methods. As well as farm planning and management, SEMA's training focused on new technologies, alternative and modern plant protecting, business cooperation, elementary market proficiency, and women's role in the modern society and their integration and engagement in any field.

As most of the population is unemployed, the major source of income for most families (50-75%) comes from the land plots. Therefore, their major business is agriculture. There are also some beneficiaries raising bees or cattle; and planning small household plots for the beneficiaries is the main focus of the work being done.

**Donors:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

**Duration:** 01/2012 - 12/2014



## Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award

During the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, women's contribution to sustainable development was highlighted by the Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award, which was co-organised by WECF.

**Grassroots women from around the world received prestigious "Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Awards" from eight women Ministers in the 21 June Ceremony and Reception at Rio Centro.**

Women are catalysts for sustainable development in many communities worldwide. However their contributions are often overlooked. Throughout the world, many women are contributing to society's wellbeing, prosperity and development in ways that protect our health and environment, support equitable decision-making and strengthen women's empowerment and livelihoods.

On June 21st, during the Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, eleven projects were awarded with the Women Rio+20 Best Practice Award. The Women Rio+20 award highlights the essential role women already play in making our economies more equitable and sustainable. The awards ceremony was remarkable not only in the participation of eight high-level female ministers from Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria, Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland, but also, and quite centrally, in the compelling success stories of each of the prize winner's local projects.

The prize process was agreed to at the February 2012 annual meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment. Here, all agreed that Rio+20 presented an ideal time to launch an awards program to acknowledge exemplary work for sustainable development of grassroots women at the local level. WECF, a supporting member of the network, was asked to take the lead in soliciting applications. 150 applications were received and WECF Executive Director Sascha Gabizon said "it was very difficult to choose as all were excellent". On June 21st in Rio, six first place



and five each second and third place (16 total) award-winners were announced, with a majority of the winners having a representative present at the ceremony.

In welcoming the crowd of 250 men and women in attendance, Ms. Sandra Herrera, Deputy Minister of Environmental Regulation and Promotion in Mexico, said: "This is a good opportunity to not only recognize the work that these outstanding women have done in local communities but also the work that is done by thousands of millions of women in their local communities and in their families every day all around the world. We need to understand the linkages between gender and sustainability and to ensure the participation of women in environment and sustainable development at the national, regional and local level."

Also present was Ms. Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Director of UNEP, who said: "I would like to say how proud we are to be associated with this process. This awards ceremony has come at an extremely opportune time – as we reflect on 20 years since Rio and the achievements that have been made by women in environment and development [we see that] this is a welcome change from the norm – where millions of women's efforts, their contributions and their achievements remain invisible and are not recognized in any way." Mohammed went on to say that she hoped this would become an annual event and that she would work to convince UNEP to continue this "excellent work with women" by providing both "financial and human resources to this noble cause."

First-place winners received a medal, a certificate, a gift and, most importantly, a check for \$1,000 (USD) in honor of their achievement. The five categories in the competition were: Food Sovereignty, Cli-

mate Adaptation, Decent Jobs and Health, Water and Sanitation and Sustainable Energy. Each of the first-place winners offered their thanks with remarks of their own, but there is no question that the general feelings of the award-winners was best summed up by the first-prize winner for Water and Sanitation - Ms. Rehema Bavuma Namagenda, of the Kitosia Women Development Trust, Uganda, who said:

*"I am very grateful for this award. And I just want to remind you that women are about change in their communities – just put them in charge – show them where the resources are – give them the opportunity and they will turn this world upside down!"*

The Full List of Winners of the Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Awards at the United Nations Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:

First Place:

#### **Food Sovereignty** (shared prize)

**Guinea** Ms. Kaba Djakagbe, Director, Guinean Association for Women's Burden Alleviation,

**Ecuador** Ms. Maria Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Planting Hope,

#### **Climate Adaptation**

**Guatemala** Ms. Ruth Serech Icu, The Association of Coordination for Women's Integral Development, (CODIMM) La Asociación de Coordinación de Desarrollo Integral de Mujeres (CODIMM)

## On the Road to Rio+20: Preparations for Rio+20 in French and Arab-speaking Africa

### Decent Jobs and Health

**Brazil** Ms. Claudette De Costa Ferreira, Recycling to Live Cooperative (Cooperativa Reciclando para Vivir),

### Water and Sanitation

**Uganda** Ms. Rehema Bavuma Namagenda, Kitosia Women Development Trust,

### Sustainable Energy

**India** Ms. Kalyani Raj, All India Women's Conference,

Second Place:

### Food Sovereignty

**South Africa** Manyaane Emily Tjale, Land Access Movement of South Africa

### Climate Adaptation

**Benin** Claudia Amegankpoe, ECO-ECOLO

### Decent Jobs and Health

**Vietnam** Nguyen Thi Phuong Nga The Centre for Sustainable Rural Development – SRD Trung tam Phat trien Nong thon Ben vung

### Water and Sanitation

**India** Ms. Ashu Saxena, Energy Environment and Development Society Bhopal

### Sustainable Energy

**Uganda**, Ms. Katherine Lucey, Solar Sister

Third Place:

### Food Sovereignty

**India** T.K. Omana, Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement (RASTA),

### Climate Adaptation

**Uzbekistan** Nadejda Vakhitova, Women of Mountains Group (WMG)

### Decent Jobs and Health

**Morocco** Mme. Katim Alaoui, Mohammed VI Foundation for Research and Preservation of the Argan Tree, (Fondation Mohammed VI Pour La Recherche et La Sauvegarde De L'Arganier)

### Water and Sanitation

**Bangladesh** Ms. Nabila Idris, Community Action

### Sustainable Energy

**Kenya** Margaret C. A. Owino, Solar Cooker International East Africa

**Read their stories in the booklet: Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award - Women's Contributions to Sustainable and Equitable Economies**

Six Women's organisations in French- and Arab-speaking Africa organised awareness-raising workshops and consultations on their specific needs and views for the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Summit. They also translated Women's major group-position papers into Arabic and French and organised pre-meetings on how to prepare for the Rio+20 Conference in June.

Despite rapid economic growth during the past 50 years and (international) efforts to integrate environmental focus and gender mainstreaming in the policy making of African states, there remain many issues to be considered at local and regional levels. WECF has therefore co-organised regional preparatory meetings regarding equitable and environmentally sustainable development in Chad, Senegal and Tunesia in February and March, 2012.

Following international negotiations on Rio+20 in the previous years, the African meetings were aimed at raising awareness about the concept of sustainable development and the issues which were addressed at the UN Conference in Brazil, between 13 and 22 of June, 2012 and to allow civil-society women from Arab- and French-speaking developing countries to be involved in the Rio process.



**Donors:** UNEP

**Duration:** 01/2012 - 12/2012

**Donors:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ's programme "Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Rights"

**Partners:** Women's Major Group, UNEP and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment

**Duration:** 01/2012 - 12/2012





“

According to the World Bank, investing in women is the best investment in communities' development. WECF shares this idea but also acknowledges the structural barriers (e.g. lack of decision-making power and basic livelihood conditions) many women around the world are facing on a daily basis.”

Empower Women - Benefit (for) All (EWA)



# Organization

# Staff WECF overview in 2012



## WECF The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty reduction and Gender



## WECF France

Chemicals of concern – exploring solutions



## WECF Germany

Regional sustainable development



## WECF Staff 2012

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.



### WECF The Netherlands

<b>Sascha Gabizon</b>	Executive Director
<b>Maureen Brouwer</b>	Manager Support Unit
<b>Olga Plekhanova</b>	Country/Project Officer
<b>Chantal Van den Bossche</b>	Communication Manager
<b>Lies de Bloois</b>	Financial Controller
<b>Margreet Munneke</b>	Bookkeeper
<b>Annemarie Hekkers</b>	Secretary
<b>Nelleke van Ziel</b>	Project Assistant
<b>Cindy Vros</b>	Project Coordinator Nesting
<b>Ingrid Elbertse</b>	Project Officer Chemicals

### WECF France

<b>Anne Barre</b>	President WECF France
<b>Natalia Dejean</b>	Director WECF France (up until mid 2012)
<b>Catherine Martin</b>	Director WECF France
<b>Elisabeth Ruffinengo</b>	Advocacy Officer
<b>Isabelle Velarde</b>	Agriculture Coordinator
<b>Emilie Delbays</b>	Coordinator and Facilitator
<b>Anne Géraud-Conan</b>	Education officer
<b>Antsa Rakotonanahary</b>	Administrative Assistant

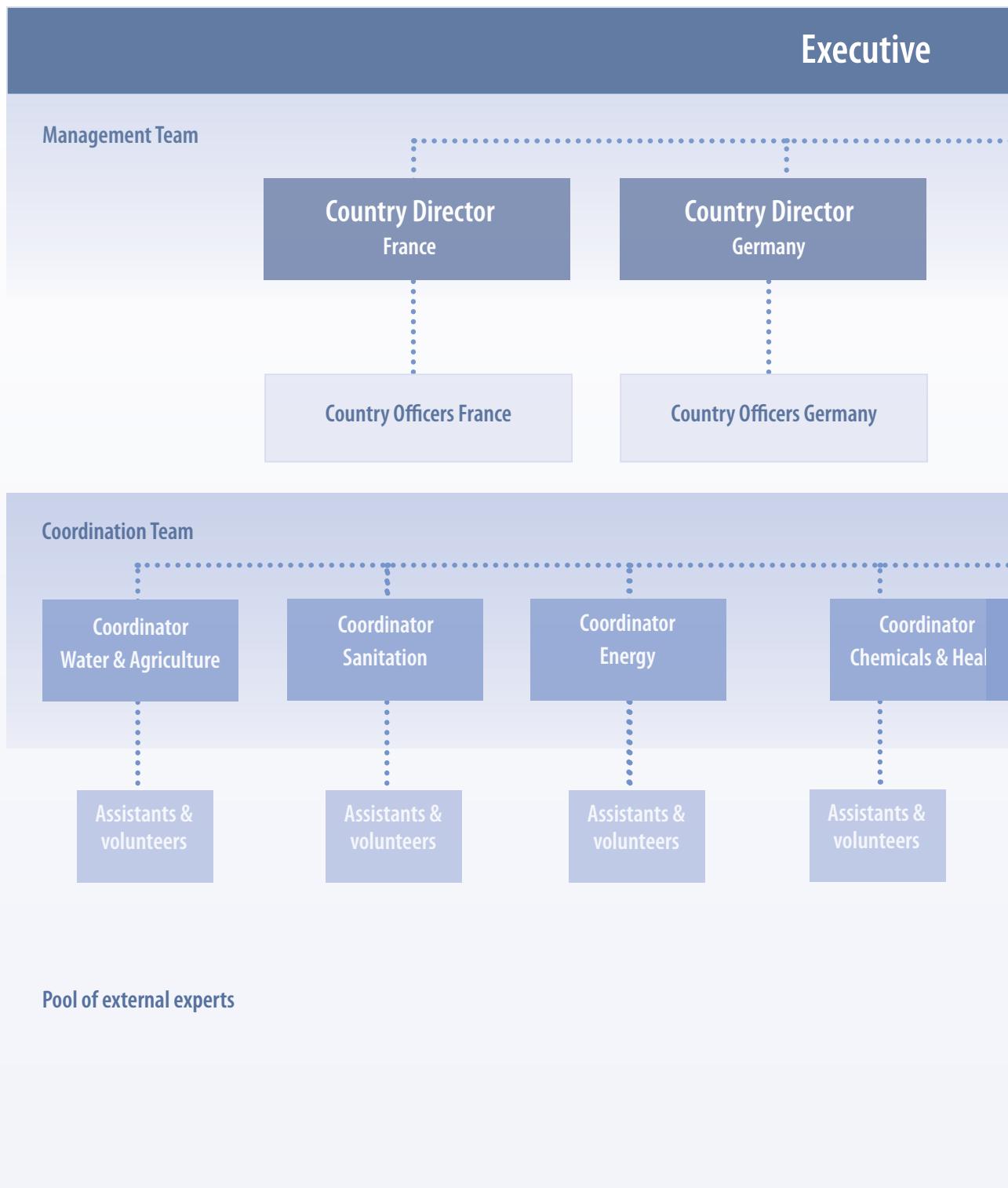
### WECF Germany

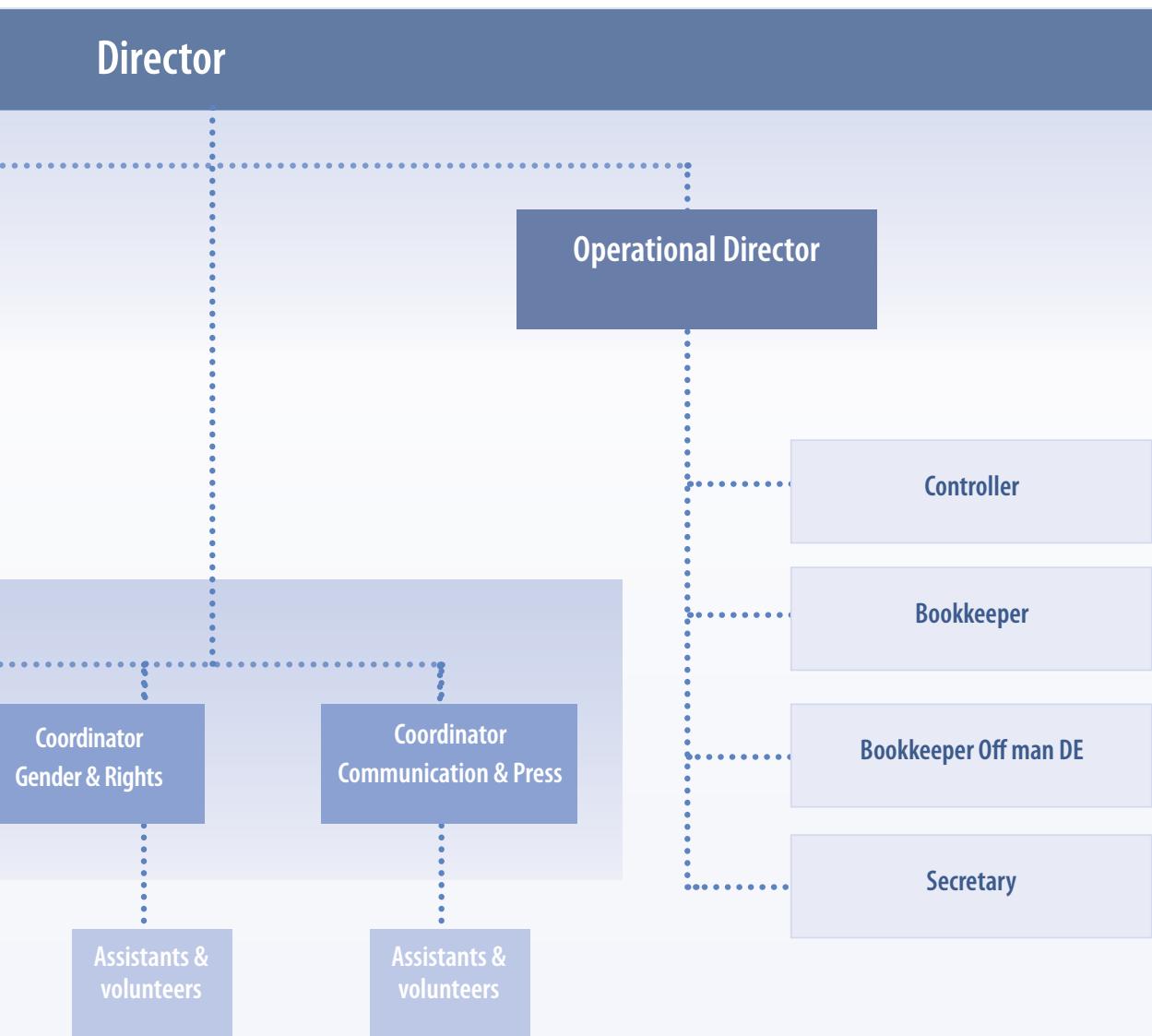
<b>Sabine Bock</b>	Director Germany and Energy Coordinator
<b>Annemarie Mohr</b>	Senior Programme Manager
<b>Anke Stock</b>	Coordinator Gender and Rights
<b>Bistra Mihailova</b>	Project Assistant Chemicals/ Project Coordinator
<b>Alexandra Caterbow</b>	Chemicals Coordinator
<b>Regina Drexel</b>	Energy Project Officer
<b>Claudia Wendland</b>	Sanitation Expert/ Policy Coordinator
<b>Karin Volha</b>	UNEP Event Assistant
<b>Sabine Hanisch</b>	Office Manager Germany
<b>Dalena Bischeltsriedel</b>	Executive Assistant
<b>Johanna Hausmann</b>	Project Officer Chemicals & Press
<b>Véronique Grassinger</b>	Graphic Design and Publications
<b>Margriet Samwel</b>	Project Officer Water and Food Safety
<b>Amra Bobar</b>	Art Climate Project

### Expatriate contracts

<b>Anna Samwel</b>	Regional Consultant Eastern Europe & Caucasus
<b>Fedde Jorritsma</b>	Regional Consultant Central Asia

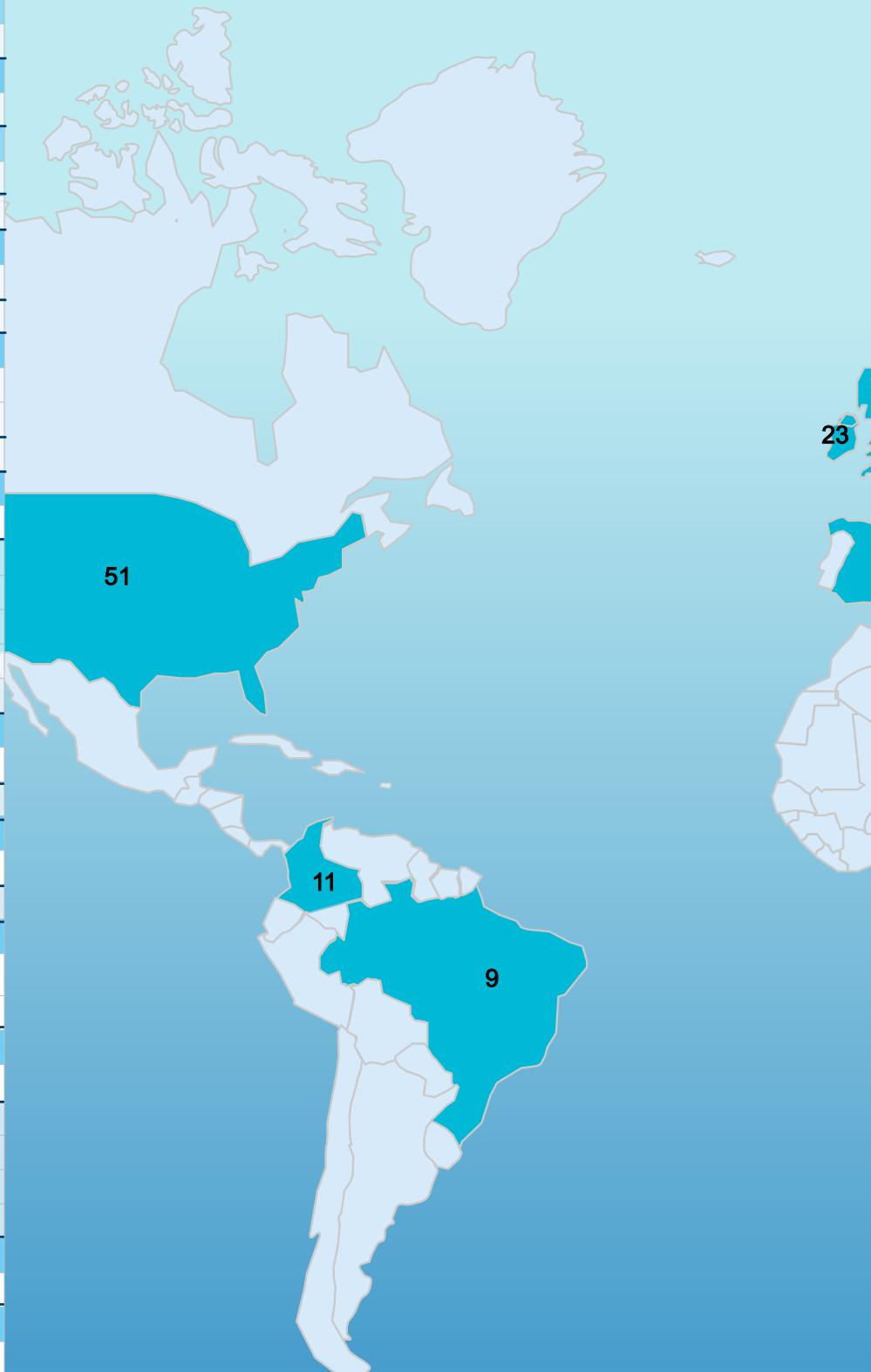
# WECF organogram in 2012

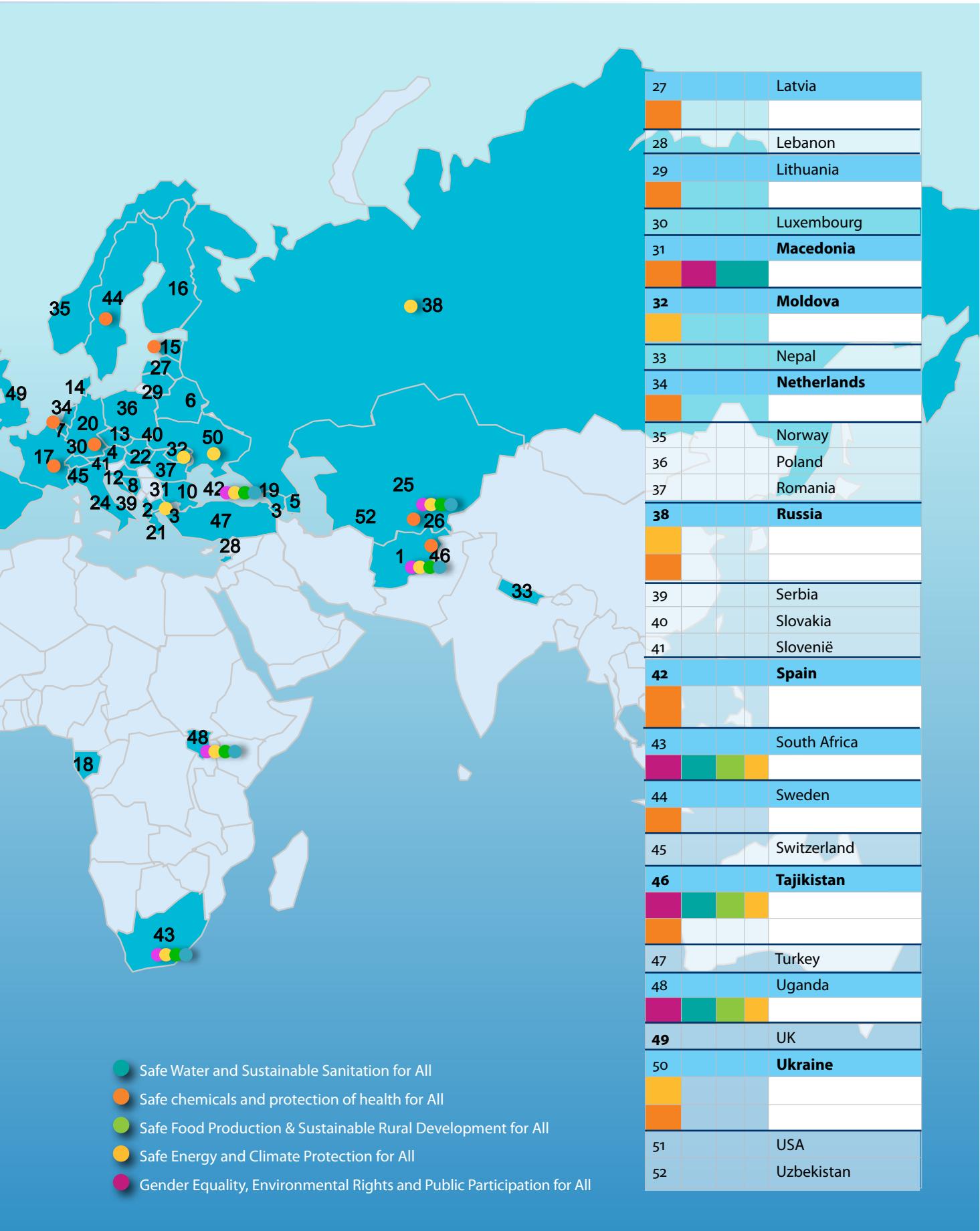




# WECF map of countries with members and projects in 2012

No.	Country
1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Armenia
4	Austria
5	Azerbaijan
6	Belarus
7	Belgium
8	Bosnia
9	Brazil
10	Bulgaria
11	Colombia
12	Croatia
13	Czech Republic
14	Denmark
15	Estonia
16	Finland
17	France
18	Gabon
19	Georgia
20	Germany
21	Greece
22	Hungary
23	Ireland
24	Italy
25	Kazakhstan
26	Kyrgyzstan





# Governance of WECF in 2012

## Board Report

### The IAB and BOT in 2012

The WECF International Advisory Board (IAB) represents the WECF members, leads the WECF working groups and helps to develop strategies for the organisation. The IAB is elected by the WECF members. IAB elections take place every 3 years, mostly during the general members meetings. The co-chairs of the IAB are Thérèse van Gijn and Anna Tsvetkova.

Name	Function	Country
Therese van Gijn	Co-Chair	The Netherlands
Anna Tsvetkova	Co-Chair	Ukraine
Svetlana Slesarenok	working group leader	Ukraine
Diana Iskreve	working group leader	Bulgaria
Nadezhda Kutepova	working group leader	Russia
Kaisha Atakhanova	co-working group leader	Kazakhstan
Elizbieta Priwieziencew	working group leader	Poland
Helen Lynn	working group leader	UK
Elena Manvelian	co-working group leader	Armenia
Rostom Gamisonia	co-working group leader	Georgia
Mihaela Vasilescu	co-working group leader	Romania

### Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The BoT meets at least twice a year to approve the year accounts and year report, and to approve the upcoming year's budget and work plan.

### Members of the Board of Trustees in 2012 were

**Christine v. Weizsäcker**, President

**Marjon Reiziger**, Vice-president (left in December 2012)

**Erma Uytewaal**, Member (joined in December 2012)

**Bert Kuiter**, Treasurer

**Grietje Zeeman**, Member

**Teresa Fogelberg**, Vice President (joined in December 2012?)

### WECF President Christine von Weizsäcker

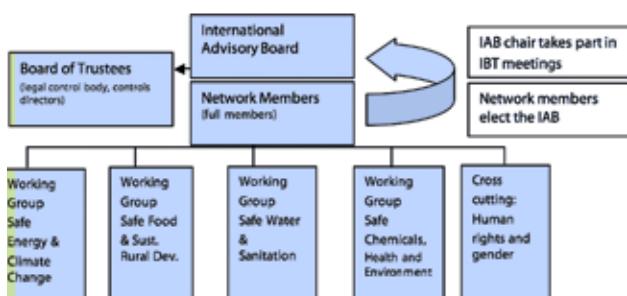
is a biologist, researcher and activist. She has been working on technology assessment for civil society since the mid-seventies and participated in the negotiations of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety since 1994. Her many publications have contributed to scientific and public debate. Amongst the organisations she was serving are the following: Ecoropa (European Network of Networkers on Environment, Democracy and North-South Justice), president; Diverse Women for Diversity, co-founder; CBD-Alliance (international alliance of NGOs attending the negotiations of the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol), board; Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Protestant Churches in Germany, member; Advisory Committee of the Federation of German Scientists, member, also member of its Working Group on Agriculture and Biodiversity. She has contributed to the work of the German Consumer Testing Group for 20 years in different functions promoting the inclusion of environmental criteria; and was a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Consumer and Food Policy of the German Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection co-authoring its Guidelines for Sustainable Consumption. Read the interview with her on her work and drives.

### Vice-president Marjon Reiziger

has broad international experience in both European and developing countries, working in the field of human resource management and project management, fundraising, training and communication for companies and non-profit organisations and also served on the board of Both Ends, an international environment and development NGO. She had special assignments to promote diversity and gender approach in human resource management. Erma Uytewaal, who joined the BoT in 2012, is member of Management team- at IRC - International Water and Sanitation Center, a leading knowledge institute in the water and sanitation sector in The Hague, The Netherlands. She has a wide-ranged experience in development cooperation with experience from different angles and perspectives. Multi-lateral (UN- UNIFEM and ILO) and bi-lateral donor organizations (DGIS), national government (Bolivia). Erma is involved in various national, regional and global platforms and initiatives in the WASH sector. She furthermore has experience in strengthening national capacities for sector planning processes, including sector policy and strategy development and other sector wide processes.

### Bert Kuiter

treasurer, has extended experience in finance and control, working as Corporate Treasurer of the DHV Group, a Consulting and Engineering company in Amersfoort. He held several functions in Finance and Control, working as business group controller involved in international financed projects in developing coun-



tries especially in Asia and Africa. WECF asked him in 2003 to join the board as treasurer. He agreed because he appreciates the way WECF is executing projects.

### **Grietje Zeeman**

is Assistant Professor in the field of anaerobic treatment and reuse, focussing for the last 10 years on source separation based sanitation at the Wageningen University sub-department Environmental Technology, in the Netherlands. She also works as senior advisor at LeAF (Lettinga Associates Foundation). She has become well known for developing and promoting innovative, source separation based sanitation concepts. She has been very supportive in the further development of new sanitation concepts and technologies used by WECF and its partners in the local projects.



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**

No.	Country	Name
1	Afghanistan	Katachel e.V.
2	Albania	Albanian Women's Movement for Integral Development, LGZHI
3	Albania	Eden Center; Environmental center for Development, Education and networking
4	Armenia	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
5	Armenia	Charitable Women Armenia
6	Armenia	Ecolur Information NGO
7	Armenia	Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO
8	Armenia	Lore Eco Club NGO
9	Armenia	Rural Sustainable Development Agricultural Foundation
10	Armenia	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG
11	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan "Women and Development" Center (AWDC)
12	Azerbaijan	EKOT NGO; Environmental Sustainability
13	Azerbaijan	Digital Development
14	Azerbaijan	For healthy Life Ecological Public union
15	Azerbaijan	Solidarity Among Women
16	Belarus	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative
17	Belarus	Ecosphere
18	Belgium	Gezinsbond
19	Bosnia	Viktorija 99
20	Bulgaria	Earth Forever Foundation
21	Bulgaria	Association Eco-world 2007
22	Czech Republic	Agentura Gaia
23	Georgia	Akhaltikhe Center of Social Development
24	Georgia	Foundation Caucasus Environment , NGO
25	Georgia	Fund of Women Entrepreneurs (FWE)
26	Georgia	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA
27	Georgia	Georgian Association of Toxicologists
28	Georgia	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association
29	Georgia	Greens Movement of Georgia
30	Georgia	PAROS
31	Georgia	Rural Communities Development Agency
32	Georgia	SEMA
33	Germany	VHUE e.V. - Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter
34	Germany	Green City
35	Greece	Clean up Greece
36	Ireland	Irish Doctos Environmental Association (IDEA)
37	Kazakhstan	EcoCenter
38	Kazakhstan	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency
39	Kazakhstan	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"
40	Kazakhstan	UGAM
41	Kyrgyzstan	Alga, Rural Women's NGO

42	Kyrgyzstan	BIOM
43	Kyrgyzstan	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water
44	Kyrgyzstan	Habitat for Humanity
45	Kyrgyzstan	Public Foundation Camp Alatoo
46	Kyrgyzstan	Public Ass Medical Alliance
47	Kyrgyzstan	Social Union, Agerkech
48	Kyrgyzstan	ULGU, Public Association
49	Kyrgyzstan	UNISON Civic Environmental Foundation
50	Latvia	Mutual Aid Association
51	Macedonia	Journalist for human rights Before: Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia
52	Moldova	Ecospectrum
53	Moldova	Eco-Tiras, International Environmental Ass of River Keepers
54	Moldova	Ecotox
55	Moldova	Gutta Club
56	Moldova	National Centre for Sustainable Development (NCSD)
57	Moldova	Ormax Cultural Youth Association
58	Moldova	Rural Renaissance
59	Moldova	Terra 1530
60	Moldova	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)
61	Netherlands	Ecobaby, Stichting
62	Netherlands	Leefmilieu ( Human Environment )
63	Netherlands	Vrouwen van Nu (before NBvP)
64	Netherlands	ZijActief
65	Poland	Network of East-West women Polska
66	Poland	Social Ecological Institute
67	Romania	Aquademica Foundation
68	Romania	Geo San
69	Romania	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia
70	Romania	Women for a Clean Environment
71	Romania	Woman of the Third Millennium
72	Russia	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims
73	Russia	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatihha'
74	Russia	Eco-Accord
75	Russia	Nabat Muslyomovo
76	Russia	Planet of Hopes
77	Russia	Step Forward Snezynsk
78	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Kashli
79	Spain	EQUIPS Initiative
80	Sweden	Environmental Protection and Health Network
81	Sweden	Global Action Plan
82	Tajikistan	Youth Ecological Center
83	Tajikistan	ASDP Nau
84	Tajikistan	SAFOi Sughd
85	Tajikistan	Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan
86	Turkey	Bugday
87	Turkey	EKOBA
88	UK	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe
89	UK	Women's Environmental Network - WEN
90	Ukraine	Black Sea Women' Club

91	Ukraine	Mama-86 Kiev
92	Ukraine	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS
93	Ukraine	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"
94	Ukraine	Vozrozhdenie
95	Ukraine	Bukvitsa
96	Ukraine	Global Synergy Foundation
97	Uzbekistan	SABR Trust Center
98	Uzbekistan	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa
99	Uzbekistan; Karakalpakstan	Mehriban

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name
100	Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
101	Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
102	Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
103	Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
104	Brazil	TOXISPHERA – Environmental Health Association
105	Colombia	Alternativas Ecologias
106	France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
107	Gabon	ONG Action for Africa
108	Germany	Unser Land
109	Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
110	Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
111	Macedonia	Eko-svest
112	Moldova	Cutezatorul Public Association
113	Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
114	Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
115	Russia	Environmental Youth Club
116	Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
117	Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
118	Sweden	Centerwomen
119	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
120	Tajikistan	NGO PARASTOR
121	Uganda	SWAGEN, Support Women in Agriculture and Environment
122	Uganda	ARUWE, Action For Rural Women Empowerment
123	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
124	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
125	Ukraine	Women for Environment
126	Uzbekistan	Concord

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name	No.	Country	Name
127	Armenia	Lilit Mkrtchyan	133	Denmark	Muborak Sharipova
128	Armenia	Inga Zaratyan	134	France	Elisabeth Ruffingo
129	Armenia	Karine Danielyan	135	France	Nita Chaudhuri
130	Belgium	Catherine Wattiez	136	France	Ina Ranson
131	Belgium	Danielle van Kalmthout	137	Georgia	Dalila Khorava
132	Croatia	Lidija Luttenberger	138	Germany	dr Minnu Hemmati
			139	Germany	Sabine Brueckmann

140	Germany	Silvia Pleschka
141	Germany	Judy Grosch
142	Greece	Caterina Choreftaki
143	Greece	Angela Klauschen
144	Italy	Oliv Scuderoni
145	Italy	Fiorella Belpoggi
146	Kazakhstan	Kaisha Atakhanova
147	Kyrgyzstan	Svetlana Bashtovenko
148	Latvia	Inese Eistere
149	Lebanon	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezian
150	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
151	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
152	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsmann
153	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
154	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
155	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
156	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
157	Netherlands	Rosemarie B.J. Merz
158	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
159	Netherlands	Willy Douma
160	Netherlands	Anita Harting
161	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
162	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
163	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
164	Netherlands	Marjon Reiziger
165	Netherlands	Shirley Khoebal
166	Netherlands	Annette Mosher
167	Romania	Ioana Botis
168	Russia	Olga Senova
169	Russia	Patimat Gadzhieva
170	Russia	Victoria Elias
171	Serbia	Ivana Blagojevic
172	Serbia	Vera Arezina
173	Slovakia	Katarina Korytarova
174	Slovenië	Maja Bavadz Solce
175	Spain	Isabel Ripa
176	Spain	Viviana Avendano
177	Sweden	Anne-Sofie Andersson
178	Sweden	Mildred Thulin
179	Sweden	Karin Sondergard
180	Turkey	Mine Yapar
181	UK	Clare Flenley
182	UK	Helen Lynn
183	UK	Sonia McLay
184	Ukraine	Galushkiva Tatijana
185	Ukraine	Victoria Yurescue
186	USA	Claire Greensfelder
187	USA	Mark Hengen
188	Uzbekistan	Karimova nodira

## ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

No.	Country	Name
1	Belgium	EEB
2	Bulgaria	Za Zemiata
3	Estonia	Baltic Environmental Forum
4	Finland	Global Dry Toilet Association
5	France	Geres
6	France	Planet Finance
7	France	Prioriterre
8	Germany	Atmosfair
9	Germany	Otterwasser
10	Germany/USA	Women Life On Earth
11	Hungary	Energia Klub
12	Latvia	Baltic Environmental Forum
13	Lithuania	Baltic Environmental Forum
14	Netherlands	Friends Of the Earth International/FOEI
15	Netherlands	Interface for Cycling Expertise / I-CE
16	Netherlands	Global Forest Coalition
17	Netherlands	World Information Service on Energy
18	norway	SPARE
19	Sweden	Swedish Society for Nature Cons.
20	Switzerland	CDE Center for Development and Environment
21	UK	Women's Institute

# Key WECF Publications in 2012

Here is a selection of the highlights. More publications you can find at [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)

## Overview of WECF publications in 2012 – 2013 Publications in English

**WECF guide on Renovation and D.I.Y** The information brochure "Renovation & do it yourself" informs on avoiding hazardous chemicals in your home while renovating. *December 2012*

**WECF Statement to the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** The main theme of this session will be "The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls". *December 2012*

**Water Safety Plan Compendium: Local Action for Safe Water**  
Educational Materials for Teachers for Developing Water Safety Plans with Youth in Rural Bulgarian Schools. *November 2012*

**WECF Annual Report 2012.** Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All. *October 2012*

### WECF France

**Endocrine disruptors: Threat to women's health.** WECF has launched a report in French called 'Menace sur la santé des femmes'. *October 2012*

### Updated Publication

**Construction of solar collectors for warm water.** Updated Russian version of the solar collector manual is now available. *August 2012*

### WECF Booklet: Women's Rio+20 Good Practice Award

Women's Contributions to Sustainable and Equitable Economies. *June 2012*

**See how WECF and partner Greens improve the lives of the people living in Manavi, Georgia** How simple energy solutions can change the daily life of villagers in Eastern Europe. *April 2012*

**WECF, Together With European NGOs, Demands Good Criteria of EDCs in European Legislation** The call on European Member States and a position paper of EU NGOs and Trade Unions. *April 2012*

### Rio+20 Zero Draft - Recommendations Women's Major

**Group.** The key recommendations by the Women's Major Group as presented during the Annual Breakfast meeting of the network of women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment at the UNEP GC/GMF in Nairobi, Kenya. The summary was translated into four languages, English, Dutch, German and French. *March 2012*

**Nano - the great unknown.** WECF position paper on nano particles and nanotechnology. *March 2012*

**Case study presentation at World Water Day 2012** - Involving schools in developing community based Water Safety Plans (WSP) for small-scale water supply systems in 4 villages of Chokhatauri Municipality. No safe drinking water in rural Georgia, the Caucasus - Lacking structures and responsibilities. *March 2012*

**Case Study 'No Safe Drinking Water for the Region Sabirabad, Azerbaijan'.** Findings of the issues drinking water and sanitation of the 2-years WECF project implemented in the rural areas of Azerbaijan. *February 2012*

### Gender Equality and Environmental Rights for All

WECF Publication: Gender as cross-cutting issue within WECF's work. *February 2012*

**Women's Major Group: Rio+20 Position Statement - Summary.** Summary of the Women's Major Group Statements for UN Conference on Sustainable Development. *January 2012*

### WECF Position on the Commission Proposal to Recast PIC

**Regulation.** WECF's position paper on the EU Commission proposal to recast PIC regulation. *January 2012*

### Publications in German

**WECF Ratgeber zu Renovieren und Heimwerken - jetzt auf Deutsch und Englisch.** Der WECF Ratgeber "Heimwerken & Renovieren" informiert wie Sie giftige und schädliche Chemikalien beim Renovieren vermeiden. *März 2013*

### WECF Ratgeber zu EDCs - jetzt auf Deutsch und Englisch

Der WECF Ratgeber Stop EDC – hormonell wirksame Chemikalien in Alltagsprodukten informiert wie sie sich im Alltag vor hormonell wirksamen Chemikalien schützen können. *März 2013*

**Brustkrebs und Umwelteinflüsse** Die WECF-Publikation „Die verkannte Gefahr - Umwelteinflüsse und Brustkrebs, Heilen ist gut, Vermeiden ist besser!“ in 2., aktualisierter Ausgabe. *April 2012*

### WECF VIDEO - Wochenendseminar "Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe"

WECF und die GTO (German Toilet Organization) führten am 11./ 12. Februar 2012 das Wochenendseminar 'Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe unter NROs im Bereich Sanitärversorgung und Hygiene' an der Limnologischen Station der TU München in Iffeldorf durch. *März 2012*

### Publications in Dutch

### Duurzame, Gezonde Cosmetica voor Zwangere Vrouwen

Een Veilig Nest adviseert zwangere vrouwen over het gebruik van cosmetica – "Duurzame en gezonde cosmetica voor aanstaande moeders". *September 2012*

### Publications in French

### Femmes du milieu rural : entrepreneuses et créatrices

**d'activités.** Un kaléidoscope de portraits de femmes à commander auprès de WECF france. *Octobre 2012*

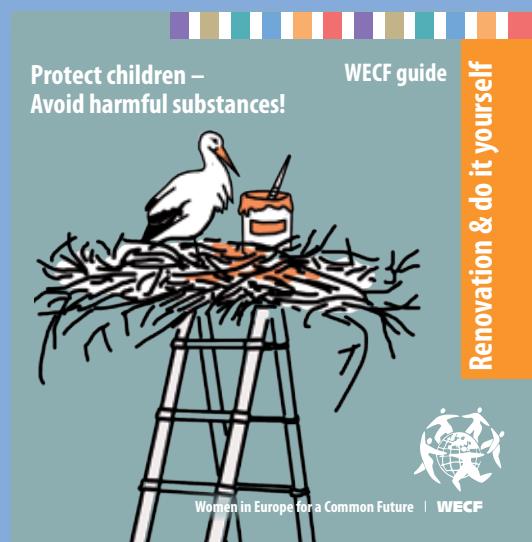
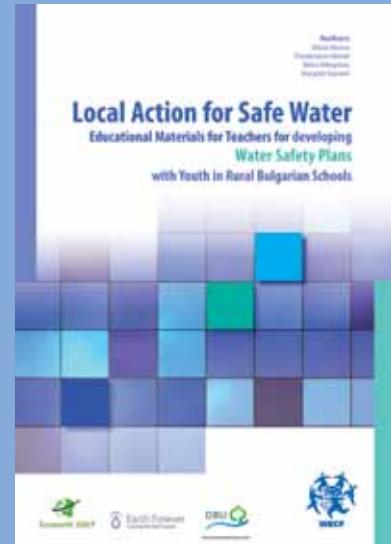
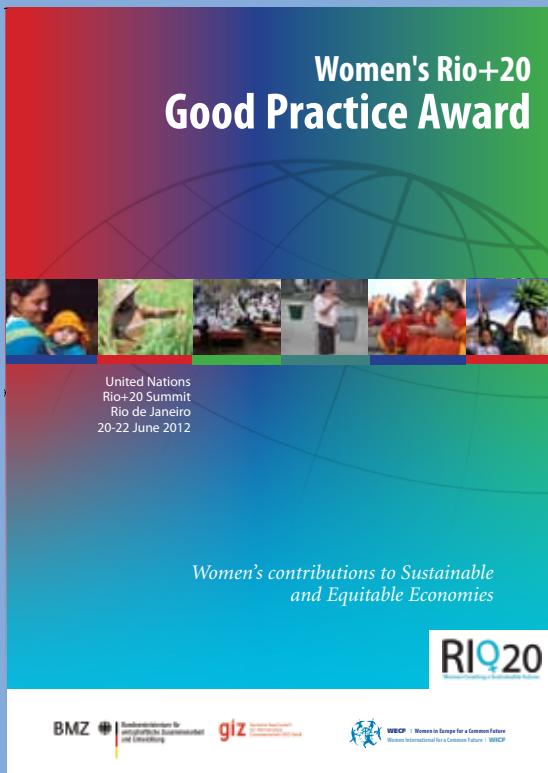
**Menace sur la santé des femmes.** L'avenir serait-il plus rose pour les femmes sans les perturbateurs endocriniens? *Octobre 2012*

### Rapport du Groupe Majeur Femmes,

CNUDD Rio+20, 1er Novembre 2011

### Document de positionnement pour Rio+20 - Résumé

*Février 2012*



# WECF representation in international processes



**WECF is accredited with UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme**

Contact: [alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu](mailto:alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu)



**WECF is accredited to UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Contact: [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)



**WECF is accredited with UN ECOSOC and coordinates civil society at UNCSD / Rio+20**

Contact: [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)



**WECF cooperates with UNWOMEN**

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**WECF is an implementing partner for UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

Contact: [claudia.wendland@wecf.eu](mailto:claudia.wendland@wecf.eu) and [anke.stock@wecf.eu](mailto:anke.stock@wecf.eu)



**WECF cooperates with WHO World Health Organisation**

Contact: [margriet.samwel@wecf.eu](mailto:margriet.samwel@wecf.eu)



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**Annual Report 2012**