



**WECF**

International

# Towards a just, healthy and sustainable planet

Women in Europe for a Common Future  
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Annual Report 2015

## Impressum



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



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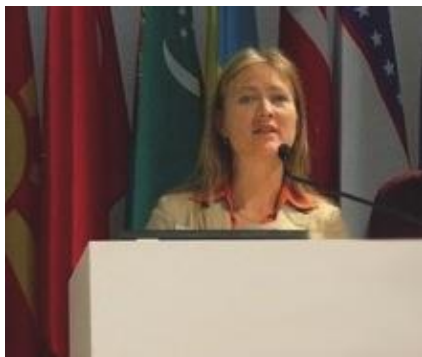
# Towards a just, healthy and sustainable planet!







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



## A word from our Director

On September 25th 2015, the Heads of States of the UN's 193 member states adopted the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and its 17 "Sustainable Development Goals. This was the result of two policy processes that had merged in the years before, namely the sustainable development process, which was developed following the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and the development process, with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at its core.

With women forming the majority of the world's poor specific attention is needed to eliminate the multiple causes of inequality and discrimination which they face. Root causes of inequality are often embedded in deeply rooted patterns of discrimination, causing women to receive lower wages, own less property, and be more vulnerable to the hardships of poverty and environmental degradation.

Eliminating these root causes of inequality are a pre-requisite for sustainable development. In 2015 WECF as one of the "organising partners" of the "Women's Major Group", comprised of over 500 women's human rights and development organizations, has again substantively engaged in the consultations and negotiations throughout this process, making clear that Gender Equality is a pre-requisite for sustainable development.

For WECF the year 2015 marked the end and a new beginning. It was the last year of our multi-country EWA Programme, "**Empowering Women benefits All**" which focussed mainly on building women's leadership and economic & political empowerment in 6 target countries in Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe, with as a result more women in local decisions making positions including in elected functions, and more women engaged in economic and sustainable activities around water, sanitation, energy and food provision. The lessons learned entered into WECF's 5-year strategic plan and the development of its global partnership program with women and gender equality networks, including the Women's Major Group, for the implementation of the SDGs, 2030 Agenda.

We also wound up our Sustainable Energy Programme for rural areas **Switch to the Sun**, with its primary goal to create capacity to maintain and further developed solar water heating systems for low-income rural households. The project demonstrated not only improved access to household energy at less costs to the family, it also showed an effective reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and lead to the development of local entrepreneurship by women and men. The results of the energy program in one of the 7 project countries, namely Georgia, became the basis for the development of a gender-sensitive "**National Appropriate Mitigation Action**" (NAMA). This NAMA is an instrument under the climate convention (UNFCCC), which is submitted by the Government for funding from global financial instruments, and developed by WECF Georgia with local partners in cooperation with the ministry of environment. This gender-responsive NAMA is unique and has become one of 3 national programs to which Georgia committed as part of its "National Determined Contribution" presented by the Prime Minister at the Climate COP21 in Paris in December 2015.

WECF energy and gender activities were brought to the attention of policy makers during the climate negotiations which culminated in the **Paris Agreement** at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP21) of the Climate Framework Convention (UNFCCC). WECF co-facilitated the activities of the Women and Gender Constituency at UNFCCC, during the COP21 and in the preliminary negotiations in Bonn and Paris, bringing a delegation of local partners to the COP21, and working closely with women negotiators on country delegations, including with funding received from strategic partner WEDO.

In 2015 WECF the new Board of Trustees took its functions and the new strategic plan 2015-2020 started to be implemented, towards a stronger focus on three areas: gender & sustainability, climate-just circular economy, and a healthy toxic-free environment.

WECF, with 150 member organisations in 50 European Caucasus Central Asian and African countries, protects the environmental health of women and men internationally, through locally implemented projects and through its cooperation with strategic partners from all civil society major groups in particular, women, science, youth, indigenous peoples, local government, trade unions and social responsible enterprises. One of the most successful and distinguishing aspects of the WECF network has always been the approach of combined advocacy and project work.

With our members and partners we will continue to expand the best practices and scale these up by making sure they become part of national implementation plans, like in Georgia where WECF's solar heating program became the core of a national climate mitigation action.

The next 5 years will allow WECF to strengthen its work on supporting the implementation of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, as WECF signed a Framework Agreement with the European Commission for gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in 50 countries, with partners from the Women's Major Group. The coming years WECF will continue to link local to global and vice versa, sharing best practices of local CSOs on gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable environmental technologies for replication at national and international level.

We invite you to join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Just, Healthy and Sustainable World for All!

Sascha Gabizon  
Executive Director WECF International

“Women's rights and women's equal role in our society is fundamental in achieving a sustainable future for all.....”

## WECF International

The WECF network was created 22 years ago with the idea to build a network of women taking action for sustainability and equality, while joining forces with men to mobilise all of society behind a common vision of a sustainable future.



*Photo: WECF staff in a global outreach meeting on women's rights and the environment organised by the BBC*

### WECF's Roots

The creation of WECF was based on the inspiration given by the more than 1000 women who came together at the Women for A Healthy Planet Forum in Miami in 1991, in preparation of the major Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. As only very few women organisations from Eastern and Western Europe participated, WECF was created as a network to strengthen women's perspectives for sustainable development from this region. At the Rio 1992 Summit, WECF founders advocated jointly with global organisation, such as WEDO, for the recognition of the Women's Major Group by the UN and for a full chapter on Women and Sustainable Development in the UN "Agenda21"

### WECF Foundation

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in the Netherlands in 1994. 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?

More than 20 years after the Earth Summit 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 as 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, 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.

### Geographical scope

Historically the majority of WECF members and partners have come from Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, the Balkan region and Afghanistan, though membership is open to organisations worldwide. Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and the EECCA countries in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the new republics faced many problems. Many challenges, such as health problems and poverty in rural areas due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management, also remained in the new EU member states.

### Going Global

The past few years the WECF network has expanded to the global level, where partners share lessons learned from one continent to the next. WECF develops innovative, 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 regional and national policymakers. WECF empowers its members by bringing their policy recommendations to international policymakers and into global policy processes by increasing the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organizations. We work together with partners from Europe, Latin-America, Africa and Asia who have expertise on women's economic empowerment, green and equitable economic development, and international agreements.

### ***Our Vision: A just, healthy and sustainable planet for all!***

***We envision a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all women, men and children live in dignity and share responsibilities for a healthy environment, and a just and sustainable world.***

### Implementing projects & engaging in policy recommendations

WECF implements projects with its partners by developing and implementing 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. Our joint policy advocacy activities are linked from national, to European, UN and other international policy processes.

### WECF and Cooperation

WECF cooperates with a large network of other women's rights and civil society organizations as it facilitates global networks such as the Women's Major Group at UNEP and for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as the women and gender constituency in the climate negotiations. WECF also cooperates with research institutes such as universities (TUHH, Twente, Chambery) and networks such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA). WECF also cooperates with social-responsible companies such as Solar Partners Sued, Natracare and BabybeGood. WECF's donors include the European Commission (DG Environment and EuropeAid), European Member States (France, Netherlands, Germany, Austria) and a variety of Foundations.

### WECF's strategic approach

WECF builds capacity of women's and civil society organisations to promote and advocate for gender-responsive sustainable development policies. We also monitor and analyse policy implementation and participate in policy development. Through our practical demonstration projects at local on for example solar energy and rural women empowerment we mobilize citizen's support and show how the global Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate should be implemented.





*Photo: Members of the WECF's governance boards at their annual meeting in Paris, Dec 2015*

### **Governance and Organisation**

WECF's network activities are coordinated through its offices in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), France (Annemasse), Switzerland (Geneva) and Tbilisi (Georgia), jointly with its member and partner organisations in 50 countries. WECF International is governed by the international Board of Trustees (BoT) and is advised on strategic issues and network development by the International Advisory Board (IAB) elected by the member organisations of WECF.

### ***Our Mission***

***Our mission is to be a catalyst for change to bring women's priorities and leadership equality into policies and actions that will shape a just and sustainable world: Our Common Future.***

# WECE Focus Areas



## Towards a Gender-Just, Climate-Just and Circular Economy

### Water and Sanitation

WECE implements affordable, innovative and sustainable drinking water and sanitation systems as demonstration projects. These projects focus on creating access to safe water and sanitation for households and schools in low-income, rural areas. Often women prioritize access to safe and sustainable drinking water and sanitation. WECE has developed an interactive educational and awareness raising program for schools and local communities the “Water & Sanitation Safety Plans” (WSSPs) which is being implemented in Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania.



*Photo: A girl fetching water from a well in Romania*

WECE is also actively involved in the work of the worldwide sanitation network Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) leading the working group on rural community, schools and gender. WECE and partners represent civil society in the UNECE process of the “Protocol on Water and Health” where it advocates for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resources and wastewater management. WECE contributes to the implementation of the PWH and the Sustainable Development Goals agenda by helping to define targets and indicators for the water and sanitation area.

### Agriculture & Food

WECE implements projects which aim at closing the loop; in which waste from one process becomes a resource for another process. In particular, WECE demonstrates safe use of human excreta (urine and faecal compost) and composting of organic waste as fertilizer in agriculture. WECE promotes food free of hazardous chemicals, nano-particles and GMOs. WECE members in Armenia and Georgia train rural communities on making plant-based tinctures against pests in horticulture, and in Uganda on setting up women’s agricultural cooperatives. In South Africa WECE projects support the creation of food gardens with women in low income areas. Through these demonstration projects, WECE promotes examples of sustainable and organic farming that provide healthier food and improve livelihoods.

## Climate & Energy

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. 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. Climate change is inextricably linked with energy, as two thirds of global emissions come from energy consumption. WECF's local projects demonstrate how safe and renewable energy are accessible for low- income households, and bringing successful pilot projects to scale via innovative financial instruments.

Through its role as co-coordinator of the 'women and gender constituency' at the climate negotiations, WECF promotes gender-just climate solutions and integrates a gender perspective into global UN climate change negotiations such as the 2015 COP21 in Paris where WECF and partners were involved in a number of high-level events and summits, debating with policy-makers and national and international actors involved in climate policy as part of the Women and Gender Constituency and the Women's Call for Climate Justice.

### A few direct results of WECF's work

#### On Water & Sanitation

- 350 trained trainers on water safety plans for local communities (50)
- 200 people trained on operation and maintenance of *ecosan* (UDDT) toilets and the use of urine and faecal matter in agriculture
- 980 individual sanitation systems installed (UDDT) and 1100 people took part in testing demonstrations of UDDT
- 55 toilet buildings for schools and kindergartens were built (UDDT)
- 123 drinking water supply systems were improved
- Over 35,000 people gained access to safe sanitation at their home
- Over 21,000 children gained access to safe sanitation at their school
- Over 11,000 people's drinking water was tested on nitrates as indicator for pollution
- rural communities in Uganda benefited from introduction of rainwater harvesting and biogas technology with an innovative bamboo based structure
- Policy recommendations on inclusion of water and sanitation in the Sustainable Development Goals post-2015
- Applied research on the wastewater treatment and management of human excreta byz students in Kyrgyzstan (1 on Terra Preta treatment and 1 on struvite production of human urine) and 2 students in Georgia (greywater treatment in sand and gravel filters)

#### On Agriculture & Food:

- Further development of network of women entrepreneurs (60 members) in Rhône-Alpes, France, to promote gender equality in the rural-professional environment
- 100 demonstration fields on pesticide-free Conservation Agriculture maintained
- 2350 Farmer/households of which 70% women were involved in farming, and at least 1128 farmers (70% women) were trained in farming as a business in Uganda

#### On Climate & Energy

- Policy statements on equitable climate policies presented to 5000 policy makers
- 1 feasibility study for energy cooperatives in Georgia as financial instrument and corporate organization to force energy efficiency and decentralized renewable energy

- Gender-equitable Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) was further developed in Georgia and praised by Georgian minister at Paris COP22
- Employees from Ukrainian municipalities were trained on energy efficiency measures in public buildings
- Training of 25 multipliers (from NGOs, municipalities and teachers) of Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan on solar systems, monitoring, photovoltaic, public participation and financial mechanism for solar projects
- Over 600 women increase their income through use of solar food driers
- 6 rural resource centres providing training on affordable, sustainable food, energy, water and sanitation solutions
- 501 rural households (2500 people) have saved 0.5 - 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- 7.5 million people informed through outreach and visibility actions about sustainable energy solutions
- 22 rural communities were supported in improving their energy situation.
- 221 certified constructors (mostly men) and 149 usage specialists (mostly women), 20 certified solar collector trainers and 9 training modules have been worked out and are available online
- WECF was one of the 3 nominees for the EU-Award (EUSEW – EU sustainable energy week) for 2015 for Switch to Sun Programme
- WECF Project Switch to Sun honoured with National Energy Globe Award for Armenia on World Environment Day 2015



## Towards Healthy and Toxic Free Environment

WECF and its members promote non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, based on three Rio'92 UNCED 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 vulnerable groups such. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions on 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 training of health and childcare professionals.



Photo: WECF workshop for sustainable SMEs on REACH

In addition to advocating the elimination of toxics in consumer products and food, WECF also addresses the environmental hazards of waste and building materials. In many countries of the EECCA region old pesticide stockpiles pose a serious threat to the environment and public health. WECF partners build capacity on sound chemicals and waste management and safer alternatives.



In Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and FYR Macedonia, WECF works with local partners on alternatives to asbestos as a building material, raising awareness on lethal risks from the widespread chrysotile asbestos use in buildings.

**Direct results of WECF's work include:**

- 120 Project Nesting trainers educated in France
- 580 Nesting workshops organised in France
- 200 pregnant women interviewed in the Netherlands as research for obstetrician's information services
- 3800 parents educated on creating a safe environment for their new born
- 50,000 parents informed through fairs and direct contact via consumer guides, motivated to create a safe and healthy environment
- 76,000 policy makers and decision makers from business and civil society were informed on health risks of asbestos and on alternative (non-toxic) building materials through 4 workshops
- 2000 policy makers were informed on health risks of EDCs through Brussels conference and position paper
- Over 2 million people reached via media channels (TV, radio, offline and social media)
- 1 mobile exhibition (English, Dutch and German) and 6 publications reached policy makers on substituting chemicals of concern, including EDCs
- 1 new consumer guide on EDCs in products in German and on chemicals in children's textiles was published and widely distributed in Dutch and German
- A film with tips for pregnant women on how to protect themselves and their babies from EDCs was developed in English, German and Dutch and widely distributed
- 1 side event and 1 workshop on women and chemicals was organised at the OEWG2 of SAICM in Geneva



## Towards Gender Equality & Sustainable Development

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 human rights and environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that continue to face multiple discrimination – because of gender, age, ethnic belonging - are the most likely to suffer from environmental contamination, climate change and of lack access to safe and affordable energy, water and sanitation.

WECF has co-chaired the global alliance of women's and civil society organisations the "Women's Major Group", advocating for gender-just and sustainable development policies. WECF has showed through its projects how the Millennium Development Goals should be addressed with a gender-approach. Since 2012 WECF has had a leading role in the global advocacy at the United Nations to obtain strong and ambitious "Sustainable Development Goals" as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WECF and the Women's Major Group promoted a strong stand-alone goal on "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls" (SDG-5) as well as integration of gender equality into all other goals of the 2030 agenda.



Photo: WECF and ARUWE project at Busi School, Uganda

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 natural and productive resources, such as water or energy and land. 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.

With local partners WECF organizing participatory community dialogues to analyse traditional gender roles, and the need to redistribute unpaid women's labour. WECF and partners carries out gender assessments and monitor projects and policies with gender-sensitive indicators. WECF and partners are bringing the results of these assessments and evaluations into the national implementation plans of the Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development processes.

#### Direct results of WECF's work accumulated in 2015

- 1 "Manual "Gender and Food Security"
- 1 "Gender Livelihood and Socio-Economic Studies" (Tajikistan)
- 1 Study Analysis of CEDAW report of Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and South Africa"
- 1 Case Study "Gender sensitive NAMA in Georgia"
- 1 Study "Gender Aspects in Water and Sanitation: Issues in Kyrgyzstan"
- 10 policy statements on integrating gender equality into the SDGs
- 6 Gender trainings or technical trainings with a gender focus
- 30 presentations on public participation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, women participation in international conferences
- 3000 women in WECF's delegations in policy meetings



# Campaigns and Advocacy

# Campaigns and Advocacy

## **Bringing local best practices to scale through policy advocacy**

The lessons learned from WECF's local projects need to be taken into national budget, policies and program planning, in order to ensure that best practices are replicated.

WECF's approach to bring more women into policy making and decision making processes, is an aim in itself and ensures more effective and equitable policies.



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**WECF facilitates participation of women and civil society organisations in a number of international policy processes:**

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

- The WECF director co-facilitates the Women "Major Group" at the United Nations Environment Program, cooperating with the UNEP secretariat and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment.
  - WECF is also active in the Chemicals Conventions which fall under UNEP's mandate. 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, and cooperates with partners of the International POPs Elimination Network on policies to phase out "Persistent Organic Pollutants". WECF contributes to the process of "SAICM" (Sound Approach International Chemicals Management) and implements SAICM best practice projects in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia and Serbia.
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## **WECF and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

WECF is core member of the "Women and Gender Constituency" of UNFCCC and has coordinated the Award for "Gender Just Climate Solutions" which was given to three grass roots women's organisations during the COP21 Climate Summit in Paris, in December 2015. The Award is one policy advocacy methodology, calling attention to best practices and inciting policy makers to



integrate them into national policies. The Award was present by the Minister of Environment of Uganda. WECF was also responsible for the public exhibition space where thousands of visitors from civil society and many government delegations could learn about the policy recommendations of the women's groups. Jointly with the "Women and Gender Constituency" WECF continuously provided proposals for formulating the text of the Paris Agreement, which in the end resulted in the positive outcome of gender equality being part of the preamble, and thus need to be applied to all areas of implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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#### **WECF and UN DESA Sustainable Development Division:**

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 Sustainable Development, and organised the negotiations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implementation and monitoring in the coming 15 years.

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

WECF chairs the working group on Environment and Health in the '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 2014-2016 work programme 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 information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters.

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#### **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 Parma Ministerial Declaration and the preparations of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in the Czech Republic in 2017.

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#### **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 cooperates with UN WOMEN throughout the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable, with the aim to achieve as strong as possible wording on women's human rights.

**WECF has consultative status with ECOSOC (UN economic and social council) and is an accredited partner of UNEP.**

# WECF Campaigns and Advocacy on Water & Sanitation

## UNECE water and health policy processes

It may be hard to imagine, but even in the EU and EECCA region, nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to safe drinking-water supply. Even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation.



*Photo: with a simple nitrate quick-test, an indication of pollution of drinking water is obtained*

Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. 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 was one of the implementation partners of the work programmes 2011-2013 and 2014-2015 of the Protocol on Water and Health, alongside the German and Czech government, focussing on 'small scale water supply and sanitation'. In 2015, 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.

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

In rural areas of the EECCA countries, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in schools are often very bad. Related diseases, particularly diarrhoea and parasite infections, hinder the children's physical and intellectual development. Lack of safe **menstrual hygiene** conditions in schools make that many teenage girls miss school several days per month. WECF, along with partners worldwide within the Safe Sanitation Alliance, advocate for making school sanitation a policy priority. This involves 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.

## Water Solidarity – French support for water supply in Kyrgyzstan

What developed from a UNDP program on Global Water Solidarity has developed into a lasting and successful cooperation between French regional and local water authorities and "water user

cooperatives” in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. Initially a project by a local WECF member group, the water user cooperatives have professionalized, developed investment and business plans, obtained local funding from users, and presented their plans to the French partners. The French water agencies are providing technical, training and financial support to build a centralized water supply system for the village in Kyrgyzstan, and WECF supports with continued mentoring for the operations and management. The lessons of this successful partnership are fed into national and global policy making processes.



*Photo: WECF senior water expert Margriet Samwel presents monitoring data at a UN water expert meeting*

#### Direct results:

- WECF contributed to the assessment of the situation of the small -scale water supplies in the WHO European Region and to the development of a document for policy makers on small scale water supply and sanitation, to be published in 2015.
- WECF contributed to the work of WHO, UN organisations on access to water and sanitation in schools globally. WECF leads a working group on rural communities, schools and gender aspects in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) and collected and good examples for sustainable School sanitation stories worldwide for showcasing them in a SuSanA publication in 2014.
- WECF has been contributing to the post-2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators in the water and sanitation area

## WECF Campaigns and Advocacy on Chemicals & Health

One of the main topics of the advocacy work WECF's chemicals team has been working on on awareness raising on chrysotile asbestos and need to phase out asbestos worldwide. WECF chemical experts participated in several UNEP and WHO conferences e.g. at COP 7 of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam (BSR) Conventions, at ICCM 4 of SAICM and UNEP's meetings on Chemicals and SDGs. WECF also organized four workshops in FYR Macedonia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan to build capacity of authorities on asbestos risks, working jointly with partner organizations in the EECCA region and the World Health Organisation.

### Rotterdam Convention and Asbestos

Asbestos is responsible for more than half of all work-related cancers. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than 100,000 people die each year worldwide from asbestos-related diseases and the peak of new cases has not yet been reached. The estimated number of unreported cases is probably much higher as in many countries using or producing asbestos no state registry for asbestos-related disease or cancer registries exist. Asbestos is found in many of WECF project implementation countries in many construction materials, such as insulation or roofing materials. Since many years, countries from the EECCA region and Zimbabwe, India and Vietnam block the listing of chrysotile Asbestos to the Rotterdam Convention (RC). This damages the health and environment of countless people not only in producing countries, but also in the importing countries.



*Photo: Father and son in Eastern Europe transporting chrysotile asbestos slates, unaware it has been banned in over 50 nations because there is no safe use possible of this substances known to cause lung cancer and other diseases.*

WECF's advocacy work on asbestos aims to contribute to the breakup the blocking opposing countries and to a listing of chrysotile asbestos to the Rotterdam Convention, through awareness raising, information and political work in these states and a strong participation of environmental and health organizations at national level and within the Rotterdam Convention. To this end, WECF is working on policy advocacy and awareness raising in those EECCA countries that are resisting a listing of asbestos as part of the Rotterdam Convention.



## Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

The topic of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) remained high on the international and European policy agenda in 2015. On EU level the European Commission although obliged to deliver criteria on EDCs for its pesticides and biocides directives, kept silent. WECF, as an active member of the European “EDC-free Europe” NGO coalition, contributed with its input to the EU Commission’s public consultation and with various policy papers.



*Photo: WECF with partners of the ROCA Alliance of independent civil society organisations advocating for the listing of chrysotile asbestos on the list of prior informed consent, to ensure governments need to be informed before asbestos enters into the country.*

At the international level EDCs are an emerging policy issue under the UNEP Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management (SAICM). In its role as co-chair of the IPEN EDC working group, WECF contributed to the SAICM EDC work and coordinated the input of around 600 international NGOs to this process. In parallel to the advocacy work, WECF raises awareness among health experts and consumers about EDCs via a consumer guide on EDCs and a film informing pregnant women how to protect themselves.

## Figo Annual Congress

WECF strongly welcomed the statement issued by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), addressing the risks to babies and mothers associated with everyday exposure to toxic chemicals. The statement came in advance of FIGO’s annual congress and the pre-congress workshop to create an action plan in Vancouver (4-9 October 2015) in which WECF and its scientific committee took an active part. FIGO represents 125 national societies of obstetricians and gynaecologists around the world. It is dedicated to improving the health of women and newborns and advancing the science and practice of obstetrics and gynaecology. The document was endorsed by many medical and health bodies, including the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the UK. As a result, the next years Annual Congress will be organised with WECF France in Paris to continue to advocate for legislation which will finally protect children from hormone disrupting chemicals.

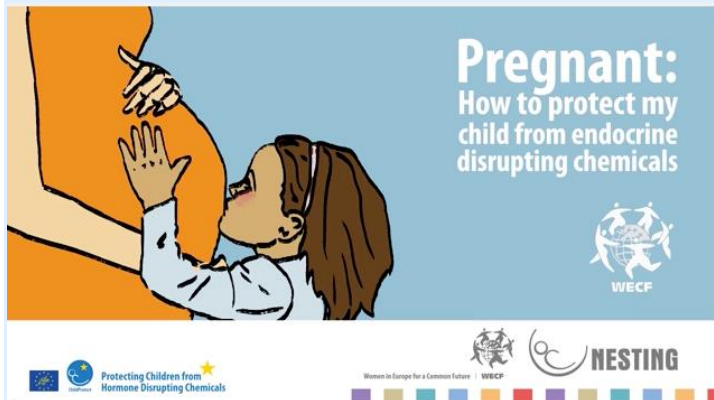
## Chemical Watch quotes WECF France’s president in article on pregnancy and toxic chemicals

05.10.2015 |

A global health organization has called for reproductive health professionals to lobby for policies that prevent exposure to hazardous chemicals.

In the latest issue of Chemical Watch, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) said doctors need to do more than advise patients about the health risks of chemical exposure. "We need to advocate for policies that will protect our patients and communities from the dangers of involuntary exposure to toxic chemicals," said Jeanne A Conry, co-author and former president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The paper, which was published in the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, was written by an international group of doctors and scientists from professional societies and the World Health Organization (WHO), and is supported by NGOs such as Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL).



"Harmful exposure to toxic chemicals in the womb occurs at very low levels and the effects cannot be reversed. This is why we consider it vital that doctors, midwives and other professionals call for protection against toxic chemicals," said Anne Barre, co-president of WECF France.

## Campaigns and Advocacy on Gender & Rights

### Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy worldwide

To contribute to improving global policies on sustainable development and climate, WECF has been active since 20 years as co-facilitator of the “Women’s Major Group”.

#### Women’s Major Group

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.



*Photo: South-South experience exchange between India and Georgia on how to build household biogas systems that are safe, low-cost and can be built using women’s skills, the type of appropriate technologies promoted by WECF and the global alliances of women civil society organisations at the United Nations*

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 800 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. WECF co-facilitates the Women’s Major Group jointly with 7 other co-facilitators from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, Latin America and North America.

#### The Post 2015 Process: The Sustainable Development Goals

2015 was a crucial year for future development cooperation. On September 25th 2015, the Heads of States of the UN’s 193 member states adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and its 17 “Sustainable Development Goals. This was the result of two policy processes that had merged, namely the sustainable development process, which was developed following the

Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, and the development process, with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at its core.

### Women's priorities for the Post 2015 - 2030 Agenda

With the adoption of the SDG's, governments committed to ambitious goals addressing issues that impact women and girls, including economic inequality, agriculture, energy, biodiversity and climate change, and peace and security. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formally adopted by Heads of State in September at the UN General Assembly. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a broad and ambitious plan to chart out global development across social, environmental and economic areas for the next 15 years, and if fully implemented could be transformative for women and girls everywhere.

WECF and the Women's Major Group (WMG) contributes to the intergovernmental processes on Sustainable Development Goals and its link to the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, publishing proposals for the formulation of the 17 goals and its 167 targets. WECF and the WMG continue to contribute to the process of global indicator setting which will continue into 2017. In 2015 WECF organised 10 policy presentations on the Sustainable Development Goals and the need for an integrated approach and implementation, amongst others at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the High Level Political Forum, at the General Assembly of the UN, at EU and national-level policy events and at the regional Beijing+20 conference at UNECE in Geneva.



*Photo: WECF executive director speaking at the Beijing+20 regional conference at the UNECE*



## Campaigns and Advocacy on Equitable Climate Policies

At UNFCCC, WECF advocates the need for equitable climate policies and programs. In many countries, due to gender inequalities, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. Women also often have knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. WECF promotes climate policies and programs, which give women access to resources, knowledge and income-generating opportunities.



*Photo: WECF climate coordinators among colleagues of other civil society constituency at an action during the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris, December 2015, calling for human rights, gender equality and the rights of indigenous peoples to be a key principle for implementing climate policies.*

### **COP22 in Paris: Women take action on Climate Change and Gender Equality**

During the 2 weeks of the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris, WECF and a delegation of 12 members participated in the negotiations, conducting advocacy trainings, presenting policy language options, publishing articles and briefing papers, organizing demonstrations, marches and press conferences in close collaboration with colleagues from around the world.

The Paris Agreement is an historic achievement, as it confirms that the governments need to take action to remain below a 2 degree, and even 1,5 degree, global average temperature increase. But for the women's groups the concrete measures agreed on indicate a great gap between that ambition, and achieving this in the near future. WECF and its partners are very concerned that concrete measures will be too slow, and not sufficiently socially-just, with the risk of increasing inequalities instead of aiming at climate programs that also advance human rights and gender equality. WECF will have monitor how to keep "false" solutions - such as geo-engineering and nuclear energy - abreast, as they will cause more human suffering and environmental destruction.



*Photo: WECF co-organized dialogues and actions to call attention to 'false solutions' such as nuclear energy during the COP21 climate Negotiations in Paris.*

## In the media: WECF at the COP21

WECF had her voice heard in meeting rooms and to the public via interviews in *Le Monde*, *Libération*, *Elle*, *Klimaretter* and Bavarian TV news



Before and during the COP21 in Paris, WECF was able to let her voice be heard in meeting rooms and to the public.

### [Libération](#)

WECF's Executive Director Sascha Gabizon was interviewed by French newspaper *Libération*. Sascha Gabizon : [«Il faut accepter cette responsabilité historique»](#) was the headline of the piece, published November 30, at the start of the COP21. Sascha Gabizon mentioned the key role of women civil society organisations. She hoped that when the French President, spoke of „electricity for everyone in Africa“, he did not refer to ‚False Solutions‘ such as nuclear energy, as nuclear is utterly inappropriate to electrify Africa, as it can be done much faster via decentralised renewables, than through centralised-grid-based super expensive and dangerous nuclear, which is not resilient to floods, draughts and other climate disasters.

### [Klimaretter.info](#)

The German magazine for climate and energy transition – *klimaretter.info* – interviewed WECF's Executive Director, Sascha Gabizon about WECF's objective to include gender equality at the heart of international climate policy.

### [Opzij.nl](#)

Irene Dankelman – member of WECF's Board of Trustees – was interviewed by the Dutch magazine *Opzij* on the position of women in today's society. As an official advisor to the Dutch climate delegation team, she highlighted the unequal consequences women encounter from climate change. Her main argument is to involve more women in all policy-making processes regarding the environment. Moreover, she called for an integration of women empowerment throughout a future climate agreement.

### Bavarian TV

WECF's Senior Coordinator Climate Change, Sabine Bock, was interviewed by Unkraut, a German television magazine on ARD and Bavarian TV. Unkraut devoted a forty-five minute episode to the COP21. Next to the motivation of WECF to participate in the COP21 and the process leading up to the climate conference, the presenter also spoke with Sabine on the influence citizens can have in a climate summit such as this one. The broadcast can be seen [here](#) see minute 00.20.17.

### Le Monde

WECF's message that women are an unmistakable part of any climate agreement was picked up by "Le Monde", the main newspaper of France, which published [an entire article on the voices and standpoints of women](#) during the last week of the climate summit in Paris with an interview with WECF partner Nino Gamisonia from Georgia.

### Elle

WECF France co-president Anne Barre was interviewed by French "Elle Magazine" on the role of women during the Climate Summit in Paris. ["Pourquoi les femmes sont les premières victimes du dérèglement climatique?"](#) Why are women the first victims of climate change?

### Vogue

WECF partner Priscilla Achakpa of Women Environment Network Nigeria was featured in [a lengthy piece](#) in this month's Vogue Magazine "Meet thirteen women on the frontline of global warming"



And **WECF's Climate Director Sabine Bock** was quoted in the same article as the President of the United States, Barack Obama [Stimmen zum Pariser Klimaabkommen](http://taz.de/Stimmen-zum-Pariser-Klimaabkommen/!5261357/) <http://taz.de/Stimmen-zum-Pariser-Klimaabkommen/!5261357/>



## WECF OFFICES



### WECF FRANCE

WECF France carries out projects at regional, national and international levels and supports international WECF network projects, together with partners from Environmental Health and Women Empowerment's sectors.

#### Chemicals & Health

##### **Awareness-raising and training for public and professionals**

In a context of health policy renewal in France (Cancer Plan, National Health Environmental Plan, Public Health Act and Occupational Health Plan) and in Europe, especially with the arrival of a new European commission in late 2014, WECF France focuses on promote policy's changes towards stronger first primary prevention. Health protection of the most vulnerable groups, in particular pregnant women and young children, remained at the core of our actions.

To widen access to its educational workshops on environmental health, the "Nesting" program for young parents and "Ma maison Ma santé" (My Home My Health MMMS) for the broader public took place all over the country. In 2015, four training sessions Nesting/MMMS have been organised for 36 persons. Two involved health professionals in two maternity services of the region Rhône-Alpes and the other two were attended by a wider professional public in Alsace and Haute-Savoie. For the first time, professionals from Switzerland and Belgium were trained in order to settle the Nesting project in these two countries in 2016.

In 2015, WECF France proposed training on Indoor Environmental Quality to childcare professionals of six maternal and child prevention centres in partnerships with the ARS Aquitaine

(regional agency of health). Four days of continuous training in environmental health for all the trained and certified professional were also organized focussing on electromagnetic fields, textiles and cosmetics. These certified professionals organized more than 225 awareness-raising workshops in several regions of France (Provence-Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes, Aquitaine, Ile de France; etc.), informing about 2500 persons on environmental health problems and providing them with daily solutions to act. This year, the IFSEN (Institut of Environmental Health Training), initiated in 2013 by WECF, will stand on its own feet but our two structures remain hand to hand to promote Environmental Health.

### **Advocacy for prevention of exposures to chemical contaminants**

In 2015, advocacy activities on chemicals and health have been one of the main focus of environmental health at both national and European levels. WECF France is co-chair of the working group "Formation, information, research" of the National Program on Environmental Health (PNSE), and takes part in several PNSE working groups, as representative of the civil society. As well, it is represented in several consultation bodies of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES).

At EU level, WECF France is the only NGO with observer status at biocidal products competent authorities meeting, and promotes prevention of widespread exposure to biocidal products and the use of non-toxic alternatives to chemicals of concern. In addition, WECF France is deeply involved in the campaigns and advocacy activities on Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), as member of the EDC-Free Europe coalition, including like the consultation process launched by the European Commission.

At the International level, WECF France actively took part in the preparation and participation to FIGO XXI World Congress of the FIGO (International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics), in Vancouver from 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October. WECF France was deeply involved in the advocacy campaign to disseminate FIGO's Opinion on reproductive health impacts of exposure to toxic environmental chemicals. The participation to the workshop "shaping our planetary legacy" with scientists and gynaecologists dealing with the impact of early life exposure to chemical contaminants, was a great achievement which created the basis for long term collaboration with international key partners. The event resulted in a huge media coverage with around 200 articles and interviews in newspapers, websites and radio.

### **Circular Economy and Women Empowerment**

Since 2014, WECF France with its partner Kyrgyz Alliance for Water & Sanitation (KAWS), coordinates an ambitious project in the village of On-Ostan, near lake Issyk Kul, aiming at renovating the water system, so that the 225 families of the village will have round the clock continued access to water. Aside from this the community-based project provides trainings by WECF International on water management and gender equality.

In Armenia WECF France continued its collaboration with its partner AWHHE on healthy agriculture. Two exchange travels were organised; one in Armenia and the other in France, to reinforce the links between the French and Armenian women farmers. Women exchange on agricultural practices, as well as the gender equalities in rural areas. In Armenia, 120 women have been trained on sustainable agriculture and 4 Resources Centres are now operational. A successful French crowdfunding campaign paid for a solar oven to increase the production of dried fruits.



In France WECF launched in 2015 the website “Rural Women in Region Rhone-Alpes” to build women’s capacities. Four training sessions have been organised with over 100 registrations, on different topic related to women empowerment. WECF supported a citizen group in Annemasse to develop an urban garden and organise a workshop on sustainable and community projects.

### Gender and development

#### Gender and Development Network:

WECF coordinated the Network on *Gender and Development (Réseau Genre et Développement)* of the International Cooperation Authority of Rhône-Alpes region. This network includes more than 175 civil society organisations, local authorities, and citizens groups from Europe, as well as forty members from African countries. WECF created tool boxes, edited four newsletters and organised meetings and debates for their members.

#### Gender and Climatic Changes

In 2015, a special focus was given to climate change. WECF France participated in the civil society climate events ‘Alternatiba’ in Geneva and Lyon. During the COP21 Negotiations in Paris, WECF France was active as part of the Women and Gender Constituency, with a stand in the main exhibition hall, and with the publication of the brochure “Women Climate Solutions”, showing how women, impacted by climate change, can become a motor of innovative and climate solutions.

### WECF France’s Outlook for 2016

All the projects on healthy environment as well as those on women empowerment will be continued and reinforced in 2016. The presence of WECF at the COP22 in Morocco will be a milestone, with the organisation of the “Gender Just Climate Solutions Award” devoted to groups of women proposing effective solutions to climate changes.

Several projects will also focus on promoting better health of young girls and boys and well by measures to protect them from toxic substances in their daily environment, including the following activities:

- Organisation of an international conference at the French Senate on early-life exposure to chemical contamination and its impacts on human health
- Publication of a report on the presence of toxic substances in baby care products
- New training sessions on Environmental & Health for mid-wives and other professional working in birth services hospitals as part of the “Nesting” program
- Start of a competition for undergraduate students in Design, to conceive safe and eco-friendly toys for children younger than 3 years old

**WECF France** based in Annemasse, is supported by following donors: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy (MEDDE), French Ministry of urban affairs, Region Rhône Alpes, Region Ile de France, City of Paris, Urban community of Strasbourg, City of Saint Omer, Regional Agency of Health (Rhône Alpes), Regional Agency of Health (Aquitaine), Regional Agency of Health (Ile de France)

Companies and private donors: OAK Foundation, Lemarchand Foundation, Lea Nature Foundation, Caisse d'Épargne Foundation, Mutuelle Mieux être, Mutuelle Familiale

Contact: [veronique.moreira@wecf.eu](mailto:veronique.moreira@wecf.eu) (president); [florence.rosset@wecf.eu](mailto:florence.rosset@wecf.eu) (director)

## WECF the NETHERLANDS

It was in the Netherlands where WECF International, the foundation, was created after the Earth Summit in 1992, and has continued to function as the international secretariat of the network, offering support to international partners with expertise and project funding support.

**WECF the Netherlands** is based in the same office as the international secretariat, and focuses its activities on local stakeholders in the Netherlands and Flanders. It coordinates advocacy and visibility campaigns – with a focus on national and European legislation.

### 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 the last few years. Through this partnership WECF contributed to strengthening the gender focus in Dutch international policy, promoting a gender stand-alone policy. At the same time WECF the Netherlands coordinated the final year of its EWA Program, "Empower Women benefits All" in six countries.

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

The networks WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, Share-Net and the Women's Major Group represented in the Netherlands by WECF, continued a constant dialogue with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure that Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Human Rights and Sustainable Development were included in the Dutch framework for global development. Consultation meetings were organised at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### 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 VNCI. 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 in the field of REACH.

### Communicating on Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)

In cooperation with Institute IVAM of the University of Amsterdam, WECF started a programme developing ideas for sustainable SMEs in the baby- and children's product segment, on improving information and communication within the production chain and towards consumers, on the topic of SVHCs (Substances of Very High Concern), with a focus on risks for vulnerable groups (i.e. children and pregnant women). To achieve this goal, a literature study (i.e. desk research) was conducted focussing the SVHC levels, emission routes and their risks for people and the environment. Additionally, workshops were organized for SMEs.





Photo: Marie Kranendonk, founder of WECE and professor neonatology Janna Koppe preparing for an interview with Gezond Nu magazine in the WECE office in Utrecht

### LIFE+ ChildProtect

The 'ChildProtect-Life' project, which ran in the first part of 2015, coordinated by WECE the Netherlands aimed to speed-up implementation of EU environmental regulations with regard to the substitution of EDCs, in line with the EU 2020 goal of minimising adverse effects of chemicals on public health. Together with Gezinsbond and PAN Europe the project developed innovative and multi-sectorial actions that sped-up policy measures and voluntary actions that especially protect children and pregnant women from the harmful effects of EDCs. Such modules can then be replicated in other EU Member States.

### Creating a Healthy Environment for Children: Een Veilig Nest

As part of ChildProtect-Life and Een Veilig Nest (Project Nesting), WECE 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. WECE presented its work on toxic-free products for children at the sustainable "PuurBabyPlaza" at the biggest fair for young parents, the Nine Months Fair. Thousands of young and expectant parents were reached by alliances created with sustainable entrepreneurs and midwife practices in the Netherlands by supporting the creation of the Sustainable Baby Plaza at the Amsterdam Nine Months Fair

*Advocacy work in the Netherlands is supported by an expert group of scientists, including key professors in the area of paediatrics, endocrinology and chemicals. WECE also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy.*

**Country focus:** Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium)

**Donors:** Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Triodos Foundation, private donors

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

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## WECF GERMANY

**WECF Germany implements projects in Germany and support WECF's international projects with partners in EU, EECCA and developing countries.**

### Chemicals & Health

Project 'Nestbau' is the German part of the International "Nesting" Campaign, helping parents to create a healthy environment for young children. In 2015, the German Nesting project informed parents and professionals working with children through its website and the mobile phone App. In the framework of the project a film for pregnant women on how to protect their child from Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals was produced and published. The film was translated into Dutch and English. Several workshops and tools for schools and kindergartens were developed and implemented to avoid toxic chemicals in their environment. Advocacy for nontoxic products has been one of the focus areas for WECF advocacy work. WECF was involved in several events and policy activities concerning toxic chemicals in products, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level.

### WASH – Water & Sanitation in Germany

WECF is a founding member of the German WASH network, and alliance of NGOs working on water and sanitation issues since 2011, which promotes Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Germany and worldwide. WECF cooperates with the German Environment Agency (UBA) on the implementation of the work program on 'small scale water supplies and sanitation' of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO). WECF's "water safety plan" project was implemented with schools and local authorities in nine Romanian, Macedonian and Bulgarian rural communities. The WSP project resulted in a greater awareness on environmental protection, particularly in the area of water quality and sanitation.

### Climate & Energy

WECF was also very much involved in insisting on necessary CO<sub>2</sub>-reductions and advocating the advantages of the need of crucial switch to safe and sustainable energy in Germany, the energy transition. WECF was involved in the Bavarian and German Climate Alliance.

The WECF sustainable energy coordinator is a board member of the association "Citizen's Energy" (Bürgerenergie Bayern e.V.) which promotes the energy transition in the EU, Germany and Bavaria. Bürgerenergie Bayern and WECF are jointly advocating for a sustainable, renewable and affordable energy in Germany in accordance with the EU-roadmap for renewable energy.

WECF Germany published several press releases and joined several advocacy actions as active member of the "German Climate Alliance" to halt coal projects in Germany and advocate for ambitious climate protection commitments and a sustainable energy transition. WECF Germany is also an active member of the Bavarian Climate Alliance promoting the energy transition legislation locally and supporting calling attention to costs and risks of nuclear power throughout 2015. WECF Germany is partner of the city of Munich aiming to increase energy efficiency in municipalities in Germany but also in its twinning program with the cities of Kiev in Ukraine and Cape-Town in South Africa. WECF presented in numerous conferences (Ukraine, South Africa) and for visiting delegations (South Korea, South Africa, Ukraine) the development of the German "energy turnaround", showing the success factors based on citizen's leadership and possibilities for other countries.

**Country focus:** *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*

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**German projects website pages:**





# Projects

# Projects and Achievements in the EECCA region

## Water and Sanitation Safety Plans for rural areas in Macedonia and Romania

### Water and Sanitation Safety Plans for environmental education in schools in rural areas

The project “Water and Sanitation Safety Plans for environmental education in schools in rural areas” was implemented over a period of 1.5 years with the aim to raise awareness and to build capacity for environmental protection in rural regions of Romania and Macedonia. The creation of these WSSPs encouraged the population to promote local action for the improvement of water supply and sanitation systems, with the active participation of students, youth, teachers, locals and the authorities.

The WECF WWSP program is based on the methodology of the World Health Organisation (WHO) tool of Water Safety Plans (WSP). WECF has taken the WHO Water Safety Plans tool a step further by adapting them for use by small communities and non-professionals. The WWSP compendium, published by WECF in 3 languages, helps enables communities to develop a WSSP for small-scale water supplies, for example: how to dig wells, boreholes, springs and maintain piped centralised water supply systems as well as how to monitor the quality of sanitation facilities such as school toilets.



*Photo: Pupils and teacher fetching water samples for the project*

**Romania** joined the European Union in 2007, and has until 2018 to implement the EU regulations relating to the EU Water Framework Directive. There is still a great need for the construction and renovation of local infrastructure in rural areas. Only 28% of the rural population is currently connected to a central water supply and is therefore able to benefit from proper water services. Most families depend on private and public wells, whose shallow aquifers are not adequately protected against pollution caused by human activities. More than 7 million people living in rural areas have no access to safe sanitation and use pit latrines. The population in general is often unaware of the interconnections between the quality of water, sanitation, hygiene, fertilising of the soil and health.

Since 2005, (the Former Yugoslav Republic of - FYROM) **Macedonia** has been a pre-accession country in the EU. Even though 99% of its households, both in urban and rural areas, are connected to the central water supply system, UN Habit estimated that 23% is not of adequate quality. The water pipes are old and lack maintenance the karst aquifers, responsible for 80% of the water supply, are influenced by rainfall and surface pollution sources. As in Romania, information related to the quality of drinking water in rural areas has been unavailable to the population, and there is pollution of drinking water from pit latrines as people lack safe sanitation and waste water systems.



**Donors:** Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)

**Partners:** Aquademica (Romania), JHR, Macedonia (FYROM)

**Duration:** 11/2013 - 04/2015

## Campaign on Hazardous Substances in the Baltic Countries

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 project achieved an increase of public demand for children's and consumer products free of hazardous substances in the three Baltic States.**

The project partners informed 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.



*Photo: Example of toxic free project information campaign*

### WECF's input to the project

WECF provided its expertise on raising public awareness about hazardous substances in consumer products for the Baltic project partners. WECF contributed to publications for the general public and specific stakeholders on potential impacts from hazardous substances to human health and environment. WECF provided input on products such as toys, detergents, body care products, baby care products, renovation materials, EDCs and textile which were adapted to the Baltic countries' needs.



*Photo: WECF organised NGO Training Sessions such as this one in Riga, Latvia*

**Countries:** Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia

**Donors:** European Commission Life+ program

**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

## Sustainable Energy Program “Switch to Sun – Live in Comfort”

Sustainable Energy for rural areas in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and the Russian Federation

The project contributed to improved health, reduced poverty and increased energy security in 22 rural communities in 7 EEC countries, through demonstrating domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation measures

As many as 200 solar collectors were built in rural villages of Georgia, underlining the aim of this project: “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”. The project contributed 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 were based on available local capacities and materials and with the aim to create institutional capacity by up-scaling to widespread replication of sustainable energy options, via certified trainers, craftsmen and women.

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 both women and men.





*Photos: Building and installing solar collectors in Armenia (copyright: Beyond Borders Media) and Belarus*

Hand in hand with practical implementation, the project informed policymakers of the benefits of strengthening policies and implementing programmes that provide incentives for rural communities to invest in renewable energies and energy efficiency measures such as demonstrated in this project. This program is being continued with a new project focussing specifically on energy efficiency (CLEEN).

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

**Donors:** 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: Ecoclub Rivne, National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, Vozrozhdenie Tatarbunary

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

## Armenia: Women for a healthy rural development

### Armenian Women actors of change for chemical free rural development

From September 2012, WECF became a proud partner for a rural development project in Armenia. This project aims to promote gender equality and empower women by encouraging a more active and stronger participation of Armenian women and girls in the development of their villages and the rural economy.

**Achieved:** Two exchange travels were organised; one in Armenia and the other in France, to reinforce the links between the French and Armenian women farmers and to promote healthy agriculture and exchanging information on agricultural practices and the effect of gender inequalities on farming in rural areas. In Armenia 120 women were trained on sustainable agriculture and 4 Resources Centres have become operational. A successful French crowdfunding campaign paid for a solar oven to increase the production of dried fruits.

The first objective of the overall project is to empower rural women, wishing to start their own micro-enterprises through training on economic mechanisms and income-generating activities. These empowering activities predominantly take place in four Armenian villages (Ditak, Solak, Voskevan and Saghmosavan) and are provided by WECF's long-standing partner AWHHE, Armenian Women for Health and Environment. The second objective is mobilizing women in resource centers and smaller support networks and promoting income-generating activities. Therefore, a resource centre was created with the support of local authorities. Third and last objective was strengthening the role of women within the community in partnership with the Network of Rural Women Rhône Alpes. Rural women groups have gained knowledge and information on sustainable livelihoods.



*Photo: Armenian and French rural women-entrepreneurs and farmers exchanging experience as part of a long-term partnership program of WECF France*

**Donors:** Région Rhône-Alpes, Le Fonds pour l'environnement Mondial (GEF), Marisla Foundation (US), Vekst Foundation (Norvège), Counterpart International (USAID)  
**Partners:** AWHHE, Armenia  
**Duration:** 04/2014 - 05/2016

## Georgia: Managing Wastewater through Global Partnership

Reducing the pollution of the Black Sea by introducing sustainable wastewater and nutrient management in rural Georgian communities

**The project raised** awareness and demonstrated through pilot installations how to minimise pollution of the Black Sea in nine villages in the Black Sea region.

The project addresses the problem of water contamination from rural municipalities along rivers leading into the Black Sea. Water quality testing show high levels of nitrates and human and animal bacteria, which indicates that part of the problem are the widely-used pit-latrines, the uncontrolled animal grazing and lack of manure management and the intensive use of chemical fertilizers.



*Photo: Villagers in Georgia learning how to conduct water analysis with a portable laboratory*

The project has demonstrated appropriate, simple, affordable and decentralized solutions to address these sources of pollution. The project demonstrated sanitation systems such as urine diverting dry toilets (UDDT)



and promoted their adaptation to the local market. It also demonstrated appropriate solutions for animal manure disposal and production of natural fertilizers, as well as community-managed landfills, increased recycling and composting and simple grey-water filters. Through a combination of such affordable but effective measures, the project contributed to the reduction of the pollution of the Black Sea along the river Khobi in Georgia.

The target villages Khorga with 1,320 inhabitants and Chaladidi with 1,245 inhabitants are located alongside the river Khobi. Both villages belong to the Khobi Municipality, Samegrelo Zemo-Svaneti Region. All together 11 villages are located alongside river Khobi with the population of 22 000 inhabitants.

**Donors:** *The United Nations Environment programme (UNEP)*

**Partners:** *RCDA (Rural Communities Development Agency)*

**Duration:** *04/2014 - 05/2016*

## Republic of Serbia: Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Sound Chemicals Use and Management

Building capacity and strengthening cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, and other civil society sectors, to strengthen legislation, enforcement and partnerships for chemical safety, in particular harmful chemicals in products

**The project has** supported the awareness on chemicals safety in Serbia and need for better legislation and its implementation by building the capacity of local authorities, NGOs, consumer organizations, media, science, and health professionals.

The project benefits from WECF's on-going programmes on safe chemicals and health. REACH requirements (European Chemicals Regulation) regarding Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) are translated into easily understandable consumer information. WECF campaigns have resulted in numerous publications and best practice examples that are shared with partner and participants of the project trainings and policy dialogues. Serbian consumers will benefit in the longer term from this project in terms of an increased awareness of business and state authorities, journalists, scientists and healthcare specialists on the issue of consumer safety and corporate social responsibility.

**Donors:** *SAICM Quick Start Programme, UNEP*

**Partners:** *UNDP- Serbia, ALHem Safer Chemicals Alternative*

**Duration:** *05/2015 - 10/2016*

## Water Solidarity France - Kyrgyzstan

### Women as drivers of change

**Aim of the project:** Water Solidarity France-Kyrgyzstan aims to give access to drinking water for families and ensures a sustainable participative water management through women's empowerment.

With the help of community-based participation, this project supports the rehabilitation of water systems in An-Oston village, Issyk Kul region, Kyrgyzstan. The Water Agency Artois-Picardie and the Municipality of St. Omer support the project with financial and technical assistance to ensure the rehabilitation of the water supply system and direct home connexion for 225 households. Access to water not only improves the hygiene of these families but also frees up time for

education and other income-generating activities. A community based water management committee will be put in place with strong involvement of women, who will be trained in different domains.



*Photo: Educational games as part of "Handwashing Day" in the Kyrgyz village of Bokonbayev*

**Donors:** Water Agency Artois-Picardie, St Omer Municipality, UNDP-GWS, Jety-Gus, Rayon, local villagers.  
**Partners:** Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS) and the local Water User Cooperative  
**Duration:** 09/2014-10/2016

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## Civil society Local Energy Efficiency Network (CLEEN)

### Building a partnership of civil society organizations in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine for energy efficiency

CLEEN is a 3-year project with the aim to build a partnership of civil society organizations (CSOs), as well as to strengthen CSO's capacities in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The project focuses on energy efficiency and cost savings, and increased accountability of local and national authorities on this issue. WECF coordinates this project, and provide technical expertise.

In 2015 grass roots organisation have been trained on organisational development and were able to apply for grants to apply the skills and knowledge obtained. The lessons learned are shared regularly in order to establish a strong network, to exchange experiences and share expertise and best practice.

**Donors:** European Commission, Europaid  
**Partners:** Akhatsikhe (Georgia), Ecoclub (Ukraine), Gutta-Club (Moldova)  
**Issues:** Energy  
**Duration:** 01/2015 - 12/2017  
 Highlights CLEEN in 2015  
[http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2016/04/cleen\\_review2015.php](http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2016/04/cleen_review2015.php)

## Highlights of CLEEN in 2015 – A review in pictures



Certified participants of the CLEEN Mentoring Programme 2015 (Moldova, Ukraine)

The Armenian partner carried out a Household's survey on energy consumption of 50 households in Akhuryan region. When presenting the results they invited media and authorities for a round table in Yerevan and held a press conference which was broadcasted on 2 national TV Channels.



Conducting a household's survey on energy consumption in Akhuryan

NGO "Students for Energy Efficiency", Georgia) held 9 meetings in 3 pilot schools on energy efficiency and distributed 3000 booklets on energy efficiency and 1000 albums for colouring on the theme of "I save energy". In addition, they organization a bicycle race "I choose energy-efficient vehicles," wearing t-shirts of the CLEEN Project.



A bicycle race in Kutaisi got attention from local media

Gamardgoba, Georgia analysed the energy consumption of public buildings in the village using infrared cameras.



*Energy audit using the infrared camera to analyse energy consumption in cooperation with the Center for Energy Efficiency, Georgia*

In Armenia organised a press conference on their project results resulting in 3 articles in local newspapers and an interview on the national TV channel "Noyan Tapan"



*"Sila Sveta" Armenia organized a press conference*

Caromo Nord formed an alliance of local NGOs in Moldova, the "Balti Environmental Coalition" aiming to inform and involve local citizens in monitoring energy policies and carried out a study on energy efficiency in 51 schools, 62 kindergartens and 40 hospital building.



*Round table on energy efficiency in Balti*

Green Regions Georgia informed 1500 people in the Khoni Municipality directly, and 4000 through a TV report which resulted in 50 requests for similar project in other cities .





*Conducting a household survey on energy consumption in Georgia*

YWCA Armenia surveyed energy consumption in 120 households and provided recommendations to the City Council.



*Meeting with Vanush Amiraghyan, the mayor of Noyemberyan City*

The media work of Youth Center Of Akhaltsikhe, Georgia, resulted in a film on energy efficiency ("Ancient traditions and modern approaches").



*Training on energy efficiency for youth presented in a film*

Criva, Moldova published 3 booklets about energy efficiency and increased the public interest and local media for energy efficiency.



*Meeting with the local authorities of Larga, Moldova*

Third Nature, Armenia analyzed the energy consumption of public buildings and multi-apartment houses in the locality of Gyumri and conducted 6 energy audits in public buildings and gave recommendations for better energy efficiency.



*Conducting a survey with the local population in Gyumri, Armenia*

NGO MEGZURI, Georgia conducted energy audits and organized group discussions and a round table with participation of representatives of local self-government.



COLABORARE, Moldova conducted a study about the end-use legislation and development plans of local authorities and organized a seminar on energy efficiency and renewable energies for 62 priests and abbots of Edinet and Donduseni districts.



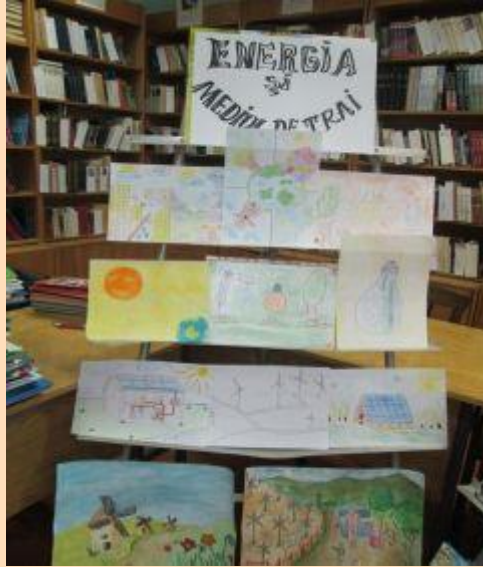
*Energy Workshop with representatives of the Diocese of Edinets*

Civic Initiatives Association, Georgia conducted two trainings on "Save Energy" for school children and young people and analysed 5 buildings in Akhaltsikhe on energy efficiency, presenting recommendation in a Calendar.



*Calendar on energy efficiency for 2016*

PRO SCHOLA, Moldova) published the analysis “Turning challenges into Rural Development Strategy” and launched the drawing contest “Energy and environment”.



*Drawing contest “Energy and environment” at schools*

RENASTEREA RURALA, Moldova organized 14 awareness raising events in different regions in the country.



*Meeting with local authorities*

NGO „Tskrutis Imedi“ developed a questionnaire for households, schools and authorities, organized a round table with representatives of the municipality and school teachers and demonstrated solar heaters and dryers, reaching 1,000 farmers and 4,000 local people.



*Interview with villagers for the baseline survey*

AIRUDZY, Armenia analysed the legislation on energy efficiency and renewable energies

which resulted in a cooperation with the municipality of Spitak for concrete measures.



*Working group on energy audit, during the training*

Lore Ecoc Club, Armenia conducted an Energy consumption survey of 60 households in the villages of Agarak, Lori Berd and Bovadzor which were covered by local media through three TV reportages on the local TV channel Fortuna and one article in the newspaper Lori Marz.



*Preparing leaflets with volunteers*

ALIANȚA DINTRE GENERATII, Moldova organization raised awareness for sustainable energy policies by conducting several seminars and workshops on Energy Efficiency with 150 participants.



*Seminar on energy efficiency in Plopi*



## Reducing chemicals and contamination of drinking water sources in rural communities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia and Albania

The project has demonstrated how Ecosan toilets, Greywater filters and Composting can help reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and protect water sources in rural areas of South Eastern Europe

This project addresses the problem of drinking water contamination, caused by widely used pit-latrines in rural areas, as well as poor management of water resources intensive use of chemical fertilizers, open and unsafe disposal of waste.

In each country one village was selected where demonstration objects, such as a Urine Diverted Dry Toilet (UDDT), a grey water filter, a demonstration garden and a compost, have been implemented. All villages are in environmental sensitive areas, and profit from UDDT and proper wastewater management. The action raises awareness on how to prevent environmental pollution by using non-chemical alternatives and implementation of ecological and affordable sanitation.



*Photo: analysing current composting methods and providing recommendations for increased effectiveness*

The project target communities benefit:

- From a long term sustainable sanitation solution, and the knowledge to build more UDDT and grey filters
- From the knowledge and means to use organic fertilisers, instead of chemical ones (composting, demonstration gardens)
- From access to cleaner drinking water and therefore less water-borne diseases, especially for children
- From decreased eutrophication of polluted rivers and lakes nearby
- From increased participation of both women and men in local planning and decision making

**Donors:** SAICM Quick Start Programme, UNEP

**Partners:** Women in Development Shkoder (Albania), Eko Forum Zenica (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Journalists for Human Rights (FYR Macedonia)

**Duration:** 05/2015 – 04/2017

# WECF International projects worldwide

## Empowering Women benefits All (EWA)

The EWA programme aims to contribute to the economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in **Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uganda**.

The “Empowering Women benefits All (EWA)” program started in 2012 building on WECF’s multi-annual approach for 2010 - 2015, supporting our partners in achieving the Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7. This program supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation FLOW program was finalized in 2015.



*Photo: Women organisations from Uganda and Georgia learn replicable energy technologies in India*

Through the EWA program women in the six target countries were trained and empowered to take an active role in local economic and political activities. They learned leadership skills and increased their self-esteem, created cooperatives which helped to successfully sell their produce at local markets. These best practices were presented to policy makers and local, national and international level and shared with the project partners in the other countries. The integrated EWA approach of training female and male project participants, lead to an increase of self-confidence among women, and understanding by both men and women that what used to be seen as “gendered” activities could be done well by both sexes. The project also demonstrated sustainable and productive techniques which helped to increase access to financial resources for women and men, and helped develop successful businesses which resulted in considerable increases in income for both women and men.

In some rural areas women’s “saving and loan” groups emerged, which not only supported its members economically, but also socially and individually, thus boosting their members and groups social support in their economic undertakings. Women also managed to improve their own livelihoods through water and sanitation safety planning and sustainable water management. Women learnt leadership skills and became politically active in their villages. In at least 3 countries trained women were elected into village - or district councils. In interviews during the evaluation of the program, women expressed their pride and that they were able to share their skills and experience with friends, neighbours and relatives.



*Photo: Women's farmers in Kyrgyzstan*

"When working locally for women's empowerment, it is important to also engage men."

An important lesson learned was on how to motivate both women and men, and for both to understand social barriers faced by many women, often historically grown culturally rooted, and to realize these are not set in stone. The process of sustainable and integrated women's empowerment is long and complex and should take cultural, economic and political factors into account as well as individual characters and specific livelihood situations.

To empower women and to create equality between men and women, it was crucial to engage men as well. In patriarchal dominated cultures gender related interventions should focus on men as well as on women. For the economic empowerment of rural communities an integrated approach is crucial, while taking all aspects of local conditions in consideration. Therefore the programme ensures that after the official project finishes the targeted communities will continue practicing these, for them useful, lessons learned.

Another important lesson learned is the need for clear and realistic indicators and means for their verification. In some countries it became clear that people were not ready to talk about personal finances. This meant that income increase or cost reduction indicators were only measurable by anecdotal evidence or proxy indicators. Throughout the programme it became clear that empowerment of the women participating could best be validated by monitoring the growing self-esteem the women developed in correlation with the acknowledgement of this empowerment by those immediately surrounding them (community/family).

## Kyrgyzstan

### Meet Kalys: the woman who helped providing water access for her village

WECF's EWA programme "Empowering Women benefits All" in rural Kyrgyzstan leads to women empowerment, income generation for women and improved living standards

At first, some villagers in Nayman were skeptical of women being able to provide access to water. "A bet was made that there will be no water in the village at all," says Kalys. But thanks to [WECF's women empowerment programme](#) and Kalys' women's initiative group, 70% of the villagers now have clean drinking water:



This video is available in the following languages: [English](#), [Kyrgyz](#) and [Russian](#).

Thanks to this project of WECF, Kalys and other villagers in Nayman have access to clean drinking water, leading to a reduction of water-borne diseases.

## Georgia

### EWA Georgia: "Ecological agriculture as an alternative option for women from rural areas"

WECF supported its EWA partners in increasing economic self-reliance and political participation of 5,000 women (70%) and men in low-income rural and peri-urban region through capacity building on sustainable economic development and through international experience sharing and policy advocacy.

Although geographically located in the Caucasus of Southwestern Asia, the mountainous country of Georgia is a part of Europe. Georgia gained its independence after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. After a turbulent start of sovereignty infiltrated with corruption and injustice, Georgia gained its footing with the 2003 Rose Revolution, which triggered the transition towards a democratic government and state. The country's attempt to a more prosperous future was interrupted during the 2008 clash with Russia over the undisputed territory of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. The clash with Russia consequently made the two breakaway provinces occupied areas.





The country's political arena is male dominated. In 2013, the number of women in parliament was 11% with 21% serving in the Cabinet or as Ministers and only 10% were part of the local self-government bodies.

After Georgia's transition towards a democratic government, the country began to focus on gender equality and equal opportunities of both men and women. However, Georgia's struggle moving towards democracy has been hampered by economic uncertainties and ethnic conflicts. The root causes of these challenges have sprouted into high levels of migration, unemployment and poverty – all of which have had harmful effects on women and men. In addition, especially in rural areas, cultural and traditional patriarchic influences have fuelled discrimination against women who are persistently faced with disadvantages towards economic and political achievements.

The lack of assistance and support from the State makes life very difficult for rural communities in Georgia. Women are marginalized from access to opportunities and advancement when not living in urban spaces. WECF partner NGOs working in the rural areas of Georgia have put a heavy emphasis on women's empowerment trainings, agricultural skill and community development. Women are resourceful and have a zest for educational opportunities in order to learn about business skills and enhance their chances to develop. The EWA project promotes Women's Leadership and Empowerment.

The EWA project focuses on livelihood improvement in order to empower women economically and, next, politically. Five partners, each implementing its own activities, contributed to these outcomes: Social Development Center Akhaltsikhe (SDCA), Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), Georgian Ecological Agricultural Association (SEMA), Women NGO PAROS and The Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia. The first four are implementing NGOs, skilled in community mobilization and working with women (groups) on livelihood improvement and small business support as well as leadership and saving groups. Their main target groups are rural women, CBOs and village authorities. RCDA runs two well-operating resource centers. The Greens Movement works on WatSan and Energy policy analysis and influencing on national level in relation to Gender. The project strives to increase women's involvement on all levels, but also involves and benefits men.

## South Africa

*Nokuphumla Sipayise; "The food garden enables me to give something back to my family and my community"*



WECF and the South African organisations Soil for Life and Urban Harvest implement food gardens in poor communities in South Africa and train low income women to become gardeners. The gardens are realised under the EWA project and provide women with education, healthy food and with an income from selling the surplus of food. Nokuphumla Sipayise (38) is one of the women who benefit from these gardens and tells how it improved her life.

"Even if I would lose my job again, I know I now can survive on my own".

"I am a mother of six children and I used to work as a volunteer. Every day I prepared meals for school children, but I earned no income until I was invited to learn from and champion the Vegetable Garden at the Lwandle Primary School. I am also able to feed my family with freshly harvested food every day! In addition, the produce I care for is needed to feed the hundreds of learners and this gives me such a good feeling."

I have learnt a lot about gardening. I have developed skills in planting, composting, pruning, mulching, harvesting and transplanting. I now know how to grow seedlings from seed, how to make my own fertilizers, manage pests, and many other things. Even if I would lose my job again, I know I now can survive on my own. I am so thankful that the project gave me the opportunity to learn and work in the garden. And to enable me to give something back to my family and the community! This has really improved my life."

## Tajikistan

As it is the case for other EWA project countries, Tajikistan has gender equality embedded in the legal system though a major gap is found when one looks at the implementation and practice of the law. One important legal obstacle is linked to the absence of marriage registration, which often means that women cannot assert their legal rights, over the land for example. Similarly to other EWA countries, Tajikistan's women and girls face underage marriage, but also trafficking in some cases. The existing lack of legal protection means there is little support structure for women to seek help.

Domestic violence is also problematic in this country that continues to be dominated by patriarchy as the ruling social system. Insufficient data to understand the extent of the issue, the lack of laws and criminal prosecution for perpetrators, all mean the issue is mostly left unaddressed. As a

result, women refrain from reporting incidents of violence and are unable to seek assistance. There is not enough capacity in the few existing shelters or safe homes.

Tajikistan is a very poor country and its primary industry remains agriculture. Therefore, the issue around land rights is an important one for many women who would benefit from easier, fairer access to land. Although the Land Code states that every family is entitled to a 'household plot' of up to 0,12 hectares of irrigated land and up to 0,25 hectares of dry land, women are mostly unaware of this law. Despite the progress made by the government in terms of legislation, the tradition continues to give land entitlements to men. It is the result of a combination of factors 1) women are often unaware of their legal rights in general and over the land in particular, 2) traditional gender roles continue to relegate women to low-paid and low-status positions.



*Photo: Woman farmer shows her improved potato harvest in Tajikistan*

In recent years, with the increased number of men migrating to find work abroad to look for better economic opportunities, women have found themselves both responsible for the household and the land without the necessary skills and resources/services to manage the latter.

As the situation for women is deteriorating under this increasing burden, alternatives and sustainable solutions that provide long-term security (e.g. in terms of food production, access to water or energy) can benefit women. The EWA project has therefore demonstrated ways of getting better access to land through trainings and skills that are needed for women to progress economically, socially and politically and succeed in being an integral part of the solution.

## Uganda

### How a family benefits from women's empowerment

Mrs Carolyn Cherotich is a member of Kapkoch Reflect Circle in Cheminy village, Kapkoch parish, and Kaptoyoy Sub County (formerly Binyiny) in Kween District. Before the EWA project, Mrs. Cherotich practiced conventional agriculture, and from her  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre of maize intercropped with beans she would get 150kgs of maize and 10 kgs of beans. However, when she started practicing conservation agriculture (CA) using organic practices, she started to get 350kgs of maize from the same plot. She gladly states "My income has more than doubled from maize and bananas and I'm able to save in my Village Savings and Loan group".

Carolyn also happily explained that before, much of the income from the harvest was controlled by her husband, but after the training by the EWA project - which her husband attended - they can now both decide on the spending of the money. They even include their grown up children in discussing issues, as they too need to learn to consult others and plan together. She is grateful and hopes that the knowledge she has gained will be passed on to future generations, just like she is practicing with her children.



Just like other women have shared, when her husband was controlling the money, it was used on things which were not profitable to the whole family. However, with joint planning, the money is used for the education of the children, for healthcare and for other family issues. She concluded saying her family is now peaceful and they have improved financially, as they are even able to start saving from their various sources of income.



## Afghanistan

### *Kunduz: Preparing women and their families for a severe winter*

WECF and Katachel e.V, our partner in Afghanistan, have been working in Kunduz, Northern Afghanistan to empower young women since 2012. Our EWA initiative (Empowering Women benefits All) aims to create sustainable development and long-term opportunities for women and their communities. Our project in Kunduz is a 3 month sewing training course for young women who wish to become professional seamstresses.

The project aimed to provide a means to create a sustainable and independent income for the women of Kunduz. The course is for poor and illiterate women and secondary school girls, so far 400 women have been trained. The course is comprehensive and the certificate gained is recognized by the government, therefore providing the participants with a great foundation. Upon completion of the course each woman is given a sewing machine to start her own seamstress business.



*Photo: Women in Kunduz Afghanistan supported in activities benefitting the women themselves and providing some income generating opportunities*

The women were asked in a survey what their motivation for wanting to attend the training course was. The majority of women stated that they took part because they find sewing to be a therapeutic and enjoyable activity and the vast majority also stated that they were interested in the course as the training would provide them with an opportunity to generate their own income to support themselves and their families. With the income generated, the survey found that most women were concerned with financially contributing to their families well-being. Malnutrition is a pressing issue facing the development of Afghanistan, 2.2 million people suffer from food insecurity and 1.2 million children are acutely malnourished (OCHA, 2014). Providing increased food for their families was the top priority for earnings to be spent on.

**Results of EWA:**

*12,000 women and men have improved, affordable access to livelihood resources; 14,900 women and men have increased economic independency and incomes increased by >50%; 5,000 women in 20 low income rural communities 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 are aware of the benefits of women's economic and political empowerment.*

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

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

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

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## Uganda

### Improving education, sanitation and food security at Busi parents' primary school

By providing hygienic toilets with privacy and hand wash facilities, WECF has improved, in cooperation with local partner ARUWE, sanitation conditions in Busi parent's primary school (Uganda).

Since 2009 WECF has been running, in close cooperation with local partners, projects on sustainable agriculture in rural Uganda, reaching more than 10.000 farmers. However, as many schools in rural areas lack of safe access to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) despite its crucial role for education WECF brought in its expertise on exactly those issues to help develop sanitation conditions in the region as well.

Although many new schools had been built, only a few were provided with sufficient sanitation and hygiene standards. The situation is even worse in old schools which causes that girls and female teachers do not attend school during their menstruation. Furthermore, teachers and pupils drink too less in order to avoid using the smelling latrines. The surroundings of the latrines are often contaminated with faeces, which poses a risk for the health of pupils that are commonly walking barefoot.

Busi primary school is a public school built in 1990 that belongs to the municipality of Busi-Islands in Lake Victoria. The population of Busi-Islands lives on fishing and subsistence agriculture and is belonging to the poorest parts of Uganda which is accompanied with high unemployment and a lack of perspective for the youth.



*Photo: Some of the girls benefiting from the improved school sanitation program*

498 pupils (242 girls and 256 boys) in the age of 6-15 years attend at the moment Busi school and it has 10 teachers and employees. The school is the biggest in the municipality and was proposed by the local council for the project. The school is organized very well and has got highly motivated staff members. However, like in many public schools the WASH-infrastructure is at Busi school in an inadequate condition. There are only 2 toilets for boys and 2 for girls which are not separated sufficiently and don't provide any privacy. Each year, around 2% of the pupils leave school early - and this affects especially girls.

Many studies prove that access to sanitation and hand washings contributes even more to prevention of diarrhoea and respiratory diseases than access to clean water. Furthermore, human waste can - if correctly collected and treated like with the Ecosan technology - contribute to mitigation of poverty and improvement of the food situation. WECF have a lot of experience in terms of school sanitation and is motivated to support the municipality and Busi-school with building up safe and humane sanitary facilities.

The project is implemented in cooperation with Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE), a local NRO that is working in more municipalities of the region. In 2014, WECF introduced with ARUWE a bamboo-based Biogas-technology and rainwater harvesting.

### Achievements:

So far school attendance has increased, particularly by girls and the school has been provided with hygienic toilets with privacy and hand wash facilities. On top of that food production has increased as well by using ecosan products as fertilisers and compost. Local NGOs have been trained, enabling them to replicate the implementation of school sanitation facilities for other communities. The awareness of the importance of WASH has been raised among the community and local leaders. And most importantly, pupils's health has improved by better sanitation and hygienic conditions.

**Country:** Uganda

**Donor:** Erbacher Foundation, private donors

**Duration:** 05/2015 - 05/2016

## Safe drinking water and sustainable energy for rural Uganda

In Uganda, the energy exploitation pattern is such that biomass accounts for 92% of the total energy consumed. Most of the biomass energy is from wood, which is consumed in the form of charcoal and fire wood. This exploitation pattern is not sustainable because it heavily relies on non-renewable energy that is both costly, untimely, limited and has serious environmental effects.

In Mulagi Sub County, 100% of households relied on wood as a source of energy for cooking meals. The supply of fire wood was insufficient; families spend a lot of time walking long distances looking for wood, children lose school time which affects their performance while elderly grandmothers find it difficult to look for fire wood due to their diminishing energy. Lack of a home based source of energy deprives women of the chance to participate in collective group enterprises such as vegetable drying due to the long hours that they spend in search of fire wood. Yet still, the use of fire wood would require the physical presence of women while preparing household meals which take long.



*Photo: Women's traditional skills are required in building the framework for the dome of the biogas plant*

This situation made it difficult for women to have time for participating in community, group and other economic activities. The current practice of using firewood which is the main source of energy gives off a lot of smoke which is a health hazard to women and their children.

In addition to the above, currently in Kyankwanzi women and children walk long distances in search of water for house hold use, which in some cases may not be clean or safe water for consumption. The Safe Water Coverage is still low at 51% which is below the millennium development goal water target.

### Improving living conditions in rural Uganda through sustainable technologies for renewable energy, agriculture and water



The main aim of this project therefore was to improve the living conditions of the Mulagi community via renewable energy, production of organic fertiliser and access to clean and safe water. The project made sure children and women had more time to attend school or develop other economically viable activities instead of fetching fire wood and water;

Trainings were given on biogas technologies and water harvesting for local women and men. As a result agricultural productivity was increased by using the biogas digestate as organic fertiliser; Environmental pollution caused by burning of wood was prevented, minimising the contribution to greenhouse emission.

**Achievements:**

Providing a clean and affordable energy source for local people thus contributed to the protection of forest resource and the reduction of fossil fuels. And not only that: it reduced the risks on diseases associated with drinking unsafe water.

**Country focus:** *Uganda*

**Donor:** *Erbacher Foundation, private donors*

**Duration:** *10/2015 - 10/2016*



# Organisation

# Organisation



## WECF Staff 2015

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Munich, Germany and Annemasse, France. WECF has a regional office located in Tbilisi, Georgia and local centres in Geneva Switzerland, Sofia Bulgaria and Hamburg Germany. WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants. Jointly they support the activities of the WECF Network of members and partners in 50 countries.

### WECF The Netherlands

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director
Maureen Brouwer	Operational Director
Olga Plekhanova	Country/Project Officer Energy
Chantal Van den Bossche	Communications Manager
Wim van Schie	Financial Controller
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper
Carmen Chan	Communications Assistant
Margriet Samwel	Senior Expert Water and Food Safety

### WECF France

Malika Berkaine	Administrative Assistant and Communication
Emilie Delbays	Health and Environment Education Coordinator
Anne Gomel	Health and Environment Training Officer
Anita Lachaize	Gender, food and agriculture Projects Officer
Marie-Laure Robert	Gender and Agriculture Coordinator
Florence Rosset	Director
Elisabeth Ruffinengo	Health and Environment Advocacy Manager

### WECF Germany

Annemarie Mohr	Director Germany
Sabine Bock	Climate Coordinator
Anke Stock	Coordinator Gender and Rights
Bistra Mihailova	Project coordinator South Eastern Europe
Alexandra Caterbow	Policy Officer Hazardous Chemicals
Claudia Wendland	Expert Sustainable Sanitation
Sabine Hanisch	Office Manager Germany
Johanna Hausmann	Project Officer Chemicals & Press

Véronique Grassinger  
Katharina Habersbrunner

Graphic Design and Publications  
Coordinator Sustainable Energy

### WECF Georgia

Anna Samwel  
Ida Bakhturidze  
Leonie Domas

Director Eastern Europe & Caucasus  
Policy Officer  
Junior Policy Officer



### WECF The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty  
reduction and Gender

### WECF France

Chemicals of concern – exploring solutions



### WECF Germany

Regional sustainable  
development



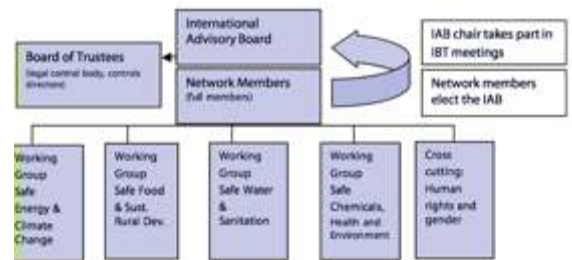


## WECF Governance

### The Board of Trustees (BOT)

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. In 2015 a new Board of Trustees was nominated with following members:

- Corinne Lepage, President
- Irene Dankelman, Member
- Maria Buitenkamp Treasurer
- Hannah Birkenkötter, Member



**Corinne Lepage** became President of WECF's Board of Trustees in June 2015. Mrs Lepage is a known French politician, former Minister of Environment and a renowned environmental lawyer. She founded one of the first law firm specialized in environmental protection at the time of the Amoco Cadiz oil spill, and has since then fought some of the biggest environmental cases in Europe. She was the French minister of environment between 1995 and 1997, putting in place the first national sustainable development strategy. She was elected in 2008 in the European Parliament and lead the ENVI Committee. She is a convinced feminist requesting equal representation of women in politics. Mrs Lepage shares many of WECF's fights for gender equality, a healthier environment as well as ecological and energy transition away from nuclear energy. She has been supporting WECF as an Advisor to the Board since 2012, and intervened in many of WECF's events.

**Irene Dankelman** joined the WECF board in 2015 and is a well-known Dutch gender and environment expert, who has published a number of key publications on the topics of women and environmental policies, gender equality and climate change. Irene Dankelman teaches at the University of Nijmegen as well as working as gender expert on international assignments in particular in Asia. In December 2015 she was joined the Netherlands delegation to the COP21 Climate Negotiations gender expert. Irene Dankelman was one of the women leaders participating in the preparations of the Earth Summit in 1991 who jointly with Marie Kranendonk was behind the initiative to create WECF.

**Maria Buitenkamp** also joined the WECF board in 2015 as treasurer, and runs a large ecological blue berry farmer in the Netherlands, which resulted from her life long engagement in promoting a health environment through her work for environmental organisations in the Netherlands and at EU level. Previously Maria Buitenkamp has been supporting WECF with specific environmental policy projects focussing on European chemicals regulations.

**Hannah Birkenkötter** joined the BOT at the end of 2015 and is a German expert in international law with a specialization in the United Nations, and also serves on the board of the German Association for the United Nations. Currently Hannah Birkenkötter is living in New York for her research.

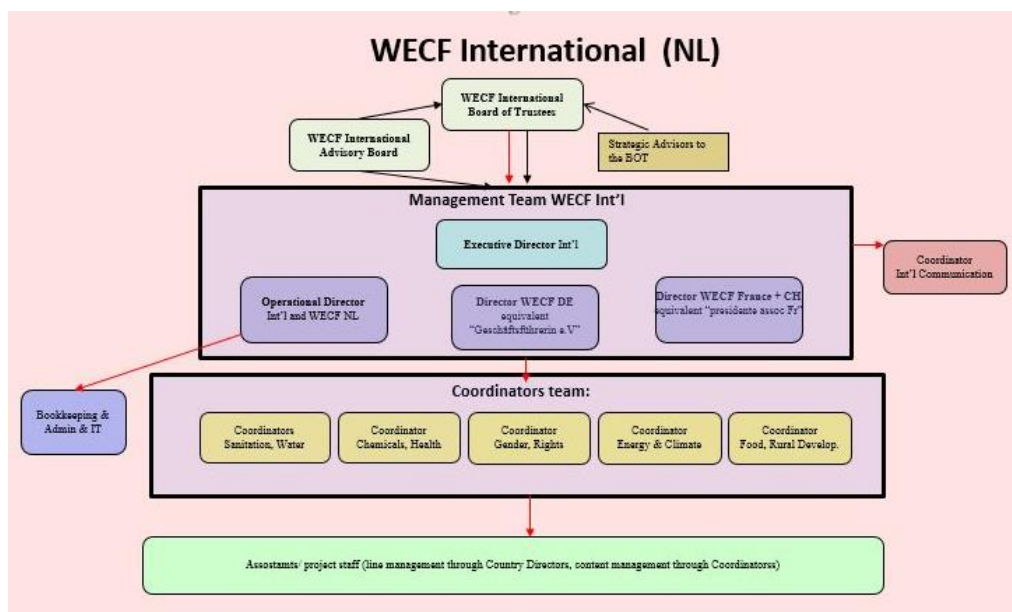
### The International Advisory Board (IAB)

The WECF international Advisory Board 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.

- Anna Tsvietkova (Mama-86, Ukraine)
- Elena Manvelyan (AWHHE, Armenia)
- Mihaela Vasilescu (Medium et Sanitas, Romania)
- Rostom Gamisonia (RCDA, Georgia)
- Diana Iskrevia (Earth Forever, Bulgaria)
- Svitlana Slesarenok (Black Sea Women Club, Ukraine)
- Helen Lynn (H&E Consultant, UK)
- Nadeshda Kutepova (Planet of Hopes, Russia)
- Kaisha Atakhanova (Eco Center, Kazakhstan)

## WECF organogram in 2015



## WECF Publications in 2015

WECF and Women's Major Group view for UNEP on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
In the recent issue of Perspectives, a publication of the UNEP, WECF's Sascha Gabizon and the Women's Major Group shared their perspectives on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

23.12.2015

Case Study: gender-sensitive climate mitigation action - NAMA  
Recommendations, best practices and lessons learned from developing the first „Gender Sensitive“ NAMA - National Appropriate Mitigation Action, in Georgia

25.11.2015

Revised Manual on Principles, Operation, Construction of Urine Diverting Dry Toilets  
After almost 10 years the WECF manual on Urine Diverting Dry Toilets for households, principles, operation and construction was revised.

10.11.2015

Women's Major Group for UNEP on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
In the recent issue of Perspectives, a publication of the UNEP, the Women's Major Group wrote about their perspective on SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

09.11.2015

Check out our project activities in Tajikistan!  
This video documents WECF's activities in Tajikistan on gender equality

23.10.2015

Terra Preta Sanitation 1: Background, Principles and Innovations  
This handbook provides an account of main theories of Terra Preta formation and principles of Terra Preta Sanitation concerning material recycling and soil fertility improvement

07.08.2015

Beijing, Gender and Environment – Challenges for Ecological Sustainability, Development and Justice?  
WECF's Anke Stock publishes an article in IDS Bulletin

06.08.2015 Greywater Treatment in Sand and Gravel Filters: Low Tech Solution for Sustainable Wastewater Management

Manual for Design, Construction, Operation and Maintenance

23.07.2015

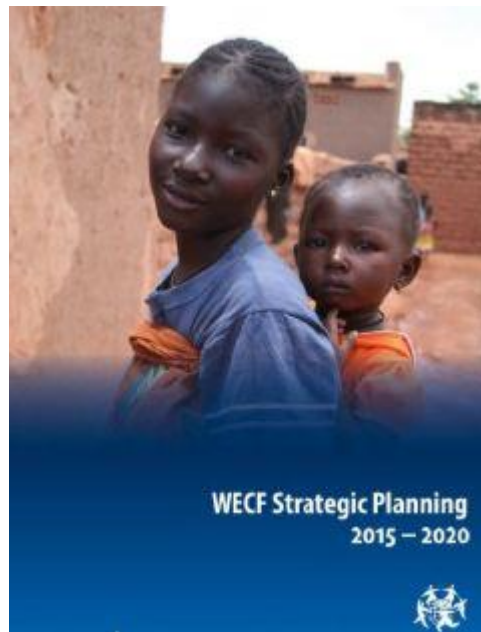
Videos on WECF's EWA programme in Kyrgyzstan  
WECF's EWA programme "Empower Women, Benefit for All" in rural Kyrgyzstan leads to women empowerment, income generation for women and improved living standards

21.07.2015

After Life Communication Plan  
Communication Strategies and Plans for ChildProtectLIFE for the next coming years

16.07.2015

WECF Strategic Plan 2015-2020  
A Just and Healthy Planet for All  
02.07.2015



Women's Major Group Position Paper - compilation of policy recommendations  
Compilation of the WMG policy recommendations on monitoring and Means of Implementation for the  
Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda  
25.05.2015

ROCA publishes a Position Paper and a paper on FAQs on Chrysotile and the Rotterdam Convention in  
frame of COP7 Rotterdam Convention  
06.05.2015

Think Before You Buy: Choose Products With Less Hazardous Substances  
A Teacher's Handbook  
06.05.2015

WECF's Position Paper on EEHP, WHO MTR in Haifa 2015  
Eco Forum, HEAL, WECF International and undersigned signatories present position paper on EEHP  
24.04.2015

Women's Major Group Position on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda Indicators  
WMG presents recommendations for discussions on development of indicators for SDGs and targets  
23.03.2015

EWA Afghanistan: Survey among Participants of the EWA Sewing course  
Status, motivation and making decision  
09.03.2015

Proposal for Gender-Equitable, Climate Proof and Sustainable Development in Georgia  
A National Appropriate Mitigation Activity (NAMA) for the energy sector in Georgia



09.03.2015

**EWA: Baseline Report for Tajikistan available**

The gender livelihood and socio-economic study for Tajikistan prepared by the Youth Ecological Centre, Tajikistan, and WECF is now published.

09.02.2015

**Making Wash in Schools more Sustainable**

An inspirational publication on sustainable WASH projects

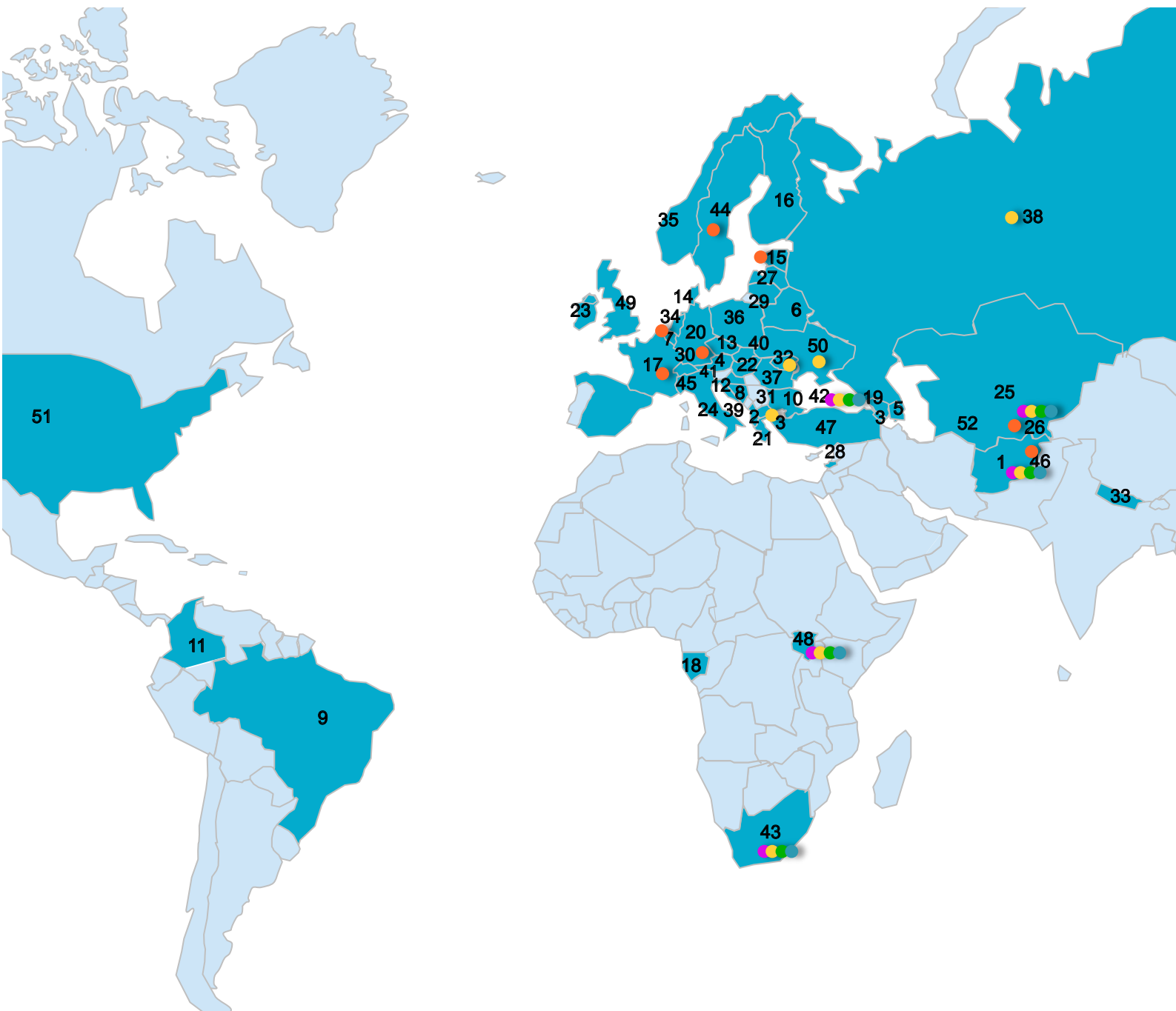
30.01.2015

**EWA: Gender and Food Security**

A guidance document for practitioners

29.01.2015

WECF Members in 2014



- Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All
- Safe chemicals and protection of health for All
- Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All
- Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All
- Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

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

27				Latvia
28				Lebanon
29				Lithuania
30				Luxembourg
31				<b>Macedonia</b>
32				<b>Moldova</b>
33				Nepal
34				<b>Netherlands</b>
35				Norway
36				Poland
37				Romania
38				<b>Russia</b>
39				Serbia
40				Slovakia
41				Slovenië
42				<b>Spain</b>
43				South Africa
44				Sweden
45				Switzerland
46				<b>Tajikistan</b>
47				Turkey
48				Uganda
49				UK
50				<b>Ukraine</b>
51				USA
52				Uzbekistan

no.	Country	Name ENGLISH
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 Moldava (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 'Fatiha'
74	Russia	Eco-Accord
75	Russia	Nabat Muslyomovo
76	Russia	Planet of Hopes
77	Russia	Step Forward Snezhinsk
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', Udas
99	Uzbekistan; Karakalpakstan	Mehriban
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>		
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 Citizen 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
<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b>		
127	Armenia	Lilit Mkrtchyan
128	Armenia	Inga Zaratyan
129	Armenia	Karine Danielyan

130	Belgium	Catherine Wattiez
131	Belgium	Danielle van Kalmthout
132	Croatia	Lidija Luttenberger
133	Denmark	Muborak Sharipova
134	France	Elisabeth Ruffingo
135	France	Nita Chaudhuri
136	France	Ina Ranson
137	Georgia	Dalila Khorava
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	Olivi Scuderoni
145	Italy	Fiorella Belpoggi
146	Kazakhstan	Kaisha Atakhanova
147	Kyrgyzstan	Svetlana Bashtovenko
148	Latvia	Inese Eistere
149	Lebanon	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezan
150	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
151	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
152	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsman
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 Bavdaz 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
<b>ASSOCIATE PARTNERS</b>		
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





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**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**

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



**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**

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Website: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)