



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

# Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All

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Annual Report 2014

## Impressum



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- WECF represent ECO-Forum in the European Environment & Health Committee (EEHC)

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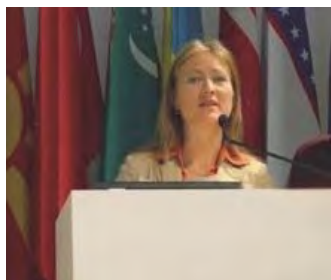
# Working for a Healthy Environment for All





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





## Foreword by WECF Executive Director Sascha Gabizon

### *A Just and Healthy Planet for All*

Eliminating the root causes of inequality are a pre-requisite for sustainable development. WECF therefore protects the environmental health of women and men internationally and through projects locally with 150 member organisations in 50 European Caucasus Central Asian and African countries, advocating for better legislation, implementing solutions, sharing knowledge and lessons learned from implementation projects, monitoring and applied research with its 150 network member organisations, 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. In 2014 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 and partners, the main effort in 2014 was of course to demonstrate local solutions for inclusive and environmentally friendly development, with full participation and leadership of women. In Uganda and South Africa women training and development of food gardens and organic agriculture continued, as part of the "Empower Women benefits All – EWA" Program. In Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Russia "Switch to Sun", a program to improve and up-scale solar heaters for household and public building in rural areas, made progress. For water and sanitation safety planning (WSPP) a compendium was published in English, Macedonian and Romanian and WSPP was implemented in nine villages in rural areas of Romania and Macedonia

We worked with members and partners to help create civil society involvement at local and national level in the implementation process of the SDGs. We built on many best practices, methodologies and tools developed in the last years. We shared the success of our "Switch to Sun" program by building many solar heaters for households and by creating jobs. We developed new expertise on ecological sanitation systems for schools and households, with the addition of solar technologies, such as solar food processing solutions and supplying hot water for bathrooms. Through our capacity building and training programmes more than 50,000 women, men and children from low income communities have been able to show every day how to implement the SDGs in an inclusive, equitable manner.

Many members continued to build skills in the area of policy analysis and advocacy, to propose and push for better legislation and governance. The WECF offices in France, Germany and the Netherlands shared their expertise in the area of sound chemicals management with

Balkan partners, as well as with partners from the Baltic Sea region. Together with Flemish Gezinsbond and Pesticide Action Network Europe, WECF lead the continuation of the Life+ Program "ChildProtect", focussing on EDCs, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals. The challenge of strengthening legislation regarding the hundreds of hazardous chemicals in our daily food and products is a common problem for all countries in the world, and we need to share our best practices such as the WECF Nesting Program which informs consumers and parents on how to avoid and better regulate these harmful substances in the environment of our children.

I am proud to present this annual report to you, as WECF and its partners have achieved admirable results! There is no time to loose. The world is reaching tipping points of massive biodiversity extinction, of irreversible climate change, chemical pollution and oceans choked from micro plastic waste. With our members and partner we will expand the best practices and scale these up by making sure they become part of national implementation plans. We will share the lessons from our partners in rural areas of Georgia whose solar heating program became the core of a national climate mitigation action, thus setting an example for urgent action needed.

We invite you to join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Just 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 20 years ago to build a network of women taking action for sustainability and equality, joining forces to have a strong common impact, and working together with men to mobilise all of society behind a common vision of a sustainable future.

### WECF's Roots

The creation of WECF was based on the inspiration for 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. Only very few women organisations from Eastern and Western Europe participated. As a result, WECF was created as a network to strengthen women's perspectives for sustainable development from the region, whilst always bringing lessons learned and recommendation to the global policy level. At the Rio 1992 Summit, WECF founders advocated jointly with organisations such as WEDO for the recognition of the Women's Major Group by the UN and a full chapter dedicated to Women and Sustainable Development in the "Agenda21"

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.

### Global 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.

Increasingly 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 and healthy 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.*

## ***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.*

### **Governance and Organisation**

WECF is coordinated through WECF organizations in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), and France (Annemasse), and has about 30 part-time staff members (16 FTE). Each national organization has a board as well as its own national member organizations. WECF has an international Board of Trustees (BoT) which bears the final responsibility for the strategic and financial management of the foundation. The International Advisory Board (IAB) represents WECF's member organisations. The IAB works in an advisory capacity on strategic issues and organizational development. IAB members (of which there are currently eleven) are elected by the members of WECF. The BoT and the IAB maintain close connections through representation at each other's meetings.

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

WECF implements projects with its partners 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. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

### **WECF and Cooperation**

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

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

Build capacity of women's and civil society organisations to promote and advocate for gender-responsive sustainable development policies, to monitor and analyse policy implementation and participate in policy development, to mobilize citizen's support and demonstrate best practices for local and regional equitable, inclusive and environmental sustainable development, with a focus on the national Post 2015 implementation plans.



## WECF Issues



### Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

WECF implements affordable, innovative and sustainable 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. WECF raises awareness and mobilizes citizens for sustainable water and wastewater management. WECF brings lessons from these projects to the policy table. WECF promotes community-based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas without centralised drinking water supply. One of the ways to do this is by using WECF's Water and Sanitation Safety Plans (WSSPs) for small communities and schools. In 2014, a compendium for water and sanitation safety planning (WSSP) in three parts was published in English, Macedonian and Romanian and WSSP was implemented in 9 villages in both Romania and Macedonia.

WECF is actively involved in the work of the worldwide sanitation network Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) leading one working group on rural community, schools and gender. In 2014, WECF contributed to a booklet collecting best practices of WASH in Schools. WECF and partners represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health policy process and advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resources and waste water management. WECF contributes to the implementation of the PWH especially on small scale water supply and sanitation and schools and has been actively contributing to the Post 2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators in the water and sanitation area.

### Direct results of WECF's work accumulated in 2014

- 3 training modules in 3 languages on water safety plan policies and implementation for rural communities without centralised supplies.
- 1 work program for small scale water supplies and sanitation under the transboundary water convention's Protocol on Water and Health
- 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)
- 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 benefit from introduction of rainwater harvesting and biogas technology with an innovative bamboo based structure
- 2 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 by 2 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)



## Safe Chemicals for All

WECF and its members advocate non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, and for the implementation of three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes strengthening of chemicals legislation, in particular, to protect the most vulnerable. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions 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 product databases testing. Trainings on environmental health are also conducted for health and childcare professionals.

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

### Direct results of WECF's work accumulated in 2014:

- 20 Project Nesting trainers educated in France
- 100 Nesting workshops organised in France
- 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 were 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 and chemicals in children's textiles was published and widely distributed in Dutch and German
- The German Nestbau app featured textiles as new theme
- A film with tips for pregnant women on how to protect themselves and their babies from EDCs was developed
- 1 side event and 1 workshop on women and chemicals was organised at the OEWG2 of SAICM in Geneva



### Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

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

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

- 1 network of women entrepreneurs (60 members) in Rhône-Alpes, France, to promote gender equality in the rural-professional environment
- 150 women from low-income township in South Africa grow their sustainable food in "urban food gardens"
- 1 established permaculture fruit and vegetable garden run by two vulnerable women of the township community, 5 Resource centres are equipped with documentation and 3 food gardener jobs secured in resource centres in Durban and Cape Town, South Africa
- 100 demonstration fields on pesticide-free Conservation Agriculture established
- 2350 Farmer/households of which 70% women were involved in farming and at least 1128 farmers (70% women) trained in farming as a business in Uganda
- 1 Guide for Trainers on Organic Agriculture



## Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time and poses a serious and global threat to sustainable development, poverty elimination and peace in the coming decades. Climate change is inextricably linked with energy concerns as two thirds of global emissions come from energy consumption. WECF implements interrelated programmes on both issues. WECF aims to provide safe, affordable and renewable energy for low-income households, bringing successful pilot projects to scale via innovative financial instruments. WECF promotes a switch away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralized alternatives. WECF empowers vulnerable groups to benefit from climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. Through its role as co-coordinator of the 'women and gender constituency' at the climate negotiations, WECF promotes gender-positive energy solutions and integrates a gender perspective into global UN climate change negotiations.

### Direct results of WECF's work accumulated in 2014

- 10 Policy statements on equitable climate policies presented to 5000 policy makers
- 1 feasibility study for climate financing household renewable energy systems submitted to UNFCCC
- 1 feasibility study for energy cooperatives in Georgia as financial instrument and corporate organization to force energy efficiency and decentralized renewable energy
- 1 gender-equitable Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) was designed in Georgia
- 10 employees from Ukrainian municipalities were trained for energy efficiency measures in public buildings
- Training of 25 multipliers (NGOs, municipalities and teachers) of Georgia, Ukraine and Kirgisia about solar systems, monitoring, photovoltaic, public participation and financial mechanism for solar projects
- Over 600 women increased income through use of solar food driers
- 5 students exchanges on solar technologies organized in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan
- 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 are informed through outreach and visibility actions about sustainable energy solutions
- 22 rural communities have been supported to carry out their own participatory needs assessments, monitoring and evaluation to improve their energy situation.
- 9 training modules have been worked out and are available online
- 221 certified constructors (mostly men) and 149 usage specialists (mostly women), 20 certified solar collector trainers
- 90 Georgian and Ukrainian households participating in the project have been monitored: Willingness to invest insulation or house heating is about 90%
- Support of City of Munich for Climate Partnership Munich – Capetown: Working out action plan for cooperation and knowledge transfer in the fields: renewable decentralized energy, mobility, organic farming und financial mechanism
- Application for EU-Award (EUSEW – EU sustainable energy week) for 2015
- WECF was member of Jury of Eurocities for the Award 2014 within the annual meeting 2014 with the motto "Energizing cities"



A Cross Cutting Issue:

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

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

WECF's overall goal of "achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies and programmes. Women and men are differently affected by environmental pollution and the lack of basic resources, such as water or energy. Women's views, knowledge and capacity to work towards a sustainable development and a healthy environment have to be taken into account when looking for local as well as global answers.

WECF implements projects with partners in local communities, organizing community dialogues and gender assessments to raise awareness on gender roles and the value of unpaid women's labour. All activities are monitored with gender-differentiated indicators, and the impact on boys and girls, women and men is assessed and analysed. Lessons learned and (policy) recommendations are shared with peers and decision makers. WECF facilitates women's participation and leadership in local, national and international policy-making processes.

### Direct results of WECF's work accumulated in 2014

- 1 "Manual How to Integrate Gender Aspects into Sustainable Development Trainings"
- 2 "Gender Livelihood and Socio-Economic Studies" (Georgia/Kyrgyzstan)
- 1 Study "Women and Farming" (Tajikistan)
- 1 Study "Women's Access to Energy in Georgia"
- 1 Study "Gender Aspects in Water and Sanitation: Issues in Kyrgyzstan"
- 1 Position Paper "Gender Dimensions within the Aarhus Convention"
- Women's Major Group "8 Red Flags Concerning SDGs Outcome Document"
- 10 policy statements on integrating gender equality into the SDGs
- 6 Gender trainings or technical trainings with a gender focus
- 20 publications/presentations on gender, human rights and the environment
- 30 publication/presentations on public participation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, women participation in international conferences
- 3000 women in WECF's delegations in policy meetings



# Campaign and Advocacy



# Campaigns and Advocacy

The core of WECF's work:

WECF implements projects with its partners, which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production.

WECF engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grassroots level and always representing women's perspectives.

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

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WECF and UNEP United Nations Environment Programme:

- The WECF director is co-chair of the UNEP major group and stakeholder facilitating committee. WECF president for 2014 was a member of the UNEP advisory group on International Environmental Governance.
- WECF facilitates the work of the NGO coalition "Rotterdam Convention Alliance – ROCA," which advocates the implementation of prior informed consent on trade in hazardous substances, including chrysotile asbestos.

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WECF and UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

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

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WECF and UN CSD Commission on Sustainable Development:

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

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

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

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WECF and UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

WECF co-chairs the NGO alliance 'European Eco Forum' which is the focal point for the 'Environment for Europe' policy process. WECF is an implementing partner for UNECE and WHO of the 2014-2016 workprogramme of the 'Protocol on Water and Health.' WECF experts

are members of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making and contribute to 'public participation in international forums' under the Aarhus Convention on access to 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 Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), and the Parma Ministerial Declaration.

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

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



WECF's advocacy work in the European Region on Water and Sanitation:

### UNECE water and health policy processes

Worldwide, 2.8 billion people lack safe sanitation and one billion, safe drinking water. Even in the EU and EECCA region, nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply; and even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation. Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Further, in the Western part of the region, where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants - including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products - have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health.

The UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. WECF was one of the implementation partners of the 3 year work programme 2011-2013 of the Protocol on Water and Health, alongside the German and Czech government, for the working group on 'small scale water supply and sanitation'. WECF continued to collaborate within the working program 2014-2016. In 2014 through its water and sanitation advocacy work, WECF continued to implement projects to monitor drinking water quality, to share lessons from its water and sanitation demonstration projects, and to

advocate for better policies and government programmes to assure safe water and sanitation for all.

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

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

#### **Safe and Sustainable Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene**

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

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 (the UNICEF Raising Clean Hands Campaign). 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

## Campaigns and Advocacy worldwide



### Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy worldwide

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

WECF is part of the UNDP Global Water Solidarity platform which promotes water solidarity mechanisms inside countries but also beyond. WECF is a steering member of the Global Wastewater Initiative which has been launched by UNEP as a multi stakeholder platform in order to address wastewater management, prompt coordinated action and encourage new investments in the sector.

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

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

The role of the Women's Major Group is to assure effective public participation of women's non-governmental groups in the UN policy processes on sustainable development. The Women's Major Group contributes to the intergovernmental processes on Sustainable Development Goals and its link to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and other outcomes of the RIO processes.

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

The coordination for the UN Sustainable Development process is assured by two organising partners - Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) - and two core group members - Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and Global Forest Coalition (GFC).

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

#### The Sustainable Development Goals

The coming years are crucial for future development cooperation. In the intergovernmental process on "Sustainable Development Goals", the UN "Open Working Group" is preparing a framework for universal goals to follow the Millennium Development Goals. The High Level Panel Post2015 report, and the consultation reports, are feeding into the Secretary General's report on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The SDG and the Post2015 processes are planned to merge and lead to one set of comprehensive, universal goals, which will set the direction for international cooperation on sustainable development from 2015 to 2030 and beyond. If women's priorities and gender equality are not well defined in the goals, targets and indicators, it will be a major set-back. It is a unique opportunity for women's organisations worldwide, that this United Nations policy process has a specific institutional space for women's participation, namely the Women's Major Group.

#### Women's priorities for the Post 2015 SDG Agenda

Women's priorities for Post2015 and SDGs focus on developing countries and countries in transition, linking the regional women's priorities (Africa, EECCA) to the global agenda for Post2015 and SDGs.

WECF as co-chair of the WMG informs the 450 WMG members (through a daily mailing list + twitter ), helps building their capacity during the negotiations , organises meetings with their country delegates, helps the women prepare their speaking slots in the negotiations - based on WMG policy statements prepared in advance - and organises outreach to media/press. WECF coordinates the policy proposals developed by the WMG for the Post2015/SDG process with women's representatives and UN agencies for parallel UN policy processes. This is done by:

- strengthening women's movements globally in promoting together key priorities for women's rights and empowerment as part of a new global development agenda, and build alliance and support from other sectors of civil society and government;
- incorporating diverse women's movement priorities into WMG input on policy, intergovernmental and consultation processes, with a focus on priorities of women from the economic south;
- ensuring that gender equality and justice, women's rights as human rights, and sustainable development are core priorities of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda framework, goals, targets, indicators and means of implementation;
- ensuring equitable and regionally balanced participation by Major Groups in the SDG process and related post-2015 processes, with particular focus on full and meaningful participation by diverse women from the economic south.
- Enabling grass roots women from the EECCA and African regions to present their solutions and priorities to international actors and decision makers, thus contributing to ensuring that women's perspectives, needs and contributions are strongly reflected in the policy outcomes.





## WECF advocating Equitable Climate Policies and Solutions

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

## Lima: Women take action on Climate Change and Gender Equality

For over two weeks in Lima, WECF as an active member of the Women and Gender Constituency, WGC, and Women's Caucus members participated directly in the negotiations, held press conferences, conducted advocacy trainings, wrote articles, released reports and briefing papers, joined demonstrations and marches and collaborated with dozens of colleagues from around the world who participated through all this action in the COP in Lima or in support activities back home in local communities. In spite of these efforts, and those of many allies in Civil Society, the COP failed to move substantially forward towards the ultimate goal of agreeing on a plan to avert climate catastrophe, although in the final hours it agreed to an outcome in order to keep work moving towards Paris next year.

Sabine Bock, Energy and Climate Director for WECF said, "We can only get an ambitious and adequate agreement, if women and men equally decide, contribute and benefit from all climate policies and actions. Provisions on Technology and Mitigation will also only be effective when Gender Equality is included in the implementation of climate-safe technologies. And, in fact, at WECF, we have seen in our work on a daily basis that women and men are already jointly implementing climate solutions in local communities – for example solar collectors in the South Caucuses and Eastern Europe. These solutions must play a major role in the Paris Agreement - and the Agreement must reject completely big hydro, nuclear and fossil fuels of any kind."

*Women at the People's Climate March  
WECF's Director tells why she was marching*



**September 21 was the Peoples Climate March in New York. Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director of WECF took part in the march. Sascha Gabizon tells her reasons for joining.**

*"I am marching in the Peoples Climate March because we need true solutions to halt climate change, based on human rights. I am afraid that some of the large corporations involved in the Climate Summit are not willing or able to move away from energy sources which are killing people and the planet. In particular I am concerned about nuclear energy being promoted as a solution, a false one, as it is overall the most damaging of all energy sources and the risks are unacceptable for humanity. When we only apply "carbon" as the sole measure we risk choosing unsustainable pathways, all decisions have to be based on a broader sense of justice, rights and sustainable development in harmony with our one and only planet earth."*  
Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director, WECF International and co-organising partner of the Women's Major Group.

WECF's advocacy work in the European Region and International on Chemicals and Health

#### **Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

The topic of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) is high on the international and European policy agenda. On EU level the European Commission is obliged to deliver criteria on EDCs for its pesticides and biocides directives. WECF is an active member of the European "EDC-free Europe" NGO coalition and contributed with its input to the EU Commission's public consultation and with various policy papers. In February 2014 WECF organized a very well received EDC conference in Brussels aiming at policy makers and experts. On 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.

## WECF publishes article in Chemical Watch

NGO platform: EU toys rules too weak

17.03.2014 | Alexandra Caterbow WECF in Chemical Watch

The new chemical requirements of the EU toy safety Directive have been in force since July 2013. The EU had a chance to really protect children from hazardous chemicals, when the Directive was reviewed in 2009, but unfortunately they only went half way.

Toys are part of children's daily life. They should therefore be safe and not expose them to harmful chemicals. Because children have developing organs, rapid metabolisms, thinner skin and immature immune systems, as well as specific behaviours, they are more vulnerable than adults to chemicals of concern. The scientific community today endorses the fact that early exposure can play a significant role in developing certain diseases later in life. So banning harmful substances from toys is necessary to protect children from possible long-term and irreversible health effects. This means that in the production of quite a number of currently traded toys, the chemical substances used need to be substituted by safer ones or non-chemical alternatives. Is this necessary change process too much to ask for?

### CMRs

The revised Directive's chemical requirements are a slight improvement from the previous version when it comes to the use of carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances (CMRs). But unfortunately, the new Directive does not ban them from toys. A derogation for a CMR, even those classified as category 1, can be granted if no substitute exists for this substance; if a European Commission scientific committee sees no dangerous implications; and if it is not prohibited for use in consumer articles under REACH. Alternatively, a CMR may be used in toys if it is inaccessible to children; or if it is present in a concentration no greater than the relevant concentrations set out in the CLP Regulation and dangerous preparations Directive. This means that, in reality, many toys can still contain some CMR substances.

Furthermore, only the concentration limits of substances are considered, excluding the migration of substances when toys are placed in the mouth or swallowed. For instance, a carcinogen like benzo[a]pyrene, a genotoxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) with a high-rate skin penetration, is authorised within a limit of 100mg/kg – a limit which does not take into account children's vulnerability. Indeed, the new toy safety Directive lags behind technical feasibility and existing EU rules on CMRs in other sectoral regulations, such as those covering food contact materials. In 2010, Germany asked the Commission to strengthen the regulation of PAHs in toys by introducing a maximum limit of 0.2mg/kg.

The new toy safety Directive is still too weak and needs to be strengthened by banning all CMRs from use in toys. Children should not be exposed to such substances when playing with toys.

### Heavy metals

Eleven metals are covered by the Directive for the first time, but in some cases its approach is worse than the previous version that applied until 2009. For example, a neurotoxic element like lead is permitted in toys in a concentration of up to 160mg/kg, compared to 90mg before. This is, of course, irresponsible. Maximum limits for antimony, arsenic, barium and mercury also appear to be higher than before. Germany has filed a lawsuit to apply stricter limit values to certain elements for which proposed limit values are not considered protective enough for children's health (CW 22 May 2013). The final decision by the European Court of Justice is expected this year. But the fact that only a few EU member states are taking action is not good enough. Here also the Directive should be strengthened to protect all children in the EU.

### Fragrances and allergens

In total, 55 allergens are banned under the Directive, and 11 others are only allowed within certain concentration limits and must be labelled. But there are many more allergens. The European Parliament, in 2007, called for a total ban of fragrances in toys, and several eco-label schemes, such as the Nordic White Swan, do not allow fragrances in toys carrying the label. Avoiding fragrances is

essential for children's health, as they are the second biggest risk factor for allergies after nickel. An assessment by Germany's Federal Institute for Risk Evaluation (BfR) called for a ban on fragrances in toys for children under three, after an assessment it conducted in 2010 estimated that 10% of European children were sensitive to nickel and 2% to fragrances.

#### EDCs, PBTs and vPvBs

Endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) interact with the hormonal system and are linked to diseases including various cancers, diabetes, obesity, heart diseases and developmental disorders. PBTs (substances which are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic) and vPvBs (those defined as very persistent and very bioaccumulative) have long been known to pose serious health risks, especially to children. For each of these groups of hazardous chemicals, there is abundant research to show their potentially harmful impacts on health, but they are barely considered by the toy safety Directive. In addition, nanomaterials are not regulated at all in toys, even though another EU law, the cosmetics Regulation, requires some nanomaterials to be labelled because their potential health risks are under investigation. All of these substances can trigger long-term health consequences for children – some of them at very low doses – and so they should all be banned from toys.

#### Parent pressure

Parents are more and more concerned: our offices are flooded with information requests from worried mothers and fathers who are outraged because they have no means of knowing which harmful substances are in toys, and that policy makers and industry are not doing enough to protect their children's health. They demand full disclosure of ingredients (as with cosmetics) and stricter laws that apply the precautionary principle, with zero tolerance for harmful chemicals.

In France, a WECF online petition on change.org calling for the phase-out of EDC-suspect bisphenol A from toys received 30,000 signatures – a level of support that placed it among the top 50 petitions in France that year. But the Commission continues to disregard this public outcry of parents. A new Commission Directive, adopted by the toy safety Directive committee on 18 February, will allow bisphenol A to be present in toys for children under 36 months and in toys to be put in the mouth provided it meets a migration limit of 0.1mg/l (CW 25 February 2014), even though the detection limit is 0.001mg/l. This is irresponsible when a growing number of scientific studies show that EDCs affect health and human development even at very low doses, especially in children. Parents do not understand the inconsistency in the Commission's policy as it bans an endocrine disrupting chemical like bisphenol A in baby bottles – but still allows it in toys. They tell us that most children put toys in their mouths, even though this is not the toy's intended use. Where is the practical difference, then, between the baby bottle and the toy? Even though bisphenol A is not as common in toys as in other products, the permissible limit should be lower than the detection limit, thus guaranteeing the highest protection level for children's health.

The decisions taken by the Commission regarding toys safety are not common sense. Policy makers and the toys industry are losing consumers' trust, and should stop compromising children's health.

The views expressed in contributed articles are those of the expert authors and are not necessarily shared by Chemical Watch.

Alexandra Caterbow, senior chemicals/health policy adviser, WECF



## WECF OFFICES



### WECF FRANCE

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

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

*Donors: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy (MEDDE) , l'Europe s'engage Region Rhône-Alpes, Region Ile de France,, Mairie de Paris, Conseil General Val de Marne, City of Strasbourg, ADEME ( Agence de l'environnement et de la m, Assemblée Nationale. Companies and private donors : Fondation Lemarchand,Fondation Daniel Mitterand, Leroy Merlin, Fondation Léa Nature, France Actives, Jennifer , ARMOR, Mutuelle Mieux être, AFIP, Edition Michel, Edition Horay, Seven Pharma,Altman Fondation, Fondations membres de "European Environnement and Health Initiative"*

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#### **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 continued its efforts to change policies towards greater primary prevention. Protection of health 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, via the "Nesting" program for young parents and "Ma maison Ma santé" for the broader public took place all over the country. 45 Health and health prevention professionals were trained in 2014 through our training sessions, whereas already certified facilitators benefited from two continuous training days.



To ensure that the actions for awareness raising continued and to strengthen our team of actors, WECF France developed a training program on awareness raising on environmental health especially designed for professionals and for those dealing with social inclusion. The first pilot training session of bridging professionals took place in the Region Rhone Alps. In 2014 WECF France worked with ARS Aquitaine to organise a six day long training on Indoor Environmental Quality aimed at childcare professionals in 6 maternal and child prevention centres. In November the Community Centre for Socials Action in Biarritz also requested WECF to give this training to directors of 5 nurseries located in the city. Finally the Mutualité Française Rhone-Alpes offered an in-depth training on this subject to staff in charge of prevention, with a focus on food, cosmetics and electromagnetic waves. Continuous training in environmental health and care practices supported by the IFSEN aimed at healthcare professionals.

#### Policy work on Chemicals and Health

WECF France collaborated with WECF Germany by organising a workshop on Women and Chemicals in partnership with UNEP in Geneva. This two-day workshop was the first step in drafting a report produced by WECF under the auspices of UNEP.

At the invitation of Senator Aline Archimbaud, WECF France organised a round table Gender and Occupations Cancers around the work GISCOP 93. This event helped to measure progress to be made in terms of recognition, monitoring and also primary prevention of women's occupational exposures. WECF France also organised as part of Ribbon of Hope, an international symposium "Santé reproductive des femmes" (*Reproductive health of women, breast cancer and endocrine disruptors: knowledge of prevention measures*). This conference was supported by the city of Lyon, the French ministry of Ecology and the National Cancer Institute.

#### Water & Sanitation

As a member of the French Water Coalition, WECF France defends the right of everyone for access to drinking water and sanitation in France and around the world. Several actions were carried out in 2014 like the *Eau pour tous (Water for everyone)* campaign which was driven by Fondation France Libertés and the *Journée mondiale des toilettes (World Toilet Day)*, which took place in the form of awareness-raising on lack of access to sanitation, including France. A local action was carried out in partnership with InterSolidar association.

#### Food and Rural Development

The project *Climate Needs Farmers* coordinated by the Agricultural Education Centre of Gołdkowo in Poland was successfully finished in France in July 2014. The objective of this project conducted by six European organizations was to transfer knowledge and exchange experience regarding the agriculture facing challenges from climate change. Agricultural biodiversity, food security, land management and sustainable local agriculture were at the heart of the discussions. WECF France welcomed its project partners in July 2014 and made them discover the actors of local agriculture in Haute-Savoie.

The ADP-Léman Collective, initiated and run by WECF France, created a project called *Bien s'alimenter, ElémentTerre!* which offered a series of workshops to raise awareness of healthy eating, of sustainable and responsible food management from farm to plate for schools / grammar schools and general public, as well as training sessions for restaurant professionals

#### Energy & Climate Change

WECF France is a member of the Climate Action Network (in French: RAC) since 2009, and as such contributes to the network's campaigns: in 2014 RAC was heavily involved in the development of the Law on Energy Transition, supposed to reflect in the texts proposals from the 2013 debates on energy. WECF has played an active role in dissemination of information online on its website and by co-signing numerous press releases. Since 2009 WECF has been organizing field missions in the countries of our network in partnership with the IUT Annecy for students from Licence Pro Maitrise des Energies Renouvelables. In 2014, two students went to Kyrgyzstan.



**Gender activities: promoting rural women's competencies**

From January 2014 WECF has coordinated the *Réseau Genre et Développement (Gender and Development Network)* of the Solidarity Cooperation of Rhône-Alpes region. This network of associations, local authorities, and citizens is comprised of more than 175 members from mainly the North and some forty members from countries in the South of Africa. WECF coordinated the organisation of a conference on cooperation held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup> June and led one of the roundtables at the conference in Annemasse on June 27, 2014, and published the bimonthly newsletter of the network. Since 2012, WECF France and AWHHE, an Armenian NGO, our network partner, have had the support of Rhône-Alpes region for accompaniment of women farmers, the change makers within their territory. In 2014 our action aimed to strengthen their role in rural society in Armenia. Four resource centers in sustainable agriculture in Voskevan, Ditak, Saghmosavan and Solak were created.

PICTURE

## WECF International, The NETHERLANDS

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

*Countries: 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*

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

### Development aid, poverty reduction and gender

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

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

The networks WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, Share-Net and the Women's Major Group representing WECF, joined hands to initiate 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 are included in the new 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. Due to its work of many years on the subject, WECF has become the main NGO in the Netherlands to work on policies regarding harmful substances there.

### PICTURE

### LIFE+ ChildProtect

The 'ChildProtect-Life' project coordinated by WECF the Netherlands aims 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, PAN Europe, ChemSec and WECF Germany and WECF France the project seeks to develop innovative and multi-sectorial actions that speed-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. ChildProtect-Life in the Netherlands is supported by an expert group of scientists, including key professors in the area of pediatrics, endocrinology and chemicals, who advise on its work. WECF also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy.

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

As part of ChildProtect-Life and Een Veilig Nest (Project Nesting), its non-funded awareness campaign WECF organized outreach and awareness-raising activities - exhibition stands at commercial baby product fairs, website and blogs, publications and newsletters - which

reached over 20,000 people. WECF 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

## WECF GERMANY

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

Countries: *Germany; Munich, Berlin*

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

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### Chemicals & Health

Nestbau is the German version of the International Nesting Campaign, helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns. In 2014, the German Nesting project informed parents through its Nestbau website and the Nestbau mobile phone App. Project guides for consumers on renovation and cosmetics were published. Several workshops and tools for schools and kindergartens were developed to avoid toxic chemicals in their environment. Advocacy for non-toxic children's products has been one of the main tasks of the WECF chemical coordinator, who was involved in several events and policy activities concerning toxic chemicals in toys, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level. One of the main topics of the chemical work of WECF is to work towards a ban of chrysotile asbestos in the EECCA region. The chemical coordinator participated in several UNEP and WHO conferences and meetings, organized four workshops in FYR Macedonia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and worked with partner organizations in EECCA region to achieve this goal.

### 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 3 year work program of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO) in the working group on small scale water supplies and sanitation (see under 'International Policy Work'). A water safety plan project in nine Romanian and Bulgarian villages funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) started in 2013 continued all throughout 2014. The aim of this project is to raise awareness about environmental protection, particularly in the area of water quality and sanitation in the rural regions of Romania and Macedonia.

### Climate & Energy

WECF was also very much involved to insist and advocate on necessary CO<sub>2</sub>-reductions and the crucial switch to safe and sustainable energy in Germany, the energy transition. WECF stayed involved in the Bavarian Climate Alliance and the German Climate Alliance. The WECF sustainable energy manager is a board member of the association "Bürgerenergie Bayern e.V." which aims to focus the energy transition in EU, Germany and Bavaria. Bürgerenergie Bayern and WECF are lobbying towards a sustainable, renewable and affordable energy management in Germany, considering the EU-roadmap for renewable energy.

WECF Germany was part of several press releases and actions as active member of the German Climate Alliance concerning stopping coal projects in Germany and advocacy for ambitious climate protection commitments and a sustainable energy transition as well as active member of the Bavarian Climate Alliance regarding the energy transition and necessary supporting laws for it and to call attention to costs and risks of nuclear power throughout 2014.

WECF Germany is partner of the city of Munich aiming to increase energy efficiency in municipalities in Germany and Ukraine and South Africa.

WECF presents in various conferences (Ukraine, South Africa) and for delegations (South Korea, South Africa, Ukraine) the development of the German energy turnaround, showing the success factors and possibilities for other countries.



# Projects



## PROJECTS



### Accomplishments and partnerships in 2014 in the EECCA region

#### Our Projects:

#### Romania and Macedonia (FYROM): Water and Sanitation Safety Plans

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

The aim of this project is to raise awareness about environmental protection, particularly in the area of water quality in the rural regions of Romania and Macedonia. The creation of Water and Sanitation Safety Plans encourages 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.

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. 99% of its households, both in urban and rural areas, are connected to the central water supply system, but despite this many water shortages exist. Its water pipes were laid between 1960 and 1980, and a lack of maintenance has led to the poor condition of this water supply system. According to UN Habit, 23% of the inhabitants of Macedonia do not have access to drinking water of adequate quality. About 80% of the water comes from karst aquifers whose quality is known to be influenced by rainfall and surface pollution sources. As in Romania, information related to the quality of drinking water in rural areas is unavailable to the population. There is no access to safe sanitation in rural areas, where pit latrines are used.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed the innovative tool of Water Safety Plans (WSP) to ensure the quality of water systems, including small wells and small-scale local centralised water-supply systems. This helps minimise health risks. In these WSPs, civil society is considered of crucial importance, as are the authorities and local suppliers. WECF has further developed this approach in order to address small communities and stakeholders who are non professionals. This Compendium aims to enable communities to develop a WSSP for small-scale water supplies e.g. dug wells, boreholes, springs and piped centralised water supply systems and assess the quality of sanitation facilities such as school toilets.

**Donors:** *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)*  
**Partners:** *Aquademica (Romania), JHR, Macedonia(FYROM)*  
**Duration:** *11/2013 - 04/2015*



## Baltic countries: Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances

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

The overall goal of the project is to encourage public demand in the three Baltic States for children's and consumer products free of hazardous substances via awareness-raising activities. The project partners inform Baltic society about substances which are considered harmful for people's health and the environment and whenever and where these products,

used in everyday life, can be substituted with safer products. In the course of the project, clear, comprehensible information about the potential impact of hazardous substances on human health and the environment, targeted to the needs of the particular stakeholder group, was published. This information was presented in such materials as interactive games and web competitions.

#### WECF's input to the project

WECF provides its expertise on awareness raising to the project partners, who want to inform society about substances which are considered at European Union (EU) and national level as hazardous, why so, in which products on the market they occur and where such products are used in everyday life. In the course of the project easy understandable information materials about potential impacts from hazardous substances to human health and environment targeted to the information needs of the particular stakeholder group will be elaborated and published. WECF provides the project with its guides on toys, detergents, body care products, baby care products, renovation materials, EDCs and textile as basis for information material adapted for the countries special needs and for translation into the three national Baltic languages.



*Training by Birgit Pesin, an ecological hairdresser, Munich October 2013*

**Countries:** Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia

**Donors:** EU Life+

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

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

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

As many as 200 solar collectors were built in rural villages of Georgia up until the end of 2013. This certainly underlines 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. This project contributes to improved health, reduced poverty and increased energy security in 22 rural communities in seven EEC countries, by demonstrating domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation measures and Do-it-Yourself Solar House Heating Systems. All of these methods are based on available local capacities and materials. The aim is to create institutional capacity by up-scaling via certified trainers, craftsmen and women, while formulating lessons for effective financial, institutional and legal instruments for widespread replication of sustainable energy options.

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

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



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

referring to EU legislation available as a basis for their further action.

*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*

## "Women for a Sunny Energy Supply"

*Published from "Solar Thermal Energy Council" in May 2014*

*This Article was published on May 5, 2014 on the Homepage of Global Solar Thermal Energy Council*

*Energy poverty is a widespread phenomenon throughout Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). Many poor people living in these regions can hardly pay the ever-rising electricity costs. To heat their houses in winter, they are often forced to burn wood, diesel or any other thing they can find, such as plastic - with all the harmful impacts on the environment. "Switch to the sun – live in comfort!" is what activists of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) tell them in such a situation.*

*WECF, an international non-governmental network of women's and environmental organisations, is committed to helping people in rural areas in the Ukraine, Georgia and other countries of the EECCA region gain a sustainable energy supply, mainly by utilising solar water heaters. The photo shows the participants of a workshop with the newly built solar water heater in the city of Kamensk-Uralsk, Russia.*



*With its political turmoil, the Ukraine is currently one of the hot-button issues in global news just as it*



was after the Chernobyl catastrophe in April of 1986. Many Ukrainians still feel the aftermath of the nuclear disaster at the country's most notorious power plant, as cancer is still a common disease in the country. It may also explain why recent surveys show most people in the Ukraine opposing nuclear energy and seeking ecological and healthy alternatives in electricity generation and heating. And in Georgia, people have known at least since the 2008 war with Russia that an independent energy supply can only be of benefit to the country. WECF women have been active in both post-Soviet states since 2007, carrying out information campaigns and installing solar water heaters in order to promote solar thermal energy and building insulation as eligible options for a more ecological, healthy and independent energy supply.

*"Acceptance of solar thermal energy could be the basis for a new energy strategy and for achieving the climate goals," Katharina Habersbrunner from the Munich branch of the WECF says. The network is trying to convince decision-makers of the advantages of solar thermal energy use, for example, in the Ukrainian district of Manevychi, across which people are used to heating with radioactively contaminated wood. Another example is the mountainous region of Akhaltsikhe in southwest where deforestation has become a serious problem.*

*"We train local people to assemble budget-friendly solar water heaters with materials they can buy in their local shops, so that they don't have to rely on expensive imports," Habersbrunner explains part of the organisation's approach. Another important aim is capacity building by training craftspeople to maintain and repair solar thermal systems. Since last year, Ukrainians and Georgians trained by the WECF team have been sharing their expertise with people in twelve villages in the neighbouring countries of Russia, Moldova, Armenia and Azerbaijan.*

#### **Women and men are equally involved in planning and construction**

In addition to ecology, health and affordable sustainability, gender is a crucial issue when it comes to energy supply, Dr Anke Stock, lawyer and senior advisor on gender and rights at the WECF, is convinced. "Women in the Ukraine suffer more than men from the lack of warm water, since they depend on it for fulfilling their daily chores," she outlined at the seminar *Gender Mainstreaming in Environmental Policy Making*, which was organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva, Switzerland, in February 2014. Stock said that women and girls often did the hard and time-consuming work of collecting the fuel materials for heating water.

*"In our projects, women and men are equally involved in the planning, construction, maintenance and monitoring of the solar collector systems," she stated in her keynote speech (Gender in Environment: Key challenges and success stories). By raising awareness about new technical solutions, women could gain access to spheres of local and national decision-making bodies traditionally dominated by males, she explained the gender-specific benefit of the WECF campaigns in the EECCA region.*

## **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.

In order to achieve this aim, three objectives and matching planned actions were developed. The first of these objectives is to empowering local women wishing to start their micro-enterprises through training on economic mechanisms and income-generating activities. These empowering activities predominantly take place in four 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 center is created with the support of local authorities. The last objective is strengthening the role of women within the community in partnership with the Network of Rural Women Rhône Alpes. This particular partnership is hosted by WECF France with the following overall results:

- Local women will gain knowledge and information on sustainable livelihoods.
- The social status of local women will be improved by strengthening the capacity of women to support themselves and those of their families.
- 4 centers for the mobilization of women will be established.
- 4 social enterprises (cooperatives) for the production of dried foods are created.

**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

Georgia is bounded to the west by the Black Sea with a coastline of 310 km. One of the major problems of the coastal areas of the Black Sea is the discharge of insufficiently treated sewage waters, infiltration of animal manure and land erosion, resulting in microbiological contamination as well as eutrophication and poses a threat to public health. Since the 1980s, the Black Sea pollution has also greatly harmed Georgia's touristic industry. There is a very low awareness on the causes of water pollution and water related diseases at local, regional and national level. Illnesses related to bad hygiene and water quality, such as diarrhoea and hepatitis A, are widespread in the area.

The target villages Khorga with 1,320 inhabitants and Chaladidi with 1,245 inhabitants are located alongside river Khobi. Both villages belong to the Khobi Municipality, Samegrelo Zemo-Svaneti Region. The state of sanitation in both communities is deplorable. Major problems faced by communities in this regard may be attributed to: Low awareness about the causes of water pollution; no locally affordable and sustainable solutions addressing poor water and sanitation; subsidized cheap fertilizers affecting water supplies; manure stored and disposed close to the premises and the water supplies. The common pit latrines pose a number of health and environmental risks. All together 11 villages are located alongside river Khobi with the population of 22 000 inhabitants.

Overall objective of the project is to contribute to the reduction of the pollution of the Black Sea caused by human settlements at the river Khobi flowing into the Black Sea. Activities under the project focus on prevention of environmental pollution, on education, health and hygiene matters so that physical facilities are properly used and maintained. The project raises awareness about minimising pollution of the Black Sea and contributes to saving biodiversity in the region enhancing tourism industry in the region. Lessons learnt from the project will be used for up-scaling and replication in nine other villages in the region by demonstrating and promoting safe resource oriented solutions regarding infiltration of human and animal excreta into the rivers and ground water.



*View on river Khobi alongside village Chaladidi*

The project addresses the problem of water contamination, caused by widely used pit-latrines, poor management of water resources, uncontrolled animal grazing, intensive use of chemical fertilizers, open and unsafe disposal of waste, including animal manure. The project identifies appropriate simple, affordable decentralized sanitation systems, such as urine diverting dry toilets (UDDT) and promote their adaptation. The action will raise awareness and demonstrate appropriate technologies (for toilets, animal manure disposal, production of fertilizers, arranging community-managed landfills, recycling, composting, water treatment, etc.) with the participation of the communities to be served.

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

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

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

## Accomplishments and partnerships of WECF International in 2014 worldwide

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

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

The activities of “Empower Women – Benefit (for) All” began in 2012 and will be spread out until the end of 2015. EWA has been made possible by a FLOW subsidy of the value of € 1,86 million, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. According to the World Bank, investing in women is the best investment in communities’ development. WECF shares this idea but also acknowledges the structural barriers (e.g. lack of decision-making power and basic livelihood conditions) many women around the world are facing on a daily basis.



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

conditions.

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

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

### Kyrgyzstan

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

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

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

### South Africa

#### *Developing Urban Food Gardens*

In 2014, WECF continued to support partners in South Africa to develop "urban food gardens" with and for low-income women in former townships. These included the ecological treatment of surface water for irrigation, and the reuse of nutrients and waste for biogas and soil improvement. The Community food gardens set up in the townships of South Africa are run by local community people, South Africa. The food gardens provide an opportunity to empower women to provide more nutrition for themselves and their families and gain income from selling surplus food.

The peri-urban areas around Cape Town have some of the highest poverty and malnutrition rates in South Africa. Therefore, WECF has committed to breaking the vicious circle of malnutrition, hunger and poverty. Together with the local partners Urban Harvest and Soil for Life, food gardens are created behind individual shacks or attached to public buildings such as schools. Local people are trained to plant, maintain them, harvest and also conserve the food to be sold.

## Tajikistan

### *Men have to be taken along this path*

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

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

## Uganda

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

WECF supported its EWA partners in Uganda in developing “conservation” agriculture, avoiding further deforestation by improving the soil-quality of existing agricultural lands and increasing women farmers’ positions. Uganda remains among the poorest countries in the world. 88 percent of Ugandans live in rural areas, where land and water resources are central to their livelihood. The Ugandan economy and the welfare of the population are intricately linked to the natural environment. Households engaged in crop farming remain the largest group of the poverty-stricken population, accounting for about 38 percent of the households below the poverty line. On average, rural households derive nearly three-quarters of their income from crop farming. Smallholders dominate the agricultural sector with over 90 percent of crops being produced on farms averaging less than two hectares. With 3.57 percent population growth annually, Uganda has one of the highest rates of population increase in the world. This is far above the agricultural growth rate of 2.6 percent. Using existing agricultural systems and technologies, this implies an ever-increasing pressure on land resources to produce ever-greater levels of food. However, land degradation has already reached alarming levels.

### *Low-income smallholder farmers*

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

### *Farmer groups*

One of the key activities of the project is the development and implementation of demonstration programmes on organic conservation farming, conduct training of trainers on organic conservation agriculture, and train groups on marketing and farming as a business, together with partner AT Uganda. In cooperation with AT Uganda, the farmers will establish demonstration fields on organic conservation agriculture. The farmers will be trained on non-chemical weed and pest control, how to make compost and crop rotation. They will also be sensibilised on gender aspects, while partner the AT will promote women’s participation in income -generating activities.

## Afghanistan

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

With the aid of WECF and as part of EWA, German charity Katachel e.V. initiated at the start of the program a sewing project for young women and girls in Kunduz, Afghanistan. This offers long-term prospects in sustainable development. With the cooperation of WECF and Katachel e.V., women have gained sustainable means of existence and independence by being able to make their own, and sell extra, clothes.

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



## Georgia

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

WECF partners organized trainings for rural. It has become apparent that the rural population experiences a lack of information pertaining to, and awareness of, alternative agricultural methods. As well as farm planning and management, SEMA's training focused on new technologies, alternative and modern plant protecting, business cooperation, elementary market proficiency, and women's role in the modern society and their integration and engagement in any field.

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

*Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

*Duration: 01/2012 - 12/2015*





# Organisation



## Organisation



### WECF Staff 2014

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

#### WECF The Netherlands

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director
Maureen Brouwer	Operational Director
Olga Plekhanova	Country/Project Officer Energy
Chantal Van den Bossche	Communication Manager
Lies de Bloois	Financial Controller
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper
Annemarie Hekkers	Office Manager
Ingrid Elbertse	Consultant Hazardous Chemicals
Fedde Jorritsma	Consultant sustainable sanitation and energy
Carmen Chan	Communications Assistant
Margriet Samwel	Project Officer Water and Food Safety

#### WECF France

Anne Barre	President WECF France
Natalia Dejean	Water and Sanitation referent
Valérie Domeneghetty	Health and Environment Facilitator Ile-de-France
Elisabeth Ruffinengo	Health and Environment Advocacy Manager
Marie-Laure Robert	Gender and Agriculture Coordinator
Céline Burdin	Agriculture assistant
Emilie Delbays	Health and Environment Education Coordinator and Facilitator
Anne Gomel	Health and Environment Education Officer
Malika Berkaine	Administration & communication
Janine Pannhasith	Bookkeeper

#### WECF Germany

Sabine Bock	Director Germany and Energy Coordinator
Anke Stock	Coordinator Gender and Rights

Bistra Mihailova  
Alexandra Caterbow  
Regina Drexel  
Claudia Wendland  
Sabine Hanisch  
Johanna Hausmann  
Véronique Grassinger

Project Assistant Chemicals/Project Coordinator  
Hazardous Chemicals Coordinator  
Energy Project Officer  
Water and Sanitation Expert/ Policy Coordinator  
Office Manager Germany  
Project Officer Chemicals & Press  
Graphic Design and Publications

**Expatriate contracts**  
Anna Samwel

Regional Consultant Eastern Europe & Caucasus



### WECF The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty  
reduction and Gender

### WECF France

Chemicals of concern – exploring solutions



### WECF Germany

Regional sustainable  
development



## Board Report

### The IAB and BOT in 2014

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. IAB elections take place every 3 years, mostly during the general members meetings. The co-chairs of the IAB are Thérèse van Gijn and Anna Tsvetkova.

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

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

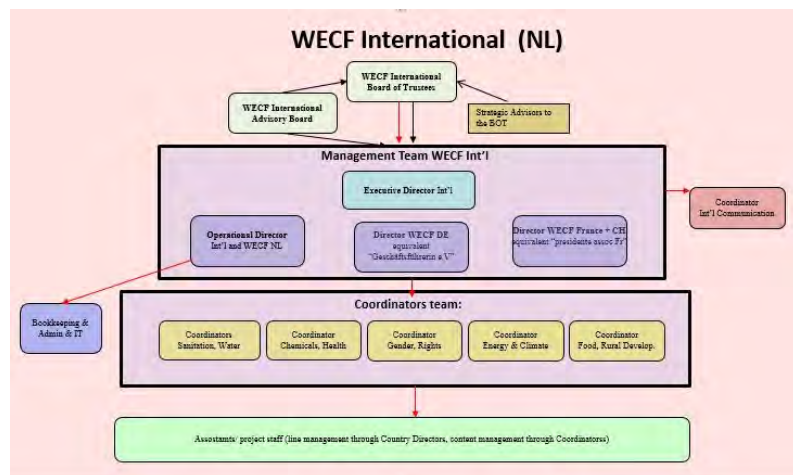
Members of the Board of Trustees in 2014 were:

- Christine v. Weizsäcker, President
- Erma Uytewaal, Member (joined in 2012)
- Bert Kuitert Treasurer
- Grietje Zeeman, Member
- Teresa Fogelberg, Vice President



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

WECF organogram in 2014





## WECF Publications and Press

### Key WECF Publications in 2014

#### Publications in English

##### Video: Energy Efficiency, Solar Collectors and our Energy Projects in Ukraine

Our Ukrainian partners Yury Urbansky (NECU) and Oksana Maiboroda (Ecoclub) talking about energy efficiency, solar collectors and our energy project.  
23.12.2014

##### Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) - A Barrier to Climate Protection

A WECF Position Paper  
17.12.2014

##### The status of solid waste and excreta management in Khorga and Chaladidi, Georgia

Survey report by RCDA and WECF  
03.12.2014

##### IWE: New Publication on Women's Access to Energy in Georgia – Challenges and Recommendations (September 2014)

29.11.2014

##### IWE: New Publication on Gender Aspects in Water and Sanitation Issues in Kyrgyzstan (September 2014)

29.11.2014

##### Tajik women are forced to be dependent on men due to lack of land access

A study on women and farming in Tajikistan  
04.11.2014

##### Press kit of WECF's symposium on breast cancer and EDCs

100 participants participated in the symposium  
20.10.2014

##### How to integrate gender aspects into sustainable development trainings?

ALGA and WECF developed a gender manual, dealing with gender issues & sustainable development in both English and Russian  
17.09.2014

##### WECF at UNITAR/Yale Conference

“Human Rights, Environmental Sustainability, Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the Future Climate Regime”, 5 to 7 September 2014  
17.09.2014

##### Balkan Training Kit

Chemical Safety of Toys  
03.09.2014

##### Gender Livelihood and Socio Economic Study - Baseline Study Georgia

Gender sensitive needs assessment rural Georgia published  
01.09.2014

##### The Gender Dimension within the Aarhus Convention

WECF submits position paper  
30.07.2014

**Organic Solutions and Gender Mainstreaming: Report on Training of Trainers and Findings in two Districts in Eastern Uganda**

In this report method and content of the training are presented, and the findings on gender inequalities between men and women in Kween and Kapchorwa District  
21.07.2014

**Report on Baseline Training Needs Assessment - Agriculture, Uganda**

In this report the training and the finding of a needs assessment in the field of agriculture, carried out in Eastern Uganda, are presented  
18.07.2014

**A guide for trainers on Organic Agriculture - Principles and Practices**

The guide is developed for the EWA project and will support the trained trainers on Conservation and Organic Agriculture  
18.07.2014

**Gender Livelihood and Socio Economic Situation in Rural Kyrgyzstan**

Baseline study in the framework of the Project Empower Women, Benefit for All  
18.06.2014

**Developing a Water and Sanitation Safety Plan in a Rural Community**

This Compendium aims to enable communities to develop a WSSP for small-scale water supplies, e.g. dug wells, boreholes, springs and piped centralised water supply systems, and as well as to assess the quality of sanitation facilities such as school toilets.  
28.05.2014

**Publication of WECF's partner Global Forest Coalition**

"Redirecting Government Support for Unsustainable Livestock Production key to Biodiversity Conservation"  
22.05.2014

**WECF and partners propose chemicals targets for Sustainable Development Goals**

UNEP 2012 global chemicals report estimates close to 1 million deaths from harmful chemicals and pesticides each year  
16.05.2014

**Improving Water and Sanitation through Decentralized Cooperation in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan**

A feasibility study carried out in the frame of the UNDP Global Water Solidarity Platform  
09.05.2014

**Home Comforts in Kyrgyzstan – An Introduction by video**

This film, created by WECF partner KAWS, welcomes its viewer into the homes of Kyrgyz people whose communities have been positively impacted in recent years by the introduction of several environmental technologies.  
18.04.2014

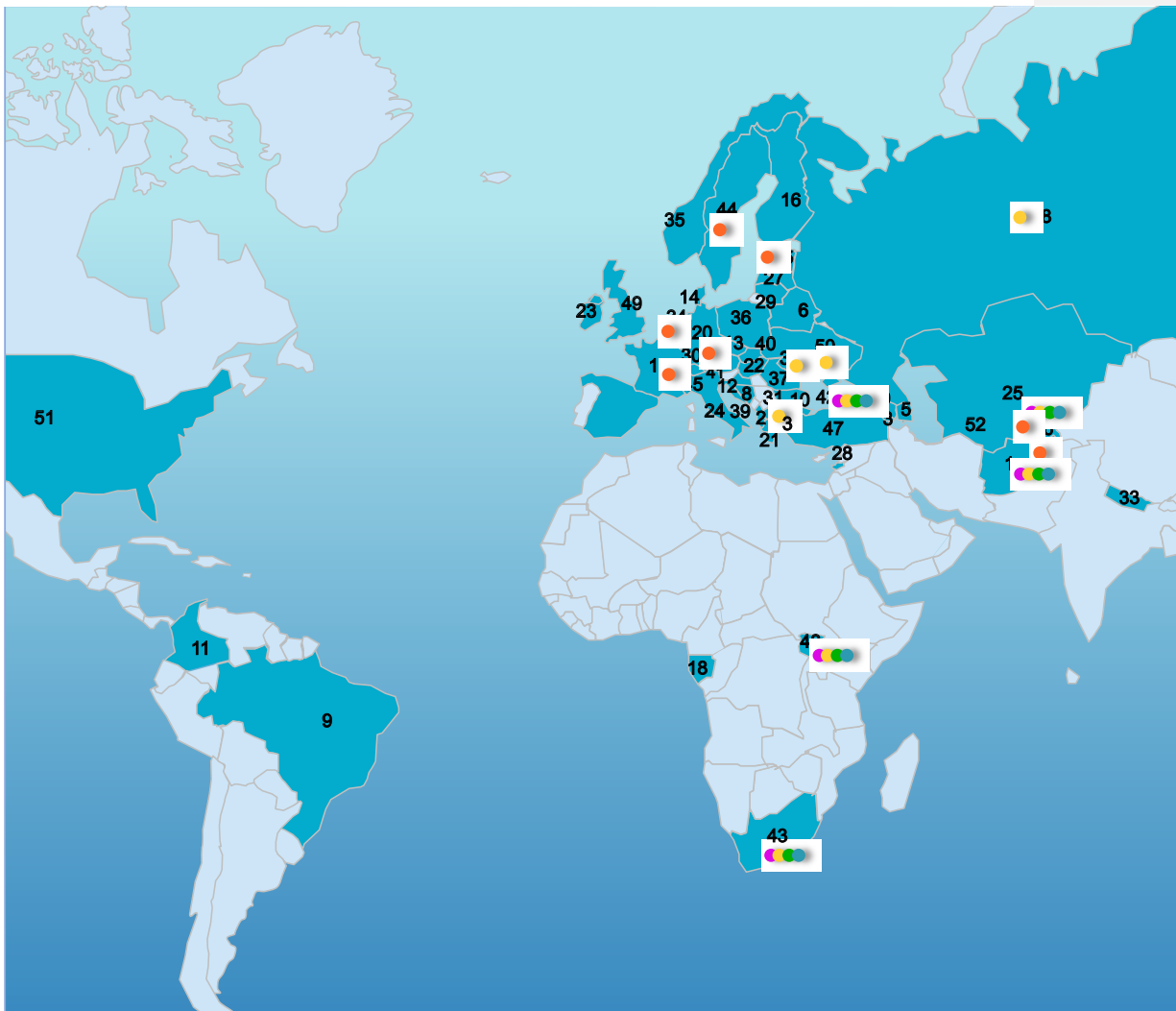
**WECF Project Sheet: Switch to the Sun - Live in Comfort!**

Read about the improvement of many women everyday life in the ECC countries due to the solar collectors  
06.04.2014

**Updated Publication: Construction of solar collectors for warm water. Practical guide**

Updated version of the solar collector manual is now available in English and Russian  
03.04.2014

## 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			Slovenia
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 Doctors 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 Citisen Association
118	Sweden	Centerwomen
119	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
120	Tajikistan	NGO PARASTOR
121	Uganda	SWAGEN, Support Women in Agriculture and Environment
122	Uganda	ARUWE, Action For Rural Women Empowerment
123	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
124	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
125	Ukraine	Women for Environment
126	Uzbekistan	Concord
<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 Hulsmann
153	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
154	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
155	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
156	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
157	Netherlands	Rosemarie B.J. Merz
158	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
159	Netherlands	Willy Douma
160	Netherlands	Anita Harting
161	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
162	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
163	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
164	Netherlands	Marjon Reiziger
165	Netherlands	Shirley Khoebal
166	Netherlands	Annette Mosher
167	Romania	Ioana Botis
168	Russia	Olga Senova
169	Russia	Patimat Gadzhieva
170	Russia	Victoria Elias
171	Serbia	Ivana Blagojevic
172	Serbia	Vera Arezina
173	Slovakia	Katarina Korytarova
174	Slovenië	Maja 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

Commented [AB1]: Attention: the phone number on the last page is WRONG. Our actual phone number is: +33 450 834 810



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