



ACTIVITY REPORT 2018



**WOMEN ENGAGE FOR A COMMON FUTURE
BUILDING A GENDER-JUST AND
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

IMPRESSUM

www.wecf.org

Women Engage for a Common Future

© 2018, WECF

This publication is available from WECF

www.wecf.org, www.wecf.nl, www.wecf-france.org, www.wecf.de

Editors: Sascha Gabizon and Chantal Van den Bossche

Design: Charlotte Aukema, aukemaontwerp.nl

WECF The Netherlands
Korte Elisabethstraat 6
3511 JG Utrecht
P. O. Box 13047
3507 LA Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel: +31/30/231 03 00
Fax: +31/30/234 08 78
wecf@wecf.eu

WECF France
Cité de la Solidarité
Internationale
13 Avenue Émile Zola
74100 Annemasse
Tel: +33 /4/ 50 834 810
wecf.france@wecf.eu

WECF Germany
St. -Jacobs-Platz 10
D-80331 München
Germany
Tel: +49/89/23 23 938 0
Fax: +49/89/23 23 93811
wecf@wecf.eu

Supported by



This publication has been made possible through the support of the Netherlands Ministry of Environment (I&W), Fondation Ensemble, Bundesministerium für Umwelt (BMU) and the European Commission, Europaid.

- WECF has NGO status with United Nations Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
- WECF is an official partner of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- WECF represent ECO-Forum in the European Environment & Health Committee (EEHC)

Keywords: women, sustainable development, gender, health, environment, chemicals, energy, climate change, solid waste, water, wastewater, sanitation, organic agriculture, biodiversity, rural development, poverty elimination

WECF The Netherlands

Rabobank
Account Number:
1266 45 116
Tenaamstelling: Wecf
IBAN:
NL96 RABO 0126 6451 16
BIC:RABONL2U

WECF France

Société Générale Annemasse
Compte n°:
300 030 010 100 037 263 395 70
IBAN:
FR76 300030010100037263395
BIC:SOGEFRPPGRM

WECF Germany

Stadtsparkasse München
Account Number:
1313 90 50
Bank code:
701 500 00
IBAN:
DE68 7015 0000 013 1390 50
BIC:SSKMDEMM



CONTENT

- 4 Word from our Director
- 7 WECF International
- 9 WECF Focus Areas
- 19 WECF Programmes
- 34 WECF Advocacy
- 37 Our Organisation
- 40 Outreach & Communication
- 43 Financial situation



© Annabelle Avril / WECF

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

I believe in the power of women and feminist movements and their leadership role in moving forward the transformation to gender-equitable societies that do not deplete the planet but create safe and healthy lives and jobs for all. As WECF, we envision a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all women, men and non-binary persons live in dignity, and share responsibilities for a healthy environment, and a just and sustainable world. 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.

The WECF network's *raison d'être* is to address both the barriers in policies and practices to the fulfilment of women's rights, as well as to build the capacity of feminists to create sustainable solutions.

For a network like WECF our network of partners is our main strength. Their vision and needs are leading for our organisation. They have a voice in our governance through the International Advisory Board (IAB). In 2018 all partners were asked to nominate new candidates for the IAB and elections were held. A new IAB was installed, consisting of 10 members from different regions in the world (Africa, Europe, Asia & Caucasus), who were endorsed with an overwhelming majority by WECF's network. With our Board of Trustees we worked on further developing our integrity policies including our policy to prevent and



address sexual exploitation and abuse, and reaching out throughout our network to ensure all partners adhere to these policies.

Our framework partnership agreement with the European Commission went into its 3rd year. With the support of the EU and other donors, we are implementing our Women2030 program, to engage women and feminist organisations in sustainable development activities in up to 50 countries. Women2030 is implemented with a coalition of 4 women's rights and gender equality organisations based in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Additional support for the program was brought in from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and private foundations as well as via network partners.

Through Women2030, over 200 local feminist and environmental organisations are monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda2030 and advocating for better policies; they published shadow reports for 7 countries, and gender assessments for another 8 countries. They are also demonstrating local gender-just solutions that benefit over 10,000 local community members.

In December 2018 the European Commission carried out a Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) review mission by external monitors. Our staff, partners and beneficiaries were interviewed. We were proud to see that the evaluators described our Women2030 program as "feminist and participatory", and that the conclusions were highly positive.

Part of the Women2030 activities is to facilitate local partners be part of international advocacy, by giving women a voice in policy dialogues at regional, EU and UN-level.

Throughout the year 2018, we facilitated participation of our partners in United Nations processes on safe chemicals and waste (BRS), sustainable development (HLPF), environment and health (UN Environment), climate change (UNFCCC), and the Commission on the Status of Women (UN Women). Also we actively participated in the European Policy Forum for Development and the European Development Days.

In 2018 the second year of the multi-annual program “Make Europe Sustainable for All” (MESA) started which is organized through the European Environmental Bureau and with WECF International as a partner. We had great interest in our public meetings on what we need to do to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe. One of our projects and meetings focused on the negative impacts on water and health from pesticides used in flower-bulb growing in the north of The Netherlands. Another event focussed on eco-activism at Africa-Day Netherlands with input from our Nigerian Women2030 partners, and we also promoted the “MPs Adopt a SDG” campaign in The Hague. For the MESA program, we participated actively in the “Women and Climate Summit” at the European Social Economic Council and provided lectures on gender and climate for the Dutch trade unions. As a result, we strengthened our profile as an international organization working on sustainability and gender equality and we reached many people with our eco-feminist messages.

Through all these activities work we contributed to reaching the main objectives of our organisation, to promote an ambitious and gender-just implementation of Agenda 2030 with partners globally and in the EU, substantially increasing the awareness of citizens and policymakers of their roles and responsibilities in working for a sustainable future.

One of the highlights of 2018 was our network’s advocacy at the Climate Summit in Katowice, where we pushed for strong gender and human rights language in the Paris Rule Book, jointly with the Women and Gender Constituency. Thanks to impressive interventions of our local partners and coordinated advocacy we managed to keep strong wording, despite the conservative backlash coming from some countries as the US and Saudi Arabia. Our annual “Gender Just Climate Solutions Award” was again a huge success, show-casing feminist initiatives for climate mitigation and adaptation from Africa and Asia.

As Director, I am proud of our dedicated partners and the results of our common activities, but I am also proud of our ability to innovate thanks to our motivated, committed and competent volunteers and employees. Our alliances within civil society coalitions working jointly for gender equality and sustainable development against environmental pollution and for climate-just development are mutually strengthening. Slowly but surely, our innovative models are being spread, our voices are being heard and recognized. We still have a long way to go, but we progress one step after another. We are committed to demonstrate that women and men can act together for the urgently needed transformation towards sustainable and just societies. We invite you to join us, as member, partner or supporter, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Just, Healthy and Sustainable World for All!

Sascha Gabizon
Executive Director WECF International

WECF INTERNATIONAL

OUR AIM & VISION

We are a non-profit network dedicated to a gender just and healthy planet for all. Our international network consists of over 150 women's and civil society organisations implementing projects in 50 countries. We believe that a sustainable future and environment needs holistic solutions reflecting the lives of people on the ground. We believe in feminist solutions based on our partners' visions and needs. That is why we work on transformative gender equality and women's human rights in interconnection with climate justice, sustainable energy & chemicals, less toxic waste, safe water & sanitation for all.

OUR STORY

We were officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands as Women in Europe for a Common Future. During the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 1992 women from the European region came together to create the network WECF because they recognized the catalysing role women play in sustainable development as defined in the United Nation's report "Our Common Future". Our philosophy: ensure that the voices of women and marginalized groups are heard at the policy table combined with local actions in which they realize their priorities. This dual action-advocacy approach proved to be very successful and has become one of the strongest distinguishing aspects of our network. Today we work with over 150 partner organisations in our network covering 50 countries. To reflect our global scope, we changed our name to Women Engage for a Common Future in 2016.

OUR NETWORK

Our network of members and strategic partners operates on the principles of solidarity, intersectionality and gender equality. Together we work towards innovative solutions and sustainable alternatives in low-income rural areas. Together, we sit on extensive expertise in various sectors, from technological to social. Our network provides a platform for knowledge sharing of our best practices and lessons learned. We use our experiences to formulate policy recommendations and advocacy actions. Our ethos is: from the local to the global!





HOW WE WORK

THROUGH BUILDING CAPACITY

We train, provide expertise, and offer grants to women and gender equality organisations. Thus, we support them in their work for climate justice, an environmentally sustainable future and gender justice.

THROUGH POLICY & ADVOCACY

We advocate to policymakers, from the local to the global level, to include gender equality and women's perspectives in policies and implementation plans. We do this by supporting our partners' participation in decision-making processes, by leading regional and international gender equality movements, and by monitoring policies.

THROUGH OUTREACH & AWARENESS RAISING

We campaign to increase awareness on the importance of gender-just climate and environmental solutions. With our partners we host social media campaigns, e.g. #FeministDemand, and send open letters to decision-makers. We also give small grants to partners and organise public debates, street actions and award-celebrations.



OUR FOCUS AREAS

As an ecofeminist organisation, we work on the following issues as a web of rights, holistically and not in silos, while putting diversity and gender equality at the middle.

GENDER JUST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We work towards the full realisation of human rights, development justice and the right to a healthy environment for all, regardless of gender, age, race, sexual identity, education, religion, ability or social economic status. We want a sustainable future in which polluters and governments are held accountable and where human rights, health and the environment have priority over trade agreement and other economic interests.

GENDER JUST CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

We mobilize for gender just implementation of the Paris Agreement. We want a sustainable future in which polluters and governments are held accountable and where human rights, health and the environment have priority over trade agreement and other economic interests.

GENDER JUST HEALTHY AND TOXIC FREE ENVIRONMENT

We demand justice for victims of pollution from chemicals and measures to protect environmental human rights defenders. We promote toxic-free and non-chemical alternatives based on the principles formulated at the Earth Summit in Rio 1992: the polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof, the precautionary principle and principle 10 to ensure public participation, transparency and access justice.



GENDER JUST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT WE DO!

Many policies and plans are made without taking gender equality into account. That leads to unforeseen negative impacts on women in all their diversity. We make gender dimensions of technical sectors visible. We provide training and training tools on how to ensure gender-dimensions of sustainable development are considered. We have a network with specific gender tools and expertise such as gender assessments and gender budgeting. We work with civil society, science, government and EU and United Nations partners to create institutional frameworks for gender equality, such as gender action plans.

GENDER EQUALITY AS THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In numerous economic sectors such as water and energy services, industry and waste, few women are officially employed. Many more women work in informal sectors than men. In particular, technical decisions, such as the choice of energy technology, are often gender blind.

WOMEN'S ROLE AND PRIORITIES ARE MOSTLY INVISIBLE.

Ensuring that women and men's role and priorities are clearly understood is the first

step. Tools such as targets for increasing gender-balance in jobs and decision-making, and indicators to measure gender impacts, are very useful. Integrating gender equality measures into legislation and budget allocation is effective. For gender equality to be achieved, gender roles and norms need to be transformed. We work with the United Nations on making the gender dimensions visible in national chemical and waste policies. We coordinate the work on the global gender environment outlook with UN Environment. In our Women2030 program, we cooperate with partners in 50 countries to create gender-responsive policies.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WHAT WE DO

The global convention to end all forms of discrimination against women is 60 years old. All UN member states, except the USA, have ratified this convention. Still, discrimination against women and girls persists. There have been great advances in anchoring women's equal rights in laws across the world. But underlying barriers continue to exist, everywhere. Ending violence against women in their home, at work and in public spaces is a prerequisite for their full and equal participation in society and in decision making.

To solve the challenges facing humanity, we need full participation and equal decision-making rights for women and men. We document why women's rights are a prerequisite for sustainable development. We support partners working to end discrimination and gender-based violence. We cooperate with women's rights and human rights organisations to advocate for rights-based policies.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE A PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Women have structurally less control of resources, which often is a barrier to their equal participation and decision-making. In addition, women do much more unpaid care work than men. Sometimes 4 times more hours than men: to produce food, to look after children, ill and elderly, to clean and cook and contribute to community work. In all countries, women earn less than men for work of the same value. This gender pay gap can be as high as 90%; some female textile workers in Asia earn only 10% of the salary of their male colleagues. We promote women and men's equal rights to decision making and to resources. We show how, when women have more rights, they become leaders in sustainable development. We work with partners who are women managers of energy cooperatives, women political leaders in local and national government, and women leaders of civil society. We cooperate with women's rights movements, with scientists and UN agencies to document, monitor and advocate together, with the aim to reach equal rights in this generation.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

WHAT WE DO

Increasingly women human rights and environmental defenders are under threat. Hundreds have been killed. Many have had to close their organisations. At the root cause is often the exploitation of natural resources that fuel our throw-away economies. We bring the voices of the frontline defenders to global policy makers. We support them in documenting the threads and in protecting their natural environment. We advocate for accountability



and transparency to hold perpetrators accountable.

Changing the root causes of exploitation

In many cases, women's human rights and environmental defenders are standing up to defend their homes, lands and forests from exploitation by commercial corporations. Especially indigenous peoples are at the forefront of this conflict. Indigenous Peoples protect 80% of the world's biodiversity on their territories, but at the same time, extractive industries are vying for these lands to mine fossil fuels, uranium and forests.

#feministsolidarity

Feminism is not only about more women in power, but in standing up for our sisters which have the least access to decision making, and in changing the underlying root causes of exploitation. We work in partnership with other women and feminist organisations at the national and global level. We co-facilitate the spaces for women and feminists in the United Nations policy processes: Women's Major Group. Together with almost one thousand partners from these global alliances, we have become a power which can no longer be ignored.



GENDER JUST CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

WHAT WE DO!

Climate change is badly affecting women and men living in vulnerable regions. Those who are least responsible for the climate crises are already paying with their lives and livelihoods for the climate change impact. We bring our grassroots partners to meet with policy makers to advocate for a rights-based transition, where women and indigenous peoples are included in the decision-making.

Through our 'gender-just climate solutions' program we identify, promote and mentor best practice projects that adapt to climate change and reduce climate emissions. We do this in cooperation with the Women & Gender Constituency and the United Nations network on climate technology transfer and other partners.

CLIMATE JUSTICE

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Record draughts are happening across Africa and Asia, and harvests are lost. Women farmers produce 70% of the food in Sub-Saharan Africa. But they have little or no means to survive a bad harvest; they have no insurance, no reserves. The cause of their devastating situation is the emission of Green House Gases mostly by industrialized countries. Evidence from flooding in Asia, Africa and in the Balkan, show that women, due to social gender roles, are the majority of those killed and injured. If we do not act now, there will be more and more frequent climate disasters, with women disproportionately impacted.



© Shubhangi Singh | Survival Media Agency

The global group of climate scientists have called for extreme urgency; we need to transform our energy, transportation, food and industrial systems before 2030. And those who caused the damage need to pay up for the loss and damage already being suffered. In our partnership with other women and feminist organisations, the Women & Gender Constituency at the climate negotiations, we present our policy priorities. We work with climate finance experts and governments to ensure women's priorities are equally reflected in national and local climate strategies.

ENERGY SOLUTIONS

WHAT WE DO

Affordable renewable energy solutions exist. We analyze and pilot locally constructed technical solutions such as decentralized solar, biogas and energy efficiency. Through our gender-just climate solutions programme, in which we cooperate with UN networks, we identify and promote best practices for women's leadership in sustainable energy. Our biogas and solar solutions, combined with energy efficiency, save money, reduce air pollution and respiratory diseases.

Sustainable energy services with gender just leadership

The energy sector has a low female participation, and research has shown that this is holding us back against climate change. In rural areas of Georgia, which are not connected to the natural gas system, every household spends up to 30% of their income on firewood used for heating in winter, cooking, washing and cheese making. The firewood is to a large part not from sustainable sources. In Uganda, Congo and Cameroon, forests are illegally cut to sell as charcoal. Also, in Europe, living in energy poverty particularly affects single-woman households. A survey in a major European city showed that 68% of households disconnected from energy due to lack of payment were women-headed. We have also seen that in communities that are not connected to a centralized energy provision system, energy poverty is the norm. That is why we focus on creating gender just sustainable energy services for low-income non-connected areas, at a low cost.



SAFE WATER & SANITATION

WHAT WE DO

Having water inside your school, or in your home, is not a reality for millions of people, in Africa, Asia, the Americas, and in Europe. We work with schools and local authorities and through interactive exercises raise awareness on how to protect drinking water sources and ensure menstrual hygiene. We partner with universities and public water providers and support the building of home connections for drinking water supply. We pilot ecological wastewater treatment and school toilets in areas where there is no sewage system.

Water and toilets in your home and in school

Schoolgirls often lack privacy and washing facilities. Many will stay home when they have their period. Millions of girls miss out on school because of a lack of menstrual hygiene. Going to the toilet can often be a perilous activity, when there are only a few holes at the end of the schoolyard, in the

snow, in the rain, in a dark corner. Having no water at home and in school is a general cause of illness. Lack of washing spreads diseases. Water sources are often not well protected. The water itself can be polluted with bacteria, nitrates and pesticide residues. It is not only having access to water, but to safe water, that is a human right.

Knowing how to protect your drinking water source is the first step. Our training program on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning is a step by step assessment in which water providers, schoolteachers and pupils participate. We teach how to build toilets that are safe, allow menstrual hygiene management and do not pollute the underground drinking water sources. We pilot the reuse of nutrients and wastewater including the use in small-scale biogas. Our activities contribute to achieving the human right to water and sanitation. We therefore share our experience with decision makers in policy processes such as the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



GENDER JUST HEALTHY AND TOXIC FREE ENVIRONMENT

WHAT WE DO

Daily we are exposed to chemicals that harm our health. Even in small doses, these chemicals can accumulate and disrupt our hormone system and cause lasting damage and disease. Currently there is too little done to protect our health and the environment from harmful chemicals and waste. On top of that different gender-roles and physics have different health impacts on women than on men. Therefore, we advocate for legislation that obliges polluters to replace plastics, pesticides and other harmful chemicals with safe alternatives.

STOP TOXIC CHEMICALS & WASTE

A toxic free & gender just future

Plastics, pesticides and thousands of chemicals used in toys, food packaging, clothing and other day-to-day products are a danger for our health and that of the planet. As humans we already 'eat' plastics as micro-plastics now found in the food

chain. Many chemicals found in plastics and pesticides disrupt our hormone systems and possibly cause irreversible damage such as cancer and infertility.

When discarded, chemicals in waste are an even bigger threat. Waste dumping of industrial chemicals, pesticides, plastics and electronics are polluting food, air and water of millions of people. Women and men who live near waste dumps are often from low-income groups. Chemical and waste pollution is an issue of discrimination. Everybody should have the human right to a healthy environment. We provide information and training how to identify and avoid harmful chemicals. We work in coalitions with other civil society organizations and with UN Environment. As for the climate, we need a major transformation of our economies to move out of oil-based chemicals to locally sourced sustainable alternatives. We show how these local circular economies can go hand in hand with women's jobs, leadership and a strengthening of women's rights.



PROMOTE HEALTHY GREEN LIVING

WHAT WE DO

Healthy living is taking responsibility for yourself and your loved ones. Each of our daily choices like for example the coffee or chocolate-spread brand you chose, have an immense impact on the lives of women and men somewhere else. Meat consumption, and especially the soy needed as fodder, are a main driver of climate change. Next to this, manure and the pesticides used to produce fodder, are a source of contamination of water sources of local communities.

HEALTHY GREEN LIVING AND FEMINIST SOLIDARITY

We cooperate with civil society organisations, with local authorities and with networks of midwives and gynaecologists and publish information guides in many different languages. We also promote women eco-entrepreneurs that produce reusable non-toxic menstrual hygiene material. And we work with sustainable female farmers in for example France, Armenia and Uganda. Feminist solidarity is also important when

it comes to toxic pollution. Women in the plastic industry in Canada were shown to have a five-time higher risk of developing breast cancer. It is not always easy to choose a healthier product, as the harmful chemicals are mostly not listed, and some substitutes to chemicals, might themselves be problematic.

THE SOLUTIONS ARE THERE, LET'S USE THEM!

We can all make a great impact by choosing healthy and sustainable options from buying food to selecting an energy provider. With our solar and biogas projects we show how even with very little money, sustainable energy is a solution. With our wastewater projects we show how waste can be a resource. Our information guides cover themes such as Gender and Plastics, Women and Chemicals, Breast Cancer and the Environment, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and the risks of nanomaterials. And with our Nesting activities we provide young parents with tips and tricks for non-toxic healthy living.

NESTING

Unfortunately, all children born today come into this world with over 200 harmful chemicals already stored in their bodies. But



it is still important to not add more toxins to our body, as many of these chemicals accumulate over time. After a while, these chemicals can lead to disorders and diseases such as attention deficit syndrome, diabetes, obesity, endometriosis, infertility and cancer. We get many questions about the safety and health of consumer products. People reach out to ask us if one plastic baby bottle is better than another. If sanitary napkins can be made without chlorine and plastic. If mattresses emit harmful chemicals. If toys and electronics are a source of contamination. In our Nesting program we provide information and training how to identify and avoid harmful chemicals, with a focus on young people.

WHAT WE DO

Menstruation is a key indicator of health and vitality for women and girls. Managing this hygienically and with dignity is an integral part of good sanitation and hygiene. In our Water & Safety Sanitation Plan we included a module on “Personal Hygiene for Young People” and provided schools with guidance on how to ensure that they are creating an enabling environment for all their students. It includes capacity-building exercises as well as background material for local and national

advocacy work that schools and individuals can use.

STOP POLLUTING OUR VAGINAS

At first when you hear the word menstruation (or “menses”, or “period”) you might recognize its connection with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on health as it is an important part of women and girls’ reproductive health. The SDGs consists of 17 goals with targets and indicators for achieving sustainable development and equality by 2030. Like in life, many issues (such as menstrual hygiene) intersect with several SDGs simultaneously. Meaning, menstrual health is therefore not only linked to SDG 3, but it is also connected to SDG 6 (clean water & sanitation), SDG 4 (quality of education), SDG 5 (gender equality and participation), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production). When you think about it, without access to clean water and toilets, menstrual hygiene can be quite difficult to manage for women and girls. In a scope study we conducted in Macedonia, 50-90% of the girls admitted that they would stay home from school when menstruating due to lack of (clean) toilets.



WECF PROGRAMS

When we talk about bottom-up solutions, we mean solutions driven by local communities and the needs of the people. We give support and offer expertise and training, while our local partners map and implement programmes.

WOMEN2030

The #Women2030 programme is being implemented in 52 countries across different regions of the world. It is led by a coalition of 5 women and gender network organisations collaborating to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a gender equitable and climate just way. Our aim is to advance local and regional equitable, inclusive & environmentally sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda & climate change processes. Our goal is to build the capacity of women's civil society organisations. We also aim to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement by advancing local and regional sustainable development while ensuring it is equitable and inclusive. To achieve this,

we currently facilitate participation in policy development and monitoring, mobilize citizen's support, and share best practices.

WHAT WE DO

The three key areas of the programme are: capacity building; strategic cooperation and policy advocacy; media and social outreach. The women's networks in this coalition have been part of the sustainable development process from the very beginning as part of the Women's Major Group. It was created by UN Member States in 1992 as a key social constituency for sustainable development.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2018, WECF and the Women2030 co-applicants followed the track of the programme in its three key areas, and reached objectives set on training of CSOs (240 CSOs trained, objective 200), training of CBOs (2462 CBOs trained, objective 2000) and reaching out to local beneficiaries (reached 18,112, objective 10,000). In addition to those trainings,



WECF's country experts have provided subgrants to develop 25 local initiatives in 7 countries that contribute to the Women2030 objectives (Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Albania, Georgia, Tunisia and Uganda).

WOMEN2030 OUTREACH

WECF, with the support of the Women2030 co-applicants, published the Gender Impact Assessment and Monitoring (GIM) Tool, which provides a sound basis of comparable data for Women2030 and a gender-responsive monitoring approach of the SDGs. Our partners retrieve community-based data and measure gender sensitive indicators of each SDG and assess changes and progress over time. Our partners in Albania, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova and Tunisia have carried out gender assessments using the tool. The results of the assessments have been used as

a basis for discussion and building up of recommendations in national policy meetings organized in Albania, Armenia, Macedonia and Moldova; and have been presented at regional and global policy processes by our partners, including at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 63 and at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018.

Under Women2030, our partners produce shadow reports (alternative reports to the Voluntary National Reports on the SDGs) with the input of Civil Society Organisations. In 2018, our partners from Albania and Armenia presented the outcomes of their reports at HLPF. Our partner Emma Anakasyan, from RURALDAF, made an intervention to present the report's recommendations and asked questions to the Armenian government on behalf of the Civil Society, during the VNR sessions. In terms of communications and outreach,



the campaigns which WECF coordinated with the Women’s Major Group have reached out to a total of 27 million impressions in 2018. The Women2030 co-applicants launched the campaign #HerstoryOfChange on International Women’s day and for the official launch of the Women2030 website. For the campaign, partners shared their inspiring stories of engaging local communities, activities and decision-makers in ensuring women’s human rights and gender equality in all policies on sustainable development. On 15 October 2018, Women2030 co-applicants launched a campaign on International Rural Women’s Day (#RuralWomen), highlighting the harsh impacts of unsustainable industries and development on rural women, and the need to support rural women-led solutions.

COUNTRIES

Albania, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of

the Congo, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macedonia (FYROM), Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vietnam

PARTNERS

APWLD, Global Forest Coalition, WEP and GWA, Gender and Water Alliance

DONORS

EuropAid European Commission, GIZ





MESA; MAKE EUROPE SUSTAINABLE FOR ALL

The European Union has some of the most advanced legislation on environmental protection, climate action, gender equality and public participation. Still, much more is needed. Europe's ecological footprint is far too great. Europe's climate emissions are causing small island states to sink under the ocean. Europe's plastic waste has largely been ending up in developing countries and in the ocean. As consumers and producers, Europeans need to take responsibility and start living within the planetary boundaries. Not as if we had four more planets. All European Union member states need to make a great effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate. This transition can be beneficial for all if we make an effort to include those who have difficulties to make ends meet.

WHAT WE DO

We are showing the way for a just ecological transition. We are part of a coalition of 28 civil society organisations that are jointly raising awareness raising on the Sustainable

Development Goals. The 'Make Europe Sustainable for All' (MESA) coalition works in 15 EU countries. All our offices in France, Germany and the Netherlands participate. We organise dialogue meetings with policy makers. We monitor the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We organise awareness raising campaigns and publish info-graphs. We work in wider coalitions with over 150 civil society organisations as part of SDG-Watch Europe. We organise a call for grants for grassroots organisations to carry out local campaign and advocacy activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The MESA program is providing funds to WECF to work in the Netherlands, France and Germany on awareness raising on the Sustainable Development Goals.

NETHERLANDS

With support of the MESA Program we gave our input to the Dutch government consultation on the follow up of the Female Leadership funding program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aimed at supporting women's rights and gender equality. We also provided policy recommendations in

the area of Agricultural Policy, International Trade & Development Policy and the Ostrava Action Plan on Health and Environment. We became a central and active member of the Building Change coalition and participant in their campaign for members of parliament to "Adopt a SDG".

Great interest was shown in our public meetings: one on pollution from the use of pesticides in the Province of Drenthe and one on the importance of women's environmental activism at the Afrikadag with input from partners, and two meetings in the context of the "MPs Adopting an SDG campaign" in The Hague. As a result, we strengthened our profile as an international organization working on sustainability and gender equality and we reached many people in The Netherlands and abroad with our ecofeminist messages. A clear result of our higher public profile was the fact that our international director Sascha Gabizon entered the Dutch Top 100 Sustainable Leaders at number 33 and both our international and national director, Kirsten Meijer, was often asked to give lectures or join panel debates on gender related climate and environmental issues.

FRANCE

Initially, WECF France focused its activities on local territory (Grand Genève region). In the second part of 2018 we chose to add, next to this local level of actions, actions at the national level. We joined the national group of SDG actors in France called "*La Communauté des ODD*". This working group was created by the French Ministry for Ecological and Solidarity Transition and it is composed of more than 900 SDG actors. Joining this working group allowed us to be recognized on the national scene as an SDG actor, and to share information and attend meetings. The biggest challenge we faced was to engage people and not only inform

them. To get people engaged, we tried to know what they already knew about the SDGs and what they needed help on. To do this, we invited local actors to respond to an online survey on the SDGs. We then used these answers to build our webinar program. This activity will be continued into 2019.

GERMANY

One of WECF's main achievements in 2018 was the establishment of an alliance of over 40 organisations and the participatory processes, policy dialogues, new networks and collaborations that came as a result of this alliance. WECF managed to inform and engage more citizens, CSOs and policy makers as well as actors from the private sector through several capacity building workshops, public events such as street festivals and by co-organising the first Munich Sustainability Congress "Sustain" as well as the Bavarian Sustainability Congress "Sustainability first". The number of online followers increased, and campaigns were spread more widely, such as our 17-day media campaign on each SDG following 17 interviews with national NGOs and alliances. Although the activities were quite successful, WECF's main challenge was to get more attention from the media which still sees the agenda 2030 as too abstract and too far from people's everyday life in order to be mentioned in the papers.

PARTNERS

EEB, European Environmental Bureau, SDG Watch Europe

DONORS

European Commission, Europaid DEAR Program





GENDER & CHEMICALS: THE BRS CONVENTIONS

The global conventions that address harmful chemicals, mercury and waste are managed by the United Nations. We work with the secretariat of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm convention to document gender dimensions of chemicals and waste. Together with our partners from the countries we carry out scoping studies and visit hotspots of chemical pollution and waste. We document the gender dimensions in case studies and on film, and we propose gender measures for national governments to integrate in their institutions. We work in networks of civil society partners on joint policy recommendations and advocacy during the conference of parties of these conventions. We organise dialogue meetings with decision makers on reducing pollution from chemicals and waste. We disseminate women's priorities for stronger waste and

chemical policies through TV and social media. We promote safe alternatives that reduce waste and exposure to harmful chemicals, such as reusable menstrual hygiene products.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

Our Gender, Chemicals and Waste programme includes scoping studies in Nigeria, Indonesia and, upcoming, Kyrgyzstan and Bolivia. In particular, we analysed the harmful effects from plastic waste, electronic waste, industrial PCB waste and from pesticides. The results of the scoping studies in Africa have been documented as an awareness-raising film, which is shown on the website of the United Nations chemicals conventions and was shown on Nigeria's international TV reaching 60 million viewers in 2018. We presented the policy recommendations of the case studies with the Minister of Environment of Nigeria, and the Indonesian government, during the



3rd United Nations Environment Assembly in 2017 to all interested delegations. The case studies and film continue to be used by the UN secretariat for their gender-trainings of the chairs of the Conference of Parties. In Germany, the Netherlands and France, we work in partnership with other civil society organisations to promote stronger legislation to phase out harmful chemicals, pesticides and plastics. We cooperate in multi-stakeholder processes where we present the priorities of women and civil society on the risks of nanotechnology, asbestos, mercury and hormone disrupting chemicals. We cooperate with socially responsible entrepreneurs to promote non-toxic and plastic-free alternatives.

COUNTRIES

Nigeria, Indonesia, Bolivia & Kyrgyzstan

PARTNERS

Secretariat Basel Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions, Balifokus Indonesia, WEP Nigeria, BIOM Kyrgyzstan, Red Climatica Bolivia, PAN Europe, HEAL, EEB, Break Free from Plastics, WEN

DONORS

UNEP, European Commission, Europaid



COOPERATIVES – ENERGY SOLIDARITY

WHAT WE DO!

Millions of women are responsible for the energy in their homes. Many use firewood, or waste, to make fires to cook, wash, clean and provide heat. In rural areas, getting connected to a centralized grid, can take decades whereas immediate solutions exist including solar and biogas. We test solutions that are affordable, and can be locally constructed, maintained and managed. We support sharing of energy solutions between communities in different countries: Armenia, Georgia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uganda and Ukraine. We work with climate experts to measure and verify how these solutions reduce Green House Gas emissions. We provide monitoring for

community-based energy solutions and support their integration into national energy programs. We advocate with governments to have gender dimensions in energy plans considered. We provide training and financial support to create energy service providers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

We built more than 800 solar heating systems in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region, where winters are cold, and rural households normally use firewood. We have supported 30 grassroots community organisations in 4 countries with small grants in developing sustainable energy solutions. We have supported the creation of 5 sustainable energy cooperatives in Georgia, to scale up the rural energy supply for regions where there is no natural gas grid. We have tested several different

systems for domestic biogas in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda.

With all-year round warm temperatures, biogas turns out to be the most affordable source of energy for cooking in Uganda. It is not only cheaper than charcoal and firewood, it also protects the forests and does not produce indoor air pollution. We tested 10 biogas systems for low-income single-woman households in Uganda and are in the process of upscaling this. We support a micro-credit support system, which allows low-income households to invest in both the biogas system and a cow to produce part of the fuel for the biogas tank. We cooperate with other civil society

organisations, scientists and UN agencies to share best practices and promote a gender-responsive energy and climate programme.

COUNTRIES

Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine & Uganda

PARTNERS

ARUWE, GREENS Movement, RCDA, Rescoop, CoopsEurope

DONORS

Urbis Foundation, European Commission/Europaid, German Cooperation, Erbacher Stiftung, Bayerische Staatsregierung

HIGHLIGHT OF 2018



A TV report by Deutsche Welle & Maria Lesser on our project in Georgia shows how replacing wood-burning stoves and other polluting heat sources with solar water heaters can improve the quality of life of rural women.

Nana Gurabanidze lives in Ivandidi, a village in rural Georgia. Like many women there, she has her hands full each day

looking after her grandkids, making cheese to sell at market and keeping an eye on the family farm animals. To keep her household going, she needs warm water – and a lot of it. Usually she would rely on a small traditional wood-burning stove in her living room for the task, as is common in the countryside.

The wood is expensive and comes from surrounding forest. Trees are being felled faster than they're being replaced across the country. But Georgia gets a lot of sun year-round. So Nana and her family turned to a local energy cooperative for help installing a solar-powered water heater. It's one of 850 that have already been installed across the country.

Project aim: Replacing wood-burning stoves and other polluting heat sources with solar water heaters to improve air quality and prevent deforestation.

Project partners: WECF, a network of women's, environmental and health organizations, and, locally, Friends of the Earth Georgia.

Project implementation: So far 850 solar water heaters have been installed in Georgia, saving an estimated 850 tons of CO2 a year and 3 cubic meters of wood per solar-water heater yearly.



GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AWARD

WHAT WE DO!

WECF and the Women & Gender Constituency organise an annual award ceremony at the global climate negotiations, because we are convinced that the transition of low-carbon economies needs to be inclusive. With the Award we identify the most outstanding women led grassroots climate actions that promote gender-equality. Jointly with civil society and UN climate technology networks, we provide mentoring and support to bring these good practices to scale. We document, monitor and publish our gender and climate analysis. We work in coalitions as part of the Women and Climate Constituency and jointly advocate for social-inclusive and gender-just climate policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Even though gender criteria are formally more and more applied, truly transformative gender-responsive climate actions are rare. Therefore, we have been organising since 2015 a high-level award celebration during the annual climate negotiations, where the three best projects out of a 150 receive 2000 euro in prize money each. We also facilitate meetings between the award winners and experts from climate finance and technology assessment agencies. We formulate recommendations from the winning projects and apply these to proposals for gender action plans on climate.

WHY IS THIS AWARD NECESSARY?

Currently, most of the climate funding is going into reducing emissions in large-scale energy, industrial and transportation projects. Much less support is available to



those who are already paying a high price from climate change and who need funds to rebuild, replant, and survive.

Rural communities mostly do not have access climate funds, due to high minimal thresholds. Often rural communities not only have to pay for the use of low-carbon services as in cities, but even for the capital costs of infrastructure and grids. Indigenous and traditional technologies, which often have strong climate reliance aspects, are easily excluded from the application criteria.

WINNERS

2018: CFLEDD, Congo DRC (transformational solutions)

2018: Green living Movement, Zambia (non-technical solutions)

2018: Naireeta Services, India (technical solutions)

DONORS:

CTCN, Fondation Fondation RAJA, AFD, German Cooperation, GIZ, Europaid



SCP – GREEN VILLAGES CENTRAL ASIA

WHAT WE DO!

Central Asia is rich in nature and culture. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan we work with women farmer organisations, water providers, renewable energy cooperatives and eco-tourism operators. The rural women's organisations work on women's economic empowerment and rights. The water providers set up water associations that plan and implement drinking water in villages where previously polluted surface water was used. The 'home comfort' program created resource centres, which are experts in renewable energy. Households and small companies get advice to install solar water heaters, and to save energy through insulation. Previously we also worked on programs in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and we continue to network and exchange with local women and

environmental partners. We cooperate with local authorities, financial micro-credit cooperatives and United Nations agencies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

With our network of rural women organisations in Kyrgyzstan we created women's rural cooperatives, advocating for women's rights and gender equality. As part of our Women2030 program our partners ALGA and YEC interviewed over 1000 women and men in local communities to ask them about their situation, and priorities for sustainable development. The results were used to prepare alternative civil society reports for the Agenda2030 policy process at the United Nations. In Kyrgyzstan, the interviews showed that women's focus is to ensure legality for both marriages and divorces, as informal unions are leaving many women without any rights.

Both in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan parents indicated they are worried about the



lack of safe sanitation in rural schools, in particular for girls that lack menstrual hygiene management. In cooperation with the French towns and water agencies, an entire village of almost 300 people installed a drinking water system, with a safe well, treatment, pipes and connections into the homes. Young parents are moving back into the village, now that there is drinking water. Water use has increased with some families even installing washing machines. The resource centre is therefore also helping to treat the wastewater with affordable grey water soil filters. Eco-toilets and solar water heaters are also being promoted by the local partners. Cooperation with micro-credit agencies and UN Environment is aimed at supporting eco-tourism in these villages, which are near the tourist area of the Issik-kul lake.

COUNTRIES:

Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

PARTNERS:

ALGA (Rural Women's Organisation), Kyrgyzstan; KAWS (Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation), Kyrgyzstan; BIOM (Environmental experts), Kyrgyzstan; BT Innovation, Kyrgyzstan; Raiffeisen Micro Credit, Kyrgyzstan; Youth Environment Centre YEC, Tajikistan; Eurasia Foundation Central Asia; GERES Tajikistan; Central Asian Sustainable Tourism Association; UN Environment Central Asian office; ASDP NAU (Tajikistan); Little Earth (Tajikistan)

DONORS:

Agence de l'eau Picardie, AFD, German Cooperation



PROJECT NESTING

WHAT WE DO!

Every day we are exposed to harmful chemicals, through plastics additives, pesticide residues, flame-retardants, heavy metals and other substances. But few consumers are aware of this. Through Project Nesting we publish guides on how to avoid harmful chemicals, which can be found in various consumer products. Through our websites we inform young parents how to create a healthy, non-toxic environment for children. We organise training sessions and workshops for consumers, parents, health care experts, staff or retailers. We bring our best practices to governments, and promote replication at a larger scale, nationally and internationally.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Project Nesting aims to make sure consumers can have informed choices. Humans are particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazardous chemicals in certain stages of their lives, during pregnancy,

childhood, puberty, and later during menopause. Women may develop different diseases than men when exposed to harmful chemicals.

We work with scientists, environmental agencies and networks of civil society experts as stakeholders in the Human Biomonitoring for Europe Program (HBM4EU). We analyse products and present policy recommendations for increasing healthy green living for young parents. Through our 'Nesting' training program we informed 15.000 interested consumers on how to choose healthier green products. The past years we published a series of 10 pocket guides in 10 different languages. In Germany we also developed a Nestbau app for smartphones. We operate websites and social media channels that continuously provide the latest information.

COUNTRIES

Germany, France and The Netherlands

PARTNERS

FIGO, Association of Midwives Germany



WSSP WATER AND SANITATION SAFETY PLANS

WHAT WE DO!

Millions of people in Eastern Europe and the Balkan region do not have access to safe drinking water, hygiene or sanitation. Not at home, at school or at work. As a result, bacteria, worms and chemicals can lead to chronic gastro-intestinal disease among others. Schools often do not have safe drinking water, nor safe toilets, let alone toilets equipped for menstrual hygiene management. Legislation obliges large cities to reduce health risks through a water safety planning methodology encompassing 70 steps. However, small communities especially in rural areas, lack the capacity to do so. We adapted the safety planning methodology to account for smaller communities. This simplified methodology is called the “Water and Sanitation Safety Planning Compendium” (WSSP) and includes 10 practical steps to engage local decision makers as well as young people in mapping the risks and sources of pollution, and to identify affordable solutions. We provide training of local stakeholders, testing of drinking water wells and mapping of sources of pollution. We advocate with governments to provide supporting guidance for small municipalities and provide financial support to implement

the WSSP methodology in Eastern Europe and the Balkan region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In Macedonia special attention was given to the menstrual hygiene management in schools and resulted in a campaign “Let’s eradicate the menstrual poverty in Macedonia “. In Albania schools in the Shkodra region are using the WSSP methodology and have been raising awareness and improving school toilets and menstrual hygiene management. In Romania the national association of Water Operators (Aquademica) has adopted the WSSP methodology to work with small municipalities and to carry out quick risk assessments of the water and sanitation situation and from there plan improvements.

COUNTRIES

Albania, Macedonia & Romania

PARTNERS

Aquademica, Women in Development Shkodra, Journalists for Human Rights

DONORS

Building Partnerships for Environmental Protection, Germany; Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany; European Commission/EuropeAid;



GLOBAL ADVOCACY

GLOBAL ROLE & PROCESSES

We advocate to policymakers, from the local to the global level, to include gender equality and women's perspectives in policies and implementation plans. We do this by supporting our partners' participation in decision-making processes, by leading regional and international gender equality movements, and by monitoring policies.

WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

WHAT WE DO

25 years ago, all United Nations member states agreed that women had an equally important role to play in sustainable development as men. However globally, women represented a minority of decision makers. That is why at the UN "Earth Summit" in 1992, it was decided that women from civil society would be given their own seat in the process, alongside other important but overlooked groups such as youth and indigenous peoples. We have since the beginning helped to facilitate this space, called the 'Women's Major Group' on sustainable development.

OUR FEMINIST DEMANDS

The Women's Major Group is a self-organised network with between 500 and 1000 organisations from over 100 countries, which continuously provides input into the global policy processes on Sustainable Development. We gave substantial input into the monthly negotiations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which were agreed in 2015. We support grassroots women leaders to participate in the policy process and speak in the United Nations halls. We help develop policy interventions and to organise meetings with government delegations. Through our Women2030 program, we support local women organizations in 50 countries to engage in the national implementation of the global commitments for Sustainable Development including the global goal on Gender Equality. We support the bi-annual elections of the facilitators of the Women's Major Group. Currently we have been elected to facilitate the European and Central Asian region.

WOMEN & GENDER CONSTITUENCY

WHAT WE DO

Climate change is a global problem that can only be addressed through international cooperation. The United Nations is the policy arena where all member states, independent of their wealth or size, have an equal say in deciding on necessary climate measures. Public participation of women and feminist organisations from civil society is ensured through the 'Women and Gender Constituency' at the UN. We are an active core member of the Women and Gender Constituency. We contribute to the climate negotiations and we ensure that participation of grassroots women organisations from our networks in the policy meetings.

Towards a gender just energy transition
Climate change is already adversely affecting women and men living in vulnerable regions. Those who are least responsible for the climate crises, are already paying with their lives and

livelihoods for the climate change impact. We bring our grassroots partners to meet with policy makers to advocate for a rights-based transition, where women and indigenous peoples are included in the decision-making. Through our 'gender-just climate solutions' program we identify, promote and mentor best practice projects that are adapting to climate change, and reducing climate emissions. We do this in cooperation with the Women & Gender Constituency and the United Nations network on climate technology transfer and other partners. We work with climate finance experts and governments to ensure women's priorities are equally reflected in national and local climate strategies. Through our Women2030 program we support local civil society organizations to engage with up to 50 countries in local climate actions and policy processes. We support the creation of local renewable energy service providers with women's leadership. We share policy recommendations and best practices through the Women and Gender Constituency networks.

HIGHLIGHT OF 2018



Congratulations Sascha! Named thirty-third most influential sustainability fighter in the Netherlands.

We were greatly honoured to receive the news that our Executive Director Sascha Gabizon had been named the thirty-third (out of 100) most influential persons in the fight for sustainability in the Netherlands by Dutch national newspaper Trouw in 2018.

The newspaper article states: "WECF is not very well known as an organization, says Gabizon.

'That is not our ultimate goal.' Our ultimate goal is to put local women's organizations in the spotlight, enabling them to get more control over environmental policies and climate financing. Gabizon sees herself as a connector. She connects women, but also ensures that money ends up with sustainable projects where it is mostly needed, in Africa, Eastern Europe or even in the Netherlands. 'Yes, we are also active in the Netherlands. So much more needs to be done here to tackle environmental problems and pollution including pesticides and endocrine disrupting chemicals.'"



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the late 1980s world leaders were made aware that the actions of the rich Global North countries were having a very negative impact on the world’s environment, climate and social inequalities. This was an eye-opener for many. The Brundland report “Our Common Future” provided the scientific data and launched the vision that the world needed ‘Sustainable Development’, ensuring a balance between social, environmental and economic interests.

HERSTORY OF WOMEN’S RIGHTS

At the UNCED “Earth Summit Rio 1992” all Heads of State agreed to work together towards sustainable development, even if the US President of that time, Bush senior, warned that the ‘American way of life was not up for criticism’. The Agenda21 for Sustainable Development was agreed in Rio, in which there are over 100 references to women’s priorities, roles and rights, as well as a full chapter dedicated to women and sustainable development. Since then, the ‘Women’s Major Group’ is a recognized space for feminist organisations in this global policy process.

Sustainable development goal 5

At the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, all countries

decided to merge global processes on Environment and Cooperation (Millennium Development Goals) and started negotiations. Through the Women’s Major Group, we gave substantial input into the negotiations, which were taking place almost every month in New York between 2012 and 2015. In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously adopted. The 2030 Agenda requires all countries, also the global North, to change their economic, trade and environmental policies to reduce their negative impacts on human rights, climate and social inclusion.

Even though we did not get all the demands of the feminist organisations added into the 2030 Agenda, we do have much stronger, and human rights-based targets than in the previous global goals. There are now clear links to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. The need to better balance the unequal burden of unpaid care and domestic work is mentioned for the first time in such a global plan. Women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are addressed and many of the goals, targets and indicators have a reference to women’s role and/or gender equality. We use the 2030 Agenda as a framework for all our actions and to hold governments accountable, specifically through our Women2030 program.



ORGANISATION

WECF STAFF 2018

In 2018 we organized Strategy Days for our staff and board members in Munich, which enabled us to work together with the WECF teams from the Netherlands, Germany, France and Georgia. During two intensive days we discussed our priorities and fundraising strategies, strengthened our social media capacity, discussed how to improve our cooperation and adopted a policy on Sexual Harassment and Abuse. In March 2018 the new Director of WECF in The Netherlands started, which ended a period of instability and lack of capacity in the Dutch office.

Our country offices provide expert and funding support for our network activities. WECF International (based in the Netherlands)

- Sascha Gabizon, International Director
- Kirsten Meijer, Director WECF The Netherlands
- Audrey Ledanois, Women2030, Project Coordinator
- Chantal Van den Bossche, Communications Manager
- Margreet Munneke, Accounting Officer
- Sanne Van de Voort, Policy Officer
- Wim van Schie, Controller
- Margriet Mantingh, Expert Water and Food Safety

WECF France

- Charlène Grillet, Communications officer
- Elisabeth Ruffinengo, Policy Officer Health & Environment
- Malika Berkaine, Administration and communication
- Emilie Delbays, Network and education tools manager
- Anne Gomel, Training Manager
- Julie Rambaud, Director

WECF Germany

- Anke Stock, Programmes Coordinator Gender Equality
- Anne Barre, Policy Coordinator Climate
- Annemarie Mohr, Director WECF Germany
- Bistra Mihaylova, Programmes Coordinator Water & Sanitation
- Ganna Kharchenko, Project Officer Sustainable Energy & Climate
- Hanna Gunnarsson, Policy & Communications Officer Gender Equality
- Johanna Hausmann, Programmes Coordinator Chemicals & Health
- Katharina Habersbrunner, Programme Coordinator Sustainable Energy & Climate Solutions
- Anja Ruelemann, Programme Coordinator Make Europe Sustainable for All

WECF Georgia

- Anna Samwel, Country Director
- Ida Bakhturidze, Programme Coordinator & Women's Rights Expert

WECF GOVERNANCE

We have a dual governance system. The formal supervision of the executive directors and their team is done by our Board of Trustees (BOT). Their role is to approve our annual plans, budgets and reports, and supervise our directors' work. Our network partners also have their say in our governance, through our International Advisory Board (IAB). Their role is to give

strategic advice to our BOT and directors. The IAB is also crucial for the development of common funding, advocacy and campaigning strategies. The IAB is elected by our partners, thus ensuring that our network's thematic and geographic diversity is represented throughout our work.

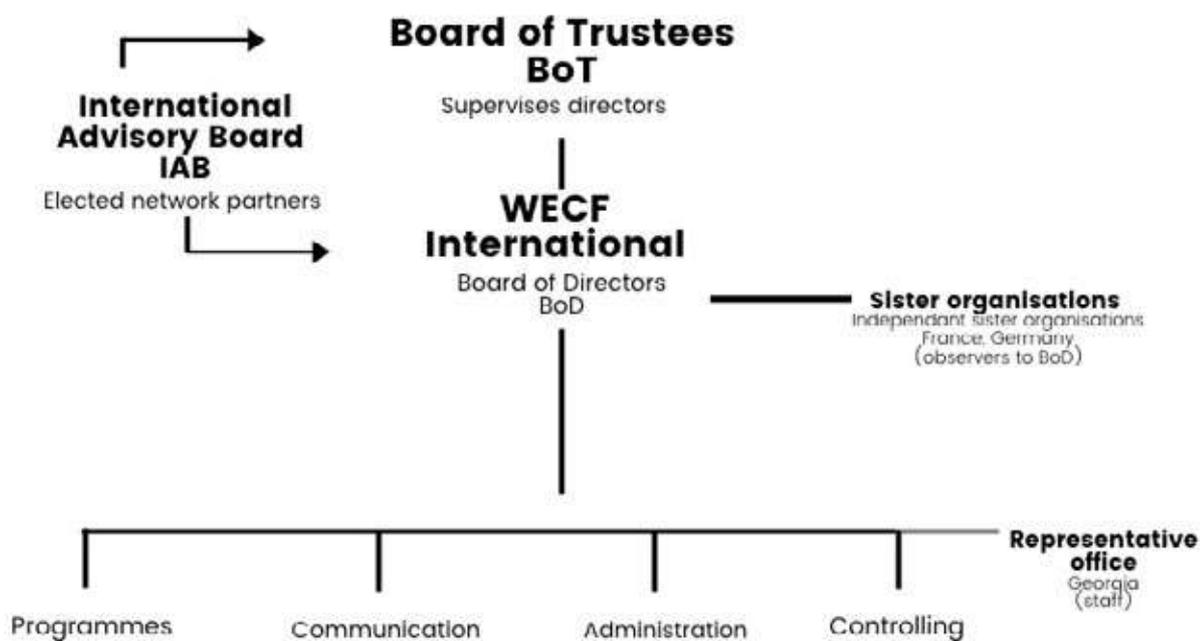
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BoD) of WECF International consists of the International Executive Director (Sascha Gabizon (f)) and the Director of the office in The Netherlands (Kirsten Meijer (f)). The directors of the sister offices are invited as observers to meetings of the Board of Directors. This team of directors forms the executive decision making body of WECF International, and is accountable to the Board of Trustees and International Advisory Board (partners).

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

Our International Board of Trustees consists of three to seven members who bear the final responsibility for our strategic and financial management. Members are appointed on the basis of their expertise and perform their functions on a voluntary basis. They are mandated for four years and can only be re-elected once. The Board meets at least twice a year to approve our yearly accounts, annual reports, and our upcoming year's budget as well as work plan. In addition to their controlling tasks they advise the Executive Director, perform representative functions for our organisation, and if time allows, visits project partners. Since 2015, our board members are:

- Corinne Lepage, President
Associate Lawyer at Huglo Lepage Avocats & Former French Minister of Environment
- Hannah Birkenkötter, Trustee
Research Assistant at Humboldt University of Berlin & Expert International Rights



- Irene Dankelman, Trustee
Researcher & Lecturer at Radboud University Nijmegen | Expert Gender & Climate
- Maria Buitenkamp, Treasurer
Director of Ecostrategy & Organic Blueberry Farmer

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (IAB)

Through our International Advisory Board (IAB), our partners get to have their say in our governance. The members of the IAB are elected from among our partners. They are all non-governmental organisations working with us on gender equality and sustainability through activities such as policy advocacy and project implementation. They subscribe to our vision and mission, as well as our good governance policies. In the nominations for the IAB, we encourage members working on our thematic focus areas and people of diversity; for example, in terms of geographical scope, age and gender. The IAB's role is to give strategic advice to our Board of Trustees and Directors and is crucial for giving new impetus to developing common funding, advocacy and campaigning strategies.

The following members were elected in 2018:

- Andriy Martinyuk, Domestic Solar Energy Coordinator at Ecoclub, Ukraine
- Armine Sargasyan, Programme Dev Director & Head of Youth Dept at Ayrudzy, Armenia
- Betty Namagala, Programmes Officer at Caritas Kasanaensis, Uganda
- Katim Alaoui, Prof. Biodiversity Rabat University & Women's Leadership Mentor, Morocco
- Laura Martin Murillo, Adviser Spanish government & Trade Unions on fair energy transition; expert on occupational health, chemicals, waste & UN processes, Spain
- Madeleine Fogde, Director of SIANI & Senior Expert on Sustainable Sanitation at SEI, Sweden
- Nana Pantsulaia, Executive Director of Women's Fund Georgia, Georgia
- Natasha Dokovska, Programme & Advocacy Director at Journalists for Human Rights, Macedonia
- Priscilla Achakpa, Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme, Nigeria
- Yuyun Ismawati Drwiega, Co-founder & Senior Advisor, BaliFokus/Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia

MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRITY POLICIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

In 2018, following the integrity scandals in the international development sector, we updated our integrity policy with a specific policy to prevent and address sexual exploitation and abuse, which has been approved by the Board of Trustees. Internal and external focal points for SEA have been defined. Staff, volunteers, freelancers and partners are asked to sign to follow the SEA prevention procedures, as part of the code of conduct of the organisation, when signing their contracts.

Risk management and minimization is an important aspect of our governance. Risk assessments are developed yearly and reviewed regularly. Internal processes are regularly reviewed by the management team and external parties; i.e. the external financial auditors as well as the Result Oriented Monitoring external review, which is part of our framework contract of the

European Commission. The ROM review provided a highly positive evaluation of our internal and external management processes. The financial auditors provided a satisfactory report, including recommendations for further improvements (see financial accounts 2018).

Practical tools and checklists are developed and project and country related risks are discussed in staff meetings and, when important risks are identified, discussed with the Board of Trustees. Financial risks are discussed with the Board of Trustees before the approval of the annual budget and evaluated with retrospect when approving the annual financial accounts. The Board of Directors, the financial controller and the treasurer (Board of Trustees) met several times in 2018 to monitor the financial situation of the organisation and the internal administrative processes. The probability and impact of risks, as well as risk mitigation actions were addressed. Under our satisfaction and complaint (grievance) policy, no complaints were registered in 2018.



OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

PARTNERS

WECF International communicates in various ways with multiple stakeholders and target groups. Our main stakeholders are our partners. Their vision and needs are leading for our organisation. They have a voice in our governance through the IAB. In 2018 all partners were asked to nominate new candidates for the IAB and elections took place. The first meeting of the new IAB took place February 2019. Communication with partners is also organised through monthly Women2030 calls and regular contact by mail and face to face during international meetings and trainings.

DONORS

Our other main stakeholders are our donors, in particular the European Commission

as well as the European Environmental Bureau, the lead applicant of our other European Commission funded programme, Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA). Communication varies from face to face meetings (for example at the European Development Days) to regular mail and phone contact.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2018 we also invested in new relations in The Netherland by intensifying our cooperation with civil society organisations, Members of Parliament and Ministries (Health, Infrastructure and Water, Foreign Affairs), by visiting offices, providing information by mail and co-organising advocacy meetings such as our event on the yearly Afrikadag and our event for MPs with Building Change just before SDG Action Day 2018.

CITIZENS

Finally, our main target groups are also citizens. In 2018 we invested in our external communication by developing a new international website (www.wecf.org) and by joining or initiating several (pan European) campaigns. The former website was in urgent need of renewal: it no longer reflected WECF's organisational and thematic structure, and was not responsive, i.e. compatible with mobile phones, nor appealing for visitors to click through. We had already started investigating the needs and behaviour of target groups by developing the website for our Program Women2030 in 2017. This website, www.women2030.org was officially launched with an international campaign on International Women's Day 2018. And next to this our French office also celebrated its 10 years existence with a new website www.wecf-france.org

In 2018 our main international campaigns were #Fighting Inequalities and #HerStoryofChange. In addition we participated actively in joint campaigns such as #FeminstDemand. Through our



social media channels and digital newsletter we reached millions of people worldwide. With our Make Europe Sustainable for All campaign, we reached over a million people alone in The Netherlands with our pesticides research outcomes in the province of Drenthe, thanks also to a live feed from RTV Drenthe from the conference we organized at the Provincial Parliament Hall. In 2019, we will continue to improve the website and work on Dutch, and German version as well, while elaborating the French website further. and we will work on creating more traffic via social media and through better use of search engines..

OTHER COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, we have produced a number of news articles, press releases and publications.

Here is an overview of our most prominent publications in 2018:

- Economic and social empowerment of remote communities in Uganda. Publication on the impact of integrating conservation agriculture, gender, business and accessibility to financial resources on remote communities in rural Uganda
- Comparative study on energy cooperatives in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans. Study made in collaboration with ZEZ (Zelena Energetska Zadruga)
- Report on National Workshop on SDGs in Georgia. On the Interlinkages of Environment & Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- From Marrakesh to Marrakesh: The rise of gender equality in the global climate governance and climate action. WECF's experts publish chapter in Routledge Handbook of Human Rights and Climate Governance
- Women2030 flyer (updated version)

- Gender Just Climate Solutions 2018. WGC publication to highlight the fight of women against climate change and present the winners and nominees of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards
 - Gender Dimensions of Hazardous Chemicals and Waste policies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions WECF, WEP and BaliFokus with support of the BRS Conventions secretariat have launched the advanced copy of the study "Gender Dimensions of Hazardous Chemicals and Waste Policies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions"
 - English summary of WECF publication on pesticides in surface waters in Dutch province Drenthe
 - Gender Assessment of Sustainable Development Goal #5 in Georgia. A gender assessment research was undertaken by the organization We Research within the auspices of the project "Women 2030" funded by the European Union and implemented by WECF International.
 - Gender in Sustainable Development - Collection of Exercises for Training of Trainers. Practical training manual for trainers on gender-responsive exercises
 - Findings of a literature study: Plastics, Gender and the Environment. Lifecycle of plastics and its impacts on women and men from production to (marine) litter
- All publications from 2018 are available on our website www.wecf.org

FINANCIAL SITUATION

We make choices according to our beliefs and in line with the mission of our organisation. We do not accept economic reasons for compromising our children's health, our own health and the environment. We do not participate in actions that are not compatible with our principles and objectives. We do not seek funding from donors, including businesses that are not in line with WECF's objectives and principles. We aim to limit our carbon footprint by promoting a plastic-free and vegetarian office culture. We compensate for our international travel by investing 7% of the ticket price in a fund that supports climate action.

The combination of the programs funded by the European Commission and the newly started programs supported by foundations, member states and the UN ensured a stable financial situation in 2018, allowing to attract additional supporters and contribute further to activities of partner organizations. Stable financial resources for the coming few years remain assured through the Framework Agreement which WECF has signed with the European Commission (EuropeAid) for its Women2030 program in 50 countries. The MESA program also funded by the European Commission (DEAR) also supports WECF's core work on gender-equitable sustainable development activities.

WECF will continue to make the link from local to global and vice versa, sharing local best practices for replication at national and international level. At local level the focus will be on capacity building of local CSOs on gender equality, women's empowerment and sustainable environmental technologies. Finding additional funding for WECF's main program for the 2019 period is looking good, with several foundations committing to contributing to the activities. Additional

funding proposals to work on the 3 thematic areas of WECF have been submitted to further ensure long-term stability in the coming years.

FINANCIAL KEY FIGURES

- Total turnover in 2018: 1.541.696 Euro (2017: 1.770.745).
- Costs spent on objective as a % of total income: total costs 1.428.399 / total income 1.541.696 = 92,6% (2017: 95,6%).
- Expenses related to income generating and fundraising activities are low; these expenses divided by the income from grants of governments: 6.962 / 1.145.516 = 0,6% (2017: also, very close to zero percent).
- The solvency at 31 December 2018: current assets 1.290.009 / current liabilities 1.190.917 = 1,08 (2017: 1,04).
- Liquidity: this can vary highly, depending on the exact moment of receipt of a new tranche of a big project. As per 31 December 2018 the cash position was 1.010.187 versus trade payables of 131.927 = 7,66 (in 2017: 8,97 and in 2016: 9,58).

You can find the full Financial Report 2018 [here](#)

