# WECF ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

### WOMEN ENGAGE FOR A COMMON FUTURE

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FOR A GENDER-JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!



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#### Impressum

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#### **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 wecfewecf.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

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- WECF is an official partner of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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

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## A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

As an NGO network engaged in the field for women and communities, WECF has collected many testimonies of the real impacts of climate change on people, especially on women, in their daily lives. We see unfortunately a role back of women's rights and their access to sexual and reproductive health, combined with a roll back on environmental legislation and a shrinking space for critical civil society.



Funding needed for climate mitigation and adaption, for women's rights and gender-just sustainable development, are instead going into destructive armament and tax-breaks for fossil, nuclear and other damaging economic sectors. WECF's projects in many countries, like Georgia, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Uganda, and Morocco, contribute to gender equality at the same time as creating innovative social enterprises that work on agro-ecology, renewable energy production and climate resilience. One of the most successful and distinguishing aspects of the WECF network has always been the approach of combined advocacy and project work, and the working in partnership, as we are now also doing

through our Women2030 program.

In 2017 a new multi-annual program supporting WECF's work and expertise on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development started. The "Make Europe Sustainable for All" program is organized through the European Environmental Bureau. The program provides funds to WECF to work in the Netherlands, Germany and France on awareness raising and local sub-granted activities.

Our <u>Women2030 program</u>, part of the 4,5-year Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission (Europaid) gathered speed in 2017. WECF and 4 regional partners organisations based in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America work together in engaging women and feminist organisations in sustainable development activities in 50 countries. As part of WECF's thematic focus area "climate-just circular economy", WECF also finalized in 2017 the implementation the multi-year and multi-country programs, "CLEEN – Civil society Local Energy Efficiency Network" project implemented in Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia. This 3- year program resulted in a sectorial regional partnership of civil society organizations (CSOs) on improving energy efficient solutions in 4 countries including sub-granting programs for local organisations.

As Director, I am proud of our ideals, and of the projects that we have developed the past years, 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 chemical pollution and for climatejust 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 to sustainably transform towards sustainable and just societies. We invite you to join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Just, Healthy and Sustainable World for All!

Sascha Gabizon Executive Director WECF International

### **WECF INTERNATIONAL**

The WECF network was created 24 years ago with the idea to build a network of women acting for sustainability and equality, while joining forces with men; mobilising all of society behind a common vision of a sustainable future.



#### WECF's Roots

In 1992 over 1000 women 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. Inspired by this Marie Kranendonk and Irene Dankelman amongst others, decided to create a network to strengthen women's perspectives for sustainable development, specifically from the European region. At the Rio1992 Earth Summit, women activists – WECF founders among them – advocated successfully for the recognition of the Women's Major Group by the UN and for a full chapter on Women and Sustainable Development in the UN "Agenda21".

#### **WECF** Foundation

The WECF network was 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?

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. Different roles and tasks of women and men have caused a continuing gender-divide, while discrimination against women persists in many countries. Women are more often engaged in issues related to health and sustainable livelihoods. This diversity of views and concerns needs to be reflected in policy making, while at the same time paving the way for increased public participation of women.

#### From regional network.....

Historically the majority of WECF members and partners have come from Western and Eastern Europe, the Balkan, Caucasus and Central Asia. 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 disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management, also remained in the new EU member states.

#### To global network....

Over the past 10 years the WECF network has expanded globally, with partners sharing lessons learned from one continent to the next. WECF develops local solutions based on local needs, and at the same time 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.



Photo: map of project partners and activities of the Women2030 program

#### Implementing projects & engaging in policy recommendations

WECF implements projects with its partners by developing and implementing sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, representing women's perspectives. Our joint policy advocacy activities are linked from national, to European, UN and other international policy processes, in particular we advocate and promote the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda2030, the Paris Agreement of the Climate Convention, the Environmental Health processes and protocols and the global Chemicals and Waste Conventions. Through our practical demonstration projects at local level, for example, on solar energy and rural women empowerment we mobilize citizen's support and show how the global Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate should be implemented.

#### WECF and Cooperation

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



#### **Governance and Organisation**

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

#### **Our Vision**

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.

## WECF'S FOCUS AREAS

WECF works with a feminist perspective on three focus areas: Gender Equality & Sustainable Development; Gender- and Climate-Just Climate and Environmental Action A Healthy and Toxic-Free Environment

Women have a vital role to play in sustainable development. Excluding women means missing out on half of the energy of the world's population and limits creative solutions to enable the transformation to socially and gender-just sustainable economic models. It's women's right to be equally included in decision-making. SDG 5 requires all countries to achieve gender equality and take action to end gender-gaps in policy making at national and local level.



Concerning climate change and sustainability and environmental degradation, women are often the first to be negatively impacted, be it economically or health-wise. This is due to their large share in the world's poorest population, dependence on their environment for their income, and traditional gender-roles which often make them responsible for the production and preparation of food, the cleaning and the collection of fuel, and other unpaid reproductive care activities.

WECF implements projects with its partners by developing and implementing sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Energy and Agriculture, while promoting a healthy and toxic-free environment for all, with a transition away from harsh chemicals and plastics. These are based on three key principles: the polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle.



#### **Towards Gender Equality & Sustainable Development**

WECF believes the right to a healthy environment is the birth-right of every person regardless of gender, race, colour, ethnicity or income. This requires that respect is given to the development, implementation, and enforcement

of human rights and environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that continue to face multiple discrimination are the most likely to suffer from environmental degradation, climate change and of lack access to safe and affordable energy, water and sanitation. To achieve this, WECF co-chairs the global alliance of women's and civil society organisations, the "Women's Major Group", advocating for gender-just and sustainable development policies. Since 2012 WECF has had a leading role in the global advocacy at the United Nations to obtain strong and ambitious "Sustainable Development Goals" as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WECF and the Women's Major Group promoted a strong stand-alone goal on "Gender Equality and the Empowerment of all Women and Girls" (SDG-5) as well as integration of gender equality into all other goals of the 2030 agenda. WECF and partners also carried out gender assessments and monitor projects and policies with gender-sensitive indicators. WECF and partners continue to bring the results of these gender assessments into the national implementation plans (NDCs) of the Paris Climate Agreement and the implementation plans for the 2030 Agenda.

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

WECF implements projects with its partners based on sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, which aim to represent

women's perspectives. Our joint policy advocacy activities are linked from national, to European, UN and other international policy processes.

From ecosan toilets to water safety & sanitation planning, advocacy training on climate justice and sustainable development, solar water heaters and energy cooperatives, gender assessments and shadow reporting. Our programmes are designed to create an enabling environment for bottom-up, community-owned solutions with big gender just impacts!



#### **Towards a Healthy and Toxic-Free Environment**

WECF and its members promote non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, based on three principles formulated at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992: the polluter pays, the reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary

principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes the strengthening of chemicals legislation, to protect vulnerable groups. Next to this 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 on this is "Project Nesting".

In addition to advocating the elimination of toxics in consumer products and food, WECF also addresses the environmental hazards of waste and building materials. WECF partners build capacity on sound chemicals and waste management and safer alternatives. In Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Nigeria, Russia and FYR Macedonia, WECF works with local partners on raising awareness about the social and gender-dimensions of hazardous waste and materials such as chrysotile asbestos, as well as pesticides, hormone disrupting chemicals, mercury and e-waste.



#### Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy worldwide

#### The Women's Major Group

To contribute to improving global policies on sustainable development and climate, WECF has been active over the last 20 years as co-facilitator of the "Women's Major Group" (WMG), which was created after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The group 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 WMG 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 is an open-ended group of organisations which work on women's rights, sustainable development and environment themes. There are over 800 serving members of the WMG including organisations and individuals from every region of the world, who work on gender, sustainable development and environmental issues. WECF co-facilitates the WMG jointly with 7 other co-facilitators from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central Asia, Latin America and North America.

#### The Sustainable Development Goals

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

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

WECF with the other partners of the Women's Major Group have had a key role in promoting "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" (SDG5), as well as the interlinking between social, gender, environmental and development targets across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs were formally adopted by Heads of State in September 2015 at the UN General Assembly, with their implementation starting in 2016. In July 2017 WECF participated in UN's central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustianable Developments, the High Level Polical Forum (HLPF) and organised policy roundtables during the High Level Political Forum in New York with policy makers on how to ensure women and their organisations are actively involved in the SDG planning and implementation and presented examples of good practices from Georgia and Kyrgyzstan during the Commission on the Status of Women, earlier that year in March.

Through its Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission, Women2030, WECF ensures the engagement of women's civil society organisations across 50 partner countries in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, while contributing with independent monitoring data from the local level, and with women's CSO recommendations to the policies and programmes at national and regional level.

#### **WECF and Climate**

The results of these assessments and evaluations from Women2030 were brought by WECF and

partners into the national implementation plans of the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2017 WECF was involved in several high-level events and summits, debating with policy-makers and national and international actors involved in climate policy, while encouraging officials to take action regarding climate change and gender justice.

#### "Highlighting the importance of gender equality, women's rights, and their contribution to climate change solutions."

At UNFCCC, WECF advocated the need for equitable climate policies and programs as part of the Women and Gender Constituency. In many countries, due to gender inequalities, women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. However, women also have knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

#### WECF at the COP23

With a series of events, WECF raised awareness before, during, and after the COP 23 Climate Summit, about the impacts of climate change and the co-benefits of mitigation measurements, while encouraging officials to take action regarding climate change and gender justice. WECF and partners brought a delegation of women's civil society organisations to the Climate negotiations in Bonn.

#### The Only Way to Honour the Dead is to Fight Like Hell for the Living!

Gender Day Action at the COP23 saw a tribute to Women's Human Rights and Environmental Defenders (WHRDs) Resist. Since the start of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, hundreds of environmental women's human rights defenders (WHRDs), have faced repression, persecution,



Photo: The winners of the Gender Just Climate Solution Award at the COP23 in Bonn

threats, intimidation, violence, and even murder and assassination. Just this year, the daughter of Berta Cáceres' (a Honduran feminist activist, environmental human rights defender and leader of the indigenous Lenca community who was murdered by the militia in her country last year) survived an assassination attempt. To honor the women human rights and environmental defenders who continue to risk their lives as they work fearlessly to advance women's rights and defend the climate in their communities and countries and to draw attention to their plight, the Women's Gender Constituency (WGC) is making a tribute during the COP23.

#### #MindtheGap

One of the most important outcomes of these negotiations was the finalisation of the Gender Action Plan(GAP). We are, together with our WGC partners, demanding a robust GAP that moves beyond genderwashing. WECF and network partners provided input into the negotiation strands on 'climate technology' and 'climate finance', with the aim of introducing mechanisms and capacity building to ensure women will not be left out. WECF organised side events with the governments of Germany and Georgia to present good policies and practices in this area. WECF also engaged actively with regional and local authorities in the Climate Chance conference and with the Centre for Climate Technology Network (CTCN). WECF also supported women delegates who were negotiating a decision to adopt a "Gender Action Plan" for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

#### **Gender Just Climate Solution Awards**

On 14th November 2017 WECF, along with the Women and Gender Constituency, organised the Gender Just Climate Solution Award at the UN Climate Change Summit in Bonn, Germany. The importance of gender equality, women's rights, and their contribution to climate solutions, was highlighted.

Three laureates were awarded for their women and gender initiatives for climate solution:

- In the category **"technical climate solutions"** the award was given to Better World Cameroon who offers a simple, low cost, sustainable alternative to solid fuel with clean cookstoves made from local materials. Main objectives: improve the livelihood of women by training them on the construction of low-emitting mud cookstoves, reduce air pollution, improve health, and enhance women's participation in community engagement.
- In the category "non-technical climate solutions" the award was given to Navdanya & SOL, an organisation from India and France. The project "Seeds for Hope" improves the climate resilience, food sovereignty and economic autonomy of farming communities (20,000 people) in the valley of Derhadun, in Northern India, relying on women's knowledge and action.
- In the category **"transformational climate solutions"** the award was given to GDA from Laos assessed gender roles in the northern rural uplands of Lao PDR, focusing on Non-Timber Forest Production. The project used a women's empowerment lens to bridge traditional harvesting
- practices with sustainable livelihood initiatives in the target communities. The 4,500 project beneficiaries were women, their families and fellow community members; many of whom belong to the Hmong and Khmu ethnic groups who have been systematically marginalized in Lao PDR

### **WOMEN 2030**

The Women 2030 Programme is being implemented in 50 countries across different regions of the world. On March 18, 2016, a coalition of five global and regional women and gender networks signed a 5-year partnership agreement with the European Commission to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the global Agenda-2030.

The Women 2030 coalition consists of:

- WECF International
- Women Environment Program (WEP)
- Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
- Gender and Water Alliance (GWA)
- Asia Pacific Forum on Women for Law and Development (APWLD)

The Women2030 programme supports activities at international, regional, national, and grassroots levels, with a focus on Gender Equality (#SDG 5); Universal access to Water and Sanitation (#SDG6); Sustainable Energy (#SDG7); Decent Work (#SDG8); Sustainable Production and Consumption (#SDG12); Climate Action (#SDG13); and Conserving Forests and Biodiversity (#SDG15).



#### Women 2030 Goal and aim

The programme's aim is to advance local and regional, equitable, inclusive and environmental sustainable development processes. Our goal is to build the capacity of women's civil society organisations and engage them in the policy processes of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement. To achieve these goals, we currently facilitate the participation in policy development and monitoring, the mobilization of citizens' support, and the sharing of best practices. The women's networks in this coalition have been part of the sustainable development process from the very beginning as part of the <u>Women's Major Group</u> (WMG). It was created by UN Member States in 1992 as a key social constituency for sustainable development.

#### Agenda 2030

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN in September 2015, are a universal road map to achieve the historic pledge to end structural inequalities between countries; rich and poor; women and men by 2030. The SDGs are based on the understanding that the challenges we face, such as poverty, environmental destruction, inequality, over-consumption, corruption and conflict, are all interconnected and cannot be tackled alone. The goals are also universal in nature and will require collaboration and co-operation by all governments and across all sectors if they are to be successful.

#### The three key areas of the programme are:

#### Capacity building:

In 2017 Trainings were delivered to 4 expert organisations in 2 countries (Morocco and Uganda) by WECF. Since the beginning of the project, a total of 133 experts have been trained by WECF and the other co-applicants, instead of the 60 originally planned. Those experts have trained 482 representatives of women and gender equality CSOs, including 206 in Kyrgyzstan, 48 in Macedonia and 20 in Tajikistan, while the initial objective was 200 CSOs. Subgranting activities have also started for WECF, whose partners have provided a subgrant to some of the organisations trained (1 in Tajikistan, 2 in Macedonia, 12 in Uganda) for 1000 each, to develop their own initiative. A total of 44 subgrants were allocated in 2017 by WECF and the co-applicants. The subgrantees have reached 1985 representatives of local community-based organisations (CBOs), trough trainings. A media training toolkit was developed by GFC and published in English, Spanish and Russian; GWA was developing a Training Master Manual (collection of exercises for ToT).



## Strategic cooperation and policy advocacy:

In 2017 WECF developed a GIM tool, which provides guidance to organisations assessing gender issues in the context of the SDGs. The GIM tool is composed of a format for gender assessment in form of a questionnaire, which was developed together with our partner ALGA (Kyrgyzstan) and delivered by them to 740 respondents in rural, peri-urban and urban areas. The same questionnaire has been delivered in Nigeria by WEP, and the results of the assessments have been presented to the other coalition partners during a women2030 coordination

meeting in November 2017. At the end of the year, more gender assessments were under way in Macedonia, Albania and Romania. Policy consultation meetings have been organised by WECF and its partners in Indonesia, Bosnia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia and Albania, with local and national representatives, to discuss the gender aspects of the implementation of the SDGs, and on more specific topics such as access to water and sanitation and menstrual hygiene management. In January 2017, WECF and WEP organised together a stakeholder consultation in Abuja, Nigeria, on the gender dimensions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. 9 shadow reports were drafted by WECF partners (Georgia, Tajikistan) and the other coalition partners, and 1 was integrated into the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the government of Nigeria. The co-applicants being elected as facilitators ("organising partners") of the Women's Major Group, have facilitated the participation of women and gender equality CSOs to several conferences, e.g. HLPF 2017 or the regional forums on sustainable development (WECF has facilitated the participation of about 100 women and gender equality CSOs during the regional CSO Forum of the UNECE region).

#### Media and social outreach:

In 2017 WECF coordinated the social media campaigns during HLPF 2017 (with the campaign Real Wonder Women); COP23 and UNEA3 (with the campaign Women Defend Commons). In



total, WECF, the WMG and the WGC made 39,1 million impressions on twitter. Media ToT trainings were delivered by GFC in June 2017 in Georgia, and by WECF's partner Journalist for Human Rights (JHR) in Macedonia. A Media Training Toolkit was developed and published in English, Russian and Spanish by GFC. WECF has been reaching out to mainstream media, contributing for instance to the publication of the WGC Press Kit for COP23, or on press releases on Women's Human Rights Defenders at HLPF 2017 and UNEA3.

The coalition partners have also developed the women2030 website, which was put online in 2017 (but the official launch was on 8 March 2018 for the International Women's Day). The address of the website is <u>www.women2030.org</u>.

Gender equality and women's rights are crucial pillars needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals www.women2030.org

#### Focus Area 2: Towards a Gender-Just, Climate-Just and Circular Economy

WECF implements projects with its partners by developing sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, bringing women's perspectives on sustainable water and sanitation into policies and programs. Our joint policy advocacy activities are linked from national, to European, UN and other international policy processes.



#### Water & Sanitation

WECF implements affordable, innovative and sustainable drinking water and sanitation systems as demonstration projects. These projects focus on creating access to safe water and sanitation for households and schools in low-income, rural areas. To support them, we have developed an interactive educational and awareness raising program for schools and local communities the "Water & Sanitation Safety Plans" (WSSPs), especially addressing rural communities in Bulgaria, Moldova and Romania, where in the latter, up to 10 million peoplfe do not have access to safe sanitation.

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

#### **Regional policy processes**

It may be hard to imagine, but even in the EU and in the EECCA region, millions of people still live in homes that are not connected to safe drinking-water supply. 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. 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** was 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 has worked with governments in the region monitoring drinking water quality, to share lessons from its water and sanitation demonstration projects, and to develop better policies and government programmes to assure safe water and sanitation for all. In Macedonia (FYROM) WECF partner "Journalists for Human Rights" (JHR), an NGO working in the fields of youth development, environmental protection, gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, has become an important stakeholder in the regional United Nations process of the 'Protocol on Water and Health'.

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

#### **Menstrual Hygiene Management**

In rural areas of the countries where WECF works, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in schools are often very bad. Diseases such as diarrhoea and parasite infections as intestinal worms (STH), hinder children 's physical and intellectual development. Lack of safe menstrual hygiene conditions in schools mean that many teenage girls miss school several days per month. WECF, along with partners worldwide within the Safe Sanitation Alliance, advocate for school sanitation to be a top policy priority.

WECF has developed a teaching module on menstrual hygiene as part of its Compendium on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning and participates in networking and awareness raising activities in the growing "Menstrual Hygiene Management" community.

#### Program: Water and Sanitation Safety Planning in rural areas

There is still a great need for the construction and renovation of local infrastructure in rural areas. Romania joined the European Union in 2007 and has until 2018 to implement the EU regulations relating to the EU Water Framework Directive. Since 2005, (the Former Yugoslav Republic – FYR) Macedonia has been a pre-accession country in the EU. Although most households, both in urban and rural areas, are connected to the central water supply system, many water shortages exist, and the lack of maintenance has led to the poor quality of drinking water. The population in is often unaware of the interconnections between the quality of water, sanitation, hygiene and health.

#### **Compendium on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning**

WECF completely updated and edited in 2017 its "Compendium on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning". for use in Romania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Albania, to specifically raise awareness about environmental protection, water quality and sanitation in rural communities in the Balkan region. This so called WSSP approach encourages local women and men to take action for the improvement of water supply and sanitation systems, with the active participation of students and youth.

A new WSSP project started in the autumn of 2017 in three countries Romania, Albania and Macedonia, where a big gap exists between rural and urban areas in terms of infrastructure and living conditions. In many rural areas, the water supply and sanitation systems are not up to date and need to be improved. By making local communities aware of the fact that they can create action themselves to improve their situation, WECF and partners hope to be able to shift the priorities of local policy and decision makers towards water and sanitation.

A Kick-off meeting was held in Skopje in late November, training civil society organisations in using social media as a visibility tool. Together with local partners within the Women2030 Programme, WECF carried out surveys in a number or countries to amplify local men and women's voices on their perception of environment and gender. In Albania, 200 persons from rural, peri-urban and urban areas were interviewed on their perceived living conditions in terms of water. The interviews showed a great gap between urban and rural areas.

#### Program: Water Solidarity France - Kyrgyzstan

The past three years, through community-based participation, WECF International, WECF France and local civil society partners supported the rehabilitation of water systems in the village of 'An-Oston', Kyrgyzstan. The 'water solidarity' project between France and Kyrgyzstan not only provided access to safe drinking water but also ensured a sustainable and participative water management approach, combined with women's leadership development. A community-based water management committee was put in place with strong involvement of women, who were trained in different technical domains. Access to water has a wide spread effect, it not only improves the health of the villagers but also frees up time for education and other incomegenerating activities.



In 2017 safe water was provided to all households including the new settlement which had had no water supply before. Next to this waste water management became a burning issue, as the households started to install washing machines, flush toilets and other water devices. In order to protect the environment and safeguard public health, individual wastewater systems – septic tank with a biological filter – were build as feasible solutions. The model of a septic tank was built in the village and a group of workers were trained on this task to create a skilled mobile group that will be able to build other septic tanks.

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

In three Balkan countries, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Albania alternative solutions were introduced to protect water resources in rural areas. Drinking water in rural areas of South Eastern Europe is often contaminated, due to open pit latrines used as toilets and due to the use of chemical fertilisers in gardens and the unsafe disposal of waste. In the 3 Balkan countries, one village each was selected for the introduction of alternative solutions, such as the Urine Diverted Dry Toilet (UDDT), a waste-water filter and a demonstration food garden using compost from the ecological toilets. All chosen villages were in environmentally sensitive areas. The results raised awareness among the villagers on how to prevent environmental pollution by using non-chemical alternatives and on the implementation of ecological and affordable sanitation. Ecosan toilets, Greywater filters and Composting helped to reduce the use of chemical fertilisers while at the same time these alternatives protected water sources.

#### **Agriculture and Food**

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

## Program: Empowering Armenian women as actors of change for a healthy rural development, Armenia

From September 2012 WECF has been a proud partner in a rural development project in Armenia, promoting gender equality and empowering women by encouraging active and strong participation of Armenian women and girls in the development of their villages and the rural economy. Last year, a solar dryer for fruits and plants aromatics was acquired through participatory financing. It has been put to good use in 2017 by the women from the villages of Solak, Ditak and Voskevan, despite a difficult and unproductive season in fruits, because of unfavourable weather conditions.



Most important objective of this cooperation was to empower rural women, who wished to start their own micro-enterprises. Trainings were given by WECF's founding partner AWHHE, Armenian Women for Health and

Environment to empower rural women. . The women of Ditak and Solak sell their productions in the rural and Yerevan markets. As those of Voskevan, they prepare boxes of fruit blends that they export to Russia. The productions of the 3 villages are sold in the Solak Producers' Store.

#### Program: Better Lives - Less Rural Migration, Uganda

The aim of this project, funded by the Bavarian State Chancellory was to improve the living conditions of the rural, young population through a more sustainable agriculture, based on organic and conservation agriculture methods, avoiding the use of pesticides. One of the outcomes of this cooperation was the **Uganda organic agriculture training guide**. Women2030 and WECF revised the Organic Agriculture Training Guide for trainers. Organic agriculture relieves the impact of unsustainable farming practices, such as severe erosion and soil degradation. The guide introduces principles and methods of organic and conservation agriculture. It explains the main principles of organic farming and gives concrete advice on how to increase the yields with organic farming methods. In addition, agricultural products

were better marketed and extra activities, like chicken breeding, will be encouraged. The activities are carried out in a region where poverty is particularly high: the Masindi district in the northwest of Uganda.

#### **Climate and Energy**

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time and poses a serious and global threat to sustainable development, poverty elimination and peace in the coming decades. WECF promotes a switch away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards



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

#### **Program CLEEN: Civil Society Local Energy Efficiency Network**

The CLEEN Project, driven by WECF and 3 other local co-applicant organizations and funded by the European Commision, Europaid, implemented successfully from 2015 up until 2017, energy-efficient policies into local communities in 4 eastern European countries which are Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Armenia

The CLEEN network did so by working with more than 30 civil society organizations, relying on and prompting the participation of civil society members. As such, it promoted the development of a regional partnerships between those organizations, and offers training on energy efficiency, energy-saving possibilities, renewable energies and political work such as public participation. Through partnership, the CLEEN network ensured that local requirements were not overlooked and that a good organization and content cooperation was effective. Through trainings CLEEN offered local organisations the tools they needed to initiate and implement their own projects.

#### 70 subgrantees

CLEEN got more than 70 applications across the 4 countries, from which 30 Civil Society Organizations (CSO) were selected by an international committee to participate in the Mentoring Program as well as receive funding. As a result of this, 28 CSOs in the regions improved energy efficiency in the 4 countries through small-scale initiatives to encourage reforms and raise public accountability. In addition to this, CSOs have interacted with more than a dozen local authorities to sign memorandums and establish cooperation for the years to come. Finally, in the year 2015, 10.000 local citizens benefitted from improved public participation and from the public services created by the CSO activities, and more than a million people were reached by the media. Among the CSOs in question is the Georgian Students for Energy Efficiency NGO, which organized a bicycle race promoting the slogan 'I choose energy-efficient vehicles' printed on t-shirts of the CLEEN Project.

#### 40,000 beneficiaries

In 2016, the efforts continued as trainees completed their training exam online, and as sub grantee NGOs started to implement projects for energy efficiency in their communities. For example, in Moldova, Renastera Rurala and NPO Crio Inform worked together in 3 districts, at both district and municipal levels to implement an energy management system, as well as to raise awareness and conduct training. Both organizations successfully implemented energy monitoring and management in more than 20 institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.). To top this off, the Parliamentary Commission for Energy Security and the Ministry of Environmental Protection agreed to support the further implementation and development of the project. As a result of the sub grantees' work in the 4 countries, 4 energy cooperatives have been established, and 4 local authorities have re-allocated funds to support energy efficiency. Moreover, a network of energy managers has been established in both Moldova and Ukraine. Overall, in the course of 2016, the number of beneficiaries increased to 40.000, as a result of the same public participation and public services promoted and implemented by CSOs.

#### **Energy Cooperatives**

Finally, 2017 was CLEEN's best year yet: this was a year filled with agreements with local authorities. Decisions were taken, memorandums were signed, all in favor of supporting energy efficiency whether it was regarding utilizing public funds to finance energy efficiency (EE) measures in buildings, establishing specific departments, or creating working groups on EE,



etc. In a nutshell, concrete actions were taken by local authorities to strengthen their performance in EE including capacity-building activities. At the same time, in Armenia, an energy cooperative was established, enabling civil society to transition towards renewable energy through the construction of wind, solar and bioenergy power stations, as well as through the democratic business model of energy cooperatives.

As this is only a short overview of what CLEEN has achieved so far, as we are just

beginning to witness the progress in the energy fields of Eastern European countries brought on by this network. We can expect much more in the upcoming years and WECF is certainly very happy and proud to see all these positive results, and to be a co-applicant of such a wonderful and purposeful initiative.

www.cleenet.org

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

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

In Mulagi Sub County, 100% of households relied on wood as a source of energy for cooking meals. The supply of fire wood was insufficient; families spend a lot of time walking long distances looking for wood, children lose school time which affects their performance while elderly grandmothers find it difficult to look for fire wood due to their diminishing energy. Lack of a home based source of energy deprives women of the chance to participate in collective group enterprises such as vegetable drying due to the long hours that they spend in search of fire wood. Yet still, the use of fire wood would require the physical presence of women to have time for participating in community, group and other economic activities. The current practice of using firewood which is the main source of energy gives off a lot of smoke which is a health



A biogas toilet build by ARUWE and residents of the Mulagi district

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

With support from the German Erbacher Foundation WECF and ARUWE have supported to create a clean and affordable energy source for local people thus contributed to the protection of forest resource and the reduction of fossil fuels. And not only that: it reduced the risks on diseases associated with drinking unsafe water.



#### Women & Environmental Health

WECF and its members promote non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, based on three principles formulated at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992: the polluter pays, the reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes the strengthening of chemicals legislation, in particular to protect vulnerable groups. Next to this WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions on the products they purchase and use.



#### Scoping study in Nigeria and Indonesia

WECF's program on a healthy and toxic free environment with a focus on women's and children's health, also continued in several countries in 2017. For the UN Secretariat of the Chemicals Conventions (BRS) of UN Environment, WECF carried out a scoping study in Nigeria and Indonesia with partners Women Environment Program (WEP) and Balifokus and engaged a film-maker to accompany the visits and pilot activities on the gender dimensions of hazardous chemicals-use and waste. The film and case studies were presented during the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in December, jointly with the Ministers of Environment and other representatives of the government.

## Ostrava Ministerial Conference on Environment & Health

WECF facilitated the participation of its WECF Youth group in the 6th Ministerial conference on Environment and Health in Ostrava, which led to the Ostrava

declaration. WECF's employees (from the International, Dutch and German office) were there to coordinate ECO Forum's advocacy work and its youth volunteers.

WECF organised a side event on children's health, as greater understanding of life cycle health costs, risks, and costs of inaction are urgently needed in terms of children's exposure to harmful chemicals. Participants from Albania, Romania, Macedonia and the Czech Republic shared experiences children's environmental health risks, discussing various sources of exposure and best practices for moving forward. "Let us not forget that this process started with intention to protect children – they are often the first to show signs if there is a problem with our environment" said our General Director Sascha Gabizon while on the panel during the plenary session.

#### Gender dimensions of plastics, chemicals and waste

In 2017, WECF carried out a research study about the gender-dimensions of the plastic life-cycle, from production, via use, to plastic waste ending up as marine-litter in the oceans. By highlighting

the gender-dimensions the social and health aspects of plastics become evident. At the same time, the research showed that there is a lack of scientific information on both. Most information is based on limited research, such as increased breast cancer rates amongst women working in plastics industry, and the negative impact on reproductive health of women and men from hormone disrupting chemicals contained in plastics. The research was presented at the 3rd United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi in November 2017 and published at the same time.

#### Milestone achievement: Asbestos banned in Ukraine

Ukraine's Ministry of Health banned asbestos in Ukraine in 2017. WECF's and other civil society organisations' work paid off. The use of asbestos has always been a topic dear to WECF. A great achievement has been achieved however, as Ukraine's Ministry of Health banned the use of all types of asbestos. "It is prohibited to manufacture and use asbestos regardless of its type, and asbestos-containing products and materials in technological processes and during construction works, ..." the regulation reads. The ban in Ukraine takes place 5 years after WECF co-organized the first International Expert Conference on Asbestos in Kiev with longtime partner MAMA-86, where for the first time an open debate was held to discuss the issue of chrysotile asbestos in Ukraine. The ban was subject to heavy lobbying against it. Within Ukraine, the ban is opposed by Ukrainian companies working with asbestos (employing 4000 people), while Ukraine's neighbouring countries, Kazakhstan and Russia, produce about 65% of global asbestos, and can expect to see their exports decline due to the ban. Over the period of 2009-2015, Ukraine imported an average of 42,200 tons of asbestos a year.

#### **Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**

The topic of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) remained high on the international and European policy agenda in 2017. On EU level the European Commission although obliged to deliver criteria on EDCs for its pesticides and biocides directives, presented a flawed proposal for criteria. The European Commission proposal for EDCs would in effect exclude even the most notorious hormone disrupting chemicals from legislation. WECF, as an active member of the European "EDC-free Europe" NGO coalition, contributed actively to advocacy in France, Germany and the Netherlands as well in international for a such as SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management).

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 INVOLVEMENT IN POLICY PROCESSES

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

The lessons learned from WECF's local projects need to be taken into national budget, policies and program planning, to ensure that best practices are replicated. Having strong global agreements on gender equality, environment and climate, also help to create support for improvements at national level. WECF's approach of bringing more women into policy making and decision-making processes, is an aim itself and ensures more effective and equitable policies.

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

#### WECF and the UN AGENDA 2030 for Sustainable Development:

WECF has been elected by women's organisations from the broader European region for a



2-year mandate to facilitated the engagement of women's organisations in the UN process of Sustainable Development: the Agenda 2020. WECF's role as 'organising partner' (OP) to the UN to ensure the strong participation of women civil society organisation is a recognized role, and stipulated in the Agenda2030. WECF has 7 co-'OPs' who jointly cover all the regions of the world. The Agenda2030 sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will be implemented in the coming 15 years, and the Women's Major Group is the recognized policy space for the engagement of women civil society organisations.

WECF has a framework partnership agreement (FPA) with the European Commission to support this engagement of Women CSOs.

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

- WECF supports the elected representatives of the "Women Major Group" at the United Nations Environment Program, and cooperates with the UNEP secretariat and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment.
- WECF also contributes actively to the four Chemicals Conventions which fall under UNEP's mandate, the Rotterdam, Basel, Stockholm and Minamata Convention. WECF advocates the implementation of prior informed consent on trade in hazardous substances, including chrysotile asbestos, and cooperates with the BRS secretariat, Women Environmental Program Nigeria and Balifokus Indonesia on policies to address the gender dimensions of Persistent Organic Pollutants, Electronic Waste, Highly Hazardous Pesticides and Mercury. WECF furthermore contributes to the process of "SAICM" (Sound Approach International Chemicals Management) and implements SAICM best practice projects in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia and Serbia.

## WECF and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

WECF is core member of the "Women and Gender Constituency" of UNFCCC and every year coordinates the Award for "Gender Just Climate Solutions" which is awarded to grass roots women's organisations during the Conference of Parties to the Climate Convention. The Award is important for policy advocacy as it is inciting policy makers to integrate the presented best practices into national policies. The winning gender & climate projects are furthermore presented in a public exhibition space where thousands of visitors from civil society and many government delegations can learn about the policy recommendations of the women's groups. Jointly with the "Women and Gender Constituency" WECF continuously provided proposals for a Gender Action Plan for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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

WECF organises, in its role of OP of the Women's Major Group, the participation of civil society in the regional forum on Sustainable Development, which is hosted by UNECE annually to review progress in the region on the Sustainable Development Goals. WECF chairs the working group on Environment and Health in the 'European Eco Forum' which is the focal point for the 'Environment for Europe' policy process. WECF experts contribute to the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters.

#### WECF and WHO World Health Organisation:

WECF represents the environmental NGOs of the Eco Forum in the WHO-Euro ministerial policy process 'Environment & Health', and is a member of the task force on Environment and Health. WECF cooperates on the implementation of the Parma Ministerial Declaration and the preparations of the 6th Ministerial Conference in the Czech Republic in 2017.

WECF has consultative status with ECOSOC (UN economic and social council) and is accredited to UN Environment (UNEP) and to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## **ORGANISATION**

#### WECF Staff 2017

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

#### **WECF** The Netherlands

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director
Maureen Brouwer	Operational Director
Olga Plekhanova	Project Officer Energy/Eastern Europe
Audrey Ledanois	Project Officer Women2030
Chantal Van den Bossche	Communications Manager
Wim van Schie	Financial Controller
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper
Margriet Samwel	Senior Expert Water and Food Safety
Caroline Schoon	Trainee

#### **WECF France**

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

#### **WECF Germany**

Annemarie Mohr Anke Stock Bistra Mihailova Claudia Wendland Sabine Hanisch Johanna Hausmann Katharina Habersbrunner Hanna Gunnarsson

#### **WECF** Georgia

Anna Samwel Ida Bakhturidze WECF Country office Director Germany Coordinator Gender and Rights Project coordinator South Eastern Europe Expert Sustainable Sanitation Office Manager Germany Project Officer Chemicals & Press Coordinator Sustainable Energy Communication and junior Gender Expert

Director Eastern Europe & Caucasus Policy Officer

### WECF GOVERNANCE The Board of Trustees (BOT)





#### **WECF** The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty reduction and Gender

#### **WECF France**

Chemicals of concern - exploring solutions



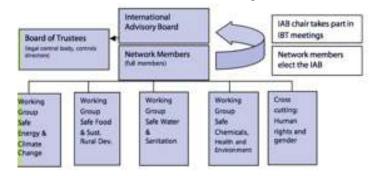
### **WECF Germany**

Regional sustainable development



The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The BoT meets at least twice a year to approve the year accounts and year report, and to approve the upcoming year's budget and work plan. In 2015 a new Board of Trustees was nominated with following members:

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



**Corinne Lepage**, President of WECF's Board of Trustees. Mrs Lepage is a known French politician and environmental lawyer. She founded one of the first law firm specialized in environmental protection at the time of the Amoco Cadiz oil spill. She was the French minister of environment between 1995 and 1997, putting in place the first national sustainable development strategy. She was elected in 2008 in the European Parliament and lead the ENVI Committee. She is a convinced feminist requesting equal representation of women in politics. She has supported WECF as an Advisor to the Board since 2012.

**Irene Dankelman,** well-known Dutch gender and environment expert, who has published a number of key publications on the topics of women and environmental policies, gender equality and climate change. Irene Dankelman teaches at the University of Nijmegen as well as working as gender expert on international assignments in particular in Asia. In December 2015 she was joined the Netherlands delegation to the COP21 Climate Negotiations gender expert. Irene Dankelman is also one of the founders of WECF.

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

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

#### The International Advisory Board (IAB)

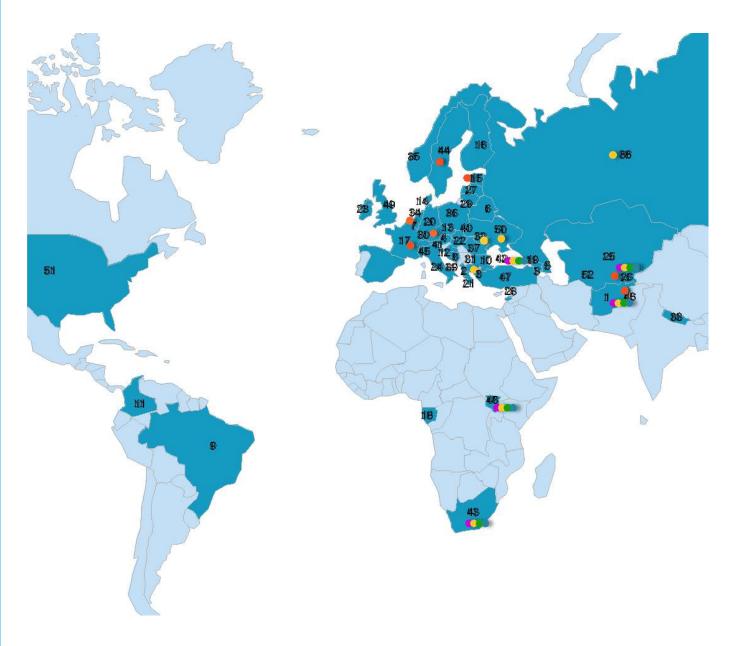
The WECF international Advisory Board represents the WECF members, leads the WECF working groups and helps to develop strategies for the organisation. The IAB is elected by the WECF members.

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

#### **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 (Maureen Brouwer) (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).

### WECF MEMBERS IN 2017



- 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	Afghanistan
2	Albania
	and a second sec
3	Armenia
4	Austria
5	Azerbaijan
6	Belarus
7	Belgium
8	Bosnia
9	Brezil
10	Bulgaria
רר	Colombia
12	Croatia
13	Czech Republic
14	Denmark
15	Estonia
16	Finland
17	France
18	Gabon
19	Georgia
20	Germany
21	Greece
22	Hungary
23	Ireland
24	Italy
25	Kezekhstan
26	Kyrgyzstan

27	Latvia
28	Lebanon
29	Lithuania
30	Luxembourg
31	Macedonia
32	Moldova
33	Nepal
34	Netherlands
35	Norway
36	Poland
37	Romania
38	Russia
39	Serbia
40	Slovakia
41	Slavenië
42	Spain
43	South Africa
44	Sweden
45	Switzerland
46	Tajikistan
47	Turkey
48	Uganda
49	
50	Ukraine
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	Akhaltsikhe Center of Social Development
24	Georgia	Foundation Caucasus Environment , NGO
25	Georgia	Fund of Women Entrepreneurs (FWE)
26	Georgia	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA
27	Georgia	Georgian Association of Toxicologists
28	Georgia	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association
29	Georgia	Greens Movement of Georgia
30	Georgia	PAROS
31	Georgia	Rural Communities Development Agency
32	Georgia	SEMA
33	Germany	VHUE e.V. – Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter
34	Germany	Green City
35	Greece	Clean up Greece
36	Ireland	Irish Doctos Environmental Association (IDEA)
37	Kazakhstan	EcoCenter
- 38	Kazakhstan	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency
39	Kazakhstan	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"
40	Kazakhstan	UGAM
41	Kyrgyzstan	Alga, Rural Women's NGO
42	Kyrgyzstan	BIOM
43	Kyrgyzstan	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water
44	Kyrgyzstan	Habitat for Humanity
45	Kyrgyzstan	Public Foundation Camp Alatoo
46	Kyrgyzstan	Public Ass Medical Alliance
	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 Snezynsk
78	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Kashli
79	Spain	EQUIPS Initiative
80	Sweden	Environmental Protection and Health Network
81	Sweden	Global Action Plan
82	Tajikistan	Youth Ecological Center
83	Tajikistan	ASDP Nau
84	Tajikistan	SAFOi Sughd
85	Tajikistan	Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan
86	Turkey	Bugday
87	Turkey	EKOBA
88	UK	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe
89	UK	Women's Environmental Network – WEN
90	Ukraine	Black Sea Women Club
91	Ukraine	Mama-86 Kiev
92	Ukraine	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society – USHS
93	Ukraine	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"
94	Ukraine	Vozrozhdenie
95	Ukraine	Bukvitsa
96	Ukraine	Global Synergy Foundation
97	Uzbekistan	SABR Trust Center
98	Uzbekistan	Women for Sustainable development ´ in the NGO `Union for defence of the
		Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa
99	Uzbekistan;	
	Karakalpakstan	Mehriban

#### **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

100	Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
101	Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
102	Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
103	Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
104	Brazil	TOXISPHERA – Environmental Health Association
105	Colombia	Alternativas Ecologias
106	France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
107	Gabon	ONG Action for Africa
108	Germany	Unser Land
109	Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
110	Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
111	Macedonia	Eko-svest
112	Moldova	Cutezatorul Public Association
113	Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
114	Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
115	Russia	Environmental Youth Club
116	Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
117	Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
118	Sweden	Centerwomen
119	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
120	Tajikistan	NGO PARASTOR
121	Uganda	SWAGEN, Support Women in Agriculture and Environment
122	Uganda	ARUWE, Action For Rural Women Empowerment
123	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
124	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
125	Ukraine	Women for Environment
126	Uzbekistan	Concord

#### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

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 Bezian
150	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
151	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
152	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsmann
153	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
154	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
155	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
156	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
157	Netherlands	Rosemarie B.J. Merz
158	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
159	Netherlands	Willy Douma
160	Netherlands	Anita Harting
161	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
162	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
163	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
164	Netherlands	Marjon Reiziger
165	Netherlands	Shirley Khoeblal
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

#### **ASSOCIATE PARTNERS**

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 Environmental Network UK