

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



WOMEN ENGAGE FOR A COMMON FUTURE

**BUILDING THE  
ECOFEMINIST MOVEMENT**



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# A WORD FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

2019 marked WECF's 25-year anniversary. We have come a long way since 1994, evolving from a group of dedicated female environmentalists to a professional civil society organisation, known for our expertise on gender equality and sustainable development and on local to global policy advocacy.

The current times clearly and painfully demonstrate the interlinkages. With the combined crises of armed conflicts, COVID-19, the climate, and environmental crisis, we need to stand together now more than ever for women's rights. Because, women in all their diversity, are at the frontlines fighting these multiple crises; women are the majority of health sector workers, they are the majority of those who feed their families whilst 800 million people are sliding into extreme poverty and hunger, and they are increasingly targets of violence, as environmental and women's rights defenders.

At the time of writing, we are still in the middle of the Covid-19 crisis, which is directly linked to the loss of biodiversity, which in its turn is directly linked to our extractivist economic models, be it mining for minerals in our mobile phones or destroying forest to produce fodder for our meat. The cracks in our systems are unfolding before our eyes, with poles melting at faster rates than ever predicted, and wildfires burning all of the world continuously. We are at, or past, the global point of no return. This strengthens our determination to keep pushing for global solidarity and to work with the progressive nations and support multilateralism as the alternative and only response to the growing authoritarian regimes that promote division, fear and a roll-back of our rights.

The aims with which we created WECF more than 25 years ago, are as important now as they were then. The urgency of change is even bigger now than then. Did we manage to make an impact? Did we manage to improve things? Even though I was, at the time, working at the Wuppertal Institute, I joined WECF in its first project, the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women. Just after that, I remember well our first application for funding to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under their MATRA program for Eastern Europe. We applied with a wonderful project, building on the results of the Beijing Women's Conference. A project the ministry in the end gave us funding for and allowed us to work for 3 years with partners in Central Asia, Russia, and Ukraine. But I remember the project coordinator telling us that she really had to do a lot of pushing and advocacy for our project to be funded, because many colleagues in the ministry back then just did not think that supporting women's organisations was going to have any impact: they expected us to be irrelevant. It is always nice to prove that type of sentiment wrong!

Now, 25 years later, there is finally a broad public understanding that if we want to have a chance at saving the planet it can only be done with women co-piloting our global ship. That is the biggest change of mindset. The other change is that there are also more "dark forces" that want to roll back women's rights AND environmental rights. The current US administration has silenced the environmental protection agency AND stopped funding safe abortion services. His imitators in the European parliaments are trying the same. So, the work that was started by Marie Kranendonk and Irene Dankelman, back in 1994, needs to continue, even stronger than before. We need to stand up against conservative groups that are trying to break down the achievements of the feminist and ecological movements. We need to reclaim the concept of eco-feminism and why we can be proud of it. Show the world, why working in partnership with our climate activists and our African and Asian feminist partners have been moving mountains ---despite all the structural barriers which they face. We need to show the important changes we are making in local communities as well as in global policies.

But I am optimistic! When I speak to partners from Uganda, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nigeria, these women - young and old alike - who grew up under discriminatory, and often violent systems, and who have now become respected leaders that have changed laws, mindsets and entire communities, I feel pride because they are showing the world what a real eco-feminist looks like.

This would all not have been possible without the dedication of our incredibly motivated colleagues from all our offices, and our very dedicated members of our Board of Trustees, who give their free time to support us. Thank you for your dedication, energy, and hard work to bring us closer to a more sustainable and gender equal world!

We are pleased to share with you the WECF International Activity Report for 2019, presenting our collective achievements from last year. We hope this year's report will inspire you to join forces with us in changing the future.

Sascha Gabizon  
Executive Director WECF International





# WECF INTERNATIONAL

## 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 AIM & VISION

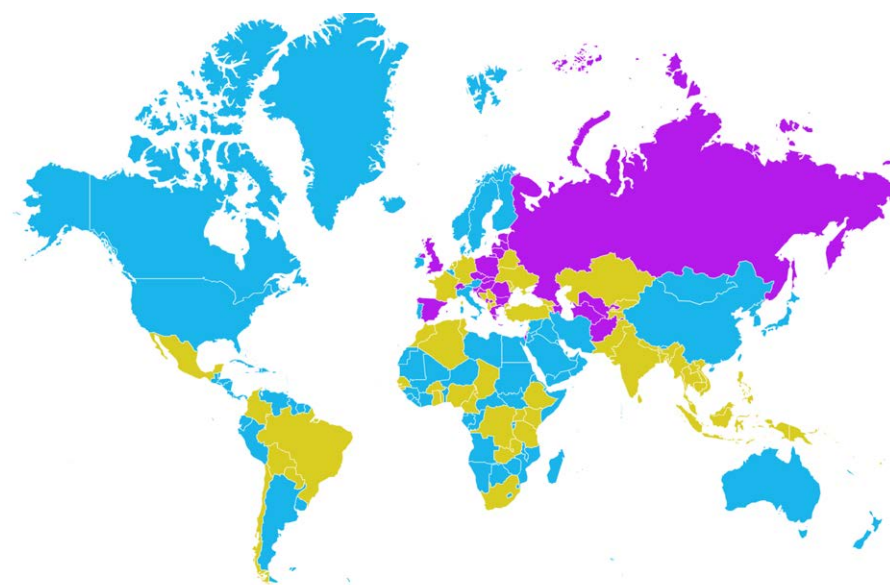
We are an ecofeminist non-profit network dedicated to a gender just and healthy planet for all. Our international network consists of over 150 women’s and civil society organisations implementing projects in 50 countries. We believe that a sustainable future and environment needs holistic solutions reflecting the lives of people on the ground. We believe in the power of women and feminist movements and their leadership role in moving forward the transformation to socially-just and 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 children live in dignity, and share responsibilities for a healthy environment, and a just and sustainable world.

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 NETWORK

For WECF, our partners in the Global South and East are at the starting point of everything we do. Our global network of environmental organisations, feminist activists, community-based organisations, researchers, scientists, who continuously signal threats to sustainable development, are our antennas and radars. Our network of members and strategic partners operates on the principles of solidarity, intersectionality, and gender equality. Our main stakeholders are our partners. Their vision and needs lead our organization. They have a voice in our governance through our International Advisory Board. Together we work towards innovative solutions and sustainable alternatives in low-income rural areas. 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!



*Yellow:  
Women2030 countries  
Purple and yellow:  
WECF project countries*

### ECOFEMINISM

For us ecofeminism means, using an intersectional feminist approach when fighting structural barriers that prevents us from enjoying a healthy environment. Meaning, we take a holistic approach, recognising that we all come with a different baggage of discrimination (or lack thereof) depending on our gender, age, race, sexual identity, education, religion, ability or social economic status. These barriers, among others, include capitalism, extractivism, militarism, gender-based violence and shrinking space for civil society to influence.





# HOW WE WORK

## THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING & 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 CAMPAIGNING & 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. #FeministsWantSystemChange, 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 socio-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 by working on and showing Gender Just Climate and Environmental Solutions. 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. Our network works 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. Technical decisions, such as the choice of energy technology, are often gender blind. Ensuring that women and men's role and priorities are clearly understood is the first step, as they are often invisible. 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**

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. 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 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

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. 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, who do not have 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. For many years we co-facilitated 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 that no longer can be ignored.





## **GENDER JUST CLIMATE 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 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 droughts 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 greenhouse 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.





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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

### **Sustainable energy services with gender just leadership**

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.

The energy sector has a low female participation, and research has shown that this is holding us back in our fight 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

### **Safe and sustainable toilets at home and in schools**

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. 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.

**On the ground, through our solar and biogas pilot projects with partners we show how, with even very little money, sustainable energy can be a solution. With our wastewater projects we show how waste can even be a resource.**

**WOMEN ENGAGE  
FOR A COMMON  
FUTURE  
BUILDING THE  
ECOFEMINIST  
MOVEMENT**

## 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

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 and very



strict legislation. 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

Healthy living is taking responsibility for yourself and your loved ones. Each of our daily choices like the coffee or chocolate 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. 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. When it comes to toxic pollution, feminist solidarity is also extremely important. 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.

### Strict legislation

We need strict legislation regarding hazardous substances, but as long as this is still not the case we can all make some impact by choosing healthy and sustainable options, from buying food to selecting an energy provider. 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. 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. With our Nesting activities we provide young parents with tips and tricks for non-toxic healthy living.

### (PLASTIC FREE AND HEALTHY) MENSTRUATION MATTERS

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. 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.



### **Stop polluting our vaginas!**

If there is one issue at the intersection of health, environment (waste) and women's empowerment\* it is our menstruation. But little attention is still paid to the environmental and health problems associated with our periods. The right to decent menstrual health is fundamental for women\* and girls\*. Your period is an important indicator of your health and well-being. Menstruation is part of life. In addition to the existing taboo on menstruation, there are two other taboos that remain underexposed in the current social debate: the environmental and health aspects. Disposable menstrual products are not only harmful to the environment, as landfill waste and polluter of our sewers, beaches and oceans, but they may also be harmful to our health due to toxic chemicals.

Producers do not have to disclose the ingredients they use. A changing social and cultural attitude towards our periods could have a major impact on both our own health and on our mountains of waste. For example, greater openness could make wearing healthier options such as washable pads so much easier and more accessible.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

In 2019 we were asked by the Dutch government to collaborate in learning events or provide policy input on issues related to gender and land rights, agriculture, biodiversity and gender and water. Our expertise in interweaving environmental justice with women's rights can be seen throughout the stories that follow in this annual report.

Since 2018 our German, French and Dutch offices have been part of the **Make Europe Sustainable for All** project, which has reached 85 million citizens, engaged around 900 policy makers, organized 190 policy events and built capacity on the SDGs for more than 5000 civil society organisations and local groups in 15 countries. The project involved 25 partners in 15 countries advocating for the ambitious implementation of the world's crisis plan – the 17 SDGs – by and in the EU.

During 2019 all three Make Europe Sustainable for All campaigns were active at different moments. Our 'Fight Inequalities' and 'Good Food for All' campaigns concluded, after starting in 2018, while we launched the third and final campaign of the project, **'Wardrobe Change'**: for sustainable consumption and production in 2019.

Together with SDG Watch Europe and other CSOs, we wrote different chapters for **two major SDG shadow reports** that were both presented in the High Level Political Forum in New York and in Brussels: 'Who is paying the bill?' with a chapter on Chemicals Policy and 'Falling Through the Cracks', for which we wrote spotlight reports on SDG10 in The Netherlands, France and Germany.

Throughout the year, we actively engaged in campaigns to promote sustainable development and the SDGs, especially during the European Elections, with **our international Ecofeminist Scorecard**, to put the SDGs at the core of the new Commission's political priorities. It paid off: New European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made every Commissioner responsible for them.

In March, **we attended the 4th United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi**, where we monitored the development of the resolutions on sustainable consumption and production, chemicals and plastics, with the aim to secure provisions related to circular economy.

## REDUCING INEQUALITIES IN ACCESS TO CLEAN AND SAFE WATER IN THE BALKAN REGION

Globally, regional meetings are held ahead of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), held in July every year. These regional forums create a space for dialogue, for different stakeholders to come together and discuss the challenges from our region. The outcome is then presented at the HLPF at the United Nations headquarters. In 2019 we reviewed many of the social justice SDGs on: clean water and sanitation, quality education, reduced inequalities, climate action, and peace, justice, and strong institutions. In cooperation with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), we held a side event on our WSSP project in the Balkan region.

Water safety is still a sensitive topic in the Balkan region. Even more important is to address the gender aspect of water safety. Examples from surveys showed that schools with female directors presented safer and healthier water and sanitation facilities. To include Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) in school curriculums should be one of the priority goals, since menstrual poverty is a reality for many in the region and menstruation is still a massive taboo. There's still a long way to go as infrastructure in schools and working places is still lacking water, soap, and appropriate trash bins.

## FEMINISTS WANT SYSTEM CHANGE

At the regional level, our campaigns are also involving our members and reaching numbers. During the Regional Forum on Development in **Geneva in October 2019**, WECF as an organising partner of the Women's Major Group facilitated the participation of 410 people from 48 countries. The CSOs developed their own demands by region and key priorities which were highlighted in the campaign #FeministsWantSystemChange. A communications plan was developed as well as an art exhibition #Activism for gender equality. The campaign reached 4,1 million people and made 12,5 million impressions. 2019 has been the most impactful campaigning we have done so far collectively with the Women's Major Group at the HLPF! This year we reached 5 million people and made **42 million impressions** together, just on Twitter! Last year we reached 3.7 million people and made 26,6 million impressions. Besides an impressive social media presence, the members of the Women's Major Group were heard loud and clear throughout the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development.





# WECF PROGRAMMES

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

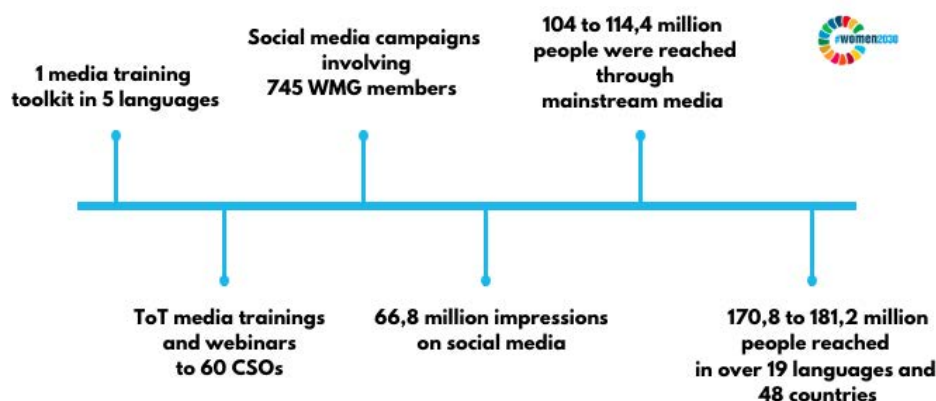
In 2019 WECF and the Women2030 co-applicants followed the track of the programme in its three key areas, and reached further objectives that were set: 61 staff have increased capacity (objective: 60), 123 subgrants have been delivered (objective: 100), 35 shadow reports have been published (objective: 35) and feminists from 139 countries (objective: 92) have attended policy spaces and have strengthened their advocacy presence by meaningfully engaging in regional and global policy processes.

WECF launched a new tool "Young Feminists Toolkit" to engage and support young feminists to participate in international policy making and push for system change throughout the Generation Equality Forum (Beijing+25) process and other policy spaces related to women's rights and gender equality. [The tool is available here](#). Our partners retrieved community-based data and measured gender sensitive indicators of each SDG and assessed changes and progress over time. Our partners in Chad and Serbia 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 the 2 countries; and have been presented at HLPF2019.

Under Women2030, our partners in Chad, Tunisia and Serbia also produced [shadow reports](#) (alternative reports to the [Voluntary National Reports](#) on the SDGs) with the input of Civil Society Organisations. In 2019, Aleksandra Mladenovic from EASD delivered a combined statement on behalf of the Women's Major Group, on Serbia's Voluntary National Review (VNR). The statement [is available here](#). In North Macedonia, our partner JHR has contributed, together with 27 other CSOs, to providing feedback to [the country's VNR](#), which will be presented in July 2020 at HLPF.

In terms of communications and outreach, the campaigns which WECF coordinated with the Women's Major Group have reached out to a total of 42 million impressions in 2018. The Women2030 co-applicants launched the campaign [#HerstoryOfChange](#) during HLPF2019. 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. The [Women2030 website](#) is the platform by which we share all information about the project available, as well sharing the tools that we have developed for our partners. We share all information on the Women2030 programme on its dedicated [website](#), and amplify ours and our partners campaigns on Women2030's [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) pages.

We, alongside the Women2030 coalition and the Women's Major Group, have reached the following results since the beginning of the Women2030 programme, exceeding all objectives that we initially had (results for May 2016–May 2019, as reported to the European Commission):



In 2018, the Women2030 co-applicants underwent a Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Review, mandated by the European Commission, to evaluate the programme and its results, including on the effectiveness of the communication and outreach activities. The programme included field visits in the Netherlands, Paraguay, Nigeria and Thailand. The report, which was presented in January 2019, states that (p.6):

*"The deliverables of the project are very well linked to its outcomes, due to the very sound structure of the project intervention logic; thus, the production and dissemination of the project deliverables are likely to lead to the achievement of its foreseen outcomes. [...] The global context and timing offer an optimal opportunity for the Women2030 project to establish linkages for ensuring impact on the national policies, strategies and plans for achieving progress towards the implementation of the SDGs nationally."*

Some of the local initiatives that we support through small grants are targeted towards marginalised groups. For instance, in Uganda, the organisation Edu Child Foundation who benefited from a subgrant implemented the initiative "Girls With Promise", aiming to champion the end to all forms of discrimination against women and girls in rural communities. They engaged key members of the community, such as local authorities, schools pupils or families, to create dialogue and lead to a proper understanding on gender and its wider impact on the community and sustainable development. One of the activities that they have implemented is the organisation of a march during International Women's Day (8 March 2019) on the theme "Balance for Better. Investing in Women and Girls". The celebration attracted local community members and authorities including local council members, teachers, police, religious leaders, among others. The main reason for holding this celebration in the community of Goli, Nebbi District was to inspire positive actions towards addressing all forms of inequalities against women and girls in the communities and to enable full and active participation of marginalised groups in the community and give them a voice.



### LONG LASTING EFFECTS AT POLICY LEVEL

The project's activity have already led to long-lasting effects at the policy level as it has supported the participation of partners to policy processes and connection with the Women's Major Group and Women and Gender Constituency to joint advocacy work and outreach activities. As a result of these activities, some of our partners have presented their own analysis on the implementation of the SDGs with a gender perspective, thanks to the production of gender assessments and a shadow report of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The layout and spreading of these reports both online and in policy spaces such as HLPF have been coordinated by the coalition partners, and country partners have built their capacity in not only retrieving community-based data, but also on creating infographics and designs that help the visualisation and the analysis of the data collected.

In 2019, the internal mid-term evaluation of the programme was carried out. Recommendations were made and appear on our MTE report on how to improve the effectiveness of the programme such as increasing connections between the Women2030 partners to exchange lessons learnt, or organise additional media trainings, particularly at the regional and local level, to strengthen the knowledge acquired in the first trainings. As a result, budget was shifted to organise more regional media trainings

### 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 IN 2019

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:**

Highlights in the Netherlands were a regional meeting on the correlation between the decrease in meadow birds and the use of pesticides in the province of Gelderland (200 participants), with an outreach of millions in the press, as the study was picked up by representatives and organisations of conventional farmers, who threatened the scientific researchers with a court case (which was never materialised of course). WECF also took part in the MESA GoodFood4All campaign, adding to this our own media campaign based on the results of research into pesticide residues.

Another highlight was our active participation on Afrikadag, the largest event on Africa in The Netherlands with more than 1,500 visitors and with former Labour Minister Hedy d'Ancona as prominent guest during our event. Since we were the only Dutch partner working on the MESA project in The Netherlands, it was vital for our success that we joined forces with other platforms and organizations. By co-organising or speaking at other CSOs' events, or like at the Climate March in Amsterdam on March 10, coordinating the Feminist Block, we were able to increase our visibility and connect more politicians and CSOs to the SDG process. The meetings itself also created content and were a catalyst for online outreach as well as policy advocacy and capacity building.

#### **France**

The implementation of the MESA project enabled WECF France to create new active partnerships with French CSOs, at the national level specifically. We were able to reach different kind of audiences and get recognized as a credible actor at the national level on SDGs. If the SDGs were not very known in France at the start of the project in 2017, by the end of the project, with the submission of a constitutional law proposal to integrate the SDGs in the legislative process with Wecf France being contacted, by the MP who proposed the law, to share her experience. One of the biggest challenges we faced during the project was to make the SDGs concrete and attractive for people and to engage and not only inform them. To answer these challenges, we adopted a "ground" approach towards different target groups by trying to decline the SDGs in their day-to-day life, professional or private. We created surveys to understand the level of knowledge of the public as well as tools that can be used in a "fun" way, like the SDGs Challenge. Using the 17 steps to equality was also very successful in engaging children and then their parents during fair trade. In addition, the adaptation of the SDGs quiz with local problematics made the SDGs more understandable and concrete to citizen.

#### **Germany**

In 2019 WECF Germany successfully engaged more citizens and journalists in activities related to the agenda 2030 as well as in expanding WECF's network with organisations and policy makers. Besides many CSO workshops, some policy dialogues and an event on the agenda 2030 specifically for journalists at a press club in Munich, WECF Germany

organised an SDG festival in September which attracted nearly 700 citizens as well as over 40 local and national sustainability organisations and policy makers. The co-organisation of conferences and trainings helped to find new approaches together with other CSOs involved in the sustainability movement who may not have worked under the framework of the agenda 2030. Furthermore, the CSO alliance 'MIN' (Munich Initiative for Sustainability) which intensively works on the implementation of the agenda 2030 at local level has reached out to more organisations which have become members and had very fruitful meetings internally as well as with representatives of the municipality of Munich. The collaboration between the alliance and the municipality was strengthened and it has become clear that the local level is essential for the implementation of the agenda 2030 since that is the place where promises are turned into actions, where policy makers are close to communities and citizens and where the agenda 2030 can have a big impact.

### **PARTNERS:**

EEB, European Environmental Bureau, SDG Watch Europe

### **DONORS:**

European Commission, Europaid DEAR Program







## PROGRAMMES ON GENDER & CHEMICALS

### WHAT WE DO

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 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. Therefore, we promote safe alternatives that reduce waste and exposure to harmful chemicals, such as reusable menstrual hygiene products.

**In 2019** we worked in Germany, the Netherlands and France, 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 cooperated with socially responsible entrepreneurs to promote non-toxic and plastic-free alternatives. We worked with scientists, environmental agencies, and networks of civil society experts as stakeholders in the Human Biomonitoring for Europe Program (HBM4EU). We analysed products and presented policy recommendations for increasing healthy green living for young parents through our 'Nesting' training program.

### 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. We work in networks of civil society partners on joint policy recommendations and advocacy during the conference of parties of these conventions. 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.

Our Gender, Chemicals and Waste programme already included scoping studies for Nigeria and Indonesia and this year we worked on a study on the situation in 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 were published early 2020. 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.

### THE PLASTIC HEALTH COALITION

The potential negative health effects of plastics are a major cause for concern. Not just for us, but for an increasing number of scientists and organizations as well. The Plastic Soup Foundation therefore initiated the Plastic Health Coalition and asked WECF to become a member of this international coalition. There is strong evidence that our bodies are at stake —that people are exposed to plastics and their additives every day in a variety of ways. We already know that many additives in plastic are considered extremely harmful, but there is no complete understanding of the effects of plastic itself on human health yet. By joining the Plastic Health Coalition, WECF hopes to facilitate and support the process of filling essential knowledge gaps regarding plastics and health. Together we're working on more research, prevention, and solutions, with each organization contributing from its own expertise.

In October 2019 the first Plastic Health Summit was organised in Amsterdam, bringing together scientists, influencers and industry from all over the world and presenting the preliminary results of ground-breaking research by research institute ZonMw and the Freya research run by Amsterdam's Free University.

### PROJECT NESTING

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. In France 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, to make sure consumers can have informed choices.

### **NANORIGO – NANOTECHNOLOGY RISK GOVERNANCE**

Currently many products at the market incorporate nano materials for which a proper risk assessment cannot be made. Contrary to the REACH principle 'no data no market' the presence of nano materials in its content is generally not reported either. Given this situation, it is the demand of many stakeholders (industrial companies as well as consumers and their organisations) to be informed about the possible dangers of nano materials used in their products to be able to perform an independent risk assessment and if deemed necessary to develop a risk management strategy. This is very important considering the European GREEN DEAL for a non-toxic circular economy, and the use of the precautionary principle, as advocated by European and National governmental in case of knowledge gaps and/ or uncertainties. Based on this principle, a diversity of tools needs to be developed to support consumers, employers and employees in assessing uncertain risks of nano materials and nano products and performing risk management.

The EU-project NANORIGO (NANOtechnology Risk Governance), which started in 2019 aims to develop and implement a transparent, transdisciplinary, and science-based Risk Governance Framework (RGF) for nano technology. Our specific role as WECF is to be a critical partner in the consortium, bringing in a gender perspective and putting the precautionary principle first to protect the health of women and workers at the workplace and as consumers.

### **COUNTRIES**

Nigeria, Indonesia, Bolivia & Kyrgyzstan, The Netherlands, Europe, Germany, France and The Netherlands

### **PARTNERS**

Secretariat Basel Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions, Balifokus Indonesia, WEP Nigeria, BIOM Kyrgyzstan, Red Climatica Bolivia, PAN Europe, HEAL, EEB, Break Free from Plastics, Zero Waste Europe, Wen UK, FIGO, Association of Midwives Germany, FREIA, Plastic Health Coalition,

### **DONORS**

UNEP, European Commission, Europaid, Horizon2020





## PROGRAMMES ON 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.

### POLAND

#### Energy Community Power

The project "Power of citizens' energy" is a joint partnership initiative, established between 4 partners and aimed at raising awareness about decentralized sustainable energy solutions as well as on the interlinkages between climate protection, renewable energies

and sustainable development. The role and opportunities of prosumers and energy communities is shown in this project. While best practices and experiences will be shared between experts from different countries, workshops will reach out to local communities, farmers, small entrepreneurs and citizens, in particular women and young people.

### **GEORGIA, MOLDOVA UND RUMANIA**

#### **Increasing energy efficiency through solar energy and insulation of buildings**

Together with Urbis Foundation, international experts and local partners in Georgia, Moldova and Romania, we organise network meetings and exchanges across borders in order to strengthen existing energy solutions and develop new innovative approaches. After local needs assessments are conducted and analysed, the results are the foundation for intensive multi-day training sessions in each country, in which local energy experts participate as future multipliers. The results are disseminated to raise public awareness and are used for political activities. The use of fossil fuels and lack of building insulation in Georgia, Moldova and Romania not only have negative impacts on the environment and the climate in general, but also on health and income of residents. Through effective trainings for craftsmen and administrative staff on both the technical and financial aspects of solar energy and building insulation, we aim to tackle these ecological and socio-economic challenges and push the development of commercial activities for local, affordable and socially just renewable energy solutions.

### **LEBANON**

#### **Empowering women by mastering the installation and operation of solar PV panels**

Along with SEFY Lebanon, WLC Lebanon, GIZ Contra, OTB Consult we launched the “YouRise” Project last year, to empower underprivileged women and youth in deprived areas of Lebanon, while at the same time contributing to Lebanon’s energy transition by providing sustainable education on renewable energy and employment.

The project and trainings resulted in the installation of an on-grid PV system for the solid waste sorting facility of the Qaraoun municipality and business skills training and support for 7 women led rural cooperatives that had 19 women employed. As a result, the trained beneficiarries now master and understand the installation and operation of solar PV panels connected to the grid. YouRise aims to contribute to a significant increase in decentralized renewable energy generation in Lebanon, exchanging municipal experience on practical know-how, technology transfer and qualification concepts on solar energy across national borders. The project focuses on improving prospects for underprivileged youth, refugees and vulnerable host communities in Lebanon through education and integrated provision of services to provide employment opportunities and improve the basic infrastructure of local communities in the solar energy sector. YouRise focuses on women and youth empowerment, aiming at building capacity and improving living conditions of those living in deprived areas. The project in its first phase involved 13 female trainees, who demonstrated strong technical skills and capabilities, being able to



lead installations of different solar PV systems and applications, in a sector where female involvement on average does not exceed 2% of the general workforce. Additionally, the first phase of the project supported 7 female-led enterprises, involving more than 19 women living in rural areas. This initiative supported females in growing a their business and empowered them through revenue generation and product exposure. In Lebanon, we contributed in 2019 to the launch of a mobile solar academy, called YouRise. We also supported the training of technical skills on solar technologies and on entrepreneurship for unemployed youth (minimum 50% women and 40% refugees), to contribute to the Lebanese energy transition and climate policy.



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## MOROCCO

### The first solar village in Morocco, Katim helped to create.

Our partner organisation Fondation MVI started an ambitious solar energy project in 2015 with us; creating the first entirely autonomous solar village in Morocco, which will be linked to our larger programme FAREDEIC for the production and promotion of gender-responsive community based solar solutions in Morocco. Katim Alaoui, our International Advisory Board Member, is a pharmacology professor at the Rabat Faculty of Medicine and the Director of Fondation MVI pour la Recherche et la Sauvegarde de l'Arganier. She is also one of the winners of the 2016 GJCS winner for technical solutions (together with Jamila Idbourrous – director of the UCFA – Union des Coopératives Féminines d'Argan). She won the award for introducing and promoting affordable thermo-solar cooking solutions for rural areas in the south of Morocco. In oct 2017, she, with the Fondation and the support of MASEN, inaugurated the first solar powered village in Morocco, in the region of Essaouira.



## CELEBRATING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The village, which is very isolated and had no electricity, is now equipped with solar street lighting, a solar water pump, a collective thermo-solar oven (reaching temperatures over 250 degrees) and 15 thermo-solar cookers (110–120°). The village also inaugurated in October 2019 an educational and cultural centre for the preservation of ancestral knowledge on the transformation of argan oil (linked to a local women's cooperative), celebrating Moroccan women's unique traditional knowledge and cultural heritage. The solar technologies (cookers and food dryers) that are going to be produced in Morocco, thanks to our FAREDEIC programme, will not only empower local women, by enabling their stronger involvement in Morocco's energy transition and climate policies, but will also create local jobs for rural women in 2 regions of Morocco: Souss Massa and Tanger-Tetouan.

*This project has been nominated in 2020 for the Trophées de l'Adaptation Climatique en Méditerranée, of which we are very proud.*



## UGANDA

### Green community energy

Green decentralized citizen energy is a promising approach to enable access to affordable clean energy in rural areas, to meet increasing energy needs and improve living standards while avoiding harmful substances to people's health and the environment. Citizen projects create new career prospects and enable all citizens to organise and

participate in a reliable and affordable energy and water supply. In order to ensure citizen ownership of technologies and active citizen's engagement we've been working with agricultural cooperatives, particularly their female and young cooperative members and potential members, in Luweero, Kiboga and Kyangwanzi, Uganda. The cooperatives operate newly installed photovoltaic modules for light and phone charges in their jointly run storage hall, a solar pump for watering coffee seedlings of high quality at their nursery and a briquette machine on a renting basis. Women have become ambassadors for spreading awareness on briquettes, water tanks and biogas. We are committed to extend the capacity building activities to further districts in Uganda and enable an exchange between several cooperatives from different districts.

Only 4% of the rural population in Uganda has access to the public (often unstable) electricity grid. There is a high consumption of kerosene for lighting, diesel for power generation and firewood for cooking despite the fact that kerosene and diesel are expensive and collecting firewood is labour-intensive and causes major environmental and health problems. Likewise, water supply is insufficient for both households and public institutions. Those conditions have particularly negative effects on women and girls who are often responsible for collecting water and firewood and are required to walk increasingly long distances which may not only be dangerous but may also prevent them from attending school or paid work. Affordable sustainable energy sources owned and run by the members of cooperatives are a first step to combatting those challenges.

## ETHIOPIA

### Green energy in the hands of women

The main income source in Ethiopia's rural areas is farming. Many farmers have joined cooperatives to share the costs of activities throughout their value chain, such as the processing and transport of agricultural yield. Yet, they face many challenges when it comes to energy and water supply. Working with coffee cooperative alliance OCFCU gave us the opportunity to promote sustainable and decentralised energy technologies with a focus on gender equality, not only by getting more women involved in management and technologies but also by showing the importance of planning projects in a gender-sensitive way. Despite economic growth, improved access to education and health services as well as an increased electrification rate, more than 22 million people still live below the poverty line in Ethiopia, with an even higher number of people without access to affordable sustainable energy and affordable clean water. For example, many rural areas are still excluded from the electrification efforts or are unable to afford to be connected to the grid, leaving them with resources that are environmentally and health hazardous and expensive, such as kerosene for lighting, diesel for electricity generation, and the traditional '3-stone-technology' for cooking with firewood. Women, who are mainly affected by the negative impacts of using traditional technologies, therefore need to be involved in the management of energy and water supplies at household and cooperative level.

### COUNTRIES

Georgia, Ethiopia, Armenia, Moldova, Romania, Morocco, Lebanon, Poland, Ukraine & Uganda

### PARTNERS

ARUWE, GREENS Movement, RCDA, Rescoop, CoopsEurope, ICA Africa, OROMIA, AWACH, Społeczny Instytut Ekologiczny (Poland), Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends (Georgia), Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA) (Georgia), Society Development Centre of Akhaltsikhe (SDCA) (Georgia), Deutsche - Rumänische Stiftung Timișoara (Romania), Federatia Caritas Timișoara (Romania), Caroma Nord (Republik of Moldova), Renașterea Rurală (Republik of Moldova), Ormax (Republik of Moldova), Crio Inform (Republik of Moldova)

### DONORS

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



## EMPOWERMED– EMPOWERING WOMEN TO ACT AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.



# EmpowerMed

### BACKGROUND

In Europe more than 54 million people are affected by energy poverty, a situation in which households have difficulty paying for energy services to cover basic needs like heating, cooling or electricity. Energy poverty negatively affects living conditions, mental and physical health and may lead to social exclusion and to the inability to participate in society. The causes of energy poverty are

often considered to be a combination of high energy prices, low income, energy inefficient homes and appliances, such as heating and cooling systems. However, further socio-economic factors, such as residential status (owner/tenant), the resources and rights to invest in refurbishment, and interdependent social factors, such as gender and age, which also influence the energy and comfort situation in homes, are often ignored in policies and practical measures. Empirical data suggests that women and women-led households are more likely to be adversely affected by the impacts of energy poverty, particularly on their health. Yet, there is very little data on the connection between gender, health and energy poverty in the EU.

### WHAT WE DO

Together with our EmpowerMed partners we contribute to the alleviation of energy poverty and its negative impacts on people's health in the EU. The project focuses specifically on coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, where people face several challenges when it comes to energy poverty, mainly related to scarcely isolated buildings with lacking heating and cooling systems or equipped with highly inefficient appliances. We aim to improve gender-inclusive access to renewable and affordable energy through multiple trainings, the implementation of a set of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy solutions, tailored to empower over 4,200 households with a focus on women. With the help of local advisors women are empowered to exploit their full potential as household managers and active agents in the energy market and the fight against energy poverty. We assess the efficiency and impacts of implemented solutions from a gender perspective and raise awareness on gender implications to achieve recognition that households are not holistic entities but dynamic systems with diverse energy needs and perceptions. We formulate policy recommendations and promote gender just energy policy solutions among key actors for stimulating action against energy poverty at local and EU level.

## COUNTRIES

Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Albania

## PARTNERS

Associació Catalana d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres (Spain)

Universitat Autònoma De Barcelona (Spain)

Fundació Institut De Recerca De L'energia De Catalunya CATALUNYA (Spain)

GERES Europe Mediterranean (France)

SOGESCA s.r.l. (Italy)

Društvo Za Oblikovanje Održivog (Croatia)

Focus Društvo Za Sonaraven Razvoj (Slovenia)

Milieukontakt (Albania)

## DONORS

European Commission



## **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

#### 2019 WINNERS

- Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW), Cameroon (transformational solutions)
- ENDA Colombia, Colombia (non-technical solutions)
- UNIVERS-SEL, Guinee-Bissau (technical solutions)
- Mention of honour: FUNDAECO, Guatemala (transformational 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 IN 2019

Together with WECF and local partner, Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS), the women of An Oston initiated the renovation of the water distribution system in the village, bringing **safe drinking water** into each household, and creating a water users village committee (CDWUU) to ensure sustainable water management for a **safe future**. With the support of the Artois Picardie Water Agency, the Water fund of the community of communes of the Pays de St Omer and several international foundations such as Natracare, WECF and KAWS enabled the connection of more than 300 households with water improving the health situation in An-Oston.

**“Water is not our biggest sorrow anymore”**, shared a villager. Young parents are moving back into the village, now that there is drinking water. Water use has increased, some families even have installed washing machines. Over the past years WECF and KAWS helped 1700 men and women in An-Oston to access safe drinking water, 7 days a week, while at the same time affirming women’s rights and role in the process. We are proud of the achieved results and will continue working with An-Oston inhabitants for a gender-just, sustainable future.

Both in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan parents indicated they are worried about the lack of safe sanitation in rural schools, 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





## 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 2019

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.

### IT'S TIME FOR ACTION. PERIOD ACTION!

Our partner in North Macedonia, “Journalists for Human Rights”, has recently started working on eradicating menstrual poverty and they have set up a fund to tackle this issue. In their country, many cannot afford menstrual products, and several report lack of basic sanitary conditions in schools and work places.

### 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/Europaid;



# GLOBAL 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.

## WOMEN'S MAJOR GROUP

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. Since then, the 'Women's Major Group' is a recognized space for feminist organisations in this global policy process. We have since the beginning helped to facilitate this space 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, and we have been elected to facilitate the European and Central Asian region.

### WOMEN AND GENDER CONSTITUENCY

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.

## WOMEN 2030 – 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, including 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.







# OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

Communication and outreach is one of the three programme areas around which we organise our work. We build the capacity of our staff and member organisations on how to use media, we engage in joint campaigns with advocacy networks to push for policy change, and we showcase and amplify the work and voices of our partners.

We have a dedicated communication staff in each of our offices, as well as regular communication-related staff trainings. We provide media trainings to our members on how to build accessible social media campaigns and effectively advocate for gender equality and women's priorities and positions. We share all of our resources (tools, publications...) and campaigns on our website.

## PARTNERS

For a network like WECF outreach and communications are of great importance. 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 our International Advisory Board. 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 in 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



## COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Women Engage for a Common Future

### CAMPAIGNS

We join forces with fellow feminists to raise awareness and push for change.

We have engaged in more than 11 campaigns at national, regional and global level.



### TOOLS

We develop campaign tools to build the capacity of our member organisations on media. We produce and share sample posts and infographics and encourage members to join our campaigns.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

WECF with the Women2030 coalition and Women's Major Group has reached 66,8 million impression in 25-52 countries on social media.

### PRESS

We publish press releases and write opinion articles and blogs to give our take on high level political gatherings, policy emergencies, ecofeminists demands, environmental crises and human rights infringements.

Together with the Women2030 coalition, we have reached about 115 million people on mainstream media.

### MOBILISATION

WECF is an organising partner of the Women's Major Group (WMG) and core member of the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC). WECF works together with other feminist and environmental organisations to amplify our voices.

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 Netherlands 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.

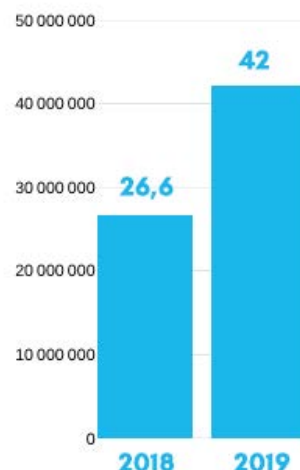
## PUBLIC SUPPORT IN EUROPE AND IN THE NETHERLANDS

WECF is a member of Climate Action Network Europe, the European Environmental Bureau, and CONCORD at the European level. These partnerships are effective in bringing women's rights organisations into a wider movement, but also to offer a gender perspective on environmental policies, at the national, regional and global levels, and to contribute meaningfully to shared advocacy efforts.



In the Netherlands, WECF is an active member of WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform, mainly consisting of the larger Dutch developmental and social NGOs. WECF is also part of the Building Change Coalition, which collaborates to advocate for policy coherence for development. The SDGs are crucial in achieving this, so they envision a fair and ambitious implementation of the SDGs, led by a positive, engaging government. Building Change collaborates with a large coalition of NGOs working in the sustainability and development sectors. WECF has also signed the 'SDG Charter', which built a bottom-up movement of business, civil society and local governments to enhance collaboration for SDG Action.

Number of impressions for #FeministDemand at HLPF 2018 and 2019 (per million).



In 2018, the Women's Major Group reached **3.7 million people** and made **26,6 million impressions** with its hashtag #FeministDemand, which is the main hashtag for our members engaging in HLPF 2018. In 2019, the reach was **42 million** impressions with the same hashtag. In 2019, the Women's Major Group's campaign amplified the Women's Global Strike campaign. The Women's Major Group's members published articles in mainstream media, press releases, and videos.

## CITIZENS

Finally, our main target groups are also citizens. In 2019 we the development of our new international website ([www.wecf.org](http://www.wecf.org)). 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.

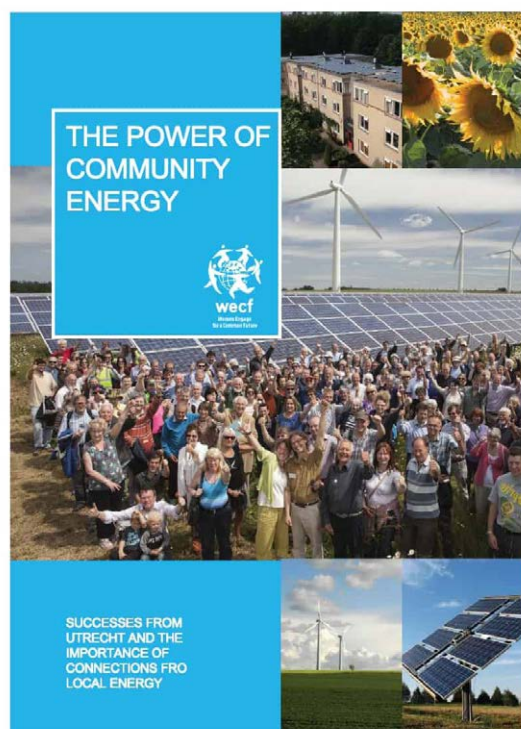
In 2019 our main international campaigns were #WardrobeChange and #FeministsWantSystemChange. In addition, we participated actively in joint campaigns such as #FightingInequalities and #GoodFood4All Through our social media channels and digital newsletter we reached millions of people worldwide, with over a million people alone in The Netherlands with our pesticides research outcomes in the province of Gelderland, thanks also to the critics of a thinktank paid for by the agricultural industry, who doubted the outcomes of our scientifically reviewed and thoroughly checked reports with fake news posts.



Figures: @WECF\_Int

In 2019, we finalized the Dutch, and German website version, while elaborating the French website further. We created more traffic through efficient use of the free version of the design program canva pro account which we got for free as a nonprofit. 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 2019:

**The power of community energy - successes from Utrecht and the importance of connections for local energy-** The growing need to minimize the effects of climate change is felt by people worldwide. Drastic steps must be taken to reduce CO2 emissions. Fossil fuels must be replaced by sustainable, renewable alternatives.

**An investigation into the possible relationship between the decrease in the number of meadow birds and the presence of pesticides on livestock farms in the Province of Gelderland, the Netherlands - High**



concentrations of pesticides in manure and soil on livestock farms may be an important cause of the dramatic decline of many meadow bird species. Even on organic farms, the measured concentrations are higher than expected. The pesticides found enter livestock farms via purchased concentrates and straw.

**Gender just climate solutions (5th edition)** - Relevant gender just climate solutions are already happening around the world. They aim for transformative, inclusive development models and help to rethink growth. With real commitments from governments, e.g. in terms of finance and technology, we can upscale these inclusive solutions to have a significant impact, not only locally but also on the global level.

## **Gender impact assessment and monitoring tool**

- Our gender impact assessment and monitoring tool (GIM tool) has been developed in the framework of the Women2030 programme, with the explicit objective of helping women and gender civil society organisations to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. The 2030 Agenda was built on the foundation of and expands upon the Millennium Development Goals by promoting sustainable development, human rights and gender equality in the economic, social and environmental realms.

**European Environment & Health Process** - Progress report with country examples from Albania, France, Netherlands, Georgia, Macedonia, and Moldova, Serbia. A large part of health problems are linked to environmental pollution, what good examples exist to change this?

All publications from 2019 are available for download on our website [www.wecf.org](http://www.wecf.org).





# ORGANISATION

## WECF STAFF 2019

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 & Food Safety

## WECF FRANCE

Charlène Grillet, Communications officer (till May 2019)  
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

Mathilde Pocard-Marion, Agenda 2030 project Officer (till June 2019)

Maëva Bréau, Agenda 2030 project Officer (from July 2019)

Léah Khayat, project assistant (civic service volunteer, from September 2019)

### **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



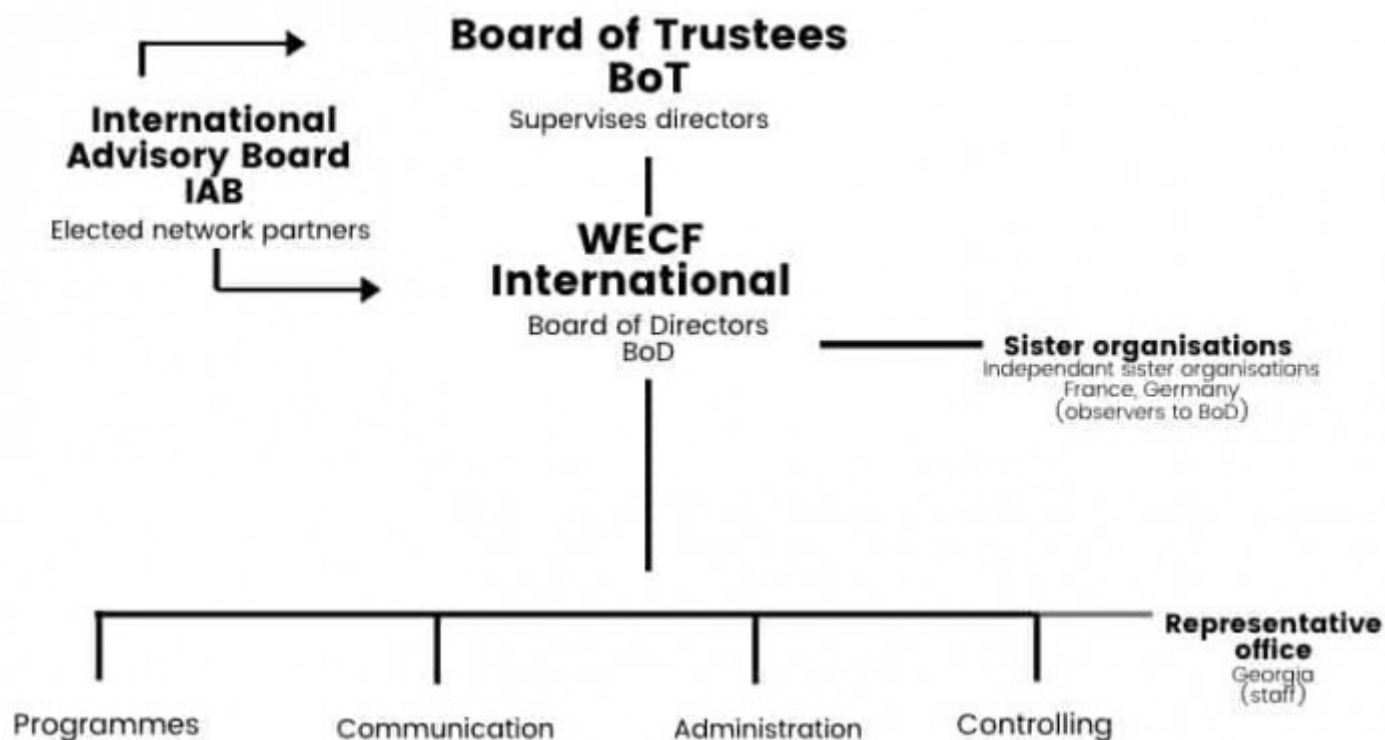


# WECF GOVERNANCE

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.

## 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 based on 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, visit 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 and came together in February 2019 for the first time:

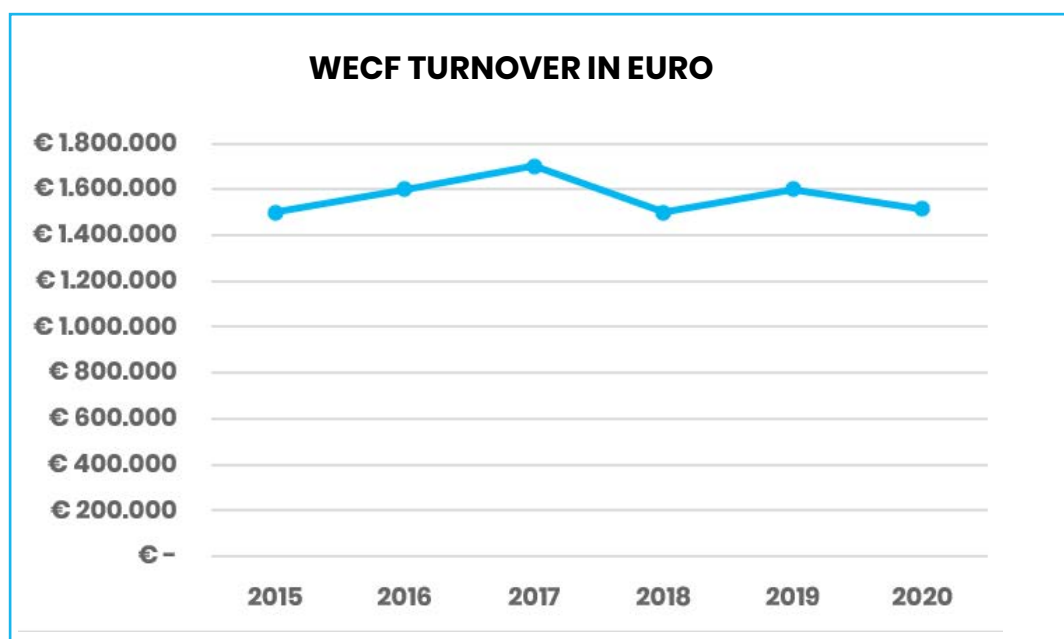
- **Andriy Martinyuk**, Domestic Solar Energy Coordinator at Ecoclub, Ukraine
- **Armine Sargasyan**, Programme Dev Director & Head of Youth Dept at Ayrudzy, Armenia
- **Betty Namagala**, Programmes Officer at Caritas Kasanaensis, Uganda
- **Katim Alaoui**, Prof. Biodiversity Rabat University & Women's 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





# 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 2019, allowing to attract additional supporters and contribute further to activities of partner organizations. Stable financial resources remain assured through the Framework Agreement which WECF signed with the European Commission (EuropeAid) for its Women2030 program in 50 countries. Next to this, 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. To be able to continue our work, we focused on finding long term core funding that could serve as a follow up to the Women2030 funding. We strengthened our contacts and developed new strategic partnerships to apply for funding for civil society in 2020 through the Power of Voices and Power of Women frameworks, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We succeeded to become a partner in 2 alliances with whom we submitted two strong concept notes. We also continued to develop activities in the context of our Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission.

Finding additional funding for WECF's main program for the 2020 period and onward, is looking good, with several foundations committing to contributing to the activities. Additional funding proposals to work on the 3 thematic areas of WECF further ensure long-term stability in the coming years.

You can find the full Financial Report 2019 [here](https://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/6234-WECF-Jaarverslag-2018-was-getekend.pdf). <https://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/6234-WECF-Jaarverslag-2018-was-getekend.pdf>

	<b>Total turnover</b>	<b>Costs spent on objective as a % of total income.</b> total costs 1.572.159 / total income 1.645.051	<b>Expenses related to income generating and fundraising</b> activities are again very low in 2019; these expenses divided by the income from grants of governments: 4.226 / 1.360.822	<b>The solvency at 31 December 2019:</b> current assets 1.054.036 / current liabilities	<b>Liquidity:</b> this can vary highly, depending on the exact moment of receipt of a new tranche of a big project. As per 31 December 2019 the cash position was 939.564 versus trade payables of 133.146 =7,0
<b>2019</b>	<b>€1.645.051</b>	<b>95,6%</b>	<b>0,3%</b>	<b>1,11</b>	<b>7,06</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>€1.645.051</b>	<b>92,6%</b>	<b>0,6%</b>	<b>1,08</b>	<b>7,66</b>
<b>2017</b>					<b>8,97</b>

## IMPRESSUM

www.wecf.org

Women Engage for a Common Future

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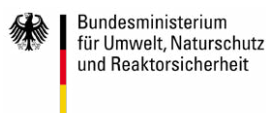
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- WECF is an official partner of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- WECF represents ECO-Forum in the European Environment & Health Committee (EEHC)

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