



Multi-Annual Strategy 2021–2025



Colophon

This multi-annual strategy has been produced in consultation with WECF's network partners that are represented in the International Advisory Board. Two strategic sessions took place with in-depth discussions on external opportunities and threats as well as priorities for the years to come. This multi-annual strategy was adopted by WECF's Board of Trustees on 2nd November 2020. A mid-term strategy meeting with WECF Network member organisations as well as a strategy meeting with staff from all offices took place in 2022. The plan was updated and approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2023.

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Updated February 2023

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Design/layout and illustrations: Aukema Ontwerp

Cover photo: Hanna Gunnarsson / WECF International

Photo credits: Annabelle Avril/WECF International, Fleur Beemster, Reinier van Oorsouw/ Beyond Borders Media, UN Women/Antoine Tardy, IISD – ENB / Kiara Worth, Sophiko Aptsiauri

Acronyms

BPFA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COP	Conference of Parties
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
ODA	Official Development Assistance
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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#women2030



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Our Story

We are a non-profit network, founded in 1994 dedicated to a gender-just and healthy planet for all. We believe that a sustainable future and environment needs holistic solutions reflecting the lives of people on the ground. We believe in feminist solutions based on our partners' visions and needs. That is why we work on transformative gender equality and women's human rights in interconnection with climate justice, sustainable energy & chemicals, less toxic waste, safe water & sanitation for all.

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 has always been to ensure that the voices of women and marginalized groups are heard at the policy table and to combine this 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 250 network members (100) and strategic partners (150) from 70 countries. Since 2016, to reflect our global scope, we are called Women Engage for a Common Future.



Photo: Our team at the Climate COP 22 with strategic partners from Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Togo

Our World Today

As an ecofeminist network we are outraged by the growing inequalities, rise of authoritarian governments and the roll-back of women's rights in many countries around the world. At the same time, we are alarmed about the environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and climate change. We witness that most often it is women¹, in all their diversities, who are in the frontline fighting against these issues, while at the same time they disproportionately face the negative consequences in their daily lives.

On top of these crises, we face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic causing an increase of gender-based violence, human rights violations, income deprivation and exposing more women worldwide to health and economic risks. Meanwhile the pandemic has shown the resilience and power of women, who have been on the frontline of fighting the pandemic in essential occupations. We also learnt that we are able to organize and advocate for change despite the challenges, creating new ways to engage with each other and with policy makers.

We have an inclusive understanding of the term "women", not solely referring to biological sex, but broader, referring to gender identity. Also, we stress the importance of an intersectional approach, recognizing that the interplay of aspects of different social identities create different modes of discrimination and privilege. Therefore, we speak of women, in all their diversity.



Photo: One of our network members, Ernestine Leikeki of Cameroon Gender Environment Watch, speaking with youth journalists at climate COP

Change is possible

More than 25 years ago the women's movements put the gender dimension of sustainable development on the agenda, as it was included in both the Rio Declaration (1992) as well as in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). More recently, the importance of gender equality and leaving no-one behind was recognized in the Agenda 2030, the UN Climate Convention's Paris Agreement and Gender Action Plan as well as the decision taken at the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity to develop a gender- responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The women's movement shows that the voices of women can be heard at the policy and decision- making tables. It also shows that being heard is not enough since we are still not living in a gender-just and sustainable world. Many of the challenges identified in 1992/1995 remain relevant today. Structural barriers in society prevent that women in all their diversities have voice, choice, control and power over their bodies, minds, resources and decisions. Conservative trends make that women are increasingly faced with pressure on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Women's political and democratic participation continues to be hindered by discriminatory institutional, cultural, and social norms.

Our feminist agency

When women are excluded from decision-making, necessary changes of laws, policies and practices cannot be achieved. Strong feminist civil society organisations have been key in advocating for women's and human rights laws, feminist economic and environmental policies and robust mechanisms to hold governments accountable. However, in 2019 less than 1% of gender equality focused ODA funding reached feminist and women's organisations¹.

The roll-back on women's rights and shrinking civic spaces comes at a time when we need to listen to the agency of women and civil society most. We need to ensure that policies and programmes address not only the symptoms of women's oppression and environmental degradation, but also underlying causes such as patriarchy, white supremacy and extractivist, exploitative economic systems.

Opportunities for movement building

Despite the challenging environment we see a lot of opportunities to further build and strengthen the ecofeminist movement. We see more and more women and girls standing up in climate marches and taking the lead in energy cooperatives, we see the growth of an intersectional and international social movement that stands in solidarity with human rights and environmental rights defenders, and we see young generations making the choice for a fossil free future. We also see some political parties taking the lead in promoting feminist and green policies and we see ample opportunities to hold governments accountable to promises made under the Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement.

Progress is needed

Despite international agreements and commitments made by governments, not enough progress is made. Too many countries are not on track to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and pollution and fail to put a halt to deforestation, biodiversity loss and investments in fossil fuels. Too many people, especially in the global South, face loss of livelihoods as a result.

¹<https://www.awid.org/news-and-analysis/only-1-gender-equality-funding-going-womens-organisations-why>

We see that environmental and climate policies have mostly been entirely gender- blind. It is at the international level in particular that efforts have been made the last years to address full participation of women in decision-making, to set targets for gender equality and to ensure gender-responsive planning and budgeting. But these international commitments are not sufficiently implemented at the domestic and local levels, where change is needed the most In countries and communities the need for changing underlying gender-discriminatory values, roles and behaviours is often addressed with reluctance or even opposition. Much more needs to be done at regional, national and local levels to create a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all live in a healthy and sustainable world.



Photo: WECF supports women-lead cooperatives, such as this argan oil coop in Morocco, [see their story here](#)

Our Ecofeminist Approach

By destroying forests, polluting water bodies, groundwater and soils and polluting the air, we are seriously endangering the livelihoods of humans and ecosystems. There is therefore no question that we need resource-efficient, clean solutions for a future that is suitable for future generations. But is that enough?

Today's climate justice movement plays a central role in the fight against the climate crisis. This movement is not just talking about the environment and nature, but is also about going to the heart of the problem, addressing the root causes: exploitation and oppression based on purely market-oriented, capitalist logics, which are entangled with patriarchal structures. The solution: acknowledging intersections between different root causes and the fact that these intersections lead to different modes of discrimination and privilege.



Intersectionality:
The interplay of aspects of different social identities creates different modes of discrimination and privilege, a concept that was originally coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw

The exploitation of nature and the environment operates according to the same mechanisms as the exploitation of social minorities, socially disadvantaged or economically weak people, populations and regions. For the sake of our economic growth, we exploit natural resources at the expense of biodiversity and a healthy, self-regenerating environment. We also use the labour power of children, women and other marginalised groups in economically weak regions at the expense of their health, rights and livelihoods.

Building on the experiences of our partners in the global South and the energy of young feminists, we want to reclaim the word ecofeminism. Ecofeminism, means that we stop exploiting natural – including human – resources and strengthen the rights of all persons while preserving our environment in a sustainable way. We emphasize that ecofeminism should not be understood in an essentialist manner, but as an emancipatory notion that encompasses an intersectional approach to both issues of environmental protection and gender equality.

Our vision

We envision a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all persons live in dignity while collectively sharing the responsibility for a healthy environment, just and sustainable development. People are different, and as such have differentiated needs and access to opportunities. Tackling the structural barriers to equal opportunities and wellbeing set by society is essential to achieve the world we want. The priorities of women are too often neglected, or considered less important, in politics, economics, and society. We promote women's leadership and mobilise people to take action to achieve our shared vision of a just and healthy planet for all.

Our mission

Our mission is to be a catalyst for change to bring the priorities and leadership of women, in all their diversities, into policies and actions that will shape a just and sustainable world; our "Common Future".

Our activities

We have a bridge building function from local to global, from practice to policy, from local women's organisations to global feminist networks and to international policy makers.

- We facilitate strategic cooperation of women and feminist civil society organisations, to jointly promote gender equality, women's rights and sustainable development.
- We strengthen networks of national, international and regional women's and feminist civil society organizations working for a just and sustainable world. Our network activities and advocacy are based on the visions and needs of its members.
- We strengthen capacities and enable sharing of expertise to lead by example, feed the lessons learned and promote best practices into the development of better policies and practices.
- We facilitate the participation of civil society organisations including grassroots organizations in policy making processes to strengthen our demands.
- We strengthen networks of national, regional and international women's right and other civil society organizations with capacity building tools, funding and small grants as well as sharing of expertise, lessons learned and best practices that enables development of better policies and sustainable practices.
- We amplifying the voices of women in all their diversity, feminist and other civil society organizations globally through movement building and joint policy campaigns.

Our Network Members

Together with our ecofeminist network members and strategic partners **we advocate for women's and feminist rights** by facilitating the participation of ecofeminist organisations with capacity strengthening, financial support, and accreditation to international policy meetings for their effective participation in policy processes. We coordinate joint shadow reports and independent monitoring of policies and programs with our members in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. We advocate within global feminist movements such as the Women and Gender Constituency on climate, and the Women's Major Group on environment and sustainable development. We focus our work on our ecofeminist network member-organisations, and work in strategic alliances with partners globally and locally.

Our ecofeminist network members

At the core of our network are ecofeminist civil society organisations, working jointly for gender- and environmental-justice. Our 100+ ecofeminist network members have women's rights and sustainability as objectives, and are mostly women-led organisations, that are based in over 50 countries worldwide. Through our regional focal points in Asia & the Pacific [APWLD](#), Africa ([FEMNET](#), [WEP](#)) and Latin America and the Caribbean [FEIM](#) we amplify (eco)feminist movements globally. Together we facilitate the participation of our network members in policy making processes, such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, to present their priorities and [Gender Just Climate Solutions](#). We support our ecofeminist network members with tools and funding, including through our different small-grant programmes, such as our Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund.

Together we work towards innovative and sustainable solutions. Together, we represent extensive expertise in various sectors, from technological to social. Together we have expertise in all areas of the Sustainable Development Goals, we are able to address the global goals in an integrated manner. 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 and back, resulting in a global policy that is responsive and supportive of the local and vice-versa.

Our strategic network partners

Broad support is needed to advance gender- and environmental justice and to that end we also partner with a larger network of civil society organisations. Together with our strategic network partners we strengthen grassroots organisations, – for example through the [Green Livelihood Alliance](#) -, and advocate for better laws and international agreements through joint policy campaigns. We work with our feminist partners of the [Women and Gender Constituency](#) on Climate Justice and with the [Women's Major Group](#) on advancing the Sustainable Development Goals with Gender Equality and Human Rights at its core. We cooperate closely with more than 150 strategic network partners in over 70 countries.

With our altogether 250 network members and partners from 70 countries we work to eliminate structural barriers to gender equality, human rights and sustainable development, through our strategies of joint capacity strengthening, joint policy advocacy and joint campaigning.



Our Focus

We are inspired and led by our network members to change mindsets and behaviours of those actors that shape tomorrow's world. Based on the assumption that the struggle for a healthy, just and sustainable world is not a single-issue struggle, we see that feminist action is needed in three key areas: sustainable development, climate solutions and toxic free environment. In these three areas we will have three types of intervention strategies: capacity strengthening & intersectional analysis, policy advocacy & inclusive decision-making and movement building & joined transformation.

We believe that gender responsive policies and feminist action is needed in three key thematic areas, that is why we work on transformative gender-equality and ecofeminist approach, promoting Feminist action for Sustainable Development, Climate and Energy action and Toxic Free Environments.



Feminist Sustainable Development

Feminist Climate & Energy Action

Feminist Toxic Free Future

We have three types of intervention strategies in these three areas

Changing the power balance through capacity strengthening

WECF responds to network members' requests for joint implementation projects that either aim at reducing inequalities and unsustainable practices, and/or that aim at showing good practices of women's leadership and environmental sustainability. 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.

Changing the agenda 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.

Changing the narrative with ecofeminist activists

We campaign to increase awareness on the importance of gender-just climate and environmental solutions. We raise awareness in public spaces on the underlying structural barriers, power imbalances, discrimination and violence that women, in all their diversity, face by sharing information, stories and experiences amongst our network partners on our list-serves, social media and via our newsletters. Awareness is an important first step towards increasing public pressure on corporations and politicians. We coordinate joint campaigns for awareness raising in multiple languages around key policy and awareness raising events. We provide communication training tools and sessions on effective campaigning, outreach and social media. We choose to phrase our actions as "feminist" to make clear everybody is able to join our

actions, including also men.

The work in these three key areas will lead to improved or new policies, laws, norms, and practices to strengthen gender equality and women's rights in 50 countries. This will be the result of the work of 100+ women's and feminist organisations and movements that claimed and used political space to demand gender-justice with support of over 150 strategic partners.

Our strategic approach combines our thematic and methodological strengths

Focus areas Strategies	Feminist Sustainable Development	Feminist Climate & Energy Action	Feminist Toxic Free Future
			
Changing Power			
Changing the Agenda			
Changing Mindsets			

Our methodology: amplifying our work through regional network members

Jointly we are stronger!

We work in multi-annual partnership programmes with our regional network members, create synergies, learn from each other's good practices, and joining forces to be stronger together in decision-making policies. The last years we worked together in our Women2030 partnership programme with the EU. In addition to our own network of ecofeminist organisations, Women2030 allowed us to work with our regional network members, and all together we supported 120 women-led groups with small grants, that engaged 2000 local grassroots groups and informed 40.000 people.

We aim to continue our cooperation with our regional partners from Asia, with the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development ([APWLD](#)), a network of 171 women's rights organisations in 30 countries, and also with the African Women's Development and Communication Network [FEMNET](#), with 800 individual members and 70 organisational members in 23 countries in Africa and Women Environmental Programme ([WEP](#)) with offices and network members in another 10 African countries, as well as with Fundacion de Estudios y Investigacion de la Mujer ([FEIM](#)) working with 12 strategic partners in 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our combined expertise covers all areas of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, our combined networks are rooted in more than 70 countries, and our combined policy expertise allows us to impact decision-making for gender-just action from local to global and back.

Our Ambitions 2021-2025

Overall objective

Strengthen capacity of women's and feminist civil society networks and organizations in fighting inequalities and advance gender-equal sustainable development by claiming space in **global and regional policy processes** to influence legislation and improve women's rights in their countries and communities whilst mobilizing women, youth, feminist and gender-diverse activists.

Thematic Focus Area 1: Feminist Sustainable Development

We aim for the following specific results by 2025

1. Changing Power: through our strategy of capacity-strengthening we change power relations, so that women and feminist organisations can take part in policy making process and community activities.

Result: Capacity of women's and feminist civil society organizations strengthened for advocating, monitoring and implementing gender responsive sustainable development, climate and environmental actions

Indicator: *number* of women and feminist networks and *civil society organisations* from focus countries with increased capacity

2025 target:

- As a global feminist network and jointly with our **four regional networks** we have strengthened capacities to support local network member organisations to change agenda, power relations and mindsets to advance women's rights
- A total of **150-350** eco feminist organisations in **50-70** countries strengthen their capacity to facilitate gender assessments, community participatory monitoring and analyses, to implement gender responsive projects, to engage in meaningful policy advocacy, to support female leadership and/or to increase awareness among citizens on gender-just solutions for a sustainable, climate-just, world.
- **100** women and feminist **grassroots** groups have strengthened capacity including through our support to our regional focal points in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

2. Changing the Agenda: through our strategy of policy advocacy we change the policy agendas, thanks to the empowered women and feminist organisations that are engaging with policy process and community activities.

Results: Policies, laws and programs on sustainable development, and environment are more gender-responsiveness and include recommendations from women and feminist organisations

Indicator: *number* of laws, policies and national programmes that have been developed, improved and include recommendations from women and feminist organisations on gender-responsive sustainable development policies and actions

2025 target:

- **10-20 countries** Policies, laws and sustainable development programmes at national and regional level are more gender-responsive by inclusion of recommendations from women and feminist organisations.

3. Changing Narratives: through our strategy of networking and campaigning we change mindsets to break down stereotypes and promote gender-just and sustainable policies and behaviours.

Result: Women, youth, feminist activists are acting as agents of change for gender-just sustainable development, climate and environment action thanks to movement building and campaigning

Indicator to be measured: *number* of women, youth, feminist activists that are taking actions for gender-just and feminist sustainable development and climate-justice as part of local and global campaigns and movement building activities.

2025 target:

- More than **35,000** women, youth and feminist activists have committed to taking (local) actions aimed at increasing awareness and increased support for gender equality, women's rights and feminist sustainable development and climate-justice through movement building and communication campaigns jointly with our regional focal points.

In the next chapters we elaborate on how we will do this in relation to the key themes of the coming 5 years.



Photo: Women's Major Group where feminist organisations join forces of policy advocacy for women human rights and environmental defenders

Feminist Sustainable Development

We work towards the full realisation of human rights, justice and the right to a healthy environment for all, regardless of gender, age, race, sexual identity, education, religion, ability or social economic status.

What we will do:

Standing up for gender equality, women's rights and international solidarity

Women's rights at the centre

We have specific expertise and tools 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. We influence policy processes from local to global, linked to the Beijing Platform for Action, CSW, CEDAW and Agenda 2030. We build capacity on how to ensure we create online spaces that are inclusive and not exclusive. We work with the 2030 Agenda as overarching policy framework, ensuring that gender equality is applied to the implementation of all of the global goals. We put the Sustainable Development Goal number 5, on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, at the centre of our actions and policy advocacy.



Gender Equality

Despite the fact that almost all UN member states have ratified the global Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), discrimination against women, girls and gender non-conforming people is persistent. There have been great advances in anchoring women's equal rights in laws across the world. But underlying barriers continue to exist, everywhere, and advances are increasingly under pressure from shrinking civil society spaces. According to the latest data from CIVICUS, 40% of the world population now lives in "repressed countries". To tackle the challenges facing humanity, we need full participation and equal decision-making rights for all, regardless of gender. We document why women's rights are a prerequisite for sustainable development. In 2020 we celebrated the Beijing+25 (BPfA) and the 5th anniversary of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. However, gender equality

and sustainable development for all ('leaving no one behind') is unlikely to be realised in our generation. Many policies and plans are made without taking gender equality into account. That leads to unforeseen negative impacts. In the period till 2025 we will continue to make gender gaps in society visible, to provide training and training tools on how to ensure gender- dimensions of sustainable development, to support partners working to end discrimination and gender-based violence and to cooperate with women's rights and human rights organisations to advocate for rights-based policies and practices.

International solidarity and the 2030 Agenda

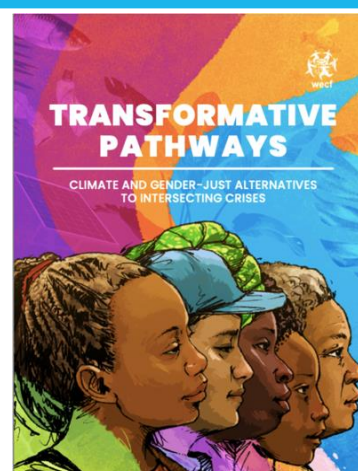
In many cases, women's human rights and environmental defenders are standing up to defend their homes, lands and forests from exploitation by commercial corporations or repression from governments. Especially indigenous peoples are at the forefront of this conflict. Indigenous peoples protect 80% of 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. We analyse how persisting patriarchal and colonial structures continue to be drivers of both climate change and gender inequality, as recognized for the first time by the renowned International Panel on Climate Change in its 2022 report.

We advocate that funding goes towards gender-just solutions, and not to 'false solutions'. With only a few percent of global ODA going to women and feminist organisations we need to move other levers. We understand that the major finance flows are not directed towards gender equality programs, but are flowing towards climate, infrastructure, energy, agriculture and consumer products and that it are these financial flows that needs to become green and gender-just.

We promote feminist solidarity and intersectional feminisms. Feminism is not only about more women in power, but in particular about standing up for our sisters who have least access to decision-making, and in changing the underlying root causes of exploitation. We work in partnership with other women and feminist organisations at national and global level. We co-facilitate the spaces for women and feminist in the United Nations policy processes through actively shaping the Women's Major Group. Together with some thousand partner organisations from these global alliances, we present our policy priorities. In the period till 2025 we will carry out analysis with network members at national and local levels, to show the benefits of integrating gender equality (SDG5) into all areas of the 2030 agenda, including through a flagship report "[Transformative Pathways](#)".

FLAGSHIP REPORT: Transformative pathways analyses the [2030 Agenda](#) and [Paris Agreement](#) on the gender equality impacts. It outlines recommendations for policies needed for transformation to a sustainable present and future.

This publication gathers evidence on concrete alternatives to current development models. Highlighting especially community and context-based alternatives existing on the ground, where gender-just solutions are used to mitigate climate change, with concrete case studies from network partners in Cameroon, Colombia, Senegal and Uganda. These solutions recognise women in all their diversity as vital agents of change.



Our global role

We are strongest when we act as a movement. We raise our voices together with women's rights and gender equality groups worldwide, demanding real solutions based on the needs of the people. Our networks are our force. This is why we have opened up civil society spaces in policy processes, and we will continue to occupy and effectively use these 'seats' at the negotiation tables to advance our ecofeminist demands in the period 2021-2025.

With our regional focal points in Asia & the Pacific ([APWLD](#)), Africa ([FEMNET](#), [WEP](#)) and Latin America and the Caribbean ([FEIM](#)) we amplify (eco)feminist movements globally. Together we facilitate the participation of our network members in policy making processes, such as the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Women's Major Group

We have since the beginning helped to facilitate the space for feminist organisations in the UN sustainable development process, called the 'Women's Major Group' on sustainable development. 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 supported 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. Furthermore, we support the bi-annual elections of the facilitators of the [Women's Major Group](#).



Photo: Members of the "Women's Major Group" on Sustainable Development participating in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN

Civil Society Advisory Group Generation Equality Forum

In 1995, WECF facilitated the participation of a delegation of women to attend the civil society forum of the fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing, one of the largest meetings to promote women's rights ever held. The outcome, the Beijing Platform for Action, remains one of the strongest commitments to women's human rights within the scope of a sustainable and peaceful world. The last couple of years we have been appalled by the roll-back of women's rights in many countries in the world, and attacks against women's human rights and environmental defenders. To reverse and accelerate the Beijing progress for women's rights and gender equality, the 5-year 'Generation Equality' campaign was launched in 2020. We will continue to work the coming years to facilitate and strengthen the participation of in particular young feminists in the Generation Equality process (see [Beijing+25](#)).

Through a process of self-organisation and independent selection, the Civil Society Advisory Group to the Generation was created in which WECF is one of the 21 advisors to UN Women and UN Member States. We continue to be involved with grassroots feminist movements in eastern Europe, central Asia, western Balkans in collaboration with UN women. The process started in 2020 and in the coming years we will support to facilitate and strengthen the participation of in particular young feminists in the Generation Equality process. The Generation Equality Forums were civil society-centred, global multi-stakeholder gatherings for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France in 2021. WECF and its regional focal points FEMNET and FEIM also became Generation equality commitment makers and co-leads. Through gender and climate programmes, we made [several commitments](#) for the Action Coalitions on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Feminist Movements & Leadership and Technology & Innovation. Joining hands with many other feminist organizations, civil society actors, governments and private sector companies, WECF International will continue to implement its commitments and to deliver concrete results on gender equality to support the Sustainable Development Agenda. These commitments are part of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, which focus on delivering progress on six critical areas that underpin equality: Gender-Based Violence; economic justice and rights; bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); feminist action for climate justice; technology and innovation for Gender Equality and feminist movements and leadership.



Photo: At the United Nations, where we organised the 25 years celebration since Beijing 4th World Women Conference

Commission on the Status of Women – UN CSW

Each year in March, we participate in the Commission on the Status of Women, often as members of the official delegations of France, German or the Netherlands government alongside other civil society representatives. We organise [high level events](#). In the coming strategic period, we will continue to organise civil society briefings during the commission on the Status of women (CSW), meetings for our network members with the Member States delegation, and organise official side-events to present our network partners data and priorities to decision makers.

Our role in the European Region

UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable development

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) takes place annually at the United Nations in Geneva, and WECF hosts the secretariat for civil society engagement. We coordinate the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) as an open and inclusive space for activists to engage the policy meetings and present their policy recommendations on different aspects of the SDG agenda: people, planet, prosperity, and perspectives. For the period till 2025, we will organise each year, jointly with the RCEM members, the Civil Society Forum back-to-back to the official Member State meeting at the UN in Geneva. We will coordinate with our ecofeminist network members official events amongst others on the SDG5 and why ‘Feminists want system change’. In collaboration with the LGBTQI+ Major Group, SDG Watch Europe, UNFPA and UN Women’s Regional Offices, we will co-host the youth forum and ensure safe spaces for young feminists to bring their priorities to the attention of policy makers.

Women 2030 - EU Framework Partnership

As **strategic partners of the European Commission 2016-2022**, with our **women2030** programme, WECF and its regional focal points APWLD, WEP and also FEMNET, engage in the **Policy Forum on Development (PFD)**. The PFD organises thematic consultations with civil society and local authorities on strategic programmes of the EU. We share the lessons learned from our Women2030 programme, financed by the EU, strengthening feminist movements in 50 countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus & Central Asia, Africa, Asia & Latin America. The Women2030 programme has built capacity of grassroots feminist organisations and provide small grants to 100 feminist groups. In the period 2021-2025 we will continue to contribute to the policy debates, such as on what gender-responsiveness means for the European Green Deal and the EU Global Gateway strategy, see our report [Why the European Green Deal needs ecofeminism](#).



Feminist Foreign Policies and EU elections

We are engaging in the consultations and analysis of Feminist Foreign Policies and Feminist Development Policies as being used by France, Spain and Sweden and developed by Germany and the Netherlands, to contribute with lessons from our Women2030 and other programmes, and understanding which approaches and methodologies are more effective to ensure policies, programmes and investments are supporting gender-equality, and not doing harm. We will advocate for an overall European Feminist Foreign/Development Policy framework. For the European elections in 2024 we will again launch our Ecofeminist Election scorecard, engaging feminist organisations across Europe in asking policy makers how they are going to integrate gender-just climate and environmental actions into their election programs.

EU Gender Action plan - GAP III

We support and monitor the implementation of the **EU Gender Action plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)** which was adopted in 2020. We engage in dialogues and feed-back from local level about improving accessible financing for local feminist and gender equality organizations; improving the direct access to EU Delegations and CSO consultations; integrating Green Deal objectives and targets into the GAP to ensure that future climate action also becomes gender responsive. In the period till 2025, we will continue to contribute to support the implementation of the GAP III and monitor its work, working with strategic partners such as Concord and our African focal points FEMNET and WEP. We will contribute to understanding the benefits of the GAP III for future EU strategies and multiannual financing frameworks, in dialogue with MEPs and Member States.

International Women's Day

Each year, commemorate International Women's Day (8 March), WECF and partners organise events to engage network members and broader civil society. For example, by organising the online exhibition entitled '*Activism for Gender Equality*' consisting of 25 posters that celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We also host panel debates, for example with the United Nations Environment Programme to celebrate International Women's Day and with the Conventions Secretariat BRS to launch a new documentary on gender, chemicals and waste.

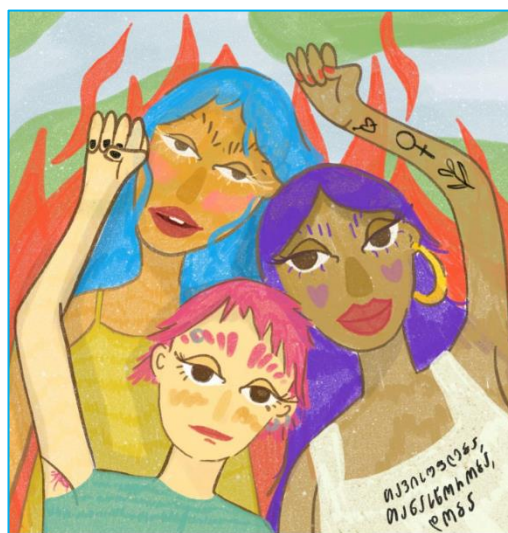
Working at the grassroots

We support our network members to implement programmes to strengthen grassroots organisations, for example through our office in Georgia (Caucasus) and through our Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund. For more examples see our country pages [link to partners](#).

Women's Power for Inclusion - Georgia

Women's Power – Economic and Political Participation for Inclusive Societies in Georgia', or in short 'Women's Power for Inclusion', is a programme financed by the EU delegation and run by WECF's Georgian office, in cooperation with Women's Fund in Georgia, Woman and Reality, Young Pedagogic Union, Pankisi Women's Council, and Racha Community Organization. The overall objective of this 3-year programme is to empower women, youth and minority groups in the 4 target regions in Georgia by having them participate actively in community and economic life and ensure that their rights are protected. Furthermore, feminist activists, including young people, are trained and funded to implement local actions that contribute to increased women's political and economic participation and result in tangible changes improving the lives of local women and men, girls and boys.

We demonstrate how the Sustainable Development Goals can be implemented in an integrated manner, in particular SDG5 on the Empowerment of Women and Girls, and SDG1 on poverty eradication, SDG8 on employment and SDG16 on good governance. Although, the government has anchored the rights of women, youth, and minority groups in its constitution and legislation, these groups still experience severe marginalization and discrimination, leading to



unemployment, poverty and poor access to education, health care and social benefits. Women and young people are disproportionately affected by this. Our 32 trainers are training 280 local activists and 349 youth. Many of the trained activists and youth are developing further activities as subgrantees and youth grantees, working on empowering women and girls, including ethnic minorities and WWDs, working on debunking stereotypes, and improving economic conditions for women.

We also organise the annual Award Ceremony #Media4Equality where we invite traditional media representatives, bloggers and social media content creators to apply. A qualified jury of seven experts in media, journalism and gender chose four nominees for every category. Each winner received a prize of 1500 Euros and the #equalitychampion title. The media award #Media4Equality sparked a high level of national interest in traditional and social media.



Ecofeminist Movement Building funded project - Tajikistan

Our Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund has been allotted 250.000 Euro for this strategic period to support ecofeminist members from our WECF network. In total 20 ecofeminist organisations are implementing their priority activities of each 10.000 Euro, that allows them to increase visibility for their activities and create synergies and partnerships to grow their organisations, including this project from Tajikistan. We plan to increase the Ecofeminist fund and the number of beneficiaries in the period till 2025.

School of Environmental Activism: Founded by a group of young activists, [The Little Earth](#) has been on a mission to preserve the unique nature of Tajikistan and our planet for future generations. Currently, young people in Tajikistan are not well-informed about environmental issues and climate change, and that whilst about 70% of the population in Tajikistan are under the age of 30. To empower the next generation of environmental leaders, The Little Earth – with support from WECF – has organized the School of Environmental Activism.

15 young female activists from the areas of Dushanbe, Khujand, Khorog and Kulyab took part in the three-day workshop to enhance the participants' knowledge on climate change, environmental protection, the role of women in the environmental movement and gender equality. The workshop also provided practical skills on how to work with social networks and the media to spread the word on these important topics. "Without the leadership, knowledge and participation of girls and women in responding to climate change and environmental challenges today, it is unlikely that solutions for the sustainable development of our country and the planet will be implemented tomorrow. That is why it is so important to support those activist girls who are interested in the topic of the climate crisis and environmental

protection and who are trying to implement local or national initiatives”, – said [Timur Idrisov, senior adviser to the Little Earth and the initiator of the School](#). The school featured 15 expert speakers from Belarus, Finland, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, working in a wide variety of fields, such as environmental activism, journalism and photography. Have a look at [this video](#) capturing the spirit of the school that took place last October.

Following the success of the school, its graduates were then invited to apply for a mini-competition of local environmental initiatives. One of the two winners receiving 500 euros for their project, is the Eco-bag initiative from Mashkhura Maksudzoda, from Khujand. The 20-year-old student and small business founder shared: “after participating in the School of Environmental Activism, I decided to hold Master classes to share my experience in painting on fabrics and, at the same time, talk about the dangers of plastic bags.”

The graduates of the School for Environmental Activism remain in touch online, and The Little Earth continues to be committed to fostering learning experiences for the next generation of environmental leaders! This project received a grant from our Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund. Read about the other 15 organizations and activities we support here: [Building the Ecofeminist Movement – WECF](#).



Photo: Graduates of the School of Environmental Activism

We aim for the following strategic results as part of our focus area Feminist Sustainable Development

Specific results focus area 1, strategic plan 2021-2025

1.1. Changing Power: through our strategy of capacity strengthening we change power relations, so that women and feminist organisations can take part in policy making process and community activities.

Result: Capacity of women's and feminist groups strengthened on Women's Rights, Gender Equality and Sustainable Development actions and policies

Indicator: *number* of women and feminist CSOs from focus countries with increased capacity

2025 Target: Feminist Sustainable Development 1.1.

150-350 women's and ecofeminist networks and organizations from 50-70 countries have strengthened **CAPACITIES** to:

- access and effectively use tools and methodologies for evidence-based policy advocacy
- support their networks members and jointly implement impactful policy advocacy
- provide mentoring and training for 100 local grassroots groups to engage safely in advancing gender-just and inclusive sustainable development policies and action
- manage feminist small grant programmes to support feminist movements and grassroots
- gather local feminist evidence, monitor and analyse gender dimensions of local and national Voluntary National Reviews VNR's on the 2030 Agenda
- document lessons learned, develop tools and methodologies, and demonstrate good practices of gender-transformative sustainable development at local and national level
- facilitate participation in policy advocacy policy processes at global, regional and national level to promote gender equality in the 2030 Agenda

1.2. Changing the Agenda: through our strategy of policy-advocacy we change the policy agendas, thanks to the empowered women and feminist organisations that are engaging with policy process and community activities.

Result: Policies, laws and programs on sustainable development, climate and environment are more gender-responsiveness and include recommendations from women and feminist organisations

Indicator: *number* of laws, policies and programmes that include recommendations from women & feminist CSOs

2025 target: Feminist Sustainable Development 1.2.

In **10-20** countries, as well as at regional and global levels, recommendations from women and feminist organisations are improving policies, laws and programs, thanks to:

- **policy analysis developed and published** by women and feminist groups e.g. Shadow Reports for SDGs and CEDAW
- **recommendations** developed to render **national sustainable development policies gender-responsive** and to strengthen women's rights and that of local communities and indigenous peoples
- **policy dialogue meetings organised** to share feminist recommendations
- **meeting with (female) decision makers** to present feminist policy demands and good practices on SDGs and gender equality in particular related to SDG5, *EU Voluntary Report*, EU partner country strategies, *EU GAP III*

1.3. Changing the Narrative: through our strategy of networking and campaigning we change mindsets, by mobilizing groups of young women and feminist activists that engage in reaching out to large groups of society to ending gender-stereotypes and promoting the narratives towards gender-just actions and policies for sustainable development.

Result: Women, youth, feminist activists are agents of change for gender equality & sustainable development

Indicator: *number* of women, youth, feminist activists that are taking actions for gender-just and feminist sustainable development and climate-justice as part of local and global campaigns and movement building activities

2025 target: Feminist Sustainable Development 1.3

20.000-35.000 women, youth and feminist activists in up to **50 countries** have committed to taking (local) actions aimed at increasing awareness and increased support for gender equality, women's rights and feminist sustainable development, through

- developing/disseminating stories and policy statements through social media, podcasts, articles
- campaigning and organising marches and actions (*festivals, demonstrations, innovative online events*)
- making and sharing ecofeminist election scorecards
- solidarity actions for feminist human rights defenders
- networking to strategize and mobilizing movements

Key actors in up to 20 countries are supporting actions to change mentalities and support feminist values



Photo: In Uganda, member organisation ARUWE demonstrating the household bio-gas digester that produces cooking-gas as well as fertilizer

Feminist climate & energy action

We mobilise for a gender-just implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We advocate for policies to support the shift to inclusive, clean and sustainable energy 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 agreements and economic interests.

What we will do:

Standing up for climate justice, clean energy solutions and inclusive forest governance.

Climate justice

Climate change is already badly affecting people 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 Centre and Network (CTCN) and other partners. We work with climate finance experts and governments to ensure women's priorities are equally reflected in global, national and local climate strategies and funding plans.

Clean energy solutions

The energy sector has low female participation, and research has shown that this is holding us back in our struggle against climate change. In many countries, households not connected to natural gas spend a large part of their income on firewood used for heating, cooking, and washing. Also, in Europe, living in energy poverty particularly affects single-women households. That is why we will continue to focus in the period till 2025, on creating gender-just sustainable energy services for low- income non-connected areas, at a low-cost. We advocate for governments to support the shift to clean and sustainable energy solutions. We see the EU Green Deal as an opportunity. We analyse and pilot locally constructed technical solutions such as decentralized solar, biogas and energy efficiency. We identify and promote best practices for women's leadership in sustainable energy, and support the creation of renewable energy cooperatives with women's leadership.



Photo: Ugandan rural women organisation ARUWE building a biogas digester

Our global role

We need to work in alliances of feminist and broader civil society organisations to combine our expertise and resources, which is why we join forces through alliances and strategic partnerships.

Women and Gender Constituency

Public participation of women and feminist organisations from civil society we ensure through our contribution to the 'Women and Gender Constituency' (<http://womensgenderclimate.org>) at the UN. We are an active core member of the Women and Gender Constituency, and our colleague Gina Cortes is global co-facilitator. We contribute to the climate negotiations and we ensure that the participation of grassroots women organisations from our networks in the policy meetings. Climate change is already badly affecting women and men living in vulnerable regions. 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 project 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 (CTCN) 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. We share policy recommendations and best practices through the Women and Gender Constituency network. Through our Women2030 program we support local civil society organizations to engage in local and global 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 our feminist member's networks.



Photo: Indonesian candidate receiving the Gender Just Climate Award from Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN

Gender Just Climate Solutions

The solutions to a sustainable climate resilience and inclusive world already exist on the ground. This is why we started to organise the **Gender Just climate Solutions Awards**, where we highlight exceptional climate projects by grassroots feminist groups during an annual high-level award celebration. The first Award Ceremony took place during the Climate COP21 in Paris, in 2015. Launched by WECF with the Women and Gender Constituency, the Award honours the fundamental contribution of women's organisations in the fight against climate chaos and demonstrates the necessity to integrate gender equality in all climate policies.

Showcasing outstanding projects

The past years, through the Award programme, we have identified over 1000 outstanding grass roots climate actions that have women leadership and promote gender equality, of which 20 have been given the [Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards](#). Jointly with civil society and the UN climate technology networks, we continue to support these actions and projects to bring their good practices to scale, by mentoring and through our Scale-fund together with our network members WEDO, WEP and FEMNET.

We think highlighting local feminist climate solutions is very important, as so far, most of the climate funding is going to large scale projects that are not very gender-responsive. Much less climate funding is available for local initiatives and impacted communities, to those who are already paying a high price from climate change and do not have access to climate finance resources. Rural communities often lack funds to invest in the technologies for the transition to low-carbon services. Indigenous and traditional technologies that already contribute to climate resilience are often excluded from the application criteria of climate funds. Moreover, even though gender criteria are becoming more formally applied, truly transformative climate action implemented in a gender-responsive manner is rare. Therefore, it is clear to us that the transition of low-carbon economies has to be more (gender) inclusive. For the period till 2025, we plan to continue the Gender Just Climate Solutions award and mentoring programme, and increase financial support for local climate action through the scale-fund. The Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards show that 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. We will continue to publish the climate solution projects that have been selected by our independent international jury in the annual award [publication](#).



As Fatou Ndoye, Award winner from 2016 stated during the ceremony: “Women are at the heart of the energy system: to fetch wood, water, transform... This requires enormous physical efforts while at the same time educating and taking care of their children. With all these burdens, they are de facto distant from decision-making”. Women hold the key to change in the fight against climate change and environmental pollution. While women in their own environments come up with brilliant, sustainable & affordable solutions against climate change, climate finance often goes to large

infrastructure projects. Much less support is available for those who are paying a heavy price for the climate crisis and who would need the resources to adapt and survive the most".

Climate Change Policy Processes

Together with our feminist partners from the Women and Gender Constituency we ensure our grassroots partners can bring their priorities to the attention of decision makers at the climate negotiations. As a member of the Women & Gender Constituency we advocate for our [Key Demands](#) and we advocate for the concept of climate justice in the Climate Change COP negotiations (Conference of Parties to the Convention).

Climate Justice refers to the idea that climate change is unjust; those that have least contributed to climate change are the most negatively impacted by it. According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) we need to address the underlying structures, of colonialism and (gender) inequality. Overseas development aid (ODA) often goes to economic sectors that worsen climate change and pollution. The IPCC's 2022 report recognizes that colonialism is a historic and ongoing driver of climate change (see [Report](#)) Therefore, to solve these problems, we have to solve them together through system change. In the period till 2025 we will continue to facilitate engagement of our network members in the climate negotiations, to make sure we do not need to repeat our '[#MissingVoices@COP](#)' campaign. We will organise meetings between our grassroots members and high-level policy makers. We will continue to advocate for the implementation and resourcing of the 2nd Gender Action Plan of the UNFCCC (Lima work programme) in close cooperation with female negotiators. We will engage in the negotiations on the creation of the Loss and Damage fund, to ensure gender dimensions are taken on board. We will continue to facilitate effective participation of the Women's organisations seat on the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), currently a position held by WECF, and focus the attention on structural barriers and the need for gender-equality measures.

Gina Cortés Valderrama (WECF/ Colombia) expressed deep concerns, saying, *"I fear for the exacerbated risks that climate funds and policies are placing on environmental and human-rights defenders. We needed the Climate negotiations to advance 'real' climate solutions that bring immediate Green House Gas reductions and not '[false](#)' solutions that lead to land-grabbing from women farmers, Afro descendants, and Indigenous Peoples. Instead, despite the Paris Agreement countries are still giving billions of public tax payers money to the fossil fuel industry and other unsustainable investments such as tree-plantation monocultures, nuclear industry and geoengineering. These subsidies should be halted, and instead public funds should support local communities with a gender- just transition."*

Forests for a Just Future

Urgent and ambitious climate action, forest protection and preservation is critical for sustaining all life on earth. Deforestation is not only causing climate change, but climate change is also contributing to further deforestation and forest degradation, setting in motion a vicious cycle with devastating effects. Deforestation is mainly driven by large-scale agriculture and infrastructure development, especially for palm oil, soy and cattle ranching; by pressure due to

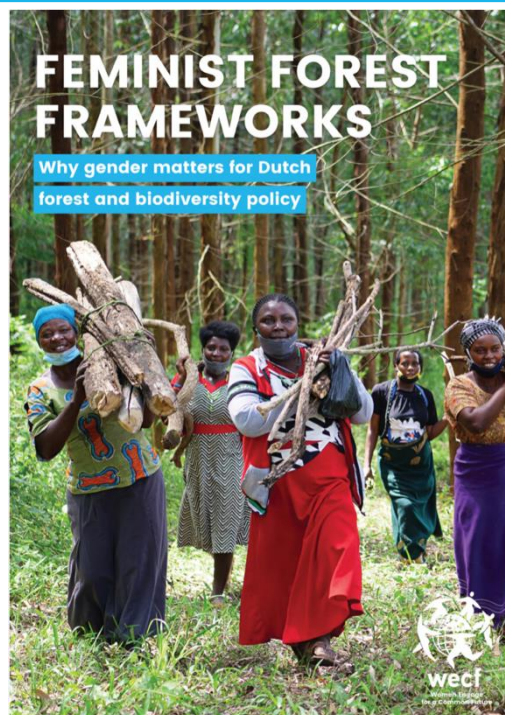
increased areas for subsistence farming; by forest fires; and by extractive industries such as fossil fuel extraction, mining, and logging. The 'Forests for a Just Future' programme strengthens policy participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), whose lives are directly impacted by deforestation and resulting climate change. Accountability of governments, corporations, agro-commodity industries, and energy and extraction companies is required to end deforestation and protect human rights.

The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is an alliance of environmental civil society organisations with WECF as the gender partner, cooperating with the 60 civil society organisations in 11 countries on how to integrate equality and women's rights into climate and forest policies as well as actions. Forest governance policies and institutions have often excluded indigenous peoples, local communities and women in particular. WECF and GFC contribute with tools, skills shares, studies and grant support to strengthening the capacities of more than 60 local project partners to integrate gender equality into their organisations and projects, and to reach out and cooperate with local women and feminist organisations. WECF coordinates its activities with partner the Global Forest Coalition (GFC). WECF and GFC work with the partners in Africa (Cameroon, Liberia, DRC, Ghana, Uganda), Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam) and Latin-America (Bolivia and Colombia) to ensure that tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, enact human rights and safeguard local livelihoods. In the period till 2025 will continue to work with the GLA partners on policy recommendations that are gender-responsive.

FLAGSHIP REPORT: **Feminist Forest Frameworks - a policy brief.**

The intertwined crises of biodiversity loss, deforestation and ecosystem degradation are increasing at alarming rates, with devastating consequences for both people and planet. Unfortunately, we find that **too little (mainstream) attention is yet being paid to gender-differentiated issues.** Often because of **underlying gender inequalities**, women (and girls) in all their diversity tend to use forests and biodiversity differently; are less likely to have secure land tenure rights; are under-represented in governance; face specific gendered threats in their activism and have less access to or control over natural resources. Yet far from being passive victims, **women are key agents of change in sustainably protecting and conserving forest ecosystems.**

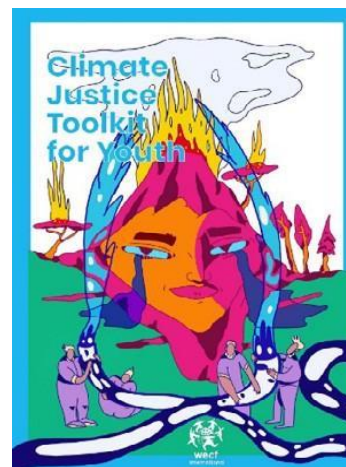
This policy brief presents a **feminist analysis of key forest and biodiversity policies, regulations, and strategies.** We found that **most Dutch and EU policy documents are either entirely lacking a gender perspective or they are gender-sensitive, at most.**



Our role in the European Region

Young Feminists for Climate Justice

With our WECF offices in Europe we focus on youth and climate change campaigning. In the coming years we will continue working on this as part of the SPARK consortium (EU DEAR funded) to strengthen the existing feminist climate activism and inspiring the youth climate movement with innovative feminist approaches and intersectional lenses. The goal is to work towards solutions that fight gender inequalities at the same time as finding climate solutions. We want to provide spaces for the stories of inspiring feminist climate champions in the field of gender equality and the fight against climate change and environmental pollution. Even small actions count up to something big in the fight against the unequal systems driving climate change and injustice. It just takes a spark – post an idea, share a conversation, kick-start a debate, find a community, plant garden, make a sustainable choice, sign a petition, cast a vote, join a march – to create a movement. Every one of us can play a part in fighting climate change and injustice. We will continue to organise our events on *Climate Justice needs Young Feminists* with creative workshops, poetry and activating speeches and to plan youth engagement with policymakers and politicians. We are using our '*Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth*' that provides accessible explanations of the United Nations climate processes. As part of our climate coalition in the Netherlands we will continue to organise the gender block as part of the Global Climate March through the streets of Amsterdam, with youth leading the movement.



Engaging in climate and energy policy dialogues

European Climate and Energy policies are essential as part of achieving the global commitments to keep global temperatures below 1.5 - 2 degrees celsius. Jointly with our partners from Climate Action Network we contribute to policy dialogues to contribute with gender equality dimensions which have been regularly overlooked, for the EU's Fit for 55 Package and the Renovation Wave. Through our research projects with partners in the EU, we have created understanding of the gender-dimensions of energy poverty in Europe. As part of this work we published "[Energy Poverty in Europe and Germany - a Gender sensitive analysis](#)" Energy poverty already effects almost 30% of the population and is expected to increase as a result of the price increases due to the Russian war in Ukraine. With partners we are testing solutions for low-income women-headed households, by installing smart meters and doing energy audits how to save costs, whilst also understanding available support to install renewable energy and energy savings equipment. We see that Energy Communities are a way to ensure the energy transition can be affordable and inclusive, which is why in the period till 2025 we will continue to join debates of the European Parliament, we will bring expert speakers on gender dimensions of energy poverty to high level meeting of the Czech and Spanish EU presidencies, and work locally to demonstrate the benefits of local energy communities to provide renewable energy solutions, with women leadership and including for low-income households.

Policy Forum for Development and European Development Days

The Global Gateway and European Green Deal are essential instruments for cooperation with partner countries, and consultation on these programmes are organised by the Policy Forum for Development (PFD). WECF and our partners FEMNET, WEP and APWLD are members of the PFD and bring the specific priorities of feminist organisations from the

regions into the debates, including on the Gender Action Plan III implementation. We also engage in the European Development Days and with our partners co-organise debates and events, and we organise high-level events at the European Pavilion during the climate COPs, amongst others with EU Commissioners and our Directors and network partners from Africa. For the period till 2025 we will continue to engage in these dialogue spaces of the EU on development cooperation, with a focus on gender equality and intersectional dimensions.

Feminist climate funding

Access to finance is difficult for women, women's civil society organisations and women-led cooperatives and enterprises in many countries. In numerous countries women need male guardians to have bank accounts. Unequal inheritance laws mean women are less often in control of land and other resources. Many civil society organisations need male board members to get access to funding. And financial funds that are operated by multilateral institutions mostly do not reach the local level and even less women beneficiaries. Through our mentoring programme of the Gender Just Climate Solutions, where we cooperate with the UN, we are pushing to get women-led climate solutions integrated into programmes that are funded through the Green Climate Fund and other climate funds. We document the barriers and provide case studies and recommendations to climate funders. WECF is one of the civil society observers to the Green Climate Fund, which allows us to monitor the implementation of the GFC gender strategy. In the period till 2025, with support from the German ministry of development cooperation, we are gathering good practices, organising multistakeholder consultations and engaging governments and development banks in analysis the obstacles and improving methodologies for gender-responsive climate finance. We will also continue to provide our critical input to the Climate Finance Taskforce of the multilateral development banks (MDBs), where we participate. We will share our understanding the benefits (and limitations) of gender markers for allocation of financing back to the GAPIII process and the consultations on the planning of the EU's next multiannual financial framework.



Photo: with our network partners and colleagues from France, Uganda and Peru presenting the Women2030 programme and policy demands at our booth during the European Development Days

Working at the grassroots

We support our network members to implement programmes to strengthen grassroots organisations, for example in Africa and the Caucasus. For more examples see our [country pages](#).

Decentralised energy projects worldwide

Decentralisation is one of the most important building blocks for us to make the energy transition socially just and sustainable. In the period till 2025, we will continue to promote decentralised energy technologies and systems, that are run and produced locally by citizens, aiming at women's leadership. To bring about change worldwide, we provide our expertise at national, EU and international levels: through workshops, consultations, publications, the installation of sustainable energy technologies, the implementation of decentralised business models and direct dialogue with decision-makers, we will contribute to a gender-equitable, inclusive and clean energy solutions, with a focus on Africa and the Caucasus region, of which we share some examples below.

Energy transition in Morocco

WECF together with its Moroccan and French partners will continue to organise trainings for the manufacturing of solar cookers. We have already trained 60 young female technicians and engineers from the Souss Massa, Tetouan and Agadir regions of Morocco, who are now training local communities. The trainings consist of preparation and assembling of the cookers but also understanding the issues related to solar energy and its use for cooking and processing food products. Building on the 2 cooperatives already in operation, we will also continue to support the creation of new solar energy cooperatives lead by women, with the aim of producing locally different types of solar equipment for the transformation of agricultural products, and for daily use by local rural households.

Green energy in the hands of women in Ethiopia

Despite economic growth, improved access to education and health services as well as an increased electrification rate, more than 22 million people in Ethiopia still live below the poverty line, with an even higher number of people without access to affordable sustainable energy and affordable clean water. As a result of the war the situation has even deteriorated. In the period till 2025, we will continue working with coffee cooperatives 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 manner from the very start.

Gender in Georgian climate policies

There is a lack of gender responsiveness of climate policies in Georgia and a necessity to engage women in climate policies and actions in Georgia. Our network partners continue to advocate for gender-responsive climate policies for its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). In the period till 2025, WECF Georgia has developed a funding programme to work with local women on the installation of renewable energy solutions in their homes and businesses.

Inspiration from our partners: #herstoryOfChange

In Senegal our partner ENDA-GRAF-Sahel supports 4,800 women fishers in the Saloum Delta to rehabilitate the mangrove ecosystem degraded by intensive industrial fishing and climate change. they implement reforestation, shellfish reseeding and organic gardening. they achieved a 75% reduction in firewood consumption through the dissemination of 200 improved stoves

Thematic Focus Area 2: Feminist Climate and Energy Action

We aim for the following specific results by 2025

2.1. Changing Power: through our strategy of capacity-strengthening we change power relations, so that women and feminist organisations can take part in policy making process and community activities.

Result area: Capacity of women's and feminist civil society organizations strengthened on feminist climate and energy actions and policies

Indicator: *number* of women and feminist CSOs and grassroots groups from focus countries with increased capacity

2025 target: Feminist Climate and Energy Action 2.1.

Over **100** women's and (eco)feminist networks and organisations from **50** countries have strengthened **CAPACITIES** to:

- provide **mentoring** and **training** for local grassroots on analysing and implementing climate and energy actions and their integration into national climate policies and climate finance programs
- manage **small grant** programmes to support climate and energy actions of feminists and grassroots including for demonstrating benefits of women-led social enterprises and/or energy cooperatives
- gather local feminist evidence, **monitor and analyse** gender dimensions of local and national Climate adaptation plans and National Determined Contributions, Gender Action Plan of the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Climate Funds*, *Gender target of the Convention on Biological Diversity*, *EU Green Deal*, *SDG7*, *SDG13*, *SDG15*
- **document** lessons learned, develop **tools** and methodologies, and **demonstrate** good practices of gender-transformative climate and energy actions at local and national level e.g. solar, biogas, hydrogen applied to local needs

Grassroots groups have been supported and trained to

- engage in **documenting their priorities** and take part in **policy advocacy** policy processes at global, regional and national level to promote gender equality in climate and energy policies and actions
- **acquire skills** in renewable energy technologies implementation, forest conservation education and trained on agroforestry practices.

2.2. Changing the Agenda: through our strategy of policy-advocacy we change the policy agendas, thanks to the empowered women and feminist organisations that are engaging with policy process and community activities

Result area: Policies, laws and programs on sustainable development, climate and environment are more gender-responsiveness and include recommendations from women and feminist organisations

Indicator: *number* of laws, policies and programmes that include recommendations from women & feminist CSOs

2025 target: Feminist Climate and Energy Actions 2.2

In **10-20** countries, as well as for regional and global policies, recommendations from women and feminist organisations are improving policies, laws and programs, thanks to:

- **policy analysis developed and published** by women and feminist groups e.g. key policy demands on gender equality

in national, UN and EU climate, forest and energy policies

- at least one **flagship publication** on feminist climate and energy policies and actions
- **recommendations** developed to render **national sustainable development policies gender-responsive** and to strengthen women's rights and that of local communities and indigenous peoples
- **policy dialogue meetings organised** to share feminist recommendations

Grassroots groups have been supported to

- **meet decision makers** and present their feminist policy recommendations and good practices on SDGs and gender equality policies linked to *SDG13, SDG15, UNFCCC, Climate Funds, CBD, EU Climate, Forest and Biodiversity policies and Partner country strategies, EU delegation MIPs and CLIPs*

2.3. Changing the Narrative: through our strategy of networking and campaigning we change mindsets, by mobilizing groups of feminist activists that engage in reaching out to large groups of society to break down stereotypes and promote gender-just and sustainable policies and behaviours

Result area: Women, youth, feminist activists are acting as agents of change for climate justice thanks to movement building and campaigning

Indicator: *number* of women, youth, feminist activists that are taking actions for gender-just and feminist climate and energy policies and actions as part of local and global campaigns and movement building activities

2025 target: Feminist Energy and Climate Actions 2.3

10.000-15.000 women, youth and feminist activists are taking action to ensure that human rights of women, non-binary persons, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities are at the centre of climate and energy policies, through

- co-designing **campaigns to engage** women, youth and feminist activists, based on consultations, that allow activists to take climate and energy-related actions in their schools, universities, communities and online, while ensuring these spaces are inclusive and safe for women, youth and non-binary persons
- creating safe campaigns and online spaces, and develop targeted campaign **tools**
- co-organise and provide small grants for women, youth and **feminist campaign activities** that can include, 'activism', festivals, demonstrations, innovative online events to engage local actors in promoting inclusive climate and energy policies and programmes.
- developing **film and video** materials and **podcasts** to disseminate stories through social media, podcasts
- **networking** to strategize and mobilizing movements including young climate feminist networking



Feminists for a Toxic Free Future

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 to justice.

What we will do:

stop toxic chemicals and waste, standing up for menstrual health and safe and clean water

Stop toxic chemicals and 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. Many chemicals found in plastics and pesticides disrupt our hormone systems and cause irreversible damage such as cancer and infertility. Waste dumping of industrial chemicals, pesticides, plastics and electronics are polluting food, air and water of millions of people and the environment. Women and men who live near waste dumps are often from low-income groups. 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 advocating for [gender-just chemical policies and legislation](#) that obliges polluters to replace plastics, pesticides and other harmful chemicals with safe alternatives.

Menstrual health

All around the world girls, women and gender non-conforming people suffer from the stigma of menstruation through discrimination and the inability to afford sanitary products. The taboo on menstruation not only affects people's opportunities to participate in society, but also has a huge impact on our health and our environment. An average standard sanitary towel contains 90 percent plastic. The plastic waste ends up in waste dump, in rivers and oceans,



degrading into microplastics that end up in our food and our bodies, putting our health at risk. Healthier, non-plastic alternatives exist that also save money and can create local jobs. We stand up for the right to menstrual health, and organise campaigns for breaking the taboo on menstruation and reproductive health. Together with partners we advocate for laws that prevent single use plastic laws and promote affordable and sustainable alternative sanitary products. We support our partners that work on banning taxes on sanitary products. We support partners with building menstrual health management proof toilets in schools and will continue to do so in this strategic period till 2025.

Safe water & sanitation

Having water inside your school, or in your home, does not exist for millions of people. Often, existing water sources are not well protected. The water itself is then 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 national institutions, water providers, schoolteachers and pupils participate. We pilot ecological wastewater treatment solutions and build school toilets in areas where there is no sewage system. We share our experience with decision makers in policy processes such as the Protocol on Water and Health and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our global role

Engaging feminists in the UN Environmental Assembly

We work with our network members and strategic civil society partners for stronger engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) in the global environmental agenda. Our co-director Ida Bakhuritze of WECF Georgia, is elected to represent civil society and in that role consults regularly with local civil society groups, in particular from the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian regions. We meet with permanent representatives of Member States to UNEP and present priorities for inclusive policies that address the root causes of pollution. Pollution is often linked to discrimination, as is seen in many regions where (women) waste pickers are often denied their rights and highly exposed.

Along with the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, the United Nations calls pollution, including exposure to toxic chemicals, the third major environmental crisis of our time. The widespread use of toxic chemicals is a major cause of millions and millions of illnesses and deaths. In 2021 the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) finally recognised the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which was adopted as a resolution at the General Assembly. In 2022 all governments voted to start negotiating a [global treaty to end plastic pollution](#), a process where we will facilitate our network members to engage, in particular our partners working with women waste workers, from Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya and Tunisia.

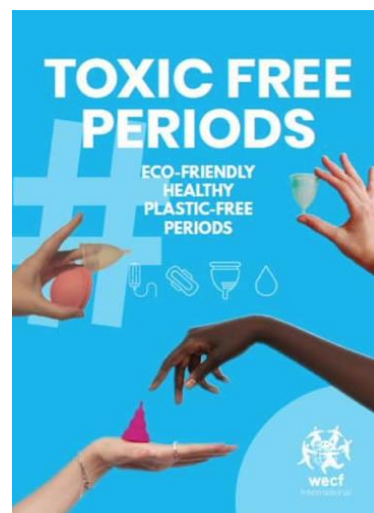
Gender strategy of the BRS conventions

The global conventions that address harmful chemicals, mercury and waste are managed by the United Nations. We work with the secretariat of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm convention, to [document gender dimensions of chemicals and waste](#). Together with our partners from the countries we carry out scoping studies and visit hotspots of chemical pollution and waste. We document the gender dimensions in case studies and on film, and we propose gender measures for national governments to integrated in their institutions. We conduct research on chemical pollution in

different countries, including Bolivia, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia, resulting in country studies, that are presented at the Conference of Parties and the High-Level Political Forum. The country case studies and documentary films allow to raise awareness on the effects of toxic chemicals and how the impact on women tends to be less well known, as often impacting informal and low-income workers. Solutions need to have a gender-perspective and need to be promote a gender-just transition, for women workers to move to safer employment. There is a great lack of knowledge also with policy makers, and we organise Women and Chemicals training series and cooperate with the BRS secretariat to train incoming chairs of the negotiations for them to understand the gender dimensions of the issues under discussion.

Putting menstrual health on the agenda

When the Sustainable Development Goal were negotiated in 2015, we together with feminist allies of the Women's Major Group tried to get menstrual health as a target for the goal on Water and Sanitation, but we did not succeed. In many countries menstrual health remains a taboo, instead of a public health priority. In the period till 2025 we will facilitate the participation of network members in the UN global water conference to share their good practices on menstrual health projects with schools and local production of sanitary materials that are safe, affordable and sustainable. We continue to raise awareness with videos and social media campaigns and publications (see [Toxic Free Periods](#)) to break the taboo and we partner with producers of menstrual products to support feminist projects for example in North Macedonia.



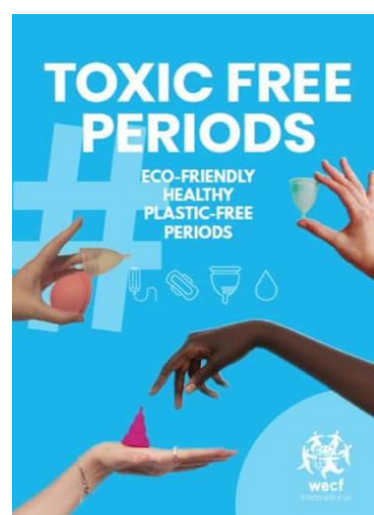
Our role in the European Region

We organize and participate in policy and awareness raising campaigns and events where we get the chance to advocate our standpoints regarding gender perspectives of chemical, waste and product safety legislation in the EU.

CHEMFEM programme

Our health is differently impacted by chemicals depending on our sex and age, and also social factors and gender roles can influence how our health is impacted from toxic chemicals. For example, due to social norms, beauty standards, gendered occupations and biological factors, women are disproportionally affected by chemicals such as those found in cosmetics or cleaning products. With the [ChemFem program](#), we focus on the gender-specific health effects of harmful chemicals. We advocate more gender equality to protect women* in particular from the effects of harmful chemicals.

European research programmes on the body-burden of chemicals show that all young European are contaminated with toxic chemicals, but the exposure and impacts are different for boys and girls. The health costs of this wide spread chemical pollution, linked to infertility, cancer, diabetes and Attention Deficit syndrome are calculated in the billions of Euro. In the period till 2025 we continue to 'translate' research on the different vulnerabilities to hazardous chemicals, engaging with consumers, young feminist, media and policy makers and to



advocate for stronger policy measures to for a non-toxic future, with a focus on the EU [REACH revision](#) and sustainable chemical strategy policies. We will continue to engage with Member States to advocate for national strategies to accelerate the phase out of 'forever chemicals' and 'hormone disrupting chemicals'.



Photo: Panellist at the International product safety week (IPSW) with WECF's Chantal van den Bossche

Nesting – Healthy Living

Through our 'Nesting' training program, led by [WECF France](#), we have informed 15.000 interested consumers on how to choose healthier green products. We have published a series of [10 pocket guides](#) in 10 different languages, and have a shopping-App for smartphones. We will continue to operate websites and social media that continuously provided latest information on Gender and Plastics, Women and Chemicals, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and risks of nanomaterials.



Regional civil society consultation meetings

We coordinate with our strategic partners of EEB to organise the annual Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UN European Region to provide input to the global Environment Assembly. We engage a few hundred active participants covering the whole region and in working groups develop concrete policy recommendations. Our role is to bring a focus on the social and gender equality dimensions of environmental policies. As a result of these Consultations our Joint Regional Statement is presented at the UN Environment Assembly to all

member states. In the period till 2025 we will continue to facilitate consultations for our networks and other civil society. Furthermore, in this period till 2025 will continue to engage in research along with strategic partners such as [WEN](#), [HEAL](#) and [EEB](#) – to advocate for a toxic free future.

Grassroots activities

We support our network members to implement programmes to strengthen grassroots organisations, for example in Latin America and the Western Balkans. For more examples see our [country pages](#).

Water and Sanitation: engaging schools

WECF supports the organisation of trainings on water and sanitation and menstrual health for schools, organised by network members in Albania (Milieukontakt), North-Macedonia (JHR) and Serbia (Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development - EASD). Menstrual health remains a taboo subject in the Balkan region, resulting in a lack of education. We organise practical trainings with pupils and teachers, on health, hygiene, water protection and menstrual health. We engage pupils in testing drinking water on nitrates as an indicator for lack of protection of water sources. We organise mapping and planning to improve water and sanitation using our school 'Compendium on [Water Sanitation Safety Planning](#)'. We support our partners to organise Round Tables with Water Operators and (local) policy makers on safe drinking water management and sanitation facilities/services, resulting in strategic partnerships to address the environmental, water and sanitation challenges in the country and the Balkan region. In North-Macedonia our network partners JHR have developed a social enterprise working with Roma communities that produces plastic-free menstrual hygiene materials. As a result of our joint advocacy, the national government is supporting distribution of sanitary napkins for school pupils, and has reduced the value added tax rate on menstrual products. In the period till 2025, we will continue to strengthen capacities of network members, sharing and documenting good practices such as those on menstrual health, within our network. We will facilitate our grassroots partners to meet with policy-makers and share their good practices, including during the UN Water Conference.



Gathering data on toxic contamination

The organisation Reaccion Climatica, Bolivia, carried out a scoping study with support from WECF and IPEN (International Pollution Elimination Network) on the exposure to toxic substances and the impacts on women and men of different background. Reaccion Climatica organised consultations for local groups including indigenous peoples organisations. They were given the opportunity to participate in a global hair study to measure levels of mercury pollution. The women from the community of the Leche peoples, who are fisherfolk and nomadic, travelling along the

rivers of the Amazon basin, participated in the hair study. They are worried by the increasing gold mining activities in the rivers, where toxic substances are used for amalgamation. The sample results were extremely worrying. The levels of mercury found were the highest of the global study, up to 32 ppm. These were levels measured in women and children, so not occupational exposures from miners, but purely exposure from eating fish containing methylmercury, the staple diet. Recommendations were made by the project team for more in-depth studies and to halt the import of mercury into Bolivia. The study also presented good practices, such as the initiative by the women of Lecos (indigenous tribe), to develop alternative sources of income. Aquaculture, apiculture and agriculture are possible alternatives that allow to reduce the use of contaminated food. The results and recommendations were presented to the national government and international policy makers with the request to take urgent measures including through support by the international mechanisms such as the Minamata Convention.



Photo: the main source of food of the Lecos indigenous peoples are the fish that are now contaminated with toxic mercury from gold mining

Thematic Focus Area 3: Feminist Toxic Free Future

We aim for the following specific results by 2025

3.1. Changing Power: through our strategy of capacity-strengthening we change power relations, so that women and feminist organisations can take part in policy making process and community activities.

Result area: Capacity of women's and feminist civil society organizations strengthened for advocating, monitoring and implementing environmental actions and policies

Indicator: *number* of women and feminist CSOs from focus countries with increased capacity on environmental and water policies and actions aiming at ending pollution.

2025 target: Feminist Toxic Free Future 3.1

Over **50** women's and (eco)feminist organisations from **20** countries have strengthened **CAPACITIES** to:

- meaningfully engage in **policy advocacy** policy processes at global, regional and national level to promote the right to a clean and healthy environment, with a focus on chemicals, waste and resource policies, water sanitation and menstrual health.
- gather evidence, **monitor and analyse** gender dimensions of impacts of chemicals and waste policies and pollution and the different impacts on women's health and livelihoods, including through our Water and Sanitation Safety Planning methodology
- **document** lessons learned and **demonstrate** good practices of gender-transformative policies and actions to end pollution at local and national level and support women leadership in non-toxic circular economy and continue cooperating with Water Operators in the Western Balkans and Africa, to ensure gender-responsive policies.
- provide **mentoring, training and small grants** for local grassroots on analysing and implementing waste recycling, chemical reduction programmes with a focus on women waste and agricultural workers, as well as creation of social enterprises and/or cooperatives with women leadership that provide safe water, sanitation and menstrual health.

20-30 grassroots groups have been supported and trained to

- engage in **documenting their priorities** and take part in **policy advocacy** policy processes at global, regional and national, related to (*SDG5 as related to water, waste, chemicals and environmental health goals*)

3.2. Changing the Agenda: through our strategy of policy-advocacy we change the policy agendas, thanks to the empowered women and feminist organisations that are engaging with policy process and community activities.

Result area: Policies, laws and programs on sustainable development, climate and environment are more gender-responsiveness and include recommendations from women and feminist organisations

Indicator: *number* of laws, policies and programmes that include recommendations from women and feminist organisations

2025 target: Feminist Toxic Free Future 3.2

In up to **10** countries, as well as for regional and global policies, recommendations from women and feminist organisations are improving policies, laws and programs, thanks to:

- **tracking policy developments** at country, regional and global level to assess changes in the gender-responsiveness on waste, chemicals, water, sanitation and menstrual health programmes
- **policy analysis developed and published** by women and feminist groups e.g. key policy demands on gender equality in national, UN and EU chemicals and waste policies, including on ending plastic pollution and water and sanitation policies including menstrual health.
- at least one **flagship publication / film** on circular, non-toxic, local economies
- **recommendations** developed to render **national waste/water policies gender-responsive** and to strengthen women's rights and that of local communities and indigenous peoples
- **policy dialogue meetings organised** to share feminist recommendations

20 feminist organisations and grassroots groups have been received **mentoring, training and small grants** to

- **meet decision makers** and present their feminist policy recommendations and good practices on SDGs and gender equality policies linked to *UN Global Water Conference, BRS and Minamata Conventions, End Plastic Pollution Treaty, UN Environment Assembly, UNECE Water Convention and Protocol on Water and Health, EU water framework, groundwater and nitrate directives, EU Green Deal, Sustainable Chemistry and Resources Strategies, EU REACH, and Partner EU country strategies*).

3.3. Changing Mindsets: through our strategy of networking and campaigning we change mindsets, by mobilizing groups of feminist activists that engage in reaching out to large groups of society to break down stereotypes and promote gender-just and sustainable policies and behaviours.

Result area: Women, youth, feminist activists are acting as agents of change for toxic-free environments

Indicator: *number* of women, youth, feminist activists that are taking actions for gender-just and feminist environmental, waste, water and menstrual health policies and actions as part of local and global campaigns and movement building activities

2025 target: Feminist Toxic-Free Future 3.3

5000 women, youth and feminist activists are taking action to ensure that human rights of women, non-binary persons, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities are at the centre of environmental, waste and water policies through

- co-designing **campaigns to engage** women, youth and feminist activists, that allow activists to take actions on gender, chemicals, waste, plastics, water, sanitation and menstrual health in their schools, universities, communities and online,
- creating safe campaigns and online spaces for women, youth and non-binary persons, and develop targeted campaign **tools** to promote menstrual health and toxic free environments and stand up for rights of environmental human rights defenders
- co-organise and provide small grants for women, youth and **feminist campaign activities** that can include, activism, festivals, demonstrations, innovative online events to engage local actors in promoting the right to a clean, safe and healthy environment.
- developing **film and video** materials and **podcasts** to disseminate stories through social media, podcasts
- **networking** to strategize and mobilizing movements for non-toxic environments

Our Network Support

As a network organisation, we believe in building on the experience and strength of existing organisations and networks, to increase impact and to avoid duplication. We cooperate with our regional network members and strategic partners to strengthen women and feminist organisations, grassroots and movements from local to global and back. Together with our regional focal points and strategic partners we provide organisational support for advocacy, campaigns and projects.

Joint advocacy

Together with our network partners we advocate for women's rights and protecting women and environmental rights defenders, for gender-responsive sustainable development policies, legal frameworks, decent and safe work, solidarity economy and fair tax and funding mechanisms. We facilitate the participation of partners in advocacy processes with capacity strengthening, travel support and accreditation to international policy meetings. We make sure network partners are accredited to United Nations processes of the Commission on the Status of Women, the 2030 Agenda and Climate, Chemicals, Environment and Biodiversity Negotiations. We coordinate joint shadow reports and independent monitoring of policies and programs. With our partners in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, we coordinate our joint advocacy within our global feminist movements such as the Women and Gender Constituency on climate and the Women's Major Group on environment and sustainable development. This way, we advocate for policy frameworks for gender-justice at global level, that we then continue to bring into national and local policies with our network partners.



Photo: cooperating with strategic partners as part of common programmes such as the Make Europe Sustainable For All programme

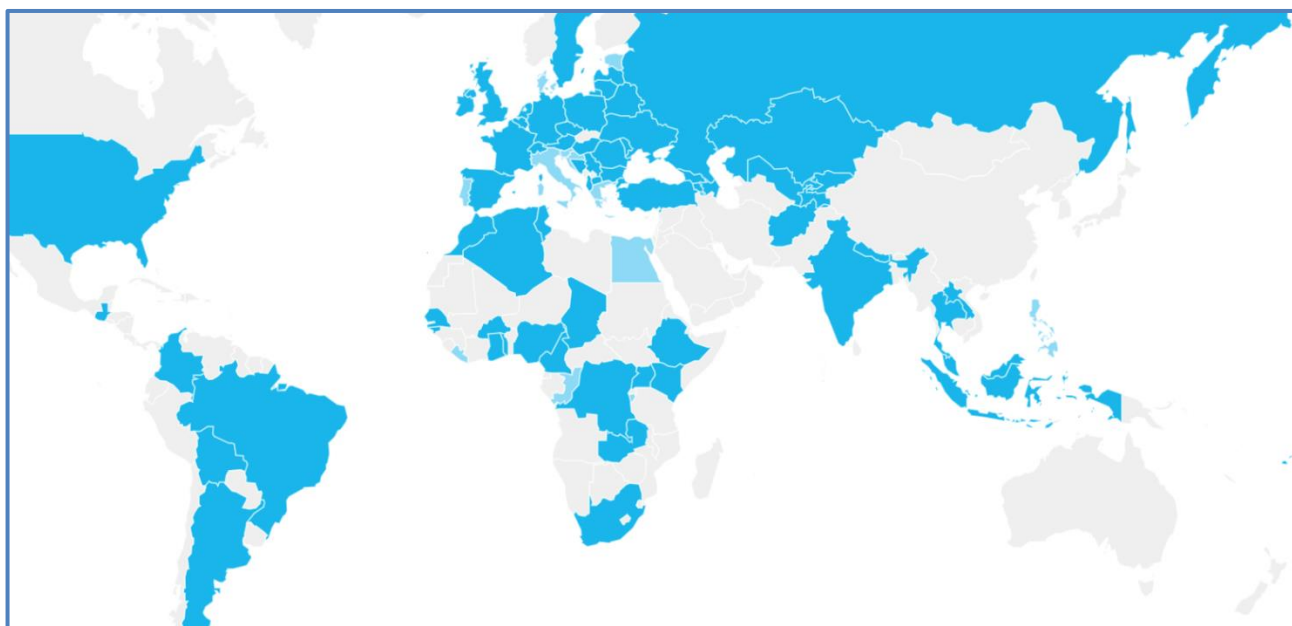
Joint projects

We respond to network members' requests for joint implementation projects that either aim at reducing inequalities and unsustainable practices, and/or that aim at showing good practices of women's leadership and environmental sustainability, such as our gender-just climate solutions program, the creation of sustainable energy cooperatives and the safe reuse of waste for energy and food services. With our partners in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America we work on joint projects to demonstrate female leadership in the transition to climate resilience, renewable energies, circular and non-toxic local economies. We provide capacity strengthening and training sessions and tools for gender-responsive sustainable technologies and social business development. We facilitate cooperation with knowledge institutes and technical assistance networks such as universities and the Climate Technologies Centre Network.

Joint outreach

We share information and experiences amongst our network members on our list-serves and social media and via our newsletters. We coordinate joint campaigns for awareness raising in multiple languages around key policy and awareness raising events. We provide training tools and sessions on effective campaigning, outreach and (social) media. We coordinate with our network members and through our global alliances such as the Women's Major Group, impactful outreach and social media campaigns such as [#feministswantsystemchange](#). We will invest in digitalisation and virtual meetings, ensuring safe online spaces for women, youth, indigenous peoples and non-binary persons.

The overview of our network partners can be found [here](#)



Map of countries where WECF network member organisations and strategic partners are based.

Cross-Sector Alliances

WECF believes in the strength of networks and cooperation with allies from other sectors. In the period 2021-2025 we will be active in the following networks and strategic alliances. We work with strategic partners (some below) and have joined alliances to coordinate policy advocacy, to jointly strengthen action for gender-just, non-toxic, sustainable development.

Alliances globally

Break Free from Plastic (BFFP), the global movement envisioning a future free from plastic pollution

CAN international, a worldwide network of over 1300 organisations in more than 130 countries, advocating for ambitious climate change action

Climate Chance, a global alliance for strengthening climate action and helping the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement

Green Livelihoods Alliance, led by Friends of the Earth with partners from 12 countries working for inclusive and sustainable forest governance, where we host the gender-hub

International Pollution elimination network (IPEN), a global network working for a non-toxic world, where we are active in the gender group

Pesticide Action network (PAN), a network of over 600 participating nongovernmental organizations in 90 countries for ecologically sound and socially just agriculture

Major group and Stakeholder Coordination mechanism at the United Nations, UNDESA, in which we co-facilitate the Women's Major Groups for the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development policy process

Alliances regionally

Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for the UNECE region, aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination in regional intergovernmental processes, where WECF hosts the secretariat.

CONCORD: the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs, where we are a member of the Gender Reference Group

Climate Action: a diverse consortium of 20 organisations under the umbrellas of Oxfam and the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) that works on raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education among European Citizens

European Environmental Bureau (EEB) a network with 160 civil society organisations from more than 35 European countries advocating for sustainable development

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) advocating for environmental health in the EU

SDG Watch Europe: a cross-sectoral CSO alliance of NGOs from development, environment, social, human rights and other sectors advocating for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Alliances in Germany, France and the Netherlands,

Building Change: a coalition of Dutch CSOs promoting policy coherence for development and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, which we co-lead

Coalition Eau: a French coalition working on access to water and sanitation

Gender working group of Coordination Sud, a collective of 170 French Solidarity NGOs, actively promoting gender equality

Feminist generations collective where WECF France is a member preparing for the Generation Equality Forum taking place in Paris in 2021

One World: a Dutch media-platform for a fair and sustainable world

PARTOS: a platform of 100 Dutch development NGOs that share resources and do advocacy together

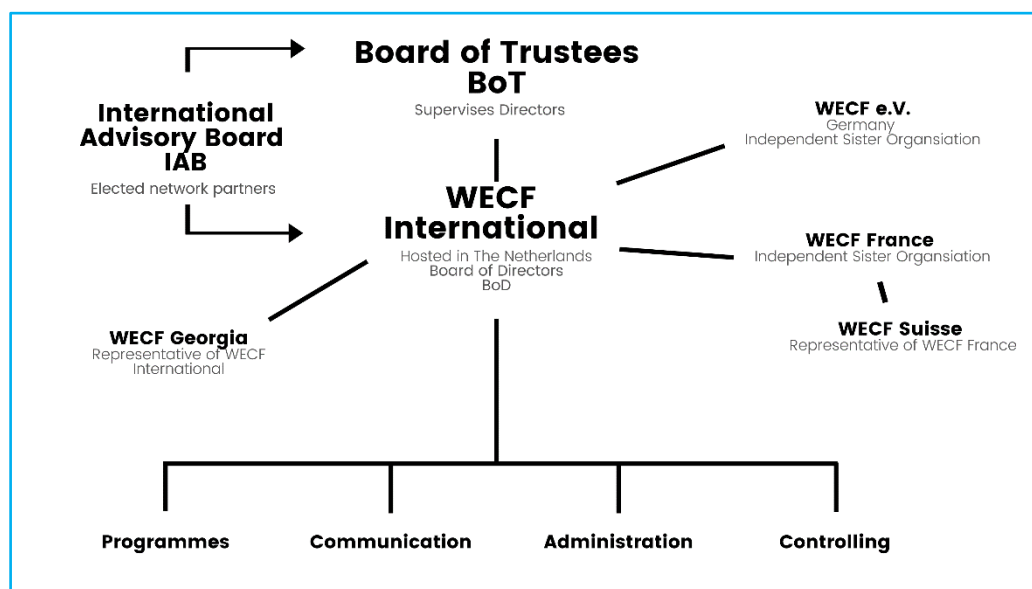
Plastic Alliance exit-Plastik.de and Plastic health Coalition, coalitions advocating to address the negative impacts of plastics including on women's health

SDG Nederland: Brings together individuals and organisations, is a catalyst for joint action and creates synergies around the Sustainable Development Goals in the Netherlands.

WO=Men gender platform based in the Netherlands, coordinating policy advocacy on gender equality

Our Participatory Governance

We have a dual governance system. The formal supervision of the 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.



WECF's participatory governance model

International Advisory Board

The IAB meets at least once a year. The following IAB members were elected end of 2018 for a four-year term. The next IAB elections will take place in 2023.

- Betty Namagala, Africa, Uganda, Caritas Kasananensis
- Katim Alaoui, Africa, Morocco, individual member
- Priscilla Achakpa, Africa, Nigeria, Women Environmental Programme
- Andriy Martynyuk, Europe, Ukraine, NGO Ecoclub
- Madeleine Fogde, Europe, Sweden, individual member
- Natasha Dokovska, Europe, North Macedonia, Journalists for Human Rights

- Armenuhi Sargsyan, Asia and Caucasus, Armenia AYRUDZY NGO
- Nana Pantsulaia, Asia and Caucasus, Georgia, Women's Fund Georgia
- Yuyun Ismawati Drwiega, Asia and Caucasus, Indonesia, BaliFokus Foundation
- Laura Martin Murillo, global, Spain, individual member

In Memoriam Irene Dankelman

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to Irene Dankelman, a driving force behind the ecofeminist movement and long-time board member of WECF

Irene was a passionate ecologist specialized in the field of gender and the environment. She inspired generations of women environmental activists as a professor and mentor and her academic publications reached people all over the world. The ecofeminist cause was dear to her heart, and she worked tirelessly towards ensuring gender equality in environmental decision-making and enabled several women environmental civil society organizations to positively influence policymaking in many countries, directly impacting women in local communities. Recently, Irene was honored with a Dutch Royal Decoration, a more than deserved recognition of her life's work. Irene's tremendous knowledge, dedication, passion and compassion will continue to guide and inspire us in building the ecofeminist movement.

Irene passed away on the 28th of December 2022. She was laid to rest "among the trees, heather, sand lizards, birds and deer" surrounded by family, friends and colleagues.



Photo: Irene Dankelman (left) in 2020 during a WECF event.

Board of trustees

The international Board of Trustees (BOT) oversees policies, plans and work of WECF in general and the Board of Directors specifically, and meets at least twice per year. As per 31 December 2020 the BOT consisted of the following members:

- Corinne Lepage, President
- Irene Dankelman, Vice President (RIP† 28.12.2022)
- Dominique Ounadjela, Member
- Hannah Birkenkötter, Member (mandate ended 2022)
- Jolein Baidenmann, Member and Integrity Advisor
- Maria Buitenkamp, Treasurer (mandate ended 2021)
- Yulia Savchenko, Treasurer (mandate started 2021)
- Miriam Müller, Member
- Claudia Wendland Member (mandate started 2021)

In 2021 two members of the BOT will resign, in 2023 three members of the BOT will resign (of which one member can be re-appointed), and in 2024 one member will resign (and can be re-elected); vacancies will be announced accordingly. Active steps are taken to further strengthen diversity of the BoT.

Board of Directors

WECF International is headed by a Board of Directors (BOD) consisting of the Executive Director and the Director of the Dutch office. Since we are a network organization, our programmes are implemented in close cooperation with our sister offices in Germany and France. The coming period the focus will be on further strengthening synergies between our offices in the field of fundraising, international policy advocacy and project implementation. Strengthening and bundling the expertise on our key working themes between the offices is part of that. For this we need to further formalise and streamline the cooperation between the offices.

As per 31 December 2020 the BOD consisted of the following members:

- Sascha Gabizon (International Executive Director)
- Kirsten Meijer (Director WECF Netherlands till 2022)
- Christy Aikhorin (Director WECF Netherlands from 2022)

And the following observers:

- Annemarie Mohr (Director WECF Germany)
- Natalia Dejean (Director WECF France till 2022)
- Carolina Toro (Director WECF France from 2023)



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Photo: Partners joining in our demonstration for gender-just climate policies

Our People

As an ecofeminist organisation working on gender-equality we believe in the power of women in all their diversities as agents of change. We continue to lead by example by striving for inclusive staffing, Board of Trustees and Board of Directors. We are proud of our international team and strengthen cooperation between staff in our different offices. We believe in an equitable, healthy and stimulating work environment, which is reflected in the human resource policy of the organization. Our human resource policy is guided by four main goals: empowerment, equality, integrity and diversity.

Empowerment

We stand for a just and climate-fair society in which everyone can participate and contribute. We also translate that vision into our personnel and internal training policy: we want to give our employees the space to develop their talents. In this way they can contribute even better to achieving their own and WECF's objectives. In the period 2021 -2025 we will continue to invest in strengthening capacities of staff based on the needs and demands that are identified in personal development reviews. We especially want to strengthen capacity in the field of planning, monitoring & evaluation.

Equality

We promote flat hierarchies, openness, and democratic decision-making. We have a fair wage policy related to functions, experience as well as financial prospects of the organisation. As a feminist organisation we attach great importance to facilitating a good work-life balance. We enable staff to take care of themselves, their relatives or whoever by offering flexible working hours. In the period 2021 – 2025 we aim to increase the salaries of the lowest paid staff members as well as the fees for interns to a level that corresponds better to average salaries and fees for small and medium sized CSOs.

Integrity

We expect our staff to be honest and maintain integrity in fulfilling their responsibilities and comply in full with all applicable laws and regulations, as well as our Code of Conduct, our Anti-Corruption and Anti-Fraud policy, as well as our Policy to Prevent and Address Sexual Harassment and Abuse. In the period 2021 – 2025 we will invest in facilitating dialogues, we will put integrity on the agenda of our annual strategic meetings, and we will identify further training needs. We will assess and if necessary, adapt the integrity policies and notification procedures that were renewed in 2020.

Diversity

We believe in the power of inclusion and equal participation no matter race, gender, age, social class, disability, beliefs or sexual orientation. We want to practice what we preach. Gender is a cross-cutting theme in our organization, and we acknowledge intersectionality. We ensure that throughout our work, gender equality is enhanced and active participation of women in all their diversities is ensured. In the period 2021 – 2025 we will live up to our ambition by setting out to build a diversity strategy.

Our Finances

The overall budget of WECF International over the past five years fluctuated between 1,5 and 2 million euro a year. On top of that, the other offices in France and Germany also mobilise about 1 million euro a year together, together the WECF network mobilizes around 3 million Euro to support Ecofeminist action.

The coming five years we expect a slight increase of our budget as a result of new long- term partnerships funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, we will continue with our European Commission funded DEAR programmes. At the same time, we will finish our multi-annual Women2030 programme, financed under the Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. All members of staff have a fundraising task to ensure sustainability of our work.

Our fundraising strategy consists of the following elements:

- Finding multi-annual funding for continuation of our work with the Women2030 alliance, through developing a new programme with our regional partners from Africa (WEP, FEMNET), Asia & the Pacific (APWLD) and Latin America and the Caribbean (FEIM).
- Fundraise for partners in those countries that are not eligible under the new Dutch programmes, concentrated in the region where WECF historically has a lot of partners and that are currently particularly suffering from the Russian war in Ukraine: Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Western-Balkans.
- Finding support for mid-sized projects and assignments related to Feminist Development Policy when the purpose of the fund fit the work of our network partners very well. Our focus is on UN agencies and private and public sector funds in the Netherlands, Germany and France.
- Expanding our own scope and capacity to contribute to information gathering, knowledge sharing and awareness raising on the need for feminist action for sustainable development, future proof climate and toxic free environment in Europe by actively seeking for funds that enable this. Our focus is on European Commission but also smaller funds of municipalities.
- Strengthening our support base and looking at other income generation activities such as private donations and crowdfunding. We will plan at least one campaign action a year targeted at our support base and broader audience, connected to urgencies we encounter and highlighting the power of ecofeminism.

Multi-annual budget

Multi-annual budget WECF Network (all offices)	BUDGET 2021	FORECAST 2022	FORECAST 2023	FORECAST 2024	FORECAST 2025	TOTAL 2021-2025
INCOME						
INCOME SOURCES (1) (under responsibility of Netherlands WECF)						
1.1 Income from grants of governments	1,650,000	1,300,000	1,350,000	1,400,000	1,450,000	7,150,000
1.2 Contributions from other organizations; incl. co-funding	92,000	292,000	300,000	320,000	350,000	1,354,000
1.3 Private donations	5,000	10,000	12,500	15,000	17,500	60,000
1.4 Various income (including consultancies, trainings)	5,000	10,000	12,500	15,000	17,500	60,000
Total income (under responsibility of Netherlands WECF office)	1,752,000	1,612,000	1,675,000	1,750,000	1,835,000	8,624,000
INCOME SOURCES (2) (under responsibility of other WECF offices Germany, France, Switzerland)						
2.1. Income from grants of governments	850,000	920,000	750,000	820,000	950,000	4,290,000
2.2 Contributions from other organisations	80,000	180,000	90,000	120,000	150,000	620,000
2.3 Private donations	30,000	20,000	45,000	50,000	55,000	200,000
2.4 Various income (including consultancies, trainings)	180,000	220,000	170,000	140,000	21,000	731,000
Total other income sources (under responsibility of other WECF)	1,140,000	1,340,000	1,055,000	1,130,000	1,176,000	5,841,000
TOTAL COMBINED INCOME SOURCES	2,892,000	2,952,000	2,730,000	2,880,000	3,011,000	14,465,000

EXPENSES (under responsibility of all WECF offices)						
Expenses on objectives:						
1.Feminist action for Sustainable Development	1,050,000	1,010,000	926,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	5,086,000
2.Feminist Climate and Energy Action	1,300,000	1,400,000	1,375,000	1,392,000	1,400,000	6,867,000
3.Feminist Toxic Free Future/Environment	418,000	416,000	300,000	300,000	420,000	1,854,000
Expenses relating to objectives	2,768,000	2,826,000	2,601,000	2,742,000	2,870,000	13,807,000
Other expenses:						
Expenses related to income generating and fundraising activities	13,000	13,000	14,000	16,000	17,000	73,000
Operational and administrative expenses	100,000	100,000	103,000	106,000	110,000	519,000
Financial costs & evt. income	7,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	9,000	40,000
<i>Bank costs, rate losses, interest paid and evt. received</i>						
Subtotal other expenses	120,000	121,000	125,000	130,000	136,000	632,000
TOTAL COMBINED EXPENSES	2,888,000	2,947,000	2,726,000	2,872,000	3,006,000	14,439,000
RESULT, for all offices						
	4,000	5,000	4,000	8,000	5,000	26,000
<i>Evt. appropriation of the result to the Continuity reserves</i>	4,000	5,000	4,000	8,000	5,000	26,000

Note: WECF offices are independent legal entities, the annual accounts of each office are audited externally according to the national law in the country.

Invitation to Join

We believe change can only happen when movements are inclusive and transformational. Together we stand much stronger than on our own. Our network is very diverse, with individuals and organisations that are active on the local, national and global level. In our diversity we share one belief, namely that the world can and should become better place by feminist action and increasing gender equality.

Organisations working in-line with our vision and mission are welcome to join our network, and can send their request to join through our website anytime. Individuals can join our network by subscribing to our newsletter, by supporting our network members or through engaging with us on social media.

Please find all information and contacts on our website:

<https://www.wecf.org/become-a-partner/>

