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ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



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A WORD FROM OUR
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

The year 2020 has been a difficult year, for our partners and for the world, as many colleagues and family members were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. As an ecofeminist network we note with concern that the pandemic has worsened the situation of women and environmental rights defenders in many countries. Even though the economic slowdown from the pandemic halted Green House Gas emissions from many sectors, the onslaught on forests and biodiversity continued unabated, as the expansion of plantations linked to meat production and biofuels continued. Often it are women in all their diversities, that stand at the forefront of fighting against deforestation, mining and agro-industrial expansion, while at the same time they carried the additional burden caused by the pandemic.

Still we have seen immense resilience amongst feminist movements, organizing and advocating for change despite the challenges, creating new ways to engage with each other and with policy makers. During regular online meetings we held last year, so called ‘health checks’, we heard from our partners across the world how the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated inequalities. In India, for example, millions of migrant workers were expelled from their temporary jobs and homes in the cities and are without income,

food or shelter. Women are the majority among informal, migrant and precarious workers globally. They are also the main providers of care to their family and working more hours than men. The Covid pandemic and the lock down measures increased the risk of violence in the public domain as well as in homes. Extreme poverty and hunger have risen. We received distressing news from our partners in Morocco, where the women's Argan cooperatives lost their income as buyers were inaccessible, and also in Ethiopia, Paraguay, Uganda and South Africa, partners were struggling to access medicines, water and food.

Even though we had to halt many of our planned activities that were to take place in person, our partners and staff showed great resilience and were able to continue a lot of work online, supported by the dedicated members of our Board of Trustees and International Advisory Board. Thank you for your dedication, energy, and hard work to bring us closer to a more sustainable and gender equal world!

It has been clear for a long time that we need a transformation, that we need to move away from exploitative policies that are at the root causes of the crisis, that have left us unprepared for this pandemic and that are sustaining many gendered inequalities. It is important that when this crisis will be finally over, it will not be a continuation of business as usual. What is needed is multilateral coordinated action that is gender-equitable and environmentally-sustainable. We need to reclaim the concept of eco-feminism and why we can be proud of it. Show the world that climate activists and our feminist partners worldwide have been moving mountains –despite all the structural barriers they face. We need to show the important changes we are making in local communities as well as in global policies.

Just before the covid crisis became real, in January 2020, we celebrated WECF's 25-year anniversary in Utrecht. We have come a long way since 1994, evolving from a group of dedicated female environmentalists to a professional civil society organisation, known for our expertise on gender equality and sustainable development and on local to global policy advocacy.

In September 2020 I got the chance to address the General Assembly of the United Nations to celebrate the 25th birthday of the Beijing Platform for Action. Beijing, where I went, with the other 30,000 participants, has given us a historic commitment for gender equality and galvanised global feminist solidarity. But now, 25 years later, in many countries, instead of progress we see regress. Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights are under attack. We see women human rights defenders, indigenous women, women of colour, trans women, imprisoned, assassinated, being discriminated. Faced with combined crises of covid-19 and climate change, we have been standing up even stronger for women's rights and have been able to mobilise with new alliances, building new networks.

I am proud and pleased to share with you the WECF International Activity Report for 2020, presenting our collective achievements from last year. We were able to continue a great part of the planned activities in a hybrid format, and the in-person activities were moved forward into the next year, thanks to our donors willingness to provide flexible timelines for our programmes. We hope this year's report will inspire you to join forces with us in changing the future. Feminists want system change now!

Sascha Gabizon

Executive Director WECF International



WECF INTERNATIONAL

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OUR STORY

We are a non-profit network 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 NETWORK

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 150 partner organisations in our network covering 50 countries. Since 2016, to reflect our global scope, we are called Women Engage for a Common Future.

Ecofeminism

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



HOW WE WORK

Through Knowledge Sharing & Building Capacity

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

Through Policy & Advocacy

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

Through Campaigning & Awareness Raising

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



OUR PARTNERS MOBILISING WITH THE WORLD

As a network organisation, we believe in building on existing organisations and networks, to increase impact and to avoid duplication. Our network partners operate on the principles of solidarity, intersectionality, and gender equality.

Together we work towards innovative solutions and sustainable alternatives. Together, we represent extensive expertise in various sectors, from technological to social. Our network provides a platform for knowledge sharing of our best practices and lessons learned. We use our experiences to formulate policy recommendations and advocacy actions.

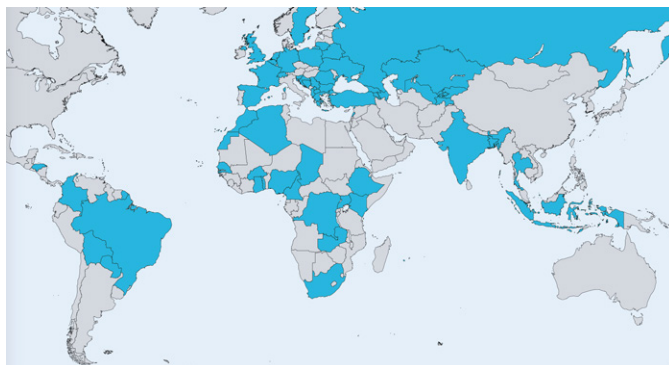
Our ethos is: from the local to the global and back, resulting in a global policy that is responsive and supportive of the local and vice-versa. With over 150 network partners in over 50 countries worldwide we work together to eliminate structural barriers to gender equality, human rights and

sustainable development, through our strategies of joint advocacy, joint projects and joint outreach.

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 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 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. and Gender Constituency on climate, and the Women's Major Group on environment and sustainable development.

OUR GLOBAL ROLE

Raising our voices together with women's rights and gender equality groups worldwide. Demanding real solutions based on the needs of the people" We are strongest when we act as a movement. Our networks are our force. This 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 ecofeminist demands in the period 2021-2025.

Women's Major Group –Feminist leadership in global Sustainable Development

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 support local women organizations in 50 countries to engage in the national implementation of the global commitments for Sustainable Development including the global goal on Gender Equality. We support the biannual elections of the facilitators of the Women's Major Group.

Women and Gender Constituency – global Feminist Climate Action

Public participation of women and feminist organisations from civil society is ensured through the 'Women and Gender Constituency' at the UN. We are an active core member of the Women and Gender Constituency. We contribute to the climate negotiations and we ensure that 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. 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 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 and other partners. We work with climate finance experts and governments to ensure women's priorities are equally reflected in national and local climate strategies. Through our Women2030 program we support local civil society organizations to engage in up to 50 countries in local climate actions and policy processes. We support the creation of local renewable energy service providers with women's leadership. We share policy recommendations and best practices through the [Women and Gender Constituency network](#).

Civil Society Advisory Group on Generation Equality (Beijing+25)

In 1995 we facilitated the participation of a delegation of women to attend the civil society forum of the fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing. With 17,000 delegates and 30,000 activists from across the globe this was one of the largest meetings to promote women's rights ever held. We organised events on the intersectional dimension between gender and the environment. We participated in demonstrations during the Huairou civil society forum with partners from, amongst others, Brazil, India, Kenya, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. 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. Now, 25 years later, we are 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. Through a process of self-organisation and independent selection, the Civil Society Advisory Group to the Generation has been created in which WECF is one of the 21 advisors to UNWomen and UN Member States. We will continue to work the coming years to facilitate and strengthen the participation of in particular young feminists in the [Generation Equality process](#).



FEMINIST ACTION FOR 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 DO!

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

Gender equality

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. We make gender gaps in society visible. We provide training and training tools on how to ensure gender-dimensions of sustainable development are taken into account. 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. And, as advocacy is now more and more taking place online – a development we expect to partly continue also after the COVID-19 pandemic – we build capacity on how to ensure we create online spaces that are inclusive and not exclusive.

Women's rights

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. We support partners working to end discrimination and gender-based violence. We cooperate with women's rights and human rights organisations to advocate for rights-based policies and practices.

International solidarity

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 promote feminist solidarity. 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 almost one thousand partners from these global alliances, we present our policy priorities.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

WECF Anniversary

Just before the outbreak of the pandemic we were able to celebrate our 25-year existence with an internal strategy day and a public movement building event for civil society organisations and young feminists, in Utrecht. We made the connection between the women's rights and environmental movement and exchanged views and knowledge with over 100 participants on how to



build an intersectional ecofeminist movement within the Agenda2030. Building on these insights, we developed our Ecofeminist Power Social Media Campaign which ran from May till September 2020 focusing on the intersectional interlinkages between gender equality and environmental issues.

Feminist COVID-response

Early 2020, right after the outbreak of the pandemic, we joined a loose collective together with more than 400 feminist organisations and activists from 74 countries, called Feminist Response to COVID-19. In May we launched what we call the "Feminist Response to COVID-19 Principles", which outline the key considerations that every COVID-19 response must take into account to make sure it works for everyone, everywhere. The principles were later translated into a toolkit with guidance and evidence-based recommendations for advocacy and policy making.

Online advocacy

Because advocacy moved online and many events were postponed or less accessible, we invested in capacity building on advocacy and online mobilisation, aimed at engaging more young feminists in particular. We

trained young feminists with our newly launched Global advocacy toolkit for the Beijing+25 process and beyond, and our feminist organizing toolkit on planning virtual meetings.

Beijing+25

The year 2020 was meant to be the year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the Generation Equality Forums. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic this was postponed to 2021 with virtual consultations scheduled during the time leading up to the celebration. The annual CSW in March was scaled down, there was no meaningful participation of civil society and the Political Declaration lacked ambition. Together with over 200 feminist groups we spread our alternative Feminist Declaration.

Speech at the UN General Assembly

A highlight was the speech of our international director, Sascha Gabizon, at the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the 25th Anniversary of Beijing Women's Conference. Heads of State joined the historic gathering and we called for a pushback against the pushback. Finally, we also supported the Generation Equality Forum process by providing advice and support to the organisation of the first curated discussion on intersectionality. We organised in close coordination with the regional UN Women office 3 sub-regional consultations for feminist civil society organisations to provide input for the process. The online consultations were a success, with thematic break out groups, and active participation of 100 participants.



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

WHAT WE 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 transfer 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.

Clean energy solutions

The energy sector has a low female participation, and research has shown that this is holding us back in our struggle against climate change. 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 focus on creating gender-just sustainable energy services for low-income non-connected areas, at a low cost. We advocate for governmental subsidies 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.

Inclusive forest governance

Deforestation is the world's second largest source of CO2 emissions. Halting climate change is impossible without protecting the remaining forests. Women, in all their diversities, are disproportionately affected by deforestation. They face multiple forms of discrimination based on gender but also on class, age and ethnicity amongst others. Often land ownership, tenure and resource rights are allocated to men. Valuable traditional knowledge that women hold about forest management and food production is often ignored. We strengthen participation of indigenous and rural women in forest conservation and governance and promote women's rights and gender responsiveness in forest-related policies from local to global. We strengthen community organisations, women's groups and their initiatives and their autonomy so they can represent themselves and gain access to land and tenure rights. We gather evidence to show the link between gender (in)equality, drivers of deforestation and forest conservation.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AWARDS

As most of the climate funding is going into reducing emissions in large-scale energy, industrial and transportation projects, much less support is available to those who are already paying a high price from climate change and who need funds to rebuild, replant, and survive. WECF and the Women & Gender Constituency therefore, have been organising an annual award ceremony at the global climate negotiations since 2015, honouring the most outstanding women led grassroots climate actions that promote gender-equality. Jointly with civil society and UN climate technology networks, we provide mentoring and support to bring these good practices to scale.

Due to Covid-19, the COP26 was postponed, but nevertheless we continued our cooperation with CTCN (UN Climate Technology Centre and Network) on the Gender-Just Climate Solutions in 2020. We used digital channels to continue to inform political decision makers and to encourage countries to raise NDC ambitions by factoring in women's needs and capacities regarding climate change action. In December 2020 we were given the chance to celebrate the accomplishments of 15 award winners on the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement with an online event and special edition publication. We looked back with some of our previous award winners and their achievements on gender- and climate justice. Kalyani Raj opened the floor. "What started 5 years ago as a simple incentive has become a great project in itself today!" A new call for applications was postponed to 2021.



HerstoryOfChange – The Story of Ernestine

Ernestine has been involved in regeneration and livelihood improvement in the Kilum-Ijim forest area since 2012. Together with her organization Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) she strengthens female leadership by providing training on agroforestry, soil conservation, tree planting, and forest governance.



In 2019, Ernestine was one of the winners of the Gender Just Climate Solution Award. This is a yearly event at the UNFCCC Climate Summit, organized by WECF International and the Women & Gender Constituency. In Cameroon's north-western region, on Mount Oku, the Kilum-Ijim Forest has been ravaged by wildfires for years. Since 2012, many bushfires have afflicted the country, destroying the biodiversity with little concern from the local communities and authorities. A method called 'slash-and-burn', a practice of burning down parts of nature for agriculture, is causing most of these bushfires. In the past, this method was not seen as dangerous. However, due to climate change, the climate has become extremely dry, making these small fires extremely risky. The forest fires not only have negative consequences for biodiversity. Through burning the forests, communities are destroying the very tools needed to combat climate change, as forests and their biodiversity are important for the storage of greenhouse gases.

Ernestine and CAMGEW found a solution: apiculture, also known as bee farming. This not only provided a solution for the bushfires but also gave the opportunity and the ability to change women's lives.

CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

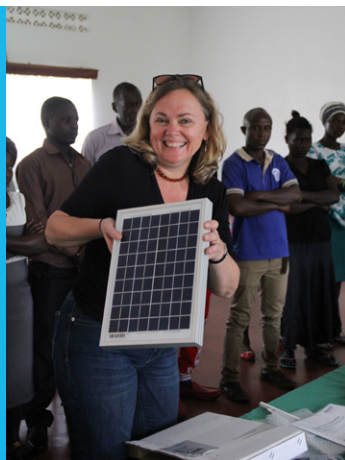
EMPOWERMED– Empowering women to act against energy poverty in the Mediterranean

In Europe more than 54 million people are affected by energy poverty, a situation in which households have difficulty paying for energy services to cover basic needs like heating, cooling or electricity. Energy poverty negatively affects living conditions, mental and physical health and may lead to social exclusion and to the inability to participate in society. The causes of energy poverty are often considered to be a combination of high energy prices, low income, energy inefficient homes and appliances, such as heating and cooling systems. However, further socio-economic factors, such as residential status (owner/tenant), the resources and rights to invest in refurbishment, and interdependent social factors, such as gender and age are often ignored in policies and practical measures. Empirical data suggests that women and women-led households are more likely to be adversely affected by the impacts of energy poverty, particularly on their health. Yet, there is very little data on the connection between gender, health and energy poverty in the EU. Together with our EmpowerMed partners we contributed to the alleviation of energy poverty and its negative impacts on people's health in the EU. The project focuses specifically on coastal areas of Mediterranean countries, by working on gender-inclusive access to renewable and affordable energy through trainings, the implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy solutions, to empower over 4,200 households with a focus on women.

Uganda – Green community energy

Green decentralized citizen energy is a promising approach to enable access to affordable clean energy in rural areas, to meet increasing energy needs and improve living standards while avoiding harmful substances to people's health and the environment. Only 4% of the rural population in Uganda has access to the public (often unstable) electricity grid. There is a high consumption of kerosene for lighting, diesel for power generation and firewood for cooking despite the fact that kerosene and diesel are expensive and collecting firewood is labour-intensive and causes major environmental

Our valued colleague, Katharina Habersbrunner, was recognised in 2020 for her longstanding and exceptional commitment to a gender-sensitive energy policies. The European Commission's award as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Awards recognized both goal and the values of her work at once: gender equality grounded in a sustainable energy transition. Her commitment to the decentralized energy transition in Europe and the global South, in order to guarantee both women and men access to affordable and clean energy and to enable them to actively participate in the energy transition, is limitless. Yet she is full of optimism: "I am deeply convinced that we can achieve the Paris Agreement by 2030 with a gender just and socially just energy transition".



and health problems. Likewise, water supply is also insufficient. These conditions have particularly negative effects on women and girls who are often responsible for collecting water and firewood which also prevents them from attending school or paid work. Affordable sustainable energy sources owned and run by the members of cooperatives are a first step combatting those challenges. Citizen projects create new career prospects and enable all citizens to organise and participate in a reliable and affordable energy and water supply. In order to ensure citizen ownership of technologies and active citizen's engagement we've been working with female cooperative members of agricultural cooperatives. Women have become ambassadors for spreading awareness on briquettes, water tanks and biogas. We are committed to extend the capacity building activities to further districts in Uganda and enable an exchange between several cooperatives from different districts.

Ethiopia – Green energy

in the hands of women The main income source in Ethiopia's rural areas is farming. Many farmers have joined cooperatives to share the costs of

activities throughout their value chain, such as the processing and transport of agricultural yield. Yet, they face many challenges when it comes to energy and water supply. Working with coffee cooperative alliance OCFCU gave us the opportunity to promote sustainable and decentralized energy technologies with a focus on gender equality, not only by getting more women involved in management and technologies but also by showing the importance of planning projects in a gender-sensitive way.

Women, who are mainly affected by the negative impacts of using traditional technologies, need to be involved in the management of energy and water supplies at household and cooperative level. Despite economic growth, improved access to education and health services as well as an increased electrification rate, more than 22 million people still live below the poverty line in Ethiopia. Many rural areas are still excluded from the electrification efforts or are unable to afford to be connected to the grid, leaving them with resources that are environmentally and health hazardous and expensive, such as kerosene for lighting, diesel for electricity generation, and cooking with firewood.





FEMINIST ACTION FOR TOXIC FREE ENVIRONMENT

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 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 can cause irreversible damage such as cancer and infertility. Waste dumping of industrial chemicals, pesticides, plastics and electronics are polluting food, air, the environment and (drinking) water. Women and men who live near waste dump 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, such as the Plastic Health Coalition, and with UN Environment. We identify the different gender-roles and health impacts on women. We advocate for 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. This plastic ends up in our bodies and in the waste dump, or in the sea, rivers, beaches as waste, polluting our beaches and oceans. We stand up for the right to menstrual health and campaign 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.

Safe water & sanitation

Having water inside your school, or in your home, is not a reality for millions of people. Often, existing water sources are not well protected. The water itself can be polluted with bacteria, nitrates and pesticide residues. It is not only having access to water, but to safe water, that is a human right. Knowing how to protect your drinking water source is the first step. Our training program on Water and Sanitation Safety Planning is a step-by-step assessment in which 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*.

How the women of An-Oston, Kyrgyzstan, became key drivers for improving livelihood by initiating drinking water supply infrastructure and community based water management.

Kyrgyzstan is a beautiful country with high mountains and gorgeous landscapes where horses still run freely. Most of the population is living in rural areas, with 70% of the country located above 1500 m of altitude, in very harsh conditions. Water often has to be pumped from a fountain in the street and collected wood is the main fuel for heating and cooking. These daily burdens rely mostly on women, who have to fight hard to improve their living conditions. As in many rural villages, the water supply system in the village of An-Oston was in awful condition. Out of a total 33 taps, only 6 were functional. Drinking water from these few taps was only available for 2 hours per day, one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon, creating long queues and tiresome unproductive waiting periods.



The film, shows how the women in the village of An-Oston, supported by local partner Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS) initiated the renovation of the water distribution system in the village, bringing safe drinking water into each household, and creating a water users village committee (CDWUU) to ensure sustainable water management for a safe future. “Water is not our biggest sorrow anymore”, shared a villager. As a result young families are moving back into the village.

With the support of the Artois Picardie Water Agency, the Water fund of the community of communes of the Pays de St Omer and several international foundations such as Natracare, WECF and KAWS enabled access for over 300 households to safe drinking water, improving the health situation in An-Oston. The film “[Implementing the Right to Water in An-Oston, a participatory and gender-just approach](#)” is both available in French and English.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

Humans are particularly vulnerable to the effects of hazardous chemicals in certain stages of their lives, during pregnancy, childhood, puberty, and later during menopause. In 2020 we worked, in partnership with other civil society organisations, to promote stronger legislation to phase out harmful chemicals, pesticides and plastics. We cooperated in multi-stakeholder processes where we presented the priorities of women and civil society on the risks of nanotechnology, asbestos, mercury and hormone disrupting chemicals. We worked with scientists, environmental agencies, and networks of civil society experts and we analysed products and presented policy recommendations for increasing healthy green living for young parents through our ‘Nesting’ training program.

EU chemicals strategy for sustainability

We welcomed the publication by the European Commission of a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. Along with 423 other organisations, we responded to the European Commission’s call for feedback on the roadmap for the upcoming Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. Such a strategy was long awaited, and increasingly urgently needed. In the run up to the publication we, sent a letter to the responsible Secretary of State of the Netherlands, together with the organisation ‘Tegengif’, asking for measures against EDCs (hormone disrupting chemicals) to protect specific groups, such as pregnant women and persons with health problems.

Toxic Free Periods

If there is one issue at the intersection of health, environment and the rights of women and gender non-conforming people – it is our menstruation. Unfortunately little attention is still paid to the environmental and health problems associated with our periods. On May 28, 2020, International Menstrual Health Day we organised an online event with speakers looking at the subject from different angles and we added our expertise to various debates and webinars organised by Break Free From Plastic Europe, Zero Waste Europe and WEN UK. Aim of our May session was to raise more awareness on the pollution created by conventional menstrual hygiene products and to bring together Dutch CSOs and organisations

working on the subject. During the session our publication on Toxic Free Periods was presented and policy recommendations were formulated. With our publication "Toxic Free Periods" we have been working towards changing the social and cultural attitudes towards our periods while also encouraging the use of more sustainable, safer and cheaper alternatives. Our demands and the Bloody Manifesto were further spread, together with more European partner organisations, during Environmenstrual Week in October. Together with partners from the Netherlands we wrote a letter to Dutch retailers to ask for normalisation of plastic free sanitary product alternatives.



Indoor air pollution and safe workplaces in Georgia

In 2020 the Georgian office continued to implement the project called "Clean Indoor Air for Children" aiming to tackle indoor air pollution in public kindergartens and schools, focusing on three regions in the country. Before kindergartens were closed due to COVID we managed to measure indoor air conditions in several public kindergartens throughout Georgia. Together with the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), the results were analysed and the first round of data were published as an interim report, which sparked public dialogue on this issue in Georgia.

The BRS Conventions

The global conventions that address harmful chemicals, mercury and waste are managed by the United Nations. We have been working with the secretariat of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm convention to document gender dimensions of chemicals and waste. Our Gender, Chemicals and Waste programme already included scoping studies for Nigeria and Indonesia and in 2020 we worked on case studies from Kyrgyzstan and Bolivia. In particular, we analysed the harmful effects from plastic waste, electronic waste, industrial PCB waste and from pesticides. The results of the scoping studies were published early 2021. The case studies and film continue to be used by the UN secretariat for their gender-trainings of the chairs of the Conference of Parties.

Nanorigo – Nanotechnology risk governance

Currently many products at the market incorporate nano materials for which a proper risk assessment cannot be made. Contrary to the REACH principle 'no data no market' the presence of nano materials in its content is generally not reported either. Given this situation, it is the demand of many companies and consumers to be informed about the possible dangers of nano materials used in consumer products or to be able to perform an independent risk assessment and develop a risk management strategy. This is very important considering the upcoming European GREEN DEAL for a non-toxic circular economy, and the use of the precautionary principle, as advocated by European and national governments. Based on this principle, the EU funded project NANORIGO (NANOTEchnology Risk Governance), which started in 2019 works on the development of a transparent, transdisciplinary, and science-based Risk Governance Framework (RGF) to support consumers, employers and employees in assessing uncertain risks of nano materials and nano products. Our specific role as WECF is to be a critical partner in the consortium, bringing in a gender perspective and putting the precautionary principle first to protect the health of women and workers at the workplace and as consumers.

Research: Protected countryside hides toxic mix of pesticides

Research, conducted by Buijs Agro-services and Mantingh Environment & Pesticides supported by WECF, looked at the presence and dangers of pesticides in grazed nature reserves in the Netherlands. Research focused on the effect toxins have on the presence of dung beetles, which is an important indication of a healthy environment and food chain. The research found a link between a high amount of pesticides and a low amount of dung beetles. The found pesticides aren't all used in the Netherlands or even neighbouring countries, showing a high-probability of the air diffusion of the pesticides. Only in 2018 Margriet Mantingh had found no fewer than 134 pesticides in the soil, manure and animal feed on farms in Gelderland using the dung beetle as an indicator. A well attended webinar with over a 100 participants on Friday November 27, 2020 was followed by huge media exposure, including a front page article in newspaper Trouw and an item in the main evening news in the Netherlands.



WECF PROGRAMMES

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

WOMEN2030

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

WHAT WE DO

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

ACHIEVEMENTS

The COVID-19 pandemic also affected the implementation of our Women2030 programme, which entered in 2020 its final year. This programme is implemented across different regions of the world to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a gender-equitable and climate-just way.

In 5 years, we have not only achieved, but surpassed the objectives that we had initially set:

- We have supported the participation of 1367 representatives of feminist and women's rights organisations in UN policy spaces;
- The capacities of 3135 local women's groups have been built on gender and sustainable development;
- More than 40700 people have been reached and empowered by the activities that have been implemented by the Women2030 partners;
- Almost 100 million people were reached on social media, and more than 120 million on mainstream media by our campaigns.

Young Feminists Toolkit

WECF launched the "[Young Feminists Toolkit](#)" early 2020 to engage and support young feminists to participate in international policy making and push for system change throughout the Generation Equality Forum (Beijing+25) process and other policy spaces related to women's rights and gender equality. Our partners retrieved community-based data and measured gender sensitive indicators of each SDG and assessed changes and progress over time.

Shadow Reports

Under Women2030, our partners in Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Macedonia also produced [shadow reports](#) (alternative reports to the Voluntary National Reports on the SDGs) with the input of Civil Society Organisations. In North Macedonia, our partner JHR has contributed, together with 27 other CSOs, to providing feedback to [the country's VNR](#), which was presented in July 2020 at HLPF.

Over the past five years (2016–2020) Women2030 country partners have produced 38 shadow reports to government's Voluntary National Reviews on the state of the implementation of the SDGs. The reports are based on desk research, multi-stakeholders' consultations and participatory gender assessments involving 2,414 people across 20 countries, based on a bottom-up methodology captured in the Women2030 gender impact assessment and monitoring tool.

Global Shadow Report: Gender Equality on the Ground

In July 2020 the Women2030 partners published the **Global shadow report: Gender equality on the ground – Feminist findings and recommendations for achieving Agenda 2030**. This global shadow report aims to capture the inspiring and diverse range of work that has taken place through the Women2030 programme over the past five years. It provides bottom-up and evidence-based civil society perspectives on SDG and gender equality progress with a focus on key feminist priorities, structural barriers and opportunities for change. The report ends with feminist recommendations and a call to action for governments, international organisations, women's rights movements and other civil society to make sure we achieve Agenda 2030 for all. The report was launched at a side-event at the 2030 Agenda's High Level Political Forum in July.

Virtual consultations

In the last year of the programme, we have switched to online participation and have therefore facilitated or participated in policy processes online. These were not only opportunities to bring in more diverse voices to policy spaces, but also a challenge due to difficult access to internet connection or equipment for some participants, or language barriers. We have

therefore looked into tools to make participation more accessible (e.g. asking participants about accessibility requirements prior to the meetings, simultaneous translation...). We have also developed, in collaboration with WEDO, [a Feminist organising toolkit – planning virtual meetings](#), to support organisations in navigating online meeting tools.

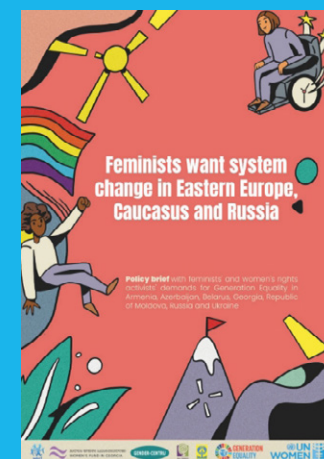
Beijing+25 consultations: #FeministsWantSystemChange

In the last months of 2020, WECF organised and facilitated a series of subregional virtual consultations in the run up of the Generation Equality

forums. Together with local feminists and human rights activists, we have explored what still needs to happen to achieve gender equality in the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern and Central European regions. These online consultations have engaged decision-makers and aimed to provide guidance to the Action Coalition leaders about the demands from the region. These consultations have been hosted in cooperation with UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

More information on the consultations is available [here](#).

As a result of the consultations, WECF published policy briefs with the demands from feminist organisations in [Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Russia](#), and [Central Asia](#). The demands focused on key themes identified by the participants during the consultations and covered by the Generation Equality Action Coalitions, such as gender-based violence, economic justice and rights, feminist activism for climate justice, or feminist movements and leadership. (Photo credits: Leyla Ali / WECF)



Long lasting effects at policy level

The project's activities have already led to long-lasting effects at the policy level as it has supported the participation of partners to policy processes and connection with the Women's Major Group and Women and Gender Constituency to joint advocacy work and outreach activities. As a result of these activities, some of our partners have presented their own analysis on

Engaging in policy discussions and breaking taboo in North Macedonia

In North Macedonia, through their participation in the Women2030 program, Journalists for Human Rights started working on menstrual poverty, tax discrimination and gender budgeting, engaging in data gathering activities to assess gender equality. They drafted a report covering access to water and sanitation, working conditions, and equality between men and women in

decision making. With that they reached out to the representatives of the local municipalities, prepared reports for them and started a petition to reduce the tax on pads. They organised a national campaign during the period of local and national

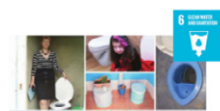
WATER & SANITATION

In North Macedonia, 97 per cent of the citizens exercise the right to Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation, but there are still citizens who do not have access to drinking water in accordance with European standards. Moreover, only 18 per cent of the population has access to sewage systems. The main issue that they face is access to sanitation in schools, (both in rural and urban areas), with special accent to toilets for Menstrual Health Management (MHM).

The rate of access to safe drinking water for marginalised people in the Skopje region is at an intermediate level. It is noticeable that there is no access to water and sanitation for homeless people and internally displaced people. Only 16 per cent of Roma Residents living in Skopje have

toilets and bathrooms, while others use toilets outside their homes and only 26 per cent of them have access to water. Also the state of access to water and sanitation for the disabled is at a very low level [4].

The Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP) is responsible for policies, strategies and laws, whereas municipalities are responsible for the provision of water services. Water supply is managed by public utilities, founded, established and owned by the municipalities.



60-80%

Current level of water supply coverage in rural areas



School toilet in rural area

93%
of the respondents in rural areas state that girls or daughters do not have decent sanitation and hygiene conditions at school

Access the full report
women2030.org/NorthMacedonia



elections which led political parties to contact them to learn more about the tax on pads and include provisions for that in their programmes. This allowed them to influence the national discourse around access to menstrual hygiene and other topics previously not openly discussed because considered as taboos. This also resulted in improvements of national planning of school toilets and menstrual health management, as well as the direct creation of additional public school toilets in Skopje. They continue to work to support women's groups to learn about and exercise their rights. They organize and work together to make their voices heard at the municipality level. They also work with the municipality by organising trainings on gender budgeting and gender equality for government officials.

the implementation of the SDGs with a gender perspective, thanks to the production of [gender assessments](#) and a [shadow report of the Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#). The layout and spreading of these reports both online and in policy spaces such as HLPF have been coordinated by the coalition partners, and country partners have built their capacity in not only retrieving community-based data, but also on creating infographics and designs that help the visualisation and the analysis of the data collected.

Countries

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macedonia (FYROM), Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vietnam

Partners

Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and Women Environment Program (WEP)

Donors

EuropAid European Commission, GIZ



Herstory of Change – Jamila's Story

Jamila Idbourrous is the director of the Union of Argan Women's Cooperatives. She represents 1200 women argan farmers in the south of Morocco who have united in 22 women's cooperatives to produce arganoil in a fair and sustainable way. In 2016, Jamila was one of the winners of the Gender Just Climate Solution Award.



In the arid and dusty landscapes of the Argan region in southwestern Morocco, the argan tree is a lifeline. The small strip of land stretching between Essaouira and Tiznit is one of the only places in the world where argan trees grow. But the desert is approaching fast, due to climate change. The production of argan oil has supported indigenous

Berber women for generations, with ancestral knowledge about nurturing the forest passed down through families. The women make a living from the production of argan oil and process the argan fruits by hand in order to produce the purest oil. Ultimately, the goal of the cooperatives is to control the entire value chain, from argan nuts to cosmetic products.

The Argan forest represents a traditional way of life, it is a precious source of income for women and an important defence against desertification. But climate change threatens the Argan forest. In July 2020, it got so hot that even the drinking water supply had to be shut down overnight, a challenge during the Covid pandemic. Climate change not only threatens the health of the native Berber population, but also threatens their income, as argan trees produce less when temperatures are too high.

To address climate challenges and protect the forest, Jamila introduced solar energy to the Argan region, but in such a way that it promotes both women's rights and protects people and the planet. Switching to solar energy therefore not only protected the forest, but also significantly reduced the workload of women, because the women did not have to spend hours anymore collecting fire wood.

Results of UCFA

- 600 women are improving their skills on cooperative management, governance and strategy.
- 2 women energy cooperatives in development and 40 women technicians will master solar technologies.
- 1 solar village: 15 families equipped with solar cookers, 1 solar oven, 1 pump, 1 hammam.
- Ancestral knowledge for climate action and biodiversity protection is recognized.

The establishment of the women's cooperatives contributed to a more stable income while the local production of solar technologies created jobs for women in a male-dominated industry, making a major contribution to Morocco's sustainable energy transition. Not so long ago it was unthinkable that women could have their own income here. Now they are confidently unleashing an energy revolution. Women's workload is significantly reduced as they spend less hours on firewood collection.

The FAREDEIC project (Women of Argan and Rural Committed to Inclusive Economic Development and Climate) is supported financially by the Ecological Transition Agency (ADEME) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Conducted over 3 years, the FAREDEIC project, aims to promote a model of territorial climate policy including gender, while contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of local populations.





DEAR PROGRAMMES

MESA MAKE EUROPE SUSTAINABLE FOR ALL

The European Union has some of the most advanced legislation on environmental protection, climate action, gender equality and public participation. Still, much more is needed. Europe's ecological footprint is far too great. Europe's climate emissions are causing small island states to sink under the ocean. Europe's plastic waste has largely been ending up in developing countries and in the ocean. As consumers and producers, Europeans need to take responsibility and start living within the planetary boundaries. All European Union member states need to make a great effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate.

WHAT WE DO

Since 2017 our German, French and Dutch offices have been part of the Make Europe Sustainable for All project, which has reached 85 million citizens, engaged around 900 policy makers, organized 190 policy events and built capacity on the SDGs for more than 5000 civil society organisations and local groups in 15 countries. The project involved 25 partners in 15 countries advocating for the ambitious implementation of the world's crisis plan – the 17 SDGs – by and in the EU.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

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

Highlights in **the Netherlands** in 2020 were the formation of an ecofeminist block during the International Women's March on March 8, just before covid-19 took over public life, and the organisation of an online event on International Menstrual Health Day, highlighting the launch of the Toxic Free Periods publication. In the first quarter of 2020 we finalised our "Make Europe Sustainable for All" campaign on the topic of Toxic Free Fashion, as part of the Pan European Wardrobe Change campaign. Next to the social media campaign, we organised in collaboration with Young & Fair a workshop to raise awareness on the topic in the period leading up to their Fair Fashion Festival in Utrecht by organising a session with them on (gender) inequalities and environmental pollution in the fashion industry.

We also continued our partnerships with platforms and alliances focused on policy advocacy and the SDGs in the Netherlands, such as Wo=Men, Partos, Building Change, OneWorld and SDG Nederland. As an active member in the Building Change coalition, we provided our input to the Dutch SDG



monitoring report that was published in May 2020. About 200 people joined the launch event online in presence of the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Aid, as well as multiple Members of Parliament. We also gave input to the policy coherence report and raised the lack of gender analysis. As a result, the Minister promised during the parliamentary debate that from next year onwards the Ministry will provide more gender analysis when reporting on policy coherence. We also collaborated with Building Change on a short, animated explainer video, to introduce the concept of policy coherence for development to a larger audience, which was launched in June 2020.

The implementation of the MESA project enabled **WECF France** to create new active partnerships with French CSOs, at the national level specifically. We were able to reach different kind of audiences and get recognized as a credible actor at the national level on SDGs. The SDGs were not very known in France at the start of the project in 2017, this had changed by the end of the project, with the submission of a constitutional law proposal to integrate the SDGs in the legislative process, with WECF France supporting the MP who proposed the law, to share her experience.

In 2020 **WECF Germany** successfully engaged more citizens and journalists in activities related to the agenda 2030 as well as in expanding WECF's network with organisations and policy makers. The collaboration between the alliance and the Munich municipality was strengthened and it became clear that the local level is essential for the implementation of the agenda 2030 since that is the place where promises are turned into actions, where policy makers are close to communities and citizens and where the agenda 2030 can have a big impact.

Partners:

EEB, European Environmental Bureau, SDG Watch Europe

Donors:

European Commission, Europaid DEAR Program



CLIMATE ACTION BY EUROPEAN CITIZENS

Since August 2020, WECF International has been part of a consortium of 20 organisations in 13 countries across Europe with the mission of making young Europeans aware of the intersecting issues of climate change, development issues and gender equality, ClimAct. Climate Action by EU Citizens Delivers for Development is a project funded by the EC for four years. The project raises awareness, increases capacity, and supports EU citizens, particularly young people, to build public support for ambitious climate change and development policies which have gender equality at the core.

WHAT WE DO

A diverse consortium under the umbrellas of Oxfam and the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) bring together experience of climate change campaigning and communication in Europe, gender equality, European youth mobilisation, and climate change development programmes in the Global South. The project has 3 key objectives:

Awareness Raising: increase EU citizens' awareness and understanding of the interconnectedness of climate change, gender equality and development issues.

Training: Empower young EU citizens to become change makers in their local communities and influence decision makers.

Mobilization: EU citizens take action in national and pan-European efforts to tackle climate change and development. The Pan European community can (and must) be a climate leader on the global stage

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

As co-lead, with Oxfam Intermom, on the topic of Gender Justice we delivered training workshops on gender and climate to CAN members from the 27 EU member states in French, Spanish, German, Dutch, and Bulgarian, plus a Gender Justice strategy and plan for the consortium. In cooperation with Oxfam Intermom, a Gender & Climate training module was also developed for CSOs, decisionmakers and policymakers. Consortium members received training on this which included practical exercises from project examples. It also included a planning exercise to ensure project communication is gender-transformative.

On the 8th of March we demonstrated for gender justice and climate justice at the women's march in Amsterdam, which mobilised thousands of participants. Together with Wo=Men we launched a campaign (Gelijk=Anders) to increase awareness on the urgency of lack of gender equality and the need for more ambition to push back the negative trends, also in the Netherlands. We increased visibility for our views by contributing to [the 'Genderspecial' of Vice-Versa](#), including a story on the work of our partner in Morocco and an interview with Kirsten Meijer, the director of the Dutch office. In the run up to the 2021 general elections in the Netherlands, we also published a policy paper with our main demands, including the demand to put women's rights and gender equality at the centre of Dutch policies. These demands were shared with the political parties as inputs for their election manifestos.

Partners

Oxfam Novib, Climate Action Network Europe



OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION

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

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

PARTNERS

For a network like WECF outreach and communications are of great importance. WECF International communicates in various ways with multiple stakeholders and target groups. Our main stakeholders are our partners. Their vision and needs are leading for our organisation. They have a voice in our governance through our International Advisory Board. Communication with partners was also organised through monthly Women2030 calls and

Health check-ins with our partners around the world



regular Covid 19 health checks during the pandemic.

DONORS

Our other main stakeholders are our donors, in particular the European Commission as well as the European Environmental Bureau, the lead applicant of our

European Commission funded programme, Make Europe Sustainable for All (MESA) which ended in 2020 and Oxfam Novib, the lead applicant of our new European funded Programme ClimAct. Communication was mainly restricted to weekly Teams and Zoom session in 2020.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In 2020 we invested in updating our relations in The Netherlands by intensifying our online cooperation with civil society organizations, Members of Parliament and Ministries (Health, Infrastructure and Water, Foreign Affairs), by organizing online meetings and providing information by mail and co-organising advocacy meetings.

PUBLIC SUPPORT IN EUROPE AND IN THE NETHERLANDS

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

In the Netherlands, WECF is an active member of WO=MEN, the Dutch Gender Platform, mainly consisting of the larger Dutch developmental and social NGOs. WECF is also part of the Building Change Coalition, which collaborates to advocate for policy coherence for development. The

SDGs are crucial in achieving this, so they envision a fair and ambitious implementation of the SDGs, led by a positive, engaging government. Building Change collaborates with a large coalition of NGOs working in the sustainability and development sectors. WECF has also signed the 'SDG Charter', which built a bottom-up movement of business, civil society and local governments to enhance collaboration for SDG Action.

Citizens

Finally, our main target groups are also citizens. In 2020 we further developed our website, which was launched only a year before. The Dutch, French and German websites were integrated into the international website and the first steps were made towards the integration of a new Georgian website. (www.wecf.org).

Women 2030

In terms of communications and outreach, the campaigns which WECF coordinated with the Women's Major Group have reached out to a total of almost 100 million people via social media, and more than 120 million via mainstream media. The Women2030 website is the platform by which we share all information about the project available, as well sharing the tools that we have developed for our partners.

We share all information on the Women2030 programme on its dedicated website, and amplify ours and our partners campaigns on Women2030's facebook and twitter pages.



SOCIAL MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS

In 2020 our main international campaigns were #WardrobeChange and #FeministsWantSystemChange. In addition, we participated actively in joint campaigns such as #ToxicFreePeriods and campaigns on pesticides and the visibility we gave to the founding of Pesticide Action Network the Netherlands.

Through our social media channels and digital newsletter we reached millions of people worldwide, with over a million people alone in The Netherlands with our pesticides research outcomes in the province of Gelderland, thanks also to the critics of a thinktank paid for by the agricultural industry, who doubted the outcomes of our scientifically reviewed and thoroughly checked reports with fake news posts.

We created more traffic through efficient use of the free version of the design program canva pro account which we got for free as a nonprofit. social media and through better use of search engines..

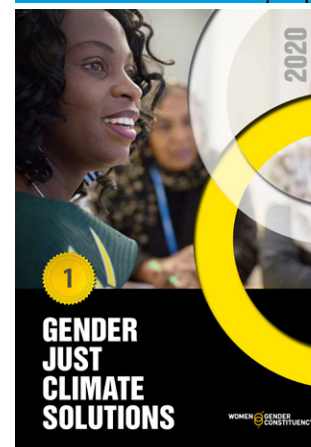
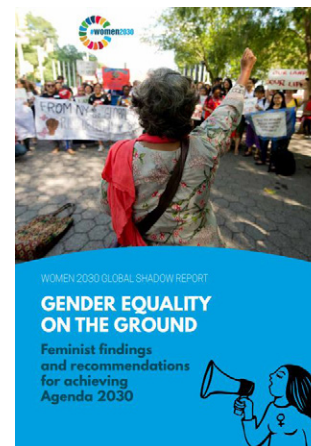


OTHER COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

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

Here is an overview of our most prominent publications in 2019:

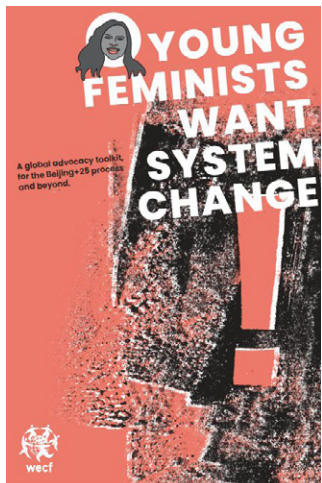
Gender Equality on the Ground: Feminist findings and recommendations for achieving Agenda2030 This global shadow report aims to capture the inspiring and diverse range of work that has taken place through the Women2030 programme over the past five years. It provides bottom-up and evidence-based civil society perspectives on SDG and gender equality progress with a focus on key feminist priorities, structural barriers



and opportunities for change. The report ends with feminist recommendations and a call to action for governments, international organisations, women's rights movements and other civil society to make sure we achieve Agenda 2030 for all.

Gender just climate solutions – 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.

Feminist organizing toolkit – planning virtual meetings In the last two months, we were thrilled to see so many people participate in our joint three-part webinar series on “Planning Virtual Meetings.” As April and May progressed and the coronavirus pandemic necessitated social distancing around the world, it was clear we would need more virtual organizing than ever before. The webinars were an urgent response to that need, but we also know that digital tools and skills will be a critical tool for our movements far beyond this moment. As feminists, we know we must continue to find ways to build power together online. <https://www.wecf.org/feminist-organizing-toolkit-planning-virtual-meetings/>



Young feminists want system change – Global advocacy toolkit for the Beijing+25 process and beyond Advocacy spaces such as international processes and negotiations can be quite complex from the outset and difficult to access for youth. This manual aims to motivate and support young feminists to participate in international policy-making and push for system change throughout the Generation Equality Forum (Beijing+25) process and other policy spaces related to women's rights and gender equality. These include the Commission on the Status of Women and its review of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for action, Agenda 2030 with its High Level Political Forum, and the United Nations General Assembly. <https://www.wecf.org/young-feminists-want-system-change/>

UNECE civil society report on Beijing+25 In 1995, governments committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA), the most visionary agenda on women's rights and gender equality. In the run up to the year 2020, and the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the BPFA, the governments and civil society from the United Nations Economic Commission of Europe, met in Geneva to review progress on this milestone from 1995. This report is a compilation of the perspectives of feminist and civil society organisations from more than 45 countries in the region that participated in the preparations and during the civil society forum itself, on the 28th of October 2019 in Geneva.

All publications from 2020 are available on our website www.wecf.org.



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.

WECF STAFF 2020

Our country offices provide expert and funding support for our network activities.

WECF International (based in the Netherlands)

Sascha Gabizon, International Director

Kirsten Meijer, Director WECF The Netherlands

Audrey Ledanois, Women2030, Project Manager

Bernice Chukwumba, Women2030, Project Assistant

Chantal Van den Bossche, Communications Manager

Margreet Munneke, Accounting Officer

Sanne Van de Voort, Policy Officer

Wim van Schie, Controller

Margriet Mantingh, Expert Water & Food Safety

WECF France

Celine Burdin, project officer

Lucie Dominé, intern

Perrine Macé, project assistant (civic service volunteer)

Elisabeth Ruffinengo, Policy Officer Health & Environment

Malika Berkaine, Administration and communication

Emilie Delbays, Network and education tools manager

Anne Gomel, Training Manager

Julie Rambaud, Director till June 2019

Natalia Dejean, Director

Maëva Bréau, Agenda 2030 project Officer

Léah Khayat, project assistant (civic service volunteer)

WECF Germany

Julika Zimmermann, Communications

Gina Cortés Valderrama, Project Manager Climate

Anne Barre, Policy Coordinator Climate

Verena Demmelbauer, Project Manager Water & Sanitation

Hanna Gunnarsson, Policy & Communications Officer Gender Equality

Johanna Hausmann, Programmes Coordinator Chemicals & Health

Katharina Habersbrunner, Programme Coordinator Sustainable Energy & Climate Solutions

Annemarie Mohr, Director WECF Germany

Ganna Kharchenko, Project Officer Sustainable Energy & Climate

Bistra Mihaylova, Programmes Coordinator Water & Sanitation

Anja Ruelemann, Programme Coordinator Make Europe Sustainable for All

Anke Stock, Programmes Coordinator Gender Equality

WECF Georgia

Anna Samwel, Country Director

Ida Bakhturidze, Programme Coordinator & Women's Rights Expert

WECF GOVERNANCE

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



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

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

Our International Board of Trustees bear the final responsibility for our strategic and financial management. Members are appointed based on their expertise and perform their functions on a voluntary basis. They are mandated for four years and can only be re-elected once. Next to their controlling tasks they advise the Board of Directors, perform representative functions for WECF and, as far as time allows, keep in touch with the work and members of WECF through participation in projects.

In 2020 the Board of Trustees consisted of the following members:

Corinne Lepage, President; Associate Lawyer at Huglo Lepage Avocats & Former French Minister of Environment

Hannah Birkenkötter, Trustee, Research Assistant at Humboldt University of Berlin & Expert International Rights

Irene Dankelman, Trustee, Researcher & Lecturer at Radboud University Nijmegen | Expert Gender & Climate

Maria Buitenkamp, Treasurer; Director of Ecostrategy & Organic Blueberry Farmer

Jolein Baidenmann, Trustee

Dominique Ounadjela, Trustee

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD (IAB)

Through our International Advisory Board (IAB), our partners get to have their say in our governance. The members of the IAB are elected from among our partners. They are all non-governmental organisations working with us on gender equality and sustainability through activities such as policy advocacy and project implementation. They subscribe to our vision and mission, as well as our good governance policies. In the nominations for the IAB, we encourage members working on our thematic focus areas and people of diversity; for example, in terms of geographical scope, age and gender. The IAB's role is to give strategic advice to our Board of Trustees and Directors and is crucial for giving new impetus to developing common funding, advocacy and campaigning strategies. The following members were elected in 2018 and came together in February 2019 for the first time:

Andriy Martynyuk, Domestic Solar Energy Coordinator at Ecoclub, Ukraine

Armine Sargasyan, Programme Dev Director & Head of Youth Dept at Ayrudzy, Armenia

Betty Namagala, Programmes Officer at Caritas Kasanaensis, Uganda

Katim Alaoui, Prof. Biodiversity Rabat University & Women's Leadership Mentor, Morocco

Laura Martin Murillo, Adviser Spanish government & Trade Unions on fair energy transition; expert on occupational health, chemicals, waste & UN processes, Spain

Madeleine Fogde, Director of SIANI & Senior Expert on Sustainable Sanitation at SEI, Sweden

Nana Pantsulaia, Executive Director of Women's Fund Georgia, Georgia

Natasha Dokovska, Programme & Advocacy Director at Journalists for Human Rights, Macedonia

Priscilla Achakpa, Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme, Nigeria

Yuyun Ismawati Drwiega, Co-founder & Senior Advisor, BaliFokus/Nexus3 Foundation, Indonesia



FINANCIAL SITUATION

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

The income from WECF stems almost fully of grants of multilateral organisations, like the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) of the European Union ('EuropeAid') and smaller grants from for example the United Nations Environmental Programme. These grants are fully designated to accomplish the projects for which they were given. As a result of this, almost all costs are for project implementation, which include the salary costs belonging to the projects.

It is the policy of WECF to keep the administrative costs and the costs for raising grants and subsidies to a minimum, but there are no specific percentages to be reached. For the EuropeAid projects cofunding is

required: at least 10% (DEAR) to 20% (WOMEN2030). A major part of it is realized by the partners in these projects and another part comes through our WECF branche organisations in Munich, Germany and Annemasse France. Co-funding is therefore an important source of income for WECF, though much less than the years before, since our co-funding contribution for the WOMEN2030-project was for the greatest part reached by the start of 2020. Also this has led to a lower turnover in 2020 than in the years before. Furthermore, there were no specific sources of income, or specific costs.

As a result of the covid-19 pandemic, many activities which had been planned for 2020, had to be postponed or organised virtually instead of physically. WECF requested an extension of the deadline of its ongoing projects, which were conceded, and was thus able to move numerous activities forward into 2021. As a result, the expenditure in 2020 is considerably lower than had been budgeted, largely because of underspending due to the Covid pandemic.

The combination of the programs funded by the European Commission and the newly started programs supported by foundations, member states and the UN ensured a stable financial situation in 2020, allowing to attract additional supporters and contribute further to activities of partner organizations.

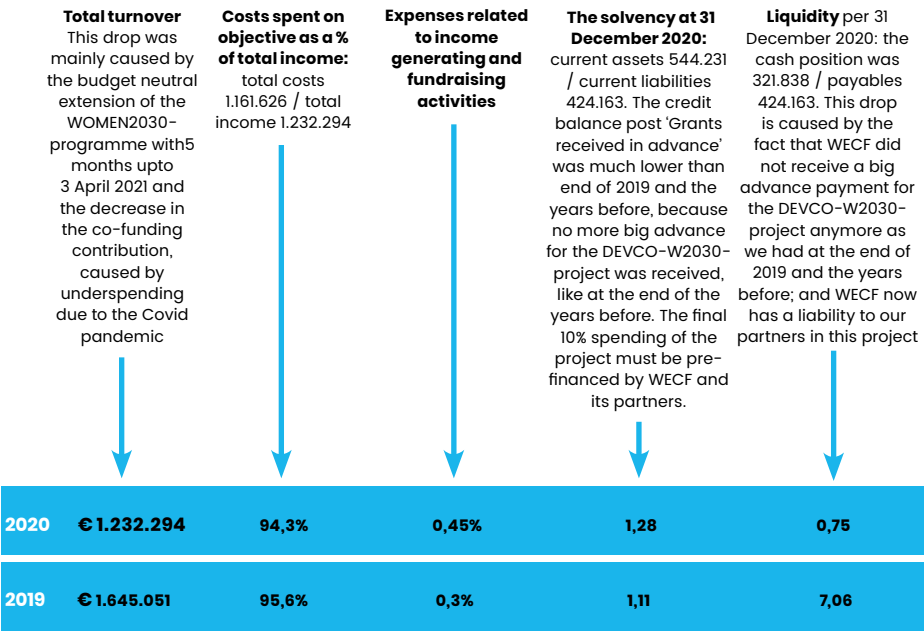
Stable financial resources for the coming years remain assured through the 5-year programme 'Forests for a Just Future' programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance, the ClimAct programme with Oxfam Novib as well as the donation that WECF was awarded by the 'Nationale Postcode Loterij' in the Netherlands. Finding additional funding for example from the European Commission, as a follow-up to our strategic partnership and Women2030 programme remains crucial.

Finding additional funding for 2021 is looking good, with a number of foundations committing to contributing to the activities and additional funding proposals submitted or to be submitted to further ensure long-term stability in the coming years. For 2021 the budget is 1,825 million, of which 99% consists of secure funding. On top of that an estimated 400 to 500.000

euro will be channelled through WECF Germany. Liquidity will be sufficient throughout the whole year.

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

FINANCIAL KEY FIGURES OF 2020



You can find the full Financial Report 2020 [here](#).

IMPRESSUM

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Women Engage for a Common Future

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



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