



ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



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Our story

WECF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to a gender-just and healthy planet for all. We are a network of over 250 ecofeminist organisations from 72 countries around the world. We work with our partners and advocacy allies on jointly funded projects and advocate for female leadership and gender equality in the field of sustainability. We believe a healthy, just and sustainable world requires feminist solutions in 3 critical areas: sustainable development, climate solutions and toxic free environment.

WECF was conceived as Women in Europe for a Common Future during the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992. Women from the UN European Region (Europe and Central Asia) came together, recognising the role women played in sustainable development, as defined in the United Nations report, Our Common Future. WECF was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands and changed its name to Women Engage for a Common Future in 2016 to recognise its growing global role.

Our philosophy is to ensure that the voices of women, ecofeminists and marginalised groups are heard at the policy table combined with local action in which they realise their priorities. This dual action-advocacy approach has proven to be very successful and became one of the strongest distinguishing aspects of our network.

Our mission

Our mission is to be a catalyst for change to bring the priorities and leadership of women and feminists in all their diversities, into policies and actions that will shape a just and sustainable world; our “Common Future”, through providing capacity building, tools and funding to ecofeminist partner organisations.

Our vision

We envision a world in which gender equality has been achieved and all people live in dignity, while collectively sharing the responsibility for a healthy, just, and sustainable environment. Everyone is different and, as such, has different needs and access to opportunities. Tackling the structural barriers to equal opportunities and wellbeing constructed by society is essential to achieve the world we want. The priorities of women in particular are too often neglected in politics, economics, and broader 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. We are inspired and led by our partners and our network to change the mindsets and behaviours of those actors that shape tomorrow’s world and support and empower our network partners to become actors themselves.

Ecofeminism

At WECF, we base all our work on ecofeminist principles. For us ecofeminism means, using an intersectional feminist approach in fighting the structural barriers to enjoying a safe and healthy environment. Ecofeminism shows the lived experiences of marginalised groups under the climate and environmental crises; how they are unevenly affected as well as being powerful in their agency to overcome it. Ecofeminism emphasises that the existing system is not compatible with women’s rights and a sustainable planet.

For us, ecofeminism means using an intersectional feminist approach when fighting structural barriers that prevents us from enjoying a healthy environment. These barriers include, among others, extractivism, militarism, gender-based violence, the excesses of capitalism, imperialism and shrinking space for civil society. We take a holistic approach and recognise that we all come with a different baggage of discrimination depending on our gender, age, race, ethnicity, sexual identity, education, religion, ability or socioeconomic class.



Our goal

Our goal is to bring together a plurality of feminist theories, analysis, approaches, and traditions by translating inclusive ecofeminist thinking/strategies into concrete demands and actions at national and international levels. Based on the observation that the struggle for a sustainable, just, and healthy world is not a single-issue struggle, we believe that gender responsive policies and feminist action is needed in three key thematic areas: sustainable development, climate solutions and toxic free environment. That is why we work on transformative gender-equality and ecofeminist approach linking human rights, climate justice, sustainable energy, safe water & sanitation, zero-toxics and zero-waste.

How we work

In order to work towards the world that we envision, we believe that we should use our capacities in multiple ways. After all, the structural barriers to equal opportunity and wellbeing for all are entrenched and versatile, and tackling them therefore requires a multitude of approaches. As such, we engage in three main intervention strategies. These are policy advocacy, capacity strengthening and raising awareness.

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 power balance through capacity strengthening

We respond to our network members' requests for joint sustainable implementation projects that aim at reducing inequalities, 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 to support them in their work for climate justice, an environmentally sustainable future and gender justice.

Changing the mindsets – Raising awareness, mobilising & growing the network

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 among our network partners. Awareness is an important first step towards increasing public pressure on corporations and politicians.





GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Mobilising with our international network partners

Together with our network partners work on **transformative gender equality and women's rights** in interconnection with climate justice, sustainable energy & chemicals, less toxic waste, safe water and sanitation for all. We do this by facilitating the participation of partners in advocacy processes with capacity strengthening, financial support, and accreditation to international policy meetings. We coordinate joint shadow reports and independent monitoring of policies and programmes with our partners 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.

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 and sustainable solutions and 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 our network partners we work together to eliminate structural barriers to gender equality, human rights, sustainable development and a healthy environment, through our strategies of joint advocacy, joint projects and joint outreach.

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.

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

We have since our inception helped to facilitate a 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. Furthermore, we support the bi-annual 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, of which we are an active core member. We contribute to the climate negotiations and we ensure that the participation of grassroots women organisations from our networks in the policy meetings. 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. In cooperation with the Women & Gender Constituency, we run our **Gender Just Climate Solutions** programme, through which we identify, promote and mentor best practice projects that centre gender equality and women's rights in climate action. 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.

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, 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 around the world, and attacks against gender equality and women's human rights and environmental defenders. To accelerate the Beijing progress for women's rights and gender equality, the 5-year 'Generation Equality' campaign was launched in 2020.

Generation Equality Forums

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 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. We also became **Generation Equality commitment maker**, with many other feminist organisations, civil society actors, governments and private sector companies. 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 for the coming years.



SAICM Beyond 2020

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), adopted in 2006, is a policy framework to promote chemical safety worldwide. The objective was to achieve ‘the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle so that by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimise significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.’ Even the scope of SAICM is nearly unlimited – it includes both toxic chemicals and hazardous industrial activities that are unaddressed by global treaties – SAICM, by design, imposes no binding obligations on countries. As the mandate of SAICM ended in 2020 and the goal of a sustainable chemicals management was achieved, the parties agreed on developing a follow-up process – SAICM Beyond 2020 – which so far has not yet been adopted.

As an NGO stakeholder, WECF has been accompanying the SAICM process from the very beginning. We have been helping to develop its legal framework and, together with our partners, worked on implementation through projects under the Quick-Start Programme. In 2012, we helped secure the inclusion of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) as one of five priority issue areas. Through the SAICM process and our close collaboration with the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) and other NGO partners we raised awareness on the issue on chemicals, especially with the focus on gender and chemicals, in close linkage with the UN chemicals conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the so-called intersessional process, we are engaged to keep the chemical issues on the agenda and help to create a new and strong and gender-just SAICM Beyond 2020.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention (BRS)

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 we carry out scoping studies and visit hotspots of chemical pollution and waste. We document the gender dimensions in case studies and on film, and we propose gender measures for national governments to integrate into their institutions.

We work in networks of civil society partners on joint policy recommendations and advocacy during the conference of parties of these conventions. This includes organising dialogue meetings with decision makers on reducing pollution from chemicals and waste. We disseminate women’s priorities for stronger waste and chemical policies through TV and social media, promoting safe alternatives that reduce waste and exposure to harmful chemicals, such as reusable menstrual hygiene products.



THEMATIC AREA I

FEMINIST ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

What we do

Standing up for gender equality

Gender equality and sustainable development for all are unlikely to be realised in our generation. Many policies and plans are made without taking gender equality into account and that leads to unforeseen negative impacts, so there is still a lot of work to be done. We therefore strive to make gender gaps in society visible. We provide trainings and training tools to ensure the gender-dimensions of sustainable development are considered. 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 continue to see with the COVID-19 pandemic slowing down – we build capacity on how to ensure we create online spaces that are inclusive and not exclusive.

Standing up for women's rights

Even though 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. However, underlying barriers continue to exist everywhere, and advances are increasingly under pressure from shrinking civil society spaces. According to the latest data from CIVICUS, 89% of the world population lives "in countries with significant restrictions on civic rights". 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 and 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.

Standing up international solidarity

In many cases, environmental and women's human rights defenders are standing up to defend their homes, lands and forests from exploitation by commercial corporations or repression from governments. Indigenous peoples are at the forefront of this conflict. They protect 80% of the world's biodiversity on their territories, while extractive industries are vying for these lands to extract fossil fuels, uranium, timber and agricultural products.

We promote feminist solidarity. This goes beyond getting more women in power and means that we focus on changing the underlying causes of exploitation and stand up for our sisters who have least access to decision-making. We work in partnership with other women and feminist organisations at national and global levels. 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 2022 (international)

Commission on the Status of Women

During the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), we made efforts to engage our audience by posting explainer posts and Instagram reels, which drew hundreds of new, primarily young, followers to our Dutch Instagram account. This digital engagement, along with an International Women's Day (IWD) event: **'Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists'** in cooperation with Oxfam Novib, significantly expanded our outreach among the target audience of the ClimAct programme. We used the occasion of CSW66 to promote stories of women who have created gender-equal climate solutions, emphasising the unprecedented focus of the major UN event on climate and environment.

2022 CSW's theme, **'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes'**, was discussed at length, empowering attendees to understand and engage with the [CSW's agreed conclusions](#).



Our advocacy officer, Sanne Van de Voort, represented us as the formal NGO-delegate for the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in NY where she delivered a [powerful statement](#) aimed at amplifying the voices of women in all their diversity. Sanne joined the Dutch delegation and participated in strategic discussions, negotiation meetings, and virtual debriefings. She also contributed to multiple side-events

and gave a speech during the General Debate. Her contributions have made significant strides in our advocacy efforts.

For more information about our activities during the CSW, view the links below:

- Read the blogs of our Sanne Van de Voort, as NGO-representative to the Dutch Delegation, including this one on [Loss & Damage](#)
- Have a look at the many side-events we co-organised, such as the event ["From Local Action to National Policy"](#) with WEP.
- Listen to the [powerful statement by Sanne in the General Assembly Hall at the UN](#)
- Get a [short summary of our first thoughts after the CSW](#)
- For a complete look at the CSW66 [Agreed Conclusions](#)

UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

On 5 April, environmental expert and activist, Svitlana Slesarenok, delivered the [opening speech](#) at the Civil Society Forum, a precursor to the Regional Sustainable Development Forum of the UNECE region in Geneva. This occasion allowed us to present our joint recommendations for several SDGs and advocate for the strengthening of the 2030 Agenda implementation. These recommendations will be used at the UNECE event, marking a key step in our collaboration with various UN Agencies and Member States.

Environment for Europe Conference

In October, WECF and partners participated in the Environment for Europe conference in Cyprus. We were happy to gather with longstanding partners such as Journalists



There is nothing more unsustainable for the planet than war and militarism.

#RFSD2022 Svitlana Slesarenok Environmental Expert, Activist
NGO Black Sea Women Club Ukraine

“This year we are specifically looking at progress on the [#SDG4](#) on education, [#SDG5](#) on gender equality, [#SDG14](#) on seas and oceans, [#SDG15](#) on forest and biodiversity and [#SDG17](#) on partnerships and implementation. We were seeing some real progress in our region. We were working with environmental and climate experts from all over the former Soviet Union on renewable energy to address climate change, on protection of our seas and our biodiversity. And then, on 24 February 2022, Russia started a war against my country, the sovereign state of Ukraine, reversing progress on the 2030 Agenda, endangering world peace, food security and sustainability, resulting in millions of refugees and thousands of dead and injured. We need together to stop the war, respect and uphold international law, build peace and find a way how to protect our common values: for a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – this is our responsibility.”

– Svitlana Slesarenok, Black Sea Women Club Ukraine

for Human Rights (JHR) from North Macedonia, Black Sea Women’s Club (BSWC) from Ukraine and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), and engage as part of the European ECO Forum, an inclusive coalition of sustainable development NGOs. The three-day conference had a specific focus on three key topics, namely sustainable infrastructure, sustainable tourism and education for sustainable development. During the conference, we were grateful to meet with Ukrainian Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ruslan Strilets. The joint meeting was kindly set up by the EEB, and attended by our partner from Ukraine, Svitlana Slesarenok from BSWC. Svetlana spoke on behalf of the European ECO-Forum saying:

“There is nothing more unsustainable than war. There is no sustainability without peace, there is no peace without sustainability. We urge everybody to support green, sustainable and resilient reconstruction of Ukraine.” This quote also inspired the title of the ECO Forum joint NGO Statement “No sustainability without peace – No peace without sustainability”.

In our EU endeavours, we participated in consultations such as the CSW, the EIGE Gender Equality Forum 2022, and the Concord strategy meeting. Here, we advanced our thoughts on intersectionality. We also provided gender expertise to the Budapest workshop and the Climate Justice Toolkit of the EC DEAR consortium through our partnership with Oxfam Intermon. Being part of CAN Europe, we shared activities on a European level, ensuring that our gender-focused input was incorporated into CAN Europe's 5-year strategy.

Achievements in 2022 (The Netherlands)

Dutch International Climate Strategy

Nationally in the Netherlands, we contributed to the online consultation for Dutch Foreign Trade and Development Aid policy and offered our input at an in-person consultation for the [Dutch International Climate Strategy](#). Our interaction with various Dutch government departments signifies our dedicated effort in influencing climate and gender policies.

Partos Innovation Festival

At the [Partos Innovation](#) Festival, we presented our vision for climate justice and engaged in deep discussions with climate activists, politicians, and policymakers. Our cooperation with NGOs such as Atria, WO=MEN, Simavi, Giro 555, and Plan International has been intensified, contributing to Building Change, a national coalition advocating for ambitious SDG implementation.





THEMATIC AREA II

FEMINIST ACTION FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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

The climate crisis is badly affecting people living in vulnerable regions. Those who are least responsible for the climate and environmental crises are already paying with their lives and livelihoods for the climate change impact. We bring our grassroots partners to the tables 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' programme we identify, promote and mentor best

practice projects that centre gender equality and women's rights in climate action. 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.

Standing up for 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 decentralised solar, biogas and energy efficiency. We identify and promote best practices for women's leadership in sustainable energy.

Standing up for 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 diversity, are disproportionately affected by deforestation. They face multiple forms of discrimination based on gender but also on class, age and ethnicity, among 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 2022

Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UN European Region

Consultations is the Joint Regional Statement towards UN Environment Assembly 5.2 held in February. The statement included a series of core messages and recommendations from representatives of the different areas.

Bonn Intersessionals (SB56)

In June, WECF took part in the **Bonn Intersessionals (SB56)** and co-organised a

side-event titled “[High stakes, great urgency](#): collecting evidence for gender-just and impactful climate policy” alongside CGIAR and WEP. The event underscored the need for locally owned and gender-responsive climate mitigation and adaptation actions, along with incorporating gender-just language in climate action plans.

COP27

Together with our feminist partners from the Women and Gender Constituency we participated in the COP27, which took place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. During COP27, WECF highlighted [our priorities](#) and took part in joint advocacy efforts through the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC), calling for financial redirection from climate-damaging activities to community-governed, rights-based, and gender-just climate actions. We advocated for divestment from incentives and funds harmful to human rights towards a [transformative pathway](#) that protects forest and biodiversity. We also hosted the 7th edition of the annual ‘**Gender Just Climate Solutions**’ (GJCS) **award** ceremony, recognising initiatives from India, Pakistan, and Togo for their gender-just, scalable, sustainable, and locally-led climate solutions.

Towards the end of 2022, WECF engaged in the development of the [Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy](#). We highlighted the importance of a holistic approach that encompasses climate, biodiversity, and trade policies, and stressed the need for meaningful participation of grassroots, Global South-based, and Indigenous women and girls.



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THEMATIC AREA III

FEMINIST ACTION FOR A 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

Standing up to 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 organisations, 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.

Standing up for menstrual health & Toxic Free Periods

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 menstrual pad for instance can contain up to 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, to toxic free periods and campaign for breaking the taboo on menstruation and reproductive health. Together with partners we advocate for laws that prevent single use plastic and promote affordable and sustainable alternative sanitary products. We support our partners with building menstrual health management proof toilets in schools and we cooperate to ban taxes on sanitary products.

Standing up for safe water & sanitation

Having access to clean water in school or at 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.

Achievements in 2022

Finalisation of the NanoRigo Project

Currently many products on the market incorporate nano materials for which a risk assessment cannot be made. The presence of nano materials in goods is not reported, going against the REACH principle 'no data no market'. Given this situation, it is the demand of many stakeholders – industrial companies as well as consumers and their organisations – to be informed about the possible dangers of nano materials used in products so to perform an independent risk assessment and, if deemed necessary, develop a risk management strategy.



It is extremely relevant since it falls under the European GREEN DEAL for a non-toxic circular economy, and the use of the precautionary principle. The EU- project NANORIGO aims at developing and implementing a transparent, transdisciplinary and science-based Risk Governance Framework (RGF) for nanotechnology. Our role as WECF International 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.

WECF participated in 6 User Committee Meetings that were organised during the 4 years of the project. The User Committee is a group of diverse stakeholders (scientists, civil society members, industry and public authorities) who give their opinion on the progress of the NMBP 13 consortium, which included the 3 EU funded scientific Nanotechnology projects, Nanorigo, Gov4Nano and RiskGone.

In June 2022 WECF organised a presentation of the Nanorigo project at ANSES in Paris. ANSES is the French authority in charge of evaluating dangerous chemicals and communicating to the public the dangerous properties of certain chemicals. In its mission to communicate with the public, it holds every year, a meeting with French stakeholders (NGOs, industries, trade unions, academia) on nanotechnologies. During this committee, the French agency presents the latest regulatory and scientific developments on nanotechnologies. During this Committee WECF had the opportunity to present the Nanorigo project and its different tools. The last meeting of the NanoRigo User Committee was held in Lisbon in October. The objective of such was to issue criticisms and recommendations on the work done. The topics discussed were the creation of a committee for the governance of nanomaterials risks. Several models were proposed to the committee, and it was discussed how to improve these models.

The second part of the discussion focused on the general results of the project and how these could be concretely implemented. An overview of the project work can be found online: [WECF finalises work on NanoRigo programme – an overview of activities – WECF](#).

International

At **UNE5.2** we organised the Green Tent Event titled “Gender Dimensions of the Implementation of Chemicals & (Plastic) Waste Policies – Protecting Vulnerable Groups and the Environment”, presenting the preliminary results of our scoping study. You can read more about it [here](#). On the 22nd of March we organised a CSW66 side event titled ‘Strengthening Institutions for a Gender transformative Environmental Policy’, to share and promote good examples of gender- transformative governance structures, gender-responsive institutions for environmental policies and actions. You can read more about it [here](#).

At the **BRS COPs** on the 8th of June 2022, we organised the side event “Integrating Gender Equality & Women’s Leadership in Chemical and Waste Policies & Programs in Africa”. Visit the event page [here](#). You can read more about it [here](#).



From the 26th of November to the 2nd of December, as part of the Break Free From Plastic Network, WECF participated in the international negotiations in Uruguay for the **global plastic treaty**. The goal was to develop a new global agreement to combat plastic pollution, also called the Global Plastics Treaty (GPT), based on the 5/14 resolution of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) entitled “End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument”.

In the last quarter of 2022, we initiated the **Menstrual Hygiene Management ‘(MHM) in Realities of War’** project in **Ukraine**, with the generous support of Natracare. This project enables us to provide emergency sanitary solutions and humanitarian aid kits to individuals impacted by the conflict, with a particular focus on areas such as Odesa and Dnipro. Our aim is to ensure that amidst the hardships of war, individuals have access to essential sanitary resources and support.

The Netherlands

In October WECF wrote a letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management in the Netherlands to prioritise the **REACH reform** and to ensure that the Dutch government fulfills its commitments to the European Green Deal. You can read more about it [here](#).

Microplastics is another important part of the REACH reform. That is why, together with our partner Plastic Soup Foundation, we attended the round table discussion for stakeholders, organised by RIVM. Here we have given our input specifically about the approach to microplastics and how we think this should be implemented in REACH.

The revision of the **European chemicals regulations, REACH**, was also the theme of the mini-symposium on chemicals that we co-organise every six months, as a representative of civil society, with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, VNO-NCW and the VNCI. Our speaker this time was Tatiana Santos, Policy Manager Chemicals & Nanotechnology at the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), a European network of knowledge institutes and NGOs. Tatiana Santos insisted that REACH review be given priority.

We also participated in stakeholder sessions of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management on the 17th of November and 12th of December on the multi-year goals of the Ministry’s National Environmental Programme for a healthy living environment. Our position is that the well-being of citizens is given the highest priority and that economic interests should not endanger people’s health and well-being.



OUR PROJECTS

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.

Gender Just Climate Solution Awards

The solutions to a sustainable climate resilience and inclusive world already exist on the ground. This is why we started to organise a high-level award celebration during the annual global climate negotiations, the COPs, the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards.

The first Award Ceremony took place during the Climate Summit in Paris, in 2015. Launched by the Women and Gender Constituency, the Award honours the fundamental contribution of gender equality and 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 8 years, through this annual award, we have identified many outstanding grassroots climate actions that have women leadership and promote gender equality. Jointly with civil society and UN climate technology networks, we provide these actions and projects with mentoring and support to bring their good practices to scale.

We think this is important, as most of the climate funding is going into reducing emissions in large scale energy, industrial and transportation projects, while 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. For example, rural communities worldwide barely access climate funds, due to high minimal thresholds. But they also have to pay for the transition to low-carbon services and for the capital costs of infrastructure and grids. Indigenous and traditional technologies that already contribute to climate resilience are often excluded from the application criteria of bigger 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 inclusive.

Women hold the key to change

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.

Achievements in 2022

In 2022, our [GJCS Awards Ceremony](#) honored three winning projects out of 259 submissions, each with an award of €5000. The ceremony was attended by over 200 individuals and was accompanied by numerous side events celebrating the awardees' accomplishments. Additionally, we produced and distributed 500 copies of the [7th edition of the GJCS publication](#) in four languages among high-level policymakers, delegates, CSOs, and practitioners. Through our communication and outreach campaign, the awards ceremony was broadcasted by Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB), *a division of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)*.

In the months leading up to COP27, we facilitated **monthly video mentoring calls** with all awardees, and in November, we increased the frequency to weekly calls for COP27

preparation. During these calls, support was provided to different awardees depending on their needs, engagement, and opportunities. These included raising awardees awareness about International Cooperative funds, EU funds, local government support programmes, private foundations for project proposals.

In the summer of 2022 we launched a [new application](#) round for the GJCS Awards in anticipation of COP27. We shared case studies from previous years detailing the [climate impact on women](#) and women's solutions to climate change, encouraging NGOs and grassroots organisations worldwide to apply for the GJCS Awards. These efforts were supplemented with campaign pages on our platforms and extensive social media promotion. During this period, we have continued to celebrate the winners of the GJCS awards, using digital platforms to raise awareness and understanding of gender and climate issues.

An online survey was sent out after COP27 to gather feedback on the workshop and previous training sessions, aiming to assess their effectiveness, the extent of network expansion for awardees, the usefulness of past mentoring sessions, and to identify the future needs of the awardees. Through these endeavors, we succeeded in **elevating the capacities of 20 awardees** on national and global climate & gender policy advocacy and facilitated valuable sharing of advocacy strategies among them

The 2022 winner in the category Technical Solutions



Yokoumi: Women revolutionising the sheabutter sector (Togo)

In the village of Kelizio, Togo, women build on the production of shea butter to strengthen their economic autonomy. 50 shea butter producers decided to install a photovoltaic (PV) solar plant to power their mill. They are decarbonising their product processing and strengthening the sustainability of this sector. They invested in individual improved stoves, further reducing

their dependence on fossil fuels and biomass. The 8 KWh PV plant will also provide electricity to the 1,600 inhabitants of the village. This community-led project promotes a comprehensive approach, integrating the organic and fair-trade labelling of shea products (Fair For Life and EOS Ecocert).

Read more [here](#).

The 2022 winner in the category Non-Technical Solutions

Sindh Community Foundation: Advancing the labour rights of women cotton pickers (Pakistan)

The Sindh Community Foundation uses a Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) approach to support the demands of women agriculture workers – particularly cotton pickers – for better working conditions and health services in response to rising temperatures. Located in the Matiāri District of Pakistan, the foundation developed an innovative advocacy strategy linking social and climate justice. Goals are to strengthen climate adaptation measures, establish a training program for 100 women agricultural workers on climate awareness, climate justice and labour rights protection, and ultimately to push policymakers to implement the Sindh Agriculture Women's Protection Act of 2020. Read more [here](#).



The 2022 winner in the category Transformative Solutions

Keystone Foundation: Women Barefoot Ecologists bridge ancestral knowledge with modern science to protect their ecosystems (India)

Women Barefoot Ecologists are 20 indigenous women from Tamil Nādu and Kerala who have strengthened their capacities to link Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) with modern scientific methods to observe and monitor climate impacts on their forests, rivers, and farms. Practical observation with village elders as well as data collection and analysis – using digital modelling – enable local women groups to lead appropriate and adapted climate and conservation actions in their communities. Supported by Keystone Foundation, they have launched forest nurseries, community kitchen gardens, water source protection initiatives, and soon to come: a seed keeping social enterprise. Read more





Green Livelihoods Alliance – Forests for a Just Future

WECF is the gender technical partner of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) 'Forests for a Just Future' programme (2021–2025). The core objective of the programme is to ensure that 'tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights, and safeguard local livelihoods. Together with Indigenous People and Local Communities (IP&LCs), CSOs and other social movements, we seek to increase the participation of IP&LCs, women and youth in policy and decision-making regarding land rights and forest governance. We aim to strengthen lobby and advocacy to hold governments and agro-commodity, extractives, energy and infrastructure industries accountable for deforestation and human rights violations.

IP&LCs – particularly women and youth, whose lives and livelihoods are directly affected by deforestation often lack the power to end it because of structural inequalities and systemic imbalances. This also affects their claim to their right to sustainably govern and manage their territories, tropical forests and natural resources. Fighting deforestation and related human rights violations require the ability to stand up against vested interests. Despite the many dangers, local communities still resist deforestation, land degradation and extractive projects, and showcase best practices for sustainable forest and biodiversity management.

Achievements in 2022

Feminist Forest Frameworks

A major project in 2022 was the development and launch of a feminist analysis of key Dutch and EU policies related to forest and biodiversity governance. We found that most Dutch and EU policies either lack a gender perspective or go little beyond superficial gender considerations. The full analysis of the 'Feminist Forest Frameworks' can be found on our website: [Feminist-Forest-Frameworks-EN.pdf \(wecf.org\)](https://wecf.org/Feminist-Forest-Frameworks-EN.pdf)

'Why Dutch Forest Policy Needs Ecofeminism' workshop

One milestone event during the project was the organisation of a workshop entitled 'Why Dutch Forest Policy Needs Ecofeminism' during the Afrikadag event in May. Joined by our partner Women Environmental Programme (WEP), we explored the gender dimensions of key drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and environmental defenders with a focus on African case studies. In October, we officially launched the publication with a webinar, during which we invited policymakers and civil society organisations to discuss the findings and share their insights.



GLA Asia regional meeting

In September, we joined the GLA Asia regional meeting which brought together partners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam. We co-organised a half-day session focusing on gender transformative approaches and intersectionality. We also discussed key needs and priorities of women environmental and human rights defenders (WEHRDs).

‘Towards a Gender-Transformative Organisation’ toolkit

In November, we published the toolkit ‘Towards a Gender-Transformative Organisation: toolkit for an assessment of organisational gender policies and practices’. The toolkit supports organisations to become gender-transformative in their actions and culture by developing an Organisational Gender Action Plan (OGAP) with concrete actions which are to be implemented and measured over time. You can read more about it [here](#).

GLA side events at the international policy level

Throughout the year, we co-organised several parallel and side events at international policy spaces, like ‘Gender and Climate Justice: From Local Action to National Policies’ at the Commission on the Status of Women. You can read more about it [here](#).

During the HLPF in July, we organised a [virtual side event](#) with our partners from GFC, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW) and PACOS Trust entitled ‘Feminist Forest Governance, Our Future’. The side event highlighted the interconnections between SDG 5 on gender and SDG 15 on life on land, with panellists sharing analysis of global developments and local and national examples of good forest governance practices.

Gender transformative implementation work by partners

The partners working with us to ensure gender transformative implementation of the GLA counted too many achievements to be named! However, a small selection of highlights includes:

The Indonesian Gender Team (Aksi!, Solidaritas Perempuan and Yakkum Emergency Unit) facilitated four Feminist Participatory Action Research trainings for Indigenous and local women in rural communities in Indonesia, reaching 65 women plus nearly 30 staff of the GLA partners.

In Cameroon, CAMGEW held a five-day exhibition of women-led eco-businesses, which was visited by over 500 people including representatives from various Ministries. The event promoted discussion on women’s engagement in forest and soil conservation plus development of value chain of non-timber forest products.

Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) undertook a project to collect, document and disseminate eight 'most significant change' stories from women in the Albertine region, Uganda. The stories highlighted issues such as women's land rights, alternative livelihood options, and women's role at the frontline of advocacy efforts.

Malaysian gender partner PACOS Trust supported the four GLA members to reflect on their organisational practices and policy, which led to the formulation of draft OGAPs including specific work on anti-sexual harassment policies.

In DR Congo where we work with four partners: **CFLEDD** – facilitated an exchange workshop on women's decision-making in natural resource management; **CTA** – strengthened the capacity of 100 women to engage in climate advocacy; **FCPEEP** – conducted a feminist analysis on women's struggles against drivers of deforestation in four villages; **PIDP** – participated in advocacy dialogues with the Senate regarding a law on protecting the rights of Pygmy people, and particularly raised awareness of (Indigenous) women's contribution to forest conservation.

Building the ecofeminist movement

As an ecofeminist network we want to amplify the work of our partners in the field of gender equality and the fight against climate change and environmental pollution. We believe that a sustainable future and environment needs feminist solutions reflecting the lives of people on the ground. That is why we work on transformative gender equality and women's human rights in interconnection with sustainable development and climate justice.

In 2021 WECF launched the Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund this year, supporting ecofeminist organisations with small grants in selected countries and on invitation only. This year, in 2022, we focussed particularly on the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian/Asian regions, in part also because the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine affects all former Soviet countries and the neighbouring countries in the region.

The Ecofeminist Movement Building Fund is supported by the Nationale Postcode Loterij.

Get to know the partners:

Ukraine – NGO Ecoclub

Ecoclub is an energy-oriented environmental protection NGO based in Rivne, Ukraine. The Ecoclub's mission is to create future with green energy by empowering citizens and communities and influencing policy. Ecoclub mobilises people to influence climate policy, and organises educational events, street performances, lobbying, and advocacy activities, and studies.



The NGO Ecoclub wants to ensure that the country does not return to the pre-war state but instead chooses to take the path of sustainable development. To achieve this, the organisation works towards women's leadership, gender sensitivity, and inclusiveness in post-war reconstruction. Since the government seems unwilling to pursue these objectives, the NGO is more and more determined to push these issues on the political agenda.

Kyrgyzstan – Public association of rural women 'Alga'

Founded by rural women in the Jer-Kazar village of the Chui region, the mission of organisation Alga is to improve the socio-economic status and living conditions of rural women by developing women's leadership and potential.

Rural women are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in their daily lives, as they directly rely on glaciers for water and toxic pesticides and plastic waste pollutes their soil, food and groundwater sources. Alga trains rural women from poor families, ethnic minorities as well as young and migrant women – in the Chui, Issyk-Kul and Osh regions, on how to develop necessary practical skills that will help them to cope with new emerging risks of climate change and challenges to their wellbeing, safety, food security, and which will ensure their sustainable livelihoods.



Indonesia – AKSI!

Aksi was founded by six Indonesian feminists to influence the debate and discourse on development, environment, and climate change to ensure the protection of the rights of women and their communities, as well as support grassroots women's actions.

Indonesia held the G20 Summit in Bali on the 15th and 16th of November 2022. The main objective of the Aksi project is to enable issues and concerns of grassroots communities and in particular women, to be heard in the G20 process Prior to the G20, Aksi will organise the "Local and Grassroots Women's Summit on G20". The Women's Summit will

be a unique space for knowledge building and skill sharing for activist and grassroots women on the G20 issues and their possible implications on women, whilst building solidarity amongst the attending women's groups and networks. Thanks to the Fund 15 women from remote areas in regions close to forests and natural resources will be able to join the Women's Summit. Moreover, all participants will be able to receive a G20 guidebook on the topics discussed within the G20.

Moldova – Ormax ACT

Ormax Youth Cultural Association was founded in order to improve the ecological situation by the empowerment of the civil society in the fields of the environmental development in Moldova. Ormax contribute to the education of the population environmental technology's promotion. Their objective: move towards Innovative eco-technologies that reduces poverty in rural communities reducing the negative impact on natural resources by developing and implementing various environmental programs.

The world's energy crisis is a heavy burden for everybody everywhere but is especially hitting vulnerable people in Europe's poorest country, one of these Moldova. The elderly, people with disabilities and single women raising children are amongst those most heavily impacted.

The use of renewable energy, and other eco-technologies can significantly reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development in Moldova. However, in Moldova, women do not have equal access to such opportunities as training and education in the renewable energy and eco-technologies sectors. With this funding Ormax developed 4 trainings for 30 women from rural communities to learn practical skills such as building and assembling various technologies that will reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development.

Kyrgyzstan – Ecological Movement BIOM

The goal of BIOM, a longstanding partner of WECF is to unite different public groups working towards solutions for ecological problems and realising the sustainable development goals. BIOM has been operating in Kyrgyzstan since 1996, coming a long way and having strong partnerships with many national and international organisations. WECF has worked with BIOM on many successful initiatives. Recently, BIOM has worked on the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups from the negative impact of hazardous chemicals, access to water and sanitation, protection from the negative impact of asbestos, and developed system recommendations to improve safety.

Georgia – WECF Georgia

Feminism is on the rise in Georgia, especially among youth. Local activists and young feminists are eager to get their voices out there but struggle to access a larger audience and lack the skills to present their message in an accessible way. Furthermore, there

is a lack of high-quality information on feminism, sexuality and women's rights in Georgian. WECF Georgia, with their podcast project "The voice of a Georgian woman" is working on bridging this gap. The podcast series – aimed at the general public – cover topics such as "gender and climate" and "history of feminism in Georgia" in a way that is easy to understand, yet simultaneously underlines direct political demands and puts public pressure on these important issues.



North Macedonia – Journalists for Human Rights (JHR)

Journalists for Human Rights is based in North-Macedonia, that focuses on human rights, a sustainable environment, youth & women's empowerment and consumer protection.



Environmental and human rights protection measures are slowly making their way into Western Balkan countries' laws and policies. However, what is put on paper is often far from what is done. Issues such as air pollution, river pollution, deforestation or infrastructure in protected areas to the detriment of nature and the local population are often linked to economic groups that have an

interest in circumventing legislation. To ensure that these economic investments do not cause negative human rights impacts on the local population, North Macedonia needs to enforce a legal framework for sustainable environmental practices as well as a strengthened civil society organisation that have the knowledge, means and tools to take legal and other actions.

The action 'Environmental Legal Action' will strengthen civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders working on critical environmental rights and democracy issues in North Macedonia.

Ukraine – Black Sea Women's Club (BSWC)

BSWC in times of war refocused its work on works to help to Ukrainian people, first vulnerable groups, including women and girls. Some BSWC members are refugees and are working from Germany, and Romania, some are working in Odesa and Odesa region.

Together with many NGOs, private persons, and common people from Georgia, Belarus, Poland, and other countries we are creating the possibilities to support women, children, and internally displaced persons in Ukraine.



The project “With hope to our common future” wants to address the most urgent problems of the Ukrainian people. It tries to provide the help in the most urgent needs and, at the same time, giving hope for a more sustainable future. Very important is the re-equipment of basements of Odessa’s multi-apartment houses and increase the safety for the people staying in them. BSWC started work on the re-equipment of basements under shelter while at the same time

increasing energy efficiency of these basements and planning energy-efficient measures for participating buildings. By relatively simple improvements, the basements can be made safe as bomb shelters, including food and water provisions, emergency latrines and menstrual hygiene materials, reinforcements, aerations, emergency electricity, and emergency Wi-Fi.

Tajikistan – The Little Earth

With negative social norms persisting and gender stereotypes increasing, women in Tajikistan are less likely to participate in the decision-making process, they have fewer opportunities than men to develop skills and abilities, continue their education and careers, and engage in activism. Therefore, it is so important to support those activist girls who show interest in the topic of climate change and the environment and try to implement local initiatives.

Fifteen young girls aged 16 to 25 from Dushanbe, Khujand, Khorog and Kulyab or Bohtar, who are either employees of public organisations or individual activists, will take part in the 3-day event in Dushanbe. The program of the School will include general sessions, master classes, thematic presentations and discussions, work in small groups and interactive tasks, all with the guidance of expert and activist trainers. By providing the young girls with the



necessary knowledge, skills and the opportunity to prove themselves, this activity will contribute to the formation of new active and responsible citizens who will play an important role in solving social and environmental problems in their communities.

Nigeria – Women Environmental Programme Nigeria (WEP Nigeria)

As a key expert on Nigeria's National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan, WEP Nigeria has been able to conduct two greatly successful advocacy visits and a workshop – which we have updated you on in previous reports. These visits and workshop are focused on raising awareness about the National Gender & Climate Action Plan, with participants coming from all the North-central States of Nigeria, including Federal Capital Territory (Abuja).

An estimated 45% of the workshop participants from the state agencies and civil society admitted that they were not aware of Nigeria has adopted a Gender Climate Action Plan. The participants gained knowledge and awareness about the Action Plan and why it needs cooperation between different local and state government agencies and also the engagement of civil society organisations and the media

As a result of the project, the State-governments of Nigeria are now taking measures to implement the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change. And not only State-governments are compelled to take action, civil society actors as well.

Uganda – Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE)

Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE) works to empower rural women in the Nebbi region of Uganda, supporting women farmers with food production while protecting the climate and the forests. Another key aspect is helping women to get secure land rights.

As a first step, ARUWE conducted a survey and found that of the respondents the majority of the women are still not in any form of leadership position, do not inherit land and have not yet received any kind of training in environmental conservation or climate adaptation.



Furthermore, they also found that out of the respondents, 98.9% were using firewood as their main and only source of fuel for cooking due to financial constraints and lack of information. ARUWE set out to popularise energy efficient cooking stoves (Lorena stoves), which use very little firewood and have a chimney built outside to keep the smoke outside of the house,

which normally affects women's health. With help from the District Environment Officer, they have reached a total of 320 people.

Tunisia – Women Environmental Programme Tunisia (WEP Tunisia)

WEP Tunisia is on a mission to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural women, particularly in the Tekelsa region (in the north-east of Tunisia), by developing their leadership and organisational skills and their knowledge on how to launch sustainable income-generating activities.

The project focusses on building capacity of the women members of the agricultural cooperative 'GDA' (Agriculture Development Association). The cooperative has a membership of 183 rural women, who are facing many constraints holding them back



from economic development and political participation. Their situation is further impacted by climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss, reducing yields and income.

To end the project, on the 30th of June 2022, the first version of the "Women in Tekelsa" fair took place. This will become a yearly celebration to promote local women's activities and progress.

Morocco – Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM)

Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM), is committed to promoting the political influence and rights of women in Morocco. Women are still underrepresented in politics and their socioeconomic position is being affected not only by the pandemic, but also by the effects of climate change. Due to increased drought, many women are finding that the natural resources on which they depend – such as argan nuts, for example – are dwindling, and a lack of individual social security makes them even more vulnerable in these situations.

ADFM organised a brainstorming workshop on July 22, 2022 in Taroudant, in collaboration with the Taroudant City Council, under the theme: "Towards the economic and social empowerment of women based on equality and climate justice."

As a result of these workshops, women are now aware of the importance of climate change and how it affects their activities, the importance of social security, economic stability and the role of their local government to help improve their situation.

TEAD Ukraine

The TEAD programme ([Trainings for \(women\) Energy Auditors & Technical Designers in Ukraine](#)), officially began on February 1st, 2022. Its focus lies originally on the enhancement of Ukraine's capacity for conducting energy audits and implementing more energy-efficient designs in support of the country's Energy Strategy and making sure this strategy aligned with EU regulations.

However, the landscape dramatically changed with Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, emphasising the urgent need for energy efficiency and independence in securing Ukraine's democratic processes. This situation underlined the pressing need to transform not just Ukraine's, but also Europe's energy systems, with a dual aim of reducing dependence on Russian fossil fuels and addressing the climate crisis.

In the face of ongoing aggression by the occupier and its significant impact on the infrastructure and energy sector of Ukraine, the decision was taken in March 2022 to repurpose the program. The planned activities were adjusted to meet the immediate needs of different regions and city clusters, depending on the extent of damage and destruction. Training modality was also changed to a hybrid-virtual methodology. The project's focus is now on bolstering the (green) recovery and resilience of Ukraine's energy sector, creating job opportunities, and enhancing skill development for energy auditors and technical designers.



In the TEAD programme, WECF's role involves establishing a regional network of energy auditors and promoting the active participation of women in energy auditing. This has entailed developing partnerships with local authorities, professional associations, NGOs, and women's organisations, a process that began in 2022. Our primary goal is to empower women to become ambassadors in the energy sector and to provide advocacy and outreach support to employers, local and central authorities, educational institutions, and other stakeholders.

Achievements 2022

Start-up Team Meeting in Kyiv (February)

In early February, a pivotal start-up team meeting was orchestrated in Kyiv. Convening a panel of proficient experts, professionals, and vested stakeholders crucial to the success of the TEAD project, this meeting was immensely productive. At the gathering, we laid the foundation for project execution, delineated roles, and forged a definite roadmap outlining project activities.

Engagement with Stakeholders (April – November)

Over the course of April to November 2022, a series of fruitful meetings were held with diverse stakeholders embedded in the energy and sustainability domains. Noteworthy participants included the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine (MinReg), the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine, and various projects like UNIDO's "Energy Management System Standard in Ukrainian Industry," EU's "Covenant of Mayors East," GIZ's "Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Implementation of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive in Ukraine," GIZ's Coordination for Energy Efficiency, and EU Starter. These rendezvous played an instrumental role in fostering robust collaboration and partnerships, harmonising our project objectives with the overarching sustainable development aspirations of the nation.

Crafting Training Programs (Training Courses Development)

Central to the TEAD project is the augmentation of the proficiency of energy auditors and technical designers in Ukraine. This objective led to the formulation of thorough preliminary training structures and curricula encompassing three distinct training programs: building energy auditors, industrial energy auditors, and technical designers. Acknowledging the pivotal role of adept professionals in these spheres, meticulous selection of potential training institutions and trainers was carried out, entailing a rigorous evaluation encompassing qualifications, track records, and training methodologies.

Cultivating Alliances (Networking and Cooperation)

Underpinning the success of our project lies the cultivation of potent relationships and collaborations with pertinent stakeholders. Throughout the endeavour, vigorous efforts were made to involve a diverse spectrum of entities, spanning municipalities, local administrations, ministries, regulatory bodies, industry consortia, non-governmental organisations, and international benefactors. These interactions facilitated the establishment of a shared comprehension of the project's goals and the roles each participant plays in its efficacious realisation.

Amplifying Visibility

In an endeavour to augment the project's visibility and outreach, an extensive communication and visibility strategy was deployed. This encompassed the creation of a project website, www.uatead.eu, and utilisation of varied conduits like social media, workshops, conferences, and publications to disseminate information pertaining to the project's trajectory, milestones, and influence. By heightening awareness and championing the project's objectives and undertakings, our aspiration is to inspire a larger congregation of stakeholders to unite in our quest for a more energy-efficient and sustainable future for Ukraine.

ClimAct – Inspiring Youth to Spark a Change

'Climate Action by EU Citizens Delivers for Development' with the brand name SPARK is delivered by a diverse consortium consisting out of 20 organisations in 13 European



countries, working together to spark climate justice. We do this by raising awareness, building capacity and facilitating EU citizens, particularly youth, to build and mobilise public support for ambitious gender just



climate change and development policies in line with Agenda 2030. Climate change has no borders and affects us all. It especially hurts those in poorer countries, because unequal global systems mean life is already hard. Extreme weather, drought and rising seas are now forcing people out of their livelihoods and their homes.

With fewer resources to rely on, surviving and recovering from these disasters is more difficult. Women and girls are hit hardest because social, political and cultural systems silence their voices, and limit their access to the resources and opportunities needed to withstand and adapt to climate change. Climate change is all around us but its impact is unequal. And those most affected by it, have done the least to cause it. SPARK is created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union, through the EC-DEAR (Development Education and Awareness Raising).

What we do

Partners 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. In fact, the SPARK consortium has developed a gender and climate justice narrative in order to contribute to strengthen the existing feminist climate activism and inspiring the youth climate movement with innovative feminist approaches from different regions under a global scope and intersectional lenses. The goal is to work towards solutions that fight gender inequalities at the same time as finding climate solutions, from an ecofeminist lens in its content and its approach. On top of that, we want to provide, through ClimAct, spaces for the stories of inspiring champions in the field of gender equality and the fight against climate change and environmental pollution.

How we do it

Young people inspired by hope, tools and knowledge take action against the unequal systems driving climate change and injustice, in their own communities and together with other changemakers across Europe. 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. Demand real system change now for a fair and sustainable future for all people and our planet. Every one of us can play a part in fighting climate change and injustice.

Achievements in 2022

HerstoryOfChange

It has been possible to tell the story of **10 climate champions**, highlighting transformative pathways for tackling global crises, emphasising the crucial role of women and gender-just solutions in mitigating climate change. Our newsletters, social media posts, and website platforms in Dutch and English have been instrumental in these efforts having a reach of about 2 million.

In light of the **conflict in Ukraine**, we have also underscored the links between **climate action, dependence on fossil fuels, and decolonisation**, featuring stories from Ukraine as part of our storytelling campaign and UN advocacy.

Climate Justice Toolkit for Youth

In 2022 we launched the [Climate Justice Activity Toolkit for Youth](#) in Dutch and English as part of our series of Toolkits for young ecofeminists. This tool helps young people engage



in advocacy work around climate action and feminism with a focus of incorporating a gender lens. This specific toolkit takes a different approach and gives activities for self reflection and strategising for another important international conference, the Commission on the Status of Women.

Next to this we reworked our COP26 [Toolkit for Youth for the COP27](#) and next to Dutch and English we had it translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese in cooperation with our Spark partner Oxfam Intermon.

Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists

[Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists](#) has been an interactive event by OXFAM and WECF which took place in Utrecht. It included a panel discussion on gender, climate change, and youth engagement with inspiring speakers. The event was offered also on an online platform with live translation in English.

Workshop on EcoLesbianism

As part of ClimAct (Spark) we organised a workshop on [EcoLesbianism](#) in Budapest, which aimed at fostering discussion and idea sharing given the often-overlooked perspectives of LGBTI women in the environmental movement. Moreover, we addressed the different ways in which people are affected by the consequences of climate change and by climate policy. Using practical examples, we have shown how climate justice is connected to LGBTIQ+ and gender justice – and how queer activism can help the fight for climate justice.



Climate March in Rotterdam, the Netherlands

We made our voices heard in the [Climate March](#) in Rotterdam on June 19, advocating for intersectional feminist solutions to climate change. In collaboration with other organisations, we demanded fair climate finance solutions and highlighted the crucial role of women in decision-making processes.

EU NEAR – Georgia Women's Power and Participation

'Women's Power – Economic and Political Participation for Inclusive Societies in Georgia', in short 'Women's Power for Inclusion', is a programme run by WECF International'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.

WECF Georgia, together with local partners, is building this project with the goal to empower women, youth and minority groups in the 4 target regions in Georgia (Guria, Imereti, Kacheti, Racha), through social media and digital tools. This programme incentivises their active participation in community and economic life, ensures that their rights are protected, leading to a shift from patriarchal mindsets and stereotypes. For this to happen, young feminists will be trained and funded to implement local actions, resulting in tangible changes in every person's lives, including ethnic minorities and women with disabilities.

Although the Georgian 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. The outcome of this programme shows how the Sustainable Development Goals related to such problems can be successfully integrated in their implementation, explicitly SDG5 (Empowerment of Women and Girls), SDG1 (Poverty reduction), SDG8 (Employment) and SDG16 (Good governance). You can read more about this programme [here](#).



Achievements in 2022

Case study on gender equality and energy poverty

In March, the 66th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women took place. To mark this occasion the Transnational Institute ([Transnational Institute | Ideas into Movement \(tni.org\)](https://transnationalinstitute.org/)) and WECF's Anna Samwel came together to publish a new case study on how cooperatives in rural Georgia are promoting gender equality and fight energy poverty. For instance, WECF with local partners have developed solar water heaters and energy efficient stoves to reduce the need for firewood, improving comfort and health by bringing down air pollution, unpaid labour and energy bills by 20-50%. You can read the full case study [here](#).

New co-director Ida Bakhturidze!

In September, Ida Bakhturidze joined the management team of the WECF Georgia office as Co-director alongside Anna Samwel. Ida is a human rights defender and an expert in the field of women's empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable development, which are her passions in her professional as well as personal life. You can read more about her [here](#).

Podcast training

On the 26th and 27th of November, WECF Georgia conducted a 'Women for a common future – Georgia' podcast training has been launched for WECF some of its partner organisations. During the training, participants studied the techniques of creating a podcast, choosing the right form of storytelling, the importance of voices and music, and ways to select it correctly. You can read more about it [here](#).



Media4Equality Award

On December 12th Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) – Georgia supported by the European Union and the German Embassy awarded the inspiring winners of the Media4Equality Award 2022. During this year's Media4Equality Award ceremony, seven 1st place winners and Equality Champions were being honored and celebrated. Their work promotes gender equality and ethical media coverage and pushes for building a gender-equal and inclusive society in Georgia. You can read more about it [here](#).



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Outreach and communication are fundamental to our approach of raising awareness, mobilising and growing our network, which together form one of our three main intervention strategies (view paragraph 1.5 of this report). In this light, 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 also 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. All our resources and campaigns are shared on our website.

Partners

For a network like WECF outreach and communications are of great importance. WECF International communicates in various ways with multiple stakeholders and target groups. Our main stakeholders are our partners. Their vision and needs are leading

for our organisation. They have a voice in our governance through our International Advisory Board. In 2022 we, helped by a consultant, published an updated mapping of all our network partners/members, working in our three focus areas, after organising several online strategy meetings with partners, old and new in 2021.

Donors

Our other main stakeholders are our donors, in particular the European Commission as well as Oxfam Novib, the lead applicant of our European Commission funded programme ClimAct, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the donor of the Green Livelihoods Alliance programme, for which we work as technical partner.

Civil Society in Europe and 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.



Public support

In 2022 we invested in updating our relations in The Netherlands by further intensifying our online cooperation with civil society organisations, Members of Parliament and Ministries (Health, Infrastructure and Water, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs), by organising online meetings and providing information by mail and co-organising advocacy meetings.

Citizens

Finally, WECF's main target group is citizens in the countries where we run the programmes. In 2021 we invested in our external communication by focusing more and more on social media and especially Instagram reels, attracting a young audience, and by joining or initiating several pan European and/or international campaigns. We reached out through our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) and digital newsletter.

Awareness Raising & Communication Campaigns

We have made significant strides in our digital campaigning and awareness-raising initiatives by spotlighting past winners of the Gender Just Climate Solutions (GJCS) using the hashtags [#HerstoryOfChange](#), featuring a total of **10 climate champion stories**. We highlighted [transformative pathways](#) for tackling global crises, emphasising the crucial role of women and gender-just solutions in mitigating climate change. With a reach of about 2 million, our newsletters, social media posts, and website platforms in Dutch and English have been instrumental in these efforts.

Considering the **war in Ukraine**, we have also underscored the links between **climate action, dependence on fossil fuels, and decolonisation**, featuring stories from Ukraine as part of our storytelling campaign and UN advocacy.

During the CSW66, Commission on the Status of Women, we made particular efforts to engage our audience by posting explainer posts and reels, which drew hundreds of new, primarily young, followers to our Dutch Instagram account. This digital engagement, along with an International Women's Day (IWD) event: **'Climate Justice Needs Young Feminists** in cooperation with Oxfam Novib, significantly expanded our outreach among the target audience of the ClimAct programme. We used the occasion of CSW66 to promote stories of women who have created gender-equal climate solutions, emphasising the unprecedented focus of the major UN event on climate and environment.

Other communication activities

Throughout the year, we have produced news articles, press releases and publications. To view these, view the pages on our website linked below.

- For news articles, click [here](#).
- For press releases, click [here](#).
- For publications, click [here](#).



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OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

WECF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to a gender-just and healthy planet for all. We are a network of over 250 ecofeminist organisations who are active in 72 countries around the world. We work with our partners and advocacy allies on jointly funded projects and advocate for female leadership and gender equality in the field of sustainability.

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 completely from grants of governmental or multilateral organisations, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the European Union (DEVCO/INTPA, DEAR, NEAR) and smaller grants of, for instance, the United Nations Environmental Programme. On top of that also income was generated by the Dutch Nationale Postcode Loterij. 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.

For the EuropeAid projects co-funding is required: at least 10% (DEAR, NEAR) to 20% (WOMEN2030). A major part of it is realised by the partners in these projects and another part comes through our WECF sister 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 the WOMEN2030-project ended by the start of 2021.

A specific risk in 2021 was, just like in 2020, caused by the lack of possibilities to meet and organise physical activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic for large parts of the year. This was a serious blow to our main intervention strategies (for an overview, view paragraph 1.5 of this report). It also caused underspending on all our projects, causing a major drop in our turnover, while our personnel costs remained at the same level. We mitigated this risk by submitting a request for government support (NOW) which was awarded, and we also managed to get an extension for our main programme (Women2030), enabling us to finish the programme by end of March 2021 instead of 2020. In addition, we shifted to online activities, which also worked very well to some extent and led to new ideas and creative solutions.

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 2022 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 2022 the budget is 1,61 million, of which 95% 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.

WECF is a project funded non-profit organisation that is largely depending on institutional funding. That makes it hard to build our continuity reserves. To be able to deal with financial risks we would like to strengthen the continuity reserve to be able to cover some costs in periods of lack of funding. Currently the reserves would cover the fixed costs for a period of ca. 5 months.

Fundraising Strategy

We are further developing our fund-raising strategies to include funds allowing to build our financial reserves to be better prepared for any future periods of instability. Our fundraising strategy consists of the following elements:

Finding multi-annual funding for continuation of our work with the Women2030 alliance, especially for partners in those countries that are not eligible under the new Dutch programme, concentrated in the region where we historically have a lot of partners: Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Western-Balkans. Our focus is on institutional fundraising, especially from the European Commission (EuropeAid), and governments.



Finding support for mid-sized projects and assignments on demand of partners or pro-actively 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 (Horizon2020 and EuropeAid/DEAR), but also smaller funds of municipalities.

Strengthening our support base and looking at other income generation activities such as private donations, crowdfunding. We will plan at least one action a year targeted at our support base and broader audience, connected to urgencies we encounter and highlighting the power of ecofeminism.

Financial key figures

	Total turnover in 2022: In 2022 there was no more income from the DEVCO-Women2030-project, but the main turnover was at the Green Livelihoods Alliance-project via Milieudefensie, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the EU-NEAR-project in Georgia, and the Postcode Loterij-project.	Cost spent as objective as a % of total income: total costs on objectives 1.660.488 / total income 1.752.666	Expenses related to income generating and fundraising activities are low; these expenses divided by the income from grants of governments: 11.003 / 1.660.488	The current ratio at 31 december 2022: current assets (827.260) / current liabilities (645.836) Both the current assets and the current liabilities are a lot lower than in 2021.	Liquidity per 31 december 2022: the cash position was 708.115 / payables 645.836. It shows that the cash position is quite good, as it was a year before. The change is in the payables (grants in advance and payables to partners, almost all to DEVCO-Women2030 at 31 dec. 2021, which are a year later all settled).
2021	€1,752,666	94.5%	0.4	1.14	0.56
2022	€1,749,941	94.7%	0.7	1.28	1.10

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

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