



Women in Europe for a Common Future | **WECF**

# Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All

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Annual Report 2013

## Impressum



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Women in Europe for a Common Future

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



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Annual Report 2013

# Working for a Healthy Environment for All







“Women in Europe  
working together  
with women and men  
all over the world  
for an equitable and  
sustainable future”



## Foreword

WECF protects the environmental health of women and men internationally and through projects locally with 150 member organisations in 50 European Caucasus Central Asian and African countries, advocating for better legislation, implementing solutions, sharing knowledge and lessons learned from implementation projects, monitoring and applied research with its 150 network member organisations, and through its cooperation with strategic partners from all civil society major groups in particular, women, science, youth, indigenous peoples, local government, trade unions and social responsible enterprises.

One of the most successful and distinguishing aspects of the WECF network has always been the approach of combined advocacy and project work. In 2013 WECF as one of the "organising partners" of the "Women's Major Group", comprised of over 500 women's human rights and development organizations, has substantively engaged in the consultations and negotiations throughout this process, making clear that Gender Equality is a pre-requisite for sustainable development.

For WECF and partners, the main effort in 2013 was of course to demonstrate local solutions for inclusive and environmentally friendly development, with full participation and leadership of women. In Uganda and South-Africa women training and development of food gardens and organic agriculture continued, as part of the "Empower Women benefits All - EWA" program. In Ukraine, Georgia and 5 other EECCA countries, "Switch to Sun", a program to improve and up-scale solar heaters for household and public building in rural areas, made progress. In Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan WECF and partners transferred knowledge and built ecological sanitation systems for schools and households, with the addition of solar technologies to supply hot water for bathrooms, and solar food processing solutions. Through our capacity building and training programmes more than 500 trained trainers were able to share their skills.

Many members continued to build skills in the area of policy analysis and advocacy, to propose and push for better legislation and governance. This included the Climate Negotiations in Warsaw, where WECF members were trained. The WECF offices in France, Germany and the Netherlands shared their expertise in the area of sound chemicals management with the Balkan partners, as well as with partners of the Baltic Sea region.

Together with Flemish Gezinsbond and Pesticide Action Network Europe, WECF started the Life+ Program "ChildProtect", focussing on EDCs, Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals. The challenge of strengthening legislation regarding the hundreds of hazardous chemicals in our daily food and products is a common problem for all countries in the world, and we need to share our best practices such as the WECF Nesting Program which informs consumers and parents on how to avoid and better regulate these harmful substances in the environment of our children.

I am proud to present this annual report to you, as WECF and its partners have achieved

admirable results! We invite you to join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Healthy Environment for All!

[Sascha Gabizon](#), *Executive Director WECF*

## WECF and WICF

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a network of over 150 organizations and several hundred individual members concerned with promoting a healthy environment for all, implementing projects at local, regional, national and international levels. WECF strengthens the role of women, while endorsing a gender approach in environment & sustainable development policy.

### WECF's Work Worldwide

Historically, the majority of WECF members have come from Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, though membership is open to organizations worldwide. WECF empowers its members by bringing their policy recommendations to international policymakers and into global policy processes by increasing the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organizations. We work together with partners from Europe, Latin-America, Africa and Asia who have expertise on women's economic empowerment, green and equitable economic development, and international agreements.

### WECF's Roots

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in the Netherlands in 1994. Women from all over the European region participating in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, recognised the catalysing role women were playing in sustainable development as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future." The philosophy of WECF has always been to support local project partners and network members in conducting advocacy work themselves, whether at local, national or international levels - thus giving direct voices to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work has proved to be very successful and has become one of the strongest distinguishing aspects of the WECF network.

### Why Women?

During the Earth Summit in 1992 women were defined as a "major group" in sustainable development and environmental policy. More than 20 years on, women are still not equally involved in policy processes and continue to suffer disproportionately from poverty and the effects of environmental degradation. The potential of women as agents of change and important stakeholders is often neglected. This is because the different roles and tasks of women and men have caused a continuing gender-divide. Further, discrimination against women has not yet been eliminated in many countries. However, women often have different priorities to men and are often more engaged in issues related to health and sustainable livelihoods. As this diversity of views and concerns needs to be reflected in policy making, WECF wishes to pave the way for increased public participation in general, and women's participation in particular.

### Global geographical scope

WECF historically focuses on Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, the Balkan region and Afghanistan. Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and these EECCA countries in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the new republics faced many problems. Many challenges, such as health problems and poverty in rural areas due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management, also remained in the new EU member states. Increasingly the WECF network has expanded to the global level, where partners share lessons learned from one continent to the next. WECF develops innovative, sustainable solutions that are adjusted to the local culture, market and climate and based on local needs. At the same time, it brings lessons learned from the field to regional and national policymakers.

***Our Mission: Promoting gender justice and a healthy environment for all***

*WECF's mission is to create a balanced and gender-equal society, a healthier world and sustainable future. To accomplish this we enable and capacitate women and men to participate at local and global level in policy processes for sustainable development and strengthen our partners to develop and implement locally suitable sustainable solutions. Our network's activities are based on our partners' own visions and needs.*

**Governance and Organisation**

WECF is coordinated through WECF organizations in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), and France (Annemasse), and has about 30 part-time staff members. Each national organization has a board as well as its own national member organizations. WECF has an international Board of Trustees (BoT) which bears the final responsibility for the strategic and financial management of the foundation. The International Advisory Board (IAB) represents WECF's member organisations. The IAB works in an advisory capacity on strategic issues and organizational development. IAB members (of which there are currently eleven) are elected by the members of WECF. The BoT and the IAB maintain close connections through representation at each other's meetings.

**Implementing projects with partners & engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy**

WECF implements projects with its partners by developing and implementing sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, **which are often** inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grass roots level and which aim to represent women's perspectives. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

**WECF and Cooperation**

WECF cooperates with other organizations and research institutes such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Hamburg Technical University, and companies such as Solar Partner Sued in Germany. Next to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WECF's donors include a.o. the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Rhône-Alpes region (France), European Commission (DG Environment and EuropeAid), the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (I&M) and Fondation France Libertés (France). Natracare is an example of a private sector company supporting WECF.

**WECF's strategic approach**

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a strategic approach for the organisation which fall within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1, 3 and 7 and the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities, is people-focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts. Keywords are: poverty reduction in rural areas, small-scale and affordable technologies, public participation, gender equality and human rights.

**WECFs five key issues:**

1. Safe chemicals & adequate provision of health for all.
2. Safe and sustainable energy & climate protection for all.
3. Safe food production & sustainable rural development for all.
4. Safe water and sustainable sanitation for all.
5. Gender equity in sustainable development, environmental rights and public participation.



# WECF Issues



## Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

WECF implements affordable, innovative and sustainable sanitation systems as demonstration projects. These projects focus on creating access to safe water and sanitation for households and schools in low-income, rural areas. WECF raises awareness and mobilizes citizens for sustainable water and wastewater management. WECF brings lessons from these projects to the policy table. WECF promotes community-based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas without centralised drinking water supply. One of the ways to do this is by using WECF's Water and Sanitation Safety Plans (WSSPs) for small communities and schools. Sharing lessons via South-South knowledge transfer is one of WECF's approaches, in 2013, 3 NGOs from Uganda, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan were sent to a hands-on workshop to India to simple technologies like bamboo structured tanks made by rural women for collecting and storing rainwater.

WECF and partners represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health policy process and advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resources and waste water management. WECF contributes to the implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health (PWH), especially on small scale water supply and sanitation and schools in the frame of the current PWH working programme and WECF has been actively contributing to the Post 2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators in the water and sanitation area.

## Direct results of WECFs work accumulated

- 3 training modules in 3 languages on water safety plan policies and implementation for rural communities without centralized supplies
- 1 work-program for small scale water supplies and sanitation under the transboundary water convention's Protocol on Water and Health
- 350 trained trainers on water safety plans for local communities (50)
- 200 people trained on operation and maintenance of *ecosan* (UDDT) toilets and the use of urine and faecal matter
- 980 individual sanitation systems installed UDDT
- 1100 people tested demonstration UDDT
- 55 toilet buildings for schools and kindergartens UDDT (3 in Moldova)
- 123 drinking water supply systems improved (3)
- More than 35.000 people gained access to safe sanitation at their home
- More than 21.000 children gained access to safe sanitation at their school
- More than 11.000 people's drinking water tested on nitrates as an indicator for pollution
- 3 partner NGOs from Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Uganda trained in a 6 day hands on workshop on bamboo based structure for rainwater storage and collection and other green technologies
- 2 policy recommendations on inclusion of water and sanitation in the Sustainable Development Goals post-2015



## Safe Chemicals for All

WECF and its members advocate non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally, and for the implementation of three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes strengthening of chemicals legislation, in particular, to protect the most vulnerable. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions on the products they purchase and use. WECF's core awareness-raising program is "Project Nesting", which involves a combination of online media in eight languages, workshops, information guides and product databases testing. Trainings on environmental health are also conducted for health and childcare professionals.

The consumer information is flanked by policy advocacy through the international "toxic free toys" campaign and various projects such as LIFE + ChildProtect. In addition to advocating the elimination of toxics in consumer products and food, with a distinct focus on EDCs (Endocrine Disruptors), WECF also addresses hazardous waste and building materials. In Armenia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine old pesticide stockpiles pose a serious threat to the environment and public health. Partner organizations try to attract attention to these problems and cooperate with the local and national authorities to isolate or remove the stockpiles and reduce exposure for humans, animals and the environment. In Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, WECF works with local partners on alternatives to asbestos as a building material, raising awareness about the lethal risk from the widespread chrysotile asbestos use in buildings.

## Direct results of WECFs work accumulated

- 100 Project Nesting trainers in France and the Netherlands (28 in 2013)
- 480 Nesting workshops organized in France and the Netherlands (200 in 2013)
- 6 trainings for technical staff at Test Lab, 13 trainings in municipalities and 21 trainings for various associations including hospital staff (33 midwives)
- 3800 parents educated on creating a safe environment for their new born child
- 100 000 parents informed through fairs and direct contact via consumer guides, motivated to create a safe environment for their new born (45 000 in 2013)
- 75 000 policy makers and decision makers from business and civil society informed about the health risks of asbestos and alternative building materials and other non-toxic alternatives
- Over 2 million people reached via media channels (TV and radio, websites and printed media)
- 1 Mobile Exhibition and 5 new publications reached policy makers and professionals with policy recommendations to substitute chemicals of concern including EDCs
- 30 000 petition signatories to ban EDCs in toys (France)
- 2 new consumer guides on EDC's in products and chemicals in children textiles
- 1 scientific report on the use of chemicals in textiles



## Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

WECF's overall goal for Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development is that all children, women and men have access to safe, regional, diverse and affordable food. This food should be free of hazardous chemicals, nano-particles and GMOs, based on fair trade and produced in harmony with nature and the landscape, protecting water, soil, air and biodiversity. WECF implements projects which aim at closing the loop; in which waste from one process becomes a resource for another process. In particular, WECF demonstrates safe use of human excreta (urine and faecal compost) and composting of organic waste as fertilizer in agriculture. WECF members train other members on making plant-based tinctures against pests in horticulture, and on setting up local economic value chains based on cooperation between farmers and consumers. Through these demonstration projects, WECF promotes examples of sustainable and organic farming that: provides healthier food; improves the livelihoods of rural people (nutrition, knowledge and well-being); and protects natural resources and ecosystems.

### Direct results of WECFs work accumulated

- 1 farming incubator, "Initiaterre" to help young farmers start their enterprise in local and sustainable agriculture, and promote regional, fair and sustainable food
- 1 network of women entrepreneurs in the rural areas of Rhône-Alpes, France, to promote gender equality in the rural-professional environment – 60 members
- 1 network of women working in agriculture in Armenia, to support revenue-generating activities, and promote safe food production and a chemical-free environment (2013: 80 members in 4 villages)
- Georgia: 6 Rural women savings and loans groups facilitated and trained in Ninotsminda, 70 members (2013)
- 80 women from low-income township in South Africa: grow their sustainable food in "urban food gardens" (2013)
- 1 permaculture fruit and vegetable garden established, 5 Resource centres are equipped with documentation and 3 food gardener jobs created in resource centers in Durban and Cape Town, South Africa (2013)
- 100 demonstration fields on pesticide-free Conservation Agriculture established
- 2350 Farmer/households of which 70% women were involved in farming and at least 1128 farmers (70% women) trained in farming as a business in Uganda
- 361 women (120 female refugees) trained in 2012 on sustainable agriculture in 2013 they started to apply this in their work in Georgia
- 10 Town Halls exhibited the mobile exhibition "diverse apples"
- 3 language versions of "Women for Diversity"
- 100 participants at the first ever expert conference on "terra preta" soil improvement



## Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

Climate change is the biggest environmental challenge of our time and poses a serious and global threat to sustainable development, poverty elimination and peace in the coming decades. Climate change is inextricably linked with energy concerns as two thirds of global emissions come from energy consumption.

WECF implements interrelated programmes on both issues. WECF aims to provide safe, affordable and renewable energy for low- income households, bringing successful pilot projects to scale via innovative financial instruments. WECF promotes a switch away from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralized alternatives. WECF empowers vulnerable groups to benefit from climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes. Through its role as co-coordinator of the 'women and gender constituency' at the climate negotiations, WECF promotes gender-positive energy solutions and integrates a gender perspective into global UN climate change negotiations.

### Direct results of WECFs work accumulated

7 women on the WECF delegation from Bolivia, Columbia, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda trained on international policy processes and the negotiations at the UNFCCC (2013)

- 10 Policy statements on equitable climate policies presented to 5000 policy makers (2)
- 1 feasibility study for climate financing household renewable energy systems submitted to UNFCCC
- 1 gender-equitable Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) being designed in Georgia
- 138 energy efficient stoves constructed for low-income households
- 22 solar driers constructed for low-income households
- 128 solar-collectors constructed for private households (of which 118 have been financed 100% by the owners)
- 87 solar collector crafts-men and 49 crafts-women were trained
- 20 people were trained as certified trainers on solar collectors.
- 10 women and 30 men were trained on insulation, of which 37 were certified
- 10 men were trained on solar house heating technologies
- A total of 249 people trained, of which 34% were women
- 37 low-income houses were insulated
- Over 600 women increased income from solar food driers
- 5 students exchanges on solar technologies organized in Georgia and Kyrgystan
- 6 rural resource centres providing training on affordable, sustainable food, energy, water and sanitation solutions



## A Cross Cutting Issue:

### Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

WECF believes that the right to a healthy environment is the birth-right of every person regardless of gender, race, colour, national origin, or income. This requires that respect is given to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that are least empowered are the ones most likely to suffer from environmental pollution and lack access to safe water and sanitation. An example of this are the Roma communities who live near (toxic) waste dumpsites in Eastern European countries.

WECF's overall goal of "achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies and programmes. Women and men are differently affected by environmental pollution and the lack of basic resources, such as water or energy. Women's views, knowledge and capacity to work towards a sustainable development and a healthy environment have to be taken into account when looking for local as well as global answers.

WECF implements projects with partners in local communities, organizing community dialogues and gender assessments to raise awareness on gender roles and the value of unpaid women's labour. All activities are monitored with gender-differentiated indicators, and the impact on boys and girls, women and men is assessed and analysed. Lessons learned and (policy) recommendations are shared with peers and decision makers. WECF facilitates women's participation and leadership in local, national and international policy-making processes.

#### Direct results of WECF activities

- 1 Guide on public participation for Parties and Non-Parties to the Protocol on Water & Health and civil society by WECF in cooperation with the government of Romania (2013)
- 100 page publication on Gender Equality, Women's Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals with the Women's Major Group at the United Nations (2013)
- 1 artistic photo exhibition and 1 booklet (1500 ex) on women entrepreneurs in rural areas of France
- 10 policy statements on integrating gender equality into the Sustainable Development Goals (2013)
- 10 grass roots women winners awarded by 10 Women Ministers at the "Women Rio+20 Good Practice Award"
- 8 Gender-sensitive and participatory assessments at country, regional and local level (4)
- 6 Gender-sensitive and participatory project monitoring (4)
- 6 Gender trainings or technical trainings with gender focus (4)
- 20 publications/presentations on gender, human rights and the environment (2)
- 30 publication/presentations on public participation, poverty reduction and sustainable development, women participation in international conference (4)
- 3000 women in WECF's delegations in policy meetings (100)





# Campaigns and Advocacy

# Campaigns and Advocacy

The core of WECF's work: Implementing projects with partners & engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy

WECF implements projects with its partners, which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production.

WECF engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grassroots level and always representing women's perspectives.

WECF represents women and civil society in a number of international policy processes and United Nations organisations

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WECF and UNEP United Nations Environment Programme:

- The WECF director is co-chair of the UNEP major group and stakeholder facilitating committee. The WECF president is a member of the UNEP advisory group on International Environmental Governance.
- WECF facilitates the work of the NGO coalition "Rotterdam Convention Alliance – ROCA," which advocates the implementation of prior informed consent on trade in hazardous substances, including chrysotile asbestos.
- WECF implements an awareness-raising programme under the Quick Start Fund of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

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WECF and UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:

WECF is core member of the gender and women constituency of UNFCCC.

Contact: [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

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WECF and UN CSD Commission on Sustainable Development:

WECF is a focal point for the Women's Major Group for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which holds the secretariat for the Commission on Sustainable Development, and organises the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

Contact: [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)

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WECF and UN WOMEN United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women:

WECF cooperates with UN WOMEN on the preparations for the Rio+20 UNCSD conference and the SEED award.

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WECF and UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe:

WECF co-chairs the NGO alliance 'European Eco Forum' which is the focal point for the 'Environment for Europe' policy process. WECF is an implementing partner for UNECE and WHO of the 2011-2013 workprogramme of the 'Protocol on Water and Health.' WECF experts are members of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making and contribute to 'public participation in international forums' under the Aarhus Convention on access to public participation, information and justice on environmental matters.

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WECF and WHO World Health Organisation:

WECF represents the environmental NGOs of the Eco Forum in the WHO-Euro ministerial policy process 'Environment & Health', and is a member of the task force on Environment and Health. WECF cooperates on the implementation of the Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE), and the Parma Ministerial Declaration.

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WECF and other UN programmes:

WECF cooperates with UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) in national development activities - for example, those relating to gender, or to chemicals management. WECF cooperates with UNSGAB (United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation) on the '5 year drive for sustainable sanitation'. WECF cooperates with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) on the WASH in School. WECF has consultative status with ECOSOC (UN economic and social council) and is an accredited partner of UNEP.

## Campaigns and Advocacy in the European Region (Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)



WECF's advocacy work in the European Region on Water and Sanitation:

### UNECE water and health policy processes

Worldwide, 2.8 billion people lack safe sanitation and one billion, safe drinking water. Even in the EU and EECCA region, nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply; and even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation. Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Further, in the Western part of the region, where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants - including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products - have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health. The UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. WECF was one of the implementation partners of the three-year Work Programme 2011-2013 of the Protocol on Water and Health, alongside the German and Czech governments, for the working group on "small scale water supply and sanitation". In 2013, through its water and sanitation advocacy work, WECF continued to implement projects to monitor drinking water quality, to share lessons from its water and sanitation demonstration projects, and to advocate for better policies and government programmes to assure safe water and sanitation for all.



### Human Right to water and sanitation

In 2010, the United Nations declared the access to water and sanitation a human right. However, in Europe, access to these services is threatened. Pilot projects, across the whole of Europe, of privatised water and sanitation have delivered negative results, namely increasing costs and decreasing quality. Nevertheless, the European Commission is trying to push through a complete privatization of water and sanitation. Many people who are already in a financially precarious situation cannot afford the steep rise in prices which privatization brings. They are facing the loss of adequate access to water, despite its being a human right. Because of this, WECE supported the European Citizens' Initiative in 2013, which positioned itself clearly against the privatization of water and sanitation within the EU. Water and Sanitation need to remain public goods, ensured by the state to be universally affordable.



This First European Citizens' Initiative collected almost 2 Million signatures across Europe and in September 2013 the national branches of the right2water.eu campaign, including WECE who took on this task in the Netherlands, handed in the signatures collected

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

One of WECE's key focuses is the provision of sustainable school sanitation conditions, because children are vulnerable and most affected by poor sanitation. In rural areas of the EECCA countries, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in schools are often terrible. Related diseases, particularly diarrhea and parasite infections, hinder the children's physical and intellectual development. WECE, along with partners worldwide, advocates making school sanitation a policy priority. This should especially involve work on the elimination of parasites, such as intestinal worms (STH), in children. These continue to pose a serious health burden across the world and in Europe.

### Safe and Sustainable Sanitation and Menstrual Hygiene

In some areas of the world, menstruation is considered an impure and shameful act. For this reason, girls try to hide the fact that they are menstruating. Unfortunately, due to a lack both of safe facilities and of a supply of feminine hygiene products, many young girls are forced to drop school during their period. Each month they are deprived of their basic right, namely the right to education. WECE has continued to call for action on improving the WASH infrastructure, whilst demonstrating what an impressive results have been achieved in its projects by simply improving the livelihood of young school girls in rural areas.

#### Direct results:

- WECE contributed to the assessment of the situation of the small -scale water supplies in the WHO European Region and to the development of a document for policy makers on small scale water supply and sanitation, to be published in 2015.
- WECE contributed to the Parma Declaration which promotes the environmental conditions for children in the European Region. In this frame, WECE developed a methodology for monitoring WASH in Schools in the European Region for WHO.



WECF has also been contributing to the assessment of WASH conditions in relation with soil transmitted helminth infections among schoolchildren in Romania and Georgia..

- WECF contributes to the work of WHO, UN organisations on access to water and sanitation in schools globally (the UNICEF Raising Clean Hands Campaign). WECF leads a working group on rural communities, schools and gender aspects in the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) and collected and good examples for sustainable School sanitation stories worldwide for showcasing them in a SuSanA publication in 2014.
- WECF has been contributing to the post-2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators in the water and sanitation area

## Campaigns and Advocacy worldwide



### Engaging in policy recommendations and advocacy worldwide

WECF implements projects with its partners which aim to develop and implement sustainable solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, water and sanitation, energy and food production. WECF also engages in policy recommendations and advocacy, often inspired by problems and solutions encountered at grassroots level and with a focus on representing women's perspectives. Policy work is at national, European, UN and other international policy process levels.

### Women's Major Group Post Rio & Post 2015/SDGs

The Women's Major Group was created as a result of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro which recognized women as one of the nine major groups of society whose participation in decision-making is essential for achieving sustainable development.

The role of the Women's Major Group is to assure effective public participation of women's non-governmental groups in the UN policy processes on sustainable development. The Women's Major Group contributes to the intergovernmental processes on Sustainable Development Goals and its link to the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and other outcomes of the RIO processes.

The Women's Major Group is an open-ended group of organisations which work on women's rights, sustainable development and environment themes. There are over 400 list serve members of the Women's Major Group who are organisations and individuals from every region of the world, who work on gender, sustainable development and environment. The coordination for the UN Sustainable Development process is assured by two organising partners - Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) - and two core group members - Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and Global Forest Coalition (GFC).

The coordination for the UN Environment program, is facilitated by - WECF International, Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Soroptomists Kenya, Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development, with support of focal points o.a. Earth Care Africa and Asian Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

The coming years are crucial for future development cooperation. In the intergovernmental process on “Sustainable Development Goals”, the UN “Open Working Group” is preparing a framework for universal goals to follow the Millennium Development Goals.

The High Level Panel Post2015 report, and the consultation reports, are feeding into the Secretary General’s report on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The SDG and the Post2015 processes are planned to merge and lead to one set of comprehensive, universal goals, which will set the direction for international cooperation on sustainable development from 2015 to 2030 and beyond. If women’s priorities and gender equality are not well defined in the goals, targets and indicators, it will be a major set-back. It is a unique opportunity for women’s organisations worldwide, that this United Nations policy process has a specific institutional space for women’s participation, namely the Women’s Major Group.

### Women’s priorities for the Post 2015 SDG Agenda

Women’s priorities for Post2015 and SDGs focus on developing countries and countries in transition, linking the regional women’s priorities (Africa, EECCA) to the global agenda for Post2015 and SDGs. WECF as co-chair of the WMG informs the 450 WMG members (through a daily mailing list + twitter ), helps building their capacity during the negotiations , organises meetings with their country delegates, helps the women prepare their speaking slots in the negotiations - based on WMG policy statements prepared in advance - and organises outreach to media/press.

WECF coordinates the policy proposals developed by the WMG for the Post2015/SDG process with women’s representatives and UN agencies for parallel UN policy processes. This is done by:

- strengthening women’s movements globally in promoting together key priorities for women’s rights and empowerment as part of a new global development agenda, and build alliance and support from other sectors of civil society and government;
- incorporating diverse women’s movement priorities into WMG input on policy, intergovernmental and consultation processes, with a focus on priorities of women from the economic south;
- ensuring that gender equality and justice, women’s rights as human rights, and sustainable development are core priorities of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda framework, goals, targets, indicators and means of implementation;
- ensuring equitable and regionally balanced participation by Major Groups in the SDG process and related post-2015 processes, with particular focus on full and meaningful participation by diverse women from the economic south.
- Enabling grass roots women from the EECCA and African regions to present their solutions and priorities to international actors and decision makers, thus contributing to ensuring that women’s perspectives, needs and contributions are strongly reflected in the policy outcomes.



## Driving Home the Link between Gender and Climate Change

"Despite the name, WECF's reach goes way beyond Europe, connecting more than 150 organisations and communities all over the world with the aim of influencing gender-sensitive environmental policies at the international level"

20.11.2013 | Inter Press Service

*WARSAW, Nov 18 (IPS) - Nov. 19 is Gender Day at the COP19 climate summit in Warsaw, and many of the events taking place in the National Stadium will focus on the topic of gender and its relation with climate change. The day will open with the launch of the Environmental Gender Index (EGI), a project of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).*

*Lorena Aguilar, IUCN senior gender adviser, explained it to IPS. "The EGI is the first index of its kind, bringing together measurements of gender and environmental governance; 72 countries have been rated for six different variables, with each one of its indicators," Aguilar said at the COP19 United Nations Climate Change Conference running Nov. 11-22 in the Polish capital.*

*"It measures the participation of women and men in the convention, but it also looks at many other issues: land tenure issues, forest coverage, anaemia among women, access to credit, access to land, etc."*

*She added that such an index will be useful for donors to re-assign resources to those areas that are a priority, and also as an accountability mechanism.*

*While from a Western point of view it might be hard to imagine how climate change effects can have a different impact on men and women, in many parts of the world, such as areas where subsistence farming is carried out by women, the relationship becomes clearer.*

*"Because of the socially constructed roles, women in Uganda are culturally required to provide food, to cultivate food, to prepare it and serve it to their families," explains Gertrude Kenyangi from Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) in Uganda.*

*"Food, energy and water are interconnected, and if you don't have these three things, which are made even scarcer by climate change, then you won't be able to fulfil your role, and that alone will create problems between you and your husband, it will probably make your children destitute, and it will affect your entire livelihood."*

*Kenyangi escaped that same fate thanks to an educational programme.*

*"I myself come from a forest-dependent community, but I broke out of that cycle. I happened to be connected with some religious organisations that sponsored my education." And this is how, after her studies, she founded SWAGEN, a network of grassroots women community-based organisations.*

*Grassroots movements are paramount to connecting vulnerable people to the governance level, "but you need to make a deliberate effort to reach out to them," Kenyangi told IPS.*

*"For instance, Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a platform that brought me into the debate, so I can bring in the grassroots dimension. Without their support I wouldn't have the money to come on my own, I couldn't afford the ticket, the accommodation, not even the registration to this event.*

*"That's what changes the vicious cycle - if somebody intervenes from the outside, appreciating that we are all living on this planet and have just one planet," she concluded.*

*Despite the name, WECF's reach goes way beyond Europe, connecting more than 150 organisations and communities all over the world with the aim of influencing gender-sensitive environmental policies at the international level.*

*What they want to remind policy-makers of is that climate change is caused by life's day-to-day decisions and has an impact on everybody's daily life. But because women and men often have different lifestyles, their activities have a different impact on the environment.*

*And it works the other way around too: "Climate change has a different impact on women's and men's lives, so if we respond to climate change impacts, we need to have different approaches for women and men," Anke Stock, gender and rights coordinator at WECF, told IPS.*

*"Another example of this comes from our colleagues in Guatemala, where due to unsustainable economic activities they are having problems of water shortages and women now have to walk four hours a day to bring water to their houses," said Elina Doszhanova, director of the Social-Ecological Fund NGF in Kazakhstan.*

*Maira Zahur is part of the GenderCC delegation here at the COP, but back home she works on the policy level with the Pakistani government as an expert on disaster risk reduction.*

*"In simple terms, I advise them on how to use certain policies on the ground, how they can benefit women, how they should be revised, edited or extended, and how they can be taken to the grassroots level, explaining to people what things are there for their benefit."*

*Recently, U.N. Women carried out a study on flood early warning systems in Pakistan, looking at different aspects, such as the social composition in the different areas, whether men are based in such areas or are working outside, how women make decisions if there are no men in the home, whether they are able to make their own choices in case of a flood warning or are dependent on males in the home or in the streets.*

*"In Pakistan there are communities in which men work in other cities and females are not allowed to leave their rooms," Zahur told IPS.*

*"There is documented evidence that during the 2010 floods, when men were not around, the females didn't leave the house, and according to these case studies, some of them drowned. That's why when you make policies such as early warning systems, you need to take into account gender issues," she added.*

*Women's involvement at all decision-making levels seems to be, if not a solution, at least a first paramount step to addressing these policy gaps.*

*The attention towards gender-related issues within the climate change debate is growing, as shown by the decision adopted last year in Doha to promote gender balance and participation by women in the UNFCCC negotiations, as well as by the big turnout at the Workshop on Gender and Climate Change held here on Tuesday Nov. 12.*

*Yet Zahur seems sceptical about possible advances during the conference. Implementing policies requires resources, "but if all the resource are going towards events like this, that are mere talking, then where will the resources come from? We are all so involved in plenaries, contact groups, side events, that the basic purpose for which we are here is kind of lost.*

*"We need to find solutions that can help people at the grassroots level. That should be the major motivation. But here a lot of blah blah blah is happening, this is so tedious," she said.*

*The original article can be found on IPS net <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/11/driving-home-the-link-between-gender-and-climate-change/>*



## WECE advocating Equitable Climate Policies and Solutions

At UNFCCC, WECE advocates the need for equitable climate protection instruments. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men, primarily since they constitute the majority of the world's poor and their livelihood is more dependent on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. But they are also effective actors and agents of change. Women often have knowledge and expertise that can be used in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The MDG summit 2010 concluded that there was a real need up until 2015 to focus on women as catalysts of development and change. Therefore, WECE promotes climate policies and programmes which give women access to resources, knowledge and income-generating opportunities.

### Women and Gender Constituency at the UNFCCC

WECE brought several issues into their collaboration with the Women Major Group, the Women and Gender Constituency and the Climate Action Network Europe and International, of which it is a member. These included, namely: the need for equity within countries; awareness of gender disparities; the need for earmarked windows for women projects and work; the necessity of access to sustainable energy and technology, finance and capacity-building; and the necessity of keeping out high-risk technologies.

WECE staff were engaged in all the UNFCCC sessions in 2013. They also facilitated the work of a diverse group of seven women leaders from civil society calling for urgent and concrete action on climate solutions and for linking these solutions with gender equality at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Warsaw.

WECE in the context of the International Women Empowerment (IWE) project (funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Dutch Government) held a leadership training on 10 November 2013 in Warsaw, one day before the official COP 19 of the UNFCCC started. The overall goal of the IWE project is to build the capacity of women's organisations to advocate for the implementation of gender-equitable global goals within the post-2015/SDG process into national and international strategies, policies, funding mechanisms and laws for (sustainable) development.

In line with this overall goal WECE invited 7 women from various partner organisations of the WECE network coming from different countries (Bolivia, Columbia, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uganda). The women learned and exchanged about the concept of leadership and mentoring, about international policy processes and the negotiations at the UNFCCC, but a strong focus was on the exchange of experiences being a "woman leader" on personal and professional level. The training day was a start to a continued row of activities: the attendance of the women at the UNFCCC COP19, the establishment of a women's leaders network, the organisation of different national gender policy dialogues and of regional conferences on the SDG/post-2015 process.

### Warsaw: Women take action on Climate Change and Gender Equality

COP19 marked an exciting opportunity for gender equality in the UNFCCC. Parties had several chances to identify priorities and needs and strengthen gender equality in climate policy and implementation. WECE was in Warsaw as part of the GGCA, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance. GGCA showcased key events, publications, and activities at COP19 which illustrated how a gender-sensitive approach can drive innovative climate solutions.

Friday November 21st saw a huge walk out. As growing frustration over lack of ambition and hindered participation came to a head, civil Society groups, including WECE, said "Enough is Enough". Women Civil Society delegates at the United Nations Climate meeting in Warsaw joined a mass walk out by hundreds of non-governmental organizations present at the

negotiations today in protest of the lack of serious progress between government negotiators saying that the COP19 was not delivering real results in spite of a mass of evidence from science and typhoon-hit countries that climate change is already causing millions of victims.



"Our delegates came from all over the world to participate in what they thought were negotiations on ambitious commitments to protect our planet, our societies and our future generations from runaway climate change. However, the governments insist on bickering between themselves on the inside while the Arctic melts and storms rage on the outside," said Sabine Bock, Climate and Energy Director for WECF. Bock continued: "It is unacceptable that governments are not agreeing on urgent action despite the increasing cost in lives and damage which climate change is causing."

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director of WECF said "we need to see commitments by all nations, including the European countries such as France, Netherlands, Germany and Poland. Many of us are concerned about the dominance of corporate interests — in particular coal, fracking and nuclear — at these negotiations. Instead of investing in renewable energy, and immediately halting all subsidies to the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, we see that small producers of solar energy are being stopped in their development, in Spain, France, and now also in Germany. That is unacceptable; corporate fossil fuel interests should be kept entirely out of the UN negotiations."

## WECF OFFICES



### WECF FRANCE

WECF France supports international WECF network projects and carries out projects at regional and national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below.

*Location: Annemasse, France (Rhône-Alpes)*

*Donors: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy (MEDDE) , Region Rhône-Alpes and FEDER, Region Ile de France, Conseil General Val de Marne, City of Strasbourg, ADEME, Fondation France Libertés, Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation Léa Nature, France Active, Jennifer Altman Fondation , Church World Services, companies and private donors.*

*Contact: General activities & Energy and climate change: [anne.barre@wecf.eu](mailto:anne.barre@wecf.eu) Chemicals and health, Nesting : [elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu](mailto:elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu) / Water and sanitation: [Natalia.dejean@wecf.eu](mailto:Natalia.dejean@wecf.eu) / Agriculture and Gender: [marie.laure.robert@wecf.eu](mailto:marie.laure.robert@wecf.eu)*

#### **Chemicals & Health: awareness-raising and training for public and professionals**

WECF France continued to widen access to its educational workshops on environmental health, via the “Nesting” program for young parents.. In Paris, Lyon and Strasbourg we developed new thematic educational workshops “Ma Maison Ma Santé”, for vulnerable populations in poor urban areas. There the population is more exposed to chemicals and less informed. “Ma maison Ma santé” is a program developed especially for social centers in partnership with municipalities and social actors like Mutualité Française. It offers new pedagogical tools aimed at helping people to better protect their health in the long run. Training health professionals, especially midwives, is also an important part of WECF’s work on environmental health. In 2013, over 28 workshop facilitators were trained and 10 of them received the Nesting certification. Additionally 130 childcare professionals received trainings on how to improve indoor air quality, and 15 professionals followed a unique life-long learning program on environment and health care practices (IFSEN) created by WECF and its

French partners. This program will allow them to use new knowledge in their professional health care practice.

### More than 30,000 signatures to 'Stop EDCs in toys'

On 9 April WECF France delivered a petition to "Stop endocrine disruptors in toys" signed by more than 30,000 people, to French Health Minister and Environment Minister. Studies across Europe show that bisphenol A, phthalates and other endocrine disruptors are all harmful substances found in toys and not regulated.

WECF stresses the need to act globally to reduce the impact of EDCs on our health. The European directive on the safety of toys needs to be revised and the REACH regulations need to incorporate EDCs in their entirety. WECF France also initiated the positive mobilisation of companies on this subject by organizing a national conference on eco-design for toys. Eco-design can be a source of significant competitive advantage for EU toys producers.

### Policy work on Chemicals and Health

2013 was an important year for EDC's in France as the country developed a National Strategy on EDCs. WECF France was intensively involved in the negotiation process and published a manifesto with 40 other NGO's and CSO's, asking Health and Environment Ministers to adopt a comprehensive approach to the regulation of EDCs, with better public information, and the training of health and childcare professionals.

### Water & Sanitation

*More than 10 000 people contributing to the construction of ecosan toilets in Moldova*

The project 'Safe Water and Sanitation for the Kindergarten Dominteni' has reached its funding target thanks to the 10 600 visitors who contributed each 2€ during the 'Festival de L'Oh', organized by SIAAP and the Conseil Général Val de Marne, in France. The project 'Safe Water and Sanitation for the Dominteni Kindergarten' coordinated by WECF France and implemented by Ormax, will provide 120 children with safe sanitation and safe water treatment.



### Food and Rural Development

WECF France is responsible for the coordination of WECF's agriculture and biodiversity thematic area. Activities have been conducted both at the French and EU level. The Collective for local and Sustainable Agriculture, "ADP-Léman", which was created in 2011 with local and regional partners in France and Switzerland, continues to support the development of an



agricultural incubator – Initiaterre, based in Massongy, Haute-Savoie. It will help the start-up of new farming enterprises based on agro-ecological techniques and local direct distribution (local producers' markets, collective shop, community-supported agriculture). Initiaterre started operating in 2013.

WECF France also worked with European youth on the challenges faced today by agriculture. They constructed together their recommendations to local policymakers for local, sustainable food production and distribution..

### Energy & Climate Change

WECF France is a member of the French Climate Action Network- RAC which took active part in the National Energy debate that was organized by the French government from January to July 2013. WECF advocated for a nuclear free, safe and efficient energy policy.

WECF also pursued the promotion of solar energy across the EECA region through its students internship program conducted in partnership with Annecy University since 2009. This year, French student Rémi Saulnier supported our Georgian partner RCDA, with the monitoring and performance evaluation of solar collectors for hot water and solar fruit dryers, which had been installed during the previous years.

### Gender activities: promoting rural women's competencies in France and Armenia

WECF France has initiated in Rhône-Alpes a regional network of rural women entrepreneurs, with the aim of promoting gender equality, women's professional competencies and their role in the local economy. In the same time, WECF France and its Armenian partner AWHHE are conducting a project to strengthen the capacities of rural women in Armenia on organic agriculture and the marketing of agricultural products. Links have been established between the members of the French Rhône-Alpes network and the Armenian women groups, in order to foster good practices exchange and long term solidarity. These local field projects link local action to WECF's global involvement in the Post 2015 process with the coordination of the women's major group.



## WECF THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands is the country where WECF was created. The WECF Netherlands organisation targets stakeholders in the Netherlands and Flanders and supports international partners with expertise and project funding, it coordinates advocacy campaigns - with a focus on European legislation - and implements awareness-raising and advocacy projects at national level, with a focus on the protection of women's and children's health from harmful chemicals.

Countries: *Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium)*

Donors: *Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, private donors*

Partners: *Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, private donors*

Contact: [chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu](mailto:chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu)

### Development aid, poverty reduction and gender

One focus area for WECF, the Netherlands, is strengthening the gender focus for developing aid programmes. WECF has been an active member of the Dutch Gender Platform WO=MEN. Through this partnership WECF contributes to strengthening the gender focus in Dutch international policy, promoting a gender stand-alone policy.

### Dutch input for Human Rights/Gender/SRGR and Sustainable Development

The networks WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, Share-Net and Rio+20 Women's Major Group representing the Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), joined hands to initiate a dialogue with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure that Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Human Rights and Sustainable Development are included in the new framework for global development. Consultation meetings were organised at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### European Chemicals Regulation REACH

Every six months (in April and October), a multi-stakeholder symposium on chemicals policy is initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. Thematic input is given in turns by WECF, as representative of Dutch Civil Society, and by the chemical industry association. Both meetings in 2013 were organized by WECF in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of the Environment, the employers union VNO/NCW and the chemical industry (VNCI). WECF focused in its presentation on the need for better consumer information and better implementation of the 'Right to Know.' Due to its work of many years on the subject, WECF has become the main NGO in the Netherlands to work on policies regarding harmful substances there.

### LIFE+ ChildProtect

The 'ChildProtect-Life' project coordinated by WECF the Netherlands aims to speed-up implementation of EU environmental regulations with regard to the substitution of EDCs, in line with the EU 2020 goal of minimising adverse effects of chemicals on public health. Together with Gezinsbond, PAN Europe, ChemSec and WECF Germany and WECF France the project seeks to develop innovative and multi-sectorial actions that speed-up policy measures and voluntary actions that especially protect children and pregnant women from the harmful effects of EDCs. Such modules can then be replicated in other EU Member States.

### Creating a Healthy Environment for Children: Een Veilig Nest

In 2012, as part of “Een Veilig Nest” (Project Nesting), WECF organized outreach and awareness-raising activities – exhibition stands at commercial baby product fairs, website and blogs, publications and newsletters – which reached over 20,000 people. For example, Nesting the Netherlands successfully gained attention for the problems of toxic chemicals in everyday products by appearing on national television presenting the toys with toxic chemicals in them on sale shortly before the holiday celebrations. WECF presented its work on toxic-free products for children at the sustainable “PuurBabyPlaza” and at the biggest fair for young parents, the Nine Months Fair.

The WECF ‘Nesting’ project in the Netherlands is supported by an expert group of scientists, including key professors in the area of pediatrics, endocrinology and chemicals, who advise on its work. WECF also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy.

## WECF GERMANY

WECF Germany carries out projects at a national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below, as well as supporting the international WECF projects with partners in EU, EECCA and developing countries.

Countries: *Germany; Munich, Berlin*

Donors: *Private Donors, European Commission, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU), German Environmental Agency (UBA) Issues: Chemicals & Health, Energy & Climate, Food & Agriculture, Water & Sanitation*

Contact: [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

### Chemicals & Health

Nestbau' is the German version of the International Nesting Campaign, helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns. In 2012, the German Nesting project informed parents through its Nestbau website. New weblinking partner organisations were acquired and positive feedback was received from the authorities. In the frame of the project guides for consumers renovation and cosmetics were published. Several workshops and tools for schools and kindergartens were developed to avoid toxic chemicals in their environment. Advocacy for non toxic children's products has been one of the main tasks of the WECF chemical coordinator, who was involved in several events and policy activities concerning toxic chemicals in toys, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level. One of the main topics of the chemical work of WECF is to work towards a ban of chrysotile asbestos in the EECCA region. The chemical coordinator participated in several UNEP and WHO conferences and meetings, and worked with partner organizations in EECCA region to achieve this goal.

### WASH – Water & Sanitation in Germany

WECF is a founding member of the German WASH Alliance, it helped to create this alliance of NGOs working on water and sanitation issues in 2011. WECF cooperates with the German Environment Agency (UBA) on the implementation of the 3 year work program of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO) in the working group on small scale water supplies and sanitation (see under 'International Policy Work').

A water safety plan project in Bulgarian villages funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) started in 2013 and will be continued throughout 2013. The aim of this project is to raise awareness about environmental protection, particularly in the area of water quality in the rural regions of Romania and Macedonia.

### Climate & Energy

WECF was also very much involved to insist and advocate on necessary CO2-reductions and the crucial switch to safe and sustainable energy in Germany, the energy transition. WECF stayed involved in the Bavarian Climate Alliance and the German Climate Alliance. The WECF sustainable energy manager is a member of the steering committee of the German Climate Alliance.

WECF Germany was part of several press releases and actions as active member of the German Climate Alliance (since November 2012 again member of the steering committee) concerning stopping coal projects in Germany and advocacy for ambitious climate protection commitments and a sustainable energy transition as well as active member of the Bavarian Climate Alliance regarding the energy transition and necessary supporting laws for it and to call attention to costs and risks of nuclear power throughout 2012



# Projects



## PROJECTS



## Accomplishments and partnerships in 2013 in the EECCA region

### Our Projects:

#### Romania and Macedonia (FYROM): Water and Sanitation Safety Plans

##### Water and Sanitation Safety Plans for environmental education in schools in rural areas

The aim of this project is to raise awareness about environmental protection, particularly in the area of water quality in the rural regions of Romania and Macedonia. The creation of Water and Sanitation Safety Plans will encourage the population to promote local action for the improvement of water supply and sanitation systems, with the active participation of students, youth, teachers, locals and the authorities.

Romania joined the European Union in 2007, and has until 2018 to implement the EU regulations relating to the EU Water Framework Directive. There is still a great need for the construction and renovation of local infrastructure in rural areas. Only 28% of the rural population is currently connected to a central water supply and is therefore able to benefit from proper water services. Most families depend on private and public wells, whose shallow aquifers are not adequately protected against pollution caused by human activities. More than 7 million people living in rural areas have no access to safe sanitation and use pit latrines. The population in general is often unaware of the interconnections between the quality of water, sanitation, hygiene, fertilising of the soil and health.

Since 2005, (the Former Yugoslav Republic of - FYROM) Macedonia has been a pre-accession country in the EU. 99% of its households, both in urban and rural areas, are connected to the central water supply system, but despite this many water shortages exist. Its water pipes were laid between 1960 and 1980, and a lack of maintenance has led to the poor condition of this water supply system. According to UN Habit, 23% of the inhabitants of Macedonia do not have access to drinking water of adequate quality. About 80% of the water comes from karst aquifers whose quality is known to be influenced by rainfall and surface pollution sources. As in Romania, information related to the quality of drinking water in rural areas is unavailable to the population. There is no access to safe sanitation in rural areas, where pit latrines are used.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has developed the innovative tool of Water Safety Plans (WSP) to ensure the quality of water systems, including small wells and small-scale local centralised water-supply systems. This helps minimise health risks. In these WSPs, civil society is considered of crucial importance, as are the authorities and local suppliers.

The project is in line with the EU directive which aims to educate and train young people on the (waste) water cycle, the protection of water resources and sustainable water usage. The activities are supposed to be structured and practical.

**Donors:** *Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)*

**Partners:** *Aquademica(Romania), JHR, Macedonia(FYROM)*

**Duration:** *11/2013 - 04/2015*




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## Baltic countries: Info Campaign on Hazardous Substances

Many products used in everyday life, like toys, cosmetics and plastic products, contain hazardous chemicals. In the Baltic States people are often not aware of this and sufficient regulation is not in place. To have a chance to avoid these substances if they wish, people need to know about the substances in their products and the related health effects.

The overall goal of the project is to encourage public demand in the three Baltic States for children's and consumer products free of hazardous substances via awareness-raising activities. The project partners inform Baltic society about substances which are considered



harmful for people's health and the environment and whenever and where these products, used in everyday life, can be substituted with safer products. In the course of the project, clear, comprehensible information about the potential impact of hazardous substances on human health and the environment, targeted to the needs of the particular stakeholder group, was published. This information was presented in such materials as interactive games and web competitions.

### WECE's input to the project

WECE provides its expertise on awareness raising to the project partners, who want to inform society about substances which are considered at European Union (EU) and national level as hazardous, why so, in which products on the market they occur and where such products are used in everyday life. In the course of the project easy understandable information materials about potential impacts from hazardous substances to human health and environment targeted to the information needs of the particular stakeholder group will be elaborated and published. WECE provides the project with its guides on toys, detergents, body care products, baby care products, renovation materials, EDCs and textile as basis for information material adapted for the countries special needs and for translation into the three national Baltic languages.



*Training by Birgit Pesin, an ecological hairdresser, Munich October 2013*

**Countries:** Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia

**Donors:** EU Life+

**Partners:** Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia (BEF EE), Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia (BEF LV), Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania (BEF LT), WECE, Environmental Film Studio (VFS), Tallinn University (TLU), Liepaja University (LiepU), Rautakesko AS Estonia (Rautakesko EE)

**Duration:** 10/2011 - 03/2015

## Seven Eastern European Countries: “Switch to Sun – Live in Comfort”

As many as 200 solar collectors were built in rural villages of Georgia up until the end of 2013. This certainly underlines the aim of this project: Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and the Russian Federation. This project contributes to improved health, reduced poverty and increased energy security in 22 rural communities in seven EEC countries, by demonstrating domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation measures and Do-it-Yourself Solar House Heating Systems. All of these methods are based on available local capacities and materials. The aim is to create institutional capacity by up-scaling via certified trainers, craftsmen and women, while formulating lessons for effective financial, institutional and legal instruments for widespread replication of sustainable energy options.

Families in rural areas spend a great deal of their income on energy, primarily in the form of wood to heat their homes, which significantly contributes to deforestation and climate change. Together with local NGO partners, the Swiss organisation CDE and GERES from France, WECF has developed training modules which have been used extensively by local trainers in target communities. With a special focus on gender, WECF organized training units for women and men on:

- The construction, maintenance and use of solar collectors, including training of local trainers
- Insulation measures – technology adaptation and implementation
- Solar house heating



Hand in hand with practical implementation, policymakers at national, regional and local levels are informed of the benefits of strengthening policies and implementing programmes that provide incentives for rural communities to invest in renewable energies and energy efficiency measures as demonstrated in this project. They also have draft policy instruments referring to EU legislation available as a basis for their further action.

*Countries: Georgia, Ukraine Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation*

*Donors: Directorate-General (DG) EuropeAid Development and Cooperation of the European Commission*

*Partners: Europe: WECF, CDE (Center for Development and Environment), GERES (Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités) Georgia: The Greens Movement of Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency, Social Development Center Akhaltsikhe, SEMA Ukraine: Ecoclub Rivne, National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, Vozrozhdenie Tatarbunary*

*Duration: 01/2011 - 12/2013*



## Kyrgyzstan: Home Comforts

Creating local capacity for improved rural living standards via sustainable energy and sanitation

The aim of this project is to reduce poverty via sustainable development, specifically through improved access to basic resources such as energy and safe sanitation. WECF and its local partners KAWS, ALGA and Camp Alatoo are working together with the aim to create local capacity for improved rural living standards through affordable and sustainable energy and sanitation solutions.

Some of the major core activities of the project are the building and installation of solar collectors (or solar water heaters) and solar food dryers. The former device will benefit the local Kyrgyz villagers with affordable hot water much needed for daily tasks, such as washing the dishes and personal hygiene. Further, the solar food dryers are a cheap, fast and wonderful means for the production of clean dried fruits that can be consumed all year-round. Finally, in regards to sanitation, the urine-diverting dry toilet (UDDT) or ecosan toilet is an innovative technology which can be installed within the house or attached to it. The ecosan toilet does not need water for flushing, and neither smells nor attracts flies.

In the Issyk Kul region in Kyrgyzstan, more than 100 ecosan or urine diverting dry (UDD) toilets have been installed in past years. The technology has been well accepted and the villagers, especially the women, appreciate the new sanitation technology because the toilets can be installed inside or adjacent to the house and do not smell.

Adding to that, users increasingly acknowledge the benefit of the use of urine as organic fertiliser in their gardens. Therefore WECF organized workshops on productive sanitation, namely the use of human urine from ecosan toilets as fertiliser in agriculture.

When conducting their activities, WECF and its Kyrgyz partners employ local staff and experts with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of their initiatives. The project "Home Comforts" within which these activities are implemented in Kyrgyzstan is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by WECF.

*Donors: European Commission with the additional aid of Natracare*

*Partners: KAWS, ALGA, Camp Alatoo*

*Duration: 01/2011 - 07/2013*

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# Accomplishments and partnerships of WECF International in 2013 worldwide

## Empower Women – Benefit (for) All (EWA)

The overall goal of the WECF EWA programme is to contribute to the economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in six developing countries (Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uganda). WECF started 2012 with a new ambitious programme – “Empower Women – Benefit (for) All (EWA)” The overall goal of the EWA programme is to contribute to the economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in six developing countries (Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, South Africa, Tajikistan and Uganda). Further, the programme builds on WECF’s multi-annual approach for 2010 - 2015, which aims to contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7.

The activities of “Empower Women – Benefit (for) All” began in 2012 and will be spread out until the end of 2015. EWA has been made possible by a FLOW subsidy of the value of € 1,86 million, received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

According to the World Bank, investing in women is the best investment in communities' development. WECF shares this idea but also acknowledges the structural barriers (e.g. lack of decision-making power and basic livelihood conditions) many women around the world are facing on a daily basis.



Due to the fact that women (and children) comprise the majority of the world’s poor, WECF has focused its involvement in the EWA programme on the issue of economic empowerment. An overall goal of the programme is to increase women’s participation in the formal economy (resulting in higher income and greater financial independence). Nevertheless, WECF also regards the need to invest in the “care economy” to be of significant importance. The second



strategy for women's economic empowerment is thus to assure basic sustainable livelihood conditions.

Through its activities, the programme aims to contribute to the political empowerment of women. All of the abovementioned countries face an enormous gap between their legal frameworks and their practices, especially in rural areas. Customary inequality between men and women results in women's lack of time for productive activities, lack of ownership and control over productive assets and inputs, lack of professional skills, lack of access to finance and lack of decision-making power. By focusing on women's political and economic empowerment, the EWA programme aims to achieve greater gender equality and lasting poverty reduction in the targeted communities.

The expected results of the EWA programme are that: 12,000 women and men will have improved, affordable access to livelihood resources; 14,900 women and men will have increased economic independency and incomes increased by >50%; 5,000 women in 20 low income rural communities will have had access to credit; in 4 countries women's participation in local decision making structures will have improved by 30%; and 10 million people will be aware of the benefits of women's economic and political empowerment by the end of 2015.

### Kyrgyzstan

*Strengthening Gender Potential of EWA Project Partners in Kyrgyzstan*

"Men are the real losers of the new Kyrgyzstan", was a comment made by one participant of a Gender Training. This highlights the difficulties faced by men in a society that has a high unemployment rate and requires a lot of flexibility in people looking to secure their livelihood. But as others focused on the strong traditional and religious influence prevailing in the south of Kyrgyzstan as being an obstacle on gender equity, it seems that gender equality is perceived differently even within the country itself.

The added value of WECF as a network lies in its international experiences regarding the integration of gender issues into sustainable development work, respectively in policy and advocacy work. This experience has highlighted the importance of gender training with local partners, training which emphasises the need for gender sensitivity. Alga, one partner NGO from Kyrgyzstan, has been conducting exercises on this subject and the NGO "Social Technologies Agency (STA)" has been working on the development of a gender policy in Kyrgyzstan, including a detailed gender action plan for 2012-2014. The policy aim chosen by all Kyrgyz partners of EWA is to lobby for the ratification of the Protocol on Water and Health by the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

### South Africa

*Developing Urban Food Gardens*

In 2013, WECF continued to support partners in South Africa to develop "urban food gardens" with and for low-income women in former townships. These included the ecological treatment of surface water for irrigation, and the reuse of nutrients and waste for biogas (in community food kitchens) and soil improvement. Community food gardens have been set up in Blikkiesdorp and Lavender Hill, South Africa. The food gardens will provide an opportunity to empower women to provide more nutrition for themselves and their families and gain income from selling surplus food.

The peri-urban areas of Blikkiesdorp and Lavender Hill have some of the highest poverty and malnutrition rates in South Africa. Therefore, WECF has committed to breaking the vicious circle of malnutrition, hunger and poverty. Together with the local partners Urban Harvest, Soil for Life, and Decentralised Environmental Solutions, the Food Garden has been created. The food garden in Blikkiesdorp is located centrally, just next to a communal Multi Purpose Centre. This ensures that many people will pass by and experience the change of atmosphere a patch of green can make. The food grown in the garden will be used directly for a street pop-up restaurant or will be sold wholesale to various food vendors on-site and simplify

trading. Circumventing complicated bureaucratic structures and costly intermediary vendors, profit margins will be high for the people selling the food produce.

## Tajikistan

### *Men have to be taken along this path*

The overall goal of the WECF Empower Women – Benefit for All (EWA) programme is to contribute to economic and political empowerment of women from low-income rural and peri-urban regions in Central Asia and Southern Africa. The main issues of gender and environment within EWA are how women can access different resources in order to create their own livelihood. This is especially important in Central Asia and Tajikistan. As more and more men leave the rural areas in order to work abroad, women have to be supported and provided with income for the survival of their families. Resources which are needed include, inter alia, access to land (land titles), access to loans, seeds, markets and know-how.

Although it is difficult to tackle these issues, WECF tries to give critical input to inspire a policy campaign targeted at the agricultural reform in Tajikistan. In addition, the constant empowerment of women, on the level of the local community, as well as on district and national levels, by leadership trainings, is important as a corner-stone to establishing a long-term and sustainable change towards gender equality. However, men have to be taken along on this path.

## Uganda

### *Focus on low-income small-holder farmers*

WECF supported its EWA partners in Uganda in developing “conservation” agriculture, avoiding further deforestation by improving the soil-quality of existing agricultural lands and increasing women farmers’ positions. Uganda remains among the poorest countries in the world. 88 percent of Ugandans live in rural areas, where land and water resources are central to their livelihood. The Ugandan economy and the welfare of the population are intricately linked to the natural environment. Households engaged in crop farming remain the largest group of the poverty-stricken population, accounting for about 38 percent of the households below the poverty line. On average, rural households derive nearly three-quarters of their income from crop farming. Smallholders dominate the agricultural sector with over 90 percent of crops being produced on farms averaging less than two hectares. With 3.57 percent population growth annually, Uganda has one of the highest rates of population increase in the world. This is far above the agricultural growth rate of 2.6 percent. Using existing agricultural systems and technologies, this implies an ever-increasing pressure on land resources to produce ever-greater levels of food. However, land degradation has already reached alarming levels.

### *Low-income smallholder farmers*

Low-income smallholder farmers in Kapchorwa and Kween Districts are the target group identified, totalling to 2500 beneficiaries, with a focus on women. One strategy of this project will be to improve the capacity of farmers (especially women) and their advisers to reassess practices and innovate, by helping them to recognize changing conditions. Much of the farmland in the proposed project area was cleared of forest and savannah vegetation in response to needs for increased food production over the last 30 years. Subsequently, the accumulated soil organic matter was exposed, leading to rapid mineralization and leaching as a result of heavy seasonal rains. Repetitive plowing has also not helped to conserve the soils.

### *Farmer groups*

One of the key activities of the project is the development and implementation of demonstration programmes on organic conservation farming, conduct training of trainers on organic conservation agriculture, and train groups on marketing and farming as a business, together with partner AT Uganda. In cooperation with AT Uganda, the farmers will establish demonstration fields on organic conservation agriculture. The farmers will be trained on non-chemical weed and pest control, how to make compost and crop rotation. They will also be

sensibilised on gender aspects, while partner the AT will promote women's participation in income-generating activities.

### Afghanistan

#### *Kunduz: Preparing women and their families for a severe winter - Sewing project in Afghanistan*

With the aid of WECF and as part of EWA, German charity Katachel e.V. initiated at the start of the program a sewing project for young women and girls in Kunduz, Afghanistan. This offers long-term prospects in sustainable development. With the cooperation of WECF and Katachel e.V., women have gained sustainable means of existence and independence by being able to make their own, and sell extra, clothes.

Katachel has been WECF's partner in Kunduz, Afghanistan, for years. Katachel was financially supported in previous years by the MFS program, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mainly focusing on building better washrooms for poor and vulnerable families in need.



### Georgia

Georgia is a post-Soviet country where the infrastructure - especially water supply, adequate sanitation and wastewater management - has been deteriorating more and more over the last 20 years. The situation in rural areas is drastic and the people are left alone with insufficient infrastructural support from the local authorities. There is a high rate of unemployment and people lack of ideas for business, marketing and alternatives solutions for sustaining livelihoods.

WECF partners organized trainings for rural. It has become apparent that the rural population experiences a lack of information pertaining to, and awareness of, alternative agricultural methods. As well as farm planning and management, SEMA's training focused on new technologies, alternative and modern plant protecting, business cooperation, elementary market proficiency, and women's role in the modern society and their integration and engagement in any field.

As most of the population is unemployed, the major source of income for most families (50-75%) comes from the land plots. Therefore, their major business is agriculture. There are also some beneficiaries raising bees or cattle; and planning small household plots for the beneficiaries is the main focus of the work being done.

*Donor:: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands*

*Duration: 01/2012 - 12/2014*

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Women in Europe for a Common Future

# Organisation



# Organisation



## WECF Staff 2013

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands, Munich, Germany and Annemasse, France. WECF has regional coordinators based in Tbilisi, Georgia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants.

### WECF The Netherlands

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director
Maureen Brouwer	Operational Director
Olga Plekhanova	Country/Project Officer Energy
Chantal Van den Bossche	Communication Manager
Lies de Bloois	Financial Controller
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper
Annemarie Hekkers	Office Manager
Nelleke van Ziel	Project Assistant
Cindy Vros	Project Coordinator Nesting
Ingrid Elbertse	Consultant Hazardous Chemicals
Fedde Jorritsma	Consultant sustainable sanitation and energy

### WECF France

Anne Barre	President WECF France
Natalia Dejean	Water and Sanitation referent
Valérie Domeneghetty	Health and Environment Facilitator Ile-de-France
Elisabeth Ruffinengo	Health and Environment Advocacy Manager
Marie-Laure Robert	Gender and Agriculture Coordinator
Céline Burdin	Agriculture assistant
Emilie Delbays	Health and Environment Education Coordinator and Facilitator
Anne Gomel	Health and Environment Education Officer
Malika Berkaine	Administration & communication
Janine Pannhasith	Bookkeeper

### WECF Germany

Sabine Bock	Director Germany and Energy Coordinator
Anke Stock	Coordinator Gender and Rights

Bistra Mihailova  
Alexandra Caterbow  
Regina Drexel  
Claudia Wendland  
Karin Volha  
Sabine Hanisch  
Dalena Bischeltsriedel  
Johanna Hausmann  
Véronique Grassinger  
Margriet Samwel

Project Assistant Chemicals/Project Coordinator  
Hazardous Chemicals Coordinator  
Energy Project Officer  
Sanitation Expert/ Policy Coordinator  
UNEP Event Assistant  
Office Manager Germany  
Executive Assistant  
Project Officer Chemicals & Press  
Graphic Design and Publications  
Project Officer Water and Food Safety

**Expatriate contracts**  
Anna Samwel

Regional Consultant Eastern Europe & Caucasus



## Board Report

### The IAB and BOT in 2013

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

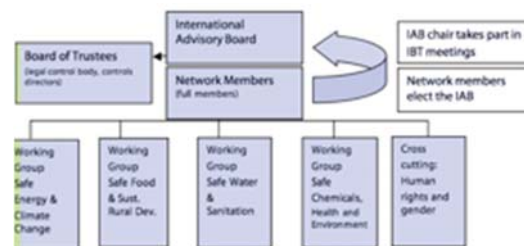
The IAB is elected by the WECF members. IAB elections take place every 3 years, mostly during the general members meetings. The co-chairs of the IAB are Thérèse van Gijn and Anna Tsvetkova.

Name	Function	Country
Therese van Gijn	Co-Chair	The Netherlands
Anna Tsvetkova	Co-Chair	Ukraine
Svetlana Slesarenok	working group leader	Ukraine
Diana Iskrevia	working group leader	Bulgaria
Nadezhda Kutepova	working group leader	Russia
Kaisha Atakhanova	co-working group leader	Kazakhstan
Elizbieta Priwiezienczew	working group leader	Poland
Helen Lynn	working group leader	UK
Elena Manvelian	co-working group leader	Armenia
Rostom Gamisonia	co-working group leader	Georgia
Mihaela Vasilescu	co-working group leader	Romania

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The BoT meets at least twice a year to approve the year accounts and year report, and to approve the upcoming year's budget and work plan.

Members of the Board of Trustees in 2012 were:

- Christine v. Weizsäcker, President
- Erma Uytewaal, Member (joined in 2012)
- Bert Kuiter Treasurer
- Grietje Zeeman, Member
- Teresa Fogelberg, Vice President



WECF President Christine von Weizsäcker is a biologist, researcher and activist. She has been working on technology assessment for civil society since the mid-seventies and participated in the negotiations of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety since 1994. Her many publications have contributed to scientific and public debate. Amongst the organisations she was serving are the following: Ecoropa (European Network of Networkers on Environment, Democracy and North-South Justice), president; Diverse Women for Diversity, co-founder; CBD-Alliance (international alliance of NGOs attending the negotiations of the UN-Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol), board; Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development of the Protestant Churches in Germany, member; Advisory Committee of the Federation of German Scientists, member, also member of its Working Group on Agriculture and Biodiversity. She has contributed to the work of the German Consumer Testing Group for 20 years in different functions promoting the inclusion of environmental criteria; and was a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Consumer and Food Policy of the German Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection co-authoring its Guidelines for Sustainable Consumption. Read the interview with her on her work and drives.

Erma Uytewaal, who joined the BoT in 2012, is member of Management team- at IRC - International Water and Sanitation Center, a leading knowledge institute in the water and sanitation sector in The Hague, The Netherlands. She has a wide-ranged experience in

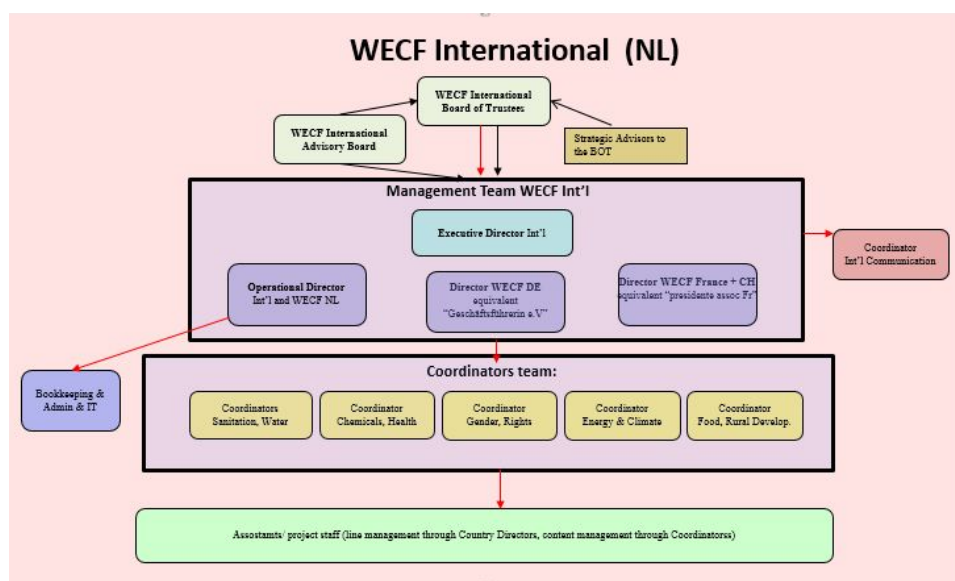
development cooperation with experience from different angles and perspectives. Multi-lateral (UN- UNIFEM and ILO) and bi-lateral donor organizations (DGIS), national government (Bolivia). Erma is involved in various national, regional and global platforms and initiatives in the WASH sector. She furthermore has experience in strengthening national capacities for sector planning processes, including sector policy and strategy development and other sector wide processes.

Bert Kuitert, treasurer, has extended experience in finance and control, working as Corporate Treasurer of the DHV Group, a Consulting and Engineering company in Amersfoort. He held several functions in Finance and Control, working as business group controller involved in international financed projects in developing countries especially in Asia and Africa. WECF asked him in 2003 to join the board as treasurer. He agreed because he appreciates the way WECF is executing projects.

Grietje Zeeman is Assistant Professor in the field of anaerobic treatment and reuse, focussing for the last 10 years on source separation based sanitation at the Wageningen University sub-department Environmental Technology, in the Netherlands. She also works as senior advisor at LeAF (Lettinga Associates Foundation). She has become well known for developing and promoting innovative, source separation based sanitation concepts. She has been very supportive in the further development of new sanitation concepts and technologies used by WECF and its partners in the local projects.

Teresa C. Fogelberg is the Global Reporting Initiative Deputy Chief Executive. The GRI ([www.gri.org](http://www.gri.org)) produces the world's most prevalent standards for sustainability reporting - also known as Environmental Social Governance (ESG) reporting. Sustainability reporting is a form of [value reporting](#) where an organization publicly communicates their [economic, environmental, and social performance](#). GRI seeks to make sustainability reporting by all organizations as routine as, and comparable to, financial reporting.

## WECF organogram in 2013



## WECF Publications and Press

### Key WECF Publications in 2013

#### Publications in English

##### Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All

WECF Activity Report 2012 - Join us, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Healthy Environment for All!

##### WECF report Textiles: Stop the chemical overdose!

Chemical contents of children's wear, textiles regulation, labels and more  
31.10.2013

##### Submission to CSW 58 session Statement by the Women's Major Group

Moving from Rhetoric towards Real Inclusion of Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in the final push for the Millennium Development Goals, and the Sustainable Development & Post-2015 Development Agenda

28.10.2013 | WICF

##### New Publication on NCDs: Environmental factors one of the main causes of preventable deaths

Civil Society Groups release, in cooperation with UNEP, first publication about non-communicable diseases and environmental determinants

27.08.2013 | Joint Press Release

##### "Opportunities to Stimulate Local Economies through Sustainable Innovations for Home Comfort"

Gender-sensitive feasibility study for rural areas in Issyk Kul and Naryn

12.06.2013

##### Pure Water: Constructed Wetlands in Bulgaria

WECF has produced an informative video on the constructed wetland in Bulgaria

02.05.2013

##### Pregnant Women and Unborn Babies Susceptibility to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

WECF Position paper for a stronger regulation on EDC

16.04.2013

##### Policy Recommendations by the Women's Major Group on global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

10 Recommendations for the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

10.04.2013

##### Toys Safety in the Balkans

Safe consumer products are a demand for countries to be able to join the European Union. WECF is helping out Albania and Macedonia in their struggle to improve the situation

04.04.2013

##### WECF guide on Renovation and D.I.Y

The information brochure "Renovation & do it yourself" informs on avoiding hazardous chemicals in your home while renovating

04.03.2013



WECF guide on EDCs (Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals)

The WECF information brochure "Stop EDCs in everyday products" informs you how to avoid exposure to hormone disrupting chemicals in your daily life  
04.03.2013

**Publications in German**

Giftfrei Einkaufen - Kostenloser Download für Smartphones

WECF App giftfrei einkaufen hilft Verbrauchern beim Kauf möglichst schadstofffreier Produkte  
11.10.2013

Hormonell wirksame Chemikalien: Schwangere schützen, EDCs besser regulieren

WECF Positionsspapier für eine striktere Regulierung von EDCs – national, europäisch und international  
16.04.2013

WECF Ratgeber zu Renovieren und Heimwerken - jetzt auf Deutsch und Englisch

Der WECF Ratgeber "Heimwerken & Renovieren" informiert wie Sie giftige und schädliche Chemikalien beim Renovieren vermeiden  
04.03.2013

WECF Ratgeber zu EDCs - jetzt auf Deutsch und Englisch

Der WECF Ratgeber Stop EDC – hormonell wirksame Chemikalien in Alltagsprodukten informiert wie sie sich im Alltag vor hormonell wirksamen Chemikalien schützen können.  
01.03.2013

**Publications in Dutch**

MamaGreen Mama's op weg naar de Tweede Kamer Video: Bekijk hier hoe op 21 november 2012 MamaGreen, ondersteund door Een Veilig Nest, groene, gifvrije cadeaus overhandigde aan politici met het verzoek Kamervragen te stellen over hormoonverstorende stoffen in (kinder)producten. MamaGreen actie in de Tweede Kamer

**Publications in French**

Rapport Textiles : Stop à l'overdose chimique!

WECF propose un rapport complet pour faire le point sur les contaminants présents notamment dans les textiles enfants, qui exposent une population particulièrement vulnérable.  
31.10.2013

**Deux nouveaux guides conseils de WECF: "Vêtements enfants" et "Perturbateurs endocriniens"**

Comment mieux protéger la santé de son enfant en choisissant bien ses vêtements et en réduisant son exposition aux perturbateurs endocriniens. Conseils pratiques  
04 et 09.2013

Femmes du milieu rural : entrepreneuses et créatrices d'activités

Portraits de femmes ayant créé leur activité en milieu rural - à commander auprès de WECF France

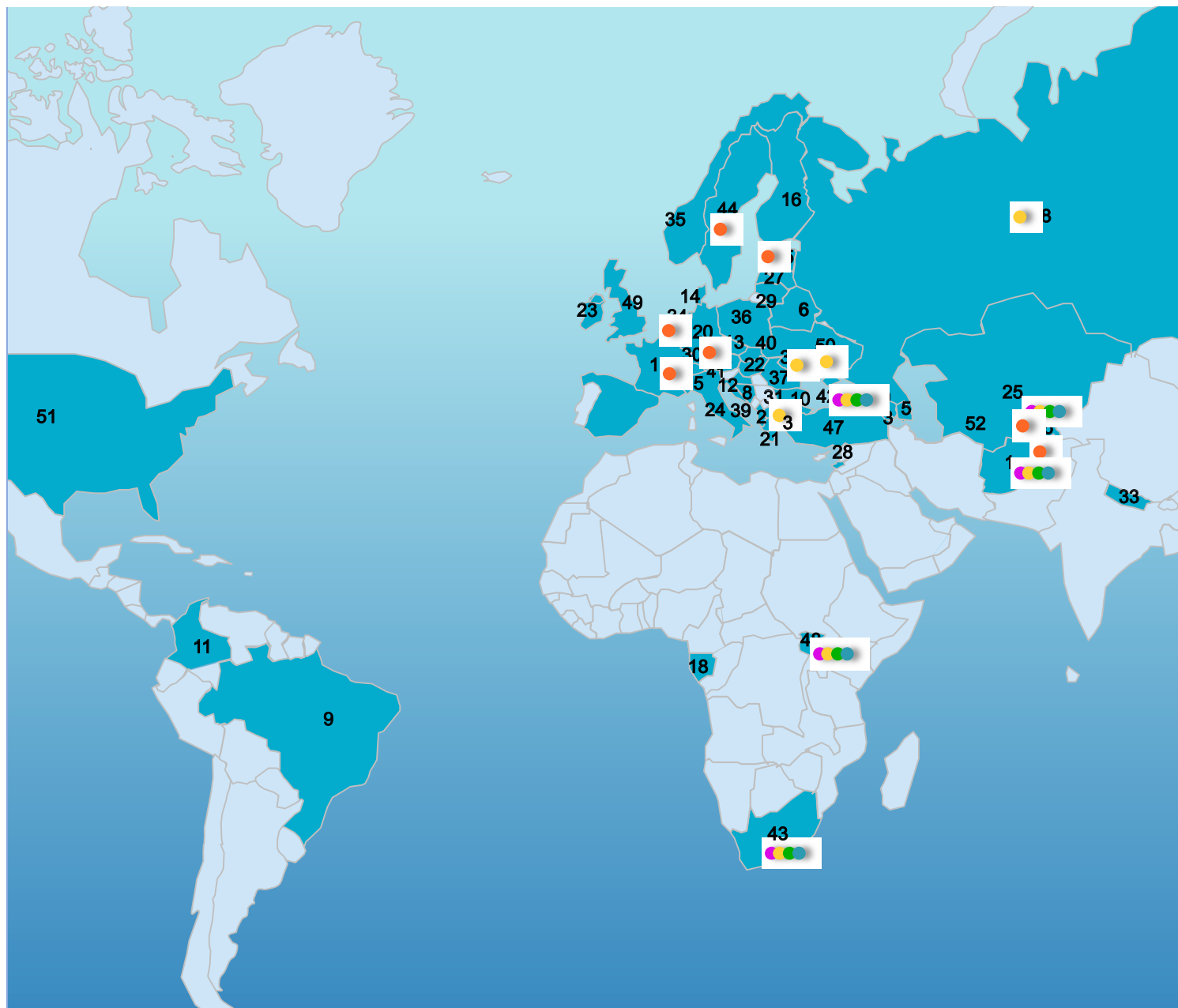
11.10.2013

Produits et matériaux sains : L'impact des ateliers Nesting de WECF dans l'accompagnement aux changements de comportements des participants

Les chantiers Leroy Merlin source

10.09.2013

WECF Members in 2013





Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All  
Safe chemicals and protection of health for All

Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

No.				Country
1				<b>Afghanistan</b>
2				<b>Albania</b>
3				<b>Armenia</b>
4				Austria
5				<b>Azerbaijan</b>
6				Belarus
7				<b>Belgium</b>
8				Bosnia
9				<b>Brazil</b>
10				Bulgaria
11				Colombia
12				Croatia
13				Czech Republic
14				Denmark
15				<b>Estonia</b>
16				Finland
17				<b>France</b>
18				Gabon
19				<b>Georgia</b>
20				Germany
21				Greece
22				Hungary
23				Ireland
24				Italy
25				<b>Kazakhstan</b>

27				Latvia
28				Lebanon
29				Lithuania
30				Luxembourg
31				<b>Macedonia</b>
32				<b>Moldova</b>
33				Nepal
34				<b>Netherlands</b>
35				Norway
36				Poland
37				Romania
38				<b>Russia</b>
39				Serbia
40				Slovakia
41				Slovenia
42				<b>Spain</b>
43				South Africa
44				Sweden
45				Switzerland
46				<b>Tajikistan</b>
47				Turkey
48				Uganda
49				UK
50				<b>Ukraine</b>

no.	Country	Name ENGLISH
1	Afghanistan	Katachel e.V.
2	Albania	Albanian Women's Movement for Integral Development, LGZHI
3	Albania	Eden Center; Environmental center for Development, Education and networking
4	Armenia	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)
5	Armenia	Charitable Women Armenia
6	Armenia	Ecolur Information NGO
7	Armenia	Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO
8	Armenia	Lore Eco Club NGO
9	Armenia	Rural Sustainable Development Agricultural Foundation
10	Armenia	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG
11	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan "Women and Development" Center (AWDC)
12	Azerbaijan	EKOT NGO; Environmental Sustainability
13	Azerbaijan	Digital Development
14	Azerbaijan	For healthy Life Ecological Public union
15	Azerbaijan	Solidarity Among Women
16	Belarus	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative
17	Belarus	Ecosphere
18	Belgium	Gezinsbond
19	Bosnia	Viktorija 99
20	Bulgaria	Earth Forever Foundation
21	Bulgaria	Association Eco-world 2007
22	Czech Republic	Agentura Gaia
23	Georgia	Akhaltsikhe Center of Social Development
24	Georgia	Foundation Caucasus Environment , NGO
25	Georgia	Fund of Women Entrepreneurs (FWE)
26	Georgia	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA
27	Georgia	Georgian Association of Toxicologists
28	Georgia	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association
29	Georgia	Greens Movement of Georgia
30	Georgia	PAROS
31	Georgia	Rural Communities Development Agency
32	Georgia	SEMA
33	Germany	VHUE e.V. - Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter
34	Germany	Green City
35	Greece	Clean up Greece
36	Ireland	Irish Doctos Environmental Association (IDEA)
37	Kazakhstan	EcoCenter
38	Kazakhstan	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency
39	Kazakhstan	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"
40	Kazakhstan	UGAM

41	Kyrgyzstan	Alga, Rural Women's NGO
42	Kyrgyzstan	BIOM
43	Kyrgyzstan	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water
44	Kyrgyzstan	Habitat for Humanity
45	Kyrgyzstan	Public Foundation Camp Alatoo
46	Kyrgyzstan	Public Ass Medical Alliance
47	Kyrgyzstan	Social Union, Agerkech
48	Kyrgyzstan	ULGU, Public Association
49	Kyrgyzstan	UNISON Civic Environmental Foundation
50	Latvia	Mutual Aid Association
51	Macedonia	Journalist for human rights Before: Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia
52	Moldova	Ecospectrum
53	Moldova	Eco-Tiras, International Environmental Ass of River Keepers
54	Moldova	Ecotox
55	Moldova	Gutta Club
56	Moldova	National Centre for Sustainable Development (NCSD)
57	Moldova	Ormax Cultural Youth Association
58	Moldova	Rural Renaissance
59	Moldova	Terra 1530
60	Moldova	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldava (WISDOM)
61	Netherlands	Ecobaby, Stichting
62	Netherlands	Leefmilieu ( Human Environment )
63	Netherlands	Vrouwen van Nu (before NBvP)
64	Netherlands	ZijActief
65	Poland	Network of East-West women Polska
66	Poland	Social Ecological Institute
67	Romania	Aquademica Foundation
68	Romania	Geo San
69	Romania	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia
70	Romania	Women for a Clean Environment
71	Romania	Woman of the Third Millennium
72	Russia	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims
73	Russia	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'
74	Russia	Eco-Accord
75	Russia	Nabat Muslyomovo
76	Russia	Planet of Hopes
77	Russia	Step Forward Snezhinsk
78	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Kashli
79	Spain	EQUIPS Initiative
80	Sweden	Environmental Protection and Health Network
81	Sweden	Global Action Plan
82	Tajikistan	Youth Ecological Center
83	Tajikistan	ASDP Nau
84	Tajikistan	SAFOi Sughd
85	Tajikistan	Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan
86	Turkey	Bugday



87	Turkey	EKOBA
88	UK	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe
89	UK	Women's Environmental Network - WEN
90	Ukraine	Black Sea Women' Club
91	Ukraine	Mama-86 Kiev
92	Ukraine	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS
93	Ukraine	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"
94	Ukraine	Vozrozhdenie
95	Ukraine	Bukvitsa
96	Ukraine	Global Synergy Foundation
97	Uzbekistan	SABR Trust Center
98	Uzbekistan	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udas
99	Uzbekistan; Karakalpakstan	Mehriban
<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>		
100	Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
101	Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
102	Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
103	Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
104	Brazil	TOXISPHERA – Environmental Health Association
105	Colombia	Alternativas Ecologias
106	France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
107	Gabon	ONG Action for Africa
108	Germany	Unser Land
109	Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
110	Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
111	Macedonia	Eko-svest
112	Moldova	Cutezatorul Public Association
113	Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
114	Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
115	Russia	Environmental Youth Club
116	Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
117	Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
118	Sweden	Centerwomen
119	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
120	Tajikistan	NGO PARASTOR
121	Uganda	SWAGEN, Support Women in Agriculture and Environment
122	Uganda	ARUWE, Action For Rural Women Empowerment
123	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
124	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
125	Ukraine	Women for Environment
126	Uzbekistan	Concord
<b>INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS</b>		
127	Armenia	Lilit Mkrtchyan
128	Armenia	Inga Zaratyan
129	Armenia	Karine Danielyan

130	Belgium	Catherine Wattiez
131	Belgium	Danielle van Kalmthout
132	Croatia	Lidija Luttenberger
133	Denmark	Muborak Sharipova
134	France	Elisabeth Ruffingo
135	France	Nita Chaudhuri
136	France	Ina Ranson
137	Georgia	Dalila Khorava
138	Germany	dr Minnu Hemmati
139	Germany	Sabine Brueckmann
140	Germany	Silvia Pleschka
141	Germany	Judy Grosch
142	Greece	Caterina Choreftaki
143	Greece	Angela Klauschen
144	Italy	Olivi Scuderoni
145	Italy	Fiorella Belpoggi
146	Kazakhstan	Kaisha Atakhanova
147	Kyrgyzstan	Svetlana Bashtovenko
148	Latvia	Inese Eistere
149	Lebanon	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezian
150	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
151	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
152	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsmann
153	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
154	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
155	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
156	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
157	Netherlands	Rosemarie B.J. Merz
158	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
159	Netherlands	Willy Douma
160	Netherlands	Anita Harting
161	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
162	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
163	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
164	Netherlands	Marjon Reiziger
165	Netherlands	Shirley Khoebal
166	Netherlands	Annette Mosher
167	Romania	Ioana Botis
168	Russia	Olga Senova
169	Russia	Patimat Gadzhieva
170	Russia	Victoria Elias
171	Serbia	Ivana Blagojevic
172	Serbia	Vera Arezina
173	Slovakia	Katarina Korytarova
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175	Spain	Isabel Ripa
176	Spain	Viviana Avendano
177	Sweden	Anne-Sofie Andersson
178	Sweden	Mildred Thulin
179	Sweden	Karin Sondergard
180	Turkey	Mine Yapar
181	UK	Clare Flenley
182	UK	Helen Lynn
183	UK	Sonia McLay
184	Ukraine	Galushkiva Tatijana
185	Ukraine	Victoria Yurescue
186	USA	Claire Greensfelder

187	USA	Mark Hengen
188	Uzbekistan	Karimova nodira
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1	Belgium	EEB
2	Bulgaria	Za Zemiata
3	Estonia	Baltic Environmental Forum
4	Finland	Global Dry Toilet Association
5	France	Geres
6	France	Planet Finance
7	France	Prioriterre
8	Germany	Atmosfair
9	Germany	Otterwasser
10	Germany/USA	Women Life On Earth
11	Hungary	Energia Klub
12	Latvia	Baltic Environmental Forum
13	Lithuania	Baltic Environmental Forum
14	Netherlands	Friends Of the Earth International/FOEI
15	Netherlands	Interface for Cycling Expertise / I-CE
16	Netherlands	Global Forest Coalition
17	Netherlands	World Information Service on Energy
18	norway	SPARE
19	Sweden	Swedish Society for Nature Cons.
20	Switzerland	CDE Center for Development and Environment
21	UK	Women's Institute



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