



Women in Europe for a Common Future

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WECF is an international network of over 100 women's and environment organisations in 40 countries. WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All.
We strive for balancing environment, health and economy. WECF's activities are based on its partners visions and needs.
Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

WECF Activity Report 2009

www.wecf.eu



Working for a Healthy **Environment** for all

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

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Activity Report

Overview of WECF's accomplishments in 2009

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About WECF



In June 2009 WECF celebrated its first 15 years of achievement in working for a healthy environment for all. Now, in a time of global economic crisis, accelerating climate change and persistent poverty and inequality, we will gather forces as a network together with our partners to meet the next set of challenges facing us in the next 15 years: to continue to empower and support women and men all over the world to gain access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation, energy and food whilst respecting their human rights and promoting gender equality as a tool of development. We're ready for this challenge.

Will you join us?

Our dreams and drives



Anne Barre | WECF France director

"We all bear the responsibility of ensuring a safe future for our children. Especially at times of economic and environmental crisis. WECF believes in women's potential to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals through their involvement in their communities and at a global level. By helping women, we help to build a better world."



Lies de Bloois | Financial controller of WECF

"Financial responsibilities and transparency are considered vital for all projects; by staff and partners! In what I consider excellent teamwork together we are able to show to all our stakeholders that we are financially reliable. The stakeholders are important to us, we could not do it alone. They are the donors, the partners, our suppliers and experts, all personnel involved and last but not least all members of civil society!"



Chantal van den Bossche | Coordinator Communication at WECF

"So many things I feel strongly about come together in my work for WECF. WECF helps to make parents aware of the necessity of a healthy environment for all, but especially for our children, who are the most vulnerable."



Farida Shorokuva | ELA project assistant

"WECF forms a bridge between European and Central Asian environmental and women's organisations, allowing transfer of knowledge, experience and partnership in both directions. WECF is one of the few organisations which grows whilst also promoting the growth of its partners."



Fedde Jorritsma | Field Officer Central Asia

"As a man from Europe, I work for WECF in Central Asia where I give support to WECF's strong and motivated local partner organisations. I support the Chinese saying, and WECF'S motto: "We need 2 eyes to see straight". There is a lot of work to do in Central Asia. The change is in us, we only need instruments to put them into actions. WECF and its partners empower women and men by environmental-friendly and profitable technologies adapted to local circumstances. I enjoy and am glad that I can help facilitate this process."



Elisabeth Ruffinengo | Advocacy Officer health & environment, France

"Protecting the health of future generations from adverse environmental effects is a key to the future: awareness raising and advocacy are tools we use to promote an approach of health and environmental based on the precautionary principle"



Working for a Healthy Environment for All

Our Mission, Roots and Network

Our Mission

For an Equitable and Sustainable Future. We work for a healthy environment for all. We strive for balancing environment, health and economy, taking different needs and perspectives of women and men into account. We enable women and men to participate at local and global level in policy processes for sustainable development. Our network's activities are based on our partners' own visions and needs. WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

Governance and Organisation

WECF has 3 coordinating offices in Utrecht (NL), Munich (DE), and Annemasse (FR) which manage the network, projects coordination and finances. WECF employs 40 part time staff and also collaborates closely with scientists, researchers, engineers and hundreds of volunteers. Along with the Board of Trustees, which is legally responsible for the workplan, accounts and budget, WECF has an International Advisory Board representing the member organisations, which leads the thematic working groups and advises on strategic direction and annual workplans.

WECF's roots

Women from the European region who participated in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, agreed to create the network WECF, as they recognized the catalyzing role women play in sustainable development, as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future". It was also at the Earth Summit that women were defined as a 'major group' among 8 other major groups.

Network

The WECF is a network of over a 100 organisations and individual members which are concerned with promoting a healthy environment for all and strengthening the role of women and promoting a gender approach in environment and sustainable development policy and implementation at local, regional, national and international level.

Issues & Projects

Our project work brings safe ecological solutions to local problems in the areas of chemicals, sanitation, energy and food production. Our policy work at national, European, UN and international level brings women's perspectives to policymakers. WECF works on five key issues:

- *Safe Chemicals & Health for All*
- *Safe and Sustainable Energy & Climate Protection for All*
- *Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All*
- *Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All*
- *Gender Equity in Sustainable Development & Environmental Rights and Public Participation*

WECF's strategic approach

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a strategic approach to lead us into the next decade and set key goals for the organisation in the period 2010-2015 within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1,3 and 7. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities. The right of access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water, sanitation and food. The right to a daily environ-



Working worldwide for a Healthy Environment for all: WECF conference "Innovation for Sustainability" in The Hague

ment free of hazardous chemicals and pollutants. The responsibilities of all to protect our natural resources and live within the boundaries of the earth's carrying capacity.

WECF's strategic approach is people focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts. Keywords are poverty reduction in rural areas, small-scale, affordable technologies, public participation, gender equality and human rights.

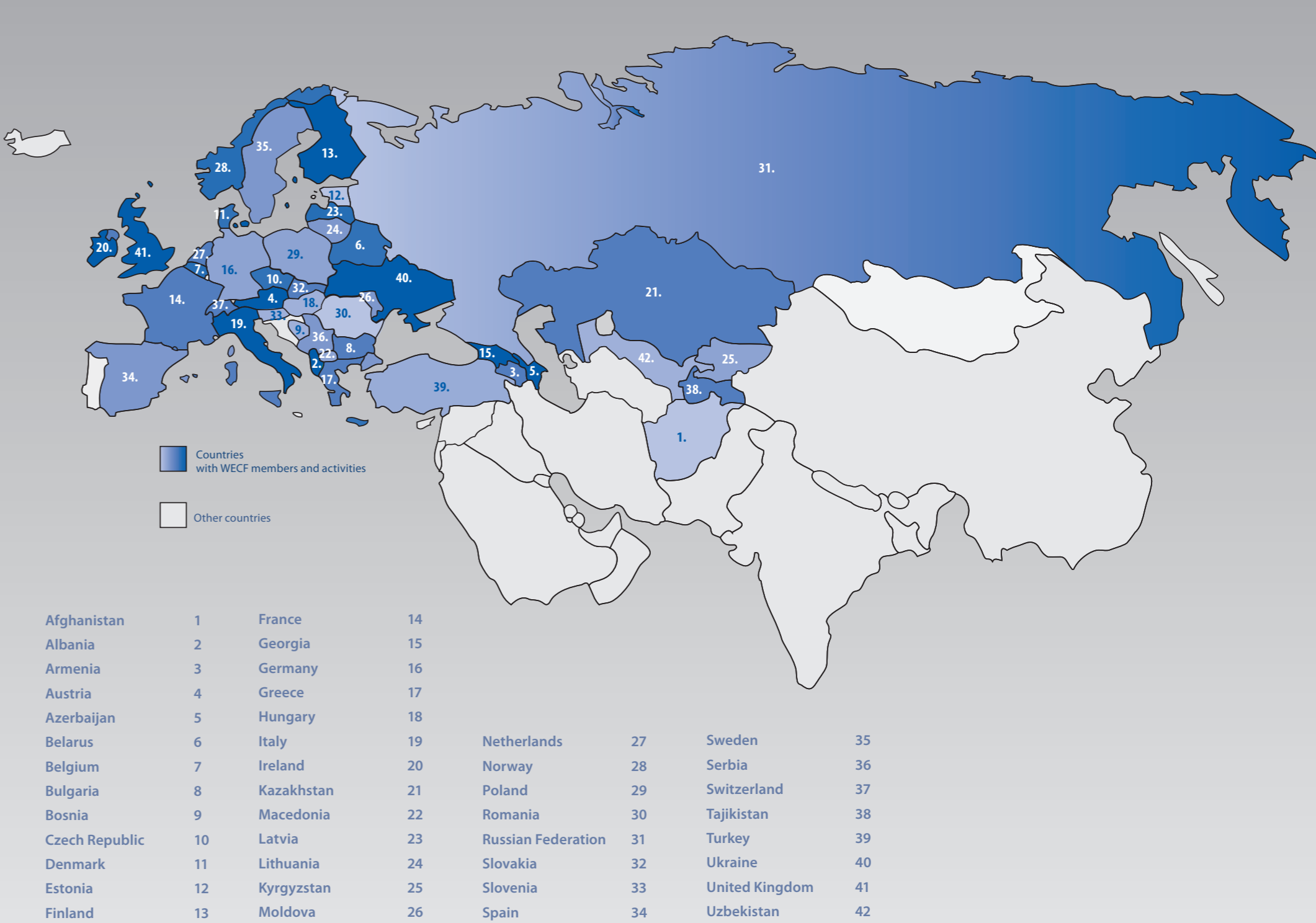
WECF's work in Europe

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development and over 100 implementations at local and national level with 100 member organisations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA (Easter Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), SEE, as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development adjusted to

the local culture, market and climate, based on local needs, and brings the lessons learned to policy makers and into regional policy processes.

WECF's work worldwide

WECF empowers its member organisations to bring their policy recommendations to international policy makers and into global policy processes. WECF builds the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organisations: In the context of our Climate Justice Coalition we will be developing programmes together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Latin-America, Africa and Asia, as well as with strategic partners with expertise in "decarbonizing" our societies, particularly in the area of transportation, energy, forests, agriculture and housing.



Women in Europe

Voice and Choice

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands following an initiative of European women to work together on sustainable development with a special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, following the 1992 Rio Summit. The philosophy of WECF was to enable the local project partners and network members to conduct advocacy work themselves with support from WECF, whether at local, national or international level, thus giving a voice to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work proved to be successful and became one of the strong points of the WECF network.

Why Women

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 women were defined as a “major group” in sustainable development and environmental policy. But despite this fact, women suffer disproportionately from poverty and the effects of the environmental degradation and are still not equally involved in policy processes. The potential of women as agents of change and as important stakeholders, and giving their perspective to the processes of implementing environmental policies and of accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals, is still neglected. The reason for this is that the gender divide, due to different roles and tasks of women and men, is still great and that discrimination against women has not yet been, in many coun-

tries, overcome. WECF wants to pave the way for increased public participation in general, and women’s participation in particular, in environmental and health policy making. Women see different priorities and are often more engaged in issues related to health and livelihood.

Why in Europe?

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. Now that the barriers between the East and West have disappeared it is time for the West to take up its responsibility and assist the East with sustainable development. There are many challenges in the new EU member states and neighbouring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and in some areas are worsening due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management. The WHO indicates that child mortality caused by water borne diseases in the EECCA region are high claiming the lives of 13,000 children dying each year. Lack of safe sanitation, waste water and waste systems contribute significantly to water pollution. Indoor air pollution from burning biomass and (plastic) waste is another main cause of child mortality in the region. The widespread uninformed use of asbestos as a building material in homes, schools and playgrounds and the large amounts of uncontrolled POPs stockpiles are further characteristics of the region, and pose a great threat to public health. With the entry of the new Member States into the European Union, these environmental health

challenges have become part of the EU’s challenges.

Challenges European Union

In the European Union the health effects of environmental pollution are often underestimated and not sufficiently known. WECF works on developmental disorders of children, linked to prenatal exposure to low doses of common hazardous chemicals found in food, toys and bodycare products, this affects increasingly large parts of the population.

WECF’s publications on the “Environmental Burden of Disease” show the economic costs and need for stronger environmental measures in the areas of air pollution, water pollution, climate change and hazardous chemicals. The loss of biodiversity in our region and worldwide aggravates existing environmental problems such as biodiversity loss, desertification, and increase of water and vector borne diseases.

At the same time eco-innovation in the areas of green chemistry, renewable energy and re-use of waste water to mention only three examples, are areas where Europe has a competitive edge, and WECF is deeply engaged in bringing innovative solutions to rural areas at low cost.





Location: The Hague
Donor: EC DG Environment
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WECF celebrated its 15 year anniversary with the conference
“Innovation for sustainability – the crisis as opportunity”

Critical analyses and inspiring ideas on the the fundamental causes of the current economic crisis were presented as an opportunity for a more sustainable world by experts in the field of economics, politics, science and technology at WECF’s 15 year anniversary in The Hague.

The key message was that innovation for sustainability is already around us today. Plenty of examples testify to this: kerosene burners accessible even to poor villagers in Laos highlands, safe wooden toys made in solidarity by Bosnian women from different religious backgrounds as an alternative to plastic toys containing heavy metals and hormone disrupting chemicals, and onsite decentralized sustainable wastewater treatment systems for municipalities with over 1 million inhabitants, turning human waste into a source of energy, fertilizer or irrigation water. The emphasis of the debates was on stimulating discussion on initiatives being taken by women and men in the field of innovation. The panelists presented examples from the Netherlands and from WECF partner organisations in Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The afternoon debates addressed the following questions: How can initiatives taken by pioneers at the local level be translated to the national and international level? How will they lead to increased sustainability in the fields of energy and water and sanitation, agriculture and consumer products? Financial representatives suggested how greater investment can support and stimulate local economies and initiatives. Government representatives and politicians showed new ways in which barriers

can be removed and people can be stimulated. Andy Schroeter, Director of Sunlabob, winner of the Sasakawa sustainability award (UNEP) told how even the poorest can afford light from solar energy. Special attention was given to the role of women and in their participation in sustainable innovation.

Noreena Hertz

The keynote speech was given by Professor Noreena Hertz, the well known economist and author, from the University of Cambridge, who is currently visiting Professor of Globalisation at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. She presented a critical analysis of the roots of the current economic crisis, and ways out towards a sustainable economy. With a special focus on the anger felt by many people about the bailing out of banks whilst others lose their jobs: “If people are denied basic prerequisites - they cannot take responsibility”. In her speech Noreena Hertz questioned and analysed economic, social and political global developments of the past 20 years in response to the current financial crisis. The era of Gucci capitalism, as Noreena Hertz likes to call this period, caused an ever deeper division, gaping chasms even, between the economy and social justice. Women have scarcely profited from the era of Gucci Capitalism: only 1 percent of the world’s wealth is owned by women, only 14 percent of leadership positions are occupied by women, but above all, 70 percent of the poorest people globally are women. An open and critical attitude towards new technologies is needed and new



Women Leadership: New WECF president Christine von Weizsaecker, Founding and Honorary president Marie Kranendonk, Dutch Minister for the Environment Jacqueline Cramer and professor Noreena Hertz, Pictures by Pauke van den Heuvel

reflections on the conditions for free trade and better legal bases can be one of these paths. She addressed to the people in the audience to take responsibility for choosing the path on which we collectively “can change the course of history”.

Minister Cramer

Minister of Environment for the Netherlands, Jacqueline Cramer, Minister of Environment for the Netherlands presented her vision on how innovation can create a sustainable economy and pointed at the the large number of green investments the Dutch government has made over the past few years. She ended her speech with a special note of appreciation on what WECF and especially President Marie Kranendonk in WECF’s 15 years of existence have achieved both politically and practically on issues of environment, health and women. Summarising, the WECF conference showed that we now need to address the fundamental causes of the financial crisis, that we need to turn our backs on “Gucci Capitalism”, in which greed and money ruled, to societies based on the “might of the right”, the right to equal opportunities, to sustainable development and to a healthy environment. A long-term supportive legally binding framework is es-

sential to bring sustainable innovation to the market and maturity, for example, the German renewable energy feed-in tariffs were highlighted, but also the need to change “crazy” rules, for example forbidding reuse of urine as fertilizer. We have seen that we have to go from the polluter pays principle, to prevention, and even further to precaution, in which we take action even when the scope and size of the risk are as yet unknown, which in the case of new technologies with potential great risk for all of humanity, a moratorium can be enacted by law, for example for the use of genetically modified organisms in outdoor applications.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

At the end of the day WECF said farewell to her first president and founder Marie Kranendonk and introduced the new President, Christine van Weizsaecker. The closure of the WECF anniversary was dedicated to the work of WECF founder and president of many years, Mrs Marie Kranendonk, who has been the driving force behind the international network for the past 15 years. To thank her, she was appointed Honorary Life President of WECF.

Location: EECCA and Europe
Donor: EC, DG Environment
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Public Participation and Rights

Ensuring the protection of rights, in particular human rights, and ensuring real public participation leads to better decisions and policies related to the environment. A growing recognition of the interdependence of human rights and the environment demands an intensive monitoring of human rights since the status of their enforcement reflects on the status of a healthy environment.

Lobbying at the International Level

Since the beginning of 2009 WECF was involved in advising the UN Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In April WECF was invited to a consultation meeting on sanitation to Geneva. The discussion amongst the experts evolved around the question of a separate right to sanitation was needed or whether all elements of this right were already included in the right to water. Another expert meeting in October in Lisbon focussed on determination of criteria for identifying ‘good practices’. The objective was to discuss the suggested criteria in order to provide the Independent Expert with guidance in this regard. It brought together experts from different fields, water and sanitation specialists with specialists on human rights and human rights-based approaches. In July 2009 the fourth meeting of the Task Force of the Aarhus Convention on Public Participation in International Forums took place in Geneva and WECF participated heading the NGO coalition on behalf of the European Eco-Forum. It was the first meeting of the Task Force after the Meeting of the Parties in 2008 in Riga where the mandate of the Task Force was reshaped. The days after the Expert Group on Public Participation met

for the first time. The Meeting of the Parties decided at its third session to address implementation of the Convention’s provisions on public participation by establishing an inter-sessional body under the authority of the Working Group of the Parties in the form of an Ad Hoc Expert Group on Public Participation. The Ad Hoc Expert Group was given a mandate to coordinate information-sharing on public participation in decision-making, and to advise the Working Group of the Parties on the terms of reference for a Task Force on Public Participation. The Expert Group focused on the draft terms of reference for a future Task Force.

At the Conference of the Parties in December in Copenhagen WECF presented its experiences in the EECCA countries at a side event: “Strengthening Capacities for Effective Public Participation in Climate Change Governance”.

Work with Partners

WECE also helped to protect the rights of its partners. Nadezhda Kutepova, the head of the Russian NGO “The Planet of Hope” had to face intimidations and threats by regional Russian authorities. WECF informed embassies and the EC Delegation in Russia about her situation and created international publicity in order to help to protect her. In August the EC Delegation in Moscow invited Kutepova for a meeting with representatives. During the two-hour meeting Kutepova informed the EC Delegation about the human rights activities of “The Planet of Hope” aiming to protect the rights of people living in the closed cities in Russia; she also talked about people affected by the radioactive contamination in the Chelyabinsk region; as well as her involvement as a representative of the victims of contamination at the European Court of Human Rights. The EC Delegation agreed to monitor the situation.

Location: Kazakhstan
Donor: EC, DG Europe Aid, Federal Environment Agency Germany
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Civil society and sound hazardous waste management, asbestos and POPs, in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is one of the biggest producers and consumers of asbestos. People are exposed to asbestos in their homes, schools and workplace, in regions of asbestos mining and when in contact with asbestos waste. There is no evaluation of diseases caused by asbestos and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP’s), not even information on the dangers. Action needs to be taken as vulnerable groups such as miners and inhabitants, inhabitants of mining areas suffer from exposure without even knowing. To raise awareness, provide information, educate trainers, build networks, strengthen citizens capacities and develop solutions to present to state authorities, WECF in cooperation with EcoCenter, Greenwomen and the University of Kassel have convened a High-Level Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Astana, held in April 2009, and conducted trainings in seven cities of Kazakhstan. The aim: to reduce the use of asbestos and POPs and clean up contaminated waste sites.

High-Level Conference in Astana

For the first time in the history of Kazakhstan a public open debate was held in April 2009 to discuss the issue of chrysotile asbestos. The High Level International Expert Conference on “Asbestos and POPs – policies and practices in Kazakhstan and the European Union” in Astana, brought together, 75 participants from all sectors to discuss strategies for asbestos and POPs. The vice-minister of environment of Kazakhstan chaired the conference.

The Ambassadors of France, Germany and the Netherlands explained how asbestos has caused great loss of human life and economic damage. The World Health Organisation presented all the international evidence on the link between asbestos exposure and different types of cancer. The WHO explained that no “safe” lowest level of exposure has been found, and therefore more than 40 countries worldwide have decided to ban all types and uses of asbestos. The head of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, Donald Cooper, explained why adding chrysotile asbestos to the list of “prior informed consent” would also protect Kazakh citizens from unknown imports of asbestos. The director of the chrysotile asbestos mine presented how how his mine organises summer-camps and playgrounds for children, as if that would compensate for the death of asbestos victims. The Russian asbestos industry was present with a large delegation, putting pressures on their Kazakh industry colleagues not to believe the health effect stories as presented by the WHO. The conference adopted a resolution with recommendations on asbestos and POPs to the Kazakh government and offered support for a national program to eliminate asbestos related diseases.

Trainings in seven cities

Project partners organised 7 trainings in different areas in Kazakhstan for 25 multi-stakeholders each (NGOs, local authorities, inhabitants, workers). The trainings were designed and held by the German expert of the University of Kassel in Germany. Outcome of the trainings were: information, education and awareness raising of multi-stakeholders, preparations for further training manual, development of regional strategy on hazardous waste, collection of best practices and the publication of a training manual for other regions or Russian speaking countries. The asbestos industry was present and argued that there is no risk from asbestos, and that those who are against asbestos are motivated by interest of foreign companies who want to enter the Kazakh market.

Location: Worldwide
Donor: Ministry of VROM the Netherlands, EC DG Environment
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The “International Safe Toys Coalition” aims to protect children’s health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys

WECF co-founded the Safe Toys Coalition, which aims to protect children’s health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys. The coalition members address decision makers, producers, retailers and the public at national, regional and international level and help consumers to make informed decisions about the products they buy. The coalition has set out the following aims for the first year of the campaign: To promote their mission at events on national and international level (such as the international toy fair in Nuremberg, the SAICM working group on chemicals in products).

- To call on national governments for safer, toxic-free toys,
- To establish a joint work plan of activities,
- To publish and disseminate the consumer guide on safe toys (already available in 13 languages on the WECF site).

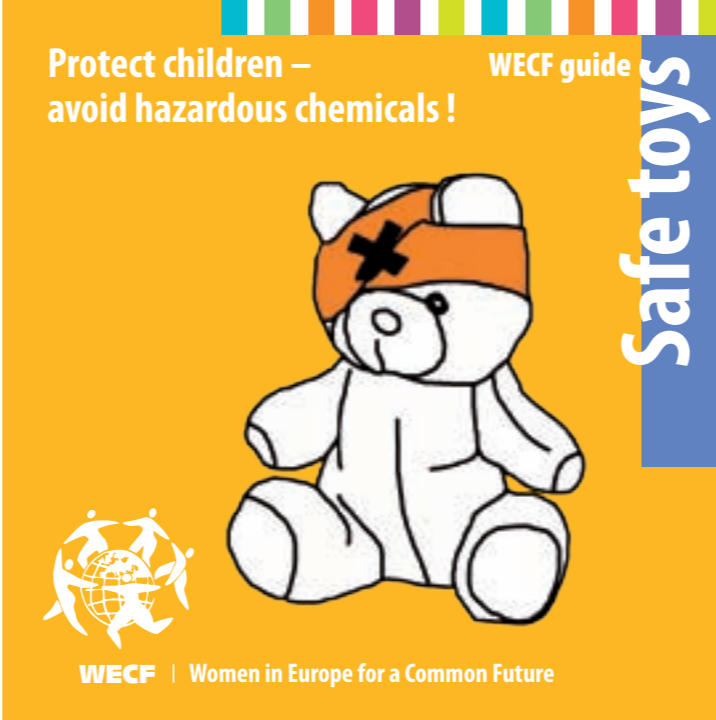
The Safe Toys Coalition was founded by the following NGOs and many others from around the world joined: Eco Accord, Baltic Environmental Forum, Arnika, Clean up Greece, Journalists for children and women rights and environmental protection, Ekoloji Tarazlig, WECF. The coalition has its own website (www.safetoyscoalition.org)

with links to documents and publications, activities of NGOs on toys and a mailing list group. The “International Safe Toys Coalition” grew out of the WECF toys training. Eleven members and partners of WECF from nine countries actively participated in the international toys training in November in Bavaria. Excursions to the German toy producer Playmobil, testing institute LGA and the label “spielgut”, gave important insights into the toys market and the challenges it faces. The participants collected experiences from partner organisations and took a closer look at each participant’s specific national situation, but with a common aim: a world without toxic toys.

Safe Toys Guide directive
Safe Toys is a key issue for WECF. To protect children’s health WECF was the leading NGO working in Brussels to advocate for a better European Toys Safety Directive in 2008. Nevertheless, the revised Toys Directive does not sufficiently protect children. Certain harmful substances, which can lead to cancer, disrupt the hormonal system or negatively effect the reproductive system, are still allowed in toys in Europe. Outside of the European Union, there is even less protection of children’s health.

Safe Toys Guide
To coincide with the 60th International Nuremberg Toy Fair in January 2009, WECF published a Toys Guide which provides tips on how to choose toxic-free toys. The brochure provides concise information about the most hazardous substances found in toys. It also gives concrete tips on how consumers can “play it safe” when buying toys for children. Meanwhile the brochure is available (as a print and/or online version from www.wecf.eu) in 13 languages (English, Dutch, German, French, Greek, Spanish, Swedish, Macedonian, Albanian, Azerbaijani , Russian, Chinese, and Estonian). In the Netherlands WECF was present with a large exhibition stand at the Baby Fair and handed out toxic-free yellow rubber ducks to young parents in Utrecht during Sustainability Day, to raise awareness that parents have a choice and can avoid harmful toys.

WECF Guide on Safe Toys, already available in 13 languages from French to Macedonian and from Dutch to Chinese



WECF protesting against toxic toys at the International Toys Fair in Nuremberg, Germany

Location: Geneva
Donor: European Commission
Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

Stockholm Convention COP4 – Toxic chemicals back in your living room

In May 2009 the fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4) of the Stockholm Convention was held in Geneva. The aim of the Convention is the elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) like dioxin, DDT and lindane. WECF and partners from three member organisations advocated together with the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) for the listing of nine new POPs in the Convention, and all of them were adopted to the treaty. This means that they should be ultimately deleted in the member states of the Convention.

Outcomes
Although all nine new POPs were listed the outcome of the conference was not a full success. For three of the substances the control measures are not adequate and allow many exemptions. The meeting agreed to allow the continued recycling and reuse of products contaminated with two of those chemicals (pentaBDE and octaBDE) until 2030. In many cases, 10-20% of the composition of some plastic products and upholstery foams consists of these harmful chemicals. For PFOS, which is used in manufacturing and consumer products, the exemptions for its use are so wide, that we still will find them in apparel, upholstery, pesticides, fire foam and many other products. PFOS is so persistent that it does not degrade under any environmental condition. It was found in the blood of 297 out of 299 tested children in a US study. PFOS can be linked for instance to hormone imbalances, liver disease and cancer.

WECF work on POPs
POPs are persistent, bioaccumulative and travel long distances, they contaminate humans and the environment. Especially women can carry a high body burden and pass it during pregnancy to their unborn babies or later via their breast milk. WECF is raising awareness among women and parents through its nesting programme and its publications on breast cancer, endocrine disruptors and its consumer guides on safe toys and detergents. In all countries of the EECCA region there are POPs stockpile hot spots from hazardous waste and pesticides dumping. Many member organisations of WECF work towards the identification and elimination of these dumping sites.

WECF present in Geneva at Stockholm Convention, COP 4



Location: Worldwide
Donor: Ministry of Environment Netherlands, European Commission
Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu, elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu

WECF advocacy work on chemical substances

Nanotechnology
WECF participated in the multi-stakeholder advisory group on risks of nanotechnology set up by the Dutch Ministry of Environment. In this role WECF called attention to the risks of nanotech to children’s health. WECF took part in an initiative of the Dutch government aiming at motivating companies to provide authorities with adequate data in order to screen nano under REACH for health and environmental impacts. WECF expressed the view that evaluating the environmental and health properties of nano is a REACH obligation rather than a voluntary agreement.

WECF is also a member of the German “Nano-Dialog”, which is a multi-stakeholder dialogue initiated by the German government. Its aim is to develop criteria for responsible and precautionary approach on nanotechnology, which should lead to a voluntary commitment of the German nano-industry. This second round of the “NanoDialog” will end by autumn 2010.

WECF also joined the Nanopodium Event 2009, the Dutch launch of the Societal Dialogue on Nanotechnology in the Netherlands. This is of relevance to WECF as it sets the scene in the Netherlands for the discussion on the ethical and social aspects of nanotechnologies. It provides the possibility for WECF to deploy awareness-raising activities around this issue under the general public

by utilizing WECF’s own network of women organisations and other strategic partners.

Brussels’ NGO task force on Nano in REACH
WECF is participating in this specialized taskforce. The taskforce is set up to provide regular, timely and high-quality input to the works of the Competent Authorities subgroup on Nanomaterials (CASG Nano) where EEB and Greenpeace currently hold places for the NGOs.

IPEN nano working group
WECF is participating in the international civil society-working group on nanotechnology set up by IPEN (International POPs Elimination Network). The working group coordinates advocacy work on nanotechnology issues on international level, such as in the SAICM framework. WECF contributed to the working groups leaflet on “Nano and unborn babies”.

REACH
WECF wrote in October 2009, together with other NGOs a letter on dissemination of information on chemical substances under REACH and called the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to make non-confidential information of already submitted registration dossiers publicly available on the Internet as soon as possible. WECF participated into several meetings of the chemicals task force of Brussels’ NGOs on REACH and is a member of the EEB WG on chemicals. In this role WECF joined the December meeting in Brussels.

RoHS
WECF prepared a letter for the Dutch, German and French authorities concerning the restriction of specific chemicals in RoHS (Restrictions of Hazardous Substances in Electric and electronic equipment). In the letter we stressed that RoHS is implemented also outside the EU. Due to this status, RoHS provides unique opportunities to

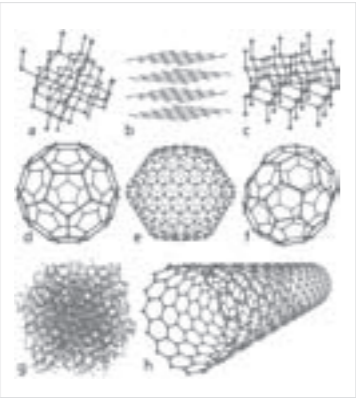
ban hazardous chemicals in a wider environment. WECF stressed that the majority of chemicals we propose to ban under RoHS are category 1 endocrine disruptors according to EU EDS database that was developed within the EU-Strategy for Endocrine Disrupters. The WECF work on the revision of the RoHS will be continued in 2010. WECF also attended the European Parliament conference on RoHS organized by Jill Evans in November. WECF wrote to the Dutch, German and French members of the ENVI and ITRE committees at the European Parliament calling attention for the WECF's position regarding the revision of RoHS. In November 2009, WECF position on phthalates and health was covered by one of the main major Dutch newspapers.

Biocides

WECF has provided input for amendments to the European Commission proposal for the revision of the Biocides directive. WECF stressed the need to protect vulnerable groups and the need for a good definition of law risk biocides. The WECF work on the revision of the Biocides regulation will be continued in 2010.

Cumulative effects and EDCs

WECF wrote together with other NGOs a letter to the EU Ministers of Environment to ask for a EU legal framework that addresses the serious threat to public health and environment due to combined exposures to Multiple Endocrine Disrupters.



A nanometre is one-billionth of a metre and around 1000th of the width of human hair

Location: Geneva
Donor: SMOM, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands
Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

2nd International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2)

The second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM2) took place from May, 11 to 15, in Geneva. ICCM2 met to assess progress on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and to make plans to reach its 2020 goal. WECF and representatives of seven partner organisations took actively part in the conference and conducted a side event with the title "Through women's eyes: female perspective to chemical threats".

WECF is one of the focal points of SAICM and took part in the preparation meetings of the CEE and

the JUSCANNZ region. In two of four emerging issues – nanotechnology and chemicals in products – WECF is involved. In the field of nanotechnology WECF prepared, together with the IPEN working group on nano, a folder on "Nano and Unborn Babies" and a WECF position paper. Our work on healthy toys contributed to the chemicals in products working group. At ICCM the plan of an International Safe-Toys-Campaign was born.

Outcomes

Despite several decisions concerning the future and the organisational body of the SAICM, the member states endorsed a global partnership to promote the phase-out of lead in paint and reaffirmed the need for adequate and accessible funding via an expanded GEF and a better engagement of the private sector.

WECF side event

WECF organised an official side event during ICCM2, with the title "Women, Health and Chemicals", presenting work by WECF member

organisations on safe chemical management. Elena Manvelian, AWHHE Armenia, presented how a burial of old pesticides including DDT threatens downstream villages and a river. AWHHE carried out testing of breast milk, to obtain an indication of contamination of local population. However, despite years of awareness raising and advocacy, the costs of clean-up are so high that the government has not been able to find a budget for clean-up. Valentina Lukova of "My right to know" foundation, Bulgaria, presented how most Bulgarians are ignorant of the health effects of pesticides, believe that "more is better" and that this leads to far greater exposure, also of women and children, to hazardous pesticides than in other EU countries. Sonja Haider of WECF presented work on nanotechnology and possible effects on women by exposure through a.o. cosmetics, and presented policy recommendations for the ICCM2.



Hidden toxic chemicals: how safe is your child's teddy bear?

Location: The Hague
Donor: Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands
Contact: chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu

Symposium WECF: Substitution is good for business, for people and for the environment

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) co-organised a mini-symposium with the Dutch Ministry of the Environment in cooperation with employers union VNO/NCW and the Chemical industry. The issue was substitution (replacement) of hazardous chemicals. The symposium was held at the Hotel Mercure in The Hague on April 1.

SIN: Substitute It Now!

Within the new European Chemicals Regulation - REACH - a list of chemicals used for authentication and possible substitutes is being put together. In addition to the still short list of official European Chemical Agency (ECHA), there are alternative lists, including the "Substitute It Now" list, or the "SIN List". This list is compiled by the Swedish NGO CHEMSEC, together with several environmental organisations, including WECF. The European Trade Union Movement also has a list of substances of very high concern that needs to and can be replaced. During the afternoon, a number of international companies such as Sara Lee, Fred Butler, Sony Ericsson and Unilever presented concrete examples on how to succeed in the substitution of dangerous substances, how they use the alternative lists and which benefits they see in substitution. The discussion focussed on how more companies can get actively engaged with substitution, and which tools, support and incentives are needed from industry,

- civil society, consumers and government.
- Gavin ten Tusscher (Prof. Dr. Med), Health Care Without Harm, spoke about DEHP in PVC and Health effects on babies/children
 - Nardono Nimpuno from ChemSec presented the SIN List and European NGO priorities
 - Dirk van Well, Dutch Cefic representative from VNCI, VNO-NCW, described how difficult substitution really is.
 - Tatiana Santos from ISTAS/ETUC presented the ETUC List

Representatives from Sara Lee, Fred Butler, Sony Ericsson and Unilever gave presentations on how their respective companies had phased out certain high-concern chemicals, and described how they applied global standards in their chemicals policies. The representative from Unilever however stated that their company had phased out Triclosan in Europe, however still used it in Africa. Sara Lee on the opposite sat in the same panel and said that they had successfully replaced Triclosan in all applications with lactic acid.

Many representatives of the chemical industry were present, including chlorine and bromine industry representatives such as Dolf Van Wijk, Manager Environmental Sciences at Euro Chlor and Willem Hofland from ICL-IP Europe BD, connected to Dead Sea Bromine Group. They objected

strongly to NGO-lists great objections to NGO-lists and reiterated that their products saved lives and risk assessments all pointed to the fact that their products were safe. Sascha Gabizon from WECF, who chaired the event, concluded that there are companies out there which are moving in the right direction and need to be rewarded, reminded those present of the urgency of the problem and encouraged the different ministries to take chemicals into account in their public procurement policies.

SIN Advisory Committee

WECF has worked as member of the SIN advisory committee on the enlargement of the SIN list with chemicals such as hormone-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) and the development of a campaign to promote the SIN list with policy makers and companies.



WECF action on the streets of Munich to raise awareness on the use of toxic chemicals in consumer goods



Audience and panel during Panel Debate on Sanitation at the World Water Forum in Istanbul, March 2009

Location: Istanbul
Donor: European Commission
Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

WECF in Istanbul: The Way Forward in the 21st Century – WECF Panel Debate on Sanitation during European Regional Session

Sanitation and waste-water treatment remain a challenge even in the European region. While the majority of Western Europeans have access to sanitation and properly functioning waste water treatment, there are still many who have no access to adequate provision of water and sanitation. The challenges of providing proper sanitation for all was the topic of the second part of the European Region Session at the World Water Forum in Istanbul.

“Providing sanitation for the ten million inhabitants of Paris means treating 4 million cubic waste water per day” said Jean Duchemin of Agence

de l’Eau Seine Normandie at the panel debate on sanitation organized by WECF during the Session. The construction and operation of the big wastewater treatment plant Achères of Paris led to considerable improvements of the Seine water quality including the success that different fish species returned again. Sociologic surveys in France showed that a majority of people are in favour of low-cost or free water but are not really aware of the need of continuity for river’s life and aquatic biodiversity and thus the need to invest in wastewater treatment.

Need to raise awareness among parliamentarians

Peter Cook of the European Water Association warns that not enough is being invested to maintain and renovate the existing sewerage systems. And Thomas Zeller of Switzerland said that we need to raise awareness with parliamentarians that such investments are necessary and might require an increase of taxes. “We do not need centralized systems under all conditions”, comments Helmut Bloech from the European Commission, “we need to invest in decentralized innovative sanitation solutions, such as dry ecological toilets or ecological waste-water filters (reedbeds, soil-filters) as long as they reach their aim of decent sanitation and hygiene, and do not pollute your neighbour’s garden”.

Marga Kool, president of the Water Board Rees&Wieden, the Netherlands, explains that Dutch waste water treatment companies are looking

at ways to reduce cost and be more efficient, looking among others at decentralized semi collective systems and that her water board is currently testing diversion of urine at the source, so as to reuse the nutrients in urine which provide a highly valuable fertilizer. Pilot neighbourhood projects in the Dutch city of Meppel have been built with urine-separating systems to collect urine. “We have to go back to the future, we want to copy the past in a high tech way. Using urine as a resource and a source of income. Our conventional system is not sustainable”. Galina Budu from the NGO SEE explained that in Moldova there is almost no sewerage system in rural villages and that therefore they have been implementing decentralized “ecosan” systems for schools. The cost of these dry urine diverting toilets are a fraction of what a connection to a sewer would cost, and they achieve the same aim: dignified sanitation as well as the protection of health and the environment.

Participants from the floor asked why the European Commission could not improve its legislation to assure sanitation for rural areas. Helmut Blöch of the European Commission responded that the European Water Framework Directive imposes on all the states to protect every water source, also in the rural areas, and in not doing so, Member States could end up in the Court of Justice. However he thinks that money could better be spend on creating knowledge on innovative decentralized solutions available for rural areas.

Location: Finland
Donor: European Commission DG Env. Life+
Contact: Claudia.wendland@wecf.eu

Dry Toilet Conference, Finland and the World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden

The 3rd International Dry Toilet Conference was held in Tampere, Finland, on 12-15 August 2009 and organised by the Global Dry Toilet Organisation Finland. During those few intensive days, 184 delegates from 47 countries gathered to discuss various aspects of dry/ecological sanitation. Many technical as well social aspects were presented as experimental research and or case-studies. All papers and presentations can be downloaded on <http://www.drytoilet.org/dt2009/index.html>. Dr. C. Wendland of WECF gave a presentation about the link between gender and sanitation.

Some of the highlights were:

- WECF also organised a workshop on sustainable sanitation. Some of the issues which were discussed were:
- The persistence of helminth eggs in faeces.
 - The latest research on medicines in urine and its behaviour in agriculture.

- A case-study from Bukina Faso where mobile UDD toilets became a good business for festivals.
- The barriers faced in Sweden for scaling up Ecosan including the lobby from the sewage system sector.
- The need for organic fertiliser especially, phosphorus to ensure the world’s food production.

It became clear that dry toilets have many benefits compared to conventional sewage systems but continue to face a lot of barriers for up-scaling mainly including institutionalisation, legislation and behavioural and psychological aspects of end-users. In the final plenary the guiding question “What can be done in order to achieve MDGs in the area of safe sanitation and drinking water?” was discussed among all participants. Claudia Wendland pointed out that “We need to understand perceptions and taboos related to sanitation. Discrimination by gender, social and cultural aspects, disability needs to be overcome.”

WECF visibility

WECF was clearly visible during the conference. (Vishvanath Srikantanai), a media-expert on sanitation from India, was quite impressed, see his remarks on twitter: <http://twitter.com/zenrainman> stating “ This is one of the most amazing groups of women I’ve ever come across <http://www.wecf.eu/> and their work on sanitation is wonderful”



Participants of the Dry Toilet Conference, Finland, on an excursion organised by the Global Dry Toilet Organisation

Location: Khoni, Georgia
Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation
Contact: gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

Georgia Open Space: Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Sanitation in Western Georgia

41 participants from 9 EECCA Countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), the Netherlands, and Germany gathered in Khoni in Western Georgia. During a 4 day knowledge exchange meeting 41 participants from WECF’s “Empowerment and Local Action (ELA)” programme - which aims at reaching the MDG-7 on water and sanitation – visited 3 demonstration sites on sustainable sanitation and rural development and took part in a 2-day meeting, exchanging their practical experience. The participants were representatives of 21 partner organisations of the WECF ELA program. Together they constructed, in the framework of this program, about 700 Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT), for households and 30 school toilets. These numbers correspond to a great variety of technical designs and available materials, as well cultural and social settings.

Sharing practical experience

All participants were very keen to share their own practical experience, and to learn about that of the other participants. The knowledge exchange was conducted as an Open Space meeting, giving maximum possibility to the participants to form the agenda and organize into working groups according to their interest and experience. The most discussed topics were practical and legal aspects of sanitization of urine and faeces and their reuse in agriculture. Participants shared results of research on sanitization under different conditions,



Demonstrating sustainable sanitation and rural development in Georgia

as well as effects of fertilizing a wide range of plants on different soils, with different amounts of urine, and during different phases of growth. A legal basis is still lacking in the EECCA countries. Many technical aspects were discussed like smell prevention, production of seats and slabs, and urine storage. A special section was devoted to school toilets. Participants also discussed cultural behavioural patterns and their effects on changing sanitation behavior.

Developing plans for the future

Drawing conclusions from their experiences, participants developed plans and strategies on how to work towards formulating a legal basis for ecological sanitation in the EECCA countries, how to raise awareness, knowledge, and acceptance of UDDT and reuse of nutrients in agriculture among community leaders, general public, and state organs, on how to set up structures for servicing ecological sanitation systems. The knowledge exchange was completed by excursions to the demonstration center of the Rural Communities Development Agency near Tbilisi, and to a biological farm in Ereda, which is using Urine Diverting Dry Toilets, solar fruit dryers, and biogas. A special excursion led to the convent in Matkhochi close to Khoni, where solar collectors for water heating, a biogas plant, and Urine Diverting Dry Toilets are being used.

Location: Eschborn, Germany
Donor: European Commission DG Environment
Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

World Toilet Day 2009:
WECF focuses on school sanitation during at Development Agency

School Sanitation was the theme of the brown bag lunch organised by German development aid agency GTZ for the world toilet day 2009 on 19th. November Margriet Samwel from WECF presented the challenges of implementing and operating school toilets in a sustainable way based on WECF's experiences with more than 20 school toilets in the EECCA region.

School sanitation is an important but often neglected issue for public health. Children are very vulnerable and easily affected by poor sanitation conditions. Related diseases, particularly diarrhoea and parasite infections hinder children's physical and intellectual development. In a number of countries, evaluations have shown that pupils are dropping out of school due to bad toilet conditions. This seems to be particularly the case for adolescent girls and leads to lower educational achievement. However, policy makers and the public mostly do not consider school sanitation a priority. Also in the national and global policies, it is mostly not an issue of relevance. The national budgets do not include the specific requirements (investment and operation) for adequate school sanitation in their national budgets. WECF issued a brochure on school sanitation in 2009 which is available on the WECF website.



Children are very vulnerable and easily affected by poor sanitary conditions, here an example of an old schooltoilet which WECF replaces with indoor, hygienic toilets

Location: Romania, Danube
Donor: Fondation Ensemble co-financed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest
Contact: Olivia.radu@wecf.eu

International Danube Day,
2009 – WECF awards prize for best Water Safety Plan

International Danube Day, which takes place every year on the 29th. June, has been celebrated since 2004 by all 9 countries which border this European river. It is a popular event and the opportunity for many official gatherings and festive events. The Danube is the second largest river in Europe and this celebration day was created with an environmental objective: it aims to motivate the inhabitants and all stakeholders for the protection of the Danube River Basin ecosystems. WECF decided to award a prize for the best Water Safety Plan, in order to raise awareness about this programme and to give the engaged pupils and teachers recognition for their great involvement.

The winner was selected following criteria set by WECF: taking into account the management of activities, involvement of citizens, quality and number of water tests conducted, quality and number of water source maps created. The winning school is located in Tiganesti village, Teleorman county. The school was involved in the project Safe Sanitation Health and Dignity project in Romania co-financed in Romania by the Dutch Embassy in Bucharest and Fondation Ensemble France. The Water Safety Plan is a practical instrument developed by WECF on the basis of guidelines published by the World Health Organisation. WSP are designed to identify risks which could affect water safety and human health in every stage of the water supply, and to define measures to minimise and manage these risks. WECF and its partners use the WSP to develop practical activities for primary and secondary schools. On the 29th of June, in Teleorman, as in many other regions in Romania, special events took place. Turnu Magurele a town on the left bench of the Danube, in the south of Teleor-

man, hosted an annual conference on the development of the different water projects in this county. This year the conference focussed specifically on the Water Safety Plan concepts and activities. Around 1000 pupils and 20 teachers from the 9 schools involved came to Turnu Magurele for the Award Ceremony and to exchange experience and ideas about the activities they had conducted. It was also an excellent opportunity to present their initiatives for protecting ground water to other stakeholders of the conference. The responsible teacher from the Award winning Tiganesti village school, presented their results in front of a large audience of mayors and local water authorities.

The prizes were awarded by 3 people: WECF national coordinator for Romania Olivia Radu, deputy director of the County Council Teleorman and Dutch partner from the Province of Overijssel. Teleorman County Council and the Province of Overijssel both co-organised this Danube Day event together with WECF.

Boat trip on the Danube for Romanian pupils and teachers, winners of the Water Safety Plan competition



United Nations in Geneva

Location: Amsterdam, Geneva
Donor: European Commission
Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

WECF present at International Conferences on Water

Soroptimists Conference in Amsterdam
9-11 July 2009

Soroptimists Go For Water: WECF partners and staff present their work on Ecological Sanitation in Eastern Central Europe

Sustainable sanitation projects for schools and households in Eastern Central Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Moldova) were presented by Sascha Gabizon and Margriet Samwel (WECF Women in Europe for a Common Future), together with Dr. Ing. Claudia Wendland (Hamburg University of Technology, Institute of Wastewater Management and Water Protection).

Location: Amsterdam, Geneva
Donor: European Commission DG Environment
Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

Consultation Meeting on the Right to Sanitation - the Human Rights Council

WECF was invited to the Consultation Meeting on the Right to Sanitation. In March 2008, the UN created a new special procedure: the Human Rights Council established the mandate of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation). In September 2008 Catarina de Albuquerque was appointed as Independent Expert, she took up her mandate on 1 November 2008. Her mandate encompasses the development of a dialogue with all stakeholders on best practices related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation; to undertake a study on the further clarification of the content of human rights obligations, including non-discrimination, in relation to access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and to make recommendations that could help the realisation of the MDGs, in particular MDG 7.

Firstly, the Independent Expert decided to focus on the human rights obligations related to sanitation. The consultation meeting held on 29 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva dealt with the issue of sanitation involving different stakeholders from around the world. The Director from the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council John Lane gave an introduction to the topic. He reminded of the problems that occur when proper sanitation lacks, such as health problems, economic consequences, social costs and problems for the environment. Then Virginia Bras Gomes, member of

the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights presented the issue of sanitation in international law and practice. She pointed out that the right to sanitation needs to include a certain quality, availability, access and acceptability. After that a discussion evolved around different elements the right should include and the question whether a separate right to sanitation was needed or whether this should be included in the right to water. Civil society called for a separate right to sanitation and remembered participants of the need to take gender issues into consideration. This was also the main focus of WECF's statement.

The right to safe water, especially important for small children





Sheela Nair, Secretary of State of the Indian Ministry of Rural Development pleads for gender equity in Istanbul during WECF session

Location: Nairobi, Kenya
Donor: European Commission
Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF's gender perspective during UNEP Government Council Meeting: Governments come and go, but women stay

The executive director of WE CF, Sascha Gabizon, represented the Women's major group at the Governing Council Meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya. All 9 major groups take part as civil society representatives, in the meetings of the ministers of environment.

The women's major group brought together women representatives from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, who presented their concerns and policy recommendations, focussing on the main themes of the UNEP CG, the Green Economy and the reform of International Environmental Governance. The women also organised a demonstration to protest against the proposal by some governments to make nuclear power eligible under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which stands in stark contrast to the aims of the CDM of ecosystem integrity and sustainable

Women's Major Group at the Governing Council Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, February 2009



development, instead, the women asked for a simplified CDM mechanism to benefit households and poor communities, and help create decent and healthy jobs for women. WE CF organised 2 side events on the need to keep nuclear power out of the CDM mechanism, exemplified by the case-study of longterm nuclear contamination of Kazakhstan, presented by Kaisha Athakanova, Director of Eco-Forum of NGOs, Kazakhstan and the need for improving the accessibility for sustainable household and community level CDM projects. As member of the Network of Women Environment Ministers and Leaders, WE CF Executive Sascha Gabizon was invited to speak at the High Level Gender and Environment conference, which took place on 15th February, where she presented the need for investments in the green economy to be not only green, but also fair and in support of women, creating decent and healthy jobs. She exemplified this by comparing the planned 3000 billion euro investment in a quadrupling of nuclear powerplants, creating few and often dangerous jobs, with the same amount invested in household level renewable energy systems, which would create 150 million decent jobs, accessible for women, safe costs for poor families and reduce CO2 emissions in a much greater extent than nuclear power. The women gave 4 interventions during the plenary sessions, including on the need for stronger environmental management, which lead the Swiss delegation to conclude that "Governments come and go... but women stay".

Location: EU (Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark), USA, Kenya,
Donor: European Commission, WISE – World Information Service on Energy
Contact: karin.adolph@wecf.eu

Keeping Nuclear out of Climate Protection Financial Instruments

Due to the German Parliamentary elections and the UNFCCC Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, 2009 was a busy year for raising awareness about the unsustainable effects of nuclear energy.

WE CF's delegation from several EU and EECCA countries was present at the UNEP Governing Council meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, and at two UNFCCC meetings in Bonn, Germany, and presented their policy statement on keeping nuclear power out of the CDM or any other UNFCCC mechanism. German Director Sabine Bock also contributed to the Masterclass meeting of WISE in the Netherlands, thus updating journalists, scientists and politicians on nuclear and climate change.

Successful book launch both in English and German

The biggest media campaign undertaken in 2009 was the realisation – including on- and offline marketing and distribution – of a book project about the threats of nuclear energy. The unique characteristic about "The Critical Question" was its personal and female focus achieved by the inclusion of interviews from radiation victims from all over the world. While researching for the book WE CF attended the Indigenous Uranium Forum in New Mexico, USA, thereby conducting interviews with Native Americans affected by uranium mining. The book was launched on strategically



Sabine Bock, Director WE CF Germany and coordinator Climate and Energy in Copenhagen

important occasions: In Germany before the Bundestag elections on two anti nuclear rallies in Berlin and Munich; at international forums during the UNFCCC (COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark, where interviewees from Kazakhstan, USA, Russia and Kyrgyzstan were present enabling three side events about nuclear in CDM and uranium mining. Furthermore, following a preparatory conference in Berlin, the "Don't Nuke the Climate" campaign, in cooperation with other international NGOs found its peak on the summit in two direct actions at "The little mermaid" (press action) and inside the Bela Centre in Copenhagen with several European ministers signing a giant postcard against nuclear to be included in Climate Agreements.

To keep the issue alive, WE CF Germany awards each month the so-called "golden nuclear fuel rod". The "Golden Brennstab" is a candle which WE CF sends to the "winner" by post, accompanied by the press release, as a way to raise awareness amongst policy makers and the general public about the many false arguments used to make nuclear energy seem more acceptable.

Location: Copenhagen
Donor: European Commission, German Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety
Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

Women and gender constituency officially recognized at UNFCCC

WE CF advocates for a gender-sensitive post-Kyoto Regime. To achieve this, WE CF worked jointly with the other women and gender networks such as EN ERGIA, Gendercc, Life e.V. and WEDO to obtain recognition for the women and gender caucus at the UNFCCC, aiming for an officially recognized Women and Gender Constituency. This status was achieved in 2009: a big success. This status allows a much more effective participation and better possibilities for the ongoing advocacy work of the women and gender groups like getting official spots for interventions to speak at the international negotiations. At the UNFCCC COP 15 in Copenhagen the Women's caucus honoured two countries, Ghana and Iceland, which have continued to promote a strong gender focus in the negotiations of COP 15 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the Gender Champion of the Week Award. Sascha Gabizon of WE CF presented the first Gender Champion Award to the Minister of Environment of Ghana, because "we want to honour the fact that Ghana has committed itself to the promotion of gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation, through setting up a focal point on gender and climate change at the Ghanaian Environmental Protection Agency; collaboration between the gender focal point of the EPA with government institutions and civil society organisations to incorporate gender responsive measures in combating desertification; incorporating gender issues and indicators into the proposal for the National Adaptation Plan to ensure that the differential experiences, knowledge and perspectives of women and men

become core issues to be addressed and having developed a gender responsive national disaster risk programme in collaboration with civil society. WECF shared its good practises on expertise in climate change education, training and public awareness at different occasions e.g. at the UNFCCC European Regional workshop on Article 6 of the Convention (Education, training and public awareness) in Stockholm, Sweden, at the invitation of the Government of Sweden, 18 to 20 May 2009 and as a delegate of the women and gender caucus.

Sascha Gabizon handed the Minister a “no-energy flashlight”, to “shine light on the path towards an equitable global climate agreement”. The second Gender Champion Award was presented to Iceland, for including a strong gender language into the “shared vision” document last Friday. The award was handed over to the winners during the side event “Climate Change -- Women as Agents of Change” which included the ministers of environment of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ghana and The Gambia.

More Equity in Climate Protection, WECF at the UNFCCC Climate Negotiations



Location: Bonn, Ladakh, Nairobi
Donor: European Commission
Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

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Access to safe energy – advocacy work for decentralized sustainable and safe energy technologies as climate mitigation activities in the framework of the UNFCCC CDM (Clean Development Mechanism)

WECF advocates for the access to safe energy. But often lack of financial means hinders the dissemination of decentralized sustainable energy systems such as solar collectors or energy efficient stoves. Therefore, WECF together with its cooperation partner Atmosfair, a German non-profit CDM implementation company, calls for better accessibility of household and community level projects within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). This will – especially for women – increase access to global climate funding mechanisms. Furthermore, it reconciles the need for reducing poverty whilst mitigating climate change and contributes to real sustainable development as required by the Kyoto Protocol.

WECF, Atmosfair and partners advocated throughout the year for the improvement of the CDM for household and community level projects with four policy statements at the UNFCCC and UNEP GC meetings and four submissions to the UNFCCC, two as part of CAN International. Apart from this they organised five side events on the issue during UNFCCC and UNEP meetings, presentations at seminars like the International Seminar on Energy and Climate change in cold regions in Ladakh, India, April 21 to 24 2009, and were invited to the Practitioners Workshop on CDM methodologies for household cooking energy supply on the 26 October 2009 in Bonn, Germany. As a result of this workshop, the methodology was improved.

At the UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in April from Sunday 29 March to Wednesday 8 April, the WECF delegation consisting of eight people from seven different countries, Germany (2), the Netherlands, Italy, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan ran on Friday, 3 April, the side event “Towards Sustainable CDM projects” on the issue of household and community based projects under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

WECF's side event “Towards Sustainable CDM projects”

This event conducted on 3 April put an emphasis on the special challenges faced by household and community level projects under CDM have to face. This type of projects is very important, because they can provide a much needed contribution to improving livelihoods in poor communities. They are better adapted to the local realities and able to reconcile the needs of reducing poverty whilst mitigating climate change. Members of partner organisations from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Georgia described the specific energy situation in their countries of origin and outlined how important it is to create a simplified CDM mechanism and especially to facilitate upfront funding for this kind of small-scale projects. Such projects should be developed in consultation with the local communities, including women, and should be accessible to them. Atmosfair



WECF UNFCCC side event: “Both feasible and nuclear-free: a safe and sustainable energy scenario for post-2012”, Bonn, June 2009

showed best practice examples and barriers they encounter for small-scale household and community level projects. Together with WECF joint policy recommendations for the improvement of the CDM were presented.

Threat of nuclear energy

The speakers also described very impressively which devastating effects the use of nuclear energy had in their countries and elsewhere. They clarified that in order to make CDM projects truly sustainable it is necessary to keep nuclear power out of the CDM (or its successor) or any other UNFCCC mechanism, as it is in conflict with the goals of CDM of environmental integrity and promoting sustainable development.

Location: Germany, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, in cooperation with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
Donor: International Climate Protection Initiative (ICI), German Ministry*, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Friends of the Earth Norway
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Preparation for Copenhagen – climate protection and renewable energy as a chance for economy, policy and civil society in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia

The need for a just and ambitious Post-Kyoto regime

The world faces a huge challenge to agree on a just and ambitious post-Kyoto regime. But not all countries are engaged in a similar way. The countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the South Caucasus – with the exception of the Russian Federation – are not much involved in the process. The main reason for that is the missing expertise and knowledge in relation to climate and energy-relevant issues.

* The German Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Therefore WECF and its regional partners organized two regional conferences on climate policy and one on technology solutions:
Ways towards more climate protection – regional climate conference and the UNFCCC process as a contribution to an ambitious and just Post-Kyoto-agreement

The Regional Conference “Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change Mitigation Measures in Caucasus” took place in Tbilisi, Georgia, October 27-28. The conference was part of the official climate week from 26. – 30. October 2009. 82 representatives from governments (e.g. the environment minister and the deputy energy minister of Georgia) and different NGOs from the three South Caucasus countries Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, took part, as well as different diplomatic corps and ambassadors (e.g. from France, Germany, The Netherlands) and regional and international organisations like the REC Caucasus and the GTZ. The Conference was opened by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia, Mr. George Khachidze, the Head of European Commission Delegation to Georgia, Ambassador Per Eklund and Co-chair of WECF member Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia. The conference served as dia-

logue platform for participants from the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) to talk about the problems, priorities and perspectives on climate change, to share ideas and experiences among Governmental and non-Governmental institutions, to elaborate joint country positions for COP 15 and to decide on future actions. The NGOs presented a joint position paper position of South Caucasus countries for COP 15, which identifies and covers the most important topics for implementation of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in South Caucasus countries. The Georgian Minister of Environment officially expressed his support towards the NGO position and promised to take into account the topics indicated within the position papers.

Strengthening NGO involvement in Climate and Energy Policy through the WECF Climate Conference 12-13.11.2009 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

During the Petersburg Climate Conference more than 47 NGOs participants critically analysed national policies and international negotiation processes, developed common NGO policy positions, and dialogued with government and business representatives. The conference lead to actions to strengthen public involvement and inter-NGO cooperation- and campaigning on climate protection. Participating NGO leaders and activists came from Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. They also developed policy recommendations on the necessary national climate/energy policies in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, aiming at reduction of GHG emissions and improved energy efficiency as input for the upcoming UN climate conference in December 2009 in Copenhagen. The policy statements were sent to officials in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and widely disseminated through NGO networks and mass-media. The NGO participants also developed a common vision of international NGO cooperation before

and after Copenhagen, based on policy monitoring and informational exchange, agreed methods and instruments for NGO work for promotion of better climate/energy policy at international/national/local level. Russian, Ukrainian and Belarus NGO observers cooperated at COP 15: they organized daily caucuses, exchanged information and position, helped each other to produce NGO positions, addressed to national delegations during the COP-15. Friends of the Baltic has completed the mailing list reu.climate@googlegroups, which is in use after the St.Petersburg conference for dissemination of information on climate policy and NGO comments and NGO discussions. This list will be used the whole year for NGO monitoring of national and international climate policy steps. Friends of the Baltic also developed the web-site rusecounion.ru, which is unique resource on NGO recommendations for climate policy.

UNFCCC COP 15 – The Copenhagen Activities
The focus of the advocacy work of WECF in Copenhagen was on the flexible mechanisms, technology transfer, the gender perspective and on the specific challenges for the EECCA region. A delegation of eleven participants took part, seven from the EECCA region. As introduction and preparation for the negotiations, the EECCA delegates took part in a training and exchange workshop in Russian on 10. and 11 December in the first conference week. It was organised by WECF-Partner National Ecological Centre Ukraine.

As special activities WECF organized together with the NGO Inforse a side event: 200 side event 200 NGOs in Action in Asia & Africa for Sustainable Energy, Proposing Simplified CDM - Development Successes with Sustainable Energy by NGOs from Nepal, India, Senegal, Uganda, South Africa and from Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) Region – Proposal for



WECF as part of the the international “Don’t Nuke the Climate” campaign presented government delegates with a giant postcard and 50,000 signatures calling for a nuclear free climate agreement in Copenhagen

a simplified CDM for smaller scale projects that can help NGOs to achieve more.” On Monday, 14 December. WECF members Unison from Kyrgyzstan and Green Movement from Georgia, presented possibilities for sustainable household and community energy projects as small scale CDM projects. WECF presented its proposal to improve the accessibility for these kind of projects to the CDM, a proposal jointly-developed with “atmosfair”. The side event was very well attended and was also reported on in the UNFCCC newspaper “ENB on the side”, which is read by nearly all of the conference participants, 15.000 people. The second side event was on the same subject “How to access the CDM for household and community projects and a fair geographical distribution?” A dialogue between EU and developing countries representatives and experts. Despite the huge need and potential for sustainable energy projects in households and communities in developing countries, the CDM hardly features at this level. Is this a reason for the unfair geographical distribution of CDM projects? This side event was organised on Tuesday, 15 December 2009, as part of the EU Pavilion program. A representative of the CDM executive board and a representative from the German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) at the Federal Environment Agency took part in this WECF side event.

WECF’s exhibition booth during the second week showcased different examples of sustainable and unsustainable technologies, including the publication “Improving livelihoods in rural areas with sustainable energy - practical solutions”.

Location: Georgia
Donor: European Commission
Contact: anna.samwel@wecf.eu

First Climate Change Week in Georgia

From October 24-31 it was Climate Week in Georgia – The first large scale and coordinated Climate Campaign in the Caucasian country, with numerous non-governmental and governmental organisations responding to the call of different world-wide climate campaigns. Georgian Climate Week was organized by WECF partner the Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia and European Commission Delegation to Georgia. Over 35 Georgian NGOs, social organisations, local authorities, Institutes and scientific-research centers, individuals, educational centres, schools, representatives of the diplomatic corps in Georgia and even the Ministry of environment protection and natural resources of Georgia and the ministry of Energy took part in the activities during Climate Week. Climate Week Georgia started off with an official opening ceremony in front of the Parliament Building in Tbilisi on October 24 and was followed by

over a hundred climate actions taking place in different regions of Georgia. The most prominent action was a demonstration of environmentally friendly forms of transport, in which WECF participated. The opening ceremony was attended by the Minister of Environment and natural resources of Georgia, Giorgi Khachidze, Head of European Commission Delegation to Georgia Ambassador Per Eklund and the Head of USAID Caucasus, Jock Conly.

Regional Conference on Climate Change
Parallel to the Climate Change opening Ceremony WECF partner Greens organised a regional conference together with WECF in the West Georgian town of Kutaisi. To precede Climate Week pre-conference NGO round-table meetings were organized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, where country NGO positions on climate change were elaborated to be presented at the regional Conference: “Development of NGO Capacity and Public Awareness on Climate Change Mitigation Measures in Caucasus” on October 27-28.

Representatives of NGOs and governments from three countries as well as different diplomatic corps and ambassadors (Embassies of Sweden, France, UK, Israel, Czech, Germany, The Netherlands, USA, UK) and other international organisations (WECF, IUCN, WWF, REC Caucasus, TGC, GTZ, FOEE, Global Water Partnership) presented the positions of their countries and organisations for the coming COP 15 and talked about implemented actions on climate change in Georgia well as planned activities. WECF presented the perspectives of CDM mechanism in climate change mitigation and showed the connection between sustainable sanitation and its role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Participants expressed willingness to support the Caucasian countries on the preparation of Climate Change adaptation and mitigation measures. The



Thousands of people joined the climate week rally in Georgia

conference was supported in the frame of the international climate protection initiative, based on a decision of the German Bundestag, by the German Ministry of environment, nature protection and nuclear safety (BMU).

Climate Week was the first climate campaign in Georgia, which ensured the coordinated and agreed cooperation of South Caucasus NGOs, raised awareness of wide public on climate change, ensured mobilization of media and increased their interest on climate change. Governmental structures saw great interest of the public regarding climate change and got a clear message from the society to elaborate a strong state position on Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. Climate Week ended on October 31 and coincided with International Day of the Black Sea, accordingly, it was organized in Batumi, where a series of actions took place, among them dialogues with local government. Climate Week will be organized in Georgia annually. It is planned to implement regional projects for awareness raising of the wider public and organise media trainings for journalists on Climate Change related issues. It is planned also to organise a Regional Climate Change Conference after COP 15. www.greens.ge/climateweek

Location: Germany
Donor: European Commission
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“Wanted!” – Climate protection in the EU, focus on Germany within the German Climate Alliance

The German Climate Alliance 2009
In 2007 around 40 German organisations formed a new network, called the German Climate Alliance, to address the huge challenge of climate change and to act and to demand real and sustained climate protection. WECF joined this alliance in the beginning and since then WECF has been elected as a member of the steering committee. Nowadays the alliance has over 100 members from different segments of society. In 2009 the focus was on two major events: the German election and the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Publications and networking
The Alliance published a brochure and a newspaper for the election to inform about the policy background, the programmes of the political parties and the necessity for more climate protection in Germany. The two different publications aimed for different target groups and were distributed from June to September all over Germany. In addition following website was set up: www.klimawahl2009.de, which means climate election 2009. Regarding Copenhagen the Alliance aimed to be the coordination point for German NGO activities. A preparation meeting for the different active organisations going to Copenhagen was organized in Bonn, Germany, in August, parallel to the UN Climate Change Talks. The meeting served as an exchange place for existing plans,

but also for new cooperation possibilities and joint activities. On the website www.klimagipfel2009.de (meaning climate summit 2009), all the organisations were present and the activities and dates listed.

Activities
For the German election the Alliance organized 10 political panel discussions in different parts of Germany, addressing the issue of climate protection. Together with the Global Campaign for Climate Action, E3G and AVAAZ the campaign “Wanted: Climate Chancellor” was set up. The broad network of civil society wants to contribute to putting climate protection and green economy high up on the political agenda as central conditions for the success of Germany as a business location. In Copenhagen itself the Alliance was present with an exhibition booth as an information point for all members and the German press. Before Copenhagen a central media action pictured the leading heads of states as main actors in Copenhagen negotiating with their heads nearly under water in an aquarium in the middle of Berlin.



Last call for Copenhagen: the alliance organizes a large press event in the center of Berlin

Location: Annemasse, France
Donor: EU core
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Sharing good practices in Europe for a local, fair and sustainable agriculture

Sabine Brueckmann, Agriculture Coordinator for WECF and member of the network UNSER LAND was invited by WECF France in May 2009 to present in Annemasse the project UNSER LAND, an innovative economic model for local, sustainable and organic agriculture products. She shared her experience with French farmers and stakeholders. UNSER LAND, a German Bavarian network, ensures local sustainable agriculture production and preservation of agro-biodiversity, within a local economical model which guarantees fair prices to both farmers and the consumer. The concept is very successful as it markets a range of 50 different products. A very interesting experience for French farmers, especially those involved in another type of alternative model: AMAP, Associations of farmers and consumers for the direct selling of local organic agricultural products.

Location: Lucerne
Donor: European Commission
Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

WECF at the 5th European Conference of GMO-free regions in Lucerne “Genetic Engineering: neither safe, nor democratic”

The use of genetic engineering in food and feed is not only a threat to our health, but also a great danger for our democratic rights. Numerous government representatives from various countries came to this conclusion, on the Food & Democracy conference in the Swiss city of Lucerne. In one case leading government officials from the participating countries Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Scotland and the Czech Republic agreed on: genetic engineering and patents create the opposite of democracy. Gene technology “monopolizes the right and access to food,” said the Swiss Estates Councillor and President of the Consumer Foundation Simonetta Sommaruga. Renate Künast, the chairman of the German Bundestag Alliance 90/Die Grünen stood up for resisting genetic engineering as a “new kind of colonial policy”. She urged the participants to bear up under the pressure of the European Commission and stand up for GMO-free regions: “Each and everyone has a right to GMO-free plates and feed troughs.”

Backdoor feed
According Künast “genetically modified feed (for animals) currently is the main gateway for genetic engineering in Europe.” Consumers can only consciously decide whether they want to buy GMO goods, if they know where their meat and their milk come from.” A comprehensive labelling requirement, even for animal feed, is needed. “GMOs

(genetically modified organisms) are also part of an international division of labour, which makes us all dependent on GM,” said Künast further. “GM-soya is produced in the South and fed to our animals, which led to record harvests, but also to record poverty for the people who live there. 9 kg GM-soybeans produce just 1 kilogramme of meat 1 kilograms of meat for us. That is not fair. Europe is also responsible for this division of labor.”

Right of co-existence, not of contamination

Democracy means an equal existence of organic and conventional agriculture, if it is with or without genetic engineering. But by pollen flight, insects, pollution and mixing of seed and animal feed during transport and storage, a purely organic farming can no longer be guaranteed. The use of genetic engineering in agriculture constricts the rights of consumers to organic food. A co-existence is therefore impossible. Consumers no longer have freedom of choice - which is the basic principle of democracy. Austria and Switzerland have already understood this and have already declared their countries as GM-free zones. Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, farmer and member of the European Parliament says: “The right to GMO-free agriculture and GMO-free food is the basis of the EU legislation: There is no right of contamination. About the Article 26a of the release line, the member States are obliged to take such co-existence measures to enforce and conserve the protection of GMO-free agriculture in the long run.”

Genetic engineering: a success story?

Latest figures speak against the impression that the genetic engineering industry wants to suggest to consumers and politicians: An investigation by Friends of the Earth Europe clearly comes to the conclusion that genetic engineering by far is not yet established throughout the whole world.

After at least already 15 years of commercial crop growing, it is only 2.4% of the arable land world-wide on which GMOs are cultivated. In Europe it is just 0.2%, of which 75% is in Spain. Worldwide, only five countries grow GMOs on a large-scale and it is only two main variants (pesticide resistant varieties and Bt-maize). Overall, there is only four species on the market (soybeans, corn, cotton, canola-Colza).

“And the corporations want us to see this as a success story?” asks Sabine Brückmann, coordinator for agriculture from WECF, Women in Europe for a Common Future.

The real economic success for the handful of major corporations involved (Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer ScienceCrop and DuPont) lies in the monopolization of the seed market. For example, Monsanto in recent years, has bought up many companies. Vandana Shiva, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, remarked on the 4. conference: “Of course, the farmers believe that they have a choice, because they get 20 different brand names. They have no idea that each of these 20 companies is licensed by Monsanto. 95% of genetically modified seeds which are now sold around the world come from Monsanto.”

Genetic engineering is and remains a high risk, as too many questions are unanswered. At that, nobody recognizes a real advantage for the consumer. “Why are you researching in an area where there are no market needs?” wonders Hansjörg Walter, president of the Swiss Farmers’ Association, and deservedly so. Berlakovich: “The consequences are definitely not predictable. We all live in a common, large ecosystem. Therefore we need to bring together common initiatives for a diverse, multi-functional agriculture in Europe.”

Location: Rotterdam
Donor: City of Rotterdam
Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Rotterdam Global Urban Summit, 3rd and 4th December

City of Rotterdam hosted a unique international conference on sustainable urban area development. For two days cities, scientists, experts and businesses discussed the best blueprint for cities. High profile international speakers like EU-adviser Jeremy Rifkin and top architect Winy Maas captured the hearts and minds of more than 400 delegates, of which 40% came outside the Netherlands.

Sabine Brückmann, the delegate of WECF introduced the structure and the programme of the partner Unser Land, as an example of a sustainable production and consumption patterns on a regional base. UNSER LAND started 15 years ago in a small village west of Munich. The parish decided to physically implement what people call responsibility for creation by establishing sustainable production and consumption patterns on a regional base.

The overall goal was to give civil society a choice to shape their living environment. What started with 1 bread in 1 district, currently offers over 50 sustainable products and an urban-rural-network in the region of Munich has been established. The products are sold in 200 bakery-shops, 5 butcheries, 700 supermarkets and some restaurants (i.e. Ratskeller in the city hall of Munich), with the help of 1.500 volunteers in 10 solidarity communities in rural districts and with hundreds of Munich supporters preparing events, seminars, cookery courses, information and promotion campaigns on sustain-

able products etc. 80 part time workplaces in economic part of the network plus 1 full time managing director.

City farms

Food used to be locally produced. Over the years city and farmland have grown apart, resulting in the trade and transport of food from far outside the city. Now by modern innovations, new networks and developments have been established to build a more integral rural environment. Space will be used more efficiently, people will be more aware of the product and the emission of CO2 will be reduced. On the last day the participants collectively undersigned a statement with the aim to co-create New Green Deals. These signatures were to be presented to the Copenhagen summit to show that cities worldwide can really make the difference.

The more than 200 Unser Land products are being sold in markets, supermarkets, bakeries and restaurants



Location: Warsaw, Poland
Donor: Slow Food, SIE, Theatre Institute, eFTe (fair trade), WECF
Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Meetings in Poland: Apple Action

Traditional apple varieties are hard to find these days. In Warsaw, the SIE (Social Ecological Institute) co-organised with WECF ‘a celebration of the traditional apple’. Because of standardisation of the apple market, only a few varieties have remained widely available for consumers. We are experiencing not only a climate crisis but also a biodiversity crisis. The traditional orchard has become a fruit deliverer, instead of a biodiverse environment, with over 80 thousand organisms living in balance with each other. And not only that. Old apple sorts contain more vitamin C, the are much more nutritive, contain phenol compound and oxidants protecting against cancer cells. Therefore SIE (Social Ecological Institute) and WECF have taken an action to remind and mobilize consumers for smart consumer behaviour.

Terra Madre Day

On December the 10th the SIE together with WECF, Warsaw Convivium Slow Food and the Theatre Institute organised a Terra Madre Day in Poland dedicating it to traditional apple trees. How many people would like to enjoy the old varieties: Glogierowka, Boiken, Kosztela, Kronselka, Koksa, Szara or Złota Reneta as in years past. Traditional old orchards have disappeared, replaced by fast growing monocultures. To remind consumers about the richness of biodiversity the partners organised many events, starting with a press conference in the Theatre Institute. The guests: Sabine Brückmann (WECF), Prof. Ewa Rembalkowska (SGGW), Piotr Petryka (Convivium Varsavia), Elżbieta Priwieziencew (SIE)

and Ewa Sieniarska (SIE) referred about biodiversity, properties of old sorts of apple comparing them to the contemporary ones, the movement Slow Food, traditional orchards and old traditional tree types. During the lunch the guests saw the documentary film from the last Biodiversity conference in Bonn 2008, and discussed the preparation for the planned in 2010 (International Year of Biodiversity) Biodiversity Summit in Nagoya. On the same day on the streets of Warsaw volunteers, members of SIE and Sabine Brückmann gave out apples from the traditional orchards. The interest was very big. Pedestrians were surprised, impressed by the taste and interested to buy traditional apples. The taste awoke many memories from the childhood that had disappeared with the traditional apple flavour. During the action the volunteers were inviting people for the holiday fair on December 12th and 13th (Saturday and Sunday) in the Theatre Institute.

Holiday Fair

The Market with the Culinary Direct Action Concerning Apples was an opportunity for farmers, manufacturers and producers from the Masovia Region to present their work and to engage guests to take part in workshops and games. The fair was visited by specialists like Agnieszka Kreglicka a successful owner of many Warsaw restaurants, Ewa Sieniarska, Elżbieta Priwieziencew from SIE, Katarzyna Blazejewska, a dietician, and others. The visitors could try diverse dishes made of apples prepared by The Essence of Taste, The Group Funky Food and others and buy products recommended by Slow Food.

Location: Poland, Warsaw, Mazovia region
Donor: German-Polish Cooperation Foundation (Stiftung für Deutsch-Polnische Zusammenarbeit)
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German-Polish exchange to promote sustainable rural development; WECF and Bavarian partners visit Polish region of Masovia

A colourfully mixed delegation from the German town of Glonn, consisting of a mayor, cultural agents, farmers and energy consultants visited the Mazovia region in Poland, sharing and exchanging information and inspiration on sustainable rural development, community work, rural tourism and renewable energy. In 2008 the Polish group had paid a visit to the network Unser Land (Our Region) in Bavaria. In return, a delegation of WECF and its partner SIE (Social Ecological Institute) were invited to the Masovia Region. During these 3 days in August the participants visited different agricultural, marketing and eco-tourist organisations and became familiar with the subject of Polish farming and sustainable development in Polish communities. The participants came mostly from the community of Glonn, but also the Bavaria region a.o., inter alia: Mayor from Glonn Martin Esterl, the Honourary president of WECF Marie Kranendonk, farmers, members of the Bavarian network Unser Land, representatives of “Civil Courage”, the Initiative for GMO free products, a sustainable building specialist and others. One highlight was the visit to the agricultural school in Goladkowo. SIE (Social Ecological Institute) is planning to establish the first specialized School for Ecological Education there,



Delegation from Glonn visits the Mazovia region in Poland

containing also a Centre for Sustainable Rural Development. The aim of the Centre- Social – Ecological Institutes Masovia XXI- is to support the Region by sustainable developments. Especially the cooperation between the local farming communities and support by the foreign partners are important to achieve these aims. The guests not only visited traditional farms, but also ecological tourist farms and learned more about the political and economic dimensions of sustainable agriculture during a meeting with the policy makers in the Marshall Office in Warsaw. There they got to know partnerships between farmers, producers, manufacturer and customers in Poland.

Tradition and innovation

The German visitors were very impressed. Poland combined tradition and progress successfully, with a strong determination to keep traditional cooking alive and to protect traditional animal species and a variety of corn from extinction. The visit of three parishes: Długosiodło, Branszczyk and Łochów, 60 km from Warsaw, gave insight into their sustainable development. The geographical position, surroundings of woods, farm landscapes, and a small distance from a big city, was a common denominator in comparing the prosperities of the Polish communities and the community of Glonn. They meet similar challenges: How to feed the nearby city, whilst promoting local economic development and protect nature and traditions.





Nesting partners from eight European countries work together in helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns

Location: France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain, UK, Estonia
Donor: European Commission
Contact: anne.barre@wecf.eu

Implementing Solutions

One of WECF’s strategies is to demonstrate sustainable alternatives. When addressing specific environmental health problems, WECF’s projects include demonstration components, which show how pollution and exposure can be reduced, whilst improving health and well-being. WECF implements demonstration activities in its four thematic areas. This chapter will highlight a few examples, particularly in the area of improving water supply and sanitation, with WECF’s innovative ecological toilet projects. WECF also works on regional marketing of safe and fair food products, on reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals and on affordable safe and sustainable energy solutions.

Nesting – the concept

Helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns – the continuation of the Nesting Project. When expecting a baby, you start wondering, planning and questioning. Things are changing and exciting times are ahead. Everything should be ready for the child. The baby should feel snug and safe in her or his new home, the nest. Project Nesting (www.projectnesting.org/) provides support to parents who want to choose renovation materials, furniture and baby-products that are safe and healthy for their newborn child. In fact babies and young children spend 90% of their time indoor, where the air quality is generally much more more polluted than outdoors. This fact is recognized by many countries as a major public health issue.. The project aims at providing new parents and professionals in child health and childcare with precise information and helpful practical advice so that they can make informed choices for healthier products and adopt new practices. Project Nesting informs, via a web platform and training sessions, about the quality of the air and environment inside homes and in day care centres, and describes the way in which products such as furniture and carpeting, cleaning agents and baby care products can affect indoor air

quality, and lead to the exposure of children to toxic substances. Since its launch, 50,000 visitors have used the website, which is available in eight languages (Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Latvian and Spanish). More languages are being added every year. Other Nesting activities involve interactive workshops for parents and training for childcare and health professionals. They have been developed by WECF France as pilot activities and will be disseminated in other countries. In 2009, Project Nesting conducted the “test your nest” campaign in five EU countries in partnership with the French national consumer protection institute (INC). Parents were offered a unique opportunity to test the air quality in their baby’s room. A test kit was provided to families in France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and the UK. See next article for more information.

Location: France, the Netherlands, Germany, UK, Greece
Donor: Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment (VROM), The Netherlands, Ministry of Environment, Germany
Contact: elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu

Indoor air pollution – Test Your Nest. First European-wide study on Indoor air in baby rooms

The European study Test your Nest was conducted by WECF (WECF France, Germany, the Netherlands, Clean Up Greece) in partnership with the French National Consumer Institute (INC) and it’s Magazine (60 Millions de Consommateurs) and a French laboratory (Quad Lab). The recruiting campaign was launched in July 2009 in 4 countries, with the objective of measuring and comparing indoor air quality in newly renovated or furnished baby rooms, and presenting the results during the Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment - Parma, March 2010. Indoor air quality is one of the priorities of the CEHAPE (Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe). Indoor air pollutants have long been recognized as a major hazard for children’s health, with some of them triggering asthma, allergies or sometimes cancer. More than 70 families in 4 countries (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece) have taken part to the study. All participants had newly renovated the room or bought new furniture. In 40% of the rooms, tests revealed levels of formaldehyde and total VOC above accepted guidelines. Formaldehyde is a known carcinogen, used in plywood, glues, etc. VOC - Volatile Organic Compounds – among them hydrocarbons, terpenes, alcohols – are substances known as allergens and irritants, some can be neurotoxic or carcinogenic. A unique European study, Test your Nest was conducted in the framework of WECF’s Nesting project and paves the way for targeting specific pollutants impacting on children’s health.



Young parents participating in unique interactive workshops developed by WECF France

Location: France
Donor: European Commission
Contact: Anne.barre@wecf.eu

Nesting France

In 2009, WECF France developed for young parents unique interactive workshops on baby’s environmental health. Designed by Nita Chaudhuri, a Canadian expert working with WECF, the nesting workshops offer young parents practical and useful information on how to create a safe indoor environment for newborns, as well as interactive and dynamic exchanges between participants and the facilitator. The objective is to help young parents identify and recognize hazardous substances present in renovation products, or any daily-use baby product (cosmetics, toys, cloth, baby care, cleaning etc.) and guide them towards safer alternatives, in order to protect babies’ health.

After having tested the workshops in Paris and Annemasse (near Geneva), WECF trained 15 workshop facilitators in order to spread the concept across the Parisian and Rhône-Alpes regions.

The facilitators training started in June 2009, conducted by our experts Nita Chaudhuri and Philippe Perrin, who continue tutoring today the trainees. They focus not only on the scientific knowledge to be passed on, but also on the pedagogical methodology for a qualitative animation of the workshops. WECF France created and published a complete toolkit for the facilitators, which includes scientific background on the human fetus development, health impacts of indoor pollutants, sources of exposures, many fact sheets and pedagogic materials. The toolkit is going to be translated into Dutch and German to expand the workshops to other countries in 2010.

In order to disseminate this type of awareness raising, WECF established a partnership with Botanic, a chain of green gardening stores, to offer nesting workshops in the stores. WECF’s workshops have gained media attention at local and national levels on several occasions. The Nesting website in France was fully redesigned as a pilot for the international nesting webplatform: the objective was to make the website more informative, attractive and interactive. Advice on indoor air pollutants was extended with many factsheets on specific substances; new sections” were created: “publications”, info on “nesting workshops” for parents, a “question” page was opened and the “news section” is now updated several times a week with up-to-date articles on studies, research or news related to infant health and indoor pollution. WECF founded a Nesting Expert Committee, consisting of scientists, journalists, health and consumer protection experts, who provide diverse expertise on the orientations of the project, the elaboration of communication or educational materials, and help answering the many questions of our website visitors: these are mainly young parents eager to learn more on how to protect their children from indoor air pollution.

Location: the Netherlands
Donor: European Commission, Ministry of VROM
Contact: chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu

Nesting the Netherlands

Nesting in the Netherlands developed workshops for multipliers and for parents (to be). The team gave different workshops on themes such as detergents, safe toys and personal care products for babies. Prevention goody bags were sent to health insurance companies. Partnerships continued with pro-breastfeeding website Borstvoeding.com, and multi media parents’ platform and online consultancy tool used by midwives Bewuste Ouders, who both have 40 to 50 thousand unique visitors per month on their websites. Our team was also present at the young parents’ baby fair in Tiel in the summer of 2009 and WECF developed a special workshop for immigrant fathers in a father’s centre in the Hague. The Test Your Nest campaign attracted a lot of attention from press and stakeholders. The Nesting concept also very much appealed to the policy of the Dutch Ministry of Environment who awarded the project a three year grant to expand the activities.

Nesting the Netherlands was present with an exhibition booth at the Tiel baby fair in the summer of 2009



Location: Germany
Donor: EU DG Environment Life+/BMU and UBA
Contact: info@nestbau.info, johanna.hausmann@wecf.eu

Nesting Germany

Several interviews were given to parenting- and lifestyle magazines. New linking partner organisations were acquired. The German Nesting team kept the website updated with news and new links from other relevant sites to guarantee the continuation of the project. Positive feedback came from the authorities. The environment ministry published an article in a calendar for 2010 on indoor pollution. “Environmental justice right from the beginning” – a consultative program for deprived families and ethnic minority families is the German addition or follow up to the Nesting project –WECF realises this project through funding from the German Ministry of Environment (BMU) and the German agency of environment (UBA) together with our project partners MAGs in Munich and Silvia Pleschka in Berlin.

Location: Hungary, Spain, Estonia, United Kingdom, Greece
Donor: European Commission
Contact: anne.barre@wecf.eu

Project Nesting in the other countries

Greece
Environmental and health awareness in Greece is still very low. Therefore the aim of the Nesting Project is to help parents in Greece to create a safe and healthy environment for their newborns. As the Greek population is not yet as familiar with information through the internet there is a definite need for printed material. In addition to this the animation the TV Spot from 2008 was re-launched and a mailing was sent out to all hospitals in the main cities. The Greek website had about 80 percent newcomers and only 15-20 percent second users. The average visiting time was about five minutes which points at a genuine interest in the issue.

Spain
The Spanish Nesting website was translated, adapted to the national context and launched at the end of 2008. In 2009, the main activity was promoting Nesting in Spain. Information about Nesting appeared on different web pages, electronic bulletins and blogs. Initial contacts have been established with Ecología y Desarrollo and an electronic bulletin on Health and Environment. The Nesting internal meeting in Madrid in October 2008 identified the need to develop a Nesting Strategy. The Spanish partner took the lead to develop this Strategy further in 2009 with the collaboration of the partners.

United Kingdom
In UK stakeholders ask for more scientific based information. Therefore more focused information for

the nesting website has been researched and produced, so far in the issues of bisphenol A and cosmetics. Those factsheets show problems, current scientific findings and probable solutions. It adds to the information already available on the website. Furthermore Nesting UK contributed to the design of the new Nesting website, proofed and edited information, promoted Test your Nest in the UK via the media and interested networks including Mumsnet, sought participants for test your Nest in the UK and liaised with participants for TYN in the UK.

Hungary
Nesting Hungary updated its website every two weeks with news throughout 2009. Nesting Hungary participated at events of the Large Families Association with presentations, while introducing and informing participants on the international project. A leaflet was developed and cooperation started with NGOs working in the field of environmental health and hazardous chemical substances.

Estonia
Nesting Estonia is the new branch of the International Nesting Project. Up until now there was no webpage in Estonian informing parents on a healthy environment. To launch the new website, Nesting Estonia organised a special session in which representatives from various national stakeholders like consumer associations, midwives, kindergartens, primary schools and national authorities such as ministries and the Health Protection Inspectorate were invited. Postcards and leaflets were translated and adapted to the local situation. Furthermore the Nesting concept was presented at an international training in Kiev. Participants of the seminar were mainly representatives from Russian and Belarus environmental NGOs, educational NGOs (eg. teachers, youth organisations) and health and consumer protection NGOs, trainers were from Lithuania, Denmark and Estonia.

Location: Germany, Munich, Berlin
Donor: German Ministry of environment (BMU), Umweltbundesamt Deutschland (UBA)
Contact: johanna.hausmann@wecf.eu

Umweltgerechtigkeit von Geburt an -Environmental Justice right from the beginning

“Environmental justice right from the beginning” is a consultative program for deprived families run by WECF Germany.. The German Children’s Environmental Survey (KUS) confirms that children from families with low socio-economic status are more exposed to secondhand smoke, mould, lead, and disinfectants. Therefore the project places the focus upon improving the skills of the families affected by these issues. WECF provides information to families on environmental health risks. Previous successful projects have shown that families can be reached primarily through a third party or through lectures in nearby facilities. This project can be seen as an addition to the WECF internet project www.nestbau.info for families and parents which are not classical internet users.

On-site consultations and lectures
Within this project WECF offers family centres and similar facilities in Berlin and Munich, continuous on-site consultations, consultations and lectures on simple measures which create a healthy living environment and that can be realized by the families on their own and without (large) financial expenses. To better reach the families in a more direct way, WECF and its partners, MAGs in Munich and Silvia Pleschka in Berlin also train multipliers (family nurses, midwives, etc.). WECF provides a so-called “multipliers folder” from brochures and manuals for

workshops, which could be used by the multipliers and which will be presented to authorities of other cities in the framework of the meetings of the network of “Healthy Cities”. In 2009 more than 250 families and 150 multipliers were reached by consultations, workshops, presentations in Munich and Berlin, as well as the authorities of other cities via the network of “Healthy Cities”.

Bilingual brochures and an award for the project
The families can also get information, tips and advice from information leaflets, specifically designed by WECF. So far there are flyers on the subjects “Ecological cleaning” and “Prevention and handling of mould”. The true novelty of the brochures is their bilingual nature: Russian / German and Turkish / German. This guarantees that

- the information in the brochures can be compared with (German) products,
- that immigrants of the first and second generation who may only be able to speak their native language and not read it, can then read the information in German,
- Multipliers, who don’t speak any Russian or Turkish, still understand the information.

The brochures met with good response and therefore the 3000 pieces we printed was not enough to fulfill the demand. WECF was honoured for this project at the 9th annual meeting of the Network Kindergesundheit und Umwelt e.V. KGU in September in Bonn/Germany. The project has been presented within the congress “Armut und Gesundheit” which took place in Berlin in December 2009.



Local NGO partners in Transdnistria (Dniester River Basin) have cooperated with local authorities to repair and put back in service 3 rural drinking water systems

Location: Ukraine, Moldova, Transdnistria
Donor: MATRA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
Contact: anna.samwel@wecf.eu

Democratisation of the Dniester River Basin Governance

The MATRA project ‘Democratisation of the Dniester River Basin Governance’ successfully completed its second year. Local authorities, NGOs and citizen’s communities work together in trans-boundary cooperation between Moldova, Transdnistria and Ukraine towards sustainable management of Dniester River Basin. Main partners in the project are Eco-Tiras (Moldova), EcoSpectrum (Transnistria region, Moldova) and Black Sea Women Club (Ukraine), supporting 4 local partners located at 4 Dniester tributaries.

Demonstration projects
Project partners and communities were trained by WECF and partners in early 2009 on solid waste management, flood prevention and flood management, Water Safety Plans, Sustainable Sanitation and nature friendly fish manage-

ment. Equipped with knowledge on sustainable solutions and understanding of IRBM, the local partners supported 16 communities to formulate demonstration projects showing sustainable solutions for river basin management. Along the Moldovan tributaries youth river basin councils were formulating and later implementing the projects in cooperation with the local authorities, schools and other stakeholders. The implemented projects not only demonstrated technical and social solutions for environmental problems, but also fostered mobilization of the local population and stakeholder cooperation.

Capacity building
The Dniester day and World Water Day celebrations were organized by the project partners and obtained a lot of media attention. Children conducted biological monitoring of the river, planted trees and cleaned up the river banks. From 30th September to 1st October 2009 BSWC organized in Odessa the International River Conference “Transboundary Dniester River Basin Management and the EU Water Framework Directive”. Presentations and workshops were held in order to increase the interest in the Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) of the Dniester River and to unite NGOs efforts in lobbying the introduction of IRBM concept in the national and international transboundary legislation.

The project activities are reflected on the project website www.dniester.info, and the Moldovan tributary activities also on www.cubolta.info.

Location: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBuza), Development Cooperation, DGIS, The Netherlands; European Commission, Fondation Ensemble, France
Contact: anna.samwel@wecf.eu

To-Ni Finder : WECF provides information about nitrate contamination with new tool

With a new tool, the ToNi finder, WECF provides information about nitrate contamination and about sustainable school sanitation demonstration projects in villages of the EECCA region. In rural areas shallow groundwater is often used for human consumption. This water source is very vulnerable to contamination, and often contains high levels of nitrates as a result of mismanagement of wastewater, latrines or septic tanks, animal manure or fertilizers. In general there is a low awareness on water contamination. Drinking water quality of small scale water supply systems is often not analyzed and not included in international water monitoring programmes. In addition providing safe and sustainable sanitation mostly has low or no priority for local and national politicians. In the project countries school sanitation is mostly in a very poor condition. The latrines are unhygienic and a threat to safe water as they are neither a closed system nor connected to a central sewage system.

The interactive ToNi Map on the WECF website shows the locations of UDDT toilets and the results of our nitrate in drinking water monitoring activities



WECF and its local partners raise awareness on water contamination, measures on water protection, and demonstrate sustainable and safe sanitation in the rural areas of the project countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

What you can see using the ToNi map?
This is an interactive map on the WECF website presenting two projects: on the one hand the locations of the urine diverting dry toilets (UDDT) in schools built by WECF and its partners, and on the other hand the results of our nitrate monitoring activities which show the water quality in the villages. These projects have been carried out together with our local partners in rural areas of Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and central Asian countries.

More about nitrates
Why do we monitor nitrates in water? Testing levels of nitrates is a cheap and easy way to get an idea of water quality in a given location. WECF uses quick test strips for this. In rural areas shallow groundwater is often used for human consumption. This water source is very vulnerable to contamination, and often contains high levels of

nitrate as a result of mismanagement of waste-water, latrines or septic tanks, animal manure or fertilizers. Therefore nitrate testing can serve as an indicator of man-made water pollution. As nitrate contamination is often caused by animal or human excreta, water with high levels of nitrates is highly suspected to be contaminated with bacteria and viruses as well. The best way to decrease nitrate levels is to find the source of the contamination and remove it, if possible, or protect the water circle of influx. This can be done by concrete manure pits or closed sanitation systems, such as urine diverting dry toilets. You can find out systematically what to do by making a water safety plan (WSP).

Waterborne diseases connected to nitrates

Nitrates in the drinking water can aggravate “Blue Baby Disease” as they are converted to nitrites in the body. These subsequently react with haemoglobin in the red blood cells to form methaemoglobin, affecting the blood’s ability to carry enough oxygen to the cells of the body. Infants under three months are particularly at risk, when they are not exclusively breast fed. The haemoglobin of infants is more susceptible and the condition is made worse by gastrointestinal infection. The intake of tea or other baby food prepared with nitrate-rich water can have the effect that the baby does not get enough oxygen anymore and turns blue. This disease can be lethal or damage the baby’s brain or nervous system. Older people may also be at risk because of decreased gastric acid secretion.

Location: Belarus, village of Smilovicy
Donor: Matra program of the Ministry of Foreign Affair, the Netherlands
Contact: Bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu

Finalizing the implementation of pilot projects in rural communities in Belarus

In 2009 the MATRA project “Developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of water, waste and energy efficiency in Belarus” implemented 4 reference and 11 pilot projects. WECF together with its Belarusian partner NGO Ecoproject partnership have continued working for successful implementation of these demonstration projects: In school N19 in Minsk an energy efficient classroom- windows and radiators were changed, a temperature difference was observed in comparison with the other classrooms, the energy efficient classroom is warmer and cosy. The results were presented to the local authorities with the hope that this project can serve as an example for improving the energy situation in schools and buildings in small communities. School N145 in Minsk developed a programme for making paper products from waste-paper – in 2009 the teacher together with the involved pupils were invited several times to present their postcards and souvenirs made from their recycled paper. The national authorities are considering putting the program in the curriculum. In terms of ecological sanitation, the first reference project on Ecological sanitation implemented in the village of Smilovichy served as an example for people who have dachas. Additional 10 urine diverting toilets were constructed in summer houses. In “Nadejda centre for Rehabilitation and Health for Children” 10 composters were provided.

In Smilovichy, Water Safety Plans were developed in the school, their results were introduced to the

national authority which took a decision to give priority to providing central water supply to neighbourhoods of Smilovichy where it does not exist at the moment and where the highest concentrations of nitrates were observed.

In June 2009 Members of Dutch Embassy in Poland, visited Smilovichy- a reference community which implemented projects in the topic water and sanitation. Representatives of Ecoproject and WECF presented 2 pilot projects. The Ambassador Mr.Krop was impressed by the achieved results and wished success to the further activities of Ecoproject Partnership and WECF. He hopes that the model from Belarus can serve as an example for replication of other communities with similar problems in Belarus and Eastern Europe.

Presentation and development of water safety plans in Smilovicy, Belarus



Location: Romania
Donor: private donor
Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

Donations for Prislop roofing action 2009

Thanks to gifts from private donors in many countries 15 families received sheets for making their roofs waterproof

Prislop is a small Roma settlement nearby the city Sibiu in the county Transylvania. Thanks to gifts from Dutch private donors WECF started in the summer of 2008 a project to repair 10 out of the 80 leaking roofs in Prislop in Romania. This grassroots initiative was locally organised by a committed woman from the nearby city, while the house owners did all the work themselves. This year again efforts were undertaken to collect donations in the Netherlands and in Germany.

Donations for Prislop roofing action 2009

On March 7, 2009 WECF organised a charity concert in the St. Martinus church in the Dutch town Zaltbommel in collaboration with the talented, young Romanian virtuoso violinist Razvan Stoica and pianist Andreea Stoica. Thanks to their contribution and the support of the representatives of the Dutch church 930 Euro was collected during that event. Additional private donations from the Netherlands, Germany, France and Sweden increased the amount up to 2714 Euro. 15 poor families received materials for repairing their leaking roofs. Fortunately prices for sheets had gone down in 2009 compared with the previous year, so the budget was sufficient to cover the material costs for at least 15 homes (huts). The 15 families were selected according to criteria such as whether or not they have a roof with many leakages, they have children and if they have no or very little in-



Preparing roofs for the people of Prislop

come. All the families were visited in advance and their houses were checked on leaks and overall state. Many of the families were known to Anca, the local project coordinator, who visits Prislop 3 times a week for cooking, health and hygiene lessons in which 27 women take part. The sessions look at hygiene, healthy food, diseases and problems of their daily life, contributing to the self-confidence of the women.

On the 2nd of July the firm delivered the materials to a square of the nearby village Rasinari, where Anca, Illie and WECF handed over the materials to the receiving families. Horses with cars took over the transport via the hilly and stony road from Rasinari to Prislop. The families themselves are responsible for fixing the roof sheets.

WECF continues supporting Prislop

The roofing action has not only had major impact on the living conditions of the Roma in Prislop, but has also added to their self-confidence knowing that people from Romania, the Netherlands, France and Germany want to improve their future. For many of the Prislop people living in those poor conditions, it is difficult to believe in a better future for them and their children. Now 10 poor families are left



Donkey cars transport the sheets from the square in Rasinari to Prislop

with roofs in a desperate condition and need urgent help for repairing their roofs. The other remaining 45 leaking roofs are less urgent and will probably need support in 2 years. Besides the leaking roofs many families have corroded leaking stoves, causing smoke and bad air in the living rooms.

Therefore WECF will continue to be dedicated to supporting the people in Prislop and improving their living conditions

What you can do!
Donate or ask friends or family to donate the cost of one or more roofing sheets. For approximately 10 Euros we can buy one roofing sheet.

Location: Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania
Donor: Fondation Ensemble
Contact: anne.barre@wecf.eu

Ecological Sanitation and waste water management in rural areas of Ukraine, Bulgaria and Romania

Results of the second year of the project

2009 was the second year of the project Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity (SSHD), co-financed by Fondation Ensemble. WECF and partners moved forward on their programme, implementing ecological sanitation solutions for households and schools as well as working organic waste composting and educational programmes on water safety, in 35 rural communities of Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria. Since the beginning of this project 111 sanitation systems have been installed (public and private UDDT toilets and filters), 48 schools have conducted water monitoring, 22 villages conducted solid waste inventory. So far more than 2000 pupils and 800 citizens in the 3 countries have benefited from these new sanitation systems. Awareness raising and capacity building campaigns reached about 70 000 citizens in rural areas of Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria the project is being carried out in three municipalities – Stara Zagora. Pleven and Pravets and in cooperation with two local partners: Earth Forever Foundation (EFF) and Association EcoWorld. During the year 2009 3 public toilets have been built; they are used daily by children and citizens, 8 household toilets were finalised (and in use), as well as 2 wastewater filters for treating black water and 3 household filters for treating grey water have been build. They are used by the citi-

zens in the rural communities of Stara Zagora and Pravets Municipalities. The 3 public toilets built in Stara Zagora Municipality were inaugurated with local authorities. The toilets were built in cultural houses and public places and not only do they significantly improve the populations’ living conditions but they are also as an innovative model solution tfor other rural communities in the vicinity. A constructed wetland is being prepared for treating black water for a centre for disabled children in Vidrare, Pravets Municipality. This will be the first facility of this type in Bulgaria and it will serve 100 children and staff. The constructed wetland was designed by a joint cooperation between German and Bulgar- ian engineering companies.

Romania
WECF works in Romania on the SSHD project with: EuroTeleorman Association -Teleorman county, Women for a Clean Future - Mehedinti county and O Ilo Romano - Giurgiu county. WECF’s partners worked with local authorities to obtain legal authorisation for (this type of) ecological sanitation, as it is new in the country. 20 household urine diverting toilets and (4) 1 school toilet were built. The 20 households use urine as a fertilizer while a demonstration garden planted

near the school enables to show the positive results of this fertilisation. The school toilet in Vrata – Mehedinti was finalized and inaugurated on November 27, 2009, in the presence of local citizens, county authorities and representatives from neighbouring schools. As this is the first indoor Urine Diverting Dry School Toilet in Romania, it received high official and media attention. The building offers 2 indoor toilet rooms and 1 hand wash facility. The toilet benefits 140 pupils and their teachers. The construction of the kindergarten toilet in Piretrele, Giurgiu county, started in November 2009 and will continue in 2010. The idea is that the building will host both a kindergarten and a dispensary. This toilet was realised with co-funding from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands via the Embassy of the Netherlands in Romania. Various trainings and presentations took place within the SSHD project such as conducting the Water Safety Plans with the school pupils and teachers educate beneficiaries on the operation and maintenance of facilities.

Ukraine
The SSHD project runs in 10 regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yaremche, Ternopil, Mykolayiv, Nizhyn, Artemivsk, Nova Kakhovka and

Odessa. WECF is working with two partners: Mama-86 and Black See Women’s Club Odessa. Ecosan systems are very successful in Ukraine which is partly due to the strong involvement of the local authorities (over 70 authorities involved). This support allowed WECF and it’s partner BSWC in Odessa to plan 2 additional school toilets within this project: in total 6 school toilets will be built between 2008 and 2010 in Ukraine. Three school toilets in Nizhyn, Stepovoe and Gradanitzky were inaugurated in 2009, with filters for treating grey water and 3 demonstration gardens were planted. For EACH school a demonstration garden for the reuse of urine as has been prepared. Next to EACH newly built school toilet a pump system based on EMAS technology was installed for pumping, diluting urine with water and applying it as fertilizer in the garden. A very positive fact is that individual households are highly motivated to invest in these new ecological sanitation systems, this meant that WECF and its partners were able to work very actively, building many household toilets, and thus improving the peoples living conditions. 71 new household toilets have been built since project start, and 10 more are under construction in 2010. Our Odessa partner BSWC innovated with a new pump system based on EMAS technology to facilitate the application of urine on the plants.

The ecological toilets which were build, serve as an example to other rural communities in Stara Zagora, region, Bulgaria



Students and WECF France Director pose for a press photo before their departure to Georgia

Energy training in Georgia: Successful construction and installation of solar panels by trainees

From February to June 2009, 4 students of the University Annecy (France) spent 4 months in Georgia for a technical and practical training on the field organized by one of WECF’s long time partner RCDA. Their mission was to conceive, build and install affordable and replicable solar panels for the Georgian rural populations, who suffer from energy poverty. The experience was very positive, both for the four students and for RCDA, WECF’s Georgian partner. After one week of technical training by Solar Partner Sud, a German pioneer in solar energy, the trainees were sent to the region of Misaktsieli, close to the Georgian capital Tbilisi, where they contributed to building the capacity of over 20 citizens coming from different villages. The region benefits from a lot of sun – even in winter, which makes solar panels not only a sustainable but also a very efficient source of energy. WECF in France and Germany, the Region Rhône-Alpes and University of Annecy, Solar Partner Sud and RCDA have all contributed to the success of this training.

Location: *Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan*
Donor: *Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBUZA); German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)*
Contact: *gero.fedtke@wecf.eu*

Empowerment and Local Action

Introduction
2009 was the second year of the Empowerment and Local Action (ELA) Programme, launched in 2008 with 31 partners from most EECCA countries and Afghanistan. The ELA program is designed to build the capacity of poor local communities in rural areas, citizens’ organisations, private sector, science and authorities to work in partnerships to contribute to a sustainable rural development, which leads to reduction of poverty in rural areas and increased gender equity. The four key thematic areas of the ELA program are drinking water supply, sanitation (e.g. urine diverting dry toilets), sustainable agriculture, and energy saving and renewable energies, which are being integrated to form the basic thematic components of sustainable rural development. Demonstration centres make the knowledge and practical experience available to the interested public. Through trainings, knowledge exchange, and in cooperation with Universities and partner organisations, WECF builds the capacity of rural communities as well as of local NGOs, private sector and authorities to understand, apply, and propagate technologies in the four thematic areas, enhancing the capacity available in the WECF network at the same time. Together, we research, test, improve, and demonstrate affordable solutions best suited to address local needs and solve or mitigate local problems. Communities and NGOs are empowered to act on their local

levels towards a sustainable future for themselves. Members of the WECF network make the voices of the local communities heard, and lobby politicians on the regional, national, and international level to include the integrated approaches in their policies. The ELA program integrates several projects: in 2009, 26 partners implemented their own demonstration projects, funded by the MFS program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while projects with several partners funded by the German Ministry for the Environment transfer knowledge in renewable energy and energy efficiency in the South Caucasus. In this section, you will find information about the implementation and demonstration projects, while information on international advocacy activities linked to these projects can be found in the previous chapter of this annual report.

WECF and Georgian partners working on sustainable water and sanitation projects



Organisation	Country
Katachel e.V.	Afghanistan
Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)	Armenia
Charitable Women NGO	Armenia
Lore Eco Club	Armenia
Ekologi Tarazlig (ECOT)	Azerbaijan
Foundation Caucasus Environment	Georgia
Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
The Green Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia	Georgia
Women NGO PAROS	Georgia
Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA)	Georgia
Society Development Centre of Akhaltsikhe	Georgia
Civil Society Development Association Spektri	Georgia
Georgian Farmers Ecological Association SEMA	Georgia
Public Association "Mountain Club Jabagly-Manas"	Kazakhstan
Public Association "UGAM"	Kazakhstan
Young Guards of Nature	Kazakhstan
Social Union Agerkech	Kyrgyzstan
Rural Women’s NGO "Alga"	Kyrgyzstan
Ecological Movement BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
Public Association Central Asian Alliance for Water	Kyrgyzstan
Habitat Foundation Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
Public Association "ULGU"	Kyrgyzstan
Civic Environmental Foundation UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
Association of Ecotoxicologists of Moldova ECOTOX	Moldova
Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)	Moldova
ASDP NAU	Tajikistan
Youth Ecological Centre of Tajikistan (YECT)	Tajikistan
Women’s Public Organisation SAFO	Tajikistan
MAMA-86, All-Ukrainian Environmental NGO	Ukraine
Regional public ecological organisation Vidrodzhennya of Tatarbunary	Ukraine
NGO Mehriban	Uzbekistan

Summary

Implementation projects of the ELA program in 2009 covered all four thematic issues, as in 2008. The 26 partners continued their projects of 2008, improving their approaches, technical solutions, and strategies based on the lessons learnt in 2008. The projects of 2009 demonstrate sustainable ecological tools for improving the quality of life in the rural regions of the EECCA region and Afghanistan in a sustainable and ecological way. All technical solutions are adapted to the locally available materials, craftsmanship, and budgets.

All projects continued to demonstrate **sustainable sanitation solutions**: in Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT), urine and faeces are collected separately, avoiding the strong smell of pit latrines. The urine and the faeces are sanitized and reused as fertilizer in agriculture. Two important effects are felt directly by users of UDDT: there is a direct increase in quality of life due to increased comfort, and the fertilizer provided for free, contributes to better harvests from homestead gardening, which provides for a considerable part of the food villagers have available for consumption. Chemical or organic fertilizers are too expensive for most villagers or not available at all. Many villagers were not prepared to manage a farm cycle on the small plots of land they received during the privatization processes after the break-up of the Soviet Union. Hence, project partners worked on promoting **sustainable agriculture** approaches and techniques, from application of urine as fertilizer, composting of organic matter, up to organic agriculture on farm level, including marketing and finance.

Solar energy was the second focus of the year – especially solar collectors for generating warm water that can be used for e.g. showers. This complements the improvements in sanitation and hygiene and further improves the quality of life. For the majority of villagers in the EECCA region,

fuel is expensive; widespread illegal logging leads to deforestation. Using solar energy is easy on the villagers’ wallet as well as on the environment.

UDDT contribute to protection of **drinking water** sources by avoiding groundwater pollution through human excreta. ELA partners did more to address issues in drinking water supply, namely the monitoring of drinking water quality; and improvement of supply systems in some cases.

The networks of the ELA partner organisations acquired additional strength in regions and countries. Georgia and Kyrgyzstan continue to be the anchor countries of the ELA program, with strong national networks and cooperation of WECF ELA partners.

Integrated demonstration centres bring everything together. In Georgia, the RCDA demonstration center in Misaktsieli near Tbilisi was developed further; newly added are a solar greenhouse made of straw bales (the first straw bale building in the region), different kinds of solar collectors, a solar heated bathroom with UDDT, solar dryers, a biogas plant, indoor UDDT and agricultural demonstration plots. A farm nearby, managed by the farmer in cooperation with ELA partner SEMA, demonstrates organic agriculture, UDDT, biogas, warm water provided by solar collectors. The farm is receiving many visitors each year.

The following sections describe selected projects, which were conducted in the four thematic areas. ELA in figures:

Result	2009	2008	Total
Users of household Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	3498	1770	5268
Users of school Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	4347	6414	10761
Household Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	360	277	637
School Urine Diverting Dry Toilets	17	19	36
Population with improved water supply	2198	18791	20989
Energy saving and renewable energy supply systems	87	47	134
No of users applying energy saving and renewable energy	735	725	1460
Publications in 11 languages	106	162	268
Participants to trainings on sustainable sanitation	24383	14143	38526
Participants to trainings on solar energy	1791	2620	4411
Participants to trainings on water	11998	3800	15798
Participants to trainings on agriculture	4246	2613	6859
Population whose drinking water quality is monitored	6680	149508	156188
Demonstration centers / demonstration farms	3	9	12



Asor Jumeev’s UDDT: the toilet that made a neighbourhood happy

Sustainable Sanitation

The year started with a set of advanced trainings on construction of Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT) and on operation, reuse and the link to agriculture conducted by WECF in cooperation with Hamburg University of Technology. The trainings built on the experience made during the first year, making also use of the increasing knowledge and practical experience with sustainable sanitation available in the WECF network. Supported by WECF field staff, the project partners conducted awareness raising campaigns and trainings on hygiene and sanitation, and constructed almost 700 toilets for households with for more than 5500 family members with the help of participatory approaches.

“I never realised your neighbour getting a toilet was a reason to be happy for them”

In the field, promoting UDDT is confronted with a problem. The toilet is a taboo topic in most societies; discussing sanitation habits and changing them is always difficult in the beginning. Positive examples, when people see them working well,

pave the way to broad acceptance. This is illustrated by the following story, witnessed by ELA partner NGO ALGA during their work in Northern Kyrgyzstan. Pit latrines are the norm in the village of Ivanovka. Normally, they are located in the backyard, so that the smell is kept away from the house and the street. But Asor Jomeev’s pit latrine stood directly next to Kirov street in front of his house, smelling heavily into the street especially in the hot summer months. Here, broad Kirov street, normally a point where neighbours meet and children play, lay deserted. Jomeev’s neighbours said they preferred to walk through the gardens rather than pass the street nearby his pit latrine. The relationship between Jomeev and his neighbours became increasingly strained. Then Jomeev constructed a UDDT. The situation greatly improved. His neighbour Galina Plotnikova said: “I grew up in this neighbourhood. In my childhood I used to play in Kirov street. There are so many memories... But the toilet’s smell was so bad I ceased to walk down this street and even forgot my memories. You said you helped him build a new toilet? "I never realised your neighbour getting a toilet was a reason to be happy for them”. Now many neighbours started a new relationship with Asor; they want to learn from him more about UDDT and its construction, as they plan to build UDDT for themselves.

Dry Sanitation, Hygiene, and Health

Once people get used to it, the acceptance of Dry Sanitation is high. ELA partner NGO CAAW in the south of Kyrgyzstan, who constructed 91 UDDT in 2009 and 26 in 2008, asked the users: “How does the Dry Toilet change your life?” Almost all respondents (96%) saw only positive aspects. The families also noticed a positive health impact, including saving of money they previously used to buy medicines. It is not the dry toilet alone, which makes people

Hand wash basins in Tianeti school toilet, Georgia



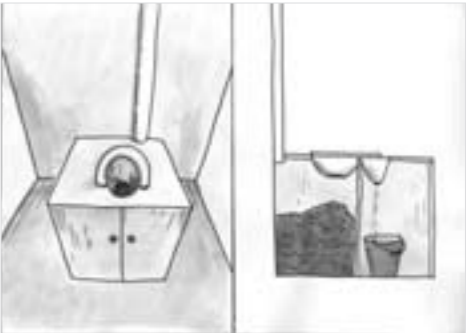
healthier. A pit latrine poses health risks, e.g. due to its attracting flies. More important, pit latrines are often not cleaned at all; people used to having no other toilet often lack hygiene habits such as washing hands after using the lavatory. Constructing toilets is hence always supported by trainings helping people change their hygiene behaviour accordingly. In 2009, WECF ELA partners in Central Asia developed a special tool to conduct such trainings. “Participatory Hygiene and Ecological Sanitation Transformation” (PHAEST) is an adapted version of PHAST, a methodology originally developed by WHO. PHAEST participants analyze and categorize hygiene behaviour, discuss safe and unsafe toilets, and learn about pathogens in excreta. They also conduct a gender analysis. Maintenance and operation of UDDT, including handling and applying fertilizer are taught in a participative way. Central Asian ELA partners successfully use the PHAEST method.

School sanitation: girls school attendance

The overwhelming majority of village schools in the ELA project countries only have pit latrines, which are as a rule in a very bad state. Children, especially girls, try to avoid using these toilets. This has a negative impact on their learning.

A functioning toilet, which is pleasant to use, is an important precondition for a proper learning environment. In 2009, ELA partners built UDDT facilities for 19 schools with 6400 pupils. One of these schools is the first school UDDT in Georgia, in the remote mountain town Tianeti. This school has 380 pupils, 85 of which are socially vulnerable children who stay the whole day in school.

Such picture cards of UDDT are used in participative PHAEST workshops





The UDDT of Al-Buhari Madrasah

ELA partners in Central Asia use the PHAEST method to train school children. One example is the “Saidakmatov” school in Nooruz village in Kyrgyzstan. Every pupil now brings his or her own towel and soap to use at the school’s UDDT. The children have even begun to teach their parents at home that if you don’t wash your hands with soap, then you will be an ill daddy or mama.

Closing the nutrient loop: sustainable sanitation and sustainable agriculture

In order to be truly sustainable, the UDDT sanitation system requires the reuse of sanitized urine and faeces in gardening or agriculture. Household toilets normally produce just enough fertilizer for the homestead plot close to the house. Large amounts of urine are collected in school toilets, providing fertilizer for agricultural fields; e.g. a school with 600 children produces fertilizer for about 10 ha. The fertilizing effects speak for themselves: “After one week, the cucumber watered with urine clearly acquired velvety green colour. As for the cucumber on the control plot, which was only watered, it had its fruit flowers poorly developed” (NGO SEMA, Georgia). Anora, a farmer collaborating with the Kyrgyz NGO CAAW, reported: “After using urine in our garden, our plants grow much faster. I now have a better strawberry harvest than my neighbours.

My strawberries are also bigger and more tasty.” ULGU, a farmers’ NGO in Southern Kyrgyzstan, conducted many experiments, fertilizing potatoes, corn, wheat, alfalfa, and nut and poplar saplings with different concentrations of urine, and combinations of urine and compost or bio-humus. The harvest was between 20% and even 90% higher than in the unfertilized control plots, depending on the crops and the fertilization amounts and periods.

Closing the nutrient loop is only one aspect of successful sustainable agriculture. Partners also supported farmers to convert to ecological farming methods such as crop rotation, applying green manure and compost, or phytotherapy to combat pests in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. They also covered economical issues, and the formation of farmer groups.

Religious implications: Islam and Ecological Sanitation

When confronted with the sustainable sanitation concept for the first time, villagers in Central Asia frequently cite their religion as a reason why they would not accept the ideas of UDDT or using excreta as a fertilizer. But by far not all Muslim believers think that way. To the contrary, many religious leaders found the concept of ecological sanitation to be very well in line with Islam and its



A solar collector provides warm water for laundry and shower

commandment of cleanliness. The Al-Buhari Madrasah in Aravan county commissioned a UDDT for its 244 students and teachers. The construction received permission from the Local Islamic Leaders Council (Kaziyat). The design of the toilet had to be adapted to the religious requirements: when using the toilet, people should not look towards the Kaaba. Places for ablution are included.

Sustainable Energy

Throughout the EECCA region, energy supply is a problem: households rely to a high degree on fossil fuels or firewood with excessive logging causing increasing deforestation. A major problem is providing heat during winter; but also the daily routines such as cooking or heating water for bath or laundry put a stress on both the environment, women’s work burden and the villager’s budgets. In all ELA project regions, solar energy is abundant. It can be tapped with relatively simple and cheap technologies.

Joint development of a new solar collector and trainings for implementation

WECF concentrated on solar collectors, which heat water using solar energy. The small market for solar equipment is dominated by imported devices. Local production hardly exists,

although effective low-cost solar collectors can easily be constructed from materials available on local markets. The knowledge gap between the EECCA region and western European countries is very large.

As a step towards closing this gap, WECF in cooperation with students of Université de Savoie / IUT Annecy (France), RCDA (Misaktsieli, Georgia), and Solar Partner Sued company (Kienberg, Germany) developed a simple, but effective iron flat-plate solar collector with heat exchanger, which can be constructed with locally available materials. It is capable of working the whole year, providing warm water even in the cold winters of the Caucasian mountains. 26 such collectors are already working in 7 villages in Georgia, Armenia, and Ukraine. Connected to a shower and a Urine Diverting Dry Toilet room with a sink, they provide for warm water in a comfortable way in village houses, which before lacked such sanitary facilities.

Another important technology of trainings are self-made cost-effective solar fruit dryers. Dried fruit offer good market opportunities for villagers in the South Caucasus countries; effective drying enhances their incomes and can be installed by women..

Solar collectors and a solar house heating system were the topic of a workshop conducted in Lenger, South Kazakhstan in cooperation with Solar Partner Sued, Germany, and the Kazakh NGOs UGAM and MCJM. This workshop was supported by the German Federal Environment Ministry. Knowledge transfer was complemented by internships of 4 partners from Georgia and Kazakhstan at Solar Partner Sued. Due to these activities, there is a growing interest and awareness of partner organisations especially in solar collectors and solar fruit driers.

Energy efficiency: house insulation with natural materials

Providing heat to keep your home warm and cosy in winter is of little use if the house is poorly insulated and a large part of the heat is directly lost. Addressing this issue, the Kyrgyz NGOs CAMP Alatoo, CEEBA, and WECF organized a 3-week seminar on insulation and energy efficient construction with sustainable local materials for interested NGOs, architects, engineers and local craftsmen in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan. It included assessment of the local building material market, a one-week theoretical seminar, and a practical insulation workshop. As a result, an energy efficient demonstration building was planned and an existing building was insulated with straw, cane, hay and clay. The collected workshop and training materials provide a training module that is ready to be used.

Based on this year’s experience, the leaflet “Improving livelihoods in rural areas with sustainable energy – practical solutions” was published by WECF. It shows the different possibilities and WECF activities on solar collectors, fruit dryers, energy efficiency and other sustainable technologies like biogas (supported by the German Federal Environment Ministry).

Improving drinking water supply in villages
Safe drinking water is an important precondition for human health, as is observing basic hygiene rules. A high nitrate level in the groundwater is an indicator of anthropogenic pollution from pit latrines. All ELA partner collect data on the nitrate content in the drinking water of their project communities. In many cases, nitrate levels found are far beyond the limits safe for human consumption. The data is accessible at: wecf.eu/toni. By replacing pit latrines with Urine Diverting Dry Toilets, this source of pollution is eliminated. The effect will show, however, only over the course of many years.

Water Safety Plans

The water supply system in many villages of the EECCA region has been deteriorating since the downfall of the Soviet Union. Rights, competencies, and ownership have been changing, villagers lack sufficient information. One way to address this situation are Water Safety Plans (WSP) with schools. In 2009, groups in 13 schools in Georgia, Armenia, Ukraine, and Moldova conducted their own water safety plans, incorporated into the schools’ curricula. The plan of the Secondary Public School in Sepieti village in western Georgia involves 55 pupils and 9 teachers. The children started by making a special map localizing polluted drinking water sources in their village, visualizing results of water analyses and their own research into the state of drinking water supply. They conducted nitrate quick tests: the water in 9 of 45 analyzed wells had too high nitrate contents. As the children found out, these wells are close to drainage channels, which are blocked and filled with cattle manure, probably the main source of the nitrate pollution. They made the results known by organizing quizzes and competitions with their fellow pupils and families. They plan to bring all stakeholders together in 2010 and jointly work out a plan how to improve their situation.

Water Users’ Associations

The centralized water supply system Sverdlov village in northern Armenia used to have in Soviet times had completely stopped to functioning. There was only one public tap left providing water for some hours once or twice a week. In 2009, the villagers took the initiative to rebuild their old supply system, exchanging rotten pipes and resealing the reservoirs. Since the community lacked the funds to acquire new pipes or construction materials, Lore Eco Club and World Vision Armenia supported the villagers’ efforts by providing materials, machinery and the service of a water supply engineer. Most of the 1300 villagers now have an almost daily water supply, but work still remains to be done to assure a daily supply for all villagers. A self-managed water users’ association is currently being formed, which will guarantee the sustainability of this project. The WECF-ELA network supports the villagers in setting up this association by connecting them to functioning associations in Kyrgyzstan.



safe school sanitation: helping girls to attend schools more



Improving drinking water supplies in villages



Overview of WECF publications and Press in 2009

WECF received noticeably more press coverage over the last couple of years. On the next pages we will present you the highlight of press coverage on WECF in Europe and worldwide. The press coverage presented here is in English, Dutch, German or French. For press releases and press coverage in Russian and other Central Asian and Eastern European languages, visit our www.wecf.eu.

DVD – Image Film

WECF released an image film on DVD on all facets of her work. Presenting: 15 years of Women in Europe for a Common Future Working for a Healthy environment for all Produced by WECF.

Most prominent press releases – International
16.01.2009 | Art exhibition “Entropia” with the art work of David Cherni where Bulgaria was portrayed as a cluster of squatting toilets, WECF calls attention to the Bulgarian sanitation problems.

17.02.2009 | Nairobi UNEP GC: women’s, indigenous, environmental, youth groups around the world call for action to keep nuclear out of the clean development mechanism.

17.03.2009 | Special Gender Session at World Water Forum 5 in Istanbul calls for attention to the problems caused by a lack of safe access to the water and sanitation whose victims are mostly poor women.

07.04.2009 | European Parliament voted for the elimination of new food with tiny nanoparticles from the stores until there are good tests which show that nanotechnology is safe for the environment and public health.

24.04.2009 | The first ever high level international expert conference on chrysotile asbestos and health in Kazakhstan: participants agreed on a resolution.

08.06.2009 | Anti-Nuke-Action during UNFCCC Climate Change Talks in Bonn was organized by Ecodefense, Gendercc, Life and WECF on June 08.

19.06.2009 | Russian human rights organisation “Planet of Hopes” from Ozersk has won court case against government’s tax department.

24.08.2009 | Stockholm World Water Prize was for the first time ever awarded to the sanitation sector, to the Indian activist Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak.

Most prominent press releases in Dutch
14.03.2009 | Vijf minutenklus voor uw gezondheid. De recente wetgeving van de Europese Unie geeft de consument het recht om te weten of bepaalde giftige chemische stoffen worden gebruikt in alledaagse producten.

09.09.2009 | Op de Dag van de Duurzaamheid fietste WECF met een bakfiets vol badeendjes door een Utrechtse jonge gezinnen woonwijk om aandacht te brengen aan chemische stoffen als PVC en ftalaten die badeendjes en andere speelgoed kunnen bevatten.

12.12.2009 | WECF vraagt ouders om Sinterklaas zijn werk naar eer en geweten te doen want recent onderzoek van de Voedsel Waren Autoriteit laat namelijk zien dat bijna dertig procent van speelgoed gemaakt van zacht kunststof verboden ftalaten bevat.

Media Highlights in 2009 – International
14.01.2009 | Pesticides Action Network (PAN) newsletter Article on WECF symposium on Development Disorders in European Parliament

04.03.2009 | Blip TV
Interview with Doris Moeller from WECF.

27.04.2009 | Environmentalexpert.com
WECF symposium on substitution of hazardous chemicals.

04.05.2009 | Article in Bangladesh’s The New Nation, Internet Edition
Kazakhstan open to debate on asbestos.

12.05.2009 | globalpost.com
“Do you know what’s in that teddy bear?”, interview with WECF’s Alexandra Caterbow during SAICM conference in Geneva.

13.05.2009 | SIN Reporter 1
“Playing with Chemicals”.

30.06.2009 | Environment Management Blog
Link to WECF’s Safe Sanitation film.

30.06.2009 | Three articles by IRC,
co-organiser of the special session at WWF5 in Istanbul, on Gender, Water and Sanitation.

23.06.2009 | Water 21 magazine (magazine of the International Water Association)
A sanitation shortfall of Europe’s small communities.

19.06.2009 | Rotterdam Convention website
WECF at Conference on Asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan (pictures and report).

24.08.2009 | Blip TV
Interview with Dr. Claudia Wendland on sanitation in Europe, WECF featured during Stockholm Water Week.

24.11.2009 | The Connexion, France
Toxic toy warning for Xmas shoppers, an article on WECF France’s Toxic Toys Campaign in English.

30.10.2009 | The Ecologist, UK’s leading environmental magazine
How to reduce toxins and ‘green’ your baby’s nursery, an article on Project Nesting.

Media Highlights in the Netherlands and Belgium in 2009
19.03.2009 | Kanaal Z and Knack/Le Vif website
Interview with WECF Director Sascha Gabizon on Belgian business channel on reaching the water and sanitation MDG



05.06.2009 | Reformatorisch Dagblad
Badeendje kan zomaar gifkikker zijn.

05.06.2009 | Reformatorisch Dagblad
Veel speelgoed bevat foute stoffen.

05.06.2009 | Reformatorisch Dagblad
Brochure is bangmakerij, a reaction of the Organisation of the Dutch Toys Suppliers on WECF Toys Guide.

19.06.2009 | KidsDaily.nl
Deze milieuvriendelijke Speelgoedwijzer geeft tips voor het kopen van veilig speelgoed!

03.08.2009 | Ikvader.nl (Dutch fathers’ website)
Milieuvriendelijke speelwijzer geeft advies.

21.08.2009 | Brussels Log, Financieel Dagblad
Baby room directive.

24.08.2009 | duurzaamnieuws.nl
Test je Nest! Onderzoek naar luchtkwaliteit babykamer.

31.08.2009 | Brussels Blog van het Financieel Dagblad
Babykamerrichtlijn, about WECF’s ‘Test Your Nest!’ campaign.

30.09.2009 | Radio Netherlands World Service
TV report on WECF Toxic Toys event in residential area of Utrecht.

12.10.2009 | De Betere Wereld
Een veilig en gezond nest voor baby’s.

09.10.2009 | Water Special, P+ Magazine
Te droog, te nat, an article about problems in the Romanian countryside.

26.11.2009 | Mondiaal Nieuws, Belgium
Lood, cadmium, chroom en tin in speelgoed.

12.11.2009 | Agrarisch Dagblad
Vrouwen spelen een belangrijke en bepalende rol in de landbouw.

Media Highlights in France in 2009
11.02.2009 | Le Dauphiné
Devoted to the environment, a report on the 4 French students who helped build and install solar panels with WECF partners in Georgia.

February 2009 | Le Messenger genevois
Chemical pollutants, tips for protecting children.

12.03.2009 | TF1 Daily news
Nesting workshop, one of the major French TV channels filmed a Nesting workshop.

April 2009 | cdurable.info
WECF edits a guide to help choose non toxic toys.

April 2009 | Le Dauphiné
Protecting babies’ health.

April-June 2009 | L’Ecologiste, nr 10
The EU authorizes toxic chemicals in toys.

May 2009 | Infobébés
Bisphenol A, what should we do?, a major parents magazine interviewed Anne Barre.

09.07.2009 | Le Messenger
Training of workshops facilitators by WECF France.

10.08.2009 | afnor.fr
A guide for toxic free toys.

11.11.2009 | C’est Notre Affaire
Toxic toys under the Christmas tree, a TV program with presentation of a Nesting workshop, toys guide and interview of Anne Barre.

24.11.2009 | fenetreurope.com
Consumers: how to make the good choice for toys.

28.11.2009 | Le Monde
Workshops to empty cupboards from toxic products, the major national newspaper reports on Nesting interactive workshops for parents.

16.12.2009 | France 3 Ile de France, daily news
Interview of WECF on toys guide and Project Nesting activities in France.

December 2009 | Consumer Protection Magazine
60 Millions de Consommateurs.

December 2009 | Radio Suisse Romande
Chemicals in toys, WECF interview on the new Toys Safety Directive and why toys still contain hazardous chemicals.

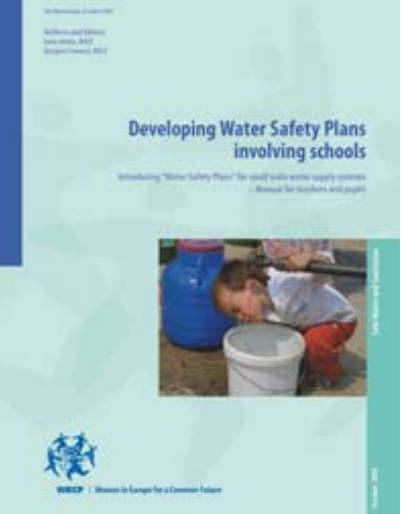
December 2009 | securikids.com
The unwanted alliance of toxic chemicals and toys.

December 2009 | Credit Agricole
Choose healthier toys.

Media Highlights in Germany, Switzerland and Austria in 2009
Frauenansichten 2010 – Gesunde Luft für unsere Räume. Ein Lesekalender zu Umwelt und Gesundheit Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit Interview Silvia Pleschka: Wer duftet am besten im ganzen Land.

06.02.2009 | spielzeug.suite101.de Ratgeber schadstofffreies Spielzeug: rechtzeitig zur Spielzeugmesse Nürnberg. Verbrauchertipps der WECF.

10.02.2009 | Sonne Wind & Wärme 3/2009
Von Kienberg nach Kirgisistan.



10.02.2009 | kaenguru-online.de
Schadstofffreies Spielzeug.

10.02.2009 | chemie.de
WECF veröffentlicht Ratgeber mit Tipps zum Kauf von schadstofffreiem Spielzeug.

10.02.2009 | taz.de
Giftladungen im Kinderzimmer.

13.02.2009 | Süddeutsche Zeitung
Leserbrief zu “Europa setzt wieder auf Atomenergie.

19.02.2009 | swissfamily.ch
Marktinfo: Auf Nummer sicher beim Spielzeugkauf.

25.02.2009 | all4family.at
WECF veröffentlicht Ratgeber mit Tipps zum Kauf von schadstofffreiem Spielzeug.

06.03.2009 | Süddeutsche Zeitung
Raus aus der Defensive! Gleichberechtigung? Eine Umfrage zum Weltfrauentag.

11.03.2009 | Apug Newsletter Nr. 20
"Nestbau": Neues interaktives Spiel zum gesunden Kinderzimmer.

18.03.2009 | dradio.de
Privates Geld für EU-geprüfte Vorhaben Deutsch-landfunk .

20.03.2009 | umweltschau.de
Sie denken, Sie leben in einer gesunden Umwelt? Irrtum! Frauen fordern eine gesunde Umwelt für alle – WECF!

23.03.2009 | DNR EU-Koordination –EU – News
Weltwassertag und EU-Wasserpolitik Wenn die EU sämtliche Potentiale für ein sichere sanitäre Grundversorgung nutzen würden, wären 20 Mil-lionen Menschen in den armen Ländern der EU nicht mehr auf menschenunwürdige Plumpsklos angewiesen.

March 2009 | Umweltschutz schafft Per-spektiven, BMU. Wir brauchen ehrliche Produkte, Interview mit Sonja Haider, S.90.

April 2009 | Hydrologie und Wasserbewirtschaf-tung, S.117 Sanitäre Grundversorgung in Europa: aus "Europes's Sanitation Problem", Report of the World Water Week Seminar.

06.04.2009 | lenz-aktas.de
Politischer Frühling“ im Zeichen Europas. Die Kreis SPD startet den "Politischen Frühling".

07.04.2009 | mt-online.de
Mit Giftstoffen im Kinderzimmer spielen. Mindener Tageblatt – Minden atuell.

April 2009 | Der Spatz Nr. 1/09, S. 34
Spielerisch zu gesunden Kinderzimmer. Nestbauwebsite lädt mit interaktiven Spiel zur Sicherheitstour durch's Kinderzimmer.

14.04.2009 | chemie.de
Europäische Union weist Verwendung von Nano-partikel in ihre Schranken. WECF sieht den Beginn eines kritischen Umgangs mit neuen Technologien.

April 15 | Eltern 5/2009, S.127
Einkaufsführer für Spielzeug.

April 2009 | Renovation, Das Fachmagazin für Bauherrn, Planer und Handwerker, Nr. 2/09, S. 23
Nestbau.

May 19 | eu-koordination.de
International Chemikalienpolitik auf dem richtigen Weg? – Gastkommentar. Bericht aus Genf von Sonja Haider.

June 2009 | Spielen und Lernen, Zeitschrift für Eltern und Kinder, 06/09, S.10 Sicheres Spielzeug. Ratgeber gibt Eltern konkrete Kaufhilfen.

June 2009 | ENDSreport, Ausgabe 6, S. 6ff
Kleine Teilchen, große Verantwortung



June 2009 | Kidy swiss family, Nr.40, S. 67
Interaktive Tour durch's Kinderzimmer.

13.08.2009 | Schweizer Familie 33/2009, S. 37
Der grüne Tipp – "Gesundes Spielzeug".

09.09.2009 | contratom.de Neuerscheinung:
"Die Kernfrage" Insider berichten über ihre Erfahrung mit der Kernfrage.

24.09.2009 | UmweltBriefe 19/ 2009 Über ihre Berührung und Erfahrung der Kernenergie.

27.10.2009 | schattenblick.de
Koalition missachtet Gefahren der Atomkraft. WECF veröffentlicht Interviews von Insidern über ihre persönliche leidvolle Erfahrung mit der Atomkraft.

28.10.2009 | genanet.de
Frauen aktiv gegen Atomenergie.

October 2009 | Profi Kosmetik, Nr. 10, S. 20
EU-Schranken für Nanopartikel.

November 2009 | energiezukunft, Heft 7/2009, S. 31, Buch: Die Kernfrage.

10.12.2009 | eco-world.de Anti-Atom-Aktion bei der Meerjungfrau in Kopenhagen.

December 2009 | DNR umwelt aktuell, 12.2009/1.2010, S.41f Gesellschaftliche Kernfrage.

Publications of WECF in 2009
20.01.2009 | Europe's Sanitation Problem
WECF report on seminar during Stockholm World Water Week.

14.02.2009 | Linking breast cancer and our envi-ronment The politics of prevention, a WECF publication available in English, Dutch and French.

03.03.2009 | Making Sustainable Sanitation work for women and men, A publication by WECF integrating a gender perspective into sanitation initiatives.

03.03.2009 | Digestion of Blackwater and Kitchen Refuse. Dissertation by Claudia Wendland, WECF Sanitation Coordinator.

21.04.2009 | Introducing Sustainable Sanitation in Kyrgyzstan Case Study: an analysis of success factors and barriers.

15.07.2009 | Developing water safety plans involv-ing schools. A WECF manual in Romanian, Russian and English.

24.08.2009 | Sustainable and Safe School Sanita-tion. A WECF publication in English and Russian.

10.10.2009 | Ecological sanitation and hygienic considerations for women. WECF factsheet on ecosan for women available in English and Russian.

16.10.2009 | "Wrack ab!" – 100 good reasons against nuclear energy. A WECF publication in German.

30.10.2009 | WECF Toys Guide. A guide of how to choose toxic-free toys in English, French, German, Dutch, Greek and Chinese.

20.11.2009 | Ecological cleaning and prevention of mould. A WECF publication in German.

01.12.2009 | WECF's position on biofuels. WECF critical towards use of biofuels.

11.12.2009 | The Critical Question and Die Kern-frage. A WECF publication in German and English on nuclear's impact on people's lives.

Members

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WECF has had active members since 1996 that are classified in 3 categories.

- Full members** (with full voting rights)
- NGOs with articles of association that endorses the mission of the WECF network.
 - Individual members (<50% of the votes at any meeting)
 - Environment & Sustainable Development committees or working groups within larger organisations

Associate members (no voting rights)

Individual members

Full Members (full voting right)		
Nr.	Name	Country
1	Katachel e.V.	Afghanistan
2	Eden Center (Environmental center for Development, Education and networking	Albania
3	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)	Armenia
4	Charitable Women	Armenia
5	Lore Eco Club NGO	Armenia
6	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG	Armenia
7	Eco-Lur	Armenia
8	Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO	Armenia
9	Rural Sustainable Development	Armenia
10	Digital Development	Azerbaijan
11	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative	Belarus
12	Ecosphere	Belarus
13	Viktorija 99	Bosnia
14	Earth Forever Foundation	Bulgaria
15	Agentura Gaia	Czech Republic
16	WECF France	France
17	Akhalsikhe Center of Social Development	Georgia
18	Caucasus Environment Foundation, NGO	Georgia
19	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA	Georgia
20	Georgian Association of Toxicologists	Georgia
21	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
22	Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
23	Women NGO "Paros"	Georgia
24	Rural Communities Development Agency	Georgia
25	SEMA	Georgia
26	VHUE e.V. - Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter	Germany
27	WECF Germany	Germany

28	Green City	Germany
29	Clean up Greece	Greece
30	Large Family Association Nagycsaládok Országos Egyesülete	Hungary
31	Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)	Ireland
32	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency	Kazakhstan
33	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"	Kazakhstan
34	Alga, Rural Women's NGO	Kyrgyzstan
35	BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
36	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water	Kyrgyzstan
37	ULGU , public association	Kyrgyzstan
38	UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
39	Camp Alatoo	Kyrgyzstan
40	SO SPS (Mutual Aid Association)	Latvia
41	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia	Macedonia
42	Ecotox	Moldova
43	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldava (WISDOM)	Moldova
44	Ecospectrum	Moldova
45	Eco-Tiras	Moldova
46	Terra 1530	Moldova
47	Ecobaby, Stichting	Netherlands
48	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)	Netherlands
49	Meldpunten Netwerk Gezondheid en Milieu	Netherlands
50	Nederlandse Bond van Plattelands-vrouwen	Netherlands
51	ZijActief	Netherlands
52	Network of East-West women Polska	Poland
53	Social Ecological Institut	Poland
54	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC	Romania
55	Geo San	Romania
56	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia	Romania
57	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims	Russia
58	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'	Russia
59	Nabat Muslyomovo	Russia
60	Planet of Hopes	Russia
61	Step Forward Snezhinsk	Russia
62	Ural's Women Network - Argayash	Russia
63	Ural's Women Network - Kashi	Russia
64	Global Action Plan	Sweden
65	Environmental Protection Network	Sweden
66	Youth Ecological Center	Tajikistan
67	SAFO Sughd	Tajikistan
68	ASDP Nau	Tajikistan
69	Bugday	Turkey
70	EKOBA	Turkey
71	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe	UK
72	Women's Environmental Network - WEN	UK



Full Members (full voting right)

Nr.	Name	Country
73	Black Sea Women' Club	Ukraine
74	Mama-86 Artemivsk	Ukraine
75	Mama-86 Kharkiv	Ukraine
76	Mama-86 Kiev	Ukraine
77	Mama-86 Poltava	Ukraine
78	Mama-86 Sevastopol	Ukraine
79	Mama-86 Yaremche	Ukraine
80	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS	Ukraine
81	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"	Ukraine
82	Vozrozhdenie	Ukraine
83	Mehriban	Uzbekistan
84	SABR Trust Center	Uzbekistan
85	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO `Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa	Uzbekistan

Associate Members

Nr.	Name	Country
1	"Meghvik" children and youth NGO	Armenia
2	Ecolur Information NGO	Armenia
3	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace	Austria
4	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights	Azerbaijan
5	ECOS NGO; Environmental Sustainability	Azerbaijan
6	TETA-KHAZRI	Azerbaijan
7	ISS Independent Social Support	Belarus
8	Association Eco-world 2007	Bulgaria
9	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique	France
10	Unser Land	Germany
11	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption	Kazakhstan
12	Eco-Museum	Kazakhstan

Associate Members

Nr.	Name	Country
13	Public Ass Medical Alliance	Kyrgyzstan
14	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology	Lithuania
15	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC	Lithuania
16	Eco-sense/ Eko-svest	Macedonia
17	Cutezatorul Public Association	Moldova
18	Institutul de Cercetari Pentru Culturile de Cimp 'Selectia" ICCC "Selectia"	Moldova
19	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling	Netherlands
20	Euro Teleorman	Romania
21	Eco Accord	Russia
22	Environmental Youth Club	Russia
23	Environmental Ambassadors	Serbia
24	Ozone	Serbia
25	Centerwomen	Sweden
26	Women for Environment	Ukraine
27	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation	Ukraine
28	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation	Ukraine
29	Concord	Uzbekistan

Individual Members

Nr.	Name	Country
1	Karine Danielyan	Armenia
2	Inga Zaratyan	Armenia
3	Catherine Wattiez	Belgium
4	Muborak Sharipova	Denmark
5	Elisabeth Ruffingo	France
6	Nita Chaudhuri	France
7	Dalila Khorava	Georgia
8	Dr Minnu Hemmati	Germany
9	Sabine Brückmann	Germany
10	Silvia Pleschka	Germany
11	Caterina Choreftaki	Greece
12	Angela Klauschen	Greece
13	Olivie Scuderoni	Italy
14	Svetlana Bashtovenko	Kyrgyzstan
15	Inese Eistere	Latvia
16	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezian	Lebanon
17	Adriana Debora Hulsmann	Netherlands
18	Irene Dankelmann	Netherlands
19	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute	Netherlands
20	Kitty Bentvelsen	Netherlands
21	Pamela Lawson	Netherlands
22	Rosemarie b.j. Oude Luttikhuis-Merz	Netherlands

Individual Members

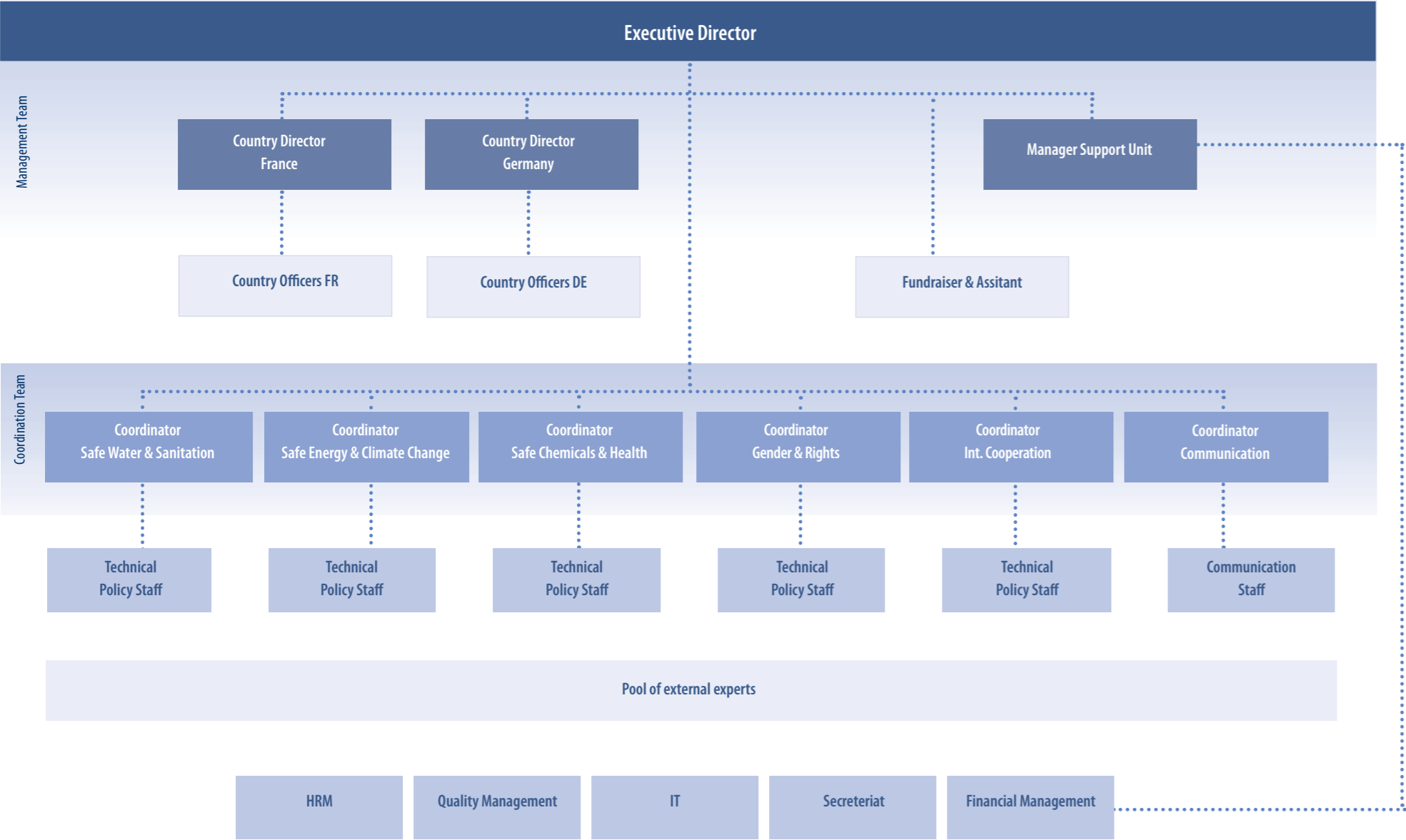
Nr.	Name	Country
23	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink	Netherlands
24	Willy Douma	Netherlands
25	Anita Harting	Netherlands
26	Livia de Metz	Netherlands
27	Sophia Hiddema	Netherlands
28	Olga Senova	Russia
29	Patimat Gadzhieva	Russia
30	Victoria Elias	Russia
31	Ivana Blagojevic	Serbia
32	Katarina Korytarova	Slovakia
33	Maja Bavdaz Solce	Slovenia
34	Isabel Ripa	Spain
35	Viviana Avendano	Spain
36	Anne-Sofie Andersson	Sweden
37	Mildred Thulin	Sweden
38	Karin Sondergard	Sweden
39	Mine Yapar	Turkey
40	Clare Flenley	UK
41	Helen Lynn	UK
42	Sonia McLay	UK
43	Galushkiva Tatijana	Ukraine
44	Victoria Yurescue	Ukraine
45	Claire Greensfelder	USA
46	Mark Hengen	USA
47	Karimova Nodira	Uzbekistan

Associate Partners (partners in WECF projects)

Za Zemiata	Bulgaria
Baltic Environment Forum	Estonia
Global Dry Toilet Association	Finland
SERA – Santé Environnement	France
Geres	France
Atmosfair	Germany
Women Life On Earth	Germany/USA
Otterwasser	Germany
Borda	Germany
Energia Klub	Hungary
SPARE	Norway
Swedish Society for Nature Cons	Sweden
Women's Institute	UK



WECF Organogram 2009



International Advisory Board

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.

Name	Function	Country
Irene Dankelman	Chair / gender & environment	Netherlands
Svetlana Slesarenok	Co-chair	Ukraine
Sascha Gabizon	Director WECF	Netherlands
Nadjesda Kutepova	Energy - alternate	Russia
Diana Iskreva	Sanitation	Bulgaria
Anna Tsvetkova	Water & Sanitation	Ukraine
Victoria Elias	Biodiversity & Public Participation	Russia
Viviane Avandana	Sustainable Rural Development & Sanitation	Spain
Sabine Brückmann	Sustainable Rural Development	Germany
Olga Speranskaya	Chemicals & Health	Russia
Helen Lynn	Chemicals & Health	UK
Elena Manvelian	Health	Armenia


Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The Board of Trustees meets at least 2 times per year to approve the years accounts and report, and to approve the upcoming years budget and workplan.


Christine v. Weizsäcker	President
Marjon Reiziger	Vice-president
Bert Kuiter	Treasurer
Willy Douma	Secretary
Grietjes Zeeman	Member
Marianne Nugteren	Member


WECF Working Groups


The WECF network currently works through 5 working groups. WECF working groups prepare common statements and exchange information through 7 email mailing lists.


 **Safe Chemicals**
safechemicals@mailman.wecf.eu

 **Safe food production and Rural Development**
agri@mailman.wecf.eu

 **Health and Environment**
health@mailman.wecf.eu

 **Safe Water and Sanitation**
water@mailman.wecf.eu

 **Safe Energy and Climate Change**
energy@mailman.wecf.eu

 Cross-cutting:
Gender mainstreaming in Sustainable Development
gender@mailman.wecf.eu

WECF members and partners
wecfnews@googlegroups.com



Staff

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.

Sascha Gabizon

Executive Director

Anne Barre

Director, France / Switzerland

Sabine Bock

Director Germany/
Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

Maureen Brouwer

Head Staff Office

Gemma Ferst

Coordinator International Policy & Fundraising

Gero Fedtke

Coordinator International Programmes

Margriet Samwel

Coordinator Water

Claudia Wendland

Coordinator Sanitation

Demi Theodori

Coordinator Chemicals & health

Sabine Brückmann

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

Anke Stock

Environment and Women's Rights

Alexandra Caterbow,

Coordinator Chemicals International

Nicole van Gemert

Policy Officer

Bistra Mihaylova-Grigorova

Project Officer, Bulgaria

Tatiana Deriviago

Project Officer, Belarus

Anna Samwel

Regional coordinator Caucasus

Fedde Jorritsma

Regional coordinator Central Asia

Olga Plekhanova

Country Officer Eastern Europe and Russia

Olivia Radu

Country Officer Romania and Moldova

Farida Shorukova

Project Assistant Central Asia

Magdalena Black

Project officer Agriculture and Energy

Doris Moeller

Project Assistant Water & Sanitation

Regina Drexel

Project assistant Energy and Climate Change

Elisabeth Ruffinengo

Advocacy officer

Natalia Dejean

Coordinator and Project Developer

Stefan Deegner

Ecological Sanitation Management

Chantal van den Bossche

Public Relations, Press and Website

Johanna Hausmann

Public Relations & Press Germany

Karin Adolph

Press Officer Germany

Lies de Bloois

Controller

Annemarie Hekkers

Office Administrator

Sabine Hanisch

Office Manger and Bookkeeper Germany

Margreet Munneke

Bookkeeper, the Netherlands

Nelleke van Ziel

Office Manager

Dalena Bischeltsrieder

Executive Assistant

Véronique Grassinger

Corporate Identity & Publications

Experts

Patrick Meyer

Webdesigner

Herbert Danner

Consultant Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy

Nita Chaudhuri

Environment & Health Promotion Expert

Consultant

Ingrid Elbertse

Consultant Environment
& Health, Lawyer

WECF Balance as per 31 December 2009 in Euro

	2009	2008
Assets		
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	10.865	21.738
Current assets		
Receivables and prepayments	410.069	339.854
Cash at banks and in hand	179.425	48.661
	589.494	388.515
Total	600.359	410.253
Capital and liabilities		
Capital		
Continuity reserve	66.774	34.528
Current liabilities		
Work in progress		
Project expenses	-5.221.699	-2.794.439
Advance payments	5.515.571	2.972.114
	293.872	177.675
Trade payables and accruals	210.883	195.186
Payables from related parties	28.830	2.864
	533.585	375.725
Total	600.359	410.253
Continue to reserve		
Balance as at 1 January	34.528	31.352
Result for the year	32.246	3.176
	66.774	34.528

For more information and the auditors opinion we refer to the annual reports 2009. The audited annual financial report is available on the WECF website.

WECF Statement of income and expenditure for the period ended 31 December 2009

	Actual 2009*	Budget 2009	Actual 2008
Source of Income			
Income from received grants governments	2.850.173	3.212.774	3.001.401
Contributions from WECF eV.	39.391	78.750	
Contributions from private foundations	69.753	105.000	120.724
Other income	27.603	23.000	0
Total Income	2986.920	3.419.524	3.122.125

Expenditure

Expenditure			
Sanitation	1.285.436	1.940.890	1.233.093
Water	374.655	267.833	280.440
Energy	280.222	218.533	235.892
Health	402.325	288.075	247.218
Capacity building	73.300	78.435	334.769
Democracy	110.919	93.545	120.849

Expenses relating to objectives	2.526.857	2.887.311	2.452.261
Expenses relating to acquiring funds and grants	40.208	31.300	30.074
Operational and administrative expenses	387.609	513.318	636.414
Total expenditure	2.954.674	3.431.929	3.118.749

Result for the year	32.246	-12.405	3.376
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* The actual expenditures 2009 exclude the expenses of WECF France (100.000 Euro) and WECF Germany (500.000 Euro). Consolidated accounts are aimed at for the year 2010. The German and French WECF financial accounts are available from the offices in Munich and Annemassee.

Observations of the Board of Director

Financial year 2009

The financial year 2009 was a year of consolidation for the organisation, in which quality improvement processes started in 2008 were continued and or finalized, and steps were taken to integrate the financial systems in WECF’s three offices.

WECF invested in diversification of its funding sources, and verified the possibility of obtaining support from new institutional donors and international funding mechanisms. As many funding application processes for larger grants require several months, most results of this effort are expected to bring its fruits in the second half of 2010 and early 2011.

More than 20 international member organisations joined the WECF network, as well as over 50 national members in particular in France. The second year of the “Empowerment and Local Action - ELA” programme, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation, is implemented in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. € 818.000 was directly transferred to over 30 local partner

organisations in 10 countries to provide more than 30,000 low income people with access to improved water, sanitation, energy and agricultural conditions. A further € 1.406.000 went into capacity building, training, policy development, monitoring, evaluation, up scaling activities and sharing of the lessons learned. More than 20 school toilet buildings were build and in operation, and more than 5000 people received access to safe water and sanitation in low-income rural communities. More than 40 participants from 9 EECCA Countries, the Netherlands and Germany participated in the the Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Sanitation in Western-Georgia.

The safe energy program was further developed, WECF organised 3 trainings on how to construct solar collectors, providing hot water for sanitation and heating-support, and organised training on insulation and energy efficiency (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia). French and Dutch students also participated in the programme, and support was provided by a German solar company. In cooperation with Atmosfair, implementing organisation for the Clean Development Mechanism, project identification notes were prepared in order to

verify the possibility to obtain funding from the global carbon finance market.

WECF obtained continued funding of €307.764 for its annual work plan from the European Commission DG Environment, which allowed to continue the European policy activities as well as the network activities, such as the network’s anniversary conference “Innovation for Sustainability” (June, Netherlands), the Thematic meeting on Healthy Environments (January, Luxembourg) and the two meetings of the Safe Energy working group during the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn (June) and Copenhagen (December).

The EU support also allowed WECF to expand the WECF awareness raising tool “Nesting” – a programme that targets young parents on how to create a healthy and safe environment for their new born child. The French website was completely renewed; an English, German, French and Dutch-language version interactive game were added to the website. The EU support also allowed the launching of the Safe Toys consumer guide, WECF most successful publication, which was translated into already 13 languages, including Chinese and Slovenian. And it allowed the creation of the “international safe toys coalition”. The environmental rights working group contributed to the work of the Aarhus Convention secretariat, for instance with the participation in the meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in International Forums and of the Expert Group on Public Participation, with co-funding from the EC DG Environment support.

The water and sanitation working group contributed to international policy processes with more than 5 new publications and the organi-

sation of a Special Gender Session at World Water Forum 5 in Istanbul, together with the UN taskforce on gender and water. WECF was invited to contribute to 2 of the consultation meetings of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, who will make recommendations for a more sustainable realisation of the MDGs, in particular MDG 7 (Co2 emissions reduction). Funding by the Netherlands Ministry of Environment (€160.929) allowed the working group on Safe Chemicals and Health to contribute to national policy processes, including the stakeholder meetings on chemical substances. WECF organised one of the stakeholder meetings on the theme of “substitution of hazardous chemicals – best practices”, where representatives from industry and hospitals presented how they were already phasing out hazardous chemicals in their products and processes. Furthermore, WECF actively contributed to the policy processes on REACH, SAICM, RoSH and Biocides and the nano-technology social dialogues. The 3-year projects on democracy building and sustainable development in Belarus and Moldova, funded by the MATRA programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued in 2009, and allowed 20 demonstration projects to be carried by local communities, to show best practices in the area of solid waste management, sanitation, water protection, energy saving and composting, and to share lessons learned and recommendations with policy makers.

A 2-year project on asbestos and POPs in Kazakhstan, supported with €130,000 by the European Commission and €40,000 by the German Federal Ministry of Environment, started in 2009, and included a first-ever high level

policy conference on chrysotile asbestos and health in Kazakhstan, followed by training sessions in 7 cities and testing of asbestos exposure by an accredited laboratory. It also supported public participation in the Rotterdam Convention meeting.

The 3 year funding by Fondation Ensemble France (€ 69.753 in 2009), with co-funding from the Matra program of the Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest, allowed the organisation of the School Award for the best Water Safety Plan, during International Danube Day, 2009 in Romania. Also, the first Indoor Urine Diverting Dry School Toilet was inaugurated in Romania. Funding by the Ministries of Environment and Health of Austria, Denmark, Germany*, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden allowed us to organise the Children's Environmental Health Good Practice Award, in preparation of the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Italy, which received more than 130 entries from over 34 countries.

A charity concert organized by WECF president in Zaltbommel, the Netherlands, brought together circa € 1.000 for housing improvements in a Roma settlement in Romania, where WECF has been engaged for the past 8 years. With €30,000 co-funding from the French Ministry of Environment*, WECF France started a train the trainers programme and published the trainers handbook. Furthermore, WECF France launched the "Test your Nest" project, in cooperation with the French National Consumer Institute and an independent laboratory, allowing parents in 4 EU countries to test the indoor air quality of their baby's rooms on VOC's and formaldehydes.

Additional funding from the German Ministry of Environment's * "International Climate Initi-

ative" (€160.000) allowed the active participation of NGO representatives from the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian region in the international climate negotiations. WECF and its EECCA members organised high level preparatory climate policy meetings in Tbilisi and Moscow, prepared policy papers and presented them during more than 7 side events at UNFCCC SB and COP meetings.

Support by the Polish-German Batori Foundation* allowed the visit of German mayors and farmers to the Polish region of Mazovia, to promote cooperation for sustainable rural development. The EU DG environment funding provided additional support for WECF working group promoting agro-biodiversity and supporting regions to develop guidelines on how to become GMO-free.

WECF France brought WECF's German partner organisation "Unser Land" to French trade fair "Salon Access" to present its programme with more than 200 local, fair and equitable food products.

The results of the Water Safety Plan projects* in Romania and Bulgaria, and another 5 Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries, were published on the new google-maps based website To-Ni Finder (<http://www.wecf.eu/toni/>), where the independent water quality tests results can be found.

Outlook 2010

As 4 large programmes are moving into their last year of implementation, WECF's budget for 2010 amounts to 2.300.000 Euro, which is a 31% reduction compared to 2009. Measures have been taken to limit expenses. Results regarding outstanding applications for new

programmes will be known in the first half of 2010, and will provide insight into the further development of 2010 and the period 2011-2015. WECF expects several funding applications to be granted, allowing for steady development starting from 2010, and extending WECF's implementation activities to a global scope, as its policy activities already have a global focus. Furthermore, WECF will focus on evaluating and monitoring the results of its main programmes in 2010, bringing the lessons learned into further consolidation and strengthening of its operations and network. WECF will develop its fundraising efforts with the general public to increase its share of project-independent resources.

Sascha Gabizon,

Executive Director WECF

Activities marked with an * are (partly) funded through WECF Germany or WECF France and not or only partial included in the financial accounts.