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Annual Report 2011



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

Working Together for a Healthy Environment for All

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Women in Europe for a Common Future

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

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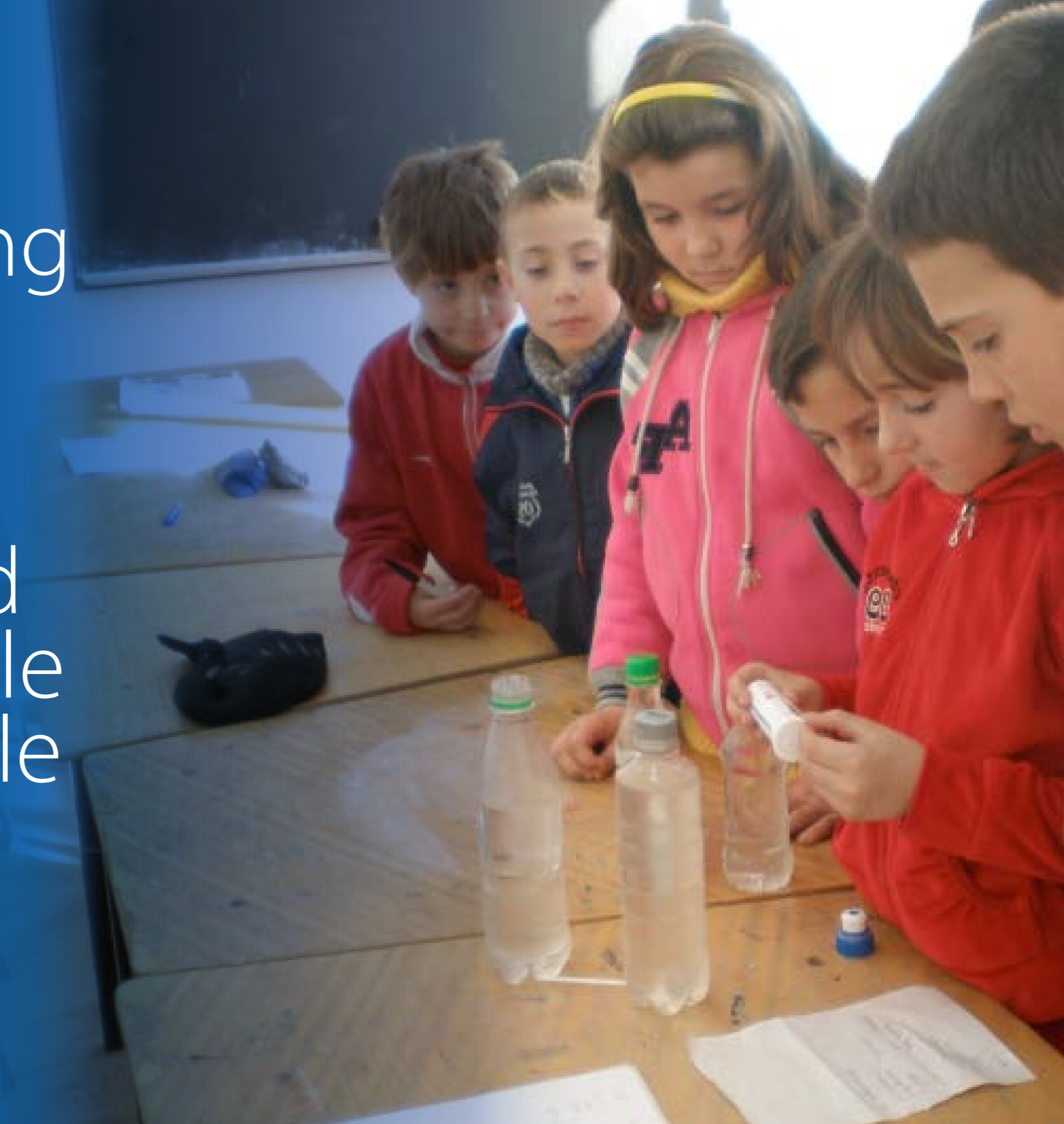
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“Women in Europe working together with women and men all over the world for an equitable and sustainable future”





The year 2011 was foremost marked by the terrible nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima, Japan. Any nuclear operation should be prepared for the worst, or not be allowed to operate. The nuclear operators and the government were not transparent towards the citizens for whose well-being they are responsible. Tests by citizen's groups found that children's playgrounds in the capital Tokyo, well outside of the area from where people had been evacuated, were contaminated with radioactive pollution. Many food products were polluted. The ocean is polluted. First deformed butterflies have already been found near Fukushima. And as radioactive pollution will continue to be dangerous for humans and animals for hundreds and even thousands of years to come, it is sad that once more official health authorities are reporting that the worst health effect from Fukushima is "stress", in a way insinuating that citizens should stop asking questions and just continue their lives as if nothing has happened.

WECF has been calling attention to the great and irresponsible health risks from nuclear industry since its early years. Most policy makers worldwide are unaware about the terrible health effects of the nuclear industry activities in the former Soviet Union, following the testing of atomic bombs in Semipalatinsk and the Mayak Nuclear complex explosions in Chelyabinsk province in the 1950s, from which the local populations continue to suffer, amongst others from birth defects and cancers. But not only exposure to high level radioactivity, also the exposure to low-level radioactivity are leading to unacceptable health effects, as shown by the many ill children living near uranium mines. In the former Soviet Union, houses were built with the waste from uranium mines, exposing families day in day out to radiation. Unfortunately in many countries in the world low radio-active waste has been used in construction works.

Fukushima was a wake-up call, and in 2011 WECF continued to speak out, in Germany, France, Netherlands, Kazakhstan, New York and Nairobi, about the need for a fast phase-out of nuclear energy, and much better legislation regarding opening and clean-up of uranium mines. WECF shared new information on the true cost of nuclear energy, such as the as yet unforeseen high economic costs of dismantling closed power plants, which no country in the world has yet seriously embarked on. We are leaving our children

and grandchildren an unacceptable burden in the form of the immense economic costs and health damage.

2011 was also the year of many successful local transformation projects with our partners. In 8 Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian countries women and men are installing solar water heaters in villages where previously hot water was inaccessible or unaffordable, providing hot water for washing as well as heating, in summer and in wintertime, without creating more CO₂ emissions.

2011 was also the year of the Women Major Group preparations for Rio+20. Partners from 6 African countries held consultations with local women's organisations, NGOs and policy makers, to prepare their own recommendations for the summit of heads of state on sustainable development. WECF leads the Women Major Group for Rio+20, together with our Southern Network partner DAWN – Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, and a strong group of core-partners including WEDO, ENERGIA and Global Forest Coalition.

I am proud to present this annual report to you, as WECF and its partners have achieved admirable results despite the current financial crunch from which all non-profit organisations suffer. Join us if you can, as member, partner or sponsor, to work with us on achieving our goal of a Healthy Environment for All!

Sascha Gabizon
Executive Director WECF



“Taking action for a fair, healthy and safer world for all,”

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Working for a Healthy Environment for All WECF and WICF

WECF in Short

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a network of over 100 organizations and several hundred individual members concerned with promoting a healthy environment for all, strengthening the role of women, and promoting a gender approach in environment and sustainable development policy and implementation at local, regional, national and international levels.

WECF's Work Worldwide

Historically the majority of WECF members have come from European, Caucasus, Central Asian and Balkan countries, though membership is open to organizations worldwide. WECF empowers its member organisations to bring their policy recommendations to international policy makers and into global policy processes by increasing the capacity of international women's organisations and environmental organizations. Specifically, in the context of our work on Climate Justice, Asbestos, Toxic Toys and Rio+20 we work together with partners from the Netherlands, Germany, France, Latin-America, Africa and Asia, as well as with strategic partners who have expertise on women's economic empowerment, green and equitable economic development and international agreements.

WECF's Roots

WECF was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands in response to an initiative of European women driven to work together on sustainable development with a special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Women from the European region who participated in the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 came together to create the network WECF because they recognized the catalyzing role women play in sustainable development as defined in the United Nations report "Our Common Future." The philosophy of WECF has always been to enable local project partners and network members to conduct advocacy work themselves with support

from WECF, whether at local, national or international levels, thus giving direct voices to women and marginalized groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work proved to be very successful and has become one of the strongest distinguishing aspects of the WECF network.

Why Women?

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

Why Europe?

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and the EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the new republics faced many problems. At present there continue to be many challenges in the new EU member states and neighboring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and in some areas are in fact worsening due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management.

WECF's work in Europe and EECCA region

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development with over 100 member organizations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia), SEE, as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development that are adjusted to the local culture, market and climate, based on local needs, and bring lessons learned from the field to policy makers and into regional policy processes.

Our Mission

WECF works for a healthy environment for all, for an equitable and sustainable future. WECF strives for balancing environment, health and economy, taking into account the needs and perspectives of men and women. 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 is coordinated through WECF organizations in the Netherlands (Utrecht), Germany (Munich), and France (Annemasse), and has about 40 part-time staff members. Each national organization has a board and national member organizations, which work in a coordinated manner and present a consolidated account and overall workplan and strategy. WECF has an international Board of Trustees (BoT), bearing the final responsibility for the strategic and financial management of the foundation. The International Advisory Board (IAB) represents WECF's member organisations.

The IAB works in an advisory capacity on strategic issues and organizational development. IAB members (currently 11) are elected by the members of WECF. The Board of Trustees maintains close connections with the IAB by mutual representation at each other's meetings.

WECF implements projects with its partners & engages in policy recommendations and advocacy

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

WECF cooperates with other (network) organizations and research institutes such as the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), the Hamburg Technical University, and also with private companies such as Solar Partner Sud in Germany.

Next to the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, WECF's donors include the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Federal Environmental Agency (UBA), the Rhône-Alpes region (France), European Commission (DG Environment and EuropeAid), the Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Development and the Environment (VROM), Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation France Libertés (France) and the Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland). Natracare is an example of a private sector company supporting WECF activities.

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 at five key issues

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

WECF'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, and the future SDGs for 2030. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities. The right of access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water and food. The right to a daily environment 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.

A selection of some of the 2011 highlights

Safe chemicals and health: the “Nesting – safe indoor environment for your child”

programme in 8 EU countries, and its related “toxic free toys” campaign, were the highlight of the year. More than 237.000 visitors in 2011 on the nesting websites were a proof of the growing interest from parents and consumer for better protecting of their children from harmful substances in the environment. Also medical professionals and midwives asked to become multipliers, a training kit exists in 2 languages, and more than 30 trainings were given also to parents, by trained trainers. The public “toys testing events” in France and the Netherlands attracted a lot of media attention, and both events were features on prime TV and radio. Partners from the South Eastern European region started sharing best practices, and have obtained great deal of media and press attention in Albania and Macedonia, looking also at how to best implement European Chemicals regulation in their countries to protect human health. Nano materials and Endocrine disruptors are new substances of concern, and also here WECF has increased political attention and interest of consumers, through letters to parliamentarians and a critical event at the “nano-festival” in the Netherlands, and active contribution to “nano-dialogues” in Germany and France.

Safe energy and climate protection: The “Art and Climate” project in Germany

brought together international artists in a unique event lasting a week, combining the creation of climate-related art, an art exhibition for the general public with thematic debates, and presentation of video and film material combined with dialogue sessions with the artists, public and decision makers. Art helps to address the climate change issue from another perspective than we are used, and to mobilize other stakeholders. This successful project is looking for upscaling in other countries and regions.

In addition, the Fukushima accident sparked great interest in WECF long-time work on the risks and costs of nuclear energy, with members from nuclear-contaminated regions in Russia receiving an international award “nuclear free future award” for their engagement, and WECF energy coordinator speaking at many public and policy events on the need to keep nuclear out of climate financing mechanisms. WECF continued to advocate for protection of communities in uranium mining areas, and to promote polluter pays and a global trust-fund for clean up of uranium mining tailings.

Gender equality and human rights in environmental policy:

WECF has been elected to take a leading role in a number of policy processes, where it either represents NGOs in general, such as for the Environment for Europe ministerial conference in Astana, or where it represents the Major Group Women – one of the 9 major groups identified in Agenda 21 for the implementation of sustainable development. WECF is co-coordinator for the women and gender constituency for the UNFCCC, and in that role lead the interventions during the Bangkok Climate talks, and at the Durban climate negotiations in 2011.

WECF also coordinates the working group on financial mechanisms of the Women and Gender Constituency at UNFCCC, on how to assure human rights safeguards and gender equality in climate finance instruments. For the upcoming Sustainable Development summit, Rio+20 WECF has a leading role as ‘Organising Partner’ for all the women’s organizations worldwide. The women’s major group has been very active and effective in 2011, with WECF speaking at many policy conferences – in Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Hannover, Geneva, Madrid, Brussels – , promoting strong text proposals for the draft of the governmental declaration, including on areas such as technology assessment and monitoring, public participation, innovative finance and trade.



Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

WECF implements affordable, innovative and sustainable sanitation systems as demonstration projects. WECF demonstration projects focus on creating access to safe water and sanitation for schools and households in low-income rural areas. WECF raises awareness and mobilises citizens for sustainable water and wastewater management. WECF promotes community-based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas which currently do not have a centralised drinking water supply.

WECF brings lessons from its demonstration projects to the policy table. WECF and partners represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health policy process and advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resource and waste water management. WECF also contributes to the work of UN organisations on access to water and sanitation in schools (the UNICEF Wash Campaign) including a focus on menstrual hygiene, aiming to increase the number of girls going to school. WECF contributes to the post-2015 development agenda work on defining targets and indicators for the water and sanitation area. In the European region, WECF monitors and contributes with its lessons learned to the adaptation and implementation of the drinking water directive and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

- 500 people trained
- 980 individual sanitation systems (UDDT)
- 52 toilet buildings for schools and kindergardens (UDDT)
- 120 drinking water supply systems
- 52 soil filters for wastewater treatment for households and schools
- 20.000 people/children with access to sanitation
- 35.000 people/children with access to water
- 10.000 people’s water quality tested



Safe Chemicals for All

WECF and its members advocate for non-chemical alternatives, in the EU and internationally and for the implementation of three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle. WECF highlights the gaps and inadequacies of current legislation and proposes strengthening of chemicals legislation, in particular to protect the most vulnerable. WECF raises awareness amongst consumers on chemical health risks, and encourages them to ask questions about the products they purchase and use. WECF’s core awareness raising programme is “Nesting – creating a safe indoor environment for your baby” which combines online media in 8 languages, workshops for parents and professionals, information guides and product databases and product testing. The consumer information is flanked by policy advocacy through the international “toxic free toys” campaign. In addition to advocating for elimination of toxics in consumer products and food, WECF also addresses hazardous waste and building materials. In Armenia, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine old pesticide stockpiles pose a serious threat to the environment and public health. Partner organizations try to attract attention to these problems and cooperate with the local and national authorities to isolate or remove the stockpiles and reduce exposure for humans, animals and the environment. In Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine WECF works with local partners on alternatives to asbestos as a building material, raising awareness about the lethal risk from the wide-spread chrysotile asbestos use in all

- 80 Project Nesting trainers (in France and the Netherlands) as off 2009
- 250 Nesting workshops organized since 2009 in France and the Netherlands
- 1 hospital training medical staff on “nesting”; 6 trainings for technical staff at Test Lab, 12 trainings in municipalities and 20 trainings for various associations
- 600 parents educated on creating a safe environment for their new born child
- 10 000 parents have been informed through fairs and have been contacted directly and are motivated to create a safe environment for their new born
- 500.000 people have been reached via media channels and websites
- 71000 policy makers and decision makers from business and civil society informed about the health risks of asbestos and alternative building materials
- About a million people have been reached via media channels (TV and radio, websites and printed media) in 2011



Safe Energy and Climate Protection for All

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

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

- 1** feasibility study for climate financing household renewable energy systems in EECCA submitted to UNFCCC
- 8** interventions at the UN climate change meetings including on equitable climate finance mechanisms
- 5** rural resource centers providing training on affordable sustainable energy solutions for households
- 2** French students build their capacities and shared their knowledge on the RCDA resource center. Fruit dryers and solar collectors build by students have been inspected by over 2000 people visiting the resource center, raising their awareness
- Insulation technology developed and adapted to local conditions in Georgia and Ukraine; 30 local crafts-persons acquired tools; 4 demonstration houses have been partly insulated.
- 57** crafts persons in Ukraine, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan trained on construction of solar collectors. 6 demonstration objects built.
- 30** persons, mainly women, trained on maintenance, correct use and monitoring of solar collectors
- 10** NGOs and NGO related staff from Georgia and Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan trained on effective, gender sensitive RE and EE development in rural communities.
- 100** people trained on solar warm water heating and 2.000 women and men using solar collectors for hot water and solar fruit dryers;
- 550** women using solar fruit driers
- 8** internships at a German solar company for WECF members from Caucasus and Central Asia
- 8** French solar energy students supporting partners in Caucasus and Central Asia



Safe Food Production & Sustainable Rural Development for All

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

- 1** farming incubator, "InitiaTerre" to help young farmers start their enterprise in local and sustainable agriculture
- 1** network of women working in the rural areas of Rhône-Alpes region, France to promote gender equality in the rural-professional environment
- 3** countries, France, Switzerland and Poland involved in (cross border) cooperation for sustainable food production and distribution
- 3** language versions of the WECF video 'Women for Diversity'
- 2** rural women savings and loans groups created
- 4** biogas systems demonstrated
- 8** women from low-income township grow their sustainable food in „urban food garden“ in South Africa; 1 permaculture fruit and vegetable garden established, 3 food gardener jobs created
- 10** Town Hals exhibited the mobile exhibition 'diverse apples' in Germany
- 160** farmers mayors and rural organizations from 4 countries involved in exchange visits
- 280** ha of land can be fertilized with sanitized urine
- 3.000** rural people started composting
- 3.500** people now apply sustainable agriculture methods



Gender Equality, Environmental Rights and Public Participation for All

Cross Cutting Issue: WECF believes that the right to a healthy environment is the birth right of every person regardless of gender, race, colour, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. In many instances, those groups in society that are least empowered, are most likely to suffer from environmental pollution, and lack access to safe water and sanitation, e.g. the Roma communities living near (toxic) waste dumpsites in Eastern European countries. WECF's overall goal "Achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development for all" can only be reached by integrating human rights and gender perspectives into all policies and programmes. Women and men are differently affected by environmental pollution and the lack of basic resources, such as water or energy. Women's views, knowledge and capacity to work towards a sustainable development and a healthy environment have to be taken into account when looking for local as well as global answers. WECF implements projects with partners in local communities, organizing community dialogues and gender assessments to raise awareness on gender roles and the value of unpaid women's labour. All activities are monitored with gender-differentiated indicators, and the impact on boys and girls, women and men is assessed and analysed. Lessons learned and (policy) recommendations are shared with peers and decision makers. WECF facilitates women's participation and leadership in local, national and international policy making processes. WECF organizes public participation processes for a number of EU and UN policy processes, for example for

- 1** public participation concept for the Protocol Water & Health
- 20** publications of gender assessments and environmental rights
- 30** conferences on gender and environmental rights
- 1.000** women in WECF delegations at policy meeting



“

Working with WECF has given our organisation a totally new topic – toxic-free toys. Before we joined the WECF Nesting campaign, we were really not dealing at all with children’s health risks from chemicals in toys. WECF is engaged, with a clear mission, inspiring, and with a wide reach. We are hoping that the cooperation between our 2 organizations will continue fruitfully.”

Sandra Oisalu, Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF)

Campaigns



Action by the Coalition Against Nuclear Energy in front of Dutch Parliament



Negotiating on the Protocol on Water and Health



The founding of the German WASH Network at the Bonn Nexus Conference



Projet Nesting workshops and trainings in France



Gender sensitivity trainings as part of the Home Comforts Project in Kyrgyzstan



NGOs meeting up and discussing their strategies at the COP in Geneva



The Dutch Water Sector working together at a conference in Zwolle, the Netherlands



1. The right to water and sanitation – at home and in school

Worldwide 2,8 billion people lack safe sanitation, 1 billion safe drinking water. Even in the EU and EECCA region nearly 140 million people still live in homes that are not connected to a drinking-water supply and even more people do not have access to adequate sanitation.

Mortality and morbidity related to unsafe water and inadequate sanitation remain unacceptably high; and water resources are often used in an inefficient manner. Also in the Western part of the region where access to water and sanitation are of lesser concern, a range of pollutants, including nutrients, metals, pesticides, microbes, industrial chemicals and pharmaceutical products have adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems or raise concerns for public health.

In 2011, through its water and sanitation campaign, WECF continued to implement project to monitor drinking water quality, to share lessons from its water and sanitation demonstration projects, and to advocate for better policies and government programmes to assure safe water and sanitation for all.

UNECE water and health policy processes

The UNECE/ WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health is the first international legal agreement adopted specifically to protect human health through the prevention, control and reduction of water-related disease, the improvement of water management and the protection of ecosystems. It aims to attain access to safe drinking water and provision of sanitation for everyone. The "Protocol on Water and Health" (PWH) is an instrument in the European region binding under international law that aims to protect public health from water caused diseases. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are an important partner for the authorities. WECF is one of the implementation partners of the 3 year Work Programme 2011-2013 of the Protocol on Water and Health, alongside the German and Czech governments, for the working group on "small scale water supply and sanitation". WECF is responsible for developing a guideline for small scale sanitation and creating capacity building tools for local actors. WECF also contributes to the small-scale water supply activities, through its training manual on "water and sanitation safety plans for local communities", which is being

developed with financial support of the DBU (Federal German Environment Foundation). In 2011, WECF co-organised 2 meetings as part of the implementation of the work-programme of the Protocol on Water and Health, one at the ministry of health in Prague, in January 2011 to prepare for the extended lead party meeting held in June 2011, at the German Environment Agency in Berlin.

Human Right to water and sanitation

The UN General Assembly recognised the human right to water and sanitation. The right was affirmed by a resolution of the Human Rights Council in October 2010 and it is now declared to be legally binding. These were important moments for the WECF network since "water and sanitation" is one of WECF's core areas of work. However, much more work needs to be done. Women and children are the most vulnerable groups suffering from the access to water resources and sanitation facilities. In 2011, WECF continued to contribute to the work of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation (since 2011), Ms Catherina Albuquerque. A representative of the independent expert sent, on invitation of WECF, to the International Conference "The implementation of the human right to water and sanitation" which WECF and local partners organised in Moldova on World Water Day (22 March) 2011. The conference gathered 50 representatives of national and international NGOs and decision makers of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry Environment as well as journalists and TV reporters. The conference was financed by the "Fondation Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés" and the Church World Service.

The Protocol on Water and Health is a good tool with which the human right to water and sanitation can be implemented at home and in schools in the EU and EECCA region. In addition to leading the working group on small scale sanitation, in 2011 WECF also contributed to the expert drafting group on "equitable access to water and sanitation" under lead of the French ministry of health. This working group prepared a publication to be presented at the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012. Several case studies prepared by WECF and partners have been published in the publication. WECF also co-organises the working group on public

participation, which is preparing guidelines for public participation in the work of the Protocol on Water and Health, under leadership of the government of Romania.

WASH in School Campaign

One of WECF's key issues is the provision of sustainable school sanitation conditions because children are vulnerable and most affected by poor sanitation. In rural areas of the EECCA countries, the hygienic and sanitary conditions in schools are often terrible. Related diseases, particularly diarrhea and parasite infections hinder the children's physical and intellectual development.

The UN General Assembly agreed on a resolution for the 5 year drive for sustainable sanitation, under the leadership of UNSGAB (UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation). WECF has contributed to the development of key messages for the 5 year drive, and advised to focus in one of the 5 years on sustainable sanitation in schools. Many schools in rural areas in the world do not have safe toilets for their pupils. According to WECF monitoring and evaluation of the 50 school toilet buildings demonstrated in the EECCA region, safe sanitation is a key reason for increased girls school attendance. Unfortunately, school sanitation is excluded from the indicators of the Millennium Development Goal and does not receive sufficient political attention. WECF advocates with partners worldwide to make school sanitation a policy priority. WECF contributes to the WASH in school campaign of UNICEF.

German Wash Alliance – WECF founding member

In 2011, WECF helped to create the German WASH alliance, an alliance of all the NGOs working on water and sanitation issues worldwide. Together, the German Wash Alliance organised a workshop on sanitation at the international NEXUS conference in Bonn, chaired by Uschi Eid of UNSGAB (UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation) on 18 of November 2011 in Bonn.

Nexus Conference Bonn

WECF as part of the German Wash Alliance, contributed to the conference "The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus – Solutions for the Green Economy" held from 16 – 18 November 2011 in Bonn. The conference was organised by the German Ministry of Development Cooperation and the German Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety with the aim of providing the German input for the Rio +20 negotiations 2012. The linkage between water, energy and food was put in the centre of the discussion and led to policy recommendations related to the nexus.

WECF contributed to the NGO stakeholder forum through leading the thematic table "Sanitation and the Nexus" of the Nexus cafe. Anara Choitonboeva from the Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation presented the case study Kyrgyzstan on a second thematic table. Claudia Wendland, coordinator sanitation projects at WECF, highlighted that the provision of sustainable sanitation leads to improvements in the water, energy and food security sector by saving and protecting

drinking water, ensuring public health and providing organic fertiliser (urine and faecal matter).

After the active discussions in the Nexus cafe, the following recommendations were drawn as input to the final conference outcome. WECF as part of the German WASH network was convener – together with UNSGAB and RUAF – of the hot topic session "No Food and Nutrition Security without Water, Sanitation and Hygiene". Uschi Eid, co-chair of UNSGAB, welcomed this session as maybe the most important thematic aspect of the conference. Sascha Gabizon reported back from the roundtable on business incentives for the nexus, noting that one of the future areas of entrepreneurship is soil improvement, as globally loss of fertile soil is a major threat. Nutrients from sanitation waste are excellent for production of high quality soil such as 'terra preta' which allow several harvests in areas where previously this was not possible.

During the plenary session dialogue on the last day of the conference, with the 'Ambassadors for nexus', a number of interventions were given by members of the women's major group, e.g. Nozipho Wright of ENERGIA Botswana gave examples of women as managers of local energy and food systems. Monique Essed, board member of WEDO from Suriname recalled the key role women had played in Rio in 1992, and from there to Beijing and to Johannesburg. Sascha Gabizon reflected that in particular members of the Women's major group from Africa were concerned about 'Landgrab' and the negative impact on women, and that landgrab was often connected to corporate investments in industrial biofuel production, which needed areas with sufficient water – the energy-water nexus. She also asked about the need for legally binding instruments in addition to the many good initiatives presented at the conference on for example global environmental reporting including spacial mapping "eye on earth" (EEA).

In the closing session Shanta Sheila Nair spoke on the role of sanitation in the nexus, and reflected on the problems of current economic development. She noted that her country was "mad about GDP growth", but that where she comes from there is a saying "when something gets better – everything else gets worse!" In the previous presentation by EEA it was mentioned that up to 80% of food is wasted between the field and the fork, and that we need taxes and fiscal measures, – to use the pricing, – for a green economy. "Indeed, what about the subsidies for the food we are all eating, we would not be wasting that much of food, if it had been priced right. We are subsidising the food of rich countries and say to the poor, you need to cope yourself without subsidies", she concluded.

Countries: International

Donors: European Commission, Fondation France Libertés

Contact: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, Earth Forever Foundation Bulgaria MAMA-86 Ukraine, KAWS Kyrgyzstan, German Toilet Organisation



Women's participation in Rio+20

For the 2012 Sustainable Development summit, Rio+20, WECF has a leading role as "organising partner" for all the women's organizations worldwide.

The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, brought "sustainable development" to the global agenda. The Earth Summit led to a number of key Conventions designed to reduce environmental degradation and limit the impacts of climate change, and to move the world towards fair and green development and eradication of poverty. The Earth Summit also led to Agenda21, in which women were – for the first time – defined as one of the nine "major groups" with a critical role to play in the formulation and implementation of policies for sustainable development.

WECF was asked by its peers to be one of three "organising partners" for the UN secretariat and help organise the effective participation of women worldwide in the Rio+20 policy process.

In 2011, through its Women Rio+20 campaign, WECF has been facilitating the Women's Major Group Rio+20 since 2010 till the Rio+20 summit in June 2012 and beyond. WECF asked all women's organisations working on sustainable development issues in its broadest sense, to join forces together in the Women's Major Group Rio+20. In total more than 300 women representatives of 200 organisations worldwide have joined the Women's Major Group Rio+20. In addition, WECF and the Women Major Group have cooperated closely with UN DESA (secretariat for Rio20), UNEP and UN WOMEN in the preparations of the Rio+20 summit.

Countries: International

Donors: German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety, GIZ, UNDESA

Partners: DAWN – Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, VAM – Voices of African mothers, WEDO – Women Environment and Development Organisation, ENERGLIA International Network, WOCAN, Global Forest Coalition, Earth Care Africa, Earth Day Network and many other regional and global networks.

Key Priorities for Rio+20

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising those of future generations. The 1992 Earth Summit led to worldwide recognition that the current development model is not sustainable – that we need to decouple economic and social development from resource depletion and environmental pollution, and also restructure inequitable systems that perpetuate poverty. The Earth Summit led to historic Conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). But global environmental and development governance has been fragmented and thus too weak to ensure real change, especially in terms of implementation of agreements. Global trade agreements and financial institutions have had more influence on development than Agenda 21, and lack of adequate national legislation and frameworks for sustainable development have also contributed to the lack of progress so far in achieving the aims of the Earth Summit.

Governments at the Rio+20 summit need to agree on a reform of our global environmental and development governance, to ensure that sustainable development becomes the leading paradigm for international, national and local policy makers. It will need to produce international agreements to implement sustainable development, based on green, just and equitable economic indicators and tools. Rio+20 will also need to upgrade public participation, allowing and supporting civil society organisations to participate meaningfully in the discussions and negotiations, with women's full engagement and leadership.

Rio+20 related Projects

WECF raised funds for a number of Rio+20 related projects. With financial support from UNECE, WECF together with Eco-Accord Russia, organised the effective participation of NGOs in the Astana E4E Ministerial Conference in September 2011. For UNEP, WECF organised its global major group and stakeholder consultation in Bonn, in September 2011. Also for UNEP, WECF organised the regional youth conference on Rio+20 and Green Economy. WECF together with WEDO, obtained travel funds from UNWOMEN for participation of grass roots women from developing countries in the Rio+20 negotiations and summit. WECF was one of the initiators of the Gender SEED Award, funded by UN Women. WECF obtained funding from the German GIZ for national preparatory women workshops on Rio+20 in five French and Arab speaking African countries, as well as funding for the Women Rio+20 Good Practice Award. UNDESA contributed funds to allow the Women Major Group steering committee to contribute to

the negotiations and publish the results on the UN website. WECF overall coordination of Rio+20 and UNEP related activities received financial support from the German Environment Agency (UBA). In total, the combined projects allowed more than 300 women to actively contribute via monthly conference calls and the email listserve, to select almost 50 women based on global nominations to take part in Rio+20 meetings, to publish the Women Rio+20 proposal for the "zero draft" negotiation document, to organise 5 official "side events", and to hold a high level award ceremony and award 10 winners of the Women Rio+20 Award at the Rio+20 summit.

New York

Most of the negotiations for the preparation of the Rio+20 Summit took place in New York. WECF took part in all the preparatory negotiations and organised to the extent to which funding was available, the travel and participation of women representatives from around the world. Negotiations took place in New York in January, May and December 2011. WECF was key in drafting the text proposals from the Women's Major Group, with input from the global Women's Major Group, and the many interventions given by women major group representatives during the negotiation process. The Women's Major Group submission for the "zero draft" was presented to the United Nations in November 2011, of which a number of suggestions have been retained in the first version of the "zero draft". WECF initiated the organisation of an official side event together with UN Women on Women and the Green Economy, in December 2011.

Rio+20 presentations and publications

WECF spoke at many policy conferences – in Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Hannover, Geneva, Madrid, Brussels – , to promote text proposals for the draft of Rio+20 outcome document, including on areas such as technology assessment and monitoring, public participation, innovative finance and trade.

Madrid

On 12 of April 2011, WECF director Sascha Gabizon moderated the session on Rio+20 Policy Outcomes during the Madrid Dialogue organised by SustainLabour and other partners in Madrid, Spain.

Brussels

At the EESC's 2nd Hearing "Greener Europe – Greener world?" on 23 March 2011 in Brussels, Sascha Gabizon, executive director of WECF, gave a presentation on the work by the Women Major Group

Rio+20 and women's policy positions on „Green Economy“ and reform of „International Governance of Sustainable Development“. The hearing was organised by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and its Sustainable Development Observatory.

Evian & Paris

On the 27th of October 2011, Sascha Gabizon gave a presentation during a "garden talk on Rio+20" at the "Planet Earth" conference. The French Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Jean-Pierre Thebault, invited to a meeting on "Gender and Women's Priorities for Rio+20" at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris, on 7 of November 2011. WECF director Sascha Gabizon presented the Women's major group global position for Rio+20 focusing on women's rights and on thematic priorities such as addressing „land grabbing“ and „nuclear risks“.

Amsterdam

On 11 November 2011, – "Sustainability Day" in the Netherlands, – WECF co-organised the meeting "Gender Priorities for Rio+20", alongside the Dutch Platform Rio+20, the Dutch Gender Platform WO=MEN and Womeninc. Sascha Gabizon of WECF gave a presentation on the status of the Rio+20 negotiations, in a panel with representatives of ILO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Hannover

On 8 December 2011, WECF organised a workshop on Rio+20 at the Sustainable Development Conference organised by the city of Hannover and the local Agenda21 bureau. Speakers included Christine von Weiszäcker, president of WECF, and Sascha Gabizon, executive director.

Geneva

On 1-2 December 2011, WECF organised the women's major group contribution to the regional UNECE preparation of Rio+20. Sascha Gabizon spoke as one of the panellists during the 2nd panel, and on the 2nd of December WECF organised an official side event on the theme of "moving from the Brown Economy to the Care Economy".

Publications:

WECF lead the global drafting and editing process of the Women's Major Group policy papers on Rio+20, and the Women's Major Group submission for the Rio+20 "zero draft" which can be downloaded from the UN website. WECF also contributed with articles to several publication, including "Future Perfect" on Rio+20.



Public Participation in the UN – Effective public participation of women and other stakeholders in the United Nations political processes on Sustainable Development and Environmental Governance

In 2011, through its public participation in the UN campaign, WECF continued to take a leading role in strengthening public participation in international environmental and development policies.

WECF is actively engaged in a number of UN policy processes on sustainable development and environmental policy issues. WECF chairs the UNEP “major group and stakeholder facilitating committee”, and is co-chair of the Women’s Major Group at UNEP. In that role, WECF has been asked to organise for UNEP 3 conferences with major group representatives in Bonn. WECF together with Eco-Accord Russia, chaired the alliance of environmental organisations, and organised the effective public participation of NGOs in the Ministerial Conference on “Environment for Europe” in Astana, Kazakhstan, which focussed amongst others on the preparation of the Rio+20 summit. WECF is one of the core partners of the “Gender and Women Constituency” at UNFCCC Climate Convention. In that role it facilitated the participation of a number of women and NGO representatives in the negotiations in Bonn, Bangkok and Durban.

Nairobi UNEP 2011

from 19-25 of February 2011, WECF contributed to the UNEP governing council meeting. WECF chaired the facilitating committee of major groups and co-chaired the women’s major group. In that position, Sascha Gabizon chaired part of the “Global Forum of Major Groups and Stakeholders” including the dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP. WECF also co-organised the “Women’s Leaders” breakfast meeting with women ministers of environment. Sascha Gabizon gave a presentation on the Women’s Major Group priorities for Rio+20.

Bonn Rio+20

On 1st of September, WECF organised for UNEP, its **Global Rio+20 Consultation**, bringing together more than 120 key representatives of different civil society organisations to prepare policy recommendations for next years Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The conference was organized by UNEP (European Office) with logistic support by WECF (Women in Europe for a Common Future). On

2nd of September WECF organised for UNEP its regional consultation for key stakeholders from the UNEP European region, to prepare their input for the UNEP governing council / environmental ministers forum taking place in February 2012, one of the key agenda points being the preparations of the Rio+20 summit and the upgrading of UNEP to a specialized agency. On Sunday 4th of September during the UN DPI NGO conference in Bonn, WECF co-organised a workshop on gender and green economic development, with a focus on consumption and production patterns. On the 5th of September, WECF organised a consultation of the representatives of the Women Rio+20 Steering Committee took to developing policy recommendations for the “zero draft” Rio+20 outcome document. On the 6th and 7th of September, WECF also organised for UNEP the “Tunza Youth conference”, aimed to let Youth from the European region prepare for the Rio+20 summit.

Astana Efe 2011

From 21 – 23 of September, WECF organised together Eco-Accord Russia, the participation of over 60 NGO representatives in the Ministerial Conference “**Environment for Europe**”. The ministerial conference brought together 400 participants including the ministers of environment of the 56 countries of the UNECE region. The conference focussed on a policy outcome document from the ministers, and two policy areas water and the green economy and linked to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as “Rio+20”. Prior to the ministerial conference, on September 21st, WECF and Eco-Accord organised the NGO **Preparatory conference** in which over 60 environmental NGO representatives of the “European Eco-Forum” and other civil society organisations took part and which resulted in the “Astana Declaration”. Eco-Forum selected four people for key-note speeches at the Astana conference to express main messages, elaborated by NGOs:

- **Olga Ponizova Eco-Accord, Russia-on “Environment for Europe” Process**
- **Janis Brizga, Green Liberty, Latvia – on “Green Economy”**
- **Sascha Gabizon, WECF – on “water and water-related eco-systems”**
- **Anna Golubovska-Onissimova, Ukraine – on “water and greening the economy”**

An important element of the Astana Conference were the high level ministerial roundtable discussion, where ministers and delegates held focussed debates on the key themes of the ministerial conference. European Eco-Forum was allotted 4 seats per roundtable. The input from civil society has been reflected in the reports from the roundtable chairs. The Polish presidency of the EU organised a meeting with NGO representatives and members of European Union member states during lunch on Friday 23 of September. The session was chaired by Sascha Gabizon and Olga Ponizova, co-chairs of European Eco-Forum.

Countries: International

Donors: German Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nuclear Safety, UNEP

Partners: International partners



Climate Justice – promoting a gender perspective and defending rights of vulnerable groups in climate protection policies

Climate change is hitting the poorest the most. WECF’s local partners working in poor communities across the world see this happening every day. In 2011, through its Climate Justice campaign, WECF continued to cooperate with partners from Africa, Asia and the EECCA region to assure that the voices of vulnerable groups are heard in the climate negotiations and amongst others, to propose better criteria for climate funding in order to make sure they become accessible in particular to women, indigenous peoples and the poor.

Bonn Climate Talks

In June 2011, the “Climate Change talks” took place in Bonn, Germany in preparation for the Climate Summit in Durban. WECF facilitated a delegation of 5 people from Central Asia and Eastern Europe was present at all negotiation sessions.

WECF co-organised an official side event on June 14, 2011; “100% renewable instead of nuclear energy” at the UNFCCC climate change meeting in Bonn, 06. – 17. June 2011. It was hosted by WECF, Heinrich Böll Foundation and Women and Life on Earth. Guest speakers and members of the discussion panel were Dr. Nina Scheer, co-founder of the Hermann Scheer Foundation and Managing Director of UnternehmensGrün, Valentin Hollain, scientific advisor at EUROSOLAR, European Association for Renewable Energy and head of the Renewable Energies Storage Conference, Srinivas Krishnaswamy, founder and director of Vasudha Foundation in India, and Vladimir Sliviyak, co-chairman of the Russian environmental NGO EcoDefense.

WECF network and CAN EECCA members, NGOs from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus developed and published their joint position in Bonn at the Climate Change Talks. The position was published in the negotiation bulleting in two languages (Russian and English). In addition

they published different articles in the negotiations bulletins: 1 article in ECO (the CAN negotiation newspaper) about not ambitious position of Ukraine: a few articles in “Below 2C” (the Russian speaking NGO negotiation newspaper). The WECF delegates from Ukraine partner organization NECU followed the negotiation process on main important for Ukraine issues and exchanged information on the NGO WG web site www.climategroup.org.ua

WECF’s climate protection recommendations especially included:

- Policies to upscale energy saving and renewable energy solutions for low income communities in the EU and EECCA region.
- The strong need to keep nuclear energy out of all climate protection instruments as it is a barrier to the necessary development of safe, effective, and affordable energy sources.
- The need for a gendersensitive and equitable climate regime, with the full respect of women’s rights.

Durban Conference of Parties

WECF facilitated the effective participation of women and NGO representatives from the EECCA region in the climate negotiations in Durban South Africa in December 2011.

The Russian WECF delegate from partner organization Friends of the Baltic, which runs the Russian Climate Secretariat, gave daily updates on their internet site during the COP 17/CMP 7 in Durban, South Africa and developed a position paper regarding the Joint Implementation Mechanism. The WECF UNFCCC delegates in Bonn and Durban, who had partly taken part at the WECF and CAN EECCA capacity building trainings in the past and have now leading positions at the Russian Climate Secretariat or work in close cooperation with their own delegation like WECF Kyrgyz member Public Foundation Unison.

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors, European Commission

Partners: International partners



International „Nesting“ programme – A Healthy Environment for Healthy Children

Through its “Nesting” programme, WECF helps parents to create a safe and healthy environment for their children. The ‘Nesting’ programme informs expecting parents and parents of young children on how to create a healthier and safer environment for their baby. Nesting informs via a web platform in eight languages (Estonian, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Greek, Hungarian and English), via user friendly publications and interactive workshops.

Nesting focuses primarily on improving indoor air quality in homes and day care centres and describes the way in which products such as furniture and carpeting, cleaning agents and baby cosmetics can affect the health of their baby. Special attention is given to reducing children exposure to chemicals suspected to be carcinogenic and hormone disrupting, in particular Bisphenol-A and Phtalates, and nanomaterials which for instance can pass through the blood barrier and enter into the center of cells.

Besides providing information on the Nesting websites, WECF publishes different pocket guides about toys, detergents, baby care cosmetics, and care products for pregnant women, electromagnetic fields. The increasing number of visitors on the nesting websites proves that parents and consumers are in need of reliable and precise information to better protect their children from harmful substances. In 2011, the Nesting programme evolved significantly towards an even more elaborated project, targeting not only future and new parents, but also health and child care professionals, who are the primary source of information and advice for parents, thus able to help in raising awareness on environmental health to the general public.

In 2011 highlights of the “Nesting” programme were the recently developed trainings for medical and child care professionals in France: WECF France is now officially accredited as training organization. Workshops for parents and for professionals were also developed in The Netherlands, where WECF cooperates with responsible companies to create a welcome basket for new parents, containing sustainable and healthy products for babies and mothers.

Countries: Germany, UK, Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Hungary, France, Estonia, Spain

Donors: European Commission DG-Environment, Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Region Rhone Alpes

Partners: Clean Up Greece, Large Families Association Hungary, Baltic Environmental Forum, WECF France, WECF Netherlands, WECF Germany



Toxic Free Toys – International „Safe Toys“ Coalition

WECF is campaigning for toxic-free toys through its “Safe Toys Campaign” and the “Safe Toys Coalition”. The campaign and coalition aim to protect children’s health by striving for a world free of toxic and unsafe toys. The coalition was created by WECF and Eco Accord, alongside a group of international health and environment non-governmental organisations. WECF addresses decision makers, producers, retailers and the public on national, regional and international level and help consumers to make informed decisions about the toys they buy.

WECF has promoted the coalition’s mission in 2011 at events on national and international level such as the international toy fair in Nuremberg, the UNEP SAICM working group on chemicals in products, the re-opening of the discussion on heavy metals and other harmful substances in the EU toys directive etc, and has called on national governments for safer, toxic-free toys. The coalition established a joint work plan of activities and published and disseminated the consumer guide on safe toys (already available in 11 languages including Chinese). The public “toys events” in France and the Netherlands, where toys were tested publicly, attracted a lot of media attention, and both events were features on prime TV and radio. Partners from the South Eastern European region share best practices, and have also obtained great media and press attention in Albania and Macedonia, looking also at how to best implement good parts of the European chemicals regulation in their countries to protect human health with a special focus on toys. Especially in Albania, supported by the partner organization Eden Center, great efforts towards safer toys could be made by convincing the government to strengthen the Albanian law accordingly. The Safe Toys Coalition consists of 32 international NGOs. Information can be found on the special Safe Toys website with links to documents and publications, activities of NGOs on toys www.safe-toyscoalition.org.

Countries: International

Partners: Eco Accord, Baltic Environmental Forum, Clean up Greece, Journalists for children and women rights and environmental protection, Ekoloji Tarazlig, other regional and global networks

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Women’s health and the environment – Halt to Endocrine Disruptors

WECF has called for a strategy on the primary prevention of (breast) cancer by eliminating the hazardous influence of endocrine disruptors on women’s reproductive health. WECF advocates via decision makers for better EU legislation to protect women and the developing child from hormone disrupting chemicals. Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) have been linked to several health problems like reproductive abnormalities, cancer, obesity, early puberty etc. Among the chemicals that interfere with the hormone system are phtalates, pesticides, bisphenol A and many others found in our daily food and consumer products.

Currently the European Commission is in a process of identifying criteria for EDCs to be used across all relevant EU legislation. WECF urges policy makers to get the criteria right, including the recognition of independent peer reviewed scientific studies and the application of the precautionary principle.

During perinatal and prenatal phases children are most sensitive to exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals. More and more scientific studies link EDCs, which are present in many all day products to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, hormonal disorders, reproductive disorders, etc. WECF aims with its work on EDCs to provide decent information for pregnant women and parents as well as advocate for better political regulations.

WECF has issued two major publications to support the campaign, first the WECF publication ‘Linking Breast cancer and our environment; is chemical exposure the missing link factor in the rise of the breast cancer epidemic?’ and secondly the German version of the American scientific publication ‘Girls Disrupted: “Gestörte Weiblichkeit”’. Millions of girls and women worldwide suffer increasingly from early puberty, infertility and breast cancer. In Germany, for example, 15% of all couples are affected at least temporarily, from infertility and approximately one in ten women are suffering from breast cancer in Europe. But where does the increase in these diseases and reproductive disorders in women, come from?

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors

Partners: WECF France, WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, and international members and partners



Asbestos – A Silent Killer on a Global Scale

WECF's asbestos elimination campaign continued in 2011. WECF is the only international organization that is working, together with its partner organizations, on asbestos in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECCA Region).

Asbestos is a widely and one of the most common used building material in the EECCA region, more than 80% of all roofs in Ukraine are made of asbestos containing material. Russia and Kazakhstan have huge asbestos mines that could last for decades, and are among the top 5 asbestos producers worldwide. Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine are among the highest importers of asbestos and asbestos containing products, mainly from Russia, Kazakhstan and China. The International Labor Organization estimates more than 100.000 asbestos deaths globally every year through occupational exposure alone. This is truly a global epidemic with a preventable cause – asbestos can be easily substituted with safer and affordable alternatives. Although over 50 nations have banned or severely restricted asbestos, the number of people suffering from asbestos related diseases is still expected to increase in the coming decade due to the long latency period of these diseases. Moreover the economic costs for clean up and health care are astronomical and will continue to rise. Asbestos exposure is associated with bronchial carcinoma (lung cancer) and mesothelioma (pleural or peritoneal malignant tumors), recently ovary cancer and cancer of the larynx have been added. WECF cooperates with partners internationally to advocate the addition of chrysotile asbestos to the list of prior informed consent of the Rotterdam Convention, only then can developing countries protect their markets from imports of asbestos. To this aim, WECF is co-facilitator of the Rotterdam Convention Alliance, an international alliance of NGOs, which was successful in raising awareness in particular with delegates from Africa and Asia during the Conference of the Parties in 2011. Russia supported by other EECCA countries and Canada are the main countries blocking this decision. WECF organized a side event during the Rotterdam Convention COP5 in Geneva in 2011, together with the Rotterdam Convention Alliance, an alliance of NGOs hosted by WECF. More than 80 delegates took

part in the side event. WECF furthermore contributed to the asbestos expert meeting organized by WHO in June 2011, in Bonn, and continued to promote fast implementation of the Parma Declaration 2010. Also in 2011, WECF continued the implementation of its projects on awareness raising on asbestos and its related diseases, the Rotterdam Convention, and safer alternatives to asbestos in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. Highlights of the project were the construction of an affordable and asbestos free straw bale house in Georgia, and the high-level conference in Kyrgyzstan, attended by representatives of several Kyrgyz Ministries and agencies, WHO, ILO, European Commission, the German Ministry of Environment, Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, industry and NGOs.

Countries: USA, India, Niger, Kazakhstan

Donors: Heinrich Böll Foundation, German Federal Ministry of Environment

Partners: WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, WECF France, Eco Forum Kazakhstan, Eco Accord Russia



Women's Economic and Political Empowerment

WECF started its campaign on Women's Economic and Political Empowerment in 2011. WECF engages through its activities to increase women's economic and political empowerment, in particular of women in low-income rural and slum areas. To support women's economic empowerment WECF carries out trainings for women on income generation and basic services and advocates for women's access to and control over resources. There exist great gender gaps in access to resources and income-generating opportunities, in decision-making positions at local and national levels and in access to education and human development. To support women's political empowerment, WECF facilitates women's effective participation in local, national and international policy making processes.

Women's access to financial resources

WECF as a co-coordinator of the Women & Gender constituency of UNFCCC prepared and gave an intervention at the Public Participation workshop at the climate change talks in June 2011 in Bonn, and co-wrote the submission to the UNFCCC secretariat on increasing women's access to resources from the Green Climate Fund. At the UNCCC COP in Durban South Africa, in December 2011, WECF took on the coordination of the "finance working group".

In order to increase women's political empowerment, WECF supported a delegation of 4 WECF staff (1 in Bangkok (French), 2 in Bonn (Dutch and German), 1 in Durban (German)) and facilitated the participation of 10 women's environmental leaders of the WECF network (5 in Bonn from Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, USA and Germany), 5 in Durban from South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and the USA). All the WECF delegation members organized during the different sessions meetings with their delegations, especially with the focus on the EU and the EECCA region. WECF France focussed on climate and gender for the francophone region. 2 French WECF delegates had been part of the forty experts from the five continents who met in Paris on 27 and 28 January for the first francophone seminar on gender and climate change organized by the IOF and the French Ministry of Foreign

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors

Partners: WECF France, WECF Germany, WECF Netherlands, and international members and partners

Affairs, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the for Environment and Women Development Organization (WEDO). The seminar aimed to put into perspective the differentiated effects on women and men and to initiate in a systematic consideration of gender in policies, strategies and initiatives to fight against climate change in the francophone countries.

Greening of the Economy

According to the UNDP (2009), 70 percent of the people who live on less than a dollar per day are women. Women work two thirds of the world's working hours but receive only 10 percent of the world's income and own only 1 percent of the world's property. Among working women and men, the former receive 32 percent less than men's wages (in the same position) and, in some parts of the world, the gap is close to 40 percent. The 64th Session of the Economic Commission for Europe reported that the difference in earnings between women and men performing the same job ranges from less than 10 percent in some South-East European countries to over 40 percent in some countries of Central-Asia and the Caucasus.

This exclusion, based on ungrounded discriminatory social definitions of women and men's roles affects not only negatively affects women and their families, but also the economy. The economic exclusion of women results in the loss of an untapped human resource. All of these inequalities tend to exclude women – and their families – from the short and long term benefits that the sustainable economic development towards a (green) economy can provide. In 2011, WECF promoted better policies and government programmes to strengthen women's economic empowerment, through the publication of its statement on Women and the Green Economy, as part of its Rio+20 submissions, and numerous presentation on Women and the Green Economy (see under Women Rio+20 campaign). In 2011, WECF cooperated with UNWOMEN in their programmes in preparation of the Rio+20 conference and initiated the "Gender SEED Award" to celebrate and reward women's sustainable economic activities.



Nuclear power is not a solution to climate change – Plug into renewables

The catastrophe in Fukushima in 2011 sparked great interest in WECF's long-time work on the risks and costs of nuclear energy. WECF continued its "phase out nuclear campaign" in 2011, advocating in particular for protection of communities in uranium mining areas, and to promote polluter pays and a global trust-fund for clean up of uranium mining tailings during the policy negotiations of Rio+20, UNEP and UNFCCC.

Nadyezhda Kutepova, founding president of the NGO "Planet of Hopes", and member of the WECF International Advisory Board, received a prestigious award for her legal work to help victims from the nuclear-contaminated region Chelyabinsk in Russia. On March xx 2011, she received the international "nuclear free future award" in Berlin Germany. According to WECF, nuclear industry is a threat to our health, our environment and human rights – at every step of production. Research shows that nuclear energy is not a solution for climate change. Nuclear industry has lower CO₂ emissions than coal, but has higher CO₂ emissions than renewables, especially when grey energy is included. Nuclear energy companies have artificially reduced insurance for accidents – in the end our future generations will pay an unacceptable high price in health and economic costs.

Nuclear industry has lobbied successfully for tax payers money, the bulk of European Research Funding still flows to the nuclear industry, without any solution having been found to solve the nuclear waste problem amongst other. WECF publishes testimonies of communities effected by nuclear industry, showing the great threat it poses to health, environment, human rights and security in its publication "the critical question". Radioactivity even in low doses is a risk for many illnesses like cancer and leukaemia. Even the most "advanced" countries in Europe are not able to guarantee total safe operations of their

nuclear power plants, as the radioactive leaks in France (e.g. Tricastin) and Germany (e.g. Asse) testify. In 2011, WECF disseminated its third language edition of its publication "the critical question", in French, and was one of the co-organisers of the largest "human chain against nuclear" organized in France in the last 10 years.

The Nuclear Question

The policy work after Fukushima strengthened the WECF network position to put a focus on the fact that nuclear energy is certainly not climate mitigation and has to be kept out of the technology transfer and financing climate mechanism. Instead countries need strong emission reduction goals and a transformation strategy to safe, sustainable and efficient renewable energy solutions and structures. WECF works together with international and national civil society organizations to put sustainable energy on top of the political agenda and to make sure that the priority is given to energy saving and efficiency. The renewable energy sector assures that our energy supply is competitive, secure and sustainable.

Countries: International

Donors: Private Donors

Partners: International nuclear free network, cooperation with hundreds of organizations and networks as WISE, The Nuclear-Free Future Award, die klimallianz, Greenpeace, urgewald, Sortir du nucléaire, projekt21 plus, Ecodefense



It is so important to bridge the divide between rural and urban areas in Kyrgyzstan. Thus applying adapted and sustainable technologies for rural areas."

Anara Choitonbaeva, chairman of the Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS).



“

After successful installation of demonstration objects, the key challenge for WECF is sustainably up-scaling the environmental infrastructure technologies. Villagers, and women in particular, lack access to affordable finance. For example in Kyrgyzstan there are many micro-finance institutions, but the high interest rates of up to 30% per year make investments in improved energy or water infrastructure not feasible. We need social-financial mechanisms for this type of infrastructure up-scaling targeted at low-income rural areas. In our project, WECF foresees the creation of a social housing microcredit scheme for the villagers.”

Dr. Ing. Claudia Wendland, Sanitation Coordinator, WECF.

Kyrgyzstan. Project "Home Comforts"

Countries & Projects

Country Projects Overview in 2011

The Netherlands

Toys Testing in Utrecht



Moldova

Safe Sanitation for all

Ukraine

Switch to Sun



Azerbaijan

Solar collectors and solar water distillers for rural communities

France

The Nesting ateliers



Germany

Environmental Justice for All



Bulgaria

Wetland on the site of a children's home



Georgia

Straw Bale Building



Kazakhstan

Environmental challenges on uranium and asbestos mining



Kyrgyzstan

Home Comforts



Poland

Green Bridges Munich-Warsaw



WECF France

WECF France supports international WECF network projects, yet on the other hand, carries out projects at a national level, together with partners from different sectors, as described below

Location: Annemasse, France

Donor: French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE), French Ministry of Labour and Health, Region Rhône-Alpes and FEDER, Ministry of foreign affairs of the Netherlands in Romania, Church World Services, Fondation France Libertés, Fondation Lemarchand, Fondation Groupe Chèque Déjeuner, companies and private donors.

Contact: Chemicals and health,

Nesting : elisabeth.ruffinengo@wecf.eu /

Water and sanitation: catherine.martin@wecf.eu /

Agriculture, Energy and climate change:

anne.barre@wecf.eu



French advocacy on Chemicals and Health

At national, European and international level, WECF France participated in advocacy activities on the regulation of toys, biocides and EDC, worked REACH, the European environmental and health action plan, national and regional health and environment action plans, contributed to eight consultations launched by the EU and represented WECF during several EU meetings on chemicals and health.



French Nesting Campaign: awareness raising and information for broad public and professionals

Nesting in 2011 focused on widening the national access of the broad public to the Nesting parent workshops, with events in Paris, Aix en Provence and Corsica, and via the training of new facilitators in Lyon and Rennes (Brittany). Nesting facilitators form today a dynamic community of diverse health and environment specialists dedicated to the Nesting project in France. In total over a 100 workshops were proposed to parents in 2011. Training and informing health and childcare professionals also belonged to the important Nesting activities in 2011. Especially municipal authorities were demanding WECF's practical expertise on how to create a healthy environment of children. The Nesting website (www.projetnesting.fr) remains a very popular internet tool for parents and professionals with over 15 000 visits per month, in regular expansion.

WECF France published two new consumer guides in 2011, under guidance of the Nesting Expert Committee: a guide on Cosmetics for pregnant women and one on the risks of Electro-Magnetic Fields. Both guides have been disseminated to over 10 000 people.



French toxic free toys campaign

WECF focused on the toxicity of toys last Christmas, anticipating on the national implementation of the European Toys Safety Directive adopted in 2008. Laboratory tests were conducted in collaboration with WECF's German and Dutch offices, and a public toys testing was organized in the streets of Paris, to help the broad public better understand the risks linked to the presence of hazardous chemicals, such as heavy metals, endocrine disruptors and carcinogenic substances in toys. This event received broad media attention, with national press, radio and TV.



French cooperation on Water & Sanitation

2011 was for WECF France a year of partnership consolidation with main French actors in the field of water and sanitation, such as PS-Eau and Fondation Danielle Mitterrand France Libertés. WECF became a member of the Coalition eau – an alliance of over 20 NGO's – working actively on the preparation of the Marseille World Water Forum for March 2012. WECF France also coordinated an important field project: "Safe Water and Sanitation for All in Moldova", supported by France Libertés, and Church World Services, with partners in 13 Moldovan villages conducting Water safety plans in 11 school and educational activities on the Right to Water reaching out to 35 000 citizens. Water quality monitoring was conducted on 785 water wells, 80% of which were found non conform to national standards! Test results were communicated to local and national authorities. Thanks to the support of the Foundation Church World Services WECF and its Moldovan partners also constructed a new ecosan school toilet benefiting 165 pupils and 35 teachers.



Food and Rural Development

WECF France launched in February 2011 a Collective group of local and regional actors in France and Switzerland dedicated to promoting local and sustainable agriculture: "ADP-Léman". This transboundary collective project is supported by the EU and Région Rhône-Alpes, the local authorities of Haute-Savoie and several Fondations (Lemarchand, Groupe Chèque Déjeuner, Patagonia). ADP-Léman is creating an incubator for innovative agriculture, which will contribute to the installation of new farming enterprises based on agro-ecological techniques and local direct distribution (local producers markets, collective shop, community supported agriculture). The gender dimension of the project is promoted via the equal participation of women, the special attention dedicated to women candidates and their specific projects.



French Gender projects

On March 8, 2011- International Women's Day- WECF France launched a network of rural women in the Région Rhône-Alpes, aiming at promoting their professional projects, enhancing good practice and experience exchanges as well as mutual support among women. Political recommendations on how to improve gender equality in rural areas, enhancing women's professional recognition and their access to employment and responsibilities were elaborated together with participating women, and presented to Rhône-Alpes decision makers in December. Some of these recommendations will be carried out in 2012.

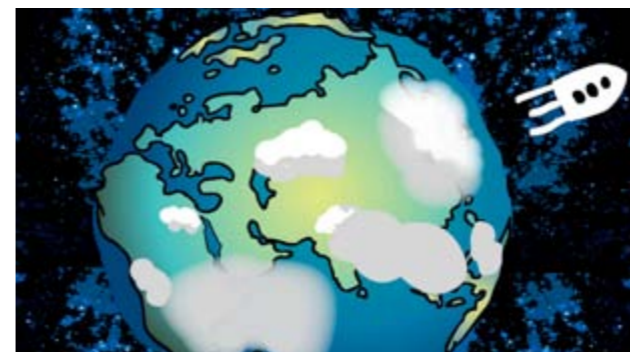


Energy & Climate Change

In France WECF is a member of the French Climate Alliance RAC and takes active part in its strong advocacy work on Climate and Energy policy at national and international level. Several position papers, important publications and numerous press releases were published in 2011. WECF France also took part in antinuclear demonstrations co-organized by several RAC members after the Fukushima disaster. WECF organized a 4 months internship for French students of the Annecy University (a partner of WECF France) with the company Solar Partner Sud, a German strategic partner on solar energy, and RCDA, a Georgian member of WECF network. The French students were trained to build and install efficient, low cost, solar collector systems in developing countries with cold winters. After the training in Germany, the students worked during 3 months in Georgia with Rural Communities Development Agency, where they introduced a new calculation tool to assess the efficiency of solar collectors, and supported local partners and communities in installing solar water heaters and conceiving a new, more efficient solar fruit dryer.



WECF Germany



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



Chemicals and Health

'Nestbau' is the German version of the International Nesting Campaign, helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns. In 2011, the German Nesting project informed parents through continuously updated news on its German "Nesting" website. New weblinking partner organisations were acquired and positive feedback was received from the authorities.

Advocacy for non toxic children's products: the WECF chemical coordinator was involved in several events and policy activities to present concerns concerning toxic chemicals present in toys, and the lack of legal instruments to address this at national and European level.

In 2011 WECF Germany released two important German brochures: One on breast cancer "Die verkannte Gefahr – Umwelteinflüsse und Brustkrebs" and one on the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) on the health of women "Die Gestörte Weiblichkeit". Both brochures were disseminated widely among health experts, policy makers and other stakeholders, and experts of the chemicals team were invited to give presentations concerning the issues. The publication on EDCs marked the beginning of a wider program on EDCs to raise awareness among most vulnerable groups like pregnant women and to advocate for a better regulation and a ban of certain EDCs within German and the EU.

Countries: Germany, Munich, Berlin

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

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WECF Germany 'nuclear is not a solution' campaign

In 2011, the "Art and Climate" project in Munich, Germany, brought together international artists in a unique event lasting a week, combining production of climate-related art, to an art exhibition for the general public with thematic debates, and presentation of video and film material combined with dialogue sessions with the artists, public and decision makers. Art helps to address the climate change issue from another perspective than we are used to, and helps to mobilize other stakeholders. WECF is looking for upscaling this successful project in other countries and regions.

The 2011 Fukushima accident sparked great interest in WECF long-time work on the risks and costs of nuclear energy, with members from nuclear-contaminated regions in Russia receiving an international award "nuclear free future award" for their engagement, and WECF energy coordinator speaking at many public and policy events on the need to keep nuclear out of climate financing mechanisms. WECF continued to advocate for protection of communities in uranium mining areas, and to promote polluter pays and a global trust-fund for clean up of uranium mining tailings.

In Germany, on March 14 2011, WECF organized together with the two cooperation partners, Green City and the Munich Climate Initiative, an anti-nuclear rally and solemn vigil, which was attended by several thousand people. WECF's German director Sabine Bock was a speaker and pointed out that nuclear energy is not safe and can never be safe – too many people already suffer from the fatal consequences and that we must learn the lessons and do the transformation to a nuclear and fossil free future.

WECF, together with cooperation partner project21 plus, developed and presented policy recommendations to phase out nuclear and how to achieve and to go forward to sustainable energy systems in

Germany via letters to politicians like chancellor Angela Merkel, the presidents of all political parties in Germany and several ministers as well as important political stakeholder such as Dr. Klaus Töpfer (former German minister of environment and former E.D. of UNEP). A second round of letters sent by WECF and partners, with recommendations to the members of the so called "Ethics- Commission on Safe Supply of Energy", initiated by German Chancellor Merkel to judge the ethical dimensions of nuclear energy for Germany, reached also a high level of awareness and response.

WECF also developed and presented policy recommendations as an active member of the European and German Climate Alliance on the EU Energy Roadmap on March, 8 2011, with the slogan "Starten statt warten! Ausbau beim europäischen Klimaschutz!" ("Begin and do not wait! Progress for the European Climate Protection!" a strong call for higher emission reduction goals of the EU and member states. Another important event to which WECF contributed was the alternative energy summit on the 17. May 2011 with the title "Der alternative Energiegipfel 2011 – Zäsur für die Energiepolitik – Bewertung und Perspektiven der Stromkonzerne in Deutschland" (The alternative energy summit in Germany. Cut for the energy policy – assessment and perspectives of the power companies in Germany). WECF also contributed to the "Moving Planet – a day to move beyond fossil fuels" on 24. September 2011, a world wide day for climate protection which was held together with a silent March in Berlin, Germany. WECF also presented several recommendations a.o. at the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban on the 25. November regarding the plans for new coal plants in Germany with the background paper "only without new coal plants" („nur ohne neue Kohlekraftwerke").



Regional sustainable development

WECF Germany continued to share its best practices on creating regional economic value chains. WECF partner "Unser Land" hosted a visit for interested farmers and mayors from rural areas in Poland to exchange experience on sustainable agriculture, farmer-consumer cooperation, sustainable flood management and local production of renewable energy.



WASH – Water & Sanitation in Germany

WECF continued to contribute to the working group "public relations" of the German Water and Wastewater Association (DWA) in the technical committee „New Alternative Sanitation Systems" (KA-1). A brochure for awareness raising among professionals about the need to consider alternative sanitation and wastewater solutions in the frame of shrinking population in Germany was developed in German language and spread on the International Fair IFAT in Munich.

WECF is part of the new German NGO WASH Network, www.wash-net.de. 18 German NGO working in the field of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) founded this network to join forces from civil society for better WASH conditions world-wide and to lobby for WASH with one voice from the German NGO side. WECF continues to advocate with other German NGOs for improved WASH conditions in schools in EECCA countries as well as in developing countries. WECF was engaged with the German WASH network to organize a session on the international Bonn 2011 Nexus Conference: "The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus – Solutions for the Green Economy" in November 2011 which was a specific German contribution to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development "Rio2012". WECF cooperates with the German Environment Agency (UBA) on the implementation of the 3 year work program of the Protocol on Water & Health (UNECE-WHO) in the working group on small scale water supplies and sanitation (see under 'international').

A water safety plan project in Bulgarian villages funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) started in August 2011. The local WSP educational and working material has been worked out by WECF and the local partners EcoWorld2007 and EarthForever and provided to the teachers. 5 schools participate in this project. Two of them are situated in the smaller communities of Kaloyanovets and Hrishteni close to Stara Zagora. A further three are in Pravets, Vidrare und Razliv, communities around 70 km northeast of Sofia. Two teachers per school conducted the theoretical lessons and the practical part with excursions, surveys and water related experiments and tests.



WECF The Netherlands

The Netherlands (pop. 16 million) is the country where WECF was created. The WECF Netherlands organisation targets stakeholders in the Netherlands and Flanders and supports international partners with expertise and project funding, it coordinates advocacy campaigns – with a focus on European legislation – and implements awareness raising and advocacy projects at national level, with a focus on protection of women’s and children’s health from harmful chemicals.

Countries: Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium)

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

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

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Coalition against nuclear energy

In the Netherlands, most of the Climate & Energy work focused on supporting the Coalition Against Nuclear Energy “Coalitie Schoon Genoeg van Kernenergie”. WECF was an active member of the anti nuclear coalition, contributing amongst others to the ‘balloons for Minister Verhagen” event. Verhagen was Minister of Economic Affairs of the Dutch conservative-Christian democrat government and a staunch supporter of nuclear energy. Others events to which WECF contributed were the Christmas card action at the planned location for a new nuclear power plant on December 12, 2011. WECF Founder Marie Kranendonk was a guest in an hour-long television talkshow ‘Rondom Tien’ at prime time on Saturday night (TV Netherlands 2) shortly after the Fukushima catastrophe.



A Healthy Indoor Environment for Children

As part of “Nesting”, WECF organized in 2011 outreach and awareness raising activities – exhibition stands at commercial baby product fairs, website and blogs, publications and newsletters – which reached over 20,000 interested people from the general public and policy makers. The WECF ‘Nesting’ project in the Netherlands has an expert group of scientists which advises on its work, including key professors in the area of pediatrics, endocrinology, chemicals etc. WECF also engages former MEPs as advisors for its policy advocacy. In 2011, Nesting the Netherlands successfully gained attention for the problems of toxic chemicals in everyday products by appearing on national television presenting the toys with toxic chemicals in them on sale shortly before the Christmas celebrations. WECF presented its work on toxic-free children products at the “Urgenda Green Pavillion” at the biggest home-products fair of the Netherlands.



Spoilsports: Toxic Free Toys conference in the Netherlands

WECF organised the First-Ever “Toys Convention” on November 10 2011 in Utrecht. At the start of the conference, the participants were invited to test toys which they had brought along, on a few selected harmful substances. The results of a toy test found heavy metals in children’s jewelry pieces and wooden pizza pieces and forbidden phthalates in children’s painting aprons. Despite the new European Toys Safety Directive many toys still contain harmful substances. The Toys Convention was moderated by Dutch TV presenter Klaas Drupsteen and included both national and European Parliamentarians, neonatologists, scientists, manufacturers and child care workers, parents and NGOs.



European Chemicals Regulation REACH

Every six months (April and October), a multi-stakeholder symposium on chemicals policy is initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. Thematic input is given in turns by WECF and the chemical industry association. WECF was in charge of defining the program for the April 2011 meeting which was organized in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of the Environment, the employers union VNO/NCW and the chemical industry (VNCI). The WECF program focused on substitution of harmful chemicals in everyday products. The program followed a number of leading questions: “What about innovation to promote substitution of harmful chemicals” and “how can we get information to the consumers?” WECF presented the position that the legal process under the European Chemicals Regulation REACH was going too slow, and that the consumer is not aware of the risks and thus cannot make a well-informed choice whilst we wait for the REACH legislation to be implemented and improved.



Development aid, poverty reduction and gender

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

WECF was one of 40 Dutch organizations to sign the National Action Plan 1325 (NAP 1325) at its official launch on 19 December 2011, thus showing their strong commitment to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325). Built on a previous NAP 1325 (2008 – 2011), the New National Plan unites both government and civil society organizations’ effort in supporting and promoting women empowerment and leadership in political arena and decision-making process in (former) conflict areas, fragile states and countries in transition. The signing ceremony was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and a lot of press and media.



Georgia



Georgia is one of the three Caucasus republics, along Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is an ancient country and only recently gained its independence with the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. The country's independence and integrity is challenged by Russian-supported breakaway republics, in particular after the recent border-war with Russia. The breakaway republics are not recognized by the international community.

With the non-violent replacement of a corrupt government during the Rose Revolution in 2003, Georgia was the first in a series of "Colour Revolutions" sweeping the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union. The new government initiated a series of political and economic reforms that earned it the label "number one economic reformer in the world". While the country is making significant progress, more than half of the population still lives below the poverty line. Soil, air and water pollution lead to poor health conditions and decrease the quality of life for the Georgian people. Nearly 40% of the rural population lacks access to safe drinking water. Ninety percent of the sanitation facilities in rural areas are unsustainable septic tanks or pit latrines.

WECF, who has a resident regional coordinator based in Tbilisi, is working at improving the conditions particularly of rural populations by training and capacity building on renewable energy, ecological sanitation, safe water supply, sustainable agriculture, non-toxic building materials and consumer products and women's empowerment and gender equality.

Donor: SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund UNEP, European Commission, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partners: Greens Movement of Georgia/Friends of the Earth Georgia, Rural Communities Development Agency (RCDA), Georgian Ecological Agricultural Association (SEMA), Foundation Caucasus Environment, Center for Social Development Akhalsikhe, GEBMA, PAROS, Momavali, Church World Service

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Creating local capacity for sustainable development

To build the capacity of local communities with a particular effort on empowering women WECF partner Greens Movement of Georgia/FoE Georgia and partners worked in 2011 for the second year on the project 'Create local capacity for sustainable development' financed by the European Commission in Georgia. The goal of the project is capacity building and developing local entrepreneurial activities for improved access to safe and sustainable energy, water and sanitation in 5 regions in Georgia, and increase public participation in environmental decision making by having the target groups formulate lessons learned and present their policy recommendations to policy makers, thus contributing to Millennium Development Goals's 1, 3 and 7. 5 resource center were set up in the project regions, which produce and promote solar collectors and other sustainable technologies like solar fruit dryers and ecosan toilets and act as a demonstration centers for the whole region to ensure upscaling of the previously developed technologies. All Georgian WECF partners – Greens Movement, Caucasus Environment, Center for Social Development Akhalsikhe, GEBMA, PAROS, RCDA, SEMA and WECF participate in the project. The partners have different specializations, and work in synergy, helping each other in their area of expertise, exchanging experience regularly.

Enhancing food security and reduce poverty for IDPs and local residence of Galavani community of Mtskheta-Mtianeti

This project is carried out in cooperation with one Georgia-based partner RCDA and in cooperation with Church World Service and combines both climate change adaptation and mitigation work while creating new sources of income and employment. Most families in the project area use firewood for cooking and heating which causes widespread land degradation. As an alternative to cutting down trees the project promotes and builds briquette machines to produce fuel-briquettes from agricultural residues. IDP women were provided with land plots where they implemented kitchen gardens to ensure food security and internalize organic production methods. The project received the 2011 ACT Climate Award in the ACT Global Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The founder and director of "Rural Communities Development Agency – RCDA" Rostom Gamisonia, went to Indonesia to collect the prize.



Project 'Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in the EEC region'

Solar Collectors – Georgia has an abundance of sunshine, with 280 days of clear skies and warm weather a year, the county's potential for solar energy is limitless, according to Avtandil Geladze of The Greens Movement of Georgia. For comparison, Northern Germany, which receives only 150 days of sunshine throughout the year still manages to cover 30% of its energy consumption needs using solar energy, so Georgia should be able to do much better. As solar warm-water collectors were not produced locally in Georgia, they were imported for a high price. The resource centres set up in the previous projects act as producers, installers and information centres of solar collectors and other sustainable technologies as fruit dryers and sustainable sanitation technologies.

In 2011, 30 specialists from different regions of Georgia were trained on construction, operation and maintenance of solar collectors. Women focused on maintenance, use and monitoring, and men on construction. Each construction specialist built 2 solar collectors in their villages. The maintenance specialist supervised the family where the collectors were installed and monitored the results. International trainers received a warm welcome with host families in the villages during the training, which gave them the possibility to get an impression of local life conditions in rural areas in Georgia and to enjoy the hospitality of the Georgian families. In Chardakhi for example villagers live under very basic living conditions, running hot water is a luxury good. For heating water, most of the villagers depend on fuel wood or natural gas. As gas is mostly delivered through Russian pipelines this creates an uncomfortable situation of dependence for Georgians, due to the fact that the political situation with Russia is still tense, as well as vulnerability to unpredictable sudden gas price increases. The baseline study and the needs assessment revealed villagers are spending around 25-35% of their income solely on energy.

Insulation – An insulation workshop bringing together international and local experts to identify suitable insulation techniques showed that reed, straw and clay are the most appropriate and available materials to be used. On the local market only a limited number of synthetic insulation materials are available. Therefore RCDA helped women from the Khamiskuri resource center to start with the small-scale production of reed panels as a means of income generating and to make the material available. Reed panels are highly valued in Western Europe for its excellent insulating and moisture resisting capacities. Insulating with straw bales is also highly viable and affordable.



Conference – To launch the project, an International Conference "Thermal solar and insulation technologies and policies in Georgia" was organized in Tbilisi by WECF and partner Greens Movement. During the conference a joint NGO declaration was elaborated related to development of energy sector of Georgia and its general directions. The conference, which was promoted as a starting point for lobbying for the use of alternative and energy-efficient energy resources in years to come, discussed Georgia's policy towards the development of its renewable energy sources – with a focus on solar, wind, and geothermal energy.

Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals

Raising awareness about asbestos and heavy metals – WECF and its Georgian partners have launched a project aimed at reducing exposure to specific hazardous chemicals (namely asbestos, heavy metals, biocides and pesticides) in Georgia, because they pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The awareness of the rural population on the dangers of these harmful substances is extremely low. The project aim is to focus on the potential of implementing safer chemicals including non-chemical alternatives for Georgia and the EECCA region. The specific objective of the project is to create awareness on the health impact of hazardous chemicals used in construction and agriculture and to promote the implementation of safer, preferably non-chemical alternatives.

A number of hazardous substances are used in construction and maintenance of buildings in the EECCA region. WECF Georgian partner NGOs have long observed use of substances which are known to be immediately hazardous to human health, including uranium-mining waste, lead-containing paints and asbestos in construction of houses. Furthermore, Georgians use substances which are problematic once they need to be disposed of, such as chlorine based plastics (e.g. PVC), chemically-treated wood, flame-retardants and various harmful insulation materials, carpets, glues, etc. Asbestos and asbestos waste is a great risk for human health. The majority of the public is not informed about these great health risks, the majority of the population has been made-believe that chrysotile asbestos produced in the EECCA region is safe.

The project aim is to inform the population and demonstrate safer alternatives for management of pests in the house and in agriculture, as well as promoting safe construction materials. The project is managed by WECF and implemented by the three following Georgian partners: RCDA, Greens Movement and SEMA. RCDA focuses on building materials and conducted in 2011 an inventory of current practices and

information needs of the rural population. RCDA, together with WECF, developed a training kit and a demonstration site on non-toxic low cost natural building materials. SEMA is an organic agricultural organization and demonstrated and tested alternatives for pesticides and integrated pest management to reduce the use of hazardous pesticides. A demonstration site at a local farm and a practical training kit was developed by SEMA in 2011. The 'Greens Movement' is an organization aiming to protect the environment, human and ethno-cultural surroundings according to the principles of sustainable development to establish ecologically safe technologies. In 2011, the 'Greens Movement' carried out research on import and export of hazardous chemicals, analysed the chemicals legislation and revealed alarming realities in the field of chemical management. Further they did capacity building and public awareness raising through media and communication campaigns, as well as influencing policy on national level.

Straw Bale Buildings & Insulation

To demonstrate an alternative and affordable construction material, better than the currently used chrysotile asbestos and inefficient cement blocks, WECF introduced "Straw Bale building" – a viable alternative for Georgia and the EECCA region! Straw bale building and clay plastering were successfully introduced in Georgia as efficient and ecological alternative for hazardous conventional building materials for rich and poor during a practical workshop and public info day in July 2011 in an exchange with building experts (Leembouw Capiau) from the Netherlands. Also during two expert workshops on energy efficient technologies for house insulation in Georgia and Ukraine, the potential for house insulation with different techniques and materials adapted to local conditions was assessed.

Safe alternatives to Pesticides and Biocides in Georgia

Many of the pesticides listed as used frequently in Georgia are known to have serious health and environmental impacts. Georgian chemicals legislation has been in a void since over a year, and there are no clear responsibilities on chemical management or control of imported pesticides. In the inventory carried out by WECF and its partners, several illegal pesticides and biocides were found on Georgian markets. The project addresses both pesticides (used on crops to reduce pests) and biocides (used on non crops, e.g. on animals and the house to reduce pests). Several of them are banned in the EU or worldwide like synthetic Methyl Bromide (Bromemethyl) – a fumigant – mainly used as a soil sterilizing-agent, seed production and for cargo processing in vehicles. Methyl Bromide is supposed to be phased-out under the Montreal Protocol. Georgia has abolished its law on toxic chemicals in 2010 in expectation of the ratification of the law on toxic building materials. The ratification process took one year, in which import was not regulated at all due to the absence of laws. The border control registered several hundreds of kilograms of banned pesticides entering the country, but had no legal base to stop them. This information was revealed by Greens Movement of Georgia by simply analysing import information provided by the relevant authorities. Users are not informed about the harmful chemical products they buy, their risks, proper use and alternatives. Users don't know that these dangerous substances can be replaced by efficient alternatives

such as pheromones and plant tinctures, which are available and increasingly used in agriculture in the EU, and are made redundant by using crop rotation, intercropping and applying the principles of sustainable agriculture. During the project, WECF and its local partners implement sustainable agriculture and integrate pest management methods in pilot demonstration fields at local farmers, in order to demonstrate how pesticide use can be substantially reduced. WECF and SEMA have trained farmer leaders and NGOs on alternative plant protection methods following previous trainings on the risks of pesticides. A wide scale of different approaches to substitute chemical pesticides and fertiliser was presented and discussed. A demonstration plot was implemented at an organic farmer where the different methods were tested and implemented, and the farmers had the chance to see the results with their own eyes. It became once again clear that alternative plant protection methods are diverse, effective, cheaper and much healthier for the environment and humans than chemical pesticides. Although the average farmer in Georgia lacks knowledge and skills on these methods, there is a great demand for change towards healthier and more effective pest management. One participant commented: **"Such meetings are very useful and it is necessary that they are carried out on a larger-scale, being available for everyone."**

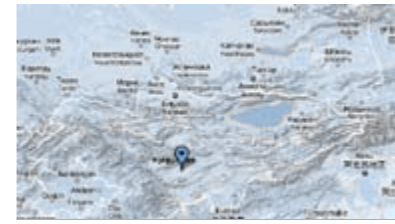
For farmers, consumers, and actually everybody, it is crucial to have good reliable harvests in agriculture. Studies by FAO have shown, that organic agriculture is able to feed the world. In many cases, the introduction of organic agriculture has increased yields for farmers. WECF introduced a range of successful strategies of pesticides reduction in European countries, and initiated a discussion on suitable governmental and civil society campaigns for Georgia. In Georgia the farmers are not yet as dependent on pesticides as European Farmers, which offers a chance for a smooth transition to alternative pest management.

Water Safety Plans in Guria

WECF trained a local NGO Momevale and 4 local schools on implementation of Water Safety Plans. The teachers worked with great enthusiasm with support of the NGO, and the results revealed once again big problems with water quality, especially microbiological contamination was found in the majority of the drinking water sources that the local population uses. The villages use water wells or piped mountain springs, where the catchment area is polluted and pipes are deteriorating. The schools have identified ways to improve the situation, ranging from protecting the catchment, cleaning the wells and renewing the pipes, and WECF and partners are searching for funding and lobby the government to implement the measures and provide access to clean drinking water.

Sustainable resource management

The innovative strength of the project is to use an integrated approach: Urine and faeces collected in sustainable sanitation facilities are re-used in agriculture as valuable resources. Agricultural organic materials are used for house insulation to increase energy efficiency as an alternative for hazardous building materials. Water protection is achieved by reducing hazardous pesticides in agriculture. Poverty reduction through capacity building and promotion of low cost efficient building materials and alternative pesticides for rural communities are some of the positive results of the projects. WECF principles of 'closing the loop' and 'Cradle to Cradle' are used; materials produced are not regarded as a waste, but as a resource after their initial purpose has been fulfilled.



Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan (pop. 5 million) is a small mountainous country located in Central Asia between China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. While Kyrgyzstan is rich in natural resources, – it has a high potential for hydropower and large gold deposits, – 40% of the population live below the poverty line. 70% of the poor live in rural areas. There has been a massive emigration of (young) men looking for a job, especially to neighbouring countries like Russia, and many rural communities count mostly women, children and elderly. 55% of the population works in the agricultural sector. Like many Central Asian countries Kyrgyzstan's citizens, especially in the rural areas, face acute water supply problems such as contamination and lack of access. Piped water supply has decreased compared to the year 2000. Water-borne diseases are common, increasing the poor health of the population. In rural areas, only 12% of the population has access to improved sanitation. Rural communities also face energy problems, gas prices have quadrupled leading to increased fuel wood use and thus deforestation and erosion. Lack of energy also leads to deterioration of public health and to poverty in general. This is exacerbated by climate change and the harsh winters. Some mountain areas are isolated for months from the rest of the country, with temperatures sinking to 50 degrees Celsius below zero. Kyrgyzstan has up till recently been one of the most stable democratic countries in Central Asia. However, recently the young republic has experienced many political shocks. In a short period of time, there have been two coups and bloody ethnic clashes that weakened the economy and political structures. After the peaceful 'Tulip Revolution' that removed first Kyrgyz president Akaev in 2005, a second revolution took place in April 2010, when public upheaval led to the fall down of the government and the escape of the president. A new temporary government came in place but was not prepared to deal with large scale provoked violence, leading to ethnic clashes in the South of the country. Thousands of people suffered and died. Officials say up to 2,000 civilians may have been killed during the riots in a one-month period. Many women and girls suffered from sexual abuse. Infrastructure was destroyed and many refugees needed shelter. In 2011, WECF worked with seven partner organizations in Kyrgyzstan; on poverty reduction, gender equality, health and improving basic living standards. Project activities included constructing and

Countries: Kyrgyzstan

Donor: European Commission, EuropeAid; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany; Mr. Jorritsma & Hanzhogeschool Zwolle, Natracare Company

Partner: BIOM, Central Asian Alliance for Water – CAAW, Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation – KAWS, ALGA, AKARKESH, UNISON, ULGU



testing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures such as domestic solar collectors, insulation of houses, water supply and sanitation for schools and rural households, as well as capacity building, awareness raising and policy advocacy.



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

The living conditions in many Kyrgyz villages are very difficult. Most households do not have access to improved water and sanitation systems. In the cold winters, the heating costs are very high. This project focuses on priority areas for women, improving the basic services and living condition in and around the rural household.

The EuropeAid funded project "Home Comforts" demonstrates solutions how to find affordable and sustainable ways towards improved living conditions in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. "It is so important to bridge the divide between rural and urban areas in Kyrgyzstan", says Anara Choitonbaeva, chairperson of the Kyrgyz Alliance for Water and Sanitation (KAWS), "thus applying adapted and sustainable technologies for rural areas." She coordinates the project activities being implemented in nine villages in the Issyk-Kul oblast (region). "Especially women and girls are suffering from insufficient infrastructure for water, sanitation and energy in the villages", says Aijamal Bakashova, gender expert of ALGA, who prepared the baseline study about the situation in the villages.

Heating

The project installs and tests adapted technologies covering three aspects essential for an improved living standard: heating, warm water and safe sanitation in the house. Energy efficient stoves, solar collectors for warm water and ECOSAN toilets have been installed in each of the nine villages for demonstration. They are located in public places, mostly in the community buildings of the "Community Drinking Water Users Unions (CDWUU)" so that the villagers can see and test the new technologies. For example, in the village Chyrak, energy efficient stoves were installed in the post office and in Toguz Balak in the village medical ambulatory. "The energy efficient stove is an advanced stove technology which saves fuel, heats more space and protects the indoor air quality better than a traditional stove", explains Ruslan Isaev, expert of WECF partner "Camp Ala-Too". 18 "stove masters" were trained by Camp Ala-Too in October 2011 and more than 20 stoves have been constructed up to now by the new stove masters.



Ecosan toilets

ECOSAN toilets, an innovative technology which does not need water for flushing neither smells nor attracts flies is the second technology demonstrated. "We appreciate that the ECOSAN toilet can be implemented inside the house or attached to the house – a great improvement over the outdoor pits," says Imash Azarbaev, chairman of CDWUU in Chyrak and elected president of the CDWUU's network of Jeti-Oguz rayon. The CDWUUs support the construction, operation and maintenance of the ECOSAN sanitation facilities in the villages. The toilet seats and the doors are produced in their community "resource centre".

Solar Collectors

The project also demonstrates solar collectors, built from local material and making use of the sun's energy, provides warm water for the houses. Together, the three technologies help to increase the tourism potential of the rural areas. Bakyt Choitonbaev, chairman of Territorial Self-governance Public Union "Bokonbaev-Manjly" of the village Bokonbaev underlines, "the energy efficient stove, the solar collector and the ECOSAN toilet are the infrastructure needed for a guest house to set up tourist business activities."

After successful installation of the demonstration objects, the key challenge for sustainably implementing and up-scaling the environmental infrastructure technologies are the lack of access to finance for the villagers," explains Claudia Wendland, who is the overall project coordinator at WECF "there are many micro finance businesses in Kyrgyzstan, however they operate with high interest rates which may apply to a short-term commercial investment, but not for non-productive infrastructure investments. Social financial mechanisms for this type of infrastructure in rural areas are needed. The project develops a social housing microcredit scheme. The governor of Issyk-Kul oblast, Mirbek Asanakunov, welcomed a delegation from the village and the project coordinators on 14 December 2011: "these activities are very important for the Issyk-Kul oblast and will be integrated into the strategy development plan". He promised to visit the project villages soon and to support all project activities. In all activities, WECF and its Kyrgyz partners, employ local staff and expertise with aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of their initiatives.

Asbestos in Kyrgyzstan

Asbestos and asbestos-waste are hazardous to human health and the environment. Kyrgyzstan is one of world's biggest consumers of asbestos. Currently asbestos containing materials are used without restriction in public buildings like hospitals, schools and kindergartens, and in many other consumer products such as brakes and building

materials. The people of Kyrgyzstan are exposed to asbestos in their homes and livelihoods, and while – in contact – with asbestos waste. There is no evaluation of diseases caused by asbestos, the general public and even many non-governmental organisations are unaware of hazardous health effects of asbestos.

The topic is relevant to the public; especially for vulnerable groups like the poor and children, highly exposed groups like workers and inhabitants of waste areas because they suffer from exposure and do not even know that the surroundings they live might be highly dangerous. To raise awareness, provide information, build networks, strengthen citizen's capacities and develop solution strategies to present to state authorities this project aims to help reducing the use of asbestos and clean up contaminated waste sites. People now and future generations will highly benefit from these activities.

In May 2011 WECF and partner BIOM organised an international high-level conference on chrysotile, asbestos & health. Representatives of 5 ministries, the president's office, parliament, the European Commission, WHO, ILO, Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, Germany Ambassador and German ministry of environment, industry and civil society – took part in this Asbestos conference. It was the first time that chrysotile asbestos and its health and economic costs were discussed in Kyrgyzstan. Thus far, it was generally believed also by policy makers, that asbestos was a safe material to use, and that the asbestos factory near Bishkek was an important factor for economic development. All the participants – with the exception of the chrysotile asbestos trade unions – agreed on a resolution calling on the Kyrgyz government to take measures to address the health risks of chrysotile asbestos.

Gender Trainings supported by Natracare

The Gender trainings were financially supported by Natracare Company. Natracare, a UK-based manufacturer of organic and natural solutions for personal health care has become a sponsor of WECF projects on improving sanitation in schools in the rural areas of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Natracare and WECF, both committed to healthy lifestyle for girls and women without damaging the environment, have started a cooperation for safe sanitation in developing countries, especially with a focus on girls. For girls in the Netherlands or UK, having their monthly period is not a big deal, but not for the girls in these countries where due to the astoundingly poor sanitary conditions of the toilets they are prevented from attending school, and as a result missing out on their education. With financial help from Natracare, WECF built school toilets in the rural areas of Tajikistan in 2010 and in 2011 was able to conduct gender sensitive trainings in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. WECF has a long track of similar successfully implemented projects in other countries that brought positive changes to the lives of many young girls and boys. The fund is also used for hygiene and health training for children and health/rights training for girls.

Natracare is a manufacturer of biodegradable sanitary napkins and tampons and breast pads of one hundred percent certified organic cotton. These products are also good news for the environment. Because the synthetic materials in conventional sanitary products causing many environmental problems, including in the waste. Annually women around the world throw away some 45 billion sanitary products. The plastic and other harmful substances in these products cause many environmental problems, including waste. Natracare products prevent environmental degradation and are comfortable and of good quality for women to use.



Azerbaijan



The Republic of Azerbaijan is situated between the continents of Europe and Asia in the Caucasus region, located on the Western shores of the Caspian sea. Azerbaijan has borders with five countries, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and has a 800 km coastline along the Caspian sea. The population is about 9 million. Azerbaijan is rich in oil, but income disparities are great. About 12% of the population is made up of refugees and internally displaced people (IDP). Most of these people have a very poor standard of living, and are housed in temporary settlements in unsanitary conditions. In 1989 Azerbaijan was one of the first Soviet Republics after the Baltic States to declare its national sovereignty. Azerbaijan gained its formal independence from the Soviet Union on the 18th October 1991

Azerbaijan is a country with the highest infant mortality in the EECCA region. In the rural areas where WECF and its local partner implement project to improve living conditions, the main drinking water source is the river Kura. The river water is of poor drinking water quality due to serious industrial and agricultural pollution and household effluent. Water-trucks deliver untreated river water to the households in the project villages, where the water is stored and settled in containers for drinking use. Other villagers serve themselves with water from the irrigation channels. About 1,1 million preschool- and schoolchildren are infected by intestinal worms. Safe drinking water has been identified as one of the main priorities during the needs assessment, and local people are ready to pay for improvements.

Azerbaijan: Remote Communities in Azerbaijan

WECF and its local partner EKOT implemented a 2-year project 'Community Approaches to a Better Environment for All and Poverty Reduction in Out of Reach Communities' which was completed in 2011. The project was carried out in six rural communities

Countries: Azerbaijan

Donor: European Commission, Government of Finland, Water Utility of Groningen, the Netherlands

Partners: WECF, EKOT Azerbaijan and Sustainable Future Finland

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in the Sabirabad, Saatli, Ismayilli and Shemakha regions of Azerbaijan. These communities suffer from water and energy shortage. The project demonstrates up-scalable solutions for improved water and sanitation management as well as energy provision, based on locally identified needs and means.

To improve living conditions, WECF conducted trainings for local teachers on how to develop "Water Safety Plans" to identify sources of water pollution and measures to protect water sources. A certified laboratory analysed water provided to the villagers for drinking purposes from the irrigation channels, on bacteria, salts and some heavy metals. The analysis found the water was absolutely not suited as drinking water. As an immediate short-term solution, WECF tested and disseminated "Tulip water filters" that are developed for easy handling by households to remove particles and bacteria in water. In the longer-term, the national authorities were called on to install safe drinking water supply systems for the villages.

Water Safety Plans

In 2010 WECF and EKOT performed a 3-day training on Water Safety Plans in the regions Shamakha, Sabirabad and Saatli. The trainer was Anna Samwel who is WECF's regional resident expert for Caucasus and Eastern Europe. The approach of Water Safety Plans (WSP) was further introduced to the teachers of 6 villages on how to develop WSP for their local water sources, and pupils also participated. During the whole school year the teachers together with children performed several activities, such as measuring the nitrate concentration of the water sources in each village with easy quick tests. Every pupil had a territory for monitoring the water quality of the irrigation channels and wells. The children had an excursion to the border with Iran where water from the Araz river is distributed to the irrigation channels in each community.

Unfortunately water sources with safe drinking water in the regions in which WECF and EKOT work, are a rarity. The water has a high salinity and after tests done throughout the project, the results showed microbiological contamination which exceeded the norms for bacteria several times. The schools identified the main sources of pollution of the river and channel water: domestic waste, manure and probably the usage of fertilizer. Further the schools identified a correlation between the nitrate concentration of well water and the proximity of pit latrine toilets. As a short term solution, the WECF project team brought water filters for removing particles and microorganism from the water and these were distributed and tested in 5 schools and 5 households. The project advocated with policy



makers that it should be the task of the national and/or regional authorities to ensure access to affordable and safe drinking water to the rural villages. The Ministry of Environment of Azerbaijan is aware of the WECF program and the activities going on in the regions and has expressed their support for implementation of the Water Safety Plans. The project resulted in developing local strategies and a national strategy for meeting the problems of unsafe drinking water and sanitation on local and national level to address to state authorities. One of the solutions found is the distribution of tulip water filters that improve the drinking situation in the needy regions of Azerbaijan as an intermediary solution. 500 filters have already been ordered, and an Azeri business will be responsible for further orders according to demand (which is expected to be very high). On the long term, water supply systems need to be developed for all regions, as well as proper (ecological) sanitation.

Solar Collectors and Solar Fruit Dryers

Solar applications for rural households, such as solar warm water heaters, solar fruit and vegetable dryers and solar water distillers are important for the villagers in rural Azerbaijan. Saatli and Sabirabat regions are one of the hottest areas in Azerbaijan and have a high number of sun hours, making them appropriate for applying solar systems. There is a lack of fire-wood and people spend almost half of their monthly income on energy supply. Most people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, but fruits which they produce and which remain unsold, get wasted each year. Solar fruit drying is an appropriate way to conserve fruits and vegetables for winter-time or to add value for market selling.

Two different fruit dryers were constructed in remote villages in Azerbaijan during a 'train the trainers session' conducted by the Resource Center Khamiskuri, Georgia, WECF and EKOT. WECF long-term partner from Georgia presented good practices and examples from the country in terms of drying fruits and vegetables which can be used in Azerbaijan as well. For the training several owners of fruit trees were selected, as well as other villagers who expressed interest in the subject. With these fruit

dryers the owners can conserve their fruit in a hygienic way, conserve them for winter or sell them in local markets.

Final policy conference – "Lessons learned" at national conference in Baku

WECF together with EKOT prepared policy recommendations to improve water and sanitation, energy efficiency and renewable energy applications in rural areas of Azerbaijan. The recommendations were distributed to policy makers, NGOs and other stakeholders during the national conference.

Thirty representatives of target communities and from the Ministry of Environment and Nature Resources, the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Organization, the State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources, NGOs and mass media participated at the National Conference. As well as experts from the EU participated and delivered presentations related to the topics and pilots implemented in Azerbaijan.

During of the national conference the case study "No safe drinking water for the Region Sabirabad, Azerbaijan" was distributed, with recommendations on water, ecological sanitation and energy issues. All target communities were awarded with a certificate on their successful participation in the project.



Estonia



The Republic of Estonia (1.3 million inhabitants) is situated in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It borders the Gulf of Finland to the north, the Baltic Sea to the west, Latvia to the south and the Lake Peipsi and the Russian Federation to the east. The capital and largest city is Tallinn. Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic, which is divided into 15 counties-administrative subdivisions of the country. Estonia is a member of the European Union, Eurozone and NATO.

The Estonian economy is characterized by its rapid growth and is rated by the World Bank as 'high income'. Estonia is not a resource rich country, however, it offers a large variety of resources. Amongst them limestone deposits and forests, forests covering 50,6 % of the land. Estonia also has large reserves of phosphorite, pitchblende and granite. Currently, there is major public dispute concerning the issue of whether Estonia should secure the energy production by building a nuclear power plant.

Baltic Information Campaign on Hazardous Substances

Many products used in everyday life, like toys, cosmetics, plastic products, etc. contain hazardous chemicals. In the Baltic States people are often not aware of this and sufficient regulation is not in place. The overall goal of the project is to initiate a stronger demand from civil society in the three Baltic States for products free of hazardous substances via awareness raising activities.

Avoiding harmful substances in children's and consumer products

The project partners want to inform Baltic society about substances which are considered harmful for people's health and the environment, where such products are used in everyday life and how they can be substituted with safer products. In the course of the project easy understandable information materials about potential impacts from hazardous substances to human health and environment targeted to the information needs of the particular stakeholder group are published, such as interactive



games, web competitions etc. The project started in 2011, and WECF contributes with its specific expertise on harmful substances and their health effects, in particular on women and children. WECF publications on how to avoid harmful substances in children's and consumer products are being translated and used in the three Baltic countries.

Project Nesting & the Safe Toys Coalition

As of 2010, the WECF Project Nesting expanded its Pan European website with a website in Estonian. The responsible team, from the NGO "Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia", published as a follow up in 2011 a guide for young parents in Estonian as well as an Estonian version of the renowned WECF "Toys Guide", which is now available in eight languages. BEF Estonia is also an active member of the International "Safe Toys Coalition" (see under "campaigns").

Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans

Estonia is the only country outside the Western Balkans that has taken part in the activities of our project 'Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans'. The Balkan project is focused on awareness raising and providing practical information mainly to young parents as well as the general public on how to provide a non-toxic environment for children.

The Estonian representatives and partners in these projects contributed to the Balkan stakeholders' visit to various European institutions in April 2011 and the multi-stakeholder training on product safety in the Balkans in November 2011 hosted by the Macedonian partners. Both the events were very successful and served to increase the knowledge and provide greater insights on how to practically approach the issue in all of the countries where the project is implemented.

Countries: EU Life+

Donor: Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia (BEF EE), Environmental Film Studio (VFS), Tallinn University (TLU), Liepaja University (LiePU), Rautakesko AS Estonia (Rautakesko EE)



(The Former Yugoslav Republic of) Macedonia

The Republic of Macedonia in South-Eastern Europe is bordered by Kosovo to the northwest, Serbia to the north, Bulgaria to the east, Greece to the south and Albania to the west. Macedonia declares its independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991. Since 1993 the country is a member of the United Nations; however Macedonia was admitted under the provisional reference of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, because of the disagreement with Greece. The capital of the country is Skopje, which is home to 506,926 inhabitants. The population was seriously affected by the Second World War when starvation, executions, and deportations took place. Moreover, heavy fighting affected the country during the Greek Civil War which enhanced the emigration amongst many inhabitants of the rural areas of Macedonia to the towns and cities, or even abroad. Many parts of Macedonia are not densely inhabited even nowadays.

Since its independence, the Republic of Macedonia has undergone considerable economic reform. The country has developed an open economy with lively trade (more than 90% of GDP in the last years). The country has had steady, though slow, economic growth during from 1996 so far. The inflation rate (CPI) in the state was 3.9% in 2011 (est.). The government has adopted policies, focused on attracting foreign investments and helping the development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).



Toxic-Free products for Children

The Republic of Macedonia is one of the three Balkan countries participating in the WECF project "Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans". In April 2011, WECF organised a visit with all Balkan partners to Brussels and Paris, to meet with legislators, parliamentarians, research institutes and NGOs. In May 2011, the local Macedonian partner "Journalists for Children and Women Rights and Environmental Protection" organized a seminar under the title of "Journalists workshop for toy's safety". It was attended by many participants and journalists from all types of media. Due to the great interest the training was repeated two months later.

In November 2011, the Macedonian partner hosted another multi-stakeholder training "Challenges and needs in cross-sectoral cooperation on hazardous substances in product safety in Macedonia and their impact to the consumers". During the training 60 representatives of international and national, governmental and non-governmental organizations discussed topics on EU product safety regulations, the role of the national market surveillance, the role of the customs, the situation regarding the safety of for example toys on the Macedonian market, etc. The other project partners from Serbia and Albania delivered presentations on product and chemical safety and the results of their project activities in their own countries. Based on the findings of working groups, recommendations for improvement of legislation, information and institutions were prepared by the participants.

The WECF "Toys Guide" on how to choose toxic-free toys was published in Macedonian language and is available as a download on the WECF and partners websites.

Countries: The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Donor: European Commission, IPA Socio Economic Partnership Programme

Partners: Journalists for Human Rights

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Serbia

Serbia borders Hungary to the north, Romania and Bulgaria to the east, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the south and Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro to the west. The capital and the largest city in the country is Belgrade with a population of around 1.7 million people and it is one of the most populated cities in Southeastern Europe.

After World War I, the country formed Yugoslavia with other South Slavic people up until 2006, when Serbia retrieved its independence. After the terrible Balkan war, Kosovo, the Serbia's southern province, declared its independence In February 2008. Serbia is the only European country, outside the former USSR, which has free trade agreements with Russia and Belarus, in addition to its free-trade agreement with the EU.

Serbia is a main frozen fruit exporter and grows about one-third of the world's raspberries.



Safe Toys for a Safe Childhood

Many day-to-day products, like toys, contain hazardous chemicals. In regions like the Western Balkans consumers are not aware of this and that there is insufficient regulation in place to protect public health. WECF and its Serbian, Macedonian and Albanian partners are implementing the 2,5 year project "Product and Chemical Safety". The project identifies the needs of consumers, presents best practices and recommends legislative improvements that will improve the protection of health and the environment.

As part of this project, WECF organized and coordinated a series of events. Thus, in the beginning of the year, in April 2011, representatives from WECF and the partners' NGOs from Serbia, Albania, Macedonia and Estonia had an opportunity to visit a wide range of European institutions in Brussels and Paris. During these days the group gained knowledge in the international regulatory agreements on toys safety, the Rapex system and its connection to toys and cosmetics, as well as on Standardization on flame retardants and REACH. The project visit was highly appreciated by the partners implementing the actions in

Countries: Serbia

Donor: European Commission, IPA Socio Economic Partnership Programme

Partners: Journalists for Human Rights

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their respective countries. All partners obtained knowledge during their stay in Brussels/Paris of use to their further work and activities related to product and chemical safety.

The national associates who took part in the study visit in Brussels and Paris played major role afterwards in the preparation of the inventories together with the local partners in each country.

Serbian partner NGO "Resource Center Leskovac" also organized a seminar in May 2011 and carried out a multi-stakeholder training in November 2011, both on product safety, organized together with the local Macedonian partner – Journalists for Human Rights. RCL created a website and distributed various video clips, created a media team following chemical safety issues in Serbia (covering internet, radio and TV). The Serbian partner participated in the multi-stakeholders trainings organized by the other two partners from the Balkan countries, held in Tirana and Skopje.

Consumer Protection

WECF's "Toxic Free Toys Guide" on how to choose toxic-free toys contains useful information on most of the hazardous substances found in toys and concrete tips on how consumers can play it safe when buying toys for children, was been published in Serbian language.

The inventory "Toy Safety in Serbia" published by Resource Center Leskovac was developed in 2011 – the study is a result of the first 9 months investigations in the field of consumer and corporate responsibility. Many manufacturers now produce toys that contain dangerous chemicals. In the Balkans, many of them are not aware of this, and there is not enough legislation or it is inadequately enforced. This project identifies the needs of consumers and economic in this area and is an example of good practice which reflect into improvement of health and environment. The project deals with the problem of lack of knowledge among consumers, producers and decision makers on the EU acquis in the field of chemical safety products. By identifying best practices, the project contributes the last 2 years to increase consumer protection, improving the dialogue between the above mentioned bodies. Institutes for Public health, Customs, Chambers of Commerce, NGOs, more than 100 stores in the country were visited and anonymous surveys were conducted with more than 600 random consumers of toys for the purpose of the survey.



Albania

The country is situated in South Eastern Europe. It borders Montenegro to the northwest, Kosovo to the northeast, the Republic of Macedonia to the east and Greece to the south and southeast. Tirana is the capital of Albania, where approximately 600,000 people live. Albania is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Council of Europe, WTO, Organization of the Islamic Conference and one of the founding members of the Union for the Mediterranean. Since January 2003 Albania has been a potential candidate for accession to the European Union. On 28 April 2009 the country formally applied for EU membership. According to the United Nations Population Division the infant mortality rate in the country is ranked 91 highest infant mortality rate out of 195 countries. In 2011 it was 14.61 deaths/1,000 live births. Albania remains a poor country according to the Western European standards. Its GDP per capita stood at 26 percent of the EU average in 2010. The most important sector in the country is the agriculture, which employs 58% of the labor force and generates about 21% of GDP.



Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans

Albania is one of the three Balkan countries where the project 'Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans' is being implemented. WECF and its local partners cooperate together and strive to provide useful and practical information to the consumers in the national market on how they most efficiently can avoid and protect their children from the harmful effects of hazardous substances in children's toys.

Many day-to-day products, like toys, furniture and household products, contain hazardous chemicals. In regions like the Western Balkans people are not aware of this problem, and there is no regulation in place. WECF's partner organizing in Albania "Women's Movement for Integral Development" identifies the needs of consumers in this area and presents best practices and policy recommendations that will improve the protection of health and the environment. WECF and its Albanian partner LGZHI visited various European institutions in Brussels and Paris to bring examples of

Country: Albania

Donors: European Commission, EU member state ministries of environment

Partners: Women's Movement for Integral Development (LGZHI)

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legislation and information policies back to Albania. In Albania, Executive Director of LGZHI, Mrs. Evis Qaja and her colleagues were invited to various television shows including the daily breakfast news TVSH on Albanian National Public Television. Eva Qaja advocated for more thorough and detailed inspection controls on the part of the Albanian institutions regarding harmful chemicals in products, and emphasized the importance of increasing collaboration in terms of awareness and advocacy campaigns, to inform consumers in Albania about the risks related to harmful chemical substances in the country.

WECF's Albanian project partner organized a conference "International Cooperation in Hazardous Substances and Product Safety in the Balkans" in October 2011, which resulted in concrete action of the Albanian authorities. The two-day conference "International Cooperation in Hazardous Substances and Product Safety in the Balkans" in Tirana was attended by ca. 200 participants from civil society organizations, national authorities and agencies, universities, institutes, trade unions, business representatives, media and other stakeholders in Albania. The participants discussed product safety and its insufficient regulation in the Balkan region.

The conference resulted in a joint statement of 23 civil society organizations demanding better control mechanisms for consumer products, especially toys. The statement was brought to the attention of state authorities and the national media. The Albanian CSI controlled for the first time children's toys on the market and many of them, including dolls, cars, plastic toys, were so dangerous that they had to be immediately taken off the market. Further actions were undertaken in regards to stricter controls by the Customs Authorities as well as greater scrutiny of the recommendation on the part of the Ministry of Economy and Technical Centre Inspectorate. The WECF Toys Guide, containing useful consumer information on how to choose toxic-free toys, was translated into Albanian. To provide an overview of the the situation in Albania, an inventory regarding toys has been printed in both Albanian and English. Their neighbourhoods, thus addressing the problem of access to hot water in Ukrainian villages. **"While facing the rapid growth of gas prices, as well as other conventional energy resources, the use of solar energy is beneficial, not only to separate**



Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe with roughly 600,000 sq km but only about 46 million people. Of these 29% live below the poverty line – nearly 15 million. Access to safe drinking water is problematic especially in rural areas. Energy poverty is becoming a general concern after gas and oil prices where greatly increased by Russia in 2006. Health effects from the 1986 Chernobyl reactor disaster continue to burden for many families. WECF has worked for since 1996 in the Ukraine and built up a strong relationship to the country and its people. The work in the future will continue to improve the access of the rural population to safe and sustainable energy, water and sanitation and to substitute toxic chemicals and asbestos.



Switch to Sun – Live with Comfort

The project 'Switch to sun-live with comfort' - Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in the EEC region – is being implemented simultaneously in Ukraine and Georgia. In Ukraine the project is implemented by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, environmental NGO Vidrodzhennia from Tatarbunary and Rivne Ecoclub, in partnership with the international network WECF, and with financial assistance from the European Commission. The project started in 2011 and will last 4 years. The aim is to improve health, reduce poverty and increase energy security by providing people with tools and knowledge to heat water with solar energy in 22 rural communities in 7 EEC countries. Three rural districts in Ukraine were chosen to receive training on self-constructing solar collectors for warm water and heating. The chosen districts include the Mannevichi district of the Volyn region, Pogrebyschi district of the Vinnitsa region and Tatarbunary district of the Odessa region. During practical trainings participants learnt the techniques of building and installing the solar collectors, presented by the international network WECF and the German company SolarPartnerSud. The participants are now able to install similar collectors in their neighbourhoods, thus addressing the problem of access to hot water in Ukrainian villages. **"While facing the rapid growth of gas prices, as well as other conventional energy resources, the use of solar energy is beneficial, not only to separate households, but also to the state in general. Besides the use of solar energy is environmentally friendly", according to Yury Urbansky from the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine.**

Hot water and the different needs of men and women

In Mannevichi district of the Volyn region people have no other alternative rather than to use wood, which is contaminated by radiation,



an echo of the Tschernobyl power plant accident. In Pogrebyschi district of Vinnitsa region, people have their gas stove 24 hours a day on to have enough warm water and heat the house, and in Tatarbunary district of Odessa region people completely depend on coal, which is getting more and more expensive. According to calculations made during the many trainings that took place in 2011 in all regions, currently expenditure on energy takes up 25-30% of the family budget. Another amazing result was to see that women sometimes need 10 times much more water than men, as they cook and clean for the whole family. Lyudmila Kobushkina, a farmer from Tatarbunary made a nice summary: "A women is like water nymph, everything she does (at home), is connected to water". Training programs were quite intensive as participants not only built solar collectors themselves, but also discussed the need for renewable energy in Ukraine, looked at the different needs of women and men regarding energy needs, looked at possible financial mechanisms and explored business opportunities concerning the production of solar collectors, as well as learning about efficient monitoring system.

Current State and Prospects of Alternative Energy Usage in Private Households and Communities of Ukraine

In the summer of 2011 a conference took place in Kiev where experiences were shared on the implementation of small energy conservation and renewable energy projects in private households and rural communities. An impressive presentation was shown, on the work being done in the the Manevychi region, by Andriy Martynuk from Ecoclub. This region can be considered as leader in the Western Ukraine developing energy supply based on local renewable resources and implementing cost-effective energy efficiency measures. The conference was organized by National Ecological Centre of Ukraine (NECU) in partnership with WECF, Vidrodzhennia (Tatarbunary) and Ecoclub (Rivne) as part of the Project, "Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in the EEC region" that is implemented with financial support from European Union. Conference organizers strongly believe that solar energy will find a valuable place in paving the road for energy policy reform in Ukraine.

Country: Ukraine

Donor: European Commission, EU member state ministries of environment

Partners: National Ecological Centre of Ukraine, environmental NGO Vidrodzhennia from Tatarbunary Rivne Ecoclub, Mama-86, Black Sea Women's Club, CAN EECCA, Ecological Club "Kray"

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Armenia

Mountainous Armenia has a population of roughly 3 million but around 10 million Armenians live abroad as a consequence of the genocide in 1915-1916. The country's borders to Turkey (genocide) and Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) are closed. In 1991 the country declared independence from the former Soviet Union. Armenia faces economic (poverty) and environmental problems (deforestation, pollution). In particular after the massive destruction caused by the 1988 earthquake, the country faced a severe energy crisis, which led to widespread deforestation (together with illegal logging the forests were reduced from 25% to less than 10%). Other serious environmental problems are the soil pollution from toxic chemicals, pollution of the major rivers Hrazdan and Aras, the shrinkage of Lake Sevan through overuse of irrigation and hydroelectric power generation, which threatens water supplies of the entire country, and the danger from the nuclear power plant Metsamor which is listed as the most un-safe worldwide.

Countries: Armenia

Donor: Private donors, World Vision, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partners: Lore Eco Club, Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment – AWHHE, Ecolur



Activities by NGO Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment

WECF continued to work in 2011 with its long time partner Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE) on raising awareness about the uncontrolled burial of persistent organic pollutants which has still not been cleaned up, providing expertise and information to the local villagers and to international experts. AWHHE also continued to monitor and support the villagers in Hianist to maintain the ecological toilet system of their school and the water supply system installed during the ELA (Empowerment & Local Action) programme which was funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherland through MFS. AWHHE experts contributed actively to the report by the World Health Organisation on the water and sanitation situation in the EECCA region, which was a basis for the Meeting of Parties of the Protocol on Water and Health

Reducing the use of hazardous chemicals in developing countries In 2011, the Armenian partner organisations AWHHE and Lore Eco Club participate in workshops and trainings. AWHHE gave a presentation on their long time experience with plant tinctures for fruit and vegetable protection against pests and diseases during the workshop on solar fruit driers. AWHHE agricultural expert – Lusine Nalbandyan presented some of their good practices with plant tinctures and their successful civil campaigns against the use of chemical pesticides during a session in Georgia. She also advised Georgian WECF partners on setting up an agricultural survey.

Pesticides Waste Dumps

A research conducted in 2011 by WECF Armenian partner AWHHE revealed a large concentration of toxic chemicals threatening to human health and the environment in more than 60 different samples such as water, soil, air, egg, cow's milk, and other. Pesticide waste dumps and dilapidated warehouses, containing more than 1,000-1,500 tons of pesticides, inherited from the Soviet Union in Armenia, are like time bombs which have already essentially damaged the environment. Czech "Arnika Association" and AWHHE car-



ried out a research in 2011 and found out that the samples of soil, air, water, cow's milk, egg and 57 other samples taken from the territory near the old warehouses of expired pesticides, contain DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) and other concentration of chemical pesticides, which exceed by several times the marginal permissible amount.

Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in the EEC region

This EU funded project contributes to improved health, reduced poverty and increased energy security in 22 rural communities in 7 EEC countries including Armenia. The project demonstrates solutions for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation measures and solar fruit driers based on available local capacities and materials, creating institutional capacity for upscaling via certified trainers and craftsmen and women, while formulating lessons learned for effective financial, institutional and legal instruments for widespread replication of sustainable energy options. Together with local NGO partners, the Swiss organisation CDE and GERES from France, WECF develops training modules that can be used by local trainers for trainings in target communities.

In great sadness

WECF colleagues and members are mourning the loss of a great friend, an exceptionally gifted woman, Liza Danielyan, head of the WHO office in Armenia. Liza passed away on October 13th 2011 after a long struggle against breastcancer. contribution for their water supply. About 70% of the population was paying for water. In the beginning, the people were hesitant because the water supply was not what they had expected. While many of the households cannot yet afford a water meter of 10 Euro, it was not possible to organize a payment according the real water use of the family. The committee has used all the water that has been gathered for technical works on the water supply with support of the mayor. In the mean while, the water is clean and enough for most households, and people are satisfied. Although salaries for the board members were budgeted, no salaries were paid on agreement of all members, in order to carry out reparations.

Where there is water, waste water appears. Therefore the concept of Urine Diverting Dry toilets has been introduced by Lore Eco Club in partnership with WECF for the school and municipality. Greywater filters have been introduced only theoretically so far. The interest among villagers in ecosan is very high, and needs to be further promoted. The committee is being registered as an official organization, has its statutes, bank account and stamp. They hope to engage in fundraising and improve the water and sanitation systems in Sverdlov further.





Bulgaria



Water safety plan for environmental education for teachers as multipliers for children and young people at the example of rural communities in Bulgaria

Bulgaria is situated in South Eastern Europe on the Balkan peninsula, it borders with Greece, Turkey, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Romania and has a long coastline on the Black Sea. Bulgaria joined the European Union along with Romania on January 1, 2007. It has a population of 7.364.570 but is experiencing a continuing decline due to a negative birth rate and emigration. Increasingly people are moving from rural areas to the cities. Despite an almost complete coverage with centralised water supply, Bulgaria lacks adequate waste and waste-water management systems in rural areas.

WECF works with 3 project partners in Bulgaria on improving rural living conditions by promoting ecological sanitation and sustainable waste and water management. The projects support democracy building and public participation as well as capacity building, knowledge transfer and awareness raising.



WECF started its project Water Safety Plans in October 2011 in 5 villages in 2 regions on Bulgaria. The villages were chosen according to the areas where local partners are working. For example in the Stara Zagora region were partner Earth Forever is active – primary schools in Kaloyanovets and Hristeni were targeted, and in Pravets with partner EcoWorld 2007- was aimed at 2 primary schools in Vidrare and Razliv and the bilingual school in Pravets town.

The aim of the project in Bulgaria was to raise awareness for the necessity of environmental protection – especially the importance of (drinking) water safety and quality. Local youth together with their teachers develop WSP suggested by the WHO for the local small water supply systems. Within this task they analyse their drinking water, assess the water supply system and elaborate a concept to improve it. The local water suppliers, different authorities, experts as well as community members are involved in the process, too.

In 2011 a kick-off meeting of the project took place in Pravets, together with a training for the teachers who are involved in the work with the pupils. A lot of background information and educational materials have been developed by WECF and its partner organisations. They comprise articles on WSP, small-scale water supply systems and educational modules. The educational modules focus on water and water supply related issues and are intended to lead the pupils to a better understanding of the topics. For example units on water properties, water cycle and last but not least a detailed one for testing water quality. As the project goes on, further units will be developed e.g. on water consumption, hygiene, water treatment, health risks, water quality and legal framework etc. Implementation of the activities of this project continues towards the end of 2012.



Demonstrating ecological and climate-friendly wastewater treatment for rural areas

One of the main achievements of the cooperation between WECF and EcoWorld 2007 was the building of a so called “constructed wetland” for treatment of the wastewater in the yard of a Home for Children and Juveniles with Mental Retardation St. Panteleimon in Vidrare, Pravets municipality.

Both WECF and Eco-World 2007 implement pilot projects which combine climate resilient wastewater systems for rural communities and advocacy for a strong national policy related to wastewater treatment. The constructed Wetland was built as a demonstration solution showing people how ecological wastewater systems work. The wetland, which started operation in 2011, was the final outcome of a long-term collaboration between WECF, Regional Administration Sofia Oblast and Pravets Municipality. The facility was constructed to serve a 100 people. It has 2 cleaning stages – first is pre-treatment where the raw wastewater comes from 3 buildings – the kitchen, laundry and the main building and afterwards is pumped to the soil filter where a biological treatment by gravel, sand and plants



takes place. The treated water – of EU bathing water quality – is discharged to the nearest gully with the help of the gravity. The constructed wetland was inaugurated in April 2011 with a number of important guests from ministries, regional administration and experts from Germany – they took the opportunity to inform themselves about this sustainable wastewater treatment technology. The technology of constructed wetlands is low in energy consumption but highly effective in cleaning wastewater. These “ecological” solutions have a very small climate impact, and in case of larger plant-based systems, be a CO2 absorption. WECF has close cooperation for further monitoring and activities which will take place in 2012 with the Ministry of Environment and Waters and the Private water company “Sofiyska Voda”.

Another WECF partner organization, Earth Forever Foundation discussed emission reduction goals with the Bulgarian government (Department EU Policies and Climate Change) and recommended a target of 30% CO2 reduction in the EU. WECF partner Earth Forever Foundation is member of the International Advisory Board. Earth Forever Foundation was actively involved in 2011 in the preparations for the World Water Conference in Marseille (March 2012).

Countries: Bulgaria

Donor: German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU)

Partners: Earth Forever Foundation, EcoWorld 2007

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Moldova

Moldova (pop. 4 million) is situated between Romania and Ukraine, the economy is largely agriculture based. The conflict with the breakaway republic in Transnistria remains unresolved. The country is highly dependent on trade with Russia. Russia's the banning of Moldovan wine and the raising of gas prices hurt the economy badly in 2006. More than 60% of the population lives below the national poverty line, with approximately 1/3 surviving on less than a dollar a day. Agricultural pesticides – including illegal – continue to be in use and lead to soil and water contamination. Over 90% of the rural population use traditional pit latrines which are often unhygienic and a source of water pollution. Dug wells are used by more than 80% of the rural population as the source of their drinking water. WECF projects aims at improving this situation by demonstrating affordable solutions in the areas of river basin management, ecological sanitation, solid waste management and organic farming.



Safe Water and Sanitation for all in Moldova

With consumption of contaminated water recognized as a major cause of disease and death in Moldova, especially for young children, sustainable management of the country's water resources is a key issue. In the project „Safe water and safe sanitation for all in Moldova”, WECF's Moldovan partners WISDOM, and ORMAX Renasterea Rural worked with local communities in 10 villages in Moldova on the right of access to water and sanitation. In 2011, nearly 1800 students and teachers from 10 Moldovan schools participated in the project. The Moldavian partner ORMAX constructed a new “Ecosan” school toilet building in the village Hasnasenii Mari, with technical support from WECF and financial support by Church World Service – CWS. Based on the project training materials, WECF and partners developed the publication “The Human Right to Water and Sanitation” which was published in 2011 in both English and Romanian (Moldovan).

Countries: Moldova

Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Foundation, Foundation, Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés, Milieukontakt International, Church World Service, other Private Donors

Partners: WiSDOM, ORMAX, Renașterea rurală, Eco-Tiras, Eco-Spektrum, Eco-Tox, Black Sea Women's Club

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World Water Day 2011

WECF and its Moldovan partners organised on World Water Day 2011 the conference ‘Implementing the Human Right to Water’. The conference was held in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, and was hosted by the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with French and Dutch partners. More than 50 participants from local civil society organisations were trained on the right to water and sanitation. WECF and partners published a press release and organised press conference which lead to coverage of the project activities on Prime TV, Publica TV, Radio Moldova, Radio, Moldova International, Vocea Basarabiei and Arena.md

Follow up of the project “Democratisation of Dniestr River Basin”

The community project ‘Democratisation of the Dniester River Basin Governance’, which was implemented by WECF and Moldovan partners from 2007 till 2010 continues to bear fruit. During the project, volunteers of WECF partner TERRA 1530 planted 5 km trees along the Dniester tributary Bucovati. Until today volunteers are still caring for the trees. The trees have grown bigger now and protect the small river from erosion.



Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been suffering from war since the beginning of the Soviet occupation in 1979, followed by a civil war resulting in an enormous impact on the country. Since the US-led “Operation Enduring Freedom” toppled the Taliban regime in 2001, the country has embarked on economic reforms and democratization that are blocked by the resistance of warlords and Taliban in various parts of Afghanistan. The country's economy has grown since then, but mainly due to the influx of foreign aid. Illegal growing of poppy and the drugs production make up an estimated 30% the actual GDP. Returning refugees bring both initiative and money to the country. The economy is highly dependent on agriculture. About two-thirds of the population lives in rural areas. But 80% of these people have to survive on less than 1 dollar a day. Only 31% have access to improved water sources, and less than 1% to adequate sanitation. Over the last few years, overgrazing, deforestation, desertification and serious droughts have impacted the environment.

WECF with its partner Katachel e.V. improves the rural conditions through ecological sanitation and better access to safe drinking water. The gender imbalance in Afghanistan increases the importance of WECF's work. Strategic partners in Afghanistan also includes GERES Afghanistan, which improves the energy situation for poor households in the Central region of Afghanistan and the poor suburbs around Kabul and furthermore OPEN ASIA France-Armanshahr Foundation which works for women's rights and development in Afghanistan.



Afghanistan: WECF and Katachel e.V. project

WECF and the NGO “Katachel”, Afghanistan have initiated joint activities to improve the water, sanitation and health situation in the Kunduz region of North Afghanistan. Katachel Afghanistan has been operating and implementing projects there for almost 15 years. Its projects include the construction and maintenance of schools, building of drinking water wells, support for war widows, the equipment of a health care station, the construction of a bridge over the Gaukush river as well as families returning from refugee camps rebuild their houses. In 2008 WECF launched the ELA Program, which aimed at capacity building, enhancing empowerment and working on gender equality amongst the poor people in most of the EECCA countries and Afghanistan. The Afghanistan activities of the ELA program focused on drinking water supply, sanitation (e.g. urine diverting dry toilets), sustainable agriculture, and energy saving and renewable energies. According to the State of the World's Toilets 2007 report Afghanistan was classified as the place in the world with the worst sanitation conditions.

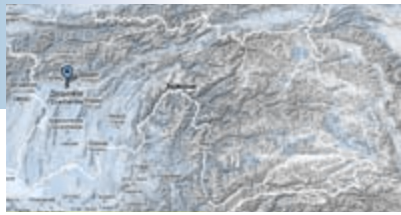
Activities in 2011

Due to lack of funding WECF could not continue school or toilet construction activities in 2011 in Afghanistan. In 2011, WECF continued lobby work with its three partners Katachel, GERES and Open Asia Armanshahr Foundation. WECF and its partners were consulted by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense regarding the Dutch police mission to Kunduz when they were visiting The Hague, March 2011. Fortunately WECF received funding from the Dutch MDG3 fund which means WECF can continue to work as off 2012, focusing on food security and income generation in rural areas around Kunduz by Katachel.

Countries: Afghanistan

Donor: European Commission DG-Environment, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)

Partners: Katachel e.V., GERES, Open Asia Armanshahr Foundation



Tajikistan

Tajikistan (pop. 7 million) is the poorest country of the former Soviet Union. The country is still feeling the effects of the civil war that took place from 1992-1997. It is infamous for being one of the world's largest transit countries for drugs from Afghanistan – opium poppy is grown in limited amounts in the country itself. The relationship to its Western neighbour Uzbekistan is strained because of disputed borders (parts of the border have been mined by Uzbekistan) and a river-basin conflict. Ranking third in the world in terms of water resources per capita, the planned construction of gigantic hydropower stations are a source of conflict with its downstream neighbouring countries. About 60% of its population are undernourished, 64% live below the national poverty line. Poverty, inadequate sanitation, industrial pollution and excessive pesticides use decrease the health of the population and increase environmental degradation. Infant mortality is high (63 on every 1000 born babies -2010). Rural areas are especially affected. About 26% of the rural population have tap water, but the quality of supply is questionable. About 40% use rivers or streams as drinking water sources. More than 90% of the rural population use pit latrines for sanitation.

In its 2008-2010 ELA programme WECF improved the conditions for the rural population by increasing the access to safe drinking and adequate sanitation, improved household energy and food security. Also with support of NATRACARE, a UK company producing organic sanitary materials for women, WECF and its partner ASDP Nau built hygienic school-toilets. In 2011, WECF continued to monitor the use of installed school and household toilets to assess the benefits in the area of health and wellbeing and learn for further upscaling of the dry urine-diverting toilet technology.

Countries: Tadjikistan
Donor: European Commission, Natracare, Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Netherlands
Partners: ASDP Nau, AFLUT, Youth Ecological Centre (YEC), Geres (France), "Little Earth"
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Improving young women's health in Tajikistan

Having a period is not a big deal, but not for the girls in these countries where due to the astoundingly poor sanitary conditions of the toilets they are prevented from attending school missing out on their education as a result. With financial help from Natracare, WECF can build school toilets in the rural areas of Tajikistan thereby allowing girls to continue with their education which is important to the development of the region. Natracare has responded to this problem by becoming a project sponsor of Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) improving sanitation in schools in the rural areas of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. Natracare and WECF, both committed to healthy lifestyles for girls and women without damaging the environment, have shaken hands on cooperation on the issue of safe sanitation in developing countries, especially with a focus on girls.



Climate negotiations

Furthermore, WECF and partners ASDP-Nau, Youth Ecological Centre (YEC) and international partner GERES (France) developed funding proposals which have assured an expansion of the activities for the period 2012-2014. In 2011, WECF and partners YEC and "Little Earth" continued to take part in the international climate negotiation activities of the WECF network.



Poland

As a Central European state Poland is surrounded by seven neighbouring countries: Germany, the Czech Republic, Russia, Latvia, Slovakia, Belarus and the Ukraine. Poland joined the European Union on May 1, 2004 and with it came the EU directives and legal commitments. The European Chemicals Regulation "REACH" was the start of WECF project activities in Poland. The current focus of WECF members in Poland is on sustainable rural development and water management in cooperation with WECF partner from neighbouring countries in Ukraine and Germany.



Sustainable Agriculture Exchange between Poland, Germany and France

The "Green Bridge" continues to assure exchange on sustainable agriculture between WECF member organisations in Poland, Germany and France. An exchanges visit was organised for German farmers and rural local authorities to Poland in 2010, during this workshop plans were made for a second workshop in 2011 to take place in Poland. Eight Polish representatives of rural municipalities and 3 French representatives came to Germany to exchange experiences with the Network 'Unser Land' (Our Country). The exchange meeting was organized in Bavaria (Germany) where the representatives from Poland and France were able to meet with farmers, artisans, logisticians and representatives of the network 'Unser Land'. The programme of the meeting included visit to the bakery, farm (production of pickles), mill (flour), supermarket "Tengelmann" (which promotes local products from the Unser Land network) and one of the families in Bergkirchen that cooperates with the regional "Unser Land" group 'Dachauer Land' (specialized in warehousing and logistics or organic food). Through this meeting Polish representatives were able not only to gain the knowledge concerning organic agriculture but also create a network for further cooperation. Polish agriculture has a great potential for high quality organic products.

Country: Poland
Donor: Bosch-Batory-Pauci Foundation, Poland – Germany
Partners: anna.samwel@wecf.eu



Sustainable Energy Week

WECF facilitated the exchange with WECF Polish partner Social Ecological Institute with other NGOs on climate issues like members of CAN and CAN EECOA in Brussels during the sustainable energy week for capacity building and network reasons. WECF and member Social Ecological Institute from Poland participated at the Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels (11-15 April 2011), with a focus on exchange between energy saving and renewable energy projects and policies in Germany and Poland, but also projects on climate/energy and art and different campaign possibilities.

Astana Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe"

With Poland having the EU presidency in the 2nd half of 2011, the Polish ministry of environment sponsored the participation of two WECF members from Poland, to participate in the Ministerial Conference on "Environment for Europe" which took place in Astana in September 2011. The Polish WECF member organisations took part in the preparatory NGO conference and in a Round Table discussion with ministers. They also helped WECF, who chaired the NGO delegation, to organise a meeting of the Polish presidency and EU member states, with representatives of civil society, so that the NGOs could present some of their key concerns and recommendations.



South Africa

South Africa is a constitutional democracy in the form of a parliamentary republic with a parliamentary dependent head of state. The first multi-racial elections in 1994 brought an end to apartheid and ushered in majority rule under an ANC-led government. Government since then has struggled to address apartheid-era imbalances in housing, education, unemployment and food security which remain the major areas of need. Women are particularly at the receiving end of all these challenges. The Gender Policy Framework (South Africa's National Policy Framework for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, 2000) aims to put gender equality in the focus of South Africa's transformation process. At the same time, in South Africa one finds the most unequal distributions of income between the rich and the poor, between urban and rural areas, as well as between races. This is especially true for women. Equal chances in employment and civil liberties remain rare.



Empowering Women

In South Africa WECF and its partners support women by teaching them organic and sustainable urban farming methods. We focus on education and training in organic small scale food production, capacity building and knowledge transfer. Our target group learns how to build their soil and plant and maintain a healthy vegetable garden (permaculture). Women are inspired to be creative and resourceful and to look for meaningful ways to use what they have. "We are not just growing food but growing people. We are not only giving people a plate of food, but more: we are empowering women to become more independent, more self-sustaining and less economically instable." This whole way of working is made possible because land is distributed on a long-term lease by local authorities. The cooperation with authorities is the basis of our work. Direct involved governmental actors are the City of Cape Town and the Department of Agriculture in

Country: South Africa

Donor: Private Donations

Partners: Soil For Life, DES (Decentralised Environmental solutions), Urban Harvest



the Western Cape. Both support the Urban Harvest's community food gardens programme in the Cape Region. Best practices on combining food production, water reuse will be shared for up scaling. The local authorities of Kwazulu Natal (eThekweni Municipality) have adopted the urban farming "One Home, One Garden" project (Newlands Mashu Permaculture Learning Centre) initiated by DES. The partners of the WECF EWA programme work with a.o. UNEP, UN Habitat, the International Association for Human Values, the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance and the Global Network on Energy for Sustainable Development. Roundtables with policy-makers and representatives of local target groups will bring the specific needs and perspectives of the women into the daily political debate. Through working in a participatory way on the development of political proposals for local strategies, the program will contribute practical and achievable aims to move towards improved food security and the economic empowerment and independence of women. WECF coordinates the program and brings the experience of the activities to national and international level; Soil for Life, DES and Urban Harvest are implementing the local activities having a deep knowledge of organic agriculture and long term experience working with local communities, women and kids.

- "Soil for Life" is a Cape Town-based non-profit organisation which gives people and especially women the knowledge and skills to grow their own good, safe food, to improve their health and well-being and to get self-reliance. Through creating green, growing spaces in otherwise unfriendly and often dangerous areas has come the recognition of the great potential of growing food to bring about job creation and much needed solutions to many problems, including food insecurity, poverty, waste management, social degradation and unsustainable environmental practices. It can encourage social upliftment, cohesion and community development.
- "Urban Harvest" develops community food gardens, is improving food security and trains women in income generating activities in the food sector. It is primarily active in the townships near Cape Town especially in Khayelitsha, Western Cape and in the Kouga Region, Eastern Cape.



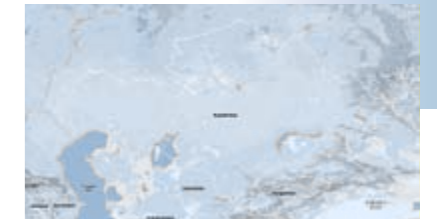
- "Decentralised Environmental Solutions" (DES) is an NGO in South Africa that works with the "Bremen Overseas Research and Development Agency" (BORDA). DES facilitates the provision of basic needs/ services in the sectors of water supply, wastewater treatment, community based sanitation and solid waste management. It also works in the field of renewable energy.

Activities in 2011

Due to lack of funding in 2011 WECF only ensured the sustainability of the food garden established in 2009 in the Township Khayelitsha. But with the FLOW programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs starting in 2012 we will see big steps in the development of the project.

In 2011 three local women were trained to maintain the garden with the local cooperation partner of Urban Harvest IAHV (international association for human values). The garden was well resourced and maintained; the women were taking care of the garden and were able to live from the garden. That means without any additional source of finance this garden gave work and food to three women and feed several member families of the direct local community.

Fortunately for 2012 WECF received funding from the Dutch MDG3 fund which means WECF and its partners can continue to work the coming years focusing on food security and income generation for women in these poorer areas of South Africa. With the new partner DES we also plan to bring the specific needs and perspectives of the women into the daily political debate. Through working in a participatory way on the development of political proposals for local strategies, the program will contribute practical and achievable aims to move towards improved food security and the economic empowerment and independence of women.



Kazakhstan

With 15 million people spread over 2,7 million square kilometers Kazakhstan is a sparsely populated country – with only 5,57 inhabitants per sq km. The country has borders with China, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Kazakhstan is rich in resources, especially oil and gas, resulting in a rapid GDP growth since 2000. The booming economy has made Kazakhstan the top target country for working migrants in the region and put it at 9th place worldwide. While the resource richness ensures that only 19% of the population live below the poverty line, people's wellbeing is unevenly distributed in the country. Kazakhstan still receives foreign aid.

Only 55% of the population are supplied with drinking water through a central water and sanitation system (CWSS). The rural population in particular suffers from poor access to energy, safe drinking water and sanitation. The country needs to manage considerable environmental problems from chemical, radioactive and asbestos waste dumps and uranium mining tailings, to dried-up rivers, high soil salinity and water and soil pollution from agricultural pesticide use. Having about half of the Aral Sea within its borders, Kazakhstan also inherited one of the world's biggest man-made environmental disasters. The sea's Northern part, the so-called Small Lake, however witnessed some limited recovery over the last years and now supports a limited number of families. WECF started working in rural areas of three provinces to improve access to energy, water and including through solar water heaters, ecological sanitation, water management systems and organic agriculture and to advocate for equitable sustainable development, chemicals safety and women's empowerment.

Countries: Kazakhstan

Donor: GTZ (GIZ) German International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, German Federal Ministry of Environment International Climate Initiative, European Commission, ACT Alliance

Partners: Kazakh Eco-forum, Social Eco-Fund, Eco-Center Kazakhstan, MCJM Kazakhstan, UNISON Kyrgyzstan



Uranium mines

WECF director Sascha Gabizon – co-chair of the European Eco-Forum – addressed the ministers of environment of the 56 countries of the UNECE region in her plenary address at the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana in September 2011. WECF called for immediate urgent action to contain the old uranium mining tailings in Central Asia, in particular in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, which threaten to irreversibly contaminate the trans-boundary groundwater aquifers. She called for a policy framework for rapid action on clean-up of uranium mines in the Eastern European, Caucasus and Central Asian. Best practices from the rehabilitation of uranium mines in the EU can provide guidance. The cost of full clean up – estimated to be into the tens of billions of Euros – are impossible to be paid by middle-income countries in Central Asia. Sascha Gabizon said “an international financial mechanisms is needed, with a tax on mineral products and contributions from the nuclear energy sector.”



Asbestos

Kazakhstan continues to use chrysotile asbestos as the main building material. Chrysotile asbestos kills more than 100,000 people each year. The Minister of Kazakhstan responded during the conference in Astana by saying that there was no danger for the international guests of the conference, as the buildings in Astana in which they were lodged were built by international architects and companies. But what about the people of Kazakhstan who are exposed to asbestos used in building schools, hospitals and in most households?

The Ministers of Environment and Health of the region have committed to developing a national plan on elimination of asbestos related diseases. More than 50 years of research and policy measures on chrysotile asbestos have shown that ‘controlled use’ of asbestos is not possible. However, Kazakhstan has an asbestos

mine, and is an exporter of asbestos and its asbestos industry lobby is fighting any measures to restrict use and exports, even though chrysotile is already banned in over 40 countries worldwide in line with World Trade Organisation approval for protection of public health. The World Health Organisation has obtained the mandate at the 5th Parma Conference on Environment and Health, to help Kazakhstan and the other EECCA governments to eliminate asbestos related diseases. Currently however, companies and not the states are responsible for occupational health in the Central Asia region, which makes that there is no data available on the number of people who are dying from asbestos.

Numerous policy and economic decision makers on national and local level were informed by WECF over the past years via trainings and workshops about the hazards of asbestos, asbestos waste, POPs and POPs waste via the high-level conference, seven local workshops and the national workshop that resulted in policy recommendations towards a national strategy on these issues. As a result, the target groups – multipliers such as decision makers, CSOs, local authorities, community based organisations and the media, – improved their knowledge on how to strengthen the national regulations, and the benefits of strengthening international binding policy frameworks such as the Stockholm Convention and Rotterdam Convention. WECF and Eco Forum also helped to obtain a target on elimination of asbestos related diseases in the Parma Ministerial Declaration, which was signed by all ministers of health and environment of the Central Asian, Caucasus and European region (UNECE). This has led to WHO-Euro prioritizing asbestos as one of the key focus areas for all EECCA countries.

As of 2011, WHO will support Kazakhstan in developing a national plan for elimination of asbestos related diseases. Thus the project has led to stronger public participation in monitoring of existing regulations and in development of stronger legislation for the protection of human health and the environment in Kazakhstan. In the longer term, this should result in better protection of public health from chrysotile asbestos and POPs.



Russia

Russia (pop. 143 million) is the largest country on earth. Most of the country is covered in coniferous forests, steppe and ice. There are only 8.3 inhabitants per square kilometre despite a population of 142 million. Russia is nominally a democracy with supposedly independent jurisdictions and executive powers, but to many observers, the regime has become increasingly authoritarian; press freedom is restricted or under state control and public participation is limited. Non Governmental Organisations are experiencing political and bureaucratic obstacles in their work. Russia has great environmental challenges to tackle; radioactive and chemical waste, soil and land degradation, depletion of natural resources and water pollution.

Large parts of the Russian population, especially in smaller cities and rural areas suffer from poor health, average life expectancy for men is very low, below age 60. Energy consumption for heating during the long winters is high and at the same time inefficient. This leads to air pollution in the towns and cities and increases CO2 emissions. Poor water quality in most rural areas of Russia is also problematic, with an estimated 30 million people effected. WECF and its local partner organisations are trying to improve the living conditions, in particular of populations in nuclear contaminated regions such as Chelyabinsk, through innovative measures to improve the environmental health and increase the public participation.



Nuclear Free Future

WECF nominated two members of the Russian partner organisation “Planet of Hope”, Nadezhda Kutepova and Natlia Manziurova, for the Nuclear Free Future Award, which was granted in the frame of the IPPNW Annual Meeting on April 10 2011 in Berlin. Both of them received the award in the category “RESISTANCE”. Both of them are active in the nuclear contaminated and forgotten “Chelyabinsk” region, where the population continues to suffer from cancer and birth-defects because of two major accidents in the “Mayak” nuclear weapons production site in the 1950s. Even in the 4th generation, children are born with defects and illness because their grandparents or great-grandparents were exposed to radioactivity as they were asked to dig conta-



minated harvests into the soil, or to evacuate the villages contaminated by the fall-out. Natalia Manziurova, nuclear scientist from Mayak, was sent as a “liquidator” to “clean-up” after the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Nadezhda Kutepova is a lawyer who defends the rights of more than 200 victims of the Mayak nuclear facility. In the frame of the IPPNW congress and the Nuclear Free Future Award Ceremony, WECF took part at the press conference and had an information stand in the lobby of the congress center in Berlin where the award ceremony and the IPPNW annual meeting took place.



Long-term health effects from nuclear contamination

WECF continues to support partner organizations in the nuclear contaminated province of Chelyabinsk, where 2 accidents in the Mayak nuclear complex in the 1950s, continue to cause disease and low life expectancy. Particularly effected are villages along the river Techa, which remains radioactively contaminated. Local partner organization Planet of Hopes and other organizations are giving support to the communities who have brought their cases to court. They are requesting a resettlement into non-contaminated areas. Also, victims who became ill from the exposure, either as child (even in the womb) or as workers, and who are no longer able to work, are trying to obtain a recognition of their situation. Currently, most victims receive only 1 Euro social support per month. As court after court, from local to national level, have refused to recognize their situation, the case of 200 victims have been brought to the European court of Justice.

Countries: Russia

Donor: Private donors

Partners: Eco-Accord Russia, Planet of Hopes, Eco-defence

Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

Other Countries

Greece

Greece (pop. 10 million) lies at the juncture between Europe, Asia and North Africa and is regarded as the cradle of Western civilisation, democracy and philosophy. Today, Greece is a member of the European Union. Economic development has come with environmental problems, such as water pollution, agricultural pesticides, municipal and toxic waste, which decrease the quality of life of the population and the health of the environment. **WECF works closely with its partner organization Clean Up Greece to improve the conditions through awareness raising and lobbying actions through the "Nesting" project, with its "Nesting" Website in Greek language.**

Hungary

The Republic of Hungary (pop. 9.9 million) is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Its capital is Budapest. Hungary is a member of EU, NATO, OECD and is a Schengen state. Since 1989, the form of government is a parliamentary republic. Hungary has suffered from the economic crisis and to fulfil international requests from a.o. the IMF, has implemented great budget cuts in social support, pensions and salaries. **WECF works together with the Large Families Association (NOE), reaching 14 thousand member families in Hungary through the "Nesting" website in Hungarian language.**

Lithuania & Latvia

Independent between the two World Wars, Lithuania and Latvia were annexed by the USSR in 1940. In 1990, Lithuania and Latvia were the first of the Soviet republics to declare their independence, which was generally recognized in 1991. The last Russian troops withdrew in 1993. Today, both countries are independent democratic republics with a multi-party parliament. Both countries enjoyed a considerable economic growth after entering the European Union in 2004 along with other Baltic states, leading to the term "Baltic Tigers". The countries are located in the juncture between the EU and the East. WECF works closely with the partners Baltic Environment Forum in the fields of environmental sustainability and chemicals & health. BEF Lithuania is coordinator of the Lithuanian Environmental Coalition. Since 2003 organization belongs to an international BEF Group with offices in Latvia, Estonia, Germany and Russia. **WECF and Baltic Environment Forum Lithuania cooperate in 2 projects, the Balkan project on Chemicals Safety, and the Baltic project on eliminating Hazardous Chemicals in Schools.**

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan (pop. 29 million) is located in Central Asia, characterized by an authoritarian president, political unrest and oppression, severe environmental degradation and poverty. International NGOs are forbidden to work in the country. Although only 28% of the population officially lives below the poverty line, the political conditions make it

very difficult to improve the economic situation. Public participation in decision-making is difficult and has already led to political murder. Uzbekistan is often associated with the Aral Sea, once the 4th large inland lake worldwide, now no longer among the top 20 lakes. Apart from the small Northern part, which is still receiving water from the Sir Darya river, the rest of the Aral Sea is expected to die leaving an immense and polluted desert. Chemicals and natural salts are concentrated on the dried out seabed, strong winds blow these around the countryside making the people ill and destroying their crops and agricultural lands. Water availability and safety are low, 84% of the rural population have no access to safe water and only 52% have adequate sanitation. **These were the focus areas of WECF projects particularly in the region around the Aral Sea, the semi autonomous region of Karakalpakstan. Currently, WECF activities in the country have been halted due to the political difficult situation.**

Belarus

Especially the Southern part of Belarus suffered badly from the radioactive fall-out after the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Since the country became independent after the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus has kept very close ties to Russia. Belarus is mostly referred to as the only country with a dictatorship in Europe. The economy is largely state-managed in what authorities call "market socialism". Belarus has so far profited from Russian oil and gas at prices far below global market prices. What Belarus lacks more than anything else is democracy and the involvement of the general public in decision making including environmental governance. **WECF and its local partners aim to improve the conditions for public participation by demonstrating the benefits for society through local projects to improve water, sanitation and energy bringing concrete solutions and benefits to society.**

Romania

Romania (pop. 19 million), which became a member of the European Union in 2007, still has almost still half the population which do not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The main goal of **WECF's projects in Romania is to create a sustainable and affordable way for improvement of the sanitation conditions in the schools and the households in rural settlements in Romania, as well as improving the living conditions of a Roma community near Sibiu.**

Africa

In 2011 WECF started working in five African countries: Congo, Tunisia, Congo Brazzaville, Congo DRC, Senegal and Chad as part of a project which main aim was to engage developing countries in the global women's preparation for Rio+20. The project focused on bringing the women's policy statement for Rio+20 to the attention of policy makers in their countries, as well as peers and press. **WECF will continue working, as the international branch WICF in other African countries such as South Africa and Uganda as part of their EWA empowerment programme, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



“

The energy efficient stove is an advanced stove technology which saves fuel, heats more space and protects the indoor air quality better than a traditional stove”

Ruslan Isaev, expert of Camp Ala-Too, Kyrgyzstan. Project "Home Comforts"



“

Since I started the French office of WECF in 2008, I have become more and more convinced that defending women’s rights and women’s role in our society is fundamental to achieving a sustainable future for all”

Anne Barre, president WECF France

Organization

Staff WECF overview in 2011



WECF The Netherlands

Development aid, poverty reduction and Gender



WECF France

Chemicals of concern – exploring solutions



WECF Germany

Regional sustainable development



WECF Staff 2011

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

WECF The Netherlands

Sascha Gabizon	Executive Director
Maureen Brouwer	Manager Support Unit
Olga Plekhanova	Country/Project Officer
Chantal Van den Bossche	Communication Manager
Lies de Bloois	Financial Controller
Margreet Munneke	Bookkeeper
Annemarie Hekkers	Secretary
Nelleke van Ziel	Project Assistant
Ingrid Elbertse	Project Coordinator Nesting

WECF France

Anne Barre	President WECF France
Natalia Dejean	Director WECF France
Elisabeth Ruffinengo	Advocacy Officer
Isabelle Velarde	Agriculture Coordinator
Sophie Schmitz-Sabarly	Coordinator and Facilitator
Emilie Delbays	Coordinator and Facilitator
Anne Géraud-Conan	H and E Education Officer
Antsa Rakotonanahary	Administrative Assistant
Nita Chaudhuri	Event and Health Promotion Expert

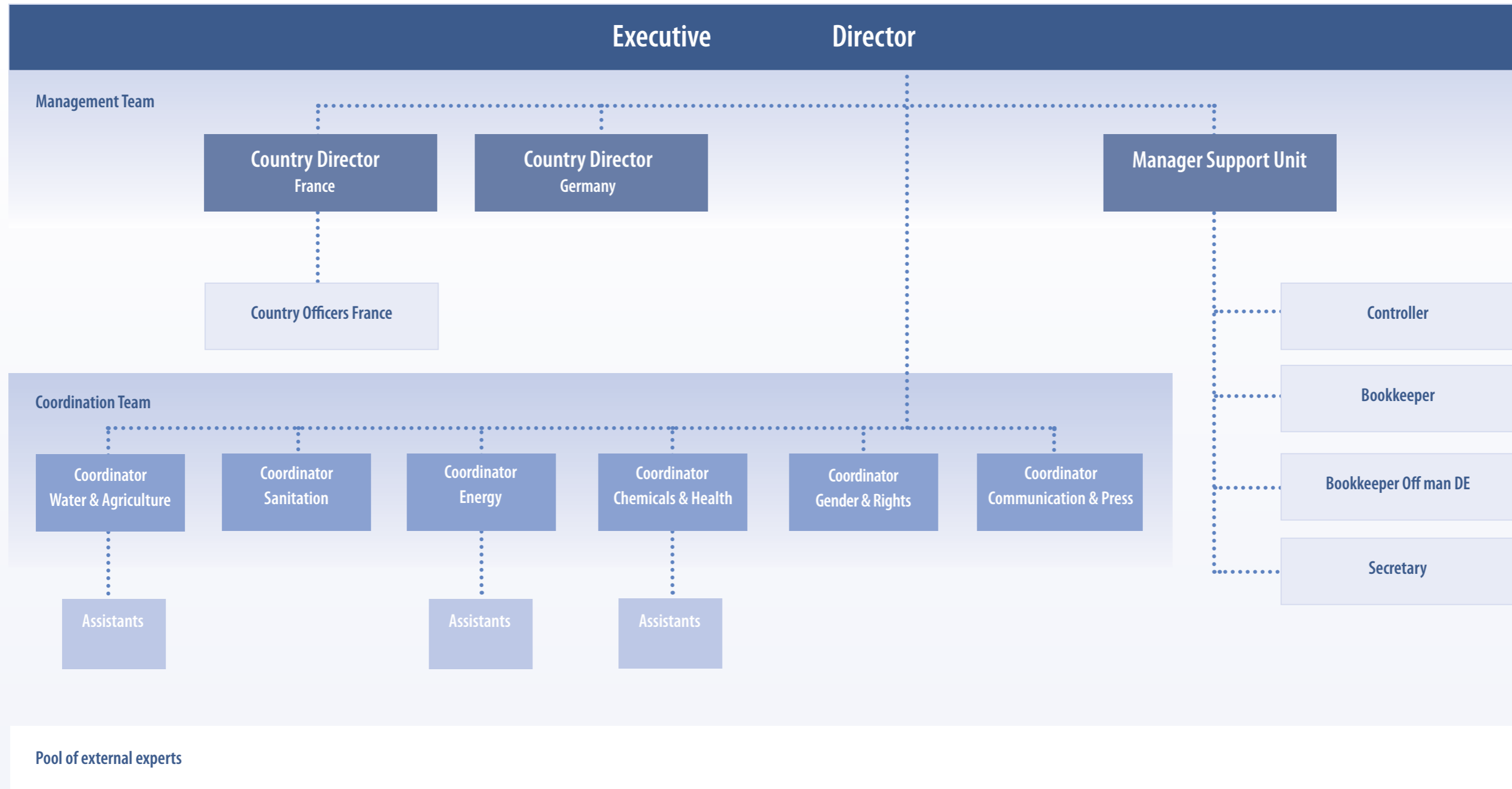
Expatriate contracts

Anna Samwel	Regional Consultant
Fedde Jorritsma	Regional Consultant

WECF Germany

Gero Fedtke	ELA coordinator
Sabine Bock	Director Germany and Energy Coordinator
Sabine Brückmann	Agriculture Coordinator
Anke Stock	Coordinator Gender and Rights/ Assistant Energy
Bistra Mihailova	Project Assistant Chemicals/ Project Coordinator
Alexandra Caterbow	Chemicals Coordinator
Farida Shorukova	Country/Project Officer
Regina Drexel	Energy Project Officer
Claudia Wendland	Sanitation, Policy Coordinator
Karin Adolph	Presswork
Karin Volha	UNEP Event Assistant
Magdalena Black	Techinal Officer Agriculture
Sabine Hanisch	Office Manager Germany
Dalena Bischeltsriede	Executive Assistant
Tanja Lovetinsky	Administrative Support
Johanna Hausmann	Project Officer Chemicals (press)
Véronique Grassinger	Graphic Design and Publications Officer
Margriet Samwel	Water and Sanitation
Doris Möller	Assistant Chemicals
Marine Franck	Energy consultant
Amra Bobar	Art Climate Project
Friedemann Klimek	Project Coordinator WSP Bulgaria

WECF organogram in 2011



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. It is with great regret and gratitude that we have said farewell to Irene Dankelman as the chair of the IAB as she contributed so much to the development of WECF since its beginnings. We are glad to welcome the new co-chairs of the IAB, Thérèse van Gijn and Anna Tsvetkova.

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

Board of Trustees

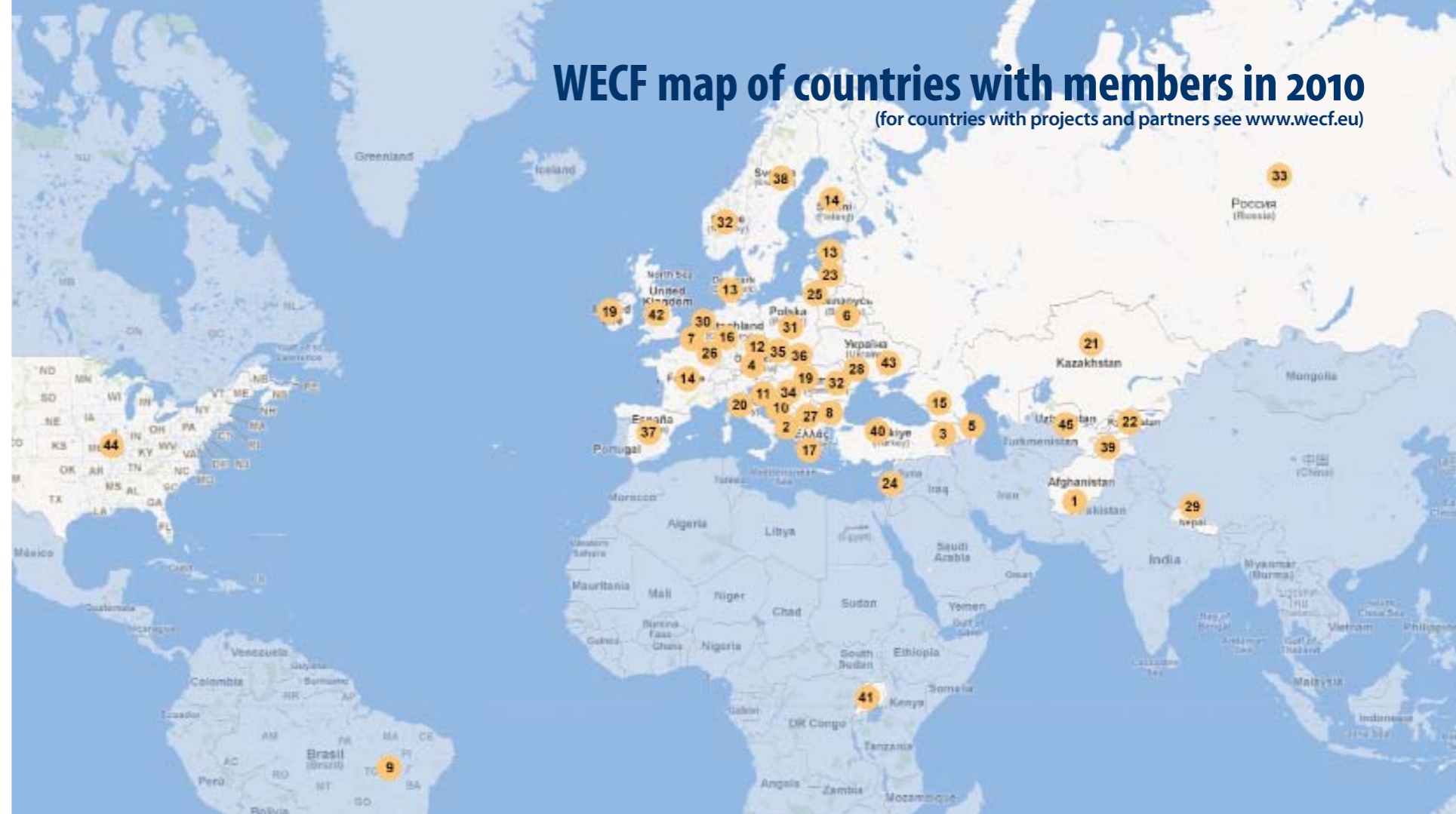
The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF. The Board of Trustees meets at least 2 times per year to approve the years accounts and report, and to approve the upcoming years budget and workplan.

Christine v. Weizsäcker	President
Marjon Reiziger	Vice-president
Bert Kuitert	Treasurer
Grietje Zeeman	Member
Marianne Nugteren	Member



WECF map of countries with members in 2010

(for countries with projects and partners see www.wecf.eu)



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

No.	Country
1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Armenia
4	Austria
5	Azerbaijan
6	Belarus
7	Belgium
8	Bosnia
9	Brazil
10	Bulgaria
11	Croatia
12	Czech Republic
13	Denmark
14	France
15	Georgia
16	Germany
17	Greece
18	Hungary
19	Ireland
20	Italy
21	Kazakhstan
22	Kyrgyzstan
23	Latvia
24	Lebanon
25	Lithuania
26	Luxembourg
27	Macedonia
28	Moldova
29	Nepal
30	Netherlands
31	Poland
32	Romania
33	Russia
34	Serbia
35	Slovakia
36	Slovenië
37	Spain
38	Sweden
39	Tajikistan
40	Turkey
41	Uganda
42	UK
43	Ukraine
44	USA
45	Uzbekistan

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

44	Kyrgyzstan	UNISON Civic Environmental Foundation
45	Kyrgyzstan	Camp Alatoo
46	Kyrgyzstan	Social Union, Agerkech
47	Kyrgyzstan	Habitat for Humanity
48	Kyrgyzstan	Public Ass Medical Alliance
49	Kyrgyzstan	Public Fund Development and Cooperation in Central Asia (DCCA)
50	Latvia	SO SPS Savstarpejas Palidzibas Sabiedriba
51	Macedonia	Journalist for human rights Before: Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia
52	Moldova	Ecotox
53	Moldova	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)
54	Moldova	Ecospectrum
55	Moldova	Eco-Tiras, International Environmental Ass of River Keepers
56	Moldova	National Centre for Sustainable Development
57	Moldova	Ormax Cultural Youth Association
58	Moldova	Terra 1530
59	Moldova	Renașterea Rurală, RR
60	Netherlands	Ecobaby, Stichting
61	Netherlands	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)
62	Netherlands	NBvP, Vrouwen van Nu
63	Netherlands	ZijActief
64	Poland	Network of East-West women Polska
65	Poland	Social Ecological Institute
66	Romania	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC
67	Romania	Femeia Mileniului III
68	Romania	Geo San
69	Romania	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia
70	Russia	Aigul – Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims
71	Russia	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'
72	Russia	Nabat Muslyomovo
73	Russia	Planet of Hopes
74	Russia	Step Forward Snezynsk
75	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Argayash
76	Russia	Ural's Women Network – Kashli
77	Russia	Eco-Accord
78	Serbia	Ecourban Workshop
79	Spain	EQUIPS Initiative
80	Sweden	Environmental Protection and Health Network
81	Sweden	Global Action Plan
82	Tajikistan	Youth Ecological Center
83	Tajikistan	ASDP Nau
84	Tajikistan	SAFOi Sughd
85	Turkey	Bugday
86	Turkey	EKOBA
87	UK	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe
88	UK	Women's Environmental Network – WEN

89	Ukraine	Black Sea Women' Club
90	Ukraine	Mama-86 Kiev
91	Ukraine	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society – USHS
92	Ukraine	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"
93	Ukraine	Vozrozhdenie
94	Ukraine	Bukvitsa
95	Uzbekistan	SABR Trust Center
96	Uzbekistan	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udas
97	Uzbekistan; Karakalpakstan	Mehriban

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
No.	Country	Name
98	Armenia	Meghvik children and youth NGO
99	Austria	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace
100	Azerbaijan	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights
101	Azerbaijan	TETA-KHAZRI
102	Belarus	ISS Independent Social Support
103	Brazil	TOXISPHERA – Associação de Saúde Ambiental
104	Bulgaria	Association Eco-world 2007
105	France	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique
106	Germany	Unser Land
107	Kazakhstan	Eco-Museum
108	Kazakhstan	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption
109	Lithuania	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology
110	Lithuania	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC
111	Macedonia	Eko-svest
112	Moldova	Asociatia Obsteasca CUTEZATORUL
113	Moldova	Institutul de Cercetari Pentru Culturile de Cimp 'Selectia' ICC "Selectia"
114	Nepal	RUWON Rural Women Network Nepal
115	Netherlands	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling
116	Romania	Euro Teleorman
117	Russia	Environmental Youth Club
118	Serbia	Environmental Ambassadors
119	Serbia	Ozone Citisen Association
120	Sweden	Centerwomen
121	Tajikistan	Young generation of Tajikistan
122	Tajikistan	NGO PARASTOR
123	Uganda	Women's Health Goup
124	Ukraine	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation
125	Ukraine	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation
126	Ukraine	Women for Environment
127	Uzbekistan	Concord

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS		
No.	Country	Name
128	Armenia	Inga Zaratyan
129	Armenia	Karine Danielyan
130	Belgium	Catherine Wattiez
131	Belgium	Danielle van Kalmthout
132	Croatia	Lidija Luttenberger
133	Denmark	Muborak Sharipova
135	France	Nita Chaudhuri
136	France	Ina Ranson
137	Georgia	Dalila Khorava
138	Germany	dr Minnu Hemmati
139	Germany	Sabine Brueckmann
140	Germany	Silvia Pleschka
141	Greece	Caterina Choreftaki
142	Greece	Angela Klauschen
143	Italy	Olivi Scuderoni
144	Italy	Fiorella Belpoggi
145	Kazakhstan	Kaisha Atakhanova
146	Kyrgyzstan	Svetlana Bashtovenko
147	Latvia	Inese Eistere
148	Lebanon	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezan
149	Luxembourg	Angela Roberto
150	Nepal	Bimala Prajapati
151	Netherlands	Adriana Debora Hulsmann
152	Netherlands	Irene Dankelmann
153	Netherlands	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute
154	Netherlands	Kitty Bentvelsen
155	Netherlands	Pamela Lawson
156	Netherlands	Rosemarie B.J. Oude Luttikhuis-Merz
157	Netherlands	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink
158	Netherlands	Willy Douma
159	Netherlands	Anita Harting
160	Netherlands	Livia de Metz
161	Netherlands	Sophia Hiddema
162	Netherlands	Margreet Wewerinke
163	Netherlands	Marjon Reiziger
164	Netherlands	Shirley Khoebal
165	Romania	Ioana Botis
166	Russia	Olga Senova
167	Russia	Patimat Gadzhieva
168	Russia	Victoria Elias
169	Serbia	Ivana Blagojevic
170	Serbia	Vera Arezina
171	Slovakia	Katarina Korytarova

Overview of WECF publications in 2011

172	Slovenië	Maja Bavdaz Solce
173	Spain	Isabel Ripa
174	Spain	Viviana Avendano
175	Sweden	Anne-Sofie Andersson
176	Sweden	Mildred Thulin
177	Sweden	Karin Sondergard
178	Turkey	Mine Yapar
179	UK	Clare Flenley
180	UK	Helen Lynn
181	UK	Sonia McLay
182	Ukraine	Galushkiva Tatijana
183	Ukraine	Victoria Yurescue
184	USA	Claire Greensfelder
185	USA	Mark Hengen
186	Uzbekistan	Karimova Nodira

HONORARY MEMBERS

No.	Country	Name
187	Netherlands	Marie Kranendonk

ASSOCIATE PARTNERS

No.	Country	Name
188	Belgium	EEB
189	Bulgaria	Za Zemiata
190	Estonia	Baltic Environmental Forum
191	Finland	Global Dry Toilet Association
192	France	Geres
193	France	Planet Finance
194	France	Prioriterre
195	Germany	Atmosfair
196	Germany	Otterwasser
197	Germany/USA	Women Life On Earth
198	Hungary	Energia Klub
199	Latvia	Baltic Environmental Forum
200	Lithuania	Baltic Environmental Forum
201	Netherlands	Global Forest Coalition
202	Netherlands	World Information Service on Energy
203	Norway	SPARE
204	Sweden	Swedish Society for Nature Cons.
205	Switzerland	CDE Center for Development and Environment
206	UK	Women's Institute

The following pages will provide information about the WECF press release and publications in 2011. More publications you can find at www.wecf.eu

Publications 2011

29.12.2011 | Final Evaluation: Empowerment and Local Action This report presents the findings of the final evaluation of WECF's ELA programme, implemented from January 2008 to December 2010.

02.12.2011 | Catalogue de Formation Nesting Nesting propose des modules pour informer, sensibiliser et former les professionnels de la santé, de la petite enfance, du bâtiment et techniques aux sources de pollutions de l'environnement intérieur et à leurs effets sur la santé de la femme enceinte, du nouveau-né et du jeune enfant.

01.12.2011 | Case study – Constructed Wetland in Vidrare, Bulgaria The publication, available in English and Bulgarian languages, provides with detailed information on sustainable wastewater treatment for rural and peri-urban communities in Bulgaria.

19.11.2011 | Annual Report WECF 2010 Result overview of WECF projects, Campaigns as well as financial report in 2010.

11.11.2011 | Guide Champs électro-magnétiques A l'occasion de l'action jouets du 16 novembre 2011, WECF France publie un guide sur les Champs électro-magnétiques.

13.07.2011 | WECF Ratgeber Körperpflege Der WECF Ratgeber Körperpflege hilft bei der richtigen Produktauswahl und gibt Tipps, welche Inhaltsstoffe man vermeiden sollte.

05.07.2011 | Safe and Comfortable Home Brochure on WECF project Home Comforts: creating local capacity for improved rural living standards through affordable and sustainable energy and sanitation solutions in Kyrgyz villages.

21.06.2011 | ROCA Position Paper in Preparation of the Rotterdam Convention COP 5 The position paper in English and Russian languages provides with the overview of ROCA's position on COP5.

11.05.2011 | The Human Right to Water and Sanitation – Training material. Access to clean water and access to sanitation are inseparably combined since both are needed for a life in dignity. The publication is available in both English and Moldovan languages.

26.04.2011 | A Call for Rapid Phase-Out of Brominated and Chlorinated Flame Retardants. WECF's position paper on flame retardants and a rapid phase-out of all BFRs and CFRs from consumer products.

22.03.2011 | It Is Just a Matter of Time until the Next Catastrophe. Three posters: Mayak – Chernobyl – Lessons Not Learned; The Past, the Present and the Future; Radioactive Contamination Is Not Visible, But the Effects Are Tangible.

16.03.2011 | The Critical Question WECF's booklet on Nuclear Energy in English, French and German offers first hand reports from individuals who have been affected by nuclear disasters, uranium mining and the storage of radioactive substances.

27.02.2011 | Compost – The Black Gold The flyer explains how the safe re-use of organic waste and faecal matter can increase your yields and improve your soil.

24.02.2011 | Nesting leaflet available in Estonian WECF partner Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia publishes guide for young parents in Estonian.

24.02.2011 | „Green' Economy: Inclusive and Equitable Women Rio+20 Steering Committee presents „Gender and Green Economy“ position paper at the 26th UNEP Governing meeting on February 23 in Nairobi.

20.02.2011 | WECF Toys Guide – How to Choose Toxic-Free Toys The practical brochure in nine languages provides concise information on the most hazardous substances found in toys, informs about the potential dangers and gives concrete advice on how consumers can play it safe when buying toys for their children.

08.02.2011 | WECF Ratgeber Reinigungsmittel – Jetzt Auf Deutsch! Der WECF Ratgeber Reinigungsmittel hilft Eltern bei der richtigen Produktauswahl und gibt Tipps, was man wirklich braucht und wie sie ihr Kind vor ungewünschten Nebenwirkungen dieser Mittel schützen können.

08.02.2011 | WECF Ratgeber Babypflege Nach den Ratgebern zum Thema Spielzeug und Reinigungsmittel hat WECF nun in der Reihe WECF Ratgeber einen Ratgeber zum Thema Babypflege auf Deutsch veröffentlicht.

04.02.2011 | Experiences With Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (Uddts) For Households, Schools and Kindergarten in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) This paper summarizes the experiences of WECF and partners from implementing UDDTs for individual households and in schools.

01.02.2011 | Women's Policy Position Paper CSD 19
Recommendations by the Women's Major Group for policy actions in the area of Chemicals, Waste management, Mining, Transport and Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns

Films /Video/TV International

04.12.2011 | The Turning Wheel – An Educational Cycle Expedition
About Simple Technologies for Sustainable Living
A former WECF project officer Central Asia, Fedde Jorritsma, is cycling around the world for one year to use his expertise on water, sanitation and energy.

25.11.2011 | TF1 – Action Test de Jouets à Paris le 16 Novembre
Encore trop de substances préoccupantes pour la santé des enfants!

22.11.2011 | Video Salon Marjolaine: 'Emploi, agriculture et santé'. Anne Barre, présidente de WECF France, est intervenue comme experte au cours du débat avec les candidats à la présidentielle 2012.

08.11.2011 | Spelbrekers – Lieve Sint, koopt u dit jaar geen spelbrekers. Koop gifvrij!
WECF voert campagne in sinterklaas-tijd tegen schadelijke stoffen in speelgoed.

02.10.2011 | KlimaSichten – Climate Change and Art in Munich
Video on WECF project's "Climate Sights" workshop and exhibition that were held in Munich, September 2011.

01.06.2011 | The Women from Planet Diversity
45 minutes documentary of Planet Diversity demonstration, festival and conference on food, agriculture and biodiversity. DVD available in five languages.

31.03.2011 | ARTE Reportage Japan: Atomkraft – vielleicht doch nicht... / ARTE Reportage: Le Japon malade du nucléaire...
WECF partner Nadezhda Kutepova in Arte tv documentary (French and German versions).

09.03.2011 | FILM: Natracare and WECF: Celebrating International Women's Day.
In celebration of International Women's Day Natracare will be continuing to focus on its global connection with women by supporting and promoting sanitation projects to improve young women's health in Tajikistan.

07.01.2011 | WECF Image Film: Working for A Healthy Environment for All.
This film shows the story of an organisation whose aim it is to create a healthy environment for all – for women, men and children.

Highlights

Dutch

20.12.2011 | „Een eetlepel bloem of een scheutje olijfolie“
Interview met Ingrid Elbertse nav babycreme checker voor Goede Waar Magazine.

German

01.12.2011 | Deutsche Botschaft Bischkek fördert den Bau einer umweltschonenden Sanitäreanlage.
Übergabe der Toiletten durch Botschafter Green an die Schule Nr.2 in Iwankowa

22.11.2011 | Fotostrecke zum Weltoilettag 2011
Eine der Organisationen des WASH-Netzwerks, die sich für den Ausbau der Sanitärversorgung einsetzen, ist WECF. Im Kaukasus und in Osteuropa baut WECF zusammen mit Partnern vor Ort so genannte „Trockentrenn-toiletten“ (Urine Diverting Dry Toilets, UDDT).

French

28.03.2011 | Les porteurs d'eau Moldaves agissent pour la journée Mondiale de l'eau.
Le 22 mars 2011, journée mondiale de l'eau, France Libertés a soutenu son partenaire Porteur d'Eau en Moldavie.

Press coverage international

01.06.2011 | Press Coverage on the First Ever Public Conference on Asbestos in Kyrgyzstan.
Russian language articles on the first ever public conference on asbestos in Bishkek, compiled by WECF partner BIOM.

23.03.2011 | World Water Day: CWS Looks at Moldova
WFN article on water and sanitation projects in Moldova implemented by WECF in cooperation with Church World Service.

22.03.2011 | The Women of Chernobyl
Sabine Bock's, WECF director Germany, interview to The Fresh Outlook on the direct and indirect consequences of the explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

25.02.2011 | Harnessing Solar Energy
Georgia Today: "Thermal, solar and insulation technologies and policies in Georgia" International Conference on February 15, organized by WECF alongside Geladze's organisation and local NGO Earth-Georgia.

Press releases international

21.11.2011 | Paris, November 16: WECF Toys Tests: Too Many Toxic Substances in Toys!
During the test action in Paris WECF found traces of formaldéhyde and xylène.

16.11.2011 | One Eco-Tech Toilet: Cause For Celebration in This Moldovan Village School Ceremony heralds World Toilet Day

07.10.2011 | "Switch to Sun, Live with Comfort"
With EU support NGOs will provide Ukrainian rural districts with the tools and knowledge to heat water with solar energy.

24.09.2011 | No measures agreed to address risk of irreversible pollution of transboundary aquifers in Central Asia
WECF director calls for urgent measures to halt water pollution from uranium mining tailings in Central Asia, and laments continued use of Asbestos, at Conference of Environment Ministers from 56 countries in Astana.

16.09.2011 | Scientists and Health Professionals Urge UN and WHO to Tackle the Challenge of Non-Communicable Diseases by Global Action.
United Nations High Level Expert Committee Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases at the global level, 19th-20th September: will action follow the Asturias declaration?

29.06.2011 | The World Needs a Strong Aarhus Convention
NGOs defend an effective and reliable mechanism for environmental human rights.

24.06.2011 | WECF disappointed by Canadian governments move to oppose listing chrysotile asbestos at Rotterdam Convention this week
"Now we have to wait for another two years to be able to protect the lives of thousands of people around the world".

22.06.2011 | Canada Uses „Shameful Tactics“ To Oppose Listing of Asbestos, Wins Cancer Culprit Award
When asked earlier this week whether Canada would support listing asbestos in annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver said "the question is moot".

26.04.2011 | Hazardous Waste on Your Living Room Floor
Carpet pads commonly sold to consumers in the USA and other developed countries contain dangerous chemicals that can cause nervous system damage, particularly in infants and toddlers.

18.03.2011 | Women and Environmental Network – WECF – Very Concerned About the Effects of Radiation on the Reproductive Health of Women and Girls
Even low dose radiation has a great effect on reproductive health and reproduction.

14.03.2011 | Women's and Environmental Network WECF: Nuclear Energy Is not An Option – It's Too Susceptible to Climate Change and Natural Disasters.
WECF Director Germany speaks at anti-nuclear rally today, March 14, at Karlsplatz Square, in Munich: "Our concern and solidarity go out to the people of Japan".

08.03.2011 | International Women's Day

On the 100th anniversary of international women's day WECF presents statement to the United Nations preparatory conference on Sustainable Development.

French press releases

07.11.2011 | Jouets : des substances chimiques préoccupantes toujours présentes.
Dans le cadre de son action « Stop aux mauvais Joueurs » ce 16 novembre, WECF a fait tester 29 jouets vendus en France, en Allemagne et aux Pays-Bas.

Dutch press releases

02.12.2011 | Veilig speelgoed kopen, kan dat wel?
Nieuw boekje 'Spelbrekers' geeft aanbevelingen en suggesties.

11.11.2011 | Gender Prioriteit voor Rio+20
Op 11-11-11, de dag van de Duurzaamheid organiseert het Nationaal Platform Rio+20 samen met WECF, WOMEN Inc, WO=MEN en anderen een bijeenkomst met als titel: „Gender Prioriteit voor Rio+20“.

03.11.2011 | Kabinet geeft te weinig prioriteit aan volksgezondheid stelt WECF.
Ouders maken zich ernstig zorgen over nanodeeltjes in kindervoeding en consumentenproducten.

01.11.2011 | Steekproef van WECF vindt zware metalen en verboden weekmaker in speelgoed
Schadelijke stoffen in ons speelgoed: waarom?

24.10.2011 | Maak je kinderen blij met gezond, veilig en duurzaam speelgoed op pakjesavond!
Eerste Nederlandse speelgoedconventie van Een Veilig Nest: Spelbrekers! Schadelijke stoffen in ons speelgoed, waarom?

13.10.2011 | Kernenergie is niet Coz vrij!
Klacht van o.a. WECF-oprichter Marie Kranendonk over reclame Atoomstroom gegrond verklaard.

23.08.2011 | Minder is meer!
Gezonde schoonmaakproducten voor een gezonder huis. WECF schoonmaakmiddelenwijzer geeft raad

27.06.2011 | Aandeelhouders Delta moeten keuze maken: een schone of een kernenergie toekomst?
De aandeelhouders van energiebedrijf Delta treffen vandaag bij de ingang van de jaarlijkse aandeelhoudersvergadering een protestactie van milieuorganisaties en politieke partijen.

17.05.2011 | Schadelijke stoffen vermijden in babyverzorgingsproducten?

WECF Babyverzorgingswijzer helpt bij het bouwen van een gezond en veilig nest

16.05.2011 | Environmental organisations and political parties will protest against nuclear energy tuesday May 17 in front of the Dutch Parliament

Ballonnen voor Verhagen: Milieuorganisaties en politieke partijen protesteren dinsdagmiddag bij het Binnenhof tegen kernenergie – Vrijwilligers plaatsen 850 antikernenergieballonnen voor de ramen van de Tweede Kamer.

18.03.2011 | Vrouwen- en Milieunetwerk WECF erg bezorgd over effecten straling op reproductieve gezondheid vrouwen en meisjes Zelfs lage doses straling hebben een groot effect op reproductieve gezondheid en voortplanting.

15.03.2011 | Europees Vrouwen- en Milieunetwerk WECF stelt: Kernenergie mag nooit een optie zijn!

Nucleaire gevolgen natuurramp Japan dramatisch – kernenergie te gevoelig voor klimaatverandering en natuurrampen.

10.02.2011 | WECF's „Een Veilig Nest“ aanwezig op Urgenda Groen Paviljoen op de Huisdoudbeurs

Hoe veilig is je nest? Creëer een veilig en 'babyproof' binnenmilieu en win de inhoud van een duurzaam keukenkastje!

24.01.2011 | Nano Particles in Children's Room – Nanofestival in Amsterdam Science Centre NEMO Marks the End of Campaign

WECF sluit campagne af met babykamer en debat tijdens Nanofestival in NEMO.

German press releases

16.11.2011 | Einladung zur Pressekonferenz

Anlässlich der Konferenz Bonn2011 – The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus – Water resources in the Green Economy

16.11.2011 | Wasser und die Millenniumsziele

Neue Großstaudämme lösen das Energieproblem nicht – Fortschritte in der Sanitärversorgung dringend notwendig.

27.10.2011 | Alle Jahre wieder – Spielzeug im Test

WECF fordert schnellere Nachbesserung der EU Spielzeugrichtlinie und bessere Selbstverpflichtung der Hersteller.

18.10.2011 | Brustkrebs ist keine Geschäftsidee – Gemeinsame Erklärung zum „Brustkrebsmonat“

Frauengesundheitsorganisationen fordern Stopp des Missbrauchs

30.08.2011 | KlimaSichten. Künstlerische Auseinandersetzungen zum Klimawandel- eine Kooperation von WECF e.V. und PLATFORM3

Workshop + Präsentation + Filmprogramm + Podiumsdiskussion + mobiles Archiv

30.06.2011 | 111 Tage Fukushima – Post an Frau Merkel 57 Zurück auf Los mit Zeitverlust

24.06.2011 | WASH-Netzwerk gegründet

Mit vereinten Kräften kämpfen deutsche Hilfsorganisationen für Wasser-, Sanitärversorgung und Hygiene für alle Menschen.

11.05.2011 | Wenn Asbest krank macht – und endlich jemand darüber spricht Umwelt-, Gesundheits- und Frauennetzwerk WECF initiiert High-Level- Konferenz in Kigisistan zum Thema Asbest.

02.05.2011 | Wenn Chemikalien das Hormonsystem stören Umweltorganisation fordert mit der SIN List 2.0 EU-weite Regulierung für endokrin wirksame Substanzen.

25.03.2011 | WECF-Nominierungen gewinnen Nuclear-Free Future Award 2011 Die russischen Aktivistinnen Natalia Manzurova und Nedeshada Kutepova werden für ihren Einsatz gegen Atomwaffen und Atomenergie geehrt.

15.03.2011 | Solidarität für Japan und Wut auf Atompolitik Tausende Münchner solidarisieren sich mit Japan und gehen gegen Atomenergie auf die Straße.

14.03.2011 | Atomkraft ist keine Option – diese Energieform bietet keinen ausreichenden Schutz vor Naturkatastrophen und dem Klimawandel

“Wir haben nicht nur unsere Vergangenheit, sondern auch unsere Zukunft verloren.“ Natalia Manzurova, einer der wenigen noch lebenden Aufräumarbeiterinnen von Tschernobyl.

09.02.2011 | Kino gegen Atomkraft – WECF e. V. promoted Dokumentation zu den unbeachteten Risiken des Uranabbaus YELLOW CAKE – Die Lüge von der sauberen Energie.

25.01.2011 | More Climate Change Through Sustainable Agriculture in Germany – Federal Government Should Not Obstruct Better EU Agricultural Policy Any Longer Mehr Klimaschutz durch nachhaltige Landwirtschaft in Deutschland – Bundesregierung darf eine bessere EU-Agrarpolitik nicht länger behindern.

“

This year our dream of a nuclear free world became at least true in Germany. The government gave in to the demand of the German citizens to phase out this deadly high-risk technology. It shows that we as citizens are needed and can change government positions, if we unite and speak with one voice for a healthy environment for all. As WECF we work and cooperate to make these kind of changes happen - in Germany, in Europe and worldwide - for us and the generations to come.“

Sabine Bock, Director WECF Germany and Energy Coordinator



“

Simple technologies can really inspire and empower people towards social, economical and environmental sustainability”

Fedde Jorritsma, former WECF project officer Central Asia

Financial Report

Financial year 2010

The financial year 2011 continued to see budget cuts in public spending in the Netherlands, France and Germany, which affected the WECF network. The overall reduction of the budget of WECF international (foundation in the Netherlands) was 24% for 2011 as compared to 2010, down from 1.9 million euro to 1.5 million euro (excluding the budgets of WECF France and WECF Germany).

WECF further invested in a diversification of its funding sources. The decrease of larger project funds from traditional donors could be to a large extent compensated for by an increase of smaller-scale funds from new donors.

Although one main funding application to the Netherlands government was not obtained, a second application for a 4-year fund (from the MDGIII-FLOW budget line) was successful. This new programme for Women's economic and political empowerment will be implemented with partners in 6 countries in Africa, Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as international partners.

In addition, the WECF offices in Germany and France could raise more funds in 2011 than in previous years, thus the consolidated budgets of the 3 organisations amount to just over 2 million euro, stabilizing at the overall level of the previous year. WECF continued to receive funding (€294,222) 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 and the training sessions and policy conferences organised by the working groups on safe chemicals and waste, safe food and biodiversity, safe water and sanitation, safe energy and climate protection, and gender equity and environmental rights, with main activities in over 10 EU countries, as well as accession countries from the Balkan and new neighbour states from Eastern Europe.

The WECF safe energy and climate protection activities were co-funded by European Commission Europe-Aid, the Lia fund

and the German government and allowed to roll out capacity building programme for renewable energy and energy saving in 9 countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as assuring participation of partners from these regions in the international climate negotiation process of the UNFCCC in Bonn (June) and Durban (December). Funding from the Bavarian Environment Fund sponsored the "Art and Climate" project* with all-women artists from Eastern Europe and Asia working together and the public, and presenting their work in a publication and week-long exhibition in Munich.

The WECF "Safe Chemicals" team also implemented the first year of the Europe-Aid funded project on chemicals safety and asbestos elimination in Kyrgyzstan, and obtained support from France for an awareness raising event in Ukraine on the same topic. In Georgia, the 2nd year of the project on safe and environmental alternatives for hazardous pesticides and asbestos continued, funded by the Quick Start Program of SAICM (in total \$ 172,210). The EU support alongside funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (SMOM budget line) and other member states contributions allowed WECF to continue the WECF programme "Nesting" – that targets young parents on how to create a healthy and safe environment for their new born child, as well as the international "safe toys campaign". Public "toxic toys testing" events, where parents and children could bring their toys to be tested on a.o. Furans and Brominated Flame Retardants, were organised both in the Netherlands and France, as well as exhibitions at baby products fairs and cooperation with producers of "green baby present boxes".

The WECF Water and Sanitation team continued with the successful implementation of the Europe-Aid and Finish funded project on rural water supply and sanitation in Azerbaijan, and developed cooperation with a Dutch water company (Groningen) to test low-cost water filters. Funding from private foundation "France Liberté" (via the French office) allowed to publish best practices on implementing the human right to water and sanitation, – which as agreed in a United Nations resolution in

2010 – and to organise a national awareness raising event on this topic in Moldova in cooperation with the national ministry of Health. Funding from the German Government and the Dura Charity foundation allowed low-income households in Kyrgyzstan to install bathrooms and toilets with all-year-round solar-heated water. The Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt* sponsored the installation of the large ecological waste-water treatment plant for 80 persons in Vidrare Bulgaria. WECF is one of the implementing partners for the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health, but has not been able to secure funds for the development of policy guidelines for small scale sanitation and water supply, nor for its contribution to the development of the policy guidelines on "equitable access" to water and sanitation.

A new donation from the UK environmental sanitary product company "NatraCare" (£ 8,000) was used for the gender training for girls and boys in low-income rural areas of Kyrgyzstan.

The WECF working group on safe food and biodiversity developed a French-Swiss cross-border initiative for cooperation between local producers and consumers of organic food, with a focus on women entrepreneurs, funded by regional funds (via the French WECF office). The WECF gender and rights team was successful in obtaining a 2 year fund from the German government (Environment) for the preparations of the Rio+20 summit on sustainable development. For the United Nations Environment Programme, WECF organised its global consultation on Rio+20 in Bonn in September 2012, as well as youth preparations for Rio+20.

We were able to increase our activities on advocacy by organising several meetings.

Representatives of the women's Rio+20 steering committee from Africa and Europe took part in the UNEP major group and stakeholders global consultation on Rio+20 in Bonn, 1-2 September 2011. This meeting was immediately followed in a meeting where 60 youth representatives from 27 countries of the EU, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Southern Europe parti-

cipated, "UNEP Tunza European Youth Conference" which took place on the 6th and 7th of September 2011 in Bonn. WECF organized both events with the support of UNEP.

As co-chair of the European Eco-Forum – I addressed ministers of environment of the 56 countries of the UNECE region in her plenary address at 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference in Astana, Kazakhstan. WECF organised this even with the support of UNECE.

Outlook 2012

WECF will continue to invest in diversification of its funding sources and aims to achieve a stabilization of its budget at the level of 2011. WECF expects further funding applications to be granted for its coordinating role in the preparations at global level in the preparations of the Rio+20 summit in 2012. Also private funders are interested in WECF's awareness raising and policy advocacy on the problem of hormone disrupting chemicals and the long-term and often irreversible negative effects on women and children.

Also, WECF will continue to invest in fundraising efforts with social-responsible enterprises in particular for funding of its "Nesting" programme.

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.

Report of the Board of Trustees and accountability statement

General reflection and outlook 2012

WECF had a difficult start in 2011 with severe budget cuts, several staff members had to leave as a result and the appeal to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to reverse the negative decision for MFS II funding was unfortunately rejected. At the same time continuous efforts were made to find additional funding with some successes, several small grants from the United Nations, the WHO and German Government were obtained. Late 2011 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs awarded a new project on Women Empowerment funded through the MDG III/FLOW fund.

A positive development is the increased attention and funding for the international policy work of WECF. As the chairperson of the Women's Major Group the Executive Director of WECF, Mrs. Sascha Gabizon, managed to obtain funding to organize several preparation meetings for the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development and the Ministerial Conference in Astana. Also in 2012 WECF will play a key role in the Rio+20 preparations and the conference itself.

The efforts of the WECF staff to keep the work and organization going is highly appreciated by the Board of Trustees. At the same time it is realised that the combination of a decimated staff, many small scale labour intensive projects and increased fundraising efforts is not sustainable in the long run. Fundraising and HRM therefore remain high on the agenda of the board in 2012.

During 2011 Mrs. Marianne Nugteren left the Board of Trustees. We thank her for her inputs during the past years.

Summary accountability statement

Late 2011 WECF has once more received a 'Certificate of No Objection' from the Dutch Central Bureau on Fundraising (CBF). In 2013 we plan to apply for full seal of approval. One of the criteria for CBF accreditation is the inclusion of an accountability statement in the annual accounts explaining the main governance structures within the organization with special attention to:

1. The distinction between 'supervisory' role (adopting or approving plans and critically monitoring the organization and its results) and the 'managerial' role or the 'executive' role"
2. Optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditures.
3. Optimizing the relation with stakeholders

1. Distinction between supervisory role, managerial role and executive role

In line with the statutes of WECF the Netherlands the following roles can be distinguished:

- Board of Trustees
- Board of Director(s)
- International Advisory board

Activities of the International Advisory Board will be presented under paragraph 3, optimizing the relations with stakeholders.

The Board of Trustees

In 2011 the board met three times. The first meeting was in January and mainly dealt with the financial and personnel implications of the necessary budget reductions. Other items on the agenda included strategy and fundraising and the need to translate our work into clear replicable concepts. The financial statement and auditor's report were approved during the second meeting, this meeting also paid attention to the different financial scenarios for 2012 and the revised organogram was approved. Half way 2012 one of the board members, Mrs. Marianne Nugteren decided to withdraw as a member of the board, several possible new candidates were suggested. During the final meeting of the 5th of December the budget 2012 was approved and attention was paid to the liquidity situation of WECF. Follow up was given to board and fundraising issues.

The Board of Director(s)

Currently WECF the Netherlands has appointed one Executive Director. For the day to day management a Management Team

has been formed including the Executive Director, the Directors of WECF Germany and WECF France and the Manager Support Unit. The Management Team has met 2 times face to face and several more times by telephone conference. The team prepares plans, budgets and reports for the supervisory board and develops strategies for the organisation. Programmes are executed through the coordinators meeting and project teams.

2. Optimizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the expenditures

The Strategic Approach 2010-2015 shows the direction of the programmes. Project applications are written within the boundaries of the Strategic Approach, during the board meetings the board gets an update on outstanding and approved applications. Special attention is given to large, financially crucial projects and high level policy and advocacy work. As WECF works on a project base there are frequent budget changes, the adjusted budget and forecasts are therefore an ongoing item on the agenda of the supervisory board.

At implementation level projects and budgets are delegated to the thematic and project coordinators. Coordinators meetings are held several times a year, either face to face or via telephone conference. During those meetings progress and budget depletion are discussed. Basic indicators are gathered.

3. Optimizing the relation with stakeholders

WECF is a network of member organisations sharing the core aims of promoting sustainable development, environmental health, poverty reduction, resource protection, gender equity, human rights and public participation. Membership organisations join forces in policy advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building and demonstrating the practicability of alternative solutions. Members of the network are represented in and by the International Advisory Board (IAB). IAB members are elected bi-annually during the General Assembly. The role of the IAB includes:

- Providing strategic directions and priorities
- Developing and implementing membership policy, including screening and approval of new members
- Overseeing and maintaining accountability for the activities of the network, also communicating with the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees and members on key policy and strategic matters
- Representing the network at different events
- Bringing in thematic and regional/international perspective to WECF
- Representing WECF's core values and building enthusiasm for the WECF network

The IAB has two co-chairs, Mrs. Ana Tsvietkova and Mrs. Thérèse van Gijn and nine common members. There were no changes in the membership of the IAB in 2011. During the IAB meeting in September several issues were discussed including the policy and implementation work of the network, finance and funding, branding, communication and the membership policy.

Christine von Weizsäcker	President
Bert Kuiten	Treasurer
Marjon Reiziger	Vice-president
Grietje Zeeman	Member

Notes on the Financial statements

Introduction

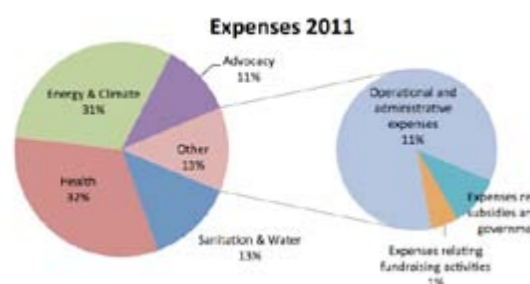
This chapter gives a summarized account of the costs and income and financial position of WECF in 2011, and expected financial position for WECF in 2012.

The three offices of WECF are all independent legal entities and therefore there is no legal base for a consolidated report. On the next page we present a pro forma consolidated balance sheet and statement of revenue and expenses of the three offices over 2011 and 2010.

The report on operations in these financial statements concerns solely the operations of WECF in the Netherlands, of which the financial report is audited. The accounts are prepared according to the Guideline for annual reporting 650 "Charity organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. The pro forma consolidated balance sheet and statement of revenues and expenses were not audited.

Stichting WECF the Netherlands

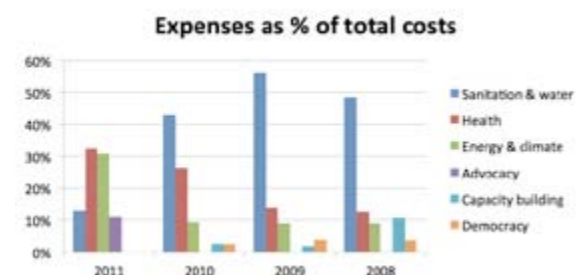
In 2011 WECF spent a total of € 1.5 million of which € 1.3 million was spent on its strategic objectives. This means that 87.7% (2010 84.0%) is spent on actual program work and activities. Internally WECF strives to keep this percentage around 85%. Historically the income structure for WECF is based on grants and subsidies from governments as well as private foundations. WECF has limited resources installed to raise funds under private persons or institutions.



Based on the changes in the grants and funds received in 2011, advocacy work for our focus "safe environment for all" is recognized as a separate objective starting from 2011.

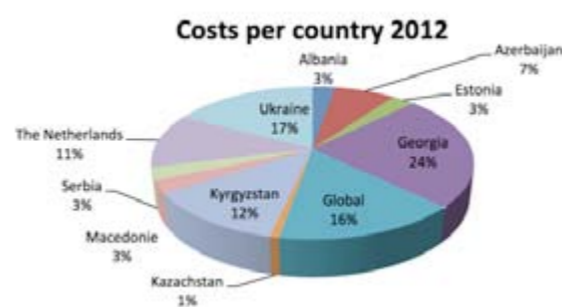
Themes and objectives we have

The changes in the fields we work in can be shown as follows. The international and national focus has shifted towards environmental issues in health and in energy, rather than water and sanitation. WECF believes that water and sanitation is an important subject and will try to find funding.



Countries we work in

The relation between the project costs and the countries and projects can be illustrated as follows.



International and global activities include international skill sharing as well as international conferences and lobby activities like the COP17, The United Nations Climate Change Conference and the preparatory meetings of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 2012.

Based upon an updated risk assessment and the financial statements WECF aims at a continuity reserve of € 200.000. As per the end of 2011 the actual continuity reserve was 33,5% of the desired reserve. WECF strives to improve its working capital through raising funds that can be allocated to the continuity reserve.

The financial outlook for 2012 has been derived from the WECF Strategic Approach 2010-2015, taking into account new developments such as the economic crisis in Europe and the uncertainties surrounding future financing.

As a result of the rewarding of a grant of the Dutch government regarding the MDG3 fund on gender issues, WECF will be able to focus on all of her objectives. Gender will be considered a new objective starting in 2012.

The total capacity of personnel is critically followed. Depending on newly acquired projects special additional flexible capacity, including field staff, might be required.

In 2012 the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio in 2012 will be one of the major milestones.

Budget 2012

The donor base of WECF depended for 60% upon sources from the Dutch Government in 2010, this percentage will decrease to less than 40% in 2012, but was only 9% in 2011. The funds received from the EU have increased.

The analysis of income sources can be shown as follows:

European Union	968.465
Government of the Netherlands	780.850
Other governments or international organizations	97.372
Foundations and private funds	27.731
Other	17.000
Total	1.891.417

Unaudited Pro Forma balance sheet WECF consolidated

December 31, 2011 (after proposed appropriation of the result)

	2011	2010
Assets		
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	3.719	5.851
Current assets		
Receivables and prepayments (2)	231.053	302.761
Cash at banks and in hand (3)	102.016	203.699
	333.069	506.460
Total assets	336.787	512.311
Capital and liabilities		
Capital (4)		
Continuity reserve	75.870	
Earmarked reserve	10.000	77.439
	85.870	77.438
Current liabilities		
Work in progress (5)		
Project expenses	-1.155.358	-484.090
Advance payments	1.206.745	759.731
	51.387	275.641
Trade payables (6)	178.228	72.812
Loans	0	45.000
Payables from related parties (7)	21.302	41.420
	250.917	434.873
Total capital and liabilities	336.787	512.311

Pro Forma Consolidated Statement of revenue and expenditure

The period ended december 31, 2011 (EUR) unaudited

	Actual 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
Source of Income (1)			
Income from received grants governments	1.722.007	1.891.281	2.195.152
Contributions from fundraising activities	149.853	113.625	0
Contributions from joint actions	30.833	0	87.077
Total income	1.902.693	2.004.906	2.344.224
Expenses (2)			
Sanitation & water	299.939	227.737	768.502
Energy & Climate	705.896	608.177	178.925
Health	497.342	806.203	859.913
Advocacy	156.543	194.490	54.660
Capacity building			54.558
Democracy			49.145
Expenses relating to objectives	1.659.720	1.836.607	1965703
Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	18.879		33.531
Expenses relating to fundraising	10.242		0
Operational and administrative expenses	215.419	168.299	338.645
Total expenses	1.904.261	2.004.906	2.337.879
Result	-1.568	0	6.345

Financial overview 2008-2011 Key figures								
	Actual 2011		Actual 2010		Actual 2009		Actual 2008	
(x € 1.000)		%		%		%		%
Source of Income								
Grants governments	1.354	93%	1.823	95%	2.850	95%	3.001	96%
WECF eV.	56	4%	18	1%	0	0%	0	0%
private foundations	42	3%	79	4%	137	5%	121	4%
Total	1.453	100%	1.920	100%	2.987	100%	3.122	100%
Expenses relating to objectives								
Sanitation & water	191	13%	823	43%	1.660	56%	1.513	48%
Health	470	32%	506	26%	402	14%	402	13%
Energy & climate	448	31%	179	9%	280	9%	280	9%
Advocacy	160	11%						
Capacity building	0	0%	54	3%	73	2%	334	11%
Democracy	0	0%	49	3%	111	4%	121	4%
Total objectives	1.269	87%	1.612	84%	2.527	86%	2.452	79%
Organisational costs	183	13%	307	16%	428	14%	666	21%
Result	0		0		32		3	
Balance sheet 2008-2011								
Assets								
Fixed assets	0		1		11		22	
Current assets	224		518		589		388	
Total	224		519		600		410	
Capital & Liabilities								
Capital	67		67		67		34	
Current liabilities	157		452		533		376	
Total	224		519		600		410	
Ratio's								
Solvability %(equity/total assets)	29.9		12.9		11.2		8.3	
Current ratio (current assets /current liabilities)	1.40		1.15		1.11		1.0	

Other key figures

Number of board members	5	5	4	4
Number of IAB members	12	12	12	12
Number of member organizations	127	123	114	92
Number of employees all offices	18	18	20	18
Number of approved project audits	3	4	3	4

Balance sheet					
December 31, 2011 (EUR) (after proposed appropriation of the result)					
Assets		2011		2010	
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets (1)			0		1.138
Current assets					
Receivables and prepayments (2)		164.527		374.760	
Cash at banks and in hand (3)		59.320		130.838	
			223.847		505.598
Total assets			223.847		506.736
Capital and liabilities					
Capital (4)					
Continuity reserve			67.012		67.187
Current liabilities					
Work in progress (5)					
Project expenses	-1.155.358			-357.706	
Advance payments	1.185.069			632.929	
			29.711		275.223
Trade payables (6)		105.822		122.906	
Payables from related parties (7)		21.302		41.420	
			156.835		439.549
Total capital and liabilities			223.847		506.736

Statement of revenue and expenditure			
The period ended december 31, 2011 (EUR)			
Source of Income (1)	Actual 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
Income from received grants governments and others	1.354.460	1.434.756	1.822.887
Contributions from joint actions	56.356	0	18.179
Income from fundraising activities	42.369	29.100	78.971
Total income	1.453.185	1.463.856	1.920.037
Expenses			
Sanitation & Water	190.817	158.575	823.162
Health	470.022	544.265	506.495
Energy & Climate	448.261	441.658	178.925
Advocacy	160.125	141.780	0
Capacity building	0	0	54.558
Democracy	0	0	49.145
Expenses relating to objectives (2)	1.269.225	1.286.278	1.612.285
Expenses relating to fundraising activities (3)	10.242	9.877	0
Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government (4)	18.879	18.206	33.531
Operational and administrative expenses (5)	155.014	149.495	273.808
Total expenses	1.453.360	1.463.856	1.919.624
Result	-175	0	413
Appropriation of result			
Continuity reserve	-175		413

Cash flow statement		
The period ended december 31, 2011 (EUR)		
	Actual 2011	Actual 2010
Net result	-175	413
<i>Non-cash items recognized in statement of revenue and expenditure :</i>		
Depreciation	1.138	9.727
<i>Net change in operating assets and liabilities:</i>		
Work in progress	-245.512	-14.157
Receivables and prepayments	210.233	13.790
Current liabilities	-37.202	-58.360
Cash Inflows from Operational Activities (A)	-71.518	-48.587
<i>Cash flows from investing activities</i>		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	0	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease in Cash (A+B)	-71.518	-48.587
Movements in cash and cash equivalents		
Opening balance cash and cash equivalents	130.838	179.425
Change in cash and cash equivalents	-71.518	-48.587

General notes to the financial statements

Introduction

The statutory name of the foundation (legal form) is Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) located in Utrecht. The latest statutes are dated 3 November 2010. According to the statutes the objective of the Foundation is:

- promoting a healthy living environment for everyone;
- promoting the equal development and use of women's potential for the above-mentioned object;
- cooperation between women in social organizations, in the field of the environment, health, sustainable development and poverty reduction, approached from a gender perspective;
- carrying out joint projects and other activities in this field, such as influencing policy;
- creating a network of national and regional organizations or sector organizations that endorse the above object.

Board of Directors

The director of the Foundation is Ms. S. Gabizon. The foundation has a Supervisory Board and an International Advisory Board. The remuneration policy regarding directors is implemented in 2011 with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees

The supervisory board of WECF is the Board of Trustees, supervising the board of directors:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Christine von Weizsäcker | President |
| • Marjon Reiziger | Vice-president |
| • Bert Kuitert | Treasurer |
| • Grietje Zeeman | Member |

International Advisory Board

The members of the IAB were elected by the WECF members at the General Members Meeting on October 2010 in Tatarbunari. The IAB has been elected for a period of 3 years. The IAB sets the strategic direction of WECF and prepares the annual workplan:

- Therese van Gijn President, The Netherlands
- Svetlana Slesarenok, Co-Chair, Ukraine
- Diana Iskrev, working group leader, Bulgaria
- Anna Tsvetkova, co-working group leader, Ukraine
- Nadeshda Kutepova, working group leader, Russia
- Kaisha Atakhanova, co-working group leader, Kazakhstan
- Victoria Elias, co-working group leader, Russia
- Elizbieta Priwiezienczew, working group leader, Poland
- Helen Lynn, working group leader, UK
- Elena Manvelian, co-working group leader, Armenia
- Rostom Gamisonia co-working group leader, Georgia
- Mihaela Vasilescu co-working group leader, Romania

WECF network and goals

WECF is a network of 127 women's and environmental organizations in 44 countries of which 38 are Western European and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe & Caucasus & Central Asia) and 6 other countries. WECF was officially registered in 1994. WECF has three coordinating offices in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All. We strive for a balancing environment, health and economy, taking different needs and perspectives of women and men into account. WECF's activities are based in its partners own visions and needs.

Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally. To reach this overarching goal WECF works on four long-term goals:

- Safe and Sustainable Energy and Climate protection for All.
- Safe Chemicals and Waste Management for All.
- Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All.
- Safe Food Production and Rural Development for All.

Cross-cutting issues are Gender Equity in Sustainable Development, Environment Rights and Public Participation. WECF's strategic approach stands for rights and responsibilities, is people focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts.

Summary of significant accounting policies

General

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands pursuing RJ 650 (Fund Raising Organizations). The purpose of this set of accounting principles is to enhance the insight on the expenses of the organization itself and in the expenditures directly related to the strategic goals of the foundation. Assets and liabilities are stated at face value, unless indicated otherwise.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into euro at year-end exchange rates; exchange gains and losses are charged to the Statement of revenue and expenditures. Transactions in foreign currencies during the financial year are translated into euro at the rate of exchange ruling on transaction date.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at historical purchase price less depreciation, determined on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful economic lives of the assets concerned, taking into account any residual values.

Work in progress

As in earlier years the foundation uses the accounting principle for work in progress relating to grant agreements which have a grant operating period exceeding 1 year or in case the implementing project period is not equal the book year. This means the remaining balance in the balance sheet concerning the work in progress consists of both expenses and the received amounts in advance from the grant authorities relating to the book year.

Receivables or liabilities arising from finalized grant agreements are presented within the current liabilities or the current receivables.

Receivables

Receivables are valued at face value less a provision for possible uncollectible amounts.

Principles of determination of result

General

The result is determined as the difference between income generated by grants, contributions, membership fees and others, and the costs and other charges for the year. Income is recognized in the year in which it is realized.

Expenditure

Costs are recognized at the historical cost convention and are allocated to the reporting year to which they relate. Depreciation is provided by the straight-line method over the estimated useful economic life.

Operational and administrative expenses

The operational and administrative expenses are calculated based on the model that is published by the "Vereniging van Fondsenwer-

vende instellingen". The operational and administrative expenses consist of overhead expenses and staff expenses that cannot be directly allocated to themes and projects. In comparison with 2010 the categorization of expenses has been adjusted in accordance with specific requests of the CBF. The distinction between the fundraising activities and the expenses has been made more clear WECF has received the "Verklaring van geen bezwaar" in 2011.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared applying the indirect method.

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2011		
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets (1)	2011	2010
Net book value at January 1,	1.138	10.865
Additions	0	0
Depreciation charge for the year	-1.138	-9.727
Net book value at December 31	0	1.138
Cost	35.017	35.017
Accumulated depreciation	-35.017	-33.879
Net book value at December 31	0	1.138
<i>The tangible fixed assets consist of ICT equipment only and are depreciated over the estimated useful economic life of 3 years.</i>		

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2011		
Current assets		
Receivables and prepayments (2)	31-12-2011	31-12-2010
Final Grants to be received, <i>see also overview under (5)</i>	130.786	300.892
Advances paid to partner organisations	26.273	44.223
Fondation Women in Europe for a Common Future (France)	0	16.000
Interest	887	2.538
Pension costs	1.811	1.972
Other receivables	0	0
	164.527	374.760
Cash at banks and in hand (3)	31-12-2011	31-12-2010
Current account Rabobank	41.586	78.825
Current account Rabobank, US-dollar	17.125	49.495
Current account ABN AMRO Bank	468	2.402
Cash in hand	141	116
	59.320	130.838
<i>Cash at banks and in hand are available on demand.</i>		

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2011		
Capital		
Continuity Reserve (4)	2011	2010
Balance at January 1,	67.187	66.774
Appropriation of net result	-175	413
Balance at December 31	67.012	67.187

The Foundation wants to ensure sustainability of the organization so that its international network is not affected. Therefore the Foundation wants to create a continuity reserve to cover operational and program costs for a period of 6 months. This time frame is based on a prudent assessment of the time required to source additional funding. According to 'The Wijffels code' this reserve should not exceed 1.5 times the operational costs. A higher reserve will need clarification. On December 31, 2011, the reserve was well below this limit.

Notes to the balance sheet as at December 31, 2011		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Work in progress (5)	2011	2010
Net book value at January 1	275.223	293.872
Received amounts from donors	1.025.171	1.556.408
Organizational expenses	-1.401.469	-1.875.949
Closed projects – grants income	-473.031	-6.439.050
Closed projects – expenses	603.817	6.739.942
Net book value at December 31	29.711	275.223

Work in progress (5)	31 December 2010			Movements in 2011			Movements in 2011			31 December 2011		
	Projects in progress			All projects			Closed projects			Projects in progress		
	Project expenses	Received advances	Balance	Project expenses	Received advances		Eligible expenses	Received income	Balance 31-12-2010	Project expenses	Received advances	Balance
EuropeAid projects	231.392	383.041	-151.649	725.280	540.353		146.002	146.002		810.670	777.392	33.278
Kazachstan	133.905	133.368	537	12.097	12.634		146.002	146.002	0	0	0	0
Azerbaijan	28.331	49.376	-21.045	86.383	57.625					114.714	107.001	7.713
Kyrgyzstan Asbestos	66.656	61.975	4.681	69.653	64.547					136.309	126.522	9.787
Kyrgyzstan Home Comforts	0	0	0	62.339	57.379					62.339	57.379	4.960
Multy country Energy	2.500	0	2.500	366.618	348.168					369.118	348.168	20.950
Toys Balkan	0	138.322	-138.322	128.190	0					128.190	138.322	-10.132
SMOM	107.400	152.930	-45.530	135.247	152.930					242.647	305.860	-63.213
SAICM	17.480	94.058	-76.578	80.950	-6.465					98.430	87.593	10.837
EU Operating grant	0	0	0	294.222	176.534		294.222	176.534	117.688	0	0	0
UNEP	0	0	0	110.904	105.832		110.904	105.832	5.072	0	0	0
UNECE	0	0	0	23.921	20.000		23.921	20.000	3.921	0	0	0
LIA Fund	0	0	0	17.868	17.868		17.868	17.868	0	0	0	0
Other small projects	1.434	2.900	-1.466	13.077	18.119		10.900	6.795	4.105	3.611	14.224	-10.613
Total	357.706	632.929	-275.223	1.401.469	1.025.171		603.817	473.031	130.786	1.155.358	1.185.069	-29.711

Notes to the balance sheet as at december 31, 2011		
	31-12-2011	31-12-2010
Trade payables (6)		
Accounts payable creditors	24.934	26.750
Wage tax & social security premiums	6.224	6.361
Amounts due to partner organisations	33.636	20.471
Provision benefits holiday schemes	18.147	20.594
Women in Europe for a Common Future eV (Germany)	14.494	27.166
Other liabilities	8.387	21.564
	105.822	122.906
Payables to related parties (7)		
Accounts payable Executive Director	21.302	41.420

Employee information

In 2011, the Foundation employed on average full time equivalents 6 employees (2010 8).

Remuneration executive director

The salary and social security premiums including pensions for the executive director amount to € 71.628 in total. The director also receives reimbursements for travel expenses, accommodation costs and cost for food and drinks, but only for actual incurred costs during activities for WECF. There are no other benefits applicable.

Remuneration Board members

No members of the Board of Trustees or the International Advisory Board received any remuneration for the year ended December 31, 2011. The members do receive reimbursements for actual incurred travel expenses, accommodation costs and cost for food and drinks. In 2011 a total of € 201 on reimbursements was paid.

Contingencies and commitments

The foundation has a rental obligation for renting the office premises of € 45.500 every year. The contract ends June 2014.

The foundation has an operational lease agreement for the office copier amounting to € 1.728 every year. The remaining obligation until the end of the contract amounts to € 6.336.

The foundation has a pension agreement with a life-insurance company in the Netherlands for all employees. The pension scheme concerns a defined contribution scheme therefore the possibility of future obligations is excluded.

With a local credit institution the foundation agreed upon a facility agreement, which means the foundation has a credit facility amounting to € 60.000 when necessary.

Related Party

The foundation WECF is economically involved with the Stichting Healthy Planet. The transactions between the both parties concern the rent agreement of the office premises of € 45.500 yearly.

Notes to the statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ended december 31, 2011			
	Actual 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
Source of Income (1)			
1.1 Income from received grants governments and others	1.354.460	1.434.756	1.822.887
1.2 Contributions from from joint actions	56.356	0	18.179
1.3 Contributions from fundraising activities	42.369	29.100	78.971
Total	1.453.185	1.463.856	1.920.037
1.1 Income from grants governments and others			
EU life +	294.222	294.222	288.290
Ministry of Environment	135.247	169.705	107.400
EuropeAid	707.038	765.529	165.167
SAICM	80.950	80.806	17.480
UNEP	110.904	102.648	0
UNECE	23.921	27.600	0
Combined Ministries in Europe (CEHAPE award)	0	0	66.217
Nanopodium	0	0	84.865
MFS	0	0	784.099
MATRA	0	0	300.985
Other income	2.178	3.246	8.384
Total	1.354.460	1.434.756	1.822.887
1.2 Contributions from joint actions			
Women in Europe for a Common Future eV (Germany)	24.205	0	18.179
Women in Europe for a Common Future Fondation (France)	1.318	0	0
Cofinancing project by partners	30.833	0	0
Total	56.356	0	18.179
<i>For the EuropeAid projects about 25% co funding is required. Part of the co funding was realized through the legal party Women in Europe for a Common Future eV (Germany) which is our sister organization in Munich.</i>			
1.3 Income from fundraising activities			
Donations	2.441	0	11.481
Membership fees	825	0	413
NatraCare	7.590	6.900	0
LIA fund	17.868	17.200	0
HB Foundation	0	0	9.325
SSHD project	0	0	57.752
Small grants	8.316	0	0
Other income	5.329	5.000	0
Total	42.369	29.100	78.971

Expenses relating to objectives (2)	Actual 2011	Budget 2011	Actual 2010
<i>The expenses relating the objectives of WECF are explained in the matrix on the next page. Staff costs are allocated to objectives and operational and administrative expenses based on outcome of the time registrations systems. General costs are allocated to the objectives based on the actual hours spent on the thematic objectives. Financial results are allocated 100% to operational and administrative expenses.</i>			
<i>In 2010 the MFS program which ended in 2010 was a major influence on our reporting of objectives and allocation of expenses, the definitions and allocations to our objectives was adjusted in 2011. Therefore the model of reporting on actual expenses per objective in 2011 is less comparable to 2010.</i>			
Additional information on staff expenses			
Salaries	421.819	345.488	493.555
Social security premiums	71.498	86.372	91.921
Pension premiums	14.579	18.000	17.964
Expert staff	32.988	60.000	64.700
Travel home work costs	15.214	0	0
Total	556.099	509.860	668.140
Expenses relating to fundraising activities (3)			
<i>The expenses relating to fundraising activities consist mostly of salary costs of employees attending events and conferences as well editing of the website and general publications.</i>			
Expenses relating to acquiring subsidies and grants government (4)			
<i>The expenses relating to acquiring subsidies and grants governments consist mostly of salary costs of employees writing proposals in coordination with the partner organisations and the attendance of meetings organized by the major donors.</i>			
Operational and administrative expenses (5)			
<i>The expenses relating to acquiring subsidies and grants governments consist mostly of salary costs of employees writing proposals in coordination with the partner organisations and the attendance of meetings organized by the major donors.</i>			
Staff expenses	134.132	137.427	105.693
Other personnel expenses	11.730	12.050	10.068
Travel- and accommodation	18.172	20.000	43.311
Public relations & press costs	17.055	11.600	21.475
Depreciation charges	2.409	1.247	10.793
Office rent & expenses	68.574	57.000	60.486
Other general costs	65.380	65.500	61.830
ICT and communication experts	0	0	36.685
Financial income and costs	3.398	4.600	3.214
Total	320.850	309.424	353.555

Allocation of costs per objective actual 2011 (annex 3 RJ 650)

Strategic objectives												
	Sanitation & water	Health, Chemicals and Agriculture	Energy & Climate	Advocacy	Total			Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	Expenses relating to Fundraising Activities	Operational and administrative expenses	Actual 2011	Budget 2011
Partner expenses	69.230	129.530	231.537		430.297						430.297	425.562
External experts	4.062	53.783	31.671	4.448	93.965						93.965	p.m.
Travel- and accommodation	17.042	19.900	24.022	82.693	143.657						143.657	p.m.
Publications and materials	7.878	24.641	2.369	7.736	42.625						42.625	p.m.
Direct project expenses	28.982	98.325	58.062	94.877	280.246						280.246	356.437
Staff expenses	66.381	180.992	122.604	51.990	421.967						421.967	372.433
Total	164.594	408.847	412.203	146.867	1.132.510						1.132.510	1.154.433
As percentage of total	15%	36%	36%	13%	100%							
Staff expenses								18.879	10.242	105.011	134.132	137.427
Other personnel expenses	1.680	3.918	2.309	849	8.756					2.974	11.730	12.050
Travel- and accommodation	2.602	6.070	3.578	1.316	13.565					4.607	18.172	20.000
Public relations & press costs	2.442	5.697	3.358	1.235	12.731					4.324	17.055	11.600
Depreciation charges	345	805	474	174	1.798					611	2.409	1.247
Office rent & expenses	9.819	22.905	13.501	4.964	51.189					17.385	68.574	57.000
Other general costs	9.336	21.780	12.838	4.720	48.674					16.706	65.380	65.500
Financial income and costs										3.398	3.398	4.600
Total	26.224	61.175	36.058	13.258	136.715			18.879	10.242	155.014	320.850	309.423
Overall total	190.817	470.022	448.261	160.125	1.269.225			18.879	10.242	155.014	1.453.360	1.463.856
As percentage of total	13%	32%	31%	11%	87%			1,3%	0,7%	11%	100%	

Allocation of costs per objective actual 2010

	Sanitation	Water	Energy	Health/ Agriculture	Capacity building	Democracy	Total			Expenses relating to subsidies and grants government	Operational and administrative expenses	Actual 2010	Budget 2010
MFS Partner expenses	162.173	22.390	42.108		19.208	19.502	265.381					265.380	297.584
Matra Belarus Partner	52.088						52.088					52.088	10.685
Matra Moldova Partner	108.047						108.047					108.047	118.000
SSHD Partner	149.348						149.348					149.348	91.748
EuropeAid partner				27.488			27.488					27.488	155.430
External experts	43.156	3.387	17.554	117.280	2.906	2.950	187.233				36.685	223.918	189.875
Travel- and accommodation	38.840	7.541	28.638	42.590	5.088	1.677	124.374				43.311	167.685	123.421
Publications and materials	23.331	3.931	10.403	43.384	6.739	1.875	89.663				107	89.772	41.308
Staff expenses	157.541	17.412	80.222	263.514	20.617	23.141	562.447			33.531	72.162	668.140	815.003
Communication costs							0				21.368	21.368	46.600
Depreciation charges							0				17.970	17.970	12.200
Office rent & expenses							0				60.486	60.486	63.000
Other general costs	33.977			12.239			46.216				18.505	64.720	62.550
Financial income and costs							0				3.214	3.214	4.600
Total	768.501	54.660	178.925	506.495	54.558	49.145	1.612.285			33.531	273.808	1.919.624	2.032.004
In	41%	3%	9%	26%	3%	2%	84%			2%	14%	100%	

Other Informations

The board of trustees agreed on the proposal of the director that the result of the year 2011 is allocated to continuity reserve. This decision has been incorporated in the reported balance sheet at 31 December 2011.

Utrecht, 13 July 2012

Executive Director:
Sascha Gabizon
w.s.

Treasurer BoT:
Bert Kuiten
w.s.

the categorization of expenses has been adjusted in accordance with specific requests of the CBF. The distinction between the fund-raising activities and the expenses has been made more clear WECEF has received the "Verklaring van geen bezwaar" in 2011.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been prepared applying the indirect method.

<p>Annex 2 Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future te Utrecht</p>	<p>Fijnth Audit Marsden 261 Postbus 9221 6800 KB ARNHEM telefoon (026) 354 28 00 e-mail GOR@fijnth.nl</p>
<p>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</p>	
<p>The summary financial statements on page 95 to 108 of this report, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2011, the summary statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and related notes, are derived from the audited financial statements of Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future, Utrecht for the year ended 31 December 2011. We expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report of 13 July 2012. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements. The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Fundraising Institutions Accounting Guideline (RJ B50). Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future, Utrecht.</p>	
<p>Management's responsibility Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statement.</p>	
<p>Auditor's responsibility Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Dutch Law, including the Dutch Standard on Auditing 810 "Engagements to report on summary financial statements".</p>	
<p>Opinion In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Stichting Women in Europe for a Common Future, Utrecht, for the year ended 31 December 2011 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements.</p>	
<p>Arnhem, 28 September 2012 GBO Registeraccountants B.V.</p>	
<p>was signed</p>	
<p>M. Handeké AA</p>	<p>9028008/MH/1823</p>
<p><small>Fijnth Audit is de handelsnaam van GBO Registeraccountants B.V. GBO Registeraccountants B.V. is op het Rijkregister van de Kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken voor Arnhem en Omstreken (KvK) ingeschreven onder nummer 09028008. Het hoofkantoor is gevestigd te Arnhem, Marsden 261. De vestiging te Utrecht is gevestigd te Utrecht, Marsden 261. De vestiging te Utrecht is gevestigd te Utrecht, Marsden 261. De vestiging te Utrecht is gevestigd te Utrecht, Marsden 261.</small></p>	

WECF representation



WECF and UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu



WECF and UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu



WECF and UN CSD Commission on Sustainable Development

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu



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

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu



WECF and UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Contact: claudia.wendland@wecf.eu and anke.stock@wecf.eu



WECF and WHO World Health Organisation

Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

WECF and other UN programmes

Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

“

Facing today's global challenges, a nexus approach is very much needed. We should think outside of the traditional sectors and come with integrated solutions to complex problems. We need to allow each one of us to contribute to these solutions, at all levels, from the household to international governance”.

Sascha Gabizon, executive director WECF

Conference "The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus – Solutions for the Green Economy" held 16 to 18 November 2011 in Bonn.

