



## Impressum

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# Activity Report

Overview of WECF's accomplishments in 2007

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A large, light blue graphic on a darker blue background. It features a central globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Surrounding the globe are several stylized human figures in various poses, some appearing to hold hands or support the globe. The overall theme is global unity and community.

# About WECF

# Foreword

The Year 2007 has been a year of continuing growth and development for our organisation. WECF received again support for its core activities from the EU Commission, Directorate-General Environment, after an interval of one year, which enabled us to strengthen our activities and network in the EU region. Very important for sustained stability and continuity in our work was the decision by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to grant us financial support for the programme Empowerment and local Action in developing countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA Region), from 2008 to 2011.

We also received grants from private foundations for projects in Eastern Europe. Thanks to this increasing support many new projects could be started with partners in Eastern Europe. WECF worked in 2007 with 34 partners in 10 EECCA countries and with 16 partners in 12 EU countries, demonstrating sustainable solutions to environment related health problems.

This report will give you interesting examples. In many places the partners have started pilot projects that have the function to raise awareness and show the possibility of sustainable and affordable solutions. Many health problems in rural areas are related to polluted drinking water. In the WECF projects Ecological Sanitation (ecosan) has become a proven technical solution for well water pollution by pit latrines. Particularly, when it is combined with organic agriculture and good wastewater management. Pilot projects in schools reach a large target group and improve hygienic conditions and health for hundreds of children. In 2007, two ecosan school toilets were already installed in the Ukraine and Armenia. Also, one was built in a cultural club in Bulgaria, 20 households got ecosan toilets and in the project in Northern Afghanistan 100 existing pit latrines were improved with Ecological Sanitation systems.

Access to safe drinking water is key: 5,000 people received improved access to water in the projects in Afghanistan and Armenia. Furthermore, 10% of the villagers of Topoli village in Bulgaria started composting their organic waste and a water saving system was installed in the school. But to get these solutions accepted and installed on a large scale, awareness raising of policymakers, entrepreneurs and society is necessary. Therefore, WECF and its partners organised 2 high level meetings with representatives of business, ministries and NGO's on sustainable solutions for rural sanitation. These meetings were held in Bulgaria and Romania, presenting the results of a market study on opportunities for production of affordable ecosan (urine diverting) toilet systems. A new activity was started to promote a healthy environment for the youngest, targeting young

parents. The name for this project is "Nesting." The parents expecting their new baby want to get their home and their "babyroom" ready. That is the right moment to choose safe products and avoid risky chemicals. The new website on Nesting was published in 6 Languages.

WECF and its members were also active again with advocacy work at conferences at the UN and UN-ECE level. Issues addressed were energy solutions for the EECCA region (at the UN CSD New York), or the Action plan on Children's Health and the Environment which was discussed in Vienna in June by the WHO and European Environment and Health Ministers. During this last conference the networks of WECF and the European Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) presented an NGO review of the progress of the action plan in a new and creative way. This attracted attention and approval from the official delegations. At this conference three WECF member organisations won an award for their projects on children's health, improving environmental conditions. In December, WECF and partners organised at the climate conference (UNFCCC) in Bali a side event and an exhibition. Our main theme was that nuclear energy is not a solution to climate change.

At the end of October, WECF and representatives of its network held their bi-annual network conference with 120 participants. This was following the European Ministers conference 'Environment for Europe,' in which WECF and its members actively participated and also organised side-events and a large stand. This network meeting is always very important to connect the members to each other and involve them in our thematic activities and working groups. Everyone worked with enthusiasm

and the workshops delivered excellent plans and ideas for the coming two-year period. A new International Advisory Board was elected by and from the members. This board plays a guiding role in matters of strategy and action. Together with this meeting, WECF organised a high level lunch event: Women as the voice for the Right to a Healthy Environment, with Achim Steiner, head of UNEP and European women in high level functions.

Managing growth has been a key point of attention in 2007 for the board and directors and this will continue. A lot of work has been done to develop the systems to support WECF as a professionally working organisation. Training for staff and project managers followed. The organisation has proved to be strong and viable enough to tackle problems of growth and keep the dynamic spirit of a pioneer while combining this with professional ways of working. A large part of the success must be attributed to the very dedicated and motivated people working for WECF and its member organisations.

**Marie Kranendonk**  
President of WECF



# Our Dreams and Drives



Sascha Gabizon | Executive Director WECF

## Why does WECF work at the international level?

*“Our main strength is that we don’t just talk about issues, we solve them! We work on practical projects at the local level, and take our results and experiences to the international policy level. We encourage our partners to raise their concerns at the international policy level even though they may not speak English or have no public speaking experience. Policy makers rarely get the chance to hear from real people affected by real issues, giving a different perspective from official consultants and reports. Through our local projects, we improve the direct living conditions of tens of thousands of people. Through our international advocacy work we reach out to millions.”*



Gero Fedtke | Programme Coordinator

## Why does WECF work at the local level?

*“Together with our partners we work on improving the environmental and health conditions of people where it is most needed. We are providing individual solutions to local problems, often in very small villages. These solutions can only be sustainable if they are adapted to local culture. Therefore, it is logical for me to involve local people right from the start. By working for gender equality and equity, we encourage both women’s and men’s participation.”*



Sonja Haider | Chemicals Coordinator

## Why does WECF work in Europe?

*“For us, “Europe” is the whole European region from Ireland to Tajikistan. In Western Europe we focus on advocacy and policy work. In the EECCA region we implement projects at the local level. Our neighbours – just a few hundred kilometres away – suffer from poor sanitation, energy poverty and environmental pollution. As one of the few Western NGOs working there, we support our partners and encourage the exchange of capacities and knowledge. In today’s globalized world, we cannot afford to ignore anyone.”*



Sabine Bock | Director, Germany

## Why does WECF support women?

*“We need two eyes to see straight,” says an old Chinese proverb. Only if we take the life situation from women and men likewise into account, it is possible to capture problems well and to develop solutions. So far the perspective of women is missed too often at crucial points in politics, economy and society. To close this gap, we ask especially for this perspective. Together, men and women, we work for a healthy environment for all, locally and globally.”*



Marie Kranendonk | Founder WECF

## Why is it important to protect our children?

*“Our children are the most vulnerable members of society. All of us share a responsibility to protect them from harmful pollution, which causes physical and mental damage. Children have the right to grow up in a healthy environment, – without being exposed to hazardous chemicals in their food, toys and environment – so their brains and bodies can be developed to their fullest potential.”*

## Visions, strategies and goals

**Our Conviction** An old Chinese proverb says: “We need two eyes to see straight!” It’s the same with men and women; we need both their views equally to achieve a world in balance. (Marie Kranedonk, President WECF).

**The WECF network** WECF is a network of 90 women’s and environmental organisations in 37 countries of which 33 are Western European and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe & Caucasus & Central Asia) and 5 other countries. WECF was officially registered in 1994. WECF has two coordinating offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands and one in Munich, Germany, which manage the network, projects and finances. (A third office opened in France in March 2008.)

**WECF’s roots** During the ‘Earth Summit’ in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 – a result of the UN report ‘Our Common Future’ – women were defined as a “major group” in sustainable development and environment policy. As the “Earth Summit” brought together many enthusiastic and active European women working for sustainable development, the representatives from Europe agreed to create the network organisation WECF.

**Mission – Moving People for a World in balance** WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All. We use women’s potential in balancing environment, health and economy. WECF’s activities are based in its partners own visions and needs. Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.

**Goals and Issues** WECF’s work is structured around 4 thematic goals and 4 cross cutting issues, under the overall theme of a Healthy Environment for All.

### Healthy Environment for All

WECF’s overarching goal is to achieve a

- **Healthy Environment for All** in the European Union, and it’s neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. To reach this overarching goal WECF works on four long-term goals:
  - **Safe Chemicals for All** by 2020 all consumer products are free of hazardous chemicals and toxic waste is safely eliminated
  - **Safe Energy for All** by 2020 everyone has access to safe, affordable and renewable energy
  - **Safe Food Production and Rural Development for All** by 2020 everyone has access to safe, regional and diverse food, based on fair production in balance with nature
  - **Safe Water and Sanitation for All** by 2020 everyone has access to safe and affordable water and sanitation and take preventive water protecting measures
- Cross-cutting issues: to reach these goals WECF also works on Poverty Reduction, Sustainable Development, Public Participation and Environmental Rights.

**WECF’s four Strategies** WECF uses four strategies to achieve the overarching goal and the long-term goals

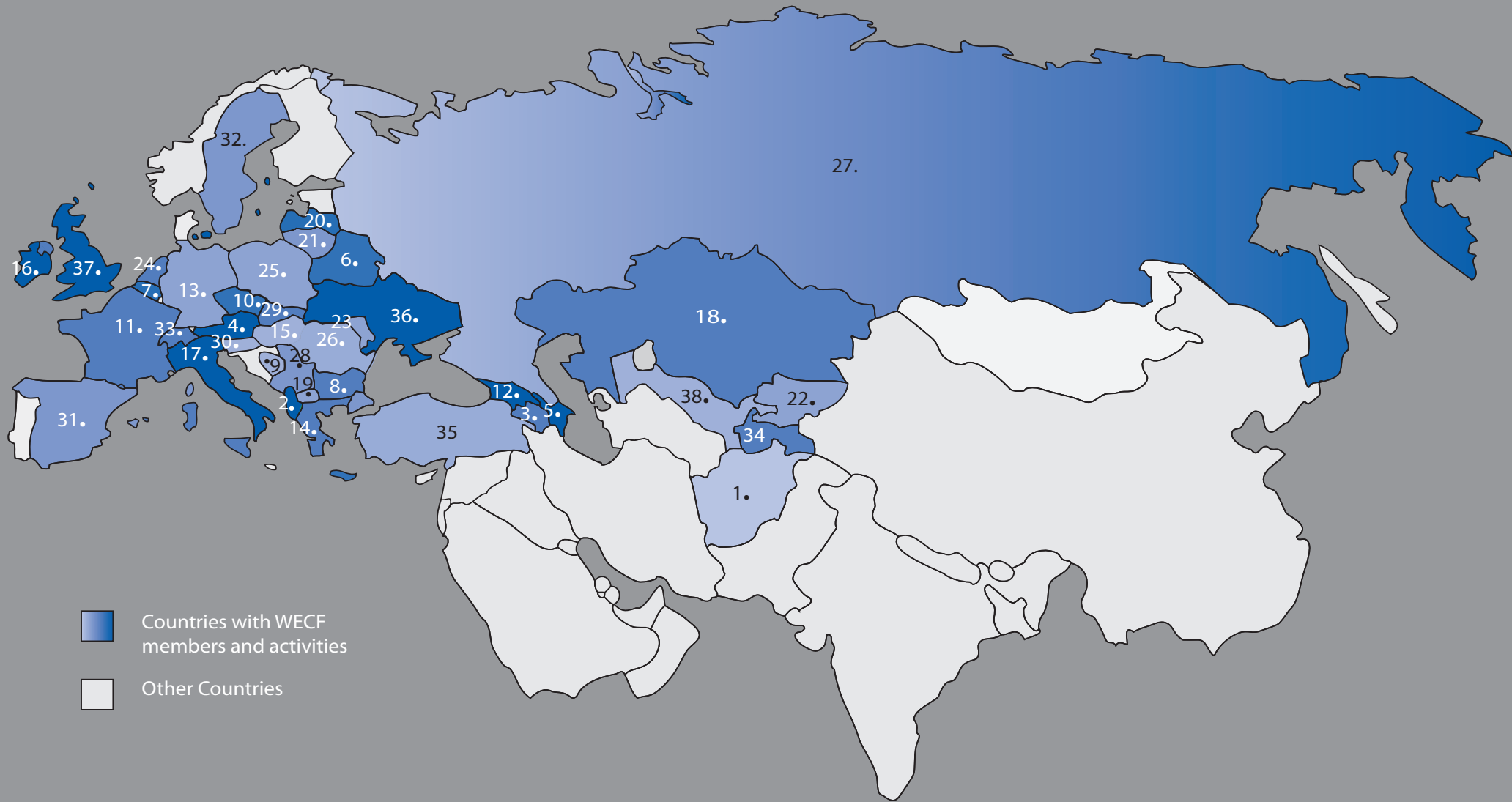
- Capacity building and Awareness-Raising
- Advocacy and Policy Recommendations
- Implementing Solutions, Demonstrating Alternatives
- Gender: increasing balanced participation of women and men in policy making and implementation



### WECF’s Guiding Principles

- From local to global: WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally by presenting their experience and recommendations to policy makers
- WECF is looking for practical, innovative and cost-effective solutions always using local structures, capacities, know how, material, women and men power
- WECF is striving for dialogue by involvement of multi-stakeholders in its activities
- WECF is strengthening decentralized structures, local and regional markets and self responsible civil societies
- WECF encourages an interrelated transfer of knowledge and capacities between West and East
- WECF promotes professionalism and competence
- WECF does not accept to compromise on our and our children’s health out of economic reasons

**Our Vision** By 2020, WECF is the best NGO network operating in the pan-European region and with partners worldwide, contributing substantially to achieving a healthy environment for all and a world in balance; balance between economy and environment, health and growth, women and men, current and future generations.





 Countries with WEFC members and activities  
 Other Countries

- |                |                    |                |                |                        |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 7. Belgium         | 13. Germany    | 20. Latvia     | 26. Romania            | 32. Sweden         |
| 2. Albania     | 8. Bulgaria        | 14. Greece     | 21. Lithuania  | 27. Russian Federation | 33. Switzerland    |
| 3. Armenia     | 9. Bosnia          | 15. Hungary    | 22. Kyrgyzstan | 28. Serbia             | 34. Tajikistan     |
| 4. Austria     | 10. Czech Republic | 16. Ireland    | 23. Moldova    | 29. Slovakia           | 35. Turkey         |
| 5. Azerbaijan  | 11. France         | 17. Italy      | 24. Netherland | 30. Slovenia           | 36. Ukraine        |
| 6. Belarus     | 12. Georgia        | 18. Kazakhstan | 25. Poland     | 31. Spain              | 37. United Kingdom |
|                |                    | 19. Macedonia  |                |                        | 38. Uzbekistan     |

WEFC has individual members from overseas regions: Lebanon, Uganda and the USA



## Women in Europe

### Why Women?

During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, women were defined as a “major group” in sustainable development and environmental policy. This fact is still not recognized enough by policy makers. Many governments are little aware of the potential women have as agents of change and as important stakeholders for implementation of environmental policy, sustainable resource use and the Millennium Development Goals. WECF wants to pave the way for increased public participation in general, and women’s participation in particular, in environmental and health policy-making. Women have specific responsibilities for future generations and therefore see different priorities and are often more engaged in sustainability, specifically on issues related to health and livelihoods. Women’s reproductive health is a matter of concern since environmental pollution and pollutants are passed on to the developing child and lead to lifelong health damage. Women’s health is also differently affected by environmental pollutants than men, as WECF shows in its publication on links between breastcancer, now affecting 1 out of 10 women in the European region and environmental pollutants. Women often have different ideas and solutions because they are affected differently by the impacts of certain decisions.

Health problems related to pollution and environmental deterioration are crucial issues, as the consequences are constantly visible in the daily lives of people. The members of the WECFnetwork see it as a priority to strengthen health & environmental policies that will protect citizens, and in particular, vulnerable groups such as children, women and the elderly.

*WECF members at strategic planning exercises during WECF’s network conference, Belgrade 2007.*

*Improving sanitation conditions to increase girls attendance in schools is an aim of WECF’s school sanitation projects.*

For example, in WECF’s ecological school sanitation project, improving school attendance of girls by providing better sanitation conditions has shown good results.

### Why in Europe?

There are large inequalities in Europe and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia). There are differences in health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. Now that the barriers between the East and West have decreased, it is time for the West to take up its responsibility and assist the East with sustainable development.

### Challenges in the new EU member states and neighbouring countries

Health problems and poverty in rural areas are rising due to a disintegration of basic services in rural areas and lack of environmental resource management. The WHO indicates that child mortality caused by water borne diseases in the EECCA region are high with 14,000 children dying each year. Lack of sanitation, waste-water and solid waste systems contribute significantly to water pollution. Indoor air pollution from burning biomass and (plastic) waste is another main cause of child mortality in the region. The widespread uninformed use of asbestos as a building material in homes, schools and playgrounds and the large amounts of uncontrolled POPs stockpiles are further characteristics of the region, and pose a great threat to public health. With the entry of the new Eastern Member States

into the European Union, these environmental health challenges have become part of the EU.

### Challenges European Union

In the European Union the health effects of environmental pollution are often under-estimated and not sufficiently known. WECF’s work on developmental disorders of children, linked to pre-natal exposure to low doses of common hazardous chemicals found in food, toys and bodycare products, affects increasingly large parts of the population. WECF’s publications on the “Environmental Burden of Disease” show the economic costs and need for stronger environmental measures in the areas of air pollution, water pollution, climate change and hazardous chemicals. The inability to stop the loss of biodiversity in the EU is a further challenge. Climate Change is aggravating existing environmental problems such as biodiversity loss, desertification, and increase of water and vector borne diseases.

At the same time eco-innovation in the areas of green chemistry, renewable energy and re-use of waste-water to mention only three examples, are areas where Europe has a competitive edge.

*The entry of the new Eastern Member States into the European Union has brought several typical environmental health risks into the EU, such as asbestos exposure, obsolete pesticide dumps, polluted drinking water wells and home and yard burning of (plastic) waste.*

*Cold winters aggravate poverty in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.*



The background features a solid blue color with a white horizontal line near the bottom. Overlaid on this are two stylized, blue silhouettes of human figures. The figure on the left is partially cut off by the edge. The figure on the right is more complete, shown in a dynamic pose with one arm raised and the other extended towards the first figure, suggesting a handshake or a gesture of agreement. The text 'Advocacy Activities in 2007' is centered in white, bold font over the blue background.

# Advocacy Activities in 2007



WECF members, staff and youth delegates organized a press event during the inter-ministerial conference on Children's Environmental Health, Vienna, June 2007.

**Location** Western and Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia  
**Donor** DG Environment EC  
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## Children have a right to a healthy environment – right from the beginning

WECF is the elected representative of the environmental organisations (European Eco-Forum) in the EEHC (European Environment and Health Committee) for the Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE). The EEHC is responsible for the Children's Environmental Health Action Plan, coordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Europe. The ECO Forum is coordinated by the World Health Organisation Europe. 53 countries from the EU and EECCA region participated in developing CEHAPE, which was approved by ministers of health and ministers of environment in Budapest, 2004. In 2007, WECF attended the Inter-ministerial Review of the CEHAPE in Vienna from the 12th–15th of June. The Member States convened to take stock of progress achieved since

Budapest, and to explore how best to move forward for the Rome Ministerial Conference in 2009.

### CEHAPE Best Practice Award and RPG News with recommendations

The NGO delegation, led by ECO Forum/WECF and HEAL – the Health & Environment Alliance, gained great visibility for activities that enhance children's environmental health within the four Regional Priority Goals – RPG (Water & Sanitation, Accidents & Physical Activity, Air Quality, and Chemicals) through the presentation of the first ever "CEHAPE Best Practice Awards." WECF member Women for a Clean Future from Romania had been the overall winner of the best practice award in the category "Water and Sanitation." In a lively "newscast" report back ("RPG News: Beyond Budapest") the following recommendations before the Rome 2009 meeting were presented:

- Safe water and sanitation must be a high level issue; especially clean and safe school toilets  
 Safe water and sanitation is not a luxury but a human right
- To improve air quality  
 - smoking in public transport systems must be banned

- poor people must have access to clean and safe energy sources
  - legislation must set norms for indoor air quality especially for schools; toxic substances from building products must be banned
  - To protect children from hazardous chemicals all states should ratify the Stockholm convention and improve REACH. In the Eastern part of the WHO Region obsolete stockpiles of pesticides must be cleaned up
- Governments should act on the basis of the substitution principle: chemicals with irreversible effects on human bodies must be substituted. Organic production should be supported.

### NGO Preparatory Conference

**"Taking Stock of Progress since the Budapest 4th Ministerial Conference on Environmental and Health" and INCHEs 4th Annual Conference – "Reducing the Risk for Our Children."**

The NGO Preparatory Conference coordinated by Eco-forum via WECF, HEAL and ISDE Austria – the Austrian Doctors for the Environment, 11-12 June, aimed to bring together 30 to 50 NGOs in order to report on good practice and progress made by the non-governmental sector in reducing environmental risks to children's health and to agree on recommendations to support governments at the IMR on implementing the Budapest Declaration. The 4th Annual INCHEs Conference (International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety), 10-12 June, was a platform for compelling presentations of new insights into children's health, attended by scientists, representatives from NGOs, governments and industry alike.



**Location** European Union

**Donor** Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands

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

## WECF members participate in the NGO preparation meeting for the Belgrade Ministerial Conference Environment for Europe

### 75 organisations participate

More than 75 NGOs from the entire EU and EECCA region came to Brussels where European ECO Forum organised a strategy meeting in Brussels on 1-3 of March 2007.

The meeting focussed on preparations for the 6th Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (10-12 October 2007, Belgrade, Serbia). The Conference was organised by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) on behalf of

the European ECO-Forum with the support of Eco-Accord Moscow and WECF the Netherlands. WECF members proposed to organise a "diverse apple" event, where the NGOs ask all delegates to bring typical local apple varieties from their regions to the Belgrade conference, where they would be shown in an apple biodiversity exhibition. WECF and CEE-WEB followed-up on this idea, and organised a very visible diverse apple exhibition in Belgrade.

WECF members also proposed to show a video in Belgrade on the negative effects of infrastructure developments – either privately funded or with EU funds – on biodiversity in the EU. Croatia among others gave examples of pristine nature being destroyed for infrastructure development (video can be downloaded at [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)).

*70 environmental NGOs from Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia met in Brussels in March 2007, to prepare for their input at the Environment for Europe Policy Conference.*



*120 members of the WECF network met in Belgrade, October 2007.*



**Location** Belgrade, Serbia

**Donor** Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands, European Commission DG Environment

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

## WECF general members meeting, 13–14 October 2007 Belgrade

100 WECF members met for the 2-day general members conference called "Network Meeting," on 13-14 October 2007 in Belgrade.

At the Network Meeting the members of WECF worked in thematic working groups to prepare a 3-year strategic workplan and elected the International Advisory Board (IAB). The committee is constituted of members and advises the organisation on the main directions of its work, the thematic areas and regional issues, and approves member applications. Before the meeting 21 candidates had been proposed by WECF members, coming from different regions and with diverse backgrounds. WECF members elected the following 11 persons to the IAB:

- Svitlana Slesarenok (Ukraine; energy)
- Anna Tsvetkova (Ukraine; water & sanitation)
- Diana Iskrevia (Bulgaria; sanitation)
- Sabine Brueckmann (Germany; sustainable rural development)
- Viviane Avandana (Spain; sustainable rural development & sanitation)
- Elena Manvelian (Armenia; health)
- Helen Lynn (UK; chemicals & health)
- Olga Speranskaya (Russia; chemicals & health)
- Victoria Elias (Russia; biodiversity & public participation)
- Irene Dankelman (the Netherlands; gender & environment)
- as well as Nadjeska Kutepova (Russia; energy) as an alternate Gulbachar Izentaeva

The members of the IAB present in Belgrade that evening, made some working arrangements and elected their co-chairs.

As Victoria Elias cannot be a co-chair for the moment, the IAB co-chairs for the coming period are Irene Dankelman and Svitlana Slesarenok.

WECF, Environmental Ambassadors from Serbia and UNEP organised the "Women as the Voice for the Right to a Healthy Environment" - WAVE conference, Belgrade, October 2007.



**Location** Belgrade, Serbia

**Donor** Ministry of Environment, The Netherlands, European Commission DG Environment

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Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, speaking at the WAVE conference, Belgrade, October 2007.



## Women as the Voice for the Right to a Healthy Environment

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) organised the 1st WAVE conference on October 2004 in Nairobi, bringing together women's environmental leaders to develop a strategy to strengthen women's perspective in environmental policy making. In October 2007, WECF together with UNEP organised the 2nd WAVE meeting at the Belgrade Environment for Europe, Ministerial Conference. The official side-event was "Women as the Voice for the Right to a Healthy Environment."

### WAVE lunch event and conference, 10–13 October 2007 Belgrade

More than 120 participated in the WAVE events in Belgrade. At the Lunch Event on October 10th, the executive director of UNEP, Achim Steiner, discussed with women's environmental leaders

on lessons learned of women's involvement in sustainable development. Themes examined were the right to safe food and safe energy, the right to safe sanitation and water and the right to safe chemicals. At the conference, women's leaders from the European and EECCA region presented their success stories and policy recommendations. They discussed their lessons learned with Gordana Comic, Member of the Serbian Parliament. The 120 participants worked in small groups to prepare a common declaration, the WAVE Belgrade declaration, in which key concerns and policy recommendations were presented with a focus on strengthening the right to a healthy environment.

The WAVE declaration was sent to the Ministers of Environment of the EU and the EECCA region. See [http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2007/11/WAVE\\_Declaration.php.w](http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2007/11/WAVE_Declaration.php.w).

**Location** Geneva, Switzerland

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** anke.stock@wecf.eu

## The task force on public participation in international forums and its work

In May 2005, at the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention in Almaty, the Parties adopted "The Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Application of the Principles of the Aarhus Convention in International Forums." By these Guidelines the Parties committed themselves to promote the application of the Aarhus principles in other international organisations. WECF has a role in the Task Force bringing in the perspective of the environmental NGOs of Eco-Forum. The aim of the Task Force was to conduct a consultation (June 2006 until July 2007) in order to obtain views of other international forums on the Guidelines. In addition, the goal was to learn from their experiences in the areas of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. The results from this process were to be used to provide Parties with further guidance in implementing their obligations under the Guidelines and to assist them in reviewing the Guidelines, if appropriate. Furthermore, a workshop on the issue was organised by the Aarhus Secretariat and held in Geneva, in June 2007. The workshop provided a good platform to meet and exchange experiences of practices in these areas.

The last meeting of the Task Force in November 2007, before the 3rd Meeting of the Parties in Riga, in June 2008, mainly dealt with the future work on the issue. All delegates agreed that there is no need to amend the Guidelines right

now, since there has not been sufficient experience gained with the Guidelines in their current form. However, there was consent that the need to review the Guidelines should be reassessed before the 4th Meeting of the Parties. Delegates at the 9th Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties in Geneva, in February 2008, were in favour of keeping the body of the Task Force. A final decision will only be taken at the 3rd Meeting of the Parties in June 2008.

## Conclusions

The Task Force with the help of the Secretariat has managed an enormous workload by conducting this large-scale consultation. The consultation provided a good overview of rules, procedures and practices that are used by international forums to involve the public and it showed the importance of the Almaty Guidelines. WECF calls for rules that will establish habits, change cultures that establish certainty and continuity in the application of the Aarhus principles. In practice, the attitude of international forums towards public participation by NGOs very often still depends on the civil servants who work in the secretariats and on those who work in the forums as representatives of national governments. Their background, culture and general attitude towards transparency and democracy as well as towards civil society organisations as such is pivotal for the opportunities of NGOs to meaningfully participate in the work of a specific forum or not. This is not a satisfactory situation. Public participation should be a right and not a privilege or something open to luck and chance!

Citizen's in Kazakstan call attention to health effects among children living directly below high voltage electricity lines, during a meeting on access to environmental justice as guaranteed by the Aarhus Convention.



**Location** International

**Donor** Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands

**Contact** [sonja.haider@wecf.eu](mailto:sonja.haider@wecf.eu)

WECF published a pocket size guide for shoppers on how they can use the consumer's rights provided by the European Chemicals Regulation "REACH."



## Realizing our Potential

### Women's and Environment organizations mobilize for sustainable consumption and production

#### Capacity building and raising awareness

Following the adoption of the new EU chemicals policy REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) our activities focused on preparing publications about the new legislation and how it serves the public and environment and protects health. Our first step was preparing a final fact sheet about REACH. WECF released two publications about REACH in September and November. The first publication contains an analysis of REACH, its opportunities and its flaws. The second is a pocket size guide for shoppers on how they can use the consumer's rights under REACH. Both publications have been circulated in the EU and internationally and can be downloaded from [www.wecf.eu/publications/](http://www.wecf.eu/publications/). In October 2007, at the 3rd Women's Forum for Economy and Society in Deauville, France, the project leader highlighted the problem of hazardous chemicals and possible solutions. The Forum is an occasion where, similar to the World Economic Forum, women leaders from all realms of society come together to discuss a variety of issues. A successful workshop about the new international chemicals framework was given. Also, a fact sheet focussing on WECF's four key chemicals policy principles was introduced to the network and our partner organizations.

#### Additional achievements

- Joint NGO publication "My voice: How you can

demand better protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals," June 2007, [http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2007/MyVoice\\_ConsumerGuide\\_2007.pdf](http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2007/MyVoice_ConsumerGuide_2007.pdf)

- Joint NGO publication "Navigating REACH: An activist guide to using and improving the new EU chemicals legislation," September 2007 [http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2007/navi\\_reach.pdf](http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2007/navi_reach.pdf)  
The policy coordinator also participated in a press conference discussing sustainable development
- Awareness and capacity building workshop "Stopping children's chemical contamination" for new EU member states, jointly organized together with the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Bratislava, 16 April 2007, <http://www.wecf.eu/cms/articles/2007/05/bratislava.php>

#### Demonstrating alternative solutions

WECF is working jointly with our NGO partners on a project that is planning to release a list of substances of very high concern (as classified by REACH), which should be phased out under REACH as soon as possible. It is our intention to engage in a dialogue with decision makers and businesses about this list. This will be important in terms of setting the right political priorities and signaling to the industry the need for proactive engagement in substituting hazardous chemicals. A public document introducing the project to the public has been drafted and is available on the website. We have also put together terms of reference for the toxicologists reviewing our candi-

date chemicals and decided on a way in which to make this information available. WECF provides information about successful substitution of hazardous chemicals by a number of companies.

#### Advocacy and policy recommendations

In the second half of the 2007 granting period, our policy activities focussed on the implementation of REACH and the international chemicals policy framework, SAICM (Strategic Approach on International Chemicals Management). The NGO representative in the management board of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been attending the meetings following joint preparation with the NGO Steering Committee. As a member of ECHA's management board, we have been very concerned with the selection process of the post of Executive Director of the new European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The implementation of REACH will be to a large extent determined by the workings of ECHA and its chief. We have written to the European Commission President Manuel Barroso, requesting an internal review of the process through which the Commission selected the current head of ECHA as the candidate for the post. In an initial response, the Commission announced it would answer our request by the end of 2007. The project leader continued her involvement with the informal planning committee of the EU -JUSSCANNZ regional group to organize the region's 3rd meeting, in Paris in February 2008. The project leader has also jointly with IPEN given input to the policy discussions for the development of the Global Plan of Action

(GPA) of SAICM. A draft proposal will be presented at the next meeting of the region in 2008. WECF has also been asked to participate in an IPEN Planning Committee to set up a global outreach campaign pushing for the expeditious implementation of SAICM. Furthermore, we have supported the review of EU pesticides legislation. Preceding our network meeting in Belgrade in October of 2007, WECF hosted the Women as the Voice for a right to a healthy Environment (WAVE) meeting. At the meeting, women leaders present among others demanded strong chemicals policy everywhere in the world.

#### Gender mainstreaming

WECF is communicating chemicals policy issues to our network members and our partners in the women's community via a listserv. Since its inception, it has received great feedback and information posted via this listserv was received with a lot of interest. This is very conducive to WECF's work in the context of this programme. Another highlight has been the attendance of the project leader at the 3rd Women's Forum for Economy and Society in Deauville, France in October of 2007. The project leader outlined women's concerns about hazardous chemicals in everyday consumer products to the audience and explained the contribution that policy and industry can make to fundamentally improve women's exposure to hazardous chemicals in consumer products.



*International conference on Chemical Safety organized by WECF member "Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment," Yerevan, October 2007.*

**Location** Armenia

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation, TMF project "Tapping Resources"

**Contact** Elena Manvelyan, office@awhhe.am

## International Conference on Chemical Safety

WECF's member organisation AWHHE, Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment, organised an international conference on Chemical Safety in October 2007. The conference was well attended by national government representatives, international agencies based in Yerevan and national and international experts and NGO's. This was the first meeting in Armenia that brought these representatives together to discuss chemical safety problems and its relation to human health and environment issues. The aim was to address gaps in national policies and build partnerships to finding solutions.

### Hot topic: Obsolete Pesticides Burial on a landslide

WECF was one of the co-organizers of the conference. The president of WECF, Marie Kranendonk, had been invited to address the international experts in solving serious problems of obsolete pesticide dumps, such as the one close to the Armenian capital Yerevan. AWHHE has been drawing attention to this dangerous burial site for

many years. Marie Kranendonk presented the example of a clean-up of obsolete pesticide storages in Moldova. She explained that the Moldavian Government had made the clean up of obsolete pesticide storages a priority in their national action plan to comply with the Stockholm convention. At their request several international agencies stepped in with technical and financial aid to help Moldova with the complicated work: safe removal, packaging and transport to a French chemicals incinerator. Moldavian NGO's, supported by a Dutch NGO and with Dutch Government funding, had participated in the clean up. Marie Kranendonk showed the serious case of the Armenian pesticide burial, which is situated in a landslide area. AWHHE had been doing research and awareness raising about this dump for several years and experts had measured that the dump of 500 tons was slowly moving down to the valley where three villages are situated. AWHHE had been filming the situation and interviewed the villagers and the situation had a lot of publicity. Although the clean up of this dump will be a complex task, there is certainly an emergency. The WECF president expressed hope that the Armenian government wants to make this burial a priority and asked the international agencies to support a plan to help Armenia solve this problem. After the conference participants went to the burial site. Photographs of the landslide cracks were taken. Interviews on TV followed and meetings with international agencies like OSCE and UNDP took place. John Vijgen, an expert who collaborates with AWHHE and WECF, presented the photos and case at a World Bank/GEF conference in Washington. AWHHE has been invited to participate in an emergency commission of the Armenian Government to study possible solutions to the burial problem.

**Location** The Netherlands

**Contact** chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu

## WECF promotes Green Chemistry

On November 8th 2007, Sascha Gabizon, Director of WECF was invited by Arthur D. Little, a consultancy firm to speak about the need for green chemistry. She addressed an auditorium full of technical students and representatives of the chemical industry, at the Technical University of Delft, in the Netherlands. The University hosted a chemical industry market, which included dialogues and seminars.

### Lisbon economic strategy

The EU Lisbon economic strategy aims to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world. According to WECF, a healthy population is a key element for a strong economy. However, we see worrying trends in Europe. Small particle emissions from increased car use are reducing the average life expectancy by 24 to 36 months. This is an average for the more industrialized parts of Europe. Studies in the Netherlands show that children living along busy roads have a 25% increase of asthma and respiratory diseases. The WHO indicates asthma as a major cause for absence among European children. Another threat to society is chemical pollution. Cancer rates are on the rise in Europe. For example, France has seen a 16% increase of breast cancer in the past two years. As studies in Scandinavia show, the cancer rate is lowest in Finland, which for a long time showed less economic development than the other Scandinavian countries. Economic development and cancer levels seem to be linked. A reason could be the amount of hazardous chemicals emitted from consumer products. One specific chemical group, plastic softeners,

also called phthalates, has shown to have life long health effects including reproductive defects. Phthalates not only dissolve plastics, but also affect testis tissue of baby boys. Unfortunately, it is almost impossible as a consumer to try and protect one's children from phthalates, which are found in a great number of consumer products, like toys, body-care products and shampoos.

### REACH

Strong lobbying from the chemical industry has unfortunately weakened the new framework regulation for chemicals, which has been enacted in the European Union, called "REACH" (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation of Chemicals.) Key elements such as toxicity testing, low-tonnage, or neuro-toxic chemicals have been omitted, but it remains a milestone legislation in view of trying to protect public health in the EU. WECF gave examples of how the Chemical lobbyists presented its cases and made clear that some chemical substances, like brominated flame retardants and phthalates, which the industry assured could never be substituted, were found to have a great number of safe alternatives as a recent US research project claimed. WECF called for the industry to make green chemistry the norm. Green chemistry should not be tokenism, but a relevant part of the market. Down stream chemical producers should insist that the industry substitutes hazardous substances as soon as safe alternatives have been developed, which is already the case, for example, for phthalates, where castor-based oils can substitute this hormone disrupting chemical.

*Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to protect one's children from phthalates, a hormone disrupting chemicals found in a great number of consumer products, like toys.*







*Sanitation expert visiting a rural school where decentralized ecological sanitation will be demonstrated, in Teleorman province, Romania.*

**Location** Romania, Turnu Magurele city, country of Teleorman

**Donor** Aqua for All via Women for Water Partnership, the Netherlands

**Contact** [Olivia.radu@wecf.eu](mailto:Olivia.radu@wecf.eu)

## Ecosan in Romania

### Developing local production of decentralized ecological wastewater and sanitation equipment for Romania and Bulgaria

#### Background and Goal

On 29 March 2007, WECF organised a high level international workshop on eco sanitation in Turnu Magurele, in the southern part of Teleorman County, Romania. The seventy participants included experts in ecological sanitation and local authorities from Germany, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands, along with representatives of the Teleorman County authorities, both regional and local, NGOs, Romanian ceramics and plastics industry representatives and construction companies. The aim of the workshop was to share the experiences of experts from different countries working on the issue of safe and environmentally friendly sanitation, to raise awareness and to discuss possible ways to implementing eco sanitation in Romania.

Rural areas of Romania face severe pollution of water resources, and school sanitation is a particular problem. WECF is working with its Romanian partners to introduce ecological sanitation (dry urine-diverting toilets) in rural areas, which represent a sustainable, efficient and locally appropriate solution.

The workshop included presentations of successful ongoing projects where dry urine-diverting toilets have been built in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and India. There was also a chance for participants to visit the pilot schools where the toilets will be built.

A similar workshop was organised in Sofia, since Bulgaria faces many of the same challenges in providing safe water and sanitation to its rural inhabitants (see page 16).

#### Participants and speakers

Presentations were given by WECF experts and representatives of the Province of Overijssel, the Netherlands, GTZ, Germany, the Environmental Microbiology Institute for Infectious Disease Control, Sweden, TUHH (University of Technology Hamburg-Harburg) Germany, STOWA, the Netherlands, Coram Sealskin, the Netherlands, the Romanian Ministry for Environment and Water Management and a World Bank Rural Development project.

## Market opportunities for decentralised sustainable sanitation

In February 2007, a joint Romanian and Bulgarian feasibility study was carried out by Peter van Lutervelt, representative of Coram Sealskin Sanitation Producer, the Netherlands, to find out if both countries have the potential for introducing eco sanitation in rural areas.

The results of the study concluded that there is a lack of supporting legislation for the implementation of eco-san toilets in Romania. On the one hand there is a clear need for raising awareness of the benefits of ecologically sustainable systems, with decision-makers, and on the other, there is a need for improved legislation which would harness the support of the authorities and lead to more widespread and easier dissemination of the eco-san technologies.

Local production is also a priority for WECF: the study included a survey of the Romanian market which explored the possibilities of locally producing this type of toilet. Subsequently, WECF set up a co-operation with the local ceramics company Bianca in Romania in order to produce dry urine-diverting toilets.

## Highlights of the market survey

The following key recommendations were made for effectively implementing WECF's projects on decentralised wastewater treatment and sanitation:

- Cost comparisons must be carried out (centralised, septic tanks or eco-san)
- The fact that Eco san is used in Western Europe should be promoted
- Ecosan should be promoted as a climate change mitigator, especially in drought-prone areas, since no flush is required
- The technical, financial and health benefits for the rural areas should be emphasised
- Developing local production of dry urine-diverting toilets
- Developing demonstrations on the reuse of nutrients from ecosan (waste as fertiliser)
- WHO guidelines must be promoted, recognised and used in order to safely re-use human excreta in agriculture

*Demonstrating modern dry ecological toilets for the cultural center of Sulitsa village, Bulgaria.*



**Location** Bulgaria

**Donor** MATRA programme Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Aqua for All via WfW

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## High Level Sanitation Policy Seminar, Sofia, Bulgaria

The NGO Earth Forever Foundation, member of WECF in Bulgaria, has been working with WECF on demonstrating safe and affordable sanitation for schools and households in rural areas of Bulgaria. 42% of the Bulgarian population, mostly living in rural areas, do not have access to safe sanitation. Earth Forever built modern dry toilets for the public buss stop in the tourist village “Stara Zagora Spa,” a village without a functioning sewage system, and another one for the cultural club of “Sulitsa” village.

Together with an expert from a Dutch toilet and bathroom producer, Earth Forever carried out a market study of the sanitation market, identifying opportunities for decentralized ecological sanitation systems such as soil and plant based wastewater filters and urine diverting dry toilets.

The results of the demonstration projects and the market study were presented at a High Level Policy seminar in Sofia, in May 2008. Representatives of the Bulgarian Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Public Works participated in the seminar, as well as representatives of Bulgarian and Dutch businesses, scientists and local authorities. In total, 50 participants took part in the 2 day seminar which included presentations by international experts. Professor Thor Axel Stenstroem of the Swedish Environment Institute and WHO advisor, presented the work of the World Health Organisation on setting guidelines

for safe management of excreta and waste water. Lack of safe treatment of excreta is a main cause of infant morbidity and mortality, even within the EU. For example, Bulgaria regularly has outbreaks of hepatitis-A, which are linked to unsafe wastewater and excreta management. Recent studies estimate that some 20 to 30 million people in the European Union do not have access to safe sanitation.

Earth Forever presented the results of their low cost sanitation projects such as soil filters to clean wastewater from kitchen and bathroom, combined with dry urine diverting toilets, where faeces are sanitized and urine is collected in separate containers for later use as fertilizer. Urine is a quick-acting fertiliser, containing valuable nutrients, such as phosphorous (P), a non-renewable resource. Research in Sweden shows that compared to mineral fertiliser, urine is the superior option. The cadmium levels in urine are up to ten times lower than in mineral fertilisers.



*Miroslava Georgieva,  
Rural Development Directorate,  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Food Supply, Bulgaria.*

Earth Forever has been testing urine use as fertilizer on demonstration plots and achieved good results. The participants of the seminar identified that current financial programmes for rural development do not yet include a component on improving rural sanitation, and recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture – responsible for the EU cohesion funds for rural development – makes this a priority.

The participants also discussed the need for transposing the WHO guidelines on safe management of excreta and wastewater into Bulgarian legislation.

The results of the high level seminar have been published by Earth Forever in their publication “Sustainable Sanitation,” available from Earth Forever and WECF.

*Professor Thor Axel  
Stenstroem speaking at  
the high level ecological  
sanitation seminar,  
Sofia, May 2007.*



**Location** EU and EECCA region

**Donor** European Commission, DG Environment

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

## European Commission Water Activities

The European Commission DG Environment is responsible for the development and the implementation of the water and wastewater policies of the EU. WECF follows the developments and contributes to some of the processes and technical working groups of the European Commission.

### Mediterranean Wastewater Reuse Working Group

WECF was asked to contribute to the “Mediterranean Wastewater Reuse Working Group” established by EC and EUWI. Chaired by the EC, several EU member states, in particular the drier southern regions with neighbouring countries from the Mediterranean, exchanged experiences on the re-use of wastewater and legislative measures to stimulate safe re-use of wastewater. With the goal to push the launch of a new “Directive on the Safe Use of Treated Wastewater,” the “Mediterranean Wastewater Reuse Report” was developed and presented to the EU Water Directors in December 2007. WECF water re-use expert Claudia Wendland contributed with a presentation on WECF’s experience with re-use of wastewater and excreta in its rural sanitation demonstration projects in the new member states. See <http://www.wecf.eu/english/projects/ela/index.php>.



*WECF staff visits ecological sanitation urinals at the EAWAG new office building, during SUSANA workshop, Zurich, May 2007.*

**Location** International

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation

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## Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)

WECF joined the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance, a network of organisations worldwide, with a common goal of making sanitation projects sustainable.

The network includes development agencies like GTZ (German Development Agency) and the World Bank. It also includes the WASH programme, Ecosanres, the Swedish Environment Institute, research bodies like EAWAG Switzerland, associations of ecological engineers and NGOs like WECF and its members.

The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance has developed a common definition of what "sustainable sanitation" means. See [http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2008/01/year\\_of\\_sanitation.php](http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2008/01/year_of_sanitation.php) SuSanA meeting at UNSGAB New York.

On May 11, 2007, WECF took part in the meeting where UNSGAB announced the international year

of sanitation, chaired by Prince Willem Alexander of the Netherlands. At a reception in the UNICEF premises SuSanA was presented to the water and sanitation organisations that were in attendance. A lively debate took place, where some organisations, not members of SuSanA, questioned if what they were doing should be considered "un"sustainable sanitation. WECF gave examples from its work in villages, of unsustainable sanitation projects in the EU and in the EECCA region, where in many rural areas drinking water sources are polluted with human faecal bacteria from pit-latrines, which the Joint Monitoring Programme of the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) classifies as "improved" sanitation.

WECF believes that a sustainable sanitation system should include treatment to assure that excreta do not pollute water and food sources. This can be a very simple and safe treatment such as composting.

**Location** Armenia, (Hayanist, Fantan)

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation

**Contact** [bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu](mailto:bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu)

## Partnership for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Armenia

The conference took place on the 27th of October 2007, in Yerevan, Armenia. It was organised by the Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE), WECF's local partner in Armenia. Many stakeholders from different institutions and authorities responsible for the improvement of the sanitation situation in Armenia and the region attended. There were official representatives from the RA National Assembly, the Ministries of Health, Nature Protection, Agriculture, UN agencies, local self-governmental authorities and NGOs that participated in the conference. A number of international and local experts participated as keynote speakers.

The conference aimed at achieving the provision for the rural population with clean, safe drinking water and safe sanitation.

The conference was organized to present the

results of the TMF project in several regions in Armenia, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

The main goal of the TMF project was to achieve sustainable poverty alleviation. The goal of improving the living conditions of people in the rural areas could be reached through implementing pilot projects in the field of water, sanitation and agriculture.

The Armenian results were presented by AWHHE. 43.7% of the population lives in poverty and 14.7% live in utter poverty. 80% of the rural population has no access to sewage systems.

As a demonstration project in the village schools of Hayanist and Fantan with 350 pupils, Ecosan toilets were built. The results in Afghanistan are: 60 drinking water wells for poor rural households; 2 schools with Ecosan toilets, for girls and boys; and fish farming ponds, which generate income. In Uzbekistan, Aral Sea region, demonstration projects: 1 dry urine-diverting school toilet for 200 children; 8 household urine-diverting toilets; Feasibility for water supply systems in 2 villages; Demonstration organic farming; Health education and monitoring.

*Outside view of the school toilet in Hayanist, Armenia.*



*Elena Manvelyan, president of AWHHE opening the international conference on reaching the Millennium Development Goals in Armenia, where the results of WECF and AWHHE's 3-year project "Tapping Resources" were presented, Yerevan, October 2007.*

**Location** Sweden, Stockholm

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## World Water Week Stockholm

The World Water Week (WWW) in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for capacity building, partnership building and follow-ups on the implementation of international processes and programmes in water and development.

“Progress and Prospects on Water: Striving for Sustainability in a Changing World” was the main theme in 2007. Nearly 2,500 participants represented more than 130 countries from the business and government sectors, water management and science groups, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs, training institutes, and the United Nations agencies.

### Participation of WECF members in the EU Water Initiative (EUWI)

WECF invited members from Moldova, Ukraine and Armenia participated in the meeting of the European Water Initiative (EUWI) at the Stockholm Water Week. The WWW Stockholm allows WECF and its members to meet with key decision makers in the area of water and sanitation, and to present lessons learned, in the areas of capacity building, technical solutions and policy recommendation, from WECF and its members' projects.



**Location** Ukraine

**Donor** Aqua for All, the Netherlands

**Contact** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## 1st Regional Conference of the Women for Water partnership

WECF is one of the founders of the Women for Water partnership (WfW). WfW registered as a partnership at WSSD “World Summit on Sustainable Development,” and has 20 non-governmental women’s organisations as partners, working on water and sanitation issues. From the 4th–6th of November 2007, the first regional working conference on water and sanitation took place in Kyiv, Ukraine organized by the WECF member organisation “All Ukrainian Environmental NGO MAMA-86.” The WfW Working Conference aimed to contribute and to create effective partnerships between civil society, businesses and authorities, in order to increase access to safe and affordable water and sanitation in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia.

### Seminars and study visits

The goals of the WfW regional working conference was to share experiences and lessons learned from water supply and sanitation programmes and projects in the EECCA region. Another goal was to formulate opportunities for up-scaling the best practices, based on in-depth analysis of case presentations. Ukrainian Ministers, State Committee for Water Management

*MAMA-86 demonstrated safe ecological school sanitation in Gozhuly, Ukraine, with this dry urine diverting toilet building, added to the school, accessible from inside, a substantial improvement over the 2 pit latrines at the end of the school yard which previously were the only option for the pupils.*



of Ukraine, international NGOs and experts and guests from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Germany, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Netherlands, Romania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan NGOs attended and contributed their knowledge and experiences at the event.

The conference started with a one-day excursion to the villages Bobryk and Vertijvka, Nizhyn rayon Chernigivska oblast, where pilot projects on sustainable water and sanitation for a school, kindergarten and household - implemented by MAMA-86 and WECF – were visited. In the following plenary session a representative from the World Health Organisation (WHO) presented the issues “Protocol on Water and

Health” and “Water Safety Plans.” Local partners presented cases of WECF projects on water and sanitation from Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Armenia and Uzbekistan.

Conference participants watched a film produced by MAMA-86 about School Sanitation in Gozhuly, Ukraine, showing the problems of sanitation in schools and the solution implemented in the pilot projects. During the two-day event workshops were organised to discuss and develop future projects on water and sanitation and to identify interested parties for future cooperation. The Conference report and presentations are available on [http://mama-86.org.ua/news/13112007\\_e.html](http://mama-86.org.ua/news/13112007_e.html).



WECF members present their solutions for energy saving and use of renewable energy at the 15th session of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development in New York.

**Location** Brussels/ Belgium, New York/ USA

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life

**Contact** sabine.bock@wecf.eu

## WECF called for sustainable energy at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) 15

### CSD preparations

In January 2007, in Brussels, WECF participated in the joint preparation for the NGO CSD statement at the NGO workshop "Lobby CSD 15 to change the world on Energy, climate and consumption." The dialogue with the EU presidency on climate, energy, industry and atmosphere issues in March in Brussels and the preparation meetings of the NGO- and the Women Major Group in April in New York, were on the agenda as well.

### CSD 15 in New York, USA – participation in the first week, 30 April – 4 May

WECF participated with nine delegates in the 15th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, bringing into the policy debate the perspective of women from the pan-European region. WECF raised awareness about energy poverty and indoor air pollution during an interview in the NGO newspaper 'Outreach.' The launch of the Armenian movie "The cost of poverty" and specific policy recommendations were presented. WECF called for the participation of the public, especially women, in decision-

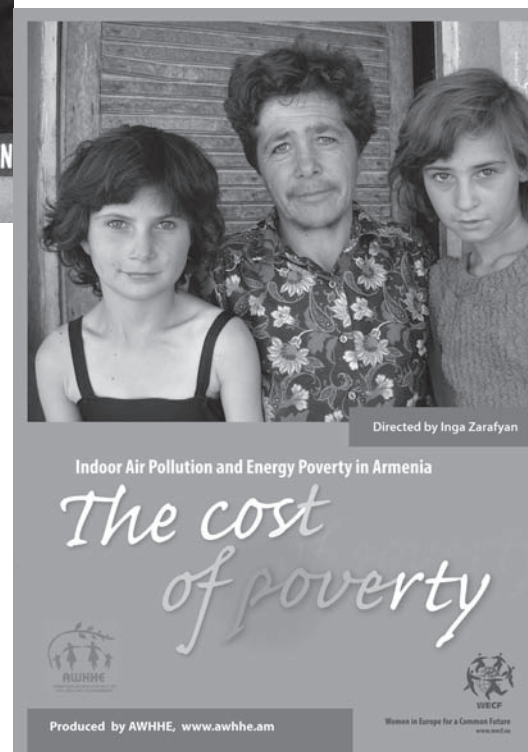
making on energy sources and management. In addition, WECF drew attention to the fatal nuclear accidents of Mayak in Russia and Chernobyl, Ukraine, with the exhibition "Mayak and Chernobyl – lessons are not learned," an article in Outreach and interventions at pro nuclear side events.

The WECF Position Paper, "bio fuels – a sustainable choice is possible?" stated the necessity of real sustainability criteria. WECF as part of the Women Major Group and the NGO was involved in the final statements of the conference.

The highlight for WECF was the side event on the topic "From Best Practice to Policy." WECF delegates from transition countries presented the local situation, addressed the problems, showed best practice examples and concluded with policy recommendations on the issues of indoor air pollution, health effects from nuclear industry, energy efficiency and renewables. The side event was organised as a dialogue with EU representatives from Italy and the Netherlands and focused on the importance in the joint efforts between the local and global levels in order to move towards a sustainable development.



Ton Boom von Ochssee, Ambassador for Sustainable Development of the Netherlands to the UN, speaking at the WECF side event.



AWHHE presented their film "The Cost of Poverty - Indoor Air Pollution and Energy Poverty in Armenia" at the CSD side event, New York, May 2007.

**Location** Germany, Indonesia  
**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+  
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## “Don’t nuke the climate” and “Integrate Gender” – WECF advocacy issues at the UNFCCC conferences in Bonn, Germany and Bali, Indonesia

WECF attended the United Nations Framework of Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC) 27th Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies from the 7th-18th of May 2007 in Bonn, Germany, and focused on the UNFCCC in Bali from the 3rd–14th of December 2007. WECF and a delegation of 6 women environmental leaders voiced their strong opposition to nuclear energy being promoted as a solution to climate change. WECF members work in regions near Chernobyl, Ukraine, Mayak, Russia, and near uranium mines in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia which have suffered severe nuclear damage. The WECF delegates addressed the immense negative health effects of nuclear energy from every point of production and highlighted the experience of the more than 94 of it’s member organisations, which show the long term negative health effects on local populations living near nuclear production plants or near uranium mines. In addition, they addressed the struggle

of the victims to obtain any support when they have lost family members or have become too ill to work. WECF also advocated for the inclusion of gender in the process.

### The activities

WECF and its partner, the Munich Environmental Institute, Germany, followed the negotiations closely and immediately raised their concerns. When Japan complained that nuclear energy was not included in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), WECF placed an article in the NGO conference newspaper, ECO, called, “Keep nuclear energy out.” The position paper, **“Women from all regions of the world strongly oppose including nuclear energy into clean development mechanism,”** published by WECF together with Gender CC, – women for climate justice, pointed out the total inability of nuclear energy to tackle the challenges of climate change. The paper addressed the health, environmental and human rights threats that the nuclear industry imposes. The paper highlighted the negative effects of nuclear energy, like radiation on women. The sensitivity to radiation for women is twice as high as it is for men with regards to the relative risk. Especially at high risk is the unborn child. Women are also

more affected by the burden of the negative health impacts, as they usually are the caretakers of the family. At its exhibition booth, WECF and its partners provided expert information on the nuclear issue and shared knowledge and experience. One part of the exhibition focused on the communities near the Mayak nuclear plant in Russia and the severe health effects caused by radiation contamination during an accident that took place 50 years ago. WECF organized a side event, “Regional experience and information on nuclear energy – scientists, witnesses, and activists speak out.” The jointly organized press action “Don’t nuke the climate,” proposed by WISE, World Information Service on Energy, together with anti-nuclear activists from all over the world positioned in front of the conference centre at the final countdown of the conference reached the delegates and the general public worldwide with a front page photo of the demonstration on the UNFCCC website.

Coverage on the BBC, television and radio stations and in different newspapers publicised the issues. During the side events of nuclear energy promoters, WECF intervened and distributed information about the dangers of having nuclear

energy in an area like Indonesia, which is prone to natural disasters. The goal of WECF to build the capacity and knowledge of women and give people access to safe energy seems to be even more important. Luckily the resistance against the proposed nuclear plans in Indonesia is huge and WECF linked up with the Indonesian anti-nuclear activists.

### Gender and climate change

WECF also advocated for integrating gender into the climate change regime. As part of Gender CC – Women for Climate Justice, WECF participated in the joint statements, interventions, side events and press activities on the future climate regime protecting tropical forests and gender justice, agro fuels, nuclear energy and financing and gave input to the trade union major group on gender aspects concerning climate change.

*Press action  
 “Don’t nuke the climate”  
 by WECF, Munich  
 Environmental Institut/  
 Germany, WISE,  
 Ecodefense/Russia,  
 MANUSIA/Indonesia,  
 TEPU/Taiwan and  
 other partners, in front of  
 the UNFCCC conference  
 centre, Nusa Dua,  
 Bali, Indonesia.*



**Location** Germany  
**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+  
**Contact** [sabine.bock@wecf.eu](mailto:sabine.bock@wecf.eu)

## Climate protection now! Civil Society Organisations create the German Climate Alliance, WECF joins its steering committee

In April 2007, the German Climate Alliance was founded. Climate protection activists in Germany felt the need for a new broad civil movement to demand specific measurements for the protection of the environment from all sectors of society. Too often short-term interests block the implementations, but time is running out.

Over 90 organizations from a wide spectrum; environmental organizations, development and women's organizations, churches, trade unions, animal protection agencies, anti-globalization



*Berlin Friedrichstrasse  
Neurath, climate action day.*

groups and others have joined hands for the protection of our climate. Shortly before its launch in April '07, WECF Germany became a member of the alliance and as of June has been active in its steering committee. The steering committee, which is made up of 10 elected people, is responsible for implementing the decisions made in the general assembly of the alliance.

On December 8, 2007, the Climate Coalition held a campaign called Global Action Day. There were two main demonstrations parallel to the UNFCCC conference in Bali, Indonesia. 10,000 activists from around Germany participated in the Global Action Day. In the German capital city of Berlin the activists addressed their concerns and called for crucial decisions for real climate protection measures. Simultaneously, in an area outside Cologne called Neurath, which previously housed Europe's largest brown coal power plant, activists demanded for more climate protection. The demonstrations were accompanied by music, performances and speeches. In addition to these two major rallies, interested groups in 14 cities in Germany called for more climate protection measures. For more information, in German, see <http://die-klima-allianz.de/index.php>.

**Location** Armenia  
**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation  
**Contact** [sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu](mailto:sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu)

## Indoor Air Pollution

WECF provided support for its member from Armenia, AWHHE, to study the situation of in-door air pollution and its health effects. They produced a video called "The Cost of Poverty, Indoor Air Pollution and Energy Poverty in Armenia" available from the WECF library. The 10-minute video shows how a rural school depends on kerosene burners in class rooms for heating, emitting dangerous particles, and how poor families, like a widow and her 2 children, have no money to pay for safe heating fuels. Instead they use risky waste materials to burn in their home ovens, putting a layer of black soot over everything and everybody. In addition, the video presents solutions of renewable energy sources.

### Presentation of the Armenian Indoor Air Pollution video at the UN CSD and at the Inter Ministerial Review.

WECF organised 3 showings of the "The Cost of Poverty" video. The first showing was during the WECF official side event at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development 15th session, on May 2007, in New York. The 2nd showing was at the International Conference on Environment and Children's Health organised by ISDE, on June 11th, 2007, in Vienna. The 3rd showing was during the plenary of the IRM where all the country delegations were present, on June 13th, in Vienna.

*Pupils of Hayanist village school, Armenia, suffer from indoor air pollution due to the lack of safe heating fuels.*



*These kerosene burners are used to heat the class rooms in Hayanist school, spewing black smoke in the class rooms, and hardly providing sufficient warmth.*



*Sabine Brückman WECF Germany spoke on the right to biodiversity at our doorsteps, not only in far away natural parks.*

**Location** Germany, Munich

**Donor** Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands

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

## Protection of Agro-Biodiversity

### “Make biodiversity visible and tasteable”

WECF sees biodiversity as the basis to all life on our planet and calls for a common right of biodiversity. Biodiversity as a whole includes diversity of genes within a species, genetic variability among the populations and the individuals of the same species and diversity at a higher level of organization, the ecosystem.

Biodiversity provides the foundations for our health and well-being. It provides the essential natural capital for our social and economic development, now and in the future. Agricultural biodiversity in particular is vital to the food security of billions of people worldwide. However, agro-biodiversity is endangered by economic standards and legislation.

With a colourful, palatable and creative exhibition about traditional orchards and old apple sorts, WECF supports the regional Landcare Associa-

tion in Germany and fosters the richness and value of our still existing Agro-Biodiversity. WECF and the Landcare Association developed a mobile exhibition.

This exhibition raised awareness about the negative effects on biodiversity and on landscape from the loss of fruit orchards, the so-called “strewing fruit meadows,” as these traditional orchards are being destroyed at an alarming rate in many European regions.

The biodiversity value of traditional fruit orchards is more than double that of modern orchards.

The exhibition raises consumer awareness, that modern low-growing apple tree varieties require much (chemical) plant protection, and that the ancient native varieties of trees are often better adapted to the local environment in terms of cold and disease resistance, taste better, provide nutrition and excellent value. The exhibit raised interest with individual owners of strewing fruit orchards, for protecting their traditional orchards and providing new perspectives to the rural regions by involving the local communities in creating and maintaining markets for traditional apple sorts. In October 2007, during the 6th Ministerial Conference of the “Environment for Europe” process in Belgrade, the exhibition was shown to the participants and was one of the highlights of the event.

Meanwhile a second version of the exhibition, about the special situation of old fruit orchards in Poland was produced. In addition, an introductory booklet offers more information about the partners and topic.



*Environment for Europe – 6th Ministerial Conference Belgrade, October 2007.*

*More than 130 different apple varieties from over 15 nations made the still “living” diversity of visible and tasteable in Belgrad.*





The background features a solid blue color with several stylized, semi-transparent blue silhouettes of human figures in various dynamic poses, suggesting movement or activity. The silhouettes are layered, with some appearing more prominent than others. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# Implementing Solutions in 2007

*Visiting the solar hot water heater during the Caucasus WECF network meeting in preparation of the ELA project.*



*WECF training  
“how to make your  
own toxic-free  
body care products.”*

## Implementing Solutions

One of WECF's 4 strategies is to demonstrate sustainable alternatives. When addressing specific environmental health problems, WECF's projects include demonstration components, which show how pollution and exposure can be reduced, whilst improving health and well-being. WECF implements demonstration activities in its four thematic areas, safe chemicals, safe water and sanitation, safe energy and safe food production and sustainable rural development. This chapter will highlight a few examples, particularly in the area of improving water supply and sanitation, with WECF's innovative ecological toilet projects. WECF also works on regional marketing of safe and fair food products, on reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals on affordable safe energy solutions.

**Location** Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Greece, Hungary, France  
**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+  
**Contact** [sonja.haider@wecf.eu](mailto:sonja.haider@wecf.eu)

## Nesting – helping parents to create a safe and healthy environment for their newborns

Expectant parents need to prepare a healthy and safe environment for their newborn. This is what is known as the 'nesting' instinct. While purchasing new products for the baby's room parents become aware through research for safer alternatives.

An environment free of hazardous chemicals, tobacco smoke and mould and a space with safe furniture becomes a priority. It is in such times of transition that parents are more critical of their behavioural patterns. They are more likely to change to environmental friendly, healthier and safer products in order to protect the health of their newborn. The project called Nesting provides positive health effects for the children and increases the awareness of the parents regarding specific information as well as suggesting alternative solutions.

### Interactive website

An interactive website has been created to educate and mobilize new parents to change to sustainable and safe consumption patterns by

providing information on indoor environmental hazards for newborns as well as environmental safe solutions. See [www.projectnesting.org](http://www.projectnesting.org).

The website includes:

- Layout of a baby's room and info on sources of environmental and safety hazards and alternative solutions
- Tips for healthy behaviour, environmental products, labels, and information links
- Information on product types: renovation, furniture, textiles, care products, all-day products for children aged 0 – 1 year

The contents have been created by using current information from authorities, recent scientific research and have been revised by a group of experts.

### Six countries

Partners in six countries have been contributing to the success of the nesting concept. In 2007, they translated the website into English, Greek, Hungarian, Dutch, French and German. Due to different mentality and local baby-cultures, website content is culturally sensitive and differs. E.g. carpets in children's room in cooler countries versus tiles and rugs in warmer ones. Knowledge about healthy living conditions (especially for babies) of all participants has increased significantly. Due to the very different backgrounds of the participants the future of developing the concept further will have diverse goals– from training midwives to mass media coverage; from internet-forums to working with focus groups.





**Location** Germany

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** Sonja Haider, [info@nestbau.info](mailto:info@nestbau.info)

## Nesting Germany - [www.nestbau.info](http://www.nestbau.info)

The website has been one tool to inform parents and multipliers about healthy living conditions. The website has been promoted and links from other relevant sites have been placed. Very positive feedback came from authorities. The environment ministry will publish an article in their magazine and the Bavarian health and environment ministry has informed their stakeholders. Further activities – see “start of life.”

**Location** Greece

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** Carla Baer Manolopoulou,  
[desk@cleanupgreece.org.gr](mailto:desk@cleanupgreece.org.gr)

## Nesting Greece

The environmental and health awareness in Greece remains low and there is still a lack of information. Therefore, the aim of the Nesting Project to help parents in Greece to create a safe and healthy environment for their newborns meets exactly the need of expertise on this subject.

Our partner ‘Clean up Greece’ has influential contacts to policy makers and is active in the media. Since the Greek population is not yet as familiar with web information as in other European Countries more conventional media platforms were used. The result; 13 articles and adverts in newspapers, magazines and websites. Mailing and faxes have been sent to the target groups.

**Location** France

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** Nita Chaudhuri, [info@projetnesting.fr](mailto:info@projetnesting.fr)

## Nesting France – [www.projetnesting.fr](http://www.projetnesting.fr)

Our WECF France colleague, Nita Chaudhuri, is a specialist on the issue of a healthy environment. She published a book for parents in Canada and worked with focus groups. She organized a forum for mothers with newborns to discuss the content and the design of the website. To highlight the nesting website launch she met environmentalists in France and distributed the news in their newsletters.



**Location** Netherlands

**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+

**Contact** Chantal van Denbossche, [info@eenveilignest.nl](mailto:info@eenveilignest.nl)

## Nesting Netherlands – [www.eenveilignest.nl](http://www.eenveilignest.nl)

The timing of the launch was key in publishing a postcard, where Saint Nicolas presents the safe baby room tips for parents. It was handed out at the opening of Amsterdam’s annual women’s festival. The website was covered by one TV channel, some magazines and was featured in many internet platforms like [www.goedewaar.nl](http://www.goedewaar.nl) - the Dutch sustainable consumer organisation or organisations of midwives.

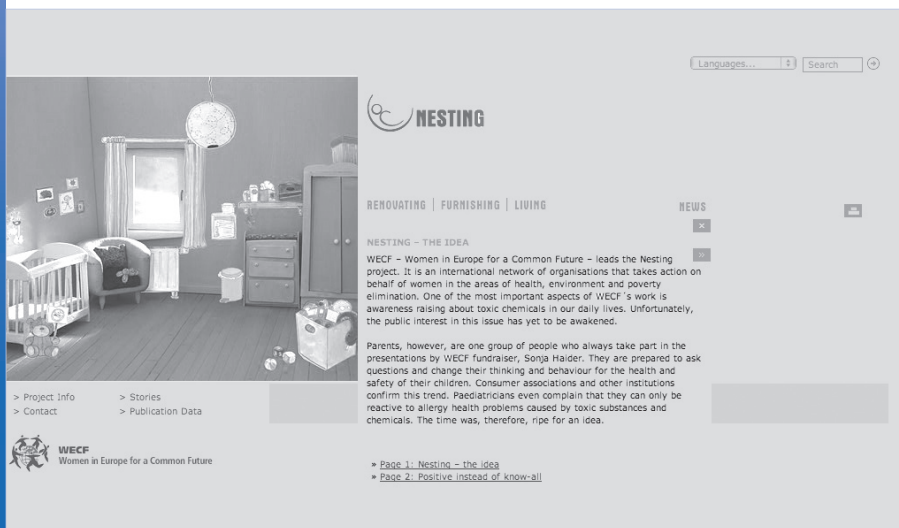
**Location** *United Kingdom*  
**Donor** *EU DG Environment Life+*  
**Contact** *Helen Lynn, info@projectnesting.org*

## Nesting UK – [www.projectnesting.org](http://www.projectnesting.org)

The press release for the Nesting site was circulated to all contacts in the UK, including national newspapers, parenting and environmental lifestyle magazines, and organisations working on the issues related to children and the environment, and other environment groups and women's organisations.

The leaflets were distributed at two major conferences, and the Baby Show in London. The website received a link from one of the largest women's organisations in the UK, the Women's Institute.

<http://www.projectnesting.org>



► Page 1: Nesting – the idea  
 ► Page 2: Positive instead of know-all

**Location** *Hungary*  
**Donor** *EU DG Environment Life+*  
**Contact** *Zsuzsa Kormos, noe@noe.hu*

## Nesting Hungary – [www.feszekinfor.hu](http://www.feszekinfor.hu)

The Hungarian website is working and is linked to the newly reconstructed website of the NOE Association. Due to technical reasons and difficulties of domain registration the Hungarian site was launched later as planned. This fact did not cause relevant problems. The articles to be published are ready but it is difficult to find papers and magazines where we can publish them because the prices are too high. It seems that relevant websites are better partners. NGOs working in the field of consumer protection were satisfied with the launching of the site and with the content. List of further useful topics is under edition. This will help the further work. A discussion must take place about the suitable promotional methods at places with poor or no internet access.

**Location** *Germany*  
**Donor** *German environment ministry, BMU*  
**Contact** *Sonja Haider, sonja.haider@wecf.eu*

## Start of life – seminars for multipliers

The German environment agency Umweltbundesamt is publishing a brochure on questions about environmental health during pregnancy and the first months of the newborn's life. Parts of the content are congruent with the nesting information. The aim of the project was to inform multipliers – as midwives, doctors, trainers of prenatal courses – about current scientific background and concrete tips for their patients. A series of events have been developed with partners in Berlin and Bonn (Silvia Pleschka and Martina Abel, BAG Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder e.V.). The agenda included a theory part of presentations and an interactive part, where the participants tried to visualise the incorporation of the new information into their daily work.

Local personalities could function as patrons and the associations acknowledged the seminar as training for their constituencies.

The participants were satisfied with the gained information and the organisation. Nevertheless, it was quite difficult to attract many participants. Therefore, there are plans to offer the workshop to existing conferences of the multipliers. Contacts to midwives will be used in the future.



*20 farmers and local authorities from the Province of Overijssel, the Netherlands, visit farms, bakers, butchers and supermarkets participating in the network Unser Land in Germany.*

**Location** The Netherlands

**Donor** Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands (VROM)

**Contact** toos.vanoers@wecf.eu

## Towards sustainable rural development in Overijssel

In 2007, WECF together with a local group of rural women carried out a pilot project on sustainable rural development in the province of Overijssel, the Netherlands. The Unser Land Network based in and around Munich, Germany was a source of inspiration.

### Unser Land; a source of inspiration

The Unser Land Network started over 10 years ago to give civil society a choice to shape their living environment by establishing sustainable production and consumption patterns on a regional base. The main partners collaborating in this network are farmers, local craftsmen, entrepreneurs and traders, churches, environmental as well as consumer groups. Politicians, local governments and administrations, authorities and educational institutions all support this system. Women play an important role in the development of the network, wherein they are the driv-

ing force for sustainable development.

Unser Land intends for a stable and affordable supply of food produced in the region and has launched an urban-rural network to strengthen the promotion, distribution and marketing for the region's sustainable rural development. The environmental impact of Unser Land is remarkable with reduced transport emissions, conservation of bio-diversity and traditional varieties, conservation of nature and landscape, touristic and recreational development and reduction of the use of chemicals in agricultural production. Nowadays more than 40 products are produced in a sustainable way by 180 farmers and sold with the Unser Land label in the region's bakeries, butcheries, supermarkets and restaurants.

### Oons Ambacht; implementation in Overijssel

During the first months of the pilot project, interest was built among farmers and other stakeholders for the Unser Land initiative and what this concept could mean for Overijssel. An inventory taken showed that many small-scale initiatives had been started in Overijssel to stimulate regional rural production and that these provided a good basis for further activities. In March, the initiative was presented at a conference under the name, 'Oons Ambacht,' and a website was

launched. Discussions and interviews were conducted with farmers. In September, a group of representatives from different stakeholders visited the Unser Land Network in Munich. The group returned with many ideas and was inspired to develop further activities in Overijssel; first on the local level then on a provincial level.

WECF and Oons Ambacht encouraged the participation of women in these processes by organising trainings on sustainable regional production. WECF facilitated the fundraising for follow-up activities that will be guided by an initial operating group in Overijssel. The aim will be to develop sustainable agricultural product chains and to cultivate a solidarity network like Unser Land wherein consumers, producers and other stakeholders share a common goal, towards a sustainable rural development in Overijssel.

*Unser Land, a non profit network, distributes over 200 regionally produced, fair priced, sustainably grown products, under the label of Unser Land.*

*Visitors from the Netherlands visiting one of the farmers participating in Unser Land.*



**Location** Armenia

**Donor** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Organic Farming in Armenia

As a part of a 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Armenian organization, Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment, AWHHE, continued implementing demonstration projects of Organic Farming in three villages.

AWHHE is promoting phytotherapy as a part of integrated pest management (IPM), using plant liquids to protect fruit trees from pests. In Fantan village, organic agricultural methods are demonstrated on a field. AWHHE is supporting farmers to apply for certification of organic agriculture, which was introduced in Armenia in 2006. All these activities take place in close collaboration with local farmers.

### Demonstration projects

An organic peach and apricot orchard with 200 trees on 3300 m<sup>2</sup> was founded in Hayanist. The soil was tested and proven to abide by the Armenian Organic Certification standards. The certification process for this orchard was thus started.

### Phytotherapy

4 fruit orchards were treated with plant prepara-

*Farmer in Armenia applying plant based liquids to protect fruit trees from pests, resulting in better than average harvests.*



tions in Fantan, Saghmosavan and Dzoraghbyur for a total of 20 times. The trees were treated with plant liquids made from wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) and milfoil (*Achillea millefolium*). During each treatment, AWHHE organized field days for the neighbouring farmers. During this time farmers could learn how to prepare the plant liquids and received preparation packages to try the method themselves. Approximately 100 farmers participated in all field days. The demonstration field in Fantan was in its second year of a 6-year crop rotation plan. As of last year, it produced a good harvest for Fantan conditions: 1,7 t/ha of winter wheat and 2,2 t/ha of onobrychis. Both harvests were above average.

### Training and Marketing

Four trainings for farmers and other interested villagers were organized on sustainable agriculture and IPM promotion.

The total number of participants trained was 63. During the trainings AWHHE presented the experience in replacing ordinary pesticides with herbal pesticides as a part of IPM. In addition, all other important aspects of sustainable agriculture such as crop rotation, composting, and bio humus production and application were presented.

AWHHE helped the cooperating farmers present their produce in the first and only organic market in Armenia "Amur koriz." Phytotherapy was also presented and packets with dry plants for preparations sold in the market.

The autumn fair was a very nice event and gave opportunities to organic producers to sell their products.

**Location** Afghanistan. Provinces Kunduz, Takhar

**Donor** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Sustainable Development Afghanistan

As part of a 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Afghan-German Organizations Katakhill Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Organization (KRRO) and Katchel e.V. have invested in activities supporting a sustainable economic development for rural areas in Northern Afghanistan. Since the victory of the Anti-Taliban Alliance and despite the reported economic growth of Afghanistan, rural areas continue to remain very poor. Some of the reasons are of a lack of job opportunities and infrastructure. KRRO and Katchel e.V. started a fish-farming project late in 2006. With agricultural activities being still on a very low level after decades of warfare and civil strife, the food supply in the region is poor and one-sided particularly during the winter months. This leads to many cases of child malnutrition. Fish breeding offers an improved food supply and at the same time generates income opportunities. The project encompasses the construction of a fish farm consisting of three ponds and a building for upbringing of larvae, processing, and storage. Villagers constructed the ponds with voluntary work. They are fed with water from the Gaukush river, close to Katakkel village. The building was financed by the TMF-programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When in full operation, the ponds will produce ca. 10 tons of fish annually, having a market value of ca. 20,000 euros. Five different types of fish are farmed which are all native to North Afghanistan. The first fish was harvested



*A new small bridge in Aliabad, Northern Afghanistan.*

late in 2007. The fish farm is also used for professional training. Apprentices were chosen according to their skills, reliability and their accessibility to the necessary land plots to operate their own fish farms in the future. Realization of produce like this fish or any other products villagers generate requires a road infrastructure so that markets can be reached. KRRO and Katchel e.V. contributed to improving infrastructure in Kunduz province by building 7 small bridges and one middle-sized bridge, which are needed to pass the manifold canals and streams. All bridges are made from Ferro concrete and can support the weight of loaded vehicles. The bridges not only make it easier to reach markets, but also provide better access for children to their schools, as well as for the villagers to get medical care and other services offered in Kunduz city or other villages.

*The first fish catch in the new fish pond in Katchel, Afghanistan.*





*Cooking sessions in Prislop also help to keep up with other skills; writing recipes is not so easy.*



*Waiting for water in Prislop settlement, Romania.*

**Location** Romania, Prislop

**Donor** Hewlett Packard, and other individual donations

**Contact** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## Support programme for Prislop

### Prislop: One of the poorest communities in Romania

It is difficult to believe until one sees it with one's own eyes that such poverty exists within the European Union. Prislop is a small Roma settlement of approximately 300 inhabitants at the border of Sibiu's urban region in Romania. This settlement is very isolated from any other settlement. Not all homes have electricity and there is no central water supply or public transport. The dwellers earn some money from selling hand-made brooms and collecting berries and mushrooms from the forests.

### The basics: cooking, hygiene, water supply and electricity

In 2007, the aim of the project was a continuation of the educational programme, which was

started in 2006. Previous experiences showed that cooking courses gives the women an opportunity to participate in an activity which is accepted by their community and families. For example, during the cooking courses the women bring up their concerns and wishes, which allows to identify key areas of development to be addressed.

The activity brought up other issues like hygiene. The cooking sessions were accompanied with exercises on writing and reading the recipes, providing information about kitchen and personal hygiene, healthy food, and baby and child care. During dry periods the water supply of the only water tap in the village is very poor and unsafe. Therefore, the project team invited a senior water expert from KIWA Netherlands, who advised on how to improve the water supply. In Autumn 2007, work started on repairing the water reservoir, cleaning of pipes and construction of a barrier. Due to bad weather conditions only part of the work was completed. Further construction was planned for Spring 2008.

### Electricity and Bureacracy

Prislop being an unofficial settlement, means that the inhabitants do not have official papers and permits for their houses. Officially, the entire village is a meadow. This uncertain housing situation has been a great barrier in trying to obtain legal electricity connections for the inhabitants. The local Romanian partner spent many months trying to collect information from the authorities. Five households received the connection for one bulb and one power outlet, and an electricity meter.



*Villagers earn some money with making and selling brooms.*

**Location** Romania

**Donor** Fondation Ensemble, France

**Co funding** WECF, local authorities, and others

**Contact** margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

## Improving the health and dignity of school children and citizens in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine

Only 15% of the Romanian rural population have access to a central water supply, 3% of the rural households are connected to a sewage system and only 5% of the schools have proper sanitary facilities. The project Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity, started on October 1, 2007, is implemented in 16 rural Romanian communities of the county Mehedinti, Teleorman and Iliomita. The objective of this 3-year sanitation programme is to improve the health and dignity of the school children and citizens through improved sustainable sanitation and hygiene. The project is carried out in cooperation with local project partners, experts and universities.

### Objectives of the 3-year project

The programme builds on the 1-year project "Sustainable Development for All" funded by Fondation Ensemble (FE) in 2006. Results of this project are being scaled up with support of NGO, local and regional authorities, universities and international partners.

The overall SSHD project 2007-2010 will be carried out in two other countries, Ukraine and Bulgaria and some "new" areas of Romania. In the Romanian project counties some demonstration household urine-diverting toilets will be built: Each toilet building includes: 1 urine-diverting toilet, 1 urinal, 1 washbasin, urine tank, faeces storage chamber, and light.

*4 schools were selected, new dry hygienic urine diverting toilets, wash basins and wastewater soil filters will be installed.*



*Currently school pitlatrines are often very smelly and unhygienic, handwashing is not possible, and faecals leak from untight pits into the drinking water sources.*



In two counties school/public urine diverting toilet facilities will be constructed for children and staff. Demonstration gardens for testing the use of sanitized urine as fertilizer and faeces compost as soil conditioner will be established. Soil filters for treating kitchen grey water of households and schools will be demonstrated. Much attention will be paid to training of coaches for construction, operation and maintenance of the urine diverting toilets and the safe reuse of the toilet products. Water Safety Plans (WSP) for small-scale water supplies will be developed on the local level in cooperation with schools. Case studies and cost analysis of the completed installations will provide policy recommendations and will be presented at the local, national and international level. The project will have long-term positive effects: reduction of drinking water pollution, improved sanitation and health of the villagers.

### Preparation of the implementation of the project

In Autumn 2007, the preparatory works on implementation of the project were carried out. The final project villages and schools were selected and practical, organisational and financial structures were developed. Educational materials for schools on the implementation of the WSP were developed.

**Location** Bulgaria, (Stara Zagora province)

**Donor** MATRA Project Programme,  
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Contact** [bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu](mailto:bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu)



*Rural and urban areas on the territory of Bulgaria.*

## Water Waste and Waste Water in Bulgaria

### Water

The water supply system covers 98.8% of the country and the drinking water quality is relatively good. There are specific regions with problems, but they are of local character. Rural areas in Bulgaria cover 81% of the total country territory and 42% of the population live in the 231 rural municipalities. A larger part of the pipe network was built from 1960 – 1980. Some regions experience water shortages. WECF works together with its local partner Earth Forever Foundation in Stara Zagora region in the villages Stara Zagora Spa and Sulitsa in the project “Developing a model for sustainable water and waste management in rural areas in Bulgaria.” According to the investigations in the region, the water quality is good, with an exceptional higher nitrate concentration (50mg/l) of the drinking water coming from one source in Sulitsa. There is no sufficient available data for the quality of groundwater and the sources of pollution.

### Waste

Only 41% of the population in Bulgaria has access to wastewater treatment facilities. There is an underdevelopment of the sewage system in the rural areas, particularly in the villages; only 2.1% of the villagers have a sewage system, most of them without wastewater treatment. The villages which do not have sewer systems use pit latrines and soakaways. The people usually do not have the means to empty the facilities properly and on time, which

causes problems for the neighbours. Particularly in the Summer, the soakaways overflow into the streets or in the neighbour’s garden. In some villages (Stara Zagora Spa) there are partly constructed sewage systems that discharge their wastewaters without any treatment into the gullies, rivers and parks. Though the small sewage systems and the pit latrines are a serious problem for the environment and health, there is no other solution for the rural communities. According to the new EU regulations, Bulgaria has to comply with the requirements of Council Directive 91/271/EEC on urban wastewater treatment – by December 31, 2010 for all agglomeration with a population above PE 10,000 and by December 31, 2014, for agglomerations with PE between 2,000 and 10,000. WECF, together with Earth Forever Foundation work in Bulgaria in two villages with a population of less than 2,000 inhabitants: Sulitsa and Stara Zagora Spa in Southern Eastern Bulgaria. In these villages demonstration projects have been completed: 2 public Ecosan systems were built – in the cultural club of village Sulitsa and a public toilet in the centre of Stara Zagora Spa. The ecological sanitation systems separate the flows and prevent the infiltration of the black waters into the ground. In several households in the villages constructed urine-diverting toilets with filters for treatment of the grey water have been completed. The Ecosan systems serve as an example for the local population and authorities of what a good solution it provides for the problems of waste management and sanitary conditions faced by the rural communities. In addition, these systems can be used as a good base for replication for other regions in the country.

**Location** Belarus

**Donor** MATRA Project Programme,  
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Contact** [anke.stock@wecf.eu](mailto:anke.stock@wecf.eu), [tatiana@ecoproject.org](mailto:tatiana@ecoproject.org)

## Developing multi-stakeholder co-operation in the areas of water, waste and energy in Belarus

Together with its partner Ecoproject Partnership WECF started a 3-year project in December 2006, called “Developing multi-stakeholder co-operation in the areas of water, waste and energy in Belarus.” The project’s overall aim is to raise awareness of sustainable development, mainly in the areas of water, waste and energy, amongst NGOs, local authorities, citizens and businesses in their communities in Belarus.

The main activities carried out in 2007 were the base-line studies carried out by Ecoproject and two trainings.

17 local NGOs took part in conducting the base-line study. The outcome of these studies provided the project team with a very good overview of the most pressing problems and the needs of the communities. It clearly showed an increasing concern about rising energy prices and the problems faced by the lack of proper waste separation systems and polluted water wells.

Furthermore, on the 26th and 27th of October 2007, a training session on water and sanitation was conducted. 25 participants were trained on water treatment and Ecosan toilets in Zhdanovichy/ Belarus. Two international experts (Margriet Samwel and Stefan Deegener) and one local expert (Vladimir Anufriev) gave presentations on the issue with examples from German and Belarusian experiences and held different workshops. 8 samples of water were tested on nitrate concentration.

On the 7th and 8th of December 2007, a training on solid waste was held in Minsk. The 37 participants (representatives from NGOs, schools and local authorities) were trained on waste management, composting, recycling and hazardous waste. One international expert from the Netherlands (Sophie van den Berg) and one local expert (Alexander Gnedov) gave presentations on the issues and held different workshops. In addition, other people with experiences on waste, e.g. through projects or their own waste separation company, informed the participants about their work. Furthermore, Sophie van den Berg showed the participants how to make their own paper from used paper. The working groups allowed the participants to start identifying which proposed technologies and processes could be a solution to the problems of the different communities. By this exercise and a training session on energy, which takes place in 2008, potential demonstration projects will be developed.



*Training by EcoProject in Minsk.*

*Solid waste expert shows participants how to make quality paper from wastepaper.*





*New Dry Urine Diverting Toilet next to what the owner now calls his "sanitation museum."*



**Location** Armenia. Villages Hayanist, Fantan, Dzoraghbyur

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation

**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Sanitation for Schools and Households

As part of the 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Armenian organization Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE), continued implementing demonstration projects of Ecological Sanitation in three villages.

Three Dry Urine-Diverting Toilets were constructed: one in a school in Fantan village, and two in private households in Hayanist and Dzoraghbyur villages. Two more household toilets are under construction.

The school toilet was built outside directly connected to the existing school building. Pupils no longer have to go out to use the toilet, which is especially important in the long cold winter months in this mountain village. The dry urine-diverting toilets serve as examples of how to improve the sanitary and hygienic conditions, in particular for the children in a sustainable manner; how to protect soil and groundwater against infiltration of human excreta. Now the pupils and school staff use comfortable, warm, clean and odour-free toilets. A caretaker looks after the

toilet, cleans and maintains it every day, thus guaranteeing its hygiene. All 175 schoolchildren were trained on how to use the toilet properly. AWHHE periodically monitors the use of the ecosan toilet in Fantan. The water from the hand washbasins are biologically treated in a sand filter. A second school toilet has been in operation since 2006. The facilities function well and there is no smell. Pupils and Teachers are very satisfied. This year the 10th grade children taught the 1st grade children how to use the toilet. The urine collected from this school toilet has been sanitized and applied to a field. The fertilizing effect will become visible with this year's crop. With the school toilets as examples, 4 families decided to be the pioneers in introducing dry urine-diverting toilets for households in Armenia, replacing the common pit latrines. The costs for all toilets were shared between the owners and the project funds. All toilet owners are farmers who will use the urine and sanitized faeces as fertilizers on their own fields.

Looking back on the three-year joint activities of AWHHE and WECF, it can be said that the basis for application of ecological sanitation principles in Armenia has been laid.

**Location** Armenia

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation and Aqua for All, the Netherlands

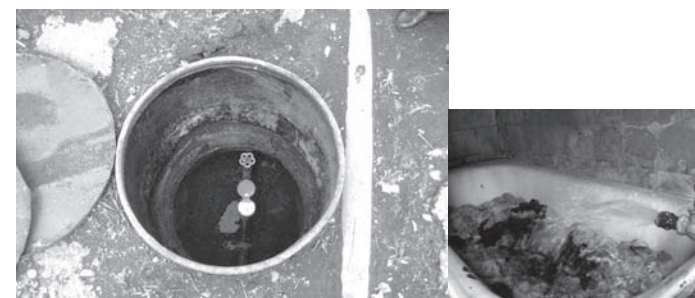
**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Water

As part of the 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Armenian organization Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE), continued to work for the improvement of the drinking water supply in two project villages.

In the mountain village Fantan, the drinking water provided to taps on the streets was biologically polluted, which lead to regular outbreaks of waterborne diseases. In the early 2000's, the village received a new pipe system but it was not used. Villagers and AWHHE agreed to cooperate with the state drinking water supply company AWSC so that the village would receive household connections through this system. Water meters were acquired at discounted prices from project funds, the villagers installed the water meters themselves, and AWSC guaranteed to cover all costs for putting the system to use while AWHHE monitored the installations. Ambiguous regulations, unresolved questions of responsibility and ownership, as well as technical problems prevented the actual supply of water, despite the

*Water meter in Fantan village.*



*Finally water is running inside a village house in Fantan.*

connected pipes and installed meters. Even with AWSC cooperating, the problems were being resolved at a rather slow pace. The villagers themselves, motivated by AWHHE's support, brought their case to the attention of the president of Armenia.

In Hayanist village, only about 10% of the village households received drinking water from a tap. All others had to rely on Artesian wells, which did not provide water suitable for drinking. With support of WECF, AWHHE secured funding from the "Aqua for All" foundation to extend the existing pipe system further to 220 households, providing in-house water supply to almost 900 people. The project was executed in collaboration with the village authorities, AWSC, AWHHE, and WECF providing additional funding from the "Tapping resources" project. Even with the households connected, the system could not provide enough water to meet the demand of the villagers. This was mainly due to illegal water consumption in a neighboring village situated "up-pipe" from Hayanist. With water meters being introduced only step by step, such illegal water use is not exceptional.

Both cases revealed that many realities of rural life in Armenia are not covered by official reports, which is also true for other countries of the former Soviet Union. It is only at the time of writing this report, that water in both villages is running, servicing 900 people in Hayanist and 1,200 people in Fantan.

**Location** Aral Sea region

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation

**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Sanitation Aral Sea Region

As part of a 3-year project “Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development” (2005-2007), WECF and its partner organisation in the Aral Sea region reached a breakthrough in implementing Ecological Sanitation.

To demonstrate the principles and benefits of ecological sanitation in one village, the WECF partner built three Dry Urine-Diverting household toilets in 2006. The partner had also conducted an intensive information and awareness raising campaign on hygiene and sanitation in this and another village. In 2007, the campaign included conducting 16 trainings in the two villages. These activities centre on the village schools, whose teachers and parents play a very active role. For both schools, Dry Urine-Diverting toilets were constructed in 2007 and are successfully used. It has improved the sanitation situation considerably in both schools. Because the old pit latrines

were in a very bad state many teachers and pupils would not use them, which caused them to be distracted from teaching and learning. The new facilities solved all these problems. The year 2007 saw the completion of 18 additional Dry Urine-Diverting toilets in the two villages for private homes.

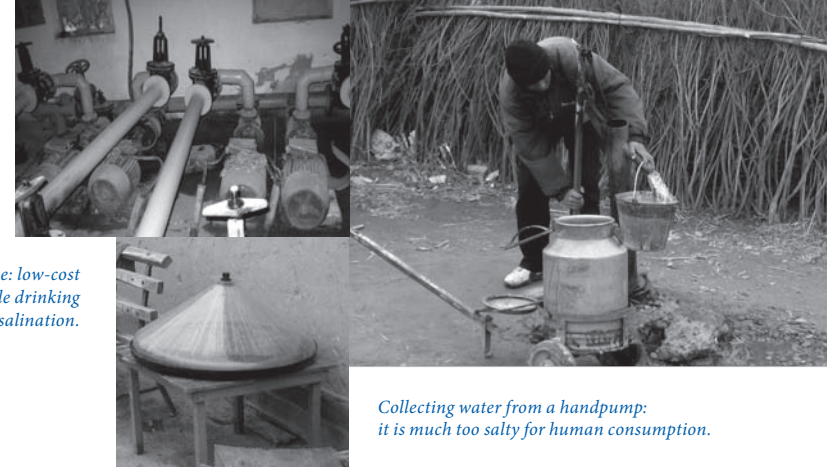
The average ecological sanitation coverage is 13,5%. The toilet construction expenses were shared; construction materials for the foundation and the chambers for collection of the faeces were financed from project funds, materials for the superstructure were from the house owners. The homeowners, often with the help of their neighbors, executed all construction works. Urine is widely used among local people as a fertilizer. Demonstration fields by villagers in both villages have shown the positive effects for plant growth and harvest, so that more and more of the village population become aware of its benefits. The interest towards ecosan in both villages is enormous. Many households who wanted to construct toilets with project support had to wait for the next year. Thanks to the practical benefits of ecological sanitation, local people became much more aware about their health, sanitation and hygiene, and the link between the three.

*Inhabitants of one of the 2 villages in the Aral Sea region say they want safe hygienic toilets for their children.*

*One of the 2 school toilets, using urine separation, were built in the Aral Sea region by WECF and its partner.*



*Pumping station of a village central water supply system: three of the four pumps are out of order.*



*A watercone: low-cost easy to handle drinking water desalination.*

*Collecting water from a handpump: it is much too salty for human consumption.*

**Location** Aral Sea region

**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation

**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Water Supply Aral Sea Region

As a part of a 3-year project “Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development” (2005-2007), WECF and the partner organisation in the Aral Sea region continued to research sustainable approaches to improve the drinking water supply for rural areas. The water supply situation is extremely critical in rural areas of the Aral Sea region. Extensive irrigation has severely changed the water regime of the area, leading not only to the desiccation of the Aral Sea, but also to increased salt levels in the groundwater used for drinking. The most common source of drinking water is hand pumps. However, the water they provide is much too salty for human consumption. Central water supply systems providing drinking water piped over long distances are one solution to the problem. Three years ago the WECF partner started working in one project village. Only few households were connected to a central water supply system, which had been con-

structed in the late 1980-ies. The water supply company lacks funds for proper maintenance of the system, therefore providing irregular supply. Three years ago the population was very sceptical about the quality of the piped water, although WECF tests proved its compliance to drinking water standards. Intensive awareness raising over three years has led to a new situation: a survey in 2007 revealed that currently 90% of the villagers are willing to pay for the water. In addition, they contribute work hours and money for getting connected. On this basis, a project has been developed which ensures the sustainability of the system. The installation however, still requires a large proportion of funds from donors. For remote villages, connection to a central water supply is too costly an option. WECF and the partner organisation have researched and tested small-scale decentralised desalination options, which have to be at a low-cost so that the local population can afford them. The “watercone,” a simple device using solar energy to produce distilled water proved to be a potential solution. It found a high degree of acceptance among the test families. But it works insufficiently in the long, very cold winter – a time of the year no solution has been found for yet.

**Location** Afghanistan. Provinces Kunduz, Takhar  
**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation  
**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Sanitation for Schools and Households in Afghanistan

As part of a 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Afghan-German Organizations Katakhill Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Organization (KRRO), and Katchel e.V. continued implementing demonstration projects of Ecological Sanitation in several villages.

Katchel-KRRO is constructing schools in the two provinces in Northern Afghanistan, which was heavily devastated by war for more than two decades. The schools are equipped with Dry Urine-Diverting toilets. Katchel-KRRO are using this approach to practically demonstrate and promote this sanitation solution, combining lessons on hygiene and proper sanitization and reuse of faeces and urine in agriculture. In 2007, Katchel e.V. constructed an extension to an existing school building in Katchel village in Kunduz province. 240 boys will use the extension.

*Adding sanitized urine, an excellent fertilizer to the irrigation water.*

*At the opening of Katchel's new school.*

In addition, 48 boys and 32 girls will take part in computer classes, which can now be offered in the extension building. The sanitary facilities for the extension are Dry Urine-Diverting toilets. The positive example of this school toilet, as well as of the 2 Dry Urine-Diverting school toilets constructed during the previous two years built interest and prompted both public and private followers. KRRO consults and provides special toilet slabs for free, but is not subsidizing the construction itself. Following the example of the schools, the ministry of education of Kunduz province started to construct sanitary facilities with 10 toilet units. In the region of Keshem, 20 new toilets were constructed in private homes. The growing interest resulted in a series of lectures held at the Pedagogical High School and the Agricultural Institute of Kunduz High School. The Agricultural Institute started a research project on the effects of applying urine as a fertilizer on a proving ground.



**Location** Afghanistan. Provinces Kunduz, Takhar  
**Donor** Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation  
**Contact** gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

## Safe Water Supply Afghanistan

As part of a 3-year project "Tapping Resources. Making use of the strength of women for sustainable development" (2005-2007), the Afghan-German Organizations Katakhill Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Organization (KRRO), and Katchel e.V. continued to improve the drinking water supply in rural areas in Northern Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, only 27% of the rural population are using an improved source for their daily drinking water. KRRO has built 90 wells in 11 villages: Dukane Admkhan, Ger guzer, Lar khabe, Naseri, Ambar tepa, Mer zowq, Omer khel, Shaher, Ludin, Kata khel, Qalai rafiqan. KRRO chose villages in regions of Kunduz province where the situation is considered unsafe and for this reason have not benefited much from international aid. KRRO can help because it is very well rooted in and respected by local society. Altogether, these wells provide drinking water to 2,243 people. All wells were built inside the yards. This is important to enable women to use the wells freely, which is not the case with wells located on streets or at public places. Wells located in public places remain difficult for women to access when they are alone. All wells are reinforced with ring-beams made of concrete and equipped with 2 buckets. They all have a lid, which protects the water in the well from pollution. The usual source of drinking water for the beneficiary families were canals, open streams or unprotected public wells. The new wells improve their situation considerably. The official inauguration of the new water supply was overshadowed by a dramatic incident:

just three hours before, a suicide attack had taken place on the bazaar of the city, which cost the lives of 5 Afghan civilians and 3 German soldiers. In light of this event, the participants of the inauguration event reiterated how important these wells are as a contribution to building a better and peaceful future for the country, and expressed their gratitude to the Dutch people and government.



*Aram Khan's well in Ambar tepa, serving a family of 27, with Katchel e.V. director Sybille Schnehage (behind well) and KRRO director Dadgul Delawar (left).*

*New well of the family of Fazal in Omer khel village, serving 22 people.*

**Location** Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan  
**Donor** EU DG Environment Life+, Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation  
**Contact** sabine.bock@wecf.eu

## Poverty reduction by Sustainable Energy

Sustainable energy can be the way out of poverty as it builds up on the local, decentralized potential and uses the resources.

### Fight energy poverty in Armenia

In 2007, WECF and its Armenian partner, Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment, AWHHE followed up on the detrimental situation of the lack of energy in Armenia. Together, they raised awareness, analyzed and assessed the situation of private houses and schools in three poor villages, focused on the schools in the refugee village Hayanist and the mountain village Fantan. Conceptual work for a new ecological school building and renovations were completed.

### Sustainable energy trainings in the EECCA region

Building on these experiences and preparing for the three year project "Empowerment and Local Action (ELA)" in 10 countries through Eastern

*Participants of the "Training of Trainers in conducting & facilitating multi-stakeholder meetings" from Ukraine, Moldova & Transnistria.*



Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, WECF organized so called "Start-Up" meetings in all three regions with the regional partners. The goal was to exchange experiences, to analyze the current situation in the region and to come up with objectives and concrete project plans. The partners got an insight into the current goals and activities of WECF and were trained on application writing. Excursions were part of the programme. At the end of each meeting, the WECF staff got a clearer picture of the situation in the countries and the partners were equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to write their application in terms of content and methods for 2008.

### Start-Up-Meeting for Eastern Europe in Moldova, 29 May – 3 June 2007

In Moldova 35 partners that participated from Ukraine, Moldova and Transnistria stated that the high cost of energy is a problem because it is no longer subsidised. Furthermore, because of insufficient energy saving and energy efficiency measurements of buildings in Odessa, Ukraine the high demand of energy cannot be satisfied. Another problem is deforestation caused by the high demand of firewood. The options of energy saving and efficiency measurements and renewable energy are unknown. Awareness raising, capacity building and demonstration projects are important steps for this region to learn about solutions. A good example is the



*Demonstration of a solar cooker at the start up meeting in Kyrgyzstan.*

"Green Building Project" of MAMA86, the Ukraine partner in Odessa. In just one year they had a 30% drop in electricity bills, a reduction rate of 70% for heating bills and an 80% reduction rate of the hot water bills by using energy efficiency measurements.

### Start-Up-Meeting for Caucasus in Georgia, 19 – 22 June 2007

Our Georgian and Armenian partners identified that the root cause for their energy problems was the lack of knowledge about the possibilities of energy saving, efficiency and renewable energy—similar to the Eastern Europe training. Awareness raising, capacity building and trainings are the crucial steps to take and demonstration examples have to be implemented. There is already a huge potential of experience and knowledge of the partner NGOs to build on.

### Start-Up-Meeting for Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, 16 – 20 July 2007

Partners from Uzbekistan (Karalkalpakstan), Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan participated and addressed the issue of the regular energy shortages and stated renewable energy as a solution. The training was complemented with the workshop "how to construct a solar

batch (solar collector for hand washing)," given by the Kyrgyz WECF member BIOM. Best practice examples could be experienced during the whole meeting, as the facilities itself provided a solar shower, a solar cooker and several other solar installations (solar batch heater and others). Low cost solar installations are key for the region in providing access to sustainable, reliable and safe energy.

*Looking at the technical map of a new planned urine diverting toilet in Kyrgyzstan.*



*Visiting a newly built urine diverting toilet in Kyrgyzstan.*



*Start-Up-Meeting for Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, 16-20 July 2007.*

**Location** Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia  
**Donor** Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
**Contact** [gero.fedtke@wecf.eu](mailto:gero.fedtke@wecf.eu)

## Preparatory meetings of the WECF ELA Programme

WECF started a new programme with 27 partner organisations in 9 EECCA countries and Afghanistan in January 2008: the “Empowerment and Local Action” programme, financed by the MFS – programme of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2008-2010.

The programme aims at demonstrating the core elements of an integrated approach to a sustainable rural development, which leads to the reduction of poverty in rural areas and increases gender equity. Local partners will implement such demonstration projects in the thematic areas of drinking water supply (e.g. setting up community managed water supply systems), sanitation (e.g. dry urine-diverting toilets), agriculture (e.g. integrated pest management, composting) and energy (energy saving and renewable energies). The capacity of rural communities as well as of partner organisations to understand, apply, and promote such approaches will be

improved, empowering them to act on their local levels toward a sustainable future for themselves. Partners and WECF will lobby politicians on the regional, national, and international level to include the integrated approach in their policies. Potential partners of the ELA programme took part in three 5-day meetings: in May 2007, in Chisinau, Moldova, in June 2007, in Mtskheta, Georgia, and in July 2007, at lake Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. They were informed about the aims of the programme and were trained on problem analysis and goal oriented project planning. WECF presented its experiences and approaches in the four thematic areas, as well as in capacity building and political work. Partner organisations presented their achievements and approaches. All participants split into working groups according to the four thematic issues and developed sample problem analysis and projects. All meetings witnessed an intensive exchange of knowledge, experiences and opinions.

After the meetings, partners developed their own projects to be realized within the ELA programme. WECF received 34 proposals. After a careful selection process, 27 partners started to work together with WECF for empowerment and local action.

# WECF Organisation in 2007





## Overview of WECF publications and Press in 2007

### Press Releases in Dutch

**Vijftig jaar na na Mayak.** Mayak 1957, Tsjernobyl 1986 – We hebben weinig geleerd van het verleden. Vijftig jaar na de kernramp in Mayak zijn de gevolgen nog steeds desastreus voor de lokale bevolking. *September 2007*

**WAVE Belgrado.** Vrouwen spreken zich uit voor het Recht op een Gezonde Leefomgeving Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is prominent aanwezig tijdens de UNECE “Environment for Europe” Conference in Belgrado, Servië. *October 2007*

**WAVE Belgrado.** Minister Cramer in Belgrado – Tijdens haar bezoek op 10 en 11 oktober heeft de minister gesproken over het belang van educatie voor duurzame ontwikkeling. *October 2007*

**REACH – consumentengids voor gifvrije producten.** Nieuwe publicatie over REACH om consumenten bewust te maken van wat ze kopen. *November 2007*

**De teddybeer krijg je van Sinterklaas, tips voor gezonde – en veilige babyproducten van ons Vrouwen –** en milieuorganisatie WECF lanceert vandaag de internationale Nesting ebsite in zes talen om internationale baby's een gezonde toekomst te kunnen geven. [www.eenveilignest.nl](http://www.eenveilignest.nl) geeft informatie over een veilige en gezonde leefomgeving voor jouw pasgeboren baby. *December 2007*

**Straling van kerncentrales zorgt voor meer gevallen van kinderkanker.** Duits onderzoek bevestigt: straling van kerncentrales zorgt voor meer gevallen van kinderkanker. WECF en het Duitse Umwelt Institut spreken zich op Bali uit tegen kernenergie als oplossing voor klimaatverandering. “De schadelijke gevolgen voor de gezondheid van kinderen bevestigt de juiste beslissing van de Duitse overheid om gelijdelijk het opwekken van kernenergie aft te bouwen.” Aldus Karin Wurzbacher van het Milieu Instituut in München en WECF partner tijdens de klimaat-top in Bali. *December 2007*

### Media Coverage in Dutch

**Richt je babykamer veilig in.** Dutch TV broadcaster Llink “Richt je babykamer veilig in” item on website Dutch TV broadcaster Llink about Nesting website. *December 2007*

**Jullie zaaien voor mijn toekomst.** Nieuwe Oogst Magazine “Jullie zaaien voor mijn toekomst” “Planting the seeds for our future;” WECF work featured in Nieuwe Oogst Magazine, agricultural magazine. *October 2007*

### Media Coverage International

**REACH.** Daniela Roscha and daughter Clara a topic on BBC World covering the work of WECF concerning REACH. *June 2007*

**Don't Nuke the Planet!** WECF organizes anti-nuclear protests at Climate Conference in Bali (text in English and German). Reuters and BBC filmed WECF members participating in the event. *December 2007*

**WECF launches shoppers guide for toxic-free products.** Pocket size guide informs about consumer's rights under REACH. An interview with Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director WECF, about the new consumer's guide was broadcasted on Thursday the 6th of December on Carrefour Europe on Deutsche Welle. *November 2007*

### Press Releases in English

**Fifty years after Mayak.** Mayak 1957 – Tsjernobyl 1986 – We haven't learned much from the past. *September 2007*

**WAVE Belgrade.** Women speak out for the Right to a Healthy Environment, WECF takes leadership in the upcoming UNECE Environment for Europe Conference in Belgrade. *October 2007*

**WAVE Belgrade.** Women Environmental Ministers join UNEP Executive Director and Grassroots Women Leaders in Support of a Women's Agenda for the Right to a Healthy Environment. *October 2007*

**Companies and retailers: get REACH ready, women say.** New publication for women launched to promote consumer's rights under REACH. Women in Europe for a Common Future, WECF, has today launched a new publication, informing women, the largest group of shoppers about their consumer's rights in the new EU chemicals policy, REACH. “We are very excited to make this information available to women anywhere in the EU. We have worked hard to

make sure REACH provides us with the tools to find out about hazardous chemicals in every day consumer products!” says Daniela Rosche, WECF chemicals expert and author of the guide. *November 2007*

**Nuclear power plants increases number of children with cancer.** German research confirms: radiation of nuclear power plants increases number of children with cancer (text in Dutch). WECF and German Environmental Institute speak out in Bali against nuclear energy as a solution for climate change. *December 2007*

**Nesting.** What your baby wants – a healthy start from the very beginning! [www.projectnesting.org](http://www.projectnesting.org) helps European parents-to-be create a healthy surrounding for their child. Translated in six languages. *December 2007*

**Don't Nuke the Planet!** WECF organizes anti-nuclear protest at Climate Conference in Bali. *December 2007*

**Brochure Een gezonde baby...** belangrijke informatie voor jonge vrouwen en mannen met kinderwens over milieuvervuiling, chemische stoffen, zwangerschap en borstvoeding. Published by WECF in cooperation with Platform Gezondheid & Milieu and Ecobaby

**Saint Nicolas Postcard.** De teddybeer krijg je van Sinterklaas, tips voor gezonde – en veilige babyproducten van ons Vrouwen – en milieuorganisatie WECF lanceert vandaag de internationale Nesting website in zes talen om internationale baby's een gezonde toekomst te kunnen geven. [www.eenveilignest.nl](http://www.eenveilignest.nl) geeft informatie over een veilige en gezonde leefomgeving voor jouw pasgeboren baby. *December 2007*

## Publications in English

**Opportunities for wastewater treatment in rural areas in Eastern Europe.** Developing a model for water and waste management in rural areas in Bulgaria. *February 2007*

**WECF Work Programme 2007.** Planned Activities of the WECF Network for the Year 2007. *March 2007*

**WECF discussion paper on “A Healthy Population at the Heart of the EU Economic Strategy”.** Accompanying information for the WECF Eco-Efficiency High level Round Table in Brussels. *March 2007*

**WECF briefing on the Environmental Burden of Disease.** Accompanying information for the WECF Eco-Efficiency High level Round Table in Brussels. *Russian translation 2007*

**WECF factsheet on Eco-Efficiency.** Accompanying information for the WECF Eco-Efficiency High level Round Table in Brussels. *March 2007*

**WECF factsheet on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy.** Accompanying information for the WECF Eco-Efficiency High level Round Table in Brussels. *March 2007*

**WECF factsheet on the EU Lisbon Strategy.** Accompanying information for the WECF Eco-Efficiency High level Round Table in Brussels. *March 2007*

**Film about WECF project in Prislop/Romania.** Welcome to the European Community / Willkommen in der europaeischen Union. *July 2007*

**The Cost of Poverty (Armenia).** WECF Partner Video on Energy Poverty and Indoor Air Pollution in Armenia, as seen by the Ministers of Health and Environment of the WHO Europe Region. *August 2007*

**Urine Diverting Toilets in Climates with Cold Winters.** Technical considerations and the reuse of nutrients with a focus on legal and hygienic aspects. *August 2007*

**Sustainable Rural Development in Ukraine.** Demonstrating solutions for water supply, sanitation and agriculture. *October 2007*

**Women Speak Out for the Right to a Healthy Environment.** WECF takes leadership in the upcoming UNECE “Environment for Europe” Conference in Belgrade, Serbia. *October 2007*

**Ecological Sanitation and Associated Hygienic Risks.** An overview of existing policy making guidelines and research. *November 2007*

**Companies and retailers: get REACH ready, women say.** New publication for women launched to promote consumer’s rights under REACH. *November 2007*

**Shoppers guide for toxic-free products.** Pocket size guide informs about consumers’ rights under REACH. *December 2007*

**WECF at Bali UN Climate Change Conference.** Posters of Mayak exhibition show that nuclear energy is not a solution to climate change. *December 2007*

**Nuclear is not a solution, it is too great a risk.** WECF and Umweltinstitut München (Germany) publish flyers in which it states not to consider nuclear power an instrument to answer the challenge of climate change. *December 2007*

**The Right to a Healthy Environment.** How to use international legal mechanism for the protection of our environment and our health – a manual. *December 2007*

## Press Releases in German

**Zu früh, um REACH zu feiern.** Umwelt- und Gesundheitsorganisation WECF (Women in Europe for a Common Future) fordert besseren Gesundheitsschutz für Verbraucher. Neue Chemikalienverordnung REACH erlaubt weiterhin krebserregende Stoffe in Produkten. *May 2007*

**Children have a Right to a healthy environment – right from the Beginning!** WHO Midterm Review on Children’s Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE) in Vienna. In Europe each day 35 children die of diseases caused by dirty water. Fotopressrelease. *June 2007*

**Umweltpolitik zum Wohl des Menschen –** WECF Projekte werden ausgezeichnet Österreichisches Umweltministerium und NGO’s vergeben “Best-Practice-Awards” für Projekte zur Gesundheit und Umwelt von Kindern in Gesamteuropa. *June 2007*

**Die WHO sollte einen internationalen Wettbewerb um die beste Umwelt- und Gesundheitspolitik für unsere Kinder ausrufen.** To Außenansichten Süddeutsche Zeitung. *June 2007*

**Kinder haben eine Recht auf eine Gesunde Umwelt – von Beginn an!** In Europa sterben täglich 35 Kinder an den Folgen von verunreinigtem Wasser Umwelt- und Gesundheitsorganisation WECF (Women in Europe for a Common Future) fordert in Wien mehr Aktivität seitens der Politik. *June 2007*

**Majak 1957, Tschernobyl 1986 – und nur wenig dazugelernt.** WECF – Women in Europe for a Common Future – fordert die Abkehr von der Atomenergie. *September 26*



*Film about WECF project in Prislop/Romania*  
*Welcome to the European Community / Willkommen in der europäischen Union.*  
*July 2007.*



## Urine Diverting Toilets in Climates with Cold Winters

Technical considerations and the reuse of  
nutrients with a focus on legal and hygienic aspects



Water and Sanitation

July 2007



WECF | Women in Europe for a Common Future

*Urine Diverting Toilets  
in Climates with Cold  
Winters.*

**Wo werdende Eltern im Produktdschungel Hilfe bekommen können.** In Berlin/Bonn diskutieren Hebammen, GynäkologInnen und ExpertInnen über Möglichkeiten Kinder besser vor Unfällen und Schadstoffen im Lebensumfeld zu schützen. *October 2007 Berlin/ November Bonn*

UNEP Direktor Steiner für "Blau Mützen" für Umwelt und Gesundheitsschutz und Genderfragen UmweltministerInnen, UNEP Direktor und Frauenorganisationen fordern Europäische Umweltministerkonferenz in Belgrad auf, das Recht auf eine saubere Umwelt zu verankern. *October 2007*

**Wenn ein Baby kommt – ein gesunder Start zuhause von Anfang an.** [www.nestbau.info](http://www.nestbau.info) hilft werdenden Eltern ihrem Kind ein gesundes Umfeld zu schaffen. *December 2007*

**Don't nuke the climate! – Verstrahlt das Klima nicht!** Umweltorganisationen sprechen sich auf der Klimakonferenz in Bali für ein Ende der Atomkraft aus. *December 2007, Bali/Indonesien*

### Press invitations Germany

**"Gesundes Umfeld – Gesunder Start ins Leben!"** *October Berlin, November Bonn 2007*

### WHO Konferenz Umwelt und Gesundheit von Kindern, Wien.

Intergovernmental Midterm  
Review of the implementation of Budapest Declaration vom 13. – 15. Juni in Wien  
Presseeinladung. *June 2007*

**WAVE Belgrad.** Frauenorganisationen für ein Recht auf eine gesunde Umwelt  
Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) übernimmt den Vorsitz bei der UNECE Konferenz "Umwelt für Europa" im Rahmen der

Europäischen Umweltministerkonferenz in Belgrad Presseeinladung. *October 5*

### Media coverage in German

Articles in Media about WECF  
Prislop/Rumänien:

**Händewaschen – das müssen die Menschen hier erst lernen** TINA.  
*January 2007*

**TV Broadcast of WECF Project in Romania**  
ARTE. *September 19*

**Fortschritt oder Mogelpackung?**  
telepopolis. *Februar 8*

**Eine kindgerechte Welt** – Sonja Haider über schadstoff- und unfallvermeidende Raumgestaltung von Kinderzimmern. AGENDA (Zeitung für kulturelle Vielfalt und Nachhaltigkeit). *May 2007*

**Unsere Kinder haben ein Recht auf eine gesunde Umwelt,** OEKOBIOTIKUM. *March 2007*

**Wien war eine Reise wert,** OEKOBIOTIKUM,  
*March 2007*

### Other Publications

**Frauenansichten 2008** – Ein Lesekalender zu Umwelt und Gesundheit Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit  
Interview Sonja Haider WENIGER IST OFT MEHR!

**Kalender 2008 Firma Steinzeug Keramo**  
Fünf mal täglich ohne Fliegen –Wasserlose Trenntoiletten für Kirgisistan, Zentralasien

**Das NGO Handbuch,**  
greenpeace magazin. *2007*

DVD. **Armut, Umweltverschmutzung und Gesundheitsprobleme im rumänischen Prislop** ZDF Mona Lisa besucht ein WECF Projekt in einer Roma Siedlung.

**Internet Links**Nestbau: <http://www.babynews.de/content/view/739/532/>. *December*

### Letters in German

**Letter to the German Minister of Environment Sigmar Gabriel.** Childrens Health and Healthy Environment Programme Und wieder haben die Finnen die Nase vorn– eine Chance und Herausforderung für 2009. *June 2007*

**Letter to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.** Aufnahme von "Umweltbedingten Gesundheitsaspekte" in die Lissabon Strategie. *March 2007*

## Members

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 organizations
- Associate members (no voting rights)

Honorary members

### Full Members (full voting right)

Number	Organisation	Country
1	Katachel e.V.	Afghanistan
2	Eden Center (Environmental center for Development, Education and networking	Albania
3	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)	Armenia
4	Lore Eco Club NGO	Armenia
5	Women for Green Way for Generations – WGWG	Armenia
6	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative	Belarus
7	Ecosphere	Belarus
8	Viktorija 99	Bosnia
9	Earth Forever Foundation	Bulgaria
10	Agentura Gaia	Czech Republic
11	Femmes & Changement	France
12	Akhaltshikhe Center of Social Development	Georgia
13	Caucasus Environment Foundation, NGO	Georgia
14	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA	Georgia
15	Georgian Association of Toxicologists	Georgia
16	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
17	PAROS	Georgia
18	Rural Communities Development Agency	Georgia
19	SEMA	Georgia
20	VHUE e.V. – Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter	Germany
21	Clean up Greece	Greece
22	Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)	Ireland
23	Mehriban	Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan

24	GREENWOMEN Ecological News Agency	Kazakhstan
25	NGO "Jabagly – Manas"	Kazakhstan
26	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption	Kazakhstan
27	Alga, Rural Women's NGO	Kyrgyzstan
28	BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
29	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water	Kyrgyzstan
30	ULGU , public association	Kyrgyzstan
31	UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
32	SO SPS (Mutual Aid Association)	Latvia
33	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia	Macedonia
34	Ecotox	Moldova
35	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldava (WISDOM)	Moldova
36	Ecospectrum	Moldova
37	Eco-Tiras	Moldova
38	Ecobaby, Stichting	The Netherlands
39	Leefmilieu ( Human Environment )	The Netherlands
40	Meldpunten Netwerk Gezondheid en Milieu	The Netherlands
41	Nederlandse Bond van Plattelands-vrouwen	The Netherlands
42	VeM, Centrum Vrouw en Milieu	The Netherlands
43	ZijActief	The Netherlands
44	Network of East-West women Polska	Poland
45	Social Ecological Institut	Poland
46	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC	Romania
47	Geo San	Romania
48	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia	Romania
49	Aigul – Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims	Russia
50	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'	Russia
51	Nabat Muslyomovo	Russia
52	Planet of Hopes	Russia
53	Step Forward Snezhynsk	Russia
54	Ural's Women Network – Argayash	Russia
55	Ural's Women Network – Kashli	Russia
56	Environmental Youth Club	Russia
57	Environmental Ambassadors	Serbia
58	Ozone	Serbia
59	Global Action Plan	Sweden
60	Youth Ecological Center	Tajikistan
61	Bugday	Turkey
62	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe	UK

63	Women's Environmental Network – WEN	UK
64	Black Sea Women's Club	Ukraine
65	Mama-86 Artemivsk	Ukraine
66	Mama-86 Kharkiv	Ukraine
67	Mama-86 Kiev	Ukraine
68	Mama-86 Poltava	Ukraine
69	Mama-86 Sevastopol	Ukraine
70	Mama-86 Yaremche	Ukraine
71	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society – USHS	Ukraine
72	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"	Ukraine
73	Vozrozhdenie	Ukraine
74	Women for Environment	Ukraine
75	SABR Trust Center	Uzbekistan
76	Women for Sustainable development in the NGO "Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya, Udasa"	Uzbekistan

### Associate Members (no voting rights)

Number	Name	Country
77	Global Mothers – Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace	Austria
78	Clean World Social Union for Civil Rights	Azerbaijan
79	ECOS NGO; Environmental Sustainability	Azerbaijan
80	TETA-KHAZRI	Azerbaijan
81	ISS Independent Social Support	Belarus
82	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique	France
83	Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
84	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology	Lithuania
85	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC	Lithuania
86	Eco-sense/ Eko-svest	Macedonia
87	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling	The Netherlands
88	Eco Accord	Russia
89	Uganda Women's Health Network	Uganda
90	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation	Ukraine
91	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation	Ukraine
92	Concord	Uzbekistan

### Individual Members (never more than 50 % votes)

Number	Organisation	Country
93	Inga Zaratyan	Armenia
94	Karine Danielyan	Armenia
95	Catherine Wattiez	Belgium

96	Muborak Sharipova	Denmark
97	Elisabeth Ruffingo	France
98	Nita Chaudhuri	France
99	Dr. Minnu Hemmati	Germany
100	Sabine Brückmann	Germany
101	Silvia Pleschka	Germany
102	Caterina Choreftaki	Greece
103	Svetlana Bashtovenko	Kyrgyzstan
104	Inese Eistere	Latvia
105	Dr. Nazik Pacha Bezan	Lebanon
106	Adriana Debora Hulsmann	The Netherlands
107	Irene Dankelmann	The Netherlands
108	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute	The Netherlands
109	Kitty Bentvelsen	The Netherlands
110	Pamela Lawson	The Netherlands
111	Rosemarie b.j. Oude Luttikhuis – Merz	The Netherlands
112	Thérèse van Gijn–Bruggink	The Netherlands
113	Willy Douma	The Netherlands
114	Olga Senova	Russia
115	Patimat Gadzhieva	Russia
116	Victoria Elias	Russia
117	Ivana Blagojevic	Serbia
118	Katarina Korytarova	Slovakia
119	Maja Bavdaz Solce	Slovenië
120	Isabel Ripa	Spain
121	Viviana Avendano	Spain
122	Anne-Sofie Andersson	Sweden
123	Mildred Thulin	Sweden
124	Karin Sondergard	Sweden
125	Mine Yapar	Turkey
126	Clare Flenley	UK
127	Helen Lynn	UK
128	Sonia McLay	UK
129	Galushkiva Tatijana	Ukraine
130	Victoria Yurescue	Ukraine
131	Claire Greensfelder	USA
132	Mark Hengen	USA
133	Karimova Nodira	Uzbekistan

# WECF Organogram 2007





## WECF Working Groups

The WECF network currently works through 5 working groups. WECF working groups prepare common statements and exchange information through 6 email mailing lists.



### Safe Chemicals

safechemicals@mailman.wecf.eu



### Safe Food Production and Rural Development

agri@mailman.wecf.eu



### Health and Environment

health@mailman.wecf.eu



### Safe Water and Sanitation

water@mailman.wecf.eu



### Safe Energy and Climate Change

energy@mailman.wecf.eu



Cross-cutting:

### Gender mainstreaming in Sustainable Development

gender@mailman.wecf.eu

## International Advisory Board

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

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

## Board of Trustees

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

<b>Marie Kranendonk</b>	President
<b>Bert Kuiter</b>	Treasurer
<b>Willy Douma</b>	Secretary
<b>Gerda van Dijk</b>	Member



## Staff

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Munich, Germany and since 2008, Annemasse, France. WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants.

### **Sascha Gabizon**

Executive Director

### **Sonja Haider**

Director, Germany

### **Theo van Koolwijk**

Director, the Netherlands, ad interim

### **Anne Barre**

Director, France / Switzerland

### **Gero Fedtke**

Programme Coordinator ELA/MFS

### **Margriet Samwel**

Coordinator Water and Sanitation

### **Sabine Bock**

Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

### **Daniela Rosche**

Policy Officer & Programme

Coordinator Chemicals

### **Sabine Brückmann**

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

### **Anke Stock**

Environment and Women's Rights

### **Annemarie Mohr**

Financial Project Management

### **Bistra Mihaylova-Grigorova**

Project Officer, Bulgaria

### **Solomiya Babyak**

Project Manager EECCA

### **Tatiana Deriviago**

Project Officer, Belarus

### **Jasmine Osorio**

Policy Officer Health & Environment

### **Johanna Hausmann**

Public Relations & Press, Germany

### **Chantal van den Bossche**

Public Relations & Press, the Netherlands

### **Irma Thijssen**

Press Officer, the Netherlands

### **Sabine Hanisch**

Office Manager,  
Bookkeeper, Germany

### **Ulrike Meyer-Bachmann**

Executive Assistant

### **Stefanie Blicke**

Chemicals Assistant

### **Hetty Minkjan**

Office Manager

### **Jannet van Dijk**

Office Manager, ad interim

### **Heidi Emes**

Central Asia Officer Assistant

### **Saar Slegers**

Project Assistant Eastern Europe

### **Elske Altena**

Secretary

### **Toos van Oers**

Agriculture Coordinator EECCA

### **Olga Plekhanova**

Country Officer Eastern Europe

### **Olivia Radu**

Country Officer Romania

### **Annemarie Hekkers**

Office Administrator

### **Margreet Munneke**

Bookkeeper, the Netherlands

### **Hanno Langfelder**

Webmaster Network

### **Fedde Jorritsma**

Project Officer Central Asia

### **Stefan Deegner**

Ecological Sanitation Management

### **Mattie Wolters**

Editor

### **Anna Samwel**

Project Assistant Caucasus

### **Elena Glik**

Project Assistant EECCA

### **Farida Shorukova**

Project Assistant Central Asia

### **Véronique Grassinger**

Corporate Identity & Publications

## External

### **Patrick Meyer**

Webdesigner

### **Gevorg Chogerian**

Volunteer System Administrator

### **Theo Poort**

Financial Manager

### **Nita Chaudhuri**

Environment & Health Promotion Expert  
Consultant

## Volunteers

### **Sonja van Wolfswinkel**

Office Administrator



## WECF Balance as per 31 December in Euro

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Office equipment	29.642	1.618
Grants to be received	321.366	92.185
Work in progress	184.863	222.097
Other debtors	42.084	24.008
Bank and savings accountants/cash	1.544.540	1.143.594
	<b>2.122.495</b>	<b>1.483.502</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Grants received in advance	1645.163	1.097.345
Other creditors	422.018	329.527
Accruals	24.404	24.495
Continuity reserve	30.910	32.135
	<b>2.122.495</b>	<b>1.483.502</b>
<b>Continue to reserve</b>		
Balance as per 31 December 2006		32.135
Added in 2007 to income and expenditure		-/-1.225
<b>Balance as per 31 December 2007</b>		<b>30.910</b>

Obligations, not shown in the balance: WECF pays an officerent of € 33.000 per year and has a contract for 5 years running from August 2004.

## WECF income and expenditure account for the fiscal year ending 31 Dec. in Euro

	2007	2006
<b>Income</b>		
Grants Cooperation Eastern Europe/Central Asia	1.686.217	1.258.067
Grants European Policy Programme	305.170	--
Grants Environmental Programme	289.148	188.977
Contributions from private foundations	114.153	143.781
Financial income	--	1.475
	<b>2.394.688</b>	<b>1.592.300</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Project implementation, materials, consumables	1.877.458	1.250.166
Operating charges	178.708	123.028
Staff costs	336.903	214.433
Depreciation	643	2.238
Financial costs	612	--
Extraordinary charges	1.589	--
Added to continuity reserve	-/-1.225	2.435
	<b>2.394.688</b>	<b>1.592.300</b>



# Observations of the Board of Directors

## Financial year 2007

The financial year 2007 was another one of steady growth, with an increase of 66% compared to 2006. WECF is in a process of further optimizing its administrative processes, including quality management and project monitoring and evaluation, for which it made a number of investments in software, hardware and personnel. After a one year break, WECF obtained again funding for its overall workplan from the European Commission DG Environment, which allowed to strengthen the European policy activities as well as the network activities, such as the WECF general members meeting at the Environment for Europe policy conference in Belgrade, in October. The EU support also allowed to launch WECF new awareness raising tool "Nesting," a website targeting young parents on how to create a healthy and safe environment for their new born child. The "Nesting" website was launched simultaneously in 6 European languages, Hungarian, Greek, Dutch, German, French and English. In the 3rd year of the project "Realizing our Potential" – financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Environment – WECF advocated together with its member organisations for better chemicals legislation in Europe and worldwide, and published a shoppers pocket-guide with tips on how the new EU legislation helps shoppers understand more about hazardous chemicals in consumer products such as toys. WECF finalized its three-year programme "Tapping Resources – using the strength of women for sustainable development" in Afghanistan, Armenia and Uzbekistan, - funded by the development cooperation of the Neth-

erlands – having implemented access to safe water and sanitation for over 5,000 women, men and children, as well as having spread the lessons learned among all network members and with policy makers worldwide. WECF continued into the second year with its project on waste, energy and sanitation in Belarus, where 10 rural communities are building capacity to develop decentralized safe solutions for improved waste management, sanitation and energy saving, a project financed by the MATRA programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. WECF also finalized another MATRA programme project in Bulgaria, where more than 50,000 citizens visited the project websites, and more than 3,000 people in rural communities improved their local environment by composting programmes and installation of ecological sanitation systems, with a strong involvement of school children and local communities. Another new MATRA programme project started in Moldova, Democratization of Dniester river basin governance, contributing to cross border cooperation between the Moldova, Ukrainian and Transdnistria regions along the Dniester river. The French Fondation Ensemble granted a 3-year 300,000 Euro grant to WECF and its partners in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, to improve school and household sanitation, a major challenge in rural areas, which needs cooperation from all sectors. A donation by Hewlett Packard was used to continue health, hygiene and cooking courses for Roma women in Prislop, a poor Settlement near Sibiu, Romania. A donation by Polo Ralph Lauren Germany was used for support of the water and sanitation improvement projects. The Dutch water organization Aqua for

All granted 40,000 Euros via the Women for Water partnership, for a feasibility study and high level seminar on market development chances for decentralized ecological sanitation systems, which resulted in close cooperation between a Dutch and Romanian toilet producer. In order to upscale the demonstration projects which WECF and its partners carry out, local production of urine diverting toilet seats is necessary, currently such toilets either need to be imported or hand made. Cooperation between the WECF members working on sustainable rural development continued, with the project towards sustainable rural development in Overijssel," allowing the exchange between the German member Unser Land and a new initiative "Oons Ambacht" in the province of Overijssel, as well as the project Green Bridges, allowing the exchange with Unser Land and WECF members from Poland and Ukraine. Unser Land has developed a multi-sector organization including farmers, bakers, butchers, markets, women's organizations and even churches, promoting together a range of 200 locally produced, fair priced, healthy and safe food products, which finds a lot of interest with other WECF members working on rural development. The membership of WECF grew with 10 more organizations, particularly from South Eastern Europe.

## Outlook 2008

WECF's budget for 2008 amounts to 3,4 million Euros, once again an increase of 70%. WECF will continue investing in its organisational development and will continue expanding its automated project monitoring and evaluation system. In 2008, WECF starts its 3-year "Empowerment

and Local Action" (ELA) programme with over 30 partners in 10 countries, which contributes to reaching the Millennium Development Goal number 7 on Sustainable Development. WECF has applied for funding with German, French and EU programmes for co-funding to the ELA programme, in particular for expansion of its capacity building and implementation activities in the area of renewable energy and energy saving, but also for increased cooperation on environment and health with partners in Kazakhstan and Russia and for the expansion of the "Nesting" programme to 6 new European countries. WECF opens a third office, after the office in Munich, the office in Annemasse, France, will be opened in 2008 to allow additional fundraising from French donors, as well as advocacy projects and partnerships with French authorities, NGOs, scientists and the private sector.

## Sascha Gabizon

Executive Director WECF



## Women in Europe for a Common Future

### **WECF The Netherlands**

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### **WECF France**

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France  
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Fax: +33 - 450 - 49 97 38

WECF is a network of women's and environmental organisations in 30 countries throughout Central Asia and Europe.

WECF strives for a Healthy Environment for All. We use women's potential in balancing environment, health and economy. WECF's activities are based on its partners individual visions and needs. Therefore, WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.