



Working for a Healthy Environment for all

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



Impressum

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

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Activity Report

Overview of WECF's accomplishments in 2008

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Foreword



2008 was the first year in which WECF carried out its Empowerment and Local Action Programme (ELA). This initiative was financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation, for poverty reduction and sustainable development activities in 10 countries of Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe, from Afghanistan to Belarus.

This 3-year programme from the “Mede-Financierings Programma” brought many new and experienced partners into the WECF network, including some with an extensive experience in setting up sustainable sanitation systems and community run water associations. In total, WECF received project proposals from 40 partners, of which almost 35 passed the selection processes and were financed.

The results were that more than 20,000 people in low income rural areas obtained access to safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation systems. The capacity of more than 100 local trainers was built up, and information regarding the lessons learned and policy recommendations were pre-

sented at 4 high-level policy conferences organised by WECF and its partners. This involved more than 400 people including ministers of environment and members of parliament.

Even more than the impressive figures, I would like to highlight the quantitative results of the ELA programme. Innovative partnerships and coalitions were built, all with the aim of reducing poverty and improving environmental health, especially that of poorer rural communities, with women often playing a leading role in mobilizing communities and demonstrating alternative solutions.

The safe energy and climate protection working group developed an outstanding capacity building programme for the Caucasus and Central Asian region, to demonstrate how development and poverty reduction should go hand in hand with climate protection. Exchanges and training sessions on renewable energy policies, technical issues and demonstrations on adapting solar and biogas technologies to the climate and market conditions in rural areas of the region, took place in Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Germany.

The very cold winters, with regular energy cuts even in the capital cities of some Central Asian countries, have made this issue even more urgent. Schools are often in a very bad condition, with children being exposed to fumes from dirty fuels burned in smoky stoves in their classrooms. In many rural areas, children have to bring firewood to class if they are to be taught during the winter. A calculation shows that heating schools is a great burden for local municipalities, with an average cost of 800 euro per classroom per winter.

In one particular school, in a refugee village in Armenia, we have carried out a feasibility study for a new, renewable based, heating system, which

showed that a combination of good insulation and solar water collectors linked to an underground reservoir would be a good solution. We are still looking for additional funding to implement this project. WECF cooperated with the German non-profit company “Atmosfair” in developing a proposal for funding via the Clean Development Mechanism, to install 3000 energy efficient heating and cooking stoves in Tajikistan. However, the barriers in the CDM mechanism for small projects which save less than 15.000 tons of CO2 equivalent per year, are great, which is why WECF and Atmosfair have also submitted a proposal to UNFCCC for a simplified CDM mechanism for small projects.

The Ministry of Environment of Germany co-funded this programme from a budget, which is fed by the revenues of its Emissions Trading Scheme.

The safe food and sustainable rural development working group was an active participant in “Planet Diversity”, the citizens event with 1000 women and men in preparation of the COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity. WECF members from Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Germany and France organised workshops, exhibitions on protection of old agricultural varieties, and co-produced a documentary on “women and diversity”. During the negotiations itself, they hosted the women’s caucus and took part in the meeting of the network of women environmental ministers and leaders.

The safe chemicals and health working group merits great praise for its toxic toy campaign carried out before the European Parliament vote on the revision of the European Toys Safety Directive. With public toy testing events in 4 European cities, where concerned parents could test their children’s toys, indicatively, on the presence of formaldehyde or flame-retardants, and a policy paper with concrete proposed changes for the directive, they reached thousands of citizens and politicians. Unfortunately,

the final version of the toys directive remains weak on protection of our children from hazardous chemicals. They also had an excellent first year of their campaign on raising awareness in Eastern Europe regarding the great potential health risks resulting from the widespread use of chrysotile asbestos. This very common building material, has been an important and difficult issue. The aggressive chrysotile asbestos industry lobby has been trying to portray WECF member organisations as being dangerous to national interests. Finally, the nesting campaign, which works on raising the awareness of new parents on a safe and healthy environment for their child, was extended to a 7th language version, Spanish, and received 20,000 interested visitors. This allowed WECF to warn parents about hazardous chemicals in indoor air and children’s products, while at the same time providing a platform to dialogue with industry on safe products and fast substitution of chemicals such as phthalates, brominated flame retardants and biocides.

All in all 2008 was a year of highlights in all respects. As I will be leaving my position as president of the board in 2009, after 15 years involvement (from the very start of WECF up to today) with a vibrant, innovative and growing network, I can only say that I am very grateful to see where WECF stands today. I want to thank all the excellent member organisations, partners, staff and volunteers, without whom this would not have been possible.

Marie Kranendonk
Founder WECF



Sascha Gabizon | Executive Director WECF

“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

“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.”



Anne Barre | WECF France director

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



Sabine Bock | Director Germany

“We need two eyes to see straight,” says an old chinees 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.”



Sonja Haider | Chemicals Coordinator

“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.”

Visions, strategies and goals

Our Conviction:

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.

WECF is an international network of women, environment and health organisations, implementing projects in 40 countries, and advocating globally for a healthy environment for all.

WECF was officially registered in 1994. WECF has three coordinating offices managing network, projects and finances in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in Munich, Germany and a third office was opened in Annemasse, 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 –

Mission – Working for a Healthy Environment for All: WECF's mission is to safeguard our and our children's future by creating a healthy environment for all. We use women's potential in balancing environment, health and economy. Our network's activities are based on our 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.

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 takes 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

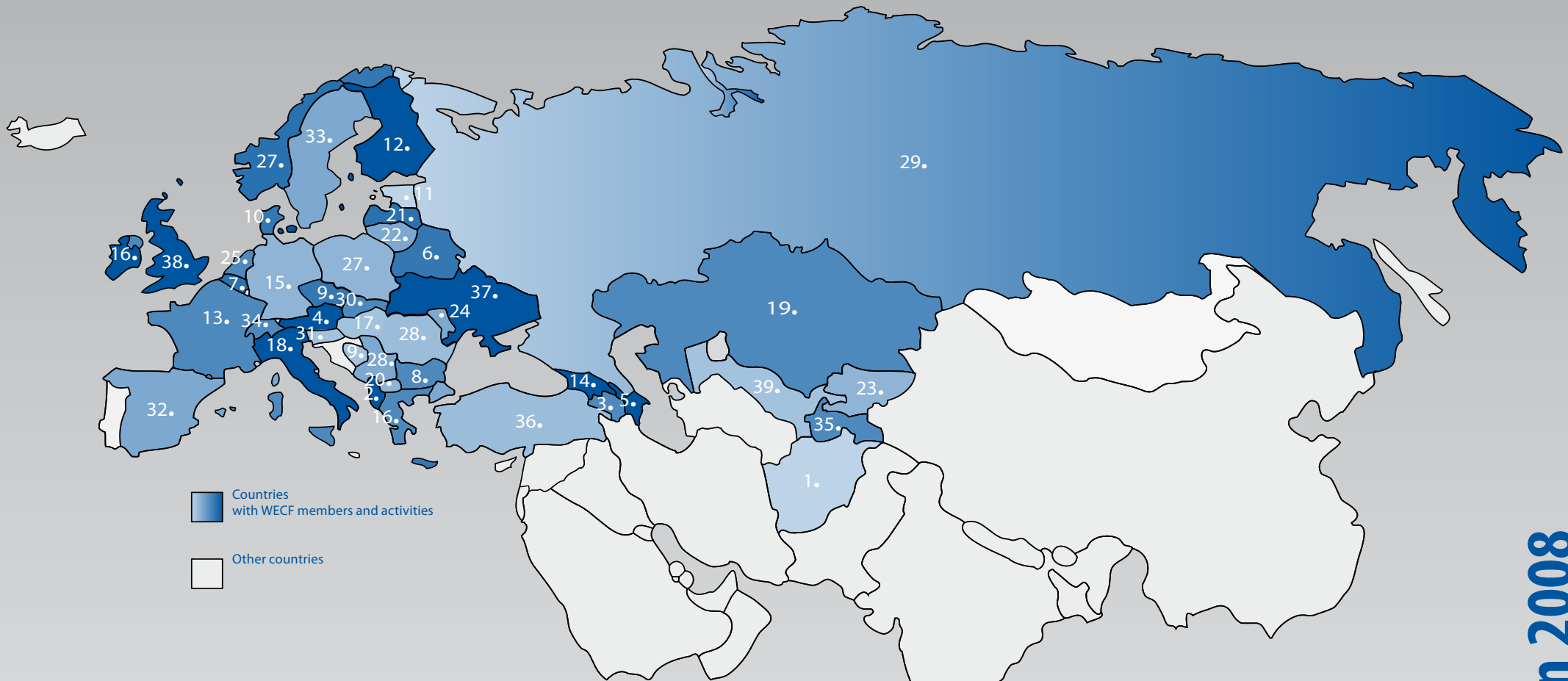
- From local to global: WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally by presenting their experience and recommendations to policy makers.
- WECF is looking for practical, innovative and cost-effective solutions always using local structures, capacities, know how, material, women and men power
- WECF is striving for dialogue by involvement of multi-stakeholders in its activities
- WECF is strengthening decentralised structures, local and regional markets

Responsible civil societies

- WECF encourages an interrelated transfer of knowledge and capacities between West and East, North and South
- WECF promotes professionalism and competence
- WECF does not accept any compromise on our and our children's health based on economic reasons

WECF's work worldwide

WECF and its members bring their policy recommendations and lessons learned to international policy makers and into global policy processes. WECF cooperates in capacity building of international women's organisations and environmental organisations. WECF has Ecosoc status with the United Nations and is an accredited partner of UNEP (UN Environment Programme), where it is elected to serve at the Major Groups Facilitation Committee for the Women's Major Group. WECF is a founding member of the Rotterdam Convention NGO alliance, is an active member of the Network of Environmental Ministers and Leaders, is active in the UN WATER task force on gender and water, and an active member of the Climate Alliance Network (CAN).



Countries with WECF members and activities
 Other countries

Afghanistan	1	France	13		
Albania	2	Georgia	14		
Armenia	3	Germany	15		
Austria	4	Greece	16		
Azerbaijan	5	Hungary	17	Netherlands	25
Belarus	6	Italy	18	Norway	26
Belgium	7	Kazakhstan	19	Poland	27
Bulgaria	8	Macedonia	20	Romania	28
Czech Republic	9	Latvia	21	Russian Federation	29
Denmark	10	Lithuania	22	Slovakia	30
Estonia	11	Kyrgyzstan	23	Slovenia	31
Finland	12	Moldova	24	Spain	32
				Sweden	33
				Switzerland	34
				Tajikistan	35
				Turkey	36
				Ukraine	37
				United Kingdom	38
				Uzbekistan	39



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 achievement of 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 breast cancer, 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 WECF network see it as a priority to strengthen health and environmental policies that will protect citizens, and in particular, vulnerable groups such as children, women and the elderly. 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?

Serious inequalities persist in both Europe and EECCA countries (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia), in terms of health, pollution, welfare and living conditions. Now that the barriers between the East and West have disappeared it is time for the West to take up its responsibility and assist the East with sustainable development. Challenges in the new EU member states and neighbouring countries. Health problems and poverty in rural areas persist and in some areas are worsening due to a disintegration of basic services and lack of environmental resource management. The WHO indicates that child mortality caused by water borne diseases in the EECCA region are high with 14,000 children dying each year. Lack of safe 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 play-

grounds 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.

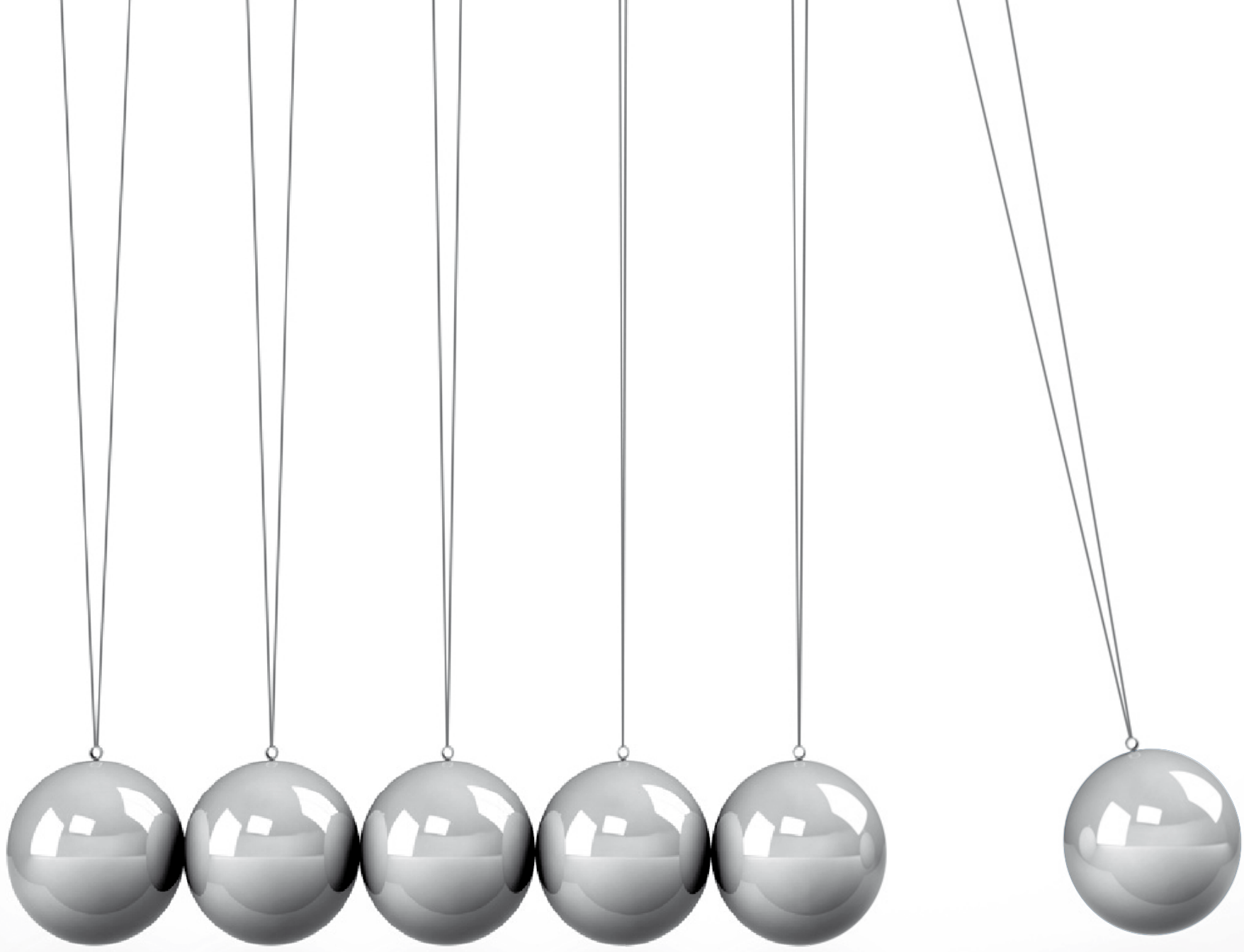
Challenges in the European Union

In the European Union the health effects of environmental pollution are often underestimated and not sufficiently known. WECF’s work on developmental disorders of children, linked to prenatal 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 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, and WECF is deeply engaged in bringing innovative solutions to rural areas at low cost.

WECF France

On March 31 2008, WECF opened a new office in France. The impetus behind this was the rapidly growing interest of French public opinion and political decision makers in environmental issues, which called for the “Grenelle de l’Environnement”, a national open debate organised by the government with local authorities, trade unions, industry representatives, and the civil society.

WECF’s objective was to strengthen links with important French NGO partners such as MDRGF, ARTAC, Greenpeace and members of the Alliance pour la Planète, but also with the French institutions. The creation of WECF France attracted much media interest as the first NGO in the City of International Solidarity an NGO center which was opened by the city of Annemasse, near Geneva, and benefiting from the vicinity of all International Organizations with whom WECF works (UNO, UNEP, WHO, IPCC etc. . .) WECF France focussed this year on establishing partnerships with local and regional actors: signing a convention with the University of Savoie and Lycée Jean Monnet in Annemasse to send 4 engineer students specialised in renewable electrical energy to Georgia for 4 months traineeship. Highlight was the development of the Nesting project in France, which responds closely to the French national Health and Environment Plan priorities of addressing indoor air pollution, and especially protecting pregnant women and infants against chemical pollutants. During the broader WECF advocacy campaign on the Toys Directive revised by the European parliament, WECF France organised a live toys testing and awareness raising action in Paris-Beaubourg, demonstrating the presence of hazardous chemicals in many toys and demanding for stricter European legislation. The action was broadcasted on regional and national television and published in national newspapers.



Advocacy Activities in 2008

Location: Luxembourg
Donor: DG Environment
Contact: Sonja.haider@wecf.eu

European Environment and Health Action Plan – Consultative Forum Luxembourg

On December 18th 2008, the European Commission organised one consultative meeting on the European Environment and Health Action Plan, to update stakeholders on activities since 2007, and obtain input for future activities, as the current environment and health action plan ends in 2010. WECF participated with 2 persons, the executive director and the president of the board of trustees. The European Commission adopted in 2003 an EU Strategy on Environment and Health, with the overall aim to reduce diseases caused by environmental factors in Europe. This was followed up by the European Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010.

Presentations were given on ongoing programmes of the European Commission and programmes financed by the European Commission, amongst other presenting the new indoor air quality website: <http://iaq.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/index.cfm> The European Commission DG environment reported that a large scale Human biomonitoring programme – to monitor environmental pollutants in European populations – which had been submitted for funding, had been refused, to everyone's great dismay. Commented that this of such importance, that it should get structural funding support. Recommendations from the forum, among others from WECF, included that:

- Human biomonitoring activities should continue in a clear and comprehensive way and should be linked to the EU Health Examination Survey; the focus should be on its use for policy making.

The process should become formal by establishing an Advisory Group of EU Experts

- A Green Paper should be developed on indoor air quality, and include the relation to energy performance of buildings and harmonisation of indoor material emission labelling schemes in EU should be elaborated.
- Nanomaterials and Chemical mixtures should be a key area of funding, research and cooperation
- A new "Environment & Health Action Plan 2010-2015" should be developed, as environmental health needs more policy priority. Sufficient resources should be ensured as stressed in the EU Parliament Resolution, and not solely for climate change and health.
- The new Action Plan should be presented in the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in February 2010 in Parma.

Healthy Schools Programme

WECF has initiated the "healthy schools" programme, which has started in the 2 pilot countries Greece and Bulgaria. The Healthy Schools programme involved 3 schools whose pupils have a training manual on the policy process of the "Children's Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe" – CEHAPE. The CEHAPE develops actions in four "regional priority goals" (RPGs), in particular RPG 1 on diseases linked to water pollution and sanitation, RPG 2 on diseases linked to accidents, RPG 3 on diseases linked to indoor and outdoor air pollution, and RPG 4 on diseases linked to chemical pollutants. In 2008, the Bulgarian school from Stara Zagora, as part of the project of WECF and Earth Forever Foundation, presented the work of students on drinking water quality monitoring (RPG1) to the Ministry of Environment. Two schools from Greece organised a conference on a healthy indoor environment (RPG3). For further information contact:

diskreva@earthforever.org (Bulgaria) or
desk@cleanupgreece.org.gr (Greece)

Location: Madrid
Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+
Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

Our children have the right to a healthy environment

On 22-24 October, the second high-level preparatory meeting towards the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health and the executive session of the European Environment and Health Committee (EEHC) took place in Madrid, Spain.

The European ECO Forum was represented by Sascha Gabizon (WECF, Coordinator of Environment and Health Issue Group at European ECO Forum), Sonja Haider (WECF), Iulia Trombitcaia (Eco-Accord, Russia) and Emma Anakhasyan (Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO). The Second High-Level Meeting addressed CEHAPE Regional Priority Goals III and IV.

It was preceded by the International Public Health Symposium which provided the opportunity to learn about the most recent research. The major new issues raised by the symposium were endocrine disruptors and the effect of the chemicals cocktail.

NGO session

During the Second High-Level Plenary, the European ECO Forum and the Health and Environment Alliance organized an NGO session to present experience of NGOs working on RPGIV in the region. Sonja Haider, WECF, spoke about the "Nesting" project. Diana Smith, HEAL, presented the Chemical Health Monitor project and the Collaborative on Health and Environment. Iulia Trombitcaia, Eco-Accord, spoke about the work of Eco-Accord and other EECCA NGOs to address chemical safety issues in the region and presented the asbestos project. Emma Anakhasyan, Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO, presented



Our children have the right to a healthy environment

the project on human bio monitoring. At the NGO session, Sascha Gabizon (WECF/ Eco-Forum) and Monica Guarinoni (HEAL) presented possible NGO contribution to the ministerial conference. In particular, Ministers-NGO roundtable in the official programme of the ministerial conference; CEHAPE Awards. NGOs also asked for 100 badges for participation in the ministerial conference and encouraged all delegations to include at least 1 health and 1 environmental NGO delegate on their delegations. We also encouraged delegations to organize national NGO consultation meetings for the Fifth Ministerial Conference.

Location: Europe, UK, the Netherlands
Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+
Contact: chantal.vandenbossche@wecf.eu; helen.lynn@wecf.eu

Is chemical exposure the missing link factor in breast cancer?

20-Page publication by WECF

Mounting evidence points to exposure to environmental contaminants as a major concern in relation to rising cases of breast cancer. To inform the public on the link between breast cancer and the environment WECF issued a brochure both in English and Dutch. In the Netherlands WECF issued the brochure "borstkanker en milieu – naar een preventief beleid" (Breast cancer and the environment – towards a policy of prevention) together with three other major women's and environment organizations: Foundation Ecobaby, Foundation Vrouw en Milieu and Platform Gezondheid & Milieu. The 20 page publication explores the politics of prevention and asks why primary prevention is being ignored in favour of an unsustainable and costly epidemic. To raise awareness, flyers were handed out at a breast cancer march in Amsterdam during October's

WECF staff handing out the brochure on breast cancer and the environment to visitors of the 6th European Breast Cancer Conference in Berlin, April 2008



breast cancer month, a press release was issued and articles were written for various magazines and trade journals, including the magazines of the network of female doctors and the network of beauticians. The president of the network of female medical doctors showed interest in organising with WECF an experts workshop for her network on environmental links with breast cancer. A prominent member of the female doctor's network, Em. Prof. Janna Koppe, neonatologist, wrote an article for the National Council of Women's Newsletter on the links between breast cancer and health, together with WECF president Marie Kranendonk. Prof. N.van Larebeke, oncologist of Ghent University Hospital, BE, will speak at the female Doctor's workshop in the Netherlands about the environmental causal influence on breast cancer.

Berlin To highlight the neglecting of environmental risk factors by the medical establishment, WECF organised a meeting for the press and attendees of the European Breast Cancer conference in Berlin in April 2008. Environmental pollution has only just started to surface in terms of its links with prevention and conference attendees were on the whole very receptive towards WECF's message.. WECF asked at the 6th European Breast Cancer Conference in Berlin (EBCC6) for a strategy on primary prevention of breast cancer (see below)

European resolution WECF has long advocated at EU level for a strategy on the primary prevention of breast cancer. And finally, in April 2008 the European Parliament passed an important resolution on combating cancer, with an overwhelming majority of MEPs agreeing to amendments proposed by Green MEP Caroline Lucas, to highlight the environmental causes behind the disease. This was considered to be a landmark decision and seen as a recognition of the fact that environmental causes like pollution and chemical contamination must be considered in any strategy to combat cancer.

Location: Riga, Latvia
Donor: Ministry of Environment Netherlands, European Commission DG Environment
Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

Training on Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument (HeRWAI)

- a new practical tool for NGO's who want to promote human rights in women's health work. On 14/15 June 2008 WECF organised a training with the aim to introduce HeRWAI, the Health Rights of Women Assessment Instrument developed by Aim for human rights, an international NGO based in the Netherlands. HeRWAI is a practical tool for organisations that want to promote human rights in their women's health work. **The aim of working with HeRWAI is to increase the organisation's capacity to apply human rights principles and particularly women's health rights in its work in a strategic way.**

The Workshop The workshop itself took place in Riga, following the Third Meeting of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, and was held by **Marije Neederveen** from *Aim for human rights* and **Corine Otte** from *Women's Global Network on Reproduc-*



Participants of the HeRWAI training in Riga/Latvia

tive Rights. Twelve people (WECF partners) from nine different organisations from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia participated in the training. Starting with a general introduction and an overview regarding human rights on the first day, the trainers highlighted their relevance for the daily work of the participants' organisations. On the second day HeRWAI itself was introduced which was followed by a discussion of the HeRWAI steps one by one. Afterwards each participant chose one special focus for the HeRWAI study that contributes to the work of her organisation. This subject built the basis for the development of a work plan in order to reach agreement within the organisation on their own and others' roles for the HeRWAI analysis and follow-up activities.

Follow-up All participants enjoyed the HeRWAI training and expressed their interest in working on a HeRWAI analysis. However, it was noted that a Russian version of HeRWAI would be helpful to use the instrument more widely in the region. WECF funded the translation which is now available. Thus, the work with HeRWAI can now begin to develop more broadly. This will entail an effective change of health policies and will contribute to the improvement of women's health rights in the EECCA region.

Member of the European Parliament and the European Commission listen to speeches by scientist on the hazardous effects toxic substances may have on the development of young children, during a WECF Expert Meeting in Brussels, October 2008



Location: European Parliament, Brussels

Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+

Contact: sonja.haider@wecf.eu

Proposal EU toy directive leaves children exposed to toxics

WECF organised an expert meeting at the European Parliament, as parliamentarians prepared to vote on a revision of a 20 year old Toys Safety Directive.

Last summer a string of scandals concerning recalls of large numbers of toys gained a lot of attention in the media, culminating in the worldwide recall of millions of toys after products had been found with too high levels of lead in their paint. WECF organized an expert meeting in September 2008 as the European Commission DG Enterprise was at the time working on a revision of the European Toys Directive. Based on recent scientific research, WECF and its members believe that the Toys Directive proposal did not effectively protect children from exposure to well-known dangerous chemicals. Marie Jeanne Husset, director of the French state institute of consumer affairs (Institut National de la Consommation) said: "We were shocked when we found out in one of our product tests that toys that are meant to be sucked on by small children were full of nitrosamine, which is an extremely carcinogenic chemicals. One of the brands even carried the CE marking".

Minimum allowed levels would allow children to eat a gram of carcinogens.

WECF published recommendations on how to improve the Toys Safety Directive. The proposed toys directive will still allow carcinogenic chemicals in toys, following a number of exceptions. Dr Brügemann of the German TÜV, said,

"No carcinogenic chemicals have a place in toys, to protect our children we should have a full ban of CMRs in toys". He added: "Allowing a concentration of CMR's of 0.1 % as is mentioned in the proposal is still one thousand times higher than the legal limit for the food packaging according to the Food Directive. Allowing 0,1% would mean that on toy of 1 kilogram, the child could be exposed to a gram of carcinogens, which is really an incredible high amount, in case of some carcinogens (category 3) even 1% would be allowed, which would mean 10 grams. These substances are so extremely dangerous that I would not even allow my second year university students to handle them in class. How can we let our children touch and play with them!". Dr. Henrik Leffers, head of the department of growth and reproduction of the University Hospital in Copenhagen presented the results of a health research showing that baby boys who had been exposed during pregnancy to phthalates, a hormone disrupting chemical, had more chances to develop hipospadias, an incurable penis malformation. To this day no common European labeling system exists that allows parents to make informed choices and avoid toys which can harm their children's health. Fragrances added to toys are another serious hazard. Eva Eiderström, director of the eco-labeling department of the Swedish Society of Nature Conservation said: "In our work with producers and consumers in the last 20 years we see that producers are glad if you give them strict and clear rules, we need to set a full exclusion of allergenic fragrances in toys. Allergies for fragrances are lifelong; you never grow out of it, once you have it". Eiderström and Bruggeman advocated both the use of the precautionary principle: "For our children's health the Toys Directive should be at least as strict as the European Food Directive, as toys parts can break off and be ingested".

Location: Brussels

Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+

Contact: sonja.haider@wecf.eu

WECF lunch event at European Parliament on developmental harm to children

WECF organised a lunch event on developmental harm to children caused by low-dose exposure to hazardous chemicals in daily life, at the European Parliament in October 2008. **European children's brains and reproductive organs are at risk from hazardous chemicals if European Parliament does not improve proposed legislation on pesticides, toys, cosmetics and chemicals, according to WECF.**

The meeting aimed to highlight the latest science on the connection between children's health problems and chemicals found in children's food and products, as European parliamentarians were preparing to vote on a revision of the Pesticide Directive, the Cosmetics Directive and the Toys Safety Directive. Dorette Corbey, Member of European Parliament and member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food safety, hosted the meeting. Professor Philippe Grandjean,

adjunct professor of Environmental Health at Harvard University and expert on children's environmental health and Professor Niels Skakkebaek, specialized in environmental aspects of male reproductive disorders, at the University Hospital, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, were invited to give presentations.

With regard to banning chemicals, Professor Grandjean recommended the European Parliamentarians to add the E of Endocrine Disrupting, and the N of Neurotoxic to the CMR of Carcinogenic, Mutagenic and Reprotoxic, CMREN; they should all be substituted - "especially in a product like cosmetics, there should be no need for any neurotoxins; cosmetics are supposed to make you pretty, not stupid". Sascha Gabizon, WECF's Executive Director, commented during the meeting that, "as a mother, she has seen a great number of pieces broken off toys, and that we cannot expect from children that they will use toys according to the handbook, we should apply the precautionary principle and not allow any carcinogenic or other known dangerous chemicals in toys".

The publication is available at <http://www.wecf.eu/english/articles/2008/10/developmentalharm-children.php>

Location: Germany, Munich; Netherlands, Utrecht; France, Paris
Donor: EU DG Environment Life+
Contact: sonja.haider@wecf.eu

Toys Campaign Europe

Tremendous press attention for 3 toys actions "Spoilsports! Let's get rid of toxic toys!"

Is my teddy safe? Should I let my daughter play with that wooden puzzle? WECF was able to answer those questions posed by children and their parents on the spot as experts carried out chemical tests in a public toys actions in Germany, France and the Netherlands which attracted a lot of media attention – right at the start of Christmas shopping. The French newspaper "le Monde", the first TV station in Germany "ARD", the commuter papers "METRO" in both the Netherlands and France, the Dutch newspaper "TROUW", and the national evening news television channel "France 3", are a few of the media which covered the toys actions.

As a counterpart to its advocacy work on the Toys Directive, WECF wanted to focus on public participation and get consumers involved by

Toys action at the Town Hall Bridge in Utrecht

Toys action at the Marienplatz in Munich

French TV filming during Toys Action in Paris



making them aware of the problem and of their power to get informed and insist on safer products.

Results during the actions and proposed solutions

WECF invited 2 laboratories to come and test toys which parents brought along, showing how most of those toys contained among others the class-3 carcinogen formaldehyde, and often also solvents, benzene, and halogenated substances, likely brominated flame-retardants. WECF invited also medical experts who advised on preventative measures parents can take. Some experts suggested not to keep toys in the same room as where the children sleep, others to let the toys remain outside on a balcony for at least a week, or longer, to allow some of the dangerous substances to leach out. Others recommended to avoid electronic toys of unknown brands which do not have a policy of substituting dangerous chemicals. And it was also recommended to prefer hard-plastic over soft-plastic, to avoid phthalates. Many dolls which have been tested by consumer organisations such as the German Ökotest have found to contain phthalates. Furthermore, it was suggested not to buy toys made of ply-wood, but only of solid wood, as the glues used for many wooden puzzles, for example, emit formaldehyde.

The ILO estimates that asbestos causes 100,000 deaths globally every year, in Eastern Europe it is still the main building material



WECF organised the NGO action at COP4 of the Rotterdam Convention in Rome

Location: Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine
Donor: Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, The Netherlands
Contact: alexandra.caterbow@wecf.eu

Asbestos – Increasing awareness in Eastern Europe to strengthen the Rotterdam Convention

Asbestos is banned in most industrialised countries: yet it is the biggest occupational killer worldwide. The ILO estimates that asbestos causes 100,000 deaths globally every year through occupational exposure alone. And the WHO estimates that currently 125 million people are being occupationally exposed to asbestos. While global production and application of asbestos are decreasing due to convincing statistical evidence of the growing incidence of asbestos-induced diseases, the EECCA region is not part of this trend. Instead, EECCA mining companies (especially in Russia and Kazakhstan) currently produce the majority of the worldwide amount of chrysotile asbestos. So far there has been little or no awareness of the dangers of asbestos in these regions. People were told that Russian or Kazakh chrysotile asbestos is different and therefore not dangerous at all. Tests show that this is not true.

Activities on national level

To eliminate this lack of information as well as misinformation, WECF developed this project together with EcoCenter (Russia), Mama-86 (Ukraine) and

Greenwomen (Kazakhstan). Shedding some light on the very un-transparent situation, WECF produced fact sheets for each country and a very detailed inventory on asbestos in the EECCA region. This was the first in depth independent collection of information related to asbestos in these three countries. Based on this information the project partners held multi-stakeholder workshops in their countries to spread the new findings and to raise awareness on this serious but hitherto ignored issue.

Advocacy work on international level

Kazakhstan, the Ukraine and Russia are major players in hindering asbestos to be included under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention. This obliges countries to give their prior informed consent before exporting or importing asbestos. At the Conference of the Parties in 2008 WECF and its project partners attended COP4 to advocate for an inclusion of asbestos. Together with more than 100 other NGOs worldwide WECF founded the Rotterdam Convention Alliance (ROCA) for coordinated and more efficient advocacy work. Yet this year the Parties have still failed to reach consensus on putting asbestos under jurisdiction of the Rotterdam Convention. The decision was postponed to the next COP in 2010.

Location: Rome, Bucharest, Dakar
Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Environment
Contact: Sonja.Haider@wecf.eu

SAICM

International Chemicals Management

Women in Europe for a Common Future follows the international policy process "Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management" (SAICM). SAICM was adopted at the International Conference on Chemical Management in Dubai in 2006. The objective of the strategic approach is to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimise adverse effects on human health and the environment.

WECF participation at SAICM

In February WECF participated at the EU-JUS-CANNZ-meeting, (Europe, Japan, USA, Canada and New Zealand). Countries reported their progress and discussed the conference programme for the second Session International Conference on Chemicals Management, (ICCM2). In September, WECF participated in the Central

Representatives of 11 European environmental organizations present the SIN list in Brussels (picture by Anya van Lith)*



and Eastern European Region meeting in Bucharest, Romania, which was set up to discuss the specific chemicals issues facing this region. In October an open-ended legal and technical working group for the preparation for the ICCM2 was organized in Rome. WECF stressed the importance of industry contributions to funding international chemicals management, since they are the producers of (often hazardous) chemicals.

WECF participation at the IFCS

Three staff members of WECF participated at the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS). The IFCS is an open, transparent and inclusive forum for discussing issues of common interest and also new and emerging issues in the area of sound management of chemicals. Nevertheless the future of the IFCS is under heavy pressure, as funders and key governments have left the scene. The agenda of IFCS included a discussion on the future, risks of nanotechnology, substitution, lead in paint, transport of lead and cadmium, and pesticides risk reduction strategies.

Location: Brussels
Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Environment, EU DG Env
Contact: Sonja.Haider@wecf.eu

Reach SIN List Consumers need information about most hazardous chemicals in products

One of the most important pieces of European legislation for consumers is REACH - Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals. Chemicals can be found as ingre-

dients in products ranging from toys to furniture, cosmetics and health care products to electronics. In June 2007, this new EU policy on chemicals, entered into force. Over the next decade thousands of chemicals manufactured or imported into the EU will have to be registered with the newly established European Chemicals Agency, ECHA.

One of the main parts of REACH is the authorisation procedure for "substances of very high concern" as defined in the legislation, such as those that may cause cancer or persist in our bodies for a long time. Already known hazardous substances will be collected on a so-called "candidate list" of chemicals, and then have to be prioritized and put on the list of substances which need authorisation. The aim is to ban hazardous substances, or to limit them to non-relevant use for consumers, and thus minimise the negative effects on health and the environment.

So far only 16 of the 30,000 chemicals that fall within the scope of the new EU chemicals regulation have been officially proposed by EU Member States to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as substances of very high concern that need special permission to be used or that should be substituted with safer alternatives. 11 European environmental organisations, including WECF, have drawn up a scientifically based and complete alternative list of Substances of Very High Concern. This list, also called the "Substitute it Now" (SIN*) list was presented in September to the public in Brussels. European consumers want to make good use of the new European Chemicals legislation REACH, but they can only do so if they have the right instrument, which is this "candidate list". If that list only contains 16 out of thousands of known dangerous chemicals, it is no longer an instrument but an impediment. WECF joined the coalition because the candidate list is potentially very useful for

the European consumer, for example, if parents want to buy a baby shampoo but does not want their newborn baby to be exposed to dangerous chemicals, they have the right to ask the retailer whether the dangerous substances listed on the official "candidate list" are in the shampoo. By law, the retailer is obliged to answer within 45 days.

Location: European Parliament Brussels, WECF NL
Donor: Netherlands Ministry of Environment, EU DG Env
Contact: Sonja.Haider@wecf.eu

Pesticides not only destroy insects' nervous system; children's as well

In autumn 2008, the European Parliament voted for stricter rules concerning pesticides. WECF sent a letter of concern to MEPS, produced a press release and an article in the Agrarisch Dagblad, the daily agricultural newspaper in the Netherlands written by WECF president Marie Kranendonk.

A study commissioned by the European Parliament and published in September revealed that farmers and their families are more at risk than others. Even before conception, during pregnancy, the development of the child can be harmed.

The report also indicated that cancer - particularly brain tumours and non-hodgkin's lymphomas - are relatively more common among children of farm workers. WECF's president Marie Kranendonk asked in her letter to the Dutch agrarian press: "Wouldn't it be in the interest of farmers themselves to ask for a stricter legislation on pesticides, which gives themselves, their families and employees a better protection against serious health risks?"

Access to Safe Sanitation – a Right for all EU citizens

Location: Brussels

Donor: European Commission DG Env. Life+

Contact: Claudia.wendland@wecf.eu

High-Level Policy Dialogue on EU Sanitation Policies and Practices in Brussels

To mark the beginning of the International Year of Sanitation and to put safe and affordable sustainable sanitation at the top of the European political agenda, WECF organised a policy dialogue in Brussels in January. Organised in co-operation with Global Water Partnership, the European Water Partnership, Coalition Clean Baltic and KIWA Research, the event aimed to raise awareness and to galvanize political will within the European Union on the safe management of wastewater for small rural settlements in the EU. The policy dialogue brought together representatives from different organisations, such as the EU Commission on Environment, scientific institutes on ecological sanitation, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, and Ministries on Environment, Health and Agriculture from the old and new EU Member States.

Not a priority

Dr. Ushi Eid, member of the German Bundestag and Vice-Chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), who chaired the seminar, opened the dialogue by stating that sanitation is not only a public health issue: "It is also a social investment". Unfortunately safe sanitation has not been a priority of EU policy makers so far. Ushi Eid: "DG Water focuses on distribution of proper drinking water, DG Sanco focuses on the health risks, and DG Environment focuses on the environmental risks of polluted ground water. A clear water management with clear links between health

ministries, environmental ministries and agricultural ministries is urgently needed."

Millennium Development Goals in the EU

Safe and affordable sanitation for all citizens of the European Union should be a top priority, according to WECF. The European Union should work together with NGOs, charitable funds and governments in setting the priorities for reaching the Millennium Development Goals on Sanitation, also in the European Union. New affordable and sustainable approaches towards sanitation are needed in the EU. In many rural settlements levels of poverty are such that inhabitants have difficulties feeding their families. Sanitation is therefore, understandably, not a priority. Especially as the usual alternative in richer parts of the world, a central sewage system, is very expensive. WECF's sanitation coordinator Margriet Samwel urges the wider use of safe and sustainable sanitation alternatives "WECF and its Bulgarian and Romanian members build ecological demonstration toilets. These dry toilet facilities separate the urine and sanitize the faecal matter. This is one of a number of modern low cost approaches, which provide an immediate solution to the health and environmental problems related to sanitation in rural areas in Eastern Europe".

Location: Stockholm

Donor: European Commission DG Env. Life+

Contact: margriet.samwel@wecf.eu

WECF organised Stockholm World Water Week Seminar

WECF drew worldwide attention to the fact that more than 20 million Europeans lack safe sanitation, during a seminar at the Stockholm World Water Week.

A lack of safe sanitary facilities leading to water pollution and disease is still a daily reality for 20 to 23 million citizens within the EU's borders. In some EU member states, like Romania, almost 40% of the population does not have access to safe sanitation. According to Sascha Gabizon, International Director of WECF, in her opening speech at the seminar addressing Europe's sanitation problem, the situation is worse than most people, especially Europeans, can imagine: "I visited a school which had puddles of urine all over the place. The children preferred to defecate out in the open, behind the school building. The pit latrines were overflowing". She concluded: "Children in our region still die because of bad sanitation. Safe sanitation should therefore be a priority issue of health, dignity and human rights".

Sick people cannot work

Helmut Bloech of the European Commission agreed and said that the WECF seminar showed that we face a major problem in Europe: "Lack of sanitation is not only a health problem, it is affecting our competitiveness. Sick people cannot work and better sanitation makes people healthier and more productive" Especially in the new member states of the EU a great number of people are deprived of decent sanitation. Even in the ideal situation, if the EU Waste Water

Directive were fully implemented, 20 million people would still have to use open pit latrines as the EU Directive on waste water treatments does not give an incentive to make rural sanitation a priority, as it focuses on larger municipalities. According to WECF safe sanitation should be a right for all Europeans, an obligation which the European Commission should set.

Safe and affordable toilets for all

The WECF seminar, which was attended by HRH the Prince of Orange, in his function as chair of UNSGAB, showed why with current policies and practices, it seems impossible to provide safe sanitation for all citizens of the European Union. Representatives of the European Commission, the Swedish Parliament, NGOs, leading scientists and representatives of governments debated on the barriers in legislation and markets for innovative decentralized wastewater technologies. Every year the water sector meets in Stockholm at the World Water Week. WECF is part of the Water Week Programme providing key experts on low cost sustainable ecological sanitation for rural areas and with a seminar on Europe's sanitation problems.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange listening to speeches from participants during the WECF Seminar in Stockholm (picture by: Bogdan Macarol)



Location: Moldova, (Chisinau)

Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MATRA Program

Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

High level Moldova Dniestr River Conference 2008

The International Conference “Transboundary Dniester River Basin Management and the EU Water Framework Directive” in Chisinau, Moldova, on Oct. 2-3, 2008, gathered more than 150 scientists, politicians, specialists and NGOs from the transboundary Dniester River basin and abroad, representing 111 organisations. The Conference was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Moldova and Academy of Sciences of Moldova in partnership with WECF and financially supported inter alia by the MATRA Program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In her opening address WECF’s International Director Sascha Gabizon – emphasised the importance of common efforts to realise transboundary cooperation and strong public participation for a better management of the Dniester river basin, which are the basis for a sustainable improvement of the river water quality and consequently of standards of living. She explained that the ongoing project “Democratization of Dniester river basin governance” which focuses on a trans-boundary cooperation of local authorities, NGOs and citizen’s communities between Moldova, Transdnistria and Ukraine towards sustainable management of Dniester River Basin, is a further important step in this direction. Together with Anna Samwel – WECF field officer in Eastern Europe – she highlighted some strategic points based on WECF’s experience in other projects, which are also relevant for the Dniester Basin. As WECF’s indicative nitrate test-

ing of drinking water quality in Moldova, shows, groundwater used as drinking water is mostly polluted with nitrates. Therefore, better management of waste water and human excreta is important, not only to reduce infiltration into the river, but in particular to improve the health status of rural populations in the basin.

Sascha Gabizon also highlighted a particular risk which had been encountered during the baseline studies carried out along the tributaries to the Dniester River. Residents along the Zolota Lipa river in Ukraine had complained about a case of a dangerous store of fertilizer and pesticides located directly beside the river. The residents are very anxious about the closeness of the storage to the river and to the private houses as well as about the uncooperative procedure of the UK-based company, concerning the lease of the land and information policy.

Location: Bishkek

Donor: German Ministry of Environment, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

Contact: gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

High level conference in Bishkek

Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan geared towards improving basic hygiene and sanitation

With new technological innovations for humanitarian aid gaining media attention, it can be easy to lose sight of more simple, low-tech initiatives to address the most basic human needs. An international conference on Ecological Safety, held by WECF in November in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan called attention to a dangerous sanitation issue by offering an inspiring and feasible

solution. For the first time in Central Asia, the International Conference “Ecological Safety in the International Year of Sanitation” had ministers, parliamentarians, village teachers, and university professors speak about the prosaic but vital issue of safe management of human faeces and urine.

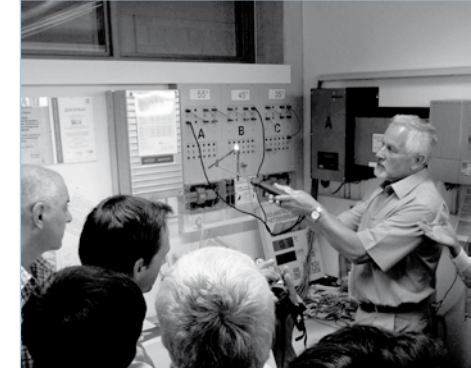
The problem is that international donors are still promoting pit latrines but most families can’t afford to pay for safe emptying of the pits. In humid climates like those found in Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe, the latrines can become dangerous as a result, often leaking and polluting puddles in nearby streets and gardens, leaking into streams or even leaching into groundwater. Contamination ruins an already-limited clean drinking water supply, and puts the local community, particularly children, at risk of bacterial disease.

A new and more sustainable sanitation system promises to change all this. According to Gero Fedtke, WECF’s coordinator for Central Asia, dry or low-flush urine diverting toilets, combined with natural filtration ponds to purify grey water from sinks and showers, is a much safer sanitation system that can be implemented at a cost similar to that of the latrines. **One major aim of the conference was to demonstrate the feasibility of this system on a local level, and to push for legislation that supports this and other sanitation systems that reuse nutrients and save water.** The 200 participants of the conference were invited to visit 3 demonstration projects showing how wastewater from kitchens and bathrooms was efficiently cleaned using a “soil filter,” a sealed pond in which sand and plants clean the wastewater to achieve the quality of bathing water. The participants also visited 2 different types of dry urine diverting toilets. The cost of the toilets vary between 200 and 450 Euro, including a was-

WECF energy training with solar collectors in Bishkek in November



Visit of the solar education centre in Munich during WECF energy training in June



ing facility and light, this is much cheaper than having to build a flush-toilet and connecting to a sewage system, which in most villages does not exist in any case. The cost of the soil filter for 5 people amounts to about 950 euro, also less expensive than connecting to a sewage system.

The WECF strategy is to first demonstrate the new sustainable sanitation systems “in a variety of small and large scale applications, from households to schools to entire villages.” This phase will rely on aid funding. “However, once their efficiency and cost benefits demonstrated, **we hope that all countries in the EECCA region will join the water and health protocol**, where performance based targets will be set, which would mean that pit latrines would no longer be an acceptable solution but instead a variety of other solutions would be made available. Our aim is that each household and school or other public building has access to a safe sanitation system.”

Location: Georgia
Donor: Dutch ministry of Foreign Affairs
Contact: anna.samwel@wecf.eu

Conference on Safe Water and Ecological Sanitation: Perspectives for Georgia

On World Toilet Day, 19 November, WECF partner organization Georgian Ecological and Biological Monitoring Organization (GEBMA) organized a high level conference on Sanitation and Water in the framework of the ELA project with financial support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. About 40 representatives from the Georgian Parliament, the Georgian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, WHO LOGE, different universities, research institutions, NGOs and laboratories were present. The President of the Academy of Preventive Medicine Sciences of Georgia, Academician, Irakli Phagava opened the conference together with Manana Juruli (GEBMA) and Anna Samwel (WECF). He read the welcoming word from Prof. Saal Gamcemlidze, Head of the Committee of Environmental and Natural Resources Protection of the Parliament of Georgia.

Aleksandre Mindorashvili from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection informed participants that no state monitoring of drinking water outside the big cities is carried out

in Georgia. Up until 2004 there were around 13.770 cases of water borne diseases connected with central water supply, thus excluding incidences with wells. Without intervention this will increase every year by 5 – 10%. After 2004 there are no data available because the responsible institutions are not working anymore. There are no plans from the Government known to the participants to improve the situation. WECF partners Green Movement, GEBMA and RCDA presented their activities on sanitation, water and solid waste management within the framework of the Empowerment and Local Action (ELA) Programme. They suggested practical solutions to Georgia's water and sanitation problems. GEBMA introduced the participants to the advantages of Ecological Sanitation versus conventional sanitation systems and highlighted the hygienic health risks. Dr. Inga Gvineria presented the WHO Guidelines on safe use of wastewater, excreta and greywater. The participants were very enthusiastic. The government representatives responded positively to the concept of ecological sanitation and the activities of WECF and the NGOs in the region. Conference participants agreed that the drinking water supply and sanitation sectors need more attention both from the public and the state authorities, who should work together to improve the current situation.

Location: Zaragoza, Spain
Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+
Contact: isabel.ripa@knet.es

Zaragossa 2008 Exhibition on Water and Sustainable Development

WECF was involved in the Zaragoza 2008 Exhibition on Water and Sustainable Development as member of the Council of "El Faro" (The Beacon), the Pavilion of the Citizens Initiatives. From 4 to 10 August 2008 the Faro was dedicated to the issue of

"Water and Vulnerable Groups". WECF was involved in "Women and Water Day" on 8 August, contributing to the debate with speakers like Svetlana Slesarenko from Ukraine MAMA-86 and Viviana Avendaño from WECF International Advisory Board, and Maria José Izquierdo from the Spanish organization Ayuda en Acción. WECF member Isabel Ripa moderated the debate.

Svetlana presented the campaigns implemented in Ukraine by MAMA-86 to raise awareness on the relationship between water and health, to support problems at local level and promote social involvement with a special focus on the role that women can play. Viviana, as expert on ecological sanitation (ecosan), provided information based on her experience in Germany and Latin America reflecting the gender perspective.

For more information please have a look at the FARO website: <http://www.elfaro2008.org/>

The second meeting of the European Regional Process (ERP) for the fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul took place on 8th and 9th July in Zaragoza (Spain). The programme included a sanitation workshop, coordinated by WECF and aimed at discussing the work and the steps that have already been taken as well as defining the Southern European contribution to the sanitation related sessions at the 5th World Water Forum.

A total of 10 participants took part in the workshop, including practitioners, donors, and academics from Italy, Spain, the UK, the Netherlands, France and the Czech Republic.

The objectives of the Workshop were: to identify the input of Southern Europe into the European Regional Process and into the 5th World Water Forum; to suggest recommendations to achieve better sanitation in Europe; to identify aspects in which Europe could contribute to achieve better sanitation worldwide; and to identify organizations willing to contribute to the sessions of the Forum in Istanbul.

Location: The Hague
Donor: private donors
Contact: doris.mueller@wecf.eu

WECF attracts funding via new online mini-grant portal

WECF contributes with 6 projects to Akvo.org, an online internet platform which is designed to make it easier to match funds to small-scale sanitation projects

Akvo launched its new system www.akvo.org during the Stockholm Water Week. 27 projects, of which 6 are initiated by WECF partners, are due to launch, to provide clean water and/or proper sanitation in communities all over the world.

Akvo is designed to make it much easier to match funds to smaller-scale projects - of between a thousand and twenty thousand euros.

Akvo is an open source software foundation that helps to provide clean water and proper sanitation to those who today have none. Founded in the Netherlands with staff on three continents, the organisation builds internet tools that help everyone share knowledge, match more projects to funds, and simplify reporting.

More information on WECF's projects at Akvo can be found on the [the akvo.org/blog](http://www.akvo.org/blog) on the internet.

Urgent Need to Address the Sanitation Crisis Worldwide

WECF became a member of the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA). The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) welcomed the launch of the International Year of Sanitation 2008 through the UN. SuaSanA is a coalition of more than 50 prominent multi and bilateral organisations, NGOs, businesses, governmental and research institutions active in the field of sustainable sanitation.



Presentation of WHO Guidelines on safe use of wastewater in Georgia

Location: Monaco
Donor: EC DG Environment
Contact: Sabine.Bock@wecf.eu, Sascha.Gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF's gender and rights perspective at the 10. UNEP Governing Council Meeting in Monaco

"Mobilizing finance for climate change"

WECF and UNEP organized a side event at the 10th special session of the UNEP Governing Council meeting entitled "Financing Climate Change from a gender and rights perspective", in Monaco, February 2008

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WEFCF organised a High-Level side event on "Financing climate change from a gender and rights perspective", on Thursday February 21, 2008 during the UNEP Governing Council Special Session in Monaco from 20-22 February 2008. Eleven Ministers of Environment and Development Cooperation took part, from Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Netherlands, Tanzania, South Africa, Sudan, Surinam, and Swaziland. High-level representatives of the Governments of Brazil, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, and Trinidad & Tobago, the African Union (AU), UNISDR and the UNFPA also joined in the discussions as well as civil society representatives. After the keynote presentation on "Missing links in financing climate change adaptation and mitigation" from gendercc – women for climate justice, the Ministers discussed very energetically with civil society representatives the gender aspects of three specific policy issues:

- 1.) Should nuclear energy be kept out of climate change programmes?
- 2.) How can climate funds empower women and the poor?
- 3.) Do we need criteria for bio-fuels to avoid negative social and gender effects?

WECF as chair of the women's group

WECF's executive director Sascha Gabizon was elected as representative of the women's major group. She chaired the daily women's caucus, which organized interventions and statements to the discussed issues during the official sessions and round tables like green and gender sensitive jobs in a climate-challenged world, which excludes jobs in branches like the nuclear or the asbestos industry. Special attention was given to the ban of mercury and gender justice in the climate debate and the call for gender criteria for Post-Kyoto mechanisms and regime. Nuclear has to be kept out of the new era.



Panel debate organised by WEFCF during High-Level side event on "Financing climate change from a gender and rights perspective", during the UNEP Governing Council Special Session in Monaco, February 2008

Location: New York
Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MFS
Contact: sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu

WECF partner Central Asian Alliance for Water (CAAW) presents work at CSD, New York

WECF network partner CAAW presented successful programs during an ecosanitation side event panel discussion at CSD 16 at the United Nations in New York. Zaragul Davlatyanova held a presentation on "Women Community Leaders Manage Rural Sanitation Programs in Central Asia"

During the meeting of the CSD-16 report of successful women's initiatives in the field of sanitation in Central Asia, WEFCF participated in a panel discussion of the United Nations Gender and Water Task Force. Zaragul Davlatyanova from Kyrgyzstan, representing the Central Asian Alliance for Water (CAAW) spoke about how women handle ownership in communities of Central Asia and get successful sanitation programmes off the ground, with particular focus on women and children. CAAW has provided access to water for over 80,000 people and has built ecosan toilets for over 400 households. Furthermore, half of the water committees in the region are women and as many as one third of the committees has a female president, an example of how private initiative can succeed if women take part in the creation of it.



Ministers of Environment and Development Cooperation from Benin, Cape Verde, Guinea, Iceland, Iraq, Netherlands, Tanzania, South Africa, Sudan, Surinam, and Swaziland, listening to panel debate in Monaco



Together with Gender-CC WECF held a greatly appreciated side event on „Women and climate change“

Location: Poznan, Poland
Donor: EC DG Environment, German Federal Ministry of Environment / GTZ
Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

Gender at UNFCCC

On 1 December WECF as part of Gender-CC (Women for Climate Justice) organized a side event regarding gender aspects in climate change: Gender Justice in Times of a Changing Climate.

The well-attended event was moderated by Minu Hemmati from Gender CC. Gotelind Alber gave a short overview about the relevance of bringing gender into the climate discussion.

Meike Spitzner pointed out the gender aspect in transport systems. Sharmind Neelormi from Jahangirnagar University spoke about the necessity to consider women's rights in terms of adaptation to climate change and the challenge of WECF was to bring in the gender aspect to bear on nuclear energy.

WECF's Claire Greensfelder made it very clear that women are closely connected to nuclear energy concerning the history of the technology as well as health issues. It has been women who found out first about the nuclear power and it has been women who first spoke out loud against this highly dangerous and inefficient

technology. Claire Greensfelder made it clear that using nuclear power is a highly unethical technology. In the process of mining mostly indigenous people are affected because they lose their land and suffer from health problems like cancer or tuberculosis. Running a nuclear system is highly dangerous and affects people living around the power plants. Further, the waste problem still remains unsolved.

Apart from that WECF participated in the Women Demonstration: Gender Justice is Climate Justice (through the corridors of UNFCCC) and attended their pressconference. Irene Dankelman, on behalf of WECF joined the Women's Caucus, with women from the gendercc network (Ulrike Roehr and many women from global South) and Cate Owren (WEDO) and Hanny Meesters (UNDP/GCCA).

“ More equity in Climate Protection”, the slogan which not only presented WECF's point of view but with which WECF was visible all throughout the climate negotiations and public actions in Poznan

Location: Poland, Poznan
Donor: EC DG Environment, German Federal Ministry of Environment/GTZ
Contact: Sabine.Bock@wecf.eu

UNFCCC Bonn, Poznan

Working for Climate Protection at the UNFCCC

The WECF delegation from 12 countries called for more equity in climate protection at the United Nations Climate Change Conference from 1 – 12 December in Poznan, Poland. WECF demanded pro-poor financial mechanisms (accessible for the poor), involvement of women as change-makers in climate change mitigation/adaptation and to keep nuclear out of the whole process. Information was provided at the WECF exhibition booth, two side events and several joint activities with partners. Special attention was given to the EECCA countries and the capacity building of partners of this region, new involved in the process. Svitlana Slesarenok, member of WECF's

International Advisory Board spoke at the closing session on behalf of the Women's Caucus.

Active participation – a selection

WECF presented proven successes to reduce energy poverty by sustainable energy from the EECCA region and highlighted together with the Women's Institute UK the importance of „women as changemakers“ at the joint side event with INFORSE, International Network for Sustainable Energy, on 6 December. On 11 December WECF shared the experiences from the region on „The need for better policies and practices to promote sustainable and renewable energies in Central Asia and the Caucasus as a solution to Climate Change“ and discussed how to bridge the gap between practice and policy. WECF gave also speaker contributions to side events of gendercc and Greenpeace. As a member of the German Climate Alliance WECF protested against Germany and Poland blocking the negotiations of the European Climate Change Package, worked as a member of CAN - Climate Action Network closely within this network, especially with

**More Equity
in Climate Protection !**

www.wecf.eu
Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF



„Don't nuke the climate“ has been an action of WECF together with WISE and Greenpeace, against Nuclear energy in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

CAN EECCA and was involved in several activities of the women's caucus.

WECF for alternatives to nuclear

WECF has been monitoring the issue of nuclear already since the last climate change negotiations. At the climate change talks in Bonn in June (28 Subsidiary Bodies) WECF organized the side event: "Nuclear energy: roadblock to climate protection". This time WECF together with other international organizations, issued and distributed widely a statement to keep Nuclear Energy out of Clean Development Mechanism as it had sneaked into the negotiations paper over the summer. Over 300 NGOs representing millions of individuals from 50 countries signed on the public appeal to keep the nuclear power option out of the climate talks. The press action in front of the conference entrance at the second week, brought the message to the international media: Keep nuclear energy out!

Location: Germany, main activities: in Berlin and Lausitz
Donor: EC DG Environment
Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

Energy conference Georgia & CAN, Atmosfair and other partnerships

Climate protection is a question of survival

WECF is an active member of the German Climate Alliance, which represents over 100 German civil society organizations concerned about climate change. One highlight of WECF and partners activities within the alliance was the climate change testimonial tour from the 9. - 13. of September 2008, raising awareness about the link between unsustainable German energy plans and the global effect of global warming.

The climate change testimonial tour: Save the climate – stop coal!

Nurzat Abdyrasulova from WECF member organization Unison in Kyrgyzstan came to Germany as a witness of climate change. Together with three women from Tanzania, Bolivia and India as well as two men from the Fiji Islands, she participated in several actions against coal-fired power plants under the logo of the German Climate Alliance. The testimonials called for a moratorium on coal as its global affects on climate threaten livelihoods. During a press conference they presented a petition to a representative of the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Mr Kloke-Lesch. Meetings with German politicians and the press about the urgent situation in the affected countries followed. This call was underlined by an action: Campaigners sailed

past the German Reichstag as 'climate refugees' on a special boat, calling out "save the climate – stop coal!" They made clear that serious action for climate protection is needed as it is the question of our survival on this planet.

Jänschwalde – no new brown coal mining

The focus for WECF was the proposed brown coal mining site in Jänschwalde, Lausitz, located between Berlin and the Polish border. Already many people lost their homes, villages vanished and the environment and climate were harmed because of the already existing mining activities. Now there are plans to step up the mining again. WECF met with the locals and exchanged experiences. The link between the local situation and the global effects was made at a press conference and an evening presentation by Nurzat, who told about the already existing climate change affects in Kyrgyzstan on people and the whole Central Asian region. She spoke also together with the other women at the nationwide demonstration against the site on 13 September.

Eastern European and Central Asian participants of the WECF training on sustainable energy visiting a solar collector producer near Munich, Germany



Location: Germany, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan
Donor: German Federal Ministry of Environment/GTZ, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs/MFS, EC DG Environment
Contact: sabine.bock@wecf.eu

Climate protection via sustainable energy by training, capacity building and networking of local NGO partners in Caucasus and Central Asia

Three training programmes

The three one-week training sessions took place in Munich (Germany), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The training weeks showed the variety of sustainable energy possibilities (from low cost to highly advanced solutions), and how to share the knowledge with different relevant stakeholders. The program was a combination of presentations, excursions, workshops, discussions, conference days and own practical implementations. In Munich it was also an exchange between the WECF partners from the EU and the EECCA countries. In total more than 100 different stakeholders (representatives of universities, local authorities, NGOs, experts) took part from over 15 countries.



Participants of Women's workshops at Planet Diversity Bonn 2008

Location: Bonn, Germany

Donor: European Commission DG Environment Life+

Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Gender at CBD Women's Caucus

Women, Diversity and Agriculture at Planet Diversity

WECF and Women and Life on Earth stressed the extreme importance of women's points of view when it comes to biodiversity during plenary session Planet Diversity, Bonn

Six women from different continents and with different backgrounds and outlooks on life took the stand behind the panel table during the final plenary session of Planet Diversity on May 15th to express their concern about women's views not being fully taken into account when talking about biodiversity. WECF's Sabine Brueckmann illustrated the action of the women by taking the microphone saying "We need two eyes to see straight" to emphasise the fact that women's views should naturally and always be taken

into account when talking about biodiversity." Earlier on, during the women's workshop it was decided that women's voices should be heard on a broad platform, apart from the women who would be there presenting the manifesto. During Planet Diversity, the NGO event that takes place during the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity, WECF organised together with ecofeminist organisation Women and Life on Earth a workshop "Women, diversity and Agriculture" in which strategies for survival and solidarity were formulated. The outcome of the workshop was to have a clear women's voice at the closing plenary of Planet Diversity, apart from the call for a moratorium on GMO's and the dangers of agrofuels.

Empowering women

The goal of this workshop was to identify and discuss ways and means to protect and secure communities, healthy foods and agricultural production by engaging and empowering women. Everyone agreed that biodiversity, like food and water, is a precious resource which should not be commodified at the expense of people or the planet. Izabella Byszewska of the Social Ecological Institute (SEI), Poland told about preserving and serving traditional foods and dishes. She got involved in a project bridging between Poland, Ukraine and Germany Green Bridges, where small farmers are rediscovering small varieties of local produce and reintroducing them onto the market. This can bring money into the area, can solve ecological issues and nature and tourism can be developed.

Location: Bonn

Donor: European Commission DG Env. Life+

Contact: Sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Without Diversity Everything is Grey!

WECF participated at a NGO forum week on biodiversity during the COP Biodiversity in Bonn: 'Planet Diversity'. Women from different continents and with different backgrounds expressed their concerns about women's views not being fully taken into account when talking about biodiversity. WECF, together with ecofeminist organisation Women and Life on Earth, organized a workshop "Women, diversity and Agriculture" in which strategies for survival and solidarity were formulated. The outcome of the workshop was to have a clear woman's voice at the closing plenary of Planet Diversity, apart from the call for a moratorium on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and the dangers of agrofuels.

Festival of cultural and natural diversity

WECF joined together with numerous partner organisations from Armenia, Georgia and Poland at a festival, under the motto "local, diverse, GMO-free". The festival started with a demonstration for

the preservation of biodiversity, free exchange of seeds and agricultural know-how and for the right of consumers and farmers to decide. "The same apple every day keeps (bio) diversity away. Save biodiversity now!" proclaimed WECF and its members' banners, as people wore their traditional costumes to display their cultural diversity. In order to literally make biodiversity visible and tasteable WECF invited its partner organisations to present - apart from their work and projects - their own costumes, local food and traditions. Representatives included those from the Georgian Ecological Agriculture Association (SEMA), the Social Ecological Institute (SEI), the Greens Movement of Georgia as well as from the Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) - all of them NGOs, which work on rural development and agriculture in their countries of origin.

WECF partners at Planet Diversity demonstration Bonn 2008



Location: Poland, Warsaw

Donor: European Commission DG Env. Life+

Contact: : Sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Make Biodiversity Visible – Apple Exhibition for Polish Partners

“An orchard is like a ray of light, like a little garden of Eden. It makes man merry, feeds him, gives recreation, diminishes melancholy, fills his heart with happiness and joy, nourishes the mind and the body. A country with fruit trees growing in the fields and along the roads is much more wonderful to the eye than even ripe fields but lacking trees. And when the spring comes, the trees are covered with flowers, white flowers with shades of green for the plum trees, snow-white for the apple trees and delicate pink for the peach trees. This is the festive time of blossoming, the most beautiful moment of the most beautiful month of the year” says E. Jankowski, in “Profits from orchards”. The Polish rural landscape used to be characterised by blooming fruit trees with high stems, which had been cultivated for nearly 400 years. Today, this landscape is vanishing while the old trees are cut down because they are in the way, suffer from diseases or bear fruit different from the ones sold in stores. Traditional home orchards are replaced by mass produced varieties of the low growing fruit trees. New generations of farmers neither follow the tradition of grafting the old varieties onto the new

trees nor the tradition of processing the fruits of local cultivated varieties.

WECF develops together with local partners different mobile exhibitions about traditional fruit orchards. The common goal therefore is, to create understanding on the negative effects on biodiversity of current trends as well as on cultural landscapes through these new-style orchards.

An especially important point is to awaken the interest of individual farmers for protecting their traditional orchards and to bring new perspectives to the rural regions by involving the local communities in creating and maintaining markets for traditional apple varieties. One such exhibition was organised by SIE (Social Ecological Institute) in Warsaw adjusted to the particular local conditions. This exhibition included 6 posters about “Old Polish Orchards, namely: Old varieties in a model traditional orchard, New Polish orchards of old varieties, About the value of old varieties fruits, Monastery Orchards, Plum Jam from the Lower Vistula Valley”. The exhibition has been shown at public events, schools and international conferences.



The “diverse apple” exhibition was organised by SIE (Social Ecological Institute) in Warsaw



The Polish visitors meeting with the mayor of the town Fürstenfeldbruck at the regional trade fair

Location: Germany, (Glonn)

Donor: (Co financed by) European Commission DG Env. Life+

Contact: sabine.brueckmann@wecf.eu

Local partnerships and sustainable rural development

WECF supports its Polish partner SIE - Social Ecological Institute Warsaw - especially in the project “Between the rivers Bug and Narew.” This project is carried out in 15 rural Masovian communities along the river Bug - an area with important nature reserves. The aim of this project is to develop local partnerships between community organisations, farmers, food processing plants, eco-tourism agencies and local NGOs in order to manage and cultivate the region sustainably. Priorities of the partnership are organic farming, eco-tourism and local food production. In this context, WECF organised a Polish-German exchange in cooperation with the Bavarian network UNSER LAND.

A successful example of economic partnership. From 13 - 17 October 2008, 25 participants visited the different farms and enterprises in the counties of Ebersberg, Fürstenfeldbruck and Munich to

share information and knowledge in the field of economic partnerships, regional and direct marketing. The group mostly consisted of small (eco-) farmers and processors such as butchers, bakers as well as participants from the Polish municipal and agricultural administration.

Background

Many Polish farmers are interested in organic farming, as grants from EU are higher for this. Although the demand, especially in the larger cities, already exists, most of the farmers currently still have difficulties with the marketing of their products. They have to do all the work - from cultivation to packaging, transportation and sale - by themselves, which costs much time and energy. The aim of this project is therefore to convince the participants that collaboration and partnerships like UNSER LAND make sense for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Especially in Poland historically the idea of cooperation is very negatively tainted, because in the Communist era, farmers were forcibly collectivised and this has left them reluctant to cooperate again. The rural districts in Poland are not working together at all yet. The visit to the farms and the enterprises as well as the presentation of the idea of OUR COUNTRY concept have, however, visibly impressed and inspired all the participants.



Implementing Solutions in 2008

Nesting partners from 7 countries met in Madrid to share project experiences and develop a future Nesting strategy



Location: France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Netherlands, Spain, UK

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: sonja.haider@wecf.eu

Nesting – the concept

Helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns - expansion of the Nesting concept'

Many consumer decisions have to be taken by expectant parents. Clothes and baby care products, as well as more long-term investments such as furniture and redecorating, are part of this choice. To inform expectant parents about healthy choices, WECF and member organisations started an interactive "nesting" website in six countries in 2006.

See www.projectnesting.org. In 2007 the Nesting concept was expanded to Spain. Since the participating organisations differ very much, a variety of tools have been developed to promote the content of Nesting not only through the internet. E.g. The member organisation „Clean up Greece“ has tremendous press contacts and experience in raising public awareness. The low environmental awareness and the low levels of internet usage prompted Clean up Greece to produce a TV-spot on Nesting. The partner in Hungary NOE, the large families' association has strong existing relationships with schools of midwives and nurses. A brochure especially for this target group has been published and workshops organised.

In October the first Nesting conference took place in Madrid to exchange experiences and successful activities – and plan the future of Nesting. For more information on national achievements, see next pages.

Indoor Air pollution – a rising issue on the European political agenda

Recent studies imply that the developmental stage of childhood is more important and vulnerable for life-long health than was thought. Diseases such as cancer or Parkinson's are more and more related to the environmental impacts in early childhood and even during conception and pregnancy. Secondly the new climate change measures of insulating houses, along with increase use of air conditioners, are reducing the indoor air quality, often we see less regular airing of rooms and therefore a higher level of indoor air pollutants. These facts have prompted the WHO and the European Union to discuss the effects on children's health and possible legislative improvements. At the beginning of 2010 the CEHAPE process will show results and progress in the European countries at the next ministerial conference. Nesting takes the new scientific findings into account and streamlines the planned activities. Experiences, especially about the communication process to the target group will be shown to participating countries and their governmental staff.

In October 2008 WHO organised a scientific symposium „To close the gap between science and policy“. The Nesting network listened, learned, presented and strives to close the gap between science, policy AND the public.

Implementing Solutions

One of WECF's four 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 and on affordable safe energy solutions.



WECF France "nesting" training for parents, on avoiding hazardous chemicals at home



Location: Netherlands

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Chantal van Denbossche, info@eenveilignest.nl

Nesting Netherlands – www.eenveilignest.nl

Nesting in the Netherlands developed workshops for multipliers and for parents (to be). The team worked on a toolkit and on different subjects for the workshops, such as on safe detergents, safe toys and on personal care products for babies. Prevention goody bags were also sent to health insurance companies. Partnerships were established with the pro-breastfeeding website borstvoeding.com (and with *Bewuste ouders*, a multi media parents' platform and online consultancy tool used by midwives, who both have 45.000 to 50.000 unique visitors per month. Three days of continuous interviews for radio and press were the result of our toys event in the centre of Utrecht, just before the Dutch holiday of St. Nicholas, traditionally associated with children's gifts.

Our team was also present at the young parents' fair in Utrecht in October and two WECF interns undertook a crèche tour through the city of Utrecht, visiting crèches, day care centres and preschools while promoting Nesting. One interactive workshop was given for a group of midwives in the city of Dordrecht. A special flyer was developed for this action. Trainings for future workshop facilitators and workshops at baby fairs are being developed and will be conducted in 2009.

Location: France

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Nita Chaudhuri info@projetnesting.fr

Nesting France – www.projetnesting.fr

Our Nesting team in France was very active in developing the website, the parents' workshops and establishing partnerships with local authorities and health and environment associations. A news section was created on the Nesting website, with monthly new items (thematic press articles, studies etc. . .). A flyer was developed and printed in 10 000 copies to inform the broad public about Nesting. It will be distributed to maternal and child health services, daycares, kindergartens, social services, youth and cultural centres. Partnerships - Partnerships were developed with the Parent Teacher's association of the City of Croissy and the MJC (maison jeunes et culture) of Annemasse to spread the concept of "Nesting". Several contacts were made with: the departement of Savoie, the local institutions responsible for sanitary and social services, especially social services in link with pregnant women and expectant parents, enterprises and Fondations like "Fondation pour l'Enfance", The Ministry of Environment and The Ministry of Health to support and spread the Nesting concept. 10 interactive workshops for parents were conducted in the municipalities of Croissy (Paris area) and Annemasse (Geneva area). The workshop used the participant's own representations and product samples to facilitate an interactive discussion. Evaluation forms are collected to improve the methodology. Trainings for future workshop facilitators and health and childhood professionals are being developed and will be conducted in 2009.

Location: Germany

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Sonja Haider, info@nestbau.info

Nesting Germany - (EC) www.nestbau.info

www.nestbau.info

The information guide on the internet was the first tool developed in the "Nesting"-project, now we expanded it by another interactive website-tool: The game "Mein Nestbau". (building myself a nest) With questions users are guided through the game and the baby room changes according to their answers. It's educative – and fun. The website was promoted the whole year long and links from other relevant sites were placed. Several interviews were given to kids- and lifestyle magazines. Nesting was presented in Munich at a big event organised by UTOPIA – the best known sustainable lifestyle community in Germany. Workshops were realised for the network of "Healthy Cities". Many linking partner organisations were acquired. Very positive feedback came from the authorities. The environment ministry published an article in their magazine UMID, and in a calendar for 2009. To address fathers better and help them to prepare the child's arrival in the home, we developed the project "father's passport" (Dad's diary) with concrete tips on renovating.

Location: Germany

Donor: German environment ministry, BMU

Contact: Sonja Haider, info@nestbau.info

Nesting Germany - (BMU) www.nestbau.info

Start into life – seminar for multipliers

The German environment agency Umweltbundesamt published 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 – like midwives, doctors, trainers of prenatal courses – about the current scientific background and concrete tips for their patients. Workshops were developed with partners in Berlin and Bonn (Silvia Pleschka and Martina Abel, BAG Mehr Sicherheit für Kinder e.V.).

The last one in a series of workshops took place in Munich in February. The agenda included a theory part of presentations and an interactive part, where the participants tried to visualise the implementation of the new information in their daily work. Munich's mayor Ms Strobel functioned as a patron and the associations acknowledged the seminar as training for their constituencies. As it was quite difficult to attract many participants there are plans to offer the workshop to existing conferences held by the multipliers. Contacts with midwives will also be used in the future.



Location: Hungary

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Zsuzsa Kormos_ _noe@noe.hu

Nesting Hungary – www.feszekinfor.hu

Main activities Nesting Hungary 2008

The Hungarian website was finalised. The News part of the website was continuously refreshed with news of chemicals and their health effects. The project was introduced to „green” civil organisations. Five organisations put the Nesting link to their own web site. Based on the content of the site a 32-page brochure was developed and 3000 copies produced, in order to inform the member families of NOE and the general public (young families), via a project co-operation started with the Hungarian Association of Mother, Child and Public Health Nurses. Main points of it are fixed in an agreement. An introducing article was published in the association’s monthly newspaper. Another activity was introducing the project to the members of the Large Families Association (NOE), reaching 14000 member families. Briefing of the project was held both at a board meeting and at the assembly of about 50 local leaders and 7 regional leaders of NOE. The expert of NOE, Györgyi Újszászi participated at the Madrid Conference.

Location: United Kingdom

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: isabel.ripa@knet.es

Nesting Spain – www.projectnesting.org

Main activities Nesting Spain 2008

In 2008 the Nesting site was translated, adapted for the national context and launched at the end of October. Nesting Spain was presented at the Nesting internal meeting in Madrid (22 October 2008). Since then, the main activity was promoting Nesting in Spain. A live interview with a regional radio station (Radio Rioja, Cadena SER) was conducted from the WHO Symposium on Health and Environment in Madrid. Information about Nesting appears as different web pages, electronic bulletins and a blog. According to the Nesting statistics, up to 28 January 2009. Initial contacts have been established with Ecología y Desarrollo, an organisation that coordinates in Spain a Seminar on Health and Environment for health professionals and an electronic bulletin on Health and Environment.

A potential source of funding for Nesting was identified in Spain: the call for eco-innovation proposals from the Basque government environmental organisation IHOBÉ. Two initial proposals were presented in November and one of them was developed in detail and presented in December: “Design of an International Project on Children’s Health and the Environment and Integration of IHOBÉ into the International Consortium”. The Nesting internal meeting in Madrid identified the need to develop a Nesting Strategy. The Spanish partner took the lead to develop this Strategy with the collaboration of the partners. Initial proposals were collected during December 2008 and it is expected to have the final document in February 2009.

Location: United Kingdom

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Helen Lynn info@projectnesting.org

Nesting UK – www.projectnesting.org

In UK stakeholders ask for more scientific based information. People want to know who is giving advise and why. Therefore more focused information for the nesting website has been researched and produced, so far in the issues of bisphenol A and cosmetics. Those factsheets show the problems, the current scientific findings and probable solutions. It adds to the information already available on the website.

Furthermore Nesting workshops have been publicised and nesting talks have been offered. Future nesting partner organisations in the UK have been approached.

Location: Greece

Donor: EU DG Environment Life+

Contact: Carla Baer Manolopoulou,
desk@cleanupgreece.org.gr

Nesting Greece

The environmental and health awareness in Greece is still very low and there is 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. Since Greek population is not yet as familiar with web information as in other European Countries there is a need for printed material to cover all the target groups. To reach more parents an information leaflet with a summary of the subjects of the Nesting web site has been created. The goal of this leaflet is to get parents interested and to take the chance to gather more information through the Nesting web site. TV/Radio advertising is as well an important factor to spread information throughout the country, since 90% of the Greek population is watching television on a daily base. Therefore an animation TV Spot based on the photo material of the web site was produced. For Christmas time a Nesting Christmas Postcard was produced which we distributed and deposited for free in Cardholders of Cafes, Baby Shops, Nursery’s and Hospitals. Some were posted for Christmas greetings to members, cooperation partners and government bodies or send per e-mail.



Location: Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania

Donor: Fondation Ensemble

Contact: anne.barre@wecf.eu

Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity for 35 poor rural communities in Bulgaria, Romania & Ukraine

Improving health and dignity of school children and citizens in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine - Impressions and results of the first year of the project

Impressions and results of the first year of the project

Safe Sanitation, Health and Dignity (SSHD), a project sponsored by Fondation Ensemble and developed in 3 countries, started in autumn 2007 and will end in October 2010. The project implements ecological sanitation and organic waste composting, with the aim to improve the health and dignity of school children and citizens in 35 rural communities of Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria

Over 150 sanitation systems will be installed, benefiting over 2000 pupils and 800 citizens. Awareness raising and capacity building activities will reach out to 70 000 people. Cooperation between Western and Eastern Technical Universities on the topic of water and sanitation forms another important part of the project. Other donors co-funding the project include ORT France for Romania and Bulgaria, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the MFS programme in Ukraine and in Romania via the Dutch Matra KAP programme. The project is supported by the local authorities. National and local TV, radio and newspapers have published news about the project, raising awareness

about the quality of the drinking water and the present sanitation conditions in the areas where the project is implemented.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria the project is being carried out in three municipalities – Stara Zagora, Pleven and Pravets. WECF's local partners, Earth Forever Foundation (EFF) and Association EcoWorld, focussed in the first year on training different stakeholders such as citizens, local authorities, school staff and builders on the principles of ecological sanitation.

For the construction of sanitation systems EFF selected the cultural clubs in the villages (Chitalishta), which have fulfilled a central role in all local communities since the Bulgarian Renaissance, and still are the focal point of cultural activities in villages. The old toilet of the cultural club in Zmeyovo, near Stara Zagora, was replaced by a dry urine diverting toilet. In Kaloyanovets (another village in Stara Zagora municipality), EFF built a public ecosan toilet with a shower and a system for wastewater treatment. This will replace the old public pit latrine. The new toilet serves the local administration, the church and the adjacent school.

EFE and Ecoworld implement also household sanitation, wastewater treatment facilities and constructed wetlands. Such a treatment system will be constructed in 2009 in Vidrare, near Sofia. It will be a centre for 145 disabled children. It will be a good example for replication and to establish local awareness on sanitation issues in the region. Educational activities are also part of the project: ground water monitoring is conducted with the involvement of all inhabitants: the wells and springs (surface water) are highly polluted with nitrates. Therefore water safety plans and solid waste inventories have been developed in 7 villages.

Romania

WECF works in Romania with 4 partners: EuroTeleorman Association -Teleorman county, Women

for a Clean Future - Mehedinti county, Medium et Sanitas Slobozia – Ialomita county and O Ilo Romano - Giurgiu county.

The first year's activities were focussed on trainings and mentoring the partners and rural communities, on water and health issues. Around 11 schools in the project villages started to implement a Water Safety Plan, using a manual prepared by WECF (accessible on WECF website) and a toolbox (containing water tests and educational materials).

The first ecosan toilet of the primary school in Vrata (Mehedinti county) has been constructed, the next one is planned in Beiu (Teleorman). Several household systems have also been built in different villages.

WECF organised a lecture for the Technical University of Construction Bucharest, given by a PhD student from the Technical University of Hamburg. The aim is to bring the project to the next level by involving the scientific community in the countries concerned.

Ukraine

The water problem is very crucial in Ukraine: often in rural areas people use water from wells which have been polluted for up to 50 years.. These are highly polluted with nitrates which seep through from pit latrines. Therefore, besides offering solutions for improved sanitation, the school children and their teachers learned how to test water quality and find causes and solutions for water problems.

The project runs in 10 regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Sevastopol, Feodosia, Yaremche, Ternopil, Mykolayiv, Nizhyn, Artemivsk, Nova Kakhovka and Odessa. WECF is working with two partners: Mama-86 and Black Sea Women's Club Odessa. Two school toilets have already been constructed in the villages of Stepovoe and Sherbanka (Odessa region). They will replace old outdoor pit latrines that used to cause the pupils a lot

of diseases, especially in winter times. Teachers and school staff were very much involved in the project: they will soon build a demonstration garden for the safe re-use of urine as a fertilizer. Two more school toilets in Nyzhyn (by Kyiv) and Nova Kahovka (Herson region) are planned for 2009. Individual households are extremely motivated to invest in clean, ecological sanitation systems, so that in one year, almost 30 individual toilets have been built by WECF and its partners.

High levels of nitrates are an indication for a lack of protection of drinking water sources: other pollutants might be present, such as faecal bacteria



Location: Belarus , villages: Smilovichy, Ananichy, towns: Gomel, Minsk

Donor: MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contact: bistra.mihaylova@wecf.eu

Sustainable energy, sanitation, waste in Belarus

WECF together with the Ecoproject partnership continued their joint activities in the project "Developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of water, waste and energy efficiency in Belarus" with implementing of the pilot projects related to energy, water and waste in Belarus. On the 3rd and 4th of October a Master Composting Training took place in the village of Ananichy, 50km from Minsk.

The local community (most of the participants were women) was trained on the basic principles of composting, as well as to the benefits of home composting. The lecturer Maria Ilieva presented her experience in home composting in Bulgaria. In the towns Gomel and Minsk, WECF and Ecoproject are working to improve energy conditions in 5 pilot communities (three schools in

A two day training on the 3rd and 4th October, 2008 took place in the village of Ananichy (located at a distance of 50 km from Minsk), Belarus.



different cities of Belarus, a dacha in Fannipol and a block of flats in the city of Gomel). The implemented demonstration projects aim to improve the overall performance of the heating and lighting systems in schools and block of flats by the installation of thermostats on radiators (schools), as well as energy saving bulbs and motion detectors (block of flats), resulting in energy savings of up to 30 % .

During 2008 the first Ecosan toilet in Belarus was built in the village of Smilovichy. With the support of the WECF expert on ecosanitation Stefan Deegener, the facility was constructed in 8 days by the owner of the house and a local builder. Many houses in the village Smilovichy are not connected to the central water supply system and people use water from shallow wells which are situated near the pit latrines in their backyards. Due to the high water table, the water is susceptible to infiltration of contaminants, especially nitrates. 70 private and public wells have been tested for nitrate contamination in Smilovichy and 41 of them exceed the nitrate norm of 45 mg/l (according to the Belarusian norms).

Some of the results were 5 to 6 times higher in a comparison with the norm. Ecoproject partnership works with local school teachers and children who established a programme for monitoring of the nitrates found in and have produced a map which covers all the drinking water sources in the village of Smilovichy.

Location: Roumania

Donor: Private donors

Contact: Margriet Samwel

New Roofs for Prislop

Until you see it with your own eyes, it is difficult to believe that such poverty exists in the European Union . Prislop is a small Roma settlement in Romania of approximately 120 tiny houses, most of them no better than huts. The village is situated in Transsylvania, in the region of Sibiu, and is very isolated from any other settlement. Thanks to gifts from Dutch private donors totaling 2200 Euro, WECF started a project to repair 10 out of the 80 leaking roofs in the Roma settlement of Prislop. One roofing sheet only costs about 12 euro. With one roof needing about 20 sheets, many small gifts can help poor families to sleep under a dry roof.

Houses are in urgent need of repair

The tiny one or two room-houses in Prislop are made of wooden beams, covered with a layer of clay. The roofs of most houses are covered with tar paper. Very few are covered with roof tiles. Because the people have such a low income, many huts are in a very poor condition: leaking roofs and damp foundations, broken windows and holes in the wooden walls. Families in Prislop have no financial means to buy the materials needed for repair, owing to their hand-to-mouth existence.

Their chief source of income is gathering berries and mushrooms and making brooms, which they used to sell in Sibiu. But now the modernising town does not allow street sellers anymore. Roma people are socially excluded and find it hard to get jobs. When they do manage to get work, the pay is very low and is used for urgent needs such as food and medicines.



Giving these people the materials to build themselves a new roof means breaking the vicious circle of poverty

Help Prislop to break the vicious cycle of poverty

WECF would like to expand this small-scale project to give all the villagers of Prislop a chance to improve their living conditions. Help us to provide roofs for 70 more houses. Giving these people the materials to build themselves a new roof means breaking the vicious circle of poverty. Children will be able to do their homework, they will be healthier, they can visit their school regularly, they will be able to go to a higher level school in town, and this will maximise their eventual chances of finding a job.

Location: Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan

Donor: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MinBUZA); German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)/ GTZ

Contact: gero.fedtke@wecf.eu

Empowerment and Local Action

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



Women farmer group in South Kyrgyzstan

ties heard, and lobby politicians on the regional, national, and international level to include the integrated approaches in their policies.

The ELA programme integrates several projects: 31 partners implement their own demonstration projects on a yearly basis, funded by the MFS program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while projects with several partners funded by the German Ministry for the Environment transfer knowledge in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and demonstrate and evaluate Dry Urine Diverting Toilets in Kyrgyzstan.

In this section, you will find information about the implementation and demonstration projects, while chapter 2 of this report contains information on international advocacy activities linked to these projects.

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

Towards a sustainable rural development in the EECCA region and Afghanistan

Implementation projects of the ELA program in 2008 covered all four thematic issues. All projects demonstrated sustainable sanitation solutions: Urine Diverting Dry Toilets for households and schools. The year started with trainings conducted by WECF in cooperation with the Hamburg University of Technology, making also use of knowledge and experience on sustainable sanitation practices available in the WECF network. Supported by WECF field staff, the project partners conducted awareness raising campaigns and trainings on hygiene and sanitation, and constructed demonstration toilets in households and schools selected with the help of participatory approaches. Exchange visits between ELA partners during the year further facilitated knowledge exchange and mutual learning. In Georgia, ELA partners even formed their own ELA network and joined for close cooperation. WECF organized study tours to Germany to learn about European standards in Renewable Energies; and facilitated ELA partners' participation in sanitation trainings in Sweden. The same approach was applied for the other thematic areas of drinking water, sustainable agriculture, and energy efficiency and renewable energies. Integrated demonstration centres bring everything together; for example the centre of ELA partner RCDA in Misaktsieli, Georgia: this is a training centre with solar water heaters, Dry toilets, agricultural plots and accommodation facilities. Where partners do not cover all areas, WECF ensures their integration. WECF facilitated

a workshop on developing a training manual and brochure on composting, making the expertise of some ELA partners available for all while including sustainable sanitation principles in sustainable agriculture methods. WECF also attracts applicable technologies from e.g. EMAS, which have been developed in South America but are perfectly applicable to the ELA region. Washing hands after visiting the lavatory is a basic hygiene rule – making warm water available with solar collectors integrates the areas of sanitation and renewable energies. Sustainable Sanitation solutions contribute to protection of drinking water sources. The following sections describe selected projects, which were conducted in the four thematic areas.

Protecting drinking water sources and improving supply

Safe drinking water is an important precondition for human health, as is observing basic hygiene rules. A high nitrate level in the groundwater is an indicator of anthropogenic pollution. All ELA partners collect data on the nitrate content in the drinking water of their project communities. The Green Movement of Georgia found up to 500 mg/l in the water from shallow wells which villagers in Western Georgia were using. This is far beyond the limit. The villagers were suffering from frequent epidemic outbreaks of diseases like hepatitis C. A twofold approach alleviates the problem: Urine Diverting Dry Toilets significantly reduce the groundwater pollution. New deeper wells make water of better quality available. 13 wells of ca. 11 meters depth were drilled using innovative low-cost technologies. Due to intensive awareness raising and formation of village committees, behaviour has changed and the demand for the wells and toilets is very high. Neglect and business interests pose the biggest threat to the only source of safe drinking water

for the village Bashtanovka and many neighboring villages in Tatarbunary region of Odessa Oblast, Ukraine. Many have to drive far distances several times a week with canisters or barrels to this natural spring, which is left unprotected in practice and by law, and might be privatized. The Regional public ecological organization Vidrodzhennya worked hard to achieve the legalization of a formal water protection zone around the source, as Ukrainian law requires. To achieve a broad consensus and support, round tables were organised with all stakeholders. Some regional businessmen are financing the renovation of the protection facilities around the spring. In many villages in Northern Tajikistan, the problem is neither the quality nor the legal status of the drinking water, but the deteriorated supply systems. The ELA partner ASDP NAU facilitated the repair of boreholes, pumps and pipe systems in 6 communities. New initiative groups will monitor the long-term status of the object, perform maintenance and repair, and collect fees from the 2000 users.

Organic agriculture meets sustainable sanitation

For the majority of the rural population in EECCA countries the food they manage to produce on their plots of land forms an important part of their diet. But much knowledge is lost, fertilizers are expensive, pesticides are being used improperly. For small farmers, access to markets poses a major problem.

In South Kyrgyzstan, the NGOs ULGU and Mehr-Shavqat are addressing these problems. ULGU selected 27 farmers in 3 villages who formed farmers' groups. They were trained in organic farming, including inter alia using urine as a fertilizer, crop rotation, biological methods of plant and animal protection. Three demonstration centres have been set up and workshops have been held with 145 participants.

Mehr-Shavqat trained eight farmer self-help groups with 120 members in sustainable agriculture, small business and gender. Integrating ecological sanitation, 40 members constructed dry toilets, putting the reuse of nutrients into practice and demonstrating its effectiveness. Similar approaches are applied by the NGO SEMA in Georgia, which also contributes to biodiversity conservation by growing old Georgian varieties of lentils and grains in addition to market oriented crops.

Alternative pest management in Armenia

In Armenia, the NGO AWHHE implements integrated agricultural projects together with farmers from project villages. Demonstration fields and orchards show the positive effects of crop rotation and fertilizing with biohumus. Demonstration orchards prove that phytotherapy (natural methods of pest control) is superior to available pesticides, not only reducing risks for farmers, consumers, and the environment, but also fight-



Training on biological pest control, NGO ULGU, Kyrgyzstan



Constructed well Georgia (GMG)



cabin in the new school toilet, Kommuna, Kyrgyzstan

New UDDT near Naurzum game reserve, North Kazakhstan



ing off pests more effectively and thus making better harvests possible.

Seed potatoes in Georgia

In Javakheti, a remote mountain region in Georgia, the local NGO Paros works towards increasing agricultural income. Farmers have been affected severely by the isolation and decline after the breakup of the Soviet Union. But because of the high altitude, the region is perfectly suited to producing seed potatoes. With combined expert support from ELA partner SEMA and through WECF, organic seed potato production was established, as well as organic farming of other crops. Already in the first year, the project made a profit that can be invested in further projects.

Sustainable sanitation solutions

Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT) have been built for households, schools and a kindergarten. Household toilets have always been constructed by house-owners themselves; costs for building materials were shared between the project and the house-owner. The same principle applies to schools.

School toilets

In northern Armenia, the NGO Lore Eco Club from the city of Stepanavan knew of a school that did not have a toilet at all. Teachers and children, especially girls, were not drinking during school time to avoid having to urinate. They sometimes had to go home early to use the toilet, missing lessons. The quality of teaching and learning severely suffered from this. A low-cost outdoor UDDT was built; the labour completely supplied by the community. Because the toilet is located on a hill, no staircase was needed and it is easily accessible for disabled pupils. Parents participated in the construction. Being thus well acquainted with the technology, many are building Dry Toilets for their homes, much closer to the houses than the formerly used pit latrines.

Although UDDT do not emit bad odours if properly used, many to whom the technology is new are sceptical and prefer to build them outside. The director of the village school in Mirzake, Uzgen district, southern Kyrgyzstan, was invited to visit UDDT built by the NGO ULGU. Being convinced of the technology, the school decided to construct a new toilet as an extension of the existing building. It can now be entered from inside. As in Armenia, teachers, parents, and older schoolchildren built the toilet with their own hands.

In Criscauti village in northern Moldova, supported by the NGO Ecotox, the local kindergarten built their first UDDT even inside the existing building. Many people doubt that little children of 3-4 years can use UDDT correctly – the kindergarten in Criscauti proves they can!

Improved sanitary conditions and energy saving

Kommuna village, in the southwest of Kyrgyzstan, lies in a district difficult to access. The local organization Sarydobo not only constructed a new toilet for the village school. They also improved the school's thermal insulation, using mostly locally available environmentally friendly materials - saving more than 50% energy needed for heating. Through the Bishkek-based NGO UNISON, the needed knowledge was transferred to local masters and constructors. Now, the buildings serve as a and as an ecological demonstration centre for the district, displaying both ecological sanitation and energy efficiency.

Harvesting seed potatoes, NGO PAROS, Georgia



442 household Toilets for 2741 users

Better school toilets not only improve the situation of teachers and pupils, they also raise the interest and demand of parents and neighbours. Each ELA partner uses its own method to make the concept known and to approach people to become the pioneers in sustainable sanitation. With success: the interest in and demand for Dry Toilets in the projects areas is high. Breaking a taboo, openly discussing an uneasy topic, all ELA partners not only talk about technical solutions, but also about hygiene, the links to human and environmental health, the importance of the right operation and maintenance. For the farmers associated to the NGO ULGU, the fertilizer obtained from UDDT is the starting point. Their demonstration fields give proof of its effectiveness. The ELA partner Habitat for Humanity Kyrgyzstan included the new sanitation solution in its programme to fight housing poverty. The organisation also offers an effective system for financial sustainability: families constructing toilets with Habitat's support receive an interest-free loan they have to pay back over three years. The money is paid back to a revolving fund used for constructing more toilets. Special equipment needed such as diverting toilet seats has so far to be imported or made by

hand from available materials, or e.g. from cement with the help of a mould. The ELA partners of the South Caucasus decided to concentrate seat production in the hands of the NGO RCDA. One person had a full time job casting more than 100 cement toilet seats in the demonstration centre in Misaktseli near Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. In addition, a company started the industrial production of high quality ceramic seats. This is a big step for up-scaling Ecological sanitation. The seats are available now in Georgia and neighboring countries.

Saving energy and renewable sources of energy

Energy poses a great challenge to the rural population. With central supply systems more often than not out of order, the questions how to keep the house warm in the cold winters, which fuel to use for cooking, how to reduce dependency on electricity assume alarming dimensions. Addressing this issue, WECF partner UNSION demonstrates the benefits of thermal insulation in a remodeled school in South Kyrgyzstan. Solar collectors demonstrate how solar energy can be used instead of firewood or gas to heat water for washing, but also for heating a house. The Georgian NGO Society Development Center

of Akhaltsikhe installed such collectors to make warm water available at the toilets for washing hands. In Kazakhstan and Georgia, biogas plants were constructed to generate gas for cooking in families. An excellent demonstration site for these technologies is a convent in Georgia, where both solar collectors and a biogas plant are in use. The convent attracts many visitors, and the nuns wield high authority in the local community. Smaller projects being conducted by 9 NGOs in the South Caucasus within the project "Support of climate protection via sustainable energy", financed by BMU, include solar fruit driers in Armenia and in Georgia, insulation of a school in Azerbaijan, and a feasibility study on micro finance systems for biogas and solar installations in rural areas in Georgia. In the framework of this project, WECF conducted conferences, workshops, and study tours for ELA partners in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. In Central Asia, solar collectors for house heating systems were installed. As preparation for this training, two members from partner organisations completed a three week internship at Solar Partner Sued, Kienberg, Germany, in October.



Cement urine diverting toilet seats as produced by WECF partners for the sanitation improvement programme

Participants of the WECF workshop „Sustainable Sanitation: our standard“ Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, November 2008



Participatory hygiene training organised by WECF members in Kyrgyzstan

Ownership fosters creativity, as seen here by the example of this nice self-made urine-diverting squatting seat in Kyrgyzstan





Overview of WECF publications and Press in 2008

Press coverage The Netherlands in 2008

01.02.2008 | De Telegraaf, The Netherlands Verbod chemische stoffen in speelgoed,

De Europese Commissie heeft onlangs een voorstel ingediend ter herziening van de Europese Speelgoedrichtlijn.

13.02.2008 | Santé Magazine, The Netherlands Hoe gifvrij ben jij? Detoxen is hot.

15.02.2008 | Nieuwe Oogst Magazine, „Julie zaaien voor mijn toekomst“, Planting the seeds for our future; WECF work featured in Nieuwe Oogst Magazine (text in Dutch).

01.03.2008 | Dutch TV broadcaster link „Richt je babykamer veilig in“, item on website Dutch TV broadcaster link about Nesting website

13.03.2008 | DO Koerier, March 2008 „Geen veilig sanitair voor 20 miljoen Europeanen“ article on WECF's sanitation projects in DO Koerier, magazine of the Commission for Sustainable Development of the Dutch Women's Council (NVR).

16.04.2008 | Hans de Vreij, Defence and Security Specialist, Radio Netherlands Worldservice German aid worker wins Afghan hearts

WECF network organisation Katachel highlighted in article on Radio Netherlands World Service (tekst in het Nederlands).

15.06.2008 | DO Koerier Magazine Towards a sustainable rural countryside Dutch National's Women's Council publishes article on WECF's project. „Working towards sustainable agriculture is a long term process“ (text in Dutch).

22.08.2008 | nos.nl/jeugdjournaal, 20 miljoen geen wc, Best smerig, als je thuis geen toilet hebt. Toch hebben zo'n 20 miljoen mensen in Europa geen wc. Het gaat vooral om mensen die niet zoveel geld hebben. Ze kunnen er erg ziek van worden.

22.08.2008 | bijzijn.nl, 20 miljoen Europeanen zonder toilet, Circa 20 miljoen Europeanen hebben geen toilet tot hun beschikking. Dat brengt gezondheidsrisico's met zich mee, aldus experts donderdag op een bijeenkomst tijdens de Wereld Water Week in de Zweedse stad Stockholm.

23.08.2008 | Business News Radio, BNR, The Netherlands, WECF at Stockholm World Water Week Interview with WECF's Chantal van den Bossche on Europe's sanitation problems.

15.10.2008 | Anders Bekeken, Stichting Milieu-net Global Handwashing Day - Wereldhandenwasdag Handen wassen redt levens.

29.10.2008 | Green2, Pesticiden schadelijk voor kinderen Article on Pesticides Vote EU in Dutch green glossy magazine, Green2.

30.10.2008 | Marie Kranendonk, Agrarisch Dagblad Veiligere middelenwet helpt gezondheid boer Boeren verzetten zich tegen strengere pesticidenbeleid. Marie Kranendonk vraagt zich af of ze hun kop in het zand steken wat betreft gezondheidsrisico's.

05.11.2008 | Estheticienne, November Issue October Breast Cancer Month: Beauticians magazine publishes article on WECF Brochure Article in Estheticienne on, Linking Breast Cancer and the Environment' (text in Dutch).

09.11.2008 | Atlas - Omroep Llink, Radio Een Radio interview with WECF president on EU proposal Pesticides, Marie Kranendonk, WECF president, was interviewed for radioshow on Radio One, the Netherlands on WECF's position towards new European pesticides legislation.

24.11.2008 | Tros radar, Geef informatie over chemische stoffen in speelgoed, Met het Sinterklaasfeest op komst, klinkt de roep om betere informatie over mogelijk schadelijke stoffen in speelgoed. Geen gif in het speelgoed van onze kinderen, vindt een groep bezorgde vrouwen.

24.11.2008 | Kinderopvang totaal, Doe de speelgoedtest, Kinderspeelgoed bevat nog altijd veel gifstoffen. Vrouwen- en milieunetwerk Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) organiseert een speelgoedtest op donderdag 27 november op de Stadhuisbrug in Utrecht.

25.11.2008 | Chemiezone, Speelgoedtest in Utrecht STOFFEN- WECF, Women in Europe for a Common Future voert van 1 tot 16 december een voorlichtingscampagne over de nieuwe Europese Speelgoed Richtlijn.

27.11.2008 | Lof, Geen gif in speelgoed Met sinterklaas en kerst voor de deur draait de speelgoedindustrie op volle toeren. Dit speelgoed bevat echter wel schadelijke stoffen, aldus Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF). Zij voert daarom begin december een voorlichtingscampagne over de nieuwe Europese Speelgoed Richtlijn.

29.11.2008 | Trouw, Giften van Sinterklaas,
Een stand hadden ze bij de gemeente beloofd, zo'n overdekte, maar het werd een klaptafeltje. (...)
Om het nog onaangener te maken joegen er ook nog eens ijzige windvlagen over het plaveisel. Onder die omstandigheden bouwden ze op de Utrechtse Stadhuisbrug hun tafeltje op, het handjevol vrouwen van de WECF, de Women in Europe for a Common Future.

Overview of PR in French, German and Russian

German: Press Releases in German

Zwanzig Millionen Europäer ohne sichere sanitäre Versorgung, Die europäische Frauen- und Umweltorganisation WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future fordert eine nachhaltige und bezahlbare sanitäre Grundversorgung für alle EU Bürger, January 23

Keine giftigen Substanzen in Kinderspielzeug
Umwelt- und Gesundheitsorganisation WECF fordert von der EU ein Verbot aller gesundheitsschädlichen Substanzen, January 25

Sanitäre Versorgung – ein Recht für alle EU Bürgerinnen und Bürger. Die europäische Frauen- und Umweltorganisation WECF setzt sichere und bezahlbare sanitäre Grundversorgung auf die politische Agenda der EU, January 30

Environmental, Women's, Labour and Health groups around the world call for action to save the Rotterdam Convention, U.N. Environmental Convention is being killed by political and industry interference, say groups, March 11

20 Millionen Menschen in der EU ohne sanitäre Grundversorgung, EU soll dezentrale, umweltfreundliche Abwassersysteme fördern

Kostspielige zentrale Systeme schaden Bürgern und Umwelt – Beispiele aus Deutschland, Rumänien und Bulgarien, March 13

20 Millionen Menschen in der EU ohne sanitäre Grundversorgung, EU soll dezentrale, umweltfreundliche Abwassersysteme fördern
Kostspielige zentrale Systeme schaden Bürgern und Umwelt – Beispiele aus Deutschland, Rumänien und Bulgarien, March 13

Zugang zu sauberem Wasser – ein Menschenrecht. Wer sich um sauberes Trinkwasser sorgt, muss sich auch Gedanken um eine sichere Abwasserbehandlung machen, March 19

Brustkrebs - Heilen ist gut, vorbeugen ist besser! WECF fordert Primärprävention durch die Verringerung krankmachender Chemikalien, April 16

Internationaler ‚Energy GlobeAward‘ im Europaparlament in Brüssel verliehen
Frauen- und Umweltorganisation WECF wird für zwei Projekte ausgezeichnet, Michael Gorbatschow erhält den Ehrenpreis, May 27

Nachhaltige Energie in Deutschland – Energie- und Klimatraining in München. WECF veranstaltet Fortbildung zum Thema Erneuerbare Energien, Energieeffizienz, internationale und deutsche Klima- und Energiepolitik, June 3

Lebhafte Diskussion über die Rolle von Kernenergie beim Klimawandel bei den heutigen UN-FCCC Climate Change Talks in Bonn, June 12

Nanotechnologie – über Risiken und Nebenwirkungen informiert Sie WECF fordert mehr Risikoforschung und –bewertung von Nanotechnologie und plädiert für das Vorsorgeprinzip, July 7

Kernenergie - Absurde Maßnahme gegen den Klimawandel.

Sieben der G8-Staaten wollen Initiative zur Förderung der Kernenergie starten. WECF ist erschüttert über diese Bekanntmachung und fordert Deutschland auf, bei seinem Entschluss, aus der Kernenergie auszusteigen, zu bleiben!
July 9

EU-Spielzeugrichtlinie – neuer Entwurf der EU-Kommission schließt nicht alle gefährlichen Inhaltsstoffe aus. Viele giftige Stoffe weiterhin erlaubt - WECF fordert ein generelles Verbot von gefährlichen Chemikalien in Kinderspielzeug, July 8, 14

Müssen französische Steuerzahler wieder für Kernkraftwerke in den benachbarten EU-Mitgliedstaaten zahlen? August 25

REACH SIN* Liste 1.0: Gefährliche Chemikalien jetzt ersetzen!
NGO's übernehmen Arbeit der Behörden und präsentieren in Brüssel Liste „besonders besorgniserregender Stoffe“, September 16

Gesundheitsschädliche Chemikalien gefährden die geistige und organische Entwicklung von Kindern. WECF fordert von Europaparlamentariern die Gesetzesvorlagen für die Pestizid-, Spielzeug und Kosmetikrichtlinie nachzubessern und hormonsystemverändernde, krebserregende und neurotoxische Substanzen zu verbieten, October 8

Rotterdam Konvention vor dem Aus?
Mehr als 500 Nichtregierungsorganisationen kämpfen mit gemeinsamer Erklärung für den Schutz vor gesundheitsschädigenden Chemikalien durch die Rotterdam Konvention, October 15

Das zentralasiatische Kirgisistan auf dem Weg zu besseren sanitären und hygienischen Bedingungen. Experten, Regierungsvertreter und NGOs beraten in Bishkek über sicheres Management von menschlichen Ausscheidungen, November 13

Welt Toiletten Tag: 50 Toiletten auf dem Washingtonplatz, November 19

1. bis 12. Dezember - **WECF vor Ort auf der UNCCC Klimakonferenz** in Posen
WECF fordert mehr Gender-Gerechtigkeit im Klimaschutz und keine Atomenergie im Clean Development Mechanism, December 11

Pressinvitations and Pressannouncements
Presseeinladung, High-Level Treffen zum Thema "EU Sanitation Policies and Practices in the 2008 International Year of Sanitation", 29. Januar, Caritas Gebäude, Rue Pascal 46, Brüssel, January 23

Presseeinladung

Keine giftigen Chemikalien im Umfeld von Kindern: „Gesundes Umfeld – gesunder Start ins Leben!“ Fachtagung in München am 13. Februar 2008, February 4

Presseeinladung: Internationaler Tag des Wassers, 13. März 2008 Bundespresseamt „Kommunale Verantwortung im UN - Jahr der sanitären Grundversorgung“, März 2008

Presseeinladung: Presseaktion Brustkrebs, 16. April 2008, 6. Europäische Brustkrebskonferenz, ICC Berlin, WECF fordert Politik und Medizin auf, das Risiko von Umweltgiften für Brustkrebs ernst zu nehmen, April 19

Einladung zum Presse-Hintergrundgespräch, 23. Juni 2008, 11.30 Uhr, WECF München, Nanotechnologie und Chemikalien im Alltag, June 17

Presseeinladung: Weltwasserwoche Stockholm WECF sucht nach Gründen für Fehlen sicherer und erschwinglicher sanitärer Versorgung für 20 Millionen Europäer. August 19

Presseeinladung: WECF Lunch Event im Europäischen Parlament in Brüssel 7. Oktober 2008 Eine sichere Umwelt für unsere Kinder WECF lädt ein zum Expertengespräch zum Zusammenhang von Entwicklungsstörungen und gesundheitsschädigenden Chemikalien in Alltagsprodukten. October 5 and 6

Presseeinladung: World Toilet Day 2008 – Einladung zu Aktion und Pressekonferenz, 19. November 2008, Washingtonplatz am Berliner Hauptbahnhof. November 12

Presseeinladung: Aktion Marienplatz München Krebserregende Stoffe haben nichts in Spielzeug zu suchen. WECF verweist mit Aktion „Spielverderber“ auf die Gefahren von gesundheitsschädigenden Substanzen in Spielzeug und fordert eine durchgreifende Gesetzesnovellierung von der EU. November 30

Presstexte

www.nestbau.info hilft Eltern ihrem Kind ein gesundes Umfeld zu schaffen Gesunde und sicherer Produkte schützen die Gesundheit von Kindern. January 21

Sichere Produkte schützen die Gesundheit von Kindern. In München diskutierten Hebammen, GynäkologInnen, KinderärztInnen und andere ExpertInnen darüber, Kinder besser vor giftigen Schadstoffen und Unfällen zu schützen. February 19

Weltwassertag: Zugang zu sauberem Wasser – ein Menschenrecht . Wer sich um sauberes Trinkwasser sorgt, muss sich auch Gedanken um eine sichere Abwasserbehandlung machen. March 17

Make Biodiversity visible and taste able! Um 1900 gab es in Deutschland noch mehr als 1000 verschiedene Apfelsorten. Planet Diversity June

Welt Wasser Woche Stockholm: WECF bringt Europas Sanitation Problem auf die Agenda WECF gewinnt Aufmerksamkeit für mehr als 20 Millionen Europäer, die keine sichere sanitäre Versorgung haben während eines Seminar auf der Stockholmer Welt Wasser Woche. August 22

Press- and Media actions

„Spielverderber“ – Schluss mit Gift im Spielzeug Presseaktion zur EU Spielzeugrichtlinie, München, Marienplatz. 14. November 2008

„Heilen ist gut, vorbeugen ist besser! Weniger gefährliche Chemikalien, mehr Schutz vor Brustkrebs.“ Presseaktion zur 6.Europäische Brustkrebskonferenz, ICC Berlin. 16.April 2008

„100.000 zukunftsfähige Toiletten machen Schule“. Presseaktion zum Welttoilettag, Berlin Washingtonplatz. 19.November 2008

Klimazeugen- Tour der Klima-Allianz 7. bis 17 September 2008

Letters to the editor

Süddeutsche Zeitung. Berichterstattung zum geplanten Bau von Atomkraftwerken in Großbritannien vom 11.1.2008. Sechs Gründe, warum der Bau neuer Atomkraftwerke keine Alternative für den Klimawandel und das Energieproblem ist. January 16

Süddeutsche Zeitung, zur „Außenansicht“ „Wovor fürchten wir uns?“ von Konrad Kleinknecht, vom 10. Juli 2008. July 12

Hörerbrief an den Bayerischen Rundfunk und Kopie an die Süddeutsche Zeitung. Zur Sendung von Redaktion Radio Micro vom 7.April 2008 Irreführende Informationen zum Abschalten von Kernkraftwerken. April 9

Der SPIEGEL. zum Thema Asbest: Ausgabe 50/2008 : Koalition der Unwilligen. December 11

Letters in German

Letter to the German Minister of Environment Sigmar Gabriel and to the German Minister of Health Ulla Schmid. Primär Prävention - dem Zusammenhang von Brustkrebs und Umweltbedingungen Priorität geben. April 2

Letter to the German Chancellor Angela Merkel „Internationales Jahr der sanitären Grundversorgung 2008“ - Politische Forderungen zum Beitrag der Bundesregierung am Erreichen des Millenniumsziels Sanitäre Grundversorgung, October 10

Planet Diversity DVD

Other Publications

Nestbau – Tipps für ein gesundes Kinderzimmer, Umweltbundesamt, Terminkalender 2009, Monat Mai 2009

Frauenansichten 2009 – Wasser – unsere wertvolle Ressource,

Ein Lesekalender zu Umwelt und Gesundheit, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit. Interview Magriet Samwel: ES GEHT AUCH OHNE WASSERSPÜLUNG!

DVD planet diversity: Planet diversity World Congress on the future of food and agriculture-Local, diverse, GMO-free, 12. – 16. May 2008 Bonn, Germany

Press and Media coverage

Media Coverage in german

[Print Media and Online Publications \(selected\)](#)

Die sanitären Verhältnisse stinken zum Himmel, Baseler Zeitung. February 1

Aufgeschnappt: Wenn ein Baby kommt...

Nestbau, KIDSgo. January, February –March, March-April, April-June 2008

Kinder besser vor giftigen Schadstoffen und Unfällen schützen -

Experten diskutieren Fragen der Kindersicherheit und Wohngesundheits. Better protection of children from hazardous chemicals and accidents – Experts discuss children’s safety and a healthy living environment UBA, BfR, Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz, Robert Koch Institut, UmweltMedizinischerInformations-Dienst, UMID; Ausgabe 1/2008, S.38-40. February

Für Sie entdeckt: www.nestbau.info Kitz, München und Region, S.23 .April – May 2008

Hilfe beim Nestbau, Test Heft, Stiftung Warentest, 6/2008. June

Chemicals Brustkrebs, EBCC 6 Brustkrebs – Prävention im Programm vergessen? www.bcag.twodag.net/stories/4871443. April 16

Hartes Ringen um die globale Zukunft, UN Klimakonferenz 2007 in Bali. Mütter Courage, Magazin der Mütter gegen Atomkraft e.V., s. 10. 2008

Aktion zum Erhalt von Streuobstwiesen im Landkreis. Süddeutsche Zeitung, Ebersberger SZ, April 29

ARD-Mittagsmagazin

Giftspielzeug: Chemiker warnen



ARD

mittagsmagazin | Alexandra Caterbow
Umweltorganisation WECP



Gefährliches Gift im Kinderzimmer

Frauen-Netzwerk testet Spielzeug auf Schadstoffe

Fünf Wochen vor dem Fest laufen die Weihnachtskäufe in den Spielzeugläden auf Hochtouren. Doch mit den Papp-, Plätzchen- und Plüschwaren, die Eltern und Verwandte kaufen, werden die auch allerdend Giftstoffe unter den Spielzeugen. Denn noch immer sind gefährliche Substanzen verborgen.



Triclosan
allergiereizend

exclut des parfums allergisants de la hotte du Père

Des parfums allergisants tels que l'alcool...
A la une en ce moment sur L'Express.fr

AGENDA AUJOURD'HUI
Mardi 10 décembre 2008

NOËL WECP milite pour une législation stricte sur la sécurité des jouets

Süddeutsche Zeitung

die tageszeitung

Giftige Beschörung

Die heimlich versteckten Schadstoffe in Spielzeugen sind ein Problem für Eltern. Die WECP fordert ein komplettes Verbot aller Giftstoffe in Kinderzeug und ein...

Le Monde



Aujourd'hui

Une campagne européenne contre les jouets dangereux

Patchouli, menthe ou safran, les parfums ne sont pas toujours inoffensifs pour la santé. C'est pour le démontrer que l'association Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECP) met en œuvre une campagne de sensibilisation...

La souris au service

Créé par un spécialiste

En la présentant le 9 décembre 1968, dans le vocabulaire d'un indicateur de performance pour...

france 3



ANNE BARRE
Directrice France de Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECP)

L'EXPRESS

ouest france

metr

le dauphinois

ledauphinois.com

Venez faire tester vos jouets!

NOËL WECP milite pour une législation stricte sur la sécurité des jouets

AGENDA AUJOURD'HUI

ouest france

MONDE | FRANCE | SPORTS | RÉGIONS

A la une

lundi 22 décembre 2008
Les jouets doivent rendre heureux, pas malade

LADEPECHE.fr

ACTU | BIEN-ÊTRE | ANNONCES

Les jouets sous contrôle

L'Europe adopte aujourd'hui de nouvelles normes.

Après six ans de négociations et de débats, le Parlement européen a adopté la législation sur la sécurité des jouets. Les européens doivent, en effet, se conformer aujourd'hui à la révision de la directive de sécurité des jouets. C'est qu'il s'agit d'une législation qui définit les normes européennes validées par l'étiquette « CE » à partir de 1980. La nouvelle directive doit donc prendre en compte les problèmes de sécurité rencontrés par les consommateurs européens.

Planet Diversity: Streuobstwiesen – die Vielfalt sehen und kosten. www.planet-diversity.com, April 30

Kritische Fragen zu Nanopartikeln, Süddeutsche Zeitung, June 24

Gefährliche Chemikalien in unserem Spielzeug?

Marktplatz Allergie, www.marktplatz-allergie.com
www.eu-koordination.de, www.nadeshda.org, July 2008

„Etwas Tun“ – Interview Sonja Haider zu Nestbau Healthy Living, S.142, August 2008

Welt Wasser Woche, Stockholm:

WECF bringt Europas Sanitation-Problem auf Agenda, Rundbrief 3/2008 Forum Umwelt & Entwicklung Print, Link: <http://www.forum-ue.de/16.0.html>. September 2008

Giftliste für den Alltag: 267 Chemikalien am Pranger. taz. September 17

www.nestbau.info. Känguru 11-2008, S.21 November

Außen hui, innen pfui - Spielzeug. Umweltbriefe 24, S. 7. November 27. www.umweltbriefe.de

„EU – Spielzeugrichtlinie: Puppen mit Schwermetall?“ Alexandra Caterbow. DNR Umwelt aktuell 12/08, S. 9. Online version: <http://www.eu-koordination.de/index.php?page=23&vorlage=fuenfb&id=690>

Projekt Agrikultur. „Regional- und Direktvermarktung: Polnische Besucher beeindruckt“ Glonner Marktschreiber, 11/2008, S.10. October/November 2008

„Häufiges Lüften beseitigt Schadstoffe. Umweltaktivistin Sonja Haider erklärt, wie man ein schadstoffärmeres Leben führt“.Emotion, S. 52 November 2008

Test am Marienplatz: Gefährliches Spielzeug Süddeutsche Zeitung. November 15

Vorsicht: Gift im Spielzeug. Abendzeitung <http://www.abendzeitung.de/muenchen/67016> November 15

Neue Ökoregeln für Barbie und Co, taz. November 15

Gefährliches Gift im Kinderzimmer: Frauen-Netzwerk testet Spielzeug auf Schadstoffe Süddeutsche Zeitung. November 15/16

EU verschärft Auflagen für Kinderspielzeug – Ein bisschen sicherer, taz. November 19

Ein trockenes Geschäft. Gero Fedtke zu Trockentrenntoiletten, Die Presse / Österreich. December 11

TV and Radio, Giftspielzeug, ARD Mittagsmagazin 28.11.2008, 13 – 14 Uhr. <http://mediathek.daserste.de/daserste/servlet/content/1155912?pageId=487890&moduleId=314636>

Aktion Spielverderber, BR Abendschau 14.11.2008, 18 Uhr. <http://www.br-online.de/bayerisches-fernsehen/abendschau/spielverderber-spielzeug-julia-von-schwerin-ID1226677640865.xml>

Aktion Spielverderber, München TV-muenchen aktuell / RTL, Nachrichten 14.11.2008, 18 Uhr, <http://www.muenchen-tv.de/gesellschaft/Spielverderber-1462.html>

Gift unterm Weihnachtsbaum. Mangelnde Kontrolle bei Kinderspielzeug, Bayerisches Fernsehen, 3.12.2008, Kontrovers, 21.15 Uhr <http://www.br-online.de/bayerisches-fernsehen/kontrovers-kontrovers-manuskript-kinder-ID1228409131531.xml>

„Wunderwelten – Mangelware Wasser“ – Wasserprojekte von WECF in Osteuropa, ARTE 20.10.2008, 18.05 Uhr

Radio: WECF zur Spielzeugrichtlinie BR Hörfunk, 14.11.2008, 10 Uhr - Notizbuch <http://www.br-online.de/bayern2/notizbuch/notizbuch-service-freitag-ID1226236515958.xml> Aktion Spielverderber, Bayern 1 – Mittags in Bayern, 14.11.2008, <http://www.br-online.de/mittagsmagazin/28.11giftspielzeug.shtml>

WECF zur Spielzeugrichtlinie, Deutsche Welle, 24.12.2008

Media Coverage in French

22.05.2008 | Le Messenger. La premiere ONG s'est installée dans la cite des solidarities internationales. Et d'une. La Cité des solidarities internationales vient d'accueillir sa toute premiere locataire: l'ONG "Women in Europe for a Common Future"

22.05.2008 | Dauphiné Libéré. Une première ONG s'implante. Parlez-nous de la genese de WECF et des projets que cette organisation défend

23.05.2008 | France 3. WECF France Director Anne Barre interviewed on French TV, WECF France has gained a lot of media attention since it's official foundation in Paris on March, 31st. Friday the 23rd saw the first news item on TV on FR3

22.08.2008 | Agence France Press. Even in Europe, 20 million people without toilets. Interview with Sascha Gabizon (WECF) and Diana Iskreva (Earth Forever Foundation Bulgaria) during Stockholm World Water Week

18.09.2008 | L'Express, Vincent Olivier "Contaminés dès les biberons" - article on WECF's work on chemicals in L'Express Magazine Contamination from within the bottle and from other baby toys

14.10.2008 | Le Monde. Cosmétiques bébés sous surveillance. Le C2ds appelle les maternités à "refuser de distribuer des boîtes naissance". Ces jolies mallettes remplies d'échantillons de produits cosmétiques pour bébé sont offertes depuis longtemps aux jeunes mamans. Faut-il revenir au gant de toilette et au savon de Marseille pour la toilette des bébés ?

18.10.2008 | Le Dauphiné Libéré. **Natalie Dejean**, coordinatrice équitable. Nathalia Dejean of WECF France will present the action in November to different shops

20.10.2008 | Le Dauphiné Libéré. Des commerçants qui s'entraident - Partenariat : le commerce de proximité rejoint l'équitable Shopkeepers help each other - Partnership: the nearby shopkeepers join the fair trade

04.11.2008 | Echo Nature, La France. "Ces jouets qui jouent avec la santé". Article in French magazine Echo Nature on WECF's actions against European Toy Safety Directive

Media Coverage International

28.01.2008 | EurActiv.com. Commission proposes strict limits on chemicals in toys .

Statement of Sascha Gabizon

15.02.2008 | Blue Gold, European Water Partnership Blog. The right to safe water and sanitation for all. Contribution by Claudia Wendland of Women in Europe for a Common Future to the discussion in Brussels organized by MEP Richard Seeber and the European Water Partnership on the European Parliament's response to the European Commission's Communication on Water Scarcity and Drought

25.03.2008 | Minsk Evening. Energy Saving and Renewable Energy Sources, training in Belarus Project Developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in the areas of water, waste and energy in Belarus

11.04.2008 | ENDS Europe. European Parliament passed important resolution on combating cancer. Cancer Task Force will be established in European Parliament which will look into environmental causes which may be linked to breastcancer

16.05.2008 | Andris Pielbags. Discussing nuclear without taboos. I'm sure you have all heard about the "20-20-20 by 2020_ commitment by the European Council, as an essential step on the road to our ultimate goal: to reach a shared vision on reducing global emissions by at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050

20.05.2008 | Participate, Magazine European Environmental Bureau. The Task Force on Public Participation in international Forums Article by WECF's Anke Stock for Participate, magazine of the European Environmental Bureau

10.06.2008 | WHOCC Newsletter. WECF contribution in WHO newsletter. Newsletter of World Health Organisation publishes WECF article on school sanitation

13.06.2008 | CASCADE newsletter. Chemicals may increase breast cancer risk. Natural and synthetic estrogens are well-known risk factor for developing breast cancer. Manmade chemicals with oestrogen effect may also raise risk for breast cancer. That is shown by new report "Breast cancer and exposure to hormonally active chemicals: An appraisal of the scientific evidence"

16.06.2008 | Tribune de Geneve, Switzerland Annemasse attracts one NGO and dreams of international destiny WECF portrayed in Geneva newspaper

14.08.2008 | Edie News. Give Sasyk back to the sea!. Campaigners called for a Ukrainian lake to be reunited with the Black Sea by an action calling on the decommissioning of the dam

20.08.2008 | wloe.org . World Water Week and WECF. The European Women's organization Women in Europe for a Common Future puts safe and affordable sustainable sanitation in the EU on the agenda

21.08.2008 | terradaily.com. Even in Europe, 20 million people without toilets: forum A surprising 20 million people in the European Union do not have access to decent toilets and suffer from a lack of hygiene, posing serious health risks, experts meeting at World Water Week in Stockholm said

21.08.2008 | Various sources. 20 million people in Europe without toilets. Newspapers and websites from multiple coun-

tries, such as Romania, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Argentina, reported on the lack of sanitation for some Europeans

22.08.2008 | technorati.com. WECF film on Safe Sanitation. Access to Safe Sanitation in the EU - a right for all" The United Nations have declared 2008 the "International Year of Sanitation". More than 20 million Europeans depend on unsafe sanitation such as pit latrines, soak aways and drains, which result in high morbidity, even mortality, especially among children

22.08.2008 | todayonline.com. Even in Europe, 20 million people without toilets: forum

A surprising 20 million people in the European Union do not have access to decent toilets and suffer from a lack of hygiene, posing serious health risks, experts meeting at World Water Week in Stockholm said

24.08.2008 | Tehran Times. Even in Europe, 20 million people without toilets: forum. A surprising 20 million people in the European Union do not have access to decent toilets and suffer from a lack of hygiene, posing serious health risks, experts meeting at World Water Week in Stockholm said

28.08.2008 | Edie News, Ireland, Kate Martin Calls for lake to be restored to Black Sea interview with WECF's field officer Anna Samwel

16.09.2008 | Akvo, Article on Akvo Blog on its cooperation with WECF spoke at length with the team at Women in Europe for a Common Future this morning. WECF is an important Akvo support partner - six of the launch day projects in Akvo belong to them, and they all still need funding - to the tune of €101,790 Euros (as of today)

19.11.2008 | Associated Press. 2,5 Milliarden Menschen ohne sanitäre Grundversorgung interview with Claudia Wendland from WECF on World Toilet Day

21.11.2008 | Julia Levitt, Worldchanging.com Safe and Sustainable: New Sanitation System in Kyrgyzstan. Worldchanging.com, global network of independent journalists, pays attention to WECF conference in Bishkek

24.11.2008 | The local, Germany's news in English Toy safety test reveal troubling shortcomings. No parent wants their child to find a nasty little health risk under the Christmas tree, so ÖKO-TEST put a veritable Toyland of dolls, puppets, building blocks, stuffed animals, toy cars and action figures through their paces to ensure that holiday fun stays wholesome this year

14.12.2008 | ENDS report December NGOs' chemical blacklist shunned by toymakers As negotiations continue on revisions to the EU toy safety Directive, European consumer groups are trying to educate parents about the potential risks of chemicals in toys

27.12.2008 | ECOLUR | Arpi Harutiunian Armenian partner: Uranium exploration plans provoke fears. "One day we'll go to sleep and we won't wake up." Report from the website of WECF's Armenian partner Ecolur

Members

WECF has had active members since 1996 that are grouped 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)

Nr.	Name	Country
1	Katachel e.V.	Afghanistan
2	Eden Center (Environmental center for Development, Education and networking)	Albania
3	Armenian Women for Health and a Healthy Environment (AWHHE)	Armenia
4	Charitable Women	Armenia
5	Lore Eco Club NGO	Armenia
6	Women for Green Way for Generations - WGWG	Armenia
7	Eco-Lur	Armenia
8	"Meghvik" children and youth NGO	Armenia
9	ECOS NGO; Environmental Sustainability	Azerbaijan
10	Ecoproject Sustainability Initiative	Belarus
11	Ecosphere	Belarus
12	Viktorija 99	Bosnia
13	Earth Forever Foundation	Bulgaria
14	Association Eco-world 2007	Bulgaria
15	Agentura Gaia	Czech Republic
16	Femmes & Changement	France
17	WECF France	France
18	Akhaltshikhe Center of Social Development	Georgia
19	Caucasus Environment Foundation, NGO	Georgia
20	Georgian Agricultural Women's Ass. GAWA	Georgia
21	Georgian Association of Toxicologists	Georgia
22	Georgian Environmental & Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
23	Women NGO "Paros"	Georgia
24	Rural Communities Development Agency	Georgia
25	SEMA	Georgia
26	VHUE e.V. - Verein zur Hilfe umweltbedingt Erkrankter	Germany
27	WECF Germany	Germany
28	Green City	Germany
29	Clean up Greece	Greece
30	Large Family Association Nagycsaladosok Országos Egyesülete	Hungary
31	Irish Doctors Environmental Association (IDEA)	Ireland
32	GREENWOMEN' Ecological News Agency	Kazakhstan
33	NGO "Jabagly - Manas"	Kazakhstan

34	Alga, Rural Women's NGO	Kyrgyzstan
35	BIOM	Kyrgyzstan
36	CAAW, Central Asian Alliance for Water	Kyrgyzstan
37	ULGU, public association	Kyrgyzstan
38	UNISON	Kyrgyzstan
39	Camp Alatoo	Kyrgyzstan
40	Journalists for children and women rights and protection of environment in Macedonia	Macedonia
41	Eco-sense/ Eko-svest	Macedonia
42	Ecotox	Moldova
43	Women in Sustainable Development of Moldova (WISDOM)	Moldova
44	Ecospectrum	Moldova
45	Eco-Tiras	Moldova
46	Ormax	Moldova
47	Terra 1830	Moldova
48	Ecobaby, Stichting	Netherlands
49	Leefmilieu (Human Environment)	Netherlands
50	Meldpunten Netwerk Gezondheid en Milieu	Netherlands
51	Nederlandse Bond van Plattelands-vrouwen	Netherlands
52	VeM, Centrum Vrouw en Milieu	Netherlands
53	ZijActief	Netherlands
54	Network of East-West women Polska	Poland
55	Social Ecological Institut	Poland
56	Femei Pentru un Viitor Curat, FVC	Romania
57	Geo San	Romania
58	Medium & Sanitas Slobozia	Romania
59	Aigul - Chelyabinsk Region Charity Fund for Helping Nuclear Victims	Russia
60	Chelyabinsk City public movement of women 'Fatiha'	Russia
61	Nabat Muslyomovo	Russia
62	Planet of Hopes	Russia
63	Step Forward Snezhinsk	Russia
64	Ural's Women Network - Argayash	Russia
65	Ural's Women Network - Kashli	Russia
66	Global Action Plan	Sweden
67	Youth Ecological Center	Tajikistan
68	SAFO Sughd	Tajikistan
69	ASDP Nau	Tajikistan
70	Bugday	Turkey
71	PAN / Pesticide Action Network Europe	UK
72	Women's Environmental Network - WEN	UK
73	Black Sea Women' Club	Ukraine
74	Kraii	Ukraine
75	Mama-86 Artemivsk	Ukraine
76	Mama-86 Kharkiv	Ukraine
77	Mama-86 Kiev	Ukraine
78	Mama-86 Poltava	Ukraine
79	Mama-86 Sevastopol	Ukraine
80	Mama-86 Yaremche	Ukraine

81	Ukrainian Scientific Hygienic Society - USHS	Ukraine
82	Youth Ecological Society "Gaia"	Ukraine
83	Mehriban	Uzbekistan
84	SABR Trust Center	Uzbekistan
85	Women for Sustainable development' in the NGO 'Union for defence of the Aral Sea and Amudarya', Udasa	Uzbekistan

Associate Members (no voting rights)

Nr.	Name	Country
1	Global Mothers- Initiative of Women for the Environment and Peace	Austria
2	Clean World' Social Union for Civil Rights	Azerbaijan
3	TETA-KHAZRI	Azerbaijan
4	ISS Independent Social Support	Belarus
5	IDS Initiatives de Développement Stratégique	France
6	Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
7	Unser Land	Germany
8	SO SPS (Mutual Aid Association)	Latvia
9	CSPC, Center for Sustainable production and consumption	Kazakhstan
10	Eco-Museum	Kazakhstan
11	Public Ass Medical Alliance	Kyrgyzstan
12	ECAT Environmental Center for Administration and Technology	Lithuania
13	Women's Issues Information Centre, WIIC	Lithuania
14	Cutezatorul Public Association	Moldova
15	NVR-Commissie Duurzame Ontwikkeling	Netherlands
16	Euro Teleorman	Romania
17	Eco Accord	Russia
18	Environmental Youth Club	Russia
19	Environmental Ambassadors	Serbia
20	Ozone	Serbia
21	Vozrozhdenie	Ukraine
22	Women for Environment	Ukraine
23	Ecology and Peace, Feodosia Regional Organisation	Ukraine
24	Mama-86 Feodosia, Feodosia Town Organisation	Ukraine
25	Concord	Uzbekistan

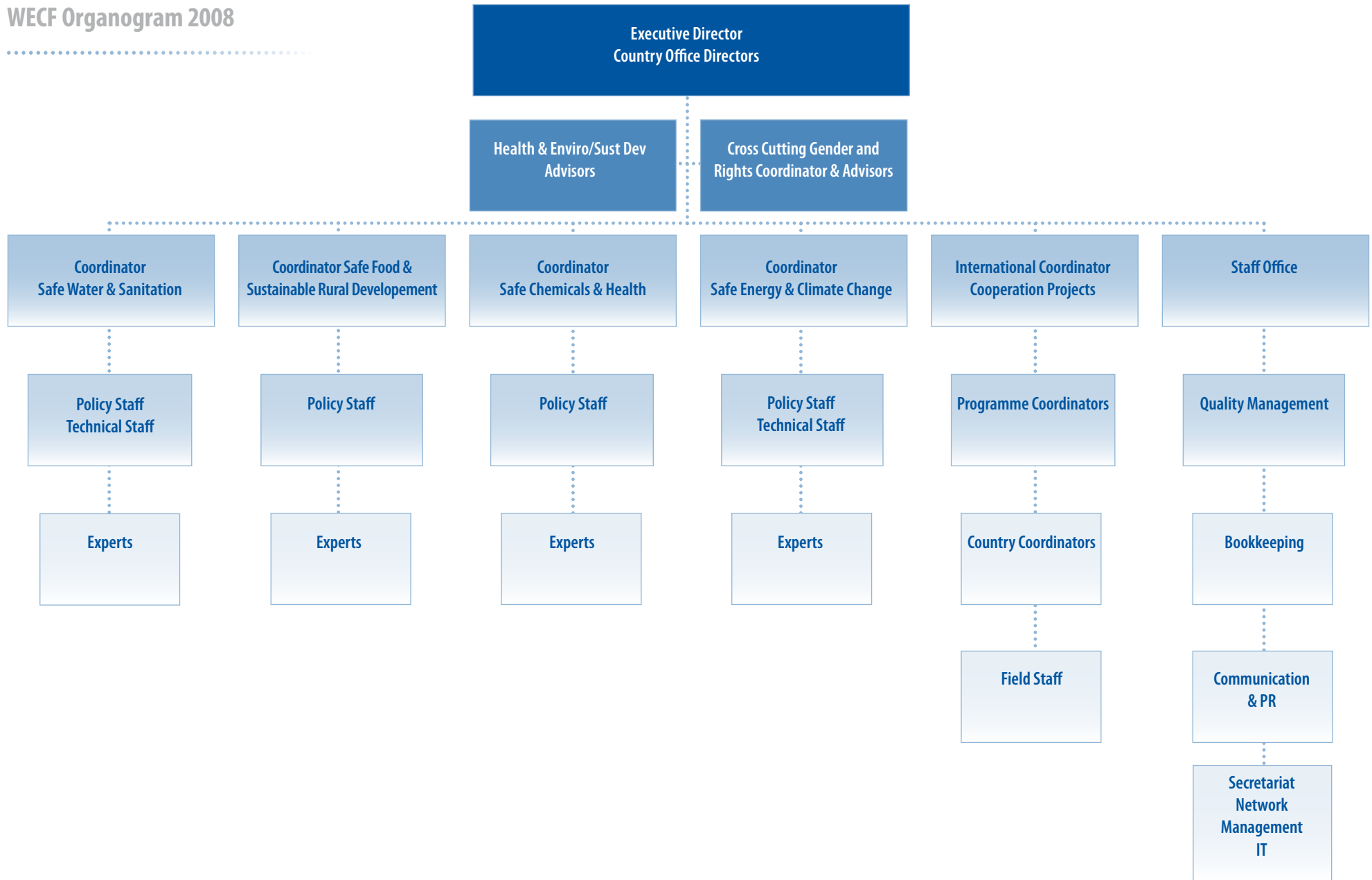
Individual Members (never more than 50 % votes)

Nr.	Name	Country
1	Karine Danielyan	Armenia
2	Catherine Wattiez	Belgium
3	Muborak Sharipova	Denmark
4	Elisabeth Ruffingo	France
5	Nita Chaudhuri	France
6	Dalila Khorava	Georgia
7	Dr Minnu Hemmati	Germany
8	Sabine Brückmann	Germany

9	Silvia Pleschka	Germany
10	Caterina Choreftaki	Greece
11	Olivia Scuderoni	Italy
12	Dr. Nazik Pacha Beziyan	Lebanon
13	Svetlana Bashtovenko	Kyrgyzstan
14	Inese Eistere	Latvia
15	Adriana Debora Hulsmann	Netherlands
16	Irene Dankelmann	Netherlands
17	Johanna Wilhelmina Kleute	Netherlands
18	Kitty Bentvelsen	Netherlands
19	Pamela Lawson	Netherlands
20	Rosemarie b.j. Oude Luttikhuis-Merz	Netherlands
21	Thérèse van Gijn-Bruggink	Netherlands
22	Willy Douma	Netherlands
23	Olga Senova	Russia
24	Patimat Gadzhieva	Russia
25	Victoria Elias	Russia
26	Ivana Blagojevic	Serbia
27	Katarina Korytarova	Slovakia
28	Maja Bavdaz Solce	Slovenië
29	Isabel Ripa	Spain
30	Viviana Avendano	Spain
31	Anne-Sofie Andersson	Sweden
32	Mildred Thulin	Sweden
33	Karin Sondergard	Sweden
34	Mine Yapar	Turkey
35	Clare Flenley	UK
36	Helen Lynn	UK
37	Sonia McLay	UK
38	Claire Flenley	UK
39	Galushkiva Tatijana	Ukraine
40	Victoria Yurescue	Ukraine
41	Claire Greensfelder	USA
42	Mark Hengen	USA
43	Karimova Nodira	Uzbekistan

Membershiplist WECF December 2008	
Full Members	85
Associate Members	25
Total WECF Network Organisations	110
Individual Members	43
Total WECF Members	153

WECF Organogram 2008



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

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for supervising the directors of WECF.

The Board of Trustees meets at least 2 times per year to approve the years accounts and report, and to approve the upcoming years budget and workplan.

Marie Kranendonk	President	Christine v. Weizsäcker	(President as off 12/08)
Bert Kuiten	Treasurer	Marianne Nugteren	(Member as off 09/08)
Willy Douma	Secretary		
Grietjes	(Member as off 12/08)		
Marjon Reiziger	(Vice-president as off 09/08)		



Staff

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

Sascha Gabizon

Executive Director

Anne Barre

Director, France / Switzerland

Maureen Brouwer

Head Staff Office

Gemma Ferst

Coordinator International Policy & Fundraising

Gero Fedtke

Programme Coordinator ELA/MFS

Margriet Samwel

Coordinator Water

Claudia Wendland

Coordinator Sanitation

Sabine Bock

Director Germany/

Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

Sonja Haider

Coordinator Chemicals and Health

Sabine Brückmann

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

Toos van Oers

Coordinator Agriculture EECCA

Anke Stock

Environment and Women's Rights

Alexandra Caterbow,

Project Officer Chemicals

Nicole van Gemert

Policy Officer Chemicals

Bistra Mihaylova-Grigorova

Project Officer, Bulgaria

Tatiana Deriviago

Project Officer, Belarus

Anna Samwel

Project Officer Caucasus

Fedde Jorritsma

Project Officer Central Asia

Olga Plekhanova

Country Officer Eastern Europe and Russia

Olivia Radu

Country Officer Romania

Stefan Deegner

Ecological Sanitation Management

Alp Erguense

Ecological Sanitation Management

Chantal van den Bossche

Public Relations, Press and Website

Johanna Hausmann

Public Relations & Press Germany

Annemarie Hekkers

Office Administrator

Sabine Hanisch

Office Manger and Bookkeeper Germany

Margreet Munneke

Bookkeeper, the Netherlands

Nelleke van Ziel

Office Manager

Lies de Bloois

Controller

Dalena Bischeltsrieder

Executive Assistant

Véronique Grassinger

Corporate Identity & Publications

Farida Shorukova

Project Assistant Central Asia

Elena Glik

Project Assistant EECCA

Magdalena Black

Project officer Agriculture and Energy

Trudel Meier-Staude

Energy Expert

Regina Drexel

Project assistant Energy and Climate Change

Elisabeth Ruffinengo

Chargée de mission

Natalia Dejean

Coordinator and Project Developer

Karin Adolph

Press Officer Germany

Doris Moeller

Project Assistant Water & Sanitation

External

Patrick Meyer

Webdesigner

Herbert Danner

Consultant Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy

Theo Poort

Accountant

Nita Chaudhuri

Environment & Health Promotion Expert

Consultant

Ingrid Elbertse

Consultant Environment

& Health, Lawyer

Vitha Sehvani

Editor



WECF Balance as per 31 December 2008 in Euro

	2008	2007
Assets		
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	21.738	29.642
Current asset		
Work in progress	-177.675	-1.703.097
Receivables and prepayments	339.854	606.247
Cash at banks and in hand	48.661	1.544.982
	210.840	448.132
Total	232.578	477.774
Capital and liabilities		
Capital		
Continuity reserve	34.528	31.352
Current liabilities	198.050	446.422
Total capital and liabilities	232.578	477.774
Continuity Reserve		
Balance as at 1 January	31.352	32.135
Appropriation of net result	3.176	-783
Balance as per 31 December 2008	34.528	31.352

For more information and the auditors opinion we refer to the annual reports 2008 which is available at request at our office in Utrecht

WECF income and expenditure account for the fiscal year ending 31 Dec. 08 in Euro

	Actual 2008	Actual 2007
Source of Income		
Income from received grants governments	2.983.401	2.280.535
Contributions from private foundations	120.724	0
Other income	18.000	114.153
Total Income	3.122.125	2.394.688
Expenditure		
Expenses relating to objectives	2.452.461	1.877.016
Expenses relating to acquiring funds and grants	30.074	0
Operational and administrative expenses	636.414	518.455
Total expenditure	3.118.949	2.395.471
Result for the year	3.176	-783

Observations of the Board of Directors

Financial year 2008

The financial year 2008 was another one of steady growth with an increase of realised grants of 30% compared to actual income of 2007. WECF has continued its 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. WECF obtained continued funding of 298.000 Euro for its overall work plan from the European Commission DG Environment, which allowed to strengthen the European policy activities as well as the network activities, such as the high-level policy conferences on wastewater and sanitation in Brussels (January), Stockholm (August) and on Protecting the Developing Child from Hazardous Chemicals also in Brussels. The EU support also allowed us expanding the WECF awareness raising tool "Nesting" with a 7th language; Spanish. The "Nesting" programme targets young parents on how to create a healthy and safe environment for their new born child.

In the 3rd year of the project "Realizing our Potential" - financed with 160.000 Euro by 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 how the new EU legislation helps shoppers understand more about hazardous chemicals in consumer products such as toys. WECF furthermore received a grant of 50,000 Euro from the Netherlands Ministry of Environment for a first independent NGO inventory on asbestos production and use in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and awareness raising activities on the importance of chrysotile

asbestos being added to the list of Prior Informed Consent of the Rotterdam Convention.

WECF started its three year, 6 million Euro, programme "Empowerment and Local Action - ELA" in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, - funded by development cooperation of the Netherlands – to support reaching the Millennium Development Goals. In the first year, access to safe water and sanitation was created for over 20,000 women, men and children, and 40 partner organisations were trained in onsite renewable energy solutions. The 2nd year of a capacity building project funded by the German Ministry of Environment, on sustainable wastewater solutions, complemented the ELA programme with technical demonstrations. Lessons learned were formulated into policy recommendations and presented at WECF's high level sanitation conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, with involvement of 3 ministries, the parliament and 150 participants. Furthermore, in cooperation with WECF Germany the German Ministry of Environment funded renewable energy training courses in Germany, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan for 40 organisations from the EECCA region. Lessons learned were presented at WECF side-events at Bonn and Poznan Climate Change negotiation meetings of UNFCCC.

In order to upscale the demonstration projects which WECF and its partners carry out, local production of urine diverting toilet seats is necessary. For this reason WECF provided means and expertise for our Georgian partner and by the end of the year the first good quality ceramic urine diverting toilet pots were coming from the local factory in Georgia.

WECF continued for 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 3000 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. A 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 2nd year of the French Foundation Ensemble project in Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, lead to improved school and household sanitation, a major challenge in rural areas, which needs cooperation from all sectors, in particular, 800 school-children were involved in creating "Water Safety Plans" for their communities. A donation by ORT France of 25,000 contributed to the activities in Romania and Bulgaria, as well as 40.000 Euro grant of the Netherlands Embassy in Romania for WECF's partner "Euro-Teleorman".

A donation of 2.900 Euro from a board member of WECF was used to provide roofs for leaking houses for a Roma Settlement near Sibiu, Romania.

WECF almost finalized the project "towards sustainable rural development in Overijssel", allowing the exchange between the German member Unser Land and rural development initiatives from the province of Overijssel. WECF continued its support to the project Green Bridges, allowing the exchange with Unser Land

and WECF members from Poland and Ukraine. In addition, WECF and WLOE organised the women's activities during "Planet Diversity" at the Convention for Biological Diversity COP in Bonn, and produced a documentary Film "Women and Biodiversity", which received funding from FILIA Germany.

Five new member organisations joined WECF in 2008, and WECF opened a third office, in Annemasse, France, in March 2008, to allow additional fundraising from French donors, as well as advocacy projects and partnerships with French authorities, NGOs, scientists and private sector.

Outlook 2009

WECF's budget for 2009 amounts to 3.175.000 Euro, which is a slight increase compared to 2008. WECF will continue investing in organisational development and expand the use of the software ERP-application Pluriform. The organisation will apply for the first step of the quality label of CBF. WECF will continue its "Empowerment and Local Action" (ELA) programme with over 30 partners in 10 countries, focussing on creating sustainable water, sanitation, agriculture and renewable energy solutions in low income rural areas. The safe chemicals for all programme, will continue in 2009 with funding from the EU, Germany and the Netherlands. The international advocacy work in all thematic areas will continue with funding from EU, Germany, Netherlands and private foundations. 2009 will be a year of consolidation and diversification of activities, funding and strategic partnerships.

Sascha Gabizon,
Executive Director WECF





Women in Europe for a Common Future

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