

Working for a Healthy Environment for All



# WECF Strategic Approach 2010-2015



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

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## WECF Strategic Approach 2010-15

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), is an international network of over 100 women's, environmental and health organisations implementing projects in 40 countries and advocating globally for a healthy environment for all.

Building on our work in the EU and EECCA region since 1994, WECF has developed a Strategic Approach to lead us into the next decade and set key goals for the organisation in the period 2010-15 within the wider context of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goals 1,3 and 7.

The Strategic Approach will also serve to facilitate decision-making within the organisation and network, enable improved cooperation with partners, donors, decision-makers and citizens and focus our activities for the period 2010-15, both in terms of implementation projects and advocacy work at local, national and international level.

WECF's Strategic Approach reflects our mission. We aim to safeguard our children's future by creating a healthy environment and sus-

tainable development for all. We believe that women's and men's views and participation are equally required to achieve a world in balance. As an old Chinese proverb says "we need two eyes to see straight".

**WECF's Strategic Approach stands for rights and responsibilities.** The right of access by everyone to safe and sustainable resources: energy, water, sanitation and food. The right to a daily environment free of hazardous chemicals and pollutants. At the same time we challenge ourselves and others to take responsibility, to value and protect environmental resources, and to solve environmental problems together for the benefit of ourselves and our children.

WECF's Strategic Approach is **people-focused and aims to respond to local and global environmental contexts.** Keywords are poverty reduction in rural areas, small-scale, affordable technologies, public participation and a fair share for all in terms of gender and human rights. We recognise the complex and immense nature of the environmental and human challenges facing our

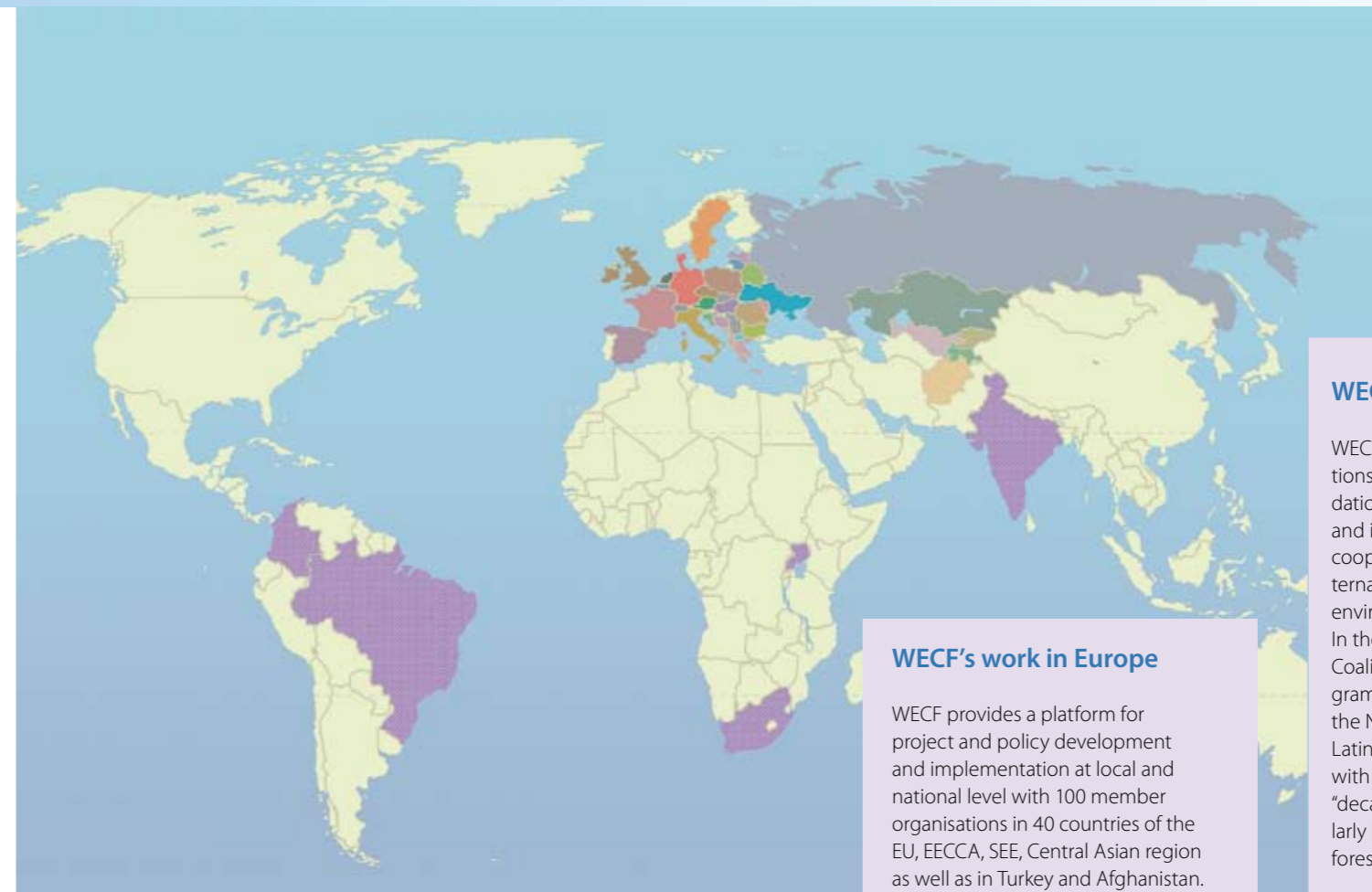
world, and our strategy is to empower people to change their surroundings at local level, whilst advocating at national, European and global level for change.

For 2010-15 the focus on **Climate Justice**, will be intensified, as WECF has taken the initiative for a coalition of 4 Netherlands based sustainable development networks, who will work on **Community and Gender Based Solutions for Climate-Friendly Development.** We employ advocacy and a rights-based approach to give women and marginalised groups a voice at the international policy table.

The Strategic Approach was developed in close consultation with WECF's network members, associates, project partners, donors and staff. It will remain flexible so as to take on board new developments as WECF moves forward in its programmes and projects from 2010 onwards.

A detailed extended version of the WECF Strategic Plan 2010 - 2015 is available from the WECF offices.

*'We don't just talk about problems, we help to solve them!'*  
*Sascha Gabizon,*  
*Executive Director*  
*WECF*



Countries with ongoing WECF Programmes

Countries included in WECF/FOEI/GFC/ICE Climate Justice Coalition Programme

### WECF's work in Europe

WECF provides a platform for project and policy development and implementation at local and national level with 100 member organisations in 40 countries of the EU, EECCA, SEE, Central Asian region as well as in Turkey and Afghanistan. WECF develops innovative solutions for sustainable development adjusted to the local culture, market and climate, based on local needs, and brings the lessons learned to policy makers and into regional policy processes.

### WECF's work worldwide

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

## Our Mission, Roots and Network

### Our Mission

*For an Equitable and Sustainable Future.*

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

### Voice and Choice

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) was officially registered as a foundation in 1994 in the Netherlands following an initiative of European women to work together on sustainable development with a special focus on the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, following the 1992 Rio Summit. The philosophy of WECF was to enable the local project partners and network members to conduct advocacy work themselves with support from WECF, whether at local, national or international level, thus giving a voice to women and mar-

ginalised groups at the environmental policy table. This approach of combined advocacy and project work proved to be successful and became one of the strong points of the WECF network.

### Governance and Organisation

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

### Network

The WECF Network is a network of 100 member organisations and individual members who share a common concern to promote a healthy environment for all, strengthen the

role of women and promote a gender and rights based approach in environment and sustainable development policy and implementation. Over the past 15 years, WECF has developed into a fully-fledged network where capacity building of the member organisations, joint implementation of demonstration projects, and exchange of experience have become the basis of reciprocal cooperation. In order to reach its goals WECF implements projects in partnership with local organisations in 40 countries.

### Membership Policy

WECF's network of members is a crucial part of the organisation. The members provide the local knowledge and contacts and take a leading role in national and international lobby activities. Project partners are usually, but not always, members of the network, and there exists a clear distinction between

*Giving women and men a voice in sustainable development at local and global level*



membership (joint advocacy) and partnership (joint project implementation). Organisations and individuals wishing to join the WECF network can apply by filling in an application form available on the website <http://www.wecf.eu/english/wecf/members.php>. Applications for membership are approved or rejected by the network's representative body, the IAB (International Advisory Board). WECF's full members have voting rights and associate members do not. Approved members must sign an MoU

(Memorandum of Understanding) with the network, in which they commit themselves to the mission and objectives of the network. The MoU commits the new member to the mission and objectives of the network and describes the services the network and WECF will provide. These services include capacity building of members to find funding for specific activities, but membership does not give any right to financial support from WECF. Members have to be financially independent organisations. Members contribute to WECF's

overall strategy through the General Assembly of the network and the elected International Advisory Board (IAB). In addition the IAB mandates a representative to take part in the meetings of the International Board of Trustees and the WECF Project Selection Committee.

### Challenges and Opportunities

#### Safe and Sustainable Energy and Climate Protection for All

##### Challenges

Climate change, energy poverty and resultant health and environmental problems are worsening. Climate change leaves isolated rural communities vulnerable in winter as the severe freeze in Tajikistan in winter 2008 showed. Even where energy poverty does not have immediately fatal consequences, it affects the most vulnerable groups and has high economic and health costs that contribute to wider poverty, for example reduced labour hours due to searching for fuel, reduced education due to unheated schools, worse hygiene due to lack of hot water. Outdated infrastructure and a lack of sustainable decentralised energy sources exacerbate energy poverty. If people cannot access or afford energy they take whatever options are open to them: rural households in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan burn up to 3 tons of dung or wood annually. People resort to depleting local forests for fuel, burning dung which was

intended for use as fertiliser, or burning unsafe materials such as plastics. The consequences are localised environmental degradation, increased emissions and health effects such as respiratory problems of children exposed to faulty oil heaters, for example. Barriers to take up of locally available and sustainable sources of energy include low availability of affordable technologies coupled with lack of legislation, awareness and know-how amongst decision makers, public administration and the general public.

*Working through our coalition in Europe for climate justice worldwide*



These barriers persist within the EU as well. Sharply rising fuel costs lead to more interest in renewable technologies, which are rapidly advancing, including at household level. Countries such as Germany have developed progressive policies to promote renewable energies and energy efficiency. However, this is not yet the norm, and the fossil fuel industries and nuclear lobby are keen to promote their products as the solution to rising energy

use as well as climate change with nuclear claiming to be a 'clean' alternative, despite its high costs in terms of risks to health, the full chain of emissions and decommissioning plants.

International climate policies and mechanisms lack criteria for gender equity, human rights and environmental sustainability. The Clean Development Mechanism is hardly accessible

for household or community based initiatives below 15,000 tons saving of CO2 equivalent per year. Rising food prices, due amongst others to speculation and the competition between food and biofuel crops, has hit the poorest hardest, as the 2009 UN report on food security reported unprecedentedly high levels of hunger globally, with 1 billion people, or 1/6 of the world's population, currently under-nourished.

##### Opportunities

WECF's experience in enabling access to locally available and sustainable sources of energy will be joined with its experience in advocating for renewable energy rather than nuclear power as a response to worries about security of energy supply and rising fuel costs.

WECF will promote the development, implementation and upscaling of sustainable, decentralized and innovative energy solutions for low-income communities.

WECF will lead the Coalition for Climate Justice, comprising WECF, Friends of the Earth International, Global Forest Coalition and Interface for Cycling Expertise, to combat poverty through equitable, empowering and efficient climate solutions.

WECF will press for the inclusion of environmental, pro-poor, human rights and gender equity criteria in international climate mechanisms, and will advocate for the promotion of smaller scale initiatives.

WECF and its members' experience of the devastating long term effects on humanity of the nuclear cycle, from uranium mining via nuclear energy to nuclear waste, will inspire our campaign to ensure that the nuclear industry will not profit from UNFCCC (financial) support mechanisms.

WECF challenges people to take a broader view on CO2 reductions: climate protection should not lead to additional burdens on health and environment, e.g. avoiding the use of mercury in energy-saving light bulbs or hazardous chemicals in solar panels.

WECF advocates for sustainable criteria for agrofuels, which avoid negative side effects including increased CO2 emissions from destruction of wetlands and peat areas to plant biofuel plantations, and ensure that biofuels are produced without hazardous chemicals and GMOs with the focus on local consumption.



### Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

#### Challenges

As 2.6 billion people around the world still lack basic sanitation and 900 million lack access to clean drinking water, the MDG 7 target to halve the number by 2015 is unlikely to be met. Worldwide, lack of safe sanitation and water cause 1.4 million preventable deaths, mostly among children under 5. Even in the European Union, more than 20 million citizens still lack safe sanitation: in Bulgaria, 2.1 million people in rural areas and in Romania, almost half the population, 10.4 million people out of 21.7 million, lack safe sanitation. In addi-

tion, 120 million people in the WHO European Region lack access to safe drinking water, and 14,000 children in the region die every year as the result of waterborne diseases. WECF's programme in rural areas of EECCA countries on water quality monitoring has confirmed the presence of human faecal bacteria and nitrates in drinking water wells of many rural communities. This is due to widespread mismanagement of human and animal waste, since water protection strategies, tools and legislation are lacking. These pollutants contribute significantly to recurring

gastro intestinal diseases and child morbidity. A key factor is that in rural areas without sewers, unsustainable sanitation systems such as pit latrines and perforated septic tanks are used, which often pollute drinking water and threaten health. WECF's has demonstrated two sustainable sanitation systems, the Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDTs), and the Constructed Wetland or Soil Filters, which both protect drinking water sources and at the same time allow safe reuse of nutrients, either as effective fertiliser or as biomass. Sustainable sanitation systems are better adapted to impacts of climate change (droughts, floods), use less electricity for operation, and substitute carbon-intensive synthetic fertilizers. Soil filters can absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and produce valuable organic materials for insulation and construction. Decentralized sustainable sanitation therefore is well suited for National Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. Barriers at the policy level are a lack of awareness of the opportunities presented by decentralised, sustainable sanitation systems, hence a lack of legislation on water source protection and the reuse of human excreta in agriculture.



*Worldwide, lack of safe sanitation and water cause 1.4 million preventable deaths, mostly among children under 5*

#### Opportunities

WECF will promote decentralised, safe sustainable and affordable sanitation systems for rural areas and promote in particular access to safe water and sanitation for schools

WECF raise awareness and mobilise citizens for a sustainable water and wastewater management, whilst involving civil society in the implementation of demonstration projects and bringing grassroots experience to policy makers

WECF will promote preventive methods to improve water quality, protecting water sources from pollution by solid waste, human and animal excreta and pesticides and introduces methods of organic farming and use of dry urine diverting toilets and decentralised wastewater treatment systems such as reed-bed filters

WECF will promote community based and affordable water supply systems for rural areas without a centralised drinking water supply, and the continued upscaling of successful demonstration projects.

WECF will introduce Water & Sanitation Safety Plans (WSSPs) as a tool for mobilising communities, raising awareness on the of right access to safe water and sanitation and involving youth from rural schools.

WECF and partners will enable an interactive overview of both water pollution in target areas, as well as sustainable

school sanitation projects through an online map (**ToNi finder**) <http://www.wecf.eu/toni/>

WECF and partners will represent civil society in the UNECE Protocol on Water and Health process and will advocate for an integrated and sustainable approach to water resource and river basin management.



## Women in Europe for a Common Future

### Safe Chemicals and Waste Management for All

#### Challenges

12 People in the European region continue to be exposed to untested and largely unregulated hazardous chemicals in their everyday lives, ranging from household products to personal care products, furnishings and toys. Just 10% of the 100,000 chemical substances used on the European market have been tested for health effects. The main challenges include inadequate and insufficiently implemented legislation at all levels, which fails to take account of the specific vulnerability of the developing child and of women. Environmental health is not mainstreamed into health, social, and consumer legislation. Aggressive industry lobbying against tougher legislation hampers progress. A lack of awareness amongst consumers means they have a misplaced trust in product safety and do not ask awkward questions.

For those who wish to know more, there is a severe lack of objective, accessible information on product safety.

New technologies are outpacing legislation: nanotechnology for example is already available in consumer products but is completely unregulated the real risk that inhaled fibres

could cause similar effects to asbestos-induced mesothelioma. WECF believes that there is no time to stand by and wait for full proof of the harmful health effects of individual hazardous chemicals such as neurotoxins used in cosmetics. We cannot afford more public health scandals such as the vast numbers of children whose brain development was affected by lead or the hundred-thousand people who die each year from asbestos. Our health, our children's health and a safe environment must come before economic interests.

The largely unregulated use of hazardous chemicals in everyday products is already exacting a heavy price on public health, particularly that of babies and children. An estimated 1 in 6 children in Europe now suffer from developmental disorders linked to exposure to over 200 unregulated industrial chemicals. Phthalates or plastic softeners, found in a wide variety of children's toys and products, are now clearly linked with reproductive deformities in baby boys. Known carcinogens (CMRs) are allowed in 1000 times higher concentration in toys than in foodstuff packaging.



## Working for a Healthy Environment for All

Breast cancer is killing 130,000 European women every year, and there is a real need for the mainstreaming of environmental causes in primary prevention of this devastating disease, rather than focussing on lifestyle factors alone which shifts the blame on to women themselves.

Asbestos is still promoted by governments such as Canada, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. At the same time people in the EECCA region are unaware and uninformed about the great health damage caused by all forms of asbestos.

*Helping parents to create a healthy environment for newborns*

## Prevention is the cure!

Reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals saves our breasts and lives.



Women in Europe for a Common Future | WECF

#### Opportunities

WECF and its members will advocate for non-chemical alternatives worldwide, based on three principles: polluter pays, reversal of the burden of proof and the precautionary principle, and will highlight the gaps and inadequacies in current legislation.

WECF will raise awareness amongst consumers and encourage them to ask questions about the products they allow into their homes.

WECF will work with partners to highlight the dangers of asbestos and to work towards a worldwide ban on asbestos and the inclusion

of chrysotile asbestos in the Annex III list of prior informed consent of the Rotterdam Convention.

WECF will focus on the indoor environment of babies and children and engage parents, caregivers, medical personnel and decision makers in raising awareness of threats and creating safe environments, especially with reference to hazardous chemicals.

WECF will advocate for regulation and labelling of consumer products which contain nanomaterials, and the application of the precautionary principle, as well as awareness raising and the right of consumers to know which ingredients are in their everyday products



### Safe Food and Sustainable Rural Development for All

#### Challenges

The Millennium Ecosystems Assessment as well as a June 2009 European Commission report on the state of Europe's biodiversity stated that Europe's ecosystems have suffered more human induced fragmentation than any other continent. 50% of all species and 80% of habitats in Europe currently have 'unfavourable' conservation status, with only 7% of agricultural habitats described as 'favourable'. At legislative level, there is a lack of regulation

on the use of hazardous pesticides, which allows hormone disrupting, carcinogenic, neurotoxic pesticides to be used unrestrictedly, exposing vulnerable groups such as children to life-long health damage. Inadequate regulations on the use of GMOs mirror this. There are no mechanisms for consumers to make an informed choice to avoid pesticides, nanoparticles and GMOs in food products when choosing conventionally produced food. Organic farming, although growing, still rep-

resents only a small total market share compared to conventional farming. This is among others due to trade agreements and the CAP. Nonetheless, in 2007 the FAO concluded that organic agriculture has the potential to secure global food supply with reduced environmental impact. Realising this potential depends greatly on political will. The environmental costs of conventional farming such as pollution from the use of agrochemicals and GMO's are not a priority in trade negotiations

or reflected in food prices, and environmental standards are difficult to include under WTO regulations.

Global control and standardisation of agricultural products and seed stand in direct contradiction to the concept of local and regional diversity in agriculture, and contributes to the loss of agro biodiversity.

Biofuels compete with food production for the use of agricultural land. Local, organically produced biofuels are not yet feasible, a.o. because mixed cropping is restricted under EU legislation. Environmental and social criteria are not applied.

It is also necessary to find new strategies for local and regional initiatives to access EU funds for sustainable rural development which are currently disbursed indirectly through the national and provincial agricultural authorities who tend to favour known beneficiaries and be wary of innovative programmes. Multi-sector partnerships and network building could be a solution.

#### Opportunities

WECF will advocate for sustainable (regional, organic, fair) farming and consumption as a solution to the currently critical situation of rural development in Europe. This includes all measures which strengthen local markets, increase the income generating potential whilst protecting (agro-)biodiversity, and promote local reuse of water and nutrients.

WECF will campaign for (agro) biodiversity protection especially in the light of the unlikelihood of the EU to achieve its biodiversity loss target by 2010, and will input into follow-on measures to halt biodiversity loss.

WECF will advocate for regulations to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals and risky technologies in agriculture and regulations which promote agro-biodiversity protection, sustainable non-agricultural use and protection of landscapes.

WECF sees opportunities for sustainable rural development in green purchasing by authorities and the private sector, and multi-sector partnerships, for example cooperation between producers and consumers, as well as between farmers and water utilities companies.



*Promoting regional and local economic value chains with women, consumers and farmers*

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### Gender Equity in Sustainable Development Environmental Rights and Public Participation (cross-cutting)

#### Challenges

##### Environmental rights

Greater public participation in environmental policy making leads to better policies, which have broad support by the population. Environmental destruction and unsustainable use of resources often go hand in hand with a lack of access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. With regard to climate change in particular, mitigation and adaptation policies cannot be separated from rights and gender issues, since these dimensions affect the degree to which people cause, are impacted by or can respond to climate change. Thus, WECF's input to the UNFCCC process on rights issues as well as on gender issues is of increasing importance. Particularly, in the new accession countries and the neighbouring countries to the EU in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, but also in the EU, the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the ratification of its Protocols and Amendments are key for sustainable development. Yet there is currently a huge gap in terms of

enforcement as legislators have been historically very slow to act, despite ample evidence of severe harm to health (e.g. asbestos). WECF supports in particular the emphasis on citizens' participation enshrined in the Aarhus convention. Furthermore, there is a need to integrate the 3rd pillar of the Convention on access to environmental justice, into EU directives, yet progress has stalled.

WECF aims to support the 2-year mandate of the first "Independent Expert on the issue of Human Rights Obligations related to Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation". Based with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, the independent expert is carrying out country visits and will formulate recommendations on moving beyond the MDG 7 target 10.

##### Gender equity in sustainable development

Gender equity is a key aim in all WECF's programmes and initiatives. WECF strives for "a world in balance", a world in which our environment and economic activities are



in balance, and in which women and men, boys and girls, equally benefit from and have a voice in shaping our future. WECF chooses to support the livelihood efforts of poor and marginalized communities, and of those affected by unsustainable development. In this context it is impossible to neglect the gender dimensions of our work. The focus is on women as catalysts of change. Only with the full participation of both women and men, including understanding of their differing burdens, needs and visions of men and women. It also requires a gender-perspective on budgets and monitoring indicators.

##### Opportunities

WECF will empower women to take control of their environment and health, tackling inequalities and put rights, gender, public participation in the centre of the environmental policy debate.

WECF will promote a rights-based approach and advocate for pro-poor and environmental criteria to be included in



international agreements and legislation, particularly in global climate policies and in the work of the Independent Expert on the Right to Water and Sanitation.

WECF will use its expertise in linking gender with environmental themes in a concrete way, for example the particular impacts on women of climate change, energy poverty and exposure to toxic chemicals.

WECF will ensure grassroots participation in the policymaking process by including the experiences of the poorest rural women and getting their voices heard by policy-makers.

WECF will support the implementation of environmental conventions such as the Aarhus Convention, with focus on participation and right to know of citizens.

WECF will implement a gender action plan to mainstream a gender approach throughout its programmes and that of its partners. As a result, partners and staff have a clear position and expertise on the need for gender equality in sustainable development. Partners and staff have documented and disseminated WECF's gender expertise, and finally, women's empowerment contribution to sustainable development programmes has become visible.



*Making the benefits  
of a gender  
approach visible  
in results*

## Strategic Approach

### WECF's Strategic Approach

WECF empowers local civil society organisations, strengthens the role of women as catalysts and leaders, works in partnership within its network, based on solidarity, innovating for pro-poor sustainable alternatives and systems, bringing good practices to global scale through strategic partnerships, sharing lessons learned, formulating policy recommendations and supporting each other in advocacy actions.

WECF will carry out activities within 5 programmes. There are four thematic programmes and one crosscutting programme:

- **Safe chemicals and waste management for all**
- **Safe and sustainable energy and climate protection for all**
- **Safe water and sustainable sanitation for all**
- **Safe food and sustainable rural development for all**
- **Gender equity in sustainable development environmental rights and public participation**

WECF has a 5-step strategic approach in order to achieve its goals in an integrated way, assuring lasting results.

1

#### 1. Participatory local needs assessments and context analyses

Each action begins with a participatory local needs assessment which ensures local ownership, including gender criteria. This is followed by a 'Know your rights' initiative to inform about relevant national and international legislation. Independent data is gathered locally and through participatory tools such as water safety analysis kits for local NGOs and schools.

2

#### 2. Innovation and demonstration for sustainable development

Focussed on 'local solutions to local problems', WECF and partners develop innovative and integrated technologies and systems which meet the needs identified in 1 with the aim of improving health, protecting the environment and increasing incomes. We ensure that local investments are sustainable and easily replicable.

3

#### 3. Capacity building and networking

WECF builds the technical, management, organisational and institutional capacity of its network member organisations using a train the trainer methodology. Training materials and toolkits are produced, training includes a participatory and gender approach, needs assessment, legal aspects and working with stakeholders.

4

#### 4. Sharing lessons learned and upscaling

The WECF network of member organisations provides a platform of exchange which allows lessons learned to be shared, also with other stakeholders. Results of demonstrations of innovative technologies are published for outreach and visibility. WECF carries out upscaling of successful models in partnership with NGOs, local authorities and donors.

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#### 5. Strengthening policies and practices for a healthy environment and sustainable development for all

WECF always makes the link from practice to policy. The lessons learned in projects and programmes are analysed and policy recommendations formulated, published and presented to policy makers. WECF is a voice for environmental health, rights and vulnerable groups. WECF also leads and cooperates in strategic alliances for change, - for example representing the women's organisations in UNEP civil society committee-, and is proactively involved in environmental rights and gender policy processes at international and national level.



### Programme 2010-2015

#### 1. Safe Chemicals and Waste Management for All

##### Global Goal

WECF improves environmental health by raising awareness and advocating to prevent the negative effects of exposures to hazardous chemicals and waste, such as CMRs, PBTs, vPvBs, neurotoxins, asbestos, nanoparticles and obsolete pesticides, with a focus on promoting non-toxic consumer products, including baby products, toys and cosmetics and cooperating with environmental agencies, laboratories and consumer protection institutes in providing tools for testing chemicals and choosing safer alternatives.

##### Strategic Approach

WECF aims for a toxic-free future where all consumer products on the market in the EU and the pan-European region are free of hazardous chemicals and technologies which threaten health, particularly that of children. Hazardous chemicals concern all chemicals that are persistent, bio-accumulative, toxic (PBT), very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative (vPvB), carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction (CMR), endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC's) and neurotoxins.

WECF will raise awareness about emerging environmental health issues regarding chemicals and waste and will signal concerns voiced by citizens and affected groups to policymakers. Focussed on protecting health, particularly that of vulnerable groups such as children, we will conduct rapid reaction advocacy and long term policy work to strengthen



and enforce legislation on the most hazardous substances such as asbestos, toy safety in terms of chemical hazards, indoor air quality of children's rooms and safety of baby products as well as toys containing hazardous substances such as phthalates and gender-based environmental health problems such as breast cancer. Here we advocate for the precautionary principle, as well as a rights-based approach.

WECF will also tackle emerging issues such as the possible threats posed by nanotechnology, which is already being used unregulated

in consumer products. WECF will achieve this by building on our track record in rapid response advocacy and policy papers, strong gender approach and support of the health of vulnerable groups such as children. In particular, we will focus on innovative, internet-based ways to involve Member States with less access to environmental health data, and to involve people at key life-stages, for example expectant parents.

We will use smart advocacy strategies to counteract industry lobbying, whilst also engaging with the chemicals industry to find solutions.

#### Activities for 2010-2015

##### Programme 1.1

##### Protecting children and women's environmental health

- Advocate to prevent exposures to hazardous chemicals and waste
- Promote non-toxic consumer goods such as baby products, toys and cosmetics
- Co-operate with environmental agencies, laboratories and consumer protection institutes
- Produce tools for testing chemicals and choosing safer alternatives
- Bring new scientific insights and policies to parents and consumers

##### Programme 1.2

##### Strengthening chemical and waste legislative frameworks globally

- Strengthen SAICM, Rotterdam Convention (include asbestos on PIC list), Stockholm Convention, European chemicals regulation REACH, European cosmetics, biocides and toys directives, national nano-policy dialogues, and EU and WHO policy processes on indoor air quality, environment and health and children's environmental health

##### Programme 1.3

##### Substituting and eliminating hazardous substances and processes

- Clean-up & elimination of POPs (persistent organic pollutants) in particular obsolete pesticide stockpiles in the EECCA region, and promote toxic free consumer products with the "Substitute It Now" list in dialogue with social responsible entrepreneurs
- Phase out production and use of chrysotile asbestos



## Programme 2010-2015

### 2. Safe and Sustainable Energy and Climate Protection

#### Global Goal

WECF increases access to safe, affordable and sustainable energy at local level by building capacity on participatory approaches, innovative technologies and pro-poor financial mechanisms in cooperation with schools, scientists, entrepreneurs and financial institutions. WECF promotes the switch from fossil fuels and nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralised alternatives, documenting the damage of the former and the benefits of the latter. WECF seeks to integrate gender and human rights perspectives into the UNFCCC and post-Kyoto regime, promoting mechanisms accessible for local communities, NGOs and women's organisations.

#### Strategic Approach

With the Coalition on Climate Justice in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and member organisations from EU and EECCA, WECF will focus on carbon footprint and advocacy work, for example domestic reductions instead of off-setting, promotion of renewables and reducing public support for the nuclear industry as a result of better awareness. In low CO<sub>2</sub> p/capita emission regions such as the southern Caucasus, Asia, Africa and Latin America, WECF will focus on increasing access to sustainable energy, and on climate adaptation measures for low-income communities. The focus will be on empowering the most vulnerable to protect themselves against the effects of climate change, and to benefit from mitigation programmes to improve health and livelihoods. Reuse of nutrients from sanitation in both energy and agriculture, will be an important theme ('Closing the loop')



with the aim of creating local economic value chains. WECF will continue to share its experience with organisations internationally, advocating for more gender and rights equity in global climate policies and increasing access for women and local communities to climate funds.

### Activities for 2010-2015

#### Programme 2.1 Sustainable energy for low income communities

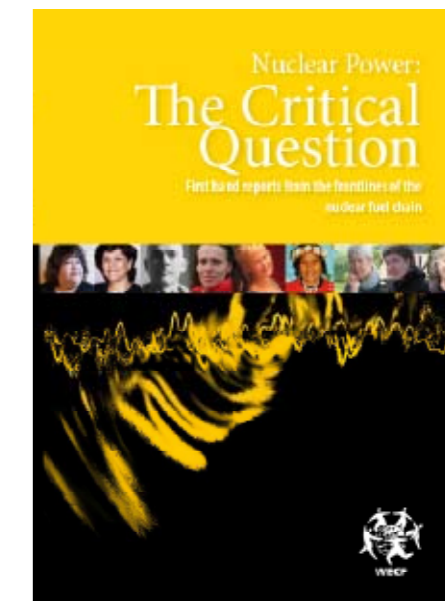
- Development, demonstration and upscaling of innovative technologies, and pro-poor financial mechanisms for sustainable energy with focus on local ownership and participation
- Capacity building of network partners and local communities for sustainable and participatory energy solutions

#### Programme 2.2 Promoting the switch from fossil/nuclear energy towards sustainable and decentralised alternatives

- Documenting the and the benefits of renewables, including a gender and rights approach and increasing public awareness through innovative events and information campaigns
- Policy recommendations for most-affected populations
- Recommendation for integration of gender and human rights perspectives into the UNFCCC and post-Kyoto regime
- Promotion of UNFCCC financial mechanisms accessible for local communities, NGO's and women's organisations

#### Programme 2.3 Bringing sustainable energy to scale

- Feasibility study and project proposal for funding pro-poor household renewable energy via carbon credits of the voluntary market (sustainable-criteria guaranteed)
- Implementing a large scale Gold Standard carbon credit programme for low income communities, bringing the demonstrated solutions to scale in cooperation with strategic partners
- Sharing lessons learned with policy makers and civil society organisations in the EECCA region and worldwide



## Programme 2010-2015

### 3. Safe Water and Sustainable Sanitation for All

#### Global Goal

WECF will increase access to safe, and affordable drinking water and sustainable sanitation and monitor and improve water quality in order to improve health, standards of living and human dignity. WECF will promote sustainable sanitation and reuse of nutrients and waste water, cooperating on innovative participatory approaches, technologies and finance systems with schools, scientists, entrepreneurs and financial institutions, linking reuse with energy and agriculture at project and policy level, and disseminating the results.

#### Strategic Approach

WECF and its partners will continue to implement solutions for safe water supply and sustainable sanitation and waste-water management with partners and communities in the EU, EECCA and with partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America. At the policy level, we will advocate for sustainable water and sanitation policies and funding mechanisms at national, EU and global level, including a global school sanitation campaign, and cooperate within the framework of the Water and Health protocol with national governments, UNECE, WHO and donors to promote integrated sustainable solutions, and support WHO guidelines on safe re-use of human excreta in agriculture. In its activities, WECF will continue to work on improving access in rural areas of new EU member states, demonstrating differentiated implementation options of the EU Water Framework Directive.

WECF will raise awareness amongst target groups, especially youth and rural schools, as well as the general public, about the link between badly managed wastewater, ground water pollution and drinking water quality, on affordable and sustainable ecological wastewater and sanitation systems, and on the safe re-use of wastewater and nutrients. As children and young people are the future of the community, youth involvement is a key part of our strategy, actively engaging young people to improve water quality and sanitation.

WECF will also build long-term capacity by training of trainers and builders, as well as

representatives of member organisations, local authorities, school teachers and university students, generating expert information and educational materials on water source protection, sustainable waste water systems, reuse of nutrients for agriculture and energy generation including bio-gas, and water saving and reuse. The aim is to encourage self-mobilisation and ownership by local partners and communities.

WECF will monitor human rights and differentiated needs and results of women and men more effectively in its programmes, for example girls' school attendance and its links with sanitation.



### Activities for 2010 – 2015

#### Programme 3.1

##### Monitoring and improvement of water quality

- Water & Sanitation Safety Plans for schools with focus on youth participation: mapping of nitrate pollution in wells and hygiene in schools
- Build and renovate drinking water wells and small scale water supplies
- Capacity building, support and mentoring of community based water groups and pro-poor financial mechanisms

#### Programme 3.2

##### Promotion of sustainable sanitation via reuse of nutrients and waste water

- Household and school sanitation for rural areas,
- Reuse of waste water and waste
- Co-operation on innovative participatory approaches, technologies and financing systems with schools, scientists, entrepreneurs and financial institutions

#### Programme 3.3

##### Linking with energy, climate change and agriculture at project and policy level

- Demonstrating reuse of nutrients for agriculture and energy (closing the cycle)
- Policy recommendations for integration into local, national and international codes and legislation



## Programme 2010-2015

### 4. Safe Food Production and Sustainable Rural Development

#### Global Goal

WECF will increase access to local, safe, sustainable and fairly priced food, as well as increasing rural incomes and wellbeing. WECF promotes agro biodiversity, strengthening cooperation between farmers, consumers, supermarket, bakers, bee-keepers, hotels and restaurants and local policy makers for local traditional produce which protects agro-biodiversity and people's health, as well as creating sustainable economic development. WECF advocates for legislation and international agreements which promote agro-biodiversity protection and sustainable farming and phasing-out the use of GMOs and hazardous pesticides.

#### Strategic Approach

WECF believes, in line with the conclusions of the World Agriculture Report 2008: International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), that there is an urgent need to move away from destructive and chemical-dependent industrial agriculture and to adopt environmental modern farming methods that champion biodiversity and benefit local communities. More and better food can be produced without destroying rural livelihoods or our natural resources. Local, socially and environmentally responsible methods are the solution, rather than genetic engineering.

Therefore in its strategic approach WECF will promote examples of sustainable (=local, safe, fair priced) produced food, in particular organic farming, that provide healthier and diverse food, improve the overall economic



situation in rural areas and protect natural resources and ecosystems. We will also promote protection of agro biodiversity as well as traditional species by fostering cooperation between members who are active in this field, and advocates for legislation prohibiting the use of GMOs and hazardous agrochemicals, as a crucial prerequisite for sustainable rural development.

At policy level, WECF will mobilise women as a major group in international biodiversity policy processes such as CBD, CAP reform.

We will also advocate for avoidance and labelling of foods containing hazardous agrochemicals and GMOs. WECF will seek to further integrate sustainable energy, water and waste management into its work on rural development in a 'closing the cycle' approach.

### Activities for 2010 – 2015

#### Programme 4.1

##### Agro-biodiversity protection

- Promote the use of local traditional products which protect agro-biodiversity and people's health
- Advocate for legislation and international agreements, which promote agro-biodiversity protection and sustainable farming
- Promote the phasing out the use of GMOs, nanotechnology, synthetic biology and hazardous pesticides in agricultural production and processing

#### Programme 4.2

##### Sustainable Rural development

- Capacity building on sustainable agriculture
- Demonstrating reuse of nutrients as natural fertilizer
- Demonstrating sustainable rural development



## Programme 2010-2015

### 5. Gender Equity in Sustainable Development & Environmental Rights and Public Participation

#### Global Goal

**Public Participation and Environmental Rights:** WECF will increase access to justice and public participation in environmental issues by building capacity on environmental rights instruments such as the Aarhus Convention on access to justice, cooperation with the Human Rights Council, information and public participation, and by taking policy action in support of member organisations which are under threat for their work to protect health and environment in their regions.

#### Gender in Sustainable Development:

WECF will train and raise awareness with women and men on the social, economic and environmental benefits of full participation of women in decision making, implementation and monitoring, including in all its own implementation and policy activities, and will provide support for women's organisations to implement actions for improvement of environment and health.

#### Strategic Approach

WECF will advocate for the right to a healthy environment as the birthright of every person with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. We will ensure that all activities are carried out using a rights-based approach, with the focus on inclusion, participation and gender equity, as well as the empowerment and full involvement of marginalised groups (voice and choice). The result will be more justice and programmes which meet real needs.

WECF will advocate for human rights and gender criteria and tools to be included in international, national and local policy processes, using our core experience working with rural women as catalysts of change in transition and developing countries, with their high proportion of female-headed households. Gender criteria will be included at every stage



of the whole project cycle and women will take a full part in the trainings and small demonstration projects in both eco sanitation and renewable energy.

WECF national organisations and member organisations are aware of the importance of environmental and human rights and gender

equality, the practical aspects of implementing these rights in global, regional, national and local codes and legislation.

### Activities for 2010-2015

#### Programme 5.1

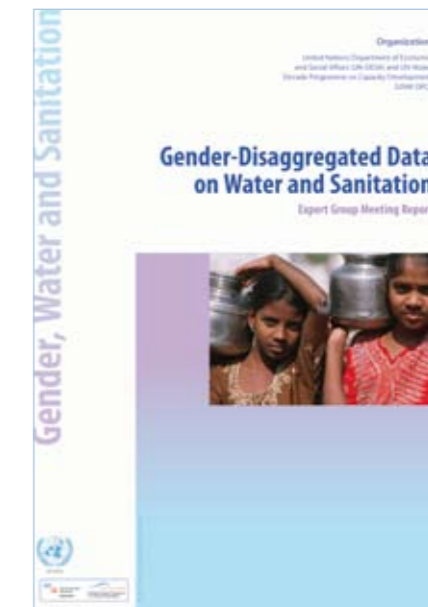
##### Increased access to justice and environmental rights instruments

- Capacity building of 100 member organisations on the use of legal instruments for protecting the environment and health, with focus on the Aarhus Convention, and including UNDRIP (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)
- Legal support for network members in defending a local environmental health issue against private companies, government or other actors

#### Programme 5.2

##### Increased participation of women in sustainable development policy-making process

- Provision of capacity building and financial support to 130 women-led organisations
- Policy recommendations on including gender and public participation into international environmental and health policy processes
- Training of 50 WECF staff and 150 network organisations on use of gender mainstreaming tools
- Climate policy recommendations from a gender and rights perspective



## International Advisory Board

The WECF international Advisory Board represents the WECF members, leads the WECF working groups and sets priorities for the strategies for the organisation.

Name	Function	Country
<b>Irene Dankelman</b>	Chair / gender & environment	Netherlands
<b>Svetlana Slesarenok</b>	Co-chair	Ukraine
<b>Nadjesda Kutepova</b>	Energy-alternate	Russia
<b>Gulbuchar Izentaeva</b>	Energy and Climate protection	Uzbekistan
<b>Diana Iskreva</b>	Sanitation	Bulgaria
<b>Anna Tsvetkova</b>	Water & Sanitation	Ukraine
<b>Victoria Elias</b>	Biodiversity & Public Participation	Russia
<b>Viviane Avandana</b>	Sustainable Rural Development & Sanitation	Spain
<b>Ela Priwieziencew</b>	Sustainable Rural Development	Poland
<b>Olga Speranskaya</b>	Chemicals & Health	Russia
<b>Helen Lynn</b>	Chemicals & Health	England
<b>Elena Manvelian</b>	Environmental 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 year's budget and workplan.

<b>Christine von Weizsäcker</b>	President
<b>Marjon Reiziger</b>	Vice-president
<b>Bert Kuiten</b>	Treasurer
<b>Grietje Zeeman</b>	Member
<b>Marianne Nugteren</b>	Member



## Members

For a list of members of the WECF network please see the website: [www.wecf.eu/english/wecf/members.php](http://www.wecf.eu/english/wecf/members.php)

## Staff

WECF activities are coordinated from the offices in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Munich, Germany and Annemasse, France. WECF has regional coordinators based in Tbilisi, Georgia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

WECF works with volunteers, interns, paid staff and consultants.

## Sascha Gabizon

Executive Director

## Anne Barre

Director, France / Switzerland

## Sabine Bock

Director Germany/  
Coordinator Energy and Climate Change

## Maureen Brouwer

Head Staff Office

## Gemma Ferst

Coordinator International Policy & Fundraising

## Gero Fedtke

Coordinator International Programmes

## Margriet Samwel

Coordinator Water

## Claudia Wendland

Coordinator Sanitation

## Demi Theodori

Coordinator Chemicals & health

## Sabine Brückmann

Coordinator Sustainable Rural Development

## Anke Stock

Environment and Women's Rights

## Alexandra Caterbow,

Coordinator Chemicals International

## Bistra Mihaylova-Grigorova

Project Officer, Bulgaria

## Tatiana Deriviago

Project Officer, Belarus

## Anna Samwel

Regional coordinator Caucasus

## Fedde Jorritsma

Regional coordinator Central Asia

## Olga Plekhanova

Country Officer Eastern Europe and Russia

## Olivia Radu

Country Officer Romania and Moldova

## Farida Shorukova

Project Assistant Central Asia

## Magdalena Black

Project officer Agriculture and Energy

## Doris Moeller

Project Assistant Water & Sanitation

## Regina Drexel

Project assistant Energy and Climate Change

## Elisabeth Ruffinengo

Chargee de mission

## Natalia Dejean

Coordinator and Project Developer

## Stefan Deegner

Ecological Sanitation Management

## Chantal van den Bossche

Public Relations, Press and Website

## Johanna Hausmann

Public Relations & Press Germany

## 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

## Karin Adolph

Press Officer Germany

## External

### Patrick Meyer

Webdesigner

### Herbert Danner

Consultant Energy Efficiency & Solar Energy

### Nita Chaudhuri

Environment & Health Promotion Expert

### Consultant

### Ingrid Elbertse

Consultant Environment  
& Health, Lawyer



### How you can get involved

WECF needs you! If you are enthusiastic about our work, you can get involved by donating, becoming a Friend of WECF (new !) or giving your time and ideas.

Donations can be made in two ways: online via our website at <http://www.wecf.eu/english/wecf/support.php>

Or through our bank accounts:

#### Germany

Kontoinhaber: Women in Europe for a Common Future e.V.

Kontonummer: 13139050

Bankleitzahl: 70150000

Bank: Stadtsparkasse München

IBAN: DE68 7015 0000 0013 1390 50

BIC: SSKMDEMM

#### Netherlands

Account Holder: Women in Europe for a Common Future

Account Number: 12 66 45 116

IBAN: NL96RABO0126645116

BIC: RABONL2U

Bank: RABO Netherlands

#### France

Account Holder: WECF France

Account Number: 18106000389671194187556

IBAN:FR7618106000389671194187556

BIC: AGRIFRPP881

Bank: Crédit Agricole de Savoie, Annemasse Saint André



#### Voluntary Work

If you are interested in spending your time and knowledge on supporting WECF, please contact the following people:

#### The Netherlands

Annemarie Hekkers; [annemarie.hekkers@wecf.eu](mailto:annemarie.hekkers@wecf.eu)

#### Germany

Annemarie Mohr; [annemarie.mohr@wecf.eu](mailto:annemarie.mohr@wecf.eu)

#### France

Anne Barre; [anne.barre@wecf.eu](mailto:anne.barre@wecf.eu)

#### Friends of WECF

Support our work, become a Friend of WECF! Friends join our campaigns, Friends follow us on Facebook, and when they can, Friends support us with 1 Euro per month.

Join us as a friend of WECF at <http://www.wecf.eu/new/english/about-wecf/get-involved/become-a-friend.php>

Follow WECF actions, join us on Facebook and Twitter

# Women in Europe working together with Women and Men in the World for an Equitable and Sustainable Future







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Fax: +49 - 89 - 23 23 938 11

Website: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)

E-mail: [wecf@wecf.eu](mailto:wecf@wecf.eu)

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.

WECF implements solutions locally and influences policy internationally.