

Our Motivation

"An old Chinese proverb says: we need two eyes to see straight. It is the same with men and women, we need to consider both their views equally in order to make the right decisions".

MARIE KRANENDONK, President, WECF

"Health and Environment should always stand above economic interests".

ANNEMARIE MOHR, Project Leader, WECF

"WECF promotes ideas of women for a grandchild-friendly-environment".

MARGRIET SAMWEL, Water expert, WECF

"We improve the direct living conditions of a few hundred people. We increase the awareness and knowledge of a few thousand. Through our advocacy work we reach out to millions".

SASCHA GABIZON, Executive Director, WECF

"Future generations cannot stand up for their own rights. We are responsible for the health and environment of the next generation".

**SYLVIA ALTAMIRA,
Network Coordinator, WECF**



WECF Organisation or Contribution to following Conferences

- Children's Health & Environment Budapest, 2004
- International Forum on Chemicals Safety, Bangkok, 2003
- WECF Working Towards a Toxic Free Future, Soesterberg, 2003
- Environment Ministers Conference, Kiev, 2003
- World Water Forum, Kyoto, 2003
- Earth Summit, Johannesburg, 2002
- WECF European Women's Conference, Prague, 2002
- WECF conference on Chemicals and Water, the Hague, 2000
- Global Water Forum, The Hague, 2000
- Health & Environment Conference, London, 1999
- Environment Public Participation Conference, Århus, 1998
- World Women's Conference, Beijing, 1995
- Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro, 1992



Why Women?

- Women are important catalysts for change.
- Women often have different perspectives and priorities.
- Women react differently to environmental pollution – due to their different physiology and activities – and thus suffer different health effects than men.
- The bodies of pregnant women are the first environment for their children. If women's bodies are polluted, those of future generations will be as well.
- Women are important consumers and investors and have the right to access the information that will enable them to make informed decisions.
- Women are often under-represented in policy-making fora.



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Women in Europe for a Common Future



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WECF



Women in Europe for a Common Future is a network of organisations and individuals working for sustainable development, protection of human health and environment and poverty reduction. Our international

network consists of members and partners in Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

WECF helps women to actively take part in making their communities healthier and more sustainable. We develop practical solutions to problems relating to health and the environment, with the help of trusted experts and scientists.

WECF works to raise awareness about the root causes of environmental health effects and promotes preventive action to eliminate the problems at the source.

WECF strengthens the participation of women in decision making at local, national and international levels.

WECF builds knowledge and capacity through skill shares, surveys and trainings programmes.

WECF draws attention to difficult issues. We work for improvements where there are health threats or social injustices related to the environment. We propose solutions and ask politicians to take action.

WECF believes in our right to a healthy environment!

WECF's 5 working groups:

- Health & Environment
- Water & Sanitation
- Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development
- Energy & Climate Change
- Gender & Sustainable Development

Body burden action

ADVOCACY

Two examples

“WORKING TOWARDS A TOXIC FREE FUTURE”

Soesterberg, Netherlands, 2003

Toxic substances accumulate in the human body and the environment. Every person carries some 300 man-made chemicals in their tissues. WECF demands legislation that will protect public health from toxic chemicals. The conference in Soesterberg brought together the knowledge and experience of 100 WECF partners on how to achieve this. An action plan was developed on strengthening the proposed European chemicals legislation. Local strategies are being implemented in Armenia, Netherlands, Germany and the UK.

WORLD SUMMIT JOHANNESBURG

South Africa, 2002

WECF and 12 of it's members participated in the 2nd Earth Summit in Johannesburg. WECF presented its publication “Why Women are Essential for Sustainable Development” to the government delegations, including to EU commissioner for Environment Ms. Margot Wallström (photo). WECF's demands are for safe and



Margot Wallström (left) and Sascha Gabizon

affordable drinking water for all, a toxic-free future, phase-out of nuclear energy and support for solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe.



Amaranth in the Ararat region

PROJECTS

A few examples



Waterless eco-toilet Romania

ROMANIA

WECF and MEDIUM & SANITAS installed eco-toilets, water-filters and basins for hand-washing in the village of Garla Mare. Due to the improved water quality and hygiene, the risk of disease has been greatly reduced.

ARMENIA

WECF and AWHHE grow organic Amaranth in the Ararat region. The harvest of this protein- and vitamin-rich plant is supplied to undernourished children and pregnant women. The aim is to develop organic farming and introduce Amaranth as a cheap nutrition supplement for a large part of the impoverished population.

RUSSIA

WECF and PLANET OF HOPES have been promoting more sustainable regional development - including energy saving practices and technologies - for the nuclear contaminated Southern-Urals.

UZBEKISTAN

WECF and MEHRIBAN are developing pilot projects for clean drinking water in the devastated Aral Sea region. We are improving access to clean water and sanitation in rural village schools.

UKRAINE

WECF and MAMA-86 are cooperating in building the capacity of the 15 regional MAMA-86 centres and implementing pilot projects on water saving, eco-sanitation, legal advice for water consumers and public participation in environmental decision making.