



WECF Newsletter | 23.12.2011 | www.wecf.eu

Dear friends, partners and members of WECF,

In November and December WECF showed its strong position especially on gender issues in international Rio+20 meetings and side events in France, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United States. November also saw interactive afternoons on Toys Safety organized by WECF the Netherlands and WECF France.

On 16-18 of November WECF hosted a hot topic session on food safety, water, sanitation, and hygiene in the international Nexus conference in Bonn. And in the field of Energy and Climate WECF shared its knowledge by training local communities on construction, use and maintenance of solar collectors in the rural areas of Georgia and organized a conference "Sharing Lessons Learned" in Azerbaijan thus closing a 2 years project on poverty reduction in out of reach communities in rural Azerbaijan.

WECF wishes you a happy season and a great start into 2012.



Best wishes,

The WECF team

News and Reports

Gender & Rights

WECF active at global Rio+20 meetings and side events in France, the Netherlands Switzerland and the United States

WECF actively participated in international Rio+20 meetings and side events in France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. WECF director Sascha Gabizon represented the Women's major group global position for Rio+20, focusing on women's rights and on thematic priorities such as addressing "land grabbing" and "nuclear risks" [at the meeting on gender and women priorities for Rio+20 at the Foreign Ministry](#), 7 November in Paris.

On November 11, Sustainability Day in the Netherlands, WECF was co-organiser along with the Dutch Platform Rio+20, the Dutch Gender Platform WO=MEN and Womeninc of the meeting ["Gender Priorities for Rio+20"](#)



On the 2nd of December WECF organised a side event at the UNECE Rio+20 conference ["From 'Brown' Economy to 'Care' Economy: Women's priorities for Rio+20"](#) in Geneva. On the 15th of December, WECF organized a side event on women's priorities for Rio+20 with a focus on ["equitable" economy](#) in New York.

[SIGN THE WOMEN'S POSITION STATEMENT FOR RIO+20](#)

Energy & Climate

Training on construction, use and maintenance of solar collectors in Chardakhi, Georgia

30 participants from eight villages in Georgia were trained in October in the construction use and maintenance of solar collectors. WECF's activities were introduced, environmental issues and business opportunities were discussed as well as gender related topics. The training was given with the aim for each participant to have built two solar collectors before Christmas in seven villages in rural Georgia.

The training was organised in the frame of the project '**Building local capacity for domestic solar heating, hot water and insulation for rural and remote areas in the EEC region**' with financial support of the European Commission.



Closing conference “Sharing Lessons Learned”, 25 – 26 November 2011, Baku, Azerbaijan

WECF, together with the local partner EKOT, organized a closing conference on 25-26 of November 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan to present the experiences of the 2 year project „**Community approaches to a better environment for all and poverty reduction in out of reach communities of Rural Azerbaijan**“, which took place in six villages in Sabirabad, Saatli, Ismayilli and Shemakha regions in Azerbaijan.

Chemicals & Health

WECF France and WECF the Netherlands organized succesful Toys Events in November

On November 10 WECF the Netherlands organized **the first Dutch Toys Convention**, where a toys' test to assess the use of harmful chemicals in our children's toys was conducted. During an interactive afternoon with speakers from politics, science and the toy industry, parents and stakeholders discussed the present situation and formulated recommendations for national and European policy makers. The event was followed by **a new WECF publication on Toys safety "Spelbrekers "**.



A week later on November the 16th, WECF France, with the support of Quad-Lab laboratory, organized a toys testing action in Paris. Testing confirmed that toys sold on the European markets still contained chemicals of concern. **See the report on the French TV News TF1**

Water & Sanitation

Nexus Conference: WECF hosted hot topic session on food safety, water, sanitation, and hygiene

The conference "The Water Energy and Food Security Nexus – Solutions for the Green Economy" was organised by the German Ministry of Development Cooperation and the German Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety and provided the German input on the Rio +20 negotiations 2012. The linkage between water, energy and food was put in the centre of the discussion and led to policy recommendations related to the nexus.



Anara Choitonboeva, WECF partner from Kyrgyzstan, being interviewed by Deutsche Welle Radio at the Bonn Nexus Conference

WECF with the German WASH network was part of the Nexus conference hosting one hot topic session "**No Food and Nutrition Security without Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**". Sascha Gabizon, executive director of WECF welcomed the conference: "Facing today's global challenges, the nexus approach is very much needed, start thinking out of the sectors. The women's traditional role has always been to think in a holistic way to make the family's and community's life sustainable."

New WECF Publications



Annual Report WECF 2010

In 2010, despite the financial crisis, WECF has continued to increase its outreach to share the visions and priorities of women and their communities with decision makers and the general public around the world, particularly through our websites and facebookpages reaching several hundred thousand visitors.

Through our local partner projects in low-income rural communities, we have continued to demonstrate the best practices for improving livelihoods whilst reducing environmental damage, with 2000 beneficiaries of innovative energy solutions including solar water heaters and solar fruit driers, and over 35,000 accumulated beneficiaries of our sanitation and water supply projects.

Through our capacity building and training programmes, several hundred local trainers are now able to continue to share their newly gained skills to increase the number of people who benefit from these affordable and innovative solutions. Our member and partner organisations have been very active sharing lessons learned through our online tools such as Intera and Toni-finder, but most importantly through 'open space' skills share meetings.

WECF provides a network, platform and tools for global citizens, women and men, who want to work together for a fair, healthy and safer world for all. Will you join us?

[DOWNLOAD THE PDF](#)



Spelbrekers

Recommendations and suggestions concerning the European Toys Safety Directive (in Dutch)

WECF

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) is a unique network of over 100 grassroots women's and environmental organisations in 40 countries, working in multi sector partnerships demonstrating sustainable development alternatives at the local level and sharing lessons learned and promoting sustainable policies at global level. Our network spans Western Europe and the EECCA region; we have offices in France, Germany and the Netherlands. Our work concentrates on the women's perspective of environmental issues, such as chemicals, energy, rural development as well as water and sanitation. WECF receives donations from foundations, private donors and institutional sponsors.

Every little helps!

You can always support our work by making a donation, We welcome all sorts of donations, whether it's a one-time gift or a monthly donation. [Donations can be made online.](#)

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Latest News



[International Trade of hazardous chemicals and pesticides](#)

WECF position on the Commission proposal to recast of PIC Regulation

20.12.2011 - WECF



Lancering Nederlands Actieplan 1325 'Vrouwen, Vrede, Veiligheid'

Bijna 40 organisaties waaronder WECF zullen maandag 19 december het Nationaal Actieplan Resolutie 1325 ondertekenen, in aanwezigheid van drie ministers, waaronder Uri Rosenthal van Buitenlandse Zaken, verschillende kamerleden en activisten uit vele landen het NAP1325 ondertekenen

14.12.2011 - Chantal van den Bossche



Side Event at United Nations on 15th December: UNWomen, WECF and Women's Major Group

WECF is co-organising a side event entitled 'From 'Brown' Economy to 'Equitable' Economy - Women's priorities for Rio+20'.

12.12.2011 - WECF



Sanitation and Gender are core issues of the Nexus approach

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

06.12.2011 - Sascha Gabizon



WECF climate change project receives international award

WECF's project received the 2011 ACT Climate Award in the ACT Global Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

05.12.2011 - WECF



Nuclear Energy - not Co2 free, an article by energy expert Herman Damveld

In the negotiations about reduction of climate change in Durban one of the issues is if nuclear energy can be considered to be one of the solutions to reduce CO 2 emissions, this is not the case according to Herman Damveld.

05.12.2011 - Herman Damveld



Gender prioriteit voor Rio+20

Het nationaal platform Rio+20 organiseerde in samenwerking met WECF, Wo=MEN en Women Inc een bijeenkomst over het belang van gender in duurzame ontwikkeling op vrijdag 11 november in Amsterdam

04.12.2011 - Chantal van den Bossche



The Turning Wheel - An Educational Cycle Expedition About Simple Technologies for Sustainable Living

A former WECF project officer Central Asia, Fedde Jorritsma, is cycling around the world for one year to use his expertise on water, sanitation and energy.

04.12.2011 - WECF



Toxic Baby Shampoo: Johnson & Johnson Agrees to Global Reformulation Under Pressure from Health Groups

New report shows company making formaldehyde-free 'No More Tears' shampoo in some countries, but not U.S.

01.12.2011 - WECF



315NGO's Call for an Impartial Risk Assessment on EMF Health Risks

WECF, together with a number of NGOs, MEPs, scientists, medical doctors, lawyers and other stakeholders are calling for an impartial risk assessment on EMF health risks.

30.11.2011 - WECF



World Water Forum Marseille 2012

The 6th World Water Forum: Regional Process Europe will be held on 12-17 of March, 2012 in Marseille, France

29.11.2011 - WECF



NGO Decentralised Environmental Solutions (DES) - A New WECF Partner in South Africa

On 15 July 2011 NGO Decentralised Environment Solutions (DES) was founded in South Africa.

29.11.2011 - WECF

Find more information at www.wecf.eu

Imprint

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