

WCC-2012-Res-091-EN

Solar cooking and its contribution to healthy and resilient ecosystems and communities

NOTING that 2012 has been designated as the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Energy for All;

RECOGNIZING that 2.7 billion people, women in particular, currently cook over biomass fires or stoves, with significant negative consequences for human health (1.9 million deaths per year), household economics, deforestation, ecosystem degradation and climate change;

ACKNOWLEDGING that even taking into account both the warming and cooling effects of the various emissions from cooking fires, several studies suggest that the combined emissions from household cooking fires and stoves may have a net warming effect equivalent to millions of tonnes of CO₂ annually, as well as one quarter of global emissions of black carbon;

RECOGNIZING the urgent need for ecologically sustainable, healthier, reliable, safer cooking options for much of the world, and aware that an array of technologies exist and are being further developed to fulfil this need;

NOTING that the widespread adoption of better cookstove technologies is hindered by supply side and demand side constraints, as well as policy barriers;

NOTING that the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves (initiated by the UN Foundation and the Shell Foundation) has set a target of replacing open fires with 100 million clean cookstoves by 2020, with a primary emphasis on clean-burning biomass cookstoves to improve human health;

RECOGNIZING that solar thermal cooking (non-photo-voltaic) requires no fuel other than sunlight, including no use of wood or biomass;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that cooking with clean solar ovens produces zero pollution or carbon emissions, being healthy for people and the atmosphere;

NOTING that solar thermal cooking can help communities, women in particular, adapt to changing climates that may reduce the availability of wood and other biomass traditionally used for cooking;

RECALLING that Recommendation 12.12 *Energy and Conservation* adopted by the 12th IUCN General Assembly (Kinshasa, 1975) recommends “that governments foster large-scale public understanding and balanced discussion of the wide range of energy choices available, public awareness of natural limits to man’s use of energy, and public readiness to engage in ways of life compatible with these principles”;

ALSO RECALLING that Resolution 4.082 *Sustainable biomass-based energy* adopted by the 4th IUCN World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 2008) highlights the potentially negative impacts of biomass-based energy on biodiversity and food security;

NOTING that the Sustainable Energy Initiative of IUCN promotes energy solutions that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; and

ALSO NOTING that increased use of sustainable solar thermal cooking contributes to all three of the Global Programme Areas in the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016: Valuing and*

conserving nature, Effective and equitable governance of nature's use, and Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development,

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6–15 September 2012:

1. CALLS ON IUCN Members and governments to:
 - a. explore the appropriate applications of solar cooking in their own countries, including expanding research into improving the technology and its adoption and adding solar cooking to their own renewable energy policies;
 - b. disseminate widely the report referenced in paragraph 2c below concerning research and current use of solar cooking; and
 - c. promote in international fora in which Members participate, the inclusion of solar thermal energy as part of a complete and sustainable solution for clean cooking where it can contribute to healthy, resilient ecosystems and communities;
2. CALLS ON the Director General to:
 - a. promote the inclusion of solar thermal energy as part of a complete and sustainable solution for clean cooking and integrate it into the Sustainable Energy priority and other relevant Programme Areas of the *IUCN Programme 2013–2016*;
 - b. examine the possible contributions of expanding the use of solar cooking for healthy and resilient ecosystems, including forested and arid lands, and report to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress; and
 - c. consider the reports from IUCN Members on solar cooking research and use, and compile these into a global report on the *Global State of Solar Cooking and Its Contribution to Healthy and Resilient Ecosystems and Communities*, including women and children, to be submitted to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress for review;
3. CALLS ON IUCN Members and Commissions, in particular the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), to:
 - a. consider the ways in which replacing biomass-fuelled cooking fires and cookstoves with solar ovens and other renewable energy cooking options can contribute to their mandates, particularly, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health, improving livelihoods and mitigating climate change; and
 - b. contribute to the Report on the *Global State of Solar Cooking and Its Contribution to Healthy and Resilient Ecosystems and Communities*; and
4. CALLS ON IUCN Members participating in the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves to:
 - a. encourage the Global Alliance to increase research, distribution and use of non-biomass cookstoves, such as solar ovens and stoves, as part of the Alliance objectives, and to participate in these activities as part of their own contribution to the Alliance's efforts; and

- b. ensure that any of the global cookstove standards agreed include criteria appropriate for determining the effectiveness of non-biomass as well as biomass stoves, and for measuring all impacts of various types of cookstoves, including economic, ecosystem, human health and atmospheric impacts.