



CLEAN  
COOKING  
ALLIANCE



# Nature and Clean Cooking

## The Problem

Lack of access to clean cooking is a major threat to nature, climate, and sustainable livelihoods. In many regions, especially in low- and middle-income countries, cooking relies on solid fuels like wood and charcoal, which are burned inefficiently and emit harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases. Emissions from non-renewable woodfuels for cooking are responsible for 1 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year — about 2% of global emissions. The burning of solid fuels for cooking and heating in homes contributes to over half of human-generated black carbon emissions, making household energy the largest controllable source of this pollutant. Reliance on traditional woodfuels for cooking and heating accounts for ~55% of total global wood harvest.

## The Solution

Rapidly reducing reliance on wood and charcoal for cooking is vital for protecting nature, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Replacing polluting fuels and technologies with clean cooking solutions has the potential to reduce cumulative greenhouse gas emissions by 10–14% by 2040, abate short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon, slow forest degradation, and enhance the resilience of nature-dependent communities. Transitioning to clean cooking is key to safeguarding nature-based solutions, ensuring that they deliver long-term benefits for climate, nature and people.

“It does not make any sense to grow trees, unless you address why people are cutting down trees in the first place.”

—NEAL SPACKMAN, FOUNDER & CEO, REGENERATIVE RESOURCES

## Clean Cooking Is a Nature Issue

- **30% of global greenhouse gas emissions** from forest degradation are derived from woodfuel harvest
- **Up to 34% of woodfuel** harvested globally is unsustainable, contributing to forest degradation and climate change
- **More than 275 million people** live in “hot spots,” where over 50% of woodfuel harvest is unsustainable
- **Approximately 30% of global mitigation needs** can be resolved through nature-based solutions, such as conservation and restoration of forests and improved land management

## Priorities for Action

The following priorities are pivotal to accelerating clean cooking as a nature-based solution.

**1. Mainstream clean cooking into the large-scale conservation and restoration efforts.** Siloed approaches to nature and energy access currently hinder progress. Shifting the paradigm towards systemic nature-based solutions that are inclusive of clean cooking, will help address wood fuel demand as a significant driver of climate change, forest degradation and nature loss.

**2. Unlock and scale finance for clean cooking projects aligned with nature-based solutions.** Currently, US\$200 billion flows into nature-based solutions each year, with calls to triple that investment by 2030, while clean cooking receives only a fraction of the \$8 billion required annually to achieve universal access. Now is the time to leverage intensified interest in nature and align finance for nature-based solutions and clean cooking to protect vital landscapes and transform sustainable livelihoods.

**3. Enhance capacity of nature actors and enhance collaboration with the clean cooking sector.** With deep, long-term ties to communities, conservation and restoration actors have a powerful role to play in accelerating access to clean cooking solutions, but they require support to: (i) assess cooking needs within a landscape; (ii) identify context-appropriate solutions; (iii) connect with a pipeline of providers; and (iv) align funding streams for both the nature and clean cooking components of a program.

## African Conservation & Clean Cooking Collective

Without urgent action, more than 1 billion Africans will still be without clean cooking access in 2030, with potentially devastating consequences for the climate, nature, health, and communities. The lack of coordination, capacity, and financing for clean cooking across critical conservation landscapes is hindering progress to universal access to clean cooking and the benefits it brings to climate, nature and communities. To address this issue, CCA launched a transformative new initiative with the African Wildlife Foundation and the African Development Bank: The African Conservation & Clean Cooking Collective will support coordination, finance mobilization, research and advocacy, and technical assistance to catalyze landscape-scale clean cooking transitions to protect Africa's nature and enhance the resilience of the communities who depend on it.



“Linking restoration efforts with a transition to clean energy is essential to reach our shared climate adaptation objectives.”

—DR. FREDERICK KWAME KUMAH, VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL LEADERSHIP, AFRICAN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION



## About the Clean Cooking Alliance

CCA works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Established in 2010, CCA is driving consumer demand, mobilizing investment to build a pipeline of scalable businesses, and fostering an enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive. Clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and the environment, empowering women, and helping consumers save time and money.

For more information, please visit CCA online at [CleanCooking.org](https://www.CleanCooking.org)

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