



Framework for the National Cooking Energy Action Plan of The Gambia



**ECOWAS INITIATIVE ON CLEAN, SAFE, EFFICIENT AND
AFFORDABLE COOKING ENERGY SOLUTIONS**

***Validated at the WACCA Regional Workshop in Banjul, the Gambia on
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Imprint

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Facilitated by:



Contact

ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)
Achada Santo Antonio, 2nd floor, Electra Building
C.P. 288, Praia, Cape Verde
E-Mail: info@ecreee.org
Tel: +238 2604630, +238 2624608
<http://www.ecreee.org>

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1. Introduction

The Gambia derives its energy principally from two (2) sources: fuelwood and petroleum products. The fuelwood sources comprise firewood and wood charcoal. Although wood charcoal production was banned in 1980 by a Presidential Decree, its consumption continued through imports and clandestine local production. The petroleum product resources comprise petrol, diesel oil, heavy fuel oil (HFO), liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene. Electricity in the Gambia is produced predominantly using thermal generation with NAWEC being the main power supplier. The renewable energy sources comprise solar, wind and biomass.

According to the average energy consumption of the country (1990 – 2010), fuelwood accounts for almost 80% of total energy consumed. Petroleum products are the second most important source accounting for about 19% in 2010, while electricity consumption accounts for less than 3% and renewable energy (comprising solar, wind and biomass) account for less than 0.1%. The total national energy consumption in 2010 is estimated at 562 Thousand Tonnes of Oil Equivalent (TOE). Of this total national energy consumption, fuelwood accounted for 439.01 Thousand TOE, representing 78.11%.

In 2006, with the assistance of the PREDAS Program of CILSS, a Household Energy Strategy (HES) for the Gambia was elaborated. It was preceded by a nationwide survey on the household energy and charcoal situation. The Household Energy Strategy for the country was adopted by Cabinet in 2007. According to the 2006 HES, the relative shares of the total household energy consumption/demand for the four energy types are fuelwood 97% (95% firewood and 2% charcoal), petroleum products 1.60% (1.09% kerosene and 0.51% LPG), electricity 0.9% and renewable biomass 0.4%.

The analyses of demand and supply growths of household energy in The Gambia established that the situation can best be described as gloomy and that albeit surmountable, the constraints are formidable. The key factors of demand growth are population growth, inter-fuel substitution and performance of cooking appliances and methods used. Supply growth is influenced by institutional and regulatory aspects of the industry, effectiveness of forestry control mechanisms and the extent of community involvement in the management of energy resources.

The Impact of the Gambia's high dependence on fuelwood include:

- Negative effect on women and children's health due to indoor air pollution. These include respiratory problems associated with smoke inhalation, exposure to snake bites, physical threats posed as a result of long distances travelled in search of woodfuels etc;
- Continued forest degradation and desertification of the natural forests; and
- Environmental degradation including loss of biodiversity;

Amidst these challenges, coupled with increasing cost of fuelwood and dwindling natural resources, the Government of the Gambia sought the assistance of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) to develop a national action plan framework for clean energy cooking within the WACCA program.



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Consequently a WACCA Regional Workshop was held in Banjul, the Gambia on 11th & 12th August 2014 to discuss the development of national cooking energy action plans in member states and to elaborate the action plan of the Gambia, to serve as a sample for other member states to replicate.

Background to the development of the Action Plan

The Gambia, like most countries in the ECOWAS Region, is characterised by low access rates to sustainable energy and high dependency on traditional biomass for cooking. According to the energy balance of the region, almost 78% of the total energy demand of the region comes from traditional biomass with over 90% of the population using wood and charcoal for domestic cooking. These energy sources are unsustainably produced and utilised and are also inefficient. The over-dependence of the populations on traditional biomass contributes to the destruction of the natural forest, causes smoke-related health problems, impedes economic development and creates overall environmental challenges within the region.

Against this background, and in an effort to introduce clean, safe and efficient cooking energy sources to its populations, the following interventions have been undertaken:

- 1) ECOWAS adopted a Regional Policy on Increasing Access to Energy Services for the Rural and Peri-Urban Populations called the 'ECOWAS White Paper'. The White Paper aims to provide access to modern cooking fuels to 100% of the population of 325 million people;
- 2) At the ECOWAS-GFSE High Level Energy Forum in October 2012 in Accra, Ghana, the ECOWAS Energy Ministers adopted two Regional Policies on Renewable Energy (EREP) and Energy Efficiency (EEEP) and the ECOWAS Bioenergy Strategy Framework. The EREP and the EEEP were eventually adopted by the Authority of Heads of State and Government in July 2013; and
- 3) ECREEE and its partners further deepened the process of providing safe, sustainable and affordable cooking energy solutions to its people by establishing the West Africa Clean Cooking Alliance (WACCA). WACCA was launched at the ECOWAS-GFSE High Level Energy Forum in Accra, Ghana on 30th October 2012. WACCA aims to promote efficiency in cooking and the use of modern and clean cooking fuels in order to achieve universal access to safe, clean, affordable, efficient and sustainable cooking fuels for the entire ECOWAS population by 2030 to ensure that the targets set in the ECOWAS policies are met. The primary focus of the initiative is to increase the efficiency and sustainability of biomass-based cooking energy and introduce modern biofuels such as ethanol, biogas and briquettes.

The WACCA initiative focuses on the entire value chain for cooking energy including the supply-side component of sustainable forest resource management. Forest Resources Management in the planning, administration, and management of a wide variety of forest resources to provide environmental and economic benefits to the society in the rural areas including wood, wildlife, special forest products, water, and recreational opportunities.

To achieve the objectives of WACCA, a framework conducive to broadening and accelerating the development and deployment of clean, safe and efficient cooking was elaborated and validated by the ECOWAS member states at the 1st Regional Workshop



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held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 23rd – 25th April 2013. In furthering the activities of WACCA and in implementing the WACCA Regional Action Plan Framework, a regional workshop was convened in Banjul, the Gambia on the 11th & 12th August 2014 that:

- Shared best practices and challenges on national clean cooking activities within and outside the region;
- Discussed integration of clean cooking into national energy policies and strategies and establishment of national cooking association;
- Discussed and shared planning tools on preparing national cooking action plans that promote clean, safe, and efficient cooking for economic growth and improving environmental and social conditions; and
- Discussed and validated the main elements that constitute the framework of a national cooking action plan for the Gambia.

National Cooking Energy Action Plans shall therefore focus on providing safe, sustainable and affordable cooking through:

- Improving the efficiency and sustainability of the traditional wood and charcoal cooking energy value chain through sustainable forest management, improved charcoal conversion, and use of clean, high efficiency stoves;
- Strengthen local economies through increased production of biomass fuels and stoves by scaling-up proven business models;
- Developing new biomass energy cooking value chains. This includes pellets, briquettes, biogas, as well as liquid fuels, such as ethanol, produced from agricultural or forestry wastes; and
- Promoting LPG fuel and stoves as a clean and highly efficient cooking energy.

2. Work Programme

As part of the development of a detailed Action Plan for clean cooking in the Gambia, the focus would be based on key elements that are aligned with the ECOWAS Regional Policies on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and the WACCA Regional Action Plan: policies, capacity building, awareness raising and financing mechanisms. Actions will be carried out at the national level in a coordinated manner and harmonised at the regional level taking into account the specific characteristics of the Gambia.

The Gambia National Cooking Energy Action Plan will focus on the entire value chain for cooking energy including the supply-side component of sustainable forest resource management, which envisages efficient and sustainable management of forest resources for the supply and demand sides, introduction and development of efficient and cleaner fuels and stoves, and capacity enhancement across the entire value chain.

3. Key elements of the Gambia Clean Cooking Energy Action Plan

In order to reach a consensus on developing a framework for National Cooking Energy Action Plans for the Gambia, a regional workshop was convened in Banjul, the Gambia on 11th & 12th August 2014 to discuss the key elements of the National Cooking Energy Action Plan framework which include but not limited to the following:

- a. Undertake a comprehensive country-level study to establish a baseline and to determine the nationally appropriate actions for clean cooking energy;



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- b. Formulate or review policies for the establishment of a conducive environment for scaling up improved cooking devices and technologies in The Gambia;
- c. Establish standards and labels to promote a level playing field for all stakeholders in the demand and supply side of value chain within the sector;
- d. Provide training support for national action plans, addressing human capacity bottlenecks in cooking fuel supply as well as market introduction and usage of improved cooking devices and fuels;
- e. Implement awareness raising and sensitization activities on the uses and benefits of efficient, alternative and modern cooking fuels and devices for both domestic and productive sectors;
- f. Promote innovative financing mechanisms to support the mobilisation of funds from commercial and investment banks, micro-finance institutions, public-private investors and carbon finance for scaling-up successful business models;
- g. Promote gender specific interventions in the cooking sector;
- h. Establish an independent national coordinating body dedicated to promoting clean cooking solutions in The Gambia;
- i. Promote research and development on clean cooking with academic and research institutions;
- j. Facilitate knowledge sharing of best practices and collaboration among countries in the sub-region, especially with Senegal.

4. The way forward

After the adoption of key elements within the action plan by participants, the detailed document will be elaborated with concrete actions taken at national level and circulated for validation. WACCA will work with Gambian national authorities and partners on the implementation of these actions.

DONE AT BANJUL THIS 12TH DAY OF AUGUST 2014

Mr. Demba S. Bah

Deputy Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Energy

THE GAMBIA



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