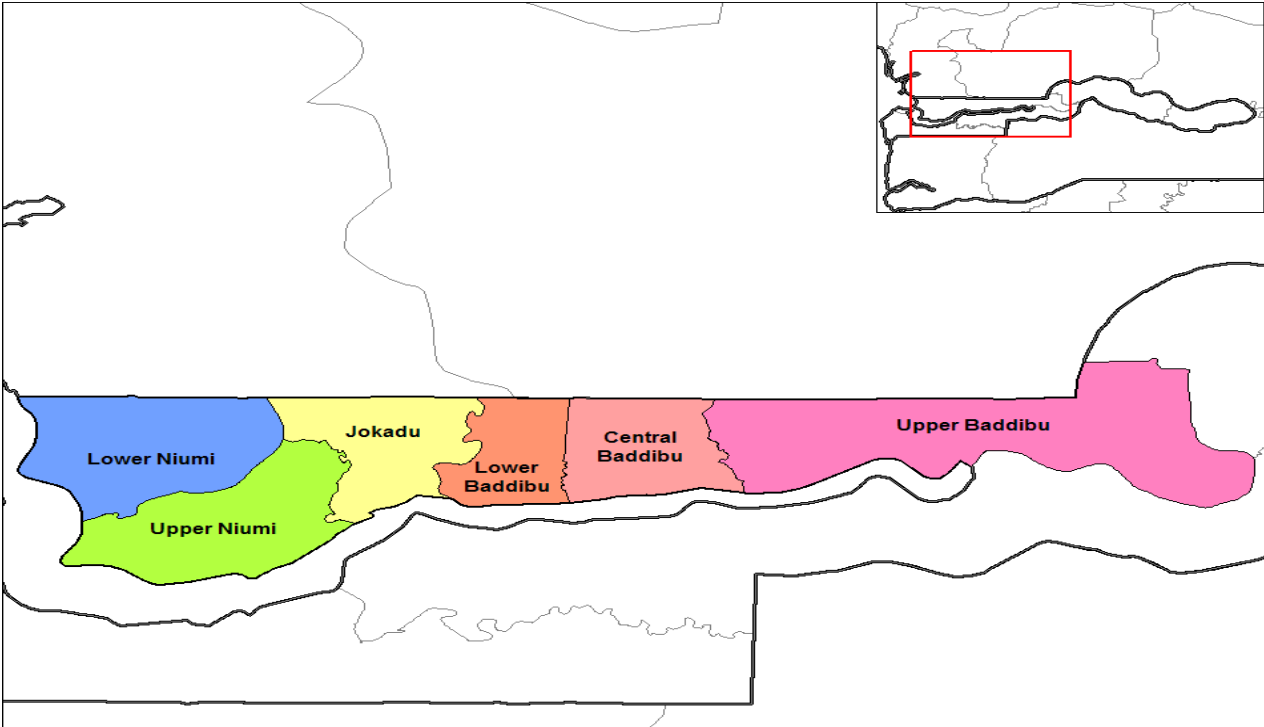


FINAL REPORT
REGIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PLAN
NORTH BANK REGION



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1.0 Acknowledgement

The preparation and of the Formulation of the Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan would not have been possible without the financial and technical support from Climate Group- Under2 Coalition – Future Fund. The project which was successfully implemented shows the commitment and dedication from the Office of the Regional Governor, Regional Disaster Management Coordination Office and members of the Technical Advisory Committee in North Bank Region. The Office of the Governor highly commended the Local Administrative Council for creating a conducive environment that led to the achievement of this milestone in the history of region for the formulation of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for effective preparedness and response system. Thus, it is our desire to contribute our part in achieving global net zero emission by 2050.

The Regional Steering Committee wish to thank the Regional Governor for his leadership for entire coordination. Special thanks goes to Future Fund- Under2 Coalition- Climate Group- for technical and financial support respectively.

2.0: Introduction

In the context of adverse Climate impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people in North Bank Region (NBR). The region is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate extreme events in the Country, lies to North West of the Gambia, bordering with Senegal to the north and the River Gambia to the south. Its approximate land surface area is 287,000 ha which include a variety of landscape and ecosystem ranging from, barren flats to forests and aquatic ecosystem. However, more than 50% of the area is occupied by settlements and other human activities. The region is divided in to seven (7) districts with a total population of 173,806 inhabitants in 328 villages population and housing Census (2013).

Climate impacts are becoming more frequent, diverse and complex in recent times. This situation requires effective planning strategy gear towards preparedness and response, hence the need for this Regional Climate and Adaptation Plan. The document will enhance effectiveness of climate preparedness and risk reduction as well as humanitarian response aim at mitigating any adverse impact of the identified hazards within the regions. The plan will also provide a common framework for interventions for all partners in Climate emergency response, preparedness and mitigate climate risks.

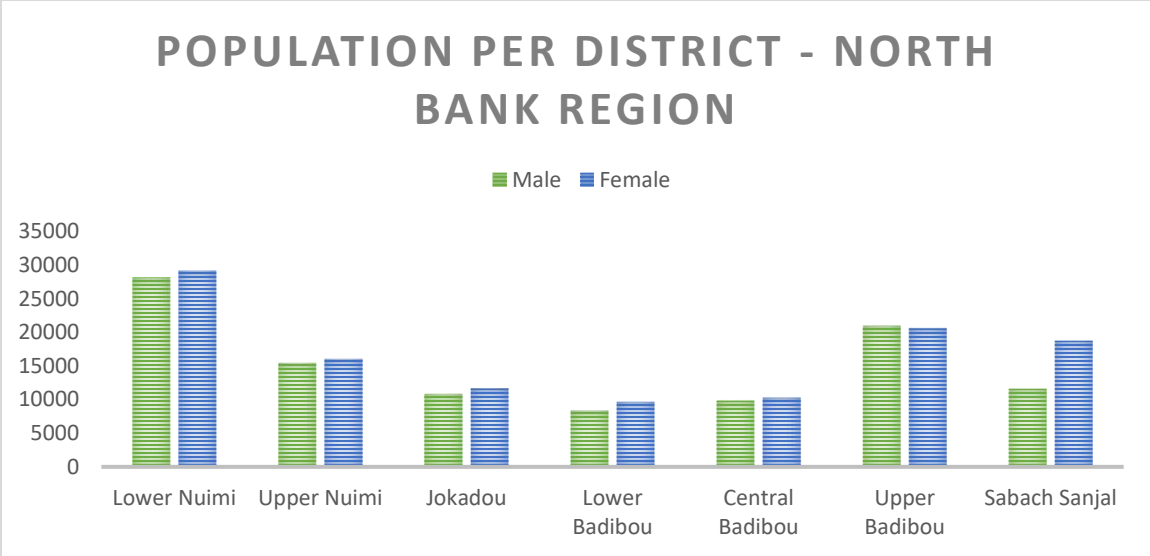


Figure 1 Regional Population of North Bank Region (2013)

Agriculture remains the main source of income to greater percentage of the inhabitants. The vegetation of the region is Sahel-Savannah indicating sign of eventual encroachment of desert affecting the vegetation of neighboring northern Senegal to North Bank Region.

The Regional Climate Mitigation and adaptation Plan will be used for climate resilient building and guidance. The plan will guide the region to address the mitigation of climate impacts in accordance with the National Climate Policy and National Disaster Management Policy of The Gambia. The availability of Climate mitigation and adaptation plan will enhance community resilient building to the impact of Climate shocks.

The Regional plan is meant to address climate adaption and mitigation concepts for resilient building and this has shown commitment and engagement from different stakeholders, communities, local authorities, women and youths in action planning.

Climate change has posed significant threats to people’s lives and livelihoods and impedes poverty reduction efforts and equitable access to sustainable development. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are the two main ways to address these threats. Mitigation which refers to actions that reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by switching to low-carbon energy systems and increasing carbon sinks, such as forests, vegetation, and soil. Adaptation actions enhance the adaptive capacity of human and natural systems to the changing climate and increase their resilience to vulnerabilities and impacts.

This final project evaluation report is a summary of all the proceedings, process and achievement made in the Comprehensive Formulation of Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.



Figure1: Community consultation session

3.0: Objective

The objective of this consultations is to:

- ✓ Gather information about climate change and its impact on their livelihood practices.
- ✓ Assess the needs of the communities.
- ✓ To understand the climate change pattern over specified period.
- ✓ Discover local innovations and solutions adapted to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- ✓ Analysis of Local knowledge on climate change pattern.
- ✓ A review of certain local development plans of the Area Council to determine the extent to which climate change is integrated in the plan.

Overall project is objectives:

- ✓ Formulation of Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan through community engagements and consultations for effective preparedness and response to climate hazards.
- ✓ Plan is meant to mitigate climate possible adverse impacts of an anticipated risk on communities within the North Bank Region.
- ✓ The adaptation and mitigation plan guide to coordinate, climate response and mitigation using existing capacities and minimizes gaps.

4.0: Map of North Bank Region

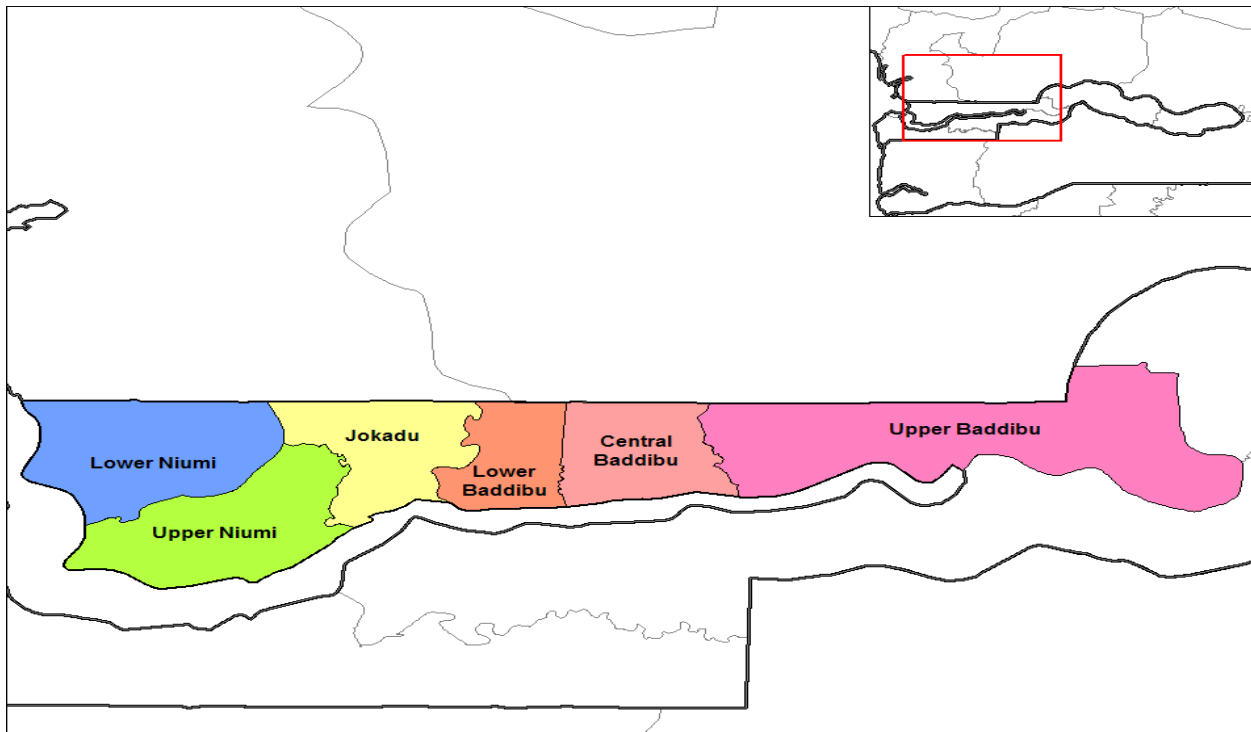


Figure 2 Map of North Bank Region

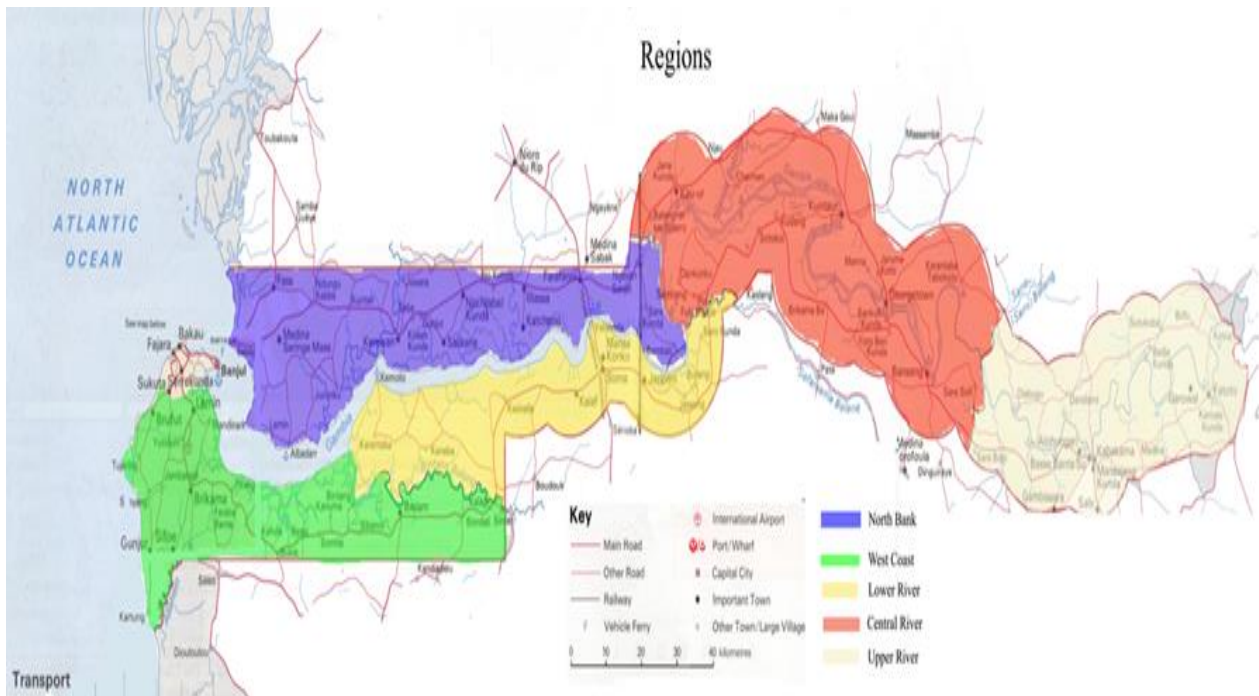


Figure 3 Detailed Map of North Bank Region - Map of The Gambia

5.0: Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan

Mitigation efforts require measures to address the underlying problem of climate impact by slowing or stopping the rise in emissions which could irreversibly and catastrophically raise the Earth's temperature. Adaptation is needed to help or guide the communities to withstand and minimize the effects of climate change that are already here. The plan covers the general climate emergency response scene, regardless of any contingency situation which is complemented by the specific response and preparedness actions. The immediate response activities are separated from the medium to long term preparedness activities which aim at reducing climate risk and mitigating the impact when they occur.

The plan has indicated stakeholders responsibility for the implementation of each activity and reflects the multi-sectoral nature of climate response and preparedness. The type of preparedness and risk reduction activities identified varies depending on the contingency scenario. The preparedness / risk reduction activities are mainly aim at strengthening the capacities of key partners at the district and community level for resilience building. The establishment of early warning indicator monitoring systems, geographical information systems, the preparation and activation of regional and sectoral contingency plans will enhance and or promote capacity building and trainings at regional and community level.

The Regional technical advisory will coordinate the implementation of the actions reflected in the plan alongside stakeholders. They shall be directly responsible for the implementation of other specific sectoral action plans. These will be reinforced at grassroots level by NGOs, CSOs and CBOs.

The plan has further recognizes the fact that it is a tool to enhance effective climate preparedness and risk reduction as well as humanitarian response aim at mitigating any adverse impact of identified hazards within the region. Essentially, it will serve to provides a common Framework for interventions of all partners in climate response and preparedness to reduce risk.



Figure2: Community Focus Group Discussion



Figure3: Stakeholder engagement



Figure4: Coordination Meeting led by the Regional Governor-NBR

6.0: Guideline to address Climate Change in North Bank Region

The need to come up with innovative strategies regarding the formulation of climate change guideline/plan at the local level requires their participation, inclusion and collaboration for the purpose of ownership. This is cardinal in the local government policy decision. Above all, it is an opportunity to treasure out their contributions to the formulation of climate adaptation and mitigation at regional level. Most of the climate programs at the regional level in North Bank does not mainstream sustainable climate adaptation and mitigation. Disseminating this information to local communities and households using community approach has greatly strengthened participation of communities to the climate realities.

Different climate mitigation options were discussed during the engagement phase with the communities for consideration of best options in the plan. This has avail us an opportunity to use economic instruments and behavioral strategies that go beyond information. It is crucial to diffuse practices that are known within the locality and this has exactly paid dividend during the project. Sufficient information was gathered from the participating communities using risk mapping matrix in problem identification and ranking. Identified Climate risk were ranked according to their likelihood occurrence and severity.

Climate adaptation and mitigation Plan will serve as the most cost-efficient way in responding to climate risk. Over the years, North Bank Region only deal with relief support to the communities affected by climate hazards but there exists no sustainable plan to mitigate the impact. Currently, the regional plan which includes regulatory actions captured effective planning such as land use planning, forest management and energy enhancement for rural development.

The plan which shall be regional document has identified strategic objectives for policy directions. The opportunity is to harmonize and mainstream climate change objectives into the Local Development Plans and Strategies. Resource mobilization for sustainability of the plan has been indicated. The local authority will be committed to support grass root for popularization of the plan.

7.0: Methodology

The first part of the intervention targets community consultation and engagement interface. The process began with planning session with the stakeholders were activities plan were designed. The designed program activities include community climate risk identification, meeting, planning, awareness creation among the communities on the importance of the Climate Mitigation and adaptation plan. This process was done through focus group discussions as well as face-to-face. This methodology was use to identified the impact of Climate Change on the lives and livelihoods of communities.

The first ever Regional Climate Adaptation and mitigation plan outlines the historic concept of climate impacts within North Bank Region and the projected likelihood trend given the historical perspectives. The key principle were community and stakeholder engagements.

- Communities and local consultations covered 7 districts of the region through Focus Group Discussions and Workshops. The general consultations covered key priority areas of development ranging from Agriculture, forestry, livestock, water, and fisheries, women and children because these are sectors that are heavily affect by climate change.
- Review of existing national and international policy frameworks: Community Action Development Plan, National Climate Policy, National Disaster policy, National Development Plan, National Local Government Act, Regional Disaster Contingency Plan, National Environmental Policy; Paris Climate Agreement, UN Climate Convention.

- Project implementation was facilitated by different facilitators among the stakeholders within the region. These were the persons who led the entire consultation process in communities within the seven (7) districts of the region.
- Participants to the session were identified putting into consideration gender and the vulnerable groups were represented for their participation. The forum took the form of focus group interface and individual face-to-face discussions.

Prior to selection of the identified climate hazards, risk analysis session was held using the risk ranking and prioritization methodology. Based on the outcome of this ranking has determined the likelihood and possible impact of identified hazards.

The document has further recognized the fact that the plan is a tool to enhance the effectiveness of climate preparedness and risk reduction as well as humanitarian response aim at mitigating adverse impact of the identified hazards on the people within the region. It is hope in addition, to enhance effective preparedness to provides a common framework for intervention of all partners in climate response, preparedness and mitigation of risks.

To achieve this purpose, the plan has categorically outline target groups likely to be affected in emergencies, what needs to be done, by whom, under what circumstances should the plan be activated or deactivated.

Considering the link between the identified hazard and resulting vulnerabilities within the region, specific characteristics and relevant issues were reflected in the document. Such include demography, socio-political factors, the economy,

infrastructural facilities and basic social services. The plan covers the general climate emergency response scene, based on scenario building situation which is complemented by the specific actions. The immediate response activities as per scenario were separated from medium to a long term preparedness activities aim for reducing the risk of climate change.

The sectoral preparedness options and identified activities were elaborated in the plan. Mapping of available local resources and the existing gaps were identified as part of resource mobilization strategy. The Regional Steering and Coordination team under the auspices of the Regional Governor coordinate the entire formulation of the plan and actions reflected in the plan. The plan has identified different sectoral partners to be directly responsible for implementation of specific sectoral strategies.

This will be reinforced at grassroots level with the participation of local NGOs, CSOs and CBOs in complementing efforts of the regional team in resource mobilization. This means filling the gaps through the provision of technical and financial support through the relevant sectors for cost effectiveness.

8.0: Identified Climate Hazards

The process of climate hazards identification was done in a participatory manner that allows participants to identify different hazards within their localities that they consider is negatively impacting on their lives and livelihoods due to climate impact in North Bank Region. **The climate hazards are all link to Key areas of Climate Group and Under2 Coalition climate actions four workstreams towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050.**

- Flooding
- Drought
- Dry spell
- Windstorm

However, the participants were challenged to undertake hazard ranking to be able to identify the major hazards that the adaptation and mitigation plan can be developed on hence plan cannot be developed on all the hazards identified by participants in one document. Each of the identified hazards has an indicator with a preparedness matrix that is linked to a response mechanism with a clear objective.

The plan has a communication and advocacy component that is being costed for implementation and there is a need for resource mobilization both at regional and community level. Resources required in the implementation of these identified hazards will be done locally with a technical support from the regional steering committee.

8.1: Annual Updating of the Plan

The plan will be updated and review bi-annually to cater for emerging issues base on the thematic areas and to make adjustment where necessary. This is important as we learned from emergence of COVID-19 which has caught the world by surprise and there is a need to factor such issues in our development planning.

8.2: Hazards and sector coordination

Climate hazards that where identified base on case scenario building shall be responded in accordance to severity of situation. Consequently, institutions that will lead and co-lead in the event of climate risk were also identified in the document as well as partner institutions. This is ensuring effective and coordinated intervention to mitigate the impact.

8.3: Response plan

The response plan is contingent on the situation at hand and with expected activities designed for proper implementation. The response plan outlines the objective of the activities who will be in charge and what are the expected pathway for collaborations.

9.0: Capacity Building

The plan has outlined capacity building and awareness creation for community members and public officials as it was agreed on the significance of popularizing and clarifying roles and responsibilities on who is in charge of what before, during and after from design, formulations and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation within North Bank Region and elsewhere.

Also, there was a consensus on the need of building up the capacity to deal with climate change mitigation and adaptation, and natural disasters. Much is expected from the regional steering committee and the local council who are in charge of harmonizing or articulating policies into development and environmental planning. Academic may work on climate data processing for policy decision, which remains underdeveloped capacity in North Bank Region, and more importantly to train to have the capacity to generate evidence on what works and what does not in climate adaptation and mitigation. Activists and civil society shall be engage for their contribution in information gathering and dissemination thereby proposing alternatives as partners. Effective advocacy, information sharing shall form the bedrock for creation of good climate practices at the local level.

Furthermore, it is of paramount importance to inform and to educate different actors in society about the social benefits that climate adaptation and mitigation shall bring for environmental sustainability. For this reasons, it is suggested to do trainings, workshops, outreach sensitization and other events with all the relevant actors. This aspect of the plan shall require resources which shall sought through fund raising and project proposal development.

10.0: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan shall be carry out to track the progress made in the implementation of identified mitigation and adaptation activities. Thus, this will enable us to measure the implementation of the plan and how communities are accepting the realities on ground against what has factored in the plan and result achieved. This process shall equally guide the steering committee in our bid to mainstreaming of climate change into sectoral plans and policies.

11.0: Conclusion

The development of North Bank Region Climate Adaptation and Mitigation plan will greatly enhance the region ability to guide and support communities to contribute in emission reductions and to promote sustainability. The plan is formulated based on clear technical guidance for actionable information in accordance with national and international climate legal frameworks. Hence the need for the region to have a plan that will guide us in terms of climate preparedness and response for a period of time. The plan is centered on detailed guidelines on mitigation and adaptation activities, capacity-building, effective communication and building of transparency frameworks, all these components are useful as a subnational government. The plan shall be serve as a living operational document for the region in our quest to accelerate the transition to a net zero economy and Climate pathway.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the Under2 Coalition – Future Fund and Climate Group for both technical and financial support for Formulate first ever: Regional Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for North Bank Region.