

THE GAMBIA NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2026

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The Gambia National Climate Change Act, 2026



THE GAMBIA

NO. 05 OF 2026

Assented to by The President,

this 22nd day of May, 2026.



Adama Barrow

President
Adama Barrow

1. Short title and commencement

(1) This Act may be cited as The Gambia National Climate Change Act, 2026.

(2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the President, to be published in the Gazette, and such date shall not be later than six months after receiving Presidential Assent.

2. Interpretation

In this Act—

"Annual Climate Action Progress Report" means a report prepared and submitted annually to the Minister that evaluates the implementation of climate policies, measures and actions, and assesses the country's progress toward achieving climate change targets, adaptation actions, and other climate objectives;

"adaptation" means the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects to enhance resilience or reduce harmful opportunities;

"adverse effects of climate change" means changes in the physical environment or harm resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the environment, health or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems, or on the operation of other systems; or the health and welfare;

THE GAMBIA NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2026

AN ACT to provide for a comprehensive legally binding and enforceable framework for a climate-resilient development pathway for The Gambia; establish robust institutional and financial mechanisms for effective climate action, and low carbon implementation of national climate strategies, including the strengthening of national meteorological and hydrological services and data-driven climate information systems; legally empower local governments and frontline authorities; mainstream climate change considerations across all sectors of the economy, guarantee a just and equitable transition that protects the health, rights and livelihood of all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups; to facilitate response of The Gambia to its international obligations and commitments on climate change; and for connected matters.

ENACTED by the President and the National Assembly.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Short title and commencement

(1) This Act may be cited as The Gambia National Climate Change Act, 2026.

(2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the Minister, by Order published in the Gazette, and such date shall not be later than six months after receiving Presidential Assent.

2. Interpretation

In this Act -

"Annual Climate Action Progress Report" means a report prepared and submitted annually by the Minister that evaluates the implementation of climate policies, measures, and actions, and assesses the country's progress toward achieving greenhouse-gas reduction targets, adaptation actions, and other climate-objectives, based on national circumstances;

"adaptation" means the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects, to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities;

"adverse effects of climate change" means changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems, or on the operation of socio-economic systems, or on human health and welfare;

"carbon market" means a market-based instrument through which emission units or allowances are traded, including mechanisms established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related instruments;

"climate change" means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods;

"climate finance" means local, national, or transnational financing drawn from public, private, and alternative sources that is specifically targeted at supporting mitigation and adaptation actions to address climate change;

"climate justice" means the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, ensuring that the burdens of climate impacts and the benefits of climate action are shared equitably, with special consideration for intergenerational equity;

"climate resilience" means the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation;

"climate services" means the generation, translation, packaging, and timely delivery of climate data and information to support climate-resilient decision-making by individuals, communities, businesses, and government;

"Department" means the National Climate Change Department established under section 11(1);

"designated national authority" means the body designated under this Act to authorize and approve participation in carbon market mechanisms;

"Directorate of Climate Finance" means the Specialised Directorate under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs responsible for leading the mobilisation and coordination of climate finance;

"ecosystem services" means the direct and indirect benefits that people obtain from the functions of healthy ecosystems, including but not limited to, the provision of clean water, pollination of crops, soil formation, and regulation of climate;

"emissions" means the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time;

"Fund" means The Gambia Climate Change Fund established under section 33;

"green finance" means any financial product or service designed to fund projects and activities that deliver positive and measurable environmental outcomes;

"greenhouse gas" means gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation, as defined by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

"Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee" means the technical-administrative body established under section 9;

"Just transition" means a transition towards a climate resilient and low carbon economy that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind;

"Local Government Authority" means a city council, municipality and area council (which are together referred to as local government authorities) established under Local Government Act;

[Cap.33:01, Laws of The Gambia 2009]

"loss and damage" means the negative consequences of climate change that occur despite, or in the absence of, mitigation and adaptation efforts;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for matters relating to climate change, and

"Ministry" shall be construed accordingly;

"mitigation" means human interventions to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases;

"national adaptation plan" means the national plan developed pursuant to this Act, outlining medium and long-term adaptation needs and strategies;

"National Climate Change Council" means the supreme strategic oversight and political decision-making body established under section 8;

"nationally determined contribution" means the national climate action plan communicated by The Gambia to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related or succeeding international instruments;

"payment for environmental services" means a voluntary and transparent transaction where a well-defined ecosystem service is purchased by a service user from a service provider, conditional on the provider securing the continued provision of that service;

"sink" means any process, activity, or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere;

"sources" means any process, activity, or mechanism which releases a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere;

"sustainable finance" means any financial service or investment that integrates Environmental, Social, and Governance criteria into its decision-making process to support sustainable economic development; and

"vulnerable groups" includes women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and communities living in poverty or in geographically fragile areas who are disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change.

3. Objectives of the Act

The primary objectives of this Act are to create a legally binding mandate for climate actions in The Gambia and in particular to -

- (a) establish a comprehensive and robust legal, institutional, and regulatory framework to effectively address climate change and its adverse effects;
- (b) harmonize existing laws and overcome institutional fragmentation;
- (c) promote climate-resilient and low-emission socio-economic development pathways that protect the health, well-being and rights of citizens and contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods;
- (d) facilitate the achievement of The Gambia's commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its related or succeeding instruments, including its Nationally Determined Contributions;
- (e) ensure integration of climate change considerations into national, sectoral, and sub-national development planning, budgeting, and implementation processes;
- (f) enhance The Gambia's adaptive capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change by empowering local authorities as the frontline authorities for climate action;
- (g) promote public awareness, education, and participation in climate change responses;
- (h) facilitate the mobilization and effective management of climate finance;
- (i) foster research, development, and deployment of climate-friendly technologies and practices;
- (j) promote a just transition to a green economy that protects livelihoods, creates green jobs and mitigates resource-based conflicts while ensuring the creation of decent work for the workforce;

- (k) promote synergies between climate action, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction;
- (l) strengthen national meteorological and hydrological services and infrastructure;
- (m) establish a national mechanism to assess, quantify, and address climate-induced loss and damage;
- (n) embrace the opportunity to pioneer a sustainable blue economy that enhances livelihoods and economic growth from marine and coastal resources, and a circular economy that designs out waste and regenerates natural systems; and
- (o) establish a coherent national system for monitoring, reporting, and verification to ensure transparency, compliance and enforcement.

4. Guiding principles

All actions and decisions taken pursuant to this Act shall be guided by the following principles –

- (a) sustainable development and alignment with national development plans;
- (b) common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities taking into account the special needs and special circumstances of least developed countries;
- (c) equity, climate justice, and intergenerational responsibility;
- (d) the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle;
- (e) transparency, accountability, and public participation, including access to information;
- (f) gender equality and social inclusion;
- (g) science-based decision making, using the best available scientific evidence and a risk-aversion approach;
- (h) locally-led and people-centered action;

- (i) nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation;
- (j) sustainable blue economy stewardship and the circular economy approach;
- (k) synergy and coherence across all government policies;
- (l) self-reliance; and
- (m) the principle of subsidiarity.

5. Application

- (1) This Act shall apply to every activity, plan, policy, and programme undertaken by public and private entities that may affect or be affected by climate change within The Gambia.
- (2) The provisions of this Act shall apply to the regulation of all matters related to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience in The Gambia.
- (3) This Act binds the Government and all organs of State.
- (4) Every person, including both natural and legal persons, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and communities, has a role and responsibility in the implementation of this Act and in contributing to national climate change responses, in accordance with each person's respective capacities and circumstances.
- (5) The specific roles and responsibilities of different actors may be further elaborated in Regulations made under this Act or in relevant sectoral laws and policies.

6. Relationship with other laws

All environmental legislation, disaster management legislation, local government legislation, forestry legislation, renewable energy legislation, and investment and export promotion legislation, shall be interpreted and implemented in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of this Act.

PART 2 – GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

7. The national climate governance framework

- (1) The governance of climate change matters under this Act shall be organized into three interconnected levels to ensure that high-level political will is translated into coordinated technical action and the levels are –
 - (a) Strategic Direction and Political Authority;
 - (b) Inter-Governmental Coordination and Coherence; and
 - (c) Technical Implementation and Stakeholder Engagement.

(2) The framework established under subsection (1) shall be supported by sub-national bodies, an independent judicial body, and a formal network of Climate Change Focal Points.

8. Strategic direction and political authority

(1) There is established by this Act, the National Climate Change Council, which shall be the main body for strategic oversight and decision-making on all matters concerning climate change in The Gambia.

(2) The Council consist of –

(a) the President of The Gambia as the Chairperson, who shall provide the ultimate strategic direction and political will for the national climate change response;

(b) the Minister as the Vice-Chairperson;

(c) the Minister responsible for finance;

(d) the Minister responsible for agriculture;

(e) the Minister responsible for transport, works and infrastructure;

(f) the Minister responsible for petroleum, energy and mines;

(g) the Minister responsible for lands and local government;

(h) the Minister responsible for water resources

(i) the Minister responsible for trade and employment;

(j) the Minister responsible for health;

(k) the Minister responsible for justice;

(l) the Minister responsible for gender; and

(m) any other members prescribed in the Regulations made under this Act.

(3) The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry shall serve as the Secretary to the Council.

(4) The Council shall –

(a) serve as the main decision-making body for climate action;

- (b) approve key national instruments, including the National Climate Change Policy and its supporting instruments such as the Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans;
- (c) set and review national greenhouse gas emission reduction targets;
- (d) issue legally binding directives to any Ministry, Department, or Agency to ensure compliance with this Act; and
- (e) receive and review high-level reports from the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee and performance reports on climate finance from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

(5) The Council shall meet at least twice annually and where appropriate, may publish a summary of its key decisions in the Gazette and on the National Climate Information Portal to ensure transparency.

(6) The Council may by written instrument, delegate all or any of its functions or power under this Act to Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee.

(7) The Council may invite or co-opt any person to assist the Council in its work but the person has no voting right.

(8) The Ministry shall prepare and present before the Council and subsequently to the National Assembly, the Annual Climate Action Progress Report detailing progress The Gambia has made in realising the obligations and commitments made by the National Climate Change Council through its approval of key national instruments including the annual climate work plan and budget, the National Climate Change Policy, the Nationally Determined Contributions and the National Adaptation Plans.

9. Inter-ministerial coordination and coherence

(1) There is established by this Act, the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee which shall be the principal body for operational coordination and ensuring policy coherence across key ministries and agencies.

(2) The Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee shall be a technical-administrative body and it shall consist of –

- (a) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, as the Chairperson;
- (b) the Permanent Secretary of Office of the President;
- (c) the Executive Director of the National Environment Agency;
- (d) the Executive Director of the National Disaster Management Agency;

(e) Permanent Secretaries and Heads of key line ministries and agencies respectively; and

(f) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance and economic affairs.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, “key line ministries and agencies” refers to ministries and agencies that are considered to be relevant to climate change interest by the Minister.

(4) The Committee may invite or co-opt any person to assist them in their work, but the person shall have no voting right.

(5) To ensure alignment with the national economy, the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee shall include, in a non-voting capacity, a designated representative from the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

(6) The Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee shall –

- (a) translate the strategic directives of the Council into actionable, cross-governmental work plans;
- (b) ensure policy coherence and resolve operational-level implementation challenges among ministries;
- (c) review and endorse technical proposals and reports originating from the Network of Climate Change Focal Points and the Secretariat for submission to the Council; and
- (d) ensure that all strategies, plans, and programmes reviewed are coherent and create synergies between the nation's climate commitments.

(7) The Secretariat, under the administrative supervision of the Ministry, shall serve as the lead coordinating body for the national climate response.

10. Technical implementation and stakeholder engagement

(1) The primary mechanism for technical implementation and stakeholder engagement shall be the Network of Climate Change Focal Points established under section 13.

(2) The Network shall –

- (a) ensure climate change considerations are integrated across all relevant sectors; and

- (b) review and provide technical validation for all plans and strategies drafted by the National Climate Change Department before their submission to the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee.

(3) For the development of any major national plan or strategy under this Act, the National Climate Change Department shall convene targeted stakeholder consultations to ensure broad and meaningful participation from civil society, the private sector, academia, and community representatives.

11. Establishment of the National Climate Change Department and implementation of this Act

(1) There is established by this Act, the National Climate Change Department under the Ministry as the executive secretariat of the National Climate Change Council.

(2) The National Climate Change Department shall serve as the central technical, coordinating, and implementing unit for this Act, and –

- (a) draft all national climate plans and strategies for technical review and submission to the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee;
- (b) develop or support to develop and overseeing the implementation of the climate action commitments;

12. Responsibilities of the Executive of Climate Change

- (c) Manage the national Measurement, Reporting, and Verification system and the National Climate Information Portal;
- (d) Manage and coordinate the Network of Climate Change Focal Points;
- (e) serve as the secretariat for the Council and Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee; and
- (f) establish and coordinate a national research framework in partnership with the Ministry responsible for higher education, research, science and technology, and other relevant institutions.

(3) To ensure the complete alignment of technical priorities and financial resources, National Climate Change Department shall –

- (a) prepare a single annual climate work plan and budget;
- (b) submit the work plan and budget to the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee for review and endorsement before being presented to the Council for final approval;

- (c) establish, resource, and operationalise a National Multidisciplinary Climate Change Research, Projection and Prediction Centre; and
- (d) strengthen the National Climate Services System of The Gambia to support climate change resilience.

(4) The Minister shall establish a Youth Climate Advisory Committee to provide formal advice to the Secretariat for the purpose of ensuring that the perspectives of young people are systematically integrated into climate policy and implementation.

(5) The Minister shall prescribe the composition, terms of reference and operational modalities of the National Climate Change Department and the Youth Climate Advisory Committee in the Regulations made under this Act.

(6) To effectively discharge its mandate, the National Climate Change Department shall be internally structured into technical and finance units responsible for, at a minimum, adaptation, mitigation and carbon markets, and transparency and reporting.

(7) All acts, decisions, approvals, and administrative measures taken by the climate change secretariat prior to the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been validly taken under this Act and shall continue to have effect unless varied or revoked in accordance with this Act.

12. Responsibilities of the Directorate of Climate Finance

The Directorate of Climate Finance under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in collaboration with the Climate Change Department shall be responsible for –

- (a) mobilizing, and managing climate finance from domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and private sector sources;
- (b) serve as the primary interface for all financial partners;
- (c) integrating climate change considerations into public financial management systems, including budget tagging, expenditure tracking, and fiscal policy formulation;
- (d) establishing and strengthening governance frameworks, standards, and systems for climate finance, including classification tools, reporting mechanisms, and accountability measures;
- (e) promoting and enabling private sector participation in climate finance through appropriate financial, fiscal, and risk mitigation instruments;

(f) coordinating climate finance policies and institutional arrangements across ministries, departments, and agencies to ensure alignment with national climate and development priorities; and

(g) building institutional and technical capacity within government to improve climate finance planning, access, implementation, and monitoring.

13. Network of climate change focal points

(1) The National Climate Change Department shall establish and manage a formal Network of Climate Change Focal Points to facilitate the integration of climate change considerations into all sectoral policies, plans, and budgets, and to coordinate the implementation of specific mitigation and adaptation projects.

(2) The Network of Climate Change Focal Points shall serve as the primary technical body for multi-stakeholder dialogue and for the review and validation of plans, strategies, and reports drafted by the National Climate Change Department before their submission to the Inter-Ministerial Climate Committee.

PART 3 – DECENTRALIZED CLIMATE ACTION & LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

14. Role of local government authorities

Local government authorities are legally recognized as the frontline authorities for planning, coordinating, and implementing climate adaptation and resilience actions within their respective jurisdictions, under the coordination or supervision of the National Climate Change Department.

15. Roles and responsibilities in decentralized climate action

(1) For the purposes of this Part, the roles and responsibilities for decentralized climate action shall be structured as follows –

(a) the elected Chairperson or Mayor of a Local Government Authority shall provide the local political leadership and oversight for climate action within their jurisdiction and shall be accountable to the local population.

(b) the Chief Executive Officer of a Local Government Authority shall be the lead technical and administrative officer responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the Council's functions and powers under this Act.

(c) the Governor or Executive Coordinator of each Administrative Region or Municipality or City shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Act within the Region, coordinating between local government authorities where necessary, and serving as the primary liaison between the local government authorities and the central government.

(2) The Minister may make Regulations prescribing the detailed roles and responsibilities of different actors under the Decentralized Climate Action.

16. Local Climate Adaptation Plans

(1) Every local government authority shall, with community participation, and in consultation with the National Climate Change Department, develop, budget for, and implement a Local Climate Adaptation Plan, to be funded through a dedicated Window of the Fund.

(2) Every local government authority shall develop and submit its first Local Climate Adaptation Plan for approval within twenty-four months of the commencement of this Act.

(3) Each Local Climate Adaptation Plan shall be reviewed and updated every five years, and its approval shall be a precondition for accessing financing from the Local Government Adaptation Window of the Fund.

(4) The development of a Local Climate Adaptation Plan shall be a bottom-up process.

(5) Each Local Climate Adaptation Plan must demonstrate that it consolidates the climate-related priorities identified in the development plans of the Village and Ward Development Committees, as established under the local government legislation.

(6) Before being submitted to the Gambia Climate Change Fund for financing, all Local Climate Adaptation Plans shall be reviewed by the Independent Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee, which shall provide recommendations to the Fund's Board on the scientific soundness and technical feasibility of the proposed interventions.

(7) The Minister shall prepare and publish Regulations under this Act outlining the Independent Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee's constitution, rules of procedure, minimum qualifications of members and mode of operations.

17. Locally led adaptation finance mechanisms

(1) Local government authorities shall be empowered to design and implement local projects eligible for innovative financing mechanisms, including performance-based climate resilience grants, whose modalities shall be defined by regulation.

(2) The Minister responsible for finance shall, by regulation, establish a direct, formula-based fiscal transfer mechanism, and the formula for such transfers shall be weighted and shall consider, at a minimum, the following criteria for each local government authority –

- (a) its climate vulnerability index;
- (b) its population size and density;

- (c) the area of critical ecosystems within its jurisdiction; and
- (d) its existing deficits in climate-resilient infrastructure.

18. Institutional support to local government authorities

(1) The National Climate Change Department shall provide technical guidance, climate data, and support to local government authorities, and shall deliver this support in close collaboration with the Technical Advisory Committee for the respective local government authority, as established under the local government legislation.

(2) Each local government authority shall designate a Local Climate Focal Point to coordinate climate-related programmes and to liaise with the National Climate Change Department and other national institutions.

(3) To ensure both empowerment and accountability, the disbursement of funds to local government authorities through the Local Government Adaptation Window may be implemented through a phased and conditional approach, to be detailed in the Fund's Operational Manual, and this approach may include a pilot phase with select local government authorities, tied to mandatory capacity-building, before a full national scale-up.

(4) In carrying out their functions under this Part, the National Climate Change Department and local government authorities shall, where applicable, coordinate with and leverage the existing decentralized structures of the National Disaster Management Agency, the National Environment Agency, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to ensure an integrated and efficient response at the local level.

(5) The Directorate of Climate Finance in collaboration with National Climate Change Department shall support local government authorities by providing guidance on accessing and managing climate finance, coordinating resource mobilisation with partners, and ensuring proper tracking and reporting of climate-related flows.

PART 4 – CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION, ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

19. Climate change mitigation targets

The Government shall develop and endeavor to implement mitigation measures with the aim of achieving its targets as specified in The Gambia's most recent submitted Nationally Determined Contribution in light of national circumstances.

20. Climate budget tagging and public expenditure review

(1) The Minister responsible for finance, in collaboration with the Minister, shall establish and maintain the system for climate budget tagging and public expenditure review.

- (2) The Minister responsible for finance shall, by regulation, prescribe the operational details of the climate budget tagging and public expenditure review system.
- (3) The system shall be designed to systematically identify, classify, and track climate-related expenditures across government to assess alignment with national climate priorities and ensure transparency.
- (4) The Minister responsible for finance shall publish the findings of the climate budget tagging and public expenditure review as part of the annual National Budget Statement, and the full report shall be made publicly available.

21. Climate mobility framework

- (1) The Ministry shall support the development of National Framework on Climate Mobility.
- (2) The Framework shall be designed to protect the rights and promote the well-being of displaced individuals and communities, ensuring that all actions taken are participatory, just, and respect human rights.

22. National Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- (1) The National Climate Change Department shall establish and maintain a robust national system for the regular estimation, compilation, reporting, and archiving of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, in line with international guidelines.
- (2) The National Climate Change Department shall compile and publish the national greenhouse gas inventory at least once every two years.

23. Nationally determined contributions

- (1) The Minister shall oversee the process for the preparation, regular review, and communication of The Gambia's Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for approval by the Council.
- (2) Each successive Nationally Determined Contribution shall represent a progression beyond The Gambia's then-current Nationally Determined Contribution and reflect its highest possible ambition, while ensuring alignment with the nation's sustainable development pathway.

24. Sector-specific targets and mitigation measures

The Minister, in collaboration with relevant sectoral ministries and agencies, may make Regulations to specify the process for setting measurable, achievable relevant and time-bound greenhouse gas emission reduction and mitigation targets in line with national long-term climate neutral strategy and progressive Nationally Determined Contribution targets.

25. Just transition framework

The National Climate Change Department, in consultation with the relevant Ministries and affected stakeholders, shall integrate a comprehensive just transition consideration in the National Climate Action Plan.

26. Mainstreaming climate change

The Government shall progressively integrate and mainstream climate change considerations into its national policies, plans, programmes and budgeting processes.

27. Gender-responsive climate action

(1) The Minister, in collaboration with the Minister responsible for gender and social welfare, shall ensure that the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution integrate a comprehensive gender and climate change action plan.

(2) All strategies, plans, and actions developed under this Act must be based on a gender analysis and ensure the full and effective participation of women and marginalized groups.

28. Climate change education and awareness

(1) The Minister responsible for basic and secondary education shall integrate climate change into the national curriculum at all levels, subject to the modalities and funding specified in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for finance.

(2) The National Climate Change Department shall develop and implement continuous national awareness campaigns, operationalized through a multi-lingual communication strategy that leverages behavioral science and partner with the arts and cultural sector.

29. Framework for carbon rights

The Ministry shall develop a carbon trading legislation in line with international obligations of The Gambia.

PART 5 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & REPORTING

30. Public access to climate-related data, information and reports

(1) The Department shall establish and maintain transparent and accessible systems to guarantee public access to climate-related data, information and reports, including through proactive publication on publicly available platforms and media, the National Climate Information Portal, and local-level sensitisation forums.

(2) The Department shall ensure that the climate-related information and reports in subsection (1) are made available to the public.

31. National climate safeguards framework

The Department, in consultation with local government authorities, the Youth Climate Advisory Committee, Line Ministries, Line Agencies and other relevant stakeholders, shall develop and publish a National Climate Safeguards Framework to ensure all climate actions under this Act are equitable and socially just, taking into account community and stakeholder feedback.

32. Mandatory climate-related reporting by entities

The Minister may, by Regulations made under this Act, require specified categories of public and private entities to monitor, quantify, and report on climate-related information to support the national greenhouse gas inventory.

33. International communications and reporting obligations

The National Climate Change Department shall be responsible for the preparation and submission of national communications, biennial transparency reports, and any other reports required under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and local circumstances.

PART 6 – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

34. Establishment of The Gambia Climate Change Fund

(1) There is established by this Act, The Gambia Climate Change Fund to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation actions within The Gambia.

(2) The Fund shall be operated with clear provisions for transparency, accountability, and robust stakeholder participation.

35. Guiding principles for climate finance

(1) All climate finance mobilized and disbursed under this Act shall be guided by the principles of alignment with national priorities, maximization of grant-based financing, transparency, gender-responsiveness, and avoidance of maladaptation.

(2) All financing disbursed through the Fund shall, where applicable, align with Sustainable Development Goal Impact Standards and require project proponents to assess and disclose nature-related risks and dependencies.

36. Legal basis and purpose of the Fund

(1) The Fund is established to provide a transparent and accountable financial resource for the implementation of national climate change policies, strategies and actions.

(2) The Fund shall be used to finance mitigation and adaptation projects, support for climate-induced displacement, research and development, capacity building, and direct access accreditation support.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, the resources of the Fund are intended to support mitigation and adaptation actions.

37. Governance of the Fund

(1) There is established by this Act, the Board of the Fund responsible for the Fund's overall policy, oversight and strategic direction.

(2) The Board shall comprise 10 members appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister and shall include –

(a) a representative of the Ministry responsible for finance and economic Affairs as the Chairperson;

(b) a representative of the Ministry as the Vice Chairperson;

(c) three representatives of government;

(c) one representative from the private sector;

(d) one representative from the academia;

(e) a representative of the National Environment Agency;

(f) a representative of the Local Government Authorities; and

(g) three representatives of vulnerable groups, including women, youth and person with disabilities.

(3) The Directorate of Climate Finance shall serve as the Secretariat of the Fund and be responsible for its day-to-day management.

(4) The Directorate of Climate Finance in collaboration with the National Climate Change Department shall be responsible for the day-to-day management of the fund.

(5) The Minister responsible for finance shall, by Regulations, prescribe the detailed operational and governance framework for the Fund.

(6) The Board is required to develop, publish, and gazette a comprehensive operational manual for the Fund within 12 months of its constitution, detailing all project cycle and disbursement procedures.

(7) The Board, in making its allocation decisions, shall consider the performance of ministries, departments, and agencies in relation to their climate duties as documented in the Annual Climate Action Progress Report.

(8) The operational manual of the Fund may specify incentives for high-performing entities and potential restrictions for entities that are demonstrably non-compliant.

38. Proceedings of the Board

(1) The Board shall meet at least twice a year or at any time if called by the Chairperson.

(2) All notifications of meetings of the Board shall include the agenda, place and time of the meeting.

(3) All sessions of the Board shall be held in the Ministry unless the Board decides otherwise.

(4) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be one-half of its total membership.

(5) Members of the Board shall participate in any of the meetings of the Board in person or by using suitable communications technology enabling distance communication in real time.

(6) When the Board members are unable to participate to the meeting of the Board, they shall notify the Chairperson three days before the date of the meeting.

(7) Each member of the Board shall have one vote.

(8) The Decision of the Board shall be made by consensus, or where consensus is not possible, by a simple majority of the members present and voting.

(9) A member of the Board who has a direct or an indirect interest in –

(a) the affairs of a body corporate or an enterprise being deliberated upon by the Board; or

(b) any contract proposed to be entered into,

shall as soon as possible after relevant facts have come to his or her knowledge, disclose the nature of his or her interest at the meeting of the Board.

(10) A disclosure made under sub-section (9) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting and the member concerned shall recuse himself or herself from the proceeding of the meeting on the matter.

(11) A member who breaches sub-sections (9) or (10) shall be temporary suspended from office by the Board for a reasonable period or take any other appropriate disciplinary measure against the person.

(12) Subject to this section, the Board may make procedures to regulate its proceedings.

39. Eligibility criteria for accessing funds

The Board shall establish and publish clear, objective, and publicly available eligibility criteria for all projects seeking financing from the Fund.

40. Financial operations of the Fund

(1) The Directorate of Climate Finance shall lead the mobilization of all financial resources for the Fund. This mandate includes securing finance from diverse sources, including the national budget, multilateral climate funds, development partners, and innovative financing mechanisms.

(2) All funds mobilized for the Fund, regardless of their source, shall be received and managed by the Directorate of Climate Finance, which serves as the official custodian.

(3) The Fund shall be managed in accordance with the public finance legislation and shall be subject to annual independent audits by the National Audit Office, with all audit reports made publicly available.

41. Minimum national contribution

The Government shall, through the Ministry responsible for finance and economic affairs, ensure that a minimum annual budgetary allocation is made to the Fund to support its operational costs and core programming.

42. National Climate Finance Strategy

(1) The Minister responsible for finance and economic affairs, in collaboration with the Minister and the National Climate Change Department, shall develop or formally adopt a periodic National Climate Finance Strategy.

(2) The Strategy shall be guided by a phased approach to ensure long-term sustainability, which shall include -

- (a) prioritizing the mobilization of national resources through greenhouse gas emission levies, and other domestic instruments to establish a funding base for the Fund.

- (b) leveraging the domestic foundation to secure and align grant-based and concessional financing from international partners for transformative national projects.
- (c) progressively leveraging private capital through innovative instruments such as blended finance, debt-for-climate swaps, and participation in international carbon markets.

43. Information for mobilization

- (1) Strategies for climate finance mobilization shall be informed by national reports such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.
- (2) The Board of the Fund shall develop a clear strategy for the allocation of mobilized resources to ensure decisions are aligned with national priorities.

44. Climate financing instruments

The Ministry responsible for finance and economic affairs shall promote and utilize a range of instruments for climate financing, including -

- (a) budgetary provisions for adaptation and mitigation;
- (b) green and blue bonds;
- (c) blended finance and Public Private Partnerships; and
- (d) Debt for nature and debt for climate swaps.

45. Mandatory climate-related financial disclosures

- (1) The Minister responsible for finance may, by Regulations, require specified categories of entities, such as publicly listed companies, banks, and pension funds, to prepare and publish annual climate-related financial disclosures.
- (2) The Regulations made in subsection (1) may, for entities involved in projects with significant land use or biodiversity impacts, require disclosures to be made in accordance with the framework of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures or any successor framework.

46. National Green Taxonomy

The Minister responsible for finance in collaboration with the Minister shall develop and maintain a National Green Taxonomy to define sustainable economic activities.

PART 7 – DISPUTE RESOLUTION

47. Environmental Tribunal

An Act of Parliament may create an environmental tribunal to hear and determine all environmental disputes, offences and civil matters.

48. Locus Standi (right to bring an action)

If any person or group of persons alleges that any of the provisions of this Act has been, is being or is likely to be contravened in relation to himself or herself or them by any person he or she may apply to the Tribunal for redress.

49. Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

The Tribunal shall encourage and facilitate the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, including mediation and arbitration where disputes involve complex technical issues, require a speedy resolution, or involve multiple stakeholders.

PART 8 – COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

50. General offences, penalties and connected matters

(1) A person who fails to comply with any provision of this Act or Regulations made under this Act including failing to submit required data, operating without a permit, causing significant environmental harm, misusing climate funds, or obstructing an authorized officer, commits an offence.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable on conviction to a fine not less than five thousand dalasi or a fine equivalent in monetary terms to the damage or loss caused or suffered by his or her conduct, or imprisonment of not less than two months and not more than ten years, or to both.

(3) Where an offence is committed by a body corporate, every director, manager, or other similar officer shall be deemed to have committed the offence unless the person proves the offence was committed without his or her knowledge and that he or she exercised all due diligence to prevent it.

(4) The Chief Justice may issue Sentencing Guidelines for the purpose of subsection (2).

(5) In determining the specific penalty within the prescribed range for an offence under this Act, the court shall consider the following factors –

(a) aggravating factors, which may include –

- (i) previous convictions for similar offences under this Act or other environmental laws;
- (ii) the actual or potential severity of environmental harm or climate impact caused;
- (iii) intentional or reckless behaviour leading to the offence;

- (iv) financial benefit derived from the offence; or
- (v) failure to take timely remedial action after being notified of non-compliance;
- (b) mitigating factors, which may include –
 - (i) cooperation with authorities during investigation;
 - (ii) voluntary disclosure of non-compliance;
 - (iii) genuine and demonstrable efforts to mitigate environmental harm or restore affected areas; or
 - (iv) implementation of robust measures to prevent future recurrence.

51. Additional Orders by the Court

In addition to any fine or imprisonment, the court may order an offender to undertake restorative measures, forfeit profits, pay compensation, perform community service, or pay the costs of prosecution.

52. Enforcement of the Act

- (1) The National Climate Change Department is the lead authority responsible for ensuring overall compliance with this Act.
- (2) In carrying out its enforcement functions, the National Climate Change Department shall coordinate with and may delegate specific operational enforcement duties to the National Environment Agency and other relevant authorities.
- (3) The powers and functions of the National Environment Agency as stipulated in the environment legislation shall apply to the enforcement of this Act.

53. Powers of enforcers

- (1) Any duly authorized officer may enter any premises to conduct inspections, require the production of documents and take samples, and issue enforcement notices or stop orders to ensure compliance with this Act.
- (2) For the purpose of this section, an "authorized officer" means an officer of the National Environment Agency designated in writing by its Executive Director.

54. Administrative penalties

The Minister, by Regulations, may establish a system for imposing administrative monetary penalties for minor contraventions of this Act.

55. Reporting of violations and whistleblower protection

(1) Any person may report an alleged violation of this Act to the Ministry or Inspector General of Police for necessary actions.

(2) The Ministry, in collaboration with the Inspector General of Police, shall ensure the effective protection from potential retaliation, harassment, disclosure of identity, discrimination or intimidation for person who report violation of this Act or lawfully defend the environment and, as appropriate, for their relatives and other person close to them.

(3) For the purposes of this section, a person includes an environmental defender.

(4) A mechanism, led by accredited civil society organizations, may be established by Regulations to monitor and report violations of this Act.

PART 9 – MISCELLANEOUS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

56. Obligation of public and private entities

The Ministry, by notice signed by the Minister, may seek information from a public or private entity in relation to its mandatory reporting requirements, and the public or private entity shall –

- (a) provide the information to the Ministry; and
- (b) integrate climate change considerations into its governance and strategic planning.

57. Regulations, resource allocation, implementation

(1) The Minister shall make subsidiary legislation including Regulations, necessary for the full implementation of the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Government shall ensure the effective implementation of this Act by allocating financial, human, and technical resources through the annual national budget.

(3) The National Climate Change Department shall be responsible for preparing a detailed annual work plan.

(4) As part of the first national budget following the enactment of this Act, the Government shall develop and fund a multi-year institutional strengthening plan which shall ensure that the National Climate Change Department is adequately staffed with the requisite technical and administrative expertise to effectively discharge their mandates.

The Gambia National Climate Change Act, 2026

PASSED in the National Assembly this 1st day of April, in the year of Our Lord Twenty
Twenty Six.



Mr. Kalipha M.M. Mbye
Clerk of the National Assembly.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill
which has passed in the National Assembly, and found by me to be a true and correct copy of the said Bill.



Mr. Kalipha M.M. Mbye
Clerk of the National Assembly.