REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NGO AFFAIRS BENCHMARKING VISIT TO KENYA

13TH TO 17TH MAY 2026

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The Committee is immensely grateful to the Parliament of Kenya, specifically the Parliamentary Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining under the leadership of Hon. Leo Njeru Wa Muthende, for hosting the delegation and fostering warm inter-parliamentary cooperation.

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Finally, the Committee commends all the Honourable Members of the delegation, the technical legal drafting team, researchers, communications officers, and protocol staff. Their combined efforts ensured that the benchmarking mission yielded substantive insights that will directly enhance climate governance, parliamentary oversight, and the refinement of The Gambia's Climate Change Bill, 2025.

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HON. YAYA GASSAMA

CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the invitation and with the facilitation of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Finance Ministers Group (CVF–V20) Global Parliamentary Group, the Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development and NGO Affairs of the National Assembly of The Gambia undertook a benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Kenya from 13 to 17 May 2026. The visit formed part of the Committee's ongoing efforts to strengthen parliamentary oversight of climate governance and to support the refinement and implementation of The Gambia's Climate Change Bill, 2025. The visit exposed Members to Kenya's legislative, institutional, and financial architecture for climate governance, emphasizing climate finance, accountability mechanisms, and parliamentary oversight.

The delegation engaged with Members of the Parliament of Kenya, officials from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, the National Treasury, and the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change. These engagements provided first-hand knowledge of Kenya's implementation of the Climate Change Act, public financial integration of climate funds, carbon market regulations, and institutional accountability. The delegation also observed parliamentary proceedings in the Senate and participated in a two-day regional seminar on methane reduction and a technical field tour.

The report presents the proceedings of the benchmarking visit, highlights observations and lessons learned, and outlines key recommendations to strengthen climate legislation, oversight, institutional coordination, and green finance in The Gambia.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has emerged as one of the most significant global challenges affecting sustainable development, economic growth and human security. For climate-vulnerable countries such as The Gambia, effective responses require robust legal frameworks, accountable institutions and sustainable financing mechanisms capable of supporting climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives. In recognition of this reality, the National Assembly of The Gambia has continued to strengthen its legislative and oversight responsibilities relating to environmental protection, climate governance and sustainable development.

As part of this commitment, the Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development and NGO Affairs has been actively scrutinising the Climate Change Bill, 2025, with the objective of ensuring that the proposed legislation establishes a comprehensive and implementable framework for climate governance. Recognising the value of learning from countries with advanced climate governance systems, the Committee undertook a benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Kenya to study its legislative framework, institutional arrangements and climate finance mechanisms.

The benchmarking visit was facilitated by the Climate Vulnerable Forum and V20 Finance Ministers Group (CVF–V20) Global Parliamentary Group as part of its support to strengthen parliamentary leadership on climate governance among climate-vulnerable countries. The programme also complemented ongoing efforts to support implementation of The Gambia's Climate Prosperity Plan by ensuring that the Climate Change Bill is supported by effective legal, institutional and financial arrangements.

During the two-day programme, the delegation engaged with parliamentary committees, government ministries and technical experts responsible for climate governance and climate finance. The discussions focused on legislative design, parliamentary oversight, climate fund governance, integration of climate finance into public financial management systems, carbon market regulation and institutional coordination.

The visit also provided an opportunity to strengthen parliamentary cooperation between the National Assembly of The Gambia and the Parliament of Kenya through the exchange of experiences and best practices in climate governance and legislative oversight.

The findings and recommendations contained in this report are intended to support the continued strengthening of The Gambia's Climate Change Bill, 2025, while contributing to enhanced parliamentary oversight of climate governance and sustainable development initiatives.

PART 1

BENCHMARKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN KENYA 13- 14 MAY, 2026

MEETING WITH THE KENYAN PARLIAMENTAY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND MINING

The meeting hosted at the Parliament of Kenya, the session was chaired by Hon. Leo Njeru Wa Muthende (MP for Mbeere North Constituency), accompanied by Hon. Charles Kamuren, Hon. Fatuma Masito, Hon. Yakub Adow, and Hon. Said Buya Hiribae, who collectively welcomed the delegation and expressed the Committee's commitment to strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation and knowledge sharing on climate governance and environmental legislation.

During the session, the Gambian delegation held detailed discussions with the Committee on the legislative design and parliamentary oversight of Kenya's Climate Change Act. The engagement provided valuable insights into the development, implementation and continuous review of Kenya's climate governance framework, highlighting the central role of Parliament in ensuring that climate legislation remains responsive to national priorities and international commitments.

The Kenyan counterparts explained that the Climate Change Act was enacted to establish a comprehensive legal and institutional framework for coordinating climate change responses across all sectors of government. The legislation provides clear mandates for national and county governments, establishes institutional arrangements for climate governance, and promotes the integration of climate change considerations into national development planning. The delegation learned that the Act was designed not only to support mitigation and adaptation efforts but also to enhance resilience, promote sustainable development, and facilitate access to international climate finance.

The Committee emphasized that the legislative process was highly consultative, involving extensive engagement with government ministries, county governments, the private sector, academia, civil society organizations, development partners and local communities. This inclusive approach ensured that the law reflected the realities and priorities of different stakeholders while promoting broad ownership of climate policies. The Gambian delegation noted that such stakeholder participation contributed significantly to the legitimacy and effectiveness of Kenya's climate legislation.

The delegation further learned that the Climate Change Act clearly defines institutional responsibilities by establishing a coordinated governance structure led by the national government while assigning complementary responsibilities to county governments. This multi-level governance framework facilitates coordination between different levels of government, ensuring that national climate policies are effectively translated into local implementation. The Committee stressed that climate change is treated as a cross-cutting development issue, requiring every ministry and public institution to mainstream climate considerations into their respective policies, programmes and budgets.

On parliamentary oversight, the Kenyan counterparts explained that the National Assembly, through the Committee on Environment, Forestry and Mining, plays a critical role in monitoring the implementation of the Climate Change Act. The Committee regularly reviews reports submitted by the responsible ministries and institutions, scrutinizes budget allocations for climate-related programmes, conducts oversight visits to assess project implementation, and engages implementing agencies to ensure compliance with legislative requirements. The Committee also provides a platform for stakeholders to raise concerns regarding implementation challenges and policy gaps requiring legislative intervention.

The delegation was informed that oversight extends beyond compliance monitoring to assessing the effectiveness and impact of climate policies and programmes. Committee inquiries often focus on whether climate interventions are delivering measurable outcomes in areas such as environmental conservation, forest management, renewable energy, climate-resilient agriculture, disaster risk reduction and community adaptation. Where shortcomings are identified, the Committee recommends policy reforms, legislative amendments or increased budgetary support to strengthen implementation.

The Kenyan counterparts also highlighted the importance of evidence-based oversight. Members of Parliament rely on technical reports, scientific research, independent expert advice and data generated by government institutions to inform their oversight functions and legislative decisions. The Committee maintains close collaboration with research institutions, development partners and technical agencies to enhance Members' understanding of emerging climate issues and evolving international obligations.

The Gambian delegation further learned that effective implementation of climate legislation requires sustainable financing. The Committee explained that parliamentary oversight includes monitoring the mobilization, allocation and utilization of domestic and international climate finance to ensure transparency, accountability and value for money. Particular attention is given to ensuring that climate resources directly support vulnerable communities and national development priorities.

The session also underscored the importance of aligning national legislation with international climate commitments, including the Paris Agreement and other multilateral environmental agreements. Parliament plays a key role in ensuring that domestic legislation, policies and budgets support Kenya's nationally determined contributions and long-term climate resilience objectives while balancing environmental protection with socio-economic development.

The Gambian delegation observed that Kenya's experience demonstrates how a well-designed climate law, supported by effective parliamentary oversight, can provide policy continuity, strengthen institutional coordination, improve accountability and enhance the country's capacity to address climate change. The delegation recognized the value of adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to climate governance, supported by strong legislative oversight, regular stakeholder engagement and evidence-based decision-making.

In response, the Gambian delegation briefed the Kenyan Committee on the climate governance landscape in The Gambia and outlined the efforts undertaken by the National Assembly in advancing climate legislation. The delegation explained that the Climate Change Bill had undergone extensive stakeholder consultations and parliamentary scrutiny through the relevant committee processes, reflecting the country's commitment to establishing a comprehensive legal framework for climate action. The delegation further informed the Committee that the Bill was at an advanced stage in the legislative process and was awaiting its final passage by the National Assembly. Both delegations acknowledged the importance of continued parliamentary collaboration and the exchange of best practices to strengthen climate governance and legislative oversight across Africa

Technical Briefing by MoE Climate Change Act, Carbon Market Regulation, and Financial Disclosure Mandates (MOE)

Officials from the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, led by Mr. Peter Maneno, Deputy Director of the Climate Change Department (In Charge of Mitigation), informed the delegation that Kenya has developed one of Africa's most comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks for addressing climate change. They explained that the country's climate governance framework is anchored on the Climate Change Act, 2016, as amended in 2023, which integrates climate change mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, carbon market regulation, and transparency into national development planning. The Ministry serves as the lead institution responsible for coordinating climate policies and implementing Kenya's commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, with the overarching objectives of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening climate resilience, and mobilizing sustainable climate finance.

The officials further explained that the Climate Change Act, 2016 (Amended 2023) provides the legal basis for coordinating climate action across all sectors and levels of government. The Act requires the integration of climate change considerations into national and sectoral planning, mandates the preparation of National Climate Change Action Plans, and establishes systems for monitoring, reporting, and verifying climate actions. They noted that the 2023 amendments significantly strengthened the framework by introducing enhanced provisions on carbon markets, climate finance, and private sector participation while ensuring environmental integrity and social safeguards for carbon projects.

On the institutional framework, the delegation was informed that the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry provides overall policy direction and coordinates Kenya's climate response, while the Climate Change Directorate serves as the technical coordinating body responsible for implementing the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), coordinating climate reporting, and providing technical guidance on climate programmes. The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) was highlighted as the principal regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that climate-related projects, including carbon market initiatives, renewable energy developments, and conservation programmes, comply with environmental laws and standards through environmental assessment and regulatory oversight

Joint Session with the National Treasury/Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit: Embedding Climate Fund in IFMIS, Budget Tagging, and De-Risking Instruments (MoF)- at the National Treasury (Ministry of Finance Complex), Nairobi, Kenya

As part of the benchmarking exercise on Climate Change and Climate Governance, the delegation paid a working visit to the National Treasury at the Ministry of Finance Complex, Nairobi. During the engagement, officials of the Climate Finance & Green Economy Unit made a comprehensive presentation on Kenya's climate finance architecture and the implementation of the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (**FLLoCA**) Programme.

The presentation focused on Kenya's approach to climate finance mobilization, decentralised climate governance, locally-led climate resilience, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, programme achievements, lessons learned and future priorities.

The presentations were delivered by officials from the Climate Finance & Green Economy Unit (CF&GE Unit), National Treasury, Kenya, led by Mr. Peter Owino – Climate Finance & Green Economy Unit, National Treasury (Lead Presenter on the FLLoCA Programme) and Officials of the Climate Finance & Green Economy Unit (CF&GE Unit), National Treasury, Kenya, who presented the Unit's mandate, policies, projects, collaborations and Kenya's climate finance architecture:

5.1 Introduction to the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Programme

The presenters explained that the Financing Locally-Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Programme is Kenya's flagship national initiative designed to strengthen climate resilience by decentralising climate finance and decision-making to county governments and local communities. The programme is the first national model in Kenya that allows climate funds to flow directly to counties while empowering communities at ward and village levels to identify, prioritize and implement climate adaptation investments that respond to their specific vulnerabilities.

The presenters further indicated that the programme emerged from earlier County Climate Change Fund pilot initiatives and technical assistance provided by the World Bank on devolution. It also serves as a platform for coordinating climate investments among the Government of Kenya, development partners and county governments in support of Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP). Through this approach, communities play a central role in determining local climate priorities, thereby promoting ownership, accountability and sustainability of climate interventions.

5.2 Programme Overview of the FLLoCA

The delegation was informed that the FLLoCA Programme forms part of Kenya's broader Devolution Support Programme for Results. It covers all 47 counties and is implemented over a five-year period beginning on 1 February 2022, with completion expected by 31 December 2026.

The presenters explained that implementation is led by the National Treasury and Economic Planning with financing from multiple development partners. The programme has a total budget of approximately US$295 million, comprising funding from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), the Governments of Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, the Government of Kenya, and Germany's KfW Development Bank for selected counties in western Kenya.

The presenters noted that the multi-donor financing arrangement demonstrates Kenya's commitment to integrating climate resilience into county development while leveraging international climate finance for local adaptation initiatives.

5.3 Programme Development Objective

The presenters explained that the overall objective of FLLoCA is to deliver locally-led climate resilience actions while strengthening the institutional capacities of both national and county governments to effectively manage climate risks.

The programme adopts the internationally recognised Principles for Locally-Led Climate Action, ensuring that local communities actively participate in identifying climate risks, designing adaptation measures and monitoring implementation. It is coordinated by the National Treasury in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change Directorate, the Council of Governors and other relevant government institutions.

5.4 Programme Implementation Framework

The presenters informed the delegation that FLLoCA operates through two complementary implementation modalities.

The first modality focuses on strengthening national institutions through capacity building, improved climate data management, cross-sector coordination and technical support to counties. This enables national institutions to provide policy guidance, technical expertise and oversight for climate action across the country.

The second modality targets county governments by providing financial resources and institutional support. Counties receive grants to establish climate governance structures, prepare County Climate Action Plans, institutionalise County Climate Change Funds, mainstream climate action into county planning and budgeting processes and implement climate resilience investments identified by local communities.

Together, these two modalities ensure that national policy support is complemented by effective implementation at the county level.

5.5 County Climate Financing Mechanism

The presenters explained that the programme provides two distinct grants to county governments.

The County Climate Institutional Support (CCIS) Grant provides each county with approximately US$100,000 annually during the initial implementation period. This funding enables counties to establish climate governance structures, meet institutional requirements and improve their performance in preparation for accessing larger investment grants.

The County Climate Resilience Investment (CCRI) Grant provides substantially larger allocations averaging approximately US$1.25 million annually per qualifying county, with higher allocations for counties supported through KfW financing. Allocation is based on a combination of predetermined funding formulas and county performance scores. These grants finance implementation of County Climate Action Plans while encouraging counties to increase their own investments into County Climate Change Funds and mainstream climate action within county budgets.

The presenters emphasized that this performance-based financing model encourages accountability, institutional strengthening and improved delivery of climate resilience projects.

5.6 Participatory Climate Risk Assessment and Planning

The delegation was informed that one of the most innovative features of FLLoCA is its participatory climate risk assessment model. Communities are actively involved in identifying climate hazards, analysing their vulnerability and proposing practical adaptation measures.

The process begins with community and ward-level sensitisation meetings where participants discuss local climate challenges and develop adaptation options. Proposed interventions are then prioritised and incorporated into Ward Climate Action Plans. These plans undergo technical review to ensure they meet established standards before being consolidated into County Climate Resilience Investment Plans.

According to the presenters, this participatory process ensures that climate investments reflect local priorities while strengthening community ownership and accountability for climate adaptation initiatives.

5.7 Programme Governance Structure

The presenters explained that FLLoCA operates through a multi-level governance framework involving national government, county governments and local communities.

Overall policy direction is provided by the Programme Steering Committee, which includes the National Treasury, Ministry of Environment, Council of Governors and other sector ministries. Technical coordination is undertaken by an Inter-Agency Technical Committee comprising government institutions, civil society organisations and county representatives.

A dedicated Programme Implementation Unit manages day-to-day operations, while counties participate through the Council of Governors Secretariat and county-level structures. This governance arrangement promotes coordination across sectors and ensures county participation in programme decision-making.

5.8 Programme Achievements

The presenters highlighted that the programme has recorded significant achievements in strengthening locally-led climate action across Kenya.

Approximately one million people have directly benefited from climate-resilient planning and adaptation measures, with total direct and indirect beneficiaries estimated at 2.5 million people, of whom approximately 56 percent are women.

The programme has enhanced conservation and sustainable management across approximately 28,000 hectares of land and supported functioning climate resilience investments in more than 1,200 rural wards. Investments span agriculture, water resources, environmental conservation and other priority sectors identified through community planning processes.

5.9 Strengthening County Institutional Capacity

The presenters informed the delegation that FLLoCA has significantly strengthened county institutions responsible for climate governance.

Nearly all counties have developed climate finance policies, established County Climate Change Funds and Climate Change Units, prepared Participatory Climate Risk Assessment reports and integrated climate resilience into County Integrated Development Plans and County Climate Action Plans.

The programme has also strengthened county climate entities, established active ward and project management committees, deployed environmental and grievance redress officers across counties and achieved strong performance assessment scores among participating counties. These reforms have improved counties' capacity to mobilise, manage and account for climate finance.

5.10 Lessons Learned

The presenters shared several lessons from implementation of the programme.

They observed that communities possess valuable indigenous knowledge and are capable of identifying practical climate adaptation solutions when adequately supported. Effective stakeholder engagement is essential for coordinated planning, financing and implementation of climate actions. Cross-sector collaboration among government institutions, civil society organisations and development partners enhances programme effectiveness.

The presenters further noted that climate resilience planning should begin at community level and be integrated into county budgeting processes. Additionally, adoption of appropriate technologies can significantly strengthen climate adaptation and resilience-building efforts.

5.11 Challenges

The presenters acknowledged that despite notable progress, the programme continues to face several implementation challenges.

These include delays in procurement and project implementation, frequent staff turnover within county governments, political interference in certain counties, limited technical capacity in climate-related disciplines and high expectations from communities regarding the scale and speed of project delivery.

They emphasized that addressing these challenges remains essential for sustaining programme effectiveness and achieving long-term climate resilience outcomes.

Presentation on Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit (CF&GE)

The delegation also received a presentation on the Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit (CF&GE Unit) of the National Treasury.

The presenters explained that the Unit was established in 2016 to coordinate climate finance mobilisation and green economy initiatives. It serves as Kenya's National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund and works closely with the Climate Change Directorate under the Ministry of Environment.

Its mandate includes coordinating climate finance mobilisation, developing climate finance policies, leading climate finance negotiations under the UNFCCC, tracking climate finance flows, implementing green finance programmes and convening inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms on climate finance.

According to the presenters, the Unit plays a central role in integrating climate finance into Kenya's public financial management system and supporting implementation of national climate policies.

6.1 Key Climate Finance Policies and Initiatives

The presenters concluded by outlining the major policy and financing initiatives being undertaken by the Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit.

These include the National Policy on Climate Finance, the Sovereign Green Bond Framework, the National Green Fiscal Incentives Policy and Kenya's Green Climate Fund Country Programme.

The Unit also oversees strategic initiatives such as establishment of the National Climate Change Fund, development of the Kenya Green Investment Bank, implementation of Green Bond programmes and strengthening climate finance tracking through integrated financial management systems.

The presenters explained that these initiatives are intended to diversify Kenya's climate finance sources, strengthen public financial management and increase private sector participation in climate investments.

Meeting with Ambassador Ali Mohamed, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Kenya - At the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change- Upperhill Chambers

The delegation paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change, where it held discussions with Ambassador Ali Mohamed, Kenya's Special Envoy for Climate Change, alongside Dr. Sarah Jane Ahmed, Managing Director and Finance Advisor to the Vulnerable Group of Twenty (V20) Ministers of Finance of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF). The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on Africa's climate agenda, climate finance, carbon markets, renewable energy, and the role of parliaments in advancing climate action on the continent.

Ambassador Ali Mohamed commenced by commending The Gambia for its strong engagement and negotiating position on climate finance within international climate processes. He reflected on the significance of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi in 2023, noting that the Summit marked a turning point in Africa's climate diplomacy by shifting the continent's narrative from one of vulnerability to one focused on harnessing Africa's immense natural and economic potential as a driver of global climate solutions.

Providing an overview of Africa's institutional climate governance architecture, Ambassador Mohamed explained that continental climate policy is coordinated through the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), currently chaired by the President of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Ruto. He further highlighted the complementary roles played by the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS), and the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) in shaping Africa's common position in international climate negotiations.

On climate finance and carbon markets, Ambassador Mohamed emphasized that although the Paris Agreement provides mechanisms for financial support from developed to developing countries, the expected flow of climate finance from the Global North to the Global South remains inadequate. Consequently, he encouraged African countries to pursue innovative financing mechanisms, particularly through carbon markets, to mobilize additional resources for climate action and sustainable development. He informed the delegation that Kenya had finalized its regulatory framework governing carbon markets, positioning the country to benefit from emerging carbon trading opportunities. He further disclosed that efforts are underway to develop a continental carbon market standard that would enable African countries to negotiate with a unified voice while ensuring transparency, credibility, and equitable benefits for the continent.

Ambassador Mohamed underscored the critical role of national parliaments in climate governance, particularly in strengthening climate legislation, approving financing frameworks, and supporting governments during international climate negotiations. He stressed that African countries must place greater emphasis on generating domestic revenue from their abundant natural resources and environmental assets, noting that despite Africa's vast potential, the continent has yet to fully capitalize on these opportunities.

The discussions also focused on Africa's renewable energy potential. Ambassador Mohamed called for increased investment in renewable energy infrastructure and advocated for reforms to encourage private sector participation in the energy sector by reducing monopolistic market structures. Citing Zambia as an example, he observed that greater competition can stimulate investment and improve energy access. He further remarked that approximately 60 percent of the world's solar energy potential is located in Africa, presenting enormous opportunities for clean energy development. He encouraged the adoption of cleaner technologies to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions, noting that air pollution and related emissions contribute to the deaths of an estimated 600,000 Africans annually.

Ambassador Mohamed also encouraged African parliaments to amplify their voices in support of continental climate initiatives and urged The Gambia to actively participate in Africa's collective climate agenda. He informed the delegation that Nairobi would host the forthcoming Clean Cooking Conference, which would focus on expanding access to clean cooking technologies as part of efforts to reduce emissions and improve public health. He further highlighted the importance of harnessing Africa's demographic dividend by investing in its youthful population as a catalyst for green growth and sustainable development.

Addressing maritime climate action, Ambassador Mohamed observed that The Gambia's position on the transition to renewable energy within the shipping sector remained insufficiently articulated. He therefore encouraged the National Assembly to support national efforts aimed at advancing cleaner maritime transport policies and strengthening the country's engagement in international discussions on decarbonizing the shipping industry.

During the discussions, Dr. Sarah Jane Ahmed commended Ambassador Mohamed's leadership in advancing Africa's climate agenda and acknowledged Kenya's contributions to global climate policy. She equally recognized The Gambia's ongoing efforts in climate and energy sector reforms, particularly highlighting the restructuring and decoupling initiatives involving the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), alongside other national measures aimed at strengthening climate resilience and sustainable development.

On behalf of the delegation, the Head of Delegation, Hon. Yaya Gassama, expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to the delegation and commended Ambassador Mohamed for his leadership in championing climate action across Africa. He highlighted the National Assembly's commitment to strengthening climate legislation, environmental governance, and parliamentary oversight in support of The Gambia's climate objectives.

In concluding the meeting, Ambassador Mohamed reiterated that the Africa Climate Summit had demonstrated the continent's immense development potential, noting that approximately 60 percent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land is found in Africa, making the continent capable of serving as a global breadbasket if properly managed. At the same time, he cited Kenya's recurring droughts as a reminder of the severe impacts of climate change. He lamented the existence of multiple negotiating blocs within Africa, which often weakens the continent's collective bargaining power, and urged parliamentarians to champion a unified African voice in international climate negotiations. Observing that 44 of the world's 47 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are in Africa, he stressed the need for stronger continental solidarity. He further recommended that parliamentarians be included in national delegations to the African Union Assembly and called upon Members to support efforts aimed at strengthening Africa's representation within the G20 and the Pan-African Parliament.

OBSERVATION OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS AT THE PARLIAMENT

The delegation observed a Senate Committee hearing on a land petition, providing practical insights into the Senate's consideration of public petitions and committee procedures. Later in the afternoon, the delegation attended a plenary sitting of the Senate, where they observed legislative debates and parliamentary proceedings. The experience enhanced the delegation's understanding of the Senate's legislative, oversight and representative functions within Kenya's bicameral parliamentary system. Attending these sessions also reflected parliamentary diplomacy between The Gambia and Kenya.

PART 2

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON CLIMATE ACTION: REDUCING METHANE, PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS 15–16 MAY 2026

The delegation of the National Assembly of The Gambia participated in the Regional Seminar on Climate Action: Reducing Methane, Promoting Development in African Parliaments, held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 16 May 2026. The Gambian delegation was invited by the Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable Twenty Group (CVF-V20) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to join parliamentarians and parliamentary officials from across Africa in discussions on strengthening the role of legislatures in climate governance and methane emissions reduction. The seminar was jointly organized by the Parliament of Kenya and the IPU in collaboration with Climate Parliament, the CVF-V20, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). The forum served as an important platform for African parliamentarians to exchange experiences, share best legislative practices, and explore practical approaches to addressing climate change while promoting sustainable economic development.

The seminar acknowledged that climate change continues to have profound consequences across the African continent, affecting livelihoods, food production systems, public health, ecosystems and economic growth. Participants recognized that African countries, despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions, remain among the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Consequently, the seminar emphasized the need for coordinated, evidence-based and nationally appropriate responses that integrate climate action with sustainable development objectives.

A central focus of the discussions was methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases responsible for accelerating global warming in the short term. Delegates noted that methane emissions originating from agriculture, waste management and the energy sector not only contribute significantly to climate change but also have serious implications for air quality and public health. Participants highlighted that rapid methane reduction represents one of the most effective opportunities to slow global warming over the coming decades while simultaneously generating substantial co-benefits, including improved public health, increased agricultural productivity, enhanced food security, cleaner cities and new economic opportunities.

The seminar further recognized the diversity of national circumstances across African countries, including differences in emission profiles, levels of economic development, institutional capacity and national priorities. It was therefore agreed that methane mitigation strategies should be adapted to each country's specific circumstances rather than adopting a uniform approach. Participants also acknowledged existing international commitments, particularly the Paris Agreement and the Global Methane Pledge, as useful frameworks that can guide national climate policies while allowing countries sufficient flexibility to pursue their own development priorities.

Throughout the seminar, parliamentarians exchanged experiences on legislative initiatives, oversight practices and budgetary interventions aimed at strengthening national climate governance. Delegates underscored the critical role of national parliaments in translating international climate commitments into domestic legislation and ensuring effective implementation through parliamentary oversight. The discussions reinforced the importance of strengthening collaboration between parliaments, governments, research institutions, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector to promote informed and evidence-based climate policymaking.

During one of the country experience-sharing sessions, the Head of the Gambian Delegation, Hon. Yaya Gassama, Chairperson of the Select Committee on Environment, Sustainable Development and NGOs Affairs of the National Assembly of The Gambia, delivered a presentation highlighting The Gambia's ongoing efforts to strengthen its climate governance framework. He briefed participants on the status of the Waste Management Bill, which is currently undergoing the legislative process in the National Assembly and is intended to establish a comprehensive legal framework for integrated waste management, promote environmentally sound waste disposal practices, and support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including methane generated from unmanaged waste. Hon. Gassama further outlined the Government's broader efforts to reduce methane emissions through improved waste management practices, enhanced environmental policies, and the development of climate-related legislation and programmes aimed at supporting the country's commitments under international climate agreements. His presentation provided participants with valuable insights into The Gambia's legislative and policy initiatives and contributed meaningfully to the exchange of experiences among African parliaments.

The seminar concluded that methane reduction should not be viewed solely as an environmental obligation but as an important opportunity to support sustainable development across Africa. Participants emphasized that actions to reduce methane emissions should be designed to strengthen food security, improve livelihoods, enhance climate resilience and promote innovation while ensuring that development objectives remain central to national climate strategies.

The Draft Outcome Statement adopted at the conclusion of the seminar reaffirmed the indispensable role of national parliaments in advancing climate action. Specifically, African parliaments were encouraged to:

a. Promote informed, inclusive and evidence-based policy development on climate change and methane reduction;

b. Develop and strengthen enabling legal and regulatory frameworks that support effective climate action;
c. Exercise their constitutional responsibilities during national budget processes by approving adequate financing for climate initiatives and overseeing public expenditure;
d. Strengthen parliamentary oversight to ensure effective implementation of government climate policies and commitments;
e. Facilitate dialogue and collaboration among governments, local authorities, communities, civil society, academia, the private sector and development partners;
f. Support increased investment in national statistical systems and scientific research to generate reliable, timely and disaggregated climate-related data for informed decision-making; and
g. Promote continuous parliamentary learning through collaboration with technical experts, research institutions and relevant ministries, while encouraging the use of scientific evidence and parliamentary knowledge products to strengthen legislative decision-making.

Overall, the seminar reinforced the growing recognition that African parliaments are central actors in addressing climate change. Through their legislative, representative, budgetary and oversight functions, parliaments are well positioned to accelerate methane reduction, strengthen national climate governance, mobilize public investment, and ensure that climate policies contribute to inclusive, resilient and sustainable development across the continent.

At the end of the Seminar, participants collectively commit to:

a. Encourage continued collaboration, cooperation and knowledge exchange among African parliaments, including through regional platforms and parliamentary networks, building on the discussions initiated at this seminar;
b. Call for enhanced dialogue among African parliaments, governments and regional institutions to promote a strong and united African voice in global climate and methane-related negotiations, ensuring that international frameworks, financing mechanisms and policy approaches fully reflect Africa's development priorities, food security needs and national circumstances;
c. Emphasize the importance of global inter-parliamentary cooperation and solidarity in addressing climate change and methane emissions, with a view to promoting knowledge exchange, strengthening policy frameworks, reducing emissions and mitigating impacts on the most vulnerable populations;
d. Also emphasize that Africa's methane mitigation efforts have both adaptation and mitigation co-benefits and require adequate, predictable and accessible climate finance from developed countries, and call for the fulfilment of the COP29 climate finance goal and operationalization of loss and damage funding;

e. Further emphasize the importance of access to reliable data, technical expertise and capacity-building opportunities to support evidence-based parliamentary decision-making, as well as the expedited transfer of affordable and locally adapted technologies, including low-emissions livestock systems, biogas, waste-to-energy solutions and methane measurement tools;
f. Affirm that policies and measures aimed at reducing methane emissions must not compromise sustainable development or efforts to eradicate poverty;
g. Reaffirm their interest in continuing engagement and cooperation on climate and methane reduction through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including through future regional exchanges and global events, such as the annual Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, and in engaging in national and regional capacity-building in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other partners and stakeholders.

PART 3

FIELD VISIT TO THE SLEEPING WARRIOR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, 17 MAY, 2026

As part of the Regional Seminar on Climate Action: Reducing Methane, Promoting Development in African Parliaments, the delegation joined counterparts from other parliaments and organizations attending this forum to undertake a field visit to the Sleeping Warrior Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Elementaita, Naivasha, Kenya. The visit provided Members with a practical demonstration of innovative climate technologies and green industrial development models that complement the policy and legislative discussions held during the seminar. The tour highlighted Kenya's efforts to integrate renewable energy, carbon management, sustainable manufacturing and eco-tourism within a single industrial ecosystem, thereby demonstrating how economic development can be pursued alongside environmental sustainability.

The first site visited was the Mumbi Limited Geothermal Exploration Project, where participants were introduced to geothermal energy exploration and its contribution to the Special Economic Zone's clean energy supply model. Officials explained how Kenya is harnessing its abundant geothermal resources to provide reliable, low-carbon electricity that powers industrial activities while significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The project illustrated the important role of renewable energy in supporting sustainable industrialization and enhancing energy security.

The delegation also visited the Cella Carbon Mineralisation Plant, an innovative carbon dioxide storage facility that permanently stores captured carbon emissions by injecting them into underground basalt rock formations. Through a natural mineralisation process, the injected carbon dioxide is converted into stable rock, preventing its release back into the atmosphere. The project demonstrated one of the emerging technologies available for permanent carbon sequestration and highlighted the potential of carbon capture and storage in supporting global climate mitigation efforts.

Another significant stop was the Octavia Carbon Direct Air Capture (DAC) Project, a pioneering Kenyan technology initiative that captures carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere. Participants were briefed on the engineering processes involved in extracting atmospheric carbon and the project's contribution to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations. The visit showcased Kenya's growing capacity for technological innovation in climate solutions and underscored the importance of investing in locally developed technologies to address climate change.

The field visit further included the Silk Origin Integrated Geothermal Bio-Manufacturing Project, where geothermal thermal energy is utilized to support sustainable silk production and high-value pharmaceutical applications. The project demonstrated how renewable geothermal resources can be integrated into advanced manufacturing processes to create environmentally sustainable industries while promoting value addition, innovation and economic diversification.

Participants concluded the tour at Kambi Moran Lodge, a hospitality facility located within the Special Economic Zone that exemplifies the integration of eco-tourism, hospitality and outdoor recreation within a green industrial development framework. The facility demonstrated how tourism infrastructure can coexist with environmentally responsible industrial activities while promoting conservation, sustainable land use and local economic development.

The field visit provided Members with valuable practical insights into how climate-smart technologies, renewable energy, carbon management and sustainable industrial development can be integrated to support national climate objectives while creating employment opportunities and promoting economic growth. The experience complemented the seminar's deliberations by demonstrating real-world applications of climate mitigation and sustainable development strategies, offering useful lessons that may inform future policy initiatives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Strengthen the Climate Change Bill, 2025: The National Assembly should ensure that the Climate Change Bill establishes clear institutional mandates, coordination mechanisms, accountability provisions and enforceable obligations for mainstreaming climate change across government policies, plans and budgets.
2. Establish a robust climate finance governance framework: Consideration should be given to establishing or strengthening appropriate mechanisms for mobilising, coordinating, tracking and reporting climate finance, with clear safeguards for transparency, accountability and value for money.
3. Integrate climate action into national budgeting: Climate-related programmes and expenditures should be systematically identified and integrated into national and sectoral planning and budgeting processes to ensure that climate priorities receive adequate and predictable financing.
4. Strengthen parliamentary oversight of climate action: The National Assembly, particularly the relevant Committee, should institutionalise regular scrutiny of climate policies, programmes, budgets and expenditure. This should include reviewing implementation reports, conducting oversight visits and assessing whether climate interventions are delivering measurable results.
5. Promote locally led climate action: The Government should explore approaches that enable local communities and local authorities to participate meaningfully in identifying climate risks, setting adaptation priorities and implementing climate resilience projects, drawing lessons from Kenya's FLLoCA model.
6. Improve climate data and evidence-based decision-making: Greater investment should be made in national climate data systems, scientific research, monitoring and reporting capacity to provide reliable and timely information for policymaking, parliamentary oversight and evaluation of climate interventions.
7. Strengthen stakeholder participation: Climate legislation and implementation should continue to involve local communities, local authorities, civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, development partners and other relevant stakeholders to promote ownership, inclusiveness and effective implementation.

8. Develop a comprehensive approach to methane reduction: The Government should strengthen measures to reduce methane emissions, particularly from waste management, agriculture and the energy sector, while ensuring that such interventions also contribute to food security, improved livelihoods, public health and economic development.
9. Strengthen waste management systems: The implementation of the Waste Management Bill, once enacted, should be supported by appropriate institutional, financial and technical arrangements to improve waste collection, treatment and disposal and reduce methane emissions from unmanaged waste.
10. Explore appropriate carbon-market opportunities: The Government should assess opportunities for The Gambia to benefit from carbon markets while establishing strong regulatory, environmental and social safeguards to ensure transparency, environmental integrity and equitable benefits for affected communities.
11. Promote renewable energy and green investment: Greater efforts should be made to create an enabling environment for investment in renewable energy, green industries, clean technologies and climate-smart enterprises, including through appropriate fiscal and regulatory incentives.
12. Strengthen parliamentary capacity on climate change: Members and staff of the National Assembly should be provided with continuous training and access to technical expertise on climate finance, carbon markets, methane reduction, climate science, renewable energy and emerging climate technologies to strengthen evidence-based legislative and oversight functions.
13. Strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation: The National Assembly should maintain and deepen cooperation with the Parliament of Kenya and other African parliaments through benchmarking visits, knowledge exchange, joint initiatives and parliamentary networks on climate change and sustainable development.
14. Promote a united African parliamentary voice on climate finance: The National Assembly should actively participate in regional and international parliamentary platforms to support stronger African advocacy for adequate, predictable, accessible and equitable climate finance, while promoting Africa's common interests in international climate negotiations.
15. Translate lessons from the benchmarking visit into action: The relevant Government institutions and the National Assembly should identify practical lessons from the visit

that can be adapted to The Gambia's national circumstances and incorporate them into the implementation of the Climate Change Bill, 2025, the Climate Prosperity Plan and related climate policies and programmes.

CONCLUSION

The benchmarking visit to the Parliament of Kenya and participation in the Regional Seminar on Climate Action provided the Gambian delegation with valuable lessons on climate legislation, parliamentary oversight, climate finance, methane reduction and sustainable development.

The visit demonstrated that effective climate governance requires strong legislation, clear institutional responsibilities, sustainable financing, reliable data, stakeholder participation and effective parliamentary oversight. Kenya's experience, particularly its locally led climate finance approach, provides useful lessons that can be adapted to The Gambia's context.

The seminar and field visit further highlighted the opportunities presented by methane reduction, renewable energy, carbon management and green technologies to support both climate action and socio-economic development.

Overall, the lessons gained from the visit will contribute to strengthening The Gambia's Climate Change Bill, 2025, enhancing parliamentary oversight and supporting the country's efforts towards resilient, inclusive and sustainable development.

ANNEX

DELEGATION

Hon. Yaya Gassama	-	Chairperson
Hon. Essa Conteh	-	Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Kebba Lang Fofana	-	Member
Hon. Saikou Bah	-	Member
Hon. Lamin Ceesay	-	Member
Hon. Nfamara Sabally	-	Member
Hon. Bakary Kora	-	Member
Hon. Gibbi Mballow	-	Member
Hon. Omar Jobe	-	Member
Hon. Haruna Barry	-	Member
Hon. Tamsir Cham	-	Member
Ms. Isatou Sonko	-	Committee Clerk
Mr. Mamadou AM Bah	-	Committee Clerk
Mr. Lamin M. Dibba	-	Principal Draftsman
Mr. Modika Bah	-	Researcher
Ms. Ramatoulie Jawo	-	Communication Officer
Mr. Bakary Jammeh	-	Protocol Officer
Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed	-	Managing Director and Finance Advisor CVF-V20
Ms. Rachel Mundilo	-	Deputy Director: Parliament and Courts – CVF-V20
Mr. Yussuf Hussein Youssuf	-	Director Africa: CVF-V20

INSTITUTIONS/PERSONNEL VISITED/ENGAGED

1. Kenyan Parliament and the House of Senate
2. Ministry of Environment of Kenya
3. Kenya National Treasury/ Climate Finance and Green Economy Unit
4. Ambassador Ali Mohamed, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Kenya
5. Regional Seminar on Climate Action: Reducing Methane, Promoting Development in African Parliament.


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Reducing Methane, Promoting Development.
Parliament of Kenya
SEMINAR


SEMINAR