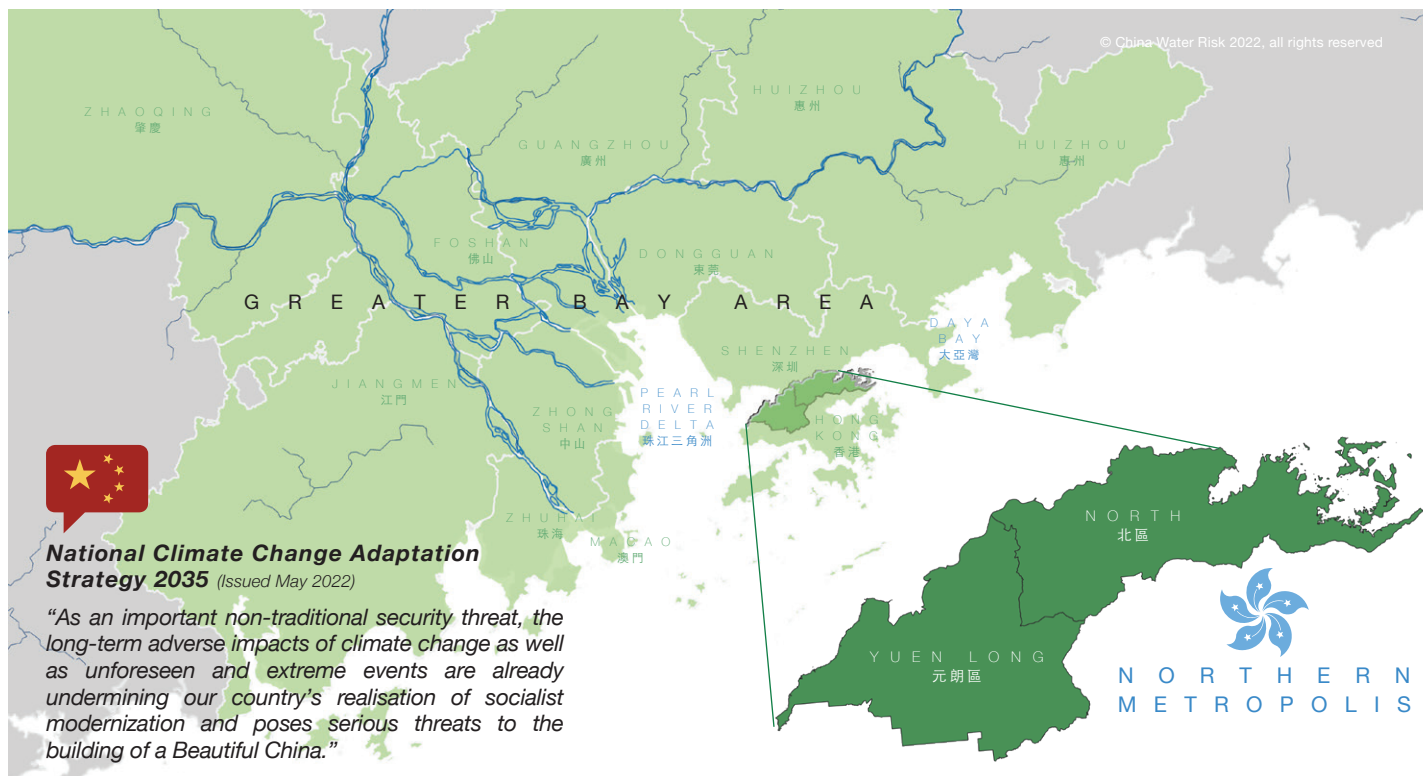


Climate Ready Northern Metropolis

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Northern Metropolis is Hong Kong’s opportunity for Transformative Adaptation



Source: CWR analyses based on IPCC AR6 & astronomical high tide in Hong Kong; Digital Terrain Model (5m) from the Lands Department of Hong Kong; 3D photo-realistic model based on the Planning Department of Hong Kong; ESRI; Ministry of Environment & Ecology & various departments of the People Republic of China, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035.

Northern Metropolis & Transformative Adaptation

Even if we rein in emissions, sea level rise is irreversible. Since it is also accelerating, the IPCC AR6 recommends coastal cities in the Low Elevation Coastal Zone, to “*play a key role in moving toward higher climate resilient development*” due to their importance to national economies, inland communities, global trade supply chains and centres of innovation. As large swathes of Yuen Long and parts of the North, both districts in the Northern Metropolis, are low-lying, the development of this future hub provides Hong Kong with an opportunity to plan and showcase transformative adaptation to rising seas. Such actions will also be [integral and vital](#) to the coastal defence of the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

Can we afford not to heed the IPCC’s advice to adapt to accelerating threats? Given that sea levels along China’s coast are rising faster than the global average, surely Hong Kong must use low-regret levels of sea level rise to plan transformative adaptation before spending HK\$100bn on infrastructure related to land, transportation and housing for 2.5 million residents in the Northern Metropolis, especially since residents, innovation, critical infrastructure as well as water & energy security are low-lying...



Low-lying assets threatened by rising seas



Northeast NT landfill

capacity is 35mn m³ accounting for 25% of HK’s landfill capacity



T-Park

is HK’s 1st ‘waste-to-energy’ plant processing all our sewage sludge



Yuen Long INNOPARK

cross-border park set to be a microelectronic hub by 2023



Muk Wu pumping station

carries 80% of HK’s freshwater to HK from the Dongjiang River



2 transmission lines (400kV)

carry electricity (nuclear & hydro) from Daya Bay & Conghua to HK



900,000 current residents

live in Yuen Long & North districts; 65% of them are in low-lying areas



+1.6mn residents

are expected to move to the vibrant and livable Northern Metropolis



Roads, rails & MTR links

to the GBA are at risk: 5 road links, the highspeed rail and 2 MTR stations



6.1mn goods vehicle

traffic travelling on low-lying road links to the Mainland per year

A grand pilot ... a climate ready metropolis of the future

Hong Kong must seize the moment: the Northern Metropolis is the HKSAR’s great opportunity to embark on a grand pilot to [Re-IMAGINE](#) a future metropolis that is climate-ready. HK can innovate with carbon sequestering seawalls, nature based solutions, advanced drainage systems & state-of-the-art disaster monitoring, early warning systems & emergency response.

All these are in line with not only the GBA’s Outline Development Plan, but also the newly released National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035 which calls for “*proactive adaptation*” rather than passive response as climate change “*poses serious threats to the building of a Beautiful China*”. More specifically, the national plan calls for Southern China to prioritise adaptation to heat waves and ocean-related risks. The HKSAR must step up & rise to this challenge – the Northern Metropolis must not just be the nexus to build a high-quality GBA but also a state-of-the-art futureproof coastal hub that is vibrant and resilient to rising seas.



John Lee,
HKSAR Chief Executive
Candidacy Speech 2022

“Establish the Northern Metropolis as a nexus to build a high-quality GBA, to drive & sustain a diverse economy: Actively participate in the development of the GBA through continuous liaison with and implement more measures of mutual benefit that foster the flow of people, goods, capital and data among the cities of the GBA.”

Basic Needs

Homes

HK Revenues

Re-IMAGINE

Connectivity

Trade

Source: CWR analyses based on IPCC AR6; HK 2022-23 Budget; The Chief Executive’s 2021 Policy Address; Digital Terrain Model (5m) & Topography Map from the Lands Dept of HK; Census & Statistics Dept of HK; Environmental Protection Dept; T.Park; Water Supplies Dept; CLP; Customs & Excise Department; GBA Outline Development Plan 2019; Ministry of Environment & Ecology & various departments of the People Republic of China, National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2035; HKSAR Chief Executive Candidacy Speech 2022.

ASSESS

Understand the new risk landscape | Assess water & climate threats | Identify clustered risk hotspots & compound risks

STRATEGIZE

Align ESG & risk strategies | Plan sensible net zero & resilience strategies | Leverage risks to identify opportunities

ADAPT

Protect & prepare for locked-in climate impacts | Ideate flexible innovations | Be ready to survive & thrive



Contact us: info@chinawaterrisk.org
We drive the global water & climate risk conversation with...