

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

# Knowledge-Creation and Capacity-Building for Actions on Climate-Induced Migration International Workshop Hamburg (Germany) 15-16 July 2013

The 21st century will be characterized by transformations shaped by climate and global environmental change. A growing body of literature from different disciplines targets the *threats*, the *challenges* and, to a lesser extent, the *opportunities* that will rise from the *complex interactions* between climatic and environmental stressors, human migration and development.

Despite increased attention from both scholars and practitioners, our knowledge on the nexus between climate change and migration is still limited. No shared definition of the phenomenon has been officially agreed (Climate-induced migration? Environmental migration? Migration as a climate adaptation strategy?), so that a certain level of “conceptual fuzziness” (Castles 2002) in the definition itself of the issue at stake hampers efforts towards effective policy making and governance.

The first and most paramount conceptual issue to be addressed pertains how to understand the relation between migration and *adaptation* to climatic and environmental change. Initially, most of the attention has been drawn to migration as a failure to adapt, as a reactive *ex post* form of adaptation to be adopted when any other possibility of *in situ* adaptation has failed, e. g. in case of big scale natural disasters or largely irreversible climate change effects (such as sea level rise) threatening the very existence of communities. In this case, migration is a forced outcome caused by a clearly defined environmental or climatic driver and has significant overlapping with the notion of *displacement*.

Increasing evidence has contributed to the beginning of a more comprehensive understanding of the mobility outcome of climatic and environmental change. Many case studies have shown that migration as an adaptation strategy, especially in the global South, is and can be a proactive *ex ante* livelihood diversification strategy that improves the resilience of affected communities at several levels. Hence, the migration and climate nexus has been increasingly re-conceptualized within an “adaptation continuum” (Warner and Lazsko 2009; Beardsley and Hugo 2010), spanning from forced migration and displacement to the complex outcomes and interactions of several forms and scales of mobility in response to environmental and climatic change, that are a less clear-cut, yet prevailing, form of adaptation and present a largely untapped potential in terms of possible *actions* and *opportunities*.

In the present workshop the “climate-induced migration”, or CIM, label shall be understood as a working title designating a *problem field*, i.e. “an area in which the need for knowledge related to empirical and practice-oriented questions arises within society due to an *uncertain knowledge base* and diffuse as well as *controversial perceptions of problems*” (Pohl and Hirsch Hadorn 2007).

The *uncertain knowledge base* is largely due to the present focus (and difficulty) in isolating the ‘environmental’ -let alone the ‘climate change’- driver from other determinants for migration. Whereas isolating an environmental driver seems reasonably possible at the “displacement” side of the adaptation continuum, i.e. in

‘forced migration’ circumstances, disentangling environmental determinants from other causes of migration is an extremely challenging task. Our ability to model and forecast mobility responses in future climate scenarios is also extremely limited and has led to *controversial perceptions of the problem*. Contrasting numbers envisaging up to 200 million “climate refugees” by the year 2050 (Myers 1997) and estimates of people that will be forced to move because of climate change have colonized media headlines, fuelling the prevailing imaginary of a future world flooded by ‘climate refugees’ forced to move because of an increasingly hostile and resource-scarce environment.

Decision making under uncertainties is an essential part of the global climate change governance and by no means should imply inaction or procrastination. On the contrary, in order to plan much needed and effective *actions* there is a need for coordinated *transdisciplinary research* targeting climate and migration.

*Transdisciplinary research* is needed when:

- Knowledge about a societal related problem field is uncertain;
- The concrete nature of problems is disputed;
- There is a great deal at stake for those concerned by problems and involved in dealing with them.

The fact that the issue of “climate-induced migration” has been articulated and reviewed by different scientific communities (from the disaster reduction risk, to the scholarship on migration and development to the climate and environmental science communities) each one looking at the issue through its specific disciplinary lens, has brought a general lack of holistic and consilient overviews that are paramount for policy making and capacity building.

The present workshop aims at fostering *transdisciplinary research* by gathering different types of knowledge in order to better define the “problem field” of climate change and migration. In particular we aim at identifying structured *actions* to be organized around four types of knowledge:

#### ***Target Knowledge: overarching goals***

This knowledge addresses questions related to determining and explaining the need for change, desired goals and better practices. Target knowledge is concerned with values and norms that can be used to formulate the overarching goals of policies targeting migration as an adaptation continuum.

#### ***Systems knowledge: dealing with uncertainties***

Here questions about the genesis and possible further development of a problem are relevant, confronting the difficulty of how to deal with uncertainties. System knowledge identifies the root causes of present problems and their future development, including also the potential for policies to maximise the benefits of climate migration (e.g. strengthening the ‘proactive’ side of climate migration) and minimise its risks (e.g. strategizing innovative and effective displacement and relocation options).

#### ***Transformation Knowledge: climate-resilient transformation***

Key issues are the technical, social, legal, cultural and other possible relevant channels that aim to transform existing undesired practices and introduce desired ones. In doing so, established technologies, regulations, practices and power relations must be taken

into account. Transformation knowledge aims at dealing with a problematic situation, figuring out how it can be transformed and improved and how to minimise the negative effects of policies in place.

### ***Transdisciplinary knowledge***

Collected from different sources, transdisciplinary knowledge represents the information feed-forward and feed-back processes between networks of individuals that are necessary for transformations in societal processes and related policies.

The participants will be divided into three working groups addressing defined (but interrelated and interdependent) stages of the adaptation continuum:

- **Working Group (WG) 1: Migration and the limits of adaptation: Actions for displacement and resettlement**

Future climate scenarios will further challenge and push the limits of the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities. Climate related resettlement is already a reality in some parts of the world (e. g. on the coast of Alaska, in Papua New Guinea and on the Mekong Delta in Vietnam) and might be even more necessary in the years to come.

Extreme events are likely to increase in frequency and intensity while our current ability to manage displaced population is often inadequate. Following efforts such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 2011 Nansen Principles, the development of functioning and coherent legal frameworks shall be a priority.

The mobility outcome of extreme events have also been increasingly problematized and attention has been drawn to immobility as a dangerous outcome that is likely to affect the most deprived sectors of society. How to guarantee the right to safe migration when this is a forced outcome of environmental and climatic change? How to plan for resettlement with the involvement of affected communities in both source and destination areas? Can displacement positively interact with other mobility outcome and pre-existing migratory patterns?

- **Working Group (WG) 2: Migration as an adaptation strategy: Actions for building the resilience of rural and urban livelihoods**

In many rural societies across the world migration has been a livelihood strategy for generations. Seasonal and temporary rural-to-urban and rural-to-rural migration are commonly adopted by those households relying on subsistence agriculture and struggling to deal with environmental change. Labour migration is widely acknowledged as a rational adaptation strategy in response to climate change processes. In the wake of climate change, migration is likely to become even more common, and reducing the barriers to migration on a regional scale could benefit the resilience of communities in both origin and destination regions.

How is migration interacting with development processes in the context of global environmental change? Which is the role of social inequalities (e.g. class, gender and ethnicity) in shaping migration as an adaptation strategy? How can climate policy successfully interact with development and migration policies?

- **Working Group (WG) 3: Migration and the urbanization challenge: Actions for climate resilient development and settlement**

Migration to urban centres from both rural and urban areas has increasingly become a key adaptation strategy in many parts of the world. People escaping environmental disruption are likely to migrate into areas that are also prone to high environmental risks, such as low-lying urban areas in mega-deltas or slums in water-insecure expanding cities. Many households are taking a multilocal dimension and highly socio-ecologically vulnerable peri-urban areas are increasingly expanding in countries experiencing fast-paced urbanization. Some of the top migrant destinations are 'megacities' located in coastal areas or river deltas, which are prone to sea-level rise, increased risk of cyclones, storm surges and saline intrusion. This underscores the need to plan for increases in migration over the coming decades. How will future climate scenarios affect urban areas and populations in the coming decades? Which actions need to be taken to address the complex connections between economics, demography, environment and migration in the context of an increasingly urbanized world? How to avoid or control the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increase in growing cities?

The first day the participants will present their current research and case studies that will be followed by a first short round of questions and intensive discussion. The presented case studies are expected to be used as *analogues* (McLeman & Hunter 2010) for identifying dimensions of climate migration to be analysed within the above-sketches theoretical framework. *Actions* and potential recommendations for policy makers and future research needs will be discussed and developed during the working group brainstorming sessions to be held at the end of the first day and at the beginning of the second day.

The expected outcome of the workshop is the production of three policy briefs (corresponding to the three WGs) to be presented during the last day. After the final discussion, the documents will be further circulated among the participants in order to be finalized and sent for publication.

## PROGRAM

<b>15 July 2013</b>		
<b>09.15 – 09:30</b>	Maria Manez & Jürgen Scheffran: Welcome remarks & introduction	
<b><i>Migration and the limits of adaptation: Actions for displacement and resettlement</i></b>		
<b>09.30 – 09:45</b>	IlanKelman, JC Gaillard, James Lewis & Jessica Mercer	<i>Combining Knowledge Types on SIDS for Acting on Climate-Induced Migration</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:00</b>	Robin Bronen	<i>Climate Induced community relocations of Alaska native communities</i>
<b>10:00 – 10:15</b>	Vicente Azellini	<i>Between Disaster and relocation: human displacement after the Gramalote disaster (Colombia)</i>
<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	Kerstin Rosenow- Williams &Thorsten Klose	<i>Taking stock of the capacities of humanitarian organizations to respond to climate change: a case study of the German Red Cross</i>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	Hannah Entwisle	<i>The Nansen Initiative First Pacific Consultation</i>
<b>10.45– 11. 00</b>	Discussion	<i>Questions to the Panel (Chair: Susanna Adamo)</i>
<b>11.00– 11.30</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b><i>Migration as an adaptation strategy: Actions for building the resilience of livelihoods</i></b>		
<b>11.30 – 11.45</b>	Janarkaj Murali & Tamer Afifi	<i>Strategies for strengthening rural livelihood and food security of seasonal migrants in Chhattisgarh, India – Janjgir Champa a case study</i>
<b>11.45 – 12.00</b>	Michel Leroy	<i>Pastoralism, migration and climate change in the Horn of Africa</i>
<b>12.00 – 12.15</b>	Maximilian Martin	<i>The influence of climate change and variability on migration in Bangladesh</i>
<b>12.15 – 12.30</b>	Suman Bisht & Soumyadeep Banerjee	<i>Holding the Fort: Women Farmers, Floods and Remittance Economy A case study from rural Assam</i>
<b>12.30 – 12.45</b>	Andrea Milan & Sergio Ruano	<i>Increasing rainfall variability, decreasing food production, and migration from the Western Highlands of Guatemala</i>
<b>12.45 – 13.00</b>	Discussion	<i>Questions to the Panel (Chair: Maria Manez)</i>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	
<b><i>Migration and urbanization: Actions for climate-resilient development</i></b>		
<b>14.00- 14.15</b>	Sainab Husain Paragay	<i>Community Adaption to climate change impacts on several islands on the Spermonde Archipelago, Indonesia</i>
<b>14:15 – 14:30</b>	Praba Pokhrel	<i>Impact of climate change in Nepal focusing on Migration and more Challenges on Gender</i>
<b>14:30 – 14:45</b>	Papa Sow	<i>Migrations, social demands and environmental risks among the Bieri in Northern Benin</i>

<b>14:45 – 15:00</b>	Discussion	<i>Questions to the Panel (Chair: Samuel Codjoe)</i>
<b>15:00 – 15:30</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Working Group 1</b> (Bronen, Azellini, Kelman, Rosenow & Entwisle. Moderator: Scheffran)	<i>Group addresses specific questions/preparation of a policy summary</i>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Working Group 2</b> (Afifi, Janarkaj, Bisht, Pokhrel, Leroy, Milan & Martin. Moderator: Gioli)	<i>Group addresses specific questions/preparation of a policy summary</i>
<b>15:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>Working Group 3</b> (Paragay, Sow, Codjoe, Adamo & Banerjee. Moderator: Manez)	<i>Group addresses specific questions/preparation of a policy summary</i>
<b>16 July 2013</b>		
<b>09:30 – 09:45</b>	Wrap up Summary	
<b>09:45 – 10:45</b>	WGs	<i>Finalization of policy summaries</i>
<b>10:45 – 11:15</b>	<i>Break</i>	
<b>11:00– 11.15</b>	<b>WG1</b>	<i>Presentation of the policy summary</i>
<b>11.15 – 11.45</b>	DISCUSSION	
<b>11.45 – 12.00</b>	<b>WG2</b>	<i>Presentation of the policy summary</i>
<b>12.00 – 12.30</b>	DISCUSSION	
<b>12.30 – 12.45</b>	<b>WG3</b>	<i>Presentation of the policy summary</i>
<b>12.45 – 13.15</b>	DISCUSSION	
<b>13.15 – 13.30</b>	CONCLUDING REMARKS	