

# 24TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMMES AND FINANCE 19-20 June 2019, Geneva

## AGENDA ITEM 16 (a)

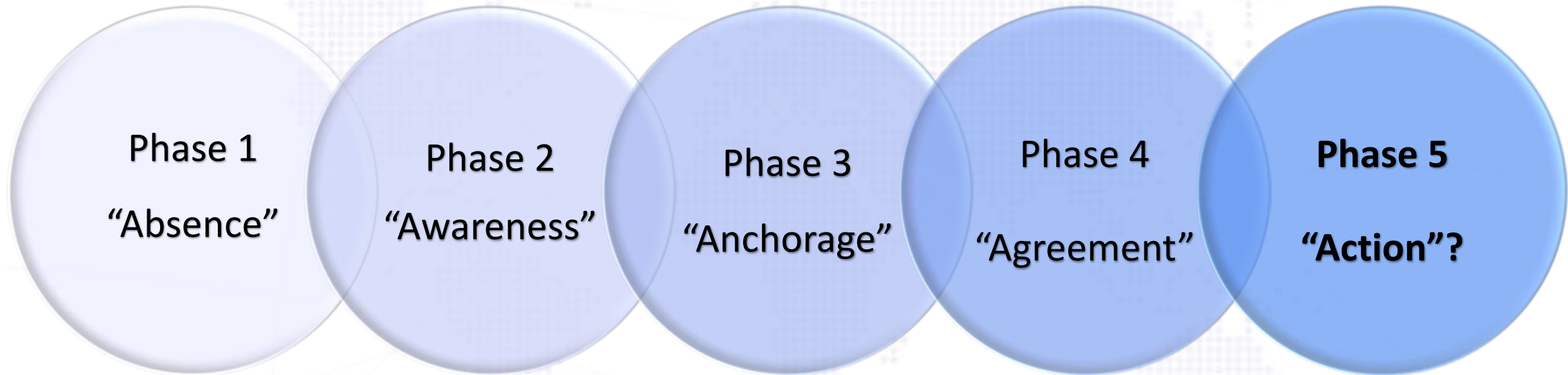
Update on policies and practices related to migration,  
the environment and climate change  
and IOM's environmental sustainability programme

Dina IONESCO, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate  
Change (MECC)



## Migration, environment and climate change: Accelerating action

# Migration, Environment and Climate Change: from Invisibility to the Spotlight







## I. The “Absence” Phase (...till 2005)



### Turning points

1st Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report (1990)

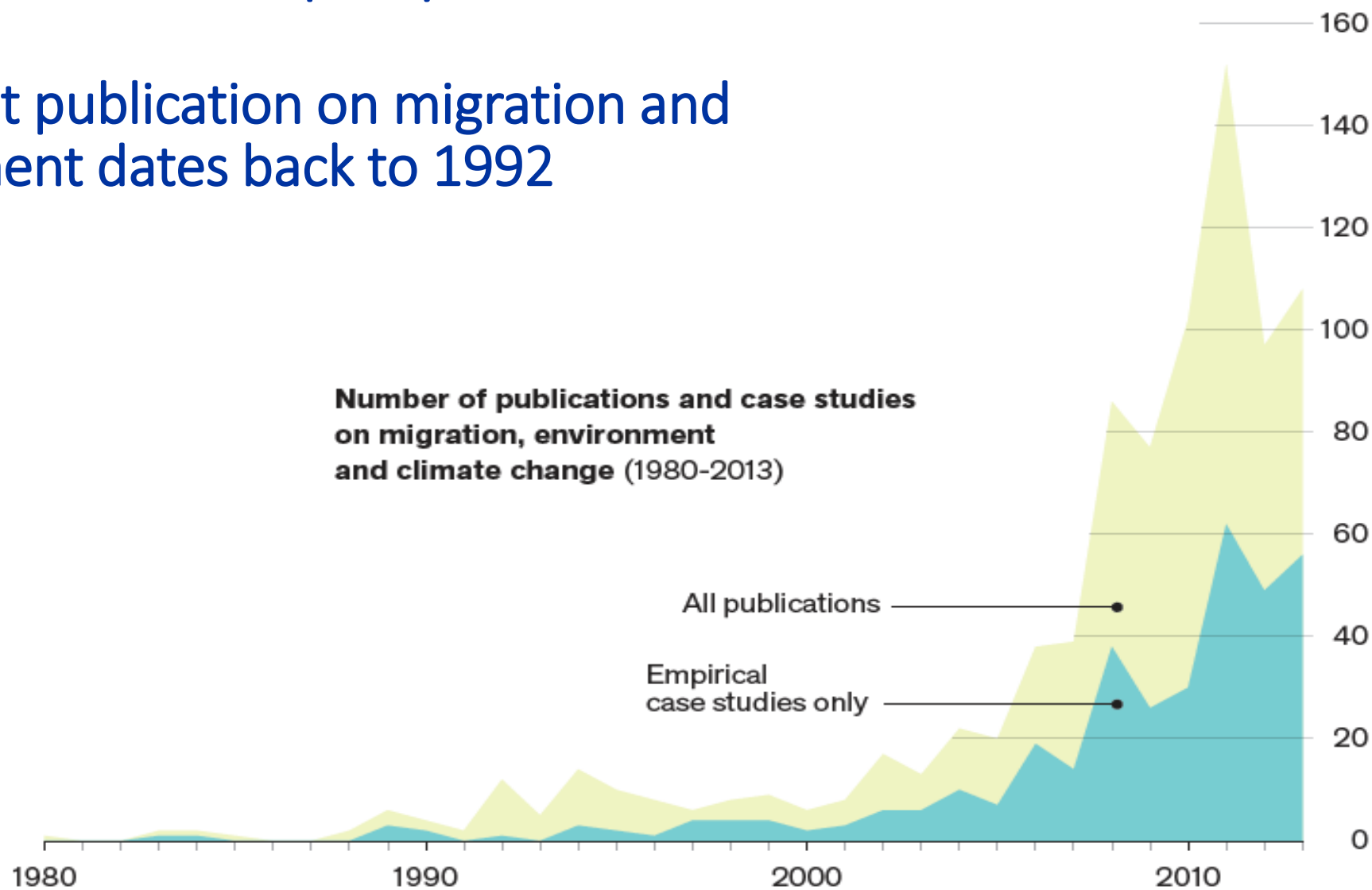
Hurricane Mitch: response to displacement induced by natural disasters (1998)

## Invisibility of environmental and climate change drivers

- Focus on migration & development
- Bern Initiative and International Agenda on Migration Management (IAMM)
- Cluster system, Camp Management and Camp Coordination (CCCM) IOM lead on natural disasters
- First expert Seminar on Migration and the Environment (IOM and UNFPA), 94th IOM thematic Council paper

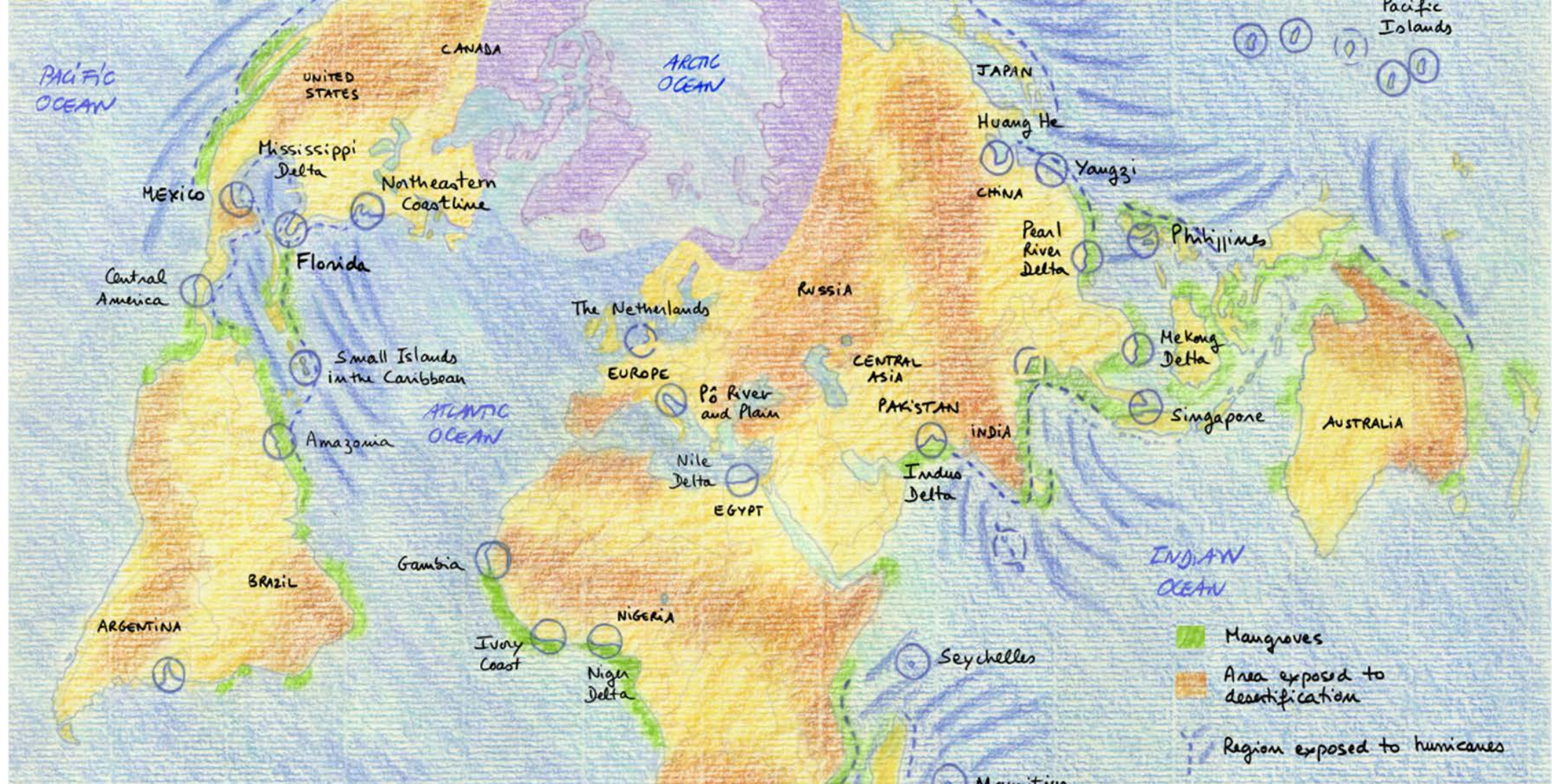
## Growing evidence for policy

IOM's first publication on migration and environment dates back to 1992



Source: Atlas of Environmental Migration, 2016





## II. The “Awareness” phase (from 2007 to 2010)





**Turning points**  
COP 16 Cancún Adaptation  
paragraph 14f on “*migration,  
displacement and planned  
relocation*” (2010)

## Isolate environmental and climate change drivers

- Efforts to frame and define terms, focus on social dimensions of climate change
- Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA)
- EACH-FOR project, European Commission, *Assessing the Evidence*, IOM, First IOM *Compendium* gathers over 500 projects between 2000 and 2009



# IOM's key objectives on migration on migration, environment and climate change



## **Help people to stay**

Minimizing forced forms of migration



## **Help people to move**

Facilitating migration in context of climate change



## **Help people on the move**

Assisting and protect people on the move



### III. The “Anchorage” Phase (from 2010 to 2015)





### **Turning points**

Paris Agreement on Climate Change  
(2015) at COP21

## **Embed environmental migration in policy processes**

- Migration in “Loss and Damage” (COP18 Doha, COP19 Warsaw, COP 20 Lima), Samoa Pathway, SDGs, Sendai, Urban and Humanitarian Agendas (2014 -2015) feature environmental migration and displacement
- Nansen Initiative and Protection Agenda
- International Dialogue on Migration (IDM)  
Establishment of the MECC Division in IOM



#### IV. The “Agreement” phase (2015 ...on)



# Break silos at Governmental, UN and IOM levels

- Policy coherence : Task Force on Climate Displacement (TFD) under UNFCCC, UN-Migration Network, Climate change and migration in Human Rights Council Decision
- IOM hosts first meeting of the Task Force on Displacement under UNFCCC (July 2019) as follow up to COP 24 Katowice Decision 10/24
- IOM key partner with UNHCR in the Platform on Disaster and Displacement (PDD)
- Regional developments in processes and organizations



## Turning points

The New York Declaration on  
Migrants and Refugees(2016)  
The Global Compacts (2018)





V. “Action” phase ( from 2019 on ...) ?



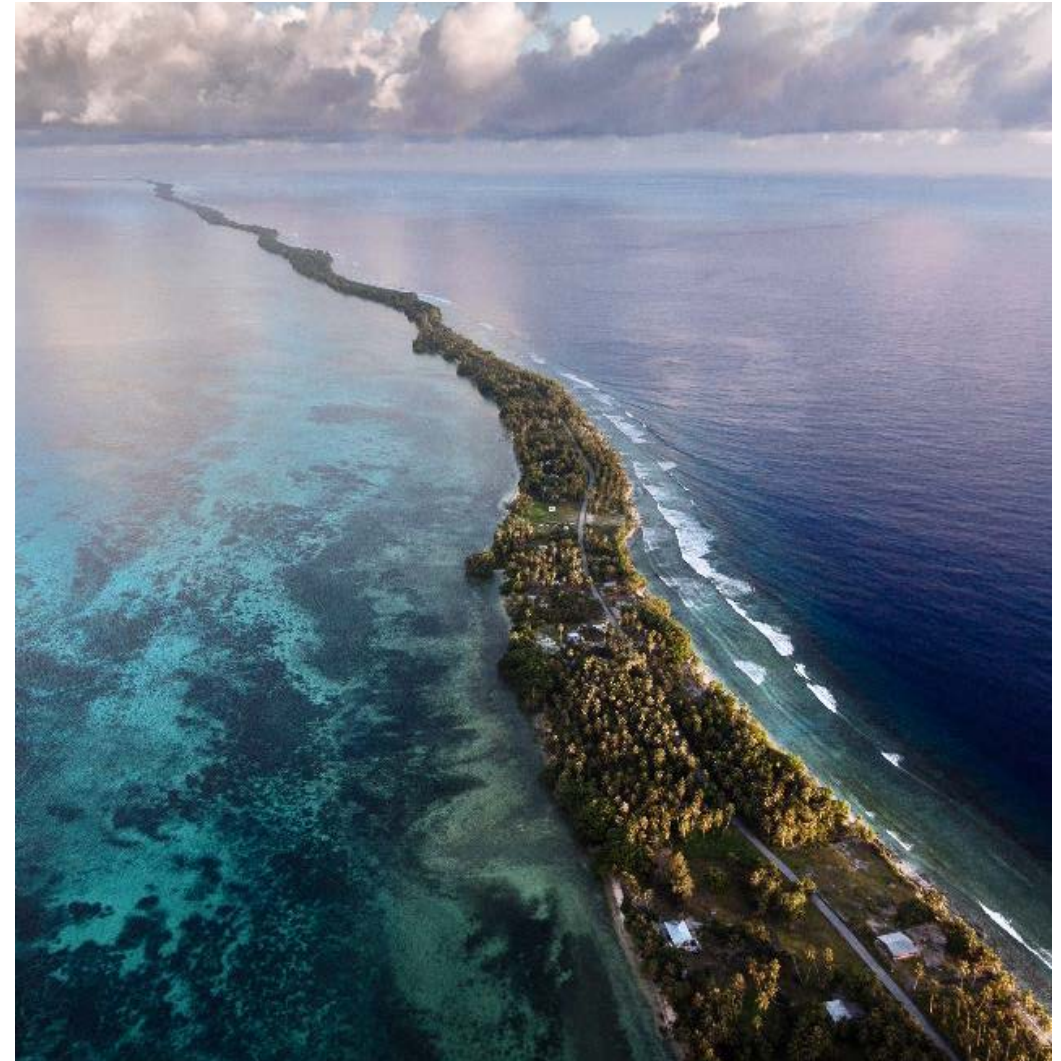


**Ways ahead: a key opportunity to accelerate action on migration at  
the UN Climate Summit, hosted by UN Secretary General  
September 2019**



# A key opportunity to integrate migration in climate action

- Multi-stakeholder coalitions to develop transformative outcomes, but no negotiated outcome
- “Social and Political Drivers” Track (led by Peru and Spain, supported by DESA, ILO, WHO)
- “Resilience and Adaptation” Track (led by Egypt and United Kingdom, supported by UNDP)
- SG summit launches new UN internal sustainability vision and strategy





# CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES

A snapshot of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States



## IOM's contributions specific to the Summit

- **UN wide partnership:** migration and displacement in UN Climate Appeal
- Highlight significance of **regional policy dialogues and initiatives** (UN-TFHS funded Pacific project) through High Level event on Pacific SIDSs hosted by Portugal and Fiji
- **Climate change and migration in vulnerable countries** (publication UN-OHRLLS and IOM)
- **Technical and policy support** to states requesting migration and climate change inputs
- **Communication**

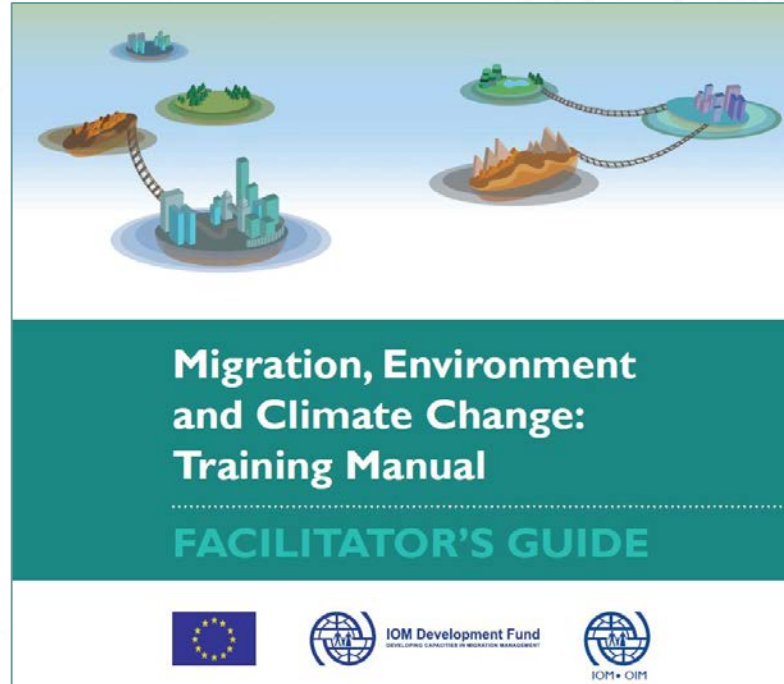
# IOM strategic focus to connect policy - evidence - action



- Ambition to strengthen the organization and strategize to deliver on objectives and enhance state engagement at thematic level
- 11 MECC projects active USD 5.5 million as June 2019, 23 projects since 2013 and 5 new MECC regional thematic specialists
- MECC projects reported in *Taking Sendai forward Report (2017)* part of 84 projects reported in 71 countries (up to 140 million)
- Focus on tools, guidelines and broaden funding base
- 180 dedicated publications and reports



# IOM strategic focus to enhance capacities and policy coherence



- Integrate environmental and climate dimensions in traditional areas of work (reintegration, health, trafficking, diasporas, labour, displacement data, gender etc.)
- Capacity building programme: 494 policy makers from 58 countries (as June 2019) through 18 national workshops and 6 regional ones



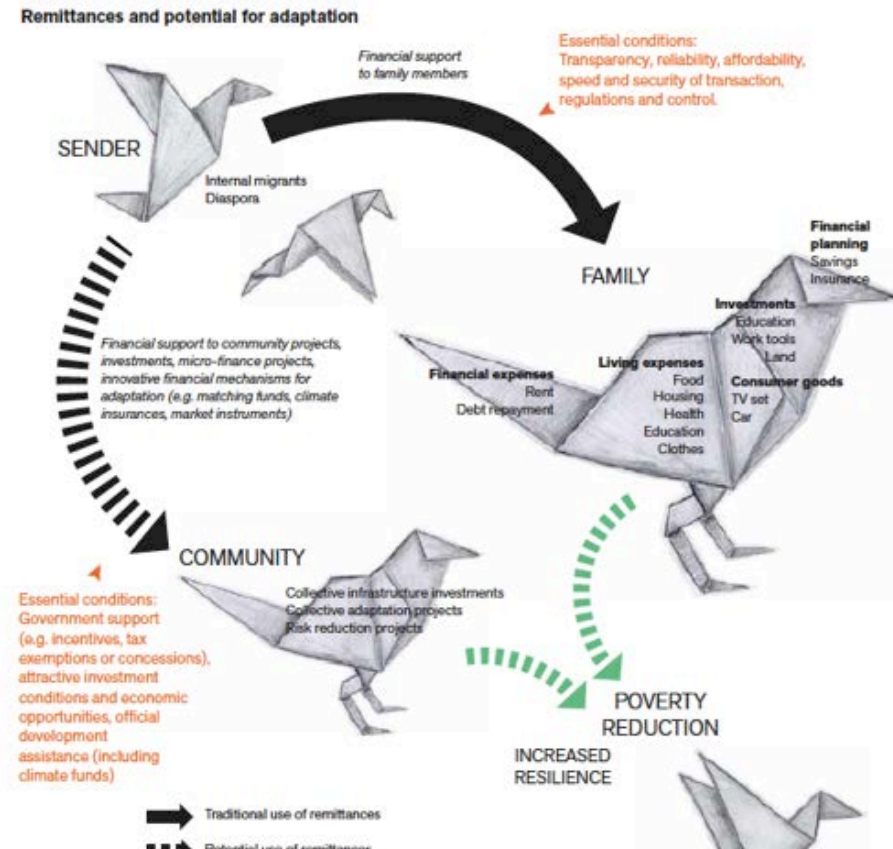
# IOM strategic focus to establish IOM's Environmental Policy

- IOM is aligning with UN practices to reach climate neutrality after launching in 2017 the Environmental Sustainability Programme
- IOM joined the Environment Management Group (EMG), co-leads the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings
- Policy under internal review, IOM directed Environmental inventories at facility level, Environmental management systems (EMS) to be established



The significance of  
environmental and climatic  
drivers impacts  
contemporary migration  
policy and practice

How should IOM best be fit to  
respond to this challenge  
and seize the opportunity  
to support states, migrants and  
communities?





To conclude: A turning point?



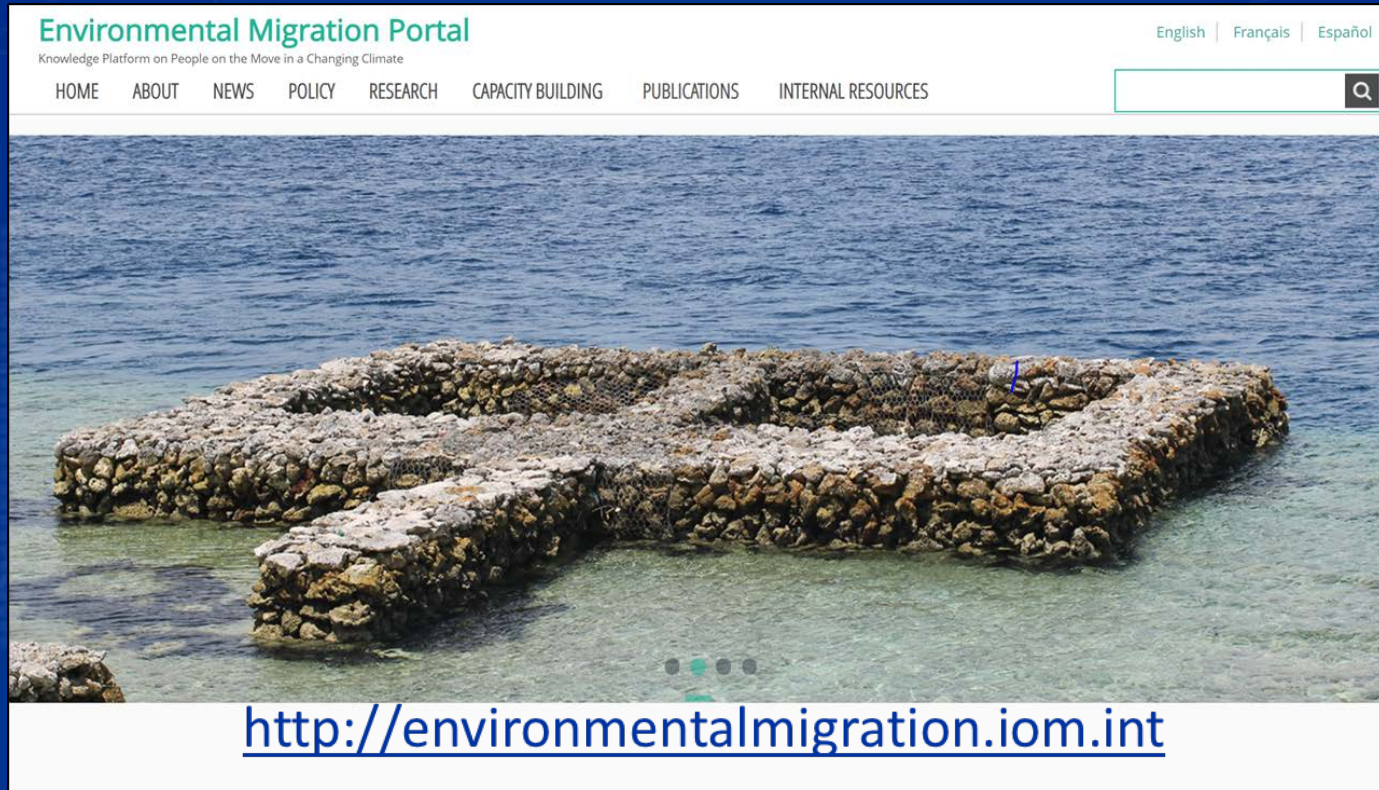


Photo credits (thank you!)  
Amanda Nero (IOM)  
Mohammed Muse (IOM)  
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Thank you

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