

Migration, Environment, and Climate Change:

Regional Policy Forum for Southern Africa
and the Indian Ocean Region

5 and 6 June

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South Africa



IOM Development Fund
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

CSIR
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Compiled by Isabel Herrero, Nikki Funke and Ngowenani Nohayi

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Every year around the world, millions of people are forced to leave their homes because of floods, windstorms, earthquakes, droughts and other disasters. Environmental factors have long had an impact on global migration flows, as people have historically deserted areas with harsh or deteriorating conditions. However, the scale of such flows, both internal and cross-border, is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, with unprecedented impacts on lives and livelihoods.

Such migration can have positive and negative effects on both the local coping capacity and the environment in areas from which these migrants originate, as well as in their temporary or permanent destinations. Migration, climate change and the environment are interrelated. Just as environmental degradation and disasters can cause migration, movement of people can also entail significant effects on surrounding ecosystems.

This complex nexus between migration and environment, including climate change and natural disasters, needs to be addressed in a holistic manner. Yet despite a growing body of studies on the topic, there is still a lack of reliable data and policy oriented research which can respond to the needs of national policymakers and operational partners, and foster regional cooperation and dialogue on the issue.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) regional project “Migration, Environment, and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy in Southern Africa and in the Indian Ocean”, which has been implemented in the four target countries of Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Namibia, works with and supports Ministries of Environment, as well as other relevant ministries and government entities in selected Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) Member States. The aim of the project is to strengthen the knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change, including climate change, to inform the formulation of related national and regional policy and operational planning.

At the request of the respective government counterparts in the target countries, IOM set up technical working groups (TWGs) and supported national inception and/or capacity building workshops. Four individual country-level assessments on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (MECC) were conducted in Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Namibia. While each country developed its research questions to address the specific context and priorities for evidence based policy development on MECC that could be actioned by the respective governments, research tools were developed to enable some level of comparability and cross fertilization amongst countries. In

each of the countries, a national consultation was held and facilitated to take stock of findings, and to develop a blueprint for policy and operational planning purposes.

Beyond the evidence collected at the level of individual Member States, MECC is of paramount relevance for both SADC and IOC. Against the background of the IOM country assessments, IOM with the support of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) undertook and facilitated a two-day Regional Policy Forum for SADC and IOC, where officials from the IOC and representatives from Member States discussed the findings of the country assessments, and had an opportunity to debate and define a regional policy-guiding document that establishes priorities and stimulates cooperation as well as cross fertilization amongst Member States.

The MECC Regional Policy Forum included the following participants:

- Delegates from Ministries of Environment or National Disaster Risk Management Authorities from SADC and IOC Member States;
- IOC Secretariat Delegates;
- IOM Delegates;
- CSIR Delegates;
- United Nations (UN) agencies and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) representatives.

In order to address MECC challenges and opportunities in the region, participants identified and agreed on a series of priority activities for the governance of the topic around four themes: data, research, and information; policy frameworks; coordination platforms; and implementation.



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Day One: 5 June 2018

Welcome remarks

Mr. Charles Kwenin, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, opened the MECC Regional Policy Forum by welcoming the participants to the MECC Regional Policy Forum for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region.

In a context where both internal and cross-border migration is expected to rise as a result of accelerated climate change, Mr. Kwenin stressed the importance of seeing migration not as a problem to be solved, but as a human reality to be managed. Mr. Kwenin explained that the two-day Regional Policy Forum on MECC sought to bring together officials from countries of Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region to share experiences, assess common challenges, opportunities, and priorities, as well as assimilate cooperation and cross-fertilization amongst member states and international and national partners.

Mr. Kwenin continued to describe how the complex nexus between migration and environment – including climate change and natural disasters – needs to be addressed in a holistic manner, and by using evidence-based whole-of-government and multi-sectoral approaches and partnerships. Mr. Kwenin also called for cooperation among the regional countries to build resilience of vulnerable communities and to plan and manage migration in areas that are becoming

uninhabitable, stressing that without these measures many individuals are exposed to high levels of risk. To conclude, Mr. Kwenin thanked the IOM Development Fund and the South Africa-based CSIR for their funding contributions and thanked all the participants for their engagement and participation in the first MECC Regional Policy Forum.

Mr. Daniel Silva, Chief of Mission of IOM Madagascar, introduced guest speaker Dr. Koko Warner, specialist in climate change and currently working in the adaptation section of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to oversee the work on “loss and damage” and the Warsaw International Mechanism.

In her remarks, Dr. Warner provided context to the link between climate change and migration by highlighting the increasing relevance climate change has in terms of national and international policies, and stressing that the choices we make today regarding migration and climate change should not put our future at risk. Dr. Warner explained how climate change also affects people differently, as poor people are less equipped to face the negative impacts of climate disasters, and therefore find migration to be a coping mechanism. As a result, three out of four displaced people are in that situation due to environmental reasons. Instead, Dr. Warner argued that migration should always be a choice.

Regarding the link between climate stressors and human displacements, Dr. Warner provided four patterns that research has identified:

- 1) Climate disasters such as storms and floods endanger people's livelihoods and their physical safety, which causes people to flee their homes and try to return once the situation at home returns to normal.
- 2) When livelihoods are degraded, for example as a result of drought, households typically decide to send one member of the family away to find better prospects, and send remittances back to the household.
- 3) When climate disasters take place in fragile states where there is also ongoing conflict, it is unknown when people will return to their homes.
- 4) Communities seem to be relocating when homelands are less habitable, as is happening in Papua New Guinea or Fiji.

Dr. Warner then provided a contextual framework of human mobility in climate policy, which was introduced for the first time in the Cancun Adaptation Framework in 2010. This framework is currently the focus of much debate in relation to the Global Compact where recommendations for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement are being formulated.

In order to ensure migration has positive effects, Dr. Warner suggested three actions that need to be taken: First, to pre-empt the likelihood of displacements by redefining livelihoods, food production and social systems at a systemic scale to prevent unnecessary suffering; secondly, to plan for human displacements by moving from crisis orientation to resilience orientation; and thirdly, to put in place contingency arrangements that include new approaches to fragile societies and ecosystems, as well as new concepts with regard to borders and trans-locality.

– Coffee Break –

Introductions, expectations, workshop purpose/objectives

Mr. Silva welcomed the participants to the MECC Regional Policy Forum and explained that this was the last of the activities under the 21 month project “Migration, Environment, and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean”, which consisted of mostly country-based activities in the four target countries of Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, and Namibia. Based on the activities conducted in the target countries, Mr. Silva explained that the Regional Policy Forum aimed to expand the discussion to

the regional level by bringing together representatives from the SADC and IOC Member States to present and discuss findings in the target countries; as well as to provide Member States and partners with the opportunity to debate and define a regional policy-guiding document that establishes priorities, and stimulates cooperation as well as cross fertilization amongst Member States. Mr. Silva concluded by inviting participants to briefly introduce themselves.



Session 1: Setting the scene on MECC

Presented by Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, MECC Specialist, IOM New York

Mr. Silva introduced the speaker for the session, Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, MECC Specialist at IOM New York.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel started her presentation by reminding the participants that the link between migration and climate change is not new, but that this is a new topic amongst states and on the international scene. According to the IOM, environmental migration refers to persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are forced to leave their places of habitual residence, or choose to do so either temporarily or permanently and who move within their country or abroad.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel provided the following conceptual framework to unravel the issue of environmental migration:

- 1) Environmental migration is a multi-causal phenomenon.
- 2) Terminology and legal frameworks: There is no universal definition for environmental migrants. Also, while one cannot refer to “climate refugees” (because internationally refugees are only defined and recognized under the 1951 Refugee Convention), temporary protection measures are in place to protect people who have been displaced by climatic events.
- 3) It is necessary to take into account contextual dimensions (gender, local culture, etc.) when engaging with environmental migration.
- 4) It can be caused by both sudden and slow onset events.
- 5) Climate change is an exacerbating factor of migration. In the case of Africa, droughts are the most pressing type of disasters that lead to migration, followed by earthquakes, volcanos, dry mass movement and storms. Ms. Traore Chazalnoel also pointed out that there are other non-climatic factors, such as land degradation and coastal and aquatic ecosystem degradation that can shape migration patterns.

In this context, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel informed the participants that the most challenging problem when formulating policies and operational responses to MECC issues is that of establishing how many people are moving and will be moving due to climate and environmental reasons. In line with this challenge, it is expected that human displacements due to climate change will increase in future.

In Southern Africa alone, projections estimate between 39 and 86 million climate migrants by 2050. More so, climate change is predicted to bring about unavailability of water in Southern Africa. This region will likely see between 0.9 and 1.5 million internal displacements due to climate change by 2050 (1.4% to 2.3% of the total predicted population). An estimated 60% of the population of Zimbabwe and Zambia rely on agriculture, and this sector will likely be heavily impacted by climate change. The annual freshwater use for agriculture in 2015 was 82 % for Zimbabwe and 72% across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Notably, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 life on land and Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation will be reviewed in depth by the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). In the face of changing environmental conditions, people with weak tenure rights are less likely to make long-term investments in their land, including any related to climate change adaptation, and when land becomes degraded they may have no choice but to leave. Having insecure land rights also means that those who migrate might not be able to reclaim their land if they choose to return.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel then asked the participants to form groups and identify the drivers of migration in their region. In response, participants identified environmental factors such as droughts and vulnerability to natural disasters such as cyclones and volcanic eruptions; social and political factors such as poverty, and ethnic and political conflicts; demographic factors such as rapid population growth that puts pressure on natural resources; and economic factors with significant internal movements from rural to urban environments due to employment opportunities.

After this exercise, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel finished her presentation by introducing the policy landscape of MECC, the Global Climate Negotiations and the latest advances in the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Ms Traore Chazalnoel highlighted how such forums and policy discussions represent an opportunity for the international community to anchor the environmental and climatic dimensions in the international migration governance agenda.

Mr. Silva thanked Ms. Traore Chazalnoel for her presentation and introduced Session 2 of the MECC Regional Policy Forum.

Session 2: Taking stock of the MECC country assessments in Madagascar and Mauritius

Presented by Ms. Lantonirina Ratovonjanahary and Mr. Todisoa Manankasina from Madagascar, and Ms. Geetawantee Ramnauth from Mauritius

Ms. Ratovonjanahary provided an overview of the specific context of Madagascar, the justification of the study, its objectives and methodology, and its main results.

Mr. Manankasina presented the main conclusions of the study, informing the participants that:

- Migration is not a new phenomenon in Madagascar.
- Migration flows are always a source of significant environmental impact both in areas of departure and in areas of arrival of migrants.
- The case studies in which the research was conducted revealed massive deforestation in the areas explored.
- The migratory movements observed have developed new profitable agricultural export chains, generating significant financial and commercial investments for the local economy.
- The government does not have the capacity to prevent, organize and manage the consequences generated by these migrations.

Mr. Manankasina concluded by presenting the recommendations proposed in view of the study conducted. These recommendations revolve around research and information, public policies and territorial governance, capacity building of local actors and operational responses.

Ms. Reshina Cunnoosamy from IOM Mauritius who facilitated the session thanked the representatives from Madagascar for their presentations and gave the floor to Ms. Ramnauth from Mauritius.

Ms. Ramnauth started her presentation of the study conducted in Mauritius by providing the specific national context, the justification of the study, the objectives and research questions, methodology and main findings. The main conclusions presented were:

- Under the right circumstances, migration may be considered as an adaptation strategy to climate change allowing people to move to areas where they face less frequent climatic and environmental events as compared to before their move.
- However, it was noted that the root causes of migration related to environment and climate change need to be addressed to ensure better quality of life and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable communities including migrants, in line with the objectives of the SDGs. Finally, Ms. Ramnauth presented the study's recommendations that pivot around the idea of treating migration as a positive adaptation strategy to environmental and climate change impacts.

Ms. Cunnoosamy thanked the representatives from Madagascar and Mauritius for their presentations and opened the floor for questions from the participants.





Questions and remarks

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel asked about the next steps for Madagascar and Mauritius regarding MECC in their respective countries, and who can support these going forward. Mr. Hoolass, a representative from Mauritius, replied that an issue that requires urgent attention is to ensure that migrants are provided with information about what they can expect when they migrate so that they are adequately prepared before they begin their respective journeys. Mr. Manankasina replied that it is essential for Madagascar to develop a migration policy that mainstreams migration issues related to environment and climate change.

One of the delegates asked about how Madagascar and Mauritius deal with the tension/conflict that migrants might bring to the host communities of the areas they migrate to, and about the positive and negative effects of receiving migrants in their countries. Mr. Hoolass responded that in Mauritius the government tries to ensure that every new migrant has a decent minimum standard of living. The same delegate explained that the government in Mauritius facilitates integration and provides a child allowance to encourage children to go to school. Ms. Ratovonjanahary replied that unregulated migration in Madagascar also causes conflict regarding land ownership. For this reason, she considers it necessary to develop a migration policy for Madagascar that can address these tensions.

Another delegate asked about the interaction between the diaspora and the country of origin, wondering - if in the case of Madagascar and Mauritius - this has had a positive effect for either country. Ms. Cunnoosamy answered that although the diaspora in Mauritius has not been mapped out in detail

and the exact number of people involved in the diaspora remains unknown, it would be interesting to create a link between the diaspora and MECC issues in the country, and to explore how MECC could benefit from this link.

A different delegate commented that it would be interesting to see IOM proposing guidelines to support countries to develop/amend national migration policies that take into consideration MECC concerns. In response, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel explained that IOM tries to respond to particular requests for support from each country. Furthermore, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel commented that it would be difficult to provide global guidelines on incorporating MECC into country-level migration policies as every country has unique and specific needs that differ from other countries.

One of the delegates brought up the example of projects to fight desertification in West Africa, and asked whether it would be possible to do something similar in Southern Africa with the help of international stakeholders such as IOM. Ms. Traore Chazalnoel replied that IOM would be receptive to any SADC country approaching them on this matter.

Another delegate stressed the importance of enforcing the recommendations formulated in the country studies and the need to monitor future actions.

Mr. Silva wrapped up the session by stressing the importance of proper prioritization and planning, as it can be challenging to try to deal with everything at the same time.

– Lunch Break –

Session 3: Taking stock of the MECC country assessments in Mozambique and Namibia

Presented by Ms. Sarah Matches from Mozambique, and Mr. Sion Shifa from Namibia

Ms. Matches presented the context of Mozambique, the justification of the study, its objectives and research questions, methodology and main findings.

The conclusions of the study reveal that:

- The main climatic and environmental events affecting Mozambique are floods, droughts and cyclones, in addition to coastal erosion, rising water levels and soil salinization.
- Weather events such as floods, droughts and cyclones are becoming increasingly stronger and more frequent due to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Millions of people are affected by these events every year.
- Livelihoods and economic activities, in addition to physical and social infrastructure, are severely affected by these climatic events.
- The National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC) is the main entity that carries out the mapping of risk areas, awareness-raising, environmental education, and humanitarian assistance.

Given these conclusions, Ms. Matches finished the presentation by enumerating the recommendations that arose from the study, which focus on policy revision, data collection on migration due to climatic events and the generation of further research on MECC.

Ms. Cunnoosamy thanked the representative of Mozambique for the presentation and gave the floor to the representative of Namibia.

Mr. Shifa presented the context of Namibia, the justification of the study, its objectives and research questions, methodology and main findings. The conclusions of the study reveal that:

- Climate change, migration and environment are inter-linked.
- Climate change causes internal and external migration in Namibia.
- Climate change is expected to worsen the highly variable climate of Namibia.
- There is no policy framework that specifically addresses the needs of people displaced by environmental phenomena.

Mr. Shifa then summarised the study by highlighting the need for continued in-depth research, improved data collection, increased community resilience, and the formulation of policies that address MECC issues and lead to recognizing migration as an adaptation strategy.





Ms. Cunnoosamy thanked the representative of Namibia for his presentation and opened the floor for questions and other remarks.

Questions and remarks

One of the delegates acknowledged Mozambique's efficient early warning system but at the same time argued that the key to achieving resilience is to succeed in making people stay where they live, rather than having them migrate when a cyclone comes and return home when the cyclone has passed. The delegate then praised the fact that Namibia included the issue of peacebuilding in the study and raised the issue of gender.

The same delegate stressed the importance of having women in positions of power to represent the interests of other women, and to provide a stronger gender perspective in MECC issues, which is currently lacking. Another delegate replied agreeing on the importance of taking women's needs into consideration, with a special regard for the cultural differences that pertain to gender.

A different delegate talked about the lack of coordination in MECC-related policies, which has been affecting all countries in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region, particularly those countries where environmental migration is not a dominant issue. However, the delegate also argued that a bigger issue is the lack of budgetary coordination on MECC issues in the region and asked countries with good practices to share their experiences.

Another delegate asked how IOM selects countries to carry out the national studies that were presented, and showed interest in having a study done in Zambia. Regarding the previous question raised, the delegate argued that Zambia could be seen as an example to the region on how to integrate budgets linked to MECC issues.

Ms. Cunnoosamy closed the session.

- Coffee Break-

Session 4: Regional normative and operational perspectives on MECC

Presented by Dr. Inga Jacobs-Mata from CSIR, and Ms. Ginna Bonne and Mr. Gilles Ribouet from IOC

Mr. Jeremias Mendes, from IOM Angola, opened the session and introduced the speakers before giving the floor to Dr. Jacobs-Mata.

Dr. Jacobs-Mata started the presentation by introducing CSIR, a 73 year old science council classified as a South African national government business enterprise. Dr. Jacobs-Mata provided an introduction to the work done by CSIR linked to environmental and climate change issues. Specifically, Dr. Jacobs-Mata presented a CSIR research project that focuses on the regional, national and sub-national policy landscape and the preparedness of Southern African countries to respond to future internal and cross-border displacements as a result of environmental disasters. The main goal of this project is to grow the social research capability on climate-induced human movements' patterns in the region. Dr. Jacobs-Mata informed the participants that the project is currently focusing on Chokwe Province in Mozambique linked to floods, and on South Africa's Limpopo Province, and particularly the town of Musina and surrounds, linked to the problem of drought.

Dr. Jacobs-Mata then presented the following preliminary findings of the programme:

Mobility patterns:

- Environment is a secondary cause of migration, with climate change as an exacerbating factor.
- Mostly drought and flood related.
- Migration patterns are temporary.
- There is a wide range of migrant profiles.
- For slow-onset events, the intervening factors that prevent or enable people to return become more complex than with rapid-onset events.

Policy patterns:

- Contrasting progressive climate change policy vs more restrictive migration policy.
- Very little capacity and knowledge of environmental migration at the local/municipal level.

Planning:

- Vulnerable countries (Mozambique) have integrated environmental migration into policy more so than other countries.

Adaptive management strategies:

- Informal information network between seasonal labourers from Zimbabwe.
- Young people from Zimbabwe are building relationships with South African employers and choosing related educational qualifications to then pursue, to be more employable in South Africa.
- Herders have resorted to exploiting the Mapungubwe trans-frontier park.
- Informal trade in foreign exchange.
- Increase in "mukuku" (shack) rentals for temporary housing.

In conclusion, Dr. Jacobs-Mata argued that there is a need for greater evidence, MECC integration, collaboration and balance in order to address environmental migration by linking human mobility, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development.

Mr. Mendes thanked Dr. Jacobs-Mata for her presentation and opened the floor for questions and remarks. He then invited the representatives from the IOC to give their presentation.

Mr. Ribouet started the presentation by introducing the profile of the IOC, the only international governmental organisation (IGO) in Africa comprising solely of Island States, and which defends and promotes their specific interests at the regional, continental and international level. Mr. Ribouet then presented the regional context of the IOC and gave the floor to Ms. Bonne.

Ms. Bonne presented IOC's normative and operational initiatives on MECC. Much still needs to be done in the sphere of climate change and disaster risk management, such as strengthening knowledge of disaster risks, improving governance capabilities, the level of preparedness and disaster risk management, and strengthening capabilities for intervention and recovery.

Ms. Bonne also mentioned some challenges such as the domestication of the regional strategy on migration and health at country level, the difficulty of identifying and implementing IOC's priority actions at country level and the challenge of counting on the support of international partners. Ms. Bonne also highlighted some opportunities, such as the upcoming IOC Public Health project funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) with a focus on climate change, and the upcoming European Union (EU) funded programme on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

To conclude Ms. Bonne stressed the importance of considering MECC as a cross-cutting issue, the value addition of having regional mobilisation in MECC and the need to cooperate to move forward in MECC questions.

Mr. Mendes thanked the IOC for their presentation and opened the floor for questions and remarks.

Questions and remarks

A delegate asked Dr. Jacobs-Mata where she thinks the opportunities lie to advance MECC questions at the regional policy level. Dr. Jacobs-Mata replied that from her perspective the EU policy on migration is the most important policy instrument on migration. She furthermore stated that it was essential to take the outcomes of the many dialogues currently taking place in the Southern African region on MECC-focused issues to move the region forward.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel thanked the IOC representatives for their presentation and encouraged them to work to introduce the aspect of migration into the Samoa Pathway. Ms. Bonne stated that the first preparatory meeting focusing on the Samoa Pathway had already taken place in Mauritius the previous week, and that the link between the SDGs and the

pathway had been made at this meeting. She furthermore stated that the meeting of IOC ministers in New York in 2019 would present an opportunity to introduce the question of migration.

One of the delegates thanked the IOC representatives for their presentation and brought up the question of permanent cross-border migration and how governments deal with issues of citizenship in these cases. Ms. Traore Chazalnoel acknowledged the importance of this question but said that she unfortunately did not think it could be addressed yet given the complexity of the region. She said that this would hopefully change in the next 10 to 20 years. Ms. Bonne added that the issue of cross-border migration and awarding citizenship to migrants is complex because it can clash with the sovereignty of countries.

Another delegate stressed the importance of linking health issues linked to climate change and environmental issues to migration, and cited the Ebola virus case as an example that more needs to be done in this regard.

Mr. Silva concluded the session and invited the participants to an evening event to celebrate World Environment Day.





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Day Two: 6 June 2018

Session 5: MECC and other thematic areas of migration management

Presented by IOM staff from the Regional Office for Southern Africa and the IOM Mauritius Office

Mr. Silva opened the session by discussing the main highlights of Day One and acknowledging the complexity of the MECC issue and its many dimensions, including gender, health, youth and the economy. Mr. Silva said that although the countries in the Southern Africa region represent very different contexts, some of the themes discussed during Day One were relevant to all of them. These included issues related to the availability of data and information, policy processes, platforms to handle MECC-related topics, and the implementation of MECC related actions.

Mr. Silva introduced the panellists: Mr. Bogdan Danila, the IOM Regional Thematic Specialist for Emergency and Post-crisis for Southern Africa from the IOM Regional Office in Pretoria; Ms. Alem Makkonen, IOM Regional Thematic Specialist for Migrant Protection and Assistance from the IOM Regional Office in Pretoria; Mr. Jason Theede, IOM Regional Thematic Specialist for Labour Migration and Human Development from the IOM Regional Office in Pretoria; Mr. Francis Bwambale Mulekya, IOM Migration Health Programme Manager from the IOM Regional Office in Pretoria; and Ms. Reshma Cunnoosamy, Programme Assistant, IOM Mauritius, on behalf of the Regional Thematic Specialist for Immigration and Border Management.

Mr. Danila explained that the linkages and implications of environmental climate change are relevant for forced migration or displacement because in order to operationalize environmental migration, it is necessary to look into all phases of managing migration crises: prevention, preparedness, management, mitigation and response. In this regard, Mr. Danila informed the participants that the human mobility dimension of humanitarian crises is becoming more relevant as crises produce increasingly complex and often large-scale migration flows and mobility patterns, which typically expose affected populations to significant vulnerabilities.

To manage crisis responses, Mr. Danila presented some government led initiatives:

- Platform on Disaster Displacement
- Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC)
- Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) partnership
- Mass Evacuations in Natural Disasters (MEND)
- Regional United Nations Development Group for Africa
- The Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) resilience building action plan: “Mitigate Forced Migrations that Result from Environmental Factors”

Ms. Makkonen talked about the link between climate change and human trafficking. Ms. Makkonen explained that when climate change negatively impacts the job market and results in job losses, there will be a proliferation of unscrupulous recruitment agencies that will potentially turn into traffickers. Ms. Makkonen said that this happens when vulnerable people are hit by environmental disasters and a lack of both jobs and economic opportunities cause them to take more risks in order to improve their economic situation. The impoverishment of areas as a result of slow onset events such as droughts can also cause these areas to become targets for traffickers. However, Ms. Makkonen explained that these linkages are not yet sufficiently explored. In order to address human trafficking linked to environment and climate change, Ms. Makkonen argued that migration needs to be recognized as a coping mechanism and needs to be properly managed by governments. Ms. Makkonen proposed the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability as a way to mitigate migration-related problems.

Mr. Theede started by providing a definition of international labour migration, and argued that when managed well it brings many benefits to migrants, government and the whole of society, economically, socially and culturally speaking. Regarding the linkages between labour migration and climate change, Mr. Theede explained that environmental disasters and slow onset events have a negative impact on productivity and profit, which might lead to voluntary climate migration in search of better employment opportunities. On the positive side, Mr. Theede presented remittances as a beneficial aspect of this labour migration. In this context, Mr. Theede stated that better planning and responses are needed to deal with labour migration linked to environment and climate change. Some suggestions include adaptation strategies that take into consideration protracted long-term displacements; improvement of educational and vocational skills; pre departure orientation; identification of alternative livelihood opportunities; and settlement planning.

Ms. Cunnoosamy presented on the Immigration and Border Management (IBM) component of IOM, and explained that IOM's main areas of expertise in this regard are:

- Border and migration management assessments (BMMA)
- Capacity-building for border and migration management
- Integrated border management
- Identity management
- Visa and data management
- Counter migrant smuggling
- Humanitarian border management (HBM), which supports border authorities to respond appropriately to arriving environmental migrants while respecting their human rights
- Facilitating migration

Ms. Cunnoosamy explained that the most obvious area where IBM intersects with climate change is HBM, which is considered a priority in the Southern African region. However, Ms. Cunnoosamy argued that more research is needed about border areas at risk and the types of risks that authorities are likely to face.

Dr. Bwambale explained that environment and climate change are key determinants for migrants' health. In this context, the biggest challenge identified is the barrier of language used by the government, which is usually unfamiliar to local communities. Dr. Bwambale argued that migration is critical to health in many ways, and provided the example of the spread of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through migration. However, Dr. Bwambale said that the link between health and migration is not understood well enough, and expressed the need to carry out environmental social impact assessments linked to development projects where health issues are also taken into consideration.

Ms. Lilly Smines from IOM Mozambique thanked the panellists and opened the floor for questions and comments.



Questions and remarks

One of the delegates asked the panellists which would be their project of choice if they could pick one that linked their work with MECC in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region. Mr. Theede answered that his choice would be remittances and diaspora and argued that the scope of such a project would extend beyond MECC topics. Ms. Makonnen responded that she would like to see the mainstreaming of climate change resilience into all of the IOM programmes.

Another delegate asked the panellists how countries in the region could benefit from existing infrastructure, and how the element of health could be linked to MECC issues, especially with regards to cross-border migrants. A question by another delegate focused on whether IOM has knowledge of other countries that mainstream the health element into the MECC nexus and that could present a good model to emulate. The same delegate also asked whether there was a system in place to assist migrants that may need psychological support. Ms. Makonnen replied that IOM works with partners such as social workers and tries to provide the necessary tools to identify and address any psychological issues migrants may have. Mr. Bwambale answered that IOM has a memorandum of understanding with SADC on issues of health, migration, research and training, including the provision of technical assistance to the government. As a result, cooperation activities between IOM and government health departments also focus on mainstreaming migration

health. However, Mr. Bwambale also stressed the need to develop additional health programmes related to MECC. Another delegate argued that more work needs to be done in the region regarding Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), given its links to health and its importance to MECC issues, and asked the panellists to provide guidelines on the issue of (WASH). Mr. Danila responded that there is a WASH cluster at the global level and that there are WASH activities in several countries such as Mozambique, DRC, as well as an initiative to introduce solar WASH technology into camps.

Another delegate asked the panellists how the different departments of IOM are working with the existing systems and stakeholders in place and how they coordinate. Mr. Danila replied that IOM is part of Humanitarian Country Teams at the national level and that it is part of RIASCO at the regional level.

A different delegate wondered what actions regional governments will be taking to ensure a uniform approach to addressing MECC-related issues. Mr. Theede responded that it would be necessary to develop an understanding of the regional framework in which policies are being positioned, and to subsequently align national policies and programmes to the regional framework.

Ms. Smines thanked the panellists and the participants for their interventions and closed the session.



Session 6: Streamlining MECC to policy frameworks and operational planning

Presented by Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, MECC Specialist from IOM New York, and Ms. Nikki Funke from CSIR

Ms. Smines opened the session and introduced the speakers. Ms. Smines gave the floor to Ms. Traore Chazalnoel.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel informed the delegates that IOM's work on MECC solutions focuses on programmes that can be divided into three categories: Programmes that try to assist people to stay where they are if they so wish, programmes that target people who are already on the move, and programmes that help people to move when it is not possible for them to stay in their place of origin because of environmental degradation or climate change.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel furthermore emphasized that IOM's MECC programmes are a recent addition, and that therefore not many programmes are in place yet.

Currently, the existing programmes cover the following dimensions:

- Research, analysis and data collection
- Policy development
- Capacity building
- Direct assistance

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel spoke about IOM's efficient and effective practices related to data and research development, policy development and project development, which have been implemented in several countries and could also be useful for countries in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region that want to address MECC challenges. Regarding specific opportunities for the region, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel pointed out that new MECC Regional Thematic Specialists are currently being recruited and that one of these should be available to work in Southern African and the Indian Ocean Region by 2019.

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel continued her presentation by arguing that the many changes that are taking place at the global level as part of the Global Compact for Migration, the UNFCCC, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Platform on Disaster Displacement, will all have significantly positive impacts in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region.

To conclude, Ms. Traore Chazalnoel also identified several challenges for MECC issues to advance, especially regarding the unavailability of funding from Climate Funds.

Ms. Funke continued the session with a presentation from the CSIR on cross-border and internal environmental migration in South Africa. Ms. Funke explained that the CSIR is looking into issues of migration from other countries into South Africa and internal migration, identifying environmental factors as one of the push factors that lead people to move. Ms. Funke shared that one of the aims of this research is to determine how environmental migration is being addressed by South Africa's policy and legislative framework.

As there is no official accepted definition for environmental migrants, CSIR decided to make use of IOM's working definition. Ms. Funke then provided some background to the current state of affairs of migration into and within South Africa, explaining that internal migration is often overlooked and that one of the reasons for the existing trend of migration from rural to urban areas is pressure on the environment and resultant environmental degradation.

Ms. Funke explained that South African refugees and migration policies have recently become more restrictive and that the South African government is trying to enforce its immigration laws more strictly. The management of environmental migration can also be linked to the Disaster Management Act, which aims to reduce and manage the threat of disasters. However, Ms. Funke informed the participants that this act does not mention environmental migration, and therefore does not make provision for taking care of people who have been permanently displaced as a result of environmental disasters, and especially slow onset disasters.

Ms. Funke concluded by stating the importance of:

- Developing a balanced discourse on MECC issues between different stakeholders.
- Capacitating local governments in terms of disaster management, climate change adaptation and rapid urbanisation.
- Mainstreaming environmental migration into relevant components of the national policy framework; and
- Developing a national policy on environmental migration.

Ms. Smines thanked the presenters and opened the floor for questions and remarks.

Questions and remarks

Ms. Traore Chazalnoel stated that many of the recommendations made by CSIR are relevant not only to South Africa but to many other contexts and encouraged the other country representatives to also think along these lines.

Annex 1 – Priority Activities

1) Data, research and information

Considering the limited available information on the subject, particularly in some countries, and the lack of homogenized data across Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region, it is essential to increase research efforts, as well as to further expand and disseminate the available data and information base on the impacts of MECC. Furthermore, participants stressed the need to over time develop the required capacity to monitor actions implemented in response to MECC-related impacts and to share national experiences with the rest of the region. The participants of the MECC Regional Policy Forum formulated the following priority activities:

1.1) At country level

- To assess and value existing national surveys and data collection systems (population-related, development-related, meteorological-related, Geographic Information Systems, etc.) as sources of information and data on MECC-related impacts.
- Based on that assessment, to promote and support improved and streamlined collection, retrieval, filtering, and/or integration of relevant data and information relating to MECC more efficiently in the existing national surveys and data collection systems.
- To conduct in depth and context-specific country-based studies in Southern African and the Indian Ocean Region on the causes, effects, impacts and linkages between migration, environment and climate change with a particular focus on:
 - Understanding the effects of MECC on women and youth migration as global migrant stock indicates that a large portion of migrants fall between the ages of 15 and 24.
 - Modelling and preventing natural disasters-related displacement, and understanding the impacts on displaced populations and host communities.
 - Understanding the vulnerabilities of environmental migrants, particularly related to Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and smuggling.
 - Valuing the role of diasporas as agents of change and sustainable development vis-à-vis their country of origin through opportunities for “green” investments and other country-based sustainable environment and migration management schemes.
- To encourage national universities and research institutes to integrate MECC into their topics of research. This could take the form of setting up independent country-based observatories on MECC with the purpose of systematically and regularly collecting, analyzing and disseminating data and information relevant to national policy makers and practitioners. Such data gathering

activities should enable the development of national datasets on MECC that can be shared across Southern African and the Indian Ocean Region for planning purposes.

- To raise awareness about the importance of MECC to line ministries and stakeholders. To facilitate this, a communication strategy on MECC should be developed to help increase its visibility. MECC education programmes could also be presented through local radio stations.

1.2) At regional/sub-regional/cross-border level

- To support countries in developing and conducting research on the regional/sub-regional/cross-border impacts of MECC, as well as environmental impact studies in relation to human mobility.
- To establish an observatory on MECC at regional level that can serve as a regional hub for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of the data and information bases emanating from countries, and as a repository for regional/sub-regional/cross-border research.

2) Policy Frameworks

The policy frameworks currently in place in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region are proving to be insufficient to address the breadth of MECC and its impacts in the region, both at national and regional levels. In this regard, participants underlined the need to adopt a proactive approach and to – building on existing relevant policy frameworks – develop a sound policy framework on MECC as well as on regional cooperation on MECC matters. The participants of the MECC Regional Policy Forum formulated the following priority activities:

2.1) At country level:

- To develop a national evidence-based legislative and institutional framework promoting pro-active consideration of MECC issues. This could include building on and reviewing, as may be necessary, existing policy frameworks such as those related to migration management policies, environmental policies, and development-guiding frameworks.
- These frameworks should take into account and address the needs of all particular groups of populations vulnerable to MECC issues, including women and the youth, displaced persons and host communities.
- These frameworks should act as positive enablers by for instance valuing the role of diasporas as agents of change and sustainable development vis-à-vis the country of origin through “green” investment opportunities and other country-based sustainable environment and migration management schemes.

2.2) At regional/sub-regional/cross-border level:

- To advocate for the inclusion of environmental migration in the Migration Policy Framework for Africa of the African Union.
- To advocate for the inclusion of migration on the global agenda of SIDS, which is currently absent in the Samoa Pathway.
- To support countries in the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to fight climate change.
- To develop a regional policy guiding framework on MECC that can support and guide particular countries in the development or review of their national evidence-based legislative and institutional framework promoting proactive consideration of MECC issues.

3) Coordination platforms

In light of the complex, dynamic, evolving and localized challenges on the causes, effects and impacts of MECC issues in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region, it is essential to strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders of MECC on the understanding and treatment of the topic, according to their area of competence and responsibilities, and to promote coordination and cross fertilization of these capacities at the regional level. The participants of the MECC Regional Policy Forum formulated the following priority activities:

3.1) At country level

- To establish inclusive national MECC stakeholder coordination platforms to pro-actively take on the topic of MECC. This could include, as may be opportune, the use of existing coordination platforms such as those related to migration management, disaster management, environmental affairs, and development coordination groups.
- To establish, where relevant to pro-actively and effectively address the topic of MECC, infra-national MECC stakeholder coordination platforms focusing on such levels of administration as “Regions/Provinces”, “Districts”, or “Communes”.
- To mainstream MECC issues in broader existing policies and into the scope of governments, especially at the district level.

3.2) At regional/sub-regional/cross-border level:

- To actively engage, support and promote sustainability of existing regional platforms such as the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Forum, the SADC Disaster Risk Forum, the SADC Climate Change Forum, the Islands Programme for Financial Protection against Catastrophic Risks (IFPP), and the IOC’s “Surveillance Epidémiologique et de Gestion des Alertes” (SEGA) “One Health” initiative, which provide entry points for regional/sub-regional/cross-border discussions and coordination on MECC issues.
- To promote and develop partnerships between regional organizations, notably between IOC, SADC and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) while at the same time avoiding duplication.

4) Implementation

Given the challenges linked to limited available information, the absence of appropriate frameworks and the challenges of coordination for this multi-sectoral topic, the implementation of operational initiatives to address MECC-related challenges and take hold of MECC-related opportunities remains complex. Building capacity for an operational response to MECC issues is considered as essential to reduce unchosen migration in relation to environmental changes and climate change as well as to demonstrate the value of well-managed migration as an adaptation strategy. Participants to the MECC Regional Policy Forum formulated the following priority activities:

4.1) At country level:

- To develop clear, realistic, and comprehensive national operational response plans to identified MECC challenges and opportunities.
- To ensure results-based sustainable technical and financial support for those operational response plans, and to map partners that can provide this support.

4.2) At regional/sub-regional/cross-border level:

- To promote access to funding from the Green Climate Fund.
- To integrate MECC issues into existing regional programmes that focus on operational responses such as those on coastal resilience, early warning, weather reinforcement and maritime safety.

Annex 2 – Agenda

Migration, Environment, and Climate Change: Regional Policy Forum for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean Region

Pretoria – South Africa, 5 and 6 June 2018

DAY ONE: 05 June 2018

AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	LEAD	DURATION
Arrival and Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration of participants 	IOM	8:15 – 8:45
Welcome Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks Guest Speaker (via Video Link) 	Mr Charles Kwenin, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa	8:45 – 9:00 9:00 – 9:15
Coffee Break/Group Photo			9:15 – 9:30
Introductions, Expectations, Workshop Purpose/Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce facilitators and participants Explain work objectives and expected results Provide an overview of the workshop agenda 	Mr Daniel Silva, Chief of Mission, IOM Madagascar	9:30 – 10:00
Session 1: Setting the scene on MECC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the nexus of MECC and conceptual frameworks Present global trends and evidence on MECC Present MECC within global policy and normative framework 	Ms Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, MECC Specialist, IOM New York	10:00 – 11:15
Session 2: Taking Stock of the MECC country assessments in Madagascar and Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the findings and recommendations from the MECC country assessments Facilitate a plenary discussion 	TBC, Representative for Madagascar TBC, Representative for Mauritius	11:15 – 12:45
Lunch			12:45 – 14:00
Session 3: Taking Stock of the MECC country assessments in Mozambique and Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the findings and recommendations from the MECC country assessments Facilitate a plenary discussion 	TBC, Representative for Mozambique TBC, Representative for Namibia	14:00 – 15:30
Coffee Break			15:30 – 15:45
Session 4: Regional normative and operational perspectives on MECC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide update on pertinent regional normative and operational frameworks (existing or in development) Facilitate a plenary discussion 	Ms Inga Jacobsmata, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) TBC, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)	15:45 – 16:45
Wrap up Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrap up 	Mr Jeremias Mendes, Head of Office, IOM Angola	16:45 – 17:00
Evening Side Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cocktail with the Diplomatic Corps based in Pretoria Address of the IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa on the occasion of the celebration of the World Environment Day Exhibition of the photography work of Samuel Turpin's "Humans and Climate Change" 		18:30 – 20:00

DAY TWO: 06 June 2018

AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	LEAD	DURATION
Recap of Day One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the main highlights from Day One presentations and discussions • Provide an overview of the expected outcomes from Day Two 	All participants	8:30 – 9:00
Session 5: MECC and other Thematic areas of migration management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present and discuss linkages and impacts of MECC in relation to other thematic areas of migration management • “Davos-style” panel and plenary discussion 	IOM Regional Thematic Specialists, IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa	9:00 – 10:30
Coffee Break			10:30 – 10:45
Session 6: Streamlining MECC to policy frameworks and operational planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present good practices and experiences of MECC streamlining to policy frameworks and operational planning • Facilitate a plenary discussion 	Ms Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, MECC Specialist, IOM New York Ms Nikki Funke, CSIR	10:45 – 11:45
Session 7: Group work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene working groups to develop a regional policy guiding document that establishes priorities, stimulate cooperation, and cross fertilization amongst Member States on MECC issues 	All participants	11:45 – 12:30
Lunch			12:30 – 13:30
Session 8: Group work (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene working groups to developed a regional policy guiding document that establishes priorities, stimulate cooperation, and cross fertilization amongst Member States on MECC issues 	All participants	13:30 – 15:15
Coffee Break			15:15 – 15:30
Session 9: Group work restitutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restitute group works • Validate regional policy guiding document 	Group representatives	15:30 – 16:30
Closing remarks		Mr Charles Kwenin, IOM Regional Director for Southern Africa	16:30 – 16:45

Annex 3 – Participants

Countries represented

- Angola
- Comoros
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- eSwatini
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Mauritius
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Seychelles
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Zambia

Other entities represented

- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- Islamic Relief (IR)
- Oxfam International (OI)

