

## Stocktaking of organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts

### *Template for submission of information*

Action Area 3, Activity (a) of the initial two-year workplan of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Excom) requires the Excom to **take stock of organizations that are working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts**.

This activity is to enhance data on and knowledge of the risks of slow onset events and their impacts, and identify ways forward on approaches to address slow onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change with specific focus on potential impacts, within countries and regions.

Your submission of information will contribute to this activity and assist identification of any gaps in addressing slow onset events.

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In order to further develop and strengthen the database, the Excom would like to seek inputs, through the enclosed template, from organizations working on slow onset events.

**Slow onset events**, as included in the UNFCCC COP Decision 1/CP.16, include: sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity and desertification.

- If your organization is working on slow onset events and it is not included in the database, please fill in all fields in the template.
- If your organization is already included in the database, you may wish to submit additional, new, updated or amended information by filling in the relevant fields of the template.

Please return the completed templates to <loss-damage@unfccc.int>.

Please kindly provide regular updates to the submitted information.

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For a general overview of the work on loss and damage under the Convention, including information on the multilateral process, milestones and technical work, visit [www.unfccc.int/7546](http://www.unfccc.int/7546).

For information on the work of the Executive Committee, visit [www.unfccc.int/7543](http://www.unfccc.int/7543).

Please feel free to expand the free-text boxes as needed throughout the template.

Inputs provided by:	
International Organization for Migration (IOM) <a href="https://www.iom.int">https://www.iom.int</a> and <a href="http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/">http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/</a>	
1. Type of organization	
<i>Please choose as appropriate:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil society	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional center/network/initiative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental organization (IGO)	<input type="checkbox"/> Research institution
<input type="checkbox"/> National/public entity	<input type="checkbox"/> UN and affiliated organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental organization (NGO)	<input type="checkbox"/> University/academic organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Private sector organizations	
2. Region(s)	
<i>Please choose the appropriate geographic region(s) where the efforts and work on slow onset events are targeted:</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Africa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> North America
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pacific/Oceania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caribbean and Central America	<input type="checkbox"/> Polar regions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Europe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South America
3. Scale of work	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subnational
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subregional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transboundary	
4. Country(ies)	
<i>Please list the country(ies) where the efforts and work on slow onset events are targeted</i>	
Over the last few years, IOM has implemented initiatives addressing mobility in the context of slow onset events in the following countries:	
- Azerbaijan	
- Bangladesh	
- Bolivia	
- Burkina Faso	
- Colombia	
- Cambodia	
- Dominican Republic	
- Ecuador	
- Egypt	
- Federated States of Micronesia	
- Haiti	

- Iraq
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kyrgyzstan
- Maldives
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Niger
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of Marshall Islands
- Senegal
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Vanuatu
- Viet Nam

In addition to that, IOM conducted 3 regional capacity building workshops on migration and climate change addressing, inter alia, slow onset events:

- Asia Pacific: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Korea, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Viet Nam;
- South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela;
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

## 5. Slow onset event(s) addressed

*Please choose the slow onset event(s) your organization works on:*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Desertification                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of biodiversity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glacier retreat and related impacts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean acidification             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increasing temperatures             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salinization         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land and forest degradation         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sea level rise       |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Others                          |

## 6. Scope of work

*Please choose the area(s) most relevant to your work on slow onset events:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assessment                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication and outreach     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder involvement   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data collection and management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development of strategies |

Design of approaches

Investment

Development of national policies

Other

## 7. Relevant stakeholders

*Please choose the most relevant stakeholder(s) of your work on slow onset events:*

Academics and scientists

Communities

Policy makers

Practitioners

Private sector

Other

## 8. Target beneficiaries

*Please indicate the target beneficiaries of your work on slow onset events and, to the extent possible, reflect how your efforts benefit particularly vulnerable developing countries, segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihoods, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability, and the ecosystems that they depend on.*

- IOM's work in this area has focused particularly on supporting national governments in improving the evidence base and building national institutional capacity to address migration in the context of slow onset events. IOM's key effort included national assessments, support to research, and organization of training workshops, as well as support to governments requesting assistance in developing national plans, policies and strategies addressing human mobility in the context of climate change, including slow onset events. Since 2013, IOM's trainings benefitted more than 225 policymakers in 39 countries.
- In addition, in some countries IOM implemented field projects working with local communities to strengthen local adaptation to slow onset effects of climate change, including desertification and land degradation (eg. rebuilding traditional water systems in Azerbaijan to reduce out-migration from areas experiencing water scarcity and desertification; engaging diasporas in sustainable land management initiatives in Senegal and Niger; developing educational programmes on climate change adaptation for schools in Micronesia). IOM has devoted particular attention to most vulnerable groups by adopting a rights-based and gender-balanced approach throughout its activities.
- IOM's field work has taken place in many countries and localities particularly vulnerable to climate change effects due to their geographical location (coastal areas and large deltas, mountain areas, drylands), and their socioeconomic and demographic profiles (low to middle income countries, including countries exposed to political instability, with economies highly dependent on agriculture, fragile ecosystems and scarce natural resources; experiencing high demographic growth, high population density, fast urbanization rates and mobility of nomadic populations and indigenous people).
- IOM has also worked on improving access to information and data on migration and climate change, including slow onset events, for policy-makers, key stakeholders, and the general public, through the development of research and publications (<http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-publications>), public information material and a portal dedicated to Environmental Migration (<http://environmentalmigration.iom.int>), which brings together information on existing research initiatives, publications and reports, policy efforts and field projects and other initiatives on migration and environment of the academic, public and institutional sectors.
- IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Climate Vulnerable Forum and joined the CVF

Trust Fund in 2014 in order to enhance collaboration on climate migration in countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular in terms of building policy makers capacities to address challenges and seize opportunities related to climate migration.

## 9. Focus on non-economic losses<sup>1</sup>, related to slow onset events

Yes. *Please describe if your efforts focus on non-economic losses, related to slow onset events. If your work does not focus on non-economic losses, please indicate if you plan to focus on them in the future.*

Given IOM's mandate on migration, the Organization's work in the area of climate change by definition focuses on a particular type of non-economic losses: forced migration, vulnerability and the degradation of livelihoods of communities and individuals.

IOM's priorities in this area include:

- preventing or reducing forced migration associated with slow onset degradation of habitats and ecosystems, or sea level rise, including by promoting in-situ adaptation strategies, reducing local risks, and supporting local sustainable development;
- supporting people forced to leave their habitats due to their growing inhabitability through relevant migration management and development policies and human rights instruments;
- promoting migration as an effective adaptation and response strategy to help limit or prevent non-economic loss associated with slow onset events.

As part of its work in this area, IOM addresses directly or indirectly other forms of non-economic losses that have an impact on the drivers of migration: loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, land degradation, loss of territory, health impacts, loss of life, loss of traditional livelihoods (such as pastoralist mobility).

## 10. Relevant mandates and operational frameworks

- Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.
- IOM Constitution, which sets out the basis for IOM operations and support to national authorities and local communities in migration management, through direct assistance, promotion of political dialogue and research on the role of human mobility, including in the context of natural disasters and crises.
- The IOM Strategy, adopted by the membership at the Ninety-third (Special) Session of the Council in June 2007, defines the Organization's strategic focus in the coming years.
- The Strategy outlines many activities in relation to Environmental Degradation and Migration. -IOM member states approved a working definition of environmental migrants at IOM's Council (94th

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<sup>1</sup> Non-economic losses, as identified in the technical paper on non-economic losses (available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/tp/02.pdf>), may include, but not limited to: loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge, loss of territory, loss of health, and loss of life.

Council Session Document MC/INF/288) that refers to slow onset processes: “Environmental migrants are 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 obliged to leave their homes or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad”, was referred in the institutional flagship publication World Migration Report 2008, in IOM’s International Migration Law (IML) Glossary on Migration Second Edition) and is broadly referred to in the academic and policy world,

- The IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework (MCOF), developed at the request of States in 2012, to improve and systematize IOM's support to States and institutional partners in responding to the assistance and protection needs of populations affected by crises, including sudden or slow onset natural crises.
- As of January 2015, and following a decision of IOM's Member States, the Organization has a Division on Migration, Environment and Climate Change fully dedicated to this subject, the objective of which is to strengthen, harmonize and coordinate the Organization's approach and activities worldwide in the area of migration and climate change, including slow onset events, and to ensure that climate change concerns are mainstreamed throughout IOM's activities, including emergency response, migration for development, labour mobility and other thematic areas traditionally addressed by IOM. The restructuring of the organization in this direction means also reinforcing capacities in IOM’s nine regional offices and New York Special liaison Office to deal with the climate and migration topic.
- New member states (Kiribati) joined and new IOM offices were open (Fiji) that specifically highlight the importance of climate vulnerable focused approaches of the organization.
- In recognition of the increasing’ role of IOM in the global governance of environmental migration and of its capacities to develop a vast array of activities worldwide in line with global policy processes, IOM Membership has regularly elected to be updated of IOM’s development on climate and migration. Discussions have taken place on eight occasions since 2007 in IOM’s governing bodies meetings offering a significant space to states to address slow onset processes and migration : in 2007, 2008 in the Standing Committee for Programmes and Finances (SCPF), and International Dialogue on Migration (IDM), 2011, twice in 2014 in SCPF and Council and in the 2015 at SCPF.
- A full range of new partnerships has been developed to enhance action on climate and migration in particular in vulnerable countries with international bodies (WMO, IPPC, CVF, UNCCD, UNEP, COIN, ICIMOD, IDMC, CILS, etc.) and National environment Ministries.

*Please provide information on the relevant mandates and objective(s) of your organization/entity, institutional structure, as explicitly and/or implicitly relevant to your work on slow onset events.*

*For entities working on national and/or sub-national levels:*

*Please describe your efforts underway to integrate consideration of slow onset events into development plans, poverty strategies, etc.*

### **11. Implementation modality, approaches used and delivery mechanism**

- IOM works in close cooperation with governments, local authorities and communities, as well as UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. Implementation modalities vary from project to project and are based on relevant expertise, and include direct implementation by IOM, joint implementation with government and institutional partners, and externalization to service providers.
- With more than 400 offices in 130 countries, IOM has direct outreach to affected communities, stakeholders and governments, which facilitates timely delivery of services and assistance tailored to specific local needs.
- Between 2009 and 2013 for example, IOM has addressed the mobility implications of natural disasters through over 250 projects, 720 million USD invested and 23 million people assisted worldwide.
- At the moment there are 44 IOM missions worldwide implementing projects or contributing to initiatives addressing climate change.

*Please provide information on existing modalities for external stakeholder engagement (e.g. platforms, regular meetings or fora, online tools, etc.), and existing channels for collaboration within your organization with relevance to your work on slow onset events.*

### **12. Detailed description of efforts on slow onset events**

IOM takes a comprehensive institutional approach in addressing human mobility in relation to environmental and climate change, which encompasses operational activities and research and policy activities.

Examples of IOM's projects focusing on building evidence for policy in the area of climate change (including slow onset events and loss and damage) and human mobility:

- "Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP)" Project (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam), funded by the European Union: the project contributes to the global knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change, including climate change and associated slow onset events. In particular, the research focuses on slow onset events such as sea level rise and lake level rise in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Mauritius and Viet Nam. The research will help formulate policy options on how migration can benefit adaptation strategies to environmental and climate change, and capacity-building activities and facilitated dialogue are also components of this project.
- "West Africa: Promoting sustainable land management in migration-prone areas through innovative financing mechanisms" (Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal): The project focuses on integrating the sustainable land management (SLM)-migration nexus into the three countries' development and budgetary policies; increasing economic opportunities and improving the investment climate for SLM in specific geographic areas subject to desertification and migration; and disseminating best SLM practices in West Africa and their funding in pertinent international fora.

- "Assessing the Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration Nexus in South Asia" (Bangladesh, Maldives and Nepal): the project Through the support of the IOM Development Fund, IOM will draft an assessment study for the region, that includes a desk of review of literature, policies and statistics; and results from a household survey conducted in environmentally vulnerable areas in the three countries. The research also looks into slow onset processes such as sea level rise and glacial retreat. National consultations in Bangladesh, the Maldives and Nepal will be organized to share the findings of the research and raise awareness on the subject.

- "Assessing the vulnerabilities and responses to environmental changes in Cambodia": Through the project, IOM has conducted an assessment study on climate change and its impacts on livelihoods and migration in Cambodia. The results of the household survey show that half the respondents recognized the impact of slow onset events such change in temperature on their livelihoods.

- "Pilot Project: Assessment and Strategy Development to Respond to Sea Level Rise on Human Mobility in Abu Qir" (Egypt): National assessment to identify potential impacts of sea-level rise on migration, and national strategies to respond to the challenge.

Examples of IOM's operational work supporting communities and governments exposed to slow onset events:

- "Beyond Durable Solutions: Building the Capacity of Refugee and Host Community Youth and Providing them with New Opportunities" (Kenya): IOM has facilitated the return and relocation of families displaced by conflict in the arid and semi-arid parts of Kenya by providing them with tailored reintegration and livelihood assistance aimed to build their resilience to climate change.

- "Sustainable Water Supply for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Azerbaijan": reintroduction of the traditional water supply system (kahriz) in rural areas to support local communities experiencing water shortages in the context of desertification in some rural areas of Azerbaijan.

- "Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education" (CADRE) Program (Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Marshall Islands): working with school students and their communities to empower them to identify climate change impacts and develop sustainable adaptation strategies through improved communication and education on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and supporting the national governments' efforts to implement national adaptation policies.

- "ATOLLS Project" (Papua New Guinea): empowering local communities on small islands exposed to sea level rise, salinisation and land degradation to design and implement their own development priorities and potential migration management programmes in response to the effects of climate change.

- Vanuatu: IOM supports the government in the development of a policy and framework for climate change integrating displacement, relocation, land accessibility and rights, security, integration and livelihoods.

- Viet Nam: IOM conducts assessments of resettlement schemes in response to climate change, in particular sea level rise and flooding.

Examples of IOM's global policy efforts in this field:

- IOM has been actively promoting the inclusion of human mobility concerns as part of the UNFCCC negotiations process and providing technical support and advice to the UNFCCC Secretariat on how to best

address human mobility under the adaptation and loss and damage work streams and enhance the understanding of issues at stake. This work has been conducted by IOM individually and as part of the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate Change together with its other members (UNHCR, UNU-EHS, NRC/IDMC, UNDP) through joint submissions to the Secretariat;

- IOM also played a role in integrating human mobility into the UN Plan of Action in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;- For more information, please refer to the publications "IOM Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change" (2014) and "International Dialogue on Migration N°18 - Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration" (2011).

IOM submitted regular technical inputs, organized events and exhibits on the topic to UNFCCC:

- Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Bonn, Germany, 2–5 February 2016 Inputs from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human
- Recommendations from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility (November 2015)
- Human mobility in the context of climate change Recommendations from the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility for COP 21, 2015
- Joint submission to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change 2014;
- 2014 COP 20 LIMA "Joint submission On the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- Joint Submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group" "Climate change, adaptation, resilience and human mobility: voices from the climate frontline;
- One UN Side Event -co-organized with UN agencies "Human mobility and climate change - What policymakers need to know on the road to Paris;
- Press Conference with UNU and UNHCR. <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop20/events/2014-12-09-09-30-united-nations-university-human-mobility-and-climate-change-what-policymakers-need-to-know-on-the-road-to-paris>";
- One UN for Human Mobility and Climate Change: led by IOM, UN System common exhibition;
- Joint submission On National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
- Joint submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group, Climate Justice and Human Rights - Focus on food security, nutrition, health, migration and gender. Co-organized by IOM with civil society partners
- Launch of the IOM Environmental Migration Portal <http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/>
- Joint submission to the Excom of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change, Joint submission with the Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group
- Taking food and nutrition security and migration into the negotiations. Co-organized by IOM with civil society partners
- Building evidence for policymaking on migration as adaptation. Co-organized with Human Mobility and Climate Advisory Group, Bonn, June 2014", Co-organized by IOM at the New York Climate Summit, September 2014 "
- 2013 COP 19 WARSAW, Non-economic losses in the context of the work programme on loss and

damage

- Inputs on institutional arrangements for a UNFCCC technical paper in the context of the work programme on loss and damage
- Adaptation Committee (AC) -Support for adaptation in developing countries 2012 COP 18
- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) - Submission concerning draft decisions 23 and 24 of -/CP17
- Side event "How to Integrate Migration into Adaptation Strategies and Planning, organized by IOM in collaboration with a network of partners.
- "Exhibit on Migration, Displacement and Adaptation, led by IOM COP 18
- Launch of "The State of Environmental Migration 2011" at COP18
- Submission to the UNFCCC concerning draft decisions 23 and 24 of -/CP17 of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) February 2011.
- Social Dimensions of Climate Change, organized by UNESCO with IOM
- 2011 COP 17 Durban "Innovative Approaches to Climate Change: Experiences from the UN System in South Africa, co-organized with South Africa UN Country Team
- Livelihood Security: Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel. Report launch co-organized with UNEP, IOM, OCHA, UNU and CILLS.
- IOM Exhibit on human mobility and climate Implementing the Cancun Adaptation Framework: Vulnerability, changing populations and human mobility, co-organized with UNFPA
- Social Dimensions of Climate Change (SDCC)- Interagency side event 2011
- 2010 COP 16 Cancun Displacement and Migration: Examples of Initiatives to Support Resilience and Adaptation, co-organized with UN-system
- "Climate change, migration, and displacement: impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options" submitted to UNFCCC Secretariat by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations University (UNU), The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the representatives of the Secretary-General in the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (RSG on the HR of IDPs) on 6 February 2009
- "Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CEEMA): Understanding impacts and finding solutions. Co-organized with UNU
- "Displacement and Migration: Examples of initiatives to support resilience and adaptation. UN System Side Event on Migration and Displacement COP16, Cancun
- "Climate change, migration, and displacement: impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation options. 2009 COP 15 Copenhagen
- Climate Change, Migration and Displacement: Who will be affected? Working paper submitted by the informal group on Migration/Displacement and Climate Change of the IASC. 31 October 2008 to the UNFCCC Secretariat";
- "Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Risk Management Practices: Critical Elements for Adaptation to Climate Change" submission to the UNFCCC *Adhoc* Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action by The Informal Taskforce on climate change of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, November 2008;
- Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU: "Climate adaptation continuum, migration and displacement: Copenhagen and beyond. Co-organized with UNU-EHS, UNHCR, NRC and the RSG on the human rights of IDPs;

- Comments and Proposed Revisions to the negotiating text, non-paper submitted with UNHCR, UNU, NRC, SG on the Human Rights of IDPs Climate change and human mobility: survival or adaptation strategy?. Co-organized with UNU-EHS;
- Climate Change and Statelessness: An Overview. Joint submission with UNCHR, NRC Population Dynamics and Climate, with IOM participation; 2008 COP 14 Poznan "Climate change, migration and forced displacement: the new humanitarian frontier? Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU" "Climate Change: Impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation in developing countries.
- Launch of publication. "Migration and climate change: from emergency to adaptation" Joint event with UNCHR and UNU, 2008
- Climate-induced human displacement and migration. Joint submission with UNCHR and UNU, 2008

*Please provide any further information on the work/efforts, concrete activities/projects and their associated dates/timelines, including for future activities, details on the scale of your work (e.g. on regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national levels), as well as instruments and tools identified in addressing slow onset events.*

### **13. Impact areas addressed**

*Please describe the focus of your efforts, if any, in terms of impact areas of slow onset events (e.g. ecosystems, water resources, etc.) and the impact of your efforts on particularly vulnerable developing countries, segments of the population that are already vulnerable owing to geography, socioeconomic status, livelihoods, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability, and the ecosystems that they depend on.*

IOM's efforts in this area have focused primarily on adaptation in arid and semi-arid regions, addressing water scarcity and degrading rural livelihoods due to land degradation and desertification or ecosystem change. In the Pacific, IOM's efforts have focused on addressing the risks associated with sea-level rise and coastal erosion. In the future, IOM is planning to develop new areas of work focusing on the degradation of ecosystem services, and terrestrial and marine biodiversity in particular, as an important factor of deterioration of livelihoods, which may result in out-migration or forced immobility of populations (trapped populations).

IOM's projects have benefitted vulnerable communities (migrant and non-migrant) in rural areas, whose vulnerability is often aggravated by poverty, limited employment opportunities and livelihood alternatives, conflict, and limited adaptation capacity. The focus of IOM's work is to prevent forced displacement by strengthening local livelihoods and diversifying employment opportunities, supporting and empowering communities to develop local development and adaptation strategies; and to support migrants through sustainable reintegration and job creation adapted to local environmental challenges. At the national level, IOM works on building national governments capacities to address migration in the context of climate change through policies aimed at supporting vulnerable communities, and promotes policies facilitating migration as a possible adaptation strategy to slow onset events associated with climate change.

### **14. Key outputs to date**

- Government capacity-building in Climate Change Adaptation through advocacy, trainings, counseling on policy development, legal counseling, including through:
  - 3 Regional Capacity Building Training Workshops (Asia-Pacific, South America, Sub-Saharan Africa)
  - 7 National Capacity Building Training Workshops (Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Morocco, Papua New Guinea) and 1 forthcoming (Azerbaijan);

- Policy dialogue: International Dialogue on Migration and 2011 workshop on "Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration";
- Guidance on policies and practices through regional and international conferences, as well as direct work with States on mainstreaming migration into development, climate change adaptation and DRR programmes, and integration of DRR into climate change adaptation frameworks.

Publication Highlights (for a comprehensive list of publications please see here:  
<http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-publications>)

- Atlas of Environmental Migration (2016);
- National Assessments on Migration, Environment and Climate Change for Papua New Guinea, Haiti, Dominican Republic (2015, 2016);
- Glossary: Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (2014);
- IOM's Outlook on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (2014);
- IOM-MPI Issue in Brief No. 8 – Human Rights, Climate Change, Environmental Degradation: A New Paradigm (2014);
- State of Environmental Migration (2010-2014 and 2015 forthcoming);
- Policy Brief Series (14 issues published since 2014: <http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-briefs>);
- Compendium of IOM's Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (2013);
- People on the Move in a Changing Climate: Comparing the Impact of Environmental Change on Migration in Different Regions of the World (Springer and IOM, forthcoming);
- Environmental Degradation, Migration, Internal Displacement, and Rural Vulnerabilities in Tajikistan (2012);
- Assessing the Evidence: Environment, Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh, Dhaka (2010);
- Assessing the Evidence: Environment, Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh (2010).

#### Research Networks:

- Asia-Pacific Migration and Environment Network (APMEN), 2012-2014: a regional online discussion and knowledge sharing platform and data base on migration and environment, a co-initiative of ADB and IOM
- Environmental Migration Portal: a global knowledge sharing platform and data base on migration and environment, developed as part of the "Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP)" project funded by the European Union. The Environmental Migration Portal has replaced the Asia-Pacific Migration and Environment Network.

For more details on research and publications on Migration, environment, climate change and development, see here: <http://environmentalmigration.iom.int>.

*Please provide a short description of key outputs (e.g. knowledge resources, databases, etc.) with relevance to your work on slow onset events, and links (if any).*

## 15. Good practices and lessons learned

*Please provide information on any good practices and lessons learned from your work in addressing slow onset events.*

IOM has developed an innovative partnership with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification focusing on engaging diasporas in sustainable land management projects and initiatives and developing innovative financial mechanisms to support such initiatives in areas of origin exposed to land degradation. Migrants can play a key role in restoring degraded ecosystems, adapting to climate change, and reducing and addressing non-economic loss. Similar initiatives could be developed to address other types of slow onset events, and IOM is prepared to continue working on this further.

The private sector could play an important role through financial and in-kind contributions and solutions to address slow onset events and related human mobility, for example through technologies transfer and technical advice. More and more private sector actors realize the necessity to act and seek opportunities to contribute to addressing climate change concerns. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector is also part of IOM's strategy to respond to the challenge.

#### **16. Gaps and challenges identified and recommendations for further efforts**

*Please provide gaps and challenges identified and/or recommendations, based on your experience, with respect to the efforts to address slow onset events in your region, scope of work, etc.*

We have identified as major gap the difficulty to work across policy areas (ranging from climate to migration), and to connect policy, research and operational activities. While much progress has been made over the last few years in terms of data collection, including by IOM and its partners, there are still numerous gaps in local, national and regional data and evidence on migration and slow onset events, different types of slow onset events influencing mobility, and specific types of responses required to address different types of events. There is a strong need to build national and local research capacities and support the strengthening of the evidence base on the interrelation between slow onset events and human mobility.

More work should also be done on informing and raising awareness among affected communities. IOM's survey exercises revealed a lack of awareness at the community level: communities do not necessarily see "change in temperature" or "sea level rise" as associated with climate change, and therefore do not see the necessity to take proactive measures. Such projects as IOM's CADRE project in Micronesia and the Marshall Islands aiming at strengthening communication and education on climate change risks at the community level provide a good example of initiatives that could help to overcome this gap in local awareness.

Another key challenge is ensuring access to funding in vulnerable countries and regions to address slow onset events and human mobility. The development of innovative financial mechanisms, including those based on diasporas' investments and public-private partnerships need to be supported further.

#### **17. Any additional information and contact details**

*Please provide any additional information not included above, including related to the scale of work and status of efforts, as well as contact details (please note that the contact details will not be made available online).*

IOM is currently focusing on strengthening its institutional knowledge management and sharing system and building capacity in its national and regional offices to develop projects and initiatives addressing slow onset events and migration, including activities focusing on national and local assessments, policy work, and field projects at the community level.

For further information please contact the IOM Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division at the IOM's Headquarters in Geneva, at [mecchq@iom.int](mailto:mecchq@iom.int)

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#### **Suggestions for relevant organizations working on SOEs, to be included in the database**

*Please suggest names of organizations/entities working on slow onset events which could be included in the*

*database.*

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,  
Ocean and Climate Platform

**Date of submission**

*Indicates the date of submission of data*

8 April 2016

*The submitted information will be made available online at <<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/soe.aspx>>.*