Warsaw International Mechanism Executive Committee call for submission Action Area 6: Migration, Displacement and Human Mobility

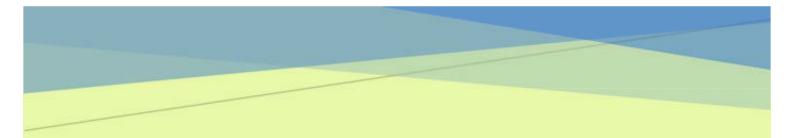
Submission from the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Action Area 6 of the initial two-year workplan focuses on enhancing the understanding of and expertise on how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility; and the application of such understanding and expertise.

To assist the Executive Committee in this task, we invite relevant organizations and experts to provide, by Monday 16 May 2016, knowledge, data and scientific information on both internal and cross-border migration, displacement and other forms of human mobility owing to factors related to climate change impacts, including in combination with other factors. We are particularly interested in gathering information on potential challenges and possible solutions. Your input may include:

. a) Information on factors that affect movements or decisions to stay of vulnerable populations (characteristics, underlying vulnerabilities, circumstances, where interventions may be needed to help particular groups) associated with the impacts of climate change in distinction to or in conjunction with impacts related to climate variability and non-climate related impacts;

. b) Policy, normative and institutional challenges and opportunities associated with minimizing, averting and addressing both internal and cross-border displacement, including in the context of alternative climate change trajectories (e.g. 1.5°C, 2°C, etc.) including challenges of communities not in a position to migrate (so called "trapped populations").





Purpose of this submission

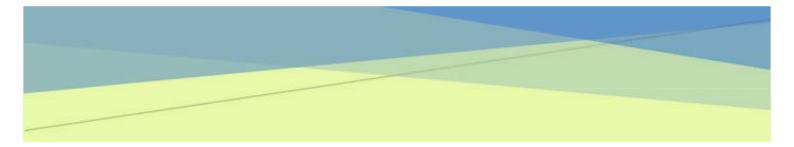
- i) Provide an overview of IOM acquired knowledge and expertise in relation to climate migration, climate displacement and human mobility;
- ii) Outline normative, institutional and operational challenges;
- iii) Build on the information shared throughout this submission to support the present and future work of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Why is IOM involved in the work of the EXCOM/WIM?

- IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization working on the overall spectrum of migration issues. The Organization's 162 Member States have explicitly mandated IOM to develop its policy, research and operational activities to respond to the needs expressed by States on the topic of climate migration and displacement.
- In that respect, IOM has amended its institutional structure to create a Division on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) based at the Geneva Headquarters. IOM has received support from its Member States and donor countries to contribute directly the implementation of the Paris Agreement through i) technical expertise support to the EXCOM/WIM and to the Taskforce on Displacement; ii) the implementation of capacity building programming for policymakers, including climate negotiators; and iii) the development of innovative field activities that could make a difference to vulnerable populations in the field and to governmental structures who have a mandate, inter-alia, on climate, environment, disaster risk reduction and migration.
- IOM has a long-standing history of working on climate migration and displacement issues since the early 1990s, and relies on its extensive body of knowledge and practices gathered from its policy work as well as from the numerous field projects conducted worldwide on this theme thanks to its wide operational reach.
- The mandate of the EXCOM/WIM is of great relevance to IOM's institutional and operational development as its plays a catalytic role to bring visibility to questions related to climate migration and displacement, encourage collaboration between relevant entities; notably i) within the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate where IOM plays a leading role and ii) the One UN common action on human mobility and climate that IOM is leading. The EXCOM/WIM also provides the institutional anchoring into the UNFCCC that IOM had been advocating in favor of since 2008.
- IOM seeks to share widely its expertise and good practices acquired within the past two decades on climate migration in order to support the current but also the future 5 years work programme of the EXCOM/WIM.





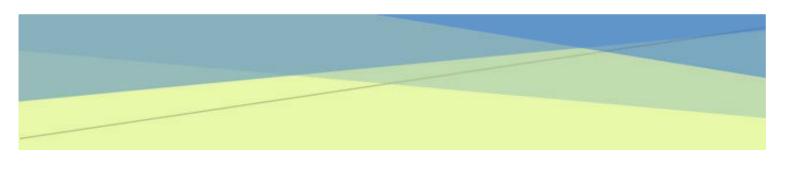
Key IOM resources



- IOM's Contributions to COP22 in English and French <u>http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/fr/node/831</u>
- IOM's Contributions to the "Year of Climate": COP21 in English, French and Spanish (2015) <u>http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/fr/node/576</u>
- IOM Submission to the UNFCCC (2016): Stocktaking of organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts
 www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/Template_soe_IOM_2016%20submitted.pdf
- IOM Submission to the UNFCCC (2016): Capacity-building under the Convention and Capacity- building under the Kyoto Protocol <u>http://bit.ly/1Wue8Ro</u>
- For all IOM submissions to UNFCCC: <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/human-mobility-unfccc</u>

Key IOM resources

- IOM has an Observer status to UNFCCC and contributed to the climate negotiations since 2008.
- IOM is also part of the ONE UN Climate Group and of the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and contributes via common submissions and events.
- IOM was a founding member of the Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CCEMA) a multistakeholder global partnership aiming to bring together actors representing a range of perspectives including environment, migration, development and humanitarian assistance with the objective to bring migration considerations to the environment, development, and climate change agendas and vice versa. CCEMA played a role in advocating for the integration of migration into climate texts negotiated after COP15. <u>http://www.ccemaportal.org/</u>



How is migration, displacement and human mobility related to climate change and what are the legal challenges in that area?

• IOM's definition of **climate migration encompasses** voluntary and forced movements. This definition is a working tool that is non normative and non-prescriptive.



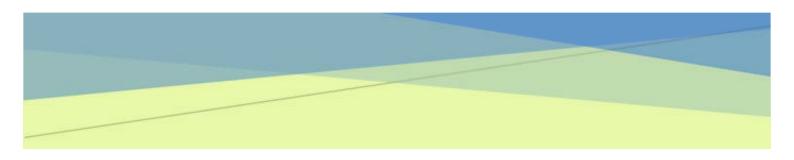
IOM Definition - Climate migration

The movement, within a State or across an international border, of a person or groups of persons, who are obliged to leave their habitual place of residence, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in their environment due to climate change (IOM 2016)

- IOM defines "environmentally displaced person" as "Persons who are displaced within their country of habitual residence or who have crossed an international border and for whom environmental degradation, deterioration or destruction is a major cause of their displacement, although not necessarily the sole one. This term is used as a less controversial alternative to environmental refugee or climate refugee [in the case of those displaced across an international border] that have no legal basis or raison d'être in international law, to refer to a category of environmental migrants whose movement is of a clearly forced nature" (IOM Glossary: Migration, Environment and Climate Change, 2014)
- IOM also uses the all-encompassing term of human mobility, defined as "Population mobility [in the context of environmental change] is probably best viewed as being arranged along a continuum ranging from totally voluntary migration [...] to totally forced migration" (IOM Glossary: Migration, Environment and Climate Change, 2014)

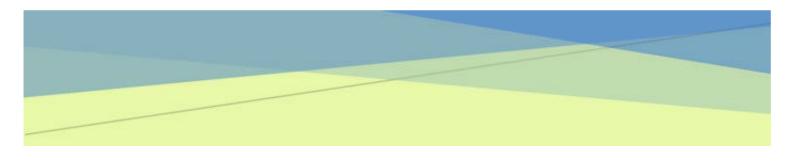
Where are the key challenges?

• The term of "climate refugee" is not applicable to the situations of persons choosing to or being forced to migrate due to climate change as these persons do not fall within the scope of the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention that govern the granting of the refugee status. Yet, there are no universally accepted definition of climate migration, displacement and human mobility.



- However it is important to remember that all migrants and displaced persons, including those who move in connection to climate change, are covered by other globally binding legal instruments, notably the whole body of law related to **human rights.**
- Finally, other bodies of international laws can be called upon to provide climate migrants the protection they need; including international humanitarian law, environmental law, international disaster response law and nationality law,
- Soft law instruments, such as the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; and regional instruments like the African Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), are also tools that support the protection of climate migrants.
- Another challenge is to integrate the notions of climate and environmental migration in national legislations. In that respect, IOM is advising a number of Member States, in their review of their national legislations, to include specific provisions related to the protection of climate migrants.



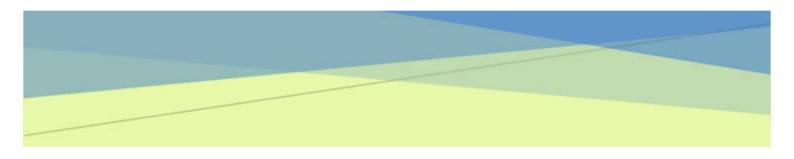


What knowledge exists on climate migration and displacement so far? (factors

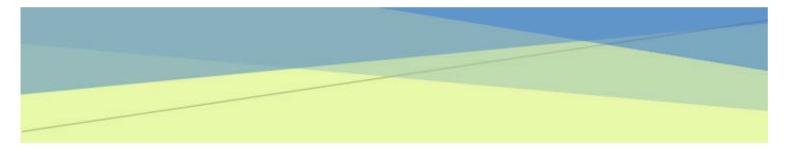
that affect movements or decisions to stay of vulnerable populations (characteristics, underlying vulnerabilities, circumstances, where interventions may be needed to help particular groups) associated with the impacts of climate change in distinction to or in conjunction with impacts related to climate variability and non-climate related impacts).

Research and Assessments

- We know that millions of people each year are displaced within their own countries by natural disasters, including disasters related to climate change: on average 21.5 million according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.
- But data related to migration and displacement in the context of slow onset events (land degradation, desertification, sea level rise etc.) and disasters (droughts) is lacking. However, considering that millions of people are living, migrating to and migrating from climate hotspots, it is likely that the numbers of people migrating in relation to climate change are high.
- Another important issue is the interrelation of factors in the decision to migrate: climate factors, in the majority of cases, are linked to economic, social, security matters that all together account for the decision to leave or stay in a climate hotspot.
- Factors that affect the decision to migrate or not migrate relate to socio-economic determinants, among others. Recent research on Haiti demonstrates that households where at least one member migrated are not among the most affluent, but are less vulnerable than those households that did not move. The evidence from Haiti thus clearly shows that migration can be a successful adaptation strategy by reducing vulnerability (Milan et al., forthcoming).
- Among the most vulnerable are trapped populations that do not have the means, be it social networks, financial resources or information, to move. Those "immobile" populations need policy attention to reduce disaster risks and increase resilience.
- New technological tools are used by **IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** exercises a system that allow to track and monitor displacement of populations immediately after a specific event but also on the mid and long term. The DTM can also help forecasting potential displacement and identifying protection risks. <u>www.globaldtm.info</u>



- In some cases where environmental degradation or disaster impacts are irreversible and lead to the area being uninhabitable, planned relocation should be considered as a last resort. Research conducted as part of the <u>"Migration, environment and climate change: Evidence for policy" (MECLEP) project</u> highlighted three main factors that explain the success or lack thereof of past relocations: 1. The type of relocation, preventive or reactive, and consequently the available timeframe. Relocating populations out of hazardous areas due to impending disasters increases the urgency and makes the process actually taking place more likely. 2. The political will to plan, finance and conduct the movement is critical. 3. Sustainable livelihood options for the relocated community are vital for its long-term success. Land tenure traditions, distance from the original place, and diversification of income-generating sources enable or impede long-term and sustainable solutions to adaptation.
- Overall, existing data points to the fact that migration and displacement linked to climate change are mostly of an internal and regional nature but it is important to consider countryspecific contexts as situations can widely differ from one country to another. For instance in the case of the Small Island Developing State of Haiti, displacement occurred within the country but also across international borders to the Dominican Republic and Brazil.
- One key recommendation is to take into account the need to target interventions towards the most vulnerable populations who in many cases are "trapped" immobile populations. These communities are often most affected by the effects of climate change and do not have coping mechanisms, such as migration, at their disposal. Secondly, policies and programmes aiming at decreasing displacement risks should focus on poor populations in particular, as they are overrepresented among those displaced, as studies on Haiti and the Philippines conducted by IOM and Brookings have shown.



Evidence and good practices from field programming and local populations

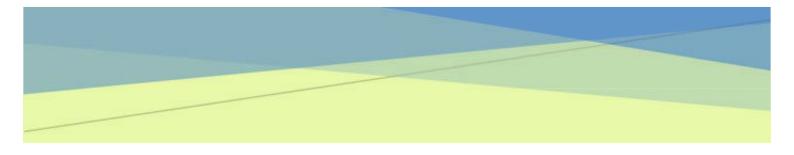
It is also of great importance to take stock of and take into account knowledge and practices acquired i) by local policymakers and practitioners when implementing programmes and projects in direct support to climate migrants; as well as ii) knowledge from local populations in relation to climate adaptation in order to better understand climate migration, displacement and human mobility and take relevant action.



- IOM Compendium of activities in Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (2013): <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/compendium-iom-activities-disaster-risk-reduction-and-resilience</u>
- Compendium of IOM's Activities in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment (2009): http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/compendium-ioms-activities-migration-climate-change-and-environment
- Indigenous Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction: Documenting Community Practices in Papua New Guinea (2015):

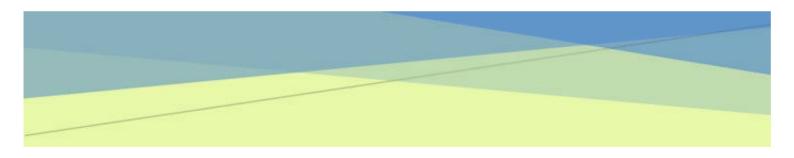
https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/default/files/PNG%20indigenous%20knowledge %20report%20print.pdf

The collection of migration, environment and climate change specialized publications gathers over 70 publications devoted to the topic: <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/iom-publications</u>



Where are the key gaps/potential solutions?

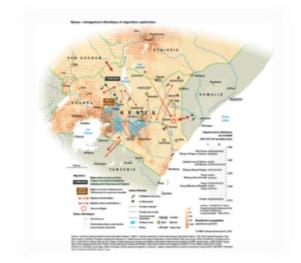
- Lack of comparable data: There is a need to prepare more national assessments on migration, environment and climate change and initiate comparable and longitudinal primary data collection exercises in national contexts to understand the interrelation between climate and migration, the patterns of climate migration and displacement, mapping vulnerable populations in affected areas, the volume of movements and possible projections of future migration occurrences. The climate migration assessments should also include a review of existing policy frameworks. IOM has recently created a new Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) in Berlin with specialist expertise in migration data.
- Lack of data that relates specifically to the Loss and Damage angle: There is a need to better understand what data and knowledge is most relevant in a context of a work programme on Loss and Damage; notably on issues such as how can migration represent a risk management and/or risk prevention strategy, what are the linkages to issues related to insurance etc.
- Inadequate data collection methodologies: The lack of comparable date worldwide is one critical obstacle to overcome. In that respect, IOM has, through its MECLEP project, produced a standardized methodology for data collection that has been applied in five countries (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Viet Nam, Kenya and Mauritius) to collect comparable data for the first time. It can be used for replication elsewhere. Innovative approaches for data collection include using unmanned aerial vehicles for sampling in areas where no other up-to-date and accessible data sources, like registers or census data, exist (see DTM) but can be scaled up.
- Disconnect between practice and policy: Lessons learned from good operational practices close to affected populations need to be better understood, analyzed and shared and key results need to be integrated. In that respect, IOM implements projects that seek to link research, policy and operations, through Technical Working Groups consisting of policymakers, civil society and academics.



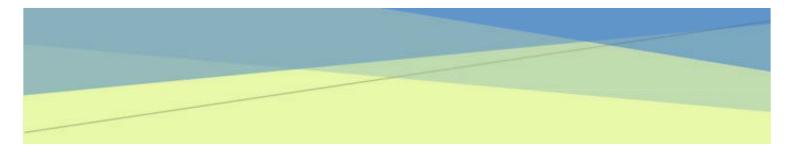


Key IOM resources - Global overviews:

- ✓ IOM Atlas of Environmental Migration (2016): http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/atlas-environmental-migration
- The poor pay the price, New research insights on human mobility, climate change and disasters (IOM 2015) : <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-volume-1-issue-</u><u>9-poor-pay-price-new-research-insights-human-mobility-climate</u>
- Data on Environmental Migration: How much do we know (IOM 2016):
 https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/data-environmental-migration-how-much-do-we-know
- ✓ IOM and Sciences Po Series: State of Environmental Migration (2011,2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/state-environmental-migration</u>







Key IOM resources - National and regional resources (2015-2016):

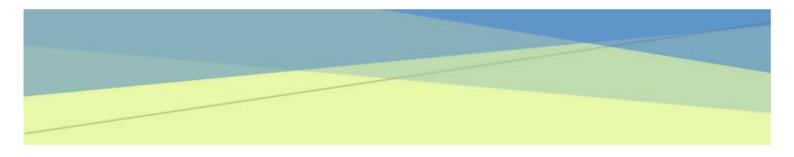


- Assessing the Evidence: IOM country and regional assessments on environmental and climate migration (2015-2016) in
 - ✓ Papua New Guinea <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-evidence-migration-</u> environment-and-climate-change-papua-new-guinea
 - ✓ Morocco (forthcoming)
 - ✓ Haiti <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/node/701</u>
 - ✓ Dominican Republic <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/node/798</u>
 - ✓ South Asia <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/projects/assessing-climate-change-environmental-degradation-and-migration-nexus-south-asia</u>
 - Vietnam <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/policy-brief-series-issue-1-livelihoods-under-stress-critical-assets-and-mobility-outcomes-mekong</u>
 - Cambodia <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/assessing-vulnerabilities-and-responses-environmental-changes-cambodia</u>

IOM International Development Fund

Since 2001 the IOM Development Fund/Developing Capacities in Migration Management has provided a unique global resource aimed at supporting developing Member States in their efforts to strengthen their migration management capacity. With over 500 projects implemented in more than 112 countries worldwide, the Fund has successfully addressed the capacity building needs of eligible Member States by providing essential "seed funding" for innovative projects.

Since 2007, IDF has funded projects with a migration, environment and climate change dimension in over 25 countries (for instance Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Senegal, Tajikistan, Vietnam etc.). Thanks to the fund innovative activities were piloted and their results can be used to further step up action on migration and climate. https://developmentfund.iom.int/



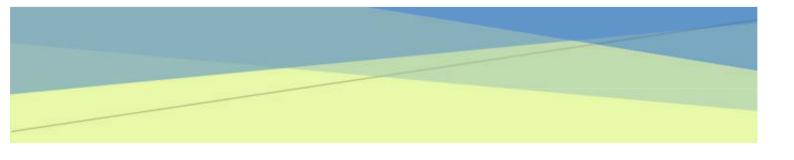
How to make actionable knowledge available?

• Existing knowledge and data, conceptualization efforts, policy developments and good practices should be made available to Parties to the Convention, and especially members of the EXCOM, in order to support further the inclusion of human mobility matters in the climate negotiations and the development of recommendations, notably under the Displacement Task Force, to steer the development of innovative programmes of work in support to vulnerable populations

Capacity Building

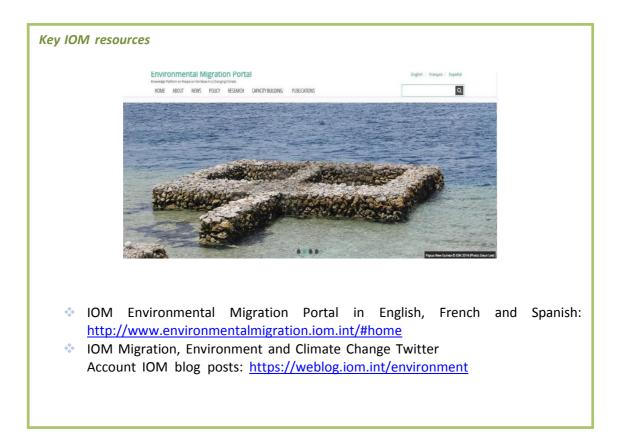
- Capacity building for policymakers is the key to integrate climate migration, displacement and human mobility to national and regional policymaking processes. IOM's series of capacitybuilding trainings, targeting mid to senior level policymakers and practitioners active in climate change negotiations and environmental areas, seek to provide participants with a basic understanding of migration, environment and climate change concepts and terminology as well as concrete policy development tools that can support national and regional policymaking processes.
- IOM has trained over 300 policymakers in over 40 countries. For more information on the training workshops, please visit: <u>www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/training-workshops</u>

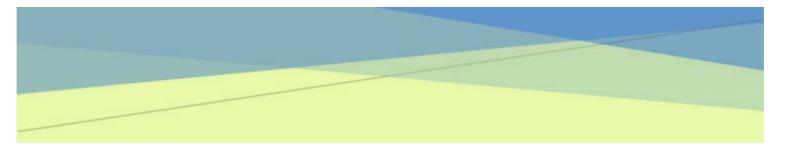




Information sharing

• Support to capacity building for policymakers can be enhanced by effective communication and information sharing strategies that allow easy access to wealth of resources from a variety of actors working on climate migration, displacement and human mobility issues:





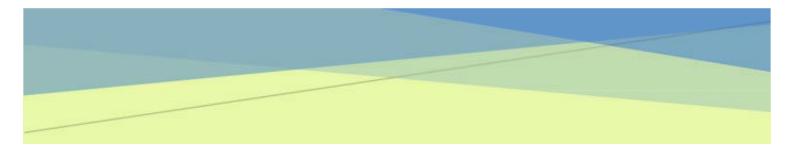
Policy, normative and institutional challenges and opportunities

Challenges: Enhancing policy coherence

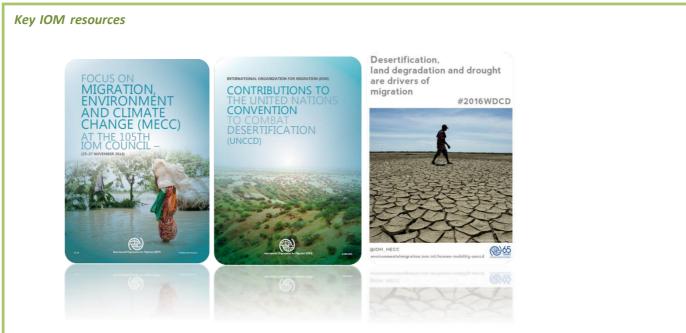
- More and more countries have policies at national levels that take into account climate migration issues, but more needs to be done to work across policy silos and integrate climate in migration policies and vice versa, migration in climate policies.
- There is a need to better link the climate and migration communities and ensure that findings and recommendations feed into relevant policy processes from both sides to ensure policy coherence. In particular, there is a need to ensure that the work of the EXCOM/WIM is taken into account in other forum, notably the Sustainable Development Goals, the 19th September Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and IOM's internal policy instruments, such as the annual IOM Council and the IOM Standing Committee on Programme and Finance.
- It is important to make more use of regional policy forums to discuss and take action on climate migration, as climate migration is a highly contextualized phenomenon that call for differentiated action at regional and national levels. In particular, it would be of benefit to link the EXCOM/WIM work to Regional Consultative Processes (RCP) on migration taking place worldwide.
- There are no dedicated funding channels devoted to financing actions related to climate migration, hence the importance for climate-related funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, to support innovative actions in this pioneering programme of work.

Opportunities for action

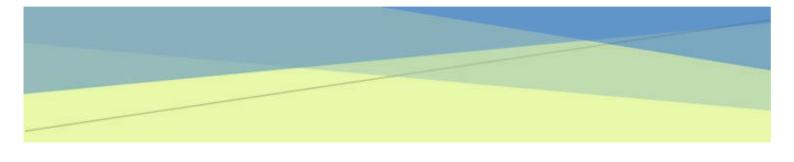
- There is a strong willingness at the international, regional and local levels to work on climate migration questions and increased collaboration between agencies, such as efforts conducted through the Advisory Group on Human Mobility and Climate, the UN High Level Committee on Programme and Finance and IOM's multi-stakeholders forums.
- Issues related to climate migration and displacement have been integrated in global policy processes of relevance such as the Nansen Initiative, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the Sendai Framework, the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and discussions are opened in forums such as the sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-2), and UN-Habitat.



• Intergovernmental entities such as IOM are dedicating expertise, resources and making use of its operational reach (480 field offices worldwide) to take action on climate migration close to populations affected.



- IOM Paper on Migration, Environment and Climate Change for the 2016 IOM Standing Committee on Programme and Finance in English, French and Spanish (forthcoming)
- IOM Paper on Migration, Environment and Climate Change for the 2016 IOM Standing Committee on Programme and Finance in English, French and Spanish (<u>https://governingbodies.iom.int</u>)
- Focus on Migration, Environment and Climate Change at the 2014 IOM Council : <u>http://environmentalmigration.iom.int/focus-migration-environment-and-climate-change-mecc- 105th-iom-council</u>
- IOMs' contributions to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UCCD) in English and French: <u>http://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int/contributions-united-nations-convention-combatdesertification-unccd</u>
- IOM Berlin Global Migration Data Analysis Centre: <u>http://iomgmdac.org</u>

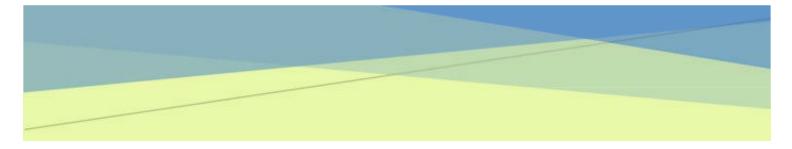


IOM's Recommendations for the development of the WIM 5 years' work plan

- Encourage the collection of comparative and longitudinal data collection exercises to collect better displacement and migration data, internally and across border.
- Support the development of capacity building for policymakers on climate migration and displacement, as well as efforts to build local capacities (mayors, local practitioners and policymakers, local migrant communities and local populations who are the voices of those most vulnerable and have much knowledge and practices to contribute to efforts to fight climate change).
- Encourage the development of local pilot projects to turn EXCOM's work into practice and support activity development in the field.
- Continue efforts to build upon the EXCOM's catalytic role in terms of climate migration and displacement, through the strengthening of channels of collaboration in the long term, including with the migration policy community.

ANNEXES

- Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy Project Outputs 2014 2016
- IOM Publication Flyer Environmental Migration Series



Annex 1:

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) Outputs (2014-2016) as of May 2016

Project countries: Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam

1. Research

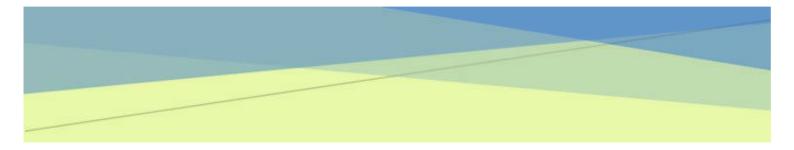
- National assessment reports, review of existing evidence and policies on migration, environment and climate change
 - Dominican Republic (Diagnóstico de Informaciones para Políticas Públicas: Migración, Medioambiente y Cambio Climático en la República Dominicana; Spanish)
 - Haiti (Défis, Enjeux et Politiques: Migrations, Environnement et Changements Climatiques en Haiti, French)
 - <u>Papua New Guinea (Assessing the Evidence: Migration, Environment and Climate</u> <u>Change in Papua New Guinea, English)</u>
- <u>Glossary: Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP)</u>
 <u>English, French and Spanish</u>
- Methodology paper: How can migration support adaptation? Different options to test the migration-adaptation nexus
- Study trips in six project countries conducted (2014 2015)
- Researcher training workshops (2015-2016) and household surveys in six project countries

2. Capacity Building

- First ever <u>Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Training manual (forthcoming,</u> 2016)
- <u>4 policymaker training workshops</u>
 - Papua New Guinea, October 2015
 - Kenya, August 2015
 - Dominican Republic, July 2015
 - Haiti, July 2015

3. Dialogue and Knowledge Sharing

- Environmental Migration Portal: *Knowledge Platform on People on the Move in a Changing Climate* (www.environmentalmigration.iom.int)
 - English, French and Spanish
 - Over 500 entries on the online research database
- Environmental Migration Portal Newsletter (English; 14 issues; over 1,100 subscribers)
 - : April 2016 issue; All past issues
- : Quarterly Newsletters in <u>French</u> and <u>Spanish</u> (2016) International Organization for Migration (IOM) Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division May 2016



Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Policy Brief Series: 15 policy briefs published

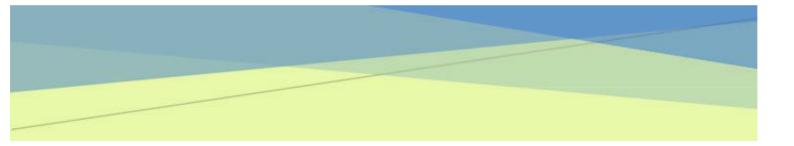
- 5 infographics and 6 regional maps published
- Data Briefing: Data on environmental migration: How much do we know?
- UNU-Nansen policy brief: Mainstreaming migration into national adaptation plans

Forthcoming

- Three national assessment reports (Kenya, Mauritius, Viet Nam)
- Six country survey reports
- Final comparative report

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Policy Brief Series

- 1. Environmental migration and displacement in Azerbaijan: Highlighting the need for research and policies (Issue 4 | Vol. 2) (English, Azerbaijani)
- Environmental migration in Morocco: Stocktaking, challenges and opportunities (Issue 3 | Vol. 2) (English, French)
- 3. Migrants and natural disasters: National law, policy and practice in the Americas (Issue 2 | Vol. 2)
- 4. The role of land policies and laws for environmental migration in Kenya (Issue 1 | Vol. 2)
- Using migration to develop resilience against climate change in Mauritius (Issue 11 | Vol. 1)
- 6. Climate change and climate policy induced relocations: A challenge for social justice -Recommendations of the Bielefeld Consultation (Issue 10 | Vol. 1)
- 7. The poor pay the price, New research insights on human mobility, climate change and disasters (Issue 9 | Vol. 1)
- 8. When do households benefit from migration? (Issue 8 | Vol. 1)
- 9. Some policies that might influence the relationship between environment and migration in the Dominican Republic (Issue 7 | Vol. 1)
- 10. Relocation as an adaptation strategy to environmental stress (Issue 6 | Vol. 1)
- 11. Migration as adaptation? (Issue 5 | Vol. 1)
- 12. Returning home after Fukushima (Issue 4 | Vol. 1)
- 13. Migration and Natural Resource Scarcity within the Context of Climate Variability in West Africa (Issue 3 | Vol. 1)
- 14. Remittances and disaster: Policy implications for disaster risk management (Issue 2 | Vol. 1)
- 15. Livelihoods Under Stress: Critical Assets and Mobility Outcomes in the Mekong Delta, Viet Nam (Issue 1 | Vol. 1



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International Organization for Migration (IOM) Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division May 2016