Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC): Regional capacity-building workshop in the Eastern Caribbean

Castries, Saint Lucia
14-15 March 2019
Summary of key results and recommendations

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a regional capacity building workshop on Migration, Environment and Climate Change for policymakers in the Eastern Caribbean region. The workshop was organized on behalf of GIZ under the BMZ-funded Global Programme “Sustainable Management of Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change” (HMCCC), with the support of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and building on IOM’s research, policy and operational experience in the area of migration, environment and climate change since the 1990s, and its capacity building programme.

Participants

The workshop brought together about 25 participants from 10 Eastern Caribbean States and Overseas Territories1: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Martinique, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The workshop also gathered regional organizations and institutions (the OECS, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Public Health Agency, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the University of West Indies) leading on migration or climate change work in the Eastern Caribbean. The workshop also benefited from the contributions of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and experts from GIZ.

Workshop objectives and contents

The objectives of this regional workshop were i) to build the capacity of policymakers and practitioners to factor migration into environmental and climate change adaptation policies and to take into account environmental change in migration management policies at the regional and national level; and ii) to provide an opportunity for policymakers across key institutional sectors to exchange expertise and discuss possible collaboration and solutions to address challenges related to migration, environment and climate change.

Participants had the opportunity to:

1. Strengthen their understanding of key links between environmental factors (including climate change and disasters) and human mobility (migration, displacement and planned relocation) based on the latest evidence and state of research on this topic, and identify key related challenges at global, regional and national level;

2. Learn about practices and experiences from other countries, as well as possible practical, legal and policy measures, tools that could be applied to address these challenges, including existing international guidance that can help to design policies and measures to address challenges around human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters;

1 Participants from Overseas Territories were invited by OECS.
3. Identify possible action and opportunities for collaboration between key stakeholders at the regional level in managing migration and displacement in the context of disasters and climate change within the region.

The contents of the workshop were based on IOM’s *Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Training Manual (Facilitator’s Guide)*\(^2\) and IOM’s research, policy and operational expertise in this thematic area at regional and global level.

**Main outcomes**

The workshop constituted a first step towards strengthening the understanding among key national institutions in the Eastern Caribbean of some of the challenges associated with the migration-environment nexus in the region, and towards considering possible ways forward to address them.

Participants identified three priorities related to migration in the context of disasters and climate change in the Eastern Caribbean, the management of which could be strengthened:

- Displacement due to sudden-onset disasters
- Data sharing and management
- Regional coordination

Participants also identified several key challenges and areas of action that national institutions in the Caribbean need to prioritize in order to better address human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. These include the need to strengthen evidence and data on the migration-environment nexus at national and regional level, to strengthen capacities and expertise to address environmental migration, and to improve coordination and collaboration between relevant institutions and stakeholders.

In the course of the workshop, participants discussed ideas on how to advance on each of these areas of action, and many participants indicated their interest to continue working on this topic in closer collaboration with partners at the national and regional levels.

The initial findings and inputs gathered from participants during the workshop will be taken into account to inform future IOM and GIZ programming in the region.

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DAY 1

Opening session and introduction to the workshop

Speakers at the opening session:

- **Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel**, Deputy Chief, Sustainable Development and Environment Officer, Government of Saint Lucia
- **Mr. Crispin d’Auvergne**, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, OECS Commission
- **Ms. Louenda Georges** on behalf of Dr. Horst Michael Vogel, Head of Programme, GIZ Saint Lucia
- **Ms. Dina Ionesco**, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM HQ
During the opening remarks, speakers emphasized the long tradition of migration and the increasing impacts of both slow and sudden onset events on internal and international migration in the Eastern Caribbean. The 2017 Hurricane Season had a strong impact on the islands of Barbuda and Dominica, affecting services and livelihoods and fostering displacement.

The discussions on migration and climate change have become more relevant and a reality for OECS countries. Both at the internal level but also for regional integration and in the framework of international discussions, the relationship between migration and climate change is crucial and needs to be addressed. Movements between OECS islands, minors on the move and the potential lack of documents are issues that are important to be considered when looking at potential environmental migration flows. Climate change may also have an impact on port and air transportation systems in the OECS, which obviously represent crucial infrastructures in the islands (UNCTAD, Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS, 2016). It is important not to think about this issue at a country by country level but through a regional approach.

The aim of IOM’s programme on capacity building is not necessarily to develop capacities but to bring together existing initiatives and approaches, enhance advocacy and create a common language among different stakeholders from various countries and agencies. IOM’s overall objectives on MECC are to support populations to avoid forced migration, assist environmental migrants on the move and think about migration as a potential option to address climate change challenges.

In the last part of the introductory session, participants were invited to introduce themselves and identify their key expectations.

In terms of expectations, participants expressed their intent to better understand the migration-climate change dynamics, including the concrete drivers of migration related to climate change, exchange information on experiences of internal migration related to climate change, understand regional needs to facilitate dignified migration as a response to climate change stresses as well as sudden onset events, and identify data sources, metrics and evidence to better integrate environmental migration in planning. Participants also requested information on potential initiatives and policy development options to better understand migration after the impact of hazards and respond to the needs of migrants. The need for planned relocation and evacuation mechanisms and procedures also appeared as an issue to be prioritized during the workshop. At the regional level, it would be interesting to explore cooperation between countries to address this issue.
The first session of the workshop focused on key concepts related to migration, environment and climate change, presenting terms and definitions and existing terminological debates. While migration linked to the environment is not a new phenomenon, there is a new scale of displacement worldwide linked to sudden-onset events as well as slow processes and a renewed attention to the migration, environment and climate change nexus.

The session discussed different concepts important to address the MECC nexus. Terminology is important as it defines needs, rights and who has the obligation to uphold them. Participants discussed their definition of what migration means. According to the IOM definition, it encompasses any kind of movement of people, both internal and international, regardless of its duration, composition or causes. Participants noted that the purposes of migration may not be the same as the outcome of the process and deliberated on what can be considered the distance of a journey to be considered migration. Rural to urban movements are considered migration, but short distances, in cases of disaster displacement for instance, may be more difficult to assess.
Climate migration has been defined non-normatively since the inclusion of migration in the Paris Agreement. The definition of disaster displacement comes from the Nansen Initiative Protection Agenda. The planned relocation definition insists on and underlines the importance of the “planned” aspect of the process of resettling persons in a new location. Human mobility is used, stemming from UNFCCC documents, as a general term to encompass migration, displacement and planned relocation.

This session also provided an overview of different patterns, characteristics and outcomes of human mobility in the context of environmental change in terms of duration, destination, and voluntariness, highlighting the context-specific and multi-causal nature of migration. Participants identified different sudden and slow onset processes which have affected the Caribbean and impacted human mobility and the typology of these events was discussed.

The risk of disaster induced displacement has raised since the 1990s. More data and evidence are required to assess the impact of slow onset processes on mobility. Complexity arises as well due to the context-specificity of environmental migration and the influence of perceptions. Participants highlighted the importance of land ownership in influencing migration-related decisions.

The session presented some of the key challenges associated with environmental migration, particularly when forced. The forced angle of environment migration was discussed at length using examples from the region that put into perspective the continuum between forced and voluntary movements, such as populations moving before a disaster occurs, evacuation procedures, and planned relocation.

The session also reiterated that migration can be a positive strategy for livelihood diversification and for adaptation to climate change. However, evidence and data are still required on many aspects of the migration, environment and climate change nexus for the design of adequate measures.

**Session 2: Global Policy Landscape**

**Content:** Presentation of key global policy instruments on migration and climate change/environment which have progressively included environmental migration issues. Discuss potential entry points for integration of environmental migration issues in the short and medium term into the implementation phase of global policies.

**Facilitator:** Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoël, Thematic Specialist, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM NY
Ms. Dina Ionesco, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM HQ
Following the introduction to key concepts around the migration-environment nexus, the second part of the session provided an overview of main global policy processes where the issue has been addressed: the global climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Significant progress in advancing this topic on these two policy agendas has been achieved in 2018, leading to the elaboration and endorsement of recommendations to address migration and displacement in the context of climate change and disasters.

IPCC reports have played an instrumental role in bringing the migration lens into climate discussions. Migration was first concretely anchored in the Cancun Adaptation Framework at COP16, then in the Loss and Damage Framework agreed at COP18 in Doha, which called to address how the impacts of climate change are affecting patterns of migration, displacement and human mobility. More recently, the Paris Agreement established a Task Force on Displacement (TFD) under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, and the recommendations of the TFD were put forth to States and endorsed at COP24 in 2018.

Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel of Saint Lucia provided insights from working in the Executive Committee of the WIM on Loss and Damage representing States. She highlighted the relatively quickly progress made on human mobility under the Loss and Damage Framework and outlined the need for practical guidelines for States to advance further on addressing human mobility. There is a need to better mainstream migration into adaptation discussions as well, which can help in accessing funding to address human mobility in the context of climate change.

On the migration side, disasters and environmental change are also acknowledged as drivers of migration. Throughout the negotiation process of the GCM, the language on environmental migration was retained and resulted in a sub-paragraph on environmental migration within Objective 2. The GCM statements call for building bridges with the UNFCCC, as well as considering state-led initiatives such as the Nansen Protection Agenda and its follow up initiative the Platform on Disaster Displacement, as well as the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative (MICIC). The GCM also highlights the importance of working at the regional level, relevant to this workshop and the Eastern Caribbean region.

A few other relevant policy processes and initiatives were mentioned during the session, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which also calls for measures to avert, minimize and address disaster displacement; the Sustainable Development Goals; Human Rights Council Resolutions; the Urban Agenda; and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Questions on the linkages between these discussions and security issues were raised.

The session concluded by highlighting the need for policy coherence and coordination across diverse policy domains (migration management, environment, climate change, development, humanitarian policy) to ensure a comprehensive approach to this complex phenomenon and emphasized that policy approaches must be tailored to regional, national and local contexts and needs. The clear importance of integrating environmental migration into all relevant areas and sectors was stated, rather than seeing it as a stand-alone issue to be addressed.
Session 3: Key regional and national frameworks

Content: Presentation of key regional and national frameworks adopted in the Eastern Caribbean and regional policy discussions of relevance to human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters

Facilitator: Mr. Pablo Escribano, Regional Thematic Specialist, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM RO San José

This session presented a regional overview of national and regional frameworks that are of relevance to human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. Caribbean countries are especially concerned by environmental migration due to their exposure to climate impacts. The Caribbean region has been strongly impacted by recurring natural hazards in recent years. Looking forward, slow-onset events such as sea-level rise are projected to have heavy impacts on infrastructures – this is particularly important in a context where many livelihoods are tied to the tourism and agriculture sectors. Another important dimension relates to urbanisation. Caribbean cities are becoming larger and are often located in coastal areas, making them vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The ensuing discussion with participants focused on the difficulty to determine exactly how many people migrate internationally or internally in the aftermath of a disaster or in the context of slow-onset environmental degradation. It is even more difficult to understand how many people come back to their areas of origin.

Different Caribbean countries have approached environmental migration from a vulnerability standpoint in their documents and strategies. For instance, the Dominica Second National Communication to the UNFCCC makes references to the heavy impacts of hurricanes on migration and states that prospects for the future sustainable development of human settlements will be linked to climatic and non-climatic factors. The Grenada first National Communication to the UNFCCC raises the question of relocating population to higher grounds to cope with storms impacts. Countries like Saint Lucia have also approached environmental migration from a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) perspective.

Participants highlighted a host of issues specific to the Caribbean such as the competition for resources, national procedures that can be exceptionally activated in case of emergencies, removal of restrictions to migrate for third-country nationals (like Haitian migrants to Dominica and other countries), as well as consular measures that are applied or could be applied in events of disasters.
Session 4: Legal Perspectives

**Content:** Provide overview of key legal discussions related to environmental migration

**Facilitator:**
- Ms. Dina Ionesco, Head of Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM HQ
- Ms. Mariam Traore Chazalnoël, Thematic Specialist, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, IOM NY

This session provided an overview of legal perspectives on environmental migration. The discussions focused on the lack of international frameworks specifically dealing with environmental migration, and the difficulty of drafting a legal instrument applicable to environmental migrants. Participants agreed that the process is challenging due to the complexity of the phenomenon, and the lack of one common definition of migration.

A one-size fits all approach would be too loose in terms of obligations and insufficient to consider the diversity of the phenomenon in different regions and national contexts. Discussions led to identifying examples of countries who have tried to draft frameworks for people claiming “climate refugee” status. Participants agreed on the difficulties and the risks associated with amending the Geneva Convention as it may weaken its content. Some subtleties and examples were mentioned: after the Haiti earthquake some Haitians were granted refugee status based on conditions created after the earthquake which constituted a form of persecution.

The session also discussed the application of existing frameworks to protect environmental migrants. Human rights law should be applied in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and States have obligations in this regard. Key rights to be upheld include the right to life and physical and mental integrity; right to health, livelihood and work, right to shelter or a housing, procedural rights, etc. Most importantly, the right to freedom of movement and return, and the principle of non-refoulement should be applied.

Aside from human rights law, environmental law, international humanitarian law and nationality law are also key to enable adequate responses. The application of these legal frameworks won’t necessarily grant a special status to environmental migrants but can enable the development of effective measures. Participants noted that exercising these rights could be a challenge, especially in events of mass evacuations or mass displacement, which put a constraint on the response of States. The decisions made under the UNFCCC also provide scope for identifying responses and assistance.

To translate legal frameworks into operations, some participants noted the need to build the capacities of States to respond to disasters and related displacement. Participants also discussed if migration could be an adaptation strategy in the region. Saint Lucia’s national adaptation plans for instance do not consider migration an adaptation strategy. This remains a sensitive issue as it is challenging to directly identify climate change as a migration driver.
DAY 2, 15 March 2019

Participants engaging in recap activity

Presentation: Caribbean Migration Consultations

Presenter: Mr. Brendan Tarnay, Sub-Regional Coordinator, Caribbean, IOM RO San José

The first session of the second day focused on the initiatives undertaken within the Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC), which are relevant to the MECC nexus. In particular, the CMC launched a series of national assessments for beneficiary countries to evaluate different aspects of migration governance, including disasters and natural emergencies.

The CMC has started developing a plan of action and is now assessing the security and economic impacts of free movement in the Caribbean. The OECS free movement is more developed than the CSME but at a moment where the CSME is considering deepening integration, evidence is required on the impact of these protocols.

Participants pointed out the need to consider not only the security and economic impacts of free movement but also the social and cultural effects of these regimes. The needs assessments pointed out that countries are interested in having more evidence on immigration and free mobility regardless of their participation in free movement protocols. There is indeed a need to identify which protocols apply to migration movements as countries aim at protecting their borders. The experience of movement in the Caribbean for the Cricket World Cup raised interesting questions in terms of migration management and the approach of Caribbean countries.
A series of events are planned within the CMC, including a Caribbean conference on human mobility in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. The CMC is a State-led process and its Secretariat is looking for countries interested in hosting events and engaging in thematic areas.

Participants asked about the potential implications of migration of extra-regional migrants in the Caribbean’s social and economic systems, highly dependent on the tourism industry. Larger countries in the Caribbean, such as Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, may have a strong impact on interregional mobility, especially for smaller SIDS. There are certain concerns related to strong influxes of migrants from larger CARICOM countries to smaller parties. The experiences of other regions, such as the Pacific, can be brought into the picture to extract useful practices and initiatives. The current scenario related to GCM implementation and events such as the UN SG Climate Summit provide an opportunity for Caribbean countries to highlight their needs and challenges in this area.

Session 5: Existing data, guidance and tools on Environmental Migration

**Content:** Provide overview of existing guidelines and tools to date that is applicable to migration in the context of disasters and climate change

**Facilitator:** Ms. Sieun Lee, Programme Officer, Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, Headquarters, IOM

The session introduced participants to a series of guidance and tools available that are applicable to environmental migration. These tools include for instance the TransRe Guidebook to Integrate Migration and Translocality into Community-Based Adaptation, which is mostly based on Asian examples and a focus on agriculture that could be useful in a Caribbean setting.

IOM is working on supplementary guidelines on integrating human mobility into National Adaptation Plans, to support countries in integrating mobility in NAP preparation processes. In terms of disasters, available tools include the MICIC guidelines on protecting migrants in countries experiencing conflicts or natural disasters as well as the Words into Action guidelines on disaster displacement related to the Sendai Framework. Mass evacuations are addressed in the MEND Guide for planning mass evacuations in contexts of natural disasters. Gender can be approached through the IASC guidelines for integrating Gender Base Violence (GBV) in protection approaches. The Toolbox on Planned Relocations is a practical tool which includes a checklist approach to guide states in planned relocation processes.

In terms of data, IOM has its own Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), initially developed to identify displacement and the needs of displaced persons and evolved into a more reliable system to track mobility. IDMC collects data on disaster displacement, including IOM’s DTM and States information, not only from a quantitative standpoint but also including more qualitative case figures and the identification of longer trends.
The Environmental Migration Portal has been established by IOM as a one-stop shop on environmental migration issues. The Portal includes a research database with available information searchable by country, including literature and evidence from IOM’s Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy project. The policy brief series and country profiles are also available at the Portal.

**Presentation:** Protection for persons moving across borders in the context of disasters. A Guide to Effective Practices for RCM Member Countries.

*Presenter:* Mr. Juan Carlos Mendez, Regional Advisor, Platform on Disaster Displacement

As an example of tools and guidance available on migration in the context of disasters, the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) Regional Advisor for the Americas presented a guide developed for the Regional Conference on Migration (RCM) countries. The PDD has approached the Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs) as useful forums of discussions to address protection issues highlighted in the Nansen Agenda. There are three active RCPs in the Americas, including the RCM, South American Conference on Migration (SACM), and CMC.

Governments of RCM Member Countries decided to tackle the issue of cross border displacement due to disasters developing guidelines of effective practices. The Guidelines are not binding but include options for countries to better protect people displaced across borders or living abroad when sudden-onset disaster strikes. The guidelines draw from applied practices of cross-border displacement related to disasters in Latin America. Countries have applied immigration discretion on humanitarian grounds to admit displaced persons, but also in certain cases regular migration categories and even refugee law or protection under human rights law have been used.

SACM decided to go a step beyond and develop more robust and progressive regional Guidelines. The scope is broader and includes slow onset related human mobility as well as references to return migration. The document is under finalization.

In the Caribbean, there is a great opportunity to foster cooperation between countries in a similar manner. A first regional consultation under by the CMC will take place in June 2019 organized by PDD and IOM in Trinidad and Tobago. There are also suggestions to develop early warning systems in the Caribbean for mass migration flows and develop common language on these matters.
Participants highlighted the potential occurrences of trafficking for people affected by disasters due to their vulnerability and the loss of documents. The RCM guide suggests useful biometric systems to better address this issue but does not tackle trafficking as a separate issue.

**Case studies and examples from the region**

The session offered three case studies from the region, each illustrating how human mobility is considered in national frameworks.

**Antigua and Barbuda: Climate Risk Management and Migration**

*Presenter: Mr. Sherrod James, National office of Disaster Services*

Antigua and Barbuda experienced mass evacuation following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Several issues were identified as priorities during these processes: transport logistics to move relief items to public shelters housing displaced populations, widespread patterns of micro-settlements of shelters housing displaced populations, increase in migration of undocumented and unaccompanied youth from Dominica and of children from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Dominica.

The profile of incoming migrants evidenced a need to ensure that adequate amenities for education were provided. The hurricane response was coordinated through a platform of working groups aligned with the UN Cluster System, that were co-chaired by local and international agencies. As part of the disaster and recovery response, displaced persons were included in operations such as the damage assessment process.

Several mobility-related issues were taken into consideration: needs assessments for facilitating access to education for children displaced from neighboring islands, return intention survey conducted through IOM DTM, facilitation of electoral participation for out of island voting, accommodation for extended stays. Several measures were taken to support returns, including free travel facilities offered to displaced people, distribution of repair supplies, rehabilitation of basic services and reconstruction activities to facilitate mobility of people out of the shelters.

**Dominica: The Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD) ACT 2018**

*Presenter: Mr. Miguel Shillingford, Forester/Environment, Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal*

The presentation introduced the CREAD ACT 2018, whose ambition is to define the measures needed to ensure that the nation becomes climate resilient in all sectors. Dominica has made several international commitments, notably under the UNFCCC – the CREAD is one way to meet these commitments. The CREAD operates through a 4-year operational business plan. The key objectives of the CREAD Act are: to promote swift and cost-effective recovery from climate-related disasters; to ensure that any physical and other infrastructure damaged or destroyed during a climate-related disaster is reconstructed or restored to a state that is better than before; to ensure that Dominica will be more resilient to hazards and better able to respond to climate-related disasters; and to assist the public and private sectors and civil society to be better equipped to manage and recover from climate-related disasters.
**Saint Lucia: Snapshot of St. Lucia’s national framework**

Presenter: Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel, Deputy Chief Sustainable Development and Environment Officer/Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development

Saint Lucia represents SIDS at the UNFCCC Excom. The Excom has a specific workstream on human mobility but all workstreams are relevant to the mobility dimensions. Finance, technology and capacity building are key dimensions of technical support needed for UNFCCC parties to implement the recommendations of the Excom drawn from the Task Force on Displacement, including the one pertaining to the integration of climate migration issues in national policies and legislations.

The Saint Lucia Draft Climate Change Bill of 2018 articulates a comprehensive approach to climate change, including mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. This provides a hook to include mobility issues. Saint Lucia has also developed cross-sectoral adaptation measures that provide an entry point to address human mobility.

The NAP Chapter on Loss and Damage from Saint Lucia does not consider migration a viable adaptation strategy, but mobility is introduced in the limits to adaptation section with the objective to reduce the need for unwanted human mobility, provide support for displaced persons, and empower migrants. The Third National Communication to the UNFCCC recommends that Masters and Bachelors’ degrees include climate change studies, including a focus on migration, displacement and human mobility. The National Country document for DRR (2014) also refers to the need to reduce pressure of migration to high risk areas and the need to reduce displacement.

**Group work 1: Identifying challenges and opportunities**

In this exercise, participants identified three priorities linked to environmental migration at the regional level, as well as associated challenges and opportunities in addressing the priorities at both national and regional levels. Below are the three priority areas and some of the key opportunities and challenges identified.

**Collecting and Managing Data and Evidence on Environmental Migration**

**Opportunities**

- Regional framework agreements and harmonized protocol for data sharing
- Development of contingency plan
- Training and building capacities
- Leveraging educational institutional

**Challenges:**

- Informal ports of entry and exit
- Limited internal communication
- Technical issues
• Cost of data collection
• Analyzing data for decision making

**Addressing Sudden-onset Disaster related Mobility**

**Opportunities**

• Informed policies can be developed
• Migrants can acquire new skills
• Opportunities to better plan for reconstructed structures

**Challenges**

• Family separations
• Inadequate shelters
• Coordination systems overwhelmed and inadequate
• Undocumented migrants with lost ID papers
• Criminal activities within the shelters
• Lack of psychosocial resilience

**Regional coordination**

**Opportunities**

• Existing MOUs with carriers (like ferry companies)
• Existence of regional intergovernmental platforms with sub-regional offices with specific mandates that can support coordination
• Close proximity of the islands: information can be collected in other islands and be shared in case of breakdown of communication
• Existence of regional disaster coordination structures
• Training of first responders
• Possibility to use renewable energy sources

**Challenges**

• Limited human capacities
• Lack of political will at national level
• Fragility of communication networks: cell phones and landlines affected
• Providing food, energy and security
• Difficult to mobilize all sectors at once
• Family separation
• Language barriers
During the discussion, it was highlighted that DRR and CCA approaches should be connected and that disaster responses should be integrated into a wider framework looking at long term impacts of climate change and the links to migration.

**Group Activity 2: Developing a regional action plan**

**Content:** Develop two to three specific objectives of the action plan and priority activities

**Facilitator:** Ms. Sieun Lee, Programme Officer, Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Division, Headquarters, IOM

The participants agreed to focus on two of the priority areas identified in the previous session and were divided in two groups: one on data and evidence and the other on regional coordination.

**Data and evidence**

The vision statement for this group was to develop a harmonised, robust and integrated system that effectively collects data to support policy planning and management of environmental migration at national and regional levels. The specific objectives were to: 1) collect data on environmental migration at national and regional level; 2) enhance data sharing mechanisms; 3) effectively apply data for policy development.

Participants identified as a priority activity to conduct national and regional data needs assessments to standardize data collection systems. Enhancing data collection systems could require setting up new sources of information and using information metrics from various fields, including climate, human mobility and vulnerability assessments. Caribbean countries could require support from international organizations to strengthen their data collection and processing systems, both in terms of hardware and local capacities. The engagement of regional entities would be required to promote data sharing between the different countries.

**Regional coordination**

The group identified as a vision to establish a regional coordination mechanism for effective management of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change. Specific objectives identified on regional coordination were: 1) To streamline roles and responsibilities of key regional players; 2) To integrate considerations of human mobility in relevant existing policies, strategies and frameworks; 3) To enhance existing national repository systems for regional coordination of data management systems.

Priority activities suggested were stakeholder assessment mapping at both national and regional level, capacity building of the stakeholders, and activity on finding synergies and entry points between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction was also mentioned. Importance of finding international donors and being able to access international climate funds was underlined.

In summary, groups identified common actions to address environmental migration, by ensuring that the appropriate regional coordination mechanisms were in place; data collection was harmonized; appropriate policy frameworks were developed with data and evidence.
Final discussions

Participants raised the point that more stakeholders should be involved in the follow up discussions, including foreign affairs, planning, emergency operations, departments of economic affairs and others. The report of the workshop should be shared not only with participants but also with invitees and even other organizations involved in the issue.

Follow up actions include the meeting foreseen under the CMC by PDD and IOM. At the global level, the COP process and the Task Force on Displacement, the SG Summit, the GCM and Sendai commitments are all areas of continued discussions relevant for participants to engage in. The GIZ program will be informed of the contents of the workshop for potential continued cooperation on these matters in the region. IOM’s capacity to develop activities and projects should be used and leveraged to potentially launch activities and joint fundraising.

Conclusions and recommendations

The workshop contributed to fostering a better understanding among regional stakeholders in the Eastern Caribbean of key concepts, trends and issues around human mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. It provided an opportunity to discuss existing practices and experiences and network with other actors in the region. The workshop highlighted the need for enhanced regional cooperation, considering the existence of different patterns of environmental migration and displacement in the region. The importance of knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned among main actors was stated by different participants, as well as the need for follow-up action and activities to support States in engaging on environmental migration.

Several challenges and gaps were identified by the participants during the workshop to effectively address environmental migration. These challenges include the need to enhance available evidence and data management systems at national level on both climate risks and migration, the call for improved data sharing across countries, and a focus on better coordination and collaboration across sectors and institutional actors at national level.

Participants raised the importance of follow-up capacity building efforts with a wider audience at national level as a priority, as well as continued exchanges and collaboration between key regional actors. These processes will be critical in ensuring future action on this topic in the Caribbean.
The results of the workshop evaluation by participants showed an overall high rate of satisfaction: with 95% of the 21 respondents rating the workshop as “Excellent” or “Good”. Overall, the majority of the participants found the objectives, programme and learning methods used during the training as mostly matching their initial expectations, with just 2 participants rating the compatibility of the training with their expectations as “Fair”. The schedule and duration of the workshop received more “Good” or “Fair” (around 70-80% of the responses), and many stating that the workshop had been too short and that participants would benefit from a longer training and expanded sessions with more examples and case studies.

Participants reported all the sessions at least once as interesting. The following topics were identified as particularly relevant: a) basic concepts around the migration-environment nexus; b) developing a regional action plan; and c) existing data, guidance and tools on environmental migration. Participants also found the case studies from the region meaningful and informative.

Participants felt they benefited from the workshop with an overall increased understanding, knowledge and insight on environmental migration and the importance of integrating migration into relevant policies and national frameworks.

Among suggestions for improvement and for follow up activities, participants suggested involving more actors at national and regional level: ministry of finance and planning, those collecting data and/or statistics agency, disaster management authorities, and economic development. Participants noted wanting more information on the following: lessons learned from Caribbean or other similar island states; how to link the knowledge to specific funding opportunities; and more knowledge on slow-onset environmental change.

Many participants indicated their intention to continue engaging on this topic with a follow-up meeting or activities and to collaborate with other agencies present at the workshop and continuing the work at regional level.
For more information, please contact:

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
IOM Regional Office for Central and South America
Regional Thematic Specialist - Migration, Environment and Climate Change
Pablo Escribano
Email: prescribanomiralles@iom.int

IOM Headquarters, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division
Email: mecchq@iom.int
http://environmentalmigration.iom.int

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Saint Lucia
Senior Admin & Finance Officer, Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions
Louenda George
Email: louenda.george@giz.de

Annexes:

1. Workshop Agenda
2. Concept Note
3. List of Participants
4. Presentations