

Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Enhancing the Evidence Base

IDM 2011 Intersessional workshop: Climate change, environmental degradation and migration

Session I: Environmental migration state of the art: Where we are, where we need to go



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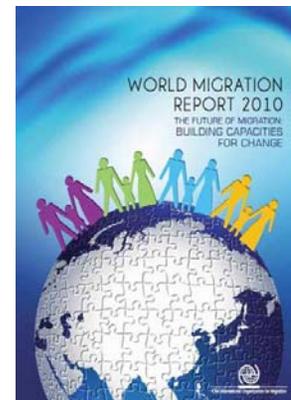
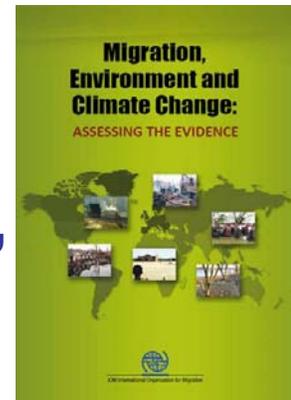
Outline

- **Overview of data and research challenges**
- **What key steps should be taken to enhance the knowledge base for action ?**
- **Three examples of concrete measures which can be taken in short-term, quickly and at low cost.**



IOM's Knowledge Base

- 1. IOM first published a report on “**Migration and the Environment**” in 1992.
- 2. In 2009, IOM published review of existing research in book entitled “**Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Assessing the Evidence.**”
- 3. Recent titles on migration and climate change **IOM Migration Research Series. World Migration Report, 2010**, chapter on environmental migration.
- 4. **Munich research dialogue IOM/UNU/Munich Re** consultations on future priorities for research.





Data and Research Challenges

- **Absence of an adequate definition**
- **Multi-causal nature of migration**
- **Little data specifically on environmental migration**
 - **Most data available linked to natural disasters**
- **Lack of migration data in censuses and/or surveys**
- **Existing data scattered**
- **Lack of data collection capacity**



Research gaps

- There are many **good studies on the impacts of migrants on environments**, on land use, deforestation etc.
- But there is **almost no reliable evidence on the effects of environmental factors**, “controlling for other influences, on out-migration, particularly from rural areas” (*Bilsborrow, 2009*).
- More quality information needed on **what impacts are occurring now, location, groups affected**
 - Quantitative studies limited on a larger scale
 - Small scale localized case studies in vulnerable regions/communities more frequent
 - No reliable estimates of the migration impacts to be expected under projected climate change scenarios



Policy research is in its infancy

- **Little analysis of which policies are appropriate for addressing environmental migration.**
 - Major migration countries, China, India, Mexico barely mention migration and cc links in those policy areas or within adaptation plans.
- **Impact of existing policies and legal frameworks not evaluated**
 - Some policies ad hoc – temporary right to stay when disasters occur.
- **Lack of coherence between environment, development and migration policies;** most focus on emergency responses – thus a gap exists on research on this nexus
- No regional process focuses on environmental migration.



Lack of research capacity

- Over 98 per cent of persons affected by climate-related disasters live in developing countries
- **Most environmental migration expected to occur within and between developing countries where research capacities are already limited.**
- UK DFID research strategy 2008-2013
 - highlights lack of capacity in South: 48 researchers for every million Africans living south of the Sahara compared with nearly 3,000 for every million people in OECD countries.



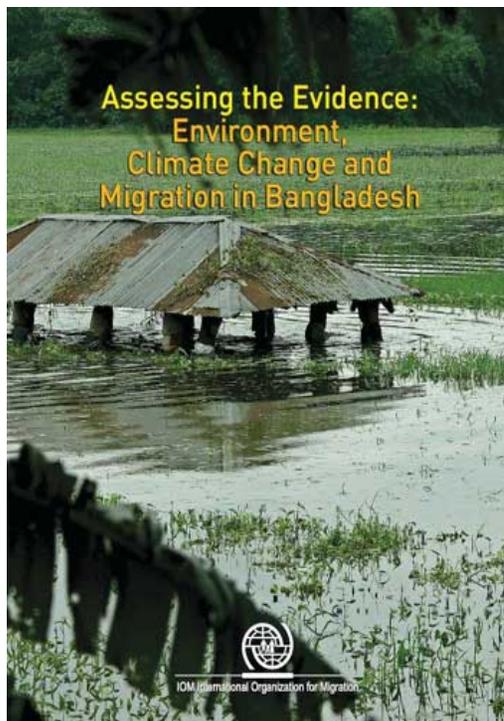
New research agenda required

- **New inter disciplinary migration research agenda required** if we are to understand fully linkages between migration and environmental change.
- Much migration **research focuses on international migration and implications of migration for destination countries in the North.**
- **New research agenda** requires stronger focus on:
 - **Internal migration**
 - **South-south migration**
 - **Slow-onset environmental change**
 - **Policy impact**
- Need for balanced research agenda and with more **focus on how migration can contribute to adaptation**, rather than simply being seen as a failure of adaptation



Way Forward: Three Examples

1. Country Reports linked to national policy dialogue – « Assessing the Evidence: Environment, Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh ».



Document, monitor and analyse policy responses to environmental migration which can include:

- (1) analysis of current evidence and of appropriate legal/ policy frameworks
- (2) identification of adaptation strategies (also voluntary coping strategies)
- (3) identification of resettlement strategies through systematic evaluation of past resettlement experiences and lessons learned
- (4) analysis of the response mechanisms of humanitarian organizations with regard to disaster



Research capacity-building programmes

2. New research programmes should include a capacity-building component

- Map/explore how far governments and civil society have the capacity to implement protection policies and adaptation strategies
- Invest in new data collection systems
- «Twinning » with researchers in the developed/developing world
- **ACP Migration Observatory** – in order to build capacity in the area of research, the Secretariat of the ACP and the EC have entrusted IOM and a consortium of 19 research partners with setting up an intra-ACP Observatory on Migration.



ACP

OBSERVATORY ON MIGRATION
OBSERVATOIRE SUR LES MIGRATIONS
OBSERVATÓRIO SOBRE AS MIGRAÇÕES



Migration and Environment clearinghouse

3. Data and Analysis Exchange



- **GFMD Roundtable 3.2 recommendation:**
 - “Expedite data and analysis exchange and sharing of first experiences and best practices, and for this purpose create a Virtual Library that would become a global public good on the available and soon-to-be-available data and analyses on the topic.”
- **International database/clearinghouse** of results of research, description of existing laws, policies and programmes pertaining to environmental migration.
 - CCEMA as the main repository

THANK YOU

Migration



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the Environment

