

Status of research on human mobility and climate change. Key findings and key gaps



The Hugo Observatory Environment, Migration, Politics.

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UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference - May 2016 (SB 44)

Side event:

Human Mobility and the Paris Agreement: What next?

Advisory group on Climate Change and Human Mobility



How many and when? Projections: Why the numbers don't add up

- Conceptual troubles
 - Who is an environmental migrant/displaced person?
 - Mono-causality What about the other drivers of migration/displacement? And the interlinkages between environmental drivers and other drivers?
- Deterministic bias
 - Assumption that people are affected equally in climate change-affected areas
 - Assumption that everybody at risk will move

Key findings

- Demographic differential vulnerabilities (gender, age, ethnic group, socio-economic status) have a great influence on (im)mobility outcomes.
- Gradual environmental degradation and different climatic shocks lead to different types of human mobility and increase involuntary immobility (trapped populations).
 - Multi-scalar analysis: micro, meso, and macro levels.
 - Continuum between forced and voluntary.
- Most movements will be internal and South-South.
- People are not only moving out but also moving towards risk zones.

- Human mobility is not only a question of non-economic loss and damage. It can also be a positive adaptation strategy to environmental changes
 - Migration Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP).
 - Planned relocation
- Yet, adaptation for some may also be maladaptation for others
 - Adaptation for whom?
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation policies can also affect human mobility (REDD+, biofuels): 'green grabbing induced displacement'.
 - Resource grabbing and mobility.

Key gaps

- Fragmentation between different research disciplines.
 - Need for integrated structures
 - Observatory of Environmental Migration.
- Need for better conceptual and theoretical tools.
 - Need to re-engage with migration and development studies.
 - Avoid a de-politicisation of the question.

- Need to improve quantitative assessments, both estimates and predictions.
 - Not just data on flows but also data on stocks

- What will the future of human mobility in the context of climate change look like?
 - → High-End cLimate Impacts and eXtremes (HELIX)
- What are the consequences of climate related mobility for the migrants/displaced people, as well as for the communities of origin and destination?

What are the consequences of different climate adaptation choices on human mobility?

Ways forward

- Better integration between disciplines
- **Comparative studies** that use similar methodologies and conceptual frameworks.
- Understanding **tipping points** from a climate and social science perspective.
- Need to reconcile perceptions of climate-induced migration with its realities.



KNOMAD WORKING PAPER 14

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April 2016

The Impact of Vulnerability and Resilience to Environmental Changes on Mobility Patterns in West Africa The Hugo Observatory Environment, Migration, Politics



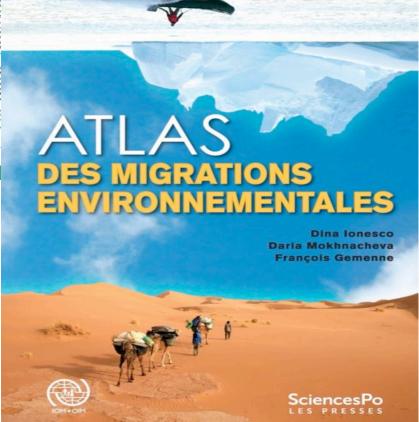


@climchmigrant

positive process aimed at adjusting to changes. One of the founders of migration studies, Reventedin (1882), described migration as rife and progests, whereas a the five Economic of Migration, there is much empirical evidence to show that migration is an adeptation strategy which households us to diversify and support their levishood strategies (Carties and Degodo Wise, 2006, Massey, et al., 2007). Although discussed offus, (2006, Massey, et al., 2007). Although discussed offus, the field of environmental and climate change has not been empirically stead of proteins and comment of the field of environmental and climate change has not been empirically stead. Furthermore, the policy apparation or assessed (feep, 1596; Sarrat and Webber, 2010). McCeman and firms, 2006). For the public and decision makers, migration is still

For the public and decision makers, migration is st commonly perceived as a failure to adapt. The lack consensus on definitions and terms, and confusion over the basic concepts in discussions of migration it pertains to adaptation, make it difficult to promot the issue in the development and implementation of the development and the development and the development the development and the development the development and the development the development

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