



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



The Hugo Observatory
Environment, Migration, Politics.

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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.

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- 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

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- 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.

The Impact of Vulnerability and Resilience to Environmental Changes on Mobility Patterns in West Africa

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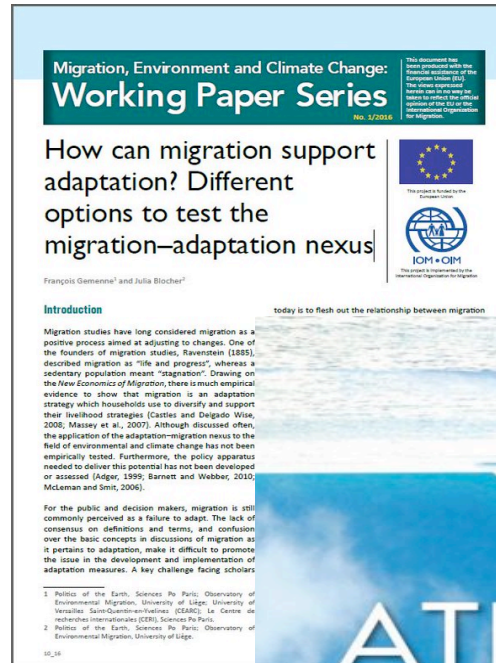
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today is to flesh out the relationship between migration

