

Symposium on
Environmental Change and Migration: State of the Evidence

May 28 & 29, 2014, Washington DC

Objectives

- To assess the state of knowledge on the interrelationships between environmental change and migration, with a particular focus on migration as an adaptation strategy;
- To examine the policy implications of current findings on environmental change and migration; and
- To identify gaps in knowledge and methods to fill those gaps.

Potential Outcomes

- A fact sheet summarizing the state of knowledge on environmental change and migration;
- An agenda of needed research to fill gaps in knowledge about environmental change and migration; and
- A set of policy reflections relevant for the post-2015 development agenda, 2015 Paris climate agreement, 2015 Hyogo Framework II, and 2016 humanitarian summit

28 May 2014

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

- Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD
- Jane Ebinger, Manager, Climate Change Policy, Climate Policy and Finance, Climate Change Group
- Susan Martin, Chair, KNOMAD's Thematic Working Group 11 on Environment Change and Migration

9:30 Environmental Change as a Contributing Factor in Migration: Acute Onset Events

This session will review the current evidence base on displacement resulting from acute onset environmental events such as floods and storm surges and the implications of research in this area for policymaking.

Moderator: Susan Martin, Chair, KNOMAD TWG 11

Opening Remarks: Walter Kaelin, Nansen Initiative
Elizabeth Ferris, Brookings Institution
Alice Thomas, Refugees International
Erik Wetter, Flowminder and Stockholm School of Business

11:00 Break

11:15 Environmental Change as a Contributing Factor in Migration: Slow Onset Processes

This session will review the current evidence base on migration and other movements related to slow onset processes such as rising sea levels and persistent drought and the implications of research in this area for policymaking. An underlying question in this session is long-term habitability and mobility dynamics.

Moderator: Koko Warner, Vice-Chair, KNOMAD TWG 11

Opening Remarks: Soumyadeep Banerjee, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
Andrew Geddes, Sheffield University
Dominic Kniveton, University of Sussex
Jane McAdam, University of New South Wales
Benjamin Schraven, German Development Institute (DIE)

12:45 Working Lunch (Public Event)

During the lunch, we will hear about current initiatives under way to improve policy responses in addressing human mobility stemming all or in part from environmental determinants (e.g., Nansen Initiative, evacuation and relocation guidelines, Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative)

Moderator: Dilip Ratha, Head, KNOMAD

Opening Remarks: Walter Kaelin, Nansen Initiative
Frank Laczko, IOM
David Foran, US Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration
Koko Warner, UN University
Susan Martin, Chair, TWG 11

2:15 Break-Out Session

The group will divide into smaller teams to identify research priorities to improve the evidence base regarding environmental change as a determinant of different forms of

human mobility. The groups will discuss research topics, methodologies and ways to disseminate findings to key policymakers and other stakeholders.

4:00 Break

4:15 Report of small groups

7:00 Dinner

29 May

8:30 Continental Breakfast

9:00 Migration as a Risk Management Strategy vis-à-vis Environmental Change: Economic Impacts

This session will review the current evidence base on the impact of environmental migration on the economic well-being of migrants, communities of origin, and communities of destination and the implications for policymaking, particularly in the context of adaptation planning. The discussion will draw upon empirical evidence specifically related to environmentally induced movements as well as the literature on similar forms of relocation (e.g., those resulting from development projects). The session will examine economic and other policies that are needed to address potential negative impacts and enhance potential benefits deriving from environmental migration.

Moderator: Diji Chandrasekharan, Koko Warner, Co-Chair, KNOMAD TWG 11

Valerie Mueller, IFPRI

Robert McLeman, Wilfrid Laurier University

Jane Chun, Green Templeton College

Robert Stojanov, Charles University in Prague

David-Lopez Carr, University of California Santa Barbara

10:30 Break

10:45 Migration as a Risk Management Strategy vis-à-vis Environmental Change: Other Impacts

This session will review the current evidence base on the impact of environmental migration on the psychological, health, social, environmental well-being and the security of migrants, communities of origin, and communities of destination. It will also focus on the ways in which political and legal frameworks affect and are affected by

migration, displacement and planned displacement occurring in the context of environmental change. The discussion will draw upon empirical evidence specifically related to environmentally induced movements as well as the literature on similar forms of relocation (e.g., those resulting from development projects and refugee resettlement programs). The session will examine natural resource, social protection, urban planning, immigration and other policies that address potential negative impacts and enhance potential benefits deriving from environmental migration, particularly in the context of adaptation planning.

Moderator: Hanspeter Wyss, KNOMAD Secretariat

Remarks: Anthony Oliver Smith
Alex de Sherbenin, Columbia University
Michael Werz, Center for American Progress
Marcos Morales, Autonomous University of Santo Domingo

12:15 Lunch

1:30 Break-Out Session

The group will divide into smaller teams to identify research priorities to improve the evidence base regarding migration as an adaptation strategy. The groups will discuss research topics, methodologies and ways to disseminate findings to key policymakers and other stakeholders.

3:30 Report of Small Groups

4:30 Next Steps

5:00 Adjourn