

---

**KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on  
Environmental Change and Migration**

**Concept Note and Agenda**

**Workshop**

**QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF  
ENVIRONMENTALLY-INDUCED MIGRATION**

**May 9/10, 2016**

**World Bank HQ, 1818 H Street, MC 6-100,  
Washington D.C.**

**1. Introduction**

Jointly with the University of Liege, the KNOMAD Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration will be hosting a workshop entitled “Quantitative Assessment of Environmentally-induced Migration” on 9-10 May 2015 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC. The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) is a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues (for more information see [www.knomad.org](http://www.knomad.org))

The need for this workshop<sup>1</sup> arises from the a) lack of quantitative comprehension of the environment-migration nexus, and b) the difficulty in comparing that data which does exist on the topic.

Despite the burgeoning research on the relationship between human migration and adverse environmental conditions – from sudden-onset natural disasters and extreme weather events to more gradual variations in climate and progressive environmental deterioration – there is still a relative dearth of rigorous estimates and projections of those displaced by environmental changes and a quantification of the impacts of voluntary and forced movements on migrants, destination, transit and sending zones.

While a considerable number of datasets documents the environment-migration nexus, methodological and data-related limitations render cross-study comparability difficult. Major constraints concern insufficiently detailed data on various socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, the definition of migrants, the choice and definition of proxy variables for environmental factors, the empirical methodology, and the geographic level of representation of data sources. Furthermore, the literature lacks a sufficient number of rigorous studies to perform a meta-analysis in the spirit of Hsiang, Burke, and Miguel (2013) for conflict.

---

<sup>1</sup> This workshop is part of the EDGE project, supported by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 EU Programme for Research and Innovation.

---

To better inform migration as well as climate change and other environmental policies, there is a need to provide reliable estimates and projections of environmentally-induced population movements across several countries, utilizing multiple sources of information as well as one unifying methodological framework. Moving beyond scattered datasets and case studies, such projections will also shed light on how environmental changes and migration interact in the long run.

## **2. Objectives**

An important step in this direction, the KNOMAD workshop will focus on the current state of play in the quantitative assessment of human movement – internal and international, forced and ‘voluntary’ – related to declining environmental conditions, and its impacts on migrants as well as on sending, transit, and receiving locations. The workshop seeks to address three categories in particular:

1. Current methodologies in quantifying the environment-migration nexus, e.g. household surveys, mobile data, and modeling
2. Harmonizing existing data sets
3. Maximizing the utility of quantitative assessments for policymakers and key stakeholders

The first day of the workshop will review existent quantitative data and methods used in exploring the links between environmental events and migration and will promote discussion on the comparability of these data sets. The second day will begin with a morning meeting for partners involved in the joint initiative “Towards a Quantitative Assessment of the Environment-Migration Nexus: Building a Foundation for Global Maps of Displacement.” It will finish with an afternoon session dedicated to the World Bank’s study on climate change, migration and resilience. The latter seeks to develop area and livelihood-based analogs to predict pathways and magnitude of migration until 2050, including potential hot-spots. This is done by modeling biophysical impacts of climate change, poverty/area-adaptive context and household dynamics data and evidence based against a set of socio-economic pathways. The models and analogs will be used to inform climate-resilient policies. An improved characterization of the issue, paired with a recognition of its multi-faceted challenges, would help to foster constructive dialogue on the practical implications of integrating mobility and migration into the sustainable development discourse.

## **3. Participation**

The workshop foresees the attendance of about 30 researchers and practitioners. The following criteria could be used to identify participants:

- Researchers and practitioners involved in quantitative data and methods exploring the links between environmental events and migration
- Representatives of different regions and research institutions

---

## AGENDA

### DAY 1: May 9<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Room: MC 6-100

**08:30-9:00: Light breakfast**

#### **09:00 Welcome and Introductions**

- Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD, World Bank
- Susan Martin, Chair of KNOMAD Thematic Working Group “Environmental Change and Migration; and Georgetown University
- François Gemenne, University of Liège / Sciences Po

Tour de table: What are the key issues to address the environment-migration nexus with quantitative data? What do we know? What don't we know?

#### **09:45 Quantitative Projects Achieved and Underway**

- 1) Household surveys
  - Sara Vigil, University of Liège/ FNRS
  - Julia Blocher, United Nations University / University of Liège
  - Katharine Donato, Vanderbilt University
- 2) Longitudinal studies
  - Rachel Baker, Princeton University
- 3) Using mobile data
  - Linus Bengtsson, Flowminder
  - David Wrathall, University of Oregon

Chair: Caroline Zickgraf, University of Liège

**10:45 Break**

#### **11:00 Quantitative Projects Achieved and Underway (continued)**

**12:30 Lunch, including following presentation**

- The World Bank's Upcoming Report on Climate Change, Resilience and Migration
- Kanta Kumari Rigaud, World Bank

---

#### **14:00 Quantitative datasets available**

- 1) Climate variability datasets
  - Valerie Mueller, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
  - Raphael J. Nawrotzki, University of Minnesota
- 2) Population data
  - Emi Suzuki, World Bank
- 3) Data on people displaced by disasters
  - Michelle Yonetani, International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- 4) Spatial analysis and satellite imagery
  - Douglas Howard, Georgetown University
  - Alexander de Sherbinin, Columbia University

Chair: Robert McLeman, Wilfrid Laurier University

#### **15:15 Break**

#### **15:30 Breakout Groups – Comparing datasets**

- 1) Group 1 “Issues of interoperability”
  - Facilitator: Francois Gemenne, University of Liège / Sciences Po
- 2) Group 2 “Assessing trends”
  - Facilitator: Susan Martin, Chair of KNOMAD Thematic Working Group “Environmental Change and Migration, Georgetown University

#### **16:30 Discussion of Breakout Groups**

Chair: Elizabeth Fussel, Brown University

#### **17:00 Concluding Remarks/ Wrap-Up**

Chair: B. Lindsay Lowell, Georgetown University

#### **17:15 Adjourn**

**19:00** Dinner (Restaurant Primi Piatti, 2013 I Street NW, Washington DC)

---

**DAY 2: May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Meeting Room: MC 6-100

**08:30-9:00: Light breakfast**

***“Towards a Quantitative Assessment of the Environment-Migration Nexus: Building a Foundation for Global Maps of Displacement”***

09:00 Introduction of Partners and Presentation of the Project

- Valerie Mueller, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- François Gemenne, University of Liège / Sciences Po

09:30 Addressing Outstanding Issues

10:00 Fundraising Strategies

Chair: François Gemenne, University of Liège / Sciences Po

10:30 *Break*

***Consultation on World Bank’s Upcoming Report on Climate Change, Resilience and Migration***

11:00 Expert feedback on the methodology (Margaret Arnold, François Gemenne)

11:30 Exploring synergies and broader engagement (Susan Martin)

12:15 Conclusion of meeting

Chair: Anne T. Kuriakose, World Bank

12:30 *Lunch*