

# ***International Environmental Law and Migration: Fitting the Bill?***



**Nicole de Moor**

**IUCN's Academy of Environmental Law**


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# “One of the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration”

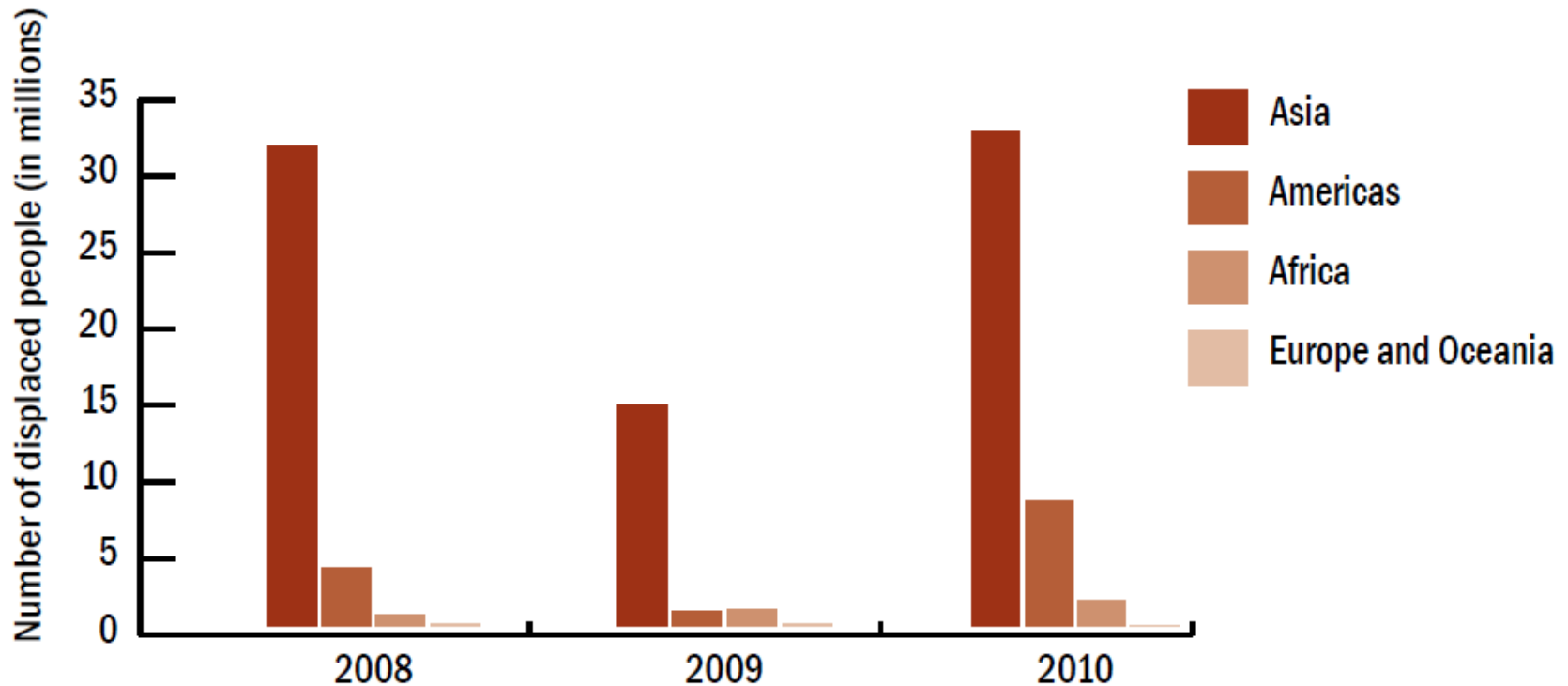
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 1990



**Sudden-onset disasters** (e.g. earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions,...)

**Slow-onset degradation** (e.g. sea level rise, desertification,...)

Figure 9 Numbers displaced by continent, 2008-2010



Source: Study by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), June 2011.

***Environmental degradation***

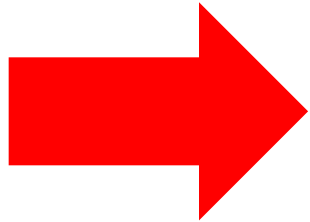


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graph TD; A([Environmental degradation]) --> B[OUT-migration]; A --> C[Migration INTO vulnerable areas]; A --> D[Immobility]
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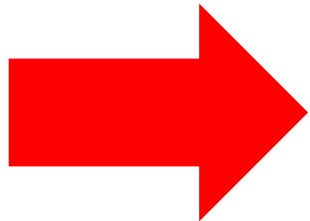
OUT-  
migration

Migration INTO  
vulnerable areas

Immobility



# Forced displacement



# Migration as an adaptation strategy

# 1. Emergence of migration in the UNFCCC regime

## 2. Paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework

- Form and content
- Implementation
  - National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)
  - Adaptation Funding

## Conclusion

## Emergence of migration in the UNFCCC regime

- Intensive advocacy by the humanitarian community
- Field based research of the academic community
- Operational experience of UN and other organisations

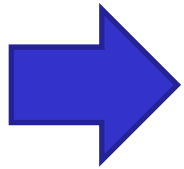


### **Negotiations for COP 14 in Poznan (December 2008):**

Mentioning in first submissions to the AWG-LCA (by the IASC, the UNU-EHS, IOM, UNEP, the Munich Re Foundation, and UNHCR)

**!!! Migration first time mentioned in UNFCCC assembly text !!!**

# ? *Party positions* ?



**No objections !**

- technical issue within larger adaptation package
- « environmental » negotiators
- non-political issue



## From “climate refugees” ...

*Draft negotiation text of May 2009:*

25. The adaptation [framework][programme] shall support and enhance the implementation of national adaptation plans. Adaptation action includes:

...

(e) Activities related to **national and international migration/planned relocation of climate refugees.**

## From “climate refugees” ...

## ... to a more nuanced and differentiated view

*Revised negotiation text of June 2009:*

25. [The adaptation [framework][programme] [shall] [should] support and enhance the implementation of national adaptation programmes, projects, actions and plans. [Adaptation action] [National Adaptation Plan] includes:]

(e) [Activities related to **national and international migration/planned relocation of climate [refugees] [migrants] [displaced persons by extreme climate events].**]

## Paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework

14. Invites all Parties to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, by undertaking, inter alia, the following

...

f) Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at national, regional and international levels

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## Paragraph 14(f) of the Cancun Adaptation Framework

- ➔ Type of mobility: migration, displacement and planned relocation
- ➔ Type of action: understanding, coordination and cooperation
- ➔ Level of action: national, regional and international level

# Implementation of paragraph 14(f)

## 1. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

## 2. Adaptation Funding



# 1. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)

- Variety of ways to address migration in the NAPAs
  - ✓ Seasonal and rural-urban migration
  - ✓ Resettlement and displacement
  - ✓ No mentioning at all
- Focus on migration as a negative consequence of global warming
  - efforts to limit or halt migration
- Not much incorporation into the list of priority adaptation actions

# 1. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)



## LIMITATIONS

- no integration with development policies
- no consultation of vulnerable communities



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- integration with development policies
- consultation of vulnerable communities
- integration of migration-related adaptation actions
- recognition of migration as a positive adaptation strategy

## 2. Adaptation Funding

Migration might qualify for adaptation funding

**BUT...**

- \* which migration-related projects?
- \* which funding mechanisms?
  - fast-track finance system?
  - Green Climate Fund?
    - who is entitled?
    - destination areas?

## CONCLUSION

- First ever mentioning of migration in an official COP decision
- Stimulus for migration-related adaptation projects
- Migration might qualify for adaptation funding
- Precedent for other (environmental) fora
- Catalyst for national action on climate-related human mobility

### !!! Limits of the international climate regime

- no new legally-binding obligations for states through COP decisions
- no migration rights / no migration policy



**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & MIGRATION LAW NEEDED**



***Thank you for your attention***

