

## Population displacements in a 4°C+ world

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'4 Degrees and Beyond' International Climate Conference  
Oxford, 29 September 2009

## Which impacts of climate change induce population displacements, and where?

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- Droughts and desertification, water stress
    - In Subsahelian Africa
    - In Northern Asia
    - In Central America
  - Extreme weather events
    - In South-East Asia and Asia-Pacific
    - In the Gulf of Mexico
  - Sea-level rise
    - In coastal and deltaic regions
    - In small island states
- > Most of these regions are very densely populated

## Different types of displacement

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- Internal and international
    - Most of the time, focus on international migration
  - Forced and voluntary
    - Seeking a better life or running for your life?
  - Permanent and temporary
    - Not always possible to return
  - Circulatory and seasonal migration
    - Migration strategies implemented by the migrants
- Not a 'one-size-fits-all' model, different strategies needed

## A definitional issue

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- Climate change often aggravates and exacerbates other existing problems.
- Its impacts on populations depend on their adaptive capacities.
- Difficulty to disentangle environmental drivers of migration from other drivers > hence, difficulty to set 'climate migrants' apart from other migrants.
- This definitional issue makes it difficult to estimate and predict the number of people displaced by climate change.

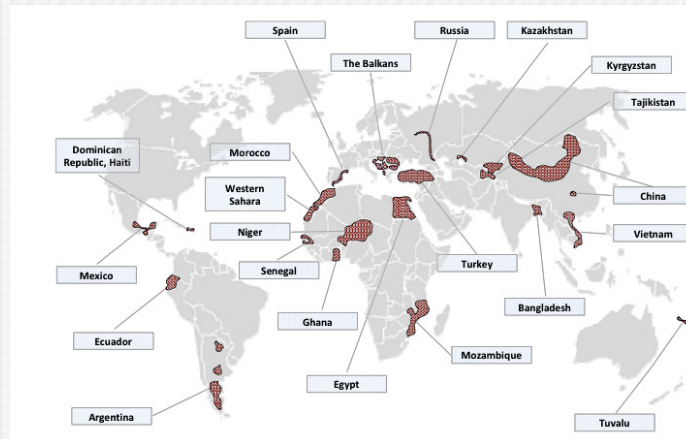
## A deterministic perspective

- Climate-induced population displacements remain conceptualised in a deterministic perspective
  - We assume that these displacements are forced, international displacements.
  - We assume that there's a direct, causal relationship between environmental degradation and population displacements.
  - We assume that the nature and extent of these displacements depend on the impacts of climate change.
- Reality is that we don't know much about the way populations react to environmental disruptions.

## The EACH-FOR project

- Empirical assessment of the relationship between environmental changes and migration.
- First empirical research project on this topic conducted on a global scale, with 23 case-studies.
- Consortium of 7 research centres, funded by the European Commission (FP6) over the period 2007-2009.
- Key questions:
  - how important are environmental factors in migration decisions?
  - What are the key patterns of migration related to environmental changes?

## Case-studies ([www.each-for.eu](http://www.each-for.eu))



## Key findings

- In most cases, we observe a positive relationship between environmental change and migration.
- This relationship can take many shapes: no single model of environmental migration.
  - Migration flows are mostly internal displacements.
  - Migration is increasingly forced.
  - Migration peak does not always match the peak of the environmental crisis.
- The poorest and most vulnerable often lack the resources to migrate.
- Policies are the key determinants of the environment - migration nexus.

## Policy implications in a 4°C world

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### **Policies will need to adapt to higher migratory pressures.**

- In many cases, migration will need to be encouraged, not avoided.
  - Migration needs to be envisioned as an adaptation strategy, not as an adaptation failure.
  - Migrants are not always resourceless victims: we need to go beyond humanitarian aid.
  - It is crucial to enable the most vulnerable to move.

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- Issue of pro-active population displacements.
    - Populations living in high-risk areas
    - Human rights issues
  - Adaptation measures need to be implemented in destination regions as well.
    - In order to allow them to cope with additional demographic pressure
  - Issue of protection and costs.
    - Migration policies and normative frameworks currently do not account for environmental factors.
    - Internalisation of migration costs.