



Bangladesh, Shatkira District © Alessandro Grassani

## PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES ON MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental body, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration, and work towards effective respect of the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

### Putting the migration, environment and climate nexus into practice

Migration, climate change and the environment present a complex set of cross-cutting issues that are of growing importance for all of IOM's activities. With increasing awareness of climate change and the role of environmental factors in shaping migration trends and patterns, these issues are now heavily mainstreamed across IOM's entire portfolio. Environmental migration is considered throughout all thematic areas of work – migration and development, labour migration, migration health, emergency response and post-crisis recovery – as well as across institutional activities; for example, policy, research, operations and communication. Since 2000, more than 750 projects have been funded and implemented worldwide in the context of IOM's response to environmental migration. These projects demonstrate that creative solutions exist for communities affected by environmental degradation and climate change and that migration does not have to be a last resort measure but can also be a positive driver for change.

The following are some examples of IOM projects related to environmental migration.



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## Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (2013–2016)



Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Evidence for Policy (MECLEP) is a three-year policy oriented programme of work based on three main components: (a) developing new empirical research in six countries (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mauritius, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam) on environmentally induced migration; (b) building the capacity of policymakers to formulate related policies through training; and (c) facilitating policy coherence (because a and b are developing and building) national-level consultations and workshops. The project aims to benefit policymakers and practitioners in the six target countries and to contribute globally to policymaking on migration, environment and climate change, especially climate-related adaptation strategies and planning. The outputs of the projects include workshops, reports, maps, a training manual and a global online platform as a one-stop information source on migration, environment, climate change and adaptation.

### Capacity-building Activities on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (Since 2013)



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IOM organizes capacity-building training activities targeting mid- to senior-level policymakers and practitioners involved in environmental, climate change and/or migration areas. These activities seek to provide participants with a basic understanding of migration, environment and climate change concepts and terminology, as well as concrete tools that can support national and regional policymaking processes. This initiative also intends to support the integration of human mobility issues within climate change and environmental policies, and vice versa, and the inclusion of climate and environmental concerns within migration processes. Training can be conducted at both the regional and national levels as they consist of standardized, yet customizable materials. So far, workshops have been conducted in Asia, the Pacific, East Africa and Latin America.

### The Atlas of Environmental Migration (2013–2015)



The Atlas of Environmental Migration is a pioneering project and the first illustrated publication mapping environmentally induced migration. The project is devoted to consolidating existing institutional and academic research and data on migration and environment, and translating it into comprehensive, comprehensible and easy-to-access visual tools (maps, diagrams and graphic illustrations) and texts presenting an overview of the complex relationships between migration, environment and climate change. The atlas is intended to become a reliable reference responding to the need expressed by practitioners and policymakers for improved policy-relevant data on the topic of migration, environment and climate change. The project is a collaboration between IOM, Université Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po).

## Promoting sustainable land management through innovative financing mechanisms in rural areas of West Africa (2014–2016)

This project is aligned with IOM's institutional efforts to promote the integration of migration into international agendas on desertification, land degradation and drought, and thus supports the development of comprehensive and cross-cutting policies and strategies addressing the complex linkages between these phenomena, as well as related challenges and opportunities.

This project, which is a joint initiative between IOM and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, focus on identifying potential strategies of action, programmes, projects and institutional partnerships of relevance to the climate change-migration-sustainable land management nexus.

## Global Migration and Environment Platform and Asia–Pacific Migration and Environment Network (Since 2013)

The Asia–Pacific Migration and Environment Network (APMEN) is an online information-sharing platform on climate change, environment and migration created by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and IOM. APMEN is a publicly accessible publications database, offering regional country information and an exclusive forum where researchers and key opinion leaders can take part in knowledge-sharing and in the discussion on migration and the environment. IOM aims to expand this initiative to a global platform while maintaining APMEN and, possibly, other active and expanding regional platforms and networks (visit APMEN at [www.apmen.iom.int/en](http://www.apmen.iom.int/en)).



## IOM Development Fund: Piloting Environment and Climate Change Projects

Since 2001 the IOM Development Fund, an IOM funding mechanism, has provided a unique global resource aimed at supporting developing Member States in their efforts to strengthen their migration management capacities. With some 480 projects implemented in more than 112 countries worldwide, the fund has successfully addressed the capacity-building needs of eligible Member States by providing essential “seed funding” for innovative projects.<sup>1</sup> In this context, the IOM Development Fund supports projects with an environmental and climate change dimension. Some of these projects are briefly presented in the table on the next page:

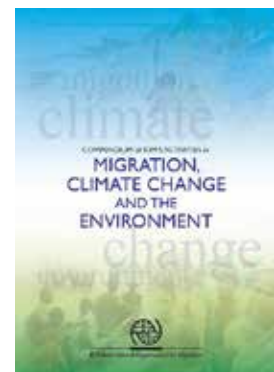
<sup>1</sup> Visit [www.iom.int/developmentfund/about.htm](http://www.iom.int/developmentfund/about.htm) to learn more about the fund.

Year of Project	Country	Title	Topic
2007	Peru	<i>Preventing Forced Migration by Building Local Capacities for Risk Assessment</i>	Targeting areas with decreasing and/or irregular rainfall, the project supported the prevention of forced migration through training of authorities on hazard management and migration planning.
2008	Senegal	<i>Promotion of Youth Labour in the Environmental Sector in Senegal</i>	Promoting the creation of employment opportunities in the environmental (recycling, composting, renewable energy, bioproducts and ecotourism) and ecological sectors. The pilot project aimed to reinforce national employment structures' capacities by training government officials and providing professional integration of young Senegalese.
2010	Egypt	<i>Pilot Project: Assessment and Strategy Development to Respond to the Impact of Rising Sea Level on Human Mobility in Egypt</i>	Focusing on communities living in low elevation areas, IOM worked in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partners to conduct assessments to better understand the linkages between the expected impacts of sea-level rise and migration internally and internationally.
2010	Kenya	<i>Assessment of Effects of Drought and Climate Change on Livelihood Support Mechanisms among Pastoralist and Mobile Communities in Pastoralist Regions including North Eastern and Rift Valley Province</i>	Examining the effects of climate change and droughts on scarce resources such as pasture and water, the assessment provided options for safe and supported migration to urban areas.
2010	Mauritius	<i>The Other Migrants: Reducing Migration Pressure from Gradual Environmental Change- Environment and Sustainable Development in Mauritius</i>	The project goal was to raise awareness about environmental degradation and population movements, and to build the capacity of national institutions to develop environmental sector jobs.
2011	Mali	<i>Support Malian National and Local Institutions in Managing Environmental Migration within the Framework of their Strategy for Reducing Vulnerability to Climatic Changes</i>	The project sought to assist institutions to promote community adjustments to climate change through the development of strategies to assist vulnerable persons forced to migrate because of climatic and environmental changes.
2012	Tajikistan	<i>Building Coordination, Training and Research Capacities of the Government of Tajikistan to Manage Migration</i>	The project aimed at strengthening the legal framework regulating migration processes in the country and protect migrants' rights by assessing environmental degradation, migration, internal displacement and rural vulnerabilities.
2013	Cambodia	<i>Assessing Vulnerabilities and Responses to Environmental Changes in Cambodia</i>	The project seeks to produce a comprehensive report on the linkages between climate change, the environment and migration, and provide support to draft a national strategy to build policies and institutional frameworks.

For additional activity information from 2009 to 2013, please consult the *Compendium of IOM Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction And Resilience* (2013), available from [www.iom.int/cms/drr-compendium](http://www.iom.int/cms/drr-compendium).



For additional activity information from 2000 to 2008, please consult the *Compendium of IOM's Activities in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment* (2009), available from [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Compendium\\_of\\_IOMs\\_Activities.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/Compendium_of_IOMs_Activities.pdf).



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