



ANIL AGARWAL DIALOGUE 2022

MIGRATION: THE HUMAN FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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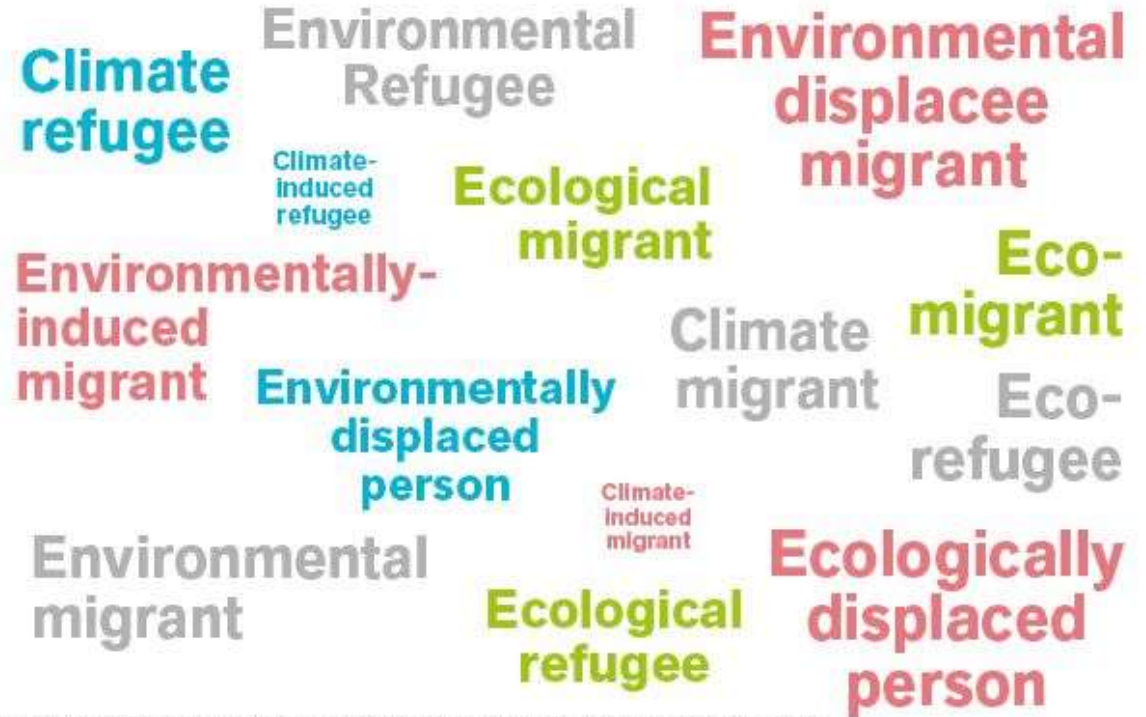
COMMON MEDIA NARRATIVES

UNDERSTANDING THE
LANGUAGE OF MIGRATION,
THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE

QUESTION ON TERMINOLOGY

Migration, environment and climate change terms on Google Search

The size of the words is proportional to the number of pages returned by Google.com when searching for each term (2012)



Source: Venturini et al. (2012) © IOM (Mokhnacheva, Ionesco), Gemenne, Boissière, 2015.

CLIMATE “REFUGEES”?

Often used to describe a person displaced in the context of droughts, sea-level rise or extreme weather or geophysical events.

*The term is often thought to have ethical or awareness raising value, but **does not exist in international law** and **is not endorsed by UN agencies**.*



ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRANTS

“Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.”

IOM Working Definition, 2007



QUESTION OF SCALE



News | Climate Crisis

Climate change could displace 216 million by 2050: Report

CanberraWeekly

Australia could face waves of 'climate refugees'

October 25, 2021



The climate refugees are coming.
Countries and international law aren't
ready for them

youtube/news

Biden administration report
foresees 'tens of millions' of climate
change refugees in the coming
decades

October 22, 2021 · 3 min read

Millions Displaced Another Cost of Climate Change

The worldwide displacement of people from climate change-induced disasters reaches a record high.

By [The Conversation](#) | Oct. 20, 2021, at 1:11 p.m.



Source: *Atlas of Environmental Migration*, 2016

PROJECTIONS ARE DIFFICULT

“Projecting the number of people migrating due to slow onset events is difficult due to the multi-causal nature of migration and the dominant role that socio-economic factors have in determining migration responses (high confidence).”

IPCC 6TH Assessment Report, 2022



Photo by [trail on Unsplash](#)





MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEXUS

UNDERSTANDING THE LINKS
BETWEEN MIGRATION, THE
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
CHANGE



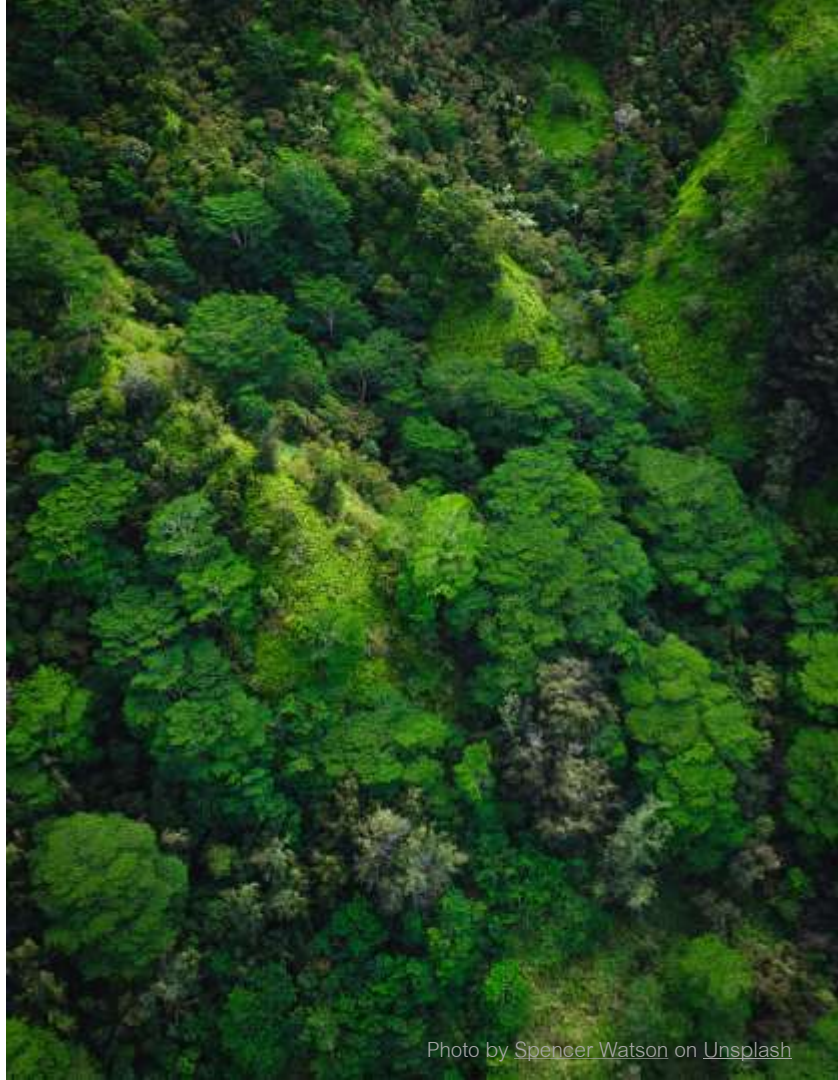
INCREASED CLIMATE RISKS

“[T]here is increased evidence that climate hazards associated with extreme events and variability act as direct drivers of involuntary migration and displacement and as indirect drivers through deteriorating climate-sensitive livelihoods (high confidence).”

IPCC 6TH Assessment Report, 2022



Photo by [Spencer Watson](#) on [Unsplash](#)



CONTEXT-SPECIFIC MOBILITY

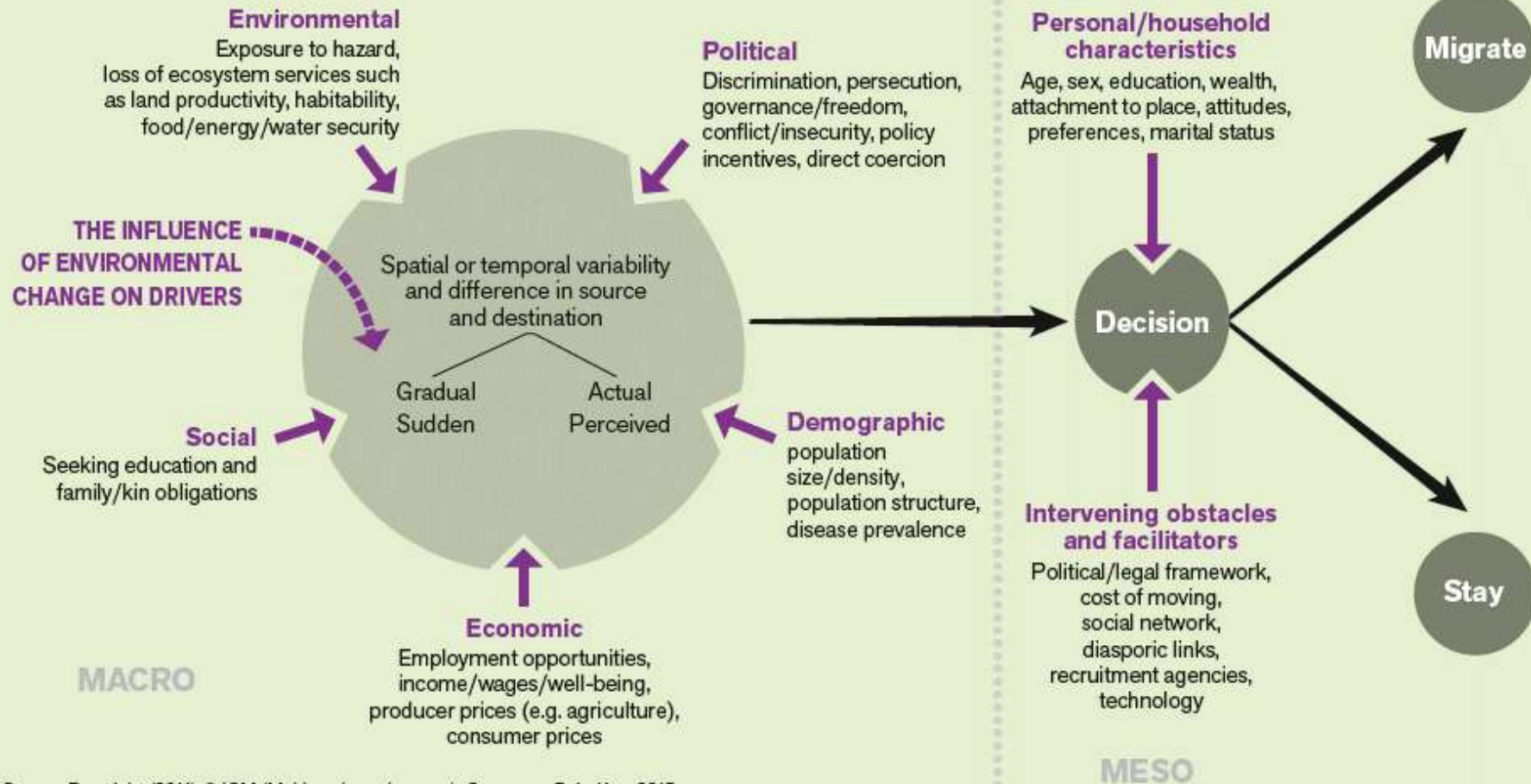
The impacts of climatic drivers on migration are highly context-specific and interact with social, political, geopolitical and economic drivers (high confidence)."

IPCC 6TH Assessment Report, 2022



Photo by [Anna Sullivan](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Foresight's conceptual framework for the drivers of migration



ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION: FORCED OR VOLUNTARY?

FORCED

- *'Migration for survival'*
- *Lifesaving movements in sudden-onset disasters*

IN-BETWEEN

- *Following disasters*
- *Secondary movements*
- *Slow onset processes*

VOLUNTARY

- *A matter of choice before the 'tipping point'*
- *Pre-planned and strategised (thought through)*

Forced – voluntary: a continuum

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION: SHORT OR LONG-TERM?

TEMPORARY

- *Short-term movements after disasters*
- *Displacement, evacuation*
- *Circular migration*
- *Seasonal migration*

PERMANENT

- *Protracted disaster displacement*
- *Migration and displacement from areas undergoing irreversible environmental changes (e.g. sea-level rise, desertification)*

Temporary – Permanent

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION: NEAR OR FAR?

SHORT-DISTANCE

- *Most evacuations and displacement in disasters*
- *Migration to nearby urban areas*

LONG-DISTANCE

- Migration to other areas of a country
- International migration, within a region and beyond

Short distance – Long distance



FORMS OF HUMAN MOBILITY

DISCUSSING TYPOLOGIES OF
HUMAN MOBILITY LINKED TO
CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

DISASTER DISPLACEMENT

*“Disaster displacement refers to situations where people are **forced or obliged to leave** their homes or places of habitual residence **as a result of a disaster** or **in order to avoid the impact** of an immediate and foreseeable disaster”*

(The Nansen Protection Agenda, 2015)



Photo by Saikiran Kesari on Unsplash

LABOUR MIGRATION

“Movement of persons from one State to another, or within their own country of residence, for the purposes of employment”

(IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019)



Photo by Tim Mossholder on [Unsplash](#)

PLANNED RELOCATION

*“A **planned process** in which persons or groups of persons move or are assisted to move away from their homes or places of temporary residence, are **settled in a new location**, and **provided with the conditions for rebuilding their lives**.”*

(Brookings, Georgetown, UNHCR, 2015)



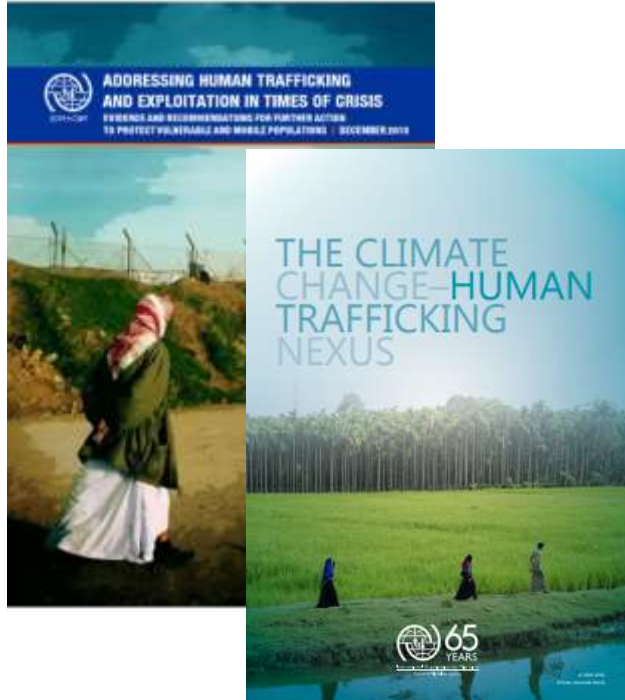


LINKS WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

EVIDENCE OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING LINKED TO
CLIMATE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE



EVIDENCE IS MOSTLY ANECDOTAL



DISPLACEMENT
FOLLOWING
DISASTERS

CAMPS & CAMP-
LIKE SETTINGS

IMPACTS ON
VULNERABLE
LIVELIHOODS

IMPACT OF
EXPLOITATIVE
INDUSTRIES

A GROWING CONCERN IN THE ASIA PACIFIC?

INDONESIA

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI (2004)

BANGLADESH

CYCLONE SIDR (2007)

BANGLADESH

CYCLONE AIDA (2009)

PHILIPPINES

TYPHOON HAIYAN (2013)

NEPAL

GORKHA EARTHQUAKE (2015)





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THANK YOU!

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