

Environmental Migration towards terminological coherence

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Each standards and each category valorizes some point of view and silences another. This is not inherently a bad thing- indeed is inescapable. But is an ethical choice, and as such is dangerous- not bad, but dangerous
(Bowker and Leigh Star, 1999)

Structure of the Presentation

- Evolution of Definitions
- Critical Issues
- Migration Governance Modes
- Responses and best practices

Evolution of Definitions

- No objectives agreed and binding definition: common terms used – environmental/climate refugees, environmental/ climate migrants, environmental displaced persons
- Maximalist Approach: Myths of invasion or flooding by uncontrollable waves of migrants – Minimalist approach: migration as a multicausal process (Gemenne, 2011; Kalin, 2012).
- Definitions are constantly evolving and persons lack a defined status- vulnerable and unprotected

Definition – 1

El Hinnawi (1985): Environmental Refugee

those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a market environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people)

3 types of Migration: Economic/Political/Environmental

Different causes: natural or product of political circumstances

3 categories of Refugees: temporarily displaced (natural disasters-earthquakes), permanently displaced (permanent changes), temporarily or permanent based on refugee perception

How to find proper solution to cover all individuals:

- *affected by any forms of environmental degradation and natural and hand-made disasters*
- *who may or may not be able to return to their countries of origin;*
- *who are moving either internally or across international borders;*
- *who are either choosing or being forced to quit their own natural habitat?*

Definition - 2

Environmental emergent migrant

Environmentally forced migrant

Environmentally motivated migrants

(Renaud and others, 2011- UNU-EHS)

Definition - 3

- *Environmental induced Migration/Environmental induced Displacement*: more comprehensive, to be used as an umbrella to include forced and voluntary movements ? (ICMPD, 2011; Council of Europe, 2008)
- Migration / Displacement – Voluntary/Involuntary Mobility (Kalin, 2012; Foresight, 2011)

Why is it a concern?

Protection Issues – Legal Obstacles

- *The legal status will depend on the character of movement – volunteer/forced*
- *The right to be admitted and to stay is not guaranteed*
- *Status rights on the country of destination are only addressed through human rights*

(2011 Nansen Conference; Kalin, 2012)

Responses and best practices

- International Level
- Regional and bilateral agreements
- National Legal Framework

Regional Level- *European Union Responses*

- This issue is part of the thematic priorities stated by the EU's Global Approach on Migration and Mobility (GAMM).
addressing environmentally induced migration, also by means of adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, should be considered part of the Global Approach (European Commission, 2011).
- GAMM: to provide assistance to third countries affected by this phenomenon

Regional Level- *European Union Responses*

Possible options under the migration policy area (ICMPD, 2011):

- GAMM: assistance to third countries affected by this phenomenon- to assist national authorities
- Mobility Partnership: tool for bilateral cooperation
- Labour migration schemes as inspiration

National/Bilateral Level

- Not predictable tool- temporary or subsidiary protection
- Finland, Sweden, Italy have provisions for the protection of persons affected by environmental disasters