

Population Division
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Secretariat
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**CONTRIBUTION
TO THE SIXTEENTH COORDINATION MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION¹**

United Nations Environment Programme

¹ The views expressed in the paper do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the United Nations Secretariat.

BACKGROUND: UN ENVIRONMENT WORK ON MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

UN Environment has worked on issues around the environmental causes and consequences of environmental migration and displacement for many years. Some highlights are listed below.

The term “Environmental Refugees” was coined in an UNEP publication of 1985 written by Essam El-Hinnawi.

In 2008 UN Environment collaborated with the Forced Migration Review in October 2008 (Oxford University) to publish a special issue of the review dedicated to environmentally induced migration, featuring a foreword by the Executive Director, a joint UN Environment and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) lead article, as well as 37 contributions by UN, academic, international and local actors exploring the extent of the potential migration crisis, community adaptation and coping strategies, and the search for solutions.

In 2009 UN Environment, the IOM, UN University and the Munich Re Foundation developed the Climate Change, Migration and Environment Alliance (CCEMA), a multi-stakeholder partnership with objective of mainstreaming environmental and climate change considerations into migration management policies and practices, and to bring migration issues into global environmental and climate change discourse. The Alliance was launched at COP15 in Copenhagen but activities halted soon after launch as a result of funding and coordination challenges.

In 2012 UNEP partnered with OCHA, UNU, IOM and CILSS (the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) to analyse climate trends and identify at risk populations in the Sahel. The analysis featured in the work on Livelihood Security – Climate Change, Migration and Conflict in the Sahel helped to inform the UN integrated strategy on the Sahel.

UN Environment's data initiatives and research findings relevant to the implementation of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/71/1)

UN Environment has been extensively working on the research and data disaggregation related to environmental displacement and migration, as well as putting the agenda forward through the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions as part of policy advocacy.

A/. Research and Knowledge

- *Human Mobility In the Anthropocene - Perspectives from UN Environment* is included as a chapter In the forthcoming publication, expected in March 2018 (link).

- *Environmental Displacement: Human Mobility in the Anthropocene*

_____ Environmental displacement also appear as a cross-cutting issue in GEO-6 which is UN

(<http://disasterdisplacement.org/>)

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UN Environment's plans in 2018