

Environmental Migrants



Image from [Oxfam](#)

Developed countries should assume responsibility for climate migrants, welcoming them into their territories and recognizing their fundamental rights through the signing of international conventions that provide for the definition of climate migrant and require all States to abide by abide by determinations.

Establish an International Tribunal of Conscience to denounce, make visible, document, judge and punish violations of the rights of migrants, refugees and displaced persons within countries of origin, transit and destination, clearly identifying the responsibilities of States, companies and other agents.

[World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, Peoples Agreement](#)

The terms “environmental migrants,” “environmental refugees” and “climate change refugees” are relatively new. Although there is much debate on the meanings and particularities of these terms, their emergence points to the number of people that have been displaced as a consequence of environmental destruction.

Presently, more people are being displaced by environmental disasters than by warfare (1). It is estimated that globally around 50 million people are suffering environmentally induced displacement (2). The causes that force people to leave their homes and lands are multiple and usually closely interrelated. Some of these include deforestation, scarce supply of fresh water, industrial pollution, the over-exploitation of natural resources by transnational companies, the activities of extractive industries, as well as the multiple effects of climate change such as desertification, cyclones, storms and floods.

The legal recognition of environmentally displaced people will force states and international institutions to take political and economic responsibility for the lives of those affected by environmental destruction and to put restrictions on the forces and actors that contribute to environmental damage.

Guiding Questions*

1. Who are the climate migrants?
2. What causes and consequences lead to migration due to climate reasons?
3. Should the current terminology be kept?
4. What actions should be undertaken to fight such adverse effects for migrants due to climate reasons?
5. What is the role of developed countries and which are its effects on developing countries?
6. Which are the effects that migratory fluxes cause on Climate Change?

* Questions from [World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth](#)

Featured Videos

[The Uprooted People](#)

By Local Environmental Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS) of Bangladesh

[Climate change refugees](#)

By Link TV.org

[Environmental Refugees - Aklima's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

[Environmental Refugees - Nurnahar's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

[Environmental Refugees - Shadout Ali's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

[Environmental Refugees - Mohan's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

[Environmental Refugees - Dr Samed's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

[Environmental Refugees - Proboth's story](#)

By InternuncioVideo

Readings

["Who Are Environmental Migrants?"](#)

By Toward Recognition

["The Ongoing Definitional Debate"](#)

By Dan DaSilva

["Defining Environmental Migrants"](#)

By Marie O'Reilly, Policy Innovations for a fairer globalization

["Environmentally Displaced People"](#)

By L. Hens, *Regional Sustainable Development Review: Africa*

[*Environmentally displaced people Understanding the linkages between environmental change, livelihoods and forced migration*](#)

By Camillo Boano, Roger Zetter and Tim Morris

[*Human Development Report 2009 Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development.*](#)

By the UNDP

["Environmental Change and Forced Migration: Making Sense of the Debate"](#)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Working Paper No. 70

["Refugees: Risks and Challenges Worldwide"](#)

By Sharon Stanton Russell, Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
["Climate Change May Mean More Mexican Immigration"](#)
By David Biello, *Scientific American*

World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth
[Final Conclusions working group 6: Climate Change and Migrations](#)

[Forced Migration Review: Climate change and displacement](#)
By fmreview.org