

Session 1.2.3 - Crossing Borders/Seas

Date of the session	Wednesday, 18 th March 2009
Time of the session	8:30 - 10:30 (2 hours)
Topic	1.2 Water-related Migration, Changing Land Use and Human Settlements
Main convening organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany 2. Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration (GAP Administration), Turkey 3. UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), Bonn, Germany
Contact person(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNU-EHS: Prof. Dr Janos Bogardi, Director (bogardi@ehs.unu.edu) Ms Xiaomeng Shen, Associate Academic Officer a.i. (shen@ehs.unu.edu), Ms Humaira Daniel, Research Associate (daniel@ehs.unu.edu) Ms Olivia Dun, Research Associate (dun@ehs.unu.edu) 2. GAP Administration: Mr Sadrettin Karahocagil, President Ms Nese Cakir, General Coordinator (ncakir@gap.gov.tr) Ms Hande Akcakoca, Civil Engineer (akcakoca@gap.gov.tr) Mr Cemalettin Erol, Urban and Regional Planner (cerol@gap.gov.tr) 3. UNW-DPC: Dr Reza Ardakanian, Director, UNW-DPC Dr José Luis Martin Bordes, Programme Officer (martinbordes@unwater.unu.edu) Dr Charlotte van der Schaaf, Programme Officer (vanderschaaf@unwater.unu.edu)
Short description of what the session intends to discuss and the key questions that have been identified.	
<p>The main purpose of this session is to discuss whether water stressors can be a trigger for international migration. This can create both positive solutions for water management but also illegal cross-border movement. The key question for this session is: <i>What are the positive impacts of international migration on water management and water services in the source countries of migrants?</i> This will be discussed during two hours of panel discussions focusing on different aspects of this complex problem, detailed below.</p> <p>Crossing Borders/Seas - Panel Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In what way could environmental degradation and climate change impacts, such as lack of water, trigger cross border migration? 	

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2. How can unsustainable water use be a push and/or pull factor for migration?
3. Does one's "water culture" change in a new cultural setting?
4. How can limited resources be equitably shared between migrants and the indigenous population? What are the consequences of circular migration and repatriation on water services?
5. What are the gender and social implications of overseas labour migration?
6. What role do remittances play in improving water availability/management "back home"? Which role do diasporas play in development?
7. From brain drain to brain circulation: can water resource management, water supply and sanitation encourage development and knowledge transfer processes?
8. How can trans-country migration be legalized/controlled and made a circulation of manpower, know-how and funds, rather than illegal and risky migration which causes brain drain?
9. How does the movement of young males impact on labour, soil conservation and water harvesting back home?

Wider context of issues : Why is the question important to improving water challenges in the world today ?And how does it relate to issues outside the water sectors?

International migration is a crucial part of the world's economic, social and political fabric. Millions of people crossing borders over land or by sea are an important element of international relations, as well as changing economic, social, cultural, and even political landscapes. The International Migration Report 2002, issued by the United Nations Population Division, states that around 175 million persons currently reside outside the country of their birth. It is estimated that each year, the world's more developed regions receive about 2.3 million migrants from less developed regions, accounting for two thirds of their population growth.

There are several different drivers which lead to different types of migration patterns. Many can be linked to water and its influence on patterns of land use or natural physical processes. It is not known how much these various drivers may or may not result in international migration. Nor is the impact of international migration on the state of the environment in areas of origin well known. Furthermore, it is not yet known whether those who migrate first are relatively well off ("those who can migrate, will migrate") or those who migrate first are those with the greatest direct dependence on environmental quality.

This session will explore the main drivers which motivate people to migrate across borders and seas. In addition, the contribution of migrants towards local development in source countries through the sending of remittances will be discussed. The potential of legal instruments which facilitate migration circulation and result in a positive impact on local people in their homelands will also be discussed. Migration processes will also be examined within a transboundary basin management context.

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Discuss the development of session questions and its role on the relevant topic	
i. Identify common issues and priority problems	<p>The discussion will examine the recent trends, current issues, and future prospects of cross-border migration and its role in promoting or threatening the development of both the source and target countries of migrants, especially as it relates to water management.</p> <p>Cross-border migration is generating political anxiety, social tension and cultural frictions in many parts of the world besides endangering many lives. Therefore, it is important to identify root causes for international migration decisions as well as identify the opportunities for development in source countries generated by migrant diasporas.</p>
ii. Discuss the future evolution of the topic, in the short-, medium-, to long-term based on changing political climates and other foreseen socio-economic /ecological factors	<p>Cross-border migration will likely increase in the near future parallel to increases in internal migration as a consequence of socio-economic development trends and possibly climate change impacts. In the short term, this session will assist by exploring some of the basic, yet important, evidence of international migration as a result of ecological and socio-economic stresses including predominantly water related ones.</p> <p>Through discussions, the session will identify some of the water-related drivers which motivate people to migrate across international borders and seas, in some cases, putting their lives at risk. The outcomes can be used to develop more relevant research topics and suggestions for policy inputs in identifying legal instruments which facilitate migration circulation.</p>
Differing Perspectives : (Regional, Stakeholder, Others...)	
<p>A large variety of stakeholders invited including community/NGO representatives, academics, national government representatives and representatives of international organisations will bring in their perspectives and points of view about the different aspects of the issues of this session. Differing regional perspectives will be highlighted with invited panellists originating from Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America and Europe. For example, amongst the panellists, this session will include perspectives from Africans seeking asylum in Europe; views about water management practices following cross border migration between Pakistan and Afghanistan; migration towards the USA by those working the Mexican agricultural sector; and the views of those representing regional (OSCE) and international (World Bank, IOM and UNESCO) organisations.</p>	
List of Speakers and Timing	
<p>8:30-10:30 Wednesday 18 March 2009, 'Crossing Borders/Seas moderated by Prof. Houria Tazi Sadeq, School of Civil Engineering (EHTP), Casablanca, Morocco and Dr Philippe Boncour, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p>	
Panelists	
<p>8:30 - 10:30- Crossing Borders/Seas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Vahid Alavian , The World Bank - Mr Marc Baltés, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - Mr Ahmed Bugri, Marsa Open Centre (Asylum Seeker Reception Centre), Malta 	

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- Ms Humaira Daniel, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
- Mr Ignacio Sanchez-Cohen, Water and Soil Research Net of the National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Research (INIFAP)

Previous experiences to draw on expected challenges and past lessons

Cross border migration with its growing scale and complexity is emerging as a priority issue that calls for regional and international cooperation. The international community needs to strengthen its understanding of the links between water stresses and international migration as well as efforts to address these issues in order to maximize the benefits while minimizing negative impacts. Several countries are addressing these issues unilaterally. Therefore, there is a need to create legal and institutional frameworks to assist international migrants who move due to environmental drivers.

The discussions under this session at the 5th World Water Forum will build on the findings of the European Commission-funded Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) Project and outcomes from previous international conferences/workshops which have taken place over the past 2 years and focused on the links between environmental change and migration. For example, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), together with Munich Re Foundation (MRF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with support of the Rockefeller Foundation brought together 35 experts in the fields of migration and the environment from 16 to 18 April 2008 in Munich, Germany at the "Research Workshop on Migration and the Environment: Developing a global research agenda." Additionally, UNU-EHS hosted the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability (EFMSV) in Bonn, Germany during October 2008 and produced the "Bonn Points" in order to streamline the debate on environmental migration.