

# **Kukimbia: the impact of environmental refugees in Southern Africa**

*A regional perspective on climate-induced  
migration*

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# Key human mobility terms

## Human mobility

### Displacement

Situations where people are forced to leave their home or place of habitual residence. Displacement is usually associated with intensive risk, where the occurrence of a disaster event is the primary driver of movement. It can take place within or across national borders.

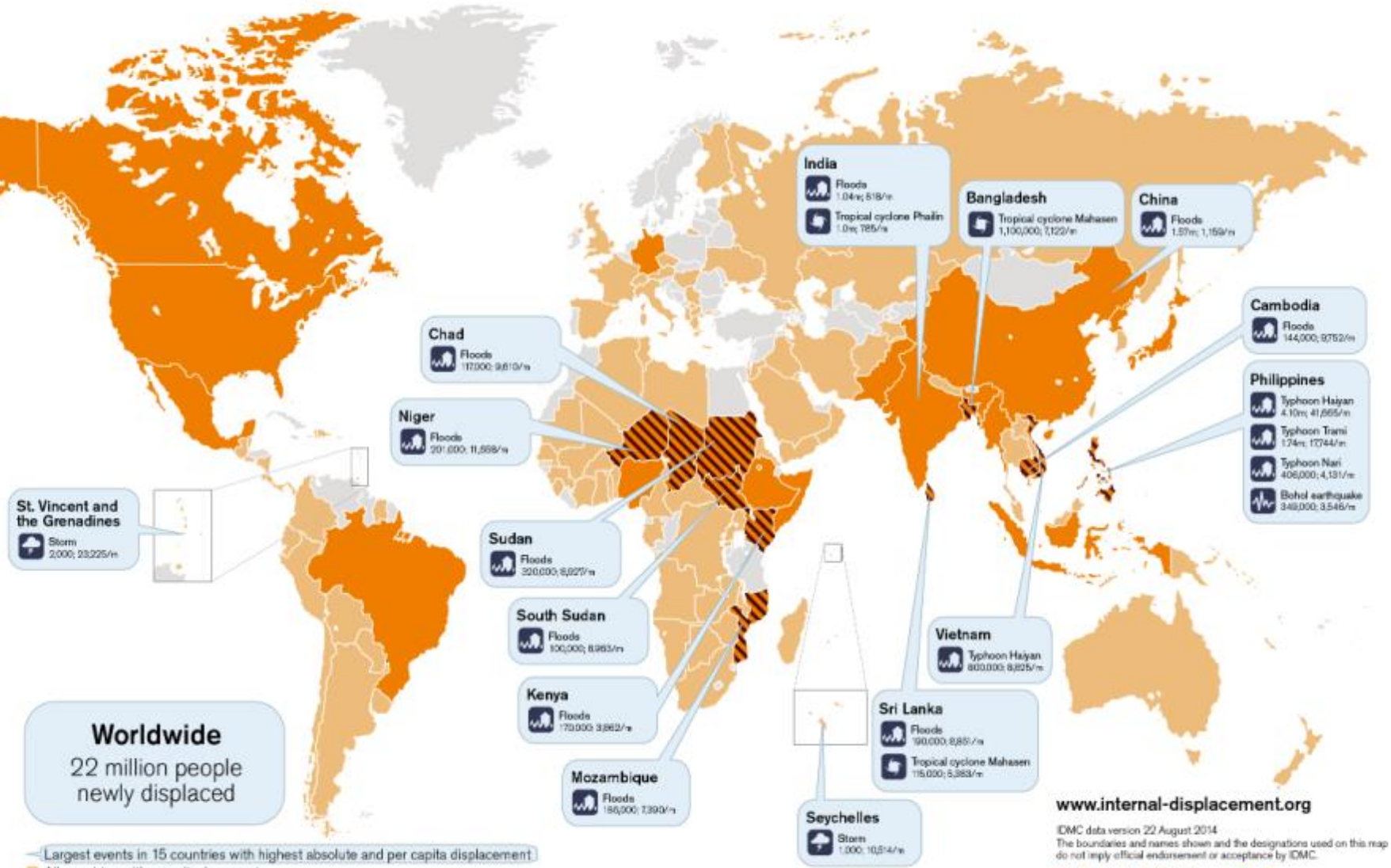
### Migration

Movements which are, to some degree, voluntary. This is usually associated with extensive risk, and can take place within or across national borders. The decision to move is complex and often linked to multiple drivers, including but not limited to climate risk.

### Planned relocation

An organised relocation, typically instigated, supervised and carried out by the state with the aim of reducing (usually extensive) weather and climate risks. Ideally, planned relocation should be undertaken transparently and with the informed consent of, or upon the request of the community. It should also be accompanied by resettlement (the restoration of communities and socio-economic conditions) (McAdam and Ferris, 2015).

# Disaster-induced displacement worldwide in 2013




[www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

IDMC data version 22 August 2014  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDMC.

- Largest events in 15 countries with highest absolute and per capita displacement
- All countries with new displacement
- 50,000 people or more displaced
- At least 3,500 people displaced per million inhabitants

# Background – 1 billion by 2050: fact or fiction?

- Worldwide, between **2008 - 2015**, an average of **26.4 million people were displaced by disasters each year** - equivalent to **one person every second**. Africa particularly vulnerable in this regard.
- **The migration - environmental degradation - climate change nexus** has recently started receiving attention again – increasing regional and global importance of this topic.
- Movement of discourse from migration as a problem that reflects a failure to adapt to changes in the physical environment  migration as a key adaptive response to socio-economic, cultural and environmental change.
- Emerging understanding of the role of local and national institutions in supporting and accommodating mobility.
- However: most governments still tend to focus migration policies on reducing pressures to migrate, managing authorised movements, and controlling irregular flows.

# Geography of research

## Migration, climate change and the environment: mapping the world's case studies



Jérémie Guélat, IGG, University of Neuchâtel  
Source: CLIMIG Project  
Philcarto <http://philcarto.free.fr>



# Project purpose and aims

- This project focuses on **the regional, national and sub-national policy landscape and the preparedness of Southern African countries** to respond to future **internal and cross-border displacements as a result of environmental disasters**.
- Goal is to grow a **social research capability on climate-induced human movement patterns**.

## Aims:

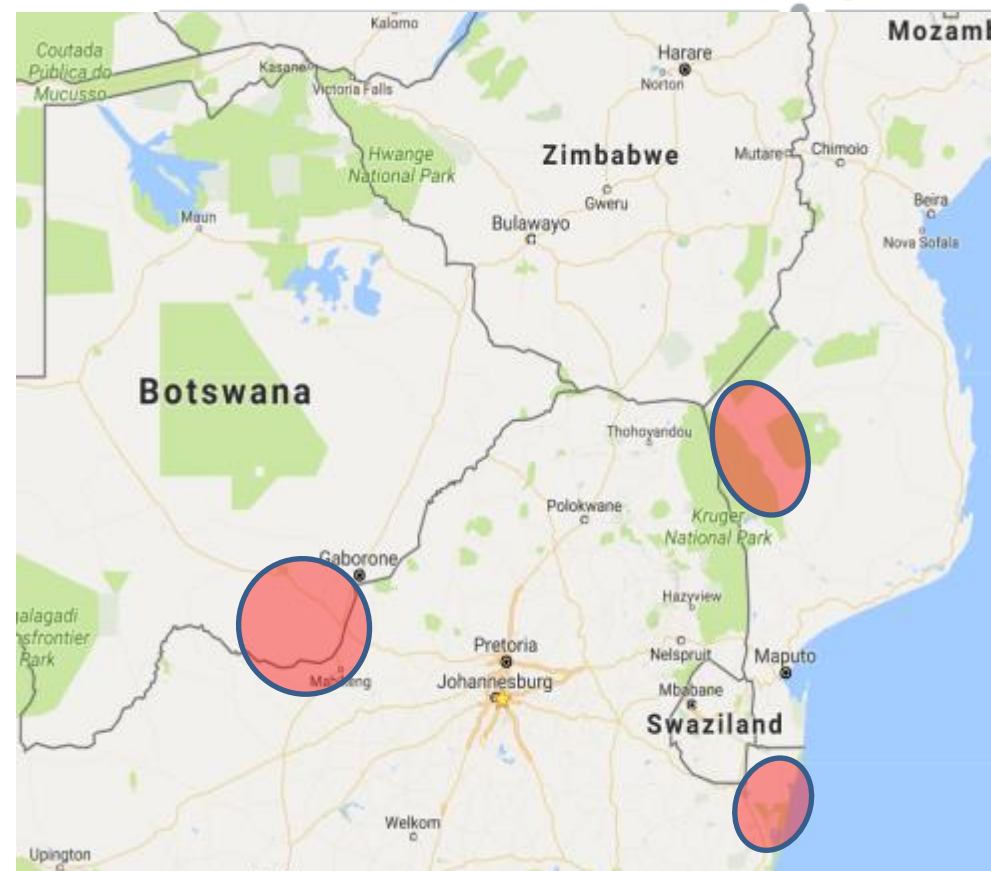
1. To develop the Southern African policy position on environmental refugees affected by floods and droughts and provide policy guidelines to strengthen this in regional law.
2. To develop national policy guidelines on environmental refugees to strengthen national disaster response plans for floods and droughts in the case study areas identified.
3. To develop local adaptive management strategies for environmental refugees in the case study areas identified.

# Project scales

Descriptors	Global / regional	National	Sub-national / Local
<b>Unit of analysis</b>	SADC region / states	States (country of origin, country of destination)	Municipalities / Local communities / individuals
<b>Key areas of investigation</b>	Legislative and policy frameworks	National policy, strategies	Disaster response plans, individuals' experiences
<b>Impact areas</b>	Regional climate change adaptation capacity Regional support/acknowledgement of climate-induced migration	Adaptive capacity of states, preparedness	Individual's level of resilience, agency, access to support systems

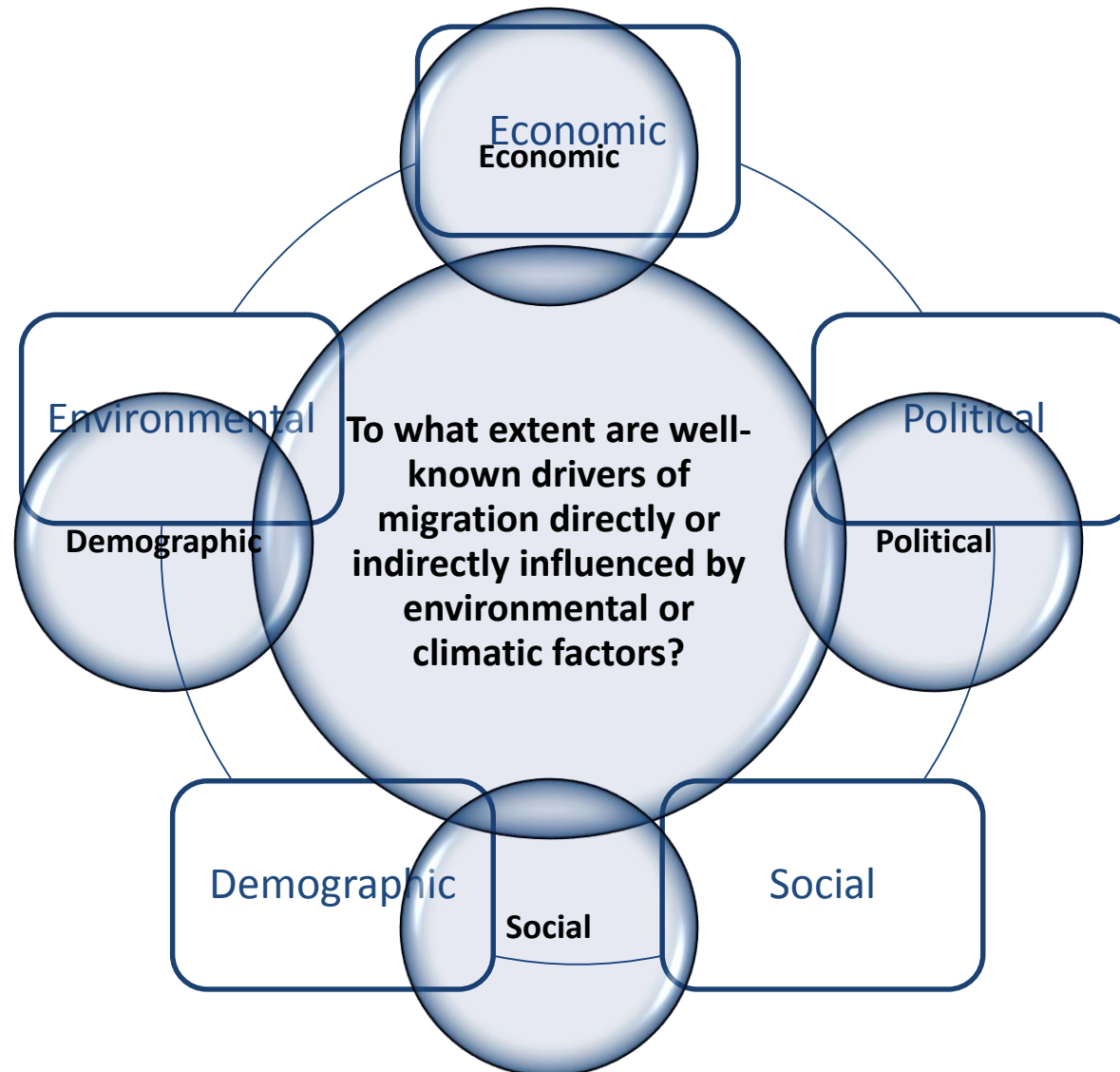
# Potential case study areas

1. Maputoland, KZN Province, RSA – northern KZN, downstream of Pongola Dam – **drought**
2. Gaza Province, Mozambique - **flooding**
3. North West Province, SA/Botswana – **drought/ desertification**





# Drivers of migration decisions



# Governance and policy responses

- States have tended to protect their national prerogatives, favouring non-binding forms of dialogue and exchanges of best practice e.g. Nansen Initiative.
- No legal framework exists at the global level.
- Migrants fall within the jurisdiction of different frameworks.
- A flexible approach is needed that covers various legal fields, elements of soft law, and migration policies.
- Regional legal frameworks have been very effective e.g. Kampala Convention (ratified by 25 states as of 2015 and is the first binding regional instrument explicitly offering protection to people displaced by natural disasters).
- The number of fora for regional and inter-regional dialogue has grown over the past 15 years – gravity of the issue has been grasped, importance of developing regional responses.

# Migration as adaptation

- Human mobility included in climate negotiations framework:
  - 2010 in Cancun Adaptation Framework
  - 2011 in Loss and Damage Programme
  - Paris Agreement at COP21 in December 2015
- But focus on forced migration (displacement) and the limitation of loss and damage linked to CC.
- Need to look at positive potential of human mobility, and how to systematically integrate it into adaptation planning processes (NAPs), financial mechanisms, technology transfers, and capacity building.
- To achieve this, need for concrete tools that combines mobility and adaptation e.g. research programmes, guidelines for integrating migration into NAPs, training modules and political dialogue.

# Linking migration policy to adaptation and development

- Countries of destination: Managed migration can be an effective disaster reduction strategy (e.g. early warning systems, evacuation plans, community-based preparedness programmes, planned relocation, temporary labour programmes, reduced costs of remittances)
- Countries of origin: Facilitating migration as an effective climate change adaptation strategy (e.g. seasonal migration agreements, specific visa systems)

# Expected impact and outputs

## Outputs

- National dialogue 1
- National dialogue 2
- Regional dialogue
- Documentary
- Policy briefs
- Policy guidelines
- Reports and publications
- Community of Practice (CoP)

## Impact

- Better preparedness at different levels of scale
- Institutional enhancement
- Improvement in capacity/capability and skills
- Contribution to knowledge through regional case studies
- Supporting informed planning and decision-making

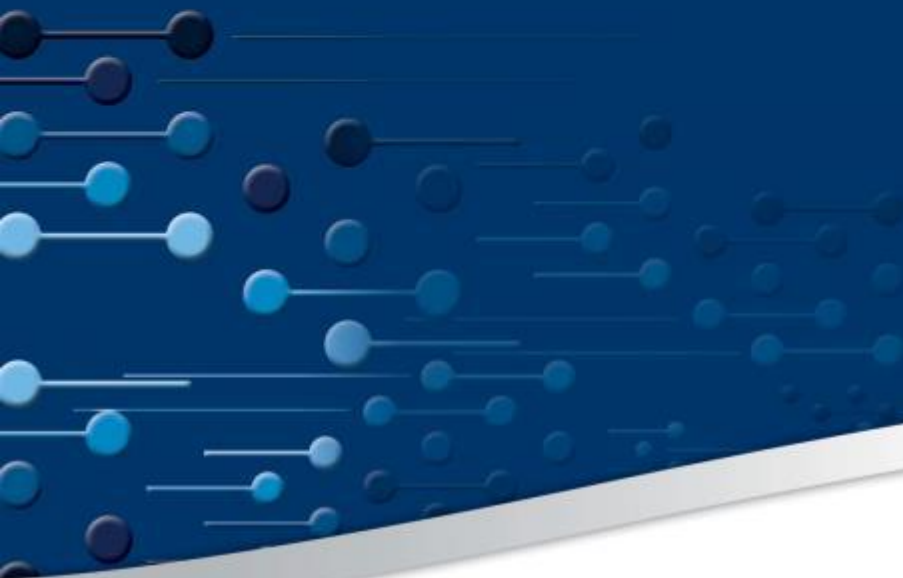


# Concluding remarks

So what is necessary to link human mobility, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development to address environmental migration?

1. Evidence
2. Integration
3. Collaboration
4. Balance

**Thank you**



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