



## INITIAL SESSION PROPOSALS

**Drafted by:** UNU-EHS (Xiaomeng Shen, Prof. Janos Bogardi and Olivia Dun)

**Topic reference number:** 1.2

**Total Number of sessions proposed for Topic:** 4 (3-4 expected)

**Have these proposals been viewed and commented on by all the Topic Coordinators?**

yes  no

**Have these proposals been viewed and commented on by the Topic Consortia?**

yes  no

**Have these proposals been viewed and commented on by the Topic Consultative Group?**

yes  no

**Have these proposals been reviewed by the Theme Coordinators?**

yes  no

### **Important Reminders**

- Sessions should aim to provide concrete solutions to key questions on non-consensual subjects, raise awareness on new solutions or developments or give the opportunity to discuss issues in order to provide greater consensus.
- Sessions should favour exchange (panels, debates, questions and answers and interactive formats) rather than provide static presentations.
- Sessions must include different perspectives and associate various stakeholders. Focal points for the various stakeholder groups will be available to assist you in identifying appropriate representatives to associate within your sessions.
- Session descriptions should not be elaborate nor detailed, since room should be left for further development as offers of contributions from the wider community are received (through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>). Efforts should be made to integrate as many of these proposed contributions as possible.
- A virtual platform for thematic development is at your disposal to facilitate development processes (document creation with versioning, discussion groups, wiki tools, etc.). Topic Coordinators are responsible for managing these virtual spaces. More detailed information will be sent to you on this issue soon.

### **Important Dates**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>:** Topic Coordinators submit initial session proposals to the Thematic Coordinators for review.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>:** Thematic Coordinators submit session proposals to the Programme Committee (via the Forum Secretariat and WWC HQ) for review.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** Programme Committee meets to review all submissions

**September 30<sup>th</sup>:** Call for Contributions closes.

**November (TBD):** Final session plan to be submitted—but development work continues until the Forum!



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### Proposal for Session 1, Topic 1.2: “Rural – Rural Migration”

<p><b>Broader Issue/Context</b></p>	<p>Water—in all its dimensions—affects the ability of people to live and thrive in their environments across the globe. Indeed, water availability and water quality have shaped where people have settled and why people have moved across the millennia. Today, water availability and quality continues to be a contributing factor to migration, especially in areas where compounding factors of poverty and vulnerability to natural hazards are present. Migration pressures are predicted to mount further as the effects of climate change exacerbate and alter existing patterns of water availability and quality.<sup>1</sup> This will have different impacts in rural and urban areas.</p> <p>In rural areas as environments become inhospitable to people, people may be pushed to move elsewhere where their locally specific knowledge may no longer apply to the places where they migrate. Competition over scarce resources (such as water) in places of origin can lead to conflict which can also play a role in migration. Displaced people may not always receive the support they need in places of destination and there is also a potential for conflict in new locations. For those displaced from one rural location to another where adequate infrastructure is not available and where they are directly dependent on the environment for survival, there can be an over-exploitation of natural resources leading to a lack of potable water, soil degradation, cutting of trees and clearing of land, but also to pollution and potential epidemics.</p> <p>It is important to understand the specific context in which rural to rural migration takes place, particularly through an examination of the impacts and consequences for water resources management and changing land use patterns as well as growing and declining human settlements. This sessions hosted under Topic 1.2 will reflect on rural – rural migration issues linked to water and will seek to address the overarching question: “From potential crisis to opportunity: how can we enhance the positive impact of migration to improve water resource management, land use planning and human settlement?”</p>
<p><b>Key Question</b></p>	<p>Is migration mitigating or increasing conflict in rural environments in light of land use changes?</p>

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) research on environment and migration is done as part of a European Commission 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme research consortium (“EACH-FOR”, Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios). This research is carried out together with support from the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).



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<b>Session Development Description/ Outline</b>	<p><b>Areas that need to be explored and envisaged session format:</b></p> <p>This session will be a 4 hour session and explore the following four issues in relation to rural – rural migration:</p> <p>1. Climate Change (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• changing land cover (pastures, forests, other ecosystem services)</li><li>• changing rainfall patterns,</li><li>• increasing extremes (drought, floods)</li></ul> <p><i>Climate Change – Discussion Question:</i></p> <p>What adaptation measures can be implemented by various stakeholders in order to reduce out-migration from rural areas as a result of the environmental consequences of climate change? Would some areas become more habitable and productive?</p> <p>2. Changing Land Use (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• crop changes</li><li>• deforestation</li><li>• infrastructure (dams)</li><li>• urban encroachment</li><li>• land degradation</li><li>• irrigation</li></ul> <p><i>Changing Land Use –Discussion Questions:</i></p> <p>Can spatial planning be an instrument to ensure sustainable rural development? What policies are needed to balance clashing interests of different stake holders at local and national levels? What measures should be taken to improve the coordination between land use policies and water policies?</p> <p>3. Resource Disputes (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• disappearing reliable water sources,</li><li>• population pressure (natural growth, regional in/out migration)</li><li>• sector / user conflicts</li><li>• migration as solution</li><li>• impacts of flight on ecosystems.</li></ul> <p><i>Resource Disputes – Discussion Questions:</i></p> <p>What are the political dimensions of water scarcity? What is the role of water management? Does migration ease population pressure in source regions and cause conflict in target regions? How can we manage limited resources and prevent conflicts?</p> <p>4. Rural Resettlement Programmes (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• impact on social fabric</li><li>• impact on the environment</li><li>• way to provide sanitation and water</li><li>• failures made, lessons learned</li><li>• financial mechanisms</li></ul> <p><i>Rural Resettlement Programmes - Discussion Questions:</i></p> <p>What can we do to ensure successful resettlement without overstressing water resources and supply? Can insurance be a useful tool to help people resettle? Microcredit schemes? How much is movement enforced or voluntary?</p>
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	<p><b>Affected stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- individuals and local rural communities</li> <li>- NGOs</li> <li>- Humanitarian agencies</li> <li>- Development agencies</li> <li>- Environmental agencies</li> <li>- Planning agencies</li> <li>- Agricultural authorities</li> <li>- Resettlement authorities</li> <li>- Government administrative authorities</li> <li>- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Process of engaging stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ongoing dialogue with actual partners in different research and policy-making consortia</li> <li>- engaging other UN and intergovernmental bodies</li> <li>- inviting NGO's</li> <li>- inviting individual experts</li> </ul>
<p><b>(Types of ) Organizations to be involved in session development</b></p>	<p>UNCCD, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, IFAD, ZEF (Centre for Development Research of University of Bonn, Germany) IOM, UNHCR, WFP, Munich Re Foundation (MRF), Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC), Mali Folk Center</p>
<p><b>What is being bridged here?</b></p>	<p>The gap in knowledge and perception about the nature of linkages between changing rural livelihoods, resource scarcity, conflict and migration patterns.</p>
<p><b>Next steps and timeline</b></p>	<p><b>Key events for topic development and consultation process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers examining and working on rural to rural migration issues in developing countries</li> <li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers investigating water conflict issues in rural locations</li> <li>• Introduce these issues during the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability (EFMSV) to be held from 9-11 October 2008 in Bonn, Germany</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contact information for coordination of this session</b></p>	<p><b>Name:</b> Xiaomeng Shen  <b>Organisation:</b> United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)  <b>Country:</b> Germany  <b>E-mail:</b> shen@ehs.unu.edu  <b>Tel:</b> +49 (0)228 815 0258</p>



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### Proposal for Session 2, Topic 1.2: “Rural – Urban Migration”

<p><b>Broader Issue/Context</b></p>	<p>Water—in all its dimensions—affects the ability of people to live and thrive in their environments across the globe. Indeed, water availability and water quality have shaped where people have settled and why people have moved across the millennia. Today, water availability and quality continues to be a contributing factor to migration, especially in areas where compounding factors of poverty and vulnerability to natural hazards are present. Migration pressures are predicted to mount further as the effects of climate change exacerbate and alter existing patterns of water availability and quality.<sup>2</sup> This will have different impacts in rural and urban areas.</p> <p>Failure to secure livelihoods in their original rural habitat is expected to drive millions of vulnerable people to move. It is suspected that most of those on the move from rural areas will head towards urban agglomerations where assistance, income opportunities and infrastructure may be perceived to be more accessible and readily available. This creates an enormous social, health, infrastructure and management challenge on cities, subject to unplanned growth.</p> <p>It is in coastal areas, where 70% of the world’s cities with over 5 million inhabitants are located, that is thought will face the largest migration pressures. Megacities cluster in these waterfront areas, attracting migrants to sprawling slums and simultaneously exacerbating water demands. Although constituting only 2 % of the total land surface of the earth, these low-lying regions contain 10% of the current world population (noting that over 40% of the world’s people live within 100km of the coast) and 13% of the urban population. In particular, people who occupy regions in the low elevation coastal zones between 1 and 10 metres above sea level of the world are becoming vulnerable to the potential for permanent inundation of their homes and livelihoods will face questions of relocation. Of significance is that about 75% of all the people residing in low-lying areas are in Asia, and the most vulnerable are the poor. The potential sea level rise could trigger a secondary waves of migration. Current projections of temperature and sea level rises and increased intensity of droughts and storms suggest that population displacement at significant scales will take place within the next 30-50 years.</p>
<p><b>Key Question</b></p>	<p>How do cities cope with the unplanned influx of migrants?</p>
<p><b>Session Development Description/ Outline</b></p>	<p><b>Areas that need to be explored and envisaged session format:</b></p> <p>This session will be a 3 hour session and will explore the following issues in relation to rural – urban migration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rural/urban water conflicts (1 hour): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trigger for human displacement,</li> <li>• alternative livelihood</li> <li>• loss of rural labour capacity</li> <li>• mechanisms to manage the process</li> <li>• new models and managed transition for the future.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><i>Rural/urban water conflicts:</i></p> <p>Will urbanisation continue forever? Is uncontrolled urbanisation the result of the</p>

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	<p>failure of sustainable rural livelihoods and water services? Do rural failures breed urban failures: is the lack of sustainable rural development policies responsible for rural exodus? Can migration be the answer? How can we take into consideration gender issues in migration?</p> <p>2. Urban Slums (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a transitional state as the result of rural-urban migration or informal (permanent) “life style” of the urban poor.</li> <li>• water supply and sanitation options.</li> <li>• awareness raising and education of “newcomers”.</li> </ul> <p><i>Urban Slums : Discussion Questions:</i></p> <p>What are the possibilities to improve the quality of life for people living in informal settlements without breaking their social networks? Could low cost safe water supply and sanitation services be provided? Is giving priority to investments in the water services in towns, small cities and rural areas a preferred measure to mitigate uncontrolled development of mega-cities?</p> <p>3. Overloaded Infrastructure (1 hour):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• infrastructure development, planning and accounting for formal and informal migrants</li> <li>• temporary schemes and emergency solutions</li> </ul> <p><i>Overloaded Infrastructure – Discussion Questions:</i></p> <p>How can we cope with the unplanned rapid urbanisation, projections, financial need, development models, industrial and manufacturing needs? Should territorial development policies give more emphasis to medium scale cities to avoid the uncontrolled development of megacities? How?</p> <p><b>Affected stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrants</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Social welfare organisations and authorities</li> <li>• Development agencies</li> <li>• Environmental agencies</li> <li>• Urban planners</li> <li>• Urban municipalities</li> <li>• Resettlement authorities</li> </ul> <p><b>Process of engaging stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing dialogue with actual partners in different research and policy-making consortia</li> <li>• engaging other UN and intergovernmental bodies</li> <li>• inviting NGO's</li> <li>• inviting individual experts</li> </ul>
<p><b>(Types of ) Organizations to be involved in session development</b></p>	<p>UN Habitat, IWA, UNW-DPC, UNESCO, University of Bonn, Ministry for Water Resources of the PR. China</p>
<p><b>What is being</b></p>	<p>The gap between existing and planned infrastructure in urban environments and the</p>



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<b>bridged here?</b>	increasing needs due to informal and unplanned migrant influxes
<b>Next steps and timeline</b>	<b>Key events for topic development and consultation process:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers examining and working on rural to urban migration issues in developing countries</li><li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers investigating and working on migrant integration and urban infrastructure/planning issues in urban locations</li><li>• Introduce these issues during the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability (EFMSV) to be held from 9-11 October 2008 in Bonn, Germany</li></ul>
<b>Contact information for coordination of this session</b>	<b>Name: Xiaomeng Shen</b> <b>Organisation: United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)</b> <b>Country: Germany</b> <b>E-mail: shen@ehs.unu.edu</b> <b>Tel: +49 (0)228 815 0258</b>



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### Proposal for Session 3, Topic 1.2: “Crossing Borders/Seas”

<p><b>Broader Issue/Context</b></p>	<p>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. Some of these can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of water as a production resource</li> <li>▪ Lack of water supply and sanitation (water scarcity)</li> <li>▪ Overstressing resources/disappearing water and groundwater sources (e.g. Aral sea, Lake Chad, drought)</li> <li>▪ Water development infrastructure (dams, irrigation)</li> <li>▪ Industries and extractive industries</li> <li>▪ Population growth / claim on diminishing resources</li> <li>▪ Land degradation / lack of environmental services</li> <li>▪ Urban encroachment into agricultural land</li> <li>▪ Overloading municipal water infrastructure(s)</li> <li>▪ Climate change variability</li> <li>▪ Floods and storm surges</li> </ul> <p>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 state of the environment in areas of origin is 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. Development literature suggests that relatively affluent households have a stronger ability than very poor households to secure their standards of living in the face of change. Empirical research is needed to establish the degree to which migration is a coping mechanism and how migration helps households to secure desired standards of living. Research documenting remittance patterns indicates that after migrating, people send remittances back home to help support a larger number of family members still living in rural areas. Some rural-based households have noted that sending one or two children away to cities or abroad to earn a living was a form of risk management for families whose livelihoods depended heavily on the environment. Households with fewer assets and less coping capacity vis-à-vis environmental change may have to accept worsening standards of living if they cannot afford to migrate.</p>
<p><b>Key Question</b></p>	<p>What are the positive impacts of international migration on water management and water services in the source countries of migrants?</p>





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<p><b>Session Development Description/ Outline</b></p>	<p><b>Areas that need to be explored and envisaged session format:</b></p> <p>This session will be a 2 hour session and will explore the following issues in relation to international migration:</p> <p>1. Crossing borders (1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts on mass displacements on the environment and water resources:</li> <li>• Refugee camps</li> <li>• Resettlement</li> </ul> <p><i>Crossing Borders: Discussion Questions</i></p> <p>Will climate change/lack of water trigger cross border migration? Is unsustainable water use a push or/and pull factor? Does one's "water culture" change in a new cultural setting? Water ethics: how to share limited resources equitably between migrants and indigenous population? What are the consequences of circular migration, repatriation on water services?</p> <p>2. Crossing Seas (1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remittances and improving water infrastructure "back home"</li> <li>• Illegal and risky migration</li> <li>• Labour shortage in source country due to out-migration</li> </ul> <p><i>Crossing Sorders: Discussion Questions</i></p> <p>What role do remittances play in improving water availability/management "back home"? Which role do Diasporas play in development? From brain drain to brain circulation: can water resource management, water supply and sanitation encourage brain circulation? How can we legalise/control trans-country migration and make it a circulation of manpower, know-how and funds, rather than illegal and risky migration which causes brain drain? How does the movement of young males impact on labour, soil conservation and water harvesting?</p> <p><b>Affected stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrants</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Immigration and border control authorities</li> <li>• Development agencies</li> <li>• Finance agencies (administering remittances)</li> <li>• UNHCR, IOM</li> <li>• Humanitarian organisations</li> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Water Resources Agencies and Authorities</li> </ul> <p><b>Process of engaging stakeholders:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing dialogue with actual partners in different research and policy-making consortia</li> <li>• engaging other UN and intergovernmental bodies</li> <li>• inviting NGO's</li> <li>• inviting individual experts</li> </ul>
<p><b>(Types of ) Organizations to</b></p>	<p>IOM, WB, ILO, Munich Re Foundation (MRF), Academie de l'Eau, Mali Folke Center, LiSER (Living Space for Environmental Refugees)</p>



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<b>be involved in session development</b>	
<b>What is being bridged here?</b>	The gap in knowledge about the impact of international migration on the state of the environment in areas of a migrant's origin.
<b>Next steps and timeline</b>	<b>Key events for topic development and consultation process:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers examining and working on international migration issues</li><li>• Contact researchers, practioners and policy-makers investigating and working on migrant integration and managing migration remittances</li><li>• Introduce these issues during the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability (EFMSV) to be held from 9-11 October 2008 in Bonn, Germany</li></ul>
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