



Global Forum on **MIGRATION & DEVELOPMENT**

GFMD Germany & Morocco 2017-2018

GFMD Thematic Workshop on
“ Climate Change and Human Mobility”
*Towards dignified, coordinated and sustainable
solutions*

24 May 2017, Rabat, Morocco

Université
de Liège



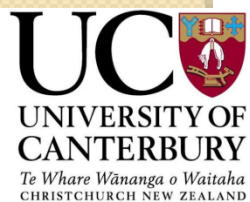
The Hugo Observatory
Environment, Migration, Politics

The Hugo Observatory Environment, Migration, Politics.

Dalila GHARBAOUI


GFMD Thematic Workshop on
“ **Climate Change and Human Mobility**”

Session I: Understanding and taking action



Macmillan Brown
Centre for Pacific Studies

Dalila Gharbaoui-Hugo Observatory on Environmental Migration, University of Liege /Macmillan Brown Center for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury (MBC)



(I) What initiatives are ongoing to promote the need to address human mobility challenges in the context of climate change?

The Hugo Observatory on Environment, Migration and Politics

→ **First Research Structure** exclusively dedicated to the issues of environmental migration.

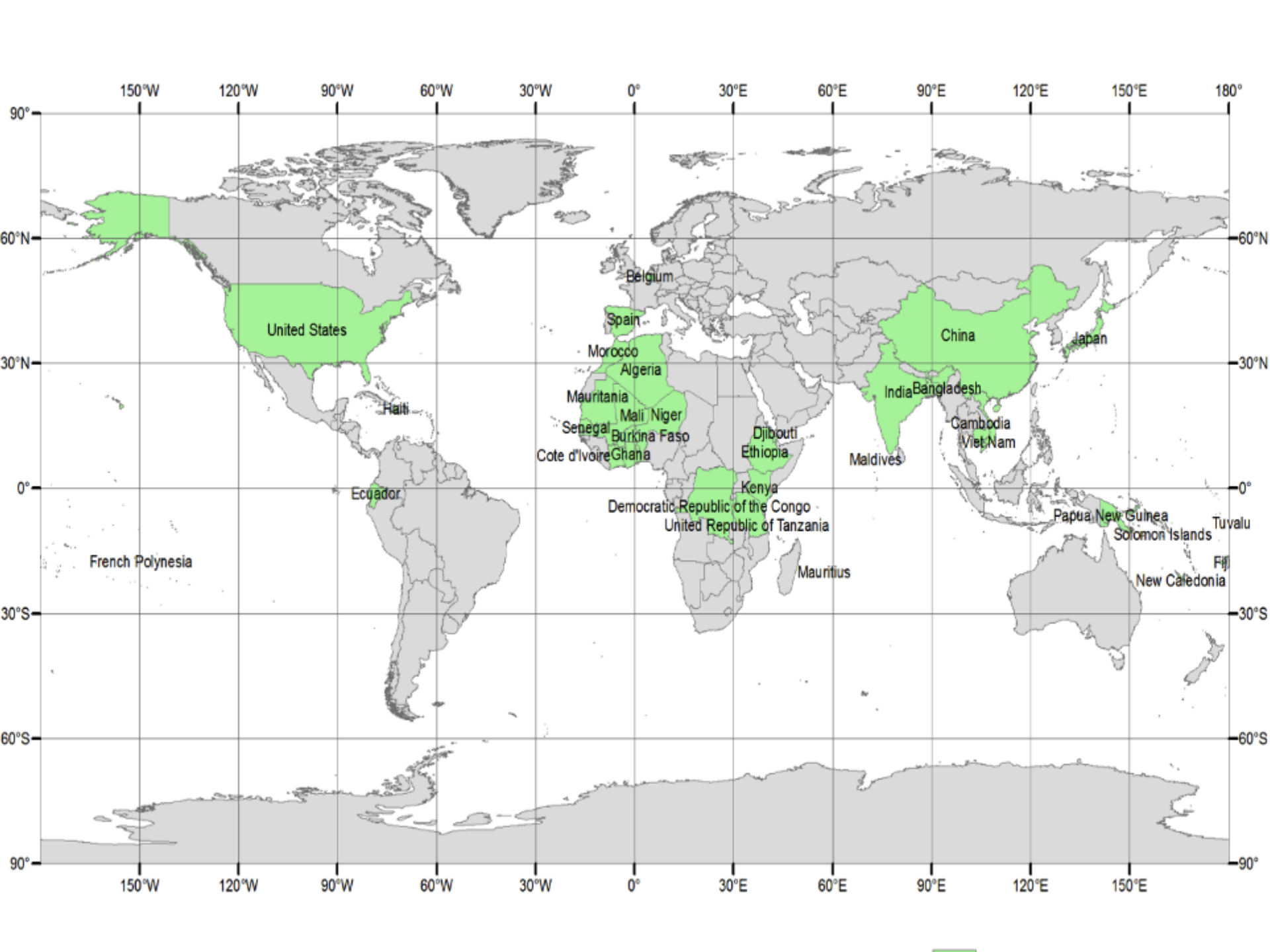
The Hugo Observatory Objectives

- **Develop empirical and theoretical research** related to mobility dynamics in the context of environmental degradation
- **Inform public debate**
- **Federating research forces on climate change and migration**
 - International Association on the Study of Environmental Migration (Plateforme)
- **Consultative Mission** FAO, World Bank, ect.

Main Research Themes

- (Im)mobility
- Land Tenure, Land Grabbing, Climate Change, and Migrations
- Perceptions
- Traditional knowledge
- Borders
- Migratory scenarios Modelisation at +2, +4, et +6° c (HELIX)
- Migration as adaptation strategy (Migration Environment Climate Change Evidence for Policy-MECLEP, in coordination with IOM)
- Environmental Diplomacy (H2020 EU Project EDGE)
- Security, climate change and migrations.
- Social Tipping points (Points de basculement).





150°W

120°W

90°W

60°W

30°W

0°

30°E

60°E

90°E

120°E

150°E

180°

90°N

60°N

30°N

0°

30°S

60°S

90°S

60°N

30°N

0°

30°S

60°S

90°S

United States

French Polynesia

Ecuador

Haiti

Belgium

Spain

Morocco

Algeria

Mauritania

Mali

Niger

Senegal

Burkina Faso

Cote d'Ivoire

Ghana

Djibouti

Ethiopia

Kenya

Democratic Republic of the Congo

United Republic of Tanzania

Mauritius

Maldives

India

Bangladesh

China

Japan

Cambodia

Viet Nam

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Tuvalu

Fiji

New Caledonia

Research Initiatives undertaken by the Observatory at the policy level

- Coordination with **IOM** (MECLEP, Atlas on Environmental Migration, Excom ect.)
- Contributing to the Thematic Consultations in the **Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration**: Hugo Observatory **officially accredited** to the Global Compact process;
- Working in partnership with a technical working group of the **World's Banks** Knowledge Platform on migration, "**KNOMAD**" (currently developing a policy toolkit on planned relocations)
- Working with the **Plateforme on Disaster Displacement** (PDD) and previously the **Nansen Initiative Consultative Committee**
- Member of the civil society seat of the UNFCCC **Task Force** on disaster displacement → with IDMC, Refugee International, ect.

(III) What knowledge is needed to support action? Key Gaps:

- Need to improve **quantitative assessments**, both estimates and predictions.
- Need for **integrated structures avoiding** fragmentation between different research disciplines.
 - The Hugo Observatory of Environmental Migration.
- Need for **better conceptual and theoretical tools**.
- Need to re-engage with migration and development studies.
- **Avoid a de-politicisation of the question.**

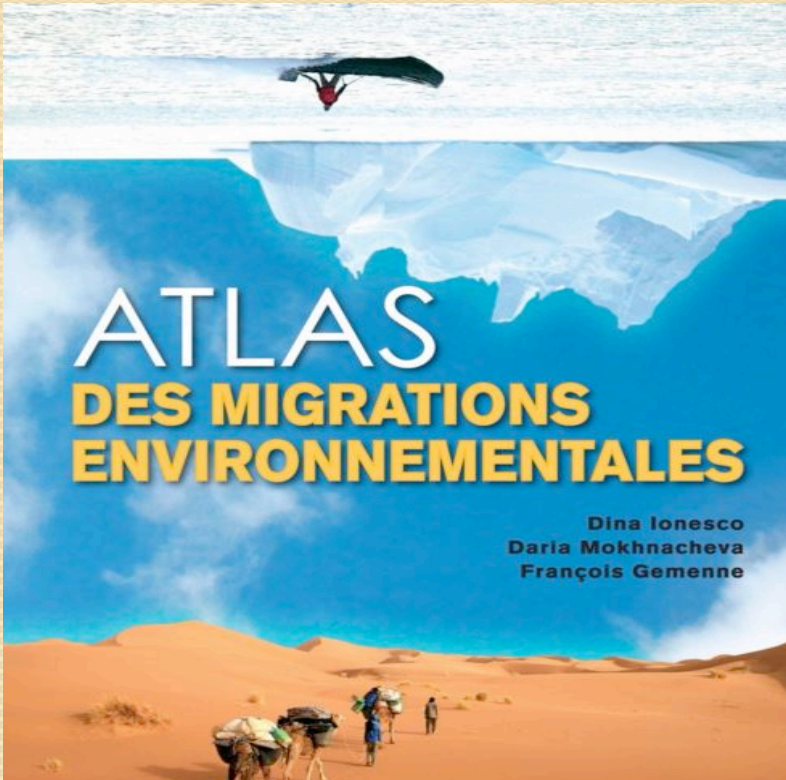
Ways forward

- Support the entry into force of the **Nansen Protection Agenda**
- Increase the presence and contribution of **researchers in policy processes**, especially researchers from the “South” (still under-represented)
- Need to **reconcile perceptions** of climate-induced migration with its realities.

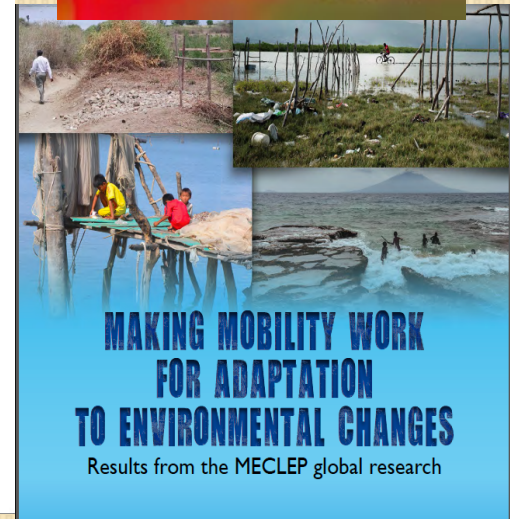
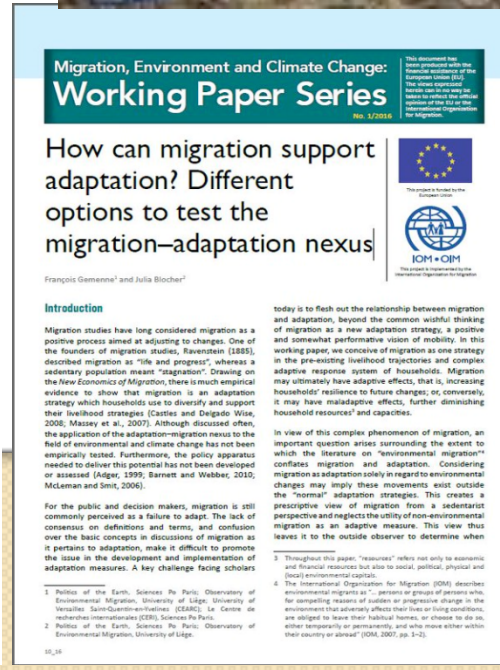
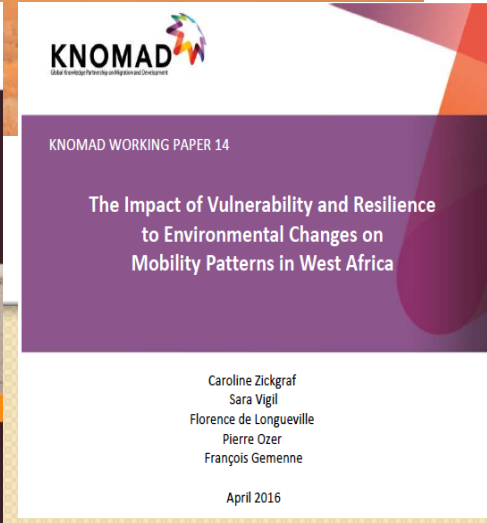
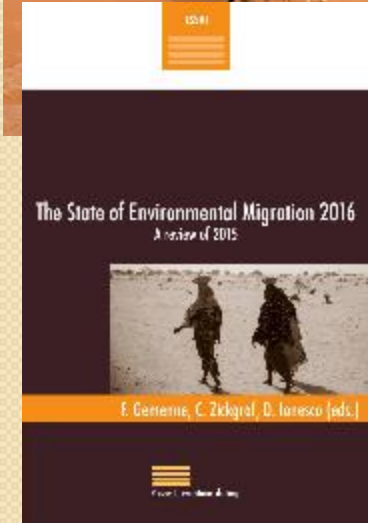
Membres

- **François Gemenne**, Director, Chercheur qualifié du FNRS, f.gemenne@ulg.ac.be @Gemenne
- **Caroline Zickgraf**, Chargée de recherches du [FNRS](#) caroline.zickgraf@ulg.ac.be @CarlyZickgraf
- **Sara Vigil**, Aspirante du FNRS, Sara.vigil@ulg.ac.be @SaraVigil_
- **Dalila Gharbaoui**, Chargee de recherche et Doctorante (Royal Society of New-Zealand) dgharbaoui@doct.ulg.ac.be @DalilaGharbaoui
- **Pierre Ozer**, Chargé de recherche au Département des Sciences et de Gestion de l'Environnement
- **Reiko Hasegawa**, Doctorante (financée sur projet)
- **Nakia Pearson**, Doctorante (financée sur projet)

Observatory of Environmental Migration



@Hugo_Obs
<http://labos.ulg.ac.be/hugo>



Migration, Environment and Climate Change: Working Paper Series

How can migration support adaptation? Different options to test the migration-adaptation nexus

François Gemenne¹ and Julia Blocher²

Introduction

Migration studies have long considered migration as a positive process aimed at adjusting to changes. One of the founders of migration studies, Ravenstein (1885), described migration as "influx and progress", whereas a sedentary population meant "stagnation". Drawing on the *New Economics of Migration*, there is much empirical evidence to show that migration is an adaptation strategy which households use to diversify and support their livelihood strategies (Castles and Delgado Wise, 2006; Massey et al., 2007). Although discussed often, the application of the adaptation-migration nexus to the field of environmental and climate change has not been empirically tested. Furthermore, the policy apparatus needed to deliver this potential has not been developed or assessed (Adger, 2009; Barnett and Webber, 2010; McLeman and Smit, 2006).

For the public and decision makers, migration is still commonly perceived as a failure to adapt. The lack of consensus on definitions and terms, and confusion over the basic concepts in discussions of migration as it pertains to adaptation, make it difficult to promote the issue in the development and implementation of adaptation measures. A key challenge facing scholars

today is to flesh out the relationship between migration and adaptation, beyond the common wishful thinking of migration as a new adaptation strategy, a positive and somewhat performative vision of mobility. In this working paper, we conceive of migration as one strategy in the pre-existing livelihood trajectories and complex adaptive response system of households. Migration may ultimately have adaptive effects, that is, increasing household resilience to future changes; or, conversely, it may have maladaptive effects, further diminishing household resources³ and capacities.

In view of this complex phenomenon of migration, an important question arises surrounding the extent to which the literature on "environmental migration"⁴ conflates migration and adaptation. Considering migration as adaptation solely in regard to environmental changes may imply these movements exist outside the "normal" adaptation strategies. This creates a prescriptive view of migration from a sedentary perspective and neglects the utility of non-environmental migration as an adaptive measure. This view thus leaves it to the outside observer to determine when

¹ Politics of the Earth, Sciences Po Paris; Observatory of Environmental Migration, University of Liège, University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UEVE), Le Centre de recherches internationales (CIRI), Sciences Po Paris.
² Politics of the Earth, Sciences Po Paris; Observatory of Environmental Migration, University of Liège.