



Migration and displacement

Anthropocene
and its victims

INTRODUCTION



John Steinbeck
Les raisins
de la colère



folio

WHAT WE KNOW

- Major driver of migration and displacement
 - Number of displaced by disasters, 2008-2014

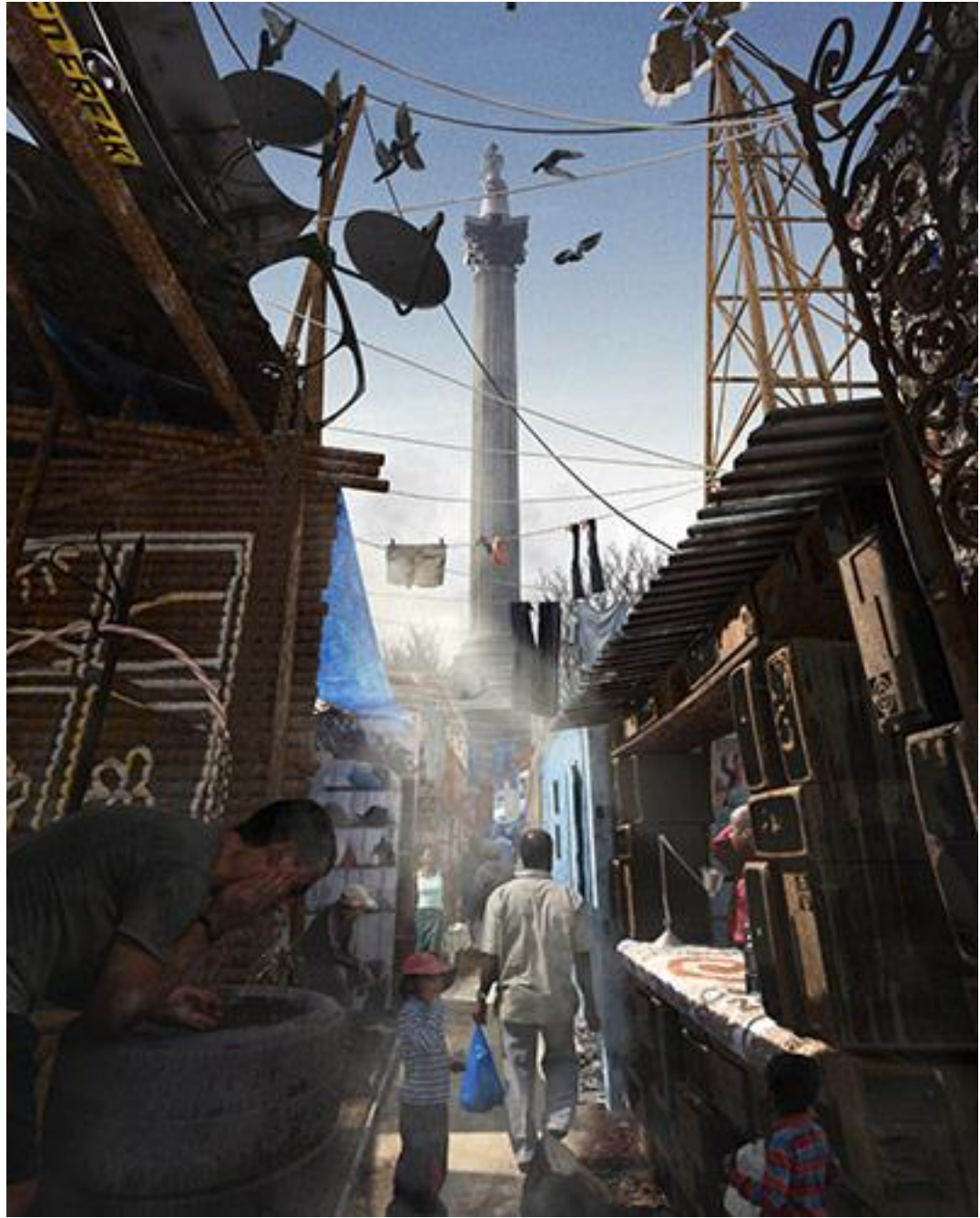
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
36.1 M	16.7 M	42.3 M	16.5 M	30.3 M	22.3 M	19.3 M

- On average: 26.4 M / year
- Perceptions very different from reality

Act on climate change, or fear the refugees



London Futures, exhibition at the Museum of London



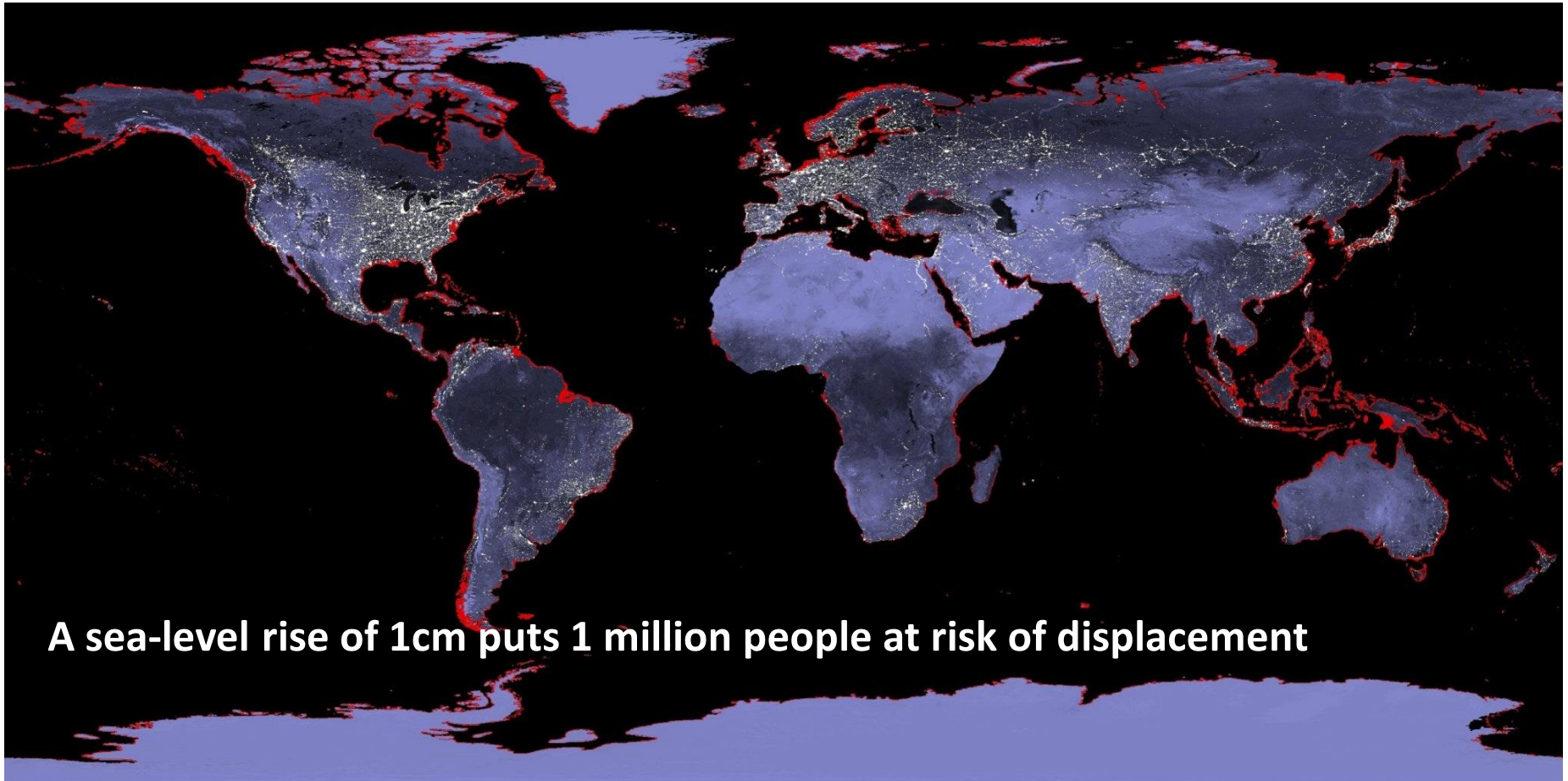
'Climate refugees' as the human faces of global warming

- Migrants are often portrayed as expiatory, powerless victims of climate change.
- They are also the first witnesses of climate change, the living proofs that global warming is under way.
- The idea of a multi-causal migration doesn't get along very well with this rhetoric.



1. Sea-level rise

Coastal regions will be first and most affected



A sea-level rise of 1cm puts 1 million people at risk of displacement

2. Droughts and land degradation

- Impacts on migration difficult to forecast
 - Migration flows tend to decrease at the peak of droughts
 - That's because households affect their resources to primary needs.



3. Extreme meteorological events

Déplacements dans le monde causés par des catastrophes, 2008-2013

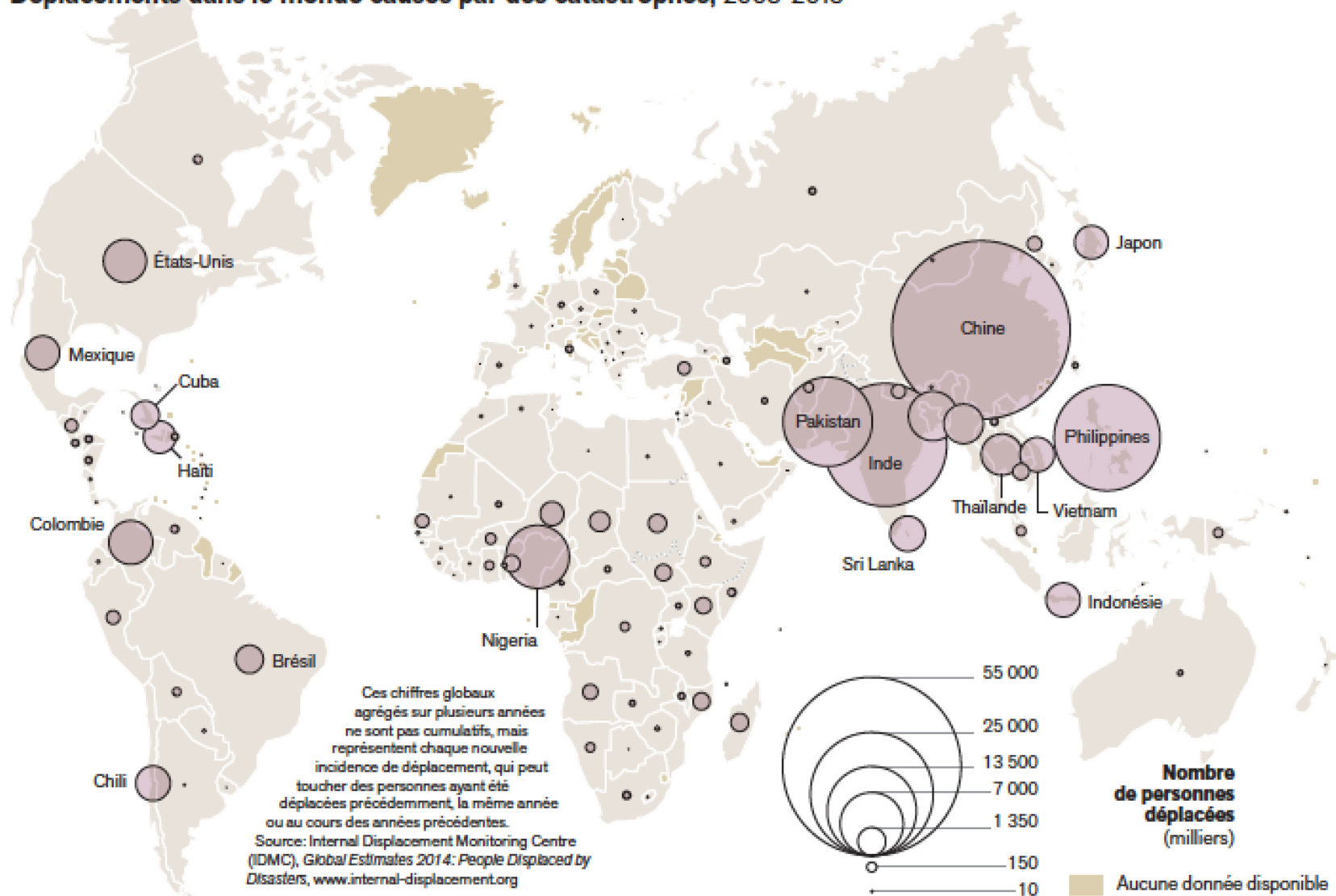
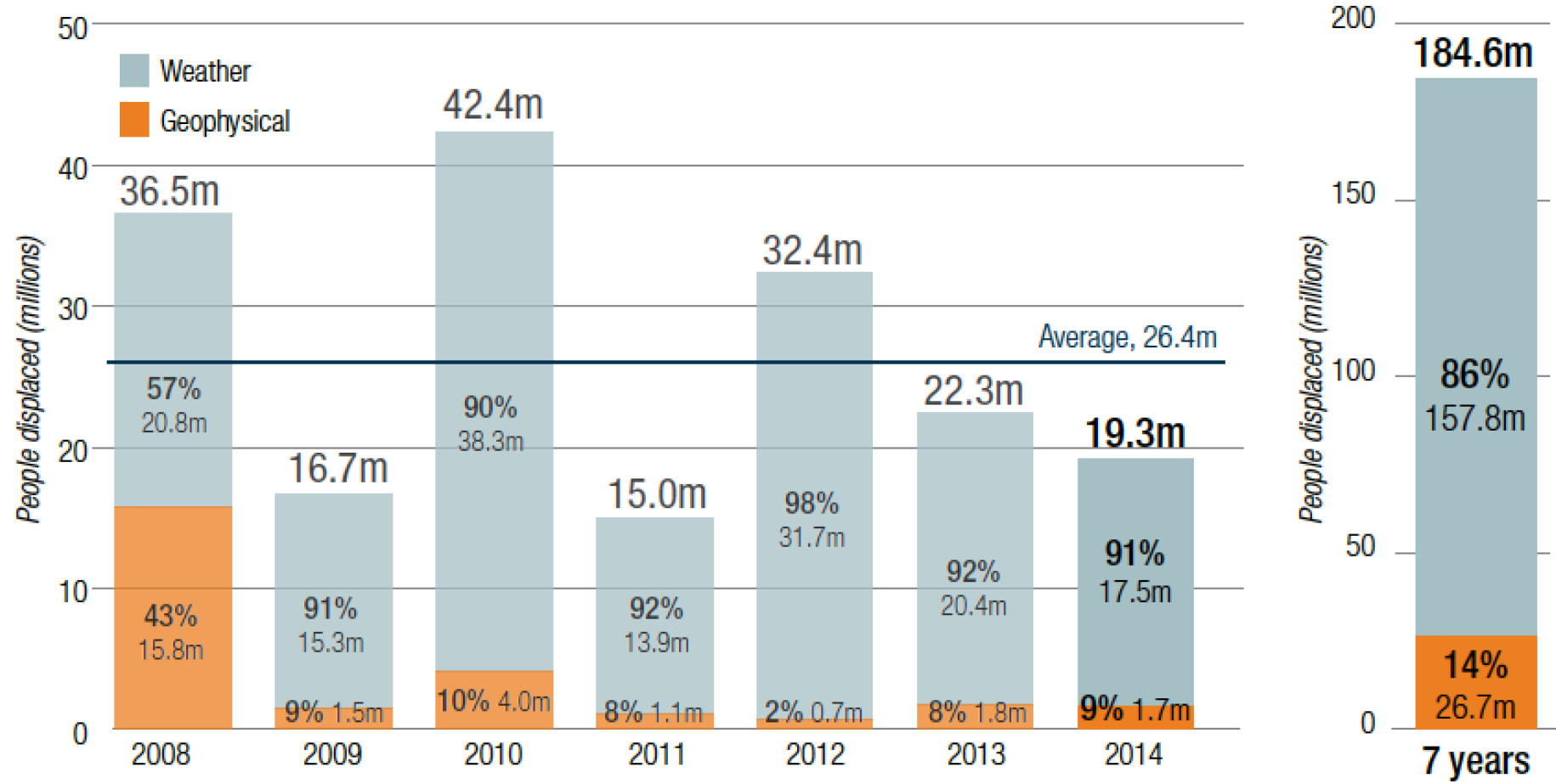


Figure 3.1: The global scale of displacement caused by disasters, 2008 to 2014



Note: Differences in totals are due to rounding of figures to the nearest decimal point. Source: IDMC data as of 1 June 2015

Characteristics of the migrants

- Positive relationship between environmental degradation and migration.
- Different factors intermingle, but environmental factors are of growing importance.
 - Definitional issue
- These factors increase the constraints to migration
 - Rise in forced migration
- Migration flows are often internal, and happening on short distances
 - Affected countries bear all the burden of migration.
- The most vulnerable are often unable to migrate.
 - Migration is expensive

A disconnection from the realities of migration

- Migrants are seen as expiatory, resourceless victims of climate change.
 - Many of them don't consider themselves as victims, or don't want to be considered as such.
 - Migrants are resourceful agents – they are not the most vulnerable
- Migration is perceived as an adaptation failure
 - In many cases, it can be an adaptation strategy
- We assume a direct, causal relationship between climate change and migration.
- We expect that these displacements will be forced and international.
- We assume that the nature and extent of the migration flows will depend upon the impacts of climate change.
 - Environmental determinism
- Climate-induced migration can also improve human security.

A Copernican revolution



Families in Bangladesh seek safer areas after severe floods in 2007.

Migration as adaptation

Mobility can bring opportunities for coping with environmental change, say **Richard Black, Stephen R. G. Bennett, Sandy M. Thomas and John R. Beddington.**

POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER

5270

BACKGROUND PAPER TO THE 2010 WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Accommodating Migration to Promote Adaptation to Climate Change

*Jon Barnett
Michael Webber*

The canaries in the coalmine



Maldives, October 2009

Islands as laboratories

- Exotic islands have often been assimilated to intact, non-perverted spaces
- Isolated from time and space
- Fit to reproduce laboratory conditions
- Providing simple models for the study of more complex societies

(that is, Western societies)

COMING OF AGE
IN SAMOA

*A Psychological Study of Primitive
Youth for Western Civilisation*

By

MARGARET MEAD

*Assistant Curator of Ethnology
American Museum of
Natural History*



*Foreword by Franz Boas
Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University*

WILLIAM MORROW & COMPANY

NEW YORK

MCMXXVIII

1928



Paint by P. Kneller

THE
L I F E
AND
STRANGE SURPRIZING
ADVENTURES
OF
ROBINSON CRUSOE,
OF *TORK*, MARINER:

Who lived Eight and Twenty Years,
all alone in an un-inhabited Island on the
Coast of *AMERICA*, near the Mouth of
the Great River of *OROONOQUE*;

Having been cast on Shore by Shipwreck, where-
in all the Men perished but himself.

WITH
An Account how he was at last as strangely deli-
ver'd by *PYRATES*.

Written by Himself.

L O N D O N:
Printed for *W. TAYLOR* at the *Ship* in *Pater-Noster-*
Row. *MDCCLXIX.*





LOST



Cook Islands?

Tuvalu?

Samoa?



- Islands are viewed as the incarnation of the impacts of climate change
- Islanders as the first witnesses (and the first victims) of climate change
- This representation has increasingly been used by SIDS governments make their voices heard in the negotiations

Islands seem to matter only because they disappear

Pitfalls of this rhetoric

- It doesn't match reality
 - Environmental displacement is often an internal and multi-causal movement.
- It induces environmental determinism
 - Assumption that the nature and extent of the migration flows will depend upon the impacts of climate change.
 - Ignores the role of policies
- It doesn't serve the interests of the migrants
 - Fuels xenophobic prejudices
 - Migrants perceived as a threat to security

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

Global Environmental Change 21S (2011) S41–S49



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Global Environmental Change

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/gloenvcha



Why the numbers don't add up: A review of estimates and predictions of people displaced by environmental changes[☆]

François Gemenne^{a,b,*}

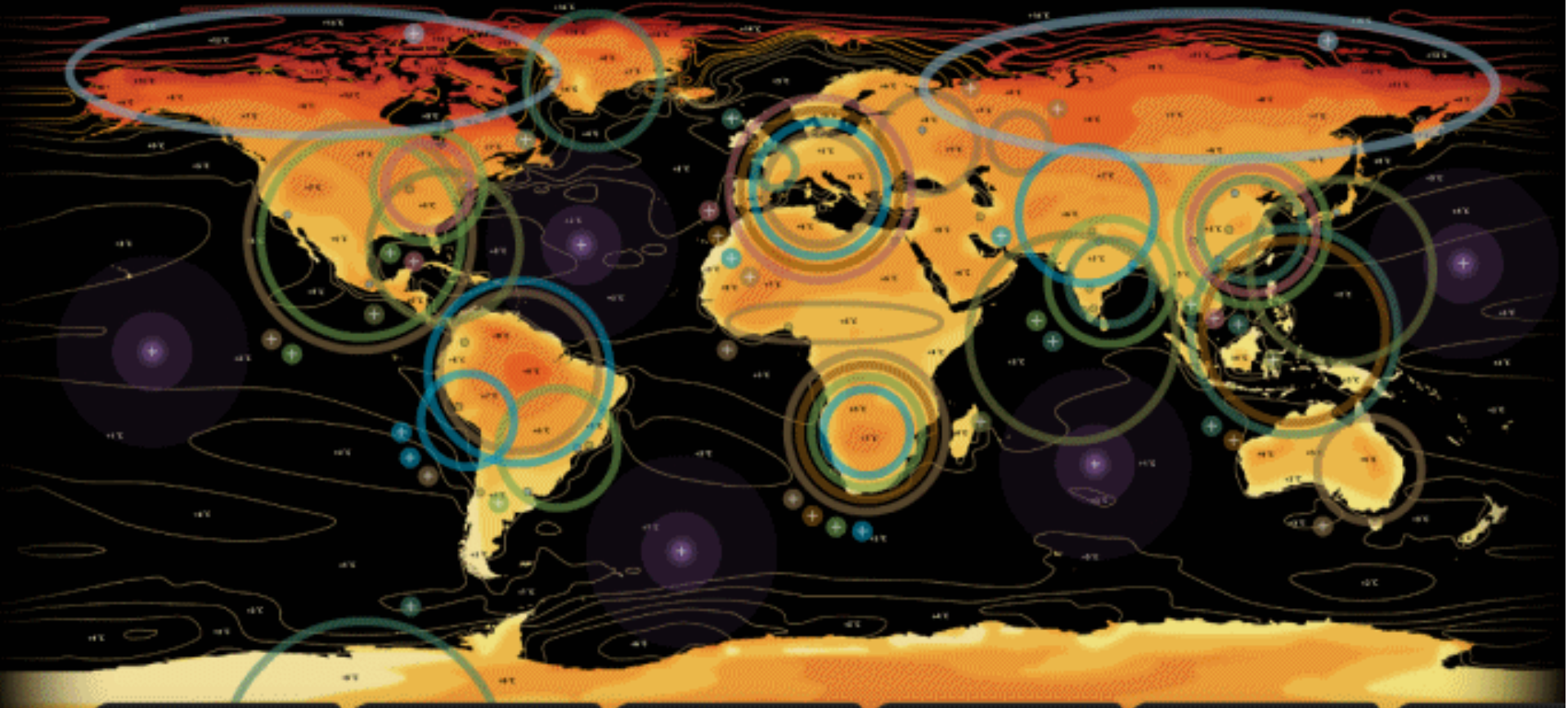
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Table 1

Estimates and forecasts of the number of people displaced by environmental changes.

Source	Estimates at the time of publication of the report	Predictions by 2010	Predictions by 2050
UNEP (Tolba, 1989; Milan, 2004)	30 million	50 million	–
Jacobson (1988)	10 million	–	–
Myers (1993, 2002)	25 million	–	150, then 200 million
Myers and Kent (1995)	25 million	50 million	212 million
Red Cross (2001)	More than people displaced by war	–	–
UNU-EHS (Adam 2005; Renaud et al., 2007)	10 million/year	50 million	200 million
Stern (2007)	–	–	150–200 million
Christian Aid (2007)	25 million	–	300 million
Biermann and Boas (2010)	–	–	200 million



The Amazon Forest Agriculture Water availability Sea-level rise Carbon cycle Temperature rise

- Crops
- Water Availability
- Sea Level Rise
- Marine
- Drought
- Permafrost
- Tropical Cyclones
- Extreme Temp
- Health

+ °Celsius

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2	4	5	7	9	11	13	14	16	18	20	22	23	25	27	29

+ °Fahrenheit

City population
 5-10 Million
 10-20 Million

Source: UN Statistics Division Demographic Yearbook 2014

Policy responses

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

THE SENATE



Presented and read a first time

Migration (Climate Refugees) Amendment Bill 2007

No. , 2007

(Senator Nettle)

**A Bill for an Act to recognise refugees of climate
change induced environmental disasters, and for
related purposes**



Our drowning neighbours

Labor's Policy Discussion Paper on
Climate Change in the Pacific

Bob Sercombe MP
Shadow Minister for Overseas Aid and Pacific Island Affairs

Anthony Albanese MP
Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage and Water

The Cancun opportunity

4. *Invites* all Parties to enhance adaptation action under the Copenhagen Adaptation Framework [for Implementation] taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, [and whereby developing country Parties shall be supported by developed country Parties and in accordance with paragraph 6 below], to undertake, inter alia:

- (a) Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions, including projects and programmes,² and actions identified in national and subnational adaptation plans and strategies, national adaptation programmes of action of least developed countries, national communications, technology needs assessments and other relevant national planning documents;
- (b) Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including assessments of financial needs as well as economic, social and environmental evaluation of adaptation options;
- (c) Strengthening institutional capacities and enabling environments for adaptation, including for climate-resilient development and vulnerability reduction;
- (d) Building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources;
- (e) Enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies, considering the Hyogo Framework for Action³ where appropriate; early warning systems; risk

assessment, and management and sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance [, compensation and rehabilitation]; at local, national, subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change [and/or to the impact of the implementation of response measures];

- (f) Measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation related to national, regional and international climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate;
- (g) Research, development, demonstration, dissemination and transfer of technologies, practices, and processes; and capacity-building for adaptation, with a view to promoting access to technologies [, in particular in developing country Parties];
- (h) Strengthening data, information and knowledge systems, education and public awareness;
- (i) Improving climate-related [and related to the impact of the implementation of response measures] research and systematic observation for climate data collection, archiving, analysis and modelling for improved climatic-related data and information to decision-makers at national and regional levels;
- (j) [Action identified in decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10;]
- (k) [Minimizing adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing countries;]

The Nansen Initiative

- Launched in 2012 by the government of Norway and Switzerland.
- With support of Costa Rica, Australia, Philippines, Mexico, Kenya.
- Walter Kälin as special envoy.
- Intergovernmental process.
- Protection agenda agreed 2015.

The Nansen Principles

Building upon Nansen's legacy, the following principles were recommended to guide responses to some of the urgent and complex challenges raised by displacement in the context of climate change and other environmental hazards.

- I** Responses to climate and environmentally-related displacement need to be informed by adequate knowledge and guided by the fundamental principles of humanity, human dignity, human rights and international cooperation.
- II** States have a primary duty to protect their populations and give particular attention to the special needs of the people most vulnerable to and most affected by climate change and other environmental hazards, including the displaced, hosting communities and those at risk of displacement. The development of legislation, policies and institutions as well as the investment of adequate resources are key in this regard.
- III** The leadership and engagement of local governments and communities, civil society, and the private sector, are needed to address effectively the challenges posed by climate change, including those linked to human mobility.
- IV** When national capacity is limited, regional frameworks and international cooperation should support action at national level and contribute to building national capacity, underpinning development plans, preventing displacement, assisting and protecting people and communities affected by such displacement, and finding durable solutions.
- V** Prevention and resilience need to be further strengthened, at all levels, particularly through adequate resources. International, regional, and local actors have a shared responsibility to implement the principles enshrined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster.
- VI** Building local and national capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters is fundamental. At the same time, the international disaster response system needs to be reinforced. The development of multi-hazard early warning systems linking local and global levels is critical.
- VII** The existing norms of international law should be fully utilized, and normative gaps addressed.
- VIII** The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a sound legal framework to address protection concerns arising from climate- and other environmentally-related internal displacement. States are encouraged to ensure the adequate implementation and operationalization of these principles through national legislation, policies and institutions.
- IX** A more coherent and consistent approach at the international level is needed to meet the protection needs of people displaced externally owing to sudden-onset disasters. States, working in conjunction with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders, could develop a guiding framework or instrument in this regard.
- X** National and international policies and responses, including planned relocation, need to be implemented on the basis of non-discrimination, consent, empowerment, participation and partnerships with those directly affected, with due sensitivity to age, gender and diversity aspects. The voices of the displaced or those threatened with displacement, loss of home or livelihood must be heard and taken into account, without neglecting those who may choose to remain.

Migration as an environmental policy?

- New defining question:

Is migration a failure to adapt, or an adaptation strategy?

- *End result:* Current drift towards UNFCCC as the best framework to address the issue
 - Perceived need to address the issue globally – and no such mechanism with regard to migration governance.
 - Environmental displacements not related to climate change are forgotten.
 - Issue of preemptive resettlements, especially in a 4° C+ scenario.

Displacement in the name of adaptation

- Some of the most vulnerable zones are also amongst the most densely populated.
- Some governments have already started moving populations in prevision of future climate change impacts.
- Examples:
 - China – ‘Environmental Migration’ program in Inner Mongolia
 - Aimed at fighting against desertification
 - Resettled nomadic pastoralists in towns and villages
 - Nomadic pastoralists were considered as part of the problem
 - Vietnam – Flooded communities
 - Resettling of villages in the Mekong delta
 - Actually increased the vulnerability of communities



Chaque année, un habitant de la planète sur sept est forcé de partir de chez lui. La dégradation de l'environnement est une cause majeure de cette mobilité humaine sans précédent : une réalité largement ignorée que le changement climatique en cours ne va faire qu'amplifier.

Coordonné par trois des meilleurs experts des migrations environnementales auxquels se sont joints cartographes et infographistes spécialisés, cet ouvrage pionnier dresse le premier état des lieux sur les migrations environnementales. À l'aide plus de 100 cartes et graphiques, il en montre toutes les dimensions et propose des pistes pour répondre à ce grand défi du xx^e siècle.

Car mieux comprendre ces migrations, c'est mettre au jour la manière dont les causes environnementales s'enchevêtrent avec d'autres facteurs – politiques, socio-économiques, psychologiques – qui poussent les individus au départ ou à l'exode. C'est anticiper les mouvements de population et permettre leur accompagnement raisonné. C'est contribuer à l'indispensable adaptation aux conséquences du changement climatique.

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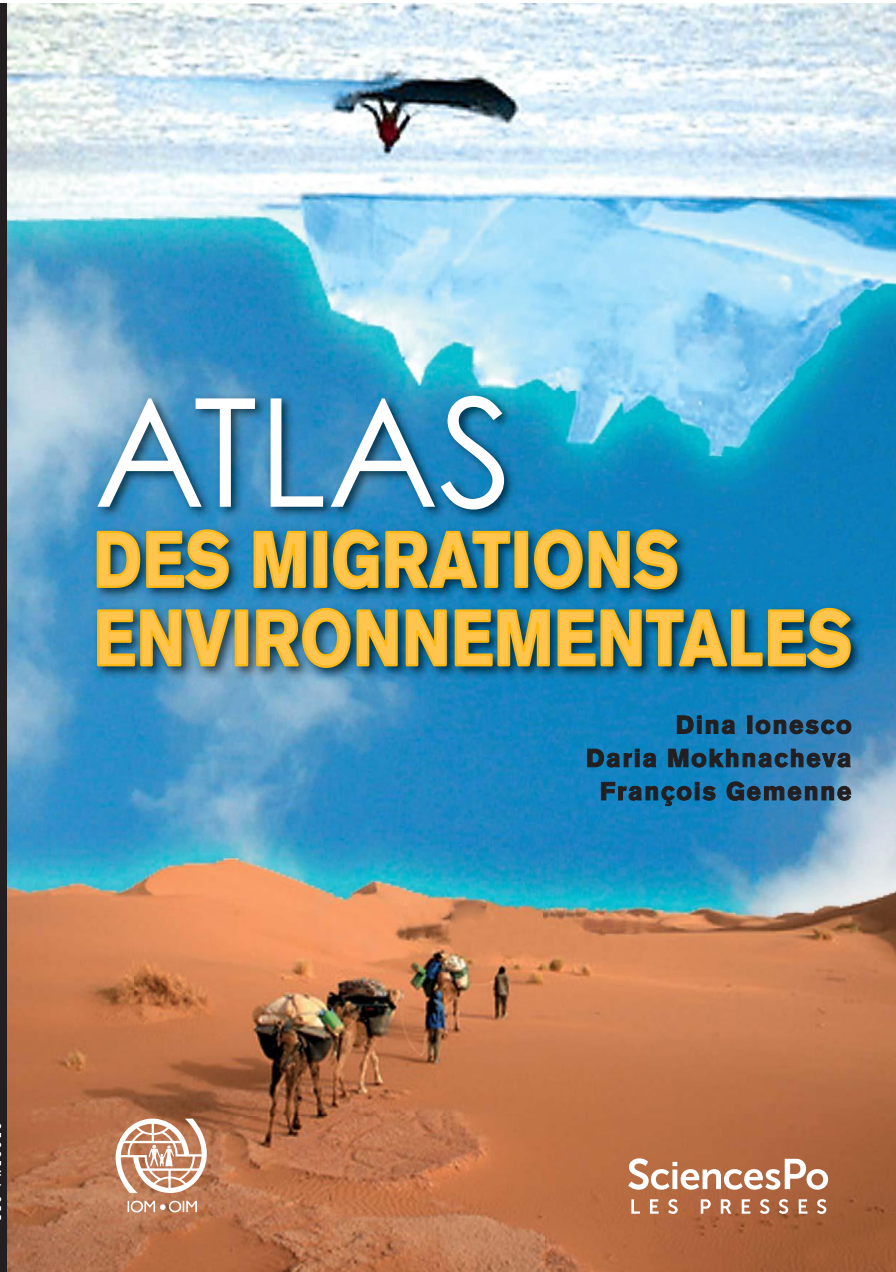
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LE MUSEE DE L'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

Dina Ionesco - Daria Mokhnacheva - François Gemenne

ATLAS DES MIGRATIONS ENVIRONNEMENTALES

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ATLAS DES MIGRATIONS ENVIRONNEMENTALES

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The Atlas of Environmental Migration

Dina Ionesco
Daria Mokhnacheva
François Gemenne

