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A) Project Data

Short title:	ClimMig
Full title:	Climate-induced migration and the need for new legal, normative and institutional frameworks
Programme:	ACRP, 3rd Call for Proposals
Duration:	26 months
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B) Project Overview

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Brief Description of the Project

Initial situation (according to project application 2010)

While in the past migration in the context of environmental change has been presented solely as the result of failed adaptation ('migration to survive') it is increasingly also seen as an 'adaptation mechanism'. There are several possible migratory scenarios relating to the situation before, during and after climate-related disasters. Even though some research has been conducted on the different and interacting factors leading to environment-related forced migration, little in-depth research currently exists on the legal, normative and institutional frameworks relevant to climate-related migratory scenarios (be it as 'survival' or 'adaptation' mechanism). It has been suggested that the current 'governance system' would not be adequate to address climate-related migration. At European Union (EU) level, no EU legislation and/or policy explicitly addressing climate-related migration exist. At Austrian level, no relevant frameworks exist and not even discussions at official level addressing climate-related migration have taken place.

Objectives

a) Establishment of the status quo of existing international normative, legislative and institutional frameworks relevant to climate-related migration

The project aimed at providing an overview of the existing obligations under international law – be it in terms of 'migration as adaptation' or 'migration to survive'. A focus was laid on frameworks applicable to EU Member States and in particular Austria. Based on this first objective, it was further established which aspects of the migratory scenarios were not sufficiently covered by existing international normative and institutional frameworks and to what extent such frameworks were inadequate to address the challenges of climate-related migration, in particular to provide protection or a legal status to persons affected.

b) The role of the EU and Austria (case studies)

Case studies (third countries affected by the impacts of climate change with which the EU and/or Austria hold relations) were conducted. They should illustrate which frameworks at different levels are at stake and which role the EU and/or Austria plays in the context of the case study country.

c) Development of recommendations as how to address gaps and improve the role of Austria / the EU

Recommendations as how to address gaps identified and how current EU/Austrian policies could be improved were drafted.

1.2 Summary of Main Results and Conclusions of the Project

Conclusions:

The research came to the conclusion that there is a lack of quantitative data on environment-related migration. Despite this lack of data, the case studies illustrated that societies largely dependent on agriculture are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of environmental change.

While scenarios constitute a useful tool for illustrating possible/existing migratory patterns, in particular the multi-causality of environment-related migration often hampered the assignment of specific scenarios to certain countries (in particular with regard to movements not directly linked to major disasters). With regard to displacement internal movements seemed – to the extent that data were available – to prevail. It was hardly possible to identify migration as adaptation strategy in the case study countries even though in most countries

migration constitutes a general coping strategy to address deteriorating living conditions (without making the link to environmental change).

The EU is a major donor when it comes to development cooperation or humanitarian aid. However, EU migration policies continue to discourage or even prevent immigration to the EU even though inter-regional mobility would arguably be an efficient mechanism to reduce vulnerabilities.

Results WP 1:

- Refined migratory scenarios
- Internal working paper containing apart from methodology the status quo and state of the art relating to different forms of climate-related migration at international level; including chapter on EU and Austrian frameworks and the relevance of international standards at the EU and Austrian level

Results WP 2:

- Six case studies conducted and six case study reports drafted
- Seven interviews conducted with EU stakeholders in Brussels, four interviews conducted in Geneva; three interviews conducted with the Austrian Development Cooperation Vienna

Results WP 3:

- 19 papers, 4 posters selected for presentation at conference (based on call for papers)
- Implementation of a 1.5-days conference with about 80 participants on 20/21 September 2012 in Vienna (111 persons registered)
- A half-day presentation of the project to four selected international experts including experts from other disciplines for feed-back and discussion
- Presentation of project at the conference and in the media
- Exchange and networking with researchers at the conference

WP 4:

- Feedback of the international experts integrated into the project findings
- Draft recommendations for policy makers

WP 5:

- Project website
- Publication of five case studies and of the call for papers at the website
- Submission of three articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Two radio reports broadcast by the Austrian radio station Ö1.

1.3 Outlook and summary

ClimMig produced a wealth of results of relevance for various stakeholders (academics, policy makers at international, European as well as at Austrian level, interest groups, NGOs and international organisations). The applicant organisation has already submitted a project application following up on research of the ClimMig project which was accepted by the Climate Fund. The project team will further participate in the COST-Action on “Climate change and migration: knowledge, law and policy, and theory”. Cooperation is planned with the Heinrich Boell Foundation in Brussels in order to elaborate on the drafted policy recommendations and make them available to a wider European audience.

2 Background and Aims

2.1 Initial situation/motivation of the project

The warming of the climate system is unequivocal and irreversible (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report). Climate change increases hazards (in particular hydro-meteorological hazards such as tropical cyclones, floods, drought, heat waves) but also physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities; both taken together heighten disaster risks and may eventually lead to disasters. While it is clear that forced migration is a possible consequence, its exact scope is less evident since preventive measures (e.g. mitigation and adaptation measures) can reduce the necessity of forced migration considerably; also disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures enhance the ‘preparedness’ for emergency cases.

While in the past migration has been presented solely as the result of failed adaptation (‘migration to survive’) it is increasingly also seen as an ‘adaptation strategy’ (e.g. labour migration supporting the development of the country of origin and thereby reducing forced migration).

There are several possible migratory scenarios relating to situation before, during and after climate-related disasters.

Even though some research has been conducted on the different and interacting factors leading to environment-related forced migration (e.g. EACH-FOR project funded by the European Commission), little in-depth research currently exists on legal, normative and institutional frameworks relevant to these climate-related migratory scenarios (be it as ‘survival’ or ‘adaptation’ strategy):

It has been suggested that the current ‘governance system’ would not be adequate to address climate-related migration; only a few international agreements and structures would explicitly address the interface between environment/climate change and migration. International actors currently address this topic in a very fragmented way or not at all: While at UN level several actors have started discussing the topic of climate-related migration, currently not a single UN body is mandated to address this form of migration. On a regional European level, within the Council of Europe the Parliamentary Assembly has proposed the development of a Framework Convention for Recognition of the Status and Rights of ‘Environmental Migrants’ – however, so far without any reaction by the decision-making body, the Committee of Ministers. At European Union (EU) level, after the first linkages between climate change and migration were made from a security point of view, the Commission funded research on environment-related forced migration scenarios (EACH-FOR project, until 2009) and aimed initially at the drafting of a “Communication on the effects of climate change on international migration including its potential effects on immigration to the European Union” (in the area of “Migration and Development”).¹ However, no EU legislation and/or policy explicitly addressing climate-related migration exist. At Austrian level, no relevant frameworks exist and not even discussions at official level addressing climate-related migration have taken place.

2.2 Objectives of the project

While some research has been undertaken on the different and interacting factors leading to climate-related forced migration, little in-depth research on the legal, normative and institutional frameworks relevant to climate-related migration exists, in particular there is no comprehensive research looking at the role of the European Union and Austria (as an EU Member State). At the moment, research competence in these areas in Austria as well as in other EU Member States is not well established. However, such research is vital in order to enable policy makers at Austrian and at EU level to make informed decisions concerning climate-related forms of migration, be it with regard to 1. the shaping of the global governance structure (e.g. in the context of the on-going negotiations regarding the successor instrument to the Kyoto Protocol) or with regard to 2. the shaping of Austrian and EU policies. The project pursued the following objectives:²

¹ Meanwhile the outcome is an internal technical paper and not a Communication on environment-related migration, which was published in April 2013.

² During the implementation of the project, designed as an explorative study, the objectives were revised since new insights and research material became available. Therefore in the following, in the beginning the original objectives are described, followed by the revised ones.

a) Establishment of the status quo of existing international normative, legislative and institutional frameworks relevant to climate-related migration

The project aimed at providing an overview of the existing obligations under international law of relevance for all migratory scenarios as described in the application form – be it in terms of ‘migration as adaptation’ (i.e. before forced migration becomes inevitable) or in terms of ‘migration to survive’. A focus was laid on frameworks applicable to EU Member States and in particular Austria. Research material included sources relating to international migration (international labour migration), to climate and environmental protection, human rights protection as well as international refugee protection. At an institutional level, international actors who are active in these fields were identified.

Based on this first objective, it was further established which aspects of the migratory scenarios are (not) sufficiently covered by existing international normative and institutional frameworks.

b) The role of the EU and Austria (case studies)

The project sought to determine

1. how the EU/Austria is currently shaping the global governance structure relating to climate-related migration (e.g. in the context of the on-going negotiations regarding the successor instrument to the Kyoto Protocol) and
2. how existing Austrian and EU policies relevant to climate-related migration look like, in particular how these policies further the goals of ‘migration as adaptation’ (e.g. are there any possibilities for labour migration, if yes how do they look like?) or ‘migration to survive’ (e.g. does EU legislation of the Common European Asylum System and does Austria’s implementing legislation provide a basis for providing protection to forced climate-related migrants; if yes, under what conditions and what would be the content of protection? Is the EU/Austria taking measures to alleviate the ‘burden’ of the regions of origin?).

EU and Austrian policy areas mainly affected and also those only partially affected as well as the relevant actors responsible needed to be identified.

In order to better analyse the impacts of current policies, a maximum of five case studies (e.g. third countries affected by the impacts of climate change with which the EU and Austria both have relations) are to be conducted. Austrian and EU policy makers should be given a clearer picture on whether and (if yes) how current EU/Austrian policies impact on climate-related migration; possible good practice measures but also areas in which there is still room for improvement become visible in that way.

Objectives revised:

The objectives were revised as follows:

- Six instead of a maximum of five case studies were conducted.
- During the conduct of the case studies it became clear that the phenomenon of climate-related migration in the case study countries was difficult to grasp, in particular given the lack of data and without field research in the respective countries. Thus, the objectives were refined as follows: The project sought to determine which forms of climate-related migration exist or will exist in the future in the respective case study country or in the absence of data what role the factor environmental change plays in the context of migration.
- It was necessary to firstly assess the frameworks at national and regional level of the case study countries before investigating the role of the EU or Austria since in most case study countries the main role of the EU or Austria was to provide resources via development cooperation or humanitarian aid. Thus, the objectives were refined as follows: The project sought to determine which frameworks at national and regional level of the case study country are at stake; what role the EU/Austria plays in the context of environment-related migration.

c) Development of recommendations as how to address gaps and improve the role of Austria / the EU

EU and Austrian policy makers should be provided with recommendations as how to address gaps identified and on how EU policies or Austrian policies could be improved.

3 Contents and Results of the Project

3.1 Activities performed within the framework of the project, including methods employed

The project was structured in five work packages. Following activities were taken and methods employed:

WP No. 1	Desk Research, Explorative Phase
Actual duration: <i>May 2011 till January 2012</i>	
Objectives of the WP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinement of migratory scenarios • Establishment of status quo and concretising research gaps: international legal and normative frameworks • Establishment of status quo and concretising research gaps: international institutional frameworks • Provision of overview of EU and Austrian frameworks 	
Activities performed & Methods employed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation / Refinement of migratory scenarios: Desk research on concepts such as ‘vulnerability’, ‘adaptive capacity’ etc provided the basis for the refinement of the migratory scenarios. The draft migratory scenarios accompanied by a survey were submitted to twelve external experts who are working on climate change, environment and migration in different ways (four scholars, five policy makers from four organisations, three representatives from NGOs and advocacy groups).³ Experts were asked a set of questions relating to the scenarios. A summary of the responses was drafted and the migratory scenarios were refined. The scenarios were adapted according to the responses (a simplified version of the adapted scenarios is available on the project website); a 10-pages summary of the survey responses was drafted. The refined scenarios aimed – in the absence of a clear definition of ‘environment-related migration’ 	

³ **Scholars:** Robert McLeman (professor at the University of Ottawa, Department of Geography); Cecilia Tacoli, Senior Researcher on Human Settlements at the International Institute for Environment and Development, London; Ilan Kelman, Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research, Oslo; Diana Reckien, post-doc researcher at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; **Policy makers** from different areas at different levels (Austrian, EU and global level): United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Geneva, Senior Policy Advisor; Austrian Development Agency, Vienna, Senior Advisor on Environment and Natural Resources; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Geneva, Senior Officer on Migrations as well as Senior Officer on Climate Change Adaptation, Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction; EU Commission, DG Home Affairs, Brussels, Policy Officer. **Representatives from NGOs and advocacy groups** NGO Germanwatch, Bonn; UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security, section Environmental Migration, Social Vulnerability and Adaptation, Bonn; NGO Prodiplan, Bangladesh.

- at supporting the conduct of case studies by showing different possible forms of ‘environment-related migration’.
- **Research and review of literature and frameworks** provided the basis for the establishment of the **status quo and state-of-the-art of international legal, normative and institutional frameworks** and the identification of corresponding gaps. The focus was on frameworks relating to asylum and migration.
- The relevance of above-mentioned frameworks for EU and Austrian level was determined and an overview of relevant frameworks at EU and Austrian level provided.
- An **internal working paper was drafted** which contained an overview of the status quo but also the state of the art of existing frameworks. It also contained methodology, concepts, approaches and theories used in the research project.

WP no. 2	Desk Research, Case Studies
Actual duration: <i>October 2011 till February 2013</i>	
<p>Objectives of the WP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of six case studies, to cover all scenarios and attain regional heterogeneity • Conduct and assessment of case studies, which should help to shed light on following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the normative and institutional frameworks at international, regional and national level relevant for different forms of climate-related migration in the case study country? What is their content, e.g. do they cover ‘migration as adaptation’? ○ Which Austrian/EU policy fields and actors are involved? ○ How are these policy fields currently taking different migratory scenarios into account? (e.g. how does EU/Austrian development cooperation deal with climate-related migration? How do EU/Austrian environmental, asylum, migration policies take into account climate-related migration?) ○ What is the role of the EU and Austria? • Conduct of interviews with EU stakeholders on the topic of climate-related migration • Drafting of case study reports; integration of results of WP 1 & 2 in several articles to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals 	
<p>Activities performed & Methods employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of six case studies (Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Albania, Bhutan, Samoa, and Nicaragua) by the project team based on the following criteria: 	

- Third countries⁴ which are affected by the impacts of climate change
- Countries to which the EU and/or Austria hold relationships via legal, normative or institutional frameworks (e.g. via Austrian development cooperation, Cotonou Agreement Countries)
- Countries should together cover all migratory scenarios
- Regional heterogeneity
- **Drafting of guidelines for the case studies** and also a **structure for the case study reports** by the AO.
- **Conduct of the case studies** by the AO and PO (AO was mainly responsible for Albania, Nicaragua and Mozambique; the PO for Burkina Faso, Samoa and Bhutan). Case studies were exchanged and internally reviewed to ensure a uniform approach. Following steps were taken:
 1. **Description and analysis of elements determining the vulnerability of the case study country and of its population:** Climate change may have a different impact on a society depending on the exposure to climate and environmental hazards and the adaptive capacity, in particular the socio-economic context, pre-existing inequalities, or the political situation.
 - In the case studies it was looked at different dimensions of vulnerability of the respective country as well as of its population by researching and analysing scientific literature, legal texts and policy papers in order to determine the specific vulnerability of the population (and to identify particularly vulnerable parts of the population).
 - The initial plan was to determine for every case study, which migratory scenarios exist or could become relevant in the future. However, it turned out that this was not always possible since the project team was in many cases facing a lack of data on so-called environment-related migration and/or of literature on potential future developments in this regard.
 2. **Research, description and analysis of normative and institutional frameworks at national, regional and international level** of the case study country of relevance to climate-related migration as to whether they offer protection to environment-related migrants or whether they support persons who want to make migration work as an adaptation mechanism. In the case study reports the frameworks at regional and national level were given particular attention, since many movements are internal or take place within the region. Apart from that, it was also looked at the role of the EU and Austria (as an EU Member State) in the respective case study country in relation to climate-related migration.
 3. **Drafting of case study reports:** by the AO as well as by the PO according to the guidelines.
- **Conduct of interviews**

⁴ The EU Member States including Austria are regarded primarily as a region, which possesses to a great extent adequate adaptive capacity and is more likely to become a reception area or an area, which can support countries of the Global South in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

- **in Brussels with EU stakeholders:** The AO conducted interviews – based on interview guidelines drafted by the AO – with representatives of the EU Commission of different DGs (DG Climate Action, DG Home Affairs, DG Development and Cooperation), with two representatives of the European Parliament as well as representatives of UNHCR Brussels Office and a non-governmental organisation in Brussels (March 2012, interview with DG DEVCO via telephone in April 2013). Topic of the interview was the specific role of the interview partner’s organisation with regard to climate-related migration. The interview with DG DEVCO concentrated on the content of the Commission Staff Working Document on “Climate change, environmental degradation, and migration” published in April 2013 and its drafting process.
- **in Geneva:** The PO conducted complementary interviews in Geneva to include also the view of representatives of important actors other than the EU in the area of climate-related migration to provide a comprehensive picture (UNHCR Geneva, International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)).
- with representatives of the **Austrian Development Agency (ADA)** on Austrian development cooperation and the topic of environment-related migration.

WP no. 3	International Conference
Actual duration: <i>February 2012 till September 2012</i>	
<p>Objectives of the WP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory phase/organisation of conference • Invitation of renowned experts for commenting on project design and preliminary results • Issuance of an international call for papers; selection of papers and posters; composition of panels • Invitation of experts and other participants • Implementation of International Conference 	
<p>Activities performed & Methods employed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and organisation of the 1.5 days international conference on 20/21 September 2012: Preparations started in February 2012. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selection and invitation of international experts: by the project team for serving as keynote speakers, chairing panels at the conference but also for commenting on the project objectives and preliminary findings in an internal session. 	

- **Selection and invitation of policy makers for a Policy Roundtable** (as part of the conference): Experts, representatives of non-governmental, international organisations and the EU Commission were invited to the International Conference to participate in a Policy Roundtable.
- **Issuance of a call for papers** by the project team online as well as review and selection of submitted abstracts by project team and **composition of panels**.
- **Drafting of conference programme**.
- **Organisation of conference** by AO: Organisation of a venue for the conference, organisation of a registration system for conference visitors, preparation of information documents, printing of conference programme, booking of hotels of keynote experts and other experts.
- **Organisation of an evening-event of conference day 1** by the AO: In the evening of the first conference day a movie relating to environment-related migration was screened with introductory remarks on environment-related migration.

WP no. 4	Incorporation of results of conference and drafting of recommendations
Actual duration: September 2012 till March 2013	
Objectives of the WP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of results of conference • Drafting of recommendations 	
Activities performed & Methods employed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the International Conference were summarised by the project team and integrated in the research conducted. • Recommendations were elaborated, areas for policy action pointed out and summarised in an internal document. 	

WP no. 5	Publication, dissemination
Actual duration: May 2011 till June 2013	
Objectives of the WP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project website • Publication of case studies • Submission of several articles for publication in peer-reviewed journals 	

Activities performed & Methods employed

Activities were carried out in order to disseminate the (intermediary and final) project results and inform about on-going project-related events:

- A **project website** (www.humanrights.at/climmig) was launched (interlinked with the websites of the institutions of the experts of the team); on the website project results but also topic-related and project-related news (e.g. announcement of international conference and of call for papers) were published.
- **Publication of case studies** on the website (except one case study which formed the basis for a peer-reviewed article)
- Three **articles were submitted for publication** in peer-reviewed journals.

3.2 Description of the results and project milestones

In the following, a description of project results and milestones achieved in each work package is delineated:

WP No. 1	Desk Research, Explorative Phase
<p>Project results and milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal working document containing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an overview of possible migratory scenarios ○ the status quo but also gaps relating to international normative, legal and institutional frameworks applicable to these migratory scenarios ○ an overview of the relevance of those frameworks at Austrian and EU level as well as overview of EU and Austrian frameworks 	
<p>Project results and milestones achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refined migratory scenarios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary of views of experts ○ Refined migratory scenarios: Experts overall thought that it was a good idea to base research of legal, normative and institutional frameworks on migratory scenarios even though one had to be aware of the limitations of scenarios. Based on the summary of views of experts surveyed, the draft scenarios were refined. The refined scenarios supported – in the absence of a clear definition of ‘environment-related migration’ – the conduct of case studies by showing different possible forms of ‘environment-related migration’. • Internal working paper (approx. 100 pages) serving the project team as a tool of reference throughout the project, in particular when conducting the case studies: It contains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an introductory part laying down in detail the methodology, concepts, approaches and theories used in ClimMig, assumptions of ClimMig; 	

- the framing of climate-related migration and displacement through the refined scenarios and their description;
- an overview of existing international legal, normative and institutional frameworks of relevance to climate-related migration (forming the core part of the paper).
- an overview of frameworks at EU and Austrian level.

WP no. 2	Desk Research, Case Studies
<p>Project results and milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Questionnaire for interviews ● Six cases studies ● Publication of six case studies on project website and submission of three articles to peer-reviewed journals 	
<p>Results and milestones achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interview Guidelines for the interviews in Brussels ● 7 Interviews conducted with EU stakeholders and transcripts of interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 with representatives of the European Parliament ○ 3 with representatives of different DGs of the European Commission (DGs DEVCO, CLIMA, HOME) ○ 1 with a representative of UNHCR Office Brussels ○ 1 with a representative of ECRE Brussels ● 4 interviews conducted in Geneva with other stakeholders ● 6 Case studies conducted and 6 case study reports drafted (available on the project website except for the case study on Nicaragua which will be published as a peer reviewed article): The case studies were structured as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarifying the context of the case study: This included information on the exposure to environmental hazards of the case study country, information on elements of vulnerability of the population. Apart from that, the general migration situation including a presentation of the major migration flows (internal migration, external migration, destination countries) was presented; to the extent available information on data on ‘environmental migration’ was included. The remainder of the first part concentrated on the human rights situation in the country and highlighted the impact of climate change on the human rights situation. The chapter finally provided a summary of conclusions drawn from the analysis of vulnerabilities and the existing migration flows. 2. Analysis of the legal, normative and institutional frameworks applicable to the case study country, which are of relevance to climate-related migration: The second part elaborated 	

on the existing frameworks relating to migration, asylum, human rights protection, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and adaptation at international, regional and national level (e.g. ratification status of international treaties, description of existing DRR procedures or national adaptation plans in the country). It further shed light on the role of the EU relations to the case study country in this context.

3. Summary of main conclusions of the case study.

WP no. 3	International Conference
<p>Project results and milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of experts who are supposed to comment on preliminary findings (see conference programme) • List of other participants • Comments by experts (internal working document) • Implementation of international conference 	
<p>Description of project results and milestones achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Conference took place on 20 and 21 September 2012 and served to discuss the relationship between human rights, environmental change and migration, to present the project, to receive comments from experts and practitioners and to exchange ideas and promote networks with other experts but also policy makers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The official part of the conference open to the public was preceded by an internal session (20 September, 9:00 till 12:00 hrs): 5 key experts from academia (Prof. Jane McAdam (University of New South Wales), Prof. Walter Kälin (University of Bern), Prof. Roger Zetter (University of Oxford), Prof. Manfred Nowak (University of Vienna), Dr. Jeanette Schade (University of Bielefeld)) commented on the objectives of research project and on preliminary results. The experts stressed that it was important to focus on the normative and institutional framework at national and regional level and leave the analysis of the implementation of the frameworks to a separate project. They provided also information on possible further sources and documents for the case studies and the project. ○ The official part of the conference started in the afternoon of 20 September 2012. Prof. Manfred Nowak opened the conference with a welcome address, followed by a short introduction of the ClimMig project and the presentation of key themes to be addressed during the conference by the project partners. Then three keynote speeches by the key experts paved the ground for a lively discussion. Walter Kälin was speaking about “The Nansen Principles: The way ahead”, Jane 	

McAdam gave a speech about “Legal Solutions: If a treaty is not the answer, than what is it?” and Roger Zetter provided an insight about “The local dimension of international legal and normative frameworks: how it works on the ground”. All speeches are available in writing at the project-website (www.humanrights.at/climmig).

- The first day of the conference was concluded by a **public screening** of the movie “The Grapes of Wrath” (John Ford, 1940). The film is about a poor farmer family that is forced to leave its home in Oklahoma due to drought, economic degradation and agricultural change in the 1940s (‘dustbowl migration’). The film was introduced by comments from François Gemenne (IDDRI).
- The **second day** of the conference started with a presentation on the role of human rights in the ClimMig project and a speech on the role of international organisations concerning human rights in the context of environmental migration by the project partners. The presentations were followed by **six parallel panel sessions** (which were chaired inter alia by the key experts). The first three parallel panels addressed the overarching topic of “Key Human Rights Challenges”.
 - Panel I: four presentations relating to the *right to food (security), water, health and land*.
 - Panel II: two presentations relating to *civil and political rights*.
 - In Panel III: three presentations relating to *resettlement schemes and right to return*.
- The last three parallel sessions addressed the overarching topic “Addressing Human Rights”:
 - Panel IV: three presentations relating to the topic *legal protection*,
 - Panel V: four presentations on *case studies on legal protection*,
 - Panel VI: three presentations relating to the topic *climate justice*.
- During the afternoon break four posters were presented.
- The conference was concluded by a **policy roundtable** on the topic “What can the EU do?” with Agata Sobiech (European Commission, International Relation Officer, DG Home Affairs), Justin Ginnetti (Advisor, Natural Disaster, International Displacement Monitoring Center, Norwegian Refugee Council), Alina Narusova-Schmitz (Regional Policy and Liaison Officer, IOM), Christian Fellner (Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria).
- 19 papers and 4 posters were selected for presentation on the second day of the conference.
- 111 participants registered for the conference. The participants came from all parts of Europe but also from e.g. India, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Singapore or Kyrgyzstan. There were also participants from NGOs and IGOs as well as political representatives.

- During the conference **lively discussions on a high scientific level** were taking place. The feedback relating to the quality of the conference and the project by the participants, experts and political stakeholders was very positive and encouraging.
- Two **radio reports** with contributions from the project team and experts from the ClimMig Conference (one with Jane McAdam; one with Margit Ammer) were broadcasted by the Austrian radio station Ö1 (Wissen aktuell, 21 September 2012, 13:55, <http://oe1.orf.at/programm/313504> and Dimensionen - die Welt der Wissenschaft, 28 September 2012, 19:05, <http://oe1.orf.at/programm/314182>)

WP no. 4	Incorporation of results of conference and drafting of recommendations
Project results and milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal working document: recommendations 	
Project results and milestones achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of results of the internal session. This was integrated in the research conducted. The experts provided the project team with valuable information on data, legal and policy document resources but also gave advice on the further steps of the research project. • Draft recommendations for EU policy makers. 	

WP no. 5	Publication, dissemination
Project results and milestones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project website (publication of case studies on website) • Publication of case studies; submission of several articles for publication to peer-reviewed journals • Several articles to be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal 	
Results and milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project website was launched by the AO in September 2011 (www.humanrights.at/climmig), e.g. the call for papers and the conference were announced on the website. • The case studies conducted as part of the ClimMig Project were published on the website (except one which is the basis for an article submitted to a peer-reviewed journal). • Three articles were submitted for publication to peer-reviewed journals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ‘Environment-Related migration: The Cautious Approach of the European Union’ written by the AO: <p>Abstract: With mounting evidence that environmental factors are becoming more and more important in driving migration, many different actors have taken position on so-</p> 	

called 'environmental migration' in recent years. Lately, also the European Union (EU) started approaching this topic. While it is still far away from offering a self-standing policy on the issue, the EU has started a process of deliberation with the publication of a Commission Staff Working Document (CSWD) in April 2013. This article provides an overview of the related policy process and analyses which rationales are shaping it. It further pursues a stocktaking exercise with regard to existing EU asylum and migration policies and explores which roles the EU could play in the context of environment-related migration and displacement and analyses it in light of the newly published CSWD. The paper concludes that the Commission takes in its CSWD a very cautious approach and that the policy process was shaped by similar factors as in the area of asylum and migration.

2. **'Environmentally Related Migration in Nicaragua – Evaluating Challenges and Responses'**

written by the AO:

Abstract: Nicaragua is one of the most exposed countries when it comes to adverse effects of climate change. Environmental degradation causes not only severe damages, takes the lives of many and threatens the livelihood of the Nicaraguan population, but also is an important factor in leading to massive migration movements. The article does not only outline vulnerabilities and elaborates on various migration responses related to environmental change in Nicaragua, but also describes and analyses legal and normative frameworks relevant for environment-related migration in Nicaragua from a human rights perspective. In doing so, this article comes to the conclusion that existing frameworks are only partially adequate to address all forms of environment-related migration.

3. The article **'Governing the ungovernable? The emerging global governance of environmental migration'** was written by the PO:

Abstract: This article assesses the involvement of different international actors in the management of environmental migration, their range of actions and eventually their evolution. It underscores how the governance of environmental migration emerged around the issue of disaster-induced displacement rather than environmental migration at large. Such acknowledgment lays the basis for critically discussing the possibilities of considering migration as an adaptation strategy, and improving the protection frameworks of environmental migrants in their great variety. It argues that only by dividing the category of environmental migrants normative initiatives found political support and echoes. Such conclusions are developed upon three main arguments. What can be concluded from the different normative initiatives presented is that according to most actors, only the protection of disaster-induced displacement might be an achievable political outcome. Understanding migration as an adaptation strategy will require linking those types of migration to the broader issue of freedom of movement. The role of the migration governance in that regards seems today of tremendous importance.

- Two **radio reports** with contributions from the project team and experts from the ClimMig Conference were broadcast by the Austrian radio station Ö1.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

o *Lack of data on environment-related migration*

The case studies revealed that there is still a need for further research on forms and extent of environment-related migration (lack of accurate data). Even for Burkina Faso, a country in relation to which research had been already conducted in the area of environment-related migration, it was difficult to find data on the number of persons affected and/or displaced per year by natural disasters. Apart from that, migration influenced by slow-onset disasters has never been the focus of research (making research on impact on livelihoods impossible). Sometimes only figures relating to displacement in relation to a specific event (e.g. flooding) were available, but often it was unclear how many returned back home etc.

A major obstacle to obtaining accurate quantitative data is certainly the lack of a precise and binding definition as well as the multi-causality of environment-related migration (and the difficulty to isolate environmental factors from other factors that have an impact on migration). In particular in slow onset events it is extremely difficult to distinguish between environmental and economic push factors, as both are intrinsically related.

Despite the challenges posed by the lack of quantitative data, the impacts of environmental change aggravated by climate change are increasingly acknowledged as a major threat to livelihoods and linked to migration. Based on the case studies conducted it can be argued that not only major disasters but also the search for income diversification, combining environmental and economic reasons, is a source of mobility (even though not quantifiable). The economies of most case study countries were highly dependent upon agriculture and natural resources so that households' livelihoods were severely impacted by environmental change.

o *Vulnerabilities*

The case study countries are exposed to different environmental hazards: Mozambique is facing periodic floods, cyclones, droughts and sea-level rise. Burkina Faso is exposed to droughts (as recurrent phenomenon in Sahel region), floods and desertification leading to the deterioration of the land, exacerbated by climate change. In Bhutan, a very small, land-locked country, the major challenges are glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), flash floods and related landslides, cyclones. Samoa, an island state in the South Pacific, is threatened in particular by tropical storms, sea-level rise and coastal erosion. Albania – the most vulnerable of Western Balkan countries – is exposed to droughts, floods and the risk of dam bursts. Nicaragua is threatened by tropical cyclones, droughts, extreme rainfall events and floods, land degradation, sea-level rise and deforestation.

Most of the case study countries have in common that the majority of their populations are living in rural areas, are dependent on agriculture (in Burkina Faso even 90%) or tourism (Samoa) and are thus very vulnerable to the impacts of environmental change. What is more, almost all case study countries face high poverty rates, low development and often high unemployment rates. In all case study countries economic development and poverty reduction are dependent on agriculture (Samoa tourism), which is intrinsically linked to the environment. Environmental change has led to negative impacts on the livelihoods of the population but also the development of the country in general. Another important factor of the vulnerability was the fact that the population was partly living in high-risk areas (e.g. Albania, Samoa, Mozambique). Poverty, lack of knowledge or the fact that high-risk areas were the most fertile parts for agriculture, hinder people from leaving such dangerous areas.

In addition, certain groups face systematic disadvantages, which have or might have the effect that they are not equally affected by environmental change: In particular discrimination of women, children and minorities could be observed.

o *Which scenarios are most likely (case study countries)?*

In the absence of a definition of environment-related migration, the project team drafted and used for their further research migratory scenarios to illustrate existing and potential forms. However, it turned out that it was

– given the lack of data on environment-related migration and the multi-causality of migration – not always possible to identify existing or potential scenarios in the case study countries.

While there were usually figures available on persons displaced by major disasters (e.g. in Mozambique, Samoa) or killed by disasters (Nicaragua, Samoa, Albania) there was hardly concrete information available relating to migration as adaptation. Instead, information on migration in general or migration patterns without linking it to environmental factors could be found.

With regard to displacement after major natural disasters, internal displacement seemed – to the extent that data were available – to prevail.

Relating to other migratory movements associated with environmental change, migration within the case study country or to neighbouring countries within the region was predominating. Still, inter-regional migration could not be completely ruled out: In Burkina Faso, for instance, – although difficult to quantify – internal migration remains the most common strategy to cope with environmental change, mainly directed to rural areas and secondary towns. If external migration is at stake, then migration mainly takes place within West Africa to Ivory Coast, the traditional migration destination. External migration used to be primarily seasonal, but now there are indications that the duration of such migration has recently increased, with migrants staying up to two years in Ivory Coast. If persons from Burkina Faso migrate to the EU, then the major destination is France, the former colonial power. In most cases, this constitutes – given the lack of legal channels – irregular migration.

It was difficult to identify migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental change in any of the case study countries: Firstly, migration can often be regarded as an adaptation mechanism only for certain parts of the population – in particular for those who have sufficient means to migrate. Secondly, while in some case study countries (e.g. Albania, Samoa, Bhutan) emigration is seen as a livelihood coping strategy (with remittances being of great importance) or has at least a long tradition (e.g. Nicaragua, Mozambique, Burkina Faso) so far no linkage has been made to environmental change.

Even though it is argued that inter-regional mobility, e.g. to the EU, would remain the most efficient mechanism to reduce inequalities, migration to the EU remains marginal. A possible explanation could be the cost of such migration and the lack of legal channels for work immigration, in particular for low-skilled labour, to the EU.

o *Frameworks*

The overview of the state of the art and the status quo of instruments at global level (WP1) revealed that there exists a normative and institutional gap with regard to external displacement, which will not likely be solved in the near future. A new legal framework seems not feasible soon, therefore existing legal frameworks have to be used and further developed through their interpretation. Apart from that, it is necessary to look at frameworks at regional and national level.

It is observable that the emerging governance of environmental migration is mainly focusing on disaster-related displacement, migration as adaptation is considered only marginally. However, understanding migration as an adaptation strategy will require linking those types of migration to the broader issue of freedom of movement.

At a regional level, there exist instruments, such as the Cartagena Declaration (Organization of American States) or the OAU Refugee Convention (Organisation of African Unity), which contain an expanded refugee definition. However, it is contested whether environmentally-displaced persons are covered. With regard to Nicaragua, there is also the Temporary Protected Status envisaged in the US legal framework, which has, however, also its shortcomings (personal scope of application, content and duration of protection status).

With regard to internal displacement the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, which cover also persons displaced by environmental change, are regarded to be sufficient. However, the major challenge is that states do not always incorporate them adequately in their national normative and institutional frameworks (e.g. Mozambique, Nicaragua). In this context, at a regional level, the Kampala Convention (African Union) – the first legally binding treaty on internal displacement – constitutes a major achievement. Burkina Faso and Mozambique have both signed, Burkina Faso has also ratified the Kampala Convention. A similar treaty is missing in all other regions.

Most case study countries have a well-developed and comprehensive disaster risk management system in place, which also considers and regulates issues concerning the search, rescue, the resettlement of victims of disaster and the provision of shelters (e.g. Mozambique).

Although all case study countries have National Adaptation Plans (NAPAs), none of them recognises migration as an adaptation strategy. While some NAPAs seem to aim at preventing migration (e.g. the Nicaraguan NAPA refers to the reduction of migration into the cities by adaptation measures), other NAPAs solely refer to 'resettlement' as a measure of last resort (and not migration) (e.g. NAPA of Mozambique, Burkina Faso). In the NAPA of Samoa only assistance for relocation of communities inland is indicated as adaptation need. The NAPA of Bhutan mentions the identification of potential areas for resettlement for vulnerable communities/villages and the resettlement of affected towns.

Of great relevance for migration as adaptation are norms regulating intra-regional and inter-regional freedom of movement: There exist regional multilateral frameworks stipulating freedom of movement within the region such as the Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) or the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Freedom of movement according to the ECOWAS 1979 Protocol was supposed to be based on the abolition of visas and entry permits, the institution of a 'carte de voyage' and of joint and harmonised immigration and emigration documents. However, ECOWAS does not work in practice since right to residency, establishment and work are still lacking implementation measures. Within the WAEMU framework, the situation is not better. A focus is put on the fight against irregular migration and the promotion of the linkages between development and migration – mainly with the objectives of reducing the latter.

Of relevance are also bilateral agreements between the case study country and neighbouring countries with regard to the rights of citizens on freedom of movement and residence rights (e.g. Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast; Nicaragua and Colombia). Migration patterns are often highly dependent on a neighbouring country's migration policies.

Frameworks stipulating inter-regional freedom of movement with the EU: Immigration to the EU from the case study countries is not the most common scenario and requires considerable funding. Despite that, already today, persons from Burkina Faso try to reach France without having the chance of being regularised. Similarly, persons from Mozambique are going to Portugal, United Kingdom, Germany, or Spain. However, EU Member States such as France have often, in line with EU standards, adopted a policy framework that largely constrains migration. The current trend can be described as securitisation and restriction of migration policies, also by e.g. strengthening the normative and institutional relationship between regions of origin and the EU (e.g. between West Africa and the EU), e.g. the Cotonou Agreement. Protection of migrants' rights seems only a secondary objective and measures are poorly developed. Compare also the 'Global Approach to Migration' (GAM) (2005) which contained priority actions with regard to Africa focussing on (i) controlling and restraining migration through externalisation of migration control and co-development; (ii) favouring movement of certain categories of migrants. The restructuring of migration policies highlights a growing inclusion of the EU in the process, as well as a prioritisation of the EU's interests rather than ECOWAS' interests.

○ *The role of the EU*

While several EU policies are addressing environment-related migration/displacement in some way, the EU currently has no self-standing policy on environment-related migration. However, the EU is in the middle of an agenda setting process in this context. As can be also deduced from the Commission Staff Working Document (CSWD) on Environmental Migration (published in April 2013), environment-related migration is primarily framed as an 'external migration'-issue (i.e. migration outside the EU) affecting mainly the policy fields of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The framing as an 'external migration'-issue has been linked in the past with the objective to curb immigration towards the EU. In regard to environment-related migration, the Commission proposes in its CSWD measures, which are non-committal and likely to be less controversial in the discussions with the Member States. More delicate issues such as the usage of instruments of EU asylum policy are interpreted in a restrictive manner, which contradicts the interpretation of scholars who see a scope of

application for environment-related migration. On the whole, the EU focus on a development approach seems to be too narrow.

The CSWD also considers and promotes the role of migration as an adaptation strategy. Still, it seems to regard immigration to the EU (as a mode of adaptation) as being not relevant and focuses on migration (as adaptation) within the region. This even though it has also been questioned whether solely seasonal migration within the region is the appropriate strategy to reduce vulnerabilities of affected populations.

The case studies made clear that the EU is a major aid donor and is active in humanitarian assistance. However, if migration forms a topic in bilateral relationships, the focus is on preventing migration to the EU. Many EU policies with regard to environment-related migration remain counter-productive: while migration is often depicted in a positive light in environmental policies, as a way to reduce vulnerability and improve adaptive capacity, EU migration policies continue to discourage and prevent migration. In addition, the increased cooperation with the EU might be responsible for securitisation of the migration discourse and actions of Western African states.

Austria has no framework to address environment-related migration (be it in third countries or in Austria). The Austrian development cooperation mainly aims at poverty reduction and promoting economic growth in the partner countries by supporting existing projects. Environment-related migration does not yet play a role in this context.

C) Project Details

5 Methodology

Research Questions addressed

1. How do current international legal, normative and institutional frameworks relevant to the migratory scenarios look like? (Which international norms of relevance to migration as adaptation or to migration to survive exist? Which international actors (governmental and non-governmental actors) are active and how do they interact?)
2. Which aspects of those migratory scenarios are not covered by the existing legal and normative frameworks/institutions? How could gaps be addressed?
3. What is the role of Austria/the EU in shaping global governance relating to climate-related migration? How do Austrian and EU policies currently address climate-related migration and/or how do existing policies impact on climate-related migration? Illustration by case studies (Which EU policy areas are mainly affected and which “neighbouring” policy fields are involved? Do these policy fields already take climate-related migration into account? Would existing Austrian/EU legal frameworks be supportive of “migration to adapt” or “migration to survive”? Is there coherence between different policy fields?)
4. How could Austria’s / EU’s role be improved in international fora? Is there room for improvement for Austria’s / EU’s policies (if yes, how could amendments look like?) (establishment of recommendations to provide Austrian and EU policy makers with a sound research basis for further decision-making)

Project Results (deliverables)

- Six case studies
- 1 International Conference
- 3 articles to be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- 1 project website (preliminary and final report will be published on the website)

Methodologies/approaches for achieving these results

The project was structured in five work packages:

- WP 1: The desk research and explorative phase included a screening and analysis of frameworks at global level, its authoritative interpretation, and a review of relevant literature. The research carried out in WP 1 also aimed at refining different migratory scenarios/patterns in the context of environment-related migration as a basis for further research. External experts were surveyed on the draft scenarios and their input was used to refine the scenarios.
- In WP 2, six case studies (relating to third countries with which the EU and/or Austria holds relationships, that is: Albania, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Nicaragua and Samoa) were conducted based on desk research. The case studies were composed of two major parts: Firstly, a description and analysis of elements determining the vulnerability of the case study country and its population. Secondly, research, description and analysis of normative and institutional frameworks at national, regional and international level of the case study country of relevance to climate-related migration. Apart from that, it was also looked at the role of the EU and Austria (as a EU Member State) in the respective case study country in relation to climate-related migration. During WP2, also semi-structured interviews were conducted with EU stakeholders, stakeholders in Geneva (UNHCR, IOM,

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) as well as with representatives of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

- In WP 3 an International Conference on environmental change, human rights, migration and displacement in Vienna was organised. It took place on 20 and 21 September 2012.
- WP 4 was implemented by incorporating the results of the conference into the findings of the project and by drafting recommendations
- Publication and dissemination events were carried out in WP 5 during the whole project period, e.g. the launching of the project website, the organisation of the conference, the publication of the case studies on the website, the submission of three articles to peer-reviewed journals.

Importance and relevance of proposed research project in relation to comparable, existing research results

So far, most research has focused on climate-related forced migration, in particular from a legal point of view (e.g. on the legal status of so-called “climate refugees”). Little existing research has looked at the same time at both migration for adaptation (i.e. the preventive aspect with regard to forced migration) and migration to survive from a legal, normative and institutional point of view. What is more, there exists no research, which also investigated how those international obligations relate to the Austrian and EU level (in particular role of EU / Austria in international fora and impact of their policies on climate-related migration).

6 Work and Time Plan (Actual Implementation)

		Timetable (months)																											
		2011												2012												2013			
Work Packages		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6		
1	Desk Research, Explorative phase	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█																
1.1	Refinement of migratory scenarios (survey)	█	█	█	█																								
1.2	Status quo and concretising gaps: international legal, normative frameworks				█	█	█	█																					
1.3	Status quo and concretising gaps: international governance structure								█	█																			
1.4	Relevance of frameworks at EU and Austrian level								█	█																			
2	Case Studies								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
2.1	Selection of case studies								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
2.2	Conduct of case studies (interviews etc.)																												
2.3	Analysis of case studies																												
2.4	Drafting and publication of case studies on project website																												
3	International Conference																												
3.1	Preparatory phase and selection of experts																												
3.2	Invitation of experts																												
3.3	Submission of preliminary results to selected experts																												
3.4	International Conference																												
4	Incorporation of results of conference and drafting of recommendations																												
4.1	Incorporation of input of expert meeting in research results																												
4.2	Drafting of recommendations																												
5	Publication, dissemination	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
5.1	Project website	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
5.2	Drafting and publication of case studies on project website																												
5.3	Drafting of 3 Journal articles and submission for publication to peer-																												
5.4	reviewed journals																												

7 Publications and Dissemination Activities

Publications

- The case studies on Albania, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Samoa were published on the project website (for details please see WP 2 and 5).
- A conference paper with results from the project (EU policy on climate-related migration) was accepted at the Workshop on "Climate Migrants" Thessaloniki, Greece, 18.10.2013.

Three articles were submitted to peer-reviewed journals:

- "The Cautious Approach of the European Union" written by Margit Ammer and Monika Mayrhofer.
- "Environmentally Related Migration in Nicaragua – Evaluating Challenges and Responses" written by Michael Frahm and Monika Mayrhofer.
- "Governing the ungovernable? The emerging global governance of environmental migration" was written by Pauline Brücker (IDDRI).

Other Dissemination Activities

- The project website was launched in September 2011 (www.humanrights.at/climmig).
- The website of the applicant (bim.lbg.ac.at) as well as of the partner organisation (www.iddri.org) contains information on the project and related activities.
- The annual reports 2011 and 2012 of the applicant contain information on the project.
- The international ClimMig Conference on Human Rights, Environmental Change, Migration and Displacement took place in Vienna on 20 and 21 September 2012.
- Two radio reports with contributions from the project team and experts from the ClimMig Conference (Margit Ammer and Jane McAdam) were broadcasted by the Austrian radio station Ö1 (Wissen aktuell, 21 September 2012, 13:55, <http://oe1.orf.at/programm/313504> and Dimensionen - die Welt der Wissenschaft, 28. September 2012, 19:05, <http://oe1.orf.at/programm/314182>)

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