

**18-20 March 2013,**

## Panel 5.3 Integrating migration into adaptation strategies

### Avoiding Maladaptation to Better Manage Climate – Induced Migration in Asia Pacific



# Why should we talk of migration?

- Why should domestic, regional and international efforts be concerned with environmental migration rather than, say, extreme poverty?
- What type of arguments can be employed that show the importance of designing governance mechanisms to prevent and protect environmental migrations?
- Is there a real link with adaptation?

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A photograph showing a group of people wading through deep floodwaters in a rural setting. In the foreground, a young boy is wading, holding a small object. Behind him, a man in an orange shirt and another person are also wading. In the background, a stroller is being pushed through the water. The scene is surrounded by lush greenery and trees. The water is murky and reflects the surrounding environment.

**MEDIA  
COVERAGE..  
BREAKING  
NEW!**

**VICTIMS !**



# VULNERABLE PEOPLE!



Months after cyclone AILA hit this area, people were still living in their make-shift homes as their lands were still inundated regularly during high tides.

Photo: Faruq Shahriar Isu; Gabura Union, Satkhira, Jan 2010

## Going beyond headlines and alarmist projections !

- Migration is usually perceived as a failure of communities and individual to adapt to extreme events or environmental degradation
- Migration represents a threat implying security based discourses
- But in most of the case migration is an adaptation strategy

# The understanding of environmental migration

*Walter Kälin, distinguished among five scenarios of environmental migration:*

1. “sudden-onset disasters”
2. “slow-onset environmental
3. “so-called ‘sinking’ small island states”;
4. areas designated by governments as “high-risk zones too dangerous for human habitation on account of environmental dangers”; and
5. displacement following “*unrest seriously disturbing public order, violence or even armed conflict*” that “may be triggered, at least partially, by a decrease in essential resources due to climate change.”

## Diverse Processes...

- Migration can be planned at an early stage or it can occur spontaneously when people face a “natural” disaster (which, sometimes, could have been foreseen, managed, or even prevented).
- It can also be temporary or definitive.
- In many circumstances, not everybody moves, especially in scenario 2 (slow-onset environmental degradation): the most vulnerable are often unable to afford displacement.



## Environmental migration is not only a international phenomenon and need a local integration

- Contrary to a common misrepresentation, empirical studies (in particular the EACH-FOR project([www.each-for.eu](http://www.each-for.eu)), which included case studies in 23 countries or regions) show that most environmental migration is internal.
- Migrating to a neighboring country is a second choice, while “South-North” migration remains exceptional.
- Need to empower local adaptation plan

# How Maladaptation can help integrating migration into adaptation strategies?

- Maladaptation is defined as
- Inadequate resettlement, land management and resource distribution are some reasons where the capacity of communities, families and individuals are decreased sometimes forcing them to move.
- So by defining maladaptation and what could be maladaptive programs/ strategies we could provide a comprehensive understanding of migration.

# THANK YOU!

