



People on the Move: Reducing the impact of human migration on biodiversity

Judy Oglethorpe, WWF US Janet Edmond, Conservation International

Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington DC 10 October 2007









Acknowledgements

 This presentation was made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



• We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Adverse impacts of migration

- loss of species
- habitat loss and fragmentation
- loss of ecological connectivity
- disruption of ecological processes
- loss of livelihoods for longterm residents





Direct threats from migration

- unsustainable use of natural resources
- habitat destruction
- pollution
- spread of invasive species and disease
- climate change





Migration adversely affecting biodiversity

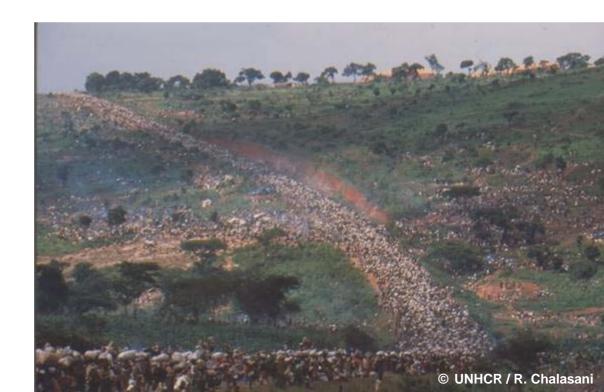
- often rural-rural or urban-rural
- mainly internal but also international
- usually cause impacts in destination areas but sometimes also in areas of origin
- can happen very quickly
- can be temporary or permanent
- can have second-generation impacts if human fertility is high





Migration statistics

- 3 million people migrate across international borders each year
- internal migration may be 100 times this
- 9.2 million international refugees in 2004
- 25 million internally displaced people in 2004







Push factors

- scarcity or lack of access to land and resources
- lack of economic opportunities
- poverty
- high population pressure
- environmental degradation
- natural disasters
- civil unrest and conflict
- rite of passage

Pull Factors

- access to land and natural resources
- employment opportunities
- access to markets
- access to facilities and social services
- safety and security
- family reunification and networks





Future trends

Migration is likely to increase because of:

- population growth due to fertility, increased consumption of resources and environmental degradation
- climate change
- globalization and trade
- armed conflict





Types of interventions

- interventions that influence migration itself, and/or reduce impacts when it occurs
- policy and/or field level interventions
- influences in area of origin and/or destination
- interventions that address immediate situation and/or future state

Policy interventions

- national/regional economic development policies
- sectoral policies e.g. immigration, land, agriculture, forestry, water
- subsidies, trade tariffs and tax incentives
- conventions and agreements
- indigenous peoples policy



Field-level interventions in areas of origin

- improve access to land and resources
- improve resource use
- improve livelihoods
- make arrangements for retrenched workers
- improve communication about realities in destination areas
- provide access to family planning
- provide other social services
- increase resilience and promote adaptation to climate change



Interventions in destination areas

- promote sound land use zoning
- restrict road development
- create protected areas in sensitive areas
- ensure law enforcement for land and resource use
- encourage voluntary resettlement in more appropriate areas
- strengthen land and resource tenure of existing residents
- promote intensive farming and agroforestry





Interventions in destination areas (contd)

- set quotas for resource extraction and promote low-impact methods
- develop off-farm livelihood opportunities
- promote payment for conservation and environmental services
- improve social services including access to family planning





Interventions for armed conflict and natural disasters

- support local community livelihoods
- reduce the impacts of refugees and internally displaced persons
- promote good environmental practices in refugee camps
- encourage sound resettlement afterwards
- integrate demobilized soldiers into society
- participate in post-war policy development and reconstruction





Conclusions

- migration is complex we need to understand the context before taking action
- a combination of interventions may be needed – at different scales
- collaboration with other sectors is extremely important
- careful monitoring of interventions is needed – adjust if necessary
- forward prediction and planning can help



Next steps

- improve understanding and awareness of migration impacts
- pilot promising interventions
- review likely impacts of global trends and migration threats
- develop diagnostic tools and guidelines for conservation practitioners
- build capacity in the conservation sector to work in migration

www.worldwildlife.org/phe

