



People on the Move:

Reducing the impact of human migration on biodiversity

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Adverse impacts of migration

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



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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



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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



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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



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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

