
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

Description of the Committee

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. ECOSOC has been responsible for formulating internationally accepted responses and recommendations to the “world’s economic, social and environmental challenges” through discussion and debate.

ECOSOC’s activities include commissioning and writing studies relating to its areas of remit for report to the General Assembly, preparing draft resolutions, and organizing conferences to support international cooperation. These activities are further divided among 10 functional commissions and 5 regional commissions, each responsible for a particular region of the world.



ECOSOC’s inaugural session, 23 January 1946. (In the photo, Mr. Gladwyn Jebb[on right], UN Executive Secretary, congratulates Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar of India [on left], ECOSOC’s first President.)

Source: UN Photo

The Council has 54 member states, which are elected by the UN General Assembly for overlapping three-year terms. Seats on the Council are based on geographical representation with 14 allocated to African states, 11 to Asian states, 6 to East European states, 10 to Latin American and Caribbean states and 13 to West European and other states.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can also be granted Consultative status to the Council and can participate as observers, such as the Helsinki Commission, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, World Deserts Foundation and World Tourism Organization.

TOPIC: ENVIRONMENTALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (EDP)

Introduction

In 2012, an estimated 32.4 million people were **displaced** by environmental disasters such as floods and earthquakes, but this number is likely to rise to 1 billion by the year 2050.¹ While most of these people are or will be displaced within their own country, several are forced to flee across borders as the natural environment of their homelands become increasingly uninhabitable.

Climate change and its effects on human livelihoods are felt across the world, however, the majority of the countries affected by forced displacement from climate change will be in the **developing world**, where there is the least amount of **institutional support and state capacity** to handle the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, excessive floods, increasingly vicious storms, and desertification.



Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan leave Tacloban City, Leyte province, the Philippines.

Source: European Pressphoto Agency

The international community has only recently begun to recognize the complex links between climate change and human mobility. The term “environmental refugee” emerged in the 1970s, but has since had its definition and phrasing disputed and negotiated, leading to multiple working terms for those people displaced by climate change. Therefore, the concept of environmentally displaced persons has not been integrated into frameworks for handling refugees, which falls under the mandate of the UNHCR, or as a clear theme to be discussed at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. While international law offers protection to displaced populations through refugee laws, it does not extend that protection to EDPs.

The destabilizing presence of EDPs are challenging conventional ideas of refugees and migrants and their motivations for crossing borders, and therefore require different solutions than those populations displaced by political conflict. These complications, and the urgency in the onset of climate change and increasingly frequent natural disasters, result in pressure for international institutions under the auspices of the ECOSOC, which coordinates the UN’s Specialized Agencies, Funds, and Programs, to find a solution and develop an integrated international response to the problem of environmental refugees. At the moment, the international community is still striving to reach consensus on how to incorporate this recent phenomenon into institutionalized frameworks.

Background

Environmental Migration: A Disputed Definition

The concept of the “environmental refugee” was first coined by Lester Brown of the World Watch Institute in the mid-1970s; subsequent prominent theorists in the area include Essam El-Hinnawi in the 1980s, Norman Myers in the 1990s, and more recently Diana Bates and Tracey King.

Outside academic debate, however, the notion has not gained legal influence. There are no international or national institutional systems that recognize environmental change as a cause of migration, despite the fact that the UN and various civil society bodies regularly utilize terms such as “environmental refugee.”

Within the existing international legal framework for refugees, the accepted definition of a refugee, as defined within the United Nations High Commission for Refugees’ (UNHCR) Statute, is a person “owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.” Neither the United Nations High Commission for Refugees’ Statute nor the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees specifically mentions environmental factors.

However, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of ... circumstances beyond his control.”²

When environmental degradation due to climate change creates a situation where finding food and water is a challenge, or when livelihoods are threatened, basic human rights are violated and social vulnerability becomes a major concern. These combined factors often lead to migration.

However, due to the lack of legal framework for environmental refugees, an international institutional vacuum exists insofar as these refugees’ rights are concerned, as “both environmental problems and population movements (due to such environmental change) often transcend the ‘protective’ borders of the nation-state.”

ECOSOC provides a suitable forum to address this issue, as mandated by Article 62 of the Charter of the United Nations which states that the Council has competence in matters including (but not limited to) “international, economic, social, cultural, educational, and health,” all of

What do the following terms all have in common?

- “environmental migrant”
- “forced environmental migrant”
- “environmentally motivated migrant”
- “climate refugee”
- “climate change refugee”
- “environmentally displaced person (EDP)”
- “disaster refugee”
- “environmental displacee”
- “eco-refugee”
- “ecological refugee-to-be (ERTB)”

They all are used to define persons displaced due to environmental changes that forced them to migrate.

Source: [UN Office at Geneva Press Release 037](#)

which are impacted directly or indirectly by environmental migration.”³

Historical Response of the International Community

Despite the growing size of this problem, the international community only began to discuss the issue two decades ago and has yet to develop a standard definition of an “environmentally displaced person” (EDP). Neither the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, nor its Kyoto Protocol includes any provisions concerning specific assistance or protection for those who will be directly affected by the effects of climate change. The UNEP, the environmental program of the United Nations, defines environmental refugees: “as those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people) that jeopardized their existence and/ or seriously affected the quality of their life. By ‘environmental disruption’ is meant any physical, chemical and/or biological changes in the ecosystem (or the resource base) that render it temporarily or permanently, unsuitable to support human life.”⁴

As the definition notes, environmental disruption can be caused either naturally, such as by hurricanes, thunderstorms, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes, or it can be human-induced, for instance as a result of logging of tropical rain forests, construction of dams, nuclear disasters, environmental pollution, and biological warfare.

Current Situation

The cause for EDPs could be divided into four areas: **hydrometeorological extreme hazard events, environmental degradation and/or slow onset extreme hazard events**, significant permanent losses in state territory as a result of sea level rise, and armed conflict/violence over shrinking natural resources. These sections can be further simplified as: sudden onsets, **desertification**, sinking underwater, and human conflicts over food.

Sudden onsets are often a result of natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005 and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013. Survivors of these tragedies have struggled in the aftermath as a result of drought and desertification. Climate change’s growing effects have been historically disastrous for island nations such as Tuvalu who in 1997 lost one of its islets, Pretuka Savilivili, to rising sea levels. Scientists predict that Tuvalu’s remaining islands will soon sink as well, thereby making it the first nation to disappear due to rising sea levels.⁵



A protester in Tuvalu raises awareness of an issue close to home.

Source: Tikkun Magazine

Furthermore, millions of people worldwide living in lowland coastal areas are subject to rising sea levels, which affects even the most affluent of nations. As this threat continues to grow

governments and international actors need to develop and expand the conventional definition of “refugee” to establish legal rights for these potential victims.

Currently The Refugee Convention and Protocol provides the standard definition for refugee accepted by 147 countries who are parties to the agreement. It states that refugee status extends only to (1) persons outside their country of origin who are unwilling or unable to receive protection from their country of origin or to return to their country of origin due to a “well-founded fear of being persecuted” in their country of origin, and (4) that persecution is based on “reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”⁶ Persons displaced by the environment, therefore, do not fall directly under the international legal definition of refugee.

International Action

Preparing for the worst, several nations have developed international policy frameworks focused on weathering the impending storms while providing better security for their citizens. States in high-risk areas, such as Vietnam and Bangladesh, have taken unique approaches to adapt to their environment developing plans deeply influenced by their nation’s political and economic characteristics.



Flooding is a significant problem in Bangladesh.

Source: WFP/Bangladesh

Respectively, plans by these two nations have set the standard for developing effective government agencies and incorporating non-governmental agencies in the process of disaster mitigation. Vietnam’s National Strategy for Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 plan works to coordinate government agencies on the central and local levels through cross ministerial coordination in order to assist affected citizens with environmentally influenced migration.⁷ Conversely Bangladesh has worked hand in hand with NGOs – such as: Food for Work and Cash for Work – to help offset the effects of internally displaced refugees.

The cost of climate change, even on prepared countries, can be overwhelmingly great. Japan and the Philippines had extensive and effective disaster prevention, response, and mitigation plans, as they were aware of their geographical vulnerabilities.⁸ However, natural disasters that hit Japan in 2011 and the Philippines in 2013 completely overwhelmed their disaster preparedness systems. A high percentage of the population became internally displaced and destitute, and despite their relative economic and political stability before the disaster, international aid was both requested and required for the states to return to normal.

Despite the great strides in policy development, we see that even the most prepared nations have yet to tackle much larger questions regarding the rights of externally displaced refugees, in addition to providing long term solutions for internally displaced refugees. Furthermore, academics have questioned the rights of refugees whose state runs the risk of being environmentally eliminated. This notion has arisen from the, “sinking island scenario” which

Recommendations for Creating a Resolution

Currently there are no international or national systems that recognize environmental change as a cause of migration. Crafting a new framework for the environmentally displaced is indeed a complex task due to both the short and long term demands refugees inflict on a nation's social services. Delegations should consider the diverse array of natural disasters and how it affections nations regionally. Resolutions should be comprehensive and should address criteria for determining refugee status, as well as the rights of displaced people. We also encourage delegations to set a new standard in order to better protect and ensure the security of refugees threatened by environmental disasters and their aftereffects.

Questions to Consider:

1. What natural resources exist in your country? Are there plenty of resources or are they scarce?
2. Has your country been affected by natural disasters recently? If so, what effect did those have on your country?
3. How does your country define refugees? What is the policy towards refugees in your country? What institutions or agencies in your government support refugees?
4. Are there refugees in your country? If so, how many? Where do most of the refugees come from and how long have they been in your country?
5. What part of your government deals with environmental issues?
6. What has been your relationship with international aid partners regarding (a) refugee issues, and (b) environmental issues?

Research Aid

The Website of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) provides information about the history, structure, and functions of one of the main organs of the United Nations.

- **ECOSOC** <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>

The website for the United Nations General Assembly provides background information on the largest organ of the United Nations and all of its Main Committees.

- **UN General Assembly**, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/>

This article was written by the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees to address the problem of forced displacement caused by climate change.

- **The UNHCR** <http://www.unhcr.org/4901e81a4.html>

The Website of the Environmental Justice Foundation works for the protection and rights of EDPs. Therefore, they have a number of great resources, especially among their videos, about the issue of EDPs.

- **The EJF** <http://www.ejfoundation.org/page592.html>

Terms and Concepts

Displaced: For our purposes, displaced refers to a person who is forced to relocate from their home for a variety of reasons (environmental, political, economic), in a phenomenon called forced migration.

Developing world: Sometimes referred to as less-developed countries, the developing world is made up of nations with a low living standard, underdeveloped industrial capacity, and low Human Development Index relative to other countries.

State capacity: The ability of a government to solve a particular problem facing that country.

Non-governmental organization: Any organization that works without the direct help of a government

Refugee: Someone owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. A refugee may also be someone who lacks a national origin and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

Hydrometeorological extreme hazard events: Hydro meaning water, and meteorological meaning weather or atmosphere, these events can range from thunderstorms to tropical storms to monsoons.

Environmental degradation: The depletion of resources such air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of wildlife.

Slow onset extreme hazard events: Events that may not immediately damage a community or an ecosystem, but may overtime cause significant harm, such as increasing temperatures or loss of the ozone layer.

Climate change: Earth's atmosphere causing changes in weather or climate patterns, such as different areas getting hotter, cooler, wetter or drier, or experiencing unusual weather patterns.

References

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- ² [UN], “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” *The United Nations*, Accessed: December 15, 2013, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a25>.
- ³ [UN], “Charter of the United Nations: Chapter X: The Economic and Social Council,” *The United Nations*, Accessed: December 14, 2013, <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter10.shtml>.
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- ⁷ [Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan], “Vietnam-Natural Disaster Mitigation,” The World Bank, December 2007, Accessed: December 14, 2013, <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/VIETNAMEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20247904~pagePK:141137~piPK:141127~theSitePK:387565,00.html>
- ⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “Disasters and Disaster Prevention,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Accessed: December 14, 2013, <http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/disaster/21st/2.html>
- ⁹ The European Union, “Temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons,” *The European Union*, February 14, 2012, Accessed: December 14, 2013, http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/justice_freedom_security/free_movement_of_persons_asylum_immigration/133124_en.htm.

Addendum ECOSOC

Forum:	ECOSOC
Issue:	Environmentally Displaced Persons (EDPs)
Student Officers:	Saphira Al Amry & Conrad Chisolm
Position:	Chairs of the Economic and Social Council

INTRODUCTION

The issue of Environmentally Displaced Persons (EDPs) is often believed to be a result of climate change and a problem of the future. The truth is that EDPs already exist in our world today and their numbers are estimated to increase to somewhere between 25 million and 1 billion by 2050.

In 2017 alone, more than 18 million people were displaced in their country of residence due to disasters according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement. Floods accounted for 8.6 million EDPs and storms were responsible for the displacement of 7.5 million people that year. In addition, some famous examples of these disasters include Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in the Caribbean and the US. According to the Global Report on Internal Displacement, these two events alone displaced over 2.8 million people.

There is no official definition of an Environmentally Displaced Person to the date, but the International Organization for Migration (IOM) uses the following broad definition: “Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad”. This unofficial definition already showcases the various forms of EDPs that may occur. There are of course those that relocate due to a sudden event like a hurricane or tsunami, but one should not forget those who relocate due to slowly rising sea levels or desertification, causing their homes to be permanently inhabitable or dangerous to live in. Both of these groups fall under the category of Environmentally Displaced Persons, but they need extremely different forms of assistance.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER & POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The first problem that states encounter when considering the issue is once again the lack of an universally accepted definition of an Environmentally Displaced Person. When one nation believes EDPs can only be people affected by sudden disasters such as a hurricane, while another one is convinced that people only affected by progressive change in the environment, such as sea-level rise, should be considered as EDPs, there will be difficulty

communicating about the topic. A universal definition, possibly based off of the previously mentioned IOM definition, reached with the consent of most or preferably all countries would remove this problem.

Secondly, there is the issue of how to prepare and respond to a sudden or progressive change in the environment. One practical response to the issue is the planned and coordinated relocation of persons living in areas prone to negative environmental change or recurring natural disasters. Since this will require some funds and planning expertise, More Economically Developed Countries (MEDCs) could support Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) financially, and if requested, with expertise on how to manage a relocation process. Various United Nations Organs or Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as UN Environment and the IOM could assist all countries in various stages of planning and executing a controlled relocation.

To start the process of controlled relocation, the government would need to find out which areas in the country are most threatened by events such as sea-level rise, desertification or recurring harsh storms. Then the civil society of the affected region would need to get involved in the planning process of relocation. This would ensure that a final plan of action would be acceptable to the people being relocated and that these people would voluntarily comply with the provisions of the plan. If this is not the case, the civilians might refuse to move until an extreme event, like the destruction of their house by a hurricane. Since this solution attempts to control migration, uncontrolled migration would be the biggest possible failure of this solution, and therefore the engagement of those people being relocated is vital to the success of this solution.

When developing plans to relocate people, states should consider how to reduce the economic and social impact of relocating a community to a different area. For example, countries should ensure that a region to which people are relocated has enough qualified job opportunities, providing enough income for a person to financially support themselves and their dependents. Ideally to ensure the smooth and effective integration of relocated persons into society, said persons should be given the tools and opportunity to pursue occupation that corresponds to their background and existing qualifications. Even if measures are taken to guarantee that the relocated community could theoretically continue to work in their pre-displacement professions, the governments should take into account that the region where the community is getting moved to is very likely already inhabited. If no additional provisions are taken, there could be more people seeking work than jobs are available. In this case the native inhabitants might see the EDPS in the regional job market as a threat to their own jobs. In the short term this would severely hinder the integration of the relocated persons, which in the long term may even lead to the EDPs relocating again, but this time without government coordination, thus nullifying the entire attempt at implementing a controlled relocation.

A financial aspect to be taken into account is giving people a fair compensation for their land, which they are leaving behind. Similarly to the aspect of engaging civil society, people would probably be very unwilling to move until an extreme event or the gradual effects of a changing environment physically reached them if they knew that they would

need to buy a new property at their destination, but were not given enough money for their old property to do this. A less money-based solution to the problem is implementing a system where people get allocated a similar property in the new location to the one that they owned in the old location.

Since environmental migration is not a problem of the future, but is also existent in today's world, governments need to help these people immediately and do not have time to develop individual plans with every community. When considering sudden environmental changes, human rights should be guaranteed for every environmental migrant. Among these basic rights are the rights for food, clothing, housing, medical treatment, and education. Especially LEDCs might have trouble providing all of the mentioned items, and therefore MEDCs, UN Organs such as the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) or the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and NGOs such as the International Committee of the Red Cross could be a large assistance to LEDCs when ensuring the Universal Human Rights are also valid for Environmentally Displaced Persons. In December of 2018 in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), 164 signatory member states agreed that "Refugees and migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled at all times." Even though the GCM is not legally binding, the EDPs would greatly benefit from this approach to strengthen their rights.

One further aspect that relates to the planned and unplanned relocation of migrants is migrants crossing national borders. In some regions, it may be possible for these migrants to return to a different area in their home country, but in others this may not be the case. For example, island countries such as Tuvalu in the Pacific are experiencing a combination of soil erosion, rising sea levels and increasingly vicious storms. With the highest point in Tuvalu being roughly 4.6 meters over sea level, a single vicious storm could flood the entire island, drowning the citizens that had no opportunity to flee to higher land or leave the country beforehand. In respect to the human right of life, these citizens will need to relocate permanently since their habitat has turned into a severe risk to their life. Member states should not close their borders when confronted with the situation and definitely not send the migrants back to their countries of origin. Member states should rather discuss how to best help these people considering that they have a unique cultural identity, are used to a different way of life, and might speak a different language. When discussing this issue, member states should consider the following general rule: the farther apart the new home is culturally, societally, economically, environmentally and physically from their former place of residence, the higher the negative effects will be for the relocated people. Therefore the best solution may be to move these threatened people regionally, but one should assure that the neighboring country is not affected by similar problems. The questions of how to ensure their human rights and prohibit any discrimination against the environmental migrants should also be discussed.

Finally, there is the question of where the problem of EDPs comes from in the first place. This raised the question of climate change and global warming caused by humans as mentioned in the introduction. Even though the earth takes its natural course of temperature over thousands of years, when humans begin to tamper and influence the climate, there can

be grave consequences such as the melting of icebergs and the rise of the earth's sea level. This leads to less habitable land on earth, with some islands set to be washed over completely as soon as decades from now. Thus, since almost all parts of land on earth are inhabited, when the amount of land on earth is minimized, people will be forced to flee potentially causing a huge refugee crisis.

Thus, one of the most important solutions to this issue is tackling the problem of EDPs at its root - climate change. Even though this is a very large and broad solution it is one of the most important ways to solve the problem. By member states engaging in discussions and in environmental conferences such as the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), by reducing their national CO2 emissions and promoting the principle of environmental awareness, the problem of environmental refugees can be solved. It is of utmost importance to not only learn how to cope with the outcomes of floods and hurricanes and other natural catastrophes causing civilians to seek refuge elsewhere, but also to eradicate the problem as a whole, preventing or alleviating the vicious cycle of Environmentally Displaced Persons. Only if member states address the issue at its origins and deal with the repercussions accordingly will this issue be resolved.

Conclusion

To conclude, the question of Environmentally Displaced Persons is not only a problem of the future, but pertinent in our world today. And this problem will increase in the future if nothing is done to stop its apparent cause - climate change. So it is now not only important to learn how to deal with EDPs but also how to prevent the issue as a whole. When possible, member states should engage in controlled relocation to mitigate the effects of environmental migrants have when relocating in an unorganized and uncontrolled manner. Cooperation is the key to deal with the problem of EDPs and help people in need of temporary or permanent homes. Since EDPs definitely already exist in today's world, member states need to cooperate not only with each other but also with international actors and organizations to ensure that every EDP has access to human rights all human beings are entitled to.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

1. http://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/201805-final-GRID-2018_0.pdf

The lengthy report gives an excellent overview about new displacements in 2017 due to conflicts and disasters. Pressing issues in many regions of the world and their relationship to internal displacement are touched upon.

2. <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/>

The Environmental Migration Portal offers an overview to the research about environmental migration. It considers how specific member states might be affected

by climate change, how this might lead to EDPs, and how they may cope with environmental migration today.

3. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/7>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights are an universally acknowledged set of rules that should be true for all people. In situations such as the presence of a large number of migrants in a state, the implementation of these rights be a challenge that the state together with the international community will need to overcome.

4. https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is a set of principles agreed upon by 164 member states in December of 2018. The compact is a milestone in the efforts of the world community to control international migration and decrease the number of illegal migrants.

5. <https://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/files-1/rr-protecting-environmentally-displaced-people-2011.pdf>

The study published in 2011 provides an insight on the approaches taken by the countries Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, and Vietnam. Although the study was limited to those four countries, the report includes many suggestions that all nations could include in their policies on how to handle EDPs.

6. <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/261/Pacific.pdf>

The study on “Climate Change and Migration Issues in the Pacific” offers a fascinating perspective on the difficulties and challenges of migrating in the Pacific and showcases the civilian’s concerns and fears. This report can definitely serve to give ideas on how to ensure that the issue can be tackled with a solution acceptable also to the remotest inhabitants of the islands in the Pacific.

7. <https://www.greenpeace.de/sites/www.greenpeace.de/files/20170524-greenpeace-studie-climate-change-migration-displacement-engl.pdf>

This lengthy report commissioned by Greenpeace Germany at Hamburg University in May of 2017. It considers the “Underestimated Disaster” of climate change, migration and displacement. It connects the dots and explains the background to the topic as a whole. Half of the report consists of case studies of various countries who experience the rise of EDPs, such as the very affected small island states in the pacific and Bangladesh. The report concludes with a series of political approaches states could take as possible solutions.