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Institute for Environment
and Human Security

The Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) Project

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“Climate Change and Migration in the South Pacific Region: Policy Perspectives”

Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 9-10 July 2009

EACH *FOR*

- » Two year project (Jan 2007 – Dec 2008)
- » Funded under the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme: *Priority 8.1 Policy-oriented research Scientific Support to Policies (SSP)*



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The EACH-FOR Project

- » Seven partner institutions across Europe
- » Multidisciplinary Approach
- » First step in filling empirical research gap



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EACH-FOR Project Objectives

- » To discover and describe the causes of forced migration in relation to environmental degradation/change and their association with other social, political and economic phenomena
- » To provide plausible future scenarios of environmentally-induced forced migration

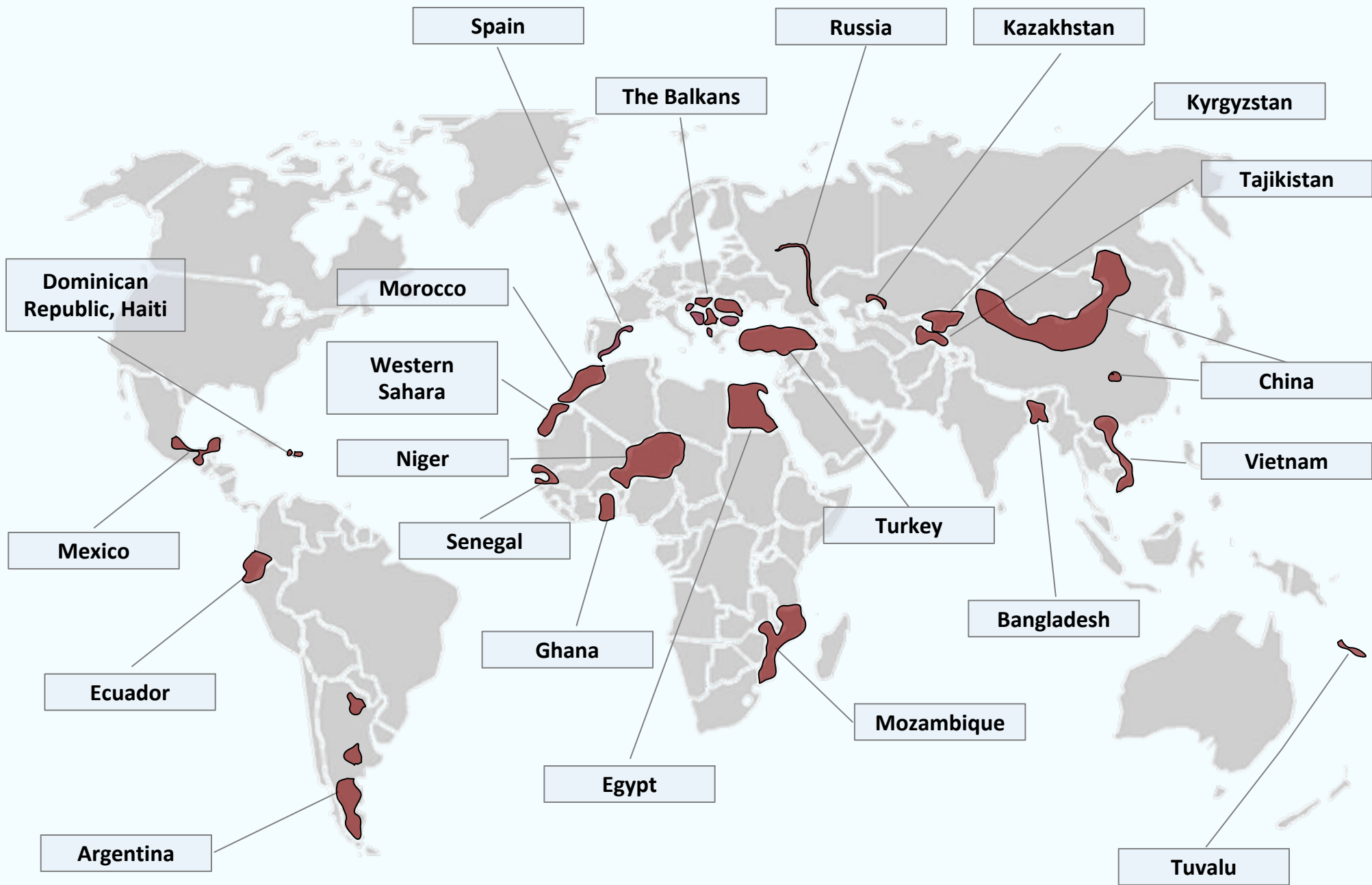


Project Basis/Hypothesis

Natural and human-made environmental change is leading to forced migration.



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Field Work Objectives

who?

where?

why?

how?

**Coping capacity/
adaptation**

**Obstacles that
prevent
migration**

**how migration
activities
occurred**

**identify the
perception**

Field Research Methods

- » Expert interviews
- » Migrant and non-migrant questionnaire
- » Semi-structured interviews with migrants/non-migrants
- » Locally-based research partners engaged in all cases



Tuvalu Case Study – Findings

Francois Gemenne (University de Liege, Belgium)

Shawn Shen (University of Otago, New Zealand)

- » Knowledge of global warming is variable
- » New Zealand is the prime destination for those leaving Tuvalu
- » Uncertainties about the future seem to be pre-eminent migration drivers, even more than actual environmental concerns
- » Media rumours about resettlement agreement New Zealand unfounded



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Tuvalu Case Study – Recommendations

Francois Gemenne (University de Liege, Belgium)

Shawn Shen (University of Otago, New Zealand)

- » Doomed image can compromise future development potential
- » More climate change research to reduce uncertainties about Tuvalu's environmental vulnerability
- » Long-term planning and policies, particularly adaptation can reduce uncertainties and hence out-migration
- » Social and cultural cohesion of Tuvaluan society should be main focus of long-term solutions



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Key Findings of EACH-FOR Project

1. Climate change is not the only potential *environmental* trigger for migration
2. Pressures to migrate are increasing due to global warming impacts
3. Migration is a traditional coping mechanism but traditional patterns are changing in some areas
4. Migration occurs when livelihoods cannot be maintained, especially when agriculture or herding is severely affected by environmental degradation or extreme events



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Key Findings of EACH-FOR Project

5. Longer term or permanent migration, in contrast to seasonal or temporary migration, is becoming more common
6. Migration decisions are complex reflecting the interconnectedness of environmental factors with economic, social and political factors
7. People who want to leave their villages/regions/country can only do so if they have the necessary financial means and access to networks that support migration
8. The study of forced displacement as a result of dam construction provides valuable lessons regarding the resettlement process



Major EACH-FOR Outputs

- » Synthesis Report
- » 6 Regional overview studies
- » 23 country case study reports
- » 23 case study policy briefs
- » 6 country scenario reports
- » 5 Newsletters
- » Environment and migration model
- » International conference (www.efmsv2008.org)
- » Book (published by IOM)
- » Special edition of journal *International Migration*



www.each-for.eu

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