

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

Thursday 9 and Friday 10 July 2009

Lecture Theatre One, Rutherford House, Bunny Street, Wellington

Keynote Speaker

Philippe Boncour Head of International Dialogue on Migration Division
International Organisation for Migration
Geneva



Photo: Tony Whincup

The possibility of migration as a response to climate change is still rarely broached in the literature on adaptation to climate change, perhaps because it is entirely outside the acceptable range of proposals.

Adger et al (2007) Contribution of WGII to Fourth Assessment Report, IPCC

Migration has been a means by which individuals and communities respond to changes in their natural environment for millennia. However, despite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning in 1990 that human migration and displacement might be the single greatest impact of climate change, the issue is one that has remained relatively unexplored.

Within the South Pacific region are countries which are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Some countries in the region are already experiencing population movement due to environmental events and processes likely to be exacerbated

by future climate change. Others are, at a certain threshold of climate change, at risk of disappearing altogether. The extent to which climate change might lead to population movement in the coming decades therefore raises substantial domestic and international policy challenges.

The aim of this conference is to bring a multi-disciplinary focus to bear on this issue. Drawing on a range of international, regional, and domestic speakers, it will examine the potential drivers of regional migration in a climate change affected world, its potential impacts, and possible policy responses.



To register contact

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There is no cost for
registration

Day 1 – Thursday 9 July

- 08.30 – 08.50am **Registration**
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- 08.50 – 09.00am **Welcoming and opening remarks** – Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington
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- 09.00 – 10.00am **Keynote Presentation** – Philippe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration, Geneva
International Policy Issues and Ethical Challenges
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- 10.00 – 10.30am **Session 1: Climate Change in the South Pacific Region – The Science**
Chair: Bruce Burson, Consultant
Doug Ramsay, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research
Projected Environmental Impacts Linked to Climate Change in South Pacific Region
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- 10.30 – 10.50am **Morning Tea**
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- 10.50 – 12.10pm **Session 2: Environmentally Induced Migration in the South Pacific Region: Current Trends**
Chair: Ellen Hansen, Office of Regional Representative UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Joe Konno, Office of Environment and Emergency Management, Federated States of Micronesia
Climate Change: Implications on Population Displacement in Micronesia
Brian Phillips, National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu
Environmental Degradation and Migration: The Experiences of Vanuatu
Associate Professor Tony Whincup, School of Visual and Material Culture, Massey University
Water on Water: The Threat of Climate Change upon Traditional Practices in Kiribati
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- 12.10 – 12.50pm **Lunch** *Sisters on the Planet*, an Oxfam DVD, will screen in Lecture Theatre one during the lunch break
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- 12.50 – 02.10pm **Session 3: International Policy Issues and Challenges**
Moderator: Philippe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration
Dr Adrian Macey, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador.
Global or Regional Management of Migration in Context of Climate Change
Helen Plume, Ministry for the Environment
Climate Change and Migration in the Context of the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaption (NWPA)
Professor Roger Zetter, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University (pre-recorded video)
Climate Change, Migration and Rights Projection
Ellen Hansen, UNHCR, *An UNHCR Perspective*
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- 02.10 – 03.20pm **Session 4: Climate Change, Migration and the Community**
Chair: Mervin Singham, Office of Ethnic Affairs
Dr Colin Tukuitonga and Dr Debbie McLeod, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
Potential Impacts of Climate Change Migration on Pacific Families Living in NZ
Tagaloatele Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Va'aomanū Pasifika, Victoria University of Wellington
If I Plant a Tree Will My Children be Here to See it Grow?
Kimberly Cleland, *Community Mapping and Displacement: the Experience of the Carteret Islands*
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- 03.20 – 03.40pm **Afternoon Tea**
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- 03.40 – 04.40pm **Session 5: Non-Migratory Responses to Climate Change: Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation In The Pacific Islands Region**
Chair: Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington
Paul Eastwood, NZAID
Environment and Development: NZAID Support to Building Adaptive Capacity in the Pacific
Marianne Elliot, Oxfam New Zealand
From Community to Copenhagen: Civil Society Action on Climate Change in the Pacific
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Day 2 – Friday 10 July

08.45 – 09.00am **Welcome**

09.00 – 10.00am **Session 6: Implications for NZ Immigration Policy**

Chair: **Dr Kate McMillan**, Political Science and International Relations,
Victoria University of Wellington

Professor Richard Bedford, Population Studies Centre, University of Waikato

Environmentally Induced Migration within the Context of Existing Migration Patterns

Stephen Dunstan and Geraldine Canham-Harvey, Department of Labour

Climate Change and Migration in the South Pacific: Issues and Possible Immigration Responses

10.00 – 10.20am **Morning Tea**

10.20 – 10.50am **Session 6 continues**

Dr Jon Barnett, School of Land and Environment, University of Melbourne (by video)

Climate Migration in the South Pacific Region: Managing Risks and Maximising Opportunities

10.50 – 11.20am **Session 7: The Global Context: The European Union's EACH-FOR Project**

Chair: **Bruce Burson**, Consultant

Olivia Dun, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security

Overview of the EACH-FOR Project

11.20 – 12.20pm **Session 8: Where to From Here? Open panel discussion on policy challenges and next steps**

Philippe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration

Stephen Dunstan, Department of Labour

Brian Phillips, National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu

Joe Konno, Office of Environment and Emergency Management, FSM

12.20 – 12.40pm **Summing Up - Bruce Burson**

Closing Remarks - Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies,
Victoria University of Wellington

12.40 – 01.30pm **Lunch**

Speakers

Jon Barnett is an Australian Research Council Fellow and Reader in the Department of Resource Management and Geography at Melbourne University. He is a human geographer whose research investigates the impacts of and responses to environmental change on social systems, including China, Timor-Leste, and the Pacific Islands. Jon is convenor of the Australian national research network on the social, economic and institutional dimensions of climate change, and is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS) project. He is also on the editorial boards of *Global Environmental Change*, *Geography Compass* and the *Journal of Human Security*. He is the Executive Editor of the adaptation domain of *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews Climate Change*.

Richard Bedford is Professor of Population Geography and Director of the Population Studies Centre, University of Waikato. He also directs the Tertiary Education Commission-funded Building Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCSS) network on a contract with Massey University. He


is a specialist in migration research and since the mid-1960s he has been researching processes of population movement in the Asia-Pacific region. Richard has been awarded numerous Honours and made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) in 2008. He is currently a member of several research and policy advisory groups including the Marsden Fund Council where he convenes the Social Sciences Panel.

Philippe Boncour is currently Head of the International Dialogue on Migration Division at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). He serves as the climate change, environment and migration focal point for the organisation worldwide. Prior to joining IOM in 2002, he was the Director of Development and Communication of the Worldwide Network of the Alliance Française. He has held numerous positions in government including French Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Special Advisor to the Minister of Education in Cameroon. In 1991 he was appointed Counsellor in charge of Education, Higher Education and Research at the French

Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. In 1995, he was assigned as a special advisor to the Minister of Culture of Cote d'Ivoire and he managed the international ODA until 1998. Philippe specialises in development-related issues, with a particular focus on capacity building and on project management.

Geraldine Canham-Harvey is a policy analyst in the Immigration Policy team in the Department of Labour. Her policy responsibilities include the nexus between migration and development, including trade and climate change considerations, refugee resettlement, and refugee and protection issues. Geraldine also works on policy supporting the implementation of the Immigration Bill, and the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007. She has a Masters in international relations and security studies.

Kimberley Cleland is a University Volunteer through the Volunteer Services Abroad development program. She recently returned from an assignment with Tulele Peisa (sailing the waves on our own), a local non governmental organisation



in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Her role with the organisation was to assist the research and advocacy officer with the relocation of Carteret Islanders to mainland Bougainville. Research into culture, land use, available resources and perceived impacts of climate change were undertaken in both the Carteret Islands and the relocation district of mainland Bougainville.

Olivia Dun is a research associate and joint PhD candidate with United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany and the University of Sydney, Australia. Her PhD research is about the role of the environment in prompting people to migrate and to assess human migration as an adaptation strategy in the face of environmental change/degradation. In particular, her PhD will focus on the links between flooding and migration in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Since 2007 she has worked for the Environmental Change in Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) project funded by the European Commission. She has experience conducting research in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Stephen Dunstan is Manager of Immigration Policy in the Workforce Group of the New Zealand Department of Labour. He is responsible for advising the Government on the range of residence and temporary entry policies, including refugee resettlement and settlement. He has worked on a range of special policies that provide entry for Pacific people for residence and temporary work opportunities. More recently his focus has included possible implications of climate change for people movement in the Pacific. Stephen has also worked in immigration research; justice, employment and immigration.

Paul Eastwood joined NZAID at the beginning of 2009 as the organisation's Environment Advisor. Key responsibilities include supporting NZAID's development programmes in the Pacific and globally with the provision of advice across all environmental sectors including climate change. Paul has a mix of experience in technical, scientific, and development issues all with an environmental focus, and has specific expertise in the Pacific having spent a number of years working for national and regional organisations in the region.

Marianne Elliott is Policy Advisor for Oxfam New Zealand, an affiliate of Oxfam International. Oxfam links practical grassroots projects, mainly in the Pacific and Asia, with campaigns to address the causes of poverty, insecurity and unsustainability. Marianne leads Oxfam New Zealand's policy work on climate change. Previously Marianne has worked as a human rights advisor with the United Nations, the New Zealand Human Rights Commission and a range of different NGOs in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Gaza Strip and New Zealand.

Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Associate Professor, is Inaugural Director of the Va'aomanū Pasifika, (Pacific and Samoan Programme) of Victoria University of Wellington. Peggy came to the Va'aomanū Pasifika post after 25 years research, teaching and gender and community activism in the Pacific including 15 years at the University of the South Pacific (USP) School of

Agriculture Samoa, and UN Posts of Sustainable Human Development Adviser Suva, UNIFEM Pacific and Social Adviser at the UNESCO Pacific office, Apia. She has published widely on factors influencing Pacific people's lives and choices today especially issues of gender and youth.

Ellen Hansen joined UNHCR in 1998 and has since January 2007 been UNHCR's Senior Regional Protection Officer for Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. Prior to this she spent three years working at UNHCR's Headquarters in Geneva, most recently as Secretary of UNHCR's Executive Committee. She has also served as UNHCR's External Relations Officer in Canberra from 1998 to 2003, and undertook a number of missions to Timor-Leste during this period. Before joining UNHCR, Ellen worked for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for 10 years, having joined its International Law Office in 1987.

Joe Konno is currently Coordinator of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) Second National Communication to UNFCCC at the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management. He is a member of the FSM Climate Change Country Team, the Convention on Biological Diversity Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change and the Pacific Regional Expert Group on Climate Change and Food Security. He is a former Executive Director of the Chuuk State Environmental Protection Agency.

Adrian Macey, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador, has been responsible for New Zealand's international negotiations, bilateral partnerships and for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade contributions to domestic policy. Adrian has held numerous international positions including Ambassador to France, OECD, and Algeria, Ambassador to Bangkok, including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Director, Trade Negotiations Division, Director of Personnel, MFAT, Economic Counsellor, Geneva, and Official Secretary of Tokelau. He has also held a number of other positions within the State Services Commission, Wellington.

Debbie McLeod is the Director of Policy and Monitoring at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Dr McLeod is an experienced public sector manager, researcher and evaluator. Before joining the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in 2008, she was at the Ministry of Social Development for four years in the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation. She moved to the public sector from a position as Research Director for the Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice, University of Otago, Wellington.

Brian Phillips is on the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu.

Helen Plume works in the Climate Change Policy Team at the Ministry for the Environment, and is currently Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Helen has worked on international climate change issues for a number of years and has represented New Zealand at many international climate change meetings. Part of this international work has included co-chairing

the negotiations on the establishment of the SBSTA adaptation work programme which was renamed the Nairobi Work Programme at the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi in 2007. Past experience includes co-chairing the international negotiations on the reporting and review rules under which the Kyoto Protocol now operates.

Doug Ramsay is Manager of NIWA's Pacific activities and a coastal hazard consultant. He has wide experience of coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation activities in the Pacific region. Over the last few years has been involved with various coastal hazard and climate change related projects in the Pacific islands, including Tuvalu, Tonga, and Tokelau and is currently leading one component of Phase 2 of the Kiribati Adaptation Project. In New Zealand he has led the revision of the recently released Ministry for the Environment Guidance on Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: A guidance manual for local government in New Zealand.

Colin Tukuitonga is Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Dr Tukuitonga, a registered medical practitioner, began his health career as the National Medical Officer in his home-country of Niue from 1982 to 1986. Prior to his current appointment as Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in 2007, he helped to establish the Department of Maori and Pacific Health at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. He held positions at the Fiji School of Medicine, the Auckland Area Health Board and Northern Regional Health Authority. Dr Tukuitonga was also Head of the Surveillance and Prevention of Chronic Diseases at the World Health Organisation and Director of Public Health and Medical Officer of Health for New Zealand.

Tony Whincup is Associate Professor and Head of the School of Visual & Material Culture in the College of Creative Arts at Massey University, Wellington. He has over 25 years experience photographing and writing about Kiribati. His research interests have focused upon traditional canoes, dance, and cultural artefacts while his current work considers the traditional meeting house as agency. Tony is currently working on a new book to be published this year entitled, 'Bwai ni Kiraibati – artefacts of experience'. He has won several awards, including the Kiribati Order of Merit (ODM) for his services to the country.

Roger Zetter is Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. He has over 25 years research, publication, teaching and consultancy experience in forced migration, refugee and humanitarian issues with funding provided by the EU, UK Home Office, ESRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Housing Corporation, Oxfam, SD, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. He was previously founding editor of the Journal of Refugee Studies. His research focuses on institutional and policy dimensions of the refugee regime, and the impacts of humanitarian assistance on refugees and asylum seekers. His current research interests concern climate change and environmental displacement with a particular interest on issues of rights protection.