



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
*Institute for the Study of International Migration*

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Executive Committee  
Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage  
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1  
53113 Bonn, Germany

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in two capacities, as the Director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University and as the Chair of the Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration at the World Bank's Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

Georgetown has several projects of relevance to the work of the taskforce. We have a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to work with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to develop and promulgate guidelines on planned relocation of persons displaced by natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Development of the guidelines began at a workshop in San Remo of experts from the humanitarian, migration, development, environmental and disaster risk reduction communities. The workshop report is available [here](#). The guidelines themselves, which reflect considerable input from experts in all of these areas, are available [here](#).

Another Georgetown project is focusing on the environmental impact of refugee camps in the Horn of Africa. This project is funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration in the US State Department. Our case studies are in Ethiopia and Djibouti, in areas that have been severely affected by the current drought and have been hosts to refugees in protracted situations. The findings of the project will be available in the Fall of 2016.

A further project is assessing the legal and policy frameworks for protecting the rights of people who do not qualify as refugees under the 1951 Refugee Convention but would face life-threatening situations if they are forced to return to their home countries. We collaborated with Oxford University in publishing an issue of *Forced Migration Review* on migration, displacement and planned relocation in the context of humanitarian crises. The [issue](#) includes several articles that are relevant to the work of the taskforce.

My own research focuses primarily on gaps in policy responses, as in "Environmental change and migration: legal and political frameworks," published in *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 2012, volume 30, pages 1045 – 1060 (attached).

The Thematic Working Group in KNOMAD (<http://www.knomad.org/thematic-working-groups/environmental-change-and-migration>) is finishing our third year of activities relevant to the taskforce. We began with a workshop on the state of evidence on environmental change and migration. We published a [summary](#) of the workshop and a literature review and [annotated bibliography](#). In year 2, the working group hosted a workshop on longitudinal research designs that could better capture the long-term drivers and impacts of environmental change on migration and measure the effectiveness of adaptation measures to avert or facilitate mobility (see [summary](#) and [concept note](#)). In May of this year, we organized a follow-up workshop that explored quantitative data and methods to improve understanding of the interconnections between migration and the environment. We will share the summary as soon as it is completed.

The working group has also commissioned a number of working papers on environmental change and migration. Two have been published to date: [The Impact of Vulnerability and Resilience to Environmental Changes on Mobility Patterns in West Africa](#) and [Cambodian Migration to Thailand: The Role of Environmental Shocks and Stress](#). I am attaching a full list of the working papers and would be pleased to send them to you as they are released. In addition, the working group is supporting the efforts of other parts of the World Bank to improve understanding of the interconnections between environmental change and migration, particularly in the area of climate resilience. We would be pleased to help arrange further discussions to inform the taskforce of these various activities. To this end, I am copying Hanspeter Wyss, the focal point in the World Bank for the KNOMAD work on environmental change and migration.

We hope that these materials will be useful as the taskforce develops its work plan. Please let me know how else we may be of service.

Sincerely,



Susan Martin  
Donald G. Herzberg Professor of International  
Migration, Georgetown University and Chair,  
KNOMAD Working Group on Environmental  
Change and Migration