



BuildBackBetter IUCN Virtual Dialogues

Moving Forward Together - Migration, Environmental Change, Conflict

THE GENEVA ROADMAP & STRENGTHENING IUCN ACTION



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The co-migration of human and other species catalyzed by environmental change, including climate change, is anticipated to increase dramatically in the next decades. As calls mount for conservation to account for these trends, how will conservation practice be affected and what conflicts are likely to increase



“Models suggest that the 70 million displaced people we have today might turn out to be just a fraction of the displaced people we might have in 20 or 30 years.”
Richard Mathew

350
MILLION PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN PROTECTED AREAS
1.5
BILLION LIVING WITHIN AND ON BORDERS OF PROTECTED AREAS

> Challenges

Predicted increases in both human and non-human displacement due to environmental change, namely climate change, can have significant impacts on vulnerable peoples and ecosystems, as well as peace and conflict.

COVID has tended to increase urban to rural migration and demonstrates national willingness to close borders and take unilateral rather than cooperative action.

“The conservation community can play an important role in showcasing the landscape approach.”
Kanta Rigaud

“Knowledge is missing; therefore, it is hard for policymakers to comprehend the intersections between conservation, conflict and migration.”
Mariam Traore Chazalnoel



50%
of all non-human species have been found to be on the move due to land degradation and climate change (Welch 2017)

50 to 700
People displaced by 2050 (IPBES 2018).

“I still see the lack of ground and community involvement. If community-based solutions are not recognized, we will have global solutions that will inadvertently backfire or shift the problem from one space to another, which will increase pressure to the places that people are actually trying to protect.”
Thomas Worsdell



> Lessons Learned

- ✓ Support for strong and resilient communities and ecosystems to prevent displacement.
- ✓ Recognizing community rights is vital to reducing vulnerability to displacement.
- ✓ Integration to COVID economic recovery programs.
- ✓ Nature provides sanctuary and basic needs in difficult times and functions as a 'social safety net'.
- ✓ Early cooperation is needed.
- ✗ Conservation itself has been a cause of forced displacement of indigenous and local communities, as well as a party to social conflicts and social injustices.
- ✗ Peri-urban ecosystems are vulnerable to urban-rural migration and increasing encounters between human and non-human species.
- ✗ Most indigenous and local communities protecting territories of life face insecure territorial rights.
- ✗ Both COVID-19 and migration can be linked to degradation of environment.

Recommendations for IUCN

- Support more dialogue and sharing between conservation, humanitarian, development and research communities.
- Identify rights-based, people-centered, conservation solutions that are conflict-sensitive and peace-building.
- Help to integrate these solutions into international, regional, national policy, as well as local-level action.
- Need to ensure that conservation interventions don't further displace people or infringe indigenous or human rights.
- Conservation solutions that are conflict-sensitive and peacebuilding must be rights-based and people-centered.

“Use the pandemic as an opportunity to address vulnerability and help governments to design nature based solutions. This will inject money and jobs into rural economies, which may reduce the drivers of migrations.”
Alec Crawford

Want to know more?

IUCN CEESP Theme on Environment and Peace - <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/commission-environmental-economic-and-social-policy/our-work/environment-and-peace>
Task Force Leads: Elaine Hsiao, Richard Matthew and Galoel Saintz
Partner Sites:
IISD Conflict-Sensitive Conservation Resources - www.iisd.ca
World Bank Groundswell report(s) - <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29461>
Rights and Resources Initiative - www.rightsandresources.org
IOM MECC - www.iom.int
Wilson Center - www.wilsoncenter.org
UNHCR - www.un.org

