

Castle Talks : The migration crisis, a challenge for border regions

January 2021

Master's thesis : Migration, development and adaptation to environmental changes (1972–2018). The cases of Ecuador and Senegal.



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M2 International Relations

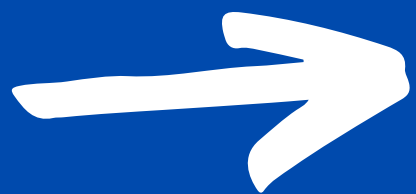


Definitions



- **Environmental change (Foresight report)** : "changes in the physical and biogeochemical environment, on a large scale, either caused **naturally** or **influenced by human activities** (including industrial accidents), whether by **fast** or **slow** growing events"
- **Environmental migrants (IOM)** : "persons or groups of persons who, mainly for reasons related to a **sudden** or **gradual** environmental change negatively affecting their life or living conditions, are **forced** to leave their usual home or leave it on their **own initiative, temporarily** or **permanently**, and who as a result move **within** or **out** of their country."

- **Human development's objective (UNDP)** : "the process of **enlarging people's choices**" allowing them to "lead a long and healthy life, to be educated, to enjoy a decent standard of living," as well as "political freedom, other guaranteed human rights and various ingredients of self-respect..."
- **Adaptation (IPCC)** : "The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to **moderate or avoid harm** or **exploit beneficial opportunities**. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects."

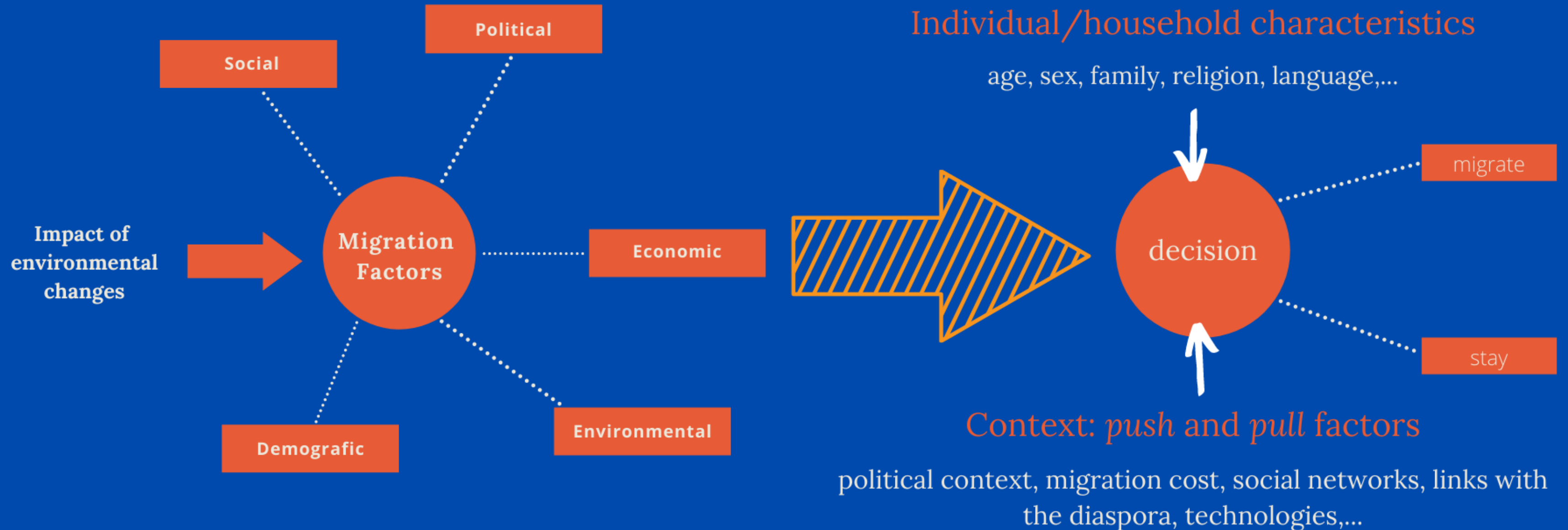


What role does mobility (internal or international) play in populations and governments' strategies for adapting to environmental changes in Senegal and Ecuador ?

International context

- 1972: 1st UN Conference on environment, creation of UNEP
- 1985: Presentation of Dr El-Hinnawi's report on Environmental refugees at UN's General Assembly
- 1992: United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change, Rio de Janeiro.
- 1995: Dr Myers' report on climate change-related migration (200 millions of environmental migrants in 2050)
- 2010: Cancún conference on climate change (COP16), recognition of migration as a possible climate change adaptation strategy
- 2014: IPCC's report defines adaptation in terms of risks and opportunities
- 2015: Paris Agreement, UN Sustainable Development Goals. IOM creates a special division "Migration, Environment and Climate Change" (MECC)
- 2018: Global Pact for Safe, Orderly and Regular migration adopted in Marrakech

Human mobility in the context of environmental change



Ecuador's major environmental changes/risks



Sea-level rise



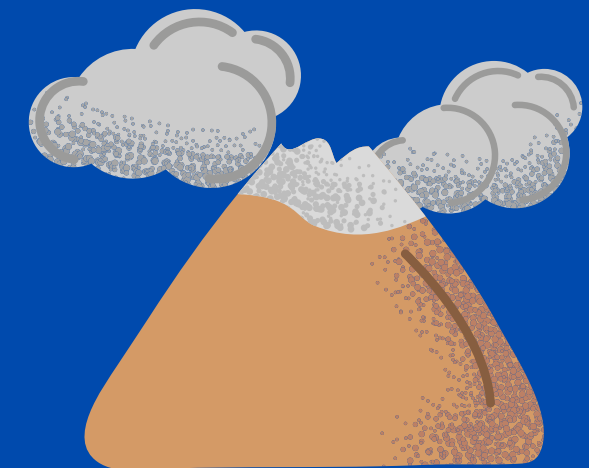
Glacier melting



Source : Larousse



Rainfall variation



Seismic and volcanic hazards

Senegal's major environmental changes/risks



Rising temperatures



Sea-level rise



Source : IRD



Rainfall variation



Disasters (floods, droughts)

Environmental consequences, migration drivers

Land degradation in Fouta-Toro (2018)



Credits: S. lietaer

Floods in Sarayaku's community - Ecuadorian Amazonia (2016)



Credits: F. Perrin et P. Ozer

Migration, development and adaptation

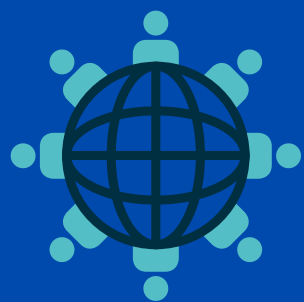
How can human mobility serve both human development and adaptation to environmental change ?



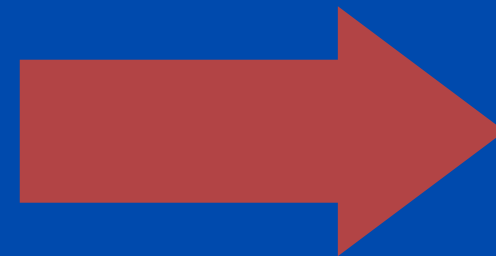
Remittances



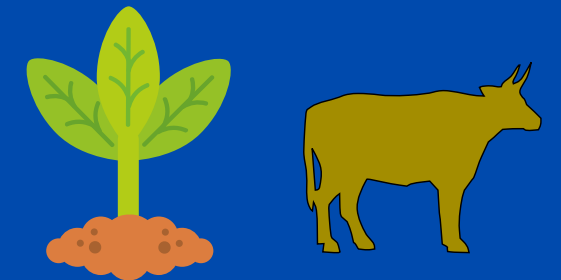
knowledge,
education



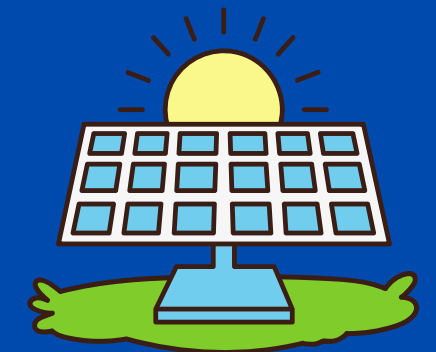
Migrant's networks



Income and activities
diversification



Sensibilisation to
climate change issues



Construction of schools
and health centres



Provide water tanks and invest in renewable energies



Garly (Matam, Senegal)
Credits: S. Lietaer

Cover livestock feed's cost



Garly (Matam, Senegal)
Credits: S. Lietaer

Construction of greenhouses



Azuay, Ecuador
Source: agricultura.gob.ec

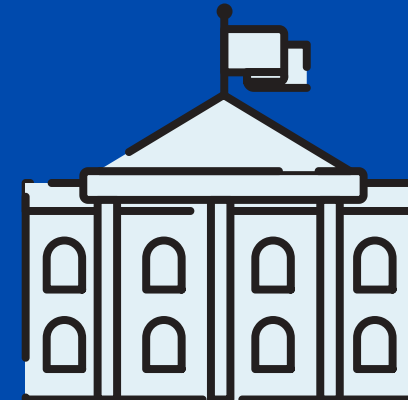
Who benefits from migration ?

- migrants themselves
- communities of destination
- communities of origin

Methodology



Interviews and conversations
with development actors (NGO,
Embassies, National
development agencies)



National development and
adaptation
plans and programmes'
analysis



Academic and scientific literature



Development programmes
and projects' analysis

Main findings

- Despite the increasing occurrence of the terms migration, adaptation and development in international and regional discussions from the Stockholm Conference on the Environment in 1972 to the Marrakech Global Compact in 2018, the link between migration, development and adaptation appears little in Senegalese and Ecuadorian discourse and public policy.
- The link between human mobility and adaptation appears less obvious than the migration-development nexus for political decision-makers and co-development actors (interviews).
- In regions/provinces with a tradition of emigration or immigration, socialization to migration influences migration decisions and coping strategies in case of economic crisis and/or environmental shock.
- There are discrepancies between the needs and expectations of local populations and national positions on migration issues in the context of the environmental change.

Conclusion