



Call for Papers

Workshop on Knowledge-Creation and Capacity-Building for Actions in Climate-Induced Migration

Hamburg (Germany) 15 - 16 July 2013

Deadline for Abstracts: 15th April 2013

It is now widely known that the 21st century will be characterized by changes shaped by climate and global environmental change. Many studies have examined the threats and concerns about climate-induced migration, posing challenges to populations, governments and governance structures. If no action is taken, migration and inadequate reactions to it could put additional pressure on the social/ecological systems and increase their vulnerability and incapability to respond to future stressors. This situation may be aggravated in many countries by the lack of state and regional capacity to manage the effects of climate change and by the unpredictable overlay of conflict, both within nations and transnationally. Not all countries, regions and demographic groups are vulnerable to climate and environmental change in the same way. Hence the anticipation of vulnerability of particular social/ecological systems is important in acting to future events. Additionally it is important to build adaptive capacities, create governance structures and support social transformation processes enabling states and population to react to vulnerable situations.

The COST Action¹ “Climate Change and Migration: Knowledge, Law and Policy, and Theory” represents an opportunity for experts, practitioners, researchers and policy-makers to exchange, develop and improve on knowledge and tools surrounding issues of climate change and environmental migration (http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1101). This COST Workshop aims to improve knowledge, capacity building and management approaches concerning climate change and the aforementioned related issues. The workshop looks to facilitate this through an intensive and active learning process of decision making, action and evaluation.

The workshop aim is to contribute to the enhancement of four types of knowledge production which might improve and provoke actions:

- 1) system knowledge which identifies the cause of present problems and their future development including also the potential for policies to maximise the benefits of environmental and climate-induced migration and minimise its risks;
- 2) target knowledge concerned with the values and norms that can be used to form goals of migration policies;

¹ COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is one of the longest-running European frameworks supporting cooperation among scientists and researchers across Europe.

- 3) transformation knowledge dealing with how a problematic situation can be transformed and improved and about how to minimise the negative effects of policies; and
- 4) transdisciplinary knowledge collected from different sources representing the information feed-forward and feed-back processes across individuals that are necessary for transformations in societal processes and related policies.

Applications for participation are invited by April 15, 2013. Abstracts should address climate change and environmental migration and fall inline with the above stated aims. First and foremost they are expected to contribute to the exchange, development and improvement of knowledge, mechanisms and management approaches.

Abstracts should not exceed 800 words in length and must be in English, which will also be the working language of the workshop. All abstracts will be evaluated and selected by the Workshop Scientific Board. Priority will be given to applicants from the Global South. Expenses can be provided to facilitate attendance for up to 13 participants.

Participants will also be welcome to attend the “Hamburg Conference: Actions on Climate-Induced Migration”, running from the evening of the 16th to the afternoon of the 18th.

Applications should be sent to the following email address:

Local hosts of the workshop:

- Prof. Dr. Jürgen Scheffran: Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC), Institute of Geography, KlimaCampus, University of Hamburg, email: juergen.scheffran@zmaw.de, web: www.clisec-hamburg.de
- Prof. Dr. Maria Manez Costa, Climate Service Center (CSC) email: maria.manez@hzg.de, web: <http://www.climate-service-center.de>

Workshop organisation:

- Dr. Giovanna Gioli (giovanna.gioli@zmaw.de)
- Tessie Humble (t.humble@hotmail.co.uk)

