



CREEPING ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS*

INTRODUCTION

Many migrants are reaching Europe each day along the Balkan migrant route. The Countries along the migrant corridor include Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. The problem of migrants has become a humanitarian issue. This is evident from the United Nations statement that the build-up of thousands of migrants and refugees on Greece's northern borders is fast turning into a humanitarian disaster. This has also reflected in the recent clashes between the migrants and the border security forces at the Greece's northern borders with Macedonia where the migrants battered down a gate in a bid to cross the international borders. All of this simply underlines the urgency with which the International Community needs to act on the issues of migration and humanitarian crisis. The overcrowding conditions in the host countries of Europe are leading to shortages of food, shelter, water and sanitation. These conditions are fueling violence.¹ Greece Border clashes are an indication of the troubled days to come.

Humanity at risk

United Nations Report has said that people living in low-lying islands will be displaced due to raising ocean levels and consequent flooding because of raise in temperatures. Already 26.4 million people are displaced which is equivalent to one person being displaced every second.² Heat wave, floods, droughts, desertification are all products of climate change and human mobility. These conditions could prompt war or mass migration. The links between climate change and human health³ and human mobility⁴ are now well established. Climate change is already contributing to the global burden of diseases and premature death, and these effects are likely to increase in all countries.⁵ Human health is impacted by direct extreme climate events and also equally by indirect extreme climate events. Direct effects are storms, heat waves, fires and indirect effects are drought, changes to the food and water supplies, resource conflicts and population shifts.⁶ WHO has observed that climate change is already responsible for measurable increases in malaria, diarrhea and malnutrition.⁷ IPCC Report 2007 says climate change is having a devastating impact on health and well-being. Temperature related morbidity and mortality is on the rise and the rising temperatures have a direct effect on respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses. There is

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¹ Ibid.

² IDMC Report on Global Estimates 2015: People displaced by disasters, www.internal-displacement.org/global-estimates.

³ Refer International consensus on the science of climate and health: the IPCC Third Assessment Report, <http://who.int/globalchange/climate/summary/en/index2.html>

⁴ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (2007).

⁵ Hanna, E and Spickett, J. *Climate change and human health: building Australia's adaptation capacity*. Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health, 23(2) (supplement): 7-13, 2011.

⁶ Rao, M. *Climate Change is deadly- the health impacts of climate change*. in J. Griffiths, M. Rao, F. Adshead and A. Thorpe, eds. *The health practitioner's guide to climate change*. London: Earthscan. 2009

⁷ Gow, Jeff. *The adequacy of policy responses to the treatment needs of South Africans living with HIV (1999-2008): a case study*. Journal of the International AIDS society, 2009.

also an increase in natural hazards caused due to change in weather conditions resulting in unseasonal rains, floods, storms, heat waves and droughts which are the natural consequences of climate change. These natural calamities damage public health infrastructure, cause injuries and illnesses and also cause epidemics due to water borne diseases, contamination of water and food. Climate conditions can also cause air pollution like smog, which Delhi and Beijing are struggling with. All these health effects also impact socio-economic well-being of the community.⁸

Creeping environmental Phenomena

Environmental changes which are the direct consequence of climate change, are creeping into every aspect of life on earth. According to Glantz⁹, creeping environmental changes, means incremental changes in conditions that cumulate in the creation of a major catastrophe or crisis apparent only after a threshold has been crossed. Creeping environmental changes are droughts, desertification, salination of fresh water supplies, and degradation of arable land, etc.

The impact of climate change on humankind is deadly. It not only impacts health, it also has displacing effect on human settlements leading to large scale population movements, border disputes, territorial conflicts within and between regions and nation states and all this will have an adverse effect on resources leading to massive conflicts in future. All these are being witnessed in Syria at present and in Europe. We are witnessing unprecedented human movements to the borders of European States.

Human mobility is immense, 10% of world's population is at extreme risk of bearing the brunt of life-altering climate change effects which cause rise in sea levels and desertification, loss of carbon sinks, forests, melting of ice caps etc.¹⁰ The adverse effects on social, economic, cultural and political scenarios are going to be incalculable. These will have grave impact on food and water security. Therefore, all these events depict a bleak that will be staring in our face. Our planet Earth has already passed the point of no return. Climate change is a megatrend.

Common Interests First

All nations must give first priority to common interests. National borders are becoming increasingly irrelevant in climate catastrophe as climate change impacts all nations. These impacts are most severe on the poorest nations of the world which have contributed little to climate change. Population movements are likely to cause future conflicts among nation states. The governments will have to balance the interests of domestic populations with those of new arriving at the borders of Europe and other middle- east countries. The receiving countries have a "*fortress mentality*" which is aimed to protect the interests of domestic populations which take precedence over the interests of new arrivals.

After Paris terror attacks, the displacedes of Syria are facing extreme hardships in their efforts to relocate or migrate to new places.

The COP16¹¹ talks in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2010 did provide for climate-change migration. The United Nations University at Cancun was able to negotiate a paragraph into "The Ad Hoc Working Group on long term cooperative Action under the Convention" that invites parties to take specific action at national level to mitigate climate change induced displacement.

Climate change as inducer of conflict

Climate change can be conceptualized as both a cause of disaster and an inducer of conflict. Both disasters and conflicts displace human populations but not all disasters and conflicts

⁸ Health Canada. *Understanding the Health effects of climate change*, <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/climat/impact/index-eng.php>

⁹ Glantz, M.H. *Creeping environmental phenomena: Are societies equipped to deal with them?* In M.H. Glantz (ed) *Creeping Environmental Phenomena and societal responses to them, Proceedings of workshop, February 7-10, 1994, Boulder, Co. NCAR*.

¹⁰ Refer to Human Impact Report – Climate Change, www.ghf-ge.org/human-impact-report.pdf.

¹¹ Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16), November 2010. The COP 16 took place from 29 November to 10 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico.

would lead to the creation of displaceds, only those events that the society is not able to cope up with and need outside support would lead to eventually creation of displaceds.

Infact, migration has been the story of humanity. History of human settlement can be only understood properly through the understanding of human migration. The human civilization movements demonstrate humanity's amazing capacity for migration. Humans have never remained static. This point needs to be kept in focus while drafting policies to tackle human displacement and mobility. Infact, borders are a new development which has come to the fore and became important with the emergence of the concept of nation states along with their claim for territorial sovereignty. They restrict the natural flow of people.

Human race has always moved from one place to another in search of food, shelter and most importantly safety and better quality of life for its people. Syrian migrants are seeking a right not only to live but also the right to be alive. Climate change as mentioned earlier not only causes disasters but also conflicts.

Syrian crisis: an outcome of climate change.

The background of the Syrian conflict may seem to the outsiders to be just another uprising against the ruling government and its ideologies. Some say the spark that started the Syrian conflict is traced back to an event in the city of Dara's in February of 2011. A group of young 15 years old boys who were writing protest slogans on the wall were arrested and beaten.

It is said that this led to massive demonstrations on the street and also to violent protests which had snowballed into the present Syrian civil war and the refugee problem. In fact, it's the climate change that bred conflict in Syria.¹²

Syria faced a devastating drought between the years 2006 and 2010, calamitously affecting its most fertile lands. The four years of drought turned almost 60% of the nation's land into a desert. It also killed about 80% of cattle by 2009. The drought conditions led to water shortage and this drove up unemployment in agriculture sector. Therefore, hundred of thousands of farmers moved from rural Syria to the urban cities in Syria trying to find work but the Syrian government was most unprepared for this massive movement. UN studies show that a million and a half farmers came into the city of Dara's. Government agencies were not able to handle this mass internal displacement of populations. People felt they were being discriminated on the basis of sect.

The burden on the city's sources of water was immense, people started illegally digging wells and this led to more damage to environment. Lack of infrastructure in the city to support such a huge influx proved to be a multiplier and enhancer of the present crises. This internal migration started building the pressure inside the country which exploded in Dara's city.¹³ More than two million People have now left Syria to go to Jorden and Turkey. 10% of them have travelled to Europe. 6.6 million people in Syria are internally displaced and 4.6 million are refugees and half are children.

Children effected by Syrian conflict are at a risk of becoming ill, malnourished, abused, exploited and millions are forced to quit school. More than 3200 People have perished at the sea while finding their way to Europe, including Baby Aylan, the little boy from Syria. Syrian crisis is the worst contemporary humanitarian crises in the world today. The infrastructure within Syria has completely collapsed, healthcare, education system and other infrastructure facilities have been destroyed, economy has been shattered. The future generations of Syria are not safe and secure. The impact of climate change in Syria has caused the worst human mobility forcing populations to seek refuge in other nation states as refugees, but the fortress mentality of the host countries in Europe may not provide them adequate facilities to thrive and live a dignified life in the new host state. It may be a life long struggle for those displaced.

¹² 'Climate Change Helped Spark Syrian War, Study Says' by Craig Welch, for National Geographic. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/03/150302-syria-war-climate-change-drought/>.

¹³ Guiding Principle on Internal Displacees is in place since 1998. If Syrian government has adopted them, may be this could have been different.

Mass Displacements to be the norm of the day

Scientists say that mass displacements will be very frequent in the coming years. Increased investment in disaster risk reduction measures, such as better urban planning; the maintenance of flood and drought defenses and investments in sustainable infrastructures could prevent or mitigate much of their impacts.¹⁴ Community based livelihood strategies are needed to enable people to adapt to climatic change events that may not be able to avoid. Policies and practices that protect and respect the rights of displaced people and those at risk of displacement, and those that target their specific needs, can play a vital role in mitigating impacts, breaking recurrent patterns and in avoiding protracted situations.¹⁵

Scientists say that at the turn of the new millennium, an urban revolution is set to take place. One half of the world's urban population will grow to twice the size of rural population. We are also experiencing urbanization of poverty. In developing world, half of the urban city population lives in informal slums and squatter settlements. These people live in poor quality and appalling unhygienic living conditions with inadequate provision of water, sanitation and drainage. Major environmental problems are in the cities. Many countries like Syria are unprepared and unsourced in planning and preparing for any internal migration events.

The city is a place where a lot of problems are concentrated but the city also has the resources to overcome these problems and be the place of development.¹⁶ But in the case of Syria, the city of Dara'a could not withstand the pressures of internal displacement. It failed to provide basic services and employment to all those who came to Dara'a.

Therefore, to avoid more Syrias from happening, policies, adaptation and mitigation framework will have to be developed to counter climate induced displacement be it internal or external. The world community negotiated at Paris but was not able to get 'migration' as an issue to be specifically addressed.

Climate change mitigation

Nothing is certain, but what is certain is there is a possibility of mitigating and adapting climate change even if its prevention and arrest is not possible. It is projected that climate change and the increasing frequency of disasters will also render some people stateless. While environmental migration is not officially recognized, the international community is increasingly convinced that the fact that environmental degradation and climate change could potentially result in population displacement, the world is currently ill equipped to address the issue of cross-border migration and displacement of persons due to climate change in an effective manner.

Environmental migration is migration with the prime motive to move from environmentally poor to environmentally better conditions. It is seen that there is correlation between decrease in incomes and increase in migration. Likelihood of rural uprisings in China also increased with incidences of drought. However, with the introduction of the more drought-resistant sweet potato this correlation has disappeared in China.¹⁷ It is important to keep in mind that there is a close relationship between resource scarcity and violence, but the effect of climatic conditions on resource scarcity must be understood in the socio-economic context. Climatic conditions cause resource scarcity if socio-economic conditions do not mitigate its adverse effects.

The World Community's chance at Paris Conference in December 2015 to get the issues of migration and forced displacement due to disasters addressed and to make it a part of the treaty at COP 21 was unsuccessful. In fact, forced displacement has been the biggest humanitarian challenge facing states and the international community in the 21st Century. Climate may not stop

¹⁴ Refer to The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015.

¹⁵ Refer IDMC's Global estimates report 2014. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/publications/2014/global-estimates-2014-people-displaced-by-disasters/>

¹⁶ UN conference on Human Settlement (Habitat II) 1996.

¹⁷ Maria Waldinger, *The effects of climate change on internal and international migration: implications for developing countries*, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Working Paper No. 192, May 2015

changing, but efforts can be made to mitigate these changes by planned relocation or resettlement or by enabling people to remain in their own homes. Displacement is one of the most devastating consequences of disasters, and therefore disaster risk reduction is about “protecting persons and their property, health, livelihoods and productive assets, as well as cultural and environmental assets, while promoting and protecting all human rights”.¹⁸ As we have no international regime on migration, states will have to develop, adapt and amend already existing individual policies to address the issue of migration. States will have to rely on already existing bi-lateral, regional tools to tackle cross-border human mobility. States can prevent and prepare for climate change induced displacement only if and when dynamic mitigation and adaptation frameworks or policies are put in place.¹⁹

Nansen Initiative and Protection Agenda

UNHCR is addressing climate change induced displacement issues through a number of initiatives. Most notable one among them is the Nansen Initiative²⁰ whose “Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change” adopted at the Global Consultation that took place on 12th and 13th October 2015 in Geneva identifies the practices necessary to address the possible protection needs of people displaced across-borders in the context of disasters and climate change.

The Nansen Initiative, which was taken at Nansen Conference, 2011, was put in place to break the historic impasse of not wanting to directly engage with cross-border movements triggered by climate related and other natural disasters. Neither para 14(f) of Cancun Agreement, 2010 nor Nansen Conference, 2011 has any reference to cross-border migration. This was no accident but it was rather an expression of a lack of willingness by a majority of governments to countenance the cross-border migrations. The reasons for this unwillingness could be their sense of sovereignty or their preference to one of the competing priorities as mentioned earlier. The Nansen Initiative is ending in its current form, 109 Government delegations have endorsed the “Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change”, is also called *Protection Agenda*. Protection Agenda discusses the real issues on cross border displacement challenges of climate change. It identifies effective practices for protecting cross-border disaster displaced persons rather than calling for a new binding international convention on cross-border disaster displacement.

The protection agenda is based on three pillars: a) International cooperation and solidarity; b) Standards for the treatment of affected people regarding admission, stay, status; and c) Operational responses, including funding mechanisms and responsibilities of international humanitarian and development actors. The Agenda elaborately covers issues regarding preparedness before displacement occurs; protection and assistance during displacement; and transition to solutions in the aftermath of the disaster.²¹

The Protection Agenda tries to identify the possible protection practices needed for people displaced across border due to creeping environmental changes and to mitigate the human mobility across borders. What comes out clear from the Nansen Initiative is that the state can prevent and prepare to face displacement drivers by climate change in future by putting in place the right policies. The State must increase adaptation efforts to mitigate creeping environmental phenomena. The state must invest in disaster risk reduction schemes to tackle underlying disaster risk drivers, such as consequences of poverty and inequality. SFDRR (Sendai Framework Disaster

¹⁸ Refer supra fn 15.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Nansen Initiative was launched in October 2012 by the Governments of Switzerland and Norway, the Nansen Initiative is a state-led-bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on the development of a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders in the context of disasters and the efforts of climate change.

²¹ Refer ‘Towards a protection agenda for people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change’ at <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/secretariat/>.

Risk Reduction) Para 13 highlights the importance of “Addressing Climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk.”²²

South Asia and the Indian Ocean Regional Consultation

As part of Nansen Initiative Regional Consultations, UN Agencies, civil society organizations and research institutions, met in Khulna, Bangladesh from 3-5 April 2015 for the fifth Nansen Initiative Regional Consultation under the theme “Climate Change, Disasters and Human Mobility in South Asia and the Indian Ocean.” The SAARC countries as stakeholders concluded that South Asia and the Indian Ocean region is exposed to a wide array of natural hazards which have the potential to trigger human mobility due to sudden-onset of hazards like tropical cyclones, flash floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides etc. as well as slow-onset of hazards like sea level rise, desertification, droughts, riverbank erosion etc. They observed that climate change is already a reality for States in this region. Disasters have no regard for national borders, and so emphasized the importance of bilateral, regional and international cooperation in addressing human mobility related challenges.²³ They concluded that natural hazards have resulted in significant displacement in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region, with an estimated 46 million people displaced by sudden-onset of disasters in South Asia between 2008 and 2013.²⁴ Displaced persons are facing protection challenges which include loss of infrastructure, livelihoods, and the psychological impact of disasters on them. These events also increase vulnerabilities particularly for women, children, older persons and disabled persons. Therefore, the States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to displaced persons in the event of disaster.²⁵

Many economically productive populations tend to migrate across borders for better life chances. If this kind of migration is managed well migration can be a positive climate change adaptation measure which will create livelihood opportunities, support economic development, supports disaster response through remittances, and thus reduce future displacements. But the poorest and most vulnerable communities will still be left behind without support and resources to adapt to climate change. And this is where the States will have to play a crucial role in putting forth best adaptive techniques and practices.²⁶

²² Supra fn 15

²³ Refer ‘Climate change, disasters, and human mobility in south Asia and Indian Ocean’ , background paper Prepared by the Nansen Initiative Secretariat For the South Asia Regional Consultation Khulna, Bangladesh, 3-5 April 2015, <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/south-asia-consultations-civil-society/>

²⁴ Refer ‘Climate change, disasters, and human mobility in south Asia and Indian Ocean’ , Summary of conclusions Nansen Initiative South Asia Regional Consultation Khulna, Bangladesh, 3 – 5 April 2015, <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/south-asia-consultations-civil-society/>

²⁵ Refer ‘Climate change, disasters, and human mobility in south Asia and Indian Ocean’ , Outcome report Nansen Initiative Regional Consultation, Khulna, Bangladesh, 3-5 April 2015, <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/south-asia-consultations-civil-society/>

²⁶ Supra fn 25.

Some of such adaptive methods would be identifying appropriate land for planned relocation of communities, providing social and infrastructure support to adapt to new locations and provide for local communities to be a part of adaptation process. In order to be in a position of preparedness it is important for the States to invest in monitoring and early warning information technologies at not only national level but also at sub-regional and regional levels. These steps will help in smooth transition from disaster to rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of displacees.²⁷

In cases where displacement is across borders, sub-regional and regional level policies should uphold humanitarian spirit since the levels of vulnerability of displacees are high and must be tackled with utmost care. Therefore, the receiving countries must focus on the specific protection needs of the displacees, must provide stay permits on temporary basis and also provide social protection and shelter to the vulnerable groups. Societies must promote education to ensure local awareness on protection needs in case of disaster and human mobility. Promote capacity building programs for threatened communities. Also ensure migration pathways are safe and well managed.²⁸

Therefore, it is important to deal with climate change as a matter of urgency and build effective mechanism to deal with creeping environmental change. Radical action plans need to be put in place at national and bilateral level to mitigate climate change effects and to reduce disaster risk arising out of climate change and environmental degradation.

India's Action Plan on Climate Change

Since COP 21 held at Paris, India has been more proactively engaged in climate change issues both internationally and at home. India continues to stress that poverty alleviation and economic development are its top most priorities. India being a SAARC country must give teeth to Nansen Initiative and its Protection Agenda.

India is making efforts to mitigate climate change through its National Action Plan on Climate Change. Under this scheme two of the eight missions that are part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change, i.e., the Solar Mission and the Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency have been strengthened with more powers to achieve effective reduction targets in GHG emissions. The Solar Mission sets a target to install 20 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2020 and 200 gigawatts by 2050. This is the most ambitious plan by India so far. The Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency contains initiatives designed to improve the efficiency of energy use across sectors. Climate change mitigation costs are very high and can have an impact on adaptation strategies. A part from the National Action on Climate Change, a new mission on Climate Change and Health is being formulated and a National Expert Group on Climate Change and Health has been constituted.²⁹

India is also making efforts to adapt to climate change by putting in place robust adaptation strategies. Adaptation as a tool to survive climate change is time taking and resource intensive. The Government of India has established the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change with a budget provision of Rs 350 crore for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17. It is reported that reforestation is a priority on India's environmental agenda. The Government is proposing to add 0.8 million hectares of forest cover per year and also pledges to improve forest management, conservation, and regeneration of forest and its resources.³⁰

Enhance the resilience of People

²⁷ Refer 'Climate change, disasters, and human mobility in south Asia and Indian Ocean', Summary of conclusions Nansen Initiative South Asia Regional Consultation Khulna, Bangladesh, 3 – 5 April 2015, <https://www.nanseninitiative.org/south-asia-consultations-civil-society>

²⁸ Supra fn 26.

²⁹ Refer Anna da Costa, fellow Worldwatch Institute, New Delhi at <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6278>.

³⁰ Refer 2015 - Landmark Year for India in Climate Change Initiatives: Economic Survey Report 2015-16; 26-February-2016, Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Earth's climate has always been changing and it has also driven people to far and wide. But at present climate change is displacing life and life's forces out of sink. Therefore, it is important to enhance the resilience of people and their communities hosting them in order to avoid their displacement.³¹

The states are encouraged to carry forward the findings of the Protection Agenda that are most relevant to them to improve prevention and preparedness and to offer the best protection to those forced to flee. Nansen Initiative consultative process with States and other organizations have identified a wide variety of humanitarian protection measures for cross-border disaster displaced persons.

They include issuing of humanitarian visas, stays of deportations, granting refugee status in exceptional cases, bilateral or regional arrangements on free movement of persons, expediting normal migratory channels, or the issuance of work permits.³²

Nansen Initiative consultations also generated possibilities of helping people stay in their homes for as long as possible and if they do need to move, they are able to do so in a planned and dignified way that respects their rights.³³ Therefore, what is required to be done is to develop activities along the three areas for actions which are prioritized in the agenda, they being -1) developing evidence or knowledge on cross-border disaster displacement, 2) enhancing the use of humanitarian protection measures for cross-border disaster-displaced persons, 3) strengthening the management of disaster displacement risk in the country of origin.

We also need to link up and infuse humanitarian action, human rights protection, migration management, refugee protection, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and development interventions into one coherent approach.

Mr. William Lacy Suing, Director General IOM (International Organization for Migration) says that we live an era of unprecedented human mobility with more than one billion people on the move in one world of seven billion. He also says that while climate change continues to affect human mobility patterns, there are other migration drivers that also need to be considered when planning for the future.³⁴

Therefore, the Protection Agenda that consolidates the outcomes of a series of regional intergovernmental consultations over the course of the year 2013 to the year 2015 is a very important step forward for strengthening the protection of cross-border disaster displaced persons. It is also important as it provides different models and regional solutions catering to that region's particular situation.

Conclusion

'The Changing Climate of Livelihoods: Case Studies from Bangladesh, India and Indonesia', concluded that there could be up to one billion environmental migrants in the world by the year 2050.³⁵

Research has time and again reiterated that there is a link between environment and employment. It is believed that climate change directly affect jobs and incomes in affected geographies, especially the regions dependent on agriculture as it happened in Syria. Climate-induced migration effects economic, social and cultural health of the displacees. So how do we combat these dire consequences of climate change?

³¹ Kalin , Walter. *The Nansen Initiative: Building consensus on displacement in disaster contexts*, Disasters and displacement in a changing climate, FMR 49,May 2015. Also see <http://www.fmreview.org/climatechange-disasters/kaelin.html#sthash.zxdO56E6.dpuf>.

³² Ibid.

³³ Message from Prof Walter Kalin, Nansen Initiative Global Consultation.

³⁴ Statement by William Lacy Swing Director General, International Organization for Migration 11th coordination meeting on international migration held 2013: expectations and follow-up New York 21 February 2013, <https://www.iom.int/files/live/sites/iom/files/What-We-Do/docs/IOM-DG-statement-at-2013-UN-Coordination-meeting-on-migration.pdf>.

³⁵ The research, 'The Changing Climate of Livelihoods: Case Studies from Bangladesh, India and Indonesia', conducted in collaboration with Swedish non-profit organization Union and the Observer Research Foundation of India.

Scientists believe IPCC advises people to take a two-pronged approach toward dealing with global warming. It says **mitigate** and **adapt** to climate change.³⁶ Adaptation is the key to surviving the effects of climate change, for they consider it as an irreversible tide. Mitigation, on the other hand, could actually control climate change and avoid the problem of adaptation which is costly and time taking.

Hence, we have reached to the conclusion that there is absolute urgency to adopt *Protection Agenda* recommendations to save the Green Planet.



³⁶ Josh Clark, *Are climate skeptics right?*, <http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/climate-skeptic3.htm>