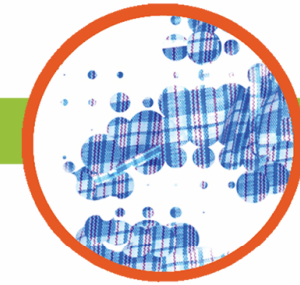


Rethinking Migration: Climate, Resource Conflicts and Migration in Europe

International Conference 13 - 14 October 2011

Mendelssohn-Remise / Jägerstraße 51 / 10117 Berlin



Rethinking Migration: Climate, Resource Conflicts and Migration in Europe

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NETZWERK **MIGRATION** IN EUROPA

MIGREMS
Migration, residential mobility and urban structure

Institut für Geographie
Universität Bremen

bpb
Bundeszentrale für
politische Bildung

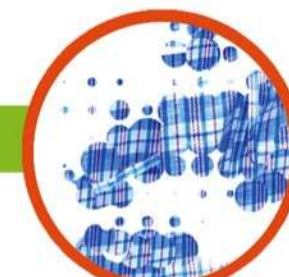
Education and Culture DG
'Europe for Citizens' Programme

Citizenship



Introduction

1. A noisy discourse? New geographies of migration!
2. Key issues to be addressed
 - a) The nexus between climate change and migration
 - b) Regional case studies – the regionalization of risks
 - c) The definition of migration and its relation to legal frameworks
 - d) Which solutions? Policy perspectives and responses
3. Structure of the conference



Dynamics of Environmental Change

slow onset

Desertification, sea-level-rising, soil degradation, melting of the continental ice sheets, reduction of biodiversity, thermal erosion

rapid onset

Droughts, floods, cyclones, water crises, landslides, heat waves, contamination (= refuse, poisoning)

Disasters: earth quakes and volcanic eruptions

Estimates: in 2005 and 2006 around 20.000 people died because of disasters, 271 million people were affected by disasters, the economic loss is estimated at around 250 billion US \$.

Increasing numbers of people affected: 1984- 1993: 1,6 billion

1994- 2003: 2,6 billion

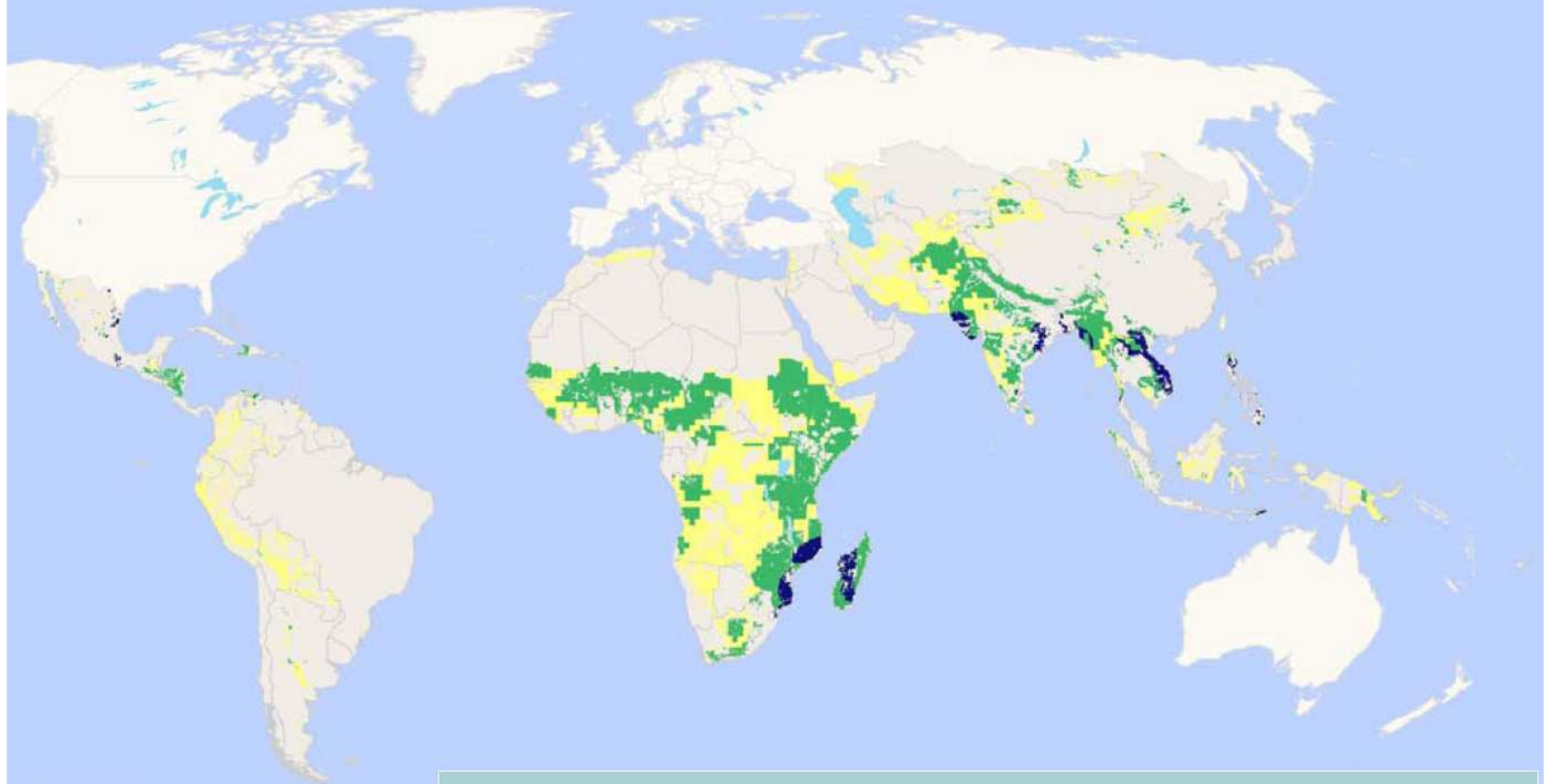
**Regional differentiation:
high dynamics in certain regions (hotspots)**



Estimates and Scenarios

- 25 million climate migrants (Internationale Vereinigung des Roten Kreuzes, 2001)
- Range of estimates:
 - 150- 200 million migrants until the year 2050 (Myers 2002)
 - more than a billion migrants (Christian Aid, McNamara 2007)
- Estimates, scenarios and modeling with the help of heterogeneous indicators and non-uniform definitions and concepts

All Hazard Hotspots (Cumulative)



- One hazard
- Two hazards
- All three hazards

Map 13:

This map shows cumulative humanitarian risk hotspots for all three climate-related hazards studied - floods, cyclones and draught. Areas at risk for more than one type of hazard are considered to be of most concern for humanitarian actors.

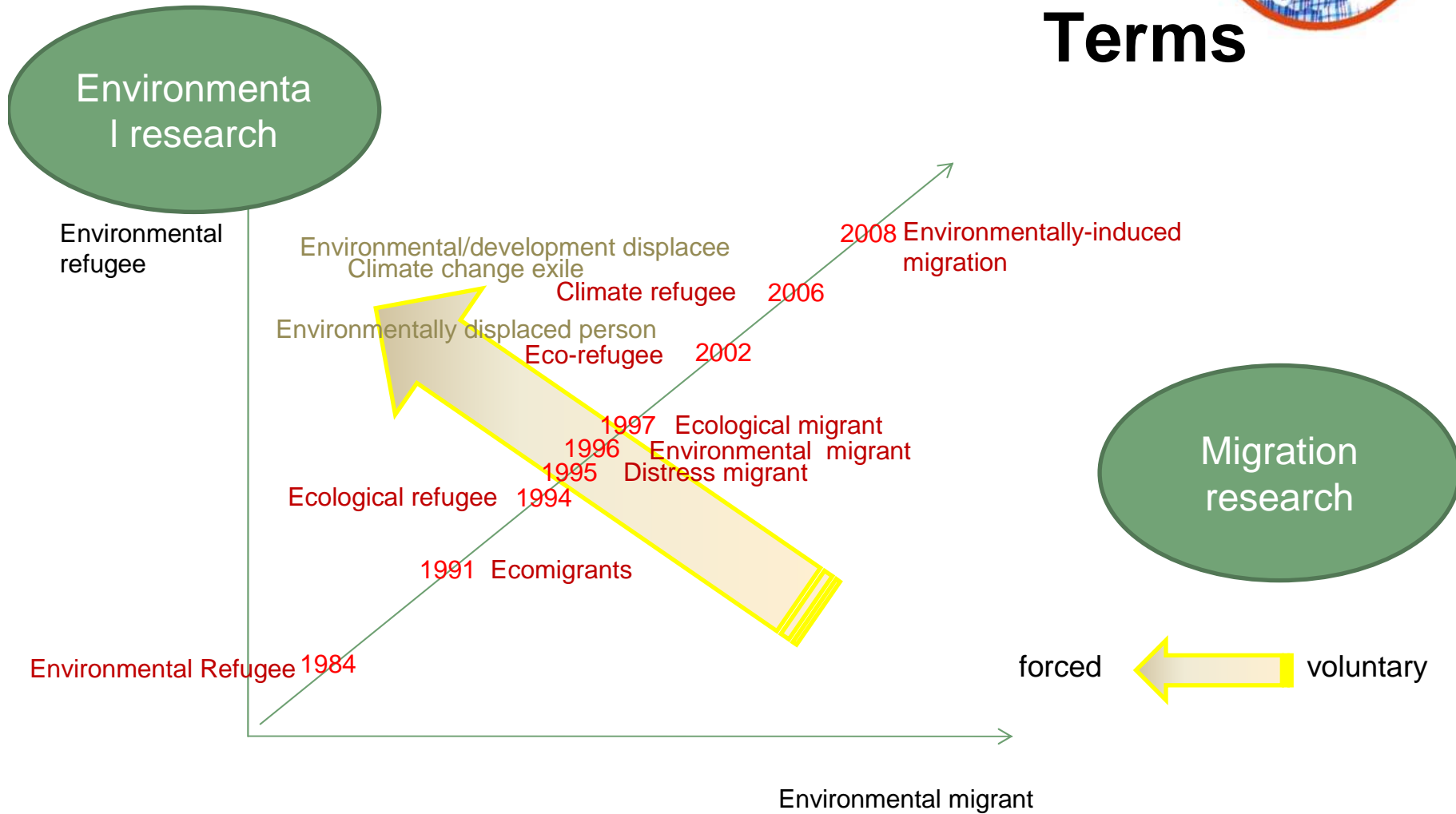
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Terms





No agreement on definition – no adequate legal protection - no strong political commitment

There is no agreement on a definition for displaced people induced by climate change.

In the debate on the climate change – migration nexus there is still a conceptual confusion.

Missing policy responses to population movements induced by environmental change result in inadequate legal protection for displaced people.

Lack of commitment from the international community to take on responsibility.



What is behind a term like „climate or environmental refugee“?

Terms like “climate change refugee” or “environmental refugee” are a misnomer for several reasons:

- 1.notion of „refugee“: Environmental factors are absent from the definition of a refugee in the UN 1951 Geneva Convention
- 2.environmental migration tends to occur within countries rather than between countries
- 3.,,the term ‘environmental refugee’ is simplistic, one-sided and misleading“ (Stephan Castles)



Is the time ripe for interdisciplinary approaches?

Disciplinary division between

- Environmentalists: climate change is seen as a new powerful force in population displacements
- Migration scholars: environmental factors seen as just one of many factors

Political division between the positions

- „Environmental refugees“ are a threat to developed countries
- Against the stigmatisation of all refugees and for a defense of international legal notions of refugee protection



Proposals for a more concise definition to be discussed

Important considerations and distinctions for a new definition:

1. climatic and non-climatic migration factors
2. voluntary and forced migrants and environmental refugees
3. temporary or permanent migration



Fragmented policy framework

Policy options relating to forced migration

1. Extension of the Geneva Convention
2. New instruments: modelled as Human Rights Convention or Additional Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
3. Reinforcement of the protection of climate-induced displaced persons and improvement of disaster management



Migration as an adaptive strategy

Need for wider proactive policy perspectives

- Significant gaps in migration regimes
- Labour mobility as a coping strategy
- Migration, social justice, and development policies



Structure of the Conference

- Section I:
Framing Controversial Debates on Migration and Climate Change
- Section II:
Regional Manifestations and Sociopolitical Consequences
- Section III:
New Policy Perspectives

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Thank you for your attention