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Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development  
Institute

# Challenges for research and policy

EFMSV International Conference

Bonn, 9 – 11 October 2008

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10 October 2008



## Migration seen from the angle of adaptation to climate change

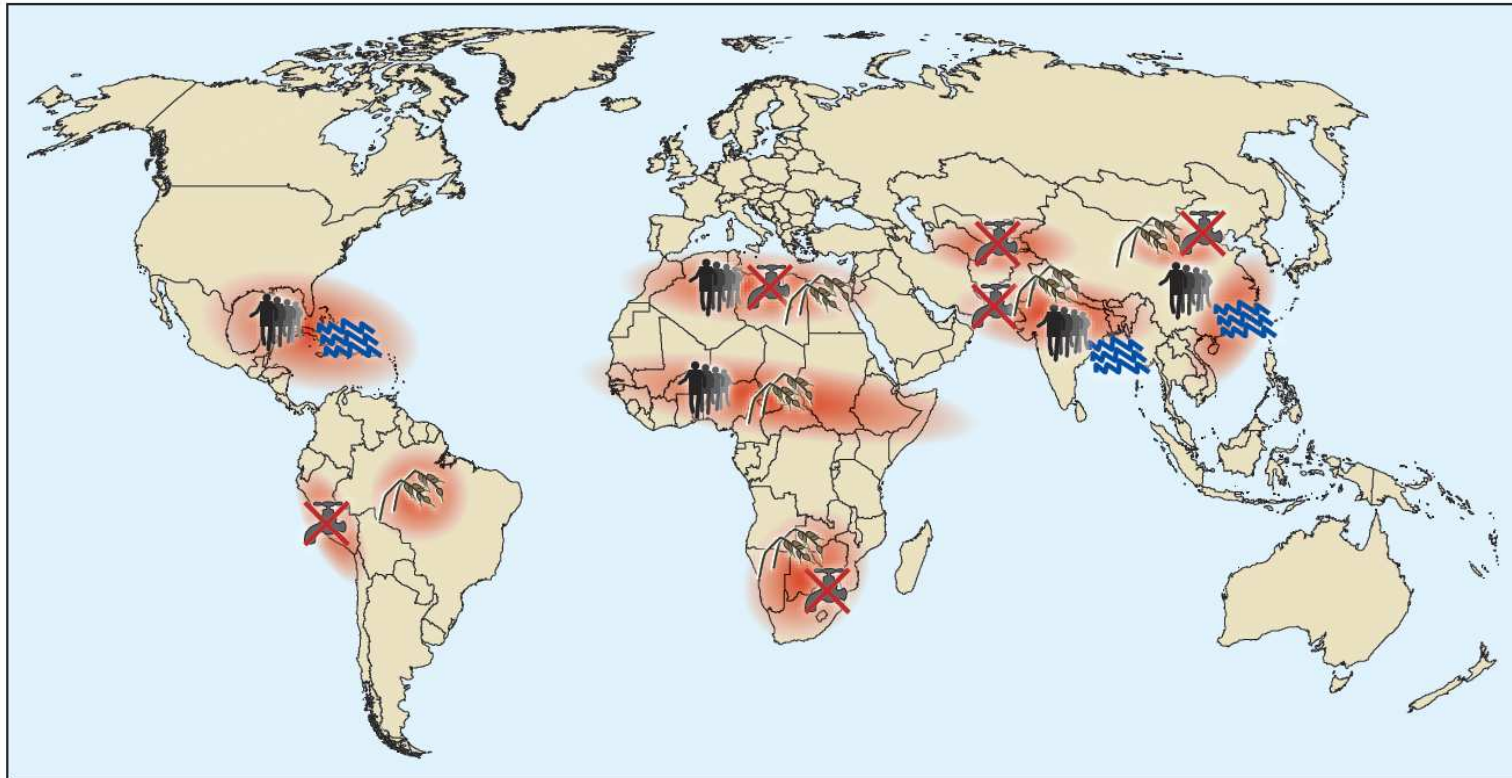
- failure to adapt?
- coping strategy? (permanent or temporary)
- only possibility (SIDS)

## What do we know about climate change impacts?

- exacerbate long-term gradual environmental degradation
- make areas hostile for human life
- undermine progress in reducing poverty and hunger
- exacerbate internal conflicts due to new or cumulative conflict constellations
- extreme weather events and sealevel rise may make certain areas permanently uninhabitable

→ Migration as a reaction with uncertain effects in regions of origin and destination

# Climate-induced conflicts: some hotspots



## Konfliktkonstellationen in ausgewählten Brennpunkten



Klimabedingte Degradation von Süßwasserressourcen



Klimabedingter Rückgang der Nahrungsmittelproduktion



Brennpunkt



Klimabedingte Zunahme von Sturm- und Flutkatastrophen



Umweltbedingte Migration



## What do we know about migration?

- mostly internal migration within developing countries, some to neighbouring regions
- rural-urban migration
- migration may reduce burden on ecosystems in regions of origin (but not enough?) and increase burden in region of destination
- remittances allow community to survive back home
- gradual environmental degradation, constant slow migration creates growing social pressure in region of destination

## Decisions about migration and adaptation are

- largely influenced by specific local social, economic, historic conditions
- are locally specific
- are influenced by external legal, economic conditions
- influenced by varying motives: give up the place of origin or maintain it as a home; resist local replacement and accept lower living standard or viceversa
- influenced by the way changes in natural and social conditions are perceived

## Perception of adaptation in „the North“:

- poverty as a cause of migration? (push vs. pull factors)
- climate change induced conflicts with international effects
- alarmist vs. liberal view on migration
- unclear distinction between support for adaptation in „the South“ as a liability or as part of development cooperation (mainstreaming)
- lack of data on and understanding of migration flows, migration decisionmaking, migration motives

## Requirements for adequate policy interventions:

- adaptation as multisectoral process requires integrated, multisectoral policy approaches
- norm: facilitate self-governed processes of adaptation, freedom of choice
- migration policies should facilitate **mobility** on local / national / regional and international level
- integrated approaches on multiple levels vs. fragmented approaches within narrow borders of one regime



## Integrated policy interventions at multiple levels:

- improve natural resource management in order to reduce environmental degradation and foster resilience (anticipatory, precautionary action)
- facilitate mobility / temporary migration (alleviation of problems)
- standards for permanent relocation in situations of irreversible deterioration with international support
- access to international funds should be flexible and support specific integrated local adaptation strategies

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**Thank you!**

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