

SUSTAINABLE MEDITERRANEAN

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LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN

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ETABLIR UN LIEN ENTRE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET
LA MIGRATION EN MÉDITERRANÉE

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This edition of Sustainable Mediterranean focuses on the interrelation between environmental degradation and migration in the Mediterranean area. It is a very complex issue that is relatively new on the agenda of the environmental movement, but has also been rather absent in the debates relating to migration, asylum seekers, etc. The main reason for this is that there is not enough empirical data clearly showing environmental factors as causes of displacement as there is with the other primary causes of displacement such as political instability, economic tensions and ethnic conflicts. In fact, environmental reasons for migration are generally intertwined with economic ones and, in this sense environmental migrants are also economic migrants. Also, the specific “contributions” of the environment to migratory patterns are hard to identify, especially when those movements may be characterized as ‘voluntary’ in nature.

The topic of environmentally induced migration was the focus of a workshop that took place during the Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum (Marseille, 31 October – 2 November 2008) dedicated to the central theme of “Moving and living together in the EuroMed Space”. The specific workshop was organized by the environmental groups of the EuroMed Civil Platform, represented by the Comité de Suivi that is in charge of monitoring the environmental component of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and comprises 7 NGOs: the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), ENDA Maghreb, Friends of the Earth - MedNet, Greenpeace Europe, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE) and the World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF MEDPO).

The articles on environmentally induced migration that are described in this edition include case-studies relevant to Europe and the Mediterranean, as they have been studied in the framework of the EACH-FOR Project*; the particu-

* EACH-FOR = Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios Project - a research project funded under the European Commission 6th Framework Programme.

Cette édition du bulletin d'information Méditerranée Durable met l'accent sur l'interaction entre la dégradation de l'environnement et la migration en Méditerranée. Il s'agit d'un thème très complexe et relativement nouveau dans l'agenda du mouvement environnemental, qui a été plutôt absent dans les débats sur la migration, les demandeurs d'asile etc. La raison principale est l'absence de données empiriques suffisantes, montrant clairement que les facteurs environnementaux devraient être comptés entre les causes primaires du déplacement des gens, telles que l'instabilité politique, les tensions économiques et les conflits ethniques. En effet, les causes environnementales de la migration sont généralement liées à celles économiques et, dans ce sens, les «migrants environnementaux» sont aussi des migrants économiques. En plus il est très difficile d'identifier les contributions spécifiques de l'environnement aux mouvements migratoires, spécialement quand leur nature peut être définie ‘volontaire’.

Le thème de la migration causée par des problèmes environnementaux a été traité dans le cadre d'un des ateliers du Forum Civil Euro-méditerranéen (Marseille, 31 octobre – 2 novembre 2008) dédié, cette fois, au thème central «Se déplacer et Vivre ensemble dans l'espace EuroMed». L'atelier a été organisé par les groupes environnementaux de la Plate-forme Civile EuroMed, représentés par le Comité de Suivi qui est chargé du suivi de la composante environnementale du Partenariat Euro-méditerranéen et comprend 7 ONG: Le Réseau Arabe pour l'Environnement et le Développement (RAED), le Bureau Européen de l'Environnement (EEB), ENDA Maghreb, les Amis de la Terre – Mednet, Greenpeace Europe, le Bureau Méditerranéen d'Information pour l'Environnement, la Culture et le Développement Durable (MIO-ECSDE) et le WWF-MEDPO.

Les articles de cette édition centrée sur les causes environnementales de la migration présentent: des cas d'étude en Europe et en Méditerranée élaborés dans le cadre du Projet EACH-FOR₁; la situation particulière de la région de Zagora, au Maroc, où la migration est étroitement

lar situation of the Zagora region in Morocco where migration is closely related to soil degradation and particularly desertification; the interrelation between migration, urbanization and environmental degradation; the environmental and social implications of wars, with particular focus on the conflicts in the Middle East; trade policy and its social and environmental impacts in the Euro-Mediterranean area; the promotion of Sustainable Tourism towards environmental and social integrity in the region.

The Workshop's Introductory Framework Paper and its Recommendations are also presented in this issue of Sustainable Mediterranean. Some of the concerns of the environmental community related to environment and migration were in the end included in the final declaration of the Civil Forum itself that was presented to the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of Foreign Ministers during their meeting in Marseille, 3-4 November 2008.

liée à la dégradation du sol et particulièrement à la désertification; la corrélation entre migration, urbanisation et dégradation de l'environnement; les implications environnementales et sociales des guerres, mettant l'accent sur les conflits au Moyens Orient; les politiques économiques et leurs impacts sociaux et environnementaux dans la région Euro-méditerranéenne; la promotion du Tourisme Durable vers l'intégrité environnementale et sociale en Méditerranée.

Le document de cadrage de l'atelier ainsi que les recommandations formulées sont aussi présentées dans cette édition de la Méditerranée Durable. Certaines des préoccupations de la communauté environnementale liées à l'environnement et aux migrations ont été à la fin incluses dans la déclaration finale du Forum Civil qui a été présentée aux Ministres Euro-méditerranéens des Affaires Etrangères lors de leur réunion à Marseille le 3-4 novembre 2008.

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ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN MIGRATION: A COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP¹

Environmental deterioration, such as land degradation and pollution of water, air or soil are caused by the misuse of resources, poor planning, insufficient infrastructure and ineffective governance and monitoring. The mismanagement of resources and industrial accidents/pollution are on the increase worldwide to such an extent that ecosystem services are being compromised in all regions of the world (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment - MA) (Renaud et al 2007, pp 22). Particularly highlighted by the MA is the fact that the 2 billion people living in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid regions are extremely vulnerable to the loss of ecosystem services, including water supply (ibid, p 24).

When these factors are superimposed on global environmental change phenomena such as climate change (change in rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, increased frequency of heat waves, and so forth, depending on location) it can be foreseen that more of the global population will be facing environmental stresses in the future. Environmental degradation from local to global scales can also be coupled with increased exposure to environmental hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, hurricanes) and will thus increase the risks these hazards pose to local populations (ibid, p 22).

Therefore, environmental deterioration causes food production to fall, living conditions and standards of living to deteriorate and the population's security to become vulnerable, and, ultimately, leads to their voluntary or forced migration.

On the other hand, the movement of people, capital, goods, and services causes different types of ecosystem change (water stress, desertification, deforestation, etc.). Human migration, combined with population growth and globalization trends can therefore greatly affect the environment and conservation efforts. Urbanization, a dominant trend in the EuroMed region, is a two-edged sword for conservation, moving human populations away from rural and protected areas, but also increasing per capita demand for energy, goods, and services. Migration to the protected areas and the abandonment of marginal rural land present opposite but equally difficult ecological challenges.

In a nutshell, challenges related to migration and the environment include rapid urbanization and sprawl, encroachment on agricultural land, local and global deforestation, water and sanitation stress, abandonment of rural areas, unsustainable agricultural and production systems, difficulties in building effective governance systems and the effects of migrants on source and destination human communities and ecosystems.

1. This was the Introductory Framework Paper of the Environmental workshop of the EUROMED CIVIL FORUM (Marseille, 31 October - 2 November 2008)

Definitions with respect to "environmental refugees" generally have in common the fact that they do not distinguish whether the persons migrating or fleeing have crossed an international border. However other than this commonality, definitions vary greatly, including whether displacement of environmental refugees is temporary or permanent in nature. For example, El-Hinnawi (Environmental Refugees, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985) defined environmental refugees as: those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people) that jeopardized their existence and/or seriously affected the quality of their life. By 'environmental disruption' in this definition is meant any physical, chemical, and/or biological changes in the ecosystem (or resource base) that render it, temporarily or permanently unsuitable to support human life (ibid, p 13).

Yet, despite the rapidly growing number of people who are fleeing their homelands (either to other parts of their country as internally displaced people or externally) because of environmental deterioration, there are, at the moment, no specific distinctions being made in the UN debate on migration in terms of the "push" or "pull" factors so environmental migrants/refugees are not recognised specifically within this debate yet. Also the European Union emerging comprehensive strategy on migration does not acknowledge this particular category of migrants. In addition to this topic being timely because of the current emphasis placed by many countries on the subject of migration, the topic of environmental migrants/refugees is also timely because the United Nations is currently rethinking its strategy with respect to the theme of migration in a process inaugurated by the High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development in 2006 and followed-up by the creation of a Global Forum on Migration and Development where the issue of environmental forced migrations could and should be brought forward * (ibid, p 10-11).

* In its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, the [UN] General Assembly decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development during its sixty-first session in 2006 to discuss the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. Additionally, the high-level dialogue focused on policy issues, including the challenge of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Following the High-level Dialogue, the Government of Belgium launched a process to establish the Global Forum on Migration and Development as a voluntary, non-binding and informal consultative process, led by and open to all States Members of the United Nations and observers. By providing a venue for Governments to address issues related to international migration and development in a systematic and comprehensive way, the Global Forum brings together Government expertise from all regions, promotes dialogue, cooperation and partnerships, and fosters practical and action-oriented outcomes at the national, regional and global levels. (UN

The largest sub-group of this 'category' of displaced are those fleeing the impacts of human induced climate change. However, environmental reasons for migration are generally intertwined with economic ones and in this sense environmental migrants are also economic migrants.

Therefore, one of the primary factors for population displacement is environmental deterioration. Yet, the environment movement of the EuroMediterranean has, as in other regions of the world, been rather absent in the debates relating to migration, asylum seekers, etc. The problem with viewing environmental factors as causes of displacement is that there is not enough empirical data on the relationship, as there is with the other primary causes of displacement (political instability, economic tensions, ethnic conflicts). Also, the specific contributions of the environment to migratory patterns are hard to pinpoint, especially when those movements may be characterized as "voluntary" in nature. Added to this is the complexity of the many separate yet interlinked political, social, economic, institutional, etc. considerations which should frame any response to the issue of migration, asylum seekers, conservation, etc.

Focusing on Climate Change

Projected climate change will complicate both migration flows and the future of ecosystems, biodiversity, land use and conservation policy, particularly in the developing countries of the region with limited economic and technical capacity for adaptive measures.

Already a water-scarce region, the Mediterranean is expected to face even more water challenges in the near future due to the looming climate crisis. The increasing frequency and severity of droughts, floods and other extreme weather events will not only mean an increased water supply-demand gap, but are also foreseen to have (and have already) other important impacts on the region: accelerated desertification, infrastructure damage, loss of inhabitable and arable land due to soil erosion and landslides, serious alterations of natural habitats and damages in important ecosystems, enhancement of the already noticed saltwater intrusion due to sea-level rise, health issues, etc., jeopardising the region's overall well-being.

According to scenarios, Spain and Portugal will be most affected by climate change within Europe, with significant rise in temperature (5-7 degrees Celsius inland, 2100), lower rainfall, and recurring droughts. If non-sustainable use of the natural resources by agriculture and tourism continues, this together with the expected climate change conditions might lead to exhaustion of the water resources, soil erosion and desertification, which in turn might lead to an economic downturn and an outmigration in the future (Preliminary findings for the EACH-FOR Project on Environmentally

induced migration http://www.each-for.eu/documents/EACH-FOR_Preliminary_Findings_-_Final_Version.pdf).

Morocco, Tunisia and Libya are each losing over 1000 square kilometres of productive land a year to desertification. In Egypt, which is uniquely dependent upon irrigation, half of irrigated croplands suffer from salinization and Egypt already imports a huge share of its food. Turkey has lost 160,000 square kilometres of farmlands to soil erosion. These environmental pressures are aggravated by population pressures (Norman Mayers, 2005, Environmental Refugees: an Emergent Security Issue).

The industrialised countries of the EuroMed region over consume resources, thereby leading to carbon (and other ecological) debts to the rest of the region and the world. This over consumption, combined with the direct and indirect impacts of current trade policies, are the main cause of global warming which is now manifesting itself through modified weather patterns around the world; floods, droughts, cyclones, etc., and with corresponding impacts on human communities. So, the environmental movement should be involved in the debates relating to population displacement and asylum seekers. This would be an act of solidarity based on the understanding of the environmental dimensions of the migration issue.

Some of the coping strategies that can be used in climate change, but also in other areas of environmental degradation, include increasing and spreading information, building capacity both within nations and across regions, reconstruction projects, risk reduction strategies, and spreading the risk so as to minimize its impact.

An example of the effects of climate change: The elevation of sea levels is hardly a concern for Greece – at least for the moment. Nevertheless, the devastating wildfires that hit the country in the summer of 2007 destroyed over 170,000 hectares in the Peloponnese, including agricultural land mostly covered by olive groves. The natural habitat will take at least two decades to recover. At the same time the fires spawned a wave of environmental refugees as thousands of economic migrants (apart from local permanent residents) left the rural areas for the urban centres in search of jobs. More than 48,000 foreigners worked in Ilia, Messinia, Arcadia and Laconia and most of them have been exempt from government benefits for fire victims as well as relief aid from voluntary organizations.

Reflections/concerns

Recognition of environmental refugees seems imperative as well as accepting resettlement of people displaced by climate change. Equally imperative is the need to simultaneously greatly increase assistance for communities impacted by climate change to allow for adaptation to changed conditions.

In regions of destination, countries need to develop policies to improve the livelihoods of migrants, who are mostly poor. The challenge is to find ways of combating rural poverty in areas of origin particularly through the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, while at the same time promoting a more sustainable use of the rural environment in both areas of origin and areas of destination. Such policies should take into account the desirability of protecting areas of particular ecological value while at the same time encouraging land-use practices that are sustainable and appropriate for the climate, soils and other natural resources. Improving access to family planning in regions of destination is also critical, since high natural increase among migrant populations already settled in frontier areas also adds substantially to demographic pressures on the environment.

More research is necessary as well as better integration of existing ecological, demographic and sociological data and theory which can lead to the development of predictive models, which will help to understand and project human migration patterns and their dynamic relationship with ecological change. This interdisciplinary work could lead to the successful development of effective long-range conservation policy and migration policy.

Along the same lines, more case studies of how environmental degradation affects migration in the EuroMed space should be funded. Practitioners should develop better communication and working relationships between the different human rights, population, cultural, environmental and migration organizations. Both policymakers and researchers must recognize the cumulative causality of environmental degradation and assist the regions receiving migrants and refugees to reduce the environmental impacts of large movements of people. (Some key questions: How much internal migration in Mediterranean countries is towards rural environments? Does environmental deterioration play an important role in out-migration from rural areas? Does out-migration from rural areas have environmental effects on the places of migratory origin? What kinds of rural environments are people moving into, in what countries of the EuroMed region, and what are the environmental consequences?)

In respect to influencing migration patterns, in the case of natural disasters (such as drought), households are victims and need reactions from the policy makers; whereas in case of environmental deterioration, households are partly actors and can determine how they respond to environmental change because environmental degradation is gradual (use of water and soil conservation techniques, sustainable use of fertilizers, decision to migrate, etc.). In the latter case a modification of their practices may be encouraged through implementing awareness-raising campaigns which requires strengthening effective public participation (consultation mechanisms, successful awareness campaigns on environmental issues, funding options, etc.).

New methods by which the dynamics of land-use change and conditions of natural systems can be monitored in the context of migration and demographic trends need to be developed.

Research on potential governance models (stewardship, rights, incentives and management) and the role of civil society for areas with valuable ecosystems and biodiversity that are experiencing population growth and migration pressures is necessary.

Development policies and projects foreseen in current Mediterranean political processes (road transport, tourism, motorways of the sea, EuroMed free trade agreement, etc.) and current EuroMed Environmental Policy and processes (see Annex) do not appropriately, if at all, address the concerns mentioned herewith. Will the EuroMed Ministers responsible for Water address these concerns at their meeting (Jordan, October 29th 2008)? How can civil society ensure that environment/migration concerns are appropriately reflected in the large-scale projects and budget-lines in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

In a world made susceptible to rapid transformation by the forces of globalization and climate change, understanding the socioeconomic and environmental drivers behind migration is critical. Projecting the likely future distribution and movement of people on our increasingly populated planet and responding to the conservation threats and opportunities associated with that migration, will require new skills and greater collaboration and integration among disciplines and organizations.

*Much of the information used in this Introductory Framework Paper have been gathered from publications and other bibliography produced by the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and in the framework of the EACH-FOR Project (www.each-for.eu) sponsored under the 6th Framework Program of the European Commission.

References:

Renaud, F.G.; Bogardi, J.J.; Dun, O.; Warner, K. (2007): *Control, Adapt or Flee: How to Face Environmental Migration?* InterSecTions no. 5/2007, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn.

Environnement et Migration humaine : une relation complexe*

La détérioration de l'environnement, comme celle de la terre, la pollution de l'eau, de l'air ou du sol est due à un mauvais usage des ressources, une pauvre planification, une infrastructure insuffisante et une gouvernance et contrôle inefficaces. La mauvaise gestion des ressources et les accidents/pollution industriels sont en train d'augmenter dans le monde entier à tel point que les services des écosystèmes dans toutes les régions de la planète sont compromis (Évaluation des Écosystèmes pour le Millénaire - EM). (Renaud et al 2007, pp 22). L'EM met le point surtout sur le fait que les 2 milliards de personnes vivant dans les régions arides, semi-arides et sous humides sont extrêmement vulnérables à la perte de services des écosystèmes, ci-inclus l'approvisionnement d'eau (ibid, p 24).

Quand ces facteurs sont superposés aux phénomènes de changement global de l'environnement, comme le changement climatique (le changement dans la configuration de chute de la pluie, l'augmentation du niveau de la mer et de la fréquence des sécheresses etc. selon l'endroit) on peut prévoir que, dans l'avenir, encore plus de la population mondiale fera face au stress dérivant de la dégradation de l'environnement. Celle-ci sera associée à une exposition accrue aux hasards naturels (par ex. les inondations, les sécheresses, les ouragans) augmentant ainsi les risques que ces hasards posent aux populations locales (ibid, p 22).

La détérioration de l'environnement cause donc la diminution de la production alimentaire, la détérioration des conditions et des niveaux de vie et, par conséquent, une diminution de la sécurité des populations, amenant, finalement, à leur migration volontaire ou forcée.

D'autre part, le mouvement des gens, du capital, des marchandises et des services provoque des types différents de changement des écosystèmes (pénurie d'eau, désertification, déboisement, etc.). La migration humaine, combinée avec la croissance démographique et les tendances de la globalisation, peut donc beaucoup affecter les efforts de conservation de l'environnement. Dans ce sens l'urbanisation, une tendance dominante dans la région EuroMed, est une arme à double tranchant, en faisant reculer les populations des régions rurales et des zones protégées, mais augmentant aussi la demande par habitant d'énergie, de marchandises et services. La migration vers les zones protégées et l'abandon de la terre dans un milieu rural marginal présentent des défis écologiques opposés mais aussi difficiles à gérer.

En bref, les défis liés à la migration et à l'environnement incluent l'urbanisation et l'étalement rapides, l'empiètement sur les terrains agricoles, le déboisement local et global, la pénurie d'eau et l'inefficacité du système sanitaire, l'abandon des zones rurales, les systèmes de production et d'agriculture non durables, la difficulté de créer des systèmes de gouvernance efficaces et les effets des migrants sur les écosystèmes et les communautés de provenance ou destination.

Les définitions du concept de «réfugié environnemental» ont généralement en commun le fait qu'ils ne distinguent pas si les personnes émigrant ou en fuite ont traversé une frontière internationale. Pourtant, à part ce point en commun, les définitions varient beaucoup, même sur la base de la nature temporaire ou permanente du déplacement des réfugiés environnementaux. Par exemple, El-Hinnawi (Environmental Refugees, Programme de Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, Nairobi, 1985) a défini les réfugiés environnementaux comme: les gens qui ont été forcés à quitter leur habitat traditionnel, temporairement ou en permanence, à cause d'une perturbation marquée de l'environnement (naturel et-ou déclenché par l'homme) qui a mis en danger leur existence et-ou a sérieusement affecté la qualité de leur vie. Par 'perturbation de l'environnement' on a voulu se référer à un changement physique, chimique, et-ou biologique de l'écosystème (ou de la base des ressources) qui le rendent, temporairement ou en permanence, inapproprié à soutenir la vie humaine (ibid, p 13).

Pourtant, malgré le nombre rapidement croissant des personnes qui s'enfuient de leurs maisons et territoires (vers d'autres régions de leur pays ou même à l'étranger) à cause de la détérioration de l'environnement, dans le débat de L'ONU sur la migration il n'y a actuellement aucune distinction spécifique sur les facteurs qui encouragent la migration volontaire ou forcée et donc les migrants/réfugiés environnementaux ne sont pas encore reconnus dans ce débat. Aussi, la stratégie compréhensive de l'Union Européenne sur la migration qui est en train d'émerger ne reconnaît pas cette catégorie spécifique de migrants. La question des migrants/réfugiés environnementaux est actuelle non seulement pour l'importance récemment donnée par beaucoup de pays au sujet de la migration mais aussi parce que les Nations Unies sont en train de repenser leur stratégie sur ce thème dans un processus inauguré en 2006 par le Dialogue de Haut Niveau sur les Migrations Internationales et le Développement qui a été suivi de la création du Forum Global sur la Migration et le Développement où la question des migrations forcées dues à des causes environnementales pourrait et devrait être avancée** (ibid, p 10-11).

*Ce document était le Document de cadrage de l'Atelier Environnement du Forum Civil Euro-méditerranéen (Marseille, 31 octobre - 2 novembre 2008)

** Dans sa résolution 58/208 du 23 décembre 2003, l'Assemblée Générale [des NU] a décidé de consacrer un dialogue de haut niveau au sujet des

Le sous-groupe majeur de cette catégorie de déplacés est représenté par ceux qui fuient les impacts des changements climatiques causés par l'homme. Pourtant, les causes environnementales de la migration sont généralement entrelacées avec celles économiques et, dans ce sens, les migrants environnementaux sont aussi des migrants économiques.

Ainsi, un des facteurs primaires du déplacement humain est la détérioration de l'environnement. Cependant, le mouvement environnemental Euro-Méditerranéen a été, comme dans d'autres régions du monde, assez absent des discussions et des débats liés à la migration, aux chercheurs d'asile, etc. Un des problèmes qui empêche de considérer les facteurs environnementaux entre les causes de déplacement est qu'il n'y a pas autant de données empiriques qu'il y en a en relation avec d'autres causes primaires de migration (instabilité politique, problèmes économiques, conflits ethniques). Aussi, la contribution spécifique de l'environnement aux schèmes migrateurs est difficile à indiquer, surtout quand ces mouvements peuvent être caractérisés par une nature «volontaire». A cela s'ajoute la complexité de considérations politiques, sociales, économiques, institutionnelles, etc., diverses mais liées, qui devraient encadrer n'importe quelle réponse aux questions de la migration, des chercheurs d'asile, de la conservation, etc.

Focus: Changement Climatiques

Les changements climatiques prévus compliqueront tant les flux migratoires que l'avenir des écosystèmes, la diversité biologique, les politiques de conservation et utilisation des terres, particulièrement dans les pays de la région en voie de développement ayant une capacité économique et technique limitée pour les mesures d'adaptation.

On s'attend à ce que la Méditerranée, une région qui souffre déjà pour la pénurie d'eau, fasse face à encore plus de défis dans ce domaine dans l'avenir proche en raison de la crise climatique surgissante. L'augmentation de la fréquence et de la sévérité des sécheresses, des inondations et d'autres événements météorologiques

migrations internationales et du développement pendant sa soixante et unième séance en 2006 au but de discuter les aspects multidimensionnels de ces questions et identifier les voies appropriés pour maximiser les avantages des migrations pour le développement et en minimiser les impacts négatifs. En plus, le Dialogue de haut niveau s'est concentré sur les questions relatives aux politiques, ci-inclus le défi d'accomplir les buts de développement concordés dans le monde entier, comme les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD). Le Dialogue de Haut Niveau a été suivi par une initiative lancée par le Gouvernement de la Belgique et dirigée à établir le Forum Mondial sur les Migrations Internationales et le Développement, un processus consultatif volontaire et informel, mené par et ouvert à tous les États Membres des Nations Unies et aux observateurs. En fournissant aux Gouvernements un lieu de réunion pour adresser les questions liées aux migrations internationales et au développement d'une façon systématique et complète, le Forum Global réunit l'expertise des Gouvernements de toutes les régions, promeut le dialogue, la coopération et les partenariats et encourage des résultats pratiques et orientés à l'action au niveau national, régional et global. (Département de NU des Affaires Économiques et Sociales, Division sur la Population 2007, Section relative à la Migration internationale et au développement).

extrêmes produira non seulement une divergence accrue entre la demande et l'offre d'eau, mais on prévoit aussi qu'il y aura (et il y a déjà) d'autres impacts importants dans la région qui compromettraient son bien-être général: désertification accélérée, dommages d'infrastructures, perte des terres habitables et arables due à l'érosion des sols et aux éboulements, altérations significatives des habitats naturels et dommages importants des écosystèmes, augmentation de l'intrusion d'eau salée due à la hausse du niveau de la mer, questions de santé, etc.

Selon des scénarios, l'Espagne et le Portugal seront les plus affectés par les changements climatiques en Europe, avec une augmentation significative de la température (5-7 centigrades à l'intérieur, jusqu'au 2100), une diminution de la chute de pluie et des sécheresses plus fréquentes. Si l'utilisation non-durable des ressources naturelles par l'agriculture et le tourisme continue, celle-ci, avec les changements climatiques prévus, pourrait causer l'épuisement des ressources en eau, l'érosion du sol et la désertification, qui à leur tour pourraient causer dans l'avenir une baisse économique et des migrations (conclusions préliminaires du Projet EACH-FOR sur la migration causée par des facteurs environnementaux http://www.each-for.eu/documents/EACH-FOR_Preliminary_Findings_-_Final_Version.pdf).

Maroc, Tunisie et Libye perdent plus de 1000 kilomètres carrés de terrain productif par an à cause de la désertification. En Egypte, qui dépend uniquement de l'irrigation, la moitié de la terre irriguée souffre de salinisation et le pays importe déjà une énorme partie de ses aliments. La Turquie a perdu 160 000 kilomètres carrés de terres cultivées à cause de l'érosion du sol. Ces pressions environnementales sont aggravées par celles démographiques (Norman Mayers, 2005, Réfugiés Environnementaux: une Question Emergente de Sécurité).

Les pays industrialisés de la région EuroMed surconsommement les ressources, en causant ainsi des dettes de carbone (et écologiques) au reste de la région et du monde. Cette surconsommation, combinée avec les impacts directs et indirects des politiques commerciales actuelles, est la cause principale du réchauffement global qui se manifeste maintenant par des modifications des schémas météorologiques dans le monde: inondations, sécheresses, cyclones, etc. et avec des impacts correspondants sur les communautés humaines. Ainsi le mouvement écologique devrait être impliqué dans les discussions relatives aux déplacements humains et aux chercheurs d'asile. Celui-ci serait un acte de solidarité fondé sur la compréhension des dimensions environnementales de la migration.

Certaines stratégies qui pourraient être utilisées pour faire face aux changements climatiques et à d'autres causes de dégradation de l'environnement incluent l'augmentation et la dissémination d'informations, la formation de capacités, tant dans les pays qu'à travers les régions, les projets de reconstruction, les stratégies de réduction des risques et de minimisation de leurs impacts.

Un exemple des effets des changements climatiques : l'hausse du niveau de la mer ne représente guère une inquiétude pour la Grèce – au moins pour le moment. Pourtant, les incendies dévastants qui ont frappé le pays en été 2007 ont détruit plus de 170 000 hectares dans le Péloponnèse, en incluant des terres agricoles couvertes surtout par des oliviers. Il faudra au moins deux décades à l'habitat naturel pour se rétablir. En même temps les feux ont engendré une onnée de réfugiés environnementaux : des milliers de migrants économiques (à part les résidents locaux permanents) ont quitté les zones rurales pour les centres urbains à la recherche d'emploi. Plus de 48 000 étrangers travaillaient dans les régions d'Ilia, Messinia, Arcadie et Laconia et la plupart d'entre eux a été exclue des avantages gouvernementaux pour les victimes des incendies aussi que de l'aide et des secours amenés par des organisations de volontariat.

Réflexions/soucis

Il semble impératif de reconnaître l'existence des réfugiés environnementaux aussi bien que d'accepter la réinstallation des personnes déplacées à cause des changements climatiques. Tout aussi urgente est la nécessité d'augmenter simultanément l'assistance aux communautés affectées par les changements climatiques pour leur permettre de s'adapter aux conditions changées.

Dans les régions de destination, les pays doivent développer des politiques pour améliorer les moyens d'existence des migrants, la majorité desquels sont pauvres. Le défi est de trouver des façons appropriées pour combattre la pauvreté rurale dans les régions d'origine, particulièrement par la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, en promouvant en même temps une gestion plus durable de l'environnement rural tant dans les régions d'origine que dans les régions de destination. De telles politiques devraient tenir compte de la désirabilité de protéger des zones de valeur écologique particulière, encourageant en même temps les pratiques d'utilisation de la terre durables et appropriées pour le climat, les sols et les autres ressources naturelles. L'amélioration de l'accès à la planification familiale dans les régions de destination est aussi cruciale, puisque les hauts tas de croissance naturelle parmi les populations déjà installées dans les zones de frontière augmentent aussi considérablement les pressions démographiques sur l'environnement.

Plus de recherche est nécessaire, aussi bien qu'une meilleure intégration à la théorie des données écologiques, démographiques et sociologiques existantes, au but de développer des modèles prédictifs qui aident à comprendre et projeter les schémas migratoires et leur rapport dynamique avec les changements écologiques. Ce

travail interdisciplinaire pourrait amener au développement de politiques de conservation et de migration efficaces à long terme.

En ligne avec ces considérations, plus d'études de cas sur les effets de la dégradation environnementale sur la migration dans la région EuroMed devraient être financées. Les experts du secteur devraient développer une meilleure communication et rapports de travail entre les différentes organisations qui s'occupent des droits de l'homme, de la population, de la culture, de l'environnement et de la migration. Les politiciens et les chercheurs doivent reconnaître la causalité cumulative de la dégradation environnementale et aider les régions accueillant les migrants et les réfugiés à réduire les impacts de grands déplacements de personnes sur l'environnement. (Quelques questions clé : Combien de migration intérieure dans les pays Méditerranéens est dirigée vers les zones rurales? Est-ce que la détérioration de l'environnement joue un rôle important dans la migration hors des zones rurales? Est-ce que la migration des zones rurales a des effets environnementaux sur les régions d'origine des migrants? Dans quels types d'environnements ruraux se déplacent les gens? Dans quels pays de la région EuroMed et avec quelles conséquences environnementales?)

À l'égard de l'influence sur les schémas de migration, en cas des désastres naturels (comme la sécheresse) les habitants sont victimes et ont besoin des réactions des preneurs de décisions, alors que dans le cas de la détérioration environnementale les population mêmes sont en partie des acteurs et peuvent déterminer la réponse aux changements parce-que cette dégradation est graduelle (utilisation de techniques de conservation du sol et de l'eau, usage durable d'engrais, décision d'émigrer, etc.). Dans le dernier cas une modification de leurs pratiques peut être encouragée par des campagnes de sensibilisation qui exigent le renforcement d'une participation publique efficace (mécanismes de consultation, campagnes réussies de sensibilisation sur questions environnementales, options de financement, etc.).

Il faut aussi développer de nouvelles méthodes à travers lesquelles la dynamique du changement d'utilisation des terres et de conditions de systèmes naturels peut être contrôlée dans le contexte de la migration et des tendances démographiques.

La recherche de modèles potentiels de gouvernance (gestion, droits, incitations et gestion) et la reconnaissance du rôle de la société civile sont nécessaires pour régions ayant des écosystèmes et une diversité biologique importants et qui connaissent croissance démographique et pressions de migration.

Les projets Euro-Méditerranéens de développement prévus dans divers secteurs (transport routier, tourisme, autoroutes de la mer, Accord de Libre Echange EuroMed, etc.) ainsi que la politique et les processus environnementaux actuels n'adressent pas de façon appro-

priée les soucis ci-mentionnés. Est-ce que les Ministres EuroMed responsables de la gestion de l'eau traiteront ces inquiétudes pendant leur réunion (en Jordanie, le 29 octobre 2008)? Comment pourrait la société civile garantir que les soucis liés à environnement/migration seront reflétés de façon appropriée dans les projets à grande échelle et dans les budgets EuroMed?

Dans un monde rendu susceptible à transformations rapides par les forces de la globalisation et des changements climatiques, la compréhension des motivations socio-économiques et environnementales de la migration est cruciale. La nécessité de prévoir la distribution et le mouvement futurs des gens sur notre planète, de plus en plus peuplée, et de répondre aux menaces

de conservation et aux opportunités associées à cette migration, rendront essentielles des nouvelles compétences et une plus grande collaboration et intégration parmi les disciplines et les organisations.

*Beaucoup des informations utilisées dans ce Document ont été prises dans des publications produites par le United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) et dans le cadre du projet EACH-FOR (www.each-for.eu), financé par le FP6 de la CE.

Référence:

Renaud, F.G.; Bogardi, J.J.; Dun, O.; Warner, K. (2007): *Control, Adapt or Flee: How to Face Environmental Migration? InterSecTions no. 5/2007*, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn.

LINKAGES BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION – THE EACH-FOR PROJECT AND FOUR MEDITERRANEAN REGION CASE STUDIES

Olivia Dun, Alfons Fermin and Jill Jäger

Over the past two years, seven European-based research institutions* involved in the Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) project (<http://www.each-for.eu>) have been investigating the “environmental signal” in ongoing migration and people’s decisions to move. The project, funded by the European Commission under the 6th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6), has involved conducting research in 22 case study locations around the world (see figure).

Research conducted under the project seeks to address the following two objectives:

1. To discover and describe the causes of forced migration in relation to environmental degradation/change and their association with other social, political and economic phenomena in Europe and in the main countries of migration origin.
2. To provide plausible future scenarios of environmentally-induced forced migration.

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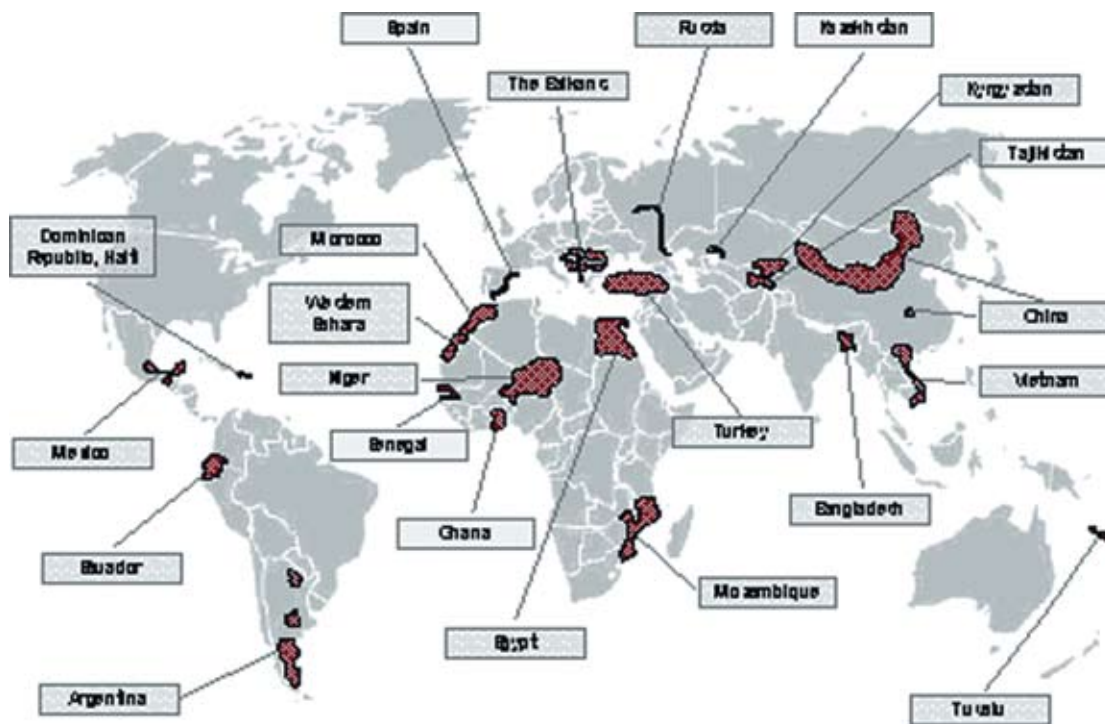
This project arose out of a recognition that changes in the natural and human-made environment could become significant factors among the causes of forced migration in the future, especially in light of current climate change projections. However, currently there is a significant lack of understanding and empirical research that examines the linkages between environmental change and migration. In particular there is a definitional debate over terminology linked to environmentally induced migration: how do we define those who are on the move or displaced by environmental factors?; how do we distinguish them from other types of migrants or refugees? There is debate over whether there is such a thing as environmental migration – can environmental factors be identified as a root cause for displacement since migration is often multi-faceted? Finally there is also a question of who should provide protection to environmental migrants, if they exist.

As such the EACH-FOR project has been an important initial step towards gaining accurate information about the current and future environmental triggers of forced migration and establishing an area of research in this direction. Of significance, the EACH-FOR project has provided a basis for a wider dialogue on the whole question of environmental migration with several pioneering events having taken place in 2008 including a Research Workshop on Migration and the Environment in Munich, Germany during April

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2008 and the International Conference on Environment, Forced Migration and Social Vulnerability in Bonn, Germany in October 2008.

As examples from the Mediterranean region, the EACH-FOR project has conducted research in Morocco, Turkey, Egypt and Spain. In Morocco, Prof. Mohamed Ait Hamza (Director of Centre des Etudes Historique et Environnementales (CEHE) of ICRAM, Rabat) and Brahim El Faskaoui (Professor of Human Geography, Moulay Ismail University, Meknes) conducted research in the rural oasis villages of Ktaoua and Mhamid in the Drâa valley, which are both experiencing out-migration and are subject to severe environmental problems, especially salinisation, desertification and water shortage**. Environmental degradation over the last decades is attributed to the dam construction and prolonged periods of drought in the 1980s in particular. Due to their location at the desert fringe both palm groves lag behind in development and basic services.

Research into the linkages between environmental change and migration in these two oasis villages involved interviews with experts, 30 migrants and 30 non-migrants. Interviews showed that the negative impact of environmental degradation on agriculture and livestock farming over the last decades

is a main motive for migration. Analysis of secondary data and expert interviews, however, indicate that the relation between environment and migration is much more complex and less deterministic. Temporal and seasonal internal migration is a traditional strategy to diversify resources. Additionally, both migration patterns and environmental degradation processes have changed over the last decades. The mechanisms of migration vary between the different occupational and socio-ethnic groups. Although internal migration of family members is still dominant, permanent migration of whole families is occurring more often. Migration patterns are changing because of opening up of the rural society by migration itself as well as urbanization, schooling, media and development. The environmental factor of water shortage remains an important migration motive in rural areas, because of the increasing competition over water between rural villages and cities, different regions in the Valley and the increasing water demand by the tourist sector.

In Turkey, Zeynep Kadirbeyoglu of McGill University in Canada, conducted research in Suruç (a district in the southeast of Turkey) where the depletion of groundwater sources in the 1990s due to uncontrolled water pumping for cotton cultivation irrigation since the late 1950s forced the majority of the population to relocate***. In particular, those whose livelihoods depended on irrigated agriculture migrated to the city-centres in the region or to other cities throughout

** Information is extracted from the EACH-FOR Morocco case study Policy Brief and Ait Hamza, Mohamed; El Faskaoui, Brahim 2008: Migration et changement Environnemental. Cas des oasis du Draâ Moyen (Maroc). (Migration and environmental change in Morocco: The case of rural oasis villages in the Middle Drâa Valley.), subcontracted by the EUR. Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) Project Report which will soon be available on the EACH-FOR project website (<http://www.each-for.eu/>)

*** Information is extracted from the EACH-FOR Turkey case study Policy Brief and Kadirbeyoglu, Zeynep 2008: EACH-FOR – Forced Migration / Regions: Turkey Case Study Report. Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR), subcontracted by UNIBI-COMCAD. Project Report which will soon be available on the EACH-FOR project website (<http://www.each-for.eu/>)

Turkey. Some became seasonal migrants and rented land in other districts or provinces or became sharecroppers and continued agricultural production while others changed sectors.

Findings from this research involving interviews with experts and 20 migrants who had left Suruç indicated that all sectors of society migrated because of the environmental stressors (not only the farmers). The most socially vulnerable migrate seasonally as agricultural or construction workers. Those who could afford to migrate and those who had relatives elsewhere in Turkey migrated permanently to larger cities. However, there was no state support for those who had to migrate. There is a project to deliver water to Suruç from Atatürk Dam but the project has been postponed for the past 10 years.

The case study for Egypt was conducted by Dr. Tamer Afifi of the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany. The 30 migrants that were interviewed were mainly in the centre of the Nile Delta, the Nile Valley (South and North), Eastern and Western Nile Delta, newly reclaimed desert lands and slums of Old Cairo. The interviews showed that causes of migration are often attributed to factors such as poverty and unemployment without recognition of the fact that these factors are totally or partially caused by environmental degradation. Importantly, the migrants who leave their villages and regions or the country can only do that if they have the necessary financial means. In many cases this is not possible, since the environmental degradation had a negative impact on their income. Furthermore, most of the people that migrate due to environmental problems leave their town or region but not the country. The research indicated that ownership of the land is a very important factor that influences the migration decision. As long as the farmers are hired on the land, they are very mobile and flexible in response to environmental changes. Hence, there is an inverse relationship between the ownership of the land and the willingness to migrate. Owners of land would not leave, unless there is no alternative left or they are officially displaced by the government.

The fourth EACH-FOR case study for the Mediterranean is for Spain, and was led by Dr. Alfons Fermin of the European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. This is a literature study which examined the changing relation between migration, environment and development in Southeast Spain (Almeria) from the late 19th century up to the present. Historically, environmental pressures on traditional agriculture (especially water shortage) in combination with poverty and economic underdevelopment pushed Almeria's population out, with the migrants attracted by more promising economic opportunities in North Spain, North Africa, Latin America and Western Europe. Emigration from Almeria

continued in the first phase of economic development in the 1960s. Recently, however, intensive greenhouse agriculture on the coastal plains of Almeria, together with tourism, have transformed Almeria from one of the poorest into one of the most thriving provinces of Spain. Economic development, improvement of transportation links, and the introduction of technology to solve the problem of unreliable water supply together enabled the exploitation of the ecological asset of the region, its mild climate, for both agricultural and tourist purposes.

The case studies show the complex linkages between environment, development and migration. The willingness to migrate depends on the availability of financial resources and is reduced if people own agricultural land. Traditional patterns of migration in developing countries are often related to environmental pressures, but this migration is most often internal and not international. Environment is more often mentioned as a main motive for migration by migrants themselves in cases with a clear turning point (droughts, dam construction, and ground water depletion) than in cases of gradual degradation, as in the Egypt case study. The four Mediterranean case studies show that water shortage is often partly a human-made problem, caused by the absence of effective state control and water management, increasing population pressure, adverse effects of dam construction, increasing water demand due to modernisation and tourism, and agricultural transformations due to the insertion in the wider market. However, in reverse, socio-economic development makes technological means available to compensate for water shortage in semi-arid regions. Overall conclusions from the EACH-FOR project are still to be drawn but preliminary assessment indicates the needs for policy responses to integrate governance, improved organisation of resettlement programmes, stronger linkages with development programmes to increase adaptive capacities (e.g. education, health, land tenure) and a need to mitigate environmental degradation.

DÉSERTIFICATION ET MIGRATION: UN DÉFI POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE AU MAROC. LE CAS DU ZAGORA

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Présentation de la province de Zagora : caractéristiques démographiques et économiques.

Le Maroc est concerné à 93% par la désertification et à divers degrés, la province de Zagora figure au sommet des régions affectées avec Tata, Figuig, Errachidia et Assa-Zag. Elle est considérée parmi les plus désertiques au Maroc, elle s'étend au Sud Est marocain dans la vallée de Draa entre les chaînes montagneuses du Saghro au Nord et du Bani au Sud, sur une superficie de 23.000 km² pour une population sédentaire de 283.368 habitants en 2004.

La densité moyenne pour l'entier du territoire est de 12 hab/km², elle est peu peuplée à cause de la nature désertique de son climat. Cette population peut croître ou décroître en fonction du retour massif des jeunes travailleurs d'Europe. Le taux de précipitations enregistré avoisine les 80 mm au niveau d'Agdz et moins de 50 mm plus au Sud de la province, aux environs de Tagounite et de M'hamid. Une rareté accentuée par les changements climatiques dus aux émissions des gaz à effet de serre.



La population de Zagora vit essentiellement d'agriculture, activité mise à mal par une sécheresse endémique et par la dégradation de la qualité du sol qui entraîne une baisse régulière des rendements, et de tourisme florissant grâce à la richesse des sites naturels et des monuments historiques dont certains remontent à l'âge de pierre.

La désertification: conditions de vie pénible et pauvreté

La zone de Zagora est très pauvre elle a connu durant plusieurs décennies une marginalisation de la part des différents gouvernements qui se sont succédés depuis l'indépendance du Maroc en 1956. Les effets de la sécheresse et de la désertification constituent une menace pour les quelques cultures que cette région aride produit. Les palmeraies de la région enregistrent des rendements en diminution presque constante, ils sont menacés de disparition, notamment sous l'effet de la dégradation des sols. On peut également ajouter le henné de Tazarine, célèbre dans tout le Maroc pour sa qualité et autres cultures vivrières qui subissent les aléas climatiques. Eu égard la rareté des ressources dans la région, cette baisse a produit un impact manifeste sur les conditions de vie de la population de la région tenant compte du degré de dépendance du secteur agricole faute d'alternatives. La désertification gagne inexorablement du terrain sous l'effet de l'érosion du sol, et l'homme a considérablement contribué à la dégradation du couvert végétal et à la surexploitation des ressources.

L'impact de la désertification sur le dépeuplement des villages indique qu'on ne peut dissocier lutte contre la désertification et lutte contre la pauvreté. Les villageois de ces régions (les paysans, les éleveurs transhumants) et face au retentissement des superficies cultivables et de la rareté de l'eau, décident d'abdiquer en écoulant leurs maigres biens pour prendre la direction des centres urbains. Un choix aux conséquences souvent désastreuses car les villes elles-mêmes ne disposent pas de l'infrastructure nécessaire pour accueillir ces nouveaux arrivants, ce qui favorise la recrudescence de la mendicité, de l'économie informelle et le gonflement des bidons villes...

Tinfou: le rêve des jeunes pour la migration

En réalité, le douar de Tinfou dans la région de Zagora réunit tous les éléments qui gravitent autour de la problématique de la désertification. Les précipitations annuelles (65 mm) sont très rares ou inexistantes durant une longue période. La population locale imputée à l'éloignement et surtout à l'enclavement accentué par les conditions d'accès très difficile à cause des montagnes : le Tizin-Tichka entre Marrakech et Ouarzazate et Ait Saoun entre Ouarzazate et Zagora.

Les raisons susceptibles d'inciter les jeunes de rester au village sont de moins en moins recevables à leurs yeux. Surtout que l'emploi durable est rare et les activités susceptibles de générer l'emploi inexistantes hormis les haltes effectuées par quelques touristes qui empruntent les pistes rocailleuses de la palmeraie de Fezouata dont fait partie Tinfou. L'étendue du phénomène de l'absence des jeunes, est traduite par la présence majoritaire des personnes âgées et de plusieurs femmes et enfants. Les jeunes males ont quitté massivement les villages en direction des grandes villes ou même pour l'étranger. La migration est de plus en plus perçue comme une planche de salut à laquelle s'accroche la population.

Même l'exode rural ne les intéresse plus, les jeunes font très majoritairement de l'émigration clandestine un objectif qui suscite un engouement spectaculaire dans tous les villages. Le retour durant la saison estivale de leurs frères, cousins ou amis d'Europe à bord de véhicules rutilants attise leur soif d'aventure. La misère et la sécheresse endémique qui sévit dans cette partie font que l'avenir dans les villages annonce guère prometteur.

L'engouement suscité par l'émigration clandestine prend des proportions dramatiques, des écoliers du village de N'koob questionnés sur leurs projets d'avenir et sur ce qu'ils voudraient faire plus tard ont répondu innocemment : «émigrer clandestinement en Espagne», en employant une expression très en vogue «hrig», qui désigne l'émigration clandestine. Les enfants en parlent en effet comme s'il s'agissait d'une fin ou de la consécration de leur carrière scolaire. Ils s'y sont tellement habitués à force d'en entendre parler qu'ils ont fini par l'ériger en objectif premier. Chez les Ait Atta, le «hrig» est perçu comme une question d'amour propre qui prime sur la raison.

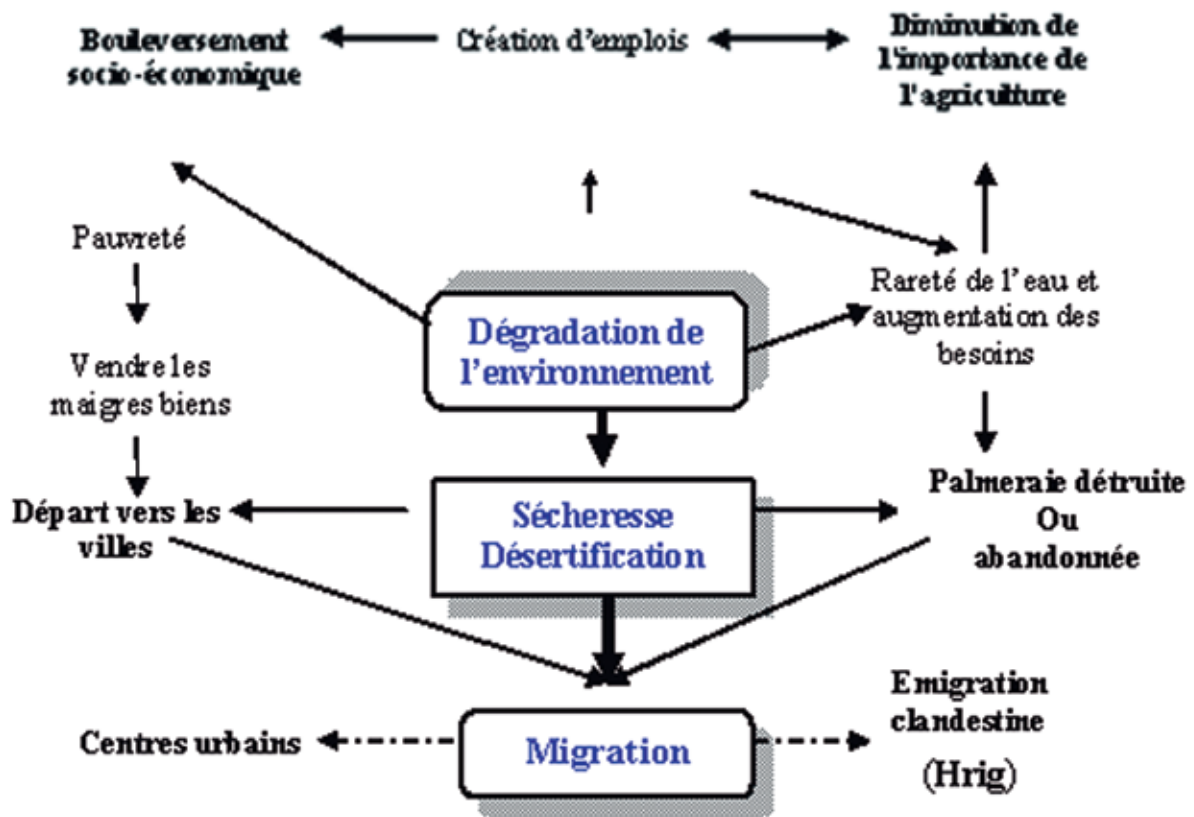
Une famille peut se mobiliser pour favoriser l'émigration d'un des siens. Elle peut même aller jusqu'à vendre une vache ou une terre pour contribuer à la réussite de ce projet, mais une fois que l'intéressé entreprend le voyage, l'échec n'est pas permis. Les Ait Atta préfèrent encore le savoir mort en pleine traversée du Détroit de Gibraltar que de le voir rentrer bredouille au village après tant de sacrifices. Si la traversée réussit, alors le clandestin devient la principale source de revenus pour sa famille et son retour, notamment lors des vacances d'été, est alors attendu avec impatience par les siens.

Depuis, une série de dispositions ont été prises au fur et à mesure que le phénomène gagnait en ampleur. Parmi les plus importantes, il y a lieu de souligner :

- 1- La mise en place du Plan d'action national de lutte contre la désertification (PAN-LCD) qui bénéficie de l'assistance technique de la coopération internationale, notamment le PNUD et la GTZ allemande.
- 2- La création de l'Agence du Développement du Sud (ADS), impliquée dans un vaste programme de sauvegarde des oasis et de création d'emplois, de lutte contre l'exode et de promotion des petits métiers en faveur de la femme locale.
- 3 - La mise en place en 2005 de l'Initiative Nationale pour le Développement Humain (INDH), un vaste chantier associant capitaux privés et société civile et dont l'objectif est de créer partout au Maroc une dynamique favorable à l'emploi et à la lutte contre la pauvreté.



RELATIONS ENTRE LA DÉGRADATION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LA MIGRATION À ZAGORA



Conclusion

On parle beaucoup du lien entre la désertification et les migrations mais il y a encore peu d'études sur ce sujet. Lorsque le milieu naturel ne produit plus, il faut migrer. Bien sûr, un afflux brutal et massif de migrants - je pense par exemple à des réfugiés - peut engendrer localement de la désertification. Cependant, l'évolution des comportements migratoires témoigne surtout d'une certaine déstructuration sociale des sociétés rurales.

Dans le cas de Zagora on se trouve devant un exemple presque caricatural de développement non-durable - toutes les oasis sont condamnées à mort si la dégradation de l'environnement se poursuit - il faudrait donc surtout apporter des solutions durables et urgentes au problème de l'eau, à la diminution constante des récoltes de dattes, principale ressource de la région, à la lutte quotidienne contre l'ensablement, à l'augmentation du chômage et à la pauvreté de la population, facteurs qui poussent la jeunesse à jeter son dévolu sur l'exode rural ou l'émigration clandestine à travers le Détroit de Gibraltar ou en destination des Canaries depuis les côtes du Sahara.

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INTERLINKS BETWEEN MIGRATION, URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

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The effects of climate changes are, and will be even more in the future, yet another reason for millions of people to move. Lack of water, droughts, desertification, floods, and hurricanes are in fact at the basis of many conflicts and reduce expectation of life. This is the reason why it is necessary to recognize the status of the environmental refugee.

Today there is in fact the need of legislation and actions to ensure migrants their essential rights, either in the case of migration inside or out of their country, as victims of natural disasters or of environmental deterioration.

The industrialised countries of the EuroMed region are responsible for global warming through the overconsumption of resources and the emissions of CO₂, which are in turn the cause of the growing risk of floods, droughts, cyclones, etc. with dire impacts on human communities. So the environmental movement should be involved in the debate relating to population displacement and asylum seekers: this would be an act of solidarity based on the understanding of the environmental dimensions of the migration issue.

But, if environmental deterioration is the cause of a drop in food production and in the quality of living conditions and, in the end, leads to voluntary or forced migration, the movement of people causes a further impact upon ecosystems (water stress, desertification, deforestation, etc.). Human migration, combined with population growth and globalization trends can therefore greatly affect the environment.

Expanding urbanization is a dominant trend in the EuroMed region due to the movement of human populations away from rural areas. This trend increases the urban demands for energy, water, goods, and services. The Mediterranean region is especially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions and at the mercy of earthquakes, the effects of which tend to be severe in urban areas. Countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Italy (with an added volcanic hazard), Greece and Turkey are the most vulnerable. Moreover catastrophic floods, which are linked to the sometimes excessive rainfall typical of the Mediterranean climate, and which are aggravated by deforestation and building on slopes, are also an additional threat for many cities in Spain, France, Italy and Algeria.

Wild urbanization

Throughout the Mediterranean region, cities are spreading like oil stains, stretching in a “ribbon” development along the coasts. They drastically reduce agricultural land, especially on the coastal plains, which are a limited and scarce resource in the region. In terms of impacts, unregulated housing is responsible for considerable sprawl, invading suburban areas and agricultural land with consequences on access to water and other basic services such as sanitation and sewage networks, water supply infrastructure and controlled dumpsites. The high concentration of populations creates difficult problems in the fields of transport, employment and management of waste.

The pollution of air in urban areas, deprived by their ecological green belt, is worrying. In the Mediterranean, where calm anti-cyclonic weather is frequent, city centres during summer generate a permanent pollution ‘dome’.

The management of growing urban areas

The spread of urban areas significantly complicates their management, since public services cannot keep up with the speed at which new neighbourhoods, often not officially recognized, are created. The process of extensive urbanization in the North, and increasingly in the South, has become so widespread that the traditional concepts of town/country, urban /rural, are no longer of great help when considering these new types of areas, which are occupied by residents and ‘urban’ activities, but are not towns in the traditional sense. The phenomenon calls for new regional development policies that can limit waste of land, and long-term human and environmental impacts such as the greenhouse effect and pollution.

The increasing number of inhabitants and their life styles

Today, there are approaches that aim to assess the ecological footprint of urban areas, their impact in terms of consumption of natural resources and damage to the environment. Generally, the ‘predatory’ aspect rises with the increasing wealth of cities. But cities are the most suitable places for human development and societal organization, capable of housing millions of people. The problem is not so much the

number of city-dwellers but their unsustainable lifestyles and the way cities are managed. Policies aimed at regenerating and renewing old and more recent urban fabrics should be enhanced in order to reduce the expansion of suburbs and the resulting environmental impacts. In the south of Italy experiences of migrants and local communities restoring old towns, practicing sustainable tourism, agriculture and manufacturing cooperatives represent an alternative sustainable form of economy.

Environment and human rights

Actually there can't be environmental protection without a re-distribution of resources. Also, sustainable local economies grow and improve, based on the entrepreneurship of the people directly involved. In line with the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and the 1996 Istanbul Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the international community defined Millennium Development Goals in 2000 and the Johannesburg Action Plan in 2002, which aim at integrating the social, environmental and economic development dimensions, starting from the linkages between social equity and environmental quality in order to facilitate this integration.

International cooperation

The development of cooperation schemes between countries with high outmigration and popular host countries is an important step in the right direction. In the case of gradual environmental degradation, local people can be encouraged and "enabled" through such support programmes to improve the environment and quality of life through sustainable use of water and soil conservation techniques, sustainable use of fertilizers, etc. Awareness-raising campaigns, strengthening effective public participation and research are appropriate modalities for reaching such goals.

Projects of this kind are important also in helping people to find a meaningful existence. Migrants from deteriorated lands and countries seek not only for a living but also for a sense of being. Both at home and as a migrant, every one should have the opportunity to earn a living but also have a meaningful role in society.

Legal stay

When migrants move to a foreign country, the most important question is the legalization of their stay, without which they are at the mercy of unscrupulous employers and house owners. Moreover, if their presence is considered illegal, it is impossible to plan any action or help their settlement or displacement. Transparency in the methods

to obtain legalization of stay is a prerequisite without which the protection of the environment and of the interests and rights of migrants is too difficult.

The growth trend of Mediterranean cities

(from www.unhabitat.org, www.planbleu.org)

According to population projections, the urban population in Mediterranean cities could reach more than 135 million by 2025 in the North Mediterranean Countries (6.5 million more than in 2000) and nearly 243 million in the South East Mediterranean Countries (98 million more). The marked concentration of populations with nearly 100 million extra inhabitants between 2000 and 2025, including 23 million in Turkey, 36 million in Egypt, 10 million each in Algeria and Morocco respectively, exposes cities to further economic, social changes and hard environmental impact.

The number of very large cities, with more than a million inhabitants, that were 10 in 1950, with Marseilles, Rome, Naples, Athens, Izmir, Beirut, Tel-Aviv, has grown to 29 in 1995. This category includes many mega cities (Istanbul, Cairo and Paris) and other metropolises located inland and on the coastal regions, like Barcelona, Seville, Madrid, Lyon, Milan, Ankara, Alexandria, Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers.

In 1950, in the Northern Mediterranean Countries, 7 big metropolises contained 22 per cent of the urban population; in 1995 there were 13 with more than 30 per cent of the urban population. In 1950 in the South Eastern Mediterranean Countries 3 very large cities contained 15 per cent of the urban population; in 1995 there were 16 large metropolises with 28 per cent of the urban population.



Palmeraie ensablée au bord du Draa (Zagora)

WARS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REFUGEES

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Many conferences and seminars dealing with “Environmental migration” and “Environmental refugees” have been organized during the last decade but a serious discussion about this issue has been initiated in the framework of a seminar held in Limoge (Belgium) in May 2005 where participants focused on the “Legal Status of the Environmental Refugees” at the international level.

As for the “Environmental refugees”, the term was used for the first time in the United Nations Environment Program report in 1985 entitled *Environmental Refugees* by El-Hinnawi, who has defined environmental refugees as “those people who have been forced to leave their traditional habitat, temporarily or permanently, because of a marked environmental disruption (natural and/or triggered by people) that jeopardized their existence and/or seriously affected the quality of their life”.

El-Hinnawi has categorized environmental refugees who are temporarily displaced as those who have been affected e.g. by a volcano or flood for example and environmental refugees permanently displaced as those who are affected by irreversible environmental degradation. The report also focused on the shared responsibility of humans in these disasters either directly, e.g. by deforestation that facilitates soil erosion and floods or indirectly e.g. through wars and excessive industrial development.

After ten years, in 1995, Norman Myers and Jennifer Kent have defined the “Environmental refugees” as follows: “In several parts of the world there is an emergent phenomenon of environmental exodus. It is made up of people who are increasingly coming to be known as environmental refugees. They are people who can no longer gain a secure livelihood in their homelands because of drought, soil erosion, desertification, deforestation and other environmental problems. All have abandoned their homelands on a semi-permanent, if not permanent basis, having little hope of a foreseeable return.”

However, there are no reports that mention the refugees of the latest wars and the links with environmental implications. As far as the Mediterranean region is concerned, there is an ongoing war on the environment in the Middle East. The Israeli occupation is systematically uprooting millions of olive trees which are the main source of living for people in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. Simi-

larly, the American occupation has caused destruction of millions of palm trees in Iraq. This means depriving people under occupation from their basic source of life, which leads to a forced migration.

Available reports also do not mention the nuclear accidents that have forced people to migrate (for example the Chernobyl nuclear accident) where the authorities only declared 30 dead persons without mentioning 110,000 persons who were forced to leave their homes to avoid radiation related harmful effects. Forced environmental migration might become more serious with the increasing tendency to use nuclear energy as a solution for the energy crisis.

There is actually a serious problem about the legal status of these environmental refugees who don't exist in current international law. Persons who are forced to leave their country for environmental reasons are not granted any legal status according to the Geneva Convention of 1951 where the refugee is “A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) uses the term “environmentally displaced persons” rather than “environmental refugees”. Environmentally displaced persons are defined as “persons who are displaced within their own country of habitual residence or who have crossed an international border and for whom environmental degradation, deterioration or destruction is a major cause of their displacement, although not necessarily the sole one”. There is no status provided for the persons, who have to cross the border and cannot return to their country. Even though the UNHCR estimated the number of refugees about 17 million persons it did not agree on the amendment of the Geneva Convention to include the environment as a reason and source of oppression for migration.

Environmental activists are condemning wars on the basis of their dire environmental consequences and for the creation of this new type of forced migration known as “Environmental migration”.

The latest ecological impact studies in the Middle East on the Israeli wars on Lebanon and Palestine and the American war on Iraq have revealed that these wars had huge environmental impacts since the bombs caused enormous air pollution, especially due to the use of white phosphorus and cluster bombs (more than one million such bombs were used in Lebanon) that killed and mutilated lots of people and even today prevent cultivators to access their fields.

Since there are no recent studies and surveys about the impact of war on the environment in Gaza and Iraq, we will provide a synopsis concerning the environmental impacts of the 2006 war on Lebanon. The main related studies that were conducted to assess the environmental damage caused by this 33 day war were done by UNEP and UNDP costing more than one million dollars. However, as in any war, there are hidden damages that will affect the environment in the long run, and these are almost impossible to account for in any study.

Damages to fuel storage tanks

The biggest damage happened when the fuel storage tanks in Al- Jiyah Power Plant and the kerosene storage tanks in the airport were deliberately attacked. The attack on Al- Jeyah power plant resulted in burning approximately 45000 tons of fuel (the fire continued for 12 days) and 15,000 cubic meter of fuel leaked into the sea. This damage was considered as one of the largest environmental disasters in the history of Lebanon's shoreline. The total length of the Lebanese shoreline is 220 km, 150 km of which were damaged by this fuel spill. The Lebanese ministry of environment issued a report in June 2007, saying that the volume of waste resulting from the cleaning operations that took place on the Lebanese shore had amounted to about one thousand cubic meters of fuel and 6,407 cubic meters of oil-contaminated solid waste (sand, gravel, and contaminated waste). Most of these wastes have been gathered in an old oil refinery in Lebanon, until a final solution for them is found. The vulnerable ecosystem of the sea near Al- Jeyah area was extremely affected, due to the fact that the fuel that leaked from the damaged tanks sank deep in the sea water. These negative effects on the ecosystem might not be possible to deal with. Experts also stress the fact that the oil spill has not only affected the vulnerable biodiversity in Al Jeyah area but has also affected the sea including the Palm Island, the protected natural reserve up in the north. Some experts claim that these negative effects will last for a long time.

As for the fuel tanks at the airport, the attack resulted in burning about 5000 cubic meters of kerosene.

The official number of fuel stations that were destroyed during the attacks was estimated at 22. Probably this number is underestimated, as the local authorities in 3 Mohafazat, namely the Mohafazat of Nabatieh, Beqaa and the South, estimated the number of damaged fuel stations at 47 stations in these 3 Mohafazat only. Most of these stations had fuel in their storage tanks, which leaked into the ground and polluted the underground watershed.

Most of the reports that studied the effects of the war on the environment, have agreed that the air quality was also negatively affected due to the burning of fuel and Kerosene in Al-Jeyah power plant, airport tanks, fuel stations, and the burning of forests.

Impacts on freshwater resources

The fresh water resources were also greatly affected due to the leakage of oil and fuel into the ground water. Also groundwater was affected in the industrial areas by the chemical substances that were stored in these factories at the time they were destroyed. In addition to this, a big number of storage warehouses, which contained pesticides and herbicides were destroyed by bombing and these poisonous substances leaked into the underground water. The water pipes and the waste water system were also adversely affected resulting in more degradation of fresh water resources.

In Al -Assi river and other agricultural areas, the water quality as well as the quality of agricultural soils was badly affected by the decomposing bodies of killed animals on the ground and in the river. FAO estimated that the number of killed animals is more than 3,050 animals used for milk production, 1,250 bulls, 15,000 goats and sheep, 18,000 bee hives, and more than 600,000 chicken hatcheries.

The problem of unexploded bombs

Different kinds of bombs were used but not all of them exploded. It was estimated that more than one million cluster bombs remained unexploded in Lebanon, in addition to a non-estimated number of bombs and rockets of various kinds that also did not explode and are not yet located. These unexploded bombs contribute to forest destruction and can form an obstacle in the efforts to fight fires in case they happened for any reason. Also they represent a danger for livestock and mainly grazing animals, resulting in their death or serious injuries. The major effect of these unexploded bombs is on the rural people, who are deterred from working in their fields, thus not able to make a living and therefore have to migrate to other safer places, causing more pressure on resources in the new places they move to.

Destruction of Buildings

Around 445 000 m2 of roads and highways were destroyed, 92 bridges and passways were damaged and/or destroyed and around 130,000 households were affected (60,000 were either completely destroyed or greatly damaged). It is estimated that the volume of the debris resulting from the above mentioned destructions amount to 2.5-4 million cubic meters.

Also it is expected that re-building only 60,000 houses requires around 3.5 million tons of sand and gravel, 1.3 million tons of cement, and around 22 million m3 of water. This will result in extreme pres-

sure on natural resources, and mainly water resources. Also, the destruction of these houses caused people to migrate to areas that were not as damaged, until their houses are re-constructed. This intensified the problem of internal migration, and also caused extra pressure on resources in these new areas.

At a time in which international experts are still discussing the classification of refugees according to different causes, these disasters show that environmental problems are very serious and in direct correlation with wars, conflicts on natural resources and serious economic issues such as poverty, abuse of power and inequity in properties distribution.

TRADE POLICY AND ITS SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN THE EUROMED AREA

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The EuroMediterranean partnership has, as its headline goal, to achieve peace, stability and prosperity in the region. This will be achieved principally through setting up a free trade area among the EuroMed partners by 2010. The environmental NGO community in the region has always questioned whether free trade will deliver these lofty goals. Our skepticism is based partly on the analysis of impacts of free trade areas from different regions of the world and as a result of the sustainability impact assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (SIA EMFTA) carried out by Manchester University on behalf of the European Commission in 2007. This unique and important study indicates adverse social and environmental impacts will result from setting up the Free trade area in the Mediterranean by 2010, unless costly mitigation measures are taken.

Poverty levels throughout Mediterranean partner countries (MPCs) will be adversely affected in the short term. There will be job losses in all economic sectors in the south as domestic markets are opened up to imports from more competitive EU companies. Combine this with the fact that the EMFTA is expected to have a significant negative impact on tariff revenues in partner countries, and the result is a large loss of government revenues leading to adverse effects on local health and education programmes unless mitigated by raising revenue from other sources (i.e. more taxation). This makes Euro Mediterranean free trade a very bitter pill to swallow for millions of Mediterranean citizens already living in poverty.

The economic welfare gain from the free trade area in MPCs is expected to lie in the range of -1% to +2% of GDP for industrial products and between zero and 0.5% for agriculture, equivalent in magnitude to about three or four month's normal economic growth at typical rates (i.e. without the free trade area). Predicted economic welfare gain in the EU region is even less! In addition, agriculture in South Mediterranean EU countries will be negatively affected by free trade, resulting in job losses (including those of thousands of African immigrants) and land abandonment. This will have knock-on effects on the precarious situation of migrant workers from MPCs who will lose their incomes and be forced to move to other EU regions in search of work. It will also reduce capital flow of migrant workers remittances back to their country of origin, a real lifeline for the poorest sectors of MPC populations.

Based on these forecasts one must seriously question the advisability of the present headlong rush towards full trade liberalisation by 2010. Under present arrangements, free trade will not bring noteworthy economic benefit to either side of the Mediterranean region. It will however, exacerbate environment problems where environmental stress is already high and make poor people poorer still. Add to this the loss of governmental financial resources to provide health and educational services to their citizens and you have the recipe for social upheaval.

In this context, attention should be drawn to a key conclusion of the SIA EMFTA: (page xvi) *In order for the EMFTA to make its full potential contribution to the sustainable development of the region, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership itself needs to be re-*

invigorated and re-directed towards clearly defined economic, social and environmental goals for each of the partner countries and for the region as a whole. This reinforces a similar regional need arising from the challenges of addressing climate change, economic globalisation, regional migration and the Millennium Development Goals.

The current free trade agenda, will not deliver stability or prosperity to the region. A new approach is needed. The findings of the SIA EMFTA, recommend cooperation which respects the individual characteristics of MPCs' economies and development needs, rooted in sustainable development, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, good governance and respect for the environment. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MCSDD), endorsed

by the Barcelona summit 2005 provides a solid blueprint for this new way forward.

Precisely for the reasons outlined in this article, Friends of the Earth advocates that Euro Mediterranean Partners should halt Mediterranean trade liberalization negotiations. At the same time, the EU should recognize and guarantee Mediterranean governments' right and obligation to use policy tools including trade measures, that:

- develop fair and sustainable economies,
- protect and promote employment, social welfare, health and the environment
- guarantee public participation and the sustainable management of natural resources.

TOURISME ET MIGRATION EN MÉDITERRANÉE

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Un mastodonte économique...

Parler de tourisme en méditerranée, c'est d'abord parler d'un mastodonte économique. Parmi les trois premières nations touristiques dans le monde, deux sont baignées par la mer méditerranée, la France et l'Espagne. La région méditerranéenne concentre plus de 30 % des séjours touristiques dans le monde. Pour certains pays de l'aire méditerranéenne, le secteur touristique est le premier pourvoyeur de devises étrangères pour les économies nationales.

La méditerranée accueillait 249 millions de personnes en 2004, et 500 millions de visiteurs sont prévus à l'horizon 2050. Ces touristes dépensent environ 151 milliards d'euros en une année.

Pour les touristes, la méditerranée présente de nombreux atouts : une histoire multimillénaire « berceau de la civilisation », un climat favorable plusieurs mois de l'année, un savant mélange de diversité des paysages, des langues, des cultures alliées à une identité commune que les crises et soubresauts que connaît la région ont parfois tendance à faire oublier.

...Qui se fait payer au prix fort

Le tourisme de masse tel qu'il s'est développé depuis quarante ans, d'abord dans les pays de la rive Nord, puis dans les pays de la rive sud, a certes constitué une formidable « machine à devises » pour des économies qui ont su monnayer leurs charmes en-

soleillés et balnéaires, mais le prix payé aujourd'hui pèse sur la région comme un double fardeau à porter.

D'abord, la région doit traîner le fardeau des inégalités qui se font de plus en plus criantes. Inégalités économiques : les pays du nord sont les premiers bénéficiaires, et de loin, du tourisme méditerranéen. Inégalités sociales dans l'accès au tourisme : comptez le nombre de mois, voire d'années d'économies nécessaires pour visiter le Colisée à Rome ou l'Alhambra de Grenade lorsque vous êtes employé au Caire ou à Alger. Enfin, les inégalités liées à la liberté de circulation, la possibilité de jouir d'un espace commun pour l'agrément, pour la connaissance et la découverte de l'autre.

Ace fardeau s'ajoute celui de la pression qui pèse sur l'environnement et les côtes méditerranéennes : urbanisation non maîtrisée, fragmentation, destruction et perte des habitats naturels et des paysages, détérioration du fonctionnement des écosystèmes et des processus écologiques.

Quelles solutions pour un tourisme durable?

Si l'on faisait l'effort d'avoir l'honnêteté de comparer les revenus que génèrent le tourisme méditerranéen et son coût réel, c'est à dire le coût incluant la destruction de valeurs économiques, sociales et environnementales qu'engendrent ces fardeaux, serait-on toujours aussi enthousiaste pour promouvoir cette forme de tourisme qui au mieux aboutit à laisser les miettes du gâteau aux pays et aux peuples qui de-

vraient en bénéficier le plus directement et qui, dans les faits, n'aboutit qu'à susciter inégalités et injustices. Comment passer d'un tourisme de survivance à un tourisme de développement pour les pays du sud et de l'est de la méditerranée ? Comment passer d'un tourisme destructeur des ressources et des beautés méditerranéennes à un tourisme durable pour tous les pays du bassin ?

Six mois après le lancement de l'Union pour la Méditerranée, les Etats seraient bien inspirer de suivre ces quelques principes pour un tourisme durable en méditerranée :

- D'abord, réaffirmer que le tourisme peut être un formidable levier de développement et de partage entre peuples du bassin.
- Reconnaître les erreurs du passé et ne plus les commettre, comme par exemple promouvoir un tourisme côtier qui a passé les limites du soutenable alors que les pays recèlent des richesses oubliées dans les arrières pays.
- Rééquilibrer la distribution des bénéfices touristiques au profit des pays des destinations d'accueil.
- Développer et promouvoir le tourisme de nature et de culture.
- Réduire autant que possible l'empreinte écologique des touristes en développant des offres des transports

doux, des hébergements à faible consommation énergétique voire à énergie positive, en proposant des produits locaux etc.

- Intégrer le véritable coût social et environnemental des infrastructures touristiques pour le minimiser, proposer des alternatives et un système de compensation des externalités générées.

L'enjeu du tourisme durable ne réside pas seulement dans la meilleure prise en compte des questions de protection de la nature et de bien-être social. Comment peut-on encore accepter que des peuples puissent encore s'ignorer, c'est à dire vivre, se côtoyer, se déplacer (pour les plus aisés et chanceux d'entre eux) sans se regarder et échanger dans une région si petite à l'échelle de la planète, si densément peuplée, et où les inégalités sont encore si palpables qu'il suffit de parcourir 15 km pour changer de monde ?

Faire du tourisme durable en méditerranée est une condition nécessaire au développement de la région. Dès lors que les migrations sont aussi des phénomènes qui puisent leurs origines dans la misère et la pauvreté, on ne peut pas se satisfaire que les choix économiques aboutissent à aggraver de telles situations tout en hypothéquant l'avenir écologique de la région.

Recommendations of the Environmental Workshop

EuroMed Civil Forum
(Marseille, 31 October – 2 November 2008)

We call on Euro-Mediterranean countries to officially recognize environmentally induced migration and particularly the victims of forced migration as a new category in need of at least the same relief and aid as other categories of forced migrants e.g. refugees. These concerns should be streamlined in all relevant policies, strategies and programs.

We call on Euro-Mediterranean policy-makers to recognize the cumulative causality of environmental degradation and assist the countries and regions receiving migrants and refugees to reduce environmental impacts of large movements of people that usually exacerbate already critical social, economical and environmental conditions, such as abandonment of rural areas, rapid urbanization and sprawl, encroachment on agricultural land, local and global deforestation, water and sanitation stress.

We call on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership to support with adequate means research on the topic of environmental migration, together with other interested international and national partners. This could be by contributing in the framing of definitions, participating directly and indirectly in field research and

Recommandations de l'atelier Environnement

Forum Civil Euro-Med
(Marseille, 31 octobre – 2 novembre 2008)

Nous demandons aux pays Euro-Méditerranéens de reconnaître officiellement les causes environnementales de la migration et en particulier les victimes de la migration forcée comme une nouvelle catégorie ayant besoin du même support et aide que les autres catégories de réfugiés. Ces soucis devraient être intégrés dans les politiques, les stratégies et les programmes concernés.

Nous demandons aux preneurs de décisions Euro-Méditerranéens de reconnaître la causalité cumulative de la dégradation environnementale et d'assister les pays et les régions qui reçoivent des migrants à réduire les impacts environnementaux de grands mouvements de personnes, comme cela généralement aggrave des conditions critiques déjà existantes au niveau social, économique et environnemental, telles que l'abandonnement des zones rurales, l'urbanisation rapide, l'étalement dans des régions agricoles, la déforestation locale et globale, les situations de stress hydriques et sanitaire.

Nous demandons au Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen de supporter avec des moyens adéquats la recherche sur les thèmes de la migration environnementale, avec les partenaires concernés aux niveaux international et

facilitating this research. In particular, the Euromed Partnership should take note of the Climate Change, Environment and Migration Alliance (CEEMA) as an overarching international level alliance for issues linked to environmental change and migration.

We also call the Partnership to continue engaging with other interested organisations in information, capacity building, networking and dissemination of knowledge on the topic of environmental migration - eventually through the creation of a specialized body dealing with these issues - while proposing and putting in place effective protection mechanisms (legal, administrative, financial, etc.) for voluntary and/or forced migrants.

Degradation and limitation of natural resources can cause conflicts, which may lead to migration. We call decision makers in our region to address, with high-level priority, the following environmental issues: scarcity and degradation of water resources, desertification and soil degradation, pollution of all kinds (water, soil, air and sea pollution), deterioration of the coastal zone, stress exerted on biodiversity and threatened species, unsustainable management of all types of waste (domestic, industrial, hazardous, etc.).

Free trade is not necessarily fair trade. Fair trade means developing a just, sustainable equitable and gender fair-trading system that benefits people and the environment. In this regard, we call on the Euro-Mediterranean States to act upon the conclusions and recommendations of the sustainability impact assessment of the Euro- Mediterranean free trade area.

We call on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the responsible decision makers in each country to take into consideration sustainability principles and environmental protection in agricultural production and development in the region.

Mass tourism, as it is mainly designed in the Mediterranean, does not create direct wealth and development in the southern and eastern countries, while it causes irremediable damage to the natural patrimony of the region. We call on Euro-Mediterranean governments to give high priority to sustainable tourism in order to promote local socio-economic sustainable development, reduce the ecological footprint of tourist activities and protect fragile coasts and landscapes.

Wars and conflicts, while causing per se dramatic migratory flows are also responsible for further environmental deterioration that, in turn, could worsen migration trends. We call on Euro-Mediterranean policy makers to undertake serious efforts in solving the conflicts that are threatening human well-being and sustainable development in our region, while also preventing possible future disputes.

national, contribuant, par exemple, à la création de définitions, participant directement et indirectement à la recherche sur le terrain et facilitant cette recherche. En particulier, le Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen devrait prendre note de l'Alliance pour les Changements Climatiques, l'Environnement et la Migration (CEEMA) en tant que l'alliance internationale sur les thèmes relatifs aux changements environnementaux et à la migration.

Nous demandons aussi au Partenariat de continuer à s'engager avec d'autres organisations intéressées dans la promotion de l'information, du renforcement de capacités, de la mise en réseau et de la dissémination des connaissances sur la migration environnementale - éventuellement à travers la création d'une agence spécialisée sur ces questions - en proposant et créant aussi des mécanismes effectifs (légaux, administratifs, économiques, etc.) pour la protection des migrants volontiers et/ou forcés.

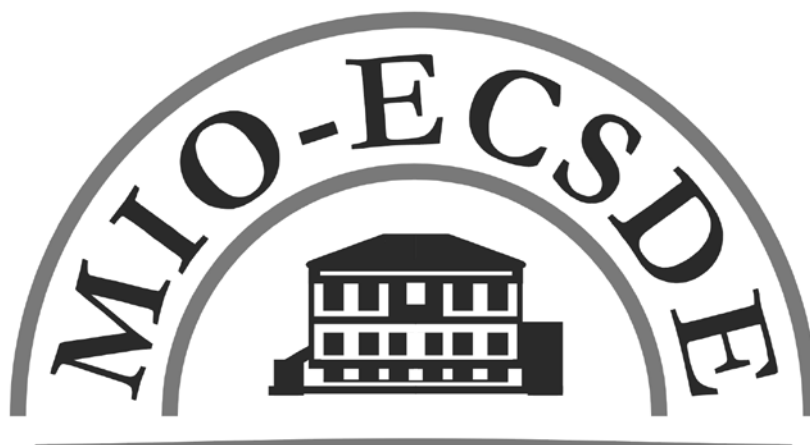
La dégradation et la limitation des ressources naturelles peuvent provoquer des conflits, qui, à leur tour, pourraient conduire à des migrations. Nous demandons aux preneurs de décisions dans notre région d'adresser avec une haute priorité les questions environnementales suivantes: pauvreté et dégradation des ressources en eau, désertification et dégradation du sol, pollution de tous les milieux (eau, sol, air, mer), détérioration de la zone côtière, stress sur la biodiversité et sur les espèces menacées, gestion non durable de tout type de déchets (domestiques, industriels, dangereux etc.)

Le libre échange n'est pas nécessairement un échange équitable. Celui-ci comporte le développement d'un système équitable, qui intègre aussi les questions de genre et apporte des bénéfices aux gens et aussi à l'environnement. A cet égard nous demandons aux Etats Euro-Méditerranéens d'agir en relation aux conclusions et aux recommandations de l'Etude d'Impact de Durabilité relative à la Zone de Libre Echange Euro-Méditerranéenne (EMFTA).

Nous demandons au Partenariat Euro-Méditerranéen et aux responsables de la prise de décisions dans chaque pays de prendre en compte les principes de durabilité et de protection de l'environnement dans la production agricole et dans le développement rural de la région.

Le tourisme de masse, généralement appliqué en Méditerranée, ne crée pas directement richesse et développement dans les pays du sud et de l'est de la région, causant parallèlement des dégâts irrémédiables au patrimoine naturel. Nous demandons aux gouvernements Euro-Méditerranéens de donner une haute priorité au tourisme durable au but de promouvoir un développement socio-économique soutenable au niveau local, réduisant ainsi l'empreinte écologique des activités touristiques et protégeant les côtes et les paysages fragiles.

Les guerres et les conflits, qui causent per se des flux migratoires dramatiques, sont aussi responsables d'une dégradation ultérieure de l'environnement qui, à son tour, pourrait rendre plus fortes les tendances migratoires. Nous demandons aux politiciens Euro-Méditerranéens de faire des efforts sérieux pour résoudre les conflits qui sont en train de menacer le bien-être des populations et le développement dans notre région tout en prévenant aussi des potentielles disputes dans le futur.



MIO-ECSDE Profile

The Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, is a Federation of Mediterranean Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the Environment and Development. MIO-ECSDE acts as a technical and political platform for the intervention of NGOs in the Mediterranean scene. In cooperation with Governments, International Organizations and other socio-economic partners, MIO-ECSDE plays an active role for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region.

Background

MIO-ECSDE became a federation of Mediterranean NGOs in March 1996. Its roots go back to the early 80s, when the expanding Mediterranean membership of the European Community encouraged the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to form its Mediterranean Committee supported by Elliniki Etairia (The Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage). The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO) was established in 1990 as a network of NGOs, under a joint project of EEB and Elliniki Etairia and in close collaboration with the Arab Network of Environment and Development (RAED). The continuous expansion of MIO-ECSDE's Mediterranean NGO network and the increasing request for their representation in Mediterranean and International Fora, led to the transformation of MIO-ECSDE to its current NGO Federation status. Today it has a membership of 104 NGOs from 25 Mediterranean countries.

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect the Natural Environment (flora and fauna, biotopes, forests, coasts, natural resources, climate) and the Cultural Heritage (archaeological monuments, and traditional settlements, cities, etc.) of the Mediterranean Region. The ultimate goal of MIO-ECSDE is to promote Sustainable Development in a peaceful Mediterranean.

Major tools and methods

Major tools and methods used by MIO-ECSDE in order to achieve its objectives are the following:

- Promotion of the understanding and collaboration among the people of the Mediterranean, especially through their NGOs, between NGOs and Governments, Parliaments, Local Authorities, International Organizations and socio-economic actors of the Mediterranean Region.
- Assistance for the establishment, strengthening, co-operation and co-ordination of Mediterranean NGOs and facilitation of their efforts by ensuring the flow of information among relevant bodies.
- Promotion of education, research and study on Mediterranean issues, by facilitating collaboration between NGOs and Scientific and Academic Institutions.
- Raising of public awareness on crucial Mediterranean environmental issues, through campaigns, publications, exhibitions, public presentations, etc.

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