

Call for Proposals

ASEAN Migration Outlook - Second Edition

Concept Note

1. Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) most recent Working Group II report on "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," gave an alarming, comprehensive analysis of the best available evidence on climate change, migration, and displacement. The report highlights that climatic conditions and events are important drivers of migration and displacement, and that migration responses to specific climate hazards are strongly influenced by economic, social, political, and demographic processes. Drought, tropical storms and hurricanes, heavy rains and floods are the most common climatic drivers for migration and displacement.¹

The WG II report also emphasizes that the most vulnerable populations will be disproportionately affected, and that rights-based solutions are critical to promoting equitable adaptation efforts and reducing the risks of maladaptation. Indeed, the vulnerability of individuals and communities in the context of climatic and environmental change is closely linked to the protection of human rights, the absence of which can aggravate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. The need to protect key social, economic, cultural and political rights and freedoms has emerged as an important feature of global responses to climate change.

Reflecting the growing body of evidence on this topic, the relationship between climate change and human mobility has also gained increasing visibility on the global policy agenda over the last decade, and there is now much more awareness of the need for global action. This growing political interest is evidenced by the development of global principles, such as those articulated under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and in the recommendations developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through its Task Force on Displacement.²

However, despite extensive and growing interest in the climate-migration nexus globally, efforts to translate policy principles and commitments into actionable commitments on the ground need to be addressed. Some countries have already developed national policies and frameworks that seek to address the challenges linked to the impacts of climate change on migration, though such efforts remain relatively limited.³ The same is true at the regional level. Whereas policy development on the links between migration and climate change is advancing within some regional bodies, such as the African Union (AU) and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), in other places the discussion is still nascent, if it exists at all.

Within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), cooperation on environmental issues has been underway since the 1970s, with a dedicated institutional framework and several critical policy documents and political declarations having been developed in that time. Many countries have also stepped up their efforts to build resilience to climatic and environmental shocks.

¹ https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FinalDraft_TechnicalSummary.pdf

² Chazalnoël, M and Randall, A, 2021, "MIGRATION AND THE SLOW-ONSET IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: TAKING STOCK AND TAKING ACTION", in IOM, 2021, *World Migration Report 2022*, Geneva.

³ Chazalnoël and Randall, 2021.

However, the extent to which these actions address the links between climate change and migration, or include migrants as a relevant sub-group, remains a substantial gap. Several analyses have argued for example that “climate-induced migration is still under-discussed in [ASEAN’s] policy-making”,⁴ despite the region being especially impacted by the human mobility implications of climate change and environmental degradation.

For example, the Asia-Pacific is the region most affected by disaster displacement worldwide, with Southeast Asia accounting for 30.7 per cent of the regional total, second only to East Asia (33.7%).⁵ Globally, two ASEAN countries – the Philippines and Indonesia – were amongst the top ten countries affected in 2021.⁶ Viet Nam also featured in that list the previous year.⁷ These challenges are likely to worsen in the context of a changing climate, with countries across South East Asia ranking as some of the most hazard prone globally, including because of their size, populations, geography and significant urbanization, amongst other issues.

The broader context for this is that the Asia-Pacific region as a whole is regressing on many of the climate-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and there are concerns about the insufficient ambition in national climate plans and frameworks, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.⁸ Within ASEAN specifically, although the ASEAN Member States have demonstrated strong commitment to climate action, for several countries where analysis is available, government targets and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have been rated highly or critically insufficient.⁹ Emissions also continue to rise across ASEAN, and are expected to almost double by 2040.¹⁰

With the urgency and impacts of climate change on ASEAN Member States (AMS) increasing, there is a clear need for further, more ambitious, data-driven action on climate change at the regional, national and local levels, and greater attention and awareness to the links between climate change and human mobility.

One major difficulty in developing policies on climate and migration is the complex nature of the issues involved, which necessitate significant engagement across sectors and ministries, ranging from labour and immigration / border management, through to climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction, amongst others. Human mobility in the context of adverse climate impacts is mostly multi-causal, as the decision to migrate is often shaped by a combination of different factors, including climate drivers. A wide range of environmental and climate factors can influence the decision or necessity to migrate, from sudden-onset disasters such as typhoons and floods, to slow-onset processes like sea-level rise and land degradation. Each of these can produce different impacts and mobility outcomes.

Related to this is the lack of data on the human mobility dimensions of climate change, which creates challenges to effective policy formulation. Many countries do not possess the requisite statistical tools to track mobility linked to climate impacts. When they do exist, these data are rarely compatible with

⁴ Marthin, A and Budiman, L, 2020, “The discourse of climate migration: unravelling the politics of ASEAN’s environmental policies”, *Pacific Journalism Review*, 26(2), 2020.

⁵ IDMC and ADB 2022, *Disaster Displacement in Asia and the Pacific*.

⁶ IDMC, 2022, *Global Report on Internal Displacement*.

⁷ IDMC 2021, *Global Report on Internal Displacement*.

⁸ See, for example, United Nations, 2021, ‘Is 1.5°C within Reach for the Asia-Pacific Region? Ambition and Potential of NDC Commitments of the Asia-Pacific Countries’, Bangkok.

⁹ <https://climateactiontracker.org>

¹⁰ ASEAN Green Future Project 2021, *The agenda for decarbonizing ASEAN*.

other sources, such as demographic data. While progress is being made to develop new, innovative methods to quantify and forecast human mobility patterns linked to climate change, in most cases, current estimates only measure flows of displaced people, notably in the context of disasters, but not stocks. Human mobility associated with slow onset climatic and environmental change is especially difficult to account for comprehensively, and data gaps continue to persist in understanding what happens to people once they move.

Another intricacy relates to the many forms that migration can take in the context of environmental change, with people moving short or long distances, internally or across borders, for a limited period of time or permanently. The 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework, the first major climate policy document to include migration issues, refers to the notion of climate change-induced displacement, migration and planned relocation to outline the continuum from forced to voluntary forms of migration. In addition, the impacts of climate change on immobile and “trapped” populations left behind, which do not have the means to migrate out of degraded areas, are also a factor that should be considered in relevant policies, alongside the differing impacts on people from diverse socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, religious and other groups.¹¹

In light of both the need for more tangible action on the climate change and migration nexus in ASEAN, as well as the complexities involved in developing a comprehensive understanding of the issue to inform policy dialogue in the region, the ASEAN Migration Outlook Second Edition will seek to engage with AMS by building awareness and understanding and instilling a sense of urgency to tackle the issues through policy and programming. It will take stock of what is currently known about the climate-migration nexus, interrogate current data availability and gaps, and unpack the interlinkages between climate and environmental change and different forms of mobility. Critically, it will address several issues, such as gender, human security and migrant protection, as cross-cutting dimensions. It will further develop practical, rights-based, and gender-sensitive recommendations for AMS to promote more flexible and effective migration management, labour market policies in light of the transition to the green economy, skills development and recognition for migrant workers among others.

2. Proposed outline

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND: UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE NEXUS

Reviewing the current evidence:

- Migration as a **multi-causal phenomenon**: climatic and environmental factors are one of many drivers (but ignoring these factors gives an incomplete picture).
- **Human mobility in the context of climate change takes many forms**, from disaster displacement, labour migration and planned relocation. But it is important to note that most climate-related migration and displacement currently takes place within countries.
- **Human rights impacts on migrants** affected by various forms of climate-change related migration and implications for the protection of migrants.
- **Outcomes of climate-related human mobility and in situ adaptation strategies are highly variable** with socio-economic factors and household resources, as well as policy and planning decisions at regional, national and local levels. Those with the fewest resources,

¹¹ Chazalnoël and Randall, 2021.

or with limited socio-economic and cultural coping mechanisms, will be the most affected and will require greater levels of protection.

- **Data availability and challenges:** while data on disaster displacement is available (even if incomplete), projecting the number of people migrating because of slow onset events is difficult due to the multi-causal nature of migration and the dominant role that socio-economic factors have in determining migration responses. The basic lack of data is also a key difficulty. But progress has been made in data collection methods, and methodologies continue to evolve.

2. CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACHES TO HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Explore interventions at the local, national and regional levels, in both origin and destination countries, regarding:

- **Solutions for people to stay:** exploring interventions to make migration a choice by building resilience and addressing the adverse climatic and environmental drivers that compel people to move, including approaches that analyse and address environmental drivers that compel people to move, accelerate climate action, reduce risk, and enhance adaptive capacities.
- **Solutions for people on the move:** exploring tools to assist and protect migrants and displaced persons (especially those experiencing specific vulnerabilities, such as women, children, older people, people living with disability, amongst others) in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters due to natural hazards, including development and implementation of anticipatory actions, life-saving aid, durable solutions, consular assistance and judicial and redress mechanisms.
- **Solutions for people to move:** exploring the development and implementation of innovative migration policies and practices, including admission and asylum procedures, measures to protect migrants' human rights in the context of climate change, measures to prepare people to move (such as skills development, training and recruitment), human rights and environmental due diligence by the private sector, livelihoods support and solutions that leverage the potential of migration for climate change adaptation and risk reduction and enhance the contributions (including social and economic remittances) of migrants, diasporas and communities to climate action and resilience building.

3. EMERGING CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Overview of emerging areas of research and focus:

- **The urban dimension:** migration to cities offers many opportunities for individuals, but rapid urbanisation is often associated with increased risk and vulnerability, especially where rural to urban migration takes place in poorly-serviced, hazard-prone informal settlements on the periphery of cities. An additional dimension relates to the labour outcomes of migrants, who sometimes end up in informal work in urban centres.
- **Safe, orderly and regular migration:** the relationship between climate change and migration is often discussed through a security prism, whereby climate change and migration are seen as a threat to stability and peace. Furthermore, migration driven by climate and environmental factors has an impact on the human rights conditions and

related vulnerabilities of migrants. Although evidence on the topic is growing, existing evidence on the topic is inconclusive.

- **Role of migration in meeting the green transition:** analysis on the links between climate change and human mobility typically focuses on the role of climate and environmental factors as drivers of human mobility. But emerging literature is beginning to explore its important role in the low-carbon transition, including as a tool to meet skills needs and gaps. The readiness of existing migrants and employers in greening industries would also be an important element of analysis.

4. CLIMATE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

- **Overview of recent global policy developments** on the climate-migration nexus, including cross-regional examples.
- **Review the current discourse** on climate change and migration in ASEAN.
- **Overview of existing policies and frameworks** in place to address climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in ASEAN, and the extent to which human mobility is integrated and the human rights of migrants are protected in the context of climate change.
- **Climate financing** in ASEAN, and availability for human mobility responses.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

3. Methodology

The development of the ASEAN Migration Outlook Second Edition will be led by the ASEAN Secretariat under the guidance of the ASEAN Committee on the Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers (ACMW) and ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Environment (ASOEN) with the support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

To support the above objectives, data will be drawn from secondary sources such as academic papers, reports, research articles, working papers, and statistical databases where relevant. Specifically, these sources include, but are not limited to: AMS' labour migration agencies or its equivalent, AMS' national statistical agency websites and reports, reports from other relevant ministries and agencies in AMS in charge of environment, disaster management, and border management, among others; ASEAN Statistical Yearbook, ILO, IOM, OECD, and other relevant international development organisations. In addition, literature review on relevant issues will be conducted. To ensure a regional overview, relevant ASEAN studies and documents will also be analysed (See **Annex 1**).

Shall it be deemed necessary upon conclusion of the desk reviews, information gathered through interviews and surveys with relevant government agencies in AMS may also be conducted.

An ad-hoc group of peer reviewers comprising ASEC, IOM, ILO, TAF, OECD and relevant expert organizations will be set up to provide technical inputs to the draft inception report and draft ASEAN Migration Outlook.

Data collected and report produced will be consulted with and validated by the ACMW through workshop and ad-referendum consultation facilitated by the ASEAN Secretariat. A final Outlook will be produced after incorporating feedback and consulted with ACMW for endorsement. The endorsed Outlook will be launched in 2023 for dissemination to wider stakeholders in the region.

4. Proposed project milestones and deliverables

To this end, a research expert (organisation) will be identified to carry out a study, prepare and finalise the ASEAN Migration Outlook Second Edition. The project is expected to take place in February 2023 to October 2023 and will involve the following milestones, responsibilities and timelines.

Milestones	Responsible Organisation	Timeline
1. Development and finalisation of the Inception Report		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off Meeting with consultant/s, ASEC, IOM 	Consultant, ASEC, and IOM	February 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile and review secondary data including existing researches, literatures, and various ASEAN declarations/instruments 	Consultant	February-March 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the draft Inception Report and submission to ASEC and IOM for inputs 	Consultant, ASEC and IOM	March-April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the revised draft Inception Report, including interview questions, if applicable, to ASEC based on inputs from IOM and ASEC 	Consultant	March-April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with ACMW/ASOEN, and finalisation of the draft inception report based on inputs received 	ACMW and ASOEN	March-April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the inception report by ACMW 	ACMW	April 2023
2. Development and finalisation of the ASEAN Migration Outlook		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and data gathering through virtual consultations and virtual focus group interviews with relevant government officials and national stakeholders in AMS as deemed necessary 	Consultant	April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the draft ASEAN Migration Outlook to ASEC and IOM for inputs 	Consultant, ASEC, IOM	May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the revised draft ASEAN Migration Outlook to ASEC based on inputs from IOM and ASEC 	Consultant	May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with ACMW and ASOEN of the revised Outlook 	ACMW and ASOEN	June-July 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Validation workshop to gather feedback from ACMW/ASOEN and stakeholders on the findings and recommendations 	ACMW, ASOEN, ASEC, IOM, peer reviewers	July 23

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of the revised Outlook to ASEC based on inputs from Workshop and initial consultations 	Consultant	Aug-Sep 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final review of the revised Outlook with ACMW and ASOEN 	ACMW and ASOEN	Sep 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement of the Outlook with ACMW 	ACMW	Sep 23
3. Regional Launch and Forum of the Outlook	ASEC, IOM	Oct 23

Expected Deliverables:

The following deliverables are expected from the consultant(s) or organisations/research institutes with the timeline agreed by ACMW:

1. Draft and final Inception Report, outlining the rationale, scope, methodology, timeline, and provisional outline of the Outlook;
2. Information and data gathered from reliable secondary sources and online interviews and/or survey (as deemed necessary);
3. Draft and final ASEAN Migration Outlook;
4. Well facilitated Validation Workshop as resource persons and its summary record; and
5. Well facilitated Regional Launch and Forum as resource persons and its summary record.

5. Requirements

The selected consultant(s) or organisations/research institutes should possess the following minimum qualifications and provide references as follows:

- Postgraduate degree in social sciences or other appropriate discipline related to the areas of work of the project.
- A minimum of 10 years of professional experience in the fields of international development, labour migration, climate change or other relevant fields.
- Proven in-depth understanding and research experience on the nexus of climate change and migration in ASEAN, with significant achievements/publications (samples to be provided please).
- Sound knowledge of ASEAN particularly on labour migration and/or climate change issues, and preferably with experience working with all or at least in some ASEAN Member States.
- Ability to work cooperatively with government officials of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Secretariat and UN to deliver results. Previous work experience with UN is an advantage.
- Experience working with workers and employers' organisations and/or migrant workers' associations, especially those of ASEAN Member States.
- Ability to deliver quality outputs within the timeframe stipulated. Gender and cultural sensitivity.
- Excellent English writing and communication skills, including facilitation of discussions. Fluency in one or more CLMT languages is an advantage.
- Demonstration of openness to change and ability to manage complexities.

Confidentiality

- Information relating to the evaluation of proposals and recommendations concerning awards shall not be disclosed to the Consultant/ consulting organisation who submitted Proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process.
- IOM shall not disclose any information in the application to any third party. IOM will however archive all applications for auditing purposes

How to apply:

Interested organization or consultant are invited to submit their applications, the proposals along with the following documents to the IOM Bangkok Human Resources Unit at e-mail bkkrecruitment@iom.int no later than 5.00 pm (GMT+7) on Tuesday, 7 February 2023. No late proposal and incomplete submissions shall be accepted.

- A duly completed IOM Personal History Form The form can be downloaded from <https://thailand.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1371/files/Vacancies/Form/iom-personal-history-form-270122.xls> and Consultant's CV (individual consultant)
- CVs of the consultants engaged for this assignment (consulting company)
- Cover letter with samples of previous work similar to this consultancy.
- Financial proposal; please download <https://bit.ly/35QZB9Z>
- Technical proposal

ANNEX 1

- **ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 25th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP25):**
<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2-ASEAN-Joint-Statement-on-Climate-Change-to-the-UNFCCC-COP-25.pdf>
 - **ASEAN Joint Statement to the UN Climate Change Summit 2019:**
<https://asean.org/asean2020/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/AJSCC-to-UN-Climate-Action-Summit-2019-ADOPTED.pdf>
 - **ASEAN Guidelines on Effective Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers:**
<https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/07-ASEAN-Guidelines-on-Effective-Return-and-Reintegration10.pdf>
 - **ASEAN-OSHNET's Guide for the Development of a Common Risk Management Framework:**
https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Endorsed_ASEAN-OSHNETs-Guidelines-for-Development-of-A-Common-Risk-Mana...pdf
 - **Urbanisation, People Mobility, and Inclusive Development Across Urban-Rural Continuum in ASEAN:** <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Study-on-Urbanization-People-Mobility-Inclusive-Development-FINAL.pdf>
 - **Regional Study on Green Jobs Policy Readiness in ASEAN:** <https://asean.org/book/regional-study-on-green-jobs-policy-readiness-in-asean/>
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