Research on Cultural Protection of Environmentally Displaced Persons

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Abstract. Life or death, this is a question. Environmental change and environmental degradation have fundamentally changed the world’s geographic pattern. As global warming accelerates sea level rise, some island nations are in danger of disappearing completely. When the land of the island nation disappears, these environmentally displaced persons (EDPs) not only need to be relocated, but also run the risk of losing their unique culture, language and lifestyle. Of course, this is a very complicated issue. Our paper will explain our views from the drivers of environmental change and population migration, the cultural protection of displaced persons and the pattern of immigration integration. It should be noted. If we are islanders, we would very much hope that our culture, location and identity will not disappear. Obviously, the full emigration and abandonment of these islands will have far-reaching adverse effects on the protection of islands culture and territorial political sovereignty.

1. Introduction

Environmental change, environmental degradation desertification, deforestation, land degradation, climate change and water scarcity have fundamentally changed the world’s geographic landscape. Environmental degradation affects where and how people live. It threatens human lives and livelihoods (especially the poorest and most vulnerable), displaces people and exacerbates migration[1]. At the same time, armed conflict has led to further movement of people who want to escape violence within their own borders (internal displacement) or across international borders (international refugees). Civil war analysis of the past 70 years shows that at least 40% of population migration is related to competition for control or use of natural resources such as land, water, minerals or oil. By the end of 2016, the number of international refugees or internally displaced had exceeded 65 million, the highest number since the end of the Second World War, and 128 million people needed humanitarian assistance.

Population growth is leading to more people living in marginal areas where the environment is fragile. On average, 26.4 million people leave their homes every year due to natural disasters. It is equivalent to one person being displaced every second.

Environmentally displaced persons (EDPs): People who have to move due to climate change events and are unable to live in their former homes[2]. Although the problem of irregular population migration in recent years has become prominent due to the European “immigrant crisis”, it is not just a challenge facing Europe. Just as populations migrate around the world, every corner of the world can be affected by environmental displacement.
A controversial issue is whether people displaced by environmental degradation and climate change should be referred to as “environmental refugees”, “environmental migrants” or “environmentally displaced persons”. This is not just a question of semantics. Which definition is universally accepted will fully affect the corresponding obligations of the international community under humanitarian law and the rights of displaced persons. However, under international law, the use of the term “refugee” to describe those who have escaped environmental pressure is inaccurate. Most people who are forced to leave their homes due to environmental changes are likely to stay within their national borders, but returning to areas flooded by rising sea levels is almost impossible. To some extent, due to the lack of adequate definitions, people often fail to notice the environment-driven population movements, especially when population displacements occur over time. Without the international agencies responsible for collecting data on the displaced population, their provision of basic services becomes even more impossible. They cannot prove political persecution in their country of origin and are often ignored by international humanitarian law[3].

But the current situation is very complicated. The most vulnerable groups often lack migration pathways and nodes, so they may be trapped in place. Others, such as herders, rely on seasonal migration as a livelihood strategy. At the same time, planned population migration in the face of risks such as major land degradation can be used as a "relief valve" to reduce the environmental pressure of fragile ecosystems and to "export" its environmental footprint to other places[4]. However, the migration itself may have an impact on the environment and cause environmental degradation, which may exacerbate humanitarian emergencies or worsen relations with host country communities, and this also requires attention. Informal urbanization or unorganized refugee camps can put pressure on scarce land, water, energy and food resources. This situation may disrupt the functioning of the ecosystem, lead to health risks due to improper waste disposal, and displaced people will place greater competitive pressure on local communities.

2. Displacement due to climate change

2.1. Global warming and sea level rise
As we all know, human production activities have intensified the rise in global temperature. From the Figure 1 and Figure 2, we can see that there are signs of global temperature rise.

![Global temperature change graph](image1)
![Ocean surface temperature change map](image2)

Here we simply make two fits to the ocean surface temperature. According to the fitted model, we conclude that the global warming trend is irreversible before humans make changes, and the ocean surface temperature has been rising trend. Human production activities produce excess carbon dioxide, which increases exponentially each year. Behind data is telling us the fact countless times: the global sea level is rising. Whether it is rising data recorded by tide gauges all over the world, or the surge in the number of eroded coasts on the global coastline, this fact is clearly illustrated[5].

Just as the expansion of the ocean will have different impacts on different coastal countries, those
coastal cities that are susceptible to sea-level rise will also have different disaster conditions due to different objective factors, such as tidal amplitude, storm surges, and low-lying areas of wind and waves. The degree of civilization of a city and the amount of available resources are important factors that determine the quality of disaster prevention and relief.

2.2. Human conflict and violence

![Figure 3. Impact of sea level rise](image)

![Figure 4. Total annual new displacement since 2003(Conflict and violence) and 2008(Disaster)](image)

![Figure 5. Disaster-related new displacements by scale of event](image)

![Figure 6. Disaster-related new displacements by hazard category](image)

![Figure 7. Number of IDPs and refugees](image)
Note:

Very small events: refers to small and medium-sized incidents (less than 100,000 people have been displaced
Large events: displaced between 100,000-999,999
Very large events: displaced between 1-3 million
Mega events: displaced more than 3 million people

It can be seen from the Figure 4 that the number of displaced people due to conflict and violence is still large and there is an upward trend. In fact, most of the displacements caused by conflict and violence are still related to environmental disasters. Analysis of the civil war over the past 70 years shows that at least 40% of the population has migrated and competed for natural resources such as land, water, minerals or oil Control or use related[6].

Figure 5 shows disaster-related new displacements by scale of event. It can be seen from the figure that the population displacement caused by small and medium-sized events, large-scale events, and large-scale events gradually increases, which also means that the population displacement caused by environmental changes gradually increases. Figure 6 shows disaster-related new displacements by hazard category. It can be clearly seen that the number of people displaced by the Earth itself has decreased significantly, and the number of people displaced by natural weather disasters has increased significantly more than ever. Figure 7 shows number of IDPs and refugees[7]. It can be seen that the numbers of both have significantly increased.

3. Environmental change and cultural protection

3.1. Drivers of environmental change
The choice to migrate or stay is largely driven by a number of factors. Global environmental changes have further affected the complex interactions between these drivers and can lead to different outcomes in decision-making. The drivers of environmental change and population migration are shown in Figure 8.

Environmental degradation and poor management are intertwined with the political, economic and social drivers of population displacement. We need to better understand and respond to these complex factors. Unless we can deal with long-term environmental vulnerability, the huge populations displaced each year will become our "new normal". The field of environmental protection can play an important role in allowing people to think about the issue of population displacement from an ecological perspective, strengthening the capacity of communities and countries to withstand shocks and environmental changes and helping to plan communities that are displaced due to inevitable environmental changes move. After all, displacement is not just a political challenge. As is the case in the Iraqi marshlands, it is important to consider it an environmental challenge. Even the scale of population displacement that may occur under mild climate change scenarios is enough to require countries focused on environmental, humanitarian and population displacement to work together to strengthen people’s resilience in a changing world[8].

3.2. Population migration in extreme weather
The development of human society is a history of the evolution of the struggle against the environment and the acquisition of survival and development resources. Social adaptation is a kind of adjustment response of disaster migrants to the stimulation of natural disasters[9]. Changes in the environment, while promoting the enhancement of human adaptive capacity, human beings are constantly tossing and migrating, that is, the so-called ecological driven primitive migration.

Disaster migration as primitive migration is an adaptive response and survival strategy choice for human beings facing natural disasters. At the same time, the response of different people to disasters is different that some people will migrate and another people choose to stay home because of the difference between social capital and cognitive level [10]. A study on climate migration in arid areas of Ningxia found that when faced with drought for more than half a year and the drought is becoming more and
more serious, 32.5% of farmers and herdsmen choose to improve the adverse conditions of drought through migration, mainly by self-migration and government unified organization migration. In some cases, disaster migrants can use their accumulated social capital, social policy support to adapt to extreme climate change, and the choice of behavioral adaptation strategies to face disasters is also based on social structure (policy) support and social capital accumulation.

Figure 8. Drivers of environmental change and population migration

3.3. Policy responses for disaster migrants
Affected by the social environment, the affected people will adjust their dynamic behavior choices according to the change of disaster migration policy, so as to be more in line with their own interests. At the same time, it should be noted that while disaster migrants are shaped and constructed by social structure and social policy, their choice of action is also constructing structure and policy, which has an impact on the promulgation of policies related to disaster migration. There is a need to establish a database of disaster migrants and to study and develop regulations to guarantee disaster migration[11]. At present, the research on climate (disaster) migration policy is relatively few, and many aspects are even blank. The formulation of scientific policies requires a series of mature knowledge accumulation, including the relationship between migration and environment, the structure of migrant population and the characteristics of migration dynamics, etc.

It is necessary to organize and carry out a comprehensive survey of the population distribution, population structure, population growth, ethnic composition and migration structure of potential disaster-affected areas, to establish a database of potential disaster-affected migrants, to take villages and towns as the smallest unit, to comprehensively analyze the reserve resources such as land, carrying capacity, social and economic development potential of potential disaster-affected areas, to plan patterns, resettlement destinations, resettlement scale and structure, and to formulate disaster resettlement plans scientifically and rationally[12].

3.4. Disaster resettlement planning response
The adaptation strategy is to adapt to the impacts of climate change through a variety of ways and means. At the level of disaster resettlement planning, it is to adopt a series of planning tools to adapt to the
impacts of climate change on communities, people and the environment. The difference in the form and structure of building settlements in highlands, north and south reflects the action strategy of human adaptation to climate change[13]. To promote the construction of emergency response system for the prevention of extreme climate events and improve the disaster risk prediction and prevention system, the aim is to reduce the large-scale migration of disaster migrants, and to ensure the sustainable development ability of the residence with effective prediction and prevention measures.

On this basis, it is necessary to further consider the ability of the region to adapt to natural disasters as a whole, combine with the planning of the main functional areas of various localities, discuss the active disaster migration plan, and change "disaster migration" into "risk migration"[14].

4. Conclusion
In the context of increasing extreme climate change, the high frequency of extreme climate events and the danger of inundation of some countries caused by sea-level rise pose a growing threat to the safety of human lives and property. There are currently some migration patterns, and these different migration patterns are related to cultural protection, which shows the importance of cultural protection. By considering the relationship between climate change and population migration, the extreme climate change-disaster migration response model is constructed. In summary, this paper conducts in-depth research on environmentally displaced persons at different levels through different directions, and gives relevant suggestions and measures, which have certain reference value.

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