



Government
Office for

Science

 **Foresight**

A silhouette of a person carrying a large basket on their head, walking on a sandy path in a tropical setting with palm trees and a beach in the background.

Migration and Global Environmental Change

Future Challenges
and Opportunities

Action Plan

Migration and Global Environmental Change

Future Challenges and Opportunities

On 20 October 2011, Foresight published the findings of its project Migration and Global Environmental Change: Future Challenges and Opportunities.

Interested parties in stakeholder organisations and the Government, in the UK and internationally, have contributed their expertise to the process of developing and analysing the evidence. Furthermore, a number of these organisations have already indicated that they will use the findings to inform their work in a variety of ways. This Action Plan sets out some of these activities. It is not intended to be exhaustive; however, it provides a flavour of the interest the Report is already achieving. Progress against these and other activities linked to the Report will be reviewed by the project's High-level Stakeholder Group in late 2012 – the Project's 'One Year Review'.

Hard copies of the project final report and executive summary are available through www.bis.gov.uk/foresight. All the project's reports and evidence base is also freely available for download through this website.

The Foresight Programme in the UK Government Office for Science is under the direction of the Chief Scientific Adviser. Foresight helps government think systematically about the future.

Action Plan

Organisation	Action
International Actions	
World Bank	<p>In view of the importance of the issues covered in this Foresight report, the World Bank is convening a meeting of interested stakeholders for a wide ranging discussion in December 2011. Foresight will be presenting at that event along with others. More generally, the World Bank looks forward to reading about the report's findings in detail with a view to assessing their implications.</p>
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	<p>As a participant in the High-level Stakeholder Group, the OECD has taken a strong interest in this evidence-based approach to the long-term implications of migration and environmental change. It will be exploring opportunities for collaboration on work streams related to development assistance, sustainable development, and climate change.</p>
UNESCO	<p>Today, there is mounting evidence that climate change has the potential to contribute to substantial movements of people. But the response of states and the international community has so far been limited at best. The UK Foresight project on Global Environmental Migration is therefore a much-needed initiative to increase our preparedness. UNESCO welcomes this report and, as current Chair of the Global Migration Group, recognizes its valuable input to the work of the United Nations system on this issue.</p>
Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities	<p>The Foresight report is a major contribution to identifying the decisions that policy makers need to take today to ensure that migration in the context of environmental change does not cause major conflicts over the next 50 years. It is extremely timely, given the big challenges that policy makers face, and the Office of the OSCE Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) will support the dissemination of the report by inviting the lead authors to present it at the Economic and Environmental Committee meeting of the OSCE, which will take place on November 9 in Vienna. The report's findings will strengthen the OCEEA activities in addressing challenges related with environment and security.</p>

Organisation	Action
The International Organization for Migration	The International Organization for Migration welcomes the international Migration and Global Environmental Change report and looks forward to considering its findings in detail. The IOM is also working with Foresight in order to organise an international event in Geneva involving a range of international experts and stakeholders. This will be an opportunity for the findings to be presented, and for a discussion of their implications for policy development and action.
UK Actions	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	The FCO will communicate the findings of the Foresight Report through the Science and Innovation and Climate Change Networks based in our Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates throughout the world. This will in turn help to stimulate an international debate on how environmental change will influence migration.
Department for International Development (DFID)	The Department for International Development welcomes the Foresight Report on Migration and Global Environmental change which is relevant to a number of issues of interest to the Department. DFID will give careful consideration to its findings following their publication.
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)	As Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser, I welcome the Foresight report, and the contribution its scientific analysis will make to a range of important issues. Defra will be reading the findings in detail with a view to considering their possible implications for a number of areas, notably relating to sustainability, environmental change, and climate change adaptation.
The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)	ESRC and NERC welcome the Foresight report and its strong use of science and evidence in this complex and important field. Both research councils look forward to reading the report in detail, and in assessing its implications for their research policies and priorities.
Living with Environmental Change (LWEC)	LWEC welcomes the Foresight project and the contribution it makes to the knowledge base available to policy makers, as environmental change has the potential to be a major driver of future migration. Ensuring decisions are future proof in this important area will be critical, and in this context, the project's long-term and strategic perspective will be of interest in helping

Organisation	Action
	<p>shape the research and policy agendas.</p> <p>The organisation will be reading the final report in detail over the coming months, and assessing its implications.</p>
CARE International UK	<p>CARE International considers the government’s new Foresight report on global environmental change and human migration to be timely and extremely pertinent. In particular, the consequences of environmental and climate-related shocks and stresses in the coming years on vulnerable communities living in coastal areas and drylands is of interest. We are currently studying the implications of changing rainfall patterns on human mobility and so we welcome this research as an important contribution to development discourse on humanitarian action, governance and climate change. CARE International looks forward to engaging further with the government on these critical issues.</p>

