



Summary

Introduction

The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) together with IOM hosted an official side event to the IMRF titled “*Linking Regional Migration Policy Frameworks to Climate Change Adaptation*”.

The virtual forum was opened by [Dr. Dereje WAKJIRA](#), Acting Director for the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD); and moderated by [Ms. Noora MAKELA](#), Regional Programme Coordinator, Migration Environment and Climate Change Division, IOM East and Horn of Africa.

The guest speakers were:

- [Mr. Japheth KASIMBU](#), Transhumance Expert, IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD).
- [Dr. Cory RODGERS](#), Senior Researcher, Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford and author of the report ‘Equipped to Adapt’.
- [Ms. Lisa LIM AH KEN](#), Regional Thematic Specialist on Migration, Environment and Climate Change at the IOM Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa.
- [Ms. Aissata KANE](#), IOM Senior Regional Advisor to the Office of the Director General for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The meeting was hosted via Zoom and the recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkErd7U09oc>

In the introduction, the moderator emphasized how *the GCM offers an opportunity to anchor the environmental and climatic dimensions in the international migration governance agenda*; the GCM:

- *rests on relevant international frameworks on environment and climate change: the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the commitment to reach the furthest behind first, as well as the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Given the increased evidence of human mobility linked to disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, it is now critical to link the implementation of the GCM commitments with those in the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework;*
- *articulates a comprehensive understanding of the challenges linked to the environment–migration nexus, including the necessity to prioritize adaptation efforts;*
- *acknowledges the multi-causality of migration as environmental drivers interact with political, economic and demographic drivers;*
- *outlines the need for states to cooperate to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for people migrating in the context of slow-onset environmental degradation and disasters;*
- *recognizes the need for more investments in evidence, data, and research to address environmental migration challenges;*
- *outlines the importance of working at the regional level to address environmental drivers of migration.*

In his opening remarks, [Dr. Dereje Wakjira](#) shed light to the transhumance – the movement of people and livestock across countries in the IGAD region. IGAD region is mostly Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and 30 per cent of the total population live in these areas, typically pastoral and agro-pastoral



communities who mostly depend on livestock production and rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods. The success of this livelihood is almost entirely reliant on their capacity to move long distances to access water and pasture. Pastoral populations are vulnerable to climatic shock, particularly droughts; and strengthened actions are needed for climate change adaptation and preserving dryland ecosystems.

Panel discussion

- **Dr. Cory Rodgers** explained the growing challenges that climate change is posing for the future of pastoralism, but also the importance of pastoralism for the future of food security in the region. His report provides the latest evidence on the state of pastoralism and their adaptive capacities, as well as key entry points for how we, the regional and national governments, the UN family, the donor family, and other practitioners, can ensure that that pastoralists continue to be able to make a living from the ASALs for the foreseen future.
- **Mr. Japheth Kasimbu** demonstrated how the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance is positioned to support the adaptive capacity of pastoralists and holds the promise of securing the safe and regular mobility of this population, which is so critical as we continue accelerating towards increasing climate and environmental change.
- **Mrs. Lisa Lim Ah Ken** emphasized how IOM's work in the East and Horn of Africa forwards the objectives of the GCM in the context of climate and environmental change together with its Regional partner IGAD.

Through the discussion with the audience, the speakers of the side event recognized that working on migration in the context of climate change necessarily must include a focus on partnerships, and the statement within the GCM Guiding Principles; 'The Global Compact expresses our collective commitment to improving cooperation on international migration'. Particularly, Mr. Japheth Kasimbu explained how the implementation of the Transhumance Protocol road map incorporates the whole-of-society approach bringing together stakeholders from all levels. The speakers further elaborated on the importance of considering gender-specificities. Within the pastoral communities, women and men share different roles in managing their livelihoods, and the Transhumance Protocol particularly considers participation and empowerment of women and youth in the implementation process.

In her closing remarks, **Ms. Aissata Kane**, acknowledged that while significant progress have been made since the GCM was adopted in 2018, in the context of rapidly, accelerating climate change, there is a lot more to be done and a greater urgency to implement solutions for the safety and protection of the most vulnerable communities.

She emphasized that partners, UN and other practitioners, donor community and relevant Member States, should rally around these excellent initiatives, such as the Protocol on Transhumance, and support their implementation.

There is a need to support migrants and mobile populations, so they are able to use migration as an adaptation strategy to climate change and related pressures, rather than being forced to move out of desperation. It is about how governments, UN agencies, academia and other stakeholders work together to forward the objectives of the GCM and protect mobile populations who are negatively impacted by climate and environmental change.