

Climate Migration: An Analysis of the Discourse within the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States

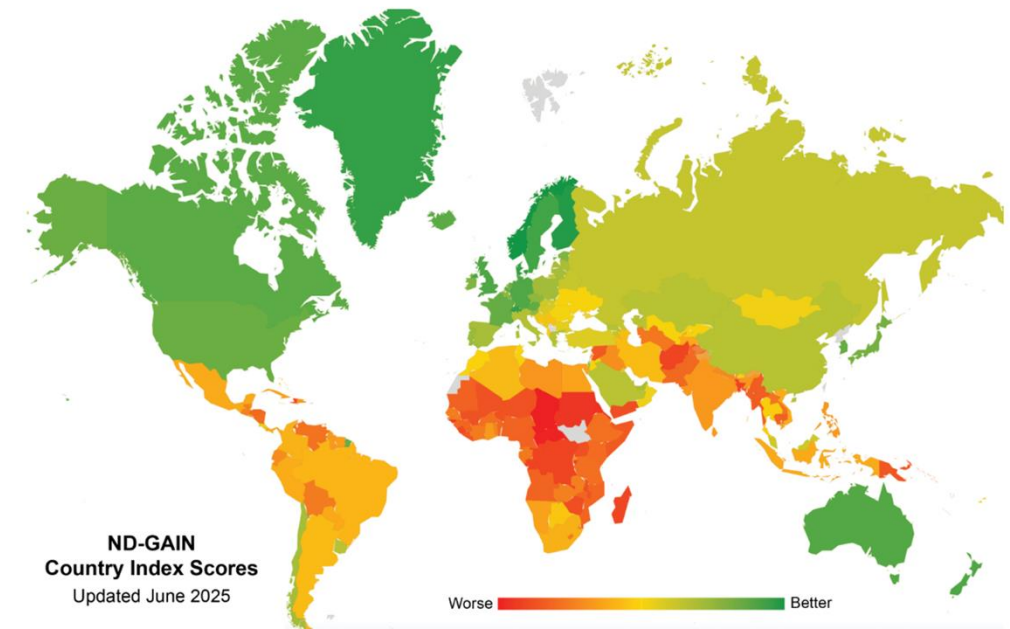
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The logo for The College of Wooster, featuring the text "THE COLLEGE OF" in a smaller font above "WOOSTER" in a larger, bold font, all contained within a rectangular border.

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Background

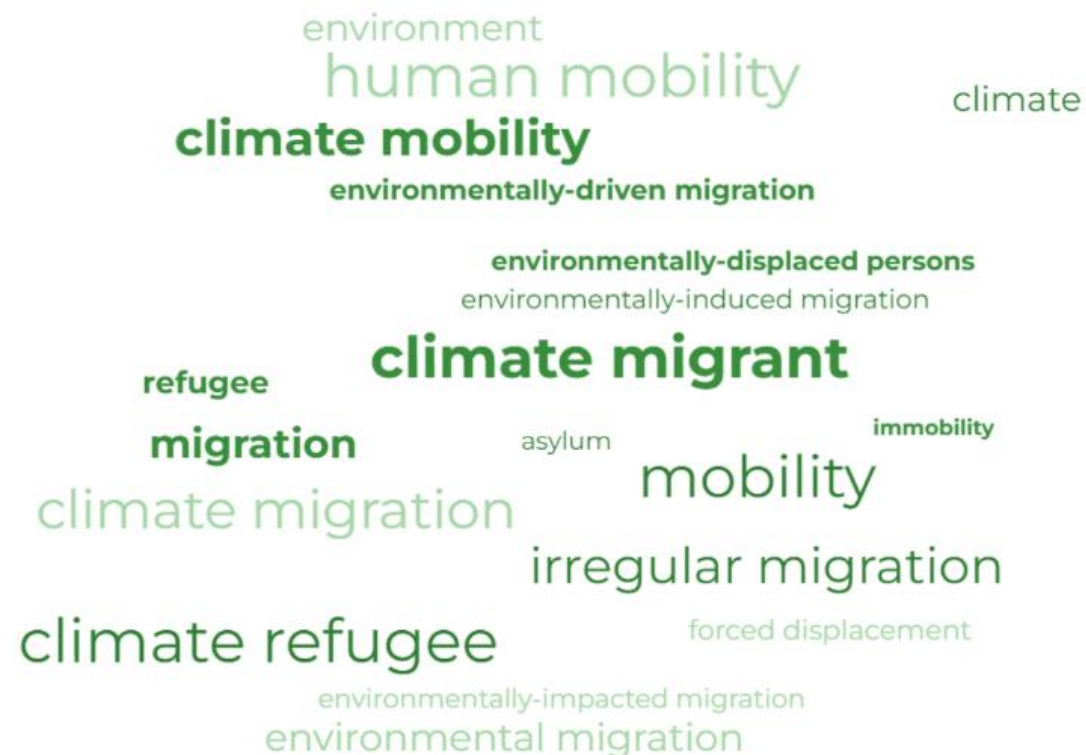
- What is Climate Migration?
- What is the world doing about it?
- Why is climate migration difficult to address?
- Focus and purpose of the study
 - EU & ECOWAS
 - Policy vs. Discourse



Map of World according to the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index from the University of Notre Dame

Terminology

- No official, global recognition for "climate migrants"
- Consequences
- Proposed solutions



The European Union (EU)

- The EU has had a limited response:
 - Resource constraints
 - Political division
 - Organizational silos
 - Unequal impact between Member States
- Discourse in the EU frames climate migration as a security threat to social stability, contributing to limited action.
- EU presence in spheres of both climate change and "irregular migration"



The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

- The organization suffers from
 - Organizational instability
 - Domestic political uncertainty
 - Funding gaps
- ECOWAS frames climate migration as a climate justice issue due to the unequal global response.



Econometric Method

- Both the environment and migration are “common goods” that suffer from the tragedy of the commons
- Lack of data on climate migrants
- Analysis using the gravity model of migration
- The data supports the claim that there is a relationship between climate vulnerability and migration, emphasizing the need for comprehensive policy.

Results

- There are high levels of statistical significance for the coefficient on climate vulnerability, suggesting a strong relationship between climate vulnerability and net migration.
- There is no statistical significance on the coefficient of the interaction term between Climate Vulnerability and Political Stability, suggesting that Climate Vulnerability impacts migration regardless of a country's political stability.

The Gravity Model

VARIABLES	(1) All Controls	(2) Interaction
ClimateVulnerability	15.05*** (5.146)	16.66*** (5.872)
Distance	-0.000929 (0.000778)	-0.000929 (0.000778)
Unemployment	-0.00681 (0.0426)	-0.0133 (0.0445)
Inflation	-0.0114 (0.0124)	-0.0121 (0.0122)
PoliticalStability	-0.201 (0.151)	-1.199 (2.091)
GDPGrowth	-0.0171 (0.0153)	-0.0163 (0.0159)
ClimateVulnerability x PoliticalStability		1.801 (3.635)
Constant	3.585 (5.098)	2.702 (5.542)

Robust standard errors in parentheses
 *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$



Discussion

- The framing by each organization provides insights into the management of the issue and context for future action.
 - Both organizations recognize climate migration in some form but stop short of meaningful action.
 - The lack of terminology and official protection is a major downfall and challenge in the future of this topic.
 - This issue highlights global inequality and also questions the strength of International Governmental Organizations (IGOs).
 - Limitations from the structure and power of these organizations hurts initiatives.
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Future Work

- Studying other regions and organizations
- Suggesting actionable policies
- Navigating missing data by adding other controls and refining DV and IV



Thank you for attending.

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