**Climate Change and Human Migration**

As we work our way through the course, we will hear case studies about specific examples of where the effects of climate change are already driving migration. In this activity, we want to look at the broad strokes of climate-induced migration.

We are looking at an extract from a report from Columbia University’s Center for International Earth Science Information Network about climate change and human migration.

1. In your group, half of the members will read the Executive Summary, and half will read the Policy Recommendations.

2. Together, talk about answers to these questions:

* What is most likely to drive short-term migrations?
* What is most likely to drive long-term migrations?
* Do you think the economic and social impacts of short-term and long-term migration are likely to be similar?
* What populations (both geographic and economic) are most likely to be at risk?
* What are the major barriers to adaptation and resettlement?

3. Consider the issue of permanent migrants from island nations and low-lying nations. There is no possible adaptation for people whose homes disappear beneath rising ocean waters.

Assume you are consultants to the United Nations hired to find alternatives for the people displaced as sea level rises. Create a proposal for where these people will ultimately live. Your proposal must include consideration of these issues:

* If their entire country disappears underwater, do these people lose citizenship in their original country? Should they become citizens of other countries, or should they remain a sovereign people – a nation within their new country of refuge?
* Should populations be kept together and moved en masse, or should populations be dispersed to different countries or provinces?
* To what degree are other nations responsible for paying the costs of resettlement? Should costs be borne only by the country the migrants move to? Should all countries contribute? How should the costs be divided?
* Should countries have the right to refuse environmental refugees, or should international law require that nations admit people who no longer have a home country?