Please find attached the presentation by Mr. David Stone, Director – Livelihood and Environmental Security (LIVES) Advisory Group, delivered to the Session III (Environment and Migration), of the 13th OSCE Economic Forum, Prague, 23 -27 May 2005.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS

Dealing with Issues rather than the Problems

SOME FACTS...

- More than 160 wars have been recorded since the end of World War II.
- Almost 40 million people worldwide have been uprooted from their homes by war alone.
- 28 million people affected by natural disasters in 1960s; 64 million in 1980s;...
- Nearly every country in the world hosts refugees, including many of the poorest nations.
- 11 million refugees today, 25% in Africa.

...AND ISSUES

- Natural resources – diamonds, timber, water – are increasingly becoming a cause of conflict and population displacement.
- Ecosystem services & functions collapse under pressure of sudden, concentrated human displacements.
- Many camps & settlements are located close to borders and protected areas.
- Significant damage can result, but preventive and/or mitigation measures can be taken.
WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

- **Refugees** - conflict generated; outside of country of origin; unable to return under prevailing circumstances
- **Internally displaced people** - some, but not all, conflict generated; may be unable to leave their country
- **Environmentally displaced persons** - environmental degradation is a major (but not the only) cause of displacement
- **Voluntary migrants** - voluntary movement for economic, social, cultural or personal gain
- **Returnees** - refugees (mainly) who are able to return home following political changes

SOME ISSUES OF CONCERN

- **Fuelwood, building materials and charcoal:** Use & Commerce
- **Overgrazing**
- **Poor agricultural practices**
- **Erosion**
- **Water pollution**
- **Waste management**
- **Poaching (bushmeat)**
- **Introduced invasive species**
- **Social & economic disruption**
- **Conflict**

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Understand the situation
- Identify what is/might be at risk
- Assess what environmental mitigation opportunities might be available
- Consider the impact of institutional assistance - including donor and government responses - on the environment and existing communities
- Consider the implications of "no action"

4 PHASES

- Normal/Pre-emergency
- Emergency
- Care and Maintenance
- Durable Solutions
REHABILITATION

- **PAKISTAN – INCOME GENERATING PROJECTS FOR REFUGEE AREAS**
  - 12 years (1984-1996) - $86 million
  - “This approach does not provide a blueprint for replication” WB Eval

- **SUDAN – SUSTAINABLE OPTIONS FOR LIVELIHOOD SECURITY IN EASTERN SUDAN**
  - Participatory approach
  - 3-year programme; 300,000 people; $11.5 million
NORMAL / PRE- EMERGENCY

**SITUATION**
- Stable conditions suddenly disrupted, and dissolve, for part or whole area.
- Multiple reasons possible –- natural resource competition (drought), political...
- Affected people usually have no prior experience of this type of disaster.
- May have no option but to flee, displacement, scattering.
- High demand builds for natural resources (water, wood, pasture, wildlife), leading to competition and possible conflict.

**ACTIONS TO TAKE**
- Identify potential hotspots/indexes.
- Identify high risk sites (e.g. potential flash floods, etc.), using different planning/mapping software.
- Produce contingency plans.
- Engage local communities in decision-making.
- Influence settlement location and design.
- Identify appropriate alternative systems of production.
- Build local capacity.
- Jointly develop and implement management strategies.
- Dissemination working through designated leaders.

EMERGENCY

**SITUATION**
- Sudden onset –- little or no warning.
- Impact transferred to another region.
- High population (and livestock) and economic condition dispersal –- sudden pressure on region.
- Possible conflict leading to competition over resources, pasture, wildlife, (water, wood).
- Abandoning possessions.
- Prior experience of this type of competition (drought), political...

**ACTIONS TO TAKE**
- Prevention before care.
- Identify early needs and risks –- integrate environmental concerns where appropriate.
- Crisis planning –- try and be positive.
- Best practices applied.
- Engage local communities in decision-making.
- Influence settlement location and design.
- Identify appropriate alternative systems of production.
- Awareness raising –- at least, e.g. potential livestock off-take of residences, crops/fields.
- Periodic re-assessment management strategies.
- Identify potential management needs.
- Full and periodic mapping and mapping by key leaders.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

**SITUATION**
- Situation begins to stabilise for part of population at least.
- Some resources available for longer term planning.
- Long-term perspective should always be adopted.
- Response organisation.
- Seek information on environmental/care management.
- Identification and mapping by key leaders.
- Potential regional and local leadership.

**ACTIONS TO TAKE**
- Detailed assessments (environmental, social, economic) conducted.
- Establish management plan for affected regions/communities.
- Joint activities initiated for local communities.
- Periodic re-assessment management.
- Awareness raising.
- Informal and formal training.
- Capacity building and capacity building.
- Dissemination working through designated leaders.
- Periodic re-assessment management.
- Environmental/care management needs.
- Long-term perspective.
- Environmental/care management needs.
- Awareness raising and public management.
DURABLE SOLUTIONS

SITUATION
- Possible upheaval if returning to home country (refugee) or town/region (IDP) or new country (refugee/migrant)
- Returnee (refugee/IDPs) population may add further stress to existing situation
- Few dominant actors - are they the right/appropriate ones?
- Often weakened government and civil society structure - incapable of making good decisions
- Lack of clarity/transparency over ownership issues, as well as security

ACTIONS TO TAKE
- Careful pre-planning to assess actual situation and anticipated needs of returnees
- Examine broader landscape needs and options to make sustainable environmental management
- Housing and infrastructure takes environmental considerations into account
- Dispute resolution skills for all community members - new and existing
- Confidence building and stakeholder involvement
- Legal rights clarified, e.g. land tenure
- Education
- Skills training based on experiences and needs
- Livelihood restoration

THEORY TO PRACTICE
- No blueprint available – every situation is different
- Coordination and co-operation between all stakeholders/actors becomes all the more important
- Regular consultation is required between displaced persons, local inhabitants, migrants, nomads, local and central government authorities, NGOs, UN teams, donors
- Many tools and best practices exist, but these often don’t reach the intended audiences - reinventing the wheel, or cost of “no action”