



LANGUE VIVANTE I

ANGLAIS

**Environmental Refugees – How Climate Change Affects People's Lives**

A major problem has been that until now, even the United Nations has no official status for those who are environmental refugees. Thus, there is no official acknowledgement that the affected people are refugees seeking asylum. Since those affected are called "environmental migrants", the legal status of those who should be "refugees" is undermined to the extent that they are not officially obliged to be given asylum. However, experts from the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU- EHS) stressed that there is an urgent need to define a new category of refugees.

Prof. Hans van Ginkel, Rector of the United Nations University, further emphasizes that environment-related refugees must be distinguished from economic migrants, who depart voluntarily to find a better life but may return home. While the victims of sudden and highly-publicized natural disasters like the 2004 Asian tsunami, the Pakistan floods in 2007 and 2012 and Hurricane Sandy in the USA benefit from the generosity of the private and public sector, the circumstances which turn citizens into environmental refugees often happen silently and gradually, far away from the attention of the world. One example of those "silent catastrophes" is the Gobi desert in China, which expands every year by more than 10,000 square kilometers, threatening many villages and fertile soils.[...]

It is difficult to estimate the extent of environmental migration. At this point in time, the UNU-EHS experts suggest that 50 million people are escaping from the effects of environmental deterioration. Other estimates suggest that between 20 to 150 million people may be affected. According to Nicholas Stern from the London School of Economics, global warming could create some 200 million climate refugees by 2050 but Christian Aid suggests one billion for **the same period of time**.

Almost two billion people in the world today depend on the fragile ecosystems in arid and semi-arid areas, and 90 percent of them live in the developing world. So, the effects of global warming, mainly caused by the industrialized nations hit the poorest nations most. Here, ecological stresses caused by droughts and desertification are threatening livelihoods and food. Certain crops and livestock are unlikely to survive in certain locations if conditions become too hot and dry, or too cold and wet. Small-scale farmers are particularly hard hit. With this leading to an increasing number of people competing for a decreasing amount of resources, environmental migration also has the potential to create conflicts with other communities. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, for instance, blames the ethnic and religious violence in Darfur on global warming: "The Darfur conflict began as an ecological crisis, arising at least in part from climate change," he states in the Washington Post. Further causes that lead to environmental migration due to global warming are monsoons, floodings and the disruption of seasonal weather patterns.

Until now, Finland and Sweden are the only countries that include "environmental migrants" as "persons otherwise in need of protection" in **their** official state immigration and asylum policy. [...] The US, Canada and the European Union (EU) for instance, do give temporary asylum to those people that are affected. Regarding the EU, none of their instruments makes mention of environmental refugees or migrants as yet. Nevertheless, the pressure of recognizing them is growing.

Gabriele Manta & Matthias Kolstrup, RESET editorial. (Adapted) August 2014.

**Notes : Small-scale farmers** = les petits producteurs / **Asylum** = asile.

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I- READING COMPREHENSION

(08 marks)

A- Match the titles below with the paragraphs of the text. (The last title is given as an example). (02 marks)

Titles	Paragraphs
a- Unequal treatment of victims	
b- Hope for recognition of environmental migrants as refugees.	
c- Environmental migrants still not recognized as refugees.	
d- Causes and possible consequences of environmental migration	
e- Figures about environmental migrants	<b>3</b>

B- Find in the indicated paragraphs of the text words similar in meaning to those in brackets. (02 marks)

Nowadays there are lots of displaced people for various reasons. And some of them deserve special attention. But the international community has difficulties agreeing about the **(recognition)** = 6) ..... (paragraph 1) of their status. Only their situation is **(little by little)** = 7)..... (paragraph 2) turning into a tragedy as recurrent natural disasters and the drastic anti-migration policies are **(imperilling)** = 8) ..... (paragraph 4) their lives. Thus, there is **(urgency)** = 9) ..... (paragraph 5) to find a solution to that problem.

C- Are these statements true or false? Justify by quoting specific passages from the text. (02 marks)

10- Rich countries are responsible for the consequences of some ecological problems poor countries are exposed to. ....  
.....

11- According to Ban Ki-moon, environmental migrants are fighting against the ecological crisis caused by global warming in Darfur. ....  
.....

D. Find in the text a phrase denoting the unknown or unpublicized disasters. (01 mark)

12- .....

E- What or who do the underlined words in the text refer to? (01 mark)

13- The same period of time (paragraph 3): .....

14- their (paragraph 5) : .....

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (06 marks)

F. Use the words in the box to complete the summary. (01.5 marks)

or / and / more and more / either / like / however

Global warming affects (15) ..... people's livelihoods, sometimes to such an extent that they have to leave their homes either temporarily (16) ..... permanently, becoming environmental refugees. (17) ....., unlike victims of political upheaval, who can obtain financial and medical aid, food and shelter through governments and international organizations, environmental refugees are not yet recognised by world conventions.

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**G. Complete meaningfully this interview between a journalist and a Human Rights activist (HRA) by building expressions with compounds from the words in parentheses. Number 18 is given as an example. (01.5 marks)**

**Journalist:** What kind of policy do you develop to help environmental refugees who are not victims of (18) ***highly-publicised disasters*** (*disasters which are highly publicised*).

**Human Rights activist:** We lead some awareness raising campaigns so as to provide asylum seekers with relevant information.

**Journalist:** Are there any countries that are reluctant to welcome environmental refugees?

**HRA:** Of course! Countries having (19)..... (*an economy based on tourism*), in general, are not willing to open their doors to these categories of people.

**Journalist:** Do you financially support (20) ..... (*families with low income*) in their project of migrating?

**HRA:** Yes indeed! Especially those families involved in (21)..... (*migration covering a long distance*).

**H. Complete with the right form of the words in brackets. (01.5 marks)**

Controlling (22) ..... (**legal**) immigration is one of the priorities of the European Union's authorities. It is (23) ..... (**reality**) urgent because the consequences are tragic. That immigration to Europe causes a lot of problems. In terms of jobs, for example, most companies hire cheaper foreign (24) ..... (**employment**) to the detriment of native workers.

**I. Complete the conversation between Amy and Sally coherently with the suitable tense and/or form of the verbs in brackets. (01.5 marks)**

**Amy:** - Migration is a real problem!

**Sally:** - Of course! The reason is that many people ..... (25. **force**) to leave their countries as asylum seekers because of conflicts and natural disasters.

**Amy:** - But some other people migrate for economic reasons or in quest for better life.

**Sally:** - Suppose that they ..... (26. **invest**) their money in their country, they would become rich. I'm optimistic!

**Amy:** - That's true! It's time young people ..... (27. **think**) of participating in the development of their country instead.

**Sally:** -You're right! That category of migrants should be sensitized about the bad effects of migration for a country.

**III. WRITING: Choose one topic and write about 150 words (06 marks)**

**TOPIC 1:** "Amongst the general public and politicians, irregular immigration to Europe is associated with a large number of fears." said Dita Vogel and Norbert Cyrus, two German researchers. What could be, for you, the fears that haunt immigrants first and then the European host countries?

**TOPIC 2:** Adama, a high school student, writes a letter to the authors of this article (Gabriele Manta and Matthias Kolstrup) to give his opinion on the advantages and drawbacks of giving a legal status to the category of environmental migrants.