

Summary

Many people worldwide are forced to leave their homes because of serious degradation of environmental conditions, natural disasters and depletion of natural resources. Growing impacts of climate change and global warming on the environment and human mobility are becoming increasingly worrying, creating a need for protection of those environmentally displaced persons. Although there has been a great attention paid to this phenomenon, the category of so-called “environmental refugees” still continues unrecognized by the international community.

The paper examines the circumstances under which environmental migration occurs, its causes and consequences. It deals with state obligations rising from the international environmental law, especially those related to climate change. It deals with the terminology related to the environmentally displaced persons, such as environmental migrants, environmental refugees or environmentally displaced persons. It presents their classification and defines the key terms. The paper also mentions cases of environmental migration in the world and their possible solution, highlighting the need for prevention and adaptation.

Most of the paper is dedicated to the analysis of the legal status and rights of environmentally displaced persons. The paper analyses the relationships between climate change, environmental migration and human rights, focusing on the right to a healthy environment and other human rights threatened by climate change. The most important international documents containing these rights and their protection are mentioned. Great attention is paid to the applicability of provisions of domestic and international law, including refugee law, asylum, humanitarian law and the law of internally displaced persons. The paper analyses in particular the Refugee Convention and regional conventions on the status of internally displaced persons.

The aim of the final chapter is to outline the possible legal framework that would remove doubts about the existence of environmentally displaced persons and regulate their legal status, granting rights and protection to such persons.