

Abstract

This master thesis is focused on international-legal analysis of the relationship between development projects and environmental migration. The relationship between development projects and environmental migration is from the point of view of the international law almost unexamined and unregulated area, so this is the reason why I chose this theme as the topic of my research. The aim of this thesis is to analyse this relationship in respect to the international law and to search for an appropriate international legal instrument to regulate this relationship.

The outputs are the answers to the following research questions: What is development project and what is environmental migration? What are the legal aspects of the relationship between development projects and environmental migration? Is it possible to treat this relationship in international law? Why is this area neglected by international law? Would not it be better to create a separate international legal framework for resettlement caused by development projects?

The diploma thesis is composed of four main chapters, under which I am progressively trying to find answers to the above mentioned research questions. The first chapter is devoted to the development project and to determination of its definition, including its terminological distinction from similar definitions. The second chapter introduces the issue of environmental migration, its types and causes. The third chapter consists of three subsections. In the first subsection I analyse the relationship between environmental migration and development projects. In the second subsection I explore the different types of development projects with an impact on environmental migration. The third subchapter analyses the international instruments that could be applicable on the examined issues. The fourth chapter contains a short case study of India's Sardar Sarovar dam, which has become a symbol of the relationship between development projects and environmental migration and illustrates the potential pitfalls of this relationship and the inadequacy of international adjustment examined the relationship.

The conclusion summarizes the findings and on their basis it tries to answer the research questions and suggest possible solutions for the development of international instruments.