



## **Assessing Displacement/Resettlement due to Climate Change Adaptation Projects**

Alex de Sherbinin

[adesherbinin@ciesin.columbia.edu](mailto:adesherbinin@ciesin.columbia.edu)

**Abstract:** Resettlement should be a last resort in climate adaptation, but the reality is that it is already occurring in some countries and this trend is likely to intensify. This presentation will address three types of displacement and resettlement that will be more common under projected climate change scenarios: those induced by mitigation projects, those induced by large scale adaptation projects and infrastructure, and those induced directly by climate change impacts that cause governments to resettle populations in the name of adaptation. Social and environmental impact assessments, and especially participatory impact assessments, are critical to ensuring that resettled communities have a voice in resettlement decisions, are able to rebound economically, and experience the fewest cultural dislocations. The paper will provide lessons learned from four decades of research on development and infrastructure induced resettlement, and examine the kinds of climatic changes and governmental responses that are likely to lead to future displacement and resettlement. The paper will conclude with recommendations, based on discussions at a recent Bellagio Conference, for preparing for and managing the resettlement process with an emphasis on safeguarding human rights and livelihoods.

**Summary:** Resettlement should be a last resort in climate adaptation, but the reality is that it is already occurring in some countries and this trend is likely to intensify. This presentation will provide recommendations for impact assessments that address resettlement in connection with large scale mitigation, adaptation projects, and infrastructure.