



**Barry Coates** is Executive Director of Oxfam New Zealand, an affiliate of Oxfam International. Oxfam New Zealand links practical grassroots projects, mainly focused on the Pacific and Asia, with campaigns to address the causes of poverty, insecurity and unsustainability. Barry is Chair of the Council for International Development, Vice Chair of the Fair Trade Association, a founder of the Make Poverty History coalition in New Zealand. He was involved in climate change negotiations around the Earth Summit in 1992, has been in Poznan for the UNFCCC climate change negotiations and in Bali (as part of the New Zealand government delegation), and co-chairs the Global Campaign for Climate Action.

**Olivia Dun** is a research associate and joint PhD candidate with United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) in Bonn, Germany and the University of Sydney, Australia. Her PhD research is about the role of the environment in prompting people to migrate and to assess human migration as an adaptation strategy in the face of environmental change/degradation. In particular, her PhD will focus on the links between flooding and migration in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. Since 2007 she has worked for the Environmental Change in Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR) project funded by the European Commission. She has experience conducting research in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

**Stephen Dunstan** is Manager of Immigration Policy in the Workforce Group of the New Zealand Department of Labour. He is responsible for advising the Government on the range of residence and temporary entry policies, including refugee resettlement and settlement. He has worked on a range of special policies that provide entry for Pacific people for residence and temporary work opportunities. More recently his focus has included possible implications of climate change for people movement in the Pacific. Stephen has also worked in immigration research; justice, employment and immigration.

**Paul Eastwood** joined NZAID at the beginning of 2009 as the organisation's Environment Advisor. Key responsibilities include supporting NZAID's development programmes in the Pacific and globally with the provision of advice across all environmental sectors including climate change. Paul has a mix of experience in technical, scientific, and development issues all with an environmental focus, and has specific expertise in the Pacific having spent a number of years working for national and regional organisations in the region.

**Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop**, Associate Professor, is Inaugural Director of the Va'aomanu Pasifika, (Pacific and Samoan Programme) of Victoria University of Wellington. Peggy came to the Va'aomanu Pasifika post after 25 years research, teaching and gender and community activism in the Pacific including 15 years at the University of the South Pacific (USP) School of Agriculture Samoa, and UN Posts of Sustainable Human Development Adviser Suva, UNIFEM

Pacific and Social Adviser at the UNESCO Pacific office, Apia. She has published widely on factors influencing Pacific people's lives and choices today especially issues of gender and youth.

**Adrian Macey**, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador, has been responsible for New Zealand's international negotiations, bilateral partnerships and for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade contributions to domestic policy. Adrian has held numerous international positions including Ambassador to France, OECD, and Algeria, Ambassador to Bangkok, including Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. Director, Trade Negotiations Division, Director of Personnel, MFAT, Economic Counsellor, Geneva, and Official Secretary of Tokelau. He has also held a number of other positions within the State Services Commission, Wellington.

**Debbie McLeod** is the Director of Policy and Monitoring at the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Dr McLeod is an experienced public sector manager, researcher and evaluator. Before joining the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in 2008, she was at the Ministry of Social Development for four years in the Centre for Social Research and Evaluation. She moved to the public sector from a position as Research Director for the Department of Primary Health Care and General Practice, University of Otago, Wellington.

**Brian Phillips** is on the National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu.

**Helen Plume** works in the Climate Change Policy Team at the Ministry for the Environment, and is currently Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Helen has worked on international climate change issues for a number of years and has represented New Zealand at many international climate change meetings. Part of this international work has included co-chairing the negotiations on the establishment of the SBSTA adaptation work programme which was renamed the Nairobi Work Programme at the UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi in 2007. Past experience includes co-chairing the international negotiations on the reporting and review rules under which the Kyoto Protocol now operates.

**Doug Ramsay** is Manager of NIWA's Pacific activities and a coastal hazard consultant. He has wide experience of coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation activities in the Pacific region. Over the last few years has been involved with various coastal hazard and climate change related projects in the Pacific islands, including Tuvalu, Tonga, and Tokelau and is currently leading one component of Phase 2 of the Kiribati Adaptation Project. In New Zealand he has led the revision of the recently released Ministry for the Environment Guidance on Coastal Hazards and Climate Change: A guidance manual for local government in New Zealand.

**Colin Tukuitonga** is Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Dr Tukuitonga, a registered medical practitioner, began his health career as the National Medical Officer in his home-country of Niue from 1982 to 1986. Prior to his current appointment as Chief Executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs in 2007, he helped to establish the Department of Maori and Pacific Health at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences at the University of Auckland. He held positions at the Fiji School of Medicine, the Auckland Area Health Board and Northern Regional Health Authority. Dr Tukuitonga was also Head of the Surveillance and Prevention of Chronic Diseases at the World Health Organisation and Director of Public Health and Medical Officer of Health for New Zealand.

**Tony Whincup** is Associate Professor and Head of the School of Visual & Material Culture in the College of Creative Arts at Massey University, Wellington. He has over 25 years experience photographing and writing about Kiribati. His research interests have focused upon traditional canoes, dance, and cultural artefacts while his current work considers the traditional meeting house as agency. Tony is currently working on a new book to be published this year entitled, 'Bwai ni Kiribati – artefacts of experience'. He has won several awards, including the Kiribati Order of Merit (ODM) for his services to the country.

**Andrew Yatilman** is currently the Director of the Office of Environment and Emergency Management at the National Government, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Prior to that, he was Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure for the last two years of the previous administration (2005 - 2007). Andrew has held a variety of senior positions in the State of Yap including as Lieutenant Governor (1999 to 2003), Deputy Director of the Department of Health Services (1991 to 1999) and State Health Planner and Statistics Coordinator, Department of Health Services (1988 to 1991).

**Roger Zetter** is Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford. He has over 25 years research, publication, teaching and consultancy experience in forced migration, refugee and humanitarian issues with funding provided by the EU, UK Home Office, ESRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Housing Corporation, Oxfam, SD, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement. He was previously founding editor of the Journal of Refugee Studies. His research focuses on institutional and policy dimensions of the refugee regime, and the impacts of humanitarian assistance on refugees and asylum seekers. His current research interests concern climate change and environmental displacement with a particular interest on issues of rights protection.

# Climate Change and Migration in the South Pacific Region: Policy Perspectives

Thursday 9 and Friday 10 July 2009

Lecture Theatre Two, Rutherford House, Bunny Street, Wellington

## Keynote Speaker

**Phillipe Boncour** Head of International Dialogue on Migration Division  
International Organisation for Migration  
Geneva



Photo: Tony Whincup

*The possibility of migration as a response to climate change is still rarely broached in the literature on adaptation to climate change, perhaps because it is entirely outside the acceptable range of proposals.*

Adger et al (2007) Contribution of WGII to Fourth Assessment Report, IPCC

Migration has been a means by which individuals and communities respond to changes in their natural environment for millennia. However, despite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warning in 1990 that human migration and displacement might be the single greatest impact of climate change, the issue is one that has remained relatively unexplored.

Within the South Pacific region are countries which are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Some countries in the region are already experiencing population movement due to environmental events and processes likely to be exacerbated

by future climate change. Others are, at a certain threshold of climate change, at risk of disappearing altogether. The extent to which climate change might lead to population movement in the coming decades therefore raises substantial domestic and international policy challenges.

The aim of this conference is to bring a multi-disciplinary focus to bear on this issue. Drawing on a range of international, regional, and domestic speakers, it will examine the potential drivers of regional migration in a climate change affected world, its potential impacts, and possible policy responses.

### To register contact

Institute of Policy Studies,  
Victoria University of  
Wellington  
PO Box 600  
Wellington,

E: [ips@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ips@vuw.ac.nz),

T: +64 4 463 5307

There is not cost for  
registration



## Day 1 – Thursday 9 July

08.30 – 08.50am Registration

---

08.50 – 09.00am **Welcoming and opening remarks** – Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

---

09.00 – 10.00am **Keynote Presentation** – Phillipe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration, Geneva  
*International Policy Issues and Ethical Challenges*

---

10.00 – 10.30am **Session 1: Climate Change in the South Pacific Region – The Science**  
Chair: Bruce Burson, Consultant  
Doug Ramsay, National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research  
*Projected Environmental Impacts Linked to Climate Change in South Pacific Region*

---

10.30 – 10.50am **Morning Tea**

---

10.50 – 12.10pm **Session 2: Environmentally Induced Migration in the South Pacific Region: Current Trends**  
Chair: Ellen Hansen, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Andrew Yatilman, Office of Environment and Emergency Management, Federated States of Micronesia  
*Environmental Degradation and Migration: The Experiences of FSM*  
Brian Phillips, National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu  
*Environmental Degradation and Migration: The Experiences of Vanuatu*  
Associate Professor Tony Whincup, School of Visual and Material Culture, Massey University  
*Water on Water: The Threat of Climate Change upon Traditional Practices in Kiribati*

---

12.10 – 01.00pm **Lunch**

---

01.00 – 02.00pm **Session 3: Non-Migratory Responses to Climate Change: Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation In The Pacific Islands Region**  
Chair: Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington  
Paul Eastwood, NZAID  
*Environment and Development: NZAID Support to Building Adaptive Capacity in the Pacific*  
Barry Coates, Oxfam New Zealand  
*From Community to Copenhagen: Civil Society Action on Climate Change in the Pacific*

---

02.00 – 03.00pm **Session 4: Climate Change, Migration and the Community**  
Chair: Mervin Singham, Office of Ethnic Affairs  
Dr Colin Tukuitonga, and Dr Debbie McLeod, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs  
*Potential Impacts of Climate Change Migration on Pacific Families Living in NZ*  
Tagaloatele Dr Peggy Fairbairn-Dunlop, Va'aomanū Pasifika, Victoria University of Wellington  
*If I Plant a Tree Will My Children be Here to See it Grow?*

---

03.00 – 03.20pm **Afternoon Tea**

---

03.20 – 04.40pm **Session 5: International Policy Issues and Challenges**  
Moderator: Phillipe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration  
Professor Roger Zetter, Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University (by video)  
*Climate Change, Migration and Rights Projection*  
Dr Adrian Macey, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador.  
*Global or Regional Management of Migration in Context of Climate Change*  
Helen Plume, Ministry for the Environment  
*Climate Change and Migration in the Context of the Nairobi Work Programme on Adaption (NWP)*

---



## Day 2 – Friday 10 July

08.45 – 09.00am **Welcome**

---

09.00 – 10.20am **Session 6: Implications for NZ Immigration Policy**  
Chair: Dr Kate McMillan, Political Science and International Relations, Victoria University of Wellington  
Dr Jon Barnett, School of Land and Environment, University of Melbourne  
*Climate Migration in the South Pacific Region: Managing Risks and Maximising Opportunities.*  
Professor Richard Bedford, Population Studies Centre, University of Waikato  
*Environmentally Induced Migration within the Context of Existing Migration Patterns*  
Stephen Dunstan and Geraldine Canham-Harvey, Department of Labour  
*Climate Change and Migration in the South Pacific: Issues and Possible Immigration Responses*

---

10.20 – 10.40am **Morning Tea**

---

10.40 – 11.10am **Session 7: The Global Context: The European Union's EACH-FOR Project**  
Chair: Bruce Burson, Consultant  
Olivia Dun United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security  
*Overview of the EACH-FOR Project*

---

11.10 – 12.15pm **Session 8: Where to From Here? Open panel discussion on policy challenges and next steps**  
Phillipe Boncour, International Organisation for Migration  
Stephen Dunstan, Department of Labour  
Dr Adrian Macey, New Zealand Climate Change Ambassador  
Brian Phillips, National Advisory Committee on Climate Change, Vanuatu  
Andrew Yatilman, Office of Environment and Emergency Management, FSM

---

12.15 – 12.30pm **Closing Remarks - Professor Jonathan Boston, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington**

---

12.30 – 01.30pm **Lunch**

---

## Speakers

**Jon Barnett** is an Australian Research Council Fellow and Reader in the Department of Resource Management and Geography at Melbourne University. He is a human geographer whose research investigates the impacts of and responses to environmental change on social systems, including China, Timor-Leste, and the Pacific Islands. Jon is convenor of the Australian national research network on the social, economic and institutional dimensions of climate change, and is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS) project. He is also on the editorial boards of Global Environmental Change, Geography Compass and the Journal of Human Security. He is the Executive Editor of the adaptation domain of Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews Climate Change.

**Richard Bedford** is Professor of Population Geography and Director of the Population Studies Centre, University of Waikato. He also directs the Tertiary Education Commission-funded Building

Research Capability in the Social Sciences (BRCS) network on a contract with Massey University. He is a specialist in migration research and since the mid-1960s he has been researching processes of population movement in the Asia-Pacific region. Richard has been awarded numerous Honours and made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order (QSO) in 2008. He is currently a member of several research and policy advisory groups including the Marsden Fund Council where he convenes the Social Sciences Panel.

**Phillipe Boncour** is currently Head of the International Dialogue on Migration Division at the International Organization for Migration (IOM). He serves as the climate change, environment and migration focal point for the organisation worldwide. Prior to joining IOM in 2002, he was the Director of Development and Communication of the Worldwide Network of the Alliance Française. He has held numerous positions in government including French Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, and Special Advisor to the Minister of Education in Cameroon. In 1991 he was appointed Counsellor in charge of Education, Higher Education and Research at the French Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. In 1995, he was assigned as a special advisor to the Minister of Culture of Cote d'Ivoire and he managed the international ODA until 1998. Philippe specialises in development-related issues, with a particular focus on capacity building and on project management.

**Geraldine Canham-Harvey** is a policy analyst in the Immigration Policy team in the Department of Labour. Her policy responsibilities include the nexus between migration and development, including trade and climate change considerations, refugee resettlement, and refugee and protection issues. Geraldine also works on policy supporting the implementation of the Immigration Bill, and the Immigration Advisers Licensing Act 2007. She has a Masters in international relations and security studies.