

Migration and climate adaptation

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- Defining migration
- Framing climate migration
- Protecting the rights of those displaced / subject to displacement
- UK context and the scale of the challenge along the coast

Defining migration

‘An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons.’

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

www.iom.int/about-migration

Framing climate migration



There could be 1.2 billion climate refugees by 2050. Here's what you need to know

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OPINION

The climate refugee crisis is landing on Europe's shores — and we are far from ready

International law gives no protection to those displaced due to climate change. In fact, we can't even agree on who counts as a climate refugee.



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Climate change and disaster displacement

Climate change is the defining crisis of our time and disaster displacement is one of its most devastating consequences.

UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to many refugees and other people displaced by the effects of climate change, as well as helping them increase their resilience to future disasters.

Protecting rights

1998 UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement:

- Principle 6: Protection against arbitrary displacement
- Principle 7: Guarantees prior to displacement, e.g. free and informed consent, involving those affected in the planning and management of their relocation

1998 UN Aarhus Convention (on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters):

- Article 4: Access to environmental information
- Articles 6&7: Public participation in decisions on specific activities and concerning plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment
- Article 9: Access to justice

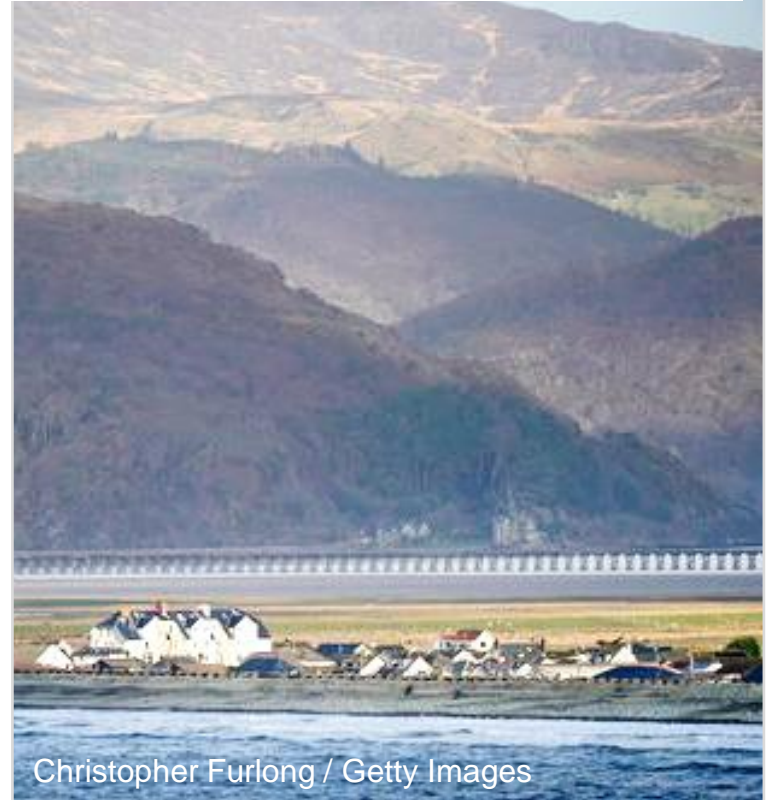
UK context

“Decommissioning” Fairbourne – by 2054, ‘it will no longer be safe nor sustainable to remain in Fairbourne’ (Fairbourne: A Framework for the Future, 2019).

SMP2 (2014):

- Epoch 1, up to 2025: Hold the Line (HTL)
- Epoch 2, up to 2055: Managed Realignment (MR)
- Epoch 3, up to 2105: No Active Intervention (NAI)

‘A human catastrophe’: The UK's first climate refugees refuse to leave



Christopher Furlong / Getty Images

UK context



Looe Flood Defence and Regeneration Scheme

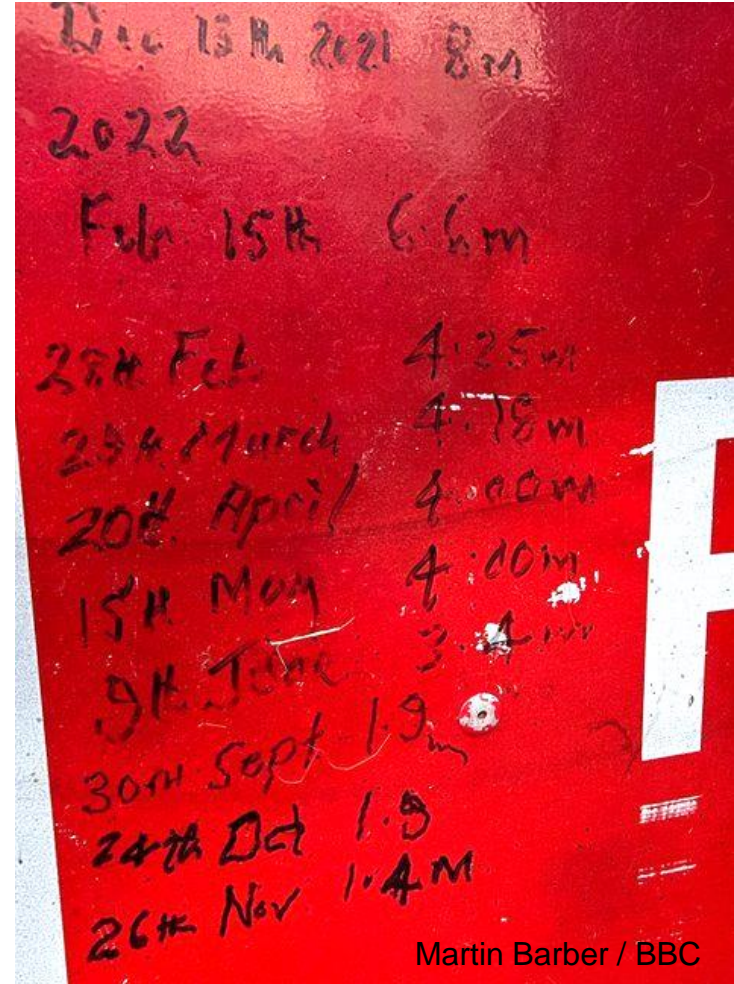


www.budeclimate.org: 'working on positive climate-change projects to future-proof the Bude area'.

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/looe-flood-defence?tool=ganda>: '[p]rotect Looe from frequent and severe flooding and damage over the next 50 – 100 years, giving the community time to adapt to a changing climate'.



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Martin Barber / BBC

The scale of the challenge

‘... continuing to Hold-the-Line is likely to become increasingly difficult to justify. The assessment suggests 1,600-1,900 km (approx. 30%) of England’s shoreline is likely to experience increased pressure to realign by 2050s with implications for approx. 120,000-160,000 properties (excluding caravans)...’

Paul Sayers et al (2022)



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