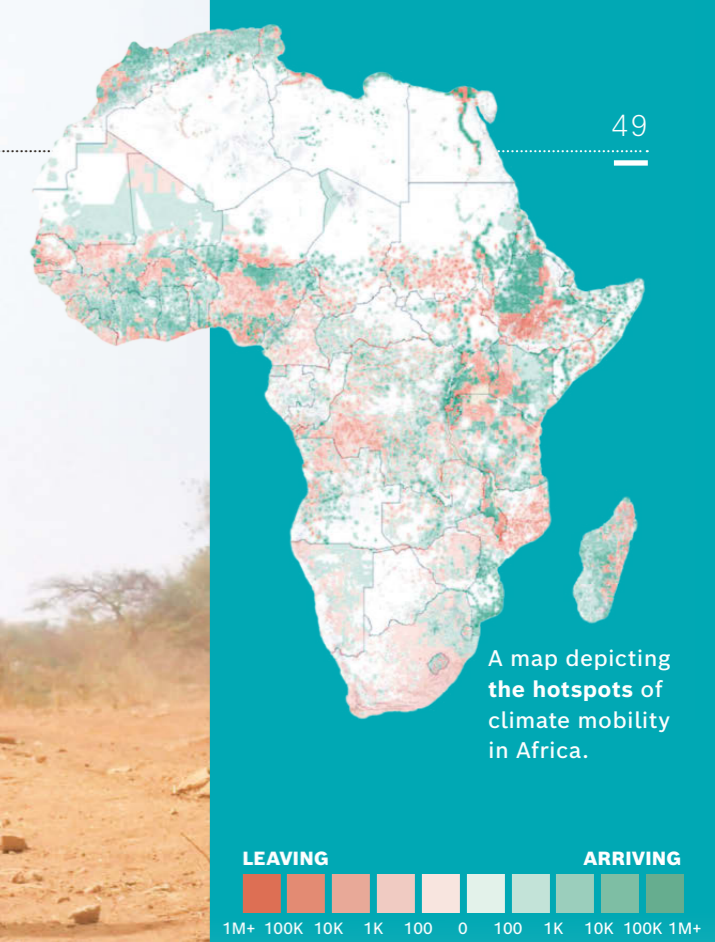




**Migration in Niger:** The countries of the Sahel are especially affected by climate change.



A map depicting the hotspots of climate mobility in Africa.

# A CONTINENT ON THE MOVE

**Climate change will force millions of people in Africa out of their homes. Where will they go? A report sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung offers new insight.**

**T**he livelihoods of millions of people in Africa are being destroyed by the effects of climate change – extreme temperatures, droughts, and flooding. The continent contributes only 3 percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and that has no effect on this predicament. It is estimated that up to 200 million people will be displaced by 2050

as a result. The vast majority will remain in their home country. Climate mobility will affect every country, but some regions will be hit harder than others. A fishing community on the Atlantic coast of Senegal impacted by rising sea levels needs different things from a Senegalese rural community stressed by limited water availability near the Mali border. Migration will intensify

the struggle for land and water resources in many regions of Africa and in turn threaten social cohesion. For this reason, it is critical to create sustainable plans for mobility in order to reduce the impact of climate change and improve the quality of life of the people it affects. The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) report, “African Shifts,” which was funded by the Robert

Bosch Stiftung, delivers necessary data on climate migration. ACMI researchers mapped out the climate hotspots on the continent down to units of five square kilometers in five-year intervals up to 2050. The result is a map showing the areas where people will have to leave their homes due to specific climate stressors, as well as where they would go (see column on right). “When I showed our data to the mayor of Dakar, he said: ‘Oh no, I have an infrastructure project in an area that will be severely affected,’” says Kamal Amakrane, director of the ACMI, speaking to the Robert Bosch Stiftung. “But this is the approach we want to implement: If you are building schools for the next 50 years, you should build them where they will be needed.” The initiative also helps cities and regions to find solutions that are informed by local realities and developed in collaboration with

local communities. In this manner, it provides more return on investment, and much sooner. It also makes development more sustainable, because it builds the agency of communities and strengthens knowledge in the process. The initiative has been successful. Countries such as Niger, Botswana, and Somalia are already using the data and recommendations provided in ACMI’s strategies for climate change adaptation. Reports for the League of Arab States and for Caribbean countries are to follow. “The ACMI is an unprecedented and innovative partnership to address one of the biggest challenges of today and tomorrow: how climate change affects migration and how to make the response people-centric,” says Raphaela Schweiger, migration team leader at the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Claudia Hagen

## A people-centric approach

The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) report “African Shifts” is the result of a project proudly supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Based on the latest climate research, the study identified existing climate hotspots in Africa and conducted extensive field research on the continent. Combining qualitative insights with quantitative modeling, they project four scenarios based on growth, policy, and emission developments – and how climate stressors will impact population distribution in these possible futures. Through 50 workshops with 200 partner organizations and close to 3,000 participating experts, scientists, affected communities, and policymakers, the researchers developed blueprints for various local needs in different scenarios, such as rural communities or cities in coastal areas. For more information: <https://climatemobility.org/>

PHOTO: ALI MOCTAR

SOURCE: GLOBAL CENTRE FOR CLIMATE MOBILITY