Path to Development or Road to Nowhere?

A Livelihood Approach to Poverty, Labour Migration and Environment Links in Rural Areas of Developing Countries

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Studies considered:
1.) Livelihoods approach studies
2.) General development and poverty studies
3.) Select PRIPODE Studies
   Africa: Burkina Faso, Mali, Central Sahara, Morocco, Nigeria, Madagascar
   Southeast Asia: Laos,Viet Nam
   Latin America and Caribe: Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba

“Fragile Areas”
- Mountain areas
- Arid/Semiarid dry land
- Forest frontier
- Coastal areas and small islands states (SIDS)
A livelihood approach to migration and poverty, migration and environment links

If labour migration is a livelihood activity, what outcomes does the overall household livelihood strategy have over time on?:

- asset poverty and environmental assets
- context factors (ecosystem)
- future livelihood activities such as migration

Labour Migration

Main productive activity (agriculture, fishing, agro pastoral, etc...)

Secondary productive activity (in situ diversification)

Based on Ellis 2003, Figure 2
Some Policy Implications: Making Labour Migration a Path to Sustainable Development

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Policy efforts</th>
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| ➢ Recognising the special situation of poverty, labour migration and environment links in fragile areas | ✓ Taking into account local livelihoods in conservation and protected areas policies  
                                                                           ✓ more direct policy attention overall to fragile areas |
| ➢ Reducing tradeoffs among households in rural sending areas between increased economic welfare due to remittance-receiving and negative environmental outcomes | ✓ Directing changing consumption patterns in positive ways (fossil fuel use, recycling, nutrition)  
                                                                           ✓ Creating profitable alternatives for investment of remittances in environmentally sustainable activities (agro-forestry, processing activities, marketing, ecotourism) |
| ➢ Increasing participation by poor households in positive labour migration flows. Decreasing their need for more negative migration flows (last resort migration, low-wage temporary labour migration, irregular migration) | ✓ General rural development  
                                                                           • Social safety nets  
                                                                           • Local ‘stay-at-home’ alternatives for wage labour |
Road to Nowhere: Negative impacts of labour migration

**Migrant Sending Households**
- Negative consumption effects
- Negative investment effects
- New forms of dependency
- Transnationalisation of poverty
- Loss of human capital
- Increased relative poverty and inequality

**All households**
- Negative effects of return an other in-migration migration
- Negative spill-over effects of migration

**Poor households**
- *Exclusion* of poor from positive labour migration flows
- *Inclusion* in more negative labour migration flows
Positive Migration (Poor selectively excluded)
• higher wages
• human capital enhancement
• longer duration
• often but not always international moves
• Improvement in all household assets
• Investment in environmental assets

Negative Migration (Poor selectively included)
• lower wage
• low human capital enhancement
• Temporary, circular and seasonal moves linked to wage labour in agroindustrial or industrial sector
• irregular migration
• last resort migration
• relay migration (migración por relevos)
• Migration, Remittances, Aid and Bureaucracy (MIRAB)
  migration in small island developing states (SIDS)
Path to Development: Positive impact of labour migration

*Migrant Sending households*
- Remittances --- Greater financial assets
- Higher consumption and living standards
- Environmental and socioeconomic insurance and risk reduction
- Greater investment in environmental assets
- Greater investment in human and social assets

*All Households*
- Increase human capital and investment linked to return migrants
- Development potential of Diaspora
- Multiplier and spill-over effects of migration
  - Increased demand, production, market development, employment creation
  - Positive macroeconomic effects (exchange rates, government loan leverage)