



Chimbote. Region of Chimborazo, Ecuador, 1998.
Picture: © Sebastião Salgado/ AMAZONAS Images

Studies considered:

- 1.) Livelihoods approach studies
- 2.) General development and poverty studies
- 3.) Select PRI PODE 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)

Path to Development or Road to Nowhere?

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

Colloquium CICRED-PRI PODE
Paris, 21-23 marzo 2007

C.M. Marquette P.
Centro Centroamericano Población (CCP)
Universidad de Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica



Centro Centroamericano de Población

Universidad de Costa Rica

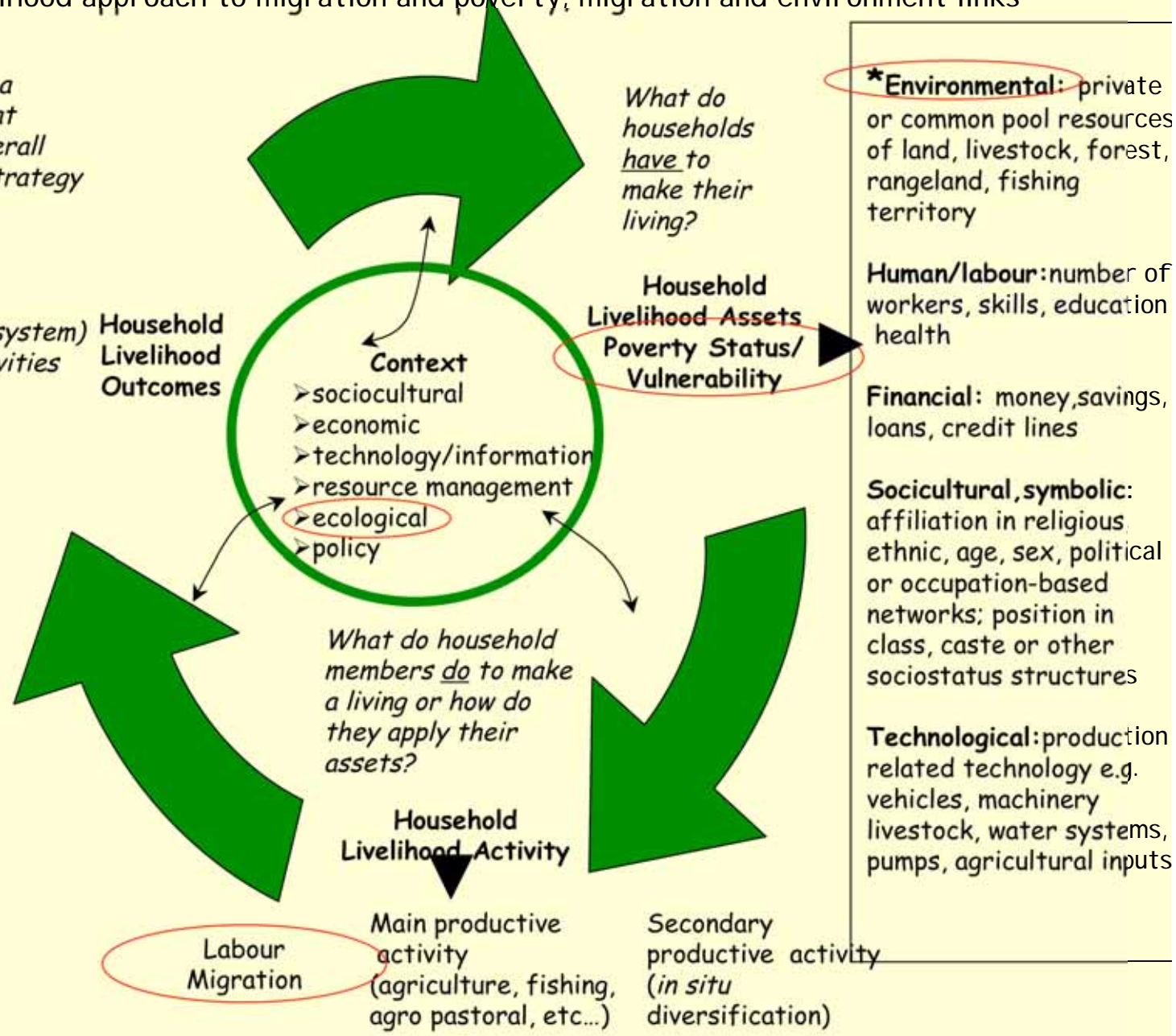
www.ccp.ucr.ac.cr



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



***Environmental:** private or common pool resources of land, livestock, forest, rangeland, fishing territory

Human/labour: number of workers, skills, education health

Financial: money, savings, loans, credit lines

Sociocultural, symbolic: affiliation in religious, ethnic, age, sex, political or occupation-based networks; position in class, caste or other sociostatus structures

Technological: production related technology e.g. vehicles, machinery livestock, water systems, pumps, agricultural inputs

Based on Ellis 2003, Figure 2



Some Policy Implications: Making Labour Migration a Path to Sustainable Development

Goal	Policy efforts
<p>➤ Recognising the special situation of poverty, labour migration and environment links in fragile areas</p>	<p>✓ Taking into account local livelihoods in conservation and protected areas policies ✓ more direct policy attention overall to fragile areas</p>
<p>➤ Reducing tradeoffs among households in rural sending areas between increased economic welfare due to remittance-receiving and negative environmental outcomes</p>	<p>✓ 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)</p>
<p>➤ 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)</p>	<p>✓ general rural development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ social safety nets ▪ local 'stay-at-home' alternatives for wage labour </p>



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 and 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 (MI RAB)
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)