The Reality of Climate Refugees from Central America and Prospects for US Immigration

Kyle Tomyn

Global Studies

Advisor: Dr. Vanessa de Veritch Woodside

University of Washington Tacoma





Central American Climate Change

- Extreme weather events
- Drought
- Flooding
- Crop failure
- Rising temperatures
- Connections with international migration





Issue and Goal of Study

• Issue

- Substantial gap in literature regarding climate migration from the region
- Why has this gone unnoticed?

Goals of the study

- Discover why this literature gap exists
- Fill the gap
- Propose recommendations





Methodology and Results

Methodology

- Mixed-methods
- Personal interviews from a variety of perspectives
- Analyze extent literature

Results

- Climate change as a threat multiplier
- Climate change as an evolving issue
- Climate change intersecting with US and global immigration systems





Solutions

- Recognition of climate refugees
- Special work visas
- Funding social safety nets
- As simple as planting trees





Global Connections

- What can be learned
 - A model for mitigation and adaptation
 - Applicable elsewhere
- What's next?
 - Further research
 - Mitigation
 - Adaptation
 - Cooperation





Thank you!