



PALAIS DE LA PORTE DORÉE

PRESS RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 2025

MIGRATIONS AND CLIMATE

HOW TO INHABIT OUR WORLD?

FROM OCTOBER 17TH 2025 TO APRIL 5TH 2026



Lucy + Jorge Orta, *Antarctic village no borders*, 2007-2021. © EPPPD-Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration.
Photo de Thierry Bal © ADAGP, Paris, 2025.

For the first time ever, the Palais de la Porte Dorée presents a worldwide exhibition: *Migrations and Climate*, taking place across all its spaces — the Museum and the Tropical Aquarium. It explores the human and non-human's migration dynamics in relation to climate change.

Over 200 items, including documentary photographs, artworks, testimonies, videos, infographics and immersive installations are curated in order to offer a research-based, incarnated and sensitive exhibition experience.

A parallel is drawn between the innovative artworks of international artists such as Lucy + Jorge Orta, Inès Katamso, Margaret Wertheim, Ghazel, Nick Brandt or Quayola and key issues affecting diverse geographic regions — from Senegal to the Pacific Islands via Greenland and, of course, France. The exhibition magnifies a variety of realities often overlooked — from both the general public and those directly affected by them.

The exhibition is based on rigorous scientific research, drawing on data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the CLIMIG* project. A scientific advisory board of international experts supported the curatorial process, including François Gemenne, IPCC rapporteur and leading expert on environmental migration, Sylvie Dufour, marine biologist and emeritus CNRS research director. This work was also shaped by a dialogue with witnesses, activists, and people directly affected by these issues.

By weaving together artistic, scientific, and civic perspectives, *Migrations and Climate* sheds light on a crucial social debate and invites us to put humans and all living beings at the core of our climate, cultural, and social concerns. We are actively involved in crafting collectively responses to ongoing upheavals.

A RESEARCH-DRIVEN EXPERIENCE BETWEEN ART, SCIENCE, AND SOCIETY MATTERS

The exhibition unfolds in four major sections, inviting visitors to discover how living beings have always faced environmental disruption, through artworks, maps, testimonies or objects withholding memories. Designed to be **accessible to all audiences**, including young visitors, it displays a dedicated space for a **playful and educational exploration** of the issues at hand.

The first part of the exhibition "Climate Migration — Nothing New Under the Sun?" traces the long history of environment-related migrations and questions modern perceptions of the phenomenon. The second part explores adaptative strategies developed by affected populations in response to climate disruption. The section "What Can Be Done?" examines institutional responses, from humanitarian aid to the

*IOM : International Organization for Migrations ; GIEC : Intergovernmental panel on climate change; CLIMIG : The project CLIMIG from the Convergences Migrations Institute is an interdisciplinary project focusing on the intertwining of climate and migrations.



Abir Abdullah, *Boat school*, 2022 © Abir Abdullah

evolution of the legal framing of the issues. Finally, the Tropical Aquarium displays a section dedicated to biodiversity's concerns throughout three areas of the world.

MIGRATIONS ACROSS CLIMATE AND TIME: AN ANCIENT STORY — CONTEMPORARY RESPONSES

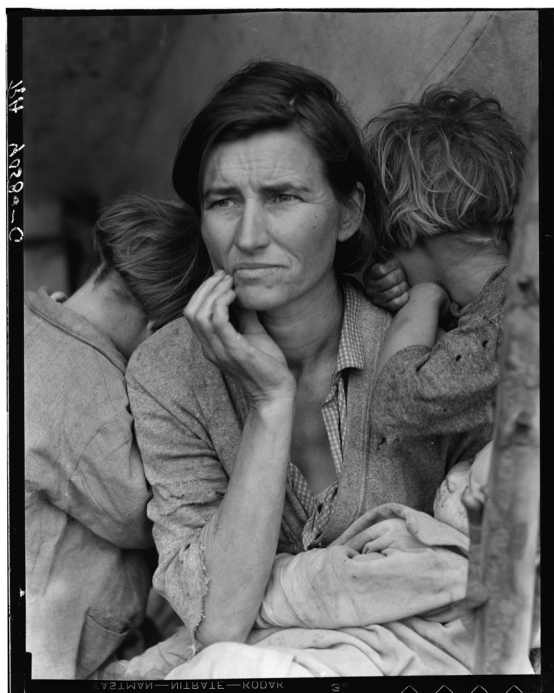
Migrations and Climate sheds light on **a largely forgotten reality**: climate-related migration is not a new phenomenon. For millennia, both humans and wildlife have been displaced by environmental change — long-lasting droughts, glaciations, natural disasters, soil transformations... These migrations are part of complex dynamics in which environmental factors intertwine with economic, political, and social ones.

IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE: ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AND COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE

This historical perspective also clarifies **current responses to those changes**. Not only are climate-linked migrations a permanent feature of human history, but so are our adaptation strategies to them. Reconceiving agriculture, relocating housing, creating solidarity networks, reviving traditional knowledge... These solutions are usually settled locally and supported by the communities themselves, demonstrating their inventiveness in the face of emergency.

Alongside these local initiatives, actions led at a broader scale play a crucial role: risk prevention policies, urban planning, new rights for displaced populations, acknowledgement of new rights for displaced persons, regional or international agreements.

The exhibition **also questions the term “climate refugee”**, widely used in public discourse yet still absent from international law.



Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, 1936 © Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. USA



Julie Polidoro, *Mongolian Dust Storm*, 2023 © EPPPD-Collection Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration © ADAGP, Paris, 2025.

UNDERSTANDING MECHANISMS, DEBUNKING STEREOTYPES

Through several case studies, accessible to all ages, the exhibition allows **the understanding of the complex reality** of mobilities which depend on social, political and economic dynamics varying from one territory to another.

In the Vietnam's Mekong Delta, rising waters and soil salinization compel farmers to shift their activities or to migrate to the capital. In South Sudan, alternating droughts and floods episodes induce a rarefaction of arable lands thus forcing some populations' displacement, in a country where armed conflicts are already leading people to migrate. France, notably in Mayotte or in the department of Vendée, faces a coastal reshaping due to sea-level rising and soil artificialization. These cases show that climate migrations are not limited to brutal exodus or South-to-North flows. Migrations may be temporary, seasonal, or internal and often represent a last resort to increasing environmental pressures.

CHANGING OCEANS : IMPACTS AND ADAPTATIONS

At the Tropical Aquarium, the exhibition attentively enlightens the **disruptions affecting marine and coastal ecosystems** worldwide and their impact on the human communities who depend on them.

Three regions illustrate the diversity of climate change's impacts on littorals, resources and lifestyles.

In Senegal, reduction of halieutics resources due to overfishing and warming waters disrupts fishing practices and endangers coastal communities. In the Pacific Ocean, small islands with low altitude such as Tuvalu, Kiribati or Vanuatu fight for their survival in the face of rising waters submerging their land. Low-lying nations battle existential threats from rising seas. Furthermore, in Greenland, nature's erratic behaviors disrupt Natives' lifestyle.

Interactive installations, audio-visual testimonies and immersive projections bring these usually invisible realities to life and offer an overall view on the oceans' evolution, combining scientific data with personal stories.



Julien Beneyton, *Mauritania, la petite pêche*, 2010. © Julien Beneyton © ADAGP, Paris, 2025.

CURATORIAL TEAM

Bruno Girveau, Emeritus General Conservator of Heritage, Chief Curator

Élisabeth Jolys-Shimells, Chief Conservator of Heritage, Curator

Gabriel Picot, Head of Cultural and Educational Programming of the Tropical Aquarium, Curator

Assisted by **Olivier Bedoin**, Curatorial Assistant

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Sylvie Dufour, CNRS Emeritus Research Director, CNRS, Marine Affairs Manager,
National Museum of Natural History (MNHN)

François Gemenne, François Gemenne, Political Specialist, Professor at SciencesPo Paris,
University of Liège and HEC Paris, IPCC Rapporteur

For the French Development Agency (AFD):

- **Mathilde Bord-Laurans**, Head of Climate and Nature Division
- **Matthieu Buratti**, Governance Project Manager

The exhibition catalogue is co-published with Silvana Editions, 224 pages, €32

From 10 years old, *Where Will We Live Tomorrow? Understanding Climate Migrations*, published by Casterman/ Author: Jean-Michel Billioud. Illustrator: Mélody Denturck, 48 pages, €10

Mondes & Migrations magazine — "Migrations and Habitability," October–December 2025, €15

A rich program between talks, performances, documentaries and film screenings will run throughout the exhibition to deepen engagement with the central themes.

PARTNERSHIPS





PALAIS DE LA PORTE DORÉE

THE PALAIS DE LA PORTE DORÉE



© Mathieu Nouvel / Palais de la Porte Dorée

The Palais de la Porte Dorée is a multidisciplinary cultural institution, housing a historic monument (the Palais), the National Museum of the History of Immigration, and the Tropical Aquarium.

It is a hub of exhibitions, knowledge sharing, artistic expression, and social gathering, hosting performances, festivals as well as biodiversity conservation initiatives.

VISITOR INFORMATION

PALAIS DE LA PORTE DORÉE

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