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## About Taproot Earth's Climate Migration Work

At Taproot Earth, our vision is a world where all people have the right to live, rest, and thrive in the places they love. Whether asserting their right to remain in their place or choosing to migrate safely, a community's right to self-determination and governance is a critical element toward building a just and inclusive world. The climate crisis threatens this right globally- hitting Black, Indigenous and poor communities the hardest.

As 2030 -the date of irreparable harm to the planet - approaches, we also see the rise of modern forms of authoritarianism, extraction, and racialized capitalism. These system-wide mutations to privatize and exploit water, energy, and land are denying communities' right to self-determination and governance. At the same time, the global rise in fascism and authoritarianism are placing violence and blame on migrants and people who are building solidarity and mutuality across borders.

While migration has been a story of humankind, it has not always been on one's own terms - clearly witnessed during the global slave trade and genocide of indigeneous peoples. More recently, we are seeing forced migration due to rising seas, storms, wildfires, famine, wars over resources, desertification, and privatization of land and water for energy extraction and profit. It is clear these global migration patterns are caused by the increased climate crisis. Who is deemed as "deserving" to migrate and how people are resourced to migrate is deeply shaped by 600-year history of anti-Black racism, classism, and power.

Climate migration is a critical through-line that impacts all our communities. The Gulf South is the first region in the United States to experience mass-scale climate migration in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the failure to invest in the proper infrastructure that centers people and culture. Appalachia - a resource-intense region prime for migration over the next 50 years - is facing extractive pressures from outside investors who buy up land and water access to "escape" the heat or sea level rise. This trend threatens people's ability to remain and afford their homes, while fascist narratives place the blame on Black and Brown migrants. In the Global South - communities are continually forced to leave because of famines, desertification, salt water intrusion on fresh water systems, and energy exploitation, or wars over access to land and water.



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People looking for a better life for their families are often losing their lives trying to cross deserts, the Mediterranean, or getting detained or killed for crossing a border.

### *About our Work*

We do not look at climate migration as a project, but as an integral part of our broader global climate reparations initiative and long-term movement building work. At our core, Taproot Earth builds power and alignment from the Gulf South to Appalachia to the Global South.

We design and convene spaces that bring frontline people together to connect and cultivate solutions on how to remain in the places one loves, or to migrate justly. These solutions include everything from planting trees to stem desertification to creating community microgrids utilizing justly-sourced renewable energy. In all of these solutions - it requires communities to have access and stewards of water, energy, land, and finance - all things that have been privatized and removed from the public commons

We resource and invest in these solutions by facilitating efforts to redistribute power. This includes changing laws that challenge politically-created borders and facilitating community-governed processes to move resources from wealthy institutions towards the frontlines.

We document and replicate these solutions to get to scale, through narrative shifts and partnership with networks to share lessons, ideas, and seeds of change that can create transformation.

Through all of this work, we believe that communities must be resourced and supported to assert their rights - so they can determine how they migrate or remain in the places they love. As we move quickly towards 2030, we invite each person to look at the clock not as a doom date, but as a date for the **Liberation Horizon**. We see 2030 as an opportunity to make significant shifts away from extraction and irreparable harm that we are doing to the planet *and each other*, to change the culture, narrative, and violence of anti-Black racism and start moving towards a world rooted in a culture of abundance, inclusion, and community stewardship and determination.