

Presentation of the 3rd GLOBE Climate Legislation Study to the UNFCCC

Examining climate change-related legislation
in 33 countries

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Bonn, Germany



Grantham Research Institute on
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the Environment



What is GLOBE International?

- ✧ A network of cross-party legislators in more than 40 countries (and growing fast)
- ✧ Provides a forum for legislators to showcase progress, share good practice on legislation and scrutiny, and learn lessons from experience
- ✧ Currently working on climate change, tropical forests, natural capital and oceans
- ✧ Draws 500 legislators together from all countries every two years at the World Summit of Legislators – next to be held in Mexico in June 2014
- ✧ Presidency of GLOBE International rotates; currently with UK parliament. Lord Deben is President of GLOBE International (also Chair of the UK's Statutory Committee on Climate Change)

The Importance of Legislation on Climate Change



“Domestic legislation on climate is the absolutely critical, essential, linchpin between action at the national level and international agreements. It is absolutely at the centre.”

**Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary
Addressing 1st GLOBE Climate Legislation Summit, London,
14th January 2013**



“Parliamentarians have a profound influence. You enact legislation. You approve budgets. You are at the heart of democratic governance. And in today’s increasingly interconnected world, you are also a link between the global and local — bringing local concerns into the global arena, and translating global standards into national action.”

United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon
Addressing the 1st GLOBE World Summit of Legislators
Rio 2012

The 3rd Edition: An inventory of climate change legislation in 33 countries



What is a Climate Change Law?

- Legislation, or regulations, policies and decrees with a comparable status, that refer specifically to climate change or are relevant for climate change
- Areas of relevance are energy efficiency, low carbon energy supply, deforestation, sustainable land use, sustainable transport, and adaptation to climate impacts
- Our focus is on legislation at the national level

What are the highlights of the study?

- There was **legislative progress** in 18 of the 33 study countries in 2012 alone
- Progress was particularly strong in **emerging and developing countries**
 - the non-Annex 1 countries of the UNFCCC
- In total, there are **285 pieces of legislation** at the national level
 - but numbers alone are not a reliable indicator of coverage
- 31 of the 33 countries have what we call a **flagship law** on climate change
 - a broad, unifying law to guide for climate change policy

Selected developments in 2012: Annex 1

Canada: Repeal of Kyoto Implementation Act



USA: Progress with regulating carbon under the Clean Air Act

EU: New Energy Efficiency Directive



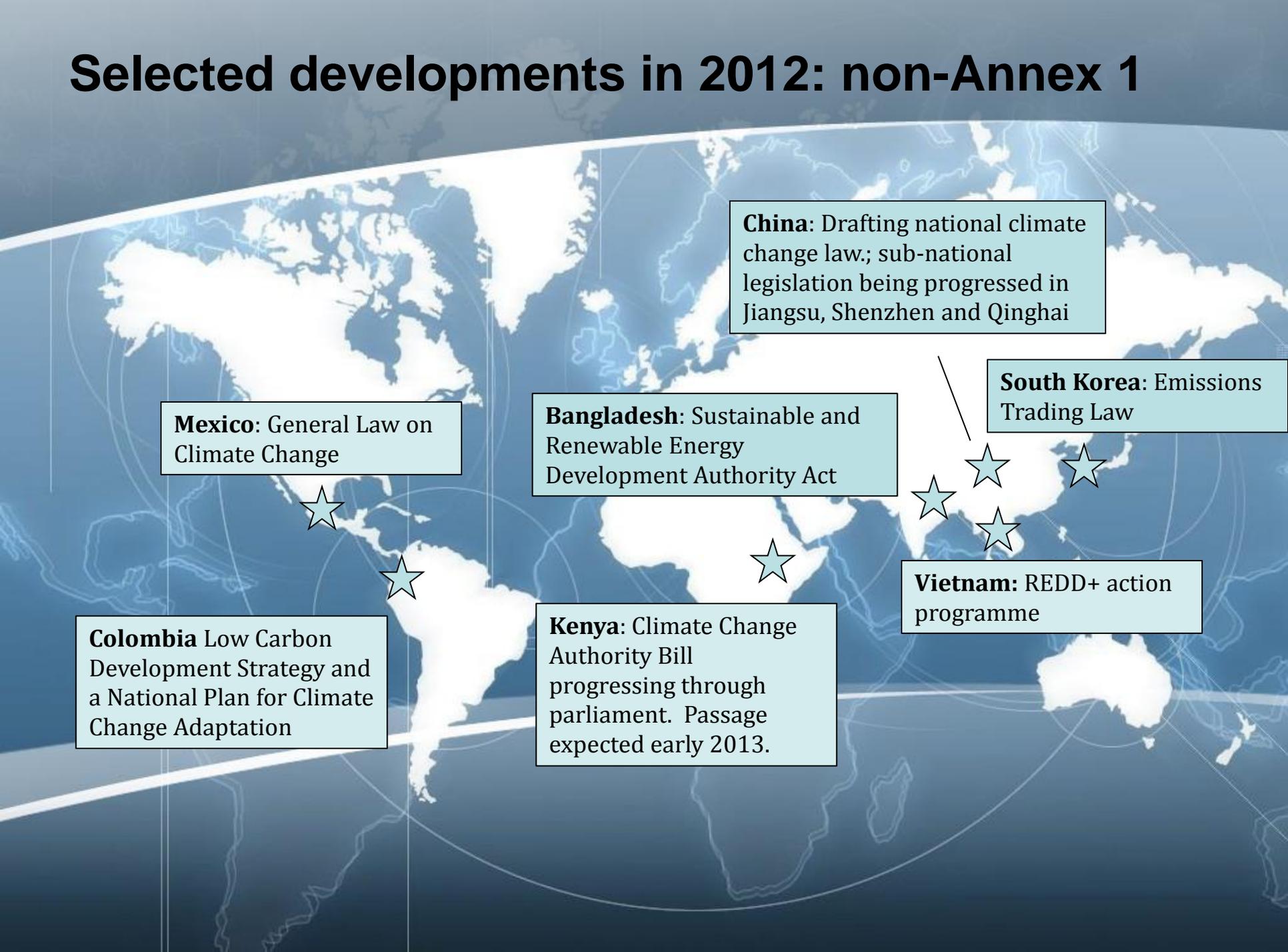
Japan: Introduction of carbon tax



Australia: Clean Energy Act 2011 and agreement to link emissions trading scheme with EU by 2018



Selected developments in 2012: non-Annex 1



Mexico: General Law on Climate Change

A world map with a blue and white color scheme. Several white stars are placed on the map to indicate the locations of the callout boxes. The stars are located in Mexico, Colombia, Bangladesh, Kenya, China, South Korea, and Vietnam. Each star is connected to a white-bordered callout box with a light blue background. The boxes contain text describing climate-related developments in each country for the year 2012.

Colombia Low Carbon Development Strategy and a National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation

Bangladesh: Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority Act

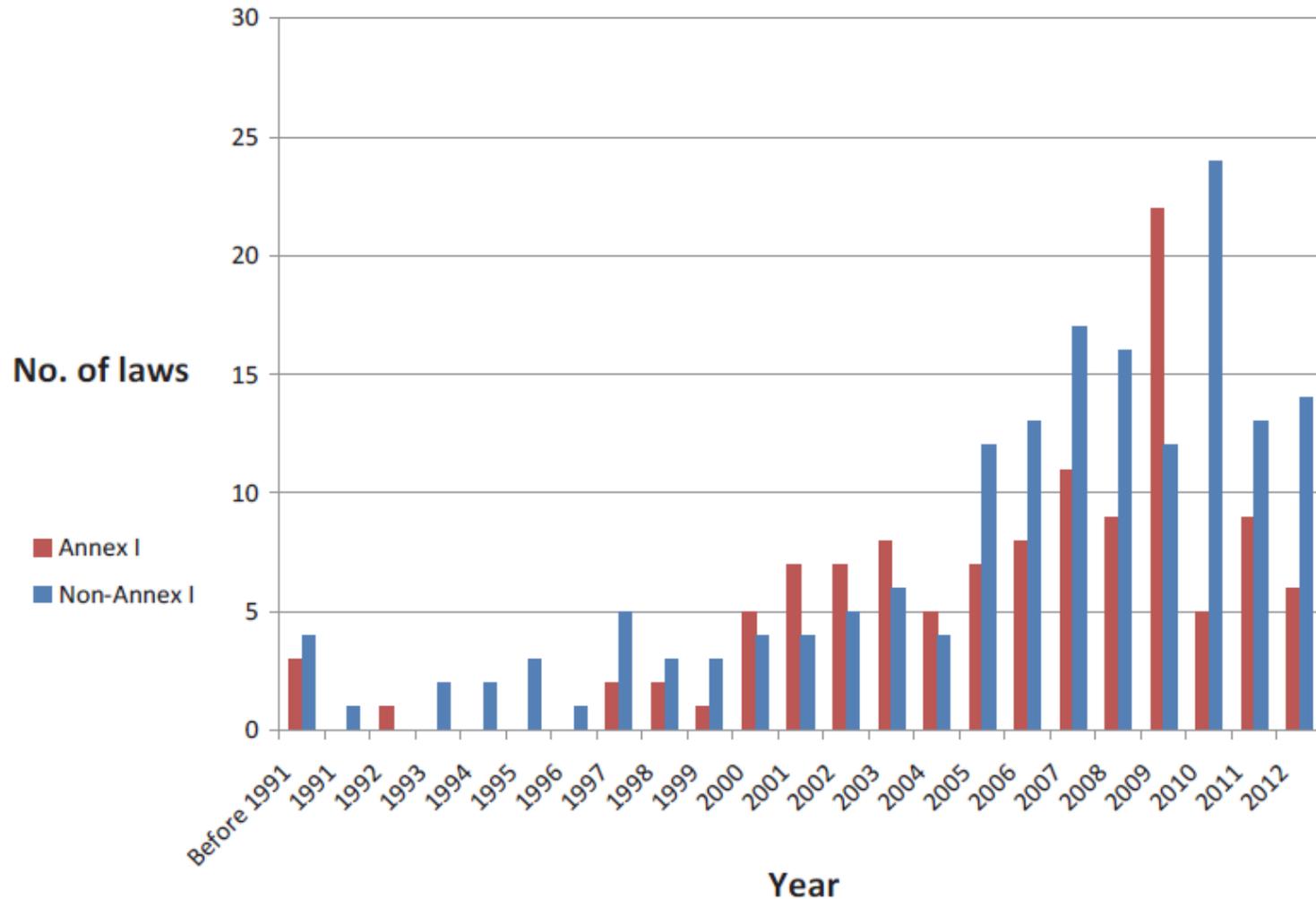
Kenya: Climate Change Authority Bill progressing through parliament. Passage expected early 2013.

China: Drafting national climate change law.; sub-national legislation being progressed in Jiangsu, Shenzhen and Qinghai

South Korea: Emissions Trading Law

Vietnam: REDD+ action programme

How does progress in 2012 compare?



What drives climate change legislation?

- **UN process:** Many countries have put into legislation the commitments made at Copenhagen in 2009
- **Leadership:** Many flagship laws were passed after hosting major international events
 - Mexico (2012) after the Cancun COP of 2010; Indonesia (2008) after the Bali COP of 2007; UK (2008) after the Gleneagles G8 summit of 2005
- **National drivers:** Domestic benefits often help to motivate climate legislation
 - energy security; resource efficiency; vulnerability to climate impacts; potential for green growth and competitive advantage in growing markets

What do climate change laws cover?

- **Energy efficiency** (covered in 31 countries) is seen as a “win-win” policy everywhere
- **Energy supply** (covered in 32 countries) includes the promotion of renewable energy, smart grids and sometimes nuclear
- **Adaptation** (covered in 28 countries) is particularly important in many developing countries
- **Green growth** is a motivating factor for many countries and explicitly promoted in Ethiopia and South Korea, among others

What are the lessons?

- Practically all countries are taking climate action, often motivated by national interest. **It is a myth that “my country is the only one doing this.”**
- Legislators can learn from the experience of other countries. Climate change legislation is often complex.
- Domestic action and international commitments complement each other. One reinforces the other and the UNFCCC process has been a catalyst for legislation. **But domestic action is not yet sufficient to meet international climate objectives.**
- An ambitious international agreement will help spur more and stronger national action.

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