The 3rd GLOBE Climate Legislation Study

Examining climate change-related legislation in 33 countries

GLOBE Climate Legislation Summit
14-15 January 2013
Locarno Suite, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
An inventory of climate change legislation in 33 countries
What are the highlights?

- There was legislative progress in 18 of the 33 study countries in 2012.
- 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 climate change policy.
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 is the GLOBE context?

2009 Agreement on “Legislative Principles on Climate Change” drafted by Chinese Congressman Wang Guangtao and US Congressman Ed Markey

2010 The 1st GLOBE Climate Legislation Study (16 countries)

2011 The 2nd GLOBE Climate Legislation Study (17 countries)

ongoing National engagement
Selected developments in 2012: Annex 1

**Canada:** Repeal of Kyoto Implementation Act

**USA:** Progress with regulating carbon under the Clean Air Act

**EU:** Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority Act

**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

**El Salvador**: National Environmental Policy

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

**Brazil**: Forest Code amendments

**Chile**: Resolution 370 on grid access for renewables and Law 20571

**China**: Drafting Climate Change Law; first sub-national legislation in Shenzhen.

**South Korea**: Emissions Trading Law

**Vietnam**: REDD+ action programme

**Indonesia**: Ministerial regulation on thermal energy
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

- **National drivers**: Domestic benefits often help to motivate climate legislation
  - energy security; resource efficiency; vulnerability to climate impacts; potential for green growth
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 for legislators?

• 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, and knowledge exchange therefore very valuable.

• Domestic action and international commitments complement each other. One reinforces the other. But domestic action is not yet sufficient to meet international climate objectives.
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