

The Global Climate Legislation Study

Summary of key trends 2016

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The Global Climate Legislation Study

The study covers over 850 national laws and policies directly related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Launched in 2010 covering only 16 countries, the database currently covers 99 jurisdictions, which taken together produce 93 per cent of global emissions and are home to 90 per cent of the world's forests. The database includes 46 of the world's top 50 emitters.

The climate legislation database that underpins the study is updated regularly, is fully searchable and results are downloadable. It also includes 99 detailed country chapters, latest developments, and related research. **The database will soon be expanded to cover more than 170 countries.** It is available online on the Grantham Research Institute's website:

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/legislation/>

Climate change legislative and executive acts passed in 2016

China - 13th Five-Year Plan (March 2016)

The 13th Five-Year Plan lays down a pathway for China's development for 2016-2020, including an emissions reductions target of 18 per cent and a reduction in energy intensity of 15 per cent, both on 2015 levels, by 2020.

Colombia - National Climate Change Decree (SISCLIMA) (February 2016)

The executive decree coordinates climate change efforts and creates: 1) the Intersectional Commission on Climate Change, and 2) Regional Nodes for Climate Change for national and regional efforts, respectively.

Costa Rica - Law 9366 on Railroad Electrification (July 2016)

The law modernises the Costa Rican Railroad Institute (INCOFER) with the goal of building an electric train network and thereby reducing greenhouse gas emission in the transport sector.

Italy - RES Decree 2016 (June 2016)

The ministerial decree provides incentives for electricity production from renewable energy sources and updates the allocation scheme of feed-in and all-inclusive tariffs.

Kenya – Climate Change Act (May 2016)

This act provides a framework for promoting climate resilient low-carbon economic development, including the establishment of a National Climate Change Council that coordinates overarching climate change strategy.

Peru - 2017-2021 Multi-year Sectoral Strategic Plan of the Environment Sector (July 2016)

Fitted within the Peruvian climate legislative network, the strategic plan sets specific targets for 2021, including an emissions reduction target of 30 per cent relative to 2016, and 50 per cent reduction in losses and damage in lives, livelihood and ecosystems due to events of climate, geological and glaciological origin.

Peru - National Forestry and Climate Change Strategy (July 2016)

The National Forestry and Climate Change Strategy identifies the major threats to Peru's forests and lays out a strategy for countering them.

Singapore - Climate Action Plan (July 2016)

The Climate Action Plan lays down strategies and targets to meet Singapore's pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 36 per cent by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels), peak emissions around 2030, and ensure the future resilience of Singapore.

UK – Fifth carbon budget (June 2016)

The fifth carbon budget commits the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 57% relative to 1990 levels.

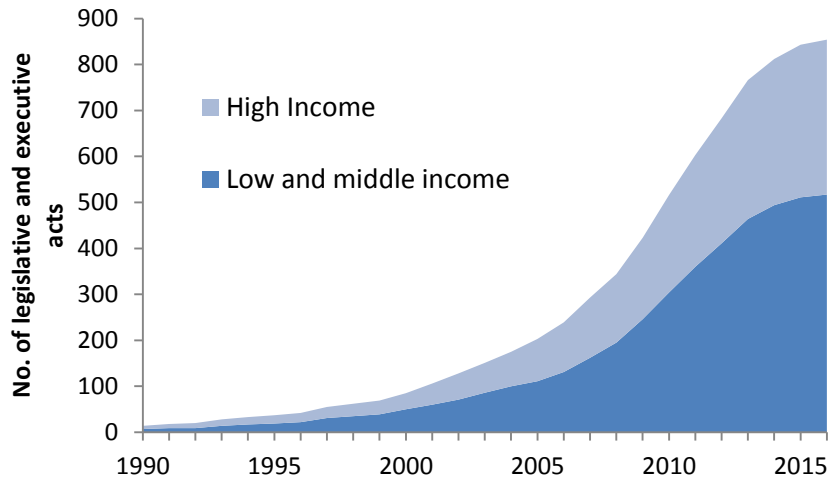
US – Electrify Africa Act (February 2016)

The law formalises the US initiative and goal to provide access to power for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020, and to enable the installation of an additional 20,000 megawatts of electricity capacity by 2020.

Key trends and issues for climate legislation in 2016

Since 1997 the number of climate change laws and policies has doubled every 4-5 years, but as the number of climate laws rises the pace of new legislation is levelling off

Figure 1. Total number of laws in 99 countries

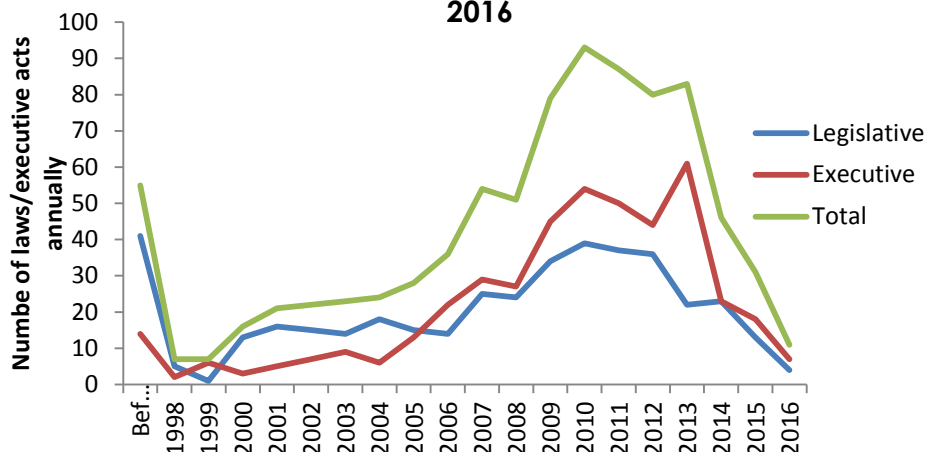


At the time of publication there are 854 climate change laws and policies, rising from only 54 laws and policies in 1997, and 426 in 2009 when the Copenhagen Accord was signed.

Just under half of those laws and policies (414) were passed by the legislative branch, and the rest (440) by the executive branch (e.g. policies, decrees).

The number of laws and policies being passed annually is falling

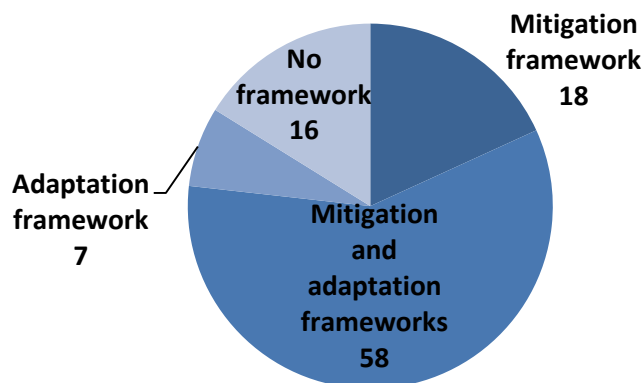
Figure 2. Legislative and executive action up to 2016



The annual number of legislative and executive actions have both dropped since their 2010 peak, when 93 new Laws and executive acts were passed. 11 new Laws and policies were passed in 2016, showing a steady decline from the past few years: 31 in 2015, 46 in 2014, and 82 in 2013. While this suggests a shift towards implementation, it could also mean that the drive to strengthen climate ambitions has stalled.

58 countries have framework legislation to address both mitigation and adaptation: 3 countries passed new framework legislation in 2016 (China, Kenya, Singapore).

Figure 3. Mitigation and adaptation framework laws in 99 countries

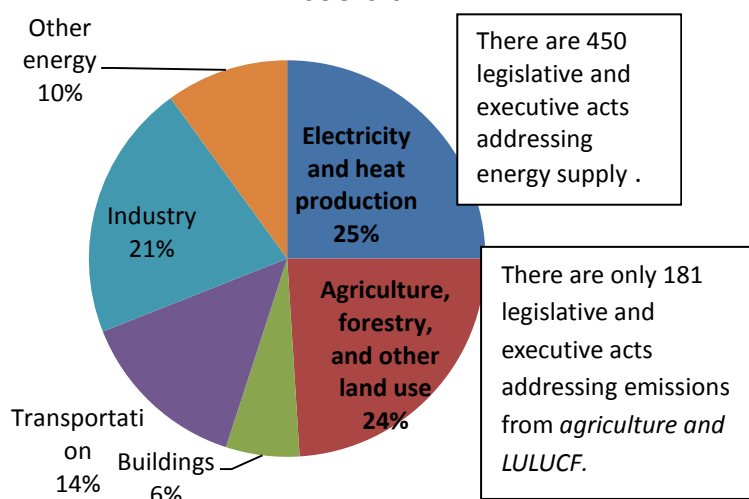


Framework legislation is defined as a law or executive act with equivalent status, which serves as a comprehensive, unifying basis for climate change policy, addressing multiple aspects or areas of climate change mitigation or a adaptation (or both).

Framework legislation has been shown to encourage a strategic approach to climate policy and generate further policy action. Framework laws are consistent with the Paris Agreement, which calls for countries to specify their commitments in economy-wide terms. To date, 16 out of 99 countries do not yet have climate framework legislation.

The sectoral focus of climate legislation does not fully match prevailing emissions profiles.

Figure 4. GHG emissions from various sectors



While a law count is not a sufficient indicator of effective carbon regulation in a sector, it can help shine a light on regulatory gaps and deficiencies. For example, there are more than twice as many energy-related acts as agriculture-related acts, even though the two make up similar amounts of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Adaptation: more information and action needed

Since 2015, no new legislation regarding adaptation has been passed. Half of the study countries have only minimal climate change risk assessments. In 51 countries adaptation plans do not go beyond the reporting requirements in the national communications to the UNFCCC.