

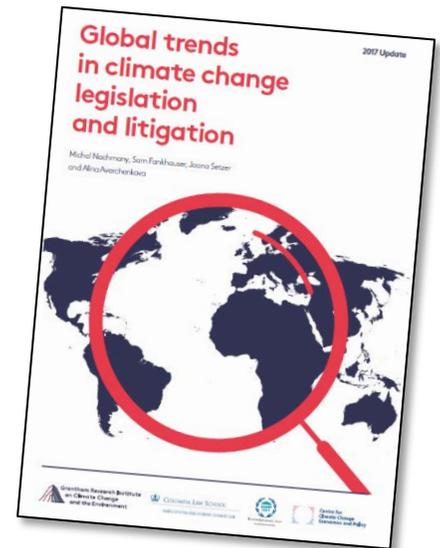
Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation

Summary of the 2017 Update

Michal Nachmany, Sam Fankhauser, Joana Setzer and Alina Averchenkova (May 2017)

This report is the sixth stock-take in a series of global Climate Legislation Studies that dates back to 2010.

Climate Change Laws of the World: An online knowledge resource on climate legislation and litigation expanded to cover 164 countries



All the information contained in the full report is available on the website of the Grantham Research Institute at www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/Legislation. The website features a **searchable database on climate change laws and court cases** in the countries covered. This is complemented by country profiles and a few selected indicators. The data are updated regularly. However, we invite readers to draw our attention to any entries we may have missed (email: gri.cgl@lse.ac.uk).

Key messages from the 2017 update

- There are now over 1,200 climate change or climate change-relevant laws worldwide, a twentyfold increase over 20 years: in 1997 there were about 60 climate laws in place.
- The rate at which new laws are passed has decreased from over 100 new laws per year in 2009–13 to around 40 new laws in 2016. This reflects the large amount of ground that existing climate laws already cover.
- The challenge for the future lies in strengthening existing laws and filling gaps, rather than devising new frameworks. Most (but not all) countries have the legal basis on which further action can build.
- Low-income countries are progressively active on climate change legislation. Reflecting their circumstances, the focus of low-income countries is on climate resilience rather than emissions.
- Climate change needs to be integrated better into mainstream development strategies. Only four in 10 countries have factored climate change explicitly into their development plans.
- The courts are complementing the actions of legislators, ruling on the implementation of existing climate laws or providing a basis for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. Outside the United States, there have been over 250 court cases in which climate change is a relevant factor.
- Two-thirds of court cases challenging regulation have either strengthened or maintained climate change regulation. In one-third of cases, policies have been weakened. However, the evidence base on court cases is less complete than that on climate change legislation.

Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation – 2017 update

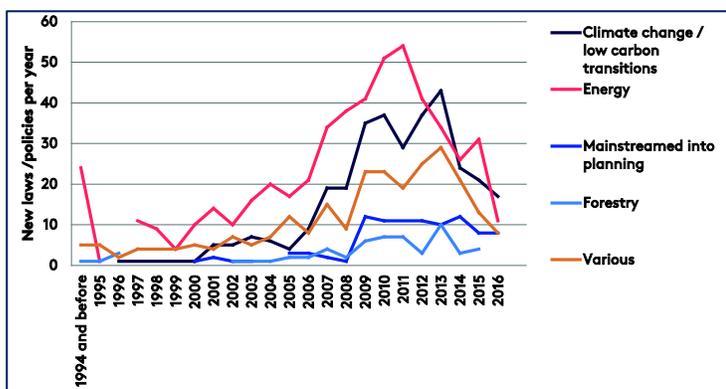
What does the report cover?

- Key trends in climate change legislation and litigation.
- Legislative activities in 164 countries, up from 99 countries in 2015.
- Includes the world's 50 largest greenhouse gas emitters and 93 of the top 100 emitters – which together account for nearly 95 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Retains the **broad definition of climate and climate-related laws** of earlier editions, which reflects the relevance of climate policy in areas including **energy, transport, land use** and **climate resilience**.
- **Maintains focus on climate action at the national level** but recognises the crucial importance of sub-national initiatives at the state, provincial and municipal levels.
- **Key data are presented in map and graphical form** – see examples below.
- **Analysis of climate change litigation across 25 jurisdictions.** While the legislative and executive branches of governments have long been prominent domains for climate change action, the judiciary is beginning to play an increasingly important role in national climate policy.

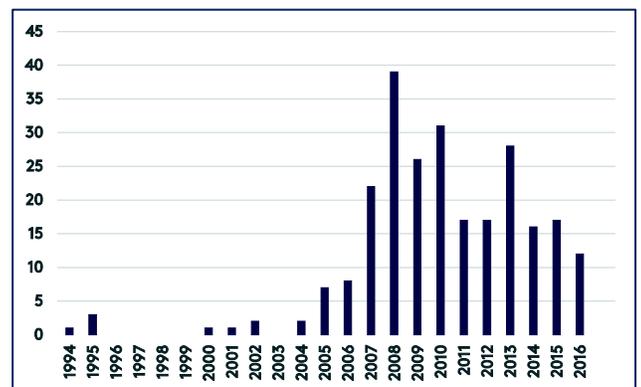
Where do the data come from?

- A major newly expanded database, maintained jointly by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the Sabin Center on Climate Change Law at the Columbia Law School.

Global laws and policies by focus areas, pre-1994 to 2016



Litigation cases in 25 jurisdictions, 1994–2016



Read the full report and access the online database at:
www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/legislation

Join our webinar on trends in climate legislation and litigation, and on how to maximise use of 'Climate Change Laws of the World' tools, 5 June 2017
Register on: www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/event/cii-webinar