

# **The 3<sup>rd</sup> GLOBE Climate Legislation Study**

Examining climate change-related legislation  
in 33 countries

Leaders in Environmental Assessment and Performance Webinar  
MIT, March 1, 2013



Grantham Research Institute on  
Climate Change and  
the Environment



# Outline

- Background
- Key developments in 2012 (“flow” of new laws)
- Legislative dynamics (stocks and flows)
- Themes and coverage (stock of legislation)



## About Globe

- 1989 The Global Legislators Organisation is set up as a network of parliamentarians with an interest in the environment
- 2009 Agreement on “Legislative Principles on Climate Change” drafted by Chinese Congressman Wang Guangtao and US Congressman Ed Markey
- 2010 The 1<sup>st</sup> GLOBE Climate Legislation Study (16 countries)
- 2011 The 2<sup>nd</sup> GLOBE Climate Legislation Study (17 countries)
- ongoing* National engagement



# 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



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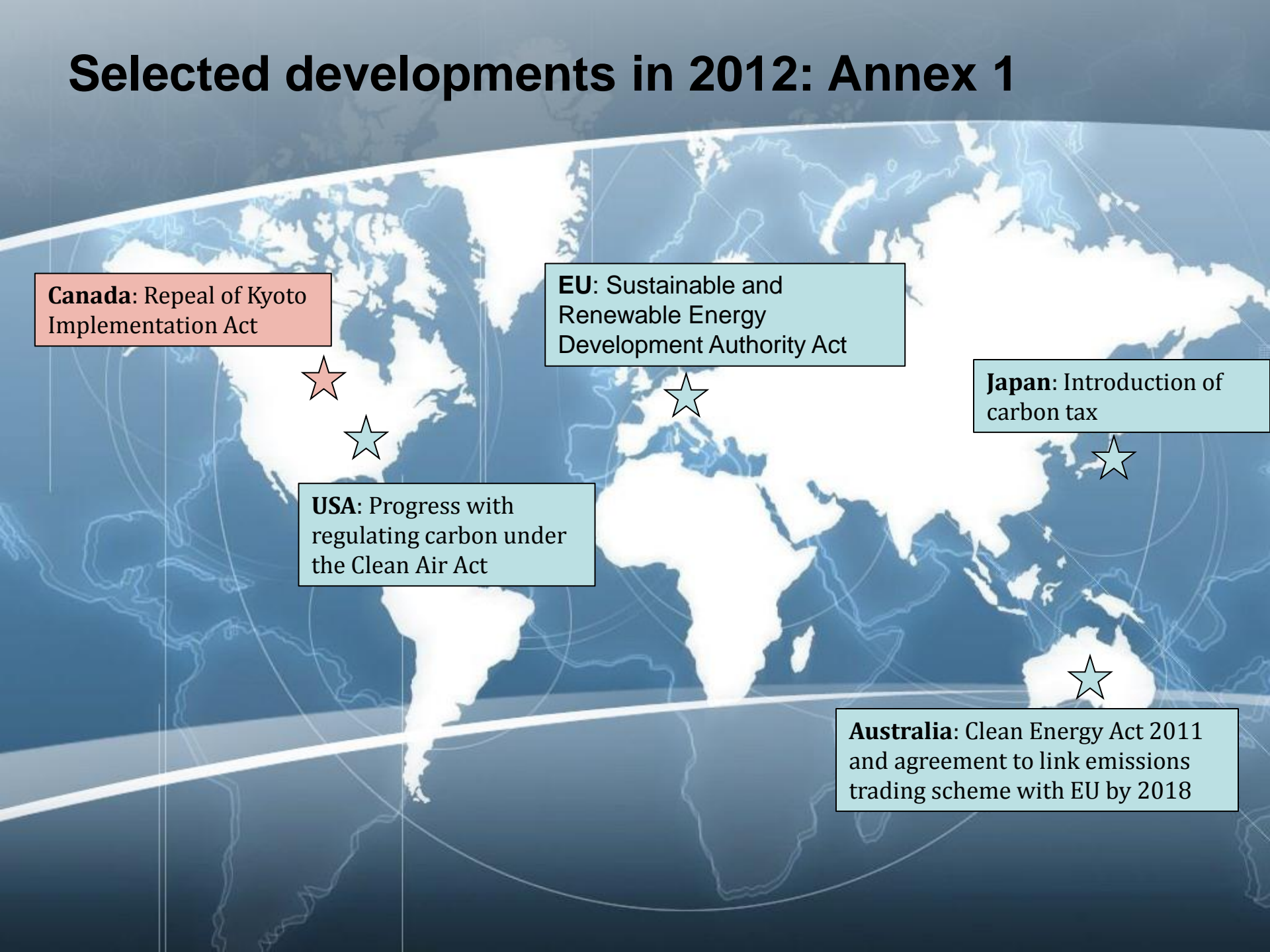


# Highlights

- 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 **286 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



# Selected developments in 2012: Annex 1



**Canada:** Repeal of Kyoto Implementation Act

A world map with a blue background and white landmasses. Five callout boxes are placed over different regions, each with a star icon. The callouts are: Canada (red box), EU (teal box), Japan (teal box), USA (teal box), and Australia (teal box). The stars are: Canada (red), EU (teal), Japan (teal), USA (teal), and Australia (teal).

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

**Japan:** Introduction of carbon tax

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

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



# Selected developments in 2012: non-Annex 1

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

**Pakistan** National Climate Change Policy

**India** 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan including recommendations on low carbon strategy

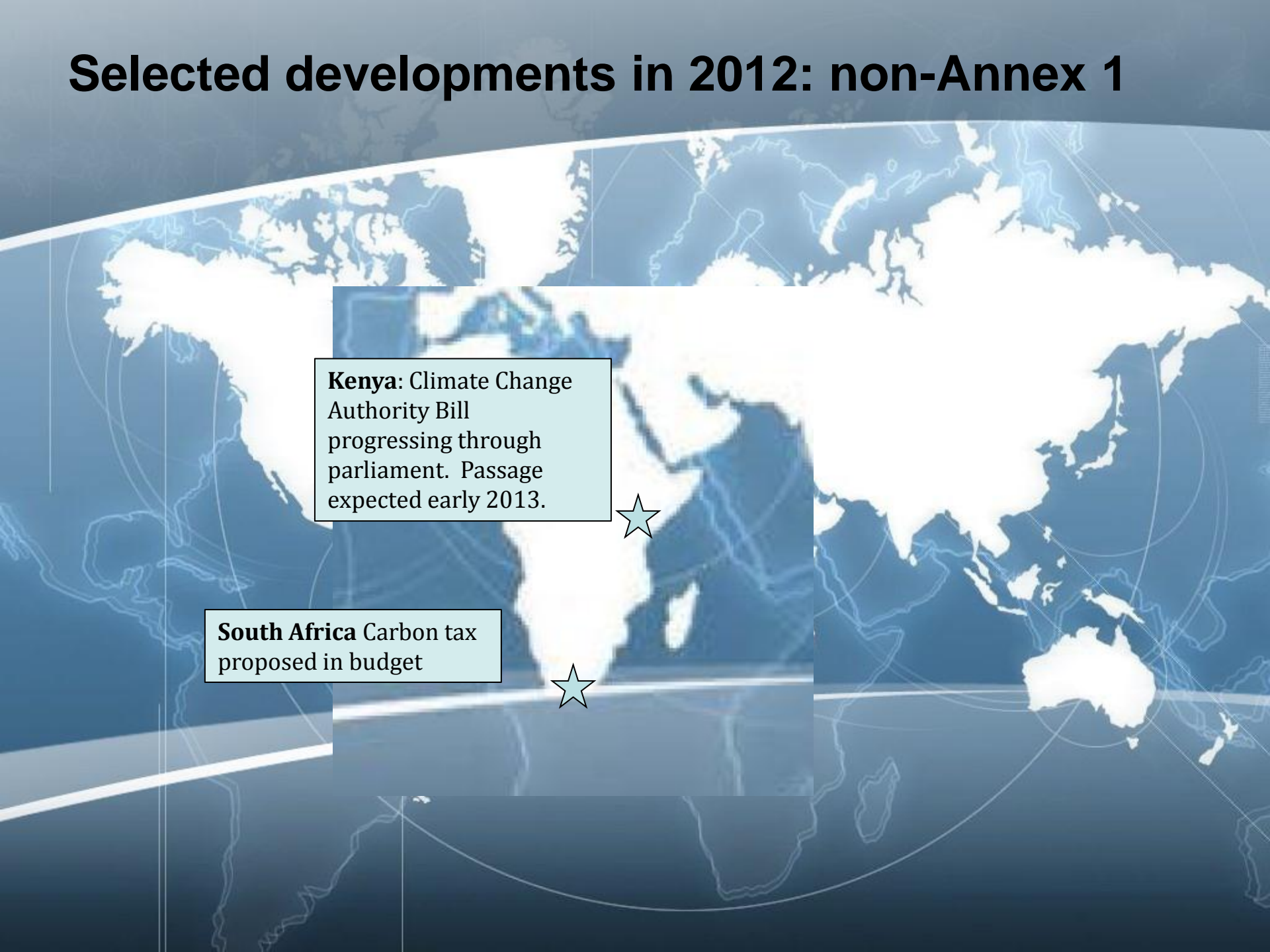
**China:** Drafting Climate Change Law; first sub-national legislation in Shenzhen.

**South Korea:** Emissions Trading Law

**Vietnam:** REDD+ action programme

**Indonesia:** Ministerial regulation on thermal energy

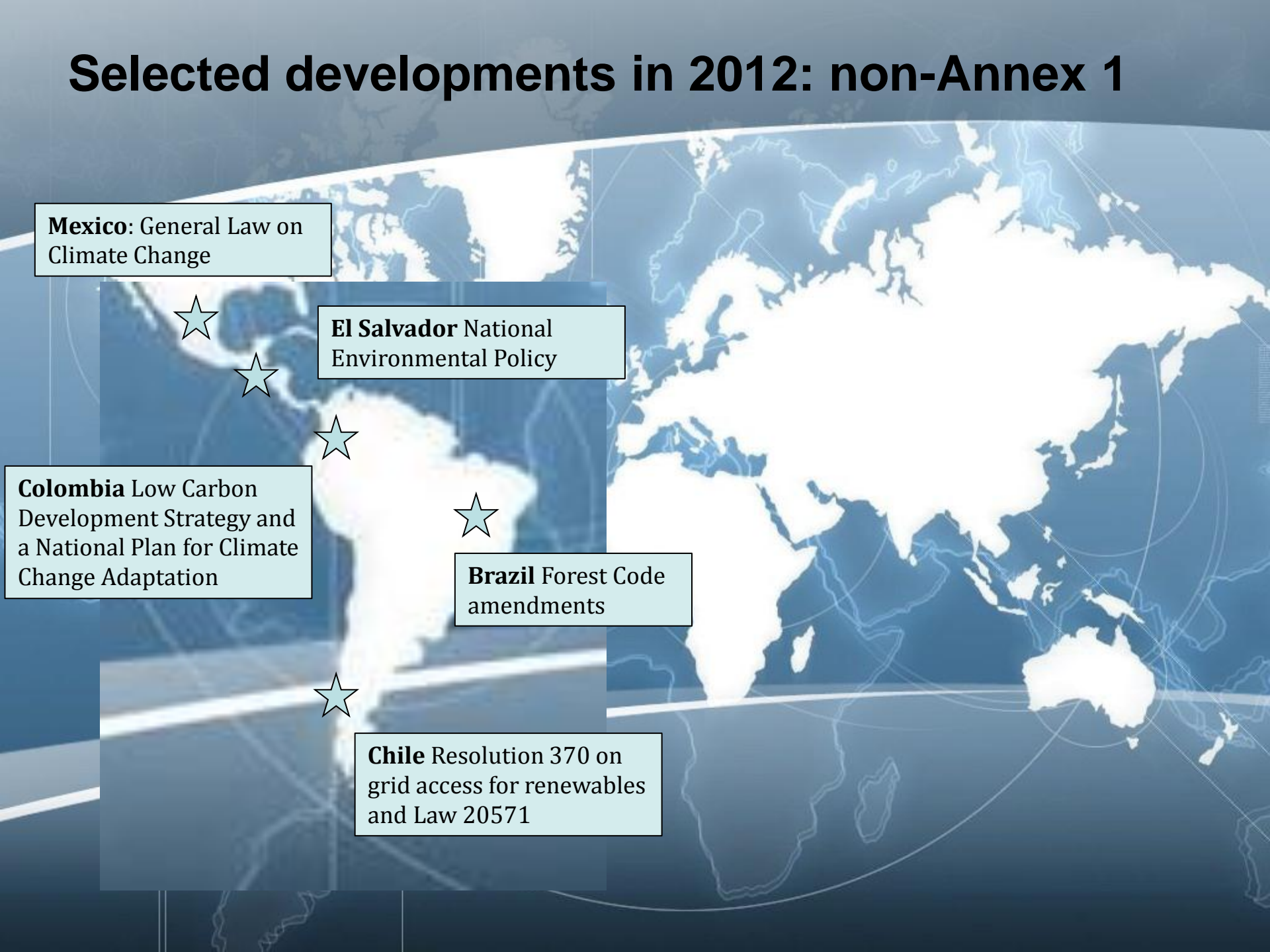
# Selected developments in 2012: non-Annex 1

A stylized world map in shades of blue and white, showing the outlines of continents. Two callout boxes with star markers point to Kenya and South Africa. The Kenya callout box is located in East Africa, and the South Africa callout box is located in Southern Africa. Both boxes have a light blue background and a black border.

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

**South Africa** Carbon tax proposed in budget

# Selected developments in 2012: non-Annex 1

A world map with a blue and white color scheme, showing the outlines of continents. Five white stars are placed on the map to indicate specific countries: Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, Brazil, and Chile. Each star is accompanied by a text box describing a climate policy development in that country for the year 2012.

**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

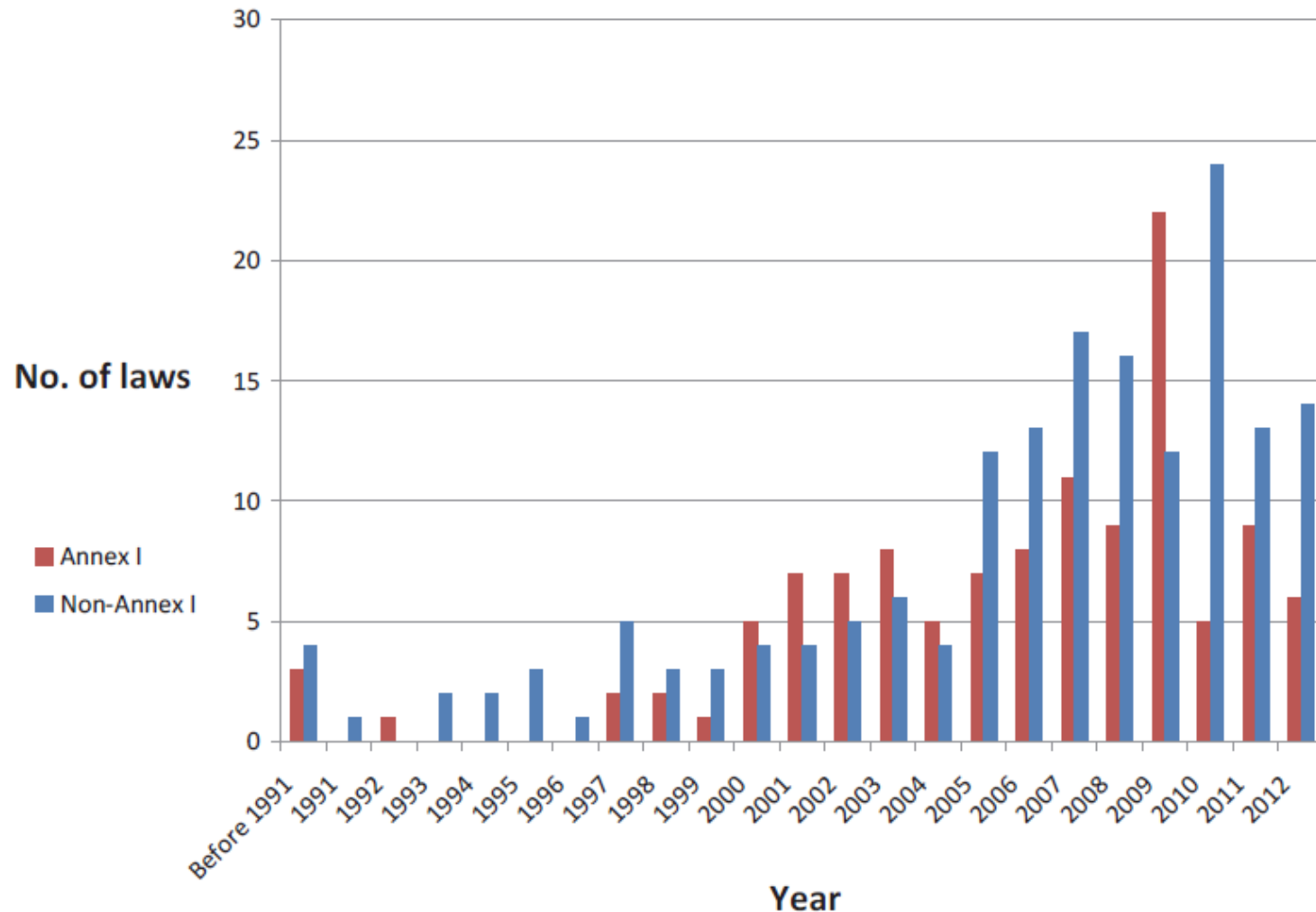
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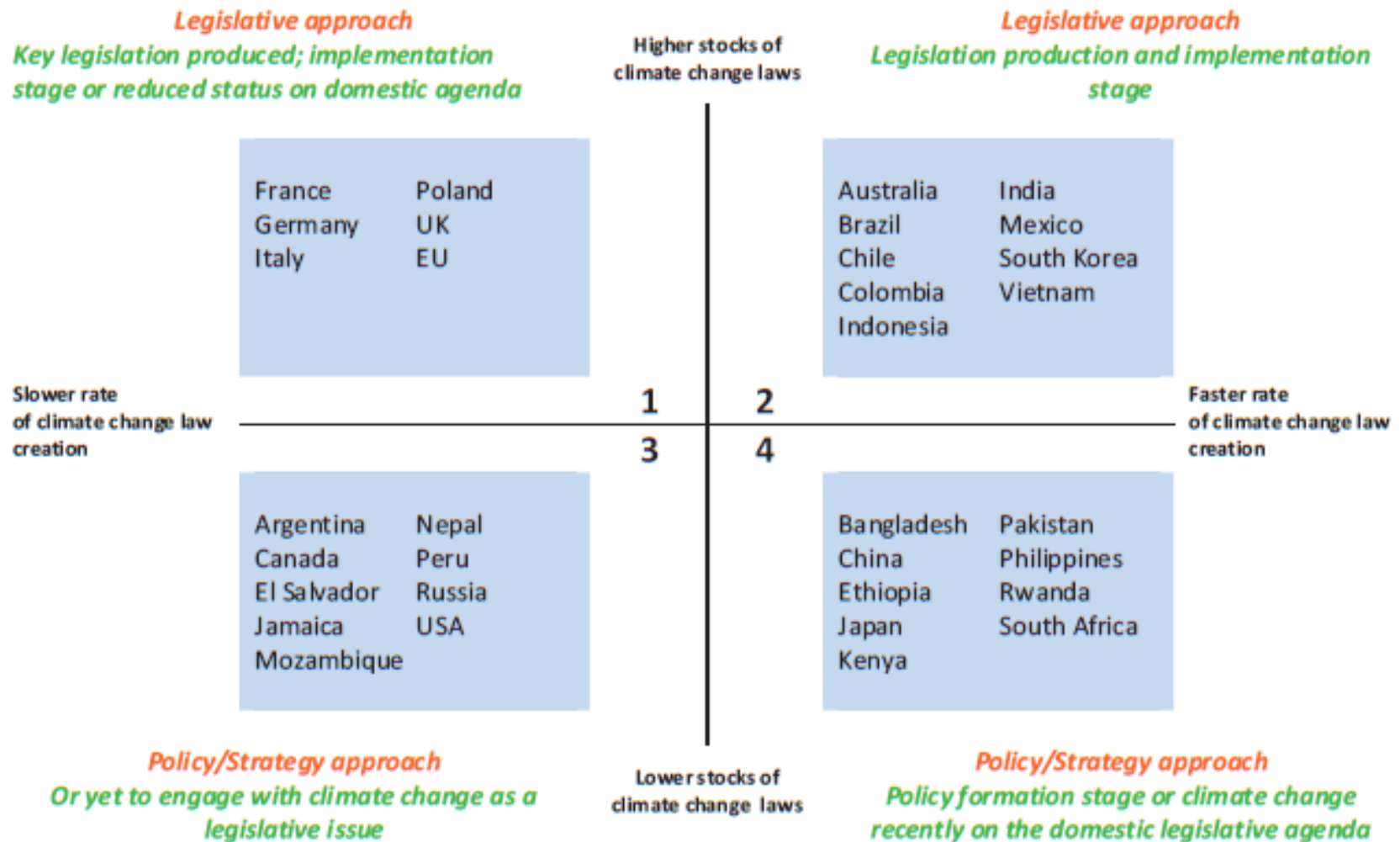




# How does progress in 2012 compare?



# Legislation dynamics



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## 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



## Example: China

- **11<sup>th</sup> Five-year plan** as the main legal basis
- **Energy intensity target:** Reduce energy use per GDP by 40-45% by 2020 (relative to 2020)
- **Carbon market pilots:** Explore cap and trade in six provinces
- **Green growth aim:** Output in 7 strategic sectors to rise from 3% to 15% of GDP by 2020
  - Energy conservation/environmental protection, new energy, biology, high-end manufacturing, new materials, new cars, IT



## Example: UK

- **Climate Change Act of 2008** as the main legal basis
- **Mandatory 5-year carbon budgets** on the way to a 80% cut in all GHG by 2050
  - Fourth carbon budget (2023-27) mandates a 50% cut
- **Independent Committee on Climate Change** to monitor and recommend the budgets
- **Wide range of policy tools** to support budget implementation
  - Carbon pricing, renewables support, regulation



# 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

## Institutional arrangements

- **Many climate change law establish new institutions**, either independent or cross-governmental
  - UK Committee on Climate Change; Australia's Climate Change Commission
- **Aim is to provide policy certainty to investors**
  - Mitigation requires long-term commitment over political cycles
- **Another aim is to ensure coordination across government**
  - E.g. mitigation requires action from energy, transport, agriculture, economy, planning departments

## Conclusions

- Practically all countries are taking climate action. It is a myth that “my country is the only one doing this.”
- Policy makers can learn from the experience of other countries. Climate change legislation is often complex, and knowledge exchange therefore very valuable.
- Legislation is often motivated by national interest: energy security, air pollution, green growth.
- 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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