Global trends in climate change policy and legislation

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The international community is not on track to meet the climate change objectives of the Paris Agreement (Rogelj *et al.* 2016). According to UN estimates, global greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 will be some 15 GtCO2 higher than required under a 2ºC stabilisation path. The emissions gap for 1.5 ºC is twice that level (UNEP 2018).

Yet countries are taking action against climate change. Globally, there are now over 1,700 climate change laws and policies that deal with greenhouse gas emissions, some of them dating back more than 20 years. There is no country in the world that does not have at least one climate change law or policy.

This proposed paper would provide an overview of climate change policy and legislation worldwide, introducing to readers a unique database on *Climate Change Laws of the World* compiled by the Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics.[3]

The database has been compiled over several years in collaboration with parliamentarians, and its content has already been used in both academic and policy-oriented writing. So far, the data have mostly served to assess global progress in adopting climate policies (Dubash *et al.* 2013; Nachmany and Setzer 2018; Townshend *et al.* 2013; 2011), understand the political economy of passing climate laws (Fankhauser *et al.* 2015a, b) and identify good practice in climate change governance (Averchenkova *et al.* 2017). However, this would be the first time that descriptive statistics of the database are presented to a US audience of researchers and policy makers.

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[3] The Climate Change Laws of the World database is available at http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/climate-change-laws-of-the-world/.

Climate Change Laws of the World paints a rich picture of climate change policy and legislation worldwide. The database aspires to be comprehensive, tracking the legislation activities of every country in the world. It adopts a fairly broad definition of climate legislation, including legislative acts, executive orders and policies of equivalent importance. It covers the full range of interventions that is relevant to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including

- framework laws (such as, the UK *Climate Change Act*)
- dedicated measures like carbon pricing schemes (e.g., New Zealand's *Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading) Amendment*)
- energy sector policies (e.g., Germany's *Renewable Energy Sources Act*),
- transport interventions (e.g., Brazil's *Mandatory Biodiesel Requirements*)
- forestry interventions as relate to climate (e.g., the Democratic Republic of Congo's *Law on Protection of the Nature*).
- Adaptation interventions (e.g., Japan's *Climate Change Adaptation Act*).

The paper would describe time trends in climate change legislation (e.g. like Figure 1) and discuss the density of climate legislation in different countries (e.g. like Figure 2). It would disaggregate data by groups of countries (e.g. legislative activity by advanced countries vs developed countries) and by sector (e.g. number of laws dealing with energy, adaptation etc).

If desirable the paper might highlight results from earlier papers that have used the database. Alternatively, or in addition, it could also describe descriptive statistics on climate change-related court cases, of which are also covered in *Climate Change Laws of the World* and of there are around 1,000 by now

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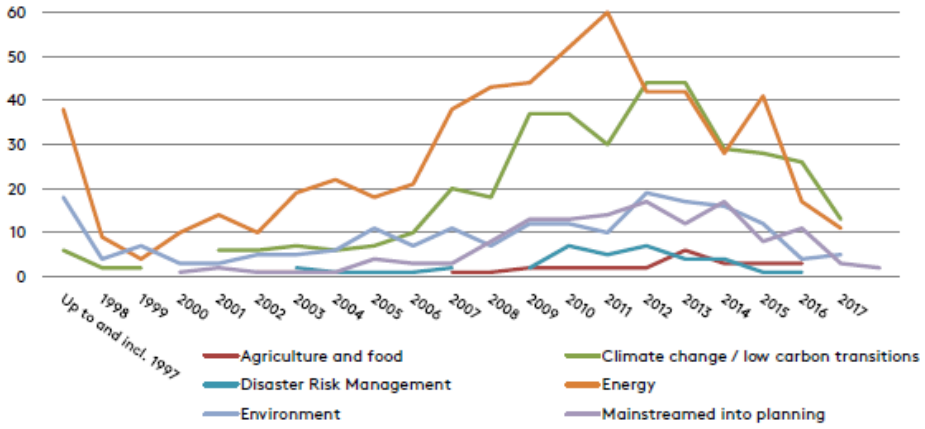
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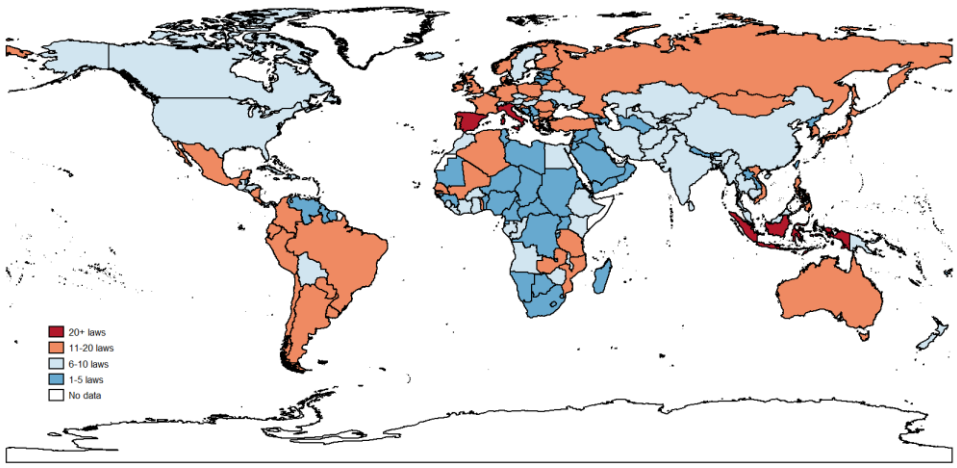
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Figure 1: Time series of climate change legislation



Source: Nachmany and Setzer 2018

Figure 2: Climate laws by countries



Source: Eskander and Fankhauser, forthcoming.