

Climate Change Laws of the World Project

Columbia Center for Climate Change Law

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Introduction

The Climate Change Laws of the World Project is an ongoing effort at the Center for Climate Change Law (CCCL) to aggregate existing domestic laws and policies related to climate change. The global nature of climate change requires a comprehensive understanding of the efforts taken by individual countries to mitigate climate change. Furthermore, policies aimed at adaptation and reducing vulnerability to climate change will continue to iterate and improve, especially as the preliminary effects of climate change are experienced. By researching and compiling this easily accessible database, the CCCL furthers their objective of developing legal techniques to fight climate change and provides up-to-date resources for practitioners and students on climate change law and regulation.

The project is the first step of many in trying to organize and assess climate change laws and policies. The database continues to rely on the expertise of international scholars at Columbia's law school. The laws, many of which have been implemented in the last decade, must still be analyzed for their efficacy. This includes assessing compliance and determining if countries' have achieved their targets.

Climate Change Laws of the World

Countries around the world are taking important domestic actions to help tackle the issue of climate change. This page collects the relevant laws and policies of various countries into an easily accessible database.



The database is a work in progress, with countries being added as relevant expertise becomes available. CCCL invites and welcomes collaboration in helping to develop and keep current this expansive and rapidly changing body of laws. Please email additions and updates to ColumbiaClimate@gmail.com.

- **Asia and Pacific**
- **Africa and the Middle East**
- **Europe and Eurasia**
- **North America**
- **Central and South America**
- **Arctic**

Central and South America



Case Study: Chile

Climate Change Laws of Chile

Status under International Climate Change Law

- **UNFCCC:** signature (13 June 1992), ratification (22 Dec 1994), and entry into force (22 March 1995)
- **KP:** signature (17 June 1998), ratification (26 Aug 2002), and entry into force (16 February 2005)
Quantified emission limitation or reduction commitment: na
- **Vienna Convention:** signature and ratification (6 Mar 1990)
- **Montreal Protocol:** signature and ratification (19 Mar 1990)
- **2020 Pledge:** Reduce 20% of emissions from business as usual

Federal Laws on Climate Change

Climate

- **National Climate Change Action Plan 2008-2012 4 December 2008 (Spanish)** serves to generate information for a longer term climate policy, including an analysis on the climate situation and proposes strategies for adaptation, mitigation, and capacity-building.

Energy

- **Resolution 370 18 July 2012 (Spanish)** regulates subsidies for power transmission lines to facilitate access to the grid for renewable energy installations, decreasing investment risk and targeting 20% of energy from renewables by 2020.
- **Law No. 20571 22 March 2012 (Spanish)** modifies the General Law for Electric Services of 1982, regulating the payment of electricity tariffs for residential generators and allowing renewable installations to insert 100kW into the distribution grid.
- **Tax Exemption for Solar Thermal Systems (Law No. 20.365) 19 August 2010 (Spanish)** awards tax deductions that cover a portion of the costs of installation of new solar thermal systems and provides a 5-year consumer protection guarantee.
- **Law on Non-Conventional Renewable Energies (Law No. 20.257) 1 April 2008 (Spanish)** requires power sold by electricity companies that remove power from the grids to sell to distributors to generate at least a portion of their power from non-conventional renewable sources.
- **Energy Efficiency Label Programme (Decree No. 298) 2007 (Spanish)** regulates the third party certification process of products that employ electricity and fuels covering 14 products.
- **Law modifying the General Electrical Services Law of 1982 (Law No. 19940) 13 March 2004 (Spanish)** granted access to the spot market and the country's power grid to producers of Non-Conventional Renewable Energy sources.
- **Law on Geothermal Energy (Law No. 19.657, Decree 34) 7 January 2000, 20 October 2004 (Spanish)** provides rules for the exploration and development of geothermal energy.

Forests and Land Use

- **Law on the Chilean Native Forest (Law No. 20.283) July 2008 (Spanish)** establishes rules to protect and recover native forest species, by installing rules and defining subsidies for the preservation and sustainable management of forests.
- **Modification of Decree Law No. 701 (Law No. 19.561) 1998 (Spanish)** established subsidies for protection and recovery of degraded soils in Chile and forestation activities from small landowners.

Other

- **General Law of the Environment (Law no. 19300) 13 November 2010 (Spanish)** acknowledges mitigating climate change as a national priority.

Government Documents

- **Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by the Chilean Ministry of the Environment**
- **Results from COP 17 Durban, South Africa**

Factual Matters

- **Ministry of the Environment**

NGO Resources

- **Cambio Climático Chile**

Secondary Sources

- **Expert Group on Energy-efficiency & Conservation (2012). Survey of Market Compliance Mechanisms for Energy Efficiency Programs in APEC Economies by the APEC Energy Working Group [URL: <http://www.clasponline.org/Resources/PublicationLibrary/2012/APEC-Market-Compliance-Survey-file>]. Accessed 7 April 2014.**

Chile has committed to adaptation and mitigation of climate change through its flagship legislation, the National Climate Change Action Plan 2008-2012. Former president Sebastian Piñera prioritized energy policy, promoting research programs and energy efficiency, enhancing energy infrastructure, and mandating that non-conventional renewable energy constitute 20 percent of Chile's installed electricity capacity by 2020.

Discussion

The database can be used to analyze climate change legislation trends across countries or regions. Additionally, the profiles provide a a baseline for each specific country and allow for an easy comparison between countries. Future studies will also be able to illuminate best practices with respect to mitigation and adaptation. It is noteworthy that many of the laws and policies set targets to be met through the next decade, specifically in 2020. Many countries that are Non-Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC committed at the Cancun Round of negotiations to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, vowing to focus efforts on diversifying their energy mix and curbing deforestation. Therefore, whether or not countries meet these targets should be evaluated. Additionally, many countries have made commitments domestically to participate in the Clean Development Mechanism, passing legislation that delegates this authority to a commission or ministry. Other countries have even amended their constitution to include environmental protections, as is the case in Colombia where the 1991 Constitution links protecting the environment with economic development.

References

Terry Townsend et al., *The GLOBE Climate Legislation Study* (3d ed. 2013).

Methods

The project relies on the expertise of legal scholars who have researched the domestic climate change laws of specific countries. The database presents the information online, links to the legislation and provides context by listing government websites for the ministries responsible for the legislation and its enforcement. In 2013, Globe International published the *The GLOBE Climate Legislation Study*, which reviews climate legislation in 33 countries, and has since been used to supplement the country profiles (Townsend 2013).

The database is organized by country. For each country, the status under international climate change law is listed. Federal Laws on climate change are then described and organized into the following categories: climate, energy, forests and land use, environmental impact assessment, and other. The laws are linked to in as many languages as they are available in, which varies from country to country. In addition to the federal laws, for countries that have local, state, and regional legislation and initiatives related to climate change, these are listed as well. For a country like the United States, these laws are particularly important because the United States does not have a comprehensive climate policy, although regional and state initiatives have been enacted that directly combat carbon and other GHG pollution. Next, government documents are included. These include plans or frameworks released by different government ministries and country reports issued to organizations, for example, a country's National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

A list of secondary sources are then compiled, citing case studies or reports on the domestic climate policies of the given country. Databases made available by Columbia, for example CLIO (the Columbia Library catalogue), Google Scholar and HeinOnline, are searched for these relevant sources.