

State and Trends of the Carbon Market(s)

Prepared by Franck Lecocq and Karan Capoor
(PCF*plus* Research)

On the basis of material provided by *Natsource LLC*,
CO2e.com LLC and *Point Carbon*

October 18, 2002

The views expressed in this report are attributable solely to the PCF *Plus* Research team. They do not represent the views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors or the Countries they represent. They also not necessarily reflect the views of Natsource LLC, CO2e.com LLC or Point Carbon.

Outline

1. What is the carbon market?
2. Overall Market Activity
3. Project-based emission reductions
4. Allowance markets
5. Carbon finance in developing countries
6. Outlook

Appendix: Methodology

1. Definition

What is the carbon market?

- There is **no single carbon market**, defined by a single commodity, a single contract type or a single set of buyers and sellers.
- What we call “carbon market” is a **loose collection of diverse transactions** through which quantities of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions are exchanged.
- Information is limited, **especially on prices**, since there is no central clearinghouse for carbon transactions. As such, it is **difficult to compare prices/quantities over whole market.**

Many ways to look at this market

1. By commodity traded

- **Project-based GHG emission reductions (ERs)**, created and exchanged through a given project or activity

Examples: most transactions to date, e.g. by PCF, Oregon Trust Fund, etc.

- **GHG Emission Allowances**, as defined, or expected to be defined under international, national, regional or firm-level regulations

Examples: UK trading system, BP or Shell internal trading

2. By volumes

- **Wholesale:** Large transactions, usually > 1 MtCO₂e

Examples: most projects to date

- **Retail:** Deals are in the '000s of tons

Examples: Carbon-neutral events, non-carbon intensive corporations, etc.

3. By types of contracts (e.g. spot, forward, options, swaps)

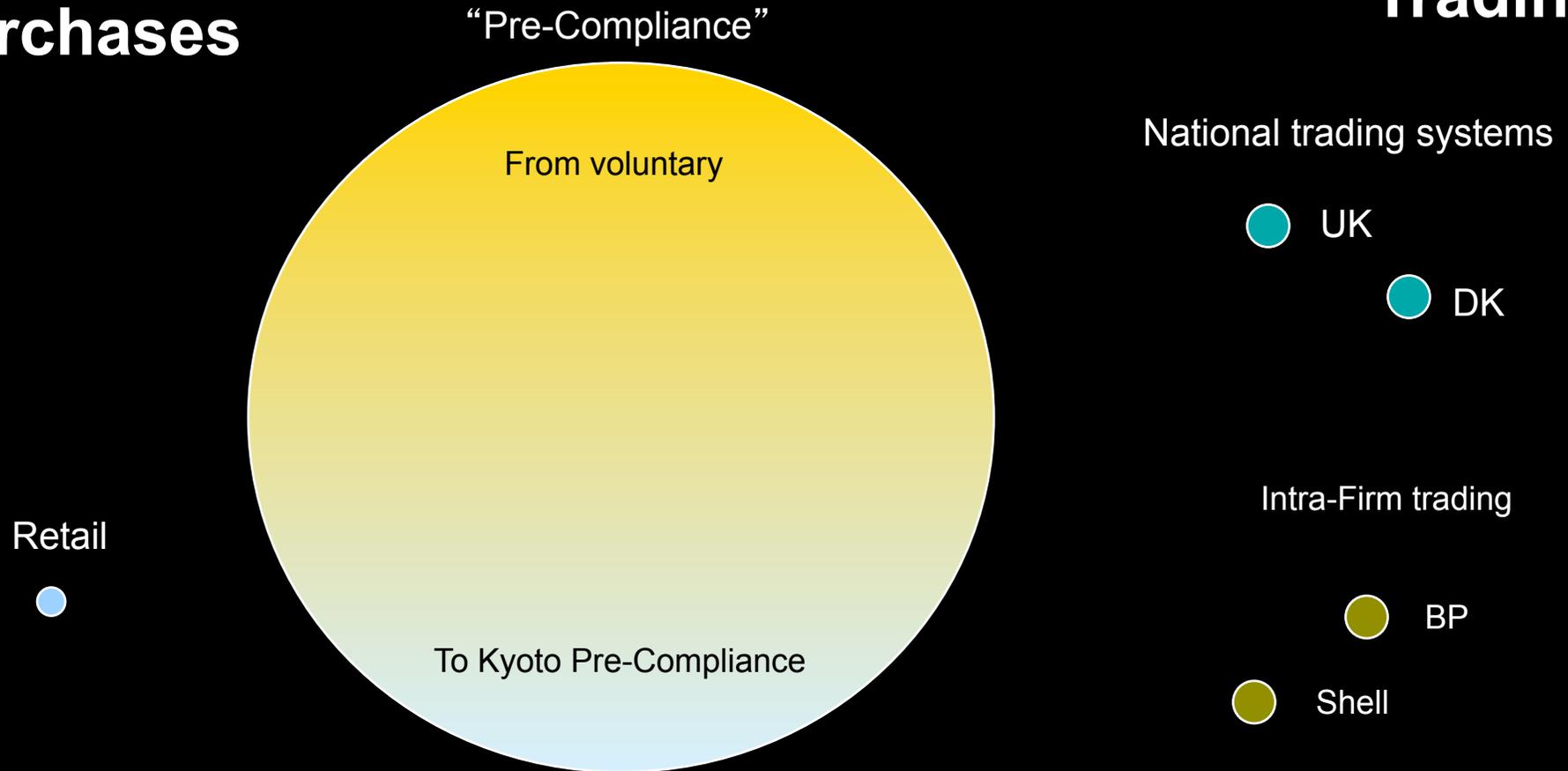
4. By timeframes (most contracts: 10-14 years; some 50+ years)

Our reference for this analysis

Carbon market by commodities

**Project-based
Emission Reduction
purchases**

**Allowance
Trading**



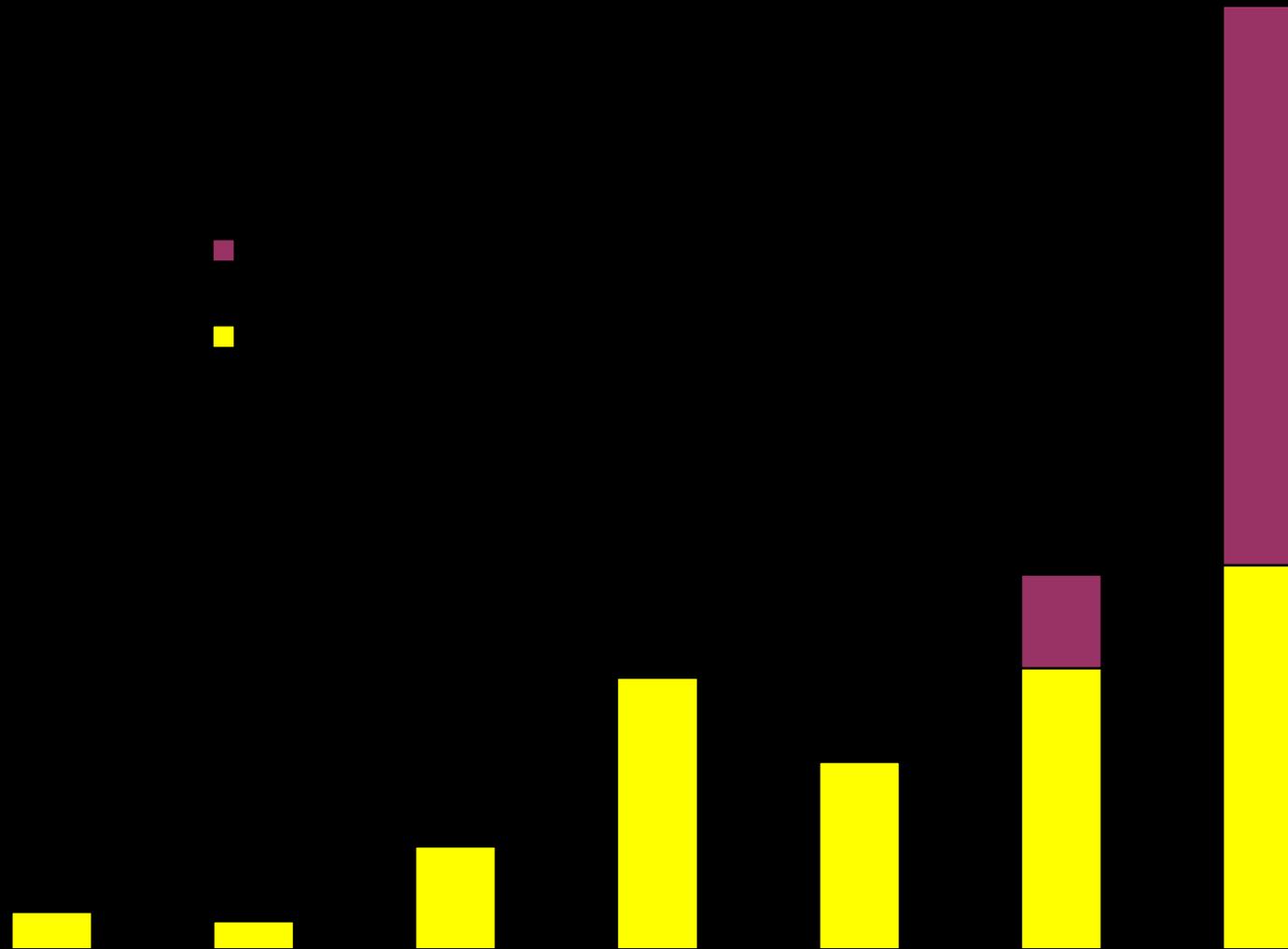
2. Carbon market is firming up

Data show carbon market is growing

- **The past year has been the most active GHG market to date**
 - volume traded in first half of 2002 already exceeds overall 2001 volume (24 MtCo₂e transacted, 103 deals).
- **Based on closed and pending deals, total 2002 volume could be in the range of 60-70 MtCo₂e.**
 - Conservatively, this could represent a manifold increase in volume over the previous year's volume of 12 MtCo₂e.
- This is significant compared to **157 MtCO₂e transacted overall since 1996** (190 MtCO₂e if post-2012 vintages are counted).

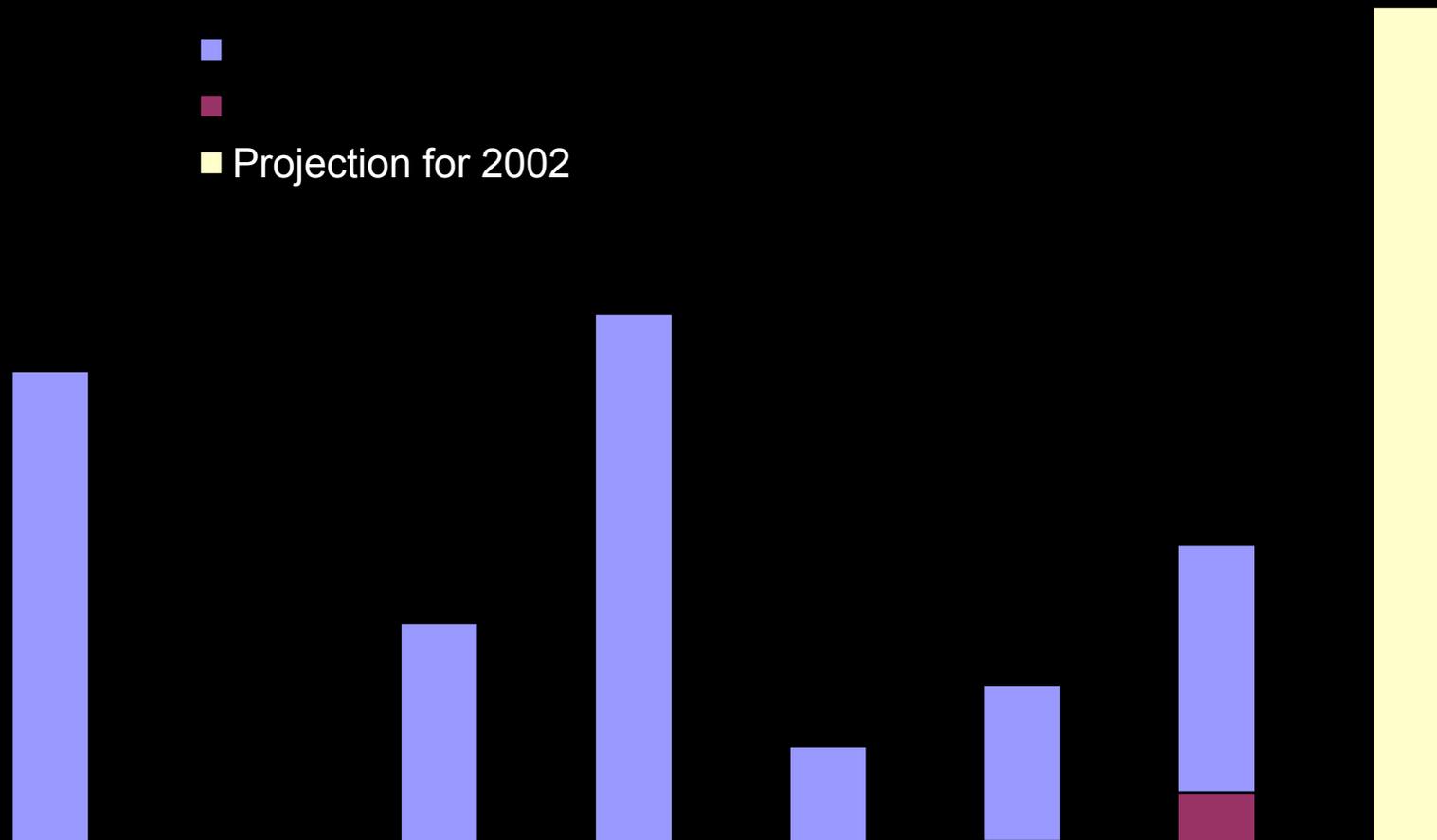
Details on project database are provided in Appendix I

Number of trades 1996-2002



Source: Authors' own calculation, based on transaction database assembled with Natsource, Co2e.com and PointCarbon

Volumes transacted 1996-2002



Evidence indicate market maturing

- **Project-based transactions still dominate (85% of 2002 volume), but GHG allowances (UK and Denmark) are now traded**
 - Volumes in the UK spot market in 2002 are projected to be almost 1 MtCo₂e (see section 4)
- **A small secondary market is emerging**
 - Some companies experiment with liquidating small quantities of reductions from their portfolio; demonstrate possible emergence of secondary market
- **A small but growing retail market for high quality tons is emerging**

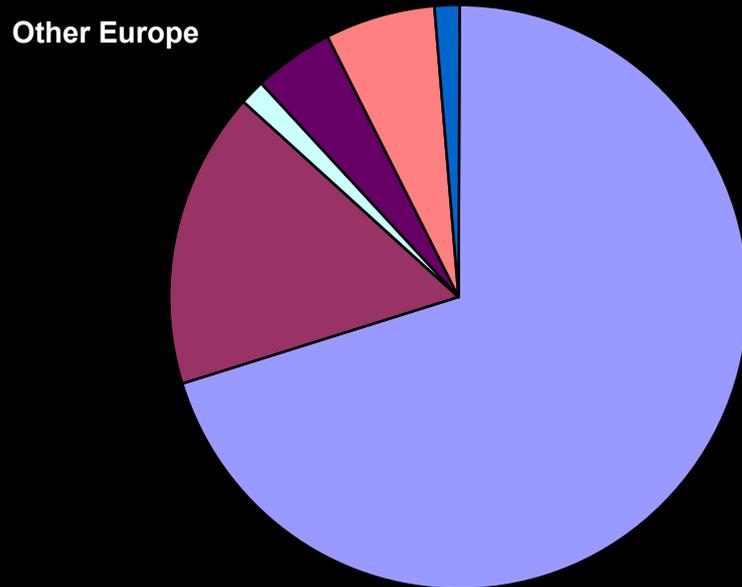
Evidence indicate market maturing

- **More buyers are coming in**
 - European and Japanese buyers are now more active in what had been a predominantly North American buyer market
 - Public buyers including sub-national entities and national governments emerge, especially for CDM/JI transactions
- **Contract types become more diverse**
 - Call options represented between a third and a half of project-based volume transacted in 1999-2001, but less than 20% of 2002 volume.
 - Forward contracts now dominate project-based transactions, with a growing share of payment on delivery (as opposed to upfront payment).
- **Wider span of technologies explored in project-based transactions**

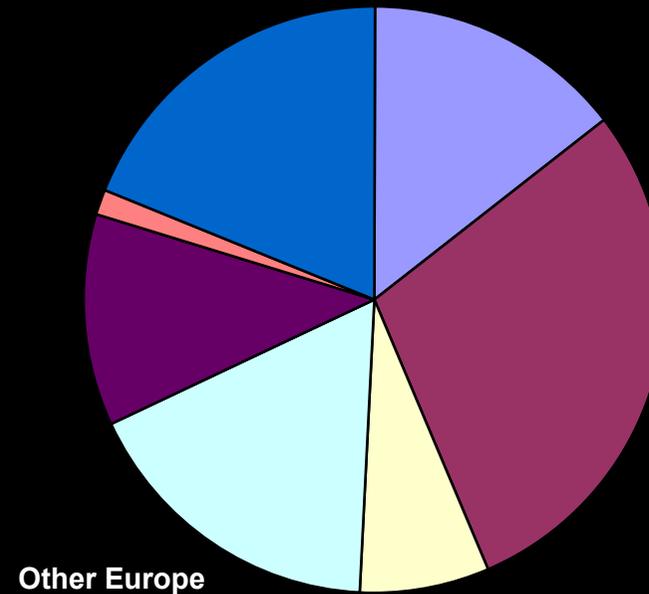
Evolution of buyers' shares of market

(in % of total volume purchased through projects)

1996-2000

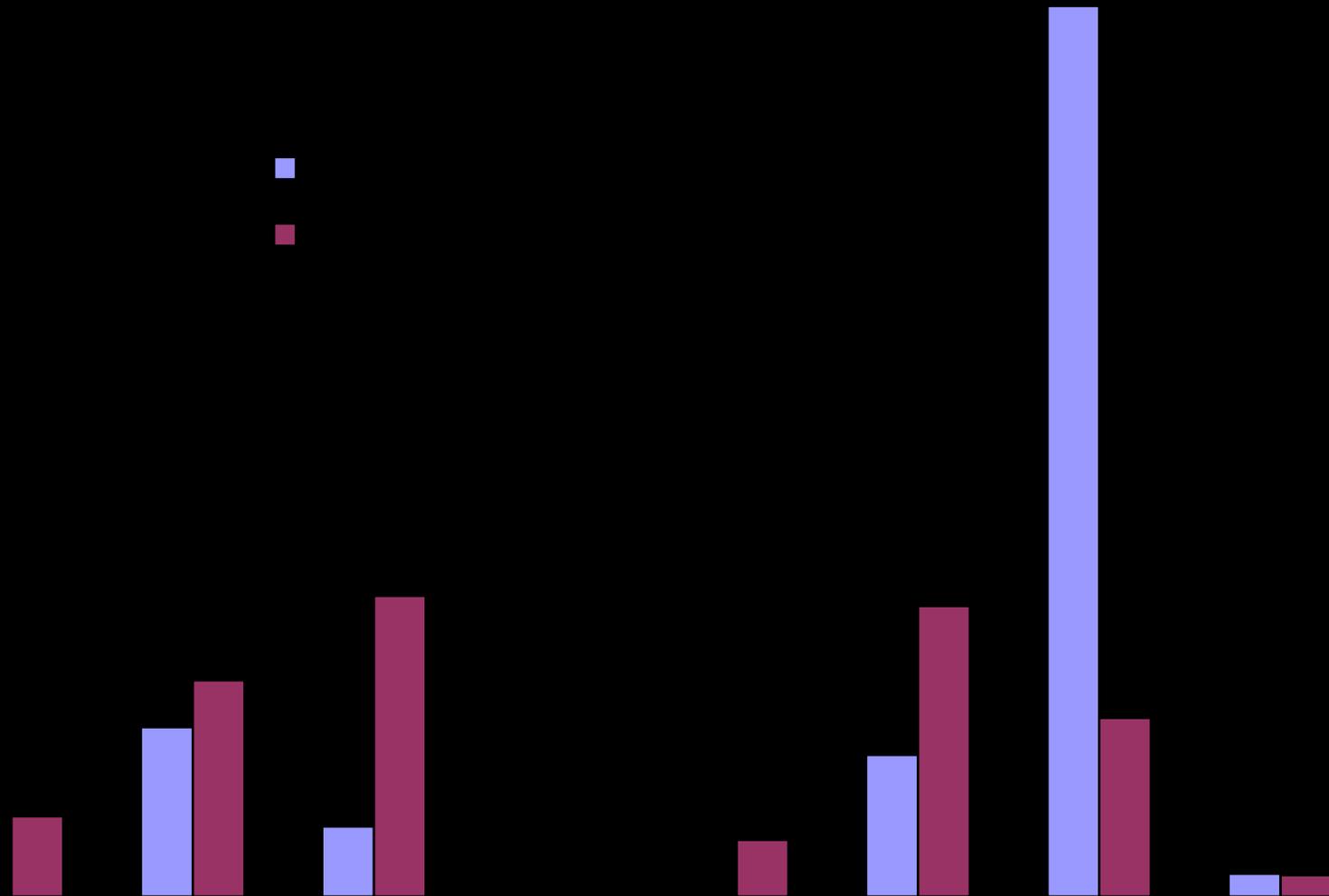


2001-2002



Evolution of technology shares

(in % of total volume transacted through projects)



Source: Authors' own calculation, based on transaction database assembled with Natsource, Co2e.com and PointCarbon

Can we estimate total value of market?

- **There is incomplete data**
 - 95% of transactions in database have volume information, but only 50% -- representing 20% of volume -- have prices
 - Large nb of options which is unclear whether exercised or not
- **To obtain crude estimate**
 - We multiply prices*quantities for transactions where we have both
 - We apply average price of known transactions to all the others
- Result suggest that **total value of know transactions, including vintages up to 2012**, could be in the range of **\$350m to \$500m**. Data is insufficient to estimate how much of that has effectively changed hands.

What fuels this growth?

Expected (or effective) emissions limits

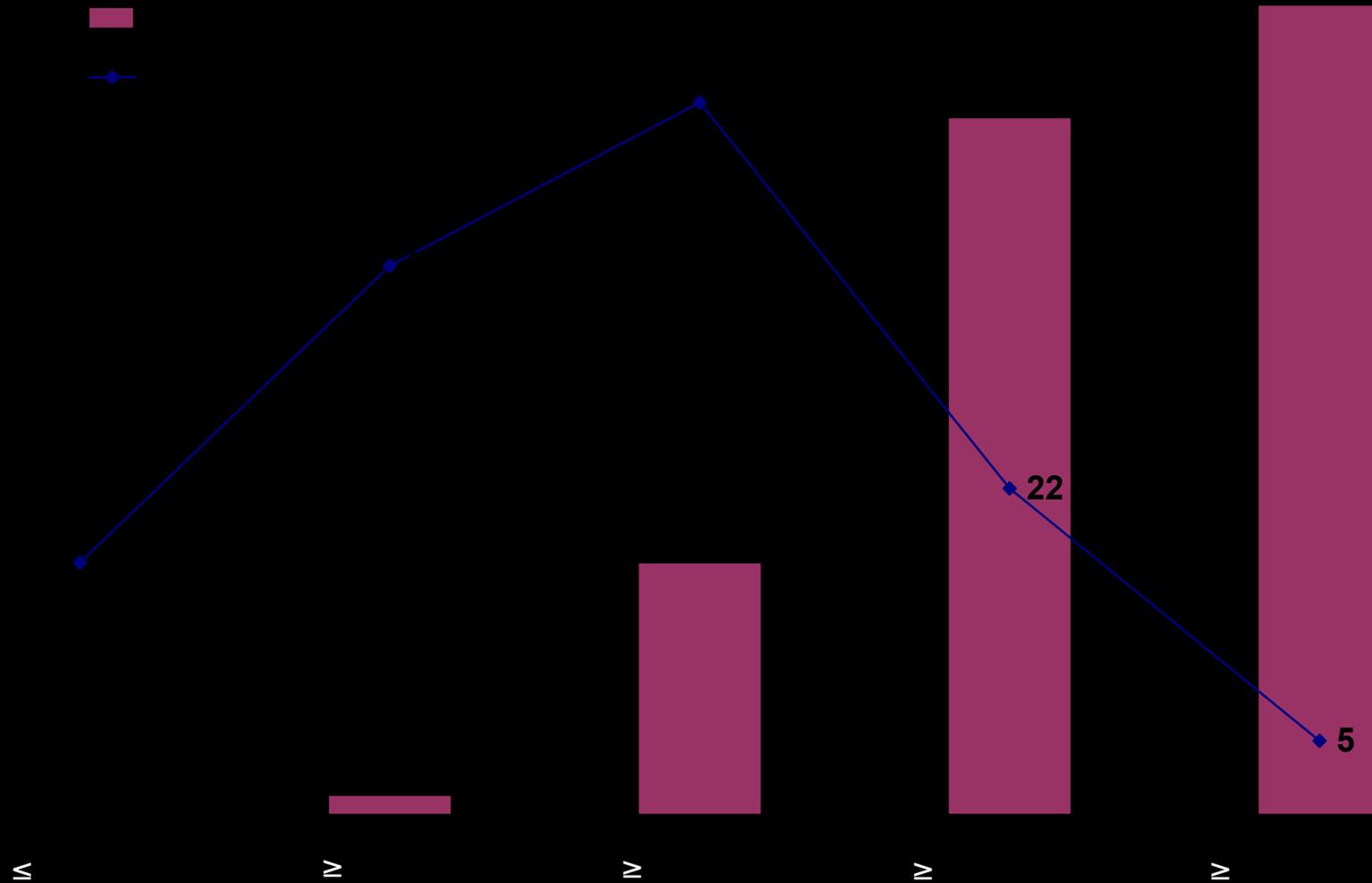
- **Kyoto entry into force now likely**
 - EU, Japan, China, India and Brazil have ratified, Canada says it will submit KP to parliament by end of 2002, and Russia says it will ratify. If Russia and Canada ratify, the KP enters into force.
- **GHG regulations before 2008 in Europe**
 - UK, Denmark system already in place. EU-wide trading in discussion for 2005.
- **GHG programs emerging at State and sub-national levels even outside Kyoto**
 - E.g. Alberta, Massachusetts, possibly California, New South Wales
 - E.g. California bill regulating greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles, including SUVs and light trucks.

3. Prices and quantities in project-based transactions

Project-based transactions: key facts

- **Project-based ER purchases bulk of carbon market**
 - 2/3 of transactions, but 97% of volume since 1996
 - Still 85% of volume in 2002
- Canada (and to lesser degree USA) main buyer, but European and Japanese are now more active
- Projects used to be mostly LULUCF, now **more evenly distributed among technologies**
- **Contract types are becoming more diverse**
- **Projects usually rather large**, plus small retail market (see below)
 - Majority between 0.1 and 1 MtCo_{2e}
 - Average project-based ER purchase of 1MtCo_{2e}

Distribution of projects by size



Source: Authors' own calculation, based on transaction database assembled with Natsource, Co2e.com and PointCarbon

Uneven price information available

- **JI Countries:** Prices available for PCF & ERUPT deals, which represent bulk of recent volume.

Range: \$3.00-\$8.10

- **CDM:** Prices available mostly in PCF deals (4 other transaction with price, small volume) although they represent only 1/7 of volume since 1996 (but 70% of 2001-2002 purchases).

Range: \$1.48-\$3.50

- **Annex II:** Prices available in 37% of deals, representing about 1/6 of volume exchanged since 1996.

Range: \$0.40-\$7.30

Average: \$1.00/tCO_{2e}

Qualitative Price Determinants

There is insufficient data to conduct definitive quantitative analysis on determinants of price in transactions¹. Based on experience & insights from market experts, key ER price determinants include

- Likelihood that ER is certified under KP or other regime
- Creditworthiness of project sponsor and viability of project
- Confidence in the quality of the ongoing carbon asset management over life of project
- Structure of contract (e.g. spot vs. forward, upfront vs. payment on delivery)
- ER Vintage
- Cost of validation and potential certification
- Additional environmental and social benefits

¹ *In our database, small sample and limited information makes it impossible to numerically sort out influence of different parameters on prices.*

Role of non-carbon attributes

- Sustainability benefits from ER projects in the carbon market are often cited by sellers and desired by buyers, although a premium is not clear in the wholesale market
- Examples of non-carbon attributes sought by buyers:
 - Enhanced water quality, health and education facilities, job creation
 - Reversal of soil erosion, habitat creation and enhancement of conditions for biodiversity
 - Capacity building and technology transfer

Trends in contract structures

There is limited information on deal structure. Based on insights from market players, we conclude that:

- **In early transactions (1996-2000)**
 - Most contracts either call options (of which many seem not to have been exercised because of uncertainty),
 - Or spot contracts for voluntary commitments.
- **In recent transactions (2001-2002)**
 - Call options represented between a third and a half of project-based volume transacted in 1999-2001, but less than 20% of 2002 volume.
 - Forward contracts now important share of contracts, with a growing share of payment on delivery (as opposed to upfront payment).

Features of recent deals

- Several recent transactions based on “payment on delivery”
- Combining forward purchase with option for additional volumes and vintages is common
- In a handful of contracts, an upfront payment is negotiated and sellers repay payment + interest with cash and ERs.
- In a few transactions, the seller guaranteed delivery of CERs. Such a guarantee commands a price premium.
- In some instances, the buyer of ERs may also have significant equity or debt interests in the underlying project.
- Some transactions secured a less secure stream of assets with a guarantee from a more secure stream.

Retail Market

- **Small but growing market. Not for compliance, but ERs retired** (e.g. non-carbon-intensive corporations, individuals, particular products or services, carbon-neutral events, etc.)
- **Spot or short-term forwards - up to 3 years.**
- NGOs frequently used as verifiers who give a “seal of approval” to projects that satisfy their environmental and social criteria
- Key buyers are North American companies and suppliers are predominantly from developing countries
- **Higher prices (\$5 - \$10)** are being paid for small volumes of ERs (usually small projects producing under 10,000 tons) from sustainable development projects in the retail market
- **The volume of this market is estimated in the range of 150,000 tCo₂e/year and growing very rapidly.**

4. Overview of allowance markets

Markets developing worldwide

Allowance Markets in operation

- UK, Denmark
- Internal Markets BP, Shell

Allowance Markets under development

- Regional level:
 - EU-wide market (expected by 2005 or 2006)
 - New England Govs/Eastern Canadian Premiers initiative - still tentative
- National level (e.g. Norway)
- Sub-National level:
 - US/Australia
 - California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
 - New South Wales
- Voluntary Markets (e.g. Chicago Climate Exchange, embryonic)

UK Market

- Allowances sold to companies through **reverse auction in 03/2002**: 4 mtCO₂e sold at \$17/tCO₂e (net of incentive payment)
- Early trades mostly among "absolute" participants. Volume has been increasing (100 trades recorded) as "relative" participants try to keep climate levy rebate.
- Total volume since trading began in April estimated at 100,000 tCO₂e in 2002.
 - Mainly spot or 1 yr forwards contracts
 - Typical size: 5000-15000 tCO₂eq, mainly 2002 vintage
- Early prices were around \$7-\$9. There are indications that **prices have been increasing (currently around £12, or \$18)**. UK is considering inclusion of international CDM/JI credits next year

Danish Market

- Power sector cap; expires in 2003; possible extension until 2004 and modification in 2005 to adapt to EU-wide system
- 15 transactions recorded until July 2002
 - 11 trades, 4 swaps, total estimated volume 460,000 tCO₂e
 - Typical size: 5000-15000 tCO₂e
 - Price: US \$2-4.60 tCO₂e
 - Immediate settlement; mainly current vintage
- Non-compliance penalty: \$5-6/tCO₂e serves as price cap
- Companies exploring JI & CDM options

Sub-national Markets

Sub-national emissions trading programs have emerged in Australia and in North America.:

- **New South Wales, Australia**, has required electricity retailers to reduce emissions. One option is to purchase Australian forestry sequestration certificates.
- **On July 1, New Hampshire** will require fossil fuel plants to reduce CO2 emissions. Participants can use allowances from federal or regional trading and banking programs to meet the cap.
- **In Massachusetts**, 6 fossil-fueled power plants are covered under the state's Certification and Trading of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction-- rules are under development. At least one trade reported to have occurred that we are aware of.
- **Alberta, Canada**

5. Outlook

Summary of trends identified in previous sections

- Volumes transacted in 2002 are likely to be at least 4 times higher than volumes transacted in 2001
- The UK spot market may overtake the North American market in terms of number of trades executed. However, volumes remain small.
- Significant increases in pre-compliance trading could shape legislation in other jurisdictions

Near-term market drivers

- Canada and Russia decision to ratify, and likely Kyoto Protocol entry into force.
- Specifics of EU trading program
- Political developments in the US vis-à-vis climate change and energy
- Degree to which voluntary and sub-national or regional market emerge
- Likely direction of and participation in negotiations for second commitment period.

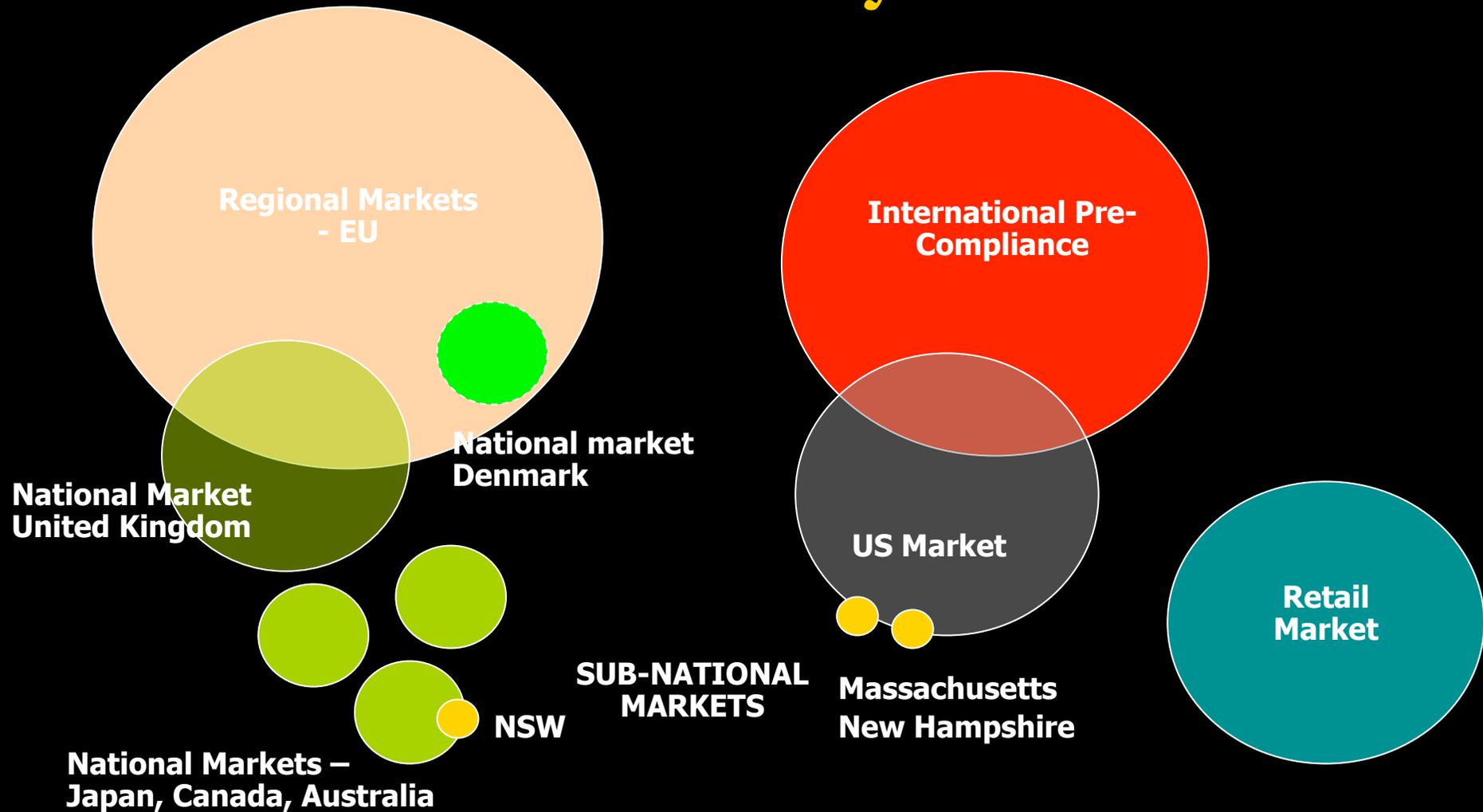
EU Directive on emissions trading proposal

- **Key features:** Mandatory, Absolute target, % unknown
 - 2005-2007, 2008-2012, CO₂ only, Trading system likely to cover about 1/2 of EU emissions.
 - Trading to cover Industrial & energy sectors; not chemicals
 - Allocation by grandfathering 2005; perhaps up to 1/4 auctioned
 - Inclusion of projects (internal/external tbd by 2006)
 - Financial penalty: 2005-2007: € 50/tC; 2008-2012: €100/tC
 - Environmental Penalty: 1 for 1 deduction for overage
- If Directive comes into effect, prices in trading market will be determined by targets, system design.
- Assuming –7% target, internal trading in expanded EU: experts estimate potential price around \$4.5-\$10 tCO₂e in 2005-07

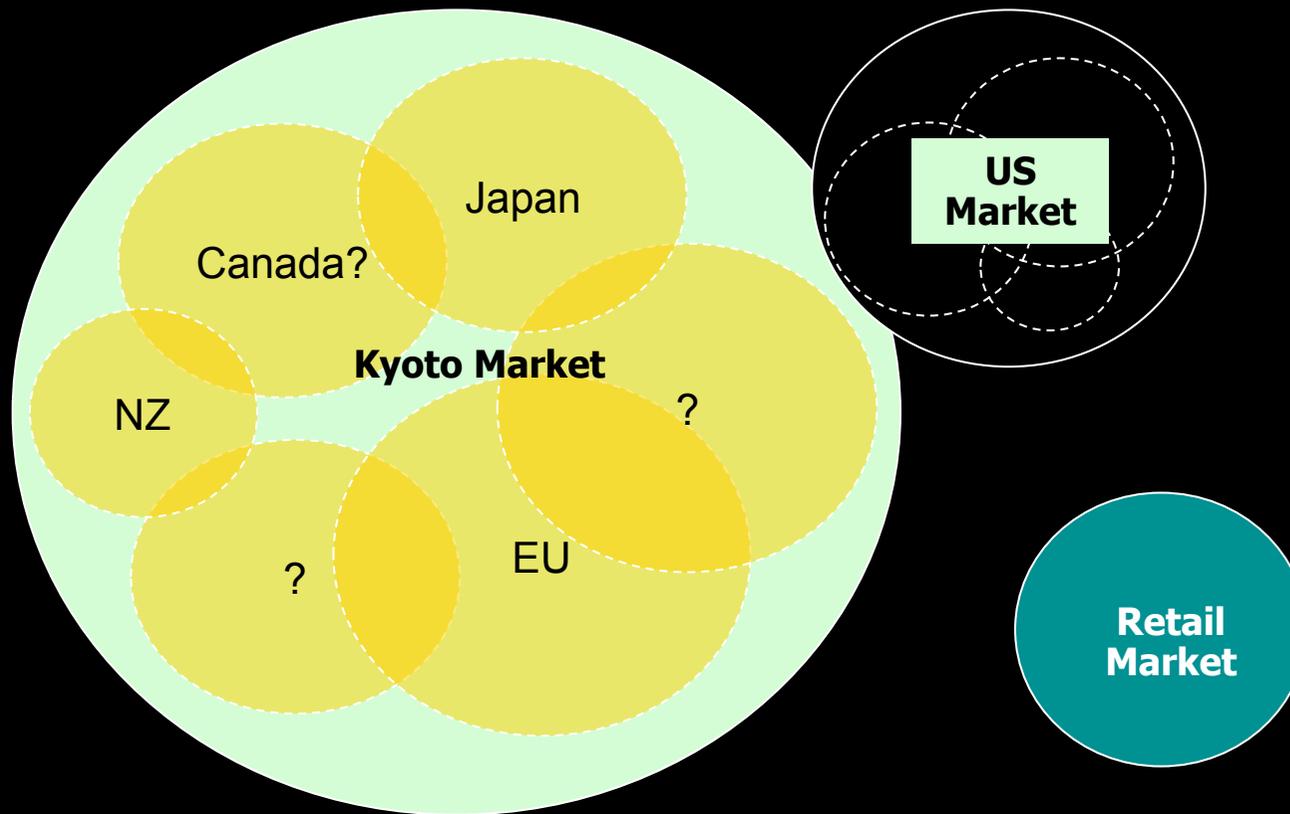
Key issue in medium/long run Fragmentation or integration?

- **Kyoto Protocol entry into force could be decisive to unite European, Japanese + Canadian markets at 2008 horizon**
 - However, rules for interchange/fungibility of existing instruments need to be developed
 - In addition, transition from 2002 to 2006 is unclear.
- **CDM Project costs could provide price signals in**
 - Kyoto market, Denmark, UK, voluntary markets
 - Potentially also EU 2005-8, depending on the final directives
- **Other segments of the market may remain fragmented**
 - Esp. US State-markets such as Massachusetts, New Hampshire, California
 - US Domestic Market emergence -- project-based?

What the carbon markets could look like by 2006



What the carbon market could look like by 2010

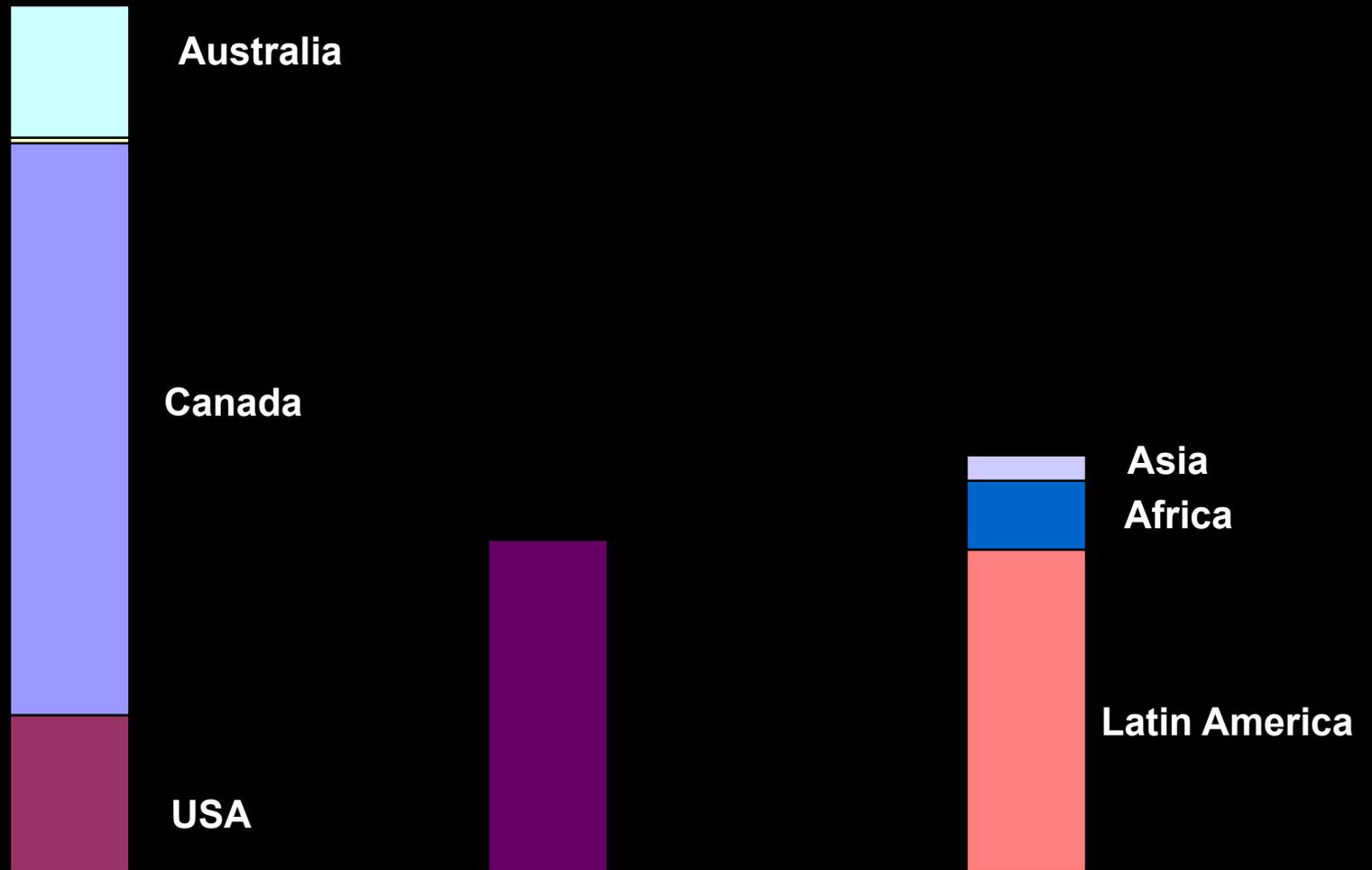


Determinants of 2008-2012 market prices, assuming Kyoto

- Strategy of likely AAU Sellers (e.g. Russia, Ukraine)
- Likely Participation of major countries in Second Commitment Period, including USA and Australia
- EU policy to "close" or "limit" imports from
 - a) CDM b) "hot air" c) trade from non-Parties
- Role of 'Relative Targets', if any, in the future and integration with Flexibility Mechanisms
- Ability of CDM to meet likely demand in 2008-12, given project lead time

**6. Do developing countries
benefit?**

Sellers' distribution in recent projects (2001-2002)



Source: Authors' own calculation, based on transaction database assembled with Natsource, Co2e.com and PointCarbon

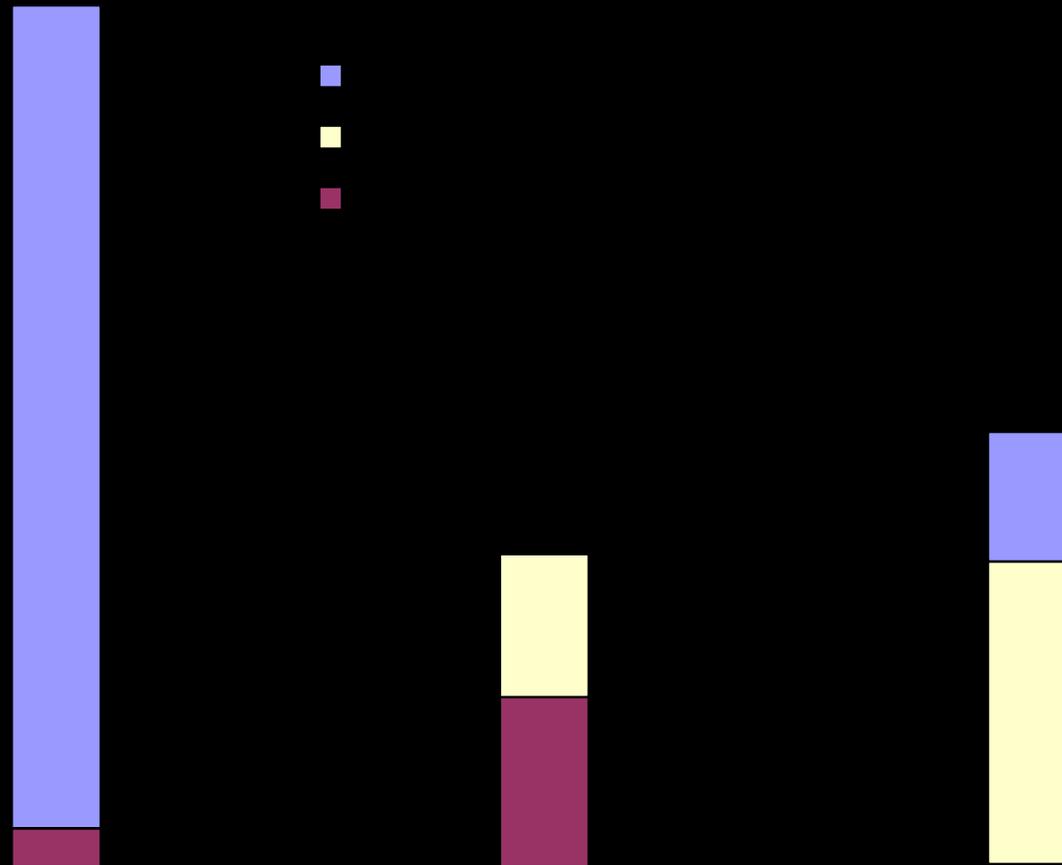
Overall, OECD supply only slightly higher than JI/CDM combined...

- Canada still by far largest supplier of ERs (about a third)
- Slightly less than half (46%) of project-based transactions in past 2 years in developing countries or in economies in transition
 - 19% in economies in transitions
 - 26% in the developing world
- Data indicate no significant evolution of JI/CDM share of volume since earlier years

...But very little private capital flows to JI/CDM world

- For each **100 tons** recently purchased by private sector, only **13** came from projects in developing countries, and **virtually none** from economies in transitions (2001-2002 data)
 - Remaining 87 tons came from OECD countries
- Bulk of recent transactions in the developing countries come from **public-private partnerships** such as the World Bank's Prototype Carbon Fund and from **public resources** committed by governments such as The Netherlands, States or Provinces
 - 70% over period 2001-2002
 - Nearly all recent transactions in the JI world come from these sources
- In addition, African countries, smaller countries and small-scale projects were largely bypassed by carbon finance

Public/Private purchases by region



Why? Factors constraining private capital flows to JI/CDM

- Linked to overall decline in foreign direct investment
- Higher risks perceived in macro-economic climate in many developing countries
- Long lead-time to prepare projects
- Transaction Costs perceived to be higher

Appendix: Methodology

Data sources

- Our study is based on public and generic confidential transaction data provided to the PCF*plus* Research program by Natsource LLC, CO2e.com LLC and Point Carbon. We also interviewed international companies active in this market and obtained data that has been aggregated for this study.
- We merged data obtained from various sources and corrected for double-counting. The data has been standardized and analyzed to reflect transacted vintages until 2012.
- **Our coverage, although extensive, is likely still incomplete.** Some transactions, for example, are likely confidential, and others difficult to verify. **As a result, we may have underestimated the size of the market.**