

COP18 in Doha
What businesses should know



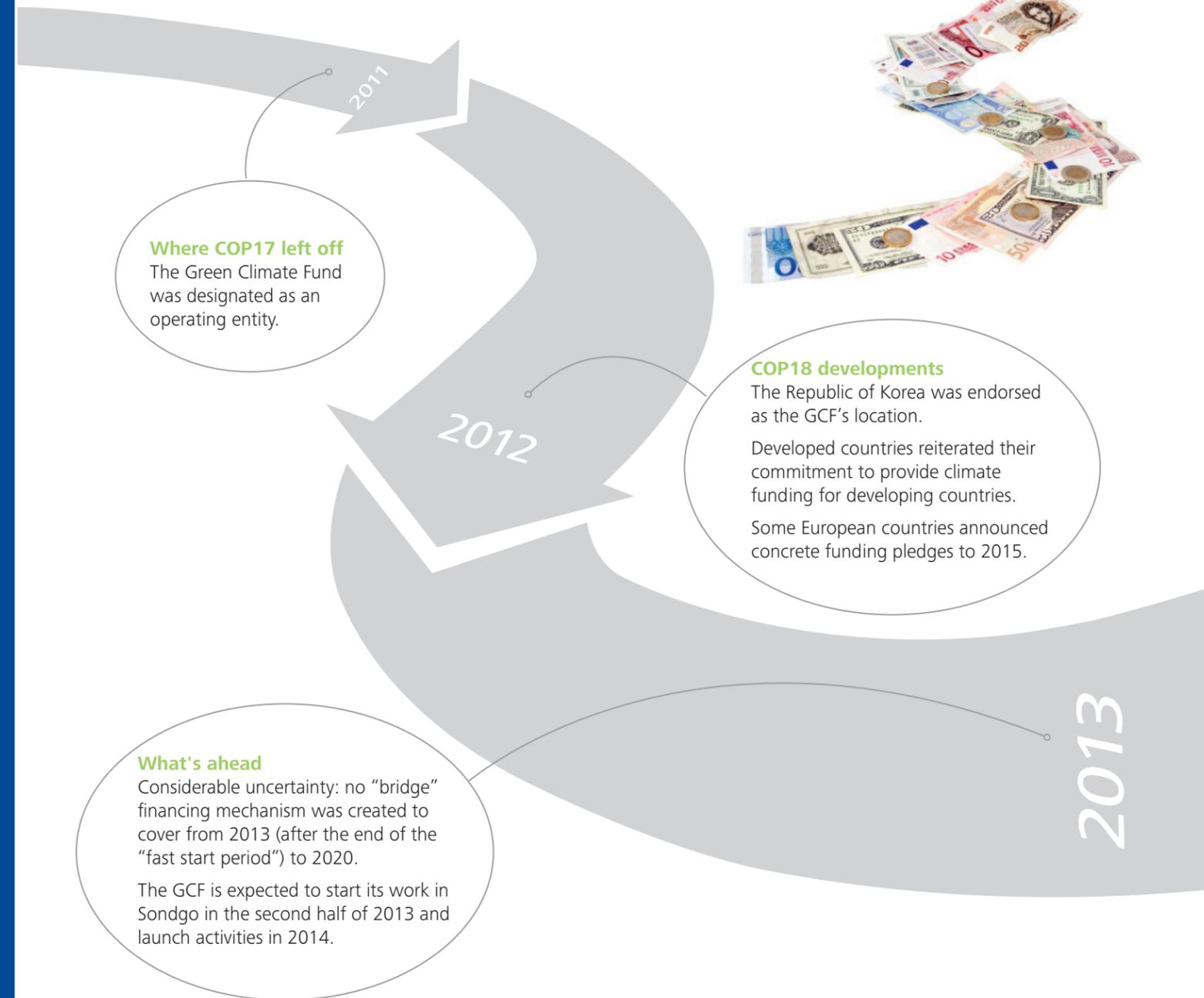
Introduction



In the weeks and months leading up to COP18 in Doha, Qatar (formally, the 18th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC), many observers predicted that the conference would be a transitional one of limited ambition. The possibility of establishing a new global climate regime seemed to be out of the question even going in. Nevertheless, the conference presented an occasion to do some groundwork for future discussions on a new policy framework, and to address some matters of common interest to many countries, such as climate finance and climate adaptation, and to settle some questions about international climate policy.

Given the international scope and diplomatic pitch of the discussions at UN climate conferences, it can be sometimes be difficult for business executives to relate the conferences' outcomes to day-to-day operating decisions or even their medium- and long-term strategic priorities. This brief seeks to interpret COP18 from a business perspective and to explain, in brief, the conference's implications for companies and governments – particularly implications in realms such as climate finance, technology transfer, mitigation, adaptation, and emissions reporting.

Climate finance



Implications

Business

GCF-sponsored financing activities ought to create new opportunities to deliver low-carbon technology and services.

Government

Developing countries may find climate finance in short supply because of wider economic and fiscal problems.

Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)



Implications

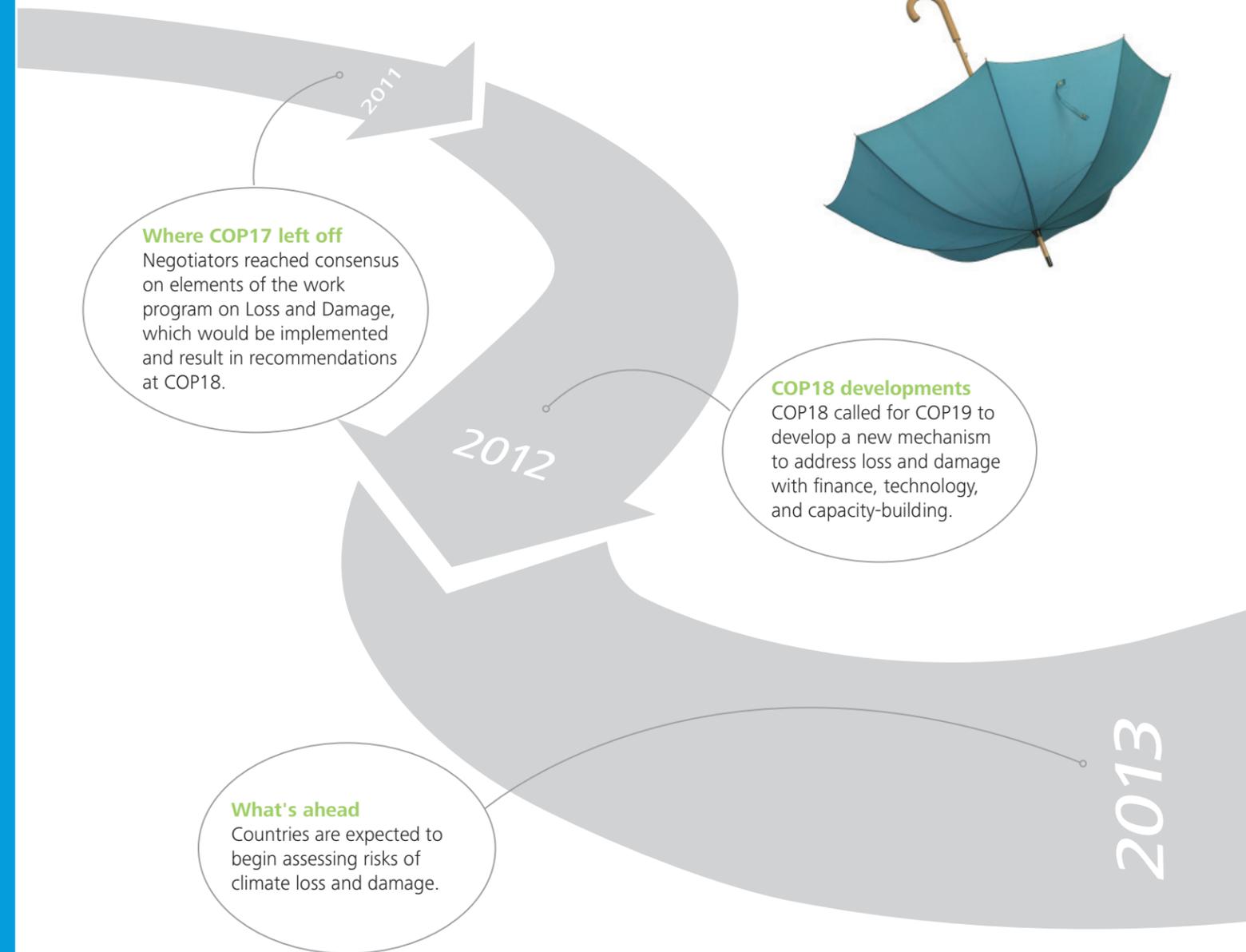
Business

NAMAs could stoke demand for low carbon and cost-effective technologies and services.

Government

Developed countries track the NAMAs registry to prioritize their delivery of financial and capacity-building support.

Climate-related loss and damage



Implications

Business

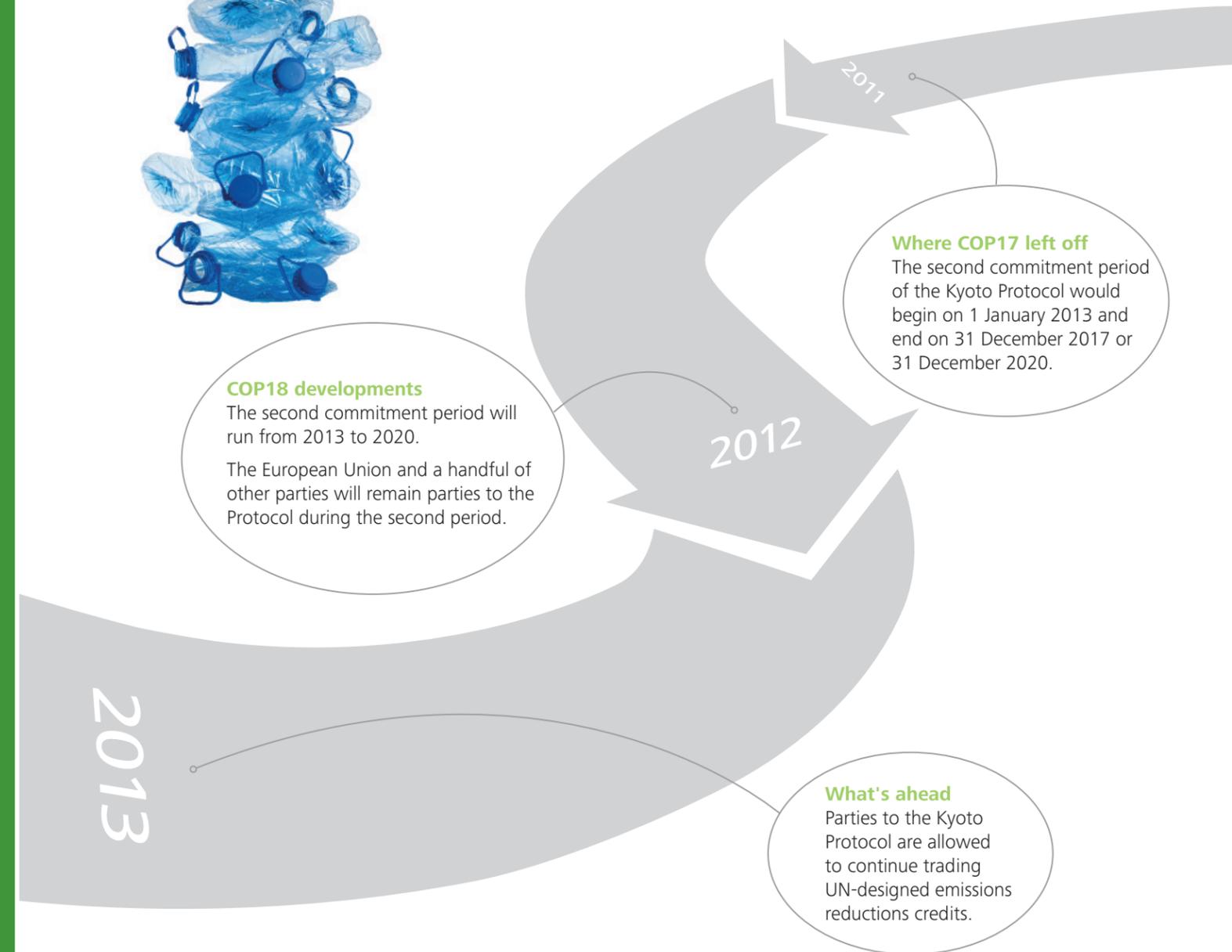
Companies should analyze their exposure to long-term risks from climate change and plan strategies to manage those risks.

Government

Developing countries should prepare to collect data on climate risk and carry out assessments.

Developed countries are requested to provide financing for loss and damage.

Kyoto Protocol



Implications

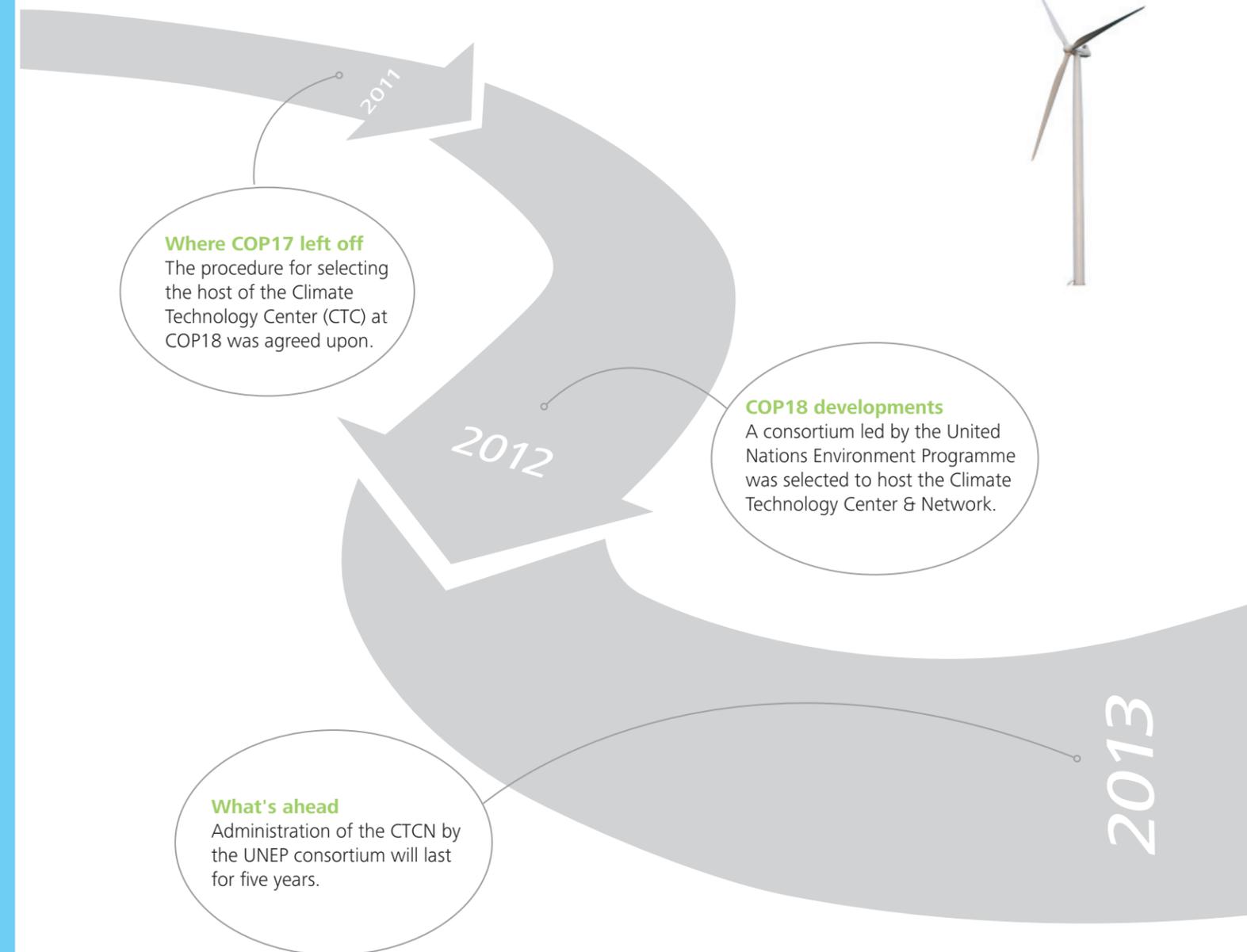
Business

Large emitters should monitor developments in international and national carbon markets and plan strategies to manage regulatory and financial risks.

Government

As governments set up new national carbon markets are set up, international carbon trading could become increasingly complex.

Technology transfer



Implications

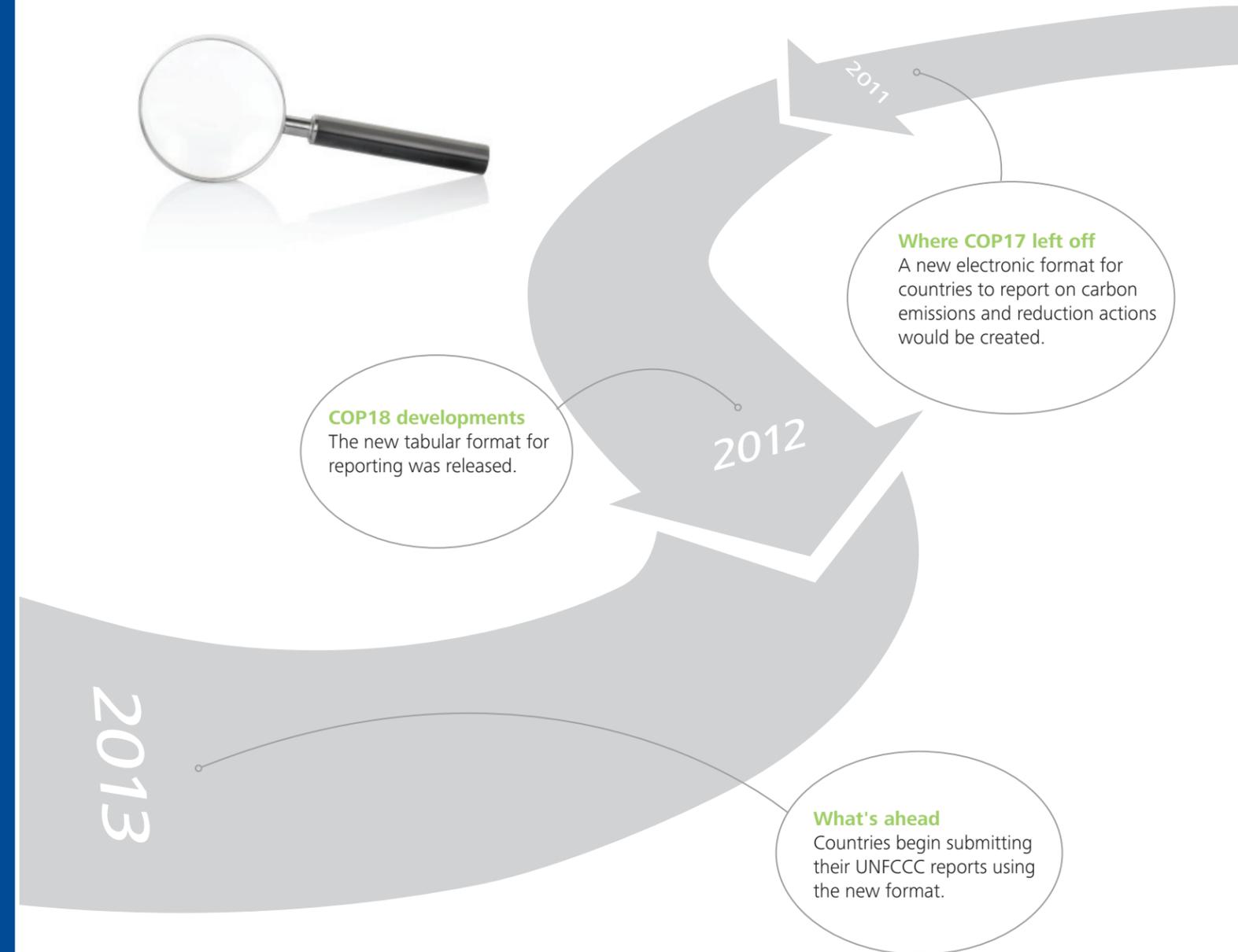
Business

Businesses offering low-carbon technologies should follow the CTCN to understand how its activities might create demand.

Government

Intellectual property laws could create controversies over the provision of appropriate climate-friendly technologies.

Measurement, reporting, and verification

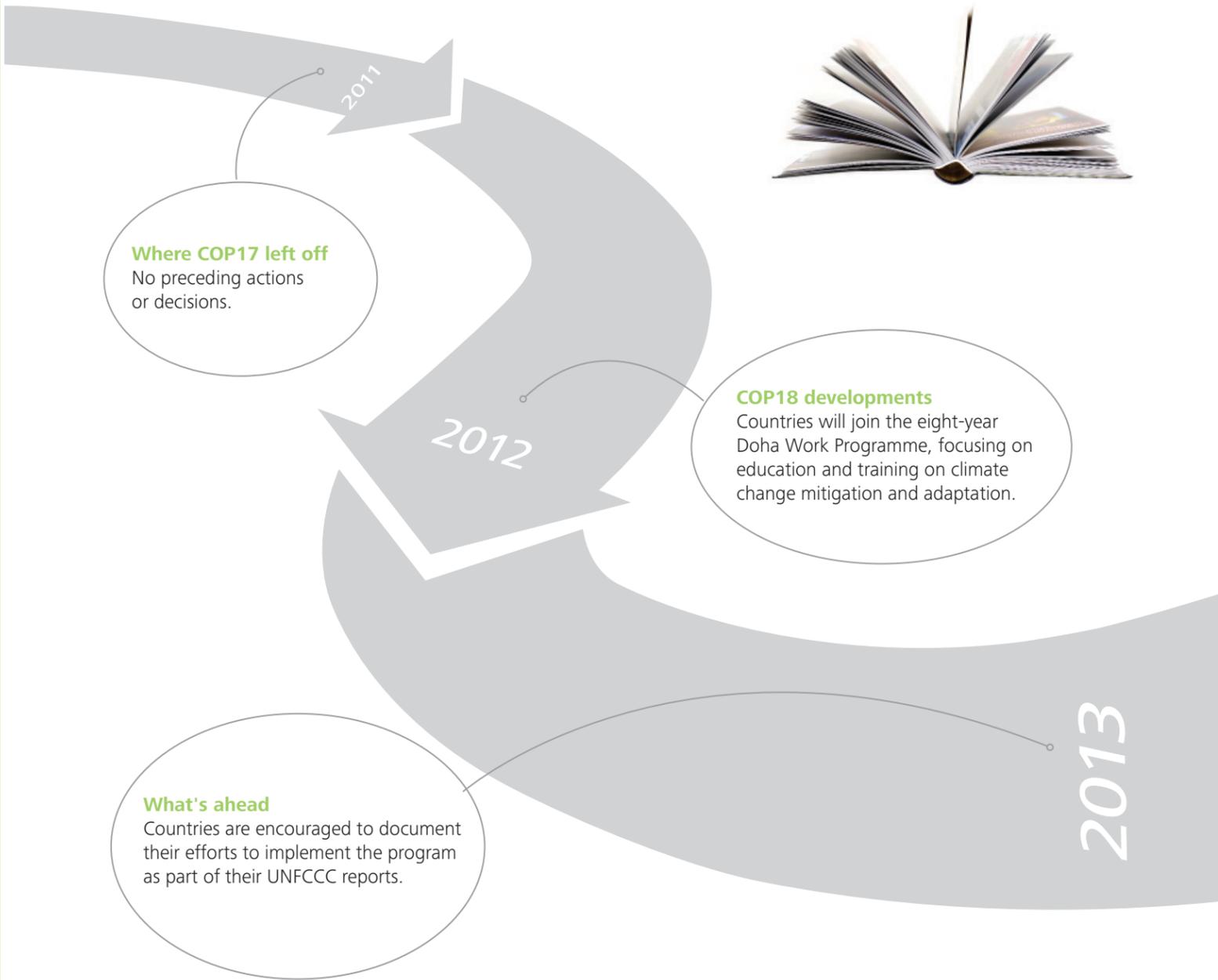


Implications

Business

Transition to the new reporting format should create openings for supporting services.

Education



Implications

Business

Education and training programs could become a focus of national environment agencies and international donor programs.

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