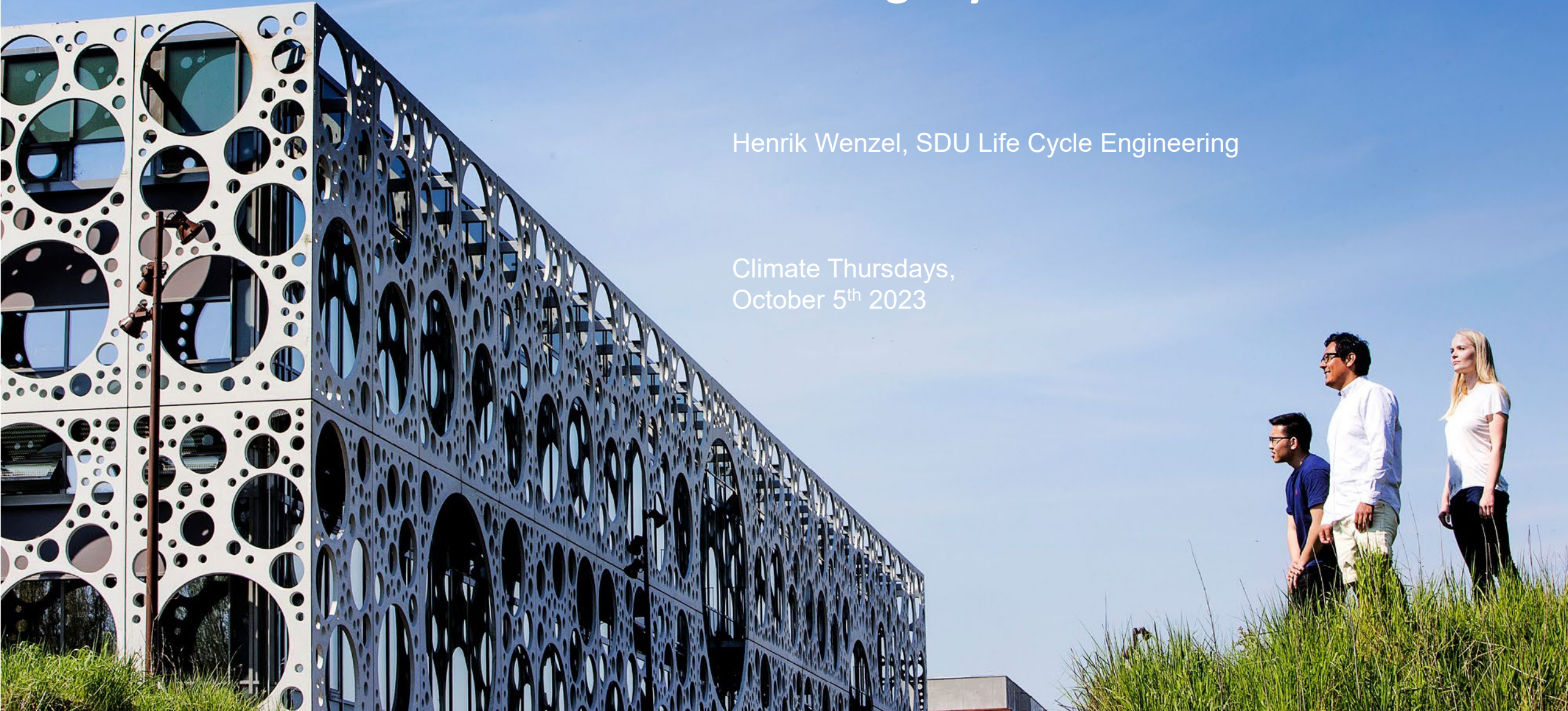


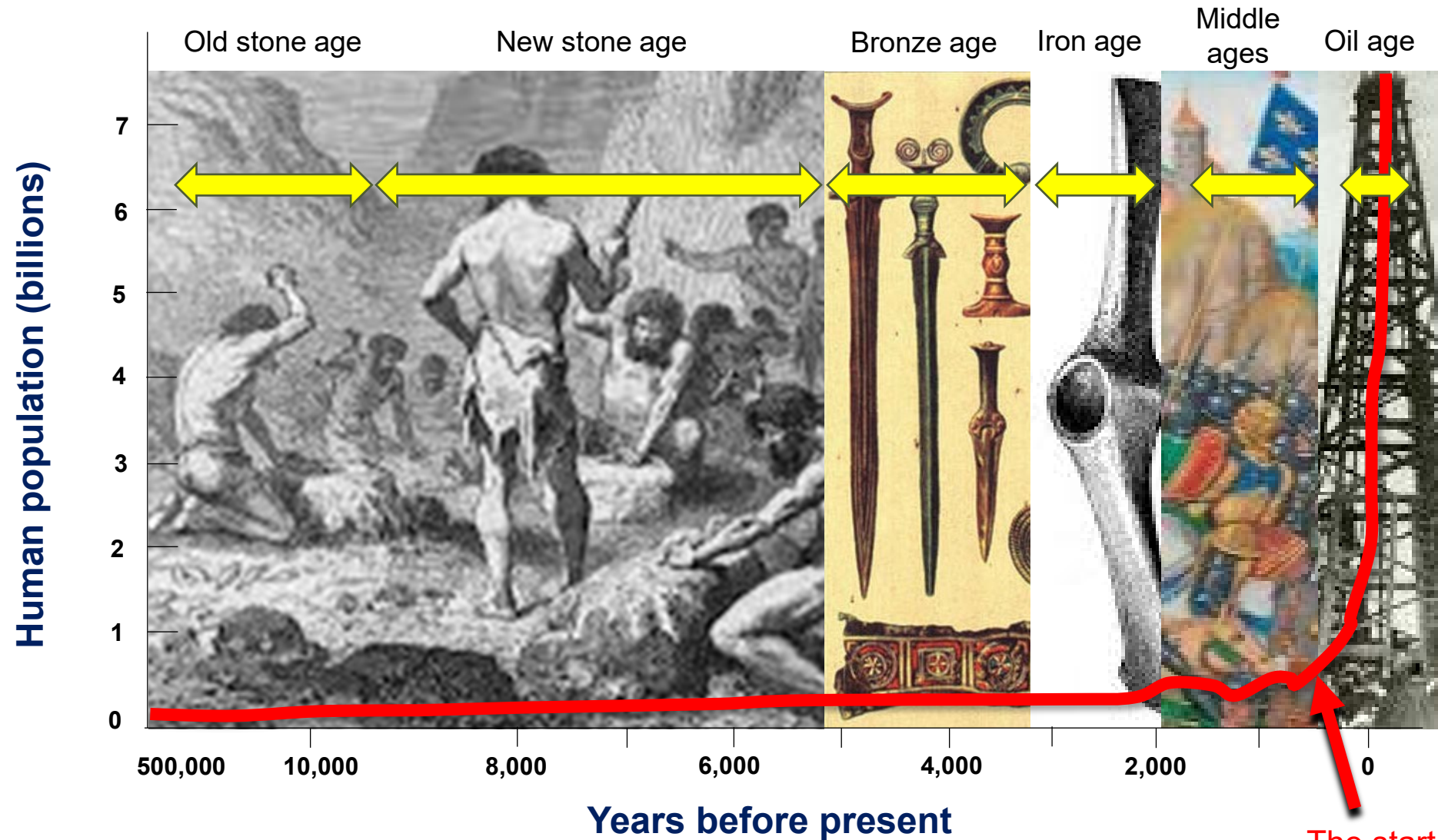
Climate change and the Tragedy of the Commons

Henrik Wenzel, SDU Life Cycle Engineering

Climate Thursdays,
October 5th 2023



Understand growth, development and innovation



The start of the 'industrial revolution'

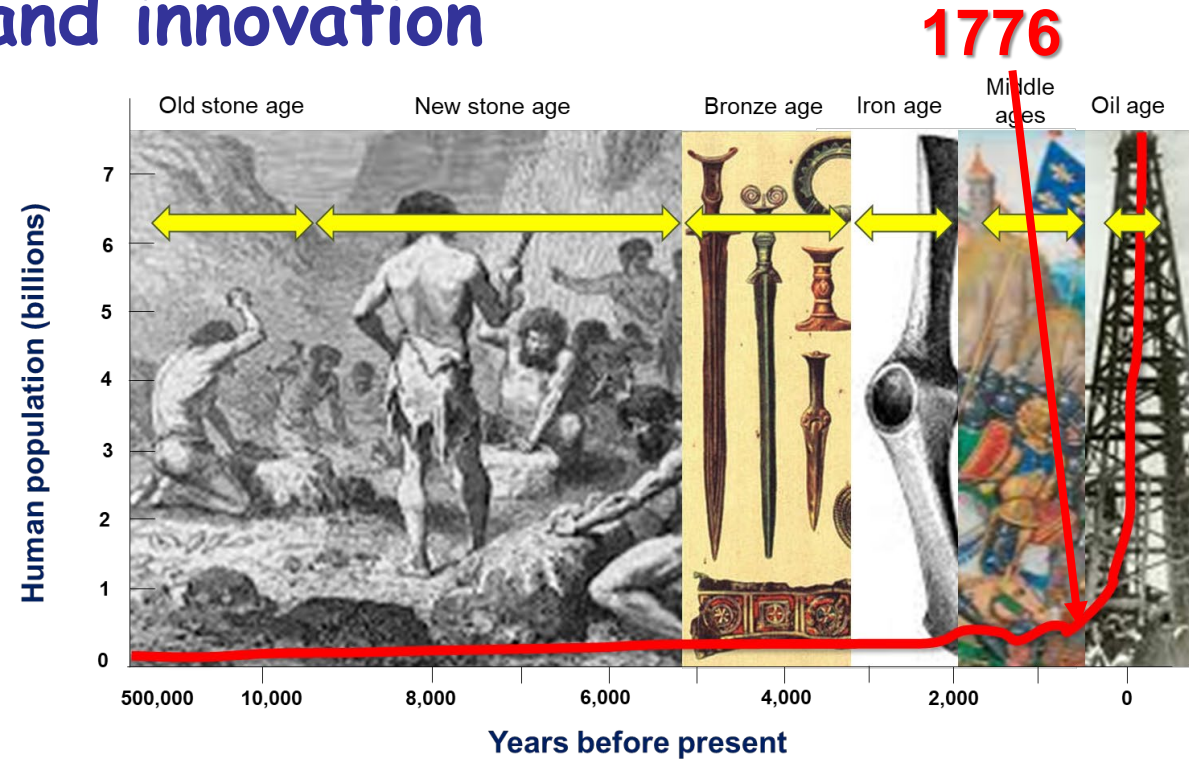
Understand growth, development and innovation

- the industrial revolution

One lesson learned: "we didn't leave the stone age due to a lack of stones..."

... no, we left an era, because something better always came up

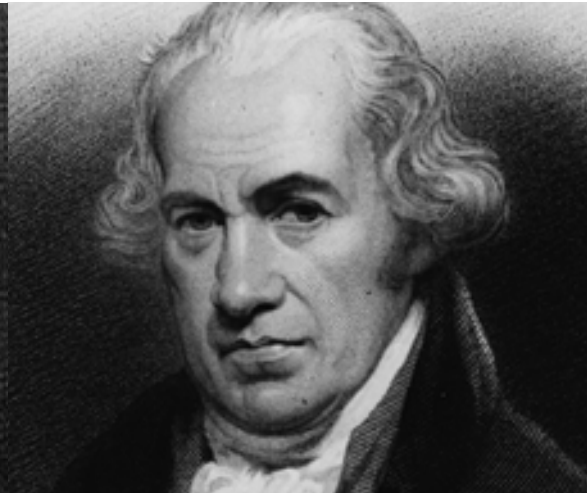
But why does something better always come up? And will something better than the 'fossil fuel age' automatically come up?



USA (1776): The declaration of independence



Adam Smith (1776): An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations

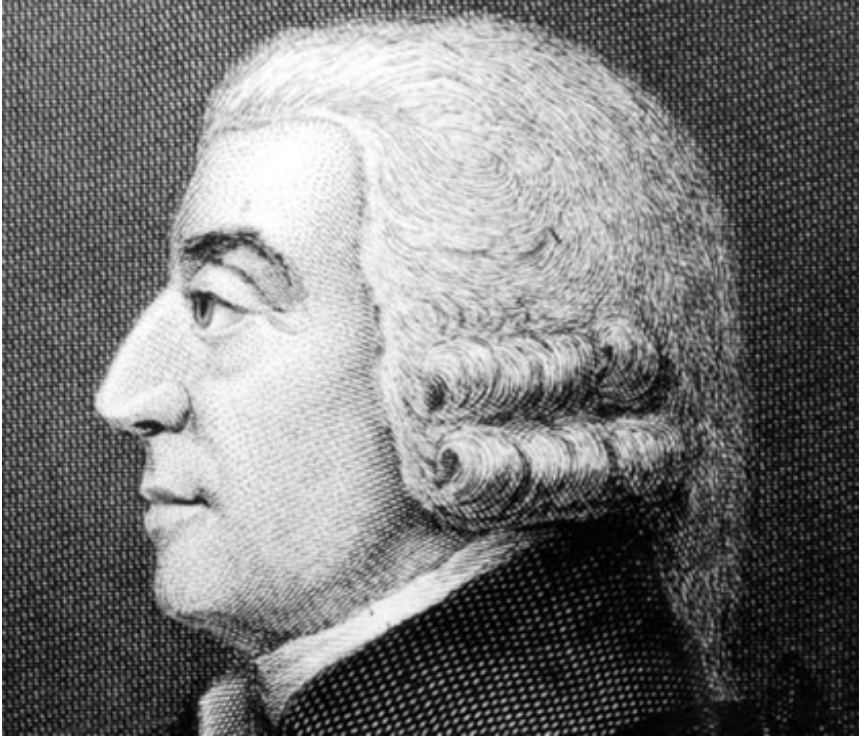


James Watt (1774): Innovation of the steam engine

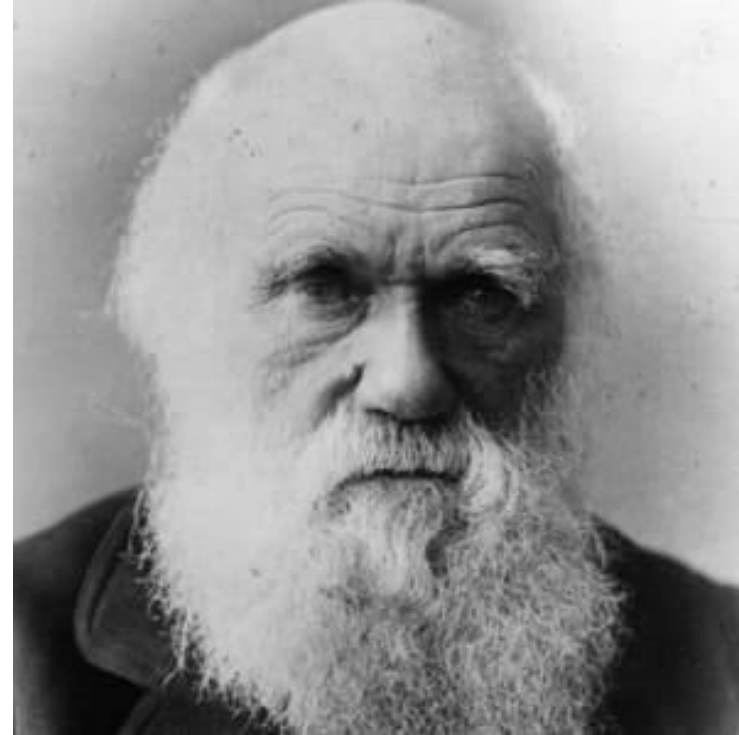
Coal mining: Large scale from beginning of industrial revolution



Mechanism of innovation – and evolution



Smith A (1776): An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations



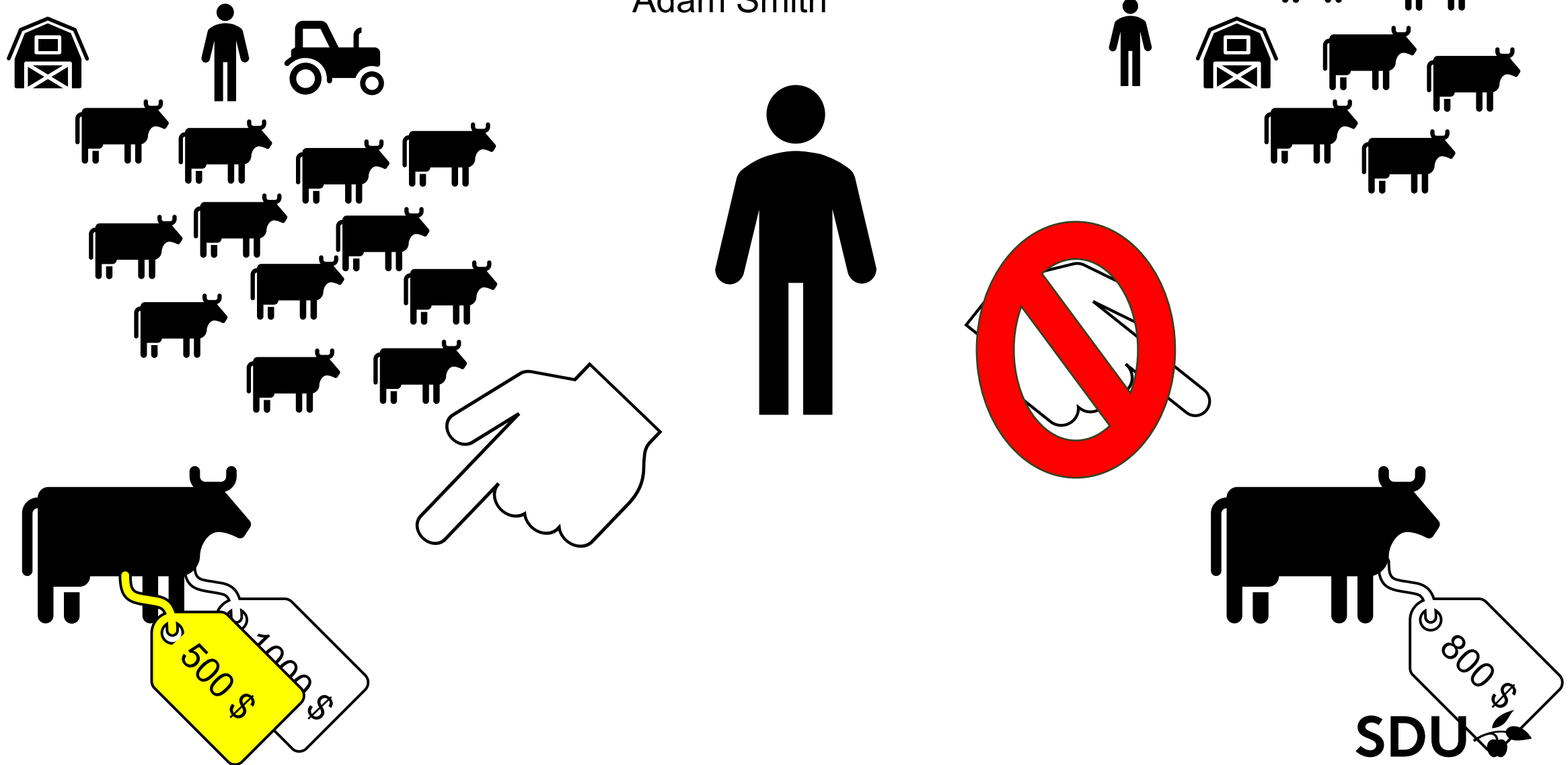
Darwin C (1859): On the origin of species...

Common mechanisms in evolution and innovation: competition and 'survival of the fittest'

Adam Smith: market economy as an 'invisible hand' leading to ever better solutions for the common good of the individual and of society as a whole

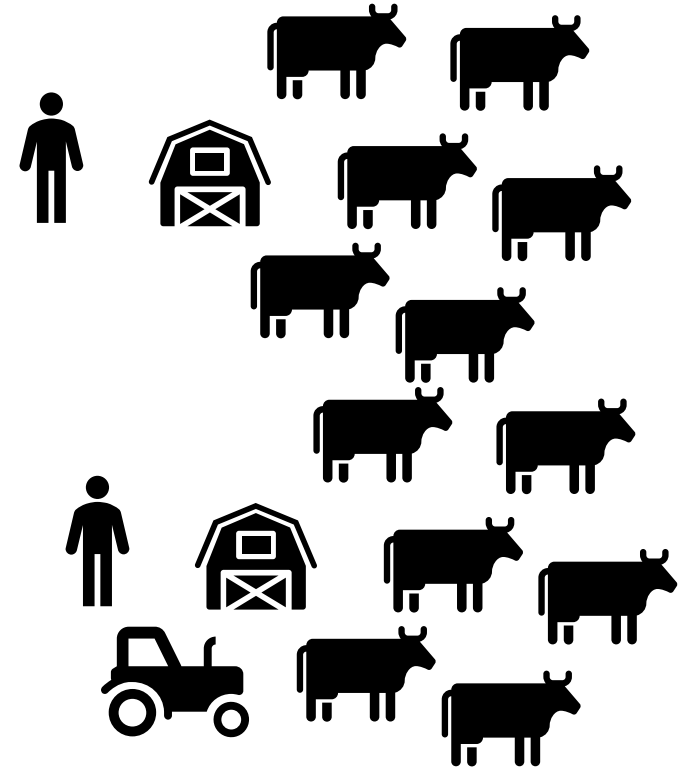
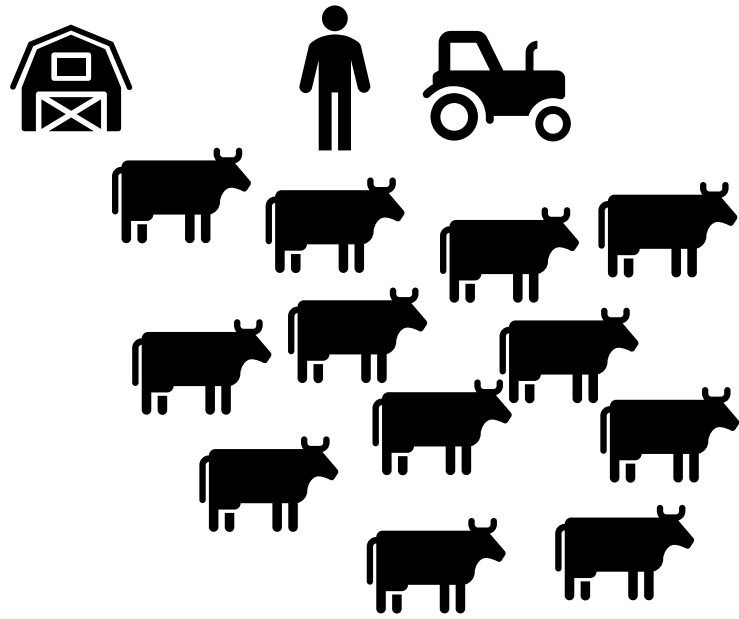
The Invisible Hand

Adam Smith

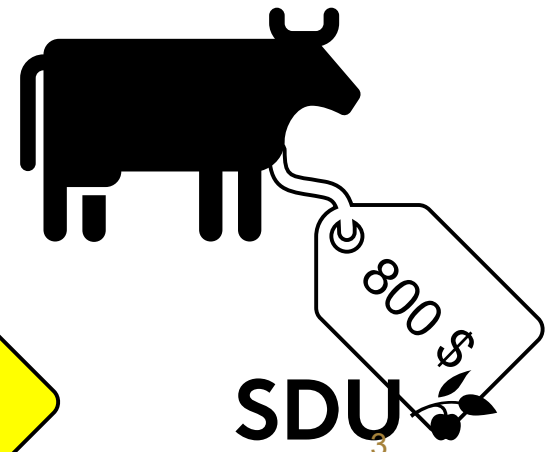
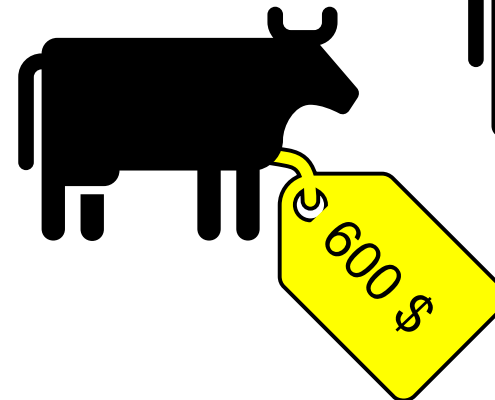


The Invisible Hand

Adam Smith



600 \$



Understand growth, development and innovation

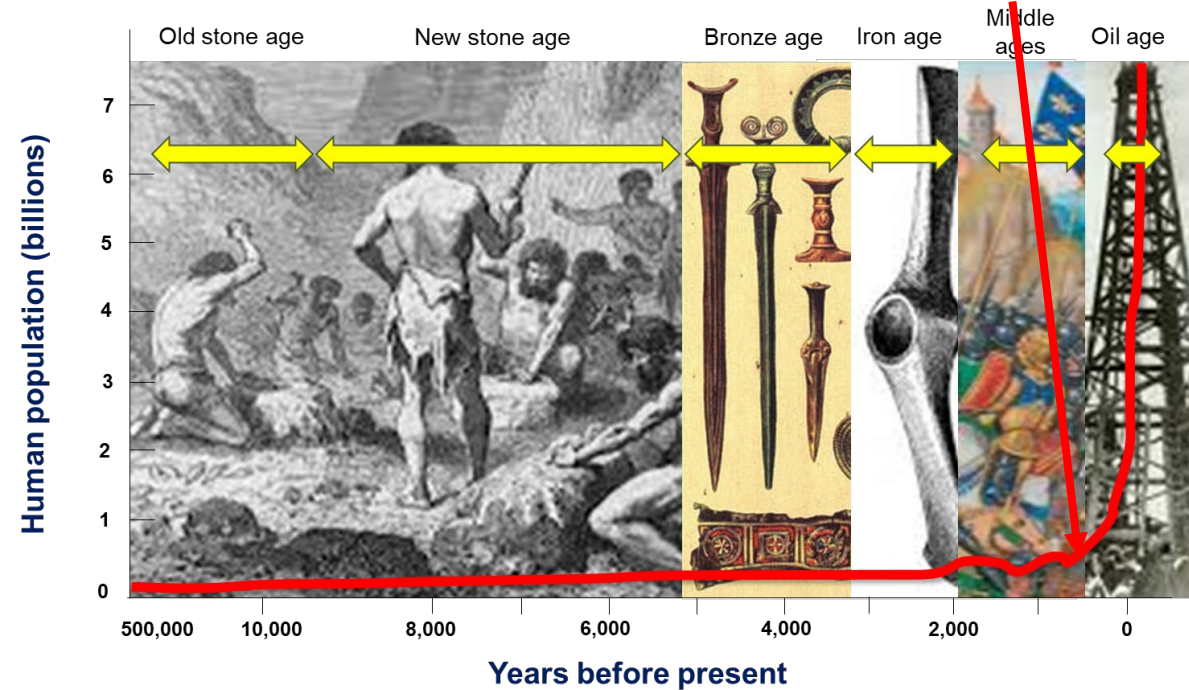
- the industrial revolution

Lesson learned: "we didn't leave the stone age due to a lack of stones..."

... no, we left it, because something better always came up

But why does something better always come up? And will something better than the 'fossil fuel age' automatically come up?

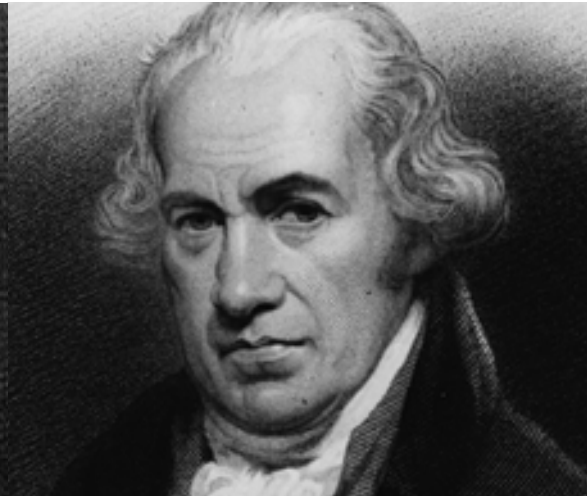
1776



USA (1776): The declaration of independence



Adam Smith (1776): An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations



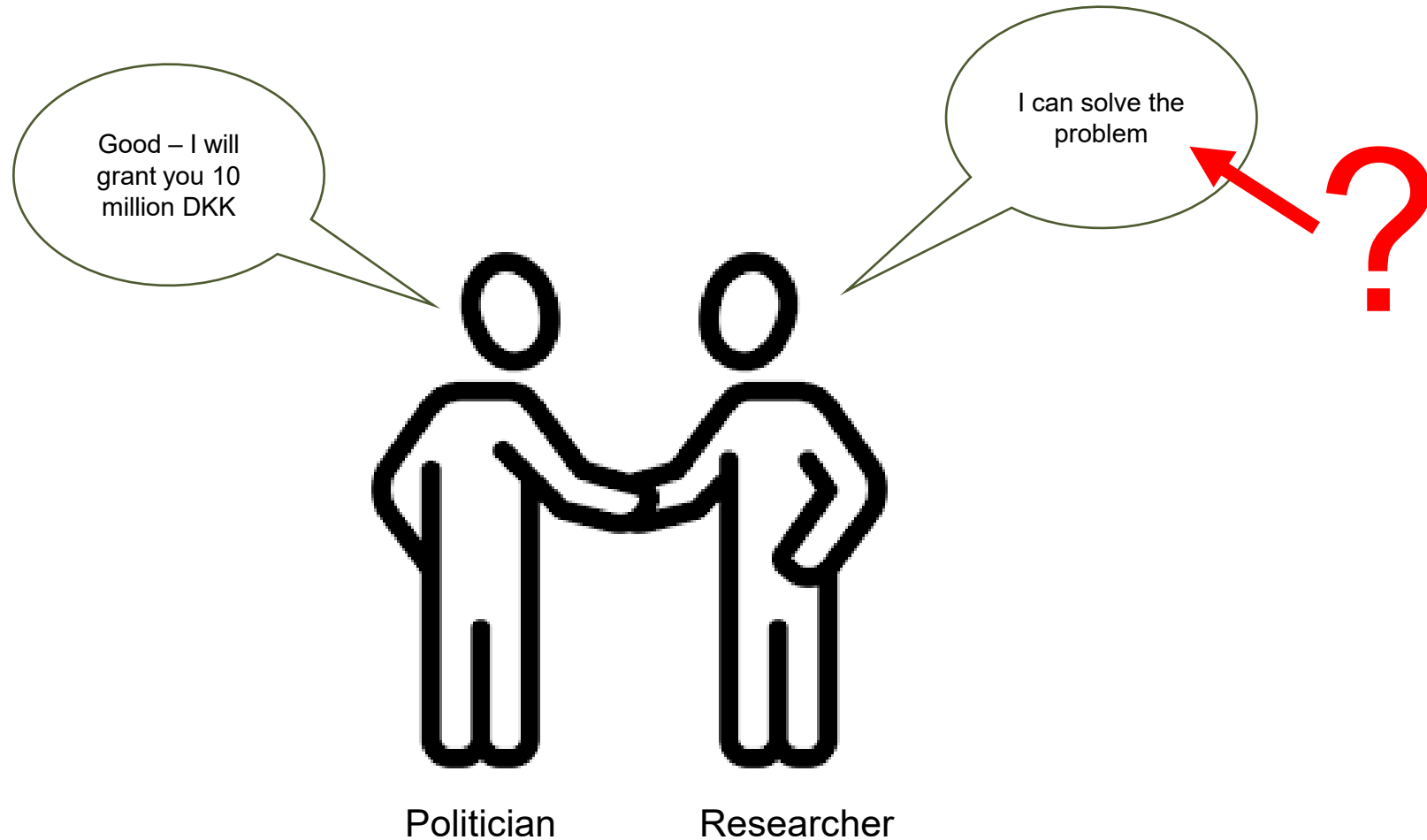
James Watt (1774): Innovation of the steam engine

Coal mining: Large scale from beginning of industrial revolution



Will something better than fossil fuels come up?

- the 'unfortunate alliance'

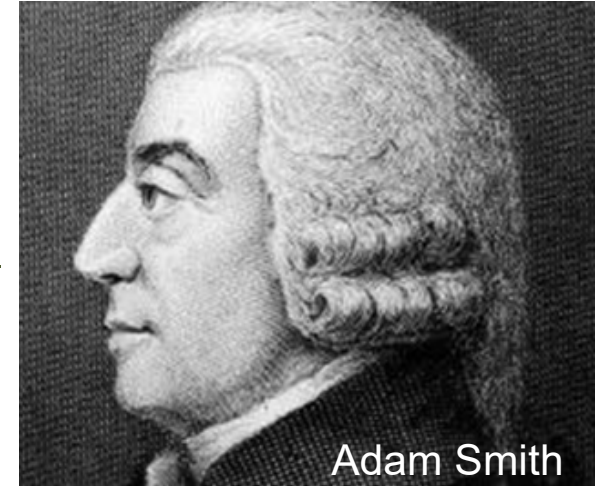


The Tragedy of the Commons

Competition and survival of the fittest on the market will always lead to innovation and better solutions for all society.

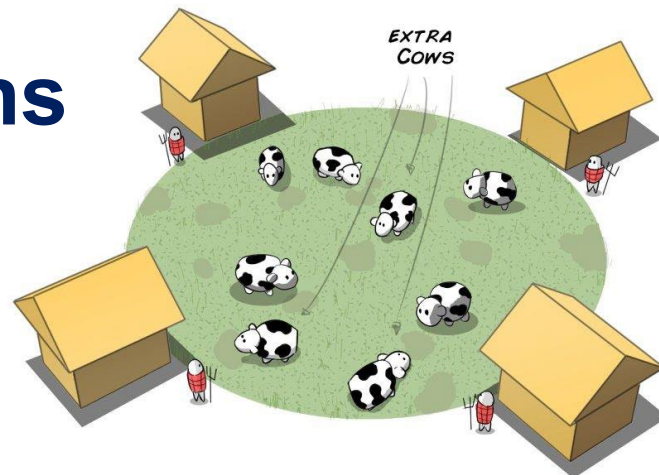
It is like an 'invisible hand' – we do not need to regulate.

Selfishness and individual optimization among suppliers to the market leads to societal optimum



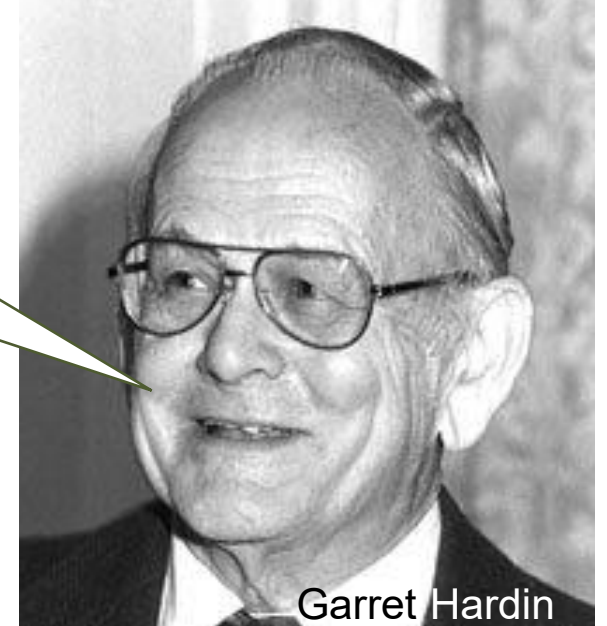
Adam Smith

The Commons



Hardin G (1968): The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*

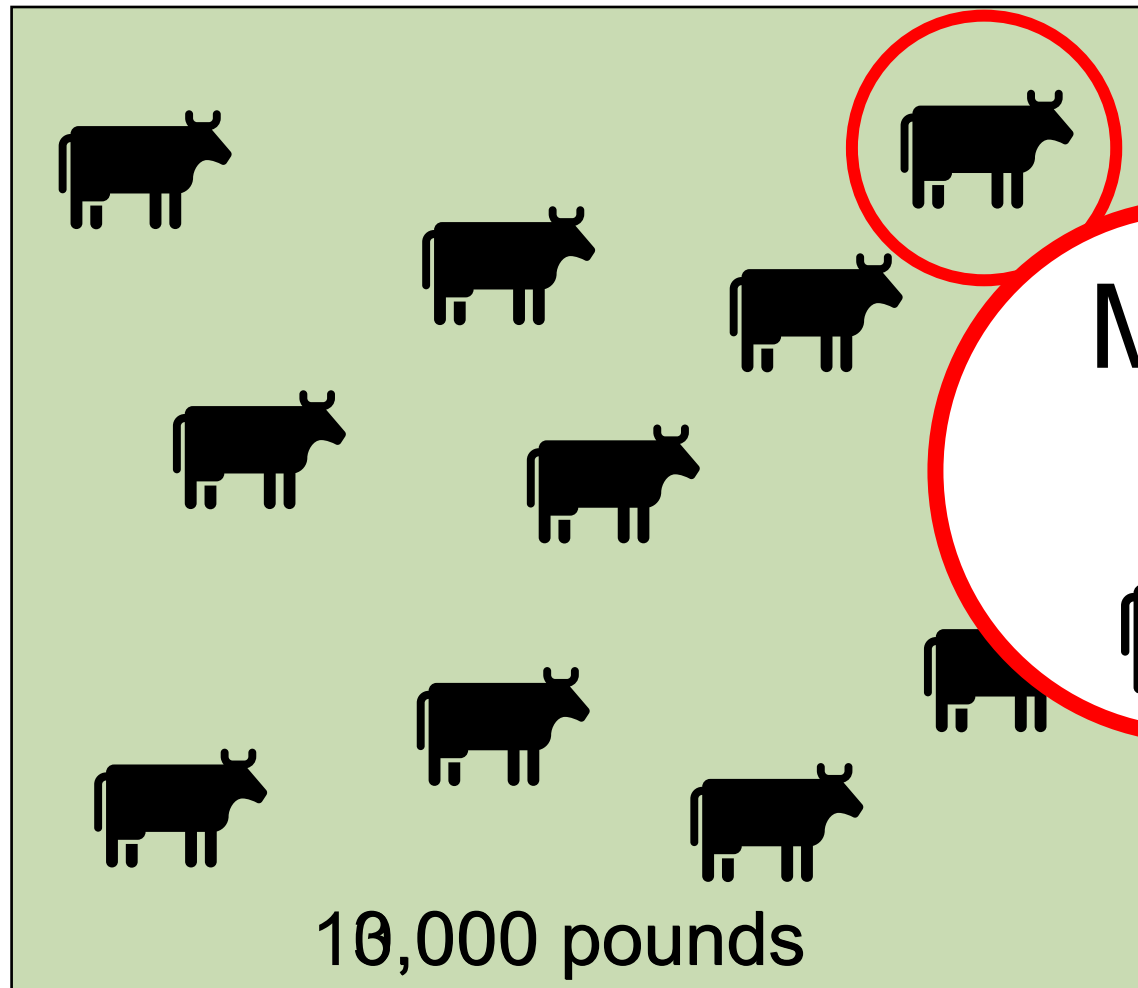
No, not always.
Not in a Tragedy
of the Commons
type of situation



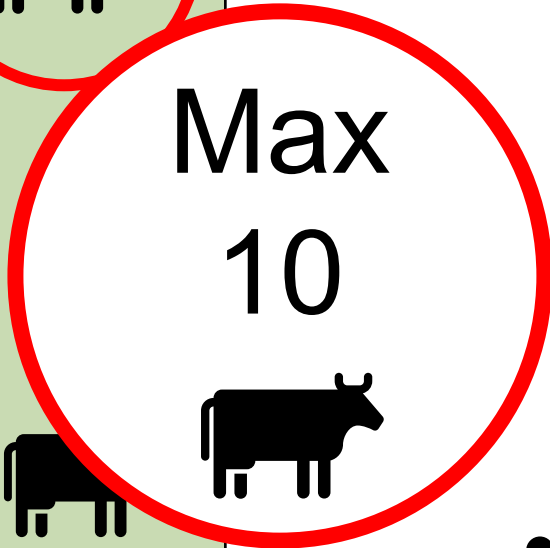
Garret Hardin

The Tragedy of the Commons

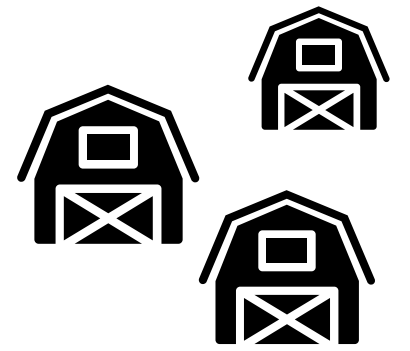
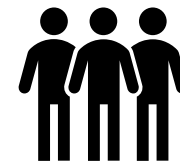
Garret Hardin, (1968)



Max
10



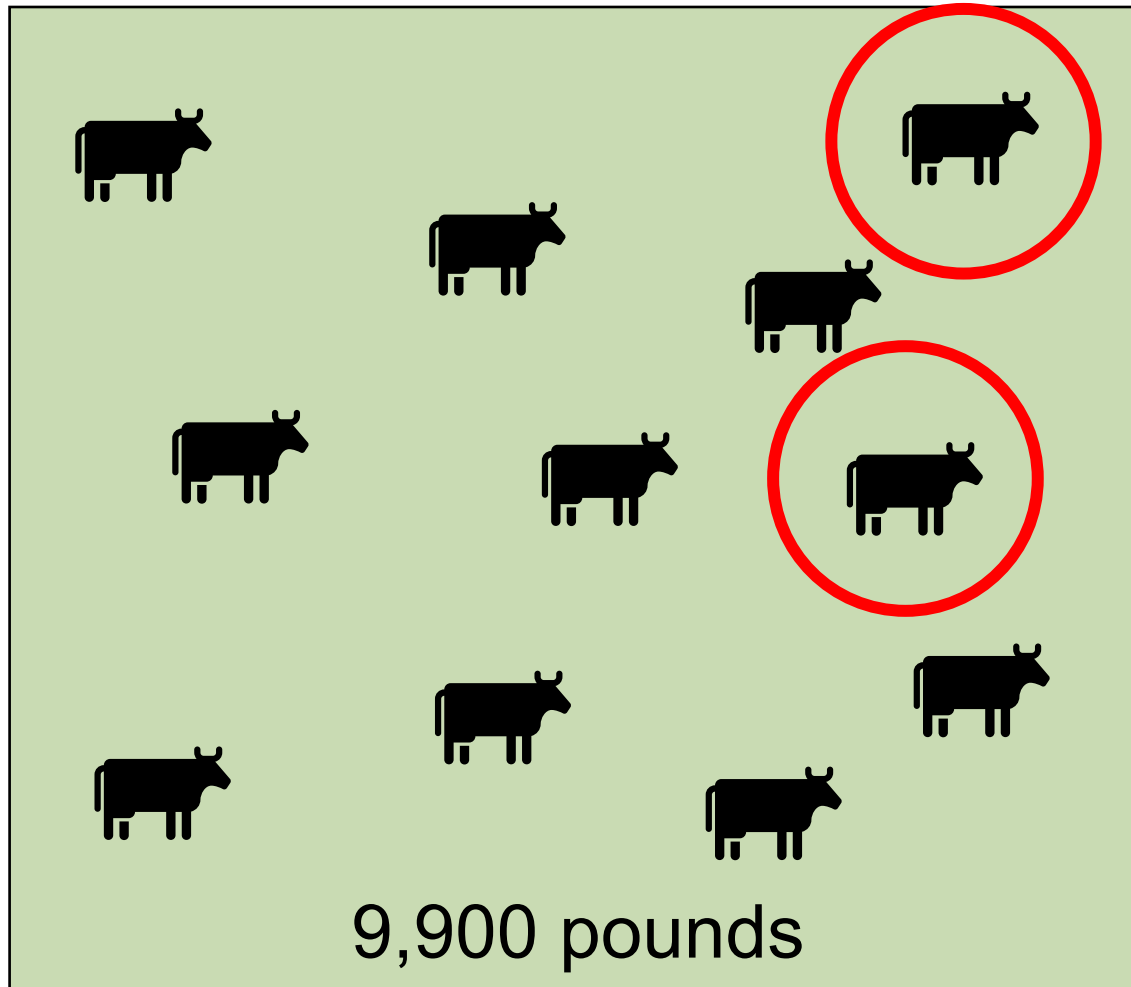
1000 pounds



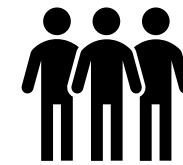
SDU 

The Tragedy of the Commons

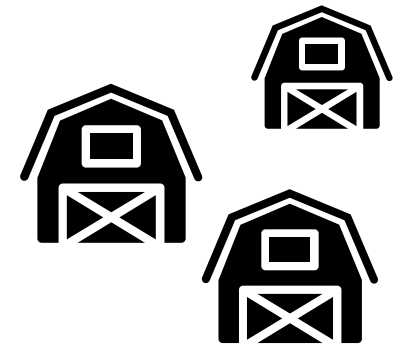
Garret Hardin, (1968)



4800 pounds



-100 pounds



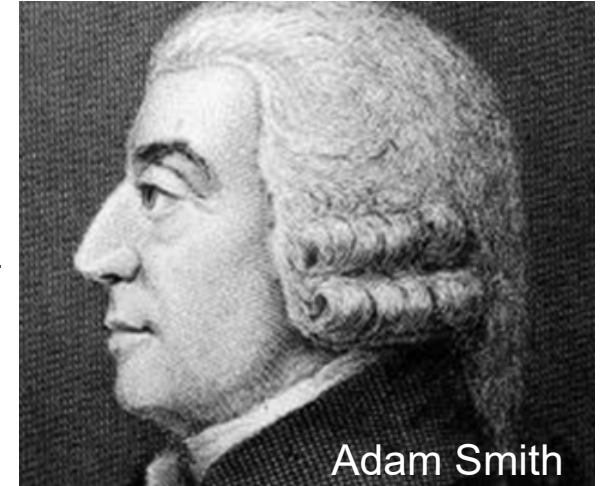
SDU

Understand the Tragedy of the Commons

Competition and survival of the fittest on the market will always lead to innovation and better solutions for all society.

It is like an 'invisible hand' – we do not need to regulate.

Selfishness and individual optimization among suppliers to the market leads to societal optimum



Adam Smith



No, - not always,
as I said
... and fishery is
another
example...

**We need quota and regulation to
achieve societal optimum**



Garret Hardin

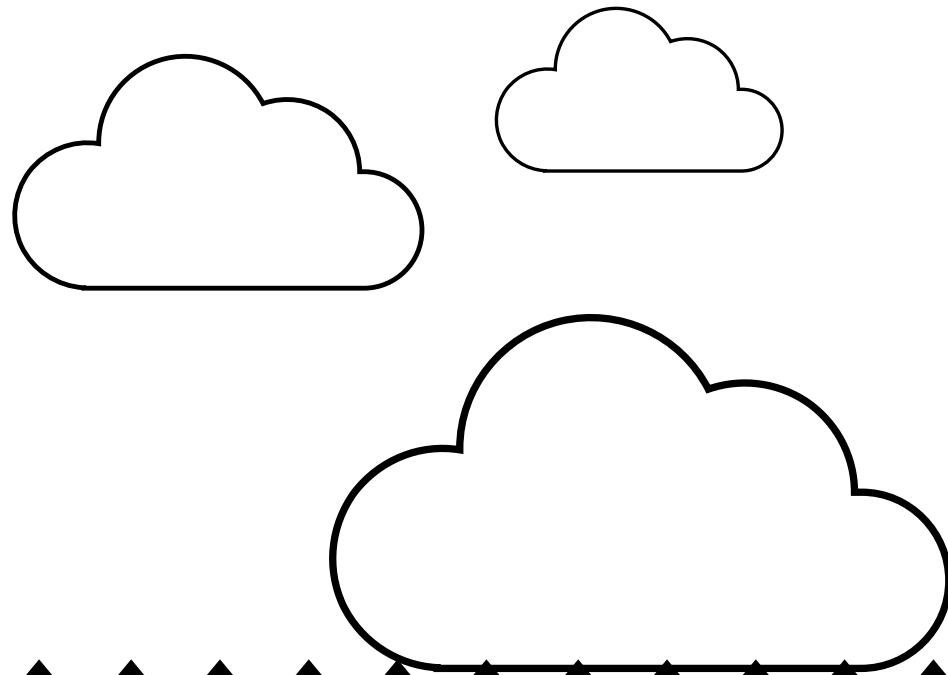
What are the criteria for an economic activity being a Tragedy of the Commons?

1. The resource supporting the economic activity in question is a 'common pool resource'
2. The common pool resource has a threshold, above which the ability of the resource to sustain the activity will decrease and eventually disappear
3. There is no competitive alternative to the economic activity in question

...is Climate Change a Tragedy of the Commons type of challenge?

1. Common-pool resource?

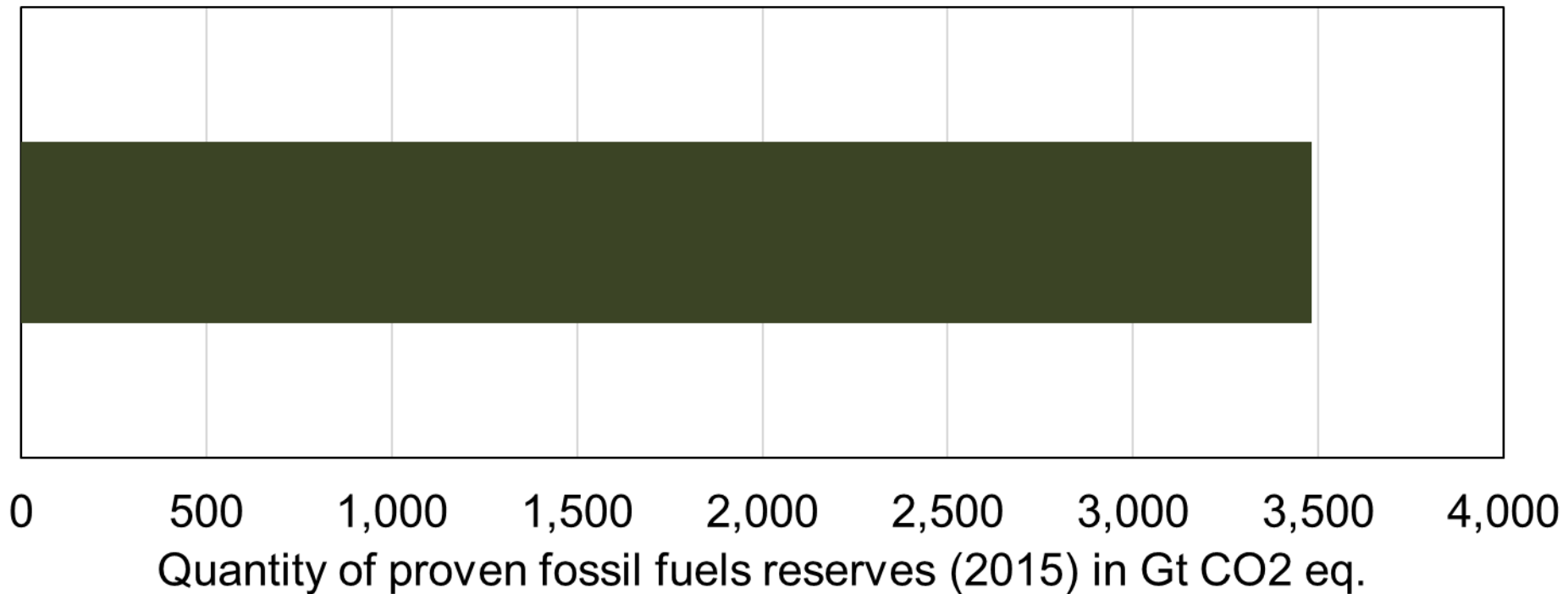
The atmosphere



2. Violating the carrying capacity?

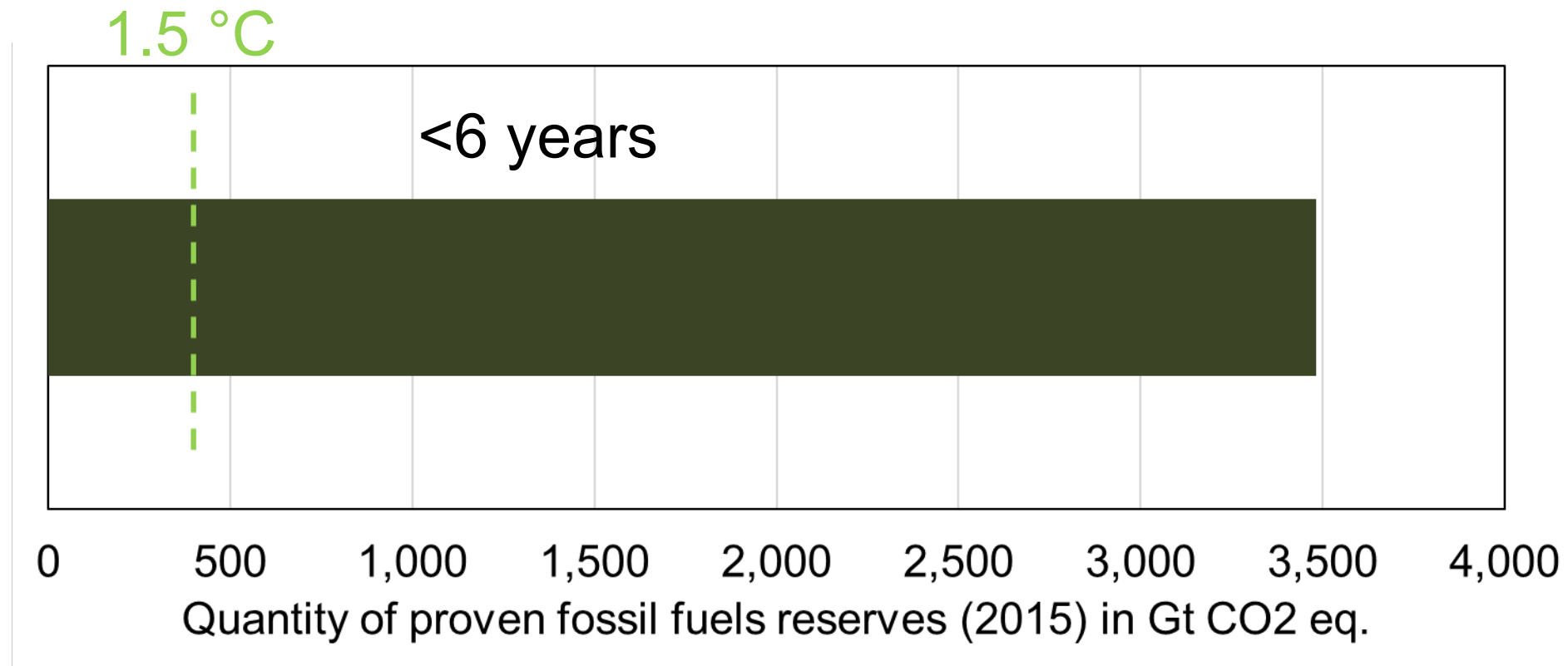
Fossil fuels and the temperature limits

BGR, (2016)



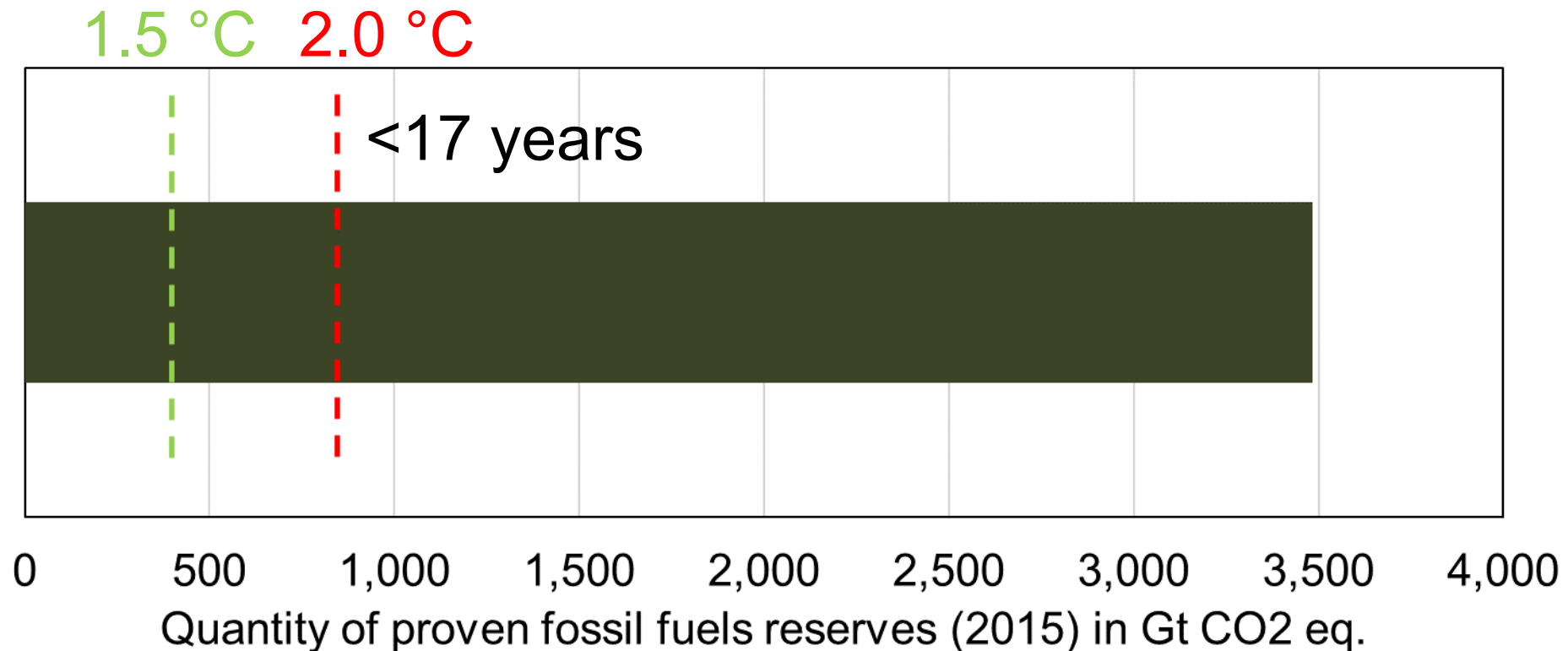
Fossil fuels and the temperature limits

IPCC, (2014)



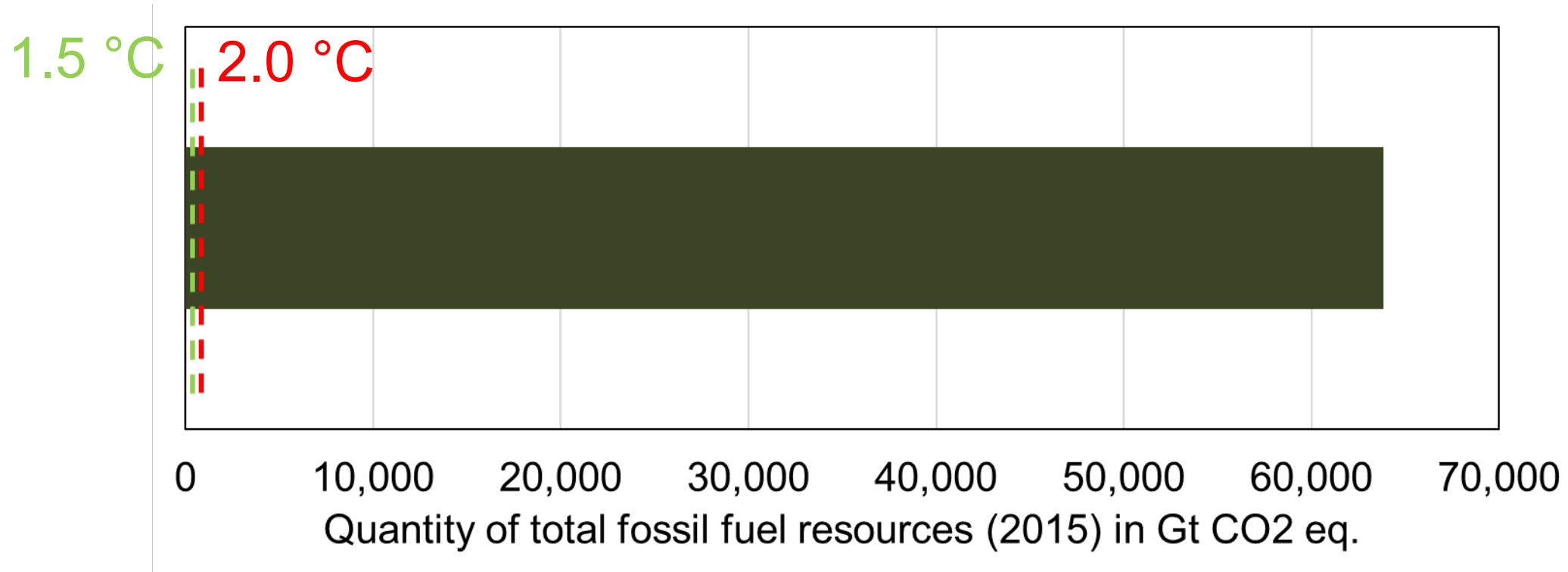
Fossil fuels and the temperature limits

IPCC, (2014)

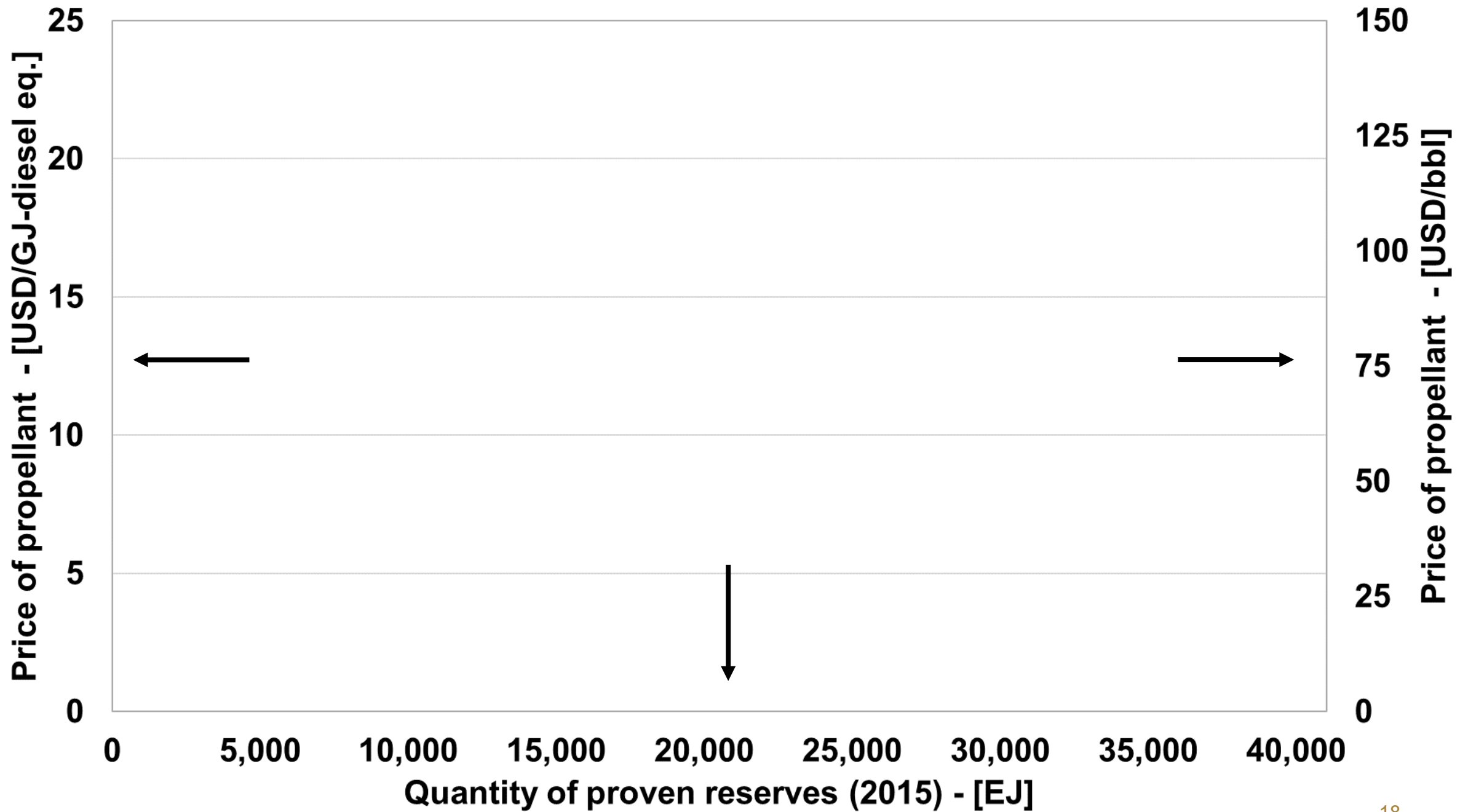


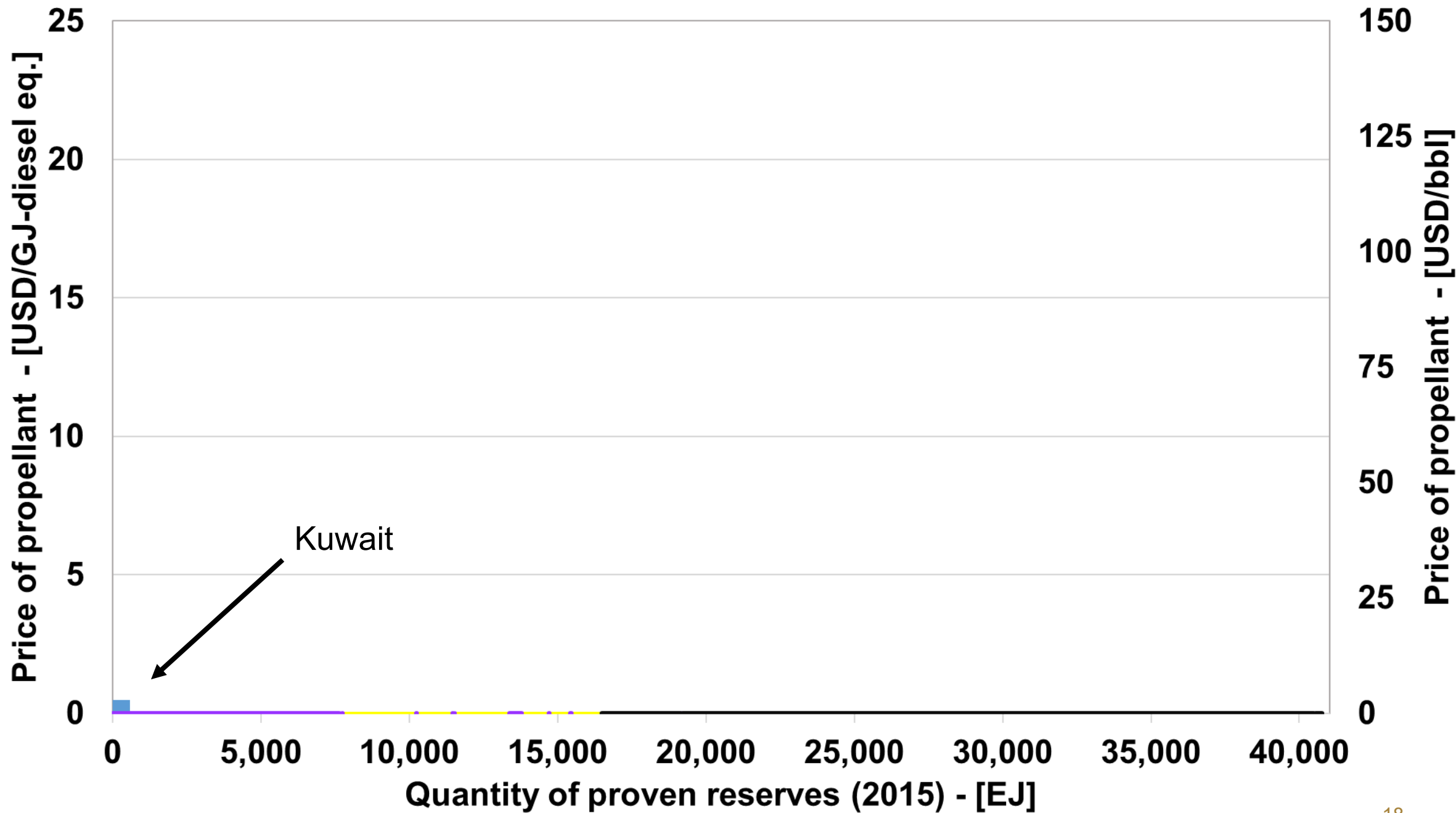
Fossil fuels and the temperature limits

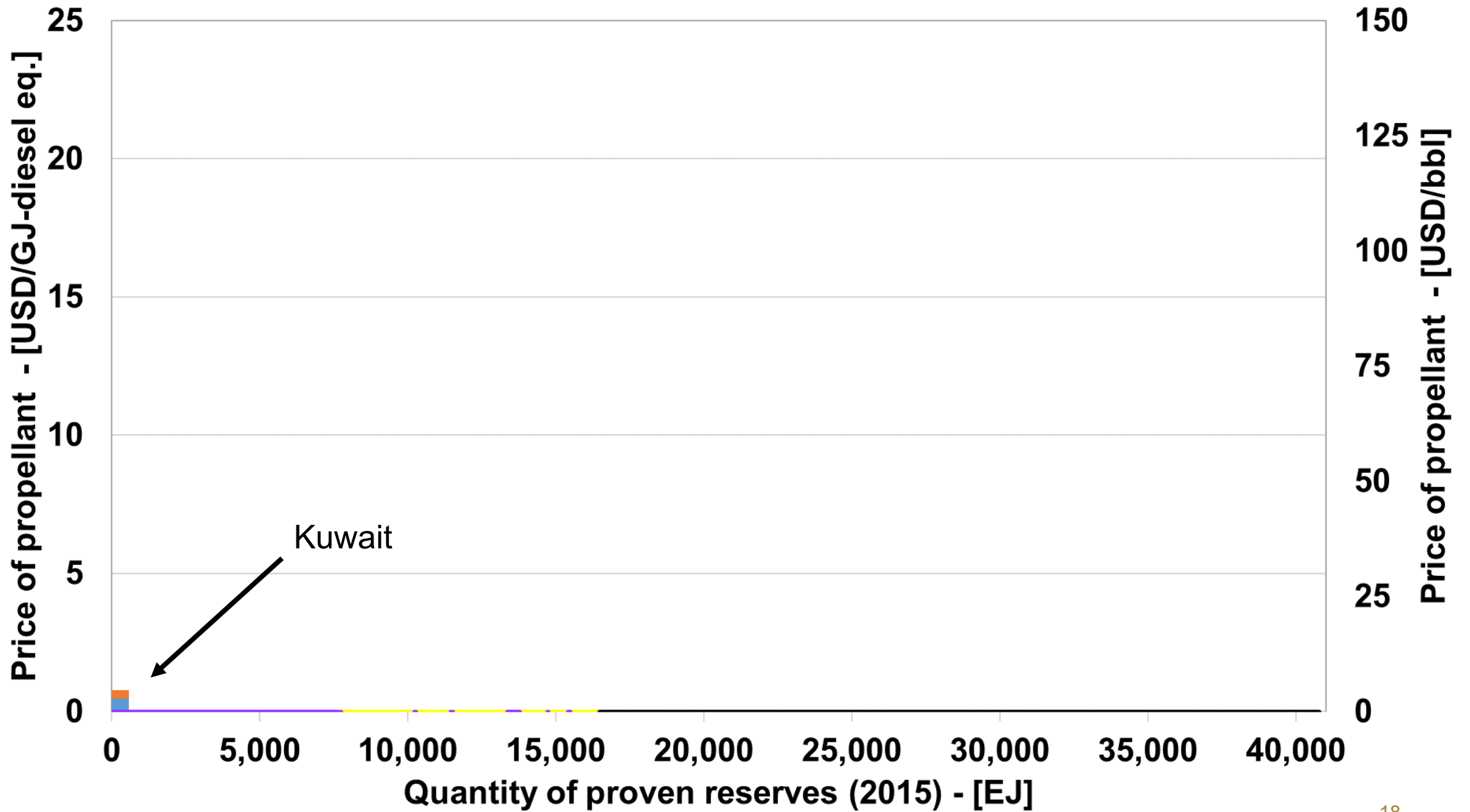
BGR, (2016)

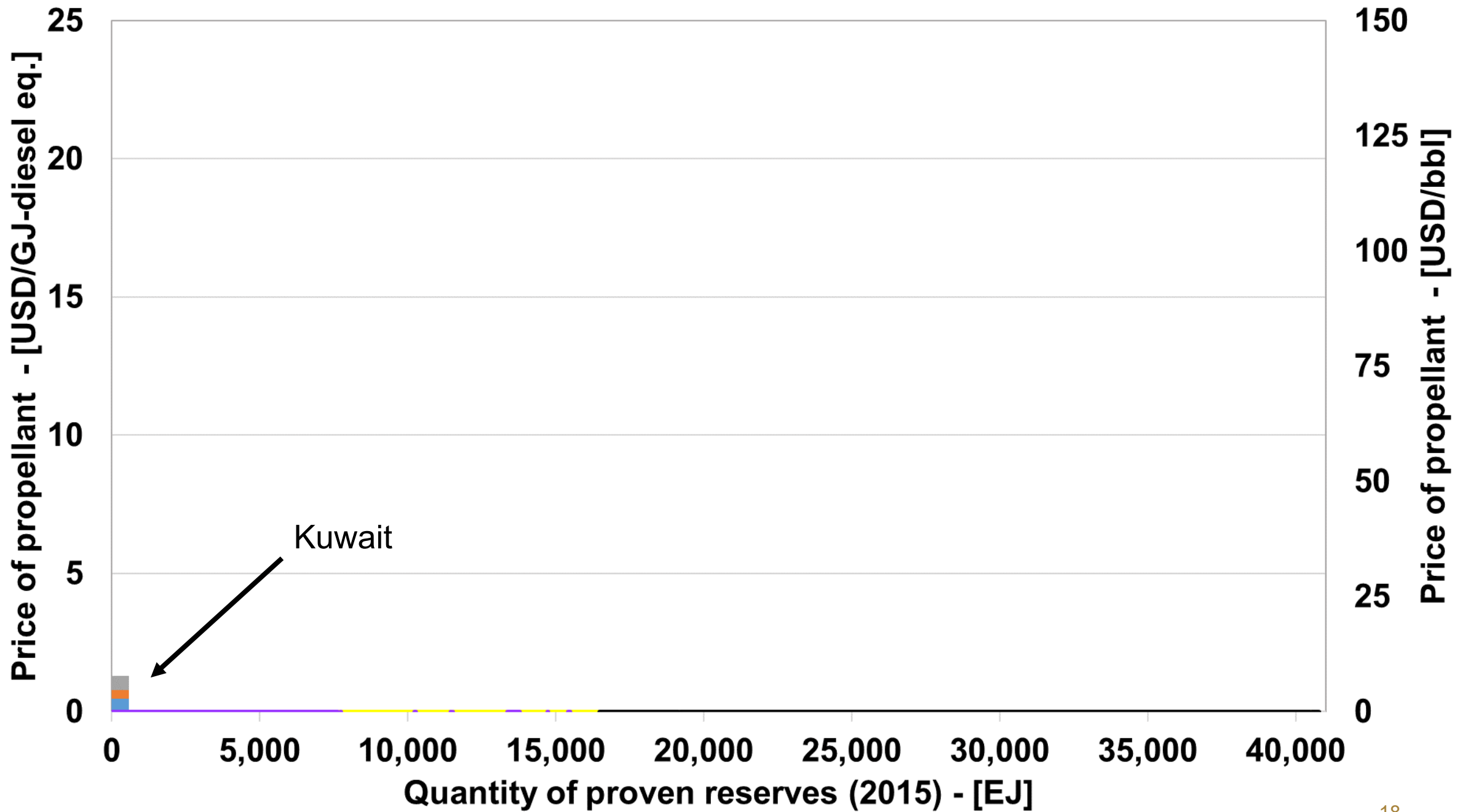


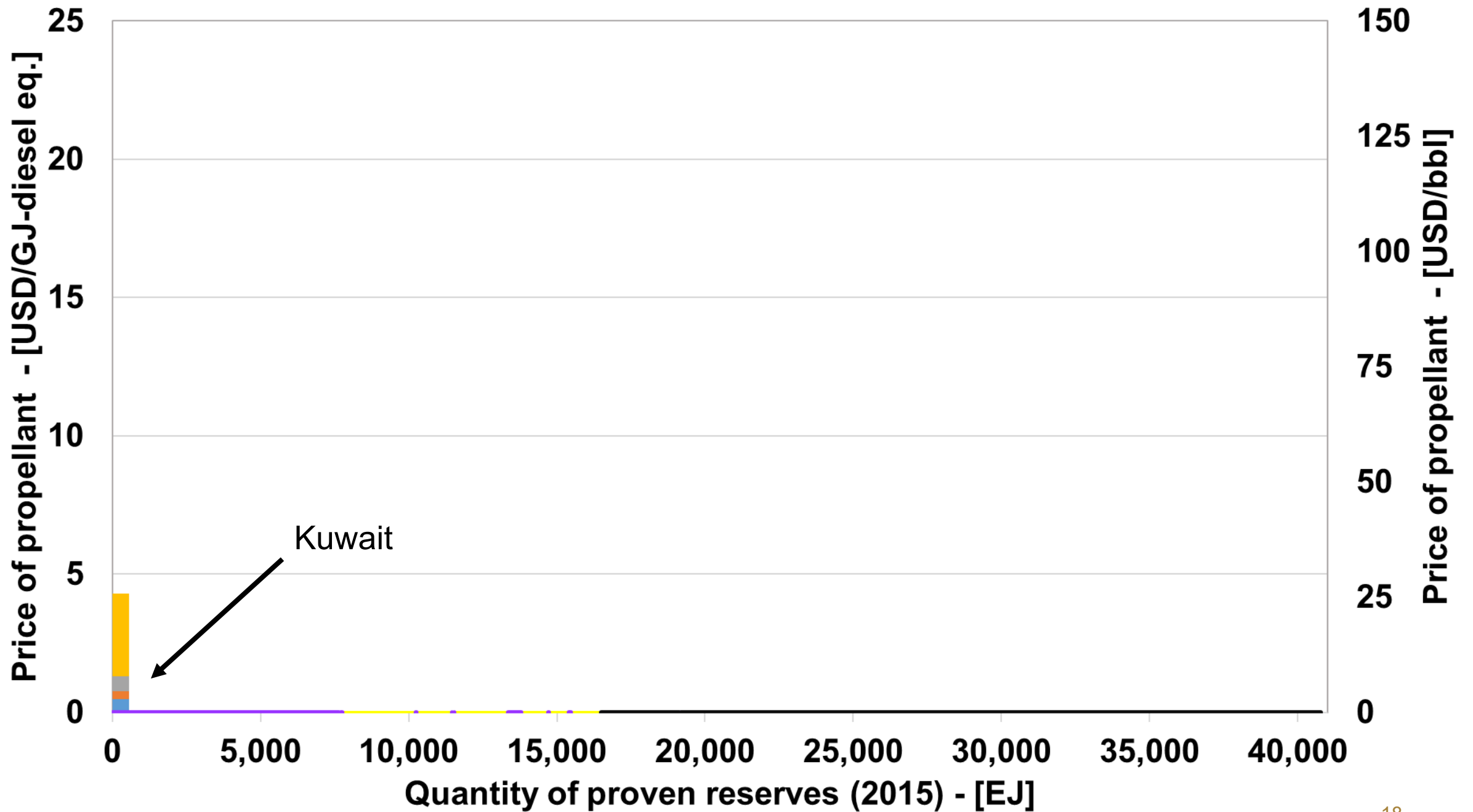
3. Feasible technical solutions?

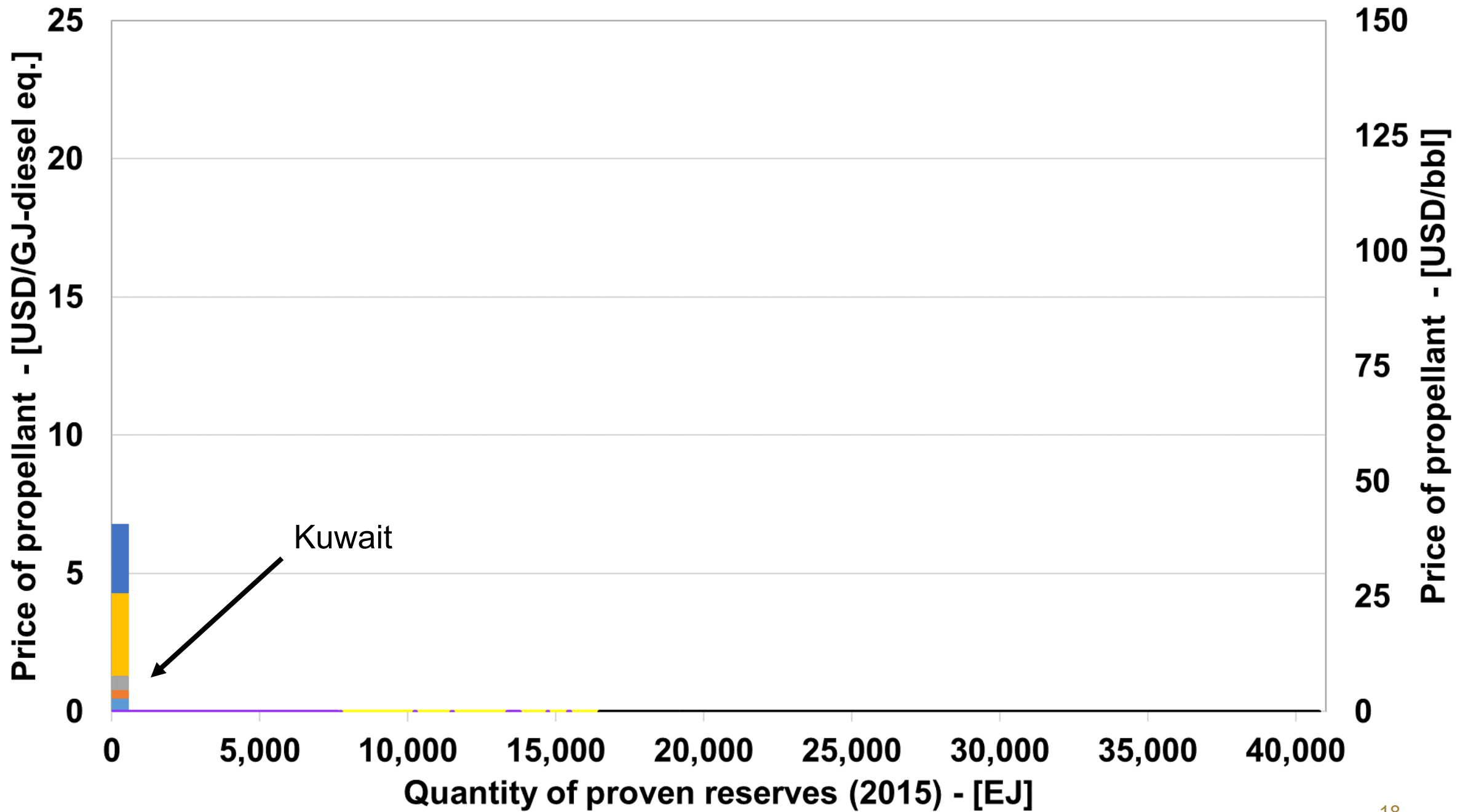


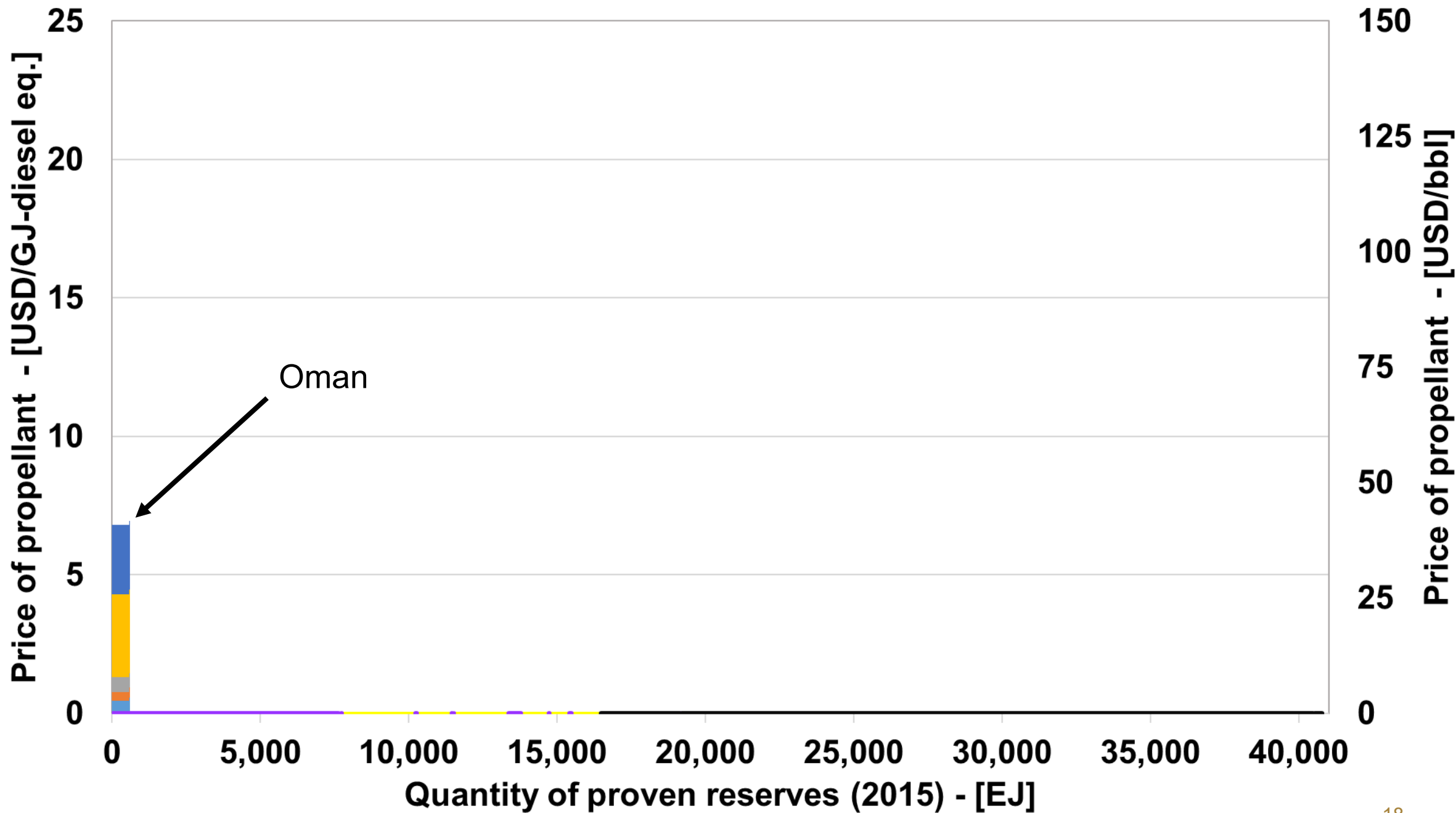


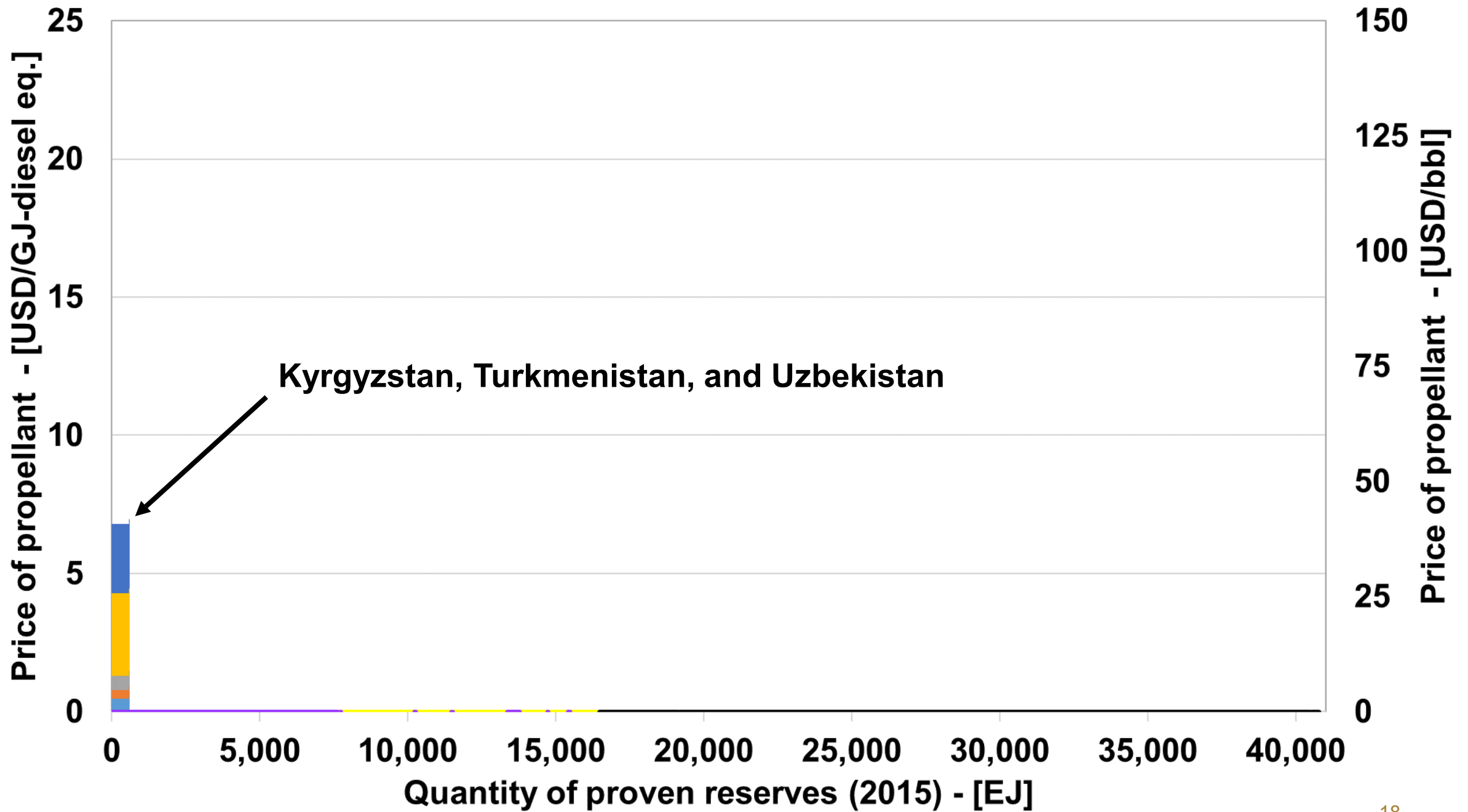


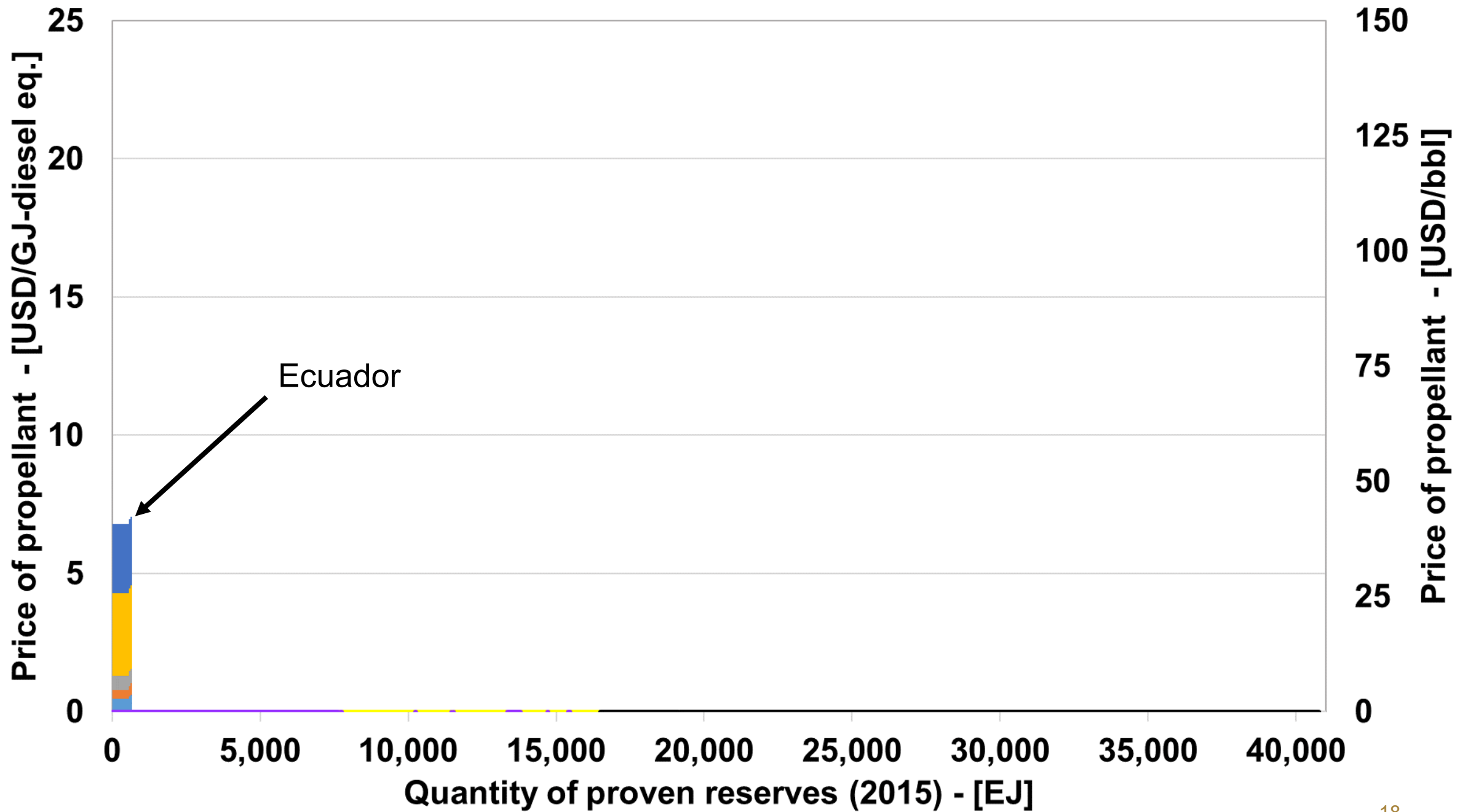


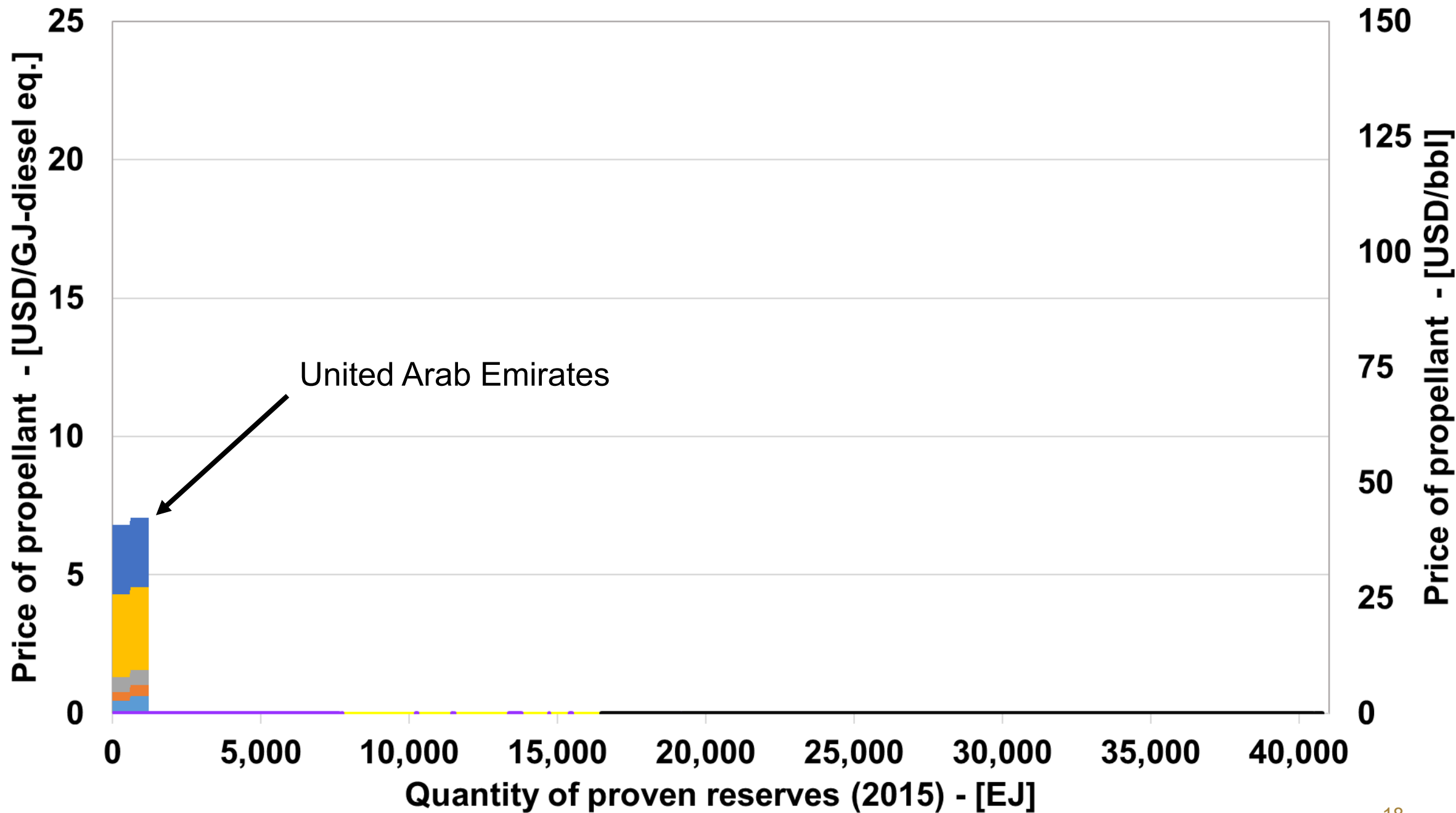


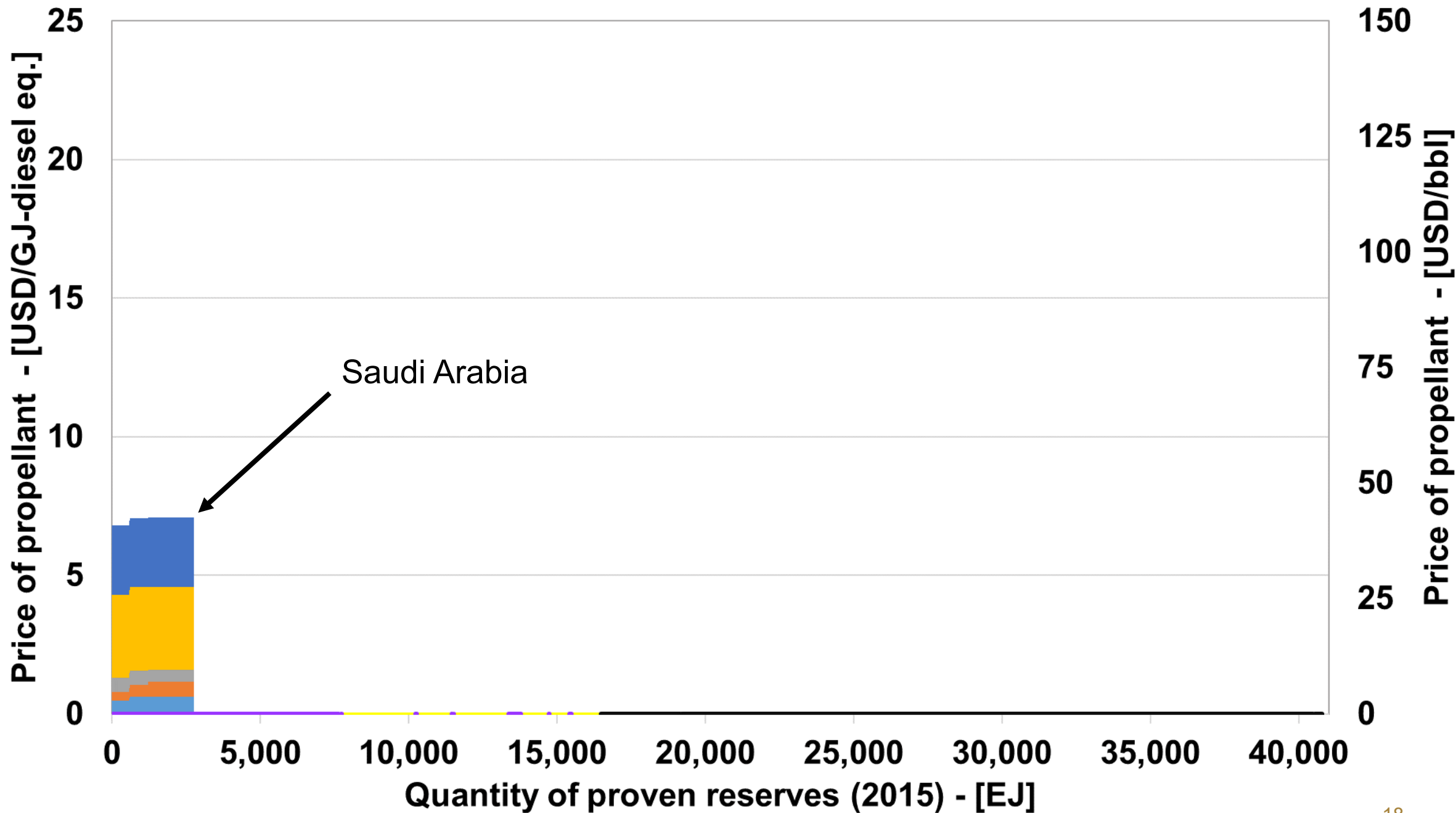


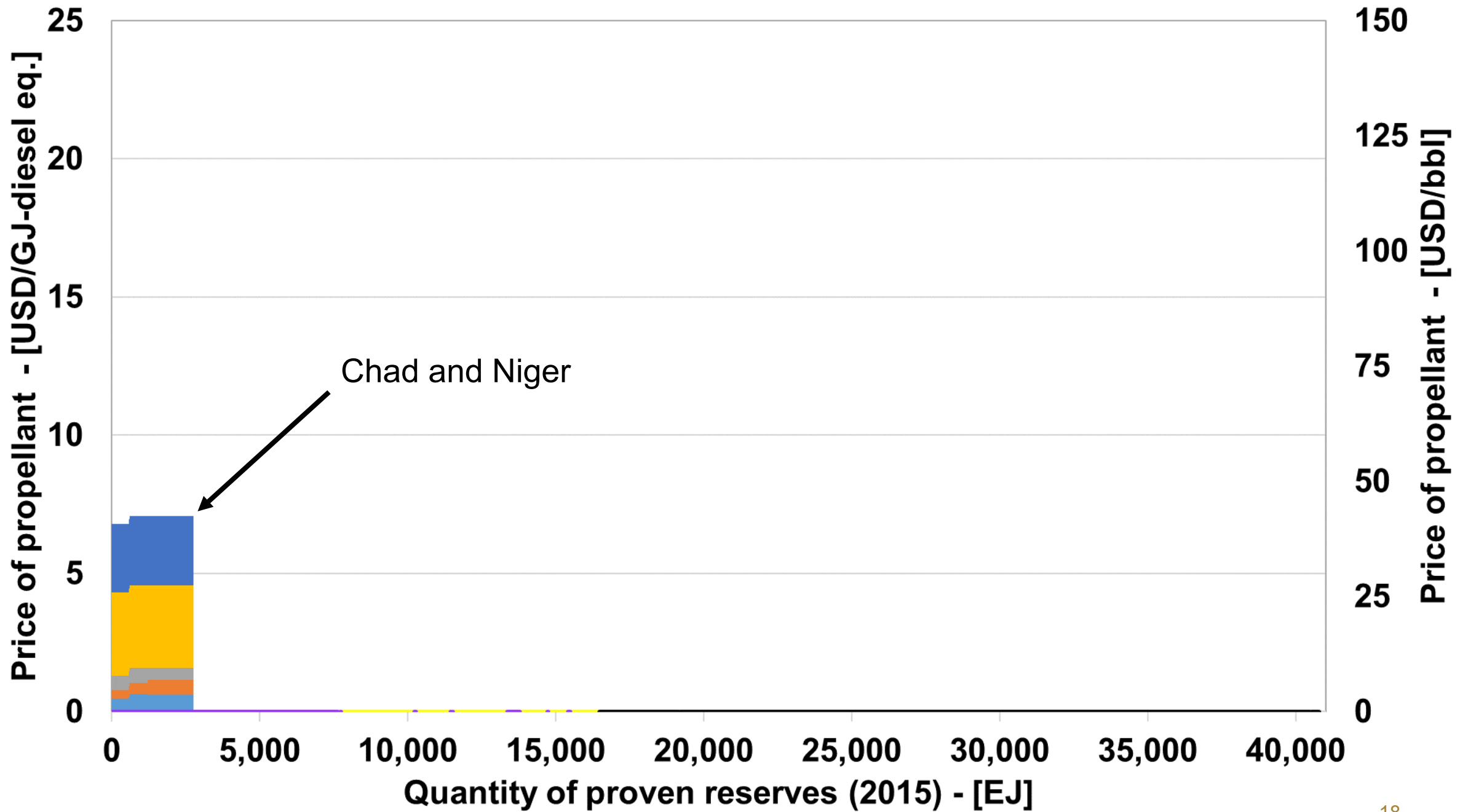


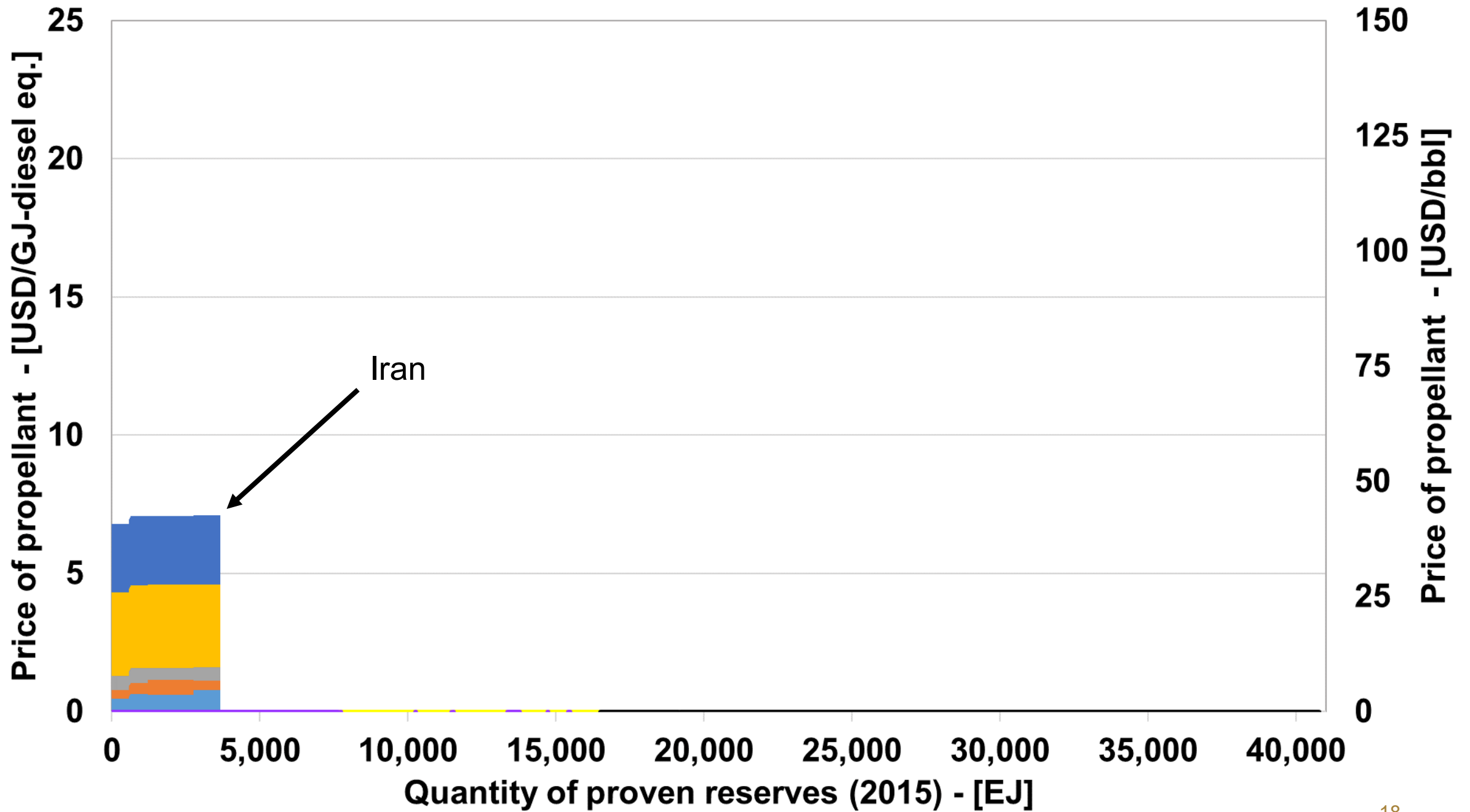


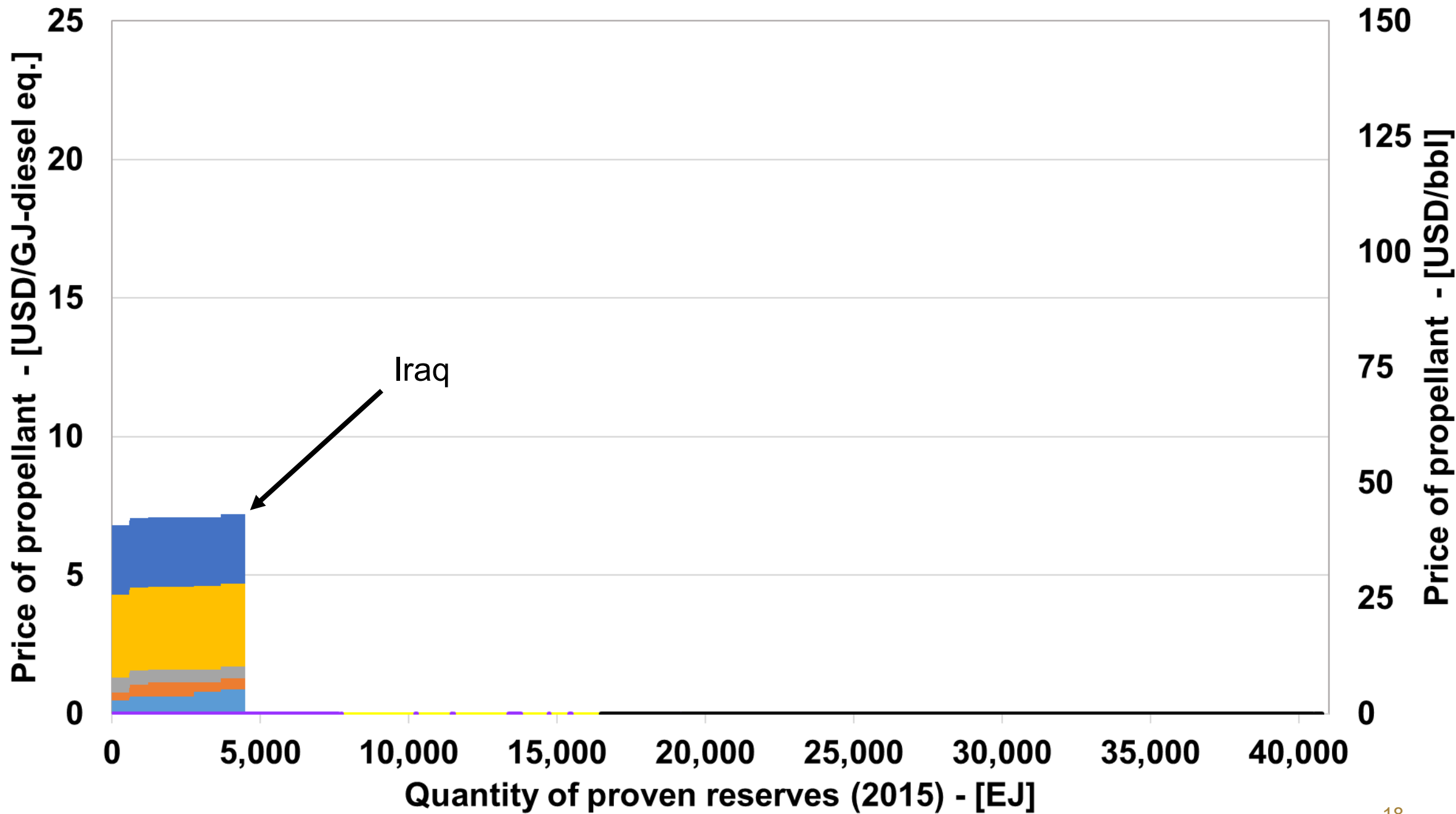


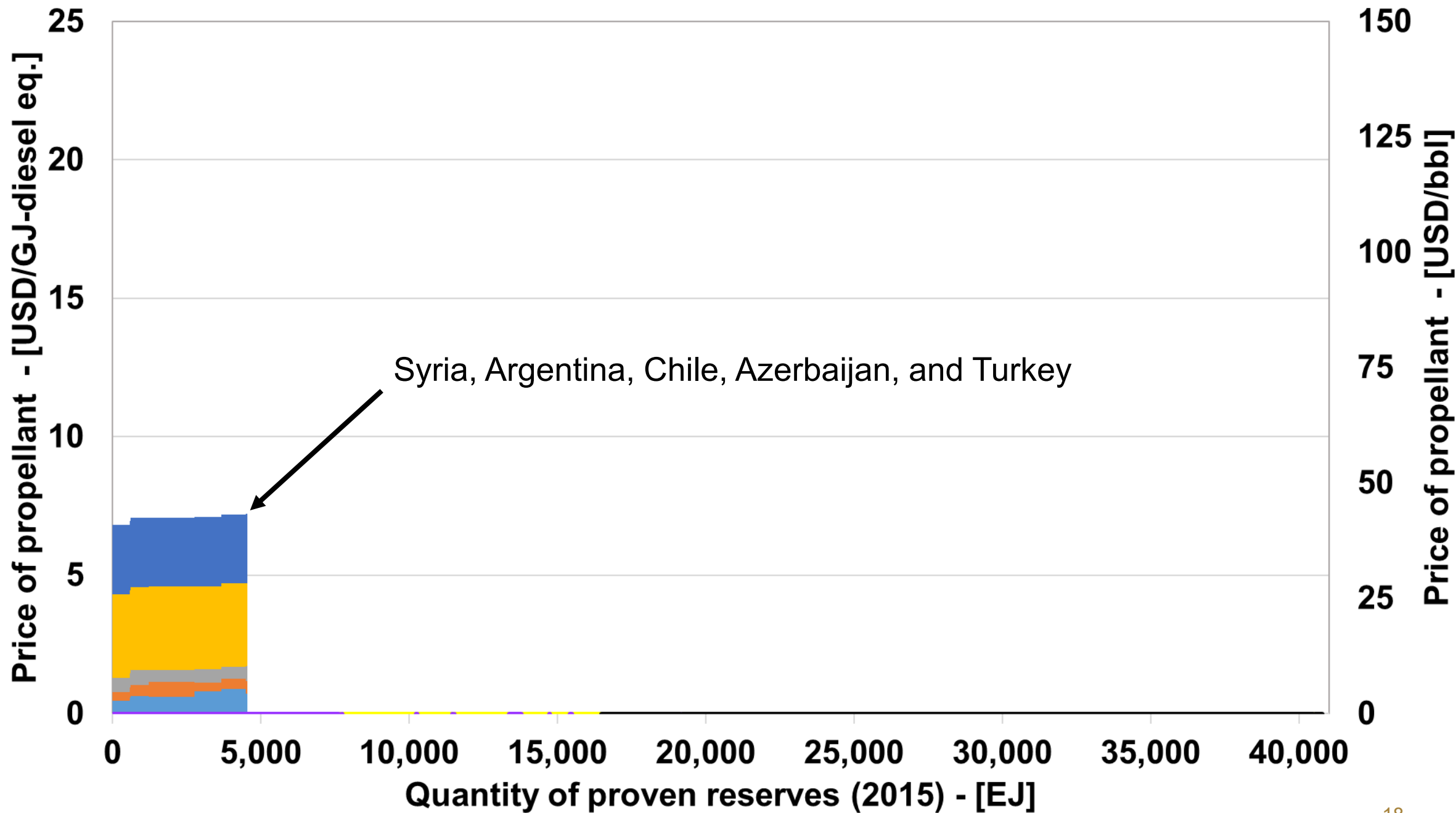


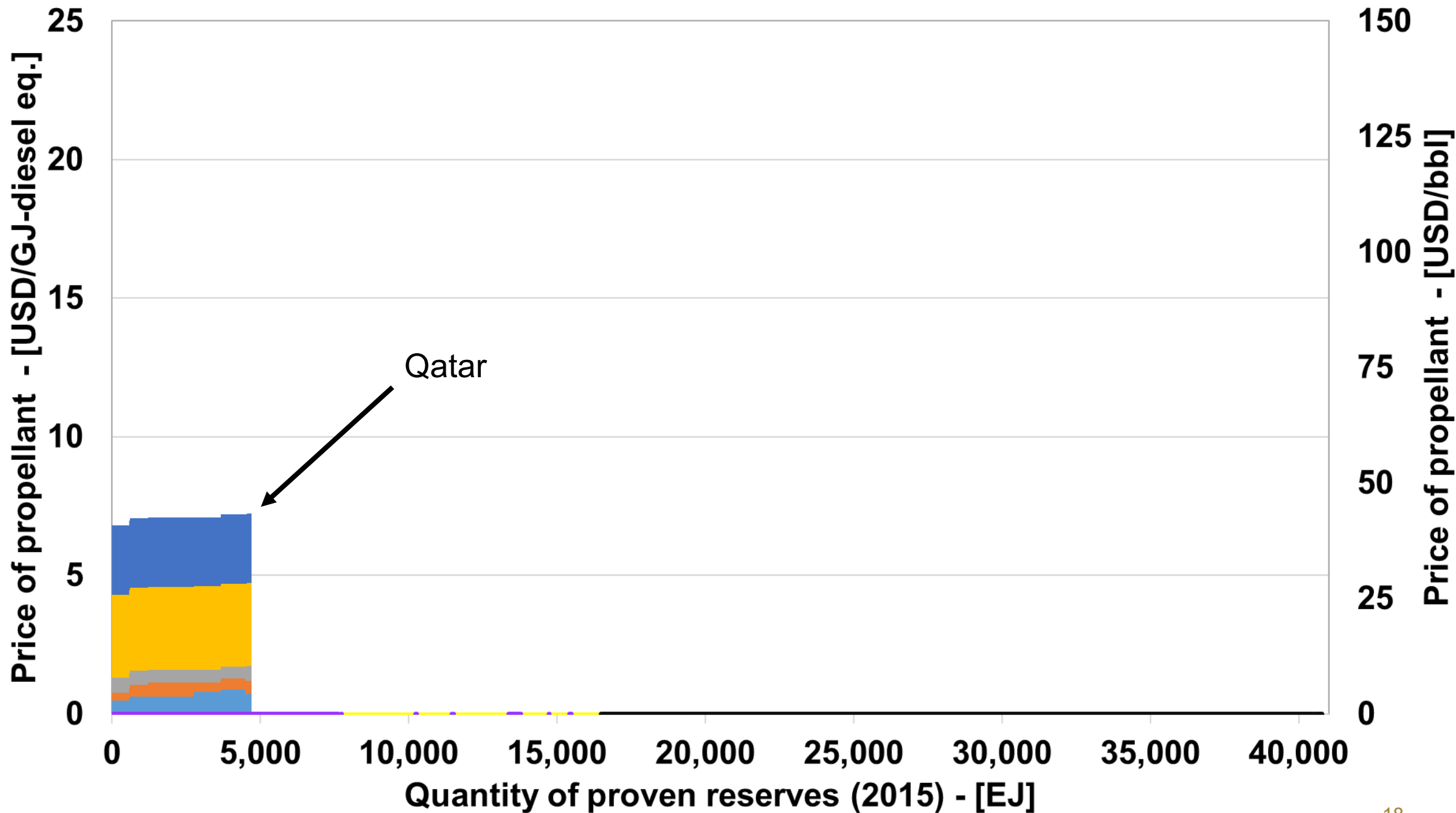


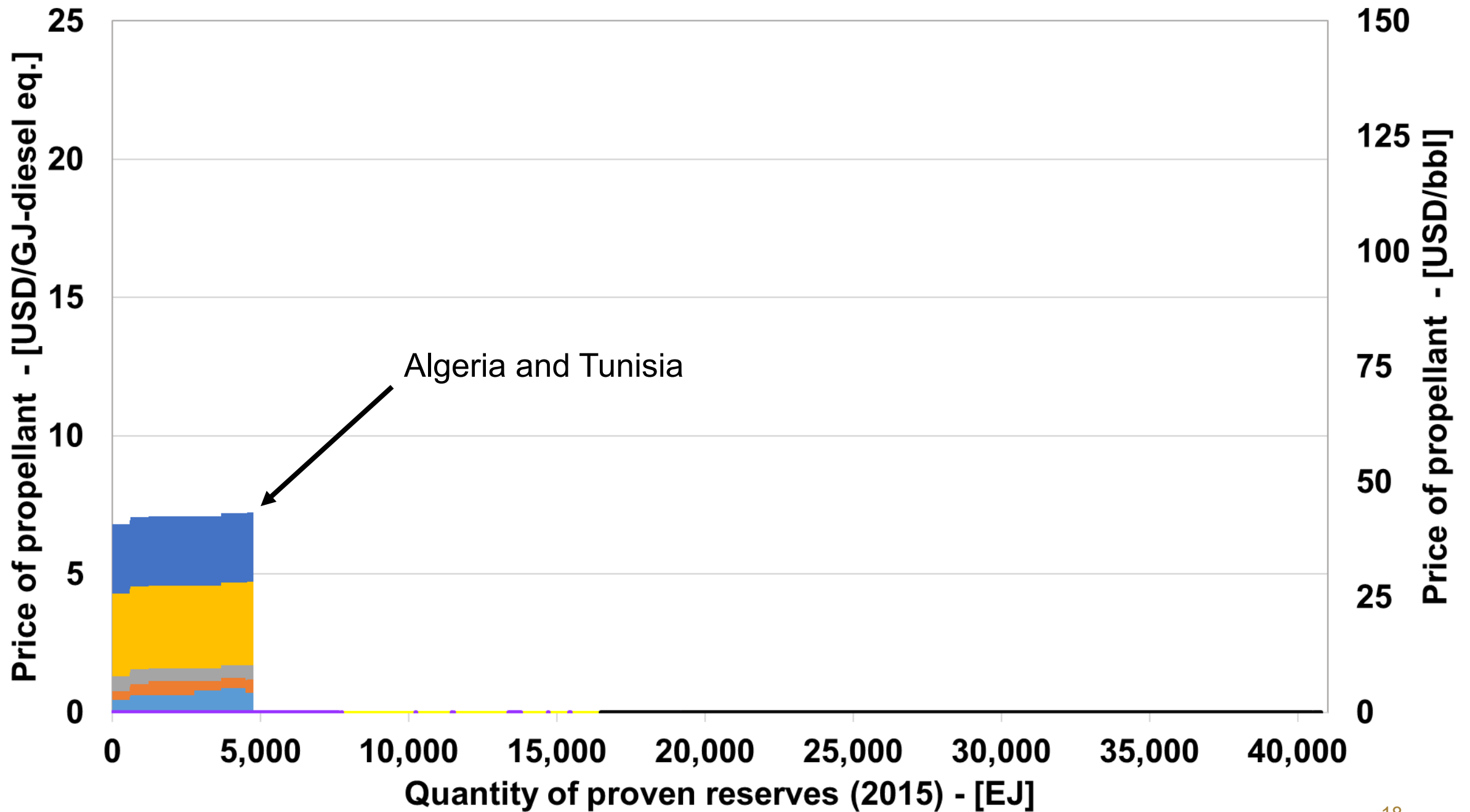


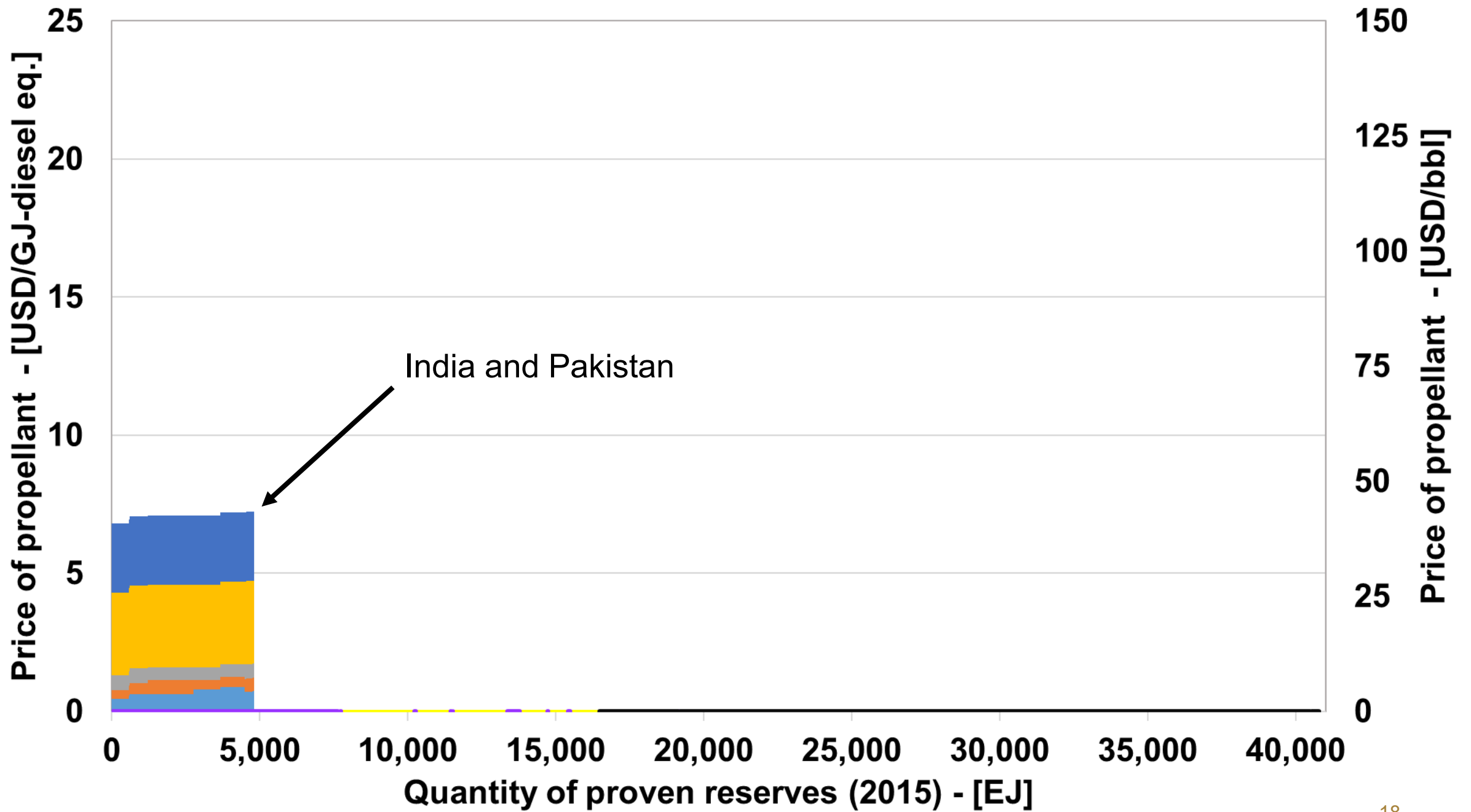


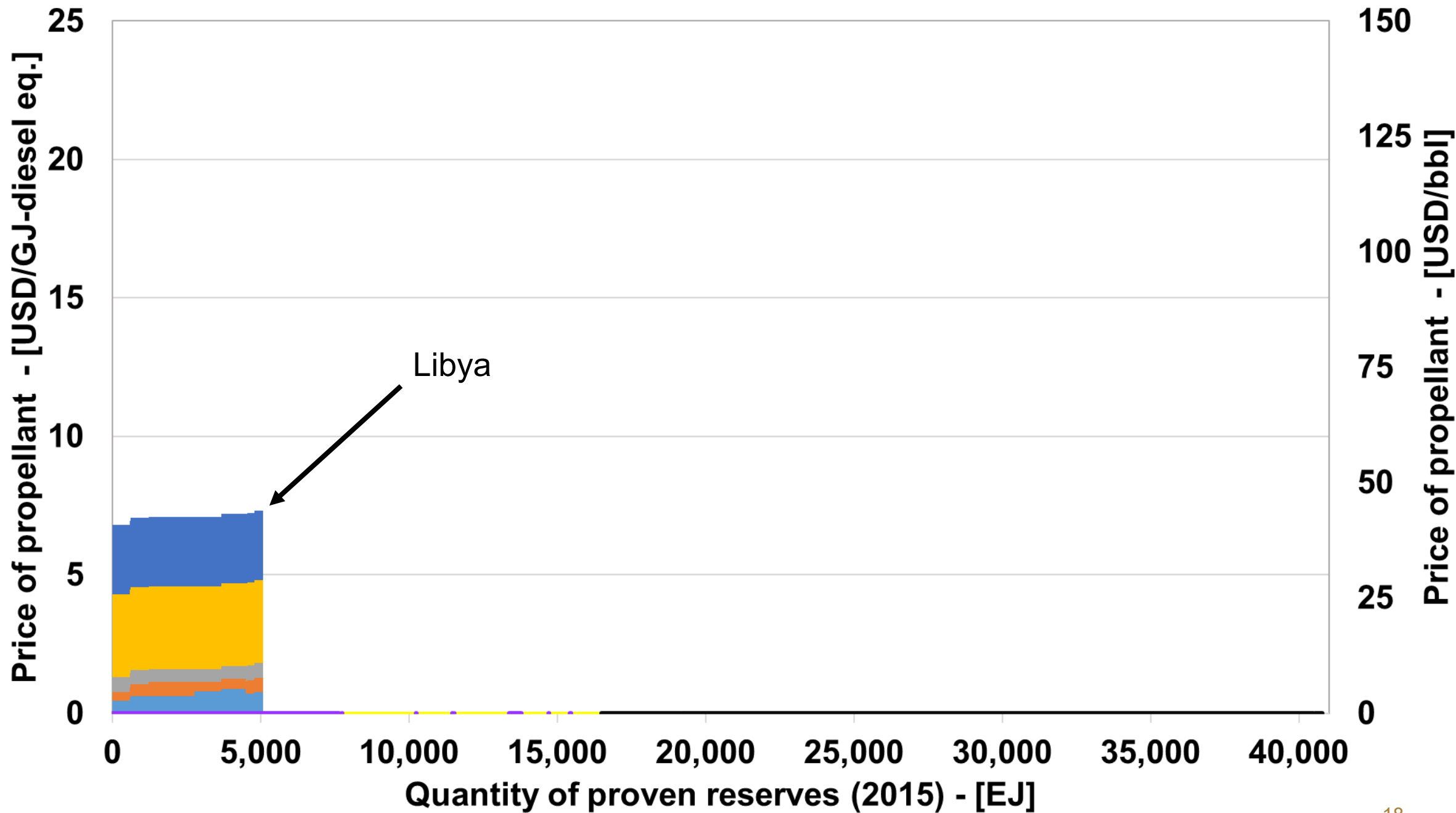


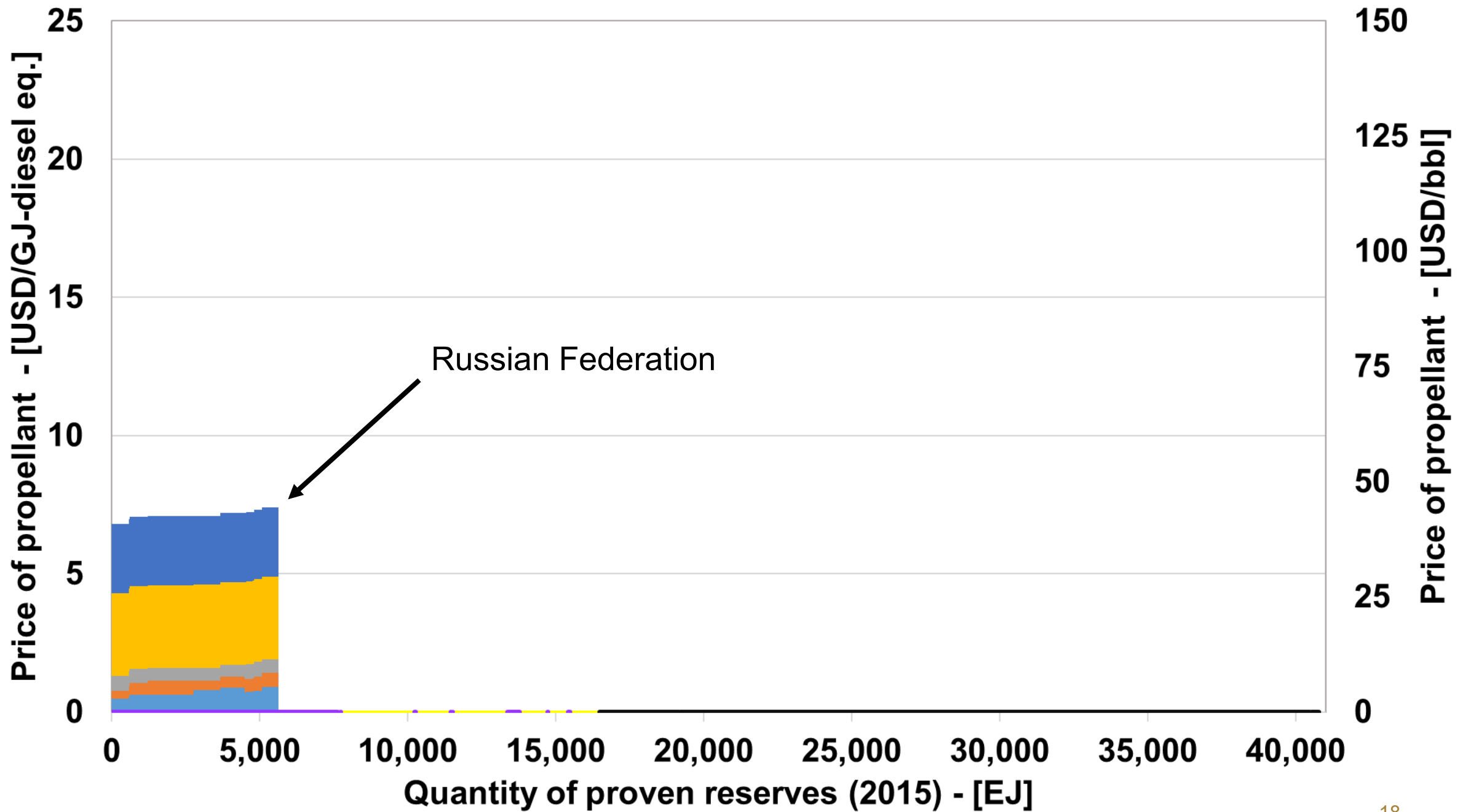


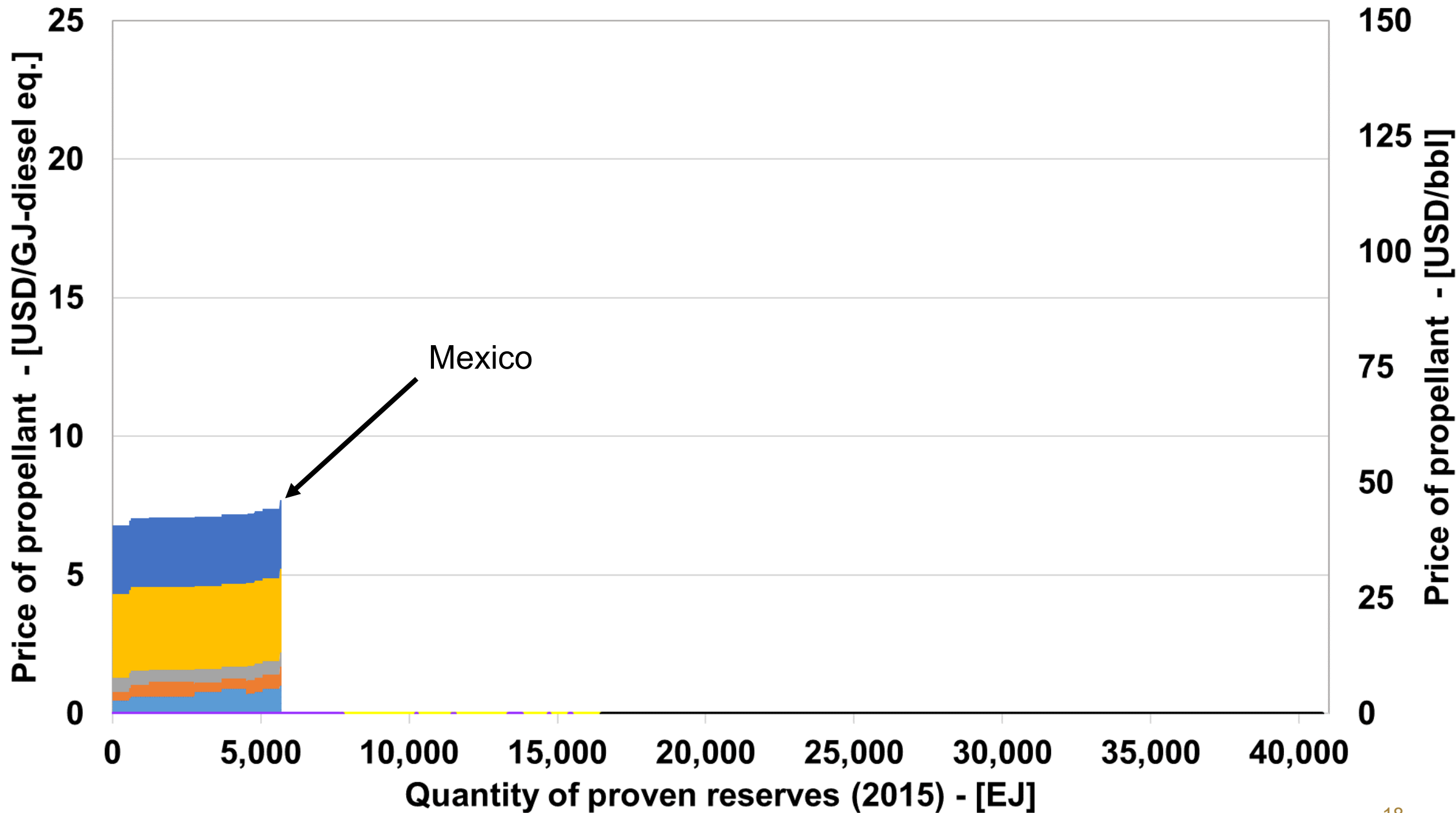


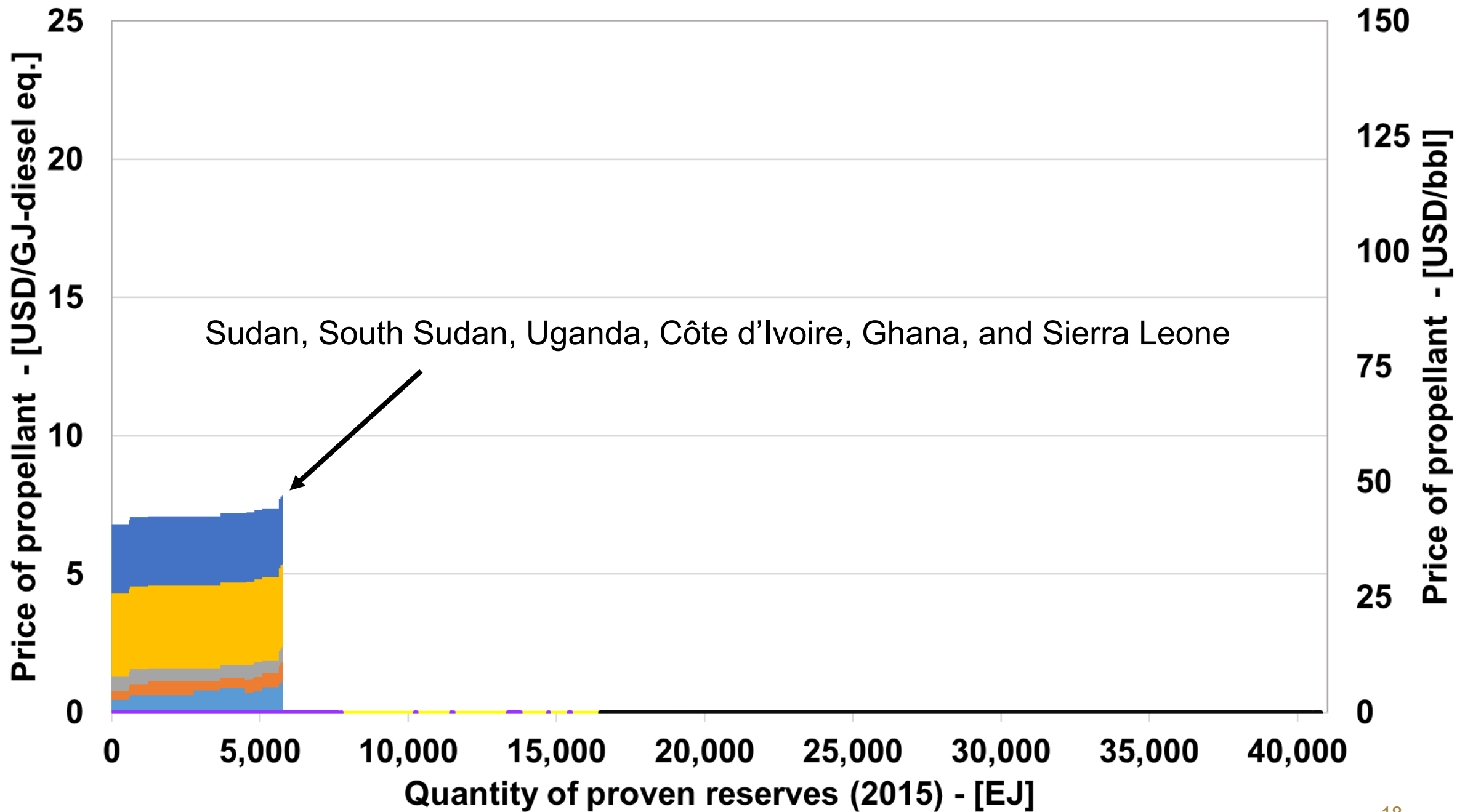


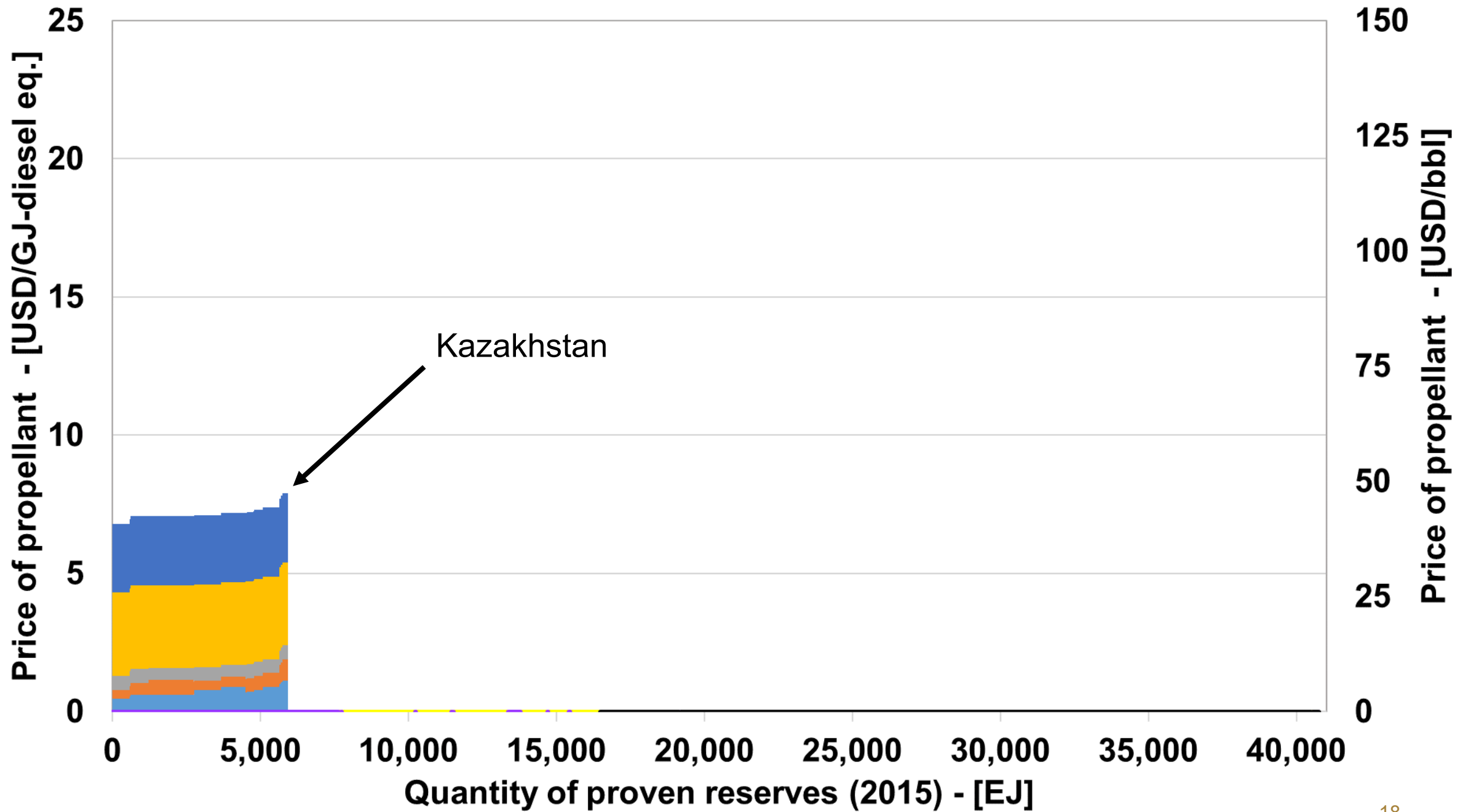


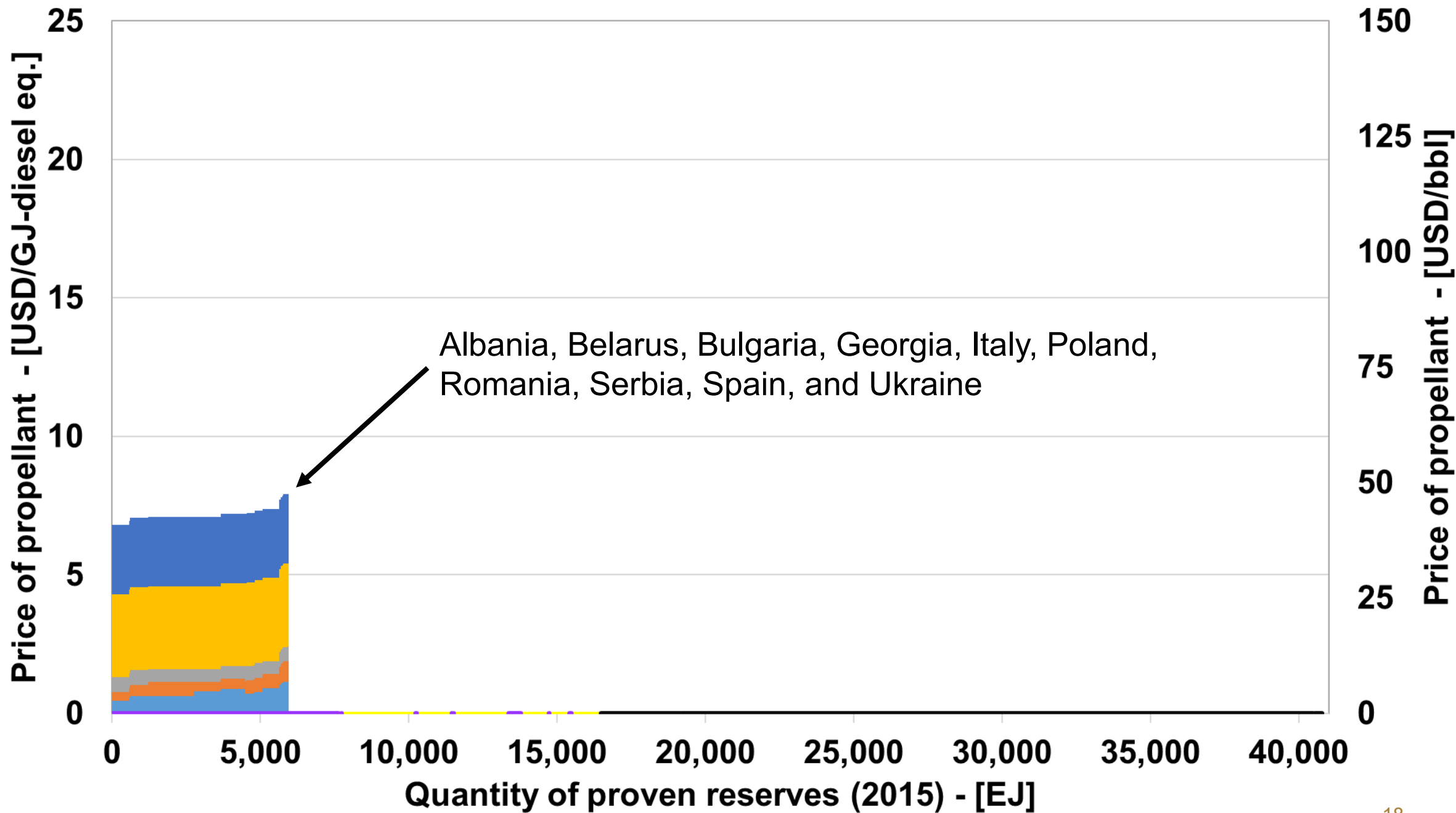


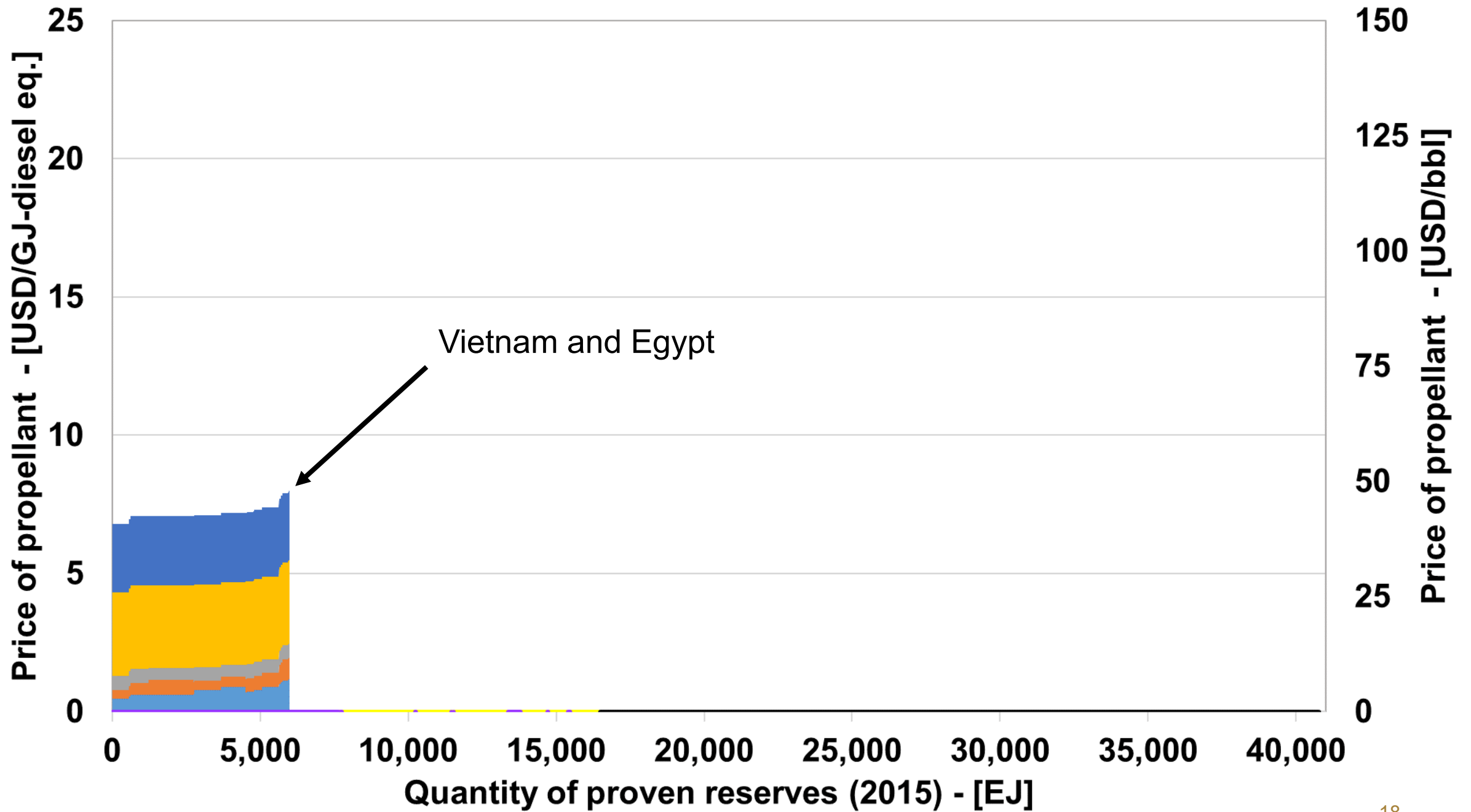


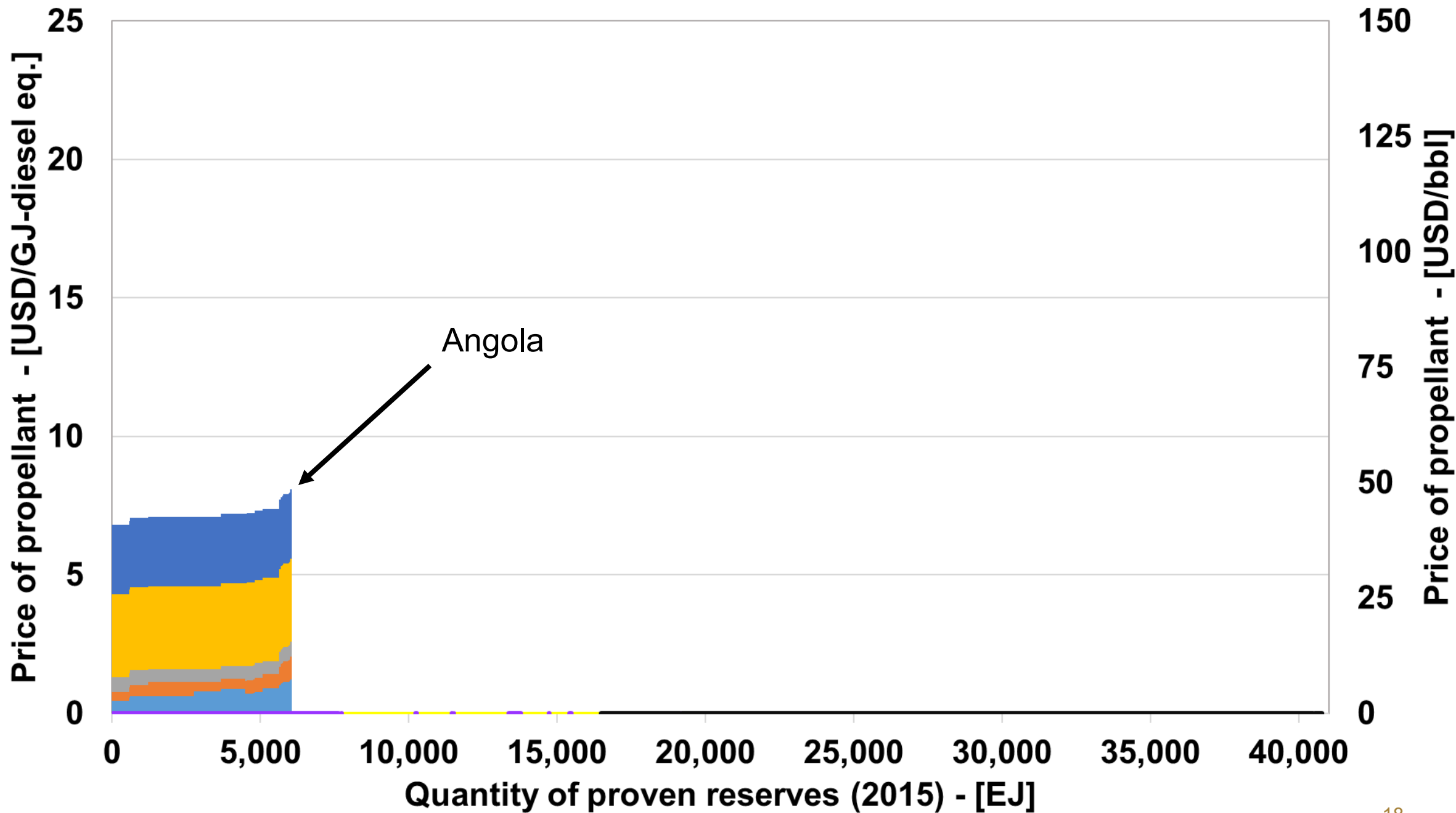


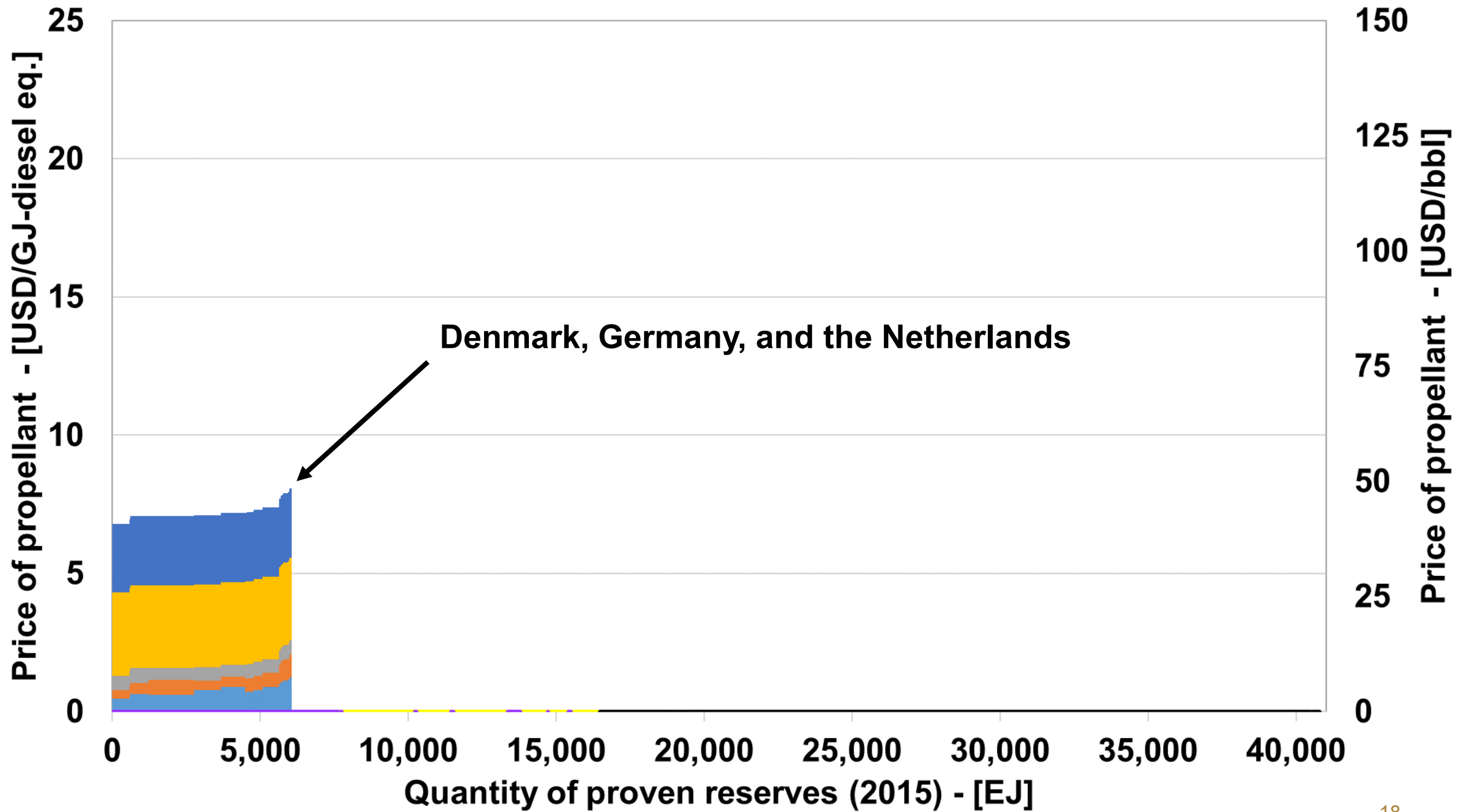


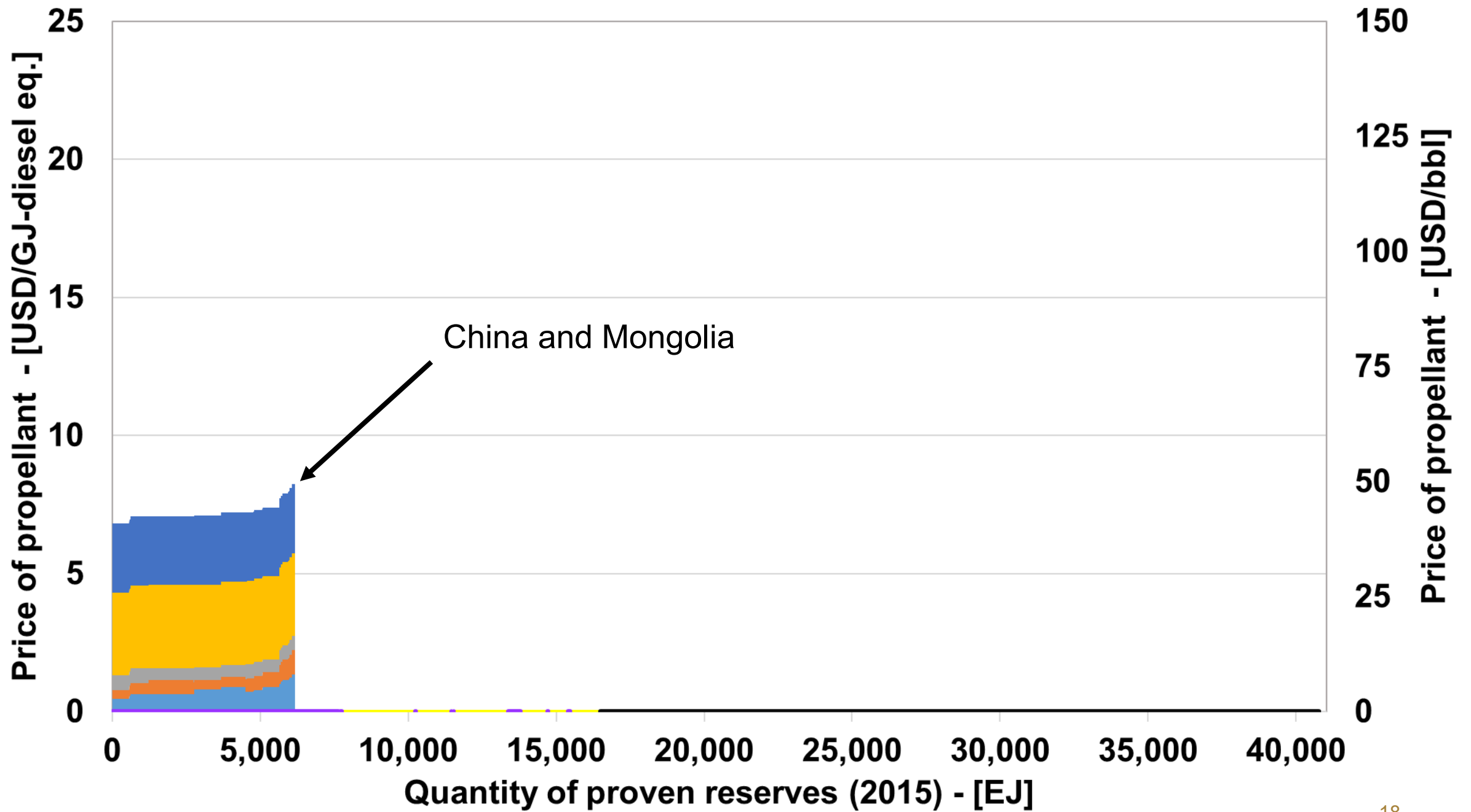


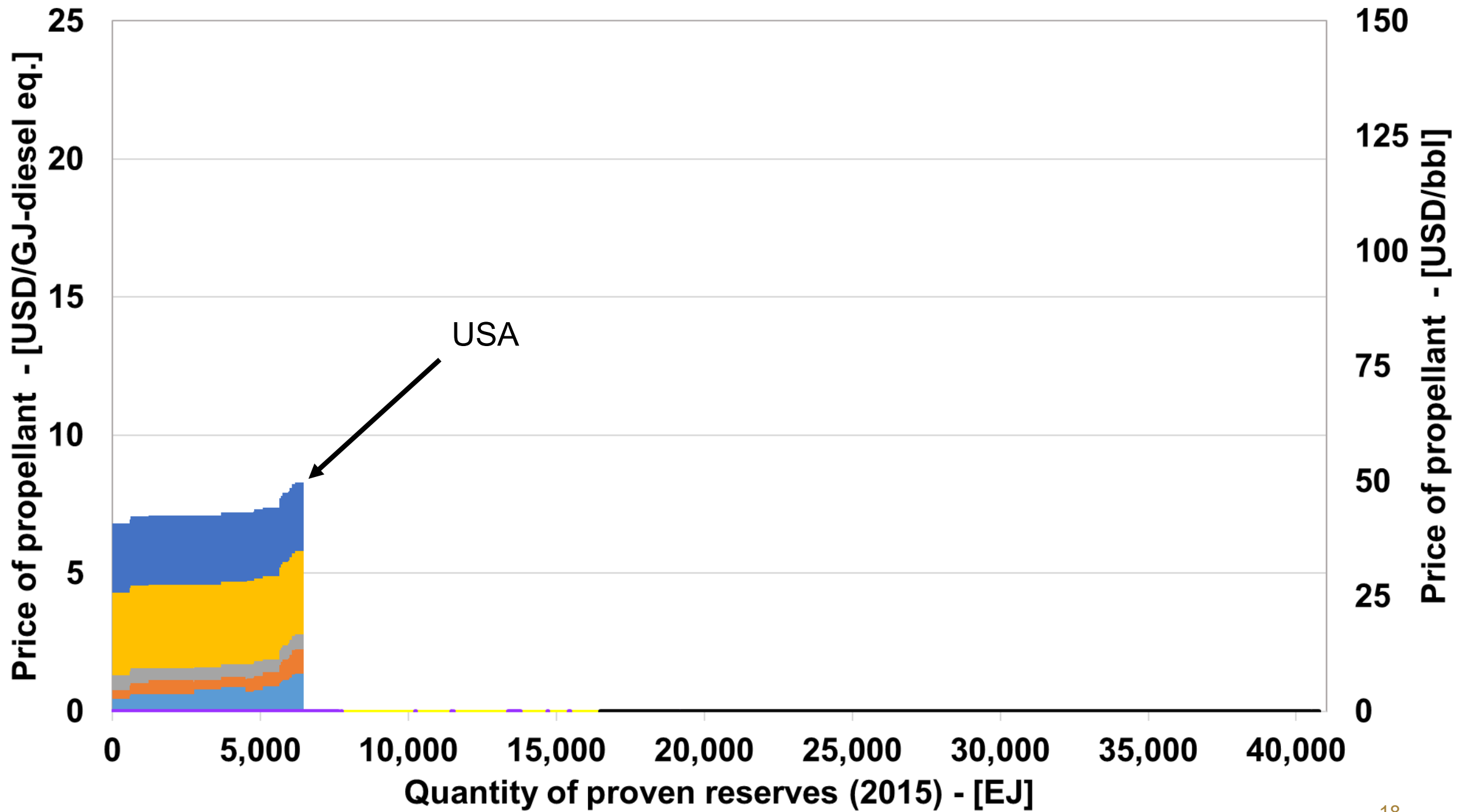


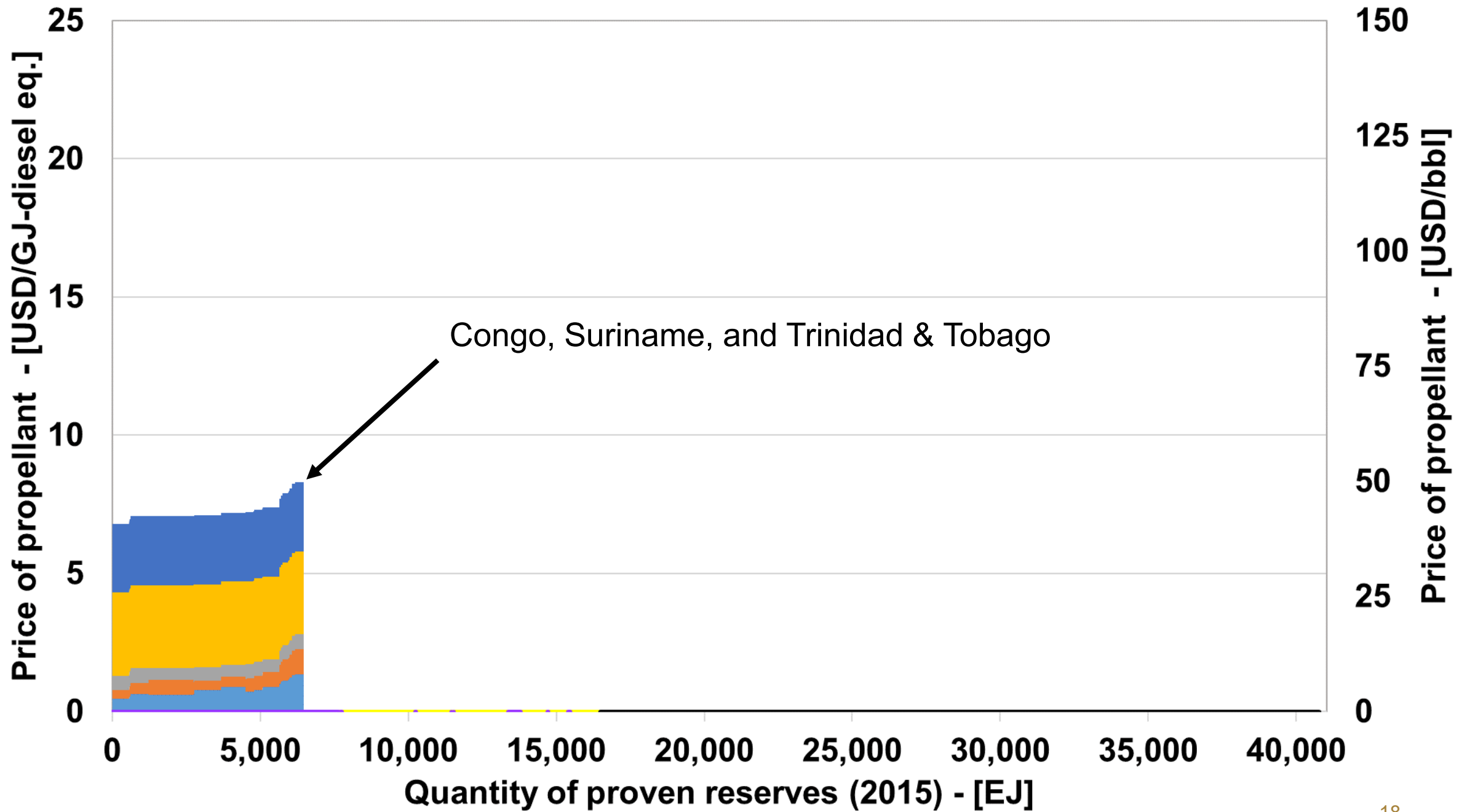


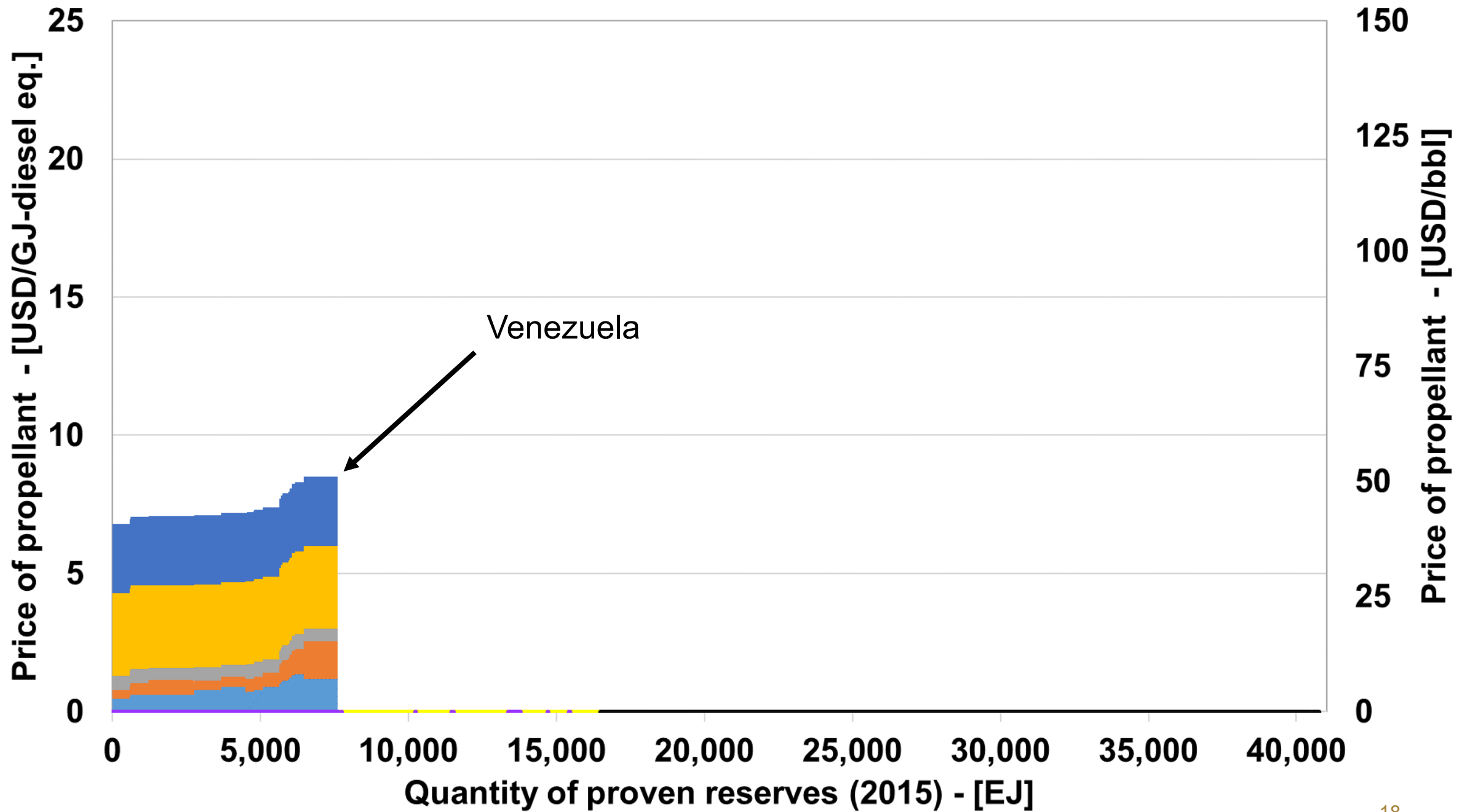


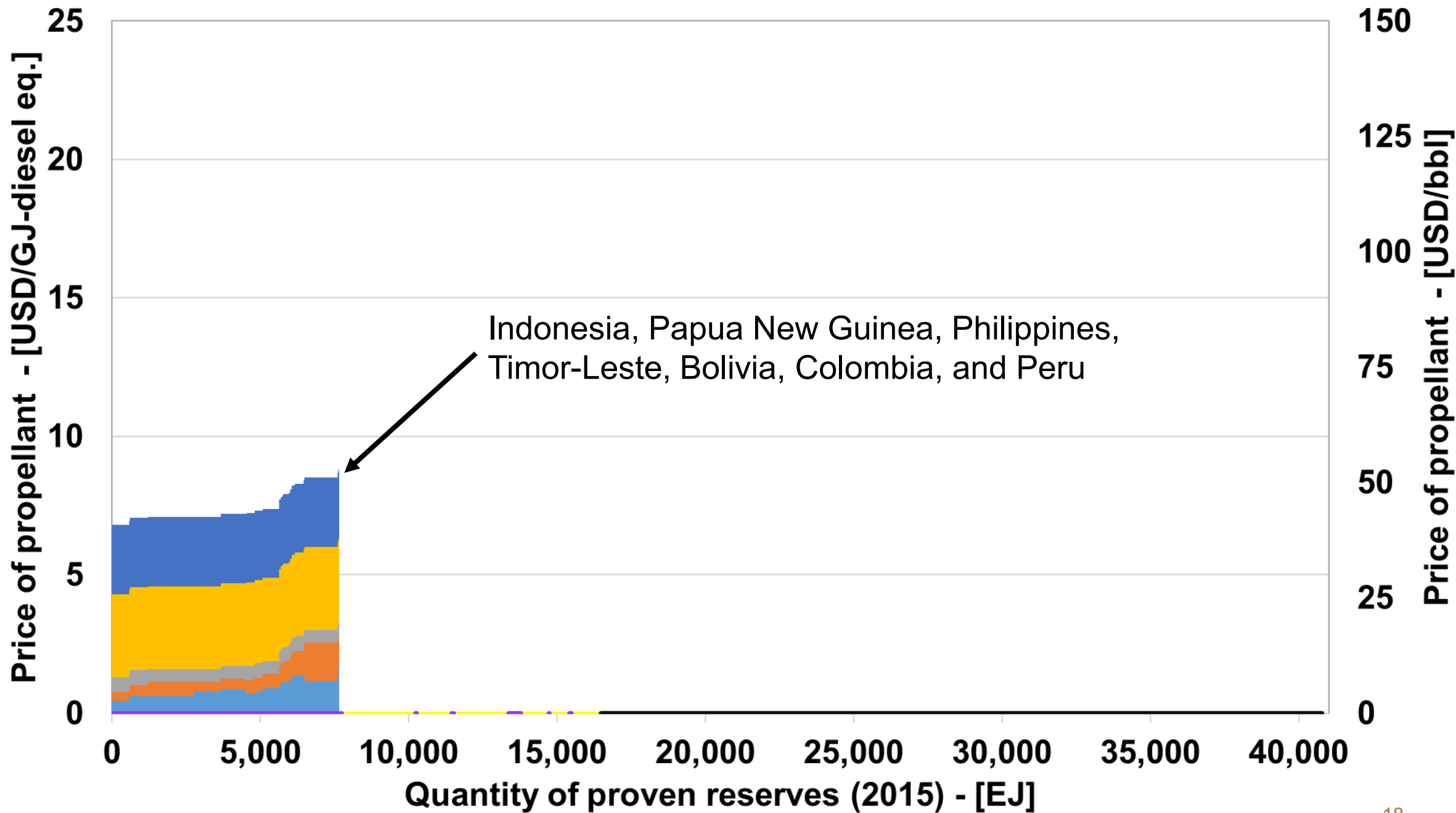


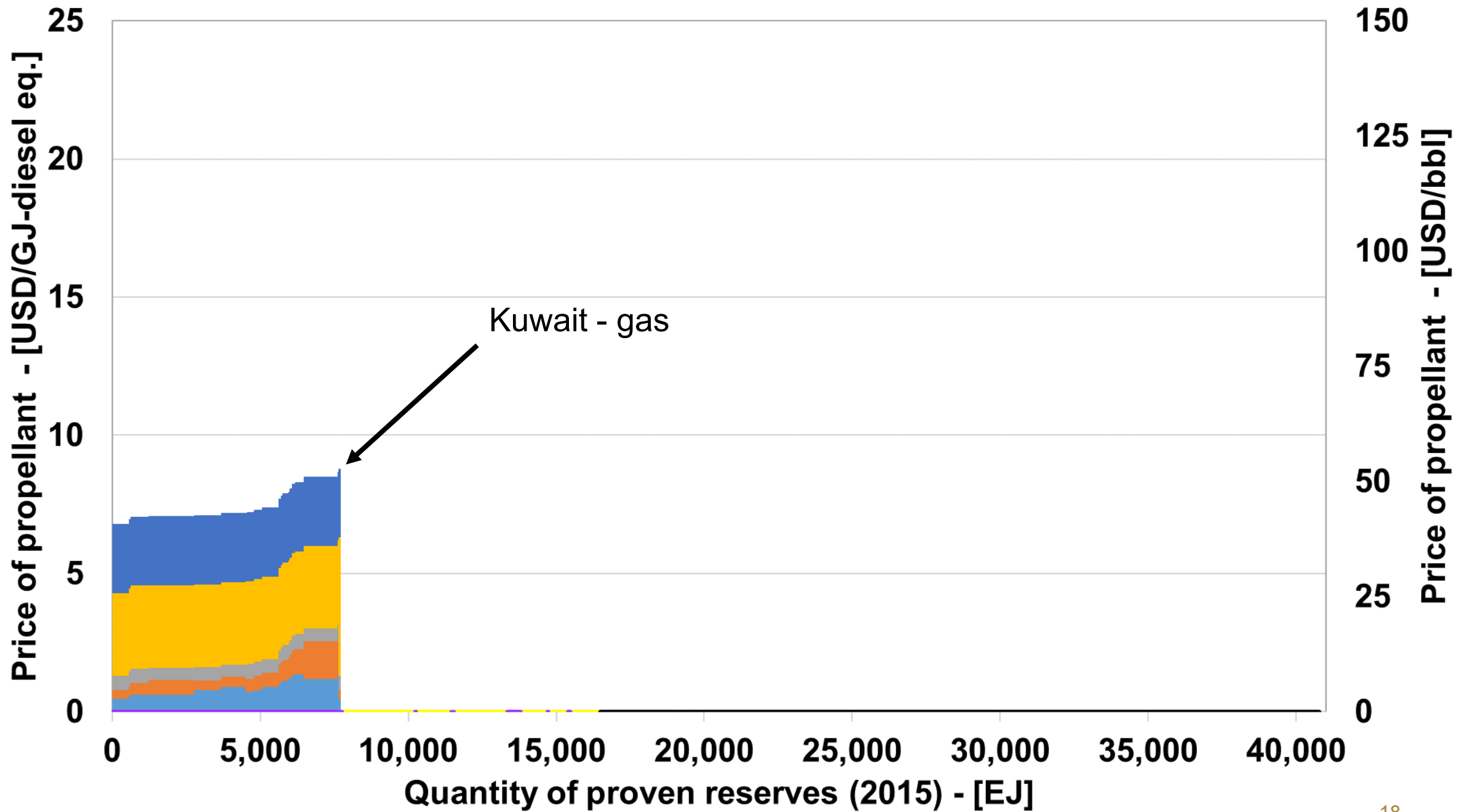


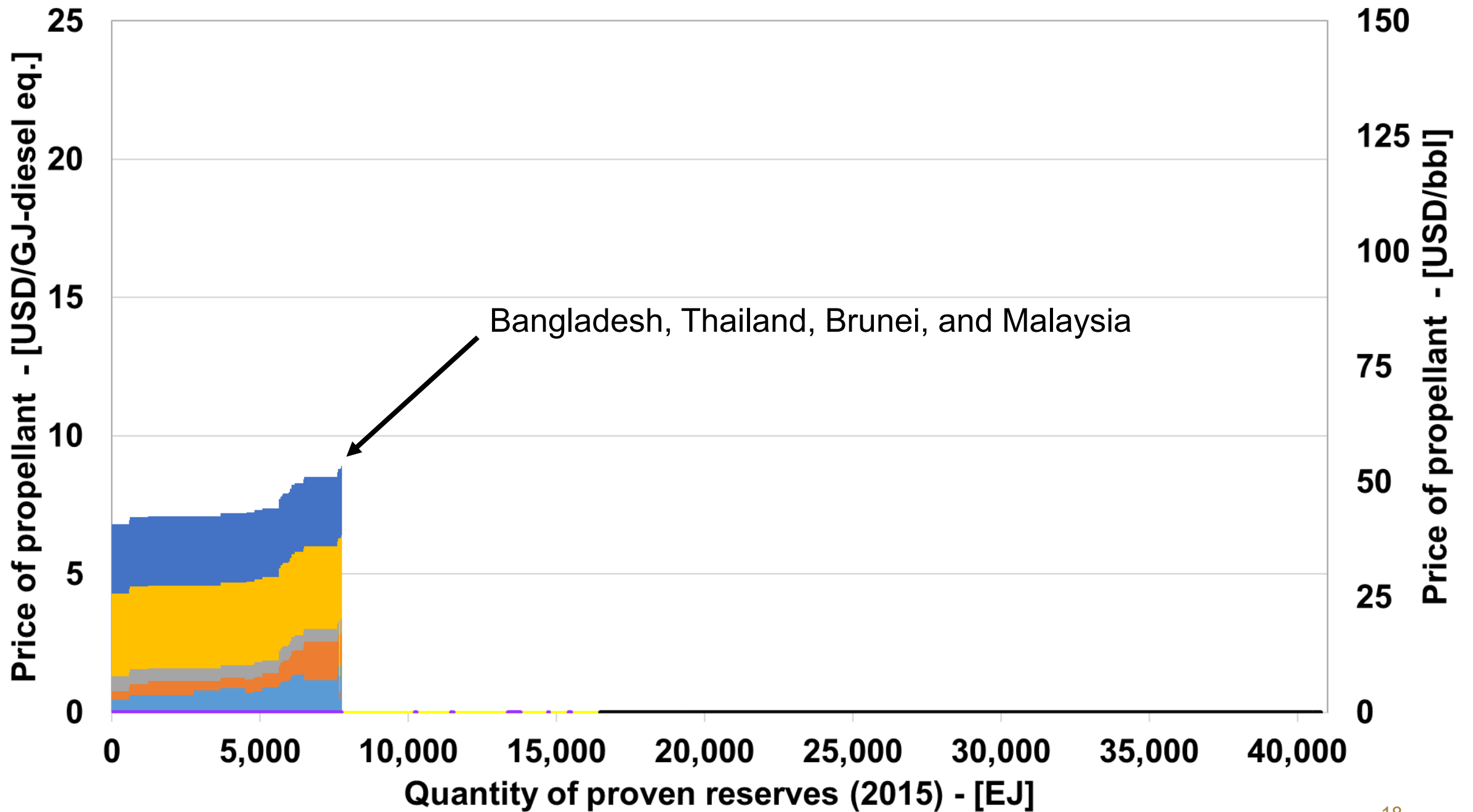


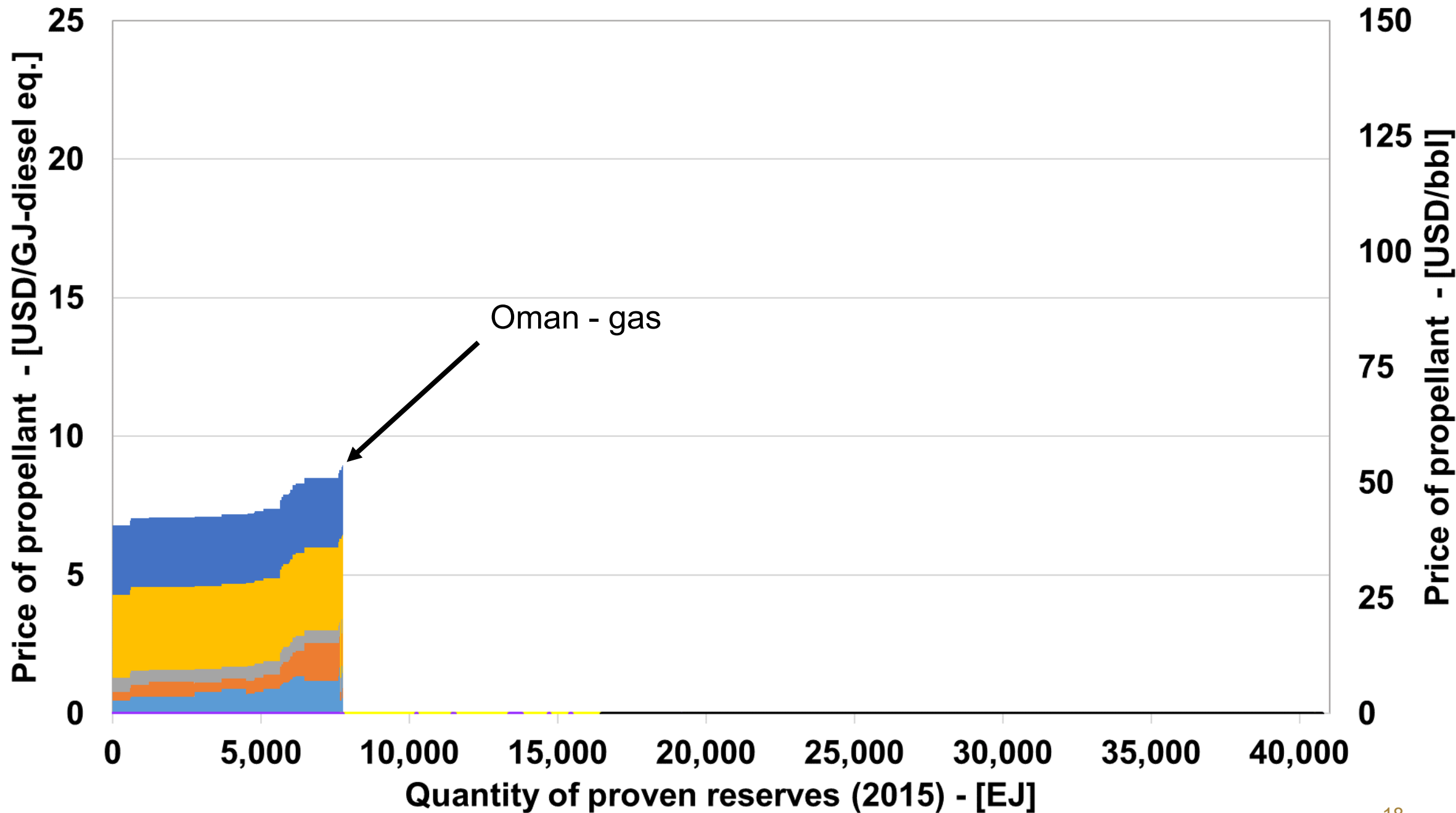


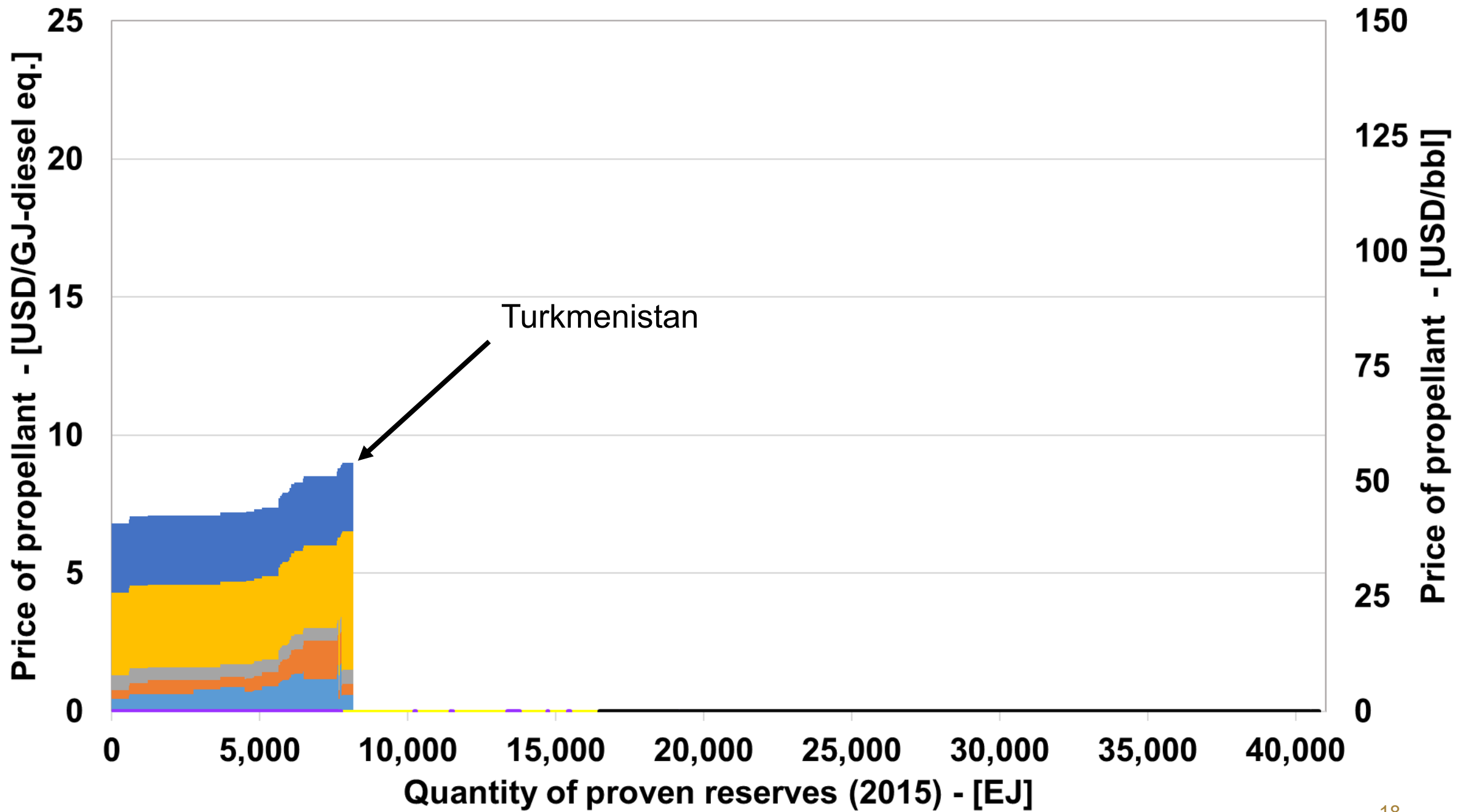


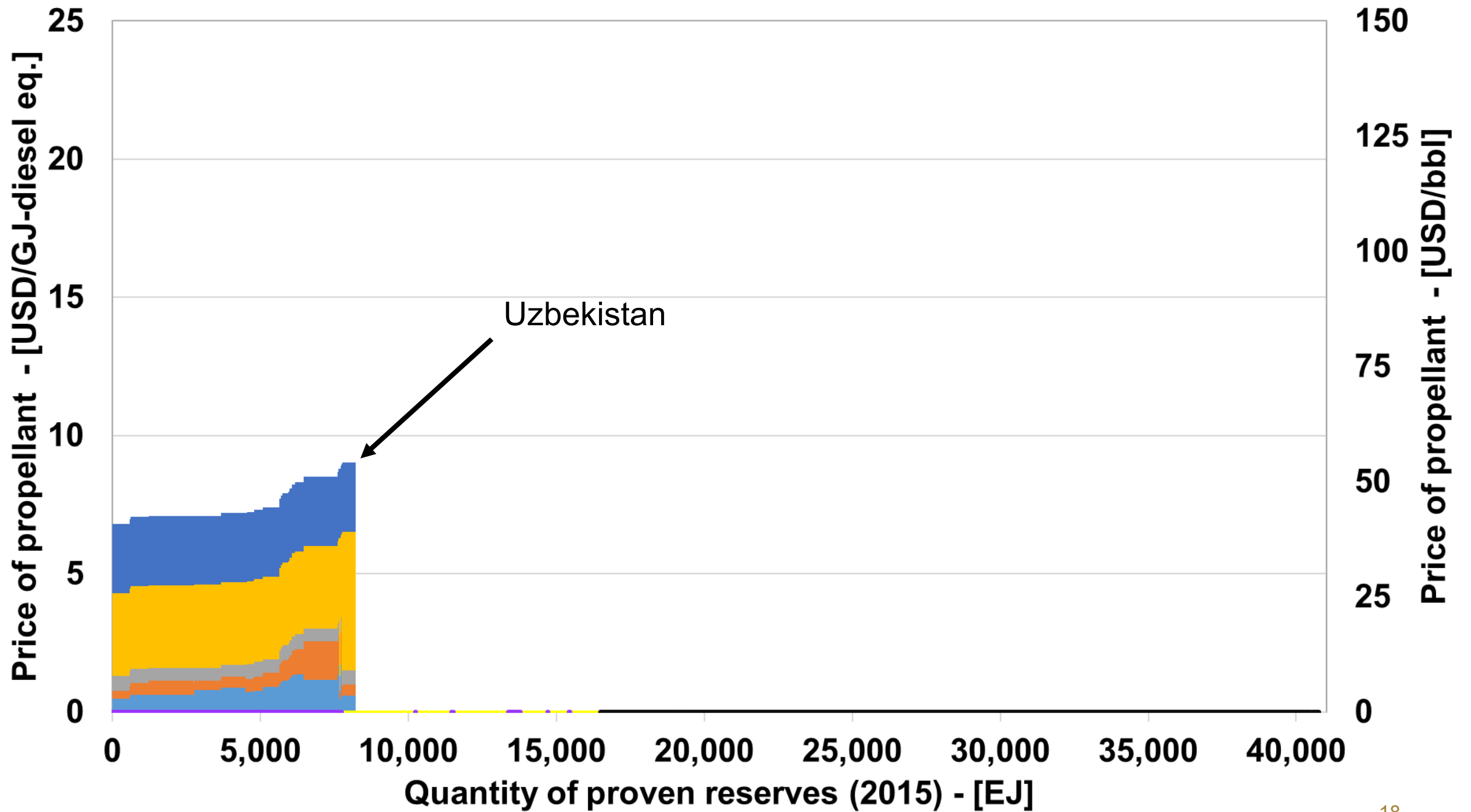


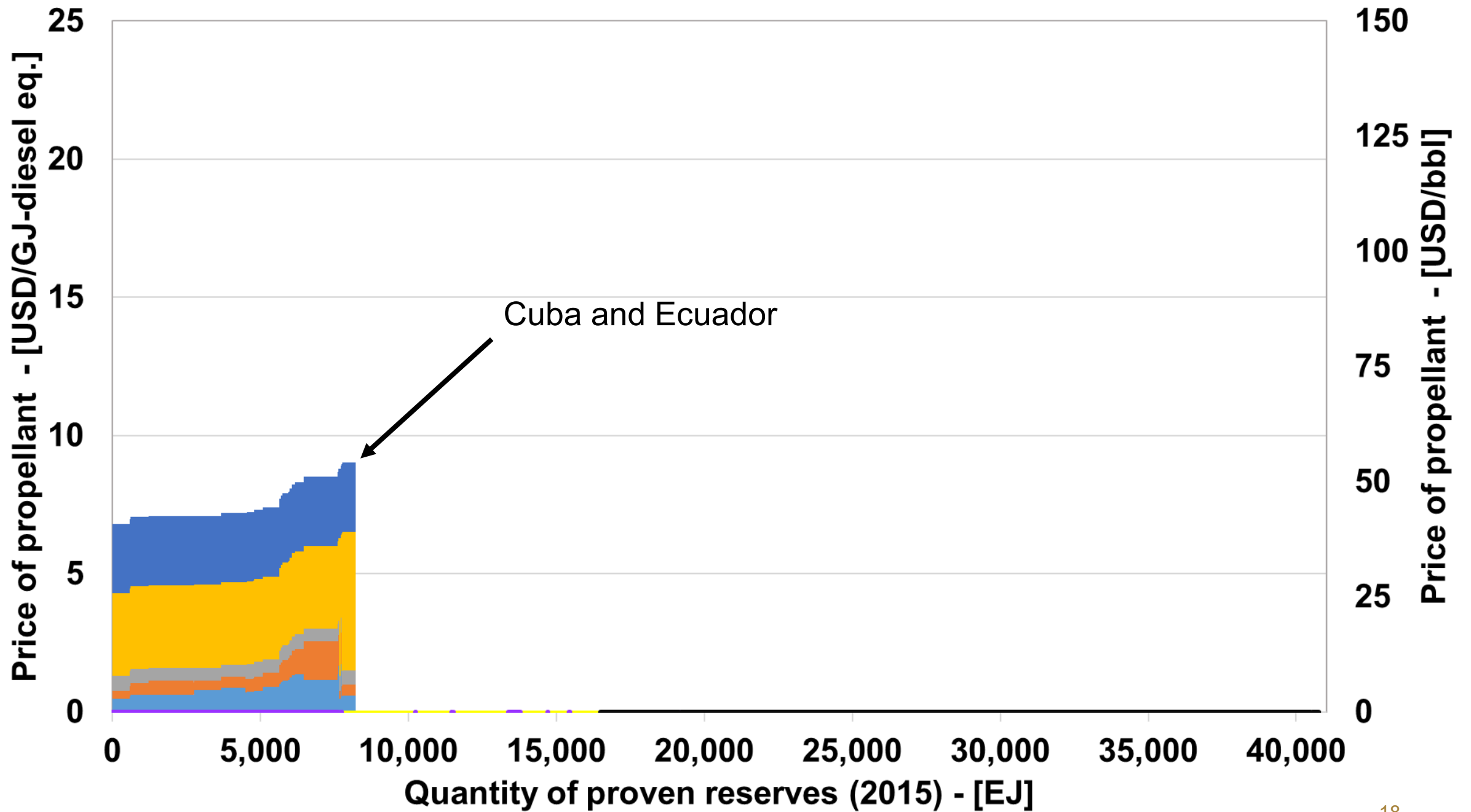


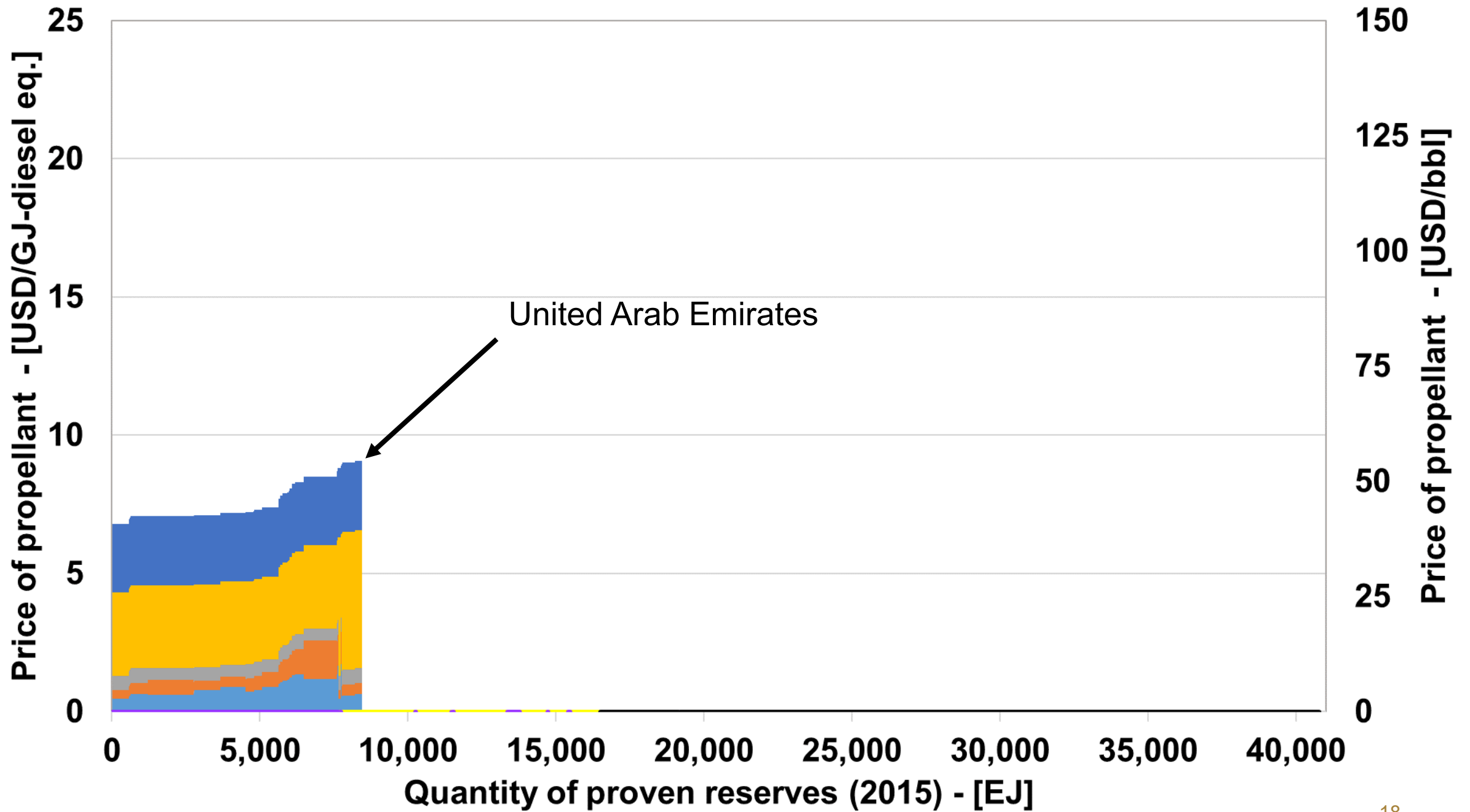


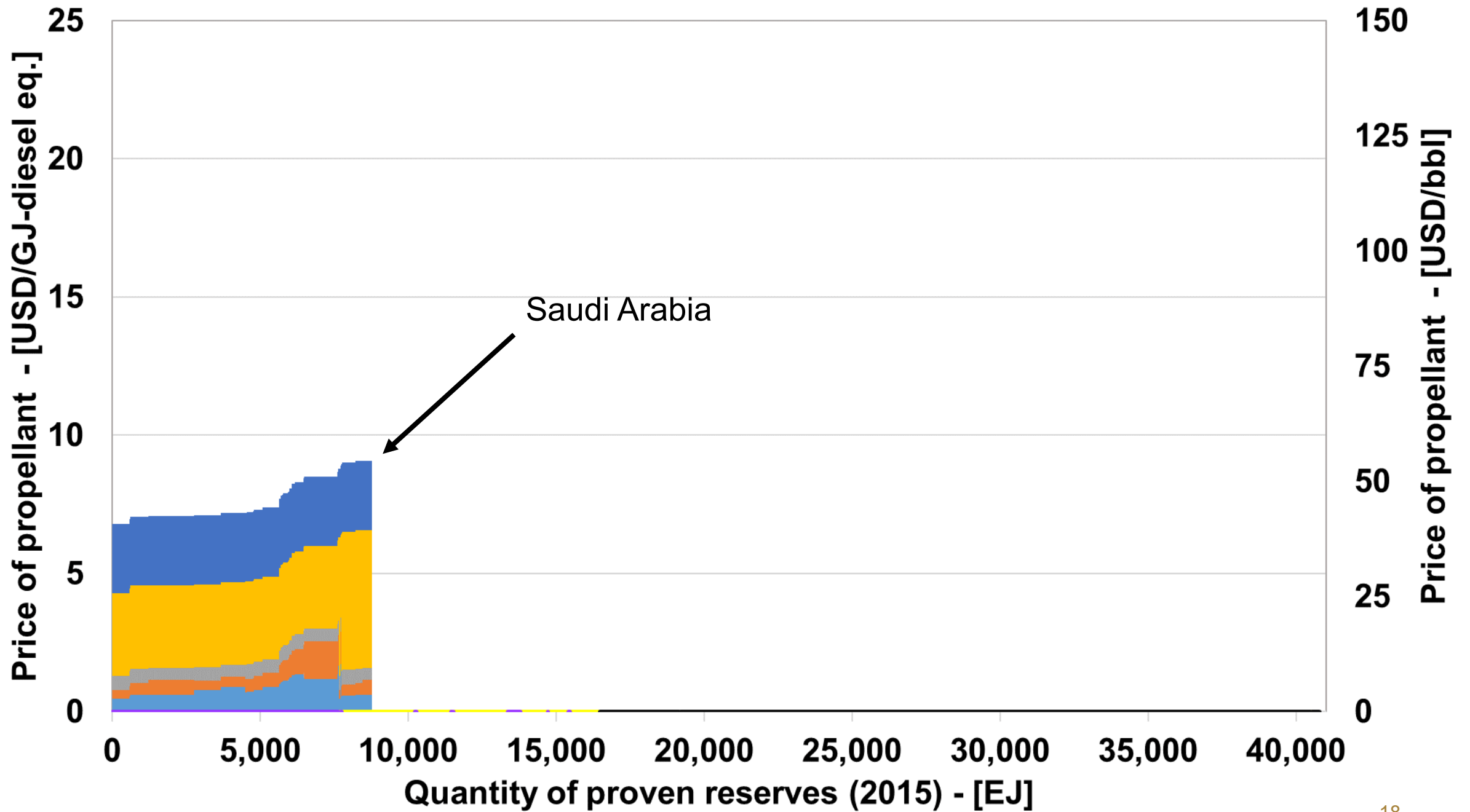


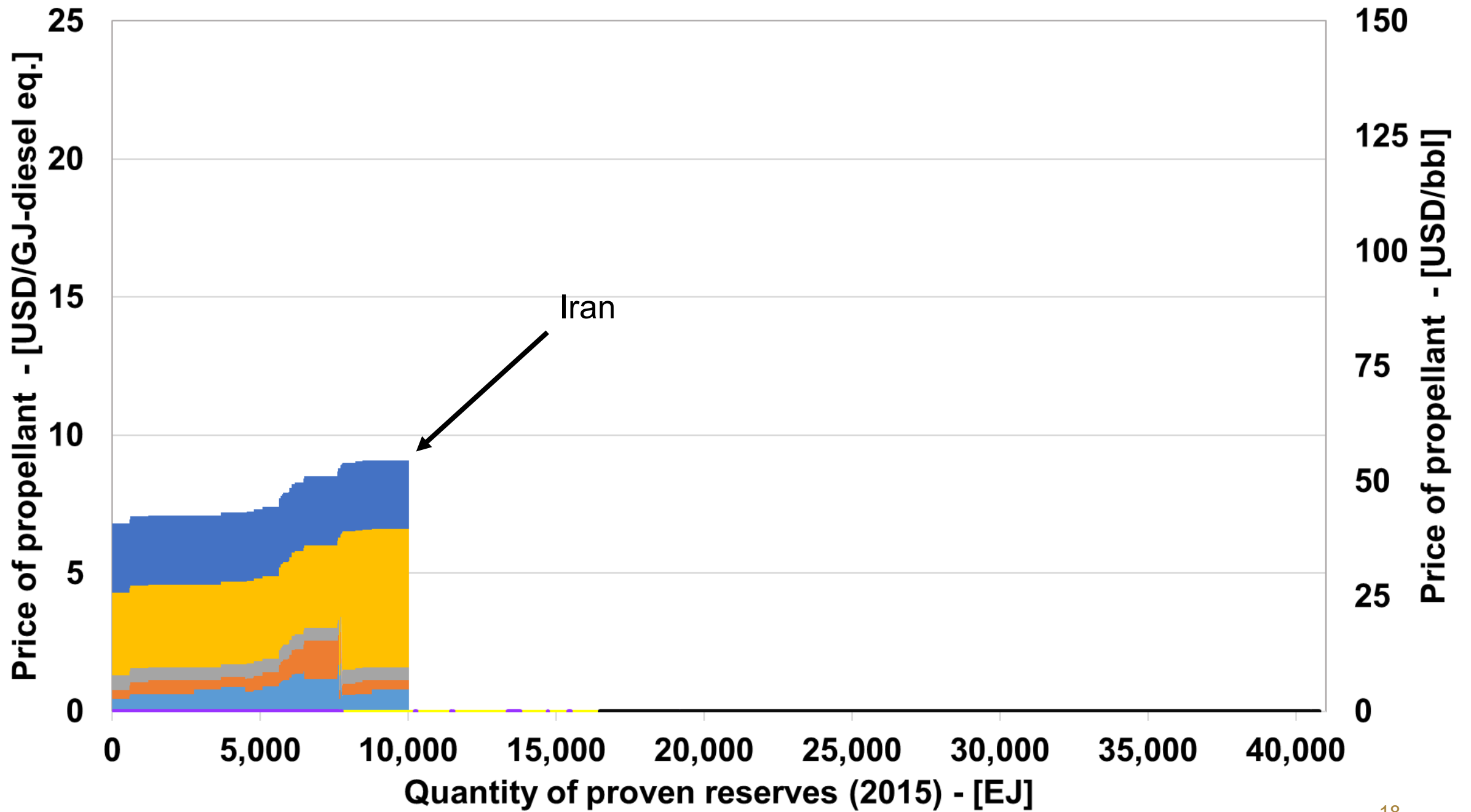


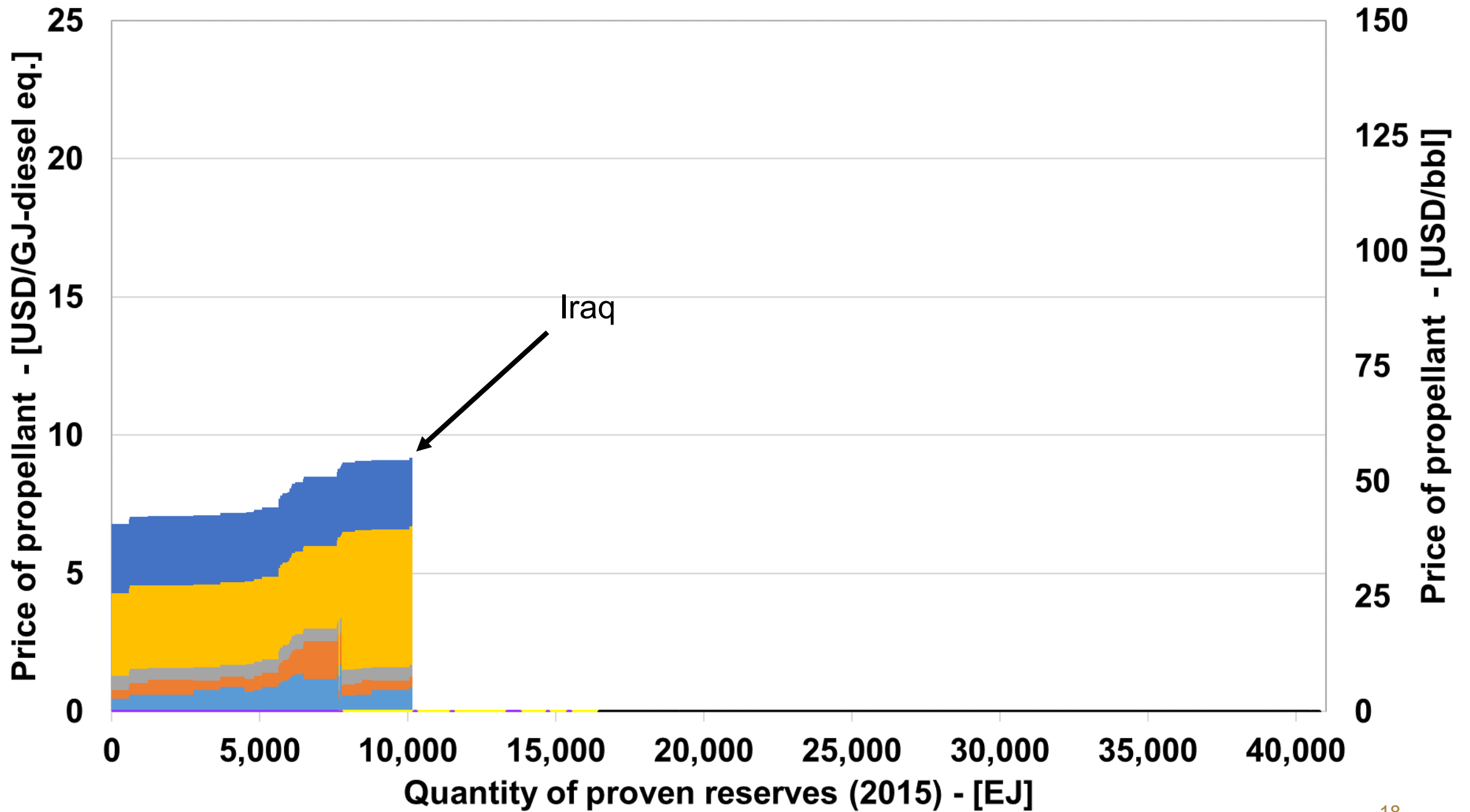


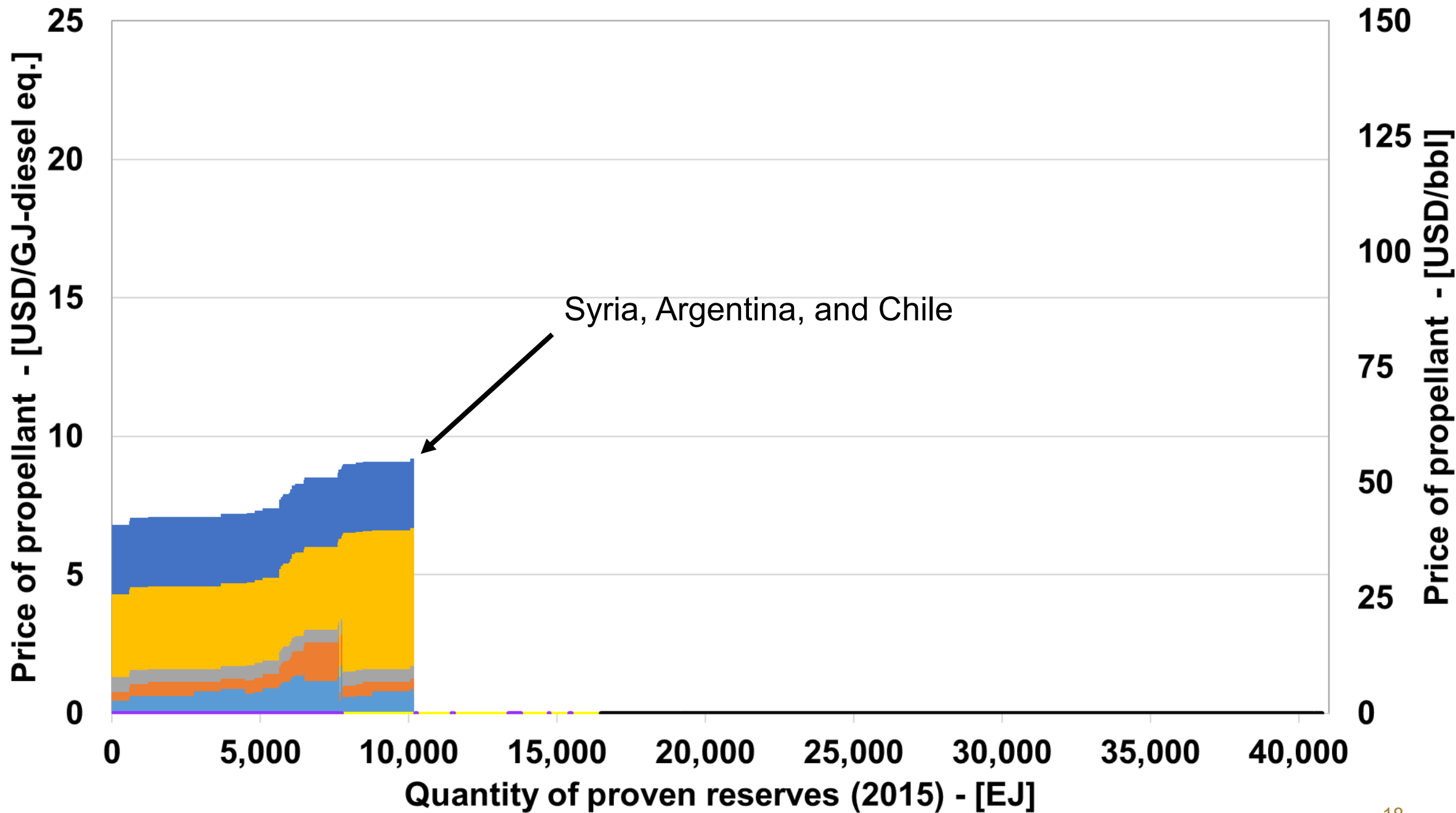


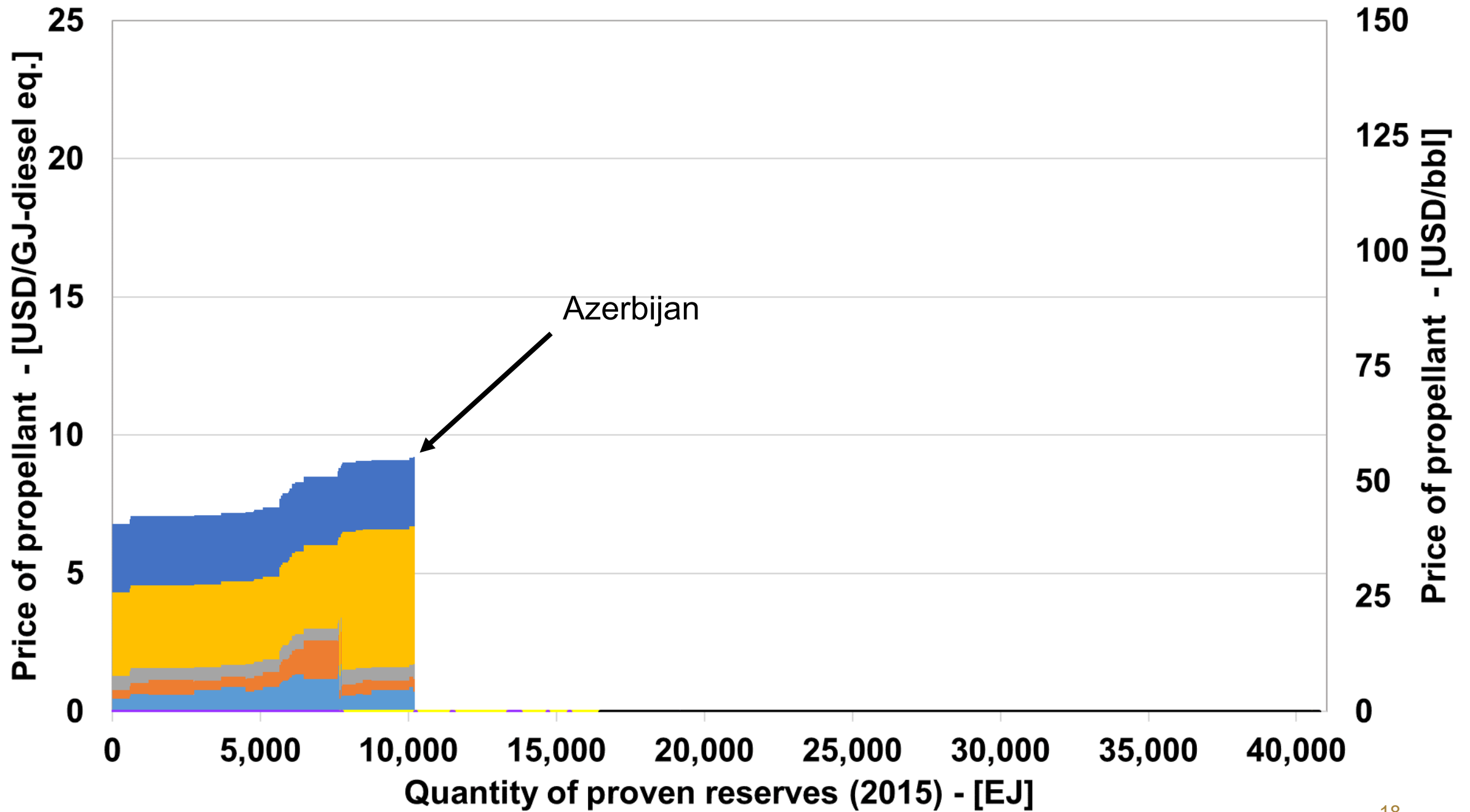


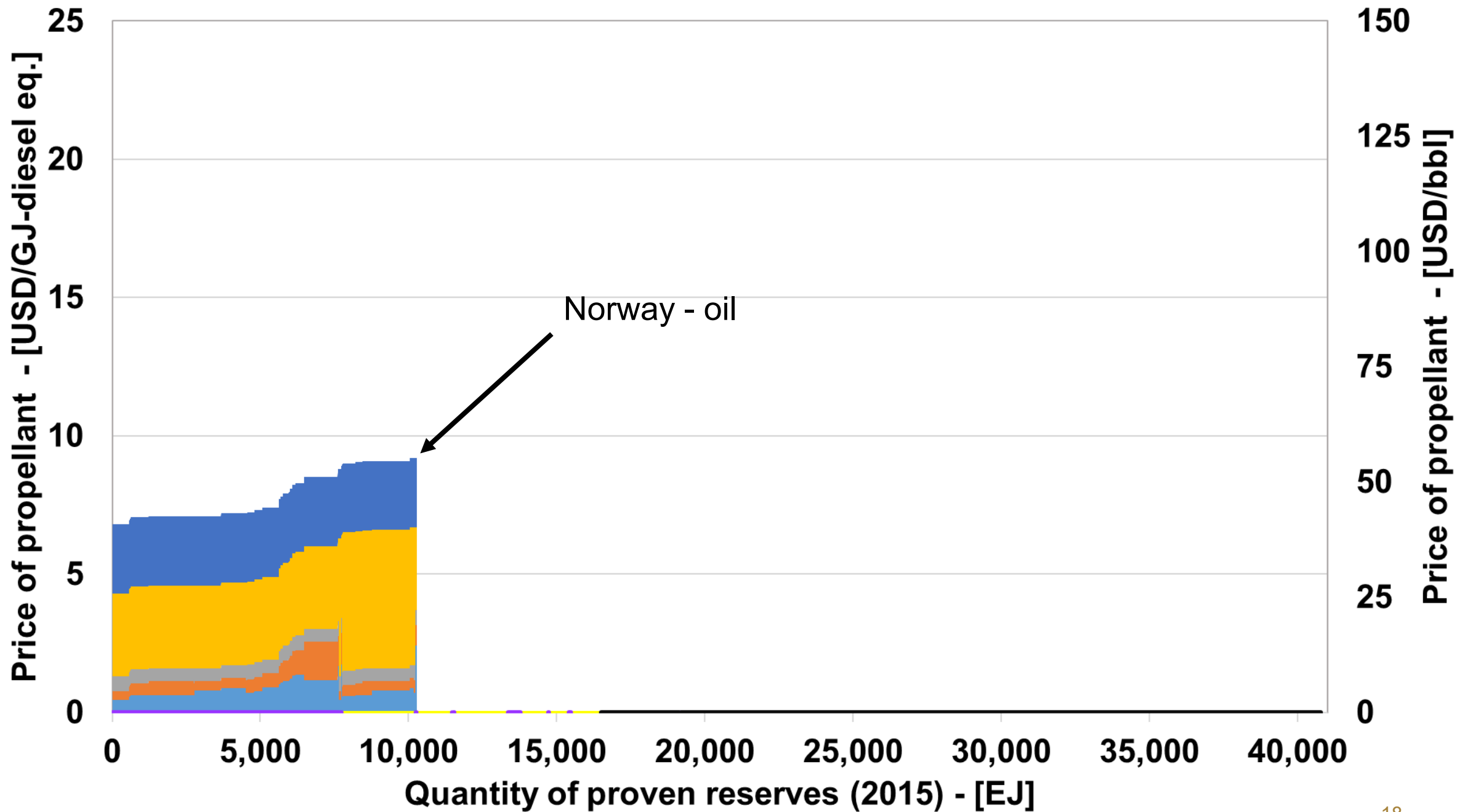


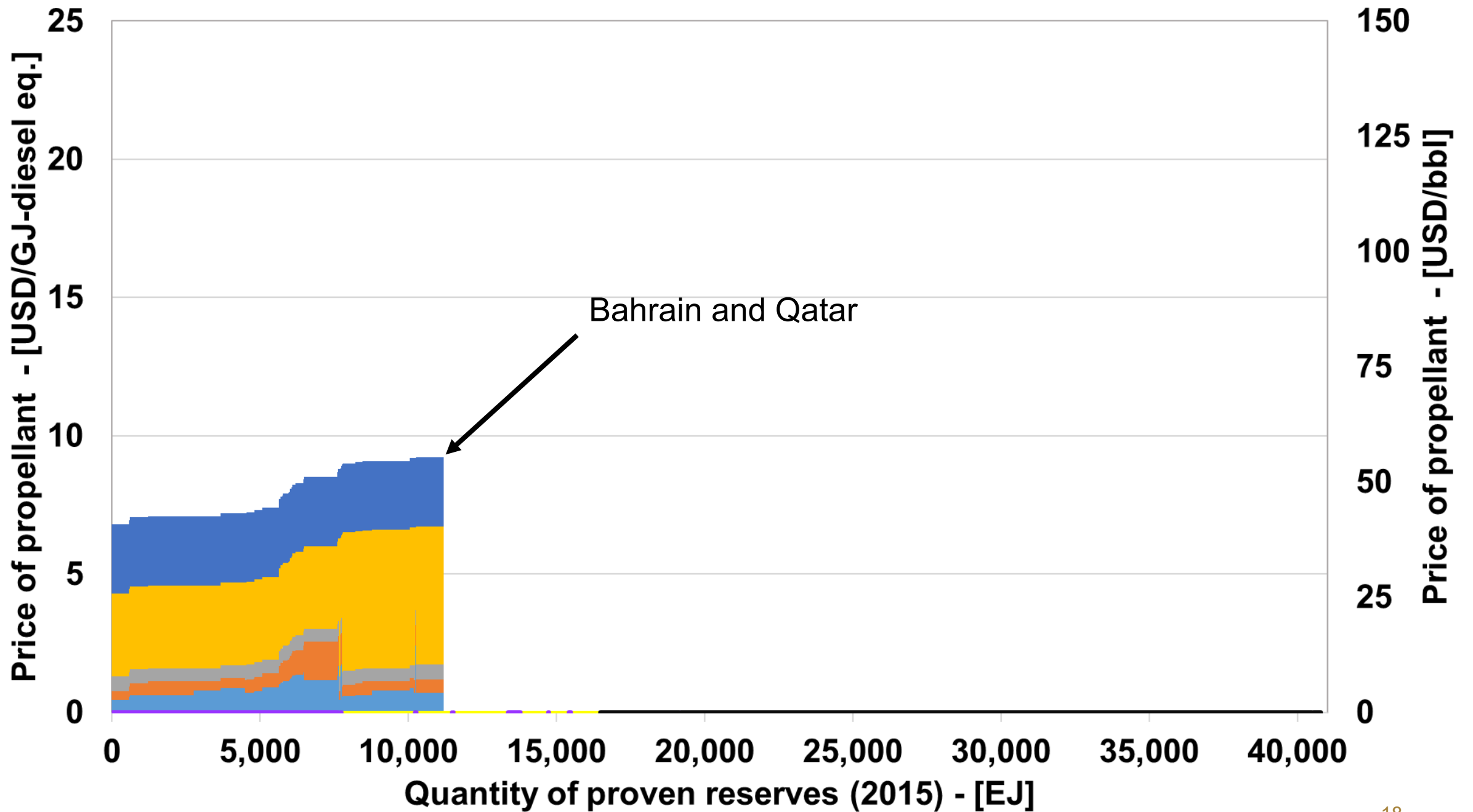


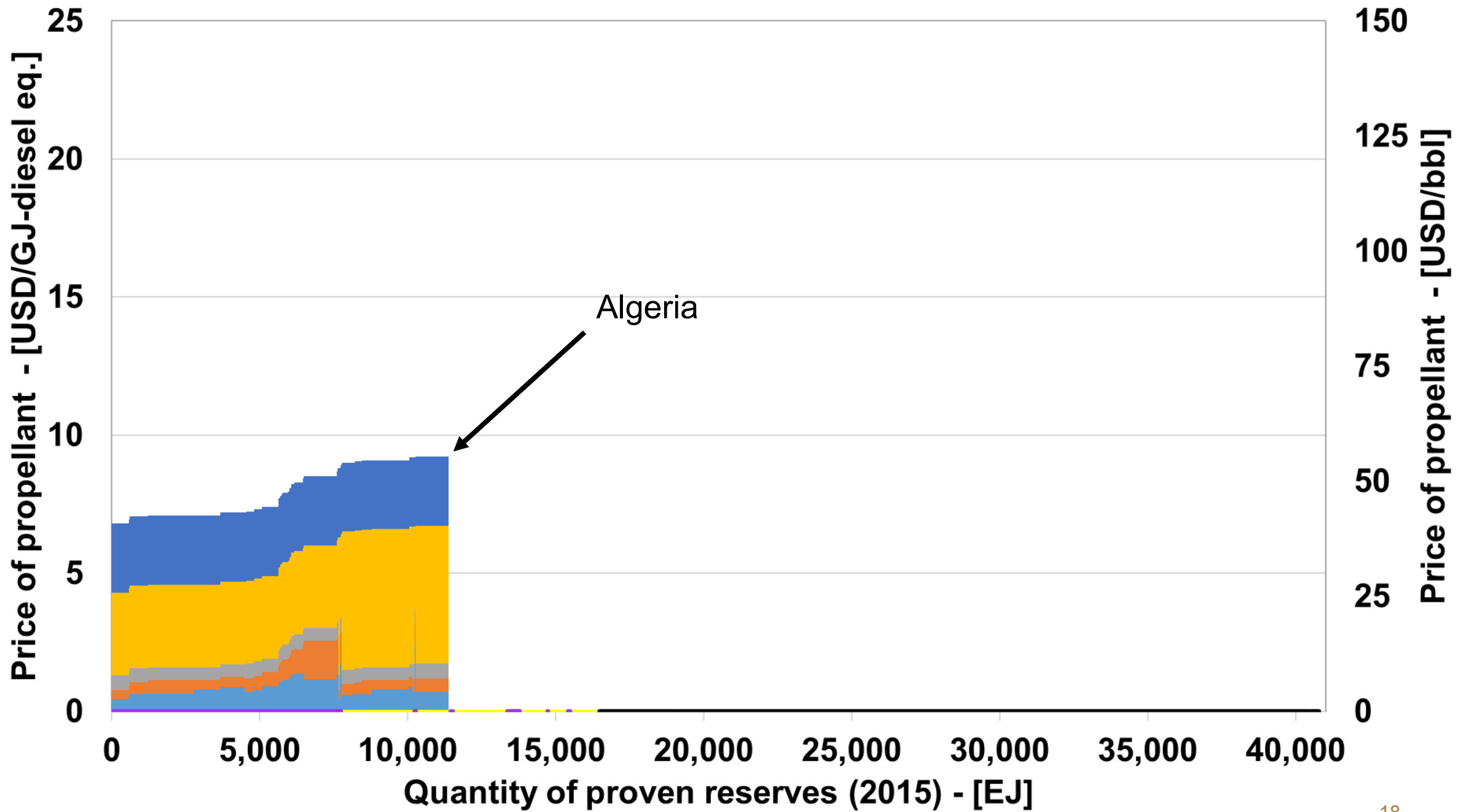


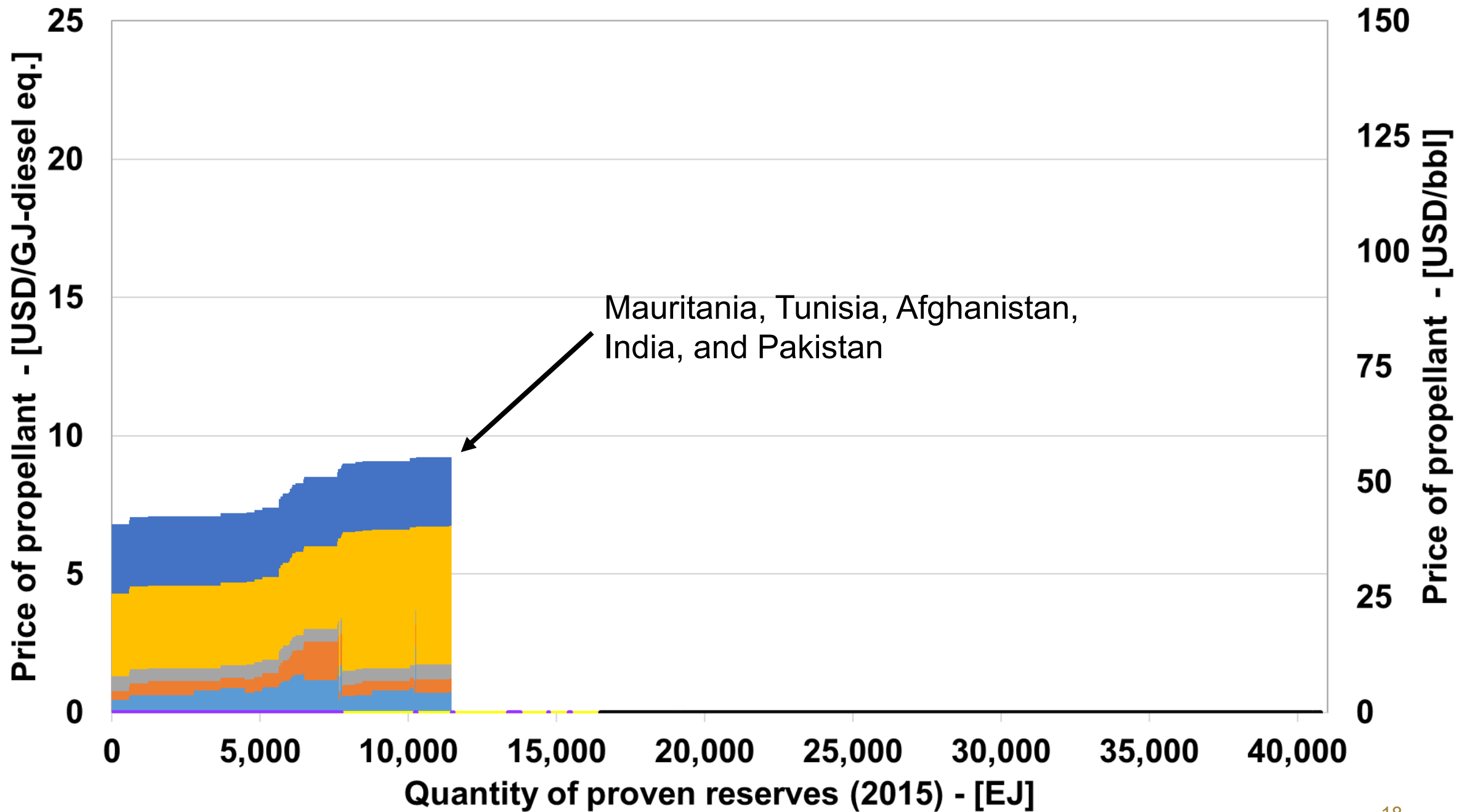


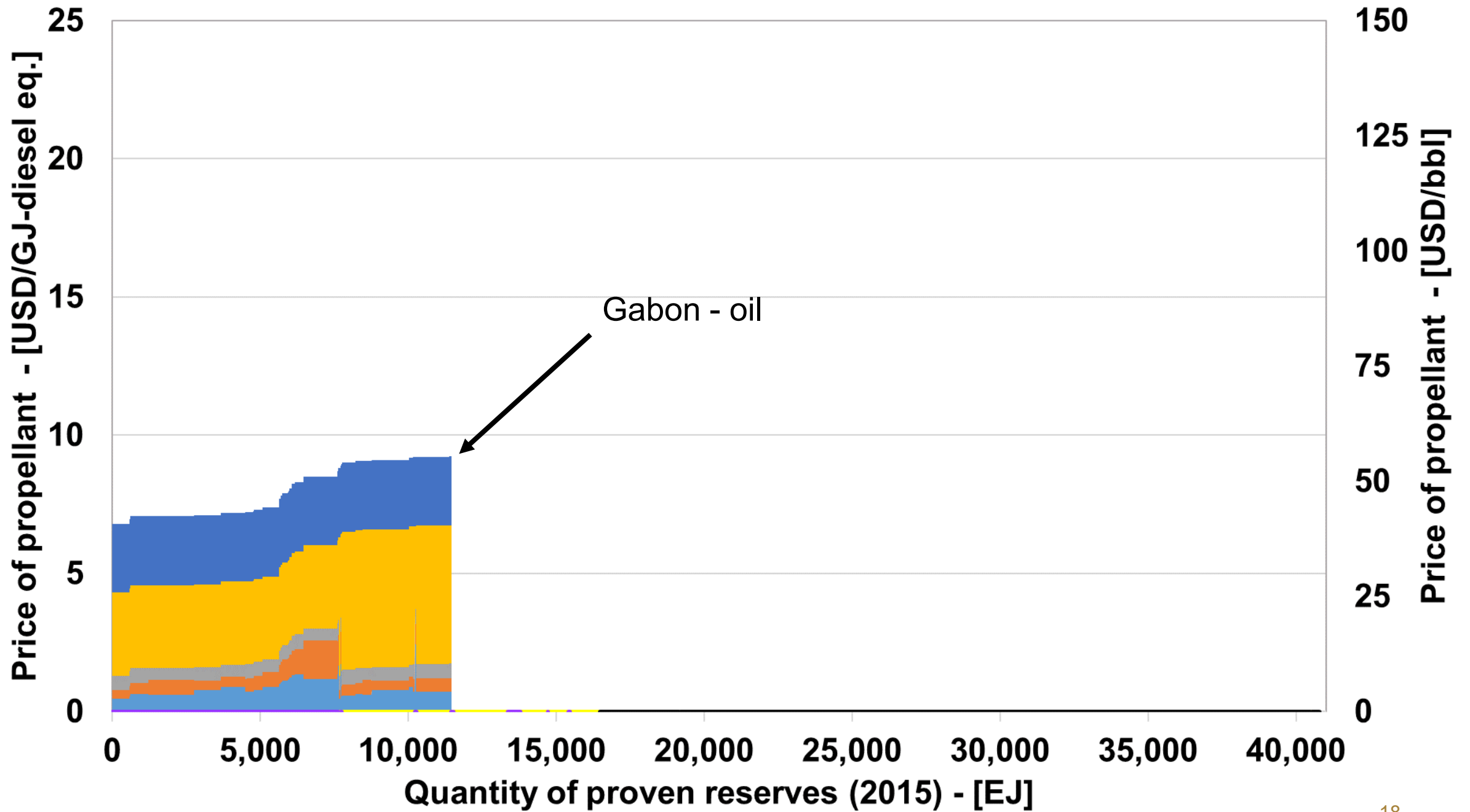


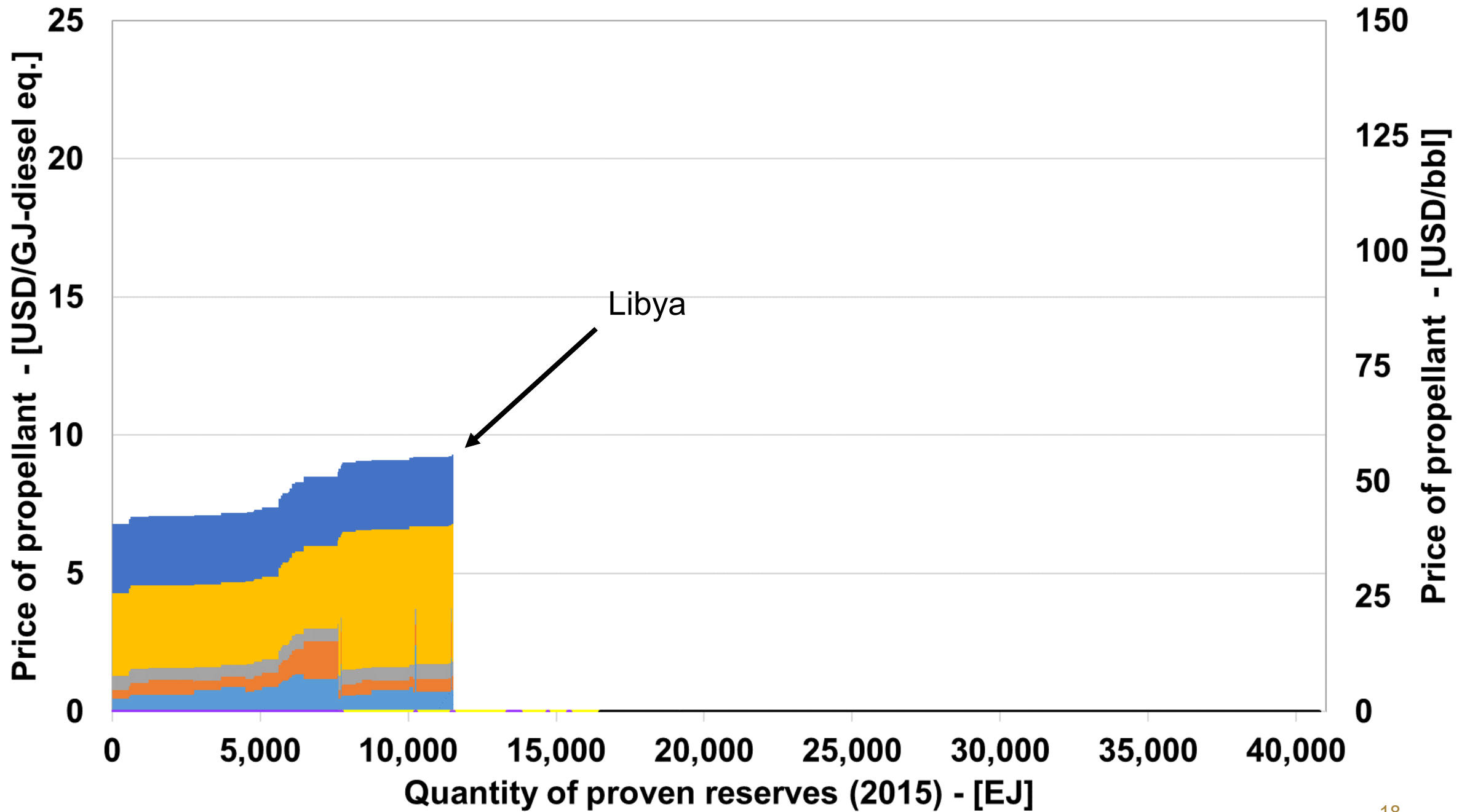


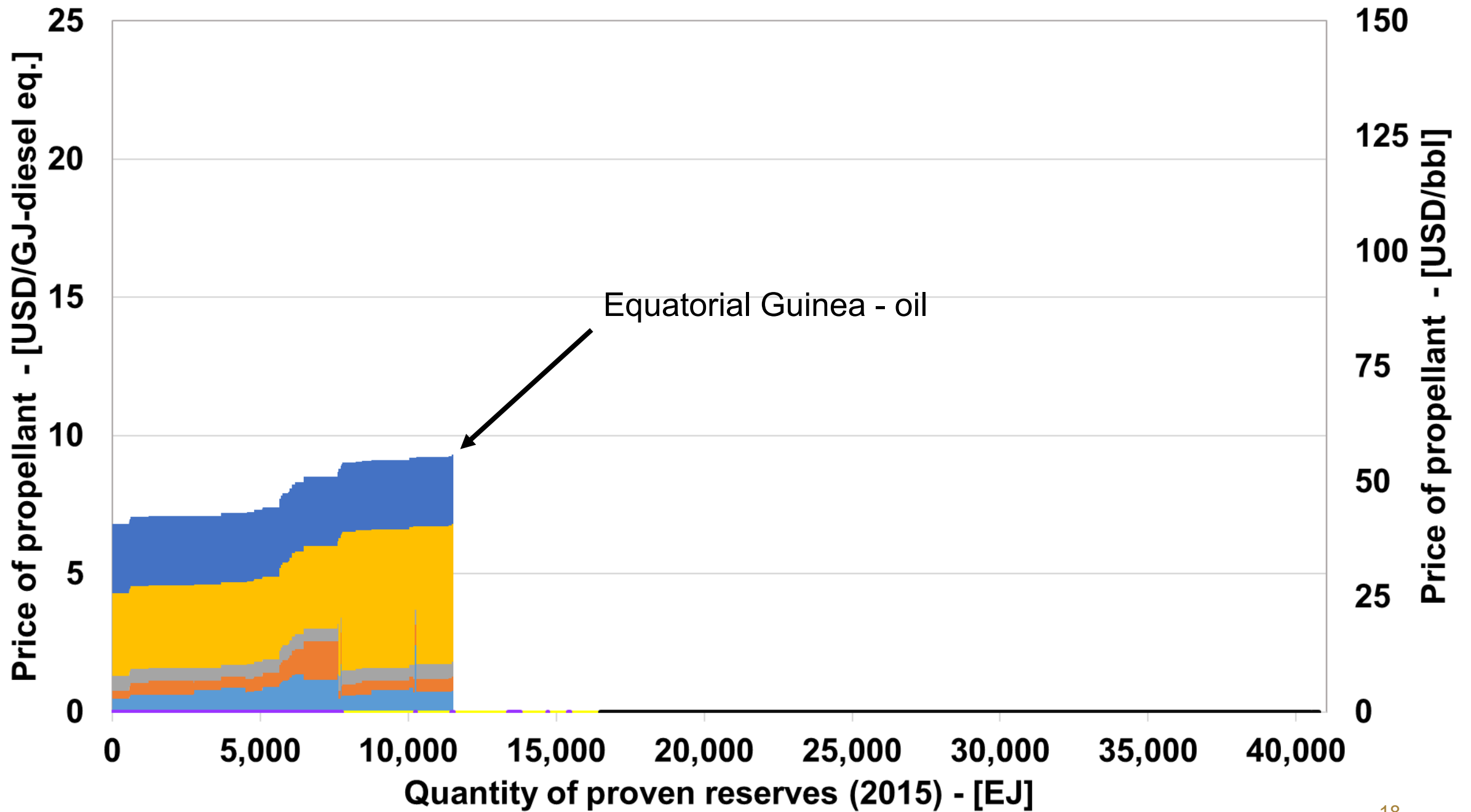


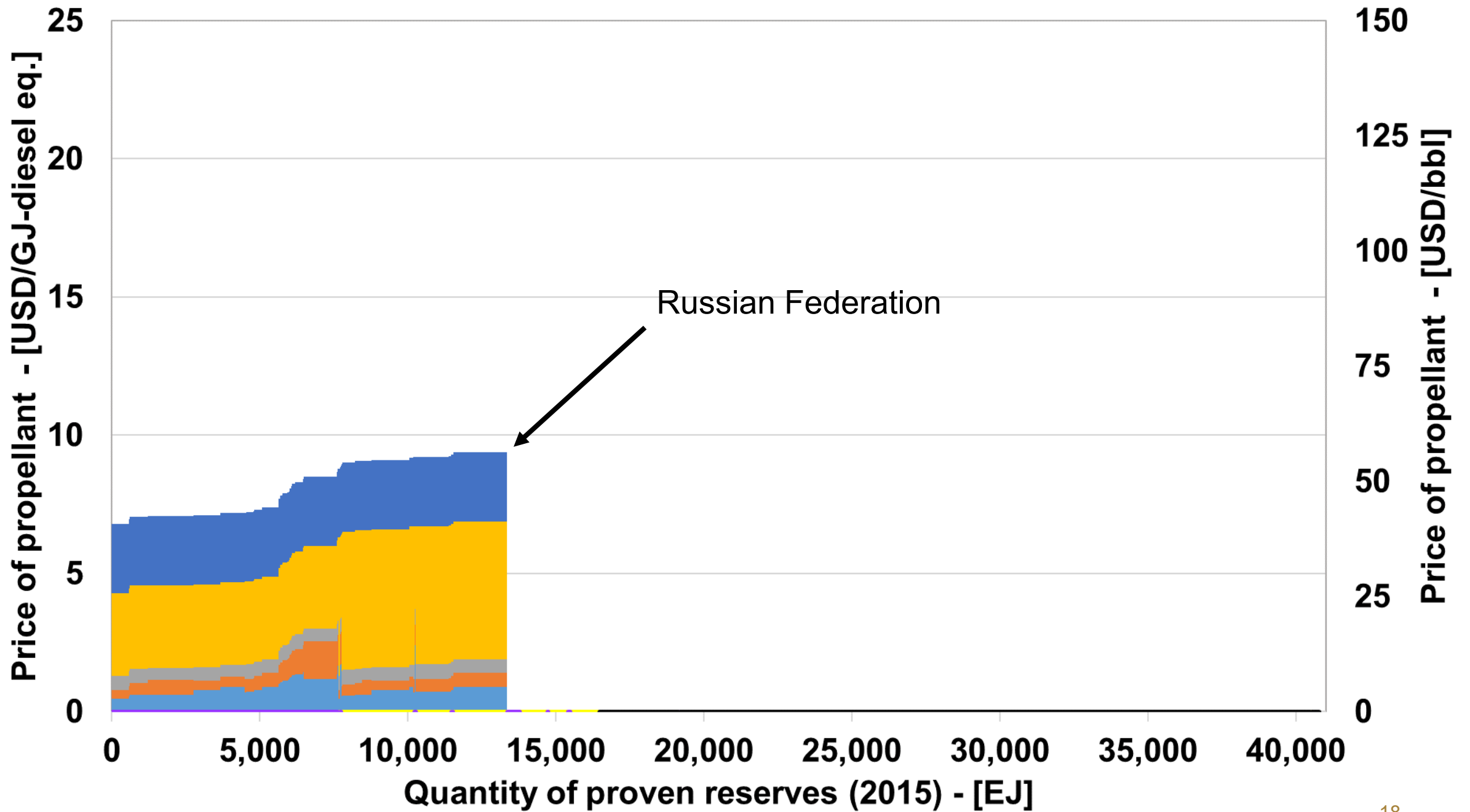


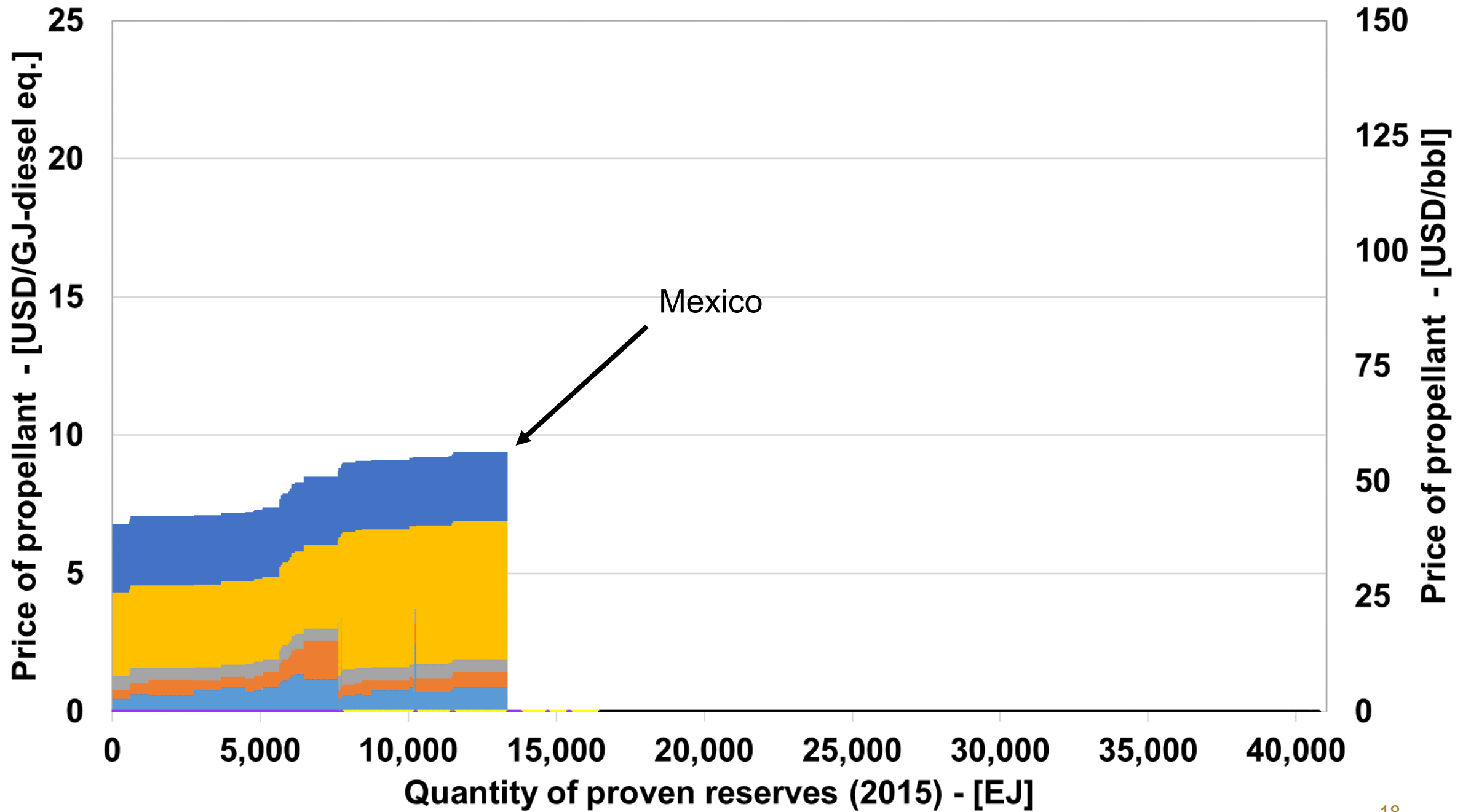


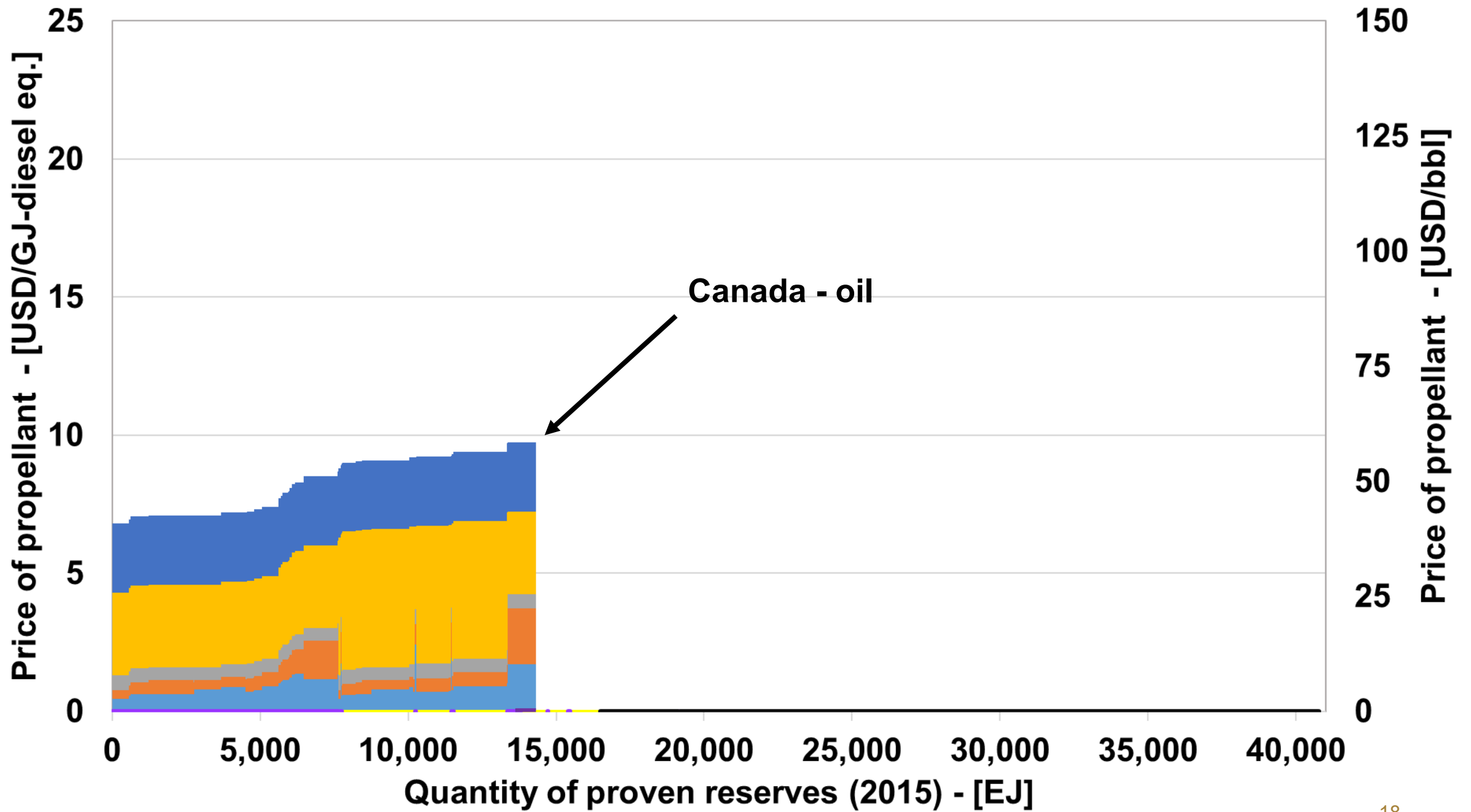


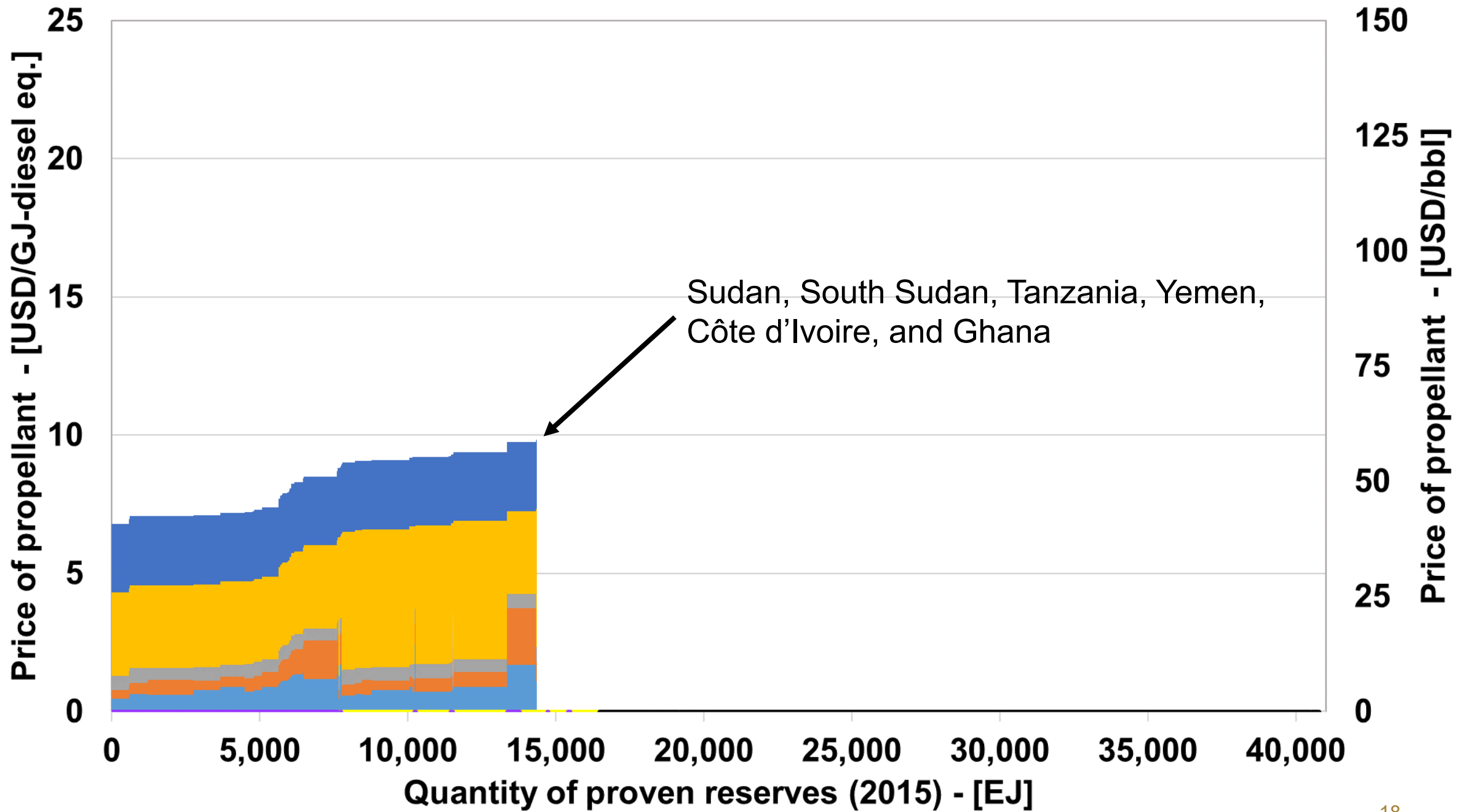


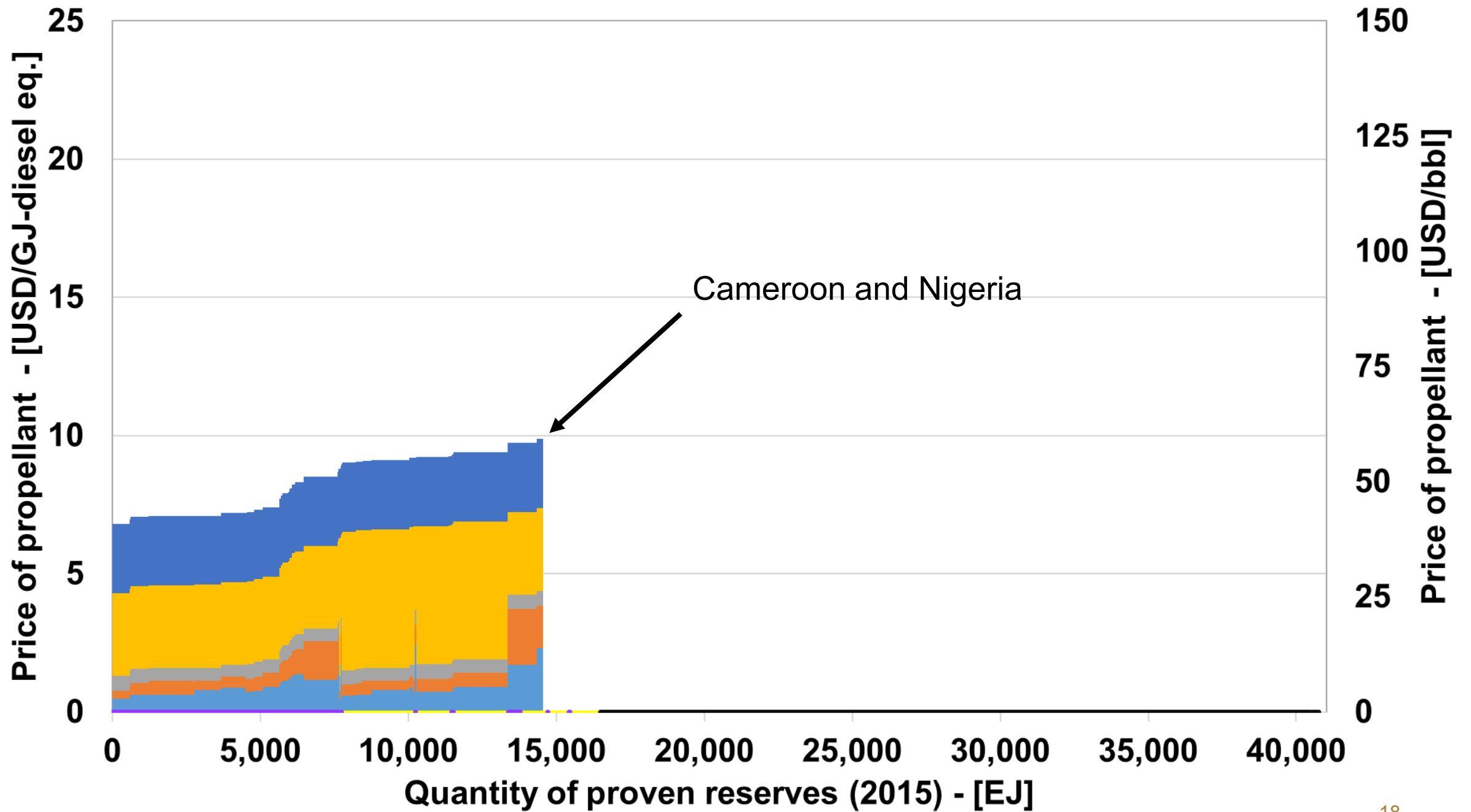


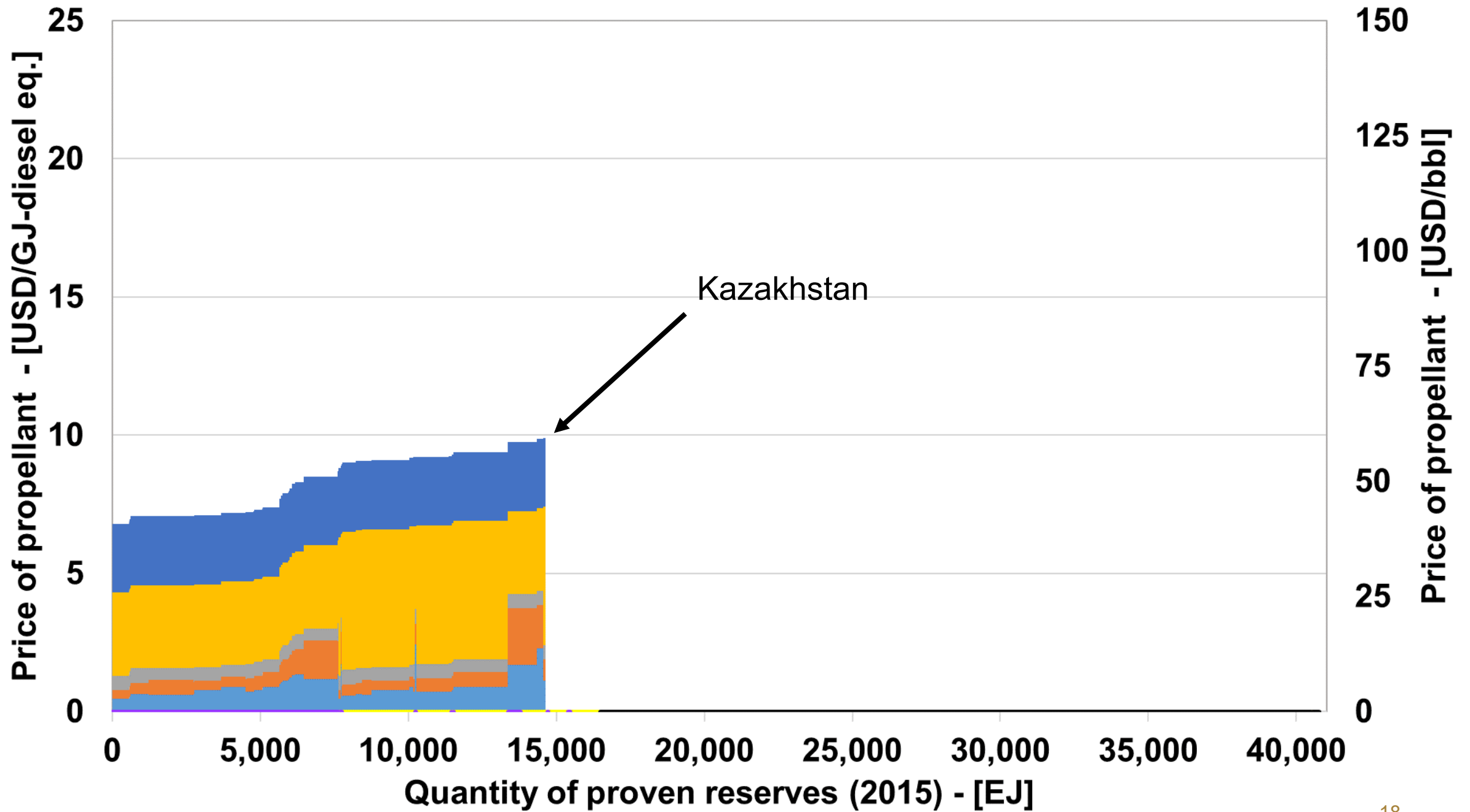


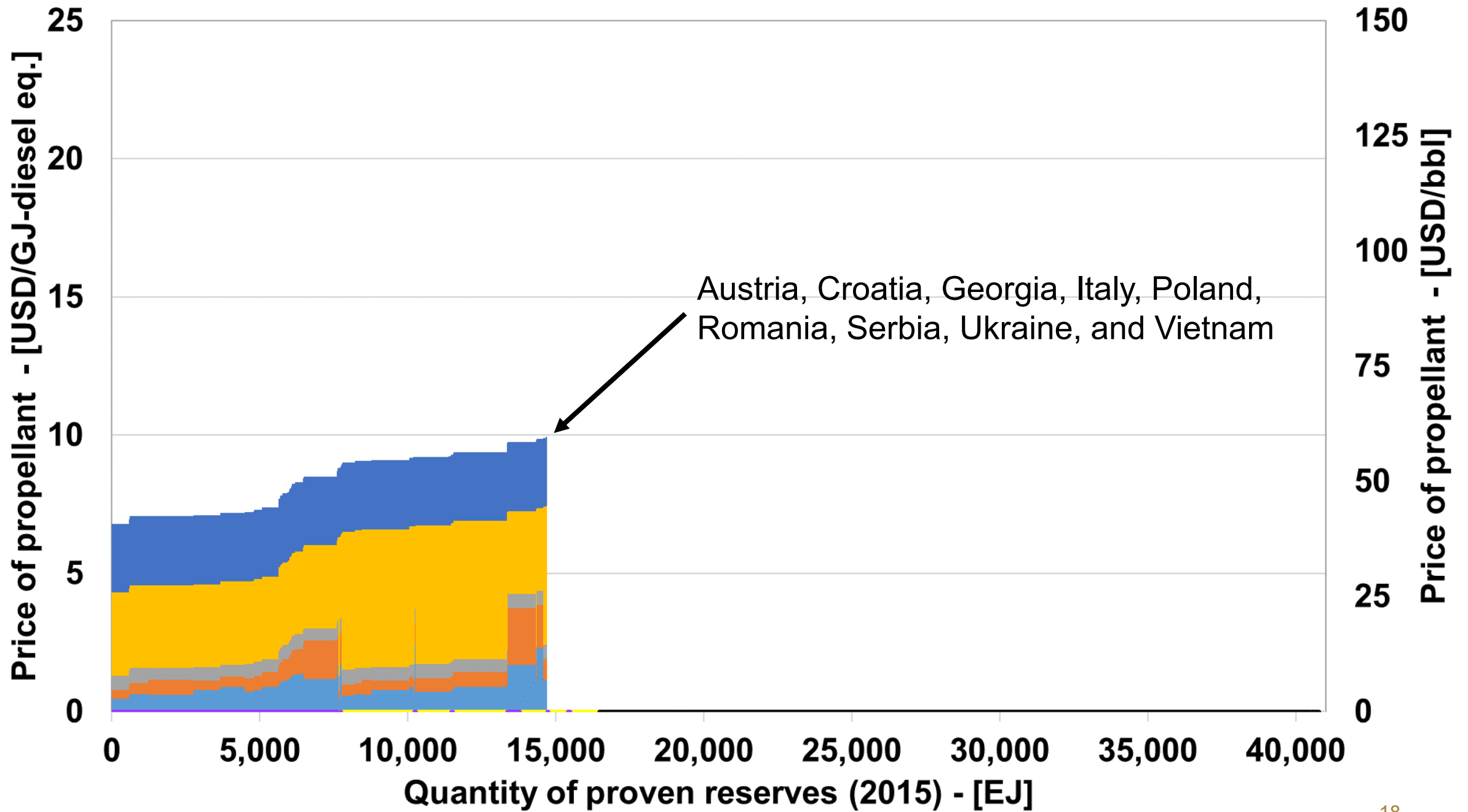


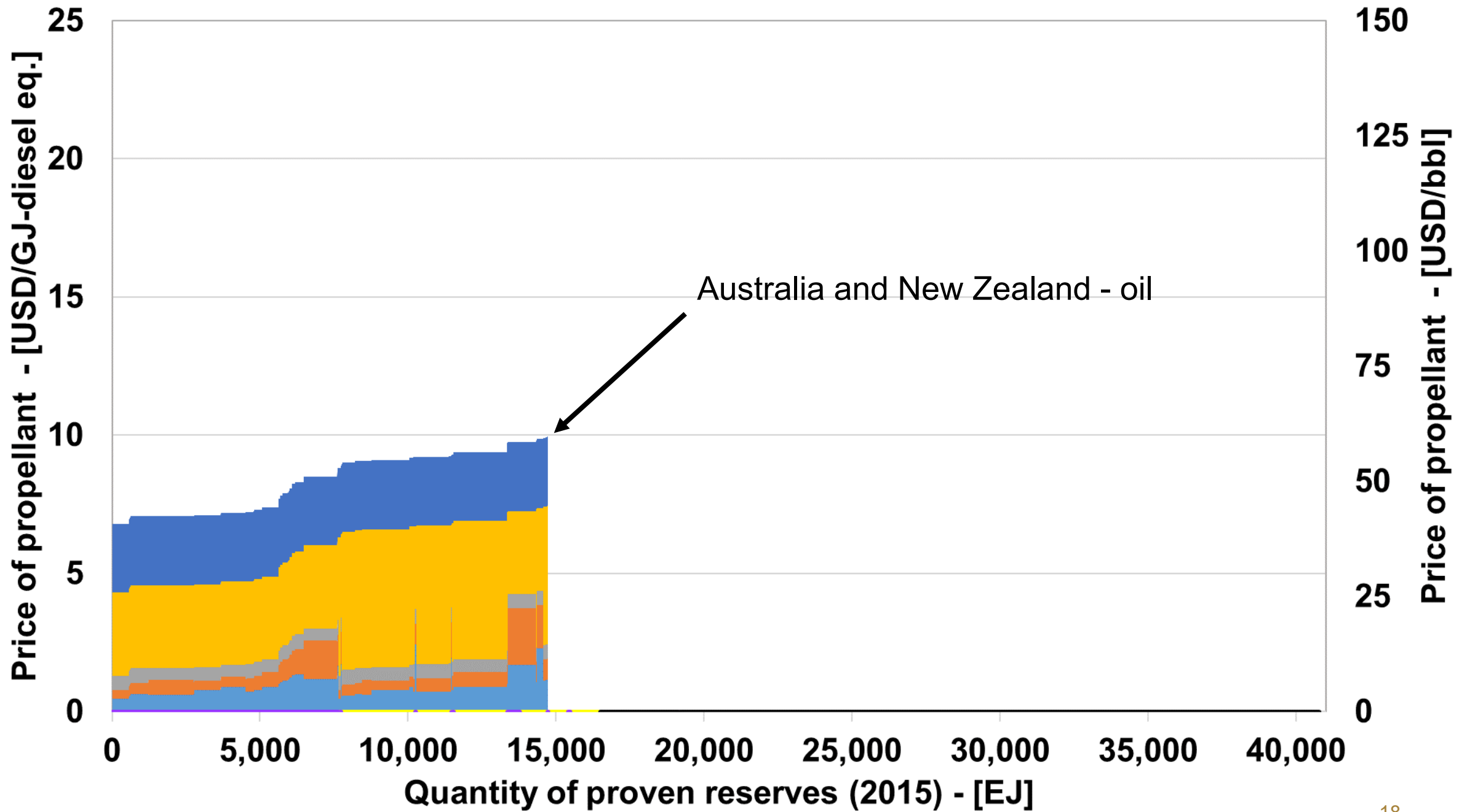


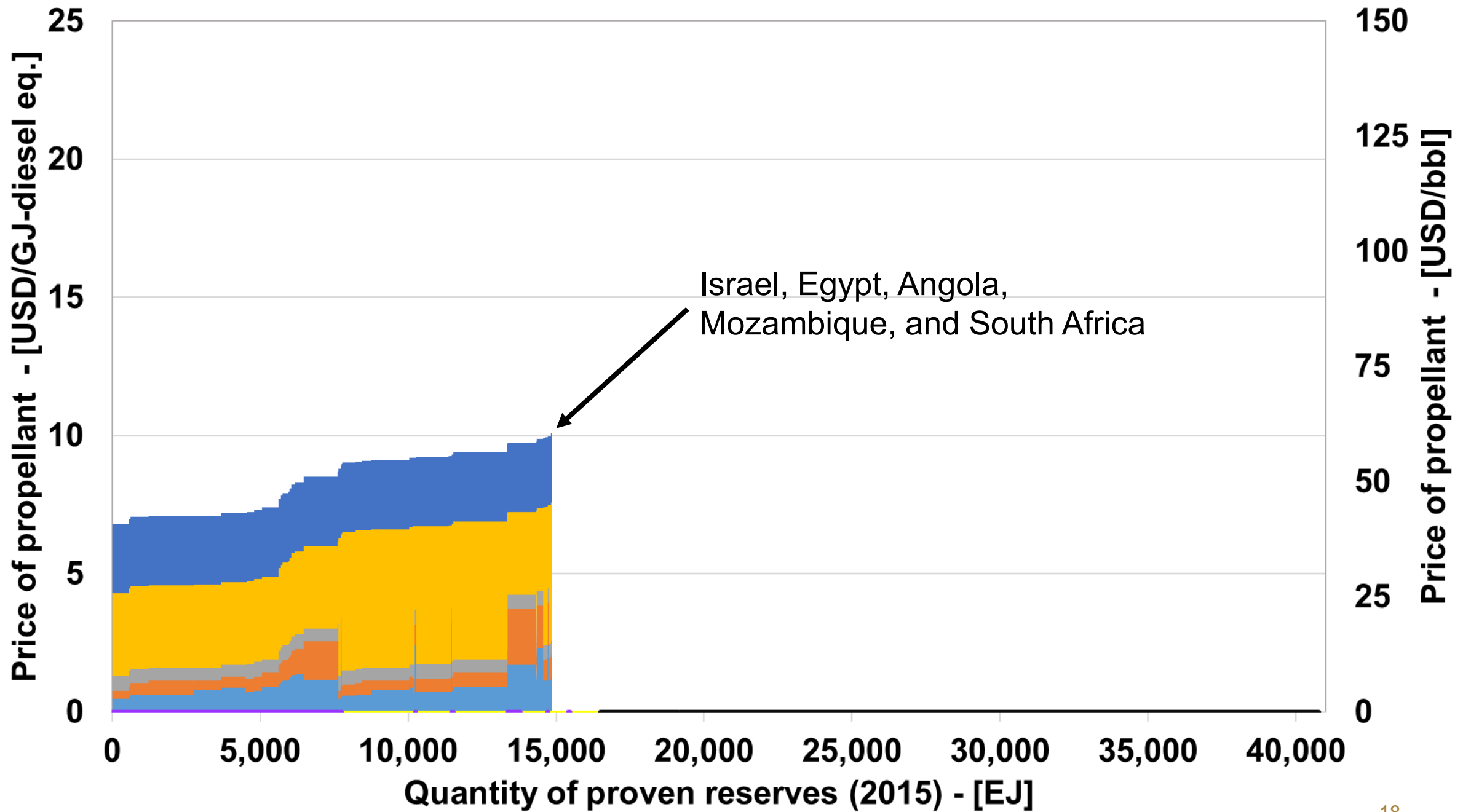


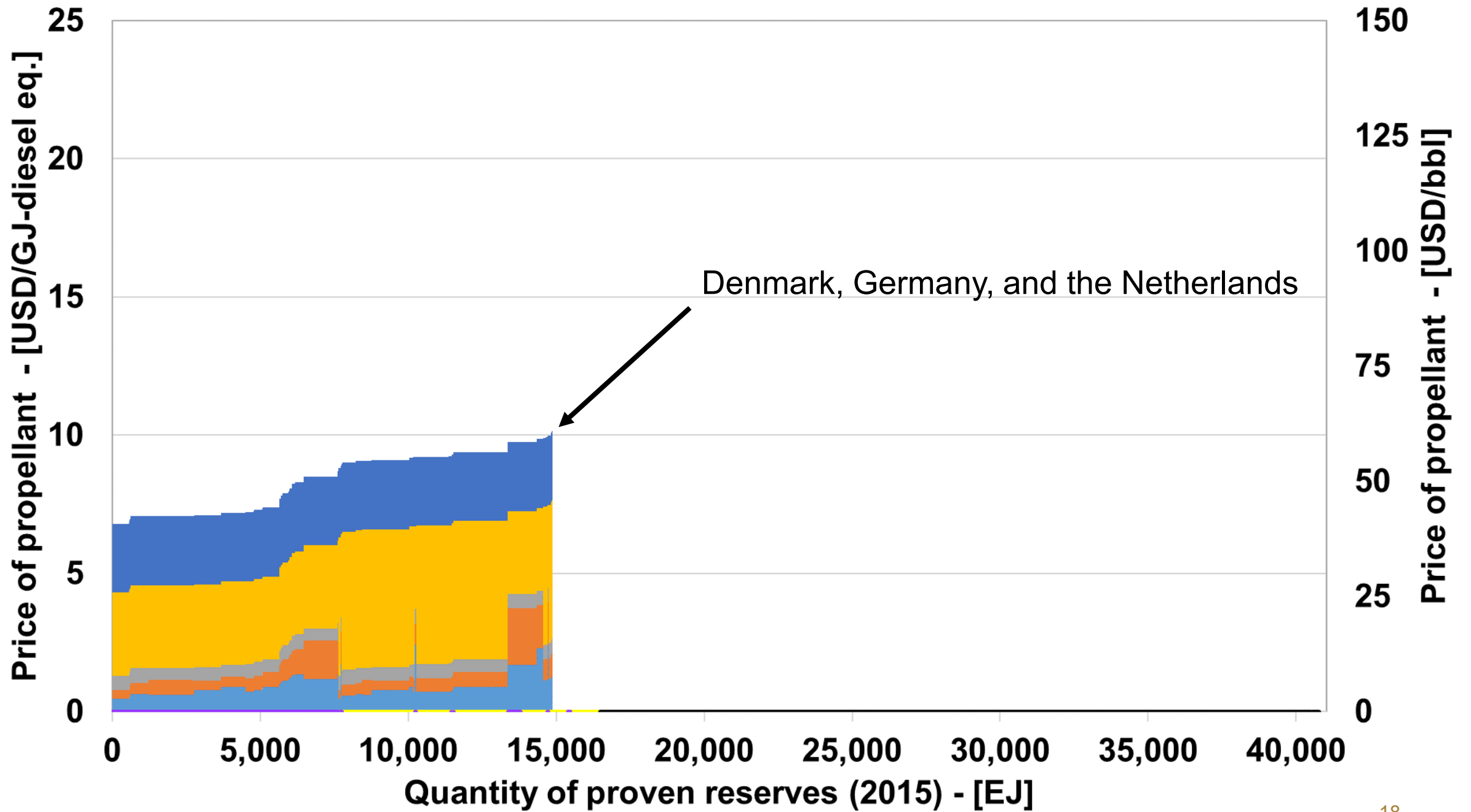


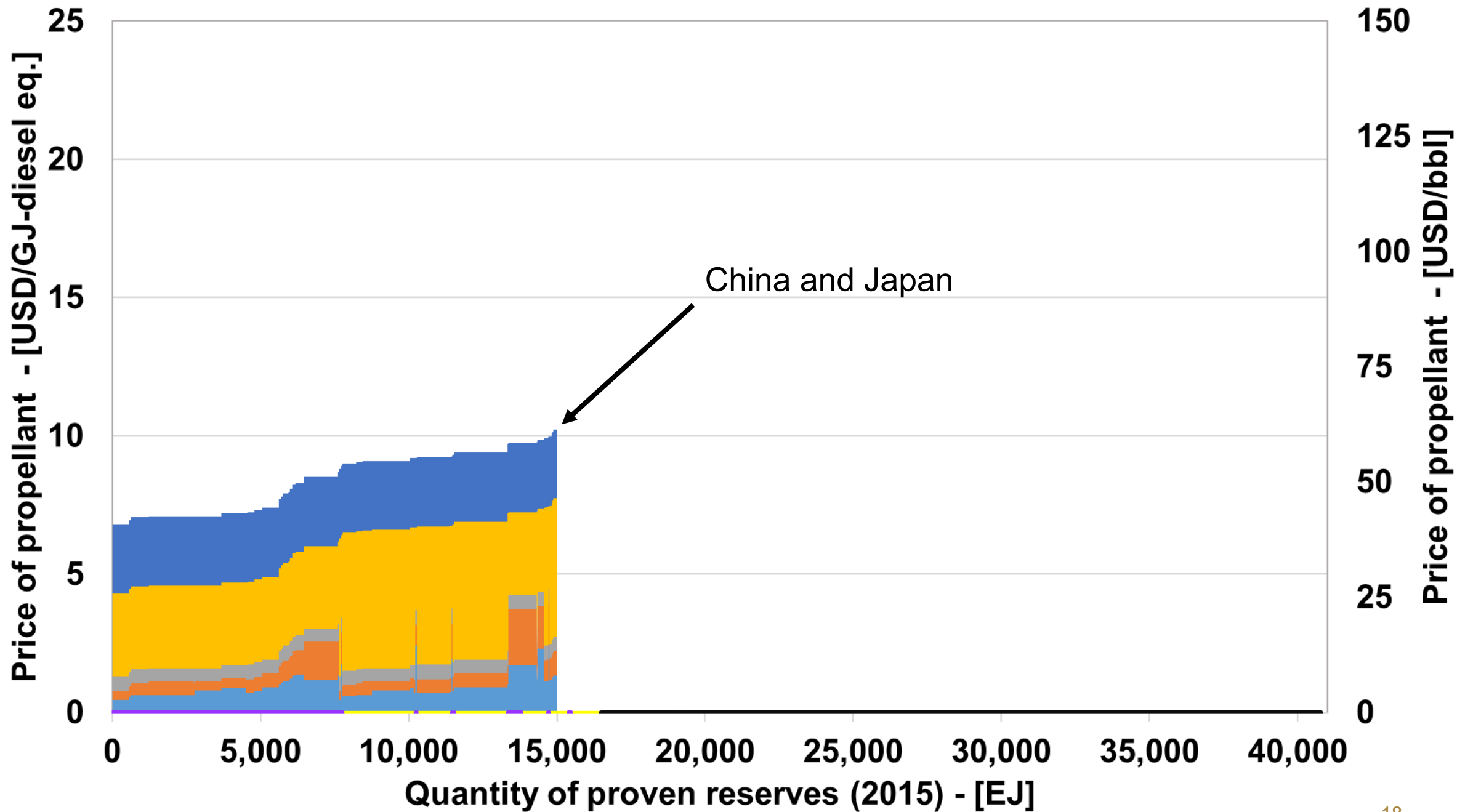


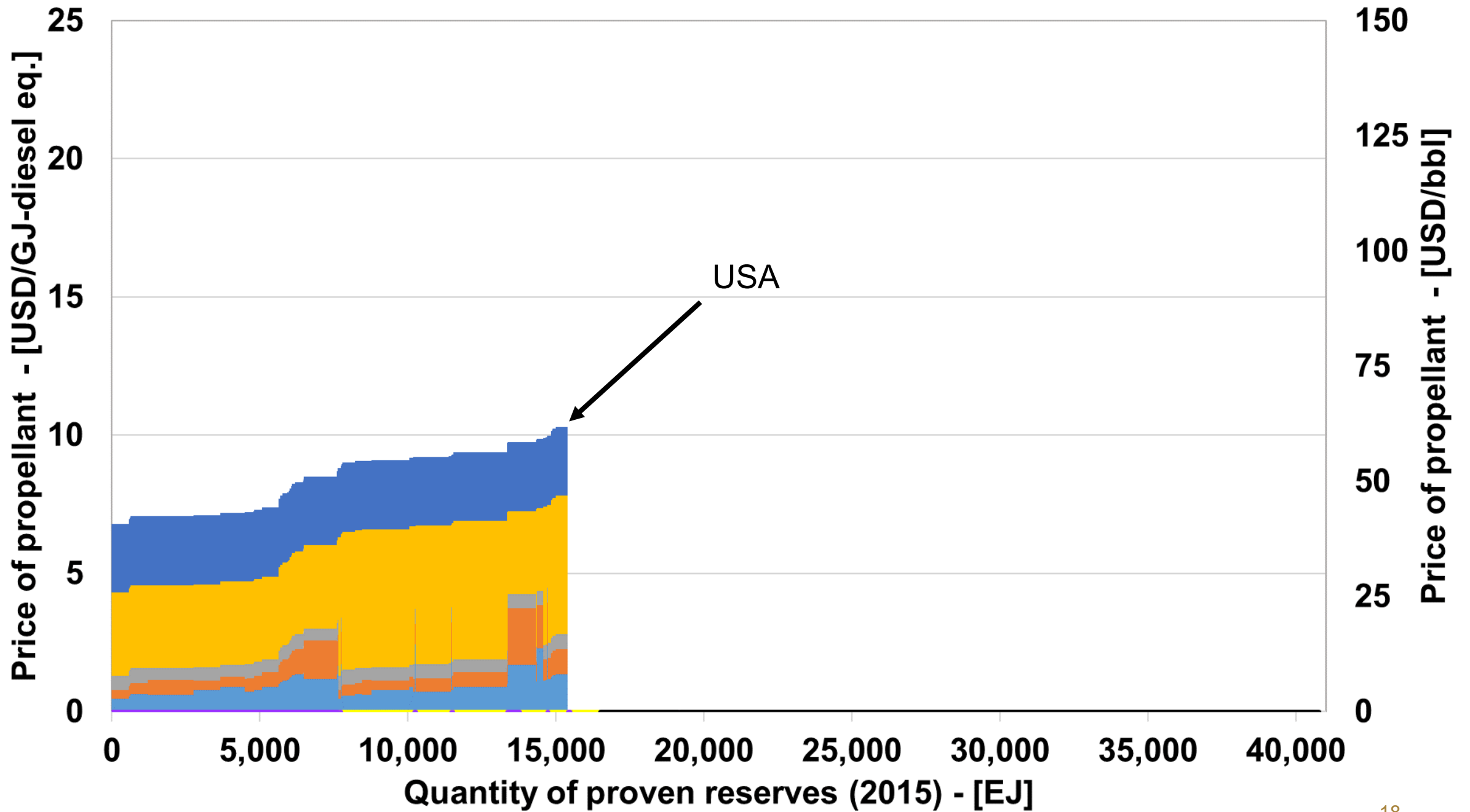


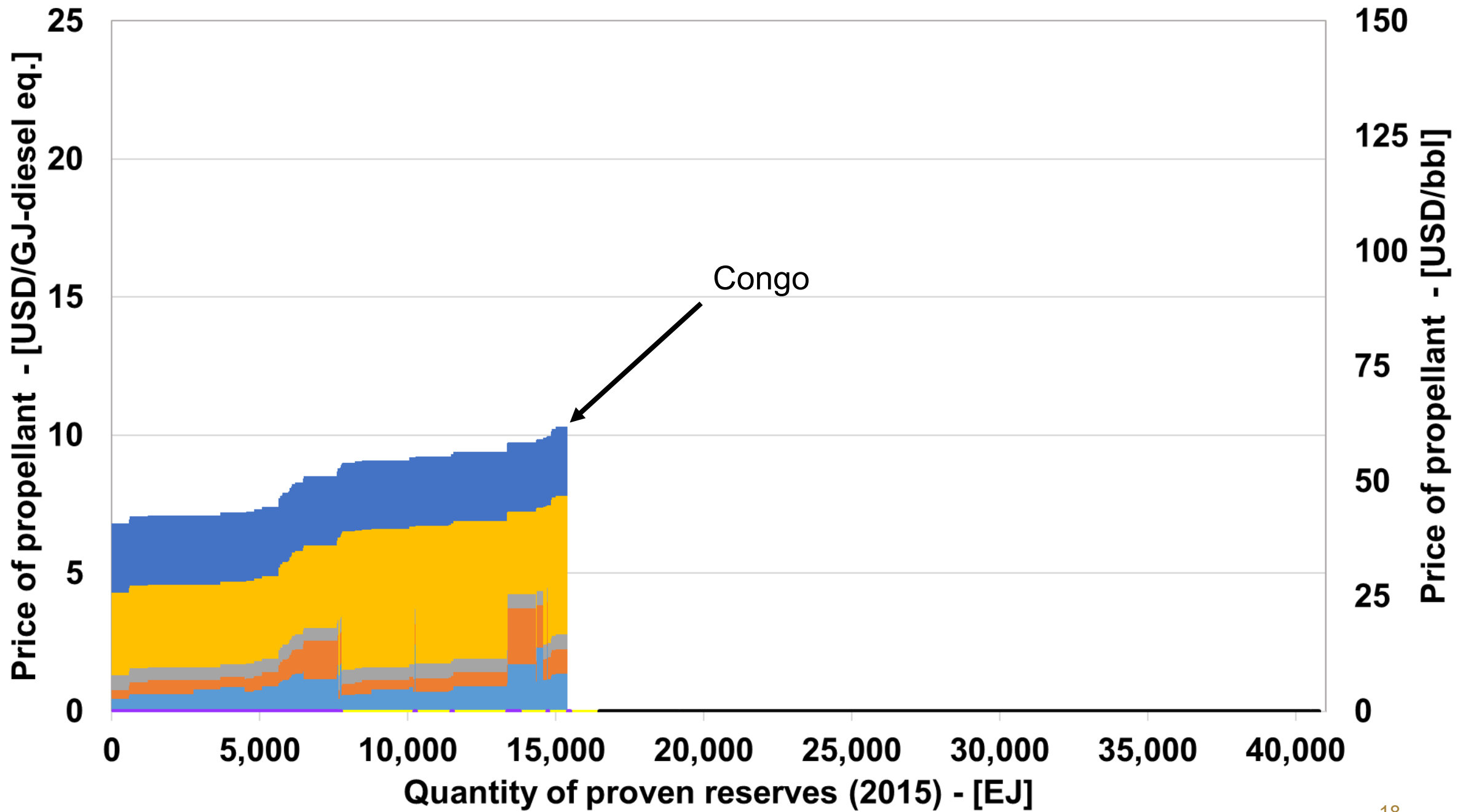


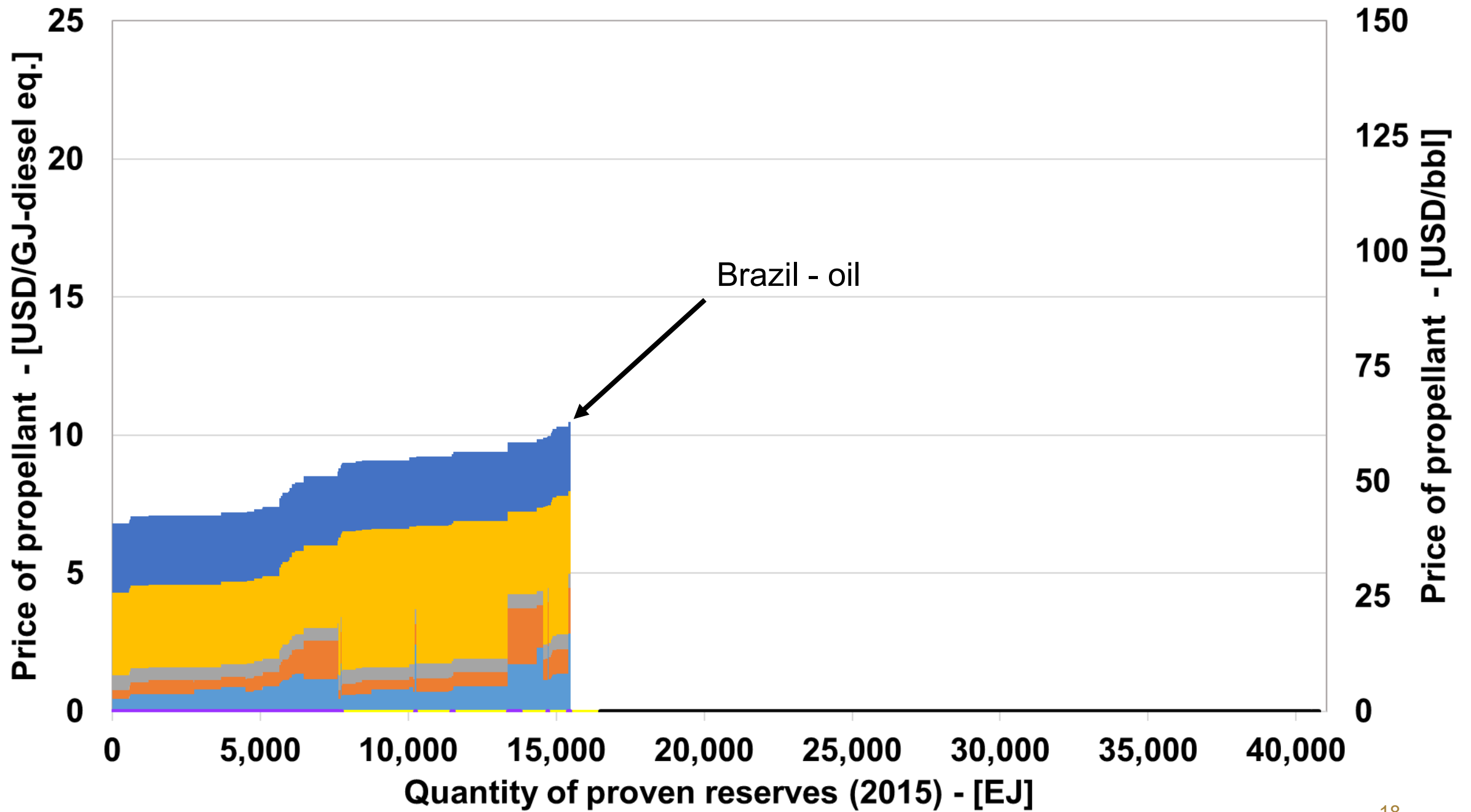


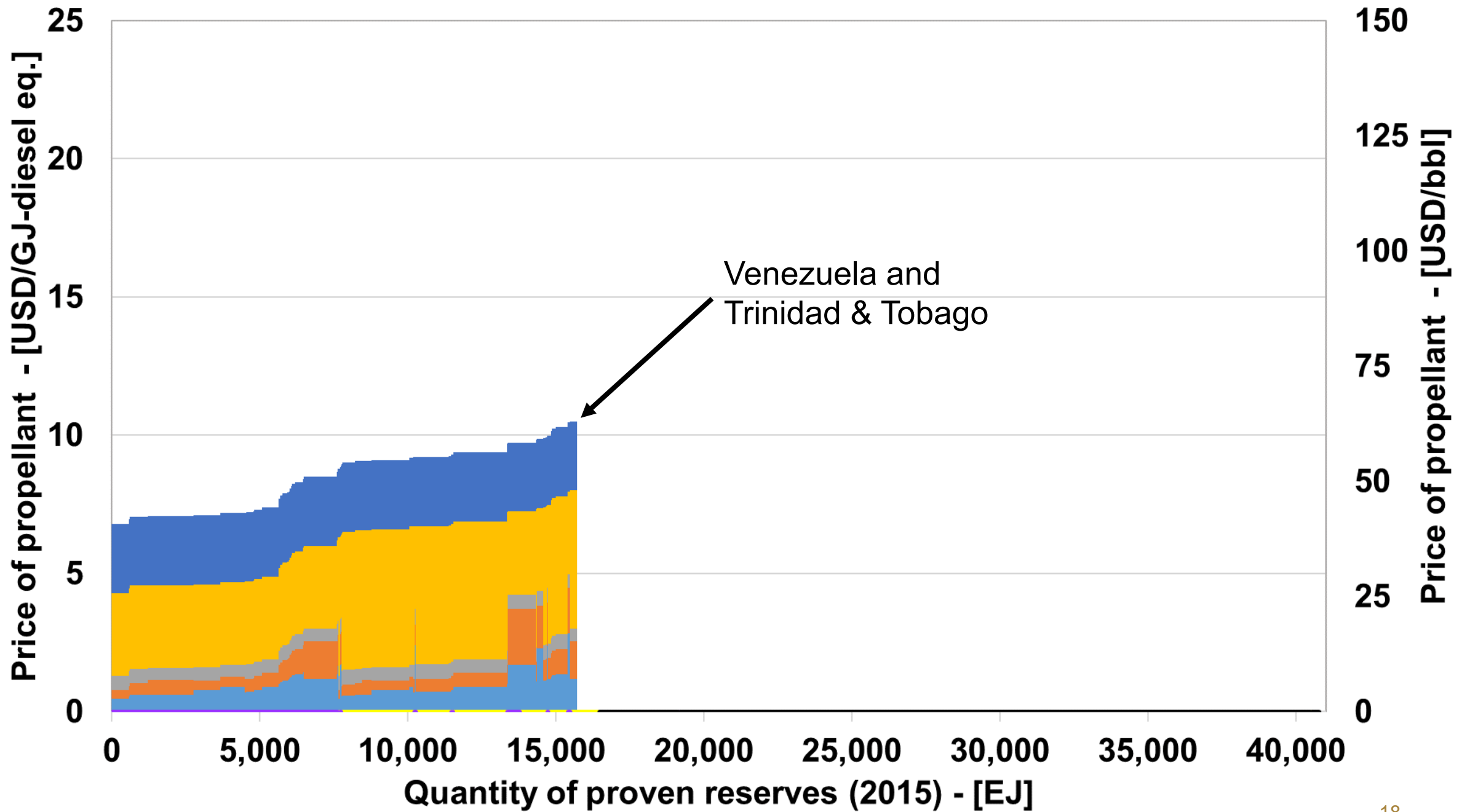


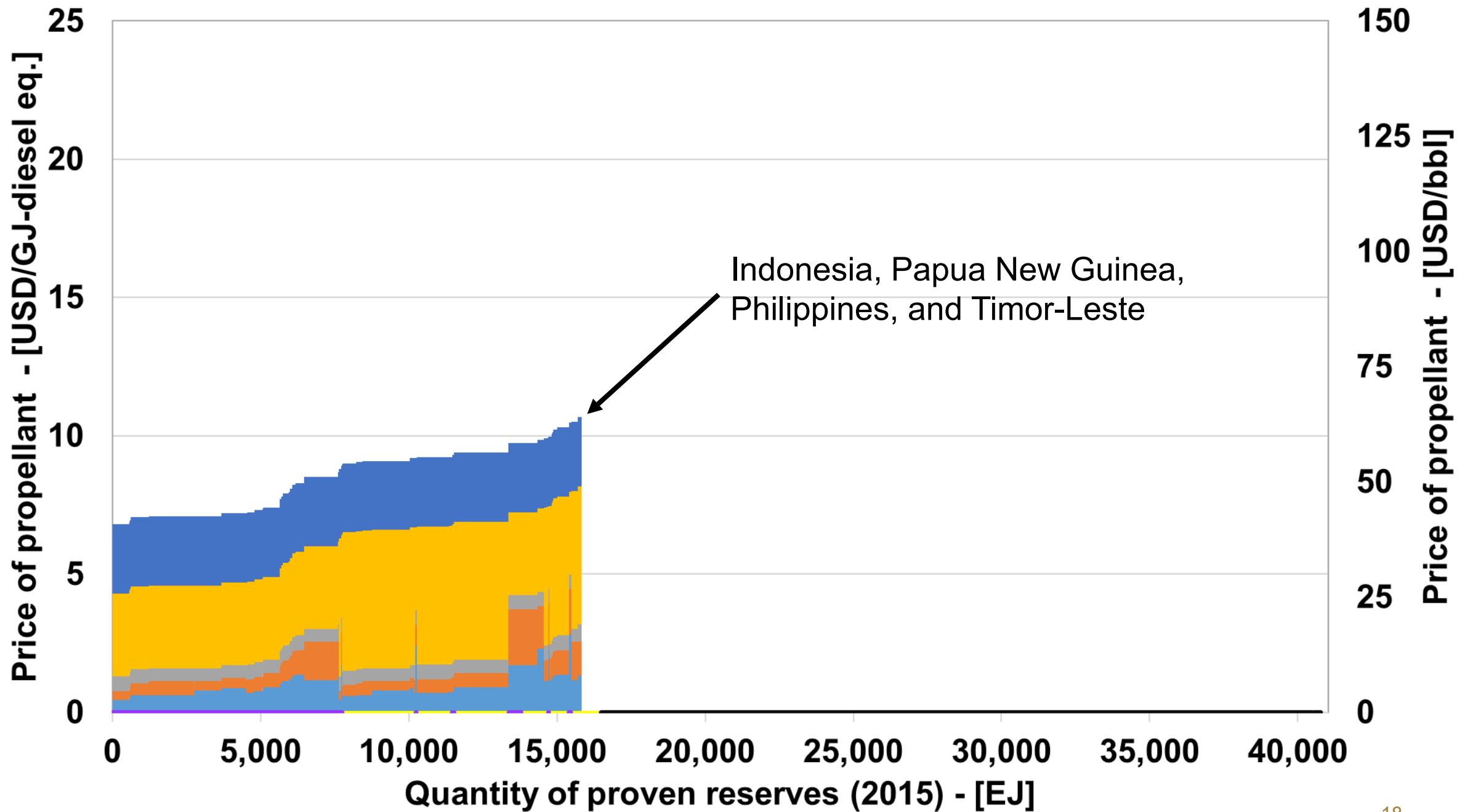


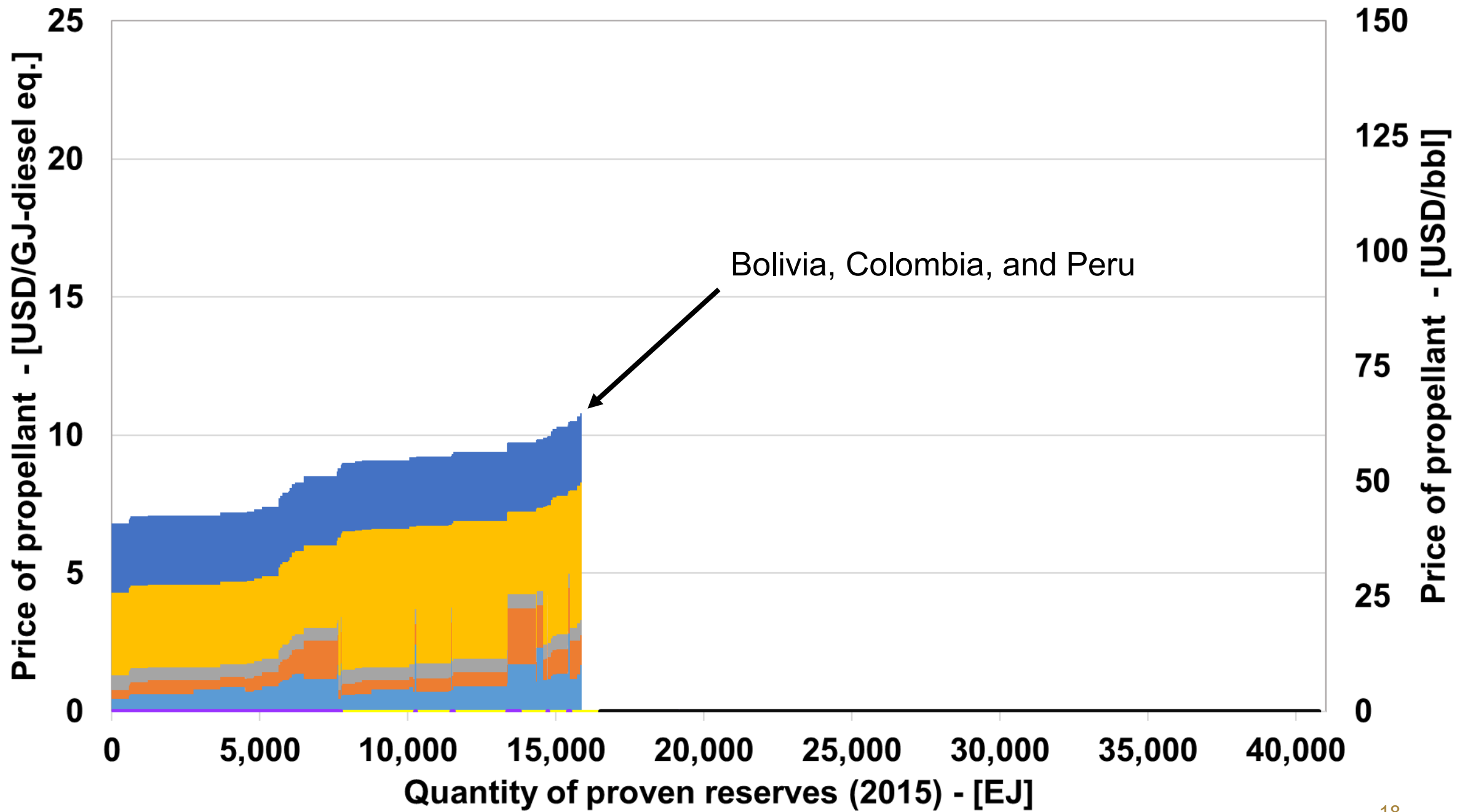


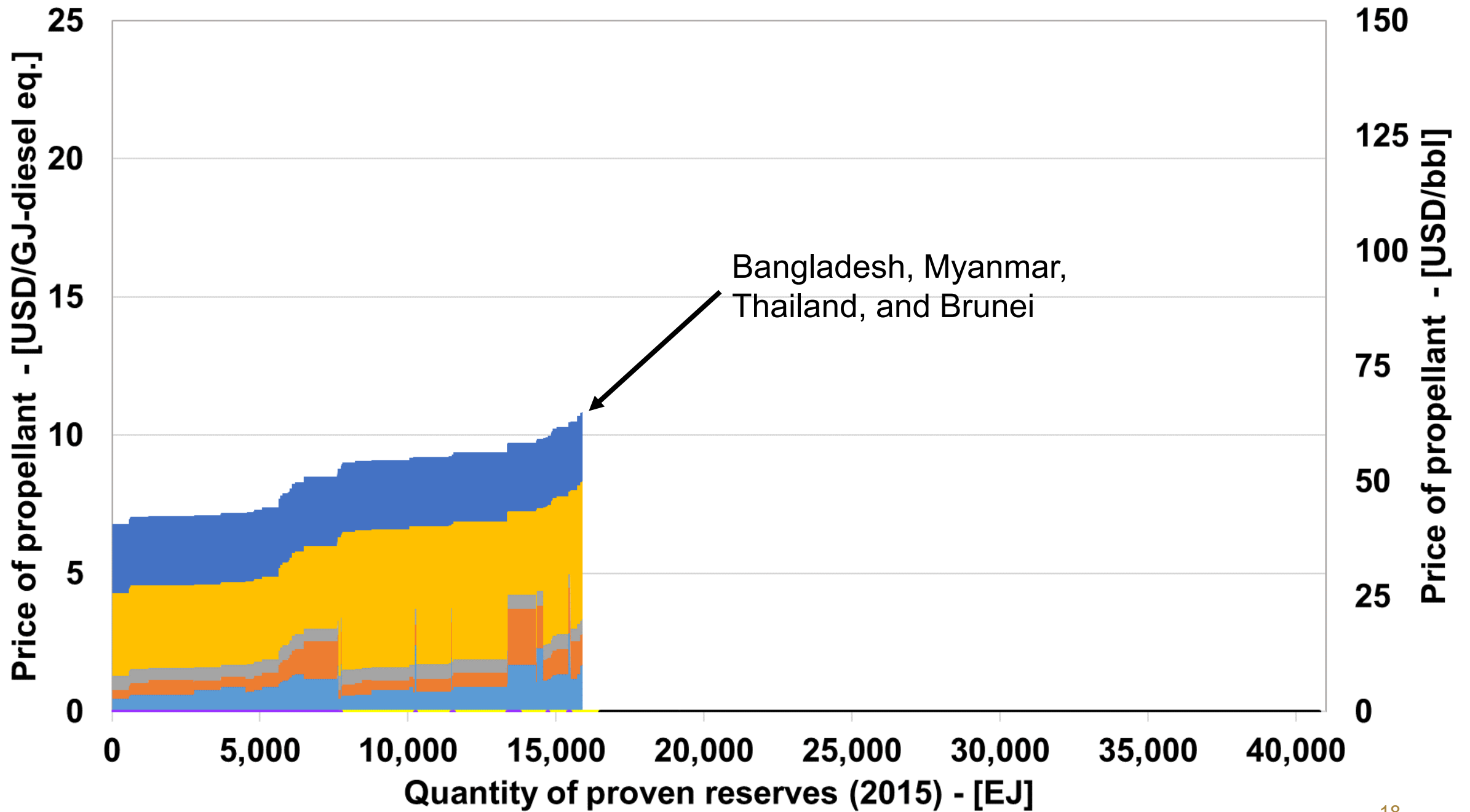


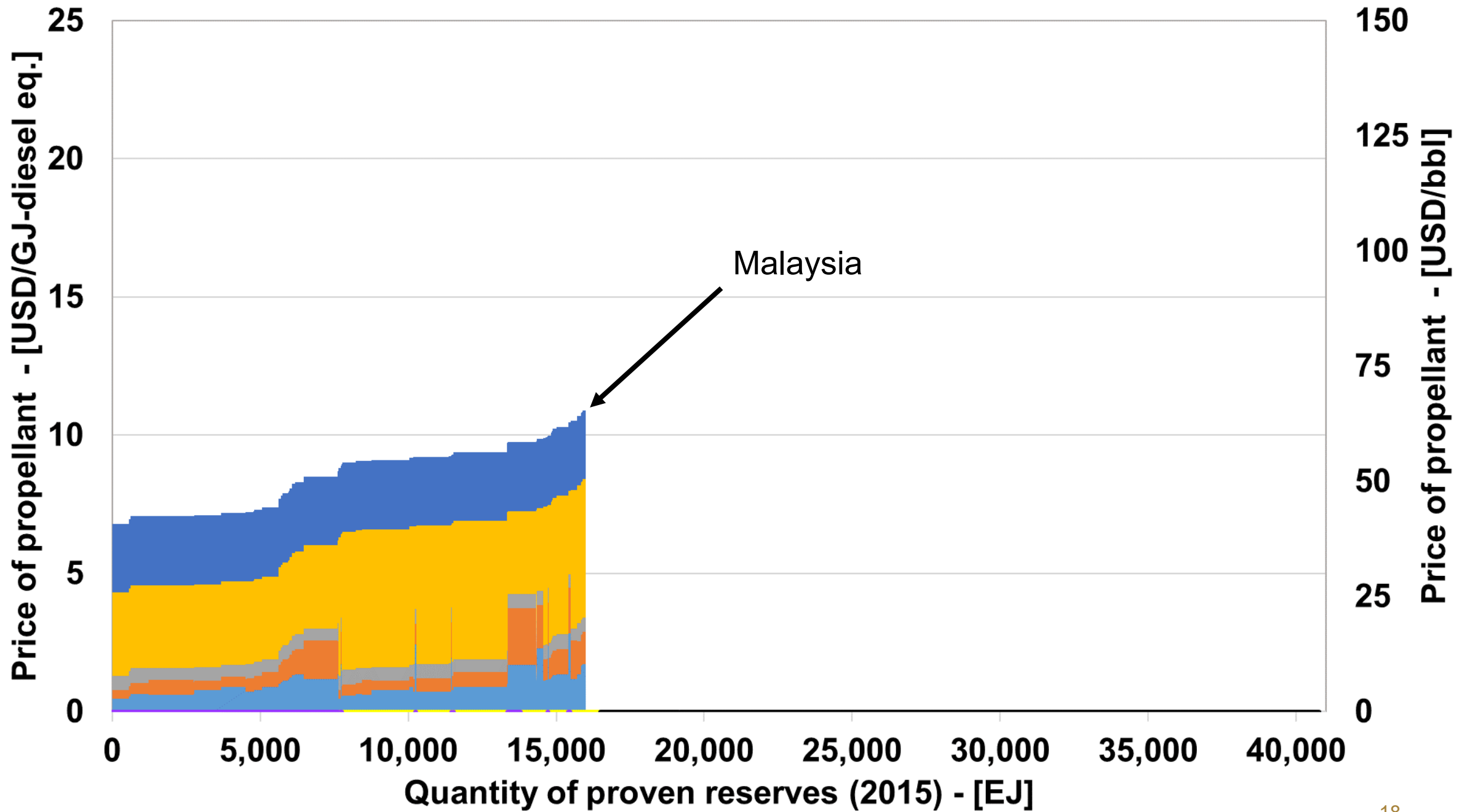


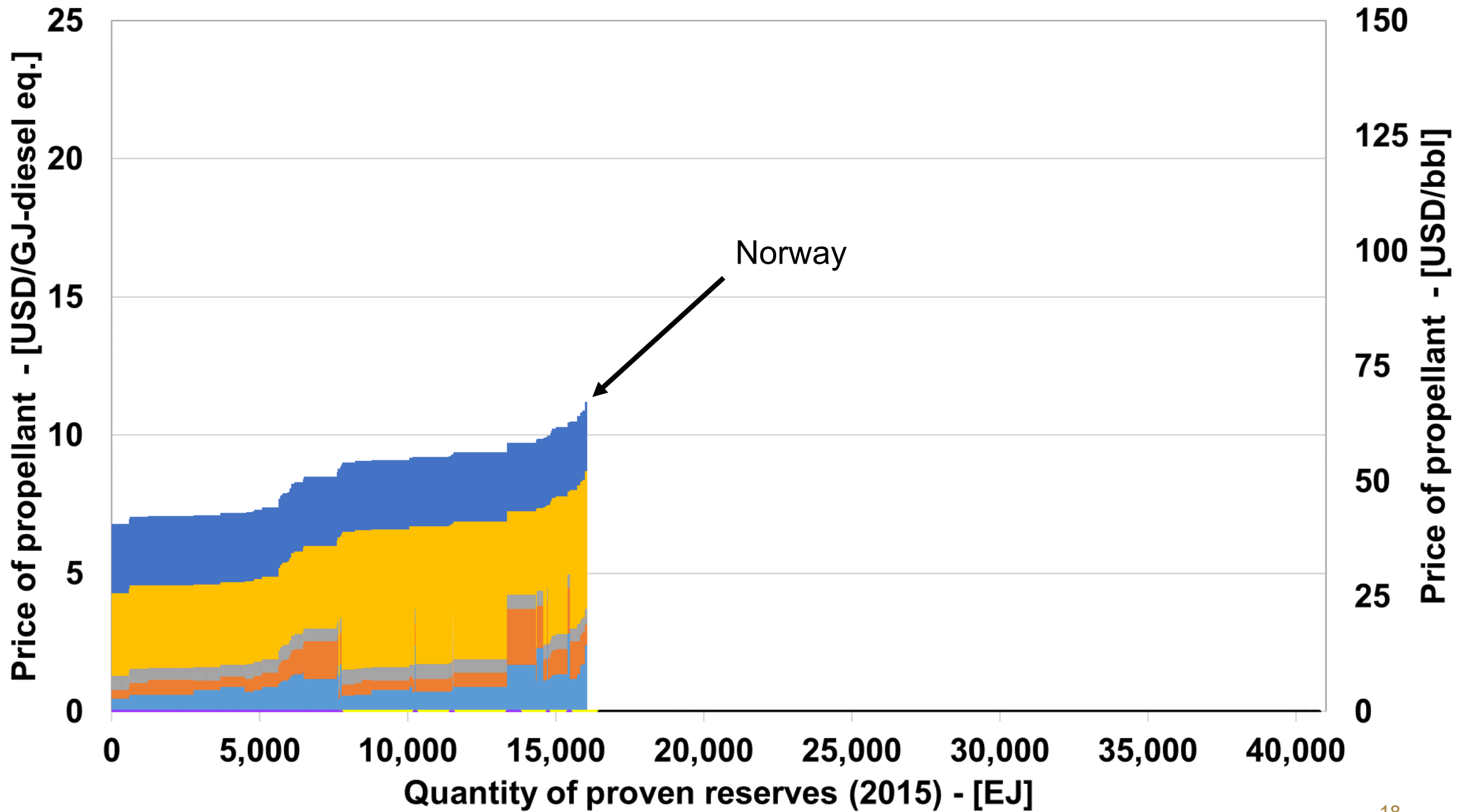


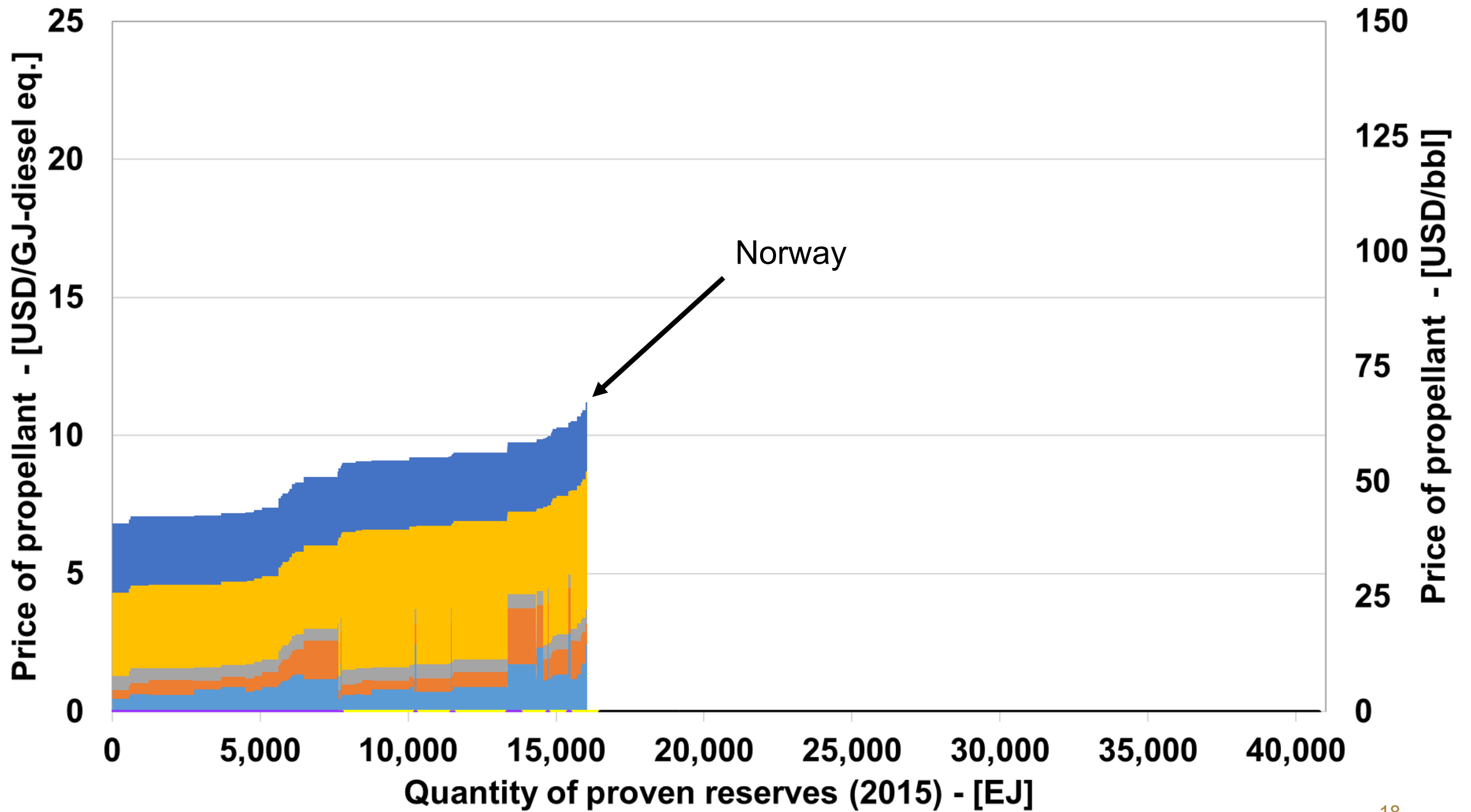


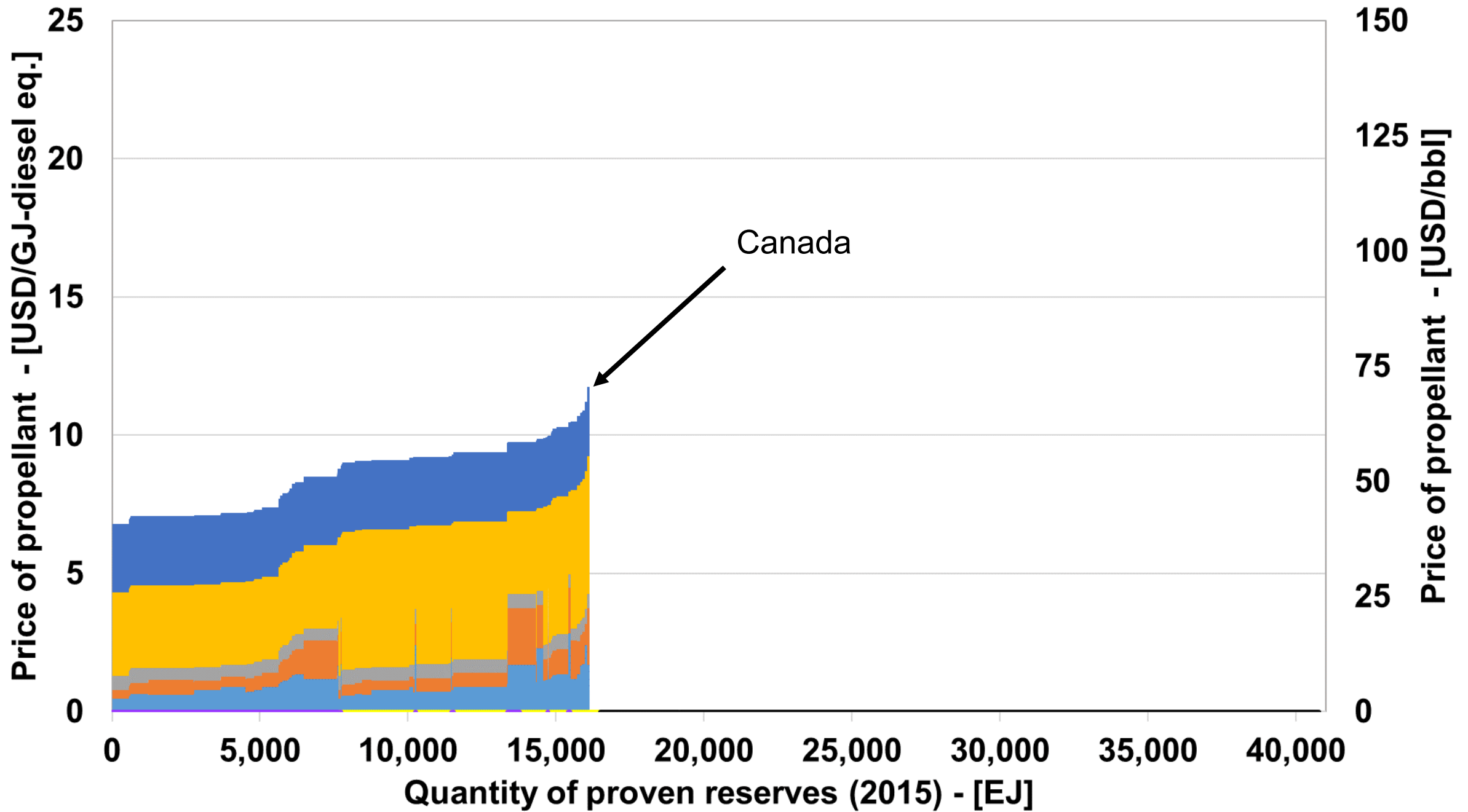


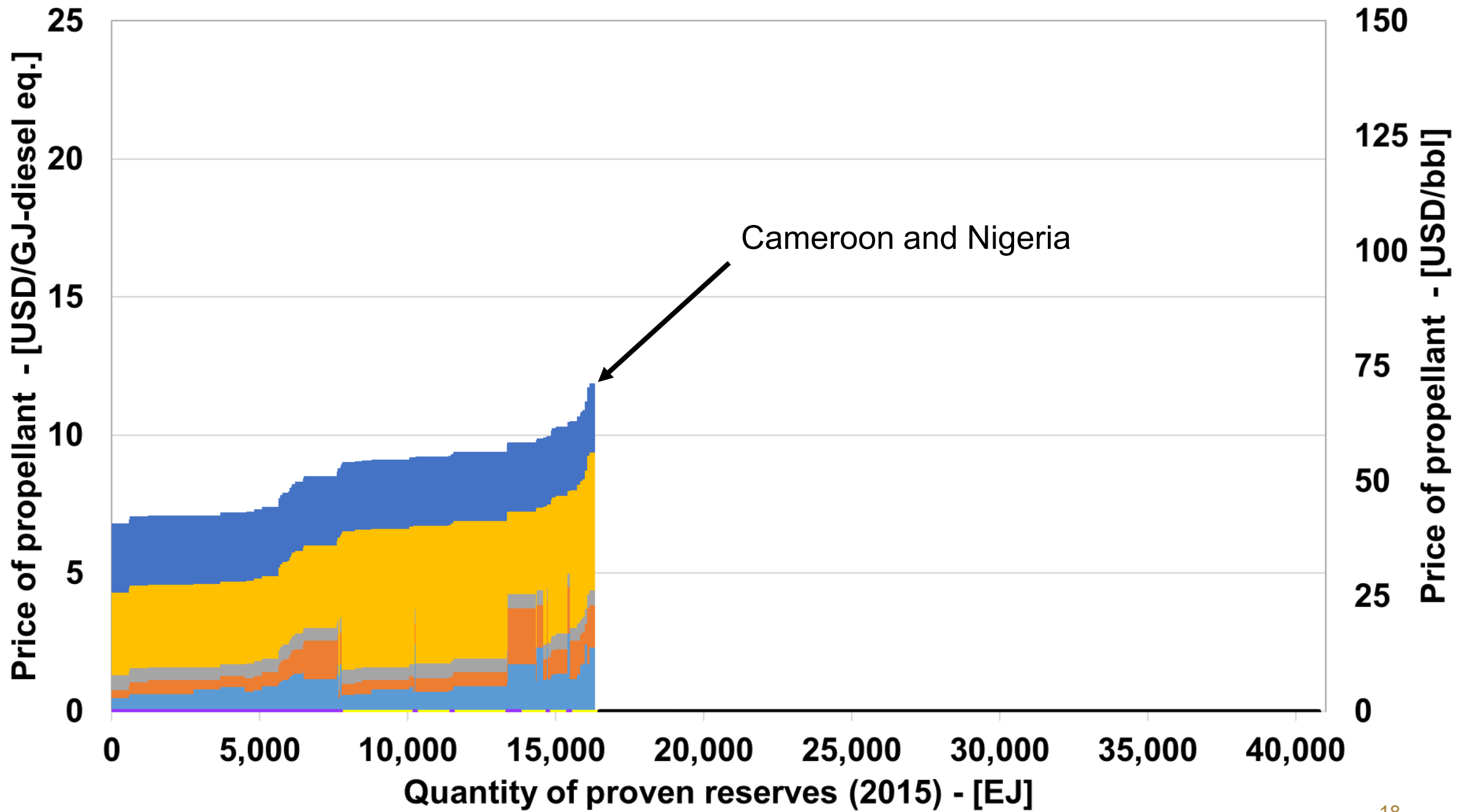


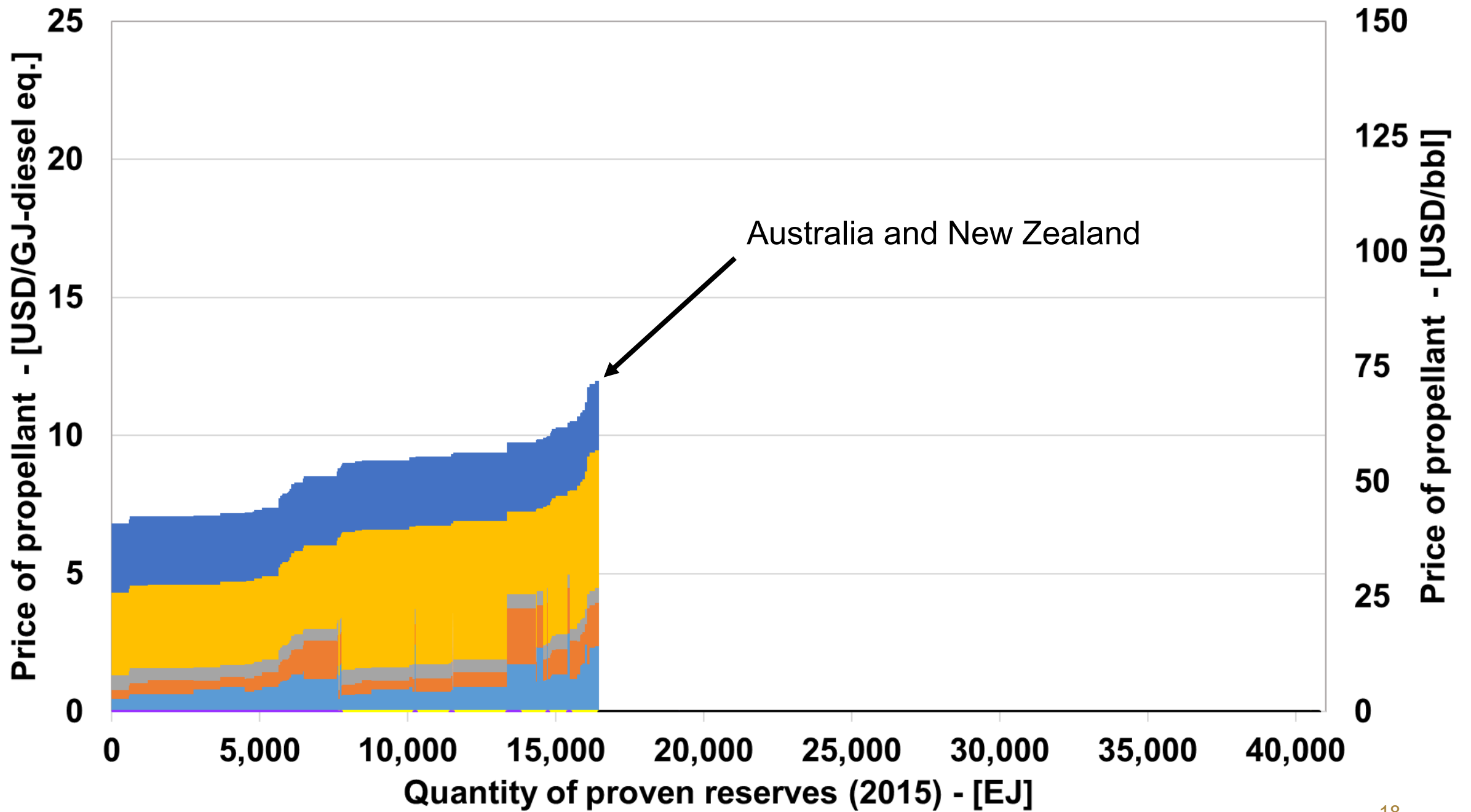


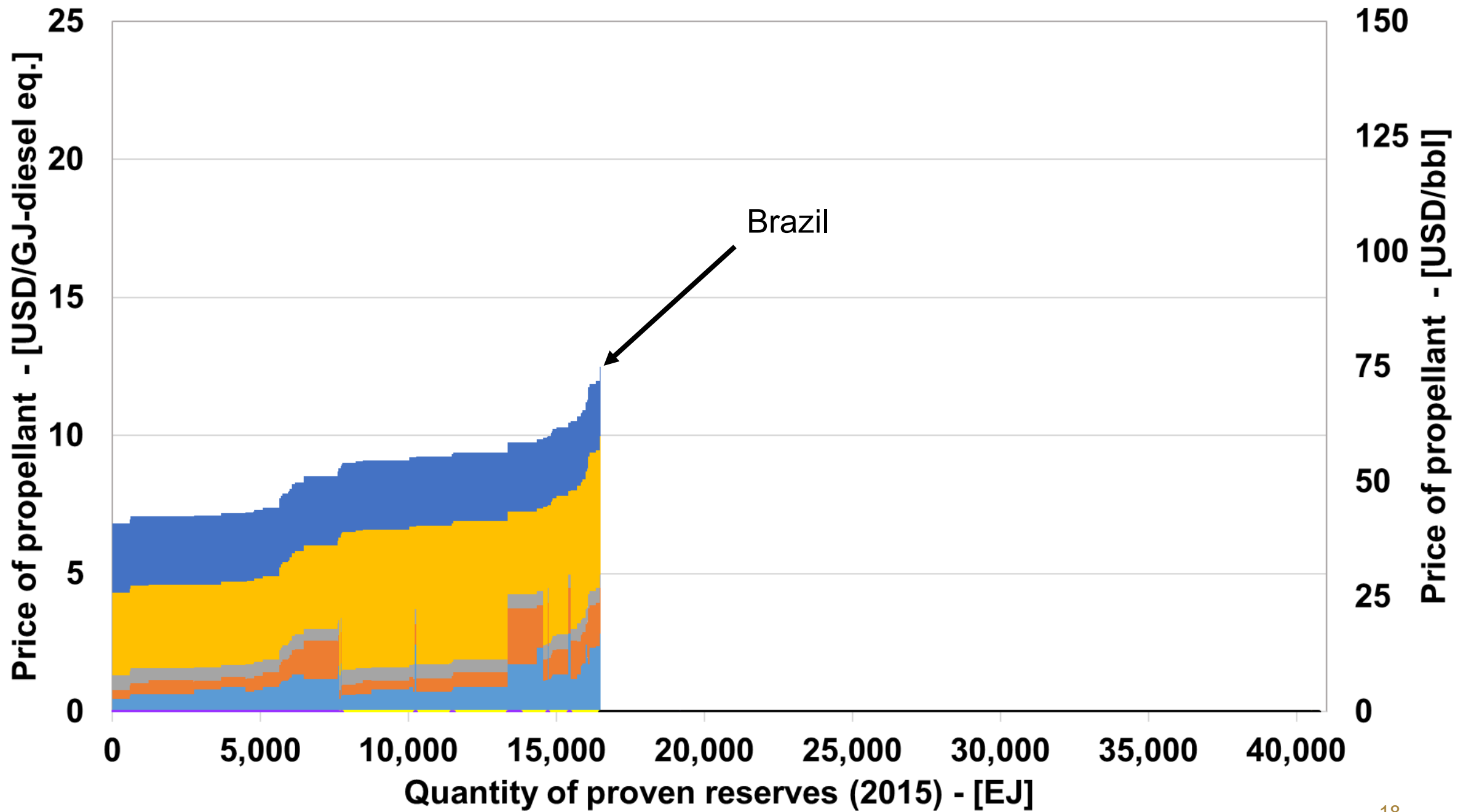


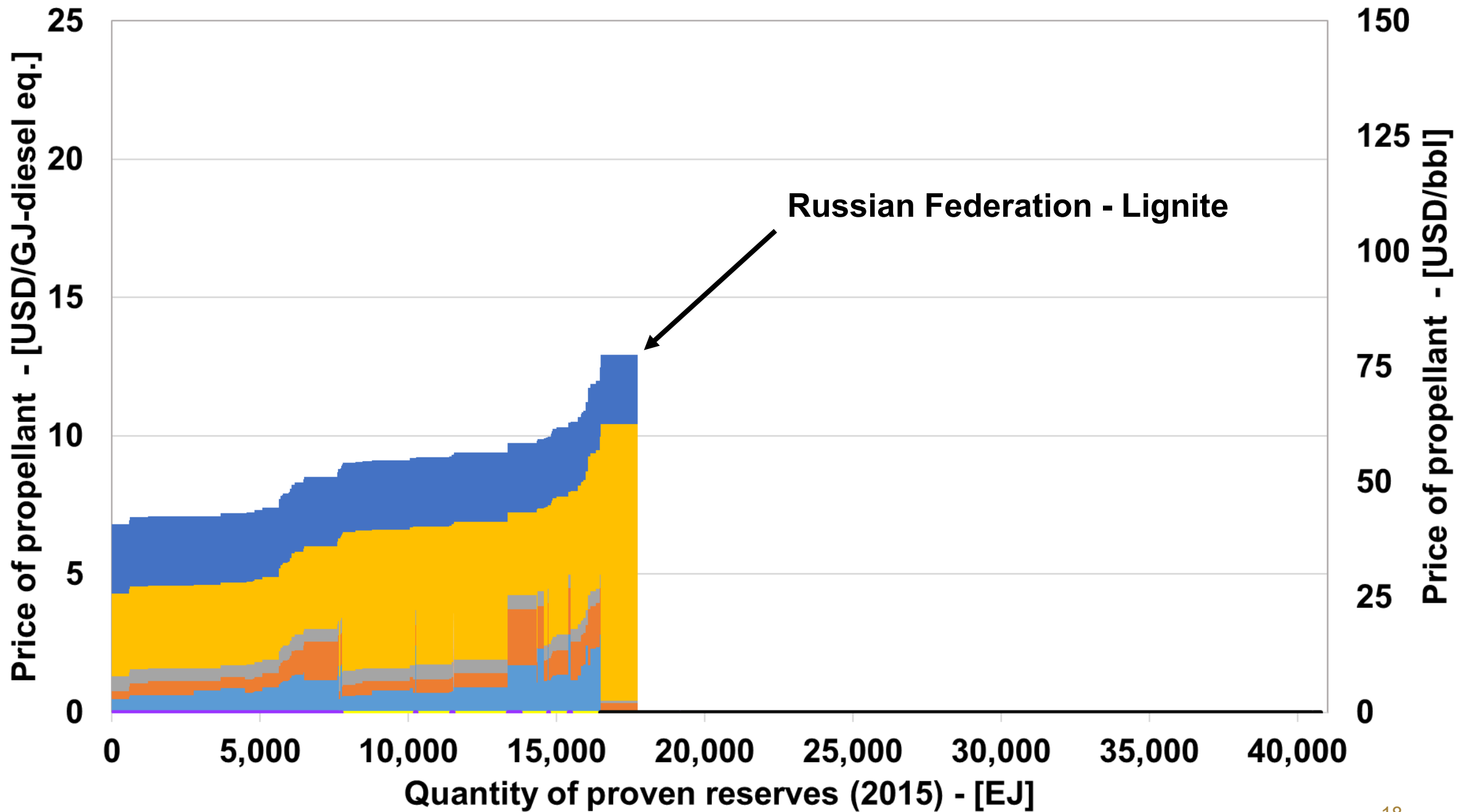


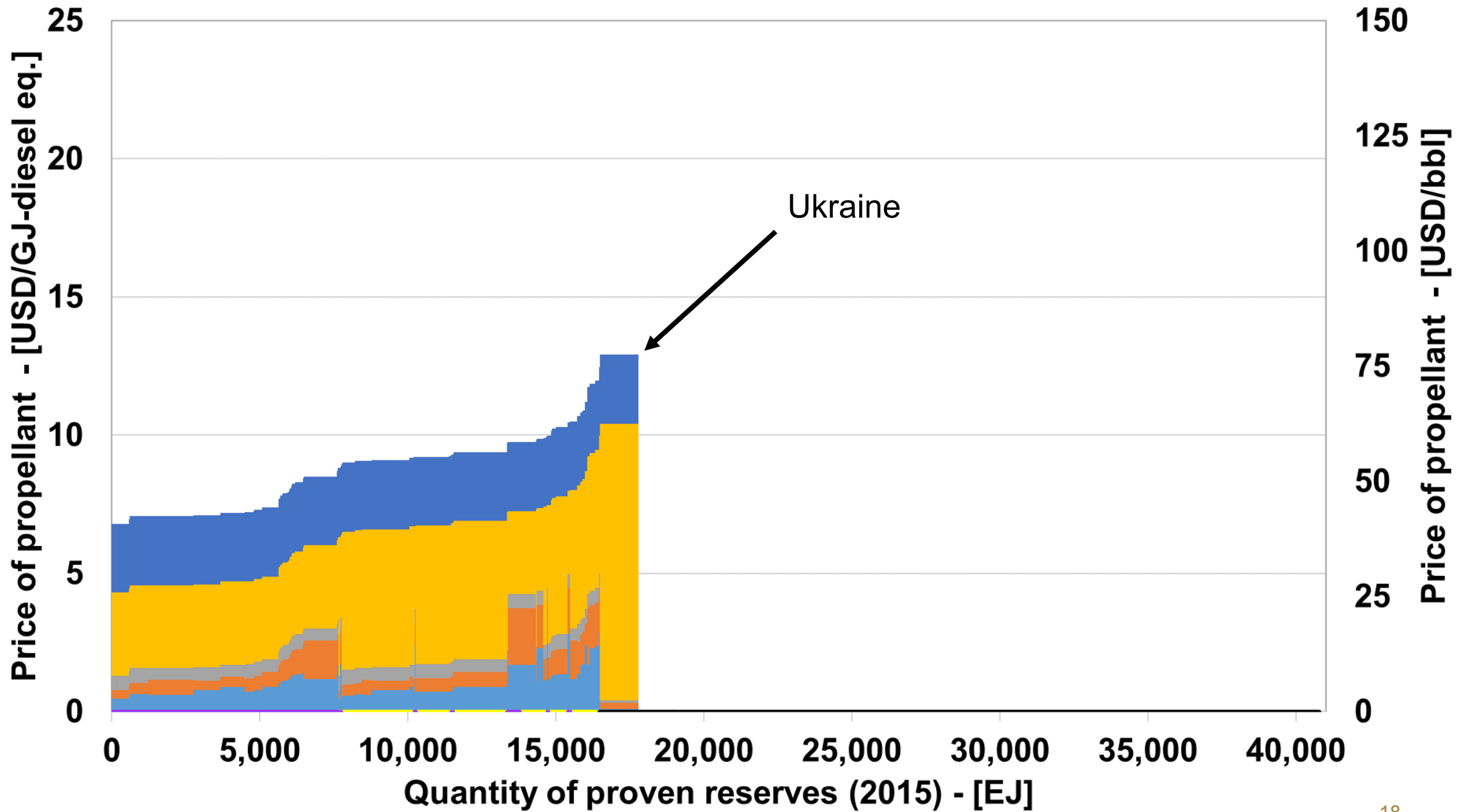


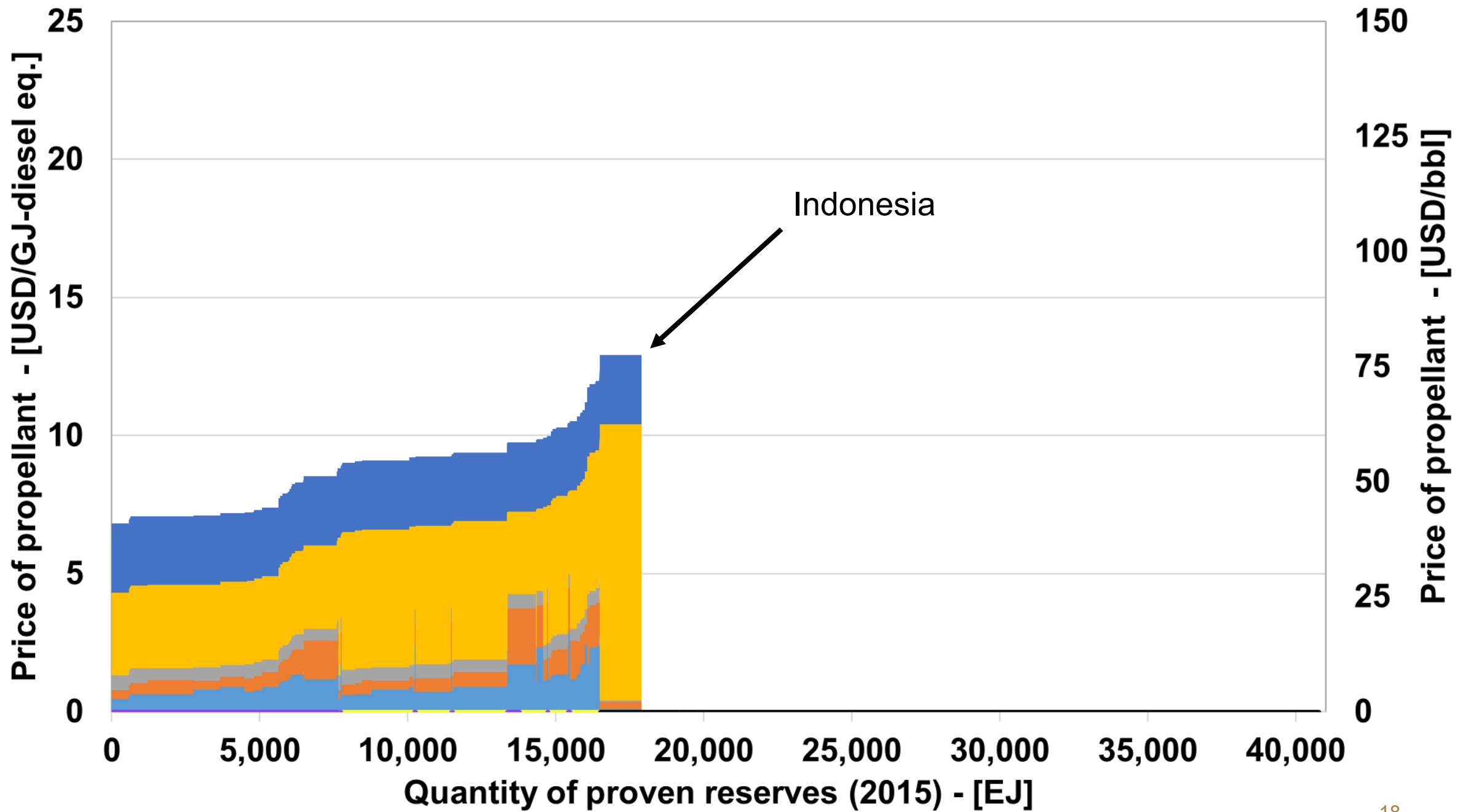


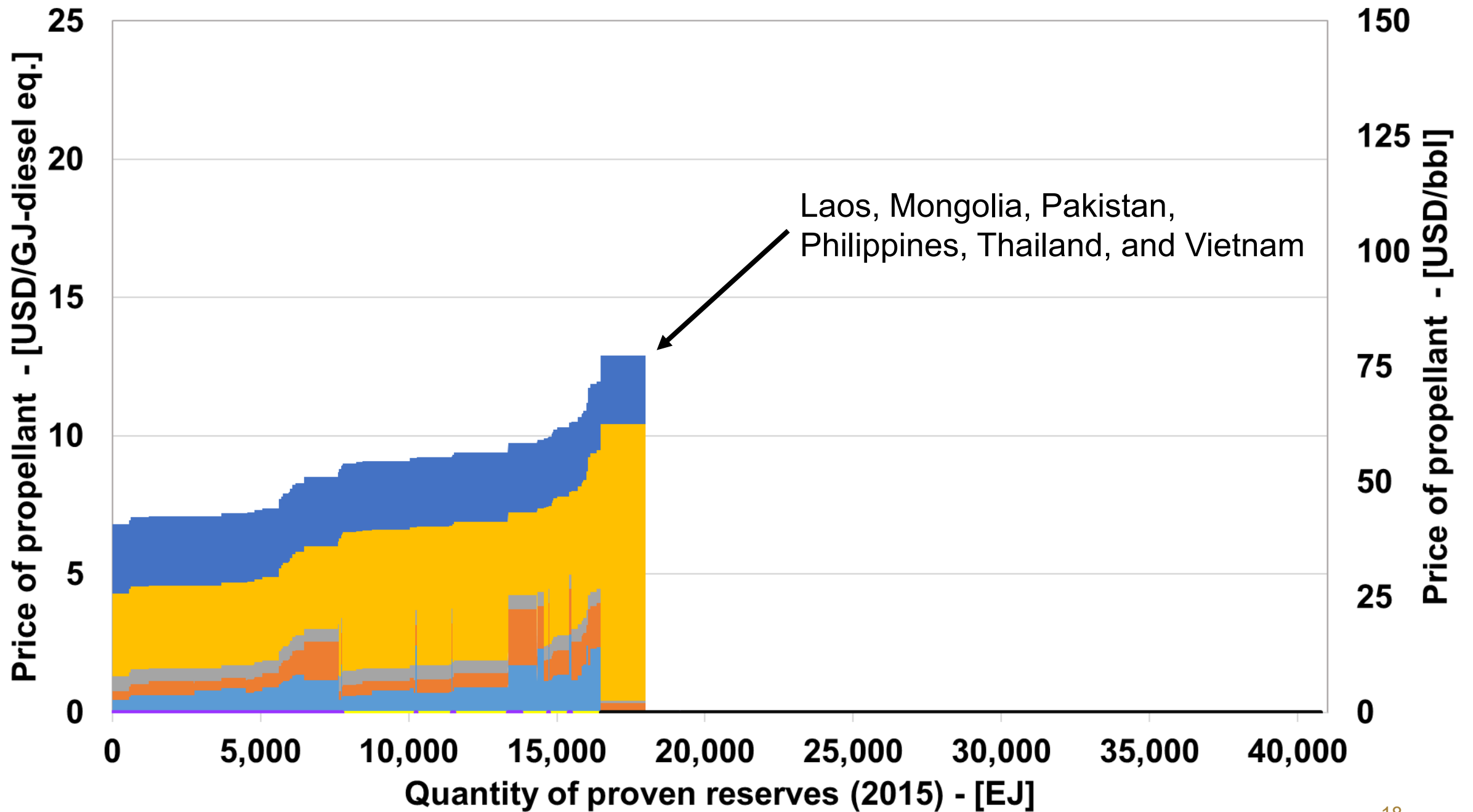


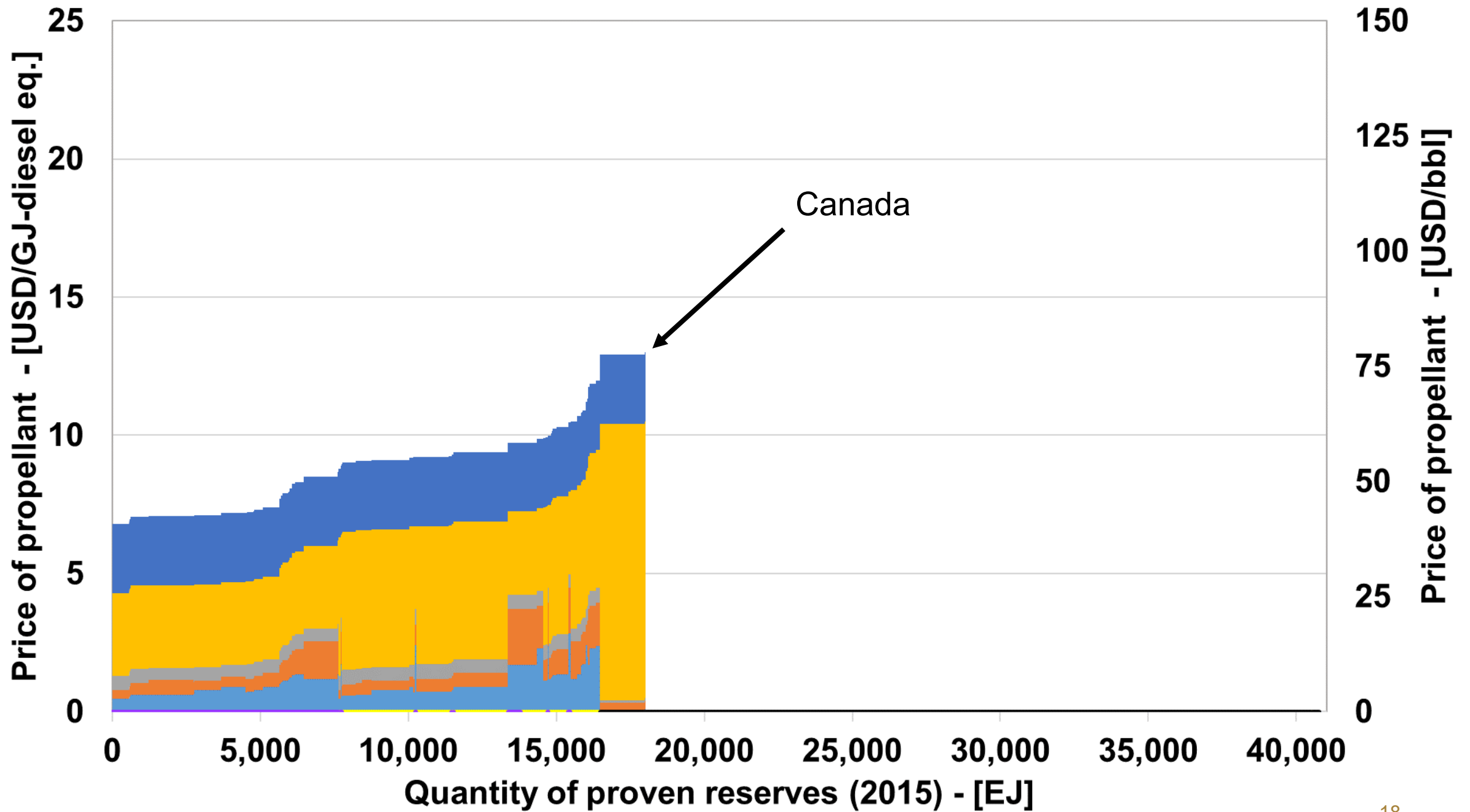


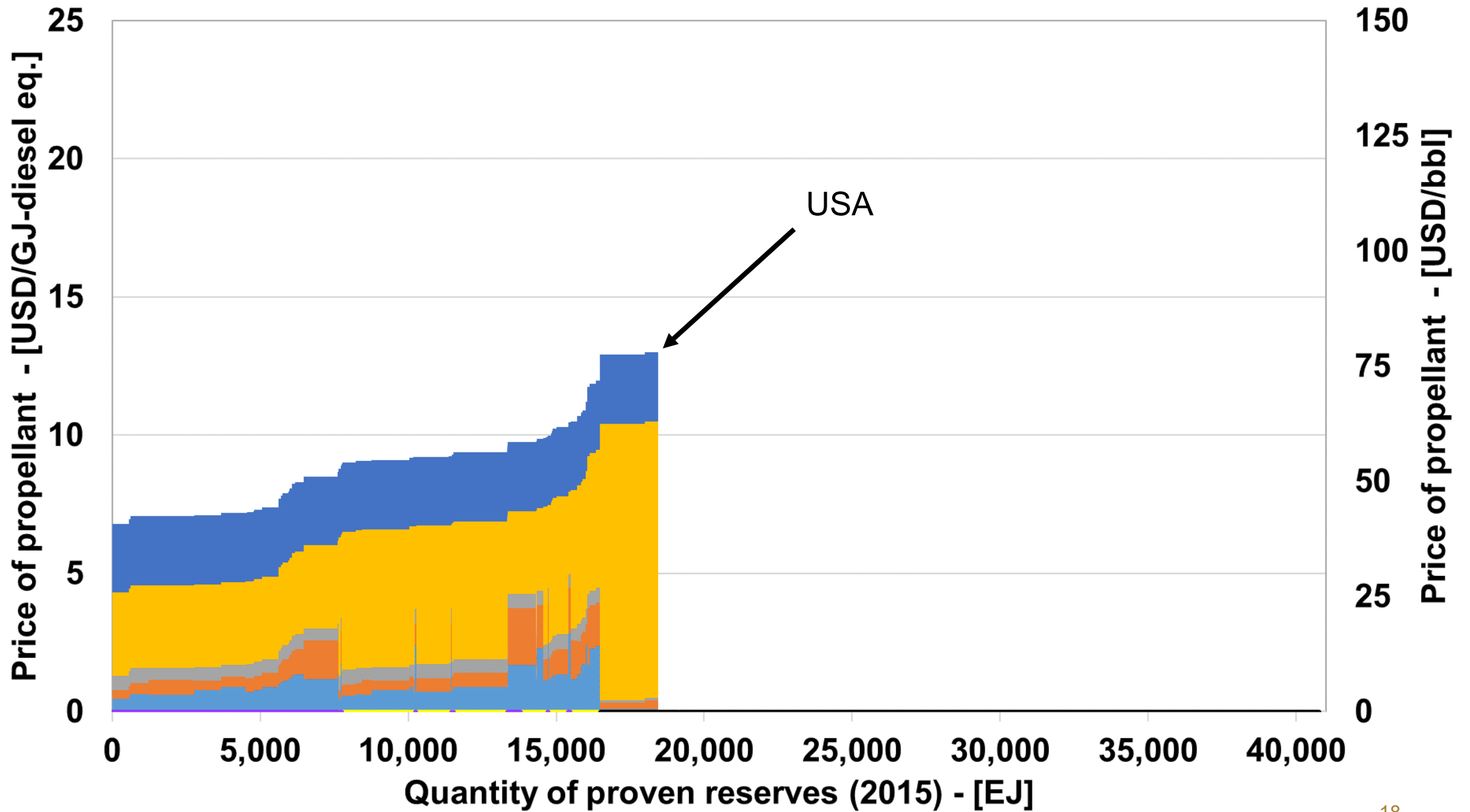


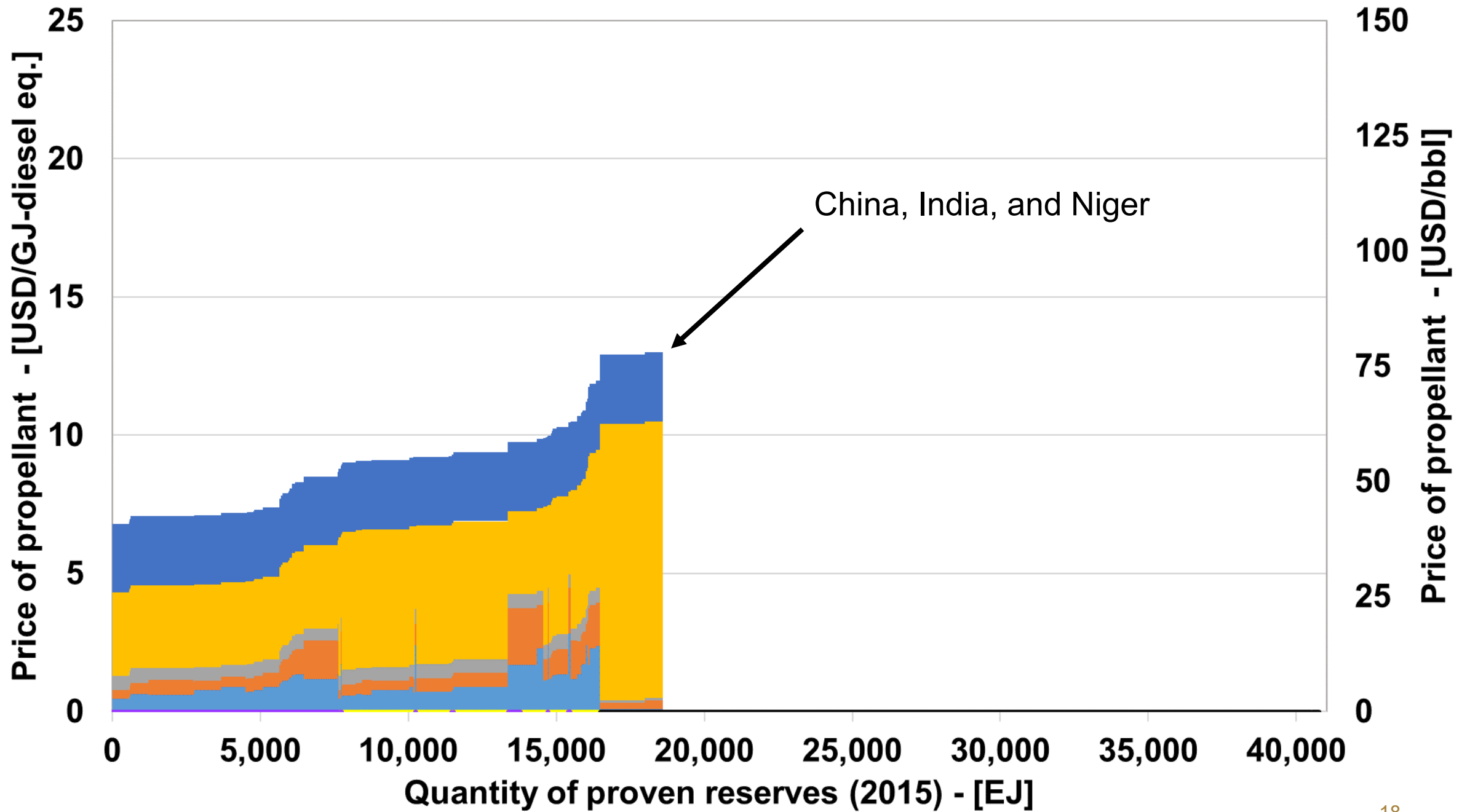


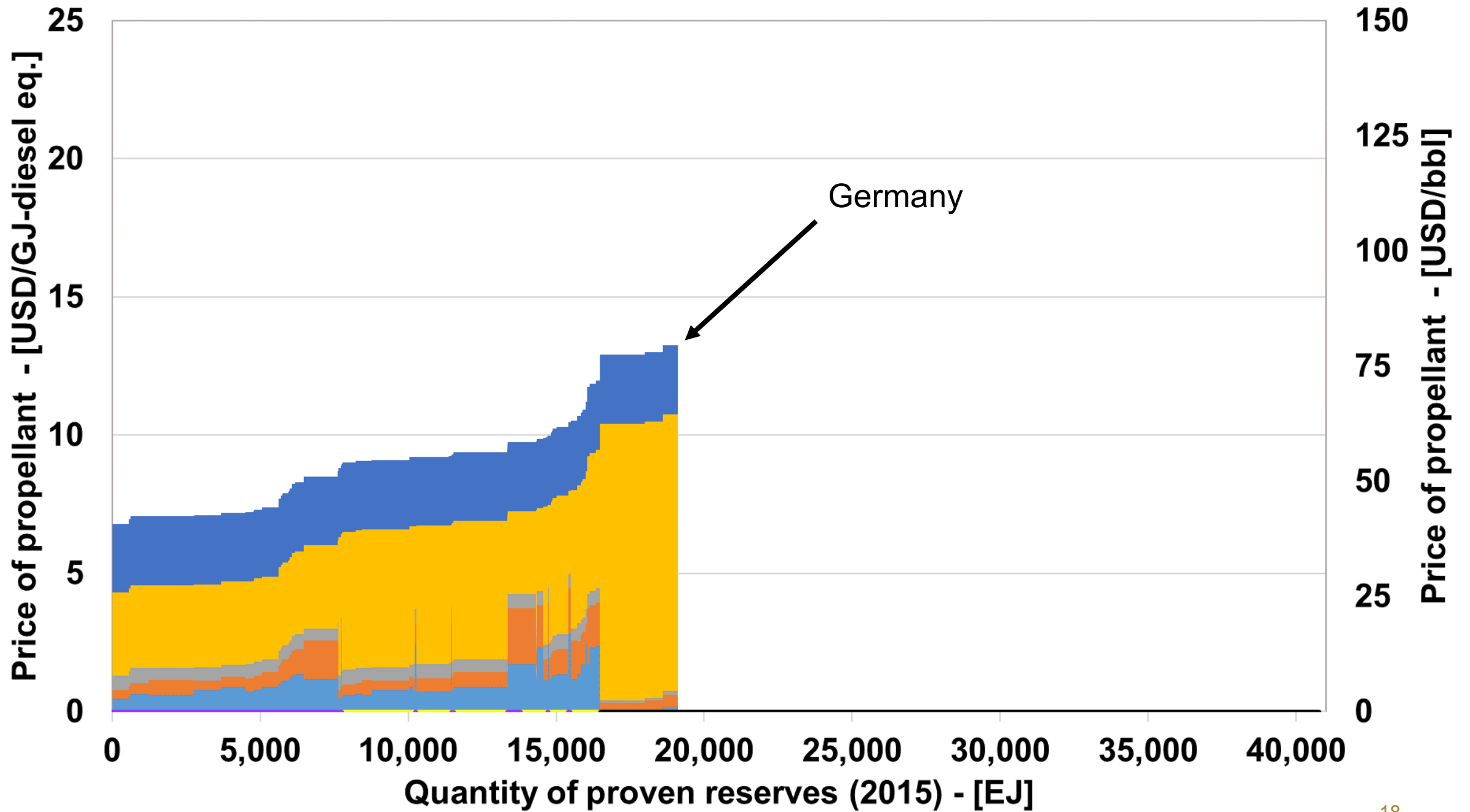


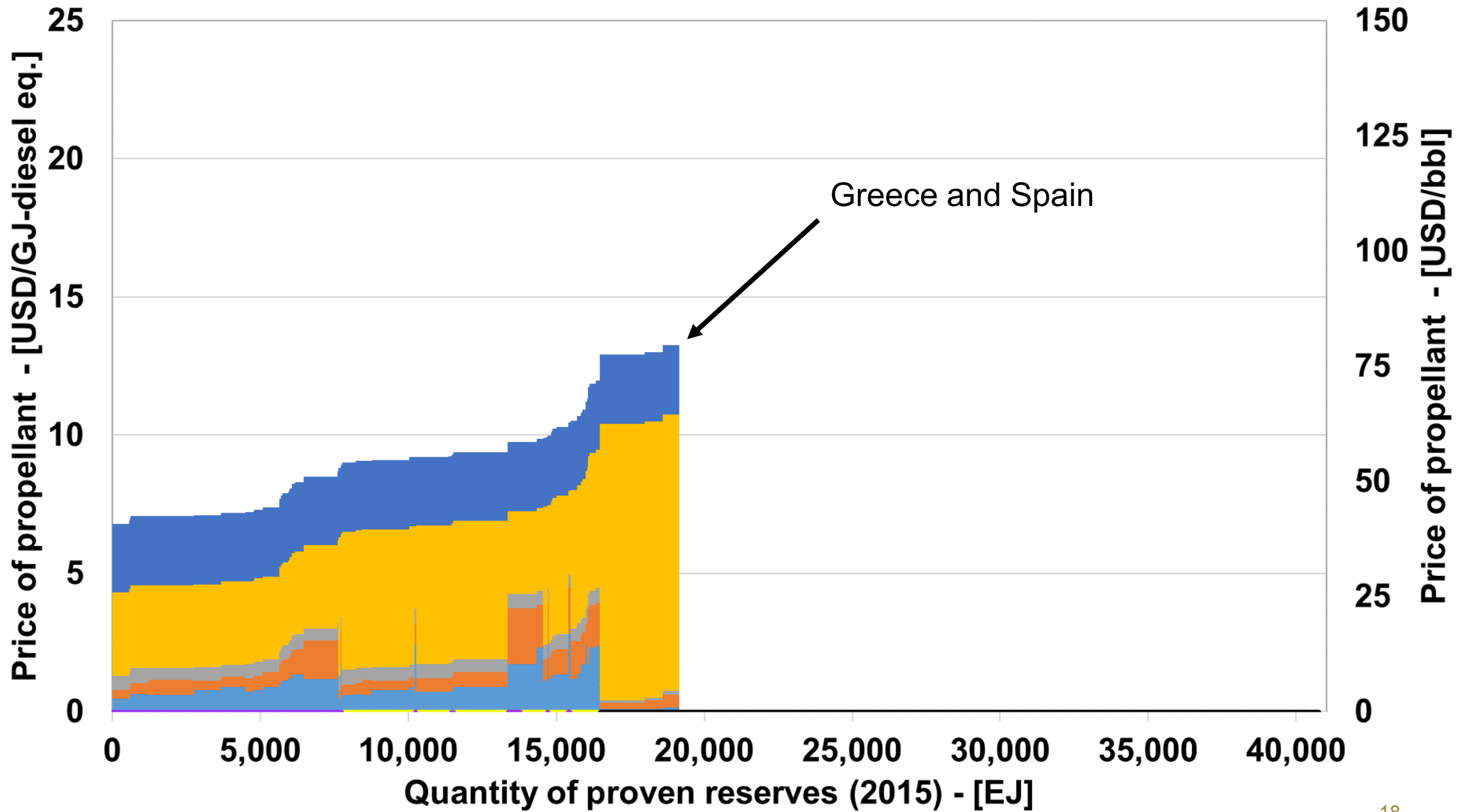


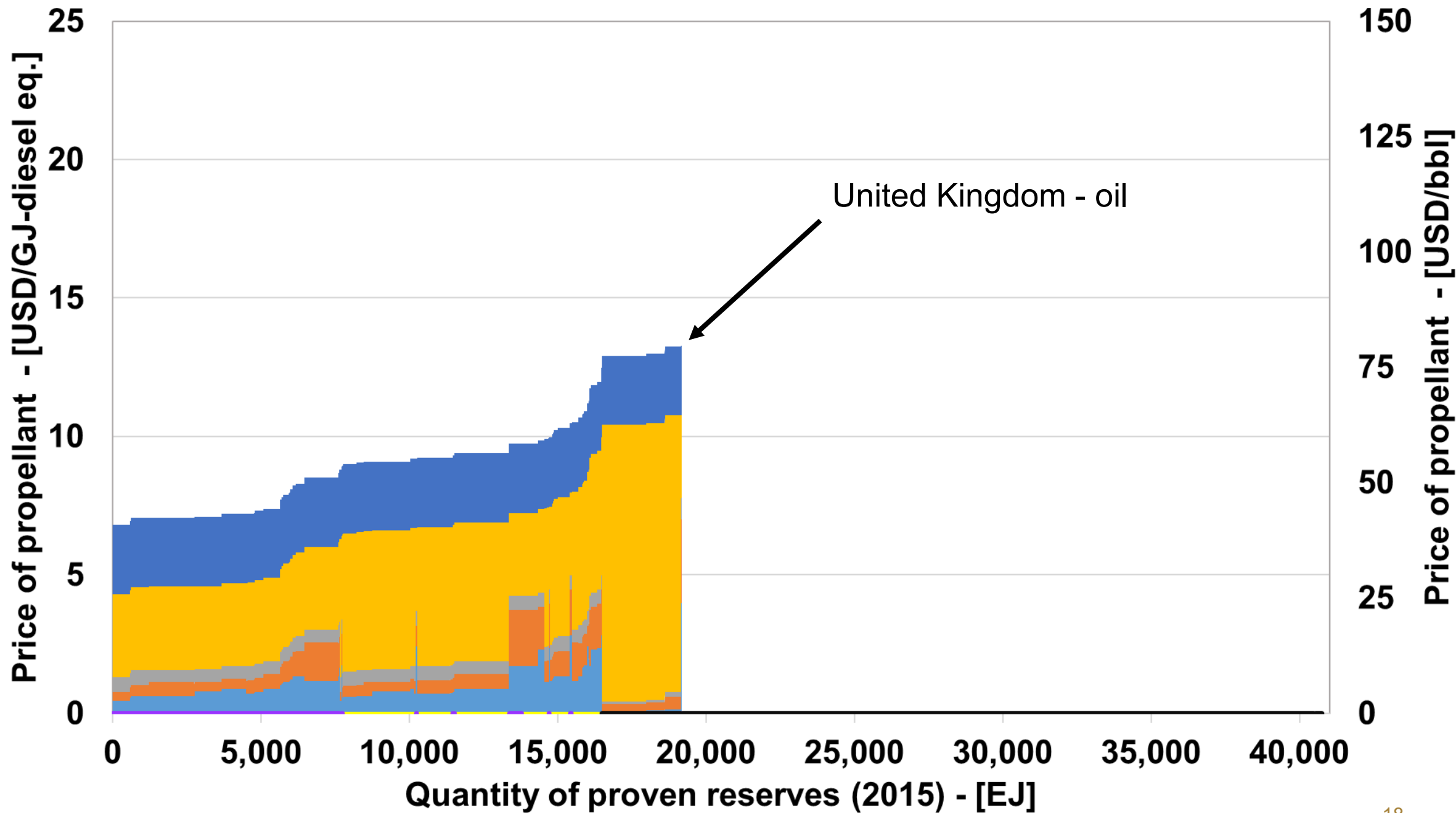


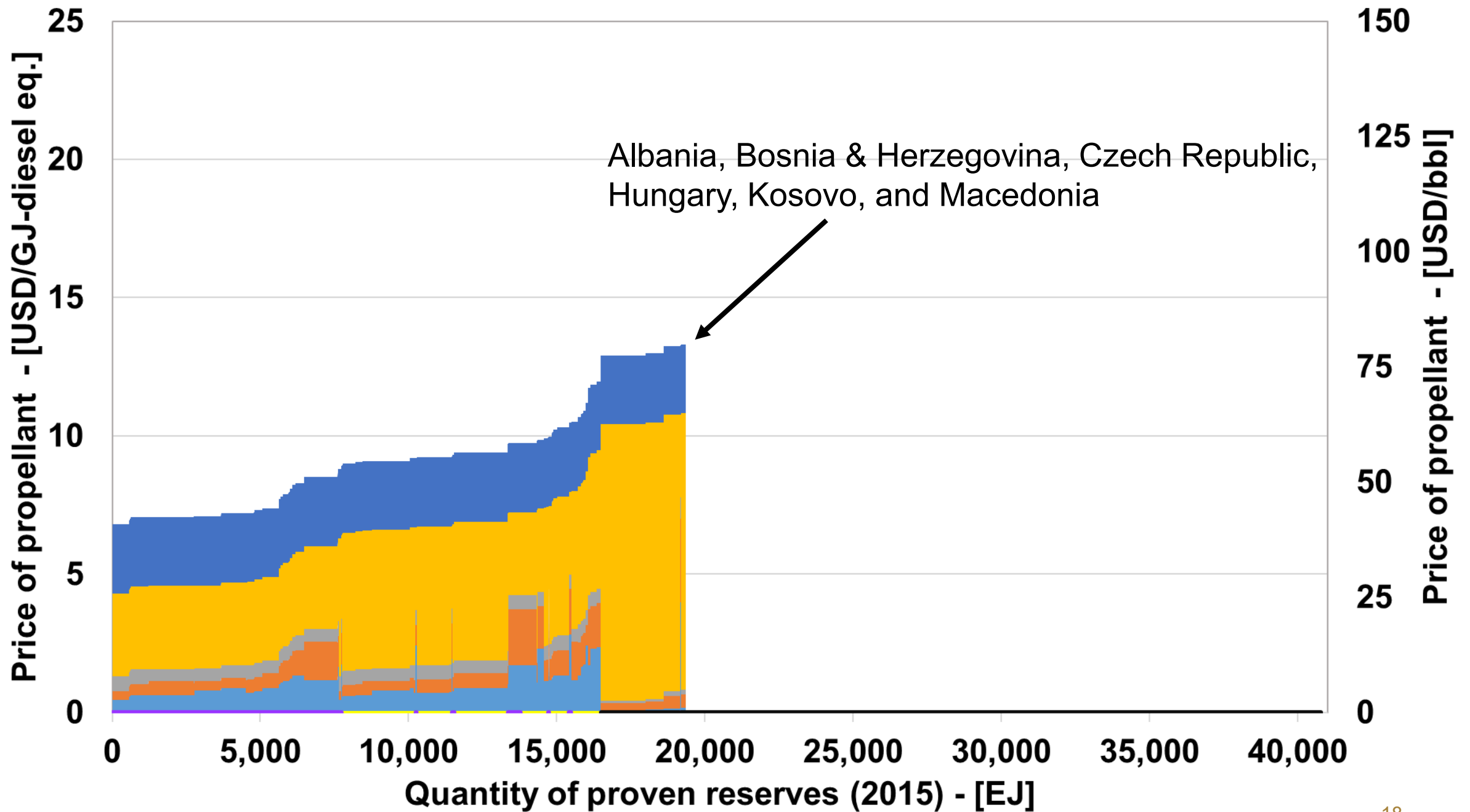


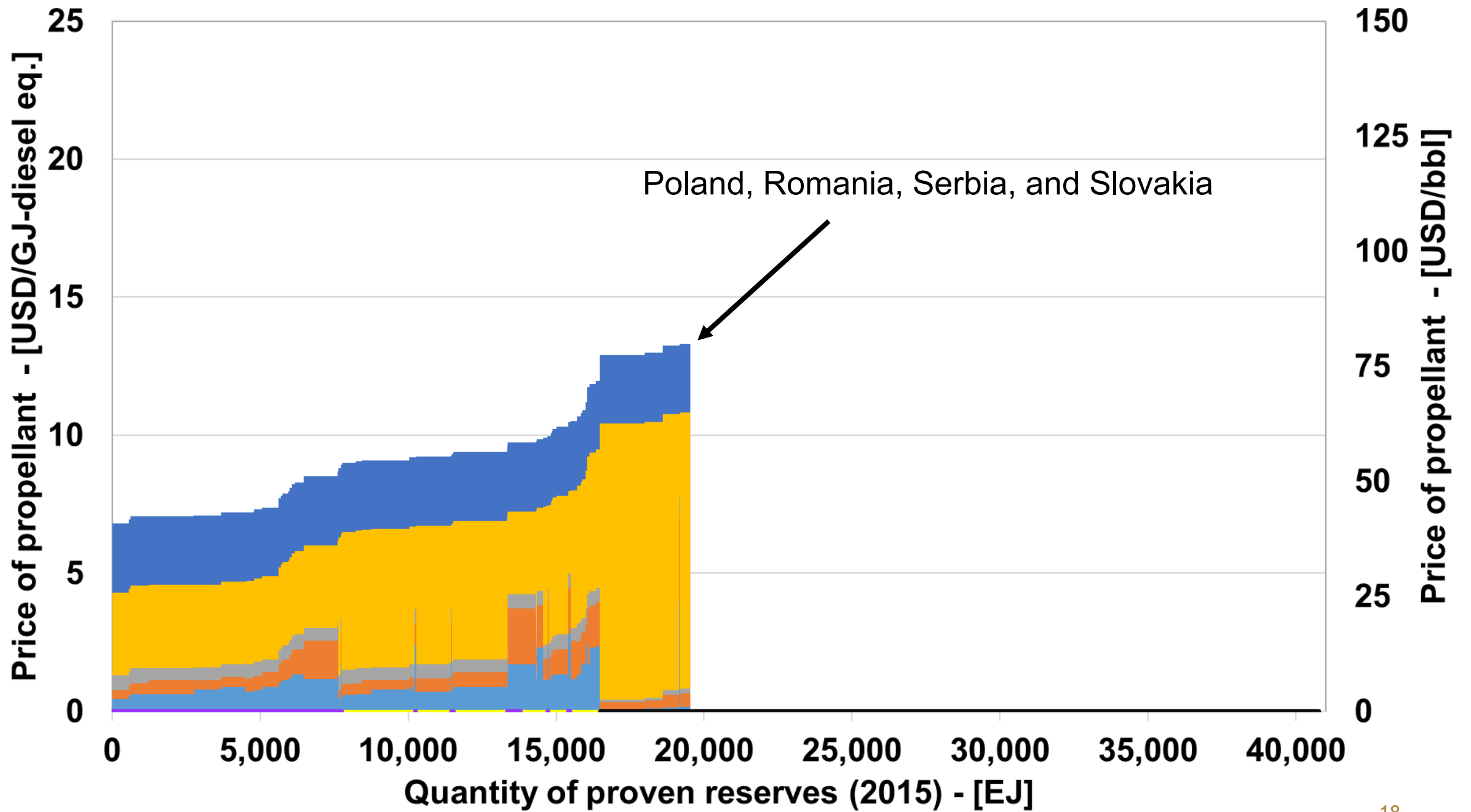


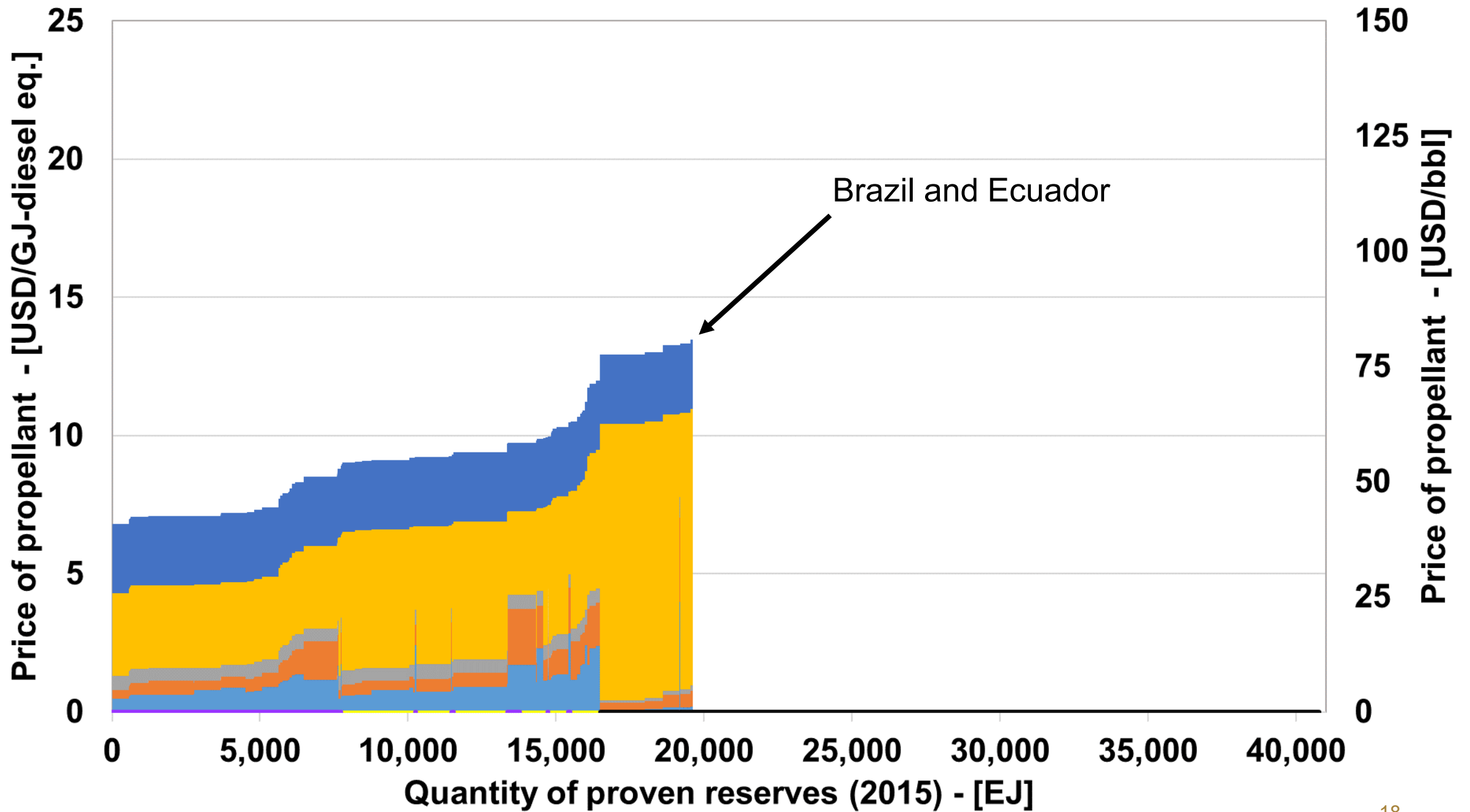


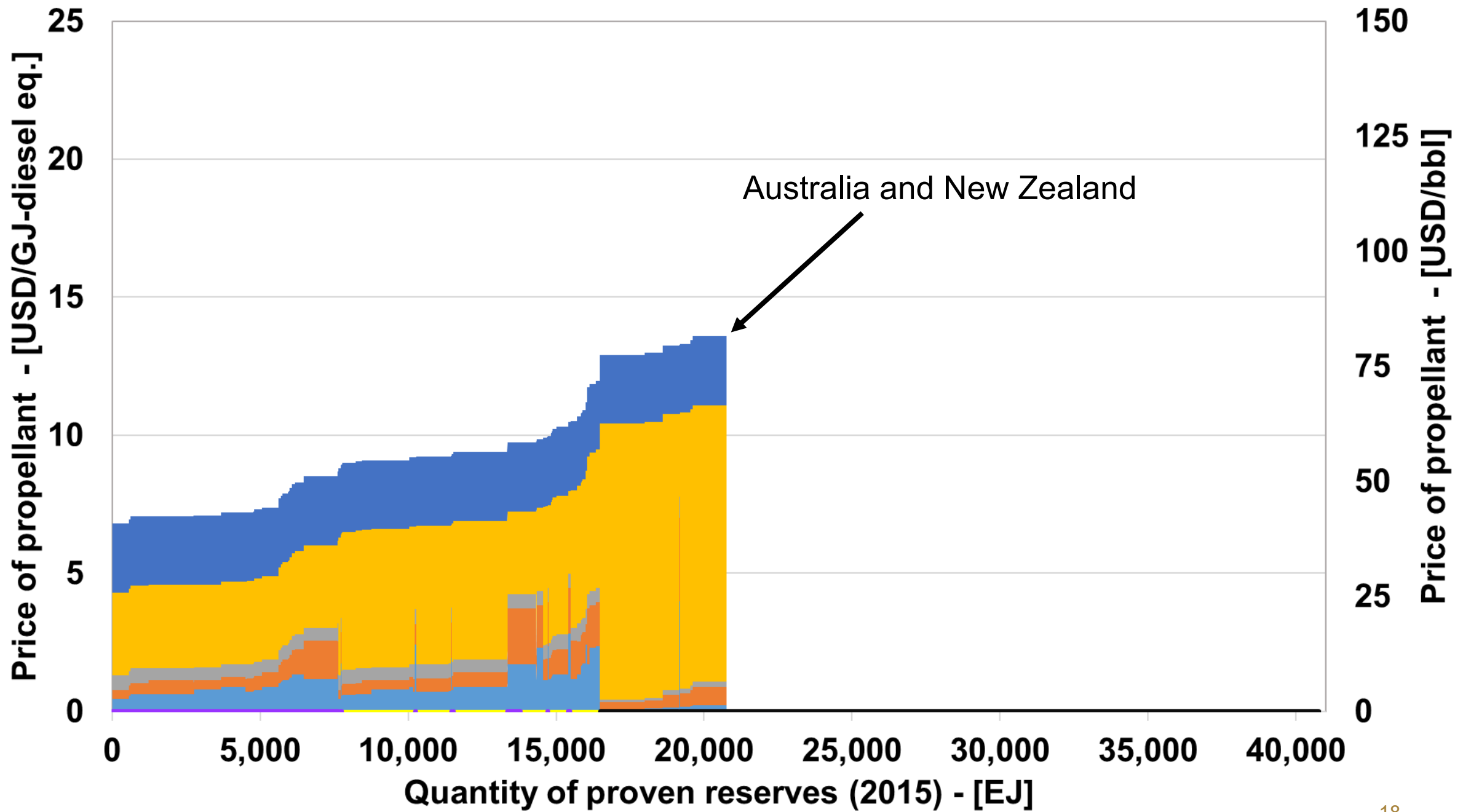


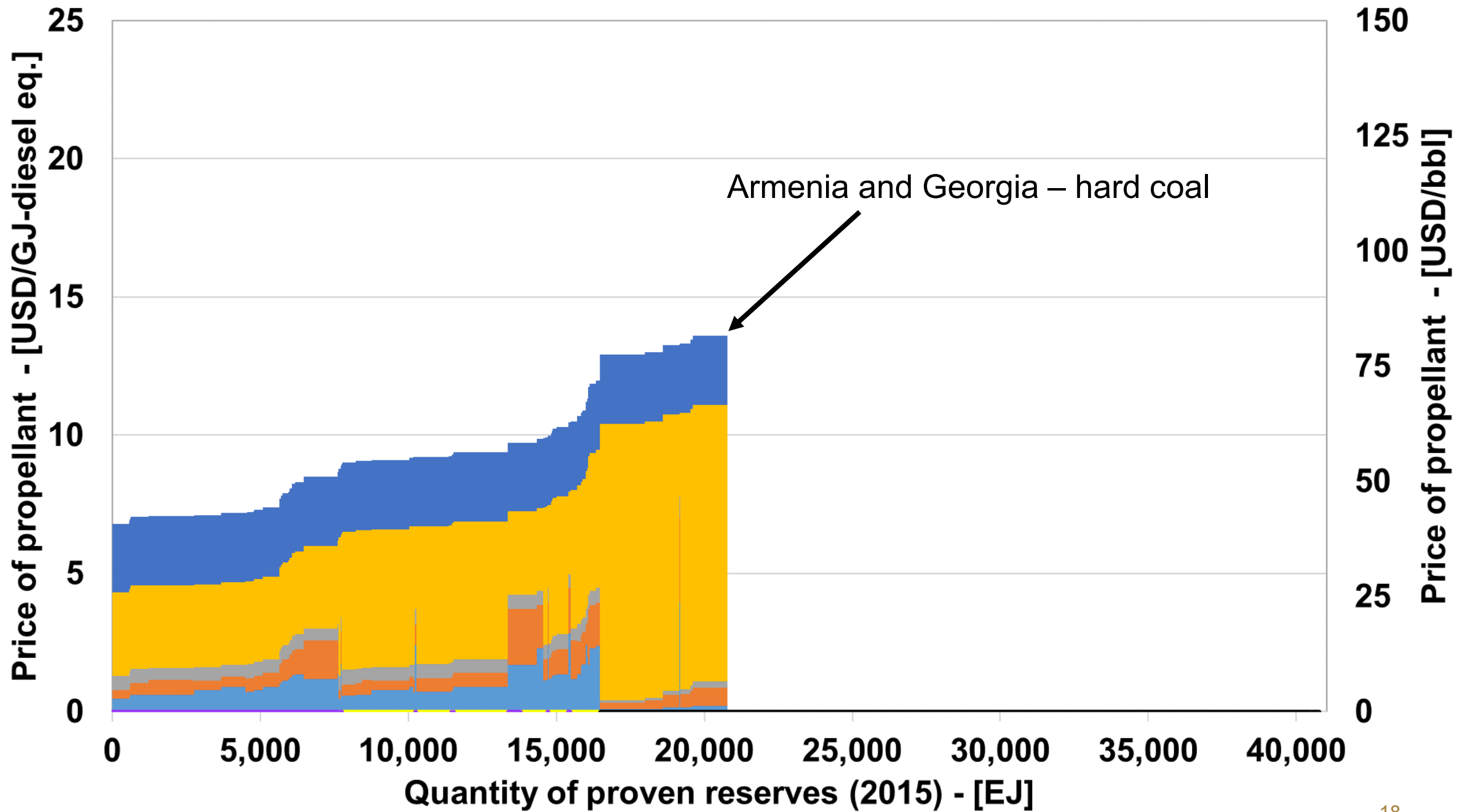


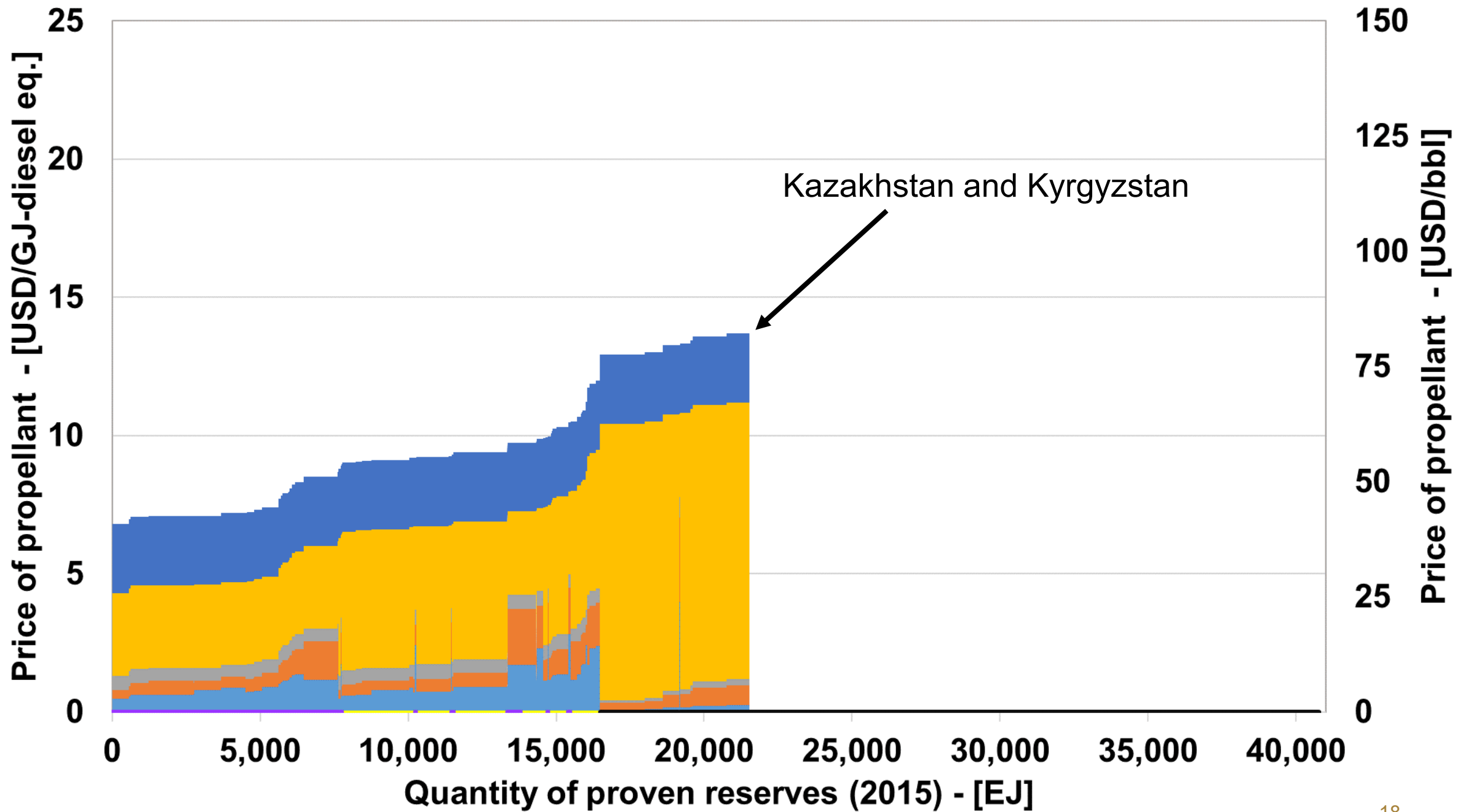


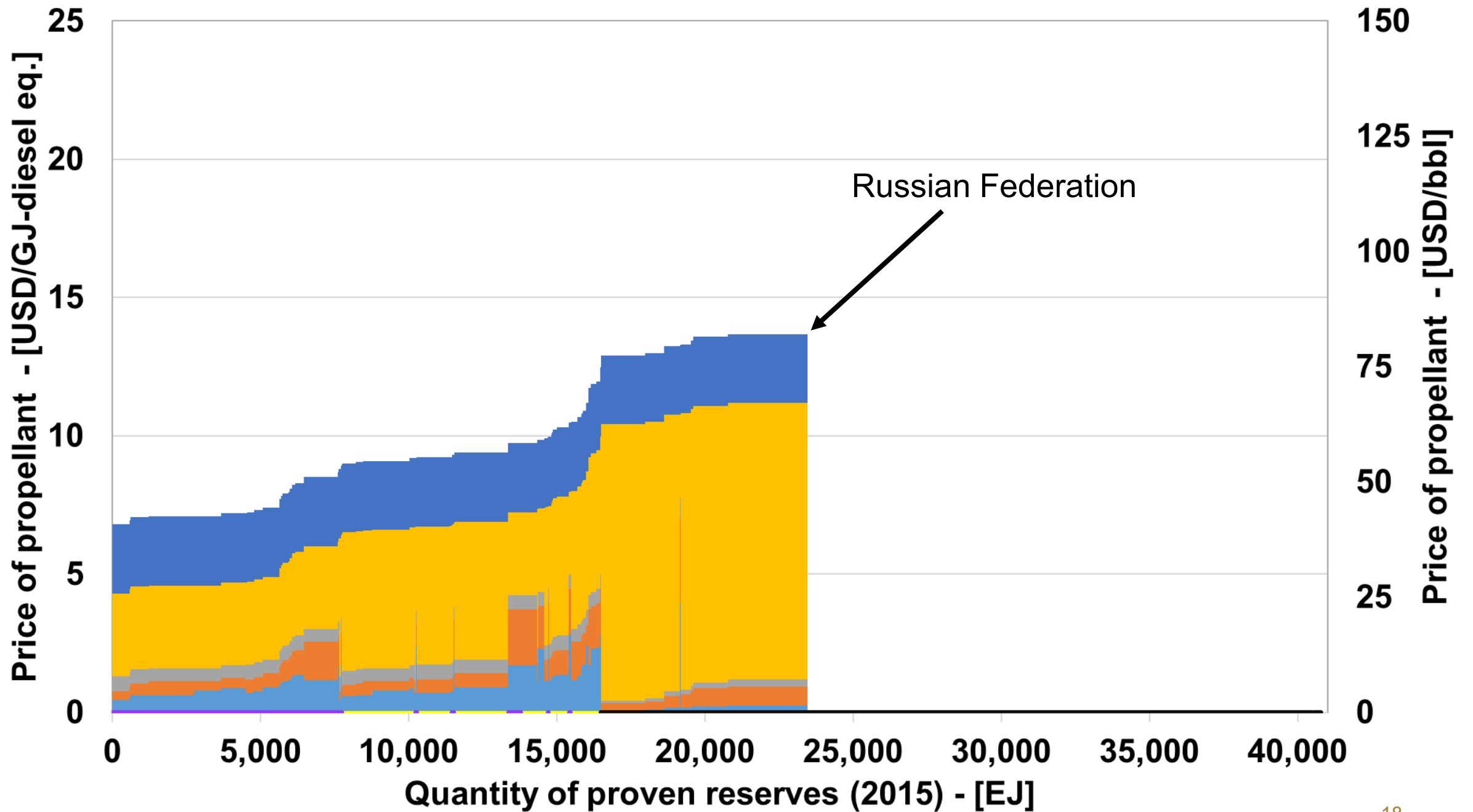


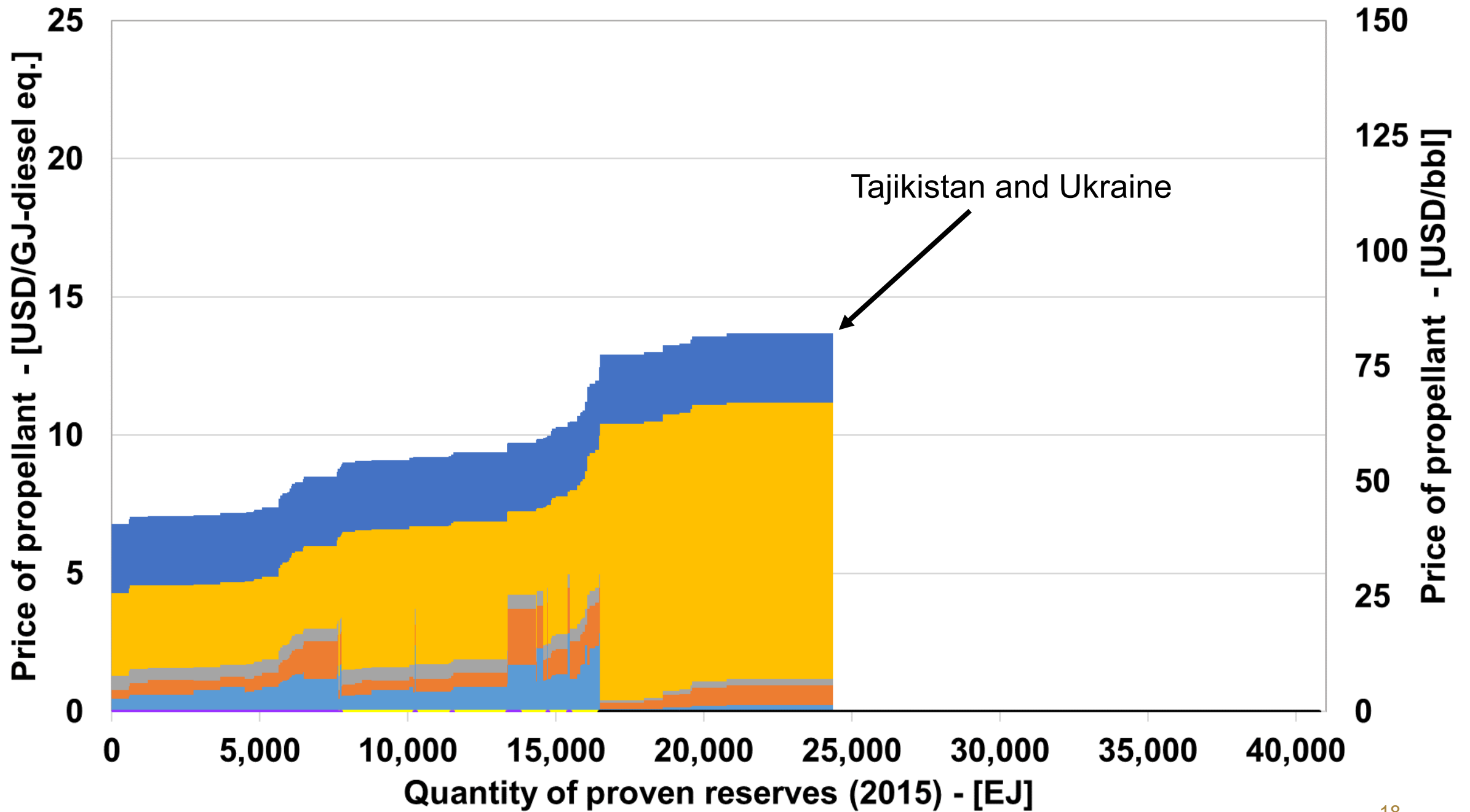


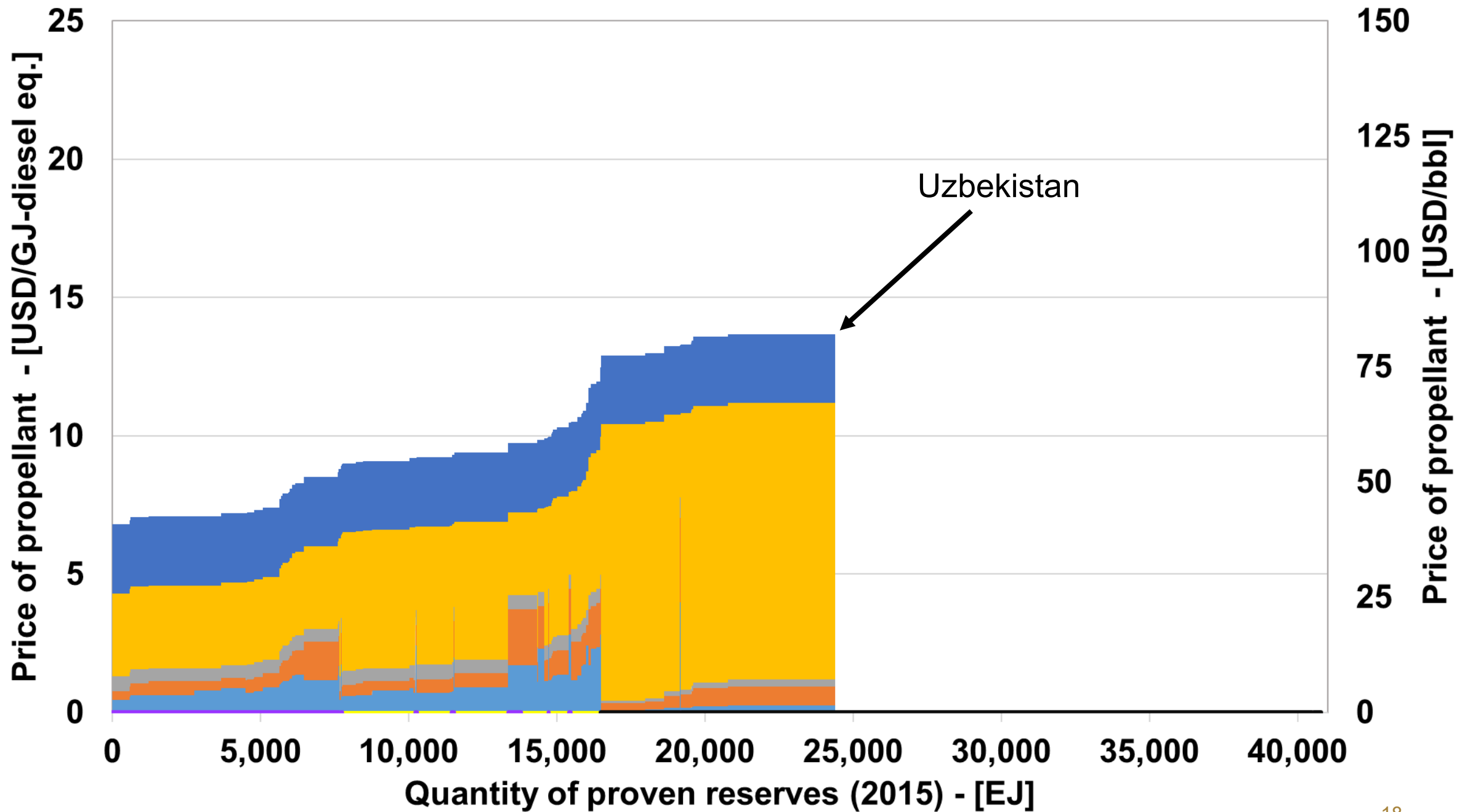


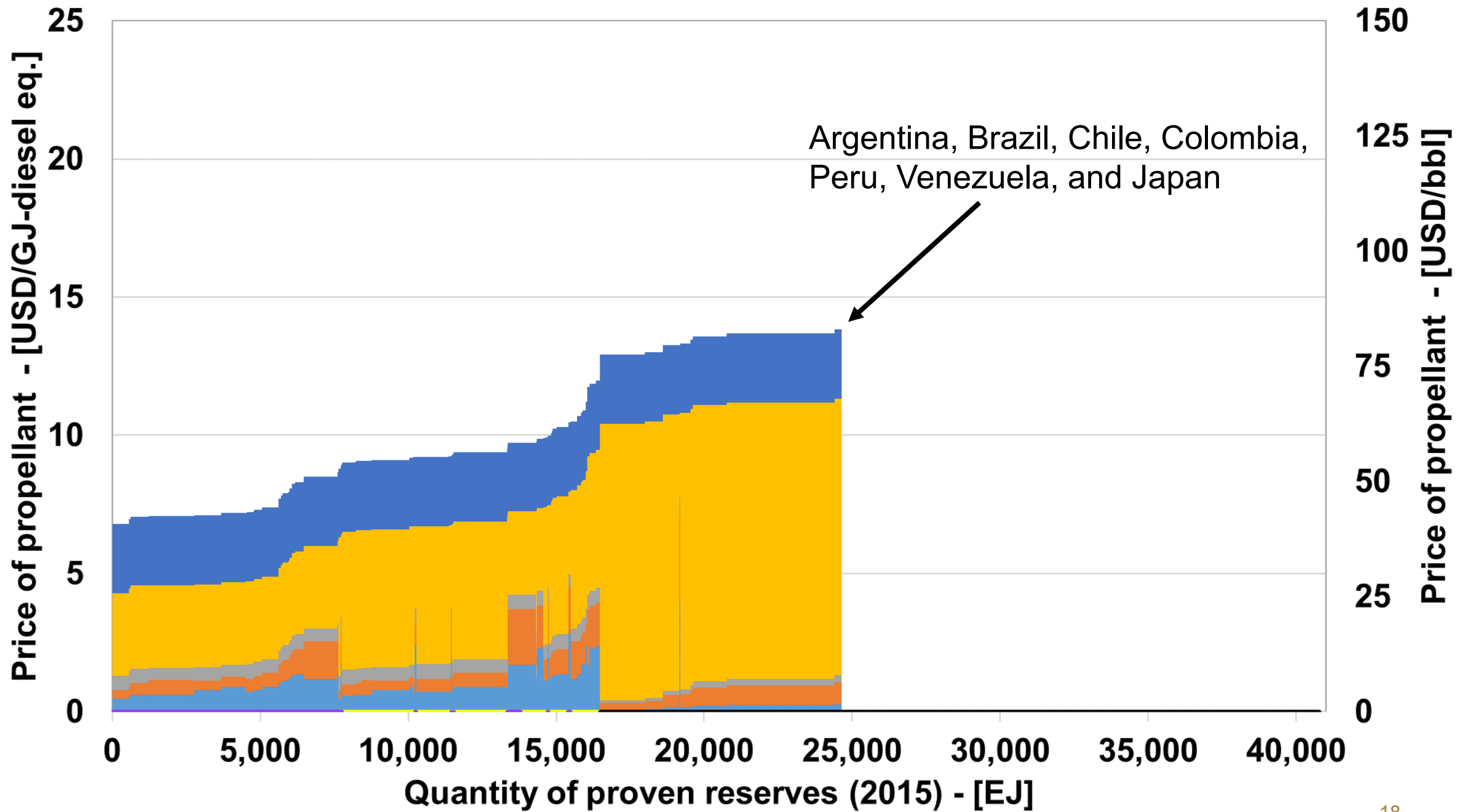


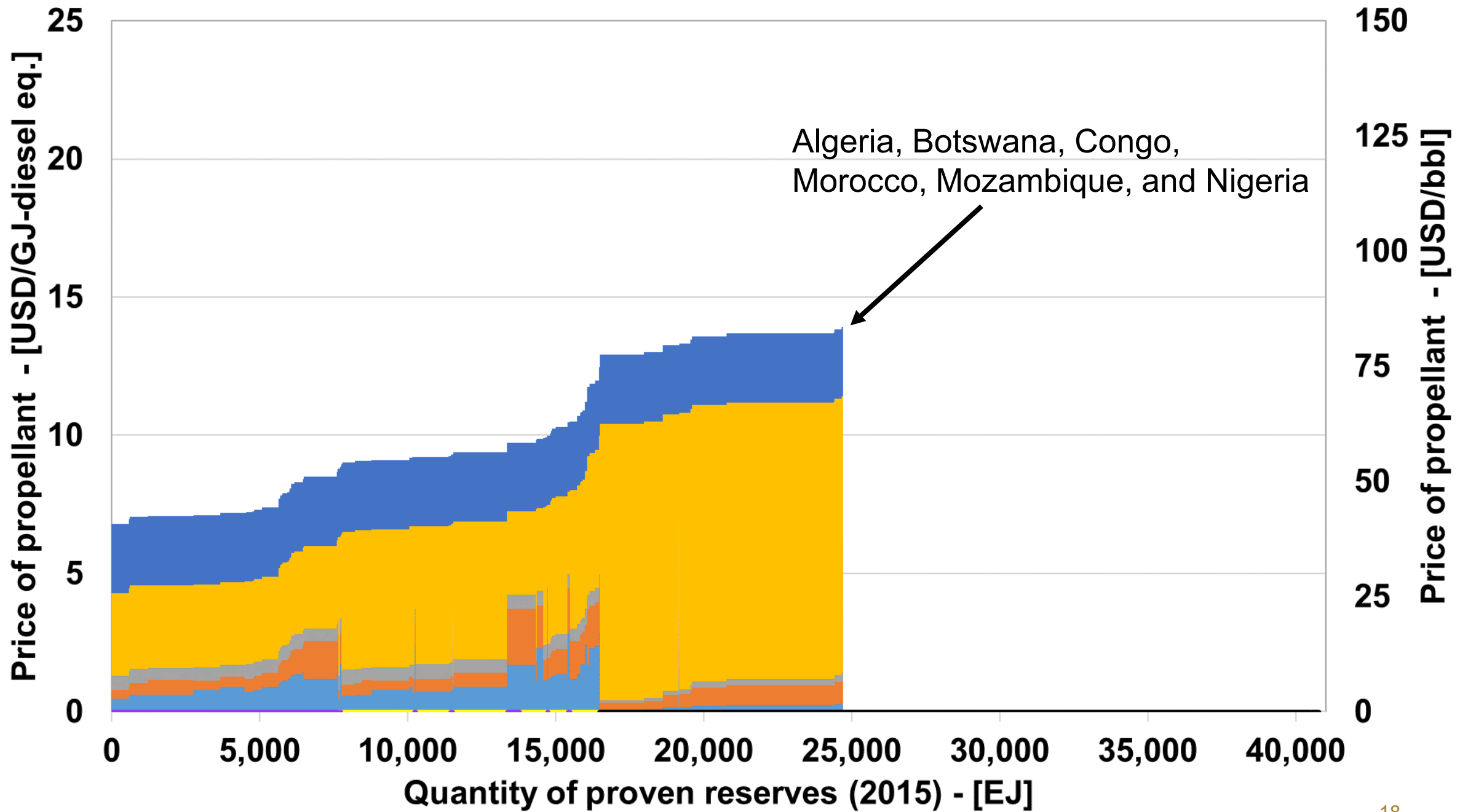


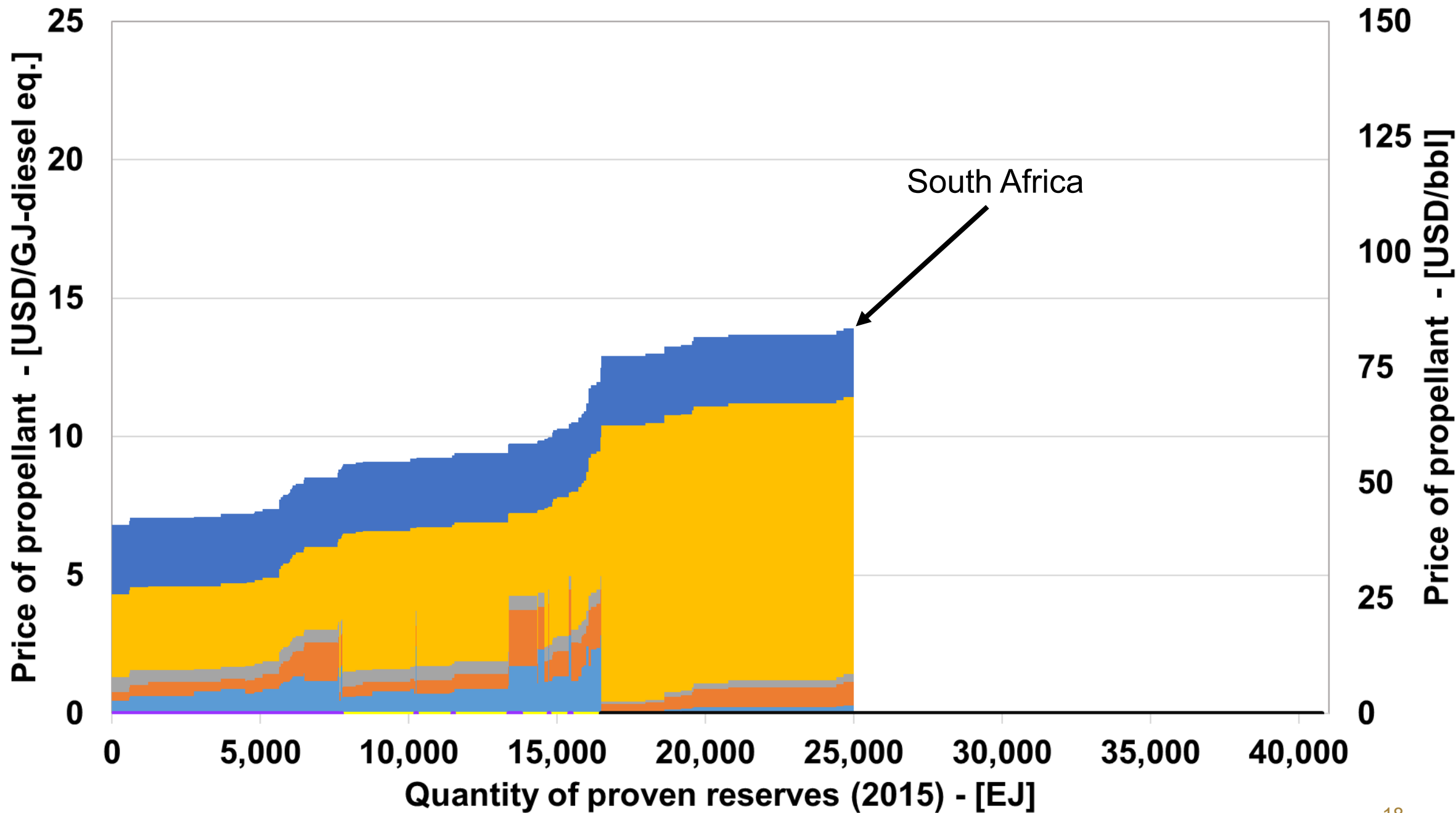


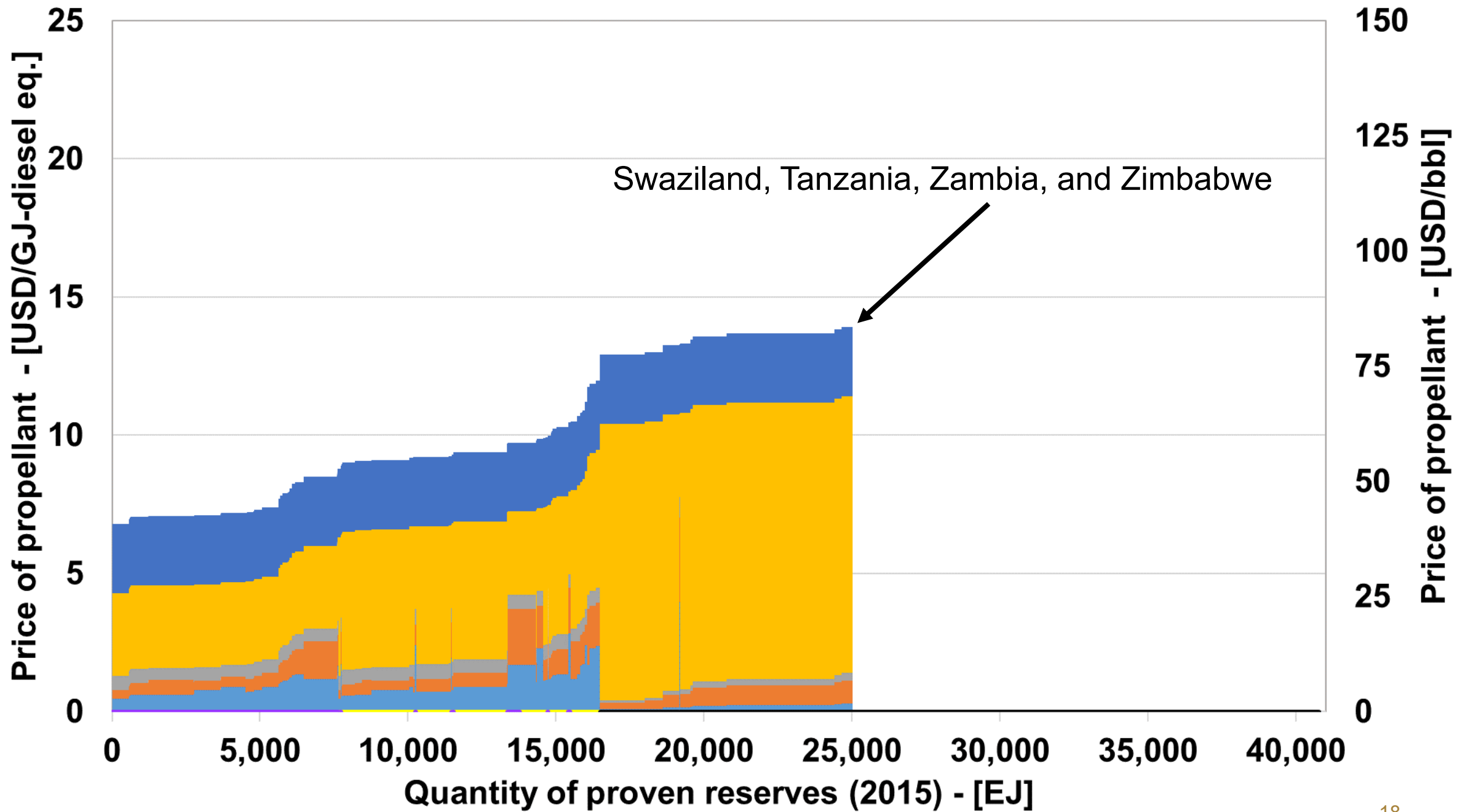


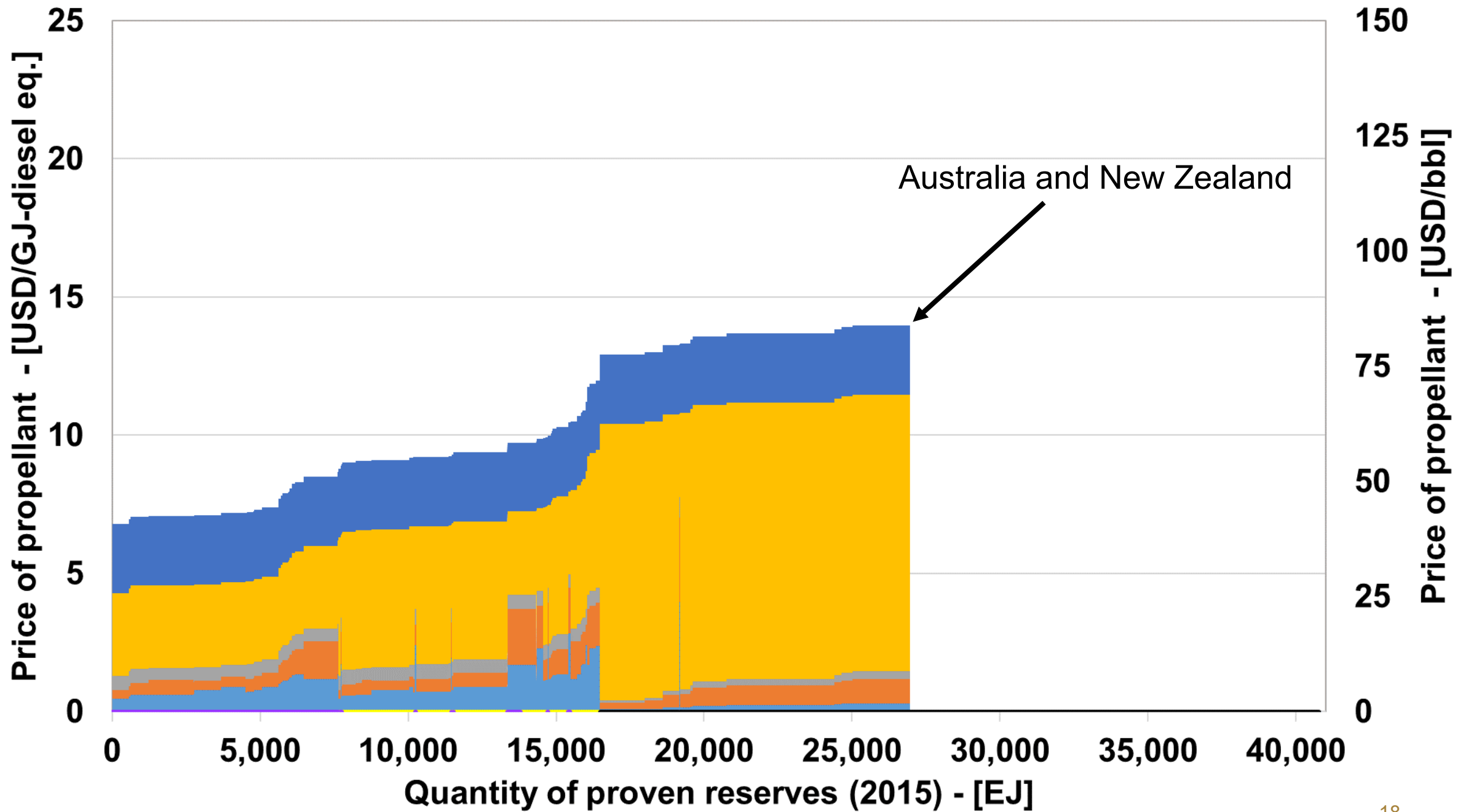


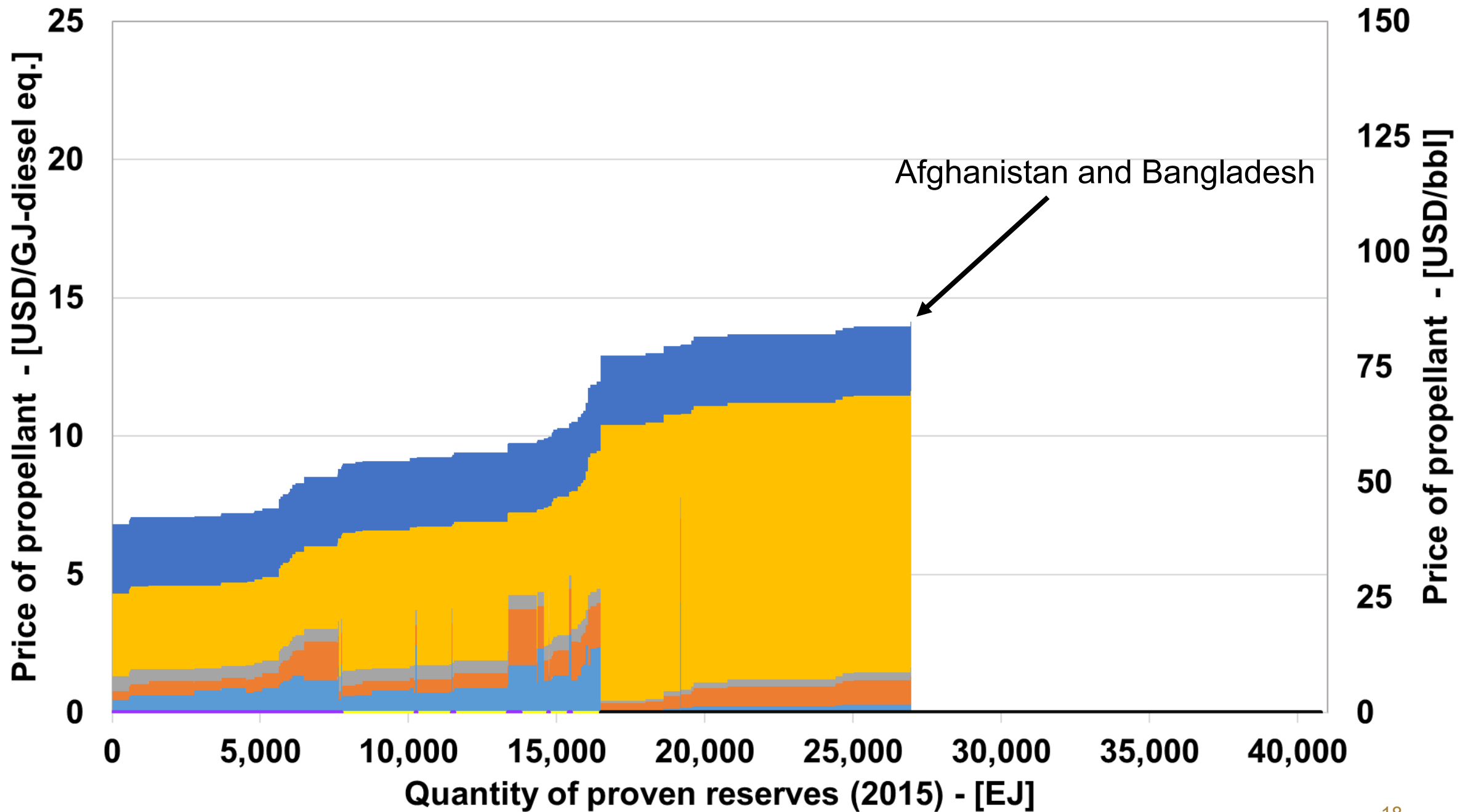


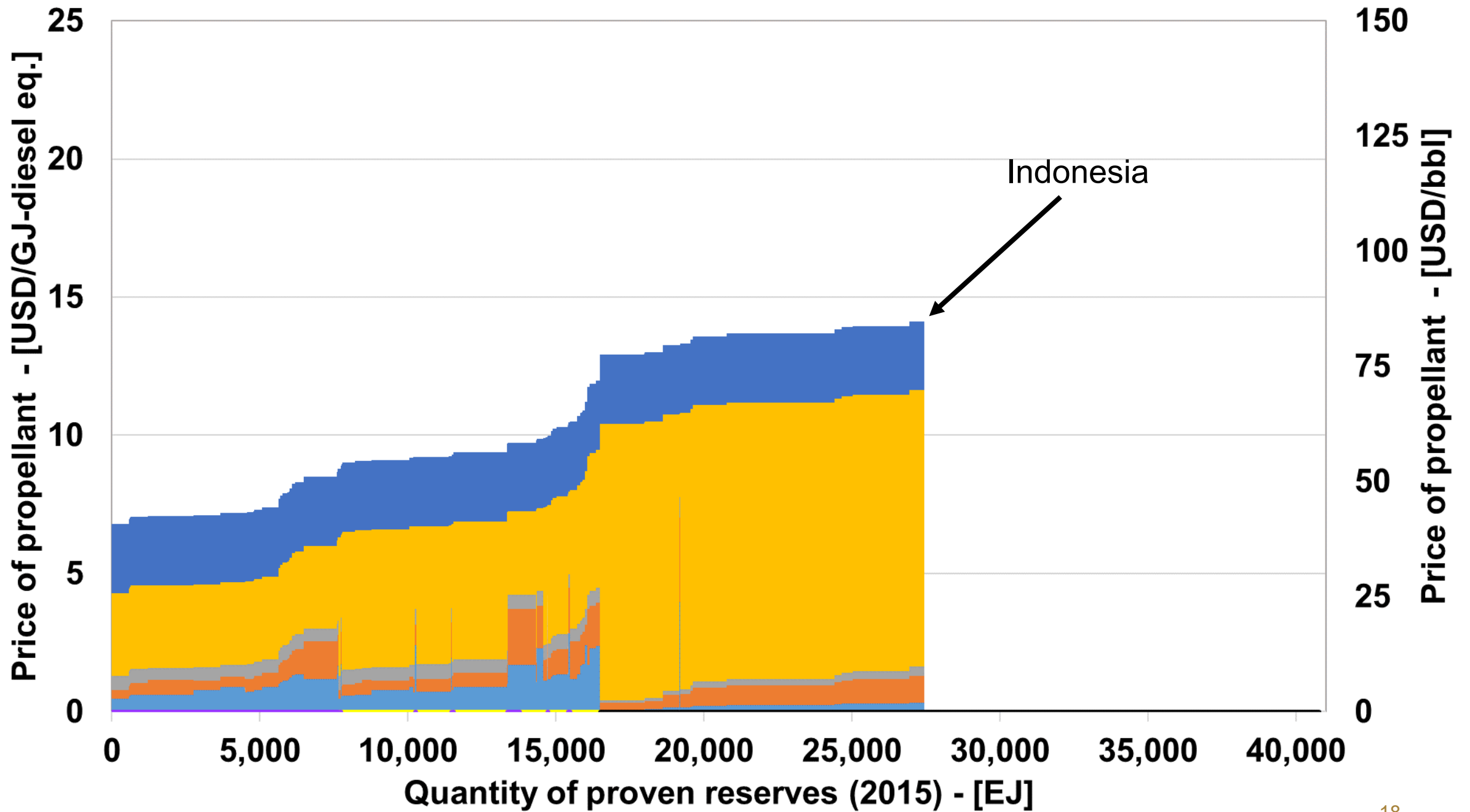


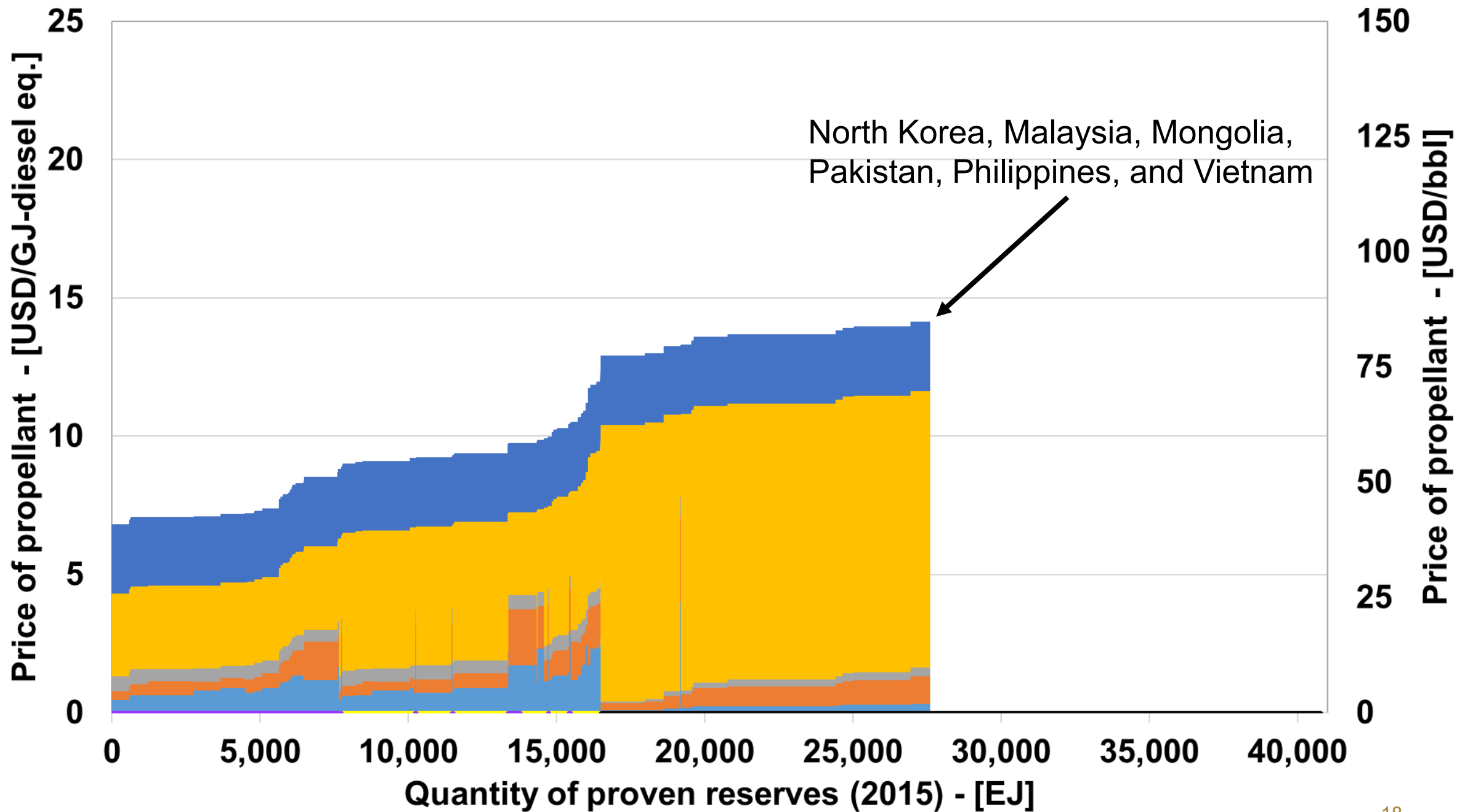


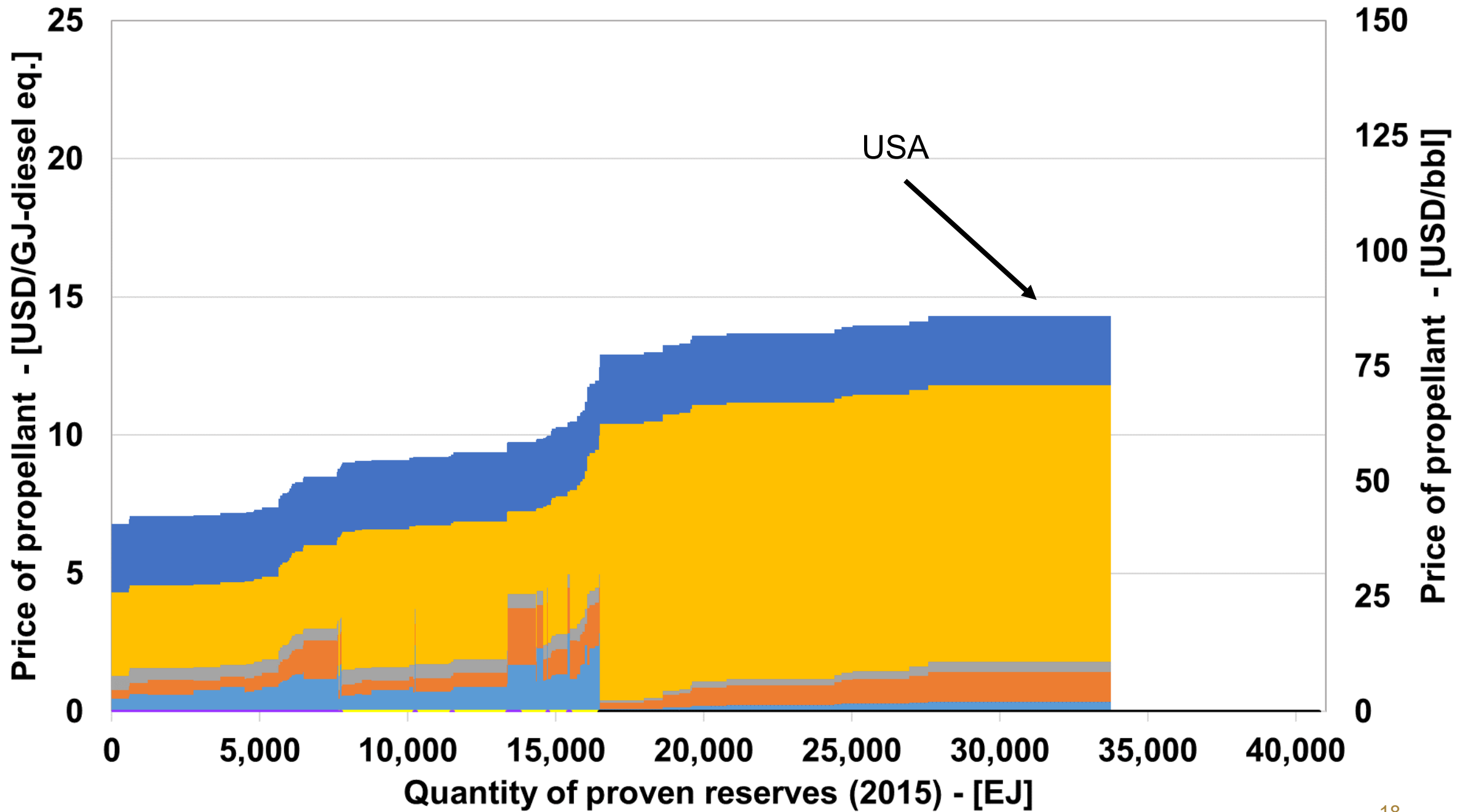


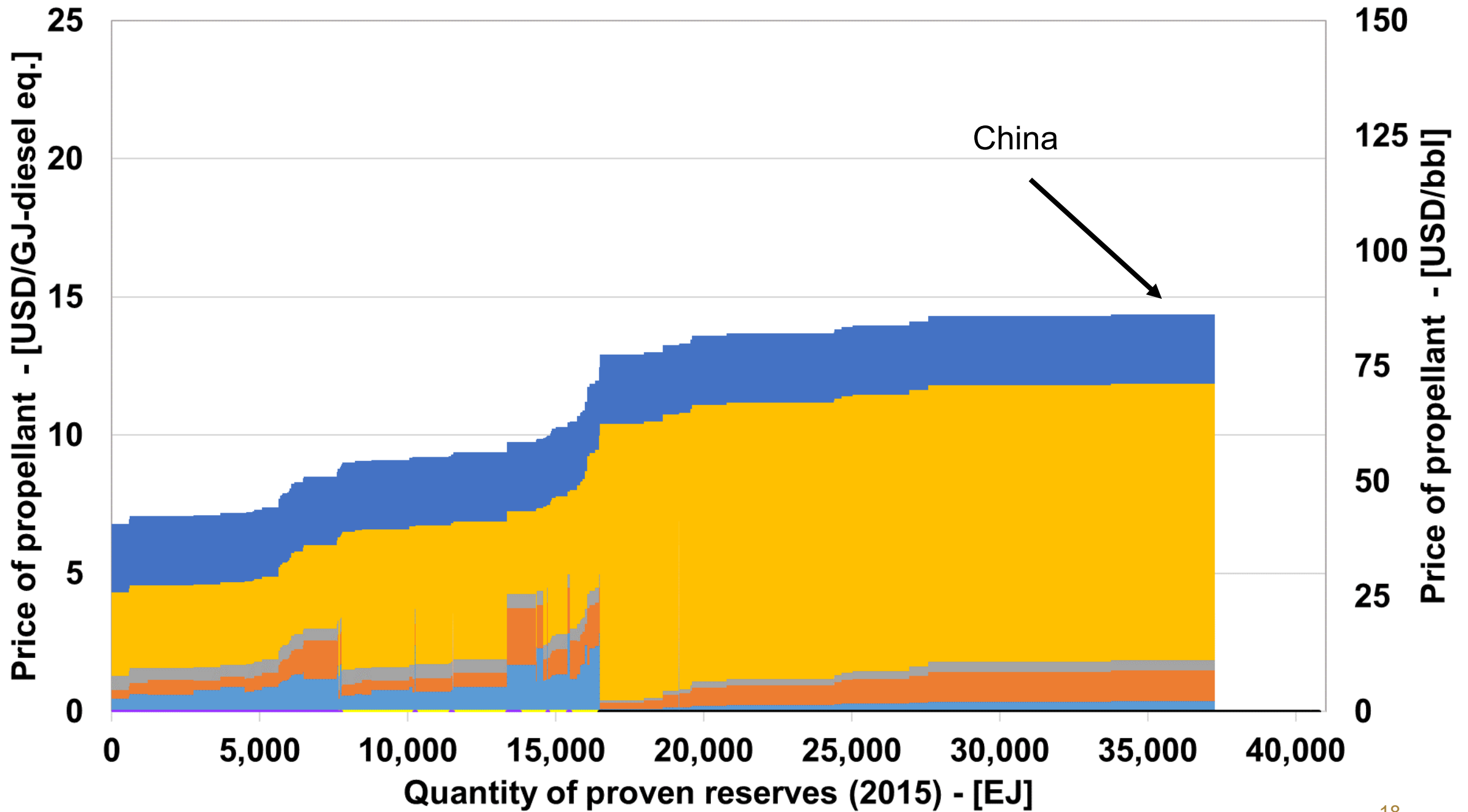


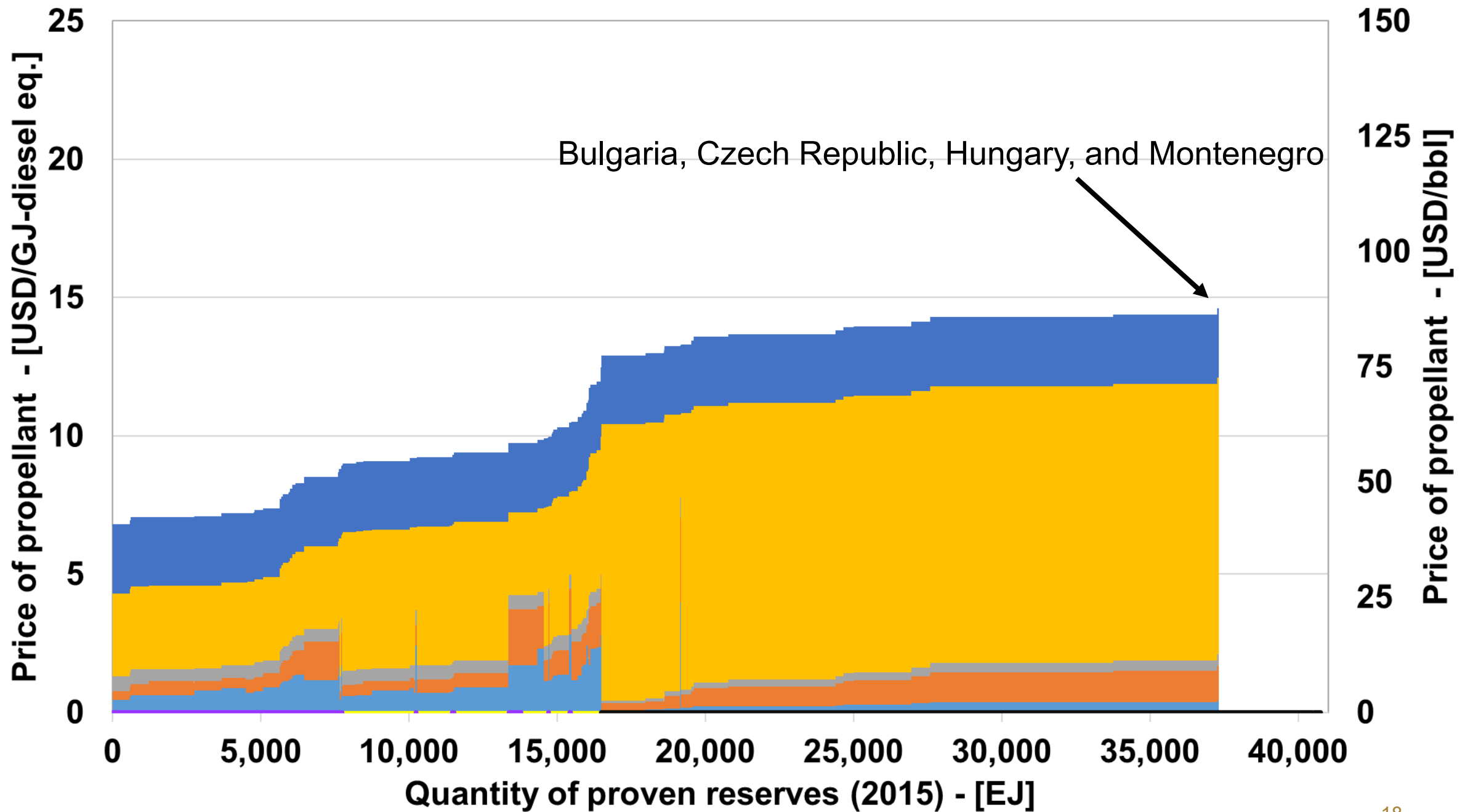


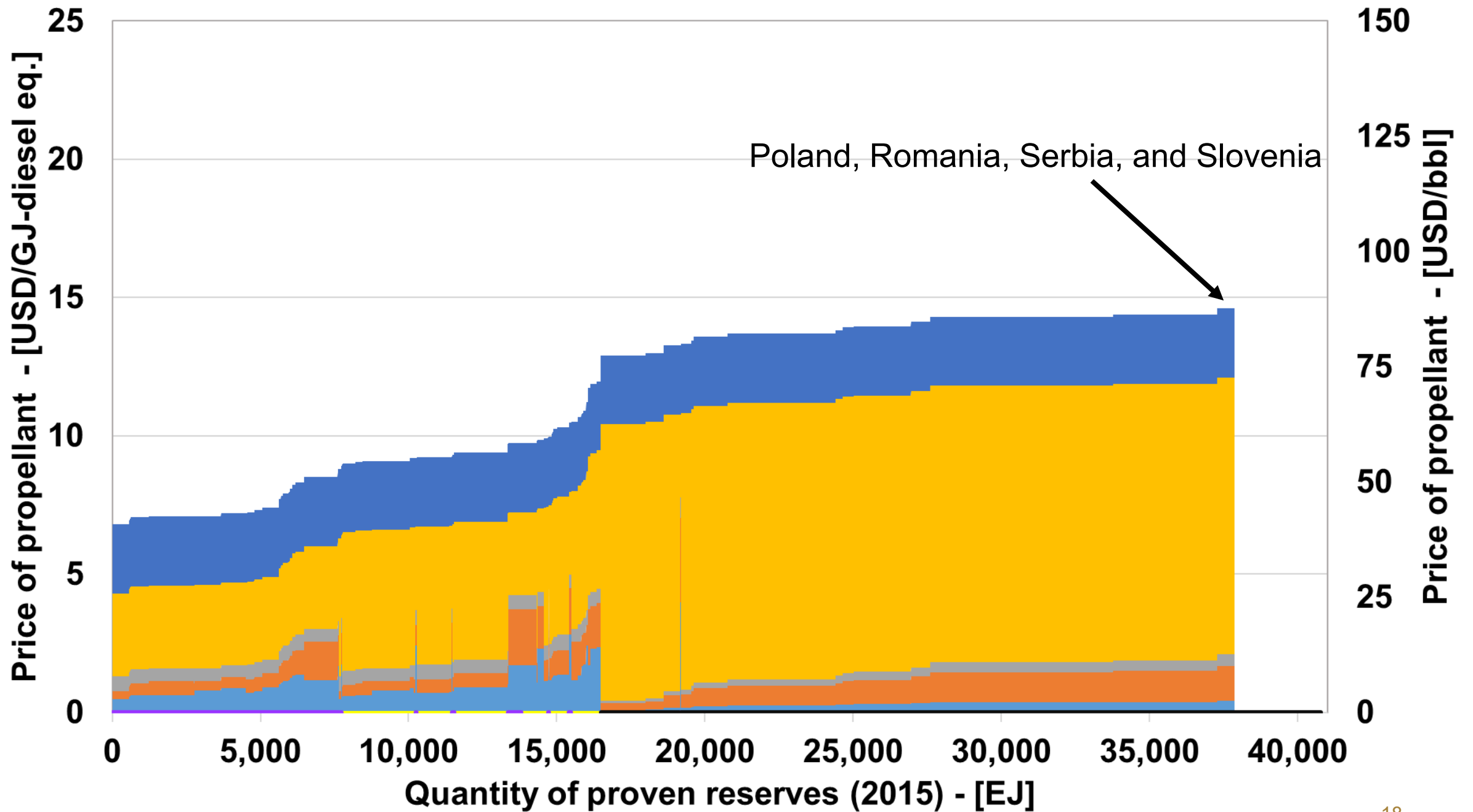


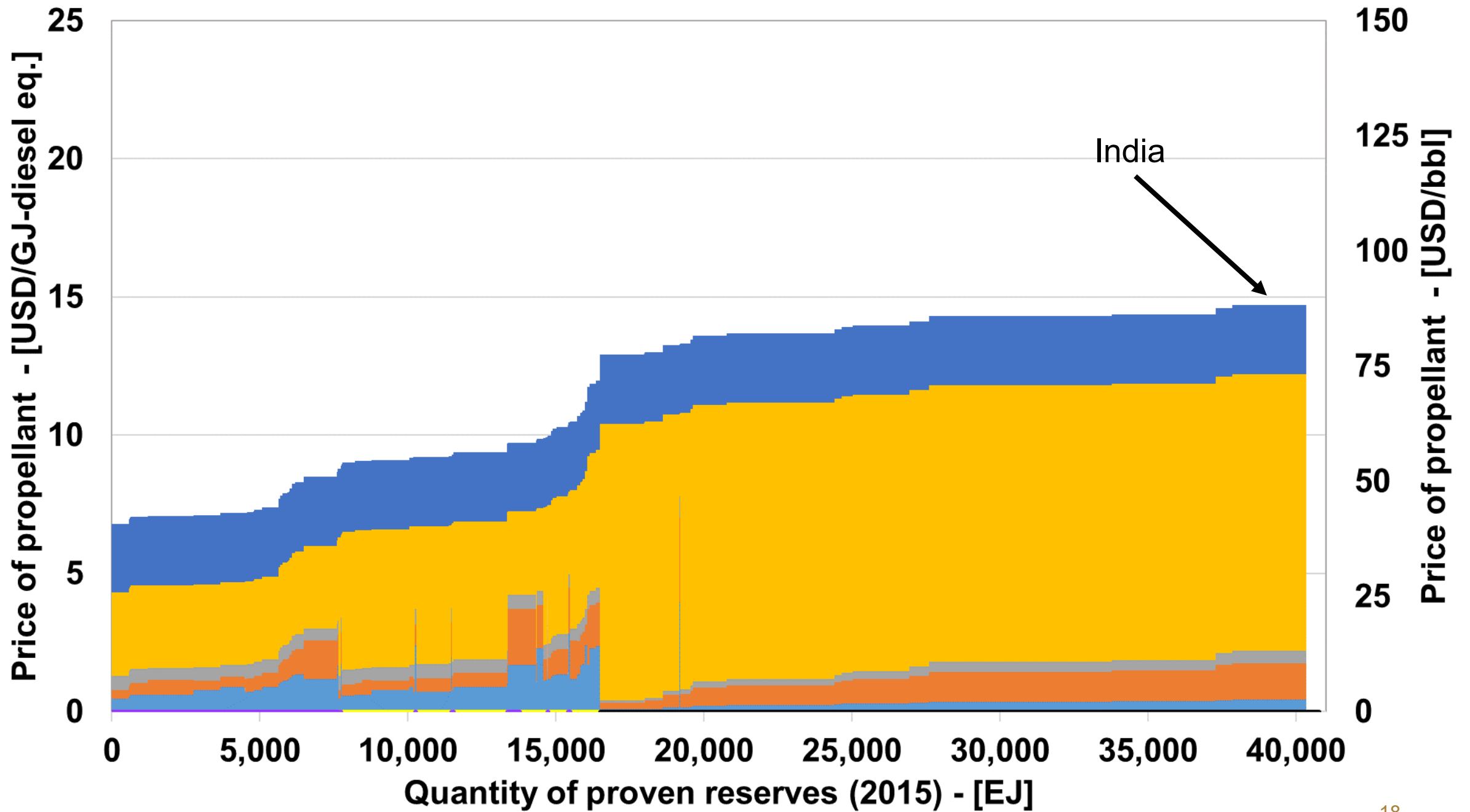


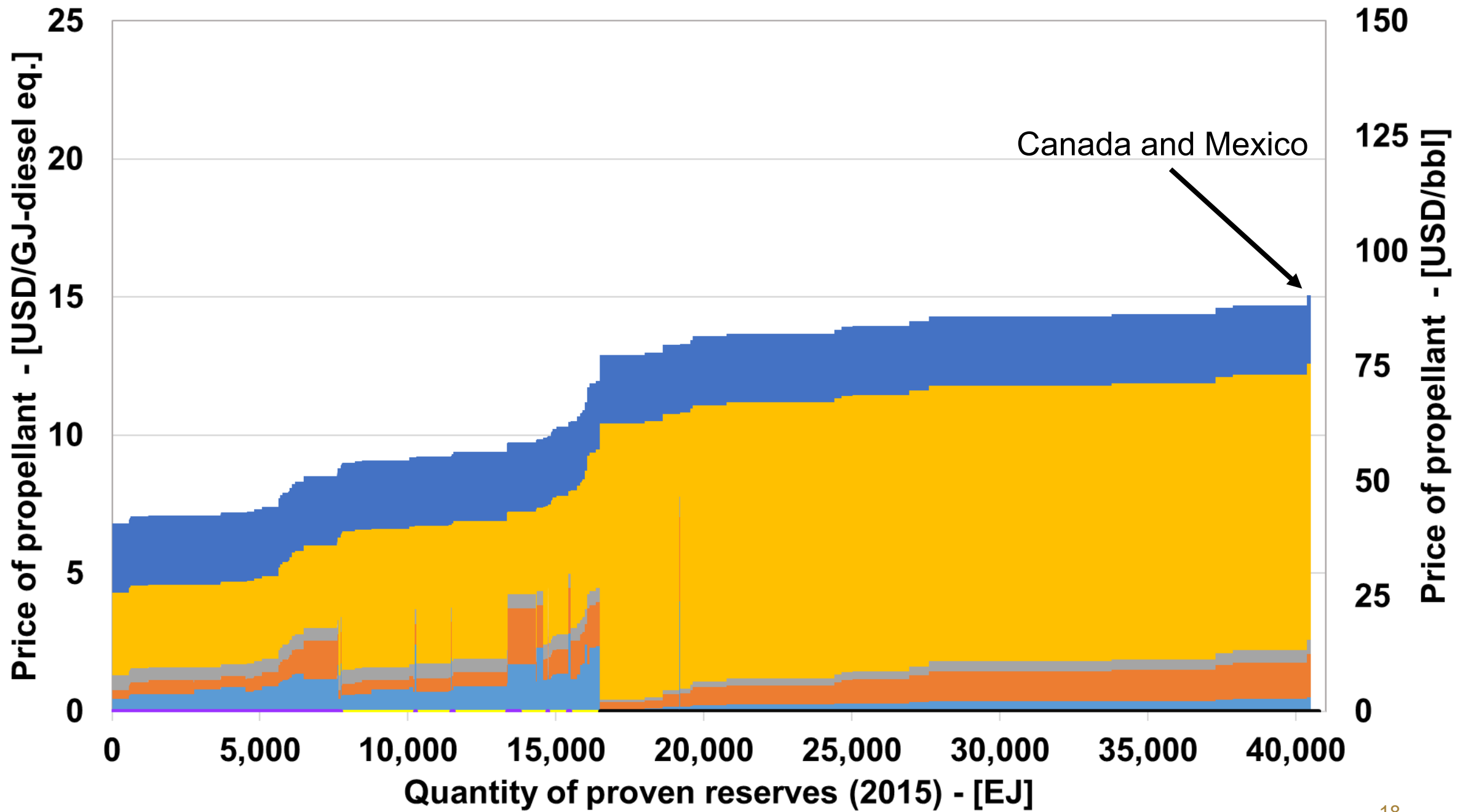


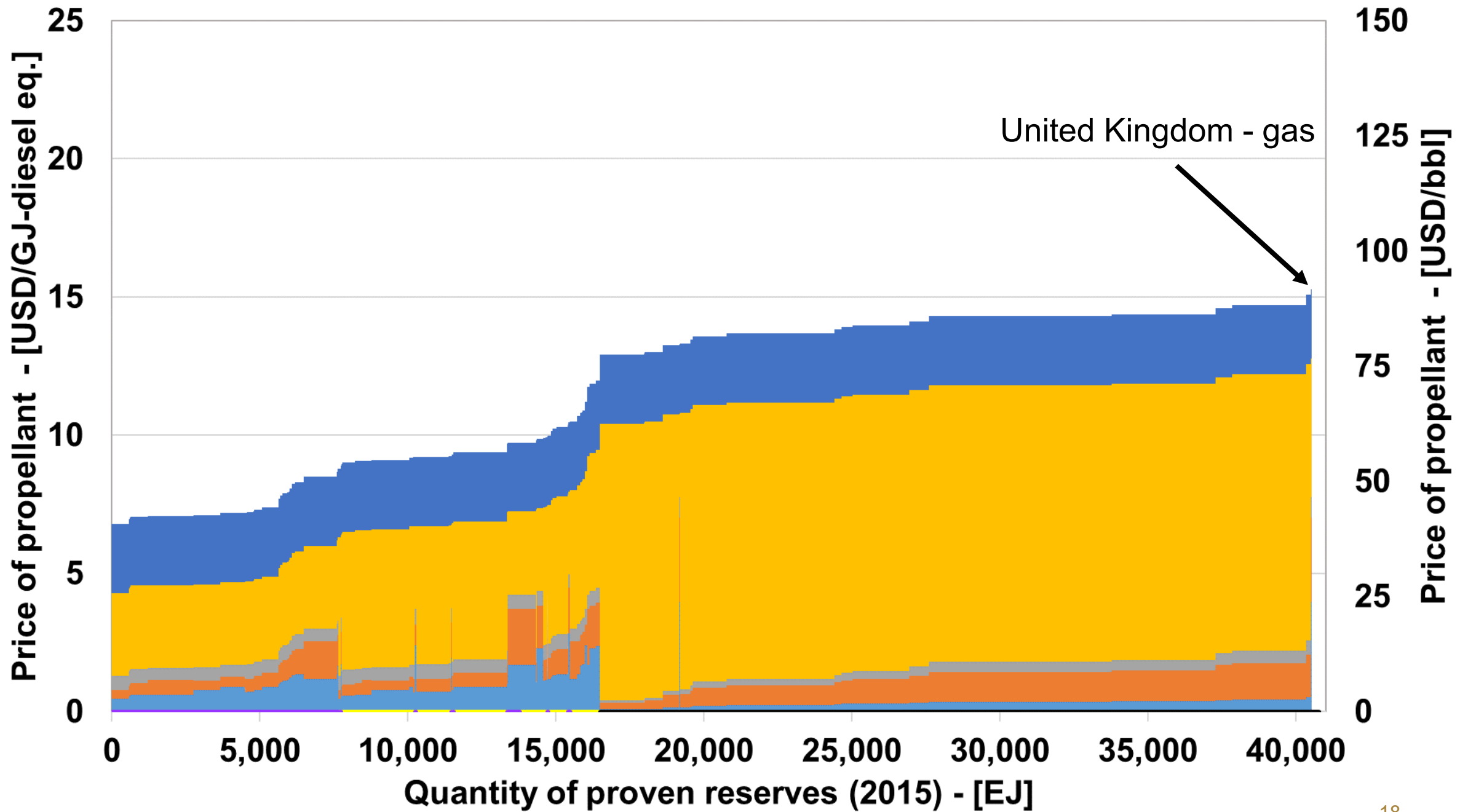


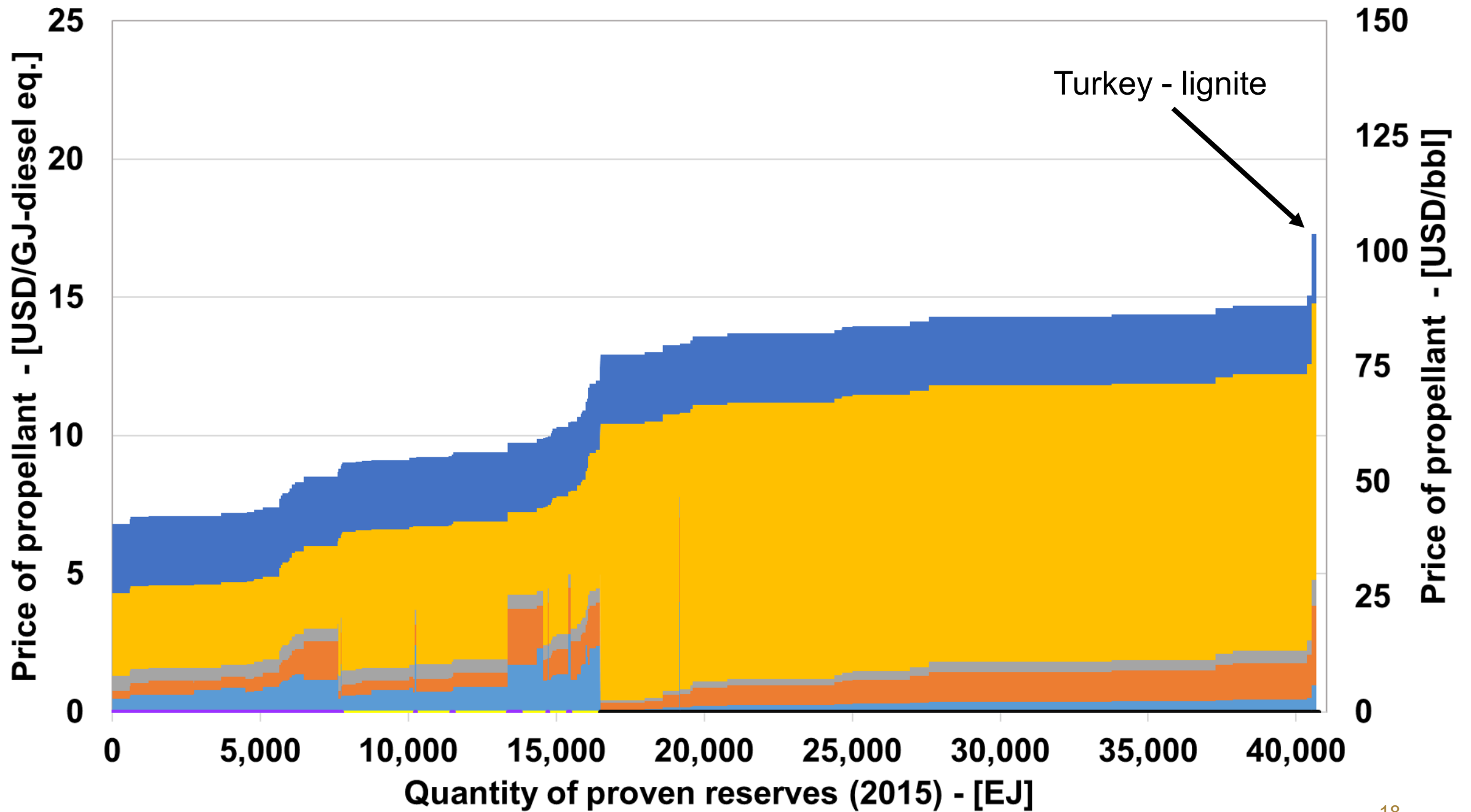


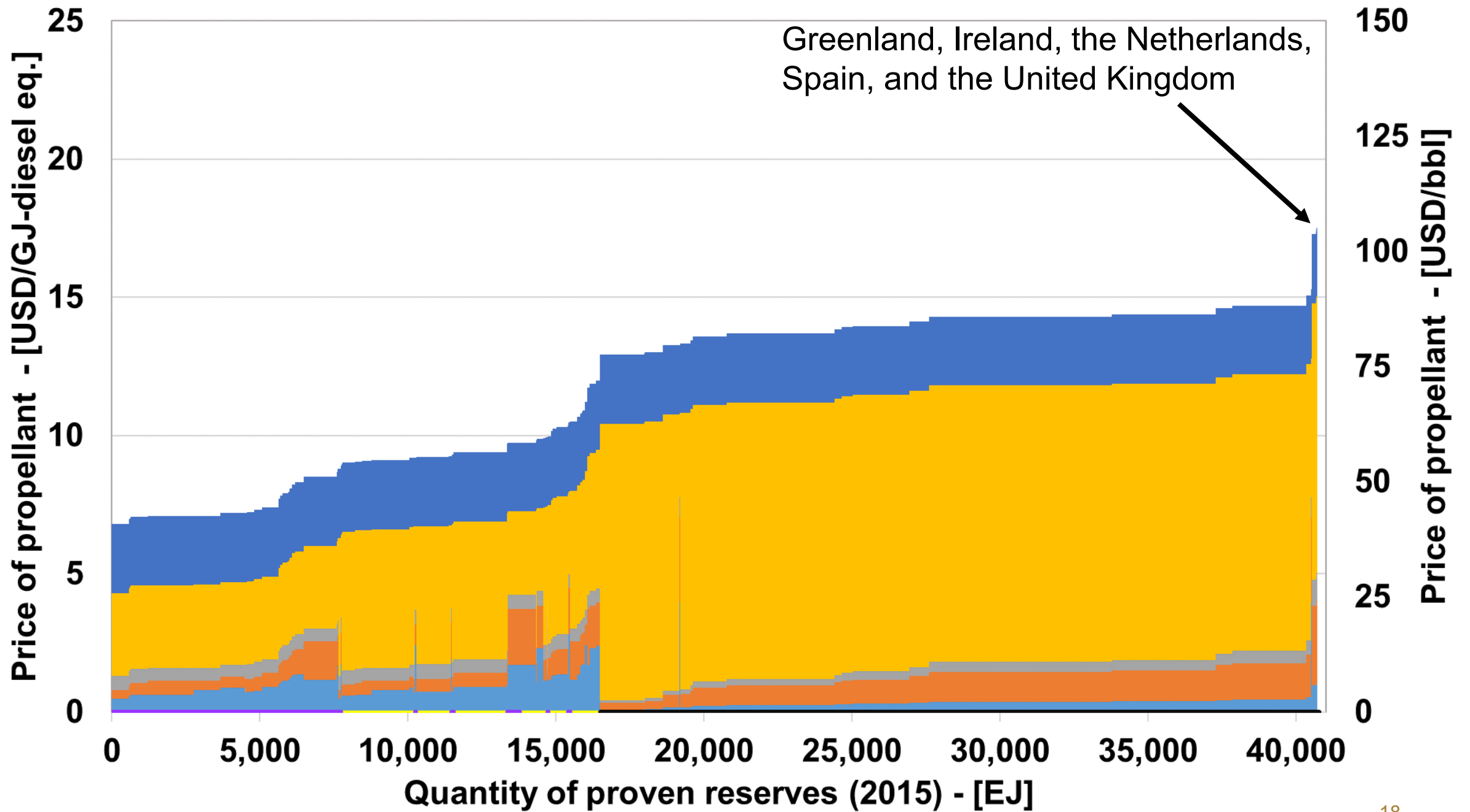


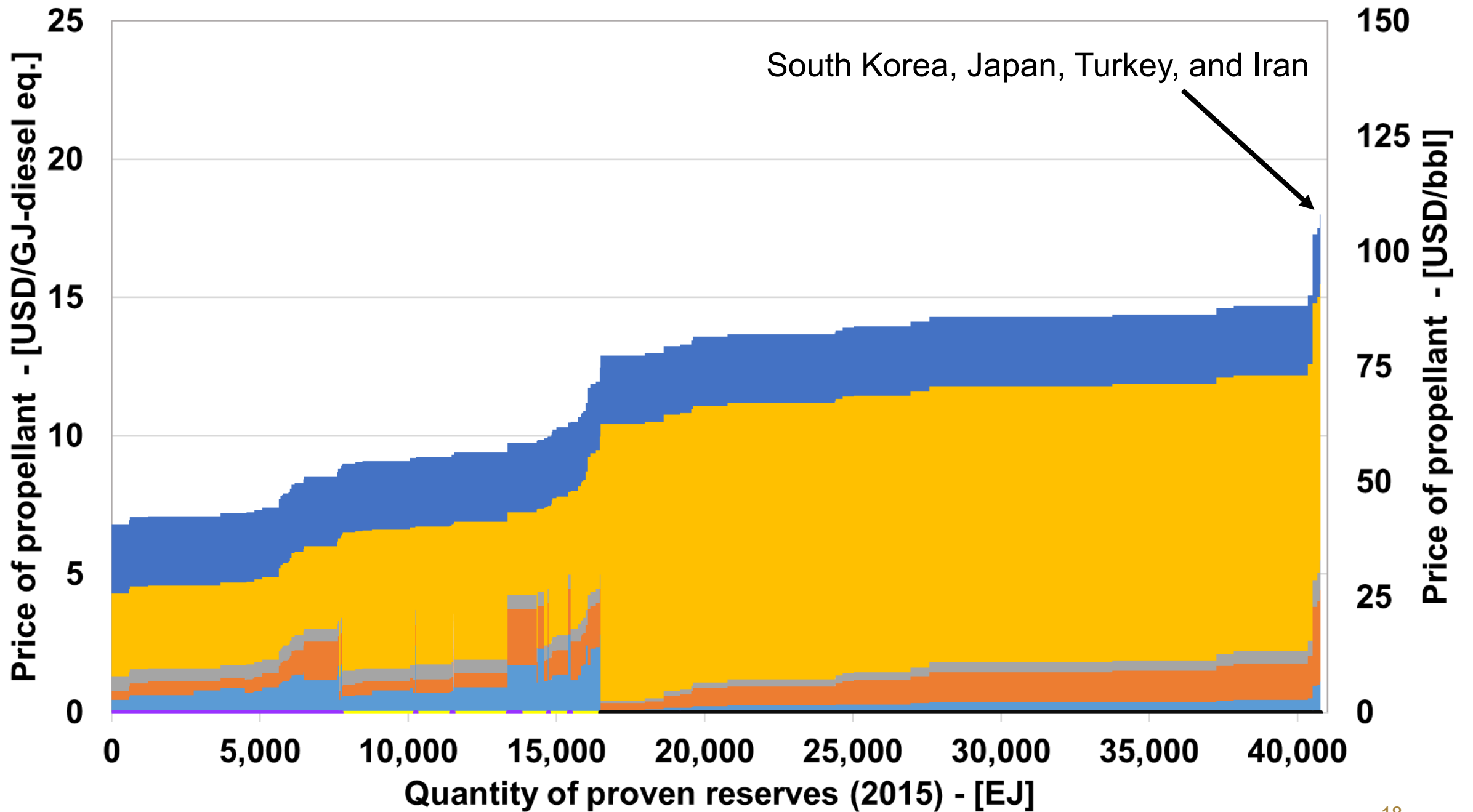


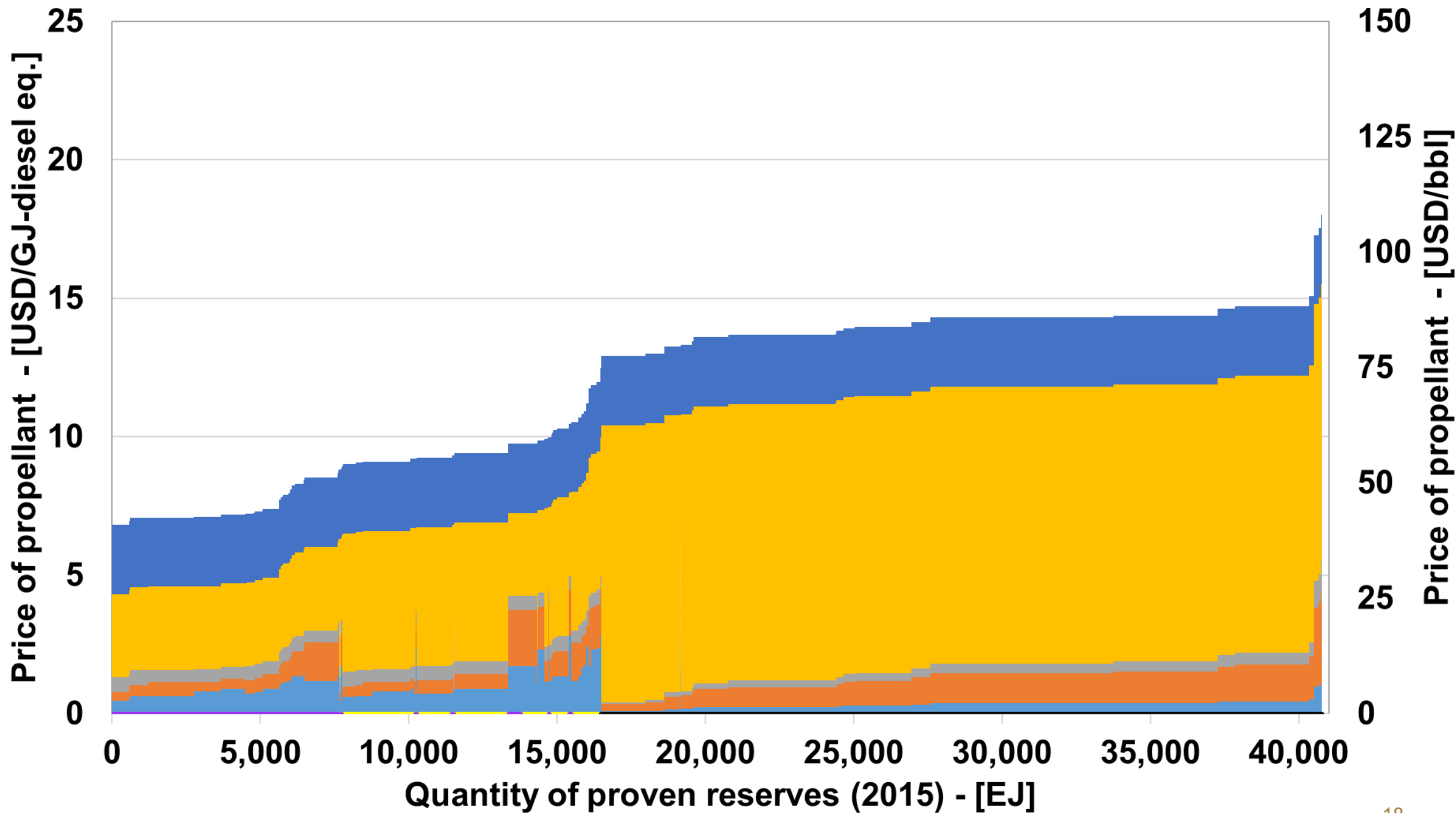


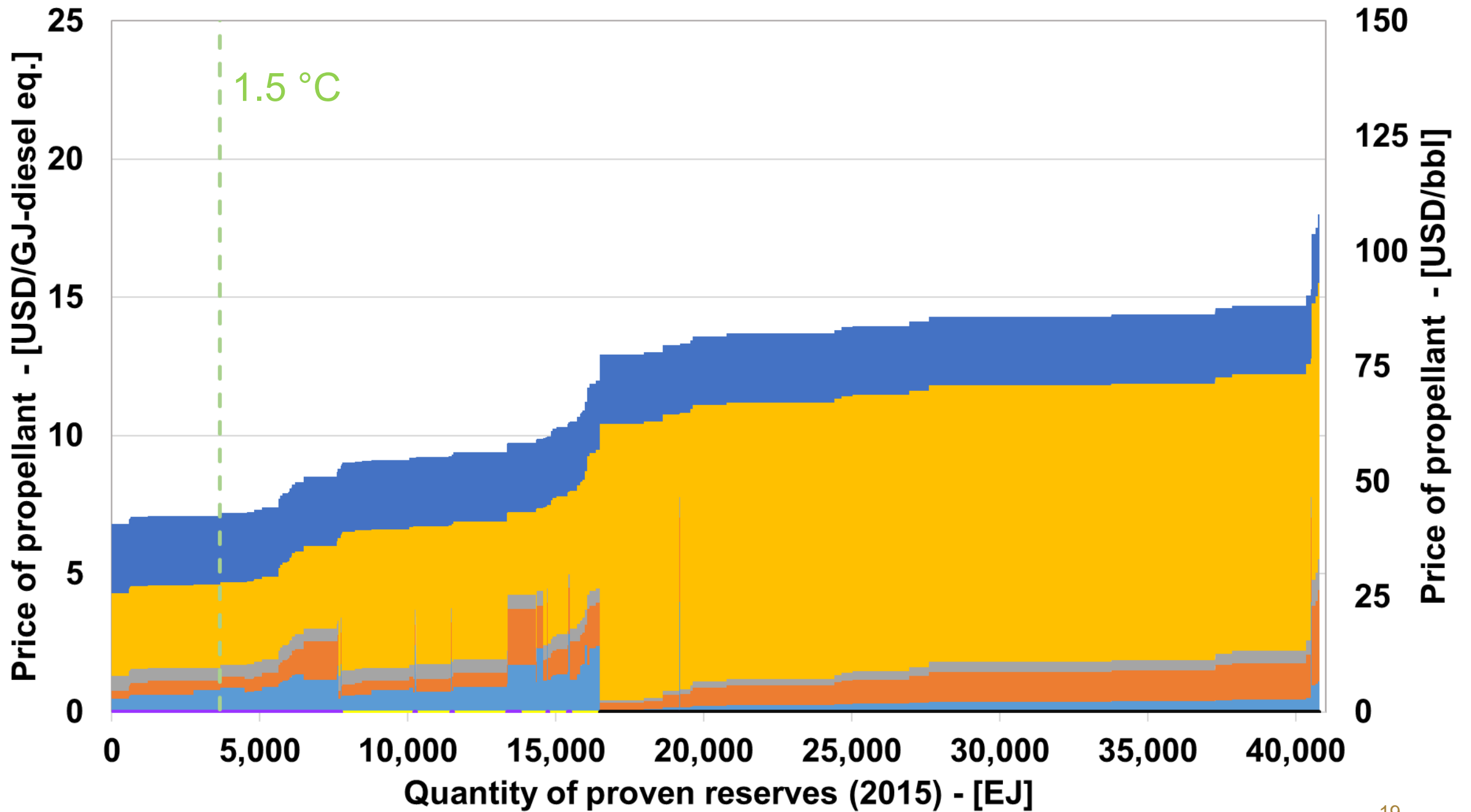


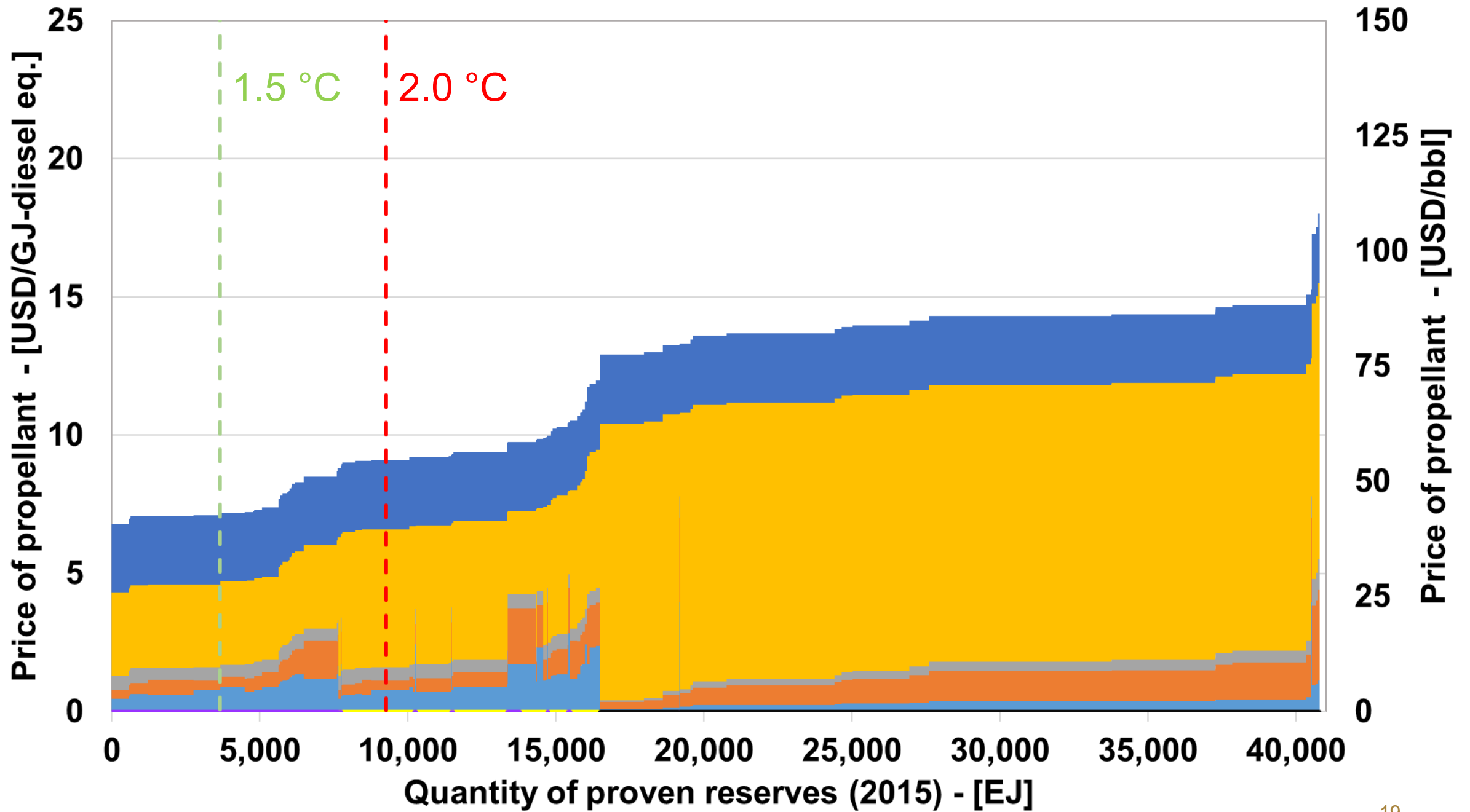


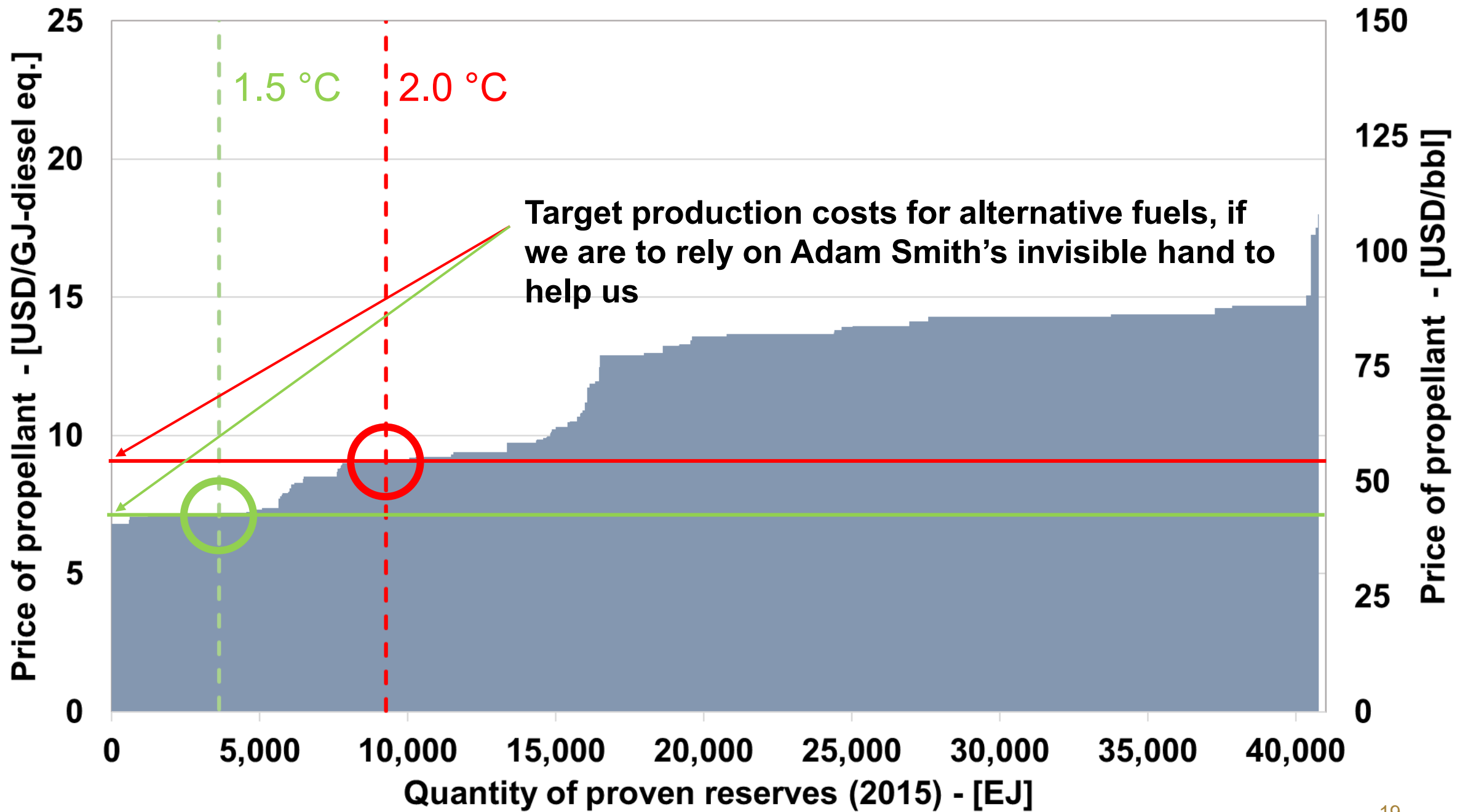




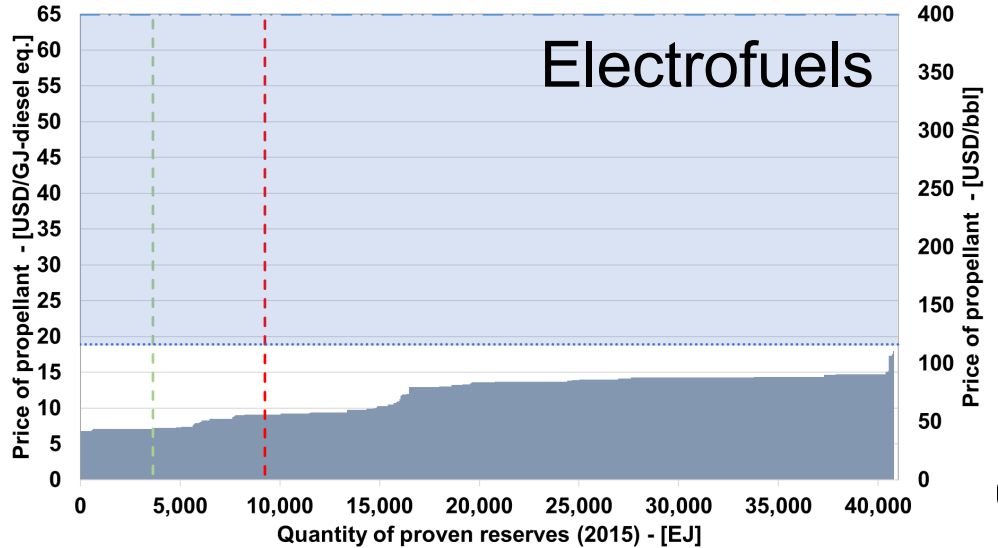
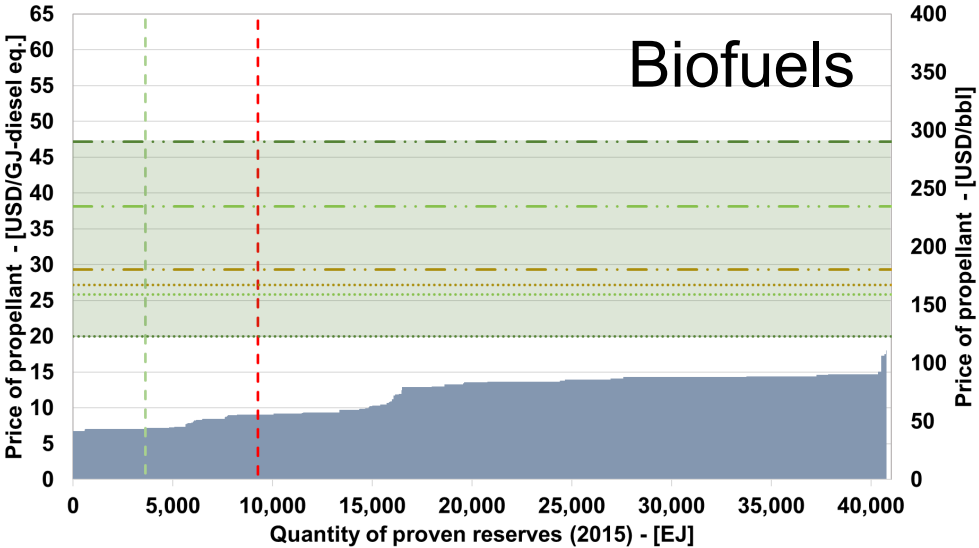
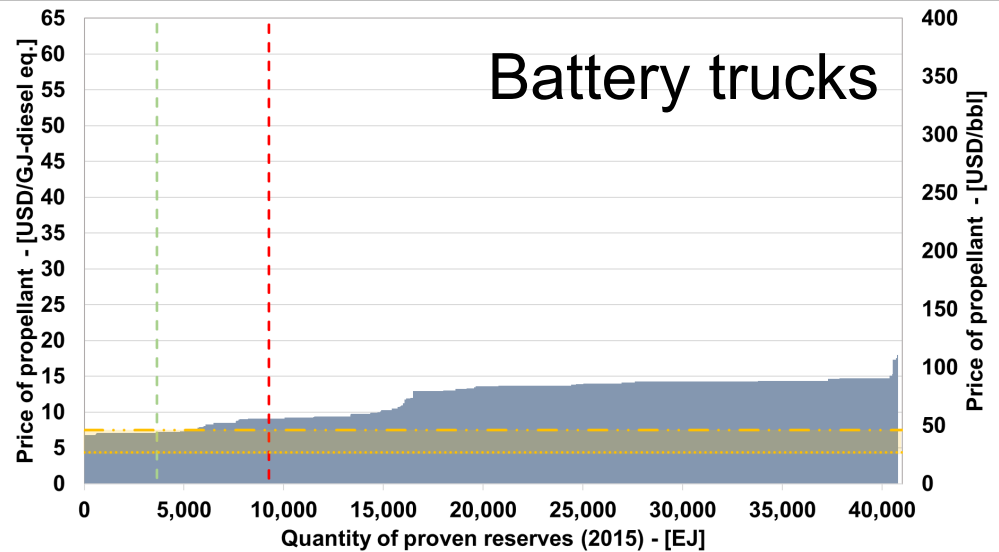






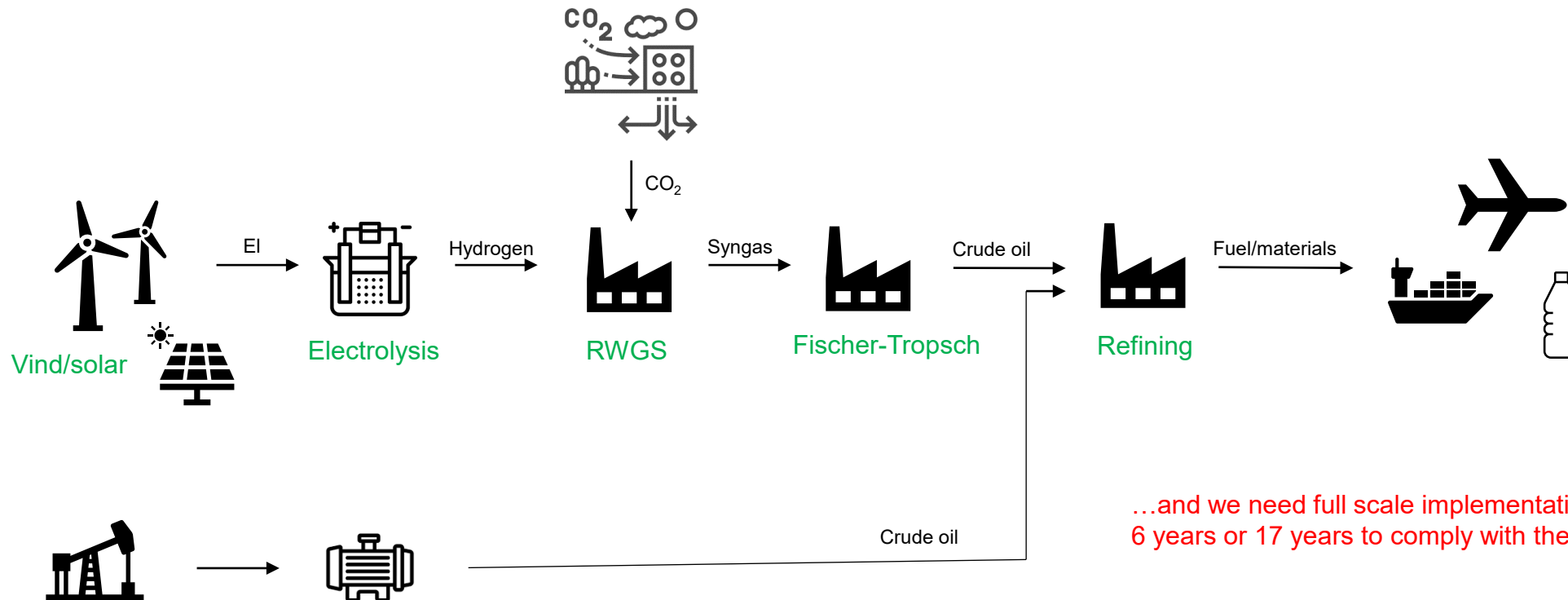


Feasible technical solutions?



Why do we depend on electrofuels/PtX, and why is it never going to be competitive to fossil fuels?

- ❑ One third of our future energy and materials system depend on carbon
- ❑ Biofuels not a solution – we would need 5 planets to have sustainable biomass enough. So we need to use CO₂ and electrofuels/PtX
- ❑ Why will electrofuels never be competitive?



...and we need full scale implementation and substitution of fossil fuels in 6 years or 17 years to comply with the 1,5 and 2 oC targets respectively