Nexio
Projects

How to Prepare for Your 2024 CDP Questionnaire

Climate Journey

About CDP

What is CDP?

CDP is the not-for-profit organisation that developed an internationally recognised platform for environmental disclosure.
The system is fully aligned with the TCFD recommendations.

Who should report?

CDP does not target exclusively the private sector.
In fact, the disclosure platform is suitable for cities, regions, states, and public authorities as well.

Why should I submit?

Disclosing your efforts in climate strategy, water and/or forest management has various benefits for your organisation. Read more to find out the value of submitting a CDP questionnaire.

Figure 1 / Increase of CDP-reporting companies, 2003 - 2022

The number of companies reporting yearly on CDP increased exponentially.

23,000 + — Companies disclosed their impacts on climate change, water security, and forests in 2023.

1,200 + — Cities, states, and regions disclosed environmental information through CDP.

313% — Increase in disclosure compared to 2015, when the Paris Agreement was signed.

24% — Increase in 2023 disclosure compared to 2022 data.

Legend: Climate, Water, Forests
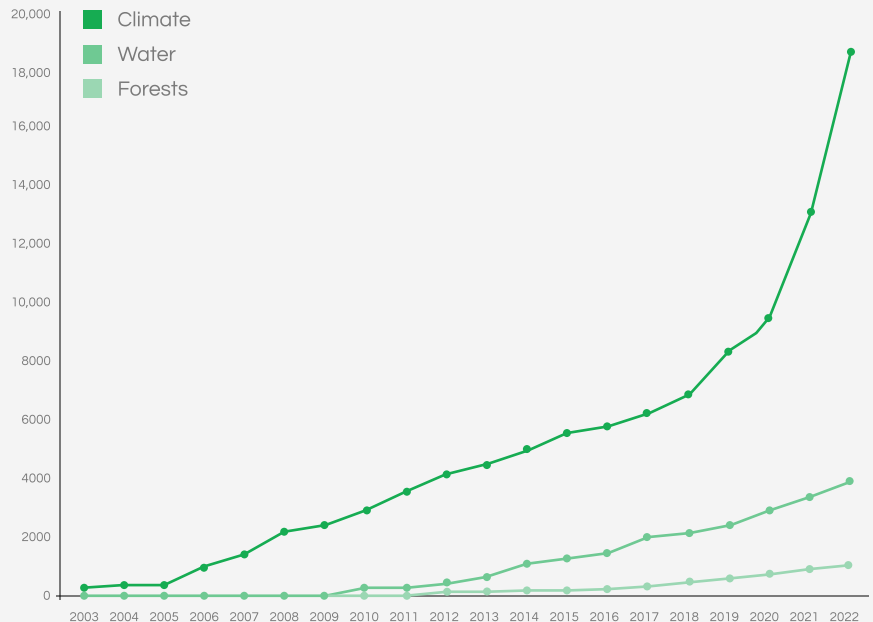
Key benefits

Transparency

Meet the reporting demands of your investors and customers by using a transparent and internationally recognised reporting platform.

Reputation

Improve your organisation's reputation through a complete disclosure on implemented environmental efforts.

Competitive Advantage

Boost your competitive advantage amongst industry peers.

Awareness

Demonstrate commitment, uncover risks and opportunities, track and benchmark progress over time.

Financial Performance

Financial success is related to higher environmental transparency. Climate change leaders outperform the market by 5.8% per year*.

Alignment

Reduce reporting burdens thanks to CDP coherence with other corporate reporting frameworks and standards (e.g. TCFD, GRI, SASB, Corporate Reporting Dialogue).

Compliance

Anticipate upcoming regulation as mandatory reporting requirements are rapidly gaining momentum.

*CDP 2011-2021 analysis

The CDP Questionnaire

Figure 2 / A List companies, 2023

More than 23,000 companies disclosed their climate, forests, and water security impacts through CDP in 2023.

The CDP disclosure system is hinged on three questionnaires:

Climate change
Information on climate risks, carbon emission management.

346
Companies made the 2023 Climate Change A List.

Forests
Report on the journey towards the elimination of deforestation from supply chain.

30
Companies made the 2023 Forests A List.

Water security
Track progress towards water security.

101
Companies made the 2023 Water Security A List.

In 2023, approximately 400 companies made the A List.

■ A List
■ Scored companies
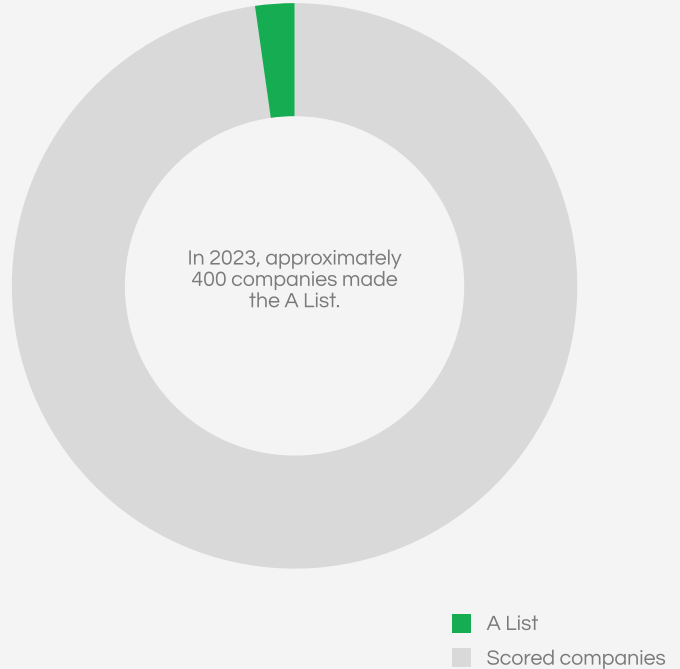
Supply Chain Module

Under each questionnaire, an additional Supply Chain Module is required in the submission if the reporting company is responding to a request from a customer. The Supply Chain Module, however, is not included in the questionnaire scoring.

Disclosure versions

There are two disclosure versions applicable to companies.

Full version
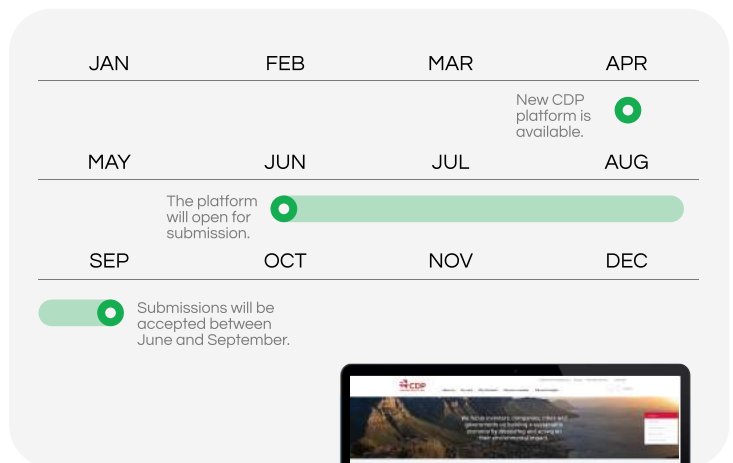It contains all questions relevant to the company, including sector-specific questions and data points.

Minimum version
It contains fewer questions and does not include sector-specific questions or data points. Companies eligible to submit the minimum version are submitting/disclosing the questionnaire for the first time, and the annual revenue is less than EUR/USD 250M.

Eligible companies may voluntarily opt for the full version if it is considered to bring about greater benefits to the organisation and/or its stakeholders.

Submission Timeline

Under each questionnaire, an additional Supply Chain Module is required in the submission if the reporting company is responding to a request from a customer. The Supply Chain Module, however, is not included in the questionnaire scoring.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
			New CDP platform is available. ●
MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG
	The platform will open for submission. ●		
SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

● Submissions will be accepted between June and September.

More details on the 2024 reporting cycle will be published in the coming months on the CDP website.

The CDP Scoring System

By submitting the questionnaire, the reporting company receives a score on how climate-related issues are addressed in their Governance, Strategy, Risk Management, Metrics & Targets.

As a standard reporting framework, CDP allows for comparison and benchmarking between companies in regard to their climate efforts and transparency of communication.

A Score — Leadership

A-Score companies fully disclose their action on climate change, deforestation and water management. These companies lead the way and set in place best practices.

Additionally, it is necessary to:
- Set Science-Based Targets
- Create a climate transition plan
- Develop water management strategies
- Report on the impacts generated on forests

B-/B Score — Management

The company is managing its impacts on the environment but there is still a gap that separates it from leaders in action against climate change, deforestation and water security.

C-/C Score — Awareness

The company is aware of the mutual relationship between its operations and environmental impacts. The C or C- Score is based on the extent to which the organisation evaluates how sustainability issues affect the business.

D-/D Score — Disclosure

Every question in the CDP questionnaire scores for disclosure. Yet, there is space for improvement in terms of the actions undertaken to tackle environmental issues. Hence, companies that score a D or D- are just at the beginning of their climate journey.

F Score — Failure

F Scores are attributed to companies that fail to report according to CDP.

Want to understand CDP scores better?

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Talk to an expert

How to prepare

|			
Understand the type of data and information to disclose	Review CDP guidance and scoring methodology to understand the disclosure process.	Determine the questionnaire themes and versions that apply to your company.	Identify the information needed to fulfil the different sections of the questionnaires.
	Understand the key intersecting topics between your operations and forest commodities and water security (relevant for the forests and water security questionnaires).	Understand the disclosure requirements for the additional questionnaire module on supply chain (I.e., this module is not required for all reporting companies).	Understand the breakdown of your GHG emissions inventory for Scope 1, 2, and 3 (relevant for the climate change questionnaire).
Start early	Internal stakeholder engagement can be time consuming, especially if your company is reporting for the first time to CDP.		
Keep your documentation organised	The 2024 CDP cycle only considers activities covering the reporting year 2023 (1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023), so start collecting and aggregating information and data accordingly.	Centralise your relevant documents in an internal database with access to all involved stakeholders to facilitate data provision for all sections of the questionnaires and save time obtaining all the data needed for CDP disclosure from multiple stakeholders.	
Assign responsibilities	Make sure to define clear roles and responsibilities based on the information/data needed for disclosure on all modules of the questionnaires across the relevant themes (climate change, forests, and/or water security).	After identifying stakeholders, start briefing them enough time in advance about the reporting needs and the cycle's timeline. Make sure to communicate responsibilities, expectations, information/data required, coverage period, reporting method and format, and internal deadlines.	

Join our free webinar

What to Expect for Your 2024 CDP Questionnaire

The new CDP Platform will be available starting in April 2024. Questionnaire submissions will be possible from the beginning of June until September 2024. Start early and follow our experts' insights to ensure a seamless submission of the CDP questionnaire.

Book your seat
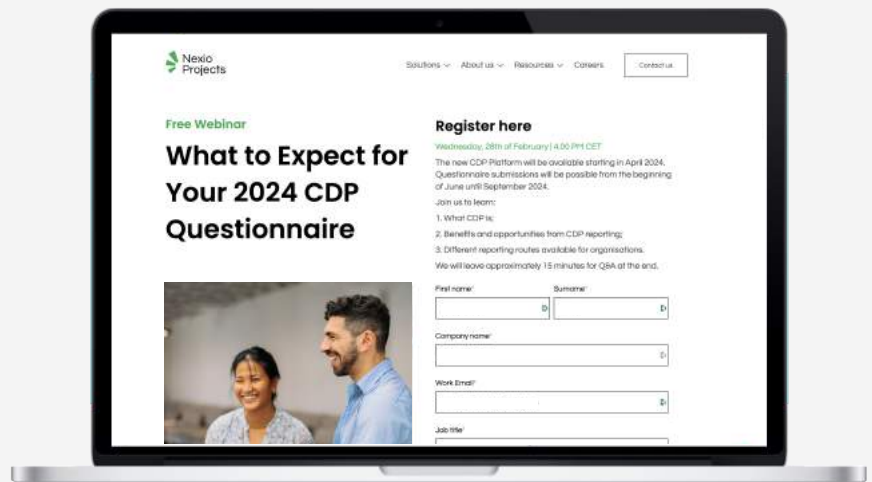
Sustainability in motion

We help you understand, simplify and embed sustainability into your company DNA to accelerate your transition to a brighter future.

Get in touch

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About Nexio Projects

Nexio Projects is an international sustainability consultant and implementation specialist that supports a wide range of customers on their journey from compliance to purpose. Nexio Projects differentiates itself through strong partnerships with the world's leading ESG service providers such as EcoVadis, its pragmatic and human customer approach, and its unique team culture that attracts and retains the best international talent globally.

To find out more, please visit nexioprojects.com

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