

Forests program, Reino Unido, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), [s.f.].

Consultado en:

<https://www.cdproject.net/en-us/programmes/pages/forests.aspx>

Fecha de consulta: 30/07/2013.

The main driver of deforestation globally is land use change for agriculture.

CDP's forests program assists companies and their investors worldwide to understand and address their exposure to deforestation risks through their use of five agricultural commodities that are responsible for most deforestation – [timber products](#), [palm oil](#), [soy](#), [cattle products](#) and [biofuels](#).

The forests program acts on behalf of investors to collect information from companies on the operational, reputational and regulatory risks and opportunities, and the value creation and erosion, resulting from this exposure.

CDP's forests program was formerly known as the Forest Footprint Disclosure Project (FFD). In June 2012 CDP and the [Global Canopy Programme](#) (GCP) announced an alliance to merge GCP's Forest Footprint Disclosure Project with CDP. This strategic merger brings corporate disclosure on the climate, water and forests under one roof, resulting in the world's largest and most comprehensive natural capital disclosure system, and provides companies and investors with a single, integrated source of information for these interrelated issues.

As part of the transition process, CDP began managing FFD's operations in February 2013, and full integration will take place by February 2014. GCP is working closely with CDP throughout the transition year of 2013, and will continue to act as the prime funder of CDP's forests program until 2014, when it will take on a new role as advisor on forests and forest risk commodities to CDP.

Overview

The information request is currently sent to companies on behalf of 184 signatory investors with more than US\$ 13 trillion of assets, who wish to understand the exposure to deforestation within their portfolios.

Disclosure to CDP's forests program is useful for companies to review their internal risk management. Current disclosers have found the process of data gathering and policy analysis to be worthwhile, offering a clear benchmark on performance. Given the growing concern around security of supply for commodities in the coming decades of resource scarcity, the disclosure process offers companies space to work with their suppliers and customers to identify potential problems in a timely manner, and help to improve the resilience of their supply chain.

For the corporate sector CDP's forests program offers a place to collaborate with others in order to understand the reality and the options in global supply chains as well as the opportunities that arise from improved business practices. We support best practice including using global certification standards to help avoid deforestation. The forests program acts as a central point of exchange for information, research and best practice case studies on deforestation issues, encouraging innovation through exchange and collaboration with all stakeholders. We are advocates; we educate, inform and gain commitment to manage these risks proactively.

The challenges of deforestation, climate change and poverty are inextricably linked. Maintenance of forest resources, particularly tropical forests in developing countries, presents a quick win for climate change policy makers through promoting low carbon development. Not converting forests to agricultural or other uses not only acts to limit carbon emissions, but also mitigates by absorbing carbon dioxide. Enlightened governments now see retaining forests as a value resource, which secures the livelihood of millions of people, whilst guaranteeing a stable climate and diverse natural resources for future generations.

Because of this carbon, natural capital and livelihood value, more governments are retaining their remaining forest cover. Companies dependent on forest risk commodities, and their shareholders, are at risk from losing the value that access to artificially low-cost resources from the use of recently deforested land brings. Passively waiting for restrictions on supply to be enforced risks exposure to reputational and buyer risk as pressure groups and consumers learn about the impact of their use of commodities from deforested land.

How to comply with the forests program information request

The forests program information request will be sent out via CDP's online system in February 2013 asking companies to disclose how they are managing their exposure to the risk of deforestation in their operations and supply chains. A letter will also be sent to the CEO or Chair of the Board.

Each year the forests program launches a report, describing the broader findings of the disclosure process, offering analysis of the responses from participating companies, and providing context on the current issues surrounding forest risk commodities. We review what has happened in the wider world and suggest how best to reduce deforestation risk in both the corporate and financial sectors. The report is also shared with the forests program signatory investors to inform their engagement and other investment activities with companies.

Each participating company receives a feedback report detailing their strengths and weaknesses compared to their peers. This is how the forests program brings about better practice and helps investors identify their risks and opportunities.