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Transforming corporate supply chains: South Pole Group and CDP partner to deliver global benchmark on zero deforestation

Zurich, Switzerland, 3 August 2016 - Leading sustainability solutions provider **South Pole Group** will act as CDP's global forest scoring partner on the assessment of corporate efforts to tackle deforestation among the most impactful organisations from around the world.

International efforts to address climate change are accelerating and the pressure to reduce deforestation and forest degradation is building up on many fronts: the **New York Declaration on Forests in 2014** saw 180 nations, companies, communities and other organisations commit to halving deforestation by 2020 and putting an end to it by 2030. The **Consumer Goods Forum** – an umbrella organisation of over 400 companies and large retail businesses, and over 25 NGOs and civil society groups - has pledged to achieve zero net deforestation by 2020.

With final results set to be launched in **December 2016**, the forest scoring work will consider the comprehensiveness of each company's assessment of deforestation risks related to operations, reputation, and regulation, and whether these are factored into business planning. Together, CDP and South Pole Group will **evaluate the management practices of companies operating in production, processing, trading, manufacturing, and retailing**, based on the strict application of **CDP's forests scoring methodology**.

*"Curbing deforestation is a core part of the puzzle when working towards a 2° world and towards the Sustainable Development Goals - especially biodiversity conservation. Committing to it is already becoming the new 'business as usual' - yet, attaining it is still far away for many," says **Christian Dannecker, Director Sustainable Supply Chains & Land Use, South Pole Group**. "We are proud to leverage our expertise in measuring supply chain forest, water and climate impacts and implement action to attain global zero-deforestation together with CDP."*

Since 2013, **CDP** has annually requested companies to disclose data relating to their efforts to end commodity-driven deforestation through its forests program. On behalf of investors representing US\$22 trillion in assets, over **800** companies were asked this year by CDP to disclose data on their management of the four forest risk commodities most linked to deforestation. Among last year's respondents, a whopping 75% recognise at least one supply chain risk associated with these commodities with the potential to generate a substantive change in business operations, revenue or expenditure.

*"CDP's annual request for disclosure has amassed an unparalleled global picture of how companies are responding to the challenge of ending deforestation. The adoption of the Paris climate accord only fuels how important achieving this challenge is – our low-carbon future depends on it," says **Katie McCoy, head of forests at CDP**. "The ability to keep score is fundamental to ensuring that business is on the right track, and South Pole Group bring the right expertise to enable the companies CDP works with to raise the bar on efforts to preserve forests. We are delighted to have the South Pole Group as our scoring partners."*

The scoring carried out by CDP and South Pole Group will acknowledge corporate efforts and highlight best practice examples. The resulting evaluations will help stakeholders and investors to better understand corporate risk amid pressing challenges in combatting global deforestation, and ultimately reach zero commodity related deforestation.

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Media resources

- [CDP Forest Guidance](#)
- [South Pole Group Acts as Lead Scoring Partner in CDP's Newly Launched Global Water Report 2015](#)

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About South Pole Group

South Pole Group (SPG) is a leading provider of global sustainability solutions and a pioneer in emission reductions, renewable energy and forest conservation projects and programmes. South Pole Group has worked with a wide range of private, public and civil society organisations for over a decade to help them take sustainability action in the areas of corporate water stewardship; offsetting or insetting activities; deforestation in supply chains; reduction of emissions from deforestation (REDD+); and climate smart agriculture. With a local presence in 16 offices across the globe, South Pole Group builds on its expertise in identifying, quantifying and understanding operational impacts on natural capital to design strategies, policies and monitoring approaches for impact reduction. For more information visit www.thesouthpolegroup.com or follow the company @thesouthpolegroup

About CDP

CDP, formerly Carbon Disclosure Project, is an international, not-for-profit organization providing the global system for companies, cities, states and regions to measure, disclose, manage and share vital information on their environmental performance. CDP, voted number one climate research provider by investors, works with 827 institutional investors with assets of US\$100 trillion and 89 purchasing organisations with a combined annual spend of over US\$2.7 trillion, to motivate companies to disclose their impacts on the environment and natural resources and take action to reduce them. More than 5,600 companies, representing close to 60% global market capitalization, disclosed environmental information through CDP in 2015.



CDP now holds the most comprehensive collection globally of primary corporate environmental data and puts these insights at the heart of strategic business, investment and policy decisions.

This year 365 investors representing US\$22 trillion in combined assets requested corporate deforestation-related data through CDP. Please visit www.cdp.net/ or follow us @CDP to find out more.