

CDP and South Pole Group partner to deliver first ever global benchmark for corporate water management

Zurich, Switzerland - July 21, 2015 - South Pole Group is partnering with **CDP** to carry out the world's first global assessment of corporate efforts to tackle water security of 700 of the world's largest companies.

The financial impact of worsening water security on sectors and companies is becoming clear. Present information however, on corporate water dependencies, risks and opportunities is weak and inconsistent. In addition, a methodology to comprehensively assess corporate water management has been missing.

CDP is now creating waves with the world's first public scoring methodology for evaluating and benchmarking corporate water management efforts. Since 2009, the organisation has been actively requesting water management data on behalf of a large and growing number of institutional investors representing a total of US\$ 63 trillion in assets, reaching out to over 1,500 companies globally. The data covers self-reported corporate water risk assessments, water risk exposure and mitigation activities as well as strategic governance strategies.

South Pole Group will act as CDP's lead water scoring partner. Together, CDP and South Pole Group will evaluate the water management practices of companies operating in 112 countries across the most water dependent industry sectors based on the strict application of CDP's publicly available water scoring methodology.

"For over a decade CDP has worked with companies to catalyse action towards a more sustainable world. We use the power of transparency to improve water security and eliminate the negative effects of water use. The introduction of corporate water scoring and associated benchmarking represents a significant milestone for the program. We are proud to be working with South Pole Group as our lead water scoring partner. Covering six continents, South Pole Group brings both a global perspective, as well as rich local knowledge. It is the ideal partner to support us and the companies we work with to mitigate risks and capitalise on opportunities," says **Cate Lamb, Head of Water at CDP**.

With the results to be launched in October 2015, CDP and South Pole Group will evaluate the comprehensiveness of each company's water risk assessments and response strategies, and whether they are factored into business planning.

"We are delighted by this unique opportunity to partner with CDP. CDP's unrivaled insights into corporate environmental information provide a solid starting point to drive greater transparency and incentivise corporate action on water. Building on our strong private sector understanding and expertise in corporate water solutions, together we can inspire change in the 'business as usual scenario' and create a better baseline for

*future improvement. The introduction of standardized corporate water scoring is a landmark step in accelerating corporate water stewardship and sustainably managing our planet's limited water resources," says **Renat Heuberger, CEO South Pole Group.***

The main objective of the scoring is to catalyse corporate action to improve water security. Based on a solid understanding of their water impact, companies can better manage their water resources, reduce their impacts, and leverage opportunities. Scoring carried out by CDP and South Pole Group acknowledges corporate efforts and highlights best practice examples. The resulting evaluations will help stakeholders and investors to better understand corporate resiliency amid pressing water challenges.

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About South Pole Group

South Pole Group is a privately owned sustainability solutions provider with proven impact and solid experience on the ground. South Pole Group operates with offices across the globe and is the world's biggest developer of emission reduction projects. Initially a project-driven company focused on developing and selling high-quality carbon credits, South Pole Group has become one of the leading providers of sustainability solutions to both public and private entities. The company offers a wide spectrum of sustainability services, including disclosure and reporting, strategy advisory, as well as design and implementation of sustainability projects on the ground. Its expertise covers the key sustainability-related areas of water, climate change, forests and land use, sustainable cities and buildings, as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

About CDP

CDP, formerly Carbon Disclosure Project, is an international, not-for-profit organization providing the only global system for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share vital environmental information. CDP works with market forces, including 822 institutional investors with assets of US\$95 trillion, to motivate companies to disclose their impacts on the environment and natural resources and take action to reduce them. CDP now holds the largest collection globally of primary climate change, water security and forest risk commodities information and puts these insights at the heart of strategic business, investment and policy decisions. Please visit www.cdp.net or follow us [@CDP](https://twitter.com/CDP) to find out more.

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