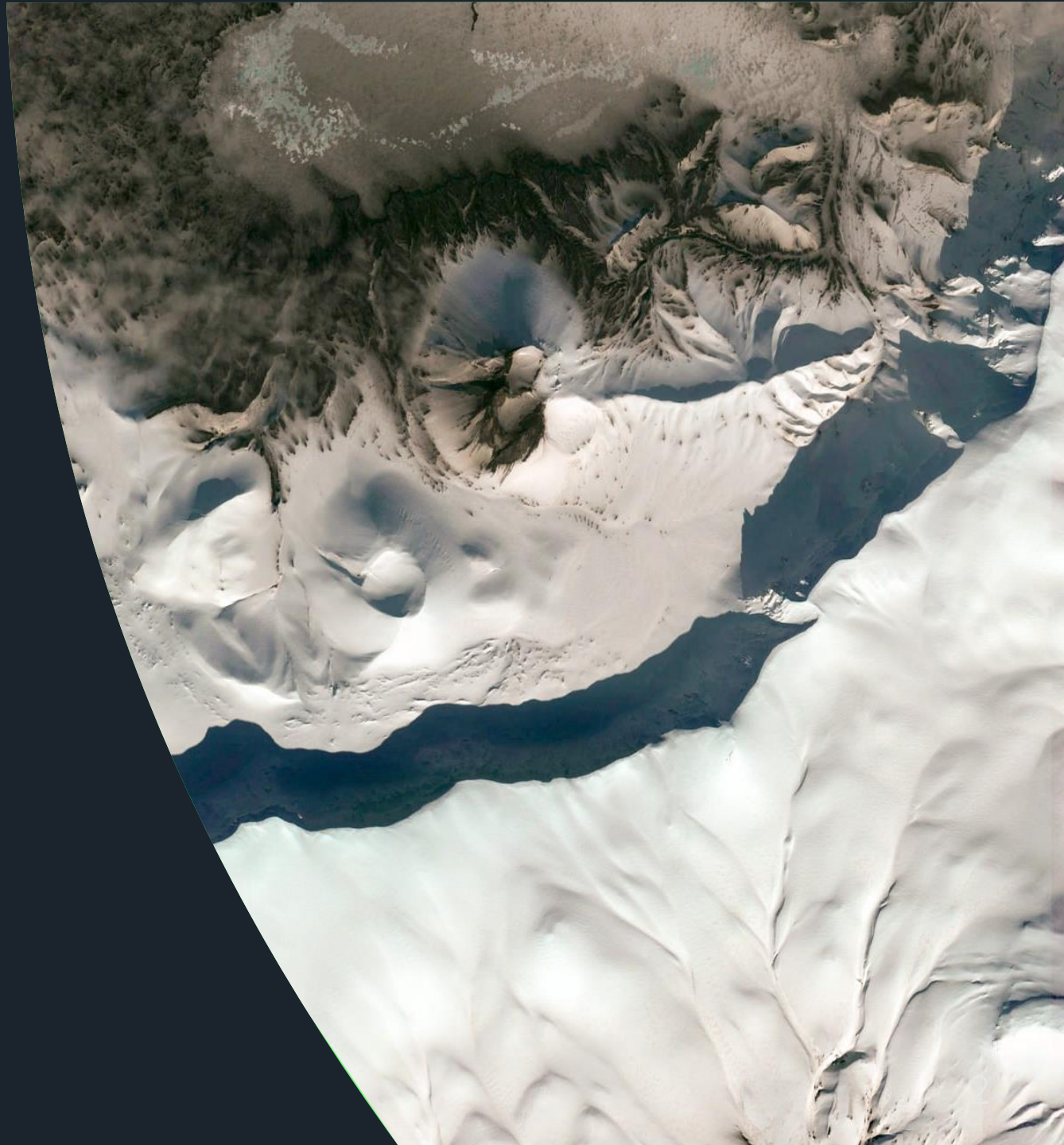


Introduction to CDP Scoring and Essential Criteria

July 2nd 2025



Webinar Hosts



Rosie Rust

*Senior Engagement
Manager, UK & MEA*



Carlota García
Fernández

*Senior Engagement
Manager, Europe*

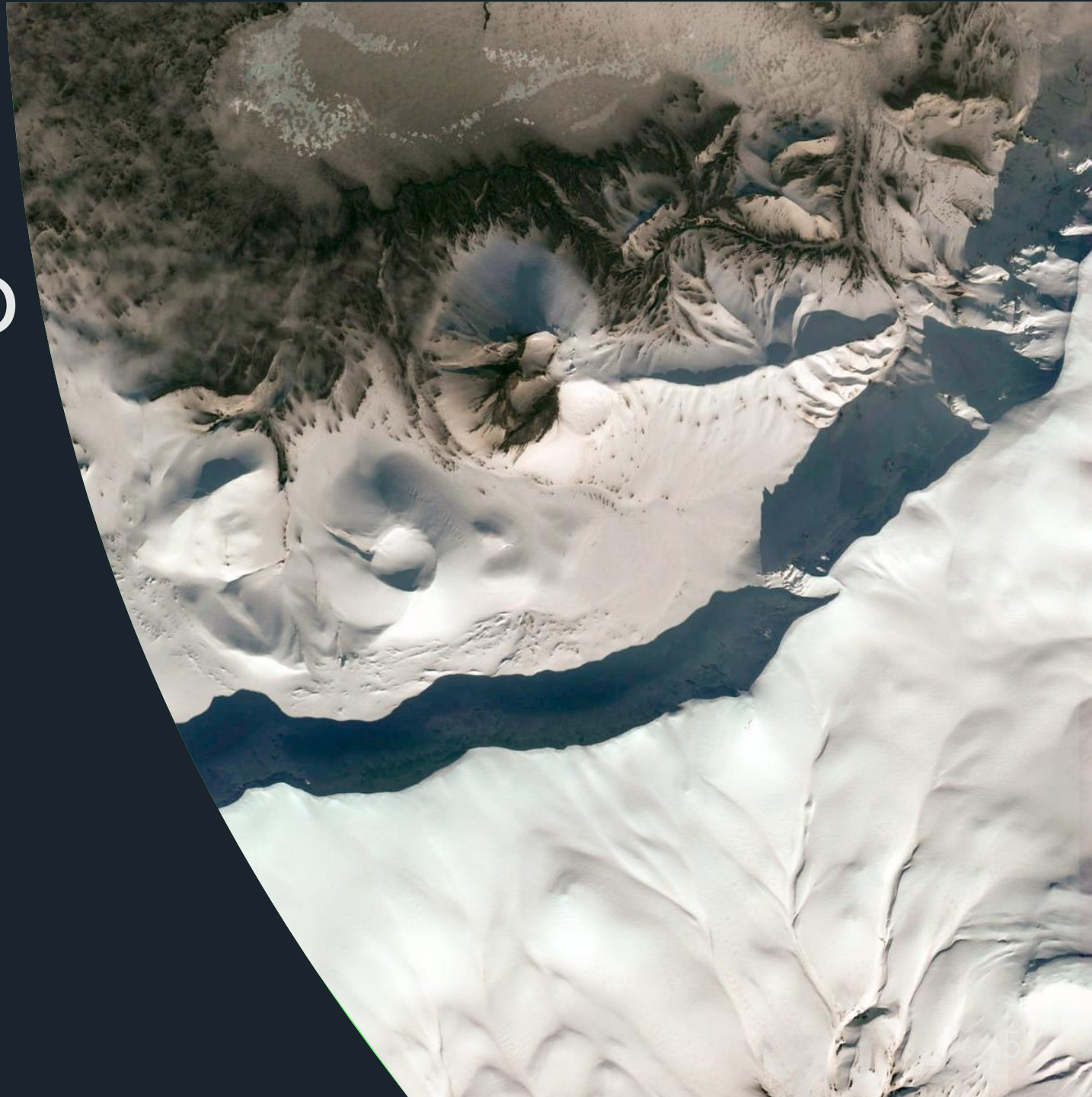


Contents

1. Basics of CDP Scoring
2. Calculation of the Final Score
 - Step 1: Final Score Allocation
 - Step 2: Application of Essential Criteria
3. Essential Criteria Examples
4. What to expect in 2025?
5. Recommendations
6. Where to find resources?
7. Q&A



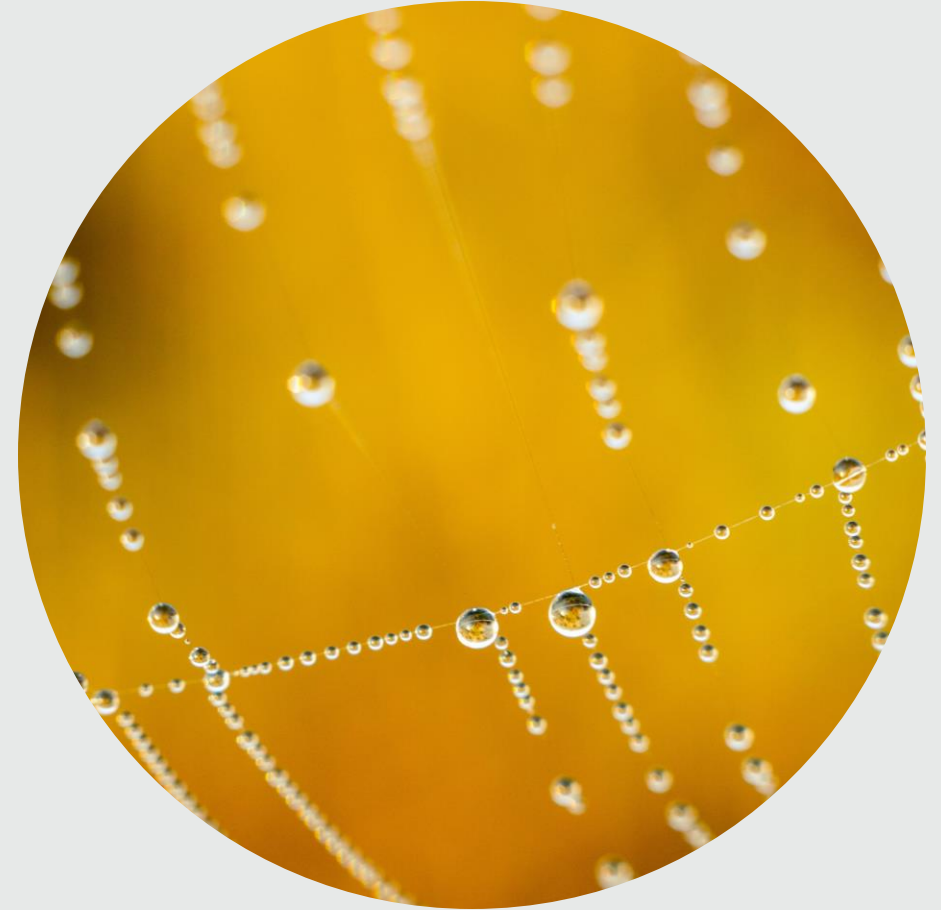
Basics of CDP Scoring



Principles of Scoring

Scoring is closely aligned with CDP's mission of incentivizing companies to measure and manage environmental impacts through disclosing to CDP.

CDP undertakes scoring by assessing responders against a **scoring methodology**, which details how each question in the questionnaire will be scored, providing a **roadmap to companies on how to achieve best practice.**



Full details on our Scoring process are outlined in **CDP's 2025 Scoring Introduction Document**

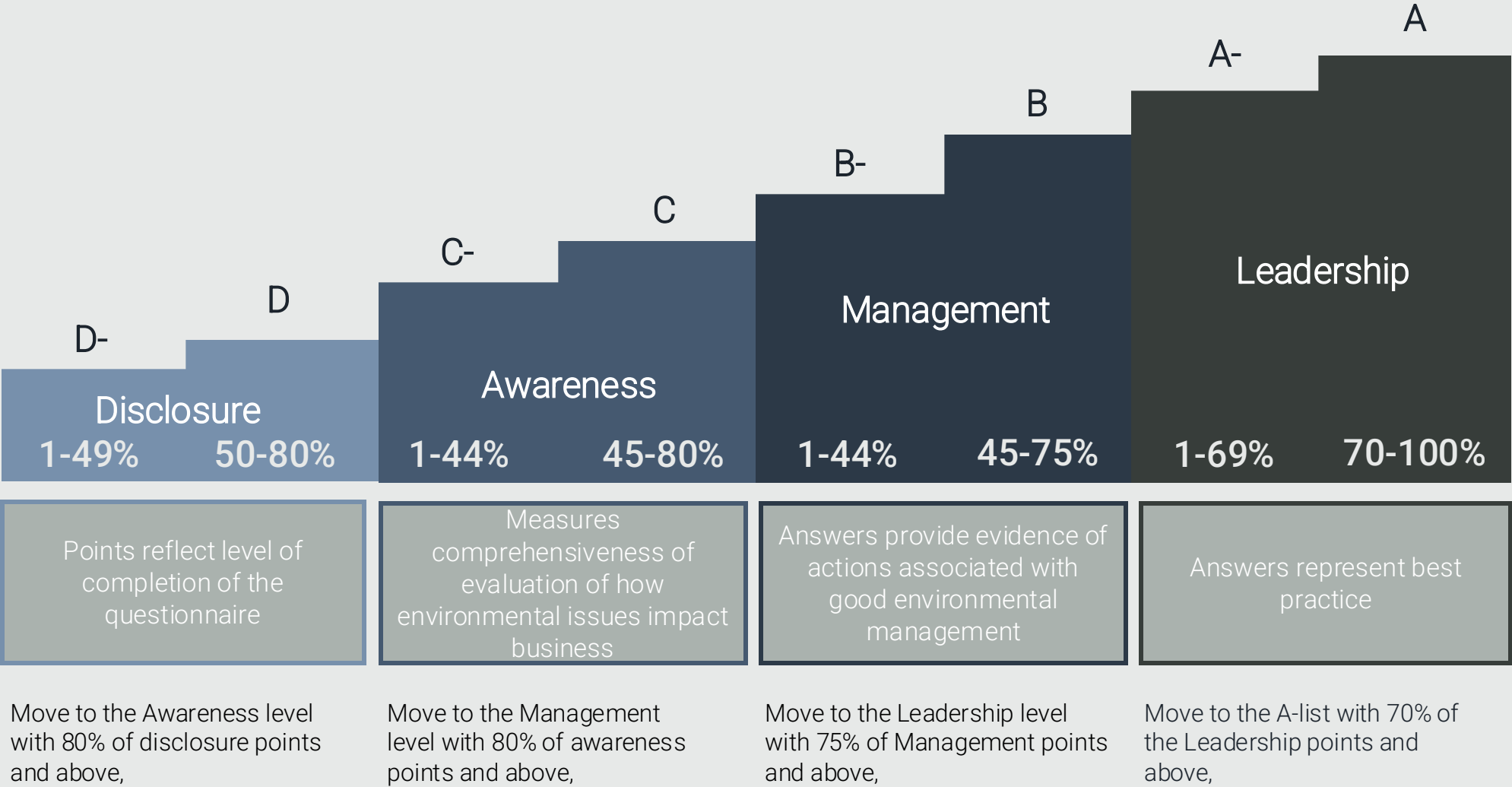
About CDP scores

A CDP score provides a snapshot of a company's disclosure and environmental performance.

Scores indicate the level of action reported by the company to assess and manage its environmental impacts during the reporting year.



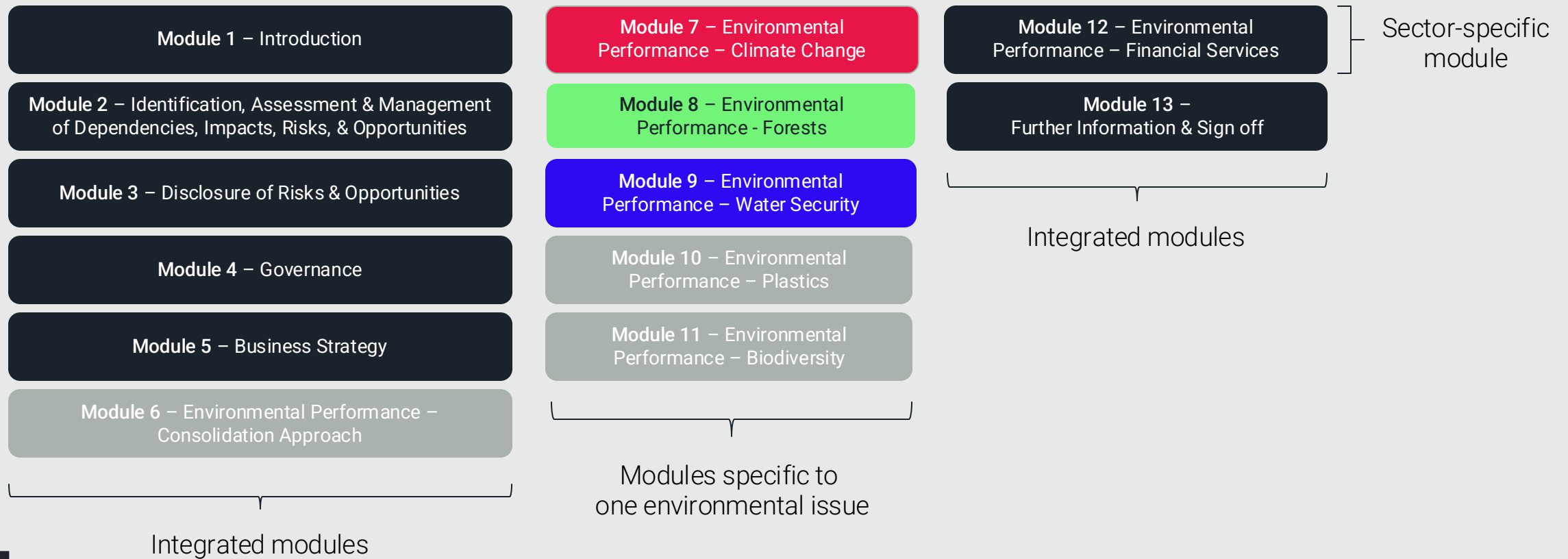
Scoring thresholds



Disclaimer: Each year, provisional scoring thresholds applied to each CDP scoring level for each scored environmental issue area. The thresholds shown here were applied to calculate the scores released for the 2024 disclosure cycle. CDP reserves the right to adjust these thresholds at any point prior to the release of scores.

2025 Full corporate questionnaire

Streamlined, holistic reporting



Scoring Categories

Scoring categories are groupings of questions by topic.

They are sub-groups of the 2025 questionnaire modules and are consistent across all sectors.



[Category mapping: Climate change](#)



[CDP Water Security Scoring Category Mapping 2025](#)



[CDP Forests Scoring Category Mapping 2025](#)



Scoring Categories

ALL ISSUES

CLIMATE CHANGE

WATER SECURITY

FOREST

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Governance ▼ Business strategy ▼ Targets ▼ Context ▼ Dependencies, Impacts, Risks and Opportunities Process ▼ Risk Disclosure ▼ Opportunity Disclosure ▼ Environmental Policies ▼ Value chain engagement ▼ Verification (incl. Emissions) ▼ Public policy engagement & industry collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Pricing environmental externalities ▼ Emissions reductions initiatives and low carbon products ▼ Scope 1 & 2 emissions ▼ Scope 3 emissions ▼ Energy ▼ Additional climate-related metrics ▼ <i>Portfolio Impact [FS only]</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Pricing environmental externalities ▼ Water pollution management [excl. FS] ▼ Water accounting [excl. FS] ▼ <i>Portfolio Impact [FS only]</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▼ Commodity Visibility and Reporting [excl. FS] ▼ DCF Status [excl. FS] ▼ Engagement in Activities and Initiatives [excl. FS] ▼ <i>Portfolio Impact [FS only]</i>
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Category Weightings

On management and leadership level, scoring categories are weighted differently depending on their significance generally and for certain sectors.

The weightings for categories can be found in CDP's 2025 Scoring Category Weightings Documents:



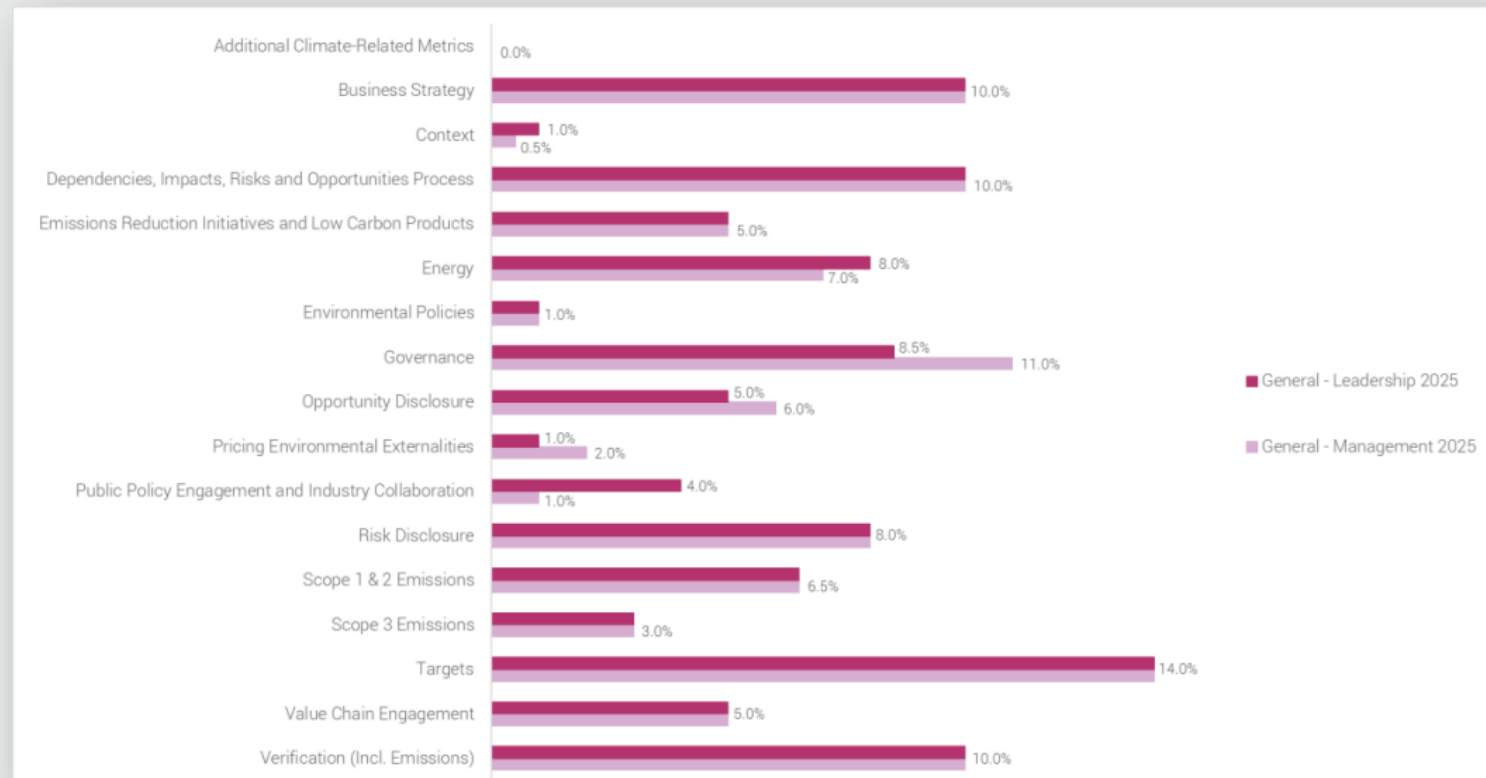
[CDP Climate Change Scoring Category Weightings 2025](#)



[CDP Water Security Scoring Category Weightings 2025](#)



[CDP Forests Scoring Category Weightings 2025](#)



The bar chart above shows the % weighting applied to each of the scoring categories at Management and Leadership levels for the general 2024 Full corporate scoring methodology - Climate change.

Essential Criteria

Essential criteria are additional eligibility conditions to ensure companies meet mandatory requirements for what is considered **best practice across all disclosure levels**.

Level of Essential Criteria		Impact on final score
Awareness	Check not met	Final score limited to a D
Management	Check not met	Final score limited to a C
Leadership	Check not met	Final score limited to a B
A-list	Check not met	Final score limited to an A-



Climate Essential Criteria

Essential Criteria were expanded in 2024 to **Awareness, Management & Leadership level** as well as the **A List**.

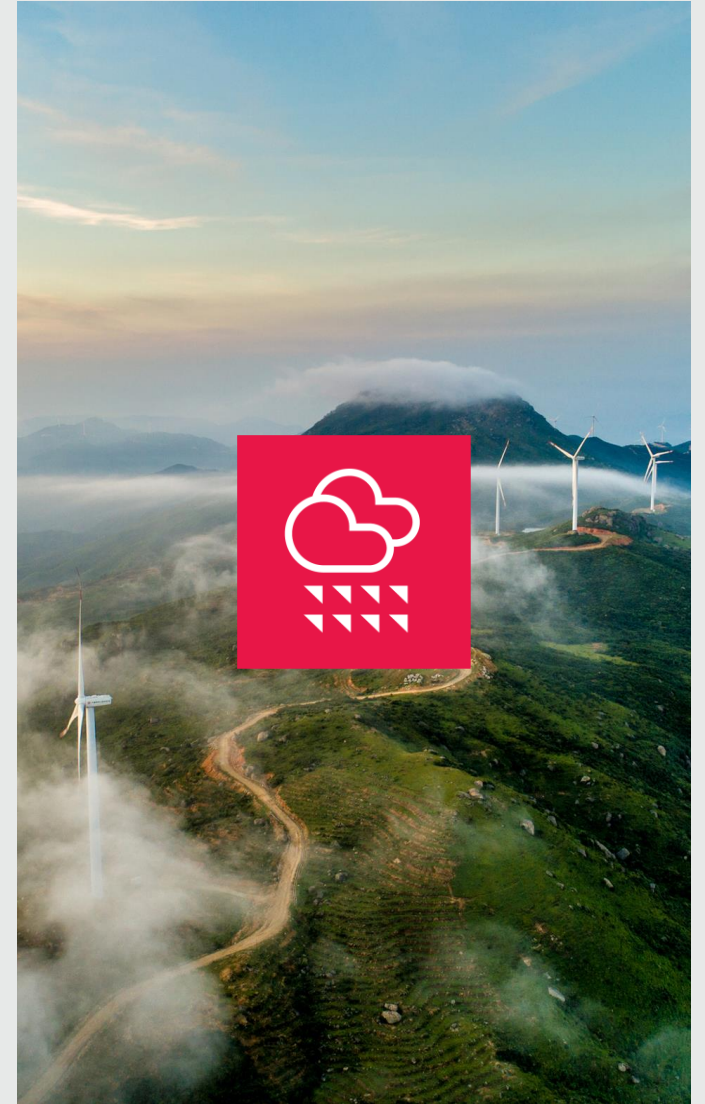
Criteria on each level reflect the respective ambition for corporate action on climate change:

- ▶ Essential criteria on **Awareness and Management level** focus mostly on robust **disclosure of risks & opportunities** and fundamental **governance mechanisms**.
- ▶ Essential criteria on **Leadership levels** focuses on **Climate Transition Plans** and **third-party verification** and ambitious climate targets (among others).

Find the full list of Essential Criteria for Climate Change (incl. sector-specific criteria) here:



CDP Climate Change Scoring Essential Criteria 2025



Water and Forests Essential Criteria

Water & Forests Essential Criteria were **introduced for the first time in 2024** for the **A-list only**

Criteria reflect leadership ambition for corporate action on water security and deforestation.

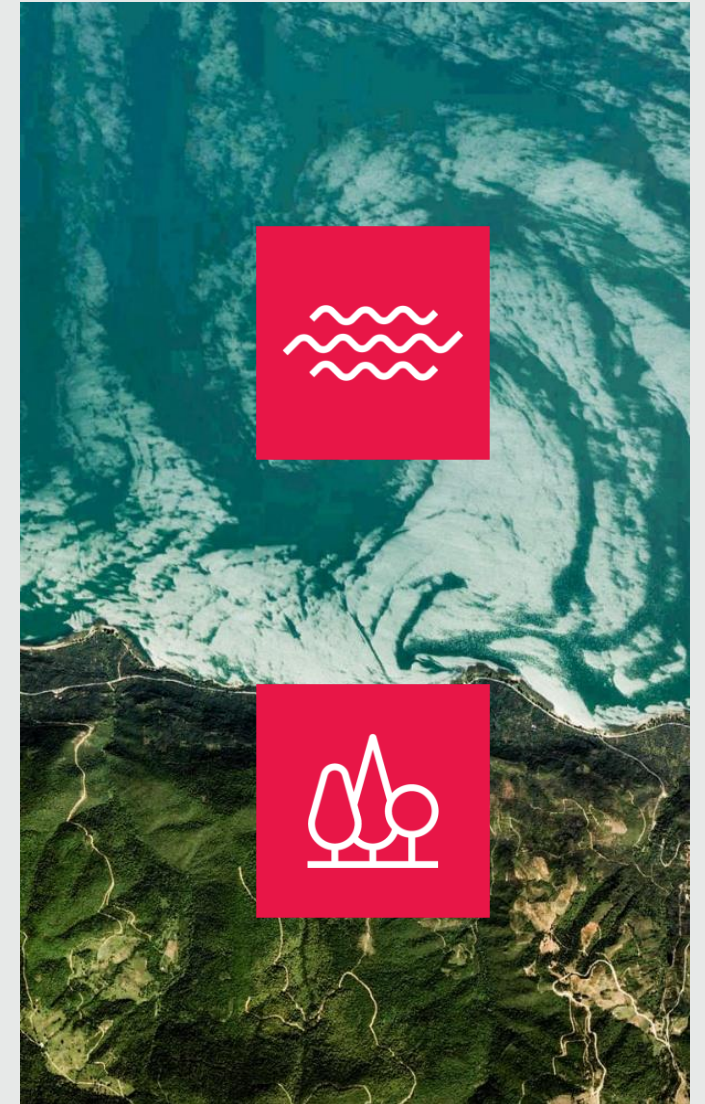
Find the full list of Essential Criteria for Water and Forests (incl. sector-specific criteria) here:



[CDP Water Security Scoring Essential Criteria 2025](#)



[CDP Forests Scoring Essential Criteria 2025](#)



Scoring Approaches

Proportional scoring

*“Points will be awarded per completed cell in proportion to the number of cells displayed.”
(e.g., reporting boundaries, time horizons, and governance processes)*

*“Points will be awarded per completed row in proportion to the number of rows disclosed.”
(e.g., value chain engagement, electricity generation activities, etc.)*

Score Progression logic

To earn points in higher scoring bands, lower-level scores must be fully achieved



Full details on our Scoring approaches are outlined in [CDP's 2025 Scoring Introduction Document](#)

Scoring Approaches

Cross-checking: conditional logic

"If 'Risks' and 'Opportunities' are disclosed in the same row, then all of the following criteria must be met in that one row."

"If 'Risks' and 'Opportunities' are disclosed in separate rows, then all of the following criteria must be met in both rows." (e.g., Q2.2.2)

Cross-checking: question dependencies

"Column 'Base year emissions (metric tons CO₂e)' must be completed in all corresponding rows in question 7.5 where either 'Relevant, calculated' OR 'Not relevant, calculated' is selected in question 7.8."

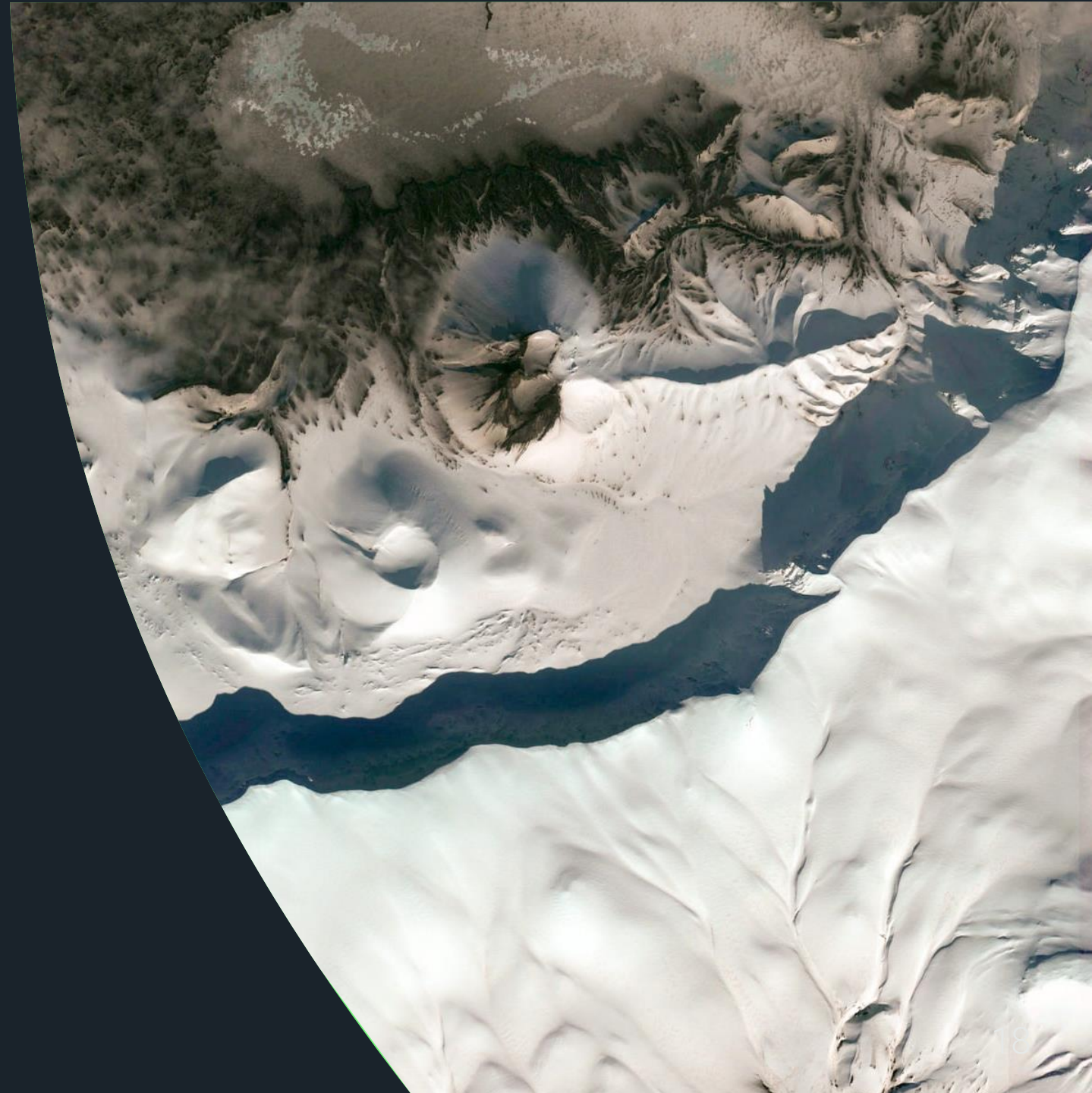
Best Row Scoring

"Best row(s) scored." (e.g., multiple entries, only the highest-scoring row may count toward points)

The best row scoring approach is denoted in the scoring criteria as 'One row scored'



Calculation of the Final Score



Calculation of the Final Score

Step 1

Final Score Allocation

Step 2

Application of the Essential Criteria



Full details on our Scoring process are outlined in [CDP's 2025 Scoring Introduction Document](#)

Final Score Allocation

The scoring methodology provides the specific **scoring criteria for each question at each of the four scoring levels**, and a table that details the point allocation for the question.

The point allocation tables have separate 'numerator' and 'denominator' columns for each level.

Disclosure numerator	Disclosure denominator	Awareness numerator	Awareness denominator	Management numerator	Management denominator	Leadership numerator	Leadership denominator
3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0



Final Score Allocation

Step 1

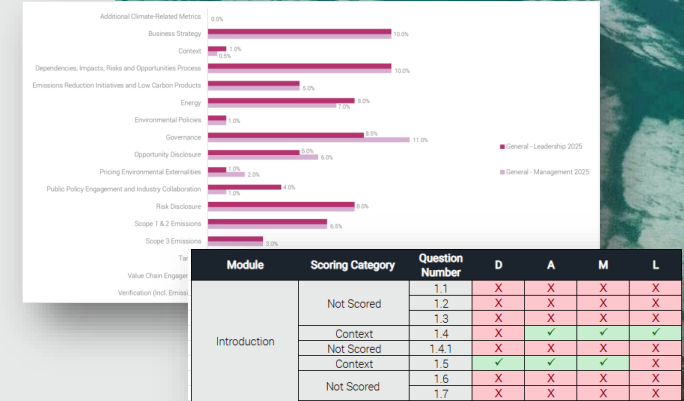
The response is evaluated against the scoring methodology and a **final percentage score at each level** is allocated.

- For the **Disclosure** and **Awareness** scoring levels, a simple percentage of the number of points awarded out of the number of points available is calculated.
- For **Management** and **Leadership** scoring levels, a weighted percentage is calculated:

1. The **score per scoring category and level** is calculated: $Numerator/Denominator * 100$

2. Weightings are applied to obtain a weighted score per scoring category and level:
 $Category\ weighting\ (\%) / 100 * Management/Leadership\ score\ (\%)$

3. The category scores for each level are then summed together to calculate the **overall final percentage score per level**.



Final Score Allocation

Thresholds are applied and these final percentage scores translate into a final letter score ranging from D- to A:

Level	Climate Change	Forests	Water Security	Score band
Disclosure	1-49%	1-49%	1-49%	D-
	50-80%	50-80%	50-80%	D
Awareness	1-44%	1-44%	1-44%	C-
	45-80%	45-80%	45-80%	C
Management	1-44%	1-44%	1-44%	B-
	45-75%	45-75%	45-75%	B
Leadership	1-69%	1-69%	1-69%	A-
	70-100%	70-100%	70-100%	A

Table 1 – Provisional scoring thresholds applied to each CDP scoring level for each scored environmental issue area. The thresholds shown here were applied to calculate the scores released for the 2024 disclosure cycle.



Application of Essential Criteria

- As well as achieving a minimum percentage score in a level to be able to move to the next level, CDP also utilizes a system of **essential criteria**.
- To be able to achieve a score within a given score level, these criteria must be met within the response.

Even if a responder has passed the threshold to be scored within a scoring level, they will not be eligible to be scored for that level if they do not pass all of the essential criteria associated with it.



Application of Essential Criteria

Step 2

Category scores are NOT impacted by essential criteria

If an organizations category scores are relatively higher than their final score, this is an indicator that not all the required essential criteria have been met.

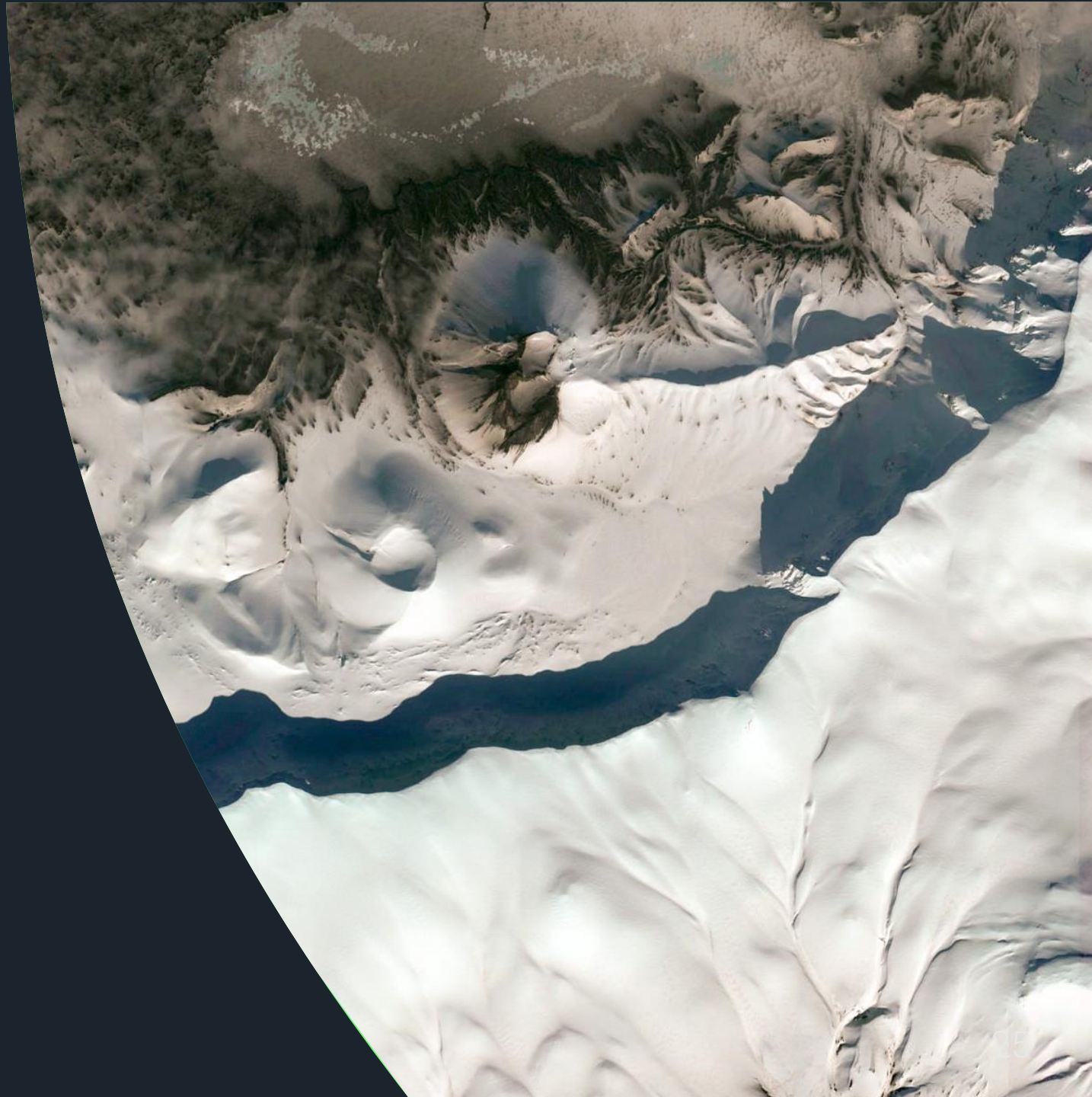
Final score: C

Despite being eligible for a B, they did not meet all required essential criteria.

cdp_disclosing_org_number	disclosing_organisation	category	environmental_issue	score
123456	Company A	Energy	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Risk Disclosure	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Emissions Reduction Initiatives and Low Carbon Products	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Verification (Incl. Emissions)	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Scope 1 & 2 Emissions	Climate	D
123456	Company A	Targets	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Environmental Policies	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Business Strategy	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Context	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Governance	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Value Chain Engagement	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Opportunity Disclosure	Climate	B
123456	Company A	Dependencies, Impacts, Risks and Opportunities Process	Climate	B



Essential Criteria Examples



EC-CC17: Verification

7.9.1, 7.9.2, 7.9.3



Companies disclosing to CDP must verify the environmental data they report in order to receive a Leadership and A-List scores and demonstrate their environmental leadership to stakeholders.

Leadership



A List

Third-party verification of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, with the proportion of reported emissions verified for both is $\geq 95\%$.

Third-party verification in place for at least one Scope 3 category.

Fulfilling Management level criteria in questions 7.9.1 and 7.9.2, and Management level eligibility criteria and criteria i) to iv) in question 7.9.3, in line with common terms.

Third-party verification of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, with 100% of reported emissions verified for both.

Third-party verification of $\geq 70\%$ reported emissions verified in at least one Scope 3 category.

Fulfilling Leadership level criteria in questions 7.9.1, 7.9.2 and 7.9.3, in line with common terms.

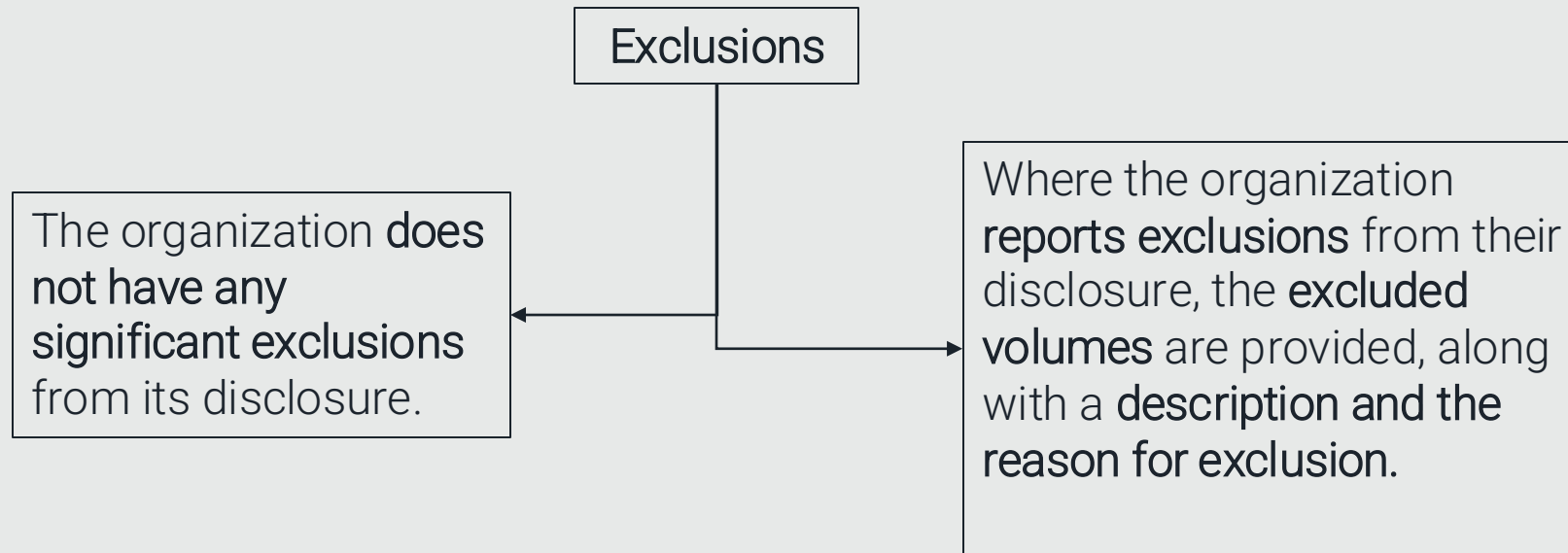




EC-F12: Exclusions

8.1, 8.1.1

A List





EC-F12: Exclusions

The following types of exclusions are NOT considered to be significant:

- Exclusions where the volume excluded is less than 5% of the total produced and/or sourced volume for that commodity.
- Recent mergers or acquisitions, that occurred within the reporting year and will be included in disclosure in the following year
- Divestitures
- Embedded commodities
- Recycled commodities
- The commodity volume originates entirely from products owned and branded by third parties.

Example: Company A sources 50,000 mt of direct soy and 50,000 mt of embedded soy. They exclude all embedded soy and 5,000 mt of direct soy from the disclosure.

The % of direct soy volume excluded is counted as $5,000/50,000 = 10\%$. **EC-F12 is not met.**





EC-W17: Targets

9.15 & 9.15.1

A List

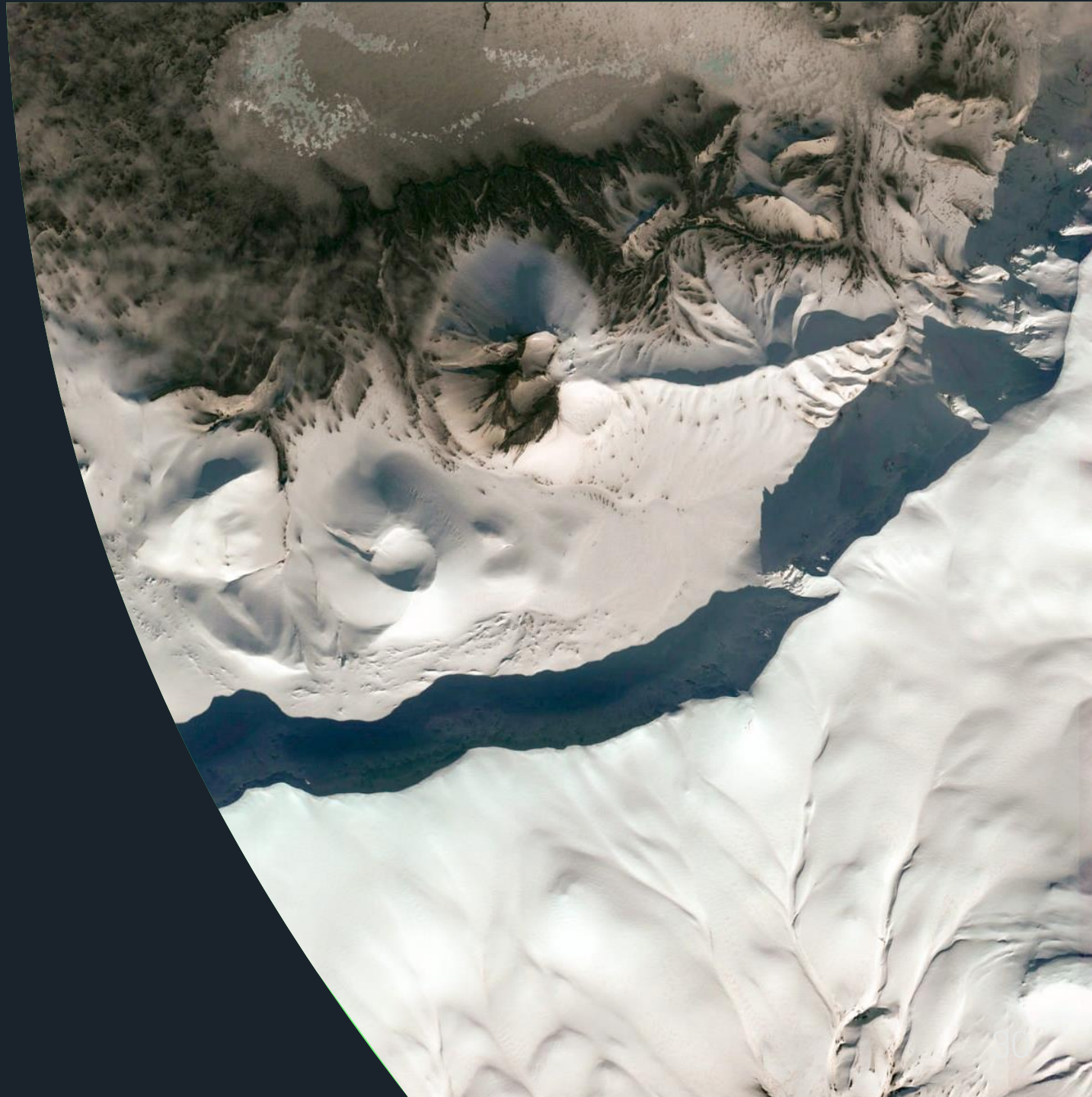
The organization has set a target(s) in **at least two** of the following categories in question 9.15.1:

- Water withdrawals
- Water pollution
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services

- Water withdrawals, Water pollution and WASH services are **three pillars of the fair water footprint** and key components of **TNFD's** drivers of change, **SBTN** and the **CEO Water Mandate**.



What to expect
in 2025?



Corporate scores in 2025



CDP will continue to **score companies individually** for climate change, forests, and water security in 2025.



Plastics and biodiversity will remain unscored as we empower more companies to begin disclosing on these environmental issues.



No changes to questionnaires' content.
Minimal Questionnaire or Scoring Changes, designed to remove ambiguity.



Scoring for Financial Services companies

Climate

for FS will be scored publicly



Forests

for FS will be scored publicly *(new for 2025)*



Water

for FS will be scored publicly *(new for 2025)*



Essential Criteria in 2025

Please read the 2025 Essential Criteria documents available on the CDP website

New EC identifier number in 2025 for better distinction between criteria and easier reference

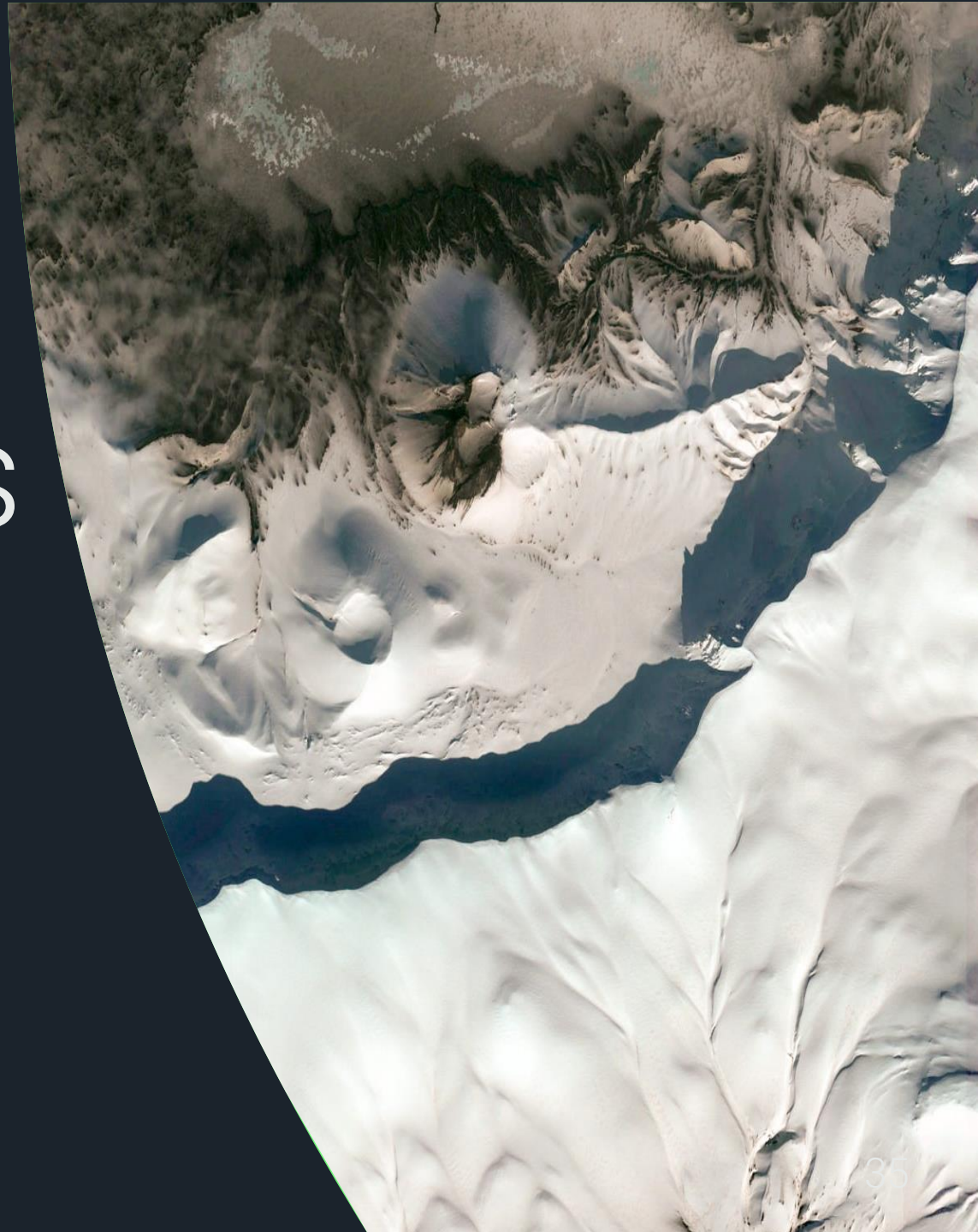
EC-CC14 Disclosure of Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions

Essential criteria level	Question	Scored data points
Awareness	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No essential criteria applied.
Management	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No essential criteria applied.
Leadership	7.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The organization discloses Scope 1 emissions figures for the reporting year.
	7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The organization discloses Scope 2 emissions figures for the reporting year, including Scope 2 location-based emissions figures and, if applicable to the organization, Scope 2 market-based figures.
	Additional guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Please note, applicability of Scope 2 market-based emissions is determined as per disclosure of the reporting approach outlined by the organization in question 7.3.
A List	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No essential criteria applied.

Additional guidance updated for 2025 to provide clarification



Recommendations



Best Practice Reporting

CDP performance bands			
Disclosure	Awareness	Management	Leadership
Common pitfalls at each performance band			
Leaving columns/rows blank	Not understanding environmental impacts	Not demonstrating implementation of management practices	Not representing best practice
Did not fulfill Essential Criteria	Leaving columns/rows blank	Responding with generic language	Responding with generic language
	Did not fulfill Essential Criteria	Neglecting to include criteria from scoring methodology	Neglecting to include criteria from scoring methodology
		Did not fulfill Essential Criteria	Inconsistent data across questions in questionnaire
			Did not fulfill Essential Criteria

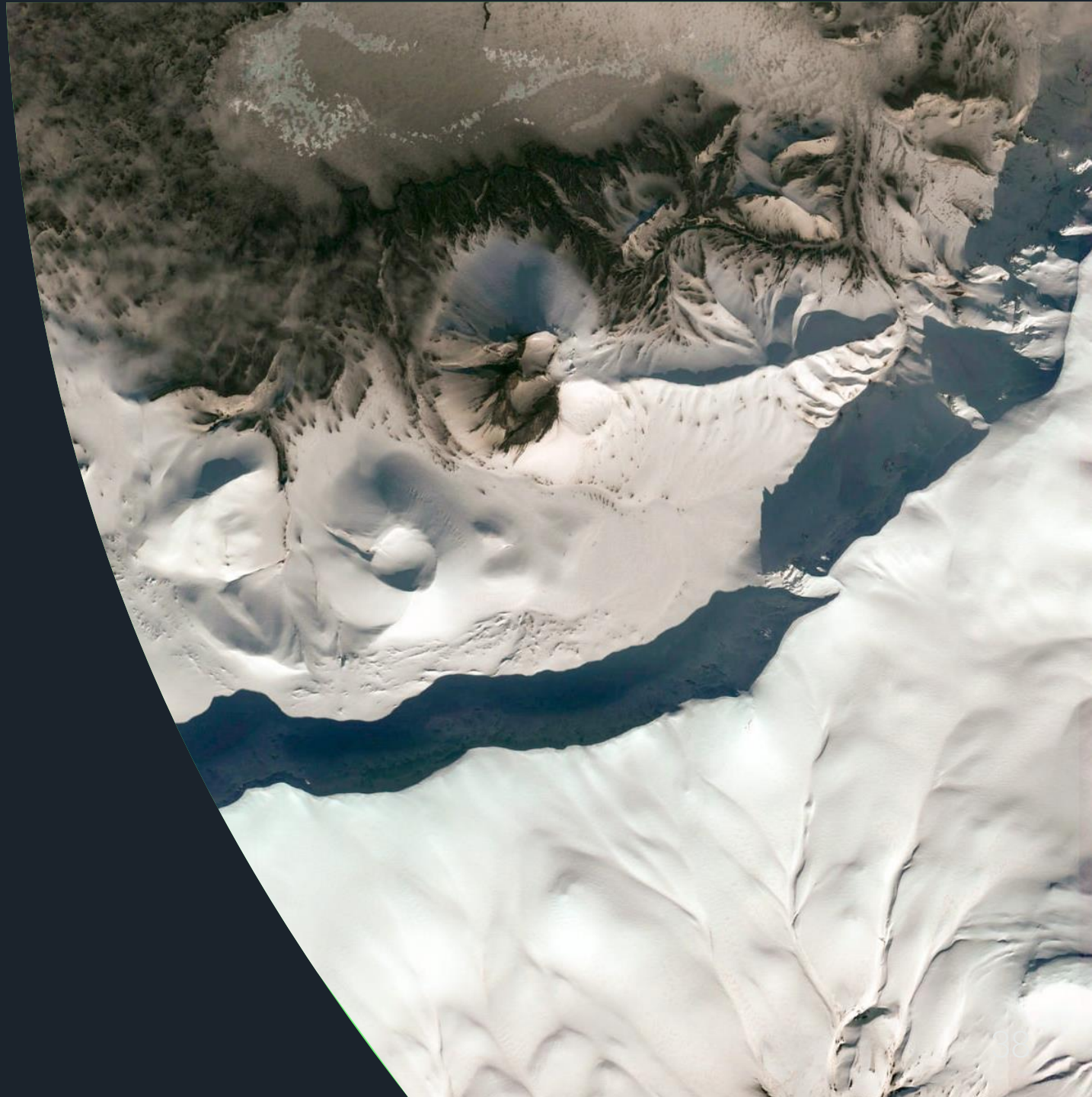


General recommendations


- **Reporting year alignment**: Ensure that disclosed information pertains to the reporting year unless the question or column specifies a different timeframe.
- **Do not leave cells blank**: Non-disclosed information cannot be evaluated and will result in a penalization.
- **Assessment and calculation of figures**: Initial estimates may not be perfect. Start with approximations, clearly explaining the assumptions behind them. Input "0" only when the actual value is zero, not as a placeholder for uncalculated figures.
- **Ensure consistency**: Consistency should be maintained not only within individual question-level responses but also throughout the entire questionnaire. This is evaluated both at the question level and through criteria that promote consistency across questions.



Where to find resources?




Navigating 2025 cycle information

 Disclosure Cycle 2025 About Us ▾ Disclose Data ▾ Use Data ▾ Insights ▾ Information ▾

EN ▾ SIGN IN ▾

Step 1

 Disclosure Cycle 2025 About Us ▾ Disclose Data ▾ Use Data ▾ Insights ▾ Information ▾

EN ▾ SIGN IN ▾

CDP Disclosure Cycle 2025


April 30 update: Our scoring methodologies [are now available below](#) along with our [Key Changes documents](#). Requesters can begin to create their Request lists in the [CDP Portal](#).

Environmental disclosure is now more important than ever.

In our 25th year, we look forward to partnering with you to facilitate disclosure that is critical for driving Earth-positive change.

This year, Requester and Discloser feedback is at the heart of our approach to the disclosure cycle, with Portal stability and core functionality among our areas of focus.

Here on our Disclosure Hub, you can find key updates, documents and information throughout the cycle.


Scroll Down

On this page ×

Key dates

Questionnaire, guidance and scoring methodologies

Key changes for 2025

Explore more

Further support and services

Navigate



Our Disclosure cycle 2025 page: [Disclosure Cycle 2025 - CDP](#)

Updates to 2025 cycle

CDP

Brand Hub

About Us

Disclose Data

Use Data

Insights

Information

EN

SIGN IN

Disclose Data

CDP disclosure serves as a one-stop shop for understanding and disclosing according to relevant market and regulatory demands.

Why Disclose?

Our Question Bank

Disclosure Cycle 2025

Disclosing Support - Reporter Services

Disclosing Support - Accredited Solutions Providers

How to Disclose

environmental journey

Scroll Down



Scroll Down

Scoring materials

Step 2

For Cities

For Corporates

For SMEs

For States and Regions (not applicable to Japan)

How to understand your score

For Japan only

Learn how to understand your CDP score following the score release.

DOWNLOAD

CDP Scoring Changes 2024

CDP Full Corporate Questionnaire Scoring Introduction

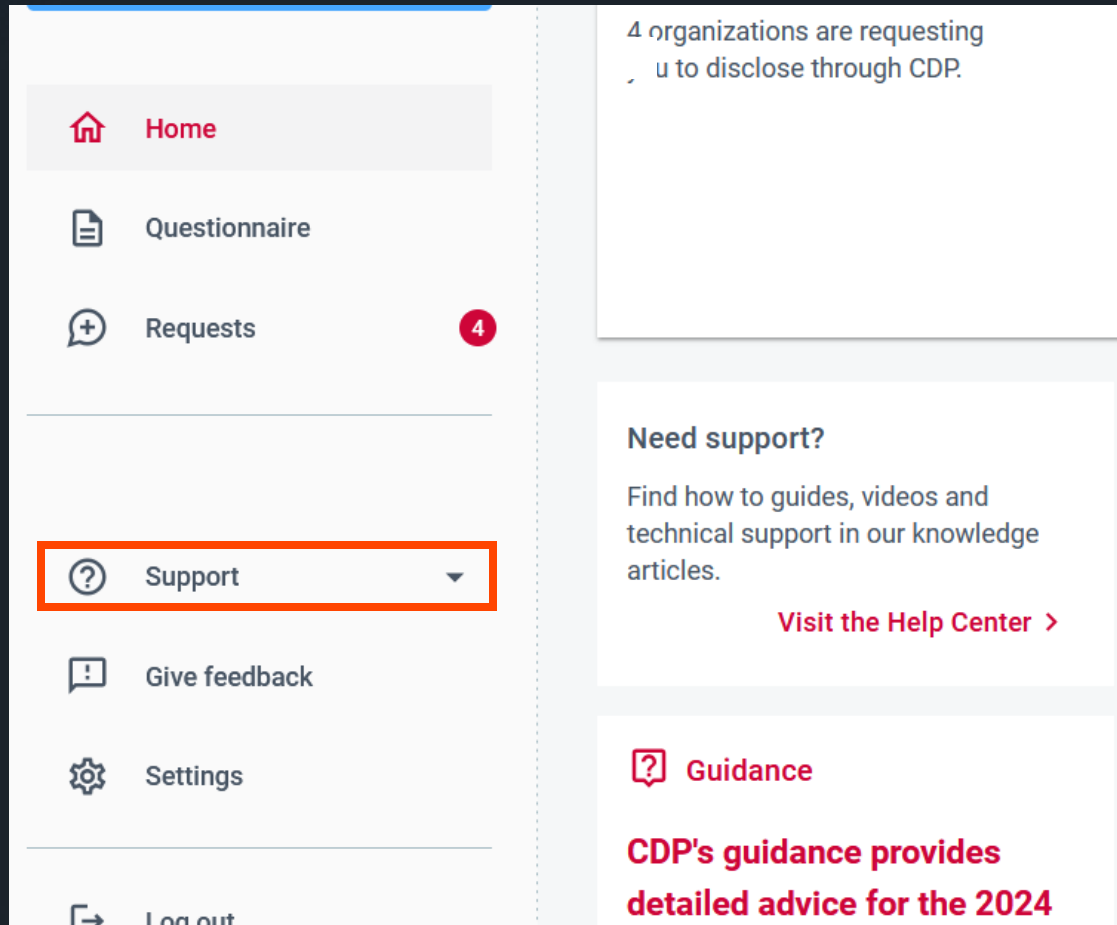
Get an overview of the scoring process before disclosing through CDP's full corporate questionnaire in 2024.

DOWNLOAD

Essential criteria



Contacting Help Center

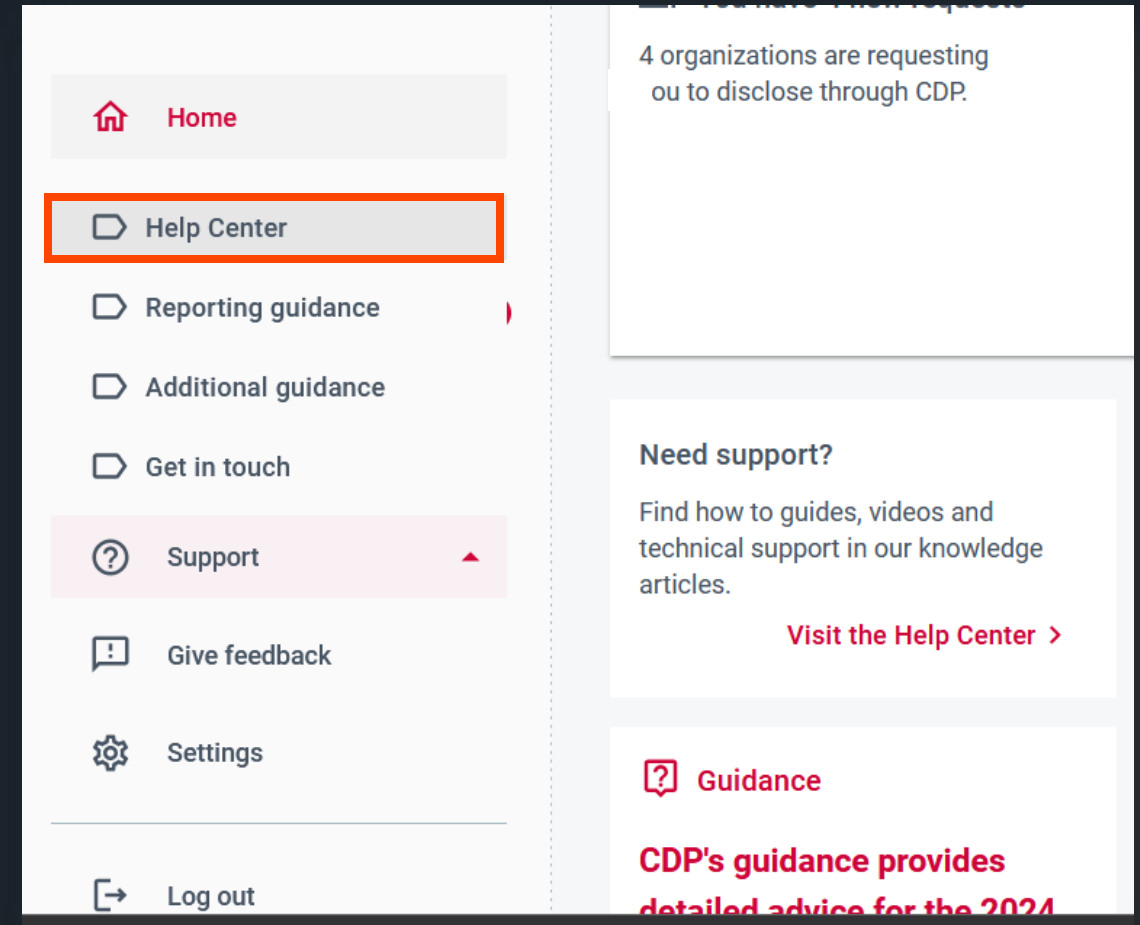


4 organizations are requesting you to disclose through CDP.

- Home
- Questionnaire
- Requests 4
- Support**
- Give feedback
- Settings
- Log out

Need support?
Find how to guides, videos and technical support in our knowledge articles.
[Visit the Help Center >](#)

Guidance
CDP's guidance provides detailed advice for the 2024



4 organizations are requesting you to disclose through CDP.

- Home
- Help Center**
- Reporting guidance
- Additional guidance
- Get in touch
- Support
- Give feedback
- Settings
- Log out

Need support?
Find how to guides, videos and technical support in our knowledge articles.
[Visit the Help Center >](#)

Guidance
CDP's guidance provides detailed advice for the 2024



Resources Summary

- 2025 Questionnaire & Guidance

Modules 1-6: Integrated questions;

Module 7: Climate Change;

Modules 8 to 13:

Water Security, Forests, Biodiversity, Plastics and Financial Services

- 2025 CDP Scoring Introduction

- CDP Corporate Scoring Changes 2025

- CDP 2025 Scoring Methodology

Climate Change, Water Security, Forests

- 2025 Full Essential Criteria

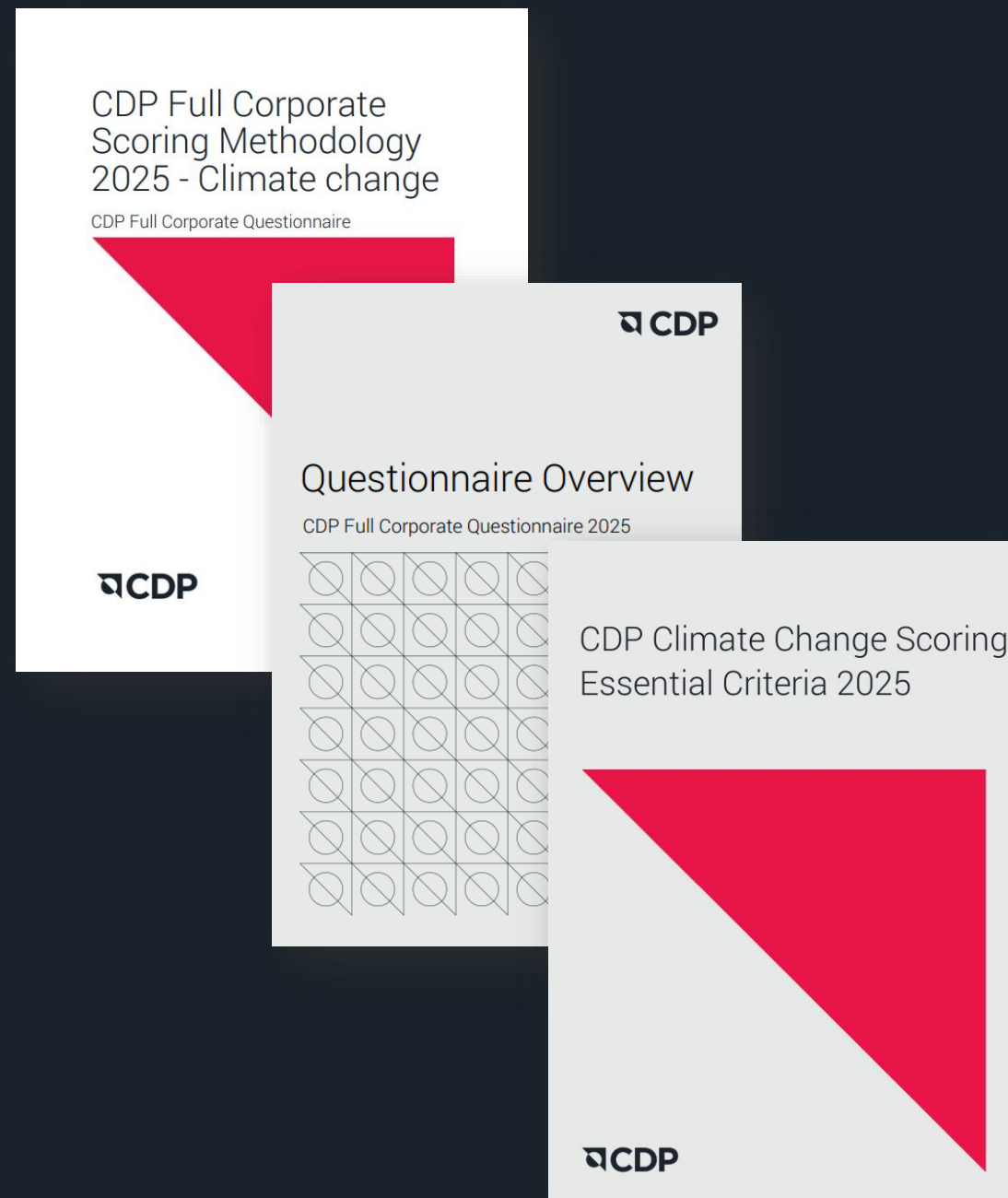
Climate Change, Water Security, Forests

- Category Weightings Documents

Climate Change, Water Security, Forests

- Category Mapping Documents

Climate Change, Water Security, Forests



Upcoming Webinars

What Financial Institutions need to know in 2025

Thursday 3 July 2025, 11:00-12:00 (BST)

Disclosing on Nature

Thursday 17 July 2025, 15:00-16:00 (BST)

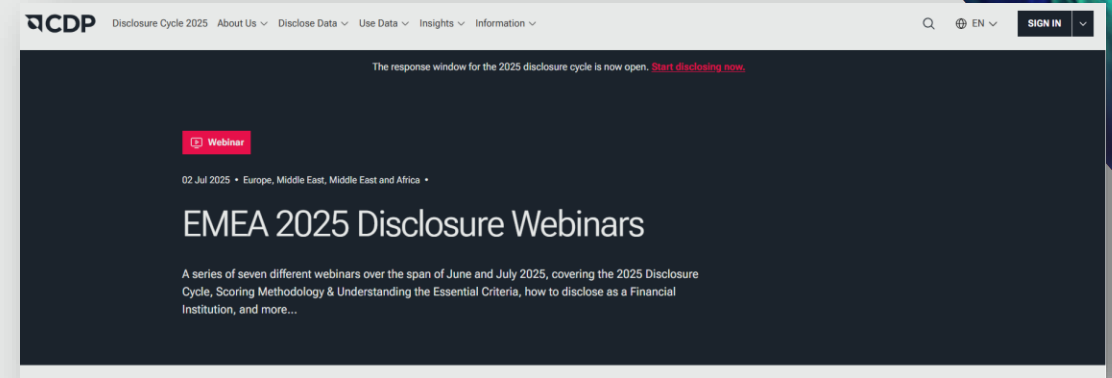
Regulation and Framework Alignment (Europe)

Monday 21 July 2025, 10:00-11:00 (CET)

Regulation and Framework Alignment (UK & MEA)

Tuesday 22 July 2025, 10:00-11:00 (BST)

Top tips for submitting your questionnaire - TBD



Registration and previous webinar recordings here:

<https://cdp.net/en/events/emea-2025-disclosure-webinars>



THANK YOU!



CDP Europe

Address: c/o WeWork, Potsdamer Platz - Kemperplatz 1
10785 Berlin



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