

# Questionnaire Overview

CDP SME Questionnaire 2026



## Version

Version number	Release / Revision date	Revision summary
1.0	Released: April 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key stats, disclosure dates and wording amended for 2026 disclosure cycle.</li><li>• Minor updates to graphics to reflect changes.</li><li>• Minor updates section “Environmental issues under CDP’s SME questionnaire to reflect additional datapoints/ changes made for environmental issues, Forests and Water security</li></ul>

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# Overview of the SME questionnaire

CDP's questionnaires evolve each year to drive corporate ambition further, and support organizations and financial markets to transition to a 1.5°C, deforestation-free, water-secure world. CDP collects environmental data from organizations around the world. That data is used by over 640 institutional investors representing a combined US\$127 trillion in assets, and 270+ major purchasers with over US\$6.4 trillion in procurement spend. Since its launch in 2002, CDP has helped thousands of organizations to measure their environmental impacts, set ambitious targets, and demonstrate action and progress.

CDP released its new SME questionnaire in 2024, replacing the minimum version of the corporate questionnaire from previous cycles. Over 12,500 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) disclosed in the first year, and around 11,000 in 2025. The CDP SME questionnaire is shorter and simpler than the full questionnaire and aims to provide a better experience for disclosers. It helps SMEs to understand where to focus their attention, build capacity, and act on their environmental impact.

CDP also set up the SME Disclosure Framework and collaborated on the SME Climate Hub. These tools help SMEs to measure and act on their environmental impact. The 2024 CDP SME questionnaire built on this work to provide a better, more tailored disclosure route for SMEs.

In 2026, the SME questionnaire will broaden its coverage to promote holistic, comparable, and actionable nature disclosure. It will include two new thematic modules. Firstly, a new module focused on Forests will apply to organizations that produce or source one or more key commodities: timber, cattle, palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, and rubber. Secondly, a new module focused on Water which will apply to SMEs for whom water security information is applicable to their business operations or supply chain.

## Full and SME corporate questionnaires

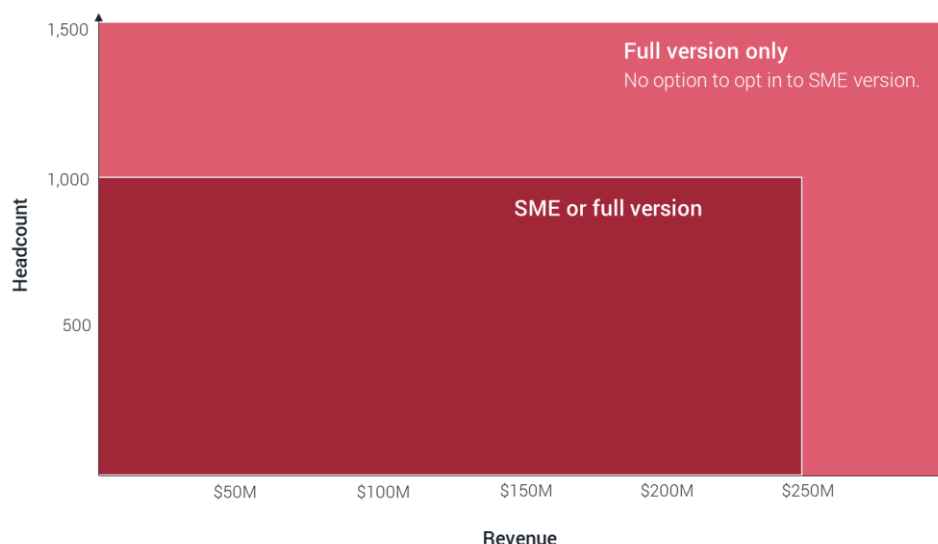
CDP recognizes that Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) may have different reporting capabilities and requirements compared to larger organizations. For this reason, CDP has two corporate questionnaires: the full questionnaire and the SME questionnaire.

The full corporate questionnaire is suitable for large organizations and includes sector-specific datapoints. Meanwhile, the SME questionnaire is tailored to the needs of SMEs and contains fewer and simplified datapoints. Only organizations that meet CDP's SME eligibility thresholds will have the option to complete the SME questionnaire.

Note that this document provides an overview of the SME corporate questionnaire only. You can find more information on the full corporate questionnaire using the [Full Corporate questionnaire overview document](#).

## Eligibility to complete the SME questionnaire

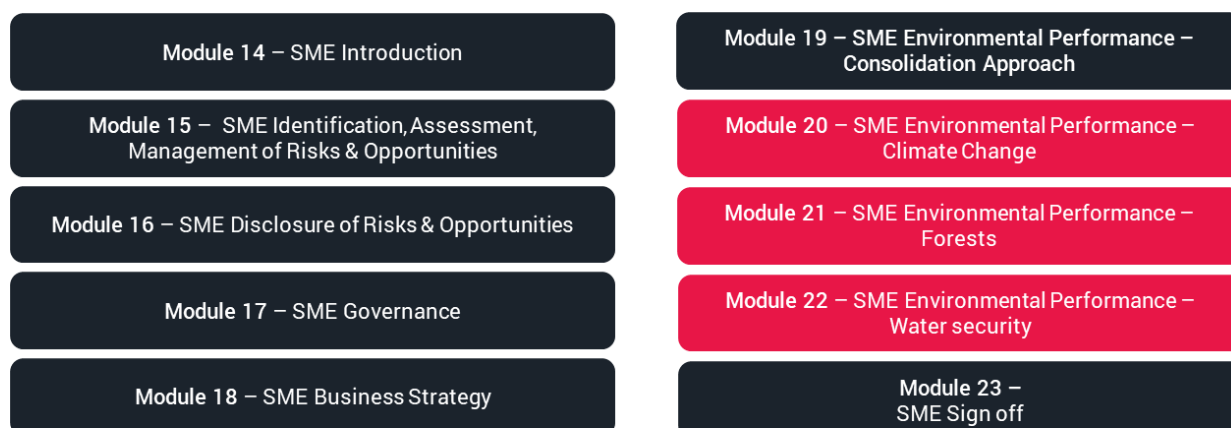
- Organizations with a headcount of more than 1,000 total employees or annual revenue of more than US\$250 million can only complete the full corporate questionnaire.
- Organizations below this threshold are eligible for the SME questionnaire (but can still opt-in to the full corporate questionnaire).
- Note: Organizations requested by the RE100 initiative are not eligible to complete the SME questionnaire.



## SME questionnaire structure

There are ten modules in the SME questionnaire. While all disclosers will be presented with datapoints on climate change, there are also two new modules on forests and water security with targeted datapoints on these environmental issues integrated throughout the questionnaire. Forests and Water Security content will only be presented to SMEs who choose to disclose on these environmental issues during questionnaire setup. The SME questionnaire also contains several questions shown only to organizations responding to a request from CDP Supply Chain members. There are no sector-specific questions in the SME questionnaire.

The journey through CDP's SME questionnaire includes the following:



- Integrated module
- Module specific to one env. issue

# Environmental issues in CDP's SME questionnaire

Environmental challenges are closely linked to the way businesses depend on ecosystems. Human activities, such as resource extraction, pollution, and land-use change, release emissions and degrade ecosystems, creating cascading risks to biodiversity, resource security, and economic stability. The World Economic Forum's [Global Risk Report \(2025\)](#), ranks environmental risks as four of the top five threats to the global economy over the next decade. The financial impact of climate-related risks are well established and are becoming increasingly apparent for nature-related risks and demand decisive, coordinated action

Addressing the climate crisis cannot be achieved without simultaneously addressing the nature crisis. Carbon emissions and climate change are only part of the challenge. Each year, an estimated US\$58 trillion in economic value is generated through the exploitation of natural resources, yet the loss of nature continues at unprecedented rates ([PWC, 2023](#)).

CDP's SME questionnaire guides organizations to measure their environmental impact and set commitments. This is the first step to effective action on environmental issues. It's suitable for organizations at the beginning of their environmental journey as well as those at a more advanced stage. In 2026, the SME questionnaire will broaden its coverage to provide more comprehensive nature-related disclosure alongside climate change by including two new modules focused on forests and water security. CDP encourages disclosers and data users to assess and manage environmental risks and opportunities as an interrelated challenge.

**Note:** In the SME questionnaire, 'environmental issues' refers to an organization's risks and opportunities related to the environmental issue areas covered in CDP's corporate questionnaire i.e., climate change, forests, and/or water.

## Climate Change

Measuring and disclosing environmental data is essential for managing climate risk. CDP's climate datapoints have evolved with the latest science and global policies. The 2015 Paris Agreement marked a turning point. Governments committed to limit global temperature rise well below 2°C and aim for 1.5°C, driving a transition to a net-zero economy.

This transition will create winners and losers across sectors, as climate risks and opportunities grow. "Business as usual" will not predict future performance. SMEs' flexibility and capacity to innovate makes them key players in delivering climate solutions. However, SMEs that fail to act risk losing opportunities. SMEs are a backbone of most economies and major employers; therefore, these risks have the potential to also impact the communities around them.

For 20 years, CDP's climate datapoints have focused on raising ambition and improving governance. Today, time is running out to prevent catastrophic climate change, and irreversible loss of nature. SMEs urgently need tools and resources to set 1.5°C aligned commitments and disclose performance.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are only one part of the challenge. Climate and nature crises must be tackled together by protecting ecosystems, adopting sustainable forestry and water practices.

The SME – Environmental performance – climate change module, allows for an introduction to climate change disclosure by requesting information on the organization's:

- Emissions methodology and exclusions;
- Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions inventory;
- Breakdown of emissions by business activity;
- Energy-related activities;
- Emissions reduction targets; and
- Emissions reduction initiatives.

## Forests

Stopping deforestation and the conversion of other natural ecosystems is key to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and protecting nature. Between 2010 and 2019, the “Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)” sector accounted for up to 21% of global total anthropogenic GHG emissions ([IPCC, 2023](#)).

Global demand for agricultural commodities drives most deforestation and ecosystem loss. People often cut timber in unsustainable ways and clear land for agriculture. This creates business risks because products tied to deforestation are used in millions of goods worldwide and appear in many organizations' value chains.

To help SMEs' forests disclosure journey, CDP's SME questionnaire includes forests-related datapoints, with a focus on seven key commodities: Timber products, Palm oil, Cattle products, Soy, Rubber, Cocoa, and Coffee. Data users and disclosers can use this data to understand the management and governance of current and future forest-related risks and opportunities. This also encourages organizations to integrate forests into strategic objectives and decision making.

In 2026, CDP introduced a new forests-specific module for SMEs. These are in Module 14 “SME Introduction” (see section “Produced and sourced commodities” and Module 21 “SME Environmental performance – Forests” These questions have been adapted from the full corporate questionnaire and are a simplified version of Module 1 “Introduction” (section “Produced and Sourced commodities”) and Module 8 “Environmental performance – Forests”.

The SME Environmental performance– Forests module allows for an introduction to forests disclosure by requesting basic information on:

- Commodities produced and/or sourced (Timber products; Palm oil; Cattle products; Soy; Rubber; Cocoa; Coffee);
- Any exclusions from reporting;
- Commodity volumes;
- Location data;
- No-deforestation or no-conversion targets; and
- Deforestation-and conversion-free (DCF) metrics and methods;

For SMEs requested to disclose on forests by CDP Supply Chain members, there are additional questions on;

- Certified commodity volumes; and
- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions and/or removals from land use management.

Note: The forests related content is only presented to SMEs who decide to disclose on forests in questionnaire setup.

**In 2026, SME Forests disclosures will not be scored.**

## Water Security

Through transparency and accountability, CDP drives organizations to decouple growth from depletion of freshwater resources and make progress towards a water secure economy. The questionnaire collects information about organizations' management and governance of water resources. Since 2010, CDP's water security program has grown quickly, in terms of the number of organizations disclosing water-related data, and the number of investors and customers requesting the data. CDP now holds the world's largest corporate water dataset, with more organizations reporting on water than ever before.

CDP's SME questionnaire presents a journey to water stewardship and water security by assisting organizations to progress the maturity of their water management and corporate reporting.

Data users and disclosers can use this data to understand management and governance of current and future water-related risks and opportunities. This also encourages organizations to integrate water security into strategic objectives and decision making.

In 2026, CDP introduced a new water-specific module for SMEs. Module 22 "SME Environmental performance – Water security" has been adapted from the full corporate questionnaire and is a simplified version of Module 9 "Environmental performance – Water security".

The SME – Environmental Performance – Water security module, allows for an introduction to water disclosure by requesting basic information on;

- Monitoring and measurement of water aspects e.g., water withdrawals, water consumption and water discharges
- Any exclusions from reporting;
- Company-wide water accounting;
- Facility-level water accounting & verification; and
- Any water-related targets.

For SMEs requested to disclose on water by CDP Supply Chain members, there are additional questions on:

- The impact of facilities on CDP supply chain members; and
- Water intensity of products.

Note: The water-security related content is only presented to SMEs who decide to disclose on water in questionnaire setup.

**In 2026, SME Water disclosures will not be scored.**

# Preparing your CDP response

This section covers the support materials and options available to organizations. It also contains important notes for completing your disclosure. Review these notes carefully as you prepare your response, even if you have responded to a CDP questionnaire in previous years.

## CDP disclosure cycle 2026

For the latest information on key dates, please refer to the [CDP website](#).

<b>Week of April 27</b>	Requesters can start to create and submit lists
<b>Week of June 15</b>	The 2026 response window opens
<b>Week of September 14</b>	Scoring deadline
<b>Week of October 26</b>	Deadline to submit unscored responses and all amendments

## CDP disclosure support materials

CDP provides a variety of support materials to help organizations respond to our questionnaires. Before completing the SME questionnaire, we strongly recommend you read the [Reporting Guidance](#), [Scoring Introduction](#), and [Scoring Methodology](#). There are a range of other guidance materials available from [CDP's 'How to Disclose' page](#), and see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). If you have any questions that are not answered in the reporting guidance or the additional resources, please contact your local CDP contact or visit the [CDP Help Center](#).

## Questionnaire reporting guidance

The reporting guidance includes the following:

- **Module-level guidance:** this guidance provides an overview of the module, as well as important disclosure notes.
- **Concept overview:** for certain sections i.e., before the beginning of a sub-topic, this provides an introduction to key concepts in a clear, Q&A format prior to presenting specific questions.
- **Question-level guidance:** at the question level, guidance is separated into the following elements to provide clarity around questions, terminology, and reporting requirements:
  - **Rationale:** provides reasoning behind the inclusion of each question;
  - **Ambition:** outlines the activities, actions, and behaviors that CDP recognizes organizations should be taking and demonstrating through their disclosure;
  - **Change From Last Year:** updates are categorized as Removed question, New question, Modified question, Minor change, Modified guidance, and Additional guidance. Modifications or additional guidance mean that the requested data has changed, while 'Minor change' indicates wording edits, drop-down option revisions, or a simple clarification;
  - **SME alignment with full questionnaire:** explains how the SME questionnaire aligns with CDP's full corporate questionnaire, which generally follows its structure in a simplified form with fewer questions, fewer datapoints, and tailored guidance. Alignment is categorized as 'Modified question', 'Minor change' and 'No change'. 'Modified question' means partial alignment to the full questionnaire, with substantial revisions such as fewer or modified data points. 'Minor change' means partial alignment to the full questionnaire, with smaller revisions such as wording edits, dropdown adjustments, or

modified/additional guidance. 'No change' means the question is the same as the full questionnaire.

- **Requested content:** offers guidance on how to respond to the requested datapoints;
- **Explanation of terms:** provides detailed definitions for specific terminology;
- **Additional information:** for certain questions, this provides further contextual information and sources related to the topics pertinent to a given question; and
- **Example responses:** for certain questions, this provides an example of a response that would include all information requested.

### Webinars and workshops

CDP hosts live webinars and workshops designed to aid you with environmental reporting. Visit the [workshops and webinars](#) pages of CDP's website for more details.

### CDP Reporter Services

The CDP Reporter Services program offers tailored support, enhanced data access and thought leadership on managing and reporting your environmental risks, such as:

- Year-round, strategic disclosure support from a dedicated CDP account manager;
- A gap analysis of your previous response;
- Final review before submission; and
- Analytics tools to evaluate yourself against peers and understand best practice.

Visit the [Reporter Services](#) page of CDP's website or contact [reporterservices@cdp.net](mailto:reporterservices@cdp.net) for more information.

### CDP's Accredited Solutions Providers

CDP accredits [leading environmental service providers](#) around the world to help disclosing organizations - including SMEs, find high-quality support, as they transition to environmental leadership and take vital steps towards a sustainable economy. All CDP accredited solutions providers have met specific accreditation criteria. Providers' expertise covers a wide range of environmental topics, including but not limited to:

- Renewable energy procurement
- Sustainability strategy
- Verification, collection, monitoring, and reporting of environmental data through integrated sustainability software applications
- Transition planning
- Emissions reduction initiatives.

CDP-accredited forests & land and water consultancy solutions providers support organizations looking to engage with and improve their forest and land, and water management.

Visit the [accredited solutions provider directory](#) to search for the provider best able to support you, or contact [partnerships@cdp.net](mailto:partnerships@cdp.net) to find out more.

## Important notes for completing your CDP response

### Personal data

It is important that you do not include the name of any individual or any other personal data in your response. For questions that ask for the positions of staff, we are asking only for the position and not for the individual's name or any other information relating to them, out of respect for personal data privacy.

### Principles of true and fair reporting

CDP promotes relevant and widely accepted reporting principles as adopted by the [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#) to guide organizations' disclosure and to ensure a true and fair account of their environmental data.

These principles are as follows:

- **Relevance:** Ensure the GHG emissions, commodity, and water use inventory appropriately reflect actual emissions, commodity use, and water use, and serve the decision-making needs of data users – both internal and external to the organization.
- **Completeness:** Account for and report on all GHG emission sources, water activities, and activities with the potential for deforestation risk within the chosen inventory boundary. Disclose and justify any specific exclusions.
- **Consistency:** Use consistent methodologies to allow for meaningful comparisons of an organization's environmental performance over time. Ensure there is no conflicting information in your responses, both within a question and across the questionnaire.
- **Transparency:** Address all relevant issues in a factual and coherent manner, based on a clear audit trail. Disclose any relevant assumptions and make appropriate references to the accounting and calculation methodologies and data sources used. Transparently document any changes to the data, inventory boundary, methods, or any other relevant factors in the time series.
- **Accuracy:** Ensure the quantification of GHG emissions, commodity use, and water use is sufficiently accurate to enable users to make decisions with reasonable assurance as to the integrity of the reported information.

Information is considered relevant if it contains details that users, both internal and external to the organization, need for their decision-making. When considering what to disclose, identify and report information that is likely to be of use and benefit to the audience requesting it (in this case the capital markets community and other data users).

### Acronyms

Avoid using bespoke internal acronyms unless required for your organization's response, in which case you should provide their meaning to enable correct analysis and scoring.

### Blank responses

Leaving a response blank is interpreted as non-disclosure. For numeric fields, values of zero (0) imply a measurement has been made, and the value is zero (0).

For numeric fields where no measurement has been made, leave the field blank and provide an explanation in an open text field for that same question, e.g. "Please explain" columns. See [CDP's scoring materials](#) for more details.

### **'Comment' columns**

Some questions include a column labelled as "Comment". Information provided in these columns will not be scored.

### **Character limits**

The character limits noted in the reporting guidance and in the CDP Portal include spaces.

### **Context and geographic scale**

Environmental issues such as deforestation and water security present significant local challenges. Therefore, they need to be understood and managed at a local level rather than at the corporate level only. For example, it is good practice to consider risks and opportunities at least at the country/area level, and specifically at the river basin level when it comes to water-related issues.

Capital markets actors and other CDP data users are increasingly interested in this type of granularity when it comes to assessing the nature-related issues within their portfolios. Specifically, data users wish to assess an organization's access to granular and location-specific data needed for a robust assessment and management of nature-related issues across all its operations and locations.

Regarding water security in particular, CDP invites organizations to report facility-level water accounting data for priority sites, including the geographic location of the site and the river basin it sits within. An organization will not have a comprehensive understanding of its risk exposure and the most appropriate response unless it is able to take account of local basin context and conditions. River basin level assessment is particularly relevant to a water stewardship approach to securing water resources as collaboration with other basin users and external stakeholders is central to understanding and managing risk.

### **Copy forward**

If you have disclosed through CDP before, you will have the option to 'copy forward' your responses. This auto-populates your most recent answers into your questionnaire where applicable.

Please review the auto-populated answers carefully. It is your responsibility to ensure your answers are updated for the accuracy and completeness of your response

### **Data accuracy**

CDP recognizes that there may be uncertainty linked to data – this can arise from data gaps, assumptions, and metering/measurement constraints such as equipment accuracy. CDP allows you to submit estimated data. However, reporting transparently means that you should explain when your reported data is not accurate and detail the uncertainty. Use the "Please explain" or "Comment" columns provided in the question.

### **Drop-down options ("Other, please specify")**

Select from the options provided whenever possible, and only select "Other, please specify" when none of the listed options is appropriate. This greatly assists data analysis. If selecting "Other, please specify", you must add a label that describes the option you are providing data for.

### Information specific to your organization

Some questions request information and/or rationales specific to your organization. This level of detail gives data users confidence that the issue has been thoroughly considered in the context of your organization's own business and not simply assessed in general terms.

- Ensure that you include details specific to your organization, such as references to activities, programs, products, services, methodologies, or operating locations unique to your organization's business or operations. Such explanations should include details that make the answer true for the responding organization and are distinct from other organizations in the same industry and/or geography.
- Clear rationales are those which provide logical reasoning for methodologies, descriptions, decisions, and actions.

### Scored languages

Only responses submitted in one of the five languages supported by translations; English, Latin American Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese, will be scored.

For more details, refer to the Scoring Introduction on the [CDP website](#).

### Mergers and acquisitions (M&As)

All disclosures should be defined by the reporting boundary applicable at the time of the stated reporting year. Note that for CDP disclosure, organizations are encouraged to align their reporting period and reporting boundaries with their financial reporting.

Regarding forward-looking disclosure, organizations should include information that was correct at the time of the stated reporting year (for example, for data points referring to the future or "the next two years"). Organizations undergoing (or that have undergone) M&As need to consider the timing of the M&As and reporting period as follows:

- Organizations that were acquired after the end of the current reporting year or with subsidiaries that were acquired or divested after the end of the current reporting year: these should respond with information that was correct to the best of their knowledge at the end of the reporting year, including what was planned (strategy, targets, etc.) before the acquisition/divestment (i.e., during the reporting year). At the time of submitting their response to CDP, this information may not be the most up to date or may be subject to change, due to changes underway following the acquisition/divestment. For transparency, where possible they may state this in their disclosure.
- Please refer to [CDP's Technical Note on Restatements](#) for further information and examples of cases in which an organization may wish to restate historical emissions data, as well as when it is best practice to do so.

### River basins [Water only]

From the drop-down list in specific questions, select the river basin associated with the disclosure, or select "Other, please specify" and provide the name of the river basin.

CDP's drop-down list of river basins has been developed based on the most recent and publicly available information provided by [HydroSHEDS](#), [Global Runoff Data Centre](#), [CEO Water Mandate](#), [WRI Aqueduct](#), and other sources in the public domain. For organizations operating in South Africa, the list also includes the nine Water Management Areas for South Africa.

You may wish to enter a sub-basin of a listed river basin. In this case use the “Other, please specify” option in the following format: “Putumayo, Amazon”. For organizations withdrawing water from large, confined aquifers that do not discharge to the river basin they are located in, e.g. Ogallala aquifer in the United States, please select “Other, please specify” and type in the name of the local aquifer source.

If you do not know the river basin associated with the data you are disclosing, the following tools have the functionality to identify the river basin locations of facilities by typing in geolocation coordinates, for example:

- The [Interactive Database of the World’s River Basins – Corporate Water Disclosure Guidelines \(2014\)](#) – CEO Water Mandate
- The [Water Footprint Tools](#) – Water Footprint Network
- The [Water Risk Filter](#) – WWF
- The [WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas Tool](#) – the World Resources Institute

If you are unable to find out the river basin associated with the data you are disclosing, you may select “Unknown”.

## Providing feedback to CDP

You can provide feedback to CDP on the content of our questionnaires, the CDP portal and user experience through our online [feedback form](#).

We are unable to respond individually to all feedback, but please be assured that all form submissions are reviewed and contribute towards our continuous improvement.

However, if you represent a responding organization and would like to request a response, please get in touch with your local CDP contact.