

## The State of Play

## **2023 Climate Transition Plan Disclosure**

June 2024



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	Key			

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## **Key findings**

Over 1 in 4 companies (5906) disclosed through CDP that they have a  $1.5^{\circ}$ C-aligned climate transition plan in place – an increase of 44% since last year.

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Nearly 40% of companies that report having a climate transition plan are already disclosing against most (at least two thirds) of the climate transition plan key indicators.



In 2023, 36% of all disclosing companies (over 8,600) disclosed the intention to develop a climate transition plan in two years. Of the companies that committed to developing a plan in 2021, 44% had set one by 2023, with 25 disclosing plans credibly.



Organizations listed on the FTSEurofirst 300 and KOSPI 200 indicies are ahead of their market peers. 77% and 74% of organizations listed disclosed to at least two thirds of the indicators that make up a credible plan.

But there's still a way to go: just 2% of companies that report having a transition plan are currently disclosing to all 21 indicators to judge credibility – key barriers include complete strategy, target setting and financial planning.



Japan retained its lead position in regional assessments, with 32 organizations credibly disclosing their climate transition plans, 16 more organizations than 2022

Power generation, financial services, and infrastructure industries had the most sufficient disclosure as 32%, 30%, and 24% disclosing to 'all' or 'many' of the key indicators in 2023. Conversely, the fossil fuel industry continued to perform the worst.

## Introduction

We are in the most critical decade of environmental action. Despite progress through historic pledges and commitments, rapid, ambitious, and credible action by non-state actors and governments is crucial to accelerate the transition to a 1.5°C, nature-positive global economy.

The first test of the Paris "ratchet mechanism" culminated at COP28 with the Global Stocktake: a collective assessment of progress on the Paris Agreement goals. Despite reaching a historic agreement to transition away from fossil fuels, the Stocktake failed to provide a crystal clear, actionable roadmap for implementation by all actors, although the critical role of companies is recognized. With increased focus on clearer and tighter standards for companies to achieve global environmental goals, particularly where critical signals and evidence gaps remain, there is a pressing need to further define credible actions and support progress, particularly in transition planning.

The landscape of climate transition planning has progressed rapidly over the past twelve months. Climate transition plan disclosure is now required by several standards including the IFRS S2 developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) and the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) under the European Union's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Standards (CSRD). In addition to this the UK Transition Plan Taskforce (TPT) published its final Disclosure Framework with the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) exploring how this guidance can support organizations disclosing transition plans under IFRS S2. These frameworks are now converging around consistent indicators of credible climate transition plans, as shown in the mapping to CDP's Key Transition Plan Indicators in this report. In an evolving landscape with a need for continued acceleration and alignment, CDP is a crucial tool to support organizations across jurisdictions looking to develop, implement and disclose standardized credible climate transition plans in line with current and future global reporting standards.

This year's report assesses the disclosure of over 23,200 organizations from 14 industries across 129 countries against CDP's 21 key climate transition plan indicators. This assessment will establish that the current state of climate transition plan disclosure is accelerating in some areas, industries and regions. However, in analyzing these perspectives, the report will reflect the wide-reaching need for greater guidance on credible climate transition plans. In response to this, this report introduces the concept of CDP's Transition Plan Journey to support disclosers in preparing credible plans and data users in assessing progress.

## **Transition Plan Elements**



## **Transition Plan Elements**

There is an emerging convergence around the key disclosure indicators of a credible climate transition plan. This can support regulators in their critical role of mandating disclosure and providing effective guidance on credible climate transition plans. The table below illustrates CDP's alignment across other frameworks, standards and initiatives<sup>1</sup>.

#### Figure 1: Mapping climate transition plan key indicators to existing frameworks, standards and initiative.

CDP Climate			Standards/Frameworks/Initiatives						
transition plan element	CDP Climate Transition Plan sub-elements	IFRS S2	EFRAG (ESRS)	SEC	ТРТ	GRI	GFANZ		
	Board level oversight								
Governance	Executive incentives linked to climate performance indicators								
Scenario analysis	Details of scenario analysis								
	Climate-related risks – risks, potential financial impact and response strategy								
Risk & opportunities	Climate-related opportunities — opportunities, potential financial impact and response strategy								
	Link between identified (and potential) climate related risks, opportunities & company strategy								
Strategy $\begin{pmatrix} x & \hat{p} \\ x & \hat{v} \end{pmatrix}$	Existence of a 1.5°C world-aligned transition plan within business strategy & shareholder feedback mechanism								
Financial (	Link between identified (and potential) climate related risks, opportunities & financial planning								
planning	Financial planning details associated with a 1.5°C world								
Targets (	Emission reduction targets – absolute and/or intensity								
Talgets	Net-zero targets								
Scope 1,2 & 3 accounting with verification	Comprehensive and third-party verified emissions accounting								
Policy engagement	Alignment of public policy engagement with climate ambition & strategy								
Value chain	Value chain engagement								
engagement	Details of low-carbon products and/or service								

Full coverage: There is at least full coverage between disclosures from the CDP questionnaire included in the key indicators and the disclosure requirements set by the framework/standard - including where CDP exceeds the requirements of the standard/framework/initiative.

**Partial coverage:** The disclosure requirements of the standard/framework/initiative exceed the disclosures from the CDP questionnaire included in the key indicators.

Standard does not cover: The mapped standard/framework/initiative does not require the disclosure of this information - whereas CDP's questionnaire does.

1 CDP recognizes this is a rapidly evolving field with many more frameworks developed by other initiatives. This is a sample of those we consider most present in the field. For other standards, see for example: <u>CDP-Technical-Note-FS-Transition-Plans-and-Net-Zero-Commitments.pdf</u>



#### **Disclosure of climate transition plans**

CDP has been collecting data on climate transition plans since 2021. The relevant questions and the response indicating the presence of a climate transition plan from 2021 to 2023 are shown in Figure 2 below.

## Figure 2. Number of climate transition plans disclosed in 2021, 2022, 2023

Year	Question	Response	#	%
2021	Have climate-related risks and opportunities influenced your organization's strategy and/or financial planning?	Yes, and we have developed a low-carbon transition plan	4,005	30%
2022	Does your organization's strategy include a transition plan that aligns with a 1.5°C world?	Yes, we have a transition plan which aligns with a 1.5°C world	4,116	22%
2023	Does your organization's strategy include a transition plan that aligns with a 1.5°C world?	Yes, we have a transition plan which aligns with a 1.5°C world	5,900²	26%

The number of organizations disclosing that they have a climate transition plan has increased year-on-year since 2021. This number has not increased at the same rate as the total number of organizations disclosing through CDP, so the proportion of organizations disclosing that they have a climate transition plan in place has declined. This reflects the natural process of mainstreaming the concept of transition plans and the associated accountability within it.

## Figure 3. Number of disclosing organizations and the number of organizations disclosing a climate transition plan from 2021 to 2023.



Several factors can account for this trend, such as CDP refining its criteria for climate transition plans from a "low-carbon" transition plan to a climate transition plan that aligns with a 1.5°C-aligned world, and varying guidance and methodologies on what constitutes credible transition plans.

Assessing the consistency of climate transition plan disclosure over three years can help establish the degree of understanding and confidence in climate transition plan disclosure. In 2021, 4,005 organizations disclosed having a climate transition plan in place, their climate transition plan disclosure from 2021 to 2023 is shown in Figure 4.



#### Figure 4. Consistency of climate transition plan disclosure from 2021 to 2023

# Although there is not yet enough data to establish multi-year trends, the data shows an increase in consistency in 2023, which suggests an emerging understanding and confidence within disclosing organizations of the requirements of climate transition plans, increasing the likelihood of their adoption and implementation.

Despite this, the rate of change is still too slow, suggesting organizations need improved guidance supported by robust frameworks and policies. CDP's Transition Plan Journey can help establish best-practice guidance for disclosing organizations to formulate and implement credible climate transition plans. Before assessing progress along CDP's Transition Journey, it is necessary to assess the quality of transition-relevant disclosures.

## Disclosure to 21 key transition indicators and thresholds

This section examines how organizations have performed by climate transition plan disclosure threshold in 2022 and 2023.

Tier	% key indicators disclosed against	# of key indicators disclosed against
Few	0%-33%	0 - 7
Some	34%-66%	7 - 14
Many	67%-99%	14 – 20
All	100%	21

#### **CDP Credible climate transition plan thresholds.**

#### Figure 5. 2022 & 2023 disclosure to climate transition plan indicators – by disclosure tier



Organizations that continually disclose through CDP year-on-year are more likely to provide sufficient details on their climate transition plan.



Although remaining at less than 1% of the total, the number of organizations disclosing against "all" key climate transition plan indicators increased from 81 to 140. Of these 140 organizations, 33 disclosed against all indicators in both years, 48 dropped a threshold, and 107 disclosed against all indicators in 2023 for the first time.

Organizations disclosing against "many" key indicators decreased from 12% to 9%. However, within this group, a subset disclosing that they have a public 1.5°C-aligned climate transition plan incorporating a shareholder feedback mechanism increased from 949 (26%) of that tier to 1,379 (63%) in 2023. This suggests a growing number of organizations that disclose to "many" of the key indicators have confidence in their transition plans due to strong accountability mechanisms, a requirement for credible climate transition planning from CDP.

**Organizations that continually disclose through CDP year-on-year are more likely to provide sufficient details on their climate transition plan**. Figure 6 below shows that 41% of all repeat disclosers sit in either the "Some", "Many", or "All" tiers as opposed to 30% of the entire disclosure sample. In addition to this, almost all "All" tier disclosers are repeat disclosers.



#### Figure 6. 2023 repeat disclosers by disclosure tier

While key indicators of credible climate transition plans may be converging and the understanding of credible planning increasing, so too is the legal and financial significance of these plans. Therefore, the number of organizations credibly disclosing plans may plateau or decline while the quality of adoption increases. CDP plays a critical role by providing a consistent and comparable platform for plans to be disclosed. Additionally, the disparity in quality and quantity reinforces the need for a clear assessment of challenges and barriers for organizations attempting to develop and disclose credible climate transition plans.

## **Trends in Climate Transition Plan Disclosure**

## **Index trends**

Key global indexes contain some of the most influential organizations expected to drive the climate transition. In addition to this, many of these jurisdictions are developing or have already implemented climate-related disclosure requirements that may now be impacting the level of credible climate transition plan disclosure<sup>3</sup>. Figure 7 how some key indexes performed by disclosure threshold in 2023<sup>4</sup>.





Most organizations listed on these markets are situated within the 'some' (41%) or 'many' (42%) threshold tiers. In contrast, the entire disclosure sample in 2023 had 20% of disclosing organizations situated within the 'some' tier and 9% in the 'many' tier. This disparity suggests that transition plans appear to be a higher priority for organizations that are publicly listed. This is expected given the increased level of scrutiny and development of disclosure requirements that public companies are subject to.

<sup>3</sup> CDP, 2023, Shaping high-quality mandatory disclosure.

<sup>4</sup> The mapping of disclosers to their respective index was conducted in December 2023. There may be additional organizations that disclosed via CDP in 2023 that have not been mapped in this report.

#### **Best performing indexes:**

## FTSEurofirst 300 KOSPI 200

FTSEurofirst 300 and KOSPI 200, were the best-performing indexes with 77% and 74% of its organizations situated within both the 'many' and 'all' tiers.

**FTSE 100, was the third-best performing index with 70% of its organizations situated within the 'many' (65%) and 'all' (5%) tier**. This is encouraging as regulation within the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU), will require companies in these markets to disclose transition plans.

S&P TSX60, and, CSI 300 were the poorest performing members of the G20 with 72% and 71% of organizations situated within the 'few' and 'some' tiers respectively. Both indexes were the only indexes with zero organizations disclosing sufficient details of their climate transition plan, showing a clear lag within these regions.

While some public markets are lagging, generally global indexes stand to be well prepared for credible climate transition plan disclosure. While climate-related disclosure requirements are on the rise, as seen in the United Kingdom (UK), the European Union (EU), and the United States, some regions will require a greater steer from regulating to mandate transition plan disclosure.



#### **Geographic trends**

Organizations from 129 countries disclosed through CDP in 2023.

Figure 8. Disclosure performance, by country/region (Top 20)





When assessed for credible climate transition plan disclosure Japan was the leader for the third year in a row, with 32 organizations situated within the 'all' tier – double the number of disclosures from last year. This contrasts with Japan's TOPIX index which had the 5th highest number of organizations situated within the 'all' tier.

While a high degree of climate transition plan preparedness has been observed within publicly listed organizations in the EU and UK, this readiness is not uniform across the entire region. The UK had 88% of its disclosers situated within the 'few' and some 'tier' and EU nations represented in the top 20 countries per disclosure numbers had on average 88% situated within these tiers also. In the EU, organizations from Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Denmark are represented in the top 20 countries per total disclosures. **Out of these, Germany and France have the largest increases in the number of organizations disclosing to the 'all' tier, with Germany going from one organization in 2022 to 10 in 2023, and France going from five to 12.** 

While the lack of sufficient progress across geographies indicates that steps taken are not being implemented rapidly or widely enough, it is anticipated that disclosure mandates regionally and for publicly listed companies will begin to impact supply and value chains globally. For an effective economy-wide transition, both public and private organizations must align their ambition, collaborate, and disclose, utilizing necessary guidance and tools on transition plans to drive the transition across economies.

## Industry trends – by disclosure threshold tier

CDP has analyzed disclosure performance across various industries.



#### Figure 9. Credible climate transition disclosure performance, by industry



Industries continuing to demonstrate high rates of disclosure across 'all' and 'many' tiers:



While year-on-year improvements are encouraging, action on credible climate transition planning is not moving fast enough as many industries continue to lag, such as the key industry of fossil fuels.

Industries that are prone to long term planning such as power generation, financial services, and infrastructure continue to demonstrate high rates of disclosure across 'all' and 'many' tiers with 32%, 30%, and 24% situated within these tiers respectively.

The apparel industry has seen an increase in the number of organizations situated within the 'all' tier, rising from one in 2023 to four in 2023. However, it remains among the industries with the lowest number of organizations disclosing sufficient detail across key indicators for climate transition planning. Alongside apparel, the hospitality and transportation services industries have minimal representation in the 'all' tier, with zero hospitality organizations (one less than 2022) and only one transportation services organization (one less than 2022) disclosing sufficient details across all key climate transition plan indicators.

Fossil fuel organizations continue to lag across all indicators, a stark contrast to 2021 when the industry led in credible climate transition plan disclosure. There has been no increase in organizations situated in the 'all' tier since last year. Fossil fuel organizations should prioritize embedding sufficient disclosure of climate-related risks and opportunities and utilize sustainable finance taxonomies to navigate and support their climate transition. Taxonomies help align organizations with stakeholder expectations, particularly in the financial services and fossil fuel industries, potentially increasing access to capital through prioritizing sustainable activities. These actions are crucial for meeting the transition needs of a low-carbon economy and fulfilling commitments under the COP28 agreement to shift away from fossil fuels in energy systems.



CDP's assessment of sufficient disclosure against the elements of a credible climate transition plan helps to establish where organizations lack clarity or are facing barriers to developing and implementing a credible climate transition plan.

Figure 10. Percentage of organizations that disclosed sufficient details to each element of a credible climate transition plan in 2022 and 2023

**Group 1**: Entire 2023 disclosure group - the 23,200+ organizations who disclosed through the climate change questionnaire in 2023

**Group 2**: Entire 2022 disclosure group - the 18,600+ organizations who disclosed through the climate change questionnaire in 2022



## The only elements that have a proportional decrease in organizations disclosing sufficient details are policy engagement and governance.

Changes in CDP's assessment criteria for the elements of governance<sup>5</sup> and policy engagement<sup>6</sup> have resulted in a significant drop in the number of disclosers providing sufficient details about these elements. CDP always provides information on updates to our questionnaire and would recommend that organizations consult the <u>Guidance for Companies</u> <u>webpage</u> to remain aware of increased scoring criteria.

<sup>5</sup> In 2023 CDP increased the stringency of sufficient governance disclosure of credible climate transition plans, organizations should now demonstrate that at least one member of their senior management team is incentivized for specific transition planning actions. See appendix for more details.

<sup>6</sup> In 2023 CDP increased the stringency of sufficient policy engagement disclosure of credible climate transition plans, organizations should now ensure that it has a public commitment or position statement to conduct their engagement activities in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. See appendix for more details.

**Credible climate-related risk and opportunities disclosure remained at 32%.** This reflects the external pressures organizations face due to the further development of climate-related disclosures, such as those recommended by the TCFD and ISSB.

Financial planning which had the lowest proportion of organizations providing sufficient details in 2022 increased by 2% in 2023 moving above the element of targets. Still, more needs to be done concerning sufficient financial planning disclosure and utilizing taxonomies can support organizations in overcoming some of these challenges.



of organizations that disclosed sufficient details of their financial planning in 2023

Of the

18%

disclosed utilizing a taxonomy to classify their financial planning as aligned with their transition plan or a net-zero carbon economy.

This contrasts with the 2% of organizations outside this group who disclosed utilizing a taxonomy. As recommended in <u>CDP's recent report</u> on the EU taxonomy, organizations should strive to adopt taxonomies as a tool to demonstrate and support the alignment of expenditure with transition targets and gain access to capital.

Both targets and value chain engagement have remained consistent across 2022 and 2023 with 4% and 8% of disclosing organizations providing sufficient details on each element respectively. In each case, this is an increase in just 180 organizations that are disclosing sufficient details of each element in 2023.

Climate transition plan elements where proportional growth has stagnated or decreased suggests a lack of urgency and required speed, however, the number of organizations disclosing sufficient information for many elements has increased in line with CDP's growth of disclosures. This growth signals and reflects the increasing pressure and awareness among organizations regarding broad climate-related disclosure. However, as is the case in all societal changes which increase legal and financial significance, a plateau can be observed where the threat of legal and financial reprove balances with the benefits of being first movers. The journey CDP outlines below aims to address this and serves two purposes: to indicate the sustained efforts and directions of an organization and to help identify where wider challenges may be delaying action.

## CDP's Climate Transition Plan Journey

## **CDP's Climate Transition Plan Journey**

CDP's Transition Plan Journey offers a structured pathway for organizations, guiding them in developing and disclosing their climate transition plan. Each step is drawn from the experience of a huge section of organizations and outlines a series of actions and disclosures that should be taken by organizations during the development and disclosure of their climate transition plan. These actions are mapped to CDP's key climate transition plan indicators<sup>7</sup>.

This journey provides transition plan preparers with a suggestive procedural roadmap and data users with a useful visualization of progress.

The following section of the report will assess how organizations have progressed along CDP's Transition Plan Journey in 2022 and 2023. The sample assessed in this section is organizations that disclosed that they would develop a climate transition plan in 2021 and continued to disclose in 2022 and 2023<sup>8</sup>.

#### Figure 11. Steps of the CDP's Climate Transition Plan Journey

Impact metrics & disclosure (CDP)	The transition journey begins with environmental disclosure, which is achieved using CDP's disclosure platform and responding to CDP's full Climate Change questionnaire <sup>9</sup> . The questionnaire serves as a guide to <b>what needs doing, what is considered normal, and what is considered best practice</b> . In the context of credible climate transition planning this is a holistic overview of impacts on the environment, which includes an inventory of validated Scopes 1, 2, and 3 GHG emissions which provides a fundamental baseline for any plan.
2 Climate risk & governance (TCFD / ISSB)	The next step in the transition plan journey, once an assessment of the existing situation is completed, is implementing a rigorous protocol to assess climate-related risks and opportunities regulated by effective governance mechanisms. This assessment should feed into the wider strategy and business model.
<b>3</b> Set target (SBTi)	When organizations have identified their climate-related risks and opportunities and potential financial impact (materiality), they are better positioned to set long and short-term decarbonization targets and make the business case to reduce their environmental impact.
<b>4</b> Business strategy and action plan	Once an organization has its inventory, the governance to understand it, and a target to arrive at, it should then begin building an action plan that outlines how it intends to reduce its environmental impacts to progress towards meeting its ambition. This includes a strategic response to climate-related risks and opportunities, development of policy and value chain engagement plans, and plans to transition its products and/or services towards low-carbon products and services.
<b>5</b> disclosure and plan performance	Finally, organizations should support the disclosure of their plan with rigorous financial planning disclosure that also enables tracking the progress of their transition. Leadership in transition planning does not end at this final stage. Organizations should establish and disclose a publicly available 1.5°-aligned transition plan with a well-defined feedback mechanism. Organizations must continue assessing their performance to inform any necessary changes to their plan to stay in line with the ambition of that plan and credible science-based pathways.

- 7 Refer to the appendix to see the mapping of the climate transition plan key indicators to each stage of the CDP Transition Plan Journey.
- 8 CDP has assessed progress along the transition plan journey in 2022 and 2023 due to the consistency in indicators between these two years, due to substantial changes to the indicators after 2021 an assessment was not possible for that year.
- 9 In 2023 for all CDP corporate questionnaires, there were two versions: full and minimum. The full version contains all questions relevant to a company, including sector-specific questions and data points. The minimum version contains fewer of those questions, and no sector-specific questions or data points. Find out more here: Guidance for companies CDP



of the group that disclosed that they would develop a climate transition plan in two years have delivered on their commitment by 2023.

Stayed at the same step in 2023

Progressed to higher

Regressed to lower step

step in 2023

165

in 2023

213

965

# CDP's Transition Plan Journey — Organizations that disclosed that they would develop a plan in two years in 2021

In 2021, 1,569 organizations disclosed they would develop a climate transition plan within two years, of these, CDP has assessed 1,343 organizations that continually in 2022 and 2023<sup>10</sup>. **44% of the group that disclosed that they would develop a climate transition plan in two years have delivered on their commitment by 2023**.

To assess how the 1,343 organizations have progressed toward credibly disclosing their climate transition plan, disclosures to CDP's climate transition plan key indicators at each step of the journey across 2022 and 2023 will be assessed. To progress to a step, an organization must have disclosed sufficient details to all key indicators making up the previous step.



#### Figure 14. Progress along CDP's Transition Plan Journey in 2022 & 2023

10 There were more organizations that disclosed that they would develop a climate transition plan in 2021 and continued to disclose in 2022 and 2023. However, CDP cannot assess the disclosure of all of these organizations over the two years due to late disclosures in 2022.

22



Regressed

While there are clear challenges to progression, disclosers are mainly progressing along the transition journey at two key steps, from zero to one and from various steps to five. Organizations at step zero decreased by 83 (4%) in 2023 and organizations at step 5 increased by 21 (a fivefold increase). It is noteworthy out of the initial 1,343 organizations, 25 organizations have delivered on their commitment to develop a climate transition plan and aligned with best practice climate transition plan disclosure.

The net change along the transition plan journey between 2022 and 2023 is highlighted in Figure 13.

Most organizations within this group remained at the same step between 2022 and 2023, comprising 72% of the sample. Additionally, 16% of the 1,343 organizations regressed by at least one step in 2023.

As demonstrated in Figure 12 above the step that experienced the largest increase in 2023 was Step One, partially attributable to the migration of 125 organizations from Step Two to One in 2023. This regression underscores the heightened stringency of governance criteria applied to organizations within Step 2 in 2023.

Encouragingly, despite the increased stringency of this criterion, 12% of the group progressed to a higher step in 2023. The staggered progress in an indication of the continuing fragmentation in the field, however, it is also evident that there is a move toward convergence and mainstreaming of actions and we can expect further improvement in the future.



#### Figure 13. Net change in Transition Journey progression from 2022 to 2023

The table below summarizes the most significant challenges per climate transition plan key indicator for organizations progressing from one step to another.

## Figure 14. Progressing of organizations by key climate transition indicator disclosure along CDP's Transition Plan Journey in 2022 and 2023

Step	CDP 2023 question number	Key Climate Transition Plan indicator	2022 % of organizations at step satisfying indicator criteria	2023 % of organizations at step satisfying indicator criteria	Change
		Respond to the Full tier questionnaire	94%	93%	-1%
Step 0	C6.1	Accounts for Scope 1 emissions	96%	95%	-1%
Step 1	C6.3	Accounts for Scope 2 emissions	99%	99%	0%
	C6.5	Accounts for Scope 3 emissions	33%	38%	5%
	C10.1	Verification of emissions inventory	20%	22%	2%
	C1.1b	Board level oversight of climate transition plan	97%	53%	-44%
Step 1	C1.3a	Senior Management incentives linked to transition plan performance indicators	82%	8%	-74%*
Step 2	C2.3a/2.3b	Identified climate-related risks	57%	81%	23%
	C2.4a/2.4b	Identified climate-related opportunities	56%	79%	23%
	C3.2a	Conducted scenario analysis	35%	76%	41%
Step 2	C4.1a/4.1b	Set short-term science-based targets	44%	55%	11%
Step 3	C4.2c	Set long-term science-based targets	17%	19%	3%
	C3.3	Identified areas where climate-related risk & opportunities have influenced strategy	48%	60%	12%
Step 3	C3.4	Identified areas where climate-related risk & opportunities have influenced financial planning	100%	100%	0%
Step 4	C12.1a	Create value chain engagement plan	78%	73%	-4%
	C4.5a	Conducts policy engagement	19%	27%	8%*
	C12.3	Developed low carbon products or services	89%	73%	-16%
Step 4	C3.5a	Identified spending/revenue that is aligned with climate transition plan	13%	15%	2%
Step 5	C3.1	Has a publicly available climate transition plan	42%	77%	35%

Impact metrics & disclosure (CDP)

Step 0







#### Step Zero to One

The transition from Step Zero to One in 2023 reveals that the most significant barrier for organizations is accounting for Scope 3 emissions and completing verifications of emissions inventory.

#### Step One to Two

The primary barrier to advancement from Step One was the lack of senior management incentives linked to transition plan performance indicators, primarily due to the change in assessment criteria. **Notably**, there was a 44% decline in organizations disclosing board-level oversight of their climate transition plan at Step One. Considering this indicator's consistency across frameworks and CDP's climate transition plan assessment, organizations should prioritize establishing effective governance mechanisms moving into the next CDP disclosure cycle.

Conversely, there were significant increases in organizations disclosing sufficient details in climate-related risk and opportunities assessment and the utilization of scenario analysis. Familiarity with TCFD and now ISSB-relevant disclosures, along with CDP's alignment with these frameworks, can aid organizations in advancing these transition-relevant disclosures.

#### **Step Two to Three**

A consistent increase in sufficient target disclosure was observed across short-term and long-term targets, which is promising. However, 14 organizations still regressed from Step Three in 2023, indicating a failure to set and disclose sufficient details of short and long-term science-based targets.

#### **Step Three to Four**

Progression from Step Three to Four over two years exhibits a slightly more nuanced picture. **Climate-related risk and opportunities influencing financial planning and strategy remain familiar areas for organizations advancing along this journey. This, coupled with substantial progress in identifying climate-related risks and opportunities, underscores the value of these processes working in conjunction.** 

An essential aspect of any action plan and implementation of a credible climate transition plan is robust engagement plans and scaling of low-carbon products and/or services. These areas require significant attention from organizations progressing to Step Four, particularly in policy engagement.

Step 4



#### **Step Four to Five**

Although the number of organizations situated at Step Four and Five is low, as reflected in figure 12, a high degree of organizations at Step Four and Five are disclosing a publicly available climate transition plan, indicating a high level of confidence in their climate transition plans.

Organizations at Step Four must increase their disclosure of aligned spending/revenue with their climate transition plan to demonstrate that their climate transition plan is sufficiently resourced.

Some specific indicators are presenting challenges for organization's progression. For example, for example, Scope 3 emissions accounting with verification. Organizations must prioritize this fundamental exercise, particularly as the IFRS S2 and ESRS E1 cover the disclosure of scope 3 emissions and that CDP recommends in its high-quality mandatory disclosure principles that disclosure policies should also require external verification. Additional challenges included effective governance, setting both short and long-term science-based targets, policy engagement, and aligning spending and/ or revenue with a climate transition plan.

While methodologies are still converging, the action associated with some of the barriers to progression should be supported by mandatory reporting policies, robust disclosure guidance, and tools. It is essential that organizations on a climate transition plan development journey, utilize their CDP disclosure to reflect on their location along this journey, explore guidance associated with common barriers and relevant tools such as those provided by <u>CDP's Accredited Solution Providers</u>, and leverage their disclosure to provide all relevant information when disclosing details a climate transition plan.



## Conclusion

While the convergence of credible climate transition plan indicators is now occurring across key standards, frameworks and initiatives, the number of organizations disclosing sufficient details of their climate transition plan through CDP is not increasing at the required pace. In 2023 the percentage of organizations disclosing a credible climate transition plan increased by just 0.2% to reach a total of 0.6%.

However, organizations that maintain their disclosure year-onyear are better positioned to develop and disclose credible climate transition plans. For instance, repeat disclosers are more prevalent across the 'some,' 'many,' and 'all' climate transition disclosure threshold tiers. Additionally, 44% of the group that committed to developing a climate transition plan within two years in 2021 have fulfilled their pledge by 2023 and among them, 25 organizations have credibly disclosed details of their climate transition plan. Clarity of guidance and transparency of planning will serve to support this increase.

Public markets are beginning to lead the way in credible climate transition plan disclosure, notably in the EU, South Korea, and the UK.

There remain significant barriers for organizations. These include but are not limited to, financial planning, targets, Scope 3 accounting with verifcation, governance, policy engagement and science-based target setting. These issues are not uniform and will be unique for each disclosing organization. It is therefore essential that disclosers utilize their disclosure, and CDP's Transition Plan Journey to assess and identify their barriers and seek solutions.

Despite the barriers and challenges, indicator convergence and disclosure requirements are creating a level playing field, particularly through increasing the understanding of climate-related risk disclosure. However, approaches are still patchy and there remains critical gaps. It is important to adopt an integrated perspective towards environmental issues, which are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. CDP is committed to ensuring that current and future regulation is impactful as possible, and in line with our clarion call towards high quality mandatory disclosure, we recommend governments include expectations on transition plans in their own disclosure requirements.

Transition planning is crucial for the global economies' pivot to a 1.5°C-aligned world. Credible transition plans are a mechanism for organizations to demonstrate how they intend to pivot their entire business model to reduce their impact on the environment. It is crucial that organizations are supported by policies and tools that enable consistent climate transition planning that is reflective of best practices.

Disclosing through CDP allows organisations to develop standardised and comparable transition plans that align with incoming regulation.

# Appendices

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## Appendix 1: Assessment methodology & key transition indicators in 2023 climate change questionnaire

Climate transition plan element	CDP 2023 climate change question and question code	Relevance to climate transition plans	Assessment methodology
ÎÏ	(C1.1b) Provide further details on the board's oversight of climate climate transition plan.	An organization should have board- level oversight of its climate transition plan with defined governance mechanisms in place to ensure delivery of the plan. Climate issues should be a scheduled item at all or some board meetings.	Organizations disclose the frequency with which transition plan-related issues are a scheduled agenda item, such as monitoring the implementation of a transition plan, and the mechanism into which these issues are integrated and elaborate with an explanation.
Governance	(C1.3a) Provide further details on the incentives provided for the management of climate- related issues.	To incentivize conscious action and commitment in realizing the plan's goals, it is recommended that executive management incentives are aligned with the organization's climate transition plan goals.	Organization discloses at least one member of the management team who is entitled to incentives that are tied to transition-related performance indicators and elaborates with a comment.
Scenario analysis	(C3.2a) Provide details of your organization's use of climate-related scenario analysis.	Robust scenario analysis is an important strategic planning tool that can be used to inform the development of a climate transition plan.	Organization discloses on its use of climate- related scenario analysis, scenario analysis coverage, temperature alignment of scenario, parameters, assumptions, and analytical choices.
	(3.4) Describe where and how climate-related risks and opportunities have influenced your financial planning.	Financial planning is crucial when demonstrating that an organization is aligning with climate goals (as elaborated in its climate transition plan), and that it will be relevant (i.e., profitable) in a 1.5°C-aligned world. Climate transition plans	Organization reports on at least one area of its financial planning that has been influenced by climate and describes its influences.
Financial planning	(C3.5a) Quantify the percentage share of your spending/revenue that is aligned with your organization's climate transition.	should include a demonstration of how they have aligned/intend to align their financial planning with their climate transition plan in the reporting year and at milestone years '2025' and '2030'. Financial details may describe revenue, CAPEX, and/or OPEX projections which are crucial for realizing the plan's ambition.	Organization must select at least one financial metric and disclose the percentage share of the selected financial metric which is aligned with a 1.5°C world in the reporting year, 2025, 2030 and description of methodology used to identify spending/ revenue that is aligned with a 1.5°C world.
× ↔ × ↔ × Strategy	(C3.1) Does your organization's strategy include a transition plan that aligns with a 1.5°C world?	Developing a climate transition plan provides certainty to data users that a company is aligning to long- and short-term climate goals and that its business model will continue to be relevant in a net-zero carbon economy. Collecting feedback on the transition plan allows shareholders and/or stakeholders to review and raise resolutions related to progress.	Organization discloses that it has a publicly available 1.5°C climate transition plan with a well-defined feedback mechanism in place, to track progress.
	(C3.3) Describe where and how climate-related risks and opportunities have influenced your strategy.	A climate transition plan should outline how an organization will achieve its strategy to pivot its products and services, supply/value chain, investment in R&D, and operations to a 1.5°C-aligned world.	Organization describes how climate has influenced or has not influenced, or how they are considering climate's influence to their strategy regarding products and services, investment in R&D, operations, and supply/value chain.
	(C2.3a) Provide details of risks identified with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on your business.	Disclosing details of material climate risks posed to an organization, including the	Organization reports details of at least one climate-related risk identified, including the potential financial impact and cost to respond to the risk.
Risks &	(2.3b) Why do you not consider your organization to be exposed to climate-related risks with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on your business?	potential financial impact and the cost to respond to these risks, indicates a robust climate transition plan is in place.	However, if an organization has not disclosed to C2.3a, it must have disclosed to C2.3b, by providing an explanation why it does not consider itself to be exposed to climate-related risks with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on its business.
opportunities	(C2.4a) Provide details of opportunities identified with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on your business.	Disclosing details of material climate opportunities posed to an organization, including the potential financial impact and the cost to realize these opportunities, indicates a	Organization reports details of at least one climate-related opportunity identified, including the potential financial impact and cost to realize the opportunity. However, if an organization has not disclosed to C2.4a, it must have disclosed to C2.4b,
	(C2.4b) Why do you not consider your organization to have climate- related opportunities?	robust transition plan is in place.	by providing an explanation why it does not consider itself to be exposed to climate-related risks with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic impact on its business.

Climate transition plan element	CDP 2023 climate change question and question code	Relevance to climate transition plans	Assessment methodology
<b>C</b> Targets	(C4.1a) Provide details of your absolute emissions target(s) and progress made against those target(s). (C4.1b) Provide details of your emissions intensity target(s) and progress made against those target(s).	A climate transition plan should be underpinned by ambitious near-and long- term science-based targets which are in line with the latest climate science to achieve a 1.5°C-aligned world.	<ul> <li>The criteria for credible targets disclosure within a credible climate transition plan require an organization to disclose:</li> <li>1. is target to have a science-based status;</li> <li>2. details on intensity or absolute emissions targets;</li> <li>3. that it has a 1.5°C-aligned target.</li> <li>For this year's assessment, we leveraged the CDP scoring methodology and resultantly, 2,429 organizations could not be assessed for several operational reasons such as: Late submissions, minimum tier responses with Investor request only, HQ in Russian Federation/Belarus, Forests only - Coal OR Metals &amp; mining companies, Forests only - didn't respond to any commodity, Unpaid administration fees.</li> </ul>
	(C4.2c) Provide details of your net-zero target(s).	A climate transition plan should aim to achieve science-based net-zero targets in line with the latest climate science to achieve a 1.5°C-aligned world by 2050 at the latest.	Organization reports on whether it is reporting a net-zero target, whether it is science based – and if so, it also reports details on its net-zero target.
	(C6.1) What were your organization's gross global Scope 1 emissions in metric tons CO2e?	A climate transition plan should be	Organization discloses a figure for its Scope 1 emissions.
	(C6.3) What were your organization's gross global Scope 2 emissions in metric tons CO2e?	accompanied by a complete, accurate, transparent, consistent, and relevant inventory of all three scopes of emissions. Organizations should calculate and	Organization discloses a figure for its Scope 2 location-based or market-based emissions
Scope 1,2,3 accounting with verification	(C6.5) Account for your organization's gross global Scope 3 emissions, disclosing and explaining any exclusions.	disclose all material categories of Scope 3 and provide an explanation for categories that are not relevant.	For each category of Scope 3 emissions, the organization discloses a figure for any "relevant, calculated" or "not relevant, calculated" categories, or provides an explanation for any categories "not relevant, explanation provided".
	(C10.1) Indicate the verification/ assurance status that applies to your reported emissions.	A climate transition plan should be accompanied by a complete annual inventory Scope 1, 2, & 3 emissions that is verified by a third party.	Organization reports verification is in place for its Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.
کی کی Value chain engagement & low carbon initiatives	(12.1a) Provide details of your climate-related supplier engagement strategy	Organizations are facing resiliency risks in the value chain that have material environmental and financial implications; hence, value chain engagement plays a significant role in realizing a climate transition plan. Organizations with significant emissions in their supply chain can leverage their buyer power and engage their suppliers towards a 1.5°C-aligned transition. A climate transition plan should include time-bound actions to decarbonize business processes within the value chain, including supply chain engagement that covers at least 25% of its suppliers by procurement spend or Scope 3 emissions.	Organization discloses the type of supplier engagement, details of the engagement, a description of the impact of the engagement, including measures of success, a figure in both the % of suppliers by number and % of procurement spend, and a rationale for the cover of its engagement.
	(C4.5a) Provide details of your products and/or services that you classify as low-carbon products.	A climate transition plan should include time-bound actions to decarbonize business processes, such as growing the revenue earned from its products and services portfolio.	Organization discloses details of its low- carbon products and services, as well as a non-zero figure for the % revenue from that product in the reporting year and elaborate with a comment.
Policy engagement	(C12.3) Does your organization engage in activities that could either directly or indirectly influence policy, law, or regulation that may impact the climate?	For many organizations, a successful climate transition will depend on an accommodative policy landscape, thus organizations should advocate for climate-positive policies that impact their relevant industry(s). A climate transition plan should demonstrate that an organization's public policy engagement aligns with its climate ambitions and strategy.	Organization should disclose whether it has a direct or indirect engagement that could influence policy, law, or regulation that may impact climate, and that it has a public commitment or position statement to conduct its engagement activities in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, describe the process(es) it has in place to ensure that its engagement activities are consistent with its overall climate change strategy.

## Appendix 2 Total index disclosure (and threshold breakdown)

	Sum of bottom tier	Sum of lower mid-tier	Sum of upper mid-tier	Sum of top tier	Sum of grand total
BSE 200	6	31	39	4	80
CSI 300	8	30	17		54
FTSE 100	2	26	61	5	94
FTSE Eurofirst 300	7	56	189	22	274
Hang Seng	5	19	12	1	37
KOSPI 200	9	19	71	8	107
MSCI ACWII	166	635	843	73	1717
MSCI small cap	361	896	505	34	1796
S&P 500	53	226	147	3	429
S&P TSX 60	7	27	13		47
S&P/ASX 300	12	42	24	1	79
South Africa - FTSE JSE All - Share	10	34	30	2	76
<b>TOPIX 500</b>	26	121	267	27	441
Grand Total	672	2162	2218	180	5231



## Appendix 3 Total industry disclosure (and threshold breakdown)

	Few	Some	Many	All
Industry	#	#	#	#
Apparel 🖄	423	125	40	4
Biotech, health care & pharma	367	162	72	6
Financial services	152	332	201	8
Food, beverage & agriculture	1007	242	132	9
Fossil Fuels	168	87	48	1
Hospitality	63	52	22	
Infrastructure	414	210	185	20
International bodies	11	2		
Manufacturing	7181	1554	554	33
Materials	1181	495	284	21
Power generation	115	68	78	8
Retail 🕎	674	302	137	б
Services	3706	812	333	23
Transportation services	754	202	104	1
#N/A	3	1		
Grand Total	16219	4646	2190	140

## Appendix 4 Total country/region disclosure (and threshold breakdown)

	Few	Some	Many	All	Total		Few	Some	Many	All	Total
Country/Region	#	#	#	#	#	Country/Region	#	#	#	#	#
Grand total	16219	4646	2190	140	23195	Greece	23	12	10		45
United States	3457	896	249	7	4609	Philippines	28	9	6		43
China	1999	500	90	0	2589	Israel	26	14	2		42
Japan	874	660	418	32	1984	New Zealand	17	15	7		39
United Kingdom	1189	393	203	10	1795	Luxembourg	16	9	10		35
Germany	907	235	89	10	1241	Ecuador	30	3	1		34
Brazil	914	149	67	5	1135	Bangladesh	28	4	1		33
Republic of Korea	687	85	104	9	885	Pakistan	20	8			28
India	500	130	64	5	699	Slovenia	22	4	1		27
Italy	500	106	52	6	664	Kuwait	24	1	1		26
France	380	133	116	12	641	Russian	11	12	1		24
Taiwan, China	344	147	112	7	610	Federation					_
Canada	363	127	25		515	Slovakia	20	1	1		22
Mexico	422	53	10	1	486	Costa Rica	18	2	4		20
Spain	344	48	60	7	459	Egypt	15	4	1		20
Netherlands	211	72	33	4	320	Nigeria	15	3			18
Sweden	197	65	38	2	302	Oman	18				18
Switzerland	154	74	39	3	270	Lithuania	10	3	2		15
Turkey	141	56	56	8	261	Peru	11	4			15
Denmark	177	37	28		242	Croatia	14				14
China, Hong Kong	144	65	16		225	Panama	12	1			13
Finland	143	36	31		210	Guatemala	12				12
Australia	126	44	22		192	Iraq	12				12
Poland	155	24	3		182	Qatar	11	1			12
Singapore	131	25	18		174	Bermuda	3	7	1		11
Norway	93	32	30	3	158	Cambodia	11				11
Ireland	75	42	32	1	150	Estonia	8	3			11
Belgium	77	26	24	2	129	Serbia	11				11
Austria	78	24	24	1	127	Bulgaria	9	1			10
Thailand	86	19	18	2	125	China, Macao Special					
Malaysia	96	23	4		123	Administrative	9	1			10
South Africa	58	34	25	1	118	Region Trinidad and					
Portugal	64	16	10	2	92	Tobago	10				10
Indonesia	56	29	5		90	Uruguay	9	1			10
United Arab	64	21	3		88	Algeria	9				9
Emirates						Cayman Islands	4	2	2		8
Argentina	67	7	1		75	Iceland	2	3	3		8
Viet Nam	65	8			73	Sri Lanka	7	1			8
Saudi Arabia	59	6			65	Ukraine	6	2			8
Colombia	36	19	4		59	Kenya	6		1		7
Hungary	49	8	2		59	Kazakhstan	2	4			6
Romania	51	5	1		57	Ghana	4	1			5
Chile	36	7	8		51	Honduras	4	1			5
Czechia	44	3	3		50	Lebanon	4	1			5

	Few	Some	Many	All	Total
Country/Region	#	#	#	#	#
Tunisia	5				5
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	4				4
Guyana	3	1			4
Malta	2	2			4
Mauritius	3	1			4
Morocco	3		1		4
Paraguay	4				4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	4				4
Angola	3				3
Bosnia & Herzegovina Dominican	3				3
Republic	2	1			3
El Salvador	3				3
Jersey	1	2			3
Jordan	2	1			3
Monaco	1	2			3
North Macedonia	3				3
Puerto Rico	3				3
United States Minor Outlying Islands	2	1			3
Bahrain	2				2
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	2				2
Cyprus	1	1			2
Guernsey		1	1		2
Latvia	2				2
Armenia	1				1
Azerbaijan	1				1
Barbados	1				1
British Virgin Islands		1			1
Brunei Darussalam	1				1
Equatorial Guinea	1				1
Eritrea	1				1
Ethiopia	1				1
Faroe Islands	1				1
Fiji	1				1
Georgia	1				1
Greenland	1				1
Jamaica	1				1

	Few	Some	Many	All	Total
Country/Region	#	#	#	#	#
Libya	1				1
Liechtenstein		1			1
Marshall Islands		1			1
Mongolia		1			1
Mozambique	1				1
Myanmar	1				1
South Sudan	1				1
Uganda		1			1
United Republic of Tanzania	1				1
Uzbekistan		1			1

## Appendix 5 CDP Transition plan journey climate transition plan key indicator mapping

Respond to the Full tier questionnaire C6.1 What were your organization's gross global Scope 1 emissions in metric tons CO2e? C6.3 What were your organization's gross global Scope 2 emissions in metric tons CO2e? Step 1: Impact metrics & disclosure Account for your organization's gross global Scope 3 emissions, disclosing and explaining any C6.5 exclusions. C10.1 Indicate the verification/assurance status that applies to your reported emissions. C1.1b Provide further details on the board's oversight of climate transition plan C1.3a Provide further details on the incentives provided for the management of climate-related issues (C2.3a) Provide details of risks identified with the potential to have a substantive financial or C2.3a/ strategic impact on your business. OR (2.3b) Why do you not consider your organization to be Step 2: 2.3b exposed to climate-related risks with the potential to have a substantive financial or strategic **Climate risk and governance** impact on your business? (C2.4a) Provide details of opportunities identified with the potential to have a substantive C2.4a/ financial or strategic impact on your business. OR (C2.4b) Why do you not consider 2.4b your organization to have climate-related opportunities? C3.2a Provide details of your organization's use of climate-related scenario analysis (C4.1a) Provide details of your absolute emissions target(s) and progress made against those C4.1a/ target(s). OR (C4.2b) (C4.1b) Provide details of your emissions intensity target(s) and progress 4.1b Step 3: made against those target(s) Setting science-based targets C4.2c Provide details of your net-zero target(s) C3.3 Describe where and how climate-related risks and opportunities have influenced your strategy. Describe where and how climate-related risks and opportunities have influenced your financial C3.4 planning. Step 4: C12.1a Provide details of your climate-related supplier engagement strategy **Business strategy** and action plan Does your organization engage in activities that could either directly or indirectly influence C4.5a policy, law, or regulation that may impact the climate? C12.3 Provide details of your products and/or services that you classify as low-carbon products. Quantify the percentage share of your spending/revenue that is aligned with your organization's C3.5a climate transition. Step 5: **Disclosure and plan** performance C3.1 Does your organization's strategy include a transition plan that aligns with a 1.5°C world?



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#### About CDP

CDP is a global non-profit that runs the world's environmental disclosure system for companies, cities, states, and regions. Founded in 2000 and working with over 700 financial institutions representing more than US\$142 trillion in assets. CDP pioneered using capital markets and corporate procurement to motivate companies to disclose their environmental impacts, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard water resources and protect forests. Over 24,000 organizations around the world disclosed data through CDP in 2023, including more than 23,000 companies worth two thirds global market capitalization, and over 1,100 cities, states, and regions. Fully TCFD aligned, CDP holds the largest environmental database in the world, and CDP scores are widely used to drive investment and procurement decisions towards a zero carbon, sustainable and resilient economy. CDP is a founding member of the Science Based Targets initiative, We Mean Business Coalition, The Investor Agenda, and the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative.

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