

Press Release

Paris, 7 December 2009

As the Copenhagen conference approaches, VIGEO and WWF-France partner up to publish a joint study on Business and Climate Change

Climate change, now inescapable, brings changes to managerial practices and new perspectives for innovation.

The urgent task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions cannot solely be the affair of governments. As the hour approaches when governments from all over the planet will start discussing an agreement on greenhouse gas reductions, it is essential to keep in mind that all of society's actors have an important role to play in the post-Copenhagen world, including businesses.

The main sources of emissions may not always be what we think.

The joint Vigeo-WWF study explains how the carbon footprint of a company can vary considerably depending on the depth of the reporting scope. An effective response to climate change should be one where action is taken not only to mitigate the company's own process-related impacts, but also to reduce emissions upstream on the supply chain and downstream on product use and end-of-life cycles.

An estimate of the carbon footprint of 10 sectors: main challenges and mitigation options.

The study produces an estimate of direct and indirect emissions from 10 sectors chosen amongst the most carbon intensive. It indicates for each one, the main climate change mitigation issues that companies are facing, the different options at their disposal, and the level of commitment and performance observed by Vigeo in its ratings of companies indexed on the stock exchange in terms of their environmental responsibility.

In 2010, a second study will look specifically at the performance of French companies in their response to climate change.

For **Nicole Notat, CEO of Vigeo**, « This study shows that companies are not powerless to take on their responsibilities with regards to climate change, and that mitigation options exist for all sectors under review. The most engaged businesses, whose performance is related in this study, are a living proof of this”.

Serge Orru, Head of WWF-France added : « WWF and Vigeo joined forces to encourage businesses to take a broader view of their greenhouse gas emissions which is an innovative initiative. It is vital for financial markets to start taking environmental risks – and the way businesses respond to them – into account. This study thus contributes to this wider objective”.

Download the study on www.wwf.fr and on www.vigeo.com

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About Vigeo

Vigeo is the European leading corporate social and environmental rating agency. Its mission is to assess businesses' performances in terms of respect of fundamental human rights, working conditions, market behaviour (relationships with clients, suppliers and sub-contractors, compliance with competition laws, prevention of corruption) corporate governance, community involvement and protection of the environment.

Vigeo offers two types of services :

- Investment decision-making tools for investors and asset managers (SRI—Socially Responsible Investment—analysis and research)
- Management decision-making tools for businesses or public institutions (diagnoses, action plans, organizational assistance on all or part of the different CSR issues: Human Resources; Human Rights; the Environment; Business Behaviour; Corporate Governance and Community Involvement).

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About WWF-France

Created in 1961, WWF is one of the largest environmental organizations in France and in the world. Currently, there are more than 12 000 WWF conservation projects underway around the world.

This NGO is strategically focusing on conserving critical places and critical species that are particularly important for their habitat or for people.

WWF is also working to reduce humanity's ecological footprint – the amount of land and natural resources needed to supply our food, water, fibre and timber, and to absorb our CO2 emissions.

Since 1973, WWF-France works thanks to 12 000 volunteers and the support of 165 000 members (in 2009) to leave to the future generations a living planet.

For more information on the WWF Campaign for Copenhagen, visit www.panda.org and www.wwf.fr

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