

About this report

Reporting policy and justification of choices made

This is our sixth annual Triple P Report, which consolidates our reporting on People, Planet and Profit. In this report, we explain our vision and policy with respect to sustainable enterprise and report on our activities in this field during 2008. In the period from 1993 to 2001, in addition to financial reporting in the annual report and the financial statements, DSM also reported on safety, health and the environment in its Responsible Care Progress Report. This Report has since been integrated into DSM's Triple P Report. The Triple P Report for 2008 was adopted by the Managing Board.

The structure of this report is based on the three Ps of People, Planet and Profit (Triple P). Besides these three categories, we report additionally on our sustainability strategy, our stakeholder engagement activities, and the organization of sustainability at DSM. Furthermore, we discuss the four global trends around which our sustainability strategy is based and four main challenges which we must successfully confront as a globally operating life sciences and materials sciences company.

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

We base our reports on the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) guidelines. For this report, we used the GRI matrix G3. We believe that this report merits G3 level A+ which is the highest standard, self declared and externally assured. For the GRI matrix for 2008, please see www.dsm.com.

Assurance

Once again we asked KPMG Sustainability to provide limited assurance on the whole Triple P Report.



Report Application Levels

		2002 In Accordance	C	C+	B	B+	A	A+
Mandatory	Self Declared			Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured
	Third Party Checked							Report Externally Assured
Optional	GRI Checked			Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured		Report Externally Assured

Selection of topics

The topics covered in this report were selected on the basis of the GRI guidelines, our own management systems and their relevance and impact for DSM, and our various stakeholders. On the basis of the principle of materiality, we have attempted to make a distinction between topics whose importance warrants publication in the printed version (these are topics that are relevant to both DSM and its stakeholders), topics whose importance warrants publication on the Internet (these are topics that are important to either DSM or its stakeholders) and topics that are relevant neither to DSM nor to its stakeholders.

Subjects of major significance from a governmental perspective include our new environmental targets to 2020 and our advocacy of smart greenhouse-gas emission trading. Topics relevant to our employees include career management, resourcing, learning, diversity and health, as well as our corporate social responsibility initiatives, in which our employees play a key role. Subjects of importance to local residents near our sites include the Torch program and our environmental performance. In making our selection of topics, we also listened to the opinions of various national and international organizations and other expertise centers for sustainability.

Boundry

For the first time, we have grouped relevant awards received by DSM in a separate section. We are also reporting separately on our progress in implementing the principles of the UN Global Compact.

This report includes environmental information about all the production sites in which DSM has a majority stake or where DSM exercises management control. The other data cover all sites and offices of DSM.

Subsidiaries and joint ventures are consolidated from the acquisition date until the date on which DSM ceases to have control or joint control.

The safety, health and environmental data for newly acquired companies are reported in the year following the first full year after the acquisition. This is because these companies' reporting procedures first have to be aligned with those of DSM.

Quality of data

The data for the sites are based on these sites' own measurements and calculations, which are based on definitions, methods and procedures established at corporate level. The year-on-year comparability of the data can be affected by changes in the portfolio as well as by improvements that have been made in the measurement and recording systems at the various sites. Whenever this is the case, it is stated in the report.

Details for the individual sites are published on www.sustainability.dsm.com, together with an explanation of the definitions used.

Manner of reporting

All data are consolidated at corporate level by the relevant corporate departments. The working group for the Triple P Report was made up of representatives from those corporate departments. The qualitative reports on various subjects were provided by experts throughout the organization.