UNEP Finance Initiative
Regional Roundtables
March, 2018

Carbon Footprint

Context

The United Nations Environment Programme – Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) evaluated the GHG emissions generated by the 2017 Regional Roundtables in accordance with the carbon footprinting methodology Bilan Carbone® developed by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME). This methodology allows to estimate the GHG emissions generated by an activity. Emissions are then broken down by categories.

Lat. America & Caribbean
5-6 September 2017

North America
18-20 September 2017

Europe
16-18 October 2017

Africa & Middle East
27-29 November 2017

Asia Pacific
11-12 December 2017

What's accounted for ?

Energy
includes energy consumption of buildings and other fixed sources (electricity, heating…)

Transportation
includes transportation of non-local participants

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Inputs and outsourced services
includes purchases of food and beverage

Freight
includes the transportation of food and beverage, from suppliers to the Regional Roundtables venues (upstream freight)

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Scope of the study

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Carbon footprint

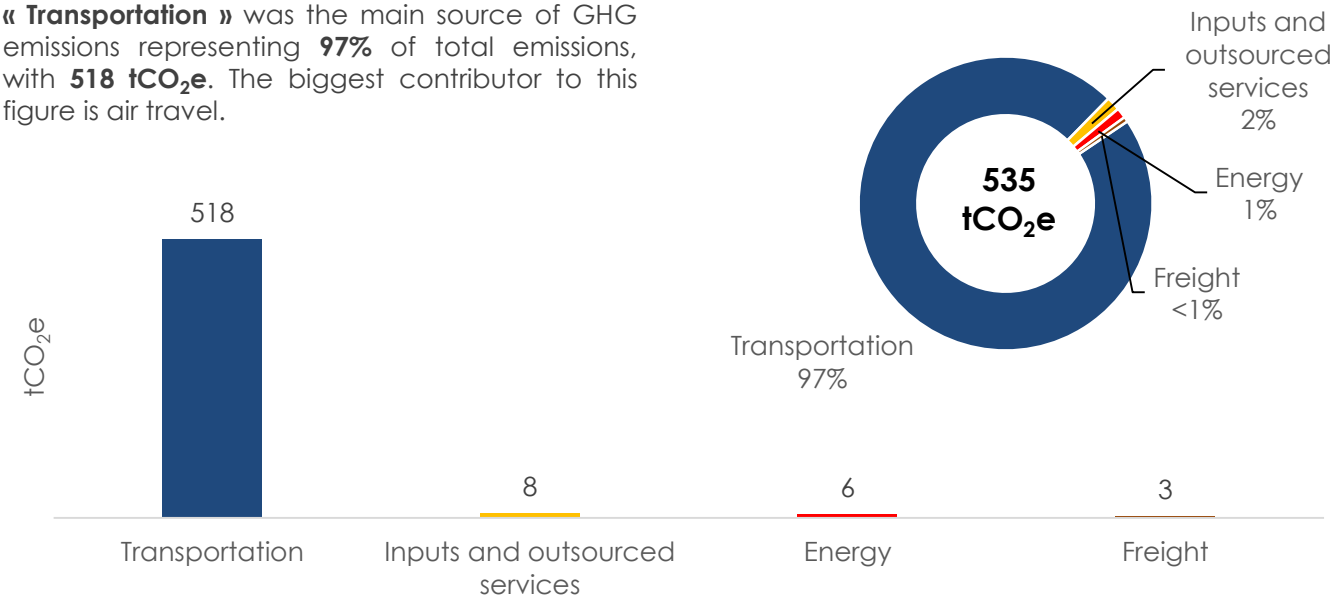
The following results are based on actual data collected during and after the events. Through this assessment, they were estimated to be **535 tons CO_2 equivalent** (tCO_2e), broken down by the emission categories presented in the graph below.

Interpretation of results

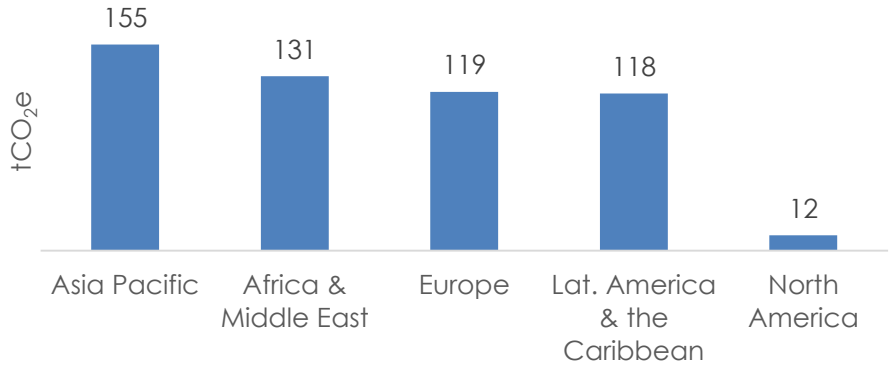
« Transportation » was the main source of GHG emissions representing **97%** of total emissions, with **518 tCO_2e**. The biggest contributor to this figure is air travel.

« Inputs and outsourced services » and **« Energy »** represent **2%** (8 tCO_2e) and **1%** (6 tCO_2e) respectively of the global carbon footprint. "Food" and "beverages" represent 73% and 27% respectively of the GHG emissions of "inputs and outsourced services". GHG emissions from "energy" come from purchasing electricity.

« Freight » is less important in terms of GHG emissions for the Regional Roundtables (3 tCO_2e).



GHG emissions are broken down by Regional Roundtables in the graph below. Carbon footprint results show that GHG emissions per participant for the Africa & Middle East and Latin America & Caribbean Roundtables are higher than for other Regional Roundtables. This can be explained by greater distances travelled by the participants.



Number of participants	
Asia Pacific	477
Africa & Middle East	162
Europe	370
Lat. America & the Caribbean	160
North America	30

What is it equivalent to ?

On average, **each participant generated 0.45 tCO_2e**.

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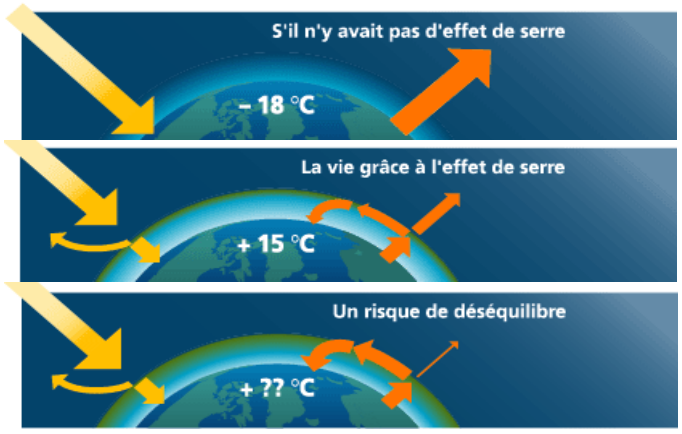
The greenhouse effect,

This atmospheric phenomenon is similar to what happens in an agricultural greenhouse: the solar energy that gets to the ground warms the Earth and is transformed into infrared rays. Atmospheric greenhouse gas trap some of these rays, which tend to warm up the Earth and to raise the surface average temperature of the planet.

A natural and necessary process

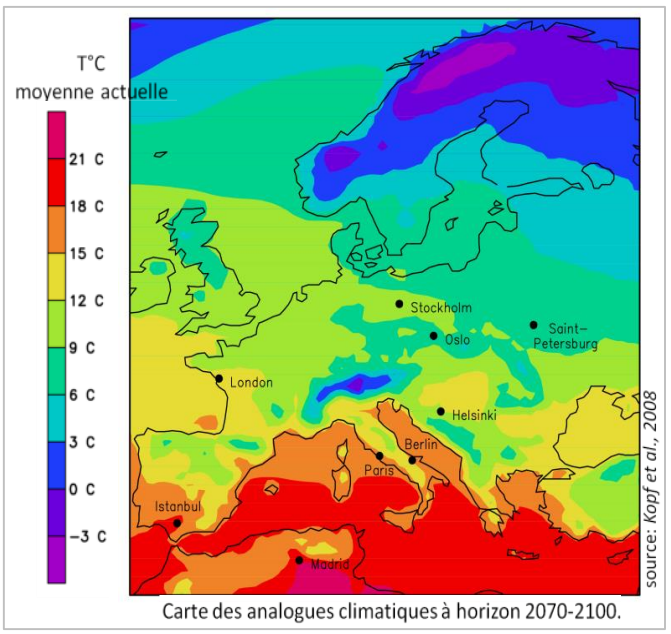
Without greenhouse effect, the temperature at the earth's surface would be -18 °C. Thanks to it, the average temperature is +15 °C, allowing the development of life on Earth.

However, since the beginning of the 19th century and the development of industry (multiplication by 3 of the population in the world, and by 10 of fossil fuel consumption per capita), human activities (deforestation and fossil fuel combustion) have created an unprecedented increase of the greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), including CO_2.



… that intensifies with human activities

Today, the entire scientific community agrees on the fact that concentration of GHG in the atmosphere and increase of average temperature of the earth's surface are intimately linked. The scenarios, developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are unequivocal: if we do not change our lifestyle drastically, we might experience an increase of temperature of +2 to +6°C by 2100. +6°C is precisely the temperature difference previously observed on a 20,000 year interval that led our planet from an ice age to an interglacial age. In the case of the current climate change, the time interval is only 100 years. Thus, nobody can predict what will happen if such an increase actually occurs.



*An illustration of the impact of climate change on climate **by 2070**, the climate of the city of Paris could correspond to the current climate of the city of Rome.*

Some landmarks

- In 2015, the Earth crossed for the first time a **+1°C** threshold compared to pre-industrial times. In France, this was also reflected by an increase of **1 °C** of average temperatures observed.
- In 2012, human activities generated **34,5 billion tons CO_2 equivalent (tCO_2e)**. In France, this corresponds to **10,5 $teqCO_2$ per capita**.
- Climate projections indicate an increase of **+2 à +6°C** according to the chosen economic scenario. The consequences on ecosystems and agriculture are already being felt. In France, the wine sector is particularly impacted.
- The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP21, determines an increase of the global temperatures below a **+2°C** threshold, which would translate to emissions of **2 tCO_2e by capita** by 2050.

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