

**REVIEW OF THE ECONET WIRELESS ZIMBABWE
LIMITED DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2021 IN THE
CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING
PRACTICE AND GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE
(GRI) STANDARDS**

**Submitted by
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25 SEPTEMBER 2021

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LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

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25 SEPTEMBER 2021

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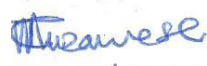
**RE: REVIEW OF THE ECONET WIRELESS ZIMBABWE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2021 IN THE
CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING PRACTICE AND GLOBAL REPORTING
INITIATIVE (GRI) STANDARDS**

We the aforementioned, present to you the High Level Technical Review Report of the Econet Wireless 2021 Draft Annual Report. This report reviews the content of the report against the requirements of the Global Reporting Initiatives as well as other global best practice requirements in sustainability reporting. We assure the organisation that we adhere to confidentiality in all activities related to this assignment.

Recommendations from this assessment should be used to inform top management and the sustainability reporting team. Significant effort has been taken to ensure that the review adopts a balanced approach of identifying both positive and negative aspects of the reporting practice of the requesting organisation.

NB: Please note that this is not an assurance of the report but a High Level Technical Review to identify areas of improvement before publication of the report and also to inform future reporting periods.

Yours Sincerely



Mr. Tawanda Collins Muzamwese (**Chief Sustainability Consultant**)

STRENGTHS OF THE 2021 ECONET WIRELESS DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

- (i) The report mentions Agenda 2030 and is written with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind. This is evidence that the report responds to the external contextual environment and global sustainability discourses.
- (ii) The report is expanded as compared to previous years. There is wider coverage and articulation of more material issues. High level of detail, data collection and research within the organisation has been undertaken. This is a sign of maturity of the organisation in matters of sustainable development.
- (iii) The Chairman's statement mentions progress on reducing carbon footprint through deploying solar energy, in a clear evidence of the mainstreaming of sustainability in the corporate strategy.
- (iv) The Chairman's Statement has coverage on issues of Occupational Safety and Health as well as Sustainability. With this approach, the organisation demonstrates to its stakeholders that it is concerned about sustainability at the highest level of the organisation.
- (v) The CEO's Statement has a strong component of sustainability and this should be highly commended in line with requirements of GRI.
- (vi) The General Manager – Sustainability's Statement is well rounded in addressing current sustainability challenges such as climate change, COVID-19 and carbon footprint. The use of a systematic approach guided by SASB and GRI standards, as specified in the GM-Sustainability Statement is strong evidence that the organisation is committed to continual improvement in sustainability performance through a systems approach.
- (vii) The **Precautionary Principle** is well articulated and the organisation is not waiting for scientific certainty in order to undertake risk mitigation. This is a positive observation and a sign of pro-activeness in the business operations.

- (viii)** Within the report, there is very good coverage of stakeholder engagement and inclusion in issues related to economic, social and environmental sustainability. The identification of the needs and expectation of stakeholders is well presented.
- (ix)** The “Hits and Misses” Framework for assessing progress on indicators allows stakeholder to track progress very the years. The use of emojis to express success or failure, makes the report understandable by people from all walks of life, including non-technical people.
- (x)** Setting up of an ESG Committee within the Board is a sign that the organisation is committed to sustainable development at the highest echelons of power within the organisation.
- (xi)** Adoption of waste recycling at Mutare Bottling Company is a commendable strategy for dealing with waste generation at enterprise level.
- (xii)** Studies about water source vulnerability have been undertaken at Mutare Bottling Company. This approach shows the organisation’s pro-activeness as well as willingness to consider other stakeholders.
- (xiii)** Reporting in daily water metering at MBC, is a clear evidence of the organisation’s commitment towards a factual approach to decision making.
- (xiv)** Cyclone Idai Reconstruction and COVID-19 response Actions presented in the report demonstrate that the organisation is a good corporate citizen working to help society alongside its business excellence.
- (xv)** Case Studies of Higherlife Foundation, Vision 2050 and Participation in Pfumvudza. Neglected Tropical Diseases initiatives demonstrates the willingness of the organisation to assist its key stakeholders.
- (xvi)** The Risk Ranking Framework is well presented in the report. This informs stakeholders on the risk profile of the organisation.

(xvii) The company has strong governance practices. The Board is constituted with distinguished and well-polished members with vast experience in leading corporations. This shows the commitment of the organisation to delivering the highest level of quality and efficiency.

(xviii) Having in place an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Committee is a demonstration of the prioritization of sustainability within the business at the highest decision making body.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT FOR THE 2021 ECONET WIRELESS DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND FOR FUTURE REPORTING PERIODS

- a)** There are some missing indicators under the SDG on Decent Work and Economic Growth. There is need to present information about indicators in order to assess progress with regard to the particular (SDG)
(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 59)
- b)** The company has established a very good reporting framework for carbon footprint to track consumption over the years. However, there are no further calculations to show how the carbon footprints were derived. The relationship between the carbon footprint and the relevant activity data cannot be determined. This can affect reliability of the information when stakeholder go through the report.
(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 64)
- c)** The report identifies spillages as an environmental impact from the base stations due to theft and other reasons. However, there is no clear plan of spillage response and clean-up to an environmentally acceptable standard. Although security and hardening are very useful, it is essential for the company to consider having spillage response kits to be used in the case of any spillage, irrespective of what causes it.
(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 66)
- d)** Although water consumption and water management issues for Mutare Bottling Company are specified, there is no information regarding the "Specific Water Consumption" also known as the "Water Intensity". In order for stakeholders to make informed conclusions about the water performance of MBC, there is need to present the information in the form of Water Consumption per Unit Product. The next reporting cycles should include this indicator which should give information on "Water Consumption per Unit Beverage manufactured. This approach will enable stakeholders to benchmark performance with international requirements.
(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 68-69)
- e)** The Management Approach under the Social topics is devoid of the actual measures taken to deal with the material topic at the strategic level. Examples of Management approaches include policies, plans, procedures, strategies and actions to address the material topic.
(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 72)

- f)** The report uses Stock Imagery from ALAMY, an online photo bank. Alamy images are used under a license and are normally bought under “Editorial” or “Commercial” purposes. There is no citation of the photographer or the source of the photograph. This may infringe copyright issues if the organisation did not capture this photograph. The annual report must cite appropriately images which have not been developed by the organisation.

(Reference Page of EWL Report: Page 83)

- g)** There is limited coverage of energy consumption within the organisation. Although renewable energy projects are mentions to be done by the organisation, it is necessary to disclose the energy consumption of the organisation as well as the energy efficiency measures

(Reference Page of EWL Report: Across the report)

- h)** There is no adequate coverage on controls and measures to control sustainability performance of suppliers. Suppliers should be managed in terms of sustainability requirements. The report can improve by mentioning any actions to ensure that suppliers are adhering to environmental and social requirements of Econet Wireless. There is also no information on how many suppliers have been evaluated for social and environmental performance.

(Reference Page of EWL Report: Across the report)

Table 1: Adherence to GRI Reporting Principles

Reporting Principle	Comments
Stakeholder Inclusiveness	A plethora of stakeholders are cited in the report. There is genuine stakeholder engagement.
Sustainability Context	The report speaks well to Sustainable Development Goals as well as other key issues related to sustainable development.
Materiality	The Materiality Matrix is well presented as well as the criteria
Completeness	There is significant reporting on a wide variety of material issues.
Accuracy	There is a consistent presentation of sustainability information
Balance	Significant improvements can be made on ensuring balance. Currently the report is skewed to positive outcomes
Clarity	Language used in the report is clear for all stakeholders.
Comparability	It is easy to track sustainability performance over a number of years in various sections of the report. Consistency could be key.
Reliability	There is reasonable reliability of information as most statistics, quantities and other indicators of progress are presented in a manner which is consistent and accurate.
Timeliness	There is consistent progress in producing timely reports.

EDITORIAL ISSUES AND ORIGINALITY

The text used in the report is original and shows that the organisation developed the report on its own. Consistency, tone, language and expression are formulated in a way that ensures that stakeholder do not lose meaning of the issues being discussed. There is no repetition and redundancy in the style of writing the sustainability information. A lot of careful effort has been taken to ensure that sustainability concepts are presented in a manner which is easy to understand by the wide variety of key stakeholders.

The use of “stock photography” within the report needs to be reconsidered in future reporting timelines as some of the images may need licensing and proper citing to avoid plagiarism in the report. If stock photo companies such as Alamy, Pinterest, 123RF are to be used, there is need to adhere to strict publishing ethics such as citing the photography and using licensed pictures without watermarks.

OVERALL RATING OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Extremely Poor with no recognisable format and content	Very poor with little or no coverage of material topics	Poor with low coverage of sustainability issues	Below Average with some scattered coverage of sustainability	Average and just able to meet minimum requirements of sustainability	Above average with addressing all the basic requirements of sustainability	Good reporting practice with sufficient coverage of sustainability	Very Good With high coverage of sustainability	Excellent with comprehensive coverage of sustainability	Outstanding with reporting at best-practice
								 Econet Wireless Draft Annual Report	