

#### ERM CVS Webinar: Maximizing the Value of Assurance

Part of ERM's 2018 Sustainability Means Business Webinar Series

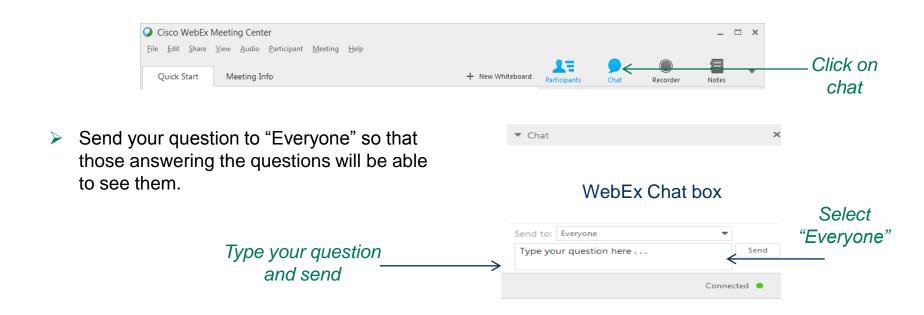
July 18, 2018

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#### Welcome

- This presentation will be recorded and all who registered will receive a follow-up email containing a link to the presentation within a week.
- Participants can ask questions throughout the presentation using the WebEx chat function and they will be answered during the last 15 minutes of the webinar in the order that they were received.



SUSTAINABILITY

# BUSINESS

**MEANS** 

#### **Megatrends**









#### 2018 ERM Webinar Series



#### **Today's Speakers**



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#### What is ERM CVS?

Within ERM Group, we are a Global Specialty Business offering independent auditing and assurance services.

Our Global Services include:

#### Certification

- ISO 14001 (Environment)
- OHSAS 18001 (H&S)
- SEMS II (Gulf offshore O&G)
- ISO 50001 (Energy Management)
- ISO 20121 (Events)
- AWS (Water)
- ASI (Aluminum) (pilot)

#### Assurance / Verification

- Sustainability/CR Reporting
- GHG/EHS Data Verification
- Low carbon/carbon neutral operations/ services/products
- Project GHG (UNFCCC CDM, Gold Standard, and VCS
- Other GHG Reporting (EU ETS, Canada BC)

#### Other

- SME and Internal Audit training
- Lead Assessor training (ISO)
- Supporting ERM on advisory work where no conflict of interest

#### **Presentation Overview**

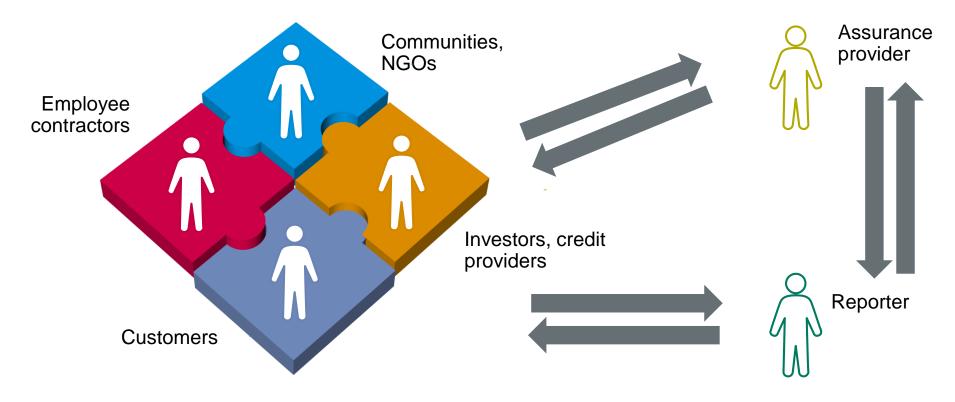
- 01 What is assurance and why does it matter?
- O2 Assurance process
- 03 Current assurance landscape, latest developments and trends
- Scoping an assurance engagement around material topics
- Ney elements to achieve desired outcomes and increased value
- 06 Q&A

What is assurance?

#### What is assurance?

'Assurance' is a broad concept – a 3-way relationship that provides confidence to third parties about the actions or claims of another party. It includes management systems certification, data verification, report assurance, supply chain auditing, internal audit reports etc.

This Webinar focuses on one type - assurance on public reporting – where the <u>assurance provider</u> increases the confidence <u>the user</u> has in information supplied by <u>the reporter</u>.

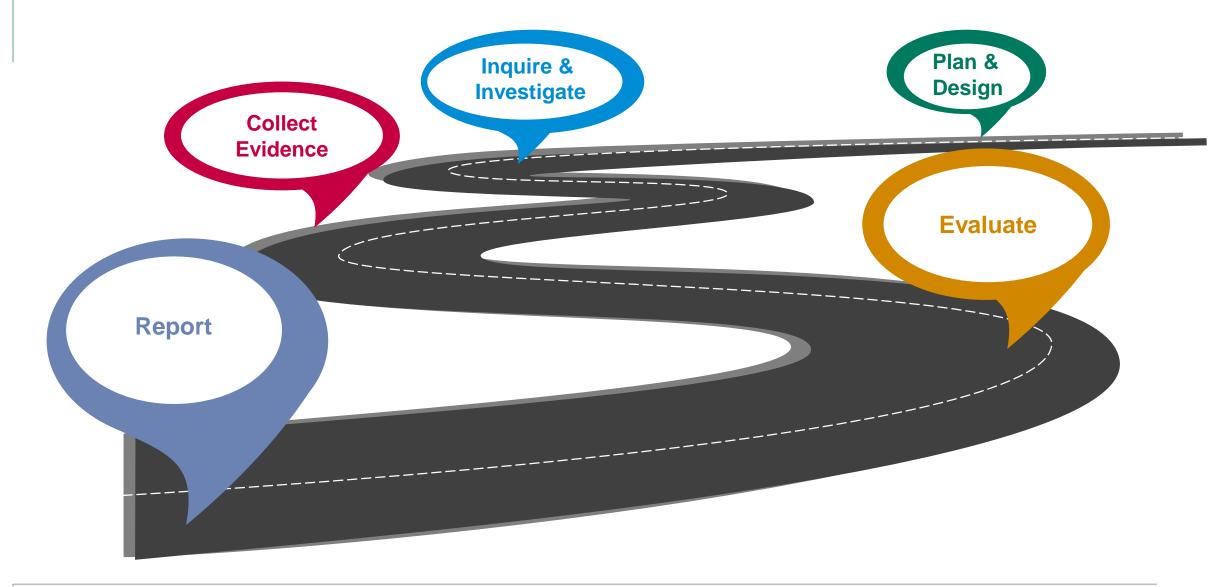


#### Why does it matter?

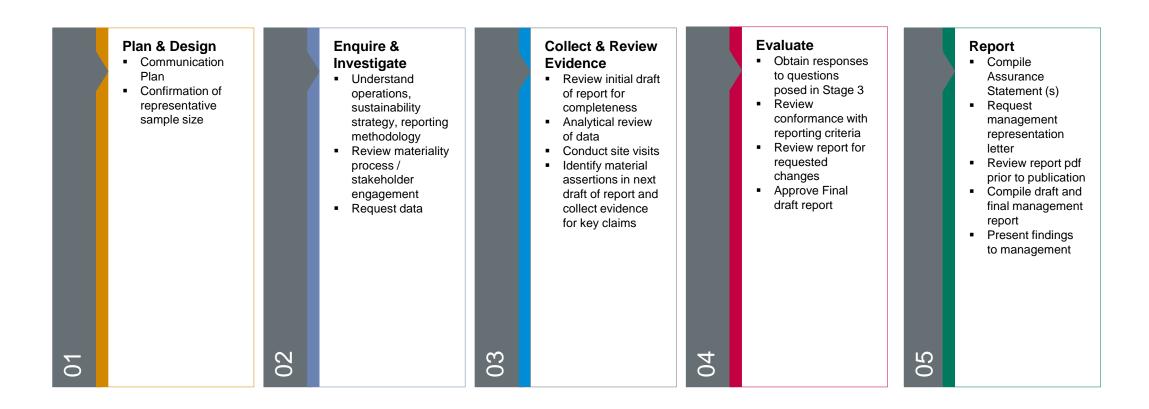


Assurance process

#### **Assurance Process Overview**



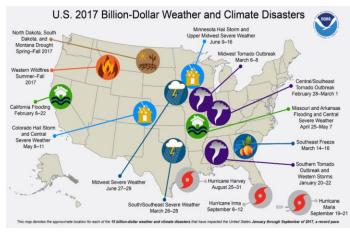
#### **Process for Whole Report Assurance (summary)**



Current assurance landscape, latest developments and trends

#### **Uncertain Landscape**

#### Customer trust; brand credibility; stakeholder concerns; investor demands; new regulations







Source: noaa.gov









Source: Save the Children/ILO

# **Increasing Pressure from Investor Community and Government Regulations**



Trust & Financial Access

Reporting reliable strategic sustainability information can positively impact shareholder trust and access to finance



Sustainability & Risk

Mounting pressure from investors to disclose performance and approach to risk management (e.g. TCFD)



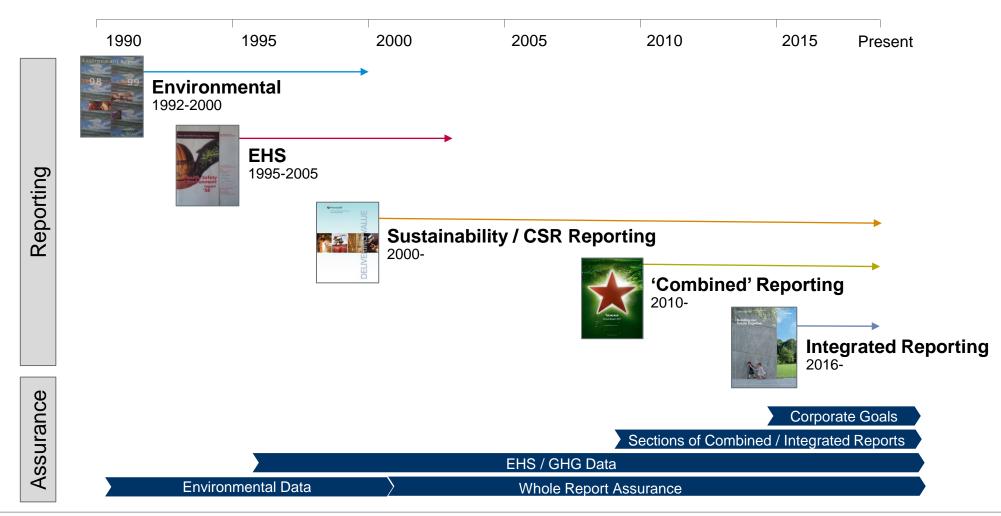
Investor-grade Data

Risks associated with climate change are driving demands for 'investor-grade' data on GHG emissions.



40 countries require GHG reporting. 35 countries plus 20 states/cities have carbon taxes or trading schemes.

### Reporting & Assurance Landscape – Developments Since 1990



# Reporting Guidelines, Standards and Commitments Driving Assurance









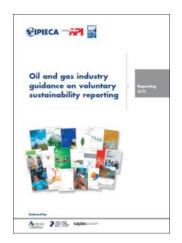


















#### **Emerging Assurance Drivers**



#### **UN Sustainable Developed Goals (SDGs)**

More companies are using the SDGs to inform strategy and materiality assessments



#### **New Sector Developments**

e.g. Aluminum (ASI), Mining (ICMM) Cement (CSI), WBCSD release of Chemical Sector SDG roadmap



#### **Climate Change-related Developments**

- Science-based targets
- TCFD: Taskforce on carbon-related financial disclosures
  - Endorsed by S&P, Moody's, SEC, AXA, Blackrock, etc.
  - CDP 2018 includes TCFD reporting section (also DJSI, PRI etc.)
- Increasing use of Climate change / GHG performance in C-suite remuneration

While assurance is not mandatory (ICMM is exception), it is recommended by many bodies such as GRI, WBCSD, PRI, etc.

Scoping an assurance engagement around material topics

#### What to Assure?

- Focus assurance on material topics e.g. climate change, water, communities, human rights, supply chain, etc.
- Align with strategic objectives
- Consult internal and external stakeholders
- Don't assure what is 'easy' but where assurance will increase trust



# GRI Report Content Principles Stakeholder Inclusiveness Sustainability Context Materiality Completeness

SEC's SAB 99: '...consider quantitative and qualitative factors'. So materiality determination is not limited to financial (quantitative) information. A matter is material if it is substantially likely that the information will affect decisions of a reasonable person.

#### **Climate-related Data**



GHG Scope 1 and Scope 2 Location and market-based emissions



GHG Scope 3
Select from 15 categories covering value chain



#### Low Carbon / Carbon Neutral

- Operational Sites (e.g. J&J Helsingborg)
- Products: BP PTA (Belgium, USA, China)
- Services: Air BP (fuel delivery), Shell B2B
- Events



Offsetting vs. Reduction PAS2060



J&J Helsingborg, Sweden: A high standard for reduced carbon emissions

#### Shell launches sustainable solution at National Sustainability Congress – Customers can offset CO2 emissions

Nov 9, 2017

Shell has launched a new service ....enabling business customers to offset the CO2 emissions of their automobile usage. Accenture Netherlands is the first customer to use this new service

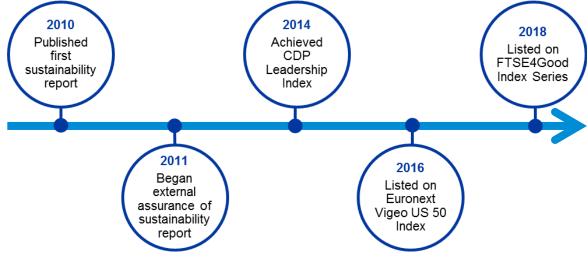
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\_dnell4Xjc



#### Whole Report Assurance – IFF Overview



With increasing maturity in our sustainability program has come increasing public recognition...



**ERM Webinar: Maximizing the Value of Assurance** 

#### Whole Report Assurance – Benefits to IFF

- On-the-ground information on our data management
- Eases approval process for sustainability report & other surveys & disclosures
- Commitment to continuous Improvement

- Stakeholders increasingly requesting 3<sup>rd</sup> party assurance
- Reputation: Assurance as a best practice
- Confidence in our data

Internal



External



#### **Long Term Goal Assurance**

# 2017 Health for Humanity Report

Progress in Citizenship & Sustainability

Johnson Johnson



#### J&J Assurance Journey – 1996 to Present













2016





**1996**First report on environmental

progress

#### 2010

- Set 2015 Healthy Future goals
- First on-line PDF Report
- GHG verification from 2011

#### 2002

First annual sustainability report

- Health for Humanity Report
- First time published as an interactive microsite
- First year of reporting and assurance on progress against 2020 Goals

#### 2015

- Citizenship & Sustainability Report
- Final performance against the Healthy Future 2015 goals
- Developed Health for Humanity 2020 goals
- External assurance on reported performance from 2014

#### 2017

- First year of reporting and assurance on SDG goals in Health for Humanity Report
- Continuation of reporting and assurance against Health for Humanity 2020 goals
- First year of reporting and assurance on a carbon dioxide neutral claim for a facility

#### **Considerations When Assuring Long-term Goals**

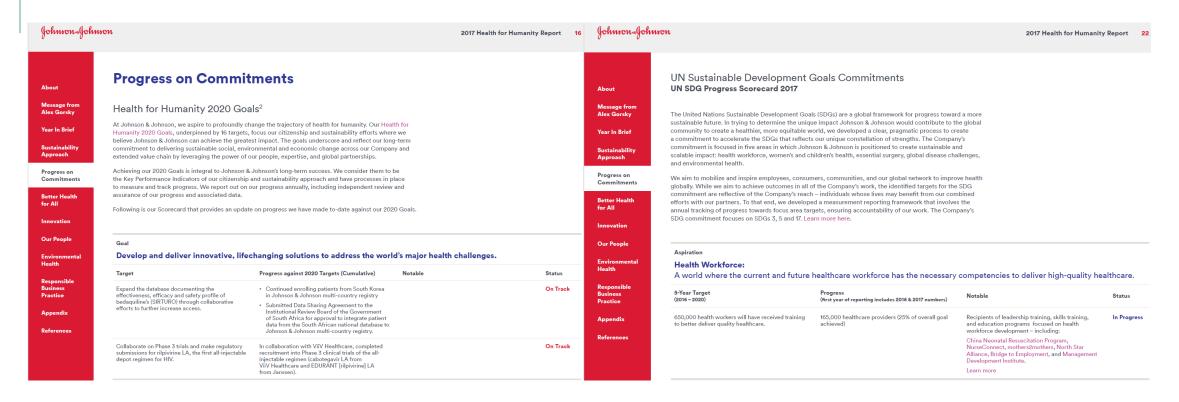
ASSURANCE OF LONG TERM GOALS REQUIRES FORESIGHT





- Clearly defining all assumptions/ estimations and their basis
- Identifying and acknowledging the measurement limitations of global impact goals and publically sharing these limitations

#### J&J Assurance Against Long-term Goals (Sample)



"J&J feels that the value of assurance is manifold. By leveraging industry-standard protocols and guidelines, external assurance provides an independent assessment of progress against company sustainability goals and commitments. Also, external assurance of environment, social and governance information provides the highest form of confidence that the reported information is reliable and relevant, offering investor-grade data around non-financial measures. Externally assured non-financial measures, when paired with financial measures, offer the stakeholder a full picture of a company's commitment to long-term value creation."

Key elements to achieve desired outcomes and increased value

#### **Consider Maturity of Reporting**

Level		Assurance Scope & Level
Immature	Early stage of sustainability management (and reporting)	Review reporting guidance / KPI definitions Readiness assessment (pre-assurance) on systems and processes Option for (limited) assurance on selected data/disclosures
Improving	More mature management approach, already reporting but want to improve quality	Limited assurance on disclosures (data/management approach) for material topics, GRI Standards (in accordance)
Leader	Strategic business approach to sustainability; longer term goals and mature reporting	Assurance on performance for strategic goals/targets Mix of reasonable/limited assurance on material disclosures

#### Readiness, Pre-Assurance and Assurance

#### Readiness Assessment

#### Pre-assurance

#### Assurance

#### **Objective:**

Improve reporting processes (and data quality) including principles, guidance, definitions, data collection & consolidation, QA/QC process

#### **Output:**

Report to management

#### **Objectives:**

- Use assurance process (stages 1-4) to improve process and quality of report.
- Possibility to 'convert' to limited assurance (stage 5) if results allow

#### Output:

Report to management (and limited Assurance Statement).

#### **Objective:**

To provide external and internal confidence in selected disclosures, performance or whole report.

#### **Output:**

Independent Assurance Statement and a detailed report to management



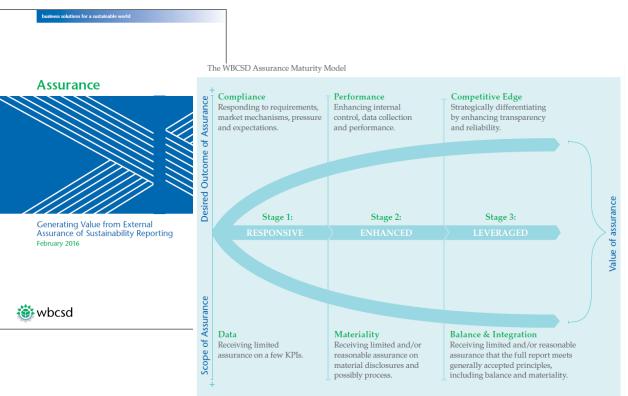




#### **Use Available Guidance**

WBCSD Value of Assurance Project Phase 1, Publication Feb 2016

Phase 2 underway, expected report end 2018

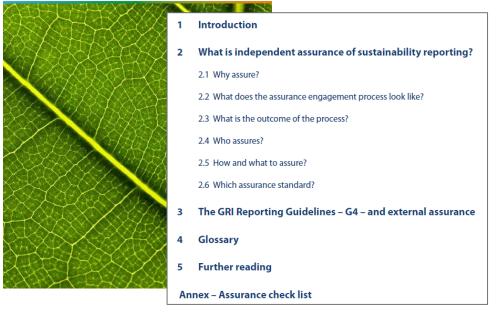


GRI (G4), Publication 2013





Reporting The external assurance of sustainability reporting



#### **Scoping Assurance to Add Value**

#### Consideration

- Raise awareness: sustainability strategy, goals; report quality
- Identify weaknesses: data/QA/QC
- Improve consistent reporting across operations

Use operational site visits to:

#### **Avoid**

- Can result in: 'Rubbish in/out'
- Does not give comfort that disclosures are 'fairly stated'

Assurance on corporate consolidation only:

#### Consideration

- Scope, reporting criteria, level of assurance, assurance standards
- Assurance Statement and a Management Report
- Statement: 'long form' with activities/observations increases external credibility

**RFPs** 

#### **Avoid**

- May not identify errors at site level
- Can lead to material errors in corporate report

Visiting head office only:

#### **How Assurance Findings Add Value**

No/limited QA/QC

#### Result:

Possible errors in the report not corrected by the organization itself

Limited senior management review and governance.

#### Result:

No high level 'ownership'

Consolidation principle not formally defined

#### **Result:**

Inconsistent data across the business

Poor reporting guidelines and definitions.

#### **Result:**

Inconsistent reporting leads to errors in the report

Reporting 'rules' not formalized

#### **Result:**

Frequent re-statement of goals, baselines & prior year data

No explanation of trends

#### **Result:**

Users do not see links to strategic objectives

#### **Benefits of Independent Assurance**



External credibility and trust



More reliable Reports and Accounts



Sustainability ranking scores



Risk management



Reputation management



Performance improvement

SUSTAINABILITY

# BUSINESS

**MEANS** 

#### **Megatrends**









#### 2018 ERM Webinar Series



#### **ERM's Next Webinar in this Series**

#### **Emerging Disclosure Trends**

September 20, 2018 at 1pm (EDT)

Summary of the latest trends in sustainability disclosures (public reports and websites) based on a review of the latest round of materials and updates released by leading companies by the end of Summer 2018.

#### Speakers include:



James Margolis
ERM
Partner



Jennifer Eastes
ERM
Senior Consultant

#### **Questions**

#### **ERM Sustainability Report 2018**

Better business. Helping our clients balance the tension between societal responsibilities and commercial demands.

# Megatrends We see our clients responding to the impacts from four key megatrends: CLIMATE CHANGE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION POPULATION GROWTH EMERGING MIDDLE CLASS







#### ERM's contribution to the SDGs

We are creating a sustainable future with the world's leading organizations—in turn, contributing to the SDGs.



Click here to view our online
Sustainability Report 2018
ERM Foundation Annual Review 2018



#### Thank you

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Appendix

#### **Process for Whole Report Assurance**

#### Plan & Design

- Kick-off meetings
- Detailed project plan
- Site selection and audit type (site/ virtual),
- Develop briefing/ protocol documents
- Develop Site Briefing Note
- Introductory calls with sites

#### Enquire & Investigate

- Understand operations, SD risks, sustainability strategy and management system
- Review Reporting Principles, Systems, Guidelines and Definitions
- Review materiality process / stakeholder engagement
- Review QA/QC
- Request for Group and site data documentation

03

#### Collect & Review Evidence

- Review early Report Draft to confirm completeness of material topics
- Analytical review of data (current vs. prior year)
- Conduct site visits & virtual audits
- Review good Report Draft and select material assertions for evidence collection
- Collect evidence through corporate interviews and documentation review

04

#### **Evaluate**

- Obtain responses, clarifications & additional evidence for Stage 3 findings
- Review conformance with reporting criteria (e.g. GRI Standards)
- Review Report for consistency with findings and requested changes
- Approve Final Draft Report

#### Report

- Compile Draft Assurance Statement
- Management Representation Letter
- Compile Final Assurance Statements
- Review Report pdf prior to publication
- Compile Draft Management Report
- Compile Final Management Report
- Present Findings to Management

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