



Airtel Africa plc

Towards a net zero future

1 May 2025

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Airtel Africa at a glance

Compelling and sustainable long-term growth

We operate in 14 dynamic, underpenetrated markets in sub-Saharan Africa where strong demand provides a compelling runway for growth.

By extending our distribution network in both rural and semi-urban areas and providing resilient, far-reaching coverage, we’ve enabled millions of people to access telecoms and banking services. By leading the way in the rollout of 4G networks, pioneering 5G services and expanding data centres and fibre access, we’re helping drive digitalisation.

We continue to expand our footprint of retailers, agents and exclusive franchises, so we can deliver even more services across our markets. And we’re helping build a new financial ecosystem that’s full of opportunity.

Our focus on increasing the number of mobile money use cases through product innovation and international partnerships has helped drive the take up of our mobile money services, boosting financial inclusion.

We’re committed to reducing carbon emissions by converting off-grid sites to on-grid energy sources and rolling out hybrid infrastructure sites. And we already see the benefits – by modernising our network infrastructure while deploying energy efficient equipment, we can maintain network stability using considerably less energy.

Key performance indicators (KPIs)*

166.1 million
customers in 14 sub-Saharan markets
37,117
infrastructure sites
78,700+ km
of connecting fibre
74.7%
4G coverage
110,000+
exclusive distribution infrastructure
4G
services available in 14 markets
5G
services available in the DRC, Gabon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia

* As of 31 March 2025



Our ambition is to achieve net zero emissions by 2050


When we published our sustainability strategy in 2021, we stated our ambition to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Since then, we've been focusing on analysing the sources of our emissions, monitoring and measuring our emissions data, and rolling out initiatives and interventions we can put in place to the impact of our operations on the environment. We've been working closely with the leading experts in the development of our decarbonisation programmes.

As a result of this work, we have set a near-term target of a 62% reduction in our emissions intensity* by 2032. While we are confident of meeting this target, the challenges we face in doing so should not be underestimated.

We deliver services to customers in 14 African markets, where electricity grid and infrastructure are underdeveloped. In addition to reducing the emissions from our existing assets, we continue to incorporate the decarbonisation strategy into our growth ambitions and across supply chain.

We recognise that this will require significant work but remain committed to fulfilling our purpose of transforming lives while also minimising our impact on the environment and contributing to the UN SDG12: Responsible consumption and production.

* tCO2e/MW of installed capacity



Our environment


Our ambition is to address and minimise the impact of our operations on the environment. This is critical for the world in which we live

Our goals

- Reduction of GHG emissions
- Environmental stewardship



Since 2022, we have been working with The Carbon Trust to establish baseline emissions and develop effective programmes and interventions across our entire carbon footprint.



SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production. Our work to reduce our GHG emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3), apply responsible consumption measures and technologies, and eliminate hazardous waste.


2022



We published our baseline emissions in the Sustainability Report 2022 (see www.airtel.africa)

baseline emissions 2022

2032



Our near-term target is to reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions intensity by 62% from our baseline

62% reduction by 2032

2050

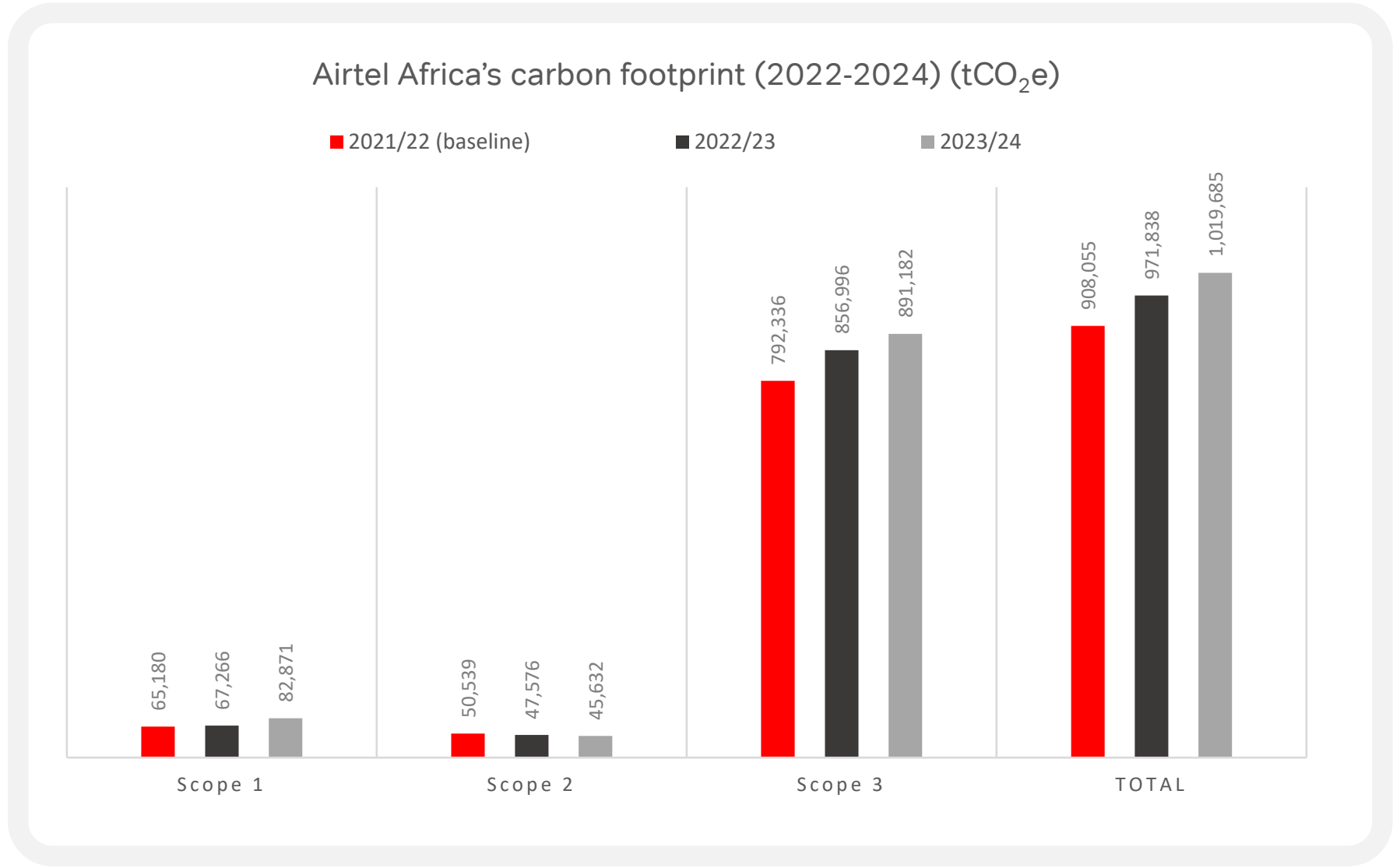


Our long-term ambition is to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

net zero ambition by 2050

Our carbon
emissions footprint
since baseline
(2022-2024)

Our scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions since baseline



As soon as we published our baseline emissions in October 2022, work started to examine a wide range of projects and initiatives that have the potential to reduce our GHG emissions.

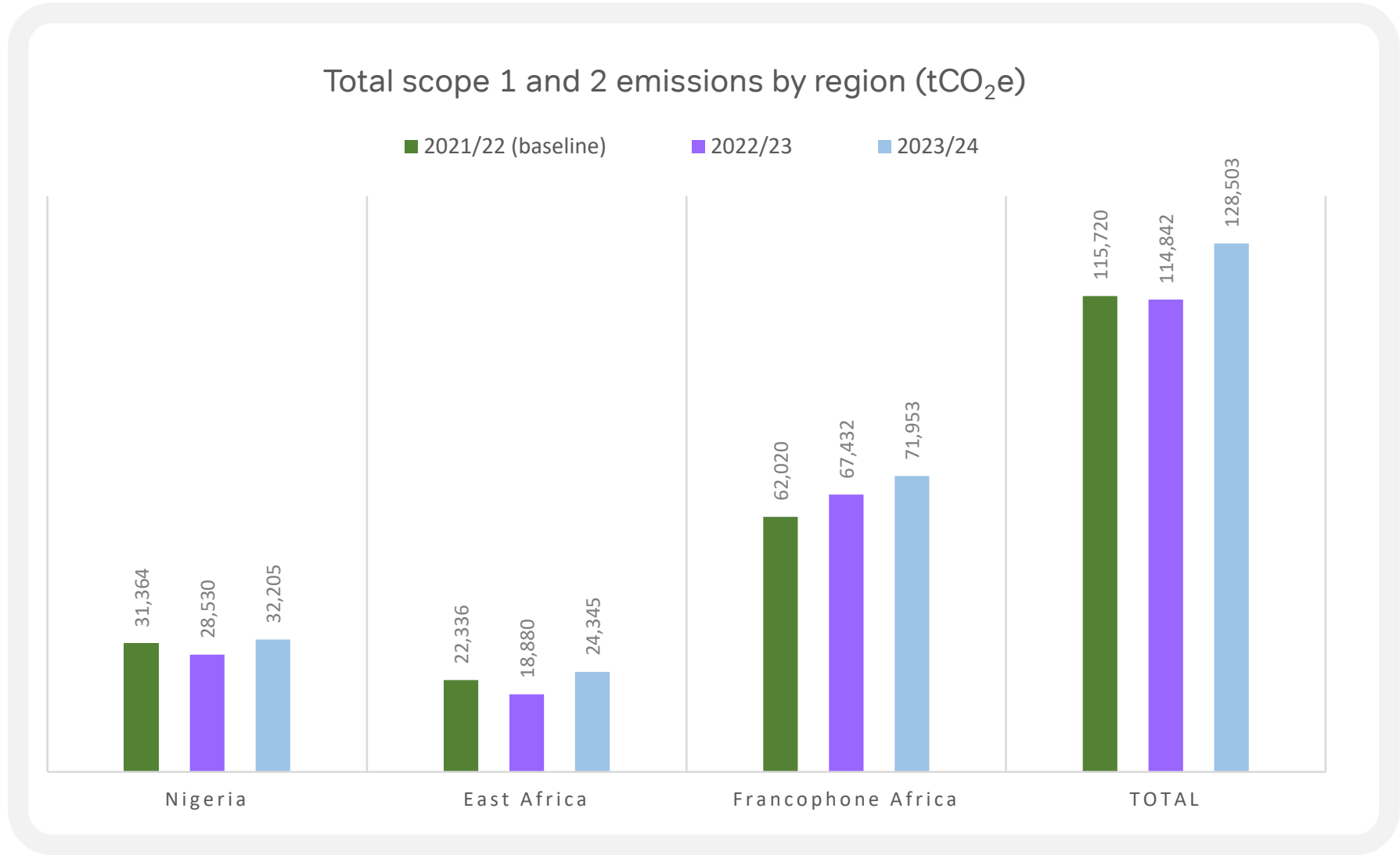
First, we engaged with our operating companies (OpCos) which have the highest level of emissions (accounting for >80% of total baseline) through a series of workshops to establish the practical implications of decarbonisation strategies, including targeted investments. Secondly, we worked with the remaining OpCos which have the lowest level of emissions to address the most viable decarbonisation initiatives in their respective markets. This work was led jointly by network and supply chain functions who also oversee the carbon reduction initiatives which have already been rolled out in our operations.

During 2023/24, our scope 1 and 2 emissions amounted to 128,503 tCO₂e, accounting for 12.6% of our total emissions, of which scope 1 accounted for 8.1% and scope 2 for 4.5%, respectively.

In 2023/24 our scope 3 emissions of 891,182 tCO₂e accounted for 87.4% of our total carbon footprint.

>> For more information about our scope 3 emissions, see page 8

Scope 1 and 2 emissions by region since baseline



In 2023/24, **Francophone Africa** remained our highest emitter of carbon emissions due to ownership of infrastructure towers across the region and the inefficiency of electricity grid in these markets. We’ve seen a gradual increase in emissions compared to the baseline level, reflecting the scale of our growth across the region as we continue to expand coverage across both rural and urban areas. Work remains underway to limit the increase in emissions, despite the growth in our network as we continue providing essential services and increasing digital inclusion across the region.

In **Nigeria** we’re working to improve the efficiency of our operations while witnessing a steady development in our carbon emissions, despite the significant growth across the market. This trend is also observed in **East Africa**. This is largely attributed to the ongoing initiatives to reduce the PUE* in our data centers and mobile switching centers (MSCs) in these regions.

Total scope 1 and 2 emissions by activity (tCO₂e)

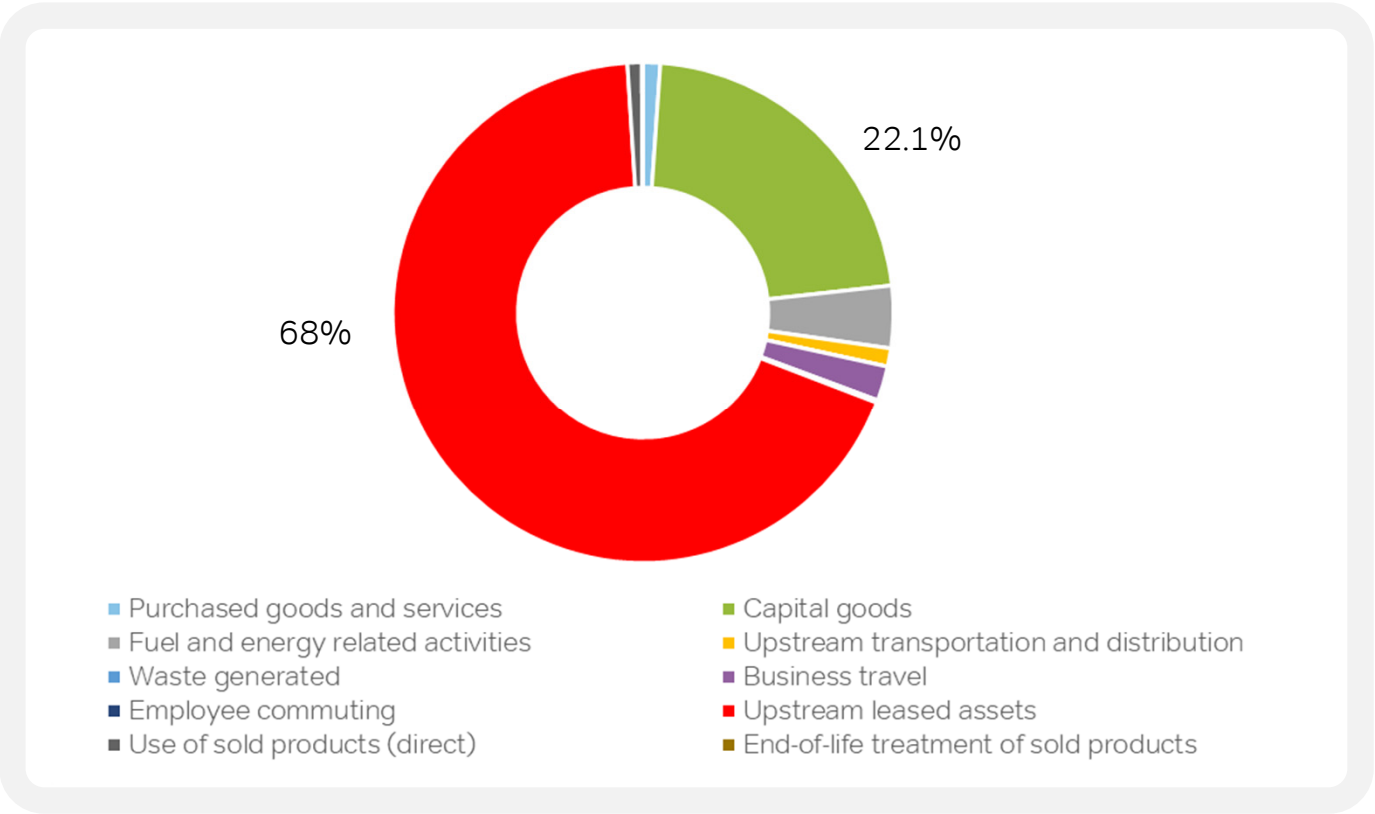
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Owned towers	47,357	51,200	54,299
Data centres (incl. MSCs)	53,118	51,239	63,383
Other (buildings, shops, fleet)	15,245	12,403	10,822
	115,720	114,842	128,504

NOTE: recent increase in emissions associated with our data centres and tower sites reflects the sustained level of growth across our markets.

* Power usage effectiveness (PUE) or power unit efficiency is a ratio that describes how efficiently a data center (DC) uses energy



Scope 3 emissions by category in 2023/24



Our scope 3 emissions (891,182 tCO₂e as of 31 March 2024) accounted for 87.4% of our total carbon footprint in 2023/2024, in line with the prior year (88%). Having analysed the sources of our scope 3 emissions, we calculated that 68% arise from category 8 (upstream leased assets) which is due to our equipment hosted on leased tower sites. Furthermore, 22.1% of our scope 3 emissions relate to our capital expenditure and form part of category 2 (capital goods).

The remaining scope 3 emissions are split between other categories which constitute 9.7% of our total footprint. Despite the significant growth in our business, reflecting the sustained level of growth inherent across our markets in sub-Saharan Africa, scope 3 emissions increased by only 4% from the prior year as we continue to engage with our partners to reduce the impact on the environment. Since baseline, our scope 3 emissions have increased only by 12%, despite an 87% increase in data capacity on our network (TB/day).

Our total energy
consumption
(2023/24)

Energy consumption for 2023/24

434,373,723 KWh

Improving energy efficiency remains a strategic priority for us at Airtel Africa, and we continue with our ambitions to reduce energy consumption through conservation and energy efficiency measures. These include the optimisation of our data and mobile switching centres as well as intelligent network design.

In 2023/24, we consumed 434,373,723 KWh of energy, with the majority arising from the use of fuel in diesel generators which are used to power our network in the absence of a reliable electricity grid. Approximately 68% of our energy consumption arises from diesel generators and 28% of the total energy consumed from the grid network.

Following the adoption of a revised methodology, our energy consumption has increased from the previously reported number of 244,458,323KWh. This methodology better reflects the energy released per litre of diesel consumed, rather than the energy produced for powering our network. It also considers more accurately the inefficiencies inherent in diesel generators and results in a more prudent approach to energy calculations.

The new methodology uses the 2023 DESNZ conversion factor for diesel. It does not impact our total carbon emissions which we reported previously.

Decarbonisation strategy for our scope 1 and 2 emissions

We developed a detailed approach
and methodology to support our
journey towards a net zero future

Our strategic approach

Comprehensive asset audit

To identify each assets' contribution to GHG emissions

Identify applicable interventions

Personalised to each OpCo and function

Feasibility modelling

Detailed study to understand investment and timelines

Implementation

Initiate decarbonisation initiatives

We completed a comprehensive asset portfolio analysis to identify each asset's contribution to our scope 1 and 2 emissions. This involved the completion of a bespoke asset register for all 14 OpCos* to allow the detailed modelling of carbon emissions.

Adopting the information from the asset audit, we developed a detailed decarbonisation analysis, tailored to each OpCo to identify the opportunities for carbon emission reductions and the potential deployment timeline.

We developed a detailed feasibility model for decarbonisation interventions to assess the impact of various carbon reduction initiatives across 14 OpCos. Further modelling was carried out to incorporate our ambitious growth strategy.

We communicated the interventions through interactive workshops with each OpCo to highlight the initiatives and establish timelines for deployment. We also engaged with various business functions to factor GHG emissions into our business strategy.

* Operating companies

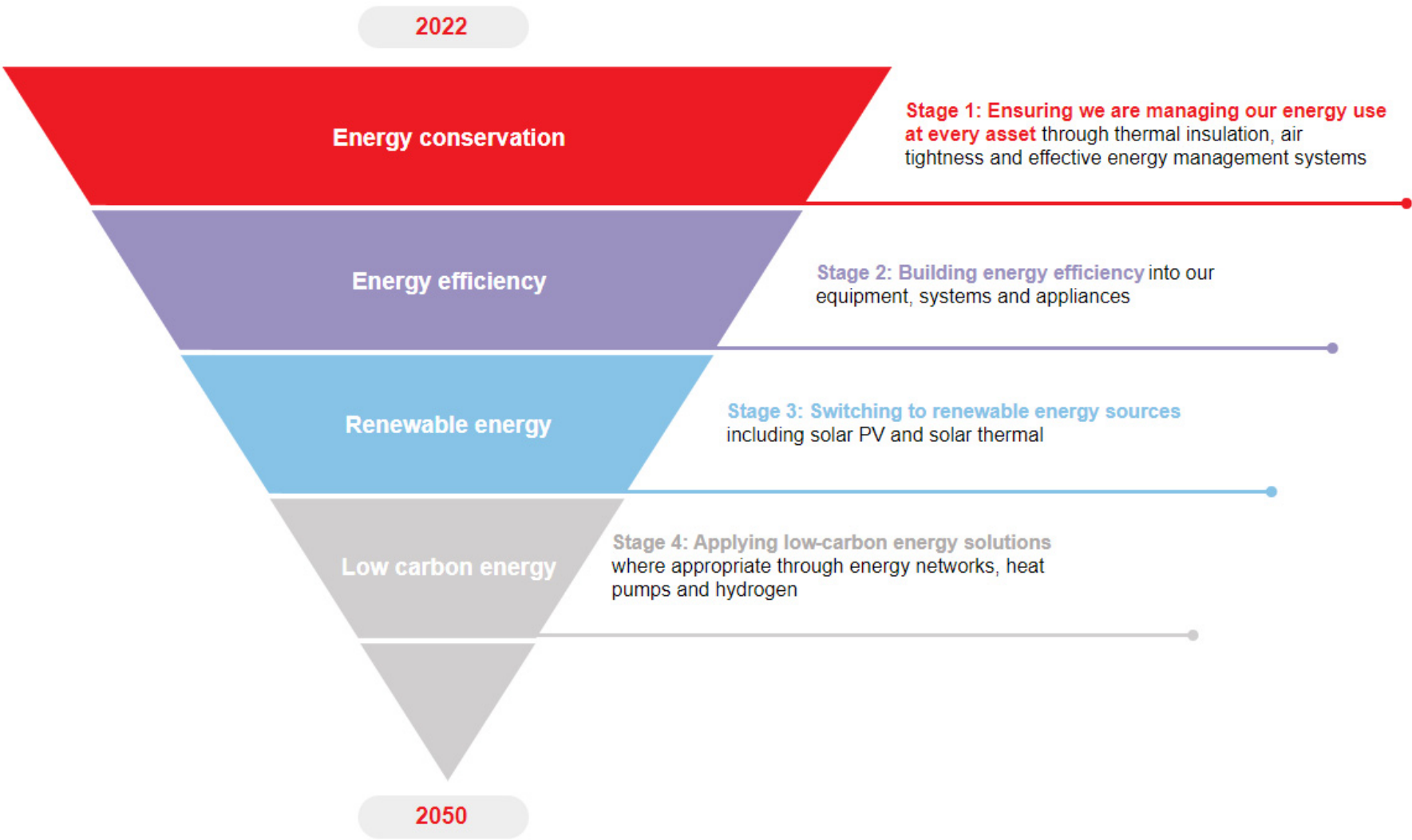
How we prioritise our interventions

Reducing our energy use and improving our energy efficiency has two key benefits: it reduces costs across our operations and, critically, it reduces our emissions. For example, optimising our data and switching centres will lead to reduced energy demand and lower operating costs.

We are also committed to sourcing renewable energy wherever possible to reduce our GHG emissions. We continue to successfully migrate our infrastructure sites to on-grid or hybrid energy, which has reduced our reliance on diesel generators from 18 hours a day to just six hours a day. We know, however, in some of our markets the deployment of renewable energy solutions can be challenging due to space constraints, restrictions on land use or security issues. In these markets, we're exploring partnerships with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) that can help us source and deploy clean energy more efficiently.

As the renewable energy market evolves, we'll continue to explore new mechanisms and technologies that can help us further reduce our environmental impact. We are committed to finding innovative solutions that help us achieve our sustainability goals while also providing the best possible service to our customers.

While we continue to explore how **new and emerging technologies** can help us reduce emissions across our network, there is a range of actions available to us now to improve our **energy efficiency**.



Our decarbonisation scenario

We're committed to achieving a 62% reduction in scope 1 and 2 emissions intensity* by 2032.

We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions both in the near term and long term to achieve our net zero ambition. However, given the continued expansion of our network and growth of our business, we focus our attention on emissions intensity targets.

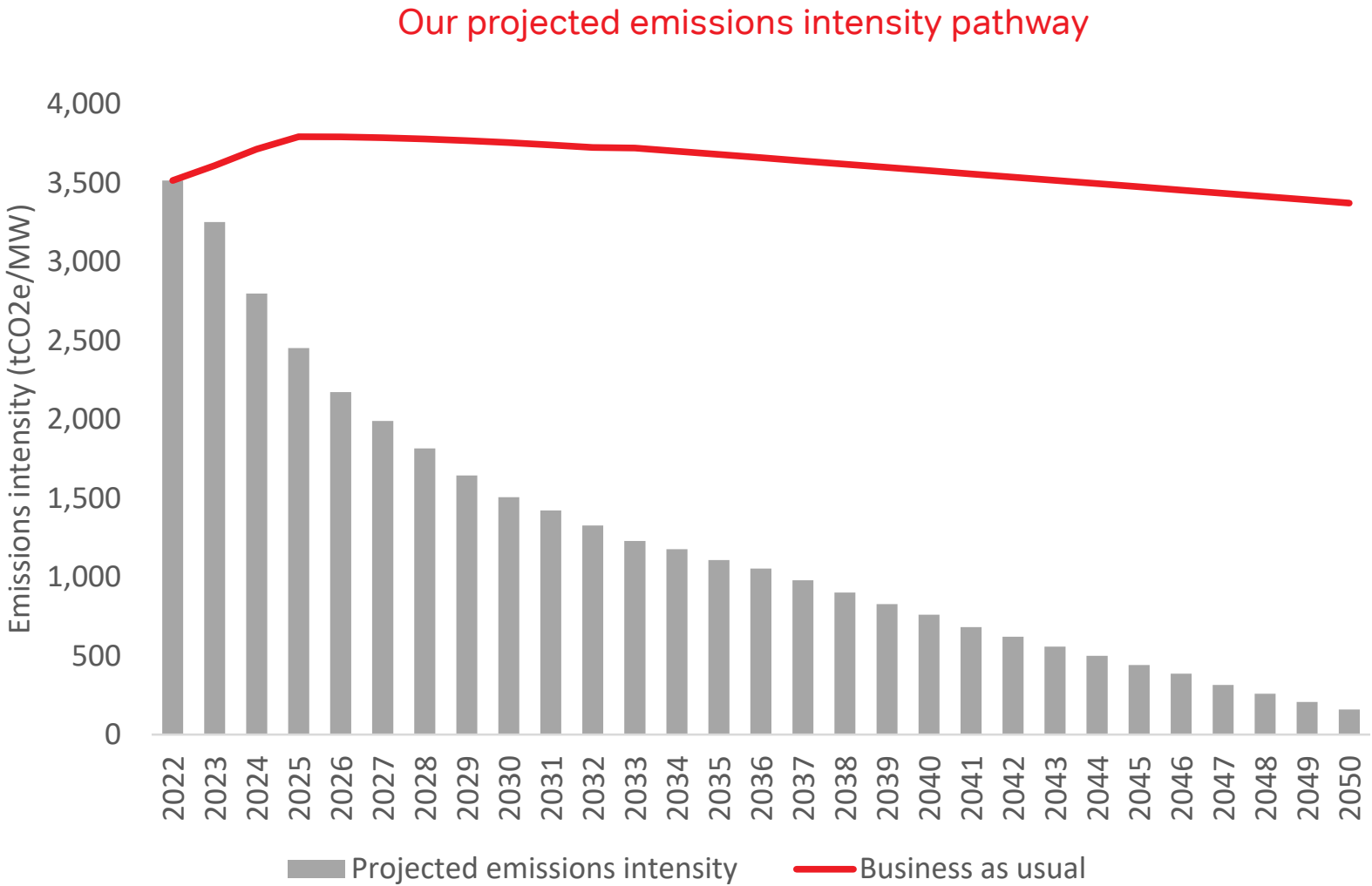
Our strategic approach to identifying potential decarbonisation interventions has concluded that despite our ambitious growth expectations, we can reduce our emissions intensity by 62% in the near-term by 2032 and by 95% in the long-term by 2050. This chart shows the projected trend in our reduction strategy and the impact it will have on our scope 1 and 2 emissions intensity. This also reflects the planned optimisation of our assets:

- In the near-term (by 2032) our strategy relies on optimising energy performance of our existing assets and implementing renewable energy solutions, where available, for the deployment of new assets.
- In the long-term (by 2050) we will continue improving our energy efficiency while sourcing renewable energy market mechanisms.

We will also consider alternative routes for investing in accredited carbon reduction initiatives to offset any residual emissions in the long term.

* tCO2e/MW of installed capacity

Our near-term ambition is to focus on energy efficiency improvements and cost-effective renewable energy solutions. In the long term, we plan to explore the renewable energy market mechanisms.



Focus areas for near-term reduction target

2022-2032

Our modelling gives us real insight into how the interventions we have identified will help us reduce our emissions intensity significantly. There is no single initiative, but rather a range of solutions that take account of our growth and the specific situation in each of our 14 markets.

Energy efficiency

We're always looking for ways to reduce our environmental impact, and improving energy efficiency is a key focus. We're implementing best practices to make our data centres and mobile switching centres more energy-efficient, and we're applying the same principles to our tower site portfolio.

Our aim is to move off-grid sites to on-grid, where possible, to maximise efficiency. We're also focusing on energy efficiency gains in our buildings and shops as well as our fleet management. By making these improvements, we can reduce our carbon footprint and ensure that we're fulfilling our part to protect the environment.

Renewable energy

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact by exploring renewable energy solutions. We are currently exploring solar PV deployment at sites with available space as well as battery installation to further reduce energy demand. In addition, we are looking into renewable energy market mechanisms and partnerships with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) to help us source and deploy clean energy solutions for sites facing deployment challenges.

By investing in these renewable energy solutions, we hope to reduce our reliance on assets that emit high levels of greenhouse gases and make a positive impact on the environment.

Efficient growth

To ensure our growth is both efficient and sustainable, we are committed to implementing the latest technologies to maximise energy efficiency across our operations. We're also exploring alternative fuel sources for markets with less reliable electricity grids to reduce our reliance on high-emission energy sources.

Furthermore, we carefully consider the location of our sites to ensure that renewable energy solutions can be easily deployed, allowing us to reduce our impact on the environment and contribute to the improvement of sustainable energy practices.

Targeted interventions by asset class

Each asset has specific initiatives to reduce emissions. Our priority is to focus on the markets with the highest emissions. As energy efficiency initiatives are rolled out, renewable energy solutions will be incorporated to further reduce emissions across our network.



Data centres and mobile switching centres

Our data centres and mobile switching centres account for almost half of our emissions. To tackle this efficiently, we continue to focus on the markets with the highest emissions. Site optimisation will be fundamental and may enable us to reduce our footprint further, resulting in reduced energy consumption requirements.

We install the latest energy-efficient equipment, such as airflow management, HVAC solutions and ventilated racks to reduce energy use.

Investment into renewable energy solutions will remain a key priority to reduce our emissions. Solar deployment will be supported by continued exploration of alternative energy solutions as technologies mature.



Base transceiver stations (BTS) and infrastructure sites

Energy consumption across our tower infrastructure portfolio accounts for 49.3% of our scope 1 and 2 emissions as of 31 March 2024. For our base transceiver stations and infrastructure sites, we started by modernising our sites to reduce energy consumption. We install dynamic energy management systems with cooling efficiency and explore converting more sites from off-grid to on-grid.

We'll continue to prioritise solar PV deployment where grid availability is low and heavily reliant on fossil fuels. In addition, for our tower portfolio which runs off carbon intensive electricity grids, we will prioritise the rollout of solar power or explore partnering with energy service companies (ESCOs) to reduce our emissions. Battery storage solutions will also help reduce our reliance on diesel backup generators.



Our offices, shops and fleet

Our offices, shops, kiosks and fleet of vehicles account for 8.4% of our scope 1 and 2 emissions as of 31 March 2024. For these assets, we continue to upgrade all facilities to incorporate the latest energy efficiency measures like lights and HVAC sensors. When replacing end-of-life equipment, we deploy the latest energy efficient solutions to limit our impact.

The installation of telematic technology into our fleet to track journeys and environmental performance will allow us to more closely monitor our emissions. Where possible, we'll install rooftop solar panels and gradually move our entire fleet to hybrid vehicles – and in the long-term migrate to electric vehicles.

Decarbonisation strategy for our scope 3 emissions

We determined the impact of supplier carbon reduction commitments on our scope 3 carbon footprint and formulated recommendations for further reductions across our value chain.

Our scope 3 emissions

For Airtel Africa to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, it is essential that we focus on monitoring and supporting our partners and suppliers as they decarbonise their operations. Scope 3 emissions represent 87.4% of our total carbon footprint and a programme of regular engagement with our partners and suppliers is central to our strategic approach.

Executive summary

Airtel Africa is an organisation with a diverse partner and supplier base. Since publication of our baseline carbon emissions in 2022, we carried out a comprehensive analysis of our supply chain to improve understanding of our scope 3 emissions. We also identified the key partners and suppliers who contribute the most towards our total scope 3 footprint. This allowed us to formulate the strategic approach with a primary focus on those suppliers and towercos who will be key to our continued efforts to decarbonise our wider operations.

We've developed our scope 3 reduction strategy through a detailed modelling exercise. The 'spend-based' modelling approach incorporates the carbon reduction targets established and published by our top tier partners and suppliers, coupled with our growth ambition which will result in an increased demand for products and services from our suppliers. As 90% of our scope 3 emissions stem from capex-related suppliers (category 2 'Capital spend') and towerco partners (category 8 'Upstream leased assets'), it follows that our scope 3 carbon reduction strategy must focus on reducing emissions in these two parts of the value chain.

Central to our strategic approach is an ongoing engagement programme with our top tier partners and suppliers. This engagement ensures a regular flow of information, enabling us to monitor their impact on the environment. Furthermore, it facilitates collaboration and the sharing of best practices among suppliers, fostering collective efforts toward decarbonisation solutions. We engage with our top 100 suppliers annually via the ESG self-assessment questionnaires and conduct regular sessions with our top tier partners to discuss their decarbonisation progress.

This strategy seamlessly aligns with our broader supply chain management objectives, reinforcing our commitment to heightened oversight of suppliers and the conscientious selection of those adhering to best practices.



Focus areas for our scope 3 reduction target

2022-2032

Central to our scope 3 carbon emissions reduction strategy is collaboration between Airtel Africa, partners and suppliers, including towercos, internal and external stakeholders and industry associations.

Procurement policies and processes

We will work with our suppliers and emphasise environmental performance at all stages of the procurement process.

- 1. **Identifying key suppliers** for meaningful engagement and collaboration through analysis of our scope 3 footprint. We've already begun undertaking this by engaging with our top tier partners and suppliers, including towercos.
- 2. **Focus on sustainability** where a product's environmental performance must be a key design selection criterion.
- 3. Specific focus on achieving emissions reduction related to the **carbon hotspots** in electronics manufacturing, such as production of semi-conductors, integrated circuits and printed circuit boards.

We shall encourage manufacturers to design products to maximise longevity through repairability, modularity and reuse.

Partner and supplier engagement programme (PSEP)

Our partner supplier engagement programme (PSEP) aims to improve our scope 3 footprint and drive emission reductions.

- **Specific data collection:** scope 3 carbon footprint models can always be improved by increasing granularity of data to be more specific and accurate over time.

Collecting data from and engaging with top tier suppliers will provide more specific emission factors which will improve our scope 3 modelling and help to prioritise and track reductions.
- **Reduction initiatives:** work collaboratively with selected key suppliers to help develop and drive carbon reductions initiative – with benefits of improved relationships, efficiencies and helping to achieve targets.

As we continue to implement these steps, our improved supplier engagement methodology will allow us to report our emissions with confidence.

Technical recommendations and improvements

We aim to procure low-carbon network equipment, services, and devices that are inherently low-carbon and result in improved energy efficiency in our own network, thereby reducing emissions at multiple points in our supply chain. This will be particularly useful in reducing our scope 3, category 2 emissions as well as our operational (scope 1 and 2) emissions.

As part of our broader sustainability strategy, we are committed to creating and nurturing partnerships with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), or network equipment providers, and original device manufacturers (ODMs), or handset manufacturers, to provide cutting-edge power-efficient technology services.

>> For more information, see our sustainability strategy published on our website www.airtel.africa

Stakeholder engagement programme: partners and suppliers



Online ESG commitment for our partners and suppliers

As part of our ongoing partners and suppliers' stakeholder engagement programme, we shall be launching the online pledge initiative:

- Online pledges will be available on our website www.airtel.africa where all partners and suppliers can commit to sharing the same sustainability values as Airtel Africa.
- Pledges will consist of three blocks (environmental, social and governance) with a special emphasis on the reduction of GHG emissions.
- We shall ask partners and suppliers whether they are ready to share their respective scope 1 and 2 data with us so that we could track and monitor our scope 3 emissions.
- We shall also ask partners and suppliers to spread their sustainability approach among their respective supply chains and influence their suppliers directly.

Top tier partners

- By signing the pledge publicly our top tier partners will receive a certification displayed on our website together with their testimonials and a description of any joint plans and initiatives.
- Our joint efforts in addressing climate change and spreading ESG culture across value chains will be discussed during our stakeholder engagement at the regular ESG roundtables.

Voluntary participation for all suppliers

- We invite all partners and suppliers to voluntarily commit to this pledge. The overall count of the committed suppliers will be presented regularly on our website www.airtel.africa.
- We will share our ESG self-assessment questionnaire with those partners and suppliers who have committed to sharing sustainability values across their value chain.

This online tool will help progress our sustainability strategy goal 'Supply chain' which focuses on programmes to increase supplier disclosure and audit ESG performance.



Governance and next steps

Progress and implementation of our net zero strategy is supported by a robust governance structure. Our journey to a net zero future continues...

How we manage the implementation of our strategy

We place great emphasis on simple, yet effective governance of our decarbonisation strategy.

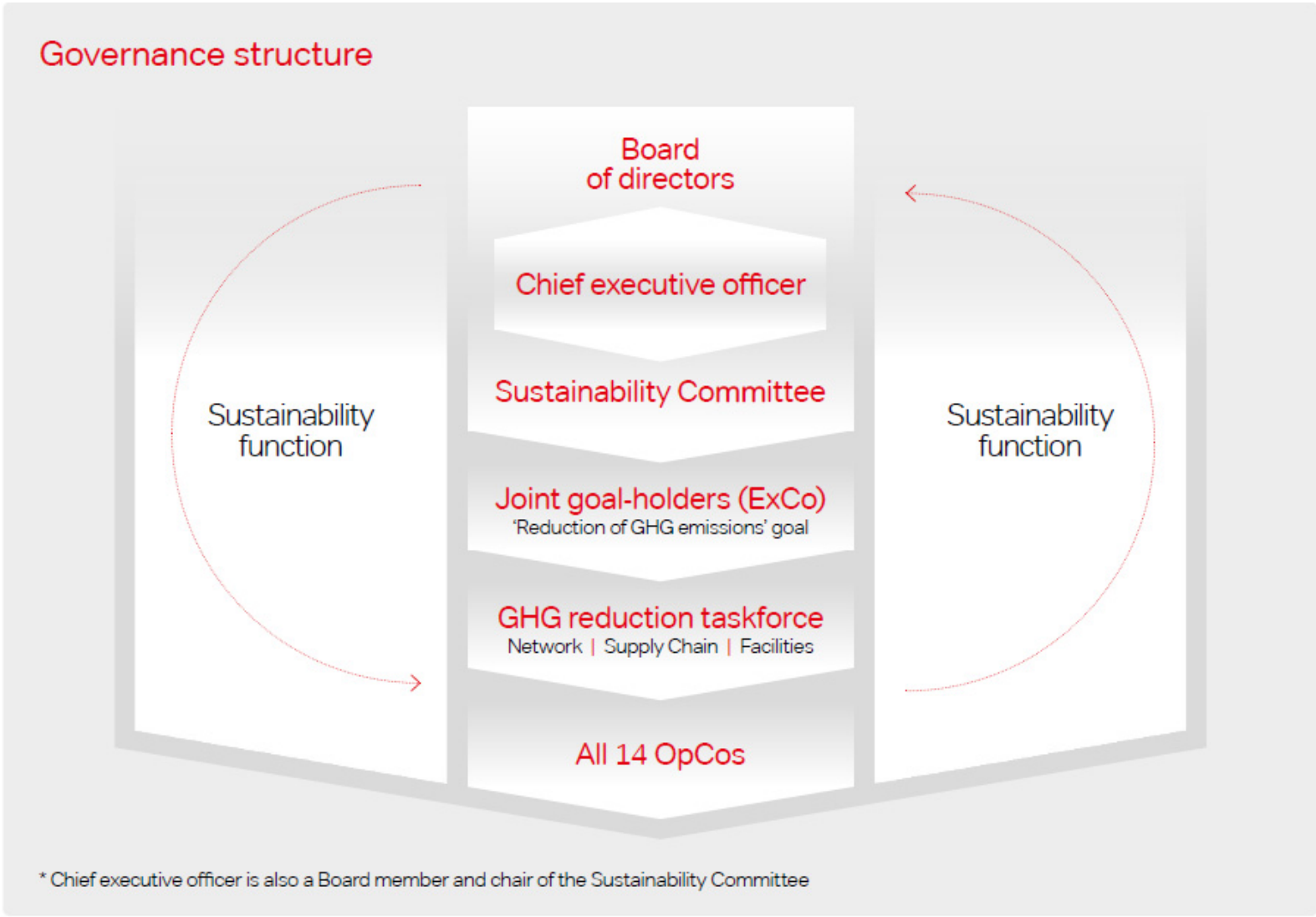
To ensure we execute our strategy to achieve net zero by 2050, we have developed a specific governance oversight structure that complements our existing sustainability governance.

The Board of directors has ultimate oversight of the delivery of our sustainability strategy, implementation across the business, and integration of sustainability metrics into Airtel Africa’s remuneration policy. The Board is updated on progress on a quarterly basis and approves actions as appropriate. The Board also has overall responsibility for the management of our climate-related risks and opportunities (CROs).

The Sustainability Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of our sustainability strategy and is chaired by the CEO. It oversees progress in reaching our operational targets and goals, including reduction of GHG emissions, recommends updates and improvements, defines the actions and measurements necessary to achieve our goals. It provides regular updates to the Board of directors – all while acting as a point of contact for external bodies. The Sustainability Committee meets every two months and works closely with the Executive Committee (ExCo).

The joint goal-holders are responsible for deploying the decarbonisation strategy in all 14 markets and managing the respective workstreams that follow from this.

The sustainability team is responsible for integrating and embedding the decarbonisation strategy across our business. This includes coordination of workstreams across functions and markets, collection and analysis of data and the overall delivery of our sustainability reports. The function is also in charge of developing, implementing and monitoring environmental strategies across the Group.



Next steps on our journey to a net zero future

We have undertaken a significant amount of work to identify, develop and launch our decarbonisation strategy across all 14 markets in 2024. Our efforts do not stop here, and we will continue to update on the progress of our net zero ambition.

Enhanced stakeholder engagement

Our unique business model is that most of our emissions result from category 8 (upstream leased assets), whereas other ICTs’ emissions result from category 11 (use of sold products). This is in partially due to our leasing more towers than we own, meaning our operational control over these leased assets is limited. Category 2 is the second largest for us (capital spend) – that is why partnerships with top tier suppliers and towercos who support our sustainability goals and climate action are essential to the success of our scope 3 strategy.

Our supplier carbon reduction targets will make a material contribution towards reducing our scope 3 emissions in the near- and long-term. However, when considering the cumulative supplier carbon reduction that we benefit from across category 2 and 8 (90% of our scope 3 footprint), it is critical we work together to test and implement solutions that will have a fast and long-lasting effect. The key to this is engagement and collaboration on our journey to a net zero future.

Feasibility analysis

Based on the work completed to-date, we have a comprehensive list of initiatives and programmes to drive our decarbonisation strategy forward to our near-term target and the reduction of our impact on the environment from our scope 1 and 2 emissions.

We plan to undertake a further feasibility assessments of our priority initiatives – specific to each market – to support the financial and operational impact of deployment.

Procuring renewable energy through market mechanisms is becoming increasingly important for the telecoms industry. Given the early stage of development of these mechanisms in our markets, we have not incorporated such mechanisms in our near-term strategy. We’ll explore these options which may allow us to accelerate our reduction of GHG emissions strategy.



Our net zero ambition

We recognise that the worst impacts of climate change can only be avoided if – over the coming decades – the world can keep temperature rises to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Net zero carbon emissions by 2050

Delivering on the target set out in the Paris Agreement requires rapid action to reduce carbon emissions and ensuing temperature rises. At Airtel Africa, we are committed to minimising our impact on the environment and our ambition is to achieve net zero by 2050.

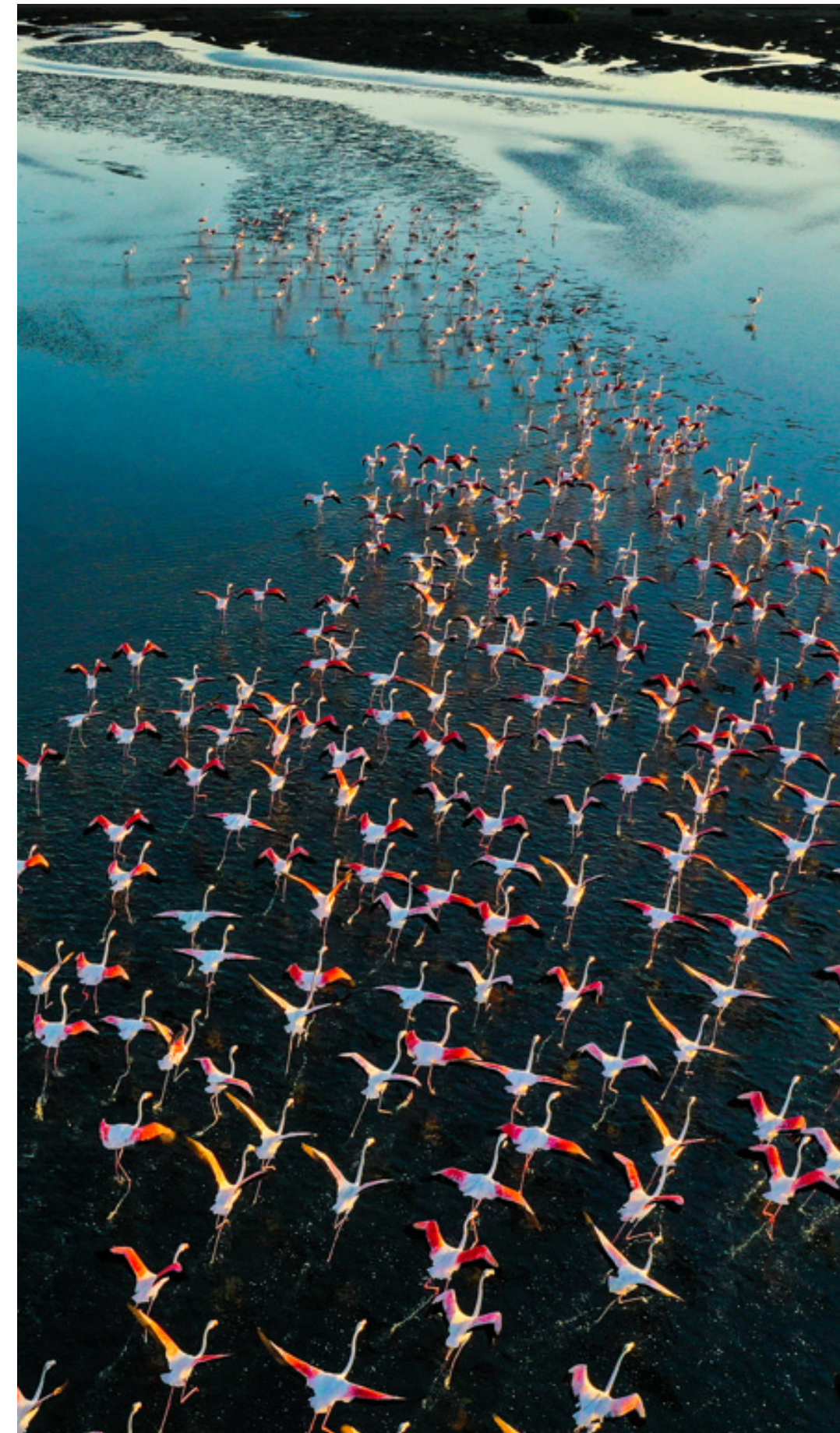
To do so, we have programmes in place to reduce our scope 1 and 2 emissions intensity by 62% in 2032 and we are working on the development of additional initiatives that will reduce our emissions further. However, in 2023/24, our scope 1 and 2 emissions accounted for 12.6% of our total carbon footprint with 87.4% arising from our supply chain over which we have limited control (scope 3). Therefore, we’ve commenced an extensive programme of engagement with our partners and suppliers to ensure they have robust and credible decarbonisation programmes in place which will continue over the coming years.

We’ll be gathering and analysing data from our partners and suppliers on a regular basis and reporting against their progress in our annual sustainability reports. Their performance against our target is, however, outside of our direct control.

Offsetting our carbon emissions

We recognise that no matter how hard we work to reduce our GHG emissions, some emissions, such as scope 3, will be impossible to avoid. Therefore, we’re planning to establish our strategy for offsetting those emissions through nature-based programmes for carbon sequestration.

We will ensure that any projects we invest in are well managed and can demonstrate a genuine carbon reduction impact. We will also consider alternatives routes for investing in carbon reduction initiatives to offset our emissions which may include renewable energy power schemes for communities and schools as well as other environmental and biodiversity projects.





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