

Water Stewardship Policy

This policy supports Sappi's Group Sustainability Charter and our approach to sustainable development.

Sappi's purpose is to build a thriving world by unlocking the power of renewable resources to benefit people, communities and the planet. Our sustainability strategy is aimed at creating long term value for all stakeholders from relevant sustainable woodfibre products and through ongoing improvement in key areas.

Our commitment to sustainability is based on being a trusted, transparent, and innovative partner in building a biobased circular economy, underpinned by our values: *As One Sappi, we do business safely, with integrity and courage, making smart decisions that we execute with speed.*

Throughout our business, we work to realise the ambitions of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

We acknowledge that access to clean water and sanitation is a global human right as recognised by the **United Nations General Assembly** and as enshrined in the **South African Constitution**.

Our manufacturing operations are dependent on water and we do have an impact on our primary water sources, rivers and dams, as well as on the receiving bodies into which we discharge wastewater. Recognising that our mills in South Africa are situated in a water-stressed region (as defined by the **World Resources Institute**), and that climate change is exacerbating levels of water stress, we commit to:

- Leveraging the water management plans in place at each mill to drive water-related initiatives and performance and to quantify water risks
- Maintaining water risk plans for all our pulp and paper mills and forestry operations to enhance robust management of our water footprint and protection of water resources
- Reducing specific water consumption under SDG 6 and establishing mill- and time-specific, quantitative targets to achieve this goal
- Reporting transparently and regularly on absolute and specific water consumption and discharge indicators, including receiving bodies
- Improving the quantity and quality of wastewater discharge
- Focusing on water-related research and development projects
- Driving education campaigns to make our employees, communities and other stakeholders aware of the importance of water-related issues
- Requiring our suppliers to abide by our **Supplier Code of Conduct** which calls on them to improve water quality and reduce waste
- Collaborating with local stakeholders such as communities, municipalities and catchment agencies, as well as international stakeholders, to establish water stewardship and WASH partnerships, and
- Participate in developing regulations and methodologies, where applicable.

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Given that we depend on the sustainable use of natural resources in our operations, we are continuously investing and collaborating for innovative ways to leave the planet better today than tomorrow. [Our Thrive25 sustainability goals](#) under our nine priority SDGs will drive our actions to achieve this.

This policy aligns with our holistic view of sustainability as integral to a thriving world, embedded in *Prosperity, People and Planet* (3Ps).

Alex Thiel
Chief Executive Officer
Sappi Southern Africa