



NEWS RELEASE

Sappi joins the Copenhagen Communiqué on Climate Change

26 October 2009 - "What we do about climate change today has far-reaching consequences for the sustainability of businesses, communities and ultimately the natural world we depend upon for our existence. As a renewable resource company Sappi welcomes the opportunity to become involved in a global solution focused on making the transition to a low-carbon economy." Ralph Boëttger, chief executive officer, Sappi Limited.

The Copenhagen Communiqué on Climate Change was launched by the Prince of Wales' Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change, which is convened by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership. The Communiqué is a private sector call for "an ambitious, robust and equitable global deal on climate change that responds credibly to the scale and urgency of the crises facing the world today". In each region where Sappi operates, we have been working with industry bodies to examine ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our use of renewable energy. As responsible corporate citizens in an energy-intensive industry, one of Sappi's primary goals is to reduce our carbon footprint by improving energy efficiencies and decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels. We are achieving this by streamlining transport systems, making process changes, installing more efficient equipment, reducing purchased energy (electricity and fossil fuel) and by increasing the use of renewable energy – an approach which ultimately results in a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

We have made steady progress, with CO₂ emissions globally per ton of product produced declining since 2005. In North America, between 2004 and 2008 we achieved a reduction of 27% in total energy use per ton of product produced. In this region, more than 75% of all energy used is derived from renewable resources (black liquor, bark, sludges and purchased biomass). The percentage of energy derived from renewable resources for South Africa is 38.1% and for Europe is 31.8%, with our global figure standing at 48.6%. The figure for South Africa will increase to over 50% once the Saiccor expansion project is fully operational.

In addition to focusing on energy efficiency and reduction of GHGs at manufacturing sites, we ensure that owned, lease and managed land as well as land from which wood is procured, is independently certified as being sustainably managed.

It has been established that well-managed forests can play a significant role in climate mitigation, as pointed out by the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007, which found that: "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit".

Boettger commented, "Our signing of the Copenhagen Communiqué will add impetus to our commitment, established in terms of our Sustainable Development Charter, and confirmed by our 5th place on the Leadership Index of the 2009 Carbon Disclosure Project and inclusion in the list of top companies as regards our GHG mitigation and adaptation actions, to reduce GHG emissions and increase our use of renewable energy. We look forward to fresh insights and international co-operation that will help us live up to these commitments".