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### **Sappi becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> South African company to receive approval of Science Based Targets in pursuit of its decarbonisation goals**

**Science-Based Targets (SBT)** formalised through the Science-Based Targets initiative (**SBTi**), define and promote best practice in science-based target setting, by offering a range of target-setting resources and guidance. These targets are developed in accordance with international scientific benchmarks, combining these with a transparent approach to allocate a fair share of reductions to companies. Targets are considered 'science-based' if they are in line with what the latest climate science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement – limiting global warming to well-below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

SBTs provide a clearly defined pathway for companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping prevent the worst impacts of climate change and thereby future-proof business growth. This means that businesses are now able to credibly demonstrate that they are doing their fair share in terms of efforts to respond to the requisite for a just transition while achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

**The National Business Initiative (NBI) would like to congratulate Sappi on their commitment to a well-below 2°C carbon reduction trajectory, now approved by the SBTi. The global renewable wood fibre-based resource company has committed to a science-based carbon emission reduction target of 41.5% per ton of product.**

Commenting on the approval of Sappi's targets, group CEO Steve Binnie said: "These targets represent an important milestone in holding ourselves accountable in terms of our decarbonisation transition. Equally, we recognise our responsibility in assisting our customers on their own decarbonisation journeys. Our ambitious target is underpinned by detailed decarbonisation plans in each region based on a combination of capital investments in our assets, process efficiency improvements and increased purchases of renewable energy."

In addition, Sappi submitted an advocacy target for Scope 3 emissions which was approved. This target commits Sappi to engage with 44% of their suppliers based on spend (representing approximately two-thirds of Sappi's Scope 3 emissions) and to advocate that they set science-based emission reduction targets by 2026. Sappi believes the full benefit to society can only occur if value chains collaborate and help each other decarbonise.

Embedding science-based targets in sustainability management is crucial for the private sector to achieve their fundamental role in response to reducing carbon emissions:



## SCIENCE BASED TARGETS

**Commit:** submit a letter establishing your intent to set a science-based target

1. **Develop:** work on an emissions reduction target in line with the SBTi's criteria
2. **Submit:** present your target to the SBTi for official validation
3. **Communicate:** announce your target and inform your stakeholders
4. **Disclose:** report company-wide emissions and track target progress annually

### DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

To accelerate climate action, companies must increase their efforts in climate policy advocacy; and use their influence in a way that is consistent with the actions they are taking to achieve their science-based targets.

We commend Sappi and other NBI member companies including Growthpoint Properties, Pick n Pay and Woolworths for their ongoing commitment to ambitious climate action through the science-based target initiative.

**Companies interested in learning more about science-based target initiatives are encouraged to contact [Reitumetse Molotsoane \(ReitumetseM@nbi.org.za\)](mailto:ReitumetseM@nbi.org.za)**



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The National Business Initiative (NBI) is an independent and voluntary coalition of South African and multinational businesses launched in 1995 by the then President, Nelson Mandela.

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