

SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENTS continued

The remaining mills are progressing with environmental management programmes to adopt best practices and ensure legal compliance as a minimum. Water that is produced as part of the sugar milling process is largely used for the irrigation of sugarcane on adjacent estates and effluent produced at the central sugar refinery is disposed of into the municipal sewer for treatment. The quantity and quality thereof is monitored to ensure compliance with the relevant specifications.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Tongaat Hulett continues to effectively and efficiently manage waste to protect human health and the environment, minimise disposal costs, and avoid creating future liabilities. It is working towards reducing the amount of hazardous waste produced from production processes with the ultimate objective of achieving 'zero hazardous waste'. Various options are being explored to reduce, re-use and recycle waste before its ultimate disposal. Operations based in South Africa, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland make use of registered waste companies that collect non-valuable hazardous waste from operations and dispose of it at designated hazardous landfill sites. The Zimbabwean operations have constructed hazardous disposal sites that are registered by the regulatory authority and are subject to annual statutory and third-party audits.

During the reporting period 2015/16, 10 387 tons of general waste (2014/15: 12 096 tons), 2 486 tons of scrap metal (2014/15: 2 455 tons) and 763 tons of hazardous waste (2014/15: 4 822 tons) was generated and disposed of in accordance with applicable legislation.

ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS AND COMPLIANCE

The company responded to most concerns raised by affected stakeholders, mainly from surrounding communities. There were no serious incidents or non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with applicable environmental regulations registered during the year under review. The established community liaison forums between Tongaat Hulett and interested parties continue to address environmentally-related complaints.

A total of two Level 2 incidents (2014/15: 1) and 416 Level 1 (2014/15: 581) incidents were recorded while 92 complaints (Level 1: 92 and Level 2: 0) were registered and attended to. Most of the Level 1 complaints were recorded at starch operations being related to odour emanating from production processes. Appropriate corrective action and engagement processes with affected parties were undertaken. The Level 2 incidents were reported at Triangle operations in Zimbabwe and Agricultural operations in South Africa. Most Level 1 incidents were related to vandal fires as well as illegal dumping incidents perpetrated by unidentified members of the public.

INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY ASSURANCE

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) has provided independent third-party assurance over selected sustainability content of the Integrated Annual Report 2016. The assurance was conducted in line with the AccountAbility AA1000 Assurance Standard (Revised, 2008) (Type I Moderate level). The engagement was conducted using the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles Standard (2008) criteria and those of the GRI G3.1 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. For the detailed assurance statement refer to

www.tongaat.com/2016/ermassurance.pdf

