

Company: UNICEM

Location: France

Objective To assess the relevance of quarries for the creation of wetlands, to develop good practices and to disseminate these practices to UNICEM member companies.

Context Over the 50 past years, the number of natural wetlands has decreased in France. On the other hand, especially since the 80s, the relevance of these ecosystems has been highlighted by scientific surveys and measures were implemented in order to protect the wetlands.
The operation of a quarry may lead to the creation of wetlands and their ecological values had to be assessed.

Solution The first step of the survey, launched in 1997, consisted in having fauna and flora inventories on 17 quarries. Afterwards bibliographical research on the ecological potentialities of quarries for the creation of wetlands was carried out.

Result This work highlighted the compatibility between the Aggregates Industry and biodiversity.
A unique scientific expertise in biodiversity management has been developed and the partnership with Scientific circle (with renowned body such as the National Natural History Museum) has been strengthened.

The positive impact of the newly created wetlands was enhanced, and during the biodiversity assessment in the 17 quarries the following were observed :

- 132 nesting bird species : 48 % of nesting bird species in France ;
- 28 % rare or very rare nesting bird species ;
- 10 species of amphibians and 3 of reptiles, included in the Habitats Directive ;
- 52 species of dragonflies: 63 % of the species existing in France 26 protected vegetal species

The knowledge allowed the reduction of a recommendation guide for transformation of quarries into wetlands with ecologically relevant techniques.

An international meeting was organized in Paris in March 2000 regarding the importance of quarry reconversion into wetlands

The guide is now completed and can be consulted at the following [link](#).

Partners Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (National Natural History Museum)

