

**Company:** CEMEX

**Location:** Woltersdorf, Germany

**Objective** To promote the long-term, comprehensive settlement of the green toad.

**Context** Sand and gravel has been excavated from the gravel sand pit Woltersdorf (eastern Schleswig-Holstein) since 1980. Where arable land once prevailed, large areas of vegetation appeared. After completing the raw material extraction, the areas are left for natural development. Expansive habitats for animal and plant species, which require dry and warm conditions, therefore develop. Such surroundings are very rare in this agricultural countryside and are thus important habitats for amphibians. Since the beginning of the raw material extraction, an ever growing population of green toads has settled here. The green toad is a typical dry and level land species, found mainly in Southern Europe. The species was once spread across the coast of the Baltic Sea in Schleswig-Holstein from Kiel to Lübeck. It can also be found to the east of Kiel-Bad Segeberg-Hamburg. In recent years, it was only found at twenty locations in Fehmarn and south of Lübeck.

The green toad is therefore highly endangered in Germany. The flora-fauna habitat guidelines of the European Union list the green toad as one of the strictly protected species. The species is a pioneer coloniser of poor vegetation dry biotopes with small, temporary bodies of water. The green toads therefore suffer from the non-existence or quick drying of suitable spawning water as well as the overgrowth and shadowing of their habitats. Even "classical" restoration measures, including reforestation, are not suitable for the green toads.

**Solution** The mining and restoration plans in Woltersdorf are designed to promote the long-term, comprehensive settlement of the green toad. CEMEX Deutschland therefore installed several areas as secondary habitats for the green toad after completing its mining activities. Areas with barren and loosely sanded soil that is easy to bury into, as well as dry arid land with occasional grass and herb vegetation, form part of the preferred habitats. In the lower locations of the former mine, the animals also find low-vegetation water with flat embankments which are necessary for spawning. All of these biotope types were installed by the strip mine operators in close cooperation with the Duchy of Lauenburg district and the district office for nature and environment of the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

**Result** The habitat produced by mining evolved to an important refuge for the continued survival of the species in Schleswig-Holstein: 50 percent of the green toad population of the entire nation lives in Woltersdorf.

**Partners** Duchy of Lauenburg district  
District office for nature and environment of the state of Schleswig-Holstein

