

NATURE CONSERVATION

in CEMENT QUARRIES

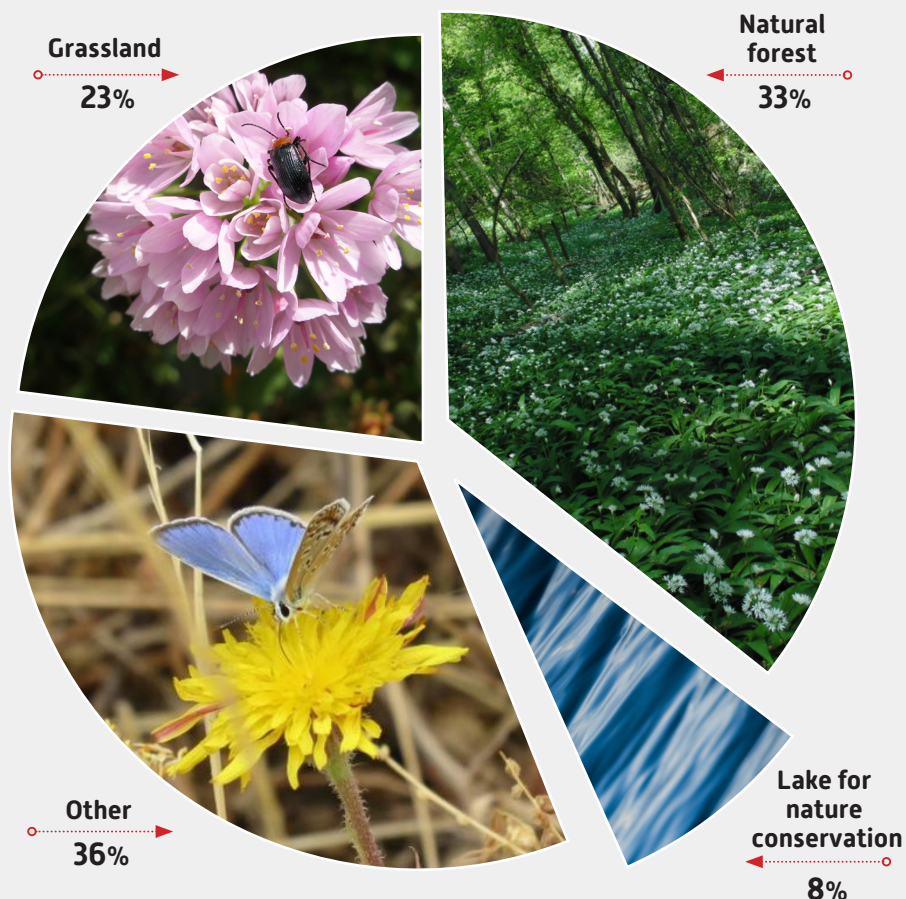
A key priority for the European cement industry is to protect and preserve the ecosystems living in and around our quarries. Whilst these sites are the source of our products, nature conservation is at the heart of our activities.

New habitats created during the rehabilitation process ensure animal and plant life, including rare and threatened species. These can further prosper and flourish, thus contributing to the UN sustainability goal no. 15, Life on Land.



The cement industry's ambition is to deliver a net gain for nature conservation, so that more is given back to society during the process of progressive rehabilitation and when the work in the extraction sites is completed. This can be achieved through projects related to habitat management and restoration, which enhance the conservation value of quarried areas.

In turn, this provides an educational resource for academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, and the general public.



33% rehabilitated as native forest

The restored Lowland Deciduous woodland in a limestone quarry in the **UK, Cemex** managed to recover the ecosystem function and the habitat is now home to many species. ◦.....▶



The cement industry works closely with nature conservationists and scientific bodies in its rehabilitation activities. In **Greece, Titan Cement** collaborates with the University of Partas and the University of Ioannina to record nature existing in the limestone forest ecosystem. On the basis of their findings, over 300,000 saplings and plants grown at local nurseries have been used for the rehabilitation of the quarry. ◦.....▶



Since 1983 in **Portugal, the cement company Secil** has created and maintained its own nursery, in which 17 native species are currently grown. All the seeds used in the germination process are collected in the natural areas surrounding the quarries, which secures the genetic resources and local biodiversity (ensures the use of local species genetically adapted to the local area), especially in areas of high biodiversity value. ◦.....▶



23% rehabilitated as grassland

Grassland habitats are amongst the most threatened in Europe and yet can serve as feeding and breeding grounds, especially for insects and birds. The multi-coloured landscapes are not only rich in nectar and pollen but also play an important role in storing carbon.

In **Germany, Cemex** works together with various stakeholders to increase the biodiversity in and around the cement plants and in the local community. Planting grassland is one of their contributions to preserving the diversity of species. ◦.....▶



The herbaceous species introduced by hydroseeding, at this **Secil** quarry in **Portugal**, besides contributing to the formation and stabilization the soil, play a very important role in attracting pollinating insects, like butterflies, thus contributing to an increase in biodiversity. ◦.....▶



8% rehabilitated as **lake** for nature conservation



At a **LafargeHolcim** quarry in **Belgium**, a variety of calcicultural plants live and prosper, including particularly rare species for this silty region. A large population of the calamitous toad (*Bufo calamita*) remains, as do several other amphibians, including the rare crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*). ○.....▶



At a **Vicat-Konya** quarry in **Turkey**, a lacustrine environment has been created, with the aim of the conversation of biodiversity along with the recreational purposes. ○.....▶



15% of the active quarry area is temporary habitat

Patience is a virtue and particularly so for nature conservation. During the active phase of a quarry, nature can take its course without much interference, enabling specific plants and animals to thrive. One of the ways we ensure this is through areas of temporary habitat, which is land that has been extracted but not yet rehabilitated and left untouched for at least one year.

At a **Cemex** quarry in the **UK**, the grassland has regenerated and is naturally rich in wildflowers. This attracts many invertebrates and small songbirds. ○.....▶



Nature and extraction activities live side by side at this **HeidelbergCement** quarry in **Germany**, where areas of the quarry floor have been left to naturally develop into wetland and grassland habitats, which are particularly favoured by locally rare amphibians. ○.....▶



The cement industry is proud of its work towards nature conservation through **good land stewardship** and proper planning of quarry activities. This not only **benefits the wildlife** in and around these sites, but also enhances human well-being and provides an **educational resource** for all.




We hope to continue working with other stakeholders and we are ready to be a **key partner** for the European Union in delivering its **Green Deal** and **Biodiversity Strategy for 2030**.




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