



**UNION EUROPÉENNE DES PRODUCTEURS DE GRANULATS  
EUROPÄISCHER GESTEINSVERBAND  
EUROPEAN AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION**

# **Biodiversity contribution of the aggregates industry – achievements and the way forward**

# **IUCN**

The World Conservation Union



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**Bonn  
22 May 2008**



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Countdown 2010 Partners' Assembly, Bonn 22 May 2008

# This is quarrying activity



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# These are also quarrying activities ...



# Biodiversity. Why we care

- **Biodiversity** refers to “the variability among living organisms from all sources ... and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems” (Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2)
- In 2002 the EU committed itself to **“significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010”**
- One of the key actions of the initiative is the building of more effective partnerships with Business both at the EU and national level



# UEPG is building strength in Biodiversity

**One of UEPG key priorities is to promote our sector's contribution to biodiversity. Why?**

- UEPG is taking active steps to make the industry sensitive to biodiversity
- With its 28,000 sites across Europe, the European Aggregates has a unique network
- Quarry restoration is an opportunity for biodiversity, e.g. it creates or maintains habitats and habitats opportunities for endangered species
- Establishment of a Biodiversity Task Force



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# UEPG and the Countdown 2010 Declaration

- Communicate 2010 biodiversity target and disseminate Countdown 2010 materials
- Support the implementation of EC Biodiversity Communication
- Develop a UEPG Biodiversity statement for the aggregates sector and its stakeholders
- Make every effort towards net positive impacts of the Aggregates sector on Biodiversity
- Collect and disseminate positive contributions to biodiversity (e.g. CD-ROMs)
- Promote compatibility between extractive sites and Natura 2000
- Coordinate events to promote Biodiversity consideration (e.g. site visits open day, local awareness campaigns)



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# UEPG Statement of Biodiversity

**We, UEPG Members, representing suppliers of natural aggregates and construction materials throughout Europe, operating from more than 28,000 sites and employing 350,000 people, recognise:**

- That each activity, product and service that we provide has a potential impact on biodiversity, both on our operational sites and within each local community
- The importance of biodiversity at each stage of the aggregate production activities: before, during and after the extraction, enabling the creation of new natural areas and habitats
- The positive impact of the newly created natural areas for local communities and their wide variety (e.g. cliffs, humid zones, water reservoirs)



# **ACTION NOW**

## **Biodiversity Case Studies of the European Aggregates Industry**



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# CD ROM with biodiversity case studies

## Content

- 28 case studies from 11 countries presenting positive contributions of the European Aggregates Industry to halting the loss of biodiversity



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Please select a case study

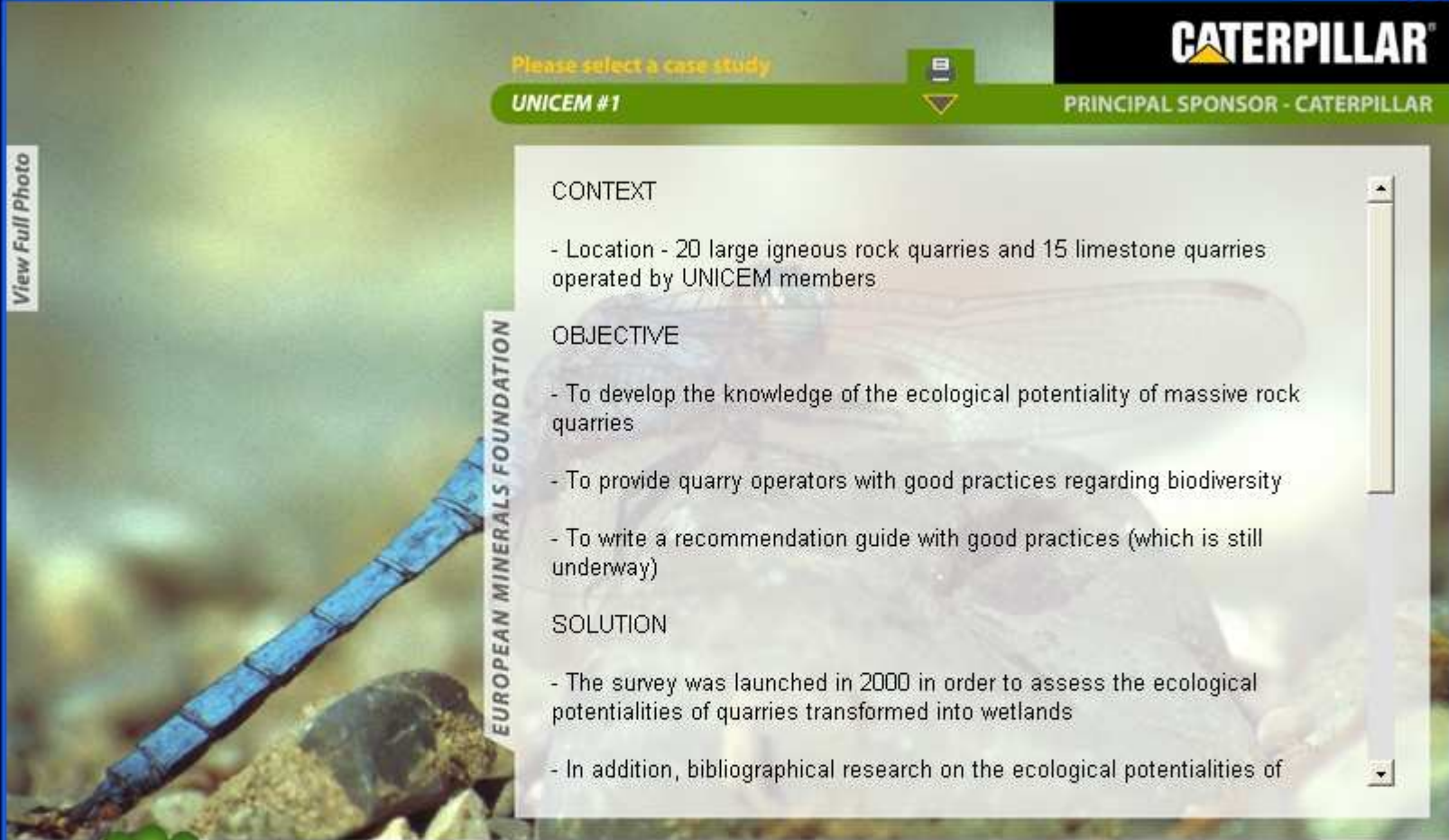


UNICEM #1

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EUROPEAN MINERALS FOUNDATION

#### CONTEXT

- Location - 20 large igneous rock quarries and 15 limestone quarries operated by UNICEM members

#### OBJECTIVE

- To develop the knowledge of the ecological potentiality of massive rock quarries
- To provide quarry operators with good practices regarding biodiversity
- To write a recommendation guide with good practices (which is still underway)

#### SOLUTION

- The survey was launched in 2000 in order to assess the ecological potentialities of quarries transformed into wetlands
- In addition, bibliographical research on the ecological potentialities of



**engaging with  
stakeholders**

***biodiversity  
case studies***

# Germany (Basalt-Actien-Gesellschaft)

## Context

- Location - Hinterplag quarry
- Up to its closure, the quarry supplied the region of the Westerwald with high-quality aggregates

## Objective

- Enabling the survival of many species from the Red List:
  - the common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata* agg.)
  - the centaury (*Centaurium erythraeae*)

## Solution

- The area was assigned to the „Arbeitskreis Natur- und Umweltschutz Asbacher Land“ for preservation and further development. It contains different types of biotopes with steep rugged rocks, screes, nutrient-poor and stony soils as well as areas of stagnant water

## Result

- In addition to a number of reptiles, 223 species of higher plants could be determined and 6 species of bats from the Red List have settled here



# EU Presidency Conference on Biodiversity – November 2007



- UEPG presentation on Partnership with IUCN for Countdown 2010 by Denis Mertens, UEPG President



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## Way forward

- Collection of biodiversity case studies from members that have not contributed yet
- Target by the end of 2008: between 10 and 20 biodiversity case studies per country
- Organisation of Countdown 2010 and European Commission's study visit to the quarries nearby Paris in order to develop a more detailed programme of work in relation to delivering on UEPG's Countdown 2010 commitments



# Way forward

- UEPG cooperation with Countdown 2010 for Sustainable Development Awards 2010
- Development of IUCN-UEPG work programme:
  - Reviewing Good Practices
  - Measuring biodiversity progress
  - Identifying innovative communication tools





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**Thank you for your attention**



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