

Biodiversity Monitoring Tool In LafargeHolcim Quarries: An Application In Greece

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While extraction of raw materials can have a significant impact on biodiversity, proper management of our quarries can reduce, reverse and even generate positive impacts for biodiversity. LafargeHolcim aims for a positive change in biodiversity by 2030, as part of its sustainable development strategy, the 2030 Plan. The Biodiversity Indicator and Reporting System (BIRS), developed by an independent panel of experts in collaboration with IUCN will be used to demonstrate a positive change by assessing the evolution of the condition of a site from year to year (i.e. taking size and quality of each habitat into account). This Indicators System does not measure the absolute value of biodiversity, but shows the relative changes over time. By 2020, LafargeHolcim has committed to assess the condition of its habitat for all its extraction sites using BIRS. That is, LafargeHolcim's approach encompasses its entire portfolio of extraction operations, both existing and new.

BIRS takes into account the area of every habitat type found on a site, the ecological condition of these habitats, including enhancements and threats and the uniqueness and ecological importance of each habitat in the regional context.

Lafarge Greece has 9 aggregate quarries and 9 cement quarries. The company has started the implementation of BIRS by identifying the different habitats present in the quarries (for example: forest, woodland and shrubland, bare rock). The assessment of the different habitats will be carried out within the next 2 years. Through the BIRS assessment, the operations will gain a better understanding of the conditions of its habitats, minimize their impacts, and also better manage their rehabilitation programs, and thus conserve and enhance local biodiversity.