

## Biodiversity management: Protecting species and habitats







Quarrying affects nature in many ways. It requires considerable amounts of land, and transforms landscapes and natural habitats. This is why responsible land use is at the heart of HeidelbergCement's sustainability strategy and we are committed to working towards nature-positive.

### What is nature-positive?

The Global Goal 'nature positive' means halting and reversing biodiversity loss, ensuring a global net positive for the planet. In the simplest terms, there should be more nature by 2030 compared to 2020. Companies like HeidelbergCement can contribute by first understanding their own impacts and subsequently implementing actions that generate positive outcomes for nature and outweigh their negative contributions.

### Did you know?

-  The raw materials sector provides a unique opportunity for land use changes that favour biodiversity, as sites can be reclaimed for a nature conservation end-use.
-  Numerous scientific studies demonstrate that active extraction sites can be extremely valuable to nature. They offer undisturbed habitats rarely found in today's developed landscapes, which can support many endangered and/or protected species, such as the sand martin, the yellow-bellied toad, the eagle owl or the Eurasian otter.
-  Quarries offer nature-based educational opportunities for communities, researchers and NGOs, while reclaimed areas can provide ecotourism and recreational benefits for the wider public.
-  The reclamation of quarries can contribute significantly to climate change mitigation through the creation of natural habitats that sequester carbon or by 're-naturalising' floodplains, increasing flood water storage and slowing water flow.

### What we do



HeidelbergCement is **committed to conserving nature** before, during (temporary habitats) and after extraction by actively creating and managing habitats.

HeidelbergCement works with many local nature conservation groups worldwide. Since 2011, we have been **partnered with the largest international nature conservation organisation, BirdLife International**. Together we aim to minimise negative environmental impacts and promote biodiversity in and around our quarries. More than 40 biodiversity projects have been initiated worldwide since the start of this cooperation.

To fully understand our company's impact, a **bio-diversity net impact assessment** has been initiated in partnership with BirdLife International, and we regularly run proximity studies to identify our most biodiversity-sensitive sites.

**Local projects on the ground** that target a positive outcome for nature are of highest importance for HeidelbergCement. These vary widely, from floating

islands in Germany and Australia, to reforestation projects including help for a critically endangered tree species in Ghana, to community projects improving habitats for pollinators globally (see our case studies for more information).

The **Quarry Life Award**, HeidelbergCement's nature-based competition, supports our unique approach to innovative biodiversity management, advances research and engages stakeholders all over the world. The many participating projects advance our efforts to further enhance biodiversity throughout the life-cycle of our quarries and promote active engagement among our local communities.

