

## FAQ

### **Partnership agreement between Holcim and the World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

- **What are the projects that will be carried out under the agreement? Where will they be?**

As we are just at the beginning of our partnership the specific projects have yet to be defined regarding content and location. However, the local representations of IUCN and Holcim in Sri Lanka have already agreed on a partnership to work on specific projects.

Projects will be implemented in the following main areas of the IUCN-Holcim collaboration:

- Biodiversity conservation management: Reviewing and assessing Holcim's approach to managing biodiversity conservation, including for example:
    - Review of existing quarry rehabilitation planning and implementation;
    - Quality review of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments at selected sites within the Holcim Group;
  - Development of a comprehensive biodiversity policy and strategy;
  - Sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation: identifying and developing joint initiatives supporting sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity in and around Holcim sites. A pilot project in Sri Lanka will explore the use of sustainably produced biomass as an alternative fuel and income source for the communities around Holcim sites.
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- **What is the link between cement and the environment?**

Concrete is the second most used resource in the world after water. Currently there is no practical substitute for this versatile and durable product for most purposes. As the chief ingredient in concrete, cement is therefore a key requirement of modern society. But its manufacture is a resource- and energy-intensive process having an impact on the environment.

That is why eco-efficiency is at the core of Holcim's business - producing more cement while using fewer resources and producing less waste and pollution per

tonne. The Group aims to continuously improve its performance and increase the understanding of the challenges it faces in moving toward environmental sustainability.

- **What does Holcim’s environmental engagement involve to date?**

Sustainable development is a core element of the vision and mission of Holcim. Its mission is to be the world’s most respected and attractive company in the building materials industry – creating value for all its stakeholders.

Holcim works to improve its performance, and increase the understanding of the challenges faced in this area. It pursues eco-efficiency, conservation of non-renewable natural resources and recycling of secondary materials in its operations. Holcim recognizes its responsibility to the environment and communities in which it operates, and seeks to make positive contributions. Holcim is committed to providing healthy and safe workplaces in all its facilities, ensuring that operations do not present a risk to health or the environment, by providing appropriate training, information and management systems.

Holcim's priorities include:

- Occupational health and safety
- Climate and energy
- Community involvement
- Stakeholder relations
- Sustainable construction

- **What does IUCN’s private sector engagement involve to date?**

The relationship with Holcim is one of the many examples IUCN’s increasing engagement with businesses, ranging from the large-footprint industries, biodiversity-dependent industries, green enterprises to the financial sector.

The objective of IUCN’s private sector engagement is to:

- inspire companies to commit to increasingly high environmental standards;
- give companies transparent and scientific advice to help them implement their commitments;
- leverage other payers in the business sector, by applying the lessons learnt with IUCN’s business partners.

The relationship with Holcim is in line with the IUCN private sector strategy ('A Strategy for Enhancing IUCN Interaction with the Private Sector'), which envisions "a sustainable global economy in which businesses are committed and effective partners in achieving a just world that values and conserves nature."

To support the implementation of the Private Sector Strategy, Operational Guidelines for Private Sector Engagement have been developed.