

The IUCN-HOLCIM Programmatic Relationship

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF WORK OF THE RELATIONSHIP

The aim of the new three years relationship signed on 19 February 2007 is to develop “robust ecosystem conservation standards for the Holcim Group, contributing to sector-wide improvements in the cement and related sectors.”

To achieve this aim, Holcim and IUCN will focus on three objectives:

- Review and assess the approach of the Holcim Group to biodiversity conservation management, establish a baseline, and develop a more comprehensive corporate biodiversity policy and strategy for the Holcim Group.
- Explore, identify and develop joint initiatives of mutual interest and benefits, particularly those supporting sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.
- Promote good practice by sharing the learning with the wider industry and conservation communities.

The joint work will be coordinated by two relationship managers, based at Holcim and IUCN headquarters respectively. The vast IUCN and Holcim networks of regional and country offices will contribute to the partnership work.

In order to achieve the set objectives, annual work programmes will be implemented. Activities will include the establishment of a baseline of current practice and related policies, guidelines and commitments; the establishment,

classification and categorization of Holcim Group site inventory using IUCN knowledge and information, and expertise and the review of existing quarry rehabilitation planning and implementation. An independent Standing Expert Panel will also be established to provide scientific and quality assurance support in select areas of Holcim activities.

ABOUT HOLCIM

Holcim is one of the world's leading suppliers of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel) as well as further activities such as ready-mix concrete and asphalt including services. It employs some 90.000 people and operates in over 70 countries on all continents.

Holcim's sustainable development agenda has been implemented along five corporate sustainability priorities: Climate and energy; Occupational health and safety; Community involvement; Stakeholder relations and Sustainable construction. Holcim has also played a leading role in the creation of the Cement Sustainability Initiative, which was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 1999 by the 10 top cement companies representing one third of the world's cement production and operating in two thirds of the world's markets. The CSI is hosted by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Land use and biodiversity is also one of Holcim's environmental stewardship

commitments. It is addressed mostly at the local level, including raw material management, environmental and social impact assessment and quarry rehabilitation planning. Holcim's Quarry Rehabilitation Guidelines, which are part of the raw materials management process, are one of the key tools for addressing its biodiversity responsibility at the site level.



The Isabel quarry of Holcim Aridos in Malaga won first prize in the environment restoration category at the European trade association's sustainable development awards 2005. Holcim Aridos, an affiliate of Holcim Spain, manufactures and distributes aggregates for the construction industry.

ABOUT THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is the world's largest environmental knowledge network and brings together 83 States, 110 government agencies, 800 plus NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a unique worldwide partnership. A multicultural, multilingual organization with 1,000 staff located in 62 countries, the Union's mission is to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The Union's private sector engagement builds on its '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 this end, its main goals are: (i) a more accountable private sector which contributes to sustainable development including conservation and social equity; (ii) a conservation community that is well informed about market mechanisms and understand their potential and limitations to achieve biodiversity conservation; and (iii) an effective dialogue and collaboration between IUCN and the private sector which helps to achieve conservation through, and alongside sustainable development.

The IUCN Private Sector Strategy identifies four broad industry categories in which to engage: (1) 'biodiversity dependent' industries, (2) 'large footprint' industries, (3) finance sector, and (4) 'green' enterprise.

MORE INFORMATION:

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