Protecting ecosystems
focus on
THE LAFARGE APPROACH

Biodiversity Review

1. Rehabilitation – an opportunity for biodiversity?
2. Redevelopment – confrontation or collaboration?
3. Towards a biodiversity management system?
4. How can we protect and nurture services provided by ecosystems?
Lafarge operates 730 quarries around the world // 450 million tons of rocks are mined // 64% of quarries have been assessed according to criteria established by WWF // 79% of quarries have a rehabilitation plan // 35% of quarries located in sensitive areas have a biodiversity development program.

A biodiversity roadmap
Launched in 2007, the Sustainable Development Ambitions 2012 confirm Lafarge’s commitment to sustainable development by setting precise targets. The section devoted to biodiversity protection in particular sets out how to assess the ecological value of all of the 730 quarries operated by the Group around the world, according to criteria approved by WWF. It also recommends establishing biodiversity development plans at sites that are home to rare plant or animal species or located in protected areas, in collaboration with local environmental associations.
Species are currently becoming extinct at a staggering rate. This emergency requires the involvement of scientists, public institutions and economic players, who must rapidly take sustainable development criteria into account.

Biodiversity losses recorded since the 1980’s is partly due to human activity.

In order to protect biodiversity in its former quarries, Lafarge has developed several partnerships over the years. This has given the Group a deeper knowledge of the living world and ecological diagnostic tools.

Sharing knowledge is an essential aspect ofunderstanding and preserving plant and animal life.
**THE KEY STAGES OF LAFARGE’S POLICY TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY**

1970
The concept of biological diversity was first introduced.

1979
The Global Biodiversity Outlook (1979) is published, which includes a section on biodiversity and the environment.

1980
A Lafarge quarries site in France is the first site managed under the Lafarge Pasture Program, which involves the restoration of degraded land.

1987
The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which is signed by 120 countries, including France and Kenya.

1992
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and the 1992 World Summit on Environment and Development is held.

1995
Lafarge signs its first joint statement with WWF-International with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-3).

1999
The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is founded, bringing together companies to work on environmental issues.

2000
The United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development is held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

2007
WWF and Lafarge sign a partnership agreement, with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Lafarge’s mission and values, to promote biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

2009
The World Biodiversity Congress is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Biodiversity and quarries: from local initiatives to a partnership approach**

Early rewards of rehabilitation. From the 1970s and throughout the 1980s, the Lafarge quarries were managed and operated with local partners in order to address soil erosion and maintain biodiversity. Lafarge was one of the first companies to reintroduce plants and animals to former quarries, which was a major step towards defining an overall policy for preserving natural environments and endangered species.

Extracting mineral raw materials is vital to the manufacture of building materials. Lafarge has developed a series of innovative industrial processes for redeveloping its quarries, which have since proved their effectiveness.

**Biologist on Lafarge**

“There was a real change in the international approach in the 1980s. Initiatives covered the entire world and included both local and national initiatives. The early 1990s then saw the end of this trend, and the Group is now beginning to forge relationships with environmental associations and scientists. As the WECCF was established, maintaining the environment also needs companies to be involved.”

**Lafarge’s commitment to protecting biodiversity**

In 1995, Lafarge was one of the first companies to sign a partnership agreement with WWF-International and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), demonstrating its commitment to protecting biodiversity.

Lafarge and WWF carried out a joint publication, “Lafarge and WWF: A Partnership for the Environment”, in 1997, which was the first of its kind.

Lafarge is actively involved in various initiatives to promote biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats and eco-systems, and the reintroduction of plant and animal species. Lafarge’s commitment to biodiversity is reflected in its policy of identifying and protecting natural habitats, and in its ongoing efforts to monitor and manage these areas.

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In December 27, 2009, in a column of the Spanish daily newspaper El País, the famous Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa suggested naming Owen and Mzee, a hippopotamus and a tortoise, as personalities of the year. The story of this unusual couple is so exemplary it sounds like a fable. In December 2004, when a tidal wave laid waste to the Kenyan coasts, a baby hippo swept away by the waters finally washed up on the shore near Mombasa. Found by employees of neighboring Haller Park, he soon chose his adoptive mother: Mzee, a 130-year-old Aldabra tortoise. For months, she taught him everything she knew: swimming, eating, looking for places to sleep…

Vargas Llosa ended his column by calling on belligerent humans to follow this wise example of solidarity and harmony.

Five years later, Owen and Mzee still spend their days happily at Haller Park. The park, created on the site of the former quarry at Lafarge’s Bamburi cement plant, near Mombasa, has become a sanctuary for biodiversity and is a model of how to manage quarry redevelopment, used as an example all around the world. But the rehabilitation of a quarry into a viable natural site is a long-term program. It takes years to make it a success and should therefore be started early.

A responsible approach

That is why, today, every new quarry opened by Lafarge must have a rehabilitation plan in place before it begins operations. The question of credibility comes before anything else.

“We have a motto which is: ‘The redevelopments of today are the quarries of the future,’ explains Pierre de Prémare. ‘To continue to operate quarries, we need to show what we have done elsewhere, how we have created viable natural environments, managed forests for 25 years, and worked in close collaboration with partners and local communities.’

Nowadays, obtaining an operating permit can take several years. The company’s ability to make its business acceptable is an essential factor in whether or not the permit is granted. And making a quarry acceptable much more quickly as a result of Lafarge’s financial support. I am proud that the site has become so famous and is used as an example by so many quarries around the world.”

A comprehensive framework for a practical policy

Lafarge has drawn on its experience and best practice to formulate its policy for preserving natural environments. Redevelopment plans, which are necessarily made to measure, are designed in accordance with the sensitivity of the natural environment and drafted according to precise rules.

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A comprehensive framework for a practical policy
Starting the rehabilitation process early makes it possible to assemble local stakeholders and define the priorities and objectives of the project with them. As well as the fact that research into the site’s sensitivity may lead, when relevant, to adapting the operational plan to particular local characteristics. “We consider biodiversity throughout the whole lifecycle of a quarry, during the planning, operational and rehabilitation phases,” explains David Park, Quarry Rehabilitation Manager with Lafarge UK. “During the planning phase, we look at measures which can be taken to limit the impact of operations on the ground. This may involve setting aside particularly sensitive areas or using some species by creating suitable habitats outside the operational footprint of the site.”

A NURSERY IN GREECE. In Volos, in the Thessaly region, the Lafarge cement plant’s former limestone quarry is now home to many different species of plants. This site was in operation from 1972 to 1999 and its redevelopment began in 1999. A nursery was even created for young trees adapted to the poor soil and Mediterranean climate. Today, this site provides a model of plant species to be used in the rehabilitation of other Lafarge quarries in Greece. A new ecosystem has been created and genetic diversity is respected through the selection of species adapted to soil properties.

Stages in the rehabilitation plan

The standards established in collaboration with WWF International were set out in the Sustainable Development Ambitions 2012 plan. They define the role of a rehabilitation plan. “We put in place a comprehensive management system in plans, involving foresters, geologists, scheduling, actions and reviews,” explains Pierre de Poisard. “The system, which was formalized in 2009, ensures that all our initiatives are in line with our recommendations, on biodiversity, it now needs to be gradually rolled out at sites.” The first stage entails adopting the Group’s rules and identifying their level of sensitivity. “If the environment is deemed to be sensitive, we incorporate a biodiversity management plan into the quarry’s operating plan,” emphasizes Anouk Colin. In 2000, more than 64% of Lafarge’s sites had been assessed according to criteria validated by WWF International. By the end of 2001, 100% of sites would have been covered. “Since we know how sensitive a site is, we develop it according to what’s necessary in the rehabilitation plan, drawing on lessons learned in the past and having successfully created elsewhere,” says Pierre de Poisard.

A long-term investment

A quarry’s life involves redeveloping each of the rehabilitation plan, presenting an overview of the site after rehabilitation and stating the final use of the land. Finally, the necessary funds are supplied each year to ensure the plan can be carried out. The cost of rehabilitation varies enormously depending on the type of site. “Making sites comply with the plan is an investment,” says David Park. “Especially in the UK, where we are bound through agreements to manage our sites for five years after operations cease. For particular sites in or near sensitive areas that form a wide variety of plant or animal species, this timeline may extend to 25 years.” That is the case with Oy Rag in North Yorkshire, in the United Kingdom. The site has to be located in a national park and is adjacent to an area designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Lafarge created a habitat favorable to local wildlife there, in accordance with the designated area.

Applying the same standards all around the world

Environmental regulations vary considerably depending on the region of the world. Lafarge, which has high standards in this field, may be at a competitive disadvantage in regions where environmental rules are not very strict or not well enforced. “We believe that we can only carry out our business when a minimum of just have been established, particularly in relation to the environment,” comments Pierre de Poisard. “When this is not the case, we have discussions with the authorities so that they can develop a framework.”

The final redevelopment plan takes into account the points of view put across by local stakeholders (government, neighbors, authorities, interest groups). It is not set in stone and may change. “A quarry’s life involves redevelopment every year,” adds Pierre de Poisard. “This approach is a new part of our standards, even if it is not always applied everywhere. Rehabilitation must be part of the day-to-day running of a site. Collecting comments from local partners and quarry employees also helps to identify areas of improvement.

Chance encounters

We do our best to respect the arrival of new species, we weren’t expecting,” says David Park. “And if necessary we modify the redevelopment plan to accommodate them.” In France, for example, staff noticed that bird species, the barn swallow and the European bee-eater, were ending in piles of materials. So since then, some storage areas have been especially reserved for these colonies of migrating birds for the duration of the day. “Sometimes we also have chance encounters,” says Thierry Soubirou, Aggregates Excavation Manager at Lafarge France. “Like Monday morning when the teams at Sandfontaine quarry in France found a doe that had fallen down a hole some meters deep. The bulldozer had no ramp so that doe could climb out and walk around.”

Starting in 2003 on the site of the former quarry at Lafarge Démétrie’s Mevres cement plant, the Avenay quarry, which has been rehabilitated since 2003, the 70,000 trees planted since 2003 on the site of the former quarry at Lafarge Mijol’s Morfla cement plant’s site. The site of the former quarry at Lafarge Mijol’s Morfla cement plant’s site. The site of the former quarry at Lafarge Mijol’s Morfla cement plant’s site. The site of the former quarry at Lafarge Mijol’s Morfla cement plant’s site.
Biodiversity also has great symbolic, even spiritual, value for the local population. In 2004, Lafarge formed a partnership with the Biodudaeon conservation company to develop a new ecological project. Based on a gradual rehabilitation plan, in addition to preserving ecosystems and water supplies, it addresses a number of safety and pollution issues (land, noise, etc.). This consensus-based approach, along with the Group’s past achievements in this field, won the trust of local partners.

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Following the acquisition of Blue Circle in 2002, Lafarge became the owner of the cement plant and cement fabrication site in Magheramorne, Northern Ireland, which no longer in operation. Following long consultation with local residents, interest groups, local authorities and WWF International, a rehabilitation document called “Reinventing Magheramorne” was submitted in 2006.

In 2009, the Ministry of the Environment gave it the green light. The redevelopment plan includes 15% of Lafarge’s quarries have an official local partnership, most often with an NGO directly involved in the redevelopment plan. But most sites have more informal relations with local groups. The creation of a consultation and monitoring committee in particular enables the Group to monitor the situation and to improve the way biodiversity is taken into account in its industrial activity.

Transparency and dialog: the way forward

Proposing with NGOs

Currently, 15% of Lafarge’s quarries have an official local partnership, most often with an NGO directly involved in the redevelopment plan. But most sites have more informal relations with local groups. The creation of a consultation and monitoring committee in particular enables the Group to monitor the situation and to improve the way biodiversity is taken into account in its industrial activity.

The way forward: confrontation or collaboration?

By definition, preserving a natural environment is a long-term commitment. Yet no long-term development can be planned without taking into account its human and social context. That is why the approach to operating and rehabilitating a quarry must be developed in consultation with local communities.

A matter of public interest

To be effective, the approach must reconcile technological, economic, environmental and social considerations. “The ecological challenge for industrial companies is a matter of public interest, and we are aware that our work to preserve the environment can only be judged from society,” says Chris Elley, Stakeholder Relations Manager with the Group Communications Department. “As a Group, we have a methodological framework to support consultation, which can help address rehabilitation challenges in collaboration with the other partners.”

Experience has demonstrated that an external perspective on plans can help improve the rehabilitation process, although the level of consultation can vary depending on the local context. This framework provides many different consultation tools, including the use of formal meetings and presentations, interaction with the media and opening sites to visitors from local communities. “Our long-term objective remains to contribute positively to the communities in which we operate,” says Chris Elley. “Although there may not be unanimous support for all proposed developments, we believe in the value that is generated from maintaining dialogue with all parties.” Our framework helps ensure that this approach is applied systematically.

Conflicts and collaboration

So the dialog begins, even if it reveals disagreements. This was particularly the case in South Korea, where Lafarge plans to mine a quarry on the Okke site sparked strong opposition from local communities and environmental groups (see box opposite).

François Letourneux, President of the French Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCC) and a Member of theConferences Panel on Biodiversity:

Panel members are informed of Lafarge’s strategies to promote biodiversity and consulted on the methods and mechanisms implemented in relation to the policy. We meet twice a year, including once on the ground in France. Our work involves helping the company to develop tools to help manage and monitor impacts and improve the way biodiversity is taken into account in its industrial activity.”

But criticism put forward by local stakeholders can also lead to a project simply being abandoned. Fortunately, the relationship between the Group and local stakeholders is not always one of conflict from the start. As Chris Elley can sometimes prove very rewarding.

In Staffordshire, in the UK, an environmental group called the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust set up its offices on the same site as the Group. Members of the interest group and partnerships, who worked alongside each other, came to know each other and respect each other’s point of view.

Progressing with NGOs

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The genuine commitment shown by Lafarge and the major progress it has made. Of course, it is always possible to do better. Our task is to maintain a high level of standards by including shortcomings and putting forward criticism, as well as allowing Lafarge in order to come up with solutions to the challenges faced.”
Lafarge contacted the University of Castilla-La Mancha to assess and increase the value of biodiversity at the Yepes quarry. We analyzed the abundance and diversity of species—particularly lichens, weevils, birds, butterflies and springtails (small invertebrates)—as well as sectioning the quarry into zones of homogeneous biodiversity. We also implemented changes to promote long-term biodiversity and established an environmental education program about the quarry. This ambitious project is exemplary for the rest of Spanish mining companies in terms of biodiversity protection.

The Fredonia Cement Production Site in Southern Kansas, in the United States, has been the subject of an in-depth environmental study since November 2008. For six hours a week throughout the year, Lafarge employees observe the plant and animal species which live in the quarry. Date and location of sighting, scientific names and quantities are recorded. So far 380 species have been identified and most have been photographed. Many of these photos have been published online, a valuable way of raising employees’ and local stakeholders’ environmental awareness.

The information collected has led to special habitats being created. In 2010, for instance, new wetlands were created, as well as a shelter for collared doves and the pincushion cactus. Nesting areas have also been set aside for wood ducks, Canada geese and green herons.

Assessment and training tools: proving efficiency

Towards a biodiversity management system? Incorporating the issue of biodiversity into its activities and constantly improving its environmental practices are the two key focuses for progress identified by the Group.

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A specific training program

Recovering a site takes time to implement, which is why Lafarge is gradually incorporating biodiversity protection into its training programs.

“We are currently testing pilot training courses to incorporate biodiversity into the training of employees,” says Pierre de Prémare. Research is underway to identify relevant employees (quarry managers, excavation teams, geologists, etc.) and their specific needs. A vast internal awareness-raising and communications campaign has also been launched for the Year of Biodiversity.

A dedicated biodiversity panel

In order to encourage generalization of its knowledge and guarantee the relevance of its actions, since 2006 Lafarge has been consulting a group of independent experts specializing in ecological issues and relations between nature and companies. Over the years, this relationship of exchange and consultation has helped make a coherent range of management and best practice tools emerge, as well as identifying areas for improvement in the

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James Griffith, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD)

As part of our Ecosystem Valuation Initiative (SBI), we are developing a Corporate Guide to help businesses measure and quantify their contributions to biodiversity and dependence. This will allow companies to improve decision-making by explicitly accounting for both economic and non-economic impacts and contributions to biodiversity. The guide will be developed by the established WBCSD Taskforce and will be informed by ecosystem services analyses.

Robert Johnson, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD)

“Our NGO, the Wildlife Habitat Council, helps Lafarge management understand biodiversity and its relationship to their standard facility operations. We help bring employees of the company’s sites to incorporate environmental themes into their daily operations by informing the local community of Lafarge’s interest in and commitment to biodiversity stewardship. Our NGO provides a third-party certification for the efforts in company’s Bicafé initiatives at Lafarge operations around the world. This provides transparency for our initiatives at the Lafarge Biodiversity Advantage panel and have a clear picture of biodiversity management at Group level.”

Lafarge is currently being tested by 15 WBCSD member companies including Lafarge.

REDEVELOPMENT PLAN IN BRAZIL

As an example of the first phase, whose redevelopment plan is currently being studied.

Sabine Bax, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, LAFARGE ECO SYSTEMS

“...to rehabilitate the parts of the Barroso quarry (Brazil) which are no longer in use. We can establish the presence of numerous protected plants and animal species. The index, which is still in the experimental stage, has been calculated for around ten quarries. It was applied for the first time in Mannersdorf under the supervision of WWF Austria (exceptional ecological value). The number of species recorded on the site and their rarity are both taken into account. The index, which is still in the experimental stage, has been calculated for around ten quarries. It was applied for the first time in Mannersdorf under the supervision of WWF Austria (exceptional ecological value). The number of species recorded on the site and their rarity are both taken into account. The index, which is still in the experimental stage, has been calculated for around ten quarries. It was applied for the first time in Mannersdorf under the supervision of WWF Austria (exceptional ecological value).”

FOLLOWING REHABILITATION OF THE HAMMERSDORF QUARRY, IN AUSTRIA, various species have moved into the rehabilitated areas over the years. A biodiversity expert contacted at the site would compare with WWF Austria’s index of biodiversity. The Long ben (indices of biodiversity, LBIs) are drawn up to improve its reputation and coordinate the changing ecology of rehabilitated quarries.
How can we protect and nurture services provided by ecosystems? Natural environments carry out a wide range of functions benefiting human life and activities. Recent research seeks to assess the market value of these services. This approach encourages awareness of a development method which incorporates ecological principles.

**The priceless role of the natural world**

From nature to auditing

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, carried out in 2005, was the first global audit of forests, wetlands and other ecosystems. It revealed the increase in the acceleration and extent of their deterioration. The study listed around 20 services, which it divided into four main categories: supplies (food, fresh water, timber, etc.), regulation (climate, disease, erosion, etc.), cultural services (leisure linked to ecosystem and support (nutrients and fuel and water).

**Setting an example: saving an endangered species**

**PROSTRATE ROCKET IS A RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT IN THE BRASSICACEAE FAMILY.** In the 1990s, work at the Lafarge quarry (France) was coming to an end, and the site’s chalky soil was the only place the Guerville quarry (France) was coming to an end. Lafarge therefore decided to adopt the site’s redevelop process. In order to create ecological conditions favorable to growth of the prostrate rocket, scientists from the Paris region’s Conservatoire Botanique National (National Botanical Conservatory) established a rescue protocol involving studying genetic diversity, selecting the most well-adapted plants and conserving seeds in order to resilience other areas. The plan was approved by the Conseil National de Protection de la Nature (National Council for Nature Protection). Due to the presence of the prostrate rocket, the former quarry became one of the Natura 2000 European network of natural sites. The same process was followed in Brittany with the Breton Conservatoire Botanique National and has recently been exported to Greece by the same conservatory and the University of Patras. Inspired by this logic, several studies were launched to determine the market value of services provided by nature free of charge. For instance, according to a study carried out in 2005 by the European Commission, the value in coffee production of pollination by bees is estimated at 276 euros per hectare cultivated per annum. In 1997, Professor Robert Costanza’s team at the University of Vermont, in the United States, went further, calculating the total economic value of services provided by ecosystems on a global level. The TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study currently being conducted by Indian economist Pavan Sukhdev as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also relates to an economic assessment of ecosystems. It is clearly complicated to calculate the value of what cannot be bought — what is produced — but these financial indicators provide an understanding of the major economic role played by ecosystems. And therefore the need, if only for the smooth running of business, to preserve them.

**Water purification, photosynthesis, flood routing, crop pollination, etc. — the way an ecosystem functions on a wide variety of scales and interactions — which we are rarely aware of. Except when it’s natural balance is disrupted. And the consequence of dismantling ecosystems can be significant, including from an economic perspective (collapse of agriculture production, exchange of natural resources, etc.).** New York’s water supply is an interesting example of this. In the 1980s, City Hall, having observed a deterioration in the water’s quality, planned to build a potable water treatment plant. However, it was decided that a study should be carried out into the reasons for the water’s deterioration. The conclusion revealed that exploitation of ecosystems in the catchment area, particularly forests, had damaged the water of the natural filter produced by the trees and rocks. This led to an incredible comparison: recovering and protecting the original conditions which purified the water would cost six to eight times less than constructing and maintaining a treatment facility. Inspired by this logic, several studies were launched to estimate the market value of services provided by nature free of charge. For instance, according to a study carried out in 2005 by the European Commission, the value in coffee production of pollination by bees is estimated at 276 euros per hectare cultivated per annum. In 1997, Professor Robert Costanza’s team at the University of Vermont, in the United States, went further, calculating the total economic value of services provided by ecosystems on a global level. The TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) study currently being conducted by Indian economist Pavan Sukhdev as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also relates to an economic assessment of ecosystems. It is clearly complicated to calculate the value of what cannot be bought — what is produced — but these financial indicators provide an understanding of the major economic role played by ecosystems. And therefore the need, if only for the smooth running of business, to preserve them.
An experimental study in the United States

To develop a better understanding of the mechanisms inherent in ecosystems, Lafarge is currently conducting an innovative study in Presque Isle, in the United States. “Our project to assess and promote the services provided by the natural environment has three stages,” explains Harve Stoeck, Vice President Public Affairs and Environment with Lafarge’s Aggregates & Concrete Business in North and Latin America. “First, environmental think-tanks (the World Resources Institute (WRI) will apply the ESR model for assessing services provided by ecosystems, based on work with WBCSD and the Harvard Institute to the Presque Isle site. This preliminary study will make it possible to identify risks, opportunities, and strategies in relation to the natural environment. Then, two ecosystem application models, one of which was created by WRI (second stage), will be used to determine the potential value of services present on the site and of services likely to be developed. Finally, the think tank’s team will produce a full report detailing the reliability and reproducibility of the assessment model. This results will then be shared with the WBCSD as part of the Ecosystem Valuation Initiative. The experience and recommendations gained will be used to set future projects to analyse and preserve natural environments.”

BIOINTECHS – AN INSPIRED SCIENCE

Biomimetics involves artificially reproducing natural mechanisms for direct application in various fields, while biomimetics is a study that draws inspiration from observing natural models to develop sustainable processes and products. Scientists believe that imitating nature will make it possible to reduce the ecological impact of our activities, as well as reducing costs and increasing profitability. Could the concretes of tomorrow be inspired by it?

We know that nature provides mineral, food, medicinal, textile and forestry resources, among others, but we know very little about the services provided by ecosystems. For example, the services provided by a forest cannot be measured in cubic meters of wood. A forest captures carbon, cleans the air and water, drains run-off to the water table and supplies springs. We are directly dependent on nature. Yet a recent UN report warns that 60% of ecosystems are partially reduced, or else lost, along with the services they provide.”

The project to assess and promote the services provided by the natural environment will make it possible to identify risks and opportunities in relation to ecosystems.
ON THE BANKS OF THE YONNE

Misy-sur-Yonne quarry, located in the French department of Seine-et-Marne, was mined between 1950 and 1975 by the Compagnie des Sablières de la Seine. It became Lafarge’s property in 1973. Rehabilitation of the site created a natural space which stretches over 60 hectares, as well as a 20-hectare residential and leisure area. This waterway is also used by barges to transport more than three million tons of sand and gravel each year.