

Case Study for CEEweb Award
Stakeholder cooperation in nature conservation

Sand Martin shelter at the Durmersheim pit

BirdLife – HeidelbergCement

Country: Germany
Organisation: BirdLife
Type: NGO

1.	<p>Brief Description of the case</p> <p>The gravel pit Durmersheim is located in the Upper Rhine Valley south of Karlsruhe. Since 1991 the area of the pit is classified as nature protection area (“Kiesgrube am Hardtwald Durmersheim”) because of its high biodiversity. Regular monitoring (every 3 years) of the habitats and species is made to document the development and changes and to define habitat maintenance measures and conservation objectives. Moreover, since 2007 the pit is part of the “HeidelbergCement Species Protection Programme Sand Martin, Germany”.</p>
2.	<p>Detailed Description</p> <p>Type of case: philanthropic (donation) / <u>project based</u> / strategic Location: Germany Type of area: Bird protection Duration: since 2007 Involved organizations (both business and green NGOs): Heidelberger Sand und Kies GmbH, Plant Durmersheim and NABU Baden-Württemberg</p> <p>Activities carried out in the framework of the cooperation including concrete tools used: In the breeding season between June and July, all breeding holes are counted in the exploitation sites and shown in a map. During the winter months, the plant managers have to plan their mining for the coming months. If there are attractive steep faces for the Sand Martins which must be mined, these steep faces have to be flattened and to be made “unattractive” before the animals return. Moreover, evasive accommodations have to be created for the birds, e.g. unused steep faces. These are radically cleaned as far as possible from bushes and plants. Additionally, dumps of sandy and clayey top soil material can be piled up. All agreed measures are monitored once a year.</p> <p>Results: The company carries out activities every year, which are these: 1) Annual and continuous control of the breeding areas, breeding holes, coordination of the mining and definition of the measures for the next breeding seasons. 2) No mining as well as the continuation of work in excavation pits at the breeding season; if possibly secure the breeding area. 3) Planning and realization of care measures: cutting of the steep faces after every breeding season with spavins or an excavator, so the Sand Martin can breed at the same place again next year. 4) No back filling of the sand pits and gravel pits. 5) Creation of top soil waste dumps. 6) Available water bodies located in breeding areas should be kept from tourism activities as important foraging habitats may be disturbed.</p>

	<p>Plans for continuation/extension/improvement: The plans for continuation are the following: 1) Promotion of the targetspecies Sand Martin in the pit Durmersheim nature conservationarea – increase of the number of breeding pairs and breeding success by 2015. 2) Test the application of a new model of artificial nesting houses called “Sand Martin Shelter”. 3) The knowledge of the Sand Martins increased by excursion and educational program for employees, school kids (in cooperation with KIS and HeidelbergCement Marketing department).</p>
3.	<p>Benefits and motivation of partners (businesses, green NGOs): Sand Martin colonies are a suitable demonstration place where schoolchildren and adults can learn about the ecology and conservation of migratory and insectivorous birds. In addition, the artificial nest boxes give an unparalleled opportunity to observe closely the life and reproduction of these birds. The Sand Martin is an indicator species that reflects the availability of insects and natural riverine habitats in a wider area. The disappearance of their colonies in many places around the world has mobilised thousands of local conservation initiatives.</p>
4.	<p>Social, environmental and economic impacts of the activities including stakeholders of the company/NGO The Sand Martin project is an investment of money from the company every year. The employees of the company are also involved in training in connection with this project.</p>
4.	<p>General information on legal background and other incentives /obstacles in the country <i>E.g. What kind legal requirement exist? ISO/EMAS?, CSR activities based on Global Reporting Initiative,</i> <i>How widely does this type of partnership spread?</i> This project is only local, but can have international aspects. <i>What is the attitude of the public towards this type of partnership?</i></p>
5.	<p>Annexes (pictures, maps, websites, etc.) http://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/companies/HeidelbergCement/HeidelbergCement_BirdLife_Sand_Martin_project.pdf http://www.heidelbergcement.com/NR/rdonlyres/23D345E8-4540-40BE-8F8D-478DBC8BF1D0/0/Q22014_InterimFinancialReport_web.pdf</p>