

Title On Friday 16 September, BirdLife International and HeidelbergCement signed a co-operation agreement. The primary goal of this partnership is to further improve the protection of biodiversity associated with quarrying sites. "We are pleased that, in BirdLife International, we have been able to attract a highly competent partner for the further development of our biodiversity management", said Dr. Bernd Scheifele, Chairman of the Managing Board of HeidelbergCement AG, who personally signed the co-operation agreement. "Together, we will analyse and optimise our existing work and define new activities in order to promote the preservation of biodiversity at our quarrying sites even more effectively." "This open and cooperative collaboration should also send a message to our stakeholders. We will give BirdLife insight into the workings of our quarries and sand and gravel pits throughout the Group and implement biodiversity management projects at these sites together. These projects should make our impact on flora and fauna transparent, assess the effects, and deliver improved approaches that will allow us to give back to nature more than we have taken." "We are delighted to enter in this relationship with HeidelbergCement, a pioneer in integrating environmental sustainability in the activity of extracting resources, and we feel confident that together we can not only reduce the impact but actually obtain an overall net positive benefit for biodiversity at HeidelbergCement quarries all over Europe", said Dr. Marco Lambertini, Chief Executive of BirdLife International. "Through the unique BirdLife structure of national and membership-based nature conservation organizations across the whole of Europe, we will be able to support action at a site level while maintaining an overall strategic oversight. I am confident that the outcomes of this collaboration with HeidelbergCement will prove to make a real difference in fulfilling the potential many quarries hold for biodiversity." The co-operation is initially scheduled to last three years. In the first year, a biodiversity strategy for the partnership will be developed jointly. The strategy will also include goals for the protection of species and habitats. In the second year, joint biodiversity projects will be formulated in different countries. Local management, in particular, will be involved, alongside the national partners of BirdLife International in Europe. From the third year, the first pilot projects in Europe will then be implemented and documented. **For more information, please contact:** Herlinde Herpoel, Head of European Communication and Marketing at BirdLife Europe E-mail: herlinde.herpoel@birdlife.org