

Jean-Marc JUNON
Chairman and CEO Ciments Calcia & GSM
CEO HeidelbergCement France

<https://www.ciments-calcia.fr/fr/innovation/nos-engagements/environnement/biodiversite>
<https://www.gsm-granulats.fr/fr/nos-engagements/environnement/carrieres-et-biodiversite>

CIMENTS CALCIA AND GSM'S INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

The commitment made by Ciments Calcia and GSM, branches of the HeidelbergCement group, to promote biodiversity, has now been part of an active partnership with the French IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Committee for ten years. This innovative partnership was the first to be concluded by the French Committee of the IUCN with an industrial group. This commitment is also in line with the group's ambition to promote biodiversity and its global partnership with BirdLife.

Ciments Calcia and GSM, a major player in the cement industry and aggregate production respectively, are aware of the close link between their activities (exploitation of non-renewable natural resources extracted from the quarry, use of fossil fuels in cement production) and their significant direct and indirect effects on the environment and the species. Awareness and preservation of biodiversity on their extraction sites is a strategic focus that has long been part

of their Environmental Policy. The essence is, therefore, to implement this policy and ensure it is respected in a network of around a hundred quarries distributed throughout France.

Strongly encouraged by their partner, the French Committee of the IUCN, Ciments Calcia and GSM answered a call launched by the French government in 2011 under the new National Strategy for Biodiversity (SNB).

At the end of 2012, Ciments Calcia and GSM's commitments were recognised. They have a shared commitment, which consists of structuring and harmonising the company's campaigns to promote biodiversity within a Biodiversity Management System (SMBio), thereby introducing it in a more general and permanent manner across the sites. When developing the SMBio, Ciments Calcia and GSM relied on their experience, acquired through the development of their Environment Management System, of which the first sites were certified ISO 14001 at the end of the 1990s.



During the initial commitment, Ciments Calcia and GSM identified 33 primary sites according to ecological and territorial criteria. Today, the SMBio has been rolled out on more than two thirds of their sites, of which there are 70 in total. The remaining sites are scheduled for between now and the end of 2019. The SMBio is now seen as having a separate purpose entirely from Ciments Calcia and GSM's Environment Management System. The campaigns are fully integrated into the operational teams' environmental assignments, which ensures they are carried out more effectively. With support from the French Committee of the IUCN, a set of national and local objectives has been drawn up in relation to the strategic directions and objectives of the SNB.

The main objectives to be implemented between now and 2019 are as follows:

- 1** Promote the sharing of good biodiversity practices: Fill in the Good Practices sheet using examples from the sites to promote the sharing of ideas and experiences relating to biodiversity (arrangements, practices, behaviours, etc.) between the sites. Apply the good practices to the sites (2017-2019 period, focus on invasive alien species, for example).
- 2** Strengthen local biodiversity partnerships: the aim is for all sites to have one or more partner organisations to advise them.
- 3** Develop the company's/employees' awareness about biodiversity: organisation of an annual internal biodiversity campaign on each cement site and each GSM sector, as well as at the headquarters.
- 4** Improve information on biodiversity with external stakeholders: a biodiversity chapter has been added to the consultation committees.
- 5** Put together a programme, validated by the French Committee of the IUCN, to fight invasive alien species: identify invasive alien species on the sites, assist the sites with setting up training sessions.

- 6** Make standardised and reproducible ecological monitoring systematic across all sites: 100% of the high-value biodiversity sites shall benefit from the monitoring of at least one species.
- 7** Maintain a high level of company commitment to industry work on biodiversity: regular participation in biodiversity working groups organised by the French Cement Industry Trade Union (SFIC) and the National Union of Aggregates Producers (UNPG).

The company's Management Committee meets at least once a year to follow, assess and revise, if necessary, these objectives and the associated actions. This annual assessment reports on the analysis and consolidation of all of the local campaigns. A global assessment will be carried out at the end of 2019 at the close of the second period to set new primary objectives for the upcoming 2020-2022 period. Furthermore, work focus-based perspectives are already being considered (wider integration of biodiversity into their value chain, innovation using solutions founded in nature, better anticipation and avoidance, etc.). Additionally, objectives related to awareness, the development of partnerships, standardised monitoring, as well as information sharing with stakeholders are historic objectives that will continue to be upheld and included in local campaigns.

Communication, both internal and intended for external stakeholders, plays a vital role. Discussions take place regularly, notably during on-site consultation committees, with the French Committee of the IUCN, the French Biodiversity Agency or the Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition.

Ciments Calcia and GSM's general managements support this project, which is part of their Environmental Policy. The Ciments Calcia/GSM Environmental Department coordinates the deployment of the SMBio and entrusts the action plans to each Headquarters Director, Plant Manager and Regional Manager and ensures that this plan is understood, implemented and upheld by all management teams and establishments concerned, at all levels.