



Public policy encouraging effective quarry rehabilitation

- promoting adoption of good practices from biodiversity management to choice of building materials

Official side event of 11th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Co-Convenor:

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) - Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Date:

19 October 2012, 13:45 to 14:45

Venue:

Room 1.10, Level 1, HICC, HITECH City, Hyderabad, India

Abstract:

Extracting limestone, the raw material required to produce cement, can have significant local impacts on land and communities around the quarries. Effective management and well-planned rehabilitation strategies help to restore these quarries and even create value to society. To promote an overall consistent approach to quarry rehabilitation management, it is of vital importance to have a public policy environment which encourages operators to engage in proactive quarry rehabilitation within and beyond the legal framework.

In recognizing their responsibility for effective quarry rehabilitation, CSI members are sharing their practical experience and expertise with other companies involved in similar quarrying or rehabilitation activities in its [Guidelines on Quarry Rehabilitation](#) published in 2011. The document sets out a clear set of recommendations on how to develop, implement, manage and measure effective quarry rehabilitation. It also features [30 operational case studies](#), covering a wide range of quarry types and local habitats around the world.

With a common understanding of how to manage, and measure, effective quarry rehabilitation, CSI members strongly believe that the development and implementation of a progressive and practical quarry rehabilitation plan delivers significant environmental and social benefits. At the same time, it is also important for policy makers to understand what constitute quality biodiversity management and how these can help with a smart management of natural and social capital. Hence, we present here an information paper with IUCN elaborating how cross sector partner can work together scale-up business and public policies solutions. Collaboration with stakeholder plays an important role as catalyst in accelerating the pace and the cement industry is engaging partners in conservation sector actively, to inform stakeholders about rehabilitation and biodiversity developments.

Moving ahead, we are promoting adoption of these voluntary good practices in offering them to contribute to the development of a public policy framework. Apart from the *Guidelines on Quarry Rehabilitation*, the CSI will produce a high-level guidance document for the development of biodiversity management plans, and members are currently testing screening tools to identify high biodiversity value areas, where implementation of management plans will be prioritized.

Business today understands well the general need to contribute in helping society to manage wider issues. Companies need to manage natural (and social) capital via their operations, supply chains and investments - while governments need to provide the policies and frameworks which make this possible, practical and scalable. A favourable public policy environment would create additional incentives for proactive actions. Sharing of good practices will inspire the sector and stakeholders to identify pragmatic and practical solutions in tackling the challenges faced.

Agenda (draft):

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| 13:00 – 13:15 | Registration |
| 13:15 – 13:20 | Welcome and Introduction |
| 13:20 – 13:45 | Setting the scene: <i>How can public policy encourage effective quarry rehabilitation and promote adoption of other good practices of business</i> – Presenting the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) <i>Guidelines on Quarry Rehabilitation</i> and joint information paper with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Sharing the success stories of CSI and put forward our proposal for partnerships that can scale up actions in a faster and smarter way. |
| 13:45 – 14:00 | Response from the conservation sector – Discuss how existing tools can be used by policy-makers to create an enabling policy environment which encourages companies to integrate biodiversity into their policies and practices. |
| 14:00 – 14:40 | Moderated Panel discussion: Five to six panelists, from business, from the conservation sector and from government*, will be invited to respond to questions posed by the moderator. This will bring out company experiences in biodiversity management, what are the values to the environment and larger community and responses from policy-makers and the conservation sector on these examples. Open discussion and Q&A |
| 14:40 – 14:45 | Wrap up and close |

* to be confirmed