



# PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



Our approach to protecting nature’s capital reflects our responsibility as a limestone quarry operator. Limestone, a natural carbonate sedimentary rock formed from accumulated calcium carbonate, is abundant in the earth’s sedimentary crust, and as lime is produced by heating limestone, our focus is on responsible extraction. Limestone extraction is regulated to ensure

environmental protection, operational safety, and minimal disturbance to neighboring communities. As operators of quarries and mines worldwide, we apply long-standing expertise in sustainable quarry management through a holistic environmental approach that integrates biodiversity and restoration, energy efficiency, water stewardship, air quality, and noise and vibration control.

## IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY IN QUARRY OPERATIONS

### Biodiversity management during and after operations

We combine active biodiversity management during extraction with restoration post extraction or after closure. Quarrying cre-

ates cliffs, screes, rocky and sandy areas, temporary water bodies, calcareous grasslands, and sparse meadows that are rare in surrounding landscapes. These habitats support pioneer species of high ecological value, and in many areas our quarries are recognized as biodiversity-rich environments.



BELGIUM → SAND MARTIN HABITATS AT FRASNÉS



BELGIUM → LANDSCAPING OF AN EMBANKMENT IN ENGIS

### Quarry restoration and habitat development

Restoration and habitat development are integral to our biodiversity management approach. Across our global operations, we rehabilitate quarries during and after extraction by reusing stripped topsoil, subsoil, and overburden, and by creating habitats through planting, sowing, or controlled water level rise. These actions enable biodiversity management during operations rather than only after depletion, helping to minimize long-term environmental impact, strengthen ecosystem resilience, and support species returning to or settling in restored areas at local and regional levels.

### Habitat renewal (Belgium)

In 2025, restoration in Belgium converted approximately 1.7 hectares into plantations with ponds, scree, limestone grasslands, and relocated protected species. Moreover, we remain committed to supporting the Frasnés wetland, created in 2016 with the City of Couvin and maintained annually with a local NGO to preserve biodiversity and enhance site value. Over 100 sand martin nesting pairs were recorded in 2025. Sand martins are small migratory birds that nest in vertical sandbanks, often found in quarries. They travel thousands of kilometers each year and are highly sensitive to habitat changes, which makes local protection efforts critical.

In Engis, landscaping of an embankment in the overburn storage area has improved environmental integration, stability, and

landscape quality. The redesigned overburn embankment includes two scree habitats for reptiles and amphibians, including the natterjack toad. Bank swallows, natterjack tadpoles, and frogs have returned across our Belgian sites.

### Recognition for Responsible Mining Practices (Thailand)

On 20 November 2025, Thai Marble Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Golden Lime PLC within the Carmeuse Group, received the Green Mining Award 2025 from Thailand’s Department of Primary Industries and Mines, presented by Deputy Minister of Industry Senior Sergeant Major Yotsingh Liamloet. Thai Marble was recognized for exceptional continued adherence to green mining standards covering environmental and social responsibility, community engagement, and efficient, sustainable resource use.

### Global tree planting initiatives (Group)

Tree planting remains an annual initiative across our global sites, and it continued through 2025. In Turkey, we organized tree planting activities at our quarries in Soma and Pınarhisar, where rehabilitation projects were planned, with the participation of our colleagues and their children, and planted 5,560 trees. In Beachville (US), more than 200 trees were planted to enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration. In Brazil, 6,500 native seedlings were planted to support biodiversity and groundwater recharge.



THAILAND → RECOGNITION FOR RESPONSIBLE MINING PRACTICES



GROUP → GLOBAL TREE PLANTING INITIATIVES

## Monarch butterfly conservation (North America)



**107.7 hectares** restored for biodiversity (cumulative since 2020)

Carmeuse Americas launched its Monarch Butterfly Conservation project in 2022 and continued it in 2025 under its sustainability commitments. The program addresses the monarch population decline following the species’ endangered listing in 2020 and its reclassification as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in October 2023.

We have converted quarries and company lands into monarch habitats by planting milkweed and other nectar species to offset critical habitat loss. Sites include Winchester and Middletown, Virginia; Maple Grove and Millersville, Ohio; Manitowoc, Wisconsin; several Michigan quarries; Beachville, Canada; and other locations along the migration corridor. Employees also receive milkweed seed packets to expand habitat creation beyond our sites, and we share photos and updates internally with the aim of inspiring colleagues to keep progressing.

We partner with the Monarch Joint Venture for conservation expertise. Monarchs migrate up to 4,000 km from Canada and the northern U.S. to Mexico, and their caterpillars rely exclusively on milkweed, making habitat restoration essential.