



## QUARRIES IN BRITTANY BECOME BIODIVERSITY RESERVES | 2011

In 2009, as part of the Year of Biodiversity, the Group's quarries in the French regions of Brittany and the Pays de Loire decided to get involved in conservation.

Even though they are often accused of destroying the environment, the truth is that quarries are veritable havens for biodiversity, both flora and fauna. Today, scientists agree that quarries play an active part in preserving certain species:

- Northern Raven in Brittany: the Northern Raven has fled its natural environment along Brittany's coast due to an incessant flow of tourists. Out of the 40 couples left in the region, the majority have nested in quarries, 6 of which belong to the Group. Training sessions have been set up for quarry employees to ensure that conservation efforts for the Northern Raven remain compatible with running the quarry on a daily basis.
- Honey bees: bees are, in fact, the 'watchdogs' of biodiversity, which is why quarry managers have asked local beekeeper associations to form partnerships to install beehives in the quarries. The experience has been a huge success, and the honey harvested from the hives has been shared amongst employees and others involved in the program.

Proof if needed that quarrying and environmental protection can go hand in hand!

**In the wake of the successful initiative in Brittany to host beehives and to protect an endangered species, the Group decided in 2011 to expand the program to all of its quarries and gravel pits around the world.**

