

# BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: 3 partners

Country: Germany

**Title** Temporary use of the quarry Dachskuhle for a cross-county-vehicle testing area in combination with a important population of midwife toads (*alytes obstetricans*).

**Context** The Rheinkalk GmbH is located in Wülfrath and operates limestone quarries and lime kilns. Rheinkalk GmbH always operates a few quarries isochronously. The quarry Dachskuhle is a small one and only in sporadic operation to keep the permission. So for an interim use APS Wülfrath installed a testing area for Land Rover cross-country-vehicles. Here clients can test their vehicles with the help of a skilled driver-team. The conditions at the surface of the quarry are excellent for the settling of midwife toads. Limestone blocks and some greater ponds with permanent water are the reasons for an important secondary habitats in a densely populated area for an endangered and strictly protected species.

**Solution** The toad-project is a cooperation between lime and automobil industry and local authorities. In the quarry different areas were defined, the predominant part is used for testing uses. Some smaller parts, especially the water ponds are strictly prohibited areas. APS has committed to keep the vehicles out of parts of the testing area in time of wandering. Also APS has committed to keep the vehicles clean and avoid leakages of oil and lubricants. The benefit for Rheinkalk GmbH is the conservation of the permit by the operation of APS, a non-formal handling of a strictly protected species and the award of the measures as anticipated compensation for future projects, e.g. extension of quarries.

**Result** In the quarry Dachskuhle midwife toads are successfully and continuously reproducing, the population is very resistant and healthy. The combination of commercial use and species protection is continuously possible.

**Partners** The partner are Rheinkalk GmbH, APS GmbH Wülfrath and the county Mettmann.

