

# BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Rheinkalk GmbH & 5 partners

Country: Germany

**Title** The „Uhu-Projekt“ – monitoring of eagle owls in the area between Düsseldorf, Wuppertal and Essen, the so called Niederbergisches Kalkrevier.

**Context** Mining of limestone and producing of lime has a long tradition in the “Niederbergische Kalkrevier”. So a great number of quarries are located between Düsseldorf, Wuppertal and Essen. In these active and closed quarries the eagle owl has returned at first not mentioned, but in growing numbers of birds. The quarries have become important secondary habitats in a densely populated area for an endangered and strictly protected species.

**Solution** The Uhu-Projekt is a cooperation between the lime industry and the local authorities. These partners have signed a public law contract, in which duties and rights are fixed. For three years an ornithologist is paid by the authorities and the lime industry to get detailed informations about the owl-habitats in the quarries, about the development of the population, about breeding and new generations and hunting practices of owls. Additional measures shall be defined to improve the habitat conditions of the eagle owls, for example to minimize flight barriers as overhead cables or release old dumps for better hunting conditions. The benefit for the authorities is the financial and personnel input of the lime companies, the benefit for the industry is a non-formal handling of a strictly protected species and the award of the measures in the Uhu-Projekt as anticipated compensation for future projects, e.g. extension of quarries.

**Result** In all quarries owls are successfully and continuously breeding. The population is very resistant and healthy. Additional measures are done – an overhead cable was relocated in the underground at Oetelshofen plant, old dumps by Rheinkalk are released from small wood.

**Partners** The partner are Kalkwerke H. Oetelshofen GmbH & Co. KG, Kalksteinwerk Neandertal GmbH, Rheinkalk GmbH, City of Wuppertal and the county Mettmann.

