

## BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Carmeuse

Country: Belgium

**Title** Preserving and developing a sand martin population on an industrial site.

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**Context** The quarry of Frasnes produces industrial limestone for several applications such as sugar industry, construction, glass, ...The plant includes a large pond for water clarification with fine limestone piles nearby. The quarry provides alternative nesting areas for this swallow which is very sensitive to habitat (river banks) degradation.

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**Solution** In partnership with a local birds specialist NGO, the Company helped to develop an artificial colony in an exhausted part of the quarry. During each winter, the nesting area is refreshed or repaired in order to receive the birds returning from Africa in April.

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**Result** This sand martins colony is now the biggest in Belgium with more than 200 nests. It gives birds specialists the opportunity to closely follow the evolution of swallows via capture and ringing of the birds.

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**Partners** ASBL "Les Bocages", Frasnes-lez-Couvin, Belgium

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