

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: Quartzwerke GmbH
Location: 35516 Münzenberg-Gambach, Germany
Project leader: Dr. Frank Lützenkirchen
Tel: +49 2234 101-120 **Email:** luetzenkirchen@quartzwerke.com

Objective	Protection and further settling of endangered birds
Context	The Gambach location is proof that the extraction of industrial minerals can form the basis for a valuable conservation areas. Populations of three bird species that have settled in the mining area (sand martin or bank swallow, wheatear and ringed plover) are among the five most thriving populations in the state of Hesse, as the open and freshly excavated sand surfaces provide the kind of desirable conditions these birds only rarely find in Germany.
Solution	During the mining process, employees are careful not to disturb or destroy the birds' nests, or if this is unavoidable, to place them elsewhere in the pit. In order to provide sufficient habitat for the population of bank swallows and ensure they continue breeding in the mining area, the mining operations plan approved in 1997 sets aside sufficient steep banks for each respective breeding season. No extraction takes place in these areas during the breeding period. Additional individual measures described in the mining operations plan also ensure that no birds settle in the areas designated for extraction of minerals.
Result	Populations of sand martin or bank swallow, wheatear and ringed plover are amongst the biggest ones in Hesse.
Local Partner(s):	Competent authorities and external consultants: Johannes Müller-Lewinski, landscape architect, and Dr. Heybrock, biologist.
Is the project that you are describing located in, adjacent to, or contains protected areas or areas of high biodiversity value outside protected areas?	Yes / No - If yes, please briefly describe. Yes, the active mining operations at the Gambach location have been certified as a European bird sanctuary (V 40 »Wetterau«) in accordance with the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EWG).

