In 2012 Lafarge continued to professionalize its biodiversity practices, developing a Biodiversity Management Plan template to assist sites in their work to protect and promote biodiversity. As part of its Sustainability Ambitions 2020, Lafarge aims to implement these plans in all its quarries and cement plants.

**Biodiversity**

Biodiversity is an area of longstanding importance for Lafarge and one of the original work streams of the Group partnership with WWF International. Ecosystems play an important role in the quality of life in an area and our operations can impact (positively or negatively) on local ecosystems. One of the ways in which we manage impacts is through our actions to protect and promote biodiversity at our sites. This work, carried out in partnership with local stakeholders, is key to addressing the concerns of the communities in which we operate and also helps to secure our license to operate.

**NEW TOOLS TO HELP SITES MANAGE BIODIVERSITY**

In 2012 we finalized a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) template for roll-out across our quarries. This template helps site teams to identify specific conditions to take into account when developing the site plan, such as the targets in regional biodiversity action plans, the surrounding flora and fauna and recommendations from local experts and nature groups. In 2013, Lafarge will work with WWF International to adapt this template for use in other sectors.

Lafarge, in partnership with IUCN France, WWF France and WWF International, also became one of the first companies to develop a toolbox of methods to monitor biodiversity over time. This toolbox includes simple methods such as the use of photographic images to track the change in habitats over time, but also more complex methods such as our Long term Biodiversity Index (LBI), which was revised and released internally in 2012 following extensive consultation with many stakeholders including our International Biodiversity Panel.

**Raising Awareness on Biodiversity**

Lafarge continued to work on raising awareness on biodiversity both internally and externally in 2012. Following the development in 2011 of a groundbreaking Biodiversity Guidance Manual, in partnership with WWF International and the Group’s International Biodiversity Panel, an internal competition was conducted in 2012 to promote the implementation of this guidance at both quarry and non-quarry sites. The winning projects, selected by the Panel, were those that showed the best application of the guidance to their specific local project. The Biodiversity Guidance was also publically released at the 24th Wildlife Habitat Council symposium in November. Lafarge participated in the Ramsar Conference held in Romania in July.

Lafarge presented on biodiversity and water management at the event alongside WWF and a wetland area created in Lafarge’s Fluess Quayy was one of the official visits open to conference delegates.

**Roll-out of the Biodiversity Management Plan Template**

In 2011 our screening program using IBAT, a global mapping tool of international biodiversity sensitive areas, identified 18% of our active quarries as being in or within 0.5 km of a sensitive area. Lafarge set an objective to develop Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) for these sensitive quarries by 2012. In order to achieve this, Lafarge and WWF employed ecology graduates to help develop these plans in close partnership with the environment and operational teams in several countries. This was a great opportunity for students to get practical experience and to share the new techniques they had learnt through their studies. Thanks to these partnerships, Lafarge was able to complete 99.2% of its BMPs of sensitive quarries by year end, just short of the 100% target.

**Best Practice in Biodiversity Management**

Lafarge’s internal 2012 Biodiversity Awards highlighted many good examples of biodiversity management at both its quarry and non-quarry sites. The winning quarry project, selected by the Group’s International Biodiversity Panel, concerned the Saint Eloi quarry on Reunion Island. Lafarge’s existing production site is located on one side of the Saint Eloi River, which is internationally recognized for high biodiversity. Following Lafarge research, a new river crossing was built to safeguard the passage of migratory fish and macro-crustaceans, including some IUCN Red List species. Monitoring is undertaken every three months to ensure the effectiveness of the new measures.

**CASE STUDY**

**Lafarge’s Internal 2012 Biodiversity Awards**

The Winning Non-quarry Project was Lafarge’s Alpena plant in the USA, which has developed a pollinator garden to provide an active biodiversity/wildlife area near the plant for the local community. The aim is to increase public awareness of the importance of pollinators in our lives and provide a learning environment to view them. The garden improves neighborhood aesthetics and provides a green, relaxing oasis in the city’s industrial corridor while enhancing the habitat for pollinator and other species. The garden is self-sustaining, with a rainwater collection system to help weather dry spells and a selection of hardy, disease, insect and animal resistant plant species.