

## A quarry lifecycle: from identification to rehabilitation



① Best practice dictates that from inception through to rehabilitation we choose to act in dialog with the neighbouring local populations, with NGOs and with the authorities. The nature and intensity of the dialog varies. Throughout the life of the quarry it is key to ensuring the best outcomes.

② Our geologists undertake drilling to obtain rock samples which are used to identify and assess mineral reserves. This is the exploration phase.



③ We acquire or lease the land necessary for efficient, cost-economic access to the mineral deposits that we have identified.

④ An independent evaluation is conducted to assess the likely impact of quarry operations on landscape, water and air quality, biodiversity, and other environmental factors. It proposes measures to reduce these impacts.



⑤ A planning application contains a description of the planned quarry and installation, the mining plan and the rehabilitation plan. It spells out the potential environmental impacts and proposes means to mitigate them.

⑥ The public inquiry process leading to quarry approval varies between countries. It usually requires Lafarge to present evidence of economic benefits, to expose the environmental protection measures that will be implemented and to testify for its responsible corporate behaviour. Sometimes because of local planning and approval processes the permission requires us to provide financial compensation to mitigate the residual effects of the quarry.



⑦ Quarry operations pose different types of problems that are tackled by Lafarge right from the outset. We always budget for work we do to minimize the impact of a quarry on the landscape as part of our operating costs. We work to mitigate the impacts of operations. Because problems which arise can be highly site-specific we work to develop solutions in dialog with people in local communities. As part of our partnership with WWF, we have jointly developed a monitoring tool. Through it we are evaluating progress in the restoration of our sites.

⑧ Rehabilitation is performed progressively during the quarry exploitation whenever possible. With more than 150 years of experience in quarry rehabilitation, we aim for 85% of our quarries to have rehabilitation plans that meet our best compliance standards by 2010. Our quarry rehabilitation policy was developed in 2001, in partnership with WWF, and since then has been applied on our sites.