

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Company: SCR SIBELCO BeNe
Location: Maasmechelen, BELGIUM
Project leader: Mark STULENS
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Objective	Mining and restoration of the new quartz sand quarry “Mechelse Heide Zuid” at the border of the National Park Hoge Kempen at the East side of Belgium.
Context	Sibelco is active in the region of the national Park Hoge Kempen. For this region Ignace Schops (Regionaal Landschap) got in 2008 the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize. Sibelco is an important partner in the realization of this National Park since their quarries and activities are situated in the middle of it.
Solution	The project foresees the move of the sand plant from the location “BERG” (middle of the national Park) to the new quarry location. The existing quarry BERG and the new quarry MECHELSE HEIDE ZUID will be restored in such a way that they will be totally integrated in the national Park and nature reserve.
Result	Sibelco contributes to the realization of the National Park which houses a lot of protected species. The old quarry “OPGRIMBIE” is an example (see presentation in annex: “Sustainable development in Natura 2000 protected area: possible ?”)
Local Partner(s):	RLKM (Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland)/Community of Maasmechelen/Governmental organisations: Agency for Nature and Forest, etc.
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, the National Park Hoge Kempen contains Natura 2000 protected species and biotopes. See details in enclosed presentation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NATURA 2000 REGIONS: IS IT POSSIBLE ?

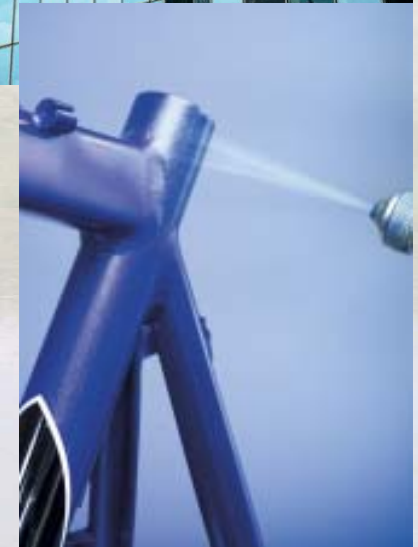


Sustainable Development in NATURA 2000 regions : possible !

SIBELCO

... applications:

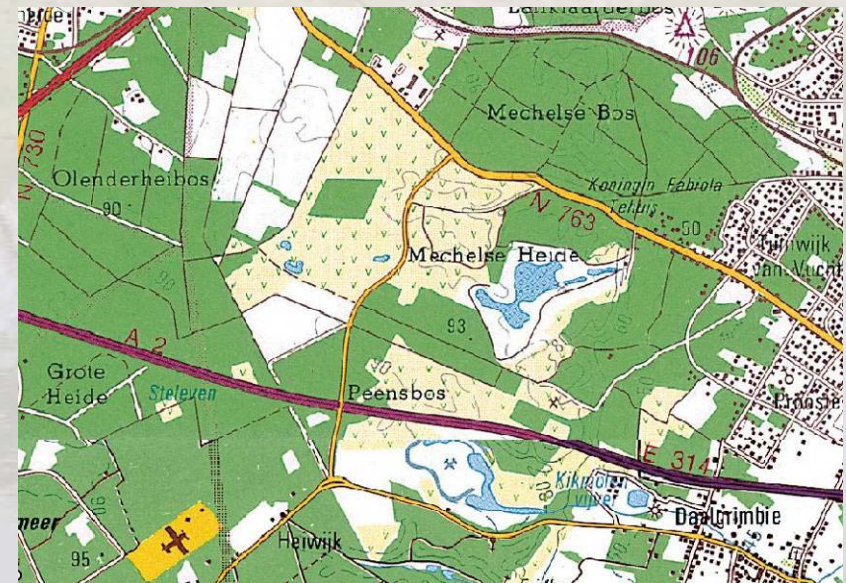
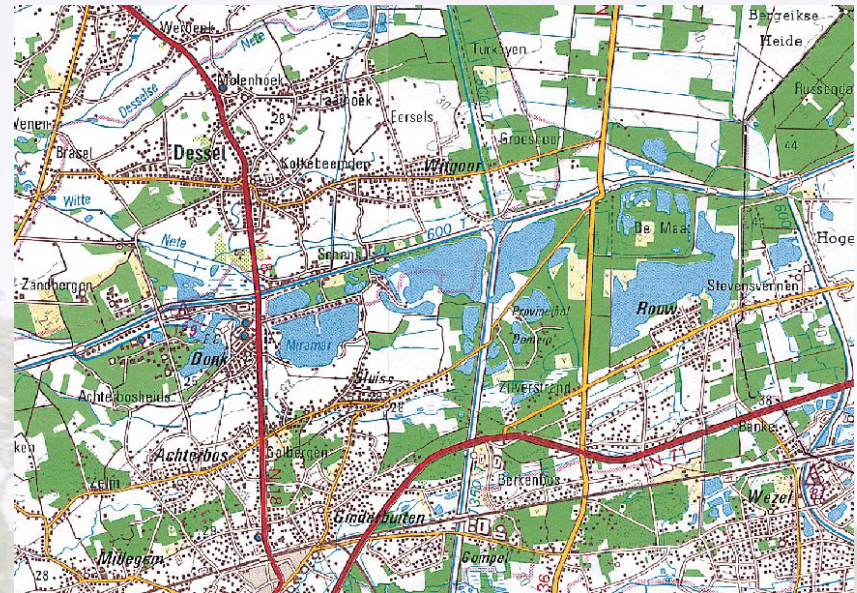
- glass
- ceramics
- metallurgie
- chimie (paints, ...)
- sportsarticles
- fillers (toothpaste, ..)
- filmadditives
- building



... IN NATURA 2000 AREAS

In Flandres quartzsand geological present in region Dessel-Mol-Lommel and Maasmechelen ...

.... All areas that are part of the Natura 2000 network, as well bird protection directives as habitat protection directives



The site MAASMECHELEN as a CASE

Situated in and nearby biggest nature area in Flandres:
Multiple protected :

- Bird Protection area
- Habitatprotection area
- Flemish ecological network
- National Park recognised



SUSTAINABLE MINING IN NATURA 2000 AREA : How ?

By working the same time on 5 pillars:

- 1 Prevention of effects and milderling : mining integration
- 2 Rest effects : compensation
- 3 When restructuring : building new habitats and living areas for species (art. 6.1 HRL)
- 4 In continuous open communication with all parties concerned
- 5 Community platform: civilian, recreant, ...

PILER 1 MINING EFFECTS: Prevent, reduce, milder

- De-location of plant
- Levelling up of quarry water level
 - prevent drying
 - stronger wet nature
- Naturetechnical deviation of a river
- Adapation of workplan quarry
- Restructuring to avoid groundwater effects
- Buffering of noise
- Dustbuffering
- Planning of location grounddepots
- Active nature management, before, during and after mining



Ecological structure river



Dam Quarry Opgrimbie : higher groundwater level region and in particular: NATURA 2000 area: Valley of the Ziepeek

PILER 2 COMPENSATIONS

From (island) agricultural grounds to grasslands, hay, spontaneous forestation



Creating “swamps” and pools



Creating sandplates for wet hay vegetation development in quarry Opgrimbie



Sustainable Development in NATURA 2000 regions : possible !

PILER 3 BUILDING NATURE BY REHABILITATION

Minimal deep water
Maximal dry nature
Maximal wet nature

Maximal use opportunities :

- Rare pioniersvegetation
- Wet nature in dry area
- Spontaneous processes
- Strong gradiënts

*Plan ready before 1st shovel
in the ground and OK all parties
concerned.*

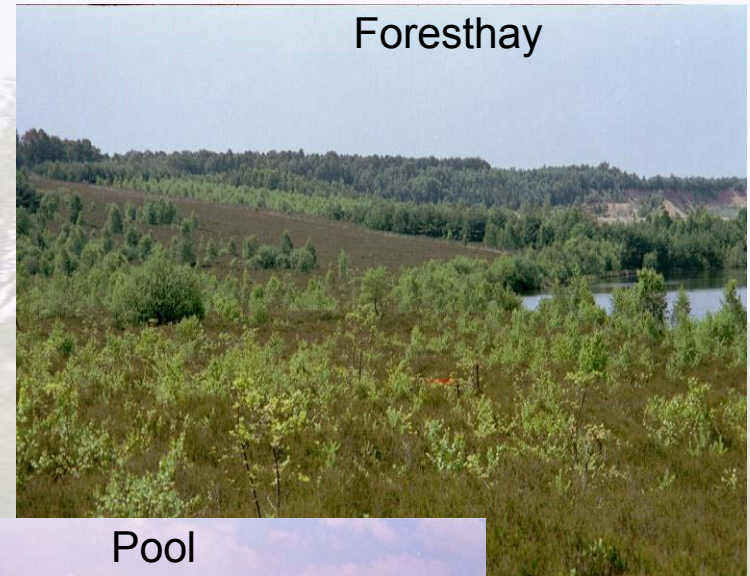


PILER 3 BUILDING NATURE BY REHABILITATION

Development of heavily endangered ecotopes :

- Dry hay (open and foresthay)
- Spontaneous forestdevelopment (winter oak on slopes)
- Wet hay
- Swamps & pools

Foresthay



Diversity



Pool



PILER 3 BUILDING NATURE BY REHABILITATION

Development of new living habitats for endangeroud species

Roodborsttapuit



Nachtzwaluw (*Caprimulgus caprimugus*)



Groentje



Heivlinder



Rugstreeppad



Kleine parelmoer



PILER 4 IN CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION WITH ALL PARTIES CONCERNED

Open communication in planning phase:

- * Administrations & NGO's
- * Regional administration
(Regionaal Landschap, Nationaal Park, ..)
- * Decision makers – politics
- * Independent expertise



European Award 2004



Royal visit May 2006

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Demonstrate realisations


an de Genachte
at 2

ons kenmerk
DA/7217/03.2430

telefoonnummer
0479/79.93.63

bijlagen

datum
30 juni 2003




Samenwerking Sibelco te Maasmechelen.

in 1998 wordt er nauw samengewerkt en intensief overlegd tussen
de Vlaamse Gemeenschap, AMINAL - Afdeling Natuur.

inhoudelijke leiding van het bureau op zich zal nemen.

Wij durven er op te vertrouwen dat, zoals in het verleden al is gebleken, wij ook



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Rekeningsnr. 784-5581075-12

PILER 5 COMMUNITY PLATFORM CREATION

SCR Sibelco cooperates with :

- 1 Active creation of nature reserve nearby (Kikbeekbron)

A walking path



Infoboard



Diversity in the landscape



- 2 Support for:
 - Building national Park
 - Maximal openness

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NATURA 2000 AREA : IT IS POSSIBLE !



Sustainable Development in NATURA 2000 regions : possible !