



Biodiversity is the foundation of life on earth and a prerequisite for sustainable development. Yet, biodiversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate, seriously eroding the capacity of our planet to sustain life. It is for this reason that world leaders attending the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 agreed to achieve a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by the year 2010.

Industrial minerals play a vital and valuable part in human wellbeing, providing products that meet the needs of today's society. We, the members of the European Industrial Minerals Association, representing more than 700 sites employing around 42 500 people, are aware that biodiversity is crucial to the future of humanity and have agreed to actively work towards its conservation and enhancement

WE RECOGNISE THAT:

- Our activities and the products and services we provide have a potential impact on biodiversity, at operational sites and within each local community
- Biodiversity must be taken into account before, during and after extraction and that its successful management can potentially lead to the creation of new natural areas and habitats
- Effective environmental stewardship is a crucial factor governing the future of our business

WE UNDERTAKE TO:

- Integrate the identification, evaluation and management of biodiversity into our business decision-making processes
- Attempt to understand the diversity of species and the richness of ecosystems at future mining sites before embarking on any new mining projects
- Preserve or promote biodiversity throughout the operation's lifetime at all our sites as far as possible
- Assess direct, secondary and cumulative impacts on biodiversity at current sites using a phased approach
- Meet requirements set out in applicable biodiversity related legislation and regulations
- Support the development and implementation of sound, scientifically based approaches to conservation of biodiversity
- Work in partnership with government, communities and other stakeholders on biodiversity
- Seek similar standards and principles with regard to biodiversity from all third parties involved in our businesses-suppliers, vendors and contractors
- Support the implementation of the European Commission Biodiversity Communication
- Promote compatibility between extractive activities and Natura 2000 areas
- Actively promote Countdown 2010 and the European Union's 2010 target which aims to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010
- Promote events to enhance awareness of biodiversity
- Provide regular reports that verify progress on biodiversity conservation



Thierry SALMONA,
IMA President
12 December 2008