

# SGHN. Position paper

## Quarries and mines

Even if it is a necessity for obtaining raw materials, the mine must respect some minimum standards that ensure its mining with the conservation of the natural environment and health, both human and environmental.

When none of the considerations is met with regard to what is established in Article 6 of Directive 92/45/CEE and in Article 45.6 of Law 42/2007 of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, no authorisation must be given for impact over:

- Priority conservation areas in the EU (DC 92/43/CEE).
- Species present in the area which are included in Annex II of the Law 42/2007.
- Areas in Rede Natura 2000 and those whose inclusion is planned.
- In the projects, extreme care should be applied to avoid impact over:
  - Community interest areas (Directive 92/43 CEE), also considering alternatives for diminishing it when technically and environmentally possible.
  - Species included in Annex I of the Birds Directive, in state Red Books and in Galician Catalogue of Endangered Species present in the area and consider adopting mitigating measures.
- Projects must consider all of the previous preventive and/or corrective measures recommended in the Programme for endangered species conservation that the Xunta de Galicia has developed (or is in the process of developing) in accordance with Articles 15 and 16 of Decree 88/2007.
- In “recuperation” plans of areas affected by the projects:
  - There should be plans for the utilisation of vertical walls resulting from stone extraction to practice multiple holes, using gaps in the stone, at a distance not inferior to 2 m to the upper limit and distanced between the gaps by at least 10 m to favour the colonisation by birds such as *Corvus corax*, *Falco tinnunculus* and *Falco peregrinus*, which are species that use the walls of abandoned quarries in Galicia. The available scientific information about this must be contemplated: Castillo, I., Elorriaga, J., Zuberogoitia, I., Azkona, A., Hidalgo, S., Astorkia, L., Iraeta, A. and Rúa, F. (2008). *Importancia de las canteras sobre las aves rupícolas y problemas derivados de su gestión*. *Ardeola* 55, 103-110.
  - To restructure the extraction basins, the formation of shallow basins should be considered (under one metre) for the formation of ponds, especially if a nascent is found in the area as a consequence of gap openings in the stone. Similarly, when the ground levelling is done, a slope of less than 30° should be left from the border to the centre of the basin. If there are technical difficulties to give shape to this kind of basin, there should be no level differences of more than one metre between the bottom and the border of the basin to favour the settlement of hydrophilic vegetation and the natural colonisation by amphibians, because otherwise, with the cycle of summer dessication, basins would act as traps for the fauna.
  - Under no circumstances should extraneous species be included in the replanting project and species which have certified their genetic origin in Galician populations will be used, the aim is avoiding the genetic contamination of autochthonous populations.

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