IAIA Special Symposium

Biodiversity Risk Assessment and Conservation Priorities: Identifying Biodiversity Values
Cave and Karst Biodiversity

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‘There are No Tigers or Elephants, So Blow it to Bits’
Innovative conservation since 1903
Cave Characteristics

- Lack of light $\implies$ No plants
- Low energy systems – sources external
- High and even humidity
- Specific air flow patterns

_all lead to_

- Extreme adaptations among cave animals (blind, no pigment, no wings, long legs)
- Highly range-restricted endemics
Threatened Vietnam cave bugs draw little sympathy

HON CHONG, Vietnam (AP) — Thousands of giant cave bugs give the limestone caves of Hon Chong a unique and eerie beauty. But many of them are found not in their natural habitat of untouched caverns, but in the midst of bustling tourist villages, where they’ve been blown apart to make way for new development.

The guardian

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Threatened Vietnam cave bugs draw little sympathy

UK | Europe | US | China | Middle East

Little sympathy for cave creepy crawlies threatened by cement boom in Vietnam
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Regenerating and restoring local communities

Heathland restoration at Rugeley Quarry voted ‘outstanding’.

CEMEX UK is working alongside the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to restore the lowland heath surrounding its Rugeley Quarry. This has been so successful that the area is used to promote best practice to other quarries and mines.

LAFARGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity reappears at Mijas quarry

Country: Spain
Company: FVM - Compañía General de Canteras

Objective: safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems through quarry restoration schemes that include progressive rehabilitation of the soil used as well as restoration at the end of plants’ life. In particular, to reproduce the Mediterranean forest, in order to achieve integration of the restructured zone.

Project: the implementation of the restoration Plan for the Mijas quarry "Los Arenales", in Spain. Begun in 2000, the same year that it was approved, although some rehabilitation works took place beforehand.

The Mijas quarry was restored as an open site with simultaneous progress by plot. This process has created 12 plots. Mijas was the first limestone quarry in Andalucia to be fully restored in this way, with complete rehabilitation of the entire surface. This is an important proof for many reasons. The animal and plant species to be included...
• These are **not** the urgent biodiversity issues for cement companies

• To eliminate unique communities of invertebrates and replace them with meadows and duck ponds is **not** restoration – and is irresponsible

• Conservation partnerships between cement companies and conservation NGOs have **not** resulted in any appropriate surveys – even after 10 years

• If no interest in invertebrates, let’s be honest
Good News?

- Various regulations require attention only to protected sites and Red List species
- The less companies do, the less they will have to do anything extra - and it seems global extinctions will likely result
- What is the role of the EIA community? Currently it is not “identifying biodiversity values” in cement and related projects
- No guidance from the Equator banks available
- Is ‘business as usual’ good enough?
Good News
An FFI Exception

• The only good case study known
• In the cave work for “?” there were two foreigners and a small local team of 10 for three weeks (~$15,000, 15 days)
• 40 species new to science
• Wonderful cooperation and engagement from the local company concerned
• No ‘cost’ to the company
• Planning to move into engagement in local spatial planning in the wider landscape beyond their fences.