

## **Independent Expert Panel Chair Visits Holcim Hungary (January 2009)**

The Chair of the Independent Expert panel, Christoph Imboden, visited Holcim Hungary. This initial 2-day visit is to learn about the proposed new plant in Nyergesujfalu, referred to as the Pillango project. A follow-up visit will be organized for the near future.

### **Sites visited/People Met**

- Meetings with the chair of the IUCN Hungarian National Committee and the Director of WWF Hungary
- The existing quarries for Labatlan plant
- Proposed plant site in Nyergesujfalu
- Location of the proposed overland conveyor belt from the quarries to the new plant site

### **Visit Summary**

- The Panel chair, accompanied by Tamas Marghescu (IUCN Regional Office for Europe) and Giulia Carbone (IUCN Business & Biodiversity Programme) met with the chair of the IUCN Hungarian National Committee and the Director of WWF Hungary. The meetings aimed at sharing the views of representatives of the conservation community
- The Holcim Pillango team gave a summary of the project (history of the project, CSR activities in and around Labatlan, the environmental review conducted, biodiversity offsets required by the authorities, and the challenges faced).
- The alternative site locations and the rationale for the proposed site were discussed. The route of conveyor was chosen to minimize its path through a Natura 2000 site.
- The panel chair recommended creating and implementing biodiversity action plans at the Nyergesujfalu site and the existing Labatlan site.
- Some offsets will be required by the local authorities for the Pillango project, mostly with the creation of a forest. By working with local partners, and the forestry department, there is an opportunity to enhance biodiversity while at the same time meet the local requirements.

### **Next steps**

- The Panel Chair to return to Hungary shortly to learn further about the Environmental & Social Impact Assessment for the Pillango project and to visit the Miskolc plant to learn about biodiversity management at the existing operations.



*Visit of the proposed conveyor locations*