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# PRE-ASSESSMENT OF BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS IN AGGREGATES EXTRACTION SITES



# Objective and Scope

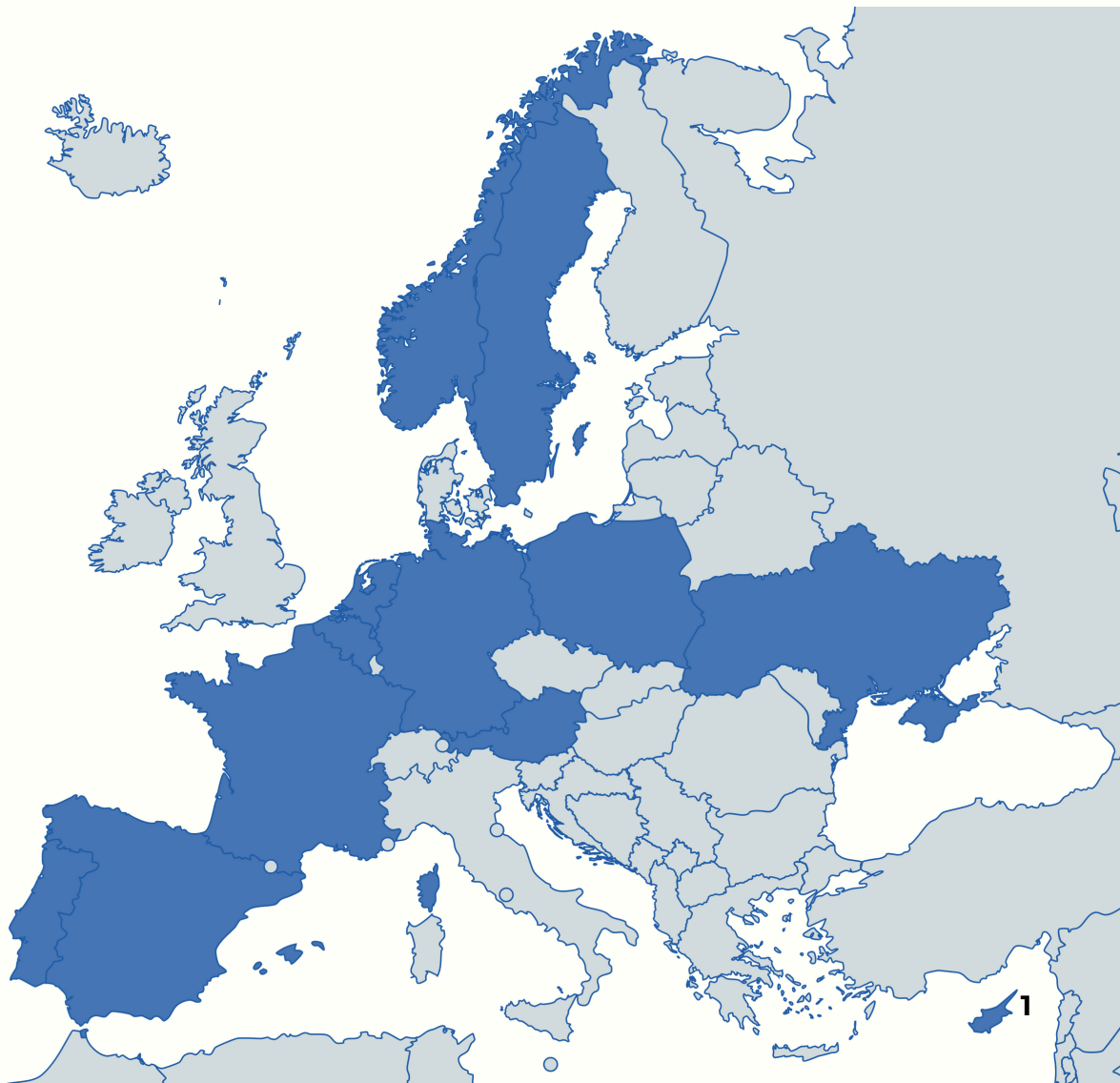
Aggregate Europe (AE), in close collaboration with the Rotare Project The (funded by the European Commission and led by ANEFA), and with the support of Fundación Tormes-EB, the University of Liège (ULiège), and Spanish Aggregates Federation (FdA), has presented the first-level results of the Biodiversity Indicators 2024–2025. This marks an important milestone in the sector's collective commitment to sustainability and biodiversity protection.

The present initiative aims to provide with practical tools to assess and monitor biodiversity and ecosystem services across extraction sites. It seeks to develop a set of scalable biodiversity indicators that combine scientific value and are practical and accessible for quarry operators.

The main objective is to generate consistent and comparable biodiversity indicators for monitoring across Europe's aggregate industry, building a shared language of sustainability that helps the sector to demonstrate its environmental added value.

In this first year, 191 valid responses have been collected from 12 European countries. We hope that participation will increase in the coming phases and years, further demonstrating the sector's strong commitment to the development of sound environmental practices.

**We have collected questionnaire responses  
from twelve different countries.**





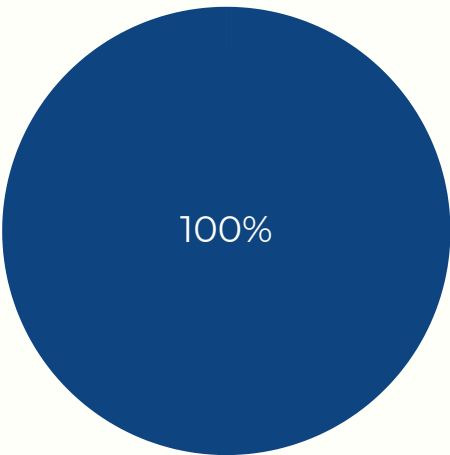
## General Information

### (1) Do you have a quarry cartography?

All surveyed quarrying sites (100%) reported the existence of mining site cartography, either in digital or physical formats, demonstrating full compliance with spatial documentation standards.

This implies that all the sites maintain detailed mapping of their concession and exploitation areas, which may include GIS systems, CAD plans, or annotated maps. Such documentation is critical for monitoring operational boundaries, planning restoration efforts, and ensuring regulatory compliance.

**This 100% coverage highlights a strong sector-wide commitment to responsible land management and spatial transparency.**

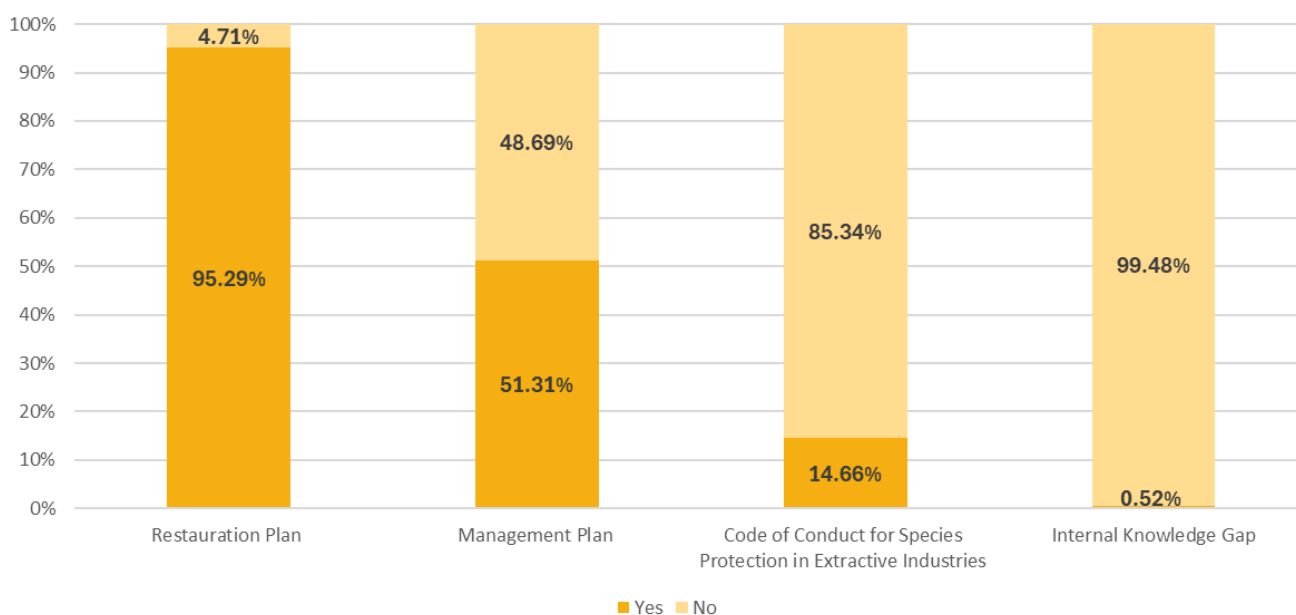


- Mining site cartography (100%)
- No Mining site cartography (0%)
- Internal Knowledge Gap (0%)

# Restoration and Biodiversity Management Plan

## (2) Do you manage nature inside the concession area?

A significant majority of quarrying sites (95.29%) report having a Restoration Plan, which is a legal requirement in extractive activities aimed at rehabilitating impacted ecosystems. Slightly more than half (51.31%) also implement Management Plans, while 14.66% adhere to the Code of Conduct for Species Protection in Extractive Industries. Notably, a small percentage of respondents indicated a lack of knowledge on the Restoration Plan regarding these obligations, suggesting gaps in internal understanding. This underlines the importance of assigning technically trained personnel in environmental and biodiversity matters, or providing specific training to improve the accuracy of such assessments.



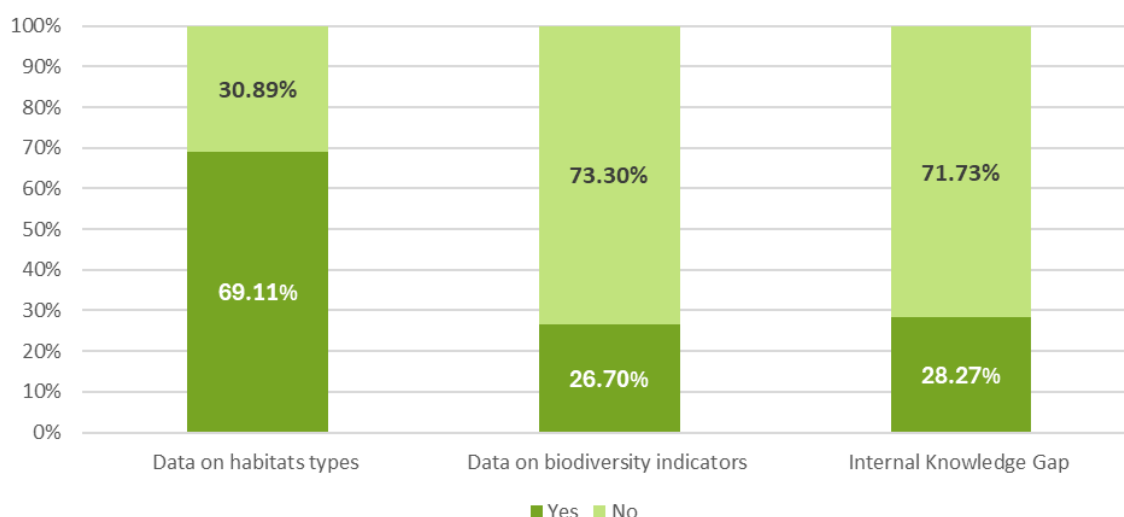
**Strengthening environmental competence among staff is key to ensuring reliable data and full compliance with ecological responsibilities.**



## Protection of Species and Habitats



### (3) Do you have data on natural habitats and/or biodiversity in the site?

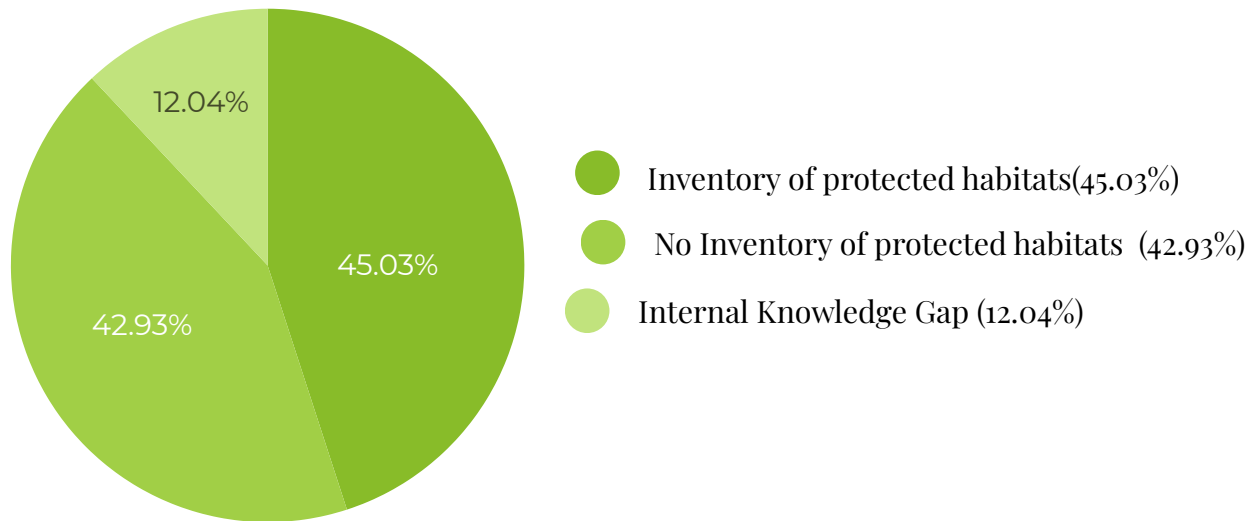


A large proportion of quarrying sites (69.11%) already collect data on habitat types, forming a strong foundation for understanding and preserving natural ecosystems. Furthermore, over a quarter (26.70%) gather biodiversity indicators, supporting efforts to track species diversity and ecological change.

The presence of a 28.27% internal knowledge gap highlights an opportunity to further engage personnel in environmental monitoring practices. This suggests that with targeted training or the involvement of staff specialized in ecology or biodiversity, data quality and coverage could be further strengthened.

**Fostering technical capacity in this area will enhance informed environmental stewardship across the sector.**

#### (4) Does the site have an inventory of protected habitats?

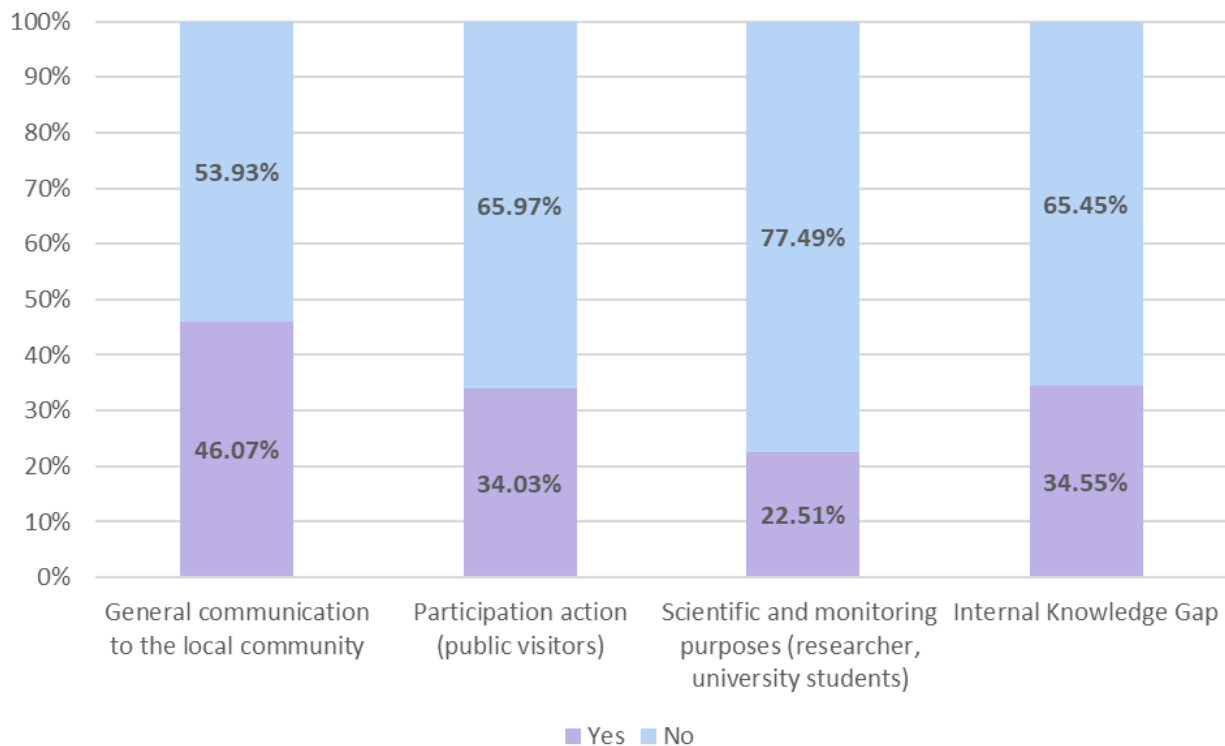


Nearly half of the quarrying sites (45.03%) already maintain an inventory of protected habitats, which is a key step toward ensuring effective conservation and regulatory compliance. This foundational effort enables better monitoring, planning, and safeguarding of ecologically sensitive areas within concession boundaries. Meanwhile, 42.93% have yet to develop such inventories, and 12.04% show internal knowledge gaps, which may reflect opportunities for improved awareness or communication. These figures point to a promising level of engagement while highlighting the potential for growth through targeted environmental training.

**Expanding knowledge and strengthening internal coordination can help ensure protected habitats are consistently identified and managed across all sites.**



## (5) Does the site engage with local community?



Almost, half of the sites (46.07%) engage in general communication with the local community, laying a solid foundation for transparency and awareness. A smaller share (34.03%) go further by enabling public participation through visits or educational events, while 22.51% collaborate with researchers or students for scientific purposes. However, 34.55% of responses reveal an internal knowledge gap, which suggests that some communication efforts may not be fully documented or widely known within the organization. These figures reflect a growing recognition of the importance of outreach and dialogue with society. **Step by step, the sector is embracing more open and inclusive communication, showing real progress toward stronger social engagement and acceptance.**

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