

Imerys France: A breeding ground for bee-eaters



At its Clérac rehabilitated quarries in the Charente basin in south-west France, Imerys has welcomed an unlikely visitor – the beautiful European bee-eater. The site has become a breeding ground for these rare birds, helping bring the species back from the brink of extinction.



Credit: L. Alain

European bee-eaters arrived at the site in the 1990s.



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The birds create metre-long nest chambers in the former quarry's clay and sand.



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Bee-eaters can eat over 1,000 honeybees during a breeding season, but also enjoy snacking on dragonflies.