



June 4, 2010

Factsheet

Holcim's contribution to the IUCN Conservation Centre

Holcim Ltd and Holcim Switzerland are proud to have supported the construction of the new IUCN Conservation Centre through substantial financial and in-kind donations. The in-kind donations include CO₂-reduced cement; standard, recycled, and insulating concrete; and associated technical services.

Holcim CO₂-reduced cement was used throughout the building. For this cement, part of the clinker (manufactured in an energy-intensive kiln process) was replaced with high-quality limestone. To further reduce CO₂ levels, high-quality fly ash was used as a substitute for part of the cement in the concrete mix.

Recycled concrete was used for all slabs except the foundation slab. This represents forty percent of the concrete used in the building. Recycled concrete is concrete made with crushed demolition concrete as aggregate. The demolition material for the recycled concrete used in this building came from a building demolished a few kilometers from Gland.

The monumental column at the entrance and the rectangular core for the entrance stair are made of insulating concrete because these walls alternate as interior and exterior walls. The engineers sought a single material to serve simultaneously as structure and insulation, and insulating concrete was found to be the most cost-effective solution. These two structural elements, which support the Holcim Think Tank above, also provide earthquake resistance.

Insulating concrete is a young technology still in development at Holcim Switzerland. For the IUCN Conservation Centre, Holcim supported the structural engineers at INGENI SA Geneve to conduct many tests and studies to verify the strength and the casting behavior of the concrete. Core samples were taken to verify the density and compressive strength. Holcim will continue to study the properties of insulating concrete, especially long-time creep, shrinkage, and behavior under permanent load.

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Holcim is one of the world's leading suppliers of cement and aggregates (crushed stone, gravel and sand) as well as further activities such as ready-mix concrete and asphalt including services. The Group holds majority and minority interests in around 70 countries on all continents. Holcim Switzerland, the Group's Swiss subsidiary, employs some 1,300 people and attaches great importance on professional support of its customers regarding appliance of the products and logistics.

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