



# Czatkowice Limestone Mine

## Mining activity in complicated environmental and spatial conditions



This case is about mineral exploration

### SCALE

Regional

### EXTENSION OF THE QUARRY

48 hectares (81 hectares with buffer zone)

### TYPE OF MINING

Open-pit mining

### MINERAL RESOURCES

Industrial limestone



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In the Czatkowice Limestone Mine (Małopolska Province, southern Poland), owned by the TAURON Group, works associated with the preparation of the area for mining from a new deposit have been launched. The investment located across the area of 48 hectares guarantees a possibility of extraction in the mine until 2060. The sorbents produced by the mine are mainly used by power plants and combined heat and power plants in modern flue gas purification technologies. Currently, the Czatkowice Limestone Mine produces approximately 40% (available on the domestic market) of sorbents used for flue gas desulfurization. The expansion of exploitation was related to the complicated local environmental conditions associated with the occurrence of a landscape park (the new part of the deposit is located at the park's boundary), a natural reserve, a Natura 2000 area, a Monastery Complex and drinking water intakes. Starting the mining activity required many activities related to the abolition of an extraction ban in the landscape park, obtaining an environmental decision and changes of local spatial planning documents. While implementing the investment, the company simultaneously mitigates the environmental impact. These activities included, among others, the creation of approximately 33 hectares of a protective belt in the form of plantings, around the north-eastern border of the deposit extension, and establishing migration corridors for bats. Following the completion of the investment in 2060, the whole area of the excavation (both the current exploited area and a new one), i.e. approximately 120 hectares, will be reclaimed (forest direction).

