

COMMITMENT: MINE CLOSURE

Mining makes way for forests or how Orano is successfully making the most of its land assets in France

How does one go about converting former uranium mines into responsibly and sustainably managed areas of ecological land? This is one of the missions of Orano's Mine Closure teams. To manage its estate of more than 1,300 hectares of forest land, the group has in particular opted for the deployment of a Simple Management Plan.



Remediated open pit mine of Puy de l'Age (Limousin, France)

Uranium mining in France came to end in 2001 with the closure of the last site at Jouac in the Haute-Vienne, the economically mineable deposits of uranium having been exhausted. Since then, certain of these sites have already been transformed into a natural state of vegetation. After all, the aim is not to leave these considerable land assets under the group's ownership in a brownfield state or abandoned. The action taken by Orano's mining subsidiary on the contrary consists of ensuring that this forest land is managed in a coordinated and sustainable way.

Orano has accordingly launched a major program for the reconversion and remediation of all its former mining sites. In total, more than 35% of these sites have been transformed into areas of ecological and/or forest land, with an extremely rich biodiversity.

To manage this land sustainably, Orano has opted for the deployment of a Simple Management Plan (*Plan Simple de Gestion - P.S.G.*). This tool makes it possible to schedule and plan the felling operations and works to be carried out over a 10-year period by defining forestry objectives.

Replant selecting sustainable and noble species

During the process of rehabilitation, the operator's aim is to replant the site with sustainable and noble species. On the environmental front, the specialists are going to favor endemic

species during the plantation phase to maintain the biological diversity of forests.

These professionals are also going to insist upon maintenance operations being carried out to ensure that the forest does not close in on itself during its growth phase. They will also choose to carry out rationalized felling operations where possible in order to ensure that ecosystems are maintained.

This combination of species makes it possible to facilitate the integration of the former site into the environment and the surrounding landscape.

Respect the environment and the needs of local stakeholders across the whole of a forest's life cycle and to ensure the economic viability of forest areas.

Thanks to its network of experts and professionals, Orano thus manages its forests sustainably, with PEFC certification (Pan European Forest Certification) of its woodlands, and in consultation with municipal communities.

Currently, 763 hectares are under management using a Simple Management Plan (P.S.G.). In 2020, 535 additional hectares in Haute Vienne have been added to the forest management program thus bringing the total surface area of French forest for which Orano is responsible to approximately 1,300 hectares.