Developing a practical decision support tool (DST) for the application of gentle remediation options

Andy Cundy[1], Kene Onwubuya[1], Paul Bardos[1,2], Markus Puschenreiter[3], Nele Witters[4], Jaco Vangronsveld[4], Michel Mench[5] and Ingo Mueller[6].

[1] School of Environment and Technology, University of Brighton, Brighton, UK.
[2] r3 Environmental Technology Ltd., Reading, UK.
[3] University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), A-3430 Tulln, Austria.
[4] Centre for Environmental Sciences, Hasselt University, D 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium.
[5] UMR BIOGECO INRA 1202, University of Bordeaux 1, F-33405 Talence, France.
[6] Saxon State Agency for Environment and Geology, D-01109 Dresden, Germany.

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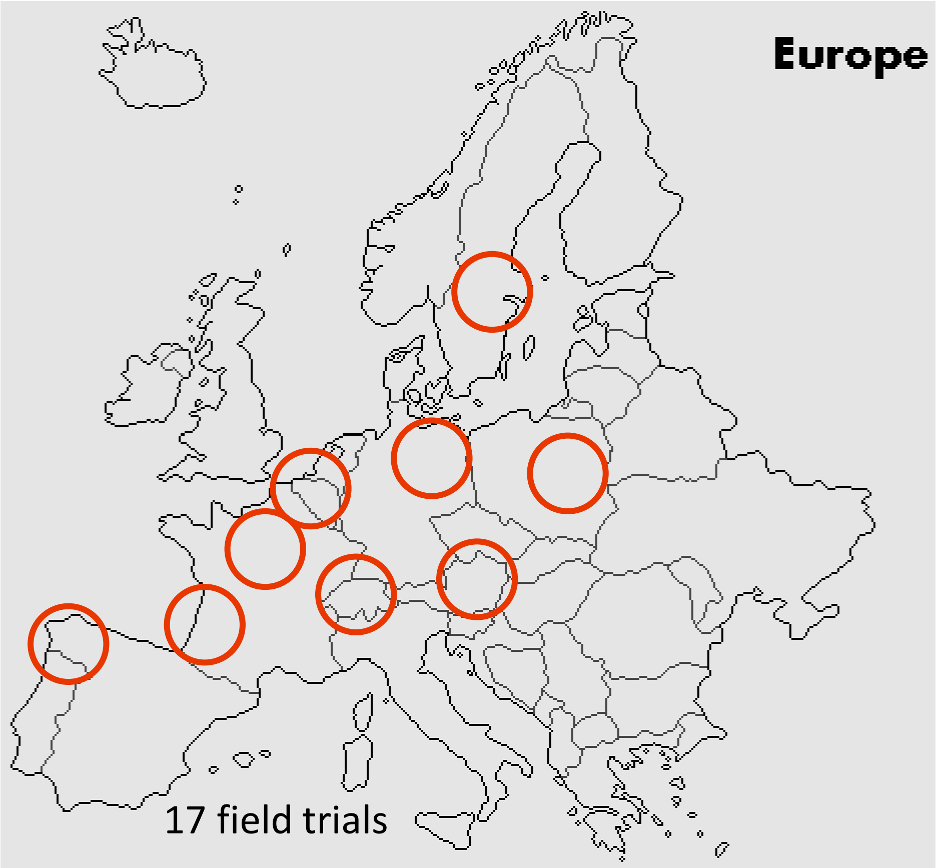
GREENLAND – Gentle remediation of trace element contaminated land*: Project Objectives



- Assess the efficiency tested in long-term (> 5 year duration) field trials
- Test the possibilities for biomass valorisation
- Evaluation of a set of soil tests to assess GRO performance
- Enhance the efficiency of GRO (e.g. by selection of most effective plants, microbes, and soil amendments)
- **Development of a decision support system, stakeholder engagement guidance, and publication of a guide for practical application**

* FP7-KBBE-266124; 2011-2014

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Contents and context

- “Gentle” remediation options (GROs) offer strong benefits in terms of deployment costs and sustainability for a range of problems, however, awareness and take up is low

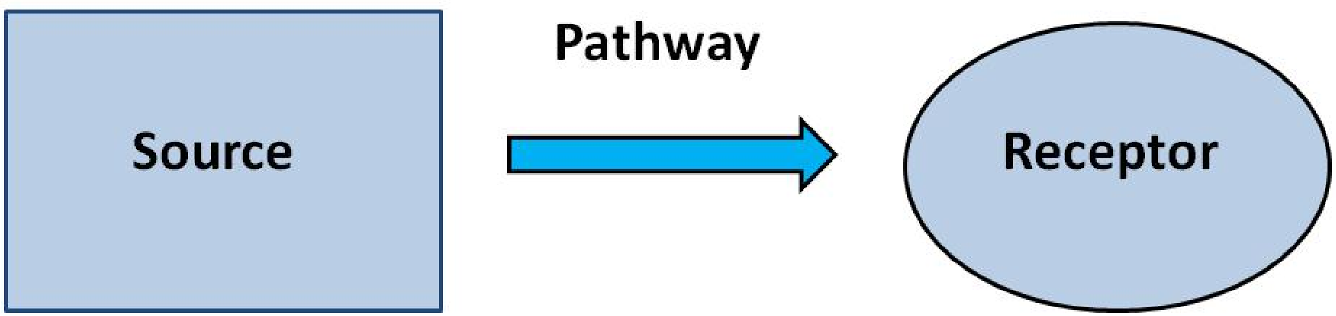
- Decision support tools could help, but the take up and acceptance of bespoke systems by stakeholders, such as specialist softwares, is low.

- Greenland is therefore adopting a transparent and simple framework for promoting the appropriate use of gentle remediation options and encouraging participation of stakeholders, supplemented by a set of specific design aids for use when GROs appear to be a viable option

Gentle remediation options - GRO

Risk management strategies/techniques that result in no gross reduction (or a net gain) in soil functionality as well as risk management.

Encompass a number of technologies which include the use of plant (phyto-), fungal (myco-) or microbiologically-based methods, with or without chemical additives, for reducing contaminant transfer to local receptors by *in situ* stabilisation or extraction of contaminants

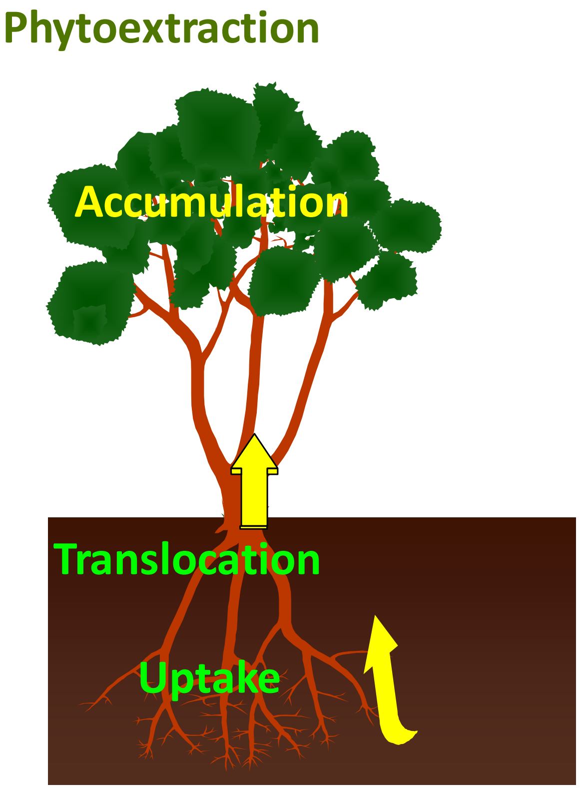


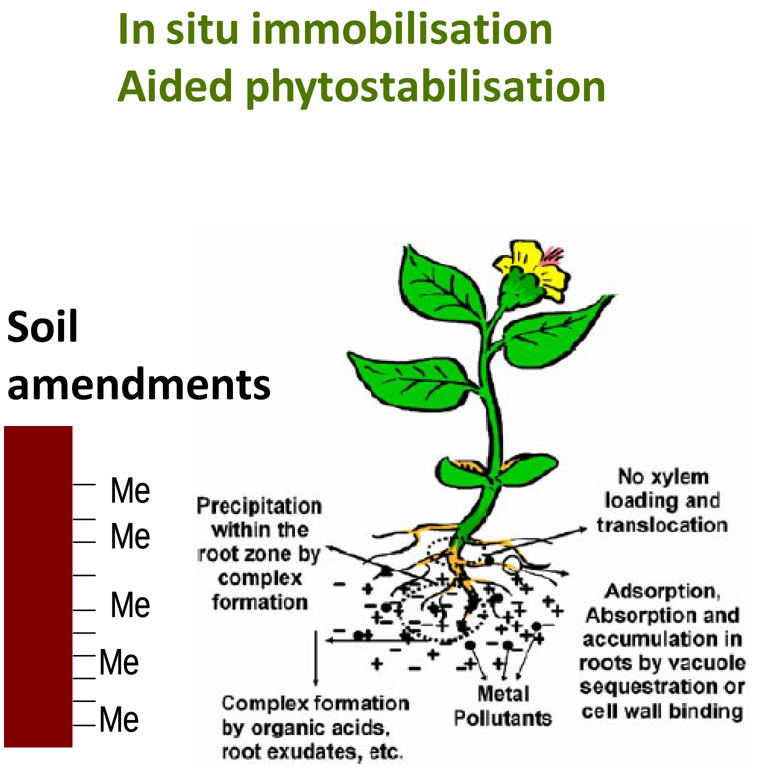
Source "control"

Pathway Management

Receptor protection

Gentle remediation options - GRO





Subject of intensive research and development over a number of years.

BUT application of GRO as practical site solutions on trace element contaminated sites is still in its relative infancy.

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Gentle remediation options - GRO

Number of barriers to the wider adoption of GRO relate to stakeholder awareness and confidence, such as:

(1) stakeholder uncertainty relating to their time-scale and effectiveness as risk management methods;
(2) (within Europe at least) the issue that GRO services are offered by relatively few consultants and contractors, which has limited their availability, and
(3) there is limited awareness of their role as practical site solutions.

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Gentle remediation options - GRO

Hence, GROs are often simply excluded from decision making.

Effective stakeholder engagement, coupled with efficient and simple decision support, is therefore a key principle in the successful adoption and application of GROs (and in ensuring that the full wider economic and other benefits of GRO methods are realised).

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Key output of the Greenland project is to develop and trial / evaluate practical decision support (based on Greenland and other case studies), focussed on GRO, which can be integrated into existing, well-established and utilised (national) DSTs / decision-frameworks, to ensure ease of operation and wide usage.

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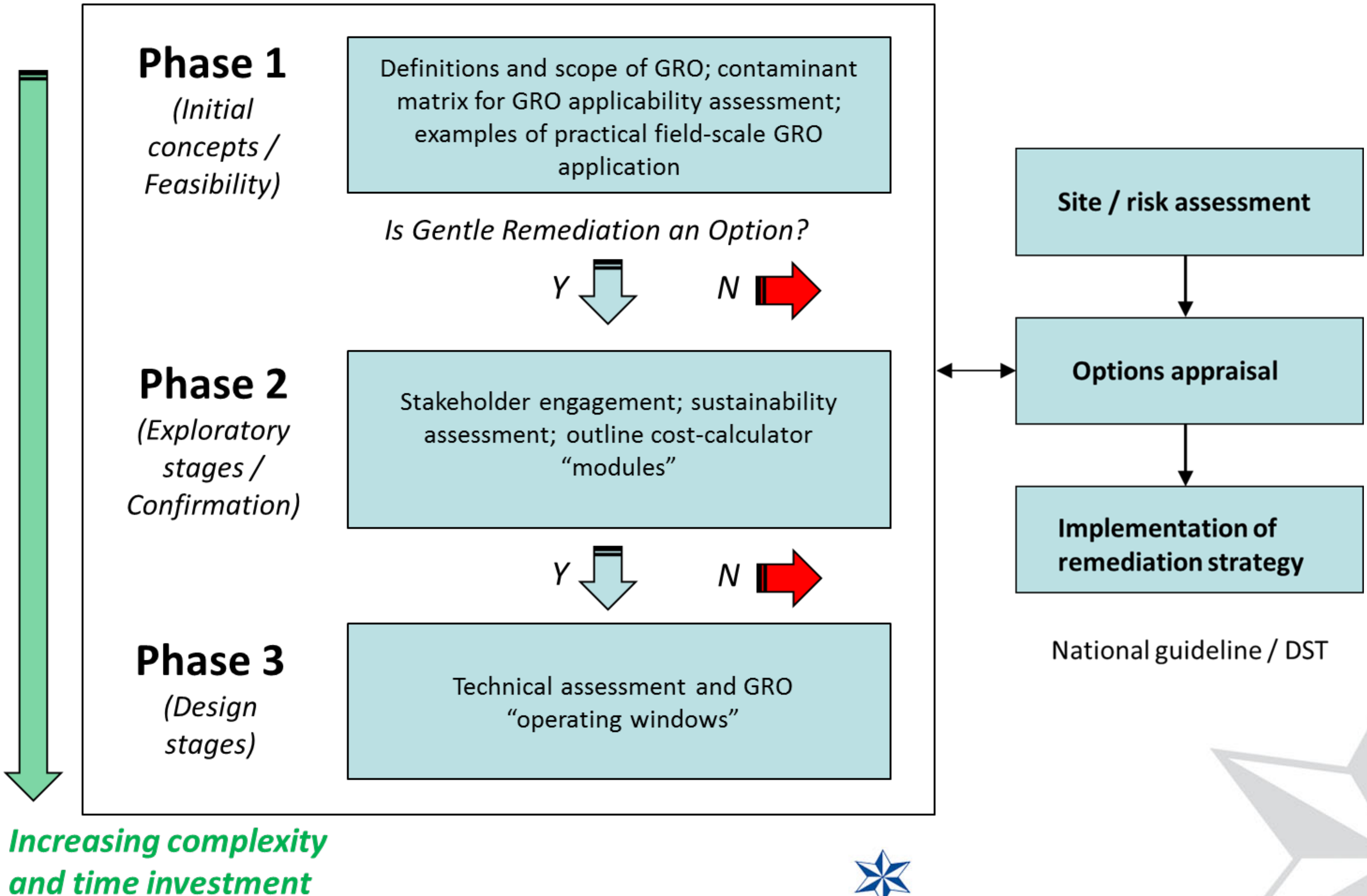
Greenland decision support framework



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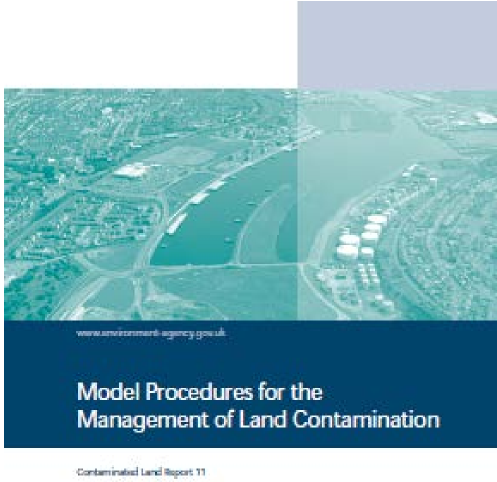
Documenting the decision support framework

This simple tiered framework has been provided in an *MS Excel* format, and tested using Lommel (BE) and Biogeco (FR) Greenland sites, plus Olympics redevelopment (London). Based on model developed in Onwubuya et al (2009)

Format is compatible with CLR11, but portability to other countries also assessed (Germany and Sweden initially).



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Developing decision support tools for the selection of "gentle" remediation approaches

Kene Onwubuya [a], Andrew Cundy [a,*], Markus Puschenreiter [b], Jurate Kumpiene [c], Brian Bone [d], Jon Greaves [d], Phillip Teasdale [a], Michel Mench [e], Pavel Tlustos [f], Sergey Mikhalovsky [a], Steve Waite [a], Wolfgang Friesl-Hanl [g], Bernd Marschner [h], Ingo Müller [i]

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Additional tools supporting Phase 1 (Feasibility)

Definitions

Scope and risk management capability (High Level Operating Windows)

Practical examples

Contaminant matrix

GRO	Definition
Phytoextraction	The removal of metals or organics from soils by accumulating them in the biomass of plants. When aided by use of soil amendments, this is termed aided phytoextraction.
Phytodegradation / phytotransformation	The use of plants (and associated microorganisms such as root-zone bacteria) to uptake, store and degrade organic pollutants.
Rhizodegradation	The use of plant roots and associated root-zone microorganisms to degrade organic pollutants.
Rhizofiltration	The removal of pollutants from aqueous sources by plant roots and associated microorganisms.
Phytostabilisation	Reduction in the bioavailability of pollutants by immobilizing or binding them to the soil matrix and / or living or dead biomass in the soil. When aided by use of soil amendments, this is termed aided phytostabilisation.
Phytovolatilisation	Use of plants to take pollutants from the growth matrix, transform them and release them into the atmosphere.
In situ immobilisation / phytoexclusion	Reduction in the bioavailability of pollutants by immobilizing or binding them to the soil matrix through the incorporation into the soil of organic or inorganic compounds, singly or in combination. Phytoexclusion, the implementation of a stable vegetation cover using plants which do not extract contaminants can be combined with *in situ* immobilisation.

Phase 1 (Feasibility)

Definitions

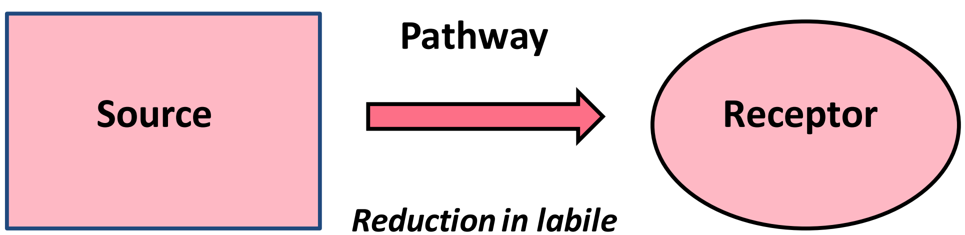
Scope and risk management capability (High Level Operating Windows)

Practical examples

Contaminant matrix

Key questions:
Does the site require immediate redevelopment (< 1 year)
Are your local regulatory guidelines based on total soil concentration values?
Is the site under hard-standing, or has buildings under active use?
Do you require biological functionality of the soil after site treatment?
Is the treatment area large, and contaminants are present but not at strongly elevated level
Is the economic case for intervention and use of "hard" remediation strategies marginal?
Are you redeveloping the site for soft end-use (biomass generation, urban parkland etc)?

GRO-based risk management strategy, tailored along contaminant linkage model.



Gradual removal or immobilisation of source term

Reduction in labile pool, rapid reduction in flux of contaminants to receptors at significant risk

Using vegetation to manage receptor access to the subsurface

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Phase 1 (Feasibility)

Definitions

Scope and risk management capability (High Level Operating Windows)

Practical examples

Contaminant matrix

Site name	Biogeco	GRO type	(Aided)phytostabilization
Location	Saint-Médard d'Eyrans, France	Origin of soil contamination	wood washings (start: 1846 – partly closed:)
Site type	wood preservation site	Implementation of field trial	start: 2006 – end:
Current land use	brownfield, storage of building materials	Duration (actual or expected)	actual:9 years
End land use	phytomanaged area	Surface area	10 ha (2 fenced plots,150 m² for each)

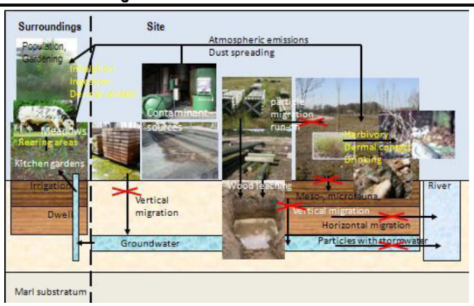
Soil characteristics	Initial values	Labile pool* untreated	best treatment	Soil pore water$ untreated	Soil pore water Best treatment
pH	7.1			7.16±0.12	7.32±0.11
Sand, silt, clay (%)	85.8 - 8.3 - 5.9			mg C L^{-1}	mg C L^{-1}
Organic C (%)	0.93			29.4±8.8 a	40.9±4.7 a
CEC	3.5	µg L^{-1} (R)	µg L^{-1} (R)	µg L^{-1}	µg L^{-1}
As (mg/kg)	9.8	nd	nd	1.8 ± 0.5a	2.6 ± 0.3b
Cd (mg/kg)	0.12	nd	nd	nd	nd
Cr (mg/kg	23	nd	nd	0.4 ± 0.1a	0.25 ± 0.15a
Cu (mg/kg)	**674**	285±10 (0.54)a	141±10 (0.22)b	519 ± 6a	665 ± 10b
Pb (mg/kg)	27	nd	nd	nd	nd
Zn (mg/kg)	46	5 ± 1 (0.10)a	4 ± 1 (0.15)a	29 ± 3 a	22 ± 4 ab

*diffusion in gel thin $ after 6 years; $: Rhizon moister sampler, after 6 years

Biogeco

Core stakeholder	Function	Remark	Main site operators
Lyonnet SA	Site owner and tenant		BioGeCo
UMR BIOGECO INRA 1202	Site operator		INRA SCIENCE & IMPACT
Dr M Mench et al	Scientists	Scientific driven	
ADEME, Aquitaine Regional Council, EU FP7 Greenland	Funding organization		
Greenland partners	Scientific collaborations		
University of Orléans and Bordeaux	Scientific collaborations	M. Motelica; Ph. Le Coustumer	

Conceptual model and relevant contaminant linkages



Representing long-term in situ stabilization /phytoexclusion trials (Arnoldstein, AT); phytoextraction (Bettwiesen, SW); aided phytostabilisation (Bordeaux, FR)

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Phase 1 (Feasibility)

Definitions

Scope and risk management capability (High Level Operating Windows)

Practical examples

Contaminant matrix

Highlights when research / trials have shown effectiveness at (a) pot/greenhouse and (b) field scale

GRO / Contaminant	Phytoextraction	Phytostabilisation (including aided phytostabilisation)	In situ immobilisation / phytoexclusion
Arsenic	✓	✓	✓
Barium	✗	✗	✗
Cadmium	✓	✓	✓
Chromium	✓	✓	✗
Copper	✓	✓	✓
Lead	✓	✓	✓
Mercury	✓	✓	✗
Nickel	✓	✓	✗
Selenium	✓	✓	✗
Zinc	✓	✓	✗

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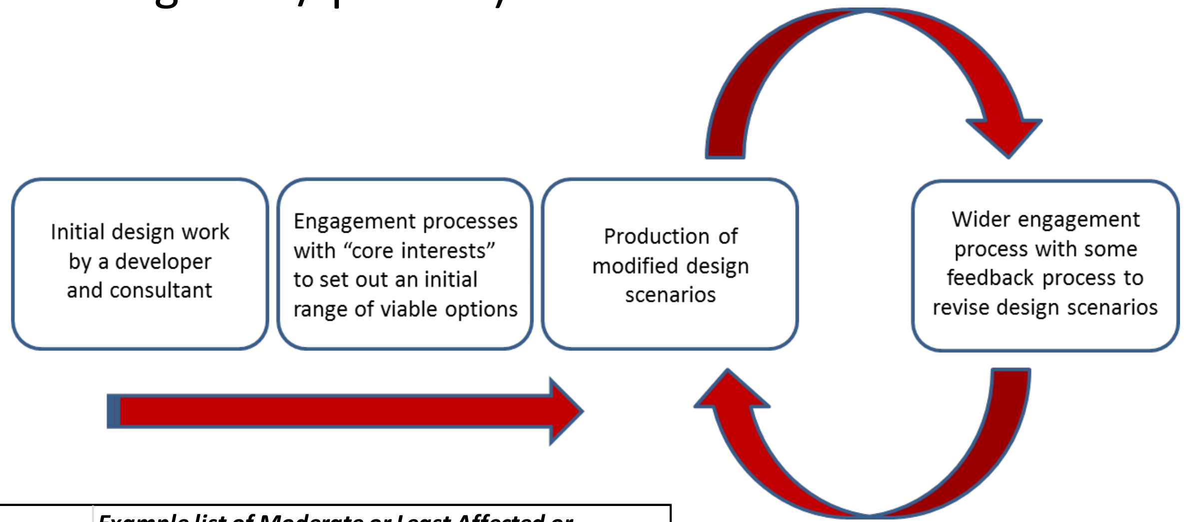
Additional tools supporting Phase 2 (Exploratory stages / Confirmation)

Includes modules on:
Stakeholder engagement (models for engagement, principles of stakeholder engagement and GRO, criteria for the identification of different stakeholders categories / profiles)



Example list of Most Affected or Affecting ("Core") stakeholders	*Example list of Moderate or Least Affected or Affecting ("Non-Core") stakeholders*
	Local community
Developer (i.e. the individual or organisation seeking to develop the land area for alternative use)	Investors
Site Owner (i.e. the legal owner of the site)	Insurers
Regulator (i.e. the local, regional or national body responsible for…..)	Campaigning groups
Planner (……)	Future site users
Service provider (i.e. the contractor or consultant providing the remediation or regeneration service)	Local and regional press
Current and future site users (e.g. biomass producers)	Conservation bodies
Local authorities as owner, financer, regulator	Biomass / bioproduct users
	Recreational users
	Scientific community

From: Cundy A.B., R.P.Bardos, A.Church, M.Puschenreiter, W.Friesl-Hanl, I.Mueller, S.Neu, M.Mench, N.Witters and J.Vangronsveld, 2013. Developing principles of sustainability and stakeholder engagement for "gentle" remediation approaches: the European context. *Journal of Environmental Management*, **129**, 283-291.

Additional tools supporting Phase 2 (Exploratory stages / Confirmation)

Includes modules on:
Sustainability assessment (economic, environmental and social benefits, linking to the HOMBRE DST, and links to SURF-UK indicator sets)

SERVICE

Examples……

INTERVENTION

Examples

	Intervention **strongly contributes** to delivery of this service
	Intervention **contributes some and/ or indirect benefits** in delivering this service
	Intervention **may contribute or be detrimental** to delivery of service depending on site specific circumstances including management/design
	No influence - ***potential to apply complimentary intervention with further services and added value as output***
	Intervention **may be detrimental to** delivery of this service if not managed/designed appropriately
!	In the event a brownfield site/part of a brownfield site is classified by a regulator as contaminated - appropriate risk mitigation must form part of the redevelopment strategy for the borwnfield site
^	Negative influence/s could be negated with appropriate management/design

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Additional tools supporting Phase 2 (Exploratory stages / Confirmation)

Sustainability assessment module (Onwubuya 2013)

Sustainability Elements	Source Parameters	Information Sources	Key Decisions
Environment	**Procedure 1** Use SURF framework and retrieve headline indicators	Procedure 1. SURF-UK: indicator descriptions	**Procedure 1** In order to establish and consider possible impacts that a remediation option (s) may have on the environment, a semi-quantitative assessment approach can be utilised in form of a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA). Sustainability indicators (as detailed in the SURF indicator) should be identified using the information source (weblink) provided. The indicators to be considered can then be ranked in form of greater or lesser importance (e.g. 3 - High /2-Medium/1-Low weighting), and then scored (out of 5). A ranking order can then be established accordingly to show most suitable to least suitable technology. **Procedure 2** This step can be considered in tandem with Procedure 1 or afterwards if additional information is deemed necessary. A more complicated LCA quantitative assessment can be carried out. An LCA inventory should be collated using any of the applicable sources outlined in the web address provided and full life cycle analysis carried out. This, however, is a resource hungry process and requires huge time investment . **Following the review of the indicators, all applicable indicators should be considered during DST selection.**
	Procedure 2 Outline various parameters that may be considered in a typical LCA procedure. Information will be retrieved from source which will be highlighted in the 'information sources' column. Utilises EPA sponsored website LCAccess which provides abundance information regarding Life cycle inventory data sources. The primary focus of this source is on LCI databases and LCI data providers. Follow link provided in the 'information sources column	Procedure 2 http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/std/lca/lca.html	

Similar produced for Economic and Social indicators – utilises SuRF sustainability indicators (semi-quantitative ranking system, Procedure 1) followed by web-links to more resource-hungry quantitative analysis (LCA etc for "Environment" and "Economic" indicators) as needed

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Additional tools supporting Phase 2 (Exploratory stages / Confirmation)

Includes modules on:
Outline cost calculator (user-entered cost data – allows estimation of economic value proposition of GRO). Module "calibrated" using data from Greenland sites - use to test the cost calculator and give input examples

General Site Information		
Name of site		
Country		
Site type		
Site coordinates		
Distance to crop supplier		km
Distance to biomass processor		km
Size of site		m²
	0	ha
Depth of contamination		m
Density soil		ton/m³
Total weight per ha	0	ton
Discount rate	4	%

General contamination information		
Extraction (0) or stabilisation (1)?	1	
Define metal(s):		
Concentration in soil	1	
Concentration in solution		
Start:		
Start concentration		mg/kg soil
Contamination in soil	0	kg/ha
stabilisation for how long?	15	years

General Plant Information		
Plant used		
Rotation speed of crop	1	year
Remediated surface/plant		m²/plant
	0	ha/plant
Kg of dry mass per harvest per ha		Kg DM/ha
Of which ...% is in		
Plant part 1	plant part 1	
% of total biomass plant part 1	100	
Plant part 2	plant part 2	
% of total biomass plant part 2		
Plant part 3	plant part 3	
% of total biomass plant part 3		
Plant part 4	plant part 4	
% of total biomass plant part 4		
Plant part 5	plant part 5	
% of total biomass plant part 5		
Extraction in mg/kg DM per harvest per part, only for extraction		
plant part 1		mg/kg DM
plant part 2		mg/kg DM
plant part 3		mg/kg DM
plant part 4		mg/kg DM
plant part 5		mg/kg DM

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Additional tools supporting Phase 3 (Design Stages)

Detailed operating windows

Technical datasets and design / implementation guidance

GREENLAND: FP7-KBBE-266124

Appendix 6: Stakeholder engagement guidelines for application of "gentle" remediation approaches (GROs).

Introduction

Definitions and key concepts

Stakeholder engagement is a broad inclusive and continuous process between a project and those potentially affected by it. The World Bank (2012) describes the aims of stakeholder engagement as building up and maintaining an open and constructive relationship with stakeholders and thereby facilitating a project's management of its operations, including its environmental and social effects and risks. Effective stakeholder engagement is also seen as reducing key remediation project risks, for example failure to gain acceptance and delays due to antagonistic relationships; and also as means of reducing project management costs and timescale (RESCUE 2005; REVIT 2007).

Need for stakeholder engagement when applying GRO.

Stakeholder involvement has been identified as a key requirement for the optimal application of sustainable remediation strategies (CL:AIRE, 2011), and in site regeneration more widely (REVIT, 2007; RESCUE, 2005). Effective and sustained stakeholder engagement is critical to the acceptance of GROs, particularly for larger

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Aim is to produce practical, usable tool to interface with existing DSTs (e.g. HOMBRE) and national guidance…….

Aims to communicate the potential wider benefits and risk management capabilities of GRO, supported by information on large-scale examples of successful GRO application, presented in a robust and non-technical way

This is an area where demonstrator sites (e.g. the Greenland case studies and others) can make a significant contribution to decision support via providing evidence on the effectiveness of GRO under varying site contexts and conditions – "windows of opportunity"

DST is currently being validated by the GREENLAND project advisory board (representing key regulators) and contaminated land consultants in workshop events, finalisation date December 2014

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