



From Legacy to Lifecycle

Resilient Contaminated Land Management for Climate, Nature and Water.

Contaminated land management is undergoing a fundamental transition. While the traditional focus has been on reducing risks to human health and the environment through remediation, today's challenges—including climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and resource depletion—require a broader approach. Increasingly, contaminated and legacy sites are being viewed through the lens of land stewardship, where remediation is integrated with climate resilience, nature recovery, sustainable water management, circular resource use and long-term site value. This shift calls for new ways of thinking that connect technical innovation, policy, finance and societal expectations across the full site lifecycle.

This workshop will explore how contaminated land management can become a model of resilient and sustainable land stewardship. Through four interconnected sessions, participants will examine the technical, commercial, regulatory and societal considerations and developments that contribute to the realisation of robust sustainable outcomes.

1. Technical Solutions and Practical Experiences for Sustainable and Resilient Contaminated Land Management

The management of contaminated land is evolving beyond traditional remediation towards a more integrated approach that supports sustainable land use, environmental resilience, and long-term stewardship. Achieving this transition requires innovative technical solutions, practical experience, and robust evidence from real-world applications.

This session will showcase advances in technology, research, and implementation that contribute to more sustainable contaminated land management. We welcome contributions from across the project lifecycle, including site investigation, risk assessment, remediation, redevelopment, monitoring, and long-term management. Particular emphasis will be placed on lessons learned, demonstrated outcomes, and approaches that can be applied across different environmental and regulatory contexts.

We welcome abstracts addressing one or more of the following themes:

- Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Remediation - Practical remediation solutions that both reduce environmental footprint and remain effective under future climate conditions.
- Nature-Based Solutions, Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement - Technical applications and case studies demonstrating how remediation can deliver ecological and biodiversity benefits alongside risk reduction.
- Circular Economy Approaches for Contaminated Land - Technologies, risk-management approaches and practical experiences supporting safe reuse of materials and reduction of waste.
- Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Long-Term Land Management - Emerging technologies, novel assessment and remediation approaches, and integrated strategies that support sustainable site management over the long term.

2. Aligning Commercial Value with Sustainable Land Reuse

Delivering resilient contaminated land management is not only a technical and environmental challenge, but also a commercial and financial one. The transition from legacy contamination to sustainable site reuse depends on whether projects can attract investment, manage risk, and demonstrate long-term value for landowners, developers, regulators and communities. This session will explore the financial mechanisms, business cases and market drivers that can unlock redevelopment of contaminated land, including how remediation, climate adaptation, water stewardship and nature recovery can be integrated into viable investment decisions. It will consider how commercial models can move beyond short-term remediation cost to capture wider lifecycle value, support land-use conversion, and enable regeneration that is both environmentally resilient and economically deliverable.

We welcome abstracts addressing one or more of the following themes:

- Financial tools and investment models for contaminated land redevelopment - Exploring public and private funding mechanisms, blended finance, grants, green investment and other models that can unlock complex site regeneration.
- The economic significance of land-use conversion - Examining how remediation can create value through change of land use, increased land value, regeneration potential and alignment with wider economic and CSR development objectives.
- Building the business case for resilient and sustainable remediation - Assessing how climate adaptation, water stewardship, biodiversity enhancement and low-carbon remediation can be incorporated into commercial decision-making and lifecycle cost-benefit analysis.
- Managing financial risk, uncertainty and long-term liability - Considering the commercial implications of residual contamination, emerging contaminants, climate-related risk, future regulatory change and the allocation of liability across the site lifecycle.

3. From Compliance to Outcomes: Regulatory Enablers and Barriers for Sustainable Remediation

As contaminated land management expands beyond compliance-driven risk reduction, regulatory frameworks are increasingly expected to support wider environmental, social, and economic outcomes. However, achieving these objectives often requires navigating complex and sometimes conflicting requirements across multiple policy and regulatory domains. This session will examine how legislation, policy, and governance can enable or constrain sustainable land management and redevelopment. Contributions are invited from regulators, policymakers, practitioners, landowners, and researchers to share experiences, lessons learned, and perspectives on improving regulatory effectiveness, reducing unintended barriers, and creating frameworks that support proportionate, outcome-focused decision-making in contaminated land management.



We welcome abstracts addressing one or more of the following themes:

- Regulatory Innovation and Outcome-Based Decision Making - Legal and regulatory approaches that move beyond prescriptive compliance towards proportionate, risk-based, adaptive, and outcome-focused decision-making.
- Protection of Soil and Water Resources in Regulatory Frameworks - Regulatory approaches for safeguarding soil, groundwater, and surface water resources while enabling sustainable land management.
- Circular Economy, Resource Recovery and Regulatory Coherence - Legal barriers and enabling mechanisms for the safe reuse, recovery, and valorisation of excavated soils, dredged materials, and remediation-derived materials.
- Emerging Regulatory Challenges and Future Policy Directions - Regulatory responses to contaminants of emerging concern, climate-related risks, evolving sustainability expectations, and changing societal priorities.

4. Social Acceptance of Site Change in the Age of Social Media

The successful transition of contaminated and legacy sites into sustainable, resilient assets depends not only on technical excellence but also on public trust, stakeholder engagement and social acceptance. In an era where social media can rapidly shape perceptions, influence policy and amplify community voices, understanding the social dimensions of land stewardship has never been more important.

We invite abstracts that explore the human, social and behavioural aspects of contaminated land management, redevelopment and long-term stewardship. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Building trust, stakeholder engagement and participatory decision-making throughout the site lifecycle.
- Managing public perceptions of contaminated land, including risk communication, social media and misinformation.
- Community-centred redevelopment and restoration, including place-making, nature recovery and community-led initiatives.
- Environmental justice, equity and inclusion in remediation and land management decisions.
- Measuring social value and societal outcomes from site reuse and regeneration.



NICOLE Fall Workshop 2026 in Rotterdam
29 & 30 October 2026

Submission Guidelines and expectations of the organising committee:

Authors are required to submit a **one-page abstract** of what they would like to present, together with an outline of the structure of the presentation and a **short biography**, as well as an indication of preference towards oral presentation or poster, and which session they address from 1 to 4 above. The presentation time is around 20 minutes.

Abstracts that incorporate case studies, or draw on relevant practical examples are encouraged. Abstracts shall be well-written in English, and clearly and concisely outline the information being proposed for presentation. When preparing your abstract, clearly describe the problem or gap your work addresses and highlight what is new or unique about your approach. Summarise your methods and key results, emphasising outcomes that demonstrate the innovation. Share the lessons learned, including the challenges that were overcome or unexpected insights, and explain the potential impact of your work. Keep your writing concise, focused on the workshop themes, and accessible, avoiding unnecessary jargon. Abstracts with an advertising or marketing focus will not be accepted.

The Organising Committee will carefully review all submitted abstracts, determine their relevance, compare it with other proposed presentations, and, if accepted for the program, assign it to an appropriate format and session. Session organisation will be finalised upon final abstract selections. In this process, some valuable abstracts may not be accepted for an oral presentation: in this case, authors may be invited to the poster session, which includes a short speech.

The selected abstracts will be published on the NICOLE Portal after the workshop. By submitting an abstract, you agree to the publication with your name.

Deadlines:

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to [Chayenne van Dijk](#) by **Monday the 14th of September 2026**. Afterwards the organising committee will evaluate the abstracts. The authors of the abstracts will be notified if they have been selected by **the 5th of October 2026**.



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Location:

The workshop will be organised at RDM Next in Rotterdam.
The address is: Scheepsbouwweg 8-Loft, 3089 JW Rotterdam.

Organisation committee members:

Alan Hill – Shell Global Solutions
Angelica Monti – Green Soil Group
Eduardo Alzola – AFESA
Hans Slenders – Arcadis
Horst Herzog – Infrserv
Jessica Prebolin – Collectif Friches
Ken Scally – Normec
Kevin Kuntze – Isodetect
Marissa van de Wijngaard-Frambach - Deltares
Micha van den Boogerd – TAUW
Michela De Camillis – Ramboll
Sander Eskes – ERM
Tatiana Stella – M3R
Yolande Macklin - Jacobs



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