8-3 LOCAL SOIL CONTAMINATION

Contaminated sites can present risks for human health, water resources and ecosystems. In addition, these sites can act as a brake on local economic redevelopment (unattractiveness, the non-use of land zoned for business purposes, etc.). The stakes are high and the regional authorities have made management of local soil contamination one of their priorities.

KEY MESSAGE

According to estimates taking account of all categories of sites covered by legislation (past or current) on soil contamination[1], the number of sites likely to be contaminated in Wallonia would be in the order of 2,700 to 17,700[2], i.e. an average density of 2 to 10 sites/10 km^2, a testimony to Wallonia's industrial past. Since 2013, reference protocols[3] for investigations – from historical studies to risk assessments – and soil remediation have been imposed by legislation, which is continuing to evolve[4]. The soil status database bringing together all information on soil, its potential contamination and its stage of management depends on these to be operational. This strengthening of legislative and management tools has been accompanied since 2005 by a boost in available financial resources via the Marshall and the Marshall 2.green Plans: 369 million euros has been allocated for remediating 60 priority contaminated sites (SARs - sites to be remediated)[5] and a further 205 million euros for remediating 176 priority non- or slightly contaminated SARs[6]. The Marshall 4.0 Plan upholds the importance of completing this work with a view to hosting new business projects.

Evaluation +

Unfavourable but improving situation

[1] Legislation on waste, RGPE, CWATUPE, CoDT, the Walloon Regional Decree (DRW) of 05/12/2008, the IPPC/IED and the SEVESO Directives

[2] Figure including sites with low likelihood of pollution and uncertain data

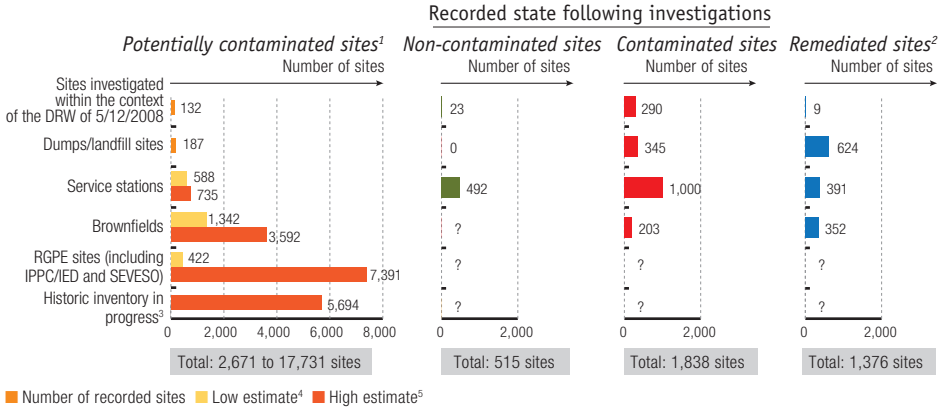
[3] Walloon Compendium of Sampling and Analytical Methods (CWEA) and Walloon Code of Good Practice (CWBP)

[4] Review of DRW of 5/12/2008 and of CWBP in progress

[5] Most of the SARs belong to the brownfield category

[6] → Map 12

Fig. 8-3 Local soil contamination in Wallonia: status of surveyed sites (1/10/2014)



[1] Sites with current or past contaminating activity or a plant likely to contribute to local soil or groundwater contamination [2] Or subject to risk management measures
[3] Vandermaelen maps (edited around 1850); Historical inventory currently being enhanced through other sources [4] Reliable sources, minimum of duplicates
[5] Uncertain data, risk of duplication

EOW 2014 – Sources: SPW - DGO3 - DSD; SPW - DGO4 - DATU; SPAQuE (www.spaque.be)