Common Forum and ICCL activities and approaches on Contaminated Land management

D. DARMENDRAIL
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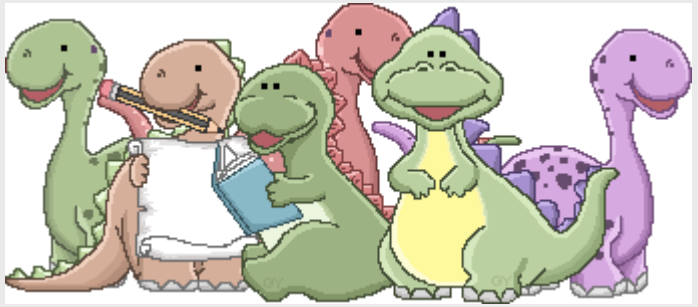
“COMMON FORUM” / ICCL

- Network of contaminated land policy experts and advisors:
  - International scale (since 1993), Europe (since 1994)
- Mission:
  - Being a platform for exchange of knowledge and experiences, for initiating and following-up of international projects among members,
  - Establishing a discussion platform on policy, research, technical and managerial concepts of contaminated land,
  - Offering an exchange of expertise to the European Commission and to European networks.

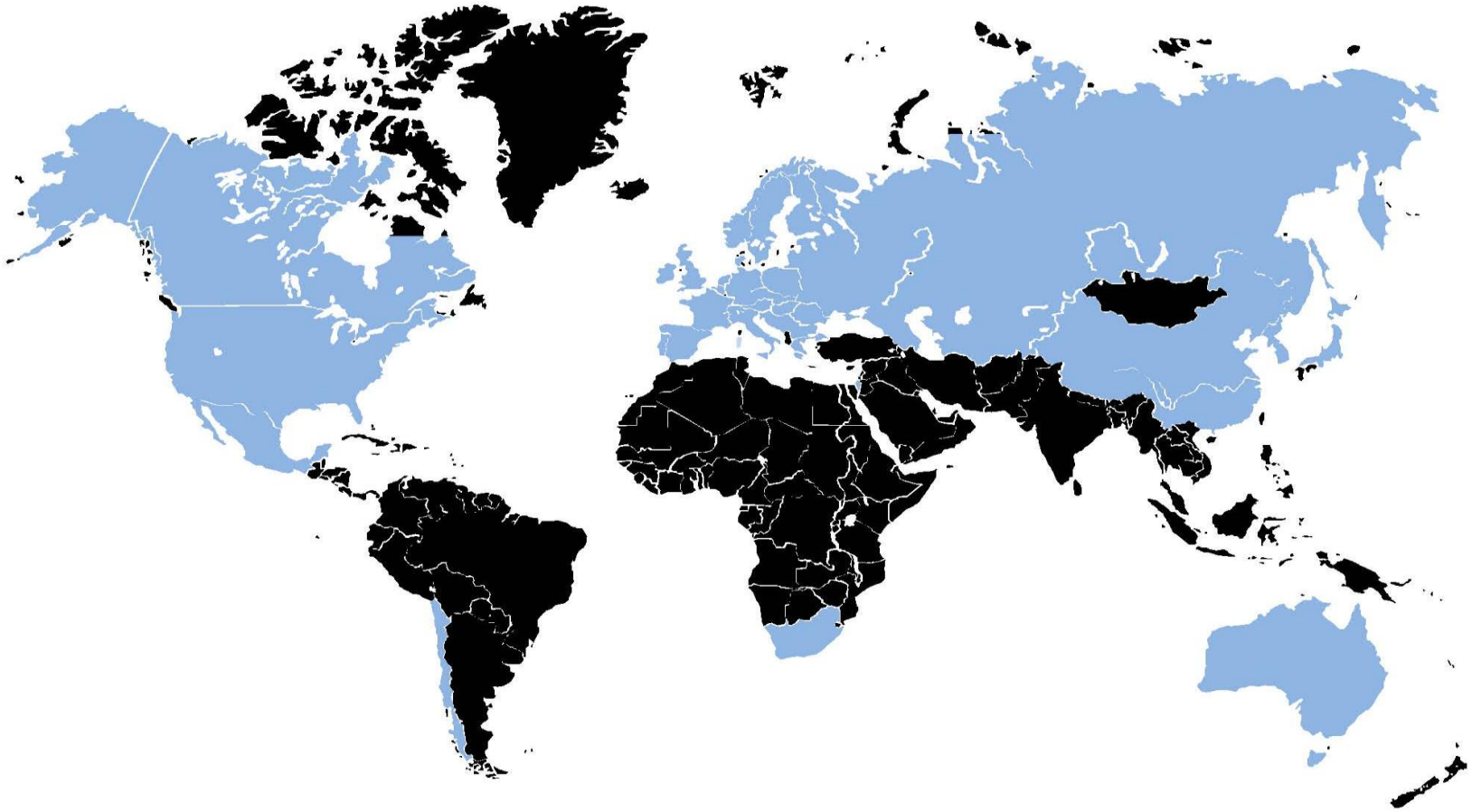
The European and International Networks on contaminated land management

- NATO CCMS (80s – 2007)
- **International Committee on Contaminated Land (since 1993)**
- **Common forum on contaminated land in Europe**
  - CARACAS (1996 – 1998)
  - CLARINET 1998 – 2001)
- NICOLE (since 1996)
- Sednet
- Cabernet
- Eurodemo / Eurodemo+
- SNOWMAN
- IMPEL (Environmentinspectorate)
- SURF 21



- WHO / Contaminated Sites & Health

45 participating countries in ICCL (1993 - 2011)



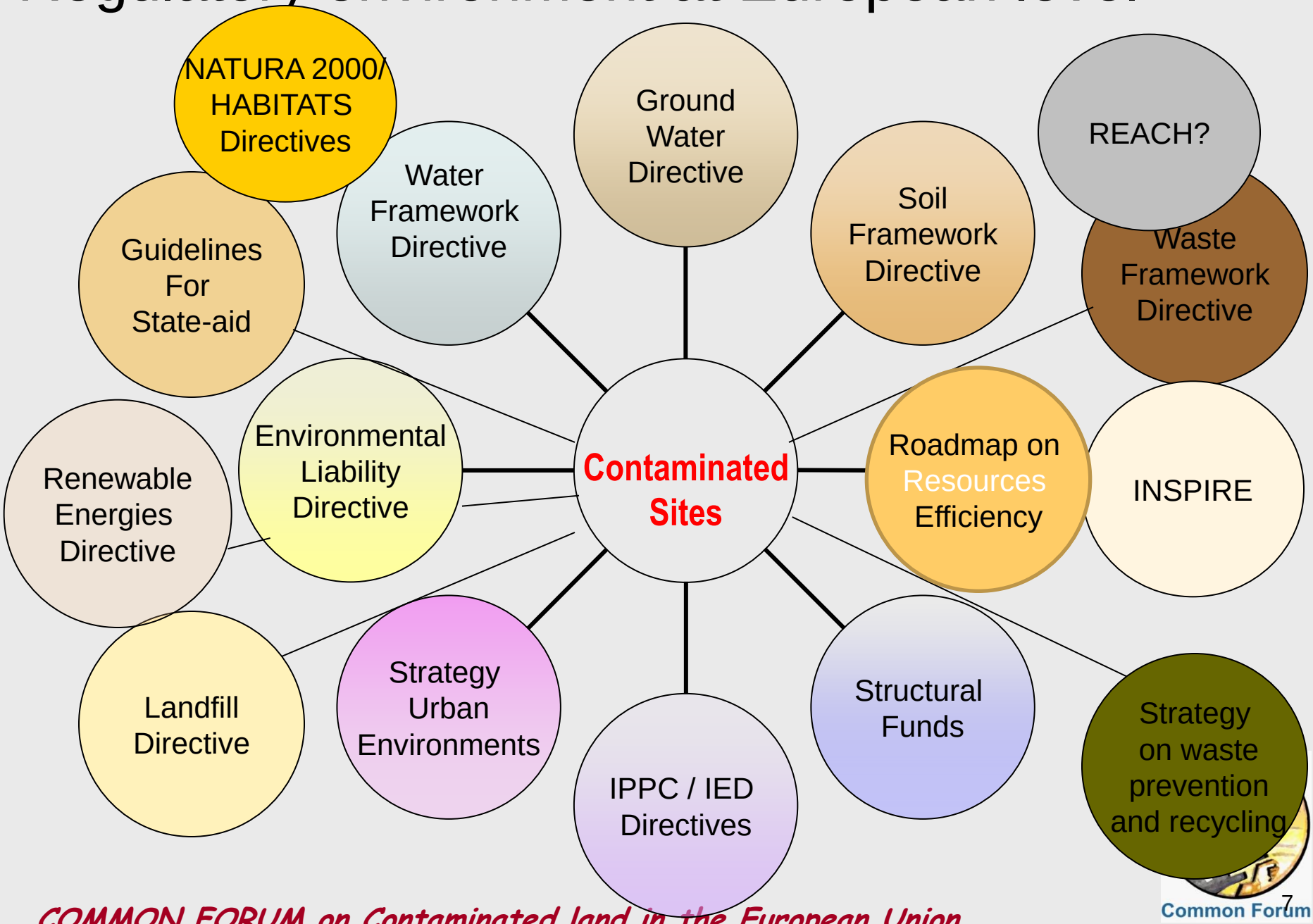
ICCL Washington meeting

- 4 main issues:
  - Integrating contaminated site re-use and remediation strategies (with special emphasis on sustainable remediation concepts);
  - Improving community involvement in site remediation decisions (with special emphasis on site-specific examples);
  - Improving technical communication and collaboration on new challenges for site remediation;
  - Mining site remediation: Legal, technical, financial, and social issues.

Some examples of Common Forum actions

- New concepts for Contaminated land management:
  - Risk based land management (now in place in some EU countries – third generation of legal frameworks)
- Critical analysis of EU Directives proposals
  - Alternative proposal for a Soil Protection Directive
- Proposal of technical guidance documents for EU Directive implementation
- Discussions with researchers:
  - i.e. need for harmonisation

Regulatory environment at European level



Evolution of contaminated land policies at national level

- **First generation: the early days 1980**
  - Drastic risk control, focus on soil contamination
  - systematic approaches (protocols, national inventories)

- **Second generation: contaminated land risk assessment 1990**
  - Possibilities for tailor-made approaches with cost effective investigations
  - Landuse becomes very important in assessment and decision making

- **Third generation: Risk Based Land Management and solution design 2000**
  - Integration with spatial planning, water management, socio-economy
  - Economic development vs. protection of Environment & HH

Managing contaminated sites
Key messages

- **Several dimensions / a single framework**
  - **With legal, technical, financial, organisational tools**
  - Preventing new pollution – Impact Assessment of new projects
  - Operating industrial sites:
    - Preventing Accident / special infrastructures, warning systems, monitoring
    - Reducing emissions / Use of BATNEEC (processing, filtering)
    - Polluter pays principle
    - Act as soon as emission.
  - Legacy pollution:
    - Risk based approach – from RBLM to sustainable land management
    - Use a tiered approach using cost-benefits approach
    - Combining and balancing the three pillars of sustainable remediation

Needs of evolution to meet new challenges 4th generation of policy framework

- Sustainable use of natural resources:
  - consumption of resources should not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment,
  - de-coupling of resource use and waste generation from economic growth.
- Verification of environmental technologies (eco-efficient, evaluated against ‘indicators)
- Life cycle thinking integrated to sector policies
- EU climate and energy targets (“20-20-20”-targets): highly energy-efficient, low carbon economy.
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Contaminated Land Management Milestones

- **Risk Assessment**: investigating and understanding environmental impacts and risks taking a tiered approach
- **Land Management:** designing and implementing actions to reduce negative consequences and ***balance benefits***

WATCH OUT:

- **not trading unacceptable risks against other management objectives & aspects**

Contaminated Land Management Principles

- **Fitness for use:** to ensure safe use or reuse of contaminated sites by preventing unacceptable risks for citizens and the environment
- **Stand-still**: no further degradation of natural resources (soil and groundwater)
- **Supporting sustainable development:** to balance benefits at an appropriate scale and time frame
- **Transparency and fairness**: to establish well known assessment and decision criteria within appropriate consultation processes facilitating possible consensus of involved stakeholders

What's common? What's different?

	Risk	Sustainability
origin / use	economy/science	ecology/policy
based on …	mental construct	ethical construct
objective	transparency	fairness
important	• single target • accountability • effectiveness	• multi-objective • interdependency • efficiency
question	Should we act?	How can we act?
support to	better decisions	better action
strategy	prevent or limit	synergy

4th generation of legal framework
CLM objectives

- **risk reduction**
  - preventing unacceptable human health risks
  - reducing environmental impacts and limiting risks
  - appropriate time frames
- **local/regional development** (spatial planning)
  - supporting economic development
  - improving environmental quality with regard to capacities of the natural system
- **wider environmental policies**
  - e.g. 20-20-20-targets

What we need to Enhance

MANAGING "LAND" (soil & groundwater)

- matching human needs to natural resources and capacities
- crossing geographical and time scales (site to globe and back; short-, mid- and long-term)
- promoting synergies, avoiding irreversibility

2nd International Conference Sustainable Remediation SustRem 2012 (Vienna, 14-16.11.2012)

Framing, Assessing and Managing Sustainability

120 participants (25 countries, 4 continents)

- "sustainability" asks for understanding natural and social systems (and "values") within a **local/regional context**
- **transparent and inclusive participatory processes** right from selecting the assessment methodology, criteria and indicators **are vital**
- practical concepts, assessment tools and a technology suite have grown since Copenhagen 2009
- promising attempts to include the social dimension of sustainability to assessment/management are on the way

➔ 3rd International Conference:

SustRem 2014 (Italy or France or Austria)

Concluding remarks (1/2)

- Different pieces of EU legislation, with different basic principles (hazards for waste, risks for soils)
  - Recognise the efforts already done
  - Existing Common Ground for managing CS
- Need of real integration for more sustainability
  - 1st step: Joint Statement with NICOLE (European industry network)
- Real need for technical work for transposition

Concluding Remarks (2/2)

- ICCL action plan
  - Expertises for contributing to site projects/ demands (third expertise?, operational cell?)
  - Information / Knowledge Transfer Platform
    - Promotion of best practices / recommended roadmap, links to existing tools, success stories, experts database
    - Consistent capitalizations
  - Development of a common framework / Roadmap for CLM
  - Identification of gaps to be addressed in the future (RTD, policy?)

- Thanks for your attention!

- More information on

  www.commonforum.eu

  www.iccl.ch