



The SNOWMAN-MCA

International workshop on sustainable remediation and soil functions and services

May 19 2011, Stockholm, Sweden.

Short summary of group discussions:

All groups focused their discussion on:

- The relevance of the soil functions and services for remediation (and also whether or not remediation was relevant to soil functions and services);
- How to integrate relevant functions and services in remediation;
- Possible indicators for assessing relevant functions and services before/during/after remediation.

Regarding the soil functions and services listed by the draft soil directive, it was concluded that the following are likely to have the largest impact in remediation of contaminated soils:

- Physical and cultural environment for humans and human activities;
- Storing, filtering and transforming nutrients, substances and water;
- Biodiversity pool, such as habitats, species and genes.

This is because these points include driving forces for remediation, important basic functions of the soil that are connected to other media (i.e. water and air), and link soil to higher levels of the ecosystem.

It was concluded that soil functions and services may provide a structure for assessing important aspects of sustainability and sustainable remediation, and that soil functions and services may provide a valuable communication platform. However, soil functions and services may also be confusing, and their relevance to remediation is not always clear. It is also not clear how to recognize and assess the importance of different soil functions and services. Other difficulties includes how to define the scale at which soil functions and services should be addressed (spatial, temporal, and also depth) in relation to the location, size and end use of the site being treated. There is hence urgent need for more knowledge and research in a number of key areas in order to move forward.

