

From Liability to Opportunity... Sustainable Remediation

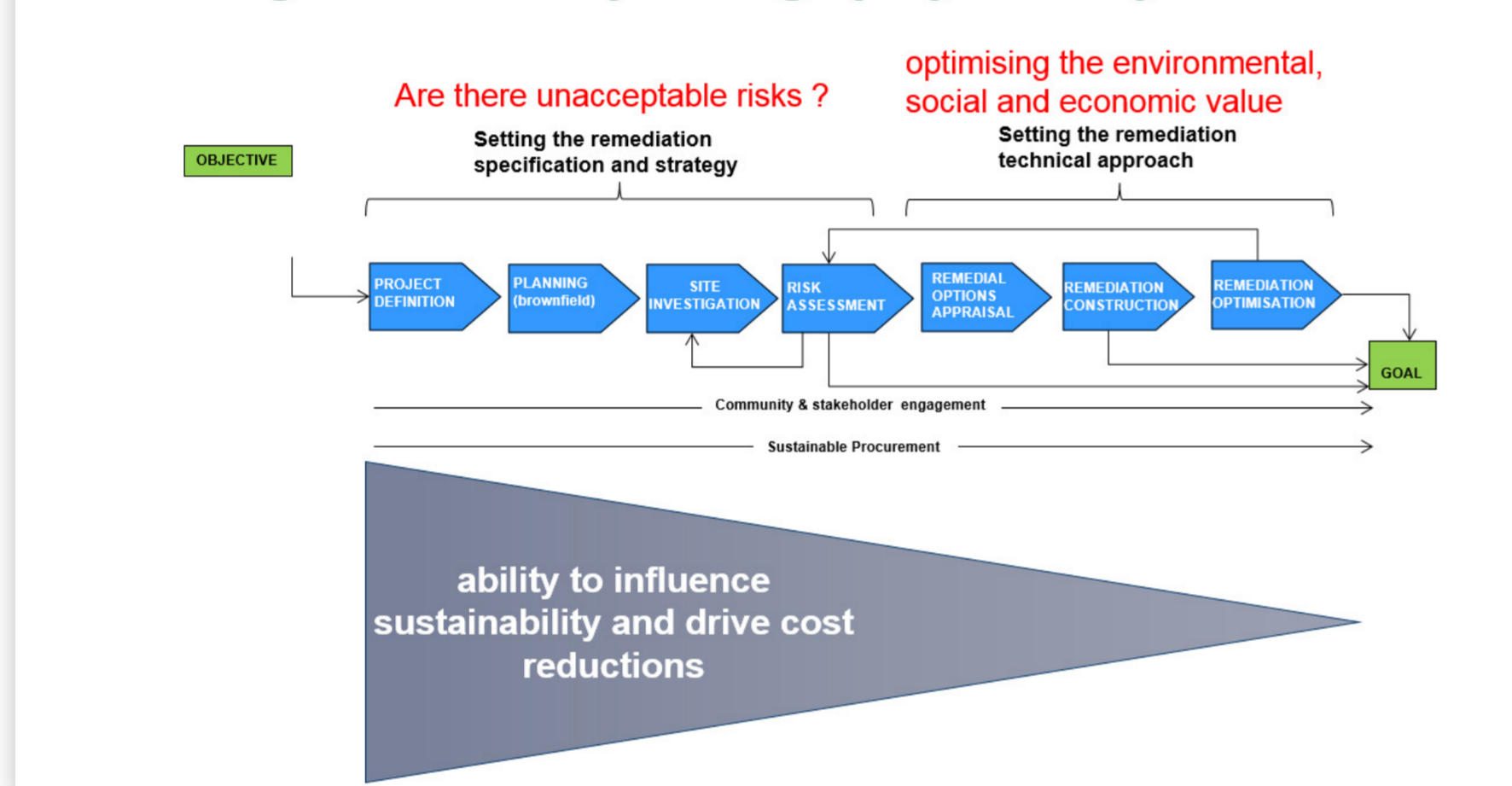
alan.thomas@erm.com Oxford, UK & simon.tillotson@erm.com Oxford, UK.

The management of contaminated land and groundwater in south east and southern Europe will require innovative solutions. Sustainable remediation has emerged as a framework for managing contaminated sites that recognises that while we need to mitigate unacceptable risks, remediation itself can have significant impacts. In implementing remediation we should work with all stakeholders to optimise the overall environmental, social and economic benefits and deliver sustainable solutions that provide opportunities for the local community.

Approach

ERM adopts a life cycle approach incorporating sustainability through the project life cycle including early engagement with stakeholders, the development of a robust conceptual site model from which to assess risks and base future decisions. Where remediation is required technically appropriate and often innovative solutions are identified and selected based on agreed sustainability indicators.

Embedding Sustainability through project lifecycle



Site Specific Sustainability indicators may reflect locally relevant UN SDG goals



Examples

Industrial site, Brazil

Mitigation of risks to community and creation of amenity area



ERM worked with the client, regulators and local community to mitigate risks posed by soils & groundwater in a historic industrial area and create an asset to the community.

Former steel works, UK

Remediation & Redevelopment



- Multidisciplinary Team of Designers and Advisors
- Project Management and Programming
- Sustainability Visioning, Advice, Assessment and Auditing
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Stakeholder Engagement & Health Impact Assessment
- Strategic Advice on Sustainable Procurement, Waste and Recycling
- Transport Assessment
- Carbon Footprinting and Strategic Emissions Reduction Planning
- Sustainable Development Management Systems



Project adopted a holistic approach to sustainability, which places equal emphasis on social and economic aspects as environmental and resource use issues. Site now redeveloped.

Residential area, India

Remediation of hazardous waste disposal sites



Hazardous wastes had been used as fill materials in community. Remedial Options Appraisal included extensive community engagement to deliver a technically robust socially acceptable option.

Conclusion

Adopting a sustainable remediation framework coupled with technically robust approaches can offer significant benefits for the management of contaminated land and groundwater in south east and southern Europe changing the perception of contaminated sites from one of minimising liabilities to a more positive opportunity.

The business of sustainability

