


A Walloon initiative for the socio-economic and environmental redevelopment of polluted and derelict lands through Nature-based-solutions

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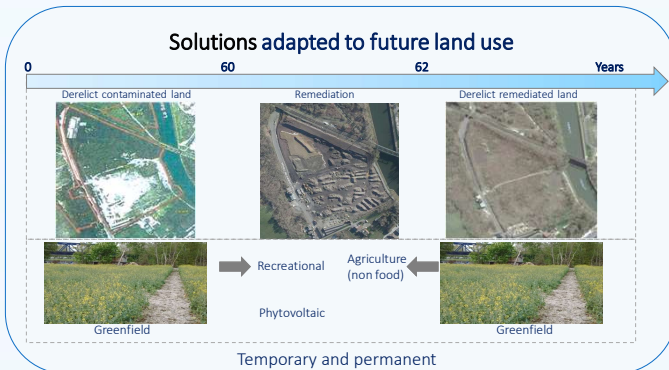
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Context: the starting point for our initiative is the presence of numerous wastelands in Wallonia, linked to its major industrial activities of the 19th century. In a context of climate change, decline of biodiversity, no net land take and a crisis in the supply of raw materials, brownfield sites are competing for a variety of land uses: industry, housing, nature parks and so on. Nevertheless, rehabilitating these sites is a complex, time-consuming and costly process. As a result, brownfields remain abandoned for many years, causing problems in terms of pollution, land devaluation, and invasive species management, etc.

Ambition: the Waste2Bio initiative¹, coordinated by the University of Liège, was launched in 2021 at the instigation of the Walloon Region, which wanted to identify and support strategic domains of innovation as part of the smart specialization strategy² promoted by the European Union. Waste2Bio aims for an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to rehabilitating abandoned land in an economically viable way, with a positive impact on the environment. The overall aim is to create, by 2027, an operational platform deploying innovative Nature-based Solutions providing multiple ecosystem services³ and adapted to future land uses. These solutions are intended to complement clean-up techniques and help accelerate the rehabilitation of brownfields and marginal lands.



40,000 ha of potentially contaminated sites
2.3% of the territory⁴
2-2.5 billions € to clean up 2000 sites⁵



Financial support by the Walloon region

- Governance: multi-actor ecosystem
- Policy mix: regional, national, EU projects
- Implementation: R&I projects, demo sites




Ecosystem of 130+ partners



Research, Public authorities, Businesses, Civil society

Partners: Celabor, Spaque, SPHERA, Dufenco, SUD, valbiom, etc.

Implementation of the strategy and demo sites



300 ha of brownfields across Wallonia

IASIS

Curing contaminated and saline land with Industrial crops and producing biomass for high-value applications

At INNO4CEFA, we are pioneering a future where nature and technology converge to create sustainable solutions for our planet.

Our mission is to harness the power of nature-based business models and cutting-edge innovations to revolutionize Carbon Farming Initiatives (CFIs), ensuring the preservation of biodiversity, water security, and soil health.

- Preservation of Biodiversity
- Water Security
- Soil Health
- Reduction of regional ecosystems

Plant4Wasteland
 PFASForward
 FrichNat