



Eco-Compatible Strategies for Pollution Recovery in Contaminated Environments

Alessia Paulo*

Department of Environmental Biotechnology and Sustainable Systems, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal

DESCRIPTION

Green remediation technologies refer to environmentally considerate methods used to clean polluted soil, water, and air systems with minimal additional ecological disturbance. These approaches focus on reducing energy consumption, limiting secondary waste formation, and using biological or naturally derived processes to restore contaminated sites affected by industrial, agricultural, or petroleum-related activities. The increasing concern over chemical pollution and ecosystem degradation has encouraged the development of such cleaner intervention methods.

Traditional remediation techniques often involve intensive chemical treatments or mechanical removal of contaminated materials, which may create further environmental stress. In contrast, eco-compatible approaches rely on biological activity, plant systems, and naturally occurring microbial communities to degrade or immobilize pollutants. These systems are designed to work with existing environmental processes rather than replacing them with energy-intensive methods.

One widely studied approach involves microbial degradation of pollutants. Specific bacterial and fungal species possess metabolic pathways capable of breaking down hydrocarbons, pesticides, and industrial solvents. These organisms convert harmful compounds into simpler, less harmful substances through enzymatic reactions. The efficiency of this process depends on environmental factors such as temperature, oxygen availability, and nutrient levels in contaminated sites. In many cases, nutrient supplementation is applied to enhance microbial activity and improve degradation rates.

Plant-based remediation methods also play a significant role in pollution control. Certain plant species are capable of absorbing contaminants from soil and water through their root systems. These plants can either store pollutants in their tissues or transform them into less harmful compounds. Over time, repeated planting cycles can gradually reduce contamination levels in affected areas. This approach is particularly useful for

large land areas where mechanical clean up would be impractical.

Another important component of green remediation involves the use of bio surfactants. These are naturally produced compounds by microorganisms that help break down hydrophobic pollutants such as oil and grease. By reducing surface tension, bio surfactants increase the availability of contaminants to degrading microbes, improving the overall efficiency of clean up processes. Compared to synthetic surfactants, biologically derived alternatives are more environmentally compatible and less toxic to surrounding ecosystems.

Soil washing using plant-derived extracts and biodegradable solutions has also gained attention. Instead of harsh chemical agents, mild organic solvents are used to extract pollutants from soil particles. This method reduces secondary contamination and allows treated soil to be reused in certain applications after purification. The selection of appropriate washing agents depends on the type of contaminant and soil composition.

In aquatic environments, floating treatment systems using aquatic plants are employed to remove excess nutrients and toxic compounds. These systems rely on plant uptake and microbial activity in the root zone to clean contaminated water bodies. Over time, they help restore oxygen balance and improve water quality. Such systems are particularly useful in lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers affected by industrial discharge or agricultural runoff.

Another approach involves the use of compost-based treatments for contaminated soil. Organic waste materials such as agricultural residues and food waste are combined with polluted soil to stimulate microbial activity. The decomposition process generates heat and supports microbial communities capable of breaking down complex contaminants. This method also improves soil structure and fertility after treatment.

Electro-assisted biological systems are also being explored in environmental clean applications. These systems apply low

Correspondence to: Alessia Paulo, Department of Environmental Biotechnology and Sustainable Systems, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal. E-mail: alessia.paulo@research.pt

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electrical currents to contaminated environments to enhance microbial degradation activity. The electrical stimulation can improve nutrient movement and pollutant accessibility, thereby increasing treatment efficiency. This technique is still under development but shows potential for difficult-to-treat sites.

Conclusion

One of the important considerations in eco-compatible remediation is site-specific adaptation. Each contaminated location has unique soil composition, pollutant type, and

environmental conditions. Therefore, treatment methods must be selected based on detailed site evaluation. Continuous monitoring is necessary to assess progress and ensure that pollutant levels are decreasing over time.

Green remediation technologies represent a shift toward environmentally considerate clean up practices that align with natural processes. Their development continues to support efforts in restoring contaminated environments while reducing additional ecological stress.