

**Environmental constraints**

Ensure environmentally friendly practices and reduce harm to the environment throughout the whole duration of the worksite (from its creation to its closure), whatever the sensitivity of the site, but with extra special attention paid to natural sites:

- do not unnecessarily damage the plant cover or destroy rare or legally protected plants: follow environmental experts' advice, especially botanists who will define the exact points where access routes and worksite installations will be set up (huts, decontamination areas, pathways, equipment base, waste storage sites etc.)
- reduce harm caused by excessive passage of pedestrians and vehicles: organise traffic (circulation plan, cordoning off, no go areas), pose artificial paths (wickerwork fencing, tarpaulins, planks, track linings for vehicles etc.), use quad bikes
- prevent the pollution from spreading (from the beach to the back beach): set up decontamination areas or at least boot scraping points according to the case in hand
- keep the site as clean as possible:
 - group machinery together and raise it above the plant cover (sit it on pallets for example)
 - anticipate leaks from machinery (pose protective geotextile sheeting)
 - provide bins and clean the site once all the installations have been removed.

Prior authorisation

To access worksites, it is sometimes necessary to pass through private property:

- request authorisation from the land owner or manager
- carry out a joint visit of the site beforehand to explain the planned solutions and actions, and to observe the condition of the site (existing deterioration).

Over and above ecological impact, the creation of access routes can alter the use (and the frequentation) of an area. The creation of all access routes must therefore be studied in collaboration with all the interested parties: most importantly the municipality and the site manager, but also the local authorities, environmental NGOs etc.

It is sometimes possible to create or reopen access routes without causing serious or irreversible damage:

- try to use disused coastal paths
- find out about the existence of a local practice of regularly or periodically making clearings by cutting back vegetation (creation of a fire break or pathways for hunting etc.)
- in some exceptional cases (worksite in a very sensitive natural area far from existing paths), consider the possibility of using a helicopter to bring equipment supplies and to evacuate large volumes of waste (costly operation but can prove to be cost effective if it is well organised simultaneously for several sites. Requires prior authorisation).

Rehabilitation and restoration of damaged sites

Areas of land deteriorated by clean-up operations (access routes, storage sites etc.) must always be rehabilitated:

- with the problem of: "can we and should we return the site to its former condition?"
- in cooperation with all the concerned parties
- following a diagnosis made by environmental specialists (botanists)

The objectives and modalities of this restoration vary according to:

- the type of plant cover (its sensitivity and self-regeneration capacity)
- the usage of the site (initial use and possibly the use anticipated in the long run as part of a post-pollution development project)

All rehabilitation must be subject to botanical monitoring in order to:

- validate/rectify the chosen procedures and techniques
- provide relevant elements to help to decide when to stop rehabilitation operations.

Prohibiting pedestrian access and traffic of vehicles facilitates the regeneration of the vegetation. It should therefore be implemented as soon as possible, as a preventative measure (channelling traffic), but also as a remedial solution by progressive closure of deteriorated areas as the worksite advances, as well as systematically when the worksite is finally closed.