

Evaluation of soil intervention values in mine tailings in northern Chile

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The aim of this work is to show a methodological proposal for the analysis of soil intervention values in mine tailings in order to determine the intervention requirements in the Commune of Andacollo in northern Chile. The purpose of this analysis is to guide the intervention policies of both private and public organizations. The evaluation method is based on the Dutch legislation, from which two approaches are proposed in order to facilitate the evaluation. The usability of these methods depends on the available geochemical data from soil samples. The first method uses a graphical approach only dependent on the percentage of clay in the soil and metal concentration. The second method is developed for usage in case that the information regarding clay percentage in the soil is not available. Based on this last approach, this work uses the concepts of a threshold factor and an adjusted threshold factor to calculate a weighted intervention ranking. In order to illustrate the utility of this methodological proposal a case study is carried out with the prescribed approach. In particular, this work presents an analysis of the elements of environmental significance related to the mining activity (Hg, Cd, Pb, As, Cu, Ni, Zn, Cr) in the Commune of Andacollo, Coquimbo Region, Chile. The analyzed samples are used to determine where intervention of tailing deposits is necessary and where a solution to these environmental liabilities is required as soon as possible.

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Abstract

The aim of this work is to show a methodological proposal for the analysis of soil intervention values in mine tailings in order to determine the intervention requirements in the commune of Andacollo in northern Chile. The purpose of this analysis is to guide the intervention policies of both private and public organizations. The evaluation method is based on the Dutch legislation, from which two approaches are proposed in order to facilitate the evaluation. The usability of these methods depends on the available geochemical data from soil samples. The first method uses a graphical approach only dependent on the percentage of clay in the soil and metal concentration. The second method is developed for usage in case that the information regarding clay percentage in the soil is not available. Based on this last approach, this work uses the concepts of a threshold factor and an adjusted threshold factor to calculate a weighted intervention ranking. In order to illustrate the utility of this methodological proposal a case study is carried out with the prescribed approach. In particular, this work presents an analysis of the elements of environmental significance related to the mining activity (Hg, Cd, Pb, As, Cu, Ni, Zn, Cr) in the Commune of Andacollo, Coquimbo Region, Chile. The analyzed samples are used to determine where intervention of tailing deposits is necessary and where a solution to these environmental liabilities is required as soon as possible.

Keywords: soil intervention values, tailings, environmental liability, mining industry.

54. Introduction

The Rio de Janeiro Summit of 1992 marked a historic milestone in the international commitment to protecting the environment (Sequeiros, 1998). In this summit, the importance of soils was recognized, as well as the need to protect them and their potential uses in the context of sustainable development, in particular against the contamination caused by activities of anthropogenic origin. This has led to the development of soil quality indicators with the purpose of preserving and improving the productivity of soils (Doran & Parkin, 1996; Azapagic, 2014; Andrews et al., 2006; Römbke et al., 2016; de Graaf et al., 2017; Turpin et al., 2017).

In Chile, as in many parts of the world, there is a great number of mining environmental liabilities, mainly composed of tailings, which are potential risk sources for people and the environment. The great number of tailings distributed throughout Chile, many of which are abandoned with no one in charge of them, is a big problem for the State of Chile, since the application of control measures requires large amounts of money. Therefore, it is imperative to have an effective and economical tool that allows determining whether a tailing requires intervention or not.

Despite the advances of the international community in this matter, Chile still has a pending debt due to the lack of regulations for soil quality. This is particularly harmful to the population due to the development of mining activities that bring about a series of negative impacts on the soil in several regions of the country. There is also a great number of mining environmental liabilities that are dispersed throughout the country with no one responsible for them, these mining liabilities have been the result of a historical mining that had very weak regulations regarding the closure stage. Fortunately, the Law 20.551 was promulgated in 2012, which demands that all mining sites present a closure plan prior to starting the mining project.

In a mine site, the mineral of interest constitutes only a small fraction of the mined material (Wills & Finch, 2015), because of this the mining process generates large volumes of waste, originating a great amount of tailings and mine waste in general, which contain a high variety of heavy metals and diversity of concentration levels (Burges et al., 2015; Pourret et al., 2016; Lam et al., 2016; Lam et al., 2017). This renders many hectares of soil unsuitable for agriculture and generates highly contaminated soils, in which substances will move depending on the physicochemical properties of the substrate and on the climate conditions of the area in which the deposit is located (Alloway., 2013; Chadwick et al., 2013; Li et al., 2014; Pandey et al., 2016; Antoniadis et al., 2017).

Closing a mine using low technology and without having an adequate plan that would enable to ensure the health and safety of the people and the environment brings about socio-environmental, financial and economic liabilities, affecting mainly communities close to the where the mining sites are or have been, or where processes associated to extraction and processing of minerals are carried out, including electric generation, mineral transportation and waste disposal, among others

(Johnson et al., 1994; Schreck, 1998; Esteves, 2008; De Feo et al., 2014; Dupuy, 2014; González et al., 2014; Marnika et al., 2015; Ettler et al., 2016; Lechner et al., 2016; Schoenberger, 2016; Espinoza et al., 2017; García et al., 2017).

Abandoned and/or paralyzed mining sites that are distributed throughout the country constitute potential sources of air, water and soil pollution; as well as potential harm to the population's environment and health (Li et al., 2014; Diami et al., 2016; Mickus & Camacho, 2016; Pareja-Carrera et al., 2014; Carkovic et al., 2016; Obiora et al., 2016; Antoniadis et al., 2017; Ghorbani & Kuan, 2017; Christou et al., 2017; Espinoza & Morris, 2017; Unger, 2017). It is imperative to face these issues, this requires identifying the potentially contaminating sites, the concentration and variability of contaminants present in them, and also identifying the potential "victims" of these liabilities. In addition, it is necessary to consider the availability of technological and financial resources to address this new challenge generated by a mining industry that did not have the vision of a sustainable development, developing overexploitation and damage of resources, applying poor management practices and inadequate technology (Oyarzún, & Oyarzún, 2011; Lam et al., 2016; Christou et al., 2017; Espinoza & Morris, 2017; Unger, 2017).

The first regulations for estimating the degree of soil contamination were created in the Netherlands (Boekhold, 2008). This legislation provides procedures and standards for the short-term sanitation of contaminated soils. The law established limits depending on several factors: the nature and concentration of the contaminants and the conditions of the place where the contaminants are (e.g. soil characteristics).

In Chile, there have been several episodes of environmental impact on the marine environment due to the presence of mine tailings deposits which hamper port activities, generate geomorphological modifications on the coast and affect coastal ecosystems and recreational activities (Castilla & Nealler, 1978; Castilla, 1983; Salamanca et al., 2004; Ramírez et al., 2005; Besaury et al., 2013; Valladares et al., 2013; Dold, 2014; Contreras-Porcia et al., 2017; Monsalve et al., 2017). It is necessary to give a solution to these liabilities as soon as possible, for they have generated chronic problems for the population, posing an even more serious threat to future generations.

125

126 Given the above, it would be very useful to have a tool that allowed evaluating whether a tailing
127 requires intervention or not. The aim of this study is to develop a methodology, based on the Dutch
128 regulations, that allows classifying the tailings according to their intervention requirements as: 1)
129 It does not require intervention 2) It requires intervention 3) Intervention is conditional on the
130 availability of more information.

131

132 The methodology developed can be applied by means of a graphical method, which is used in case
133 of having data on metal concentration and soil composition (in terms of its percentage of clay), or
134 through a method based on conditional and unconditional threshold values (intervention
135 thresholds) that only requires knowing the data of metal concentration in the soil. This allows
136 applying the method even in situations where all the information required is not available. The
137 methodology has been designed in such a way that future updates of the Dutch regulations are
138 easily applicable.

139

140 A methodology as the one presented here will allow estimating if it is necessary to apply an
141 intervention on the tailings found throughout Chile, as well as prioritizing those that require a more
142 urgent intervention. Having a tool as the one presented in this work is vital for all those sites where
143 there are tailings and the soil quality regulations are weak, or worse still, non-existent. It is
144 important to note that the Dutch legislation, thanks to its rigorous foundation, is applied in Chile
145 by the National Service of Geology and Mining, SERNAGEOMIN, as well as in other countries
146 (Milenkovic et al., 2005; Swartjes et al., 2012).

147

148. **Materials and methods**

149.1 **Methodological proposal**

150 The proposal is based on the Dutch legislation for the regulation of soil quality. In particular, this
151 law provides intervention values for different metals. The intervention values are threshold
152 concentrations above which it is considered that the soil presents a serious case of contamination.
153 Above the intervention values, the functionality of the soil for human, animal or plant life is

seriously affected or complicated. In particular, the 2013 revised version of the Dutch standard will be used for the base values.

The selection of this regulation was based on the following aspects: 1) Dutch legislation provides a mathematical formula that allows adapting its use depending on the nature of the soil; 2) It is one of the most stringent regulations for the evaluation of soils (Macklin et al., 2003) and 3) The Dutch standard has been used for almost 4 decades, which makes it one of the longest running standards in this field.

Although the standard presents some limitations, it has been widely used in the literature since its creation and it allows evaluating and filtering out the sites that do not require intervention. Some recent examples of application can be found in the study of metal concentration in agricultural soils (Kelepertzis, 2014), urban soils (Darko et al. 2017) and mine soils (Bempah & Ewusi, 2016). It should be noted that these applications have been carried out in different countries with soils of diverse characteristics.

In general, to evaluate the soil quality according to the Dutch guidelines, the standard intervention values must be converted to values that correspond to the characteristics of the soil to be evaluated. The intervention values are then compared with the concentration found in the soil. The characterization of the soil is done by measuring the percentage of clay and the organic matter present in the soil. The Soil Intervention Value (SIV) is calculated through the formula shown in Equation 1.

$$SIV = SSIV \cdot \frac{A + B \cdot x_A + C \cdot x_M}{A + 25 \cdot B + 10 \cdot C} \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

Where each term of the equation is defined as follows:

- SSIV corresponds to the Standard Soils Intervention Value. SSIV is a value defined for a soil with 10% organic matter and 25% clay for each element. Table 1 presents the values for each element.
- Constants A , B and C correspond to parameters based on the characteristics of each element. Table 1 presents the values of these constants for some relevant metals.

- The variable x_A corresponds to the percentage of clay in the substrate that is being evaluated, expressed as a number between 0 and 100. In case that the clay content is less than a 2% then x_A is assigned the value 2 (that is, the lowest value it can take is 2%).
- The variable x_M corresponds to the percentage of organic matter in the substrate that is being evaluated, expressed as a number between 0 and 100. In case that the content of organic matter is less than a 2% then x_M is assigned the value 2 (that is, the lowest value it can take is 2%).

In the methodology proposed, two assumptions are made:

1. It is assumed that the data have been previously gathered, that the mineral concentration in the soil is available and, optionally, the percentage of clay in the soil.
2. It is assumed that the tailings do not have organic matter, or its percentage is equal or less than 2%.

In case that both the concentration of metal in the soil and the percentage of clay are available, a graphical method can be directly applied to evaluate the necessity of intervention in a soil. On the contrary, if the clay percentage is not available, the methodology proposed allows using conditional and unconditional intervention thresholds defined in this work to determine the intervention requirements and prioritize the sites.

On the other hand, it must be mentioned that the proposal in this work can be generalized, since, although the methodology proposed has been developed for soils containing mine tailings, a similar strategy could be applied for soils of similar characteristics or that accept assumptions of similar nature.

202.2 Intervention values and graphical method

The lowest value that each percentage x_A and x_M can be assigned is 2. In particular, the composition of tailing deposits guarantees that the percentage of organic matter is negligible (i.e.

close to 0), thus, according to the conditions of the method, it is assumed that for all the soils considered in this work $x_M = 2$.

Bearing in mind all previous observations, in this work a referential table of the intervention values has been built. These are presented in Table 2. Soil intervention values (SIV) have been calculated using the method provided by the Dutch guidelines under the supposition that the organic matter percentage in a tailing is negligible ($\leq 2\%$). If the concentration in mg/kg exceeds the values indicated in this table for the composition of a given soil, then the tailings deposit must be intervened.

In case that the clay percentage in the soil is not found in Table 2, a linear interpolation can be used to obtain the result. This will produce the correct result (because the base calculation model is linear). In case the clay percentage is less than 2%, it must be assumed that it takes the value of 2% (in accordance with the Dutch guidelines), so it must not be extrapolated.

The results of Table 2 are graphically represented for each element in Figure 1. The clay percentage is on the abscissa axis and the concentration of the corresponding element in mg kg^{-1} is on the ordinate axis. These graphs show the straight line determined with the formula of intervention value for tailings (intervention threshold). Two zones can be observed in the graph: the zone above the intervention threshold that indicates the necessity of intervention and the zone below that represents the safe zone that does not require immediate intervention.

It should be noted that the intervention threshold is given by a line of positive slope, this suggests that for a given a value of the element concentration, then all the clay percentages above a certain threshold will not require an intervention (i.e. they will be in the safe zone). The threshold for this can be found graphically by tracing a horizontal line at the given concentration and finding the point where it intersects with the intervention threshold inside the 0 to 100 range of clay percentage. However, it is important to note that for some values of the concentration there will be no intersection, in fact, if the horizontal line lies above the intervention threshold line, then it is always necessary to intervene. On the other hand, if the horizontal line is below the intervention threshold line it will always be in the safe zone. These observations provide the motivation for the

definition of the Threshold Factor and Adjusted Threshold Factor in the next sections, which can be seen as a simpler quantitative alternative to the graphical methods.

2.3 Threshold factor

This work defines the concept of Threshold Factor C_F , corresponding to the minimum percentage of clay acceptable in function of the concentration of the element measured (according to the parameters of the Dutch standard). If the real percentage of clay in the soil exceeds this value, then intervention of the soil will not be required. In case the clay percentage is lower than the threshold factor then the soil will require intervention.

The threshold factor is obtained by setting $x_M = 2$ (because it is assumed that the organic matter content is negligible) and solving the SIV equation for x_A . From this procedure, the following equation is obtained:

$$C_F = \frac{SIV}{SSIV} \cdot \left(\frac{A + 25 \cdot B + 10 \cdot C}{B} \right) - \frac{(A + 2C)}{B} \quad (\text{Eq. 2})$$

Note that although this formula can deliver values lower than 0 or higher than 100, these have no sense physically. In fact, these values are utilized as limits to determine if the tailings deposit does not require intervention or if the intervention is strictly necessary, regardless of the real percentage of clay in the soil. The threshold factor C_F facilitates the analysis of the tailings deposits by the considerations shown in Table 3.

Thus, it is recommended that samples are obtained to evaluate the clay percentage of the soils in the tailings deposits that have a threshold factor between 0 and 100 (conditional intervention).

2.4 Adjusted Threshold Factor

It should be noted that the threshold factor in its original definition brings about problems of scale when converting the results obtained with real values into a graph. In order to simplify the graphical analysis of the results, the Adjusted Threshold Factor (AC_F) is proposed in Equation 3. This minimizes the problems of scale and facilitates interpretation.

268

$$269 \quad AC_F = \text{sign}(C_F) \cdot \log(1 + \text{abs}(C_F)) \quad (\text{Eq. 3})$$

270

271 It should be noted that this is similar to a logarithmic scale, but it admits negative values. The
272 evaluation by means of AC_F is carried out as follows:

- 273 • If $AC_F \leq 0$ then it is not necessary to intervene (it corresponds to the cases where $C_F \leq 0$).
- 274 • If $AC_F \geq 2$ then it is necessary to intervene (it corresponds to the cases where $C_F \geq 100$). It
275 must be noted that $AC_F = 2.004$ when $C_F = 100$, but for practical purposes the difference
276 is negligible, and the analysis is much simpler in this way. These sites should have the
277 highest priority of intervention.
- 278 • If $0 < AC_F \leq 1$ it corresponds to the cases in which the unadjusted threshold factor is
279 between 0 and 10 approximately. In this case the need of intervention is unlikely, however
280 it is still considered as a conditional intervention. These sites should not be prioritized above
281 the next ones.
- 282 • If $1 < AC_F < 2$ it corresponds to the cases in which the unadjusted threshold factor is
283 between 10 and 100 approximately. In this case the need of intervention is already more
284 likely, and it is considered as a conditional intervention. These sites should have the next
285 highest priority after unconditional interventions.

286

287 These cases are summarized in Table 4 which can be seen as the adjusted version of Table 3.

288

289 Based on a similar reasoning to the Unlikely Conditional Intervention case, high values of the
290 adjusted conditional factor (i.e. close to 2) could probably be taken as sites with a high probability
291 of requiring an intervention, thus it would be recommendable to act as if for every site with an AC_F
292 $\geq 2 - \varepsilon$ for some small value $\varepsilon > 0$ was actually an unconditional intervention. Note that this last
293 recommendation is more of a heuristic to reduce the extra resources that would be needed to take
294 another sample to determine the real clay percentage. This is especially important if there are more
295 sites in a conditional intervention state than available resources for sampling. In light of this, the
296 value of ε should be chosen carefully.

297

298

299

300

301. **Results**

302

303 **3.1. Andacollo mine tailings in Chile**

304 According to the survey carried out in December 2016 by the National Service of Geology and

305 Mining (SERNAGEOMIN), in Chile there are 696 tailings deposits, catalogued as active (16,1 %),

306 inactive (62,6 %) and abandoned (21,3 %). According to the survey carried out in December 2016

307 by the SERNAGEOMIN, in Chile there are 696 tailings deposits, catalogued as active (16,1 %),

308 inactive (62,6 %) and abandoned (21,3 %), distributed from the Tarapacá region up to the

309 Metropolitan region. (Tarapacá 1,00 %, Antofagasta 6,18 %, Atacama 22,27 %, Coquimbo 52,87

310 %, Valparaíso 10,49 %, Bernardo O'Higgins 2,59 %, Maule 0,43 %, Aysén 0,72 % and

311 Metropolitan region 3,45 %).

312

313 Of particular interest is the Coquimbo region for its great number of tailing deposits compared to

314 the other regions of the country. The Coquimbo region has been an almost continuous exploited

315 source of Cu, Au and Hg in Chile for centuries. In spite of this the communities living in this zone

316 are still underdeveloped and suffer from the extended contamination produced by the inefficient

317 treatment of mine tailings and wastes (Higueras et al. 2004). It must be noted that bioremediation

318 plans exist for the commune, however there is a number of problems, such as a lack of a regulatory

319 legal framework and operational issues, which prevent their implementation (Leiva & Morales,

320 2013).

321

322 This case study focuses on the Commune of Andacollo, in particular, the utilized data corresponds

323 to the geochemical characterization of tailings deposits carried out by SERNAGEOMIN in the

324 Commune of Andacollo in the Coquimbo Region, Chile. There have been previous studies to

325 assess the contamination and risks in the commune of Andacollo, such as Higueras et al. 2004

326 where a general environmental analysis was carried out, detecting significant contamination of the

327 surrounding landscape due to decades of inefficient treatment of waste-rock stock piles and

328 flotation tailings.

329

The present work focuses on the elements considered critical for the environment, presenting the analysis carried out to the following elements of environmental relevance related to mining activity: Hg, Cd, Pb, As, Cu, Ni, Zn, Cr. Andacollo is located in the Coquimbo region of Chile and is about 57 km to the southeast of La Serena. It is situated at latitude 30°12'00" south and longitude 71°05'00" east. It covers an area of about 310 km² and is bounded on the south by Ovalle, northeast by the Commune of Vicuña, and southeast by the Commune of Río Hurtado and, west by the Commune of Coquimbo, and north by the Commune of La Serena. It also home to several mining activities (Higueras et al., 2004).

To use the graphical method described in Section 2.2 it is necessary to have data about the percentage of clay and the concentration of the element of interest. Using this information, the sample must be located in the corresponding graph to see in which zone it lies. However, since this method require the value of clay percentage, it is not possible to apply it directly on the data provided by SERNAGEOMIN. Thus, the threshold values approach is used for this data set. The results obtained for the different elements studied are presented and discussed. Specifically, the state of each tailing is analyzed based on the criterion defined by the threshold factor.

The results obtained for the different elements studied are presented and discussed. The samples have been identified following the identification number of the tailing deposit and its origin that can be from the tailings pond (TP), the sediments (S) or the wall (W). The concentration values reported as lower than certain number n (in mg/kg) were assigned the value n mg/kg to obtain an estimate corresponding to the worst case. Subsequently, the same scheme is applied if the data have that format. Specifically, the state of each tailing is analyzed based on the criterion defined by the threshold factor.

3.2. Arsenic

The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 2. The results obtained for each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 5.

358

359 It is noted that for most samples, arsenic levels are low enough to guarantee that intervention is
360 not necessary at the moment. On the other hand, there are four samples that suggest an
361 unconditional intervention, regardless of the percentage of clay in the soil, while there is only one
362 sample that indicates conditional need of intervention in a tailings deposit. Only in the latter case
363 it would be necessary to obtain the real value of the clay percentage of the soil. It must be noted
364 that the elements that are shown in pairs with similar values come from the same deposit, but from
365 different samples, due to which they exhibit a similar behavior. This same pattern is repeated in
366 the subsequent analyses.

367

368 **3.3. Cadmium**

369 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 3. The results obtained for
370 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 6.

371

372 In this case it should be noted that none of the samples suggests an unconditional intervention.
373 Nevertheless, a considerable number of samples suggests conditional intervention, due to which it
374 is important to determine the corresponding percentage of clay to evaluate the course of actions
375 needed in those deposits.

376

377 **3.4. Lead**

378 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 4. The results obtained for
379 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 7.

380

381 In this case there are four samples that indicate that a conditional intervention is required, hence it
382 is necessary to obtain the corresponding percentage of clay. Regarding the other cases, it can be
383 seen that the analysis of most samples indicates that the deposits do not require any intervention.

384

385 **3.5. Nickel**

386 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 5. The results obtained for
387 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 8.

388

389 The particular case of Nickel is different from the previous ones, since none of the extreme values
390 observed above are present here. For this criterion, all the tailings are classified as requiring
391 conditional intervention, due to which it is necessary to determine the percentage of clay to decide
392 whether there should be intervention or not.

393

394 **3.6. Mercury**

395 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 6. The results obtained for
396 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 9.

397

398 Regarding the results obtained for Mercury it is necessary to note that a great majority is below
399 intervention values, due to which in the short term it is not necessary to carry out interventions on
400 them. Nevertheless, there is a sample that indicates the need of unconditional intervention
401 (corresponding to an abandoned deposit) and some that indicate conditional intervention with the
402 available data.

403

404 **3.7. Copper**

405 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 7. The results obtained for
406 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 10.

407

408 The analysis of the data shows the necessity of intervention of the tailings deposits regarding
409 copper concentration. There is only one sample that indicates that intervention is not needed and
410 it corresponds to an abandoned deposit, all the other cases require intervention in some degree, be
411 it conditional or unconditional.

412

413 **3.8. Zinc**

414 The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 8. The results obtained for
415 each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 11.

416

417 In this case, there are no samples that suggest an unconditional intervention. There are five samples
418 that indicate that conditional intervention is required, which correspond mainly to inactive

deposits. The other samples correspond in its majority to deposits that do not require intervention. Regarding the five that require conditional intervention, it is necessary to obtain the real values of the percentage of clay to define whether intervention is needed.

3.9. Chromium

The threshold factors obtained for each sample are shown in Figure 9. The results obtained for each sample available in the SERNAGEOMIN data are summarized in Table 12.

For Chromium it can be observed that there are six samples of inactive deposits that indicate the necessity of unconditional intervention. Most samples suggest only conditional intervention, while the rest would not require intervention in the short term.

4. Discussion

4.1. Summary

Having carried out the corresponding analysis for each element, the summary of results obtained for each tailings deposit status (Active, Inactive and Abandoned) is shown.

Table 13 presents a summary of the results obtained for each sample of the SERNAGEOMIN data for active deposits. It should be noted that in almost all cases it is necessary to carry out an unconditional intervention in each deposit due to copper concentrations. If the particular case of copper is not considered, conditional intervention is required in all tailings.

In Table 14, a summary of results obtained for each sample of the SERNAGEOMIN data for inactive deposits can be seen. It should be noted that in almost all cases an unconditional intervention in the deposit is needed due to copper concentrations, although in contrast to the previous case, there are also cases that show a potentially problematic concentration of chromium or arsenic. At any rate, if the particular case of copper is not considered, conditional intervention is required in all tailings.

Table 15 shows a summary of results obtained for each sample of the SERNAGEOMIN data for abandoned deposits. It should be noted that in almost all cases it is necessary to carry out an

unconditional intervention in each deposit due to the high concentrations of copper. If the particular case of copper which requires unconditional intervention in all tailings is not considered, it can be observed that, although the reasons for conditional intervention might be different in each case, the element nickel in all cases suggests a conditional intervention.

4.2. Weighted Intervention Ranking

The results show that in the vast majority of the tailings it is necessary to carry out an intervention due to the high concentration of copper. Although there is a great variability between the Adjusted Threshold Factors for the different deposits, the fact that the vast majority of them are above the unconditional intervention limit makes prioritization difficult, even if they were ordered by AC_F results. Given this situation, copper concentration in each tailing and their respective Adjusted Threshold Factor is not a good indicator to provide a prioritization to interventions, due to which it is necessary to be guided by the results of the other elements in this case.

According to the above, it can be seen that for all the other elements analyzed (Cd, Pb, Zn, Cr, As, Ni and Hg) a significant number of the evaluated sites are in the category of conditional intervention or unconditional intervention. A simple alternative to prioritize the sites that require an expeditious intervention is starting with the sites that have the highest number of elements that require intervention (conditional or unconditional). Nevertheless, a method based on a linear model of weighted costs according to the health and environmental risk represented by each element is proposed.

For these reasons, this work proposes the use of a Weighted Intervention Ranking (WIR_j) of the j -th site ($1 \leq j \leq m$, where m is the number of sites of the study) and is defined according to Equation 4.

$$WIR_j = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i \cdot x_{ij} \quad (\text{Eq. 4})$$

Where n stands for the number of elements of interest in the analysis of the tailings (in the case of this article $n=8$), $1 \leq w_i \leq 5$ is an integer that represents the influence of the i -th element on the WIR and x_{ij} corresponds to the Adjusted Threshold Factor for the i -th element in the j -th site of interest.

The definition of the weights can be controlled by the user of the methodology, who can assign different values to the weights according to environmental, economic and legal criteria. In Table 16 the weighting used in this work is shown. Note that the values can be modified according to the needs of each analysis.

According to the values provided in Table 16, Weighted Intervention Rankings can be obtained. The results obtained for the five sites with highest Weighted Intervention Rankings are shown in Table 17.

In general, the average *WIR* for all sites is -9.46, while the median is -12.05 and the standard deviation is 12.90. The highest value of *WIR* is 29.64 and the lowest value is -32.95. Figure 10 shows the distribution of the Weighted Intervention Rankings.

On the other hand, the difference between the fourth and the fifth sites of highest WIR in Table 17 should be noted. It should also be highlighted that the top four values are more than two standard deviations above average. Considering the above, this point lends itself as a natural limit to define a threshold regarding intervention priority, at least in a first stage.

Based on these results, it is estimated that the first priority of intervention corresponds to the deposits ARIZONA 1 and ARIZONA 2, due to their high *WIR* value. In a subsequent stage, SANTA TERESITA 2 and ARENILLAS 2 should be intervened. It is thus necessary to design an intervention plan. Of course, the exact intervention plan and their feasibility depend on an analysis of environmental impact and economic and legal aspects out of the scope of this work, since the aim of the methodology is to indicate the sites that should be prioritized according to the defined criteria. Having shown the calculation and application of the *WIR*, the exposition of the evaluation methodology proposed in this work is concluded.

509

510. Conclusions

511

512 This article has exposed a detailed methodology to analyze the requirements of soil intervention.
513 This methodology is based on the stringent and thoroughly tested Dutch regulation for soil
514 remediation (2013 version). The main contribution of this work is the definition of the conditional
515 and unconditional intervention thresholds and the simple graphical method. A case study in the
516 Commune of Andacollo in Chile has been detailed, the methodology has been applied successfully,
517 revealing several sites that require both unconditional and conditional intervention.

518

519 For the threshold values used by this methodology, the classic intervention value formula provided
520 by the Dutch has been modified and adapted to provide a simpler calculation approach for mine
521 tailings, where it can safely be assumed that organic matter is negligible. This approach can be
522 adapted to other kinds of soil provided that a similar assumption can be made about their
523 characterization. In particular, the values and formulas provided in this article can be applied to
524 any soil where organic matter can be assumed to be insignificant.

525

526 Finally, the results obtained in the case study indicate the necessity of intervention of the tailings.
527 Unconditional interventions being more severe and requiring a more immediate attention. On the
528 other hand, conditional intervention might not be necessary depending on the clay percentage of
529 the soil. Thus, for these tailings a more detailed analysis is required.

530

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Figure 1

Graphs of intervention regions for each element (source: own elaboration).

Each graph represents the intervention zones according to the parameters of each element. The separating line corresponds with the intervention threshold.

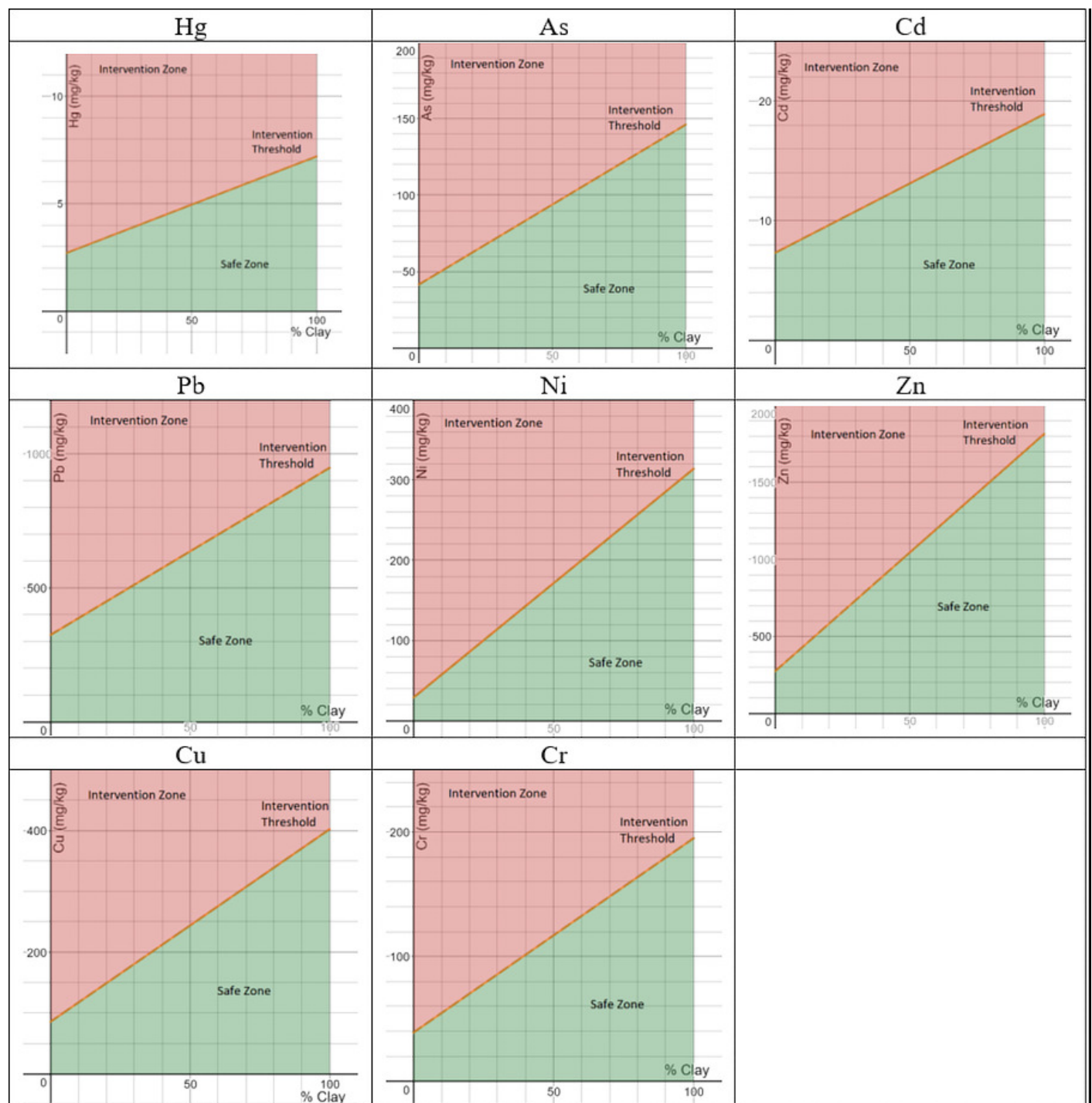


Figure 2

Adjusted threshold factor for Arsenic.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Arsenic. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

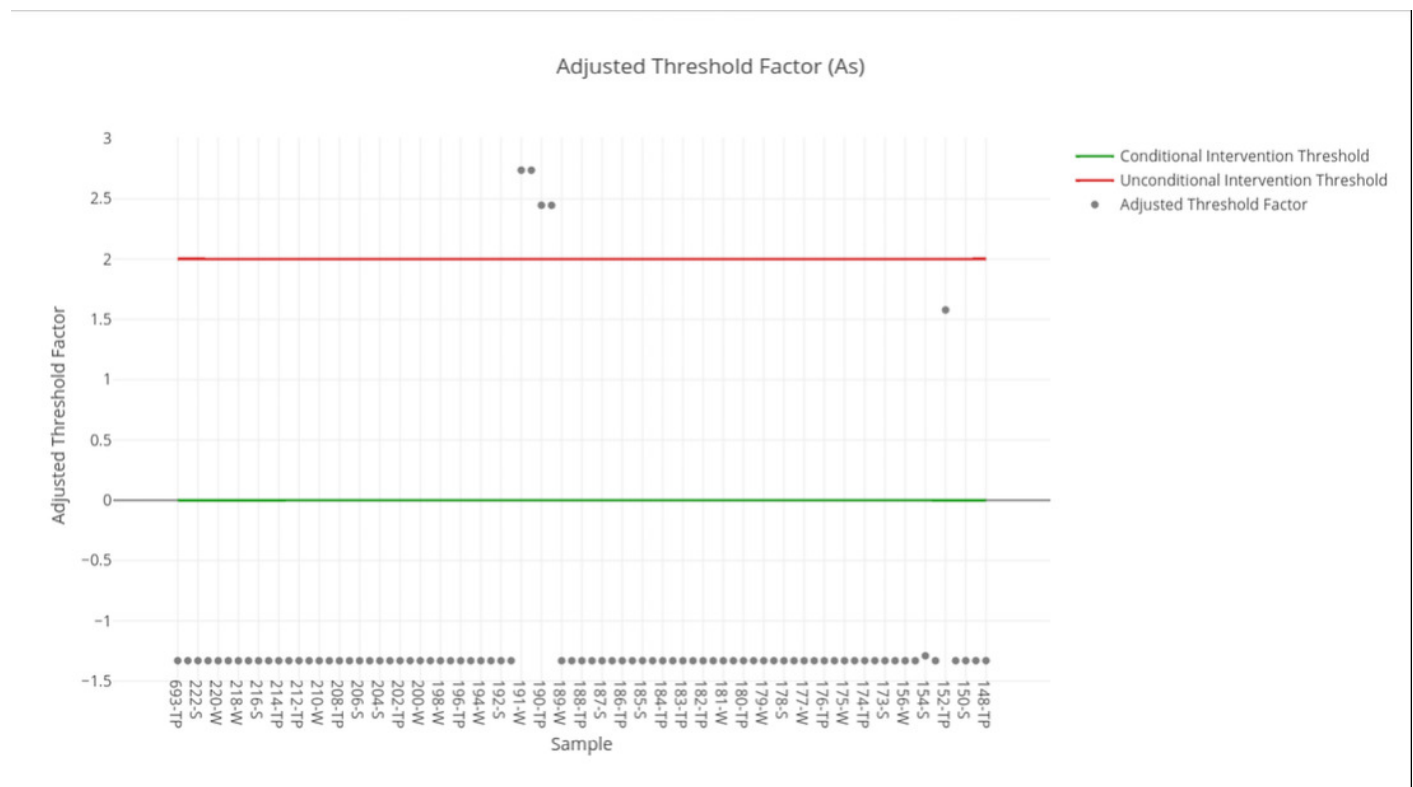


Figure 3

Adjusted threshold factor for Cadmium.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Cadmium. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

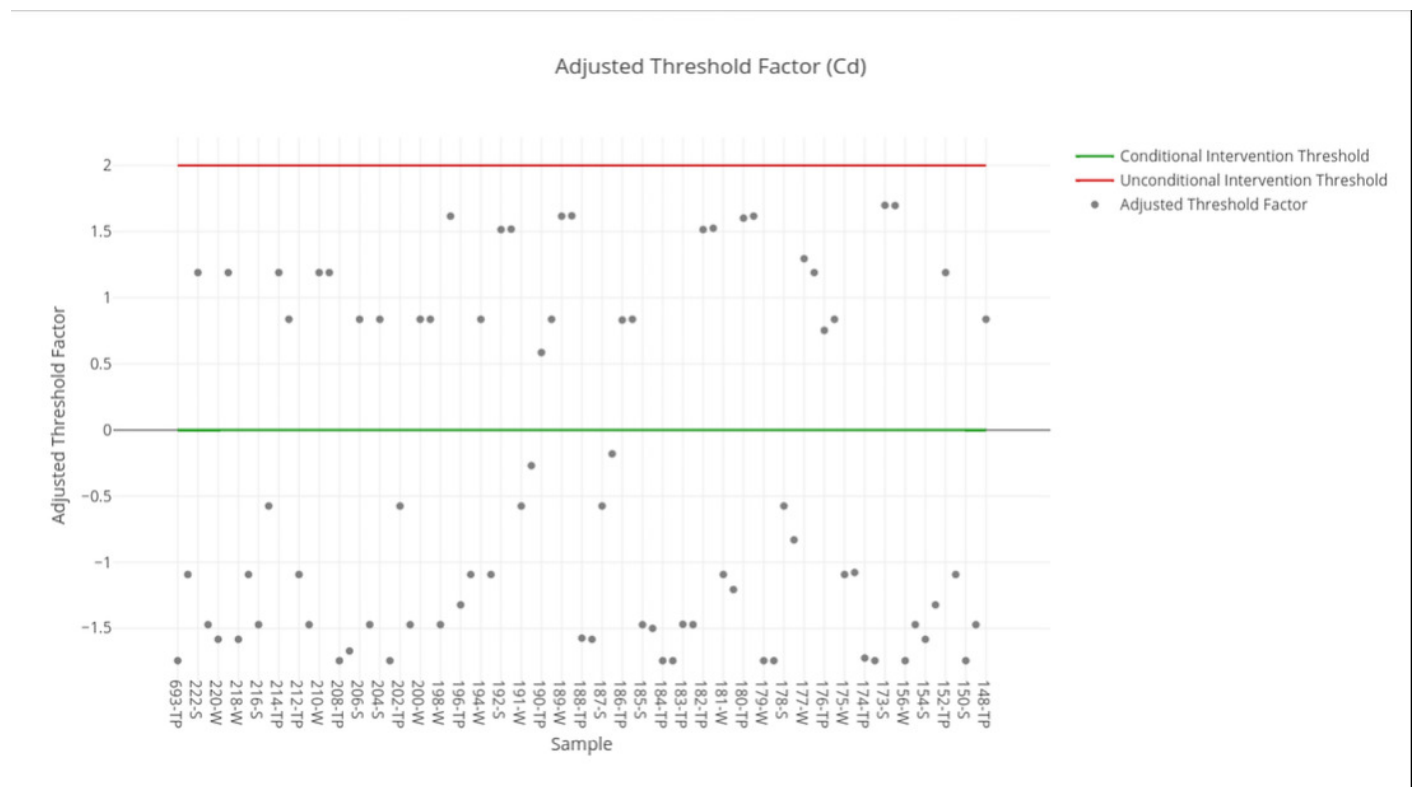


Figure 4

Adjusted threshold factor for Lead.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Lead. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

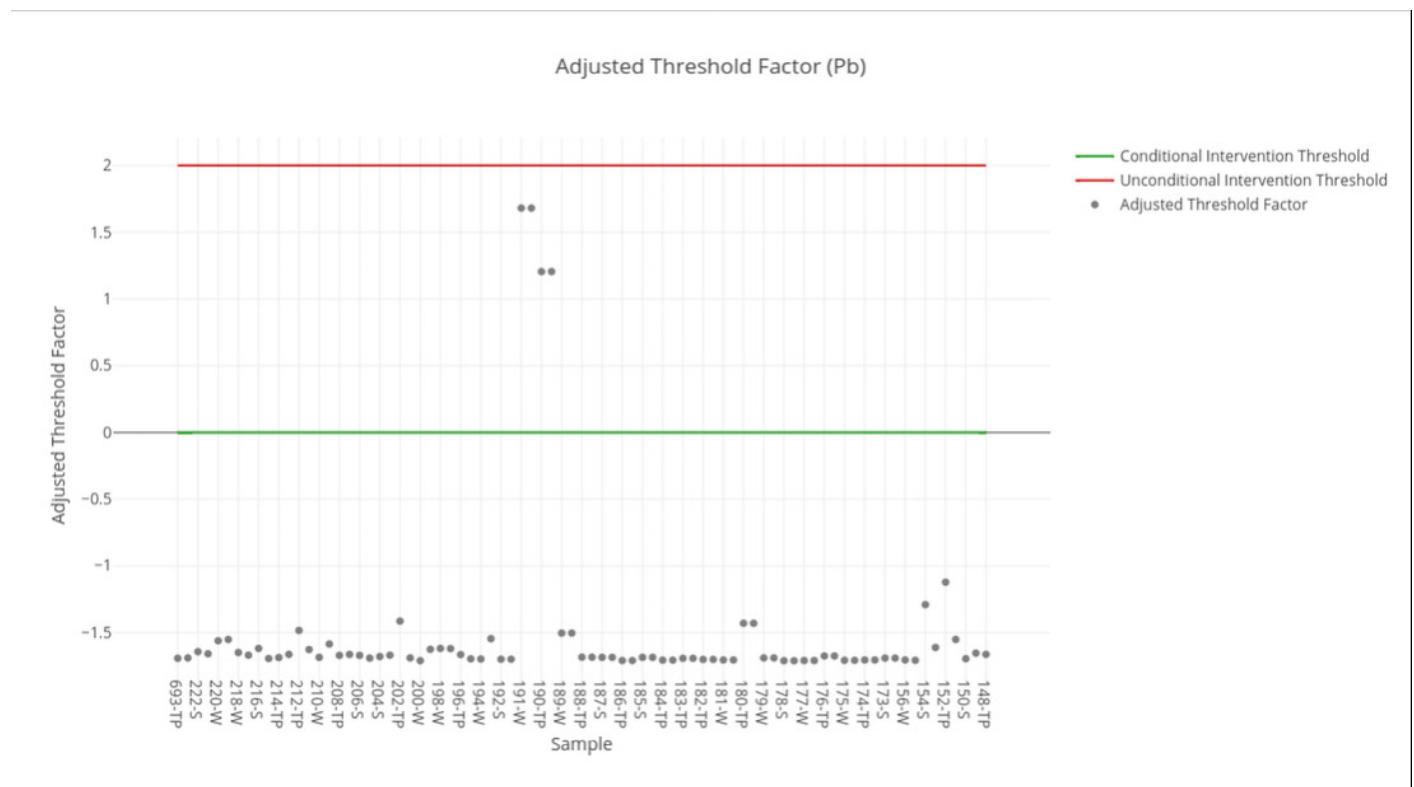


Figure 5

Adjusted threshold factor for Nickel.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Nickel. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

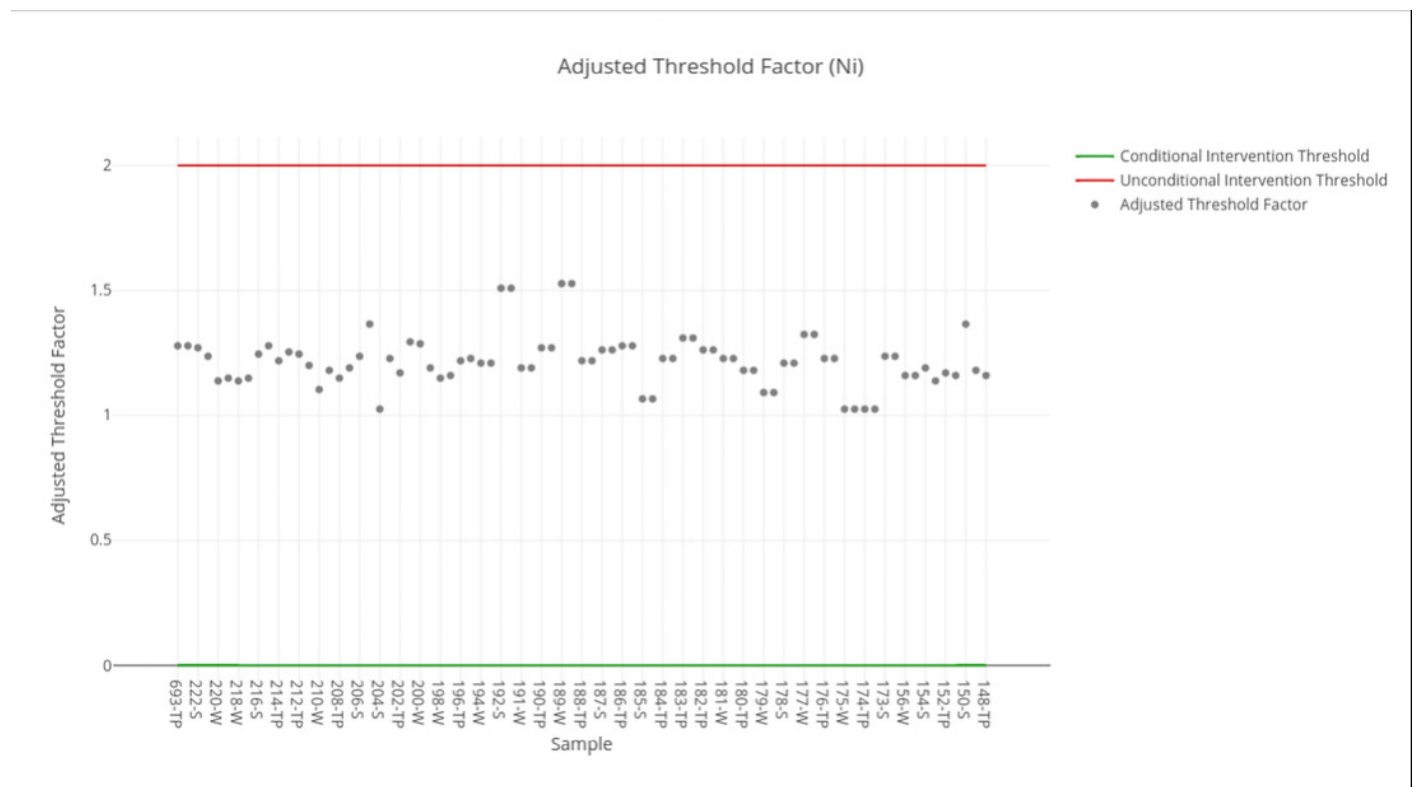


Figure 6

Adjusted threshold factor for Mercury.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Mercury. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

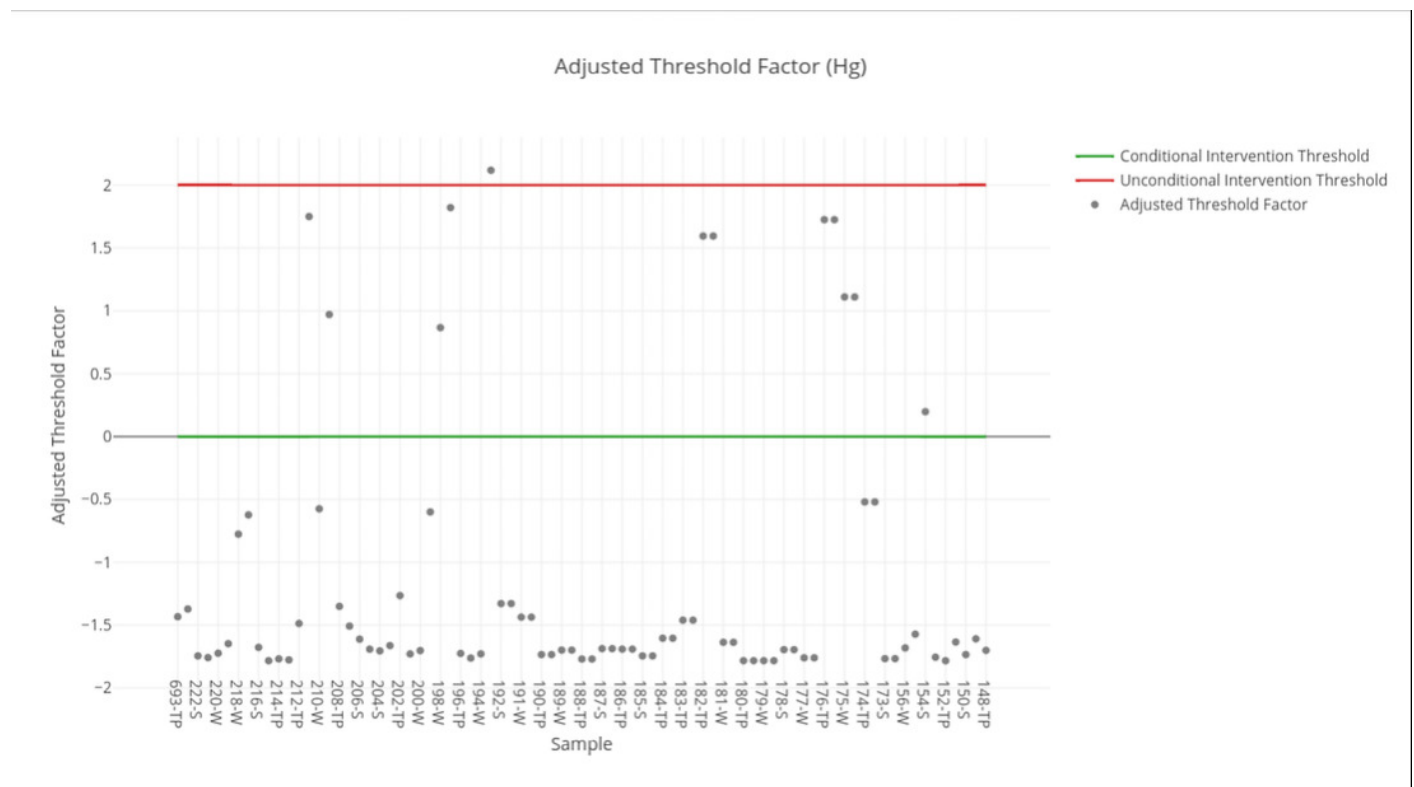


Figure 7

Adjusted threshold factor for Copper.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Copper. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

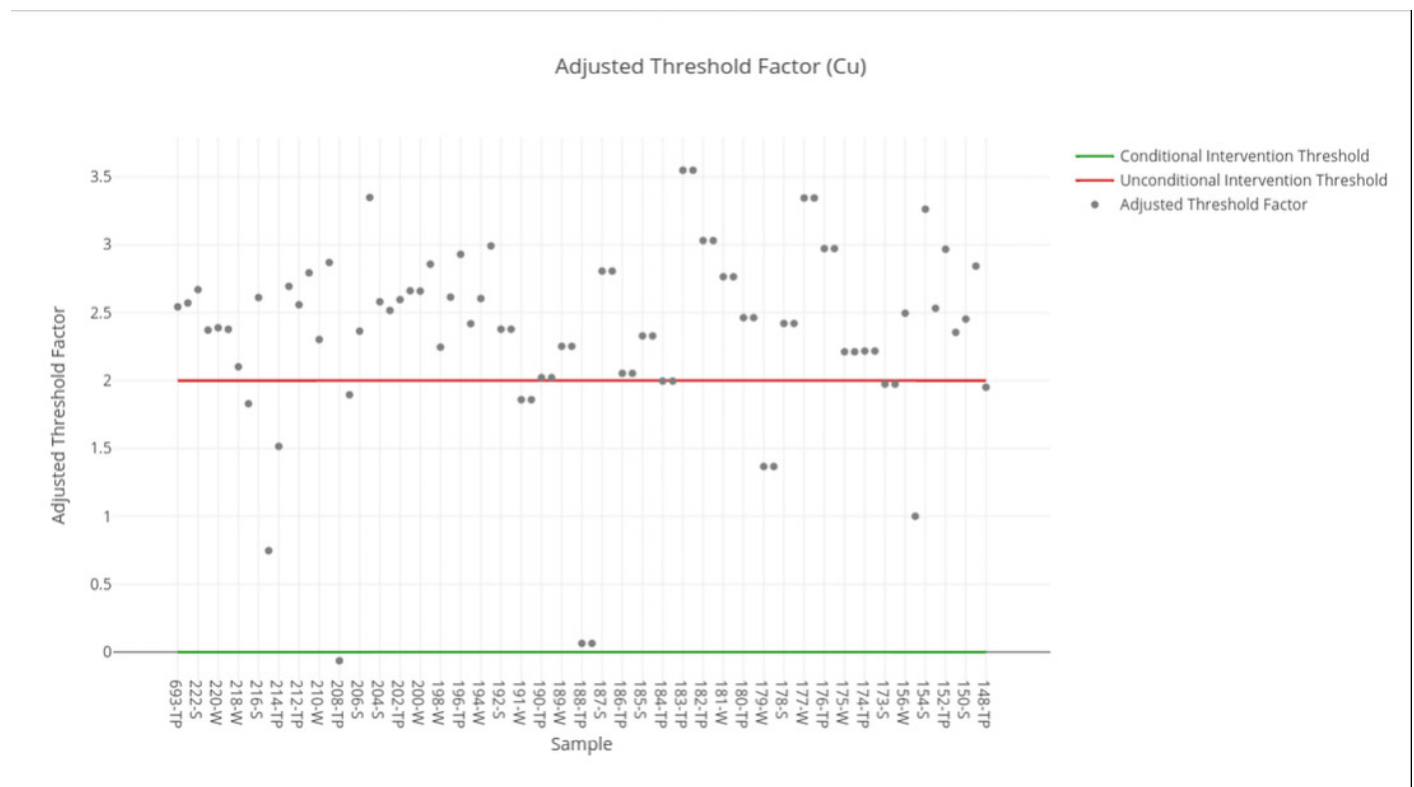


Figure 8

Adjusted threshold factor for Zinc.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Zinc. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

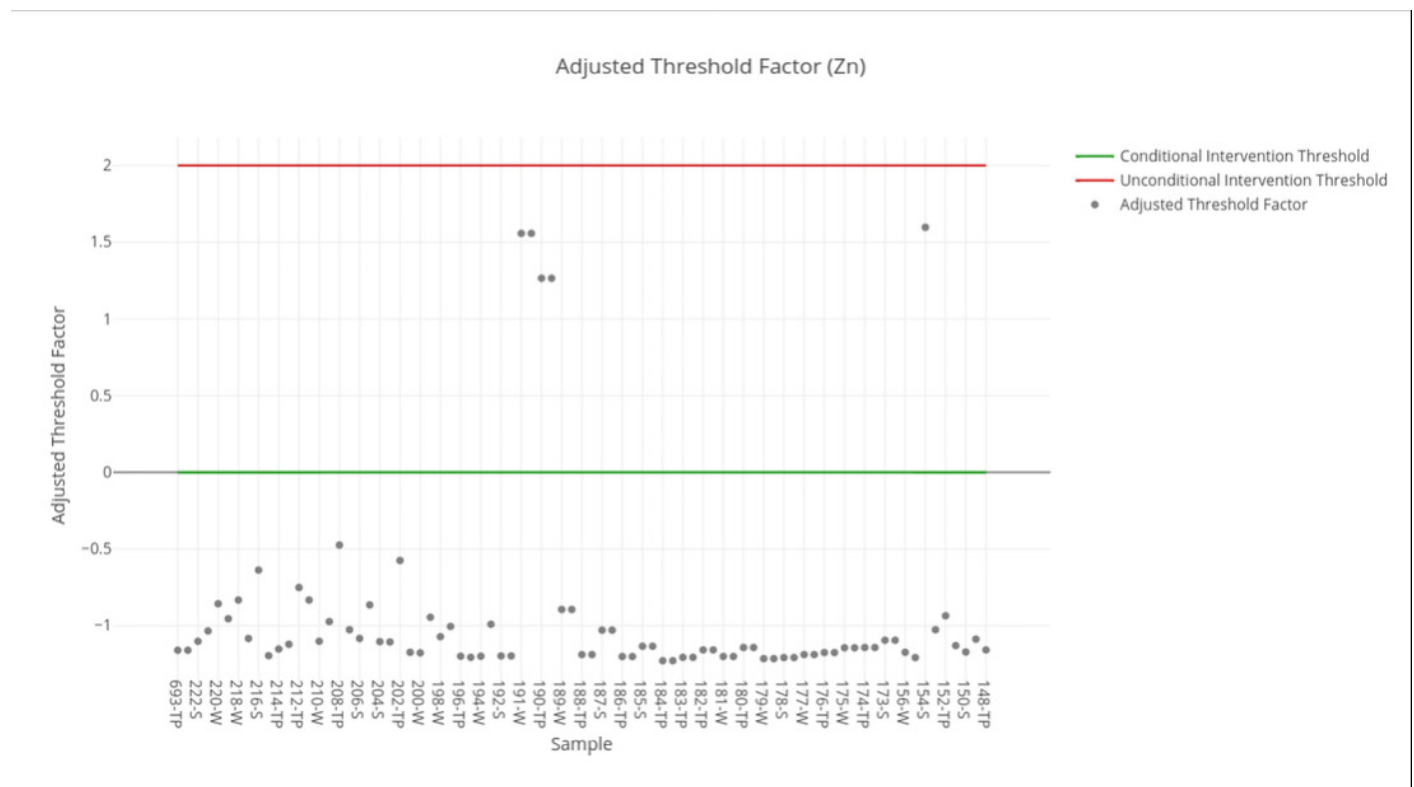


Figure 9

Adjusted threshold factor for Chromium.

Each data point indicates the value of the Adjusted Threshold Factor of a tailing sample for Chromium. The red line indicates the unconditional intervention threshold and the green line indicates the conditional intervention threshold. The data points between these lines are considered for a Conditional Intervention, while the points above the red line are considered for an Unconditional Intervention.

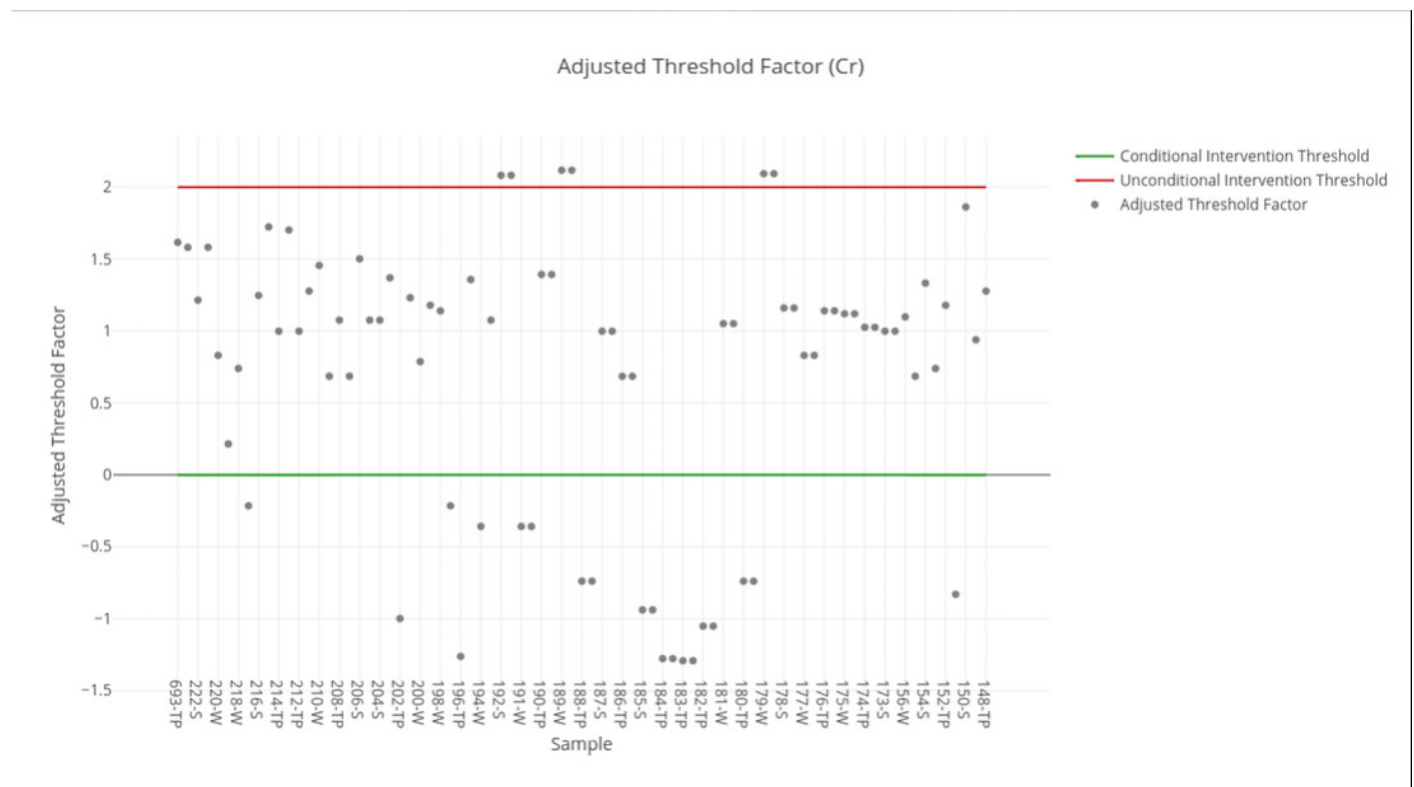


Figure 10

Histogram for the values of Weighted Intervention Ranking for all the 81 samples from the Commune of Andacollo.

This graph shows the distribution of the Weighted Intervention Ranking (*WIR*) for all the samples from the Commune of Andacollo. The average *WIR* for all sites is -9.46, while the median is -12.05 and the standard deviation is 12.90. The highest value of *WIR* is 29.64 and the lowest value is -32.95.

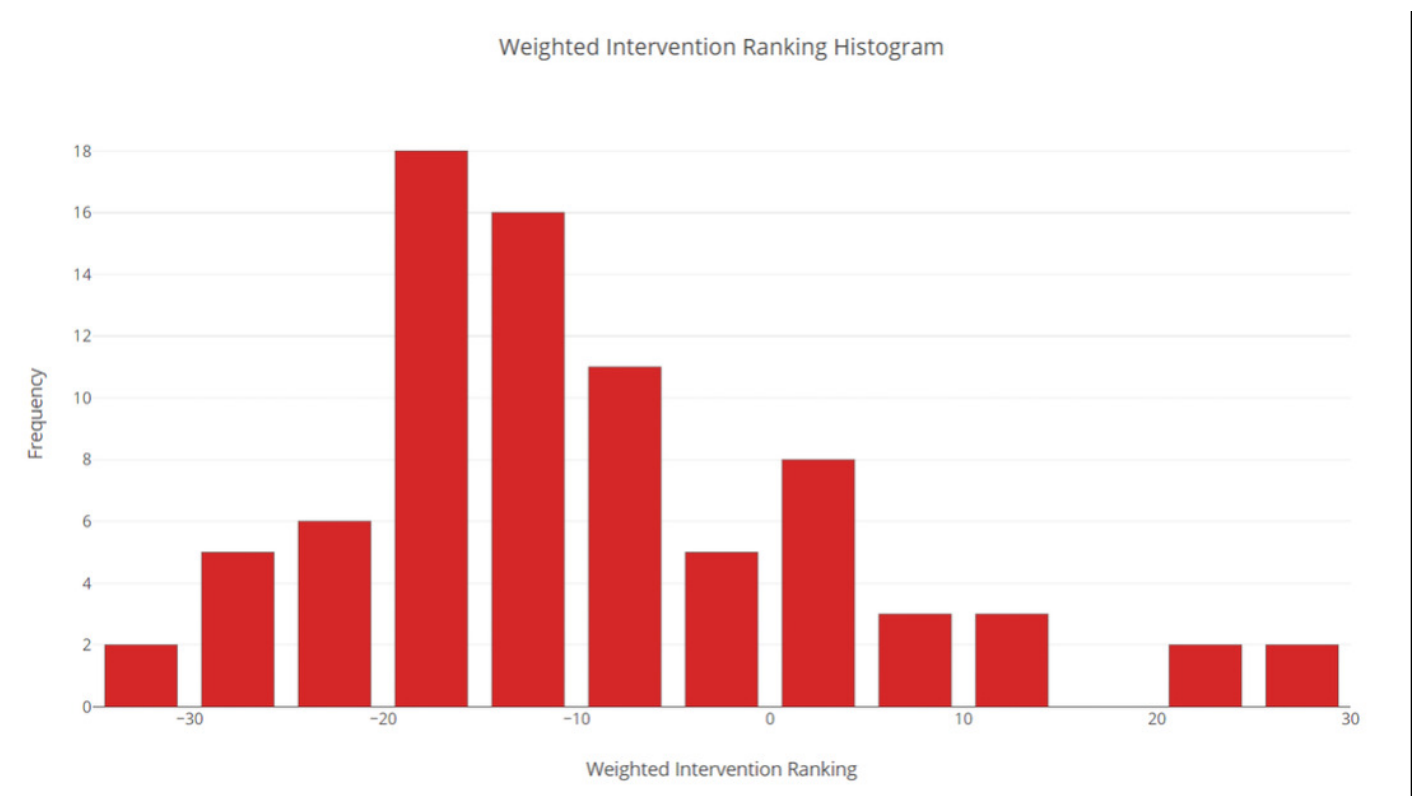



Table 1(on next page)

Parameters of the equation for the calculation of SSIV for each element (source: Dutch soil quality regulations, 2013).

Each row shows the value of the corresponding parameter for each element.

1 *Table 1 - Parameters of the equation for the calculation of SSIV for each element (source: Dutch*
 2 *soil quality regulations, 2013).* 

<i>Element</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>SSIV</i>
Arsenic	15	0.4	0.4	76
Cadmium	0.4	0.007	0.021	13
Mercury	0.2	0.0034	0.0017	4
Lead	50	1	1	530
Nickel	10	1	0	100
Zinc	50	3	1.5	720
Copper	15	0.6	0.6	190
Chromium	50	2	0	78

3

Table 2 (on next page)

Referential table of intervention values (SIV) of each element for different soils according to clay percentage assuming organic matter is $\leq 2\%$ (source: own elaboration).

Each row of this table presents the intervention values (SIV) of each element, depending on the percentage of Clay in the soil and assuming a negligible amount of organic matter.

Table 2 – Referential table of intervention values (SIV) of each element for different soils according to clay percentage assuming organic matter is $\leq 2\%$ (source: own elaboration).

SIV (mg/kg)		Element							
		As	Cd	Hg	Pb	Ni	Zn	Cu	Cr
Percentage of Clay	2	43.50	7.55	2.78	336.71	34.29	303.43	91.83	42.12
	5	46.65	7.90	2.92	355.41	42.86	349.71	101.33	46.80
	10	51.89	8.48	3.14	386.59	57.14	426.86	117.17	54.60
	15	57.13	9.06	3.37	417.76	71.43	504.00	133.00	62.40
	20	62.37	9.64	3.59	448.94	85.71	581.14	148.83	70.20
	25	67.61	10.22	3.82	480.12	100.00	658.29	164.67	78.00
	30	72.86	10.80	4.05	511.29	114.29	735.43	180.50	85.80
	35	78.10	11.38	4.27	542.47	128.57	812.57	196.33	93.60
	40	83.34	11.96	4.50	573.65	142.86	889.71	212.17	101.40
	45	88.58	12.54	4.72	604.82	157.14	966.86	228.00	109.20
	50	93.82	13.12	4.95	636.00	171.43	1044.00	243.83	117.00
	55	99.06	13.70	5.17	667.18	185.71	1121.14	259.67	124.80
	60	104.30	14.28	5.40	698.35	200.00	1198.29	275.50	132.60
	65	109.54	14.85	5.62	729.53	214.29	1275.43	291.33	140.40
	70	114.79	15.43	5.85	760.71	228.57	1352.57	307.17	148.20
	75	120.03	16.01	6.07	791.88	242.86	1429.71	323.00	156.00
	80	125.27	16.59	6.30	823.06	257.14	1506.86	338.83	163.80
	85	130.51	17.17	6.52	854.24	271.43	1584.00	354.67	171.60
	90	135.75	17.75	6.75	885.41	285.71	1661.14	370.50	179.40
	95	140.99	18.33	6.97	916.59	300.00	1738.29	386.33	187.20
	100	146.23	18.91	7.19	947.77	314.29	1815.44	402.16	195

Table 3(on next page)

Summary of intervention cases with respect to the threshold factor.

Each row describes a different case depending on the value of the threshold factor.

1 *Table 1 – Summary of intervention cases with respect to the threshold factor.*

Case	Condition	Description	Required Actions	Subcases	Additional Conditions
<i>No Intervention</i>	$C_F \leq 0$	The tailing deposit does not require intervention, regardless of the soil composition.	None	None	None
<i>Conditional Intervention</i>	$0 < C_F < 100$	The tailing deposit may or may not require intervention, this depends on the soil composition.	Determine the clay percentage x_A .	Intervention not required, it is not necessary to intervene the soil because it is under the intervention value specified for this type of soil.	$x_A > C_F$
				Intervention required, the soil must be intervened because it exceeds or equals the intervention value specified for this type of soil.	$x_A \leq C_F$
<i>Unconditional Intervention</i>	$C_F \geq 100$	The tailing deposit requires intervention, regardless of the soil composition.	Prepare an intervention plan for the site.	None	None

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3
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Table 4(on next page)

Summary of intervention cases with respect to the adjusted threshold factor.

Each row describes a different case depending on the value of the adjusted threshold factor.

1 *Table 4 – Summary of intervention cases with respect to the adjusted threshold factor.*

Case	Condition	Priority	Required Actions
<i>No Intervention</i>	$AC_F \leq 0$	None	None
<i>Unlikely Conditional Intervention</i>	$0 < AC_F \leq 1$	Low	If possible, determine the clay percentage x_A to find if intervention is required.
<i>Conditional Intervention</i>	$1 < AC_F < 2$	Medium	Determine the clay percentage x_A and find if intervention is required.
<i>Unconditional Intervention</i>	$AC_F \geq 2$	High	Prepare an intervention plan for the site.

2

Table 5(on next page)

Summary of results for Arsenic.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Arsenic adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

Table 5 - Summary of results for Arsenic.

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	10	1	0
Inactive	18	0	4
Abandoned	48	0	0

Table 6(on next page)

Summary of results for Cadmium.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Cadmium adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 6 - Summary of results for Cadmium.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	9	2	0
Inactive	10	12	0
Abandoned	30	18	0

2

Table 7 (on next page)

Summary of results for Lead.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Lead adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 7 - Summary of results for Lead.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	11	0	0
Inactive	18	4	0
Abandoned	48	0	0

2

Table 8(on next page)

Summary of results for Nickel.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Nickel adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 8 - Summary of results for Nickel.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	0	11	0
Inactive	0	22	0
Abandoned	0	48	0

2

Table 9(on next page)

Summary of results for Mercury.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Mercury adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 9 - Summary of results for Mercury.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	10	1	0
Inactive	20	2	0
Abandoned	39	8	1

2

Table 10(on next page)

Summary of results for Copper.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Copper adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

Table 10 - Summary of results for Copper.

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	0	2	9
Inactive	0	6	16
Abandoned	1	8	39

Table 11(on next page)

Summary of results for Zinc.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Zinc adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 11 - Summary of results for Zinc.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	10	1	0
Inactive	18	4	0
Abandoned	48	0	0

2

Table 12(on next page)

Summary of results for Chromium.

This table presents the information regarding to the necessity of intervention results for the tailings according to the Chromium adjusted threshold factor grouped by tailing deposit status (active, inactive or abandoned).

1 *Table 12 - Summary of results for Chromium.*

Deposit Status	$AC_F \leq 0$ (no intervention)	$0 < AC_F < 2$ (conditional intervention)	$AC_F \geq 2$ (unconditional intervention)
Active	1	10	0
Inactive	6	10	6
Abandoned	13	35	0

2

Table 13(on next page)

Summary of results by sample for ACTIVE deposits (“NO”: no intervention, “YES”: unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).

Each row corresponds to a tailing sample from active deposits, the columns show if this sampling suggests a conditional intervention, an unconditional intervention or no intervention according to the adjusted threshold factor.

1 *Table 13 – Summary of results by sample for ACTIVE deposits (“NO”: no intervention, “YES”:*
 2 *unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).*

ID	Cr	Zn	Ni	Pb	Hg	Cu	Cd	As
148-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	CND	NO
149-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
150-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
151-W	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
152-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	CND
153-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
154-S	CND	CND	CND	NO	CND	YES	NO	NO
155-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
156-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
692-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
693-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO

3

Table 14(on next page)

Summary of results by sample for INACTIVE deposits (“NO”: no intervention, “YES”: unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).

Each row corresponds to a tailing sample from inactive deposits, the columns show if this sampling suggests a conditional intervention, an unconditional intervention or no intervention according to the adjusted threshold factor.

Table 14 – Summary of results by sample for INACTIVE deposits (“NO”: no intervention,
“YES”: unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).

<i>ID</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Zn</i>	<i>Ni</i>	<i>Pb</i>	<i>Hg</i>	<i>Cu</i>	<i>Cd</i>	<i>As</i>
176-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
176-TP-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
177-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
177-W-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
178-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
178-S-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
179-W	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
179-W-2	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
180-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
180-TP-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
181-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
181-W-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
188-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
188-TP-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
189-W	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
189-W-2	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
190-TP	CND	CND	CND	CND	NO	YES	CND	YES
190-TP-2	CND	CND	CND	CND	NO	YES	CND	YES
191-W	NO	CND	CND	CND	NO	CND	NO	YES
191-W-2	NO	CND	CND	CND	NO	CND	NO	YES
192-S	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
192-S-2	YES	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO

Table 15(on next page)

Summary of results by sample for ABANDONED deposits (“NO”: no intervention, “YES”: unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).

Each row corresponds to a tailing sample from abandoned deposits, the columns show if this sampling suggests a conditional intervention, an unconditional intervention or no intervention according to the adjusted threshold factor.

Table 15 – Summary of results by sample for ABANDONED deposits (“NO”: no intervention, “YES”: unconditional intervention and “CND”: conditional intervention).

ID	Cr	Zn	Ni	Pb	Hg	Cu	Cd	As
173-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	CND	NO
173-S-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	CND	NO
174-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
174-TP-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
175-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	NO	NO
175-W-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	NO	NO
182-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
182-TP-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
183-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
183-TP-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
184-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
184-TP-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
185-S	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
185-S-2	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
186-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
186-TP-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
187-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
187-S-2	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
193-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	SÍ	YES	NO	NO
194-W	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
195-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
196-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
197-W	NO	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
198-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	NO	NO
199-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
200-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
201-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
202-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
203-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
204-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
205-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
206-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
207-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
208-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
209-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	CND	NO
210-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
211-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	CND	YES	NO	NO
212-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
213-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
214-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	CND	NO
215-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
216-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
217-TP	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO	CND	NO	NO
218-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
219-TP	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO
220-W	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
221-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
222-S	CND	NO	CND	NO	NO	YES	CND	NO

Table 16(on next page)

Assigned weights to each element for the calculation of the Weighted Intervention Ranking.

Each row in this table shows an element with its respective weight for the calculation of the Weighted Intervention Ranking.

Table 16 – Assigned weights to each element for the calculation of the Weighted Intervention Ranking.

Element	Assigned Weight
Cr	4.0
Zn	2.0
Ni	2.0
Pb	5.0
Hg	5.0
Cu	3.0
Cd	4.0
As	5.0

Table 17 (on next page)

Summary of results for the top ten critical sites according to their WIR value.

Each row represents a tailing sample, this table details the values of the adjusted threshold factor for each element and the value of the WIR, it also includes the information about the deposit from where the sample was extracted.

1 *Table 17 – Summary of results for the top ten critical sites according to their WIR value.*

ID	Deposit	Status	As	Cd	Pb	Ni	Hg	Cu	Zn	Cr	WIR
190-TP-2	ARIZONA 1	INACTIVE	2.45	0.84	1.21	1.27	-1.73	2.02	1.26	1.39	29.64
190-TP	ARIZONA 1	INACTIVE	2.45	0.59	1.21	1.27	-1.73	2.02	1.26	1.39	28.64
191-W-2	ARIZONA 2	INACTIVE	2.74	-0.27	1.68	1.19	-1.44	1.86	1.56	-0.36	23.47
191-W	ARIZONA 2	INACTIVE	2.74	-0.57	1.68	1.19	-1.44	1.86	1.56	-0.36	22.25
152-TP	SANTA TERESITA 2	ACTIVE	1.58	1.19	-1.12	1.17	-1.78	2.97	-0.94	1.18	12.22
176-TP-2	ARENILLAS 2	INACTIVE	-1.33	0.84	-1.67	1.23	1.73	2.97	-1.18	1.14	10.53
176-TP	ARENILLAS 2	INACTIVE	-1.33	0.75	-1.67	1.23	1.73	2.97	-1.18	1.14	10.19
197-W	PUNTA CALETONES 3	ABADONED	-1.33	1.62	-1.62	1.16	1.82	2.61	-1.00	-0.22	8.11
209-TP	IRENE 2	ABADONED	-1.33	1.19	-1.58	1.18	0.97	2.87	-0.97	0.69	6.80
193-TP	CENTRAL	ABADONED	-1.33	-1.09	-1.54	1.21	2.12	2.99	-0.99	1.08	5.56

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