

## International SURF Groups and Partners

28 November 2023

1.00 – 3.00pm London Time

Meeting No. 32

### Representatives:

- SuRF-Canada : François Beaudoin (chair)
- NICOLE: Olivier Maurer
- SuRF France: Pierre Jolly
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang and Dr Hao-Chun Hung
- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- NICOLA: Hayley Thomas
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

### Apologies received:

- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Francois Beaudoin (FB) welcomed everybody to the International Sustainable Remediation Forum meeting collectively known as International Sustainable Remediation Alliance (ISRA). Everyone introduced themselves on the call. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.</p>
2.	<p><b>Recent progress updates</b></p> <p>All Sustainable Remediation Fora (SuRFs) provided a brief update of their activities. For those SuRFs unable to attend and had sent a report, their reports were read out and included for completeness.</p> <p><b>NICOLE</b></p> <p>Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE. He confirmed that NICOLE's recent meeting in Malmo was a success and he thanked everyone for their contribution to the Regulatory Working Group.</p> <p>OM also confirmed that NICOLE aims to develop their international links further and have strategic alliances with ALGA and ITRC. They aim to attend Battelle in the Spring to demonstrate their closer collaboration. OM confirmed that NICOLE, ALGA and ITRC met recently virtually and are looking at the opportunity to run a joint conference in 2025. OM asked whether there may be interest for ISRA to get involved? OM is keen to look to organise a 2/3 day event that could run concurrently across the globe.</p> <p>NICOLE has submitted their research proposal to host a "Living Lab" through the European Union call for proposals. NICOLE would be one partner working in</p>

collaboration with their university members. They await to hear if they have been successful.

NICOLE's recently launched Foundation is continuing to work on projects. Foundation members have the opportunity to work on a United Nations project helping a part of Ukraine that has been impacted by flooding and subsequent contamination when a dam broke its banks. Individuals can work for free or receive some limited funding. Further funding is being sought to cover consultants costs..

The 2024 Spring workshop will be held in Brussels in March jointly with OVAM and Common Forum.

#### **SuRF-France**

Pierre Jolly (PJ) confirmed that SuRF-France has not been active this year due to his work commitments. PJ confirmed that there is a large demand for a network, but it needs an entity to drive it forward which requires funding. SuRF France is going to make enquiries with potential hosting organisations.

#### **SuRF-Italy**

Claudio Albano (CA) confirmed SuRF-Italy was successfully relaunched at the end of September at the network meeting of ASSORECA at Remtech. The first activity has been to relaunch the draft White Paper that was initially prepared in 2015 and has now been updated and published and sent to the Ministry of Environment and shared with a wider stakeholder group to gather feedback.

#### **SuRF-UK**

Paul Bardos (PB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. He confirmed that the SuRF-UK bulletin Introduction to Sustainable Remediation has now been published and is available here:

<https://www.clare.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/16-surf-uk-bulletins?download=963:introduction-to-sustainable-remediation-2023>

PB confirmed that on the last SuRF-UK steering group call the 2024 activities were discussed. The main focus will be to finish the mapping exercise of the different supporting guidance against the different SuRF-UK indicators. In addition, SuRF-UK will be looking at updating the SuRF-UK Framework document to ensure that it signposts to the most up to date guidance and tools available. In addition they will be looking at developing additional supporting bulletins for different sectors that work in development to help these sectors understand all the resources that are available. SuRF-UK will also be looking at delivering further training and writing articles for general industry press.

In addition, PB highlighted that the UK government has launched the legal requirements for new developments to take into consideration the impact on biodiversity from development, and the government has now set targets for enhancing biodiversity. There is a linkage with these requirements and sustainability indicators. Further information is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain>

PB also enquired to the SuRF community whether they had come across the term "betterment" in relation to the remediation of soil and groundwater. He explained that an industry group that represent remediation practitioners has produced a draft guide explaining what "betterment" is, and how to achieve the best remediation that is possible but may not be possible to reach the regulatory targets set. They have also looked to link "betterment" to sustainability. PB explained that SuRF-UK will look to discuss this linkage at the next steering group call as there were quite differing views. People weren't aware of the term "betterment" but Roy Thun (RT) suggested that perhaps "betterment" was similar to the US environmental regulatory framework that discusses the term

“practicable” and is referenced in Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) & Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

#### **NICOLA**

Hayley Thomas (HT) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. She confirmed that they recently had their annual face to face conference in October 2023. This was hosted in partnership with the National Regulator of Contaminated Land. NICOLA continue to build their relationship with regulators following the signing on the MoU, and will be delivering more training next year specifically for regulators.

NICOLA is also working with ITRC who will be delivering training in early March 2024 and will be looking at other opportunities to develop international collaborations to develop knowledge and experience across Africa.

NICOLE is working on new position papers in relation to areas of concern in Africa such as ether oxygenates.

#### **SuRF-Taiwan**

Bing Nan Wang (BN) and Professor Hao-Chun Hung (HH) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Taiwan. They confirmed that they had hosted a very successful Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation (GSRR) conference on 7 November 2023 and they thanked Paul Bardos, Alan Thomas, David Tully and Roy Thun of the International SuRF community for providing presentations. The conference was sponsored by the EPA Taiwan which was seen very positively by industry. At the conference, there was also the first GSRR awards presented by the EPA. Projects were encouraged to apply and demonstrate their sustainable remediation projects. Six awards were presented. HH confirmed that this is the first time that a central government department had provided awards to private sector companies. These were very well received and HH felt that there was positive publicity surrounding the awards which will encourage further companies to apply next year. HH feels that by recognising companies achievements encourages other companies to improve their projects and apply for an award. The larger corporations also want to get recognised for their good practices so are starting to encourage their supply chains to improve their work. Corporations are starting to identify that there is a direct link to GSRR and Environment Social Governance (ESG). HH feels the change in mindset and improvement in attitude is linked to the opportunity to win an award.

#### **SuRF-Japan**

Yasuhide Furukawa attended on behalf of SuRF-Japan. He confirmed that SuRF Japan hosted a small workshop at the beginning of November which was titled "2nd Workshop on Sustainable Soil Management". It was led by Dr. Yasutaka, the Chair of SURF Japan, from the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST).

Professor Paul Bardos, the Co-chair of SuRF UK delivered a lecture on the current trends in sustainable remediation in the United Kingdom. His presentation provided insights into the latest developments and practices in this field.

Additionally, AIST presented a case study on research conducted at Fukushima under the Comprehensive Environmental Promotion Fund. This case study highlighted the ongoing efforts to address the environmental challenges posed by the Fukushima incident and showcased the progress that has been made in this area. The workshop brought together experts and researchers to exchange knowledge and discuss sustainable soil management and stakeholder engagement. It provided valuable insights into the latest advancements in this important field.

	<p><b>SuRF-ANZ</b>  David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF ANZ. He confirmed their main focus since the last meeting was SustRem 2023, which was a great success. He confirmed that there have been some changes in the SuRF ANZ committee but DT will remain as the SuRF ANZ chair and representative on ISRA calls.</p> <p>DT confirmed that ALGA has improved the profile of the specialist working groups of which SuRF ANZ is one on their <a href="#">website</a>, the profile is now much more obvious.</p> <p>ALGA's annual 'Sustainable Remediation Project Recognition Award' was presented at the Ecoforum/SustRem 2023 conference and DT confirmed the quality of submissions have markedly improved, it was a real challenge to judge the winners.</p> <p>DT confirmed that the South Australia state government has amended their environmental legislation such that as well as promoting sustainable development now includes requirements in relation to climate change resilience and climate change mitigation. DT explained that he would anticipate other Australian state and territory governments will follow suit and amend their legislation but this is to be confirmed.</p> <p><b>SURF - US</b>  Roy Thun (RT) provided an update on behalf of SURF. He confirmed that they continue to have their membership meetings in association with AEHS, one on the east coast and one on the west coast. The last event in October 2023 was well attended with a lot of interest in their different initiatives. SuRF is currently seeing a lot of interest in Environmental Justice which they are looking to develop into a white paper.</p> <p>SURF is continuing to deliver monthly webinars, the next one will focus on the environmental footprint of PFAS.</p> <p>RT explained that SURF membership is starting to grow again through individual membership and sponsorship which is encouraging to see. RT believes that the continual messaging across the ISRA community on the importance of sustainability and resiliency is starting to resonate with clients.</p> <p><b>SuRF-Canada</b>  Francois Beaudoin (FB) confirmed that SuRF Canada is continuing with its activities to become an incorporated not for profit organisation. SuRF Canada has seen an increase in the interest of its activities due to climate change and resiliency work of other SuRF chapters postings.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Past Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ EcoForum &amp; SustRem 2023 10-13 October 2023 Melbourne Australia</li> </ul> <p>DT confirmed that SuRF ANZ was delighted how SustRem 2023 went and thanked the support of ALGA allowing it to be in association with EcoForum. It was a great success. SustRem was approximately 1/3 of the EcoForum conference with various themed sessions. Over 700 people attended the whole event which made it one of the largest technical conferences hosted in Australia. ITRC ran a number of well attended training sessions, and there was great opportunities for young professional to present their work which was seen as really positive to get better engagement with the new generation of professionals.</p> <p>DT thanked all the SuRF chapters that were in attendance and participated in his workshop, it was really positive to have the SuRFs presence as it demonstrated how collaboratively the different chapters engage and support.</p> <p><b>Future Events:</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ People were made aware that the next NICOLE meeting will be jointly hosted with the Common Forum during the International Soil Week in the Spring in Belgium.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</b></p> <p><b><u>SustRem 2024</u></b></p> <p>It was discussed that with such momentum being developed with hosting SustRem conference for the last three years, that it would be advantageous to host a SustRem 2024. There was concern that it might be too short notice, but it was agreed that it could be more modest than recent SustRem conference but was valuable to fly the SustRem flag and maintain the momentum. Could there be an opportunity to piggyback on an existing conference. The obvious one would be Remtech that is being hosted in September 2024.</p> <p><b>Action: NH to make enquiries if there is an opportunity to piggyback SustRem 2024 at Remtech and report back.</b></p> <p>PB also suggested that perhaps Remplex could be an option. Remplex is focused on environmental remediation of complex sites and has a strong linkage with the nuclear sector.</p> <p><b>Action: PB agreed to enquire about Remplex and the opportunity of piggybacking a SustRem conference</b></p> <p>also be piggy back on. The scope of Remplex is but is important There was great interest for ISRA to host jointly a web based conference in 2025 as the next SustRem.</p> <p><b><u>SustRem 2025</u></b></p> <p>There was general interest to run a SustRem 2025. Could this be in collaboration with other groups that OM had previously discussed. AquaConsoil in 2025 will be hosting its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary so are keen to do something different. Is there a possibility to join and connect all these global groups together. Smaller events could be hosted in individual countries but it would be important to stagger the timings due to different time zones. There could be an opportunity to pre-record presentations which would allow for rerunning of the presentations.</p> <p>There is interest in ISRA participating and running a SustRem 2025 but there will need to be the resources made available.?</p> <p><b>Action: NH to correspond with OM to discuss possibilities.</b></p>
5.	<p><b>AOB</b> No items were raised.</p>
6.	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>Next teleconference will be arranged for May 2024. NH will contact with a Chair in Europe to ask for a volunteer to chair the next call.</p> <p><b>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</b></p>