

International SURF Groups and Partners

29th January 2020

12.00 – 13.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 24

Representatives:

- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully (chair)
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing Nan
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa
- NICOLE Latin America/SuRF Brazil : Olivier Maurer
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Canada : François Beaudoin
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

Apologies received:

- SuRF-UK : Hayley Thomas & Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- NICOLE: Hans Slenders
- SuRF-NL: Laurent Bakker

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>David Tully (DT) welcomed everybody and asked people to speak slowly and clearly. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.</p>
2.	<p>Recent progress updates</p> <p>All SuRFs that were present provided a brief update of their activities. For those SuRFs unable to attend and had sent a report, Nicola Harries shared their reports.</p> <p>SuRF-ANZ</p> <p>David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-ANZ. He confirmed that it is currently Summer so it is quite quiet at present. He confirmed that SuRF-ANZ successfully delivered a series of ½ day workshops on ISO18504 Sustainable Remediation in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch New Zealand. SuRF-ANZ is a special interest group of ALGA and members of ALGA has confirmed that they wish for the special interest group to continue and new members have recently joined along with some former members have recently resigned.</p> <p>SuRF-UK</p> <p>NH provided a SuRF-UK update. SuRF-UK is currently amending the Annex 1 indicator set to the framework document following the public consultation and peer review by CL:AIRE's internal technical expert panel. Roy Thun confirmed that SuRF was excited at the imminent publication of this document and they are looking to formally endorse the document by linking directly to it.</p> <p>Paul Bardos on behalf of SuRF-UK steering group is leading on the preparation of a paper based on the updates to the Annex 1 indicator guidance.</p>

Hayley Thomas on behalf of SuRF-UK is leading on the preparation of a SuRF-UK bulletin on the comparison on ISO14001 and SuRF-UK indicators. Amendments are being made following CL:AIRE's peer review process.

SURF

Roy Thun (RT) provided a SuRF update. SuRF are continuing to work collaboratively with AEHS who have conferences twice a year in October and March. In addition, SuRF is looking to expand its outreach messages which includes providing updates on the SuRF International community work. SuRF is now delivering a series of webinars that are proving to be popular. Paul Bardos of SuRF-UK has agreed to present on the SuRF-UK indicator report once published.

SuRF are continuing with their partnering work with ITRC on updating their sustainable remediation guidance to broaden its scope to involve climate resiliency and fires. Barbara Maco is leading on this work for SuRF. Others SuRF affiliates have been invited and Japan and UK have representation. RT confirmed that SuRF are currently discussing the opportunities of perhaps support masters/PhD students

SuRF-NL

Laurent Bakker confirmed that nobody from SuRF-NL was able to attend the call and sent his apologies. He confirmed that currently SuRF-NL are in the process of reconsidering the continuation of SuRF-NL. This is due to there not being representatives able to contribute to the international community at present.

NICOLE

Hans Slenders was unable to attend the call but he confirmed that NICOLE continues its focus on land stewardship and they are aiming to publish the updated guidance at the NICOLE meeting in the Spring Workshop in June in Porto, Portugal. NICOLE is also collaborating with NICOLE Latin America and NICOLA in Africa.

SuRF-Canada

Francois Beaudoin confirmed that the new SuRF-Canada committee have met a few times to advance the development of webinars, adding content to the website and raising the profile of SuRF-Canada, but progress is limited. It is hoped that new members to the steering group who are keen to contribute will start to move things forward. SuRF-Canada is still looking to become an independent organisation and create a new legal structure.

SuRF-Italy

Claudio Albano (CA) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Italy. He confirmed it was extremely quiet in Italy at present. They are trying to revive the sustainable remediation agenda with industry directly, as sustainability is a topic high on companies' agenda. CA is looking at preparing a memo that can be shared more widely.

NICOLE Latin America/SuRF-Brasil

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE Latin America/SuRF Brasil. He confirmed that NICOLE Latin America are preparing a guidance booklet on sustainable remediation and are planning a series of workshops in March 2020 to develop case studies that can be shared at SustRem 2020 remotely. NICOLE Latin America are supporting NICOLA in their hosting SustRem 2020 in South Africa.

SuRF-Taiwan

Professor Bing Nan (BN) attended on behalf of SuRF-Taiwan. He confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan are currently focusing their activities on collecting case studies that have using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) framework and the EPA carbon calculator to identify which aspects may not be working well so further modifications can be made. They are

	<p>also continuing to work on developing best management practices and running a series of training courses on the concepts of GSR.</p> <p>SuRF-Taiwan is also interested to know from other SuRF bodies what work has been carried out on measuring soil health as this is an area that they will be focusing on in 2020. It was acknowledged that the European Commission are working in this area and hosting workshops, and ASTM/ITRC are tackling GSR and Climate Change which covers soil health with respect to resilience. BN would welcome further discussions in this area.</p> <p>ACTION: ALL to signpost work that they are aware of in their country/regions in relation to assessing and protecting soil health.</p> <p>SuRF-Japan Yasuhide Furukawa (YF) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Japan. YF confirmed that SuRF-Japan are organising a workshop in Osaka in March 2020 for up to 30 people. YF also confirmed that a representative attended the ISO TC190 meeting and there was no discussion about sustainable remediation.</p> <p>SuRF-Colombia No update was provided.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Feedback from Events</p> <p><i>RemTech 2019: Ferrara, Italy 18-20th September 2019</i> Nicola Harries confirmed that she attended. She confirmed that there was not a great focus on sustainable remediation with many of the presentations in Italian. CA presented at the conference on the NICOLE Land Stewardship booklet.</p> <p><i>NICOLA 5th Annual Conference, Cape Town, South Africa 31st Oct – 1st November 2019</i> Hayley Thomas(HT) and Olivier Maurer(OM) attended. HT presented an update on SuRF-UK activities and OM presented on providing an update of SustRem 2018.</p> <p><i>AEHS EAST, Amherst, Massachusetts 21st Oct – 24th Oct 2019</i> This event collaborated with SuRF with special sustainable remediation sessions. However there was a large focus on PFAS which somewhat overshadowed sustainable remediation discussions.</p> <p><i>Soil and the SDGs: challenges and need for action, Brussels Belgium 25th November 2019</i> HT confirmed that she attended as a Shell employee. The Executive summary of the report produced for the conference is here: https://4016c5ae-e69f-47f2-b727-044b42c4790d.filesusr.com/ugd/db6e0f_ba440a16ea7f47088b1830762d87b6cc.pdf Presentations given on the day: https://www.soil-conference.org/documents</p> <p>The thrust of the discussion was around the protection and restoration of soils both within Europe (and even more broadly, where the EUs practices are impacting on other countries soil quality). Focus was particularly with regards biodiversity, agriculture/agricultural practices and urban populations expanding onto former farmlands. The EU is still committed to soil protection and is looking for ways to standardise how land degradation is measured (methodology and indicators) and will be looking to assess the need for an EU legal framework for soil in the future.</p> <p>It was noted that France is focusing a lot on soil health and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH confirmed that in the UK biodiversity has also become high priority and planning laws have changed so all new developments need to demonstrate to make biodiversity net gains. The new Environment Bill is encompassing many aspects but is also as a result of the UK leaving the EU. Further information is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-bill-sets-out-vision-for-a-greener-future</p>

	<p><i>ICCL -Lima, Peru 23-25th October 2019</i> The presentations from the event are available: https://www.iccl.ch/meeting_lima.html</p> <p>There were specific sessions linked to sustainability. eg on sustainably managing mining sites.</p> <p><i>CL:AIRE 20th Anniversary Conference, 14th November 2019, London</i> This event had a number of different presentations relating to sustainable land management, including reuse of soil and a presentation on Debunking the Myths on Sustainable Remediation that Jonathan Smith (former SuRF-UK chair) presented.</p> <p>Forthcoming events: Battelle 2020, Portland Oregon, 31st May - June 4th 2020 NICOLE 2020, Porto Portugal, 24th June – 26th June 2020 EcoForum 2020, Darwin Australia 15-17 September 2020 SustRem 2020 – South Africa</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <p>David Tully (DT) led the discussions. He confirmed that up until now SuRF ANZ has focused their work on promoting the principles of sustainable remediation, however going forward they need to demonstrate how it works through the development of case studies. SuRF ANZ would like to work with other SuRFs to share their exemplar examples. It was acknowledged that this has been something that all SuRFs have struggled to move forward with to get good quality case studies.</p> <p>DT wondered if a greater focus of the case studies could be promoting best practice in relation to the climate change agenda eg demonstrating reducing your carbon impact whilst remediating soil and groundwater and moving to carbon neutral activities.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that there is no bigger threat than climate change and SuRFs collectively could have a powerful voice to try and provide guidance to leaders in the areas that they can influence such as soil and groundwater remediation. How can we adapt practices to address climate change? How to remediate in a climate change resilient manner?</p> <p>It was agreed to have a brainstorm and come up with ideas and concepts initially on areas that the SuRFs would like to look to address, bearing in mind they need to still be in the context of sustainable remediation/sustainable land management. These would then be shared more widely with the different SuRFs globally and voted on. It was felt that SustRem conference series gives a good vehicle to share progress as there are potentially three SustRem conferences planned up to 2022.</p> <p>ACTION: ALL to send through thoughts of how climate change is impacting projects and areas that the SuRFs would initially like to explore ideas further. NH would collate ideas sent through and arrange a separate teleconference to discuss with those that wish to participate.</p> <p>It was agreed that the message from the SuRFs perhaps should be more positive ie looking for solutions rather than addressing problems.</p> <p>SustRem 2020 NH reported that the call for abstracts for SustRem will be open shortly. The venue will be Stellenbosch (Spier Wine farm) https://www.spier.co.za/about-us and the dates are 28th – 30th October 2020. The venue was chosen as it has strong sustainability credentials. Further details will be provided shortly.</p>

5.	Any Other Business NH explained that secretariat support is due, and she will be contacting all SuRFs to ask for their continued financial support.
6.	Next meeting Next teleconference will be arranged in late Spring/early Summer 2020. NH will contact SuRF US for suitable dates to chair. ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.