

International SURF Groups and Partners

5th May 2021

1.00 – 2.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 27

Representatives:

- SuRF-Canada : François Beaudoin (chair)
- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos & Alan Thomas
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing Nan Wang
- NICOLE Latin America/SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF-Japan : Tetsuo Yasutaka
- SuRF-Italy/NICOLE : Claudio Albano
- SuRF France: Pierre Jolly & Olivier Maurer
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

Apologies received:

- NICOLA: Hayley Thomas
- NICOLE: Hans Slenders

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>François Beaudoin (FB) welcomed everybody. 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, their reports were added for completeness.</p> <p>SuRF-Italy Claudio Albano (CA) confirmed that currently there is not much progress being undertaken in Italy in respect to SuRF-Italy. The supporting organisation RECONNECT has ceased and therefore SuRF-Italy is looking for a new host. They still hope to publish guidelines for sustainable remediation in Italy.</p> <p>NICOLE CA confirmed that NICOLE continues to promote its Land Stewardship work and have submitted an abstract to SustRem 2021 and AquaConsoil 2021.</p> <p>SURF - USA Roy Thun (RT) provided a SURF update. RT confirmed that SURF is continuing with their partnership with AEHS and organising SustRem 2022 in the Spring in San Diego, USA. They have published the first call as a “Save the Date” which will be quickly followed by a “Call for Abstracts”. The focus of the conference will be: “Creating healthy and more resilient world through sustainable practices”. RT confirmed that SURF USA has now expanded its vision to also include degraded</p>

environments rather than restrict to contaminated sites which it is hoped will broaden its influence.

SURF members have been actively involved in the ITRC work on updating the guidance on sustainable resilient remediation which has been recently published [https://itrcweb.org/team/Public?teamID=84#:~:text=Green%20and%20Sustainable%20Remediation%20\(GSR,economic%20impacts%2C%20and%20environmental%20effects](https://itrcweb.org/team/Public?teamID=84#:~:text=Green%20and%20Sustainable%20Remediation%20(GSR,economic%20impacts%2C%20and%20environmental%20effects)

Training to support the guidance is also being planned.

SuRF-Taiwan

Bing Nan Wang (BN) attended on behalf of SuRF-Taiwan. BN confirmed that they are currently working on a sustainability calculator to provide more functionality for carbon emissions and energy use. It is hoped that it will be completed this year and will be uploaded on the EPA website.

Budget has been secured for 2022 to host an international conference on sustainable remediation and they will be able to invite some international speakers (subject to Covid restrictions being lifted).

BN also confirmed that Taiwan has had very low rainfall recently which has impacted reservoir water levels. Therefore, discussions are starting about the potential need to abstract groundwater. However, much of Taiwan's groundwater is contaminated with nitrates. BN confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan is discussing this issue with government and looking to connect the issue of groundwater, remediation and sustainability.

SuRF-UK

Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. He confirmed that recently much of their resources have been spent on updating the Sustainable Management Practices guidance document. In addition, the Sustainable Remediation elearning suite has also been updated to signpost the ISO standard on Sustainable Remediation and the other recently published SuRF-UK guidance.

In addition to support the SR1 & 2 reports, the Tier 1 Qualitative Assessment Tool for carrying out a sustainability assessment has been updated and is now available to download on the SuRF-UK web page

<https://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/16-surf-uk-bulletins?download=405:surf-uk-tier-1-sustainability-assessment-feb21-final>

SuRF-UK has also submitted an abstract to SustRem 2021 and AquaConsoil 2021 on its recently published guidance and tools.

SuRF-Colombia

Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Colombia. He confirmed that due to COVID little activity has been undertaken. They are still waiting for new legislation from the government. AR confirmed that there has been a lot of evaluation and risk assessment work carried out in relation to recovering mercury from the environment that is a result of illegal mining. Over 30 sites have been assessed. This work is being supported by the USEPA and a pilot test was carried out last month. Sustainable remediation principles are being considered when addressing so many sites. When the results are finalised, he will share with the SuRF community.

SuRF-ANZ

David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-ANZ. He confirmed that A new SuRF-ANZ committee has been formed in 2021 comprising 20 members more than half of which are new people. In addition, SuRF-ANZ is currently supporting the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia (ISCA) with revisions to their Sustainable Infrastructural Technical Manual specifically in relation to sustainable remediation credits. The Council provides an Infrastructure

	<p>Sustainability Rating Scheme for planning, design, construction and operations of infrastructure assets in Australia and New Zealand (www.isca.org.au).</p> <p>SuRF-ANZ is also looking at providing guidance to ALGA (parent organisation) members to demonstrate the connection between UN Sustainable Development Goals and members' work in contaminated land management. In addition, SuRF-ANZ is in the process of developing training modules in relation to sustainable remediation.</p> <p>NICOLE Latin America</p> <p>Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni (JC) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE Latin America. They are continuing on running workshops and sharing case studies as well as their successful podcasts, discussing different aspects of sustainability. These are in English and Portuguese and downloadable from the website https://nicolelatinamerica.com/</p> <p>SuRF-Japan</p> <p>Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Japan. He confirmed that unfortunately little progress has been made recently as they have been impacted by COVID and hosting the Olympics. He confirmed that the concepts of sustainable remediation have been applied with respect to Fukushima waste water treatment which has been stored on site but is now looking to be discharged. The work to discharge the waste water is being reviewed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Fukushima has 13 million tonnes of radioactively contaminated soil which needs to be processed. The regulatory agencies are developing a framework along with risk communication for the impacted communities following sustainable remediation principles. This is following the SuRF-UK framework and is being reviewed by IAEA.</p> <p>SuRF-Canada</p> <p>Francois Beaudoin (FB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Canada. He confirmed that SuRF-Canada is continuing with the formalising of the legal structure of SuRF-Canada. They have also got a number of new committee members to help improve the outreach and promotion of the network. They are planning to develop podcasts. A number of members of SuRF-Canada have submitted abstracts for SustRem 2021.</p> <p>NICOLA</p> <p>Hayley Thomas was unable to attend but sent the following update.</p> <p>NICOLA is still continuing with their planning for the SustRem 2021 conference. The call for abstracts has now closed and review will be carried out later in the month for finalisation early June. Poster call will remain until the end of July. There will be virtual training workshops ahead of the conference for early career professionals. The committee has been successful in attracting sponsorship for the event with only a few packages remaining. General marketing of the event will continue through LINKED-IN and across the SuRF networks and NICOLE.</p>
3.	<p>Forthcoming events:</p> <p>AquaConsoil 2021 (Virtual) - 14 – 17 June, 2021</p> <p>Remtech Europe 2021 (Hybrid) – 20 - 24 September, 2021 Italy</p> <p>SustRem 2021 (Virtual) – 27 - 29 October 2021</p> <p>ECOFORUM (Hybrid) – August 2021</p> <p>SustRem 2022 – 14 - 17 March, 2022, San Diego, California USA</p> <p>Sustainable Remediation – hosted by SuRF-Taiwan (dates tbc)</p> <p>Battelle 2022 Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds – 22-26 May, 2022, Palm Springs, California, USA</p> <p>AquaConsoil 2022 - June, 2022 Netherlands</p> <p>NORDROCS 2022 – 6 - 7 September 2022, Oslo, Norway</p> <p>SustRem 2023 – ALGA indicated their interest in hosting</p>
4.	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p>

	<p><u>Proposed Future Themes of ISRA</u></p> <p>FB shared the proposed themes that came about from the brain storming session in February (as per separate paper circulated). It came to four key themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Circular Economy 2. Climate Change and Land Use 3. Mega Contaminated Sites 4. Brownfields supporting nature based solutions <p>It was agreed that all the ideas were extremely worthy for further investigation for areas of collaboration, but it was acknowledged that the current ISRA Global Charter (terms of reference) may need to be revisited to have a broader focus. It was discussed that it is important to not make the charter too broad and outside of groups expertise/areas of influence.</p> <p>RT offered to review the charter and make some suggestions, which can then be discussed further.</p> <p>ACTION: RT to revisit the ISRA Global Charter.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that case studies are still very important to help build confidence in the broader concepts of sustainable remediation. Could ISRA launch a call for action identifying key topics of interest and ask the global community to submit case studies under the different headings? These case studies could then be published under the ISRA banner. It was agreed that a list of themes would need to be generated, but the Global Charter needs to be updated and agreed first. Once this is agreed, then an expanded scope and themes can be agreed and communicated more broadly.</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next teleconference will be arranged in the Autumn 2021. NH will contact ANZ, Japan or Taiwan to chair the next call.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>