

## International SURF Groups and Partners

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

1.00 – 2.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 28

### Representatives:

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

### Apologies received:

- NICOLE: Hans Slenders
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa/Tetsuo Yasutaka

1.	<b>Welcome</b>  David Tully (DT) welcomed everybody. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.
2.	<b>Recent progress updates</b>  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.  <b>SuRF-ANZ</b> David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-ANZ. He confirmed that SuRF-ANZ committee has been focusing on educating all levels of the public sector, by trying to get better engagement in sustainable development and sustainable remediation. SuRF-ANZ has been delivering a webinar on sustainable development and the drivers within the public sector. This is challenging as there are many levels of government that SuRF-ANZ need to engage with. DT confirmed that they are starting to get some traction with local state level Environmental Protection Agency offices (EPA). DT also updated on EcoForum that ALGA (parent organisation) is organising. SuRF-ANZ is running a workshop on sustainable remediation and using the former Sydney Olympic site as a case study. The site was a former contaminated industrial site that was redeveloped for the 2000 Olympic games. They will be revisiting the site and carrying out a sustainability assessment using the ISO standard and seeing what/if would be carried out differently with the knowledge of sustainable remediation that is available now. ECOFORUM is running 29 <sup>th</sup> November – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

**SuRF-Canada**

Francois Beaudoin (FB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Canada. He confirmed that SuRF-Canada has their next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021, where the focus of discussion is going to be about raising the visibility of the network through LINKED-IN and other social media routes. FB confirmed that he and Paul Favara of SuRF participated in a panel discussion on Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability in Contaminated Lands Management at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Science Advisory Board for Contaminated Sites in British Columbia. Finally, FB confirmed that a number of SuRF-Canada members will be presenting at SustRem 2021.

**SURF - USA**

Roy Thun (RT) provided a SURF update. He confirmed that SURF is continuing with their partnership with AEHS and organising SustRem 2022 in March in San Diego, USA and it will be a face to face conference. By partnering with AEHS it is hoped to get a greater cross over of AEHS attendees that have an interest in sustainable remediation, climate change and resilience. Additional platform presentations that may have been submitted to AEHS with sustainability subject matter may be presented at SustRem 2022.

SURF is continuing with its webinar series and have a virtual membership meeting at AEHS East Coast Conference virtual event 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

Finally, SURF has contracted with a professional marketing firm to improve branding and marketing of their website content over the next 6 months.

**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 (SMP) guidance document which was published in early September 2021. This has now been updated in line with the UK regulators guidance. The SMP report is supported with an excel spreadsheet for practitioners to map the use of their SMPs on a project along with some cartoon posters that people can use to encourage better engagement on sustainable activities.

<https://www.claire.co.uk/projects-and-initiatives/surf-uk/21-executing-sustainable-remediation/84-sustainable-management-practices>

Also SuRF-UK will be running a training course on carrying out a sustainable remediation assessment at SustRem 2021 and providing a platform presentation on the updated SMP guidance.

SuRF-UK is now focusing their time on promoting all the updated guidance and provide training.

Although not strictly part of the SuRF-UK update, CL:AIRE has been awarded a contract by Concawe (Environmental Science for European Refining) to bring together and publish 10 soil and groundwater case studies demonstrating sustainable remediation in Europe. The case studies that are being selected are going to have a particular interest to Concawe members (oil refining companies). The case studies are being assessed against the ISO standard. All case studies will be published as CL:AIRE bulletins at the end of the project and made freely available on the CL:AIRE website. Paul Bardos is supporting CL:AIRE in this work.

PB also confirmed that he is working for the Ministry of Environment in China collating case studies demonstrating sustainable remediation.

**SuRF-Italy**

Claudio Albano (CA) confirmed that currently there is not much progress being undertaken in Italy in respect to SuRF-Italy as they are currently looking for a new

hosting organisation with the support of University of Venice. SuRF-Italy still hope to publish a white paper on sustainable remediation in Italy.

CA confirmed that he has been supporting SustRem 2021 on the technical committee.

#### **NICOLE**

CA confirmed that NICOLE continues to promote its Land Stewardship work and will be presenting on it at SustRem 2021. He also confirmed that NICOLE will be meeting in Porto, Portugal at the end of the month where they will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and reflecting on the history of the network and the future challenges. NICOLE also will have an innovation award and it is noted that there a number of short listed projects that involve sustainability.

#### **SuRF-Taiwan**

Bing Nan Wang (BN) attended on behalf of SuRF-Taiwan. BN confirmed that due to COVID there has not been a lot of activity. They are continuing to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The budget has been secured to host an international conference on sustainable remediation in April/May 2022 and they have a poster submission at SustRem 2021.

#### **NICOLE Latin America**

Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni (JC) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE Latin America. She explained that they are continuing to prepare short podcasts relating to sustainability and now have a library of 34. Next week they have a seminar with the petrochemical industry to talk about sustainable remediation and a workshop is being organised in November where university students are being invited to learn more about sustainable remediation. This will be there first time talking to students to help develop their knowledge gap. The next step is to develop a White Paper and they are aiming to publish in January 2022.

#### **SuRF-Colombia**

Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Colombia. He confirmed that in Colombia they are still waiting for new environmental legislation from the government to be passed which includes the parameters of sustainable remediation. He confirmed that there continues to be a lot of evaluation and risk assessment work carried out in relation to recovering mercury from the environment that is as a result of illegal mining. This work is being supported by the USEPA. Sustainable remediation principles are being considered when addressing remediation across so many sites. It is hoped the results will be available in 2022 and will be shared with the SuRF community.

#### **SuRF-Japan**

Yasuhide Furukawa (YF) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Japan. He confirmed that the COVID situation is improving. SuRF-Japan's general meeting was held on September 1<sup>st</sup> where the outline of the new local government guidelines about soil contamination was presented which include the concept of sustainable remediation. The guidelines will be discussed further with the SuRF-Japan members.

#### **NICOLA**

Hayley Thomas (HT) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. She confirmed that an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared between NICOLA and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) agreement to work together on contaminated land management. This is a really important moment for NICOLA as it has taken 5 years.

HT also confirmed that NICOLA's sustainable remediation working group has prepared a draft technical position statement about sustainable remediation which they will be sharing with the regulator to hopefully prepare a joint position statement about sustainable remediation.

	<p>HT provided an update on SustRem 2021 and confirmed that the organisation is going well. They have a number of training courses ahead of the main conference, a career kick starter mentoring programme for young professionals to help improve employment opportunities and a poster competition specifically for university level students. They have also secured all speakers and now are concentrating on marketing including a teaser video where they invited former chairs of SustRem events to speak.</p> <p><b>SuRF-France</b></p> <p>Pierre Jolly (PJ) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-France. He confirmed that at present they are not an association or have any formal structure but have an active group of committed individuals to move forward a series of work streams linked to sustainable remediation. The four workstreams that they have identified that they plan to move forward with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the selection of applicable techniques</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Demolition and Circular Economy</li> <li>• Closure of mining sites</li> </ul> <p>PJ explained that they are looking to other jurisdictions to help improve their understanding in these areas, to share good practice so they do not need to reinvent the wheel and develop case studies. .</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Past events:</b>  AquaConsoil 2021 (Virtual) - 14 – 17 June, 2021  Remtech Europe 2021 (Hybrid) – 20 - 24 September, 2021 Italy</p> <p><b>Forth coming events:</b>  SustRem 2021 (Virtual) – 4 - 5 November 2021  ECOFORUM (Hybrid) – 29 November - 2 December 2021  SustRem 2022 – 14 - 17 March, 2022, San Diego, California USA  Sustainable Remediation – hosted by SuRF-Taiwan (dates tbc)  Battelle 2022 Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds – 22-26 May, 2022, Palm Springs, California, USA  NORDROCS 2022 – 6 - 7 September 2022, Oslo, Norway  SustRem 2023 – ALGA</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</b></p> <p><u>Proposed Future Themes of ISRA</u></p> <p>DT asked for people’s thoughts on the proposed change in mission statement for ISRA which was circulated after the last meeting. RT provided some background to the proposed changes, explaining that SURF has broadened its remit to include climate change and resilience. He felt the broadening message for ISRA would be beneficial and more appealing.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that the broadening of scope is useful but it is equally important to not lose the purpose of ISRA and move into areas outside of our expertise as many of the groups’ members are land contamination professionals.</p> <p>It was discussed whether reference to sustainable land management be better than remediating contamination, as this then ties in climate change, resiliency, biodiversity etc? Should reference be made to linking to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?</p>

	<p>Perhaps have a more powerful opening statement such as “Climate change and land contamination are two of the greatest challenges that we need to address”.....</p> <p><b>ACTION: NH to amend the ISRA Global Charter and circulate for thoughts.</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Next meeting</b> Next teleconference will be arranged in the Spril 2022. NH will contact SuRF Canada, SURF, NICOLE Latin America or SuRF Colombia to chair the next call.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>