

International SURF Groups and Partners

19 November 2024

1.00 – 14.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 34

Representatives:

- SuRF-UK : Alan Thomas (chair)
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang and Dr Hao-Chun Hung
- SuRF France: Olivier Maurer
- NICOLA: Fraser McKenna and Theo Ferreira
- SuRF-Italy : Thommaso Brinati
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF Canada : François Beaudoin
- NICOLE: Olivier Maurer
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE
- SuRF Germany: Matthias Sumann

Apologies received:

- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa and Tetsuo Yasutaka

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Alan Thomas (AT) 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>Recent progress updates</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 report was read out and included for completeness.</p> <p>SuRF-UK</p> <p>Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. AT confirmed that the SuRF-UK steering group is focusing its work on updating the SuRF-UK Framework document to ensure that it signposts to the most up to date guidance and tools available. It will be slimmed down and streamlined significantly. The framework concept hasn't changed as it is fit for purpose. AT confirmed that a final draft will be discussed in January 2025 at the next Steering group meeting. The mapping exercise of the different supporting guidance against the SuRF-UK indicators has stalled due to resourcing but it is hoped that this will be rectified in Spring 2025.</p>

NICOLA

Fraser McKenna (FMc) introduced himself and explained that Hayley Thomas has moved roles within her company so has stepped away from her NICOLA role. FMc explained that he is the current chair of NICOLA and they are looking to create a dedicated sustainable remediation special interest group within NICOLA. FMc confirmed that he would be working with Theo Ferreira on this. It is in its early stages of formation and will be looking at how other SuRFs have established. Nicola Harries (NH) offered to discuss separately regarding the establishment of different SuRFs.

ACTION: NH and FMc to discuss about how the different SuRFs across the globe have been established.

NICOLE

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on NICOLE. He thanked people for their input to the regulatory working group update that he provided. He has prepared a few slides on the input provided and will share these for people's information.

ACTION: OM to provide slide set on sustainable remediation that he presented to NICOLE regulatory working group.

OM confirmed that NICOLE's regulatory working group will be discussing the upcoming Soil Monitoring Law. At present it is not clear when it will become a Directive as this will be decided under the new presidency which is Hungary. The new law is the first soil legislation to enforce and bind the European communities together to implement sustainable soil management practices to monitor biodiversity and the impacts of climate change. It has far reaching impact on all soils including land affected by contamination and agriculture.

OM confirmed that NICOLE Foundation (NF) has ongoing work on a project in Ukraine working for the United Nations. UNEP also asked the NF for support in developing guidance on risk assessment and management of destruction debris in war zones.

SuRF-France

OM confirmed that SuRF-France has not been active this year due to other work commitments, however it has a meeting scheduled on 16th December 2024 to relaunch its initiative and develop a plan of work for 2025 and onwards.

NICOLE Latin America

OM confirmed that NICOLE Latin America has been focusing on Circular: Economy. The group is working on the second volume of its White Paper on Circular Economy (Vol 1 was published last year). The idea is to have more practical applications of Circular Economy described in Volume 2, as well as international experiences. For that end, the group is now organising virtual meetings with representatives of other similar networks (meetings have already occurred with ALGA members, from Australia; and in 2025 further meetings will be had with NICOLE, NICOLA and ITRC).

In December 2024, NICOLE Latin America is organising a hybrid (in person + some online participants) meeting in São Paulo to discuss the main structure of this document and the activities planned for the Working Group in 2025. (Regarding activities in 2025, the idea is to discuss the next steps for the Volume 2 of the White Paper and also if the group will be delving into other initiatives, like the presentation of workshops, development of shorter documents, etc.)

SURF

Roy Thun (RT) provided an update on behalf of SURF. He confirmed elections were coming in December for three Officer positions (President, Vice President and Secretary) and three further at-large positions.

SuRF is continuing working on its Environmental Justice Technical Initiative, which is trying to finish by the end of the year. SuRF continues its partnership with AEHS, with the Eastern meeting occurring recently with a full house for both technical sessions (10 speakers):

- Considering Climate Change Resilience During Remedy Selection;
- The Importance of Groundwater Monitoring Programs as Part of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) Projects;
- Evaluating Impacts from Sea Level Rise at Vapor Intrusion Sites;
- Assessing the Sociotechnical of Remediation through Humanitarian Engineering and SustainAlytics Framework;
- The Range and Value of Available Sustainable Remediation Tools;
- Considering Environmental Justice in Natural Resource Restoration Decisions;
- Re-Evaluation of Remediation Selection Contemplating Intersectionality of Risk, Environmental Footprint, and Environmental Justice;
- Controlling Hydrocarbon Plume Migration and Reducing Remedial Costs with Colloidal Activated Carbon (CAC) Barriers;
- Sustainability Assessment Tool for the Selection of Optimal Site Remediation Technologies for Contaminated Gasoline Sites; and
- Regenerative Remediation: Generating Sustainable Post-Remediation Human and Ecological Value from Impaired Properties.

The SURF Meeting during AEHS conference had an interactive session where participants split into three groups and each group discussed three topics: PFAS, climate impacts, and “group choice”. Two groups discussed sustainable remediation tools for Group Choice; the other group discussed artificial intelligence. Prompts were provided to guide the discussions.

SuRF-Italy

Tommaso Brinati (TB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Italy. He explained that following their relaunch, the network’s draft white paper is being promoted to gather greater engagement of the document. ASSORECA has uploaded the draft guidelines (with a short English executive summary translation) here: [Bonifiche Sostenibili – Assoreca](#). Since its initial launch it has received some updates. The white paper is being presented to regulators and local authorities and the feedback has been positive. ASSORECA are looking to meet with the Italian Government to open up dialogue on the concept of sustainable remediation so they are more aware.

SuRF Germany (still be to formed officially)

Matthias Sumann (MS) provided an update on activities that are occurring in Germany. He explained that an industry group called ITVA (Engineering Association for Contaminated Site Management and Land Recycling) had a number of members that were interested in exploring the establishment of a SuRF Germany.

A group of 13 people met in September 2024 from a variety of backgrounds including regulators, academics and practitioners to discuss the interest in establishing a SURF Germany and the mechanisms needed for it to occur. MS confirmed that he has spoken to NH of CL:AIRE who explained they would be welcome to join ISRA. MS explained that now a proposal is being presented to ITVA for the creation of a special interest group. MS explained that environmental regulations are devolved to the different German regions, so any group set up will need to liaise with all the regions (however noting some are more active than others). MS explained that if ITVA is happy to set up a special interest group then SuRF Germany can establish, and the establishment of roles will then occur. A decision is likely in March 2025 With permission of SuRF-UK they would look to use the SuRF-UK guidance documents already established and translate them.

SuRF-ANZ

David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF ANZ. He confirmed that the annual membership changes has recently occurred with 2 to 3 members stepping down from the special interest group with 2 to 3 new members joining. DT confirmed that he has stepped down as chair of SuRF-ANZ but will remain as deputy chair to maintain continuity.

SuRF-ANZ is currently looking at the reuse of surplus soil, and is liaising with all the different states and territories to understand their processes and procedures. DT confirmed that it is very varied approaches. They will then look to write a White paper after its research has been completed with some recommendations.

SuRF-ANZ is also looking at Sustainable Management Practices (SMP) across the whole development process that affect contaminated land management. SuRF-ANZ has prepared a questionnaire that will be sent to all ALGA members once it has been tested. This is to try and capture people's understanding of SMPs with a specific focus on site assessment.

SuRF-ANZ has recently had its annual sustainable remediation awards that has been going since 2016. DT explained the breadth and quality of submissions has improved hugely over the years.

SuRF-Taiwan

Bing Nan Wang (BNW) and Professor Hao-Chun Hung (HH) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Taiwan.

SuRF-Taiwan and Taiwan Ministry of Environment will conclude the implementation framework for the Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation (GSSR) and prepare a new guidance for GSRR. In brief, a contaminated site could use the climate risk map to identify the potential risk. A risk matrix could be used to discuss the risk level of specific extreme weather issues. Then, the site would need to use the online GSR tools to evaluate and compare the benefits of remediation options. The remediation plan should consider the potentially extreme weather issues and related effects on the ambient habitat and people. The Conceptual Site Model (CSM) should be updated on the project's progress and weather issues related to long-term climate change. Specific resilient design and preparation, emergency response, and recovery plans are needed if extreme weather issues threaten the site.

It is anticipated that the guidelines will be reviewed by the end of 2024 and expected to be available to the general public in the first or second quarter of 2025.

HH then shared some examples with ISRA members the importance of embedding resilience into its framework. Taiwan has recently been impacted by some extreme weather events causing significant damage. People are now seeing the true impacts of climate change.

Japanese Update

Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) and Yasuhide Furukawa were unable to join the call. TY provided an update on the activities of the Ministry of Environment and the research team (AIST).

➤ [IAEA report](#)

In September 2024, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided assistance to the Ministry of the Environment, Japan on 'volume reduction and recycling of removed soil arising from decontamination activities after the Accident of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station' .

https://kankyosaisei.env.go.jp/next/international/pdf/final-report_en.pdf

This report mentioned the importance of the sustainability, stakeholder engagement and social acceptance of recycle / volume reduction / final disposal of

	<p>decontaminated soil and waste from the nuclear accident. TY supported this work as an expert of sustainable remediation and social acceptability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Potential research plan for an international online questionnaire on soil contamination.</u> <p>AIST research team has conducting research on key issues related to social acceptability and the important factors from the perspective of sustainable remediation with respect to nuclear disasters and geothermal energy. The research has been published in the following papers:</p> <p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479723013981 https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00267-024-01938-w https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0375650524002402</p> <p>AIST, would also like to conduct an international online questionnaire about soil contamination, to find out about differences and/or similarity about social acceptance in each country and people consider important from the perspective of sustainable remediation. Due to budgetary constraints, this is likely to be possible in only 3 to 6 countries, but if any members are interested, AIST would be happy to work on this in collaboration.</p> <p>ACTION: ISRA members to make contact with TY directly if they are interested to collaborate.</p> <p>SuRF-Canada Francois Beaudoin (FB) confirmed that there is no progress to report with respect to SuRF Canada at present, however a meeting is being shortly to generate some new enthusiasm and encourage new members to participate. The next meeting is to focus on getting the website back up which will be used to actively encourage new members to join.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Feedback on Previous Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Battelle: 2-6 June 2024, Denver, USA ■ Nordrocs 2024 : 9-12 September 2024, Uppsala, Sweden ■ CleanUp 2024 : 15-19 September 2024 Adelaide, Australia ■ Remtech Europe 2024 : 16-20 September 2024, Ferrara Italy ■ Sustainathon 2024 : 24-25 September 2024 - virtual ■ ALGA New Zealand : 20-24 October 2024 New Zealand ■ NICOLA Annual Conference : 30-31 October 2024, South Africa <p>ISRA members shared their feedback for the events that they had attended.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <p><u>AquaConsoil 2025</u></p> <p>NH shared that AquaConsoil (AC) is interested in working with ISRA with respect to having profile or badging a special session, but it would be difficult to run a standalone conference along side.</p> <p>NH asked if perhaps ISRA members would be interested in participating in a Special Sessions. This could be sharing the work of ISRA members from across the world. This format has been used before at other conferences and has worked well. ISRA members were interested and asked NH to make contact with the AC organisers to ascertain if ISRA members would be able to participate in the Special Session virtually or whether a pre-recorded presentations would be accepted. If a Special Session was not possible, perhaps a poster could be created.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to make contact with AC members to enquire about options.</p>

	<p><u>ECOFORUM 2025</u></p> <p>Could the Special Session for ACS be repeated at ECOFORUM 2025? ISRA members were interested in this occurring as it was felt there would be different audiences present. DT confirmed that ECOFORUM call for abstracts hasn't yet been announced but reiterated that there was interest in profiling ISRA members work.</p> <p>ACTION: DT will inform ISRA members once the ECOFORUM call for abstracts is announced.</p>
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>No additional comments raised.</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next teleconference will be arranged for May 2025. NH will request a volunteer from Northern America to chair the next call.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>