

## International SURF Groups and Partners

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

2.00 – 3.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 25

### Representatives:

- SURF-USA : Roy Thun (chair)
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF-UK : Hayley Thomas & Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing Nan
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa
- NICOLE Latin America/SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni & Olivier Maurer
- SuRF-Canada : François Beaudoin
- NICOLE: Hans Slenders
- NICOLA: Hayley Thomas
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

### Apologies received:

- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Roy Thun (RT) welcomed everybody. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.</p>
2.	<p><b>Recent progress updates</b></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><b>SURF</b></p> <p>Roy Thun (RT) provided a SuRF update. Due to COVID much of SuRF's planned participation at events in 2020 have now been postponed to 2021. SuRF has successfully moved their meetings online and recently hosted an open SuRF meeting which was open to public guest speakers. It also allowed SuRF members to ask SuRF board direct questions. Barbara Maco gave a presentation about how SuRF is working with ITRC on updating their sustainable remediation guidance to broaden its scope to involve climate resiliency and fires. SuRF is also running a series of webinars for its members, with the next one in late June that Paul Bardos of SuRF-UK will be presenting on their updating of Annex 1 to the SuRF-UK framework. RT welcomed presentations from other SuRF groups work.</p> <p><b>SuRF-Taiwan</b></p> <p>Professor Bing Nan (BN) attended on behalf of SuRF-Taiwan. He confirmed that COVID has impacted their events that were planned to be hosted in quarter 1 and 2. They are planning to move to later in 2020. SuRF-Taiwan are continuing to focus their activities on collecting case studies. At present they have 69 sites using the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) framework and the EPA carbon calculator. They are identify</p>

which aspects are not working well so further modifications can be made. They are also continuing to work on developing best management practices and plan to continue to run training courses on the concepts of GSR to improve practitioners understanding.

BN confirmed that in the early part of the year very little remediation was undertaken as work stopped on sites due to COVID.

#### **SuRF-ANZ**

David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-ANZ. He confirmed that COVID too has had an impact on SuRF-ANZ with face to face meetings stopping. He is hopeful that Australia and New Zealand will open up shortly. DT informed the SuRF community that CRC Care has recently published the National Remediation Framework for Australia. This provides guidance for planning and implementing remediation. It has been published free of charge:

[www.remediationframework.com.au](http://www.remediationframework.com.au) in several volumes:  
<https://www.remediationframework.com.au/national-remediation-framework/download-nrf-guidelines>

There is a dedicated volume on Cost Benefit and Sustainability Analysis and tool which references SuRF-UK framework and ISO 18504.

#### **SuRF-Canada**

Francois Beaudoin (FB) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Canada. He confirmed that due to COVID progress has been on hold and the new SuRF-Canada committee hasn't met since January 2020. They are still planning the development of webinars, adding content to the website, and raising the profile of SuRF-Canada. SuRF-Canada continues to look at becoming an independent organisation and create a new legal structure. FB confirmed that he has personally joined ITRC to support their work on sustainable remediation.

#### **NICOLE Latin America**

Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni (JC) and Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE Latin America. JC confirmed that NICOLE Latin America has prepared a position statement on sustainable remediation in relation to the challenges of delivering in Latin America. This was published in April in Portuguese, Spanish and English. In addition, they are planning in publishing a concepts of sustainable remediation white paper in July 2020 in Portuguese and Spanish. They have held a virtual roundtable which had 400 delegates attend on the work of the

NICOLE Latin America has been working closely with EKOS conference on two workshops. One on sustainable remediation and circular economy and one on conceptual site models.

They have submitted two abstracts for the International Hydrogeology Conference being held in Brasil in September.

NICOLE Latin America has also started preparing podcasts, initially in Portuguese. The purpose is to allow people to discuss different aspects in relation to sustainability.

OM explained in the upcoming EKOS conference in Sao Paulo they will be organising a special session where they will present the results of a real project that they are working on. They have brought together key stakeholder groups to work together to build a consensus of how they can deal with this problem site. Stakeholders include local community, legal, industry, state and ministry, consultancy and EKOS. The results of the workshops will be shared at the conference of progress of developing the roadmap of delivery.

	<p><b>SuRF-NL/NICOLE</b> Hans Slenders (HS) provided an update and confirmed that SuRF-NL is no longer proceeding as an entity. He confirmed that NICOLE continues its focus on land stewardship and they are aiming to publish the updated guidance at the NICOLE meeting at the Spring Workshop that is being held virtually in June.</p> <p>OM also wished to make people aware that NICOLE's regulatory working group plans to discuss biodiversity and the links this has with climate change.</p> <p><b>SuRF-UK</b> Paul Bardos (PB) 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. NH confirmed that SuRF-UK is aiming to publish at the end of June 2020. The updated guidance will be published in two volumes. Supplementary report 1 will be about how to carry out a sustainability assessment and supplementary report 2 will be about the indicator sets. Once published, annex 1 will be officially withdrawn but still available from the SuRF-UK website for reference only.</p> <p>In parallel, PB confirmed that a paper has been prepared for a peer reviewed journal. The paper explains the 15 headline indicators and the reasoning behind the selection of each.</p> <p>Paul Bardos confirmed that he will be presenting on the updated guidance for SuRF.</p> <p><b>SuRF-Italy</b> Claudio Albano (CA) was unable to attend the call and confirmed that there had been no updates by SuRF-Italy to share.</p> <p><b>SuRF-Japan</b> Yasuhide Furukawa (YF) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Japan. YF confirmed that SuRF-Japan cancelled its planned workshop in March due to COVID. They are hoping that activities will start up again in July 2020.</p> <p><b>NICOLA</b> Hayley Thomas (HT) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. She confirmed that NICOLA are running a series of free CDP accredited webinars at the moment on technical topics to support people's professional development during lockdown. They have so far covered PFAS, NSZD, GWSDAT and Remediation planning. If ISRA members have any topics which would fit this format she would be grateful to hear from them.</p> <p>SUSTREM 2020: The decision was taken earlier in the year to postpone to 2021 due to COVID. The organising committee is still working in the background to get everything in place for the conference, although at a slower pace. Further details should be forthcoming on the website soon and this will be signposted for ISRA members when available.</p> <p><b>SuRF-Colombia</b> No update was provided.</p>
3.	<p><b>Forthcoming events:</b> RemTech 21-25 September 2020, Italy (Virtual) EcoForum 16 &amp; 18 September 2020 (Virtual) Battelle 2021 Combined Chlorinated and Bioremediation Conference 27 June - 1 July, 2021 Portland Oregon NORDROCS 2021, Norway, September 2021 SustRem 2021 – South Africa, October 2021 AquaConsoil 2021 (Virtual) &amp; 2022 Netherlands</p>

	<p>It was confirmed that most event have either gone virtual or delayed for a year. SuRF indicated their interest to still host SustRem 2022.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</b>  RT welcomed people's thoughts on how to collaborate across the different initiatives. With natural disasters such as the fires in Australia how can sustainability or best land practices help drive best standards? Does the impact of COVID being a biological threat impact people's approach to how we are now being encouraged to live ie avoid urban sprawl and increase city densities? Is this contrary to best sustainable practices. Do we have role to play to inform communities?</p> <p>Should SuRF - sustainable remediation forum be broader in its function? NH explained that NL and UK has always been much broader and focused on sustainable land management but maintained the SuRF name for consistency. Should the forum be considering broader issues such as biodiversity? By maintaining the family of SuRFs there are many facets that can be developed as the learning increases in different countries. Some countries circular economy and biodiversity are key topics. They all sit under the umbrella of sustainability. It was felt that with global challenges there is an opportunity to broaden the scope of SuRF and to highlight how biodiversity, habitats and climate change all integrate into the decision making process of development. By raising awareness there are opportunities to influence the sustainable remediation approach.</p> <p>RT confirmed that there seems to be interest/recognition that the acronym of what SuRF stands for may be dated due to broader issues now requiring to be considered.</p> <p>Perhaps a strapline might be more appropriate?</p> <p>It was agreed to look at ISRA's terms of reference to see if the purpose is broader.</p> <p><b>ACTION: NH to share ISRA's terms of reference.</b></p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  DT explained that ALGA's new CEO wondered whether SuRF International could develop a "Global Sustainability Award". There could potentially be a number of different awards for different categories/types of project/case studies. In principal this was a welcomed idea.</p> <p><b>ACTION: All to discuss within their different SuRFs.</b></p> <p>PB shared that the Chinese Ministry of Ecology are currently supporting his time to prepare sustainable remediation case studies. PB will provide more details for the next call.</p> <p><b>ACTION: PB to share the work that he is performing</b></p> <p><b>SustRem post 2021</b>  RT asked about the impact of postponing SustRem 2020 on other SuRFs that had declared interests in hosting SustRem's in subsequent years eg SuRF ANZ/ALGA in 2021 and SURF 2022. RT confirmed that SURF has already had conversations with AEHS and secured a venue for 2022. NH agreed to liaise with SuRF ANZ/ALGA and see if they would be willing to move hosting SustRem to 2023 or 2024.</p> <p><b>ACTION: NH to speak to SuRF ANZ/ALGA and explain the situation and see if they are willing to move hosting SustRem.</b></p>

**6.**

**Next meeting**

Next teleconference will be arranged in the Autumn 2020. NH will contact SuRF-UK to chair.

**ACTION:** NH to arrange the next meeting.