

International SURF Groups and Partners

7 May 2025

1.00 – 14.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 35

Representatives:

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

Apologies received:

- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos
- SuRF France: Olivier Maurer
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa and Tetsuo Yasutaka

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Nicola Harries (NH) 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 apologies provided.</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-ANZ</p> <p>David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF ANZ. He confirmed that SuRF-ANZ is meeting monthly and their special interest groups are working hard. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promotion of Sustainable Management Practices (SMPs) – they are encouraging ALGA members to think and promote SMPs when carrying out remediation and site assessments.2. Soil reuse – to encourage soil reuse wherever possible. They are challenging different States to try and standardise their practices. Currently each State has different practices. ALGA's long term plan is to harmonise practices so soil is managed and reused wherever possible.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. SuRF ANZ/ALGA has been supporting a short conference in Darwin, with much of the conference focusing on PFAS in Defence sites. The main sustainable remediation focus will be at ECOFORMUM in Brisbane in October. 4. SuRF ANZ will be running a special session on sustainable remediation at EcoForum, and the call for abstracts will be soon.
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SuRF-UK

Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. AT confirmed that the SuRF-UK steering group has been 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, but the definition of sustainable remediation has now aligned with the ISO standard. It is aiming to be published early Autumn.

Some SuRF-UK steering group members will also be supporting some masters students to carryout literature reviews against the SuRF-UK indicators.

SuRF

Roy Thun (RT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF. He confirmed elections had been carried out and there were 9 new board members across consultancies and federal agencies. RT explained they were pleased with the interest as the political arena has changed in relation to sustainability, but noted that a number of the larger consultancies are still supportive and engaged.

SuRF is continuing working on its Environmental Justice Technical Initiative and is hoping to complete a paper soon. SuRF is continuing its partnership with AEHS and marketing the benefits of being involved with SuRF which is making a difference.

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 finalise its new guidance for GSRR. SuRF Taiwan is also looking at using ISO14067 Greenhouse Gases – Carbon Footprint of products to collect data to evaluate different remediation technologies. They are also looking to evaluate risks due to climate change and the impact this is having on remediation and how it can be made more resilient. SuRF Taiwan is looking to gather case studies to promote GSSR.

HH explained the Ministry of Environment will be planning to host a workshop in November. It will be hybrid and would welcome ISRA members to attend.

HH explained how awards for carrying out GSSR is starting to get noticed and they have been honoured by central government for their work. HH feel that by getting awards, it encourages others to take note and improve their practices in the hope that they will also be noticed. He feels it is a good way of incentivising good practice.

NICOLA

Theo Ferreira (TF) introduced himself and explained that he is supporting Fraser McKenna (chair of NICOLA) and taking the lead on sustainable remediation. TF explained that NICOLA is growing in size and now there is greater interest in sustainable remediation and are now looking to set up a standalone group. It will be discussed further at their annual conference in November. They will be looking for support from other SuRFs, but focusing on opportunities for Africa to gain great traction.

	<p>SuRF Canada</p> <p>Francois Beaudoin (FB) explained there has been a change of federal government in Canada which has a stronger environmental remit. SuRF Canada has now working on updating a new website and are planning to organise some webinars on biodiversity and phytoremediation to start to get more engagement.</p> <p>SuRF Canada is going to have a presence at the Federal Contaminated Site conference in November. This conference brings people from across industry. SuRF Canada is also in discussion with the Canadian Brownfields Network who have awards, and hope to work with them to help develop an award recognising sustainable practices.</p> <p>SuRF Germany (still be to formed officially)</p> <p>Matthias Sumann (MS) provided an update on activities that are occurring in Germany. He explained that 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. At present they are having monthly meeting to scope up the activities that SuRF Germany would like to work on and to try and gain momentum. They acknowledge that they can work with other SuRFs so it is not starting from the beginning and can gather information from SuRF-UK but it is important to make them suitable for the German regulatory system.</p> <p>Japanese Update</p> <p>Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) and Yasuhide Furukawa were unable to join the call. TY confirmed that he has started discussions with his government about “soil re-use” and “the use/revitalisation of contaminated land and mine sites” in the context of the circular economy and nature positive.</p>
3.	<p>Engagement on Future Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contaminated Land and Groundwater Conference: 28 & 29 May 2025, Darwin, Australia ■ AquaConsoil 2025 : 16-20 June 2025, Liege, Belgium ■ Battelle Bioremediation & Biotechnology 23-26 June 2025, Boston USA ■ EcoForum 28-30 October 2025, Brisbane, Australia ■ Federal Contaminated Sites Conference 25-27 November 2025, Ottawa, Canada ■ Remplex 4-6 November 2025 Washington USA ■ NICOLA Annual Conference 5 & 6 November 2025, Muldersdrift, South Africa
4.	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aqua Consoil 2025 : 16-20 June 2025 Liege, Belgium <p>ISRA has had an abstract accepted to organise a 90 minute Special Session at AquaConsoil about “Progress in Sustainable Land Management”. The format will be NH to provide an quick introduction about ISRA, followed by some short presentations of progress from UK, Italy, South Africa, Germany and Japan. It was agreed that it was important to try and get industry engagement at the event but possibly using a voting tool such as menti meter or sending a questionnaire ahead of the event using MS Forms and capturing the information and then sharing the results with the audience.</p> <p>NH offered to co-ordinate.</p> <p>Topics for discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Whether there was national sustainable remediation forum in their countries? ■ Is assessing sustainability considered in country's policy/guidance? ■ Are people experiencing climate change impacting remediation?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What do people think about resilience to climate change and how important it is? ■ Do people carry out sustainability assessments as part of options appraisal, if so what sort of assessment do they carry out? ■ Are there incentives provided by governments to encourage the uptake of GSR? <p>It was felt it was important to try and keep the messaging simple to enable getting results that can be discussed at the special session.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to prepare a draft questionnaire and get ISRA member's feedback.</p> <p>It was thought if ACS special session was successful, this system could perhaps be replicated at subsequent conferences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ EcoForum 28-30 October 2025, Brisbane <p>DT confirmed that sustainability will have high profile at the next EcoForum.</p>
5.	<p>AOB No additional comments raised.</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting Next teleconference will be arranged for November 2025.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>