

International SURF Groups and Partners

10 November 2025

1.00 – 14.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 36

Representatives:

- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE (chair)
- SuRF-UK : Alan Thomas and Paul Bardos
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang and Hao-Chun Hung
- NICOLA: Theo Ferreira
- SuRF-Italy : Thommaso Brinati
- SURF-USA : Roy Thun
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF Italy /NICOLE: Claudio Albano
- SuRF France: Olivier Maurer
- SuRF Germany: Peter Martus

Apologies received:

- SuRF Germany: Matthias Sumann
- SuRF Canada : François Beaudoin
- 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-Taiwan Bing Nan Wang (BNW) and Hao-Chun Hung (HH) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Taiwan.</p> <p>SuRF-Taiwan and Taiwan Ministry of Environment are currently organising a conference on Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation (GSRR) which is on 26 November 2025. It is a hybrid conference and will be streamed lived on You Tube. Registration is via Google Link. The morning session of the conference will be in Chinese but it is hoped that delegates will be able to use the translation function on You Tube for those non native Chinese speakers. The afternoon session will be fully in English. BNW confirmed that Paul Bardos (PB), Olivier Maurer (OM) and Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) will be presenting in the afternoon. BN confirmed that TY will be presenting in person representing SuRF Japan which they are very grateful for. In addition there will be a number of experts from</p>

Taiwan who will join the plenary session. The afternoon plenary will discuss different countries perspectives in relation to GSSR.

OM agreed to share his presentation with ISRA members.

ACTION: OM to share his presentation

BNW agreed to share the You Tube link so people can watch after the event for those unable to attend.

ACTION: BNW to share the You Tube link when available

SuRF-ANZ

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. Their annual committee renewal process happened in July and four members stood down with five new members joined. The committee is now at 15 with probably the most diverse group so far which is really positive.

The two main initiatives are:

1. Promotion of Sustainable Management Practices (SMPs) – they are encouraging ALGA members to think and promote SMPs when carrying out remediation and site assessments. The work is focusing on practices adopted by laboratories and looking to collaborate with another ALGA specialist group – Environment Laboratories on this project. It is hopeful that the laboratories will start to implement some sustainable management practices in what they do.
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. SuRF-ANZ is hoping to prepare a discussion paper in the new year to go out through ALGA.

At ECOFORUM, SuRF-ANZ ran an interactive workshop which was very successful. The workshop consisted of a hypothetical case study site and compared a set of sustainability indicators across alternative remediation options for clean up. In addition Paige Molzah from SURF attended ECOFORUM and participated in the workshop.

SuRF-ANZ are also supporting ALGA with a joint conference with Waste Management Institute of New Zealand to be held in Wellington, New Zealand. DT explained that they may re-run the workshop at that conference but this is in the early planning stage.

NICOLA

Theo Ferreira (TF) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. He explained that they had their Annual NICOLA conference recently which had really good attendance. It has been growing steadily with up to 120 attendees this year. There were attendees from South Africa and other African countries. It is the aim of NICOLA to grow the attendance specifically from different African countries. There were also a number of European visitors attending the conference. TF explained that there was two really interesting key note speakers. Firstly talking about equitable resource distribution and social issues in terms of mining and mine rehabilitation following mine closures and another interesting talk on the impact of acid mine drainage. Acidification of groundwater and the impact it has had on a very famous cave system close to the conference venue where ancient humanoid fossils have been found. The presentation was explaining the impact of industrial contamination and mining impacts affecting paleontological resources.

SURF

Roy Thun (RT) provided an update on behalf of SURF.

He confirmed that the SURF Session at AEHS East was standing room only for all five technical presentations. The session, Sustainable Remediation Best Practices, featured five technical presentations ranging in content from climate change resilience planning to sustainability metrics to functional landscaping.

RESTORE = Remedial Evaluation and Screening Tool for Optimization and Resource Efficiency

The kickoff meeting for the RESTORE Technical Initiative was held 10/10/25. The goal is to (1) create a tool for conducting simplified site impact assessments at remediation sites and (2) provide practitioners with an objective, simple-to-use interface using the most current widely accepted quantitative methods. The team will focus on quantifying the impacts of remedial actions, with an initial focus on electricity usage impacts. Contact Katie Elich : (katie.elich@sustainableremediation.org) for more info.

At the SURF meeting at AEHS, participants provided examples of input data to include in an updated sustainability assessment tool to increase contractor use.

SURF is holding a webinar on 12/11/25 @ 1 p.m. EST. The webinar will be focused on fungus bioremediation technology.

SURF is also collaborating with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Center for the Remediation of Complex Sites (RemPlex).

SURF members have also helped with planning a technical session for the 2025 Global Summit on Environmental Remediation. Board Member Julia Vidonish (ARCADIS) is presenting "Empowering Greener Practices: Optimizing Remediation Injection Operations with Digital Tools" in the Sustainability and Circularity technical session.

SURF and RemPlex also co-hosted a webinar entitled "The Hidden Costs of PFAS Remediation" with over 300 people attended.

SURF President Paige Molzahn presented at ECOFORUM 2025 in Brisbane, Australia.

SURF Sponsorship — Period 1 runs for one year starting on January 31st. The payment window opened on November 1st.

SuRF-Italy

Claudio Albano (CA) introduced himself and provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Italy. He explained that SuRF-Italy has been internally reorganised and is being jointly supported by RemTech and ASSORECA which is the national network of environmental service providers. Under these two organisations SuRF-Italy was relaunched. The relaunch was profiled at Remtech in September. They are currently constituting a board where there will be representatives from both Remtech and ASSORECA. This will be followed by a membership campaign for new industry, service providers, public authorities and universities. The relaunch has gained interest from national level organisations with good momentum growing.

SuRF-UK

Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. AT confirmed that the SuRF-UK steering group has been focusing on shortening and refreshing the SuRF-UK framework and it was published last month. AT explained that essentially it remains the same at its core but has been updated to reflect its use over the last 15 years. The steering group has tried to simplify the process and make it more accessible and linking to current guidance and topics such as its

relevance to climate change, nature based solutions. The steering group is now thinking about the next topic areas it should be focusing on.

SuRF-France

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on SuRF-France. He explained that it has not been very active as it is still an informal group. The group is hoping to complete a literature study on soil health and the implications on site remediation. OM explained that he hopes this review will influence or change the French methodology for managing site remediation which currently is not taking into account soil health. This is also directly related to the new European soil monitoring law which was recently signed off by the European Parliament.

NICOLE

Olivier Maurer (OM) also provided an update for NICOLE. He explained that they had a recent meeting in Budapest and a large part was discussing the new soil monitoring law and what this means going forward and the potential implication for NICOLE members. In addition OM explained that the NICOLE Foundation has recently launched its Associate Network. OM offered to send details to ISRA members and encouraged them to get involved. The objective is to look for volunteers to work on projects collaboratively.

SuRF Canada

Francois Beaudoin (FB) sent his apologies and confirmed that there was no progress for SuRF Canada to report.

Germany (still be to formed officially)

Peter Martus (PM) provided an update on activities that are occurring in Germany. He confirmed that the last meeting of the sustainable initiative was dominated by the search for a new name. It has been decided to follow the Australia / New Zealand example and expand the network to Austria and Switzerland. The name would, therefore, be **SuRF D-A-CH**.

The Austrian EPA is interested in participating. The Swiss Federal Environmental Agency has no capacities to participate at present due to budget cuts but are interested in what is going on.

The current working focus is:

- The group will shortly start its internet presence (after the name has been finally agreed) and an upload of a translated general guideline documents. There will then be a focus on dealing with the criteria/indicator table for actual assessments that are suitable for the DACH region.
- A collection of case studies grows, but slowly, mainly Ramboll and AECOM have sent examples
- The discussion on funding and linking to a parent organization is still to be agreed

Conferences:

- A German session was organized at the REMTECH conference focusing on sustainability issues. A number from the SuRF D-A-CH member organizations presented. This was a good thing, and it was agreed that there was interest to repeat this next year.
- During the Hannover Conference on Contaminated Land Management in September, a workshop was held by Yvonne Sutter and colleagues to train participants in the use of the RAMBOLL SURE tool. It was well received, and a lot of understanding came from actually applying the tool.

The groups next meeting is End of November.

Japanese Update

Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) and Yasuhide Furukawa were unable to join the call.

3.	<p>Engagement on Events</p> <p>People shared updates about the events that they attended and that had focus on and engagement on sustainable remediation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ AquaConsoil 2025 : 16-20 June 2025, Liege, Belgium ■ Battelle Bioremediation & Biotechnology 23-26 June 2025, Boston USA ■ EcoForum 28-30 October 2025, Brisbane, Australia ■ NICOLA Annual Conference 5 & 6 November 2025, Muldersdrift, South Africa ■ Federal Site Contamination Workshop 25 November 2025, Ottawa ■ Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation 26 November 2025, Tiawan
4.	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green, Sustainable and Resilient Remediation, 26 November 2025 – ISRA members participating <p>SuRF-Taiwan is delighted that a number of people from ISRA are able to attend the conference online and in person. It is extremely useful for people to hear what is happening in other jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Green and Sustainable Remediation Special Session : Battelle 31 May – 4 June 2026 <p>OM has flagged that there is an opportunity to collaborate at the upcoming Battelle conference as there will be a panel discussion on green and sustainable remediation and it is hoped that a number of invites will be able to be sent out for international speakers. If ISRA members are attending the conference it would be good to have an informal discussion/meeting face to face to brainstorm how ISRA members could collaborate more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Other ideas? <p>OM raised the idea again about organising a truly global conference around sustainable remediation. Running several events across the globe so people can attend in their own time zone. It could involve many different partners beyond ISRA members to widen the participation such as COMMON FORUM and ITRC. Could this be thought about for 2027? It was agreed that this is a very ambitious idea regarding time commitment and logistics, and perhaps could be co-ordinated with another event that is being organised or on a globally significant day such as International Soil Day.</p> <p>It was agreed, that to see if there is interest in a global event that people need to reach out to organisations that they are affiliated with to see if there is interest in a global event and how realistically it could be organised.</p> <p>ACTION: ALL to make enquiries with affiliated groups about the potential of a co-ordinated global event.</p> <p>CA wondered if there is interest looking at the ISO standard on Sustainable Remediation and whether it is going to be updated in the near future. There were a number of ISRA members involved in the original version but there are elements such as resiliency are not mentioned. NH explained that the updated SuRF-UK framework has now linked to climate change and resiliency and is now aligned to the ISO definition of sustainable remediation.</p>

	ACTION: NH to enquire if there are plans to update the ISO standard on Sustainable Remediation and report back.
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>HH made people aware of a new ISO standard on carbon footprinting published recently ISO 14064 ISO/TS 14064-4:2025 - Greenhouse gases — Part 4: Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1 . This standard could be useful if calculating carbon impact.</p> <p>Paul Bardos (PB) shared details about a European project that he is involved in called ISLANDR and that there is a consultation out that he would appreciate ISRA members input. To participate: ISLANDR project</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Next teleconference will be arranged for May 2026.</p> <p>ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.</p>