

# International SURF Groups and Partners

10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

12pm GMT

**FINAL**

## Representatives:

- SuRF-ANZ : Garry Smith (Chair)
- SuRF-NL/NICOLE : Hans Slenders
- SuRF-UK : Jonathan Smith
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Taiwan: Erica Chiang
- SuRF Brazil : James Henderson
- SuRF Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

## Apologies received:

- SuRF-NL : Laurent Bakker
- SURF-USA : Nick Garson/Amanda
- SuRF-Canada : Stella Karnis
- Representing China : Mengfang Chen
- Representing Japan : Ryuzo Tazawa

## AGENDA

- 1 **Welcome**
- 2 **Recent progress updates**
- 3 **Conferencing opportunities – Recent & upcoming**
- 4 **Actions to drive consistency between SuRF initiatives**
  - Update on ISO on Sustainable Remediation
  - Opportunities for engagement/collaboration between SuRF networks
- 5 **Special topic of interest:**
  - Inventory EU legislation
- 6 **Any Other Business**
  - International branding of the SuRF networks/loose federation
  - Getting broader stakeholder awareness and engagement (outside of the technical community)
- 7 **Next meeting**

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>Garry Smith (GS) welcomed everyone and attendees confirmed they were happy with the agenda. GS provided a short introduction on the purpose of the SURF meetings being for cross country connections and for the promotion of international collaboration on sustainable remediation.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Everyone present gave a quick update on the different SuRF Groups and Partners current initiatives and work that they were undertaking in relation to sustainability. For those networks unable to join the call, Nicola Harries (NH) contacted them to ask if they were able to provide an update so the notes could be as comprehensive as possible.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-ANZ</u></b></p> <p>SuRF ANZ has been busy in the last quarter. They participated at SustRem 2014 in Ferrara and more recently participated at Australia's national contaminated land conference EcoForum. Here SuRF-ANZ ran a masterclass session on sustainable remediation and also held their Annual General Meeting. There continues to be good interest in Australia on implementing sustainability into practice.</p> <p><b><u>NICOLE</u></b></p> <p>Hans-Slenders (HS) reported that NICOLE's Sustainable Remediation working group met last week in Prague. The Joint Position Statement between NICOLE and Common Forum (European Regulators Forum) has now been translated into 10 different European languages. These can all be downloaded off the NICOLE website. The most recent additions are Portuguese and Serbian. Each translation has been provided and agreed by a regulator from that country (through the Common Forum) and a NICOLE member.</p> <p>NICOLE also continues to finalise their case studies. They are currently reviewing the case studies that have been put forward to see if they can be approved prior to publication.</p> <p>NICOLE will be supporting colleagues at a Swedish Conference that is focussing on sustainable remediation in 2015.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-NL</u></b></p> <p>HS explained that SuRF-NL continue to develop a short technical guidance on sustainable use of soils in a broader context of soil quality management. After the guidance is produced it has been decided that SuRF-NL will go into a quiet phase as there is little appetite to keep SuRF-NL going at the moment as the soil remediation industry in the Netherlands is not very active. SuRF-NL interest and engagement will be by continuing its engagement through NICOLE Special Interest Group.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-ITALY</u></b></p> <p>Claudio Albano (CA) explained that SuRF-Italy was heavily involved in the organisation of SustRem Conference in Ferrara and they are currently just wrapping up the proceedings and uploading them onto the website.</p>	

He felt that the event was very positive but it did highlight that there is still much to do with respect to sustainable remediation and look forward to a follow on conference in 2 years. Currently there is interest from Canada, Brasil and Netherlands to host the next conference.

SuRF-Italy published their White Paper at the conference and are now publicising it. They will be moving forward to develop further guidance and a framework. They will take advantage of existing guidance and frameworks that have already been published.

### **SuRF-UK**

Jonathan Smith (JS) explained since the publication of the Phase 3 work which included the development of an assessor kit to carry out a simple tier 1 sustainability assessment and carrying out the development of a series of Sustainability Management Practices aligned with the already published indicator sets, no further work has been carried out. SuRF-UK steering group recently met and discussed the future. It has been decided that for 2015 the priority activities will be outreach to regulators and promoting the work of SuRF-UK. Details have not currently been drawn up but it is anticipated to include a series of hands on workshops for regulators to understand what SuRF-UK has published and how these can be used to undertake a sustainability assessment.

SuRF-UK will also look to use social media more to promote its guidance to help drive its implementation over the next 12 months.

### **SURF-Taiwan**

Erica Chaing (EC) confirmed that Professor Colin Chen attended SustRem in Ferrara and presented the case study work that they had previously been undertaking as SuRF-Taiwan. Taiwan has a 4 day conference on Soil and Groundwater Investigation, Remediation and Management at the end of November where SuRF-Taiwan's work will be presented. Future work involves carrying out 3 further case studies using their environmental footprint life cycle assessment tool. EC explained that there are obstacles for the implementation of sustainable remediation in Taiwan as there is a feeling that Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) requires additional labour time.

SuRF-Taiwan will be posting their case studies on line soon, however they will be in Chinese.

### **SuRF-Brasil**

James Henderson (JH) explained that SuRF-Brasil was a new group that is now becoming more organised over the next few months. The Brasi Government has approached them asking for support with embedding sustainability principles into a new superfund programme (1Billion US Dollars) that is being created. JH asked for support with this challenge and confirmed how much SuRF-Brasil will look to other SuRF groups for support.

All SuRFs offered their support. JH confirmed that Brasil does not follow one international standard, there is no single policy. JS explained that ISO will soon be publishing a standard on Sustainable Remediation which Brasil could look to follow. This would be a good starting point for definitions.

NH confirmed that she had been supporting SuRF- Brasil on how SuRF-UK was established.

### **SuRF-Colombia**

Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) explained that SuRF-Colombia was in its infancy, they have been contacting people to create a forum and currently creating a website. They are also using the website to signpost to useful documents. The next stage is to arrange a local conference to invite interested parties including government, local and national regulators and industry. They too would like the support of the other established SuRFs to assist them.

All agreed on the phone that they would be happy to support where it was appropriate.

### **SuRF-USA (Update provided post meeting)**

Amanda McNally (SURF Secretary) attended SustRem in Ferrara on behalf of SURF. The SURF27 meeting was held in Michigan in November 2014 and focused on the theme "Sustainability in Action." The meeting featured presentations on numerous case studies, breakout sessions for the active technical initiatives, and a student poster session with graduate students from Colorado State University. Planning for SURF28 is underway and will focus on "Moving Sustainable Remediation Forward". Participants from the June 2014 Federal GSR Roundtable hosted by the Sustainable Remediation Initiative (SRI; a technical initiative of SURF) and the November 2014 Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable will be invited to participate in SURF28. SURF also plans to include a discussion of the crossroads between climate change and sustainable remediation at the meeting. SURF's current technical initiatives include SRI, which focuses on outreach to government and regulatory stakeholders; Social Aspects, which is writing a journal article with international participation; and the Case Study Initiative, which is compiling case studies to be published on the SURF website. Case studies demonstrating sustainable remediation may be submitted to [csi@sustainableremediation.org](mailto:csi@sustainableremediation.org). Finally, the Battelle Third International Symposium on Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies will be held in Miami, Florida in May 2015 and will feature a GSR track. It is anticipated that abstract selections will be made by the end of 2014.

### **JAPAN (Update provided post meeting)**

A SuRF Japan has yet to be founded, but, consultants, contractors carrying out the investigation and countermeasures and regulators are very interested in Sustainable Remediation and its concepts. A Working Group has studied Sustainable Remediation Forum (SuRF) initiatives, ISO-190 standard on Sustainable Remediation and so force, since last year at the Geo-Environmental Protection Center.

As Sustainable Remediation covers a wider range of sustainability impacts and benefits, in Japan they are especially investigating the difference between the current state of typical countermeasures and the approach of Sustainable Remediation.

### **SuRF-Canada**

No update provided.

### **CHINA**

No update provided.

**All other SURF Networks/representative bodies were not on the call but were invited to provide updates on their activities.**

<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Conferencing opportunities: Upcoming events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Conference on Soil and Groundwater Investigation, Remediation and Management, Taipei, Taiwan, 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014</li> </ul> <p>EC confirmed that Jonathan Smith will be presenting on behalf of SuRF-UK at this conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AGU, San Francisco, USA 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014</li> </ul> <p>NH confirmed that Jonathan Smith will be presenting at this conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Battelle Third International Symposium on Bioremediation and Sustainable Environmental Technologies ,Miami, USA, 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015</li> </ul> <p>EC confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan has submitted abstracts to this conference.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AquaConsoil 2015 Copenhagen, Denmark - <b>Abstracts due Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 2014</b></li> </ul> <p>NH reminded the SuRF networks that AquaConsoil has a Sustainable Remediation theme and therefore would encourage people to submit abstracts. Abstracts are due on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014. GS confirmed that he expected that SuRF-ANZ would be submitting. NH confirmed that she thought SuRF-UK would also be submitting.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Actions to Drive Consistency between SURF Initiatives</b></p> <p><b>Update on ISO on Sustainable Remediation (ISO/TC 190/SC 7/WG 12)</b></p> <p>Jonathan Smith (JS) provided an update on the development of the ISO standard. He explained that the report is now at Committee Draft stage and has been circulated to country specific nominated standards institutes for circulation and comment. Comments are due back by mid November. JS confirmed that as part of the review process there was a meeting in Berlin where the draft was discussed. From the comments received there and the comments received from the country specific representatives, ISO will bring the document together. From JS perspective he felt the draft was a huge improvement and reads very well. The meeting in Berlin was very positive and he didn't feel that there were any real issues that needed a lot of work. The only point to note was that the ISO staff felt that the way the document is currently written they felt it should be technical guidance which is lower status than a full ISO standard. This issue is being addressed by Paul Nathanail who will be reviewing the language and amending to ensure that the language is appropriate for a standard.</p> <p>Once all comments are submitted by country specific representative, a full public consultation will be next year March/April 2015.</p> <p>JS explained one point to note was the definition of sustainable remediation, this is still to be resolved. Currently there are two versions, one more akin to SuRF-UK and the other more SuRF-US. ISO may generate its own ISO definition but this is still to be decided.</p> <p>GS confirmed that at the drafting panel teleconference convened by Paul Nathanail there was an indication of support for the ISO from countries who were eligible to vote and who have voted so far.</p> <p>NH was asked if those SuRFs (Colombia, Taiwan and Brasil) that were not aware of the draft could see sight of the draft ISO. NH agreed to contact Paul Nathanail and ask.</p>	<p>NH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Opportunities for engagement/collaboration between SuRF networks</b></li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that all the SuRFs are keen to collaborate where possible and support. This is particularly pertinent with the establishment of new SuRFs who can learn from established SuRFs. NH confirmed that she will be presenting at the next SuRF-Brasil meeting by teleconference to share SuRF-UKs experiences.</p> <p>JH explained that ECOS (Contaminated land conference in Brasil) has a strong interest in hosting the next Sustainable Remediation conference in 2016. SuRF Brasil would welcome support for such a conference as 2016 is an important year in Brasil with hosting of the Olympics and with the recent announcement from the Brazilian Government investing in the remediation of hundreds of thousands of sites.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Special topic of interest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Inventory of EU and UK Legislation</b></li> </ul> <p>JS provided a presentation on a piece of research that Shells consultants had recently undertaken reviewing EU &amp; UK environmental legislation to see which legislation embedded the key sustainability principles in. JS described the process that they followed.</p> <p>JS felt that the document would have multiple users from consultants, site owners and regulators. He confirmed that the research will be joint badged SuRF-UK and NICOLE to ensure wide promotion and will be made freely available from both websites.</p>	
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>International Branding of the SuRF network/loose federation</b></li> </ul> <p>GS led the discussion about the opportunity of recognising the global association between all the SuRFs as an “International SuRF Association”. It would support the individual SuRF networks by demonstrating a united front. It may help with promoting the message of sustainable remediation globally to demonstrate the different countries involved and demonstrate collaboration especially to large global bodies such as the United Nations.. Would it be valuable to have a SuRF International logo which would sit alongside the individual logos?</p> <p>CA confirmed the SustRem logo could be available and could be adapted if people were accepting of this.</p> <p>It was agreed in principle that a simple association would be of value. It was recognised that, in light of the ongoing importance of the individual identities of national SuRF groups, a bureaucracy and also any individual practitioner membership structure would be avoided.</p> <p>It was agreed that GS would produce a short draft paper describing what the association would be, how it would function, what it wouldn't be and the structure. NH would circulate to all the partners. It would also be important to explain how industry groups such as NICOLE Sustainable Remediation Working Group would fit in.</p> <p>All agreed to go to their SuRF Groups to see if an association should be recognised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Getting broader stakeholder awareness and engagement (those outside of the technical community)</b></li> </ul> <p>GS acknowledged that this is a topic that is important to all the SuRFs and currently one that all are battling with in varying degrees. We all need to work together to try and improve stakeholder awareness for those</p>	<p>GS/NH</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>outside of the technical community. ANZ have made it an important activity going forward and so have SuRF US. SuRF-UK are going to try with outreach activities in 2015.</p> <p>This topic will be one that will be revisited regularly to share experiences and see how different SuRFs are tackling it and so we can all learn from each other.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting should be in March 2015. This will be chaired by North or South America. NH will contact those in the regions for a volunteer and schedule the meeting.</p>	NH