

# International SURF Groups and Partners

9<sup>th</sup> March 2015

1pm GMT

**FINAL**

## Representatives:

- SuRF Brazil : James Henderson (Chair)
- NICOLE : Laurent Bakker
- SuRF-NL : Hans Slenders
- SuRF-UK : Jonathan Smith
- SURF-USA : Maille Smith
- SuRF-Italy : Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Taiwan: Erica Chiang
- SuRF Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF-Canada : Stella Karnis
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

## Apologies received:

- SuRF-ANZ : Garry Smith
- 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:**
  - Support new SuRFs – hoe best to provide the support and engagement
- 6 **Any Other Business**
  - Funding for Secretariat 2015-2016
- 7 **Next meeting**

ITEM		ACTION
1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>James Henderson (JH) welcomed everyone and attendees confirmed they were happy with the agenda. JH 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-Brasil</u></b></p> <p>James Henderson (JH) explained that SuRF-Brasil was a new group that has become more organised over the last few months. They had now developed a strategic plan for 2015 which included the development of a white paper setting out their goal followed by a framework and guide. JH explained that they are requesting volunteers within SuRF Brasil to work on these different work streams.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-Colombia</u></b></p> <p>SuRF Colombia started work as a group at the end of 2014. They are currently reviewing and collecting international documents from different SuRFs to see the best way to incorporate international methodologies to develop a SuRF Colombia Guide.</p> <p>SuRF Colombia has recently had two invitations from the Colombia Safety Council (CCS) to present about SuRF Colombia. CCS organize one of the biggest Congress of HSE in Latin America with 1800 attendees. The event is from 24th to 26th June 2015.</p> <p>SuRF Colombia will participate in the environmental sections talking about International Perspectives on Sustainable Remediation and Redevelopment. These presentations will be supported by two US colleagues (Barbara Maco and William Wick).</p> <p>SuRF Colombia are also planning to organise a SuRF Colombia event in August 2015.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-NL</u></b></p> <p>Hans Slenders (HS) explained that SuRF-NL has just published a short technical guidance on sustainable use of soils in Dutch. At present it is not intended to be translated in English. The guide links to the work of the other networks across the globe. The document is the last publication of SKB which was an organisation that published a number of technical guides relating to soil and groundwater. HS also confirmed that they are putting together a proposal to be a candidate to host SustRem 2016.</p>	

## **NICOLE**

Laurent Bakker (LB) reported that after NICOLE's Sustainable Remediation working group meeting in Prague they are putting more effort into publishing case studies. NICOLE has updated its case study template to encourage people who are developing case studies to demonstrate how they have followed the NICOLE roadmap. NICOLE will be supporting colleagues at a Swedish Conference in Malmo that is focussing on sustainable remediation in 2015. The next NICOLE sustainable remediation workshop will be in mid June in Manchester UK.

## **SuRF-ITALY**

Claudio Albano (CA) explained that SuRF-Italy is moving forward with formalising their membership. He estimated it is up to 40 members from the private, academic and public. SuRF-Italy is preparing guidelines and a framework after their publication of their White Paper. They are also strongly involved in passing the baton over to the next candidature to host SustRem 2016. Currently there are three possible countries requesting to host, with proposals due in shortly. Interests are from Canada, Brasil and Netherlands to host the next conference.

## **SuRF-UK**

Jonathan Smith (JS) explained that SuRF-UK steering group plan to meet shortly to discuss the 2015 work schedule. The priorities are:

1. Outreach to regulators and promoting the work of SuRF-UK
2. Preparation for AquaConsoil 2015 where a paper and poster have been accepted along with assisting with the organisation of a Special Session.
3. The publication of "Review Of The Legal And Regulatory Basis For Sustainable Remediation in EU & UK" in association with NICOLE.

## **SuRF-US**

Maille Smith the incoming president provided an update on SuRF-US activities. She confirmed that they continue to collect case studies into a database. Also they are hopeful that a societal aspects paper will be published later this year in a peer reviewed journal. They also continue to work on groundwater conservation and reuse work stream. In 2015, they are planning to work on a 5 year plan, to set long term goals on diversifying and increasing their membership. They have gone out to their membership for their thoughts on the future. Their next meeting will be a webinar at the end of June 2015, followed by a face to face meeting in September/October 2015. Going forward they will be setting the dates of meetings further in advance and alternating between east and west coasts.

## **SURF-Taiwan**

Erica Chaing (EC) confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan continues to work on 3 further case studies using their environmental footprint life cycle assessment tool. As discussed previously there has been obstacles for the implementation of sustainable remediation in Taiwan as there is a feeling that Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) requires additional labour time. EC explained that the EPA evaluates the performance of the Local EPB by a series of criterion annually, including execution of law, site supervision etc. The number of GSR sites will now be one of the scoring criterion in the annual ranking system. Although GSR will not be mandatory, adding the measure will encourage the local EPB to promote GSR in their jurisdiction.

	<p><b><u>SuRF-Canada</u></b></p> <p>Stella Karnis provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Canada. She explained that SuRF-Canada is working collaboratively with SuRF-US on the collection of case studies and societal aspects paper. They also have put themselves forward as a potential candidate to host SustRem 2016.</p> <p><b><u>SuRF-ANZ</u></b></p> <p>Garry Smith was unable to attend the meeting so NH provided SuRF-ANZ update on his behalf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Sustainable Remediation Prize.</b> SuRF ANZ plan to create a Sustainable Remediation Prize starting in 2015. This is to recognise the uptake of sustainability principles in remediation. Details for entry have been posted on the SuRF ANZ website at <a href="http://www.surfanz.com.au">www.surfanz.com.au</a> .</li> <li>- <b>International Developments.</b> In recognition of the global scale of SuRF activities and the discussion of a loose affiliation through a declaration of a co-operative association, the Australian Committee and the broader SuRF-ANZ membership have given support to the concept and SuRF ANZ would be willing to carry its development forward together with other SuRF organisations.</li> <li>- <b>New Zealand Activity.</b> There has been increasing interest in the sustainable remediation topic in New Zealand. SuRF ANZ members have recently published topical articles in Revolve, are presenting local conference papers, and are in discussion with professional organizations such as WasteMINZ about sustainable remediation practice.</li> <li>- <b>Capital city Sustainable Remediation (SR) workshops.</b> SuRF ANZ featured at recent conferences several tools and case studies for sustainable remediation practice. These will be made available to members, the wider industry and the regulatory community through ALGA capital city forums in 2015, and a masterclass at the ALGA NZ 2<sup>nd</sup> Contaminated Land Conference in Auckland May 2015.</li> <li>- <b>Publication of an SR Methodology discussion paper on the SuRF ANZ website.</b> A discussion draft of a sustainable remediation technology decision-making methodology is being finalised for posting on the SuRF ANZ website in March 2015. The draft is designed to provide SuRF members with an opportunity to discuss sustainable remediation technology selection and associated issues.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>CHINA</u></b></p> <p>No update provided.</p> <p><b><u>JAPAN</u></b></p> <p>No update provided.</p> <p><b>All other SURF Networks/representative bodies were not on the call but were invited to provide updates on their activities.</b></p>	
3.	<p><b>Conferencing opportunities: Upcoming events</b></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> <li>- AquaConsoil 2015 Copenhagen, Denmark 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> June</li> </ul>	

	2015	
4.	<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 was circulated to country specific nominated standards institutes for circulation and comment. Paul Nathanail (chair of ISO on Sustainable Remediation) and nominated specialists have gone through the proposed edits that were received by the different organisations. There have been a number of teleconferences to discuss some of the proposed amendments and now it is in final editing stage by ISO secretariat. The consultation draft is due to be made public in Spring 2015. After the public consultation stage JS understands that there will be a vote in October 2015 on this version. In JS opinion he feels that the latest version looks good and he feels that the vast majority of comments made by the different nominated standards institutes have been taken on board.</p> <p><b>■ Opportunities for engagement/collaboration between SuRF networks</b></p> <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.</p> <p><b>AquaConsoil 2015</b></p> <p>A number of SuRFs confirmed that they will be attending AquaConsoil 2015 so there will be opportunities for people to meet up there. There are also a number of Special Sessions that different SuRF representatives will be presenting and assisting in organising which will provide profile for the work of the SuRF networks. NH confirmed that she had had a poster accepted on the work of SuRFs globally so will be contacting the different SuRFs for brief updates.</p> <p><b>SustRem 2016</b></p> <p>It was also agreed that it was extremely positive that three different SuRFs are keen to host the next SustRem 2016 conference. This shows the spirit of collaboration and demonstrates the continued growth of the subject across the globe.</p> <p><b>International Branding of SuRF Networks</b></p> <p>There was a short discussion about Garry Smith’s proposal that was circulated on a more official affiliation of the International SuRFs. SuRF-ANZ were supportive and SuRF-UK were supportive however it was felt that the word “association” has more legal meaning in the UK so suggested that it could be known as a “International Alliance”.</p> <p>SuRF-Italy was also in general agreement as long as the alliance is not formal and allows the individual countries to continue to operate as they wish.</p> <p>CA also reminded the call that the SustRem logo that was created for SustRem 2014 would be available to use as the official logo.</p> <p>NH to move the initiative forward and develop the concept further for a “international alliance” for overall approval.</p>	<p>NH</p> <p>NH</p>
5.	<b>Special topic of interest: Support for new SURFs</b>	

	<p>James Henderson (JH) provided a short presentation on the special topic of interest. He shared his views on the support that he felt that SuRF Brasil, Colombia and Mexico needs. He explained that the more established SuRFs have a wealth of knowledge to share and have come a long way in a relatively short time. He felt that this progress of development has been possible due to the more mature regulatory systems that they are working in. JH explained that Brasil and other Latin American countries such as Colombia and Mexico are far behind in land contamination management. There are not the regulatory regimes or practitioners in place or technologies at their disposal. There are huge demographic stresses on natural resources with the real possibility of water rationing going to be introduced due to the lack of clean drinking water supplies as many of the groundwater resources are contaminated. Therefore there is huge public pressure on industry to remediate the natural resources. Therefore Brasil are looking to more developed countries to share their knowledge and practice.</p> <p>JH explained that SuRF Brasil need assistance in writing their white paper on sustainable remediation as they do not have many experts within the country to undertake this task. Could existing SuRF chairs co-author the white paper? SuRF Brazil is also planning a special session at Brazilian Groundwater Society Conference 5-6 October 2015 , where a roundtable discussion has been planned on sustainable remediation. JH would like to invite a number of SuRF chairs to attend in person and present at. By attending in person this will help develop relationships further.</p> <p>Jonathan Smith (JS) opened the discussion that this is exactly why SuRF International was established to provide support to new SuRFs, however it was not clear what time commitment would be required from the SuRF chairs? It was understood that meeting face to face is advantageous but it is also not cost effective or sustainable, so much of the work should be undertaken electronically.</p> <p>JH to provide further details on the support needed for circulation to the SuRF chairs.</p> <p>Hans Slenders (HS) suggested the first point would be for the different SuRFs to share their Position Papers.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>All</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> <b>Funding for Secretariat for 2015-2016</b></p> <p>NH explained that the funding for the secretariat has finished and was requesting support for her time to be covered for 2015-2016 as CL:AIRE is a not for profit organisation and cannot provide her time for free. It was agreed that the role was valuable and support should be given if possible. JS confirmed that he was willing to provide SuRF-UK's support if other SuRFs were. SuRF-Canada, SuRF-US, SuRF-Brasil were also able to provide support, SuRF-Taiwan would discuss internally, SuRF-Italy and SuRF-NL would also discuss internally however funding was extremely tight but did acknowledge the valuable role that the secretariat plays. NH to discuss with SuRF-ANZ separately.</p> <p>It was agreed that toll free conferencing would also be provided if possible by chairs of each call.</p>	<p>ALL NH</p>
	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the next teleconference should be at the end of June 2015, so feedback from AquaConsoil 2015 can be provided. Europe is to chair the next meeting.</p>	<p>NH</p>