

International SURF Groups and Partners

2 November 2022

1.00 – 3.00pm London Time

Meeting No. 30

Representatives:

- SURF-USA : Roy Thun (chair)
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing Nan Wang
- SuRF-UK : Paul Bardos & Alan Thomas
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF-France: Pierre Jolly
- NICOLA: Hayley Thomas
- NICOLE: Olivier Maurer
- Secretariat : Nicola Harries CL:AIRE

Apologies received:

- SuRF-Canada : François Beaudoin
- SuRF-Colombia : Alfonso Rodriguez
- SuRF-Italy: Claudio Albano
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa/Tetsuo Yasutaka
- NICOLE Latin America/SuRF Brazil : Joyce Cruz Di Giovanni
- NICOLE: Hans Slenders

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Roy Thun (RT) welcomed everybody to the Sustainable Remediation and Remediation International Forum. The agenda was agreed and Nicola Harries (NH) provided apologies.</p>
2.	<p>Recent progress updates</p> <p>All SuRFs 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>SuRF-Taiwan Bing Nan Wang (BN) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Taiwan activities. He confirmed that SuRF-Taiwan is currently developing a Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation (GSRR) Framework. They have looking at the recently published ITRC guidance and the SuRF-UK framework and aim to have a risk based approach.</p> <p>SuRF-Taiwan hopes to host the delayed GSRR conference next September or October 2023. Once the date is confirmed BN will send out details and would welcome presentations from other SuRFs.</p> <p>SuRF-ANZ David Tully (DT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-ANZ. He confirmed that SuRF-ANZ are continuing to meet monthly and much of their discussions is about resiliency as Australia has been experiencing some extreme weather conditions.</p> <p>DT confirmed that the SuRF-ANZ committee has been refreshed with</p>

approximately 1/3 of the committee changing. DT suggested that new members are from a much more diverse range of organisations than before and also cover Australia and New Zealand which was great to see.

SuRF-ANZ is continuing to promote that the Australian Standards have adopted the ISO standard on Sustainable Remediation.

DT also confirmed that ALGA (their sponsoring organisation) has a new CEO called Matthew Potter. He is extremely supportive of SuRF-ANZ and to support SuRF-ANZ hosting SustRem 2023 alongside ECOFORUM.

SuRF-France

Pierre Jolly (PJ) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-France. SuRF-France is currently working on two different workstreams

- Biodiversity
- Closure of mining sites

Other workstreams are not currently progressing as key personnel have left their companies and SuRF-France are looking to recruit new members.

On the closure of mining sites, they are working with BRGM and some key mining companies on developing natural covers for the mine tailing sites. The technical guidance will also include case studies.

NICOLA

Hayley Thomas (HT) provided an update on behalf of NICOLA. She confirmed that they are currently organising their next face to face conference on 16 & 17 November 2022 with a focus on resiliency and nature based solutions.

The Sustainable Remediation Position Paper has now been published. NICOLA is looking to broaden its geographical membership as most members are currently based in South Africa. They have recently run a “connect” event in Tanzania to encourage new members and to widen technical discussions. They hope to extend connect events in other African countries to help broaden the dialogue of sustainable remediation. NICOLA is also continuing to run a series of webinars on a number of different subjects.

SuRF-UK

Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. He confirmed that the SuRF-UK bulletin on resiliency has now been published <https://www.claire.co.uk/component/phocadownload/category/16-surf-uk-bulletins?download=890:surf-5-bulletin-resilience-2022>

In addition, with some SuRF-UK steering group members leaving, the steering group is currently recruiting some new members who will be in place in the New Year. SuRF-UK is also refreshing its website to help with navigation and AT confirmed that SuRF-UK ran a virtual training course ahead of Remtech Europe conference on carrying out a sustainability assessment of which 200 people attended.

SURF - USA

Roy Thun (RT) provided a SURF update. He confirmed that their main activities remain outreach and membership. They are actively seeking new members and looking at ways to broaden their reach.

SuRF continues to partner with AEHS for their conferences. One technical initiative that SuRF is interested in is the impacts on communities in relation to waste repositories and the impact of climate change. The state of Massachusetts has been carrying out vulnerability mapping in relation to sensitive populations that are close to waste repositories and what could happen in relation to climatic events.

RT also reminded all SuRFs that the SuRF newsletter is available free of charge. RT confirmed that his term on the SuRF steering group is coming to an end so at the next SuRF International meeting a new SuRF representative is likely to attend.

NICOLE

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on behalf of NICOLE. He confirmed that NICOLE will be hosting their Autumn meeting in Athens on 24 and 25 November 2022 titled "Applying circularity principles in contaminated land management in the context of the new EU soil strategy".

OM confirmed that NICOLE will be launching their Foundation at this meeting. The purpose of the Foundation is to support projects around the world to help rehabilitate orphan sites. The first project that the NICOLE Foundation will be supporting is in Latin America where coffee beans have been contaminated with Cadmium. They have received some seed funding from United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization to support teams in Latin America carry out the research project, with knowledge being provided by NICOLE partners.

OM explained that he is representing NICOLE on the European Union (EU) Soil Health Technical Committee, providing technical advice for the upcoming Soil Health Law.

OM shared that there are a number of areas that the EU is looking to carry out further research and is advertising funding opportunities through Horizon Europe, where they are asking for people to bid to carry out pilot trials called "Living Labs".

Paul Bardos (PB) explained that some countries outside of Europe are also able to bid for funding from Horizon Europe. Further information is available at the following link about which countries are eligible for funding.

[list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

OM confirmed that NICOLE's Spring Workshop will be 10-12 May 2023 in Paris and will focus on site characterisation for sustainable land management. A call for abstracts will open soon.

NICOLE Latin America/SuRF-Brazil

OM was able to share that NICOLE Latin America is still working on their White Paper, recording new podcasts and working with EKOS to organise a conference in 2023 (date to be confirmed).

SuRF-Italy

Claudio Albano (CA) confirmed that there was no specific regulatory updates but can confirm that SuRF-Italy has been reactivated with the plan to develop a voluntary sustainable remediation guideline working with environmental and engineering and consultancies and thus with private and public stakeholders at a national level.

SuRF-Colombia

Alfonso Rodriguez (AR) was unable to provide an update on behalf of SuRF-Colombia.

SuRF Netherlands

Hans Slenders (HS) was unable attend the meeting but confirmed that there was no update from SuRF NL and it remains dormant. There is a continued greater interest in sustainability than there has been for some time.

SuRF-Canada

Francois Beaudoin (FB) was unable to attend the meeting and confirmed that there was no update on activities currently from SuRF-Canada.

	<p>SuRF-Japan No representative from SuRF-Japan was able to attend and provide an update on this occasion.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Events: <u>NORDROCS 2022 : 6 - 7 September 2022, Oslo, Norway</u> AT attended NORDROCS and provided a keynote speech. He confirmed that the main focus of the conference was on PFAS. AT explained that there was a presentation on resiliency and developing a regional GIS register of properties that may be impacted by climate change through modelling. All presentations are now available at the following link: Program 2022 – Nordrocs 2022</p> <p><u>Battelle: Innovations in Climate Resilience March 2023 in Columbus, Ohio.</u> RT confirmed that he will be chairing this session and would welcome abstracts. Further information is available here: Innovations in Climate Resilience Conference</p> <p><u>SustRem 2023</u> DT confirmed that SustRem 2023 will be hosted by ALGA alongside ECOFORUM in Melbourne on 9th October 2023. It will be a face to face event, but there may be options to join virtually but this is to be confirmed. DT explained that ALGA will be reaching out to previous SustRem hosts to understand what worked/didn't work and to discuss themes.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives</p> <p>The SuRFs are all keen to support SustRem 2023 and build on previous SustRem conferences and show how the knowledge is evolving.</p> <p>AT suggested whether there would be an opportunity for the SuRF International Community as ISRA, to produce a platform presentation at SustRem 2023 to share what is happening globally. NH explained that this has happened previously but not for some time. This could perhaps be followed up by a joint paper? PB explained that a similar paper had been produced by Erika Rizzo in 2016 – a summary is available free here: Comparison of international approaches to sustainable remediation — The University of Brighton . It would be a great opportunity to update this work and a way to collaborate.</p> <p>It was also discussed whether there could be an opportunity to bring all groups together including non SuRFs such as ITRC and host an event. It was agreed that this would also be a good idea.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>AOB NH let everyone know that the project that they are working on for Concawe which involves publishing ten case studies demonstrating sustainable remediation is progressing well. The case studies will be published in bulletin style and will be freely available. It is hoped that the bulletins will be published in Spring 2023.</p> <p>PB shared that British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy posted a discussion paper titled "Making Contaminated Sites Climate Ready." The discussion paper, which is available for public comment until Nov. 30, 2022, summarizes the ministry's policy proposals to incorporate climate change adaptation and sustainability into the BC contaminated sites framework." https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=6065e523-e7e5-46f6-9157-bea255ae105e</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Next meeting Next teleconference will be arranged for May 2023. NH will contact SuRFs in</p>

	Europe to ask who is willing to chair the next call.
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	ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.
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