

International SURF Groups and Partners

10 June 2026

1.00 – 14.30pm London Time

Meeting No. 37

Representatives:

- Secretariat: Nicola Harries CL:AIRE (chair)
- SuRF-UK : Alan Thomas
- SuRF-Taiwan: Bing-Nan Wang and Hao-Chun Hung
- SURF-USA : Rachel Esbenshade
- SuRF-ANZ : David Tully
- SuRF Italy: Claudio Albano
- SuRF France/NICOLE: Olivier Maurer

Apologies received:

- NICOLA: Theo Ferreira
- SuRF Germany: Matthias Sumann
- SuRF Canada : François Beaudoin
- SuRF-Japan : Yasuhide Furukawa and Tetsuo Yasutaka

1.	Welcome 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.
2.	Recent progress updates 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 is provided below for completeness. SuRF-Taiwan Bing Nan Wang (BNW) and Dr Hao-Chun Hung (HH) provided an update on behalf of SuRF Taiwan. SuRF-Taiwan is looking at incorporating green sustainable resilient remediation (GSSR) concept into the Taiwanese soil and groundwater pollution remediation act. It is very early stages and will take time as it will be a major change, but the discussions have started. In addition, SuRF-Taiwan is working on its site carbon footprint inventories relating to soil and groundwater remediation. Initially they are focusing on site investigation activities as they are working with a large electronic chip company in Taiwan who are carrying out groundwater and soil sampling during a site investigation, and they are interested in measuring the carbon footprint for these activities. As a result of this request, Taiwan EPA and SuRF Taiwan are developing a framework for the process and looking at the ISO 14067 process as a potential method to adapt.

In addition, next year SuRF Taiwan and EPA will have their second GSR awards. They will be publicising this to encourage people to apply for the GSR award. BN also confirmed that HH will be attending CLEAN UP in Australia later this year.

HH also gave further clarity about the GSR award and how they are looking to expand in time its scope considering other Taiwanese government awards. He explained that the Financial Supervisory Commission in Taiwan previously had an award that focused on just governance, but they have expanded this to Environmental Society and Governance (ESG). SuRF- Taiwan and EPA will look at how they carry out their evaluation for ESG. This is important as businesses must report annually against ESG, so perhaps this is a way of encouraging companies understand that GSR work feeds into the ESG reporting. HH keen to gather sufficient case studies about GSR, so they can then speak to the Financial Supervisory Commission to encourage them to modify their grading system to incorporate GSR performance.

NICOLE

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update for NICOLE. He explained that the network had its last meeting in Bagnoli, Italy where he provided a summary of activities from the different SuRFs and associated chapters. OM confirmed he would send a copy for information.

ACTION: OM to provide a copy of the presentation.

At the NICOLE meeting there was an emphasis on the Soil Monitoring Law a new regulation in Europe. NICOLE members are looking carefully at this to understand the implications it can have on the different constituents of NICOLE e.g. consultants and industry members. OM explained that the new law will bring consistency across Europe on how to manage contaminated land including diffuse pollution. The objective is to bring back healthy soils by 2050. There are a whole set of associated regulations and methodologies relating to the law and a guide how this will be achieved. The legislation is the first time that there is legislation covering soil. As a result of the new law, NICOLE has created a number of working groups to address some of the pressing issues that have now been raised because of the law such as PFAS and micropollutants. OM confirmed that the next meeting will be in the October in Rotterdam.

OM also confirmed that NICOLE Academy has also been established. This is a new group started last year that is looking at providing training to professionals.

SuRF-France

Olivier Maurer (OM) provided an update on SuRF-France. He explained that it is very informal group now. It has three active members, ADEME, NEOECO and WSP. At present they are working on a project funded by ADEM to look at a French methodology for managing contaminated sites to take account of soil health for biodiversity in remediation projects. The next steps are to involve other groups from other sectors such as public authorities, to help assess the new methodology.

SuRF Canada

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

SuRF-UK

Alan Thomas (AT) provided an update on behalf of SuRF-UK. The steering group met recently and their focus this year is sustainable management practices (SMP) and trying to look at initiatives at promoting those and particularly demonstrating the practical application within the UK industry. At the last meeting we had a presentation from a consultancy that has adapted the SMP process and they explained how they have embedded them into their daily work. It is hoped that they will write a SuRF-UK bulletin on their work so this can be shared more widely. Also SuRF-UK has reached out to REMSOC (UK remediation contractors

association) to engage with their members to understand what remediation contractors are doing in their daily work around SMPs. Again, we are hoping to get demonstrated examples that can be used to demonstrate more widely. Final, we have a presentation at the next meeting at the end of June about Nature Based Solutions and understanding the value of nature and how it can be measured financially.

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. They are working on three initiatives:

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.
3. Technology Providers – SuRF-ANZ will be looking at different remediation technologies and looking at sustainable aspects relating to technologies. They are starting with soil washing, looking at current practices in Australia and New Zealand and worldwide. Therefore if there are any soil washing case studies that have demonstrated sustainable practices, please share with SuRF-ANZ.

SuRF-ANZ also supported ALGA with a joint conference with Waste Management Institute of New Zealand in Wellington, New Zealand. DT explained that they re-ran the workshop that they hosted at ECOFORUM 2025 but used New Zealand case studies.

Final ALGA will be running their successful awards. This will be its tenth year. This year it is going to be called “Best Sustainable Practice in Contaminated Land Management Award”, so it is open to all aspects of a project and hopefully encourage nominations from a broader spectrum of ALGA members.

[ALGA Awards 2026 | ALGA](#)

SuRF-Italy

Claudio Albano (CA) introduced himself and provided an update on behalf of SuRF-Italy. He explained that SuRF-Italy is getting well established under its new organisation and the sponsorship of RemTech and ASSORECA which is the national network of environmental service providers. A membership campaign started in March 2026 and already 38 members have signed up, predominantly from private companies but also industrial and major utilities. In addition, some public authorities have also joined.

Three working groups have started:

1. Technical documentation – to update the draft guideline that was developed previously.
2. International Observatory of best practice – learning from other SuRF chapters.
3. Communication and training.

	SuRF-Italy is already planning to attend a number of conferences including RemTech Europe to raise its profile and understand what other SuRF chapters are undertaking. SURF Rachel Esbenshade (RE) provided an update on behalf of SURF. She confirmed that earlier in the year SuRF helped organise a session at AEHS East. At this event they had a leadership panel where they brought the more experienced individuals in the US over the past 20 years within SuRF to share their thoughts. The AEHS East will also be in the fall, and they plan to run a similar panel. SuRF has also kick started a mentorship programme to increase collaboration in the US to pair up more experienced people with less experienced or those that generally have an interest in sustainability. The development of RESTORE (Remedial Evaluation and Screening Tool for Optimization and Resource Efficiency) tool is continuing. The aim 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. SURF is continuing to work on the Environmental Justice Technical initiative, but this is currently stalled as amendments are now needed. SuRF is continuing its online seminar series and are trying to host a webinar bi-monthly. Finally, SURF is also collaborating with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's Center for the Remediation of Complex Sites (RemPlex), and the next RemPlex event will be co-hosted with SURF. NICOLA Theo Ferreira was unable to attend the meeting. He confirmed that NICOLA will be hosting their next annual conference at the end of October 2026 and there is a call for abstracts out with sustainable remediation as a theme. Further information is available Nicola Org – Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Africa (NICOLA) SuRF DACH Unfortunately, nobody from SuRF DACH was able to attend but they sent an update to be shared. • The last meeting was in April, and the group will meet again in June. • Currently the group is working on a logo for SuRF DACH • Good progress has been made in translating some of the framework documents from SuRF UK and it is hoped to put them online in the second half of 2026. • The first 10 best practice examples are ready to go online. • The group is planning on also preparing short profiles for assessment tools such as the Ramboll SURE Tool • At the next meeting we will talk about the assessment of climate gas emissions during remediation Japanese Update Tetsuo Yasutaka (TY) and Yasuhide Furukawa were unable to join the call and confirmed that there is no progress to update.
3.	Engagement on Events

	People shared updates about the events that they attended and that had focus on and engagement on sustainable remediation. ■ Green and Sustainable Resilient Remediation 26 November 2025, Taiwan ■ Battelle Chlorinated Conference 31 May – 4 June, Texas
4.	Upcoming Events ■ RemTech Europe September 2026 ■ Sustainathon 2026 ISRA members were encouraged to participate at RemTech Europe by submitted abstracts and help promote Sustainathon 2026 and encourage participants.
4.	Opportunities to drive consistency and collaborate between SuRF initiatives. <u>SustRem 2027 at ECOFORUM – November 2027</u> OM explained that the aspiration of creating an international discussion about a “topic – to be decided” globally in different groups culminating in a 4-hour panel discussion at the end of ECOFORUM as SustRem 2027. It is an opportunity to work globally on the same theme, but all groups will discuss separately and put forward their thoughts about the theme. At present there are a few groups that have indicated an interest to participate and it is hoped ISRA would be one of the partner groups. All groups would be invited to participate virtually with a few people attending in person representing their group. It is hoped that different groups representing different sectors will be able to take part such as regulators, landowners, service providers etc whilst being mindful that different groups cannot necessarily discuss all aspects as it is beyond their remit. The important aspects are to gather common thoughts and aspirations on “the topic” and jointly come up with a joint statement. It is also hoped to work with early careers professions so they may be able to drive the work forward in the future. It was acknowledged that this is extremely ambitious. ACTION: NH to send a summary to ISRA members of the initial thoughts that have been prepared on the idea of how such an event may be able to work. ACTION: ALL are asked to consider the idea and let NH know if people do not think ISRA should be part of this project?
5.	AOB AT – observed that ISRA still does not have any representatives from Northern Europe – Scandinavian countries. NH explained she has had discussions with different groups without success. She will try again through her contacts at NOROCS and the Swedish Geotechnical Institute. ACTION: NH to reach out to Scandinavian contacts.
6.	Next meeting Next teleconference will be arranged for late November 2026. ACTION: NH to arrange the next meeting.