Sandwatch Database Workshop Report
30 May 2014

Workshop Participants

The Workshop

The workshop took place on 30 May 2014 at the BelleVue Dominican Bay Hotel in the Dominican Republic. The agenda is presented as Annex 1 and the list of participants as Annex 2. The workshop started with introductions where participants gave a brief summary of themselves, their group and their Sandwatch activities.

This was followed by an overview of the database using the example beach. The link between the database software and the SandwatchManual's activities was also emphasised. A number of the screens showing the descriptive information, photos / sketches and activity data were presented. The generation of graphs and spreadsheets was also demonstrated.

After the morning break the participants logged onto the database with their own log-ins and changed their passwords. Most of the attendees were Sandwatch group leaders. They were shown how to add their group members and their monitored beaches. Theattendees added their beaches and then worked on updating the group information and descriptive information for these beaches. The morning session ended by having them set the Google map coordinates on their map screens.

After lunch the uploading of photos and sketches was demonstrated. The participants then added photos and sketches for theirbeaches. Participants then worked on adding the data they had brought with them for their beaches.

The day finished with the workshop evaluation and each attendee committing to work to be completed by the end of June 2014.
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This workshop had the right participants – most are active Sandwatch group leaders. They understood the data and activities that the database handles and brought data to enter. There were also a couple of observers that were not familiar with Sandwatch but were interested in finding out more about it. This was not an ideal workshop for them as there was insufficient time to describe Sandwatch and its activities

Evaluation

Participants filled in a short evaluation form after the workshop.

- Most participants were happy with the workshop.
- Some participants had problems seeing details on the screens (separate screens projected English and Spanish versions of the database).
- The two observers felt that rather a lot of material was covered in a short time, but most participants seemed to be comfortable with their achievements in the one day workshop.

Logistics

The setup for the workshop was adequate and the simultaneous translation greatly improved the flow of theworkshop. The translators also were available in the breaks to help with one-on-one conversations.

The equipment was satisfactory. It was good to have two screens to show English and Spanish versions simultaneously. The internet access was adequate although it got a little slow when many of the participants were active at the same timewith larger uploads and downloads.

There were the following issues that should be avoided for future workshops:

1. Pre-workshop communication between the trainer and the organisers needs improvement.
2. A complete list of participants with contact information needs to be provided in advance so that passwords can be established.

3. Participants need to be fully informed in advance about what to expect and the data they need to bring.

4. Printing or copying facility at the workshop would have been helpful.

5. Sufficient electrical outlets need to be available so that each participant can plug in their laptop for the entire day.

Annex 1
Training session
Sandwatch International Database

Bellevue Dominican Bay Hotel
Boca Chica, Dominican Republic

30 May 2014

Agenda

8.30 - 9.30   Welcome and Introductions – participants should be ready to give a very short summary of their Sandwatch group activity and the data they have brought to the workshop

9.30 - 10.30   Overview and demonstration of Sandwatch International Database application using the sample beach

10.30 - 10.45   Break

10.45 - 11.30   Introduction to the administration of database user groups – participants will set up their beach in the database

11.30 – 12.30   Entry of general description information for a beach – participants will add descriptive information for their beach

12.30 – 1.30   Lunch

1.30 - 2.30   Entry of photos and sketches – participants will upload the photos and sketches they brought to the workshop

2.30 – 3.30   Entry of numerical data – participants will begin to enter the data they brought from their Sandwatch activities

3.30 – 3.45   Break

3.45 – 4.15   Participants continue entry of data for their beaches

4.15 – 4.45   Explore generation of graphs and spreadsheets

4.45 – 5.00   Evaluation & Closing

Annex 2
Sandwatch Database Workshop Participants

DominicanRepublic

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