

REPORT ON OCTOBER 2017 REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON: SANDWATCH: A COMBINED CITIZEN SCIENCE APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Participants at the UNESCO/Sandwatch Workshop

Participants from countries throughout the Caribbean’s archipelago, South America and Europe met for a week’s workshop from October 2nd to 5th at the Radisson Hotel in Trinidad. This workshop was hosted by UNESCO and labelled ‘Sandwatch: A Combined Citizen Science Approach to Climate Change Adaptation and

Education for Sustainable Development’. On day one the participants were privy to presentations made by Ms. Sandra de Vries of the Netherlands and Ms. Debra Mc Fee of the Gender Issues Department of UWI St. Augustine as they both relayed experiences they encountered while trying to recruit members of different communities to become citizen scientists. The floor was then opened for questions

and discussion. The rest of the day’s proceedings revolved around moderated group discussions on opportunities for the expansion of citizen science programmes

within the Caribbean, with a focus on specific sustainable development goals. Day one concluded with an in-depth introduction to Sandwatch by Ms. Khalissa Ikhlef of

the UNESCO’s office in Paris, France.



Khalissa Ikhlef

Day two took participants on a hour and a half drive to Las Cuevas beach where they were divided into groups then guided and instructed by Mr. Andy Paul and Mrs. Gourie Dukeran-Ali of Trinidad and Mrs. Michelle



Stowe and Ms. Trachia Simmons of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on how to carry out specific tasks such as beach profiling, water and sand analysis, long shore currents and

recording various beach activities. On return to the hotel, each group was given the opportunity to present their findings.



Groups gathering thoughts to present after field trip.



Christopher from Institute of Marine Affairs

Day three took participants back to Las Cuevas beach where Christopher from the Institute of Marine Affairs, did further beach profiling using tools that are employed by his staff. Participants were afforded the opportunity to maneuver his tools (automatic level and grade rod) thereby getting first hand exposure to their use.



Participants using the automatic level and grade rod



On the final day of the workshop, participants once again gathered in the hotel's conference room where demonstrations were given by Mrs. Michelle Stowe on how to enter the information gathered from the beach into the Sandwatch database.



Participants analyzing sand particles

Sand was given a microscopic analysis by Mr. Andy Paul and his team to determine size and shape; water samples collected from different points on the beach was also tested for different variables. This was then followed by a healthy discussion on how to merge and integrate the different aspects of the Sandwatch initiative into the education curriculum.

Participants also showcased their talent in the form of an art exhibition to say what Sandwatch meant to them.



This workshop proved to be a very edifying experience where the horizons of the Sandwatch program was widened by the wealth of knowledge, ideas and experiences shared among the groups. Participants are now enthused to take back to their countries what they have learnt and to sensitize their countries/communities/schools about the effect of climate change and ways in which it can be monitored, prevented or adapted to.

*Michelle Stowe (Mrs.) and Trachia Simmons (Ms)
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