

# The Sandwatcher

*The Voice of UNESCO's Sandwatch Project*

[www.sandwatch.org](http://www.sandwatch.org)



## Welcome Sandwatchers!

This is the 2nd International issue of "The Sandwatcher", a regular newsletter designed to highlight and inform Sandwatch participants world wide of items of mutual interest to the project and related subjects.

All Sandwatchers are encouraged to submit articles on their projects to us for future publication.

We also hope to have French & Spanish editions produced as well in the new year.

Please send your ideas and submissions to [pdiamond@surfbvi.com](mailto:pdiamond@surfbvi.com)

We would love to hear from you!

## Inside this issue: Sandwatch activities in:

- British Virgin Islands
- Cuba
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- Fiji
- Ghana
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- New Zealand
- Nevis
- Puerto Rico
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- The Seychelles
- Trinidad and Tobago
- US Virgin Islands
- *and much, much more!*

## National Sandwatch Initiative in the Dominican Republic



A new Sandwatch initiative has started in the Dominican Republic, led by the **UNESCO Associated Schools Project network (ASPnet)** coordinator. A Technical Committee has been formed to support the initiative comprising representatives from the Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Education, the National Aquarium, and the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO.

One of the first activities was to hold a training workshop. On 29 September 2006, teachers, technicians and students from thirteen educational centres in Baní, Pedernales, La Romana, San Pedro de Macorís and Santo Domingo, met for an intensive day of Sandwatch training. During the workshop, Limer Batista, student of Centro Educativo Las Américas, spoke about the wonderful experience that Sandwatch has been

for her and her family. She expressed, in a very emotional way, that it had transformed her parents, siblings and her own way of life. She also exhorted the authorities to continue supporting this project for the

benefit of the students and the environment.

This new initiative builds on the foundation laid by Mr. Carlos Navarro who participated in the first regional Sandwatch workshop in June 2001, and has since trained many teachers and students in the country in Sandwatch techniques. It is hoped

that the establishment of the Technical Committee will ensure that Sandwatch becomes a sustainable activity in the country.

Following the workshop, members of the Technical Committee will follow up with more intensive training sessions for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from the thirteen schools. Future planned activities include annual meet-

ings to display the results, competitions and the creation of a database.



**Carlos Navarro (holding tape measure) demonstrates wave monitoring to teachers**

**Author: Maria Mercedes Brito-Feliz,  
ASPnet Coordinator, Dominican Republic**

## Regional Sandwatch Youth Symposium held in Trinidad



"Wow! What a Symposium." How fitting are those words to describe the **UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, Trinidad and Tobago Sandwatch Youth Symposium**. This historic event was held during December 4 – 6, 2006 at the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO.

Teachers and students from fourteen Caribbean countries came to discuss the work of Sandwatch in their respective countries and to lay the foundation for the establishment of Sandwatch in schools throughout their countries and on a national scale. From as far off as Colombia and Bahamas they came, with Guyana being the southernmost. The Symposium was blessed to have in its presence distinguished individuals such as Dr. Gillian

Cambers (Head of the Sandwatch programme) from the University of Puerto Rico and Ushio Miura from the UNESCO Cluster Office in Jamaica. During the first two days we heard reports from the various countries on what Sandwatch has done for them. We heard about the successes and challenges, and the way forward was mapped after some interesting and informative discussions from the groups. Students also had the opportunity to draw a logo for the Sandwatch project.

All work and no play make Jack a dull boy. Well, many took the opportunity to go shopping at the Trincity Mall, while others, along with myself went to the lovely Bird Sanctuary in the Caroni wetlands. **(Continued on Page 3)**

## Sri Lanka: Tsunamis and Sandwatch



Teacher Victor Goonetilleke and his Team from the Dharmaraja College, Western Sri Lanka

On the 26th of December 2004 the calm sea that surrounds our island home started to recede exposing the seabed for almost half a kilometer from the shore. People were so excited at the unusual sight that they ran in to explore the exposed seabed, catch fish, crabs and even to play cricket. More and more people were rushing into watch the unusual spectacle. Then suddenly the sea rose as it had never before in 2000 years, taking with it everything that was in its way, smashing through the shore line, destroying houses, hotels, and even a train killing more than 1400 people in it, the world's greatest train disaster. The great Tsunami had struck. People were going about

in a daze and a nation was torn apart with more than 35,000 dead in just 15 minutes. The sea around us, which had befriended us for thousands of years suddenly, looked terrifying. She was a stranger to us and we realized how little the people of our homeland knew about her. Was nature hash and a killer without warning? No, it gave almost one hour's warning for anyone to get away. The animals knew and left the shore and reptiles climbed trees. Elephants in the Yala National Park ran inland, so did deer, bear and even wild fowl. Only household animals in kennels and people died. It was so ironic that a country which is surrounded by the

sea, didn't know the signs that nature gave in abundance. People ran into the terror while animals fled to safety. The Tsunami brought home to all and especially the children in our schools the horrific lack of understanding of the sea which is the most dominant force that surrounds our island nation. If only we had known the signs all that destruction would have been avoided. If there is a program that the students of Sri Lanka and for that matter, any island nation should look into, it is Sandwatch. My students have embarked on a study of the sea so that we will be able to treat her as our friend once more and know her better.

by Dharmaraja M.V. students

## Mayotte's (Indian Ocean) Sandwatch Science Fair



"Canny Boy" created by the Mayotte Sandwatch Team after their Koungou Beach clean up!

Our "fête de la Science" was a big success. It took place in our school, le collège de Koungou for 3 days! A lot of people came from many schools and grammar schools of Mayotte and they enjoyed themselves. We were very pleased to show them what Sandwatch was like! It meant a lot of work too! After our first visit on the beach this year, we were so discouraged that we decided to go on a "Clean your beach" operation through our Sandwatch fieldtrip. We picked up 3 huge (100 litres each) bags of trash and we had the idea of making something with it. We thought it would be more striking for people to see what was on their beach! So the **Canny Boy** was born! He looks rather nice,

doesn't he? He was the most admired at La Fête, a lot of people took photos and everybody wanted to shake his hand! We were told to put him in the competition "Protect your island", one never knows, we might get a prize for him! We had a notice board on the green turtle and on the western swamp tortoise (from Australia), two endangered species, that was the first forms pupils' job! There was a large board on Sandwatch, everybody was interested, asked a lot of questions and wanted to learn more about it. We had plenty of interesting contacts and Mrs Gabriel tried to have people join! Mrs Gabriel was even invited by our local radio (RFO = Radio France Outremer) in a programme called "Maïsha" (have a nice day in shi-

maoré) with two of us (Anfiati and Hadjira). We had two hours to explain what **Sandwatch** is, what it means for us and how we can protect and improve our environment through it. We tried to be very convincing, we really want people to know about Sandwatch! For the fête, we had drawn "happy bins" and "unhappy bins" with slogans, it was a lot of fun doing them and all the VIP's there were stunned by their looks! Bins feel happy when they are full and unhappy when nobody gives them anything to eat! We are very proud to be part of the Sandwatch community and we hope you'll like our workshop! December 11/06, **Class 301- Collège de Koungou.**

## Project Tips For Sandwatchers



Environmental Photo Mural in Palau

We are always on the look out for new ideas for Sandwatch, so please let us know if you have any. Some of the great suggestions we have already received include...

**-Make a sound map** - from Mauke in the Cook Islands: Select different areas of the beach and ask the students to close their eyes for a period of two minutes while they listen, distinguish and record the different sounds they hear. This activity can be repeated at different times of the day. The results can be combined to create a sound map of the beach.

**-Create a photo mural** of the good and bad aspects of the beach - from Palau: Using disposable or digital

cameras, ask the students to take 10 pictures of things they like about the beach and 10 pictures of things they dislike. Print the pictures and use them to create a photo mural. This, combined with other observations such as the sketch map, sound map and history of the beach, becomes a good starting point for discussion about the issues at a particular beach and what can be done to find solutions.

**-Build a beach garbage figure** or sculpture as the Sandwatcher team in Mayotte have done. Use it at Science Fairs or other community events to draw attention to the problem of carelessly discarded trash.

**-Stretch scarce resources** - from Dominican Republic: In instances where schools have very limited financial resources and find it difficult to cover items like transporting students to the beach or providing snacks and drinks, a public school can be twinned with a private school to conduct joint Sandwatch beach activities - the private schools having more resources to cover such incidental expenses.

**-Have local resorts or hotels sponsor** your schools environmental projects, and have them recognized publicly for their support of the community. Email your suggestions to [pdiamond@surfbvi.com](mailto:pdiamond@surfbvi.com)

## A Sandwatch Message from Zanzibar, Tanzania



The water is cold and cool all around us at this coastal area where we live on the west side of Zanzibar. The sand is soft and smooth. There are small ponds and dams along the beach and some of them are filled with shells and others with water.

Small fishes are found around here and also crabs, shells and starfish. Along the beach we can also find seaweed, as well as some plants like sea grass and not so far away there are a lot of mangrove trees.

Apart from water, sand, ponds, and dams there are also big old rocks found on the beach. Many

of them have large cracks allowing water to pass through them. They seem to be rough rolled up. Our function today is to observe the sand and area near the beaches.

We have seen that there are building like hotels, local houses, huts and big houses. There is high soil erosion in this region and we think it is caused by deforestation as well as many old paths, where fishermen and tourists pass, leaving the soil bare in the heavy rains during that season. The rain washes the soil away and create gully erosion. We are in fact very interested in

our observations and we feel that this **The Sandwatch Project** has given us more education about coastal areas. As a club we are going to try to convert and spread the knowledge that we have gained about how to prevent soil erosion.

One of our main conclusions for the government to take into consideration is to do whatever is possible to stop people from cutting trees and to take sand from the beach areas around Zanzibar.

**Written by CHUKWANI ENVIRONMENT AND CORAL CLUB (CECC), November 2006, Zanzibar, Tanzania**



Zanzibari students recording Sandwatch data on Chukwani Beach

## Sandwatch Begins in Ghana, West Africa



As the founder of Simba Friends Foundation Club (S.F.F.C), becoming a **SANDWATCHER** is something I never dreamt of, but as a Youth Activist and a youth as well you can never run away from an Educational Youth Environment Project like Sandwatch. Since I and my organization (Simba Friends) joined the Sandwatch family, I never knew that apart from going for picnics, swimming, fishing etc, there are many other things one could do at the beach. First of all I never conceived in my mind that a clean up exercise, talk of measuring wave length, beach Width, and testing

the water quality of our beaches could be so important to the environment.

This project has really helped Simba Friends and myself to understand so many things that go on our beaches, even though it is our first time and we don't have the necessary needed equipments around but I think our first field trip was a success and we believe that as we stay connected to this family of Sandwatchers, we will soon develop the full talent one needs to be a real environmentalists. One the other hand, the Sandwatch project has given as the opportunity to work on the first

face of one of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) that is Ensuring Environmental Sustainability to which the U.N. has set to achieve in some years to come. This to me marks a step into Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in my country of Ghana and the world as a whole.

"Cleanliness they say and next to Godliness". So as Sandwatchers I believe that as we come together with One Mind, One Idea and One Voice we can with One Strength achieve our Goal of making our Beaches a home for all.

**By Adonis Ninssin Quainoo, Aggrey Memorial Sec. School**



*The "Simba Friends/Sandwatch Team" of Aggrey Sec School, Ghana, West Africa*

## Regional Sandwatch Youth Symposium a Great Success!



(continued from Front Page)

What a site to behold the Scarlet Ibis, the National Bird of Trinidad, coming in to roost. A sea of scarlet colour mesmerized our sight, intermingled with white ones. It was breath taking!

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, participants journeyed to Mayaro where delegates took part in a practical session of Sandwatch, under the tutelage of Dr. Cambers, Mr. Herman Belmar, Ms Charmaine Delpesh and her team from the Institute of Marine Affairs, and Mr. Andy Paul. This was a learning session for all. To close off this

remarkable day, the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment gave a heart rendering and inspiring speech.

All good things must come to an end as seen when the curtains came down on the night of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Delegates were privileged to experience what extempo and Trinidad culture is all about. Pan, jazz, parang, comedy, extempo and off course mouth watering food, we all experienced.

What an experience! With tearful eyes, farewells were given on Thursday morning. Indeed, we all

have come to the realization that Sandwatch is an ideal tool for Sustainable Development in this decade. Yes, Sandwatch seeks to change the lifestyle and habits of youth and adults on a community-wide basis and to develop awareness of the fragile nature of the marine and coastal environment and the need to use it wisely. This we do pledge.

Let us all keep the fire burning. Let's not let the spirit die. Indeed, Sandwatch must be everybody's business!

**By Mr. Andy Paul, Sandwatch Coordinator, Trinidad & Tobago**



Mr. Andy Paul, Sandwatch Coordinator for Trinidad & Tobago Addresses the Sandwatch Regional Youth Symposium on Trinidad, Dec 4-6th, 2006



## Cuba: Caring for Beach Ecosystems in 21st Century



Sandwatch Team planting trees behind Judio Beach

The process of environmental degradation is not a recent phenomenon. Economic and social interventions have modified and disturbed our natural environment, but the rate of change has increased in recent years. Environmental education is a continuous process that seeks to create an environmentally informed citizenship, motivated and equipped with the necessary knowledge to confront environmental problems and initiate appropriate solutions. Schools must become the main force in environmental education for new generations.

The **Sandwatch project** continues the goals of the Caribbean Sea project of the **UNESCO Associated Schools Project network** by raising the awareness of children and young people about the regional environmental problems of the Caribbean Sea, and by developing the skills to solve these problems.

Seguidores de Camilo y Che is a primary school located in the city of Matanzas in Cuba. The students, assisted by their teachers have been studying El Judi6

beach for several years as part of the Sandwatch project.

The ongoing deterioration of the El Judi6 Beach is due to two main problems: pollution and erosion. The behavior of the currents and the physical geographic conditions create special conditions in this bay. The beach and the bay are contaminated by pollution

drocarbons in the small industries and factories surrounding the bay and by the operators of boats using the bay. The industries also produce significant amounts of gas and the resulting soot settles on the surface of the water. Finally the bay is impacted by water leaching from the city's garbage dump into the San Juan River and thence to the bay.



Sandwatch Training for Cuban Teachers

from different sources: industries in the area which provide insufficient (or no) treatment of their wastes, which then drain to the rivers and ultimately to the bay; residual drains from the settlements around the bay; and poor handling practices of oil and hy-

The erosion of the beach has its origin in natural factors such as the behavior of the tides, cold fronts, etc., and other factors related to man-made development, such as the positioning of the first section of the Viaduct de Matanzas during which the widening of the road and the placing of the central separator entailed new construction next to the beach and the sea.

### The main project activities are:

- Discussions with specialists from CITMA
  - History of the beach
  - Measurement of the beach
  - Survey of students and parents
  - Interview with teachers
  - Interviews with bathers
- (Continued on Page 8)



*Sandwatchers in Cuba doing beach clean ups*

**Starting in January 2007, each issue of The Sandwatcher will also be available in both Spanish and French language editions!**

## St. Croix, US Virgin Islands Join Sandwatch



The Good Hope School 4th Graders on their Sandwatch Beach

We are very pleased to be a part of the **Sandwatch program**. Our school is located right on the beach, see [www.ghsvi.org](http://www.ghsvi.org) for details, and we are always looking for ways to use our location to help us learn about the world around us and how we can grow up to be conscientious and environmentally aware adults. We have recycling programs throughout the school, attend the "Environmental Fair" each spring, and participate in "**Coastweeks**" and other beach clean-ups as we get invited. We have strong beliefs that we are individually responsible for our world and we all need to take that

responsibility seriously. St. Croix is only one part of a beautiful world and we are proud to be part of an international organization that is helping the world be a better place. We have included some photos of our class on the Good Hope beach, but also invite you to visit ... [www.geocities.com/stcroixcam](http://www.geocities.com/stcroixcam) for some additional pictures of other areas on our island. These pictures are updated almost daily.

We have chosen two beaches to monitor. Both beaches are at school but on different sides of the main building. We thought it would be a good idea, not just because

we can, but because it will also give us something to compare. We have split the class into two groups and each group monitors one beach. Our school colors are blue and gold, so we have the blue beach and the gold beach. The graphs we are using to keep track of our measurements are headed soon to our Sandwatch web pages.

Have a wonderful day and know that Good Hope's fourth graders are out there, helping to preserve their little part of paradise!

**Teachers, Pamela Buckley and Cindy Mault, St. Croix, USVI**

## Sandwatch Starts In New Zealand

Stanmore Bay School, is located on New Zealand's North Island, on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, not far from the capital, Auckland.

Hello everybody it's us here from New Zealand. We've come to tell you about The Sandwatch Project at our school. On Tuesday 21st November when we went on our first trip to Stanmore Bay Beach for Sandwatch studies. We started walking from the southern end of the beach recording as we went. We found a few interesting things

on the beach like a massive dead beetle! While we were walking along the beach we began to ask questions like "Why were there more shells on one end of the beach than the other?" and "Why was there more rubbish on one end of the beach than the other?" We also encountered a pipe sticking out of the water. Could it be a sewer pipe? Let's hope not! We captured a few pictures of the plants along the beach, for our Sandwatch web pages. We finally came to the end of the

beach. We went back to school and transferred all of the information that we collected on to a big map. When we discussed about what we found out, we saw that there was more rubbish on the end of the beach that had public access. At the other end where people came down from their homes there was less rubbish. This is only the beginning but we look forward to continuing on the Sandwatch site for a long time.

**By Teacher Robyn Bennet**



**The Stanmore Bay Sandwatch Team, New Zealand**

## Beach Erosion in The Seychelles

It is a fact that in Seychelles today beaches are greatly affected by erosion both by human and natural causes respectively.

As we were walking along the beach opposite the Anse Royale School, during class hours, we noticed that the beach has been losing a lot of sand and has been badly affected by human and natural interventions. We felt compelled to investigate what was happening to our beaches and how we as students can help prevent the situation from becoming more severe. Therefore, we decided to participate in this year's School Science and Technology Fair. At first, it was not an easy task, but with the help of our teacher Ms Clarence, we found out that

coastal erosion was indeed an interesting subject to explore. It took our group six weeks to complete the project. We managed to find out about the natural causes of beach erosion. These include wave actions, climate change, seasonal tides, as well as rare events such as the December 2004 Asian Tsunami. We also found out about the human actions which cause beach erosion these include: the use of heavy machinery on the beach, building on sand dunes, and cleaning of river mouths, sand poaching and removal of beach vegetation. Beach erosion is considered as a serious problem for our beautiful country.

The Environmental Engineering Section continues with its beach

profile monitoring programme, which is carried out every three months of the year. This monitoring programme will determine how much the beaches have recovered from sand loss or vice versa. The Department of Environment has established measures whereby to prevent beach erosion in Seychelles.

Embarking on such project was very challenging for all group members. However, with all the hard working hours and dedication we won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for category 4 and we were the prize winners for the most environmentally friendly project.

**Betty Benoiton, S4 student, Anse Royale Secondary School**



*The Seychelles Beach Erosion Project Team with Miss Clarence*

## Sandwatch Kids Study Rare Iguanas in British Virgin Isles



Two **Sandwatch** members and our teacher went to Anegada (an island in the BVI) on Oct 25th to find out more about the rare and endangered iguanas that live there and nowhere else in the world.

First we met Samantha Addinall and her friend Alex who works for the National Parks Trust and are in charge of the Iguana project. She told us a lot of interesting things about her job and how beautiful and exciting the Iguana are. We even recorded an interview with her which will be put onto our school's website for you to hear.

Then we met Kelly Bradley from the **Dallas Zoo**, who works on the Iguana project and does all sort of scientific stuff to study them.

Samantha and Kelly took us to the cages where they keep the baby iguanas for three years until they

are big enough to let go into the wild.

They told us that wild cats on the island are the biggest danger to the timid baby lizards, and eat most of them, which is why they have to keep them in cages until they are big enough to fight the cats.

They told us the iguanas sneezes sometimes if they are very scared and if they get mad they will hiss very loudly. Kelly works a lot with the iguanas and she feeds them leaves and fruits, they especially like cactus fruit.

They even put little radio buttons on the lizards under their skin before they let them go, so that they can follow them in the wild and see where they live. We tried to find them with some of Kelly's radio equipment, but it is a lot harder to find them than you think. The radio

chips last about 2 years before the little battery dies, but it doesn't hurt the iguana.

We also interviewed Kelly about her job on video that we hope to put on the school's website and also on a kids news show in New York, that people all over the world can see, like a TV show on the internet. That will be exciting! Samantha and Kelly had an idea that our school might adopt one of the baby iguana and they will send us stories on how it is doing every month or two. Maybe we can have a naming competition at the school for the iguana?

We all had a great time on the trip and we learned many, many interesting things about iguanas and the people who look after them. **By Lakia Leslie, Gr 6, Robinson O'Neal Primary, Virgin Gorda**



**B.V.I. Sandwatch students, Jamila and Lakia try radio tracking rare Caribbean Iguanas**

## RiverCare & Sandwatch in Fiji



"Plan by workshop participants showing point and non-point sources of pollution"

Students and teachers in Fiji will set up and trial a **RiverCare- Sandwatch network**. This is part of an initiative of Live & Learn Environmental Education and the Ministry of Education, supported by Vodafone ATH Fiji Foundation for the next 3 years.

A teacher's Workshop organized by Live and Learn Environmental Education was held in **Sigatoka, Fiji** on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2006.

The theme for the workshop was "Re-orienting Education" focused on education for sustainability.

At the teacher training workshop, participants engaged in an activity called "Footprints on the Sand".

The purpose of the activity was to help participants distinguish between point and non-point pollution, to recognize that everyone contributes to and is responsible for a beach's water quality, to identify

causes of water pollution, the contaminants that are associated with pollutants and the resulting health effects of pollution.

Participants got to think critically about what happens when people engage in unsustainable development methods. The activity promoted working co-operatively, communicating effectively, building dialogue, making sound decisions on issues like development and resource management, and encouraged participants to reflect on their values and see if it fosters sustainable living.

Sigatoka is located along the south western coast (Coral Coast) of Viti Levu, one of the two main islands in Fiji. Sigatoka is the main centre for the Coral Coast, a major tourist district with cultural, historical and natural attractions. Up-river from Sigatoka is a wide valley- the Siga-

toka Salad Bowl, known for its rich market gardens. The Sigatoka River – Fiji's second largest river flows down through the Salad Bowl and opens up along the coast.

Live & Learn will work with schools in the area to establish a network of schools to monitor the waterway, coastlines, and human practices. The network will also work together to initiate actions along the Sigatoka River and Coral Coast with the aim to improve the health of the freshwater and marine environments as well as promote sustainable behaviour and attitudes. The RiverCare team from Live & Learn is currently conducting follow-up visits and professional development sessions in all registered schools.

**By Live & Learn Environmental Education, Fiji**

## Sandwatch Starts in Puerto Rico



*The Sandwatch Kids of the Tasis Dorado School, Puerto Rico*

Greetings from the Tasis Dorado School in Puerto Rico!

We are a class of many ethnicities, minds and ways of thinking. We speak Spanish, English, Arabian, and Lebanese. We accept people from anywhere and in any condition. We may study a lot and work hard in school doing complicated tasks, but don't think we do not know how to have fun. In Puerto Rico we will celebrate

any occasion at the drop of a dime, and we have festivals almost every month that celebrate our culture. Be careful when you talk with us also, because sometimes we can't stop a conversation. It's a part of our culture, we can't help it! We hope that **Sandwatchers** has a place for us because as much as we like to have fun, we also like to help—whether it be people or mother nature. The

beaches are a very important part of our life and recently they became so contaminated that people could not swim in them! We are not happy about this and want to do our part to make sure it never happens again. That is why we want to become a part of **Sandwatchers**, to be a better part of this world.

**By Teacher Mr. Shaan Shrader**

## Sandwatch Projects on Nevis



**The Lyn Jeffer's School Sandwatch Team, Nevis**

Nevis' Lynn Jeffers School's participants in **UNESCO's Sandwatch** and Backchat inter-island projects have been busy this month. On September 16th they participated in the 15th Annual Inter-Island Coastal Cleanup. This annual event was organized by the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society. Groups met and collected trash and data on what was collected in the morning, then joined together for a barbecue and discussion afterwards. Over two-hundred people volunteered. More than 18 sites, covering 13 miles, were cleaned and a lot was accomplished. Four thousand, two hundred and thirty pounds of waste was collected. That's a lot of garbage! Some of the more interesting things picked up included a boat

steering wheel, a woman's wig and a toilet bowl. The most common article picked up was plastic bottles. This has changed very little over the last 15 years, as plastic bottles have always been on the "hot list" followed by food wrappers, and the plates, cups, forks and spoons that went with them. What did change dramatically was the amount of plastic cards for cell phone "top ups." After last year's report, Cable and Wireless started using an automatic system, thus eliminating that source of litter.

The most instantly rewarding result was seen on Conaree Beach, St. Kitts. Sixty-five bags of litter were collected, and a Turtle-watching specialist reported a lone turtle laying eggs on the newly cleaned beach – an event

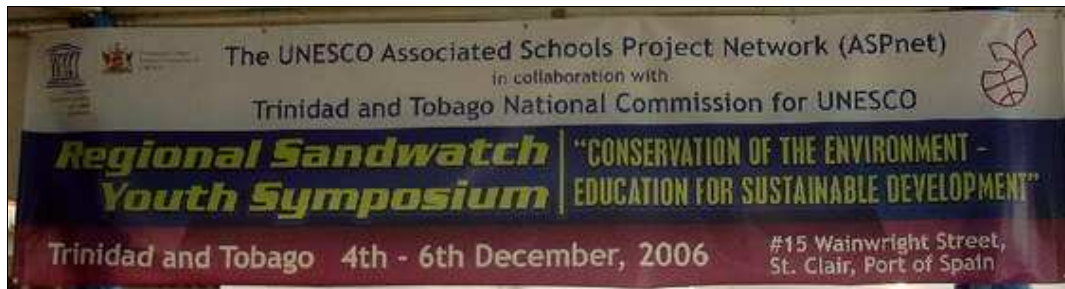
that hadn't happened in years. The group was very impressed with the results of the beach clean up and got together to write a five minute radio program about how litter affects us all, both directly and indirectly. Our islands are diminished by garbage left around, and they thought people might pay more attention if they wrote a story showing how everyone is involved. This was written, and then performed and aired live on the KYSS FM radio station. Working to get everyone in the lower forms involved in contests making posters to Save the Turtles and Ozone Awareness have finished out a busy month.

**Teacher Carol Reed, Lyn Jeffers School**



## Sandwatchers From Around The World!

Sandwatch is a truly global project, with schools in more than 30 countries participating



Coming in January 2007, a "Special Edition" of "The Sandwatcher" dedicated to the December Regional Youth Sandwatch Symposium held in Trinidad. Delegates From 14 Caribbean Countries attended...Our Biggest Sandwatch Event ever...so far!



Sandwatchers learning how to use a surveyor's "Transit", Mayaro, Trinidad



Teachers & students in St. Croix, USVI measure their beach



Sandwatchers in Sri Lanka also man their local Ham radio net to help in event of Tsunamis



A curious Maki, a species of Lemur on the Sandwatch beach in Mayotte



*Remember, studying the environment can be fun!*

*Sandwatch Team, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin islands*



A great example of building too close to the sea from Puerto Rico



The Seychelles Sandwatch Students display on Beach Erosion



Studying sand in the Dominican Republic



"Canny Boy" made from beach trash, as part of Mayotte's National Science Fair

## The Sandwatch Project in Cuba (continued from Page 4)



Tragic Shark Attack? No just measuring current speeds in the B.V.I. ;-)

- Human activities at the beach
- Beach vegetation
- Animals at the beach
- Creation of a scale model
- Environmental festival
- Creation of an album with students' drawings
- Newsletters
- Radio program

Some of the results that have been achieved through this project include: an understanding of the main problems relating to erosion and

pollution at El Judi6 Beach with the help of specialists from CITMA; use of educational software and viewing of videos lent by CITMA; knowledge of the flora and fauna that live on the beaches and the dunes; an increased level of caring for the natural environment by all members of the school and involvement in festivals and exhibitions.

**Author: Lic Raudel Cuba Jiménez, Seguidores de Camilo y Che, Matanzas, Cuba**

## Sandwatch Manual Soon Available in Spanish!



Hola! Sandwatch is expanding its reach in the Caribbean. The University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program (UPRSGCP), an educational program devoted to the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, has translated the Sandwatch manual "Introduction to Sandwatch: an educational tool for sustainable development" into Spanish and will be sharing it with local schools who are interested in fostering student engagement with and stewardship of the many beaches in Puerto Rico.

Like other islands, beaches are an important natural resource and beloved recreation space in Puerto Rico. However, as a Caribbean archipelago, Puerto Rico faces a variety of natural coastal hazards such as hurricanes, tsunamis, floods, and storm surges. Often times, vulnerability is aggravated by poor coastal construction practices, destruction of coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, and weak enforcement of environmental laws. In addition, unplanned growth and coastal development threaten the quality of our coastal waters.

This marks the first time that Sandwatch has been published in Spanish. With the newly-translated Sandwatch manual in-hand, Puerto Rican teachers will be able to guide students in activities that will help them assess the problems and conflicts of their local coastal environment as well as stimulate possible solutions. UPRSG hopes to share this resource with neighboring Caribbean Spanish-speaking islands like Cuba and the Dominican Republic who are also engaged in Sandwatch.

**Author: Camille Krawiec de Martinez, Communications Coordinator, UPR Sea Grant College Program**

## Children's Global News Video "Webcast" Show on The Air!



Students from around the world can be real "TV New Readers" via this new "webcast" project

The **Global Coalition** started as a response to the attack on the World Trade Center and the United States' response to it. The project is a community of more than 500 students in more than 25 schools representing every region of the world, and is growing at an astonishing rate! The students themselves collaborate to develop and maintain our project website at.....<http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/middle/Global/global.htm>

We exchange thousands of e-mails, do audio (and even video) conferences and exchange peace flags and other cultural packages. The latest element to be added is the **International Children's News Broadcast**. It is produced by children around the world for children around the world, from **Belize to Russia** and many place in between.

Global Coalition schools worldwide contribute new stories by producing video and audio segments, or by writing news pieces which they e-mail to Project Director, Bill Reilly and his students at the Bethlehem Central Middle School, in Upstate New York.

The students at Bethlehem Middle School film the written pieces and then combine all of the video and audio clips into a single newscast that is video streamed from the Global Coalition website. Hundreds of schools in more than **40 countries** have viewed the broadcasts. It is estimated that more than **15,000 students** have

viewed our first four broadcasts.

The newscast is produced by Bill and his students using a PC laptop with a software program called Pinnacle Studio 10+. It allows the students to film themselves in front of a green screen, filter out the green color and replace it with digitized images. Many of the images the students use are sent to them from the various contributing schools around the world.

"This process is allowing students to serve as **professional news broadcasters**" says Mr. Reilly, "When the students appear in these newscasts, they are no longer working as students on a classroom project. They are broadcasting **real news to a real international audience** of thousands of viewers."

This design is obviously working based on the response which they are receiving. In fact their last broadcast was presented by teacher Mr. Paul Diamond (British Virgin Islands) at a recent Regional UNESCO Conference in Trinidad, where the concept was enthusiastically received.

So what's next for the project?

Mr. Reilly says "We want to boost our viewing audience to over **50,000 each month** and include more Global Coalition schools in the broadcast. We want to be watched in every school in every country. Hey, sometimes you have to dream big!"

If you would like find out more about this project or participating in some way please contact Bill Reilly at the projects website.



**THE SANDWATCHER IS EDITED BY PAUL  
DIAMOND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS &  
GILLIAN CAMBERS, PUERTO RICO**