

Sandwatch International Database Training Workshop Dominican Republic

**Hotel Bellevue Dominican Bay,
Boca Chica, Dominican Republic**

18-22 May, 2015

REPORT

Prepared by the Sandwatch Foundation



Background

Sandwatch is a volunteer network of children, youth and adults working together to monitor and analyse changes in their beach environment. Through Sandwatch, they use a standardized approach, share their findings with the wider community and take action to address issues, enhance their beach environment and build resilience to climate change.

With its practical hands-on approach, Sandwatch is an example of Education for Sustainable Development – an approach to teaching and learning that seeks to empower and encourage people of all ages to assume responsibility for creating and enjoying a sustainable future.

Sandwatch is science in action, applied in the real world in an interdisciplinary manner with applications ranging from geography to art, and from poetry to mathematics. It helps students to apply their school-based learning to everyday life situations.

The Sandwatch programme started in 2001 and groups from more than 30 countries around the world are actively involved in Sandwatch. In 2013 the Sandwatch International Database was launched in Mauritius. The database provides Sandwatch groups with a safe site to store their maps and photos, enter their data, and view tables and graphs showing how the beach changes over time. The database represents an important historical archive of beach changes at specific locations that can be shared globally and in time will make a contribution towards global climate change assessments.

Over the course of 2013 and 2014, three short (one-day) training courses on the Sandwatch International Database were held in (i) Bequia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; (ii) Cape Verde Islands; and (iii) the Dominican Republic. In most cases these short training courses were “add-ons” to larger events, e.g. the “Climate Change Education Inside and Outside the Classroom” training courses held in 2013-2014. These short courses served to promote interest in the database but were too short to provide participants with all the necessary skills to actually use the database.

So to maximise use of the database it was decided to focus on a longer training course for one country. Early in 2015 several countries were contacted as to their interest in the database and the length and availability of their data records. Based on the responses received, the Dominican Republic was selected as being ready to move to the next step – that of showcasing a country with its data correctly entered such that the analysis and teaching tools already built into the database can be fully utilised. This could then be used to incentivise other countries to do likewise.

Two training courses will be held in the Dominican Republic in 2015, a five-day training course in May and a shorter two-day refresher course in November 2015. Then in 2016,

if funding is available, a longer workshop will be held to review experiences and showcase results.

This report presents the first training course held in May 2015.

Objectives

The overall purpose of the workshop was to train educators from schools located in several provinces along the southern coast of the country in the practical utilization of the Sandwatch International Database. In the Dominican Republic, schools in the southern provinces have been actively involved in Sandwatch since 2001 and the network is coordinated by the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Aquarium.

The objectives of the Sandwatch Database Training Workshop were to:

1. Enter all existing data from past Sandwatch activities in Dominican Republic into the database. This will serve in the long term to analyse data in different ways and help determine seasonal and long-term trends both for specific beaches and eventually for large areas of the coastal environment both regionally and possibly nationally. It will also serve as a baseline against which to determine the impacts of climate change.
2. Ensure at least six Sandwatch group leaders are confident with the use of the database and the analysis tools it provides.
3. Have database entry and use integrated into future planned Sandwatch activities.
4. Obtain the support of one or more government agencies or NGO who could work with the local Sandwatch groups to help guarantee the continuity of interest in Sandwatch activities and the establishment of the database as a living tool for teaching and archiving data.

Logistical Arrangements

The Sandwatch Database Training Workshop was held during the week of May 18-22, 2015 at the BelleVue Hotel in Boca Chica, near Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The workshop was sponsored and supported by UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO and the Sandwatch Foundation.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr. David Gray, designer of the Sandwatch International Database, Mr. Paul Diamond, Co-Director of the Sandwatch Foundation and Ms.

Khalissa Ikhlef, Programme Specialist, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems, UNESCO, Paris.

Simultaneous translation was available throughout the workshop. The Sandwatch International Database is available in Spanish and English, so throughout the demonstrations and presentations two screens were shown with the different language versions.

Overall the logistical arrangements were satisfactory although there were several interruptions to the internet during the course of the week.

Participants

The participants list is presented as Annex 1 together with some photos of the workshop.

The participants included 16 teachers who were already familiar with Sandwatch in their respective schools, five IT technicians from the Educational Districts and other supporting institutions such as the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the National Aquarium, a facilitator and the Dominican Republic Sandwatch Coordinator.

In addition, several other groups attended the final day of the workshop where results were presented. These included Foundactio Ozama (Wetland Protection Project), Grupo Punta Cana, Sur Futuro and Vida Azul.

Workshop Agenda

The workshop agenda is shown in Annex 2.

The first day focused on the scope and background of the Sandwatch International Database and had participants entering data for the items in Chapter 4 of the Manual i.e. general description of the beach, identifying the beach on Google Maps, uploading photographs and sketch maps.

During the next two days participants focused on entering their data for other beach characteristics, namely beach width, beach composition, waves, offshore currents, beach debris, water quality and any other data that participants had to hand.

On the fourth day participants focused on how to integrate data entry into their plans for Sandwatch during the academic year 2015 – 2016.

On the fifth and final day the audience was expanded to include other government ministries and NGOs who were interested in Sandwatch and there were presentations and discussions on Sandwatch and future plans for Sandwatch in the Dominican Republic.

Results

The participants came to the workshop with different skill sets and varying IT and database knowledge. This had been expected and was one of the reasons why the workshop was planned to cover a 5-day period.

Time was therefore available to allow individual participants to “learn by doing”. All participants had been advised in advance to bring their Sandwatch data to the workshop.

By entering their own data in the different sections of the database, which are organised according to the chapters in the manual, they were able to become familiar with the database. Each section of the database, or chapter of the manual, follows a similar format and participants quickly found that once they had learnt how to enter data on waves for example, then the longshore current section followed a similar pattern.

Having the IT technicians from the educational districts and the supporting institutions present was extremely helpful especially for those participants who found the database challenging, and also for helping with some of the problems that arose through using different internet browsers.

Participants appreciated the usefulness of the database to demonstrate an accurate and comprehensive picture of the health of their beach over the course of several months and years.

By the end of the workshop all the participants were able to successfully access and view the database, as well as to enter and populate the specific sections with the data they had collected over the last several months and years.

This was apparent during the final day of the workshop when participants each gave a presentation using the data they had entered into the database. Several of the participants have been members of Sandwatch for many years and were very pleased to see how all their data can now be fully and safely recorded in a systematic way.

Over the course of the workshop, Mr. Diamond of the Sandwatch Foundation shot several hours of video interviews with various participants and facilitators. This footage will be edited to provide a short YouTube type video detailing the background and purpose of the database.

Follow-up Activities

Dr Gray will be monitoring remotely how often each of the participants accesses and uses the Sandwatch Database. Participants are encouraged to contact the workshop facilitators for any guidance or help.

A 2-day follow-up Sandwatch Database Training Meeting will be held for participants in November 2015 to assess progress with data entry and to provide any necessary refresher training.

Participants made commitments for future work between now and December 2015. These commitments will be monitored by Mr. Franklin Jesús Tejada of the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO. In addition, he will be holding two meetings with participants prior to November to discuss integrating data entry into the Sandwatch work plan for the Dominican Republic.

As per a request made by workshop participants, the database can now be more easily accessed via the front page of the Sandwatch website (www.sandwatch.org).

The Sandwatch website will be updated to include full details and photos taken during the workshop. These can be accessed via the Dominican Republic's national homepage on the website (see link below) and via Facebook.

http://www.sandwatch.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=26:the-dominican-republic&catid=1:the-caribbean&Itemid=2

In addition, separate, dedicated homepages will be created for each participating school.

Evaluation

The workshop evaluation form is shown as Annex 3.

Of the twenty evaluation sheets that were completed by the workshop participants, 90% were confident or very confident about using the database. But about half felt they could benefit from further help or training. Based on these responses the workshop can be judged a success and the refresher workshop in November will likely be timely in addressing the need for further help.

Below are the tabulated responses:

1. *Workshop content*: Excellent 18; Very Good 2
2. *Instructors*: Excellent 17; Very Good 2; Good 1
3. *Workshop Facilities*: Excellent 7; Very Good, 7; Good, 3; Average 2
4. *Comments on content, instructors, facilities*:

- I think all the contents (and instructors) were managed with excellent dedication.
- It was an excellent workshop that taught us a lot. The content was very good. Concerning the facilities of the workshop, the Internet quality should be improved.
- Very good
- The workshop lived up to the expectations. It could be more interactive next time.
- Everything was very good.
- I evaluated the workshop as excellent for the contents it provided, which gave me entire satisfaction.
- Excellent! The workshop was very dynamic, and all the participants could benefit from it.
- The contents are clear, precise and efficient for the sustainable development of the community.
- Very professional work, which transmitted enthusiasm and dedication for a better planet.
- Very efficient, it will be very useful for the development of the database project.
- Very good
- The content and instructors of the workshop were very good, but the facilities not very good.

5. *How confident are you of being able to use the database on a regular basis on a scale of 1-5 scale, with 5 being very confident and 1 being not confident.*

- Very Confident 10,
- Confident 8,
- Fairly Confident 1

6. *Do you need any further help or training?*

- No 7,
- Yes 8,
- Not sure 1

Type of additional help needed:

- I will know if I need help after putting it to practice.
- Develop the capacities in using the database. I believe the workshop will help us achieve better work.
- Training for the practical application.
- Everything was very valuable and useful.
- To process and plan the data correctly.
- The training allowed us to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to manage this project.

- I consider that even if I manage the whole database, there is always something to learn, so in case of a modification of the database (if something is added or deleted), I would need help or training.
- Help would be needed for the use of the educational materials.
- Help would be needed to strengthen the data uploading process in the database.
- More electronic training

7. Other comments

- Very good. The workshop taught us things we would not have been able to do on our own,
- The aims of the workshop were achieved.
- Excellent opportunity to grow professionally and help others, while fostering care for the environment.
- Everything good, goodbye, thank you for such a nice experience.
- Specific knowledge about climate change
- The instructors and Franklin are competent persons for the activity, God bless them.
- Satisfied, and wanting to start as soon as possible.
- Only reinforce the uploading of data in the database. Thank you!
- Everything good, see you in November.

Conclusion

Overall the objectives of the workshop were met and the sponsors and the participants look forward to reviewing progress at the follow-up refresher training in November 2015.

Special thanks must go to Ms. Maria Mercedes Brito-Féliz, Secretary General of the Dominican Republic National Commission for UNESCO, and her team, especially Mr. Franklin Jesús Tejeda, who managed to host an extremely enjoyable and successful week long workshop.

Annex 1 Participants List

| SCHOOL | TEACHER | BEACH | TECH. SUPPORT | EMAIL TEACHER |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. Centro Educativo Las Américas | Carlos NAVARRO | Playa Salinas | Agustina Duvergé | carlos.navarro.rodriquez@gmail.com |
| 2. Centro Educativo Los Palmares | Adalgisa PLACENCIO | Playita Nigua | Bienvenido Santana | adaplacencio@hotmail.com |
| 3. Liceo Sor Ana Nolan | Alberto SEMPER | Playa Bayahibe | Gabriela De Los Santos | albertosemper@gmail.com |
| 4. Colegio Círculo de Estudio Pestalozzi | Ander PINEDA | Playa La Caleta – SPM ¹ | Gabriela De Los Santos | anderpineda59@gmail.com |
| 5. Colegio Santa Teresita | Bélgica PAREDES | Playa Palenque * | Ángela Hernández | paredes_belgica@hotmail.com |
| 6. Instituto Politécnico Santa Ana | Darling RAMÍREZ | Playa La Caleta - SD ² | Bienvenido Santana | ramirezdar95@gmail.com |
| 7. Centro Educacional Bautista | Jauer ORTIZ GONZÁLEZ | Playa El Muerto | Bienvenido Santana | matematicacristiana_01@hotmail.com |
| 8. Liceo Manuel Antonio Patín Maceo | Jesús POZO DE LA ROSA | Playa Palenque * | Ángela Hernández | elpozogd55@hotmail.com |
| 9. Liceo Matutino Socorro Sánchez | Jorge TRINIDAD SENA | Playa Guayacanes * | Agustina Duvergé | aljorape29@gmail.com |
| 10. Liceo Profesor Juan Bosch | Luisa GERMAN | Playa Najayo | Nerte Encarnación | luisagermanfranco@gmail.com |
| 11. Liceo Matutino Gerardo Jansen | Martha DE AZA ENCARNACIÓN | Playa Macao | Gabriela De Los Santos | aris27@yahoo.com |
| 12. Liceo Matutino Ernestina Tejeda | Micry Anny BERIGÜETE | Playa Palmar de Ocoa | José González | micryprinces@hotmail.com |
| 13. Colegio San José Obrero | Miguel CORADIN | Playa Juan Dolio | Juan Ciprián | sanjoseobrero594@hotmail.es |
| 14. Politécnico María de la Altagracia | Summary ACOSTA | Playa Guayacanes * | Agustina Duvergé | summary_acosta@hotmail.com |
| 15. Liceo Vespertino Ernestina Tejeda | Wanda Raquel PEGUERO | Playa Punta Salinas | José González | wanda_peguero@hotmail.com |
| 16. Instituto Politécnico Profesor Juan Bosch | Ydeni NÚÑEZ MÉNDEZ | Playa Boca Chica | Agustina Duvergé | institutopolitecnicoprof.juanbosch@hotmail.com |

¹ SPM - San Pedro de Macorís Province;

² SD - Santo Domingo Province

*Teamwork for 12 months

PHOTOS



Participants at work on the Database



Mr Franklin Jesús Tejada, Sandwatch Coordinator, Dominican Republic National Coordinator

Annex 2: Agenda Sandwatch Database Training Workshop

18-22 May 2015

Monday

- 9.00 - 9.45** 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.
- 9.45 - 10.30** Review of Sandwatch International Database – look at functionality of database using sample beach; look at present entries for Dominican Republic.
- 10.30 - 10.45** Break
- 10.45 - 12.30** Review the administration of database user groups – add/edit admin setup for existing groups; review user types; add other participants as temporary group editors.
- 12.30 – 1.30** Lunch
- 1.30 – 2.30** Entry of general description information for a beach – participants will update all Chapter 4 descriptive information for their beach.
- 2.30 – 3.15** Entry of photos and sketches – review of entry of photos and sketches including how to compress images that use more than 1MB storage; participants will upload the photos and sketches for Chapter 4 that they brought to the workshop.
- 3.15 – 3.30** Break
- 3.30 – 4.30** Complete entry of descriptive information – complete entry of all material for Chapter 4 activities.
- 4.30** Informal evaluation

Tuesday

- 9.00 - 9.30** Recap of Day 1 and review entry of numerical data
- 9.30 - 10.30** Enter beach widths or profiles – participants will enter their beach width and profile data along with descriptive information and photos of measurement sites (Chapter 5).
- 10.30 - 10.45** Break
- 10.45 - 12.30** Enter wave data - participants will enter their wave data along with descriptive information and photos of measurement sites and beach journal entries (Chapter 10).
- 12.30 – 1.30** Lunch
- 1.30 – 3.15** Enter longshore current data - participants will enter their longshore current data along with descriptive information and photos of measurement sites (Chapter 11).
- 3.15 – 3.30** Break

3.30 – 4.30 Enter beach debris data - participants will enter their beach debris data along with descriptive information and photos of measurement sites (Chapter 8).

4.30 Informal evaluation

Wednesday

9.00 - 9.30 Recap of Day 2 and review water quality data

9.30 - 10.30 Enter water quality data – participants will enter their water quality data along with descriptive information and photos of measurement sites (Chapter 9).

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 - 12.30 Enter beach composition data - participants will enter their beach composition data along with descriptive information, sketches and photos of measurement sites (Chapter 6).

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 3.15 Enter any other data - participants will enter any other data they have brought for any other chapters (Chapters 2, 7 &12).

3.15 – 3.30 Break

3.30 – 4.30 Review data entry – discuss data entry activity, any problems that need resolution, any gaps in data that need to be filled.

Thursday

9.00 - 10.30 Review plan for 2015-16 and incorporation of database entry and activity

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 - 12.30 Continue planning

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 3.15 Preparation of Friday presentations

3.15 – 3.30 Break

3.30 – 4.30 Continue preparation

Friday

9.00 - 9.45 Introductions – government agency and NGO representatives will give brief overviews of what their agency/group does and what data they may be interested in.

9.45 - 10.30 Overview of Sandwatch and database

10.30 - 10.45 Break

10.45 - 12.30 Group presentations of their data

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1.30 – 3.15 | <u>Discussion of how government agencies and NGOs can be involved</u> |
| 3.15 – 3.30 | <u>Break</u> |
| 3.30 – 4.00 | <u>Next steps</u> |
| 4.00 – 4.30 | <u>Evaluation & Closing</u> |

Annex 3 Sandwatch Database Training Workshop Evaluation Form

1. Workshop Content

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

2. Instructors

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

3. Workshop Facilities

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

4. Any comments on the content, instructors or facilities?

5. How confident are you to help your group enter your Sandwatch data in the database and use the database tools on a regular basis?

Very confident

Not Confident

5

4

3

2

1

6. Do you need any further help or training?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

7. Any other comments about the workshop and the training: