



International Year of
Small Island
Developing States
2014

SANDWATCH 2014 PHOTO COMPETITION: A SNAPSHOT IN TIME - BEACHES PAST AND PRESENT

RESULTS

17th December 2014: Announcing the results of the **“Sandwatch 2014 Photo Competition: A Snapshot in Time - Beaches Past and Present”**

Understanding how beaches change over the years provides important background information as to how beaches might change in the future as a result of man-made changes, climate change and climate variability. Photographs of beaches and coasts are an important tool that can provide useful information about past changes. Competition entrants were asked to provide photos and descriptions of how a particular beach looked 20 years ago and how it looks now in 2014.

Twenty completed entries were received from nine different countries covering Asia, Caribbean, Indian and Pacific Oceans. (The participating countries were: Bahamas, Colombia, Cuba, Indonesia, Kiribati, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Vietnam).

The judges would like to congratulate all participants. All entries were all of very high quality making the judges’ task extremely difficult. The entries illustrated the huge range in beach and coastal environments and how they change over time as a result of man’s actions and Nature.

All entries can be viewed on the Sandwatch International Database and if you would like a username and password to view the entries, please write to sandwatchfoundation@gmail.com

RESULTS

Primary School Group (7 – 12 years old)

Two schools tied for first place:

1. **Escuela Primaria Ormani Arenado, Cuba** for the changes at Santa María del Mar
1. **Escuela José Rodríguez de Soto, Puerto Rico** for the changes at Balneario Caña Gorda

Each school will receive a prize of USD 750.00

Secondary School Group (Ages 13+ years)

Again two groups tied for first place:

1. **Indonesian Green Action Forum Youth group** for the changes at Blebak Beach
1. **Bequia Community High School, St. Vincent & the Grenadines** for the changes at Belmont Beach

Each group will received a prize of USD 750.00

Special Mentions

The judges would like to make special mention of the efforts of the following groups

Hope Town Primary School, The Bahamas, whose description of their efforts to rehabilitate eroded sand dunes was highly commended.

Escuela Primaria Giraldo Aponte Fonseca, Cuba, whose description of the changes at Sierra Mar beach was outstanding.

Brooks Hill Bilingual School, San Andres, Colombia, whose photos and description clearly illustrated the serious issues at Sound Bay.

Nguyen Thi Minh Khai GHS, (Class 12A9) Vietnam, whose interview with residents at Mo O beach was particularly interesting.

And finally a special “thank-you” to one individual, **Delia Vera Medina**, Coordinator of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project network in Cuba. Her outstanding efforts resulted in Cuba submitting the highest number of entries to the competition.

Let's make Sandwatch everybody's business!

For queries or more information send an email to: Sandwatchfoundation@gmail.com