

**Sandwatch Capacity Building Virtual Workshop
for UNESCO National and School ASP Network Coordinators**

17 – 19 January 2022

Report prepared by Mr Andy Paul, Trinidad and Tobago



This virtual Sandwatch workshop was facilitated by the combined efforts of the National Commissions for UNESCO of St. Maarten, Curacao and St. Lucia. It was a three (3) day workshop, held from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the 17, 18 and 19 January, 2022. It was a Capacity Building Workshop for UNESCO National and Schools' ASP Network Coordinators.

The entire workshop was chaired by the Secretary General of the St. Maarten NATCOM, Ms Marcellia Henry and assisted by the Secretaries General Marva Browne and Marcia Symphorien NATCOMs of Curacao and St. Lucia respectively.

On the opening day, the Director at the UNESCO Cluster Office in Jamaica, addressed us. Other officials who spoke were:

1. UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean, Mr Jean-Paul Ngome Abiaga – Introduction to Sandwatch and handbook
2. Mr Andy Paul – Sandwatch Monitoring and Analysis. Background information on Sandwatch methods, Observation and Recording, Erosion and accretion, waves, currents and beach composition
3. Mr Jean-Paul Ngome Abiaga – Sandwatch video

At the end of each day, Ms Marcellia Henry gave a recap of the day's activities. Additionally, at the start of each proceeding day, Ms Caroline Auguste, ASPnet Coordinator for St. Lucia gave a review of the previous day.

Day two of the workshop:-

1. Mr Max Lombardo – Management and Governance of Sandwatch
2. Mr Jean-Paul and Mr Max – success stories and lessons learned from Sandwatch in the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific

The above presentations were followed by a question and answer session, after which there was another Sandwatch video.

Mr Andy Paul ended the day's activities by virtually transporting participants to the beach to conduct a practical session on the implementation of Sandwatch.

On the final day, the following were conducted:

1. Integrating Sandwatch and climate change into the school curriculum – Ms Giannetti George
2. Introduction to the global Sandwatch database – Mr Andy Paul and Ms Michelle Stowe
3. How can Sandwatch contribute to science policy advisory – Mr Herman Belmar

This workshop was well attended. Yes, there were some challenges with it being virtual, but such were overcome by me. I raised concerns with the Secretary General about follow up activities and gave suggestions. I look forward in receiving good news from all.

Despite conducting all my sessions within the designated time frame, it was a bit challenging to really do justice to the various elements of Sandwatch.

But it was a wonderful experience being part of the virtual workshop.