



**SANDWATCH: A COMBINED CITIZEN SCIENCE APPROACH TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**CARIBBEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

**2-5 October 2017**

Radisson Hotel Trinidad

Port of Spain

Trinidad and Tobago

**CONCEPT NOTE**

UNESCO and the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO, will conduct a regional workshop in English titled “*Sandwatch: a combined approach to climate change adaptation and Education For Sustainable Development*”, from 2 to 6 October 2017, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

**Introduction:**

Sandwatch seeks to trigger behavioural change by developing children, youth and adults’ awareness of the fragile nature of marine and coastal environments and the need to use them wisely. It instils a sense of caring for the environment, and by working for the benefit of the community it promotes environmental stewardship and responsible citizenship. Through Sandwatch, school students, teachers and local communities work together to monitor their coastal environments; identify problems and develop sustainable approaches to address them.

The Sandwatch methodology is based on the “MAST” approach: Monitoring, Analysing, Sharing, Taking action. 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 teaches students to apply their school-based learning to everyday life situations.

The project was initiated by UNESCO 16 years ago in the Caribbean, and it is now widespread around the world and forms a solid and active network, involving more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean and other coastal regions. For the implementation of the Sandwatch project, UNESCO works with an active corpus of partners, which include National Commissions for UNESCO, national ASPnet and UNITWIN coordinators, primary and secondary schools, universities, NGOs, national and local authorities, ministries, and the Sandwatch Foundation.

The training workshop for the Caribbean region will discuss the value of citizen science in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and will provide training on Sandwatch. It will also take stock of achievements in the Caribbean during the last 16 years and will consolidate and expand the scope and reach of the Sandwatch programme in the region, as well as strengthen South-South collaboration in the Caribbean region itself as well as with other regions where Sandwatch is active.

The overall goals of the workshop are:

- To enhance the knowledge base and develop capacity to respond to environmental change, shoreline and beach change, climate change and sustainable development among school, youth and community groups in the Caribbean.
- To stimulate the use of the online database for data entry and analysis of observations and measurements of shoreline and beach changes.
- To provide participants with the skills to set up Sandwatch activities and link new schools into the existing Sandwatch network.
- To engage curriculum developers in integrating Sandwatch in the national curricula, particularly in the context of education for sustainable development.

**Costs covered by UNESCO:**

UNESCO will cover airfare and accommodation of one participant per country, and a second participant will be considered, only if funds permit. Each country was invited to submit the names and CVs of two participants in order of priority.

**Participants' profile:**

Participants are teacher trainers, community educators or curriculum development/planning professionals. Selected participants are expected to continue their involvement with Sandwatch upon their return home, through national or local level training activities or the integration of Sandwatch into national educational programmes. UNESCO, with the help of the Sandwatch Foundation, will follow-up with participants to ensure effective implementation of the Sandwatch activities in the respective countries, as committed during the workshop.

**Programme:**

See programme attached.

**Contact:**

For further questions regarding the Workshop, please contact Guy Broucke ([g.broucke@unesco.org](mailto:g.broucke@unesco.org)), Khalissa Ikhlef ([k.ikhlef@unesco.org](mailto:k.ikhlef@unesco.org)) or Omar Mohammed ([aspnet.tt@gmail.com](mailto:aspnet.tt@gmail.com)).