

DIKTAS

Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System

Collaboration mechanisms in the DIKTAS

In the framework of the DIKTAS project, the four DIKTAS project countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro) have agreed to create two mechanisms aimed at improving consultation and exchange of information between the governmental entities involved in water resources management. The two mechanisms are the **National Inter-ministerial Committees (NICs)** in each of the project countries, and a **Consultation and Information Exchange (CIE)** body at the regional level.

NICs and CIE together represent the key combination of technical and political experts of the project that will discuss, comment and approve the project products such as Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA), the Environmental Quality Objectives, Environmental Status Indicators and their long term monitoring. They will guide the process of harmonization of the existing policy and institutional frameworks mainly through their support of the DIKTAS Strategic Action Programme (SAP).

A **TDA** is an objective assessment and not a negotiated document. It uses the best available verified scientific and technical information to examine the state of the environment and the root causes for its degradation. The analysis is carried out in a cross sectoral manner, focusing on transboundary problems without ignoring national concerns and priorities.

A **SAP** is a negotiated policy document which should identify policy, legal and institutional reforms and investments needed to address the priority transboundary problems. Endorsed at the highest level, it establishes clear priorities for action to resolve the priority problems which were identified in the TDA. The preparation of a SAP is a cooperative process among the countries of the region.



DIKTAS is a project initiated by the aquifer-sharing states and supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve understanding of transboundary groundwater resources of the Dinaric region and to facilitate their equitable and sustainable utilisation, including the protection of unique karst groundwater dependent ecosystems

Partners

DIKTAS is a full-size GEF (www.thegef.org) regional project, implemented by UNDP (www.undp.org) and executed by UNESCO-IHP (www.unesco.org/water/ihp).

The core DIKTAS project partners are four GEF fund-recipient countries of the Dinaric region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro. Several other countries (in the Dinaric region and beyond) and international Organizations have also joined this challenging project.

The project started June 2010 and will last until July 2014.



Project objectives

The Dinaric Karst Aquifer System, shared by several countries and one of the world's largest, has been identified as an ideal opportunity for applying new and integrated management approaches to unique karst water resources and ecosystems.

At the global level, the project aims to focus attention of the international community on the huge but vulnerable water resources contained in karst aquifers.

At the regional level the project's objectives are:

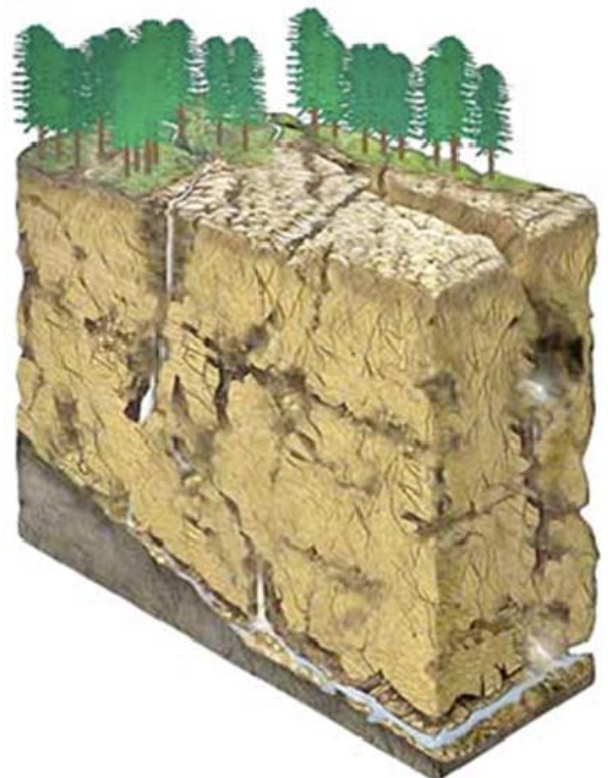
- to facilitate the equitable and sustainable utilization of the transboundary water resources of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System, and
- to protect the unique groundwater dependent ecosystems that characterize the Dinaric Karst region of the Balkan peninsula

National Inter-ministerial Committees (NICs)

The NICs aim to (i) involve all relevant governmental institutions in an effort to implement integrated land and water resources management and harmonize existing policy frameworks at the national level, and (ii) contribute to the preparation, review and adoption of key DIKTAS outputs. In the case of any existing governmental level bodies with similar inter-ministerial functions in project countries, these will be used and enhanced as necessary.

Consultation and Information Exchange (CIE) body

The CIE body, will be composed of high-level representatives of the four countries and will represent the center of international cooperation within the project's context, and beyond. It will represent a first step along the way of a systematic commitment to transboundary cooperation in water resources management. The CIE may be open to other countries sharing the Dinaric karst groundwater upon their request.



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For more information and to contact the DIKTAS project please visit our site: <http://diktas.iwlearn.org>