DIKTAS

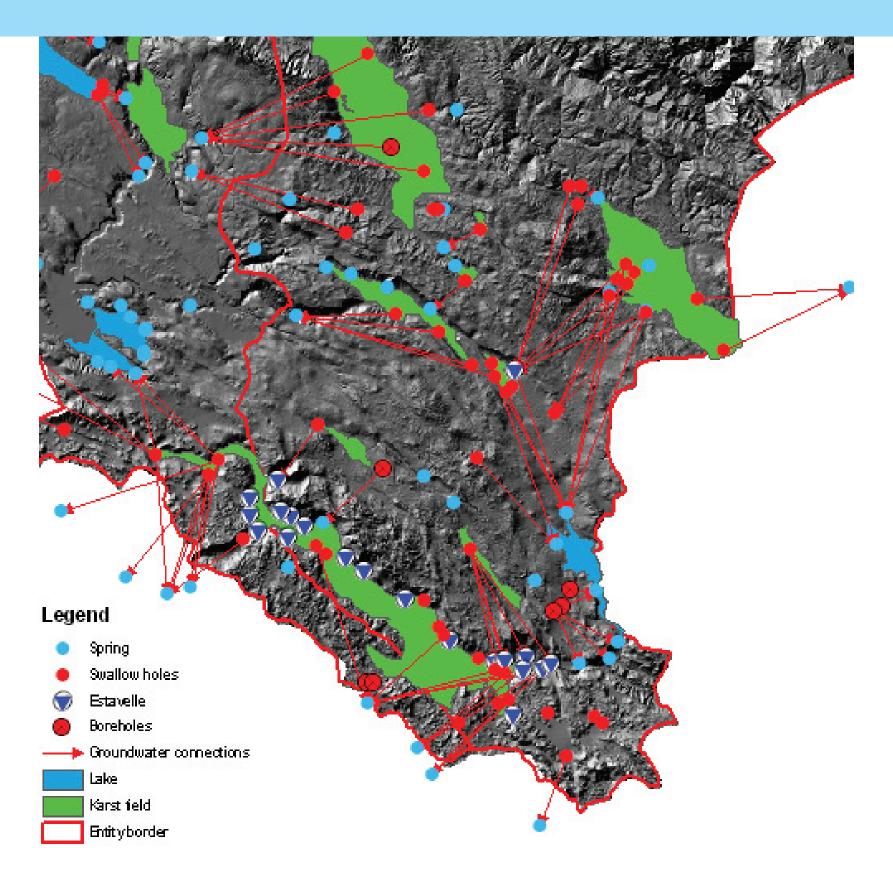






Protection and Sustainable Use of of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System

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.



Full-size GEF (<u>www.gef.org</u>) regional project, implemented by UNDP (<u>www.undp.org</u>) and executed by UNESCO-IHP (<u>www.unesco.org/water/ihp</u>) The core DIKTAS project partners are 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 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.

Full-size project execution has started in November 2010 and it will last for 4 years.

