



Protection and Sustainable Use of the Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System

Project Management Summary Report 2011

Trebinje, January 2012

DIKTAS/SC2/1



Contents

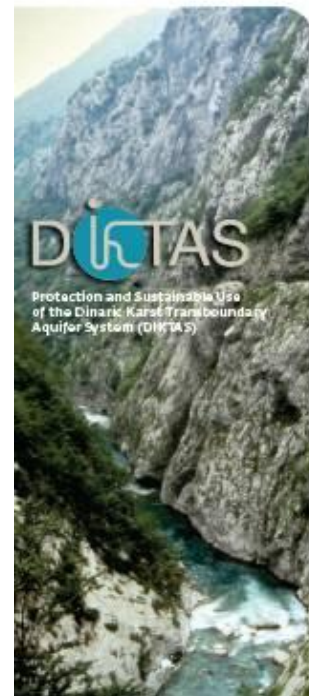
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1 Introduction

DIKTAS activities in 2011 were carried out according to the DIKTAS Annual Plan 2011, prepared after the Inception Workshop in November 2010 and distributed together with the Inception Report in January 2011. The plan was revised in February 2011 and endorsed by the DIKTAS Steering Committee in April 2011. The present Summary Report was prepared by the DIKTAS Project Manager (PM) and gives a summary of planned & realised activities in 2011.

The DIKTAS project consists of four components (I-IV), each of them related to a certain outcome (see the list below). The activities (individual or grouped) provide outputs required to reach expected outcomes. A total of 11 outputs (1-11) are defined in the Project Document:

- I. Improving the understanding of the resource and of its environmental status
 1. Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
 2. Environmental status indicators
- II. Establishing cooperation mechanisms among countries
 3. A multi-country consultative body (CIE)
 4. Environmental quality targets & joint harmonized monitoring program
 5. A coordination mechanism with other projects
- III. Facilitating the harmonization of policies and priority reforms.
 6. Ad hoc inter-ministerial committees
 7. A Strategic Action Program (SAP)
 8. A partnership conference
- IV. Stakeholders participation, dissemination and replication of activities.
 9. Stakeholders Analysis and information and communication activities
 10. Targeted capacity building programs
 11. IW:LEARN activities & webportal.



In 2011, the activities were focussed on the project Components 1 and 4 (outputs 1, 9 and 11). In the Project Document, commencement of the Component 2 and 3 activities is not envisaged at all for the first project year. However, one of the conclusions of the Inception Workshop was to start some of these activities (outputs 3, 5 and 6) earlier as they are expected to require a longer preparation than previously foreseen. This change has been adopted by the Project Steering Committee during its first meeting (April 2011) and reflected in the Annual Workplan 2011, the start of the activities being conditioned by the progress of other activities and the available project capacity.

In the continuation of the report, a brief (management) report will be given about the activities planned to contribute the six project outputs (1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 11) in 2011. Firstly, an overview of general (project management) activities (not directly covered by the project outcomes & outputs) is provided. The report is rounded off with information on project cooperation, visibility and publishing.

2 General project management activities

The main project task in the first few months of 2011 was to establish the project structure as prescribed in the DIKTAS project document. The first step was setting up DIKTAS National Execution Units, including the nomination of national focal points and selection of the country experts. The ToRs for national and international experts were prepared and attached to the project Plan for 2011. The nomination and pre-selection of candidates for the national experts was carried out by the responsible ministries in the four countries, whereas UNESCO conducted the final selection and the contracting. In order to assist in and speed up the nomination procedure, the PM visited Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania in March 2011. These visits were also used to inform GEF country focal points about progress of the project. The nomination procedure in Croatia did not require a visit to the country and there were regular contacts with GEF country focal point. Since a possible visit to Montenegro at that (postelection) time was not feasible, support to the nomination procedure was provided mainly through UNESCO official correspondence.

By the end of March, all four National Execution Units were populated, each of them composed of four national experts and the project national focal point. In total sixteen national experts were contracted in the fields of hydrogeology, environment and socio/economics, policy, legal and institutional frameworks and stakeholder participation and involvement. Besides, two international experts were contracted in the field of hydrogeology and international law. In accordance with the project plan, four Working Groups (WG) were set up, namely:

- Hydrogeology
- Environment and socio-economics
- Policy, legal and institutional framework
- Stakeholder participation

The first meeting of the DIKTAS Project team was held at the location of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in Trebinje (B&H) 31.03-01.04. 2011.¹ Based on the Annual Workplan, the WGs prepared individual WG plans and spent the following months implementing the activities as agreed. All working groups held at least one meeting in the PCU between June and September 2011.

The Project Coordination Unit is hosted by the Water Agency for Trebišnjica River Basin. In 2011, a GIS junior specialist is contracted (full-time) by the project, serving also as the PCU focal point. Logistically, he is supported by the staff of the Water Agency. The necessary GIS software (ESRI – ArcGIS) was purchased by the project.² It has been agreed that the GIS software will remain property of the Water Agency after the end of the project. The Water Agency, in turn, agreed to cover the cost of regular software updates as of 1 November 2012. On this subject, an agreement between the Water Agency, UNESCO and IGRAC was signed. The contracted specialist followed a GIS course organised by the ESRI representative in B&H.

The first meeting of the project Steering Committee (SC) was organized and was held in Podgorica (Montenegro) in April 2011. The SC discussed and adopted the Project Workplan and budget for 2011. The SC also approved the list of suggested members of the DIKTAS Science Advisory Panel (SAPI). The SAPI is

¹ The meeting minutes are available in the project Collaborative Environment

² The software purchase, expert contracting and project travel arrangements are carried out through the UNESCO office in Sarajevo. This cooperation is very much appreciated.

composed of eight very prominent world karst experts, including several members of IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists) Karst Commission:

- Dr. Bartolomé Andreo-Navarro (Spain), Department of Geology, University of Malaga, Spain and member of the Karst Commission of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
- Dr. Cao Jianhua (China), Executive Deputy Director of the International Research Centre on Karst under the auspices of UNESCO; Karst Dynamics Laboratory, Ministry of Land and Resources Guilin, Guangxi, China; and member of the Karst Commission of the IAH
- Dr. Neven Kresic (USA), Senior principal hydrogeologist at MACTEC Engineering and Consulting Inc. (MEC); founding member of the Ground Water Modeling Interest Group sponsored by the National Ground Water Association and vice-president of the Karst Commission of the IAH
- Dr. Petar Milanovic (Serbia), Senior Hydrogeologist and the president the national chapter of International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) for Serbia and a member of the IAH Karst Commission
- Dr. Didier Pennequin (France), Head of Water Division, BRGM (French Geological Survey) and the IAH vice-president for Western and Central Europe
- Dr. Jorge Rucks, Jorge Rucks, the director of National Environment Agency (DINAMA), Uruguay.
- Dr. Geary Schindel (USA), Chief Technical Officer, Edwards Aquifer Authority, Texas, USA
- Dr. Tadej Slabe (Slovenia), Director of Karst Research Institute, Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Postojna, Slovenia



With the establishment of its main components (i.e. National Execution Units, Project Coordination Unit, Steering Committee and Science Advisory

Panel), the DIKTAS Project Structure has successfully been established during this year.

Monitoring and reporting in 2011 was carried out as prescribed by the GEF/UNDP Monitoring and Reporting Procedure. Firstly, an Inception Report has been prepared and approved by the SC in April 2011. In July, Project Implementation Report/Annual Project Report was submitted to UNDP. Due to the project initial delay between the GEF CEO endorsement of the project (January 2010) and the completion of all administrative procedures for the project to be fully operational (July 2010) the project execution started with approximately six months of delay. Therefore, the budget-neutral extension of the project for six months has been requested from GEF in the Annual Project Report and has been approved. Brief Quarterly Progress Reports have been prepared on a regular basis.

3 Project content activities

3.1 *Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (1)*

Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was the main project content activity in 2011. In this year it is conducted chiefly by three Working Groups. In general, the WG have performed well and a substantial progress has been made. There was a certain time lag in the preparation of the TDA mostly due to the delayed start (caused by lengthy nomination/contracting procedures). Nevertheless, this will not substantially delay the completion of the TDA (planned for the end of 2012).

More information on results the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis activities can be found in the Meeting Minutes of the Project Team meeting from January 2011 and in the yearly reports of national and international experts (available in the DIKTAS Collaborative Environment).

3.2 *A multi-country consultative body (CIE) (3)*

The Annual Workplan for 2011 specifies preparation of Terms of Reference for the CIE in second half of the year. Due to initial delay of the project and time consuming establishment of the project structure, this activity will start in first quarter of 2012. This delay will have no repercussion on project execution as the draft documents will be presented for the approval of the Project Steering Committee at its next regular session (foreseen for April 2012).

3.3 *A coordination mechanism with other projects (5)*

The start of this activity is originally planned for the second project year and its inclusion in the Annual Workplan for 2011 was conditioned by the progress of other activities and the available project capacity. Due to initial delay of the project and time consuming establishment of the project structure, this activity will start in first quarter of 2012. This delay will have no repercussion on project execution because the contacts with most relevant project in the region (Neretva/Trebisnjica, Skadar/Skodra and MedPartnership) are already established.

3.4 Ad hoc inter-ministerial committees (6)

The start of this activity is originally planned for the second project year and its inclusion in the Annual Plan for 2011 was conditioned by the progress of other activities and the available project capacity. Due to initial delay of the project and time consuming establishment of the project structure, this activity will start in first quarter of 2012. This delay will have no repercussion on project execution as the draft documents will be presented for the approval of the Project Steering Committee at its next regular session (foreseen for April 2012).

3.5 Stakeholders Analysis and information and communication activities (9)

This activity started later than the TDA activities. The main reason for additional delay was a long contracting negotiation with GWP-Med. Nevertheless, progress has been made, although some activities -such as Stakeholders Workshops - are postponed for 2012. The project templates are prepared, along with a brief project brochure and the first newsletter.

3.6 IW:LEARN activities & webportal (11)

The functionality of the DIKTAS webportal has been updated in 2011 by IW-LEARN. The content is updated with DIKTAS documents, PR material, photos, announcements, etc.



The DIKTAS project was presented at 6th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference in October 2011 in Dubrovnik, during the opening session for the Adriatic/Mediterranean Host Region. The project was promoted (with flyers, brochures, poster and film) at the UNESCO booth. The technical site visit "The Lost River and Transboundary Interactions: The Trebišnjica River Basin" was successfully organised during the conference and received extremely positive feedback from the participants.

4 Project cooperation, visibility and publishing

During 2011, good cooperation has been established with the IAH Karst Commission. The DIKTAS PM has become a member of the commission and attended its meeting in Bowling Green, Kentucky, during the International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems. At the conference, the DIKTAS project is presented and a paper (by Kukuric, et al.) 'Assessment of Internationally Shared Karst Aquifers: Example of Dinaric Karst Aquifer System' is published in the conference proceedings.

A M.Sc student from one of the DIKTAS partner institutions, the University of Malaga, spent three months in the PCU, preparing a M.Sc. Thesis on Dinaric Karst. The travel and living costs were covered by the DIKTAS project.

Various DIKTAS project members attending a several events presenting and promoting the project:

- Transboundary Pollution - from Policy to Cooperation, Zagreb, 21-22 October 2011
- International Roundtable on Protection and Sustainable Use of Transboundary Waters in South Eastern Europe, Zagreb, 15-16 December 2011
- H2020 Regional Workshop on Aquifer Recharge with Treated (Waste)Water, 5-7 December 2011 Athens

Project visibility in the first fully operational project year was in general good. Nevertheless, it should increase in coming years. The same holds for the cooperation, publishing and the overall project performance.