



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.

A successful project year was completed in DIKTAS.

This year saw a diversity of activities where the project organisational setup, project coordination and above all the project team performance were challenged. Throughout 2012, the Project Team operated mostly through the Working Groups (WGs) as established in the previous project year. Coordination within the WGs was good and reflected the personal commitment of the WG leaders and the WG members. The twenty five members of the DIKTAS Project Team are spread over several countries and various organizations, making this project truly international while actively supporting and enhancing the collaboration in the Dinaric Region. In 2012, work concentrated on the preparation of the various parts of the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA).

The DIKTAS Meetings

The second **Project Team meeting** was held in Trebinje in January 2012 and the third one (also in Trebinje) in December 2012, in order to evaluate the work done and to enhance better management and cooperation.

Furthermore, the second meeting of the project **Steering Committee (SC)** was held in Tirana (Albania) in April 2012. The SC discussed and adopted the DIKTAS Work Plan and the budget for 2012 and modus operandi of the National Inter-ministerial Committees (NICs) and a Regional Consultation and Information Exchange body (CIE).



The DIKTAS Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) was the main project content activity in 2012. The analysis commenced the previous year, (i.e. hydrogeological characterisation, environmental and socio-economical assessment and assessment of legal and institutional frameworks and policies) and was carried out at the regional level. The regional overviews were firstly synthesized and finalized in 2012. Other TDA activities such as the detailed delineation of transboundary aquifers, the identification and prioritization of issues of transboundary concern, the causal chain analysis and the compi-



lation of a draft TDA report followed and will be completed within the first quarter of 2013.



The country TDA reports are prepared, as well as the draft of the regional TDA overview for the TDA report. The report will be submitted to the Steering Committee, NICs and CIE for comments and approval. The TDA report is expected to be finalised at the end of June 2013.

Case studies will not be rounded off in June; they will rather continue to link TDA and preparation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP). The acquired knowledge on issues of transboundary concern needs to lead to the most adequate SAP to tackle the identified issues.

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 have a central role in the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Action Programme aimed at harmonizing existing policy and institutional frameworks. You can find more information and material in the DIKTAS website.

Cooperation in the region

DIKTAS has taken initiative and established cooperation with GEF projects Neretva & Trebišnjica Project, MedPartnership and Skodra/Skadar project. Cooperation with other projects is primarily determined by project issues of mutual interest to be shared and by eagerness for cooperation. There are very few on-going projects in the region with overlapping project topics and tasks. The intensity of cooperation is not considerable but it is sufficient for a coordination and information exchange purposes. Modalities are investigated to establish a closer cooperation with a pilot project related to nomination of the Dinaric Karst as UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Capacity Building in DIKTAS

In 2012 a training course Linking waste water management to ICZM and IWRM, with emphasis on Karstic coastal areas took place in Split, Croatia in March 2012 in the framework of the Horizon 2020 Capacity Building/Mediterranean Environment Programme.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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News bits

The DIKTAS TDA

The DIKTAS TDA report will be finalised in the first quarter of 2013. Watch the DIKTAS website for more news and developments.



Read!

A **new article** of the "Reviews in Karst Hydrogeology" series, is published in AQUA mundi, a new, internationally peer-reviewed Italian water journal that is currently being evaluated for inclusion in the Science Citation Index. You can find the article in <http://diktas.iwlearn.org> in the News section.

For your calendar!

The **National Interministerial Commission** in Bosnia and Herzegovina will convene on the 26 February.

The Chinese Geological Survey P.R. in China and the IAH Commission on Karst Hydrogeology are organising the **"International Symposium on Karst Water under Global Change Pressure"** that will take place between 8-13 of April 2013 in Guilin, China. <http://iskw.karst.edu.cn/>

The **"International Symposium on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions"** that will take place on the 4-7 of September 2013 in Budapest, Hungary For more information visit <http://www.karstflow2013.org/>.

Quiz

How much do you know about karst aquifers?

Where can you find Karst aquifers?

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Find more information on Karst Aquifers and their locations on our website <http://diktas.iwlearn.org/>

