

DIKTAS - Dinaric Karst Transboundary Aquifer System



DIKTAS is an activity 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

- The core project partners are four countries of the Dinaric region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro.
- Several other countries, in the region and beyond, have shown interest to join the project or to supported it in other ways.
- DIKTAS is a GEF (www.gef.org) regional project, implemented by UNDP (www.undp.org) and executed by UNESCO (www.unesco.org).

The DIKTAS project intends to develop sustainable integrated management principles for regional transboundary karst aquifers in the test case of Dinaric Karst Aquifer System. 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. 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 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.

These objectives are expected to be achieved through a concerted multi-country effort involving improvement in scientific understanding, the building of political consensus around key reforms and new policies, the enhanced coordination among countries, donors, projects and agencies, and the consolidation of national and international support.

ACTIVITIES

In 2008, GEF approved the project concept and the preparatory phase for the regional DIKTAS project . The preparatory phase will be implemented during 2009.

The preparatory phase encompasses collection and analysis of baseline data and information in order to develop a preliminary transboundary diagnostic analysis as well as to understand knowledge gaps. Besides, during this phase an institutional capacity assessment will be initiated. Stakeholder's consultation and engagement, awareness raising and leveraging of co-financing for the full size project are also a part of the preparation phase. Based on the information and consultations described above a project document will be developed and agreed by the countries.

The Full Size project is expected to start in 2010 and last for 4years.

