

DIKTAS II

Implementation of the strategic action program (SAP) of the Dinaric karst aquifer system:
improving groundwater governance and sustainability of related ecosystems.



2nd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AND 1st EXPERT IN-PERSON MEETING

9-10 July 2025

Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina



DIKTAS Logframe and results during the project year 1



Project objective, catalyse effective multi-country cooperation for the sustainable management of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System and its ecological resources by strengthening national and regional groundwater governance frameworks and institutional capacity, should be provided by 5 components.

COMPONENT 1. FACILITATING MULTI-COUNTRY COOPERATION (SAP PA 3)

COMPONENT 2. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR IMPROVED GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE (SAP PAs 2 AND 3)

COMPONENT 3. MONITORING KARST WATERS AND DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS (SAP PA 1)

COMPONENT 4. FOCUS ON AREAS OF TRANSBOUNDARY INFLUENCE AND OF SPECIAL CONCERN (SAP ACTION 2)

COMPONENT 5. AWARENESS RAISING AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING (SAP ACTION 3)



OUTCOME 1: INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PERIODIC MULTI-COUNTRY EXPERT CONSULTATIONS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGES, AND CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF BILATERAL/MULTILATERAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION MECHANISMS PROVIDE THE TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION FRAMEWORK CRUCIAL FOR THE SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF SHARED KARST WATERS, AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE DINARIC KARST ECOSYSTEMS (SAP ACTION 3)

Output 1.1:

Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established by project countries and the support of Project agencies.

Output 1.2:

Draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of Consultation and Information Exchange Body (CIE) and its Secretariat prepared for governments approval.

Output 1.3:

Bilateral Agreements and Bodies. Options for the creation of bilateral agreements and management bodies to address the issues of concern in areas/basins of transboundary influence (Transboundary Aquifers), and/or the strengthening of existing ones, will be formulated for decision by governments.

Output 1.4:

Stakeholder involvement plan formulated and implemented, including special focus on gender issues and women empowerment.

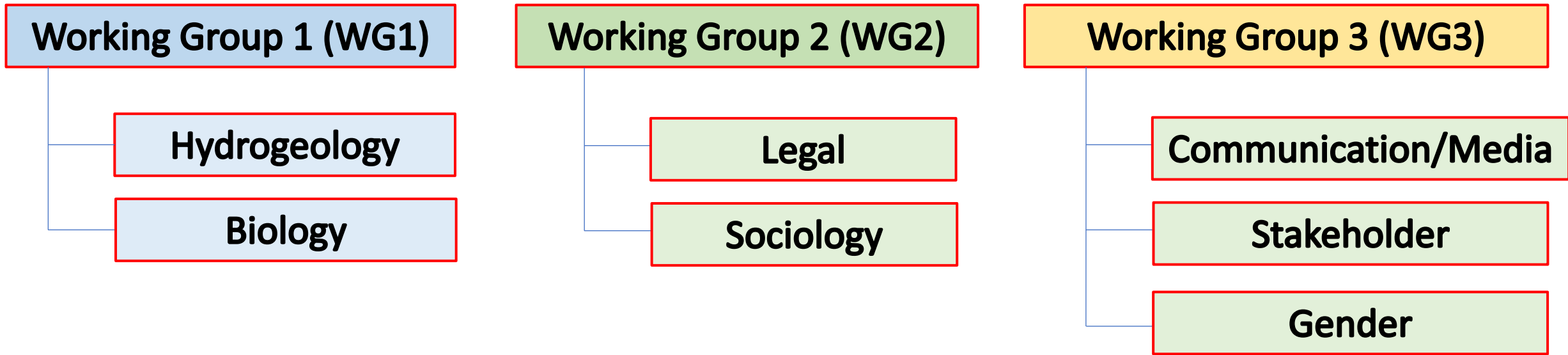


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Output 1.1: Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established by project countries and the support of Project agencies.


In line with PIF 3 working groups were established.



Each WG represented by national experts and international expert.

Output 1.1: Joint multi-disciplinary thematic expert groups established by project countries and the support of Project agencies

Online meeting calendar

WORKING GROUP	WG 1		WG 2		WG 3		
SUBGROUP	Hydrogeology	Biology	Legal	Sociology	Communication	Gender	Stakeholder
	May 23	May 23	May 23	June 23	June 6	June 20	June 20
	June 3	June 13	May 28	July 2	June 23	July 2	July 2
	June 13	June 18	July 2				
	July 4	July 3					

Output 1.2: Draft multilateral agreement on the establishment of Consultation and Information Exchange Body (CIE) and its Secretariat prepared for governments approval.

Draft of the Table of Content

Preamble

Reference to international conventions, Resolutions on the law of transboundary aquifers (68/124 & 77/112), SDGs , WFD...

Part I : General provisions

- Scope
- Objectives
- Definitions

Part II General principles

Core principles of international law and international water law

- Cooperation
- Equitable and reasonable utilization
- Obligation not to cause significant harm
- Regular exchange of data

Part III Management

- Management
- Monitoring
- Prevention & precaution
- Information to the public
- Planned activities: obligation to inform other State(s) in case of a planned activity that may affect the other States

Part IV Institutional

framework (Consultation & Information Exchange Body as per proj.doc.)

- Political level
- Regional Group
- National committees
- Scientific committee

Part V Final provisions

- Entry into force
- Amendments
- Dispute resolution
- Withdrawal of a Party
- Termination of the agreement

Output 1.4: Stakeholder involvement plan formulated and implemented, including special focus on gender issues and women empowerment.

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OUTCOME 2: ADOPTION OF SOUND GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORKS, INCLUDING EMPHASIS ON SANITARY PROTECTION ZONES, HARMONIZED ACROSS THE DINARIC KARST AQUIFER SYSTEM, FACILITATED THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF THE METHODOLOGY DEVELOPED BY THE GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE GEF PROJECT.

Output 2.1:

Groundwater governance diagnostic analysis in all project countries, including a stocktaking of the governance situation-actors, legal framework, policies and plans, adherence to the EU WFD and GWD, available knowledge, enforcement capacity — and an assessment of gaps and opportunities.

Output 2.2:

National policy, legal and institutional developments defined and harmonized across countries on laws and regulations regarding groundwater with focus on sanitary protection zones. Proposed policies and developments will be submitted to Governments for adoption.

Output 2.3:

Training courses among others on: hydro diplomacy; international water law, legal instruments and soft laws; groundwater governance (based on the guidelines produced by the GEF/FAO Groundwater Governance project); gender analysis and sex disaggregated data collection; land use policy and practice in karst terrains; enforcement of sanitary protection zones around springs and other karst features and ecosystems; Maintaining seasonal variations of karst waters and ensuring stable water supply; Study tour for water administrators and decision makers will be organized.

Output 2.1: Groundwater governance diagnostic analysis in all project countries, including a stocktaking of the governance situation — actors, legal framework, policies and plans, adherence to the EU WFD and GWD, available knowledge, enforcement capacity — and an assessment of gaps and opportunities.

This activity will be strongly based on TDA update.

TDA update will be presented during the next session (group presentations).

OUTCOME 3: MODERN MULTI-PURPOSE MONITORING OF KARST GROUNDWATER ENABLES RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES AT THE LOCAL AND AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE SHARED KARSTIC WATERS AND DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Output 3.1:

Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries.

Output 3.2:

Monitoring network design tested on the ground and two full-scale demonstration monitoring networks, and related infrastructure, implemented in two selected areas of transboundary and environmental concern.

OUTCOME 4: AGREEMENT ON REAL-TIME HARMONIZED DATA SHARING ENABLES EFFECTIVE TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION.

Output 4.1:

Joint data sharing mechanism: joint design and implementation of a real-time data sharing mechanism and harmonization of different national classification standards of water quality, following EU guidelines.

Output 3.1: Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose Monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries.

STEP 1 SELECTION OF TWO DIKTAS TRANSBOUNDARY MONITORING SITES

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF TWO DIKTAS II TRANSBOUNDARY MONITORING SITES (TBMS)

1. Each participating country must share least one TB monitoring program.
2. If country share more than one TBA aquifer with neighbor/neighbors than importance of TBA as well as current status of monitoring affect the selection.
 - Importance is here considered in sense of use and protection. If groundwater utilization is multipurpose (drinking water, hydropower, tourism etc.) than TBA should be selected rather than other will smaller importance reading utilization.
 - TBA current status of monitoring means that those with weaker available monitoring network (less number of the observation points) have advantage during selection.

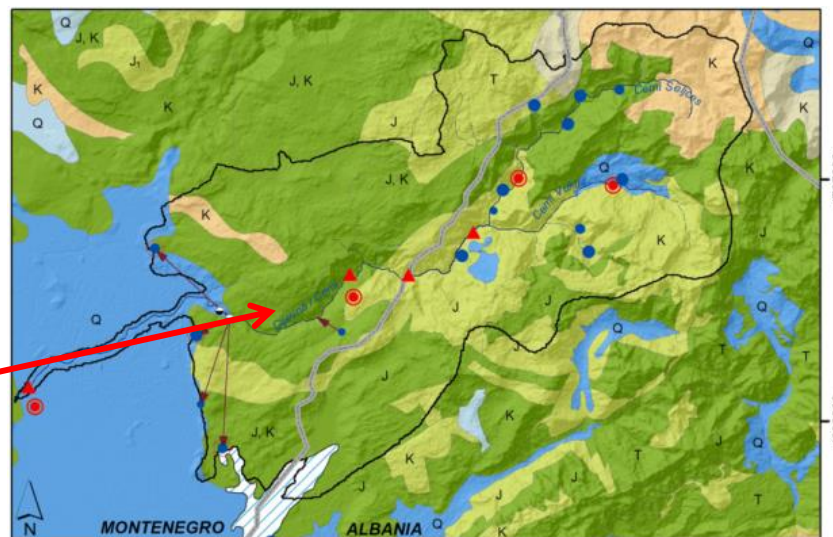


CONCLUSION

Based on the above mentioned, here are proposed two TB DIKTAS monitoring sites:

- Cijevna/Cemi (shared between ALB and MN) and
- Cetina, Trebisnjica or Una (shared between BA and CR).

Output 3.1: Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose Monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries.



CIJEVNA TBA

OVERLAPPING WITH UNECE MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR CIJEVNA BASIN

Online meeting between DIKTAS 2 project representatives and UNECE representatives :

- 30/5/2025
- 4/6/2025

CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION IN TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

UNECE

- 1.1. A transboundary hydrogeological study on Cijevna/Cem groundwater including vulnerability groundwater map of the area.
- 1.2. Four groundwater monitoring stations with unified monitoring parameters set-up and installed on Cijevna/Cem River.
- 1.3. A bi-national workshop on monitoring institutions and their responsibilities
- 1.4. An agreed methodology for data analysis and data reporting/exchange protocols
- 1.5. Capacity-building of country representatives and experts through activities on monitoring and assessment organized under the Water Convention and its Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and support by the Implementation Committee

COMPONENT 3. MONITORING KARST WATERS AND DEP. ECOSYSTEMS (SAP A1) DIKTAS

UNESCO

OUTCOME 3: MODERN MULTI-PURPOSE MONITORING OF KARST GROUNDWATER ENABLES RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES AT THE LOCAL AND AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE SHARED KARSTIC WATERS AND DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Since none of the three beneficiary countries has a complete and operational network for systematic monitoring of groundwater quality/quantity the SAP calls for the improvement of the groundwater monitoring networks throughout the region.

Output 3.1:

Design of DIKTAS-wide groundwater multi-purpose Monitoring network, including: purpose, variables, network design and optimization, data management, institutional arrangements, harmonized across the countries.

Output 3.2:

Monitoring network design tested on the ground and two full-scale demonstration monitoring networks, and related infrastructure, implemented in two selected areas of transboundary and environmental concern.

OUTCOME 4: AGREEMENT ON REAL-TIME HARMONIZED DATA SHARING ENABLES EFFECTIVE TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION.

Output 4.1:

Joint data sharing mechanism: joint design and implementation of a real-time data sharing mechanism and harmonization of different national classification standards of water quality, following EU guidelines.

OVERLAPPING WITH UNECE MONITORING INITIATIVE FOR CIJEVNA BASIN



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OUTCOME 5: DEFINITION OF NATIONAL AND/OR BINATIONAL ACTION PROGRAMMES, AND OF DIKTAS WIDE GUIDELINES FOR REVERSING DEGRADATION TRENDS IN HIGHLY VULNERABLE AREAS ACCELERATES REMEDIAL ACTIONS (SAP ACTIONS 1,2 AND 3)

Output 5.1:

Joint Action Programmes for all 6 areas of transboundary influence identified in the TDA, including previously prepared such as the:

1. methodology for GWR assessment on TBA level
2. concept for Water Master Plans for 6 TBAs
3. tested methodology in 2 pilot TB areas

Output 5.2:

The DIKTAS Rulebook and guidelines on DIKTAS proposal for delineation of sanitary protection zones and measures for solid and liquid waste disposal.

OUTCOME 6: INCREASED AWARENESS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS, DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND LESSONS LEARNED, AND STRENGTHENED GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FACILITATE ADOPTION OF GOOD PRACTICES AND POLICIES.

(SAP ACTION 3)

Awareness raising and knowledge management are important aspects of the project, directly incorporated into several of the project outputs. Related outputs are:

Output 6.1:

Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education.

Output 6.2:

Gender analysis conducted in project countries water sector.

Output 6.3:

Participation in IW LEARN activities.

Output 6.1: Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education

10th International Water Conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay 21-25 September 2024

DIKTAS project is represented by 3 participants, UNESCO technical consultant Mr Boban Jolović, and two national representatives from participating countries, Ms Marina Funduk (Croatia) and Mr Dragan Radojević (Montenegro).



DIKTAS Representatives in opening session of IWC10, Punta del Este, Uruguay



Mr Dragan Radojević, Mr Boban Jolović and Mr Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP) during the workshop (from left to right)

Workshop - Theme A: Evolution and Innovation towards the next generation of transboundary cooperation and governance

Panel session - Beyond Borders and Beyond Impacts: reconsidering cooperation of transboundary groundwater

Output 6.1: Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education

High-level roundtable “Global water and new paradigms in Africa”



NB-ITTAS Project « Improving IWRM, knowledge-based management and governance of the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden-Taoudeni/Tanezrouft Aquifer System (NB-ITTAS) »



Améliorer la GIRE, la gestion et la gouvernance fondées sur la connaissance du Bassin du Niger et du Système Aquifère d'Iullemeden-Taoudéni/Tanezrouft

**HIGH-LEVEL
ROUNDTABLE
“GLOBAL WATER AND NEW PARADIGMS
IN AFRICA”**

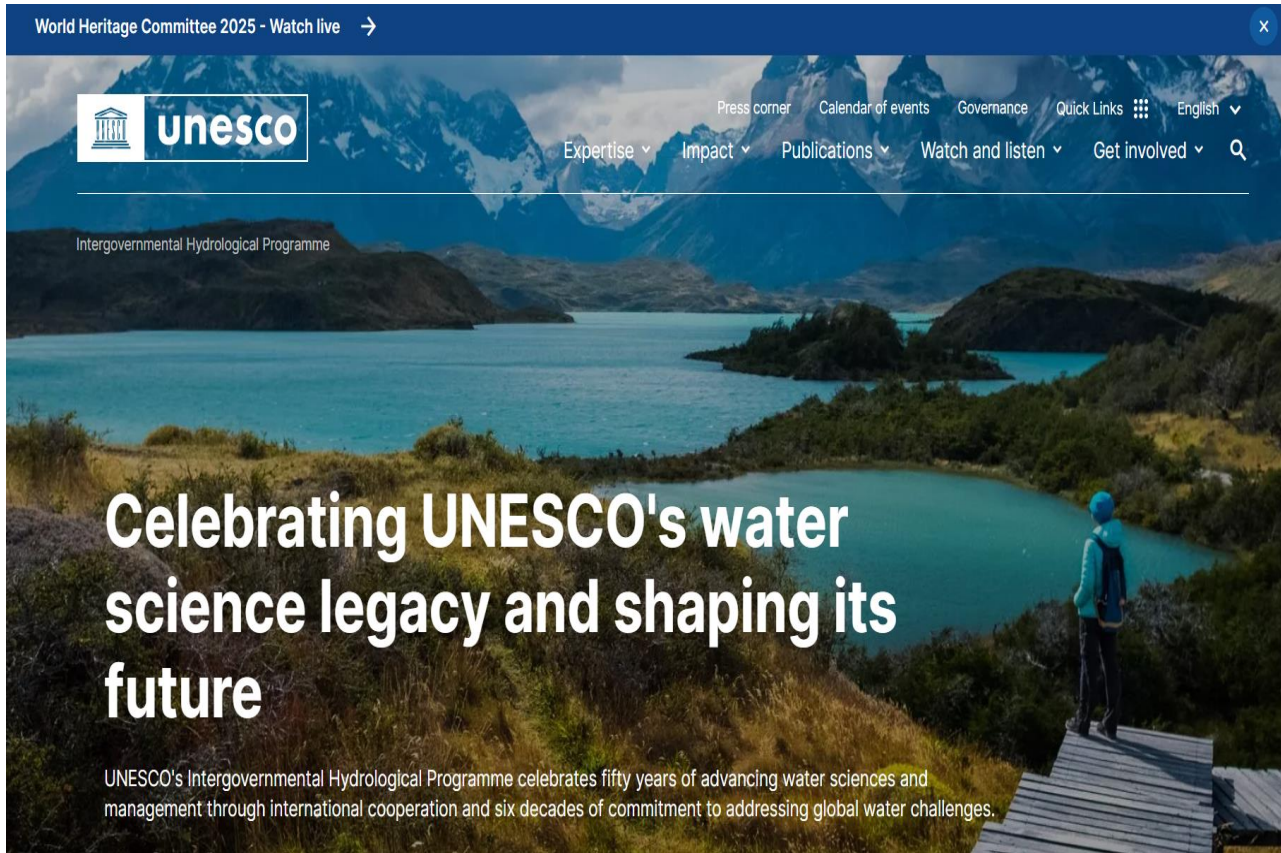
Tunis, April 24, 2025

**TABLE RONDE
DE HAUT NIVEAU
«L'EAU GLOBALE ET LES NOUVEAUX
PARADIGMES EN AFRIQUE»**

Tunis, 24 avril 2025

Session 2: Adopted approach and joint management of water resources: Sharing experiences	
<p>10:30 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.</p> <p>Moderation: Mr. Baba Sy, Water Department Director (OSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopted approach and implementation framework: IW-LEARN Successful initiatives and lessons learned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ITTAS project: “Improving IWRM, knowledge-based management and governance in the Niger Basin and the Iullemeden-Taoudéni/Tanezrouft Aquifer System” The DIKTAS project: “Protection and sustainable use of the Dinaric karst transboundary aquifer system” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Christine Haffner-Sifakis, Former IW Portfolio manager; UNEP/GEF Ms. Apolline Bambara, Head of Division - Water Resources Planning (OSS) Mr. Boban Jolovic, National Project Officer, Antenna Office in Sarajevo, UNESCO Regional Bureau For Science and Culture in Europe
Session 3: Innovations and Financing Opportunities	
<p>Moderation: Mrs. Khaoula Jaoui, Climate Department Director (OSS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation and mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels Public-private partnerships and mobilization of key stakeholders Governance and cooperation for an integrated approach to water management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Osman-Elasha Balgis, Lead Specialist, Climate Change and Green Growth, AfDB, Tunis Mrs. Kaisa Uusimaa, Program Officer, UNEP Mr. Daher Elmi Houssein, Program Manager, IGAD Mr. Abakar Mahamat Zougoulou, Scientific and Technical Director, PAAGGW

Output 6.1: Awareness raising events, dissemination products and education



50th anniversary of UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme
UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme marks its 50th anniversary from 10-13 June 2025, with panel discussions and performances at UNESCO HQ in Paris.

Output 6.2: Gender analysis conducted in project countries water sector

Different tools (draft) already prepared as well as Reporting Template

Stakeholders Mapping Tool

This tool helps identify key individuals and groups who have an interest in or influence over water governance and gender equality in each country.

Instructions: For each potential stakeholder, determine their **Interest** (how much they care about water/gender issues) and their **Influence** (how much power they have to affect change). Place them on the grid.

Interest:

- **Low:** Little direct interest or impact.
- **Medium:** Some interest, moderate impact.
- **High:** Significant interest, directly affected or highly invested.

Influence:

- **Low:** Limited power to make decisions or drive change.
- **Medium:** Can influence some aspects, moderate power.
- **High:** Key decision-makers, significant power to shape policies or outcomes.

Stakeholder Mapping Grid

Stakeholder Category	Specific Examples (e.g., Ministry Name, NGO, Community Group)	Interest (Low/Medium/High)	Influence (Low/Medium/High)	Reason for Interest/Influence (Brief Notes)
Government Entities (This is only an example)	Ministry of Water/Environment	High	High	Policy-making, resource allocation
Civil Society Organizations				
International / Donor Agencies				
Academic/ Research Institutions				
Community Representatives				
Private Sector Vulnerable Groups				

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) - Gender Analysis in the Water Sector

Project: DIKTAS II - Implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System: Improving Groundwater Governance and Sustainability of Related Ecosystems

Implementing Agencies: UNESCO, UNDP, GEF

Countries: Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro

Standard Introduction for Facilitator to Read Aloud:

"Hello everyone and thank you for joining us today. We are conducting a gender analysis as part of the DIKTAS II project. This project aims to foster multi-country cooperation for the sustainable management of the Dinaric Karst Aquifer System by strengthening groundwater governance and institutional capacity. The purpose of this gender analysis is to identify existing gender-based inequalities in the water sector, understand their root causes, and propose actionable strategies for greater gender equality in water resource management and service delivery.

Your views and opinions are very important for this analysis. We assure you that your responses will be used anonymously for the purpose of analysis. Your name will only be included in the Annex of the final report as a participant in this study, unless you specifically request otherwise. Your participation is completely voluntary, and you can choose not to answer any question or end the discussion at any time. Do you have any questions before we begin?"

Instructions for FGD Facilitator:

- **Ask Simply:** Phrase questions as clearly and simply as possible. Avoid jargon.
- **Use Prompts:** After main questions, use prompts (e.g., "Could you elaborate on that?", "Can you give an example of what you mean?", "What do you think is the main reason for that?", "How does that affect women/men/girls/boys specifically?") to encourage participants to provide more detailed and gender-specific information.
- **Active Listening:** Listen carefully to the participants' responses and allow them to speak freely.
- **Gender Balance:** Ensure a gender balance
- **Manage Dynamics:** Ensure everyone has a chance to speak. Gently encourage quieter participants and manage dominant voices to ensure balanced input.
- **Saturation Point:** When you feel that responses to a particular theme or question are no longer providing new or different information, you can decide to move to the next section or conclude the discussion. This is called reaching "saturation."
- **Note-Taking:** Ensure a dedicated note-taker captures key points, direct quotes (anonymously), examples, and any disagreements or differing opinions within the group.

Reporting Template Multi-Country Gender Analysis

Report Title: Gender Equality and Water Governance in (Albania, Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro): A Multi-Country Analysis

Date: Month, Year

Prepared by: International Expert Name/Organization, in collaboration with National Gender Experts from [Country 1], [Country 2], [Country 3], [Country 4].

Executive Summary (approx. 1-2 pages)

- Purpose of the analysis.
- Key findings regarding gender inequalities in the water sector across the four countries (highlighting commonalities and significant differences).
- Present briefly the overarching actionable recommendations.
- Importance of addressing gender in water governance for sustainable development.

1. Introduction (approx. 2-3 page)

- **Context:** Briefly explain why gender equality matters in the water sector and the importance of this multi-country analysis.
- **Objectives:** Reiterate the main goals of the analysis (identify gaps, inform strategies, etc.).
- **Methodology:** Briefly mention the "Water as an Asset, Service, and Space" framework and the mix of desk review, KIs, and FGDs.

2. Country-Specific Gender Analysis in Water (approx. 3-5 pages per country)

- For each country (Albania, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro), provide a dedicated section:
 - **Brief Country Context:** Key demographics and relevant water sector overview (short).
 - **Findings based on "Water as an Asset, Service, and Space" Framework:**
 - Water as an Asset
 - Water as a Service
 - Water as a Space
 - **Root Causes:** Briefly explain why these gender gaps exist (e.g., cultural norms, lack of policy implementation, economic barriers).

3. Cross-Country Synthesis & Common Themes (approx. 2-3 pages)

- Identify and discuss common gender-based inequalities observed across Albania, Croatia, Bosnia, and Montenegro.

4. Actionable Strategies and Policy Recommendations (approx. 3-5 pages)

- Group recommendations by theme or by the "Water as an Asset, Service, and Space" pillars.

5. Conclusion (approx. 1 page)

Annexes (as needed)

- List of Key Informants from each Country
- List of FGD Participants (or types of groups) from each Country
- Detailed Data Tables/Charts
- References
- Initial Desk Review Summaries (if concise)

Output 6.3: Participation in IW LEARN activities

The screenshot shows the DIKTAS Project Website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About the project, The DIKTAS area, News, Resources, Karst Without Boundaries Conference, and GIS Map. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large banner for the 'International Conference and Field Seminar KARST WITHOUT BOUNDARIES' held from 11-15 June 2014 in Trebinje & Dubrovnik. Below the banner, there are several sections: 'The Project at a glance', 'Partners', 'Collaboration Mechanisms', and 'DIKTAS Interactive GIS Map'. A sidebar on the right contains a 'TDA' section with a description and links, and a 'Partners' section with logos of various organizations.

IW LEARN will host project web site (like in previous stage of the project)

*Discussion with IW LEARN about old toolkit or new one! **Functionality** of both will be tested soon to decide which one will be used for DIKTAS 2.*

Thank you



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Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization

