

**Pan-European Regional Preparatory Meeting  
for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference**

**Geneva, Palais des Nations, 12 – 13 April 2022**

**Session 4. Strengthen climate resilience, reduce risks of floods and droughts  
and strengthen cooperation among water using sectors (agriculture, energy,  
etc.) to reconcile competing needs**

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Stefano Canti, Minister of Territory and Environment,  
Agriculture, Civil Protection and Relations with the Autonomous Public Works  
State Corporation, Republic of San Marino**

Climate change is placing the agricultural sector in great difficulty, water shortages are causing major damage to crops, agricultural production is declining, putting farmers' incomes at risk, encouraging the abandonment of land and the consequent loss of territorial protection.

Concerns are also directed towards meeting the population's drinking water needs in the future.

Unfortunately, the majority of the Republic of San Marino's water needs are met by cross-border waters, through conventions and agreements stipulated with Italy.

The objective of the Republic of San Marino is to reduce the consumption and losses of the aqueduct network, to maximise the use of internal water resources and to create water reserves in the territory.

In order to compensate for the current and future lack of supply sources, a feasibility study has been carried out for the construction of an accumulation reservoir on the San Marino River capable of accumulating water in periods of abundance and making it available in periods of need.

The project foresees the construction of a dam on the San Marino River with the construction of an embankment and related structures for the creation of an artificial reservoir with an initial expected capacity of approximately 200.000 cubic metres.

In combination, a hydroelectric power plant is to be built downstream of the dam in order to produce energy, with a nominal capacity of approximately 250 kW.

When fully operational, the plant would produce 1.100 MWh per year, saving 484 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

The size of the reservoir could be further increased according to needs, up to 1.5 million cubic metres, thus providing a valid alternative to the current water supply of the State of San Marino.

In the immediate future, in the light of the increasingly frequent summer water emergencies, we are thinking of systemising the various drainage wells, which have been built over the years to reduce the hydrogeological risk, in order to create water collection points for various uses, such as agriculture or public parks and gardens. Today more than ever we need to strengthen the internal supply system to ensure the survival of ecosystems and our own.