



GLOBAL WORKSHOP
ON BUILDING CLIMATE - RESILIENCE THROUGH
IMPROVING WATER MANAGEMENT AND SANITATION
AT NATIONAL AND TRANSBOUNDARY LEVELS

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Palais des Nations, Geneva and online

“Integrated Climate - Resilient Transboundary Flood Risk Management
in the Drin River Basin”

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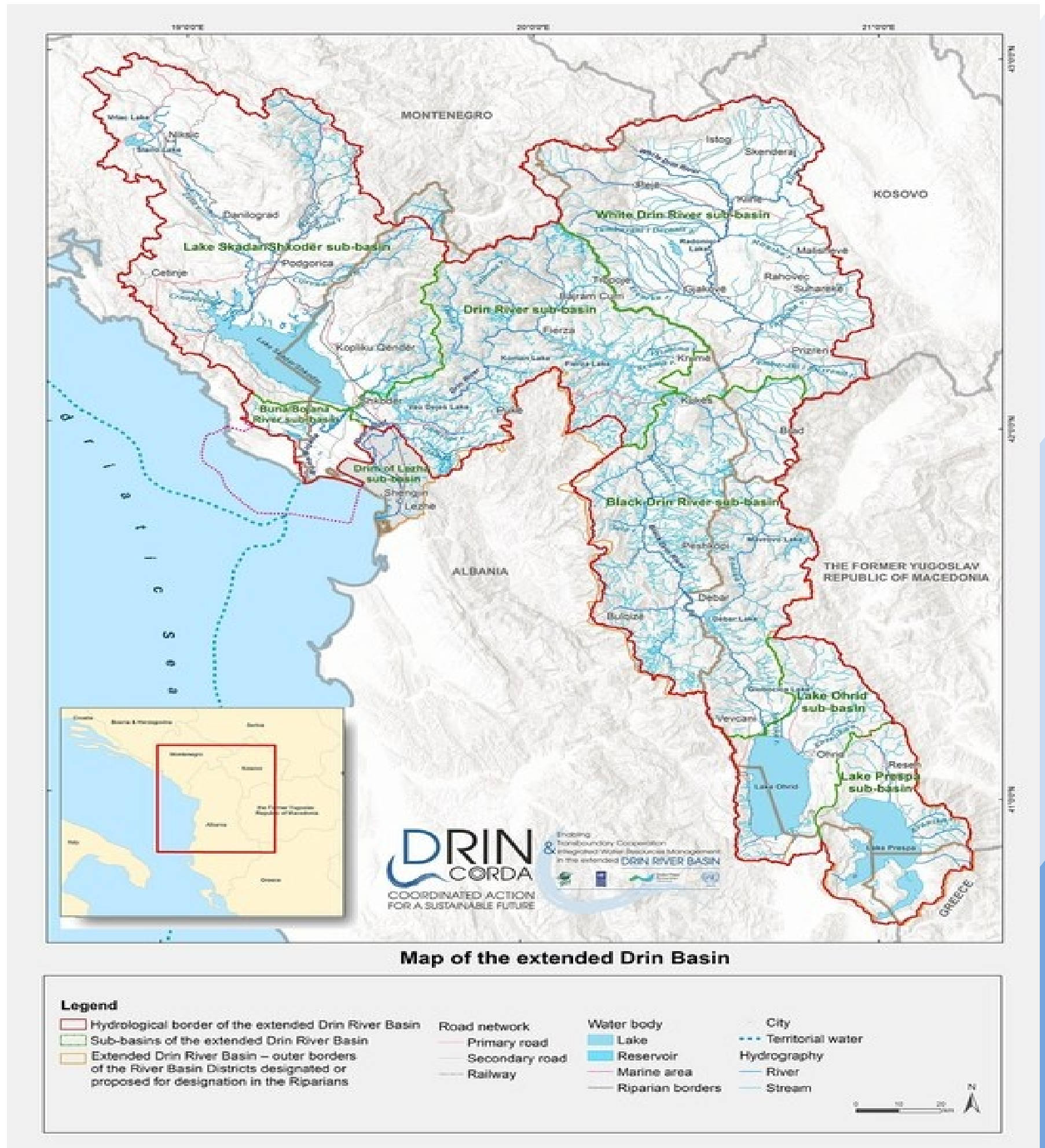
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The Drin River Basin

The Drin River Basin is located in the Western Balkans and it is shared between Albania, Greece, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro.

The DRB countries are increasingly exposed to the impact of climate change. They are experiencing increased periods of extreme heat in the summer months and increased rainfall during the cooler seasons.

Flood risk in riparian countries of the Drin Basin have been an important disaster factor since 2010, the frequency of floods has been observed to be increasing over time.

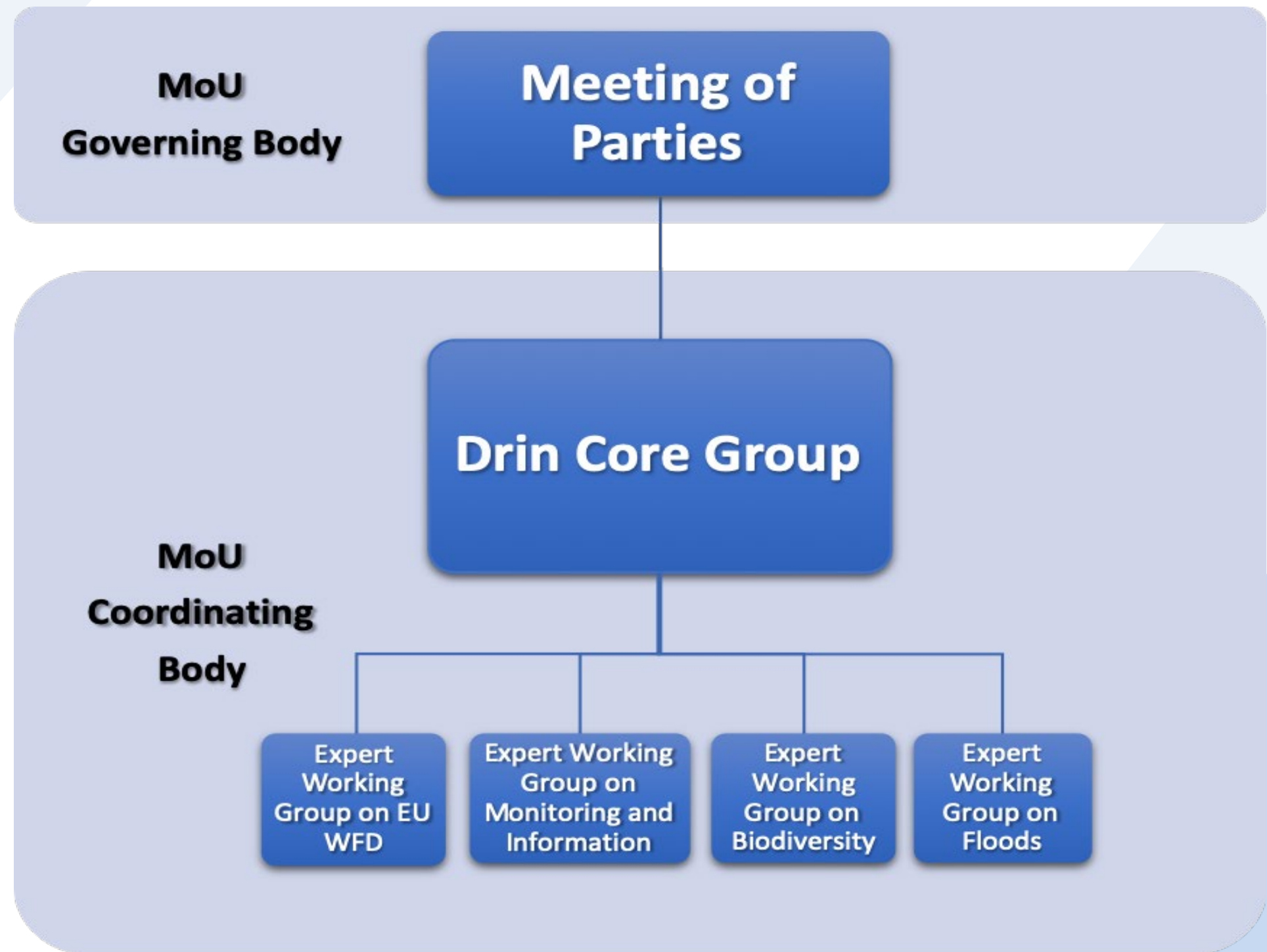


DRINI Project Implementation

- Needs for Coordinated Actions at the Drin Basin
- As a result of the **Drin Dialogue**, with the support of the GWP-Med and UNECE, was developed Shared Vision for the Sustainable Management of the Drin Basin and Memorandum of Understanding between riparians was signed in Tirana, 25 November 2011.

Institutional structure for implementation of the Drin MoU

The **DCG Secretariat** (GWP-Med) provides technical and administrative support to the DCG.



Main outputs:

- **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis** (to understand the transboundary problems affecting water/environment in the basin)
- **Strategic Action Plan** (that presents agreed strategy and actions to address the transboundary problems) known as a TDA/SAP process for Drin Basin
- **Shared Vision** (horizon of 20 years)
- **Drin Commission**
- **Training program**
- **Six demonstration activities:**
 - Integrated Basin Management Planning in the Lake Ohrid sub-basin;
 - Wastewater treatment options in the Shkodra city area;
 - Wastewater management in Kosovo;
 - Nutrients management in the Montenegrin part of Lake Skadar;
 - Flood management across the Drin Basin;
 - Operation of a transboundary monitoring system in the Shkoder/Skadar and Buna/Bojana area

Priority Transboundary Issues

- Deterioration of **Water Quality**
- Both Natural and Regulated Variability of **Hydrological Regime**
- **Biodiversity** Degradation
- Variability of **Sediment Transport** Regime

- **Climate Variability and Change** – cross-cutting issue that impacts all above

Other projects on floods and DRR

Adaptation fund/UNDP Project: **Building Integrated Climate-Resilient Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Drin River Basin has started (2020-2025)**, with objective to:

- improve the institutional capacities for flood risk management,
- develop Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Flood Risk Management (FRM) Strategy,
- support pilot activities (return of the River Sateska to the old riverbed)

GIZ Project "**Adaptation to Climate Change through Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Drim River Basin**" (CCA WB),

- Strengthening the flood early warning system (F-EWS) in Struga.
- Flood hazard maps and Flood risk maps developed

New Project "**EU Support to Flood Prevention and Forest Fire Risk Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey**". This project coordinated by Protection and Resque Directorate is expected to start in march 2021.

Adaptation Fund / UNDP project
“Integrated Climate-Resilient Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Drin River Basin in the Western Balkans” (Drin FRM Project)

The objective: to assist the riparian countries in the implementation of an integrated climate-resilient river basin flood risk management approach in order to improve their existing capacity to manage flood risk at regional, national and local levels and to enhance resilience of vulnerable communities in the Drin River Basin

The COVID 19 outbreak seriously affected the planned dynamic of the project implementation.

- The effective **project governance structure was established** with the Drin Core Group (DCG) in the role of the Regional Project Board,
- The technical capacities of the HydroMet Service in North Macedonia have been strengthened (through extension of the national network of hydrological and meteorological stations,
- UNDP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HYDROMET for institutionalizing the cooperation,
- The flood risk in the urban part of the City of Struga were decreased through the **clean-up of the sediment from the outlet of Drini River from the Ohrid Lake** and from the riverbed of Drini River.

Challenges, Lessons learned and Financing

The major challenges with regards to transboundary cooperation and climate change adaptation are:

- **ensuring funding for regular meetings of the established coordination bodies**, which is still project based and donor supported.
- **exchange of information and data** among the HydroMet Services and Hydropower Plants in the respective countries.

Lessons learned

Successful cooperation on trans-boundary level as well as on all levels, local, regional and central.

Financing climate change activities

The funding for climate change activities comes from the state budget, and the budgets of the local governments within the Drini River Basin. Also, there is significant donor funding.

Planned activities which helps integration of DRR into RBMPs

Improving **climate and risk informed decision-making, availability and use of climate risk information,**

Strengthening hydrometeorological monitoring networks in the riparian countries,

Improving **knowledge of climate change** induced flood risk, through modelling tools and technologies,

Establishing GIS-based vulnerability, **loss and damages assessment tool and database to record, analyze, predict and assess flood events** and associated losses,

Improving **institutional arrangements, legislative and policy framework** for FRM,

Training for regional, national and sub-national institutions in flood risk management,

Developing **Drin River Basin Integrated Climate Change Adaptation and Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Implementation of priority community-based **climate change adaptation and flood risk reduction interventions**



Thank you for your attention!