



Call for Low Value Grants Proposal

“Flood Risk Management Using Nature-Based Solutions”

Implemented under the Adaptation Fund-funded project “Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin in the Western Balkans (Drin FRM Project)

I. Background

UNDP is implementing an Adaptation Fund-funded project “Integrated climate-resilient transboundary flood risk management in the Drin River basin in the Western Balkans (Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia)” (Drin FRM Project). UNDP Albania CO is implementing the national component of Drin FRM Project.

The project will contribute to strengthening of the current flood forecasting and early warning system by increasing the density of the hydrometric network, and by digitizing historical data for stations not currently in the existing forecasting model. The project will develop and implement transboundary integrated FRM strategies providing the national authorities with robust and innovative solutions for FRM, DRR and climate adaptation, including ecosystem-based gender sensitive participatory approaches.

It will develop the underlying capacity of national and regional institutions to ensure sustainability and to scale up the results. It will support stakeholders by providing guidance, sharing climate knowledge and best practices. The project will also invest in the priority structural and community-based non-structural measures. Importantly, the project is aligned with and will support the implementation of the EU Floods Directive in Drin River Basin countries.

The project objective is to assist in the implementation of an integrated climate-resilient river basin flood risk management approach to improve their existing capacity to manage flood risk at regional, national, and local levels and to enhance resilience of vulnerable communities in the DRB to climate-induced floods. The countries will benefit from a basin-wide transboundary flood risk management (FRM) framework based on improved climate risk knowledge and information; improved transboundary cooperation arrangements and policy framework for FRM and concrete FRM interventions, as the project will also invest in the priority structural and community-based non-structural measures.

The three main outcomes of the project are:

1. Improved climate and risk informed decision-making, availability, and use of climate risk information.
2. Improved institutional arrangements, legislative and policy framework for climate resilient FRM, and development of CCA and FRM strategy and plans at the basin, subbasin, national and sub-national levels.
3. Strengthened community resilience through improved flood management, through implementation of structural and non-structural measures and enhanced local capacity for CCA and FRM.

// Purpose of the grant and duration

Effective flood risk management is critical to protect people and their livelihoods from flooding and to limit future losses. Nature-based measures and their ability to address flood risk are receiving increasing attention. Until recently, most flood risk management involved conventional engineering measures. Recently the concept of “nature-based solutions”, “ecosystem-based adaptation”, “eco-DRR” or “green infrastructure” has emerged as a good alternative or complement to traditional gray approaches. Nature-based solutions for flood reduction harness the power of natural processes and ecosystems to mitigate flooding while also providing additional environmental and social benefits. Nature-based FRM is an inter- and transdisciplinary endeavour. Implementation of nature-based solutions for flood risk management can be an alternative to or complementary to conventional engineering measures.

The purpose of this grant scheme is to support interested Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by enabling them to contribute to enhancing capacities in effective flood risk management through utilizing Nature-Based Solutions to safeguard both people and their livelihoods from flooding while also aiming to minimize future losses.

Through nature-based solutions, communities can reduce their vulnerability to flooding while also enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, providing additional recreational and aesthetic benefits, etc.

Interested organizations are therefore requested to submit a proposal as a potential grant implementer.

The project will be implemented for the period: **November 2024– April 2025.**

/// Main objectives of the call for grants

The interested CSOs shall submit proposals providing innovative ideas in the area of:

1. **Enhancing Forestry and Ecosystem Services:** Promote activities that restore and improve forest ecosystems to mitigate flood risks while contributing to carbon sequestration.
2. **Carbon Sequestration and Ecosystem Health:** Implement initiatives that increase carbon capture through afforestation, reforestation, and the maintenance of green spaces.
3. **Community-Driven Nature-Based Solutions:** Engage local communities in flood risk management through NBS, encouraging community participation and education around forest conservation and

sustainable land use practices.

Some areas of interest, but not limited to, where applicants can focus on are:

- **Afforestation and Reforestation:** Expand and restore forests in flood-prone areas to enhance soil stability, increase water absorption. Planting native species will improve forest health, contributing to long-term ecosystem resilience.
- **Agroforestry Initiatives:** Combine agriculture with forestry to create multifunctional landscapes that protect against flooding, enhance biodiversity, and increase carbon sequestration. This practice provides communities with sustainable livelihoods while reducing flood risk.
- **Riparian Buffer Zones:** Establish and maintain vegetated areas along riverbanks to stabilize soil, absorb excess water, and promote ecosystem health. These buffer zones also serve as carbon sinks and enhance biodiversity.
- **Wetland Restoration:** Wetlands act as natural sponges, absorbing and storing excess water during heavy rainfall. Restoring degraded wetlands can reduce flood risk while improving water quality and enhancing carbon capture.
- **Ecosystem Conservation Education:** Engage communities in the protection and management of local forests. By raising awareness and involving locals in the maintenance and monitoring of these areas, communities can help sustain NBS and prevent destructive land use practices.

Community Involvement and Environmental Education:

- **Citizen Science and Monitoring:** Engage local communities in monitoring forest health, wetland conditions, and floodplain dynamics. By incorporating citizen science, locals can contribute to data collection and adaptive management, ensuring the long-term success of nature-based interventions.
- **Community-led Tree Planting Initiatives:** Involve local communities in afforestation and reforestation projects. Empowering them to plant trees not only aids in carbon capture but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for the local environment.
- **Educational Programs on Sustainable Land Use:** Conduct workshops and outreach programs to educate communities about the benefits of nature-based flood mitigation and carbon sequestration. Encourage sustainable land-use practices.

To be noted when developing the proposal:

- The proposed grants shall comply with UNDP Social and Environmental Standards¹ (SES) requirements, given that Low Value Grants (LVGs) are allocated for flood risk reduction measures. This ensures that all interventions respect environmental and social safeguards, promoting inclusivity and sustainable development.
- Additionally, forestry interventions must follow the forest management plans developed by the municipality and approved by the National Agency of Forestry (AKP). Reforestation and other forest improvements can only be carried out in accordance with these approved plans, ensuring that all interventions are sustainable and aligned with local and national regulations.

¹ <https://ses-toolkit.info.undp.org/>

- The interventions are targeted at the APSFRs (Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk) identified in the Drin River Basin in Albania but are not limited to these areas. All communities living along the Drin River are eligible for project interventions, ensuring that flood risk reduction measures benefit a broad spectrum of vulnerable populations across the region.
- Only **non- structural measures** are intended for this call for grants.

IV. Eligibility and Qualification Criteria

Interested CSOs must meet the following criteria to be eligible for selection:

1. Be legally registered as a CSO in accordance with the Albanian legislation.
2. Have relevant knowledge of the proposed target area.
3. Mandate and founding document should be in line with the activities for which the fund is being sought.
4. Have an established office and experience in similar/related activities.
5. Have previous experience in working with local community and other stakeholder groups.

V. Proposal

a. Proposed Methodology, Approach, Quality Assurance Plan and Implementation Plan

The proposal should demonstrate the NGO's response to the Request for Proposal by identifying the specific components proposed and how the outputs/ results shall be addressed. The proposal also needs to identify the work/portion of the work that may be subcontracted. This methodology must be laid out in an implementation timetable and a quality assurance framework including baselines and quantitative and qualitative indicators.

b. Management Structure and Resources (Key Personnel)

Another component of the proposal should be a comprehensive description of the management structure and information regarding required resources including curriculum vitae (CVs) of key personnel that will be assigned to support the implementation of the project, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology.

c. Budget size and duration

- ✓ Proposal amounts should be up to USD 50,000 equivalent in ALL as per the United Nations Rate of Exchange UNROE.
- ✓ At least one grant will be awarded to one CSO and the geographical coverage will be observed in grant distribution.
- ✓ The amount requested in the proposal should commensurate the organization's administrative and financial management capabilities.

✓ Duration of the project shall be from December 2024 to April 2025.

A detailed proposal template is annexed to this Request for Proposals as attachment I.

VI. Submission Process

Applications (grant proposals) in the form of the template attached (Attachment I) must be submitted by CSOs to the UNDP Office in Tirana (registry.al@undp.org) no later than 04 December 2024 in English.

PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

PROJECT TITLE:

PROJECT LOCATION:

TOTAL UNDP CONTRIBUTION:

PROJECT PERIOD:

NGO NAME:

YEAR AND NUMBER OF COURT REGISTRATION:

NGO CONTACT INFORMATION :

CONTACT PERSON :

I. Summary of the project (1/2-1 page) (Describe project's objectives, main activities, stakeholders and expected results)

II. Situation Analysis (1-2 pages) (Describe main problem(s) related to the lack of legal aid services for marginalized communities that this project aims at addressing. Explain why these issues are important to the target groups and the Albanian society in general.)

III. Strategy (1-2 pages) (Describe the strategy to be used for achieving the intended results of the project and existing opportunities)

IV. Results and Partnerships (1--2pages) - Expected results per Output - Measurable indicators - Activities - Resources Required Achieving the Expected Results - Partnerships - Risks and Assumptions - Stakeholder engagement - Sustainability and scaling up.

V. Project management (1 page)

(Briefly describe the management structure and curriculum vitae (CVs) of key staff that will be assigned to support the implementation of the project, clearly defining the roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis the proposed methodology)

VI. Results and Resources Framework

1 RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	1.1 INPUTS
<p><i>Specify each output that is planned to help achieve the outcome. For each output, include a baseline with associated indicators and targets to facilitate monitoring of change over time..</i></p> <p>Output 1</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<p><i>List activity results and associated actions needed to produce each output or annual output targets.</i></p> <p>1 Activity Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action • Action <p>2 Activity Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action • Action 	<p><i>Specify parties that will be engaged by the executing entity to carry out these activities</i></p>	<p><i>Specify the nature and total costs of the inputs needed to produce each output.</i></p>
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>Indicators:</p>	<p>1 Activity Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action • Action <p>2 Activity Result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action • Action 		

VII. Work Calendar Plan

Activity	Period					Responsible Person	Monitoring	
	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5			

VIII. Budget format

General Category of Expenditures	Unit	Quantity	Rate/Unit	Total Cost in ALL	UNDP contribution	Other donors and Organizers contribution
Activities Costs						
Operational Costs						
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-