Causes and impacts of the variability of the hydrological regime

ROOT CAUSES

- Climate variability and change
- Increasing water demand from increasing urban populations and intensification of agriculture
- Lack of financial resources
- Low political will

UNDERLYING CAUSES

- Lack of integration between sectors/ministries
- Lack of cooperation between hydropower plant operators
- Low enforcement of existing policies
- Low integration between Riparians on water management
- Low awareness/capacity
- Low application of climate change adaptation measures
- Lack of water protection measures
- Low/lack of emergency planning

IMMEDIATE CAUSES

- Exacerbation from extreme weather events (floods and droughts)
- Increased pressure on resources (water demand) locally or in sub-basins
- Hydromorphological alterations
- Hydropower plant operations of dams in the Drin River cascade (aiming to maximize energy production)

IMPACTS

- Economic loss (farming, fisheries, industry)
- Loss of food production
- Hydropower generation losses
- Flood damage (urban and rural)
- Fluctuations in lake water levels
- Wetland losses (and of services provided)
- Biodiversity loss/changes in geographic distribution of biological communities
- Increased erosion from deforested and agricultural land
- Increased sedimentation
- Coastal erosion
- Impacts on water quality