



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

## AUDIT REPORT

# Efficiency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency in reducing the flood risks

**Performance audit**

**Audit period:** 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2024



# Floods are natural phenomena which cannot be prevented

In terms of frequency and the scope of the damage caused, floods are in Slovenia considered as **disasters with the highest risk level**.

2010–2022  
**€ 1.2 billion** damage



Year 2023  
**€ 3 billion**  
damage



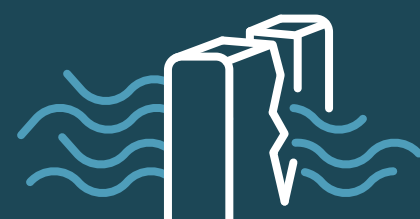
Flood risk is **increased** by:



**climate change**



**impenetrable surface,**  
compacted soil and deforestation



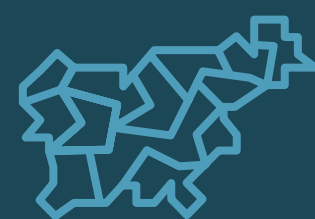
**poorly maintained**  
water infrastructure



inappropriate spatial  
planning and **urbanisation**  
**in flood risk areas**



Flood risk is **prevented** by:



**appropriate spatial planning  
and construction**  
i.e. avoiding flood risk areas,  
safeguarding forests and wetlands



**non-construction measures**  
maintaining natural flood plains, adjusting land use

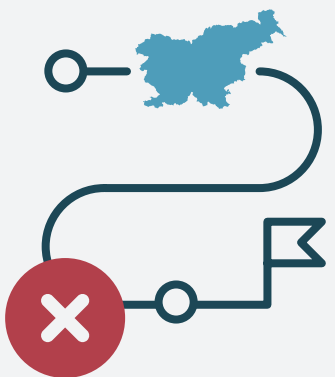


**construction measures**  
i.e. dams or walls, dry and floodwater  
reservoirs, river regulations



# Planning of flood risk management not integrated enough

Ministry **collected available data by sub-basins** and presented them in FRMP (Flood Risk Management Plan) – on construction measures, mainly from local and national spatial plans, but:

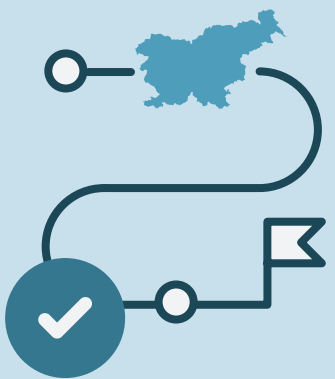


the objectives are **not tailored to specific characteristics** of each sub-basin and are **not measurable**

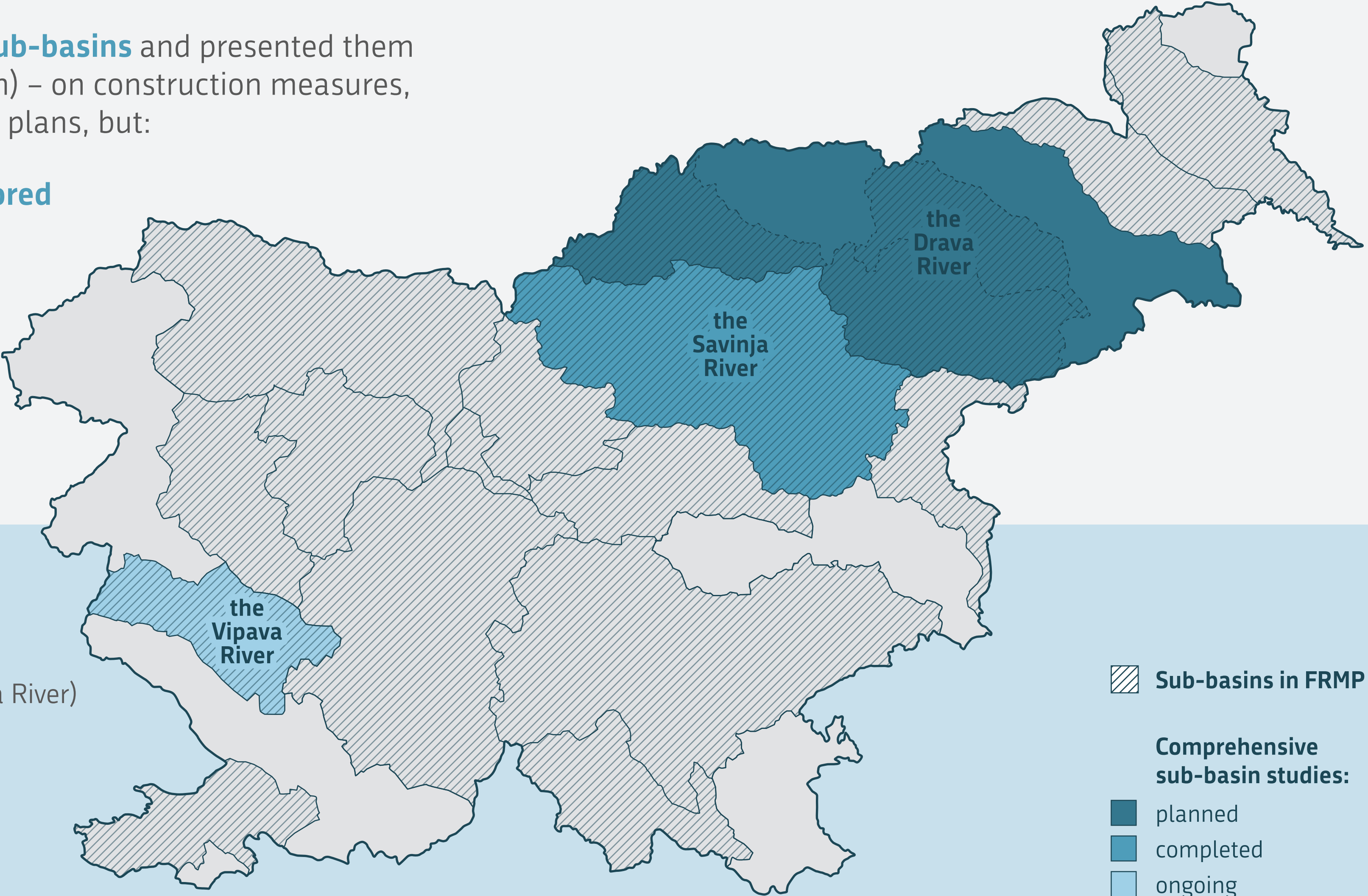


**no indicators** for monitoring the development

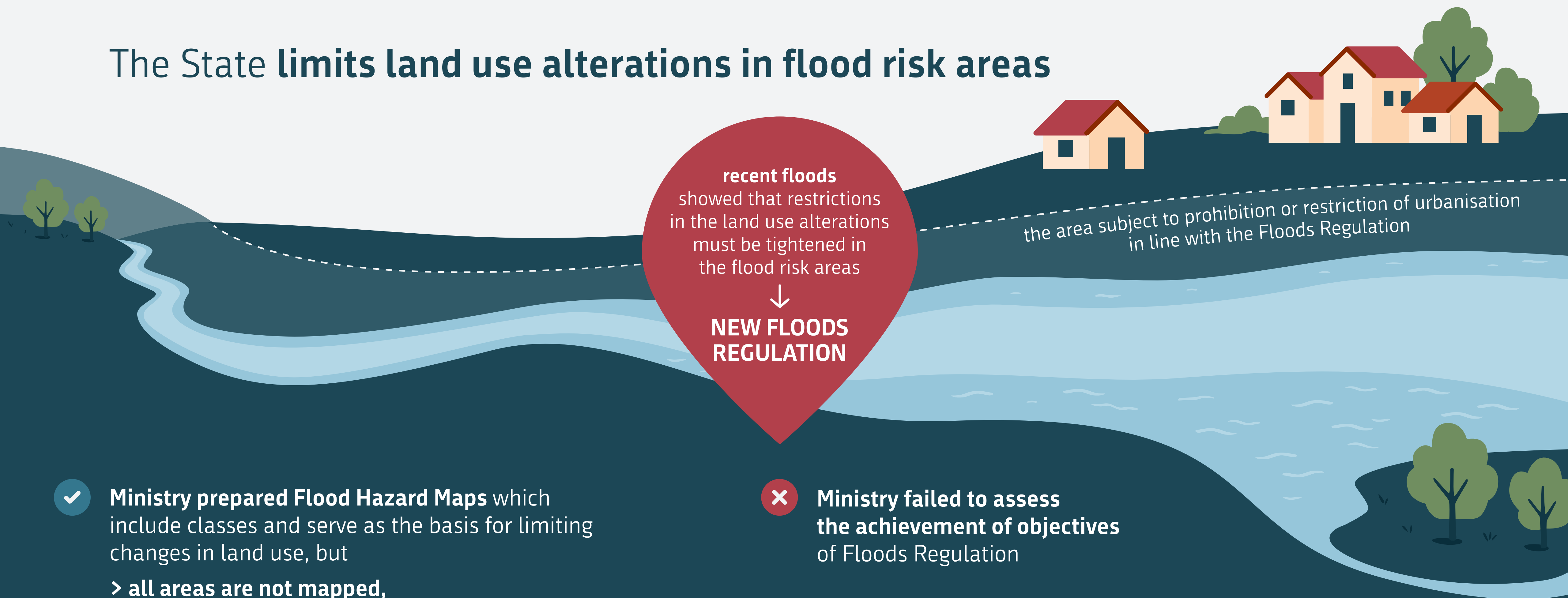
Slovenian Water Agency has been **preparing comprehensive sub-basin studies** since 2020 (the Savinja River, the Vipava River, the Drava River)



the objectives are **specific and measurable**



# The State **limits** land use alterations in flood risk areas



- ✓ **Ministry prepared Flood Hazard Maps** which include classes and serve as the basis for limiting changes in land use, but
  - **all areas are not mapped**, which causes difficulties in spatial planning
- ✓ **Slovenian Water Agency limited land use alterations**, but
  - **with delays** in issuing opinions and consents
- ✗ **Ministry failed to assess the achievement of objectives** of Floods Regulation
- ✗ **Ministry failed to provide appropriate conditions to set up efficient control** over the land use that is contrary to legislation and can increase flood risks

# The State plans **non-construction** preventive **measures** by protecting natural **flood plains** and by **adjusting land use**

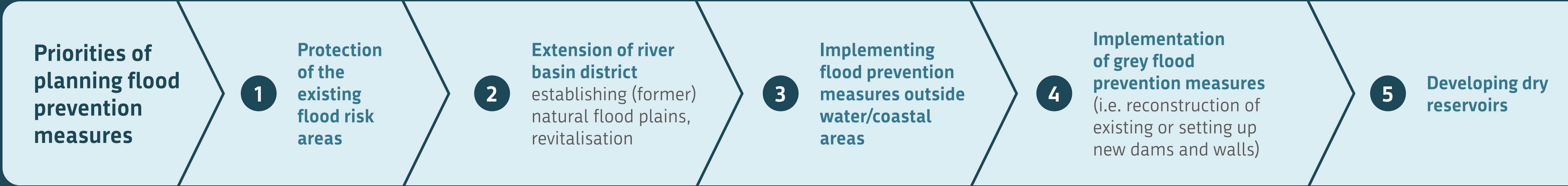
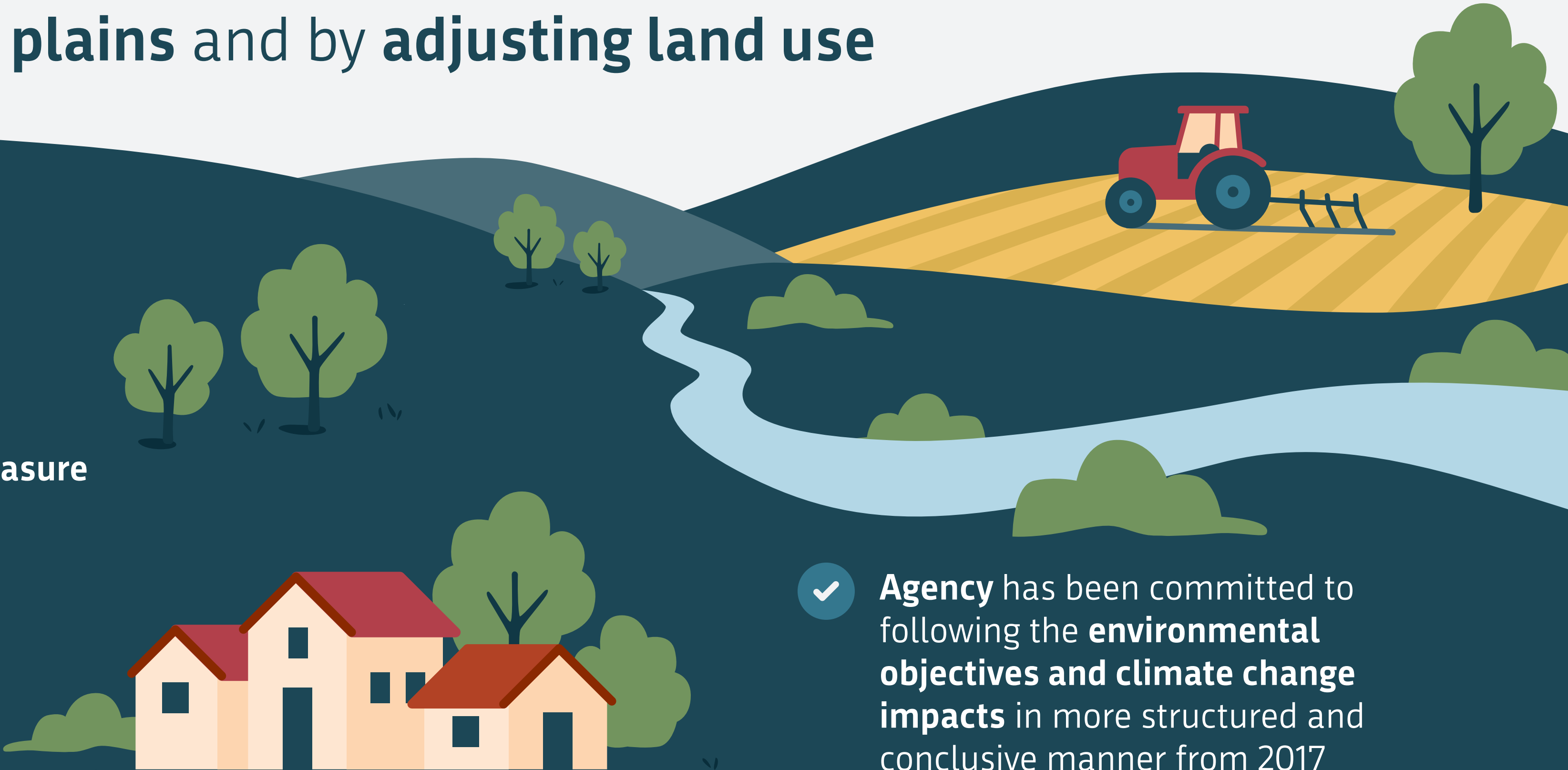
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**natural flood plains were defined** within some spatial decrees, but

  - **Slovenian Water Agency did not have an overview** of their location and size
  - **it is not clear if the purpose of the measure is achieved** (protection of key areas)
- 

the measure of adjusting the land use is **not clearly defined**; Ministry failed to explain whether the measure is implemented
- 

**Agency** has been committed to following the **environmental objectives and climate change impacts** in more structured and conclusive manner from 2017



# Construction as preventive measures still prevail in practice



Ministry **developed a list of construction projects** for periods 2017–2021 and 2023–2027



**Operational programme** of construction measures **not prepared** for any of the sub-basins in FRMP



Ministry and Agency **failed to appropriately monitor** implementation of measures

➤ Ministry **monitored in detail** only implementation of construction projects

# OPINION OF THE COURT OF AUDIT

- The Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency were **partially efficient** in flood risk management.

## Corrective measures already implemented, among others:

### Ministry

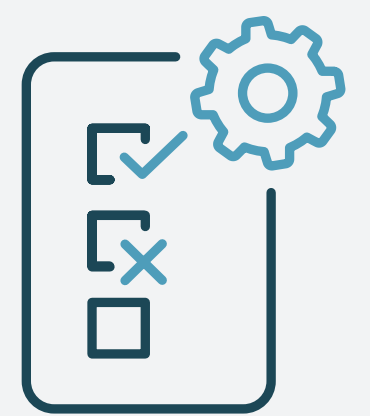


prepared a plan of activities for **harmonising inconsistencies** related to defining flood risk areas **in regulations**



prepared a plan of activities for **establishing conditions** for more efficient implementation **of control over land use changes**

### Ministry and Agency



prepared a plan of activities for development of studies for **planning by sub-basins**

### Agency



prepared a plan of activities for **entry of data on natural flood plains** in publicly available records

## Recommendations, among others:



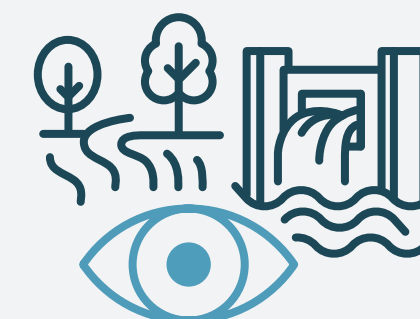
**Ministry** should **improve monitoring** of flood risks



**Ministry** should **clearly define** the term flood resilience and the measure of adjusting the land use



**Agency** should **review the efficiency of the procedure** of limiting changes in land use in flood risk areas



**Ministry and Agency** should **improve monitoring** of construction and non-construction **measures**