

NFFIS & Eco-DRR Newsletter

**Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR
Mar 2021 - Feb 2026**

Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR (the Project)

The purpose of the Project is to strengthen the capacity of government officials in the prevention and mitigation of forest fires and other natural disasters through the establishment of the NFFIS and Eco-DRR.



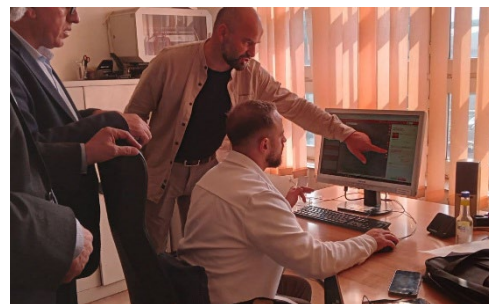
The location of the capital and the project sites

NFFIS-MEFFIS enhancements



To further improve disaster risk management, the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) of the Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs has launched an intensive training initiative aimed at strengthening the capacities of 112 operators to register forest fires in the National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS). Field training sessions were conducted in six regions, where developers provided on-site guidance on system updates and the critical role of incident reports generated by the NFFIS. As a result, approximately 90 operators are now proficient in utilizing the NFFIS, ensuring the continuous sharing of knowledge and reinforcing the EMA's capacity to manage forest fires.

Beyond forest fire management, both Kosovo and Montenegro are making significant strides in expanding their capacities to respond to disaster. This year, the NFFIS (Kosovo) and MEFFIS (Montenegro) are evolving into multi-hazard platforms, incorporating risk management functions for earthquakes, floods and other disasters. This expansion is a crucial step toward strengthening national disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.



NFFIS developer with the EMA officials entering data as part of training for 112 operators

Output 2.2 Windbreak Forest in Istog Municipality



The Project has identified schools that suffered material damage from strong winds in the past, making it difficult to continue holding classes.

Preparatory surveys were conducted and seedlings selected from native species existing in the region of Istog. Targeting three schools, planting designs were prepared based on wind direction and historical data on previous damage caused by strong winds.

In particular, Zymer Zeka school in Kaliqan suffered more damage in the past and had a larger planting area than the two other schools, in Studenice and Cerrce. An Arbor Day was organized with the Zymer Zeka eco-group, with a planting ceremony and a cultural event held by the school folklore team. A municipal official participated and planted new seedlings that will safeguard the school and its assets.



Kids planted trees and promised to take care of them (top); the school folklore team (bottom)

European Forum for DRR (EFDRR) in Montenegro



Montenegro recently hosted the [European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction \(EFDRR\)](#), bringing together over 600 participants from 55 European and Asian countries. This significant gathering fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing on disaster risk reduction. The Project played a key role in supporting the Forum, highlighting its ongoing contributions to the Western Balkans.

Participants had the opportunity to further explore the Project through informative flyers and brochures. The JICA booth served as a hub for valuable insights, reinforcing the organization's commitment to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

As part of the EFDRR, the Project organized a memorable field visit to Ulcinj. Approximately 70 participants engaged in hands-on activities, gaining firsthand experience of the Project's impact. The attendees were warmly welcomed by eco-group members dressed in traditional national costumes. A highlight of the visit was the tree-planting event, in which each participant planted their own tree. The seedlings used in this event originated from the Forest Administration's nursery in the town of Bar, a result of ongoing cooperation between the Project and the administration.

The EFDRR not only underscored the importance of international collaboration but also solidified Montenegro's growing role on the global stage in disaster risk management and ecological sustainability.



State officials during the EFDRR



Field visit during an EFDRR event

Promenade in Ulcinj Coastal forest



As part of Eco-DRR activities, the Project is promoting activities to make it possible to preserve the coastal forests of southern part of Ulcinj for future generations through environmental awareness and strengthening of management capacity such as afforestation. As part of these activities, the Project has successfully built and opened the Montenegrin-Japanese Promenade in Ulcinj, a scenic 440-meter pathway that winds through a beautiful pine forest. This new promenade is designed to foster a harmonious coexistence between tourism and the natural ecosystem while attracting visitors to experience the serene beauty of the area.

The construction of the promenade required significant effort, including extensive forest cleaning. This involved removing bushes, waste, and fallen or dead trees to create a safe and welcoming environment for both tourists and locals. The result is a pristine and accessible space that allows visitors to enjoy the tranquillity of nature while respecting the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

This beautiful pathway, surrounded by stunning forest views and fresh air, provides an ideal setting for leisurely walks, jogging, and observing nature. It is also an excellent spot for educational and recreational activities, promoting awareness about the importance of environmental conservation.

This initiative highlights Montenegro's commitment to sustainable tourism development, ensuring that natural landscapes are preserved while also enhancing visitor experience. By blending eco-friendly practices with infrastructure improvements, the Project sets a new standard for responsible tourism in the region.

The initiative was also covered by [national television \(Montenegro only\)](#), which broadcast the ceremony and interviews (from 9:51). Each interview provided an overview of the project, its activities in Ulcinj, a description of MEFFIS, and an appreciation of the people involved in the coastal forest activities.



Promenade opening ceremony



Walking through the promenade

Summary of activities

Kosovo Output 1

- NFFIS expansion started

Montenegro Output 1

- MEFFIS enhancement officially started

Kosovo Output 2

- Monitoring of avalanche prevention forest
- Conducted windbreak forest activities

Montenegro Output 2

- Building of promenade in Ulcinj
- Monitoring of post-fire vegetation restoration (PFVR) in Kolashin & planting in Ulcinj



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