

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.

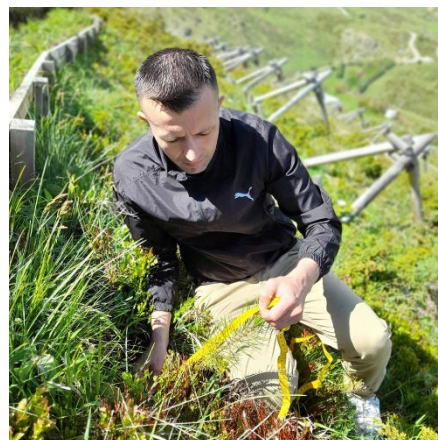


Output 2.1 Avalanche Prevention Forest in Restelice – Monitoring activities



The Project, following the plan for the development of an Avalanche Prevention Forest, planted around 28,000 spruce seedlings and other species aiming to mitigate the risk of future avalanches in Restelice in southern Kosovo. As the planted trees grow and form an avalanche protection forest, they are expected to suppress the occurrence and flow of avalanches.

To ensure the long-term success of this Eco-DRR demonstration, a regular survey, including survival check and measuring tree length was conducted in May 2024. This survey involved students majoring in forestry at Prizren University and evaluated the survival rate of the planted trees. The results provide valuable data on the growth of the planted trees and play an important role in the project. Additionally, it offered the students a practical opportunity to gain hands-on experience in actual forest management.



Student measuring the growth of the seedlings in Restelice

Output 2.2 Eco-group activities – Istog Cooling Station



In the picturesque municipality of Istog, Kosovo, a transformative environmental initiative is taking shape. The development of a cooling station is central to this effort, serving as a hub for environmental education and community engagement. This activity aims to encourage residents to plant trees and understand the vital role they play in windbreaking, ultimately fostering a more sustainable and resilient environment. Activities highlight the broad environmental benefits of trees, including their roles in air purification, carbon storage, and providing wildlife habitats. The cooling station includes model windbreaks that illustrate the practical benefits of trees in reducing wind speed and preventing soil erosion.

The Project has distributed a number of seedlings to the citizen of Istog with explanation of planting procedures. This activity is of a high importance as it was co-financed by the local business and it shows high interest of local community to approach issues through Nature-based Solutions.



Cooling station in Istog- Promoting windbreak planting

Post-activity monitoring in Kolasin



Last year, the Project embarked on an ambitious post-fire vegetation restoration (PFVR) activities in Kolasin. In response to the area's need for ecological recovery, the Project planted 8,900 spruce and 480 black pine seedlings. These efforts are part of a comprehensive strategy to restore the landscape and promote a healthy ecosystem. Alongside planting, we implemented crucial soil erosion control measures, including the construction of log erosion barriers (LEBs) and wicker fencing. These measures are essential for stabilizing the soil, preventing erosion, and creating a supportive environment for the new vegetation. We also engaged in soil scarification to facilitate natural regeneration, encouraging the growth of native plant species that are crucial for the area's ecological balance. We are pleased to report that the seedlings are flourishing, showing signs of strong growth and adaptation. The soil erosion control measures, constructed from logs and branches, are effectively holding the soil, minimizing further erosion and protecting the young trees. Regular monitoring of the site has been conducted to ensure the success of these interventions and to guide ongoing efforts. Our team is committed to the continuous monitoring and maintenance of the restoration area, ensuring that these early successes lead to long-term ecological stability. We appreciate the support from our community and partners, which has been vital to the Project's achievements. Together, we are making significant strides in restoring Kolasin's natural beauty and resilience.



Log erosion barriers (LEBs)



LEBs and planted area

Eco-group activities in Ulcinj



In recent months, our Project has been actively engaging the youth of Ulcinj through a series of eco group activities (see Vol.6). Collaborating with five local schools, we provided students with unique hands-on opportunities to explore and contribute to their environment. One of the key activities included a comprehensive survey conducted on the Long Beach. The children enthusiastically distributed project flyers in Montenegrin, Albanian, and English within their schools, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and collaboration among students and teachers alike. The highlight of their efforts was a detailed field survey on the Long Beach forest area. Here, the students meticulously assessed various environmental factors, including tree and crown conditions, soil quality, regeneration, and the presence of waste. This hands-on experience not only heightened their awareness of ecological issues but also honed their observational and analytical skills. Upon completing their survey, the Eco-Group presented their findings, along with insightful recommendations for improving current management practices in the area. Their contributions are a testament to the power of youth involvement in environmental stewardship and reflect our commitment to fostering a greener, more sustainable future. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by these young eco-enthusiasts and look forward to seeing their continued impact on our community and environment.



Distribution of the Project fliers in Ulcinj schools



Eco-group field survey on the Long beach

Summary of activities

Kosovo/Montenegro Output 1

- Planning NFFIS expansion

Montenegro Output 1

- Officially adapted bylaw having MEFFIS into National legislation.

Kosovo Output 2

- Monitoring Avalanche Prevention Forest
- Conducted windbreak forest activities

Montenegro Output 2

- Eco-group activities in Ulcinj
- Monitoring post-fire vegetation restoration activities



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