Vol. 11 Sep 2026

NFFIS & Eco-DRR Newsletter

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

Strengthening of NFFIS with new functions

The enhancement of Kosovo's disaster information infrastructure is introducing a more integrated approach to how disaster-related information is collected, processed and communicated. The improvements are designed to connect monitoring, early warning and risk information in a way that can better support both institutions and the public.



NFFIS Interface

At the same time, the system is becoming easier for use by operators. A redesigned public interface, optimized for smartphones, will provide simpler access to information on active fires, weather conditions and warnings. Automated alerts(push-based notification) for registered users will further improve communication by ensuring that relevant information can be transmitted directly when an event or potential threat is identified.

Summary of Project Achievements



The project achieved significant progress in strengthening Kosovo's capacity for forest fire prevention, preparedness, and disaster risk reduction. Key achievements include the development and upgrading of the National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS), including the expansion of its functions and operational capabilities; implementation of Eco-DRR and Nature-based Solutions activities; delivery of public awareness and community engagement programs; organization of technical trainings and study visits; and the development of methodologies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, and other technical tools to support effective and coordinated disaster risk management.



Project Manager's Message

The JICA-supported project in Kosovo has provided an important opportunity to strengthen the country's approach to disaster risk reduction and emergency management. By bringing together Japanese expertise and the experience of Kosovo's institutions, the project has focused not only on introducing new technologies, but also on building practical capacities that can be sustained and further developed in the future.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to JICA, the Japanese experts and all Kosovo institutions, organizations and partners who have contributed their knowledge, time and commitment to this work. The value of this cooperation goes beyond the systems and documents developed during the project; it is also reflected in the knowledge and professional relationships established among the people involved. The development of Standard Operating Procedures, guidelines, training activities and practical tools has helped translate the technical achievements of the project into mechanisms that can be used in day-to-day disaster management.



Mr. Alush Beqiri
Prevention Department
Project Manager

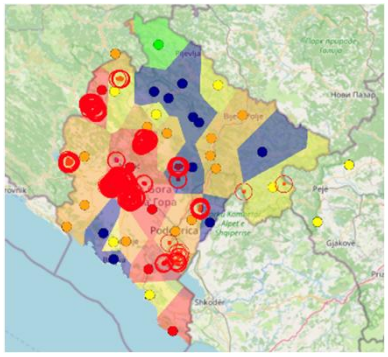
New updates strengthen MEMHIS

As part of the latest system upgrade, MEMHIS – Montenegro Multi-Hazard Information System has been enhanced with new features designed to improve disaster information management, early warning, and communication.

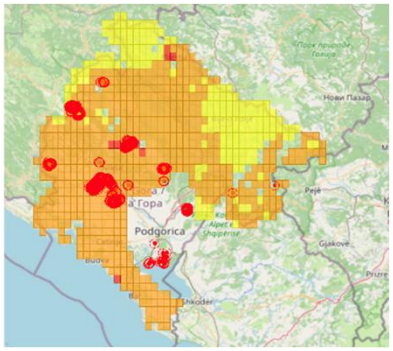
The upgraded system includes push-based disaster notifications to registered users, allowing important information to be delivered automatically when relevant events are detected. Real-time processing of MODIS and VIIRS satellite data has been improved, enabling faster and more reliable access to active-fire information.

A new simplified, smartphone-optimized public dashboard makes essential fire and early-warning information more accessible to citizens. Enhanced system monitoring also helps ensure system reliability and prompt technical troubleshooting.

Furthermore, MEMHIS integrates the Risk Database, allowing authorized users to manage risk information directly through the platform, as well as the Post Disaster Assessment – PDNA, helping the citizens to report damages caused by the natural disasters. Together with an improved user interface, updated guidelines and dedicated training for system users and trainers, these upgrades will further strengthen MEMHIS as a practical tool for disaster risk reduction, early warning and coordinated emergency management in Montenegro.



Regional-FWI dots and polygons



Vegetation Dryness Map (VDM)

Projects Achievements

Throughout the project, a wide range of activities have been implemented to strengthen disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and ecosystem resilience in Montenegro. Key achievements include the development and upgrade of MEMHIS, the revitalization of the coastal forest and construction of the Montenegrin-Japanese Promenade in Ulcinj, Post-Fire Vegetation Restoration in Kolashin, environmental education activities with schools in Ulcinj and Kolashin, as well as MEMHIS training and capacity building for relevant institutions and users. The project has also supported the development of disaster risk reduction methodologies, guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs), while fostering regional cooperation.



Montenegrin-Japanese Promenade in Ulcinj

Project Director's Message

The JICA project in Montenegro has been an important step in strengthening the country's capacity for disaster risk reduction, particularly in the prevention and management of forest fires. Through close cooperation between Montenegro and Japan, the project has supported the development of modern information systems, improved institutional capacity, strengthened coordination among relevant organizations, and promoted practical measures for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction.

The establishment and further development of the Montenegrin Forest Fire Information System, later expanded into a Montenegrin Multi-Hazard Information System, represents an important achievement that will continue to support decision-making and emergency response in Montenegro.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to JICA, our Japanese experts, and all Montenegrin institutions and partners who contributed to the successful implementation of the project. I am confident that the knowledge, tools, and cooperation established through this project will provide a strong foundation for further strengthening Montenegro's resilience to natural disasters.



Mr. Ljuban TMUSIC
Project Director

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