

# West Balkan **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 NFFIS and Eco-DRR.

### Start of the Second Year

When the Project started in March last year, it was difficult to carry out the Project remotely with counterparts (C/Ps) we had never met in person. However, after back-to-back visits to Kosovo and Montenegro, the planned activities are almost completed. The second year started in February 2022, with NFFIS and Eco-DRR model development also starting. In both countries, the people are nice and security is good, and the environment is very comfortable to work in, so the experts are able to do their jobs while really enjoying life there.

### NFFIS Development

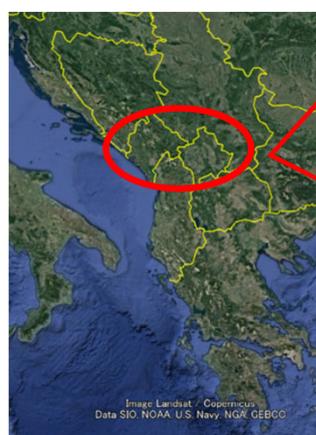
Regarding NFFIS application development and equipment procurement, the Project has held design discussions with the C/Ps and engineers, while also interviewing possible local contractors. Through these, the Project has updated the design and equipment of the NFFIS to reflect the latest technical trends and enable long-term stable operation. Based on this, developers and equipment vendors were selected through bidding. Finally, development for implementation is about to begin!

### Design Finalization in Restelice



As one of its Eco-DRR activities in Kosovo, the Project plans an exhibition of an avalanche prevention forest in Restelice, where a large-scale avalanche disaster occurred in 2012. Based on a survey conducted last year, detailed design of tree planting for the avalanche prevention forest is currently being conducted. Tree planting is scheduled for September-October of 2022 and 2023. There are also plans for auxiliary work to prevent avalanches from occurring — using wooden (tripod) frames and iron fences — until the planted trees grow larger and function to prevent snow glide. Design of the auxiliary work has been completed and the contractor determined. Construction work was started in July 2022 and will be completed by September.

At the beginning of the Project, another Eco-DRR activity — a project to support and disseminate windbreaks in Istog in northern Kosovo, where a great deal of strong wind damage has occurred — was proposed. Promotion of this activity as one of the Project activities was officially approved at the second Technical Coordination Group (TCG) Conference.



The location of the capital and the project site



The Slope for an avalanche prevention forest  
Above: Winter season      Below: Site visit in May



## Coastal Forest Survey



Regarding the preservation of the coastal forests of Ulcinj in southern Montenegro, the government of Montenegro has requested that they be preserved for future generations by establishing maintenance and management methods through the raising of public awareness and tree-planting. Last year, Japanese experts could not stay in Montenegro for a long period of time, so it was difficult to collect local information. However, as a result of drone photography and on-site interview surveys conducted since April of this year, the Project has gained these information;

-The history of the current coastline, coastal forest (pine forests were planted to prevent soil erosion in the Yugoslavia-era, but later deteriorated due to tourism development)

-The current vegetation (pine forest to the west, native mixed forest inland and to the east)

-The actual management conditions

From now on, with the cooperation of local universities and NGOs, the Project will conduct a detailed survey of the current state of coastal forests and past afforestation methods, as well as investigate the current situation in environmental education, which will be used to create future afforestation policies/plans and for environmental awareness activities.



Left:

The coastal forest composed of pine forest (drone photo)

Below:

Meeting with the stakeholders for the coastal forest



## Introduction of PR Media

We are now on Instagram. Please follow us along with Facebook.

[https://www.instagram.com/w.balkan\\_nffis\\_ecodrr\\_project/](https://www.instagram.com/w.balkan_nffis_ecodrr_project/)

Information on the projects is also available on JICA's website for each country. All PR material can be accessed and read with the QR code on the right. Please give the sites a visit.

### Kosovo

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/kosovo/005/index.html>

### Montenegro

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/montenegro/001/index.html>



## Visit to Montenegro by Japanese Ambassador in Serbia



During his stay in Montenegro, Ambassador Katsumata of the Embassy of Japan in Serbia visited the coastal forest and forest fire site at the Ulcinj project site.



## Summary of Activities

### Kosovo Output 1

- Contract for NFFIS equipment purchase and development signed
- Data collection for NFFIS layers

### Kosovo Output 2

- Completion of avalanche prevention forest construction design
- Contract for construction of avalanche prevention forests signed
- Option activity (windbreak forest) finalized and contract amended

### Montenegro Output 1

- Completion of the methodology (guideline)
- Contract for NFFIS equipment purchase and development signed
- Data collection for NFFIS layers

### Montenegro Output 2

- Survey of coastal forests and conservation methods
- Preparation for public awareness
- Study of contents of optional activities

**Project Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/WestBalkanNFFISandEcoDRRProject>



Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) -  
 Emergency Management Agency (EMA)



Ministry of Interior (MI) -  
 Rescue and Protection Directorate (RPD)



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)