

## Macedonia **Eco-DRR** Newsletter

# Capacity Building For ECO-DRR Through Sustainable Forest Management In MACEDONIA Nov 2017 - Jun 2018

### Capacity building project for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) through sustainable forest management

The purpose of this Project is to develop Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) model against flood, landslides, soil erosion, and forest fires by utilizing multiple forest functions.

Crisis Management Center (CMC) is the implementing agency.

### 1st JCC meeting

The 1st Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting was held at the CMC conference room on 20 December 2017 with the CMC director Mr. Agron BUXHAKU as chairperson and the JICA Balkan office vice-director Mr. HIBINO as vice-chairperson.

A total of 14 participants from CMC, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), Public Enterprise Macedonian Forests (PEMF), Secretariat for European Affairs, Embassy of Japan, JICA Balkan Office, and the Project attended the meeting. At the meeting, an outline of the Project was presented, and discussion focused on how to proceed to realize the project goals in the future.

In the opening remarks, chairperson Mr. BUXHAKU summarized the disasters that occurred in Macedonia in recent years, and placed great expectations on this Project.

Views on the 0th version of the PDM was exchanged, and the 1st version of the PDM along with the work plan and the annual plan was officially approved after receiving confirmation from the participants. With this, the Project officially started!



Above : Q & A session

Below : Chairperson and Project leader signing the minutes of JCC

### Flying a drone and shooting aerial photographs



Establishing ground control points



Drone flight carried out by the specialist Mr. Furuya

In May 2018, aerial photographs were taken using a drone at Vodno mountain and at the pilot site in Radovich. Engineers from CMC and PEMF also participated in the drone flight exercise, and practical training on establishing ground control points and flying a drone was conducted.

PEMF engineers commented “the drone flight day was a historical in Macedonia's forest management. In the future, we will continue to have more experiences in drone operation and we will use it in various projects such as forest fire monitoring”.

Using the aerial photographs taken with the drone, a digital terrain model that represents the detailed topography (ground surface elevation) will be created, and based on this model a detailed design of the construction work for afforestation will be developed.

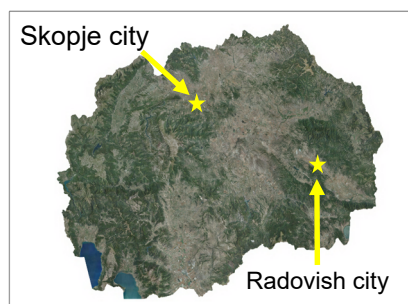
## Eco-DRR public awareness seminar in the capital city of Skopje and in the pilot site in Radovich city

A seminar each in Skopje city and Radovich city was held aiming at disseminating the concept of Eco-DRR and the activity plan of the Project. In addition to CMC and PEMF, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the National Hydrometeorological Service and other stakeholders were invited. The Eco-DRR concept and Project outline were shared with a wide range of stakeholders.

At the meeting, the importance of urban planning including development restrictions for disaster prevention and the necessity to incorporate Eco-DRR into forest law were discussed. It is expected that these kinds of discussion will take place and will further deepen at the relevant organizations.

Stakeholders were very interested in this Project because in recent years Macedonia has been suffering severe damages from natural disasters such as landslides triggered by heavy rains.

The participants said that they understood the activities of the Project and expressed their expectations that this Project will greatly contribute to disaster risk reduction initiatives of Macedonia.



Seminar in Skopje city



Opening remarks by the Chairperson



Leaflets distributed in the seminar

## Current half-year period : Main activities and achievements

### Main activities

- ◆ 1st JCC meeting
- ◆ Development of the final version of the work plan for further discussion, review and comments

### Achievement 1: MKFFIS functions strengthened and expanded

- ◆ The sub-contract on strengthening MKFFIS functions was signed.
- ◆ The approach for the extension of MKFFIS was developed.
- ◆ The approach for hydraulic model and hazard map was developed.
- ◆ Drone flights were conducted for topographic mapping.

### Achievement 2: Forest management plan strengthened

- ◆ The analysis of existing forest management plan and the method of forest management in Japan was introduced.

### Achievement 3: Capacity in erosion control + afforestation strengthened

- ◆ The pilot site was surveyed.
- ◆ The inspection of nurseries and the production of the improvement plan were initiated.
- ◆ The monitoring method and system after the erosion control + afforestation were developed.

### Achievement 4 : Public awareness on Eco-DRR strengthened

- ◆ Leaflets to disseminate the Eco-DRR concept and the Project outline were produced and distributed.
- ◆ An Eco-DRR public awareness seminar was held in Skopje city and Radovich city.

## Contact

**Project office**  
Dimce Mircev No.9, Skopje, Macedonia  
Tel: +389-2-3249-115  
**Project HP**  
<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/macedonia/001/index.html>  
**CMC HP**  
[www.cuk.gov.mk/mk](http://www.cuk.gov.mk/mk)

## Planned activities for the next half-year

### July ~ August

Training in Japan (Participation of 5 people from CMC and PEMF)

### November

2nd TCG (Technical Coordinating Group) meeting  
2nd JCC (Joint Coordination Committee) meeting



Crisis Management Center (CMC)



Japan International Cooperation Agency