

Macedonia **Eco-DRR** Newsletter

Capacity Building For Eco-DRR Through Sustainable Forest Management In MACEDONIA
Nov 2017 - Oct 2022

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 floods, landslides, soil erosion, and forest fires by the utilization of multiple forest functions. With the increasing natural disaster risks around the world, expectations for Eco-DRR have risen in recent years.

Country name had changed to "Republic of North Macedonia" in February, 2019

Visited 7 Balkan Countries: Invite to International Seminars

International seminars are scheduled to be held in autumn 2019 and 2022. The aim of the international seminars is to raise awareness of the Eco-DRR concept. The international seminars will also spread the Eco-DRR concept to Balkan officials as well as introduce the concrete efforts made in North Macedonia. This is important given the geography of the Balkans, where mountains and rivers are intricately intertwined. The Balkan region as a whole needs to undertake disaster prevention measures.

The directors of relevant departments in Crisis Management Center (CMC) and Project Expert visited Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Bulgaria between April and May, 2019. They have introduced the Eco-DRR project and provided guidance for international seminars. These countries have faced challenges in their own forest management and disaster prevention measures. Therefore, they showed interests on the project and participating in the seminars. The upcoming seminar this autumn will include a tour of the project site, Radovich.



Meeting at Montenegro

Installation of Forest Monitoring Plots in Radovich



Installation work

The water source recharge function and soil conservation function are expected to improve in the Eco-DRR project as a result of tree plantations and other afforestation activities. Six monitoring plots were installed in Radovich in order to collect physical data to be evaluated. These plots will be used to monitor water run-off and soil run-off together. The amount of water run-off is automatically observed using rain weighing sensor and pulse loggers. The soil run-off is measured manually by collecting sediment from the bottom of the slope.

The data will be collected and analyzed by the Public Enterprise National Forest (PENF). Afterwards, further analysis and



Installed monitoring plot

examinations will be held by project experts and professors from the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University when it is necessary. It is expected to yield results from long term considerations, and that the measuring will continue to be utilized as part of research activities even after completion of the project.

Workshop on forest policy

On May 6th, 2019 a workshop was held in Skopje. In the workshop it was discussed whether to include the Eco-DRR concept within the current forest management systems and legal regulations framework in North Macedonia.

The workshop had attendance of a total of 21 people, CMC, PENF, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), Protection and Rescue Directorate (PRD), Public Enterprise for Managing and Protection of the Multipurpose Area (PEMPMA) in JASSEN, Skopje City, Faculty of forestry of Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Forestry, and project experts.



Participants discussion



Introducing the forest management system in France (Project Experts) and EU's policy

The current forest laws and enforcement in North Macedonia as well as the current status of increasing disaster risks due to the management system of legal regulations and socio-economic factors were presented by North Macedonian organizations. Project experts introduced the forest management system and legal frameworks, along with its history in Japan and France.

In order to improve the forest functionality and consolidation the Eco-DRR in North Macedonia, participants expressed the view that it is essential to analyze the forestry laws, management standards, and to strengthen the overall system. It was concluded hereafter to establish a working group to discuss specific initiatives.

Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆ Third TCG (Technical Coordinating Group)

Achievement 1: MKFFIS functions strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Start building database on MKFFIS and GFIS
- ◆ Interpretation of risk potential area, examine risk map contents
- ◆ Analysis hazardous flood area in Radovish City

Achievement 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Held a workshop on forest policy
- ◆ Observe devastated FMU area in Radovish by using drone
- ◆ Draft forest management /recovery planning

Achievement 3 : Capacity building in land restoration + afforestation technology

- ◆ Installation of 5 additional monitoring plots in Radovish
- ◆ Start construction works for forest conservation in Radovish
- ◆ Start equipment installation for Nursery Fields in Sveti Nicole

Achievement 4 : Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Invite Balkan officials to International Seminars
- ◆ Create new materials, publicity activities through SNS

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Events in the next half year

- International Seminar
- 3rd JCC Meeting (Joint Coordination Committee)
- 4th TCG Meeting (Technical Coordinating Group)
- Training in Japan

Contact



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Japan International Cooperation Agency