

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.

Eco-DRR Regional Seminar

The Eco-DRR Regional Seminar was held in Skopje from October 29 to November 1, 2019. Officials from the crisis /disaster risk reduction management and forest management-related organizations in the Western Balkans were invited for the seminar. There were 27 officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia in the seminar. In total, 68 people participated, which include domestic institutions from N. Macedonia and Japan.

The officials from Western Balkan countries commented that they understood the importance of Eco-DRR, which is based on the utilization of natural functions that provides environmental, social, and economic benefits in multi-dimensional manners, especially in the present climate change situation. They also said that the pilot site visit in Radovish during the second day had deepened their understanding of the details of the project works and conservation activities.

On the final day of the seminar, a group discussion was held to consider how to apply the learned Eco-DRR methods and the possibility of future deployment in their countries.

This seminar couldn't be such a success without the cooperation of people and organizations, including Embassy of Japan, City of Radovish, and domestic organizations in N. Macedonia.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those people and organizations.



Group photo in the seminar

Procured nursery equipment to Sveti Nikole Nursery



Delivery of tray filler

Equipment for nursery facilities were procured and installed in Sveti Nikole in order to address the insufficient production of seedlings which is currently an issue in Public Enterprise National Forest (PENF), as well as to produce seedlings that will be planted on the project pilot sites.

Field cultivation equipment such as tractors and motor sprayers as well as tray filler machines were delivered, while net-houses were repaired.

The procurement was divided into two steps following the capacity development stages of PENF so that effective and proper maintenance management system will be established. In addition to monitoring the status of the use, the project will continue to provide technical advices for the nursery.

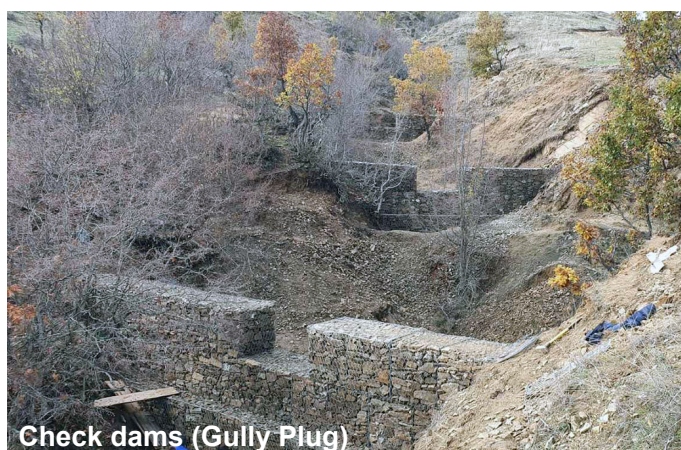
Check Dams in Radovish

Kodzaliya in Radovish, Mt. Vodono in Skopje, and Lisiche in Chaska have been selected as Eco-DRR project pilot sites in order to apply forest conservation techniques. Among these, the check dams (gully plug) in the Kodzaliya south site in Radovish (which we worked on first) was completed in November 2019.

The check dams are used to prevent the discharge of sediments in valleys, and to stabilize mountain.



A scene of villagers work



Check dams (Gully Plug)

In Radovish, a gabion method was used. This method involves filling stones into an iron wire called gabion. In total, five check dams were installed.

During construction works in Radovish, many workers from nearby Kodzaliya villages participated. It is expected that villager would understand forest conservation and disaster prevention through the participation in these activities.

The third JCC

The 3rd Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held on November 26, 2019. During the committee, the positioning of the Sub-TCG (activity units for each Output) was confirmed, and it was agreed that the details of the activities would be led by the person in charge of each output. Through this set-up, we expect that more spontaneous actions can be undertaken by each Sub-TCG and counterpart.



3rd JCC meeting

Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆4th TCG (Technical Coordinating Group)
- ◆3rd JCC (Joint Coordinating Committee)

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆Completed MKFFIS extension and GFIS upgrading (Risk Potential Input) Development
- ◆Conducted trainings for Rainfall-Runoff-Inundation (RRI) Model

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆Conducted trainings for forest function classification
- ◆Conducted on site survey of Radovish FMU to prepare a forest restoration plan

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration + afforestation technology

- ◆South Radovish: Installed check dams and fences. Commenced afforestation works.
- ◆Sveti Nikole: First procurement of nursery equipment and repair the net-houses.

Output 4 : Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆Eco-DRR Regional Seminar
- ◆Publications through SNS



Macedonia Eco-DRR Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MacedoniaEco-DRR/>

Events in the next half year

- 5th TCG Meeting
- Implementation of MKFFIS/GFIS trainings
- Implementation of forest management and conservation technology trainings
- Commencement forest conservation and afforestation work in Kodzaliya North site, Radovish

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