

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 goal 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.

Access track improvement and fence installation in North Radovich

Preparatory works to forest restoration are being carried out in North side of Kodzalija Village in Radovich, which is one of the selected pilot sites. Preparatory works included the improvement of the access track. Since the track to the restoration site was in very poor condition, the unevenness was eliminated so that vehicles carrying construction materials could pass through smoothly. Other works involve in fence installation to protect



planted material from grazing by livestock.



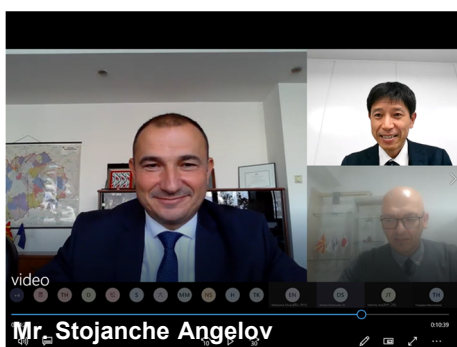
Fence installation work

These works are being outsourced to local construction contractors, and they are being remotely managed daily by checking reports and photographs with a Project's local coordinator. Similar to South Radovich site, nearby villagers are being actively employed so that their understanding of Eco-DRR project activities is deepened and so that their awareness on forest conservation and disaster prevention is raised.



Thorough Safety Management

4th JCC Meeting



The 4th JCC (Joint Coordinating Committee) was held remotely on November 26, 2020. A total of 21 participants from CMC (Crisis Management Centre), PENF (Forestry Corporation), MAFWE (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy), the Embassy of Japan in North Macedonia, JICA Balkans Office in Serbia, and JICA Headquarters, as well as Project Experts from Japan, attended the Committee.

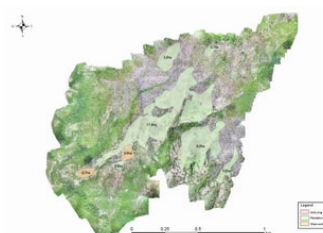
The Committee was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Stojanche Angelov, who was recently appointed Director of CMC and Director of the Eco-DRR Project.

Project activities in 2020 as well as working plan for 2021 were approved by the participants. In addition, in response to the unavoidable delays in restoration works caused by the postponement of dispatch of Project Experts, participants agreed that they would proceed to consultations with the North Macedonian Government and JICA for reviewing the Project schedule. Mr. Angelov expressed his gratitude to members involved in the Eco-DRR project. He also expressed his strong expectation that Japan would advance its technology in North Macedonia, and committed himself to fully cooperate with the Project.

GFIS training and forest restoration training

In December 2020, GFIS (GIS Forest Management Information System) training and forest restoration training were conducted remotely for PENF staff.

Through GFIS training, PENF staff learned how to utilize the newly added mapping functions to GFIS. Forest restoration planning training was held by using examples from the Radovich and Oraochika River FMU (Forest Management Unit). Through this training, PENF staff learned about forest function classification and forest restoration plan. Approximately 20 PENF staff participated in each training, and some raised requests to continue the training in order to further improve their abilities and sharpen their skills.



Oraochika River Basin

Socio-economic survey in Lisiche



Lisiche site

A socio-economic survey targeting public institutions in North Macedonia involved in the Lisiche dam and upstream forests was conducted from August to November 2020. The survey gathered information on current efforts to conserve watersheds and the degree of interest in conserving nature using PES (Payment for Environmental Services) among relevant governmental and municipal organizations that use water from the dam.

○ Who was the target of the survey?

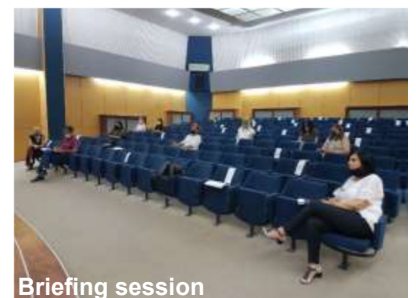
The target of interview surveys were 14 organizations, including dam managers, municipal offices, local offices of the Forest Bureaus, the Crisis Management Centers, the Water Bureaus, and the Agriculture Bureaus, as well as resident's organizations.

○ What information was collected?

Information on upstream area conservation, such as "efforts to provide water resources in a stable manner", "activities to conserve resources such as forests and rivers around the dam", "infrastructure facilities that they believe are necessary for conservation activities", and "natural disasters that may occur nearby" was collected. While the target area is at risk of various natural disasters, there are few efforts to protect the environment and mitigate natural disasters risk, and there is insufficient knowledge about Eco-DRR, therefore, it was found that support for improving techniques as well as deepening the knowledge is necessary.

○ What is PES?

PES is an abbreviation for Payment for Environmental Services. PES is a concept that seeks to appropriately use the value of the environment by establishing systems and mechanisms whereby beneficiaries pay for the value of the environment, such as the air, water resources, and forest conservation. There is limited implementation of PES in Balkan countries or in North Macedonia. Therefore, it is necessary to start by defining the ecosystem services and its beneficiaries properly and obtaining an understanding from the people concerned.



Briefing session

○ How do we use the collected information?

The information gathered in this survey will be used as a reference when considering how to expand Eco-DRR nationwide in the future.

Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆ Determined and implemented work in Japan due to the postponement of experts dispatch
- ◆ Proposed and started new activities that add value to this remote activity period

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Installed MKFFIS and GFIS on CMC and PENF's server
- ◆ Fixed the power supply failure of AWS (Automatic Weather Stations)

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Selected two FMUs nearby Lisiche site
- ◆ Implemented training on forest restoration planning

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration + afforestation technology

- ◆ South Radovich: Conducted subsidized rehabilitation works and forest monitoring
- ◆ North Radovich : Implemented preparatory work to rehabilitation and plantation

Output 4 : Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Selected contractors to produce an Eco-DRR promotional video
- ◆ Implemented public relations activities through social networks



Macedonia Eco-DRR Facebook

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

Events in the next half year

- Radovich North: continuing the restoration and afforestation work
- Lisiche: detailed survey and design of restoration and plantation work
- Monitoring effects of restoration and nursery equipment
- Starting production of Eco-DRR promotion video

※This schedule is subject to change

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