

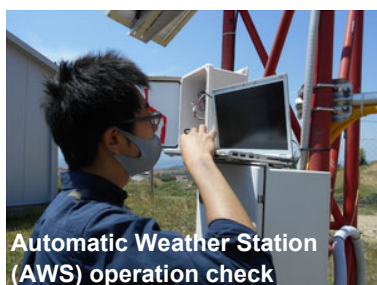
Macedonia **Eco-DRR** Newsletter

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.

Resuming Dispatch of Project Experts



Automatic Weather Station (AWS) operation check

Covid-19 is still spreading around the World, but in North Macedonia, the number of newly infected cases has been decreasing lately, so the dispatch of a few project experts resumed from May 2021. During the travel restrictions, the project sites were managed remotely in cooperation with counterparts and local coordinators, but this time, project experts eventually visited the sites for the first time in a year and a half, and confirmed the situation with their own eyes. They inspected planted seedlings, newly installed protective fences and monitoring facilities.

In the future, as soon as the vaccination of experts is completed, a full-scale local dispatch shall commence. It is planned to proceed with the check dam construction at the Radovich North Site, which was difficult to implement remotely, and to continue activities at two other project sites.



Inspection of the protective fence

Villagers' Meeting held in Kodzalija, Radovich



Explaining the planting plan to villagers

On May 21, 2021, a villagers' meeting was held in Kodzalija village located near the project site in Radovich. Due to infection control measures, the meeting was held outdoors and approximately 10 village representatives participated.

At the meeting, project experts and local coordinators expressed their gratitude for villager's cooperation and explained the progress of plantation and land restoration works along with other future plans. Mr. Stojanche Ange-

lov, director of the Crisis Management Center (CMC), also joined the meeting and explained the importance of Eco-DRR which leads to disaster prevention in Radovich City, and the fact that technologies to be introduced would be useful for North Macedonia. After his speech, he also built relationships with the villagers, and listened to their individual opinions carefully.

By holding these kind of villagers' meetings regularly, it is expected to deepen the understanding of the project activities and disaster prevention by the residents living near the site.

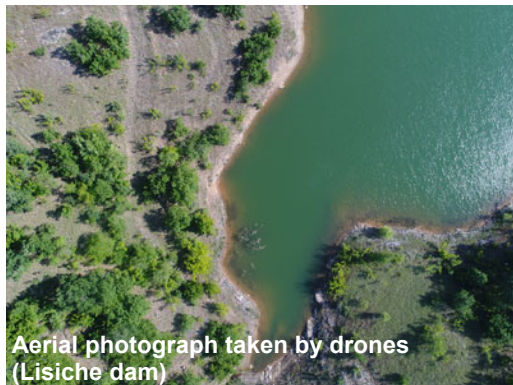
Radovich North plantation completed

Plantation of the Radovich North Site, which began in Autumn 2020, has been completed. The same goes for the Radovich South site, where seedlings raised at Sveti Nikole nursery, Public Enterprise National Forest (PENF), were used, and a total of 15,000 oaks, black pines, and ashes were planted. A 1,600m fence was also installed to protect planted seedlings from grazing by livestock. In the future, the plan is to monitor the growth of the seedlings continuously in cooperation with CMC and PENF.



Plantation site and planted black pine

Drone photography in Lisiche



Aerial photograph taken by drones (Lisiche dam)

A drone shooting was conducted in Lisiche, Chaska City, the second project site following Radovich, with the cooperation of a local surveying company. In Lisiche, land restoration and plantation works are also planned to prevent sediment runoff into the dam that supplies water to the neighboring Veles City. This drone shooting was held to obtain aerial photographic data that will be used for the formulation of these plans.

For photographing, 16 GCPs (Ground Control Point) were installed to obtain accurate ground coordinates, then a drone was flown to take aerial photographs. On that day, the mayor of Veles

City and the Managing Director of the company operating Lisiche Dam also visited the site to observe the drone shooting.

After the shooting, detailed topographic data and 3D images will be created from the resulting aerial photographic data, and these will be used to formulate land restoration and plantation plans which are scheduled to begin in Autumn 2021.



GCP installation

Eco-DRR promotion video production started

In order to deepen awareness and understanding of Eco-DRR among government officials in the Balkans, a video production has started, which will introduce Eco-DRR concepts and implementation cases.

In the video, examples of Eco-DRR construction in Japan will be featured along with several episodes, and examples of activities undertaken abroad will also be incorporated. In Japan, information collection for each selected site has begun through a video production company, while in North Macedonia project sites were filmed by project experts. This Eco-DRR promotional video is scheduled for completion in Fall 2022.



Video shooting (Kodzaliya Village)

Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆ Resumed dispatch of project experts and started on-site inspection.
- ◆ Purchased a SUV vehicle for field activities

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Installed a solar panel on AWS (Automatic Weather Station)

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Confirmed revised contents of the Rulebook for Forest Management
- ◆ Created materials containing local language narration for the forest management training

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration + afforestation technology

- ◆ Radovich South: Monitored the survival rate of seedlings
- ◆ Radovich North: Plantation and fence installation completed
- ◆ Lisiche: Acquired aerial photographic data by drone

Output 4 : Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Began Eco-DRR promotion video production
- ◆ Continued public relations activities through social networks



Macedonia Eco-DRR Facebook

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

Events in the next half year

- 5th JCC Meeting
- Radovich North: Detailed design and construction of the land restoration work
- Lisiche: Detailed design of land restoration and plantation work
- Training for MKFFIS, GFIS and Surveying
- Continued monitoring of restoration works and nursery equipment
- Continued production of Eco-DRR promotion video

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