

Macedonia **Eco-DRR** Newsletter

Capacity Building For ECO-DRR Through Sustainable Forest Management In MACEDONIA _ Nov 2017 - Dec 2023

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.

Hazard Map Workshop

On October 28, 2022, a workshop on Hazard Maps was held in the city of Radovich. The morning session was intended for officials from the Radovich branch of Crisis Management Center (CMC) and Radovich municipality. The officials reviewed the draft of the hazard maps to identify areas that could be inundated by flooding etc., and discussed whether the currently designated evacuation sites and routes were appropriate. In the afternoon session intended for resident representatives, the following question, "Where is your house on the hazard map?" encouraged participants to see the connection to their lives. Various residents answered with either "My house is here, so it's safe!" or "My house is located in a dangerous zone." Lively discussions about which routes are best for evacuation etc. were held.

Hazard maps will be finalized and provided to the Radovich municipality in the spring of 2023. The hope is that the concept of hazard maps will spread among the citizens, and that they can be utilized and deployed as a disaster measure in Radovich.



Discussion with residents

Forest Management Training



Practical exercise

For two days, from October 18th to 19th, 2022, Forest Management Training was conducted in Radovich for technicians from 17 branches of the Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF).

During the first day of classroom training, participants reviewed methods for "implementing forest functions category (zoning)" and "formulating a forest rehabilitation plan", and learned from the Radovichka-Oraovichka Reka Forest Management Unit (FMU) case study.

On the second day, they visited the Radovichka-Oraovichka Reka FMU site to review the content of the first day's lecture, and created a planning map for forest conservation and planting areas as a practical exercise.

Participants commented that they gained a deeper understanding of the importance of forest management through the lectures and site visits.



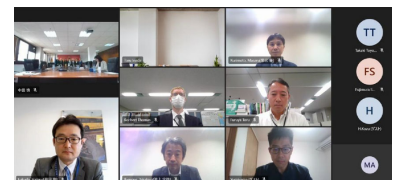
Classroom training

6th JCC



The 6th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held on November 18, 2022. CMC, PENF, European Secretariat (SEA), Embassy of Japan, JICA Balkan Office, JICA Headquarters and Project Experts participated in this meeting, and activities for 2022 and plans for 2023 were confirmed.

Participants also agreed to strengthen cooperation toward the project conclusion in December 2023, with the aim of producing sustainable impacts.



Soil Layer Study

Based on the growing condition of the planted oak's roots, Project Experts observed that the thickness of the soil affected the planted oak's survival rate, and conducted a soil layer survey in the Radovich site.

The survey was conducted using a soil penetrometer, which measures soil hardness by dropping a 5kg weight (hammer) over 50 cm and then measuring the number of blows until a 25 mm diameter cone penetrates 10 cm into the soil.

The results of the survey showed that the Radovich site generally has a gravel-rich, thin and hard soil, with a difficult condition for plants. Also, there is a trend toward a slightly thicker soil layer as one moves from the top of the slope to the bottom. Survival rates eventually tend to be lower at the top of the slope, with more surviving plants at the bottom of the slope.

On the other hand, even in thin and hard soil, survival rates tend to be relatively high when there are trees around the species.

Based on these results, Project Experts have revised the supplemental planting plan including the extensive introduction of terrace work to create a soil base for seedlings.



Measuring soil hardness

Eco-DRR Video Completed



A video introducing the Eco-DRR concept and case studies in Japan and other countries is now available.

The Project plans to use it in various seminars etc. to deepen the understanding of Eco-DRR among government officials in Balkan countries and other stakeholders.

[Click here](#) to watch the Eco-DRR video

North Macedonia

Macedonian Wine



Although not well known in Japan, North Macedonia produces fine wines.

This is because the country is located on the border between a Mediterranean climate and a continental climate, with warm sunny days and cool nights, allowing the grapes to ripen

slowly. In particular, the area along the Vardar River, which belongs to an arid region with an annual rainfall of 440-740 mm, is the largest wine-producing region in North Macedonia. Wine is also Macedonia's second largest agricultural export after tobacco, with an annual export value of 50 million euros.

Vranec, a flagship Macedonian grape meaning "strong, black, powerful horse," is loved amongst locals, and you can enjoy a rich flavor matured in a warm climate along with the strength reminiscent of its name.



Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆ 6th JCC and 7th TCG

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Preparation for MKFFIS training
- ◆ Conducted a hazard map workshop

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Conducted a forest management training
- ◆ Started creation of the forest restoration plan for Topolka-Karabunishte FMU
- ◆ Conducted drone photography for Skopska-Crna-Gora FMU

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration and afforestation technology

- ◆ Radovich: Continued construction works and supplemental plantation. Conducted survival rate monitoring and soil layer survey.
- ◆ Lisiche: Completed construction works and plantation

Output 4: Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Completed Eco-DRR video production



Macedonia Eco-DRR
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Events in the next half year

- 8th TCG
- MKFFIS training
- 3rd Forest Policy Workshop
- Hazard map workshop
- Forest Management Training
- Training for Nursey seedling techniques
- Seminar for windbreaks

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