

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.

Hydro-seeding Demonstration



Spraying experience

On May 25, 2023, a hydro-seeding demonstration was conducted on a parking lot slope located in the middle of Mt. Vodno.

More than 20 people including Parks & Greenery, which is the main collaborating organization for hydro-seeding, Crisis Management Center (CMC), Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF), and professors and students from Cyril & Methodius University attended the demonstration. Hydro-seeding is a method that mixes seeds, fertilizers, wood fiber (pulp), adhesives and other materials with water to form a thick gruel, which is then sprayed onto slopes and bare land with a pump. Known as early re-vegetation, Hydro-seeding quickly germinates and grows to cover the

slope so that it is protected from erosion and weathering. This time, a spraying machine was simply assembled by using local materials procured in North Macedonia. Participants in the demonstration showed great interest in the hydro-seeding method, and experienced spraying by themselves.

Two weeks after the demonstration, it was confirmed that the sprayed seeds had already germinated. In North Macedonia, slopes along the sides of highways have collapsed in some places. It is expected that this method will be widely deployed in North Macedonia.



MKFFIS Training



MKFFIS user training

MKFFIS Training was conducted from March 20 to May 26, 2023 to familiarize users with the new functions of MKFFIS.

The training of trainers (TOT) was conducted in the first week in the city of Skopje, followed by user training in the eight main branches of CMC. A total of 199 people participated.

All training sessions were carried out through operation of PCs, and the user training was conducted by one CMC staff trained through TOT. Since this trainer uses MKFFIS on a regular basis, many participants commented that the training was practical and meaningful.

Forest Policy Workshop

The 3rd Policy Workshop was held on April 25, 2023 to identify and discuss about ways to incorporate the Eco-DRR concept into forest policies and regulations in North Macedonia.

A total of 20 members from CMC, PENF, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE), Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MOEPP), experts from the new forestry project implemented by Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), Professors from Cyril & Methodius University and project experts participated in this workshop.

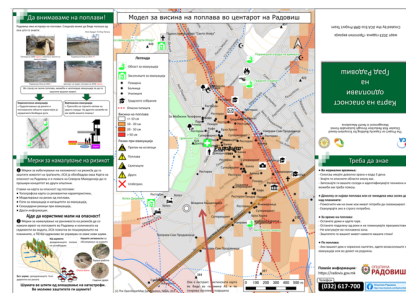
The Participants reviewed the progress of activities related to the revision of the forest law, the forestry strategy, and its action plan, which is being carried out with the support of the EU. Also, participants agreed on the following two points: (1) the Forest Zoning and Restoration Planning Manuals produced by the Project will be used by 2026 as an input for revising forest planning and management regulations. (2) Incorporating the Forest Zoning and Restoration Plans drafted by the Project in the three Forest Management Units (FMU) into the corresponding forest management plans will be considered.



Hazard Map Workshop

The 3rd Hazard Map Workshop was held on May 3, 2023, with the participation of citizens and officials of Radovich municipality. In this final workshop, participants reviewed evacuation sites and simulated evacuation routes while looking at the revised draft of the hazard map. They also shared their opinions and ideas for improvement. Both officials and citizens showed a high interest in disaster prevention and hazard maps through active discussion by relating the issue to their own lives.

After incorporating their feedback, the hazard map will be finalized and handed over to the Radovich Municipality by July 2023. Project experts also plan to install signboards in the city to raise awareness about the hazard map.



Evacuation routes simulation / Exchange of opinions

Windbreak Seminar



On May 15, 2023, the Windbreak Seminar was held in Sv.Nikole. The mayor of Sv.Nikole, Headquarters and Sv.Nikole branches of CMC and PENF, a consultant from Hungary, professors from Stip University, representatives of farmland owners and project experts participated.

The seminar started with a review of the current situation and factors behind the decline of windbreaks in Sv.Nikole. After that, the participants discussed how to promote windbreaks in Sv.Nikole, based on examples of windbreaks in Japan and Hungary.

On-site Lecture at a forest high school in Kabadarchi

At the request of a forestry high school in Kabadarchi, located in the southeastern part of the country, project experts gave a lecture on Eco-DRR to 25 of teachers and students on April 6, 2023.

The students of the high school listened very attentively and showed their deep interest in Eco-DRR. Project experts have also received requests to visit the project site in Radovich. Hopefully students learned from the lecture, as it will be useful for them in their future studies and will be a trigger for the dissemination of Eco-DRR.



Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

◆ 8th TCG

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Conducted MKFFIS training
- ◆ Developed new MKFFIS modules
- ◆ Conducted 3rd Hazard Map Workshop

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Conducted Forest Management Training
- ◆ Conducted 3rd Forest Policy Workshop
- ◆ Surveyed for creating the forest restoration plans of Skopska-Crna-Gora and Topolka-Karabunishte FMU

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration and afforestation technology

- ◆ Vodno : Conducted Hydro-seeding demonstration
- ◆ Radovich: Completed construction work and supplemental planting. Started live fence plantation
- ◆ Conducted windbreak seminar, conservation and nursery training

Output 4: Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Conducted On-site lectures at Kabadarchi Forestry High School



Macedonia Eco-DRR Facebook



Events in the next half year

- 7th JCC and 9th TCG
- Conduct Domestic and Regional Seminar
- Hand over of Hazard Map, Installation of Hazard Map signboards.
- Signboards Installation in Radovich, Lisiche and Vodno project sites
- Conduct forest monitoring
- Submission of final report and deliverables

Contact



Crisis Management Center (CMC)
HP: www.cuk.gov.mk/mk

Project Office

Dimce Mircev No.9, Skopje, Macedonia
Tel: +389-2-3249-115/145/146
E-mail: EcoDRR.MK@gmail.com
HP: https://www.jica.go.jp/project/north_macedonia/001/index.html



Public Enterprise National Forests (PENF)
HP: www.mkdsuni.com.mk



Japan International Cooperation Agency