

West Balkan **NFFIS & Eco-DRR** Newsletter

**Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR
Mar 2021 - Feb 2026**

Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR (the Project)

The purpose of the Project is to strengthen the capacity of government officials in the prevention and mitigation of forest fires and other natural disasters through the establishment of NFFIS and Eco-DRR. Volume 1 of the Newsletter explains the background, outline, and activities of the Project.

Background

In order to contribute to the prevention and mitigation of forest fires and other natural disasters common to the region, the forest fire information system and Eco-DRR developed in the N. Macedonia project supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will be expanded to improve the capacity of government officials under the Western Balkans Cooperation Initiative*.

*This aims to support socio-economic reforms in the Western Balkan countries toward EU accession, as well as to facilitate cooperation in the region.

【Counterparts】

MIA-Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
MAFRD-Kosovo Forestry Agency (KFA),
Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo
(KHMI), others



MI-Rescue and Protection Directorate (RPD)
MARD-Directorate for Forestry,
Hunting and Wood Industry (DFHWI),
Institute for Hydro Meteorology and
Seismology (IHMS) Directorate for Climate
Change, others



Outline

【Project Name】

Project on Capacity Building for Disaster Risk Reduction through National Forest Fire Information System (NFFIS) and Eco-DRR

【Target Areas】

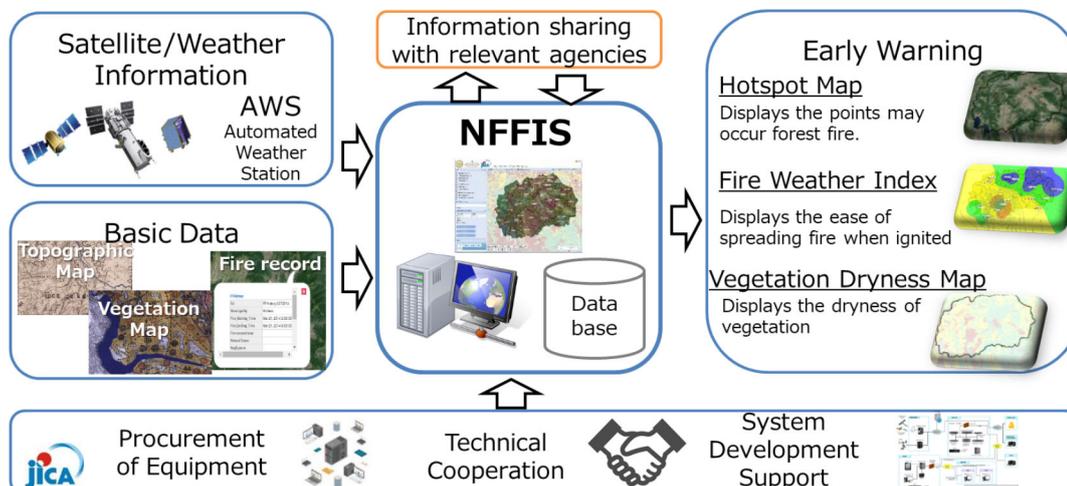
Kosovo : Restelice, Istog
Montenegro : Ulcinj, Kolasin

【Period】

Mar 2021~February 2026 (5 years)

What is NFFIS? (Output 1)

NFFIS (National Forest Fire Information System) is an integrated Web-GIS system for fire prevention and early warning, which allow for sharing information with relevant agencies.



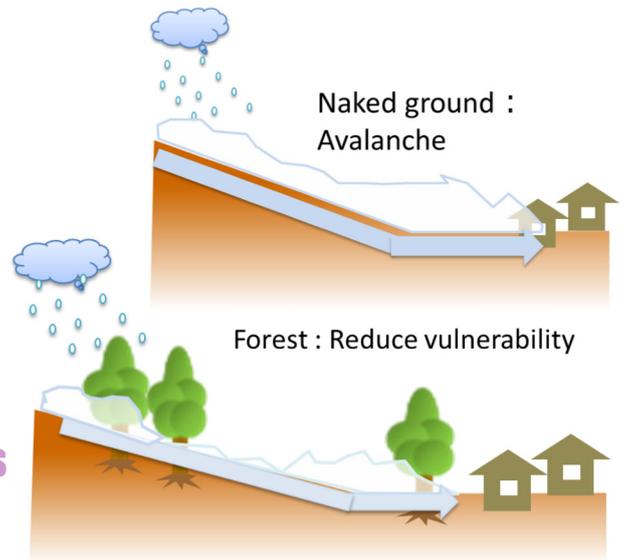
By combining satellite and weather information with topographic maps, it is possible to monitor where fires are likely to occur, how easily fires spread, and how dry the area is. This information can be used for early warning.

- Images are from the N. Macedonia project.

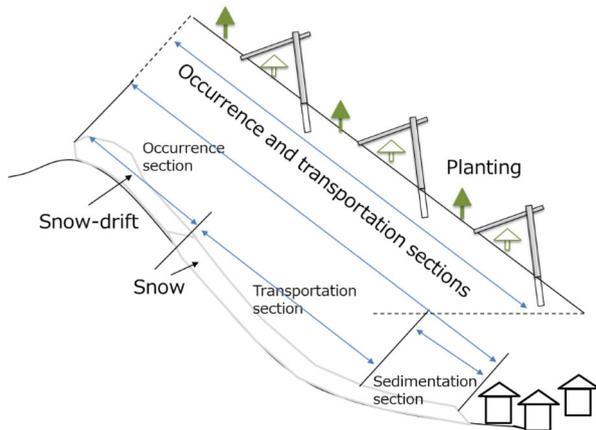
What is Eco-DRR? (Output 2)

Ecosystems have multiple functions. For example, forests have a number of functions besides timber production, such as soil and watershed conservation, recreation, and biodiversity.

To realize a sustainable and resilient environment and to reduce disaster risks, the sustainable management, conservation, and restoration of ecosystems — known as “Eco-DRR (Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction)” — is indispensable.



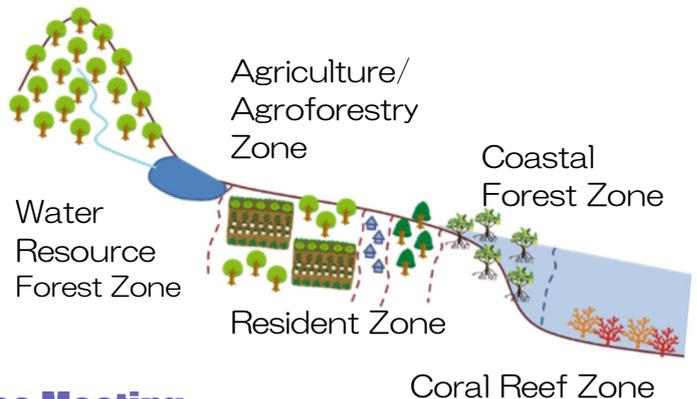
Kosovo : Reforestation against Avalanches



The Project will identify avalanche-affected slopes through GIS analysis based on land use conditions and past afforestation, and implement avalanche prevention planting and monitoring at the test sites. Eco-DRR will be widely disseminated through input into land use regulations and spatial planning.

Montenegro : Coastal DRR Forest

The Project identified issues in the coastal landscape using a landscape approach by creating land use maps from a literature review and GIS analysis. Subsequently, awareness-raising activities and environmental education for residents and the tourism sector will be carried out to promote Eco-DRR.



The First Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

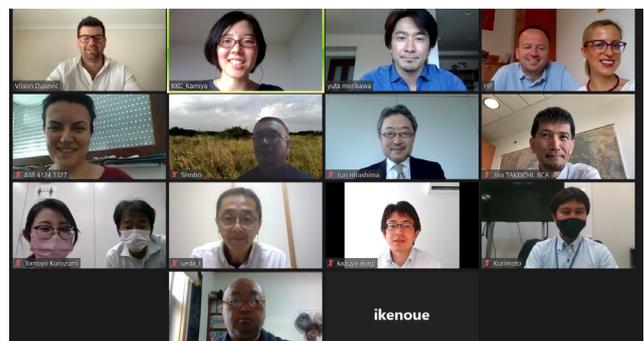
The first Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) Meeting was held, as a web conference, for Kosovo on 27 April 2021, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fadil KODRA, General Director of EMA, and for Montenegro on 07 June 2021, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ljuban TMUSIC, Head of Department for Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction of RPD. Both JCC Meetings included a representative of JICA, the Embassy of Japan, and the JICA Expert Team.

At each JCC Meeting, an outline of the Project was presented, questions were exchanged, and discussions held, and Kosovo, Montenegro and Japanese authorities agreed to start the implementation of the Project.



← Kosovo

→ Montenegro



Project Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/WestBalkanNFFISandEcoDRRProject>



Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) - Emergency Management Agency (EMA)



Ministry of Interior (MI)- Rescue and Protection Directorate (RPD)



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)