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Newsletter

Biomass Growth and Carbon Sequestration in Kosovo

Forests are one of the most powerful tools in combating climate change. As natural carbon sinks, forests have the power to either emit or sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂), depending on how they are managed. Their ability to store carbon and reduce reliance on fossil fuels makes them essential in efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions all over the world.

In Kosovo, CNVP has been actively working since 2015 to harness this potential through the *Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED)* project, funded by the Embassy of Sweden in Pristina (Sida).

The project focuses on degraded coppice forests, where CNVP has established 175 permanent test areas across 15 municipalities. These areas, also known as Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs), serve to monitor biomass growth and carbon sequestration. The aim is to assess the capacity of these forests to absorb carbon dioxide and to provide reliable data for shaping environmental policy and contributing to the global carbon balance.

To date, Permanent Sample Plots have been set up in 15 of Kosovo's 38 municipalities, covering 19 cadastral zones. These sites are strategically located in degraded coppice forests and represent a diverse range of ownership types:

- **43%** are state-owned forests engaged in joint forest management;
- **16%** fall under the management of the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA);
- **32%** are privately owned;
- **8%** are privately owned but under joint community management;
- **1%** are under property or legal dispute.

Each site is monitored annually through visual inspections and every three years using detailed measurements (not including weight due to field limitations).



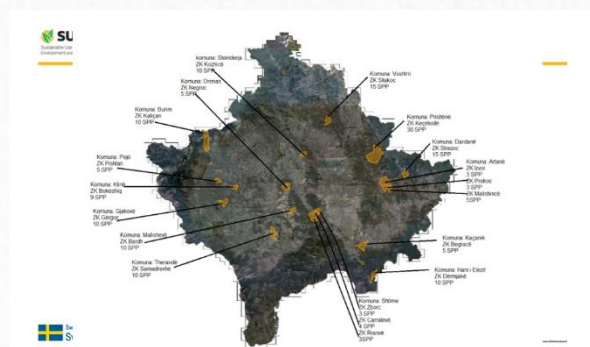
Key Results (2015 – 2024):

Over the nine-year period, the impact of CNVP Kosovo's efforts and progress, is as summarized:

- **175** Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) established across 15 municipalities
- **19,273.27 hectares** total area covered with PSPs
 - **11,541.6 hectares** of forested land
- **Biomass Stock (m³/ha):**
 - Initial average: **87,987 m³/ha**
 - 2024 average: **120,310 m³/ha**
- **Carbon Stock (t/ha):**
 - Initial average: **26.369 t/ha**
 - 2024 average: **36.075 t/ha**
- **Oxygen Released (t/ha):**
 - Initial average: **86.410 t/ha**
 - 2024 average: **132.395 t/ha**

These figures demonstrate a clear trend: Kosovo's forests, even those in degraded condition, have significant potential to absorb carbon and contribute meaningfully to climate change mitigation.

Through monitoring and careful management, the SUNREED project is laying the groundwork for long-term economic development and climate action in Kosovo.



Locations of permanent sample plots set up in Kosovo

A New Biomass Center Brings Growth to Vitia

A milestone was achieved in Vitia with the establishment of the region's first biomass collection center. More than just a facility, it is seen as a driver of change for private forest owners (PFOs), the local economy, and the environment.

The collection center creates a much-needed local market for biomass. With a collection capacity of up to 2,000 m³ per year, the center helps turn what was once considered waste into a valuable commodity—especially for the production of wood chips and energy-efficient fuel. Therefore, beyond the economic wins, the center brings environmental benefits such as reducing forest residues in forests and eliminating forest fire risks.

The center was established through a partnership between CNVP Kosovo and Dardani, a respected forestry company owned by Hajdin Leskovica.

With experience in forest infrastructure, wood trading and afforestation, Dardani manages 150 hectares of private forest and employs eight full-time workers.

Annually, the company processes 7,000–8,000 m³ of wood, with about 2,000 m³ of biomass typically left in the forest—now recoverable thanks to the new facility.



Thinning activities based on Forest Management Plans.

The partnership with CNVP has not only helped launch the biomass center but has also encouraged Dardani to go beyond its original plans, investing in more infrastructure like a weighing machine and storage facilities.

These improvements benefit both the company and its partners—especially the five PFOs now working directly with Dardani through formal cooperation agreements. Together, they've developed Forest Management Plans (FMPs) for 900 hectares across Kaçanik and Shtime, focusing on sustainable harvesting and creating opportunities to sell previously unmarketable biomass.

The Vitia biomass collection center is building a more sustainable future for local communities and supporting better forest management across Kosovo.

The initiative is part of the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED) project, supported by the Embassy of Sweden in Pristina (Sida), and implemented by CNVP Kosovo.



Top: Biomass collection before establishing center. Bottom: New biomass collection center established in Vitia, creating more opportunities for sustainable forests and clean energy.



Empowering Rural Women through Networking

Women are the backbone of every society—driving families, communities, and economies forward. Among them, rural women play a large role, cultivating the land, raising families, and contributing to local economies.

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and inclusive rural development, CNVP Kosovo has supported the creation of the Rural Women Entrepreneurs Network - an initiative designed to strengthen the voices of rural women and support their economic and social empowerment.

This growing network serves as a unified platform for rural women to connect, advocate, and lead change within their communities.

The initiative began with the formation of five regional core groups—in Peja, Prizren, Gjilan, Prishtina, and Ferizaj—bringing together women already active in their communities through forest owners' associations and agricultural activities. These core groups formed the base of the national network, designed to encourage collaboration and increase women's roles in leadership and decision-making.



Working together in the selection of network representatives.

With support from key partners including the Agency for Gender Equality, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, and local municipalities,

CNVP Kosovo has facilitated numerous trainings and national workshops since 2022.

These sessions focused on women's rights, decision-making, land and property ownership, organizational leadership, and economic empowerment—particularly in the Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs) and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) sectors.



Sharing of best practices from EU countries in networking for rural women. The formation of the network was initiated here.

Highlighting the importance of the network, Sebiha Ahmeti Ramaxhiku, Senior Environment Advisor at CNVP Kosovo and an early contributor to the initiative, said:

“The network is a valuable platform that allows women to learn from each other's experiences—something that was previously missing. As these women continue to grow, they are expected to take on even more active roles in the sector and the region.”

Looking ahead, CNVP Kosovo will remain committed to strengthening this platform, ensuring that rural women are not just included—but are leading the way—in shaping their futures and their communities. Strong partnerships with government and private sector stakeholders will also help create a more sustainable network.

For more information on the work of CNVP Kosovo and its impact, visit

<http://www.cnvp-eu.org/eng/index.php>

