



CNVP
Building a Greener Economic Environment

Annual Report
1 January – 31 December 2024

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Abbreviations

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
APFO	Association of Private Forest Owners
BD	Business Development
CNVP	Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation
CSOs	Civil-Society Organisations
DBU	Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (German Federal Environmental Foundation)
EB	Executive Board
EC	Employee Council
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EU	European Union
EUKI	European Climate Initiative (Germany)
FGT	Fast-Growing Trees
HR	Human Resources
ICEP	Institute for Cooperation in Development (Austria)
IFM	Integrated Forest Management (Drini River Basin project)
ILC	International Land Coalition
IPA	EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
KFA	Kosovo Forest Agency
LAGs	Local Action Groups
LCB	Local Capacity Builder
LED	Local Economic Development (project)
LLE	Local Legal Entity
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Development (Kosovo)
MAPs	Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
MESPI	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning & Infrastructure (Kosovo)
MOVING	Mountain Valorisation through Interconnectedness & Green Growth
MSD	Market System Development
MT	Management Team
NAPFO	National Association of Private Forest Owners
NLC	National Land Coalition
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
PONT	Prespa-Ohrid Nature Trust
RWoP / RWOP	Rural Women of Prespa
SB	Supervisory Board
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SUNREED	Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment & Economic Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WYPG	Women & Youth Producer Group



Report of the Supervisory Board

Dear reader,

A French proverb says: 'Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose'. Translated: the more things change, the more they stay the same. This came to mind when reflecting on 2024. A year with a lot of changes, but also a year in which many things remained the same.

In the ever-changing environment that CNVP operates in, it is important to respond as an organization. At the end of 2023 the Supervisory Board and Executive Board had a conversation on the main challenges of CNVP. A few years ago the answer was always: business development. Yet, it now became clear that, although business development remains a 'high priority,' it was time to start a process of organizational development. And as a result, our main focus in 2024 has been the further development of CNVP as an organisation.

The Executive Board has drafted an organizational development plan and talked it through with all staff and the Employee Council. In this plan, the main elements are the efficiency of the Executive Board, decentralization of payment systems, and the linkage between the Supervisory Boards of CNVP's Local Legal Entities (LLEs). The last elements link to a suggestion of CNVP's overall Supervisory Board in 2021 to further localize the Supervisory Board. At the time, we decided this was not yet opportune; now it is. Yet we needed several meetings (online and live in Popova Shapka (North Macedonia) to discuss the implications of the changes, all from our different perspectives (Executive and Supervisory). After a thorough exchange and dialogue, we concluded, at the beginning of 2025, to proceed. This will also change the composition of CNVP's overall Supervisory Board; but that is for next year's annual report.

People-wise we also saw some changes. In February, Anila Karanxha-Aliaj took over the Country Director position from Janaq Male; in line with the process of appointing an Executive Board member, she was appointed as such in October 2024.

Yet, in line with the French proverb, many things stayed the same. Most importantly, CNVP's work to help build the green economy continued, in many projects and themes, including natural resource management in protected areas, integrated rural development, and market system development for a wide range of products, such as wood processing, Medicinal Aromatic Plants, and Non-timber Forest Products. As the Supervisory Board, we had the opportunity to experience CNVP's work in eco-tourism and protected area management in the Shar Mountains and Mavrovo Natural Park. Of course, CNVP collaborates with a wide network of partners, donors, and local communities across the Western Balkans. We really value their continued trust and collaboration with CNVP, and would like to say 'thank you' for this.

We are also happy that last year's small positive financial result was also repeated this year. With all the global turmoil it is good to see that CNVP is able to balance its income and expenditures. This is not easy for a INGO in these demanding times and only achieved through the dedication and professionalism of CNVP staff. And that is of course the most important 'thing' that has not changed.

CNVP staff has been working diligently to enhance the green economy in the Western Balkans, week in and week out. In 2024 as in the previous ten+ years that CNVP is active. We are always impressed when we see, hear, read and experience the dedication and professional attitude of staff.

And of course we hope that this will stay the same in the years to come

To paraphrase Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed professionals can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." May CNVP and its staff keep on doing so in the years to come.

Maarten Bremer
Chairperson CNVP Supervisory Board



The CNVP Foundation, established in 2012 as a legacy of the SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, is a Dutch-based non-profit dedicated to fostering environmental and sustainable development in the Western Balkans, including Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Montenegro as well as Local Legal Entities in Kosovo and North Macedonia. The organization is committed to ensuring that no one should live in poverty and that everyone has the opportunity to engage in sustainable development. CNVP achieves these goals by enhancing the capabilities of private sector organizations and delivering tangible results that empower rural communities to overcome poverty and lead their own development. Including marginalised individuals and focusing on youth and gender equity are pivotal to achieving sustainable development.

Governance at CNVP is carefully structured, featuring an Executive Board (EB) consisting of three Country Directors who manage day-to-day operations. Furthermore, an International Supervisory Board (SB) provides strategic guidance and oversight, ensuring projects are well-aligned with the organization's mission and integrated with national priorities.

Our work is guided by the **Strategic Framework 2022-2027**, which commits CNVP to three long-term objectives: i) restoring degraded forest ecosystems; ii) building inclusive green value chains for wood, biomass, tourism and non-wood forest products; and iii) empowering community groups—particularly women and youth—to shape policies and markets. These priorities fit together with the **EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**, **IPA III funding**, **Sida's regional strategy**, **PONT**, and the **Austrian Development Cooperation's** focus on climate-smart forestry.

Part A: 2024 Annual Report

1. Introduction/Summary

In 2024, CNVP successfully implemented a diverse portfolio of projects across its core thematic areas, including natural resource management, market system development for wood biomass production for renewable energy, non-wood forest products (NWFP), and medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), climate change, local economic development, circular economy, and environmental protection support. These projects were carried out across all four countries where CNVP operates: Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Montenegro.

The implementation of two major regional projects marked a significant step forward, reflecting the organization's growing role and recognition as a key regional actor in the sustainable use of natural resources. These projects not only expanded CNVP operational footprint but also enhanced its visibility and credibility among stakeholders.

During 2024, CNVP managed 8 multi-year projects worth approximately **€2.21 million for that year**. Country teams channeled **about € 500 000** in competitive grants and sub-grants to civil-society organizations, producer associations, green businesses, and start-ups, strengthening local ownership and innovation, as well as have implemented over partnership agreements **€ 474,000** with private forestry owners, wood harvesting, and wood processing companies, agro-processing companies, rural enterprises, in center of which was market system development for wood products and NWFP&MAPs.

Field activities ranged from planting **11,500 climate-resilient seedlings** on eroding Drin-basin slopes to moving **13,200 m³ of forest residues** into Kosovo's emerging bioenergy market. In Albania, more than **2,600 households**



harvested medicinal plants using solar- or biomass-powered dryers, which increased incomes by up to 40%. Meanwhile, regional small-grant windows funded biodiversity and eco-tourism initiatives in protected-area corridors. Across all projects, over **300 women and young people joined new producer groups, business accelerators, or certified training programs.**

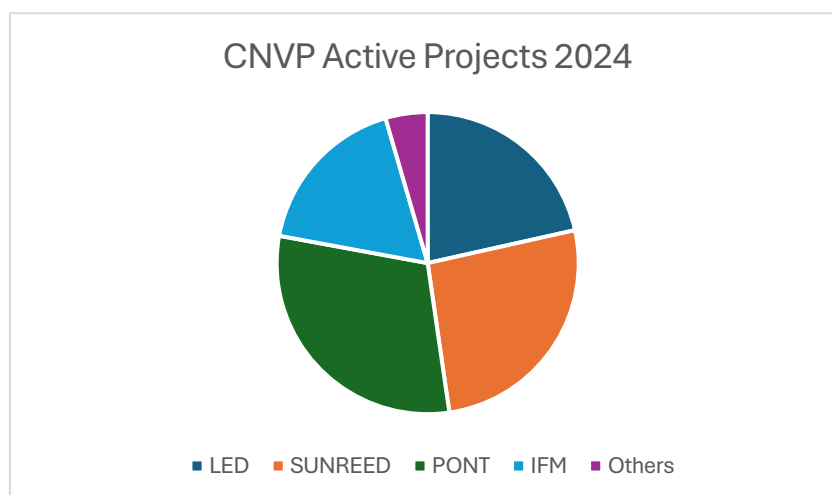


Figure 1 CNVP Active Projects

The positive momentum generated by the new projects has strengthened the organisation's capacity, contributing to both the expansion of its team and the deepening of its impact throughout the region.

These efforts advance a set of global commitments, as summarised below.

Sustainable Development Goal	CNVP contribution in 2024
SDG 1 & 8 – No Poverty & Decent Work	Higher rural earnings through contract farming, eco-tourism and biomass supply chains
SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Support of women-led producer groups and eco-businesses and leadership training integrated across projects
SDG 7 – Affordable & Clean Energy	Biomass heating pilots reduce fossil-fuel use in schools and district networks
SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption & Production	Organic cultivation and collection, plus circular use of forest residues, promote sustainable value chains
SDG 13 – Climate Action	Reforestation, erosion control and carbon-marketing road-maps enhance landscape resilience
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Native-species planting and corridor restoration improve forest ecosystems
SDG 17 – Partnerships	Cross-border forums—from the Kosovo Biomass Forum to PONT corridor exchanges—reinforce regional cooperation

In 2024, CNVP's social media reach continued to expand. On Facebook, posted content received 136% more reactions and 66% more page visits, while Instagram visits climbed 35%, and LinkedIn surpassed the 1,100-follower mark. These results confirm that regular, visually focused updates are strengthening stakeholder engagement.

In 2024, CNVP intensified its business development efforts, working closely with EU delegations and other donors through a structured project development pipeline. These efforts secured four new grants totalling €246,000: a UNDP-financed sustainable-tourism project in North Macedonia (€ 116 000); PONT's "Rural Women of Prespa" initiative (€ 50 000); the ILC-supported "National Land Coalition for Kosovo" (€ 60 000); and additional funds for the "Future Sharri–Korab–Koritnik Mountains" action from Euronatura Jensen (€ 20 000).



The new contracts—and further proposals now with EUKI, DBU, the World Bank, AFD, and others—underscore CNVP’s success in diversifying its funding base and mobilizing resources.

The annual accounts included in Part B represent the consolidated financial statements of CNVP Netherlands. These accounts cover the Foundation’s key functions, which consist of managing donor-funded projects and providing professional advisory services. CNVP’s operations are financed through grants from international donors and contributions from its own resources. Income is reported under “income from grants,” representing funds entrusted to CNVP for the benefit of third parties in the Balkans. Services are provided free of charge to beneficiaries, with fund disbursement dependent on compliance with conditions outlined in legally binding donor agreements.

The report continues with the detailed following information:

Part A

- Business development and networking
- Main projects and results in 2024
- Lessons learned
- Uncertainties, risks, and mitigation measures
- Governance of human resources and internal organisation
- CNVP’s Supervisory Board
- Future plans and goals

Part B

- CNVP’s Structure
- Accounting Principles
- General accounting principles for the preparation of the annual accounts
- Assets

2. Business development and networking

During 2024, CNVP, as part of the implementation of the project portfolio, has continued to offer package activities that have strengthened CNVP’s networking with the donor and community partners, such as EU offices in the countries where CNVP is operating, entering into partnership with organization applying for the new project as well as continue demonstrated a strong effort in project proposal submissions and was trying to ensure additional funds for projects, underlining our commitment to driving impactful projects and initiatives.

Throughout 2024, CNVP was involved in dynamic and intensive business development activities, marked by increased networking and active participation in project acquisition efforts at both national and regional levels.

CNVP has continued its active engagement in identifying and applying for donor-funded projects, with a strong focus on regional opportunities that align with its strategic priorities.

The organization follows a structured approach to project development, starting from screening calls, defining project goals, selecting partners, establishing partnerships, and finalising proposals with input from the country’s teams, as well as when needed, with external experts also involved in proposal preparation.

Efforts in 2024 were focused on mobilizing resources, a key achievement during 2024 was the successful signing of three new projects with a total amount of € 246,000.00 as follows:

- CNVP North Macedonia has signed the “Capacity Building Program for Sustainable Tourism with a Focus on Non-Timber Forest Products” starting from June 2024 until May 2027, €116,00, funded by UNDP



- CNVP North Macedonia- “Rural women for sustainable development of Prespa (RWoP)” funded by PONT starting 01 June 2024 to 31-st May 2027, with a total amount of 50,000 €; and
- CNVP Kosovo has signed the project “National Land Coalition for Kosovo”, financially supported by the International Land Coalition (ILC), with a total value of €60,000, starting in September 2024 and until December 2026.
- CNVP Kosovo has acquired additional funds from Euronatura Jensen for the Future Sharri Korab-Koritnik Mountains in the amount of €20,000, which was concluded in 2024. The second phase is planned to start in the second half of 2025.

Our business development activities have been a collaborative effort, which has strengthened our network and fostered deeper connections with international, regional, and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In line with the CNVP Strategy 2022-27, we are actively working to diversify our funding sources and negotiate with various donors, including the EU offices in Prishtina, Tirana, and Skopje, DBU, the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, the World Bank, and the French Agency for Development. Additionally, we have submitted applications for funding from EUKI (Germany) and the, among others.

Visibility and Networking

Over the past year, CNVP has made progress in enhancing its visibility, outreach, and communications. These efforts align closely with our Communications Strategy, which serves as the foundation for all our initiatives. Our strategy is designed to ensure that our messages are clear, impactful, and effectively delivered to our stakeholders. CNVP’s social media strategy in 2024 combined high-frequency, audience-centered posting with sharp visual storytelling to extend the foundation’s reach and engagement across every major channel. By publishing meaningful content updates based on our activities, we kept followers continuously informed while presenting project successes and policy messages. This resulted in an increased social media presence, more specifically on **Facebook** page likes increased to **4,891** and year-end analytics recorded **21 639 content** interactions (up **136 %** on 2023), **42 132 page visits** (up **66 %**), and **13 822 link clicks**, confirming that a larger community is not just seeing but acting on our posts. **Instagram**, although smaller in absolute scale, strengthened brand visibility, with profile visits rising to 2,585 (a 35% increase compared to 2023) and content interactions doubling to 479, while link clicks remained steady at 235, reflecting the platform’s pivot toward Reels and carousel engagement. Meanwhile, LinkedIn followers grew steadily to **1,100**, cementing CNVP’s authority among donors, policy partners, and forestry professionals. Collectively these figures show that our sustained, multi-platform presence is converting social reach into meaningful traffic and deeper stakeholder engagement, making it a vital pillar of CNVP’s overall visibility strategy.

Metrics from our social media profiles indicate a significant increase in followers across all platforms:

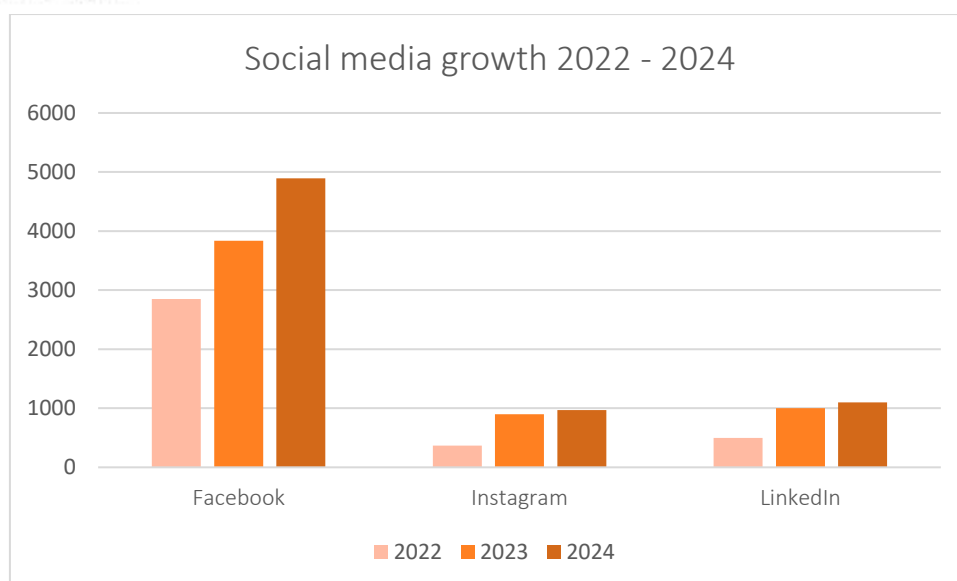


Figure 2 CNVP Social media presence

3. Main projects, results, and success stories in 2024

Regional projects

I. Sustainable use of natural resources for transboundary socio-economic development of protected areas in North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo – Funded by PONT

This cross-border program links biodiversity protection with nature-based tourism (NBT) and green livelihoods in the connected protected-area system spanning Albania and North Macedonia.

Albania – Korab-Koritnik, Albanian Alps and Ecological Corridors. **Three competitive calls in 2024** attracted **108 applications**; **27 local NGOs**, businesses, and farmer groups received **€269,644** to pilot initiatives that combine nature conservation with socio-economic development. Spanning from identification and cultivation of threatened MAP species, increasing pollinators, building of new and safer eco trails amounting to 46 km, mapping of cultural heritage sites, installing renewable energy systems in guesthouses, improving accommodation capacities of guesthouses to the publication of the “Code of Conduct” for responsible tourism practices. Recipients were **mentored on procurement, visibility, and financial reporting**. A **three-day “familiarisation tour”** introduced tour operators to new homestays, craft workshops and farm-to-table routes, opening the door to year-round eco-tourism bookings while reinforcing conservation messages.



Figure 3 Sub-grantees activities

North Macedonia – Shar & Mavrovo. 13 sub-grantees completed field work, delivering the country's first organic-certified mountain-tea harvest, the first HACCP-approved NTFP room in Polog, and a mountaineering festival that drew 500 visitors. Two additional calls, totaling €90,803, were contracted to 6 new CSOs, expanding the network to 23 active project partners. CNVP staff conducted finance-and-visibility workshops for **80 participants** and organized **four study visits on MAP cultivation**, corridor governance, and women-led rural tourism. In November, a two-day regional conference in Mavrovo **brought together 180 delegates** to outline the next steps for corridor restoration and cross-border tourism. The project is actively engaged in boosting its visibility.

In 2024 alone, the project developed and published **six promotional videos** to inform the target audience and boost regional project's visibility.



Figure 4 PONT regional conference and field activities



Success story

In response to the endangered status of *Sideritis scardica* (mountain tea) in Shara and Mavrovo National Parks, CNVP North Macedonia supported local farmer Gostilica Samet from Trebište with a grant through the PONT program. Despite challenging weather conditions, the farmer and his wife successfully cultivated 6,000 mountain tea plants over an area of 1,000 m², aided by an irrigation system and a dehydrator provided by the project. Their efforts led to the production of the **first certified organic mountain tea** in the Mavrovo region. All harvested tea was sold, improving the family's income and socio-economic stability. This success has inspired others in the community to begin cultivating mountain tea and other endangered medicinal plants.



Success story

Vila Gjecaj is a woman-led guesthouse and restaurant in Thethi, Albania, one of the most beautiful tourist attraction areas. Being a remote area, Thethi suffers from frequent power cuts, as well as low voltage power, resulting in damage to electronic appliances and considerable losses for the guest house, which in turn hinders the ability to provide quality services to clients. Vila Gjeci is part of the grant scheme support, and it won a grant to install the first photovoltaic plant. 56 photovoltaic mirrors produce 30 kW of energy, together with batteries for energy accumulation with a capacity of 14.2 kWp. Thanks to this investment, the guesthouse has reduced its losses, can produce its own energy, and contributes to a greener environment in the pristine area of Thethi.



Lessons Learned

- Nature conservation and socio-economic development can and must go hand in hand.
- Investing in people and creating an enabling environment is both sustainable and transformative.
- Involving farmers in activities such as organic mountain tea cultivation demonstrates that conservation practices can generate both environmental benefits and new income streams.
- Consistent training and mentoring of grassroots community-based organizations (CSOs) are vital for long-term project sustainability and post-project ownership.
- Strategic use of videos, online platforms, and social media significantly expands project visibility, stakeholder mobilization, and the sharing of success stories.
- Ongoing collaboration with national park administrations and cross-border coordination is essential for achieving a lasting impact on biodiversity protection.

II. Integrated Forest Management along the Drini River Basin (IFM) – Funded by ADA – ICEP

Albania: In 2024, restoration and erosion control activities strengthened local forest governance. Three hectares in Ana e Malit were planted with drought-resistant oak, ash, and cypress, while in Puka, a mixed bio- and hydro-technical design—comprising 300 m³ of timber fences, 200 m³ of dry stone, and concrete dams—now stabilizes previously eroding gullies. Eight municipalities along the Drin River basin were supported in preparing annual forest operational plans and thinning blueprints for 34 hectares of chestnut and oak. Nine eco-entrepreneurs drafted business plans, and a residue-fueled biomass boiler began heating Qerret Primary School. The «Year of Forests» field day in Ana e Malit gathered ADA, the National Forest Agency, and school pupils to launch a **40,000-seedling pledge over 22 ha**—an emblem of Albania’s growing forest coalition. In November, the second regional conference was held in Albania, bringing together over 80 stakeholders, including high officials, academics, NGOs, government representatives, and businesses from four countries in the region. The event highlighted innovative approaches, achievements, and lessons learned over the second year of the IFM project’ on Forest Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Stakeholder Engagement & Capacity Building, Value Chains for Sustainable Income, and Building Regional Partnerships.

North Macedonia: At Tatar-Elovci (Debar), teams planted **9,300 seedlings and 700 acorns (oak trees)** on three hectares and partially rehabilitated three more; a **100-m brushwood check dam** now slows sediment runoff. 40 forestry professionals trained on site, and a GIS-based sediment-reduction plan guides follow-up work. In Debar and Struga, CNVP opened a results-based sub-grant window. From 20 proposals received, 8 projects were awarded (half of which were led by women) and are currently piloting eco-tourism and climate-smart farming. A June exchange visit to Prespa’s women-led mountain tea cooperative cemented peer learning and served as a knowledge exchange platform.



Figure 6 ADA-ICEP activities in Kosovo

Kosovo: In Kosovo, the IFM project has completed all pre-field logistics. **2,586 shelter tubes** were delivered, contracts were signed for land preparation and maintenance, and **11,500 seedlings** (Norway spruce and sessile oak) were procured. The first phase of afforestation, covering 1 hectare, was planted in the Dragash area in March. Innovative methods of planting **Douglas fir seedlings** were used to restore degraded land. Heavy snowfall has blocked mountain roads, so planting and two planned thinning activities (5 ha of chestnut in Deçan and 5 ha of beech in Pejë) are rescheduled for early 2025. Work plans and erosion-control designs are ready. Training and outreach continued, reaching **80 people (28 women)** through Chestnut Day marketing, Mountain Day field visits, and gender-awareness sessions. Coordination with MAFRD, KFA, municipalities, and the wood-processing association remains steady, although a pending land-use permit for fast-growing tree trials is being mitigated by exploring private sites.

Montenegro: The final phase of afforestation and restoration in the Vucje/Nikšić area, which was affected by the fire, was completed in November 2024 as part of the IFM project. The afforestation process was organised



Figure 5 ADA ICEP Activities in Albania and North Macedonia

in three phases. This approach was adopted to ensure the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, with a particular focus on female participation and engagement from students specialising in forestry. In addition, it was imperative to ensure that trainings were provided through lectures and practical work in the field. As part of the project activities, **11 hectares of land were afforested** and restored with **26,300 spruce and black pine seedlings**.

The active involvement of a significant number of stakeholders in the afforestation process resulted in the expansion of the planned area by one hectare, exceeding the initial project plan. The Forestry Administration generously donated **2,400 black pine seedlings**. The trainings, afforestation and monitoring process involved over **150 participants**. The participants included representatives from various interested parties, primarily forestry experts, private forest owners, business representatives, NGO sector representatives, women, local community members, and municipal officials.



Lessons learned:

- Integrating native tree planting with simple erosion-control measures—such as brushwood dams, timber fences, and dry-stone walls—proved to be the most cost-effective method for stabilizing degraded slopes.
- Assigning municipalities and local entrepreneurs responsibility for their own forest operation and business plans increased ownership and kept implementation and maintenance on schedule.
- Small, performance-based grants unlocked a surge of women-led eco-tourism and climate-smart farming ventures, showing that modest funding can deliver high leverage.
- Because contracts, seedlings, and work crews were secured in advance, heavy snowfall caused only a scheduling shift rather than a project delay, underscoring the value of thorough preparation.



Success story

In March 2024, CNVP Kosovo marked the International Day of Forests by launching the first phase of afforestation in Dragash, as part of the IFM Project. Combining traditional methods with innovations like machine planting, soil analysis, shelter tubes, and multispectral cameras, Douglas fir trees were planted to restore degraded land.

The initiative also included hands-on training for forestry engineers, municipal officials, and local groups, promoting collaboration and sustainable forest management. This effort highlights CNVP's commitment to innovation and inclusive environmental solutions.



Success story

Puka is a very poor municipality in northern Albania that has received very little attention from funding opportunities. During the winter, temperatures can drop significantly, and heating is often provided by old, inefficient stoves that typically heat only one room in houses or public buildings. This is even more challenging for schoolchildren, especially those from the “Qerreti” school. In 2024, an innovative central heating system was installed in this school, which had an immediate impact on the students and teachers. ***“It is the first year that I can leave my heavy coat on the chair and walk freely in the class as well as in the corridors without feeling cold,”*** -said one of the school students. This is the first model in the entire municipality, utilizing forest residues to operate. CNVP Albania, in partnership with “Qerreti NGO” from Puka, initiated forest improvement in an area of approximately 20 hectares. There have been no forest improvements in the Puka forests for over 20 years, resulting in forest fires and degradation. The residue from forest improvement is sent to Qerreti school, as well as to other schools and households.

III. LED Project

The final year of the Sida-funded LED project extended its footprint to some of Albania's most remote MAP-producing regions, pairing climate-smart technology with market security for households by improving their livelihoods. 10 Partnership Agreements were finalized in 2024, as part of piloting and upscaling innovative interventions in the MAPs sector. **Four renewable-energy dryers—three solar greenhouses and one biomass chamber—were installed in Korçë, Laç, Kukes, and Kolonja, reducing post-harvest losses and enabling 750 producer households to earn 30–40% more on their autumn deliveries.** Meanwhile, **two new public-private agreements** introduced Albania's **first mechanized herb harvester** and a **root-washing line**, upgrades that reduced labor costs, improved product quality, and opened the door for processors to buy larger volumes from more than **200 additional families.**

Upstream in the value chain, a MAP promotion unit at Salvia Nord Nursery (Malësia e Madhe) now showcases **30 marketable species** and functions as a hands-on classroom, attracting over **300 farmers**, firms, and students in 2024. **Complementary machinery** at Qato Nursery (Berat) alleviated labor shortages and enhanced seedling output, contributing to a 20% increase in sales for both nurseries. Contract farming also expanded southward into Delvinë and Skrapar, where **45 households received seedlings** and **buy-back guarantees** for laurel, sage, and cyan, bringing the national total to **750 households** with secure contract farming agreements. An independent impact assessment undertaken by an independent international consultant concluded that LED had “**mainstreamed renewable energy in MAP drying and de-risked cultivation for the poorest producers,**” citing higher incomes, better quality, and clear climate co-benefits.

Technology	Description	Load capacity	Drying time	Benefits
SOLAR-POWERED TUNNEL DRYERS	 Mobile drying systems using solar/renewable technology that enhance drying efficiency.	Herbs: 150 kg Fruits: 250 kg	17 to 30 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker drying than sun drying • Reduces contamination risks • Portable and easy to operate
FLAT-BED GREENHOUSE DRYERS	 Solar/renewable energy systems designed for local MAPs consolidator businesses, utilizing specially designed roofs to capture and circulate heated air	Herbs: 1 MT Fruits: 1.5 MT	24-54 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No energy costs • Automated control for optimal drying conditions
CLEAN ENERGY DRYING CHAMBERS	 Biomass energy systems suitable for medium to large businesses that require efficient drying of high-volume MAPs.	2 MT	24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates sustainable practices by utilizing waste materials

Figure 7 Drying Technologies introduced by CNVP Albania



Success Story: Pioneering Mechanization in the MAPs Sector



Mechanization plays a critical role in the cultivation and processing of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs), from soil preparation to post-harvest handling. Yet in Albania, over 70% of farm operations are still done manually, and the rising cost of labor—exacerbated by rural migration—has intensified the need for modern machinery.

In 2024, CNVP Albania implemented a standout example in partnership with “Natural Herbal” E.V.R, a MAPs company based in Maliq and led by an ambitious young entrepreneur, Emiljan Gypi. Through this collaboration, a modern root-washing machine with a capacity of 2 tons per day was installed—marking a first in the Albanian MAPs sector.

“We’ve not only increased our processing capacity but also opened new opportunities for local farmers through strengthened contract farming. Our products now meet EU quality standards, and we’re proudly showcasing Albania’s botanical richness on the international stage.”

Thanks to innovation, determination, and strategic support, “Natural Herbal” has evolved from a family-run business into a national model of sustainable growth and competitiveness in the MAPs value chain.

Lessons learned:

- Solar-powered dryers are a promising and cost-effective solution; they’ve gained attention from market actors, indicating good replication potential.
- Mechanization requires rethinking plantation design and equipment use. Effective land preparation tools can significantly enhance productivity.
- Local seedling production strengthens the value chain's resilience, whereas dependency on imported seeds creates delays and uncertainty.
- Contract farming models require continuous support, trust-building, and adaptability. Ongoing coaching is critical.
- Processing waste can be transformed into useful products (e.g., pellets, compost), adding value and reducing environmental impact.
- Fluctuating prices and shifting demand necessitate better market intelligence and trend forecasting among MAP companies.

IV. Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development (SUNREED) – Funded by SIDA

In 2024, SUNREED paved the way for a national forest economy while modernizing the non-wood forest product (NWFP) sector. **Fifteen active partnership agreements—half managed by women-led enterprises—mobilized approximately €474,000**, equally co-financed by the project and the private sector. **Two new biomass collection centers** established in 2024 now channel material that once lay unused in the forest: in the eastern part of Kosovo, a collection center with a 2,000 m³ annual capacity for treetops and branches, and in the western part of Kosovo, a chestnut-residue center that has organised 30 local collectors in its first season. Together, all the project partners with forest management planning enabled the sale of 13,200 tons of biomass in 2024 and stimulated three municipalities to commission feasibility studies for district heating conversions.

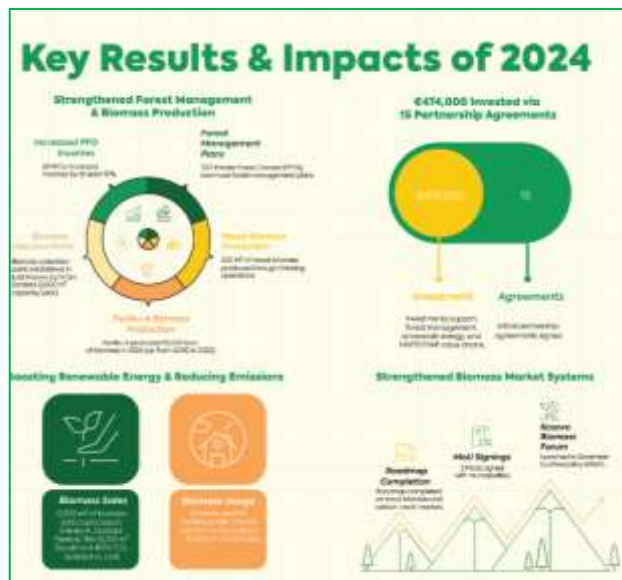


Figure 8 Key results of SUNREED

SUNREED also invested in the NWFP and medicinal-and-aromatic-plant (MAPs) value chain. One fruit-processing partner **doubled its berry-juice output** after installing semi-automatic fillers and pasteurizers, while another enterprise introduced an apple-vinegar line to its company, transforming **8 tons of wild fruit into 4,000 liters of premium wild apple vinegar** and **increasing farmers' incomes by 20%**. Across the program more than 300 collectors, farmers and private forest owners, half of them women, entered supply deals with processing firms, 50 growers received improved seedlings for MAPs, and 10 young advisers gained certification in organic farming. Newly formed women and youth producer groups now sit in policy consultations, ensuring that SUNREED's preparatory Kosovo Biomass Forum reflects grassroots priorities as it shapes a national roadmap for renewable heat.



Figure 9 Collection of wood biomass



Success Story I

From Forest to District Heating: How Partnerships Strengthened Kosovo's Biomass Value Chain



With support from SUNREED, Feniks-a, a local woodchip producer, became a key player in formalising and scaling Kosovo's biomass value chain. In 2024, the company sourced raw materials from over **50 suppliers**, including four PFOs, and supplied **10,000 tons of locally produced wood chips** to the Gjakova District Heating System, replacing imports and covering approximately **80% of the city's energy needs**. The needs of DHS are expected to increase by 50% in the future. The company doubled its workforce, added **20 seasonal jobs**, and helped PFOs increase income. To ensure long-term impact, Feniks-A co-developed a **national Roadmap for Biomass Production and Utilisation**, fostering skills, knowledge sharing, and replication potential. Municipalities like Lipjan, Shtime, and Kaçanik are now exploring similar heating solutions.

Lessons Learned:

- Forest Management Plans (FMPs) are key to engaging private forest owners who may not have previously managed their land. The integration of FMPs not only empowers private forest owners in Kosovo but also ensures the responsible management of forest resources for future generations.
- Collaborating with private companies through Partnership Agreements (PAs), such as Feniks-A, has proven effective in driving tangible results in job creation, income generation, and service delivery. It creates mutual benefits and encourages sustainable practices.

V. Sustainable Future for Sharr/Korab-Koritnik

During this period, the CNVP project team focused on strengthening communication and collaboration with local stakeholders involved in lighthouse projects, conducting regular monitoring meetings and field visits to track progress. While many local grant beneficiaries showed significant improvement, additional support was needed in promotion, communication, capacity building, and education.

Special support was given to **Beekeeping "Etniku,"** helping them increase their visibility through fairs, social media, and promotional materials.

The project organized a an event to mark the **European Day of Parks**, where the embassy of Sweden in Prishtina attended the event, namely the ambassador himself attended the event.



Figure 10 Sharri National Park in Prevalle on the occasion of the European Day of Parks.



VI. National Land Coalition (NLC)

CNVP, in collaboration with the International Land Coalition (ILC), is hosting and facilitating the National Land Coalition (NLC) platform in Kosovo. Between August 2024 and January 2025, all planned activities were carried out in line with the Terms of Reference, with a focus on land rights, gender equality, climate change, and inclusive governance. Following initial information meetings, CNVP brought together key stakeholders for the inaugural NLC Platform Meeting. This meeting laid the groundwork for promoting a people-centered land governance system aimed at ensuring inclusive and equitable development. Activity planning has been carried out in close collaboration with all platform members.

One of the key outcomes so far has been the drafting of the NLC Strategy for Kosovo (2025–2027), which was reviewed with members and will guide the coalition’s work moving forward.



Figure 11 NLC Platform members (CNVP, MAFRD, MESPI, municipalities, LAGs, NAPFO, and 2 other environmental NGOs)

VII. Action for Climate - Sida

The Action for Climate project concluded in May 2024, marking its final phase with several key activities from January to May. The second award campaign on Sustainable Practices in Everyday Life reached nearly **870,000 people, receiving 71 applications with 44 women participants**; winners from Skopje, Ohrid, and Berovo were celebrated in a February event featuring a panel discussion. Building on strong municipal relationships, the ‘Treaty of Mayors’ event in January gathered **40 mayors, with 34 signing a declaration on active environmental protection and climate mitigation**. Climate Coalition roundtables and consultative meetings further strengthened coordination, including feedback on a draft shadow report for EU Chapter 27. In September, **the Climate Solar Fair attracted 80,000 visitors and 25 exhibitors from four Balkan countries**, showcasing green products and hosting educational panels on smart energy and energy poverty. Regional coordinators led workshops on tree plantations in schools and promoted green infrastructure analyses. The project’s financial and narrative reports were finalized and submitted upon completion.



Figure 12 Action for Climate project activities

Lessons Learned

- Secure municipal buy-in through continuous, two-way communication and joint planning.
- Combine targeted campaigns with broad stakeholder coalitions to turn awareness into locally relevant action.
- Use interactive events that blend education and innovation to create lasting community impact.

VIII. MOVING

From January to August 2024, the CNVP MOVING team developed an **Exploitation and Dissemination Strategy** to guide the sharing of project outcomes during and after project completion. The strategy, developed through consultation with MAP members from the Maleshevski Region, emphasized the engagement of local stakeholders and partners from Mavrovo-Sharr, Struga-Debar, and Prespa in promoting sustainable rural tourism and climate-resilient practices. In April, the team and two MAP members visited Romania to study successful eco-destination management models. CNVP also participated in the Scientific Conference and Steering Committee Meeting in Córdoba in March, where they presented the potential and challenges of rural tourism in Maleshevski. The MOVING project concluded in August 2024, with all financial and narrative reports finalized and submitted.



Figure 13 Activities implemented with the MOVING Project

IX. Rural women for sustainable development of Prespa (RWoP) – Funded by PONT

The project "Rural Women for Sustainable Development of Prespa" started in July 2024 and lasted until December 2024. During this period, the following activities were implemented.

Cultivated new farming species, including Prespa tea in the Prespa region. **Seven pilot sites have been identified for the cultivation of new farming species and Prespa tea.**

Catering dishes for RWoP activities – three meetings with RWoP were held to agree on the catering dishes needed for the services, and a list of catering dishes was prepared. The purchase of the tea catering dishes was done in January 2025.



Figure 14 Meetings with RWoP

X. Capacity Building Program for Sustainable Tourism with a Focus on Non-Timber Forest Products – Funded by UNDP

Since the project's launch in September 2024, CNVP has helped the Rural Women of Prespa (RWoP) strengthen their organization and diversify their income. By December the group had **created three catering services** that showcase local dishes enhanced with Prespa-sourced NTFPs, and had **established seven pilot plots**—including Prespa tea and three additional species—to test new cultivation options. An open call for membership drew strong interest; after three selection meetings **11 new women were admitted** (with plans to add more in 2025). Finally, **three hands-on workshops** on packaging, branding and marketing equipped **15 participants** with skills to position their products more competitively in regional markets.



Figure 15 Capacity building activities with RWoP









4. Risk assessment and mitigation measures

Every organization faces uncertainties and potential obstacles, and what matters most is how they are managed. CNVP has directed a thorough risk assessment, identifying potential challenges and outlining mitigation measures. Flexibility and adaptability remain key strengths of the organization, allowing us to respond effectively to unexpected changes.

CNVP operates in a dynamic environment influenced by economic, technological, social, geopolitical, and political factors, all of which can impact stability and growth. To stay resilient, CNVP maintains a proactive approach by regularly monitoring external trends, conducting scenario planning, and fostering a culture open to change.

Financial, operational, and reputational risks are addressed through a comprehensive risk management framework that includes regular assessment, internal controls, and the integration of audit recommendations. In preparing the 2024 Annual Report, the Executive Board and Management Team carefully reviewed risk trends compared to the previous year and updated the risk matrix accordingly. CNVP remains committed to achieving mid-term financial stability and continuously improving its risk management practices.

Table 4: Risks and mitigation measures

Risk	Risk Level	Trend	Mitigation measures
BD dynamics (Internal) Business development has become increasingly intensive and competitive from different angles in recent years. Poor and passive business development (BD) might lead to a narrow project portfolio and limited donor revenue streams. The lack of new large projects and long-term funding threatened CNVP's financial sustainability, viability, and performance.			CNVP enters 2025 with four major projects: SUNREED-Sida, LED-Sida, PONT, and ADA. This gives the organisation a sustainable position. Efforts are ongoing to create a diversified portfolio and ensure multiple donor streams. Beyond current strategic partners, such as Sida, ADA, and PONT, the target for the next period will be EU funds.
Staff satisfaction (internal) The best value of CNVP is its staff. The organisation has invested significantly in capacity building and the development of its human resources. Hence, due to a lack of projects being funded by donors, skilled and experienced staff may leave the organization.			Executive Board is with full capacities (three members). It will be very transparent and hold regular meetings with its employees. Employees will be fully and regularly informed about the financial situation of the organisation, its perspectives, and projects that will be concluded. The staff will be encouraged to proactively contribute to business development, ensuring more sustainable incomes for the organisation.
Financial risk (Internal) a) The organization's midterm financial liquidity and sustainability. b) Exchange rate changes can limit the value of project revenues in euros and expose CNVP to losses.			a) The organization will ensure timely monitoring reports on incomes and expenditures, thereby indicating an early warning of financial risk if it arises. Additionally, timely reporting to donors and sending disbursement requests on time. b) Closely monitoring the fluctuations of exchange rates, we'll try to envisage potential bad scenarios with the banks we are working with. In the event of any significant gap, we'll contact the donors to identify early warning signs, aiming not to impact the project outcomes.
Subgranting scheme – financial support to local organisations There is a risk that subgrantees may not be able to adhere to the strict financial rules and guidelines, potentially deviating from our expectations. Misusing of funds is a risk, too.			The selection criteria are very strict and have been agreed upon with the donor. The contract is envisaged to have concrete milestones (disbursements are made in different instalments and percentages after agreed-upon deliverables are provided). Organize training sessions on finance (expenditures, procurement rules) to be held at the beginning of the subgrating process with subgrantees in finance management. Mentorship to each subgrantee throughout the entire period. A customized financial manual/guidelines is provided to each subgrantee for each beneficiary to follow. Ongoing monitoring all the time and early warning signs in case something is not going as envisaged.
Donor Funding Competitiveness (External) Reductions in donor funding, such as the 2025 USAID funding cuts, have no direct impact on CNVP, as the organization has no direct			CNVP is actively negotiating with donors, such as ADA, PONT, DBU, EuroNatura and Sida for follow-up projects and will continue to diversify its donor

agreements with USAID. However, such reductions increase competition for donor funds across the civil society sector in the mid-to-long term, potentially limiting CNVP's access to new funding sources and threatening financial sustainability.	●	→	portfolio, targeting EU funds to mitigate competitive pressures.
Geopolitical situation and the political developments in the Balkans (External)	●	↑	New circumstances might arise during 2025, as election are envisaged in Albania and Kosovo. CNVP will closely monitor the situation from its program perspective and, whenever required, review and adjust program activities with partners.
The political situation may have an adverse impact on programme results and outcomes.			
Corruption and Fraud (Internal)	●	→	CNVP has zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption. Internal Control Framework. (manuals on fraud and whistle-blowing policy). During all staff meetings, at least once a year, a dedicated session will be held on the issues of corruption and fraud. Good experiences in combating corruption and fraud from various project activities and stakeholders will be incorporated and shared within the organization, thereby strengthening internal control.
The risk of corruption or fraud by staff can expose CNVP to financial losses, fines and sanctions, loss of reputation clients, and reputational damage.			
Inflation Impact (External)	●	↑	CNVP is aware of the risk that might lead to problems with successful project implementation. CNVP management will try to mitigate the risk : a) in close cooperation with the donors; b) trying to explore the opportunity of having a contingency budget that will be used for the inflation spike b) redefine budgets based on realistic levels; c) reduce operating costs and travel where/when possible.
A significant increase in inflation, driven by rising energy prices, can lead to cash flow problems and hinder the successful implementation of projects.			

Table legend

- Risk High Trend: High
- Risk Medium → Trend: Stable
- Risk Low Trend: Low



5. Governance, human resources, and internal organization

In 2024, CNVP implemented a diverse portfolio of projects focused on natural resource management, sustainable forestry management, climate change mitigation, rural and local economic development, and community mobilization. The foundation is governed by the Supervisory Board (SB), which provides oversight of the Executive Board (EB) and overall operations. The EB, composed of Country Directors from Albania,



Kosovo, and North Macedonia, met regularly to coordinate governance, project implementation, finance, and human resources. With the appointment of a new Country Director in Albania, the EB returned to full strength, reinforcing a shared commitment to innovation, teamwork, and regional knowledge.

Organizational development remained a priority in 2024. The EB and SB focused on strengthening the efficiency of governance, including CNVP's local legal entities, and setting CNVP's role as a regional leader in promoting a green economy. This strategic effort enhanced visibility, expanded networks, and fostered collaboration with partners, including international, regional, and local NGOs, as well as the private sector, positioning CNVP for future regional and EU-funded projects.

Staff professional development was also emphasized. Team members participated in international, regional, and local conferences related to green belt, nature conservation, agriculture, biomass, sustainable energy, and EU market regulations, further building expertise across key areas.

Below is a breakdown of the CNVP staff as of December 2024:

- Albania: 8 employees
- Kosovo: 8 employees (out of which one is part-time)
- North Macedonia: 4 employees
- Montenegro: 1 full time employee
- Regional: 1 full-time employee operating from North Macedonia

This totals **21 full-time employees**, supported by more than **40 associate experts**.

In 2024, CNVP organized Employee Council (EC) training and held an all-staff meeting focused on key thematic areas, including gender, good governance, transparency, and cross-country cooperation, the **two-day CNVP all-staff meeting was held in Durrës, Albania, in December** where colleagues from all four country offices met for workshops on governance, transparency, cross-office collaboration and team-building. A follow-up retreat is planned for autumn 2025.



Figure 16 CNVP Staff retreat



The continued development of Local Lead Entities (LLEs) within CNVP's structure has further strengthened the organization's capacity and positively impacted overall project management and implementation. The LLE structure, piloted in 2024, continued to expedite procurement and stakeholder outreach in 2025.

CNVP underwent several external audits in 2024 for projects as follows:

- LED project audit for the year 2024 conducted by Crowe Albania. No factual findings arose from the audit.
- SUNREED project audit for the year 2024 conducted by RSM Kosovo, with no significant audit findings.
- Sida ACF project audit for the year 2024 conducted by Grand Thornton. No factual findings arose from the audit.
- An institutional assessment conducted by BDO for the UNDP project pre-start revealed no significant audit findings.
- Institutional assessment follow-up conducted by Ernst & Young Sweden for Sida Kosovo found no significant issues.

All audit reports indicated that implemented projects are in order and follow all procedures outlined in project documents, manuals, and standards.

6. CNVP's Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board (SB) is the highest governing body of CNVP, tasked with overseeing the foundation's governance, strategy, and operational accountability. This board is responsible for approving the organizational strategy, annual plans, reports, and financial accounts.

The SB is composed of four members who convene both in person and online to ensure continuous governance and oversight. Below are the current board members and their terms:

- **Chairperson:** Mr. Maarten Bremer
Appointed: January 16th, 2016
Current Term: January 16th, 2020, to August 31st, 2025
Other roles: Vice-president of the Executive Board of ArtEZ, University of the Arts
- **Member:** Mr. Thijs van Buuren
Appointed: January 01st, 2017
Current Term: January 01st, 2021, to August 31st, 2025
Other roles: Controller at Médecins Sans Frontières
- **Member:** Mr. Aurel Jupe
Appointed: January 16th, 2016
Current Term: January 16th, 2020, to August 31st, 2025
- **Member:** Ms. Marianne Johanna Meijboom
Appointed: June 25th, 2022
Current Term: June 25th, 2022, to August 31st, 2025
Other roles: Policy adviser on biodiversity & bee health for the Dutch Beekeepers Association



In 2024, the SB met two times, in April and August 2024 and meeting minutes were recorded and distributed. The Audit Committee also convened once before the approval of the annual accounts for 2023. Additionally, the SB formally approved the Annual Report for 2023 during this period.

7. Future Plans and Goals for 2025

In 2024, CNVP is poised to continue expanding and diversifying its project portfolio, which will encompass climate issues, local economic development, the circular economy, environmental protection, and SME support across Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Montenegro. Two major regional projects currently under implementation demonstrate that the foundation is expanding its activities and is recognized as a regional actor in the development sector.

Looking ahead, CNVP will seek to enhance relationships with both existing and new donors, including Sida, PONT, ADA, DBU, and EU delegations in the respective countries, to secure new funding streams and project opportunities. This effort will support our staff's ongoing growth and enhance the impact of our work.

2025 is set to be a transformative year for CNVP, as the foundation adopts a more holistic approach to development. This will be especially visible in Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, where Local Lead Entities (LLEs) are expected to strengthen their capacities significantly. Throughout 2024, CNVP has actively pursued new funding opportunities and project partnerships for both the LLEs and the main organization. The outlook is promising, with encouraging prospects for cross-border initiatives that align with CNVP's niche areas of expertise

Furthermore, CNVP will continue to manage the sub-granting schemes (co-financing different initiatives) also during 2025, where financial support to local actors will be provided. This includes entering into new partnership agreements and supporting initiatives of partners for the implementation of the MSD approach in key sectors, such as forest, wood processing, MAPs, and NTFP. The progress in these areas is set to yield further results and will be meticulously documented throughout the year.

The collaboration with local actors remains a cornerstone of CNVP's strategy, providing multifaceted benefits that enhance the success, sustainability, and positive impact of community and regional initiatives. By building and maintaining trust within local communities, CNVP fosters a supportive environment that encourages local stakeholders to engage with and champion development efforts. This community-focused approach, being newly emphasized in 2024, is set to strengthen over time, ensuring the long-term success of CNVP's projects and initiatives.

Part B: 2024 Annual Accounts

Part B of the 2024 Annual Report contains the annual accounts of Connecting Natural Values & People Foundation (CNVP) registered in The Hague, The Netherlands. CNVP's mission is to utilize evidence-based analysis to enhance the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities within the context of ongoing environmental and climate change processes.

CNVP achieves its objectives by helping to develop the capacity of local actors on a participatory basis through the provision of advisory services and technical assistance, using the expertise and experience of Team CNVP and its partners.

CNVP's Structure



The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that designs, implements, and manages projects funded by international donors and other financial sources. Its work is focused in the Balkans, with registered branches in North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, and Montenegro, and two Local Legal Entities (LLEs) established in Kosovo and North Macedonia, which are incorporated into the annual accounts overseen by the Executive Board (EB) of CNVP Netherlands.

The annual accounts constitute solely the aggregated financial statements of one legal entity, CNVP Netherlands. They reflect the Foundation's main activities, including managing externally financed projects and providing advisory services.

International donors and own contributions fund CNVP's main activities. CNVP's initial capital contribution consists of cash and tangible fixed assets.

In the statement of financial performance, the income generated from CNVP's activities is reported under 'income from grants', i.e., funds made available to CNVP by other parties and donors, to be managed for the benefit of third parties located in the Balkan countries where CNVP operates. Beneficiaries do not pay for services provided by CNVP. Funds are transferable from donors to CNVP upon fulfillment and compliance with certain requirements as outlined in the legal contracts that CNVP enters into with donors.

Expenditure includes expenses incurred during the implementation of projects and for the day-to-day operations of CNVP. The balance of income and expenditure, or the result for the period, is transferred to the capital base of the foundation, and is reflected in the balance sheet. This also includes tangible fixed assets, current assets, which are mainly project-related receivables, grants receivable, prepayments, and cash. Current liabilities consist of payables, accruals and pre-received grants.

CNVP's annual accounts consist of the following:

- Balance Sheet after appropriation of balance of income and expenditure until December 31st, 2024
- Statement of Financial Performance for the period from January 01st to December 31st, 2024
- Cash flow statement for the period from January 01st to December 31st, 2024
- Accounting principles
- Notes to the Balance Sheet
- Notes to the Statement of Financial Performance
- Signed Financial Statements
- Independent Auditors Report

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

After appropriation of result from 01 January to 31 December 2024

Assets	Note	2024	2023
Tangible Fixed Assets			
		EUR -	EUR -
Vehicles	1	57,083	50,773
Office equipment		14,397	20,392
Subtotal		<u>71,480</u>	<u>71,165</u>
Current Assets			
Grant receivable	2	10,396	1,318
Prepayment projects	3	118,183	168,834
Prepayments	4	2,034	2,228
Cash	5	2,030,109	2,014,055
Subtotal		<u>2,160,721</u>	<u>2,186,436</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>2,232,202</u></u>	<u><u>2,257,600</u></u>

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2024

After appropriation of result from 01 January to 31 December 2024

Liabilities	Note	2024	2023
Foundation's Capital		EUR -	EUR -
General reserve	6	373,965	346,338
Appropriated reserve	6	71,462	70,782
Subtotal		<u>445,427</u>	<u>417,120</u>
Provisions			
Reservation severances	7	0	0
Subtotal		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Current Liabilities			
Payables	8	44,088	38,267
Taxes, social security & pension	9	12,312	17,638
Grants provided	10	1,709,471	1,763,066
Accruals	11	20,905	21,508
Subtotal		<u>1,786,775</u>	<u>1,840,479</u>
Total Liabilities		<u><u>2,232,202</u></u>	<u><u>2,257,600</u></u>

Statement of Financial Performance
For the period from 01 January to 31 December 2024

		Actuals	Budget	Actuals
		from 01 January	from 01 January	from 01 January
		to 31 December	to 31 December	to 31 December
		2024	2024	2023
Income	Note	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
Income from grants	12	2,220,173	3,351,547	1,752,441
Other income	13	2,485	0	99
Total Income		2,222,658	3,351,547	1,752,539
Expenditure				
Personnel	14	621,453	645,256	614,744
Depreciation fixed assets	15	22,072	0	8,292
Other expenses	16	1,550,826	2,690,948	1,024,726
Total Expenditure		2,194,351	3,336,204	1,647,762
Balance Income & Expenditure	17	28,307	15,343	104,777
Appropriation Balance Income & Expenditure				
General reserve		27,627	15,343	33,995
Appropriated reserve		680	0	70782
Foundation Capital		28,307	15,343	104,777
Balance Income & Expenditure after Appropriation		0	0	0

Cash flow statement at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Operating result	12;14-16	25,822	104,678
Adjustment for :			
Depreciation	15	22,072	8,292
Receivables	2;3	41,573	(158,697)
Prepayments	4	195	5,484
Payables	8	5,821	(7,590)
Provisions	7		
Taxes, and leave of employees	9;11	(5,930)	13658
Project payables	10	(53,595)	(367,934)
Interest received	13	2,283	1
Gain /loses/write off of fixed assets	1		
Net Cash from Operating Activities		38,239	(402,107)
Purchase of fixed assets	1	(22,388)	(22,388)
Sale of fixed assets		203	98
Cash from investment activities	1	(22,185)	(22,290)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		16,054	(424,397)
Cash and Bank at January 1,2024	9	2,014,055	
Cash and Bank at December 31,2024	9	2,030,109	
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		16,054	



Accounting Principles

General information and structure

Connecting Natural Values & People (CNVP) Foundation, with RSIN no. 851792479 at the Chamber of Commerce, with its registered seat Tolakkerweg 68 3739 JP Hollandsche Rading, The Netherlands, currently has four registered and active branches in the Balkans in North Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro. Additionally, two Local Legal Entities (LLEs) were established in 2023. The annual accounts of CNVP cover the period from January 01st, 2024, to December 31st, 2024. They reflect the financial information of the Netherlands based on the foundation along with the financial information, including the local branches. For the purposes of these financial statements, internal transactions and relations have been eliminated. Additionally, it's important to note that the accounting principles are applicable to Local Legal Entities (LLEs) and are incorporated into the annual accounts.

General accounting principles for the preparation of the annual accounts

The annual accounts are prepared in accordance with the IFRS.

Valuation of assets and liabilities and determination of the result takes place under the historical cost convention unless presented otherwise. If assets and liabilities are stated in foreign currencies, the calculations are based on the exchange rates prevailing on the December 31st, 2024 balance sheet. Exchange rate differences are included in other operational costs in the statement of financial performance. Incomes and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Profit is only included when realised on the balance sheet date. Liabilities and any losses originating before the end of the financial year are taken into account if they have become known before the preparation of the annual accounts.

The financial statements are presented in euros, which is the functional currency of CNVP.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are both primary financial instruments (such as receivables and debts) and derivative financial instruments (derivatives).

The notes to the specific items of the balance sheet disclose the fair value of the related instrument if this deviates from the carrying amount. If the financial instrument is not recorded in the balance sheet, the information on the fair value is disclosed in the notes to the 'contingent assets and liabilities'.

Accounting principles for the valuation of assets and liabilities

Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are presented at cost less accumulated depreciation and, if applicable, less impairments in value. Depreciation is based on the estimated useful life and calculated as a fixed percentage of cost, taking into account any residual value. Depreciation is provided from the date an asset comes into use.



The assets are depreciated by asset group over their expected economic lives, using the linear method. Residual value is not taken into account. Any new assets purchased from CNVP are included at historical costs and are converted using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the purchase. The tangible fixed assets purchased by or for the externally financed programmes are also capitalized under the fixed assets and expensed immediately.

Annual rates used for depreciation for CNVP assets are:

- Vehicles, 25%
- Office equipment, 33%

Any repairs or maintenance costs are reported in the statement of financial performance for the period.

Current Assets

Receivables

Upon initial recognition, the receivables are valued at fair value and then valued at amortised cost. The fair value and amortised cost equal the face value. Provisions deemed necessary for possible bad debt losses are deducted. These provisions are determined by individual assessment of the receivables.

Receivables consist mainly of project-related receivables for work carried out by CNVP on projects for which the funding has not been received as of the balance sheet date.

Prepayments consist of short-term rent deposits and prepaid expenses for 2024.

Cash and bank

The cash and bank are valued at face value. If cash equivalents are not freely available, this has been taken into account upon valuation.

Capital and Liabilities

The Foundation's Capital consists only of a general reserve. The account includes the initial donation of SNV to CNVP both in cash and fixed assets. At the end of the period, the balance of income and expenditure for the period is also appropriated to this account.

The general reserve is for unrestricted use of CNVP, and it is maintained to ensure the continuity of the foundation.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised for legally enforceable or constructive obligations that exist at the balance sheet date, for which it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required and a reliable estimate can be made. Provisions are measured as the best estimate of the amount necessary to settle the obligation at the balance sheet date and are carried at the nominal value of the expected settlement value.



Current liabilities include mostly project-related items and project funds received in advance to be utilised within the coming year. A lesser amount is made up of payables and accruals related to payroll and other employee benefits.

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded based on exchange rates updated monthly. At the end of the year, the foreign currency-denominated receivables, payables, cash and bank balances are revalued. Results are posted in the statement of financial performance.

Social security and pension

CNVP contributes the employer share of social security schemes in compliance with local legislations of its branches. It also reimburses the employer's share of contributions for pension in case the state-owned social security cannot cover the employee.

Accounting principles for determining the balance of income and expenditure

Principles for the determination of the result

Income and expenses are accounted for on an accrual basis. Income is recognised only when realised at the balance sheet date. Income generated by CNVP is categorized as income from grants since CNVP manages donor funds for the benefit of third parties. On their part, beneficiaries do not pay for services received from CNVP work. Revenues from services are recognised in proportion to the services rendered, based on the cost incurred in respect of the services performed up to the balance sheet date, in proportion to the estimated costs of the aggregate services to be performed. All expenses related to activities carried out prior to the balance sheet date are taken into account within the year's expenses.

The balance of income and expenditure, or the result for the period, is determined as the difference between income generated by CNVP activities and expenditure related to the implementation of these activities.

Principles for preparation of the consolidated cash flow statement

The cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method.

The funds in the cash flow statement consist of cash and cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are considered to be highly liquid investments.

Cash flows in foreign currencies are translated at an estimated average rate. Exchange rate differences concerning finances are shown separately in the cash flow statement.

Transactions that do not result in the exchange of cash and cash equivalents are not presented in the cash flow statement.

Notes to the Balance Sheet on December 31st, 2024

1. Tangible fixed assets

CNVP purchases assets that are paid mainly through project funds received.

New assets purchased are recorded in the books as of the date the assets were put in use. Depreciation expense starts from that date. Depreciation is based on the estimated useful life of each asset group and is calculated as a fixed percentage, not considering any residual value for the asset. Asset life extends to 4 years for vehicles and 3 years for office equipment. Depreciation expense is accounted for in the statement of financial performance. Costs for periodic major maintenance are also charged to the statement.

	Vehicles EUR	Office equipment EUR	Total EUR
Acquisition cost as at January 1, 2024	308,477	94,135	402,612
Cumulative depreciation and other impairments as at January 1, 2024	(257,704)	(73,743)	(331,447)
Carrying amount as at January 1, 2024	50,773	20,392	71,165
Investments	20,000	2,388	22,388
Depreciation	(13,700)	(8,372)	(22,072)
Carrying amount as at December 31, 2024	57,073	14,408	71,480
Acquisition cost as at December 31, 2024	328,477	96,523	424,999
Cumulative depreciation and other impairments as at December 31, 2024	(271,404)	(82,115)	(353,519)
Acquisition cost as at December 31, 2024	57,073	14,408	71,480

Current Assets

2. Grants Receivables

The balance of receivables consists primarily in receivables for project work done for which the funds were not received as of the balance sheet date. The amount consisted for of amount due to CNVP for the Sharr project, IFAD/ILC and UNDP.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Grant receivables	10,396	1,318
Total	10,396	1,318

3. Prepayment projects

Prepayment projects represent a balance of advance payments given to partners, consultants, etc. The amount of €118,183 corresponds to the advance given to organisations based on the sub-granting agreements for Pont Korab Koritnik Shar & ADA IFM project. These amounts are short-term receivables and are expected to be settled in the first quarter of 2025, pending the submission of expenditure reports from sub-grantees in accordance with their contractual timelines. These funds are not yet recognized as expenses in the financial statements, as they await justification through partner reports. CNVP anticipates that this balance will be significantly reduced, potentially to near zero, by November 2025 as final grants will be closed.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Prepayments to project partners	118,183	168,834
Total	118,183	168,834

4. Prepayments

Prepayments include prepaid expenses related to items such as rent deposits , work advance payment and overpaid tax .

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Rent deposits	1,601	1,601
Debtors	433	627
Total	2,034	2,228

5. Cash and bank

Cash and bank balance represent liquidity at the disposal of CNVP as of the date of the balance sheet. The total balance consists of the balances of bank accounts owned by CNVP, three dedicated project bank accounts for Sida, (LED, SUNREED, PONT, ADA IFM), project accounts in Macedonia and Albania and cash on hand on December 31st, 2024.

The total project bank balances on December 31st, 202 was € 1,469,161, which was pre-received donor funds. Some of the project's bank accounts.

The remaining balance of € 560,948 reflects the cash held in CNVP's general account as of the balance sheet date.

At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
------------------	------------------

EUR -

EUR -

CNVP bank balances

Rabobank Netherlands	244,597	259,616
ProCredit Bank Albania	186,338	447,977
Procredit Bank Kosovo	67,782	99,473
Uni Bank Macedonia	11,784	6,564
NLB Bank Montenegro	8,001	16,347
NLB Bank LLE Kosovo	38,565	45,656
Uni Bank LLE Macedonia	30	23
Subtotal	557,096	875,655

Project bank accounts

Rabobank Netherlands, Project Sida LED2	473,603	632,128
Rabobank Netherlands, Project Sida Sunreed	374,987	236,178
Uni Bank Horison Moving	0	32
Uni Bank Sida Action for Climate	0	70,048
Uni Bank PONT 3-EUR	201,141	7,232
Uni Bank PONT 2-EUR	-	121,204
Procredit PONT 3-EUR	349,058	46,770
Uni Bank ADA IFM	54,448	20,992
Procredit PONT 4-EUR	14,355	0
Procredit UNDP-EUR	1,569	0
Subtotal	1,469,161	1,134,584

CNVP cash on hand

CNVP Albania	1,280	965
CNVP Kosovo	1,108	1,445
CNVP Macedonia	997	958
CNVP Montenegro	0	13
CNVP Macedonia LLE	66	131
CNVP Kosovo LLE	400	303

Subtotal

3,851

3,816

Total

2,030,109

2,014,055

*Note: due to rounding, difference of 1 euro may occur

Liabilities

Foundation's Capital

6. Reserve

The general reserve is for unrestricted use of CNVP, and it serves to ensure the continuity of the foundation.

The appropriated reserves relate to the project assets reserve. The project assets reserve for the depreciation of fixed assets that are purchased from donor's project funds. The expenditure of these assets is charged to the donor, and funds are transferred to the reserve of CNVP. The value of those fixed assets represents the net book value at the end of the year 2024 that will be used for the depreciation till the asset life span.

The summary of movements in the reserve accounts is given below.

	At 31-12-2024	Add result for period	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
General reserve	373,965	27,627	346,338
Appropriated reserve	71,462	680	70,782
Total	445,427	28,307	417,120

	At 31-12-2023	Add result for period	At 31-12-2022
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
General reserve	346,338	33,995	312,343
Appropriated reserve	70,782	70,782	
Total	417,120	104,777	312,343

	At 31-12-2022	Add result for period	At 31-12-2021
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
General reserve	312,343	19,725	292,618

Total	312,343	19,725	292,618
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Provisions

7. Reservation severances

There have been no reservation of severances for 2024

Current Liabilities

8. Payables

The amounts to be paid consist of organisational expenses incurred in 2024 that will be paid in 2025. The pre-received amounts is a balance of the donation of the Pieter Baastian Foundation related to the organisational development. Interest payable on donor funds consists of interest earned in project accounts.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Amounts to be paid	41,968	36,144
Debtors	2,067	2,067
Interest payable to donor funds	53	55
Total	44,088	38,267

9. Payroll taxes, social security and pension payable

This consists of the payroll tax withheld from CNVP staff salaries, social security and pension premium, both employee and employer share. Amounts payable for this item are withheld from employees, as well incurred as expenses from CNVP from December 2024 staff salaries to be paid in January 2025.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Payroll tax, social security & pension payable	12,312	17,638
Total	12,312	17,638

10. Grants provided

These are pre-received funds from the grant contracts that continue to be implemented beyond December 31st 2024. Part of the amount was recognised as income at the end of the year. The remaining amount is recognised as a liability.

In 2024, grant amounts from Sida and PONT and ADA IFM were provided based on the grant schedule and approved financial reports. The remaining amounts relate to smaller projects such as Action for Climate, PONT Women, Horizon2020 Moving etc.

The following table shows the balance of grants provided by donors to be used after December 31st, 2024.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Sida LED 2	490,060	706,172
Sida Sunreed	409,524	305,415
H2020 MOVING	10,805	10,084
EU CSO project	1,505	1,505
ADA IFM	203,929	369,479
Sida Action for Climate	0	64,845
Sharr Euronatur follow up	0	10,000
Pont RWoP Empowerment	0	8,590
Pont Korab Koritnik Sharr	579,260	286,977
Pont RWOP for SD of Prespa	14,389	0
Total	1,709,471	1,763,066

11. Accruals

Accruals consist of amounts of outstanding leave days accrued for 2024, disaggregated below.

	At 31-12-2024	At 31-12-2023
	EUR -	EUR -
Outstanding leave days	20,905	21,508
Total	20,905	21,508

Contingent assets and liabilities

There are no long term commitments on rental agreements or other contingent liabilities.

Notes to the Statement of Financial Performance at December 31st 2024

Income

12. Income from grants

Income generated from CNVP activities is classified as income from grants. Funds are made available to CNVP by donors, and are used for the benefit of third parties.

Beneficiaries do not pay for services provided by CNVP. Funds are transferrable to CNVP upon fulfilment and compliance with certain stipulations, as foreseen in various legal contracts that CNVP enters into with different donors. Income is recorded on an accrual basis, meaning that it is recognised when earned, not received.

Grant income is divided into advisory services that CNVP offers to third-party beneficiaries, and project expenses covered by donor contributions.

The income for 2024 from the Sida LED2 project was € 477,286, of which € 165,334 came from advisory services and € 311,952 from recoverable project expenses. The LED project subsidy period is from October 2019 to October 2025.

The income for 2024 from Sida SUNREED was € 582,329 of which € 262,325 was from advisory services and € 320,004 was from recoverable project expenses. The SUNREED project subsidy period is from January 2022 to December 31st, 2026.

The income for 2024 from PONT Korab Koritnik Sharr was € 670,596 of which €268,387 was from advisory services and € 402,209 was from recoverable project expenses. The project subsidy period is from September 2022 to December 31st, 2025.

The income for 2023 from ADA IFM was € 390,550, of which €144,130 was from advisory services and € 246,419 was from recoverable project expenses. The project subsidy period is from January 2023 to November 2025.

The other projects were small in size and were financed by the EU (Moving), PONT RWOP, UNDP SIDA AC, IFAD ILC and Euronatur. The subsidy period for these projects varies from January 2019 to December 2026.

The following table shows income from grants from January 01st to December 31st, 2024.

<u>Income from grants</u>	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
Project SIDA LED 2 - Advisory services	165,334	197,448	225,270
Project SIDA LED 2- Reimbursable project expenses	<u>311,952</u>	<u>530,900</u>	<u>245,466</u>
Subtotal	<u>477,286</u>	<u>728,348</u>	<u>470,736</u>
Project SIDA SUNREED - Advisory services	262,325	288,007	299,857
Project SIDA SUNREED 2- Reimbursable project expenses	<u>320,004</u>	<u>415,894</u>	<u>329,012</u>
Subtotal	<u>582,329</u>	<u>703,901</u>	<u>628,869</u>

Project PONT - Advisory services	268,387	254,170	202,886
Project PONT Reimbursable project expenses	402,209	771,513	85,534
Subtotal	670,596	1,025,683	288,420
Project ADA IFM - Advisory services	144,130	156,635	133,446
Project ADA IFM- Reimbursable project expenses	246,419	583,166	64,075
Subtotal	390,550	739,801	197,521
Other projects - Advisory services	57,947	55,815	80,607
Other projects - Reimbursable expenses	41,466	98,000	86,288
Subtotal	99,413	153,815	166,894
Total Income from grants	2,220,173	3,351,547	1,752,441

13. Other income

Other income in 2024 consisted of interest earned on CNVP funds & sale of assets.

Other Income

Net gain from sale of assets	203	0	98
Interest income from CNVP funds	2,283	0	1
Miscellaneous income	0	0	0
Subtotal	2,485	0	99
Total Income	2,222,658	3,351,547	1,752,539

Note on the difference between actual and budget figures for income

Project income is 66% realized. Lower realization in programme costs occurred because funds were not spent on key projects such as LED, SUNREED, and PONT. For LED and SUNREED, this is due to the complexity of the MSD approach, while for the PONT project, prepaid funds given to subgrantees were not recognized as costs.

Expenditure

14. Personnel



CNVP, on December 31st, 2024, had 26 employees.

Details about the remuneration of the EB, the SB, staff salaries and benefits, and other personnel-related expenses are given below.

Remuneration for the EB members consisted in 2024 of salary earned as well as other benefits, totalling € 71,328.

The SB members receive no remuneration for their activities. They are compensated for reasonable travel and business expenses incurred for board meetings and attendance fees. The total expense incurred for board meetings was € 4,400.

The total cost for staff salaries, social security taxes, and external and temporary staff amounts to €545,725.

	Actuals from 01 January to 31 December 2024	Budget from 01 January to 31 December 2024	Actuals from 01 January to 31 December 2023
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
Executive Board member salary Nehat Ramadani 01-01-2024 until 31-12-2024	38,856	38,856	38,856
Executive Board member other benefits Nehat Ramadani	0	0	0
Subtotal	<u>38,856</u>	<u>38,856</u>	<u>38,856</u>
Executive Board member salary Janaq Male 01-01-2024 until 31-12-2024	0	0	36,078
Executive Board member Janaq Male -other benefits	0	0	3,441
Subtotal	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>39,519</u>
Executive Board member salary Xhevat Lushi 01-01-2024 until 31-12-2024	30,240	30,240	30,240
Executive Board member Xhevat Lushi -other benefits	2,232	2,232	2,172
Subtotal	<u>32,472</u>	<u>32,472</u>	<u>32,412</u>

Board members - remuneration	0	0	0
Board meetings	<u>4,400</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>5,542</u>
Subtotal	<u>4,400</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>5,542</u>
Staff salaries	458,053	482,848	407,330
Social security contribution	37,412	36,561	28,371
Other benefits & expenses	4671	4820	5035
Outstanding Leave Days	(603)	0	3,114
Severances for NS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal	<u>499,533</u>	<u>524,228</u>	- <u>443,850</u>
	<u>46,192</u>	<u>41,700</u>	<u>54,564</u>
External & Temporary Support	<u>46,192</u>	<u>41,700</u>	<u>54,564</u>
Total personnel expenses	<u>621,453</u>	<u>645,256</u>	<u>614,744</u>

15. Depreciation of tangible fixed assets

The following shows the details of depreciation incurred in the period January-December 2024.

	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
	from 01 January to 31 December 2024	from 01 January to 31 December 2024	from 01 January to 31 December 2023
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
Depreciation vehicles	13,700	0	4029
Depreciation office equipment	8,372	0	4,263
Total depreciation expense	<u>22,072</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,292</u>

16. Other expenses

Other expenses include operating business expenses and project expenses.

	Actuals from 01 January to 31 December 2024	Budget from 01 January to 31 December 2024	Actuals from 01 January to 31 December 2023
	EUR -	EUR -	EUR -
<u>A.Operating expenses</u>			
Fuel & vehicle expenses	41,818	39,335	37,361
Travel & lodging	36,644	58,140	28,458
Office rent	41,068	38,280	39,484
Utilities & office maintenance	15,860	21,500	16,836
Communication & mailing	7,792	10,620	8,198
Office expense	28,062	49,800	32,094
Accounting & audit fees	47,214	55,860	37,668
Bank costs & x-rate differences	5,371	5,740	9,742
Other expenses	4,949	12,200	4,510
Subtotal	228,777	291,475	214,351
 <u>B.Project expenses</u>			
Programme Support	425,200	1,197,898	361,192
Local Capacity Building	34,931	81,150	41,465
Consultancy	307,614	503,143	251,798
Partnership cost	554,305	617,282	155,921
Subtotal	1,322,050	2,399,473	810,375
 Total expenditure	2,194,351	3,336,204	1,647,762

Note on the difference between actual and budget figures for expenditure

The anticipated expenses for 2024 are 66% realised. A detailed analysis was undertaken for all specific projects, addressing discrepancies during 2024. Lower realization in programme costs occurred because funds were not spent on key projects such as LED, SUNREED, and PONT. For the LED and SUNREED projects, the



under-spending is attributed to the complexities of the Market Systems Development (MSD) approach, which involves partner negotiations and occasional partner withdrawals from planned activities. For PONT, advances to sub-grantees were not recognized as costs, pending Q1 2025 expenditure reports. Looking ahead, CNVP is optimistic about 2025, with improved communication and established practices under the MSD approach anticipates increased expenditure levels as well as for the other projects. .

17. The results for the period

Appropriation of balance of income and expenditure

	Actuals	Budget	Actuals
	from 01 January to 31 December	from 01 January to 31 December	from 01 January to 31 December
	2024	2024	2023
General reserve	27,627	15,343	33,995
Appropriated reserve	680	0	70,782
Result for the period	28,307	15,343	104,777

Note on the difference between the actual and budget figures of result.

CNVP aims to establish long-term sustainability by enhancing its budgeting practices for indirect costs from projects, resulting in a surplus of 27,627€. Additionally, the appropriated reserve of €680 will be gradually utilised to cover the depreciation of project equipment.

Subsequent events

There are no significant subsequent events .

Hollandsche Rading, 30 June 2025

Executive Board

Mr. Xhevat Lushi
Mr. Nehat Ramadani
Ms. Anila Aliaj

Supervisory Board

Mr. Maarten Bremer
Chair of Supervisory Board

Mr. Thijs van Buuren
Supervisory Board member

Ms. Maria Johanna Meijboom
Supervisory Board member

Mr. Aurel Jupe
Supervisory Board member



Part C: Other Information

Independent auditor's report

A reference is made to the auditor's report, which is attached below.

Appropriation of result according to articles of association

The CNVP Foundation articles of association do not indicate specific requirements for appropriation of the result. Appropriation of the result will be made by the Foundation Board after the adoption of the annual accounts by the Supervisory Board within the limits of the goals of CNVP as set out in the articles of association.

To:
The Supervisory Board and the Executive Board of
CNVP - Connecting Natural Values & People

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of CNVP (in the following text "Foundation"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2024, the Statement of Financial Performance, and the Cash Flow Statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the IFRS. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

knowing you.

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To:
The Supervisory Board and the Executive Board of
CNVP - Connecting Natural Values & People

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (Continuation)

Auditor's opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements of CNVP give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Foundation as of 31 December 2024, as well as the operating results and the cash flow for the year then ended, in accordance with the IFRS.

Other matters

The Executive Board of the Foundation is also responsible for the preparation of the Executive Board's Annual Report. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Executive Board's Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024. Our work, which refers to the Executive Board's Annual Report, is carried out in accordance with ISA 720 and it is limited to reporting whether the historical financial information presented in the report is consistent with the audited financial statements.

The Executive Board's Annual Report of the Foundation is consistent in all material aspects with the financial statements of CNVP for the year ended 31 December 2024.

June 30, 2025

Certified Auditor
Zvonko Kocovski

Managing Partner
Nenad Torteovski

knowing you.

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I. Annex 1 Detailed project progress

Regional projects

Project Name	Status	Link to CNVP's strategy	Key Project Interventions 2024	Milestones up to 31 December 2024
Integrated Forest management in W. Balkans countries (AL, KO, NMK, MNE) Donor: ADA	01.12.2022 to 30.11.2025	Sustainable forest management, Climate change, Environment, water and natural resource management Renewable energy, primarily from wood and crop biomass Community mobilisation, governance and civil society European accession and policy questions related Chapter 27- Environment and water	Preparation of technical projects for afforestation activities and soil erosion control in each country Training of workers for afforestation and soil erosion control activities. Implement afforestation and soil erosion control activities in each country. Set up of different models of thinning aiming to properly address forest rehabilitation and stakeholder needs. Elaborate/revise forest action plan in collaboration with national and local stakeholders. Improved know-how and capacities for IFM along the Drin River Basin, awareness raising workshops and round tables. Participatory conservation and/or action plans for protected / potentially protected areas in Shala Valley, Puka and NM (Struga) are in place. Organize meetings/workshops with the target groups. Identification of biodiversity plots to be protected and collaboration with stakeholders to put them under protection. Applying ecological thinning as a potentially suitable management action by involving local communities. Organize meetings/workshops with local stakeholders to develop better understanding eco-friendly economic activities. Lobbying Meeting with the main stakeholders of the forestry sector and Vocational school for establishment of an extension service in the institutional framework and curricula. Awareness and know-how in IFM to increase cooperation among local communities, as well as forest users/owners and forestry experts Regional and international academic collaboration and research data on the benefits of IFM, PES and biomass heating systems is available	Workshop on income generation from protected areas Publish open the call for nature friendly economic activities Conduct analyses related to the cultivation of chestnuts in Albania and Kosovo Deliver tanning in afforestation and soil erosion control to association Continue with afforestation of 7 ha in Ana e Malit Finalise the study in forest change and high conservation areas along Drini River Basin Prepare manuals and open call for eco friendly economic activities Finalize the project for Erosion controle measures in Korthpule village Celebrate International Wetlands Day. Stakholders meeting on IFM contribution on water management wetland protection. Onsite traning on recovery of chestnut forests Celebration of Internation Day of Forests Support Municipalities along Drini River Basin on IFM planing, Prepare ToR-s and hire consultants. Prepare training modules on

			<p>Regional expertise in IFM and replicable good practices of related policies are available - NM Case studies IFM and case study community income generation</p> <p>Increased awareness for gender equality and mainstreaming in climate change and sustainable development.</p> <p>Monitoring, reporting and evaluation</p>	<p>Gender equality principles and land property rights (Deliver ToT and training</p> <p>Workshop on income generation from protected areas</p> <p>Start the process of building a biomass heating system linked to forest management of oak stands.</p> <p>Prepare training modules on Integrated Forest Management</p> <p>Prepare training modules on Marketing and business planning.</p>
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<p>Sustainable use of natural resources in Korab Koritnik, Shar, and the Albanian Alps", Donor: PONT</p>	<p>Started on 01.09.2022 to 31.12.2025</p>	<p>Rural Development, Sustainable Natural Resource Management ,Community Mobilisation</p>	<p>Training for grantees (finances and visibility) and monitoring of their work. Capacity building of grantees – training for writing interim report and final report. Mapping of potential grantees who could be financially supported</p> <p>Successfully conducted two additional open calls for sub-granting.</p> <p>Successfully was organized 2 study visits and 2 working visits. The common theme of all visits was knowledge exchange, improvement of best practices, strengthening collaboration among grantees in protected areas, and reviewing project progress.</p> <p>Two-day regional conference was successfully held in Mavrovo, organized by CNVP North Macedonia. The two-day event was attended by 180 participants from North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo.</p> <p>Production of the 6 promotional videos showcasing the achievements of CNVP/PONT sub-grantees. The videos proved to be an effective tool for promoting our work and increasing the visibility of nature conservation efforts within the supported projects.</p> <p>Support local organizations and households to apply new NTFP SU practices and add value to their services and products (support 100 households with organic cultivation of MAP varieties)</p>	<p>Prepare Grants Manual and other technical documents for the calls related to Biodiversity, NTFPs and nature based tourism.</p> <p>2 Open calls for proposals, receive applications, award grants. Prepare grants Train the sub grantees on financial management, reporting and procurement procedures. Coaching on visibility and communication Monitor the implementation of activities by former sub grantees. Organise Familiarisation tour in Korab Koritnik Albania Organise a regional workshop on stakeholder engagement in tourism services. Prepare news articles and improve project visibility.</p>
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Albania

Project Name	Status	Link to CNVP's strategy	Key Project Interventions 2024	Milestones up to 31 December 2024
Local Economic Development (LED), Donor: Sida	1 October 2020 to 31 December 2024	-Forestry, agro-forestry and sustainable forest management, including the development of nontimber forest product value chains -Agri-rural development, including eco-tourism -Renewable energy, primarily from wood and crop biomass -Community mobilisation, governance and civil society	<p>Outcome 1: Improved MAPs (and other NWFPs) productivity Interventions under this area aim to improve the MAPs (and other NWFPs) productivity so that it generates enhanced incomes for rural households, which will involve partnering with the private sector.</p> <p>Outcome 2: MAPs (and other NWFPs) private sector market actors have sustainable pro-poor business models. This intervention area involves partnering with a range of private sector actors to stimulate new investments.</p> <p>Outcome 3: Enabling environment policies and regulations promote fair and sustainable practices Interventions under this area aim to improve the general enabling environment for MAPs market actors, which will involve partnering with the public sector to support them to create policies and regulations which are consistent, unbiased and equitable.</p>	<p>Sign and implement four new Partnership Agreements with MAP exporters and consolidators who have the capacities and incentive to invest in drying technologies (three solar-powered greenhouse dryers and one biomass-powered drying chamber).</p> <p>Organise regional workshops to share best practices</p> <p>Sign and implement two new partnership agreements with MAP companies. One PA for a MAPs harvesting machinery. This investment supports mechanized harvesting of herbs, by reducing labor, time, and losses.</p> <p>Another PA for roots washing machinery with related aggregates. This mechanized washing and cutting of roots, enhances processing efficiency and product quality.</p> <p>Sign and implement two new PAs with nurseries in the project area for improving</p>

				<p>seeds and seedling production as well as increased access to good agriculture practice and market requirements. Sign and implement two new PAs with MAP companies for supporting more farmers to cultivate MAPs in their lands as the best alternative to secure more incomes.</p> <p>Prepare an impact assessment of LED project.</p>
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Project Name	Status	Link to CNVP's strategy	Key Project Interventions 2024	Milestones up to 31 December 2024
Empowering women for NTFPs development of Prespa Donor: PONT	Started on 1-st of June 2021 to 31-st of May 2024	Sustainable natural resource management Rural development Community mobilisation	Awareness increases on shifting from collecting to cultivation NTFP Database of the NTFP collectors in the region of Prespa MoU with key stakeholders in Prespa region; Capacity development of RWoP on various topics. Study visit to Albania on sharing experiences and knowledge on best practices	On the 17th, 18th and 19th of May, study trip to Albania was realized. Blerina Bombay farm, an agrotourism concept, Arditi MAP processing company and Nderim Qato - plant nursery was visited. Final event, i.e. the conference of the Rural Women of Prespa, was realized on June 8, 2024.
Rural women for sustainable development of Prespa (RWoP) - PONT	Started on 1-st of June 2024 to 31-st of May 2027	Sustainable natural resource management Rural development Community mobilisation	Cultivated new farming species, including Prespa tea in the Prespa region. Catering dishes for catering activities of RWoP.	7 plot sites are identified for cultivation of new farming species and Prespa tea. 3 meetings with the RWoP were held to agree on catering dishes
Capacity Building Program for Sustainable Tourism with a Focus on Non-Timber Forest Products – Donor UNDP	Started on 1-st of June 2024 to 31-st of May 2027	Sustainable natural resource management Rural development Community mobilisation	Activity 2.1.1.1: Capacity building on processing, packaging, branding and marketing of NTFP's to PWC Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop catering services that include local food specialties with NTFP's from the Prespa region and their promotion in the region. Activity 2.1.2.2: Establishment of at least 7 pilot sites for cultivation of new farming species a Activity 2.1.2.3: Involvement of at least 15 new women and young collectors of NTFP's in PWC.	Developed 3 catering services that include local food specialties with NTFP's from the Prespa region. Establishment of 7 pilot sites for cultivation of new farming species (List of 7 new plots sites from the RWoP)– including Prespa tea and 3 new species. 11 new members accepted in RWoP. 3 workshops for packaging, branding and marketing of NTFP's, with 15 women involved

<p>Civil Society Action for Climate Donor: SIDA</p>	<p>Started on 01.11.2021 to 31.05.2024</p>	<p>Climate change, European accession, Renewable energy, Sustainable natural resource management, Community mobilisation</p>	<p>Organising Covenant of Mayors event and signing of declaration Covenant of Mayors 2024 Organizing Award giving campaign / topic Sustainable leaving and lowering the carbon footprint period December 2023/January 2024 Study visit in Sweden for mayors April 2024 Round table meetings of the CSOs Climate Coalition; Support the work of Regional coordinators; Production of publication materials (online and hard copies); Cooperation with governmental institutions in part of facilitation inter-sectoral cooperation; national and local governmental institutions are aware of the importance of cooperation on climate change issues and aligning country policies</p>	<p>Covenant of Mayors was successfully organized on 31st of January 2024. 34 mayors has signed the Declaration on active environment protection and climate change mitigating.</p> <p>Successfully finished Award giving campaign. 3 persons awarded.</p> <p>Solar Fair successfully organized 80000 visitors.</p> <p>A round table meetings (RTM) were organized for the Climate Coalition (CC) for strengthening and coordinating the work of the coalition and its members.</p> <p>Supported the work of 8 regional coordinators with different activities in the regions.</p>
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<p>MOVING - Mountain Valorisation Through Interconnectedness & Green growth Donor: EU, Horizon 2020 programme</p>	<p>Started on 01.09.2020 to 31.8.2024</p>	<p>Sustainable natural resource management, rural development, Community Mobilisation, Climate Change ,European Accession</p>	<p>European wide Community of Practices (CoP) on Mountain Value Chains: share knowledge, develop policy frameworks, strategic tools and clustering; Virtual Research Environment (VRE): remote interaction among project components and offer reliable, secure, and trusted access to data and data mining tools; Easy to read maps, indicators, simulations and digital stories: to raise awareness of vulnerability, assets and the strategies; Explore value chains: 24 reference regions focusing on a) local assets; b) socio ecological systems connections with the value chains c) the business models; d) women and young people as drivers of change; e) governance arrangements; MOVING2 will carry out 30 foresight exercises (24 at local level, 5 at cross regional level, 1 at European level) to deliver a knowledge and experience base for future policies at local, regional, national and European levels Implementation of exploitation and dissemination strategy of the MOVING Project findings: participating in community of learning, dissemination of lessons learned and processes that might be useful for local counterparts of CNVP in general and on a country level Exploring commercialisation of the exploitation and dissemination of the entire MOVING project process Business development: exploring opportunities for developing project activities based on a finding of the researchers implemented through MOVING Project</p>	<p>Development of the Exploitation and Dissemination Strategy</p> <p>Study Visit to Romania From 22–26 April 2024</p> <p>Scientific Conference and Steering Committee Meeting – Córdoba, Spain In March 2024,</p> <p>Project Completion and Reporting, August 2024.</p>
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Kosovo

Project Name	Status	Link to CNVP's strategy	Key Project Interventions 2024	Milestones up to 31 December 2024
SUNREED Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for Environment and Economic Development Donor: Sida	Started: 01 January 2022 Expected completion 31 December 2026	Forestry, agro-forestry and sustainable forest management, including development of Non Timber Forest Product value Chains Climate change Environment and natural resource management Renewable energy, primarily from wood and crop biomass Community mobilisation, governance and civil society European accession and policy questions related particularly to Chapter 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development) and Chapter 27 (Environment) of the Acquis Communautaire	Facilitate the process of entering into partnership agreements. Improve access to markets for increased participation of women (and youth) in forest product markets, such as non-wood forest products (NWFPs), medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs), and forest fruits, and address opportunities to improve business models of local nurseries Capacity building of APFOs and NAPFOs (women/ men) on biodiversity, climate change and ways to improve biodiversity and address potential negative consequences from climate change (climate change adaptation). Support drafting of the roadmap on carbon marketing which will also cover Carbon Trading System based on European Trade System (ETS) Establishment of a national-level forum and organization of meetings to develop a roadmap for wood biomass. Facilitate partnership agreements to establish biomass collection points.	15 Partnership Agreements (PAs) were implemented and monitored with total amount of investments €474,000. 50 farmers (22 women) have improved seedlings supply through the partnership with Agrosqiponja, improving agricultural diversification potential. 6 additional APFOs have been trained on biodiversity, climate change, and gender mainstreaming. 150 PFOs have increased their knowledge on forest management, and 2 new services were delivered by NAPFO/APFO - biomass marketing and technical advisory services. The final roadmap on carbon marketing was completed. Roadmap on wood biomass was finalised and shared with key stakeholders and preparatory event for Forum took place One wood biomass collection point was established in partnership with NTSH Dardani

			<p>Facilitate partnership agreements to establish FGT plantations and seedling production.</p> <p>Supporting the preparation of proposals for wood-biomass heating systems for submission to the Kosovo Fund for Energy Efficiency and other funding opportunities</p> <p>Support the formation of women core groups within APFOs to strengthen the role of women in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Support the creation Women Rural Entrepreneurs Network to bring together WYPGs and organize meetings to create a platform for learning and exchange</p> <p>Continue to support APFOs and NAPFOs to advocate on the existing legal and policy framework.</p> <p>Organization of exchange visit in the Region and in EU member state of a joint group of stakeholders</p>	<p>Four hectares of fast-growing tree plantations (poplar and black locust) and nursery for propagation were established</p> <p>Three feasibility studies were completed for biomass heating systems.</p> <p>In total, five regional Women Core Groups for gender mainstreaming were established across Kosovo (Gjilan, Prishtina, Peja, Prizren, and Ferizaj).</p> <p>Three new groups were established</p> <p>Policy (3) events were held</p> <p>5 study visits were organised in EU member states</p>
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<p>Sustainable Future for Shar/ Korab-Koritnik Donor: Jensen Funds and EURONATUR</p>	<p>"Started 01 October 2023 Expected completion 01 January 2025 "</p>	<p>Forestry, agroforestry sustainable forest management, including development of non-timber forest product value chains; Agri-rural development, including eco-tourism</p>	<p>Identification and amplification of the most successful model projects as lighthouse project for rural development and protected area management.;</p> <p>Assessment and evaluation of the implemented model projects, incl. further data/knowledge collection from local actors and involved stakeholders; social aspects will be considered during the assessment;</p> <p>Workshops about bees and beekeeping;</p> <p>Action to strengthen the vision of a trilateral protected area increasing visibility of the transboundary area;</p>	<p>Promoted Etniku on social media and distributed materials at events and key locations.</p> <p>Provided 6 beehives, 10 info tables, 500 brochures, a banner, and a light-up sign.</p> <p>Local actors joined events like European Day of Parks, European Green Belt Days, and International Mountain Day.</p> <p>LAG Sharri joined cross-border discussions on sustainable development.</p> <p>Organized exchange visit with LAGs and farmers from regional countries. LAG Sharri and NP Sharri promoted local products and shared project success internationally.</p>
<p>National Land Coalition (NLC)</p>	<p>Started on September 2024 to December 2026</p>	<p>Sustainable natural resource management</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Community mobilisation</p>	<p>1. Follow-up on the implementation of the forest strategy 2022-2030 and advocate for small forest owners</p> <p>2. Initiate work on climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection</p> <p>3. Promote inclusive decision-making processes and women empowerment</p> <p>4. Finalize platform's management task in conjunction with the beginning of the 2025-2027 ILC EMENA triennium.</p>	<p>-Position paper on permit procedures for private forest owners; two workshops organized</p> <p>-Position paper on women empowerment. Four workshops organized</p> <p>-Assessment report and materials for the youth training program on climate change; Regional workshop organized with youth participation</p> <p>-The NLC facilitator is appointed, followed by the</p>

				<p>convening of the inaugural Platform Meeting. It was collaborative work on the Strategy for Land Protection in Kosovo, promoting sustainable and inclusive land governance.</p> <p>All deliverables were developed in consultation with NLC committee, aligned with the goals of the ILC EMENA region</p>
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