



NEWSLETTER

CNVP ALBANIA



Feature Story

From Fire Damage to Ecological Recovery

At Liqeni i Dushkut in Gramsh, the landscape tells two stories. One is marked by fire and damaged terrain. The other is being written now, through rows of young black pine trees bringing life back to the land. Led by CNVP Albania, with support from Raiffeisen Invest Albania and in partnership with the Municipality of Gramsh, this restoration effort is turning a fire-affected area into a model of ecological recovery. With CNVP's technical guidance and Raiffeisen's financial support, more than 10,000 black pine seedlings

have been planted across 5 hectares surrounding the glacial lake. The intervention helps restore vegetation, stabilize soil, reduce erosion, and strengthen biodiversity. During a recent field visit, representatives from partner institutions visited the site to observe the progress firsthand. As CNVP Albania Director Anila Aliaj noted, restoration takes time, patience, and strong partnerships. Though still young, the pines already signal a clear message: recovery is underway.



Austrian Delegation Witnesses Forest Recovery

More than 70 representatives from the Austrian Association of Municipalities visited Ana e Malit in Shkodër to observe how forest restoration is transforming degraded landscapes. Hosted by CNVP Albania and ADA, the visit highlighted tangible results from the IFM project, where ecological restoration and community development go hand in hand.

Spotlight

CNVP Albania at CASEE Conference

At the CASEE Conference in Tirana, CNVP Albania, together with the [AUT](#), presented results from nature-based solutions along the Drin River Basin.



Quick Updates



IFM Project: CNVP Albania & ADA monitoring the grantees progress



Pulse Project: 4 Returns framework completed the 1st faze of workshops on losses identifications

In the Field

Austrian Delegation Witnesses Forest Recovery

On 8 May, CNVP Albania and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) welcomed more than 70 representatives from the Austrian Association of Municipalities during a field visit to Ana e Malit in Shkodër. The visit was part of a wider study tour in Albania, offering participants a direct view of forest restoration efforts on the ground. The delegation visited a restored forest area where native tree species have been planted to rehabilitate degraded land. The intervention is already generating visible results, including reduced soil erosion,

improved terrain stability, and gradual biodiversity recovery. Through the IFM project, mixed native plantations are helping strengthen ecosystem resilience and long-term environmental sustainability. A second stop was made at the Eco Social Farm, another initiative supported by the IFM project. Alongside its agricultural activities, the farm promotes social inclusion by

engaging children and individuals in vulnerable situations, including people with special needs. For CNVP Albania, the visit showcased how international cooperation can deliver measurable environmental and social impact. It also reaffirmed the value of regional collaboration across Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia in advancing sustainable development.



4 RETURNS 1ST PHASE COMPLETED



RETURN OF INSPIRATION

Connecting people to the landscape and inspiring them to care for nature: planting seeds of hope for a brighter future.



NATURAL RETURNS

Restoring biodiversity and soils for healthy and resilient landscapes: renewing nature.



SOCIAL RETURNS

Bringing back jobs, social connections, and effective governance: the building blocks of thriving, resilient communities.



FINANCIAL RETURNS

Creating long-term economic prosperity and resilience for communities via new business models and income streams.

CNVP Albania completed trainings and workshops in Novosej, Radomirë, Lepushë, and Dragobi under the PULSE project.

These activities marked the end of the first phase of the 4 Returns Framework, focused on identifying local needs and priorities for the next stage of landscape restoration.

Community and stakeholder input highlighted key challenges such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, and limited livelihood opportunities, helping shape tailored solutions for each area.

Action Spotlight

CNVP Albania Leads Biodiversity Action with Local Schools

On 13 May 2026, more than 100 students from Novosej and Shishtavec schools joined a biodiversity awareness and environmental action day at Kallabaku Lake, within Korab–Koritnik Natural Park.

Organized by CNVP Albania and the Regional Agency of Protected Areas (RAPA) Kukës under the PULSE – Protecting Unique Landscapes & Species project, the activity combined environmental education with practical action.

Students participated in a clean-up activity along the “Shtegu i Ngjyrave” trail while learning waste separation and the importance of protecting biodiversity. RAPA specialists and firefighters also shared guidance on nature conservation and fire prevention.

The initiative strengthened youth awareness and encouraged shared responsibility for protecting the natural values of Korab–Koritnik.



Project Focus

SIDA Delegation Sees Results of CNVP's LED Project in Malësia e Madhe



A delegation from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), led by Acting Director General Hanna Hellquist and Board members, visited Malësia e Madhe to see results of the Local Economic Development (LED) Project implemented by CNVP Albania in the medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) sector.

The visit started at Salvia Nord, a nursery supported by the LED Project, which produces indigenous seedlings and serves as a genetic garden for farmers, students, and researchers. The facility has become an important source of quality planting material for local producers.

Today, around 300 farmers in the area cultivate sage, thyme, oregano, and other MAPs across more than 5,000 hectares,



benefiting from improved access to adapted seedlings and planting material. The delegation then visited LNL Herbs, where focus shifted from cultivation to processing. Supported by the LED Project, the company has installed three biomass-powered drying units, improving efficiency and preserving product quality.

These upgrades strengthen post-harvest handling and reduce losses, enabling better market access. Last season, LNL Herbs exported around 200 tons of processed MAPs, mainly sage, to international markets.

The visit highlighted how the LED Project, through a Market System Development (MSD) approach, connects small farmers with processing companies and strengthens the entire value chain, unlocking the economic potential of the sector in rural areas.

CNVP Albania Completes Afforestation Under IFM



CNVP Foundation Albania has completed afforestation work in Ana e Malit, Vau i Dejës, and Pukë under the Integrated Forest Management Along the Drin River Basin (IFM) project, helping restore areas affected by erosion, dry soil, and fire risk.

A total of 48,565 seedlings were planted across 22 hectares using native species such as chestnut, walnut, olive, oak, cypress, laurel, poplar, and willow to create more resilient and diverse forest ecosystems.

Implemented with the National Forest Agency, municipalities, academic institutions, local NGOs, and community members, the activity is expected to improve soil and water protection, support biodiversity, and create future livelihood opportunities for local families.

Success Stories

Shala Valley: Protecting Biodiversity Through Collective Action



In the heart of one of Albania's most important natural landscapes, the Shala Valley hosted a two-day field visit on 23–24 June 2026, bringing together representatives from national institutions, academia, environmental agencies, and development partners to focus on biodiversity protection and sustainable forest management.

Organized by CNVP Albania under the Integrated Forest Management in the Transboundary Drin River Basin project, the visit created a platform for field-based learning and technical exchange on the ecological value of the area and the need for coordinated protection efforts. Participants, including representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), protected area institutions, municipalities, and universities, traveled through Lake Koman to reach the valley, observing its rich ecosystems and biodiversity along the way.

Discussions throughout the visit highlighted key challenges such as habitat degradation, erosion, and pressure on natural resources, alongside opportunities for improved forest governance and sustainable land management. A dedicated seminar explored how protected area management contributes not only to biodiversity conservation, but also to rural livelihoods, tourism development, and long-term community resilience.

As part of the activity, informational signboards were installed across selected sites in the valley to strengthen environmental awareness and promote responsible engagement with nature. The initiative reaffirmed CNVP Albania's role in connecting institutions, technical expertise, and local stakeholders to support practical, field-based solutions for ecosystem protection across the Drin River Basin region.

Tips to Read

- Women Leading Change in Albania's MAPs Sector. [Read more](#)
- Introducing the "4 Returns" Framework in Albania: A New Approach for Nature and Communities. [Read more](#)

Stay in Touch

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