



Building a Greener Economic Environment



What makes CNVP tick?

(at 15 June 2019)

Status:

- Is a Dutch registered CSO.
- Has registered branch offices in Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mission:

To use evidence-based analysis to improve the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities in the western Balkans affected by ongoing environmental and climate change.

Main focal areas:

1. promote rural and urban agriculture, natural resource management, forestry and agro-forestry, renewable energy and governance to reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities, as well as achieve sustainable development without degrading the environment;
2. encourage improvements in: unsafe water supply, sanitation and drainage; solid, plastic and hazardous waste management; and air pollution; and
3. help countries to transition to a more **circular bioeconomy**, (where the value of products, materials and resources is maintained for as long as possible, the use of renewable energy is maximised, and the generation of waste is minimised), in order to promote sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive **green growth/employment**.

Six key areas of capacity building/strengthening:

1. Sustainable forest management
2. Climate change, environment and NRM
3. Agri-rural development
4. Renewable energy and waste management
5. Community mobilisation, governance and civil society
6. European accession and related policy questions

1. Sustainable forest management

- Multi-functional systems for farmer-focused forestry (small-scale, private or communal) to develop forest production, utilization and monitoring
- Forest governance and legislative reform, including evidence-based forest policy, decentralized forest management and joint forest management
- Forest certification capacity building to improve forest governance, strategic planning and decision-making
- Development of timber/non-timber forest product value chains through the improved organization of producers/collectors
- Agro-forestry, inter-cropping, permaculture and silvi-culture, as well as forestry and orchard establishment/management
- Innovative forest practices and use of appropriate technology, including GIS and GPS surveys, as well as drones
- Civil society monitoring to improve forest protection, overcome illegal logging, reduce corruption and enhance government accountability
- National timber tracking and revenue collection systems, and satellite monitoring of forests to improve law enforcement
- Build SME forest enterprises' capacity to help them comply with laws and regulations of the 'formal' sector

2. Climate change, environment and NRM

- Climate change mitigation measures and environmental impact assessments (EIAs)
- Disaster risk reduction (illegal logging and sand/gravel extraction, as well as soil erosion and excess flooding), and national/local food security
- Sustainable natural resource management (NRM), including forest inventories, as well as the efficient use and conservation of water, including transboundary pollution
- Support for green infrastructure, nature conservation, bio-diversity and eco-system restoration, including national parks and other protected areas, as well as watershed management
- Improved land use, tenure, management and consolidation, including securing property rights through use of participatory mapping, (plus CNVP membership of International Land Coalition (ILC))
- Carbon sequestration/capture, and carbon sinks

3. Agri-rural development

- Job creation, income generation and improved rural livelihoods through better market access and rural diversification, including the development of eco-tourism
- Value chain development for high value agri-forestry-energy products/services – production, processing, storage, transport and sale to domestic/export markets
- Certification of organic agriculture
- Promotion of area-based development, including mountain areas
- Support for rural development networks and rural youth
- Socio-economic re-integration of repatriated individuals/families, economic migrants and refugees

4. Renewable energy and waste management

- Replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy, particularly wood biomass, short rotation crops and bio-energy production
- Monitoring opportunities for other forms of renewable energy in rural areas e.g. geo-thermal, solar, wind, mini-hydro and tidal
- Increased use of energy audits and carbon credits
- Raised awareness about how to improve the management of household and industrial waste

5. Community mobilisation, governance and civil society

- Empowering rural women through building ownership and trust
- Developing private and communal forest and pasture owner/user associations
- Strengthening organisations and supporting institutional development, including multi-stakeholder processes, advocacy, lobbying and promotion of democratic governance
- Developing local action groups (LAGs) based on LEADER principles
- Establishing National Rural Parliaments with which to bring rural communities, rural CSOs and rural development networks closer to national and local level policy/decision makers

6. European accession and related policy questions

- Application of EU standards in agri-rural and forestry development
- Approximation of national legislation with that of the *acquis communautaire*
- Use of policy simulations, particularly related to Chapters 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development) and 27 (Environment) of the *acquis*
- Development of evidence-based ‘Green Economics’, budget support for the environment sector, and green financing
- Implementation of measures in Agriculture and Rural Development Programmes for 2014-20 funded through IPARD II and the European Neighbourhood Instrument

Works with centralised/decentralised governments on issues covering:

1. evidence-based strategic sector reviews, annual and medium term budget analysis;
2. identification of alternative sources of funding;
3. land registration and land consolidation;
4. fast growing forest plantations, and use of wood bio-mass for public buildings;
5. nature conservation, including protection against soil erosion and fire prevention on forested lands, as well as support for national parks, protected areas and other area-based conservation measures at local level;
6. transboundary (water/air) pollution, including rehabilitation of damaged land;
7. waste management, and production of energy from waste/sewage;
8. rural infrastructure, including improved water supply (for better community health);
9. technical, social and physical management skills of municipality staff;
10. consultancy and incubator support for the promotion of SMEs;
11. service delivery for mountain area/eco-tourism service delivery, using cluster policy;
12. awareness raising concerning environment/climate change;
13. socio-economic re-integration of repatriates, economic migrants and refugees;
14. development of public-private partnerships; and
15. promotion of social entrepreneurship.

Supports private sector partners by:

1. representing and promoting them commercially at country and regional level;
2. being a reliable partner in and around the Balkan region;
3. providing inputs to project design, based on local knowledge and sound expertise;
4. supplying key experts and non-key experts;
5. providing consultancy on Chain of Custody (CoC) certification for the wood industry;
6. offering high quality project management, financial and monitoring systems;
7. providing technical support to identify/create/support competitive rural business models;
8. supporting the development of agriculture, forestry and energy value chains;
9. facilitating meetings with key public, private and CSO sector stakeholders;
10. gathering data through sample surveys, including field interviews;
11. accessing local translation and interpretation services;
12. providing logistical support through a network of offices in the Balkans;
13. creating public-private partnerships with government at central and local levels;
14. Promoting social entrepreneurship to create sustainable employment opportunities;
15. applying corporate social responsibility to address priority issues;
16. improving communication with all stakeholders concerning the EU integration process; and
17. issuing press releases to, and coordinating interviews with, local and regional press/media.

Key skills:

- Has an international reputation as a facilitator, using tried and tested analytical, consulting, advisory, coaching, mentoring, demonstration and knowledge transfer skills to achieve long-term sustainability of development activities.
- Implements donor-funded projects at central level (in ministries of agriculture, forestry, rural development and environment), as well as at municipality and community levels.
- Is involved in the design, implementation and facilitation of in-country, cross-border and regional projects in the Western Balkans.

Member of following organisations:

- International Land Coalition (ILC), <http://www.landcoalition.org/>
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), <https://www.iucn.org/>
- Partnership for Rural Europe (PREPARE), <http://www.preparenetwork.org/>
- Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), <https://www.pefc.org/>
- Rural Development Network, Montenegro, <http://www.balkan-noborder.com/content/network-rural-development-montenegro-0>
- European Green Belt Initiative, <https://europeangreenbelt.org/>
- Forest Extension Network (FOREXT), <https://www.efi.int/projects/forext-forest-extension-network>
(*observer status; application pending*)

Cooperation agreements signed:

- Centre for Environmental and Resource Economics (CERE), Swedish Agriculture University, Umea, Sweden, <http://www.cere.se/en/about-cere.html>
- Nerco Consulting, Athens, Greece, <http://www.nerco.gr/index.php/en/the-company-en>
- Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Belgrade, <http://www.zzps.rs/novo/index.php?jezik=en&strana=naslovna>

Projects under implementation:

1. Forests for local economic development (2014-19), Albania, (Sida)
2. Development of tourism in Diber Region, Albania, (USAID/Sida)
3. Local economic development (2019-20), Albania, Sida
4. Afforestation, training and education on community forestry, Albania, (ADA)
5. Strengthening sustainable private and decentralized forestry (2014-20), Kosovo, (Sida)
6. National rural parliament, Macedonia, (EU)
7. Communities communicating climate change, Macedonia, (EU)
8. Achieving biodiversity conservation through creation/effective management of protected areas and mainstreaming biodiversity into land use planning, Macedonia, (UNEP)
9. Improved management of small forest properties in private ownership, Macedonia, (FAO)
10. CSOs driving rural development, Montenegro, (EU)
11. Regional action for combating forest crime and corruption, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro, (NORAD)
12. Generating momentum on water and forests in the Balkans, (DBU Germany)

Key stakeholders:

- Central government and municipalities
- Private sector, including forest and pasture owner/user associations
- Agriculture and forestry cooperatives
- Forest and environmental protection agencies
- Producers' organisations and women's groups
- Rural development networks and rural youth
- Economic migrants, refugees and repatriated individuals
- Local communities, NGOs, CSOs and LAGs
- Universities and research institutions
- Multilateral and bilateral development partners
- The media

Seeking partners in:

1. carbon sequestration/capture/sinks/budgets, climate change;
2. nature conservation, biodiversity, Natura 2000;
3. protected areas, national parks, wetlands;
4. forestry, agro-forestry;
5. environmental crime;
6. circular bioeconomy, green growth/employment;
7. eco/agro-tourism;
8. local, area-based and regional economic development;
9. value chain development, cluster policy;
10. municipal/district heating using renewable energy;
11. waste management;
12. rural youth, outward migration;
13. LEADER, local action groups (LAGs);
14. Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, Life;
15. smart villages, digital innovation hubs; and
16. clusters of change, innovation start-up/scale-up, ecosystem development.

Supports Aarhus Convention which establishes the rights of the public (individuals and associations) to:

1. receive environmental information that is held by public authorities;
2. participate in environmental decision-making; and
3. review the procedures used, in order to challenge public decisions that have been made without respecting Points 1 and 2 or the environmental law in general i.e. access to justice.

Is monitoring the European enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans, including the EU's six Flagship Initiatives to target specific areas of transformational interest:

1. Strengthen the rule of law;
2. Reinforce engagement on security and migration;
3. Enhance support for socio-economic development;
4. Increase transport and energy connectivity;
5. Facilitate a digital agenda; and
6. Support reconciliation and good neighbourly relations.

(see : https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/eu-western-balkans-strategy-credible-enlargement-perspective_en)

What differentiates CNVP from other NGOs working in the Balkans?

1. Is registered as a branch of CNVP Netherlands in all six western Balkan countries, with its local staff supported by more than 30 Associate Experts;
2. Has in-depth knowledge in multiple areas, including national parks/protected areas, nature conservation, biodiversity, wetlands, forestry and agro-forestry, women's economic empowerment, value chain development, wood biomass for renewable energy, nature conservation, environmental protection, climate change, governance and national rural parliaments;
3. Has extensive experience of working at municipality and community levels;
4. Is involved in the implementation of regional projects in the western Balkan countries;
5. Operates management and financial systems for large, medium and small donor-funded projects; and
6. Is familiar with the EU accession process, including National Programmes for Adoption of the Acquis, particularly related to Chapter 11 (Agriculture and Rural Development) and Chapter 27 (Environment).

Core values:

1. **Green** – intervenes to build a greener economic environment within the ongoing process of climate change
2. **Clean** – promotes renewable energy and improved household/industrial waste management
3. **Seen** – operates in all six countries of the western Balkans
4. **Lean** – improves continuously and systematically the efficiency of its service delivery

Finally, we live in an uncertain world, particularly now having to adapt to and mitigate climate change, extreme weather conditions and environmental degradation.

In an attempt to manage such change, Plan A should always be backed-up by Plan B (and preferably Plan C).

But, don't forget: **There is no Planet B.**



Thank you for your attention.



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