



# NEWSLETTER

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**CNVP ALBANIA**


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## | Feature Story

# Launch of the PULSE Project

The PULSE project marks a new phase in CNVP Albania's work on landscape restoration and community development. Funded by Prespa Ohrid Nature Trust, the project introduces the 4 Returns Framework in Albania for the first time, linking environmental recovery with tangible economic and social benefits. It focuses on restoring degraded ecosystems while creating opportunities for local communities to build sustainable livelihoods connected to nature.

Implementation has started in targeted areas within protected landscapes, where CNVP is working directly with local actors to develop nature-based solutions that generate long-term value. The approach is practical: combine conservation with income generation, strengthen local value chains, and ensure that restoration efforts translate into measurable returns for people, land, and local economies.


## | Spotlight


### Reforestation in Gramsh

The reforestation project in Gramsh, supported by Raiffeisen Invest, focuses on restoring fire-damaged forest areas near Liqeni i Dushkut. Around 10 000 black pine seedlings are being planted across 5 hectares, combining ecosystem recovery with local employment.



## | Quick Updates

 **New Initiative:** Forestation of 5 ha in Korthpulë with chestnut and acacia

 **IFM Project:** CNVP to support 6 eco – friendly farmers in Puka



### CNVP and Sweden Review LED Progress

CNVP Albania held the LED annual meeting with the Embassy of Sweden in Albania, combining field visits with a review of 2025 results. Progress across the MAPs value chain was evident, from improved seedlings to better processing and market access.

| In the Field

# CNVP Albania Driving Restoration on the Ground

Afforestation efforts in early 2026 have focused on restoring degraded forest areas through practical fieldwork and long-term environmental goals. A new initiative supported by **Raiffeisen Invest** is addressing fire-damaged land by planting around 10,000 black pine seedlings across 5 hectares near Liqeni i Dushkut. The intervention aims to restore forest cover while stabilizing the landscape and reducing future environmental risks.

In parallel, work in Korthpulë under the Integrated Forest Management project, supported by **Austrian Development Agency**, has focused on afforestation and erosion control. Degraded land has been rehabilitated through tree planting and anti - erosion structures, already improving soil stability and supporting vegetation recovery.

Across both sites, the approach combines restoration with local engagement. Community members have been directly involved in planting and fieldwork, generating short-term income while supporting environmental recovery. This reflects CNVP’s model-linking ecosystem restoration with practical, community-based solutions that deliver visible results.



## “4 RETURNS” FRAMEWORK



**RETURN OF INSPIRATION**

Connecting people to the landscape and motivating 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.

The 4 Returns Framework, developed by Commonland, is an approach to landscape restoration that delivers environmental, social, and economic benefits. It focuses on restoring ecosystems while creating value for communities. In Albania, it is being introduced through CNVP’s PULSE project in selected areas of the Albanian Alps and Korab–Koritnik, linking conservation with sustainable local development. The goal is to align conservation efforts with local economic development, ensuring that restoration generates tangible benefits

| Donor Spotlight

# Strengthening the MAPs Value: Key Results from the LED project

CNVP Albania held the annual LED Project meeting with the Embassy of Sweden in Albania, combining field visits in Berat with a review of 2025 results. Visits to a seedling nursery and a MAPs exporting company showed clear progress in strengthening the value chain, from improved planting material to better processing and market access, highlighting the role of coordination between farmers and businesses.

Discussions focused on concrete results: investments in modern drying and post-harvest technologies, upgrades in processing facilities, and increased use of energy-efficient solutions. The project also expanded cultivation of high-value MAPs and explored new opportunities like myco-forestry, while both CNVP and the donor reaffirmed their commitment to further develop the sector through practical, market-driven support.



## Success Stories

# From a Forgotten Area to a Protected Natural Treasure



In 2025, CNVP supported the recognition of Mali i Balgjajt—once an overlooked and threatened landscape—as a site of national ecological importance. Through the PONT project, local organization ANRM Xibër led the first comprehensive study of the area, identifying 18 glacial lakes, rare species such as *Scilla albanica* and *Pinus peuce*, and habitats of European importance.



The study also confirmed the area's role as a vital ecological corridor for wildlife, including bears, wolves, and roe deer. Based on these findings, a technical proposal was submitted to designate Mali i Balgjajt as a Municipal Natural Park—marking a significant step toward its long-term protection.



This achievement shows how local action, supported by CNVP, can transform overlooked landscapes into protected natural assets with national value.

## GBE Herbs: From Raw Herbs to Real Value



For years, GBE Herbs followed a familiar path: collecting and exporting raw herbs, with limited control over the final product and its value. The work was steady, but the potential remained constrained.

This began to change when the company upgraded its processing system. With new technology in place, raw herbs could be transformed into finished products: cleaned, processed, and packaged as teas and spices ready for the market.

The shift was more than technical. It changed how the business operates and how it sees its future.



Product quality improved, processes became more efficient, and new market opportunities emerged.

For the network behind it, around 150 farmers and collectors, this meant more consistent demand and more reliable income.

*“Before, we were just selling what we collected. Now, we are creating something finished, something with value”,* — says the owner of GBE Herbs.

A small change in process turned into a broader shift, keeping more value where it belongs.

## Success Stories

# Vera Medicinal & Aromatic Plants: Turning Sunlight into Stability



In Delvinë, Vera BM had built strong relationships with farmers and collectors, but one issue kept holding the business back: unstable electricity. Power cuts disrupted drying and processing, making it difficult to guarantee consistent quality. That changed with the installation of a solar energy system.

With a steady and reliable power source, the company can now run its operations without interruption. Drying is more controlled, production is more predictable and quality is consistent.

This stability has a ripple effect. Around 200 farmers and collectors connected to the company now benefit from more regular demand and fewer disruptions in the supply chain.

"Now we don't stop when the power goes out. We keep working and that makes all the difference", — says Vera, the business owner.

What was once a daily constraint is now a long-term advantage, quietly powered by the sun.

## 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

- ✳ @cnvp\_foundation
- ✉ cnvpal@cnvp-eu.org
- 🌐 www.cnvp-eu.org
- 📍 Zayed Business Center

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***"Together, small steps  
create big change."***

✳ Join us in our mission!