



## Northern Forest Initiative (NFI)

### Forest Restoration in North Macedonia and Albania

## Project Overview

The NFI project aims to prevent further forest loss in North Macedonia and Albania through restoration in key biodiversity landscapes and strengthening capacities for sustainable forest management.

This project applies Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and contributes to the conservation of species like the critically endangered Balkan Lynx.

## Key Collaborators

- IUCN Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN ECARO)
- Macedonian Ecological Society (MES)
- Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA)

## Problem Statement

In the past 20 years, North Macedonia and Albania lost a significant part of their tree cover, with more recent studies showing continued degradation in high biodiversity regions.

These areas, home to iconic wildlife such as the Balkan Lynx, wolves, and bears, are particularly vulnerable to illegal logging, urbanization, and the effects of climate change.

Local communities are also threatened by wildfires, pests, and diseases, leading to a reduction in forest ecosystem resilience.

While governments and CSOs have undertaken some conservation efforts, comprehensive approaches for forest management remain underdeveloped, and forest loss continues to outpace restoration efforts.





# Project Activities

The NFI Project will implement Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in two key areas:



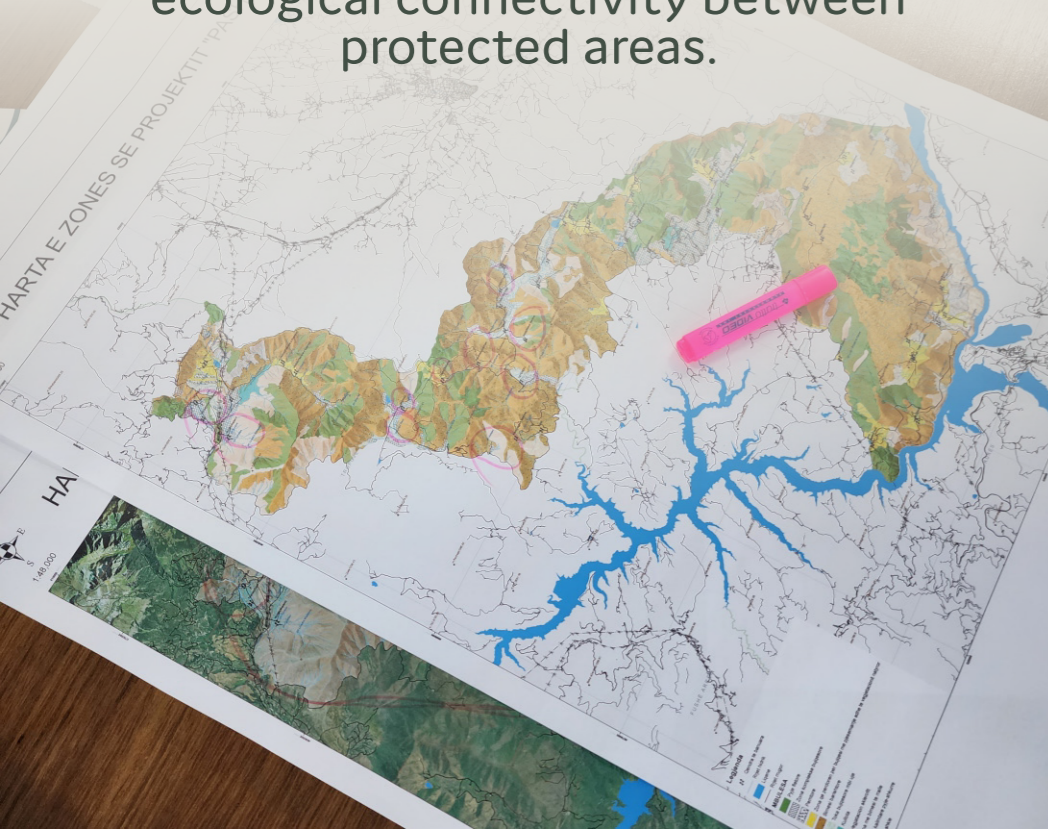
**Bukovik** in North Macedonia



**Pashtrik-Morina** in Albania

Using the ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology), the project has prioritized these sites for their biodiversity value and potential for restoration.

This restoration work will have multiple benefits, including improved carbon sequestration, increased ecosystem resilience, and restored ecological connectivity between protected areas.



# Project Outcomes

## Outcome 1



Forest landscape restoration solutions implemented in Albania and North Macedonia.

## Outcome 2



Improved knowledge and capacities for sustainable forest management (SFM).

## Outcome 3



Increased commitment to forest restoration.



# Join Us in Restoring Forests

The NFI Project offers a unique opportunity to restore critical forest ecosystems in North Macedonia and Albania, benefitting both nature and local communities.

By engaging local stakeholders and applying Nature-based Solutions, we aim to create a sustainable future for the region's forests and wildlife.

**Stay informed, get involved, and support our efforts in making forest restoration a reality.**

Visit our website [www.ppnea.org](http://www.ppnea.org) or follow us on social media for updates and opportunities to contribute.



This leaflet was produced in the framework of the Northern Forest Initiative: Forest Restoration in North Macedonia and Albania.

This project is funded by

