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# The Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI)

A Global Partnership to Improve  
the Legal Protection of Native Forests



# Introduction

Forests are the lifeblood of our planet, providing essential resources for over 1.6 billion people and safeguarding biodiversity, clean air and water, and a safe climate. Yet, outdated and inadequate laws, often lacking a scientific foundation, struggle to address the escalating threats of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI) bridges this gap by employing a systematic and science-based approach for effective forest law reform.

## About the MoFAI

The MoFAI is a groundbreaking initiative to provide a comprehensive and innovative legal blueprint for legislators, policymakers, and other stakeholders in designing a modern legal framework for the protection, conservation, restoration, and ecologically sustainable management and use of forests, with a particular focus on native forests and vegetation. It uses a systematic, interdisciplinary, multistakeholder, and evidence-informed approach to design a model legislative text that can be applied and tailored to country-specific contexts and needs.

## MoFAI Objectives

- Tackling 21st century challenges such as deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change
- Overcoming the ethical and legal disconnect in outdated forest laws
- Aligning national and local laws with international instruments and modern environmental principles
- Helping to address the implementation gap by improving the scientific soundness and technical adequacy of forest laws
- Providing a governance design that takes into consideration multiple actors, resources, and convergence of the rights and duties of stakeholders
- Fostering harmonization of legal frameworks for the conservation and ecologically sustainable management of forests, especially in critical biomes such as the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and the Indo-Malayan region

## The Model Forest Act

The MoFAI comprises a multi-stage process:

1. The initial three years (2023–2025) involve the development of the General Part of the Model Forest Act that encompasses fundamental concepts that apply throughout the field of forest law; and
2. At a later stage, the development of Special Parts of the Model Forest Act with greater detail on forest law issues, which provides detailed guidance on the design and implementation of specific forest law instruments

Each part will be accompanied by a legislative guide to facilitate understanding and implementation and will be available online for public access and widely disseminated.

# The Development Process

## Legislative Analysis and Best Practices Research

Analyzing legal frameworks, international agreements, and governance arrangements from countries globally

## Multi-Stakeholder Approach

Interdisciplinary consultations with policymakers, legislators, judges, lawyers, civil society, local forest communities, law experts, social, and natural sciences, the private sector, and development partners

## Evidence-Informed Approach

Using scientific data to inform effective model provisions

## Collaboration and Capacity Building

Partnership building across countries, governments, and stakeholders supported by awareness-raising and capacity building

# The Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI)

## Executive Board

Leaders from key organizations involved in the MoFAI, which provide strategic direction and ensures alignment with global priorities

## Expert Drafting Committee

Comprised of experts from across the globe carefully selected and representing various legal and scientific disciplines

## Advisory Council

Renowned specialists offer technical advice on legal, ethical, social, scientific, and policy aspects, drawing on perspectives from various jurisdictions and reflecting the best available knowledge

# MoFAI Outcomes

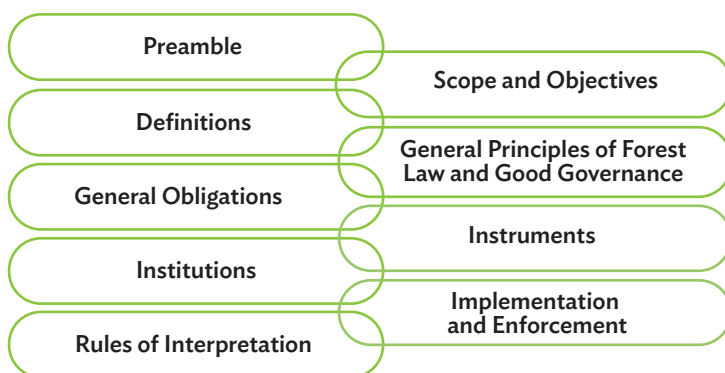
Through the **General Part of the Model Forest Act and accompanying Legislative Guide**, interested stakeholders will be able to identify areas to prioritize, based on unique circumstances and challenges faced in each region of the world and each jurisdiction.



# Initial Stage (2023–2025): The General Part of the Model Forest Act

The MoFAI’s initial stage focuses on developing the **General Part of the Model Forest Act and its accompanying Legislative Guide**. The General Part draws from, but is not limited to, existing legislative examples from different legal systems, including civil and common law, as well as customary law, international treaties and soft law instruments, and other norms and legal realities. It will include state-of-the-art provisions from around the world. The General Part also seeks to advance and improve forest law by seizing the opportunities provided by new scientific and technological developments.

## Building Blocks of the General Part of the Model Forest Act



## MoFAI Partners

The MoFAI is a global partnership comprised of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, UN Environment Programme, UN Forum on Forests, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Asian Development Bank, World Bank Group, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and UN Development Programme, among others.

For more information, please:

Visit our website: <https://lpr.adb.org/program/mofai>

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