



MOFAI UPDATES



Building momentum at CMS COP15 and IUCN WCEL and accelerating Technical Working Group work

Forests are crucial ecosystems for migratory species, spanning a third of the planet and hosting [80% of terrestrial biodiversity](#). They provide habitats and water sources, serve as ecological corridors and flyways, and shape climate and hydrological cycles. Migratory species also help sustain the ecological integrity of forests, yet [half of those covered by the Convention on Migratory Species \(CMS\)](#) are in decline. These interconnected challenges raise common law and policy questions, including how to design environmental institutions and instruments to account for dynamically evolving ecosystems, advance international cooperation to manage transboundary biomes and promote public goods, and effectively govern remote regions across multiple scales.

Against this backdrop, the Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI) advanced the General Part of the Model Forest Act as a practical, integrated, and adaptable framework of options for forest ecosystem protection and management. MoFAI showcased the latest draft at CMS COP15 among a panel discussion including Chief Justice of the National High Court of Brazil Antonio Herman Benjamin, UNEP Deputy Director Andy Raine, and MoFAI Rapporteur Professor Nick Bryner (Brazil, 23-29 March). Panelists discussed the role of law and judges in translating principles into practices, ensuring coordination and coherence in the management of interconnected ecosystems, strengthening the science-policy interface, balancing incentives and enforcement, and bridging the legal design with implementation.

Watch the full discussion [here](#).



MoFAI also presented the latest draft of the General Part of the Model Forest Act at the IUCN WCEL Conference and Steering Committee Meeting and secured endorsement to formally

elevate the initiative to the IUCN Council (Barbados, 21 March 2026). ADB Assistant General Counsel (Law and Policy Reform) Christina Pak highlighted progress made since the preliminary draft launch at COP30 (November 2025) and outlined the roadmap towards completion of the General Part, alongside the executive summary of the Legislative Guide, at CBD COP17 (Armenia, October 2026).

These milestones build on intensive drafting progress made at the MoFAI Technical Working Group (TWG) Meetings (Manila 16-19 February), chaired by Chief Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin. The TWG integrated inputs from drafting committee members, the Advisory Council, and partners; identified gaps and strengthened existing elements of the text; and developed or sharpened provisions on climate change, bioeconomy, monitoring and reporting, and international cooperation. The group also stress-tested key elements of the General Part and improved coherence across provisions.



GLOBAL

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- [Solutions in Focus: Model Forests around the World](#)
- [Russia allows clear-cutting of forests around Lake Baikal](#)
- [Ghana Repeals Legislation that Opened Forest Reserves to Mining](#)
- [Price of Failure of EU's Deforestation Law Already Being Felt In Amazon](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- [Climate change mitigation through social forestry actions in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)
- [ASEAN Guiding Principles for Effective Social Forestry Legal Frameworks](#)

Indonesia

- [How an Indonesian Pulp Giant Built a Carbon Project to Save a Forest from Itself](#)
- [Crackdown or Land Grab? The Asian Leader Targeting Resource Companies](#)
- [Why Forestry Law Reform Needs Indigenous and Community Rights](#)

Vietnam

- [Viet Nam to Complete Forest Database by 2026 to Adapt to EU's Deforestation Rules](#)

EAST ASIA

People's Republic of China (PRC)

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- [China's Forest Coverage Reaches 241 Million Hectares, about 100 Trees per Person](#)
- [China Completes 8.47 Million Hectares of Land Greening in 2025, Nature Reserve System Takes Shape](#)

Mongolia

- ['Billions of Trees': Mongolia's National Movement Hits 127.9 Mln Trees](#)

CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

Kazakhstan

- [Kazakhstan to plant 36 million trees in major forest restoration drive](#)

Kyrgyzstan

- [Agreements on Forest Restoration over an Area of 2500 Hectares Signed in Bishkek](#)

Pakistan

- [Forest Degradation In KP: Timber Mafia And Environmental Crisis Under PTI](#)

Turkmenistan

- [Turkmenistan Develops New National Forest Program for 2026–2030](#)

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

- [Bangladesh Issues Forest and Tree Conservation Ordinance 2026 with Provision of TK 100,000 Fine](#)

Bhutan

- [Bhutan Approves its first National Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan with Support of CIFOR-ICRAF](#)

India

- [Punjab to Produce Specific Forest Policy within a Year](#)
- [Who Guards the Forests?](#)
- [Tribal Affairs Ministry Set to Revamp Forest Rights Cells, Form ‘One-Stop’ Coordinating Units](#)
- [Ecological Concerns in India’s Green Credit Program: A Critical Analysis of Tree Plantation Modalities](#)
- [Forests are Vital National Assets: Supreme Court Clears Assam Panel to Probe Encroachments in Golaghat](#)
- [Access Open: Why Opening Forestlands to Commercial Plantations would Prove Disastrous](#)
- [Government Opens Up Forest Plantation to Private Sector, Critics Question its Conservation Value](#)
- [Why Tribals across India are Rallying for Forest Rights Act and What is it?](#)
- [Congress Flags Forest Law Changes, says 2023 Amendments Ease Private Entry into Forest Management](#)

Nepal

- [Nepal Amends Forest Regulations to Balance Development and Conservation, Easing Project Approvals](#)
- [Supreme Court Rules Federal Interference in Provincial Forest Management Unconstitutional](#)

Sri Lanka

- [Fifty Forests Declared as Reserves](#)
- [Sri Lanka Scrambles to Protect Rubber Trade ahead of EU Forest Rules](#)

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