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Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI)

A Global Partnership to Improve
the Legal Protection of Forests



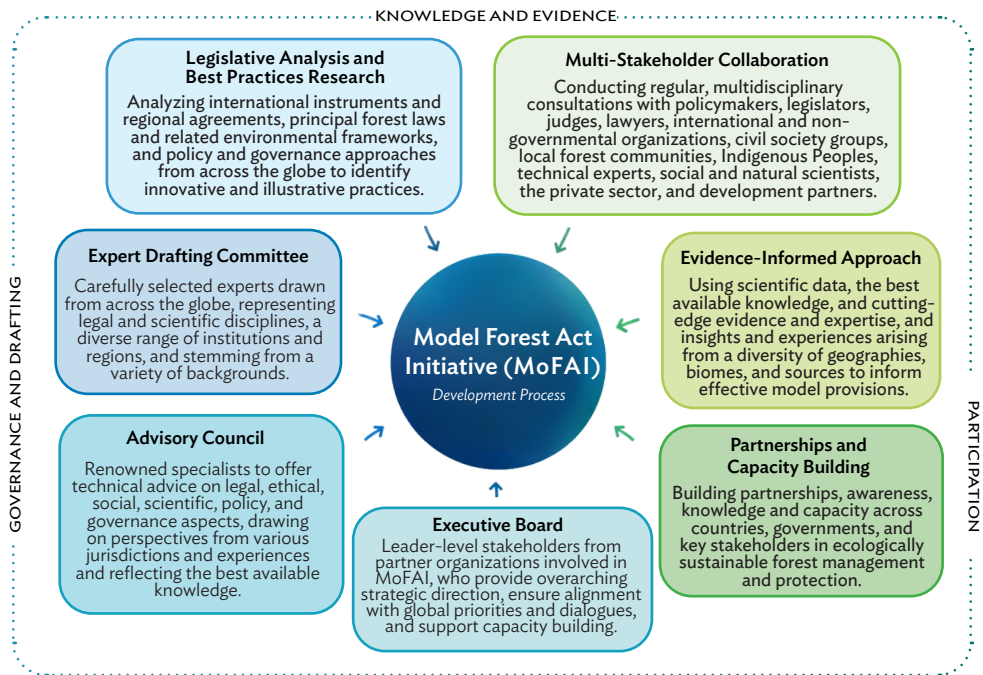
Introduction

Forests are vital to people and the planet. They provide essential ecosystem services, support the livelihoods of more than 1.6 billion people, safeguard biodiversity, regulate the climate, and strengthen resilience to natural disasters. Yet many forest laws remain outdated and ill-equipped to address in a holistic manner the accelerating challenges of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change. At the same time, forestry governance is evolving toward integrated approaches that combine conservation, restoration, sustainable use, value-chain governance, and rights-based safeguards, while recognizing the broader ecological, social, and cultural values of forests. Modernizing forest legislation is therefore no longer optional. It is pivotal to securing climate stability, ecological integrity, and a sustainable future for generations to come.

About MoFAI

The Model Forest Act Initiative (MoFAI) is a groundbreaking global partnership that is currently developing a modern, coherent, and adaptable legislative blueprint to assist national and subnational jurisdictions in designing new forest laws, consolidating fragmented legal frameworks, and modernizing existing legislation. Drawing on legislative practice, legal and scientific expertise, international experience, and lessons from implementation, MoFAI aims to provide an integrated framework and a menu of legislative options that can be tailored to different legal systems, institutions, ecosystems, and policy priorities. The Model Framework Forest Act and Legislative Guide are knowledge resources (not internationally negotiated text) to provide ideas for improving legislative drafting and the implementation of good forest practices.

MoFAI Development Process



MoFAI Objectives

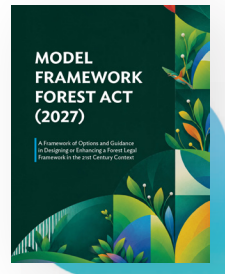
- Address contemporary challenges, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and climate change;
- Close ethical and legal gaps in outdated forest laws;
- Promote integrated and coherent forest legal frameworks;
- Align national and subnational laws with international commitments and modern environmental law principles;
- Strengthen implementation through scientifically sound and technically robust legal provisions;
- Enhance governance by recognizing diverse actors, rights, responsibilities, and the interconnected nature of forest-related laws; and
- Foster coherence and mutual learning across major forest biomes and regions.

MoFAI Outcomes

MoFAI will publish the *Model Framework Forest Act* and accompanying *Legislative Guide* as practical knowledge resources for policymakers, legislators, advisers, regulators, forest managers, judges, and capacity-building practitioners involved in forest law reform, implementation, and enforcement.

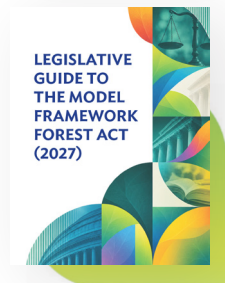
Legal Foundations: Model Framework Forest Act (2027)

Designed as a framework law that establishes a broad structure for forest governance which should be supplemented at a later stage by specific parts for individual legal instruments or topics. It offers a carefully developed text and structure from which jurisdictions may draw when designing or enhancing national or subnational forest legislation. It is based on a modular structure, with a “shopping cart” approach enabling users to select and adapt provisions for their national or subnational circumstances.

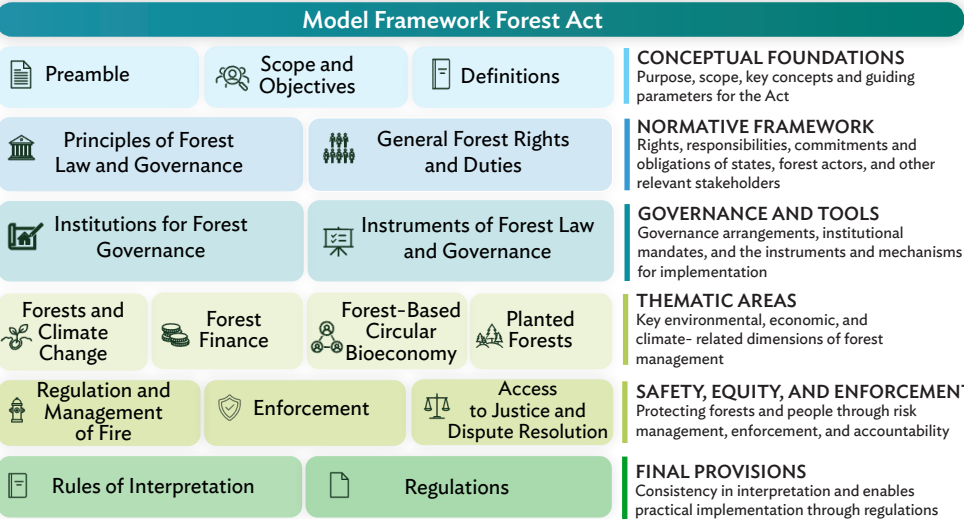


User Manual: Legislative Guide to the Model Framework Forest Act (2027)

An accompanying Legislative Guide explains the rationale underlying the Model Framework Forest Act’s provisions, supports their interpretation and implementation, and assists jurisdictions in adapting the Act to national and subnational priorities and circumstances. This includes drafting considerations and checklists, real-world cases and illustrative practices, a spectrum of approaches to implementation and links to knowledge resources.



Building Blocks of the Model Framework Forest Act



Dissemination and Capacity Building

The Model Framework Forest Act and accompanying Legislative Guide will be widely disseminated through the websites and knowledge platforms of MoFAI partners to support their uptake and use, in consultation and collaboration with organizations and legislators throughout the world. Together, these resources will strengthen the capacity of policymakers, legislators, drafters, regulators, forest administrations, enforcement authorities, judges, and other stakeholders involved in the development, implementation, and enforcement of forest laws. They will also inform policy dialogue, help identify legislative and institutional reform opportunities, and strengthen legal frameworks for sustainable forest governance.

MoFAI Partners

MoFAI is a global alliance of partners comprising 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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