

LAW NO 14/ 2017

of 2 August

LEGAL REGIME FOR FORESTRY

The Constitution of the Republic entrusts the State with guaranteeing and promoting the rights and freedoms of citizens, guaranteeing the development of the economy and the progress of science, protecting the environment and preserving natural resources, and affirming and enhancing the personality and cultural heritage of the Timorese people.

In this regard, the Basic Law of the Environment, approved by Decree-Law no. 26/2012 of 4 July, established the essential normative parameters for the development and improvement of a consistent legal framework, in the field of conservation and protection of environmental components, namely water, sea, soil and subsoil.

In the context of the development of this environmental legislative framework, forests, for the biodiversity they contain, for their role in the recovery and rehabilitation of degraded soils and in the conservation of water resources, and for their social, cultural, spiritual and economic potential, are central to the achievement of the objectives of the State and the fulfilment of the right to environmental protection enshrined in article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic.

In addition, 44% of the national territory has a slope above 40° and about 61% is forest. However, it is also estimated that 17.5% of forest area, especially primary forest, was lost between 2003 and 2012.

The forestry sector is complex and aims to fulfil a multiplicity of economic, environmental and social functions, which requires sustainable forest management based on available scientific information.

Within this framework, it is essential to develop standards for environmental protection and preservation of natural resources in forests, which are in line with their central role for the sustainable economic development of the State and its citizens and with the cultural practices of forest use.

Based on the Constitution of the Republic and the provisions of the Basic Law of the Environment, this law aims to achieve the basic national framework for the legislative, political and economic development of the forest sector, the corollary of which is based on sustainable management, according to its specific purposes and objectives.

In this sense, this law approves a general regime of policy options for the forest sector, without prejudice to the need to develop the legislative body applicable to the forest sector.

The National Parliament decrees the following under the terms of Article 95(1) of the Constitution of the Republic, to be enforced as law:

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Object

This law defines the fundamental principles and standards regarding the management, protection, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources and river basins, within the framework of a rational and integrated administration, in order to meet the needs of communities that use forests for their sustenance and prosperity, as well as to promote sustainable development.

Article 2

Scope

This law applies to all persons of public or private law, natural or legal, throughout the national territory.

Article 3

Definitions

For the purposes of this legal diploma, the following definitions shall apply:

- a) **"Afforestation"** means the conversion of land to forest or an increase in tree crown cover above 10%;
- b) **"Agroforestry"** means land used in combination with agroforestry crops or livestock farming, in a simultaneous or sequential manner, with a view to increasing and diversifying agricultural and forestry production and conserving natural resources;
- c) **"Community"** means a grouping of families, clans or individuals, living in a territorial constituency at or below *Suco* level, with common interests, in particular in residential, agricultural, forestry or agroforestry areas, with shared use of natural or forest resources;
- d) **"Community forests"** means forests existing in Community buildings or State forests subject to Community management agreements;
- e) **"Degradation"** means the long-term reduction of a forest area that has reduced tree crown cover to 10%, which also reduces in general terms the potential to provide benefits from the forest, including timber, biodiversity and any other products or services;
- f) **"Forest"** means an area of at least 0.5 hectares with trees of actual or potential size greater than 5 meters, which have grown naturally, forming a natural ecosystem, or have been planted, and with a degree of cover greater than 15%, which is not under agricultural or other non-forest use, or area classified as forest in accordance with the law;
- g) **"Forest management agreement"** means a legally binding written agreement between individuals or communities and the entity responsible for forests, for the purpose of providing access to, use or management of forest resources, in accordance with the provisions of specific legislation;
- h) **"Forest resource"** means a genetic resource, organism or parts thereof, populations or any other type of biotic component of ecosystems of current or potential value or utility to mankind within a forest area, such as trees or non-timber forest resources;
- i) **"Forest restoration"** means the set of activities related to the restoration of the degraded forest ecosystem in order to partially or totally restore its original functions and maintain the conditions that provide for its persistence and evolution.

- j) **"Inventory"** means the forest management tool for systematic collection of forest data and information, including estimates of forest volume, conditions and potential of forest resources;
- k) **"Nature conservation"** means the management of the human use of nature in such a way as to provide for maximum cost-effectiveness compatible with the maintenance of the regeneration capacity of all living resources;
- l) **"Management plan"** means the administration and management planning instrument, containing technical instructions to be applied in each forest area, catchment area or protection area;
- m) **"Mangal"** means the coastal vegetation formations characteristic of tropical and sheltered coastlines composed of species of trees and shrubs growing below sea level of the tides, whose roots require fresh water but are regularly flooded with saline water;
- n) **"Non-timber forest resource"** means any product or service other than wood that is produced in forests, including, but not limited to, fruit and nuts, vegetables, fish and wildlife, medicinal plants, resins, bark and fiber, bamboo, wicker, palm trees and grasses;
- o) **"Plantations"** means areas where trees of certain species are planted for the purpose of providing raw material for wood processing for commercial purposes including, inter alia, wood for construction, furniture and cellulose for paper or for other protection or conservation purposes;
- p) **"Private forests"** means forests existing on private property;
- q) **"Reforestation"** means the restocking, whether by natural regeneration or by planting, of forest areas which once existed but which have been deforested, removed or destroyed in the past due to natural or man-made disturbance;
- r) **"State Forests"** means forests existing on State property;
- s) **"Sustainable forest management"** means the environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forest resources for present and future generations;
- t) **"Sustainable river basin management"** means the process by which the management of forests, water and land is integrated to protect and enhance the quality of water, forests and other natural resources within river basins;
- u) **"Timber"** means any tree which has fallen or been felled;
- v) **"Traditional knowledge"** means knowledge, innovations, practices and accumulated technologies that are essential for the conservation and sustainable use of natural forest and wildlife resources or have socio-economic value and have been developed over time by communities or people living in a given locality;
- w) **"Tree"** means a woody plant with one or more stems, with a more or less defined crown;
- l) **"Watershed"** means the area in which water abstraction occurs and which converges its flow to a single outlet, such as lakes, rivers or the sea

Article 4 Objectives

The definition of fundamental principles and standards concerning the management, protection, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources and river basins has as its main objectives:

- a) the protection of forests and nature conservation;
- b) the conservation of river basins;
- c) afforestation and soil remediation;

- d) community participation in the development of the forest sector;
- e) the institutional development of the forest sector;
- f) the creation of favorable conditions for private sector development.

Article 5

Principles

Without prejudice to the application of the guiding principles foreseen in the Basic Law of the Environment, the application and interpretation of this law shall be governed by the following special principles:

- a) The principle of sustainability, according to which economic and social development must be made compatible and harmonized with environmental balance and nature conservation;
- b) The principle of transversality, according to which the definition and implementation of sectoral public policies, namely agricultural, livestock, environmental, fisheries, energy, industrial, transport, waste management and water management, telecommunications, tourism, land use and subsoil, land ownership and gender equality policies take into account the requirements of sustainable use of forest resources as well as conservation and forest protection;
- c) The information principle that individuals, especially those who may be particularly affected by changes in forests and civil society, should be adequately and timely informed about forest decision-making processes, in particular with respect to the formulation and implementation of measures or decisions concerning forests or their resources;
- d) The principle of equality, according to which men and women should be treated equally in the scope and application of this law;
- e) The principle of respect for customary rights, according to which sustainable community traditions in the use and management of forest resources are respected by all public or private entities when these do not contradict the Constitution and the law;
- f) The principle of the special value of forests for rural communities, according to which it is recognized that forests have social, cultural, spiritual, economic, environmental and political value for communities.

Article 6

Sustainable forest management

1. Sustainable management of forest resources ensures the protection, conservation and production functions of forests.
2. Unless otherwise provided, the same forest, wooded area or afforested area may perform different functions, including social, economic and environmental functions.
3. The State promotes the multiplicity and interrelation of forest functions based on appropriate forest information.
4. The State prioritizes sustainable forest management by communities.

Article 7

General duties

1. The State and all natural or legal persons have a duty to promote the protection, conservation and regeneration of forests and forest resources, promoting equitable participation and encouraging their sustainable use for the benefit of future generations.

2. The State, through its bodies and services, promotes equitable access of citizens to forest resources and the benefits that may result from their use.
3. All natural or legal persons, public or private, have a duty to facilitate and promote participation in forest decision-making mechanisms and processes.
4. Any person, natural or legal, public or private, who has knowledge of any activity, practice, action or omission that constitutes a violation of the provisions of this law and other forestry legislation shall inform the competent authorities.

Article 8

Categories and functions

1. Forests are classified according to the following categories:
 - a) State Forests;
 - b) Community forests;
 - c) Private forests.
2. Forests are classified according to the following functions:
 - a) Conservation;
 - b) Protection;
 - c) Production.

CHAPTER II

RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES

Article 9

Government

1. The Government shall be responsible for adopting the necessary measures to implement and monitor the National Forest Policy, as well as to implement, regulate and supervise the application of the provisions of this law and coordinate its enforcement throughout the national territory, in articulation with the Authority of the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse Ambeno, within the scope of its attributions, whenever the territory of the Region or the Special Zone of Social Market Economy of Ataúro is in question.
2. The Government shall develop mechanisms that allow equitable access to complete, coherent and transparent information on forest resources and watersheds for all citizens, as well as promote their active participation in the definition and implementation of forest policy, legislation and regulations and respective changes and in the monitoring of activities with an impact on forest resources and watersheds.
3. It is the Government's responsibility to promote the preparation of forest management and watershed management plans and the conclusion of community forest management agreements, in collaboration with local authorities.
4. The Government should support the communities in defining community rules on the management of forest and watershed resources in harmony with the law and custom and with respect for gender equality.
5. The Government should also stimulate and promote the participation of the private sector in sustainable forest development, especially small and medium enterprises.

Article 10
Local government and juices

1. Local authorities and *Sucos* are responsible, within the scope of their attributions and competences, for promoting the implementation of the provisions of this law at municipal and *Suco* level.
2. *Suco* bodies may settle conflicts relating to forest and watershed resources management in accordance with custom and practice, and in accordance with the Constitution and the applicable law, without prejudice to the role of the security forces and recourse to the courts.

Article 11
Enterprises

1. Companies operating within the forestry sector should value forest products, ensure access to markets, provide technical support and develop partnerships with communities and small producers.
2. The companies mentioned in the previous paragraph shall also ensure the management sustainability of the forests they exploit and shall adopt preventive or corrective measures to restore environmental balance, in coordination with the competent authorities, where necessary.
3. Companies in the forestry sector and other companies whose activities may affect forest resources should develop plans to minimize risks and repair damage to forest resources.

Article 12
Civil Society

1. Civil society can participate in the implementation of the objectives of this law, in particular through the provision of technical support to communities with regard to forest management or through the development of training programmes.
2. Civil society can also monitor the implementation of the National Forest Policy and legislation applicable to the forest sector, in order to contribute to the improvement of its implementation.

Article 13
Citizens

1. It is the responsibility of citizens to define, in conjunction with the competent authorities, in accordance with the customs and practices of the community in which they live, the rules and procedures for the management of forest resources existing in their community, under the terms of the Constitution and the law, without prejudice to the drawing up of forest management agreements, under the terms laid down in this law and other applicable legislation.
2. All citizens should promote equitable and sustainable access to forest resources, encourage the effective and equitable participation of all people in their management, and monitor the conditions of the forests under their responsibility.

CHAPTER III
FORESTRY POLICY INSTRUMENTS
SECTION I
MANAGEMENT INSTRUMENTS

Article 14
Forest management plans

The government entity responsible for forests should be heard in the process of preparing territorial planning instruments and should actively contribute to their preparation and coordinate the elaboration of the Forest Masterplan.

Article 15

Forest management plans

1. Forest management plans shall define the rules for forest management in the territorial area to which they refer, in particular the criteria for defining priority areas for intervention, shall be based on consistent information on available forest resources and their condition, and shall be drawn up on the basis of an assessment of existing forest resources and needs, in consultation and with the participation of stakeholders.
2. After their approval, forest management plans are made widely available to the relevant public services in the territorial area to which they refer, in particular for the purpose of informing the public and monitoring their implementation by the latter.
3. The law defines the content, form of approval, duration and other rules for preparing and modifying forest management plans.

Article 16

Forest management agreements

1. Forest management agreements shall specify the rights and obligations of the parties, including the rules for the development of sustainable management of public or community forests and the distribution of benefits arising from this activity.
2. Forest management agreements should, whenever possible, include the relevant forest management plans.
3. The Government prioritizes management agreements with communities.
4. The law defines the legal regime of forest management agreements.

Article 17

Watershed Management Plans

1. Sustainable watershed management is developed through multi-sectoral management plans, which define the management rules for the basin, sub-basin or micro-basin to which they relate and identify the criteria for defining priority areas for intervention.
2. The management plans mentioned in the previous paragraph are based on consistent information on available natural resources and their state and are drawn up on the basis of an assessment of existing resources and needs, in consultation and with the participation of stakeholders.
3. Micro-basin management plans integrate community management and natural resources agreements.
4. The law defines the content, form of approval, duration and other rules for the preparation and modification of watershed management plans.

Article 18

Assessment of resources and needs

1. The inventory of forest resources and natural resources in watershed aims at obtaining data and information on these and their respective conditions and potential in order to ensure the availability of accurate technical and scientific information on the state of forests and watersheds.
2. The collection of information for the preparation of inventories shall involve the government entity responsible for forests and the municipalities, within the scope of their attributions, communities and entities that carry out scientific research, namely universities, and shall be developed in accordance with best practices and international standards.

3. The information gathered in the inventory process supports the preparation of the management plans and should be made available to stakeholders as part of the process of consultation and preparation.
4. The absence of an inventory shall not prevent the use of forest or natural resources in watersheds in accordance with the law, or the drawing up of management plans or management agreements.
5. The duration and the other rules for drawing up the inventories shall be defined by regulation.

SECTION II SOIL MANAGEMENT AND FOREST RESTORATION

Article 19 Soil management

The State, in cooperation with civil society, is responsible for drawing up multisectoral programs for good soil management with a view to combating, preventing or reducing deterioration of the physical, chemical, biological and economic properties of soils and reducing their degradation.

Article 20 Afforestation and reforestation programs

1. The State shall promote programs to restore forest landscape, namely afforestation and reforestation, as well as programs for natural recovery and regeneration, in coordination with scientific research entities and communities, with a view to recovering forest cover, endemic vegetation, natural habitats and replenishing carbon reserves.
2. It is the responsibility of the government agency responsible for forests in particular to:
 - a) assess needs, define the most effective intervention mechanisms and identify priority areas for afforestation and reforestation as well as restoration and rehabilitation of the forest landscape;
 - b) implement soil and water preparation and conservation programs;
 - c) develop soil erosion mitigation plans for the areas most affected by erosion;
 - d) provide regular training to farmers and extension services on intensified soil conservation and drought mitigation measures;
 - e) strengthen the capacity of soil scientists and laboratory technicians as well as the national soil laboratory to ensure that it is well equipped and has up-to-date information and appropriate technology for continuous monitoring and assessment of soil degradation.
3. Afforestation and reforestation programs should be an integral part of forest management or watershed management plans and should be articulated with integrated water resources management plans to ensure that they are sufficient to maintain forested or reforested areas and to meet the livelihood and sustainable development needs of citizens.

SECTION III CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF FOREST RESOURCES

Article 21 Conservation Forests

The applicable rules and standards for conservation forest management are those laid down in the legislation on protected areas.

Article 22
Protective Forests

1. The State regulates access to and use of forest resources in steep slopes or close to shore, watercourses, lakes or lagoons with the aim of protecting the soil and water resources.
2. The government agency responsible for forests promotes the establishment or rehabilitation of forests in degraded areas to protect soil and water resources.

Article 23
Species protection

Species protection is done according to the law.

Article 24
Prohibited activities

Without prejudice to the provisions of criminal law, the management plan and the respective management agreement or deliberation of the competent bodies of the State, the following activities shall be prohibited in a forest:

- a) introduce directly or indirectly, pollutants of any kind, in any form, or dispose of waste of any kind by extraction or excavation;
- b) to burn or to carry out any other activity of forest destruction;
- c) introduce invasive alien species of flora or fauna;
- d) use firearms, explosives, toxic substances or any other methods harmful to flora and fauna;
- e) extract, excavate or carry out any other activity related to the exploitation of non-renewable resources;
- f) burning or otherwise destroying pastures;
- g) any other activity determined in the management plan or reasoned by the government member responsible for forests.

Article 25
Forestry, agriculture and livestock

1. Territorial planning instruments define the territorial areas for agriculture, forestry, plantations and grazing.
2. Sustainable agriculture is promoted through appropriate cultivation practices of agroforestry and livestock techniques, including effective and sustainable traditional practices.
3. Relevant information from land use plans with regard to agriculture, grazing and sustainable agroforestry can be included in Community forest management agreements.

Article 26
Shepherding

1. Grazing is prohibited in areas covered by afforestation or reforestation programs until such time as the vegetation supports it without prejudice to the pressure of grazing.
2. Those who own or use animals in their interest must ensure that they do not damage the forests or other people's plantations, under penalty of civil liability, in accordance with the law.
3. Communities can develop rules for the movement of their animals, including the regulation of grazing and protection of forests, in accordance with existing legislation.
4. It is up to the State to develop policies that encourage the control of grazing.

Article 27
Access and equitable sharing

1. The State facilitates adequate access to forest genetic resources for environmentally healthy uses, in accordance with the law.
2. It is the responsibility of the State to ensure that monetary or non-monetary benefits derived from access to forest genetic resources are shared in an equitable and transparent manner between the natural or legal persons regularly authorized to access them and the State, or the communities that are their managers.
3. Exemptions from the obligation to share the benefits that may arise from access to and use of forest genetic resources are prohibited.
4. This Article shall not apply to the exchange of seeds and other genetic resources between natural persons and communities for traditional and non-commercial purposes.

Article 28
Climate change

1. The State must develop, promote and implement programs and activities that integrate mitigation and adaptation to climate change into strategies and action plans in order to:
 - a) know the main causes of climate change;
 - b) reduce emissions from forest degradation;
 - c) conserve and increase forest carbon stocks;
 - d) raise awareness among communities and civil society on the impact of climate change and on mitigation and adaptation activities in the forest sector.
2. It is especially incumbent on the government entity to responsible for forests to identify forest species that can be used to strengthen adaptation to climate change within forest management and maximize their use, including species in mangrove forests.

SECTION IV
SUSTAINABLE USE

Article 29
Objective

The sustainable use of forest resources aims to increase income from forest management by creating a business-friendly environment for companies, associations and individuals engaged in the processing and marketing of forest products and ensuring the sustainability of forest resources.

Article 30
Plantings

1. The State shall promote the establishment of plantations of appropriate species and good management practices, giving priority to the establishment of community plantations or small enterprises, associations or small producers.
2. The State promotes and supports the establishment of equitable partnerships between communities and companies with regard to the establishment, management and sharing of benefits from plantations.
3. Community or small enterprise, association or small producer plantations may incorporate Community management arrangements.

Article 31

Seeds

1. The State promotes national seed production for plantations and encourages community participation in the identification and exploitation of genetic resources.
2. The government entity responsible for forests shall establish and implement a forest seed quality control scheme.
3. Imports of seed shall be regulated in such a way as to ensure only the entry of appropriate species into the national territory, to prevent or mitigate the risk of spread of pests, and to restrict the entry of invasive species.

Article 32

Enhancing the value of forest products

1. The State promotes the processing of forest products with the objective of increasing their value, creating employment in rural areas and contributing to the national economic development.
2. The State prioritizes the development of small forest sector companies in order to improve their profit and sustainability.
3. The State promotes the establishment of lines of communication with companies in the forestry sector in order to identify the impact of regulation in the sector as well as opportunities for business development.

Article 33

Processing, marketing and use of firewood

1. The entities responsible for forests, trade and environment should promote a study on the use, processing, marketing and collection of firewood in order to identify their current and potential contribution to family income and sustainable economic development.
2. It is also the responsibility of the entities mentioned in the previous paragraph to promote programs that increase the efficiency of the use of firewood, mitigate its negative effects and explore the use of other energy sources.
3. Without prejudice to the preceding paragraphs, the authorities referred to in paragraph 1 shall develop strategies, policies and programs for the sustainable use of trees with the primary objective of obtaining firewood.

Article 34

Ensuring sustainability

The Government shall define the legal framework and incentives necessary to control the cutting, marketing, processing, import and export of forest products in order to ensure the sustainable use of forest resources.

SECTION V

EXTENSION, TRAINING, RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Article 35

Extension

The government body responsible for forests should have forest extension services to assist individuals to implement sustainable forest management models, which, namely:

- a) have relevant information on national forest policy, laws and regulations applicable to the forest sector;

- b) facilitate the preparation of forest management agreements and plans, including the development and strengthening of programs for forest management and governance;
- c) provide technical support for the development of good forest management practices and capacity, including sustainable forestry and harvesting practices;
- d) assist communities in processing and marketing their forest products;
- e) promote community forest networks or associations and partnerships between communities and the private sector;
- f) ensure the necessary relations of coordination with other relevant national or international entities for the development of the forestry sector;
- g) monitor results of Community forest programs.

Article 36

Training

1. The State promotes civic education and the training of citizens on forest resources in a continuous and successive manner, as a strategic factor for the sustainable development of the country, through the introduction of forest protection and conservation issues into formal and non-formal education and media systems.
2. The State should strengthen technical and managerial capacity, through the design, budgeting, organization and implementation of education and training programs for public officials and civil society, in all aspects of sustainable forest and watershed management.
3. The State promotes training in forest law for lawyers, public defenders and magistrates.
4. Forestry and agroforestry education and training programs should be prepared by the government bodies responsible for education or vocational training, in coordination with the government body responsible for forests.

Article 37

Scientific and technological research

1. The State shall encourage, promote and finance studies and scientific or technological research on forest resources that are oriented to the optimization, protection, conservation, prevention of degradation or damage, and maintenance of the sustainability of forest, agroforestry and watershed resources.
2. Studies on the causes of loss of forest biological diversity developed or supported by the State shall be participatory and transparent.
3. Projects or programs with development partners or international donors related to the forest sector should preferably include a budget for scientific research.
4. Holders of a license for research or investigation of forest resources, issued under the terms applicable to the licensing provided for in the biodiversity legislation, shall be required to submit to the government entity responsible for forests, a duplicate of the research sample and a copy of the result of the research.

Article 38

Forest Information System

1. The State should create a forest information system, which contains the state of the forest resources and watersheds, as well as information regarding their exploitation and the identification of programs, plans and projects that may have a significant impact on the sustainability of their management.

2. The forest information system provided for in the previous paragraph aims to facilitate systematization, access, distribution and sharing of information, promote forest education and citizen participation in decision-making processes, conservation and protection of forest and watershed resources.
3. The forest information system is administered by the public body with competence for the collection, processing, systematization and dissemination of relevant forest information in a clear manner accessible to the general public.
4. Other public or private entities that, in the performance of their duties, provide services or develop programs, plans and projects related to the forest sector have the duty to collaborate and provide relevant information to the entity referred to in the previous paragraph, without prejudice to the rights of third parties legally protected.

SECTION VI

INCENTIVES, VALUE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

Article 39

Incentives

1. The State shall develop appropriate incentives, non-monetary and monetary, to encourage equitable participation of communities in the sustainable management of forest resources and private sector investments in the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources and watersheds, including payment for environmental services, by private and public, national or international entities.
2. Without prejudice to the incentives provided for in the previous paragraph, the State shall promote the sustainable management of forests by the communities, preferably through the guarantee of property rights, surface area or enjoyment of properties with a long-term forest appetite.

Article 40

Value assessment

1. The government entity responsible for forests shall specify the principles and methods to be used to assess the value of forest resources.
2. The assessment of the value of forests and forest resources is prepared for the purposes of:
 - a) defining the equitable distribution of monetary benefits from the use of forest resources;
 - b) definition of needs and guarantees, financial obligations, deposits and performance obligations;
 - c) definition of the penalties to be applied for damage caused to forests or violation of the provisions of this law;
 - d) definition of compensation for forest resource degradation.

Article 41

Monitoring

1. The State shall be responsible for creating a transparent, comprehensive and decentralized forest monitoring system capable of permanently exercising integrated control, assessing the quality and state of exploitation of forest and watershed resources, impacts on forest resources caused by economic activities and collecting the information necessary to comply with this law.
2. The monitoring process provided for in the previous paragraph includes, inter alia:

- a) periodic review of forest management and its impact on forest resources;
 - b) identification of the impacts of transboundary forest management on the country;
 - c) dissemination of forest monitoring results.
3. The responsibility for forest monitoring lies with the State, which promotes the participation of all stakeholders in the design and implementation of monitoring, without prejudice to the possibility of the participation of independent external entities, as defined by law.

SECTION VII FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Article 42

Budget

The annual action plans and the general budget of the State shall contain measures to achieve the objectives established in this law.

Article 43

Taxes and fees

The law creates and defines the taxes and fees that may be levied under this law.

SECTION VIII LIABILITY AND JUDICIAL PROTECTION

Article 44

Subsidiary law

The system of liability and judicial protection provided for in the Basic Law on the Environment shall apply to this law with the necessary adaptations.

CHAPTER IV FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 45

International cooperation

The State shall promote cooperation with other States and international organizations to achieve the objectives of this law and other international instruments in the forest sector that are regularly ratified.

Article 46

Progressive implementation and partnerships

1. The provisions of this law shall be implemented progressively according to the capacity of the State.
2. The first national inventory shall be completed by the Government within five years of the entry into force of this law.
3. The State may enter into partnerships with civil society in order to implement the provisions of this law.

Article 47

Transitional rule

1. Until the final installation of municipalities, references in this law to municipalities shall be understood as references to the peripheral services of the government entity responsible for forests.
2. Pending the adoption of specific legislation on the licensing and export procedure for forest resources, UNTAET Regulation 2000/ 17 shall remain in force.

Article 48
Entry into force

This law shall enter into force on the day following its publication.

Approved on May 15, 2017.

The President of the National Parliament,

Adérito Hugo da Costa

Enacted on July 26, 2017.

Be it published.

The President of the Republic,

Francisco Guterres Lú Olo