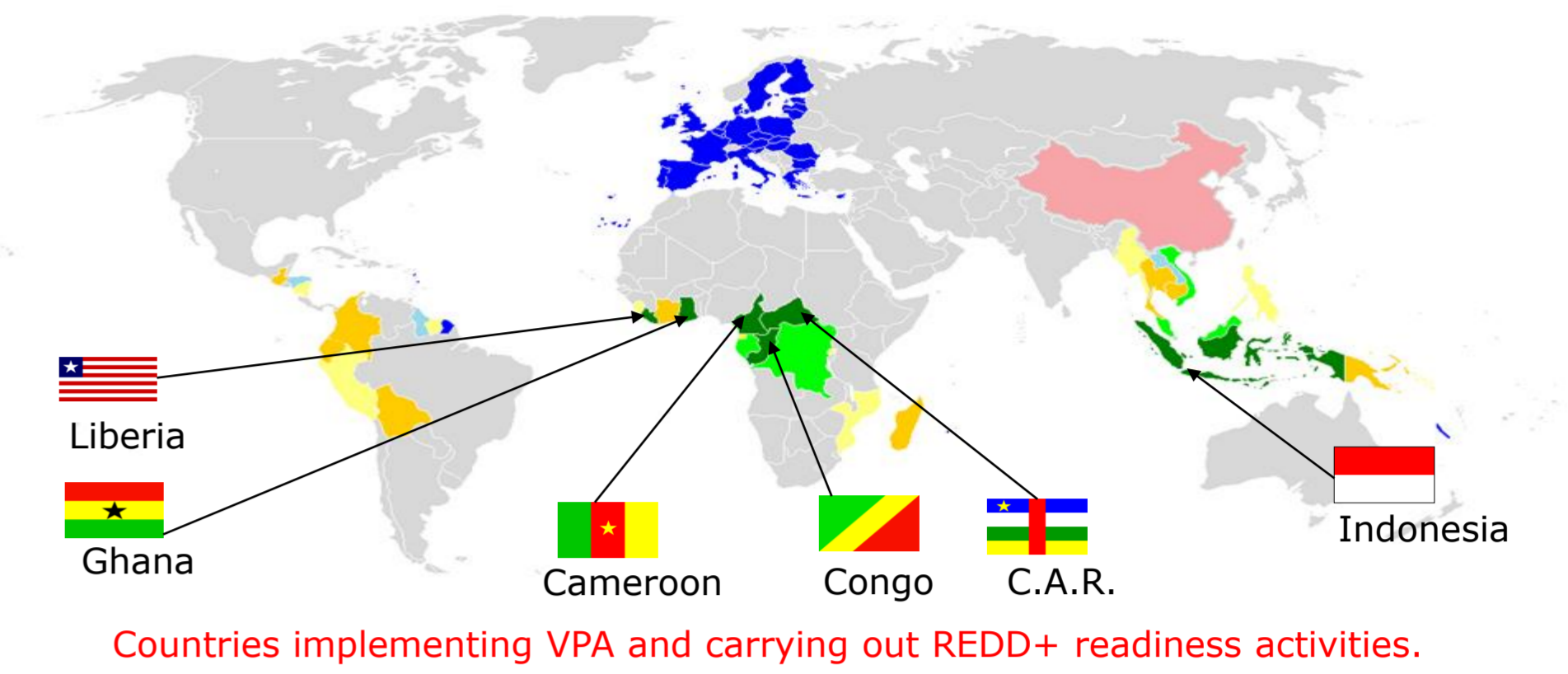




Linking FLEGT and REDD+ processes in practice

The European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan – which aims to reduce trade in illegal timber -, and REDD+ (Reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) constitute two recent international forest regimes. Since the aims of the regimes are obviously related, and they are simultaneously being implemented in several tropical countries, questions have been raised on how they influence each other, and how this mutual influence impacts their performance. We analysed these mutual influences in four Congo Basin countries (Tegegne et al. 2014a,b).



FLEGT and REDD+ processes in Congo Basin countries

The Congo Basin countries are at different stages of negotiating or implementing a FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and carrying out REDD+ readiness activities (R-PP).

Table 1. An overview of VPA and REDD+ processes in Congo Basin countries (Tegegne et al. 2014b)

Country	Key developments		Coordinating ministries
	VPA	REDD+	
Cameroon	-VPA signed in 2010 and ratified in 2011	- Engaged since 2008 - R-PP* approved in 2013	- Forestry and Wildlife coordinates VPA - Environment coordinates REDD+
Central African Republic (CAR)	-VPA signed in 2010 and ratified in 2012	- Engaged since 2007 - R-PP Approved in 2011	- Water and Forestry coordinates VPA - Environment and Ecology coordinates REDD+
Congo	-VPA signed in 2010 and ratified in 2013	- Engaged since 2008 - R-PP approved in 2011	- Forest Economy and Sustainable Development coordinates both
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	- Negotiations initiated in 2010	- Engaged since 2009 - R-PP approved in 2011	- Environment coordinates both

*R-PP (REDD Readiness Preparation Plan)

Theoretical frame and methods

This study is based on literature review and interviews with experts involved in the VPA and REDD+ processes.

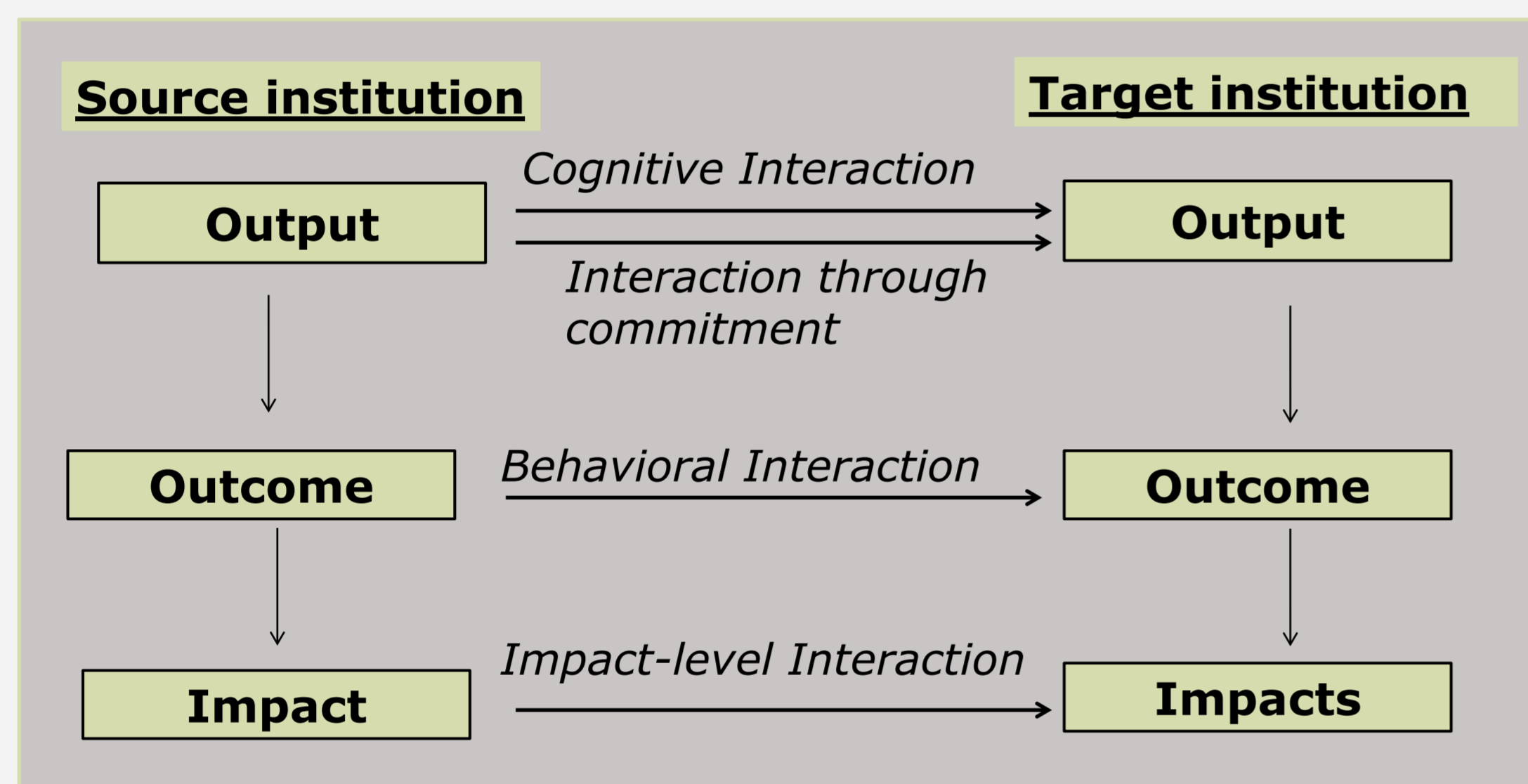


Fig. 1. Conceptual framework for analyzing interactions between international regimes (Gehring and Oberthur, 2009)

Linkages between FLEGT VPA and REDD+ processes

- a) **Output level - Cognitive interactions:**
 - the existing VPAs have served as a policy model for REDD+ strategy
- b) **Output level - Interactions through commitments:**
 - REDD+ could provide additional finance and political attention to the VPA process. VPA provides additional legal means to implement the commitments made under REDD+.
- c) **Outcome level - Behavioral interactions:**
 - VPA is expected to result in behavioral change that will also support REDD+.
- d) **Impact-level interaction:**
 - the processes are expected to interact via addressing direct drivers of forest loss and underlying governance factors.

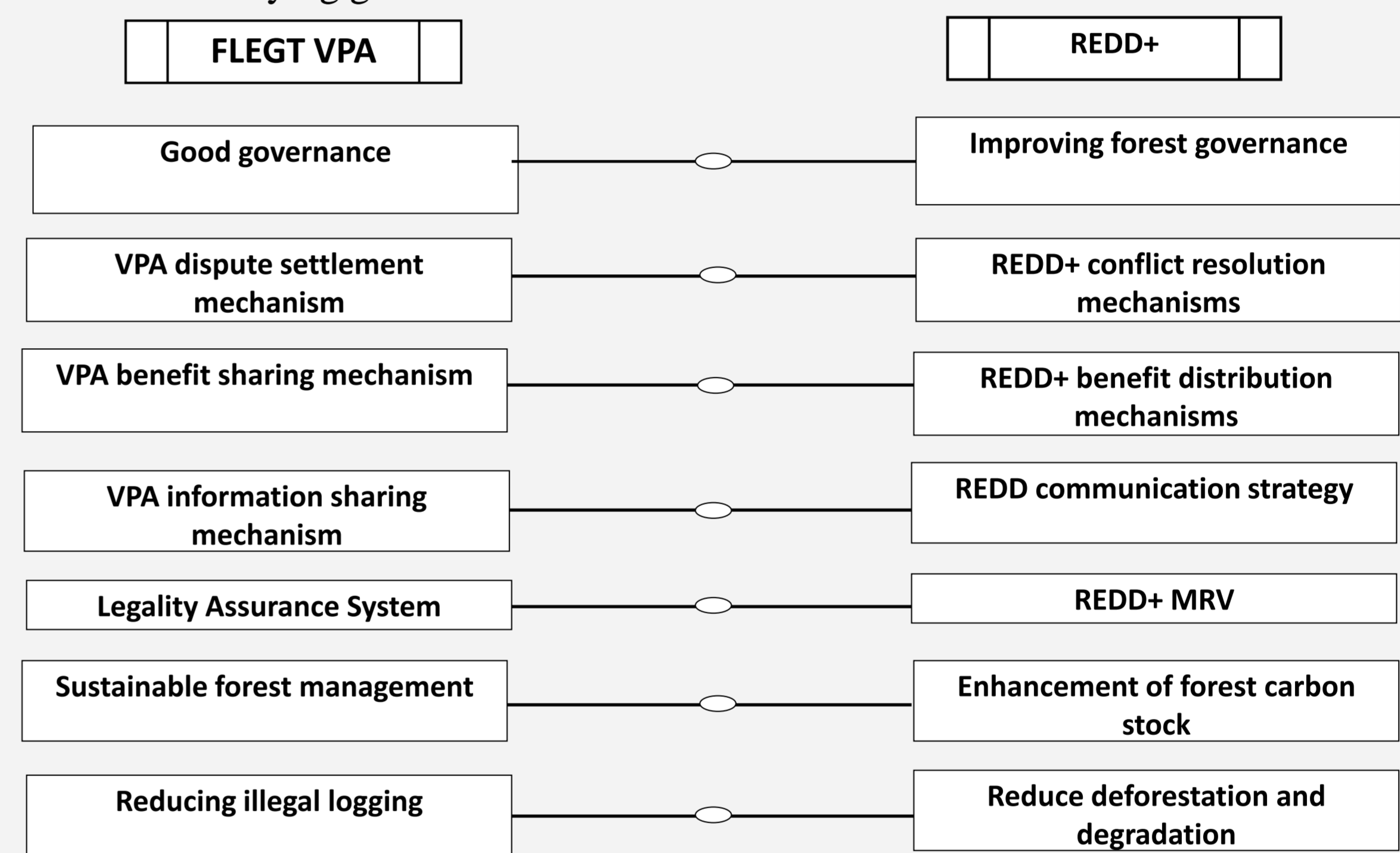
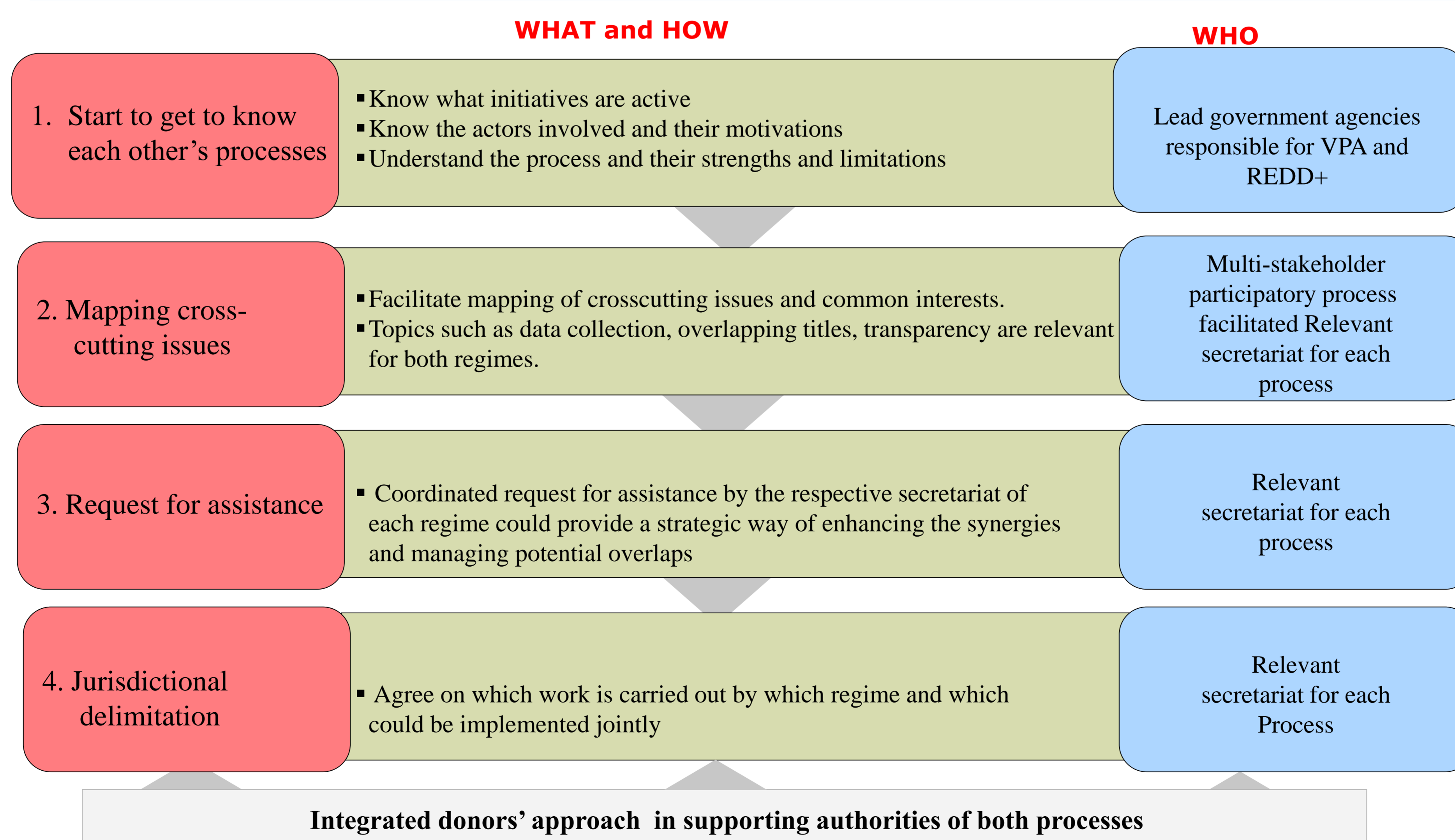


Fig. 2. Related activities in the FLEGT VPA and REDD+ processes.

Concluding remarks

FLEGT and REDD+ can help each other in several ways. Exchange of information among stakeholders and request for assistance and jurisdictional delimitation could help linking the two processes.

Linking FLEGT VPA and REDD+ processes in practice, at national-level



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Yitagesu Tekle Tegegne^{1*}, Marcus Lindner¹

¹European Forest Institute, Sustainability and Climate Change Unit, Torikatu 34, 80100 Joensuu, Finland

*Corresponding author: Tel: +358 (0)50 363 0474 Email: yitagesu.tekle@efi.int