

SURF- Project Centre of EFI for Supporting the Global Implementation of REDD+ and FLEGT

Project Centre-SURF

Supporting the Global Implementation of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) (**SURF**) is a thematic Project Centre (PC) of the European Forest Institute (EFI), established in 2014. SURF is active in research, development, demonstration and dissemination (RDD&D) activities in the emerging global, multilateral, bilateral and corporate forest management policy mechanisms, REDD+, and FLEGT.

Vision

SURF is developing as a Centre of Excellence with significant contributions to an improved conceptual and methodological integration of REDD+. The PC places forests high on the international research and policy agendas, especially in relation to environment, economy, energy and sustainable landscape management.

Mission

The Project Centre:

- Improves synergies between and the effectiveness and feasibility of REDD+, FLEGT and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through RDD&D; and
- enhances the scientific support to the fields of SFM and the abatement of illegal logging by involving and collaborating with researchers from its partner universities, EFI facilities and EFI member institutions.

Work plan

SURF integrates six different components in its work plan within the framework of RDD&D. The components include research, policy support activities, communicating via website and other channels, organizing and participating in scientific events, publications and funding. In line to the work plan, SURF has prepared an Action Plan for the start-up phase (2014-2015) and operates with annual plans.



Forest inventory for REDD+ in the Mt. Elgon area, Uganda



REDD+ research in the DRC

Research

SURF establishes a collaborating research network on multidisciplinary thematic areas of high relevance for the management of tropical forests worldwide including REDD+, FLEGT, SFM and ecosystem services. For the period of 2014-2017, SURF initiates research on, but not limited to, the thematic areas presented in table 1.

Table 1 SURF research (2014-2017): thematic areas and focus

Thematic area	Major focus
Implementation of REDD+, FLEGT and SFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFM approaches to foster FLEGT and REDD+ interactions • Enhancing REDD+, FLEGT and SFM interactions
REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved MRV for REDD+ • Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of forest management options
FLEGT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and impact evaluation of VPA
Volunteer markets and corporate initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary and multiscale effects of voluntary markets and corporate initiatives -using a comparative approach between countries
Landscape management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing Emissions from All Land Uses (REALU) • Climate-smart-agroforestry

Policy support

SURF aims at being a major hub in the process of foresight and knowledge transfer from research to policy making providing an interface between the SURF user community and research community (Figure 2). The PC provides an information platform for EFI members to collaborate on scientific and methodological issues related to REDD+, FLEGT and SFM with a strong emphasis on global topics of relevance to European countries.

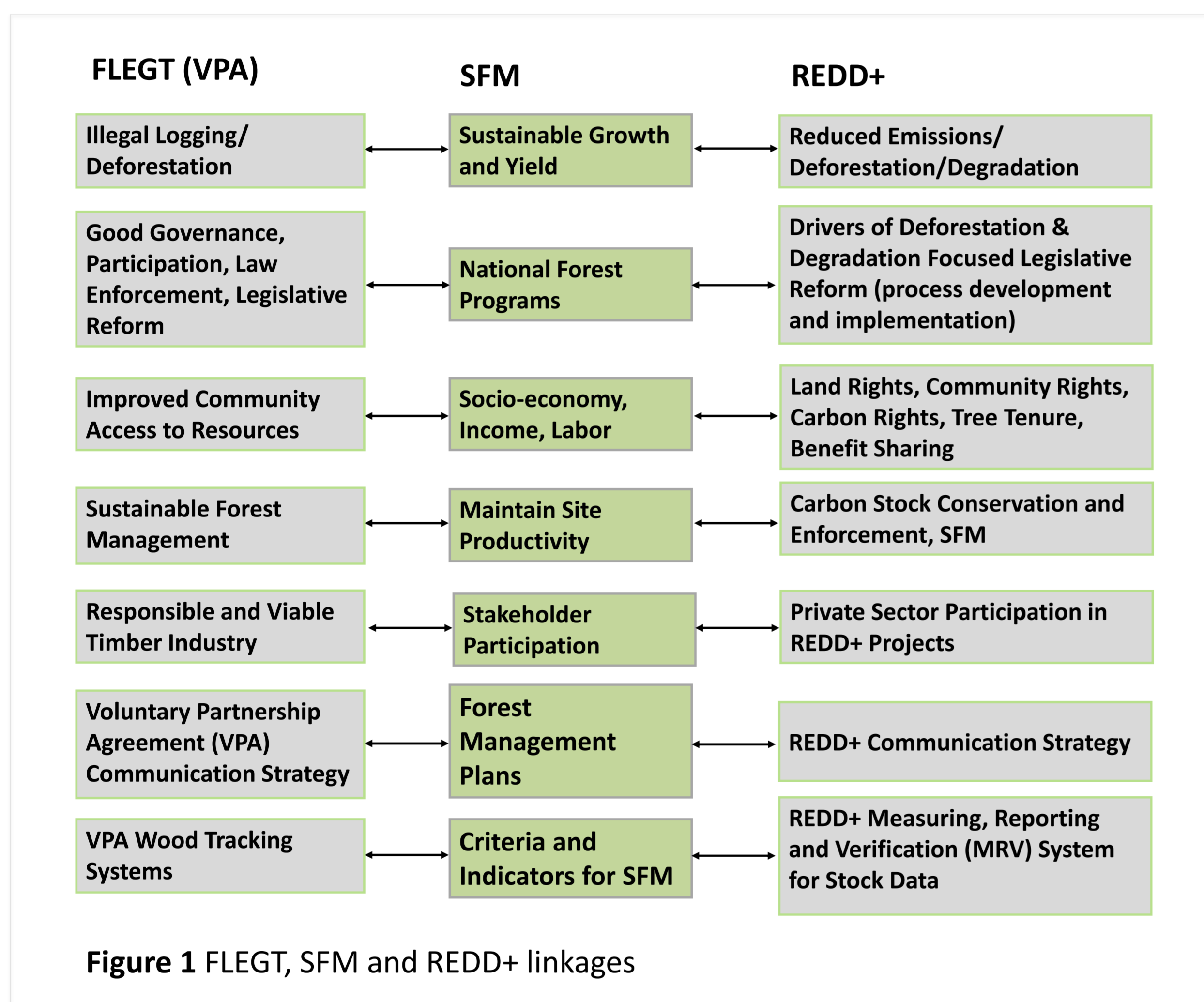


Figure 1 FLEGT, SFM and REDD+ linkages

Objectives

- Conducting and synthesizing innovative and multidisciplinary research, creating insight and foresight and providing knowledge transfer on ecosystem services of forests worldwide; and
- evaluating the integrated effects of REDD+, FLEGT and SFM regarding the provision of global ecosystem services as well as arranging and strengthening political interlinkages.

Consortium members

Management and coordination

1. Institute for World Forestry, Centre for Wood Sciences, University of Hamburg (UHH)
2. Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Leuven (KU Leuven)

Partner universities

3. University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics
4. University of Göttingen, Chair of Forest and Nature Conservation Policy
5. University of Molise, Department of Bioscience and Territory
6. University of Padova, Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry Department
7. Wageningen University, Forest Ecology and Forest Management group/Forest and Nature Conservation Policy group

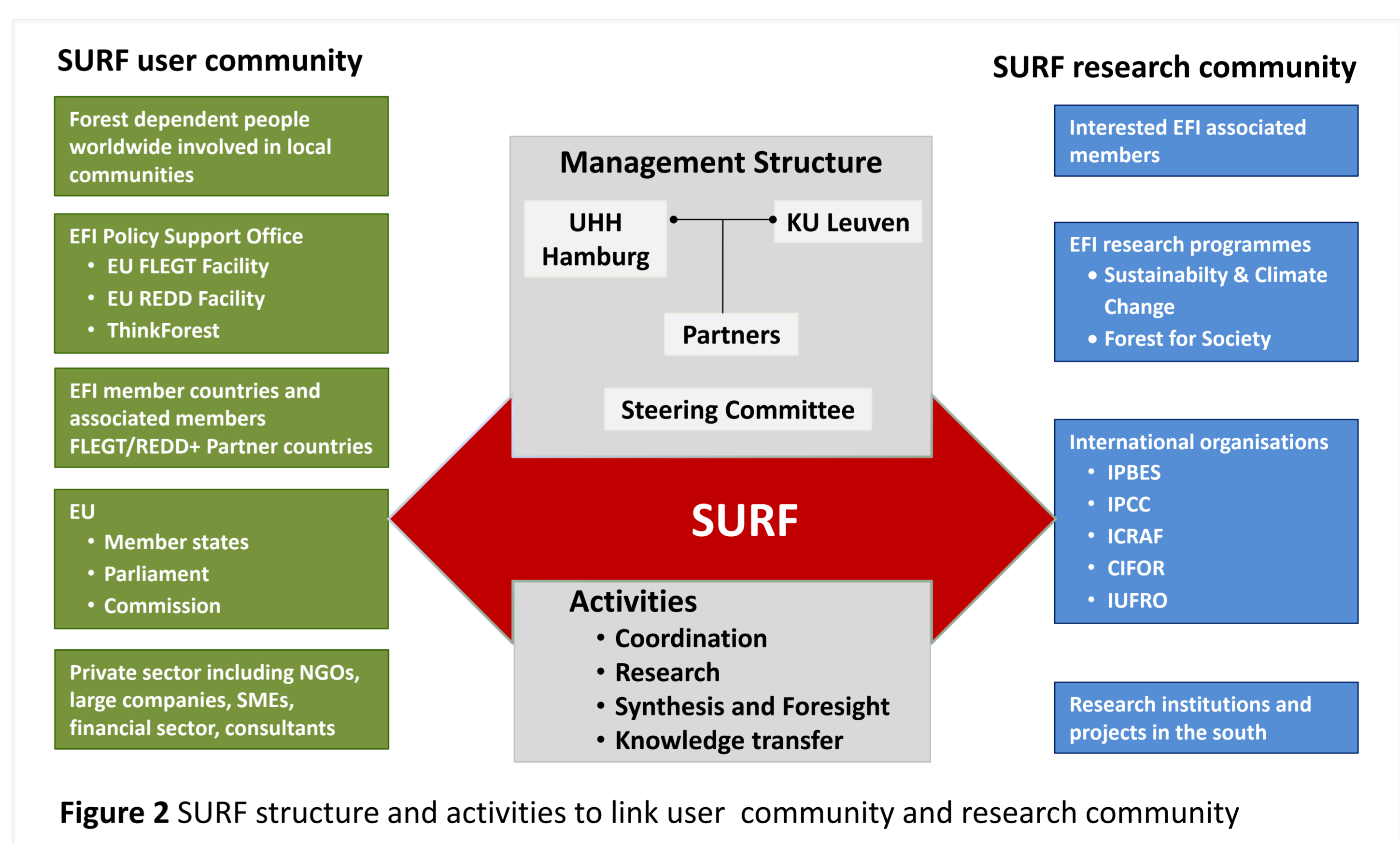


Figure 2 SURF structure and activities to link user community and research community

Contact us

Post address: University of Hamburg
Institute for World Forestry
Leuschnerstraße 91
21031 Hamburg, Germany

E-Mail: weltforst@uni-hamburg.de

Telephone: +49 40 739 62-101/137

