Ecosystem Service Opportunities: Synthesis of Steps 3 and 4

3A Clarifying relevant issues and the role of ecosystem services (ES)

- Which issues are perceived as relevant?
- Which ES are relevant and connected to the issues?
- Where do trade-offs or synergies between ES occur?

3B Understanding how human activities and actors relate to ES

- Which activities help to protect ecosystems and to ensure a sustainable provision of ES?
- Who are the stewards?
- Which activities use or depend on ES?
- Who are the beneficiaries that have an interest in ES provision?
- Which activities pollute ecosystems and/or deplete or harm the provision of ES?
- Who are the degraders?

3C Identifying ES opportunities, recognizing gaps, opportunities and potentials

- Who bears costs for stewardship activities that are not recovered?
- Steward Earns Principle
  - Who could be rewarded or otherwise motivated to provide (more) stewardship activities?
- Who receives ES benefits without contributing to the provision?
- Beneficiary Pays Principle
  - Who could pay/contribute for benefiting from ES provision?
- Who engages in degrading activities and is not held liable - and why?
- Polluter Pays Principle
  - Who could be held liable or otherwise be motivated to stop or reduce degrading activities?

Checking for appropriateness of ES opportunities

- Will this opportunity generate livelihood benefits for those concerned? Does no vulnerable group lose out?
- Are possible sources of opposition (especially by powerful actors) understood and can they be dealt with?
- Are there no significant risks of undesirable ecological consequences, or can they be dealt with?
- Is this opportunity compatible with the legal and institutional setting?
- Is this opportunity appropriate from a moral perspective and within the socio-cultural setting?
- Is there no risk to undermine existing motivations to protect the environment/nature, or can it be dealt with?

3A Understanding the policy-scape related to the ecosystem service opportunities

- Which instruments relate to the opportunities and contribute to protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services, according to the four principles? How so?
- Which instruments relate to the opportunities and have an adverse effect on (or do not consider) biodiversity and ecosystem services? How so?
- Which instruments provide positive incentives to motivate ES provision?
- Which instruments ask for contributions from ES beneficiaries?
- Which instruments provide incentives to reduce harmful activities?
- Which instruments unlock new potentials to benefit from conservation?

4B Identifying instruments that fit the opportunities

- Can existing instruments be adapted or better coordinated? Which opportunities require new instruments?

4C Selecting appropriate opportunities and instrument(s)

- Alignment with project objectives
- Feasibility of implementation (resources, access, collaborations, etc.)
- Acceptance by or priority for local population
- Ecological impacts (incl. risks, long-term effects)
- Social and economic effects for the local population (incl. on income inequality and vulnerability of the poor)
- Coherence with regulatory and institutional conditions
- Windows of opportunity
- Continuity after project termination