• **Mitigation stage.** Addressing ecosystem services at this stage will ensure that the project design and environmental management plan are informed by the mitigation hierarchy to enhance or at least maintain beneficiaries’ well-being at levels they deem acceptable, and to manage project dependence on priority ecosystem services to enhance or at least maintain project performance at levels the project developers deem acceptable. It includes one step:

  – **Step 7** proposes relevant biophysical and/or socioeconomic options to enhance or at least maintain the well-being of affected beneficiaries and project performance at acceptable levels.

Each step is associated with supporting tools and guidance, and many of them require engaging the ecosystem service beneficiaries (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESIA stages</th>
<th>ESR for IA steps</th>
<th>Associated tools</th>
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</table>
| **Scoping** | 1. Prioritize ecosystem services because of project impact¹ | • **Impact Scoping Tool**  
  – Questionnaire to identify drivers of ecosystem change likely to be associated with the project  
  – Questionnaires to identify potentially impacted ecosystems and ecosystem services, and potentially affected beneficiaries  
  – Questionnaire to assess project impact on ecosystem services  
• **Guidance on engaging affected beneficiaries to assess the significance of project impact on ecosystem services** |
| | 2. Prioritize ecosystem services because of project dependence | • **Dependence Scoping Tool**  
  – Questionnaire to assess project dependence on ecosystem services |
| | 3. Establish the ESIA Terms of Reference for ecosystem services | • **Guidance on producing the ToR regarding ecosystem services** |
| **Impact analysis** | 4. Assess negative project impact on priority ecosystem services² | • **Baseline Tool**  
  – Questionnaire to assess current supply of priority ecosystem services and their contribution to beneficiaries’ well-being  
  – Questionnaire to estimate foreseeable supply of priority ecosystem services and their contribution to beneficiaries’ well-being in the absence of the project  
• **Impact Analysis Tool**  
  – Questionnaire to assess project impact on supply of priority ecosystem services in terms of changes in beneficiaries’ well-being  
• **Guidance on engaging affected beneficiaries to assess changes in their well-being due to the project and define acceptable levels of change** |
| | 5. Assess project dependence on priority ecosystem services² | • **Dependence Analysis Tool**  
  – Questionnaire to assess project dependence on supply of priority ecosystem services in terms of changes in project performance  
• **Guidance on engaging third-party beneficiaries to assess their impact on priority ecosystem services** |
| | 6. Produce summary report | • **Guidance on summarizing results of project impact and dependence assessments on priority ecosystem services** |
| **Mitigation** | 7. Identify options to enhance or at least maintain affected beneficiaries’ well-being and project performance derived from ecosystem services at acceptable levels³⁴ | • **Guidance on identifying options to mitigate negative project impact on beneficiaries’ well-being and manage project dependence on ecosystem services**  
• **Guidance on engaging affected beneficiaries to enhance or at least maintain their well-being, and third-party beneficiaries to enhance or at least maintain project performance at acceptable levels** |

¹ This step requires engaging affected ecosystem service beneficiaries.
² This step requires engaging third-party ecosystem service beneficiaries.
³ This step requires engaging affected beneficiaries.
⁴ This step requires engaging third-party beneficiaries.