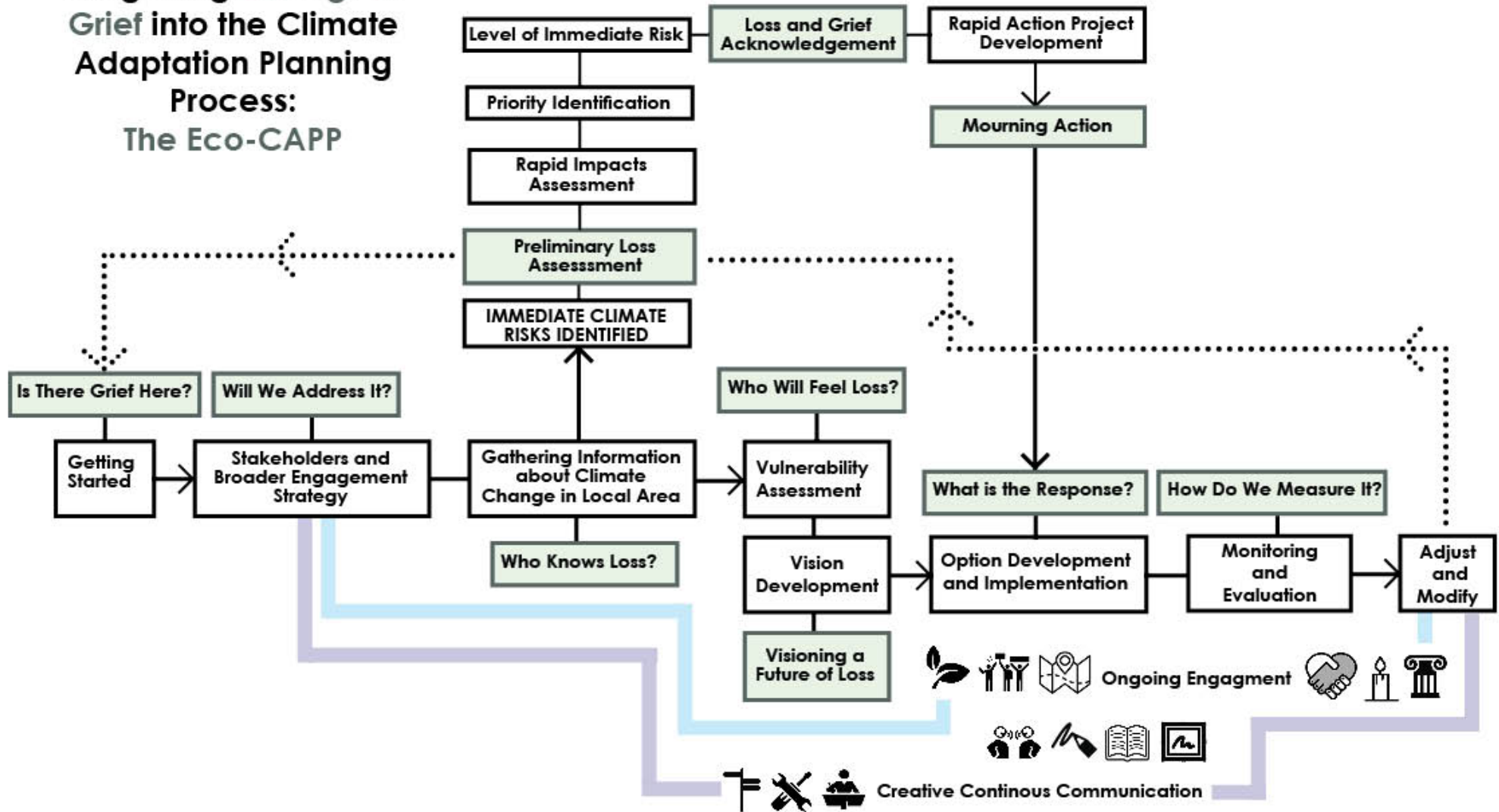


Integrating Ecological Grief into the Climate Adaptation Planning Process: The Eco-CAPP



Integrating Ecological Grief into the Climate Adaptation Planning Process

Ecological grief is a powerful force, with transformative potential. Engaging with this power requires acknowledgment and preparation for the fundamental ways that landscape professionals and process facilitators, the public and the planning process will be changed by tarrying with grief.

The following provides broad considerations for the integration of ecological grief into the planning process. Each sub-section is relevant at every stage of the Eco-CAPP, with the intention of integrating ecological grief in an iterative and holistic manner.

A. Acknowledging and setting the stage.

Planning the process is a core consideration for its later success. Similarly, planning and framework design will shape the success of integrating ecological grief and mourning actions. Learning from the Synth-CAPP, developing awareness is a formidable first step in determining the extent to which grief is integrated in the CAPP. Developing awareness of ecological grief will be required in a range of spaces within the CAPP, such as:

- Nature and extent of loss within the adaptation project scope.
- Benefits and opportunities of engaging with grief.
- Appropriateness or need for grieving in project scope.
- Pathways to grief.
- Intersecting identities and vulnerabilities with experiences of ecological grief.
- Public experiences of grief and its manifestations.
- Professional and internal experiences of grief and its manifestations.

Awareness of ecological grief and political buy-in is likely to correspond with the amount of climate loss experienced and the existing state of adaptation efforts currently occurring. In cases where climate actions is limited, simply developing an understanding of ecological grief may be the most appropriate path to future efforts of ecological grieving.

B. Building the Process

Integration of ecological grief requires a supportive planning process. Engaging with grief requires time and invites a certain amount of disruption into conventional CAPPs. The creation of clear inventory, reporting and planning structures will help to maximize the benefits of ecological grief and produce useable information for the CAPP.

C. Timing and urgency

Addressing climate change requires urgent action. When threats are imminent, there may not be the time or space to engage deeply with grief. In situations such as these, employing the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) phased approach to CAPP may be the most appropriate way to meet incoming climate threats. Moving at speed requires the simplification of climate causal analysis, approaching decisions primarily through a risk-based framework. While moving in this way is a necessary and prudent approach to urgent climate threats, the speed of change may require that more time be made for grief in later CAPPs.

D. Capacity

Grief is work for everyone. Within the CAPP, grief and its related emotions are present when people are present. As a process facilitator engaging with loss it is important to recognize that all parties will be impacted by climate losses in some regard. Capacity must be built to address personal, professional and public grief. Recognizing grief and pursuing personal work of mourning, may develop professional capacity to confront the realities of practicing in a climate-changed world. Engaging in these personal works of ecological mourning will likely shift the ethical frameworks in decision making, clarifying the diverse beings for whom we have responsibility. In addition, the recognition and acknowledgement of losses is a capacity building exercise, making individuals more resilient and able to negotiate future losses.

E. Creative and continuous communication

Communication and messaging about grief will determine stakeholder buy-in and success of mourning actions. From the ecological grief literature, messaging that is frank, honest and forgiving is the most effective when confronting loss. In addition to effective climate messaging, exploring alternative methods of communication such as story-telling or experiential art may be a more successful way to bridge gaps in understanding about ecological grief. Including ecological grief in the CAPP will require the adoption of new language such as:

Intolerable Losses: Losses which are beyond the adaptive capacity of community.

No-Win Situations: Losses which are beyond all feasible ability to stop.

Strategic Losses: Losses that are allowed in order to increase system resilience.

F. Metrics and Analysis

In the CAPP, undertaking climate causal analysis will be difficult. There is no simple way to measure causal relationships between climate impacts and intangible loss and damage. In the early stages of planning, it may be useful for facilitators to complete preliminary assessments of loss and sources of grief but, as the planning process moves forward, decisions about loss and grieving actions should be firmly rooted in the communities that are most affected. Working through the actions of mourning - such as first person speak-outs, collaborative values mapping, and memorialization of losses - can provide critical information to decision-makers about adaptive capacity and thresholds of the context in which they are working. Bearing witness to this information grounds decisions made by practitioners in the felt and lived experience of place.

G. Loss Prioritization

Moving deeper into the climate crisis, the extent of all the experienced losses will be far beyond capacity to comprehend or meaningfully grieve. Planning in the midst of these losses will require some prioritization and exclusion of certain losses from public mourning actions. In many cases, this will be strained by the speed and urgency under which adaptation must be undertaken. In crafting the planning processes, determining a grievable loss may be framed through:

Representative and Justice Based: In the calculation of losses, what may be considered acceptable to one individual or group may constitute an intolerable loss to others. Including ecological grief will require careful attention when determining what losses are considered acceptable, who decides and at what point losses become intolerable.

Lean-into Place: In the process of information gathering, identifying places with significant collective value may be one method for prioritizing or determining grievability. By their nature, places are locations where community has existing affective relationships with the more-than-human world, making engaging in processes of ecological mourning more accessible in these locations.

Triggering Effects and Visible Impacts: In situations when resistance to climate adaption is high, capitalizing on visible or locally-felt climate impacts may be the best way to gain traction for the Eco-CAPP.

F. Monitoring and Evaluation

Determining the best way to, or even the possibility of, measuring grief is understandably complicated. The individual nature of grief makes applying a universal baseline unwise. In the Eco-CAPP, monitoring of grieving is better served by attention to the process rather than the outcome. When integrating grief into monitoring functions, focus was directed at both what could and should be measured. Monitoring actions focus largely of checks and balance within construction of and method used by Eco-CAPP, rather than the outcomes on grief actions. Undertaking the actions of mourning may provide useful information for other factors being measured by monitoring activities within the Eco-CAPP, creating a more holistic picture of climate impacts and climate actions.

E. Selecting actions

The suggested actions within the Eco-CAPP are not meant to be prescriptive. Selected mourning actions should be determined, designed and led by community. Within the Eco-CAPP, mourning actions are used for:

- Raising awareness.
- Gathering information.
- Capacity building.
- Future visioning.
- Commemorative processes.
- Redemptive action opportunities.

Make it Visible

Making grief visible is the first step to addressing processes of mourning. Raising the visibility of grief can take many forms, with the primary goal being to name grief and recognize its existence in our social-ecological fabric.



Academic Discourse: academic scholarship is one way that knowledge is produced and validated. Representation within academia helps to justify the inclusion of ecological grief future scholarship on climate psychology, adaptation and processes that address ecological decline.



Public Discourse: Grief spoken about loudly and often, normalises grief in public life. Visibility in public spheres and acknowledgment by public authorities validate experiences of grief for those experiencing it and can contribute to later shifts in social grieving norms.



Creative Discourse: Elegy and other poetic forms of writing can help to translate or communicate experiences of ecological grief (Barr, 2017). Writing produced in this manner functions similar to visual art, tapping into emotion rather than intellect.



Visible Systems: Creating or highlighting visible ecological systems is one method for increasing ecological literacy and fostering subsequent relationships. Ensuring ecological systems are visible and comprehensible addresses the concern – “we grieve only for what we know” (Leopold, 1949).



Art: Visual and experiential art is a powerful tool to communicate experiences of ecological grief. Within the literature, artistic practices are used as both an awareness-building tool and memorial practice. Art takes on a particular role in helping others experience emotion and takes the first step in the journey of ecological grieving. Ecological mourning may prove a challenging new medium for artists and designers, transforming the experiences of loss and deterioration into an aesthetic process.



Speakouts/Storytelling: Personal narratives are a powerful method with which to communicate experiences of grief. Bearing witness to speakouts and storytelling can help others understand experiences of ecological grief that may have been previously invisible to them.



Signage: Signs or visual cues create spectral landscapes, highlighting absence and bringing the dead back into the physical experience of the space.



Memorial: There is a long tradition of memorializing people or tragic events. In the case of ecological grief, memorial may take a new form that is flexible and dynamic, able to represent both past losses and those still to come.

Build action

Agency is built through action. In the face of loss, structure and ritual acts provide comfort in the in the experience loss, each action emerging out of the unique constellation of loss experienced, cultural values and community desires.



Public Mourning: Acts of public mourning inscribe value and acknowledge the importance of loss to community. Public mourning is a healing practice that can be used to draw broader support for those who are most impacted by loss. Acts of public mourning, such as vigils and religious ceremonies, are practices that already exist within the cultural lexicon, and may be transferable to experiences of ecological loss.



Communities of Mourning: Specific support groups strengthen social networks and create a forum where individuals can find solace in shared experiences. In the case of ecological grief, communities of mourning can be created for particular experiences of loss and for ecological loss experienced in general.



Mapping/Claiming Loss: Mapping expected losses may help communicate the coming realities to stakeholders and to spark further discussion about strategies to manage these losses. Actions that map and lay claim to loss may help individuals develop a sense of ownership over losses and facilitate a sense of agency in response.



Stewardship/Nature Connection: Feeling connected to the more-than-human beings is the express purpose of engaging in actions of ecological mourning. Stewardship actions undertaken within rituals offer potential as a redemptive action, allowing individuals to repent for past actions. Caring for nature may both increase feelings of grief and provoke responsibility to act.



Activism/ Protest: Activism is proposed by many authors within the ecological grief literature as one way of making ecological grief visible. In cases where socio-political structures are resistant to expressions of grief or seek to actively suppress it, activism may be one means to ensure that experiences of ecological remain present within public discourse.



B. Building the Process

- Match adaptation style to project goals and preliminary expectations of loss within the project scope.
- Identify the power inherent in revealing loss and public grieving.
- Develop a representative oversight committee to assess what and whose losses are being valued.
- Develop a robust communications strategy, which addresses external and internal communication, particularly how knowledge gained from grieving activity will be used and integrated in understandings of climate effects, option development and prioritization.
- Build an appropriate budget. The inclusion of grief will require additional time and professional capacity. This will potentially require identifying additional funding streams for the adaptation process.

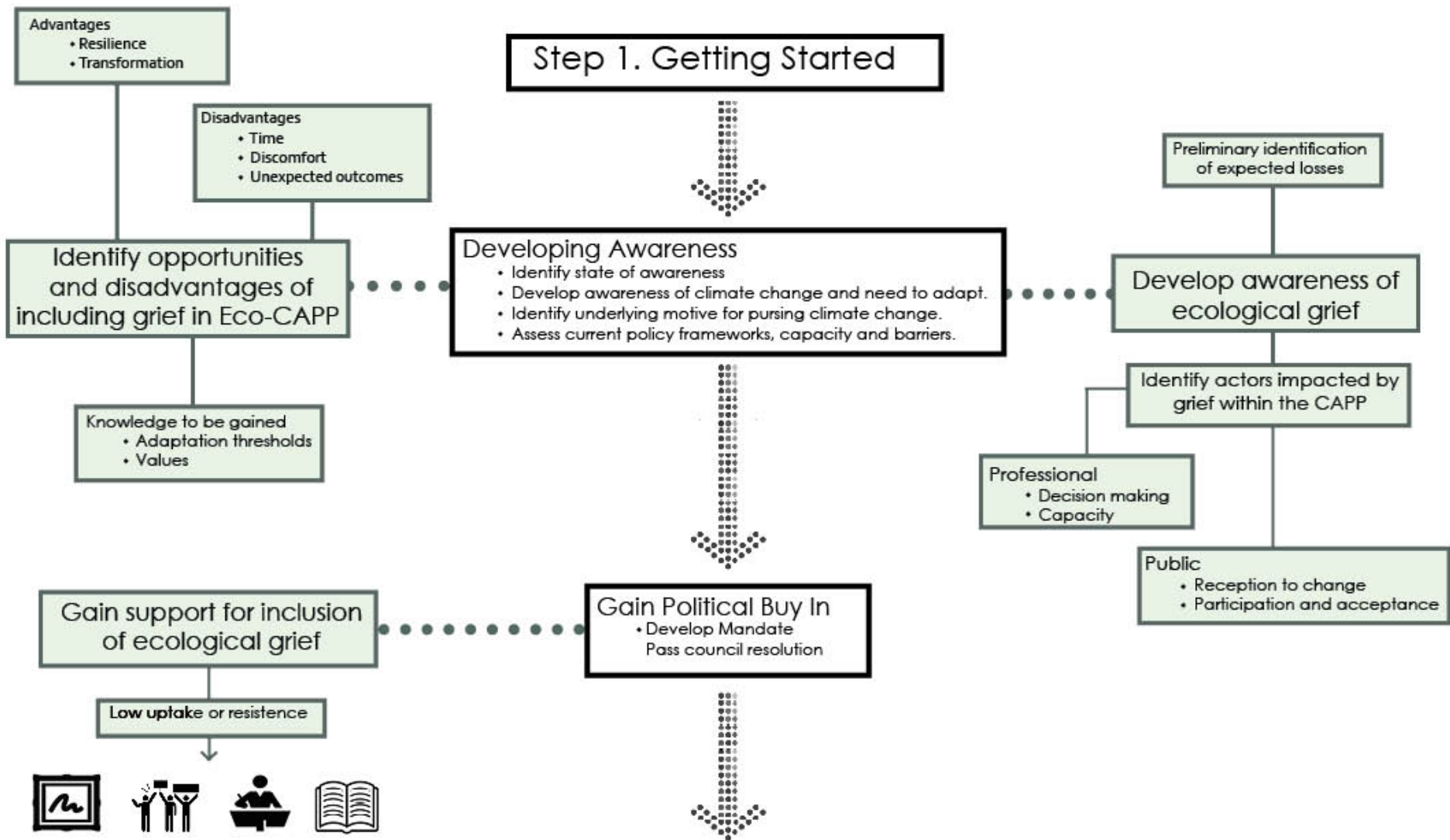
D. Capacity

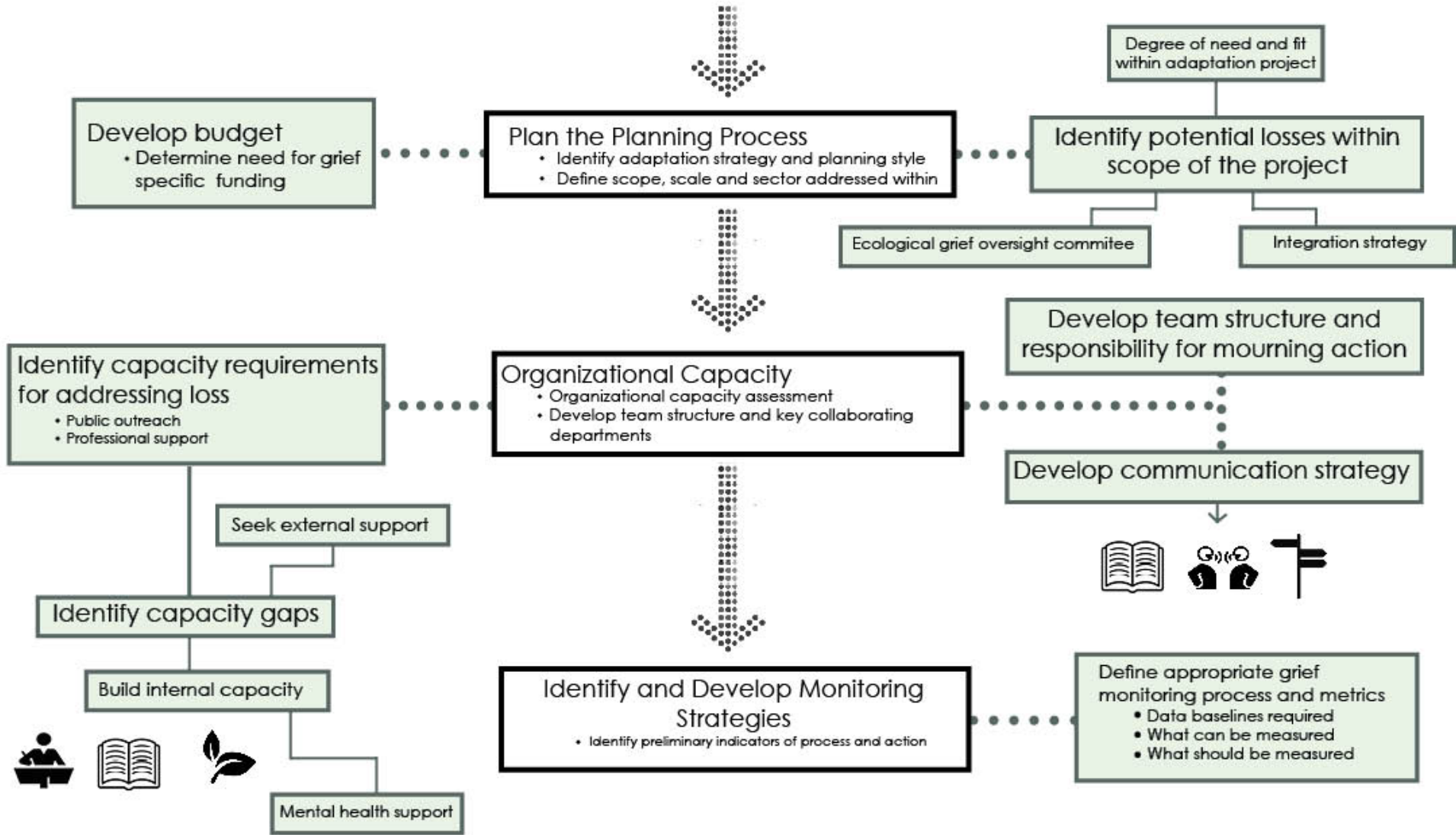
- When building organizational capacity to engage with grief, identifying gaps in support for both external and internal processes will be required. Successful mourning actions may be largely dependent of facilitators being able to hold space for them.

Strategies for addressing internal capacity may be: engage with personal sense of mourning, develop academic understanding of grief, and develop nature connection.

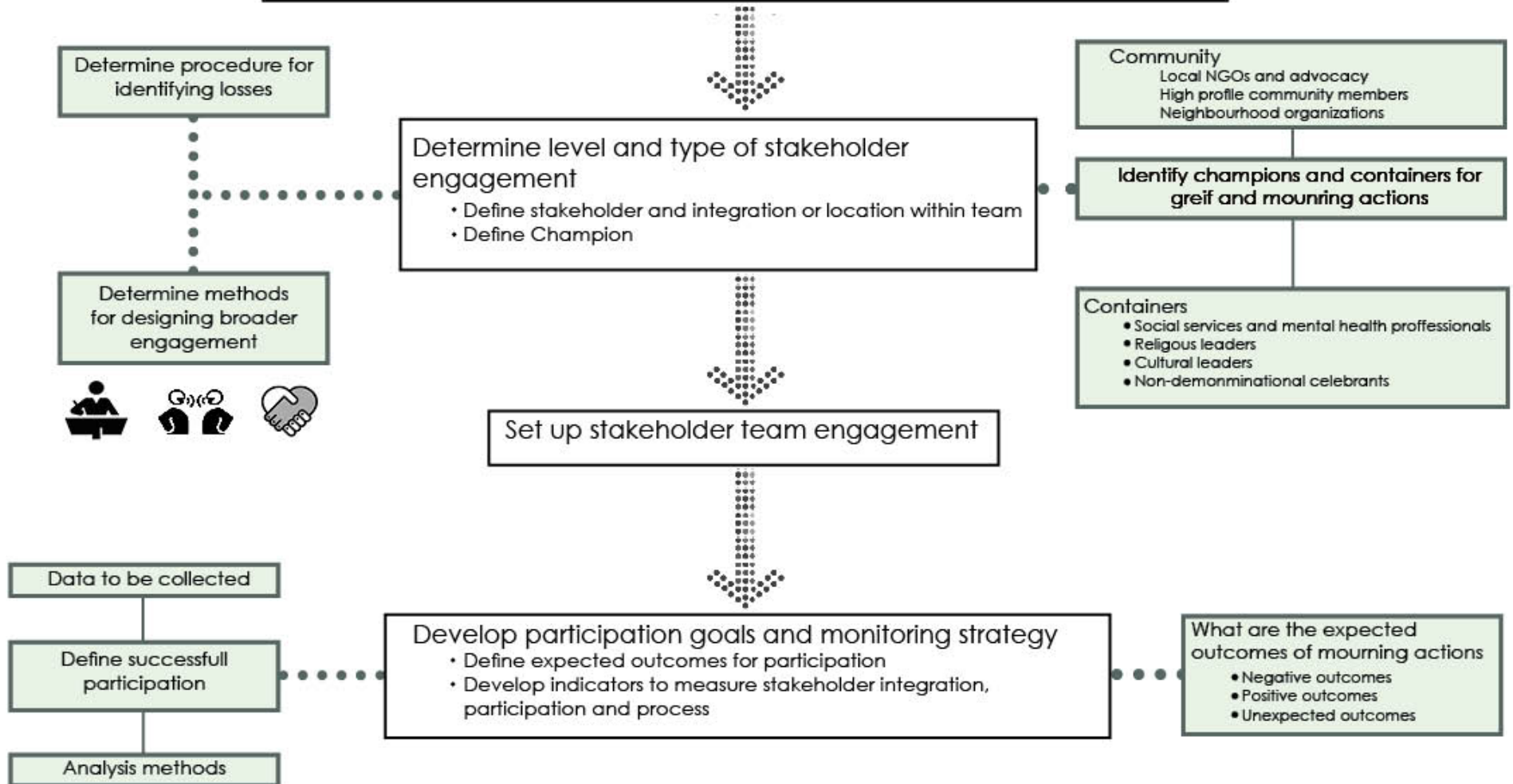
E. Creative and Continuous Communication

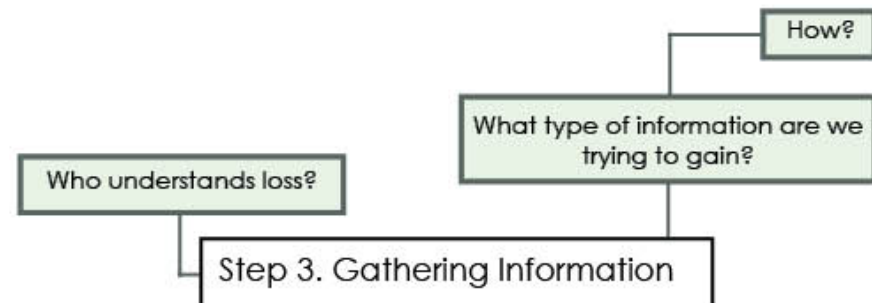
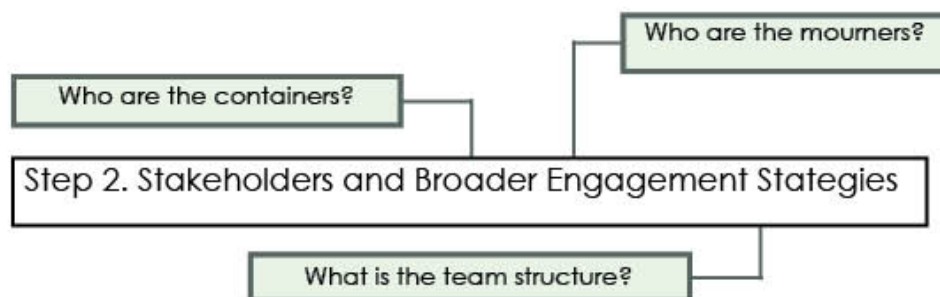
- Cultivating a clear message about future losses.
- Using alternative methods of communication to address low buy-in of elected officials or build awareness among the public





Step 2. Stakeholders and Broader Engagement Strategies





B. Building the Process

- Team structure and determining the need for grief-specific sub-committees (oversight committee, losses and mourning actions committee).
- Addressing the procedures for identification of mournable loss and designing mourning actions. Oversight of these processes, their creation and outcomes will be required to build equitable, representative methods for engaging with loss.

D. Capacity

- Within stakeholders, identifying individuals with capacity to engage in grief-specific committee's may be achieved by asking: Who can mobilize broad public support for engaging with mourning actions? Who has the existing capacity to hold space for mourners and craft ritual?
- Limited capacity to host complex or multiple stakeholder committee may require grief-specific subcommittee to be integrated within stakeholder teams.
- Capacity to respond to the outcomes of grief should be developed in advance to undertaking grieving actions.

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Create a clear reporting structures within teams and
- Provide a clear information flow and communication procedure between stakeholder sub-committees and areas of climate analysis such as, effects, risk and feasibility studies.

B. Building the Process

- Develop an additional inventory, specific to losses, requiring perceived and anticipatory losses to be clearly documented, making them clearly visible with Eco-CAPP.
- Build strategies to directly address industry or community guilt.

D. Capacity

- Capacity to identify loss may be increased by seeking input from those who are most likely to be experiencing loss or see loss clearly. Beyond technical experts these individuals may be: individuals with subsistence livelihoods, individual with land based occupations, Indigenous leaders and representatives from marginalized communities.

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Recognize that loss and grief is not always easily understood by those who are experiencing it. In cases where cultural norms limit expression of mourning, alternative methods such as storytelling and participatory value mapping may be more revealing of values and adaptation thresholds than direct questioning.

Step 3. Gathering Information



Identify Available Sources of Knowledge and Partnership

Technical Data collection and Representation

- Downscale and represent climate data
- Build understanding of climate change impacts and causal relationships of effects

Community Data Collection and Representation

- Identify key knowledge holders
- Capture and record local observations of climate change

Capture and record local contributions to climate change

- Government and industry contributions to climate change
- Community contributions to climate change

Technical Expertise

- Academia
- Social services
- Mental health professionals
- Consultants and facilitators

Community Expertise

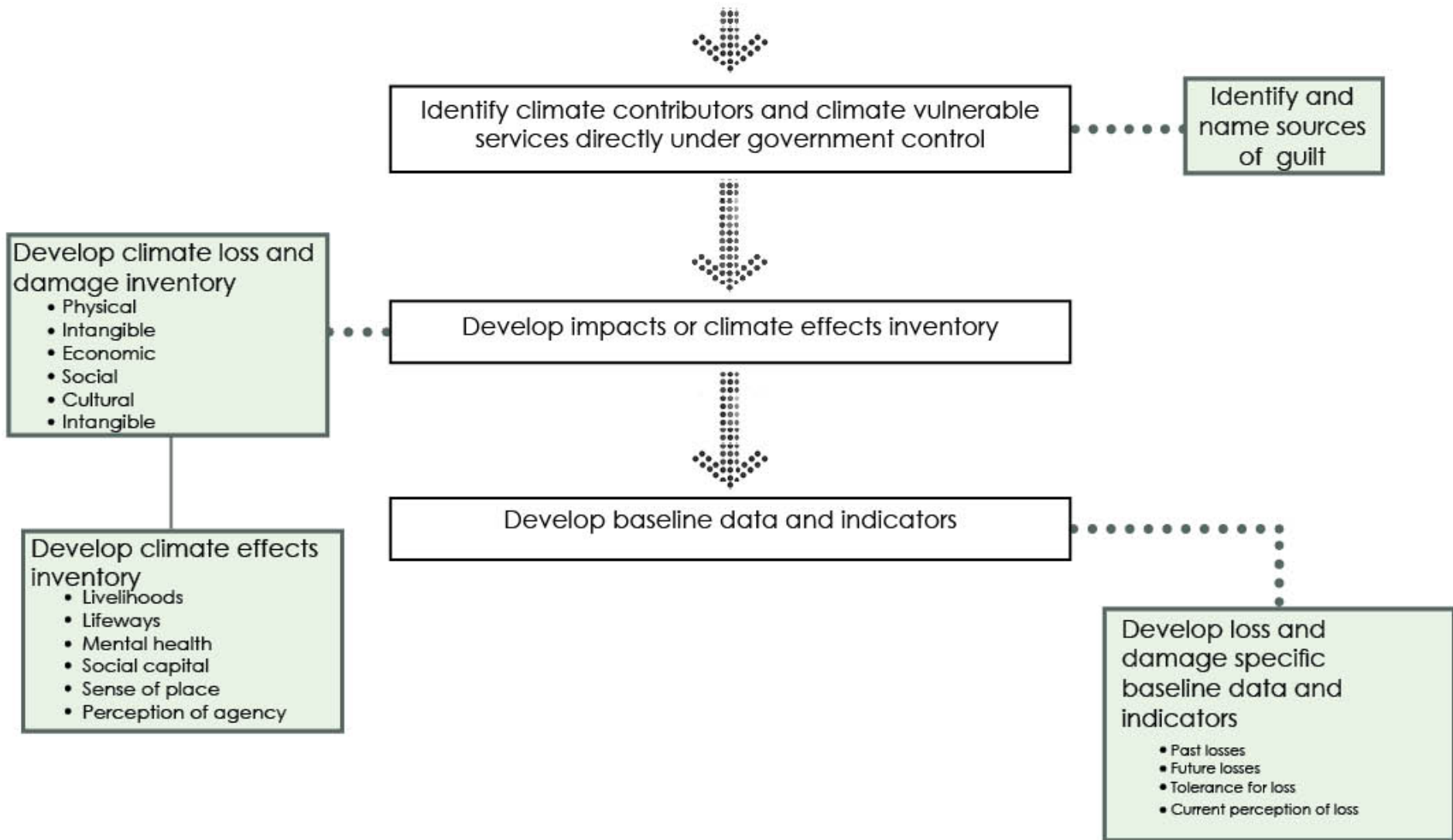
- Land based livelihoods
- Elders
- Traditional knowledge keepers
- Intersectional and marginalized representation
- Indigenous partners

Identify and name sources of guilt



Preliminary Risk Perception of Stakeholders





Step 4. Vulnerability Assessment

Sensitivity analysis or vulnerability identification and causal analysis

Define factors or conditions of vulnerability within adaptation focus

- Hard or technical; building conditions, existing infrastructure, land use
- Social and cultural; population density, class/caste structure, religion
- Political and economic; capacity, industry diversity, budget deficit
- Environmental; sensitive ecosystems, unstable land formation

Develop understanding of intersecting issues and multiplying factors of vulnerability
Perform causal analysis and identify root causes

Identify future losses and develop future losses scenarios

Communicate loss clearly to community

Identify pathways and populations impacted by loss

Identify intersecting vulnerabilities

- Identities
- Livelihoods
- Marginalized status
- Values

Perform causal analysis

Exposure or Risk Analysis = (likelihood x consequence) x stakeholder perception

Risk Estimation

- Identify map and apply current climate hazards and changes to selected adaptation focus
- Perform causal analysis to identify intersections or multiplying factors of vulnerability

Document Baseline Conditions

- Develop Future Risk Scenario's
- Estimate future patterns of city growth, land use or economic shifts
- Apply climate projections to identify future risk and vulnerability

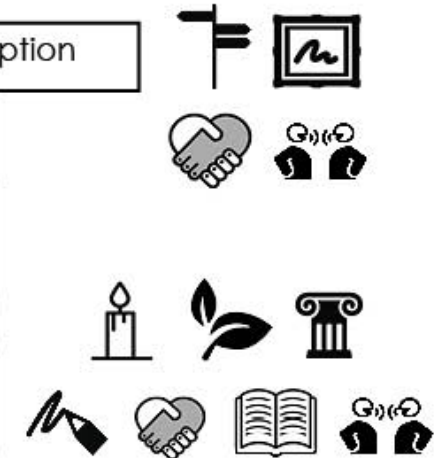
Map current and future climate changes impacts and hazards livelihood

Preliminary Risk Evaluation

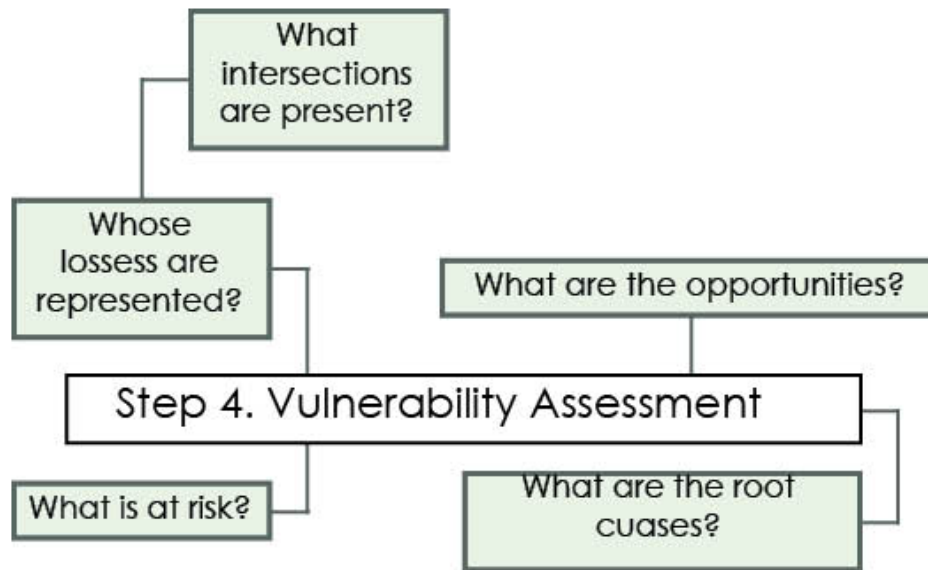
- Cost of doing nothing
- Stakeholder perception of risk

Adaptive Capacity Analysis

- Identify capacity types and capacity present within the region
- Identify potential opportunities to maximize existing capacity
- Identify possible benefits from climate change.



Identify potential opportunities to maximize existing capacity



B. Building the Process

- Require loss-specific risk assessments and future loss scenarios.
- Requiring loss-specific sensitivity analysis, vulnerability identification and causal analysis.
- Requiring loss-specific adaptive-capacity analysis.

D. Capacity

- Future losses scenarios are a powerful communication tool for individuals to experience future losses. Actions in which loss is confronted may need to be paired with structured supportive mourning actions and mental health support.



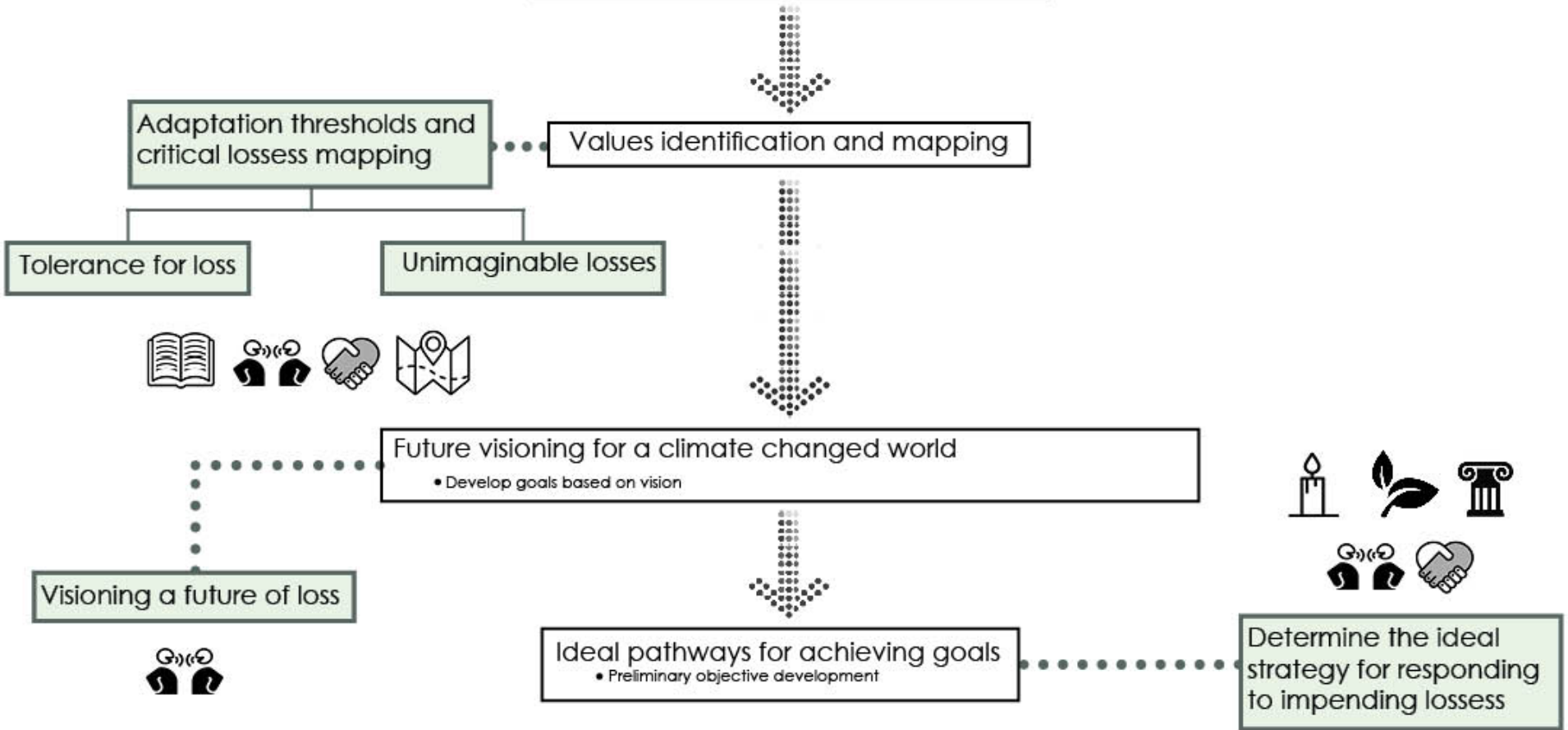
B. Building the Process

- Center both potential losses and opportunities in visioning for the future

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Take an exploratory approach to vision development, through the use of mixed methods and creative practices.

Step 5. Vision Development



Step 6. Option Development and Implementation



Option Identification

- Reassess and Review**
- Review and restate scope of adaptation action
 - Collect review summarize existing documents and all collected documents
 - Review existing plans, strategies, existing options and action checklists
- Develop objectives from community vision**
- Pull from community visioning exercise, restate issues as objectives
 - Build from vulnerability assessment
- Preliminary objective prioritization and assessment**
- Asses relevance to climate change
 - Assess relevance to community vision
 - Preliminary feasibility assessment (cost, root cause, risk, barriers and constraints)
- Stakeholder Assessment and prioritizations**
- Communicate initial objectives to key stakeholders
 - Confirm, reassess and restate as necessary



Stakeholder assessment of loss prioritization

Determine response to strategic losses, no-win and losses beyond feasible ability to stop



Identify loss objectives

Preliminary Loss Prioritization

Representative and justice-based analysis of loss prioritization





Option Prioritization and Assessment

Technical assessment of identified intolerable and strategic lossess

Programmatic Assessment of identified intolerable and strategic lossess

Values based assessment of identified intolerable and strategic lossess

Technical Assessment

- Direct rank (best to worst)
- Technical and weighted rank (meet objectives, relative importance)
- Risk assessment (cost of doing nothing, cost of maladaptation, stakeholder perception of risk)
- Identify drivers for implementation; external vulnerabilities, economies of scale, co-benefits
- Gap analysis or collapse and combine
- Parallel Gains
- Justification and feasibility
- Capacity to achieve, barriers to success, unfeasible options

Programmatic Assessment

- Linkages between existing plans and policy
- Sectoral organization and clumping opportunities (sector, locations, timing, phasing)
- Identify key plan components; responsible department, relevant collaborators, timeline, cost, funding, benefit, target, indicators
- Funding source and preliminary budget
- Develop preliminary implementation schedule

Values based assessment

- Review against community vision
- Wider community review and assessment, adapt as necessary

Review and Prioritize

- Review ranking inputs, cross correlate and prioritize

Develop Indicators

- Formulate expected results of each action
- Review baseline data
- Develop targets, indicators and evaluation measures and frequency

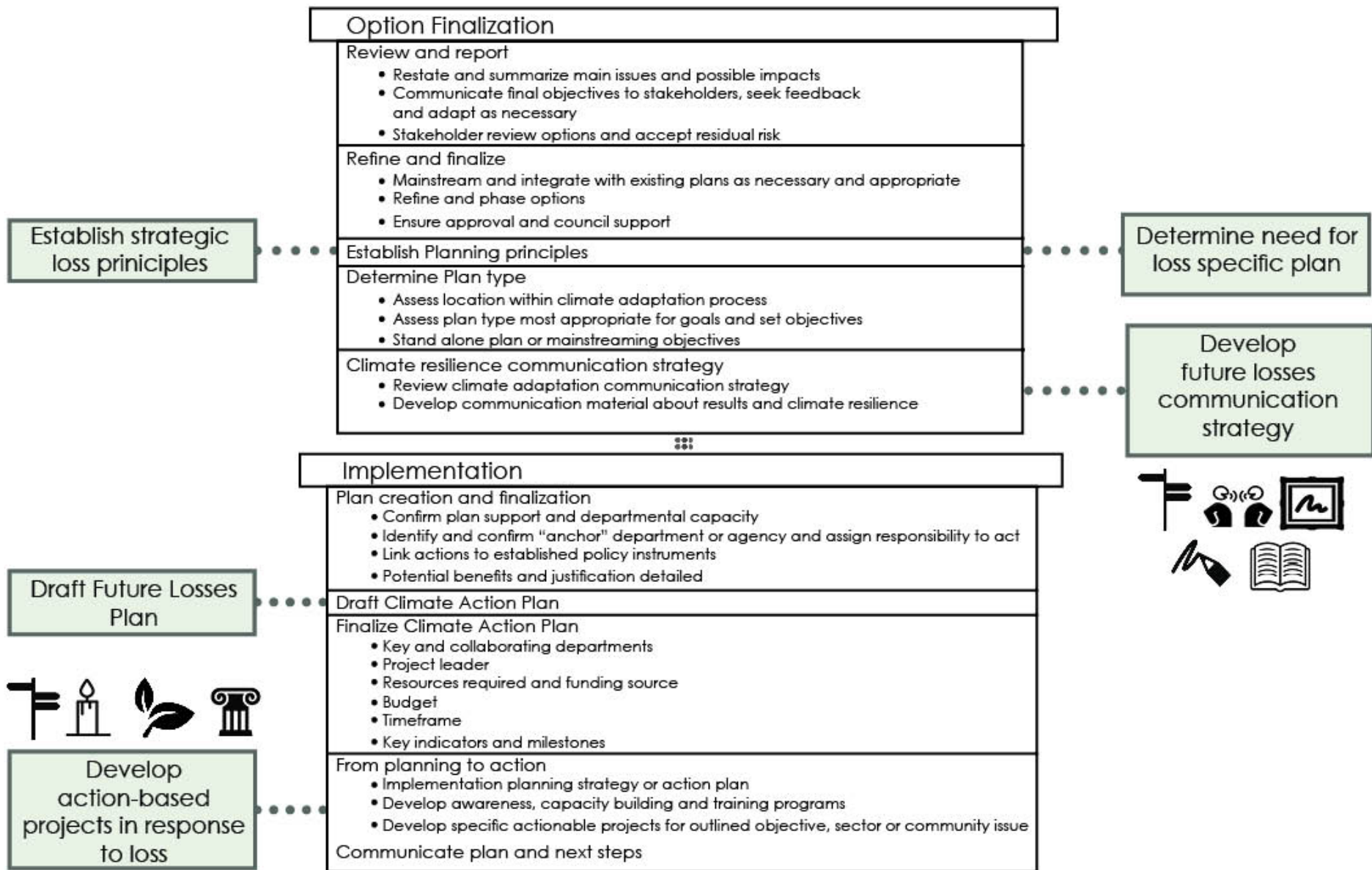
Risk Management and mitigation strategy

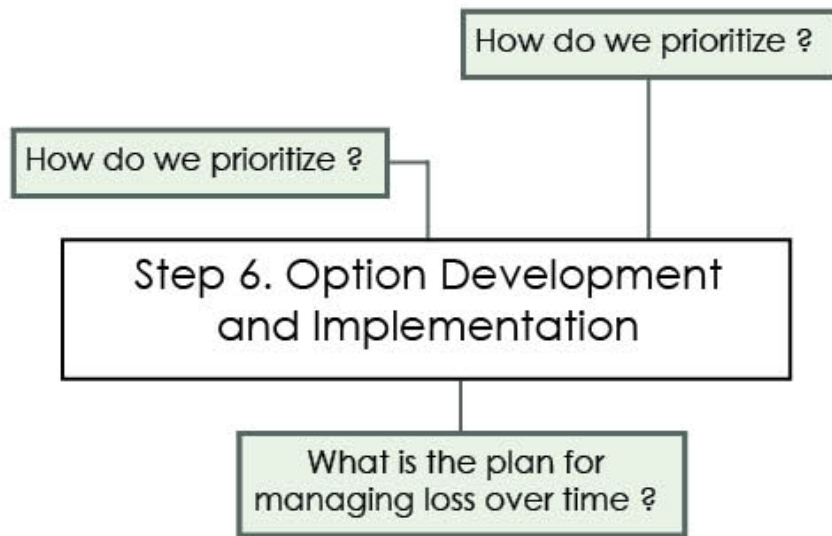
- Identify potential risks created by adaption actions or maladaptation outcomes
- Develop risk mitigation strategy

Develop loss and grief-specific indicators

Develop response to unexpected or negitave outcomes of integrating grief





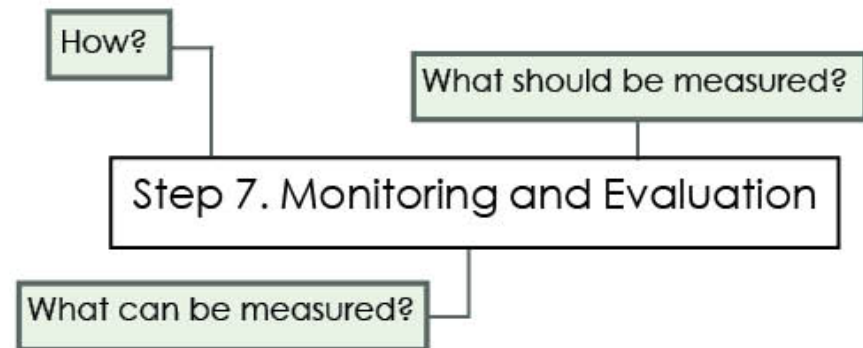


B. Building the Process

- Require loss-specific risk assessments and future loss scenarios.
- Requiring loss-specific sensitivity analysis, vulnerability identification and causal analysis.
- Requiring loss-specific adaptive-capacity analysis.

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Provide frank and honest communication about expected losses and feasibility of mitigating losses.
- In the prioritization of losses and determining their feasibility public mourning actions could be appropriate tools for negotiating valued losses.



B. Building the Process

- Good monitoring must be considered throughout the entire course of the planning process.
- Build clear understandings of how and what monitoring will occur.
- Quantitative methods are likely to provide a poor understanding of how loss is experienced or the outcomes of mourning actions. Consider building robust qualitative monitoring structures to capture grief data.
- Replication of existing monitoring structures within the Synth-CAPP, where monitoring of both the process and its outcomes occurs.

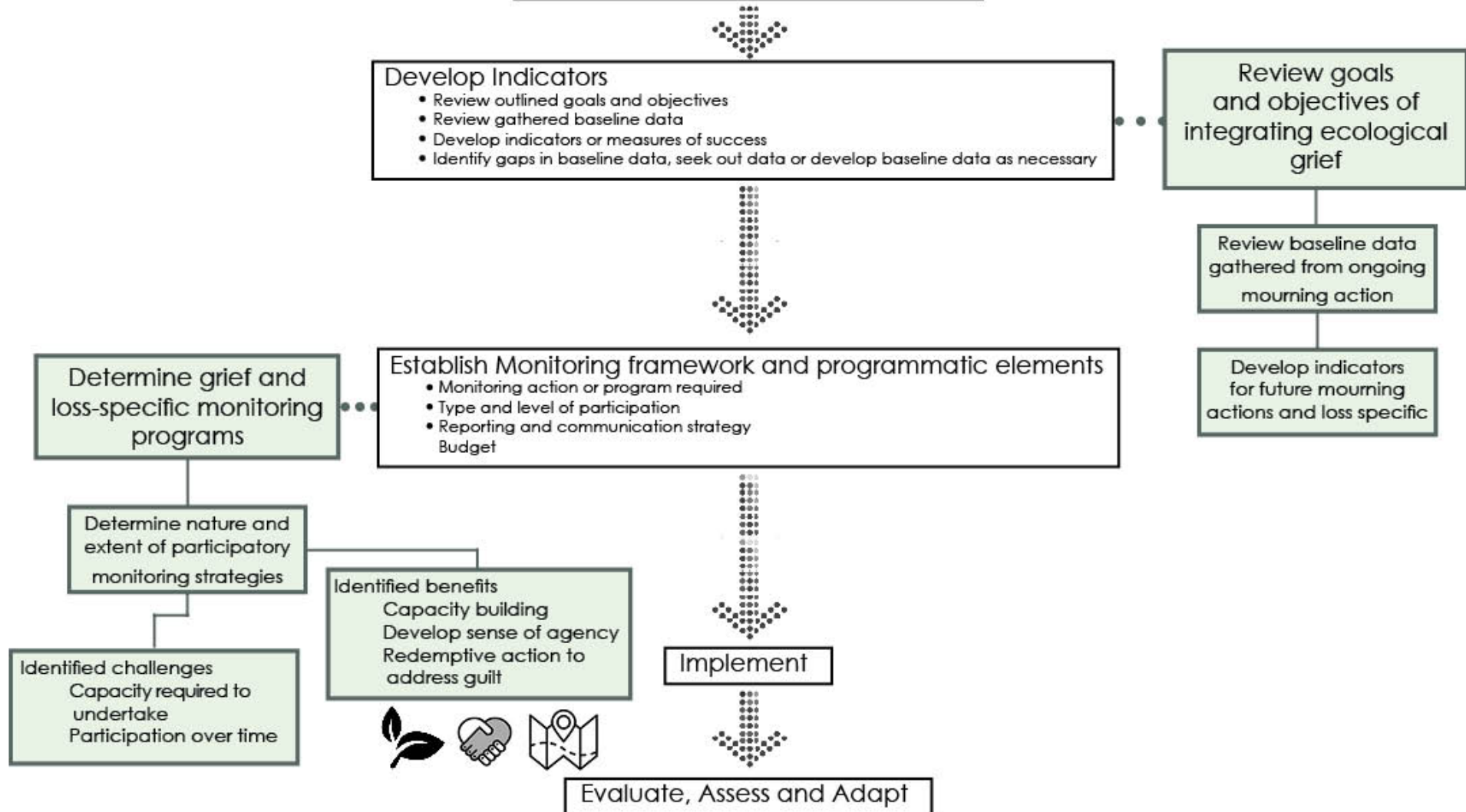
D. Capacity

- Participatory monitoring and evaluation methods grow individual capacity to comprehend loss and have strong agency-creating potential.

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Communicating the outcomes and ongoing efforts of mourning action maintains visibility and public focus. Public resistance to loss or acceptance of loss may shift as information of the loss is made increasingly visible.

Step 7. Monitoring and Evaluation



B. Building the Process

- Loss, ecological grief and climate change planning are iterative processes that occur over time. As mourning actions occur, evaluation provides understanding of their outcomes and the future needs of mourners, growing capacity to address grief in the future.
- As the impacts of climate change deepen, the visibility of certain losses may be magnified and required ongoing attention, adaptation and mourning practices.

E. Creative and Continuous Communication

- Continuous communication along and after the process supports individual grieving processes and develops capacity for future mourning actions.

