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Outcome Harvesting Principles in Practice

Maastricht, The Netherlands 29 September 2016

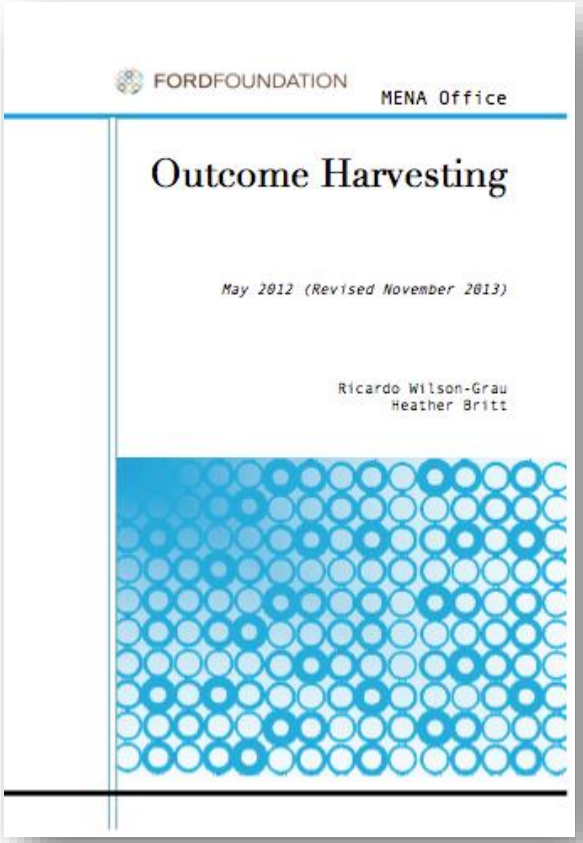
Atlanta, Georgia, USA 27 October 2016

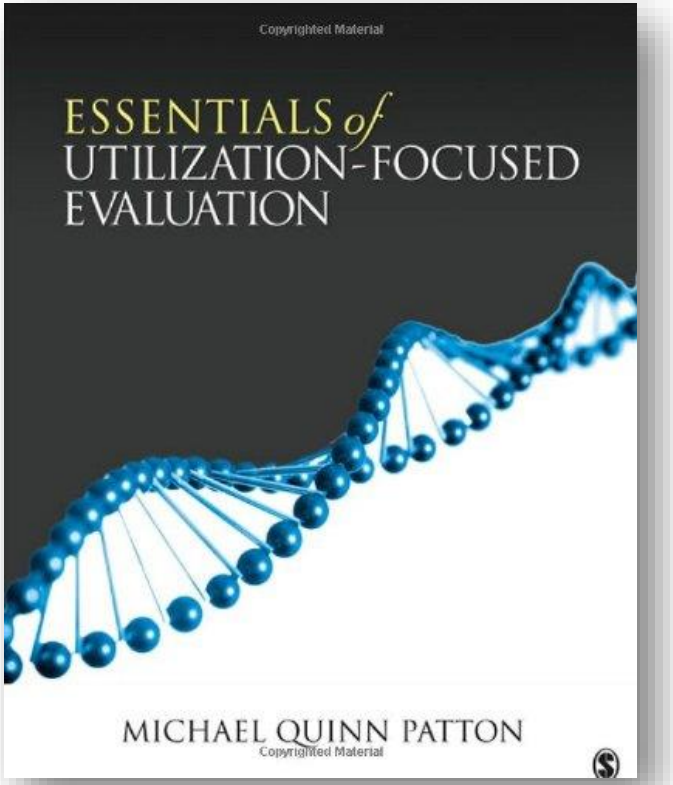
Agenda

- Introduction to outcome harvesting principles in practice, R. Wilson-Grau, Brazil (20 mins)
- Harvesting outcomes from a global network dedicated to improving the life of vulnerable children worldwide, Goele Scheers, Belgium (20 mins)
- Using outcome harvesting in a mixed methods evaluation of the African centre for biodiversity, Barbara Klugman, South Africa (20 mins)
- Questions & answers (30 mins)

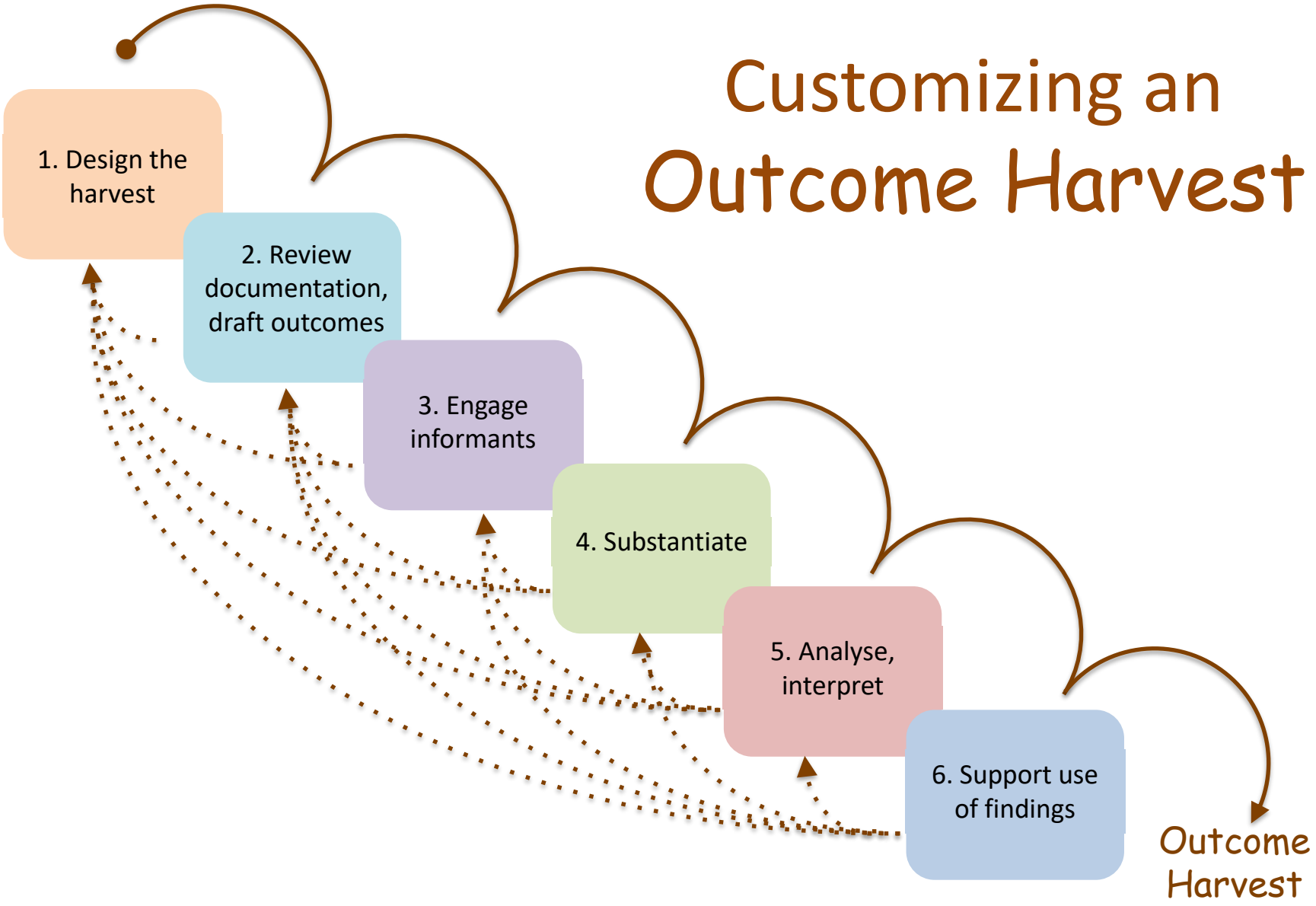
The six steps of Outcome Harvesting and the ten underlying Outcome Harvesting principles

Inspired by the Outcome Mapping methodology and informed by Utilization-Focused Evaluation.





Customizing an Outcome Harvest



International social change networks

OILWATCH

GPPAC

CIFCA

PLATAFORMA INTERAMERICANA DE DERECHOS HUMANOS, DEMOCRACIA Y DESARROLLO
PIDHDD

WWF

ASIAN FEDERATION AGAINST INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

bionet

IFOAM

Global Water Partnership

International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

FORUM-ASIA

awid women's rights

International development funders

Other social change organisations

What did all of these organisations have in common?

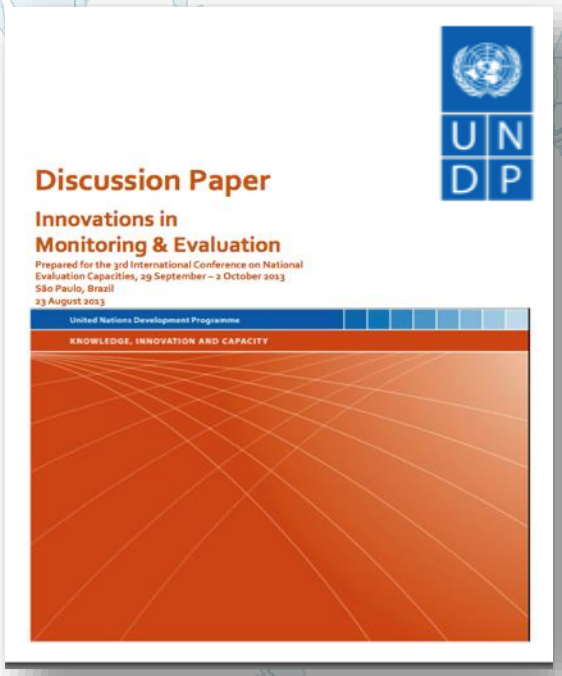
COMPLEXITY!

At the moment of planning, they faced substantial uncertainty about relations of cause and effect

Track record

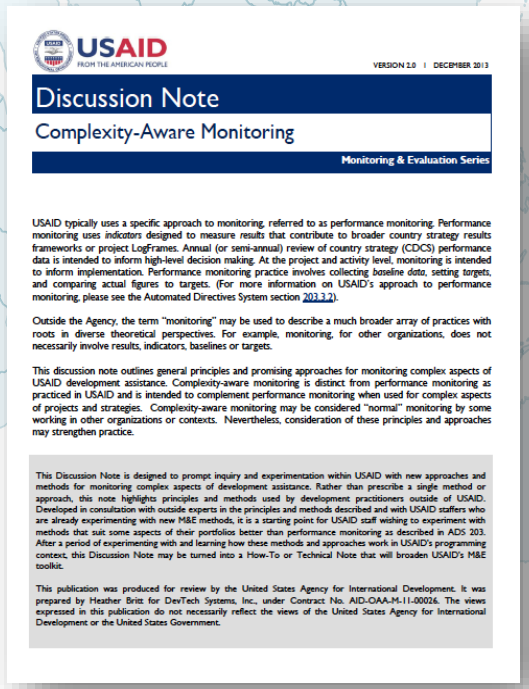
Over 400 networks and associations, NGOs, community-based organisations, research institutes, and government agencies in 143 countries on all seven continents.

In 2013, the UNDP selected *Outcome Harvesting* as one of 11 M&E innovations



https://undp.unteamworks.org/node/370238

USAID is currently piloting *Outcome Harvesting* as one of 5 approaches appropriate for complexity-aware monitoring and evaluation


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VERSION 2.0 | DECEMBER 2013

Discussion Note

Complexity-Aware Monitoring

Monitoring & Evaluation Series

USAID typically uses a specific approach to monitoring, referred to as performance monitoring. Performance monitoring uses *indicators* designed to measure *results* that contribute to broader country strategy results frameworks or project LogFrames. Annual (or semi-annual) review of country strategy (CDCS) performance data is intended to inform high-level decision making. At the project and activity level, monitoring is intended to inform implementation. Performance monitoring practice involves collecting *baseline data*, setting targets, and comparing actual figures to targets. (For more information on USAID's approach to performance monitoring, please see the Automated Directives System section 203.3.2).

Outside the Agency, the term "monitoring" may be used to describe a much broader array of practices with roots in diverse theoretical perspectives. For example, monitoring, for other organizations, does not necessarily involve results, indicators, baselines or targets.

This discussion note outlines general principles and promising approaches for monitoring complex aspects of USAID development assistance. Complexity-aware monitoring is distinct from performance monitoring as practiced in USAID and is intended to complement performance monitoring when used for complex aspects of projects and strategies. Complexity-aware monitoring may be considered "normal" monitoring by some working in other organizations or contexts. Nevertheless, consideration of these principles and approaches may strengthen practice.

This Discussion Note is designed to prompt inquiry and experimentation within USAID with new approaches and methods for monitoring complex aspects of development assistance. Rather than prescribe a single method or approach, this note highlights principles and methods used by development practitioners outside of USAID. Developed in consultation with outside experts in the principles and methods described and with USAID staffers who are already experimenting with new M&E methods, it is a starting point for USAID staff wishing to experiment with methods that suit some aspects of their portfolios better than performance monitoring as described in ADS 203. After a period of experimenting with and learning how these methods and approaches work in USAID's programming context, this Discussion Note may be turned into a How-To or Technical Note that will broaden USAID's M&E toolkit.

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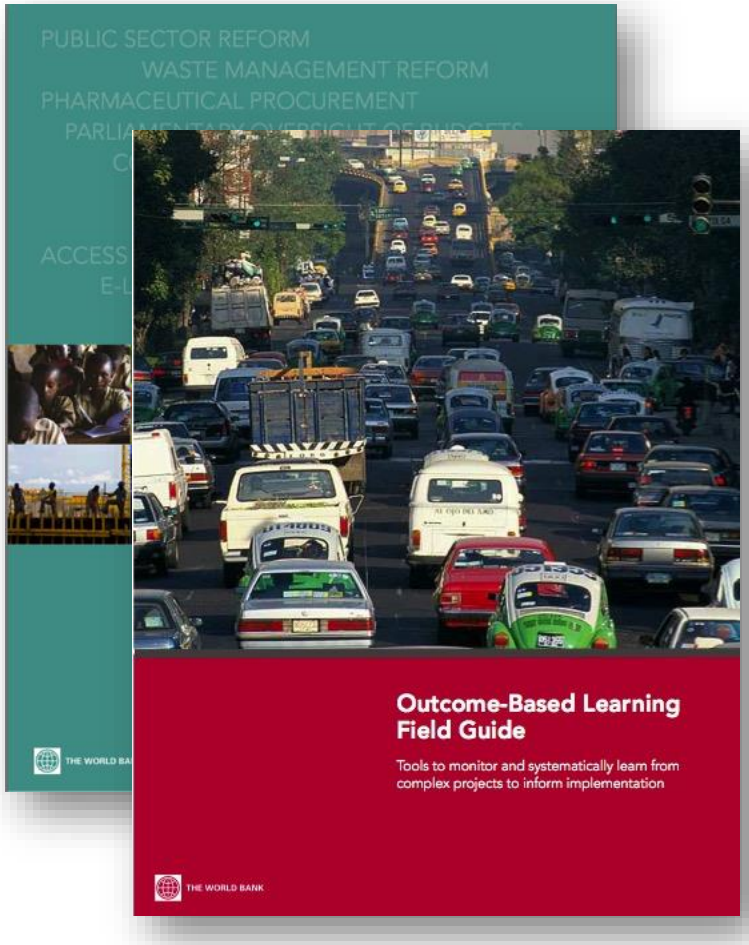
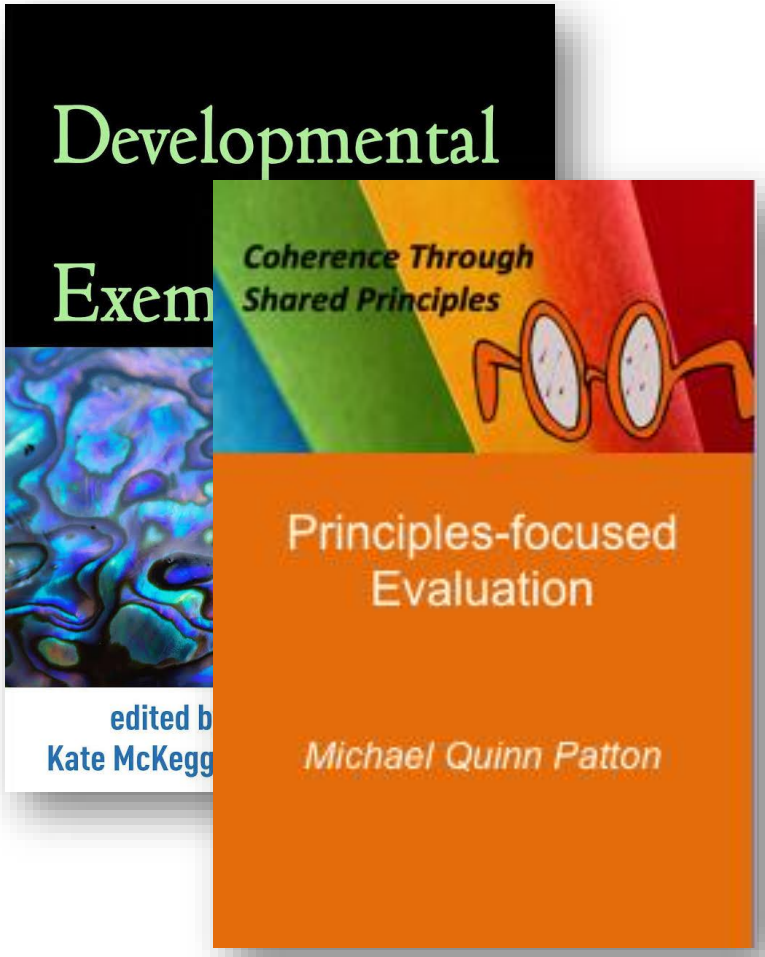
http://usaidlearninglab.org/library/discussion-note-complexity-aware-monitoring).

The World Bank has published 10 case studies

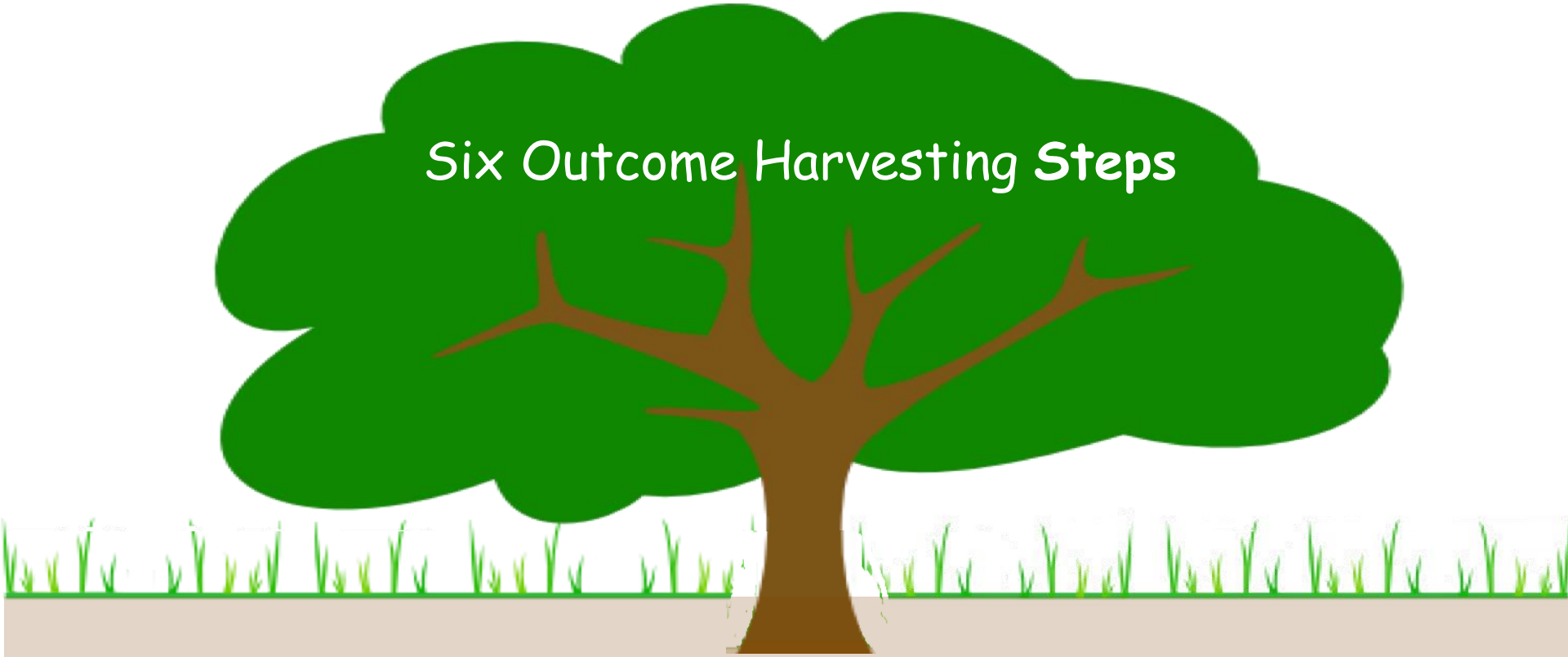
and a toolkit for Bank use of Outcome Harvesting

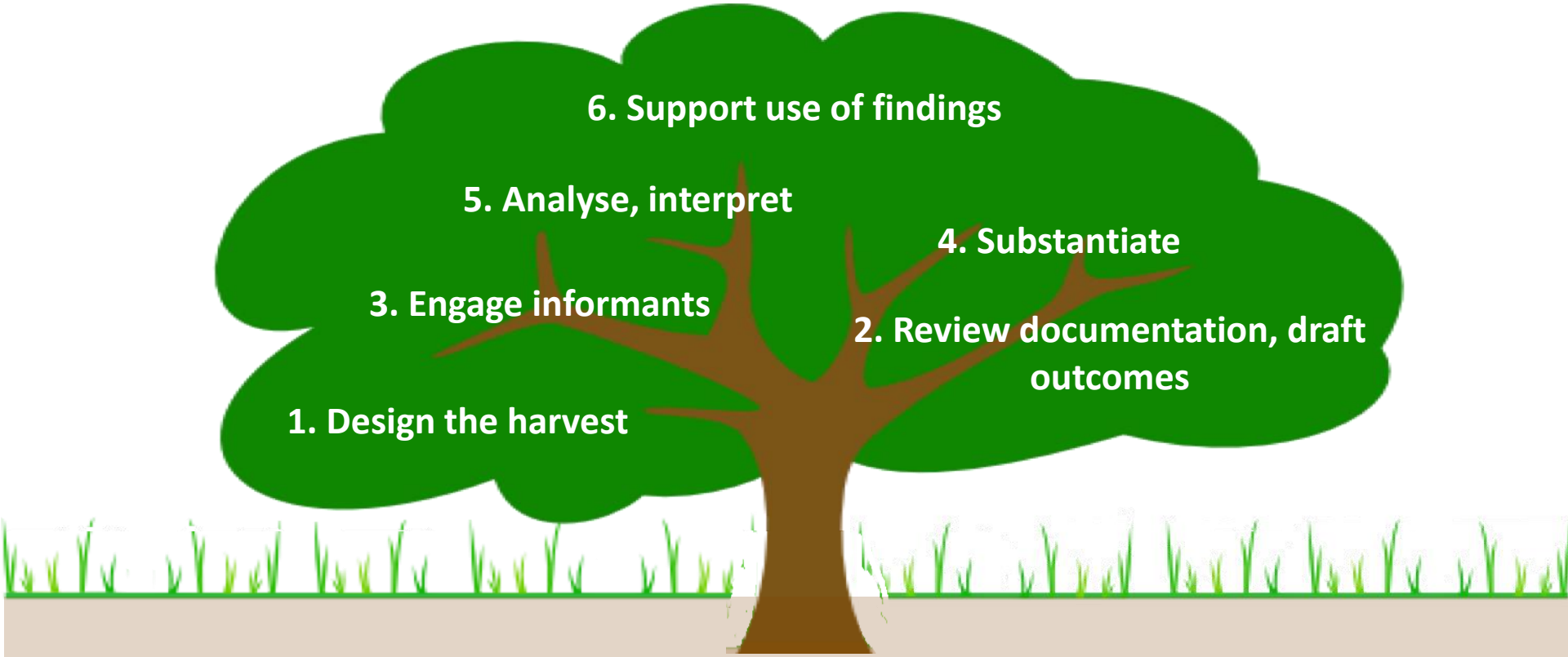


Outcome Harvesting use is highlighted as chapters in two books



Six Outcome Harvesting **Steps**

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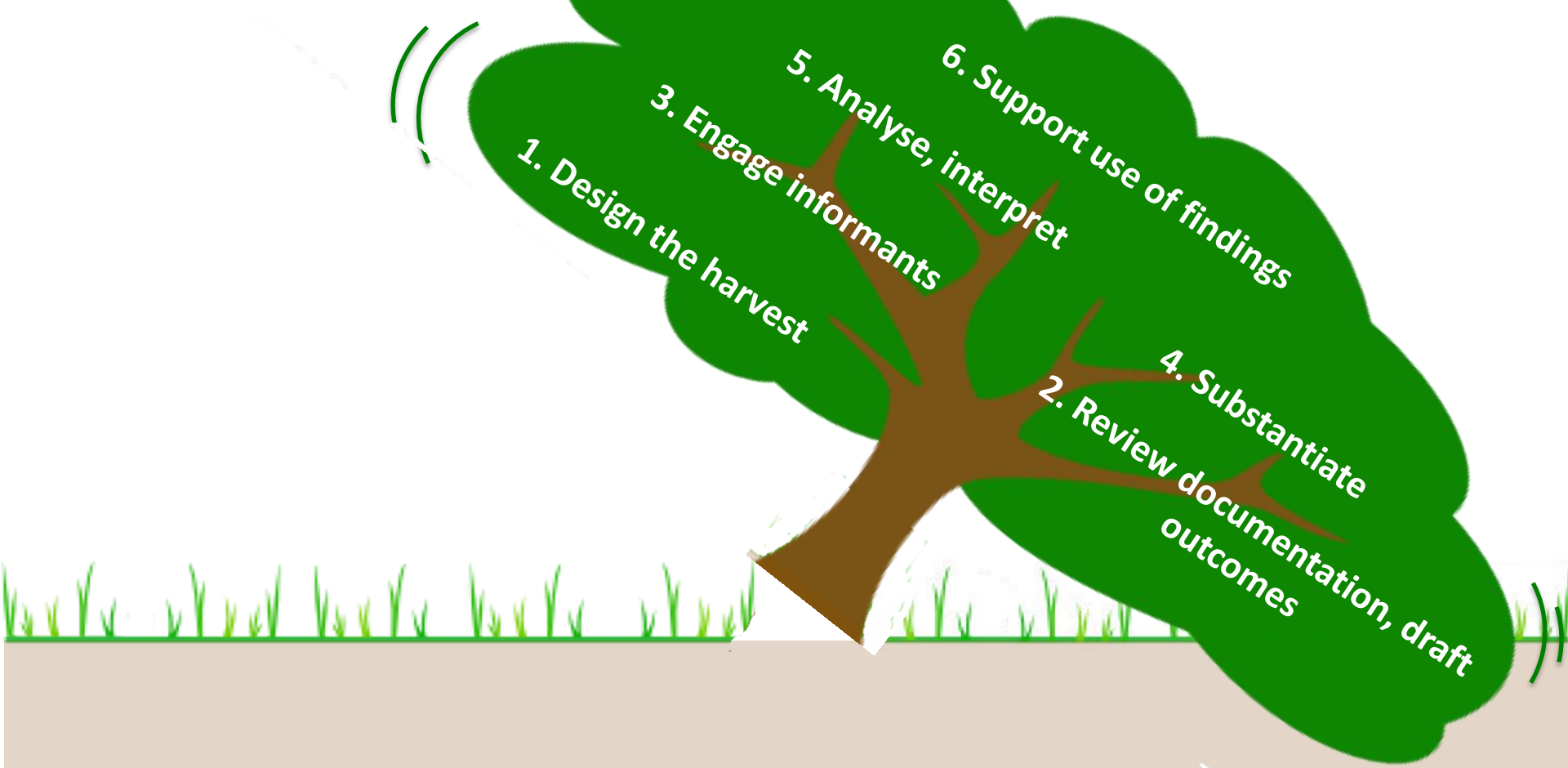
5. Analyse, interpret
4. Substantiate
3. Engage informants
2. Review documentation, draft outcomes
1. Design the harvest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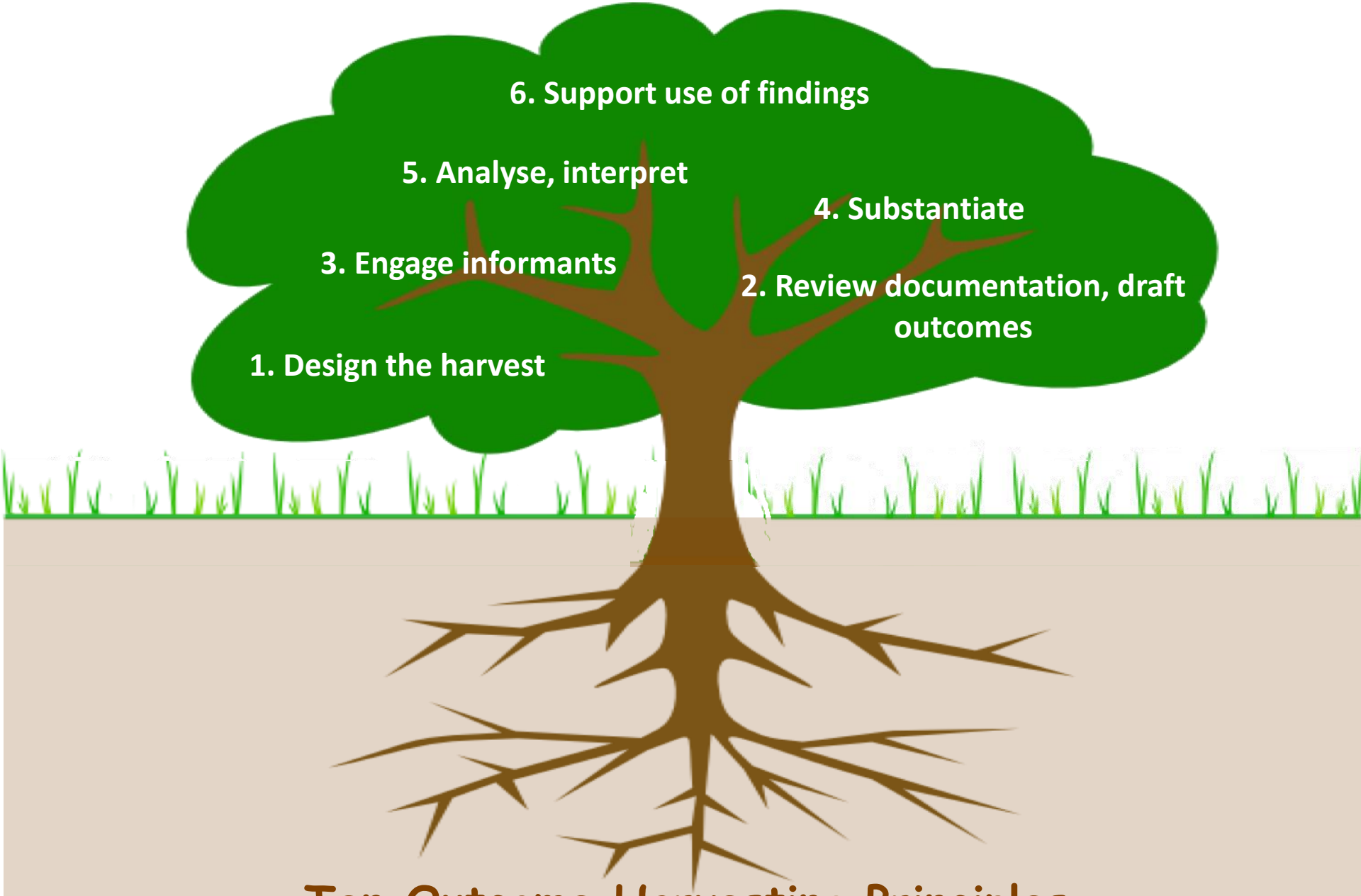
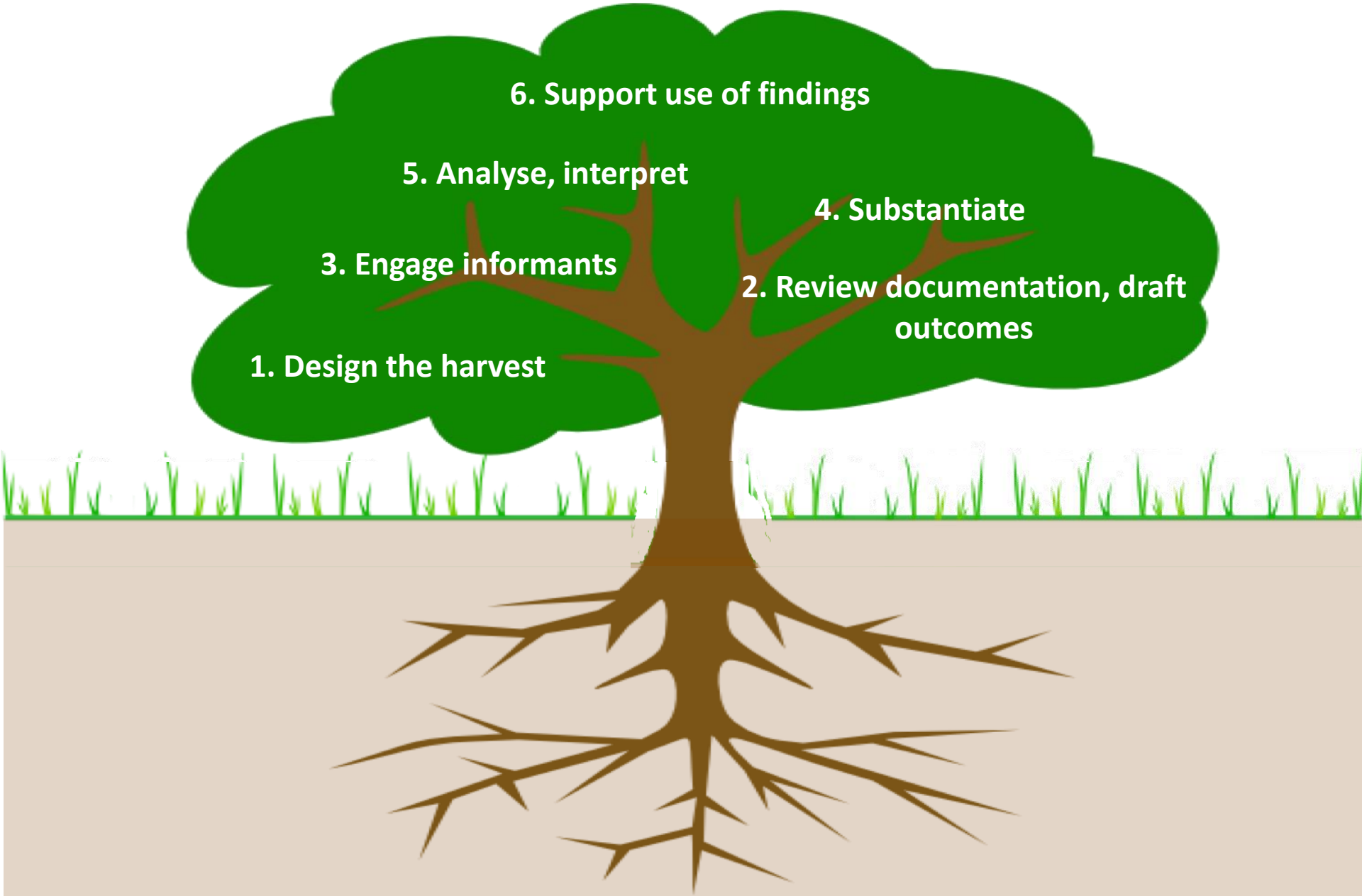


Ten Outcome Harvesting Principles



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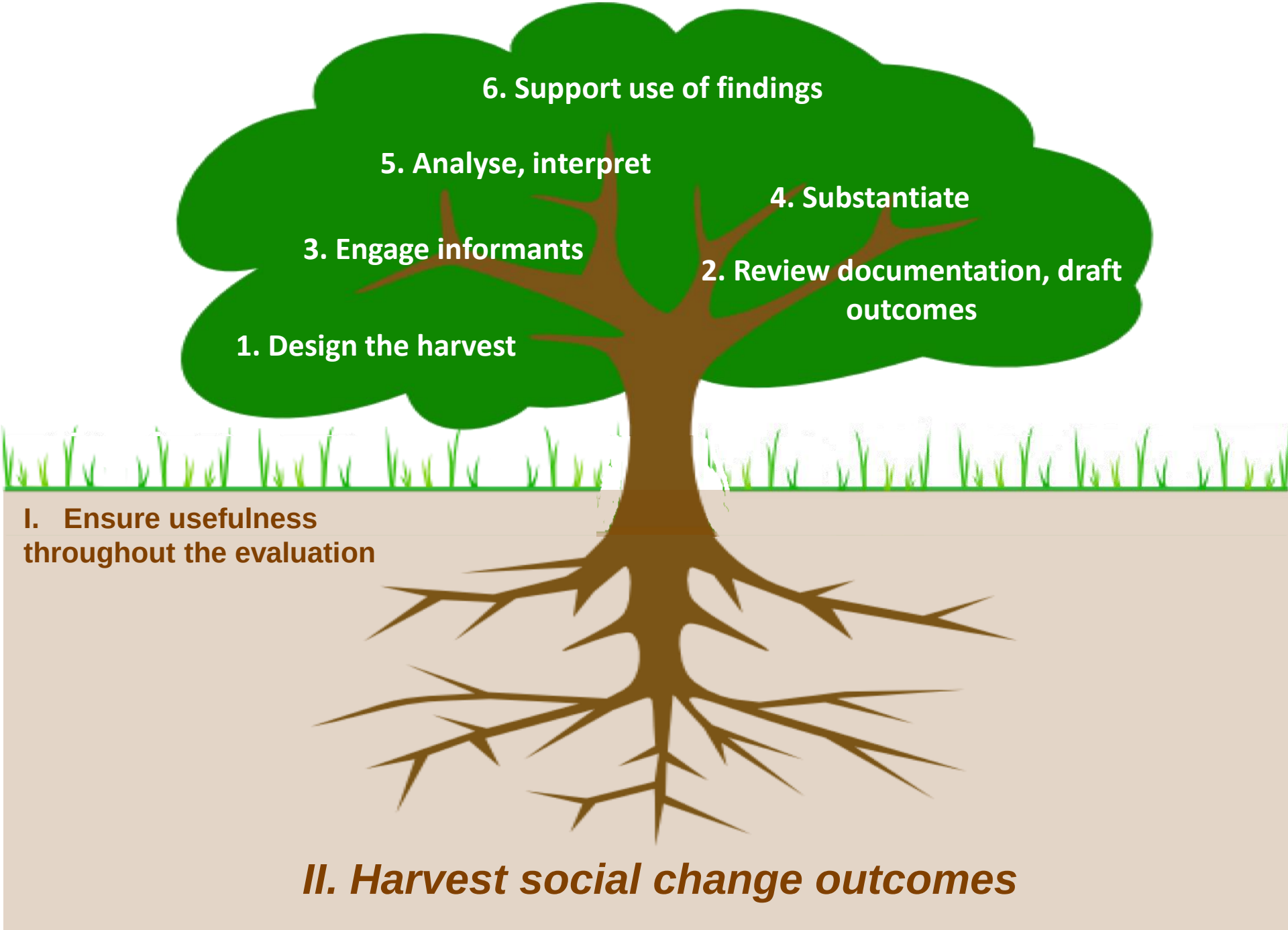
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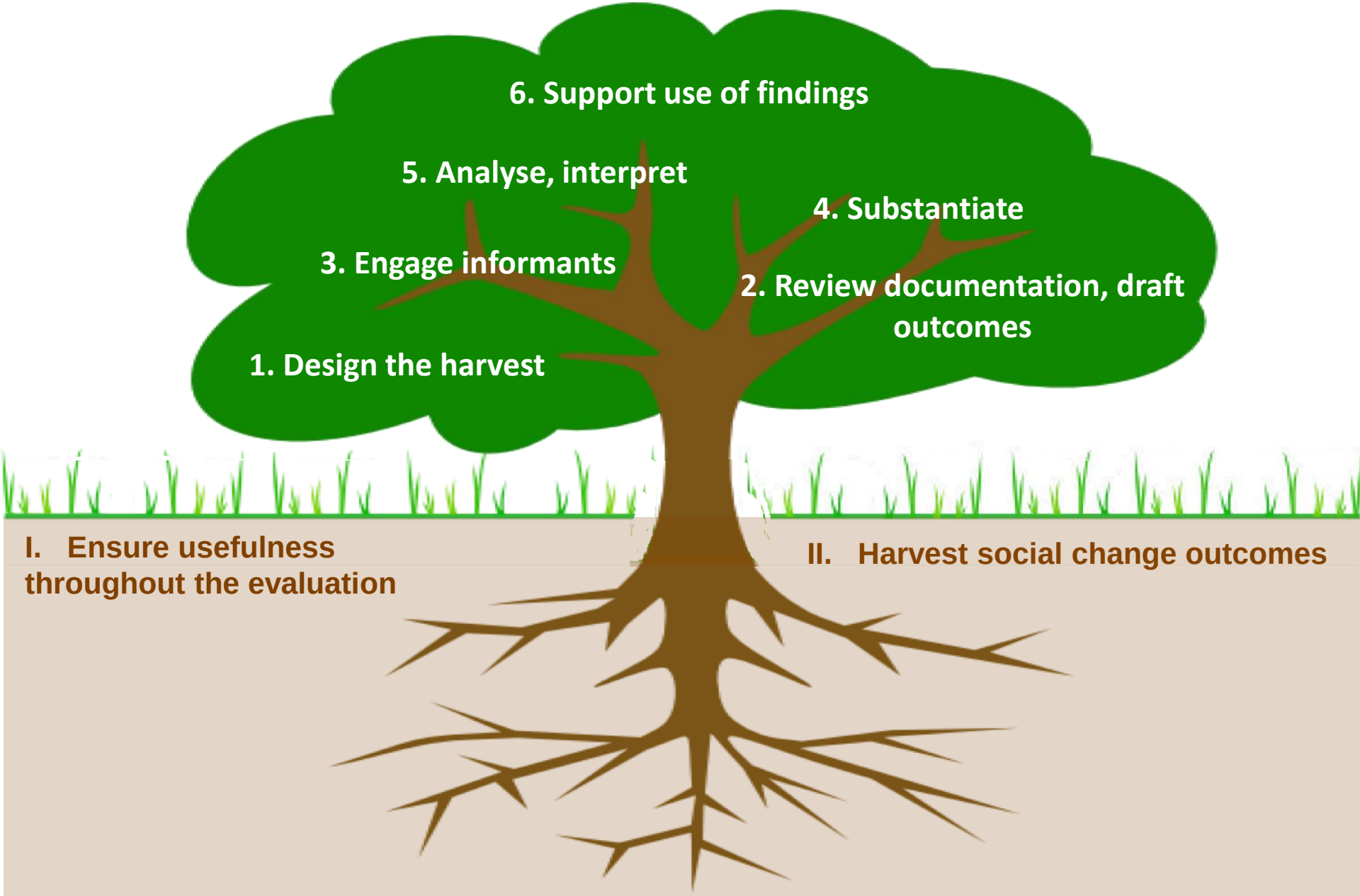
II. Harvest social change outcomes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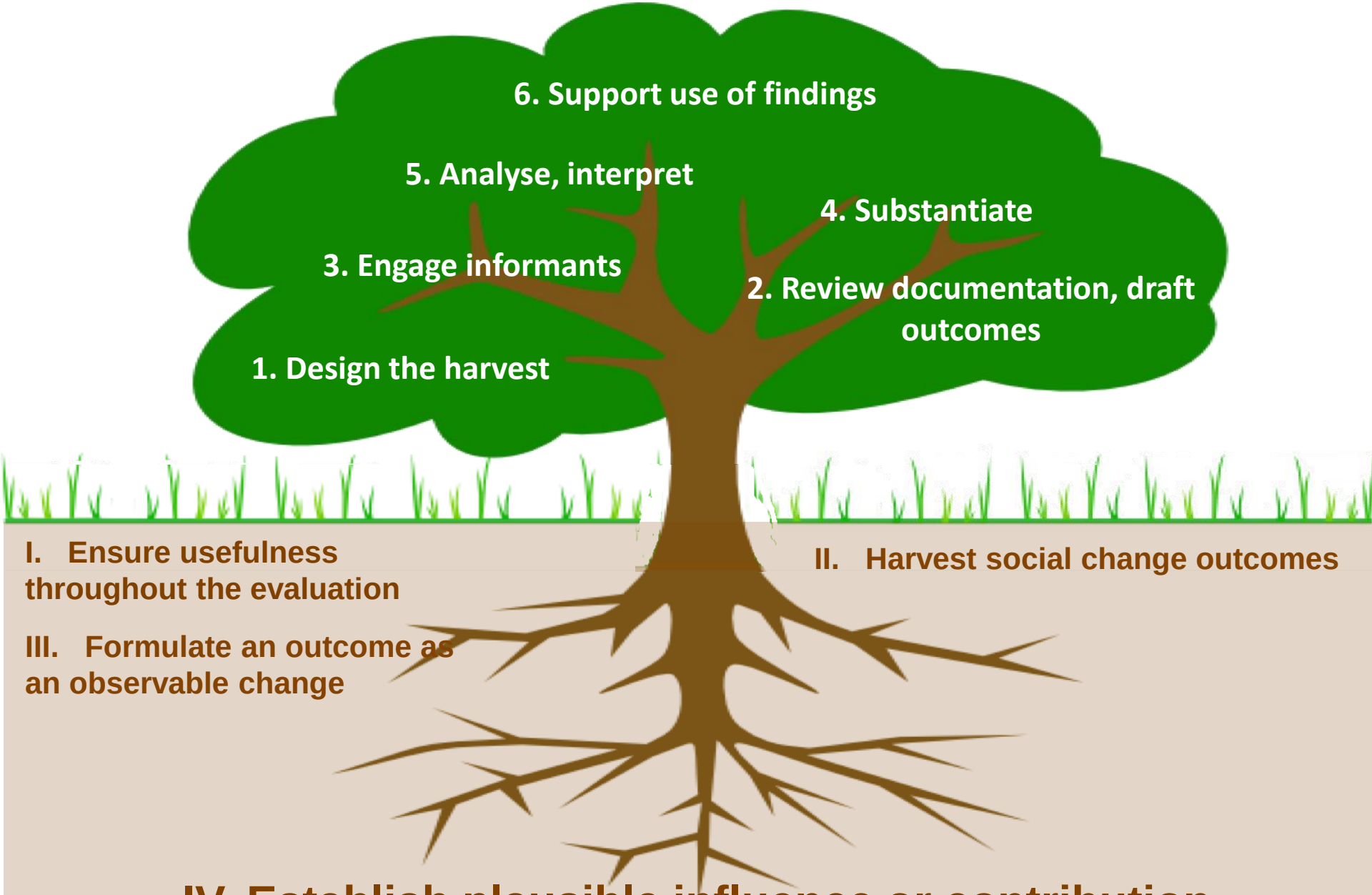
III. Formulate an outcome as an observable change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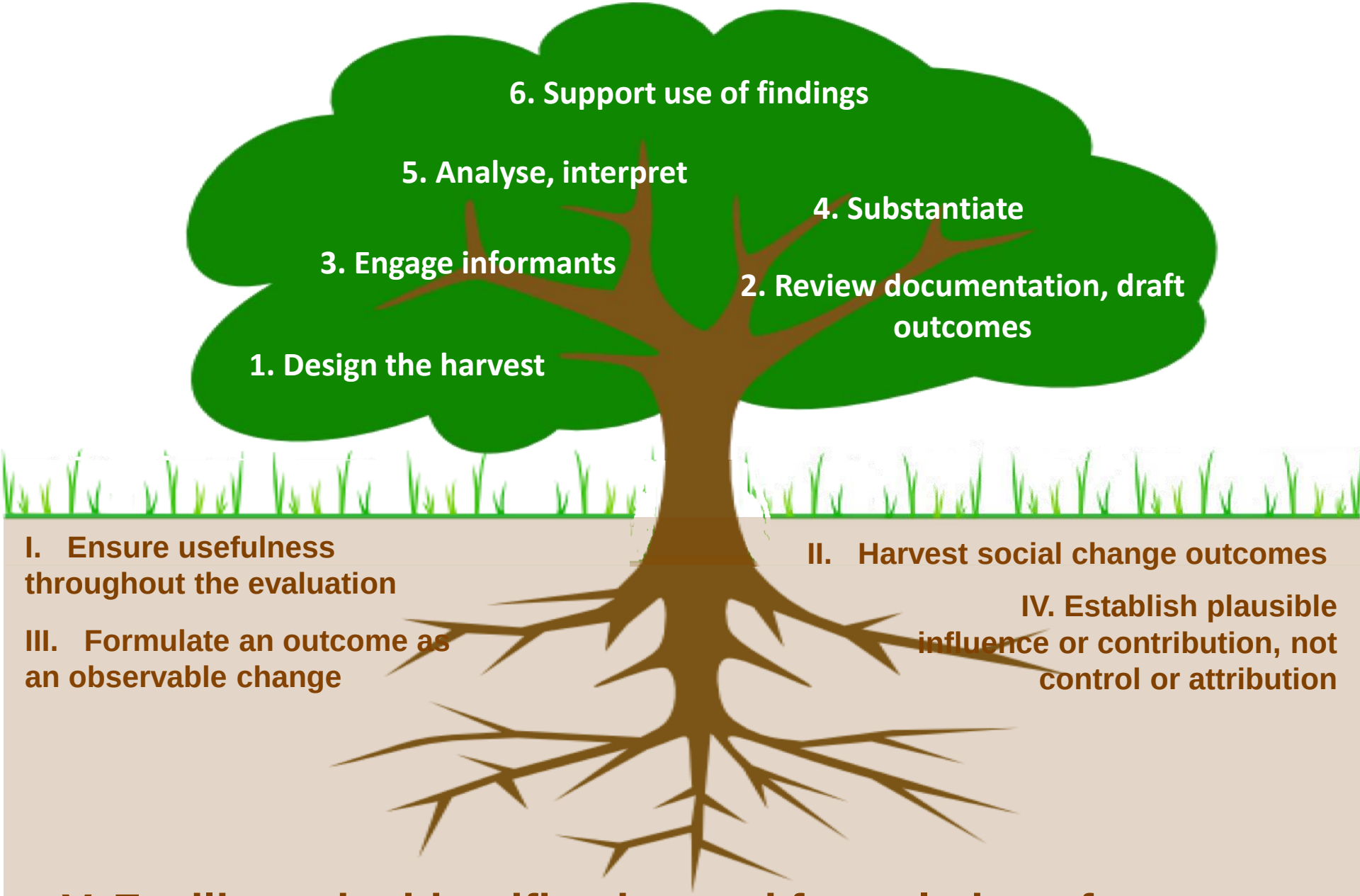
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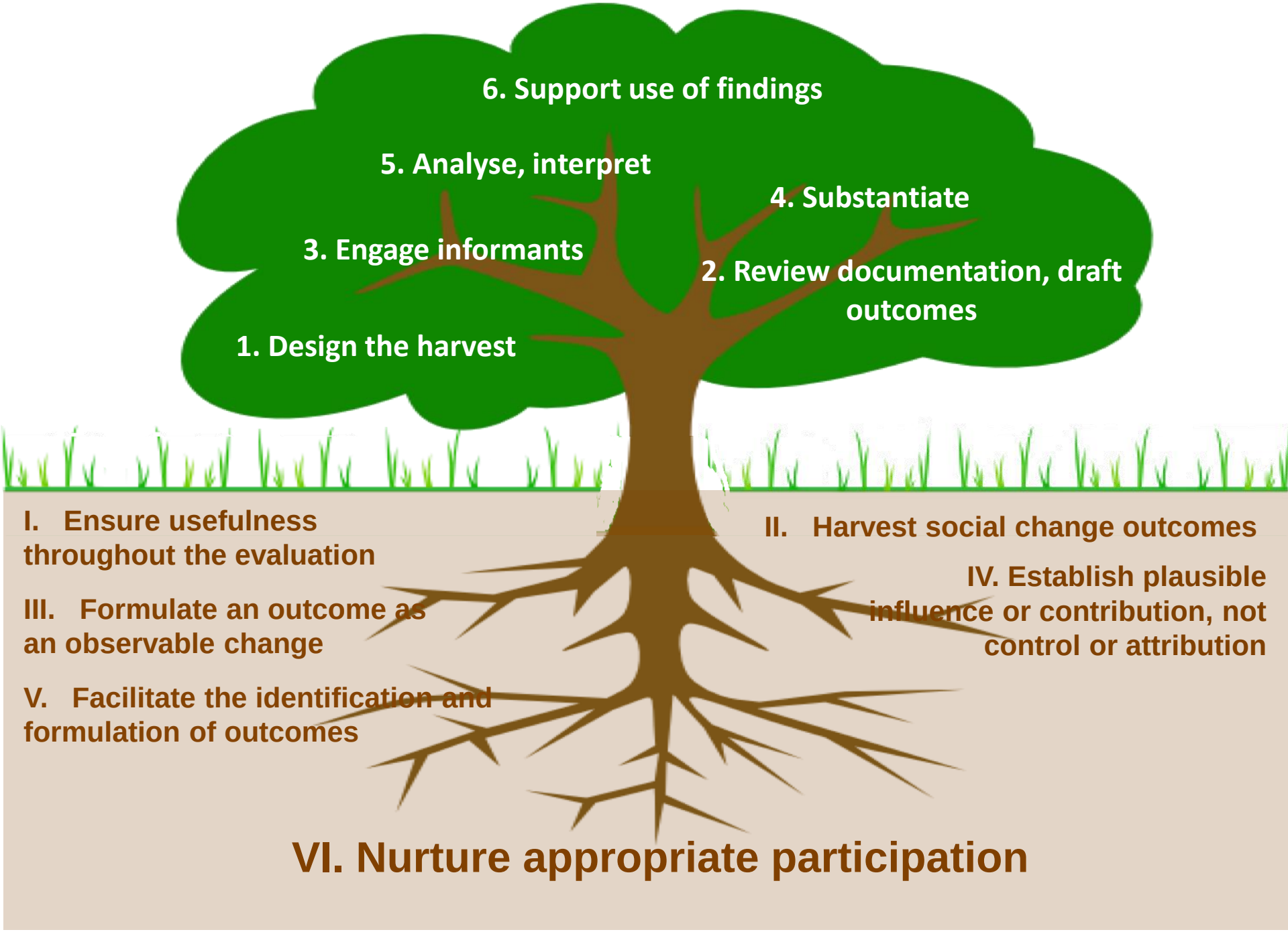
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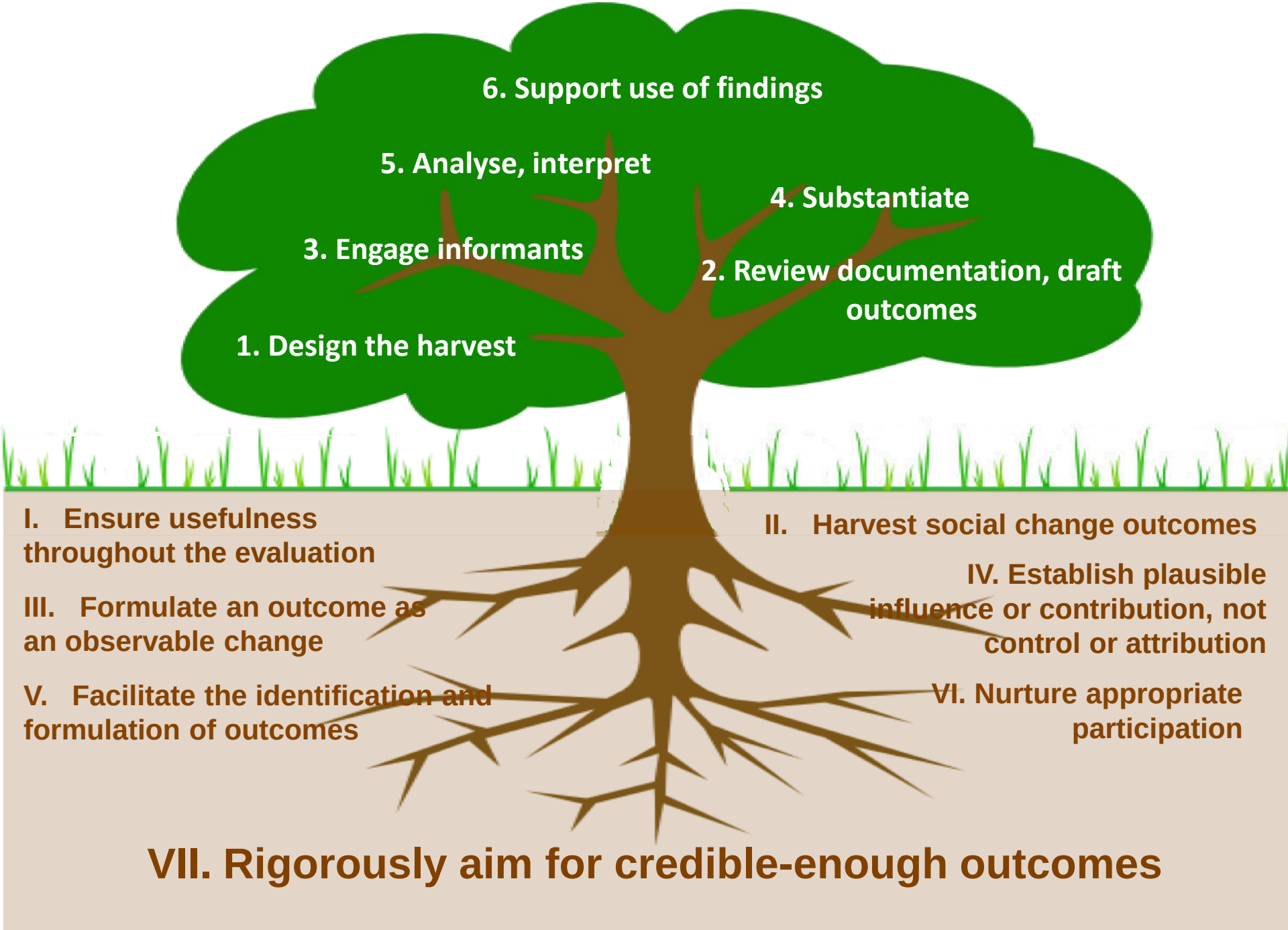
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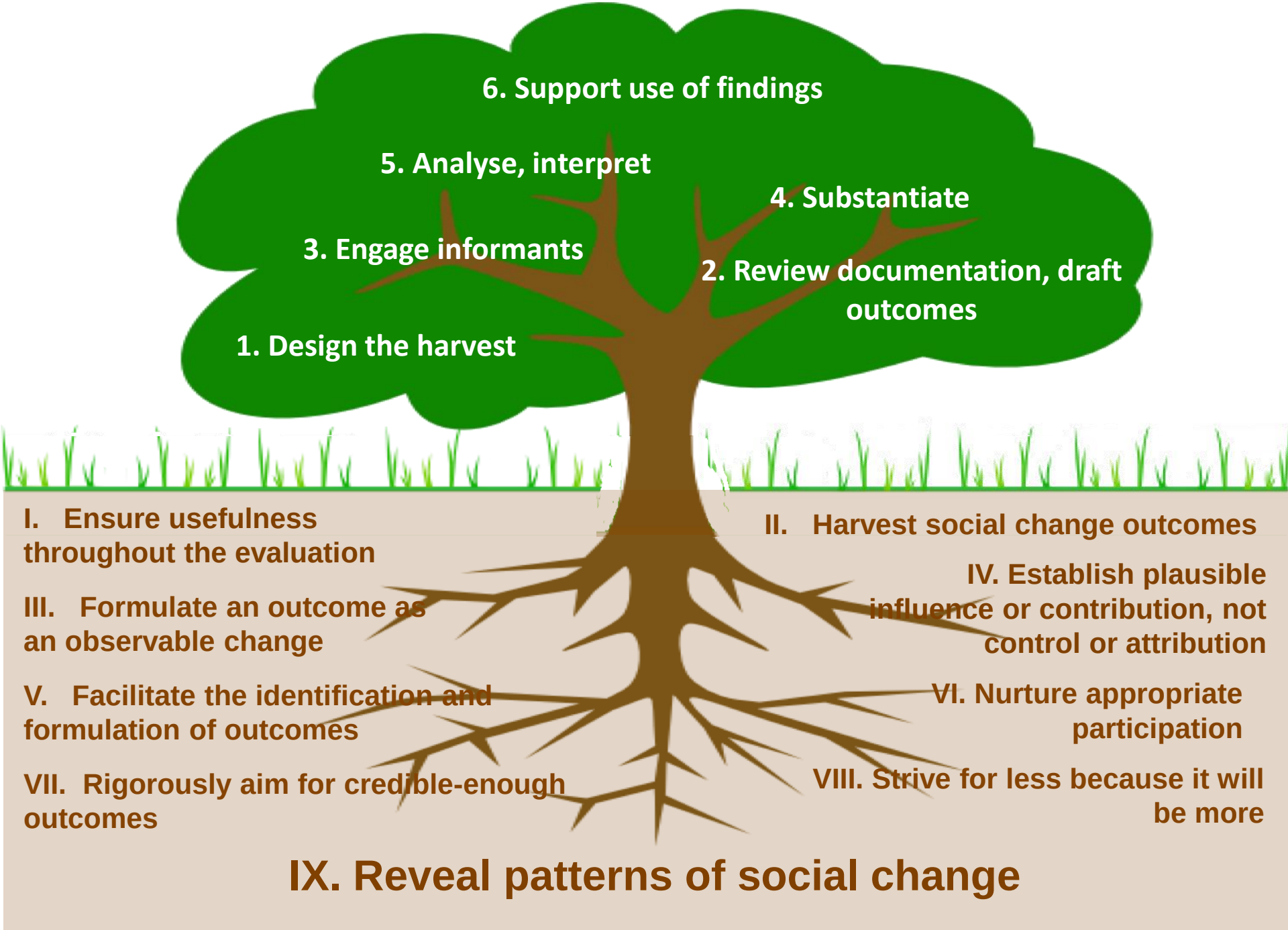
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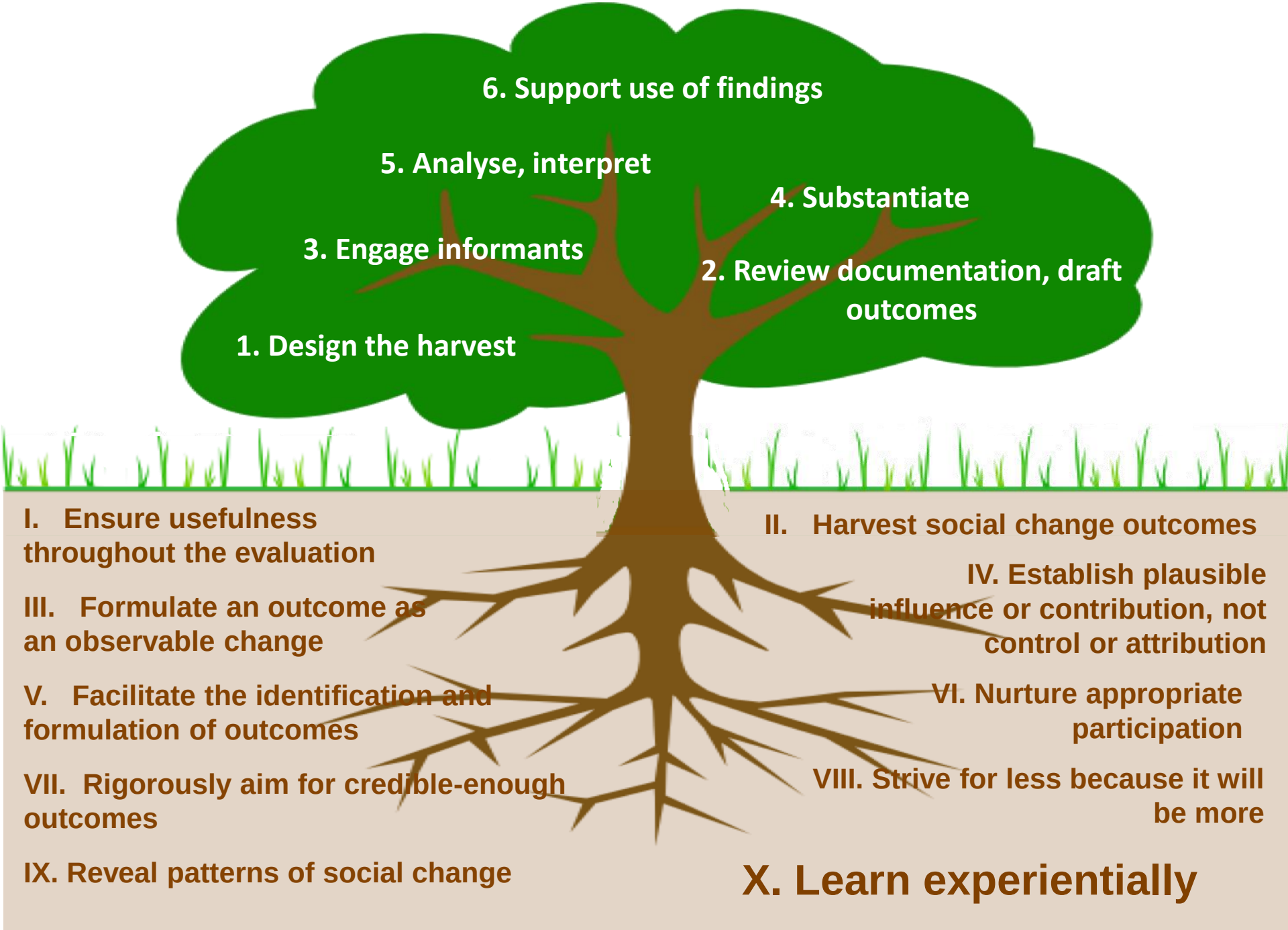
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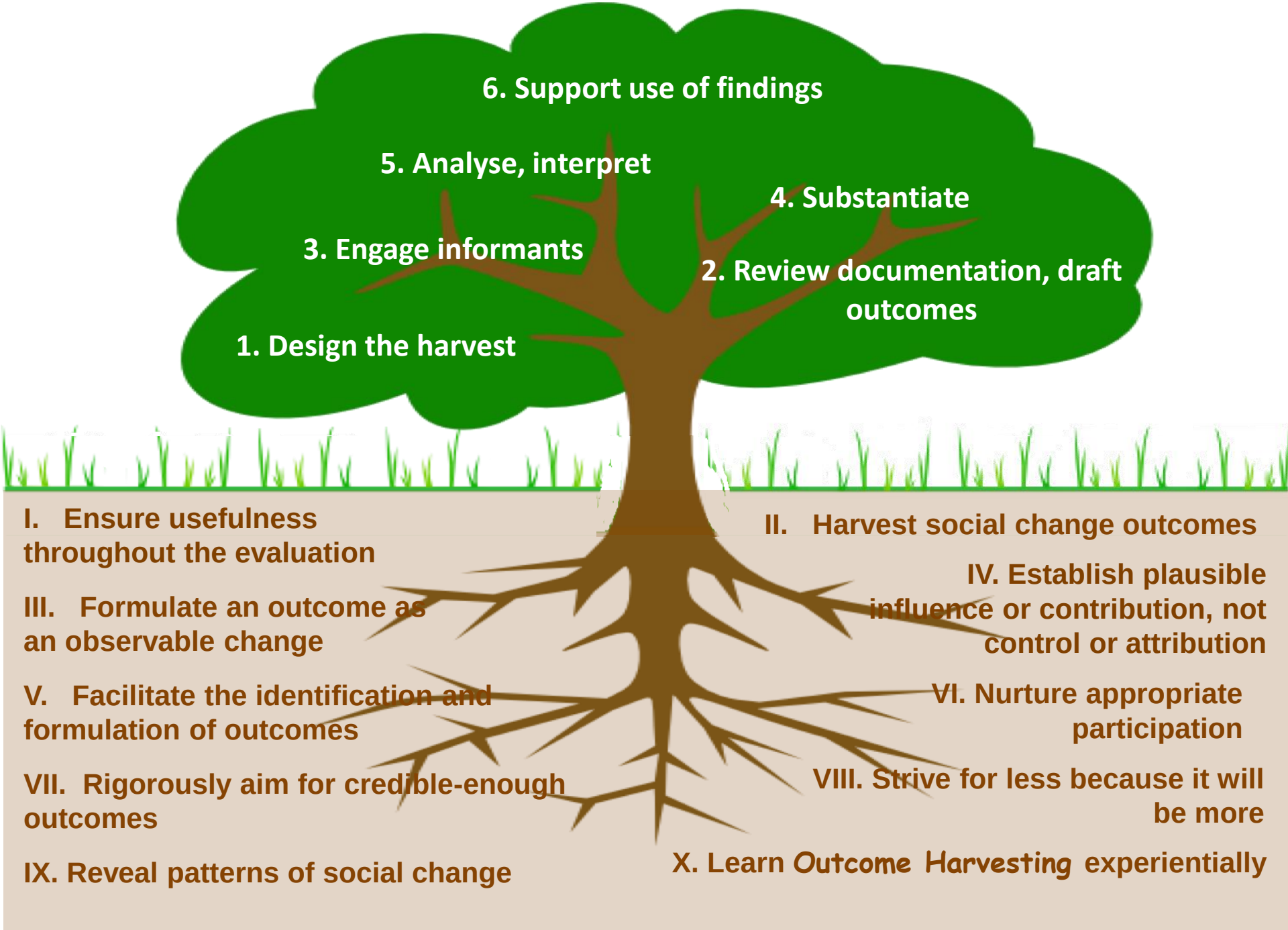
X. Learn experientially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Thank you!

Questions?