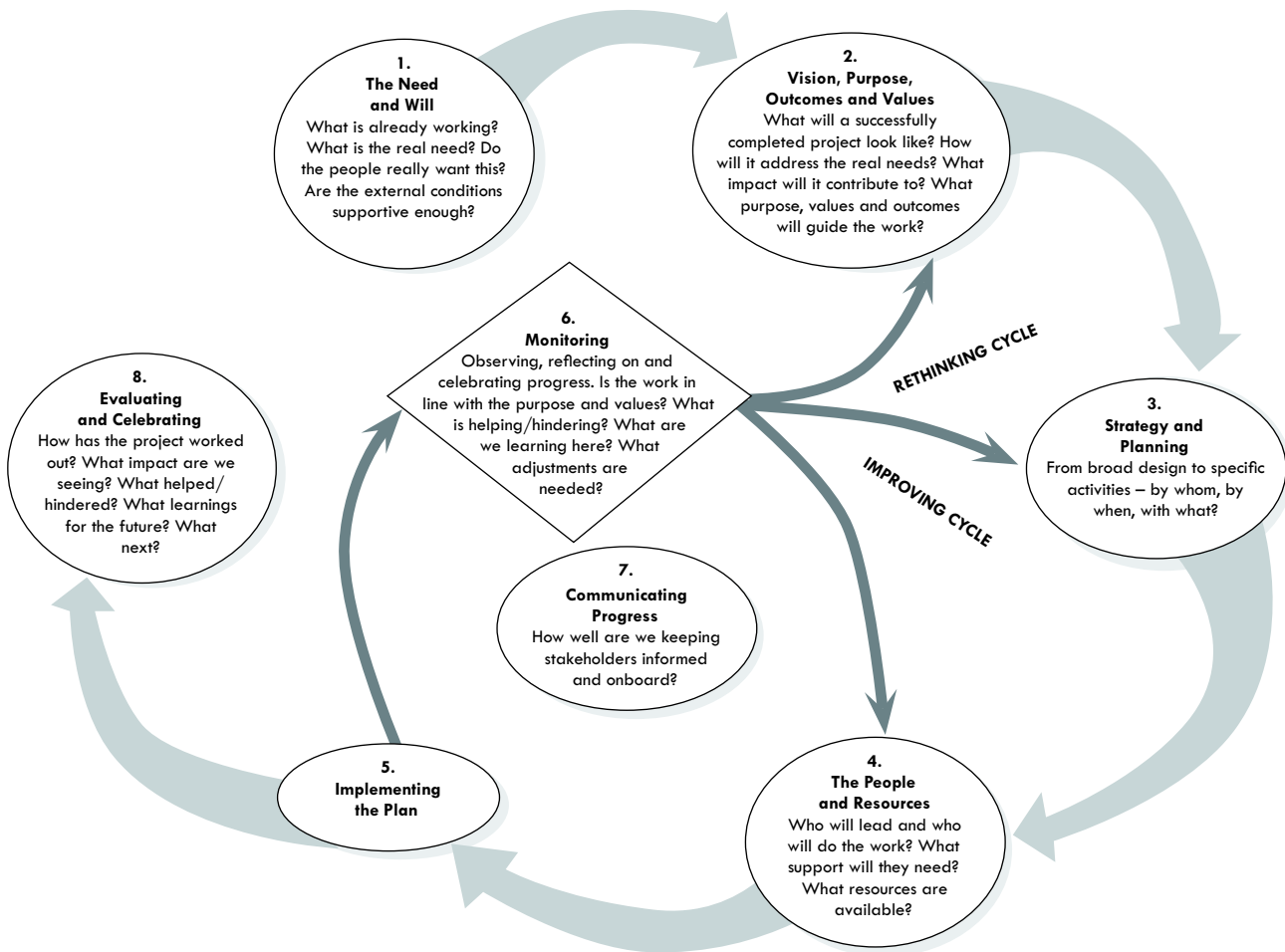


The Project Cycle



3 Key Challenges of the Project Cycle

PREPARATION

- ensuring that there is a strong need and will that comes from and belongs to, the people involved;
- the guiding vision and values. Investing time in collective processes of surfacing and developing the vision and values provides the invisible glue that keeps people working together – this is investment in the relationships that are vital for success;
- investing in strategy design, as described above, before diving into the detailed activities.

MONITORING AS A LEARNING PROCESS

No project will be perfectly predictable and no plan can anticipate the complexity of what will actually happen when work starts. There will always be a need for action learning, for changing the plan as reality is experienced. It may even happen that the purpose and overall strategy of the project needs to be revisited sometime after implementation has begun. Project plans should always be seen as a draft.

COMMUNICATION

Because things will change, as a result of unanticipated realities, it is critical to keep all stakeholders up-to-date, whether it is the community at large, the donors or the trustees. This minimises misunderstandings and keeps expectations equal and thus helps to ensure that the conditions of change remain reasonably stable – essential for projectable change.