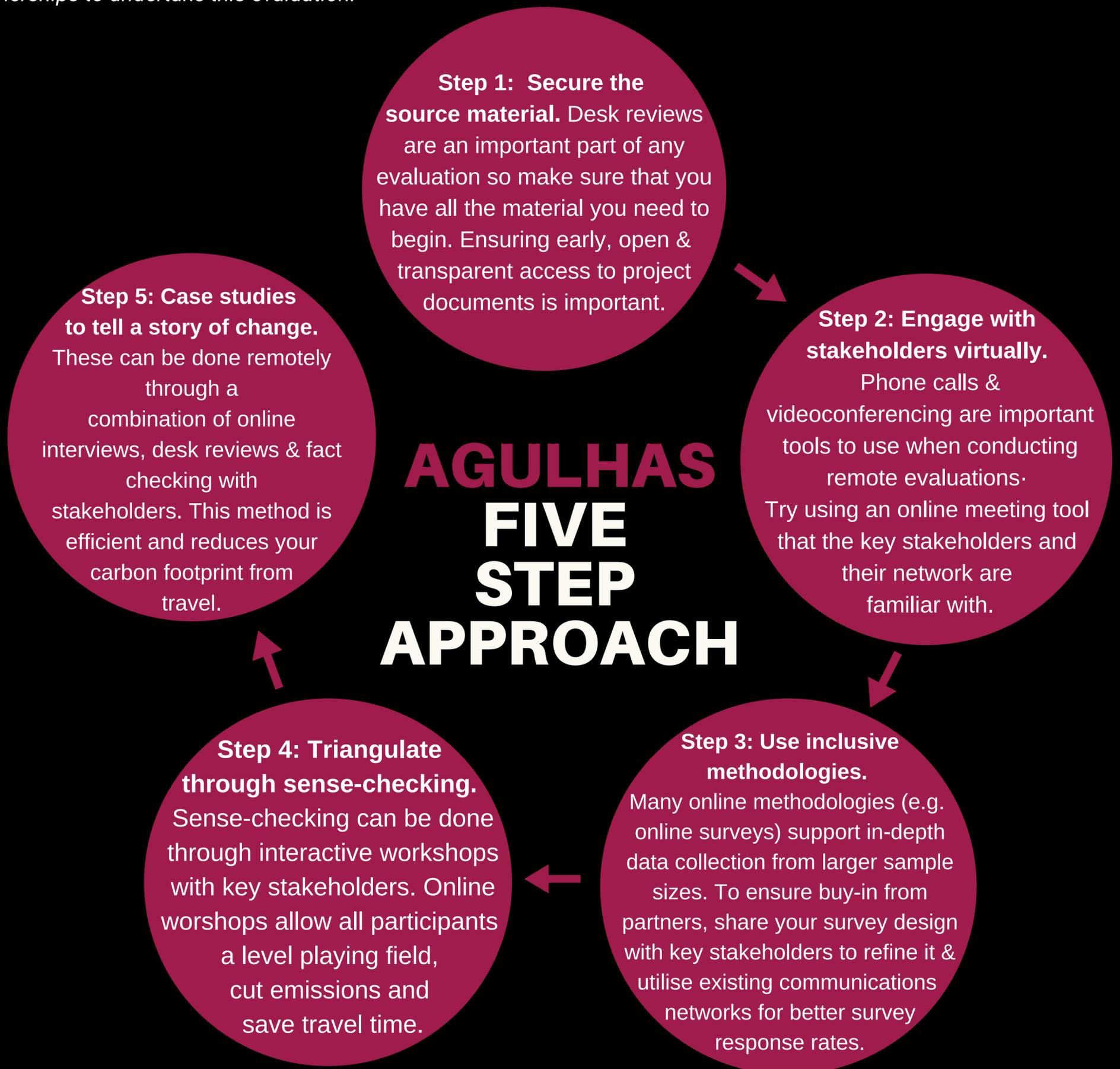


CONDUCTING EVALUATIONS REMOTELY

Reflections on the approach and methodologies used by [Agulhas Applied Knowledge](#) used for a recent remote evaluation of the [Initiative for Climate Action Transparency \(ICAT\)](#) supported by [The Children's Investment Fund Foundation \(CIFF\)](#) and the practical lessons we learned along the way. Our international team of researchers, split across both hemispheres, took advantage of virtual working, minimising their carbon footprint by utilising the knowledge and networks of existing stakeholder partnerships to undertake this evaluation.



Potential Drawbacks & how to tackle them:

- **Some fieldwork and data collection methods are difficult to adapt.** Flexibility is key, so carefully consider [alternatives](#), such as phone calls and video conferencing for individual or group interviews with professionals.
- However, **there are [ethical implications](#) to moving to online data collection.** For example, exerting caution when moving to phone surveys. Make sure you have informed consent and compensate your respondent generously.
- **Losing the human element of discussions 'in the margins'.** Build these spaces into your online meetings by giving time for introductions and meaningful interaction through questions and answers. Build in regular breaks into the agenda to keep the conversations fresh and engaging. Divide the meeting into key segments so that busy stakeholders can join for key sessions.

Makings of a successful evaluation project:

- **Trust:** create a really strong client relationship through regular communication and transparency.
- **Process:** Design a clear and well sequenced work plan with deliverables spaced throughout the lifetime of the project.
- **Engagement:** Create opportunities for all stakeholders to engage and provide input, allowing for as great a breadth of voices and opinions as possible.
- **Flexibility:** Apply a flexible approach to working, and show a willingness to adapt and course correct.