Tool: Create a storyboard

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What can I do with this tool?

A storyboard is series of rough sketches outlining the sequence of events and major changes of action in your story. It is a valuable tool to help you develop your story.

For whom is this tool meant?

For professionals who help implement international agreements on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development

What knowledge is presumed for using this tool?

To effectively use this tool, it is required to understand Key subjects 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the course Storytelling on Frogleaps.org

When can I use it?

Storytelling is most effective if you first truly understand your target audiences and have a clear picture of what you want to achieve. Investing time and energy in preparation will pay off in a later stage! Stories are a crucial means to communicate messages about nature conservation. The course Storytelling helps you to use stories for: getting attention and informing and changing behavior for conservation action.

How can I create a storyboard?

Describe the sequence of events in each phase of the story:

Beginning

Most stories start with the introduction of the setting and the main characters: what, where, who, when? The author describes the place where the events unfold and the people (characters) who play a central part. The tension of the conflict is already present.

Middle

The conflict develops and escalates. The hero struggles to jump over obstacles to solve the conflict.

Climax

The tension rises and rises until the hero finally resolves the conflict. The bad guys are beaten. The hero wins. That's the climax.

End

After the climax, the story fades out. Tension disappears. It is difficult to keep a listeners attention after the climax, so the story finishes fast after it.

Example of a storyboard: Our story of Rezvin

Beginning

Villages live in balance with the Sundarban forest. As population explodes, illegal logging and poaching increase, shrinking the habitat of the tiger. Adam is working for TigerTeam and is working hard to develop solutions.
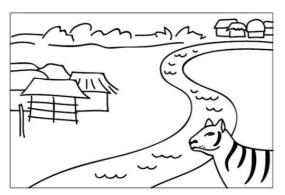
Middle

A hungry tiger enters a village. An angry, panicking mob kills it. Rashid is the leader of the mob. He is the hero for the villagers. Adam, working for WildTeam, visits the village the day after and returns several times. He listens to the horror. He convinces Rashid that it is possible and vital to save both human and tiger.

Climax

A group of volunteers is trained how to scare the tiger, how to control and calm panicking villagers and how to reach the Forest Department and the emergency team. A tiger enters the village and is scared back into the forest. The crowd cheers and the TigerTeam volunteers are heroes.

End

There are many, many villages in the Sundarbans. WildTeam gets requests to train new Tiger Response teams. This requires capacity and funds. Donors will really make a difference and become part of the team saving the Sundarbans with all animals and people living in it, including the magnificent tiger.

Now it's your turn: fill in the boxes below

First you create a storyboard using words only. The next exercise on the following page, you will create a storyboard by drawing pictures. Good luck!

Beginning	Middle

Climax	End

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Now it's your turn: create your storyboard sketching scenes

You just made a storyboard using words. Now create a storyboard drawing pictures of the main scenes: clarify your stories' structure by drawing pictures that you will describe when you tell your story. This helps you focus your story. On page 2 you find as example the storyboard of Rezvins' story.

Beginning	Middle

Climax	End