

Part II - CH CH CH CHANGES  
**VOICES FOR CHANGE**

Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 14:00 GMT+2

**THE MOST  
SIGNIFICANT**



**CHALLENGE  
CHANGE**

**BASED ON A  
TRUE STORY**



## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TECHNIQUE

Monitoring and Evaluation without Indicators

### WHAT IS IT?

The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique is a form of **participatory monitoring and evaluation**. It involves the collection and selection of **stories of change**, produced by programme or project stakeholders.

STEP 1: define **domains of change**



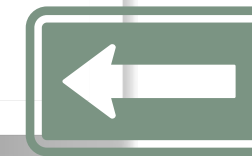
STEP 2: decide how and when to **collect stories**



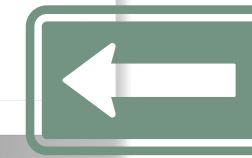
STEP 3: collect **significant change stories**



STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories



STEP 5: **verify** the stories



*@intrac for civil society*



## IN THE PREVIOUS EPISODE...

# COLLECT STORIES OF CHALLENGE/CHANGE

STEP 3: collect significant change stories

Stories are normally collected from those stakeholders most directly involved in a project or programme, such as targeted beneficiaries and project or programme staff

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“Looking back over the last month, what do you think was the most significant challenge/change in [particular domain of change]?”

story  
[who did what, when and why]

“why do you think this story illustrates well the challenge/change?”

In addition to a description of the story, MSC also requires some further information to be recorded for each story:

- who provided the story;
- when and where the challenge/change happened;
- what the story teller believes is the significance of the events described in the story
- What kind of projects were implemented in the place the story refers to

IVS for Climate Justice and Ecological Restoration



# SELECTION OF STORIES **FLOW**

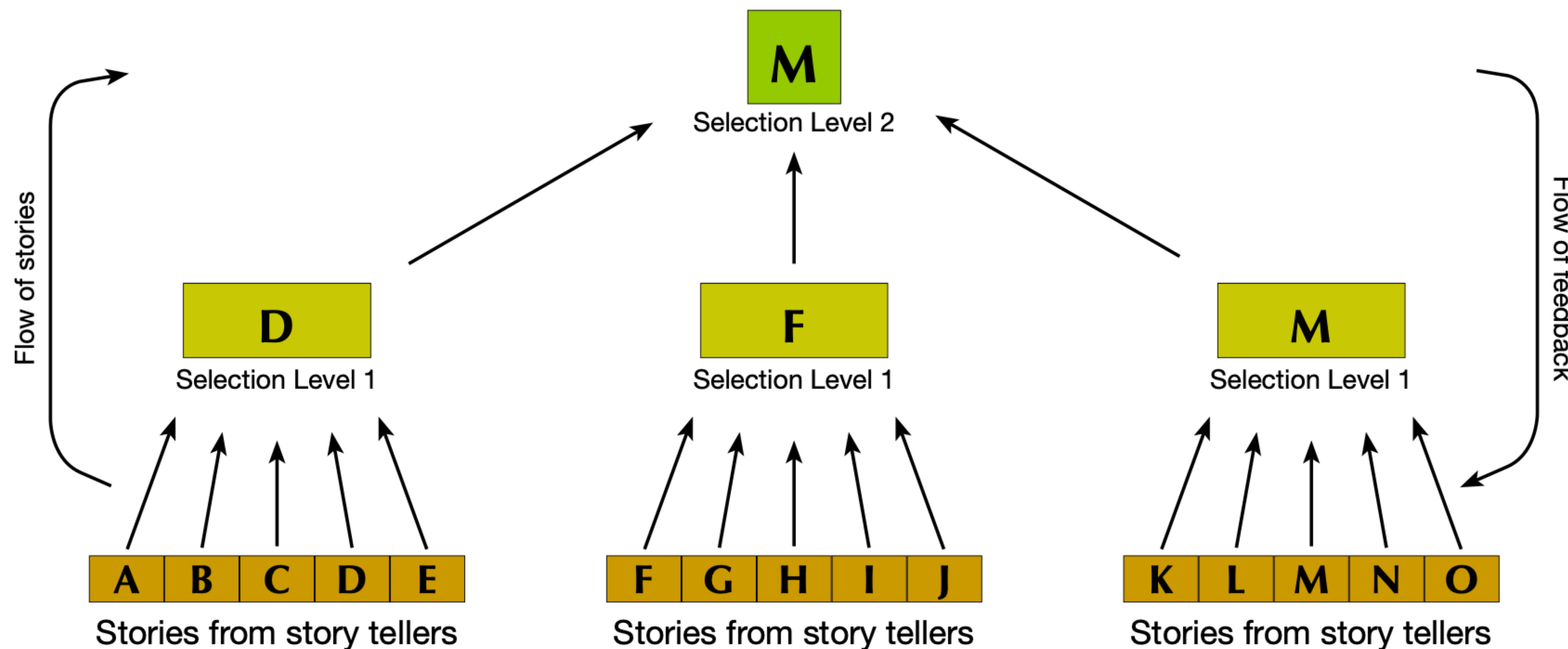
The typical selection process in the MSC technique involves several sources as well as levels of selection, usually following the organisational / program structure

**STEP 4: select** the most significant stories

@Davies&Dart

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# VOICES FOR CHANGE STORIES FLOW

STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories

## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TECHNIQUE

Monitoring and Evaluation without Indicators

**Policy Development and Advocacy Document**  
**Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice**  
**TIME CAPSULE**

Earth Artist Training and Songwriting Workshop selection (June 18-28)

Project Management Meeting selection (October)

Researchers group selection (June 2-9)

Researchers group selection (September 15-22)

**Challenge and change story collection**  
**April 22 - June 1**  
**(at least 5 stories per organisation)**

**Local Actions Change story collection**  
**July-September**  
**(at least 10 stories per organisation)**

# HOW TO **SELECT** THE STORIES

STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories

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“The selection process begins with **reading some or all of the stories** either out loud or individually. We tend to prefer reading the stories aloud, as it brings the stories to life, but the effectiveness and practicality of this may depend on the context. If the stories have already been allocated to **domains**, then all the stories from one domain are considered together.

Then the **reasons for the choice are documented**.

Main steps:

- Everybody **reads** the stories
- The group holds an in-depth **conversation** about which stories should be chosen
- The group **decides** which stories are felt to be most significant
- The **reason** for the group’s choice(s) are documented”

*@Davies&Dart*



# SELECTION - CHALLENGE/CHANGE

STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories

@Davies&Dart

- Everybody **reads** the stories (and the Report Form...)

## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TECHNIQUE

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**Ecuador**  
Shuar community  
Amazon region



**Italy**  
Il Cantiere  
Naples region



**Türkiye**  
Lake Burdur  
South-Western Anatolia




# DISCUSSION - CHALLENGE/CHANGE

STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories

## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TECHNIQUE

Monitoring and Evaluation without Indicators

@Davies&Dart

- Everybody **reads** the stories 
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### GROUPS 1 & 2

IVS for **Climate Justice** and Ecological Restoration

### GROUPS 3 & 4

Rights-Based and Inclusive **Participation** in IVS



# DISCUSSION - CHALLENGE/CHANGE

STEP 4: **select** the most significant stories

## THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TECHNIQUE

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@Davies&Dart

- Everybody **reads** the stories ✓
- The group holds an in-depth **conversation** about which stories should be chosen ✓
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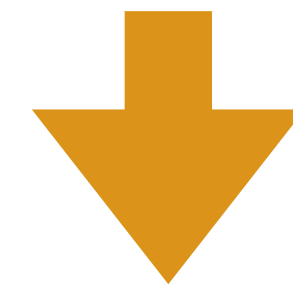
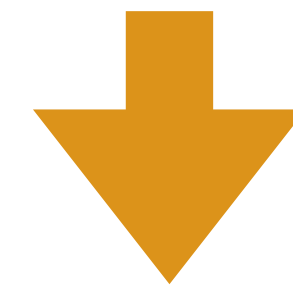
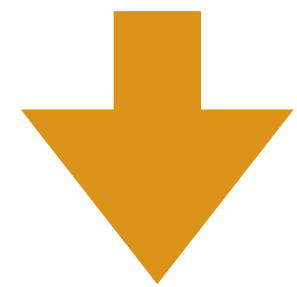
## WHY DID YOU CHOSE THIS STORY?



# THREE ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

In order to adapt the MSC technique to their context and situation, organisations have developed ways to integrate the method into existing events and program activities

*@foodsystemsjournal.org*



## Analysis of Existing stories

Your organisation might have already collected stories from your programs and projects; they are “Existing data” and represent an opportunity to study IVS underlying **values and preferences**, based on the types of success stories you have been actively selecting

## MSC internal Focus group

Your organisation might facilitate a focus group conversation with lead **staff and members**, asking each person to describe the “most significant change” they had observed over the last year in one or more domains as it related to their work

## MSC Storytelling Workshop

Your organisation might integrate a short version of the MSC with various groups into **existing meetings and gatherings** (still very participatory)



STEP 3: collect significant change stories

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# STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

In order to adapt the MSC technique to their context and situation, organisations have developed ways to integrate the method into existing events and program activities

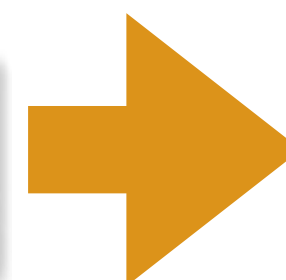
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**STEP 3: collect significant change stories**

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**MSC Storytelling Workshop**



Your organisation might integrate a short version of the MSC with various groups into **existing meetings and gatherings** (still very participatory)

e.g. General Assembly, Camp Leaders Training, Hosts Meeting, Post-Camp Event, etc.

**1.** Divide participants into **small groups**, assigned a facilitator to keep track of time, record the conversation, and manage the process.

**2.** Give a one-page worksheet and ask to reflect individually and write a “5-minute essay” in response to the key question: “Over the last [time period], **what do you think was the most significant challenge/change** in [domain]?”

- What happened
- Why is it important

**3.** **Share** stories with another (different) small group

**4.** Each group member reads one story aloud to their group; then the group then **discusses** the qualities of each story and comes to an **agreement** on which of the stories represents the “most significant change” and why.

**5.** Representatives from each group share with the larger group the single story they have chosen to “lift up” as most significant and **explain why** their group selected that story.

# VERIFICATION - Description & Interpretation

STEP 5: **verify** the stories

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“Stories could be deliberate **fictional** accounts, designed to **save time or gain recognition** describe real events that have been **misunderstood**, **exaggerate** the significance of events.” @Davies&Dart

- When a story is first accepted into the organisation: for example, when a fieldworker documents a change reported to them
- When when a story is communicated beyond the organisation: for example, to donors or the general public
- When where a story is used as the basis for recommending important changes in an organisation’s policies or procedures

FURTHER STEPS:  
**Feeding back results**

FURTHER STEPS:  
**Quantification**

FURTHER STEPS:  
**Secondary analysis**

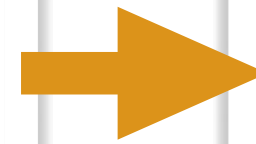
# WHAT IS NEXT

## TIMEFRAME

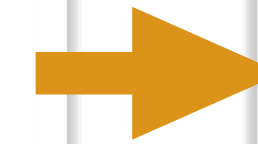
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**Challenge and change**  
story collection  
  
(at least 5 stories per  
organisation)

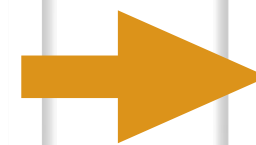


June 2 - June 9  
**Challenge and change**  
story selection  
  
(4-5 researchers  
group volunteers)



June 18 - June 28  
**Earth Artist Training  
and Songwriting  
Workshop**

July-September  
**Local Actions Change**  
story collection  
  
(at least 10 stories per  
organisation)



September 15 - 22  
**Change and challenge**  
story selection  
  
(4-5 researchers  
group volunteers)



October 2025  
**Project Management  
Meeting**

Policy Development and Advocacy Document  
Symposium on Environmental and Social Justice  
TIME CAPSULE

# WHAT YOU CAN READ & USE

<https://ccivs.org/voices-for-change/resources/>

## RESOURCES

1 - The training slides and recordings from the April 16 and April 23 sessions

2 - The stories of challenge / change collected from the field

3 - The report forms for organisations to accompany the stories collected

4 - The report forms for the selection groups to accompany the choices

5 - The original Most Significant Change full guidebook by Davies & Dart

6 - Journal articles describing different uses and adaptations of the MSC

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Want to join the selection group? [francesco@1.or.kr](mailto:francesco@1.or.kr)