

## Elinor Ostrom's 'Good Practice' Design Principles for Co-operation

(For a discussion of the potential applicability of these principles across a very wide range of development challenges, see *Working with the Grain* pp 147-155).

The Working Rules	Principles for ‘Good Practice’ Design
<b>I: Rules governing eligibility</b>	
Boundary rules – define who is eligible to enter a position	<i>Clearly defined participant boundaries:</i> Clear and locally understood boundaries between legitimate participants and non-participants are present.
Position rules – create positions for participants to enter	
<b>II: Operating Rules</b>	
Payoff rules – assign rewards or sanctions	<i>Proportional equivalence between benefits and costs.</i> Rules specifying the amounts that a participant benefits are proportional to the distribution of labor, materials and other costs.
Aggregation rules – determine how collective decisions are to be arrived at	<i>Collective-Choice Arrangements:</i> Most individuals affected by the collaborative initiative are authorized to participate in making and modifying its rules.
Choice rules – specify what a participant occupying a position must/must not/may do at a particular point in a decision process	<i>Conflict-Resolution Mechanisms:</i> Rapid, low-cost, local arenas exist for resolving conflicts among participants, or with officials.  <i>Graduated Sanctions:</i> Sanctions for rule violations start very low but become stronger if a user repeatedly violates a rule.
<b>III: Rules governing monitoring</b>	
Information rules – assign the obligation/permission or prohibition to communicate to participants in positions... and the language/form in which the communication will take place	<i>Monitoring:</i> Monitors who actively audit participant behavior are at least partially accountable to the participants and/or are the participants themselves.
<b>IV: Rules governing delegation of decision authority</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operational rules</li><li>Collective choice rules</li><li>Constitutional rules</li></ul>	<i>Minimal Recognition of Rights:</i> The rights of participants to set rules (or participate in rulemaking) are recognized by the government.  <i>Nested Initiatives:</i> Governance activities are organized in multiple nested layers, with a clearly defined, autonomous domain of decision-making for local-level collective action

Source: adapted from Elinor Ostrom, *Understanding Institutional Diversity* (Princeton 2005) pp. 259-270.