

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 |
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| I: Rules governing eligibility | |
| 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 | |
| II: Operating Rules | |
| 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. |
| III: Rules governing monitoring | |
| 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. |
| IV: Rules governing delegation of decision authority | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Operational rulesCollective choice rulesConstitutional rules | <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.