

1. **Clearly defined boundaries.** The boundaries of the resource system (e.g., irrigation system or fishery) and the individuals or households with rights to harvest resource units are clearly defined.
2. **Proportional equivalence between benefits and costs.** Rules specifying the amount of resource products that a user is allocated are related to local conditions and to rules requiring labor, materials, and/or money inputs.
3. **Collective-choice arrangements.** Many of the individuals affected by harvesting and protection rules are included in the group that can modify these rules.
4. **Monitoring.** Monitors, who actively audit biophysical conditions and user behavior, are at least partially accountable to the users and/or are the users themselves.
5. **Graduated sanctions.** Users who violate rules-in-use are likely to receive graduated sanctions (depending on the seriousness and context of the offense) from other users, from officials accountable to these users, or from both.
6. **Conflict-resolution mechanisms.** Users and their officials have rapid access to low-cost, local action situations to resolve conflict among users or between users and officials.
7. **Minimal recognition of rights to organize.** The rights of users to devise their own institutions are not challenged by external governmental authorities, and users have long-term tenure rights to the resource

For resources that are parts of larger systems:

8. **Nested enterprises.** Appropriation, provision, monitoring, enforcement, conflict resolution, and governance activities are organized in multiple layers of nested enterprises.