

Annex: Permaculture Principles

(a Systems Thinking approach)

- 1. Principle of Diversity:** Aims to integrate a variety of beneficial species of food plants and animals into design. This builds a stable interactive polycultural system which provides for human needs and also for needs of other species.
- 2. Principle of Edge Effect:** In general there is more energy and more diversity of life on the edge of 2 types of natural systems where they overlap. On these borders one can access the resources of both sides. Using the edge effect and other natural patterns that you observe creates the best effect.
- 3. Principle of Energy Planning:** Placing the elements of your design in such a way as to minimize the use of energy including fossil fuels and human labour. Utilizing the energy and resources that you have first on site and then from outside the system as effectively as possible. On site energy resources include natural forces such as gravity, wind power, water power (human ingenuity) this saves time energy and money.
- 4. Principles of Natural Energy Cycling:** In a natural system there is no waste or pollution. The output from one natural process becomes the resources for another. Recycle and reuse all the resources as many times as possible.
- 5. Principles of Scale:** Creating human scale systems. Choose simple appropriate technologies for use and design. Only create systems that are manageable. Start small and take achievable steps towards an ideal goal.
- 6. Principle of Biological Resources:** Using natural methods and processes to achieve tasks. Find things in nature (plants, animals, microbes, that are supportive of the system design and minimize outside energy input. At the IPC we include the cultural elements (like emotions and wants) to this list.
- 7. Principles of Multiple Elements:** Support each vital need and essential function in more than one way so that a temporary failure in one element will not stop the functioning of others. Also recognize there is almost always more than one way to achieve any task.
- 8. Principles of Multiple Functions:** Most things can be used in a variety of ways and for a variety of functions. One rule of thumb in permaculture is to try to design 3 uses for every element of the system. This can save space, time and future complications in any particular project.
- 9. Principle of Natural Succession:** Work with nature and the processes of natural systems. Anticipate future developments through research and observation when necessary.
- 10. Principle of Relative Location:** Place every element of your design in relationship with others so that they can benefit from each other. For example, store tools near where they will be used.