

# WHY DO (SOME) PROJECTS WORK?

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# The argument

1. Development-talk has changed but the critiques and problems have not.
2. One thing that has changed is a shift away from (practical, local) projects . But people still live locally and projects are what they want.
3. We know a lot about projects that don't work (and why) but we don't know much about projects that do work (and why)
4. Three case-studies of projects that have worked show a consistent pattern.
5. Factors that enabled them to work:
  - Scale
  - consensus
  - key people
  - relationships
6. What about the development industry?

▣ *Does aid work? ...*

*Most of it, yes; however ...*

**(Cassen 1994:9)**

▣ *[it] is the smallest scale, usually ignored by project developers, which constitutes the heart of meaningful culture change*

**(Taylor, 1999:150)**

# Case Study #1 Post-Earthquake Reconstruction: Ngibikan, Jogjakarta, Indonesia



Case Study #2  
Organic Rice  
Wangaya Betan, Bali, Indonesia





# Case Study # 3

## Recycling, Composting, Carbon Credits

### Temesi, Bali, Indonesia



# Why did they work?

Scale

Shared knowledge and decision making

Bridging Gaps of Knowledge & Resources

People & Relationships

“Friendship”?

Absence of mediating bureaucracy?