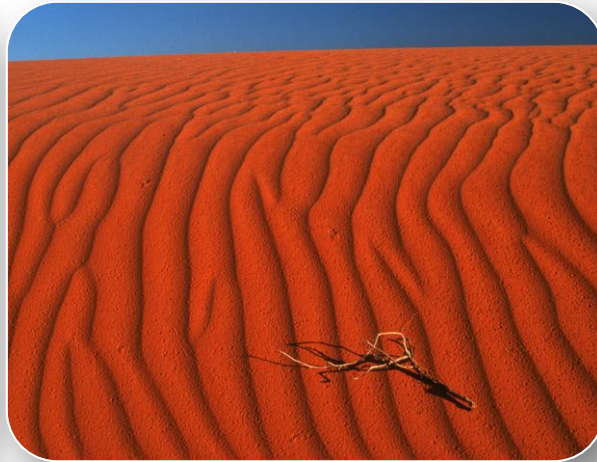


Measuring, Monitoring and Improving your Partnership Arrangements

Dr Nick Fisher

University of Sydney & ValueMetrics Australia



Agenda

1. What's the problem? – ACE and ACSRI
2. Motivation for the approach
3. What does 'Value' mean for a partner, in a collaborative venture?
4. The different stages of managing Partnership Value – ***Starting out***, ***Monitoring***, and ***Final assessment***.

Given the context (CRCA conference) the emphasis is on CRCs. However, the process is generic.

What's the problem?

- Collaborative ventures are complex objects!
 - Different participants bring different skills, knowledge, knowhow and resources to the party.
 - Different participants are seeking different outcomes.
 - Lack of clarity about varying expectations can result in unnecessary tension ... and unpleasant surprises.
- What can be done to
 - A. introduce clarity from the outset?
 - B. monitor and improve the collaboration as it progresses?
 - C. evaluate the non-research aspects at the end of the project?

Where does Measurement come in?

At the beginning:

You're involved in developing a CRC bid, or in a CRC that has just been launched. What can you measure to ensure that the partners collaborate as well as you hope, giving the joint venture the best chance to be successful?

During the project:

You're part-way through the project life of a CRC. What can you measure that might tell you how well the partners are working together? Are there some ways to make material improvements in the collaboration?

Near the end:

Your CRC is reaching the end of its funded period.

What can you measure that might tell you how well it worked as a collaboration?

And if it is to continue in some form, what might need to change in the way the partners work together?

Example 1— ACSRI (2015)

■ Australian Cyber Security Research Institute

Government – Industry – Academic collaboration on cyber security, established 2015 / Q1 as a company limited by guarantee

- **Purpose** Coordinated strategic research and education between national cyber security agencies, industry and researchers to deliver an Australia-wide approach to responding to cyber threats and cyber crime.

■ Partners include

- Academic: ANU, Deakin, Edith Cowan, ...
- Government: CERT Australia, ...
- Industry: Cisco, ...
- Collaboration with international cyber security research groups under negotiation

About to submit an application to be a CRC.

Example 2 — ACE (2013)

- **Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC**

Australia's primary vehicle for understanding the role of the Antarctic region in the global climate system, and the implications for marine ecosystems.

- **Purpose** Provide governments and industry with accurate, timely and actionable information on climate change and its likely impacts.
- **Core Partners (current)** U Tas, CSIRO, Aust Antarctic Division, Aust Bureau of Meteorology, Alfred Wegener Institute, Dept of the Environment, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research

Had been through 3 CRC cycles (2013), and was exploring *Where to next*.

Motivation for the approach: Focus on Value

- Concept developed originally in the context of Customers – your overall perception of something being
Worth what you paid for it
based on considering the **Quality** of what you're getting, and the **Price paid**.
- Extended to other key stakeholder groups – **People, Partners, Community, Owners** – to develop a complete Performance Measurement System based on creating and delivering superior Value to all key stakeholders*.
- Our focus in this study: **Value provided to Partners**.

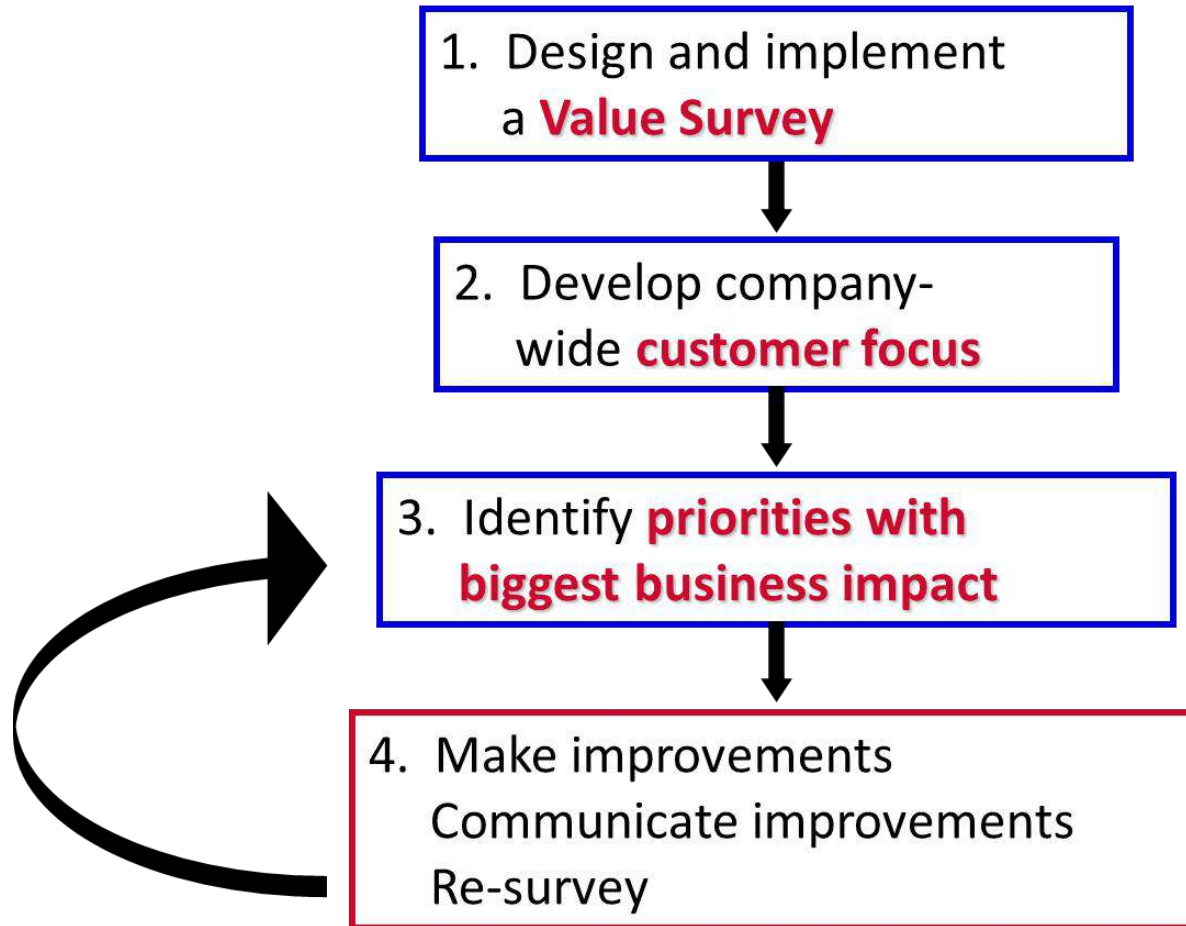
*Fisher, N I (2013), *Analytics for Leaders. A Performance Measurement System for Business Success*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

A small excursion: *Managing Customer Value*

Why the focus on managing Value?

- Customer Value Management was originally developed at AT&T in response to a business emergency –
 - 95% Customer Satisfaction
 - and at the same time*
 - 6% loss of market share, where 1% = \$600,000,000
- Benefits include
 - Proven process ... used by leading organisations world-wide
 - Lead indicators of business results
 - Actionable Board and senior executive reports
 - Identifies priorities with biggest impact on business

Managing Customer Value

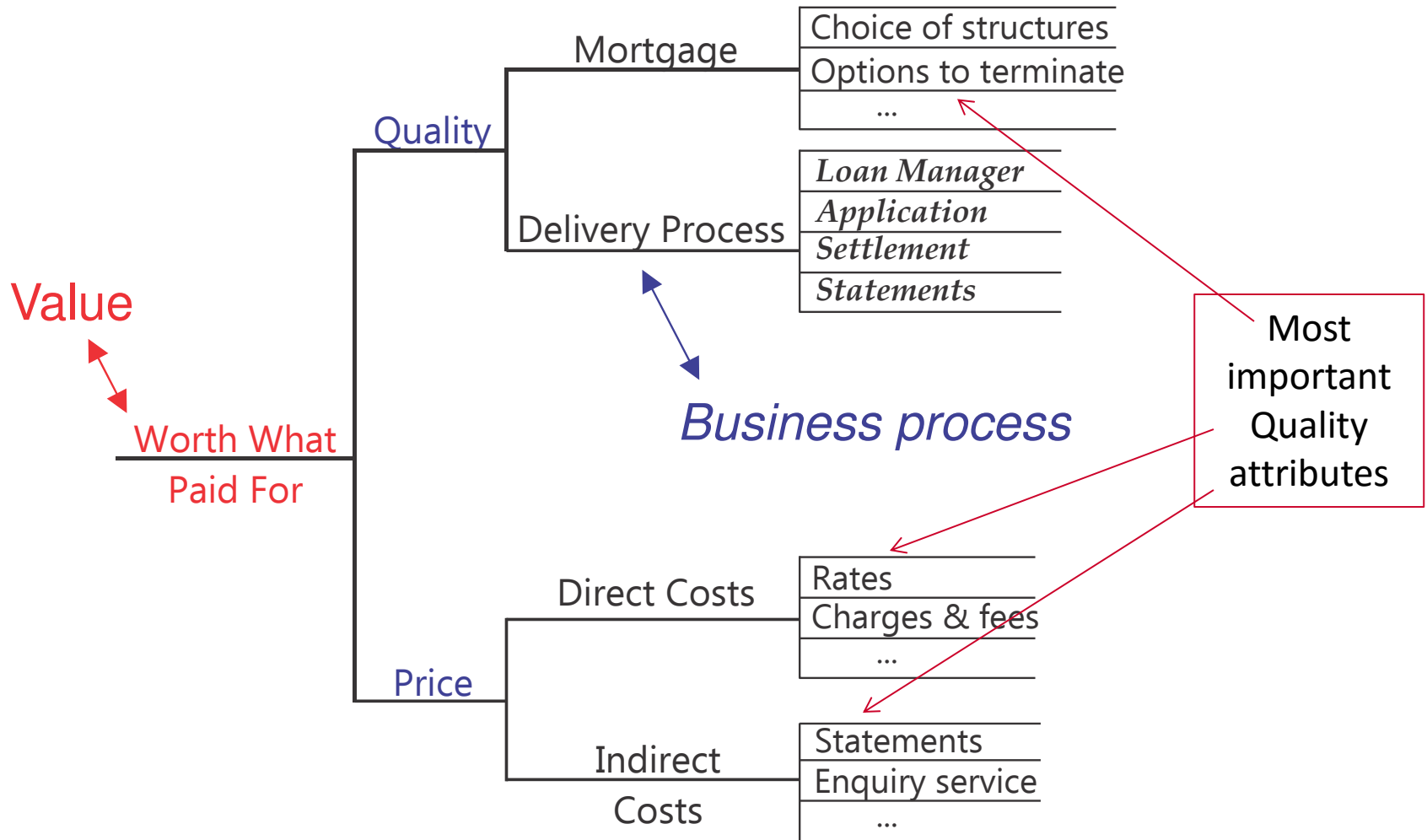


Example



Getting a mortgage for a house or apartment ...

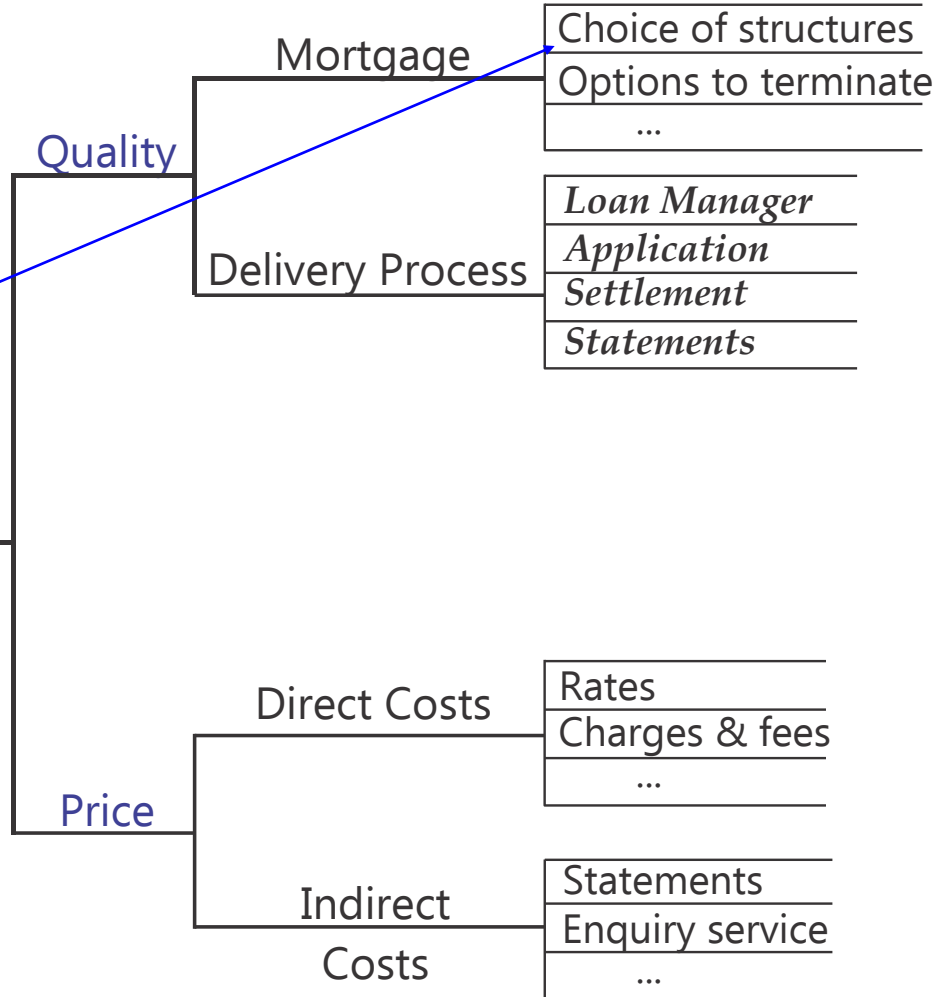
Identify Value drivers for overall satisfaction



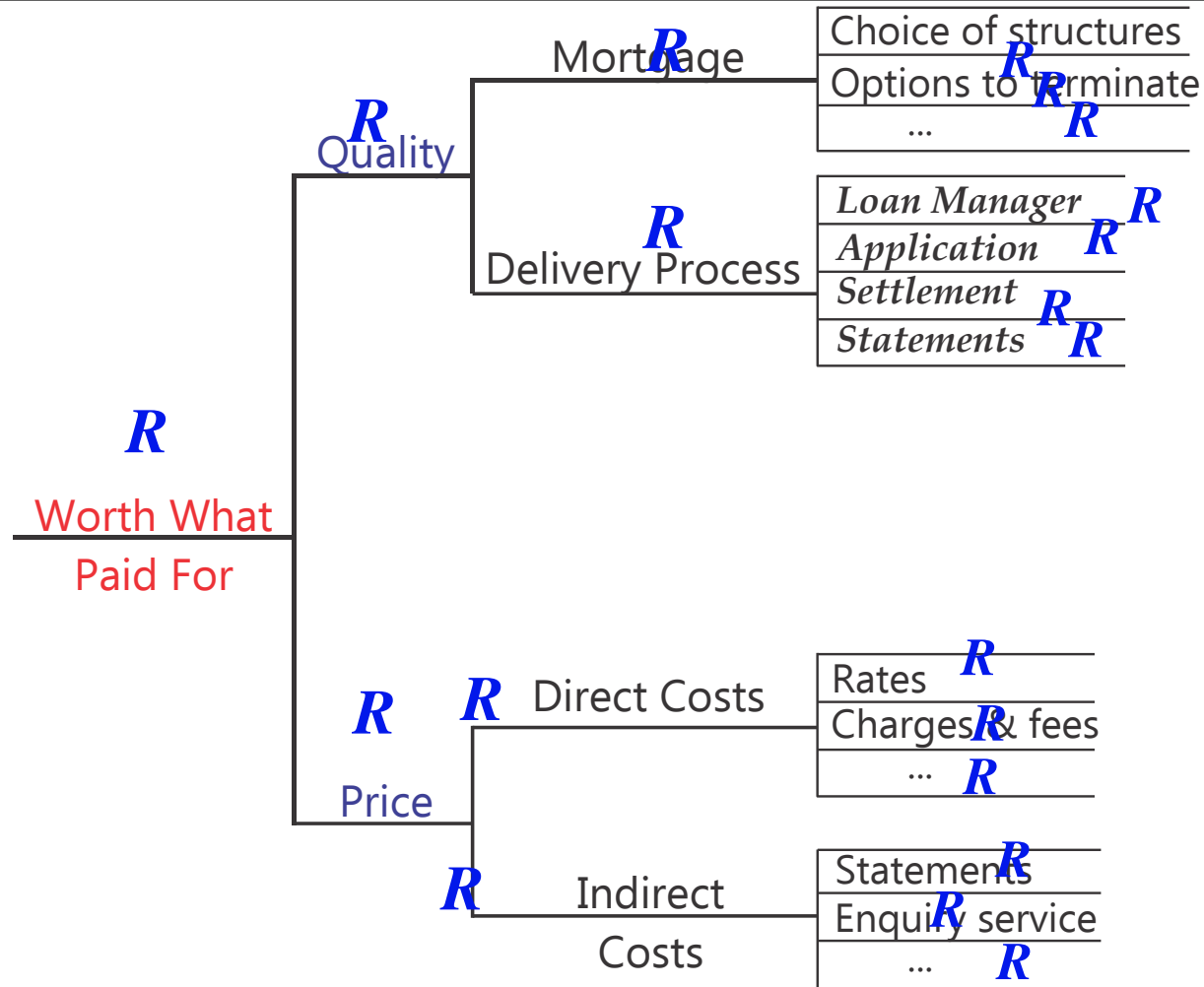
Collect data (your bank + competitors) ...

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1=*Poor* and 10=*Excellent*, please rate the bank on ...

Worth What
Paid For



... to get structured measurements



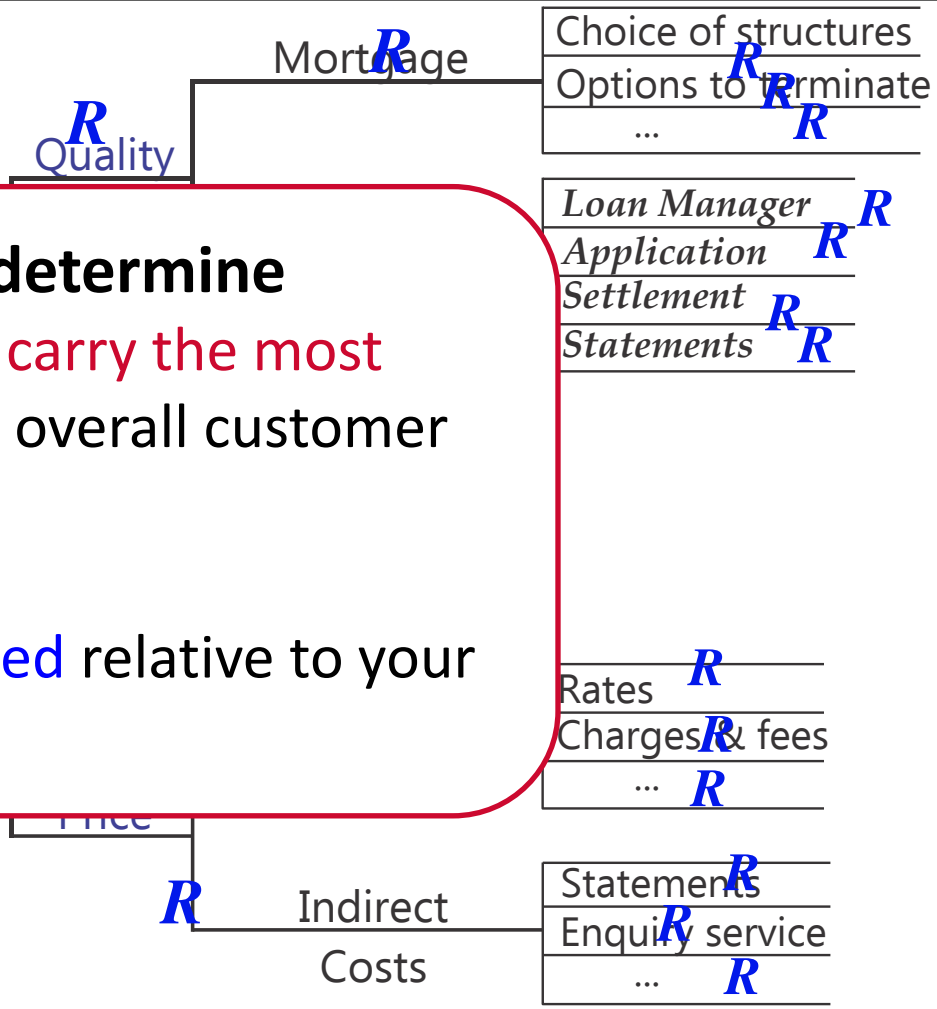
Fit statistical model to data ...

Analyse the data to determine

- which attributes carry the most weight in driving overall customer satisfaction

and

- how you are rated relative to your competition



Choice of structures
Options to terminate
...

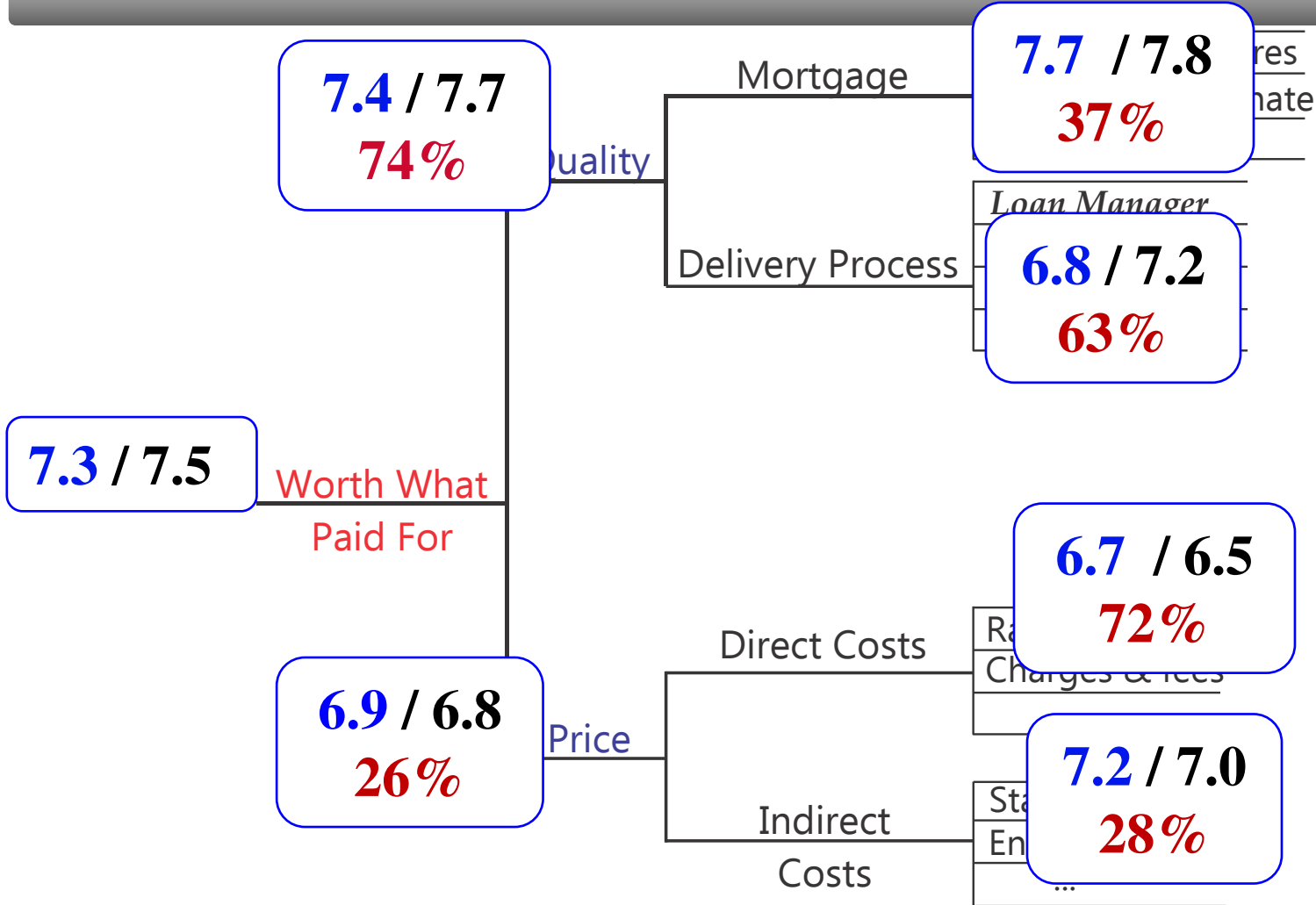
Loan Manager
Application
Settlement
Statements

Rates
Charges & fees
...

Statements
Enquiry service
...

Fit statistical model to data ...

Blue: your bank
 Black: competitor or benchmark
 Red: relative importance



Identify improvement priorities ...

- Carries significant weight in driving overall satisfaction (*Worth What Paid For*)
- You are rated poorly compared with competition
- Therefore, focus improvement efforts here ... [another story]

Mortgage

Choice of structures
Options to terminate
...

Delivery Process

<i>Loan Manager</i>
<i>Application</i>
<i>Settlement</i>
<i>Statements</i>

Price

Direct Costs

Rates
Charges & fees
...

Indirect
Costs

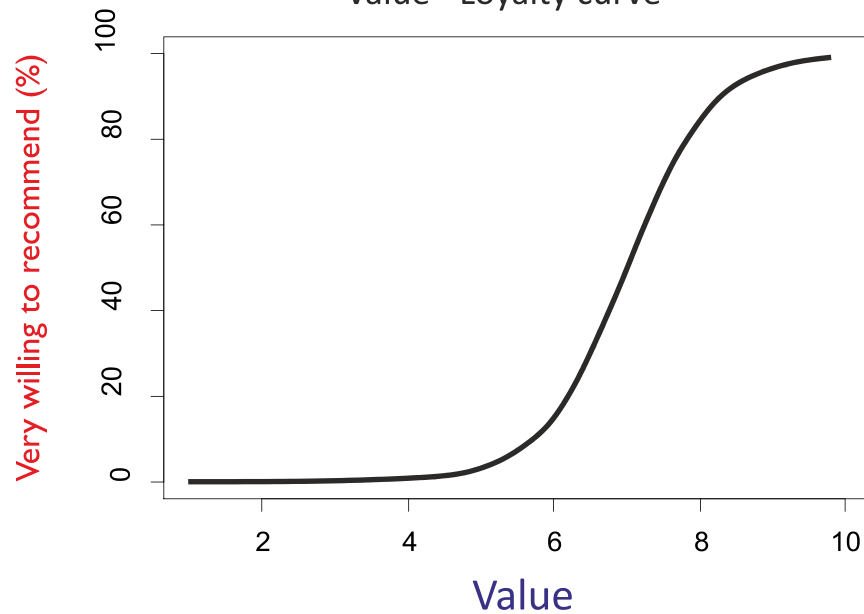
Statements
Enquiry service
...

Why is **Value** important?

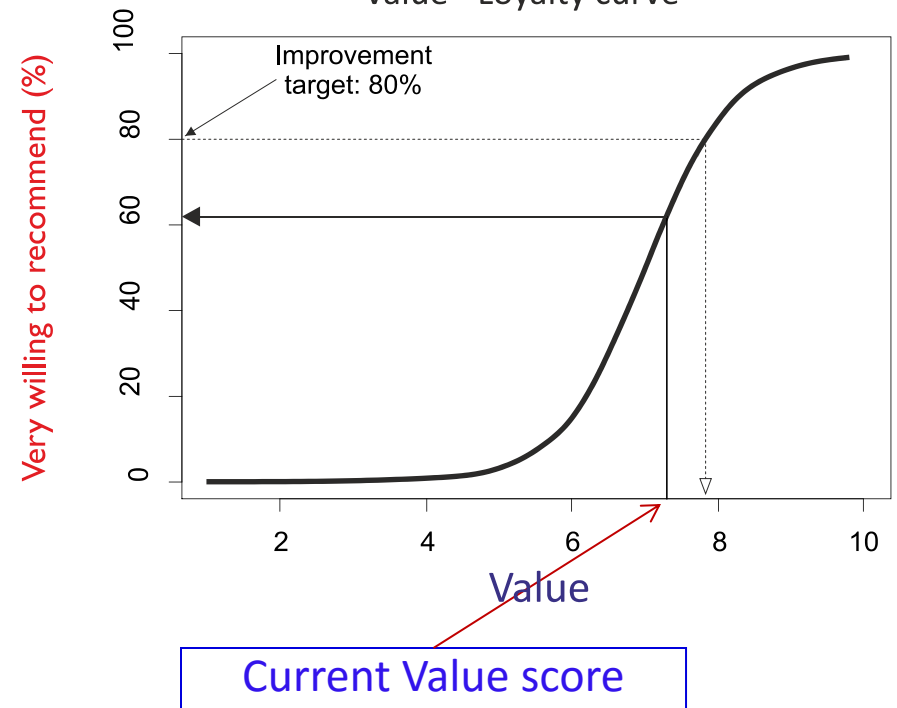
- The importance of creating superior Customer Value (or, more generally, superior Stakeholder Value, for any given stakeholder) is that it is a proven lead indicator for higher-level business impact metrics that link directly to the business bottom line.
- For example, we can directly link Customer Value to
 - *Willingness to recommend your products or services to others*
 - *Willingness to repurchase your products or services*

Linking Value to Business Impact

Loyalty



Loyalty



Value for other stakeholders

In the Opal[®] Performance Measurement system, analogous concepts of Value have been developed for the other key stakeholder groups:

People Value:

	Work
Worth	Image
Working Here	Remuneration

Owner Value:

	Returns
Worthwhile	Wellness
Investment	Risk

Community Value:

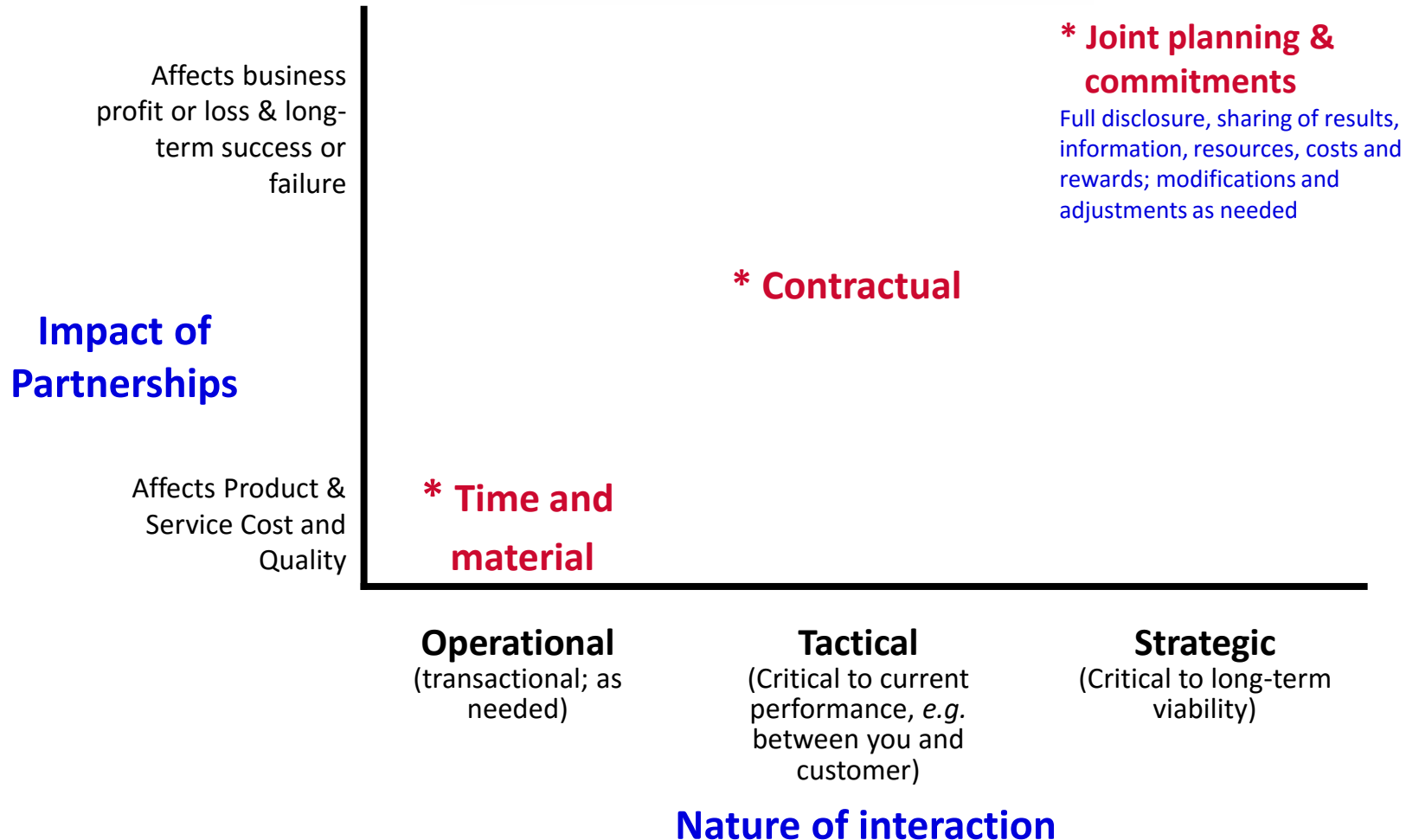
	Benefits
Worthwhile	Concerns
Res. Program	Alternative use of research \$

Partner Value:

	?
?	?
	?

Managing Partnership Value

Partnership Value Space



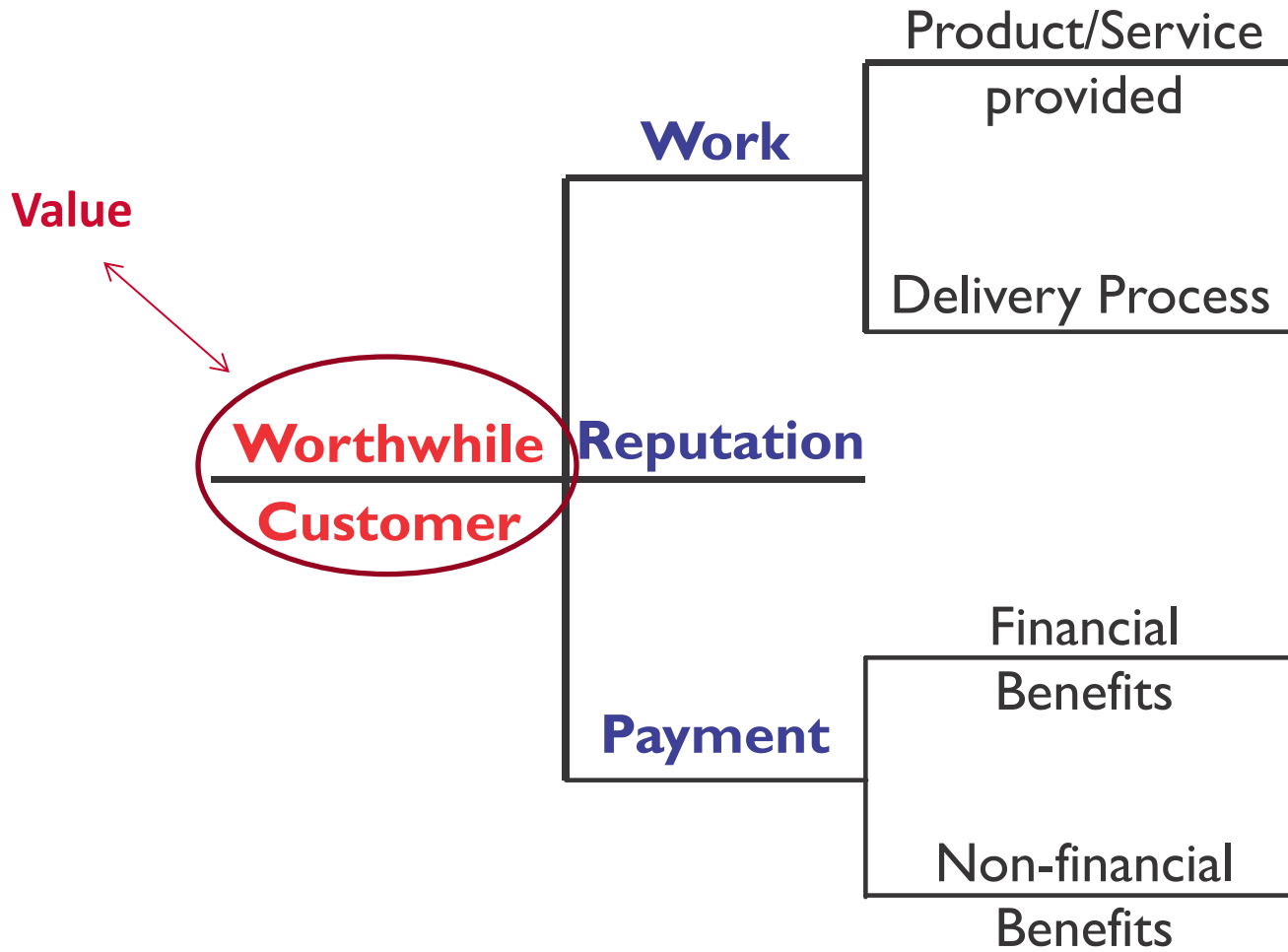
Managing Partnership Value

Three different representations of Value

Operational model: Suppliers

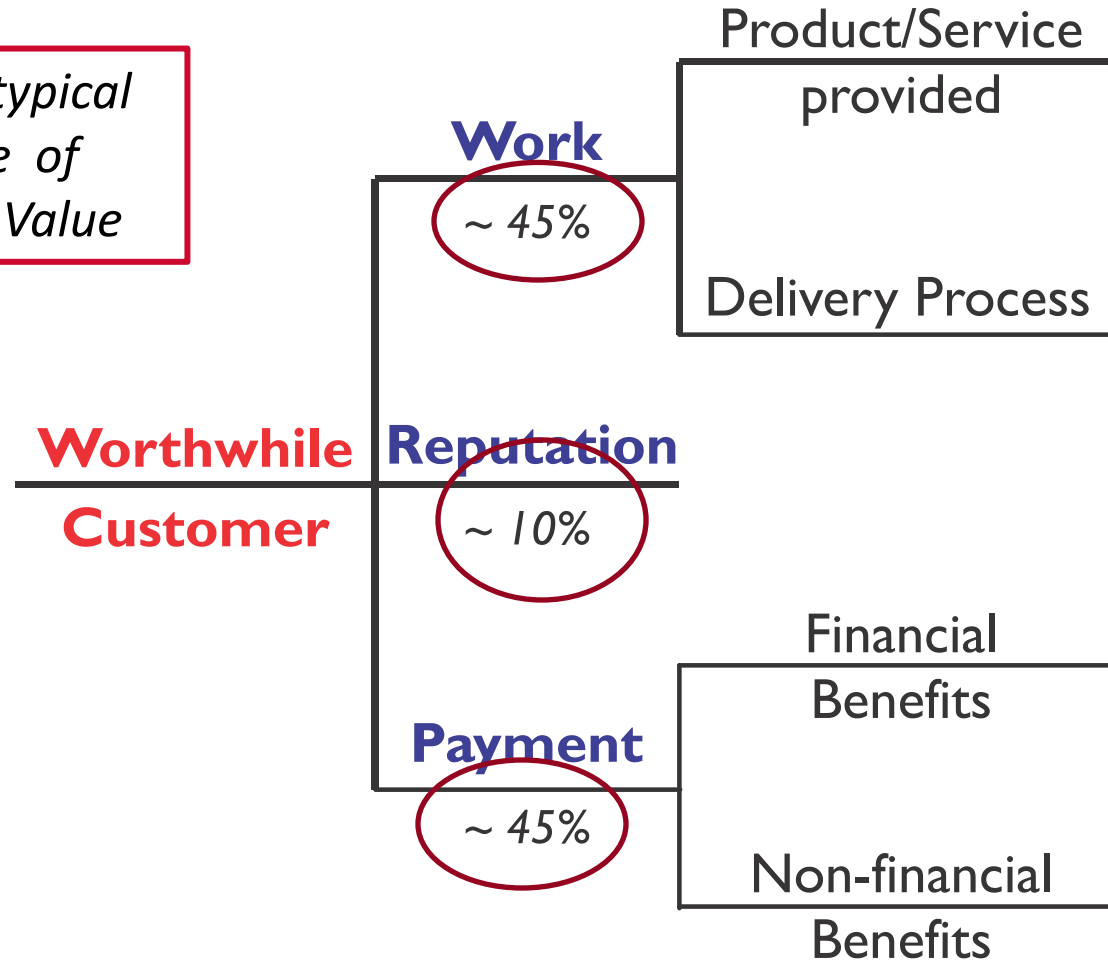
	Work
Worthwhile	Reputation
Customer	Payment

Supplier Value tree

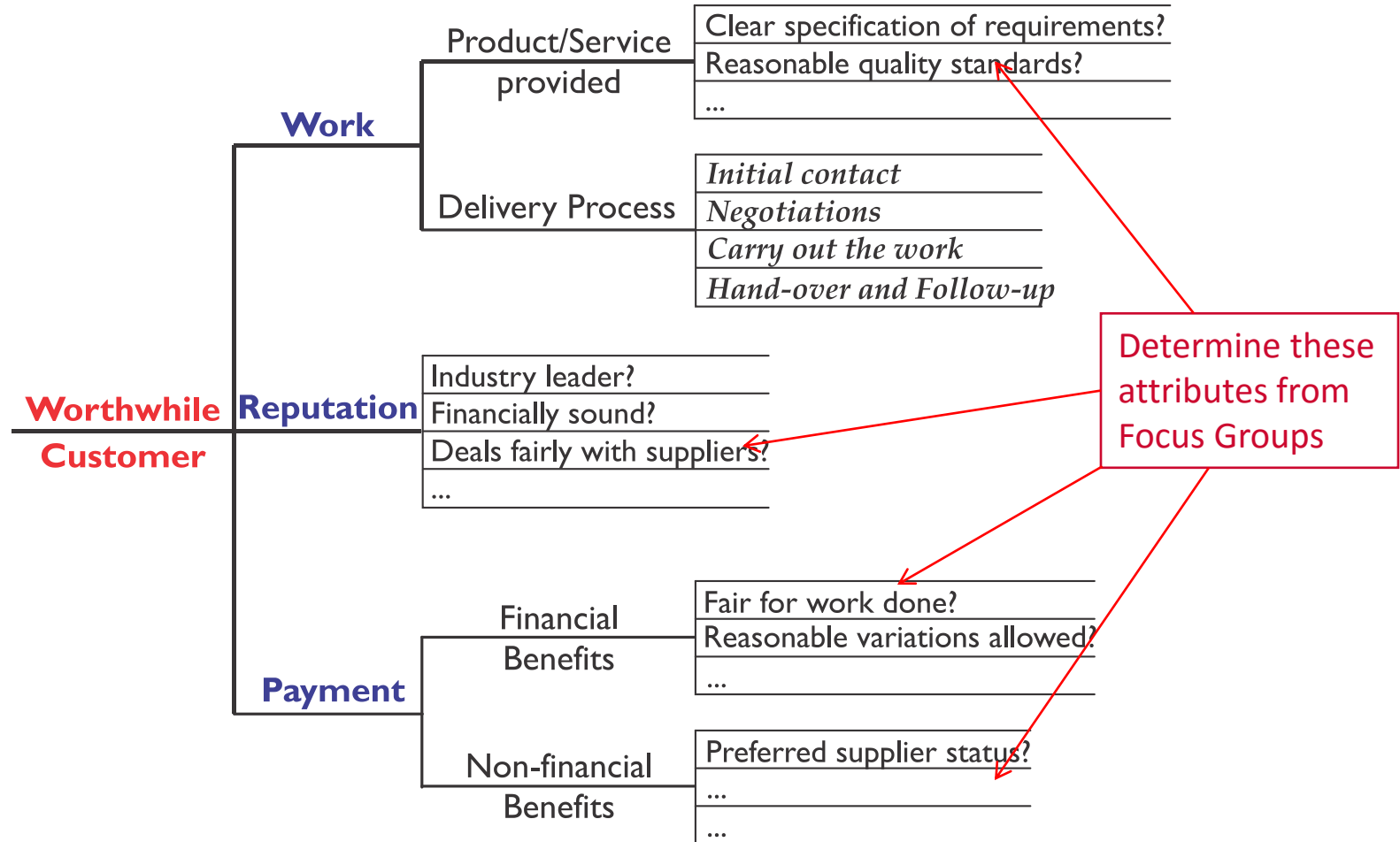


Supplier Value tree

Percentages show typical relative importance of principal drivers of Value



Supplier Value – elaborated tree



Managing Partnership Value

Three different representations of Value

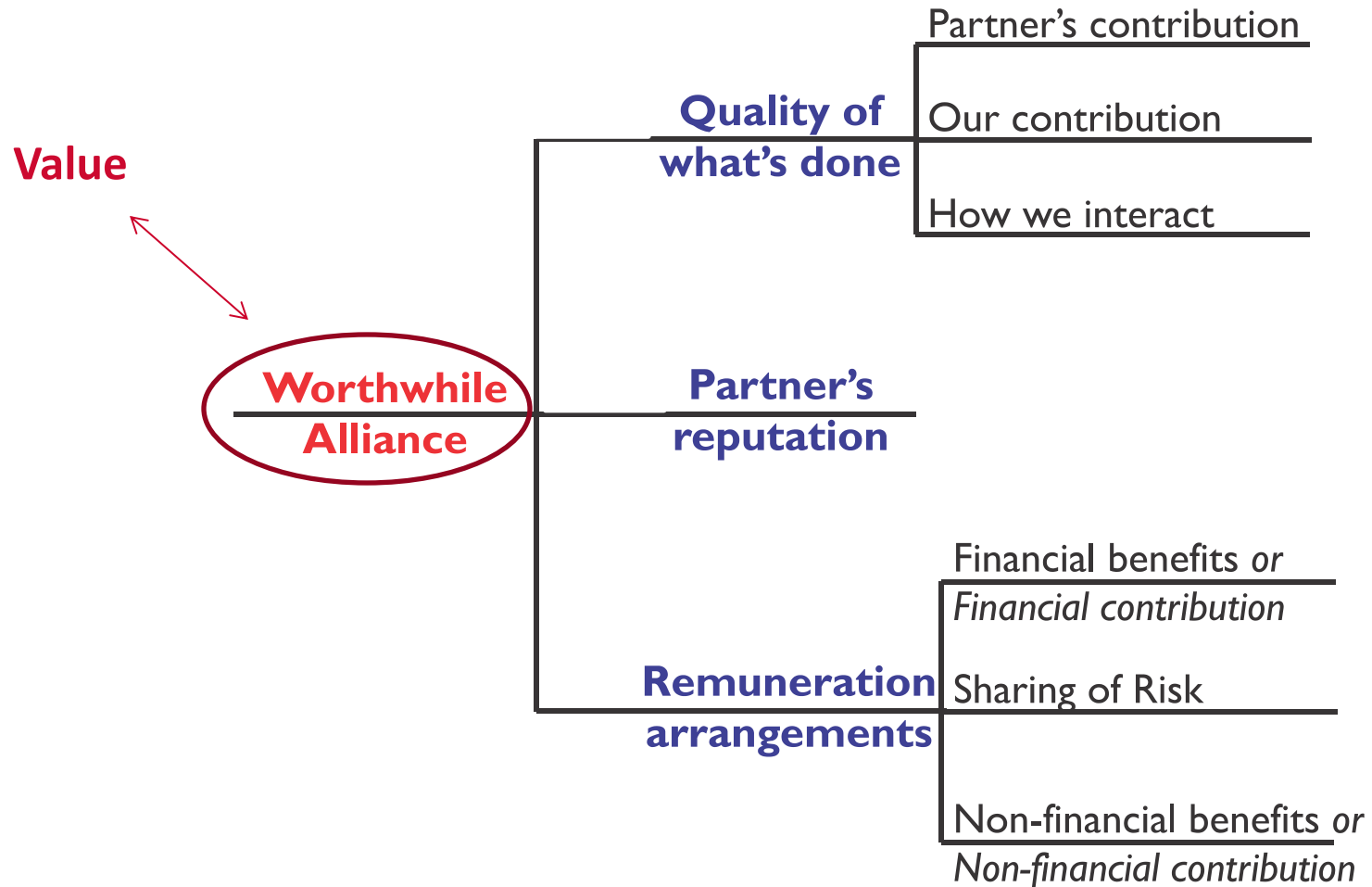
Operational model: Suppliers

	Work	~ 45%
Worthwhile	Reputation	~ 10%
Customer	Payment	~ 45%

Tactical model: Alliances

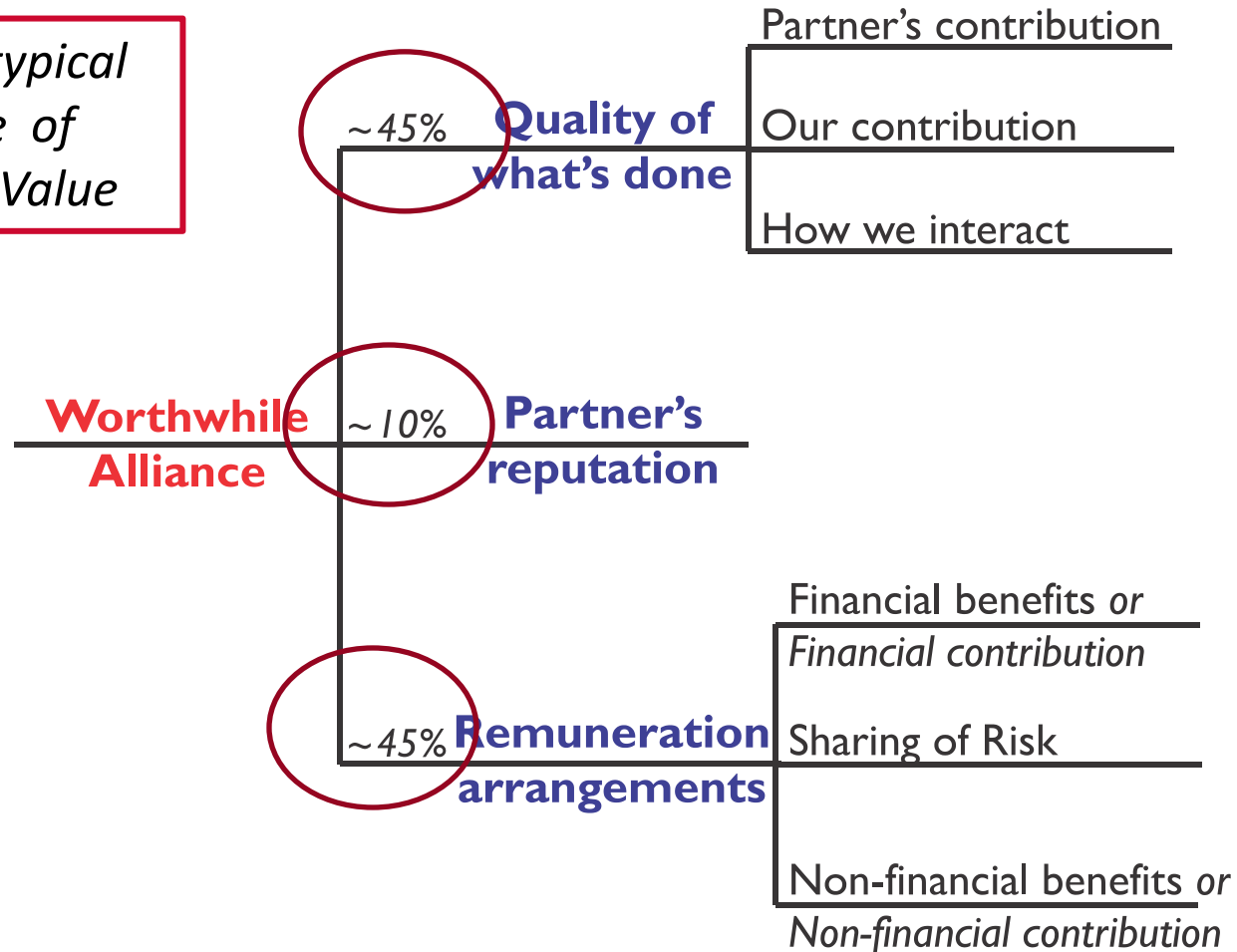
	Quality of what's done
Worthwhile	Partner's Reputation
Alliance	Remuneration arrangements

Alliance Value tree



Alliance Value tree

Percentages show typical relative importance of principal drivers of Value



Managing Partnership Value

Three different representations of Value

Operational model: Suppliers

	Work	~ 45%
Worthwhile	Reputation	~ 10%
Customer	Payment	~ 45%

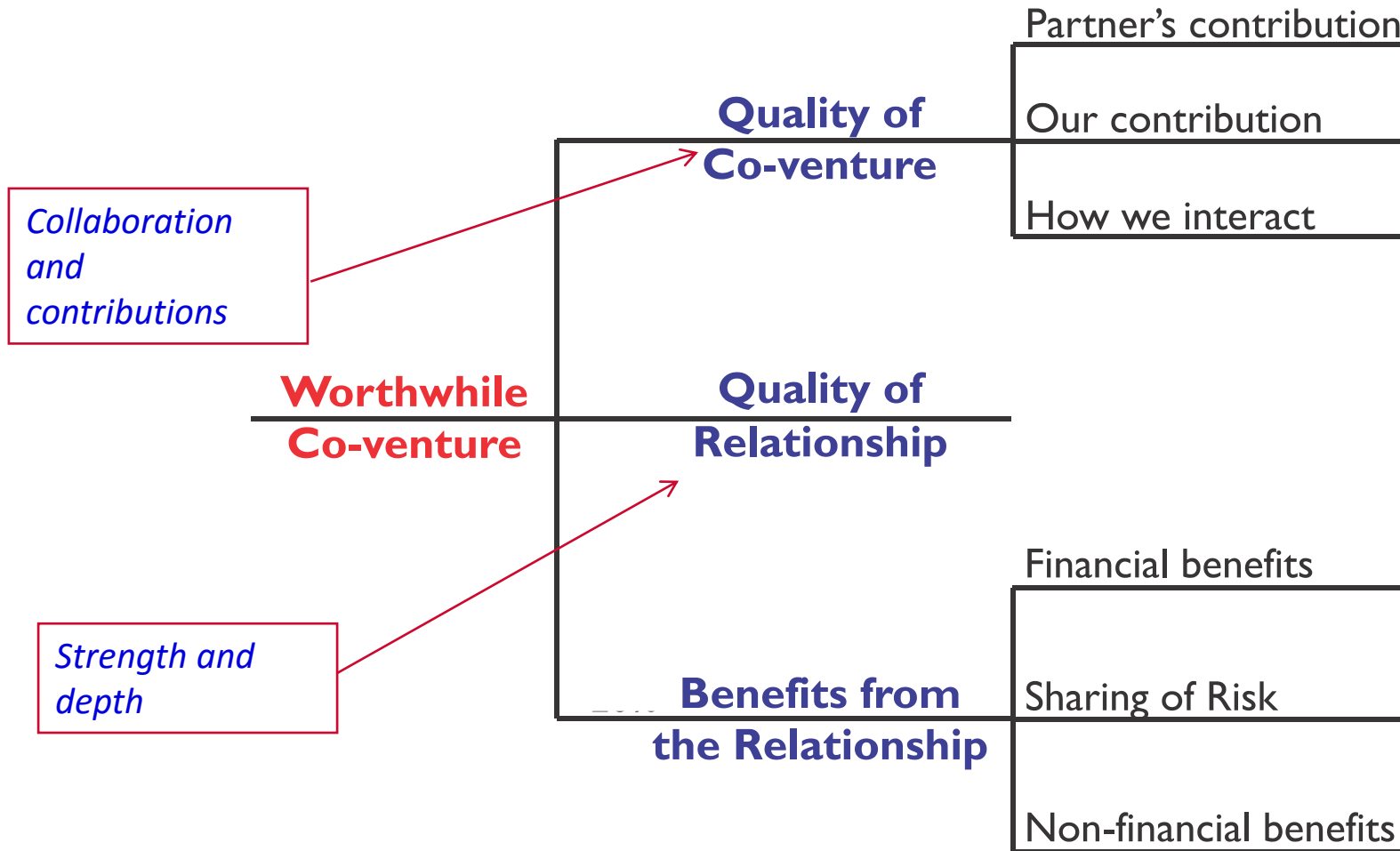
Tactical model: Alliances

	Quality of what's done	~ 45%
Worthwhile	Partner's Reputation	~ 10%
Alliance	Remuneration arrangements	~ 45%

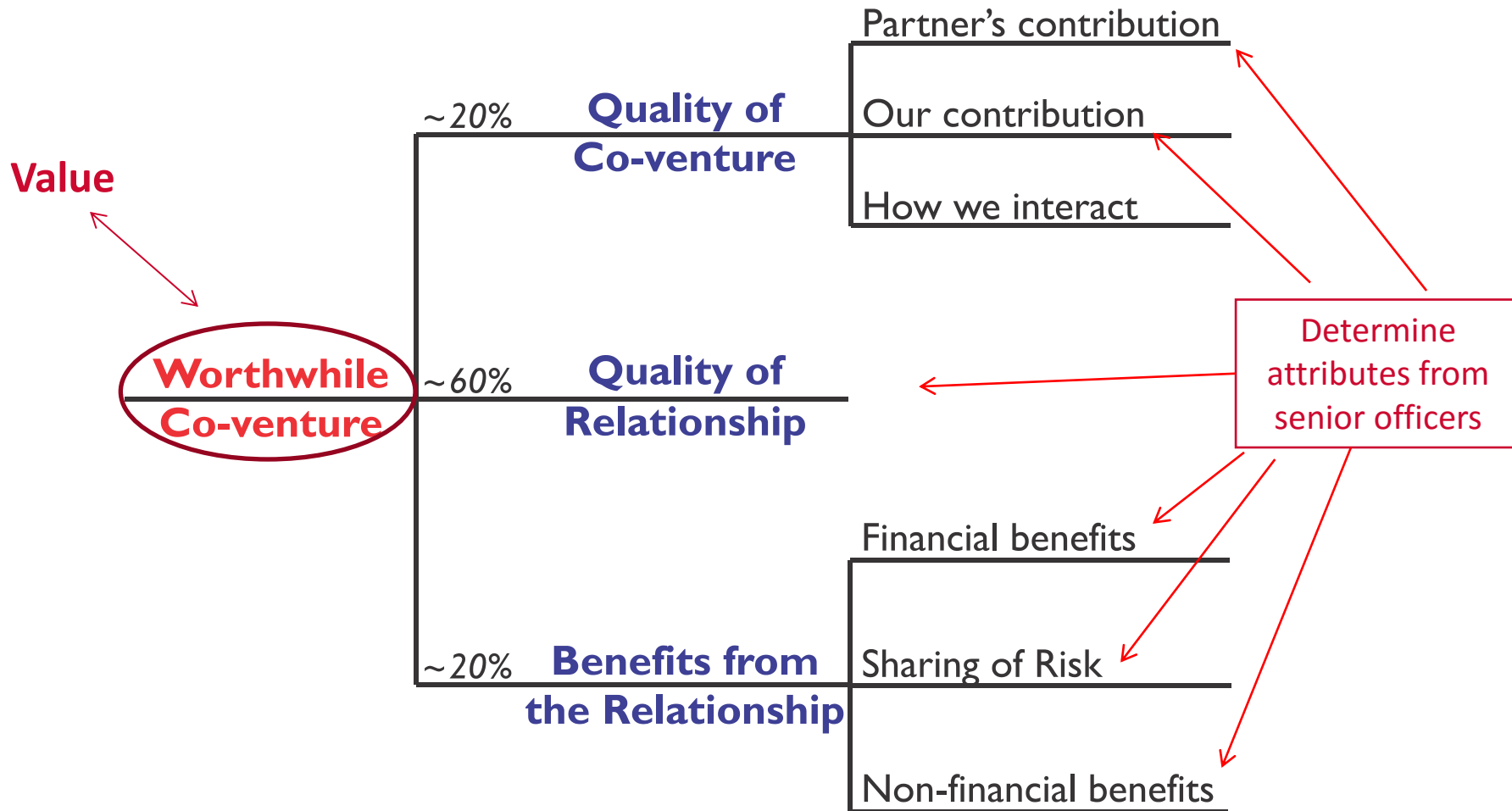
Strategic model: Co-ventures

	Quality of Co-venture
Worthwhile	Quality of Relationship
Co-venture	Benefits from Relationship

Co-venture Value tree



Co-venture Value – elaborated tree



Managing Partnership Value

Three different representations of Value

Operational model: Suppliers

	Work	~ 45%
Worthwhile Customer	Reputation	~ 10%
	Payment	~ 45%

Tactical model: Alliances

	Quality of what's done	~ 45%
Worthwhile Alliance	Partner's Reputation	~ 10%
	Remuneration arrangements	~ 45%

Strategic model: Co-ventures

	Quality of Co-venture	~ 20%
Worthwhile Co-venture	Quality of Relationship	~ 60%
	Benefits from Relationship	~ 20%

Break-out activity - I

1(a). If you are involved in a Partnership ...

- Who are the main Partners or partnership groups.
- Which model seems appropriate?

1(b). If you NOT are involved in a Partnership ...

- Who are most important Partners for your enterprise?
- Which models might be appropriate to represent the relationships with them?

2. Please discuss briefly at your table, and choose someone's **Partnership** for further consideration in the next break-out activity.

Back to our examples – ACSRI and ACE

- **Australian Cyber Security Research Institute**

Government – Industry – Academic collaboration on cyber security, established 2015 as a company limited by guarantee

Currently contemplating applying for CRC ...

- **Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems CRC (2012)**

Australia's primary vehicle for understanding the role of the Antarctic region in the global climate system, and the implications for marine ecosystems.

Core Partners (*at that time*): U Tas, CSIRO, Aust Antarctic Division, Aust Bureau of Meteorology, Alfred Wegener Institute, Dept of the Environment

Had been through 3 CRC cycles (2013), and was exploring *Where to next?*

Managing Partnership Value

Three different representations of Value

ACSRI: just starting out, define concept of Value somewhere between Tactical and Strategic

Tactical model: Alliances

Worthwhile Customer	Reputation	~ 10%	Worthwhile Alliance	Quality of what's done	~ 45%
	Payment	~ 45%		Partner's Reputation	~ 10%
				Remuneration arrangements	~ 45%

Strategic model: Co-ventures

Worthwhile Co-venture	Quality of Co-venture	~ 20%
	Quality of Relationship	~ 60%
	Benefits from Relationship	~ 20%

ACE: looking to make transition from Tactical to Strategic

Agenda

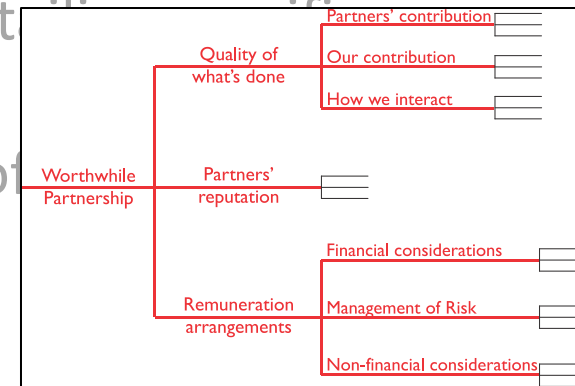
1. What's the problem? – ACE and ACSRI
2. Motivation for the approach
3. What does 'Value' mean for a Partner, in a collaborative venture?
4. The different stages of managing Partnership Value – *Starting out, Monitoring, and Final assessment.*

The process – ACSRI (starting out)

1. Identify the different relationships for which Partnership Value trees are required.
2. Carry out interviews with Partner leaders and key influencers to develop Value trees detailing specific requirements of each Partner group ('Attributes' of main branches of the Value trees).
3. Obtain some data on the relative importance of the main branches.
4. Compare sets of Attributes for matched pairs of Value trees to detect possible mismatch of expectations, and resolve.
5. Record any significant issues that emerge during discussions.

The process – ACE (transitioning)

1. [Identify the different relationships for which Partnership Value trees are required.]
2. [Carry out interviews to develop Value trees detailing the requirements of each Partner group]
3. [Obtain some data on the relative importance of the main branches.]
4. Collect data:
 - Ratings of Attributes, main branches, and Value
 - Reasons for assigning ratings for main branches & Value
 - Business impact rating (*Willingness to collaborate again, Willingness to recommend as Partner*)
5. Record any significant issues that emerge during discussions.



The process – ACSRI (starting out)

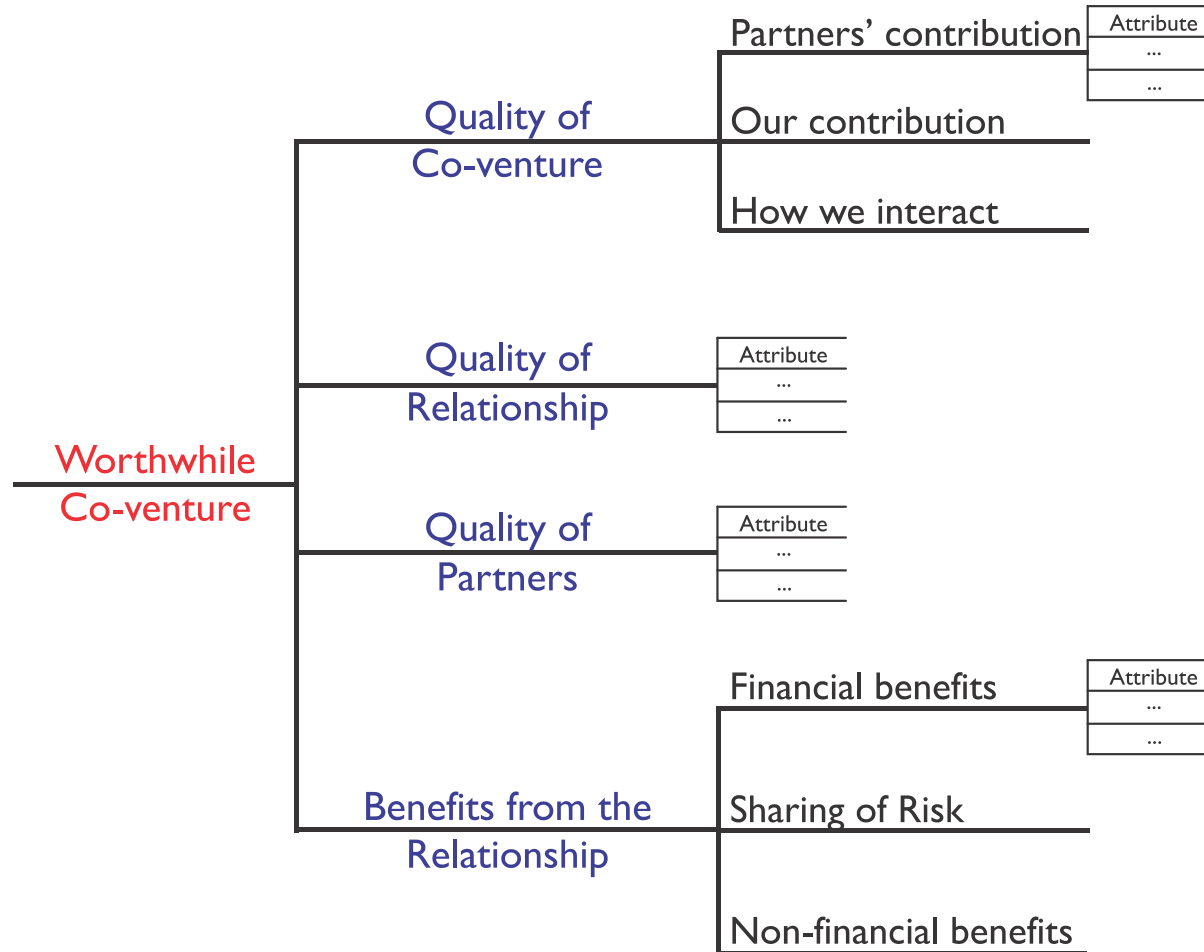
1. Identify the different relationships for which Partnership Value trees are required.

- ACSRI ↔ Universities (research providers)
- ACSRI ↔ Government agencies (*e.g.* AFP, ACC, CERT)
- ACSRI ↔ Suppliers (*e.g.* Cisco)
- ACSRI ↔ Users (*e.g.* banks)

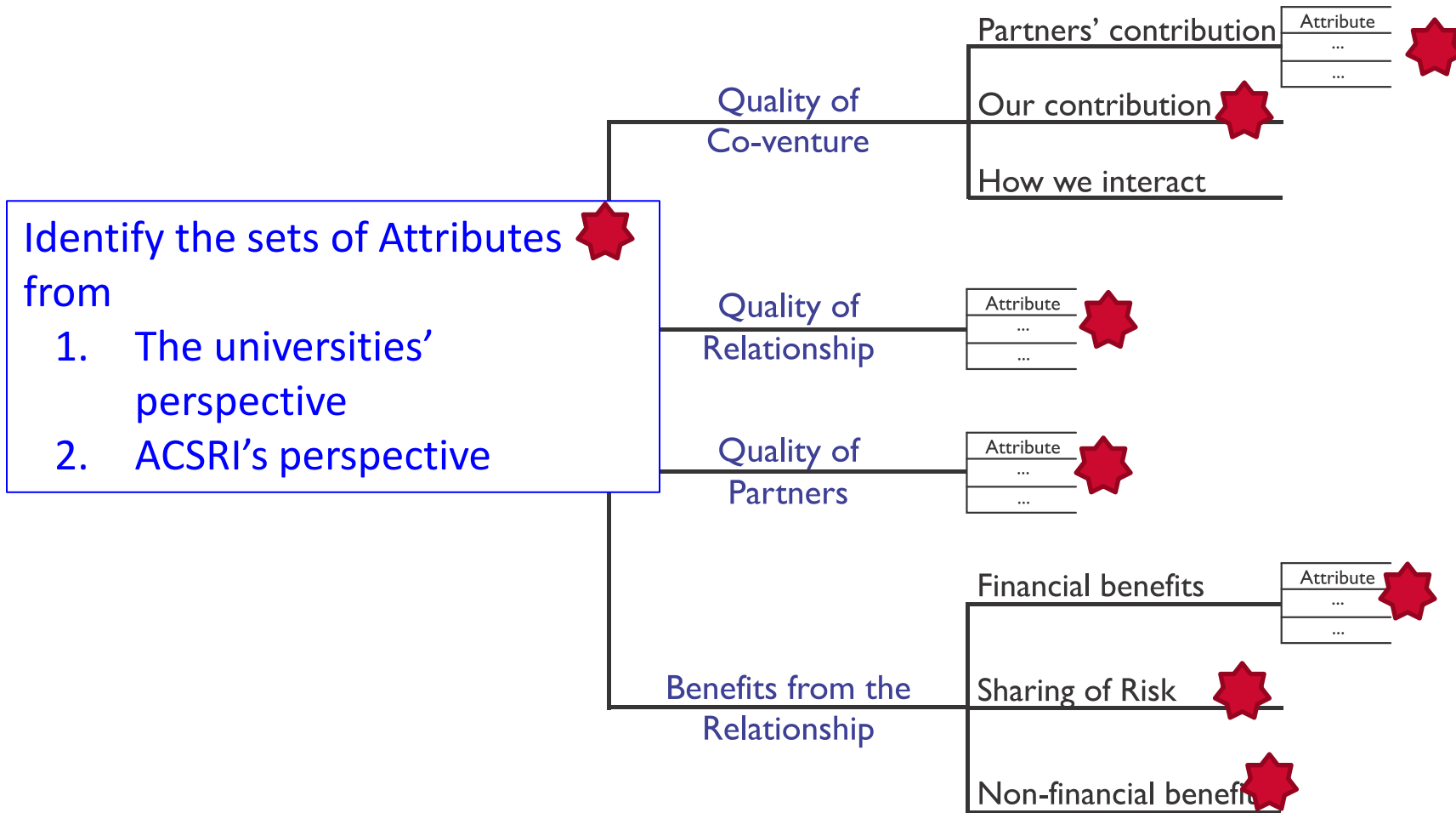
For each of these pairs, build two Value trees, representing the two differing perceptions of Value.

Example: Universities as Partners ...

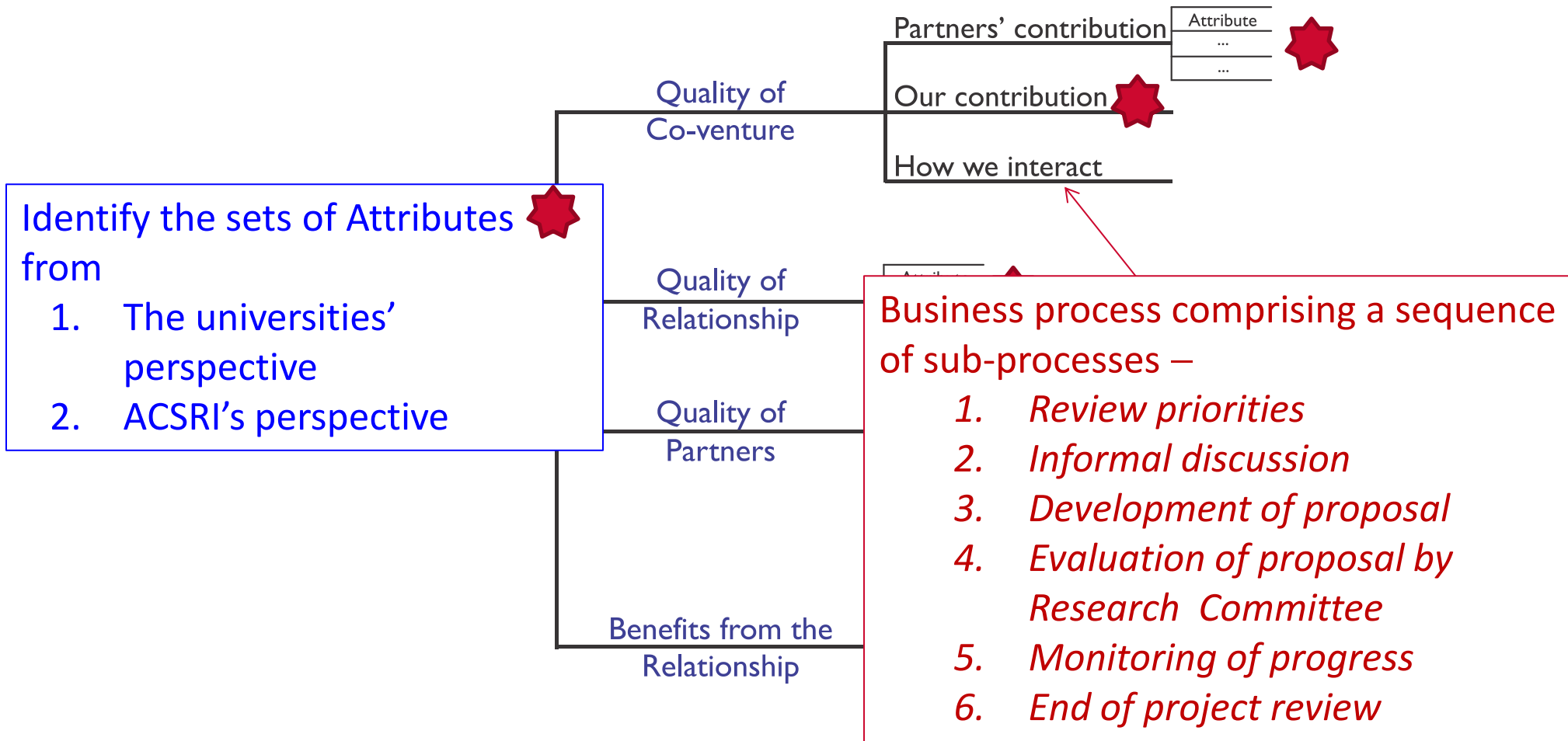
ACSRI Partner group: Universities



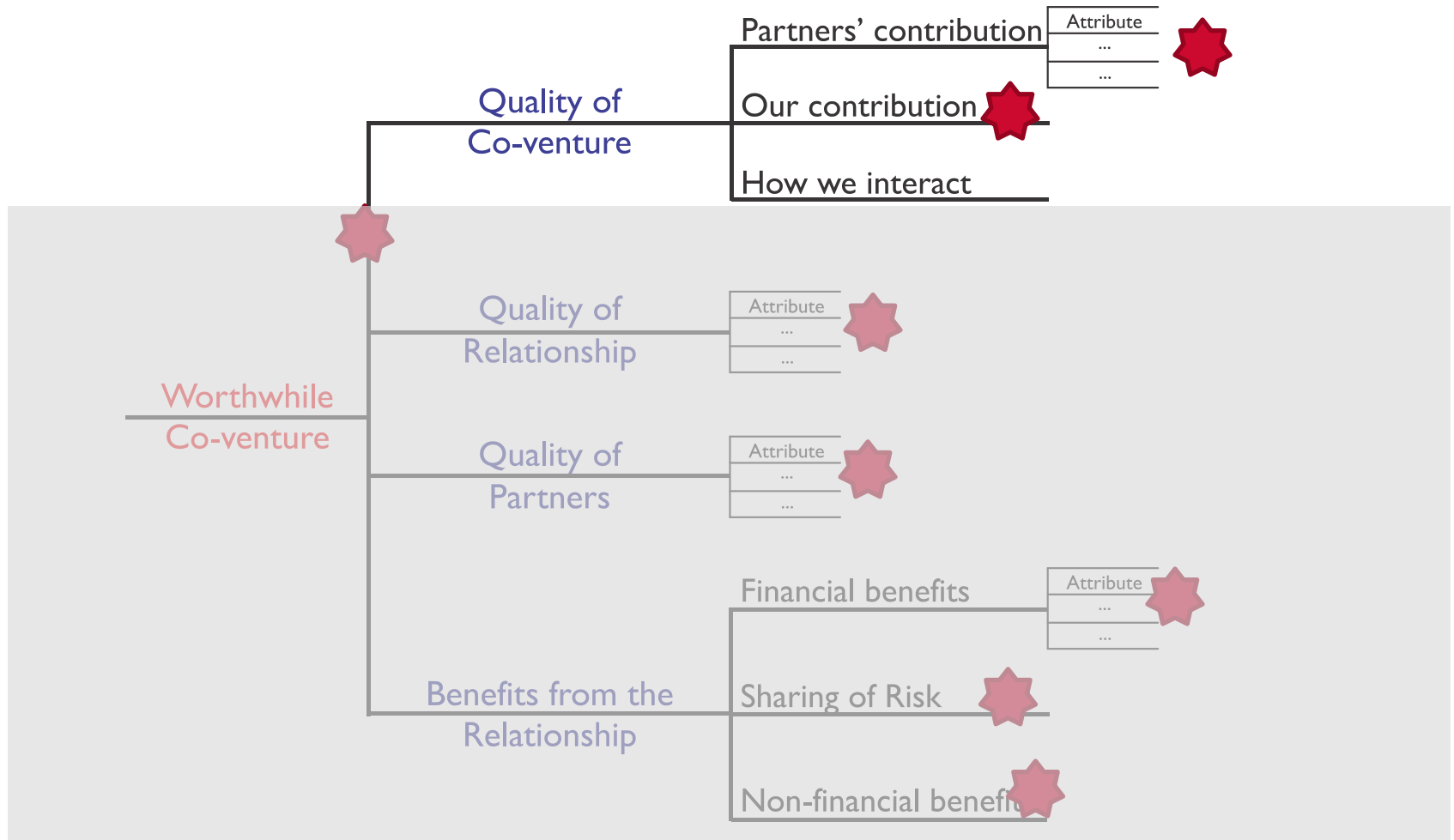
Partner group: Universities



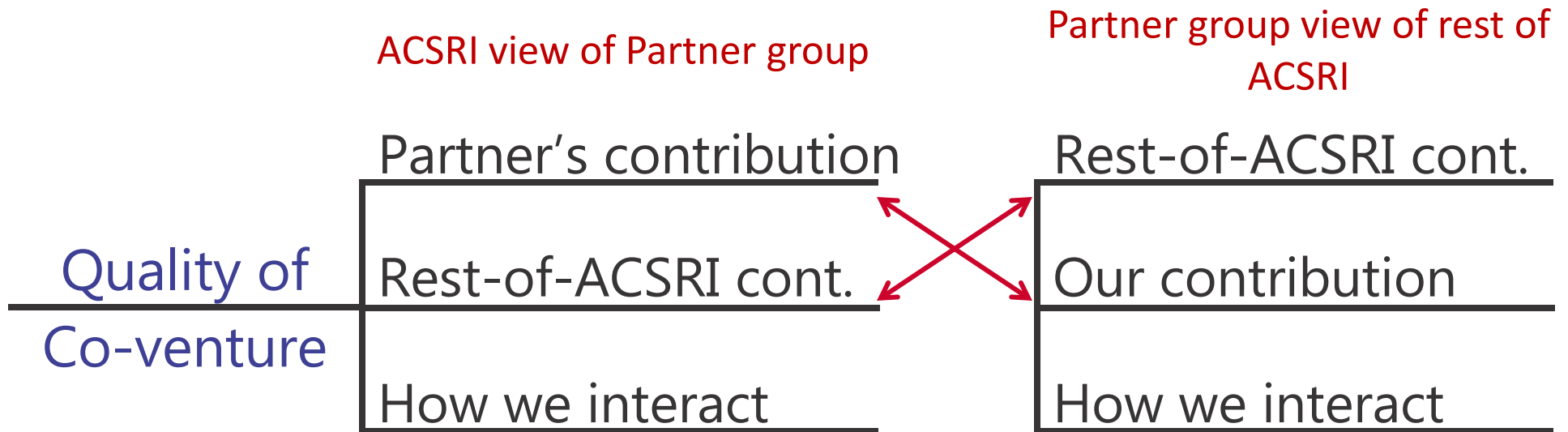
Partner group: Universities



Example – compare different views for QoC



Quality of Co-venture: two viewpoints



ACSRI vis-à-vis Universities: Views on Contributions

ACSRI's view	
University contribution	Quality of researchers
	Quality of research
	Investment
	?
ACSRI contribution	?
	?
	Enabling collaboration with a variety of other partners
	Access to funding – research support, ...
ACSRI contribution	Enriched opportunities for students
	?
	?

University view	
University contribution	Quality of researchers
	Quality of research ideas
	Money
	?
University contribution	?
	?
	Enabling collaboration with a variety of other partners
	Access to funding – research support, ...
University contribution	Enriched opportunities for students
	?
	?
	?

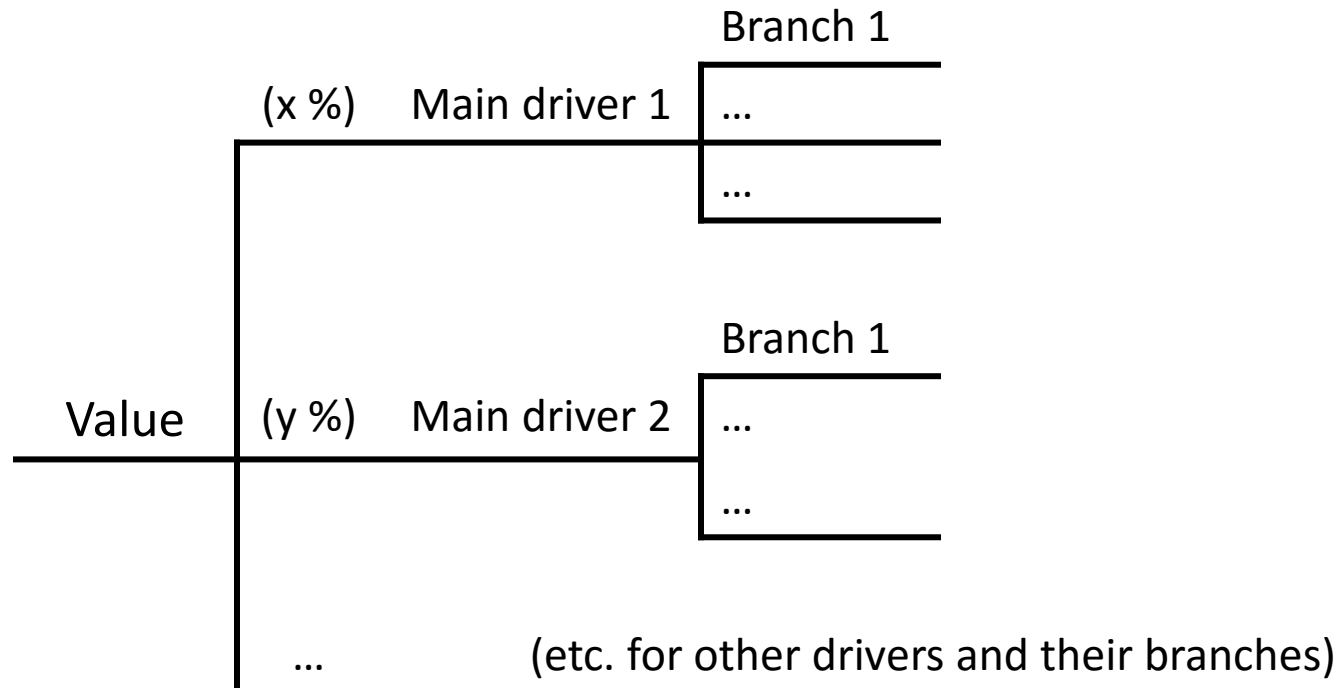
Break-out activity - II

At each table, break into two groups (defined by opposite sides of table).

- 3(a). Chosen example is a CRC or similar (several different sorts of partners)
 - Select a Partner or Partner group to study (*e.g.* Universities). One group should wear the CRC's hat, the other the Partner (group) hat.
 - Develop some Attributes of what you perceive are your Contributions, and what you expect the rest of the CRC to contribute.
 - Decide on relative importance (%) of the 3 – 4 drivers of Value for your chosen model.
- 3(b). Chosen example is different in character from a CRC (*e.g.* just two or 3 Partners).
 - Allocate a Partner to each group.
 - Develop some Attributes of what you perceive are your Contributions, and what you expect the other Partner to contribute.
 - Decide on relative importance (%) of the 3 – 4 drivers of Value for your chosen model.
4. In 'plenary' session at your table, identify the common Attributes and those representing significant differences of expectation.
5. Summarise your findings (see attached forms) and identify any issues that this process has raised.

Activity 2 summary: Value tree and Impact weights

Please draw your selected Partnership Value tree (don't show the Attributes of each of the branches) and the top-level impact weights. The impact weights (x%, y%, ...) should total 100%.



Activity 2 summary: Views on Contributions

Partnership model (Alliance / Co-venture / Hybrid)

CRC / Other Partner perspective

Partner perspective

Partner
contribution

CRC / Other P
contribution

Issues?.....
.....
.....

ACSRI vis-à-vis Universities: Views on Contributions

	ACSRI's view	University view
University contribution	Quality of researchers	Quality of researchers
	Quality of research	Quality of research ideas
	Investment	Money
	Facilitating collab.from diverse areas	Facilitating collaboration from diverse areas
	Security-cleared researchers	Innovative research
	1. Public advocacy for ACSRI	2. Focus on strategic concerns of Government and industry
ACSRI contribution	Enabling collaboration with a variety of other partners	Enabling collaboration with a variety of other partners
	Access to funding – research support, ...	Access to funding – research support, ...
	Enriched opportunities for students	Enriched opportunities for students
	3. Supportive management processes	5. Facilitating understanding of important directions / areas / issues requiring research
	4. Provide disinterested advocacy	6. Providing capability to tackle major problems
		7. Data and test sites
	8. High-level support	

Black – similar Attribute

Red – no matching Attribute

Responding to differences

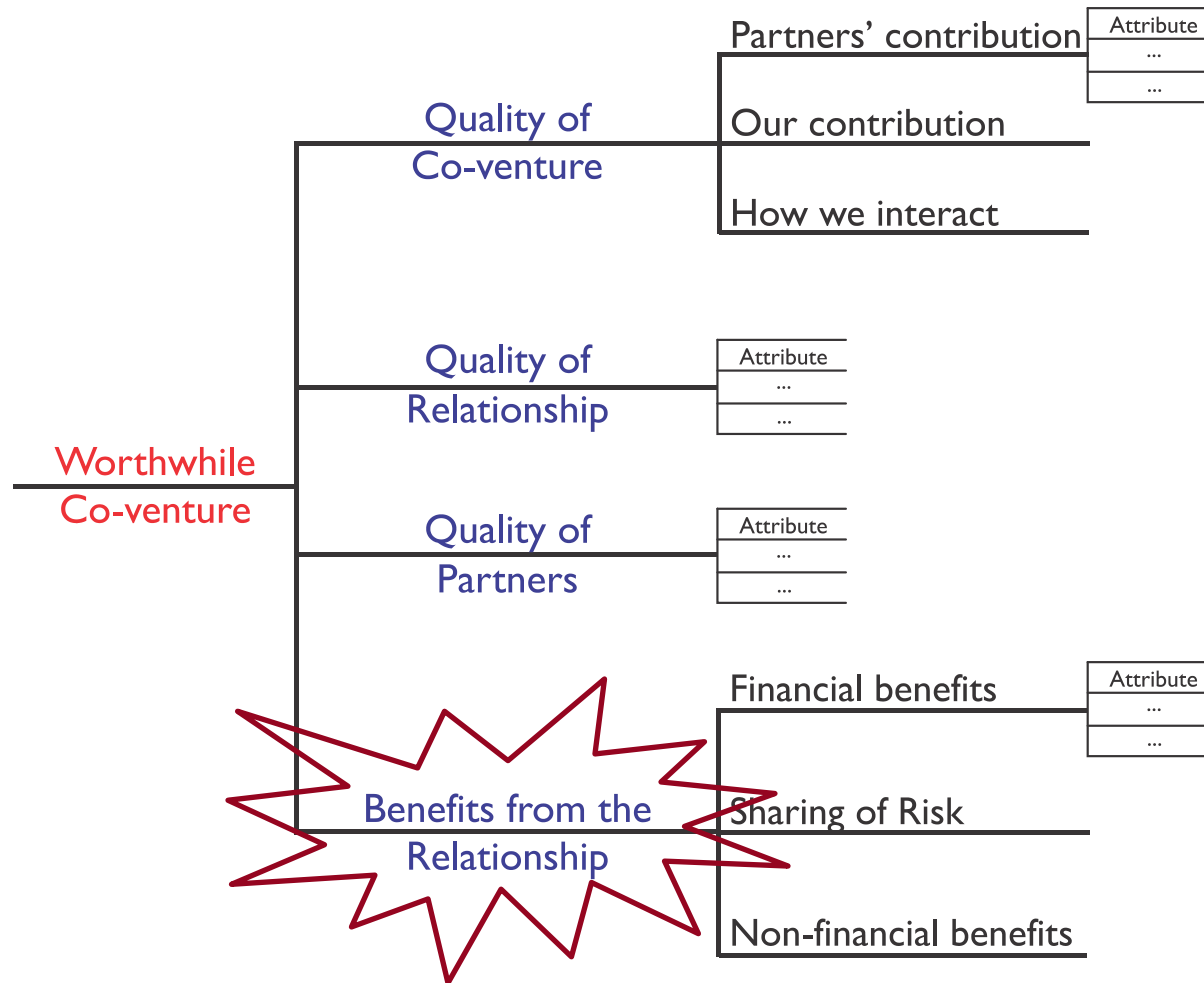
- In each set of comparisons, there may be some common Attributes and some that differ.
- Three possible ways to address the differences are:
 - **I**gnore – judged as not making a material difference to expectations by either party
 - **A**ccommodate – add to or modify ACSRI’s set of Attributes
 - **D**iscuss – have a discussion with the stakeholder group

Issues and discussion

- Two significant issues emerged that are confidential to ACSRI.
- Other interesting features occurred in comparing the variation in requirements between the individual universities, and between the universities and ACSRI.

Example. Differing perceptions of what was being sought by way of **Non-financial benefits**:

Partner group: Universities



ACSRI vis-à-vis Universities: **Non-financial benefits**

Benefits from the Relationship	Financial benefits
	Non-financial benefits

	ACSRI's view		University view
Non-fin. benefits	Reputational		Reputational
	24. Public credibility	I/A/D	26. Enhanced research opportunities
	25. Perception as honest broker	I/A/D	27. Making Australia more cyber-resilient
			28. Developing intimate and deep understanding with Government and industry
			29. Enhanced relationships with other groups within the institution

Comment from ACSRI CEO

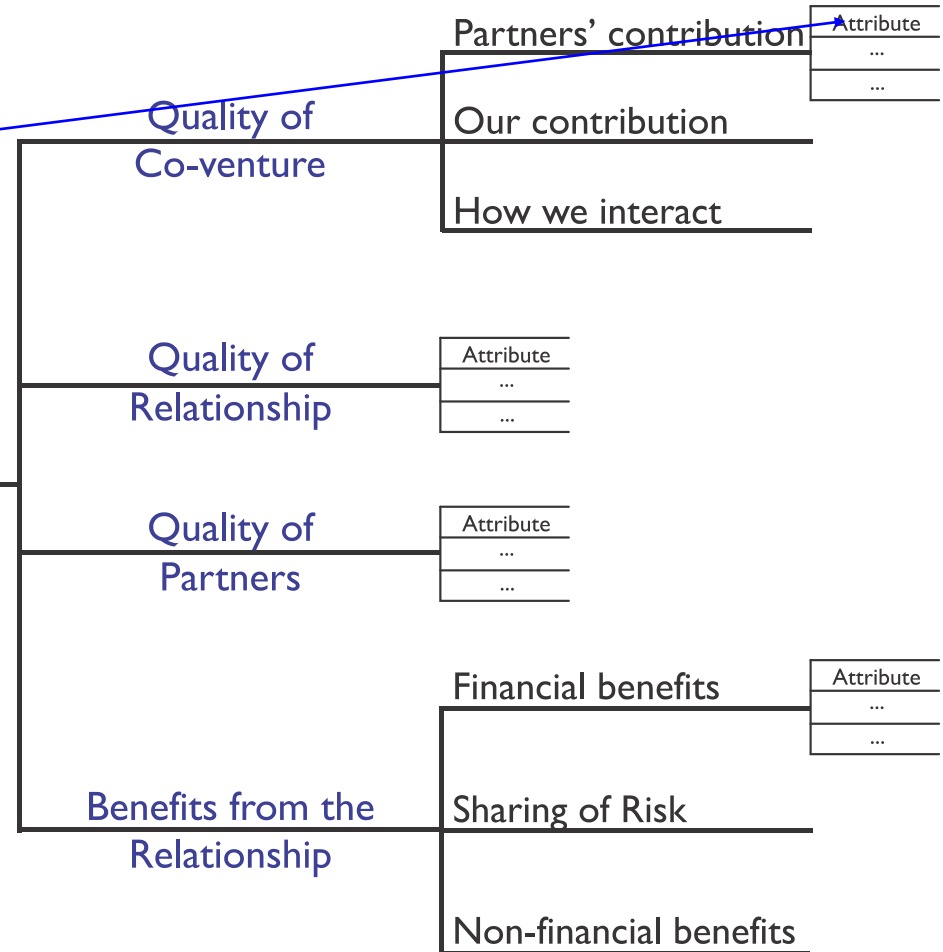
“The existence of a diversity of view for the Non-financial Benefits may well reflect a historically low level of research activity in Cyber Security in Australia and therefore, a limited base from which to project potential non-financial benefits.

Encouragingly however, the diversity indicates the range and quality of non-financial benefits that could be realised through a collaborative research program as envisaged by ACSRI and its partners and ACSRI intends to consolidate these views within a formal benefits realisation model for ACSRI-sponsored research projects.”

Data acquisition (*Monitoring or Final Assessment*)

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1=*Poor* and 10=*Excellent*, please rate the other Partners on ...

Worthwhile
Co-venture

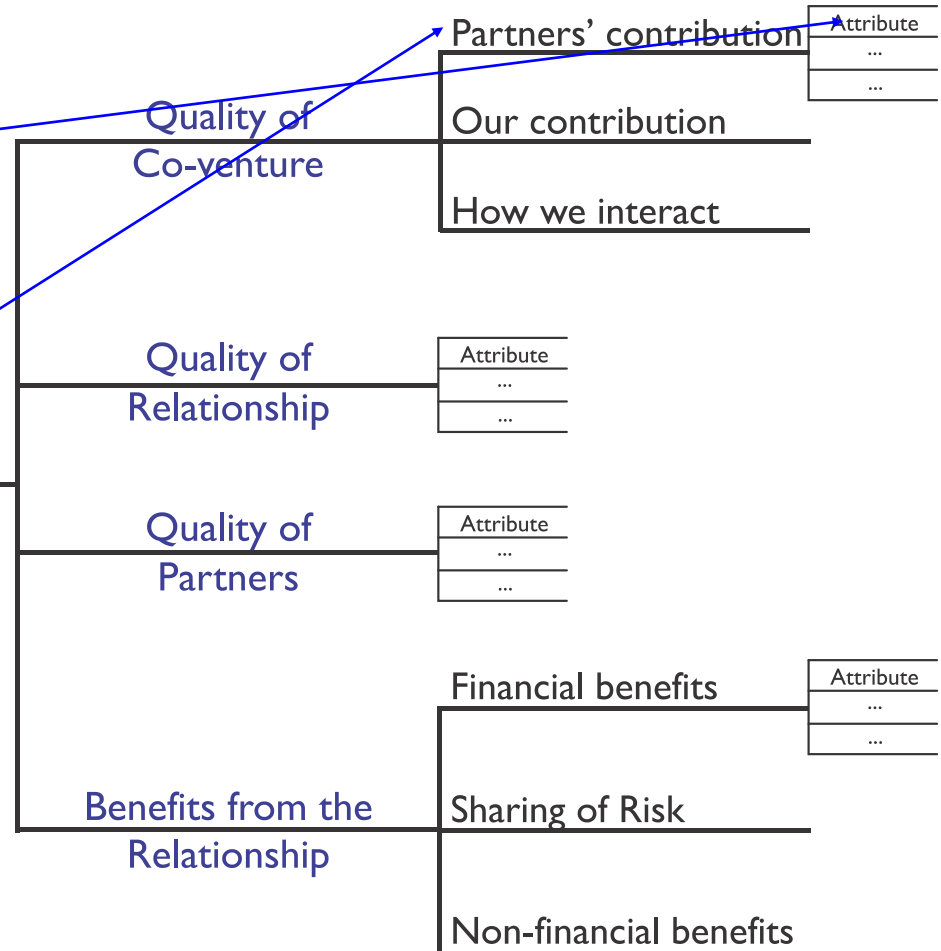


Data acquisition (mid-term or at end)

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1=*Poor* and 10=*Excellent*, please rate the other Partners on ...

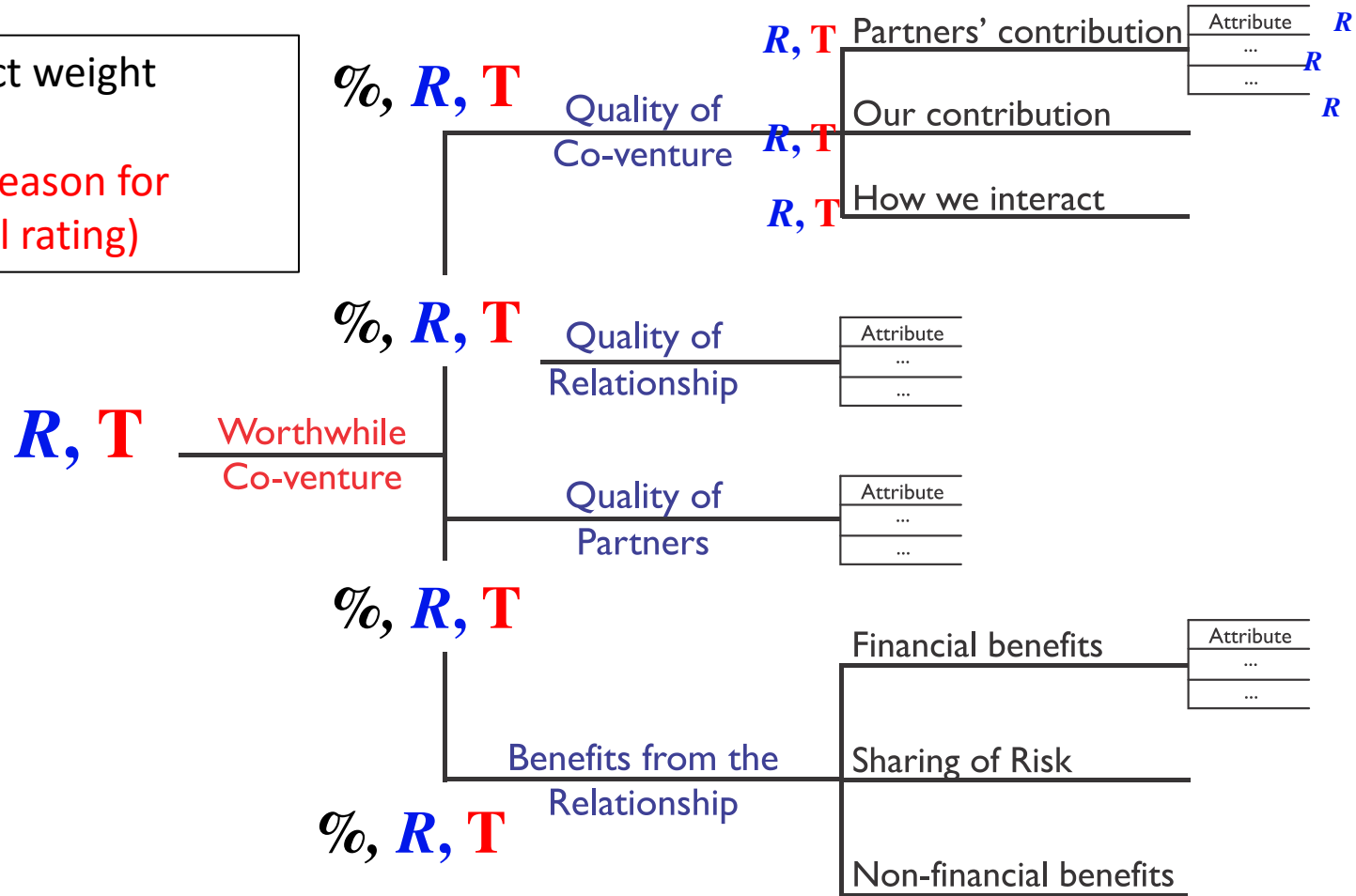
Overall, please rate the contribution from the other Partners ... *and what was the main reason you assigned this rating?*

Worthwhile
Co-venture



The resulting data — Performance

$\%$ = impact weight
R = rating
T = text (reason for overall rating)



The resulting data — Business impact

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 = *Not at all* and 10 = *Definitely*, please rate the following:

1. *Your willingness to work with this Partner / these Partners on another project.*
2. *Your willingness to recommend this Partner / these Partners to others, as collaborator / collaborators.*

Planning workshop – the deliverable

1. **Present a summary** of how each Partner is perceived by other Partner(s).
2. **Facilitate discussion** to understand and resolve (to the extent possible) differences between self-perception and Partners' perceptions.
3. **Identify improvement priorities** based on areas with high impact weights and relatively low ratings.
4. **Explore possible actions** by looking for systemic issues, and studying the comments associated with the branches requiring improvement.
5. Develop a plan to **communicate the outcomes** of the assessment to interested people and parties.

Planning workshop – the deliverable

1. Present a summary of how each Partner is perceived by other Partner(s).
2. Facilitate discussion to understand and resolve (to the extent possible) differences between self-perception and Partners' perceptions.
3. Identify high impact areas.
 - The impact weights and ratings provide guidance about where to focus priorities ... *Which aspects of the partnership require attention now?*
4. Explore root causes, and study areas requiring improvement.
 - The comments provide insight into possible root causes.
5. Develop a plan to communicate the outcomes of the assessment to interested people and parties.

ACE end-of-CRC findings

1. On the surface, all was well – consistently high scores by all participants at the top level of the Value tree.
2. The devil was in the detail – some scores around 7 for Attributes.
3. Study of these scores and the associated comments provided the CEO with three specific insights.

“Cost of transaction in the partnership is uneven”

Some of the core partners are ‘more expensive’ to engage with than others simply because they are required to meet

Government set revenue targets and charge higher overheads on their participation.

Some of the lower rating scores reflected this fact, but not to the extent that it was prejudicial to future collaboration — it was merely noted as a fact that influenced the relative score given.

“Sharing of profile”

In a partnership that engages nationally recognised institutions such as CSIRO or the Australian Antarctic Division, and the host institution (U of Tasmania) branding the joint efforts inside ACE (or any other CRC or similar partnership) is often a difficult job:

- When is the award-winning scientist identified in the media as ACE or CSIRO?
- When is the significant research voyage to the Antarctic characterised as an ACE voyage or an AAD activity?
- How does the nascent Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania differentiate itself from the ACE CRC? ...

“Sharing of profile” (cont’d)

The ratings that reflect on these issues were, once again, not fatal to the building of future collaborations — well-established protocols and the existence of a high level of good will ensure that these matters are able to be managed successfully to everyone’s ultimate benefit.

“Balance in collegial relationships between partners”

The ratings and comments associated with collegiality indicated that some partners felt that one or more of the other partners were less collegial than the rest.

While ... the ratings did not indicate that these lower scores were fatal to future collaboration and partnership, and this was confirmed in follow-up discussions with respondents, most partners felt that collegiality was a very important component of value that the ACE provides.

Lack of collegiality was seen to de-value present and future partnerships, and could be fatal to long term institutional collaboration.

ACE CEO final comment



The partnership value process reflects the value of a long and productive relationship, and clearly points to the importance of the quality of the relationships among partners in building a future collaboration.

The initial question: What's the problem?

- Collaborative ventures are complex objects!
 - Different participants bring different skills, knowledge, knowhow and resources to the party
 - Different participants are seeking different outcomes
 - Lack of clarity about varying expectations can result in unnecessary tension ... and unpleasant surprises
- What can be done to
 - A. introduce clarity from the outset?
 - B. monitor and improve the collaboration as it progresses?
 - C. evaluate the non-research aspects at the end of the project?

What's the suggested response?

1. When starting out:

- a) Decide on the nature of the relationship that the Partners are seeking.
- b) Identify what's important to each participant in the partnership and resolve any mismatches in expectations.

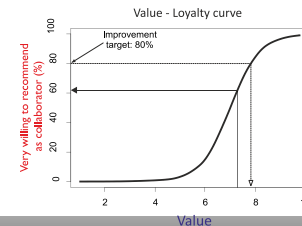
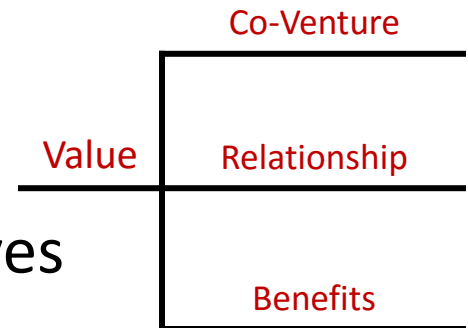
2. When monitoring progress, or carrying out an end-of-project assessment,

- a) Collect quantitative and qualitative data in relation to 1(b).
- b) In monitoring mode, act on the data to improve the relationship.
- c) In end-of-project mode, learn from the data for next time.

In short, bring the same degree of (scientific) discipline to managing the partnership relationships that you bring to carrying out the work of the project itself.

Where to next?

- Possible one-day workshop for CRCs:
 - CEO + Business Manager / COO
 - Develop skills to run the process for another (paired?) CRC
- Benefits:
 - Improve the partnership!
 - Process could be run at cost (travel expenses)
 - Provide basis for benchmarking
 - Provide data for Value – Business impact curves



References

1. Fisher, N I (2013), *Analytics for Leaders*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Fisher, N I & Peacock, A J (2016), “What Collaborators Want: Planning, Monitoring and Evaluating Research Collaborations.” *Animal Production Science*. Submitted for publication.
3. Kordupleski, R (2003), *Mastering Customer Value Management*. Pinnaflex Educational Resources, Inc.: Cincinnati, OH.