

Assessing opportunities – a framework to deliver outcomes to Maori



**Gail Tipa – Te Runanga o Moeraki
on sub-contract to NIWA**

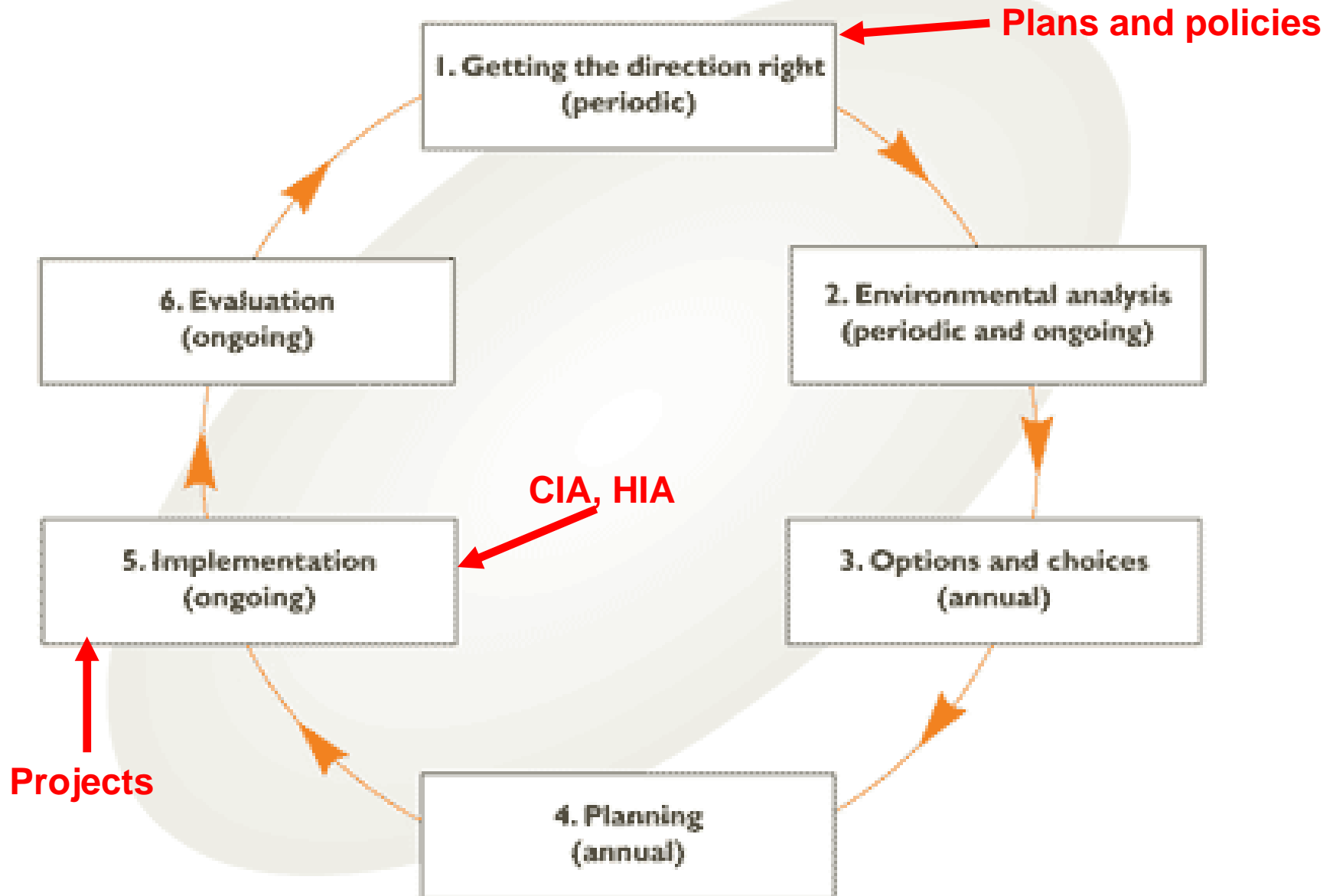
Overview of presentation

- Introduce Cultural Opportunity Mapping and Assessment (COMA)
- Explain the steps in the COMA process
- Describe COMA being applied in the Lower Taieri
- Explain why an integrative process is needed

Planning cycle



Ad-hoc planning cycle of Maori



Understanding how catchments are seen by Maori

A catchment found within a takiwa

Characterised by aquatic conditions

That support ecosystems

Valued & used by communities including Maori communities

Seeking a range of opportunities including cultural opportunities



Understanding how catchments are valued and assessed by Maori



The Cultural Opportunities Framework

Cultural Opportunity Mapping

Cultural Opportunity Assessments

Flow assessments

Restoration strategies

Cultural / Health Impact Assessments

Development of plans & policies

Why an “Opportunity Approach”?

- Maori experience freshwaters (and participate as themselves)
- The approach is simple, inclusive & safe for Maori
 - It builds on what Maori are already doing
- Concept is used in other disciplines (ROS, FOS, SOS, TOS)
- Low cost

Implementing Cultural Opportunity Mapping & Assessment

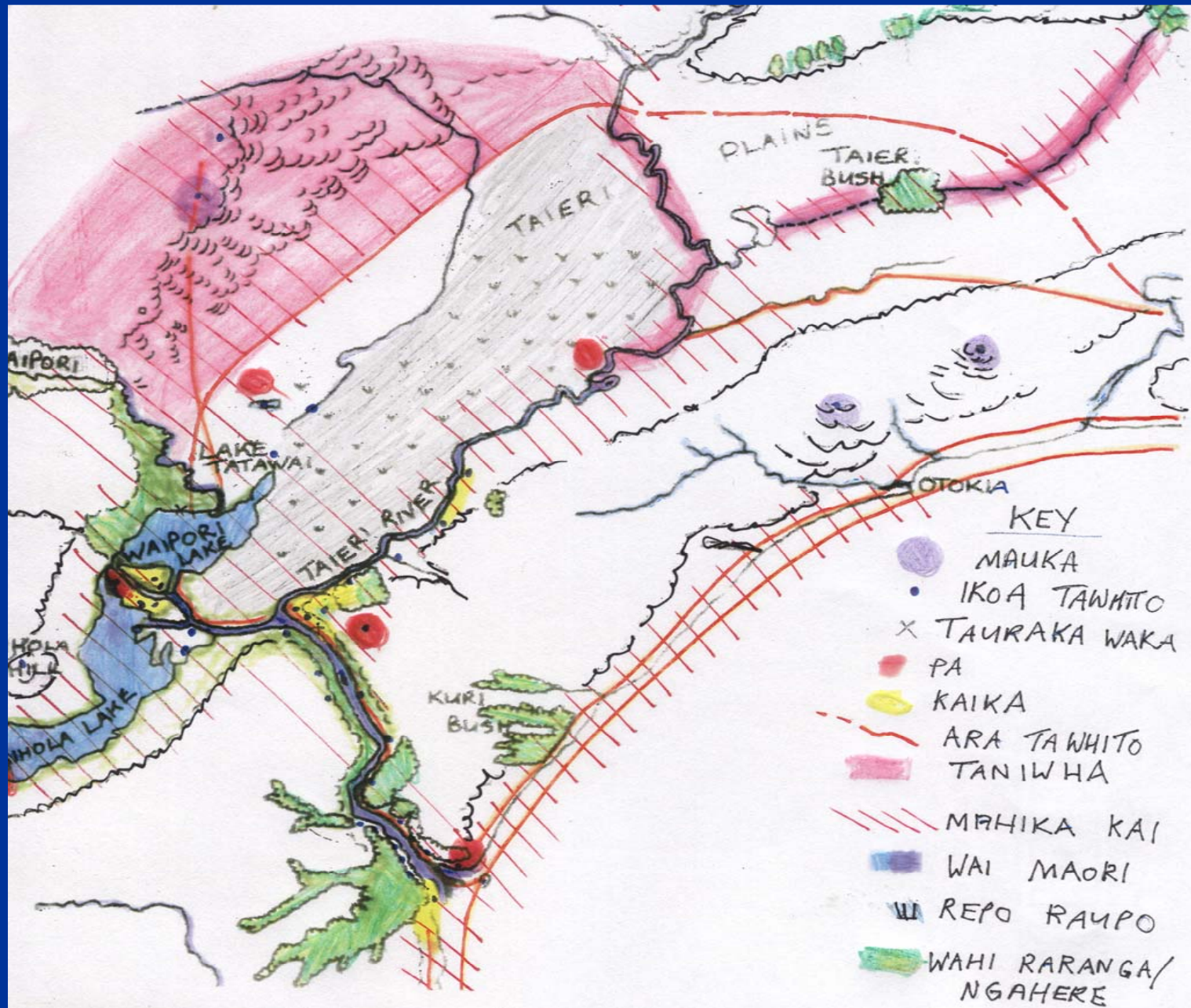
Stage 1:

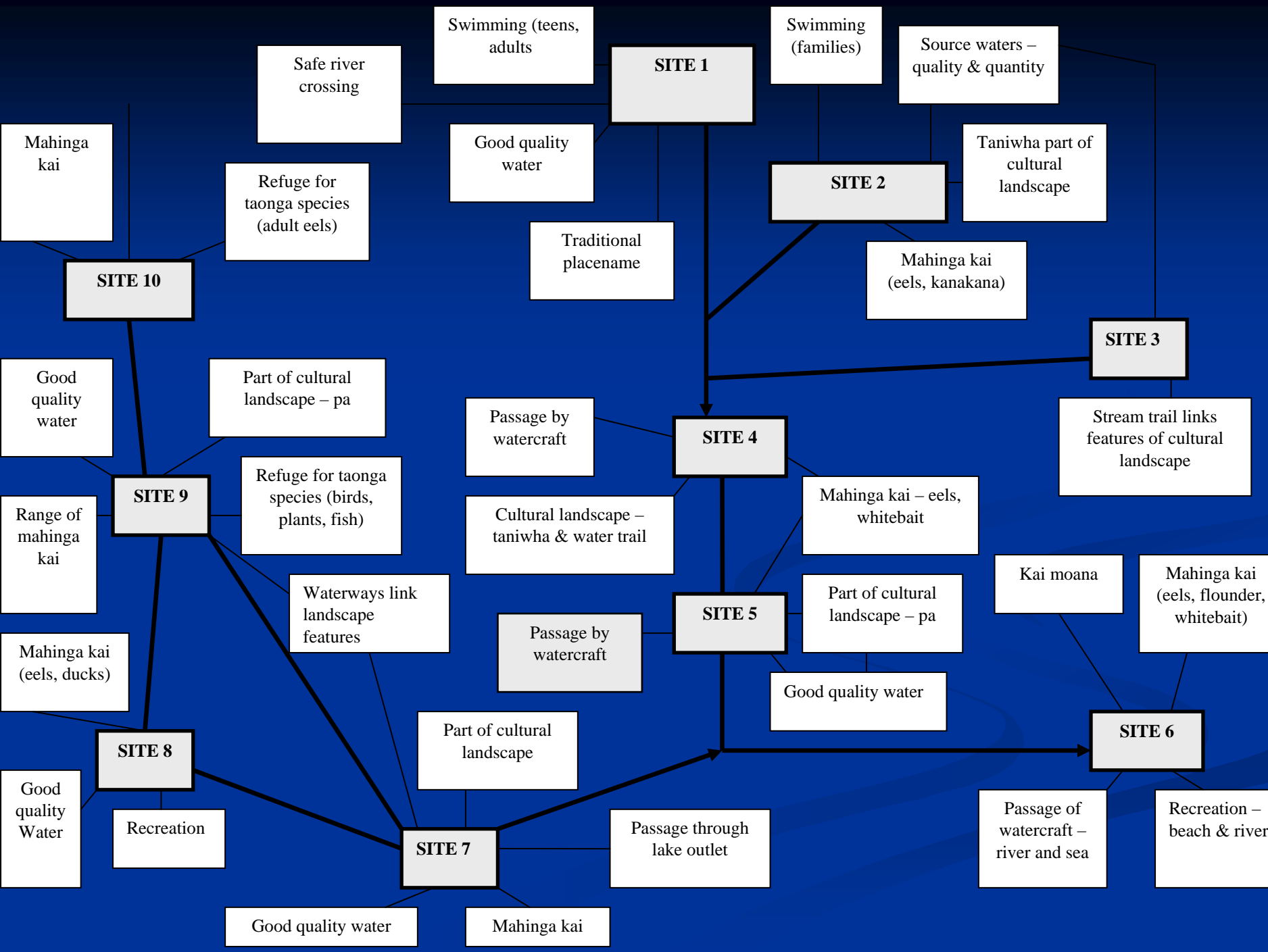
1. Identify different parts in catchment (varies by iwi)
2. Identify significant sites & how valued
3. Identify opportunities sought
4. Develop diagrams for each opportunity
5. Develop assessments from mental maps

Stage 2

1. Undertake fieldwork to assess each site
2. Work with scientists assessing each site

The Lower Taieri – cultural values





Identifying indicators

When discussing & mapping values and opportunities, question

- How are these affected by aquatic conditions?
 - How would you assess whether aquatic conditions sustain cultural opportunities?
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- We have a generic list to prompt if necessary (and to standardise)
 - The process needs to be flexible

Site 9: Sinclair Wetlands



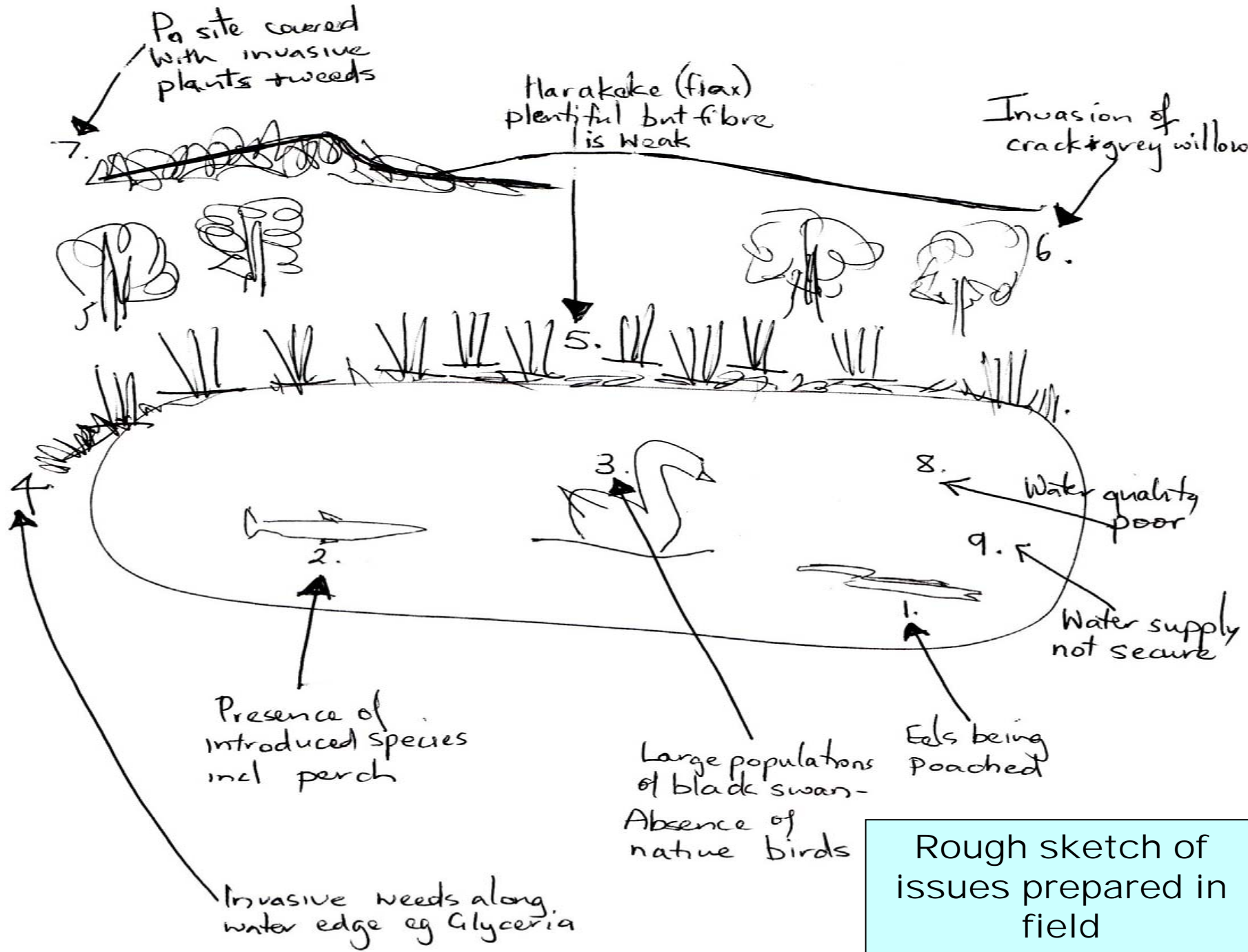
Values & opportunities

Values

- Wetlands
- Form part of a larger complex (315ha of a 2000ha complex)
- Mahinga kai (eels, whitebait, ducks, harakeke, raupo)
- Taonga species
- Pa – integral part of Lower Taieri cultural landscape

Opportunities sought

- Use of harakeke
- Fishing
- Healthy functioning lake, wetland & river system.
- Gathering ducks
- Refuge for other taonga species
- Pa site as an attraction / educational resource
- Wetlands linked to other culturally significant sites



Rough sketch of issues prepared in field

**Diagram of
perceived concerns
– aggregated &
colour coded**

Identifying priorities for delivering cultural opportunities

- Domain analysis
 - analyses each concept & calculates how many concepts are immediately related to it
- Centrality analysis
 - similar to the domain analysis but calculates results using more than one level.
 - This identifies the centrality of the concept to the whole model rather than just its immediate vicinity.
- Analyses identified the top priorities – confirmed by Manawhenua

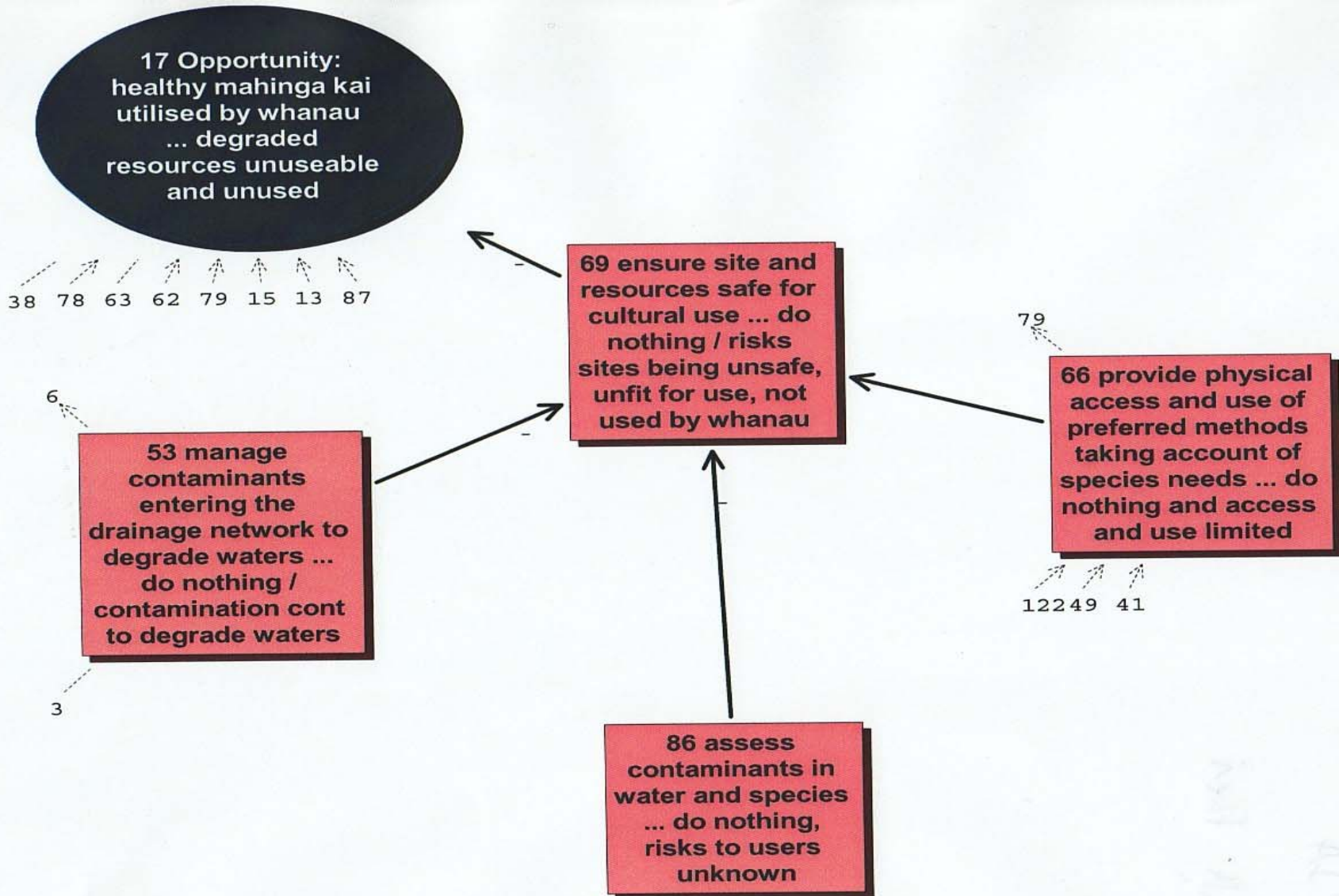


**First and foremost Sinclair Wetlands is a
mahinga kai**

Kuao Lansbury, Upoko, Otakou Runanga



Factors influencing fitness for use





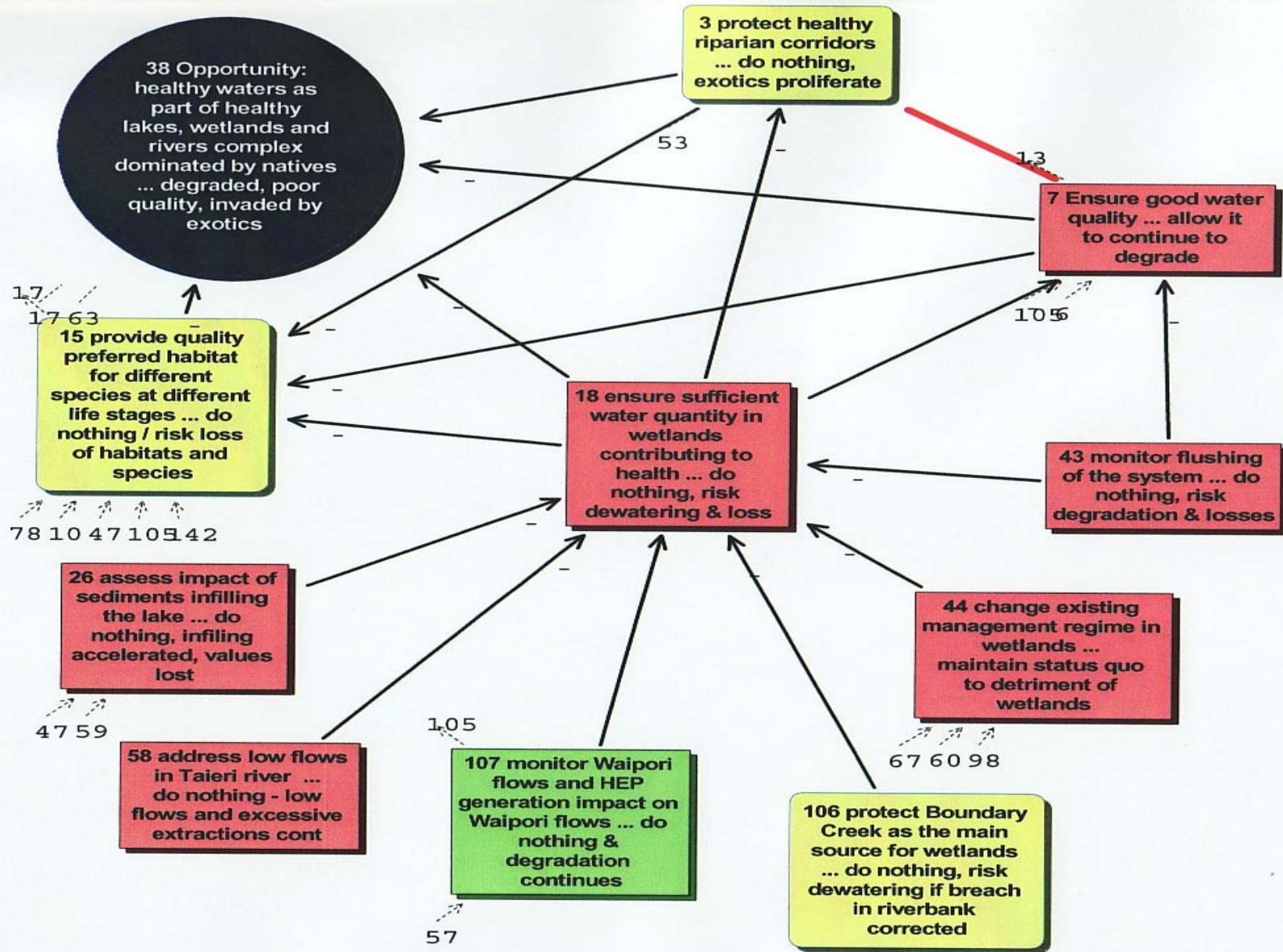
Lower Taieri farming is dependent on drainage

Cultural Opportunity: A healthy wetland, lake, river complex

At least 80 discrete wetlands, 2 shallow lowland lakes, lower reaches of two significant rivers & many tributaries.

The whole complex covers 2000ha.

Factors influencing water quantity





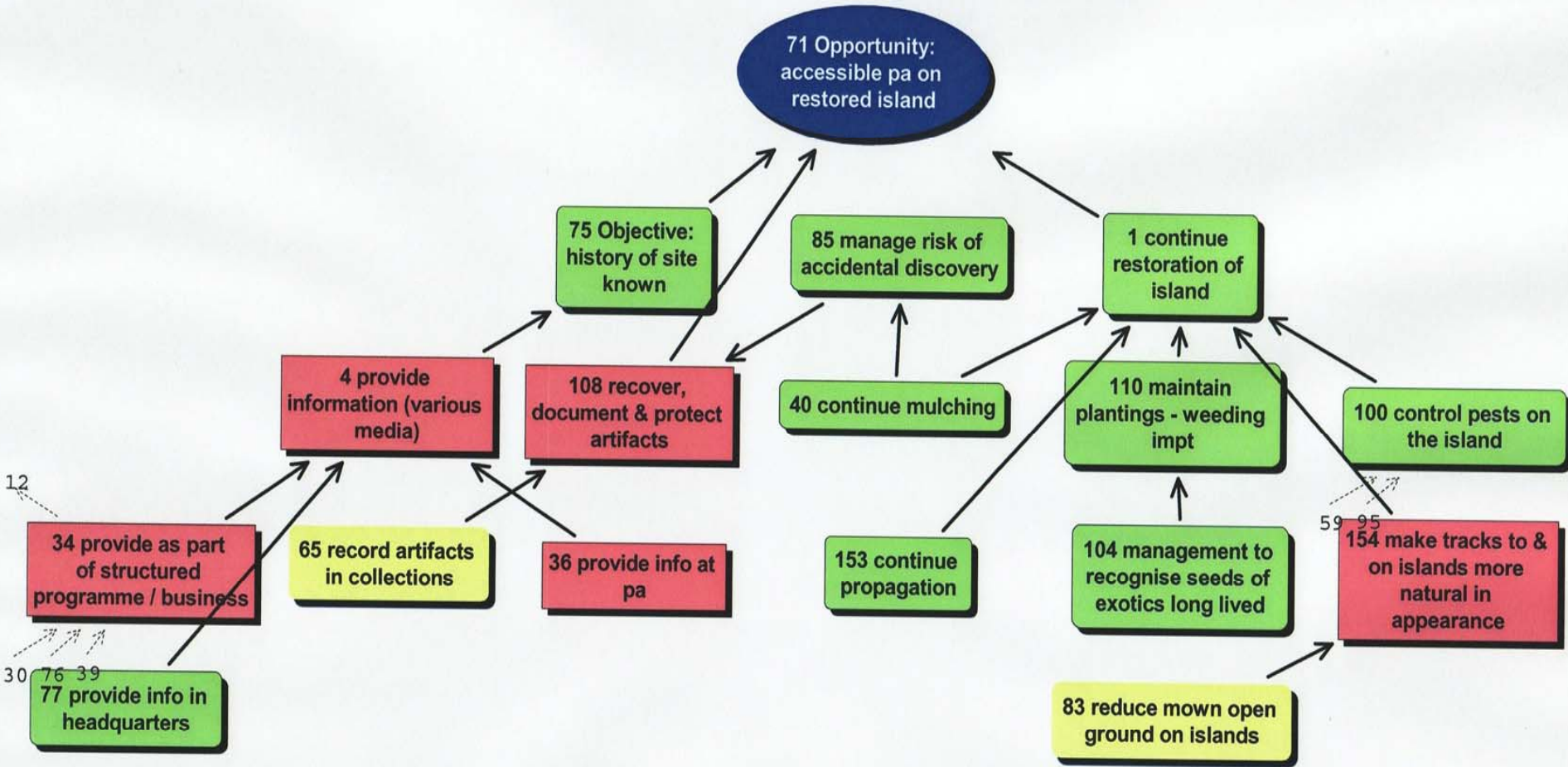
Cultural Opportunity - Pa site

- Historically the island was farmed
- Site then overgrown with broom / gorse
- Extensive restoration underway



3

Factors impacting accessibility of pa



actioned

at risk

Issue

opportunities

Cultural Opportunity Assessment

<p>Location Lower floodplain</p>	<p>Values Repo Raupo (wetland) Part of a large system Mahinga kai (gathering of resources) Taonga species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Native birds• Freshwater fish species, especially eels, kokopu and Inanga• Plants – especially harakeke <p>Pa</p>
<p>Opportunities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use of harakeke2. fishing3. healthy lakes & wetlands4. gathering ducks5. Use of the pa site as an attraction6. Refuge for taonga species	<p>Assessments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. N2. N3. N4. N5. N6. Y/N

The big questions at Sinclair Wetlands

- Are the wetlands healthy? Can they be safely used by whanau?
- Will current management activities restore cultural opportunities at Sinclair Wetlands?
- Will current restoration activities restore cultural opportunities at Sinclair Wetlands?
- Can Sinclair Wetlands be restored as a mahinga kai?
 - Based on a cultural determination not a western science one

Where to next?

- Translating cultural opportunities into management needs for the **Lower Taieri**
 - Identifying cultural priorities
 - Priorities guiding collaborations
- Developing a wetland management plan for **TRONT**
- Assisting **Te Runanga Otakou** to participate in the Waipori - Waihola collaborative forum

Why cultural opportunities?

We move beyond reacting - Priorities come from a cultural perspective

We have a structure to guide data collection & prioritisation

- Values maps
- Opportunity maps
- Diagrams of perceived issues and contributing factors
- Assessment data
- Visual records

Data informs planning & can be used to

- develop different decision-making matrices and a DSS
- identify research needs
- identify collaborations needed
- Inform HIA and CIA
- make deliverables to Maori & trade offs explicit

The big questions re restoration

- Do we want Maori to participate in management?
- Do we want management to deliver cultural outcomes?

Acknowledgements

- NIWA – providing the “opportunity”
- Kyle Nelson
- Te Runanga Otakou