Additional file 4: Rating method to weighting factors

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Preferential value** | **Compare factor i with j** | **Description** |
| **1** | equal importance | factor i is equally important to j or does not take precedence over each other |
| **3** | relatively more important | factor i is slightly more important than j |
| **5** | more importantly | factor i is more important than j |
| **7** | much more important | factor i has a much higher preference than j |
| **9** | quite important | factor i is absolutely more important than j and it is not comparable to j |
| Other values (2,4,6,8) | -- | intermediate values between preferential values. For example, 8 indicates a value greater than 7 but lower than 9. |