**R2R SPECIES RECOVERY PROGRESS WHEEL SELF-ASSESSMENT**

One of the products of R2R's Gap Analysis is this *Species Recovery Progress Wheel*—a self-assessment tool that Species Working Groups can use to gauge focal species progress toward population recovery following the R2R approach. The Wheel arranges biological, social science/human dimensions, co-production, and inclusivity criteria into six broad ***action categories***; each category is divided into three ***segments***, with five steps (***criteria***) for each of the segments—a total of 90 distinct criteria in all. While the criteria are intended to provide progressive step-wise guidance (proceeding clockwise from Group Organization to Implementation and from the center toward the periphery [steps 1 to 5] in each of the segments), working groups will find that their unique self-assessment may not always populate the Wheel progressively. *Following R2R's initial two workshops, however, the segment steps from Vulnerability Assessment through Limiting Factor Identification tend to follow R2R's recommended guidance more prescriptively****.***

After reading these *Instructions* (first tab), to begin a Species Working Group self-assessment:

1. Enable macros. If you have not already done so when you opened the file, close the file, *Enable Macros*, and open the second tab, *Wheel Criteria*.
2. On the *Wheel Criteria* tab, enter your species name and data in Row 1. To avoid confusing the macros, ***do not add additional rows to the worksheet!***
3. Read through and discuss the *Wheel Criteria* with other members of your team. The tool is designed to be used interactively among working group members. There are short descriptions (Column C) and longer descriptions with some examples (Column D) for each criterion. *We are open to your interpretations of the criteria.* If you have questions or suggestions, record them in Column E and highlight those in red text. *The criteria are intended to stimulate discussion—that discussion is as important, if not more so, than simply checking off a criterion!*
4. If you feel your group/species has fulfilled a criterion, record a "**2**" in Column B. If you feel your group is well along the way toward meeting the criterion (say, 50% or better!), but not quite there, record a "**1**" in column B; this would be equivalent to a "work well in progress" assessment. Leaving the cell blank is equivalent to recording "0."
5. **NOTE:** *It is also possible to record a "****9****" in Column B. This option is intended to display progress* ***beyond your first assessment****, perhaps as a result of funding requested or received to progress to the next step(s) in a group's workplan. In this case, the corresponding Wheel segment(s) will be highlighted in purple.*
6. As you enter 1, 2, or 0 (blank) [*or 9*] in Column B, the table in the third tab, *PROGRESS WHEEL*, will populate automatically.
7. When you are finished with the self-assessment, go to the *PROGRESS WHEEL* tab and click on the *UPDATE RECOVERY WHEEL* button. The Wheel graphic will be highlighted automatically to reflect your assessment of progress. Criteria segments that have been completed ("2") will be highlighted in dark blue; criteria segments which have been partially completed (still more work to be done, "1") will be highlighted in light blue.
8. Right-click (CTRL-click) on the center of the Wheel and **select *Save as Picture*** from the contextual menu. This will save a .PNG file to your computer, which can then be resized as needed for pasting into a document or presentation.
9. **Please send a copy of your completed assessment** to r2rbirds@gmail.com so that R2R can keep track of the Species Working Groups that have worked with the self-assessment tool and so that R2R staff can process your comments for future updates to the Wheel criteria.

Once a self-assessment is completed, a Species Working Group can use the Wheel graphic to demonstrate progress and/or request funding for future work.

***Please note*** that the Wheel tool tends to articulate the earlier stages of species recovery in greater detail, in keeping with the current status of most species being worked on by most Species Working Groups. We also recognize that every species and every working group is unique, and that a group may therefore not meet all the criteria steps in a segment as they work around the Wheel toward the *Implement Action* category. In fact, *we would encourage groups to begin implementing conservation action as a means of testing hypotheses about limiting factors*—as long as the group has an adaptive research plan in place that will enable them to evaluate the effectiveness of an implementation strategy and adjust as needed.

If you need assistance in interpreting the criteria, feel free to contact one of the R2R staff members, depending on the nature of the criterion:

* Tom Will, biology and Wheel design — tomwill@umn.edu
* Ken Rosenberg, biology — kvr2@cornell.edu
* Katie Holland, social science & human dimensions — kkholland@vt.edu
* Esmeralda Bravo, international connections — biobravohe@gmail.com
* Brandt Ryder, biology & co-production — brandt.ryder@birdconservancy.org
* Kat Temple, biology & technical support — r2rbirds@gmail.com

Have fun! and may the birds be with you!

