

# IUCN SSC

## Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group

2020 Report



David Gonçalves

### Chair

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### Red List Authority Coordinator

BirdLife International

### Location/Affiliation

Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources (CIBIO), University of Porto, Campus de Vairão, Vairão, Vila do Conde, Portugal; Biology Department, Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto, Porto, Portugal

### Number of members

140

### Social networks

Website:

<https://www.wetlands.org/our-network/specialist-groups/woodcock-and-snipe-specialist-group/>



### Mission statement

The first aim of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG) is to provide up-to-date knowledge on eight woodcock and 18 snipe species in the world. It is also expected to encourage new research and to facilitate contacts between researchers. WSSG plays the role of expertise platform for biologists, conservationists and wildlife managers interested in woodcocks and snipes to share and exchange information. As these are game species, the final objective is to ensure the sustainable use of the populations.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

The group's workshop, held in Pico in 2017, the publication of the respective minutes and the annual newsletter, all contribute to increased knowledge about our target species and their conservation and sustainable management. In this sense, we also perceive an increasingly important role for our members alongside the entities responsible for assuring effective conservation and management. In 2019–2020, we will participate in the re-evaluation of the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, along with BirdLife, the IUCN Red List Authority for birds. In 2020, we also envisage having new data on the populations of some poorly known woodcock and snipe species from Africa, South America and Asia.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

Research activities: (1) improve knowledge on the conservation status of African, South American and Asian woodcock and snipe species; (2) participate in the re-evaluation of the IUCN Red List status of the world's birds, with BirdLife (IUCN Red List Authority for birds).

#### Plan

Policy: continue working closely with entities involved in hunting management.

#### Network

Membership: visit the US to meet American colleagues, strengthen collaboration within the group and recruit new members.

#### Communicate

Communication: (1) publish the WSSG Annual Newsletter (numbers 43, 44, 45 and 46); (2) publish the Proceedings of the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop.

Scientific meetings: (1) organise the 8th Woodcock and Snipe Workshop; (2) participate in the 11th American Woodcock Symposium, 24–27 October 2017, Roscommon, Michigan, US.





Least Concern Common Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*  
Photo: David Goncalves

## Activities and results 2020

### Assess

#### Red List

i. Several members of the group were involved in the revision of the information on the factsheets of 9 species (six snipes and three woodcocks), the majority not globally threatened. (KSR #1)

#### Research activities

i. We started searching for regional/local collaborators, and we are getting some interesting contacts and feedback, mainly from the Asian–Australasian region. (KSR #23)

### Plan

#### Policy

i. Many group members work closely with (or even within) entities involved in hunting management, promoting the sustainable use of woodcock and snipe populations. This is a permanent target, in the sights and daily tasks of members who work in various parts of the globe. (KSR #26)

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all members and collaborators who sent us articles to be included in the group newsletters.

### Summary of activities 2020

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Assess **2** ||

Plan **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 23, 26

KSR: Key Species Result



Least Concern Eurasian Woodcock,  
*Scolopax rusticola*  
Photo: Rémi Fontaine