Mission statement
The first aim of the Woodcock and Snipe Specialist Group (WSSG) is to provide an 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 for share and exchange of 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 increasing important role for our members alongside the entities responsible for assuring effective conservation and management. By 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 activity: improve knowledge on the conservation status of African, South American and Asian woodcock and snipe species.

Plan
Policy advice: 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.

Activities and results 2018
Assess
Research activity
i. We started discussing and we have defined the members that will coordinate the component concerning conservation status of Asian woodcock species. (KSR #23)

ii. Publication of the annual newsletter of the group (number 44); uploaded in the web site of Wetlands International. (KSR #28)
Summary of activities 2018
Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 1/5

Assess 2
Main KSRs addressed: 23, 28

KSR: Key Species Result

Common Snipe chick (*Gallinago gallinago*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago M. Rodrigues

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*), Least Concern
Photo: Tiago M. Rodrigues