

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Twenty-seventh meeting of the Animals Committee
Veracruz (Mexico), 28 April – 3 May 2014

BUILDING IN-COUNTRY CAPACITY TO UNDERTAKE NON-DETRIMENT FINDINGS WITH
REGARD TO HIPPOCAMPUS SPECIES IN INDONESIA, THAILAND AND VIET NAM

1. This information document has been submitted by the CITES Secretariat on behalf of the Project Seahorse, acting as the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group^{*}.
2. In 2013, the CITES Secretariat contracted the IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group to undertake work entitled "*Building in-country capacity to undertake Non-Detriment Findings with regard to Hippocampus species in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam*" (EU-CITES Capacity-building project No. S-411).
3. The goal of the project was to assist CITES Authorities in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam to develop approaches for making Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) for *Hippocampus* spp. The project focused on Thailand and Viet Nam, which are addressing recommendations under the CITES Review of Significant Trade process for three and one *Hippocampus* species respectively. Indonesia has restricted exports to live, cultured seahorses and did not request support in making NDFs, although it was glad to see a framework emerging.
4. The project resulted in the following outputs, all of which were developed and/or revised in consultation with the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam:
 - i. A step-by-step framework for making NDFs relating to seahorses (and for developing adaptive management programmes). The framework has been revised after practical testing and the living document is available (in English) at www.projectseahorse.org/NDF. The CITES Secretariat is currently translating the framework into Spanish and French. The framework can also be found in an Information Document submitted to AC 27 by the CITES Secretariat (AC27 Inf. 9).
 - ii. Documentation on life history and ecology (including habitats) for seahorse species found in Thailand and Viet Nam. These living documents are available (currently in English only) at www.projectseahorse.org/NDF.
 - iii. Country-specific summaries of the seahorse fisheries and trade. They are available from Project Seahorse (info@projectseahorse.org) in Bahasa Indonesian, English, Thai, and Vietnamese.
 - iv. A key to guide Parties in identifying Southeast Asian seahorses commonly found in trade. This is available for download from www.projectseahorse.org/NDF in Bahasa Indonesian, English, Thai and Vietnamese.

* The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.

5. In meetings its goal, the project also involved three sets of meetings:

- i. Two national consultative training workshops for CITES Authorities and national experts – one each in Thailand and Viet Nam.

These were held in Bangsaen, Thailand from 10-12 June 2013 and in Nha Trang, Viet Nam from 29-31 May 2013. The workshop reports can be found in an Information Document submitted to AC 27 by the CITES Secretariat (AC27 Inf. 9).

The workshops resulted in agreed sets of action points. The IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group is pleased to have contributed to the completion of such work and remains happy to collaborate on further progress towards successful NDFs for *Hippocampus* spp., as Parties deem appropriate and as resources allow.

- ii. Discussion meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia from 5-7 June 2013, to consult with CITES Authorities in Indonesia and other national stakeholders about the current status of Indonesia's trade in seahorses.

The Ministry of Marine Fisheries (MMAF) Directorate of Area and Fish Species Conservation (KKGI) confirmed that *Hippocampus* is one of 15 priority taxa in Indonesia, and that KKGI would like to develop a national plan of action for seahorses. An account of these meetings is available from Project Seahorse. In the wake of these meetings, The IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Stickleback Specialist Group is seeking funding to assist Indonesia with action for *Hippocampus* spp.