

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



Sixty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee  
Johannesburg (South Africa), 23 September 2016

Interpretation and implementation matters

Compliance and enforcement

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE IN SPECIMENS OF APPENDIX-II SPECIES:  
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS COMMITTEES

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Background

2. The role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee in conducting the Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species are described in paragraphs q) to v) of Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) on *Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species*.
3. After consulting the Chairs of the Animals or Plants Committees, the Secretariat informs the Standing Committee about whether the recommendations formulated by the Scientific Committees to ensure compliance with Article IV for trade in selected Appendix-II species have been implemented or not by the range State concerned. On the basis of the report of the Secretariat, the Standing Committee decides on appropriate actions in instances where implementation was not satisfactory, and makes recommendations to the State concerned, or to all Parties.
4. The cases referred to in the present document all concern fauna. They were selected for review after the 14th and 15th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14, The Hague, 2007; CoP15, Doha, 2010).
5. Following CoP14, the Animals Committee selected cases concerning fauna at its 23rd and 24th meetings (AC23, Geneva, April 2008; AC24, Geneva, April 2009), which were reviewed by the Standing Committee, at its 62nd, 63rd, 65th and 66th meetings (SC62, Geneva, March 2013; SC63, Bangkok, March 2013; SC65, Geneva, July 2014, SC66, Geneva, January 2016). It recommended that by its 67th meeting (SC67), further actions should be undertaken by: Cameroon regarding *Hippopotamus amphibius*; and by Thailand regarding *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*. The Standing Committee's recommendations can be found in documents SC62 Doc. 27.1 (Rev.1), SC63 Doc.14, SC65 Doc. 26.1 and SC66 Doc. 31.1. The status of implementation of these recommendations is discussed in paragraphs 7 and 8 below.
6. Following CoP15, the Animals Committee selected cases at its 25th meeting (AC25, Geneva, July 2011), which were reviewed by the Standing Committee at SC66. The Standing Committee recommended that, by SC67, further actions should be undertaken by Togo regarding *Kinixys homeana* and *Chamaeleo gracilis*. It also requested the Secretariat to provide information regarding illegal trade in *Macaca fascicularis*. The Standing Committee's recommendations can be found in document SC66 Doc. 31.1. The status of implementation of these recommendations is discussed in paragraphs 9 and 10 below, and in the Annex to this document.

**Cases selected following CoP14**

7. Cameroon: *Hippopotamus amphibius*

*Background to the case*

- The Animals Committee categorized Cameroon as 'of possible concern' and formulated recommendations at AC25. At SC62, the Standing Committee recommended that all Parties suspend trade in all specimens of *H. amphibius* from Cameroon if the recommendations of the Animals Committee were not implemented to the satisfaction of the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee.
- In response to the trade suspension for *H. amphibius*, the Management Authority of Cameroon provided information in January 2013 which met in part the recommendations of the Animals Committee, with the notable exception of the recommendation to provide a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of *H. amphibius* exported were not detrimental to the survival of the species and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.
- At SC63, the Standing Committee agreed that the case of *H. amphibius* from Cameroon would be decided by postal procedure. The outcome of this procedure was communicated to the Parties in Notification to the Parties No. 2013/049 of 8 November 2013. The Standing Committee decided that Cameroon should:
  - a) *as an interim measure, limit the exports of specimens of H. amphibius for 2013, 2014 and 2015 to a maximum of 10 trophies per year, to be published on the CITES website;*
  - b) *report at the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee on a national population survey of H. amphibius, and progress with the establishment of science-based quotas and non-detriment findings for the species; and*
  - c) *submit a report to the Standing Committee for consideration at its 66th meeting, on its compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, of the Convention, including information on the establishment of non-detriment findings for trade in H. amphibius, and population status information.*
- At SC66, the Standing Committee considered the case of *H. amphibius* from Cameroon again. It took note that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, had determined that Cameroon had implemented recommendations a), b) and c) (see document SC66 Doc. 31.1). During ensuing discussions, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) provided information on the conservation status of the species in the country, suggesting that a quota of no more than 10 specimens per year would be sustainable. The Standing Committee agreed that Cameroon should address the apparent discrepancies between the results of Cameroon's population survey and the population data provided by IUCN, and take findings into consideration for the implementation of its national Management Plan for *H. amphibius*. Subsequently, the Standing Committee endorsed a quota of 10 trophies of *H. amphibius* for 2016, and agreed to reconsider this matter at SC67 (see document SC66 Summary Record).

#### *Response from range State*

- Following SC66, the Secretariat reminded the Management Authority of Cameroon in June 2016 of the Standing Committee's decision. At the time of writing the present document (early August 2016), no response has been received by the Secretariat. The Secretariat interacted with the representative of the CITES Authorities of Cameroon at a pre-CoP17 workshop that it organised for African Parties in Addis Ababa in August 2016. The Secretariat repeated the request for information, and informed about its proposed way forward in case this would not be forthcoming, i.e. to maintain an annual quota of 10 trophies of *H. amphibius* until justifications for a revised quota were provided.

#### *Determination of implementation*

- The Secretariat, in consultation with Chair of the Animals Committee, determined that, at the time of writing, Cameroon had not yet provided the additional information that the Standing Committee had required at SC66.

8. Thailand: *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*

*Background to the case*

- At SC63, SC65 and SC66, the Standing Committee reviewed the implementation by Thailand of the Animals Committee's recommendations for these three *Hippocampus* species. At SC65, the Committee congratulated Thailand for the progress achieved, and requested Thailand to finalize the implementation of recommendations h), i), j) and k) by 31 May 2015, and inform the Secretariat accordingly. Thailand submitted information pertaining to the implementation of the recommendations in August 2015, but then submitted additional information in December 2015, which was too late for inclusion in the documentation and discussion at SC66. To allow the consideration of the new information, the Standing Committee agreed at SC66 that it would reconsider the case of Thailand for *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus* at SC67.

*Response from range State*

- Thailand provided several sets of information in August and December 2015, as well as in June 2016, which are contained in Annex 2 to this document. Some of this information had already been submitted by Thailand in 2014 to the CITES Secretariat, as well as to Animals Committee, in the context of the review of *Hippocampus trimaculatus* (see document [AC27 Doc. 12.4 \(Rev. 1\)](#), Annex 8).
- Among the information provided is a notification by the Thai Department of Fisheries informing that, as an interim measure, Thailand ceases the issuance of export permits for *Hippocampus* spp. from 1 January 2016 onwards until further notification. The notification clarifies that studies shall be undertaken to obtain information on the biology of seahorses in Thailand in order to establish appropriate conservational and management measures for sustainable trade that is not detrimental to the species concerned.
- The information available at the time of writing on the implementation of recommendations h) to k), and the evaluation thereof by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, is summarized in Annex 1.

*Determination of implementation*

- The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, determined that: recommendation h) has largely been complied with; recommendations i) and j) have partially been implemented with full completion underway; and progress with the implementation of recommendation k) since SC65 is unclear.
- However, as an interim measure, Thailand decided to cease the export of specimen of *Hippocampus* spp. from 1 January 2016 onwards until further notice, indicating that it will undertake research and take measure to ensure non-detrimental trade in the future. Recommendations i) to k), and the timeframes proposed therein, are therefore no longer pertinent, and there seems no need to maintain Thailand in the Review of Significant Trade process for *Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*.

**Cases selected following CoP15**

9. Cambodia and Viet Nam: *Macaca fascicularis*

*Background to the case*

- The Animals Committee selected *Macaca fascicularis* for the Review of Significant Trade at AC25 in July 2011. It determined that the trade in *M. fascicularis* was of "possible concern" for Cambodia and Viet Nam, and formulated recommendations at its 27th meeting (Veracruz, April-May 2014).
- At its 28th meeting (AC28, Tel Aviv, August 2015), the Animals Committee reviewed the information provided by the two range States. It recommended that the Secretariat inform the Standing Committee that the recommendations had been implemented by Viet Nam, but not by Cambodia. The Secretariat was recommended to seek further clarifications from Cambodia, in response to which that Party submitted additional information in November 2015. On the basis of the information received prior to SC66, the Secretariat, following consultations with the Chairs of the Animals and Standing Committees,

determined that Cambodia and Viet Nam complied with the recommendations. Accordingly, the two Parties were informed that the species had been removed from the Review. At SC66, the Standing Committee took note of the information (see documents SC66 Doc. 31.1 and SC66 Summary Record).

- In the context of this review, the Animals Committee noted concerns raised in relation to high levels of illegal trade in the species, particularly between Cambodia and Viet Nam. Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP13) provides that *Problems identified in the course of the review that are not related to the implementation of Article IV, paragraph 2 (a), 3 or 6 (a), shall be addressed by the Secretariat in accordance with other provisions of the Convention and relevant Resolutions.* Accordingly, the Animals Committee recommended that these concerns be brought to the attention of the Standing Committee through the Secretariat for further consideration.
- At SC66, the Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to report back at its 67th meeting on the potential illegal trade of *M. fascicularis* in Cambodia and Viet Nam.

#### *Report from the Secretariat*

- To date, the Secretariat has not been able to verify on the ground the scope or scale of the potential illegal trade in *M. fascicularis* in or between Cambodia and Viet Nam. It encourages Cambodia and Viet Nam to examine all information on possible illegal trade in *M. fascicularis* and exchange findings; take the concerns about the existence of illegal trade in the species into consideration in the design of law enforcement responses to combat wildlife crime; and be vigilant in addressing any illegal trade in *M. fascicularis* that comes to their attention.

#### 10. Togo: *Kinixys homeana* and *Chamaeleo gracilis*

##### *Background to the case*

- At AC25, the Animals Committee selected *Kinixys homeana* and *Chamaeleo gracilis* for the Review of Significant Trade. At AC27, the Animals Committee determined that the trade from Togo in *K. homeana* was of “possible concern”, and of *C. gracilis* of “urgent concern”, and formulated recommendations.
- In document SC66 Doc. 31.1, prepared for consideration at SC66, the Secretariat explained that it had received no information from Togo in relation to the implementation of the recommendations of the Animals Committee for *K. homeana* and *C. gracilis*. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, therefore recommended that the Standing Committee should recommend that all Parties suspend trade in specimens of *K. homeana* and *C. gracilis* from Togo until that country demonstrated compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, for these two species, and provided full information to the Secretariat regarding compliance with the recommendations of the Animals Committee for these two species.
- After a reminder sent by the Secretariat, Togo submitted to the Secretariat a study on its trade in four CITES-listed species, including *K. homeana* and *C. gracilis*, on 7 January 2016.
- At SC66, the Standing Committee considered that the information from Togo had been submitted just before the start of the meeting, and agreed that the cases of Togo/*Kinixys homeana* and Togo/*Chamaeleo gracilis* would be reconsidered at SC67 (see documents SC66 Doc. 31.1 and SC66 Summary Record).

##### *Response from range State*

- Following SC66, the Secretariat wrote to the Management Authority of Togo in February 2016, reminding it of the Standing Committee’s decision. In response, Togo provided a revised version of the study submitted on 7 January 2016, which is presented in Annex 3 to this document in the language as received.
- The recommendations, the information that Togo submitted in response to the recommendations and the evaluation thereof by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Animals Committee, are summarized in Annex 1.
- The Secretariat interacted with the representative of the CITES Authorities of Togo at a pre-CoP17 workshop that it organised for African Parties in Addis Ababa in August 2016. The Secretariat noted that

in its view, the study that Togo had submitted did not address the implementation of a number of recommendations. The representative agreed to look into the matter, acknowledging that the study mainly focused on breeding operations, and to provide as soon as possible additional information where relevant or possible.

#### *Determination of implementation*

- The Secretariat and Animals Committee Chair's determinations regarding the implementation by Togo of the recommendations concerning *Chamaeleo gracilis* and *Kinixys homeana* are shown in Annex 1.

#### Recommendations

11. Regarding Cameroon/*Hippopotamus amphibius*: The Standing Committee is invited to consider the updated information that may be submitted by Cameroon. In case this is not forthcoming, the Standing Committee should recommend that Cameroon maintains an annual export quota of 10 trophies of *Hippopotamus amphibius* until it provides information substantiating a revision of this quota in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3, of the Convention, including information on the establishment of non-detriment findings for trade in *H. amphibius*, and population status information.
12. Regarding Thailand/*Hippocampus kelloggi*, *H. kuda* and *H. spinosissimus*: The Standing Committee is invited to consider the recommendations contained in Annex 1.
13. Regarding Togo/*Kinixys homeana* and Togo/*Chamaeleo gracilis*: The Standing Committee is invited to consider the recommendations contained in Annex 1.
14. The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the information presented in paragraph 9.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANIMALS AND STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SPECIES SELECTED FOR THE REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT TRADE,  
RESPONSES FROM THE RANGE STATES CONCERNED, DETERMINATION OF IMPLEMENTATION  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Recommendations of the AC, and previous decisions of the SC where these exist	Summary of responses from range States	Determination of implementation and actions recommended
<b><i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> (Slender Chameleon)</b>		
<p><b>Togo (TG)</b> (Urgent Concern)</p> <p><u>Within 90 days (by 31 August 2014) the Management Authority should:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provide the Secretariat with available information on the status, distribution and abundance of <i>C. gracilis</i> in TG;</li> <li>b) Inform the Secretariat that TG will maintain an annual export quota at a level not higher than the current published export quota.</li> <li>c) Provide information on management of ranched animals in trade (e.g., ranching facilities including stock number, sources, production levels, survival rate of female specimens used in the ranching operation) and the details of impacts on wild populations;</li> <li>d) Provide a justification and the scientific basis by which the current export quotas of x (source W) and x (source R) live specimens were established and considered not to be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3;</li> <li>e) Provide the CITES Secretariat with detailed information on the control measures used to differentiate between ranched and wild-caught specimens to ensure that the authorized exports of ranched specimens are not augmented by mis-declared wild specimens; and</li> <li>f) As a precautionary measure impose a size restriction of a maximum snout to vent length of 8 cm for live</li> </ul>	<p>TG provided partial information addressing the recommendations of the Animals Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation a):</b> The study submitted by TG provides partial information addressing this recommendation. It indicates that <i>C. gracilis</i> is primarily a savannah species. It also exists in the selvedge of forest areas, but does not penetrate riparian forest areas. The species presents a very high distribution at country level. In the rainy season many individuals are found on the main roads of the country where they are usually run over. The species is captured in the areas of Notsé, Assrama, Tététou, Tomety-Kondji, Kpele and others. It appears to be especially present in gallery forests. The study furthermore states that the current work does not provide data on the population size of the species. It is said that the population status of the species is relatively stable in TG.</li> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation b):</b> TG has informed the Secretariat of a quota for 2016 of 500 wild-sourced specimens and 2,500 ranched specimens, which is the same as in previous years. The study furthermore recommends to maintain these quota in the future.</li> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation c):</b> The study contains partial information on six select ranching facilities. It does not contain details regarding the impacts of</li> </ul>	<p><u>The Secretariat and Animals Committee Chair's determination regarding implementation of the recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendation b) has been complied with.</li> <li>- Recommendations a) and c) have partially been complied with.</li> <li>- Recommendations d) to i) have not been implemented.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action recommended by the Secretariat</u></p> <p><b>The Standing Committee is invited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>request Togo to establish export quotas for <i>Chamaeleo gracilis</i> for 2017 of 2,500 live specimens of ranched origin, and 500 live specimens of wild origin; and</b></li> </ul>

Recommendations of the AC, and previous decisions of the SC where these exist	Summary of responses from range States	Determination of implementation and actions recommended
<p>specimens of source code R to be exported and which should be published with the annual export quota.</p> <p><u>Within 2 years (by 2 June 2016) the Management Authority should:</u></p> <p>g) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details and any management measures in place (highlighting where new management measures have been introduced to take into account any new information available on the status of the species in TG);</p> <p>h) Establish revised annual export quotas (if appropriate) for wild taken or ranched specimens based on the results of the assessment; and</p> <p>i) Provide a justification for, and explanation of, the scientific basis by which it is determined that these revised quotas would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and are established in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</p>	<p>ranching on the wild population. It is said that the ranching facilities collect wild gravid females which, after laying their eggs, are released within the catch areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation d):</i> The study does not contain information in this regard.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation e):</i> The study does not contain information in this regard.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation f):</i> The information in the study is unclear. It states that for exports to Europe, the current maximum length is 6 cm. Elsewhere, it also states that the proposed precautionary measure of 8 cm is well justified and it recommends to revise the maximum length to 10 cm.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation g):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented. The study recommends to make a national population inventory of the species to inform the establishment of annual quotas on a more rational basis. It is said that this exercise should propose new catch areas.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation h):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation i):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented.</li> </ul>	<p>ii) <b>urge Togo to implement recommendations d) to i) by 2 June 2017.</b></p>
<b><i>Kinixys homeana</i> (Home's Hinge-back Tortoise)</b>		
<p><b>Togo (TG)</b> (Possible Concern)</p> <p><u>Within 90 days (by 31 August 2014), the Management Authority should provide</u> the following information to the Secretariat for transmission to the Animals Committee to review at its 28th meeting:</p> <p>a) available information on the status, distribution (including extent of distribution in protected areas) and abundance of <i>K. homeana</i> in TG;</p>	<p>TG provided partial information addressing the recommendations of the Animals Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation a):</i> The study submitted by TG states that the current distribution area of <i>K. homeana</i> is in the forest area between Togo and Ghana. The current locations for collecting live specimens are Badou Tomegbe, Akloa, Kpélé Elé, Kpadapé, and Hanyigban, among others. It is likely to find this species in the Assoukoko</li> </ul>	<p><u>The Secretariat and Animals Committee Chair's determination regarding implementation of the recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations a) and b) have been complied with.</li> <li>- Recommendations d) has partially been complied with.</li> </ul>

Recommendations of the AC, and previous decisions of the SC where these exist	Summary of responses from range States	Determination of implementation and actions recommended
<p>b) confirmation that TG will maintain an annual export quota at a level not higher than the current published export quota.</p> <p>c) a justification for, and details of, the scientific basis by which it has been established that the quantities of <i>K. homeana</i> exported as wild and ranched specimens are not detrimental to the survival of the species and are in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3;</p> <p>d) the management of ranched animals in trade (e.g. ranching facilities, stock numbers, sources, production levels, survival rate of female specimens used in the ranching operation) and impacts on wild populations;</p> <p>e) the control measures to differentiate between ranched, captive produced, and wild-caught specimens to ensure that the authorized exports of ranched and captive produced specimens are not augmented by mis-declared wild specimens;</p> <p><u>Within two years (by 2 June 2016) the Management Authority should:</u></p> <p>f) Conduct a national status assessment, including an evaluation of threats to the species; and advise the Secretariat of the details and any management measures in place (highlighting where new management measures have been introduced to take into account any new information available on the status of the species in TG);</p> <p>g) Establish revised annual export quotas (if appropriate) for wild taken and ranched specimens based on the results of the assessment; and</p> <p>h) Provide a justification for, and explanation of, the scientific basis by which it is determined that these quotas would not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and are established in compliance with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3.</p>	<p>and Fazao Malfakassa protected areas. Recent research indicates the species' presence in the Togodo National Park. It is said that the populations of the species in its whole distribution area are seriously threatened, and that it has become rare in TG. But elsewhere, the study states that it is common along streams in forest areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation b):</i> TG has informed the Secretariat of a quota for 2016 of 500 wild-sourced specimens and 2,000 ranched specimens, which is the same as in previous years. The report furthermore recommends to lower this quota in the future to zero wild-sourced specimens and 400 ranched specimens.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation c):</i> The study contains no information on this matter.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation d):</i> The study contains partial information on six select ranching facilities. The study does not contain details regarding the impacts of ranching on the wild population.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation e):</i> The report does not contain information in this regard.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation f):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented. The study recommends to make a national population inventory of the species to determine the population size and to evaluate if its trade is possible.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation g):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented.</li> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation h):</i> This recommendation has not been implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations c), e), f), g) and h) have not been implemented.</li> <li>- It seems that in response to recommendation b), TG considers establishing a zero export quota for wild-sourced specimens of the species, and a quota of 400 for ranched specimens of the species.</li> </ul> <p><u>Action recommended by the Secretariat</u></p> <p><b>The Standing Committee is invited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>request Togo to establish export quotas for <i>Kinixys homeana</i> for 2017 of 400 live specimens of ranched origin, and zero of wild origin for 2017; and</b></li> <li>ii) <b>urge Togo to implement recommendations c) to h) by 2 June 2017.</b></li> </ul>

Recommendations of the AC, and previous decisions of the SC where these exist	Summary of responses from range States	Determination of implementation and actions recommended
<b><i>Hippocampus kellogi, H. kuda and H. spinosissimus</i></b>		
<p><b>Thailand (Urgent concern)</b></p> <p><u>Within 150 days (by 21 August 2012):</u> a) – d)</p> <p><u>Within 1 year (by 24 March 2013)</u> e) - g)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Management Authority of Thailand provided the Secretariat in April 2014 with information concerning the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species under review. This information included project progress reports and maps.</li> <li>– The project progress reports submitted by the Management Authority relate to an EU-CITES Secretariat capacity building project that was conducted in 2013 by Project Seahorse (Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia), called <i>Building in-country capacity to undertake Non-Detriment Findings with regard to Hippocampus species in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam</i>. The results of this project can be found in document AC27 Inf. 9.</li> </ul>	<p>SC65 congratulated Thailand for the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the Animals Committee, recognizing the external support that it had received in doing so.</p> <p>Thailand was requested to finalize the implementation of recommendations h), i), j) and k) by 31 May 2015</p>
<p><u>Within 2 years (by 24 March 2014)</u></p> <p>h) Establish a detailed monitoring programme of landings of the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species at representative sites, taking into account different gear types and means of extraction and recording catch and effort metrics, and provide a report to the Secretariat;</p> <p>i) Conduct a detailed study of the life history parameters of the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species, including growth rate, size and age at maturity, average annual reproductive output, and annual survivorship of different age classes; and provide a report to the Secretariat. Based on the outcome of this study, model population responses to exploitation pressures in order to review and revise management measures;</p> <p>j) Implement additional measures, including spatial and/or temporal restrictions on fishing activities, to support non-detriment findings; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation h):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A monitoring program for the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species, taking into account different gear types has been established, comprised of: 1) quarterly research trawls; 2) collection of landings data from trawl trap and gillnet fisheries and first level traders at three landing sites in the Gulf of Thailand and 2 landing sites along the Andaman Sea.</li> <li>– Thailand reported that the monitoring program commenced in 2016 and communicated initial results to the Secretariat in its letter dated 29 June 2016.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation i):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Thailand submitted preliminary results of life history parameters for six species of <i>Hippocampus spp.</i>, including <i>H. kellogi</i>, <i>H. kuda</i> and <i>H. spinosissimus</i>, including some, but not all of the parameters required in i), and report that research in collaboration with Project Seahorse is ongoing to provide the missing parameters, with completion anticipated in the first half of 2016.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Concerning recommendation j):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Thailand revised its fisheries law in 2015.</li> <li>– The information provided suggests that restrictive spatial</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>The Secretariat and Animals Committee Chair's determination regarding implementation of the recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendation j) has been largely complied with.</li> <li>- Recommendations h) and i) have partially been complied with, with full completion underway.</li> <li>- Progress regarding the implementation of recommendation k) is not clear.</li> <li>- Thailand decided to cease the export of all specimen of <i>Hippocampus spp.</i> from 1 January 2016 until further notice.</li> </ul>

Recommendations of the AC, and previous decisions of the SC where these exist	Summary of responses from range States	Determination of implementation and actions recommended
<p>k) Based on the studies and measures in paragraphs h), i) and j) above, establish an adaptive management programme for the extraction of, and trade in, the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species, enabling management measures to be reviewed and, if necessary, revised, to ensure that trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild and complies with Article IV, paragraphs 2 (a) and 3</p>	<p>management measures, including zoning of the coastal fishing zone and marine protected areas, exist, some of which are documented in maps. Their overlap with sea horse habitat, effectiveness on the ground or practical enforcement are not entirely clear. It further suggests that various gear restrictions and licensing schemes exist, which are not specific to this species but part of Thailand's fisheries management. Thailand further reports that it has developed a workplan for 10 Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Centers to set-up seahorse hatcheries/nurseries to produce 100,000 individuals of seahorse annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Concerning recommendation k)</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– One of the main outputs of the EU-CITES Secretariat project presented already in 2014 had been the development of a framework to make non-detriment findings for trade in seahorses. If fully applied by range States such as Thailand, this framework would seem to meet the requirements in recommendation k) to establish an adaptive management programme for trade in the three <i>Hippocampus</i> species. The project included a workshop in 2013 to build Thailand's capacity to apply this framework and make Non-Detriment Findings for trade in seahorses.</li> <li>– From the information provided it is unclear if there has been further progress on the implementation of this recommendation since SC65. This should however be seen in the light of Thailand's decision to cease the export of all specimen of <i>Hippocampus spp.</i> from 1 January 2016 until further notice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Action recommended by the Secretariat</u></p> <p><b>The Standing Committee is invited to recommend that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>Thailand be removed from the Review of Significant Trade process concerning <i>H. kellogi</i>, <i>H. kuda</i> and <i>H. spinosissimus</i>, recognizing that Thailand suspended the exportation of specimens of <i>Hippocampus spp.</i> from 1 January 2016 onwards until further notice; and</b></li> <li>ii) <b>Thailand inform the Secretariat and the Chair of the Animals Committee about any change in the trade suspension for <i>H. kellogi</i>, <i>H. kuda</i> and <i>H. spinosissimus</i>, together with a justification, for their agreement.</b></li> </ul>