

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



Seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee  
Lyon (France), 7 - 11 March 2022

Species specific matters

Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

REPORT OF THE ANIMALS COMMITTEE

1. This document has been submitted by the Animals Committee.\*
2. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.228 to 18.233 on *Seahorses* (*Hippocampus* spp.), which are presented in the Annex to this document. Decisions 18.229 and 18.232 are of particular relevance to this report.
3. At the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31, online, June 2021), the Secretariat reported in document [AC31 Doc. 26](#) and its [addendum](#) on the implementation of Decision 18.229 on *Seahorses* (*Hippocampus* spp.) and details of a study being undertaken by Project Seahorse. The Annex to document AC31 Doc. 26 contained the Parties' responses to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/015](#) on the request for information on national management measures for seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) and their implementation and enforcement, that was published on 28 February 2020, in compliance with Decision 18.229, paragraph b). The Notification also invited Parties to share non-detriment findings with the Secretariat for posting on the CITES website.
4. A revised version of the Annex to document AC31 Doc. 26 was published as [AC31 Doc. 26 A \(Rev. 1\)](#) to include the response from Indonesia. Responses were received from the following 14 Parties: Australia, Cambodia, Colombia, Croatia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Peru, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. All responses were made available in the language and format in which they were received.
5. Pursuant to Decision 18.229 paragraph b), the Secretariat also communicated the responses received to Notification to the Parties [No. 2020/015](#) through Notification to the Parties [No. 2021/062](#), that was published on 13 October 2021.
6. Among the responses are two non-detriment findings on *Hippocampus* spp. (from the United States of America), which are now available on the CITES website NDF database.
7. To renew activities for which work is either ongoing or could not yet be completed, the Animals Committee agreed to submit the following draft decisions to the Standing Committee at its 74th meeting for its consideration and submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

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\* *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.*

**19.AA Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall:

- a) subject to external funding, organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and
- b) report on the implementation of paragraph a) to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee**

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229, paragraph c) i), and other relevant available information;
- b) develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decision 19.BB to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee**

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and, as appropriate, the report of the Animals Committee;
- b) develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses; and
- c) report on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.

Recommendations

8. The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) take note of this document; and
- b) consider the draft decisions presented in paragraph 7 of the present document for submission to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE 18TH MEETING OF THE CITES CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES ON SEAHORSES (*HIPPOCAMPUS* SPP.)

**18.228 Directed to the Secretariat**

The Secretariat shall include available materials to support CITES implementation for seahorses (non-detriment findings guidance, identification materials, etc.) on the CITES website.

**18.229** The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties inviting them to inform the Secretariat of any national management measures that regulate or restrict international trade in seahorses, and on how they are implementing and enforcing such measures for seahorses;
- b) compile the responses received to the Notification issued as per paragraph a) of the present Decision and communicate them to CITES Authorities through a Notification to the Parties and through its website; and
- c) subject to external funding:
  - i) commission a study on trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including applicable regulations, to understand shifts in international trade patterns since the inclusion of seahorses in Appendix II and the Review of Significant Trade of *Hippocampus* spp., as well as the implementation challenges and possible solutions; and
  - ii) organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and
- d) report on the implementation of paragraphs a) through c) of the present Decision to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

**18.230 Directed to Parties**

To support the effective implementation of Appendix II of CITES for seahorses, Parties are invited to:

- a) inform the Secretariat of any national management measures that regulate or restrict international trade in seahorses; and how they are implementing and enforcing such measures for seahorses;
- b) share copies of their non-detriment findings with the Secretariat for posting on the CITES website to assist other CITES Parties; and
- c) inform seahorse traders within their jurisdiction of any quotas, including any zero quotas, and any trade suspensions for seahorses to further facilitate compliance and enforcement by all participants in the trade.

**18.231** Parties are encouraged to:

- a) use existing tools for effective CITES implementation and enforcement that are relevant to seahorses;
- b) where quotas, trade suspensions, or both are in place, develop monitoring programmes for seahorses in their national waters to understand effectiveness of these actions and any other relevant implementation and enforcement actions for seahorse conservation and management; and

- c) share the design and initial results of these programmes with the Secretariat to report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

**18.232 *Directed to the Animals Committee***

The Animals Committee shall analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 18.229 and other relevant information available to the Animals Committee and develop recommendations as appropriate to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses.

**18.233 *Directed to the Standing Committee***

The Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 18.229 and develop recommendations as appropriate to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses.