



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2004/033

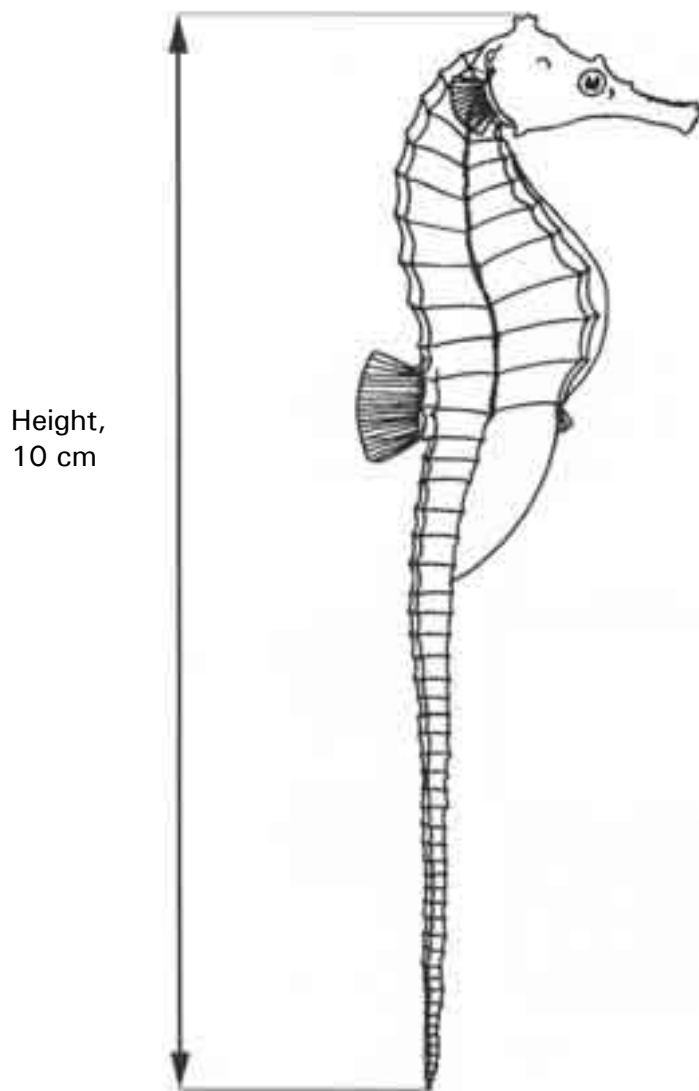
Geneva, 30 April 2004

CONCERNING:

### Trade in seahorses

#### Implementation of Decision 12.54

1. Parties are reminded that the inclusion in Appendix II of *Hippocampus* spp. (seahorses), agreed at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP12, Santiago, 2002), enters into effect on 15 May 2004.
2. The Conference of the Parties also directed the Animals Committee, under Decision 12.54, to:  
  
*identify a minimum size limit for specimens of all Hippocampus species in trade as one component of an adaptive management plan, and as a simple precautionary means of making initial non-detriment findings in accordance with Article IV of the Convention.*
3. At its 20th meeting (Johannesburg, March-April 2004) the Animals Committee came to the conclusion that, for specimens of the genus *Hippocampus* taken from the wild and entering trade, a height of 10 cm would currently serve as the most appropriate minimum size. It is not recommended by the Animals Committee to be used for captive-bred specimens. The height is measured from the top of the coronet to the tip of the straightened tail (see drawing overleaf). This height falls between size at maturity and maximum size for most species. The Animals Committee recognized however that the 10 cm limit is greater than the maximum adult size of some smaller seahorse species. For the very limited international trade in these specimens, Parties may wish to find other ways to make non-detriment findings. Parties wishing to know more about the background to the Animals Committee's recommendation are referred to documents AC20 Doc. 17 and AC19 Doc 16.2 which are available on the CITES website. The Animals Committee considered that the 10 cm recommendation could be reviewed at a later date on the basis of further research.
4. The use of this minimum size limit for specimens of wild origin in trade is voluntary.



Height measurement to be made for specimens of *Hippocampus* spp. of wild origin in trade, as recommended by the Animals Committee (Illustration courtesy of [www.projectseahorse.org](http://www.projectseahorse.org)).