



## NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2020/015

Geneva, 28 February 2020

CONCERNING:

Request for information on national management measures for seahorses  
(*Hippocampus* spp.) and their implementation and enforcement

1. At its 18th meeting (CoP18, Geneva, 2019), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.228 to 18.233 on Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.). Decisions 18.229 and 18.230 read as follows:

**18.229 Directed to the Secretariat**

*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.*

2. Pursuant to these Decisions, the Secretariat hereby invites Parties to:

- a) submit information on any national management measures that regulate or restrict international trade in seahorses, and on how they are implementing and enforcing such measures; and
- b) share copies of their non-detriment findings with the Secretariat for posting on the CITES website to assist other CITES Parties.

3. In accordance with Decision 18.229, paragraph b), the Secretariat will compile the responses and communicate them to CITES Authorities through a Notification to the Parties and through the CITES website. Implementation of Decision 18.229 paragraphs a) to c) will also be reported at the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee (Geneva, July 2020) and the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee (Geneva, October 2020, tbc).

4. Responses should be submitted by email to [info@cites.org](mailto:info@cites.org) and [daniel.kachelriess@cites.org](mailto:daniel.kachelriess@cites.org) no later than **15 April 2020**.