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*Wild Animal and Plant Protection
and Regulation of International
and Interprovincial Trade Act*

Annual Report

for 2010



Canada 

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Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) © Photos.com 2011

American Ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) © Photos.com 2011

American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*) © Photos.com 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	iv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report	1
1.2 WAPPRIITA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1
1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA	2
2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE	2
2.1 CITES permitting	2
2.1.1 Permitting overview	2
2.1.2 Exemptions	4
2.1.3 Improvements to monitoring of CITES permits	4
2.2 CITES permits issued in 2010	5
2.2.1 Export permits and re-export certificates	5
2.2.2 Export permits for multiple shipments	6
2.2.3 Multiple-shipment stickers	6
2.2.4 Imports into Canada	6
2.3 Canada's trading partners	7
3 ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE	7
3.1 Non-detriment findings	7
3.2 Review of Significant Trade process for certain listed species in CITES	8
4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA	8
4.1 Compliance promotion	8
4.2 Enforcement activities	8
4.2.1 Inspections	8
4.2.2 Investigations	9
5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	10
5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties	10
5.2 CITES committees and working groups	10
5.3 INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group	11
6 FURTHER INFORMATION	11

HIGHLIGHTS

- A Canadian delegation attended the 15th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, from March 15 to 25, 2010.
- Canada is the new North American region representative on the Animals Committee and continues as the alternate North American representative on the Plants Committee.
- A workshop was held to initiate the development of standing non-detriment finding reports for the Grizzly Bear and the American Black Bear.
- A total of 26 950 export shipments of wild specimens, products and derivatives were made in 2010.
 - Canadian jurisdictions issued 6991 export permits and re-export certificates in 2010 under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA), authorizing 23 336 shipments of wildlife specimens, products and derivatives. The remaining shipments were authorized by permits issued in 2009.
 - The majority of the shipments in 2010 consisted of artificially propagated plants—cultivated American Ginseng followed by cacti. For mammals, Crab-eating Macaques and American Black Bears, as well as their parts and/or derivatives, accounted for the majority of exports.
 - Of the 6691 export permits and re-export certificates, 900 permits were designated for multiple shipments, accounting for more than 17 000 shipments.
- In 2010, 179 import permits were issued, 37.4% of which were for commercial purposes.
- Environment Canada investigations led to three major convictions under WAPPRIITA: one for illegal transport and possession of animal parts, and two for unlawful import of wildlife.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report

This report meets the Minister of the Environment's obligation, under section 28 of the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA), to report annually on the administration of the Act. This report covers the administration of the Act for the year 2010.

This section provides background information on WAPPRIITA and outlines the responsibilities of Environment Canada under the Act. Subsequent sections discuss the following issues:

- wild animals and plants in trade;
- assessing the risk to species from trade;
- compliance promotion and enforcement; and
- international cooperation.

1.2 WAPPRIITA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

WAPPRIITA is the legislative vehicle through which Canada meets its international obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES; see www.cites.org).

CITES sets controls on the trade in and international movement of animal and plant species that have been, or may become, threatened with overexploitation as a result of trade pressures. Such species are identified by the parties to the Convention and are listed in one of three appendices to the Convention, according to the level of control considered necessary:

- Appendix I lists species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in these species is strictly regulated to ensure their survival, and trade for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- Appendix II lists species that are not currently threatened with extinction but that may become

so unless trade is strictly regulated to avoid overexploitation. Also listed in Appendix II are "look-alike" species that are regulated to provide additional protection for Appendix II species. Many species with healthy populations within Canada, such as the American Black Bear and the Grey Wolf, are listed in Appendix II for this purpose.

- In Appendix III individual parties may list species found within their borders, which are subject to regulations, in order to manage international trade in those species. Canada has listed the Walrus in this appendix.

The text of CITES was agreed upon by 80 signatory countries, including Canada, in 1973. The Convention came into force in 1975, and it has now been adopted by 175 sovereign states. No new parties acceded to CITES or brought it into force during 2010.

WAPPRIITA, which provides the authority in Canada for the regulation of trade in wild species, received Royal Assent on December 17, 1992. The Act and associated regulations—the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (WAPTR)—came into force on May 14, 1996. The purpose of WAPPRIITA is to protect Canadian and foreign species of animals and plants that may be at risk of overexploitation because of unsustainable or illegal trade, and to safeguard Canadian ecosystems from the introduction of harmful species. It accomplishes these objectives by controlling the international trade in wild animals and plants, as well as their parts and derivatives, through a system of permits, as required by CITES. Furthermore, WAPPRIITA makes it an offence to transport illegally obtained wildlife between provinces or territories or between Canada and other countries.

The species whose trade is controlled in Canada are listed on the three schedules of the WAPTR:

- Schedule I includes all animals listed as fauna and all plants listed as flora in the three CITES appendices. These species require permits for import/export or interprovincial transport, unless otherwise exempted.
- Schedule II lists other plant and animal species requiring an import permit that do not

necessarily appear in the CITES appendices. These are species that may pose a risk to Canadian ecosystems.

- Schedule III lists the Schedule I species that are recognized as endangered or threatened within Canada.

1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA

Environment Canada is responsible for administering and enforcing WAPPRIITA. As required by CITES, Canada has designated a national Management Authority, which is responsible for issuing CITES permits (export and import) and advising on the implementation of CITES in Canada. Under the Convention, Canada has also designated a national Scientific Authority that advises on non-detriment findings, the issuance of import permits, and other scientific matters. Representatives of the Management and Scientific Authorities are located at Environment Canada (which hosts the national office responsible for the implementation of CITES in Canada), at Fisheries and Oceans Canada (for CITES-listed aquatic species, including fish, plants and marine mammals) and at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (for CITES-listed artificially propagated plants). Natural Resources Canada advises on forest-related issues within CITES. Further information on the responsibilities of the Management and Scientific Authorities can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=0BB0663F-1.

The arrangements for managing the control of trade in wildlife species varies across the provinces and territories. Memoranda of understanding to support cooperative management and administration of WAPPRIITA currently exist between the federal government and Yukon, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Similar arrangements with Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut remain to be negotiated. Although agreements had been established with Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Manitoba, these agreements have expired or are no longer in effect, and therefore the arrangements with these jurisdictions need to be renegotiated. Environment Canada continues to issue permits required under CITES and WAPPRIITA

relating to indigenous and non-indigenous species for these four provinces.

Provinces and territories, with the exception of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Manitoba, oversee the trade in wildlife species under their jurisdiction. They have each appointed a Scientific Authority and a Management Authority that are responsible for indigenous species leaving their jurisdiction.

Enforcement of WAPPRIITA is overseen by Environment Canada and is carried out by five regional offices (Pacific and Yukon, Prairie and Northern, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic), in cooperation with other federal agencies such as the Canada Border Services Agency and with provincial and territorial wildlife agencies. Customs officials play a key role at ports of entry, manually verifying and validating permits and referring shipments to Environment Canada personnel for inspection.

Environment Canada maintains enforcement agreements and memoranda of understanding with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Under the agreements and memoranda of understanding, these four provinces are responsible for enforcing WAPPRIITA with respect to interprovincial wildlife trade, while Environment Canada oversees the enforcement of WAPPRIITA for international trade.

To provide for ticketing for WAPPRIITA offences under the *Contraventions Act*, the Department of Justice has signed agreements with Ontario, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

2. WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1 CITES permitting

2.1.1 Permitting overview

The effective implementation of CITES depends on international cooperation to regulate cross-border

movement of listed species through a global system of permits that are verified at international borders. In Canada, CITES permits are issued pursuant to the authority of WAPPRIITA.

There are different permit requirements depending on the CITES Appendix in which a species is listed. For example, Appendix I species require both an export permit from the exporting country and an import permit from the importing country, while Appendix II species require only an export permit.

Federal, provincial and territorial agencies issue permits according to their legislative mandate. Types of CITES permits and certificates that are issued by Canada are described in Table 1.

Environment Canada's national Management Authority office issues all import permits, all export permits and all re-export certificates on behalf of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec, and all export permits and re-export certificates for non-indigenous species from British Columbia.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues the majority of the export permits that involve CITES-listed aquatic species, including fish, marine mammals and aquatic plants.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency issues phytosanitary certificates that authorize the export of artificially propagated plant species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III. Nurseries that export large quantities of artificially propagated plants of a variety of CITES-listed species, and that are registered under the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's nursery registration program, can apply for a multi-shipment export permit.

Other than Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and British Columbia (in the case of non-indigenous species), the provinces and territories issue export permits required under WAPPRIITA and CITES for indigenous species leaving their jurisdictions. A CITES export permit may not necessarily be issued by the jurisdiction from which the specimen was collected. For example, if a Polar Bear hunted in Nunavut was exported by a Nunavut Canadian citizen to a taxidermist in Ontario, only an interprovincial export permit would be issued by Nunavut. However, if that Polar Bear is further exported from Ontario to another country, Ontario would issue the CITES export permit.

Table 1: Types of Canadian permits required under CITES and WAPPRIITA and certificates issued pursuant to the WAPTR

Type of permit or certificate	Description
Export permit	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR to be exported from Canada. Multiple shipments under a permit can be authorized when the applicant intends to make multiple transactions during the period for which the permit is valid. Export permits are valid for up to six months.
Re-export certificate	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR to be exported from Canada after having been legally imported into Canada at an earlier time. Re-export certificates are valid for up to six months.
Import permit	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR that are also listed in CITES Appendix I, and for specimens of species that are included in Schedule II of the WAPTR. An export permit from the exporting country is required for the issuance of an import permit. Import permits are valid for up to one year.
Temporary movement certificate	Issued for specimens that are only temporarily imported into Canada and that will, within a limited amount of time, be re-exported to the country of origin. Authorization can be provided for circus specimens that are either pre-Convention or captive-bred and for artificially propagated specimens. Temporary movement certificates are valid for up to three years.
Certificate of ownership	Issued to authorize frequent cross-border movement of personally owned live animals (also known as a pet passport). Certificates of ownership are valid for up to three years.
Scientific certificate	Issued for the exchange between registered scientific institutions of frozen, preserved, dried or embedded museum and herbarium specimens, and live plant material. Scientific certificates are valid for up to three years.
Phytosanitary certificate	Issued for the export of artificially propagated plant species included in Schedule I of WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III by registered nurseries.

2.1.2 Exemptions

WAPPRIITA authorizes an exemption, in specific situations, for the importation and exportation of CITES-listed species without permits. These exemptions are specified in the WAPTR and apply to non-commercial purposes only.

Canadian threatened or endangered species listed on Schedule III of WAPPRIITA are not included in these exemptions. They still require all the necessary CITES permits.

Four other similar exemptions are included in the Act: tourist souvenir, personal effect, household effect and hunting trophies (Black Bear and Sandhill Crane). Further information on exemptions is available at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=DC8E2E3F-1.

2.1.3 Improvements to monitoring of CITES permits

In Canada, the national CITES Management Authority, in cooperation with the national CITES Scientific Authority, launched a working prototype of the CITES electronic permitting system (CEPS) in 2007. The transition of some processes for the issuance of export and import permits from the previous CITES permitting system to CEPS was completed in 2009. In 2010, further development work on CEPS was undertaken in order to completely eliminate the original permitting system. The release of CEPS is planned for spring 2011, at which time Environment Canada will make this new permitting system available to federal and provincial partners.

In 2010, Environment Canada also started planning the incorporation of the CITES permitting

requirements into the Department's larger e-permitting initiative. This initiative consists of developing an infrastructure that will enable individuals to apply online for all wildlife-related permits issued by Environment Canada.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2010

2.2.1 Export permits and re-export certificates

Export permits are issued by Canada for specimens (animals, plants, their parts or derivatives) of CITES-listed species that originated in Canada and that are being exported from Canada for the first time. Export permits are good indicators of Canada's wildlife resources legally traded and controlled under CITES. In 2010, Canada issued 5513 export permits. The wildlife exports authorized under those permits consisted primarily of artificially propagated specimens of native plants (mostly American Ginseng), wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), and the Crab-eating Macaque, as well as their parts or derivatives.

Whereas the trade in wildlife specimens originating within Canada can be tracked through export permits, the issuance of re-export certificates allows the tracking of specimens that were imported into Canada under the authorization of export permits issued by foreign states, and then re-exported from Canada. During 2010, Canada issued 1178 re-export certificates.

In 2010, 6691 export permits and re-export certificates were issued by Canada, authorizing 23 336 shipments, and an additional 3614 shipments occurred under 85 permits issued in 2009—a total of 26 950 authorized shipments in 2010.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates required under CITES and WAPPRIITA and issued in 2010 by each Canadian jurisdiction. Note that the jurisdiction issuing the export permits may not necessarily be the jurisdiction where the specimen was collected.

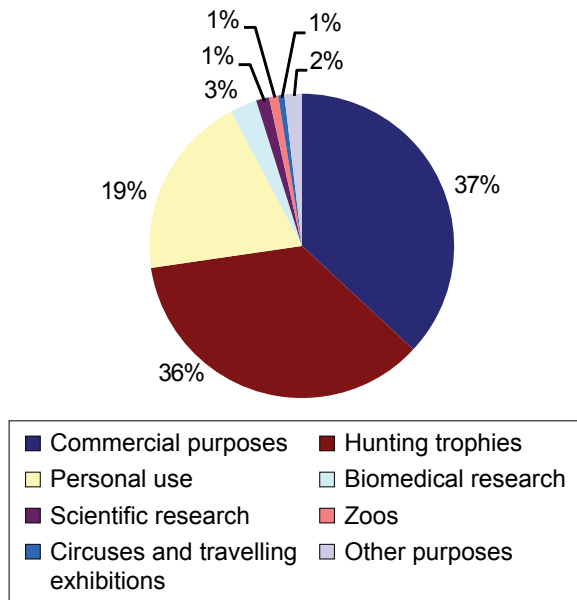
Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued by Canadian jurisdictions in 2010

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	4086	61.07
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	214	3.20
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	34	0.51
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia*	1308	19.55
Ontario	739	11.05
Yukon	138	2.06
Newfoundland and Labrador	108	1.61
Nova Scotia	29	0.43
Northwest Territories	24	0.36
New Brunswick	9	0.13
Nunavut	2	0.03
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Quebec*	—	—
Alberta*	—	—
Saskatchewan*	—	—
Manitoba*	—	—
TOTAL	6691	100

* Alberta (as of January 1, 1995), Saskatchewan (as of July 1, 2004), Quebec (as of November 1, 2005) and Manitoba (as of December 15, 2007) ceased issuing CITES permits. British Columbia does not issue permits involving non-indigenous species. CITES permits for exports from these regions are issued by Environment Canada.

Of the 6691 export permits and re-export certificates authorized in 2010, 2460 (36.8%) were for commercial purposes, 2398 (35.8%) were for hunting trophies, 1316 (19.7%) were for personal use, 194 (2.9%) were for biomedical research, 91 (1.4%) were for scientific research, 65 (0.9%) were for zoos, 44 (0.7%) were for circuses and travelling exhibitions, and 123 (1.8%) were for other purposes. Figure 1 shows the distribution of wildlife export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2010 by purpose.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2010 by purpose



Export permits and re-export certificates can authorize the export of more than one specimen and more than one species, and must list the species and their parts or derivatives that are authorized. In 2010, plant species accounted for the majority of species listed on export permits and re-export certificates. Topping the list of exported plant species and/or their parts and derivatives was artificially propagated American Ginseng, followed by Golden Star Cactus, Chin Cactus, Golden Barrel Cactus, Old Man of the Andes, Golden Ball Cactus, cacti hybrids, Peruvian Apple Cactus and Red-headed Irishman. The most common mammal species and/or their parts and derivatives listed on export permits and re-export certificates included the American Black Bear, Crab-eating Macaque, Grey Wolf, Bobcat, Canadian Lynx, Grizzly Bear, Brown Spectacled Caiman, Mountain Lion and Polar Bear. These mammal specimens may be used, for example, in the fur trade, as hunting trophies or by the manufacturing sector (e.g., to make boots); or for biomedical research in the case of blood and serum derivatives of the Crab-eating Macaque.

2.2.2 Export permits for multiple shipments

An export permit may authorize multiple shipments and is valid for up to six months from the date of issue. This six-month time frame allows an applicant to conduct many transactions over a fixed period.

Of the 6691 export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2010, 900 were designated for multiple shipments. These 900 permits authorized 17 545 shipments in 2010. The largest share of export permits for multiple shipments was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng and to nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants. Multiple-shipment permits issued in 2010 also authorized shipments of mammal species, their parts or derivatives, including the Crab-eating Macaque.

2.2.3 Multiple-shipment stickers

In Canada the national CITES Management Authority authorizes the export of small quantities of artificially propagated American Ginseng (up to 4.5 kg for personal use), through a simplified permitting procedure that allows each shipment to be accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized.

In 2010, artificially propagated American Ginseng exported with permit stickers accounted for over 7000 shipments.

2.2.4 Imports into Canada

Canada collects data from CITES export permits issued by other countries, which are collected by the Canada Border Services Agency and submitted to the national CITES Management Authority at Environment Canada.

Canada issued 179 import permits in 2010, all of which were for wild-harvested, artificially propagated or captive-bred specimens of species listed in Schedule I of the WAPTR and CITES Appendix I, or specimens of species listed in Schedule II of the WAPTR.

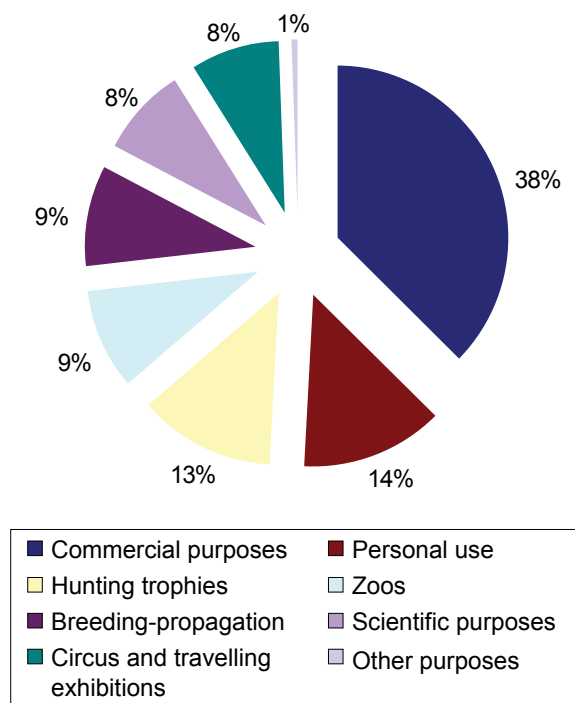
A wide variety of species and their parts or derivatives were imported in 2010, including, among other species, the African Elephant, the

Arowana, the Leopard, the Gyrfalcon and the Asian Elephant.

Of the 179 import permits authorized in 2010, 67 were for commercial purposes, 24 were for personal use, 23 were for hunting trophies, 17 were for zoos, 17 were for breeding-propagation, 15 were for circuses and travelling exhibitions, 15 were for scientific purposes, and 1 was for another purpose.

Figure 2 indicates the percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2010 by purpose. The percentage for commercial purposes mainly represents artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens and captive-bred specimens.

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2010 by purpose



2.3 Canada’s trading partners

Canada’s major trading partners under CITES, particularly for exports, are the United States, the countries that make up the European Union, and the countries of East and Southeast Asia.

In 2010, the United States continued to be a major importer of live artificially propagated plants.

The largest importers of Canadian wild animal specimens in the European Union were Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Greece, Spain, France and Austria. The species most commonly exported from Canada to Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, was artificially propagated American Ginseng, with these regions accounting for most of Canada’s foreign market for this species.

3. ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE

3.1 Non-detriment findings

Countries exporting specimens of species listed in CITES Appendix I or II must provide a scientific determination that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This determination is referred to as a “non-detriment finding.” Some jurisdictions, such as the United States and the European Union, enforce regulations that are stricter than those of CITES, leading to a higher level of scrutiny of exporting countries and their non-detriment findings.

In Canada, non-detriment findings may be determined on a permit-by-permit basis or, for more heavily traded species, developed as a standing document.

Although there is no agreed-upon standard for non-detriment findings, material providing guidance on how to prepare standing non-detriment findings has been prepared by the CITES Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Canada uses this material to structure its non-detriment finding reports.

Standing species-specific non-detriment finding reports are developed following an approved process through a federal–provincial/territorial CITES Scientific Authorities working group. To build on the relationship formed during the development of the Polar Bear non-detriment finding, negotiations were initiated in 2010 to formally include Inuit people in this process.

Standing non-detriment finding reports have been completed for the Bobcat, American Ginseng,

Goldenseal, Grey Wolf, Polar Bear and Canada Lynx. These reports are available on Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1.

The non-detriment finding report for the Polar Bear that was completed in December 2009 was implemented in 2010. The report determined that the export of legally harvested Polar Bears from Canada is non-detrimental, with the exception of Polar Bears harvested in the Baffin Bay management unit, for which export permits will not be issued.

In November 2010, the Canadian network of CITES Scientific Authorities held a workshop to share management information on the Grizzly Bear and Black Bear. Bear biologists and Scientific Authorities from across Canada attended. The information gathered through this workshop will be used to draft the standing non-detriment finding reports for these two species, and to describe Canada's management of these species to an international audience. The workshop also provided participants with an opportunity to learn more about CITES as it relates to bear management and permit decisions in Canada.

3.2 Review of Significant Trade process for certain listed species in CITES

The Review of Significant Trade process was developed within CITES to monitor trade on a global level. This multiple-staged process, which is fundamental to the goal of CITES, and a primary role of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, focuses on species for which international trade is a concern and for which evidence suggests efforts toward sustainable management could be improved. The process requires countries to demonstrate sustainable trade and could lead to the imposition of global trade restrictions for a species or restrictions on individual countries.

The Plants Committee and Animals Committee did not meet formally in 2010, and therefore no new species entered the significant review process.

4. COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA

4.1 Compliance promotion

Environment Canada works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners to ensure compliance with WAPPRIITA. These partners include the Canada Border Services Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and provincial and territorial law enforcement bodies and conservation authorities. Environment Canada is also an active partner on the international stage in promoting and verifying compliance with CITES.

Compliance with WAPPRIITA is monitored by such means as verifying permits, auditing importers' and exporters' declarations, conducting inspections at ports of entry, conducting routine or spot inspections of wildlife businesses, sharing information with border officials and other national and international agencies, gathering intelligence, and following up on information provided by the public.

In 2010, Environment Canada worked to promote compliance with WAPPRIITA through displays at key airports and online information regarding regulatory requirements.

Environment Canada's wildlife officers continued to give interviews, issue press releases and provide other communications materials on enforcement issues, for television, radio and printed media.

4.2 Enforcement activities

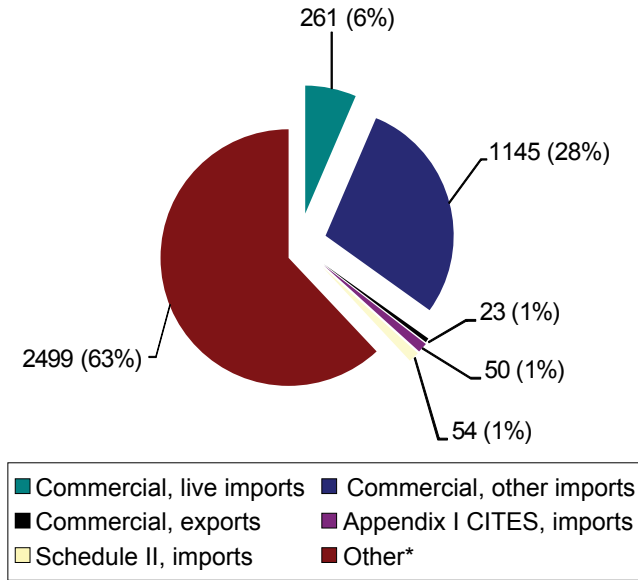
In 2010, all of Environment Canada's 87 wildlife officers were designated for enforcing WAPPRIITA.

4.2.1 Inspections

Environment Canada conducted 4032 inspections under WAPPRIITA in 2010. Inspection priorities included species listed in CITES Appendix I, commercial activities, live specimens, and species listed under Schedule II of the WAPTR (i.e., species

harmful to the Canadian ecosystem). Figure 3 shows the number and percentage of inspections by priority for 2010.

Figure 3: Number of inspections conducted in 2010 by national priority



*"Other" includes all WAPPRIITA inspections that were not related to national priorities.

4.2.2 Investigations

In 2010, under the provisions of applicable federal, provincial/territorial or foreign legislation, Environment Canada investigated 165 incidents of poaching or trafficking involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife.

Most of the major cases, some of which were precedent setting, led to prosecution resulting in convictions. Three examples are described below.

A Nova Scotia man is ordered to pay a \$2,250 penalty for violating federal wildlife acts

On April 7, 2010, a man pleaded guilty in Nova Scotia Provincial Court to federal charges of illegally possessing a Canada Goose and illegally transporting two moose heads and two shed caribou antlers from Newfoundland and Labrador. The individual was ordered to pay a penalty of \$1,250 for illegally transporting the moose heads and \$500 for illegally

transporting the shed caribou antlers. Both offences are contrary to WAPPRIITA. The individual was also ordered to pay \$500 for unlawfully possessing a Canada Goose, contrary to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*.

Unlawful import of reptiles results in jail sentence to be served conditionally in the community, restitution, court orders, and a fine

On July 30, 2010, a man was sentenced in the Ontario Court of Justice to six months of jail time to be served conditionally in the community after having pled guilty on April 30, 2010, to one count of making false statements under the *Customs Act* and to 11 counts under WAPPRIITA for attempting to illegally import nearly 1500 reptiles into Canada. The seized reptiles included 36 tortoises and nine snakes listed as controlled species under CITES and protected under WAPPRIITA and its regulations. The sentence also included a probation order with restitution totaling \$5,795 for the shipping and care of the animals, an order to abstain from possessing live animals, an order to abstain from importing or exporting any live animal, an order allowing Environment Canada to conduct unannounced inspections of the man's residence to verify compliance with other orders issued, a \$500 fine for the *Customs Act* charge, and an order to forfeit all seized reptiles.

Commercial wholesaler fined for illegally importing protected goods into Canada

After an intensive year-long investigation, a Vancouver company pleaded guilty in British Columbia Provincial Court on December 6, 2010, for an offence related to an unlawful import under WAPPRIITA. The company, a commercial wholesaler of traditional Asian medicinal products, was sentenced to pay \$100,000 for unlawfully importing an orchid species (*Dendrobium*) listed as threatened under CITES. Other species and animal derivatives seized during the investigation and ordered forfeit by the Crown included Tree Fern, orchid, African Elephant, monkey, bear and crocodile. As part of the fine, the judge directed that the company pay \$95,000 to Environment Canada's Environmental Damages Fund for the express purpose of refining genomic or other DNA research methods to help improve the

identification of endangered species and their parts or derivatives, which will help deter illegal trade.

Environment Canada publishes the outcomes of its main investigations on the Department's website. Media releases and enforcement notifications are available at www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=8F711F37-1.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to CITES took place from March 13 to 25, 2010, in Doha, Qatar. Canada's objectives at the Conference were to ensure that decisions made at CoP15 were based on sound science, seek consistency between the Conference of the Parties' decisions and Canadian environmental policy, and highlight Canadian approaches and successes in sustainable wildlife management.

The Canadian positions on proposals to list species under CITES and working documents were developed through consultation with other government departments and agencies as well as stakeholders. Species proposals were carefully reviewed, and the information provided to support the proposals was weighed against the CITES listing criteria.

The Canadian delegation was led by Environment Canada, and included representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Government of Nunavut, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Nunatsiavut Government, and the Inuvialuit Game Council. These representatives contributed expertise related to species or issues that they manage.

Six Canadian species were considered in listing decisions. Of key interest to Canada and globally was the proposal to list Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in Appendix I, which would end all international commercial trade in this commercially valuable species. The proposal was ultimately defeated. All four proposals to list

various shark species in Appendix II were also defeated. Although the decision on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna was in line with the Canadian position, Canada did support the listing of a number of the sharks, recognizing the risk that international trade poses for these species.

A U.S. proposal to transfer the Polar Bear to Appendix I was defeated, as the majority of parties present voted against it. Canada's management of the species was praised, and it was widely agreed that the species did not yet meet the CITES criteria for listing in Appendix I.

Canada also submitted a document to request that CITES parties consider the utility of taxonomic serial number codes as identifiers for taxonomic names of species in CITES electronic permitting systems, to assist tracking of wildlife in trade. This proposal was adopted.

Additional information on the Conference of the Parties is available on Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=C873C243-1.

Environment Canada is in the process of updating Schedule I through an amendment of the WAPTR, to reflect the species listing decisions adopted at the Conference of Parties.

5.2 CITES committees and working groups

Canada participates in a number of committees and working groups to foster ongoing cooperation with international partners under the Convention. In particular, the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, Plants Committee and Animals Committee are instrumental in developing international policy for implementation of the Convention. Decisions made by these bodies affect Canada's obligations under CITES, and greatly influence the decisions ultimately taken at the Conferences of the Parties. It is therefore important that Canadian concerns be heard in these forums.

Members of these committees are elected on a regional basis after every Conference of the Parties. Canada, Mexico and the United States are the parties

of the North America region under CITES (Canada's term as the representative for the North America region on the CITES Standing Committee ended at the 60th meeting of the Standing Committee held immediately after CoP15, when the position of North America representative was assumed by the United States). Members of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee are elected as individuals on a regional-representation basis. Carolina Caceres of Canada was newly elected as representative for the North America region on the Animals Committee, and Adrienne Sinclair of Canada continues to serve as alternate regional representative on the Plants Committee.

The North America region of CITES met twice in 2010, in keeping with its ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional issues and positions. These meetings allow Canada to better understand other North American parties' views and concerns, especially regarding shared species. The February meeting focused on CoP15 positions, while the November meeting focused on issues of common interest as well as strategic planning for future CITES meetings.

5.3 INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group

With 187 member countries, INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group represents several CITES member countries at INTERPOL. The group has been meeting regularly since 1994 to discuss issues related to law enforcement, strategies, and ways in which INTERPOL can help maintain and support an international network of law enforcement experts specializing in wildlife crimes.

In 2010, INTERPOL coordinated two major international operations targeting the illegal trade in wildlife:

Operation TRAM

Targeting the illegal trade in traditional medicines containing protected wildlife products, Operation TRAM resulted in a series of arrests worldwide and

the seizure of thousands of illegal medicines worth more than EUR 10 million.

Investigations into individuals and companies, as well as inspections of premises such as seaports and wholesalers, revealed a large amount of medicines either containing or marketing the use of illegal ingredients such as tiger, bear and rhinoceros.

The operation's success was made possible by close cooperation among and the dedication of the police, customs, wildlife law enforcement agencies and specialized units in the 18 participating countries, which included Canada.

Operation RAMP

Environment Canada participated in this successful INTERPOL initiative that prevented hundreds of criminals from trafficking reptiles and amphibians illegally in an ever-growing wildlife market. Operation RAMP, carried out in collaboration with over 50 countries including Canada, focused on illegal activities relating to the trade and possession of turtles, crocodiles, lizards, frogs, snakes, and their derivatives. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring the compliance of lawful traders such as private licence holders, public retail outlets and wholesale distributors, and on targeted enforcement actions at national ports of import and export, which resulted in thousands of inspections during the two-month operation.

Results of the operation are still being tabulated. Environment Canada expects to release statistics on charges and product seizures once they are available.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

More information about WAPPRIITA is available on Canada's CITES website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites, or by contacting the Department:

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