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***WILD ANIMAL AND PLANT PROTECTION  
AND REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE ACT***

**2006 REPORT**

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada continued to represent the North American Region on the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) Standing Committee, as it has done since 2004.
- Canada participated in the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, Animals Committee and Plants Committee.
- Canadian jurisdictions issued 7 551 CITES/WAPPRIITA permits in 2006 that resulted in more than 22 800 shipments of wildlife specimens, products, and derivatives.
- The majority of permits issued in 2006 for export were for bear and wolf hunted or trapped in the wild, while most of the exportations were for artificially propagated plants (mostly cultivated American ginseng) – this is due to the fact that most permits issued for artificially propagated plants authorize multiple shipments during their validity period of one year.
- Environment Canada carried out 350 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife under the provisions of the applicable federal, provincial/territorial, or foreign legislation. Most of these investigations concluded with the forfeiture and confiscation of goods, and the issuance of a ticket.
- National CITES Scientific Authorities continued work on the development of standing non-detriment finding documents for highly traded Canadian species through a federal/provincial/territorial working group. Non-detriment findings are scientific determinations regarding whether trade will be detrimental to the survival of a species. The first standing non-detriment finding document for a species in Canada, for bobcat, was finalized in 2006, and work began on a polar bear non-detriment finding report.
- A national CITES authorities workshop was held to identify elements of a renewed national CITES program, a first step in developing a cooperative vision for a successful CITES program in Canada for the future.

## **INTRODUCTION**

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 2006.

### ***Purpose of WAPPRIITA***

WAPPRIITA received royal assent on December 17, 1992, and came into force on May 14, 1996, when the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* took effect. 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, and by making it an offence to transport illegally obtained wildlife between provinces or territories or between Canada and other countries.

### ***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 obligations under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES). WAPPRIITA provides authority in Canada for regulation of trade in wild species (import, export, re-export) based on a system of permits, as required by the Convention. These permits can be issued if certain conditions are met, and they must be presented before consignments of specimens are allowed to leave or enter the country.

Canada was one of the original Parties to this international agreement in 1973; by the end of 2006 CITES had been adopted by 169 sovereign states. Two new Parties acceded to the Convention during 2006: Montenegro and Serbia.

CITES sets controls on the trade 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 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 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 I species. Many species with healthy populations within Canada, such as black bear and wolf, are listed in Appendix II for this purpose.
- Individual Parties may list species found within their borders in Appendix III in order to manage international trade in those species. Canada has listed the walrus in this appendix.

In Canada, all animals listed as fauna and all plants listed as flora in the three Appendices to the Convention appear in Schedule I of the Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations. CITES permits are issued by the CITES Management Authorities under WAPPRIITA.

### ***Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA***

Environment Canada is the federal government department responsible for administering and enforcing WAPPRIITA. As required by CITES, Canada has designated Convention Management Authorities who are responsible for issuing CITES permits (export, import, re-export) and advising on CITES administration. Under the Convention, Canada has also designated CITES Scientific Authorities, who advise on permit issuance and other scientific matters. Management and Scientific Authorities are located in Environment Canada (which hosts the national CITES office) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (for fish and marine mammals). The Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada advises on forest-related issues within CITES. In addition, Management and Scientific Authorities designated in each province and territory are responsible for wild species leaving their jurisdictions. Since 1995, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec have withdrawn from the CITES program.

Permits for exports from these regions are issued by Environment Canada. These changes have meant an increased workload for Environment Canada staff, and a greater challenge for those implementing CITES outside of a jurisdictional mandate.

Memoranda of understanding to support cooperative management, administration, and enforcement of WAPPRIITA have been established with Saskatchewan and Yukon (1997); Alberta, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories (1998); and British Columbia and Prince Edward Island (1999). Negotiations remain open to reach agreement on similar memoranda of understanding with the remaining jurisdictions. To provide for ticketing for WAPPRIITA offences under the *Contraventions Act*, the Department of Justice has reached agreement with Ontario (1996); Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick (1997); Manitoba (1998); Nova Scotia and Quebec (2000); and British Columbia (2006). Within budget limits, negotiations remain open to reach similar ticketing agreements with other provinces and territories.

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, as well as with provincial and territorial wildlife agencies. Customs officials play a key role at ports of entry, manually verifying and validating CITES permits and referring shipments to Environment Canada personnel for inspection.

## **PERMIT SYSTEM**

### ***CITES Permits***

CITES depends on international cooperation to regulate cross-border movement of wildlife through a global system of permits checked at international borders. In Canada, CITES permits are issued under the authority of WAPPRIITA. There are different permit requirements depending on the Appendix in which a species is listed. For example, an Appendix I species requires both an export permit from the exporting country and an import permit from the importing country, while an Appendix II species requires only an export permit.

Permit issuance occurs through federal, provincial, and territorial agencies according to their legislative mandate. Types of CITES permits that are issued by Canada are described in Table 1. Total permits issued in 2006 by Canadian jurisdictions are listed in Table 2.

**Table 1.** Types of Canadian CITES permits issued in 2006

Type of permit	Description
Export permit	Issued the first time a specimen is exported from the country of origin. Issued for species in all CITES appendices.
Re-export permit	Issued for specimens that have been previously issued an export permit. Issued for species in all CITES appendices.
Multiple-use permit	May be issued when the applicant intends to make multiple transactions during the period the permit is valid. May be for export, re-export or import; generally for trade in plants.
Import permit	Issued by the country of import for all Appendix I species. Must be issued before an export permit is issued.
Temporary movement permit	Issued to authorize travelling exhibitions for pre-CITES or captive-bred animals. Appendix I specimens also require an import permit.
Permit of ownership	Also known as a Pet Passport. These are issued for frequent cross-border movement of personally owned pets and are valid for three years.
Scientific permit	Issued to scientific institutions for Appendix I, II and III species and are valid for three years. May be used for preserved, dried, or embedded museum and herbarium specimens, and live plant material. May not be used for live animals.

**Table 2.** CITES export permits issued by Canadian jurisdiction in 2006

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits issued	Share of export permits issued (%)
<b>Federal</b>		
Environment Canada	3 118	43.0
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	159	2.2
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	21	0.3
<b>Provincial and territorial</b>		
British Columbia <sup>1</sup>	1 290	17.8
Manitoba	1 183	16.3
Ontario	868	12.0
New Brunswick	124	1.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	104	1.4
Yukon	150	2.1
Quebec <sup>1</sup>	99	1.4
Northwest Territories	95	1.3
Nova Scotia	40	0.5
Nunavut	7	0.1
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Alberta <sup>1</sup>	–	–
Saskatchewan <sup>1</sup>	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 258</b>	<b>100</b>

<sup>1</sup> Alberta (as of January 1, 1995) and Saskatchewan (as of July 1, 2004) do not issue CITES permits. Quebec officially stopped issuing permits on November 1, 2005; however, it issued several permits in January and February 2006. British Columbia does not issue permits involving exotic species.



Environment Canada Headquarters issues the following CITES permits:

- all import permits (which are for Appendix I listed species)
- all temporary movement permits for live animals (e.g. travelling circuses, pets)
- all scientific permits to registered scientific institutions
- multiple-use permits for import or export of plants or animals
- all export permits on behalf of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec
- all export permits for exotic species from British Columbia
- re-export permits for specimens that have been previously issued an export permit.

Environment Canada Ontario Region issues the following CITES permits:

- some export permits on behalf of Ontario (in agreement with the Province of Ontario)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues the following CITES permits:

- all export permits for fish and marine mammals

The provinces and territories (except as noted above for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and British Columbia [in the case of exotics]) issue CITES export permits for species (e.g. bear, wolf, and other furbearers) leaving their jurisdictions.

With the exception of Environment Canada, which issues all types of permits, the jurisdictions that issue permits do so for export or re-export only. In 2006, Environment Canada National Headquarters Office issued 2 193 export or re-export permits for animal species and 240 export permits for plant species, while Environment Canada Ontario Region and Environment Canada Quebec Region issued 342 and 343 export permits respectively. Environment Canada Headquarters also issued 15 temporary movement permits, 202 import permits, 80 pet passports (permits of ownership) and 36 scientific permits. The remaining export permits were issued by other federal departments or provinces and territories for a total of 7 258 export permits. Of the permits issued by Environment Canada Headquarters, 194 permits authorized multiple shipments, resulting in more than 15 000 individual shipments. Over 3 000 foreign export permits collected by Canada Border Services Agency from specimens being imported into Canada were returned to CITES Canada. This is a reduction of 22% from 2005.

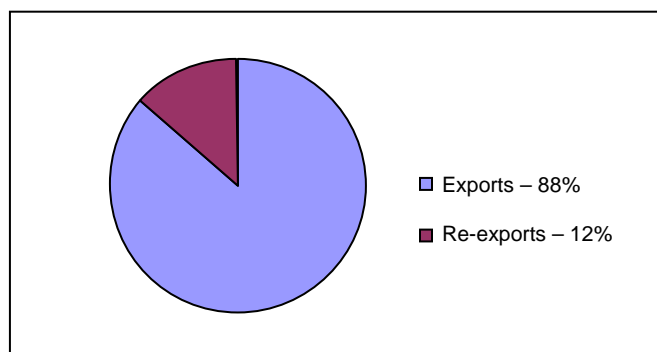
## WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

Analysis of specimens recorded on CITES permits shows that patterns of trade in 2006 were similar to those of other years. Canada's wildlife exports were primarily wild-harvested animals, artificially propagated specimens of native plants – mostly American ginseng – and exotic species of orchid and cactus, while imports were generally foreign species.

### *Export Permits*

Export permits are issued for Canadian specimens that appear first in trade, and therefore they are good indicators of Canada's wildlife resources traded under CITES. Considering the 7 258 export permits authorizing single shipments and including the more than 15 000 shipments made using the 194 permits authorizing multiple shipments in 2006, 22 516 shipments were authorized for export from Canada, while 3 085 shipments were authorized for re-export (see Figure 1). Exportations form 88% of total shipments, and re-exportations account for 12%.

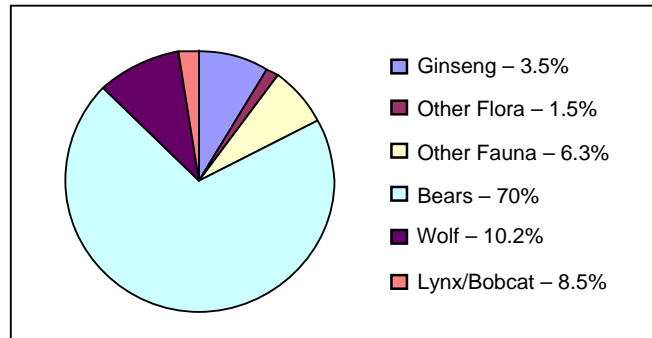
**Figure 1.** CITES shipments exported versus shipments re-exported from Canada in 2006



The majority of permits issued in 2006 for export were for bear (70%), wolf hunted or trapped in the wild (10.2%), Canada lynx and bobcat (8.5%), and American ginseng (3.5%) (Figure 2). Export permits issued for animals represented the vast majority of

export permits given out (over 95%). In terms of the number of individual shipments however, the majority of shipments (in the range of 15 000) were for artificially propagated plants (mostly cultivated American ginseng).

**Figure 2.** Approximate proportions of CITES export permits issued for Canadian fauna and flora in 2006



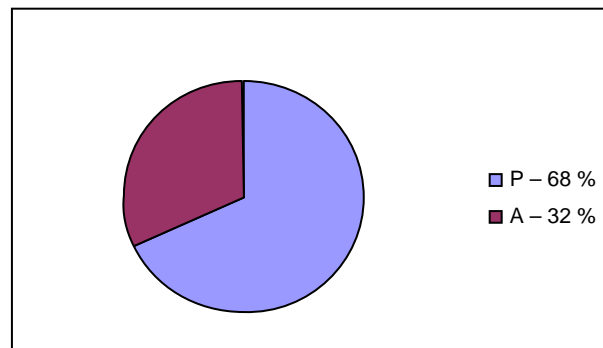
In contrast to animal exports, the majority of plant exports were for artificially propagated specimens. The main plant product produced for international trade was dried ginseng roots. Canada generates the third largest amount of ginseng products in the world, behind China and Korea, and it grows the most American ginseng, producing over 60% of the global output, all species considered. Other plants that were exported included species commonly found in commercial plant nurseries (e.g. cactus, orchid, carnivorous plants, etc.). A small percentage of trade was in wood veneers imported into Canada and re-exported as manufactured products.

### ***Multiple-Use Permits***

Multiple-use permits are valid for one year from the date of issue and are issued whenever the applicant intends to make a large number of shipments over a fixed period. In 2006, the majority of the approximately 5% of export permits that were issued for plants were multiple-use permits issued to nurseries and growers or distributors of ginseng. This contrasted with the export permits issued for animals, which were mainly for one-time use only. Figure 3 shows the number of shipments for plants (15 200 or

68%) compared to those for animals (7 200 or 32%). Slightly fewer than 200 permits were designated for multiple-use in 2006, and the bulk of them were for export or re-export.

**Figure 3.** Shipments of plants and animals from Canada in 2006



The 7% of multiple-use permits issued for animals tended to be for scientific or biomedical research and usually accounted for fewer than 10 shipments per permit. In contrast, the 93% of multiple-use permits issued for plants were for artificially propagated live plants or dried ginseng roots, accounting for more than 15 000 shipments, or over 68% of the total CITES trade by shipment exported from Canada in 2006. In the statistics from previous years, each shipment was counted as an individual permit.

### ***Our Trading Partners***

Canada's major trading partners under CITES, particularly for exports, are the United States, the 27 countries that make up the European Union, and countries of East and Southeast Asia.

In 2006, the United States was a major importer of live artificially propagated plants, particularly orchid and cactus. The largest importers of Canadian wild animal specimens in the European Union were Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Great Britain, and Sweden. Canada's most significant trade to Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, was artificially propagated ginseng: it accounted for most of Canada's foreign market for ginseng.

### *Types of Imports into Canada*

Canada collects and records data from CITES export permits issued by other countries that are submitted to Environment Canada at the time of entry into Canada. A wide variety of species and wildlife-related items were imported, including reptiles, primates, orchids, cacti, furs, and timber. A large quantity of the wildlife goods, mostly in the form of plant products, is imported into Canada from Asia.

## **ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE**

### *Non-Detriment Findings*

Countries exporting specimens of species listed on CITES Appendix I or Appendix II must provide a scientific determination that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This 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 standard for non-detriment findings, material providing guidance on how to prepare standing non-detriment findings has been prepared by the CITES Secretariat and IUCN – The World Conservation Union. Canada uses this material to structure non-detriment finding reports.

In 2006, a non-detriment finding report was completed for bobcat from Canada. The report was developed through a federal/provincial/territorial CITES authorities consultation and with the expert advice of the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee. The Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee endorsed the final report in October 2006, at which point it was made publicly available. In addition, in 2006 the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee provided expert advice for the upcoming

Canada lynx, wolf, and otter non-detriment finding reports. Work was also initiated on a polar bear non-detriment finding report in 2006.

### ***Review of Significant Trade in Specimens of Appendix II Species***

The significant trade review process was developed within CITES fora, specifically its Animal Committee and Plant Committee, to monitor trade on a global level, focusing on species where international trade is a concern and where evidence suggests efforts towards sustainable management could be improved.

During the twenty-first meeting of the CITES Animal Committee in 2005, it was proposed that the inclusion of narwhal in the significant trade process be considered. Concerns were raised by the European representative to the Animal Committee on sustainability of harvest, shift in the types of commodities in trade, and increase in the trade of whole tusks. It was clear in discussion that these concerns did not apply to Canada, but because a narwhal population is shared by Canada and Greenland, it was decided that all narwhal trade be reviewed to determine if a significant trade review of narwhal was merited. Canada, through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, provided the Animals Committee with information on the harvest and management of narwhal in Canada. The Animals Committee considered this information at the twenty-second meeting in June 2006 and concluded that a significant trade review of narwhal from Canada was not necessary.

## **COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT**

### ***Compliance Activities***

Compliance with WAPPRIITA is monitored by such means as checking permits, auditing importers' and exporters' declarations, conducting inspections at ports of entry, conducting routine or spot inspections of wildlife businesses, sharing information with the Canada Border Services Agency and other national and international agencies,

gathering intelligence, and following up on reports from the public (e.g. through Crime Stoppers).

Before April 1, 2006, Environment Canada recorded only those inspections that resulted in violations. After that date, Environment Canada began collecting data on all inspections, regardless of whether a suspected violation was detected. From April 1 to December 31, 2006, Environment Canada conducted over 5 000 inspections for WAPPRIITA.

Officers from all units participated in interviews and prepared media releases for television, radio, and print media.

### *Enforcement Activities*

Environment Canada regional enforcement officers conducted several training programs on WAPPRIITA for regional personnel in provincial and territorial agencies.

The wildlife intelligence program was initiated in 1999. By 2001, four regions and headquarters had full-time intelligence officers or intelligence analysts. From 2001 to 2006, the officers developed and shaped the program. The wildlife intelligence staff collected and analyzed information on importers, exporters, and those who were potentially involved in the illegal trade of wildlife. In 2006, intelligence officers were involved in the production of a report on the tiger trade for the CITES Secretariat. Environment Canada carried out 350 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife, under the provisions of the applicable federal, provincial/territorial, or foreign legislation. Most of these investigations concluded with the forfeiture and confiscation of goods and the issuance of a ticket.

Following are some examples of the many significant cases in 2006, including some that are precedents that were prosecuted or completed successfully.

### *Illegal Interprovincial Transport*

**R. v. four individuals.** The special investigation units of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Manitoba Conservation conducted an extensive investigation into the illegal trade of trophy-class big-game antlers by targets identified on both sides of the Manitoba–Saskatchewan border and into the United States. The following occurred after a two-year undercover investigation (2004–2005):

- **The first individual** was convicted of 22 counts under Saskatchewan’s *Wildlife Act, 1998* and seven counts under WAPPRIITA. The person pleaded guilty to all 29 counts against him. He was fined \$34 000 for the convictions under the Saskatchewan legislation and \$7 000 for the convictions under WAPPRIITA. He was sentenced to two years in a federal penitentiary and received a five-year hunting suspension.
- **The second individual** was convicted of three counts under Saskatchewan’s *Wildlife Act, 1998*, six counts under Manitoba’s *Wildlife Act* and *Wild Animal Parts Regulation* and three counts under WAPPRIITA. The person appeared in court in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba and was fined \$5 000 for the convictions under the Saskatchewan legislation, \$20 125 for the convictions under the Manitoba legislation, and \$22 125 for the convictions under WAPPRIITA. His sentences included a five-year hunting suspension from Saskatchewan, a two-year revocation of his wildlife dealer permit in Manitoba, and a WAPPRIITA court order that prohibited him from obtaining export, import, or interprovincial transportation permits for any animals or animal parts for two years.
- **The third individual** was convicted of one count under Saskatchewan’s *Wildlife Act, 1998*, four counts under Manitoba’s *Wildlife Act*, and two counts under WAPPRIITA. The person appeared in court in both Saskatchewan and Manitoba and was fined \$3 000 for the convictions under the Saskatchewan legislation, \$6 900 for the convictions under the Manitoba legislation, and \$11 500 for the convictions under WAPPRIITA. He received a five-year hunting suspension in Saskatchewan, and a two-year revocation of his wildlife dealer permit in Manitoba, as well as a



WAPPRIITA court order that prohibited him from obtaining export, import, or interprovincial transportation permits for any animals or animal parts for two years.

- **The fourth individual** was convicted of two counts under Saskatchewan's *Wildlife Act, 1998*, and appeared in court in Saskatchewan, where he was ordered to pay \$4 000 in fines.

The total fines for this case were \$113 650.

### ***Illegal Hunting***

In 2006, following a joint investigation by staff at Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and Environment Canada headquarters and Quebec Region, five Quebec residents were convicted of hunting illegally in Alberta and Saskatchewan; three were also found guilty of WAPPRIITA offences for illegally transporting unlawfully harvested wildlife between provinces. The file generated significant media attention in both Quebec and Alberta.

### ***Illegal Import of a Tortoise***

In 1999, wildlife enforcement officers seized an Egyptian tortoise (one of the most endangered tortoises in the world) that was being brought into Canada in contravention of CITES. The tortoise was purchased by a teenaged boy in a pet store in Israel with what the boy thought was the appropriate paperwork. However, the paperwork he received only satisfied the requirements of the Israeli agriculture ministry on export of the animal; he did not have the required CITES permits. He reported the tortoise to the Canada Border Services Agency on import and was very cooperative during the investigation. Due to all circumstances, it was decided by the officer, his manager, and the Department of Justice that charges would not be appropriate in this case.

The Halifax media covered the seizure thoroughly when it occurred. Eventually, the enforcement officers found a suitable home for the tortoise, named "Anthony," and donated it to Oaklawn Farm Zoo, a small zoo in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

The zoo obtained a mate for him, named “Cleopatra.” They successfully bred, and in 2006 three eggs hatched – a Canadian first. The Egyptian tortoise breeding program at Oaklawn Farm Zoo is the only breeding program of its kind in Canada.

### ***Illegal Import of Rugs***

A Toronto-based company and one of its co-owners were fined \$2250 in the Ontario Court of Justice (Provincial Division) after being found guilty on November 28, 2006, on charges of illegally importing from Ethiopia rugs made from monkey skins.

An investigation conducted by Environment Canada’s Wildlife Enforcement Division established that the accused unlawfully imported seven rugs in October 2004 made from skins of the black-and-white colobus monkey. These rugs were declared on customs documents as plastic rugs, and the accused later testified that he believed the rugs were made from goat skins.

The black-and-white colobus monkey is abundant in Ethiopia, but the trade in rugs made from this species is illegal there. Nevertheless, these types of rugs, used by Ethiopians as decorations, good luck symbols, and for religious ceremonies, continue to be sold locally. The rugs in this case, made from approximately 100 colobus monkey skins, had an estimated commercial value of between \$16 000 and \$18 000. This monkey is a threatened species listed under Appendix II of CITES. It is also protected under WAPPRIITA and its regulations. The accused did not obtain the Ethiopian CITES export permit required to legally import the monkey skin rugs into Canada.

The accused and the company were jointly charged under WAPPRIITA. The accused was ordered to pay a fine of \$1 000 plus a mandatory victim surcharge of \$125. The company was assessed identical penalties. The illegally imported rugs were forfeited to the Crown.

### ***Illegal Import of Sturgeon Meat***

November 14, 2006, a company was convicted of one count under section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA in the Ontario Court of Justice, Criminal Division in Brampton, Ontario following the entry of a guilty plea accompanied by an Agreed Statement of Facts. The

charge related to the unlawful import into Canada of sturgeon caviar from the Republic of Turkey in April 2005. A Republic of Turkey CITES re-export permit which accompanied the import did not accurately describe the sturgeon eggs present in the import. The latter was established through extensive use of DNA evidence. The corporation was fined \$3 000 and ordered to forfeit all caviar seized by Wildlife Enforcement Directorate during the course of this investigation – valued at \$305 000. Similar charges against the company’s president were withdrawn by the Crown following conviction.

### ***Other Illegal Activities and Importation under WAPPRIITA***

The weight-loss industry put significant pressure on CITES enforcement resources in 2006. A sudden influx of illegal shipments of hoodia gordonii, an Appendix II plant from southern Africa used as an appetite suppressant, began in May 2006 in Toronto and Vancouver and then spread to Montréal and Calgary. In all, nearly 3 000 shipments were intercepted and detained by Environment Canada and Canada Border Services Agency in 2006. The companies selling the threatened species placed radio advertisements in major metropolitan markets across the country extolling the alleged virtues of the plant and enticing customers to call toll-free numbers to order the weight-loss pills. Located outside Canada (most in the United States), the companies did not include with the packages the required CITES re-export permits, showing that the plants were obtained legally. A media release, issued by Environment Canada in August 2006 to inform the public and promote compliance, did little to stem the influx of the illegal product. Subsequent media interest happened during and after the Christmas season. In addition to the impact the illegal trade has had on the hoodia species, the result of the flood of the illegal product has been a backlog in inspections of up to one year in some locations.

In another case, on October 17, 2006, an individual was convicted of one count under subsection 6(2) of WAPPRIITA following a guilty plea and a Joint Submission on Conditional Sentence. The person’s unlawful activities focused on the possession, transportation, import, and export of numerous artifacts containing or wholly consisting of CITES Appendix I and Appendix II animal parts. The person made extensive use of eBay, a popular Internet auction site, to buy and sell endangered species throughout the

world. His unlawful activities became the subject of a joint investigation undertaken by Environment Canada and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The investigation culminated with the person's arrest in the City of New York by special agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The person was originally charged in Canada with 44 counts under WAPPRIITA and faced similar charges in the United States. The guilty plea in Canada resulted in a 12-month conditional jail sentence, four months of which was to be served under house arrest followed by an additional four months to be served under curfew; forfeiture of all artifacts seized as a result of a search warrant executed by Environment Canada; 200 hours of community service; immediate reporting to Environment Canada of all transactions that the accused might enter into relating to the import, export, possession, transportation, offer for sale, sale, or purchase of any endangered species of flora or fauna, or parts or derivatives thereof; and the maintenance of legible records of all transactions relating to endangered species, in addition to making available to the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate for inspection any computers used in relation to such transactions.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

### ***CITES Committees and Working Groups***

In 2006, Canada participated in a number of committees and working groups to ensure sustained cooperation with other partners in CITES, both regionally and internationally. These groups, which work towards more effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention and conservation of the wildlife resources in trade, include the following:

### ***Three Permanent Committees***

Canada participated in the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, the CITES Plants Committee, and the CITES Animals Committee. 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 important that Canadian concerns be heard in these fora.

The fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva from October 2 to 6, 2006, addressed a heavy agenda, including the CITES Strategic Plan for 2008 to 2013; preparation for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; financial matters; review of the scientific committees; and trade and conservation issues in species, including great ape, elephant, tiger, sturgeon, and bigleaf mahogany. Over 20 decisions and recommendations were adopted.

Canada was also very active in the work of both the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, participating in a number of key working groups, according to the priorities of our country and our role as alternate representative for North America on the Plants Committee. Among other things, Canada worked closely with the United States to provide suggested amendments to the regulation of trade in ginseng and goldenseal, two native North American medicinal plants, to ensure conservation goals are met while the administrative burden for commodities of lesser conservation concern is eased. The suggested amendments will be tabled for adoption at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

### ***National CITES Authorities Workshop***

Canada held its twenty-second National CITES Authorities Workshop in Ottawa from April 3 to 6, 2006. During two of the meeting days, participants received updates on several CITES-related issues, including the CITES permits database, proposed regulatory changes to WAPPRIITA, national standing non-detriment findings, and preparations for key CITES committee meetings and for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. During the one remaining day, participants identified elements of a renewed national CITES program, a first step in developing a cooperative vision for a successful CITES program in Canada.

### ***North American Regional Meetings***

In 2006, Environment Canada staff represented Canada when they gathered with North American counterparts from the United States and Mexico at the Eleventh Meeting of the

Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. CITES Management, Scientific, and Enforcement Authorities shared information via the committee's CITES and Law Enforcement working tables. The agenda included preparatory work for the CITES twenty-second Animals Committee and sixteenth Plants Committee meetings, the CITES fifty-fourth Standing Committee meeting, and the CITES Fourteenth Conference of the Parties; the Saguaro project (Saguara is a cactus species), the Zero Export Quota, the relationship between *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation, public outreach at international boundaries, and a Scientific Authorities workshop on non-detriment findings. Since a significant volume of Canada's wildlife trade occurs between countries in the CITES North American Region – Canada, the United States, and Mexico – cooperation with our regional partners is essential.

### ***International Tropical Timber Organization***

On the invitation of the International Tropical Timber Organization, a representative from the Canada Border Services Agency attended an Expert Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Inclusion of Ramin in Appendix II of CITES held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 16 to 19, 2006.

The four objectives of the meeting were these: (i) to exchange accounts of experiences connected with including ramin in Appendix II of CITES, including undertaking non-detriment findings and implementing training on identification and relevant CITES procedures; (ii) to review recent trade figures and data submitted to CITES, experiences in tracking a full range of products, and measurement and reporting issues; (iii) to identify and examine problems and issues relating to the implementation of the inclusion of ramin in Appendix II of CITES; and (iv) to recommend follow-up actions for countries, CITES, and the International Tropical Timber Organization to improve the implementation of the inclusion of ramin in Appendix II of CITES.

### ***International Sturgeon Enforcement Workshop to Combat Illegal Trade in Caviar***

The International Sturgeon Enforcement Workshop to Combat Illegal Trade in Caviar was organized and hosted by the European Commission from June 27 to 29, 2006, in Brussels, Belgium, on behalf of CITES and with the assistance of the CITES Secretariat, TRAFFIC (a joint program of the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature) and WWF (World Wildlife Fund).

The aim of the workshop was to bring together law enforcement authorities from caviar-producing states, consumer and transit countries, and representatives from relevant international organizations to identify the main problems relating to the illegal trade in caviar and to outline possible approaches to combat poaching and illegal trade in caviar. The workshop was attended by more than 120 people from 34 key caviar-trading countries and organizations, such as the CITES Secretariat, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, Europol, and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). Canada sent one representative each from its CITES Management Authority Office and from its Wildlife Enforcement Directorate.

In discussing key measures to tackle illegal trade in caviar, participants acknowledged that the conservation of sturgeon species needs to be approached in a holistic way, addressing trade, habitat, and management of the species while also taking livelihood issues into account. Furthermore, many participants highlighted the need to avoid, where possible, total prohibitions of legal trade in order not to encourage illegal trade in caviar and other sturgeon products. In addition, participants underlined the importance of CITES measures to improve the control and monitoring of the trade in caviar and to combat illegal trade.

### ***Interpol Wildlife Working Group***

In February 1994, the Interpol Sub-Group on Wildlife Crime was created by various Interpol members representing several CITES member countries. The objective of the group was to meet on a regular basis and exchange enforcement ideas and strategies on how Interpol could assist in maintaining and supporting an international network of

enforcement contacts having expertise in wildlife crime. As a result of a restructuring in October 1998, the group was renamed the “Interpol Wildlife Working Group.”

The working group adopted objectives to establish a worldwide network of regional contacts. It identified particular individuals for this task and drafted other related initiatives such as a mission statement and a proposal that the Interpol international computerized information network be used. Using the network broadened and strengthened support for international and multi-jurisdictional investigations related to wildlife crime.

Over the subsequent four years, the Interpol Wildlife Working Group has achieved many successes in the fight against organized crime and the international smuggling of wildlife, including the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in 1998 between Interpol and the CITES Secretariat. In 2006, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate maintained contact with the Interpol Wildlife Working Group and continued to communicate on major investigations.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

More information about WAPPRIITA is available on the CITES–Canada website at [www.cites.ec.gc.ca](http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca) or from the following:

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