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

Annual Report for 2009



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

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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.
- Canada prepared for the 15th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP15).
- A non-detriment finding report on the Polar Bear was completed and approved by the Minister of the Environment.
- A total of 51 669 export shipments of wild specimens, products and derivatives were made in 2009.
 - Canadian jurisdictions issued 6765 CITES export permits and re-export certificates in 2009, resulting in 38 621 shipments of wildlife specimens, products and derivatives.
 - An additional 13 048 shipments occurred in 2009 under 115 permits issued in 2008 and 73 permits issued in 2007.
 - The majority of the shipments in 2009 consisted of artificially propagated plants—cultivated American Ginseng followed by cacti. For mammals, specimens of the American Black Bear accounted for the majority of exports.
 - Of the 6765 export permits and re-export certificates, 603 permits were designated for multiple shipments, accounting for more than 30 000 shipments.
- In 2009, 275 import permits were issued, representing an increase of 48% over the number of permits issued in 2008.
- Environment Canada investigations led to two major convictions under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA)—one for the possession of tiger derivatives with intent to sell or trade; the other for the possession of altered permits and the unlawful export of animal parts from Canada.

1 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 2009.

1.1 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).

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 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 I species. Many species with healthy populations within Canada, such as black bears and wolves, 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.

Canada was one of the original Parties to this international agreement in 1973; by the end of 2009, CITES had been adopted by 175 sovereign states. Armenia acceded to the Convention in 2008 and entered it into force in 2009. Two new Parties,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, acceded to the Convention and brought it into force during 2009.

WAPPRIITA, which provides the authority in Canada for the regulation of trade in wild species, received Royal Assent on December 17, 1992, and came into force on May 14, 1996, when the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (WAPTR) 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, 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 lists 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 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.

1.2 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, re-export and import) and advising on the administration of CITES. 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 in Environment Canada (which hosts the national CITES office), in Fisheries and Oceans Canada (for fish and marine mammals) and in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (for 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/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=0BB0663F-1.

The authority for the trade in wildlife species varies across the provinces and territories. Memoranda of understanding to support cooperative management, administration and enforcement of WAPPRIITA currently exist between the federal government and Yukon, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. Agreements on similar memoranda of understanding with Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut remain to be negotiated. Although memoranda of understanding had been established with Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Manitoba, these provinces no longer support the cooperative management and administration of the CITES program, and therefore the arrangements with these jurisdictions need to be renegotiated.

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

The withdrawal of the four provinces from the administration of CITES has meant an increase in the number of CITES permits issued by Environment Canada.

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.

Environment Canada has 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 as regards 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 Canada 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 system

2.1.1 Permitting system overview

CITES depends on international cooperation to regulate cross-border movement of wildlife through a global system of permits that are verified at international borders. In Canada, CITES permits are issued under 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 that are issued by Canada are described in Table 1.

Environment Canada's National Office issues all import permits; all export permits on behalf of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec; and all export and import permits for non-indigenous species from British Columbia.

Table 1. Types of Canadian CITES permits and certificates.

Type of permit or certificate	Description
Export permit	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of 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 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 WAPTR for which it is indicated that they are included in CITES Appendix I, and for specimens of species that are included in Schedule II of WAPTR. Must be issued before an export permit is issued. Import permits are valid for up to one year.
Temporary movement certificate	Issued for specimens that are only temporarily imported into Canada and which will, within a limited amount of time, be re-exported to the country of origin. Authorization is provided for circus specimens that are either pre-Convention or captive bred / 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.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues the majority of the export permits that involve fish and marine mammals.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency issues phytosanitary certificates that allow the export of artificially propagated plants species included in Schedule I of WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III. Nurseries that export large quantities of artificially propagated plants of a variety of CITES 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 CITES export permits for indigenous species leaving their jurisdictions. The provincial or territorial jurisdiction issuing the CITES export permit may not necessarily be the jurisdiction where the specimen was collected. For example, if a Polar Bear hunted in Nunavut were exported provincially to a taxidermist in Ontario, Ontario would issue the

CITES export permit when that Polar Bear was in turn exported from Ontario to another jurisdiction.

2.1.2 Improvements to monitoring and security of CITES permits

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. Scientific permits continue to be processed through the original system.

The updated CEPS is a step forward within the larger e-permitting initiative that is currently ongoing at Environment Canada. This e-permitting initiative consists of developing an infrastructure by which an individual will be able to apply online for wildlife-related permits issued by Environment Canada.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2009

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 are being exported from Canada for the first time. Export permits are therefore good indicators of Canada's wildlife resources traded under CITES. In 2009, Canada issued 5372 export permits. The wildlife exports authorized under those permits consisted primarily of artificially propagated specimens of native plants—mostly American Ginseng—and wild-harvested animals—mainly the American Black Bear.

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 to Canada under the authorization of export permits issued by foreign states, and then re-exported from Canada. During 2009, Canada issued 1393 re-export certificates.

In total, 6765 export permits and re-export certificates were issued by Canada in 2009, serving to authorize 38 621 shipments in 2009. An additional 13 048 shipments occurred in 2009 under 115 permits issued in 2008 and 73 permits in 2007. Therefore, there were a total of 51 669 shipments in 2009.

Table 2 shows the number of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2009 by each Canadian jurisdiction. Please note that the jurisdiction issuing the export permits may not necessarily be the jurisdiction where the specimen was collected.

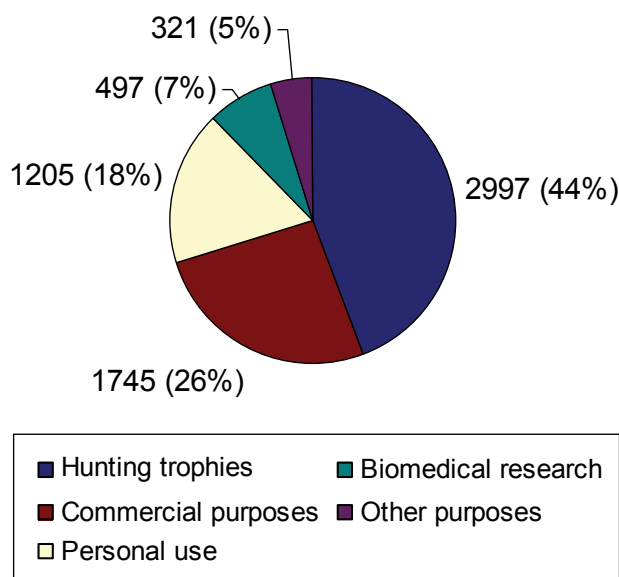
Table 2. CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued by Canadian jurisdictions in 2009.

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	4032	59.6
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	192	2.8
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	30	0.4
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia*	1349	20.0
Ontario	815	12.1
Yukon	143	2.1
Newfoundland and Labrador	137	2.0
Northwest Territories	34	0.5
Nova Scotia	21	0.3
New Brunswick	12	0.2
Nunavut	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0
Quebec*	—	—
Alberta*	—	—
Saskatchewan*	—	—
Manitoba*	—	—
TOTAL	6765	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 6765 export permits and re-export certificates that were authorized in 2009, 2997 (44.3%) were for hunting trophies, 1745 (25.8%) for commercial purposes, 1205 (17.8%) for personal use, 497 (7.3%) for biomedical research, 79 (1.2%) for scientific research, 62 (0.9%) for zoos, 61 (0.9%) for circuses and travelling exhibitions, and 119 (1.8%) for other purposes. Figure 1 shows the number of wildlife exports by purpose for 2009.

Figure 1. Numbers and purposes of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2009.



Export permits and re-export certificates can authorize the export of more than one specimen and of more than one species, and must list the species and their parts or derivatives that are authorized. In 2009, plant species accounted for the majority of species listed on export permits and re-export certificates. Topping the list of exported plant species was artificially propagated American Ginseng followed by various cacti specimens such as the Chin Cactus, the Golden Star Cactus, the Golden Barrel Cactus, cacti hybrids, the Toothpick Cactus and the Golden Ball Cactus. The mammal specimens listed on export permits and re-export certificates included the American Black Bear, the Grey Wolf, the Bobcat, the Canadian Lynx, the Grizzly Bear, the Polar Bear, the Northern River Otter, the Cougar, the Brown Spectacled Caiman and the American Alligator. These mammal specimens can be used in the fur trade, as hunting trophies or by the manufacturing sector (e.g., to make boots).

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 a large number of transactions over a fixed period.

Of the 6765 export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2009, 603 were designated for multiple shipments. These 603 permits served to authorize over 30 000 shipments. The largest share of export permits for multiple shipments were issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng and to nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants.

2.2.3 Multiple shipment stickers

In 2007, the national CITES Management Authority implemented a new, simplified permitting procedure for the export of small quantities of artificially propagated American Ginseng (up to 4.5 kg for personal use), allowing each shipment to be accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized.

In 2009, artificially propagated American Ginseng exported with permit stickers accounted for over 25% of the total 38 621 shipments.

2.2.4 Imports into Canada

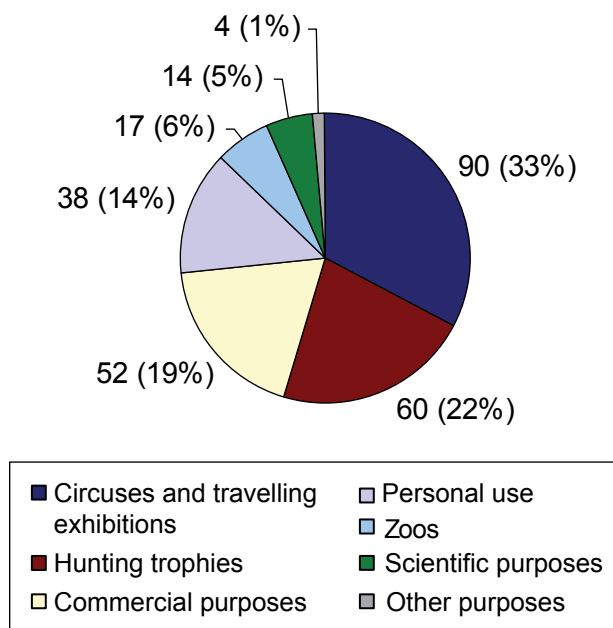
Canada collects data from CITES export permits issued by other countries, which are submitted to Environment Canada at the time of import into Canada. Canada issued 275 import permits in 2009, all of which were for wild-harvested, artificially propagated or captive-bred specimens of species listed in Schedule I of WAPTR and in CITES Appendix I, or specimens of species listed in Schedule II of WAPTR.

A wide variety of species, as well as their parts or derivatives, were imported in 2009, including reptiles, primates, orchids, cacti, furs and timber. A large proportion of wildlife goods imported to Canada, mostly in the form of plant products, originated from Asia.

Some specimens imported into Canada do not require an import permit. These specimens are listed in Schedule I of WAPTR and in CITES Appendix II or III, and are not listed in Schedule II of WAPTR. The foreign export permits are collected by the Canada Border Services Agency and submitted to the national CITES Canada office of Environment Canada.

Figure 2 provides the number of CITES import permits issued by purpose for 2009. Note that the value provided for commercial purposes mainly represents artificially propagated plants, pre-convention specimens and captive-bred specimens.

Figure 2. Numbers and purposes of CITES import permits issued in 2009.



2.3 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 the countries of East and Southeast Asia.

In 2009, 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, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Great Britain and Sweden. The species most commonly exported from Canada to Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, was artificially propagated American Ginseng, 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 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 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 and, 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 (IUCN). Canada uses this material to structure non-detriment finding reports.

In 2009, a non-detriment finding report was completed for the Polar Bear. The report was developed through a federal-provincial-territorial CITES authorities working group in collaboration with Aboriginal groups and the Polar Bear Administrative Committee, which makes coordinated decisions on the management of Polar Bears in Canada and ensures that Canada fulfills its obligations as party to the international Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. The report determined that the export of legally obtained harvested Polar Bear 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. The report was approved by the Minister of the Environment and published on the CITES-Canada website in December 2009 (www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=A3CDEAD8-1).

3.2 Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species

The significant trade review process was developed within CITES to monitor trade on a global level. The process focuses on species for which international trade is a concern and for which evidence suggests efforts towards sustainable management could be improved. Fundamental to the goal of CITES, and a primary role of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee, this multiple-staged process requires countries to demonstrate sustainable trade and can result in global trade restrictions for a species or restrictions being imposed on individual countries. No Canadian species were selected in 2009 by either the Plants Committee or the Animals Committee.

4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

4.1 Compliance verification and promotion

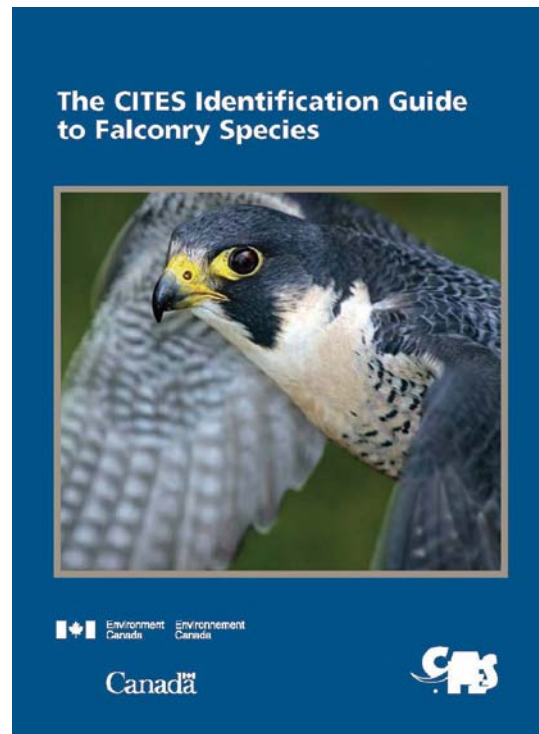
Environment Canada works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners to ensure compliance with WAPPRIITA. These partners include the Canada Border Services Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and provincial and territorial law enforcement bodies and conservation authorities. Work is underway to develop and implement memoranda of understanding with several partners and to conduct joint inspection activities and border blitzes at international ports of entry and interprovincial borders.

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 from the public.

Environment Canada is an active partner on the international stage in promoting and verifying compliance with CITES. In 2009, Canada hosted a CITES e-commerce workshop in Vancouver (see section 4.2.2 of this report).

Environment Canada also published species identification sheets for new CITES listings and the *CITES Identification Guide to Falconry Species*. These products complement the existing Environment Canada CITES Identification Guide series (www.ec.gc.ca/nature/default.asp?lang=En&n=BC44938E-1), which includes guides for the following taxa:

- birds
- butterflies
- crocodilians
- turtles and tortoises
- sturgeons and paddlefish
- hunting trophies
- tropical woods
- amphibians



Cover of the *CITES Identification Guide to Falconry Species*

Environment Canada worked to promote compliance with WAPPRIITA in 2009 through displays at key airports, the dissemination of informational brochures, and online information regarding the regulatory requirements.

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

In 2009, the focus of Environment Canada's Compliance Promotion Program was on enhancing coordination and increasing capacity. Work began on the development of a framework for the Program. The overall goal of the framework is to build a foundation for the Compliance Promotion Program and to strengthen the coordination of efforts across the country in support of WAPPRIITA as well as all other wildlife legislation administered by Environment Canada.

To further support the delivery of compliance promotion, a process to staff compliance promotion positions across Canada began in 2009.

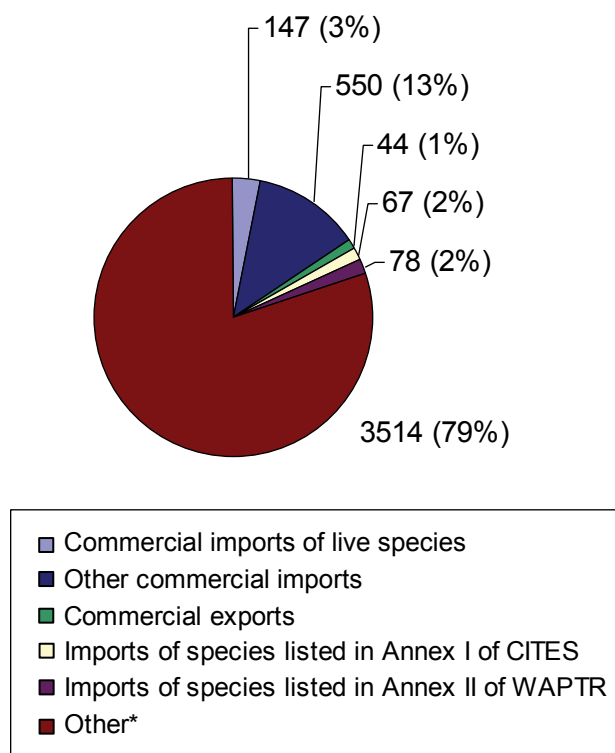
4.2 Law enforcement activities

In its 2007 budget, the Government of Canada allocated funds to Environment Canada for the recruitment and training of new law enforcement officers over a two-year period. In 2009, Environment Canada trained a new cohort of wildlife officers through a newly developed training program. This six-week training program includes training on CITES and WAPPRIITA, as well as other legislation relevant to wildlife enforcement.

4.2.1 Inspections

Environment Canada conducted 4400 inspections under WAPPRIITA in 2009. Inspection priorities included species listed in CITES Appendix I, commercial activities, live species and species listed under Schedule II of WAPTR (i.e., species harmful to the Canadian ecosystem). Figure 3 shows the breakdown of inspections by priority.

Figure 3. Number of inspections conducted in 2009 by national priority.



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

4.2.2 Intelligence

Environment Canada's wildlife intelligence program gathers operational and tactical intelligence to support investigation and inspection programs; it also involves data gathering and strategic analyses to monitor national and international trends.

E-commerce of specimens of CITES-listed species

At the 2007 Conference of the Parties (CoP14), participants formulated a recommendation to study the use of the Internet as a tool in the illicit wildlife trade. CITES authorities asked Canada to organize and host an international e-commerce workshop to examine Internet use for the trade in CITES-listed species throughout signatory nations. This workshop, which was held from February 24 to 26, 2009, was attended by 15 Parties (including Canada, the United States and the European Community), the INTERPOL General Secretariat, the World Customs Organization, six environmental non-governmental organizations and representatives from eBay, an

online auction Internet site. Participants were divided into two working groups. One examined the problems or issues associated with monitoring and regulating legal trade in wildlife facilitated by the Internet or associated with e-commerce. The other examined the problems or issues associated with combating illegal trade in wildlife facilitated by the Internet or associated with e-commerce.

4.2.3 Investigations

In 2009, under the provisions of applicable federal, provincial/territorial, or foreign legislation, Environment Canada investigated 339 incidents of poaching or trafficking involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife. The majority of these investigations resulted in the forfeiture of goods and in court fines.

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

Conviction for the illegal possession of tiger derivatives with the intent to sell or trade

In February 2009, a British Columbia company received a \$45,000 fine after pleading guilty in provincial court to illegally possessing medicine containing tiger parts for the purpose of selling or offering for sale.

The company was also ordered to forfeit the medicine and products seized as part of the investigation. The medicine and products were made from some of the rarest species on the planet, namely tiger, costus root, agarwood, bear, pangolin, musk deer and rhinoceros. All of these species are protected under CITES.

The penalty imposed in this case was commensurate with the level of endangerment of the species concerned as well as the commercial quantities involved. This is the first conviction in Canada under WAPPRIITA for the offence of possessing tiger. Of the \$45,000 fine imposed in this case, \$40,000 was directed by the court to the TRAFFIC Network—the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) wildlife trade monitoring program. This joint WWF and IUCN program seeks to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten nature conservancy.

TRAFFIC works in close cooperation with the CITES Secretariat.

Discovery of altered permits leading to guilty pleas after wildlife enforcement investigation

An Environment Canada investigation dubbed “Operation Trophy Tales” led to the discovery of false copies of export permits originally issued by South Africa and Zimbabwe under CITES. These falsified documents were used to obtain Canadian permits under CITES. The offender then used these illegally acquired permits to export lion hunting trophies to the United States in 2007 and 2008.

The 15-month investigation concluded in December 2009, with the accused pleading guilty to three counts of knowingly furnishing false or misleading information and three counts of unlawfully exporting animal parts from Canada. The charges are related to three African lion hunting trophies originating from South Africa and Zimbabwe. Total fines in this case amounted to \$18,000 (\$3,000 per charge). The offender was given 12 months to pay the fines.

In addition, the offender was ordered to provide notice to Environment Canada prior to importing any hunting trophy subject to regulatory control. The court also ordered the offender to return directly to Environment Canada all original permits obtained from foreign authorities for the purpose of importing hunting trophies into Canada.

5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties

Canada will participate in the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15), in Doha, Qatar, in March 2010. Proposals to amend the CITES Appendices by adding or removing species, or changing trade conditions for species, will be considered at the CoP. Canada's objectives heading into CoP15 are to seek consistency between CoP decisions and Canadian environmental policy, and to highlight Canadian approaches and successes in sustainable wildlife management.

In August 2009, in preparation for CoP15, government and non-governmental organizations and interested members of the public were invited to recommend proposals for submission by Canada. Environment Canada received a proposal and an analysis supporting the transfer of the Polar Bear from CITES Appendix II, where monitoring of international trade through CITES processes is necessary, to Appendix I, where no international commercial trade is allowed for species considered to be threatened with extinction and clearly impacted by international trade. Environment Canada also received a letter supporting the addition of Spotted Turtle to CITES Appendix II. After careful consideration of these recommendations, of the CITES listing criteria and of Canada's regulations, policies and management for these species, the proposals were not submitted by Canada for inclusion on the CoP15 agenda.

Environment Canada, with other federal partners, developed and 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.

In December 2009, a public meeting was held to discuss all proposals on the CoP15 agenda.

Additional information on the Conference of the Parties is available on the CITES Secretariat website (www.cites.org).

5.2 CITES committees and working groups

Canada participated in a number of committees and working groups (e.g., the CITES Working Group on E-commerce) to foster ongoing cooperation with international partners under the Convention. Canada also participated in the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, the CITES Plants Committee and the CITES Animals Committee.

Canada continued to serve as the representative for the North American region on the CITES Standing Committee. The 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva from

July 6 to 10, 2009, addressed a heavy agenda, including arrangements for the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme and the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II, as well as trade and conservation issues of specific species including Asian big cats, elephants and rhinoceroses.

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 Canada's priorities and the country's role as alternate representative for North America on the Plants 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 therefore important that Canadian concerns be heard in these fora.

5.3 Regional and North American partners

North American Wildlife Enforcement Group

Environment Canada is directly involved in the work of the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG). The group was established in 1995 to optimize wildlife protection efforts in Canada, the United States and Mexico by promoting sharing of expertise, information and resources and by facilitating the creation of multi-party agreements among the various organizations. To reach its objectives, the group also works closely with other cooperative law enforcement programs and the Council for Environmental Cooperation. The three member countries take turns chairing NAWEG. In 2009, the United States hosted the event, which was held in Laredo, Texas.

The objectives of the 2009 NAWEG meeting can be broken down into three key points: analysis of the status of wildlife trade among the three countries; establishment of priorities, strategies and action plans to eradicate illegal activities across international borders; and development and implementation of concrete partnerships to address priority issues.

Several organizations made presentations that gave participants the opportunity to draw on the expertise developed by foreign organizations to broaden their knowledge and improve their skills. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, including the basics of intelligence gathering, investigative techniques and procedures specific to online trade, and sample frameworks for the development of multi-party work agreements.

Participants identified wildlife protection priorities for each country, including intelligence and investigative requirements associated with each priority. Areas of common concern were identified and analyzed for the development of potential future cooperation agreements. The meeting also facilitated the development of tools to promote information sharing and cooperation in the field among the three countries.

Other partners

In 2009, Environment Canada signed a memorandum of understanding with the North American office of TRAFFIC, outlining the roles and responsibilities of both organizations when joint projects and collaborative work are undertaken.

5.4 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 brainstorm on law enforcement, strategies, and ways in which INTERPOL can help maintain and support an international network of law enforcement experts specializing in wildlife crimes.

The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group met from September 23 to 27, 2009, at the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Manaus, Brazil, at the same time as the INTERPOL Working Group on Environmental Crime. Environment Canada maintained its participation in the planning phase of an INTERPOL training program on inspections, investigations, and intelligence specific to wildlife crimes in French-speaking African countries.

Environment Canada also participated actively with other countries in a joint process to fight environmental crime through the establishment of a global operational inspection and investigation service designed to reduce the import and export of species subject to CITES regulations.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-1840
Fax: 819-953-6283

Email: cites@ec.gc.ca