



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

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

Annual Report for 2007



Canada 

Front cover photos:

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) © Andrée Nault, Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) © Gordon Court, Southern grey wolf (*Canis lupus nubilus*) © Gordon Court

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada's participation in the successful 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2007 included broad consultations with other federal, provincial and territorial agencies; non-governmental organizations; wildlife trade associations; industry representatives; and others. Voting and subsequent decisions made at the meeting reflected increased attention on high-profile species such as sharks and commercial tree species and emphasized the importance of the criteria used to list a species in CITES.
- Canada continued to represent the North American region on the CITES Standing Committee, as it has done since 2004.
- Canadian jurisdictions issued 6 999 CITES/WAPPRIITA export permits in 2007, resulting in 17 782 shipments of wildlife specimens, products and derivatives.
 - Of the 6 999 export permits issued, 145 permits were designated for multiple (two or more) shipments. Export permits designated for multiple shipments accounted for 10 783 shipments, or 60 per cent of all shipments in 2007.
 - The majority of permits issued in 2007 for export were for mammals, with bear, wolf, coyote, bobcat and Canada lynx being the most exported mammals, while most of the export permits for plants were for artificially propagated plants (mostly cultivated American ginseng).
- Environment Canada conducted over 3 000 WAPPRIITA-related inspections in 2007, more than a third of which were associated with a product called *Hoodia gordonii*, a CITES Appendix II plant species.
- Environment Canada carried out 500 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 confiscation and forfeiture of goods and/or the issuance of a ticket; however, many significant cases were also successfully prosecuted and are detailed in the report.
- In response to a recommendation made at the 14th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties held in June, a major intelligence project was initiated to examine the use of the Internet as a tool in the fight against the illegal trade of wildlife.
- The national network of 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.
 - In 2007, non-detriment finding reports were completed for Canada lynx as well as American ginseng and goldenseal, highly traded medicinal plants from Canada, and work continued in 2007 on a non-detriment finding report for polar bear.
- The national CITES Management Authority, in cooperation with the national CITES Scientific Authority, initiated the development of a CITES electronic permitting system (CEPS), resulting in a working prototype of CEPS in 2007.

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 2007.

1.1 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.

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 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 and certificates, as required by the Convention. These permits and certificates 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 2007 CITES had been adopted by 172 sovereign states. Two new Parties acceded to the Convention during 2007: Solomon Islands and Kyrgyzstan.

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 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 and plants listed 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.

1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA

Environment Canada is the federal government department responsible for administering and enforcing WAPPRIITA. As required by CITES, Canada has designated national Management Authorities which are responsible for issuing CITES permits and certificates (export, import, re-export) and advising on CITES administration. Under the Convention, Canada has also designated national Scientific Authorities, which advise on registration, non-detriment findings 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 are also located in a number of provinces and territories and are responsible for issuing permits and tracking wild species that are exported from their jurisdictions. Permits for exports from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec are issued by Environment Canada, which creates 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 were established with Saskatchewan and Yukon (1997); Alberta, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories (1998); and British Columbia and Prince Edward Island (1999). Because some provinces no longer support the cooperative management and administration of the CITES program, the memoranda of understanding for those jurisdictions have to be revisited. Negotiations on similar memoranda of understanding with the remaining jurisdictions remain open. To provide for ticketing for WAPPRIITA offences under the *Contraventions Act*, the Department of Justice Canada has signed agreements 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 on reaching ticketing agreements with other provinces and territories remain open.

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 CITES permits and referring shipments to Environment Canada personnel for inspection.

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 which are verified 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.

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 headquarters issues all import permits; all export permits on behalf of Alberta, Manitoba (as of December 15, 2007), Saskatchewan and Quebec; and all export permits and import permits for non-indigenous species from British Columbia.

Environment Canada Ontario Region issues some export permits on behalf of Ontario (through an agreement with the Province of Ontario).

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

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 (e.g. bear, wolf and other furbearers) leaving their jurisdictions. The provincial or territorial jurisdictions issuing the CITES export permits are not necessarily the same as those governing the take of the specimens. 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 CITES national Management Authorities, in cooperation with the national CITES Scientific Authorities, initiated the development of a CITES electronic permitting system (CEPS) in 2007; a working prototype of CEPS has been launched for testing and evaluation. Two applications are therefore currently being used for issuing permits: the CITES permits system and CEPS.

Also in 2007, the national Management Authorities continued to improve the security requirements of the permitting program by using new security paper in the production of permits. This security paper does not allow an original permit to be reproduced via a photocopier, as it embeds the word “unofficial copy” in the photocopy.

Table 1. Types of Canadian CITES permits issued in 2007.

Type of permit or certificate	Description, including examples of the purposes for permits
Export permit	Issued to authorize a specimen to be exported from the country of origin, for species in any of the CITES Appendices. 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 a maximum of one year.
Re-export certificate	After a specimen (animal, plant, their parts or derivatives) has been exported from one country to another, as authorized by an export permit, a re-export certificate is required to then authorize the export of this specimen from the latter country to a third country. Re-export certificates are valid for up to a maximum of one year.
Import permit	Issued by the country of import for all Appendix I species. Must be issued before an export permit is issued. Import permits are valid for up to a maximum of one year.
Temporary movement certificate	Issued to authorize travelling exhibitions for pre-CITES or captive-bred animals. Appendix I specimens require both an import permit and an export permit. Temporary movement certificates are valid for up to a maximum of three years.
Certificate of ownership	Issued to authorize frequent cross-border movement of personally owned pets (also known as a Pet Passport). Certificates of ownership are valid for up to a maximum of three years.
Scientific certificate	Issued to scientific institutions for Appendix I, II and III species. May be used for preserved, dried or embedded museum and herbarium specimens, and live plant material. May not be used for live animals. Scientific certificates are valid for up to a maximum of three years.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2007

Analysis of specimens recorded on CITES permits shows that patterns of trade in 2007 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 non-indigenous species of cactus.

2.2.1 Export permits and re-export certificates

Export permits are issued by Canada for specimens (animal, plants, their parts or derivatives) of CITES-listed species that have originated in Canada, and that are being exported from Canada for the first time. Export permits are therefore good indicators of Canada's wildlife resources traded under CITES. In 2007, 6 999 export permits were issued, serving to authorize 17 782 shipments.

The number of CITES export permits issued in 2007 by Canadian jurisdictions is presented in Table 2. Please note that the jurisdictions issuing the export permits are not necessarily the same as those governing the take of the specimens.

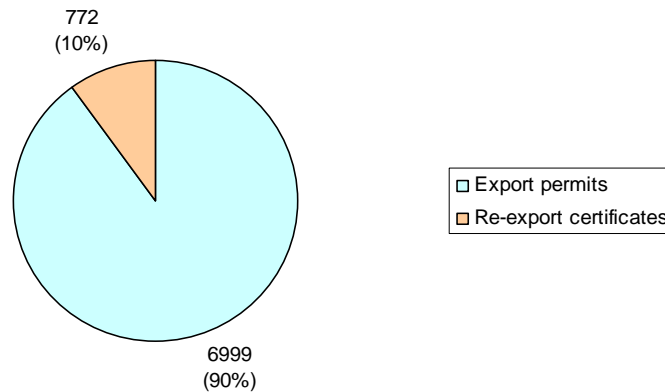
Table 2. CITES export permits issued by Canadian jurisdiction in 2007.

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits issued	Share of export permits issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	3 118	44.55
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	138	1.97
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	9	0.13
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia*	1 510	21.57
Manitoba*	1 114	15.91
Ontario	765	10.93
Yukon	148	2.11
Newfoundland and Labrador	77	1.10
Northwest Territories	70	1.00
New Brunswick	26	0.37
Nova Scotia	22	0.31
Nunavut	2	0.03
Prince Edward Island	0	–
Quebec*	–	–
Alberta*	–	–
Saskatchewan*	–	–
TOTAL	6 999	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) do not issue CITES permits. British Columbia does not issue permits involving non-indigenous species. CITES permits for exports from these regions are issued by Environment Canada.

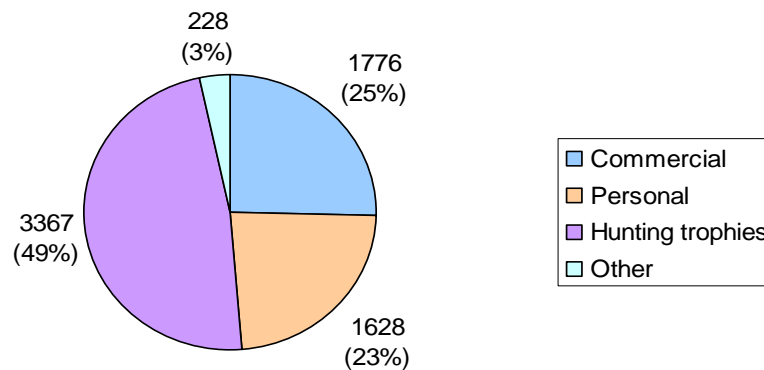
In addition to tracking the trade of specimens of wildlife species originating within Canada, the issuance of re-export certificates allows the tracking of specimens that were imported to Canada under the authorization of export permits (issued by foreign states), and that are then re-exported from Canada. During 2007, 772 re-export certificates were issued.

Figure 1. Number of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2007.



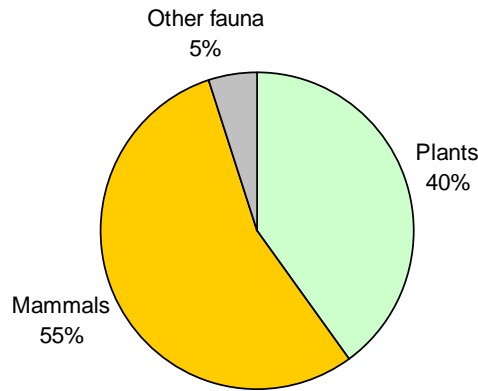
Of the 6 999 export permits issued in 2007, 1 776 (25.4 per cent) permits were for commercial purposes, 1 628 (23.3 per cent) were for personal use, 3 367 (48.1 per cent) were for hunting trophies and 228 (3.3 per cent) were for various other purposes including scientific research and circus/travelling exhibitions.

Figure 2. Number and purposes of CITES permits issued in 2007.



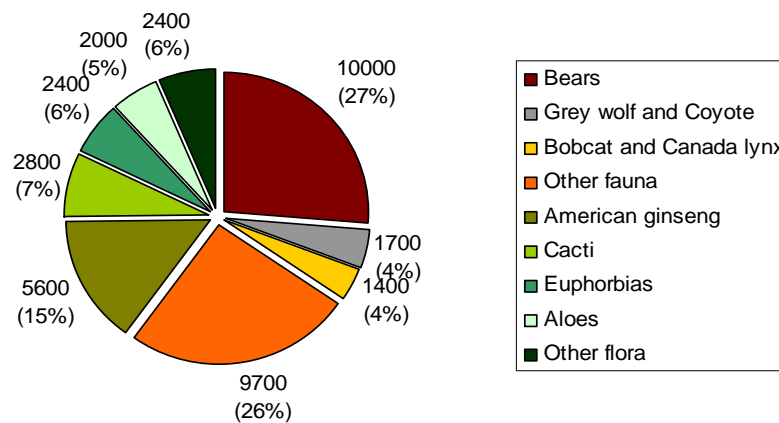
Export permits (as well as re-export certificates) can authorize the export of more than one specimen and of more than one species. These permits and certificates list the wild animals, their parts or derivatives that are authorized. Out of approximately 38 000 specimens that were listed on export permits and re-export certificates in 2007, mammals were the most listed species group, accounting for approximately 55 per cent of listings, followed by plants (approximately 40 per cent), then by reptiles and other fauna (approximately 5 per cent).

Figure 3. Approximate percentages of listings, by species group, on CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2007.



The major species groups for specimens listed on export permits and re-export certificates included primarily bears (approximately 10 000 specimens listed, including American black bear, grizzly bear and polar bear), followed by grey wolf and coyote (approximately 1 700 listings), and bobcat and Canada lynx (approximately 1 400 listings). With regard to plants, the majority of exports were for artificially propagated specimens. American ginseng remains the most exported species (approximately 5 600 listings), followed by cacti (approximately 2 800 listings), euphorbias (approximately 2 400 listings) and aloes (excluding aloe vera; approximately 2 000 listings).

Figure 4. Approximate number and percentages of species listings on CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2007



2.2.2 Export permits for multiple shipments

An export permit may authorize multiple (two or more) shipments and is valid for up to one year from the date of issue; this allows an applicant to make a large number of transactions over a fixed period of time.

Of 6 999 export permits issued in 2007, 145 were designated for multiple shipments. These 145 permits served to authorize 10 783 shipments (60.6 per cent of authorized shipments). The largest share of export permits for multiple shipments was issued to nurseries, growers or distributors of American ginseng, representing 4 340 shipments (24.4 per cent).

2.2.3 Multiple shipment stickers

Expanding upon a 2006 pilot project, in 2007, the CITES national Management Authorities determined that the export of small quantities of artificially propagated American ginseng (up to 4.5 kg, for personal use) merited a simplified permitting procedure. The previous procedure involved the issuance of CITES export permits authorizing multiple shipments, valid for a period of one year, under which each shipment was accompanied by a photocopy of the original export permit.

The new procedure—which still involves the issuance of a CITES multiple shipments export permit—allows each shipment to be accompanied by a permit sticker that identifies the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized. This simplified procedure is in accordance with the agreements and recommendations of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP13) concerning permits and certificates, with the exception that the names of the exporters and importers will not be recorded.

The use of the stickers has avoided compliance problems while facilitating the permit system for Canadians, and has reduced the administrative workload. Each multiple shipment permit is accompanied by sheets of stickers to be placed on each individual package of artificially propagated American ginseng roots being exported for personal use. In 2007, 4 340 shipments (24.4 per cent) of artificially propagated American ginseng were exported using this new procedure.

2.2.4 Import permits

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. In 2007, 156 import permits were issued, and over 3 500 foreign export permits were collected by the Canada Border Services Agency for specimens being imported into Canada. These permits were returned to the CITES Canada office of Environment 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.

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 2007, the United States continued to be a major importer of live artificially propagated plants, particularly cacti. 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 ginseng, accounting for most of Canada's foreign market for ginseng.

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 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. Canada uses this material to structure non-detriment finding reports.

In 2007, non-detriment finding reports were completed for Canada lynx as well as for American ginseng and goldenseal, highly traded medicinal plants from Canada. The reports were developed through a federal/provincial/territorial CITES authorities consultation and, in the case of lynx, with the expert advice of the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee. The Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee recommended publication of the final reports, and they were made publicly available. Work also continued in 2007 on a non-detriment finding report for polar bear.

4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT

4.1 Compliance promotion

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).

Environment Canada is tasked with ensuring compliance with WAPPRIITA. To achieve this, Environment Canada works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners that include the Canada Border Services Agency, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 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.

Environment Canada is an active partner on the international stage in ensuring compliance with CITES. In 2007, Environment Canada was engaged in preparing identification sheets for newly listed CITES species and an identification guide on falcons and trade. Environment Canada enforcement officers participated in interviews and prepared media releases for television, radio and print media.

4.2 Enforcement activities

As part of its 2007 budget, the Government of Canada provided Environment Canada with funds to hire and train new enforcement officers over a period of two years. A program was established to build on the capabilities of experienced existing staff to provide coaching and mentoring to new officers in order to facilitate their integration and development.

4.2.1 Inspections

Environment Canada began collecting comprehensive inspection statistics in 2006 as part of its reporting for the National Inspection Plan. In April 2007, Environment Canada refined the inspection priorities under the plan to include species listed in CITES Appendix I, commercial activities, live species, aquatic species, tropical wood, ivories, medicinal products, species listed under Schedule II of the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (invasive species), and live herptiles (reptiles and amphibians).

Environment Canada's inspection statistics were recorded by fiscal year for the reporting period. Environment Canada conducted 5 400 WAPPRIITA inspections for the 2006–2007 fiscal year and 3 156 such inspections for the 2007–2008 fiscal year. More than a third of WAPPRIITA

inspections that were conducted in 2007 were associated with personal quantities of products containing *Hoodia gordonii*, a CITES Appendix II plant used as an appetite suppressant. The products were sent by mail from the U.S. without the appropriate permits.

4.2.2 Intelligence

Environment Canada's Wildlife Intelligence Program has been in existence for about ten years. The program involves the collection of operational and tactical intelligence that support both the investigations and inspections programs, as well as strategic intelligence and analysis that help monitor national and international trends.

In 2007, Environment Canada initiated a major project to examine the trading of CITES species over the Internet. This was in response to a recommendation made at the 14th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP14) in June 2007, which suggested that the use of the Internet be examined as a tool for the illegal trade in wildlife. It was recommended that four areas be discussed:

- the scale and nature of wildlife trade conducted via the Internet within each county
- any real or perceived problems relating to such trade, including illicit trade
- the nature and effectiveness of any measures that Parties have taken to regulate the trade in wildlife via the Internet, including the use of codes of conduct
- changes in trade routes, species in trade and methods of shipments that have been observed as a result

In response to the CITES recommendations, Environment Canada launched a project to examine these four areas as well as to identify CITES-listed indigenous and non-indigenous species targeted for trade in and out of Canada. This project includes both open-source research as well as interviews with wildlife officers across Canada.

4.2.3 Investigations

Between January 1 and December 31, 2007, under the provisions of the applicable federal, provincial, territorial or foreign legislation, Environment Canada carried out 500 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife. Most of these investigations concluded with the court-ordered confiscation and forfeiture of goods, which also included court-imposed penalties.

Many significant cases, including some of a precedent-setting nature, have been prosecuted or completed successfully, while other cases are still under investigation or are pending in court. Examples follow:

Illegal importation of elephant ivory

Violation/Legislation: An individual from Richmond, British Columbia, was charged with illegally importing over 30 000 pieces of elephant ivory.

Action Taken: Environment Canada's investigation established that while the accused was in Hong Kong in February 2005, he sent himself, using a false name and a Hong Kong address, a parcel that contained various carvings, jewelry and other crafts that were all derived from African elephant ivory. The carvings were initially detected by Canada Border Services Agency officers at the International Mail Centre in Vancouver, who then referred the items to Environment Canada for identification and investigation. The investigation was greatly assisted by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation in Hong Kong, which worked in tandem with Environment Canada to verify information regarding the export of the ivory involved in this case.

Result: On October 11, 2007, the accused received a \$9,000 fine after pleading guilty to illegally importing over 30 000 pieces of African elephant ivory. The accused was also ordered to pay a further \$9,000 to TRAFFIC, a division of the World Wildlife Fund, to support programs for the conservation of the African elephant, and to forfeit all of the ivory seized during the investigation, which wildlife officers estimated to be worth over \$100,000 at the retail level.

Illegal importation of coral

Violation/Legislation: An individual from Windsor, Ontario, imported live coral into Canada from the U.S. without a permit.

Action Taken: The accused was charged by federal wildlife officers with offences under WAPPRIITA. These charges followed his attempt to enter Canada via the Ambassador Bridge with 38 live corals in his vehicle. These specimens had an estimated value of \$2,500. Of these 38 corals, 32 were stony corals, which are listed as endangered under Appendix II of CITES and which are protected under WAPPRIITA and its regulations. The illegal international trade in corals contributes to the decline and degradation of coral reefs. Human activities have put some 58 per cent of the world's coral reefs at risk. Many have been damaged beyond recovery.

Results: On June 15, 2007, the accused was convicted of unlawfully importing live coral into Canada from the U.S. without a permit, was fined \$615 and was ordered to forfeit all of the seized stony corals at the Windsor border crossing.

Illegal importation of endangered species used in Chinese medicine

Violation/Legislation: An individual from Richmond, Ontario, was charged with illegally importing into Canada traditional Chinese medicines containing derivatives of endangered animals and plants.

Action Taken: Environment Canada's investigation established that between April 2004 and September 2006, the accused used several companies located in the Greater Toronto Area to receive traditional Chinese medicines manufactured using endangered species that had been

illegally imported into Canada from Hong Kong. These medicines were initially detected by officers in Vancouver and subsequently seized as evidence. The items seized by Environment Canada officials included turtle and tortoise shells, orchids and orchid derivatives, and coral, all derived from endangered species protected by CITES. CITES import and export permits were required to be issued by Canadian and Hong Kong authorities prior to the import of these goods into Canada, but no such permits were obtained.

Results: In September 2007, in a precedent-setting case, the accused received an 18-month sentence after pleading guilty to illegally importing traditional Chinese medicines containing derivatives of endangered animals and plants. The accused was also ordered to serve a two-year period of probation and must obey stringent court-ordered reporting conditions aimed at ensuring compliance with Canada's federal endangered species legislation. The conditional sentence consists of house arrest for nine months and then a curfew for nine months. The penalty reflected the level of endangerment of the species involved, the commercial nature of the activities and the accused person's previous convictions on two counts for similar offences handed down in the Ontario Court of Justice-Provincial Division in December 2003.

5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties

Canada participated in the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP14) in The Hague, Netherlands, in June 2007. Canada's objectives heading into CoP14 were to seek consistency between the CoP decisions and Canadian environmental policy and to highlight Canadian approaches to and successes in sustainable wildlife management. In preparation for CoP14, Environment Canada invited government and non-governmental organizations and interested members of the public to submit proposals for changes to CITES listings. A public meeting was held prior to each of the CoP meetings to discuss the various proposals that were to be considered by the Parties at the Conference.

Canada's delegation to CoP14 included representatives from Environment Canada, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Natural Resources Canada (Canadian Forest Service), as well as provincial/territorial representatives from British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Yukon. The delegation met daily with Canadian non-governmental organizations attending the meeting as observers. Canada also participated in a Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking side event where North American cooperative enforcement activities were highlighted.

Canada played a significant role in providing future direction to the Convention as Chair of the Strategic Vision Working Group at this Conference of the Parties. The CITES Strategic Vision for 2008–2013 was adopted by consensus.

At CoP14, 37 proposals were introduced to add a species to, or remove a species from, an Appendix or to amend (for example, change the annotations to) the CITES Appendices. Another 67 proposals were introduced to provide further interpretation of the Convention and its administration. Key decisions taken regarding listing proposals reflected a continuation of the trend to consider high-profile species, including sharks and commercially important tree species.

- Canada joined the consensus for the listing of brazilwood (a tropical hardwood used for the production of bows for stringed musical instruments), but voted against the proposal to list Spanish cedars, which was defeated by vote.
- Proposals to list a number of rosewood species were withdrawn.
- The Parties decided to list all species of sawfishes on CITES Appendix I except for one species, which is listed on Appendix II for the purposes of allowing trade in live animals for aquaria from Australia.

Decisions taken at the 14th Conference of the Parties involving Canadian species in trade included the following:

- the adoption by consensus of a proposal that specifies the parts of two highly traded medicinal plants, goldenseal and American ginseng, that are to be regulated by CITES

- a proposal, supported by Canada but defeated by vote, to remove bobcat from CITES controls
- proposals to list porbeagle shark and spiny dogfish. These proposals, which were not adopted, caused significant debate and were narrowly defeated in the committee that deals with listing proposals. However, in plenary, where committee decisions are confirmed, debate on the proposal to list spiny dogfish was reopened and the proposal was defeated by secret ballot vote. Canada spoke against the shark proposals, noting that the species did not meet the criteria for inclusion in CITES and that the species would not benefit from Convention control.

The end result concerning species proposals is five new listings on the CITES Appendices (slenderhorned and Cuvier's gazelles, sawfishes, brazilwood, and European eel); four deleted listings (plant species - oconee bell, Arizona agave, and three types of cacti); two Appendix II listings transferred to Appendix I (increase in trade controls - slow lorises and beaded lizard); and two Appendix I listings transferred to Appendix II (decrease in trade controls - black caiman and the perennial plant Dehesa beargrass).

New resolutions and decisions approved by the Parties are implemented according to Canadian law. After each Conference of the Parties, Schedule I of the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (which includes all CITES species listed throughout the world) is amended to reflect changes in the species listed in the Appendices to CITES. With regard to decisions made at CoP14 to update the CITES Appendices, the corresponding amendments to the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* were still pending as of the end of 2007.

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

5.2 Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT)

On April 12, 2007, Canada joined the international Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), which addresses the illegal trade of wild plants and animals. Governments and non-governmental organizations worldwide have recognized the critical need to address growing threats to wildlife from poaching and illegal trade. An initiative of the United States, CAWT was founded in 2005 and now includes the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, India and Australia. Joining CAWT complements Canada's commitment to CITES and helps ensure that international trade does not threaten the survival of our most threatened wildlife. The Coalition also includes 14 international conservation and industry organizations. CAWT focuses political and public attention on the issue of wildlife trafficking and facilitates action for effective wildlife law enforcement and regional cooperation.

5.3 North American regional partners

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. In 2007, Canada met with its North American counterparts via the

12th Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management. CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities shared information via the CITES Working Table and Law Enforcement Working Table of the Trilateral Committee. The agenda included preparatory work for the 14th Conference of the Parties (CoP14), for the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking and for the Scientific Authorities workshop on non-detriment findings. Environment Canada continued to cooperate with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Mexican Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente to provide in-service training for enforcement inspectors.

5.4 North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (NAWEG)

Environment Canada is directly involved in the North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (NAWEG), though the nature of its participation has varied over the years. Canada chairs the NAWEG on a rotational basis with the U.S. and Mexico. In 2007, Environment Canada was represented at the NAWEG conference in Mexico.

5.5 INTERPOL Wildlife Working Group (IWWG)

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 187 member countries. The INTERPOL Wildlife Working Group (IWWG; prior to 1998 called the INTERPOL Sub Group on Wildlife Crime) represents several CITES member countries within INTERPOL. Since 1994, the group has met on a regular basis to exchange enforcement ideas and strategies on how INTERPOL could assist in maintaining and supporting an international network of enforcement contacts with expertise in wildlife crime.

In 2007, the IWWG met in Tanzania, though Environment Canada was not represented at the meeting. In 2007, Environment Canada was involved in the planning stages of an INTERPOL training program directed towards Francophone African nations to provide training on inspections, investigations and intelligence of wildlife crime.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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