



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

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

Annual Report for 2008



Canada

Front cover photos:

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) © Andrée Nault, Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
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***Wild Animal and Plant
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of International and
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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 7426 CITES export permits and re-export certificates in 2008, resulting in 22 652 shipments of wildlife specimens, products and derivatives.
 - Of these 7426 export permits and re-export certificates, 208 permits were designated for multiple shipments, accounting for 15 040 shipments, or 66.4% of all shipments in 2008.
 - The majority of the permits issued in 2008 for mammals were for American black bears, while most of the exports for plants were for artificially propagated plants (mostly cultivated American ginseng).
- In 2008, 186 import permits were issued, primarily for the import of flora, followed by mammals and then other species groups such as reptiles and birds.
- Environment Canada conducted over 3080 WAPPRIITA-related inspections in 2008.
- Environment Canada carried out 403 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.
- Environment Canada increased its enforcement capacity by hiring 28 new enforcement officers for a total complement of more than 84 officers.
- Two major intelligence projects were underway in 2008 to examine the use of the Internet as a tool in the illegal trade of wildlife, and to examine priorities under Canada's four major wildlife acts, including WAPPRIITA.
- National CITES Scientific Authorities continued work on the development of standing non-detriment finding documents (scientific determinations regarding whether trade will be detrimental to the survival of a species) for highly traded Canadian species through a federal/provincial/territorial working group. In 2008, non-detriment finding reports were completed for the grey wolf and work continued on a non-detriment finding report for the polar bear.

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 2008.

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 the 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 2008, CITES had been adopted by 173 sovereign states. One new Party, Oman, acceded to the Convention and brought it into force during 2008.

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.

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 national 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 (export and import) and advising on the administration of CITES. 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 in 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 in a number of provinces and territories are responsible for indigenous species leaving their jurisdictions. Permits for exports from these regions are issued by Environment Canada. The withdrawal of Manitoba as of December 15, 2007, has meant the issuance of over 1000 additional CITES permits for Environment Canada staff, representing an increase of approximately 30% over 2007, as well as a greater challenge for those implementing CITES outside of a jurisdictional mandate.

Memoranda of Understanding to support co-operative management, administration and enforcement of WAPPRIITA were established with Saskatchewan and Yukon in 1997, Alberta, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories in 1998, and British Columbia and Prince Edward Island in 1999. Because some provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Manitoba) no longer support the co-operative management and administration of the CITES program, the memoranda of understanding for those jurisdictions have to be revisited. 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 Canada signed agreements with Ontario in 1996, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick in 1997, Manitoba in 1998, Nova Scotia and Quebec in 2000 and British Columbia in 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 co-operation 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.

2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1 CITES permitting system

2.1.1 Permitting system overview

CITES depends on international co-operation 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 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.

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.

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

Environment Canada's Ontario Region issues some export permits on behalf of Ontario (in 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 their indigenous species (e.g., bears, wolves and other furbearers) leaving their jurisdictions. The provincial or territorial jurisdictions issuing the CITES export permits may not relate to the jurisdictions of 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.

Table 1. Types of Canadian CITES permits issued in 2008.

Type of permit or certificate	Description, including examples of the purposes for permits
Export permit	Issued to authorize a specimen of a species in any of the CITES appendices to be exported from the country of origin. 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 one year.
Re-export certificate	After a specimen (animal, plant or its 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 second country to a third one. Re-export certificates are valid for up to 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 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 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 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 three years.

2.1.2 Improvements to monitoring and security of CITES permits

The CITES national Management Authorities, in co-operation with the CITES national Scientific Authorities, launched a working prototype of the CITES Electronic Permitting System (CEPS) in 2007. Throughout 2008, the national Management Authorities continued to test and evaluate the CEPS prototype. While this system is in production, both the CITES Permits System and CEPS are being used for the issuance of permits.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2008

Canada's wildlife exports were primarily artificially propagated specimens of native plants—mostly American ginseng—and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American black bear).

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 2008, Canada issued 6560 export permits.

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 2008, Canada issued 866 re-export certificates.

In total, 7426 export permits and re-export certificates were issued by Canada in 2008, serving to authorize 22 652 shipments.

The number of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2008 by Canadian jurisdictions are presented in Table 2. Please note the jurisdictions issuing the export permits may not relate to the jurisdictions of the take of the specimens.

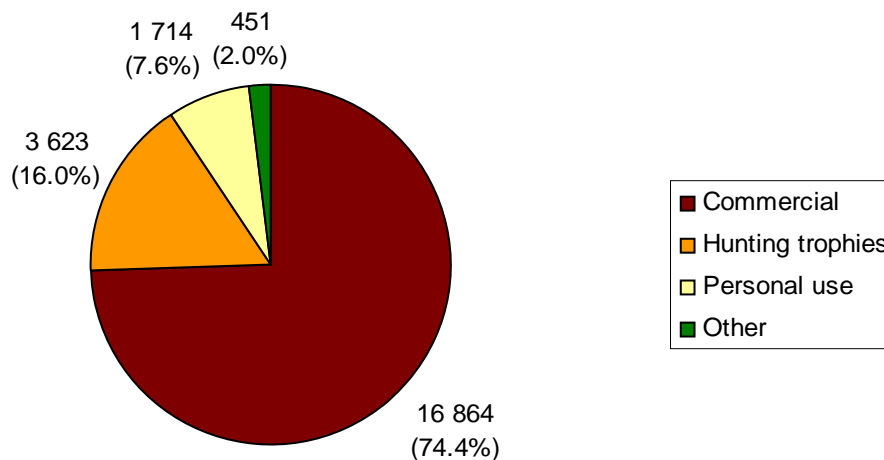
Table 2. CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued by Canadian jurisdictions in 2008.

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	4393	59.16
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	125	1.68
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia*	1666	22.44
Ontario	891	12.00
Yukon	165	2.22
Newfoundland and Labrador	99	1.33
Northwest Territories	37	0.50
Nova Scotia	27	0.36
New Brunswick	19	0.26
Nunavut	4	0.05
Prince Edward Island	0	–
Quebec*	–	–
Alberta*	–	–
Saskatchewan*	–	–
Manitoba*	–	–
TOTAL	7426	100.00

* 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 exotic species. CITES permits for exports from these regions are issued by Environment Canada.

Of the 22 652 shipments that were authorized in 2008, 16 864 shipments (74.4%) were for commercial purposes, 3623 (16.0%) for hunting trophies, 1714 (7.6 %) for personal use, 266 (1.2%) for scientific purposes, 61 (0.3%) for zoos, 51 (0.2%) for circuses and travelling exhibitions, 39 (0.2%) for medical (including biomedical research) purposes, and 34 (0.1%) for other purposes.

Figure 1. Number and purposes of shipments authorized by CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2008.



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 wild animals and their parts or derivatives that are authorized. In 2008, mammals were the most listed species group on export permits and re-export certificates, and included the American black bear, the grey wolf, the bobcat, the Canadian lynx, the grizzly bear, the Florida panther, the polar bear and the Northern river otter. With regards to flora, artificially propagated specimens of American ginseng remain the most exported species.

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 one-year time frame allows an applicant to conduct a large number of transactions over a fixed period.

Of 7426 export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2008, 208 were designated for multiple shipments. These 208 permits served to authorize 15 040 shipments (66.4% of authorized export shipments in 2008). The largest share of export permits for multiple shipments were issued to nurseries, growers or distributors of American ginseng, representing 13 319 shipments.

2.2.3 Multiple shipment stickers

In 2007, the CITES national Management Authorities 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 that identifies the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized.

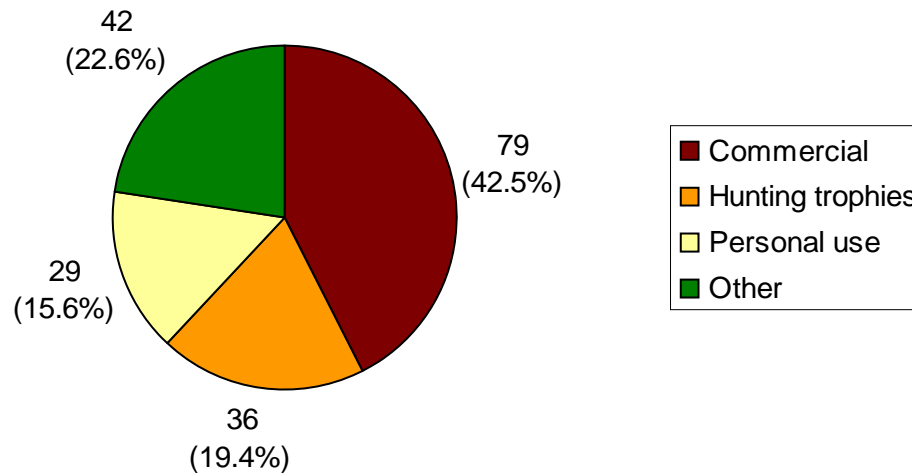
In 2008, 13 319 shipments of artificially propagated American ginseng were exported using this new procedure, representing a more than 300% increase over the 4340 shipments reported in 2007. Of all export shipments authorized in 2008, 58.8% were for American ginseng.

2.2.4 Types of imports into Canada

Canada collects and records data from CITES export permits issued by other countries, which are submitted to Environment Canada at the time of entry into Canada. In 2008, 186 import permits were issued, in which 96.4% of the listings related to Appendix I, 3.4% to Appendix II and 0.2% to Appendix III CITES species. Foreign export permits are also collected by the Canada Border Services Agency for specimens being imported into Canada and are 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 proportion of the wildlife goods, mostly in the form of plant products, is imported into Canada from Asia.

In 2008, of these 186 import permits issued, 79 (42.5%) were for commercial purposes, 36 (19.4%) for hunting trophies, 29 (15.6%) for personal use, 18 (9.7%) for circuses and travelling exhibitions, 12 (6.5%) for zoos, 9 (4.8%) for scientific purposes, and 3 (1.6%) for other purposes.

Figure 2. Number and purposes of shipments authorized by CITES import permits issued in 2008.



Import permits can authorize the import of more than one specimen and of more than one species, and must list the wild animals and their parts or derivatives that are authorized. In 2008, flora was the major species group for specimens listed on import permits, accounting for 57% of the listings, followed by the mammal species group, accounting for 27% of the listings, with all other species groups such as reptiles and birds accounting for 16% of listings.

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 2008, 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. Canada's most significant trade 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 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 2008, a non-detriment finding report was completed for the grey wolf. The report was developed through a federal/provincial/territorial CITES authorities consultation and with expert advice of the Canadian Furbearer Management Committee. The Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee recommended publication of the final report, at which point it was made publicly available. Work also continued in 2008 on a non-detriment finding report for the polar bear.

3.2 Review of significant trade in specimens of Appendix II species

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

During the 17th meeting of the Plants Committee, Canada was asked to clarify the domestic status of a Canadian medicinal plant, American ginseng, as well as to provide a basis for negative non-detriment findings. With this information, the Committee considered the management of American ginseng in Canada satisfactory and it was not entered into the Review of Significant Trade.

During the 23rd meeting of the Animals Committee, due to concerns raised by non-governmental organizations, Canada provided information on the status and management practices for three Canadian species (black bear, river otter and Sandhill Crane). The Animals Committee Working Group concluded that it was not necessary to enter these species into the Review of Significant Trade. No other Canadian species were entered into the review.

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 Canadian 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 works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners to ensure compliance with WAPPRIITA, including the Canadian 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, among others. 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 2008, Environment Canada was preparing to host the CITES e-commerce workshop scheduled to take place in Vancouver in 2009 (see Section 5.2.2, Intelligence). In addition, Environment Canada was engaged in preparing identification sheets for newly listed CITES species and the 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. In 2008, Environment Canada used its portion of these funds to increase its enforcement capacity by hiring 28 new enforcement officers, for a total complement of more than 84 officers. A six-week training course was put together, to be offered in 2009, which includes CITES and WAPPRIITA training on legislation and occupational health and safety during inspections.

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 2008, Environment Canada refined the inspection priorities under the plan to include species listed in CITES' Appendix I, commercial activities, live species and species listed under Schedule II of the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (invasive species). These priorities were chosen in recognition of the fact that many

high-profile species and products (e.g., ivory, aquatic species and tropical woods) are most at risk when they are traded in commercial quantities.

Environment Canada's inspection statistics were recorded by fiscal year for the reporting period. Environment Canada conducted 3156 WAPPRIITA inspections during the 2007–2008 fiscal year, and 2878 such inspections in the 2008–2009 fiscal year. Approximately 20% of these inspections pertained to commercial shipments.

4.2.2 Intelligence

Environment Canada's Wildlife Intelligence Program has been in existence for about 10 years, and involves the collection of operational and tactical intelligence, which supports both the investigations and inspections programs, as well as strategic intelligence and analysis in order to monitor national and international trends.

In 2008, Environment Canada's Wildlife Intelligence Program undertook two major projects: the Strategic Intelligence Project, to examine priorities under the four wildlife acts, including WAPPRIITA; and the CITES e-commerce workshop, a project to examine the trading of CITES species over the Internet.

Strategic Intelligence Project

The Strategic Intelligence Project was launched in May 2008. The project was designed to analyze regional enforcement activities to identify priorities under the four acts that guide Environment Canada's wildlife enforcement and strategic engagement opportunities, namely the *Species at Risk Act*, the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994*, the *Canada Wildlife Act* and WAPPRIITA. As part of the first phase of the project, a questionnaire was developed and circulated to personnel from Environment Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service and Wildlife Enforcement Directorate. The questionnaire was intended to gather information in order to

- analyze current enforcement activities under the four acts in each region;
- identify engagement issues with key stakeholders;
- develop a clear understanding of Environment Canada's conservation priorities under the four acts;
- identify opportunities for more targeted engagement by the enforcement personnel and key stakeholders; and
- recommend operational changes to facilitate more effective engagement in regional, national and international wildlife conservation and enforcement activities.

This information is intended to inform a strategic intelligence plan that will make recommendations on how resources can best focus on the most pressing enforcement issues related to the four acts and on strategic engagement opportunities.

CITES e-commerce workshop

At the 14th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP 14), held in June of 2007, a recommendation was made to examine the use of the Internet as a tool for the illegal trade in wildlife. In response to the CITES recommendations, Environment Canada launched a project to address this question, 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. Throughout 2008, Environment Canada's Intelligence Program staff was busy completing research and interviews in order to finalize this project.

Also following the 2007 CoP 14 meeting, CITES asked Canada to host an international e-commerce workshop to discuss how the Internet affects wildlife trading in their country. In 2008, Environment Canada was actively engaged with managing the logistics for this 2009 conference in Vancouver.

4.2.3 Investigations

Between January 1 and December 31, 2008, Environment Canada carried out 403 investigations into poaching or trafficking incidents involving the 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 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. Examples are set out below.

Illegal importation/exportation of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) meat

Operation Shell Game was a joint investigation involving wildlife enforcement officers in Vancouver, Toronto, Québec and Halifax, as well as special agents from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and fisheries enforcement officers from the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Buffalo, New York and Miami, Florida. The investigation led to the dismantling of a major smuggling organization of queen conch meat, an internationally protected endangered species listed under Appendix II in CITES.

The smuggling operation was responsible for illegally importing and/or exporting the equivalent of nearly seven fully loaded semi-trailers of queen conch meat from several Caribbean and South American countries to Canada and the United States. According to documents filed in Canadian and American courts in September 2007, it was alleged that 119 978 kg of protected queen conch meat from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Honduras and Colombia was shipped between 2004 and 2006 to Canada using false descriptions (i.e., whelk meat) to avoid detection by officials.

Violation/legislation: A Vancouver-based corporation and its CEO were charged with 12 counts of illegal importation and/or exporting queen conch meat under WAPPRIITA. Two Florida, United States residents were charged separately with two counts each in respect of the same illegal operations. A resident of Montréal with Haitian citizenship was also charged.

Action taken: The investigation determined that, in January 2005, two shipments of queen conch were exported to Florida by the Vancouver-based corporation without the necessary CITES permits. Between July of 2005 and March of 2006, five shipments of queen conch were imported by this corporation from Haiti (labelled and declared as whelk, a non-CITES, cold-water species of mollusk). The queen conch meat was subsequently repackaged and relabelled and then exported to Florida, again without CITES permits. The Vancouver-based corporation agreed to be the importer and exporter of record for these shipments from Haiti, in return for a “service fee” of between US\$1 to US\$1.15 per pound.

Results: On January 4, 2008, the Vancouver-based corporation entered a guilty plea in the Vancouver Provincial Court to two counts under WAPPRIITA and was fined a total of \$78,566.94, of which \$10,000 was deposited into the Environmental Damages Fund, a fund administered by Environment Canada on behalf of the Government of Canada. The Fund provides courts with a way to direct money from fines to work to restore and protect the environment. The two Florida residents were also convicted and each fined \$20,000 for their roles in the smuggling ring, half of which was credited to the Environmental Damage Fund.

On March 20, 2008, the Montréal resident pleaded guilty in Toronto, Ontario under an agreed statement of facts to one count of illegally importing queen conch, from Haiti to the United States via Canada, without a CITES permit. The Court ordered the offender to pay a fine of \$1,000 and he was further directed to pay \$24,000 to the Environmental Damages Fund.

Illegal importation of elephant ivory

Violation/legislation: Smuggling African elephant ivory from Cameroon to the United States, both directly into and through Canada. African elephants are listed under Appendix I of CITES and their parts and derivatives are therefore protected under WAPPRIITA and its regulations.

Action taken: In autumn 2002, Environment Canada wildlife enforcement officers were alerted by concerned citizens that products made from endangered species, including ivory from elephants, were being advertised for sale on the Internet. An investigation identified the central person involved in the scheme. In 2002, this person, then working from Cameroon, shipped or arranged shipments of ivory to be sent to Montréal. Once in Montréal, the goods were repackaged for shipment to customers in the United States and were then declared as being of Canadian origin in an attempt to evade scrutiny by border officials.

During 2003, the same concealment method was used to ship raw tusks, including those of juvenile elephants, directly from Cameroon to the United States. Forensic testing confirmed that the ivory intercepted during the investigation came from at least 24 elephants and had a resale value of approximately \$178,000.

By the end of December 2003, sufficient evidence had been obtained to lay charges against this person in the United States, the final destination of the ivory. In early 2004, officials learned that the accused had returned to Canada from Cameroon and, on February 2, 2004, the accused was arrested by Toronto police under a provisional extradition warrant.

Results: In December 2007, the accused was extradited to the United States, where the accused pleaded guilty on March 21, 2008 to four United States federal felony charges relating to the smuggling of elephant ivory in a United States District Court in Akron, Ohio. A \$100,000 fine was imposed to be paid to the African Elephant Conservation Fund, which supports projects that enhance sustainable conservation programs to ensure the effective, long-term conservation of African elephants. The convicted was also sentenced to five years in a federal prison in the United States.

Illegal importation of leopard pelts and African rock python skin

Violation/legislation: Illegally importing CITES species, including two Appendix I CITES-listed leopard pelts and one Appendix II CITES-listed African rock python skin.

Action taken: The skin and pelts were imported into Canada at Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Airport from the Democratic Republic of the Congo via France without a CITES permit. On November 20, 2006, Canadian Border Services Agency officers discovered the skin and pelts individually wrapped in garbage bags amongst food items, which included smoked fish and vegetables.

Results: On April 28, 2008, the defendant was found guilty in the Ontario Court of Justice, Provincial Division, Toronto, on two counts of illegally importing CITES species pursuant to section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA. The Court ordered the offender to pay a fine of \$4,000 for the two leopard pelts and \$1,000 for the python skin, plus a victim surcharge of \$1,135, for a total penalty of \$6,135. The skin and pelts were all ordered forfeited.

Illegal importation of Burmese pythons

Violation/legislation: Illegally importing 11 Burmese pythons, an Appendix II CITES-listed species. One person was charged under section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA for illegally importing the pythons without the required CITES permit. One count laid under section 6(1) of WAPPRIITA was withdrawn.

Action taken: The WAPPRIITA section 6(1) count related to the import of several non-CITES-listed species contrary to the laws of the United States, namely 25 leopard geckos and one Florida king snake. This matter was enforced pursuant to the *Contraventions Act*. The reptiles were discovered by Canadian Border Services Agency officers at Lansdowne, Ontario on June 14, 2007, during a routine secondary examination. The accused, a known reptile distributor, initially admitted to bringing in the geckos only for non-commercial use.

Results: On September 30, 2008, the defendant pleaded guilty to one count under section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA for illegally importing 11 Burmese pythons and was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,500, of which \$1,500 was to be directed toward the Environmental Damages Fund. The offender was given nine months to pay the fine and all CITES and non-CITES animals were ordered forfeited.

Illegal interprovincial transport of wildlife

Violation/legislation: Illegally transporting wildlife across interprovincial boundaries in contravention of WAPPRIITA, section 6(3); transporting white-tailed deer without a valid permit from the Province of Alberta to the Province of Saskatchewan; and one count of violating WAPPRIITA, section 8(a) for knowingly possessing white-tailed deer being transported in contravention of the Act.

Action taken: The white-tailed deer were live game farm animals from a business operation and were being transported from Alberta to Saskatchewan. The *Saskatchewan Wildlife Act* requires that an import permit be obtained prior to any wildlife being transported into the province. In addition to the provincial import permit requirement, a transportation authorization permit is required from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to enable the interprovincial movement of animals, and to assist in the prevention of disease that would be harmful to native wildlife or to domestic game farm animals.

Results: On February 11, 2008, after a very lengthy court, the accused pleaded guilty in the Saskatchewan Provincial Court, North Battleford and was fined \$1,200 for each count.

5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES committees and working groups

In 2008, Canada participated in a number of committees and working groups to ensure sustained co-operation with other partners in the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES), both regionally and internationally. These groups, including the CITES Standing Committee, the CITES Plants Committee and the CITES Animals Committee, work towards more effective implementation and enforcement of the Convention and conservation of wildlife resources in trade. Decisions made by these bodies affect Canada's obligations under CITES and greatly influence the decisions ultimately taken at the Conferences of the Parties.

Canada continued to serve as the representative for the North American region on the CITES Standing Committee. The 57th meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva from July 14 to 18, 2008, addressed a heavy agenda, including developing indicators for the CITES Strategic Plan for 2008–2013; financial matters; purpose codes on CITES permits; review of the scientific committees; electronic permitting; and trade and conservation issues for great ape, elephant, tiger, sturgeon and bigleaf mahogany species. 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 Canada's priorities and role as alternate representative for North America on the Plants Committee. Canada was recognized by the Plants Committee and other countries for strong leadership and positive contribution as chair of the Plants Committee's Timber Working Group. In November 2008, Canada also participated in a side meeting of the steering committee for the CITES International Non-Detriment Finding Workshop, held in Mexico. Canada was actively engaged in meeting preparations as co-chair of the Perennial Plants Working Group.

5.2 North American regional partners

In 2008, Canada met with its North American counterparts via the 13th 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 57th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee, as well as the periodic review of species in the *Felidae* (cat) family and the non-detriment finding workshop. Since a significant volume of Canada's wildlife trade occurs between countries in the CITES North American region (Canada, the United States and Mexico), co-operation with regional partners is essential. Environment Canada continued to co-operate with the United States' Fish and Wildlife Service and Mexico's Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente to provide in-service training for enforcement inspectors.

5.3 International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings

From November 17 to 22, 2008, Canada participated in the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings, held in Cancun, Mexico. Canada served on the Steering Committee and attended the workshop, the goal of which was to provide guidance to CITES Authorities on the processes, methods and information needed to formulate non-detriment findings. CITES national Scientific Authorities' representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the province of British Columbia participated in the Mammals Working Group. Scientific Authorities' representatives from the Canadian Forest Service and Environment Canada participated in the Trees Working Group and the Perennial Plants Working Group, respectively. Canada prepared and presented a number of species-specific case studies (grizzly bear, Canada yew and American ginseng) and co-chaired the Perennial Plants Working Group.

5.4 North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (NAWEG)

Environment Canada is directly involved in the North American Wildlife Enforcement Working Group (NAWEG). The nature of Environment Canada's participation has varied over the years. Canada chairs the NAWEG on a rotational basis with the United States and Mexico. In 2008, Environment Canada was represented at the NAWEG conference in the United States and was engaged in preparations to host the 2009 NAWEG conference.

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 October 2008, the IWWG met at the INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France, concurrent with the INTERPOL Environmental Crime Working Group. Also in 2008, Environment Canada continued its involvement in the planning stages of an INTERPOL training program directed towards francophone African nations to provide training around 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:

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