



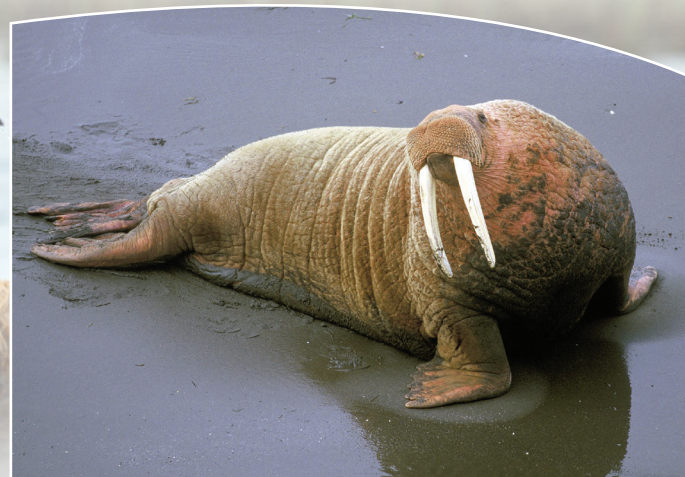
Environment
Canada

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Canada

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

Annual Report

for 2012



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Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*) © Environment Canada 2013

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) © Environment Canada 2013

Atlantic Walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus rosmarus*) © U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2013

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada has been active in the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee, participating in a number of key working groups.
- Canada is the North American region representative on the CITES Animals Committee and is the alternate North American representative on the CITES Plants Committee.
- Canada is currently finalizing a standing non-detriment finding report for the Sandhill Crane, to substantiate the scientific basis for legal export of these species. Once finalized, this report will be publicly available on the CITES Canada website.
- Canadian jurisdictions issued 6254 export permits and re-export certificates in 2012 under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA). The majority of shipments in 2012 were of artificially propagated plants (mostly cultivated American Ginseng) and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear) as well as their parts and derivatives.
- In 2012, 186 import permits were issued, 28% of which were for commercial purposes.
- Environment Canada conducted 125 investigations in 2012. Section 4.2.2 of this annual report includes details of 4 major convictions under WAPPRIITA: 1 for illegal trade of wildlife, and 3 for unlawful import of wildlife.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report

This report fulfills 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 2012.

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

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

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

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

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

- Appendix I lists species that are threatened with extinction. Trade in these species is strictly regulated to ensure their survival, and trade for commercial purposes is prohibited.
- Appendix II lists species that are not currently threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is strictly regulated to avoid overexploitation. Also listed in Appendix II are “look-alike” species

that are regulated to provide additional protection for Appendix II species. Many species with healthy populations within Canada, such as the American Black Bear and the Grey Wolf, are listed in Appendix II for this purpose.

- In Appendix III, individual parties may list species that are found within their borders and subject to regulations, where the cooperation of other Parties is needed in order to manage international trade in those species. Canada has listed the Walrus in this appendix.

The text of CITES was agreed upon by 80 signatory countries, including Canada, in 1973. The Convention came into force in 1975, and it has been adopted by 177 sovereign states.

WAPPRIITA, the implementing legislation providing the authority in Canada for the regulation of trade in wild species in conformity with CITES, received Royal Assent on December 17, 1992. The Act and associated regulations—the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (WAPTR)—came into force on May 14, 1996. The purpose of WAPPRIITA is to protect Canadian and foreign species of animals and plants that may be at risk of overexploitation because of unsustainable or illegal trade, and to safeguard Canadian ecosystems from the introduction of harmful species. It accomplishes these objectives by regulating 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.

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

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

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

1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA

Environment Canada is responsible for administering WAPPRIITA and is the designated Management and Scientific Authority, as required by CITES. In this capacity, the Department issues CITES permits and certificates, directs the national implementation of CITES, and advises on non-detriment findings for the issuance of import permits and other scientific matters. Environment Canada designated Fisheries and Oceans Canada to be responsible for CITES-listed aquatic species, including fish, aquatic plants and marine mammals. Natural Resources Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency serve as advisors on CITES issues related to forests and artificially propagated plants, respectively. Further information on the responsibilities of the Management and Scientific Authorities can be found at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=0BB0663F-1.

The arrangements for managing the control of trade in wildlife species differ across the provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have permitting offices that issue CITES permits. Environment Canada issues CITES permits for the following four provinces that have no CITES permitting offices: Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Enforcement of WAPPRIITA is overseen by Environment Canada and is carried out in cooperation with other federal agencies such as the Canada Border Services Agency and with provincial and territorial wildlife agencies. Customs officials play a key role at ports of entry, manually verifying and validating permits, and referring shipments to Environment Canada personnel for inspection.

Environment Canada maintains enforcement agreements and memoranda of understanding with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Under the agreements and MOUs, these four provinces are responsible

for enforcing WAPPRIITA with respect to interprovincial wildlife trade, while Environment Canada oversees the enforcement of WAPPRIITA for international trade.

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

2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1 CITES permitting

2.1.1 Permitting overview

The effective implementation of CITES depends on international cooperation to regulate cross-border movement of listed species through a global system of permits that are verified at international borders. In Canada, CITES permits are issued pursuant to the authority of WAPPRIITA.

There are different permit requirements depending on the CITES appendix in which a species is listed.

- Appendix I species require both an import and export permit.
- Appendix II species require an export permit.
- Appendix III species require an export permit or certificate of origin.

Permit requirements may be exempted in certain situations as outlined in section 15 and Schedule 1 of the WAPTR, including such things as personal and household effects.

Environment Canada issues all import permits. Environment Canada also issues export permits and re-export certificates for items that are from Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Agreements are in place with the other provinces and territories to allow them to issue export permits required under WAPPRIITA

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

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

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

Type of permit or certificate	Description
Import permit	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR that are also listed in CITES Appendix I, and for specimens of species that are included in Schedule II of the WAPTR to be imported into Canada. An export permit from the exporting country is required for the issuance of an import permit. Import permits are valid for up to one year.
Export permit	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR to be exported from Canada. Multiple shipments under a permit can be authorized when the applicant intends to make multiple transactions during the period for which the permit is valid. Export permits are valid for up to six months.
Re-export certificate	Issued for all specimens of species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR to be exported from Canada after having been legally imported into Canada at an earlier time. Re-export certificates are valid for up to six months.
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.
Temporary movement/travelling exhibition certificate	Issued for specimens that are only temporarily exported from Canada and that will, within a limited amount of time, be returned to Canada. Authorization can be provided for museum exhibits or circus specimens that are either pre-Convention, captivebred or artificially propagated. Authorization can also be provided for individuals wanting to travel temporarily to the United States with ivory specimens (e.g., bagpipes). Temporary movement certificates are valid for up to one year.
Scientific certificate	Issued for the exchange between registered scientific institutions of frozen, preserved, dried or embedded museum and herbarium specimens, and live plant material. Scientific certificates are valid for up to three years.
Phytosanitary certificate	Issued for the export by registered nurseries of artificially propagated plant species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III.

2.1.2 Exemptions

WAPRIITA authorizes exemptions, in specific situations, for the importation and exportation of CITES-listed species without permits. These exemptions are specified in the WAPTR and apply to non-commercial purposes only. Canadian threatened or endangered species listed on Schedule III of the WAPTR are not included in these exemptions. They still require all the necessary CITES permits.

Four exemptions are included in the WAPTR: tourist souvenirs, personal effects, household effects and hunting trophies for United States hunters (Black Bear and Sandhill Crane in fresh, frozen or salted state only). Further information on exemptions is available at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=DC8E2E3F-1.

2.1.3 Improvements to issuance and monitoring of CITES permits

In 2012, improvements to the permitting software used by the CITES team at Environment Canada were deployed. The new system facilitates the issuance of export and import permits by simplifying the capture of information. It also formalizes the workflow processes and improves permit tracking and data management.

Environment Canada is reviewing and preparing to update its service standards, and to start tracking and reporting on permit issuance.

Environment Canada is planning to incorporate the CITES permitting requirements into a broader wildlife e-permitting initiative that would eventually enable individuals to apply online for all wildlife-related permits issued by Environment Canada.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2012

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 good indicators of Canada's wildlife resources legally traded and controlled under CITES.

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

In 2012, Canada issued 6254 export permits and re-export certificates. The wildlife exports authorized under those permits consisted primarily of artificially propagated specimens of native plants (mostly American Ginseng) and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts or derivatives.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2012 by each Canadian jurisdiction. Note that the jurisdiction issuing the permit may not necessarily be the jurisdiction where the specimen was collected.

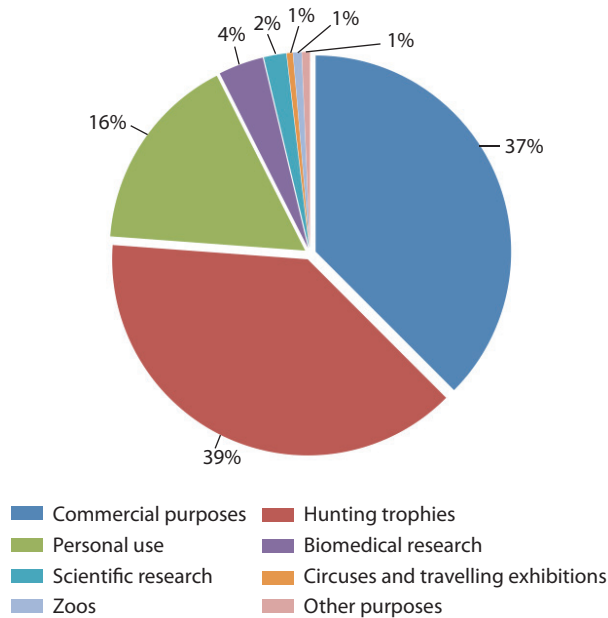
Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian jurisdictions in 2012

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	3606*	57.66
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	234	3.74
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia	1386	22.16
Ontario	789	12.62
Yukon	106	1.69
Newfoundland and Labrador	68	1.09
New Brunswick	25	0.40
Northwest Territories	20	0.32
Nova Scotia	17	0.27
Nunavut	3	0.05
Prince Edward Island	0	0
TOTAL	6254	100

* This number includes CITES permits issued by Environment Canada for exports from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec.

In 2012, the export permits and re-export certificates were issued for the following purposes: hunting trophies (2419), commercial (2344), personal use (1024), biomedical research (234), scientific research (116), zoos (44), circuses and travelling exhibitions (31), and other purposes (42). Figure 1 shows the distribution, by purpose, of wildlife export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2012.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2012, by purpose



Export permits and re-export certificates can authorize the export of multiple specimens or species, but must list the species and their parts or derivatives. The most frequently exported plant species were American Ginseng, Venus Fly-trap, Euphorbia Lomi and Crimson Pitcherplant. Similar to 2011, the most common mammal species, or their parts and derivatives, listed on export and re-export permits include the American Black Bear, Crab-eating Macaque, Bobcat, Canadian Lynx, Polar Bear, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Lion and North American Otter.

2.2.2 Permits for multiple shipments

An export permit or re-export certificate may authorize multiple shipments and is valid for up to six months from the date of issue. This six-month time frame allows an applicant to conduct many transactions over a fixed period. Of the 6254 export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2012, 374 were designated for multiple shipments, authorizing more than 37 000 shipments. The largest share of export permits for multiple shipments was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng and to nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants. Multiple-shipment permits

issued in 2012 also authorized shipments of mammal species and their parts or derivatives, notably those of the Crab-eating Macaque.

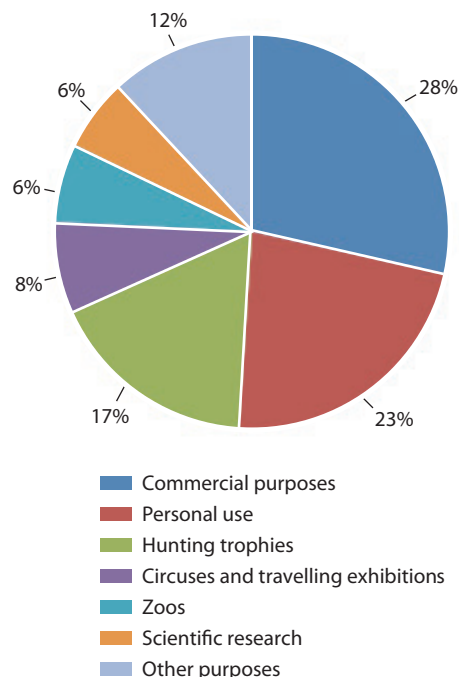
In Canada, the national CITES Management Authority allows the export of a small quantity of artificially propagated American Ginseng (up to 4.5 kg for personal use) through a simplified permitting procedure that allows each shipment to be accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized. Individual stickers accounted for 22 000 of the authorized shipments in 2012.

2.2.3 Imports into Canada

Canada issued 186 import permits in 2012 for the following purposes: commercial (53), personal use (42), hunting trophies (32), circuses and travelling exhibitions (14), zoos (12), scientific research (11), and other purposes (22).

Figure 2 indicates the distribution, by purpose, of CITES import permits issued in 2012. The percentage for commercial purposes mainly represents artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens and captive-bred specimens.

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2012, by purpose



2.3 Canada's trading partners

Canada's major trading partners under CITES, particularly for exports, are the United States, the member countries of the European Union, and the countries of East and Southeast Asia. The largest importers of Canadian wild animal specimens in the European Union were Germany, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Spain, France and Austria. The species most commonly exported from Canada to Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, was artificially propagated American Ginseng, with these regions accounting for the majority of Canada's foreign market for this species.

3 ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE

3.1 Non-detriment findings

Countries exporting specimens of species listed in CITES Appendix I or II must provide scientific advice that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This advice 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 nondetriment findings.

In Canada, for more heavily traded species, the basis for the scientific advice by the CITES Scientific Authority is documented in a publicly available "standing nondetriment finding report."

Although there is no international standard for non-detriment finding reports, 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 and through various international CITES workshops. The Canadian Scientific Authority uses this material to structure its non-detriment finding reports.

Each standing non-detriment finding report is prepared following an approved process involving a federal-provincial/territorial CITES Scientific Authorities working group, and also involving an Aboriginal Consult Working Group.

In 2012, standing non-detriment finding reports were published for Black Bear and Grizzly Bear. Standing non-detriment finding reports have previously been completed for American Ginseng, Bobcat, Canada Lynx, Goldenseal, Grey Wolf, Polar Bear and River Otter. These reports are available on Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1. Canada is currently finalizing a standing non-detriment report for Sandhill Crane.

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

The Review of Significant Trade is the process by which trade in wild species listed in Appendix II of CITES is examined to ascertain that the trade is non-detrimental to the survival of the species. The Animals Committee and Plants Committee have primary responsibility for this multiple-staged process and focus on species for which international trade is a concern and for which evidence suggests that efforts toward sustainable management could be improved. The process requires countries to demonstrate sustainable trade and could lead to the imposition of global trade restrictions for a species or restrictions on individual countries.

Canadian trade was not included in the Review of Significant Trade for any species in 2012.

4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA

4.1 Compliance promotion

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

active partner on the international stage in promoting and verifying compliance with CITES.

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

In 2012, Environment Canada worked to promote compliance with WAPPRIITA through 23 displays located at various venues, including airports, science centres, customs offices, zoos and border crossings. Information regarding regulatory requirements was also posted on the Environment Canada website. More specifically, Environment Canada published two brochures entitled *Endangered Species and the International Traveller* (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=69BC0FBB-1) and *Endangered Species and Trade (import/export)* (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=C5F64D6F-1), in addition to the 2011 brochure entitled *Animal and Plant Ingredients in Traditional Medicine* (www.ec.gc.ca/Publications/default.asp?lang=En&xml=91DC8C3C-F3F7-4545-973D-C9F48EF641CA).

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

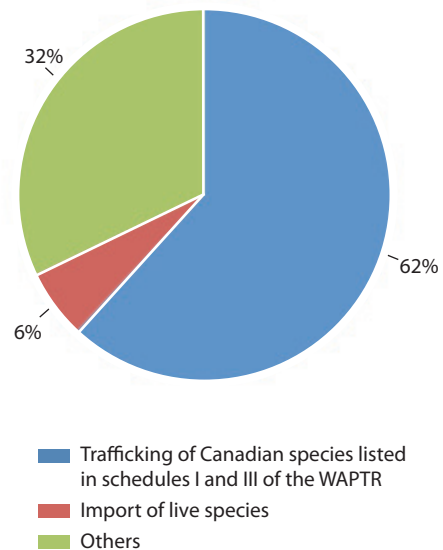
4.2 Enforcement activities

Environment Canada's mandate is to ensure that businesses and individuals act in compliance with environmental and wildlife protection laws and regulations. In 2012, Environment Canada relied on the work of 87 wildlife officers who were designated for enforcing WAPPRIITA and other wildlife legislation.

4.2.1 Inspections

Environment Canada conducted 4526 inspections under WAPPRIITA in 2012. During that period, 2783 inspections focused on trafficking of Canadian species listed under Schedules I and III of WAPTR, 274 focused on import of live species, and 1469 were other inspections. Those inspections involved travellers, hunters or companies who imported products like belts, souvenirs, shells, coral, pets and plants.

Figure 3: Number of inspections conducted in 2012, by national priority (percent of total)



4.2.2 Investigations

In 2012, Environment Canada conducted 125 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife.

The following are four examples of investigations that led to prosecution and resulted in convictions in 2012 for having violated the law or regulations under WAPPRIITA.

Conviction and fine of \$40,000 for unlawfully importing reptiles

In 2012, a Montréal-area man was convicted in the Ontario Court of Justice in Cornwall, Ontario, after pleading guilty to one count of unlawfully importing 132 tortoises, 90 chameleons, 20 iguanas and 25 monitor lizards. The incidents leading to this conviction occurred between June 2010 and August 2010, and charges were the result of a joint investigation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

It was determined that shipments of reptiles were purchased in California and drop-shipped to an address within the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation in New York. They were subsequently transported, by boat, across the international border via the St. Lawrence Seaway and picked up in Cornwall, Ontario.

The individual, a retailer and wholesaler of reptiles and amphibians located in Montréal, was fined \$40,000 and sentenced to three years' probation.



Jackson's chameleon (*Chamaeleo jacksonii*) seized during investigation
© Environment Canada, Photo: Justin Cooke

Penalties of \$45,000 for illegal import of wild American Ginseng roots and orchid species

A health-food company pleaded guilty and was sentenced in British Columbia Provincial Court in Richmond on September 11, 2012, on three counts of importing without a permit under subsection 6(2) of WAPPRIITA.

On January 28, 2010, Environment Canada wildlife officers discovered several bags of wild American Ginseng roots hidden among a

shipment of permitted ginseng roots. Further inspection revealed several bags of orchids (*Dendrobium* spp.). Both species are listed under CITES, and neither was declared to the Canada Border Services Agency.



Wild American Ginseng roots found hidden within a shipment of permitted ginseng
© Environment Canada, Photo: Brenda Buchart

In addition to forfeiture of approximately 19 kg of ginseng (wild and cultivated) and approximately 5 kg of orchids, the company received penalties totalling \$45,000. This included a fine of \$2,500 for each of the three counts under WAPPRIITA, \$7,500 to be directed to the Environmental Damages Fund, and \$30,000 awarded directly to TRAFFIC, a wildlife trade monitoring network that works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Fines totalling \$135,822 for illegal importation of live rock coral

In July 2007, Canada Border Services Agency officials in Vancouver, British Columbia, completed an inspection of a shipping container being imported from Indonesia. Due to a suspicion that the shipment might contain live rock coral, the initial inspection by the Canada Border Services Agency resulted in a referral for further examination by Environment Canada wildlife officers. The importer was asked to provide further documentation, which was sent to the Indonesian CITES Management Authority for verification. The documents were identified as fraudulent.

After samples were removed and submitted for forensic analysis, the shipment was sent from Vancouver to Winnipeg, where the importer made his official import declaration. At that time, officers seized the 9507 kg of *Scleractinia* live rock coral.

On October 17, 2012, the individual and his company were sentenced in Manitoba Provincial Court to fines of \$125,500, with an additional fine of \$10,322 to cover storage costs for the live rock over the five years while the investigation and subsequent trial were under way.



Scleractinia coral seized during the investigation
© Environment Canada, Photo: Trevor Wyatt

Conviction for unlawful sale, export and interprovincial transport of live snakehead fish

A year-long, joint Environment Canada and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources operation resulted in multiple charges being laid against a Toronto-based business and one of its employees on June 5, 2012. Each pleaded guilty in the Ontario Court of Justice in Newmarket to two charges under WAPPRIITA of illegally exporting an invasive species, snakehead fish, to the United States and illegally transporting snakehead fish from Ontario to Manitoba. They both also pleaded guilty to four counts under the Ontario *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997*, of illegally selling snakehead fish.

On November 9, 2012, the individual was sentenced to two 60-day jail terms to be served concurrently, followed by two years of probation and \$1,250 to be paid toward the publication of notices that warn of the dangers of invasive species and related penalties for those who defy the law.



Young Northern Snakehead fish
© Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Photo: B. Cudmore

The business was ordered to pay a total of \$75,030 in fines and surcharges, with an additional \$1,250 to be paid for the publication of warning notices as referenced above. The business was also sentenced to two years of probation.

As a result of the joint-forces operation, the individual also received a penalty of \$13,000 for related charges brought by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation Police.

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

4.3 Collaboration with provincial partners

While WAPPRIITA is federal legislation, several provincial agencies have officers designated to enforce the Act. The collaboration between Canada and its provincial partners extends WAPPRIITA's influence further than ever.

As mentioned in Section 1.3 of this report, memoranda of understanding exist between Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia to support the efforts provided for under WAPPRIITA in accordance with their own legislation.

It is important to emphasize the impact of the provinces' capacity for supporting wildlife officers. The collaboration results in additional

resources, which are a significant advantage, especially during large-scale federal operations.

5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties

The CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) meets once every three years. During the intersessional period between CoPs, it is the role of the Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee to undertake the directives given to them by the meeting of the previous CoP and prepare results for the next CoP meeting. The activities carried out by these committees in 2012 are described in more detail in Section 5.2 below.

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP15) to CITES took place in March 2010. CoP16 will take place March 3–14, 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand. The CoP will negotiate decisions based on proposals submitted by Parties to CITES. The deadline to submit proposals to CoP16 was October 2012. Following a public call for input, Canada did not submit any proposals for consideration by CITES CoP16. Once the agenda for CoP16 was confirmed, Environment Canada hosted a public consultation meeting on November 6, 2012, to seek views on the various proposals to be negotiated at CITES CoP16. The results were reported on Environment Canada's website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=F4A0C07A-1.

At each conference, Canada's objectives are to ensure that decisions made are based on sound science, to seek consistency between the CoPs' decisions and Canadian environmental policy, and to highlight Canadian approaches and successes in sustainable wildlife management.

5.2 CITES committees and working groups

Canada participates in a number of committees and working groups to foster ongoing cooperation with international partners under the Convention. In particular, the meetings of the CITES Standing Committee, Plants

Committee and Animals Committee are instrumental in developing international policy for implementation of the Convention. Decisions made by these bodies affect Canada's obligations under CITES and greatly influence the decisions ultimately taken at the Conferences of the Parties. It is therefore important that Canadian concerns be heard in these forums.

Members of these committees are elected on a regional basis after every Conference of the Parties. Canada, Mexico and the United States are the parties of the North America region under CITES. Members of the Animals Committee and Plants Committee are elected as individuals on a regional-representation basis. Carolina Caceres of Canada serves as representative for the North America region on the Animals Committee, and Adrienne Sinclair of Canada serves as alternate regional representative on the Plants Committee.

The Plants Committee and Animals Committee met in March 2012, and the Standing Committee met in July 2012. Canada was very active in the work of all three committees, participating in a number of key working groups, according to the priorities of our country and our role as representative for North America on the Animals Committee.

The North America Region of CITES met by teleconference and in person on site prior to meetings of the CITES Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee in 2012 to focus on regional preparations and positions for these meetings. Regional meetings allow Canada to better understand other North American parties' views and concerns, especially regarding shared species.

The Internet toolkit

At the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, the committee directed the CITES Secretariat to develop an online toolkit to assist the parties in conducting searches of CITES-listed specimens targeted for trade. Canada took the lead and developed the "Internet Toolkit: A Manual for Conducting Research on the Internet," which has since been reviewed by the CITES Secretariat and by INTERPOL. The manual was completed in 2012 and will be launched at an enforcement side event at

the 16th Conference of the Parties in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 2013.

5.3 INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group

With 190 member countries, INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, a subgroup of the Environmental Crimes Committee, represents several CITES member countries at INTERPOL. The group has been meeting regularly since 1994 to discuss issues related to law enforcement, strategies and ways in which INTERPOL can help to maintain and support an international network of law enforcement experts specializing in wildlife crimes. Canada participated in the 23rd meeting of the working group, which took place in Bangkok, Thailand, in February 2012.

Environment Canada's involvement with the Wildlife Crime Working Group has included building capacity and facilitating the exchange

of information in support of coordinated and enhanced enforcement efforts around the world.

Building on the wildlife law enforcement training course provided in Botswana in 2011, Environment Canada was involved in a second delivery of training to police and wildlife officers from 10 francophone African countries in 2012. The six-day training course was held at INTERPOL's National Central Bureau in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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