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

Annual Report

for 2013



Canada 

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Email: enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	IV
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose of the Annual Report	1
1.2 WAPPRIITA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	1
1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA.....	1
2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE	2
2.1 CITES permitting	2
2.1.1 Permitting overview	2
2.1.2 Exemptions	3
2.1.3 Improvements to issuance and monitoring of CITES permits	3
2.2 CITES permits issued in 2013	4
2.2.1 Export permits and re-export certificates	4
2.2.2 Permits for multiple shipments.....	5
2.2.3 Imports into Canada.....	5
2.3 Canada's trading partners	5
3 ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE	6
3.1 Non-detriment findings	6
3.2 Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species	6
4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA.....	6
4.1 Compliance promotion	6
4.2 Enforcement activities.....	7
4.2.1 Inspections.....	7
4.2.2 Investigations	8
4.3 Collaboration with provincial and territorial partners.....	10
5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	10
5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties	10
5.2 CITES committees and working groups	11
5.3 INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group	12
6 FURTHER INFORMATION	12

HIGHLIGHTS

- Canadian jurisdictions issued 5791 export permits and re-export certificates in 2013 under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA). The majority of shipments in 2013 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 2013, Canada issued 175 import permits, 25% of which were for commercial purposes.
- Canada is in the last stage of the process to finalize the “standing non-detriment finding report” for the Sandhill Crane and has initiated the process to develop a standing non-detriment finding report for the Cougar. These reports will provide the scientific basis for allowing some export of these species from Canada. The reports will be publicly available on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Canada website.
- Environment Canada published service standards at the end of November, specifying the expected time frame in which permits under WAPPRIITA would be issued.
- Environment Canada conducted 198 investigations of suspected offences under WAPPRIITA in 2013. Section 4.2.2 describes 4 major convictions under WAPPRIITA: 2 for illegal imports, 1 related to hunting and 1 for illegal export of wildlife.
- Canada attended the 16th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) in Bangkok, Thailand, March 3–14, 2013, at which three Canadian species were added to the list of CITES-controlled species (Spotted Turtle, Blanding’s Turtle and Porbeagle Shark), and a proposal to increase trade controls for Polar Bear was defeated.
- Canada continued as the North American region representative on the CITES Animals Committee and is the alternate North American representative on the CITES Plants Committee, and has been an active participant in a number of key CITES working groups.

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* (WAPPRITA), to report annually on the administration of the Act. This report covers the administration of the Act for the year 2013.

This section provides background information on WAPPRITA 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 WAPPRITA and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

WAPPRITA 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 to date, it has been adopted by over 175 sovereign states.

WAPPRITA, 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 WAPPRITA 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 WAPPRITA

Environment Canada is responsible for administering WAPPRITA 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 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 (see section 2.1.1 for more details).

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 an important 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, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Under the agreements and MOUs, these four provinces and two territories 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 a certificate of origin.

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

Environment Canada issues all export permits and re-export certificates for non-indigenous species as well as all import permits. Environment Canada also issues export permits and re-export certificates for specimens of indigenous species for applicants located in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Other provinces and territories issue export permits required for indigenous species for applicants in 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.

Table 1 describes the various types of CITES permits and certificates that are issued by Canada.

Table 1: Types of Canadian permits required under CITES and WAPPRIITA 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 exotic 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, captive bred 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 three years.
Scientific certificate	Issued for the exchange between registered scientific institutions of museum, research and herbarium specimens. Scientific certificates are valid for up to three years.
Phytosanitary certificate	Issued for export by registered nurseries of artificially propagated plant species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III. This certificate will be phased out in 2014.

2.1.2 Exemptions

WAPPRIITA 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 and 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). Further information on exemptions is available at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=DC8E2E3F-1.

2.1.3 Improvements to the issuance and monitoring of CITES permits

In 2013, Environment Canada set the following service standards for WAPPRIITA permit decisions:

- Polar Bear Hunting Trophy decisions will be made within 80 calendar days after the date of the notice indicating that the application has been received.
- Hunting Trophy (excluding Polar Bears) decisions will be made within 14 calendar days after the date of the notice indicating that the application has been received.
- All other permit-type decisions will be made within 40 calendar days after the date of the notice indicating that the application has been received.

When incomplete applications are received, the applicant is notified and the time limit will be “paused” or “suspended” until all of the missing information is received.

The Department also set the following performance targets:

- 2013–2014: 80% of decisions regarding permit applications are made within the service standard
- 2014–2015: 85% of decisions regarding permit applications are made within the established service standard
- 2015–2016 onward: 90% of decisions regarding permit applications are made within the established service standard

Please note that since the targets were set late in 2013, this report does not include information on them. This will be provided starting in the 2014 WAPPRIITA Annual Report.

Environment Canada is revising all CITES permit application forms to target them to the specific type of applicant and context of the request that is being submitted. Instruction sheets are being developed in conjunction with the revised forms to assist applicants in ensuring that they accurately provide the necessary information for processing their requests.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2013

2.2.1 Export permits and re-export certificates

Export permits are issued 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.

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 brought into Canada under the authorization of permits issued by foreign states, and then re-exported from Canada.

In 2013, Canada issued 5791 export permits and re-export certificates that were still active by year-end. Additional permits were issued during the year, but were not included in the total because they were cancelled or withdrawn. Cancellation or withdrawal of permits issued can occur when the planned export will no longer take place, or the circumstances no longer warrant the need for the permit. The majority of exports consisted of artificially propagated specimens of American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts or products.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2013 by each Canadian jurisdiction.

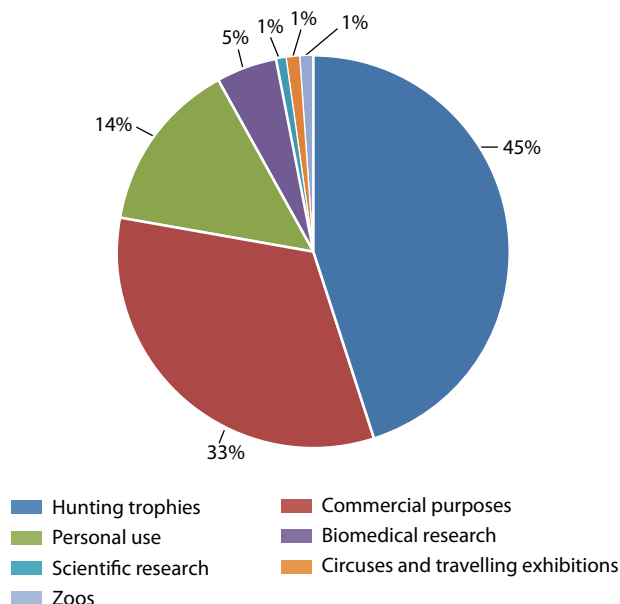
Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian jurisdictions in 2013

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal		
Environment Canada	3376*	58.30
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	129	2.23
Provincial and territorial		
British Columbia	1168	20.17
Ontario	653	11.28
New Brunswick	168	2.90
Yukon	140	2.42
Newfoundland and Labrador	111	1.92
Northwest Territories	27	0.47
Nova Scotia	10	0.17
Nunavut	9	0.16
Prince Edward Island	0	0
TOTAL	5791	100

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

In 2013, Canada issued export permits and re-export certificates for the following purposes: hunting trophies (2586), commercial (1926), personal use (812), biomedical research (293), scientific research (73), zoos (53), exhibitions (32) and other purposes (16). Figure 1 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose, of wildlife export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2013.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2013, by purpose of transaction*



* Other purposes (0.3%) account for such a small percentage that they are not included in the graph.

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 field-grown American Ginseng, as well as orchids and cacti from nurseries and greenhouses. As in past years, the most common mammal species 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 6 months from the date of issue. Of the 5 791 export permits and re-export certificates that were still active at year-end of 2013, 443 were for multiple shipments, authorizing more than 24 000 shipments. By far the largest share of multiple shipment permits was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng. The other users of multiple shipment permits were nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants and research labs exporting parts and derivatives of Macaques.

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. Each shipment is accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments

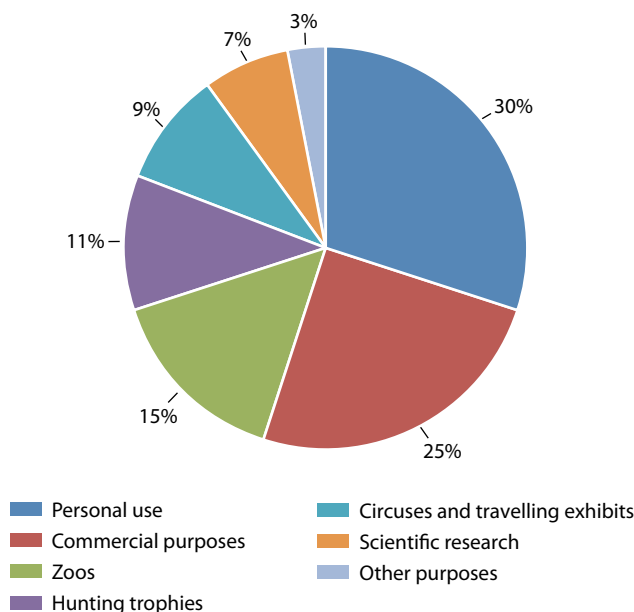
are authorized. Individual stickers accounted for 20 648 of the approximately 24 000 total shipments that were authorized in 2013.

2.2.3 Imports into Canada

Canada issued 175 import permits in 2013 for the following purposes: personal use (52), commercial (44), zoos (26), hunting trophies (20), circuses and travelling exhibitions (15), scientific research (12) and other purposes (6).

Figure 2 indicates the distribution, by purpose, of CITES import permits issued in 2013. The percentage for commercial purposes mainly represents artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens (e.g., antiques containing ivory) and captive-bred specimens (e.g., falcons, parrots).

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2013, by purpose of transaction



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 species most commonly exported from Canada to Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, was field-grown 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 determination that such export will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. This determination is referred to as a “non-detriment finding.” Some countries, such as the United States and the European Union nations, 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 (NDFs) are determined on a permit-by-permit basis and, for more heavily traded species, may be developed as a standing document to help communicate our approach and ensure consistency in decision-making. Standing NDF reports have been completed for American Ginseng, Black Bear, Bobcat, Canada Lynx, Goldenseal, Grey Wolf, Grizzly Bear, 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’s non-detriment findings are consistent with guidance provided by the CITES Secretariat and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as the guidance in Resolution Conference 16.7 adopted by the CITES Conference of the Parties at the 16th meeting in March 2013. Canada’s species-specific standing NDF reports are developed following a process that involves a federal-provincial/territorial CITES Scientific Authorities working group, as well as participation and review by species experts including Inuit and Inuit representatives.

In December 2013, the Canadian network of CITES scientific authorities held a meeting to explore Canada’s interests and challenges regarding national implementation of the scientific aspects of CITES, to provide advice and comments on Canada’s international activities, and to further develop species-specific standing NDF reports for Sandhill Crane and Cougar.

3.2 Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species

The Review of Significant Trade is the process by which Parties to CITES determine whether trade in wild species listed in Appendix II of CITES is detrimental to the survival of the species. The Animals Committee and Plants Committee have primary responsibility for

this process. The process can 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 2013.

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 2013, Environment Canada worked to promote compliance with WAPPRIITA through more than 20 displays located at various venues, including airports, science centres, customs offices, zoos and border crossings. Two new displays were developed for installation early in 2014 in Terminals 1 and 3 at Pearson International Airport in Toronto.



New WAPPRIITA displays to be installed at Pearson International Airport
Photo: © Environment Canada

Information regarding regulatory requirements was also posted on several websites. In addition to existing brochures, Environment Canada published a series of frequently asked questions (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=990E5322-1) as well as a fact sheet on American Ginseng (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=9E21FDBF-1). Environment Canada also contributed Web content to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development for publications on their www.travel.gc.ca Web portal on the following subjects: Bringing your Pet to Canada; CITES Permits; Travel Documents for your Pet/Travelling with your Exotic Pet; Travelling with Medication: What you can bring back to Canada; Safe Travel Planner as well as the publication *Bon Voyage, But...*

In 2013, Environment Canada worked with the Canadian Veterinary Medicine Association to inform their members of required permits for exotic pet owners to travel with their animals.

Environment Canada also shared information throughout the year via Environment Canada's Twitter and Facebook sites. 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

Illegal trade in wildlife threatens the conservation benefits and socio-economic development opportunities that legal trade in wildlife can provide. Illegal trade does not account for quotas (maximum number of specimens that can sustainably be removed from the wild population). Populations of species may be decimated by over-exploitation driven by illegal trade.

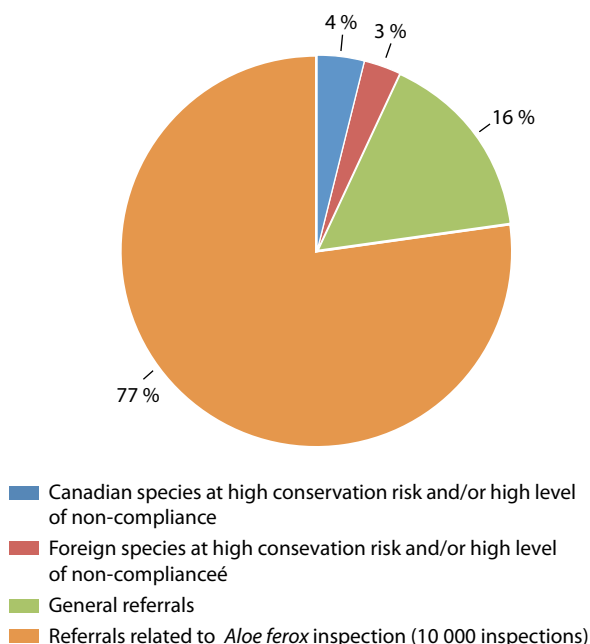
4.2.1 Inspections

Environment Canada conducted 12 995 inspections under WAPPRIITA in 2013, which is a big increase over the 4 526 inspections conducted in 2012. The high number is mainly due to an unexpected and sudden spike of nearly 10 000 import referrals of packages containing *Aloe ferox*—a weight loss product—without CITES permits.

Referrals are cases sent to Environment Canada wildlife officers from other departments, governments and the public. They usually involve travellers, hunters or companies who import or export personal quantities of animals, plants, or any part or derivative of an animal or plant such as belts, souvenirs, shells, coral, and pets that are not listed under CITES Appendix I.

Of the 12 995 inspections under WAPPRIITA, 564 focused on Canadian species at high conservation risk and/or high level of non-compliance, 428 focused on foreign species at high conservation risk and/or high level of non-compliance, 2 003 were general referrals and approximately 10 000 were related to *Aloe ferox*. The distribution of inspections (excluding the 10 000 *Aloe ferox* inspections) is more in line with past trends. Figure 3 below provides the distribution of 2013 inspections.

Figure 3: Inspections conducted in 2013, with 10 000 inspections related to *Aloe ferox* included



Importation of thousands of packages containing Aloe ferox derivative without CITES permits

In the summer of 2013, over the course of 4 months, Canada Border Services Agency referred over 10 000 packages of a consumer product containing *Aloe ferox* to Environment Canada for compliance verification.

Aloe ferox is one of several aloe species from southern Africa sought after and used in medical and cosmetic products. It is listed in CITES Appendix II. A United States company advertised the product but failed to obtain CITES re-export permits as required by Canadian and United States law for each shipment sent to Canada.

As a result, Environment Canada confiscated over 10 000 individual imports for which there were no CITES permits. In order to prevent the recurrence of such violations and to provide the intended recipients with the opportunity to seek review of their file, Environment Canada sent each of the intended recipients an inspection report to advise them that controlled goods had been detected. In these cases, no charges were laid against the importers. Concurrently, Environment Canada worked with partners to stop the flow of these shipments at the source.



Detained import shipments containing *Aloe ferox*
Photo: © Environment Canada

4.2.2 Investigations

In 2013, Environment Canada conducted 198 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movement of wildlife, which is higher than the 125 new investigations in 2012. This is likely the result of an increased strategic capacity for the intelligence program, improving the Department's ability to target non-compliant activity.

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

The following are four examples of investigations that led to prosecution and resulted in convictions in 2013 for having violated the law or regulations under WAPPRIITA.

Narwhal tusk trafficking case ends in largest ever penalty under WAPPRIITA

In October 2013, a Woodmans Point, New Brunswick, man was convicted of 7 offences related to the illegal export of about 250 Narwhal ivory tusks to the United States over a period of 7 years.

The investigation began in April 2009, when Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch received information from enforcement agencies in the United States regarding the illegal purchase of Narwhal tusks in that country, which had originated from Canada. The investigation involved enforcement agencies from across Canada and the United States, producing evidence of ongoing smuggling of Narwhal tusks from Canada to buyers in the United States.

The individual was sentenced to pay a penalty of \$385,000 and received an 8-month conditional sentence to be served in the community, including 4 months of

house arrest. He is also prohibited from possessing or purchasing marine mammal products for a period of 10 years and is required to forfeit items used to smuggle the tusks across the Canada–United States border, including a truck and trailer seized during the investigation. This represents the largest sentence ever given for the illegal export of Canadian species.

The Narwhal is a medium-sized, toothed whale that lives year-round in Arctic waters. The Narwhal has been identified as a species of Special Concern by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, and harvest of this species is regulated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The Narwhal is also listed under Appendix II of CITES, and as such, an export permit is required to export specimens from Canada.



Narwhal tusks seized during investigation
Photo: Glen Williams © Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Conviction for illegal possession and import of Alaska Brown Bear

In October 2013, a Dunmore, Alberta, man was convicted in the Provincial Court of Alberta on two counts for illegally possessing and importing an Alaskan Brown Bear into Canada.

This conviction is only one element of an extensive three-year, multi-agency, international investigation into the illegal hunting of Alaskan Brown Bear, which is an activity with a high level of non-compliance. Environment Canada, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and Alberta Fish and Wildlife worked together after Alaskan authorities determined that several Alberta hunters were illegally killing Brown Bears and importing them into Canada.

The individual was sentenced to pay \$15,000 for violating WAPPRIITA, of which \$13,500 was directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF). He was also

prohibited for a period of two years from importing wildlife into Canada and travelling outside of Alberta for the purposes of hunting. He was required to forfeit a hide and skull seized during the investigation. Any CITES-listed wildlife imported into Canada, exported from Canada, or attempted to be exported without the required permits is subject to seizure.

The EDF, administered by Environment Canada, was created in 1995 to provide a mechanism for directing funds received as a result of fines, court orders and voluntary payments to priority projects that will benefit our natural environment.



Forfeited Brown Bear skull
Photo: © Environment Canada

Illegal import of reptiles results in jail time and fines

In November 2013, a Cobden, Ontario, man was sentenced in the Ontario Court of Justice after pleading guilty on July 23, 2013, to importing animals without a permit and making false or misleading statements to an officer.

On August 4, 2010, a joint operation by Environment Canada, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Customs and Border Protection found the individual to be in possession of three containers of reptiles that were smuggled into Canada by a vessel originating from the United States. Inspection of the containers revealed a number of reptiles that are prohibited in Canada for health and safety reasons and others that are illegal to import into Canada without a permit.

Officers seized 205 animals including 20 Chinese Striped Turtles or Golden Threads, 20 African Side Neck Turtles, 20 South American Red-footed Tortoises,

1 Herman's Tortoise, 1 Serrated Hinge Back Tortoise, 8 African Spurred Tortoises, 25 Timor Monitors, 20 Green Iguanas, 51 Jackson's Chameleons and 39 Helmeted Chameleons. The estimated retail value of these animals is approximately \$50,000.

The individual was sentenced to a 90-day jail term to be served on weekends, 3 years of probation, and was ordered to pay \$50,000 to the EDF.

He was also charged by the Canada Border Services Agency and convicted on March 14, 2013, of smuggling, keeping, acquiring, and disposing of goods illegally imported under the *Customs Act*. He received an additional 90-day jail sentence to be served on weekends, and the reptiles were ordered to be forfeited to the Crown.

As a result of the same investigation, another individual was previously convicted (December 2012) in the Ontario Court of Justice in Cornwall after pleading guilty to 1 count of unlawfully importing animals in violation of WAPPRIITA. He was fined \$40,000 and sentenced to 3 years of probation. Of the 10 species seized, 9 are listed as controlled species under CITES.



American Red-footed Tortoises seized by officers
Photo: © Environment Canada

Fine of \$80,000 for smuggling of Polar Bear

At the end of March 2013, four hunters were intercepted attempting to smuggle Polar Bear hides and Narwhal tusks out of Canada without the appropriate export permits. The four hunters, all from Mexico, legally shot the Polar Bears in Nunavut in late March, but were then intercepted by officers at Winnipeg's James Richardson International Airport attempting to smuggle out the pelts without the necessary CITES permits, where the private jet they were travelling in stopped to refuel. Following a guilty plea, the hunters received fines totalling \$80,000 for their crime.

Given that Canada is home to approximately 16 000 of the world's estimated 20 000–25 000 Polar Bears, it has a unique responsibility to protect these iconic creatures.



Seized Polar Bear hide
Photo: © Environment Canada

4.3 Collaboration with provincial and territorial partners

While WAPPRIITA is federal legislation, several provincial agencies have officers designated to enforce the Act. The collaboration between Canada and its provincial partners is advantageous because it results in better coordination of efforts and resources to undertake wildlife enforcement actions, especially large-scale operations.

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

5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1 CITES Conferences of the Parties

The CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) meets once every three years to negotiate decisions based on proposals submitted by Parties to CITES. It is the primary forum for reviewing the implementation of the Convention and for agreeing to changes to the Appendices, which determine international trade controls

for species. The 16th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) took place from March 3–14, 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Following a public call for input in 2012 and consultations with relevant authorities and stakeholders, Canada did not submit any proposals for consideration by CITES CoP16. Canada's objectives during the meeting were to base decisions on sound science, seek consistency between the CoP decisions and Canadian environmental policy, and to highlight Canadian approaches and successes in sustainable wildlife management, which includes better enforcement targeting strategies based on conservation issues. The Canadian positions on species proposals and working documents were developed through consultation with government agencies and stakeholders. Species proposals were carefully reviewed, and the information was weighed against the CITES listing criteria.

Environment Canada led the Canadian delegation, which included representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada, the Government of Nunavut, Government of the Northwest Territories, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Makivik Corporation, Nunatsiavut Government, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-Management Board, and the Fur Institute of Canada.

At CoP16, three Canadian species were added to CITES Appendix II: Spotted Turtle, Blanding's Turtle and Porbeagle Shark. The two turtle species are already protected under provincial and federal laws, including the federal *Species at Risk Act*, and as such, trade in Canada is already prohibited. The Appendix II listing will afford additional protection to the species, including elsewhere in their ranges. The addition of the porbeagle to Appendix II will allow for the continuation of Canadian commercial trade as authorized by CITES export permits.

The CoP also listed four other shark species on Appendix II, none of which occur in Canada regularly, including three hammerhead shark species and Oceanic Whitetip. These listings are significant because there has always been debate about the role of CITES in managing trade of species such as sharks, when other international or regional agreements on trade management exist.

A proposal by the United States to transfer Polar Bear, which occurs in Canada, to Appendix I would have ended commercial international trade of this species. The proposal was defeated. An alternative proposal from the European Union was to allow continued trade but

with several conditions. This proposal was also defeated. It was agreed that the species did not meet the CITES criteria for listing in Appendix I.

The CoP adopted a new resolution to provide guidance to Parties on evaluating whether trade is non-detrimental to the survival of a species before permits are issued. This is a core function of the Convention, and this resolution is the first CoP-approved guidance that exists in this regard. Canada contributed significantly to this work both prior to and during the meeting.

Additional information on the CoP is available on the Environment Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=F4A0C07A-1).

Environment Canada is working to update Schedule I of the WAPTR of WAPPRIITA to reflect the species listing decisions adopted at CoP16.

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 CoP. Carolina Caceres of Environment Canada continues to serve as representative of North America region on the Animals Committee and will likely serve as Chair until the next CoP in 2017. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of Environment Canada continues to serve as alternate regional representative on the Plants Committee.

Canada attended the North America regional meeting, hosted by Mexico in February 2013, as part of an ongoing commitment to meet and discuss regional issues and positions in advance of the CoP. These meetings allow regional members to better understand other North American Parties' views and concerns, especially regarding shared species.

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 Security Sub-Directorate, has been meeting regularly since 1992 to work on 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 24th meeting of the working group, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2013. Canada's voice and visibility in this international forum gained profile as Sheldon Jordan, Director General of Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Directorate, was elected as Chair of the working group.

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. In 2013, two Enforcement Branch officers were seconded part-time to the INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB), located at the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. The aim of these assignments is to improve the Enforcement Branch's ability to exchange operational information with INTERPOL, with other countries' NCBs and with other domestic agencies.

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:

Environment Canada
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-1840
Fax: 819-953-6283
Email: cites@ec.gc.ca