



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

Annual Report
for 2014



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

Annual Report
for 2014

Print version
ISSN: 1702-756X
Cat. No.: CW70-5/2015

PDF version
ISSN: 1926-1888
Cat. No.: CW70-5E-PDF/2015

Unless otherwise specified, you may not reproduce materials in this publication, in whole or in part, for the purposes of commercial redistribution without prior written permission from Environment and Climate Change Canada's copyright administrator. To obtain permission to reproduce Government of Canada materials for commercial purposes, apply for Crown Copyright Clearance by contacting:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Public Inquiries Centre
7th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-2800
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)
Email: ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

Front cover photos:

Cougar (*Puma concolor*) © Gordon Court 2015

Eastern Prairie Fringed-Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) © Gary Allen 2015

Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*) © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada 2015

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2016

Aussi disponible en français

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	iv
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Purpose of the annual report	1
1.2 WAPPRIITA and CITES	1
1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA.....	2
2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE	2
2.1 CITES permitting	2
2.1.1 Permitting overview	2
2.1.2 Exemptions	4
2.1.3 Improvements to the issuance and monitoring of CITES permits	4
2.2 CITES permits issued in 2014	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.....	6
2.3 Canada's trading partners	6
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	7
4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA.....	7
4.1 Compliance promotion	7
4.2 Enforcement activities.....	8
4.2.1 Inspections.....	8
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	10
5.3 INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group	11
5.4 London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade	11
6 FURTHER INFORMATION	12

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **Exports:** In 2014, Canadian jurisdictions issued 5023 export permits and re-export certificates under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRIITA), the legislative vehicle by which Canada meets its Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) obligations. The majority of shipments in 2014 were of cultivated American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts and derivatives.
- **Imports:** In 2014, Canada issued 190 import permits, 22% of which were for commercial purposes.
- **Investigations:** Environment Canada conducted 147 new investigations of suspected offences under WAPPRIITA in 2014. Section 4.2.2 describes five examples of investigations that led to prosecution and resulted in convictions in 2014 for having violated WAPPRIITA or its regulations.
- **Standards:** Environment Canada has published service standards for the issuance of permits under WAPPRIITA, and it tracks its performance against those standards. Performance is improving year over year, as the permitting teams continue to improve methods for managing workloads and find efficiencies in processing.

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

- Canada has completed standing non-detriment finding reports for the Sandhill Crane and Cougar. The reports are publicly available on Canada's CITES website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1. These reports document the scientific basis for allowing the export from Canada of legally obtained specimens of these species.
- A Canadian breeder of Peregrine Falcons was added to the international CITES-register of captive breeders of Appendix I species. The registration allows the breeder to export his captive-bred falcons for commercial trade.

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 2014.

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
- assessment of the risk to species from trade
- compliance promotion and enforcement
- international cooperation

1.2 WAPPRIITA and CITES

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 over-exploitation 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 degree of protection they need.

- 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 over-exploitation. 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 to the Convention may list species that are found within their borders and are 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.

In 2014, a Canadian breeder of Peregrine Falcons was added to the international CITES-register of captive breeders of Appendix I species. The registration allows the breeder to export his captive-bred falcons for commercial trade. This brings the total number of registered Canadian breeders of Appendix I species to 12. The species that are bred in these facilities include Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcons, falcon hybrids, Shortnose Sturgeons and Cabot's Tragopan (a type of pheasant).

In 1973, the text of CITES was agreed upon by 80 signatory countries, including Canada. The Convention came into force in 1975 and to date has been adopted by 180 sovereign states.

WAPPRIITA, the legislation that gives Canada the authority to regulate the 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 certain species of animals and plants, particularly by implementing CITES and regulating international and interprovincial trade in animals and plants. This benefits Canadian and foreign species of animals and plants that may be at risk of over-exploitation because of unsustainable or illegal trade, and Canadian ecosystems at risk from the introduction of harmful species. The legislation 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.

In addition, the offence to transport illegally obtained wildlife between provinces or territories or between Canada and other countries extends beyond CITES-listed species and applies to wild plants and animals more broadly.

1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA

Environment Canada is responsible for administering WAPPRIITA and is the designated Management Authority and Scientific Authority, as required by CITES.

Environment Canada, as the Management Authority, is responsible for verifying and validating all international trade requests of specimens of animals and plants that are regulated under CITES. This responsibility includes activities such as issuing CITES permits and certificates. Environment Canada, as the Scientific Authority, is responsible for determining whether or not international trade of a species is detrimental to the survival of the species. This responsibility includes monitoring the international trade of wildlife in Canada to ensure that current levels of trade are sustainable.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for CITES-listed aquatic species, including fish, aquatic plants and marine mammals. Natural Resources Canada serves as an advisor on CITES issues related to timber species. Further information on the responsibilities under WAPPRIITA can be found online 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 below 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, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Under the agreements and memoranda of understanding, 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.

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.

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. In 2014, the responsibility for the issuance of permits for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Nunavut was moved to Environment Canada,

due to the low volume of permits issued in those jurisdictions. 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 for 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. An export permit from the exporting country is required for the issuance of an import permit. An import permit is also required for specimens of species that are included in Schedule II of the WAPTR to be imported into Canada. 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 orchestras, 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 with musical instruments containing parts made from CITES-listed species (e.g., ivory, rosewood). Temporary movement certificates are valid for up to three years.
Scientific certificate	Issued for the exchange between CITES-registered scientific institutions of museum, research and herbarium specimens. Scientific certificates are valid for up to three years.
Phytosanitary certificate	Issued to authorize export of artificially propagated plant species included in Schedule I of the WAPTR and listed in CITES Appendix II or III. The use of this certificate for CITES purposes will be phased out in 2015.

2.1.2 Exemptions

WAPPRIITA authorizes exemptions, in specific situations, for the import and export 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. The hunting trophy exemption applies to fresh, frozen or salted trophies for United States hunters returning to the United States with their trophy harvested in Canada, or for Canadian hunters returning to Canada with their trophy harvested in the United States (Black Bear and Sandhill Crane). Further information on exemptions is available online 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

Environment Canada has 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 decisions (excluding Polar Bears) 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 is “paused” or “suspended” until all of the missing information is received from the applicant.

Environment Canada’s goal is to provide permit decisions within these standards for at least 90% of all permit applications. The Department’s

performance against those standards is published online at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=B02A39A6-1.

In 2014, Environment Canada began improving CITES permit applications and published forms targeting a specific subset of applicants. Some applicants helped test the new forms to ensure that the forms met their needs and were easy to use. The application categories include forms for the following:

- animals harvested in Canada or abroad
- shipments of biomedical samples
- Goldenseal and American Ginseng
- the import or export of live animals
- re-exports and permit renewals

Work on improving the next set of application forms began in 2014 and includes permit requests for plants (live, parts or products; wood and wood products). These applications are being developed in conjunction with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as part of the effort to transition away from the inventory attachment that accompanies the phytosanitary certificate (the use of which will be phased out in 2015 for CITES purposes) endorsed by CFIA inspectors.

2.2 CITES permits issued in 2014

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. These export permits are used to track the trade in wildlife specimens originating within Canada.

Re-export certificates are used to track trade in specimens that entered Canada under the authorization of permits issued by foreign states and were then re-exported from Canada.

In 2014, Canadian jurisdictions issued 5023 export permits and re-export certificates. Another 565 export permits were issued during the year, but were cancelled

or withdrawn. Cancellation or withdrawal of permits issued can occur when the planned export will no longer take place or when 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 American Black Bear), as well as their parts or products.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2014 by each Canadian jurisdiction.

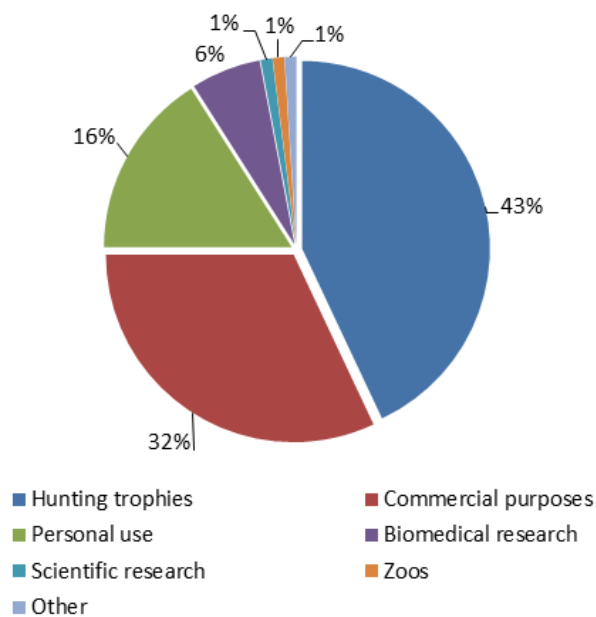
Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian jurisdictions in 2014

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of total export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal government		
Environment Canada*	2633	52.42
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	197	3.92
Provinces/Territories		
British Columbia	1045	20.80
Ontario	824	16.40
New Brunswick	137	2.73
Yukon	107	2.13
Newfoundland and Labrador	62	1.23
Northwest Territories Total	18	0.36
Total	5023	100

* This number includes CITES permits issued by Environment Canada for exports from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nunavut.

In 2014, Canada issued export permits and re-export certificates for the following purposes: hunting trophies (2158), commercial (1623), personal use (785), biomedical research (300), scientific research (68), zoos (30), exhibitions (17) and other purposes (42). Figure 1 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose, of wildlife export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2014.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2014, by purpose of transaction*



* Exhibitions (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 they 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 included 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 5 023 export permits and re-export certificates listed in Table 2, 475 were for multiple shipments, authorizing 24 776 shipments. By far, the largest share of multiple shipment permits was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng (23 114 shipments). The other users of multiple shipment permits were research labs exporting parts and derivatives of Macaques (1 276 shipments) and nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants (386 shipments).

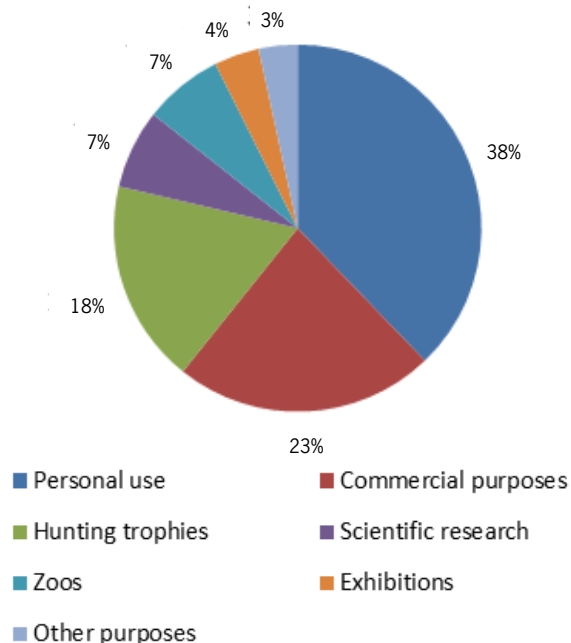
In Canada, the national CITES Management Authority allows the export of a small quantity of artificially propagated American Ginseng (up to 4.5 kg for personal use) through a simplified permitting procedure. Each shipment is accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized. Individual stickers accounted for 22 888 of the 23 114 shipments for ginseng authorized in 2014. The remaining 226 shipments were for large-volume commercial shipments of ginseng.

2.2.3 Imports into Canada

Canada issued 190 import permits in 2014 for the following purposes: personal use (72), commercial (43), hunting trophies (34), scientific research (14), zoos (14), exhibitions (7) and other purposes (6).

Figure 2 indicates the distribution, by purpose, of CITES import permits issued in 2014. 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 2014, by purpose of transaction



2.3 Canada's trading partners

As in recent years, Canada's major trading partners under CITES, particularly for exports, continue to be 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 (NDF). 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 by those countries of exporting countries' exports and NDFs.

In Canada, NDFs are determined on a permit-by-permit basis and, for more heavily traded species, may be developed as a standing NDF report, which serves as the basis for the issuance of multiple export permits for the species involved. Standing NDF reports for Cougar and Sandhill Crane were completed in 2014. With the publication of these reports, Canada now has standing NDFs that cover the majority of Canada's trade in wild-harvested species. Standing NDF reports also exist 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 NDFs are based on the 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 representatives.

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 (i.e., not currently threatened globally) is detrimental to the survival of the species. The Animals Committee and Plants Committee under CITES have primary responsibility for identifying problems and solutions regarding international trade in species.

At the 27th meeting of the Animals Committee, held in April 2014, the Polar Bear was selected to undergo a review of significant trade. As the first step of this process, Canada provided written information in August 2014 to the CITES Secretariat on Canadian Polar Bear management practices to demonstrate that Canada's sustainable trade in this species is in accordance with CITES provisions. During the next steps of the process, the Animals Committee will evaluate the information provided by range states and, if there are ongoing concerns, formulate recommendations to range states to improve their ability to ensure that export levels are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

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 secure 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 secured 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 tips provided by the public.



One of two new WAPPRIITA displays at Pearson International Airport in Toronto, installed in July 2014
Photo: © Environment Canada

In 2014, Environment Canada continued to promote compliance with CITES and WAPPRIITA through more than 20 displays located at various venues, including airports, science centres, customs offices, zoos and border crossings. Two new displays were installed in Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 at Pearson International Airport in Toronto. The displays include messaging about WAPPRIITA, CITES and endangered species in general. They also contain CITES-regulated wildlife products or their derivatives that have been confiscated by Environment Canada.

In 2014, Environment Canada targeted auction-house operators to raise awareness of WAPPRIITA and the WAPTR, and to explain how the legislation may affect

what they sell. Prohibited items include tiger rugs, raw or carved ivory, pianos with ivory keys, and objects containing whalebone or rhinoceros horn, to name a few.

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 news 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 of species and the socio-economic benefits that legal trade in wildlife can provide. Illegal trade undermines conservation efforts to manage populations, for example, through use of 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.

In 2014, Environment Canada had a staff of 90 enforcement officers assigned to enforce five statutes that protect wildlife, including WAPPRITA.

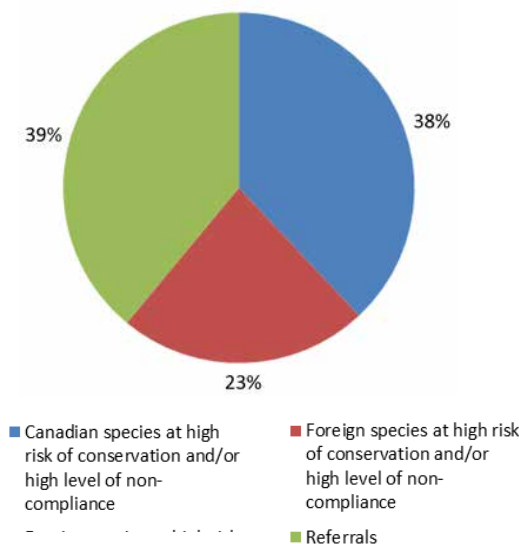
4.2.1 Inspections

Inspections are conducted to ensure that imports and exports of Canadian or foreign endangered wildlife are compliant with the requirements of WAPPRITA.

Environment Canada conducted 2930 inspections under WAPPRITA in 2014, which was down from the 12 995 inspections conducted in 2013. The high number in 2013 was mainly attributed to an unexpected and sudden spike of nearly 10 000 import referrals of packages containing *Aloe ferox*—a weight-loss product—without CITES permits.

Inspections are either proactively planned or conducted in response to a referral from other federal departments such as the Canada Border Services Agency, other governments or the public. Of the 2930 inspections conducted under WAPPRITA, most were proactive and focused on species at high conservation risk and/or facing a high level of non-compliance: 1100 were for Canadian species meeting this criteria, while 677 focused on foreign species. Finally, 1153 of the inspections were in response to referrals. Figure 3 provides the distribution of 2014 inspections.

Figure 3: Inspections conducted in 2014 by priority



4.2.2 Investigations

In 2014, Environment Canada opened 147 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movements of wildlife. 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.

Five examples of investigations that led to prosecutions and resulted in convictions in 2014 for violations of WAPPRITA or its regulations are set out below.

Guilty plea for smuggling reptiles

On February 10, 2014, a Cornwall, Ontario, man was convicted after pleading guilty to illegally importing CITES-listed reptiles. The man imported the reptiles from the United States into Canada at the Cornwall border crossing between February 26, 2011, and November 1, 2011.

The species were primarily CITES-listed turtles, a popular species in the pet trade. He had pre-sold most of the reptiles to pet stores and customers in Ontario, using various Internet classifieds sites to solicit clientele.

The individual was fined \$5,000, sentenced to a six-month conditional sentence, and ordered to report, for the next two years, any importation of plants and animals to Environment Canada. The fine was directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF). The EDF, which is 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.

This case represents a joint investigation with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The individual was also convicted for smuggling under Canada's *Customs Act* and received a six-month conditional sentence to be served concurrently.

Illegal export of a Polar Bear skin

On December 9, 2014, a Markham, Ontario, business pleaded guilty and was convicted of illegally exporting a Polar Bear skin to China in May 2013 without a valid CITES export permit.

The business was fined \$6,000, of which \$4,000 was directed to the EDF for the purpose of the conservation of northern species. The Court also required the business to report all wildlife imports and exports to Environment Canada for the next three years. In addition, the business was required to forfeit the Polar Bear skin, valued at \$12,500.

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



Forfeited Polar Bear skin
Photo: Julie Horvath © Environment Canada

Fine of \$3,000 for importing twice the permitted quantity of sturgeon caviar

In September 2013, CBSA officers from the Calgary International Airport contacted Environment Canada regarding caviar imported from Kazakhstan. The officers had found a woman with approximately 500 g of undeclared caviar. An X-ray of her luggage revealed the caviar hidden in one of three Thermoses in her suitcase. The caviar, suspected to be Appendix II CITES-protected sturgeon caviar, was seized by the CBSA.

Personal exemption under WAPPRIITA allows for the import of 250 g of caviar; any amount exceeding that quantity requires a CITES export permit. The traveller did not have the required permit.

Analysis confirmed the caviar to be Starry Sturgeon, which is a CITES Appendix II species. All species of sturgeon are listed in either Appendix I or II of CITES, which makes the trade in all species of sturgeons, including their caviar, subject to the CITES requirements. Furthermore, the Starry Sturgeon is classified as a critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and faces a very high risk of extinction in the wild due to the overfishing of its natural population.

In December 2014, the woman pleaded guilty to illegally importing twice the quantity permitted of Starry Sturgeon caviar in violation of WAPPRIITA and was fined \$3,000.

Illegal transport of Mountain Goat and Dall Sheep trophies

An extensive three-year, multi-agency, international investigation into the illegal hunting of Alaskan wildlife has resulted in 17 subjects being charged with 55 violations under WAPPRIITA. The agencies involved include Environment Canada, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and Alberta Fish and Wildlife. Included here are two examples of convictions stemming from this investigation.

Illegally importing Mountain Goat trophies

On June 17, 2014, a hunter from Alberta entered into a voluntary plea agreement in court for illegally importing into Canada a Mountain Goat hide, skull and horns unlawfully harvested in the United States.

On October 11, 2011, near Haines, Alaska, the individual attended a Mountain Goat hunt booked with a professional outfitter. In Alaska, it is an offence

to take the trophies out of the field before the meat, and the individual took only the skin and horns (trophies) of harvested Mountain Goat following the hunt. By contravening Alaska's law, importing the goat trophies into Canada also contravened WAPPRIITA.

The individual was fined \$4,000, of which \$3,600 will go into the EDF. He was ordered by the Court to forfeit the goat hide, skull and horns and received a two-year prohibition from travelling from Alberta or Canada for the purpose of hunting, as well as a two-year prohibition from importing any animal or animal product into Canada or Alberta.

Smuggling Dall Sheep horns into the United States

On July 22, 2014, a Yukon man pleaded guilty to two charges under WAPPRIITA. The charges involved illegally transporting Dall Sheep horns and exporting them to Alaska via British Columbia.

In December 2006, two men (a Canadian and an American) were engaged in a subsistence Dall Sheep hunt in the Kluane Wildlife Sanctuary along the border of Kluane National Park in Yukon. During the hunt, a Dall Sheep was harvested by the American hunter.

This case revealed that the Canadian individual had provided false information to the Yukon Conservation Office to assist the American, who was a big game guide, in the smuggling of the Dall Sheep horns into the United States.

The individual was fined \$1,750 on each count of illegally transporting Dall Sheep horns to British Columbia and illegally exporting the horns to the United States for a total fine of \$3,500. In addition, the Court also imposed a five-year prohibition from obtaining CITES or wildlife export permits.

4.3 Collaboration with provincial and territorial partners

While WAPPRIITA is federal legislation, several provincial and territorial agencies have designated officers to enforce the Act. The collaboration between Canada and its provincial and territorial partners is advantageous because it results in better coordination of efforts and resources in undertaking wildlife enforcement actions, especially large-scale operations. As mentioned in Section 1.3 of this report, agreements and memoranda of understanding exist between Environment Canada

and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the 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. During the period between CoPs, the Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee implement the directives received from the preceding CoP and prepare results for the next one. The activities carried out by these committees in 2014 are described in more detail in Section 5.2 below.

The 16th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP16) took place on March 3–14, 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand. CoP17 will be held in the fall of 2016 in South Africa.

Additional information on the Conference of the Parties is available on Environment Canada's website (www.ec.gc.ca/CITES/default.asp?lang=En&n=F4A0C07A-1).

CITES provides that Amendments adopted at a meeting shall enter into force 90 days after that meeting for all Parties except for those Parties who have notified an objection through a formal reserve. Many Parties have difficulty meeting these short timelines. At CoP16 in 2013, the Government of Canada placed temporary holding reservations in order to have enough time to implement necessary regulatory changes. Following the regulatory amendment, the holding reservation will be lifted by Canada.

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 CoPs. It is therefore important that Canadian concerns be heard in these forums.

Members of these committees are elected for each CITES region after every CoP. Carolina Caceres of Environment Canada continues to serve as the representative of the North America region on the Animals Committee and was elected as chair until the next CoP in 2016. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of Environment Canada continues to serve as alternate regional representative on the Plants Committee.

The Plants Committee and Animals Committee met in April and May 2014, both individually and in a joint session, and the Standing Committee met in July 2014. 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 in 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 the meetings of the CITES Animals Committee, Plants Committee, and Standing Committee in 2014 to focus on regional preparations and positions for these meetings. 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, meets regularly 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. The Director General of the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate at Environment Canada was elected as chair of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group in 2013, and as such, Canada chaired the 25th meeting of the working group, which took place in Lyon, France, in November 2014.

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 2014, Environment Canada seconded staff on a part-time basis to the INTERPOL National Central Bureau located at the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. The aim of these assignments is to improve Environment Canada's ability to exchange operational information with INTERPOL, other countries' national central bureaus and other domestic agencies.

5.4 London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade

On February 13, 2014, Canada was represented at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. A representative from Environment Canada accompanied the delegation to provide subject-matter expertise on compliance with, and enforcement of, WAPPRIITA in Canada. The conference was attended by heads of state and senior officials from 42 countries, who committed to providing the political leadership and practical support needed to take essential actions to tackle illegal wildlife trade and to further assess and report on the markets and dynamics of illegal wildlife trade in their respective countries. Canada announced a commitment to contribute \$2 million in emergency funding to combat international wildlife trafficking in East Africa.

Environment Canada has been supporting the Government of Canada's efforts to meet its London Conference commitments through a number of actions, such as re-profiling enforcement efforts to combat the illegal export and import of wildlife, especially under the authority provided by WAPPRIITA; targeting compliance promotion efforts; investing in forensic research; promoting conservation efforts at home and abroad; and increasing engagement, awareness and action across government as well as working with other countries and intergovernmental organizations on the issue.

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

You can get more information about WAPPRIITA
by visiting Canada's CITES website at
www.ec.gc.ca/cites or by contacting the Department:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-938-4119
Fax: 819-953-6283
Email: ec.cites.ec@canada.ca

Additional information can be obtained at:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Public Inquiries Centre
7th Floor, Fontaine Building
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
Telephone: 819-997-2800
Toll Free: 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only)
Email: ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca