



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

Annual Report for 2015



Canada 

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

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HIGHLIGHTS

Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA)

- **Regulation:** On April 1, 2015, Schedule I of the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (WAPTR) was amended to reflect decisions made at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Three Canadian species were added to Appendix II of CITES, providing them with additional protection.
- **Exports:** In 2015, Canadian jurisdictions issued 5630 export permits and re-export certificates under the WAPPRIITA, the legislative vehicle by which Canada meets its CITES obligations. As with past years, the majority of shipments in 2015 were of cultivated American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts and derivatives.
- **Imports:** In 2015, Canada issued 180 import permits, which were mainly for the import of old ivory and hunting trophies from legitimate hunts.
- **Investigations:** Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) conducted 84 new investigations of suspected offences under WAPPRIITA in 2015. Section 4.2.2 describes four examples of investigations that led to prosecution and resulted in convictions in 2015 for having violated WAPPRIITA or its regulations.
- **Standards:** ECCC publishes its service standards for the issuance of permits under WAPPRIITA, and it tracks its performance against those standards. Results can be found here: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/CITES/default.asp?lang=En&n=B02A39A6-1>.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the annual report

This report fulfills the Minister of the Environment's obligation, under section 28 of WAPPRIITA to report annually on the administration of the Act. This report covers the administration of the Act for the year 2015.

This section provides background information on WAPPRIITA and outlines the responsibilities of ECCC 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 is the list of 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 regulation, and 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 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 over 180 Parties.

WAPPRIITA, the legislation by which Canada regulates the trade in wild species in conformity with CITES, received Royal Assent on December 17, 1992. The Act and associated regulations—the 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, as well as regulating international and interprovincial trade in animals and plants. WAPPRIITA benefits Canadian and foreign species of animals and plants that may be at risk of over-exploitation because of unsustainable or illegal trade. It also protects Canadian ecosystems that may be 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 wildlife between provinces or territories or between Canada and other countries in certain situations, such as when they have been taken illegally.

1.3 Responsibilities under WAPPRIITA

ECCC is responsible for administering WAPPRIITA. ECCC and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are the designated Management Authority and Scientific Authority for the purpose of CITES.

As the Management Authority, ECCC is responsible for verifying and validating requests for international trade of specimens of animals and plants that are regulated under CITES originating from or destined for Canada. This responsibility includes activities such as issuing CITES permits and certificates. ECCC, 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 the verification and validation of export requests for specimens of CITES-listed aquatic species. Natural Resources Canada serves as an advisor on CITES issues related to timber and tree species. Further information on the roles and responsibilities of federal departments in the implementation and administration of CITES can be found online at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=0BB0663F-1.

Enforcement of WAPPRIITA is overseen by ECCC 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 ECCC personnel as required for inspection.

ECCC 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 the Department oversees the enforcement of WAPPRIITA for international trade.

2 WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1 Amendment to Schedule 1 of WAPTR

On April 1, 2015, Schedule I of the WAPTR was amended to reflect decisions made at COP 16. Amendments included additions, deletions, transfers and modification of annotations of species in Appendices I and II, as well as additions to Appendix III of CITES, as requested by Parties between the close of COP 15 (March 25, 2010) and December 2014. These amendments implement Canada's international obligations under CITES and contribute to the international efforts in the conservation of species at risk.

In total, 119 species amendments to the CITES Appendices I, II and III were made to Schedule I of WAPTR, including:

- 17 species deleted from CITES Appendix I or II (removal of import and export controls because many are either extinct or no longer subject to trade);
- 46 new species or groups of species added to CITES Appendix II (new export controls), including three Canadian species;
- 4 CITES Appendix I species transferred to CITES Appendix II (removal of import controls and decrease of export controls);
- 6 CITES Appendix II species transferred to CITES Appendix I (new import controls and increased export controls);

Three Canadian Species Added to Appendix II of CITES

Three Canadian species were added to Appendix II of CITES and were reflected in amendments to Schedule I of WAPTR in 2015: the Spotted turtle, the Blanding's turtle and the Porbeagle shark. Both turtle species are already afforded protection under provincial and federal laws, including the federal Species at Risk Act, so export in these species was already regulated in Canada. The listing under CITES does not create new protections in Canada other than the requirement for an export permit, but it provides additional protections in the U.S. and elsewhere where they may be exported.

Because of diminishing numbers, the Canadian Porbeagle shark fishery has been suspended since 2013, although small numbers of Porbeagle sharks are



Spotted turtle © Gary Allen

still landed as by-catch. The Appendix II listing still allows for commercial trade of individuals caught as by-catch; however, export permits are now required, helping to ensure trade is monitored.

- 22 species annotation changes, including one plant that is traded in Canada: the American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*); and
- 24 species added to CITES Appendix III (new export controls).

Additional minor changes, including nomenclature updates, as well as administrative and formatting amendments in the CITES Appendices, such as the removal of symbols denoting Canadian species in the list, were also made to Schedule I of WAPTR in order to be consistent with the text of CITES.

2.2 CITES permitting

2.2.1 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 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.

ECCC issues all export permits and re-export certificates for non-indigenous species, as well as all import permits and other specialized CITES certificates. ECCC also issues export permits and re-export certificates for specimens of indigenous species for applicants located in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Alberta. 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 in 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 also required to authorize the importation into Canada. An import permit is necessary for specimens of species that are included in Schedule II of the WAPTR, which are 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 that are also listed in CITES Appendix I and II to be exported from Canada. Species that are listed in CITES Appendix III require an export permit when Canada has listed the species in CITES Appendix III (e.g. walrus). 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 with musical instruments containing parts made from CITES-listed species (e.g., ivory, Brazilian 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 was phased out August 1, 2015.

2.2.2 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 certain hunting trophies. The hunting trophy exemption applies to fresh, frozen or salted trophies of Black Bear and Sandhill Crane 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. Further information on exemptions is available online at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-96-263/FullText.html#h-8>.

2.2.3 Issuance and monitoring of CITES permits

ECCC has established service standards for WAPPRIITA permit decisions. The Department publishes its service standards for the issuance of these permits, and it tracks its performance against those standards. ECCC's goal is to provide permit decisions within these standards for at least 90% of all permit applications. The Department's performance against these standards is published online at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=B02A39A6-1.

In 2015, ECCC continued its efforts to update the CITES permit applications and published forms for export or import of CITES-listed plants (live, parts, products, wood and wood products).

The revision of all remaining application forms will be completed in 2016.

2.3 CITES permits issued in 2015

2.3.1 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 2015, Canadian CITES permitting offices issued 5630 export permits and re-export certificates.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2015 by each Canadian jurisdiction.

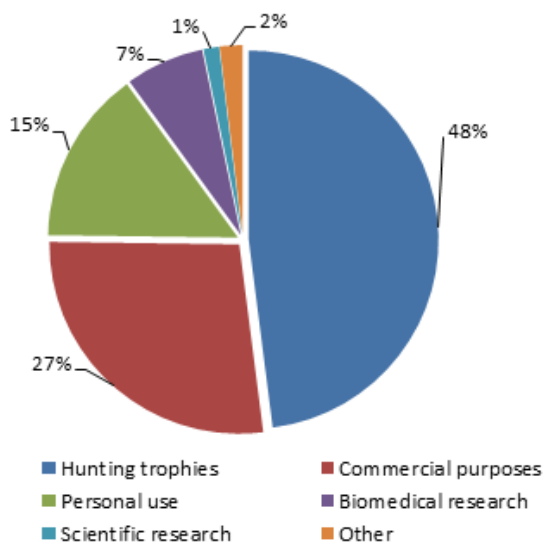
Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian CITES permitting offices in 2015

Canadian jurisdiction	Number of export permits and re-export certificates issued	Share of total export permits and re-export certificates issued (%)
Federal government		
Environment and Climate Change Canada *	3698	65.68
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	176	3.13
Provinces/Territories		
British Columbia	1000	17.76
Ontario	411	7.3
New Brunswick	156	2.77
Yukon	110	1.95
Newfoundland and Labrador	54	0.96
Northwest Territories Total	20	0.36
Nunavut	5	0.09
Total	5630	100

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

In 2015, Canada issued export permits and re-export certificates for the following purpose-of-transaction codes as defined in CITES Resolution 12.3 (totals in brackets): hunting trophies (2701), commercial (1533), personal use (835), biomedical research (377), scientific research (75), and other purposes* (109). Figure 1 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose-of-transaction, of wildlife export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2015.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2015, by purpose-of-transaction



* Other purposes includes exhibitions (19), zoos (45), educational (9), breeding (26), law enforcement (2) and reintroduction in the wild (8). They each account for such a small quantity, that they are grouped and represented together.

2.3.2 Permits for multiple shipments

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. An export permit or re-export certificate may authorize multiple shipments of specimens which have been approved by the permitting office. The permit or certificate holder is responsible for identifying the destination, specific specimens and quantities which make up each shipment. This provides a simplified procedure for permit holders who trade in specimens with very little or no impact to the conservation of species. Of the 5630 export permits and re-export certificates listed in Table 2, 2531 were for multiple shipments, authorizing 28 726 shipments. By far, the largest share of multiple shipment permits was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng (25 101 shipments). The other users of multiple shipment permits were research labs exporting parts and derivatives of Macaques (1770 shipments) and nurseries exporting artificially propagated plants (1855 shipments).

In Canada, the export of a small quantity of artificially propagated American Ginseng for personal use (up to 4.5 kg for personal use) is authorized through a simplified permitting procedure using ginseng stickers. Each shipment is accompanied by a permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized. Individual stickers accounted for 23 480 of the 25 101 shipments for ginseng authorized in 2015. The remaining 1621 ginseng shipments were for large-volume commercial shipments.

Table 3: Percentages of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued by purpose-of-transaction from previous years

Year	Hunting trophies	Personal use	Scientific Research	Commercial purposes	Biomedical research	Zoos	Other
2015	48	15	1	27	7	Included in Other	2
2014	43	16	1	32	6	1	1
2013	45	14	1	33	5	1	1
2012	39	16	2	37	4	1	1
2011	35	17	1	40	5	1	2
2010	36	19	1	37	3	1	2

2.3.3 Imports into Canada

Canada issued 180 import permits in 2015 for the following purpose-of-transaction codes, as defined in CITES Resolution 12.3 (totals in brackets): personal use (35), commercial (63), hunting trophies (38), scientific research (5), zoos (23), exhibitions (7) and other purposes (9).

Figure 2 indicates the distribution, by purpose-of-transaction code, of CITES import permits issued in 2015. The imports for commercial purposes consists mainly of artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens (e.g., antiques containing ivory) and captive-bred animals (e.g., falcons, parrots).

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2015, by purpose-of-transaction

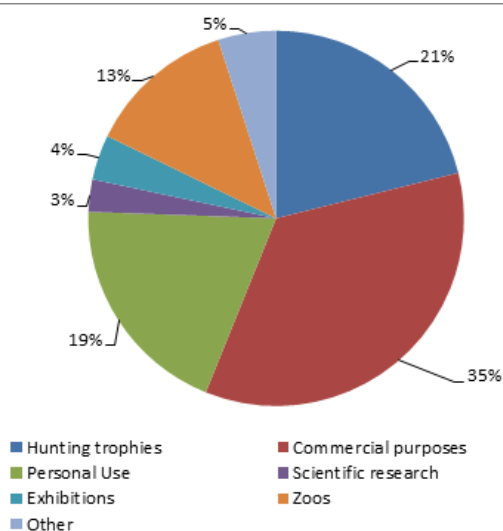


Table 4: Percentage of CITES import permits issued by purpose-of-transaction from previous years

Year	Hunting trophies	Personal use	Scientific Research	Commercial purposes	Biomedical research	Zoos	Other
2015	21	19	3	35	4	13	5
2014	18	38	7	23	4		3
2013	11	30	7	25	9	15	3
2012	39	16	2	37	4	6	2
2011	16	27	4	32	8	8	6*
2010	13	14	8	38	8	9	1

*Includes breeding and propagation purposes

2.4 Canada's trading partners

As in past 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 exports to the United States and the European Union cover a wide range of specimens and species. In the case of Asia, particularly East and Southeast Asia, the species most commonly exported from Canada, was cultivated 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 a 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. For more heavily traded species, a standing NDF report is prepared to serve as the basis for the issuance of export permits for the species involved.



Canada Lynx
Photo: © Peter Dollinger

Canada has standing NDFs that cover the majority of Canada's trade including American Ginseng, Atlantic Sturgeon, Black Bear, Bobcat, Canada Lynx, Cougar, Goldenseal, Grey Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Narwhal, Polar Bear, River Otter and Sandhill Crane. The Standing NDF report for polar bear was updated in 2015; however, the NDF decision did

not change. The Standing NDF reports are available on ECCC's website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=2942DC30-1.

Canada's NDFs are consistent with a Resolution on NDF adopted by the CITES Conference of the Parties at the 16th meeting in March 2013 (Resolution 16.7), international guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities, and guidance provided by the CITES Secretariat. 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 and Indigenous People.

3.2 Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix II species



Polar bear sighting in Nunavut
Photo: Garry Donaldson © ECCC

The Review of Significant Trade is an ongoing process of the Animals Committee and the Plants Committee of CITES to review trade in wild species listed in Appendix II to ensure trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species. Species on Appendix II are

those that are not currently threatened by trade but for which trade needs to be monitored.

At the 28th meeting of the Animals Committee in August 2015, Canada provided information to the Animals Committee for polar bear, as part of the review of significant trade for this species. After discussion, the Animals Committee decided to remove polar bear from the process. Given that Canada is the primary exporter of this species, the removal of polar bear from the review indicates confidence in Canada's polar bear management and trade.

4 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA

4.1 Compliance promotion

ECCC works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners to secure compliance with WAPPRIITA. These partners include the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), 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. ECCC 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.

In 2015, ECCC 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.

A CITES poster was produced in June 2015 with the objective of educating travelling Canadians in a variety of venues such as airports, CBSA border crossings, and veterinary offices. Posters were uploaded to the CITES web site in July 2015. The CITES secretariat added thumbnails of and links to the posters on their publications page in July 2015. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association tweeted about the poster in July 2015.

Images of the CWS CITES poster produced in June 2015:



Travelling with your exotic pet?



Travelling abroad or visiting Canada?

ECCC also shared information throughout the year via its Twitter and Facebook sites. ECCC'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.

Wildlife trafficking worldwide has been increasing in value since 2005. According to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) data from 2014, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth \$7 to \$23 billion USD per year globally, and the illegal logging and trafficking of timber is valued at \$30 to \$100 billion USD worldwide annually. Canadian enforcement efforts are geared towards identifying and stopping high-risk shipments and investigating alleged offenders.

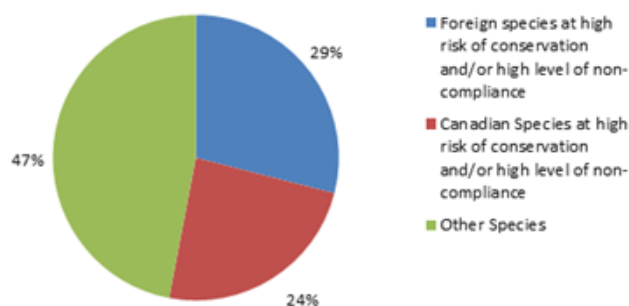
4.2.1 Inspections

Inspections are conducted to ensure that imports and exports of animals and plants are compliant with the requirements of WAPPRITA.

ECCC inspected 3122 items such as passenger vehicles and trucks, people, packages, and conducted paper/administration reviews during the course of 1234 inspections under WAPPRITA in 2015.

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. More than half of the inspections conducted under WAPPRITA focused on species at high conservation risk and/or facing a high level of non-compliance. 293 were focused on Canadian species meeting these criteria, while 363 focused on foreign species. Figure 3 provides the distribution of inspections.

Figure 3: Inspections conducted in 2015 by priority



4.2.2 Investigations

In 2015, ECCC opened 84 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movements of wildlife. ECCC 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.

Four examples of investigations that led to prosecutions and resulted in convictions in 2015 for violations of WAPPRITA or its regulations are described below.

1. Illegal Import and Export of Wildlife Trophies
2. Unlawful Import of Turtles and Tortoises
3. Live Animal Smuggler Convicted
4. Trafficking in Wildlife Products: Rhinoceros horn, Ivory, and coral

Illegal Import and Export of Wildlife Trophies



Wolverine
Photo: © Denja1/ThinkStock

On May 8, 2015, an Alaskan outfitter was fined \$20,000 in Yukon Territorial Court after pleading guilty for illegally importing and exporting wildlife, which are offences under WAPPRITA. The fine was directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF).

The outfitter pleaded guilty to the illegal possession of an Alaskan brown bear

(grizzly bear) hide, two black bear hides and three wolverine hides, all of which had been imported or transported in contravention of WAPPRITA. Under the Act, it is prohibited to import an animal that was taken in contravention of the laws of another state and it is prohibited to transport an animal without a required provincial authorization or where the animal was taken, possessed, distributed or transported in contravention of provincial legislation. WAPPRITA also controls the import, export and transport of non-CITES Canadian domestic wildlife species, such as moose, Dall sheep and wolverines. The outfitter also pleaded guilty to the illegal export of two Dall sheep from Yukon, the export of moose meat without a permit to Alaska, as well as the illegal transport of a Yukon grizzly bear hide to Alberta.

In addition to the \$20,000 fine, the outfitter received a ten year prohibition from carrying a firearm and accompanying anyone hunting in the Yukon, with a condition allowing him to hunt with a bow for subsistence beginning in 2020. The outfitter was also required to forfeit several hunting trophies and is banned for ten years from obtaining any Yukon export permits or any import or export permits.

The investigation focusing on this outfitter was led by ECCC and Environment Yukon. The case represents one element of an extensive three year multi-agency international investigation into the illegal hunting of Alaskan wildlife. ECCC, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Alberta Fish & Wildlife, and Environment Yukon collaborated on the investigation.

Unlawful Import of Turtles and Tortoises



Seized turtle shells © ECCC

On February 27, 2015, a supply company and its director pleaded guilty to six counts under WAPPRITA for unlawfully importing protected species of turtles and tortoises without the proper permits. The company and its director were fined \$12,500 and \$6,250 respectively, for a total penalty of \$18,750 and ordered to forfeit all items seized during the investigation.

Two sea containers originating from Hong Kong were imported by the company in October 2013 and July 2014. Upon their arrival into Canada, the containers were inspected by ECCC enforcement officers in Vancouver and Toronto. The first shipment contained 945 turtle plastrons (bottom part of the shell), 2,454 turtle shells and 52 bags of turtle shell fragments, concealed within 815 cartons. Similarly, upon inspection of the second sea container, there were 224 bags of turtle shell fragments among 842 cartons. The invoices accompanying the shipments did not list any of the animal parts. With the assistance of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, located in Drumheller, Alberta, parts were identified as belonging to five species of turtles and three species of tortoise, all of which are listed under CITES. CITES-listed turtles and tortoises are popular in the pet trade.

Live Animal Smuggler Convicted

On July 22, 2015, two individuals were convicted of three counts each of contravening subsection 6(2) of WAPPRITA regarding a shipment of 38 animals intercepted at the CBSA port-of-entry in British Columbia on April 12th, 2012.

The individuals attempted to import animals from the United States into Canada. They were planning to open a pet store. Of these animals, three species

were identified as CITES listed by ECCC Wildlife Enforcement officers, and as such required CITES permits. The animals were emperor scorpions, red rump tarantulas, and Savannah monitor lizards. All specimens seized were forfeited to the crown.

Trafficking in Wildlife Products: Rhinoceros Horn, Ivory, and Coral



A small number of ivory pieces seized © ECCC

ECCC and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement conducted a joint investigation into the alleged smuggling of elephant ivory and Rhinoceros horn from the US to Canada. As a result of the investigation, the proprietor of an antiques company was convicted of several offences related to the trafficking in wildlife products including rhino horn, ivory and coral. Approximately half a million dollars worth of wildlife products was forfeited and the proprietor was incarcerated for 30 months in the US.

The primary subject of the investigation was arrested by USFWS in New York, after allegedly purchasing rhino horn unlawfully during a planned operation. The ECCC search warrant was coordinated to be executed subsequent to the subject's arrest. ECCC Wildlife Officers conducted the search warrant with assistance from the RCMP, a contracted forensic computer search expert, and a Chinese language interpreter.

Evidence supporting the suspected illegal import and sale of rhinoceros horn and elephant ivory were discovered and seized during the warrant, in addition to documentary and computer evidence. Wildlife Officers also discovered and seized a large amount of illegal narcotics during the search. Commercial quantities of what was suspected to be Ecstasy/MDMA, Marijuana, and Cocaine or Heroin were found. Wildlife Officers transferred custody of the narcotics to the Richmond RCMP detachment drug squad and they have initiated their own investigation.

The ivory pieces and the one red coral statue seized as a result of the warrant executed at the location were transferred to the USFWS by way of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty for use in their prosecution of the subject, and were forfeited as a result of his plea agreement and sentencing.

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 ECCC and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to support the administration and enforcement of WAPPRIITA in accordance with their own legislation.

In 2015, ECCC developed a new pilot project: a three-pronged approach for tracking and identifying polar bear hides in trade. Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging, along with DNA analysis of muscle tissue and Stable Isotope analyses, make up the 3 prongs of this approach. The new pilot approach seeks to improve the traceability of hides throughout the life of the hide (from hunt to auction to final destination), therefore enabling better enforcement of international trade laws. Provinces and territories, along with wildlife management boards (who have management authority under the land claim agreements) support this new pilot approach. So far, training sessions for Conservation Officers who will implement the new pilot approach on the ground in Nunavut and Nunatsiavut (Labrador) have taken place. Work is underway to organize other training sessions.

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 meetings of the COP, the Animals Committee, Plants Committee and Standing Committee implement the directives received from the preceding COP and prepare results for the next COP. The activities carried out by these committees in 2015 are described in more detail in Section 5.2 below.

The 16th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP 16) took place on March 3–14, 2013, in Bangkok, Thailand. COP 17 will be held in the fall of 2016 in South Africa.

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

CITES provides that amendments to Appendices I and II adopted at a meeting of the COP shall enter into force 90 days after that meeting for all Parties, except for those Parties who make a reservation. Many Parties have difficulty meeting this short timeline. At COP 16 in 2013, the Government of Canada made a reservation in order to have enough time to implement necessary regulatory changes. Following the regulatory amendments (see Section 2.1), Canada withdrew its reservation.

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 may affect Canada's obligations under CITES and greatly influence the decisions ultimately taken by the COP. 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 ECCC continued to serve as the representative of the

North America region on the Animals Committee and was elected as chair of the Animals Committee until the next COP in fall 2016. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of ECCC continued to serve as alternate regional representative on the Plants Committee until the fall of 2015 when she became regional representative and the interim Chair of the Plants Committee until the next COP in fall 2016.

The Animals Committee met in August 2015 and the Plants Committee met in October 2015. Canada was very active in the work of these 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 and Chair of the Animals Committee.

The North America Region of CITES met regularly in person and by teleconference. They met in April 2015 in San Diego, California to discuss shared issues relating to CITES, including discussions on a project to strengthen conservation and sustainable production of selected Appendix II species that was later funded by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (<http://goo.gl/t45j8y>). They also met on-site prior to the meetings of the CITES Animals Committee and Plants Committee in 2015 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

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, with 190 member countries. The INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, a subgroup of the Environmental Security Sub-Directorate, works and advises 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 and forestry crimes. The Director General of the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate at ECCC, Sheldon Jordan, was re-elected to a second term as chair of the Wildlife Crime Working Group in 2015.

ECCC'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 2015, the Department 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 ECCC's ability to exchange operational information with INTERPOL, other countries' national central bureaus and other domestic agencies.

5.4 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

ECCC is collaborating with the UNODC to exchange experiences and best practices in the prevention and combatting of wildlife and forest crime (WLFC) among countries in the Americas; to get a better understanding of the relation between WLFC and organized crime in the Americas; and to identify potential joint strategies and activities for cooperation.

In October 2015, a representative from ECCC attended the first ever Regional Conference on Wildlife and Forest Crime: Law Enforcement in the Americas, which was held in Cancùn, Mexico, and was organized by the UNODC - Mexico City office, the Mexican Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), and the World Bank. A total of fourteen countries attended.

ECCC is also participating in a UNODC-led project to develop tools for front-line officers worldwide to better identify illegal timber shipments.

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:

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