



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016
WILD ANIMAL AND
PLANT PROTECTION
AND REGULATION
OF INTERNATIONAL
AND INTERPROVINCIAL
TRADE ACT

Cat. No.: CW70-5E-PDF

ISSN: 1926-1888

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

Cover photo: River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) © Environment and Climate Change Canada

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2017

Aussi disponible en français

HIGHLIGHTS

iv

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose of the annual report	1
1.2. WAPPRIITA and CITES	1
1.3. Responsibilities in administering WAPPRIITA	2

2. WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1. CITES permitting	3
2.1.1. <i>Permitting overview</i>	3
2.1.2. <i>Exemptions</i>	4
2.1.3. <i>Issuance and monitoring of CITES permits</i>	4
2.2. CITES permits issued in 2016	5
2.2.1. <i>Export permits and re-export certificates</i>	5
2.2.2. <i>Permits for multiple shipments</i>	8
2.2.3. <i>Imports into Canada</i>	8
2.3. Canada's trading partners	9

3. ASSESSING THE RISK TO SPECIES FROM TRADE

3.1. Non-detriment findings	9
-----------------------------	---

4. COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA

4.1. Compliance promotion	10
4.1.1. <i>Inspections</i>	11
4.1.2. <i>Violations</i>	13
4.1.3. <i>Investigations</i>	13
4.1.4. <i>Convictions</i>	14
4.2. Collaboration with provincial and territorial partners	16

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1. CITES Conferences of the Parties	17
5.2. CITES committees and working groups	19
5.3. INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group	19
5.4. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	20

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

20

HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **International:** Canada participated at the 17th meeting of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) Conference of the Parties, submitting three proposals to amend the list of controlled species. Canada successfully argued for the removal of Wood Bison from CITES controls and the transfer of Eastern cougar from Appendix I (a list of species that are threatened with extinction) to Appendix II (species that are not currently threatened with extinction, but whose trade is strictly regulated to provide them with additional protection). Canada was not successful in achieving reduced trade controls for the Peregrine Falcon.
- **Exports:** In 2016, Canadian jurisdictions issued 5,345 export permits and re-export certificates under WAPPRIITA, the legislative vehicle by which Canada meets its CITES obligations. As with past years, the majority of shipments in 2016 were of cultivated American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts and derivatives.
- **Imports:** In 2016, Canada issued 155 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 95 new investigations of suspected offences under WAPPRIITA in 2016. Section 4.1.4 describes four examples of investigations that led to prosecution and resulted in convictions in 2016 for having violated WAPPRIITA or its regulations.

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 2016.

This section provides background information on WAPPRIITA and outlines the responsibilities of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in administering 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

Cougar
Photo: © Getty Images



1.2. WAPPRIITA AND CITES

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

CITES sets controls on the trade in and international movement of animal and plant species that are, 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 a 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.
- Appendix III is a list of species included at the request of a Party to the Convention that already regulates trade in the species within its borders, 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 the Convention 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 *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, 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 them between provinces or territories or between Canada and other countries in certain situations, such as when they have been taken illegally.

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 IN ADMINISTERING WAPPRIITA

ECCC is responsible for administering WAPPRIITA, and is the designated Management Authority and Scientific Authority for the purpose of CITES.

As the Management Authority, ECCC has overall responsibility 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. As the Scientific Authority, ECCC has overall responsibility in Canada 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 wild animals and plants in Canada to ensure that current levels of trade are sustainable.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada is responsible for the issuance of permits 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 ECCC 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 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 nonindigenous 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 harvested in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, 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

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.

Type of permit or certificate	Description
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.

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 certain hunting trophies. The hunting trophy exemption applies to fresh, frozen or salted trophies of Black Bear and Sandhill Crane for American 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 www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=DC8E2E3F-1.

2.1.3. 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.

2.2. CITES PERMITS ISSUED IN 2016

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 2016, CITES permitting offices in Canada issued 5,345 export permits and re-export certificates.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2016 by Canadian CITES permitting offices.

Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian CITES permitting offices in 2016

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 *	3,608	67.50
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	171	3.20
Provinces/Territories		
British Columbia	856	16.01
Ontario	381	7.13
New Brunswick	145	2.71
Yukon	111	2.08
Newfoundland and Labrador	73	1.37
Total	5,345	100
* This number includes CITES permits issued by ECCC for exports from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Northwest Territories, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Nunavut.		

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. 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, Wolf, Mountain Lion, North American Otter, Grizzly Bear and Polar Bear. For example, Table 3 indicates the number of export permits issued in each of the past 3 calendar years for Polar Bears obtained in Canada from different harvest seasons.

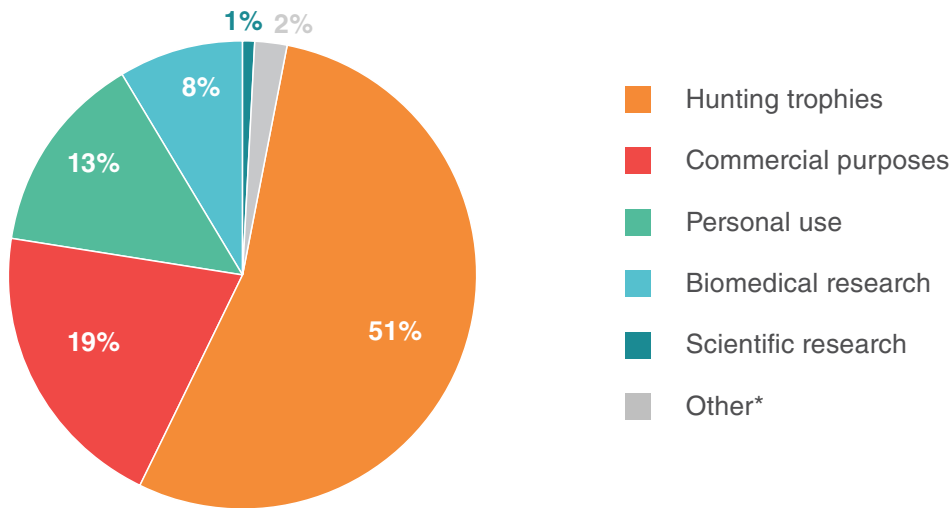
Table 3: Number of CITES export permits issued per year for Polar Bears harvested in Canada and breakdown of the total number by the season in which the bears were harvested

Year of export	Total N°. of Polar Bears exported	N°. of Polar Bears by harvest season*							
		2015–2016	2014–2015	2013–2014	2012–2013	2011–2012	2010–2011	2009–2010	Prior to July 2009
2016	232	67	57	50	28	7	11	0	12
2015	292	0	50	87	88	27	20	7	13
2014	237	0	0	56	99	32	18	6	26

* Harvest season starts in July of one year and ends in June of following year. For example, harvest season 2012–2013 starts on July 1, 2012 and finishes on June 30, 2013.

In 2016, 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 (2,730), commercial (1,030), personal use (713), biomedical research (402), scientific research (58), and other purposes* (109) Figure 1 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose-of-transaction, of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2016.

Figure 1: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2016, by purpose-of-transaction



* Other purposes include exhibitions (23), zoos (62), educational (4), breeding (4), law enforcement (4) and reintroduction in the wild (12). They each account for such a small quantity, that they are grouped and represented together.

Table 4: 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	Other
2016	51	13	1	19	8	2
2015	48	15	1	27	7	2
2014	43	16	1	32	6	2
2013	45	14	1	33	5	2
2012	39	16	2	37	4	2
2011	35	17	1	40	5	3
2010	36	19	1	37	3	3

2.2.2. 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 that have been approved by the permitting office. The permit or certificate holder is responsible for identifying the destination, specific specimens and quantities that 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 5,345 export permits and re-export certificates listed in Table 2, 492 were for multiple shipments, authorizing 31,276 shipments. By far, the largest share of multiple shipment permits was issued to growers and distributors of American Ginseng.

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 24,736 of the 31,376 shipments for ginseng authorized in 2016.

2.2.3. Imports into Canada

Canada issued 155 import permits in 2016 for the following purpose-of-transaction codes, as defined in CITES Resolution 12.3 (totals in brackets): personal use (33), commercial (56), hunting trophies (33), scientific research (5), zoos (13), exhibitions (8) and other purposes (7).

Figure 2 indicates the distribution, by purpose-of-transaction code, of CITES import permits issued in 2016. 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 2016, by purpose-of-transaction

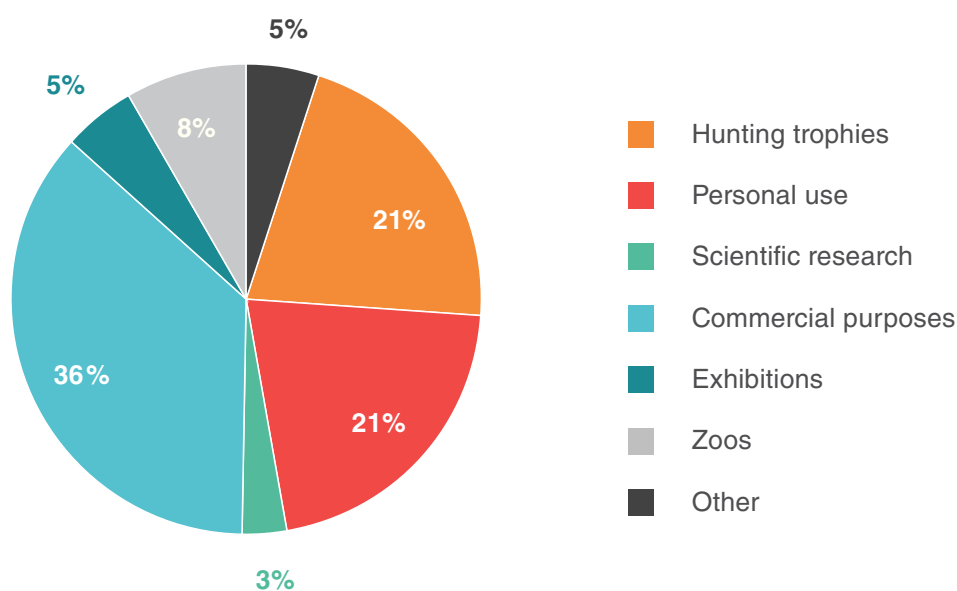


Table 5: Percentage of CITES import permits issued by purpose-of-transaction from previous years

Year	Hunting trophies	Personal use	Scientific research	Commercial purposes	Exhibitions	Zoos	Other
2016	21	21	3	36	5	8	5
2015	21	19	3	35	4	13	5
2014	18	38	7	23	4	0	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

2.3. CANADA'S TRADING PARTNERS

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 South-east 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 member countries of the European Union, 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 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,



Goldenseal
Photo: Adrian Sincilar
© Environment and Climate Change Canada

River Otter and Sandhill Crane. The standing NDF report for Polar Bear was updated in 2015; however, the NDF conclusion did not change. Standing NDF reports are reviewed and, if necessary, updated with the most recent information every three years. They 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 Peoples.

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, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, provincial and territorial law enforcement bodies and conservation authorities, as well as the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. ECCC is also an active partner on the international stage in promoting and verifying compliance with CITES.

Compliance with WAPPRIITA is verified by such means as reviewing 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.

Compliance promotion activities

In 2016, 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.

Two new CITES digital display messages were produced and shown in 154 Service Canada offices across the country from June through August 2016. The purpose of the messages was to educate and inform Canadians who plan to travel regarding the possible prohibition or permitting requirement for wildlife items purchased abroad, and the possible permit requirement when travelling with an exotic pet.



Going on vacation or travelling abroad?

Buying souvenirs?
Beware! They could be made from endangered animals and plants.

Find out what's prohibited and what needs a permit.

Check before you travel at canada.ca/protected-species



Travelling with an exotic pet?

When travelling between countries, you may need a pet passport for exotic pets such as parrots, lizards, snakes, turtles and hybrid cats.

Check before you travel at canada.ca/protected-species

ECCC also provided some messaging, posters, as well as display items to a CITES exhibit developed by and on display at the Riverview Park and Zoo in Peterborough, Ontario. The Riverview Park and Zoo is a member of Canada's accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA). The focus of their 2016 exhibit was entirely on CITES, ran daily for the months of June, July and August, and reached a total of 6000+ visitors. The exhibit focused on the ivory trade, Asian turtles, sharks, and how the public can be more aware of prohibited and permitted wildlife items in their own lives, particularly when travelling.

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. There is now clear recognition in the international community that the issue of the illegal wildlife trade has reached significant global proportions. Illegal wildlife trade and environmental crime involve a wide range of flora and fauna across all continents, estimated to be worth \$70 to \$213 billion USD annually.¹ Based on UN statistics and criminal intelligence through INTERPOL,² the illegal trade and poaching of plants and other wildlife is estimated to cause loss of resources worth \$7 to \$23 billion USD per year globally (2016 estimate).

4.1.1. Inspections

Inspections are conducted to ensure that imports and exports of animals and plants are compliant with the requirements of WAPPRIITA. They are also instrumental for ongoing information collection of emerging non-compliance risks and threats. The subsequent analyses of this information inform the development of risk-based priorities for compliance verification.

ECCC inspected 1,308 items such as passenger vehicles and trucks, people, packages, and conducted paper/administration reviews during the course of 798 inspections under WAPPRIITA in 2016.

Inspections are either proactively planned or conducted in response to a referral from other federal departments or agencies such as the Canada Border Services Agency, provincial or territorial governments or the public. More than half of the inspections conducted under WAPPRIITA focused on species at high conservation risk and/or facing a high level of non-compliance. 167 were focused on Canadian species meeting these criteria, while 267 focused on foreign species. In response to referrals for verification of compliance with WAPPRIITA, or planned maintenance inspections, other species were inspected under the *Act* and its regulations; however they were not identified as species at high risk for conservation and/or high risk for non-compliance.

Figure 3 illustrates the distribution of inspections conducted in 2016 under WAPPRIITA and its regulations by priority.

Figure 4 presents the inspections conducted in 2016 under WAPPRIITA and its regulations by region.

1 Nellemann, C., Henriksen, R., Raxter, P., Ash, N., Mrema, E. (Eds). 2014. The Environmental Crime Crisis – Threats to Sustainable Development from Illegal Exploitation and Trade in Wildlife and Forest Resources. A UNEP Rapid Response Assessment. United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, Nairobi and Arendal. www.grida.no; <http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/crime/>

2 Nellemann, C. (Editor in Chief); Henriksen, R., Kreilhuber, A., Stewart, D., Kotsoyova, M., Raxter, P., Mrema, E., and Barrat, S. (Eds). 2016. The Rise of Environmental Crime – A Growing Threat To Natural Resources Peace, Development and Security. A UNEP/INTERPOL Rapid Response Assessment. United Nations Environment Programme and RHIPTO Rapid Response–Norwegian Center for Global Analyses, www.rhipto.org;

Figure 3: Inspections conducted in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by priority

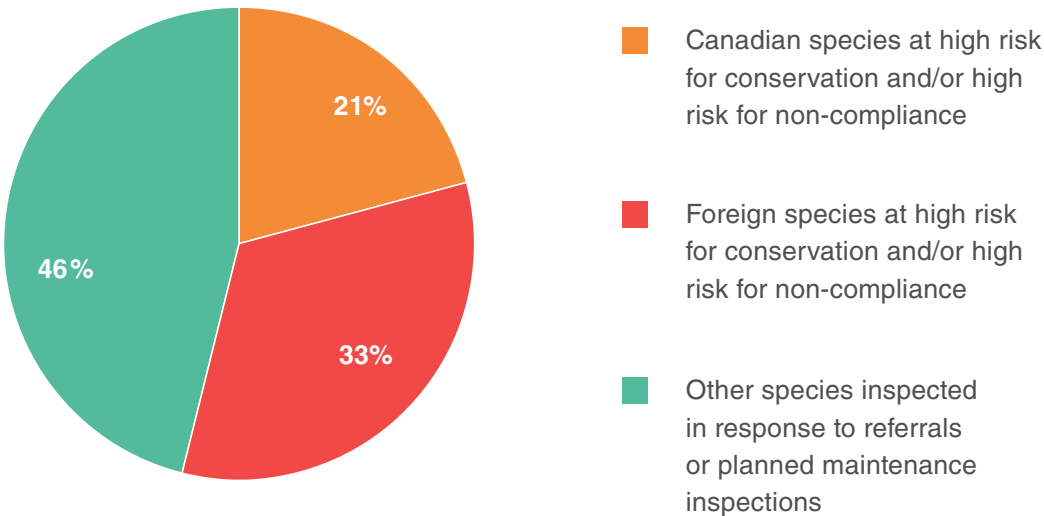
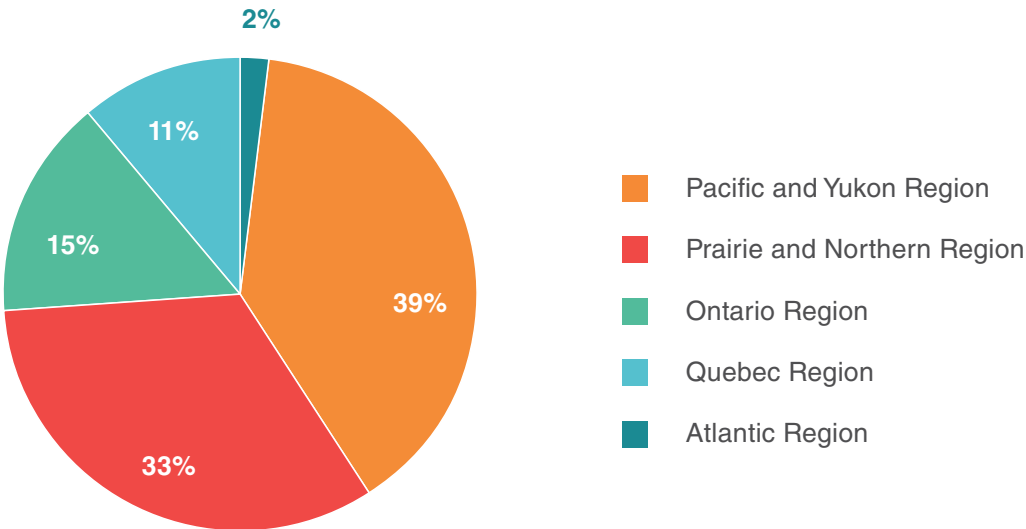


Figure 4: Inspections conducted in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by region



4.1.2. Violations

There were 206 cases of violation of WAPPRIITA or its regulations recorded in 2016 that resulted in issuing tickets, verbal and written warnings, seizures and opening of investigations.

4.1.3. Investigations

In 2016, ECCC opened 95 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movements of wildlife. ECCC publishes the outcomes of its main investigations on the Department's website. That is a slight increase of 13% compared to the number of investigations conducted 2015. Media releases and enforcement notifications are available online at www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=8F711F37-1.

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of investigations files opened in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by priority.

Figure 6 presents the investigations opened in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by region.

Figure 5: Investigations opened in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by priority

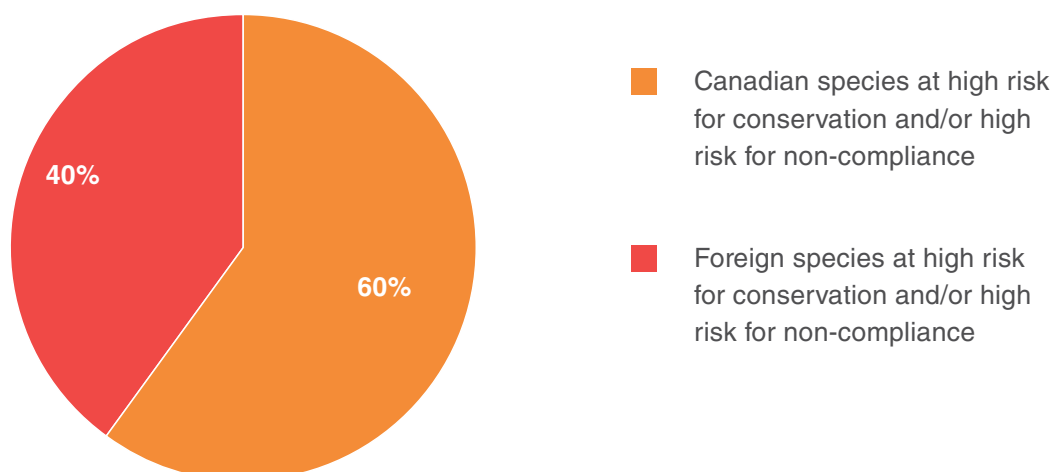
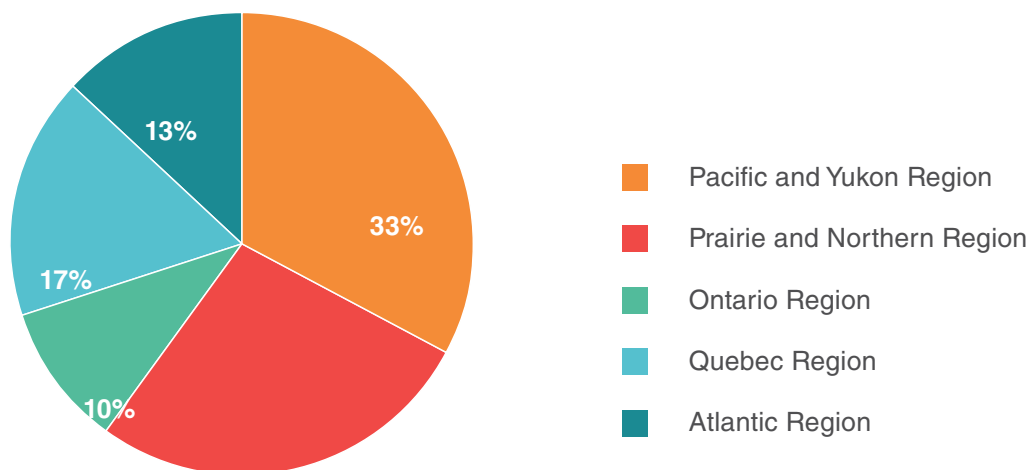


Figure 6: Investigations opened in 2016 under WAPPRIITA by region



4.1.4. Convictions

In 2016, a total of 35 convictions were made for violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations, which resulted in fines at the total amount of \$117,196. Only one prosecution that ended in 2016 did not result in any conviction.

Four examples of investigations that led to prosecutions and resulted in convictions in 2016 for violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations are described below.

1. One-year Worldwide Hunting Ban for Convicted Offender
2. Auction House Illegally Exports Protected Species
3. Ontario Businessman Guilty of Smuggling Elephant Ivory
4. Fine of \$25,000 for Unlawfully Importing Florida Softshell Turtles

1 - One-year Worldwide Hunting Ban for Convicted Offender

Grizzly Bear
Photo © Dr. Gordon Court



On June 13, 2016, an individual from Calgary, Alberta was found guilty, in the Provincial Court of Alberta, of illegally importing into Canada the carcass of an Alaskan Brown Bear. During sentencing on October 28, 2016, the individual was ordered to pay a penalty of \$13,500 for violating WAPPRIITA. Of this penalty, \$12,150 will be directed to the Environmental Damages Fund (EDF), and \$1,350 is a fine payable to the Receiver General. An additional penalty of \$1,300 will be paid to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. In addition to the fines, the individual is prohibited, for a period of two years, from importing and exporting wildlife to and from Canada. The court also imposed a one-year prohibition from hunting in or outside Canada, and he is required to forfeit the bear hide and skull.

Alaskan Brown Bear is a member of the grizzly family. The Grizzly Bear (western population) has been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as being a species of special concern in Canada, is considered threatened in the US, and is listed under CITES. It is one of the most iconic North American species, recognized around the world as a symbol of Canada's natural wealth, and is the subject of intense conservation efforts across the continent.

This case is one of a number of cases initiated as part of an extensive, five-year international investigation of the illegal hunting of wildlife in Alaska, British Columbia, and Yukon. ECCC, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (Fish and Wildlife), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Alaska wildlife troopers worked together after Alaskan authorities determined that several Alberta hunters were illegally killing brown bears and then importing them into Canada.

2 - Auction House Illegally Exports Protected Species

Auction House
Photo: Daniel Beaton © Environment and Climate Change Canada



On February 11, 2016, an auction house in Montréal was fined \$23,500 by the Provincial Court. The auction house was ordered to forfeit artifacts after pleading guilty to 12 counts of unlawfully exporting products made from wildlife, and four counts of knowingly possessing controlled wildlife products for the purpose of exporting them from Canada. Both of these actions are prohibited under WAPPRIITA. The fine resulting from the WAPPRIITA offences will be directed to the Environmental Damages Fund.

Between April 2012 and November 2014, the company exported artifacts made from parts of protected species of wildlife to various countries in Europe, the Americas and Asia. The investigation revealed that the auction house did not obtain the required import and export permits for these items, in contravention of WAPPRIITA. Fourteen art items which were seized and forfeited during the investigation were worth approximately \$30,000 including items containing narwhal tusks, walrus ivory, lynx fur, leopard fur, elephant ivory and coral.

To investigate this file, wildlife officers from ECCC worked in collaboration with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the USFWS officers from Florida, Nevada and New York.

3 - Ontario Businessman Guilty of Smuggling Elephant Ivory

Ivory objects
Photo: Todd Kish © Environment and Climate Change Canada



On November 14, 2016, an Ontario corporation and its director pleaded guilty to unlawfully exporting a leather product made from python skin and two pieces of elephant ivory, in contravention of WAPPRIITA. A combined fine totalling \$12,500 was levied, and both the company and its owner were each sentenced to two years of probation. Both the ivory and the python-case exports were made without the necessary export permits required under WAPPRIITA.

This case represents another good example of effective partnership on an international scale. Acting on intelligence, ECCC's Enforcement Branch and the USFWS's Office of Law Enforcement began an investigation into the activities of the company in December 2013.

The joint investigation revealed that, on one occasion, the company placed a small elephant-ivory tusk, later determined through scientific testing to be from an elephant killed in 2001, along with an ivory carving into a parcel falsely labeled as a "gift ornament". The package was mailed to a buyer in the United States, with no return address. These efforts to avoid detection were unsuccessful as the package was intercepted by USFWS special agents. Both pieces of ivory were determined to be from the African Forest Elephant.

4 - Fine of \$25,000 for Unlawfully Importing Florida Softshell Turtles

Florida Softshell Turtle
Photo: passionnature © Thinkstock



On March 24, 2016, a Toronto supply company and its owner pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling into Canada 40 Florida Softshell Turtles in contravention of a foreign state's law. The owner was ordered to pay \$25,000 by the Ontario Court of Justice. The court also found aggravating factors as the individual was aware of the import requirements for this species, coupled with the fact that all 40 turtles were found to have fish hooks in their esophagi indicating that they were taken from the wild.

Florida Softshell Turtles are prized for their meat, which has led to a decline in their numbers in Florida. In response, the State of Florida has banned the commercial fishing of these turtles.

This operation, which started in December 2013, represents a great example of ECCC enforcement officers and Intelligence Team working together as part of a joint-forces operation with USFWS's Office of Law Enforcement.

4.2. 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.

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, the Plants Committee and the 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 2016 are described in more detail in [Section 5.2](#) below.

The 17th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP17) took place on September 24-October 4, 2016, in South Africa. CoP18 will be held in 2019 in Sri Lanka.

Additional information on the Conference of the Parties is available on ECCC's website www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=0C7A2928-1.

Canada initiated a public consultation process approximately one year prior to the CoP17 that included a dedicated CITES website, extensive email distribution and a posting in the *Canada Gazette* in March, 2016. A public call for proposals resulted in a suggestion to submit a proposal to transfer Walrus from Appendix III to Appendix II. After careful consideration, Canada did not proceed with the submission of this proposal as the species did not meet the decline criteria for transfer and such a listing would not contribute to the conservation of the species. The decision to not submit the walrus proposal was also supported by Inuit communities due to an important subsistence harvest of Walrus.

However, Canada submitted three other proposals to CoP17 based on past consultations and careful review of our Canadian Principles for CITES (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/InfDocs/E-CoP17-Inf-4.pdf>). Stakeholders provided written support for these proposals, in particular for the Peregrine Falcon and the Wood Bison.

Transfer the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) from Appendix I to Appendix II



Peregrine Falcon
Photo: © Dr. Gordon Court

Canada proposed the transfer of Peregrine Falcon to Appendix II as the species has a wide distribution and global range, the ability to adapt to different habitats and populations are generally stable or increasing. Trade in Peregrine Falcon is primarily in captive-bred birds, which are used for falconry. This type of trade does not impact wild populations directly.

In 2014, the species was assessed and listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the category of Least Concern.

In particular, the species does not satisfy the relevant CITES criteria for continued listing in Appendix I which reflects one of the Canadian Principles for CITES (<https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/17/Inf-Docs/E-CoP17-Inf-4.pdf>). In addition, Canada gathered information from range States and key trading partners to evaluate whether precautionary measures for Appendix II listing were met. Canada determined that there were effective controls to prevent illegal laundering of wild individuals in captive-breeding operations.

This proposal was rejected after a vote (Yes-52; No-57; Abstain-12). Canada chose to take a position consistent with the principles that supported the submission of the proposal and did not accept the alternatives for the use of zero export quota for wild birds or commercial trade. Opposition from the EU (who votes as a block of

28 votes) indicated concerns that some countries could not properly implement an Appendix II listing.

Transfer of Eastern Cougar (Puma concolor cougar) from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II

The standard nomenclature reference adopted at CoP14 for mammals changed all North American cougar to *Puma concolor cougar* – the name of the Eastern Cougars – which essentially moved all North American cougars to Appendix I. Nomenclature changes are not meant to change CITES protection or listings so the cougar was exempted from the standard reference for mammals that was adopted at CoP14. Working with the Animals Committee, Canada attempted to resolve the issue by proposing a transfer of *Puma concolor cougar* from Appendix I to Appendix II. The Periodic Review under the Felidae family at the 28th Meeting of the Animals Committee resulted in agreement that it would be appropriate to transfer the two subspecies (*Puma concolor coryi* and *Puma concolor cougar*). With this proposal, all cougars in Canada would be listed together on CITES Appendix II. Cougars that are found in trade (from the west) would continue to be protected under federal, provincial and territorial laws. There will be no change in trade as a result of this proposal.

After some clarification about the scope, the proposal was adopted by consensus.

CoP17 also adopted the taxonomic reference for cougars that was agreed to previously at CoP14.

Removal of Wood Bison (Bison bison athabasca) from CITES Appendix II

Male Wood Bison
Photo: Hélène Gaudin © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada



Canada submitted the proposal to remove Wood Bison from CITES controls as the Wood Bison is not threatened by international trade. A review of the available biological information against the CITES listing criteria and precautionary measures indicates that the subspecies does not meet the criteria for continued listing on CITES. To protect the Wood Bison, legislation is in place federally, as well as in provinces and territories.

Parties agreed that Wood Bison no longer met the criteria for Appendix II listing. Trade is not a threat to the species in the wild (16 wild animals were traded in the last five years), protection and management is strong and wild harvest is not expected to increase as a result of this de-listing.

There are 50,000 farmed Wood Bison, including hybrids, in Canada with some of those being exported. Parties supported the proposal based on the fact that the species no longer met criteria for Appendix II. The proposal was adopted by consensus.

To prepare for CoP17, a face-to-face consultation meeting was held in Ottawa in June 2016. The meeting was attended by non-government organizations, other federal departments and interested members of the public. General feedback was that placing a reservation on the CoP decisions to allow time for updating domestic regulations put Canada's commitment to CITES into question. For all proposals and working documents at CoP17, Canada used the Canadian Principles for CITES, which ensure that decisions are based on the best available information, support sustainable use of wildlife resources, are practical and enforceable and remain within the scope of CITES.

Supporting our involvement in the CoP, Canada's negotiating positions and CoP outcomes are posted on the ECCC website (www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=46CAFD9E-1).

Other items of interest to Canada at CoP17 included changes to the interpretation of hunting trophies as personal and household effects. The increased administrative burden for the issuance of permits for Black bear and Sandhill Crane hunting trophies would have been substantial with no conservation gain to the species. Canada expressed these concerns and the final outcome recognized that bilateral agreements, like the existing agreement between Canada and the United States, allow for trade that is non-detrimental to the survival of the species with minimal administrative burden. As such, the existing trade conditions for Black Bear and Sandhill Crane between Canada and the United States remain unmodified.

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. Canada submitted a temporary reservation to indicate that it would not be bound by the amendments to the Appendices adopted at CoP17 until the domestic implementation process was completed. The reservation was received on January 4, 2017, two days after the expiration of the 90-day timeline. Late reservations are considered received unless a Party to the Convention objects. On March 21, 2017, the United States notified the CITES Secretariat of their objection to all late reservations submitted, including Canada's. As a result, Canada was bound by the CoP17 amendments despite the reservation that had been submitted. Canada has since amended Schedule I of WAPTR in order to fully implement the CoP17 amendments in 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, the Plants Committee and the 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 adopted 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 was elected Chair of the Standing Committee for the next intersessional period. Dr. Adrienne Sinclair of ECCC was elected Chair of the Plants Committee after serving as the regional representative and the interim Chair leading up to CoP17.

The Animals Committee and the Plants Committee did not meet in 2016 due to the CoP. The Standing Committee met in January 2016. During the year, Canada was very active in the work of these committees.

The North America Region of CITES met in August 2016 in Ottawa, to discuss the proposals and documents for CoP17. The US and Mexico were supportive of Canada's initiatives to de-list Wood Bison and transfer Eastern Cougar and Peregrine Falcon to Appendix II. The North American Region also met on-site during CoP17 in South Africa to focus on regional preparations and positions for the meeting. These meetings allow regional members to better understand respective 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, is currently chair of the Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG).

ECCC's involvement with the WCWG included building capacity and facilitating the exchange of information in support of coordinated and enhanced enforcement efforts around the world. In 2016, at the 27th WCWG Meeting in Johannesburg (October 2-4, 2016), ECCC presented its experience with the implementation of wildlife traceability initiatives in trade and the conservation of wildlife species. ECCC highlighted the critical importance of engaging local communities, and pointed out the benefits from harnessing technology advancements such as passive integrated transponders, DNA sampling and stable isotope analysis in order to enhance the traceability of species in trade.

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 among countries in the Americas; to get a better understanding of the relation between wildlife and forest crime and organized crime in the Americas; and to identify potential joint strategies and activities for cooperation.

During 2016, ECCC contributed to the development of the Best Practice Guide for Forensic Timber Identification, a project led by UNODC's Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime and the Laboratory and Scientific Section (www.unodc.org/documents/Wildlife/Guide_Timber.pdf). This Guide is intended to support the front-line enforcement officers worldwide in identifying species and geographical provenance of timber samples through the use of forensic technology and laboratory data. The information collected while applying methods of forensic analysis of timber can be instrumental for the design of targeted law enforcement responses. It will help to ensure that resources are directed to those areas where illegal logging occurs and will support countries to combat the illegal trade in products of protected timber species more effectively. In addition, identifying locations of illegal logging activities assists countries in taking responsibility for the illegal activities within their borders and helps to promote international cooperation to address the problem.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

You can get more information about WAPPRIITA by visiting CITES website at www.ec.gc.ca/cites or by contacting ECCC:

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