

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

*WILD ANIMAL AND PLANT
PROTECTION AND REGULATION
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE ACT*



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Climate Change Canada

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HIGHLIGHTS

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

- **International:** Canada participated in the 30th meeting of the Animals Committee, the 24th meeting of the Plants Committee, and the 70th meeting of the Standing Committee of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES). Canada is currently serving as the North American Regional representative and Chair of the Standing Committee as well as Chair of the Plants Committee.
- **Domestic:** In May 2018, Canada extended the one-year prohibition on the import of Salamanders on an indefinite basis, unless accompanied by a permit. This measure was put in place to protect native Salamanders from a devastating fungal disease.
- **Exports:** Canadian jurisdictions issued 5,512 CITES export permits and re-export certificates under WAPPRIITA. As with past years, the majority of shipments in 2018 were of cultivated American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts and derivatives.
- **Imports:** Canada issued 160 CITES import permits, which were mainly for the import of old ivory and hunting trophies from legitimate hunts. In addition, 10 import permits were issued for the import of species posing a risk to Canadian ecosystems, including Raccoon Dogs and Salamanders.
- **Enforcement:** Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) conducted 1,808 inspections under WAPPRIITA. There were 285 violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations, which resulted in prosecutions, seizures, tickets or warnings. About 15% of the inspections focused on Canadian species at high conservation risk or facing a high level of non-compliance, and 85% focused on foreign species meeting these same criteria of high conservation risk or high level of non-compliance in Canada.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PURPOSE

The WAPPRIITA Annual 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 2018.

This section provides information on WAPPRIITA and outlines the responsibilities of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) in administering the Act. Subsequent sections discuss the following:

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

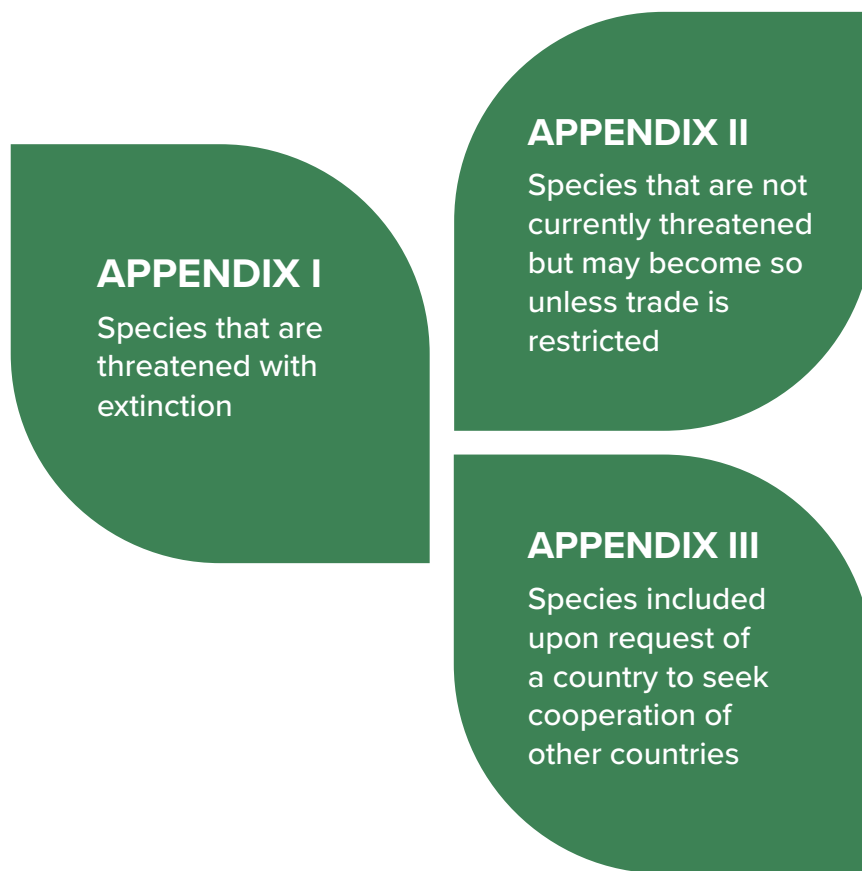
1.2. WAPPRIITA AND CITES

WAPPRIITA and the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations* (WAPTR) came into force on May 14, 1996, and provide Canada with the authority to regulate trade in animal and plant species, helping Canada meet its international obligations under the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES)¹.

WAPPRIITA's main purpose is to protect certain species of animals and plants, by implementing CITES, regulating international and interprovincial trade in animals and plants, and safeguarding Canadian ecosystems from the introduction of harmful species. WAPPRIITA also regulates the interprovincial trade of plants and animals as well as prohibiting the import of species taken, possessed, distributed or transported in contravention of any law of any foreign state.

CITES came into force in 1975 and it has been adopted by over 180 countries. CITES sets controls on the trade in and international movement of animal and plant species that are, or may become, threatened with over-exploitation because 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.

¹ www.cites.org



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 which do not necessarily appear in the CITES appendices but require an import permit. 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 issuing CITES permits and certificates.

As the Scientific Authority, ECCC has overall responsibility in Canada for determining whether the international trade of a species is detrimental to its survival. This responsibility includes monitoring the international trade of wild animals and plants to and from 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.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/roles-responsibilities.html.

ECCC oversees the enforcement of WAPPRIITA, which is carried out in cooperation with other federal agencies, such as the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), and with provincial and territorial wildlife agencies. Border officials play an important role at ports of entry, manually verifying and validating permits, and referring shipments to ECCC personnel for inspection, as required.

ECCC maintains enforcement agreements and memorandums of understanding with Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Under the agreements and memorandums of understanding, these four provinces and two territories are responsible for enforcing WAPPRIITA with respect to interprovincial wildlife trade within their jurisdictions.

2. MANAGEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE

2.1. PERMITTING OVERVIEW

2.1.1. Requirement

CITES

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; Schedule I of WAPTR includes all CITES-listed species.

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. In collaboration with some of Canada’s provinces and territories, ECCC issues export permits and re-export certificates for specimens of indigenous species harvested in Canada. Fisheries and Oceans Canada issues the majority of the export permits for CITES-listed aquatic species.

Other permits

In addition to CITES-listed species, ECCC issues all import permits for species that may pose a risk to Canadian ecosystems, which are listed on Schedule II of WAPTR.

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

Table 1: Types of Canadian permits and certificates under 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. 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 CITES-listed 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. |

| Type of permit or certificate | Description |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 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. |
| Injurious wildlife permit | An injurious wildlife permit is necessary for importing specimens of species posing risks to Canadian ecosystems that are included in Schedule II of the WAPTR. |

2.1.2. Exemptions

WAPPRIITA authorizes exemptions, in specific situations, for the import and export of CITES listed species without permits. WAPTR specifies four exemptions: 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.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/wild-animal-plant-protection-act/permitting-exemptions.html.

Canadian threatened or endangered species listed on Schedule III of the WAPTR are not included in these exemptions and require all necessary CITES permits.

2.1.3. Issuance and monitoring of Canadian permits and certificates under WAPPRIITA

Service standards

ECCC has established service standards for WAPPRIITA permit decisions and the issuance of permits. ECCC's goal is to provide permit decisions within these standards for at least 90% of all permit applications. The performance is tracked on a fiscal year basis.

April 2018 to March 2019

ECCC met the performance targets for all CITES permit categories except for the hunting trophies category. The performance target set for hunting trophies is 90% of permits issued within 21 calendar days; ECCC issued 82% of permits within that timeframe. The Department's performance against these standards is published online at www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/permits/service-standards-performance-targets.html.

The performance target for WAPTR injurious wildlife permits decisions is set at 90% of permits issued within 70 calendar days; ECCC reached 89% of permits issued within that timeframe. The Department's performance against these standards is published online at www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/import-species-harmful-ecosystems/standards-performance-permits.html.

2.2. CITES PERMITS ISSUED IN 2018

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 originate in Canada and are being exported from Canada for the first time.

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.

Table 2 shows the number of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2018 by Canadian CITES permitting offices, which totalled 5,512.

Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian CITES permitting offices in 2018

| 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 | 3,810 | 69.12% |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada | 178 | 3.23% |
| Provinces/Territories | | |
| British Columbia | 846 | 15.35% |
| Ontario | 442 | 8.02% |
| New Brunswick | 133 | 2.41% |
| Yukon | 103 | 1.87% |
| Total | 5,512 | 100% |

Each export permit or re-export certificate can authorize the export of multiple specimens or species and each species and their parts or derivatives is listed. In the case of export of biomedical samples, for example, a permit could have hundreds of individual specimens listed (e.g. blood, serum, microscope slides, paraffin blocks). In other cases, there may be few specimens listed on the permit, but large quantities for each specimen (e.g. hundreds of Bobcat skins from a fur auction). As in past years, the most common animal species listed on export and re-export permits in 2018 include:

- American Black Bear
- Bobcat
- Canadian Lynx
- Crab-eating Macaque
- Grizzly Bear
- Mountain Lion
- Narwhal
- North American Otter
- Polar Bear
- Wolf

American Black Bear
Photo: Buck Shreck, licensed under Getty Images



Canadian Lynx
Photo: Kathleen Reeder Wildlife Photography, licensed under Getty Images



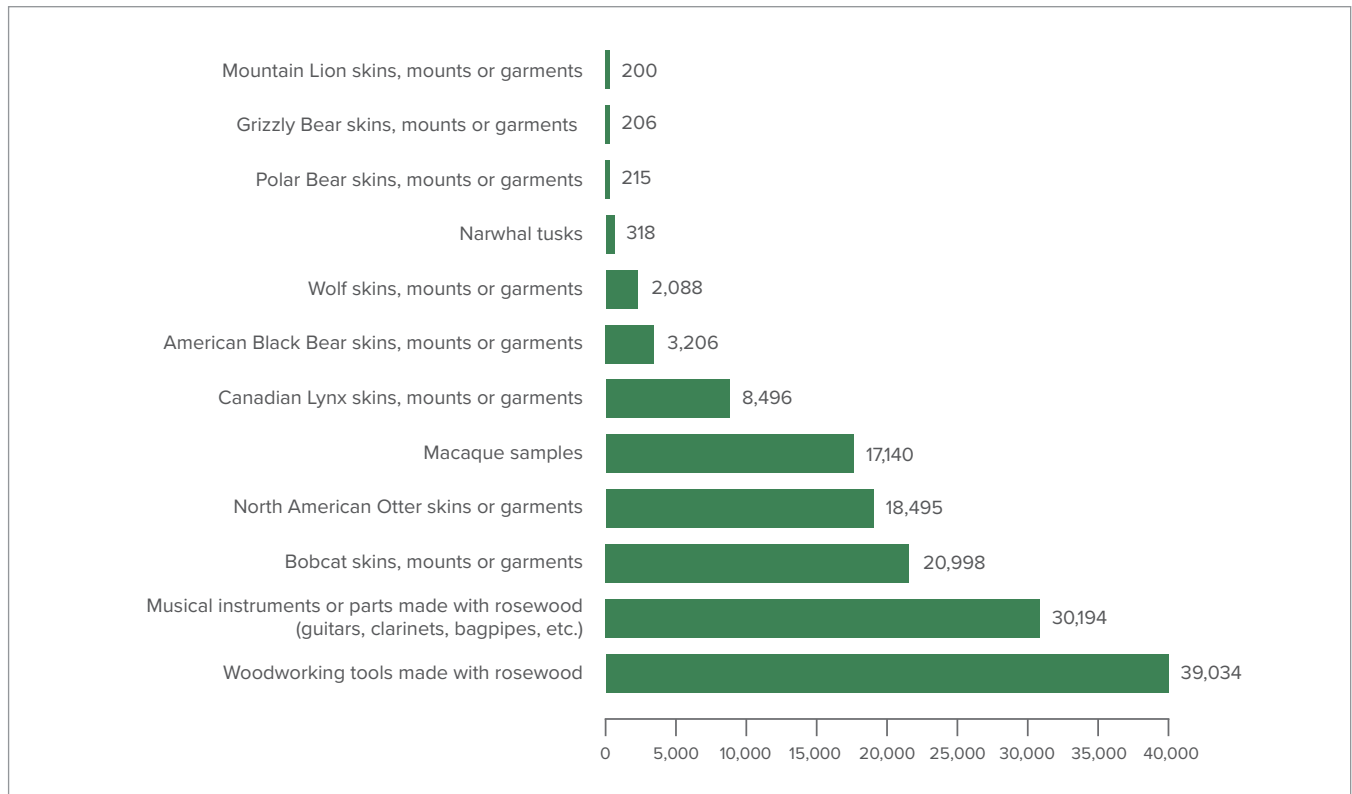
North American Otter
Photo: Brooke Anderson Photography, licensed under Getty Images

Canada also re-exported an important number of items made with rosewood, such as musical instruments and woodworking tools. Canada is the largest exporter of American Ginseng, which is grown in Ontario.

Every country that is Party to CITES is required to submit to the CITES Secretariat a detailed report of what was permitted by that country in a calendar year. This report is due on October 31st of the following year (e.g. the 2017 annual report was due on October 31, 2018 and the 2018 annual report is due October 31, 2019).

Figure 1 shows the number of exports or re-exports reported in the Canada 2017 CITES annual report submitted in October 2018.

Figure 1: Number of exports or re-exports listed in the Canada 2017 CITES annual report



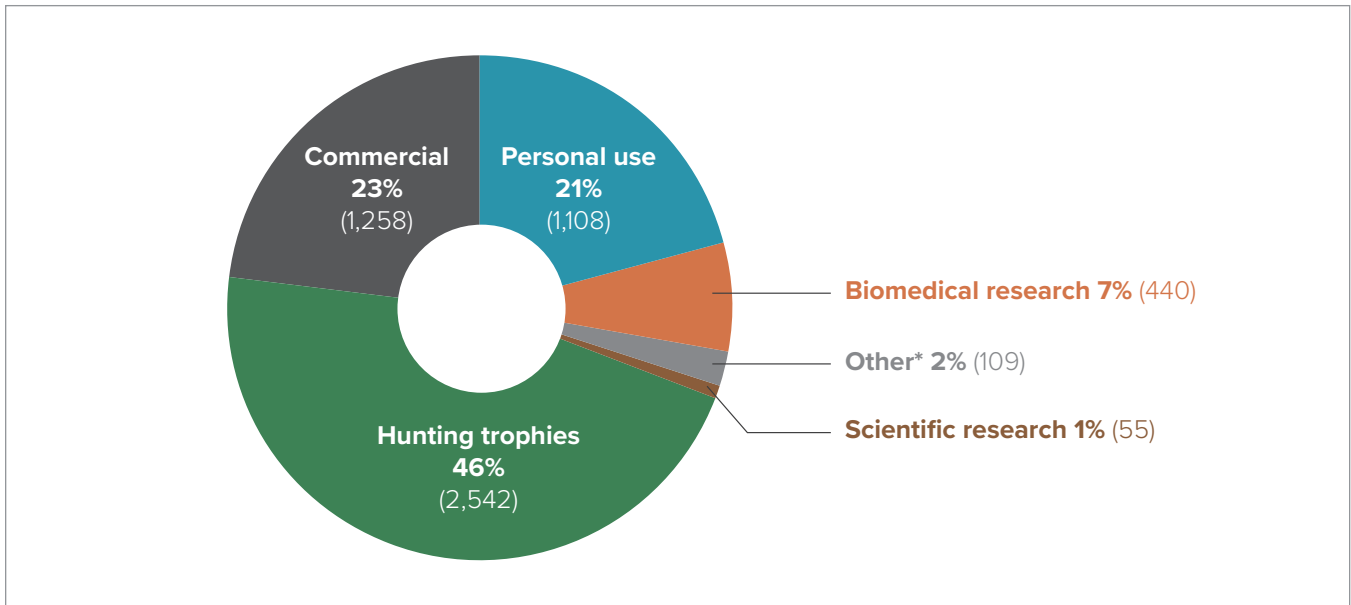
Note: The ECCC 2017 annual report submitted to CITES reported 3,214,798 kg of American Ginseng.

In 2018, Canada issued export permits and re-export certificates for the following purpose of transaction codes as defined in CITES Resolution 12.3².

- Hunting trophies
- Personal use
- Scientific research
- Commercial purposes
- Biomedical research
- Other

Figure 2 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose of transaction, of export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2018.

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2018, by purpose of transaction



Note: Purpose of transactions for export and re-export permits are relatively constant from year to year.

*Includes exhibitions (18), zoos (36), educational (6), breeding (26), law enforcement (9), botanical gardens (0) and reintroduction in the wild (14). They each account for such a small quantity that they are grouped and represented together.

² CITES Resolution 12.3 on Permits and Certificates was agreed to in 2002 and reviewed in 2016.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose of transaction, of export permits and re-export certificates issued between 2010 and 2018.

Figure 3: Percentages of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in previous years, by purpose of transaction (some numbers have been rounded)

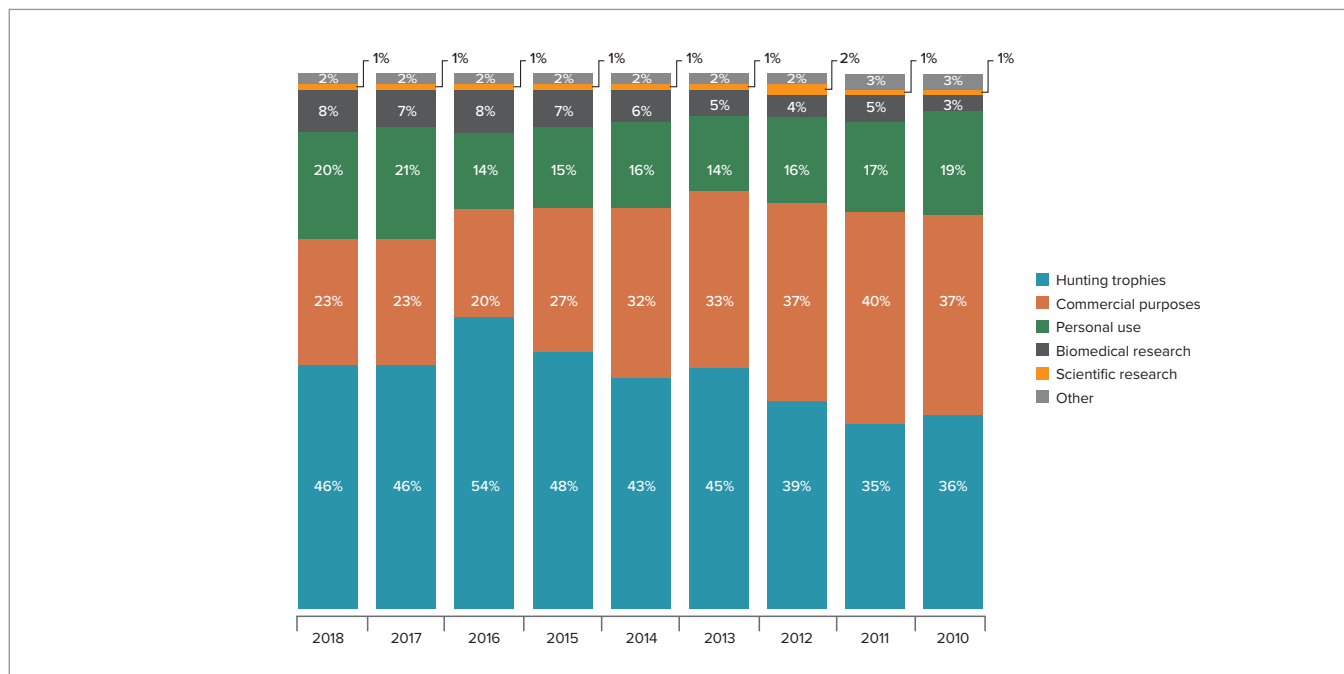


Table 3 indicates the number of export permits issued in each of the post five calendar years of Polar Bears harvested in Canada for each season.

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 export permits issued | Number of Polar Bears by harvest season* | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| | | 2018-2019 | 2017-2018 | 2016-2017 | 2015-2016 | 2014-2015 | 2013-2014 | 2012-2013 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 | 2009-2010 | Prior to July 2009 |
| 2018 | 206 | 1 | 57 | 40 | 45 | 27 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 2017 | 215 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 79 | 29 | 24 | 16 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 6 |
| 2016 | 232 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 57 | 50 | 28 | 7 | 11 | 0 | 12 |
| 2015 | 292 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 87 | 88 | 27 | 20 | 7 | 13 |
| 2014 | 237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 99 | 32 | 18 | 6 | 26 |

Note: It is important to note that even if a permit for a specific Polar Bear is issued in a calendar year, the actual export may not take place for various reasons (e.g. permit expired before shipment could take place, cancelled shipment, changes from rug to full mount, etc.). A permit could be reissued in subsequent years for a Polar Bear, which was never actually exported under a previously issued permit.

*Harvest season is counted from July to June of following year. For example, harvest season 2018-2019 started on July 1, 2018, and finished on June 30, 2019.

2.2.2. Permits for multiple shipments

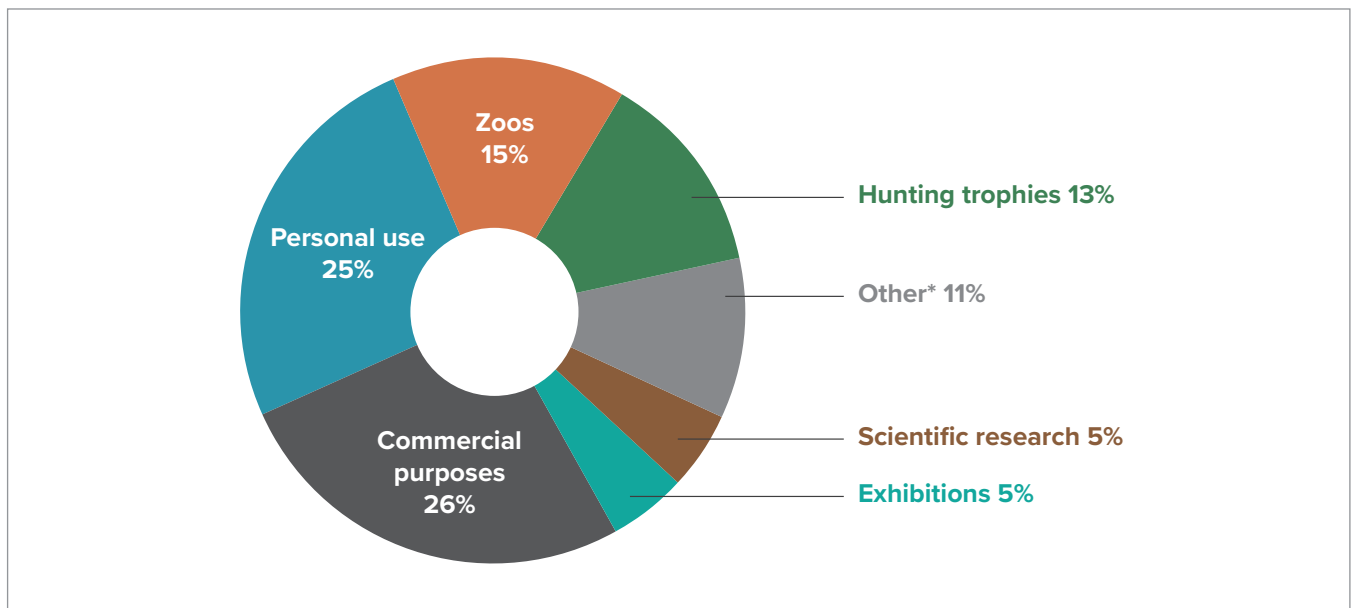
An export permit or re-export certificate may authorize multiple shipments of specimens that have been approved by the permitting office. The permit or certificate holder is responsible for identifying the destination, specific specimens and quantities that make up each shipment. This provides a simplified procedure for permit holders who trade in specimens with very little or no impact to the conservation of species. Of the 5,512 export permits and re-export certificates listed in Table 2, there were 755 for multiple shipments, authorizing 47,959 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) is authorized through a simplified permitting procedure using ginseng stickers. A permit sticker identifying the permit number under which the multiple shipments are authorized accompanies each shipment. Individual stickers accounted for 39,217 of the 41,230 shipments for ginseng authorized in 2018.

2.2.3. Imports into Canada

Figure 4 indicates the distribution, by purpose of transaction code, of CITES import permits issued in 2018.

Figure 4: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2018, by purpose of transaction

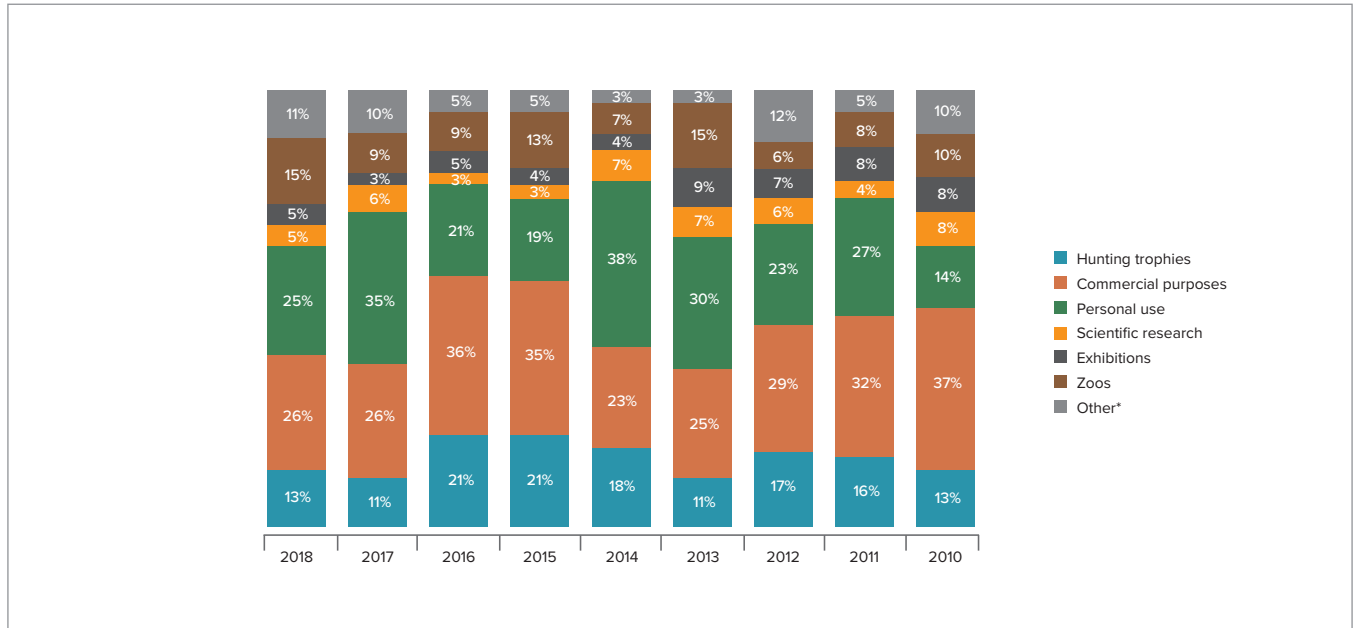


Note: The imports for commercial purposes consists mainly of artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens (e.g., antiques containing ivory) and captive-bred animals (e.g., falcons, parrots).

*Includes breeding, law enforcement and propagation purposes.

Figure 5 indicates the percentage of overall CITES import permits issued between 2010 and 2018, by purpose of transaction.

Figure 5: Percentage of CITES import permits issued from 2010 to 2018, by purpose of transaction



*Includes breeding, law enforcement and propagation purposes.

2.2.4. Specialized CITES certificates

As indicated in Table 1, there are many types of permits and certificates issued in Canada under WAPPRIITA. The specialized CITES certificate allows movement of CITES-listed specimens in specialized scenarios. There are three types of specialized certificates:

- **Certificate of Ownership** – allows owners of CITES-listed pets to travel with their pets across international borders.
- **Temporary Movement Certificates** – allows travel outside of Canada with items made from CITES-listed species, such as musicians and their instruments (e.g. bagpipes with ivory) or exhibits from museums and art galleries.
- **Scientific Certificate** – used by Canadian CITES-registered institutions to exchange specimens with CITES-registered institutions in another country. This facilitates the movement of scientific samples for research and cataloguing.

While, these specialized certificates represent a modest number of permits issued each year, they serve a very important function by facilitating the movement of specimens of CITES-listed species in low-risk situations.

Table 4 shows the number of certificates issued by type from 2010 to 2018.

Table 4: CITES certificates issued from 2010 to 2018 by type

| Year | Certificate of Ownership | Temporary Movement Certificate | Scientific Certificate | Total |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| 2018 | 49 | 37 | 7 | 93 |
| 2017 | 65 | 41 | 11 | 117 |
| 2016 | 104 | 40 | 1 | 145 |
| 2015 | 68 | 27 | 5 | 100 |
| 2014 | 68 | 45 | 13 | 126 |
| 2013 | 88 | 33 | 5 | 126 |
| 2012 | 74 | 25 | No data | 99 |
| 2011 | 62 | 4 | 4 | 70 |
| 2010 | 82 | 13 | No data | 95 |

2.3. OTHER PERMITS ISSUED

Canada requires import permits for certain species that may pose a risk to Canadian ecosystems, but do not necessarily appear in the CITES appendices (referred to as injurious wildlife permits). These species are listed in Schedule II of WAPTR and include Raccoon Dogs, Mongooses, Starlings, Mynas and Oxpeckers. Schedule II of WAPTR was amended in May 2018 to include all species under the order Caudata (includes salamanders, newts and mudpuppies) on an indeterminate basis, to continue the protection which was initiated in May 2017 to protect Canadian Salamanders and ecosystems from a devastating fungal disease. A disease-causing fungus called *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal), has been devastating salamander populations in Europe. It is suspected that the fungus spread from Asia via the pet trade. Wild Salamanders play a vital role in Canada's ecosystems as part of the food web and in nutrient and carbon cycling. If the fungus enters Canadian ecosystems, the impacts on our native Salamanders will likely be severe. Canada is now prohibiting, on an indeterminate basis, the import of all species of the order Caudata unless accompanied by a permit. This import restriction includes living or dead specimens (or any other parts or derivatives of species of the order Caudata) as well as any of their:

- eggs
- sperm
- tissue culture
- embryos

Injurious wildlife permits are typically issued in two scenarios: import of live Salamanders for zoos and scientific institutions; and import of fur products or garments made of Raccoon Dogs.

Raccoon Dog
Photo: Christina Krutz,
licensed under Getty Images



Table 5 shows the number of other permits issued from 2017 to 2018.

Table 5: Other permits issued from 2017 to 2018

| Year | Live animals (Salamanders) | Garments | Total |
|------|----------------------------|----------|-------|
| 2018 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 2017 | 4 | 1 | 5 |

2.4. 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. 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 Appendices 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 when they are considering exports and NDFs from exporting countries.

Canada's NDFs are consistent with a Resolution adopted by the CITES Conference of the Parties as well as the international guidance for CITES Scientific Authorities, and guidance provided by the CITES Secretariat.

In Canada, NDFs are determined on a permit-by-permit basis. For heavily traded species, standing NDF reports are prepared to support the issuance of export permits. Canada's species-specific standing NDF reports are developed following the process that involves the federal-provincial/territorial CITES Scientific Authorities working group, as well as participation and review by species experts and Indigenous peoples. Canada has standing NDFs that cover the majority of Canada's trade including for American Ginseng, Atlantic Sturgeon, Black Bear, Bobcat, Canadian Lynx, Cougar, Goldenseal, Grey Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Narwhal, Polar Bear, River Otter and Sandhill Crane. Every three years, standing NDF reports are reviewed and, if necessary, updated with the most recent information. Canada's Standing Non-Detriment Finding Reports can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/non-detriment-findings.html>.

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 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 various means, such 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.

In 2018, ECCC continued to promote compliance with CITES and WAPPRIITA through more than 20 displays located at various venues, including: airports, science centres, zoos, customs offices and border crossings, as well as through the Digital Display Network (visual communication tool which runs a continuous loop of messaging related to Government of Canada programs and services) located in the Service Canada Centres and Passport Offices across Canada.

ECCC also worked with the Toronto Zoo to complete a new CITES exhibit. The purpose of CITES displays is to educate and inform Canadians about both the impacts of illegal wildlife trade, and the plant and animal species they cannot bring into the country without a CITES import permit.

ECCC promoted compliance with its salamander import restriction to the pet industry, zoos, and aquariums. Activities included social media messages and mail outs to targeted stakeholders.

4.2. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Poaching and trafficking of wildlife undermines conservation efforts and threatens the conservation of species. Over-exploitation driven by illegal trade can decimate populations of species. Illegal trade can also threaten the socio-economic benefits that legal trade in wildlife can provide to certain communities.

Wildlife trafficking worldwide has increased since 2005. Illegal wildlife trade and environmental crime include a wide range of flora and fauna across all continents, and is estimated to be worth \$70 to \$213 billion USD annually³.

According to the Wildlife Crime Status Update of 2017⁴, policy innovations, including tightening national and international controls, are starting to show positive effects on illegal trade in wildlife. After a ten-year increase,

Fire salamander
Photo: Stephan Huwiler,
licensed under Getty Images



³ 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 Program and GRID-Arendal, Nairobi and Arendal. (www.grida.no); www.grida.no/publications/rr/crime.

⁴ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/wildlife/Research_brief_wildlife_su.pdf

rates of illegal trade are stabilizing, but close monitoring of activities is essential to make continual improvements in the conservation and protection of wildlife.

4.2.1. Inspections

Inspections are conducted to ensure that the import and export of animals and plants comply with the requirements of WAPPRIITA. Inspections are instrumental in obtaining on-going information on emerging non-compliance risks and threats. The analysis of information collected through inspections informs the development of risk-based priorities for compliance verification.

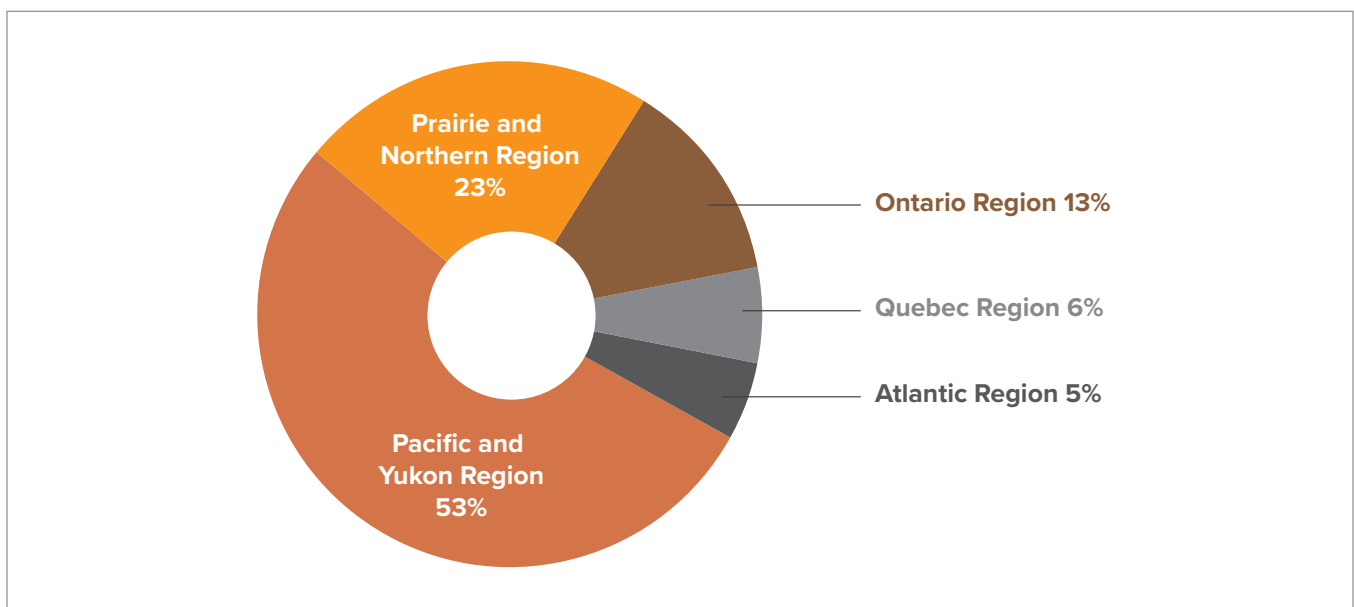
Inspections are either proactively planned or conducted in response to a referral from another federal department or agency, such as the Canada Border Services Agency, provincial or territorial governments, or the public. About 15% of the inspections conducted under WAPPRIITA focused on Canadian species at high conservation risk or facing a high level of non-compliance, and 85% of the number were focused on foreign species meeting these same criteria of high conservation risk or high level of non-compliance.

In 2018, there were 1,808 inspections under WAPPRIITA, with just over 50% occurring in the Pacific and Yukon Region. Vancouver is one of the largest ports for international trade in North America. Its airport, mail centre and sea ports are all among the highest volume in Canada.

The Vancouver International Airport (YVR) is Canada's second-busiest airport. Most notably, YVR serves as a hub for the movement of goods between Canada and the Asia-Pacific region. In regulating the movement of wildlife through YVR, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) is engaged in two main areas: the examination of commercial shipments arriving and departing via commercial carriers (as well as via courier), and the examination of personal imports via passenger luggage at the International Passenger Terminal.

Figure 6 presents the inspections conducted in 2018 under WAPPRIITA by region.

Figure 6: Inspections conducted in 2018 under WAPPRIITA by region

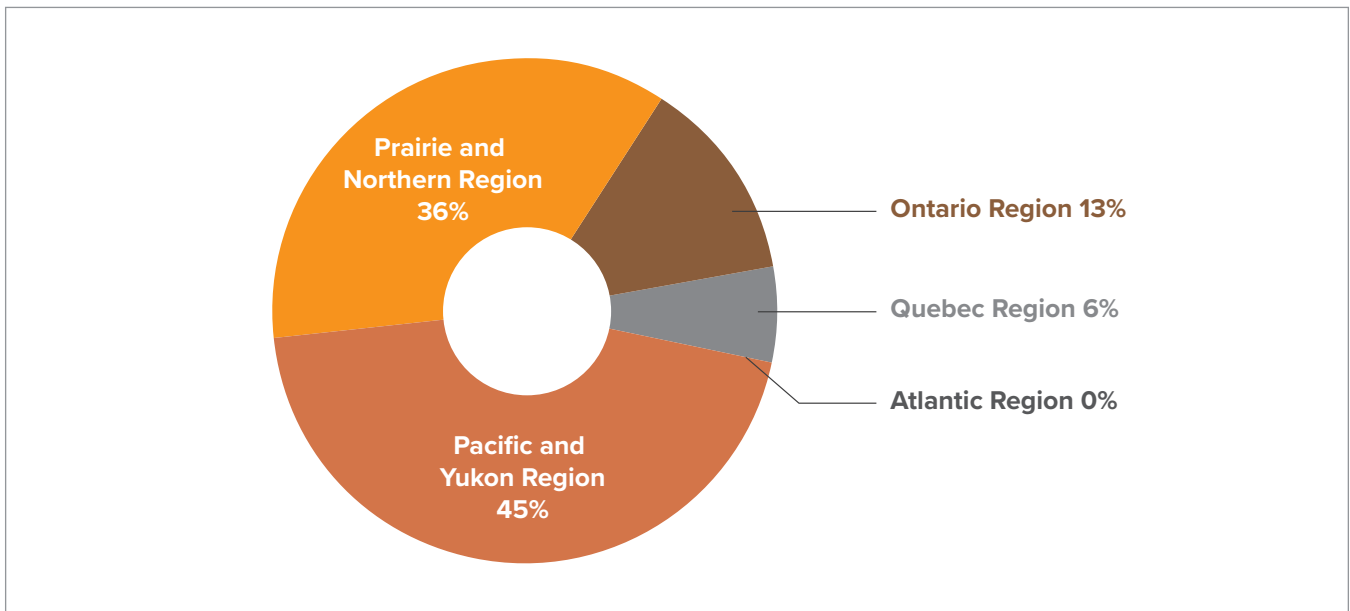


4.2.2. Investigations

In 2018, ECCC opened 16 new investigations involving international or interprovincial movements of wildlife. The outcomes of ECCC's main investigations, including media releases and enforcement notifications, are published online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications.html>. Please note that open investigations do not necessarily correlate to those published online.

Figure 7 presents the new investigations opened in 2018 under WAPPRIITA by region.

Figure 7: New Investigations opened in 2018 under WAPPRIITA by region



Note: In the figures provided, the total for new investigations excludes other investigations that are overlapping from previous years.

4.2.3. Violations

There were 285 violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations recorded in 2018 that resulted in prosecutions, seizures, tickets or warnings.

4.2.4. Convictions

In 2018, there were 21 convictions made for violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations, which resulted in fines totalling \$89,867.

Examples of violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations that led to penalties in 2018

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Banff based company guilty of unlawfully importing protected coral species into Canada</p> <p>On December 4, 2018, a Banff, Alberta company pleaded guilty to one count of violating subsection 6(2) of WAPPRIITA (importing without a permit) and was penalized \$10,000. The company was also ordered to declare all imports of wildlife or plant products to ECCC prior to the importation for a period of two years.</p> <p>This case began in February 2016 when CBSA officials notified ECCC of a shipment from the United States containing coral. The inspection found that the shipment contained approximately 115 kilograms of Blue coral and Stony coral, both regulated under CITES and subject to strict permitting requirements to ensure that trade does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild.</p> <p>More information can be found at https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/banff-company-guilty-unlawfully-importing-protected-coral-canada.html</p> | <p>Home-based pet supply owner fined for the illegal import of regulated reptiles</p> <p>On July 20, 2018, an individual from Ontario pleaded guilty to violating WAPPRIITA and was fined \$7,000, which was directed to the Government of Canada’s Environmental Damages Fund.⁵</p> <p>The case began in September 2017 when CBSA officials notified ECCC of discrepancies in paperwork accompanying a shipment of reptiles imported from Africa. During the inspection, officers discovered the shipment contained forty-two Spiny-tailed Lizards known as <i>Uromastyx geyri</i>, a regulated species under CITES. The defendant was charged and convicted of importing these species into Canada without a valid permit.</p> <p>More information can be found at https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-enforcement/notifications/pet-supply-owner-fined-illegal-import-regulated-reptiles.html</p> |
| <p>Poaching: \$6,000 in fines for three Quebec hunters</p> <p>On January 26, 2018, three men from Dégelis, Quebec pleaded guilty to illegally transporting poached Moose from New Brunswick to Quebec. In addition to a combined sentence of \$6,000 for the WAPPRIITA offences, the court also ordered the confiscation of the seized Moose meat, two Moose antlers and the two Moose registration certificates (Quebec).</p>  <p>Photo: Archives/François Drouin, infoweekend.ca</p> <p>One of the men also pleaded guilty to an offence under the provincial regulations of New Brunswick and was fined \$1,200 with seven days in prison and a one-month probation order. The individual is prohibited from hunting or fishing in New Brunswick for a period of five years.</p> | <p>Seizure of CITES Appendix I Tiger Taxidermy - Organized Crime</p> <p>On May 3, 2018, ECCC received a referral from the Vancouver Police Department after entering an auction house as part of a large drug operation and finding a taxidermy mount of a tiger.</p> <p>The stuffed tiger was seized by ECCC, as the owners were not present and there was no way to determine if the animal was legally obtained.</p> |

⁵ <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/programs/environmental-damages-fund.html>

4.3. COLLABORATION WITH PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PARTNERS

As noted in Section 1.3, several provincial and territorial agencies have memorandums of understanding (MOU) or agreements with the federal government allowing designated officers to enforce WAPPRITA. The collaboration between Canada and its provincial and territorial partners is advantageous, resulting in better coordination of efforts and resources in undertaking wildlife enforcement actions, especially large-scale operations.

5. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

5.1. CITES CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES

The CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP) meets once every three years. The 18th meeting (CoP18) will be held from August 17 to 28, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, with the Standing Committee meetings taking place before and after (SC71 is August 16 and SC72 is August 28). During the period between meetings of the CoP, the Animals Committee, the Plants Committee and the Standing Committee implement directives received from the preceding CoP and prepare for the next CoP. Additional information on the Conference of the Parties is available on ECCC's website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/convention-international-trade-endangered-species/conference-of-parties.html>.

ECCC has undertaken a number of public information and consultation initiatives in anticipation of the CoP18 meeting, including a CITES information session in spring 2018 and a Standing Committee consultation and pre-CoP information session in September 2018. In addition, suggestions from Canadians were sought for proposals that Canada should consider submitting to the CoP, however, no suggestions were received. Canada maintains a CITES-dedicated website, an extensive email distribution list and is planning a public consultation meeting and publication in Canada Gazette to further inform Canada's participation at CoP18.

In late 2018, Canada submitted two documents for discussion at the 2019 meeting of CoP18.

The first submission by Canada as Standing Committee chair, seeks an amendment to the CITES Appendices to reduce CITES controls for trade in rosewood tree products. The controls put in place in 2017 included any form of the wood, including finished products. Rosewood trees do not occur naturally in Canada. However, it is used in 90% of all guitars and is commonly used for bagpipes, clarinets, flutes, and woodworking tools. Controls on finished products have no conservation benefit on the species, which is why we are seeking the amendment.

The second submission proposes development of guidance relating to presentation of CITES listing decisions in the CITES Appendices. Such guidance would be useful to Canada and other similar countries that incorporate changes to the CITES Appendices directly into their legislation, by improving predictability and transparency of how the Appendices are presented.

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 the 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. Canada is part of the North American region, along with the United States and Mexico. In 2018, Canadians from ECCC served as members and alternate members for the Animals Committee and Plants Committee, and Canada represented the North American region on the Standing Committee. In addition, Ms. Carolina Caceres from Canada served in her elected role as Chair of the Standing Committee and Dr. Adrienne Sinclair from Canada served in her elected role as Chair of the Plants Committee.

5.3. ACTION PLANS FOR NORTH AMERICAN CITES APPENDIX II SPECIES

Canada has been engaged in a project coordinated under the auspices of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) to implement priority actions that will support sustainable, legal, and traceable trade of certain species of CITES listed tarantulas, tortoises and turtles, timber, and sharks. Activities in 2018 include:

- Four tri-national (CA-US-MX) workshops to strengthen regional collaboration and information gathering, and to build capacity to support enforcement and implementation (especially in relation to species identification). The workshop on shark fin identification and transnational illegal trade in shark fin was hosted by Canada in Vancouver.
- A review of draft International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List assessments of sixteen tarantula's species and a new identification guide to identify CITES listed tarantulas in North America.
- The launch of dedicated website pages and social media outreach to explain the project's objectives and to report on the implementation to the public, experts, and interested parties (e.g. <http://www3.cec.org/cites>).
- The development of a partnership and funding strategy for future actions.

5.4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

Canadian officials intercept 18 tonnes of suspected European eel meat

During spring 2018, ECCC made one of the largest detentions in the world as part of INTERPOL's Operation Thunderstorm, seizing 18 tonnes of Eel meat. ECCC and four provinces participated in this operation which was the largest anti-wildlife trafficking effort ever mounted with 92 countries.

Due to the species' stock decline, the European Eel is classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN Red List, listed in Appendix II of CITES, and is subject to European Union eel regulation. Furthermore, export out of and import into Europe has been suspended since December 2010⁶.

The result of this anti-wildlife trafficking operation shows that authorities can detain products and significantly impact the profitability of illegal trade. This situation demonstrates the contribution of enforcement activities to the sustainable international trade and ecosystems integrity for these species.



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5.5. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

ECCC collaborates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to exchange experiences and best practices in preventing and combatting wildlife and forest crime among countries in the Americas; get a better understanding of the relation between wildlife and forest crime and organized crime in the Americas; and identify potential joint strategies and activities for cooperation.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about WAPPRIITA, please visit ECCC's website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/wildlife-plants-species/international-trade-protected-animals-plants.html> or contact ECCC.

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⁶ <http://www.illegalwildlifetrade.net/2018/07/27/europes-largest-wildlife-crime-illegal-trade-of-the-european-eel/>