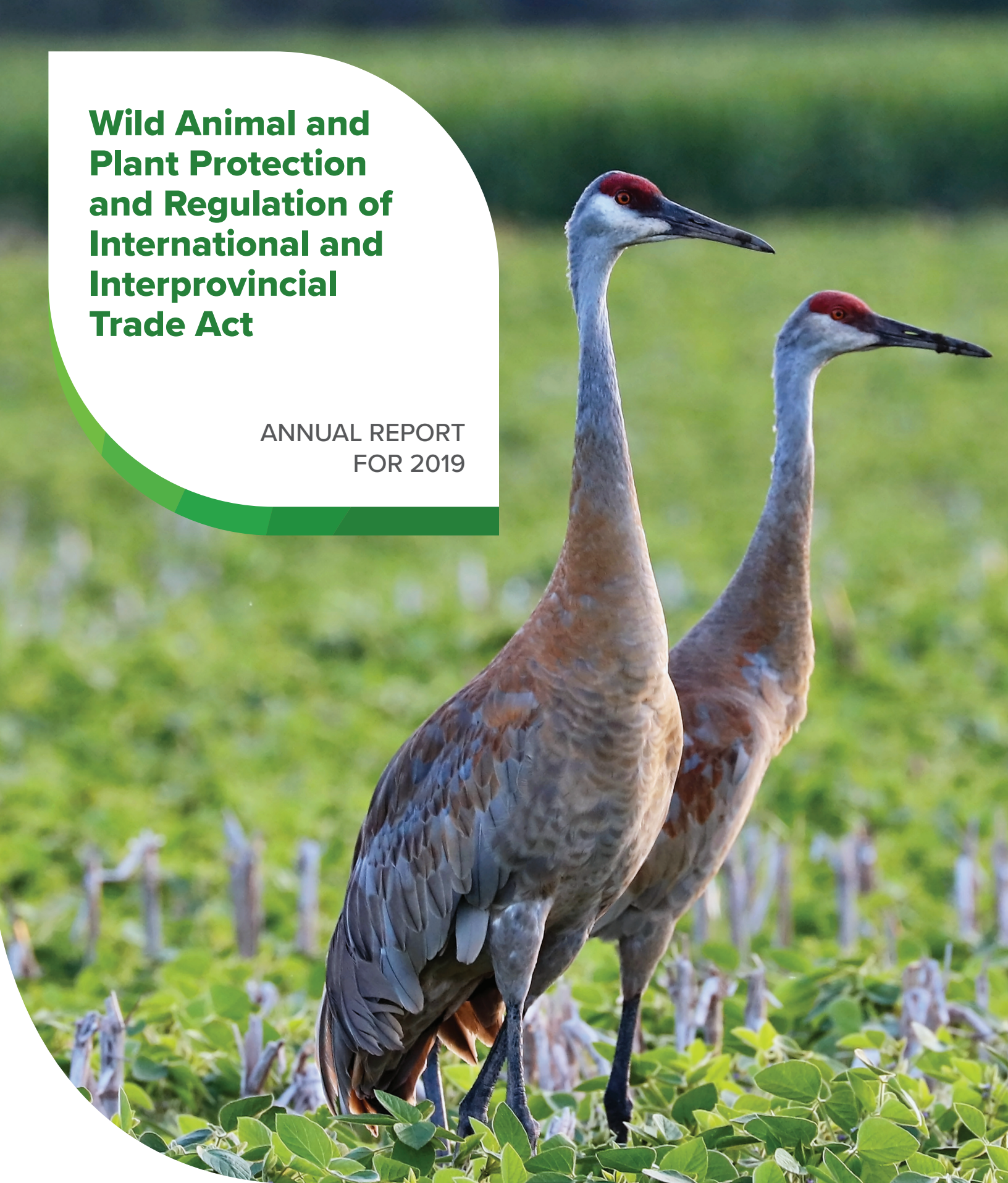


Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2019



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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Changement climatique Canada

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HIGHLIGHTS

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

International: In August 2019, Canada participated at the 18th meeting of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES) Conference of the Parties. Canada submitted a proposal on behalf of the CITES Standing Committee to amend the requirements for trade in rosewood species and a second document proposing guidance to address and standardize presentation of CITES listing decisions in CITES Appendices following a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Canada is currently serving as the North American Regional representative and Chair of the Standing Committee. Both proposals were adopted.

Exports: Canadian jurisdictions issued 7471 CITES export permits and re-export certificates under WAPPRIITA. As in past years, the majority of shipments in 2019 were of cultivated American Ginseng and wild-harvested animals (primarily the American Black Bear), as well as their parts and derivatives.



Salamander

Imports: Canada issued 162 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 3344 inspections under WAPPRIITA. There were 412 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



The *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (WAPPRITA) Annual Report fulfills the Minister of the Environment's obligation, under section 28 of WAPPRITA, to report annually on the administration of the Act. This report covers the administration of the Act for the year 2019.

This section provides information on WAPPRITA 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

1.1 WAPPRIITA and CITES

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.



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](#)).

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.

WAPTR includes authorities to issue permits, provide exemptions to permitting requirements, and to define the animals and plants that are subject to permitting. While the focus is mainly on CITES, WAPTR also has provisions for controlling the import of species which may be deemed injurious to Canadian ecosystems through a permitting regime. 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 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.

1.2 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](#).

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 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 within their jurisdictions.

2. MANAGEMENT OF WILD ANIMALS AND PLANTS IN TRADE



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.

2.1 Permitting Overview

In Canada, CITES permits are issued pursuant to WAPPRIITA; Schedule I of WAPTR includes all CITES-listed species.

2.1.1 Requirements

CITES

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

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

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. An export permit is required for species listed in CITES Appendix III that originate in Canada and were proposed for listing by Canada (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. |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Temporary movement/travelling exhibition certificate</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>Scientific certificate</p> | <p>Issued for the exchange between CITES-registered scientific institutions of museum, research and herbarium specimens. Scientific certificates are valid for up to three years.</p> |
| <p>Injurious wildlife permit</p> | <p>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 (e.g. for zoos and scientific institutions; and import of fur products or garments).</p> |

2.1.2 Exemptions

WAPPRITA 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](#).

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 Service Standards under WAPPRIITA

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

ECCC nearly met the performance targets for all CITES permit categories (84% Hunting Trophy Exports, 86% Polar Bear Exports and 88% for all other permit types). New resources and new procedures with partners should allow ECCC to meet the performance targets next year. The Department's performance against these standards is published [online](#).

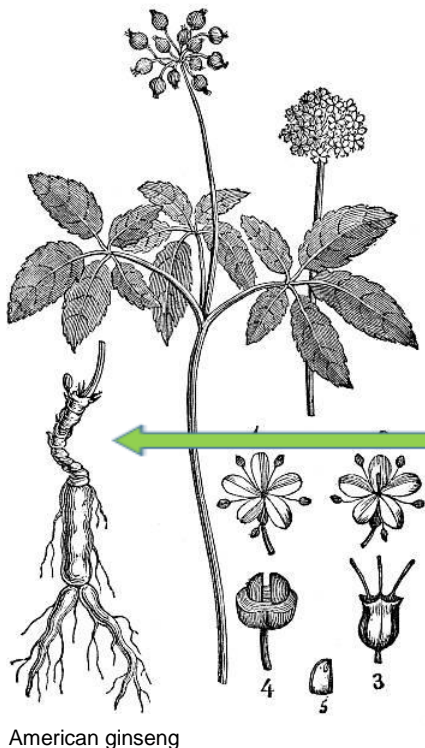
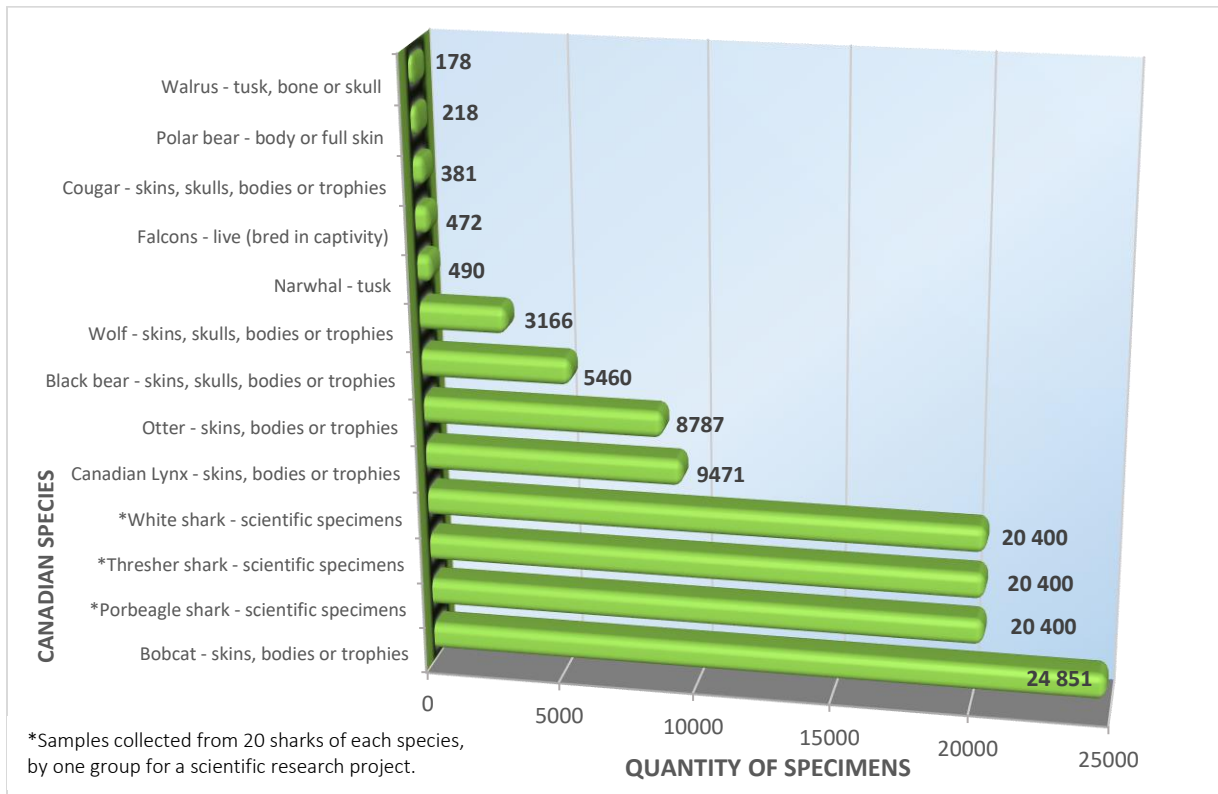
ECCC made 100% of the WAPTR injurious wildlife permit decisions within the standard of 70 calendar days. The Department's performance against this standard is published [online](#).

2.2 Annual report to CITES

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 2018 annual report was due on October 31, 2019 and the 2019 annual report is due October 31, 2020).

Figures 1a and 1b show highlights of some of the most important exports or re-exports reported in the Canada 2018 CITES annual report. In 2018, Canada issued permits for 368 different CITES-listed species.

Figures 1a: High volume exports or re-exports listed in the Canada 2018 CITES annual report (Canadian species)



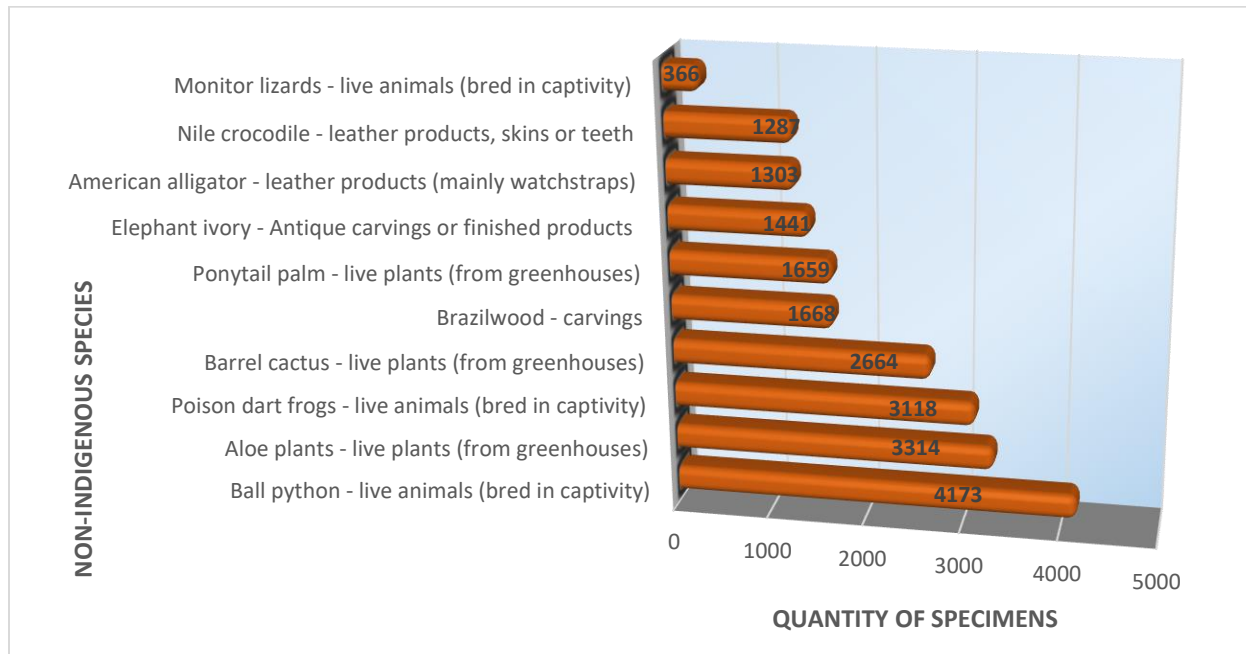
Off the chart

In 2018, Canada also exported:

- **455 000** live fertilized Lake Sturgeon eggs (for reintroduction programs)
- **4 786 364** kilograms of American ginseng roots, sliced or whole

Canada is currently the largest producer of North American Ginseng in the world. The majority of production is from Simcoe area of Ontario and the balance is mainly produced in British Columbia.

Figure 1b: High volume exports or re-exports listed in the Canada 2018 CITES annual report (Non-indigenous species)



Additional high volume exports and re-exports include:

- African cherry – 9150 kilograms of medicine
- Macaques – biomedical samples (122 963 grams solid; 25 768 millilitres liquid; 21 373 other items)

2.3 CITES permits issued in 2019

ECCC issues all export permits and re-export certificates for non-indigenous species. 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.

ECCC issues all import permits and other specialized CITES certificates. 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.

2.3.1 Export permits and re-export certificates

Export permits are issued for specimens (animals, plants, their parts or derivatives) of CITES-listed species that 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 2019 by Canadian CITES permitting offices, which totalled 7471.

Table 2: CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in Canadian CITES permitting offices in 2019

| 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 | 5527 | 74% |
| Fisheries and Oceans Canada | 177 | 2.4% |
| PROVINCES/TERRITORIES | | |
| British Columbia | 908 | 12.1% |
| Ontario | 643 | 8.6% |
| New Brunswick | 104 | 1.4% |
| Yukon | 112 | 1.5% |
| Total | 7471 | 100% |

The number of permits issued is not indicative of trade volumes, because there is not a one-to-one relationship between permits issued and specimens of species on the permit. Each export permit or re-export certificate can authorize the export of multiple specimens or species. On a permit 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).

When a species is protected under CITES, a permit is required for all specimens of that species (unless some exemptions apply). A specimen can be the live species, parts or derivatives of the species, or finished products made from those species. There are over 35 000 species listed in CITES with approximately 29 000 of those species being plants (e.g. orchids, cacti, rosewood). While there is a minimal number of species listed in CITES which are indigenous to Canada, many foreign species are imported into Canada and either re-exported as is, bred or propagated in Canada, or transformed into finished products in Canada.

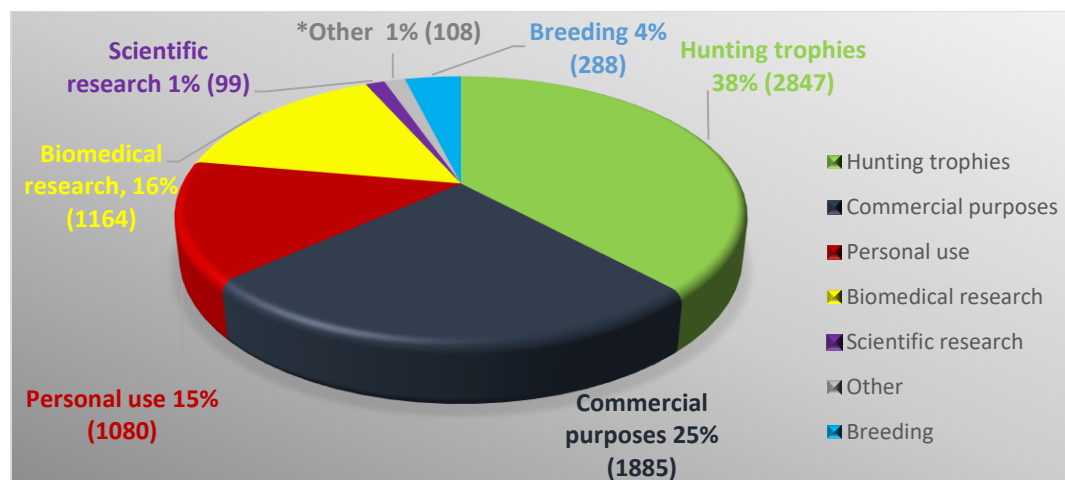
In 2019, Canada issued export permits and re-export certificates for the following purposes using the transaction codes as defined in CITES Resolution 12.3¹.

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

¹ CITES Resolution 12.3 on Permits and Certificates was agreed to in 2002 and reviewed in 2018.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of distribution of export permits and re-export certificates, by purpose of transaction, issued in 2019.

Figure 2: Percentage of CITES export permits and re-export certificates issued in 2019, by purpose of transaction

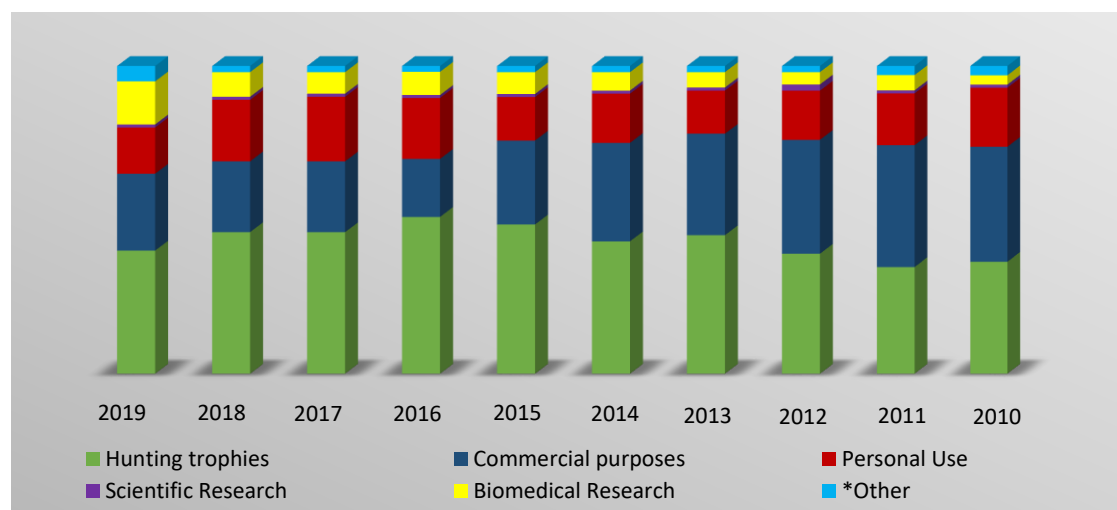


Note: Purpose of transactions for export and re-export permits are relatively constant from year to year.

*Includes exhibitions (26), zoos (50), law enforcement (16) and reintroduction in the wild (16).

Figure 3 shows the percentage of distribution, by purpose of transaction, of export permits and re-export certificates issued between 2010 and 2019.

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



* 2019 "Other" data includes breeding, as well as exhibitions, zoos, law enforcement, and reintroduction in the wild. Previous years "Other" data includes exhibitions, zoos, law enforcement, botanical gardens and reintroduction in the wild.

Table 3 indicates the number of export permits issued in each of the past six calendar years for Polar Bears harvested in Canada. An analysis is provided of the year of harvest of the Polar bear being exported in a particular calendar year. The permits may include any polar bear specimen – e.g. skin, skull, claws, baculum, etc. Permits for scientific samples of polar bears are not included in this analysis, since they are not related to polar bear harvest.



Polar bear

Table 3: Number of CITES export permits issued per year for Polar Bears harvested in Canada. Breakdown by the season in which the bears were harvested.

| Year permit issued | Total export permits issued | No. of Polar Bears by harvest season* | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | 2019-2020 | 2018-2019 | 2017-2018 | 2016-2017 | 2015-2016 | 2014-2015 | 2013-2014 | 2012-2013 | 2011-2012 | 2010-2011 |
| 2019 | 148 | 29 | 45 | 21 | 20 | 7 | 12 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 2018 | 206 | 0 | 1 | 57 | 40 | 45 | 27 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| 2017 | 215 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 79 | 29 | 24 | 16 | 9 | 7 |
| 2016 | 232 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 57 | 50 | 28 | 7 | 11 |
| 2015 | 292 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 87 | 88 | 27 | 20 |
| 2014 | 237 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 99 | 32 | 18 |

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 the same calendar year or subsequent years for a specific 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.

2.3.2 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

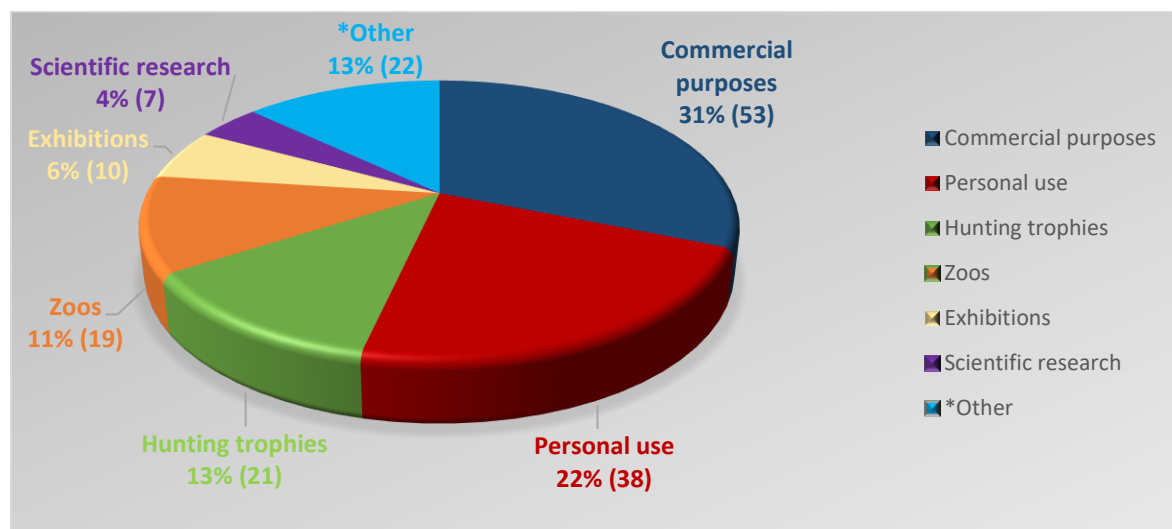
identifying the destination, specific specimens and quantities that make up each shipment. This provides a simplified procedure for permit holders who trade in specimens with very little or no impact to the conservation of species. Of the 7471 export permits and re-export certificates listed in Table 2, there were 1399 for multiple shipments, authorizing 69 970 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 86% (60 472 of the 69 970) of the multiple shipment permits authorized in 2019.

2.3.3 Imports into Canada

Figure 4 indicates the distribution of 162 CITES import permits, by purpose as indicated by the CITES transaction code, issued in 2019.

Figure 4: Percentage of CITES import permits issued in 2019, by purpose of transaction

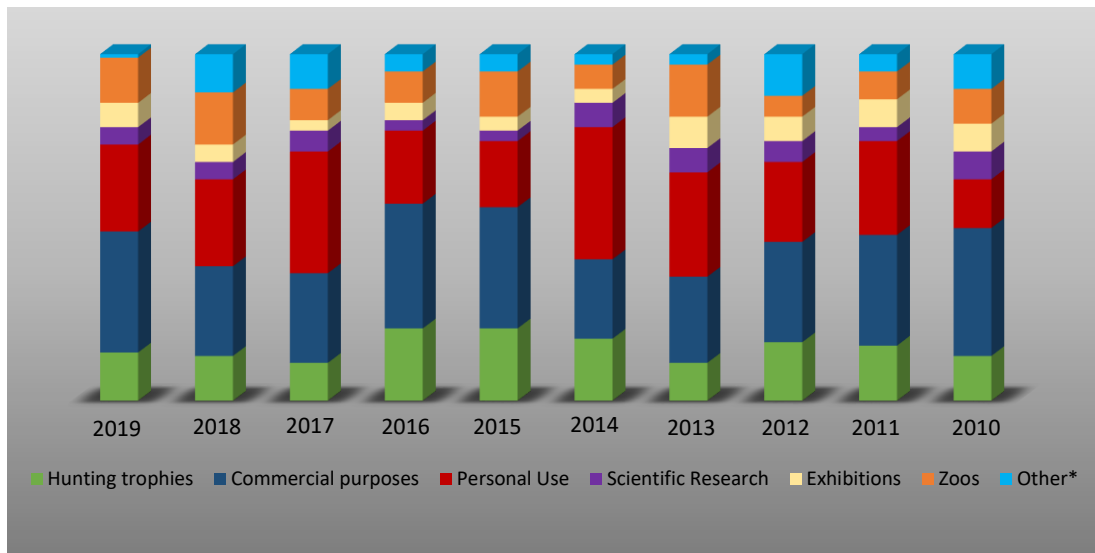


Note: The imports for commercial purposes consists mainly of artificially propagated plants, pre-Convention specimens (e.g., antiques containing ivory) and captive-bred animals (e.g., falcons, parrots).

*Includes breeding (21) and law enforcement (1).

Figure 5 indicates the percentage of overall CITES import permits issued from 2010 to 2019, by purpose of transaction.

Figure 5: Percentage of CITES import permits issued from 2010 to 2019, by purpose of transaction



*Includes breeding, law enforcement, reintroduction to the wild and biomedical research.

2.3.4 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 Certificate – 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.

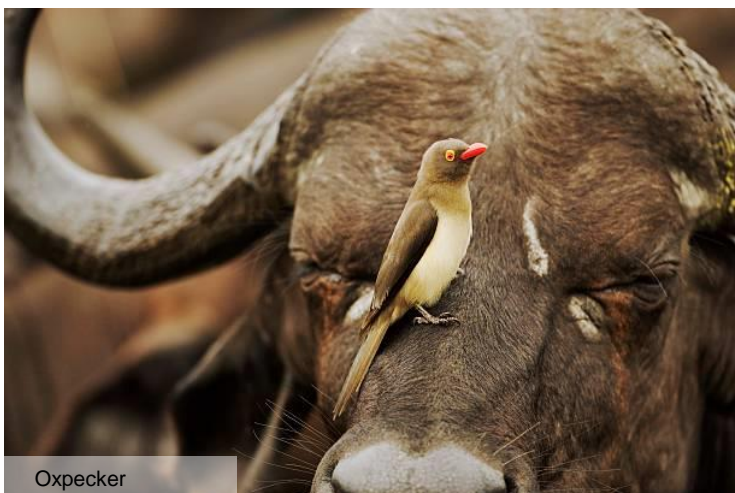
While these specialized certificates represent a modest number of permits issued each year, they serve a very important function by facilitating the movement of specimens of CITES-listed species in low-risk situations.

Table 4 shows the number of certificates issued by type from 2010 to 2019.

Table 4: CITES certificates issued from 2010 to 2019 by type

| Year | Certificate of Ownership | Temporary Movement Certificate | Scientific Certificate | Total |
|------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| 2019 | 81 | 52 | 5 | 138 |
| 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 |

2.4 Permits Specific to WAPTR



Oxpecker

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, which includes salamanders, newts and mudpuppies. This amendment was to continue the protection initiated in May 2017 to protect Canadian Salamanders and ecosystems from a devastating fungal disease.

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. 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 prohibits 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 or embryos.

Table 5 shows the number of other permits issued from 2017 to 2019.

Table 5: Other permits issued from 2017 to 2019

| Year | Live animals (Salamanders) | Garments/Scientific Specimens | Total |
|------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| 2019 | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| 2018 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| 2017 | 4 | 1 | 5 |

2.5 Canada's trading partners

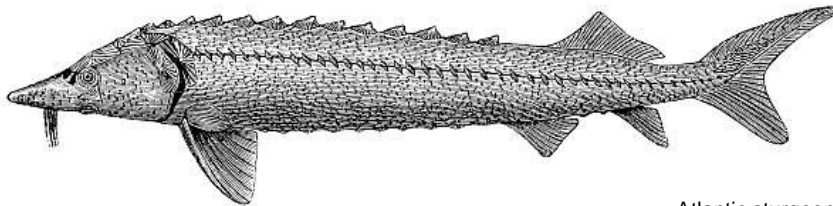
Canada's major trading partners under CITES, particularly for exports, continue to be the United States, the member countries of the European Union, and the countries of East and Southeast Asia. Exports to the United States and the European Union cover a wide-range of specimens and species. In the case 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

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.

3.1 Non-detriment findings

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.



Atlantic sturgeon

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 on [online](#).

4. COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CITES AND WAPPRIITA

ECCC works in partnership with a broad range of enforcement partners to secure compliance with the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* (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 the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* (CITES).

4.1 Compliance promotion

Compliance with WAPPRIITA is verified by various means, such as reviewing permits, auditing import and export 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 2019, 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. 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 also promoted compliance with CITES obligations as well as its salamander import restriction under WAPTR, by distributing CITES and Salamander informational posters 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 annually².

According to the Wildlife Crime Status Update of 2017³, policy innovations, including tightening national and international controls, are starting to show positive effects on illegal trade in wildlife. After a ten-year increase, rates of illegal trade for some charismatic species such as elephant ivory and rhino horn 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.

² 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. {<http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/crime>}.

³ https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/wildlife/Research_brief_wildlife_su.pdf

In 2019, there were 3344 inspections under WAPPRIITA. The number of national inspections increased by 85% compared to 2018 (1808 inspections). This can be partly explained by an increase in the number of enforcement officers following recruitment and training in early 2019.

The increase in activity is also directly related to the working relationship between ECCC and other stakeholders. Enforcement activities have been initiated by multiple agencies in a joint manner which has resulted in more effective use of resources and increased inspection capabilities. The Intelligence program in ECCC has also increased capacity and this has allowed for closer monitoring of illegal activity related to WAPPRIITA. The increased monitoring and intelligence gathering has resulted in a more effective targeted approach. The Intelligence program continues to map and monitor individuals, groups and organizations involved in violations of WAPPRIITA. This increased monitoring will continue to result in disruption of criminal elements involved in violations of WAPPRIITA.

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, an area renowned for wildlife trafficking. At the same time, increases in aircraft ranges have opened up direct flights where they did not exist before, such as Toronto and Montréal to the Far East.

4.2.2 Investigations

In 2019, ECCC opened 48 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](#). Please note that open investigations do not necessarily correlate to those published online.

4.2.3 Violations

There were 412 violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations recorded in 2019 that resulted in prosecutions, seizures, tickets or warnings.

4.2.4 Convictions

In 2019, there were five convictions made for violations of WAPPRIITA or its regulations, which resulted in fines totalling \$138 000. Four are described below.

[British Columbia man penalized \\$18K after attempting to smuggle protected turtles into Canada](#)

On May 6, 2019, after entering a guilty plea, a Vancouver man was ordered to pay an \$18 000 penalty for violating WAPPRIITA. The penalty will be directed towards the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund.

On January 27, 2018, the man failed to declare 19 live turtles (made up of 16 different species) at the Canada-United States border crossing. Of the 16 species of turtles, 6 are listed in CITES. The CITES-listed turtles include: Spotted Pond Turtle, Pearl River Map Turtle, Black-knobbed Map Turtle, Diamondback Terrapin and Fly River Turtle. A permit must be obtained prior to importing CITES-listed turtles into Canada. All turtles were seized from the individual and forfeited to the Crown.



Photo: ECCC – Wildlife Enforcement Directorate

[Company Ordered to Pay \\$50K for Illegally Importing Herbal Oil Containing Protected Orchid Species](#)



Hyacinth orchid (*Bletilla striata*)

On March 4, 2019, a company in British Columbia was ordered to pay a total of \$50 000 in penalties after pleading guilty to violating WAPPRITA. Of the total fine, \$45 000 was directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund and \$5 000 was to be paid as a fine. In addition, the court ordered that the 51 cases of seized product be forfeited.

Several years earlier, in March 2016, the Canada Border Services Agency reported to wildlife enforcement officers that the company would be receiving a shipment of herbal oils in Vancouver. The shipping invoice indicated that the herbal oils contained plant material derived from the *Bletilla striata*, a species native to East Asia that is also known as the hyacinth orchid or Chinese ground orchid. All orchid species are listed in the CITES. A permit is required to import *Bletilla striata* into Canada. Enforcement officers inspected and detained 51 cases containing 10 200 vials of the herbal oil.

This is not the first conviction under WAPPRITA for the importation company. In 2010, the company pleaded guilty to illegally importing one carton of the plant species *Nardostachys grandiflora* (Spikenard), which is commonly used in dried form as a medicinal herb.

[Individual Sentenced to Pay \\$20K as a Result of Ongoing Efforts of Operation Bruin](#)

On January 18, 2019, an individual from Alberta was sentenced in court following his conviction on October 26, 2018, for two counts of illegally importing into Canada and possessing a black bear hide from Alaska, United States. The individual was ordered to pay \$20 000 for violating WAPPRIITA. The penalty was directed to the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund and the individual was required to forfeit the hide seized during the investigation.



Seized black bear hide
Photo: ECCC – Enforcement Branch

In addition to the fine and forfeiture, the offender is prohibited from hunting outside of Canada for a period of two years and from importing and exporting animals or their parts to and from Canada for a period of two years for reasons not related to his taxidermy business.

This case was initiated under Operation Bruin, an extensive North American investigation into illegal hunting of wildlife in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, and Yukon. ECCC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (Fish and Wildlife Enforcement) worked together to enforce their respective laws that protect wildlife, after U.S. authorities initially determined that several Alberta hunters were illegally killing Alaskan brown bears and unlawfully importing them into Canada.

To date, six Canadians and two Americans have been convicted in Canada under Operation Bruin for contraventions of WAPPRIITA, with penalties totalling \$87 200. In addition, the eight defendants have a combined 28 years of hunting bans and prohibitions against importing and exporting animals to and from Canada. As a result of Operation Bruin, 36 animal trophies and over \$100 000 in hunting gear, including an aircraft, a truck, all-terrain vehicles, a boat, and a rifle have been ordered forfeited in both countries. Our United States partners have convicted 12 people under this operation in Alaska.

[Unlawful import of regulated fish into Canada nets \\$35K penalty for Ontario aquatic pet store](#)



Arowana

On September 24, 2019, a guilty plea was entered on behalf of a Toronto pet store in the Ontario Court of Justice to a charge laid under WAPPRITTA. The company received a \$35,000 penalty, which will be directed toward the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund. Additionally, the company is subject to a court order prohibiting an employee from applying for a permit under the Act, for two years—a requirement for legally importing or exporting species listed under CITES.

On December 7, 2018, an employee imported into Canada, on behalf of the pet store, twenty-six live Asian arowana fish from Malaysia. The trade in arowanas is controlled because the species is listed in Appendix I of CITES, the most trade-restrictive category. For this reason, two CITES permits are required to legally import specimens into Canada, one permit from the country of export and one from Canada, the country of import. The company did not obtain an import permit. The Court also ordered the arowanas be forfeited to the Crown.

4.3 Collaboration with provincial and territorial partners

As noted in Section 1.3, several provincial and territorial agencies have memoranda of understanding (MOU) or agreements with the federal government allowing designated officers to enforce WAPPRITTA. 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. 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.

The 18th meeting of the CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP18) took place on August 17 to 28, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Canada initiated a public consultation process approximately one year prior to the CoP18 that included a dedicated CITES web page to inform stakeholders, Indigenous groups and the Canadian public of the ongoing consultation process, extensive email distribution and a posting in the *Canada Gazette* in January 2019 inviting stakeholders, Indigenous groups and the Canadian public to submit comments on the CoP18 proposals.

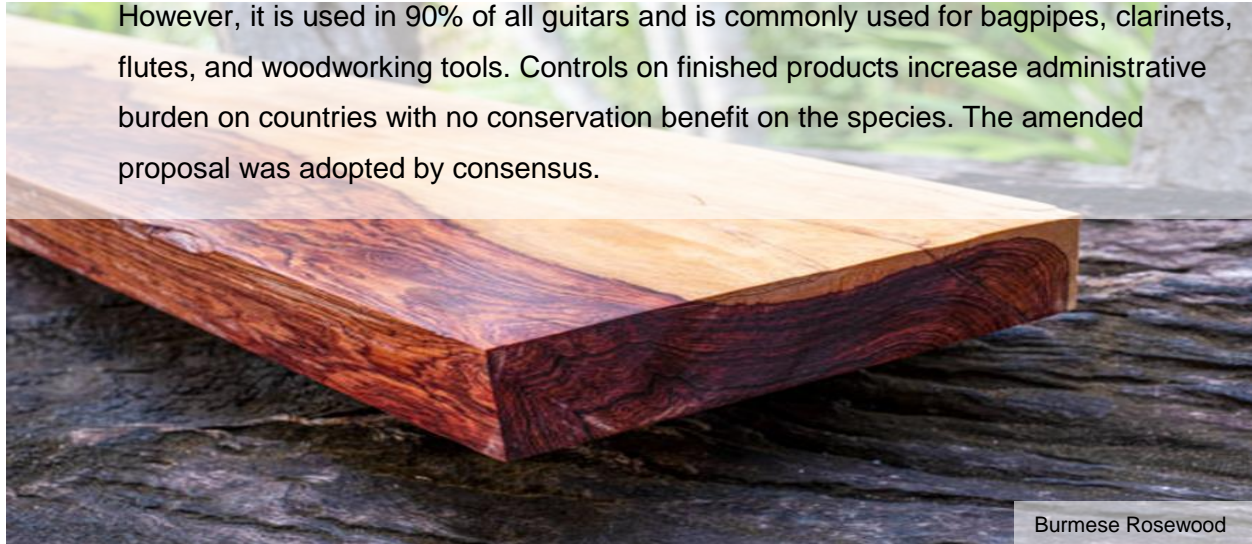
A public consultation meeting was also held in Ottawa on February 26-27, 2019 to discuss the CoP18 proposals. The meeting was attended by non-government organizations, industry associations, other federal departments and interested members of the public. ECCC highlighted during the consultation that Canada uses a consistent scientific principles-based approach to decision-making at CITES CoPs, and that based on the scientific data, Canada will not support the listing of species to the CITES Appendices where it is clear that the species' survival is not negatively impacted by trade or where species do not meet the CITES biological criteria for listing in the Appendices. The Canadian positions on species proposals and working documents were developed through consultation with government agencies and stakeholders. Species proposals were carefully reviewed and the information was evaluated against the CITES listing criteria.

Canada's [negotiating positions](#) and [CoP outcomes](#) are posted on the Government of Canada website.

Canada submitted two documents to CoP18:

1. To seek an amendment to reduce CITES controls for trade in rosewood tree products. Canada, with the European Union as co-proponent, submitted a proposal as recommendation from the Standing Committee, to amend the conditions for trade in finished products of CITES listed rosewood tree species (most *Dalbergia* species and three *Guibourtia* species). 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 increase administrative burden on countries with no conservation benefit on the species. The amended proposal was adopted by consensus.



Burmese Rosewood

2. To propose development of guidance relating to presentation of CITES listing decisions in the CITES Appendices.

Canada proposed the development of guidance to address and standardize the presentation of 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. The decisions, with amendments proposed by the CITES Secretariat and China were adopted by CoP18. This work will be undertaken by the CITES Secretariat and CITES Committees during the CoP18 – CoP19 Intersessional period.

Other items of interest to Canada at CoP18 included proposals to list the Woolly Mammoth and two Mako shark species on Appendix II.

The Woolly Mammoth is an extinct species found as a fossil in Canada and is traded internationally as an elephant ivory substitute. It was proposed for listing as a look-alike species to better address illegal trade in elephant ivory. The proposal was withdrawn by the proponent

following lack of support from the Parties during the discussions. The withdrawal was accompanied by a request for the Parties to approve two draft decisions to study the trade in mammoth ivory and its potential contribution to the illegal trade in elephant ivory and the poaching of elephants. Canada did not support the proposal or the draft decisions. There is sufficient evidence that regulating trade in Woolly mammoth ivory will result in a permitting burden that is unlikely to have a positive conservation outcome for elephant populations. The decisions were adopted by consensus and Canada did not want to block consensus.

Canada originally opposed the proposal to list Mako sharks (Shortfin mako and Longfin mako) on Appendix II as the species did not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix II. However, during the meeting, Canada decided to take a precautionary approach and support this proposal based on new preliminary information suggesting that certain parts of the distribution may be at greater risk to fishing pressure than previously thought. The proposal was adopted by vote.

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 (for CoP18, this is November 26, 2019), except for those Parties who make a reservation. Many Parties have difficulty meeting this short timeline. Following CoP18, Canada submitted a temporary reservation to the CITES Depository Government (Switzerland) to ensure Canada's compliance with the Convention while Canada completes its domestic treaty implementation process. By entering this reservation, Canada has indicated it will not be bound by the CoP18 amendments to the CITES Appendices until such a time as it has completed its domestic treaty implementation process.

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. After CoP18 an official from ECC was elected as the alternate member for the Animals Committee, and Canada continues to represent the North American region on the Standing Committee. In addition, Ms. Carolina Caceres from Canada was re-elected as Chair of the Standing Committee.

5.3. International cooperation in enforcement operations

In June 2019, ECCC's enforcement officers participated in INTERPOL's Operation Thunderball, an international enforcement effort in collaboration with the World Customs Organization, aimed at cracking down on wildlife crime including smuggling, poaching and trafficking. The month-long operation involved 109 countries and resulted in the seizures of tens of thousands of protected plants and animals worldwide, as well as products derived from them. This is the largest number of countries ever to coordinate efforts simultaneously on an environmental crime issue.

The Operation in Canada



ECCC's enforcement officers responded to over 100 complaints and tips received from the public concerning habitat and wildlife destruction. Enforcement officers also conducted dozens of inspections, enforcement activities and hunter checks, and led a series of border-



crossing blitzes to look for evidence of illegal exports of Canadian species as well as illegal imports of exotic species.



Over the course of the operation, officers intercepted items such as pangolin carcasses, saiga antelope, sturgeon caviar, diet pills containing hoodia (an endangered African plant species), a wallet made with crocodile skin, and black bear bacula, testes and paws, among other items. In six incidents, compliance orders were issued to protect species at risk in Canada.



Saiga antelope; Crocodile; Hoodia plant; Pangolin

Worldwide, the initial results of Operation Thunderball have led to the identification of almost 600 suspects, triggering arrests. Further arrests and prosecutions are foreseen as ongoing global investigations progress.

Global seizures reported include:

- 23 live primates;
- 30 big cats and large quantities of animal parts;
- 440 elephant ivory pieces and five rhino horns;
- More than 4300 birds;
- Just under 1500 reptiles and nearly 10 000 turtles and tortoises;
- Almost 7700 wildlife parts from all species, including more than 30 kg of game meat;
- 2550 cubic metres of timber (equivalent to 74 truckloads);
- More than 2600 plants;
- Almost 10 000 marine wildlife items.

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-participates-in-largest-ever-international-enforcement-operation-to-crack-down-on-wildlife-crime.html>

5.4. 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 [the Government of Canada's website](#) or contact ECCC at:

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