

**REPORT OF CITES ACTIVITIES BY CANADA
SINCE THE 49th MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR PRESENTATION TO THE 50TH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE,
MARCH 15-19, 2004, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

This report outlines the activities that have taken place in Canada from April 2003 to January 2004 to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

49th Meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, April 22-25, 2003

Canada was represented at the meeting by three delegates from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Jean R. Robillard, CITES Management Authority, Bertrand von Arx, CITES Scientific Authority and Yvan Lafleur, Enforcement Authority, and by two delegates from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Vicky Edgecombe, Environmental Relations Division and Alain Tellier, Permanent Mission in Geneva. More than 139 members representing some 49 countries participated in the Standing Committee (SC) meeting.

The agenda contained a number of noteworthy items including the process for consideration of technical implementation issues. A working group chaired by the U.S. was formed to identify the kinds of issues and a process to resolve them - Canada is represented on the working group by its Management Authority. Economic incentives and trade policy, control in trade in elephant ivory, significant trade in Appendix II species, guidelines on compliance with the Convention, the criteria for amendment of the Appendices were some of the other interesting agenda items.

13th Meeting of the Plants Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, August 12-15, 2003

Canada was represented at the 13th Plants Committee meeting by Dr. Adrienne Sinclair, A/Canadian CITES Scientific Authority and Mr. Ken Farr, Canadian Forest Service. Noteworthy agenda items included review of the criteria for amendment of Appendix I and II; definitions of the technical terms used in the annotations of medicinal plants; review of the Resolution concerning regulation of trade in plants; relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* production in plants; plant production systems and source code designations; and guidelines for transport of live plants. Canada participated in the Criteria Review Working Group and tested the applicability of the criteria to *Panax quinquefolius*, *Taxus brevifolia*, and *Populus tremuloides*. Canada is part of a Supervisory Group charged with identification of specific problems in current CITES Appendices for medicinal plants. Canada also provided the Plants Committee with a copy and contact information for the 4th edition of the IATA Perishable Cargo Manual, which was updated with information on CITES and guidelines for transporting plants. Canada will continue to assist IATA in the production of future updates of the manual.

19th Meeting of the Animals Committee, Geneva, Switzerland, August 18-21, 2003

Canada was represented at the 19th Animals Committee meeting by Mr. David Brackett, Canadian Wildlife Service and IUCN, Ms. Véronique Brondex, Scientific Advisor, Canadian CITES Scientific Authority and by Mr. Robert Jones, Scientific Advisor, Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Noteworthy agenda items included review of the criteria for amendment of Appendices I and II; progress on the implementation of the review of significant trade; and registration of operations breeding Appendix I species in captivity for commercial purposes. Canada participated in the Criteria Review Working Group and tested the applicability of the criteria to *Acipenser transmontanus* and *Falco rusticolus*. With respect to the significant trade review progress, Canada has

worked collaboratively with provinces to provide the CITES Secretariat with sound data to enable removal of *Acipenser fulvescens* and *Acipenser oxyrinchus* from the review process. As part of the captive breeding working group, Canada is compiling information on the number of commercial Appendix I species traded internationally and the number of non-registered operations breeding Appendix I species.

NATIONAL EVENTS

Call for Proposals for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

As part of its public consultation process, Canada sent a *Notice of Public Consultation and Call for Proposals for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties* on October 14, 2003. No proposals were received.

Twenty-first CITES Workshop Meeting of Canadian Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities, November 20-21, 2003, Ottawa, Ontario

Canada holds a CITES Workshop approximately one year before every CITES COP. These workshops are designed to assemble the Canadian CITES Management, Scientific and Enforcement Authorities of the provincial, territorial and federal government departments to coordinate the implementation of the Convention in Canada and to discuss proposals for the coming CITES COP. The 21st workshop objectives were to prepare for the COP 13, to further develop a National Strategy for the determination of Non-detriment Findings for Canadian species listed in Appendix II, clarify the permit processing system, permit procedures and interpretation of codes for source and purpose, the CITES-Canada Web site as a means of communications and a presentation of an investigation on an illegal import of orchids. TRAFFIC-North America also presented a summary of their report on Canada's implementation of CITES to be soon published.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

CITES Annual Reports

Canada submitted its Annual Report for 2001 in May 2003 and a supplemental report of 2001 transactions in October 2003. The Annual Report for 2002 will be submitted in two parts: Part I was submitted in October 2003 while Part II is expected for May 2004.

CITES Biennial Report on Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Measures for 2000 and 2001

Canada submitted its Report on Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Measures for 2000 and 2001 on October 17, 2003.

Implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.20 *Frequent cross-border movements of personally owned live animals*

In January 2000, Canada amended its CITES-enabling regulations to allow for the implementation of Resolution Conf. 10.20 *Frequent cross-border movements of personally owned live animals*. The procedure for the issuance of CITES Certificates of Ownership will be implemented on January 1, 2004 and will be valid initially only for movements between Canada and the U.S.A. until other Parties indicate their acceptance of these Certificates. The CITES Secretariat accepted Canada's suggestion to send a notification to all Parties requesting

them to indicate their willingness in accepting Certificates of Ownership, much like it is done with notifications pertaining to the use of phytosanitary certificates as certification of artificial propagation by Parties.

SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITY

In the period between SC49 and the coming SC50, the Office of Scientific Authority was mainly occupied with the development of a National Non-Detriment Finding (NDF) Strategy. This has involved clarification of roles and responsibilities with the provinces and territories, development of criteria to identify priority species, as well as presentation and training to use the IUCN Guidelines to Assist Scientific Authorities in Making Non-Detriment Findings. An NDF database and internal website has been developed to assist in the process of developing more comprehensive NDF reports. The website enables Scientific Authorities across the country to participate in criteria selection and identification of priority species, to download the IUCN checklist and guidelines, to view example reports, to track NDF reports under development, and to view progress of working groups established to address challenges in coordinating a national approach and making information available to the public.

The Scientific Authority has also established a research program on the Appendix II medicinal plant, *Hydrastis canadensis*. Research is aimed at improving knowledge of harvesting impacts and implications for recovery and management. The Scientific Authority is working on finalization of the non-detriment finding reports, developed using the IUCN checklist, for *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Panax quinquefolius*, *Opuntia* spp., and *Taxus* spp. NDF reports have also been initiated for the Canadian CITES-listed furbearing species.

Other tasks, such as review of import and export applications, annual review of reports submitted by registered captive breeding operations of Appendix I species, website updates, and assisting Enforcement with interpretation of the CITES appendices occupy the staff of the Scientific Authority on a daily basis.

CITES-Canada Website

The CITES Scientific Authority, in collaboration with the Management and Enforcement Authorities, designs and reviews the contents of the Canadian CITES web site (www.cites.ca). The site is designed to assist the public as well as Scientific and Management Authorities across the country, in obtaining all pertinent information on CITES. Extensive information is provided on how CITES is implemented in Canada, on permit requirements to import and export CITES specimens, and the Conference of the Parties. Development of a new Permits section is almost complete and currently under review by the provincial and territorial Scientific and Management Authorities. This section will enable the public to download all application forms, instructions, and Information Notes specific to certain cases including orchids, cacti, ginseng, hunting trophies, primates, pets, and many others.

The CITES-Canada website has also been updated with a new CoP13 Section complete with general information, calendar, information on proposals, and public consultations; a new 'Animals and Plants' Section for species with specific permit requirements; and a new 'Site Plan' feature to help public and staff find the section of the website that is needed. The National CITES newsletter, 'CITES Monthly' is also available on the website and archived.

ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

Identification Guides

In November 2002, the Enforcement Branch Inspections and Training Division completed the CITES Identification Guide – HUNTING TROPHIES. This guide was published by Environment Canada with the cooperation of the CITES Secretariat, the Safari Club International and the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO). It is designed in particular to help staff responsible for enforcing CITES to do their work more quickly and efficiently. The use of the guide requires no

advanced level of training or previous knowledge of biology. It uses a simple visual approach, which facilitates the identification process.

All guides are now available in electronic format at the following address:
http://www.cites.ec.gc.ca/eng/sct5/sct5_1_e.cfm

CITES Enforcement Training

A course on WAPPRIITA, the Canadian CITES-enabling legislation, was updated and given to Environment Canada wildlife officers and a group of Customs Investigators.

Canadian Officers have participated to a Seminar on Plants trade organized by the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group in cooperation with PROFEPA and the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.

The CITES interactive course on CD-ROM prepared by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in collaboration with Environment Canada has been adapted in its international version.

Enforcement – Significant Investigations

Bearnet

A series of search warrants, executed simultaneously on November 20, 2002, resulted in the seizure of more than 260 black bear gall bladders and an arrest for possession of a prohibited firearm. Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Officers, the Quebec and Ontario Provincial Conservation officers, the RCMP and the Toronto Police Service, executed 60 search warrants in businesses and private dwellings in Quebec and Ontario. All individuals are suspected of being involved in a large bear gall bladder trafficking network with possible links in Quebec, Ontario, the United States of America and Asia.

The investigation and the court procedures have been on going during 2003 and additional charges have been laid. Fines have been imposed on some of the accused and some trials are still to come.

Everspring

A long term investigation in illegal trade of orchids has been completed. The importer has been fined \$10 000 and has contribute \$5 000 to support a non-profit group in order to build a permanent display at the Assiniboine Park Plant Conservatory. The success of this case is closely linked to the scientific support received from the CITES Secretariat and two other experts from United Kingdom and Canada.

Interpol-CITES Working Group

Canada is the Chair for the INTERPOL-CITES working group. Continued operation of the INTERPOL Wildlife Working Group (IWWG) was put at risk in 2002 but is now operating under a strategic work-plan which was accepted by INTERPOL. Canada participated to the regular meetings of the group and is ensuring the delivery of the project identifies by the group. The IWWG continues to provide an important role to CITES member countries.

Intelligence Division

In 2001 and 2002, the Intelligence Division of the CWS responded to various member country requests,

supplying strategic and tactical intelligence reports on issues common to both Canada and the requesting CITES member country. A year long intelligence project on legal and illegal trade in caviar has been concluded and will be discussed with partners in the coming weeks. The report has identified areas for priority enforcement action and gives a snapshot in time of the global problem and risks.