Responsible Reptile Sourcing Standard (RRSS)

Preamble

A large production industry has been developed to supply the global demand for reptile products. Reptiles are most abundant in the tropics, and the industry is often reliant on close proximity to biodiverse landscapes and marginalized communities. The reptile trade provides important socioeconomic and environmental opportunities for many communities in emerging economies, but it is also a complex and intensive process that can have negative impacts on vulnerable people, biodiversity conservation, and animal welfare.

The Responsible Reptile Skin Standard (RRSS) initiative has been established to leverage the opportunities that exist to both mitigate negative impacts and generate positive impacts in supply chain operations through a range of established practices.

The RRSS specifies a set of performance objectives and requirements for responsible practices in reptile processing facilities and farms. The scope covers trade in all squamate reptile (snakes and lizards) skins and is globally applicable. The RRSS serves as the basis of a voluntary standards system allowing for self-assessment or independent third-party assessment of business, environment, animal welfare and social performance measures. It also allows for continuous improvement planning.

The RRSS meets the needs of the global demand for more responsible sourcing practices. Through RRSS:

- The reptile industry can evidence responsible and sustainable practices to demonstrate leadership and offer premium products for the global market.
- Production facilities have a clear framework and guidelines of what is expected and how to make continuous improvement for positive outcomes for animal welfare, communities, and the environment.
- Downstream buyers can source from facilities that meet a full array of minimum and leading practices in environmental and social governance.
- Workers, stakeholders and the general public can have confidence that a supply chain's operations at production level operate according to best available and globally recognised science and performance standards.

The RRSS was initiated by the Southeast Asian Reptile Conservation Alliance (SARCA) and developed in collaboration with a multidisciplinary consortium of specialist organisations and experts. Representatives included government agencies, social, environment and animal rights NGOs, agricultural specialists, conservation scientists and industry stakeholders, including representatives from producer states.

Introduction to the RRSS standard

Vision, Principles and objectives

The RRSS envisions a world where the reptile trade upholds human rights, the welfare of animals, and the integrity of the natural environment. It strives to develop an industry that supports local communities though creating value for and incentivising the conservation and sustainable management of indigenous natural resources. It aims to create positive outcomes built on mutual benefit between human needs and functional, biodiverse, ecosystems.

The RRSS is designed to support the achievement of four overarching principles. Principles are broken down into chapters according to thematic activities and supply chain entities. It should be noted, however, that many chapters and their requirements are relevant to more than one principle, and therefore a degree of repetition is evident throughout.

Principle 1 – Business Integrity
Production facilities and farms conduct business in a transparent manner that complies with applicable host country and international laws, respects human rights and wildlife conservation needs, and builds trust and credibility with workers, communities and stakeholders.

Principle 2 – Animal Welfare

Facilities conduct business in a way that ensures high standards of animal welfare during capture, transport, captive breeding, and processing in line with the Five Domains for Animal Welfare.

Principle 3 – Social Responsibility

Facilities engage with workers, stakeholders and rights holders to maintain or enhance the health, safety, cultural values, quality of life and livelihoods of workers and affected communities.

Principle 4 – Environmental Responsibility

Facilities engage with stakeholders to ensure that trade is planned and carried out in a manner that maintains biodiversity and ecological integrity avoids or minimizes negative impacts and identifies and enhances positive contributions.

RRSS Standard Development Approach

The reptile trade comprises a diverse spectrum of industries and stakeholders. Many of these have evolved in isolation in accordance with localised constraints and opportunities; often in remote and little-known regions. A large number of geographies and species parametrise production systems, and in an ideal world, separate standards would exist for each of these. To accommodate this novelty and diversity, the RRSS has drawn on experiences from numerous other industries and raw materials. Existing standard requirements were assessed and those that had comparable application in the reptile trade were adopted and modified where necessary. Refinement of the RRSS relied on the experience of reptile trade experts, consultation with thematic experts, and conversations with industry stakeholders. The resulting RRSS is a comprehensive and holistic standard covering a significant spectrum of the business, social, animal welfare, and environmental issues affecting the reptile trade.

Scope of the RRSS

The scope of the RRSS covers upstream entities in the supply chain from reptile capture or rearing, up to and including humane killing. It is focused specifically on reptile farms and processing facilities, but inference extends to all entities that have custodianship over live reptiles. Focal nodes and actors include hunters, transporters, short-term holding facilities, breeding farms, satellite farms, middlemen, and processing facilities.

The RRSS is applicable to all types of small- and large-scale facilities. There is no minimum scale cut-off point.

There are no defined geographical limitations to the RRSS. The standards have been developed with a focus on East and Southeast Asia, where the majority of reptile skin products are currently sourced, but the standard is applicable globally.

The RRSS is focused on skins, but it can also be applied to co-products, by-products and related sectors, such as the reptile meat, pharmaceutical and pet trades.

The RRSS is focused specifically on snakes and lizards. There is much crossover with other reptile taxa (e.g., crocodilians) but important differences limit generic extension to all reptile species. In the context of this document, the term ‘reptiles’ refers to squamate reptiles (snake and lizard species) currently involved in the commercial reptile skin trade.

For processes outside the scope of this standard (e.g., tanning), we provide guidance on how to engage with other relevant standards at the end of the document.

Application of the RRSS

The ultimate goal of the RRSS is to set a baseline of expected practices that are achievable and met by relevant production facilities, while prompting continuous improvement in the key elements of the standard, namely animal welfare, environmental and business practices, and social impact.

The RRSS has been designed to promote the uptake of the standard requirements by recognizing and rewarding farms and processing facilities that have achieved performance in some or all of their operations and responsibilities. Rather than only rewarding a small group of facilities with the capacity and capabilities to achieve required or best practices in all relevant requirements, the RRSS has developed a system to also recognize lower levels and other types of achievement. The aim is for more reptile trade participants to demonstrate progress and access related market benefits, while continuing to strive toward meeting a comprehensive set of best practices over time.

Although the scope of the RRSS applies to farms or processing facilities, compliance for some requirements require conformities by other entities and actors in the supply chain. For example, the way a hunter handles reptiles may impinge on the ability of a processing facility to meet handling requirements in the RRSS. In these cases, the responsibility for ensuring upstream requirements lies with the facility.

RRSS Assessors

The person or persons assessing a reptile facility against the RRSS shall be adequately knowledgeable of the reptile trade and trained in the use and applicability of the standards. Supporting documents and guidelines are important, and will be developed as the need arise. Technical terms are defined in the Glossary located at the end of the document. The RRSS follows ISO guidance in the use of the word 'shall' to indicate a requirement that must be met. For example, "Reptiles shall be handled humanely." That said, if the assessor is not confident of the specific context and circumstances surrounding a particular requirement, caution should be exercised and consultation with a third party professional is recommended.

The Assessment Process

The assessment process begins with a review of the facility to determine the applicable RRSS sections and respective requirements. The basic distinction between farm and wild harvest provides broad initial guidance, but the final applicability will depend on specific on-site information and observations, and the species involved.

If an external assessor is used, farms and processing facilities shall provide full access to all area of the facility. They shall inform assessors of any biosecurity measures prior to the assessment.

Each requirement in the RRSS is assigned a compliance *requirement level* (e.g., Critical requirement, Major requirement) and each requirement level is assessed according to a *rating system* (i.e., fully meets, substantially meets, does not meet). The combination of *requirement level* and associated *rating* is then assigned a value based on a *scoring system*, and the final tally of values determines the *performance level* (e.g., Gold, Silver, or Bronze achieved).

In addition, the RRSS vision seeks to reward those practices that go beyond the basic content of standards and drive innovative, new approaches. *RRSS Stars* are awarded to those industry practices that signal a high-level sustainability criteria. For example, where practices help facilities contribute towards United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals. RRSS Stars function as standalone accreditations that can be held by a facility irrespective of performance level, and vice versa.

Below is summary of the various components and categories associated with assessment.

Requirement Levels

Each requirement is assigned to one of four levels:

Critical requirement **(C)** Critical requirements consist of a set of 65 requirements. They are the most important compliance level, and they must be met as a fundamental prerequisite for all performance levels.

Major requirement **(M)** Major requirements contribute significantly towards achievement level. Major requirements make up the bulk of the standard and are estimated to be an important and achievable baseline for most industry stakeholders.

Good practice **(G)** Good practices are not required to achieve or maintain certification, but conformity does contribute towards achievement level.

RRSS Stars **(✪)** represent 20 independent requirements that are not directly associated with primary performance. RRSS Stars are considered to be "Beyond Best", and represent actions that reptile trade participants can take to align with:

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
- UNCTAD Biotrade principles; and

RRSS stars have no bearing on RRSS performance levels. Therefore, a facility can achieve RRSS Gold but have achieved no RRSS Stars. A RRSS Star Merit Award is achieved by meeting all Critical requirements and a minimum of 15 RRSS stars.

Commented [DN1]: The RRSS Stars are designed specifically around the principles of small-scale regenerative agriculture. The Merit Award is a unique category that many of the smallest scale operators can achieve long before they hit gold performance. Something to empower the small scale players, mitigate barriers to entry, and make them feel included in the RRSS process. This is important for maintaining the livelihood benefits (and the associated conservation benefits they can confer) delivered to rural and marginalised people and communities relying on this trade. We also want the little guys to be proud of their business model/status, not envious of the big guys – while continuing to improve their practices.

Rating System

Each requirement level is then rated according to the level of conformity. The following rating system is used:

Fully meets
Relevant equipment, furniture, policies, procedures, methodologies, systems, training programs, work plans, etc. meet the requirement as written or fully meet its intent.
Example: Reptile holding enclosures are clean, functional and well maintained.

Substantially meets
Relevant equipment, furniture, policies, procedures, methodologies, systems, training programs, work plans, etc. have sufficient detail or require only minor changes. For example:
Example: Reptile holding enclosures and clean and functional, but poor maintenance has resulted in exposed nails that represent a potential risk to reptile welfare.

Does not meet

Relevant equipment, furniture, policies, procedures not developed, actions have not been taken to meet performance expectations, or performance expectations are not being met despite efforts being made by the facility.

Example: Reptile holding enclosures are not clean, are in poor working order and there is no evidence of attempts to maintain the enclosures.

Supply chain due diligence requirements

The RRSS is focused specifically on the performance of reptile farms and processing facilities. However, inferences apply to all upstream supply chain entities, and as such, a number of the RRSS requirements concern operational processes that lie outside the jurisdiction of farms and processing facilities. These requirements reflect a degree of separation in direct responsibilities. In the RRSS standards they are highlighted in green. Requirements not under directly control of the assessed may be assessed using the following methods:

- In person assessment of upstream operations (e.g., direct assessment of hunters, transporters, satellite farms etc.) randomly selected from facility registers; or
- Interviews with senior farm or processing facility personnel. Workers should be selected to offer a representation of the workforce, notably in terms of position held and experience.
- Through a recognised due diligence process.

In cases where a requirement is applicable to both directly and indirectly assessed practices (e.g., the requirement applies to both the facility and to upstream supply entities [e.g., reptile handling]), the LOWEST score will apply.

For example, a handling requirement will very often apply to processing facilities and to hunters. In this case, that requirement will be assessed at the facility and at the level of the hunter (either through interviews or observation), and the final rating achieved will be the lower of the two scores.

Second degree requirements involve considerable uncertainty, either because information is second hand (i.e., no direct interviews or observations), or because only a sample of entities are being audited at any one time (e.g., 5 of 100 hunters supplying the facility), and thus they incur two important qualifications:

- Critical requirement levels are treated as Major requirement levels. Thus, failure of a Critical second degree requirement does not necessarily jeopardise overall performance level.
- The RRSS scoring of second degree requirements is handicapped (see below)

RRSS Scoring System

All requirements, except for those deemed "not relevant," will be scored. The following scoring system is used for all requirements:

Commented [EM2]: What do you think is the practical implication of this?

Commented [PA3R2]: In reality this sort of thing can only be refined through real world testing. For now I think it's important we leave this in, simply because there is no other way we can develop a single standard for so many species/production systems/geographies

Compliance level	Score (fully meets)	Score (substantially meets)	Second degree penalty
Critical	4	-	Halve score
Major requirement	3	2	Halve score
Good practice	1	0.5	Halve score
RRSS Star	1	0.5	0.5 and 0

Performance Levels

The primary RRSS system recognises four main levels of achievement. The RRSS Star component represents a separate category that operates largely independently of the primary RRSS system.

RRSS Gold – Reptile farms and processing facilities fully meet all critical requirements, fully meet all major requirements, and achieve an overall score of 95% in each of the four RRSS Modules (i.e., Business Integrity, Animal Welfare, Social Responsibility and Environmental Responsibility). RRSS Star rating is not required.

RRSS Silver – Reptile farms and processing facilities fully meet all critical requirements and achieve an overall score of 75% in each of the four RRSS Standard Modules (i.e., Business Integrity, Animal Welfare, Social Responsibility and Environmental Responsibility). RRSS Star rating is not required.

RRSS Bronze – Reptile farms and processing facilities fully meet all critical requirements, and achieve a minimum score of 50% in each of the four RRSS Standard Modules (i.e., Business Integrity, Animal Welfare, Social Responsibility and Environmental Responsibility). RRSS Star rating is not required.

RRSS Module - Reptile farms and processing facilities fully meet 80% of major requirements (52 or more) and achieve a minimum score of 80% in at least one specified RRSS Standard Module. In effective, this allows facilities to achieve a recognised performance level in at least one standard module, such as Animal Welfare.

RRSS Star merit – must hold 15 Life Stars or more.

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This scoring assessment framework is for context purposes only. This is one of many ways the assessment scoring system could work, but the specific values, scores, and percentages will likely change.

This section should not be the focus of the review. It should be used as context only. Please focus your review efforts on the bulk of the four standard modules.

Claims

Claims related to the RRSS are specific to farms and processing facilities. Facilities that meet one or more of the following criteria may make general marketing claims related to the RRSS:

a) Facilities with current certification to the RRSS
b) Organisations that only purchase products from certified facilities (verified using recognised chain of custody tools/ traceability and/or transaction certificates)

Skins are eligible to be sold as RRSS certified only if the facility is RRSS certified at the time the skin is shipped.

Certification

Farms and processing facilities may be certified to the RRSS according to one of the following certification types:

- Individual Certification, or
- Group Certification (e.g., satellite farms and processing facilities supplying a central facility)

Individual Certification applies to facilities wishing to become certified independently, or when the qualifications for Group Certification are not met. Any farm or processing facility may apply for Individual Certification.

- Individual Certification requires annual on-site audits of the farm or processing facility.
- Individual Certification may also include additional confirmation visits by the certification body without notice.

Group Certification applies to discrete groups of satellite farms or processing facilities supplying a centralised farm or processing facility. The audit assessment treats the Group as a single facility.

- Group Certification requires annual on-site audits of the centralised facility and a randomly chosen sample of satellite facilities selected from the stock register held by the central facility.
- Group Certification may also include additional confirmation visits of farm group members by the certification body without notice.

In cases where an individually certified facility (e.g., facility A) sources from an uncertified facility (e.g., facility B), then all relevant requirements at facility A will be audited as second degree requirements until Group Certification can be achieved.

Examples

Example 1: Mandy's python processing facility – RRSS Individual Bronze Certified with 2 RRSS Stars
Example 2: Ed's python farm – RRSS Individual Module Certified (Animal Welfare) with 1 RRSS Star.
Example 3: Hirals group of python farms (Central breeding farm supplied by several satellite rearing facilities): RRSS Group with 4 RRSS Stars
Example 4: Xu's processing facility (Large processing facility also supplied by several smaller processing facilities) – RRSS Group Gold Certified with 2 RRSS Stars.
Example 5: Eve's python farm (small family run python farm in remote region) RRSS Individual RRSS Star Merit Award with 16 Life Stars

The RRSS aims to recognize and reward best practice in relation to the management of the social, environmental and welfare aspects of the reptile trade. RRSS recognises that this this is a high standard to achieve, especially given the diversity of facilities and variability of baseline starting points. The RRSS is designed and intended to evaluate and support stakeholders who demonstrate consistent efforts to improve responsibility over a period of time. Such uses may include the public recognition of a single RRSS

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Please do not focus too heavily on these sections. They are not for review at this point. The main focus of this review should be on the standards themselves. This reference to Claims and Certification is a placeholder only at this point and represents just one way that this standard may develop.

In reality, none of these discussions have occurred and this is not the time to have these discussions. Once the content of the standard itself has been agreed, we will begin discussing next steps.

Nevertheless, it is important to see how the standard MIGHT develop in future.

Star through to RRSS Gold with a full complement of RRSS stars. Facilities will be allowed to publish a verified score and performance level, and update that status over time to demonstrate continuing improvement.

External standard recognition

As the requirements imposed on businesses increase and certifications are developed to ensure steady improvement in business practices, audit fatigue is a growing concern. For this reason, to mitigate duplication of effort, the RRSS standard will seek equivalence with existing standards and certifications. For example, relevant sections of the ISO14001 standard on environmental management and SA8000 on social responsibility cover many of the same areas RRSS environmental and social modules, respectively. Rather than requiring multiple certifications for the same actions, relevant section of the RRSS standard can be addressed by those assurances. [section to be developed]

Associated documents and materials and guidance

The RRSS requirements should be interpreted in conjunction with existing and available supporting material. The Animal Welfare module is supported by "Welfare Principles for snakes and Monitor Lizards in the Southeast Asian Skin Trade". The documents follow similar frameworks based on the logical flow and structure of industry supply chains. The RRSS requirements are presented according to specific live animal related activities, and each requirement is assessed according to the relative impact of that activity on one or more of the Five Domains (see Aust et al., Welfare Principles for Snakes and Monitor Lizards in the Skin Trade).

Principle 1 – Responsible Business Practice

The RRSS is intended to be applicable to all types of farms and processing facilities, large and small, but it is principally focused on those aspects of the facilities that concern important environmental, welfare and social considerations. This principle balances the importance of compliance with local capabilities. It recognises that scenarios can vary greatly between facilities. This module has been designed to accommodate a) initial uptake by all stakeholders, large and small, b) demonstration of compliance through outputs instead of processes and c) stepwise capacity development in line with rapidly evolving industry standards.

Chapter 1.1. Legal Compliance Requirements

Background

Compliance with applicable host country laws is one of the most basic principles of any activity in the reptile trade. As an international best practice standard, RRSS requirements may also contain provisions that are more stringent or demanding than the minimum legal requirements specified at the national level in a particular country. This chapter seeks to ensure that the RRSS supports and complements compliance with international and national laws and regulations. It also attempts to align standards with peculiarities of the reptile trade such as traditional authorities, cultural appropriateness, and internationally accepted best practice guidelines.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Facilities are compliant with laws and regulations of the country in which trade is taking place, and compliance is carried out in a manner consistent with best practice.

SCOPE: This chapter applies mainly to farms and processing facilities, but has some relevance to other entities in the supply chain such as transporters and hunters.

1.1.1.	**General**	
1.1.1.1.	Facilities shall comply with all applicable host country trade and commerce laws (e.g., appropriate operational licenses and permits for designated activities).	**C**
1.1.1.2.	Facilities shall comply with CITES trade regulation (e.g., international trade restrictions)	**C**
1.1.1.3.	Facilities shall comply with national and international wildlife protection and animal welfare laws and regulations.	**C**
1.1.1.4.	Facilities shall comply with relevant restrictions on animal use and trade, including animal welfare requirements, and traditional, landowner use restrictions (e.g., cultural taboos)	**M**

1.1.1.5	Facilities shall not permit corrupt payments or bribery of any kind.	M
1.1.2.	**Wild harvest**	
1.1.2.1.	Facilities shall comply with national harvest and export quotas.	C
1.1.2.2.	Facilities shall endeavour to ensure suppliers comply with national hunting and trapping laws (e.g., permits, licences) and international best practice guidelines.	M
1.1.2.3.	Facility shall endeavour to ensure suppliers have obtained relevant permissions to harvest reptiles (e.g., landowner permissions).	M
1.1.3.	**Farming**	
1.1.3.1.	Facilities shall comply with relevant commercial agricultural and livestock laws and regulations.	C
1.1.4.	**Record keeping and disclosure**	
1.1.4.1.	Facilities shall maintain records and documentation sufficient to demonstrate compliance with host country laws.	M
1.1.4.2.	Facilities shall ensure aquatic snakes entering trade as fisheries bycatch are subject to RRSS considerations. Proximate stakeholders within the reptile trade (e.g., middlemen, buyers) shall advise on relevant standards (e.g., legal requirements, welfare).	M

Chapter 1.2. Chain of custody

Background

Chain of custody refers to all steps in the supply chain that take possession of reptiles or reptile products, including farmers, hunters, middlemen, processing facilities, transporters. It provides a record of the sequence of entities that have custody of reptiles (or reptile products) as they move through a supply chain. Chain of custody may include livestock registers, receipts or any other data associated with transactions (e.g., permits). Tracking information generated by chain of custody allows traceability systems to follow the trail of products along the supply chain and back to their origin and thereby validate certification assurances.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
The integrity of certified material is maintained from source through to the point at which it is no longer the responsibility of the facility.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

1.2.1.	**Record keeping**	
1.2.1.1.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing incoming and outgoing skins and/or live animals (e.g., number and species, breeding records, sales)	M
1.2.1.2.	Facilities shall catalogue and maintain records of stockpiles. Stockpile records are cross-referenced to livestock registers.	M
1.2.1.3.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing geographical and temporal sourcing of incoming skins and/or live reptiles.	M
1.2.2.	**Traceability**	
1.2.2.1.	Facilities shall employ a tagging system that is compatible with CITES requirements.	M
1.2.2.2.	Facilities shall employ a digital record keeping system detailing all tag transactions.	M

Chapter 1.3 Conservation monitoring and record keeping

Background

The sustainable use of reptile populations depends on controlled rates of offtake. Proper regulation of harvests ensures healthy wild populations that can support industry needs without compromising the biological viability or ecological functionality of the species. For wild harvests, harvest management can rely on the monitoring of harvested individuals at processing facilities and/or direct observations of wild populations. Facility monitoring and associated record keeping help to ensure legal sourcing and allows regulatory authorities to draw inferences between trends in wild population demographics and yield capabilities. This information can then be used by management authorities to set optimal harvest quotas and informed wildlife management policies.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Facilities record and maintain data that can be used to ensure legal trade and sustainable wild harvests.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities

1.3.1.	**General**	
1.3.1.1.	Facilities shall make monitoring data available to relevant government and regulatory authorities when required.	C
1.3.2.	**Monitoring of wild harvests**	
1.3.2.1.	Facilities shall allow access for independent monitoring of demographic and morphometric parameters from a random sample of incoming livestock.	M
1.3.2.2.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing incoming stock and associated information, including hunter, source location, habitat, species, number, body length (and/or mass) and dates (capture date and delivery date).	M
1.3.2.3.	Facilities shall maintain digital records of harvest monitoring (e.g., SARCA App)	M
1.3.3.	**Farm livestock register**	
1.3.3.1.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing breeding stock, grower stock, mortalities and movement of animal off the facility.	M

1.3.3.2.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing incoming and outgoing livestock (including temporal and geographical source and destination details) and product sales (e.g., skins).	**M**
1.3.3.3.	Facilities shall maintain a livestock register detailing eggs and/or live young produced at facilities.	**G**
1.3.3.4.	Facilities shall demonstrate evidence of on-site production and/or legal acquisition of livestock (e.g., egg shells, specialist breeding facilities, purchase receipts, permits)	**C**

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Principle 2 – Animal Welfare

There is a fundamental ethical need to ensure that human-animal interactions are humane. This means minimising unnecessary pain and suffering and avoiding cruelty. The intent of the reptile trade is to produce products derived from reptiles. Efforts to provide the highest standards of welfare, and avoid unnecessary suffering, are therefore paramount. Inappropriate treatment also jeopardizes the quality of reptile products. Welfare is an imperative for commercial viability, and has direct bearing on the broader and longer-term sustainability of the trade.

The RRSS Animal Welfare Module is designed to be applied and interpreted with reference to the Five Domains for animal welfare:

1. **Nutrition**
    - Reptiles have access to sufficient feed and water suited to the animals' needs to maintain normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.
2. **Physical environment**
    - Reptiles are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort and normal behaviour.
3. **Health**
    - Reptiles are managed in a way that promotes good health and prevents disease. Sick or injured animals are treated. Husbandry and handling operations are carried in a way that minimizes pain and distress.
4. **Behavioural interactions**
    - Reptiles are managed in a way to ensure conditions and treatment are suitable to allow for the expression of natural behaviours.
5. **Mental state**
    - Free from thirst, hunger, anxiety, fear, pain, and distress.

Chapter 2.1 Standards for wild capture of reptiles

The majority of commercially harvested wild reptiles are destined for live sale. Capture methods are therefore designed to be non-lethal and non-injurious. Welfare procedures at this point in supply chains are critical. In addition to the welfare of the individual animal harvested, the well-being of the remaining wild population and the environment is paramount, because this ensures preservation of the resource, and the fulfilment of biodiversity conservation obligations.

Outcome
Reptiles are caught and restrained quickly and securely while ensuring minimal physical injury or stress to the captured animal and minimal impact of the capture method on the environment.

Scope: This chapter applies to hunters.

2.1.1.	**General**	
2.1.1.1.	Reptiles shall never be defanged, have their mouths sewn shut, or intentionally mutilated in any way.	**C/M**
2.1.1.2.	Acceptable passive capture methods (traps) include: • snares (simple or mechanical), • nets, and • cage traps (including funnel traps)	**C/M**
2.1.1.3.	Acceptable active capture methods include: • electro-stunning (aquatic snakes only), and • direct capture (any form of hand capture or hand-held devised used to restrain a free-ranging reptile, e.g. gloves, sticks, catch-poles)	**C/M**
2.1.1.4.	Capture methods that are not acceptable include: • use of fire, • smoke, • explosives, • fishing hooks (unless inadvertently as bycatch), and • noxious chemicals (e.g. petroleum)	**C/M**

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The two main entities that will be assessed against this standard are processing facilities and farms.

However, these standards cover actors and supply chain stages that fall outside the direct responsibility of these discrete entities. Therefore, we need to broadly decide on how they should be assessed. There are various constraints and considerations involved. For example, should the standard penalise processing facilities whose hunters are not complying with the standard requirements? Moreover, what is the best way to assess these entities, given that there may be thousands of them that only rarely (opportunistically) engage in trade?

It is because of these considerations that we have included C/M in the requirement level column. Changing critical compliance to major compliance for supply chain actors not assessed directly may be one way to address the difficulties involved. Alternatively, all standards in Green could be included in an Annex that is assessed separately. To be discussed.

2.1.1.5.	Capture methods shall be tailored to a) the strength and capabilities of target individuals and species and b) exclusion of non-target individuals and species.	**M**
2.1.1.6.	Capture, restraint, and transport times shall be minimized	**M**
2.1.1.7.	Catching equipment shall be well maintained and fit for purpose. It is free from defects that may accidentally or unintentionally cause harm (e.g., burrs, faulty mechanisms).	**M**
2.1.1.8.	During capture handling, reptiles shall be handled and moved in an appropriate way to ensure the animal's wellbeing.	**C/M**
2.1.1.9.	Once captured, the body of the reptile shall be restrained, controlled and well supported at all times.	**M**
2.1.1.10.	The mouth of large snakes shall never be taped, tied, or otherwise bound. The use of a sock or alternative material placed over the head of the snake is permissible provided it is in accordance with strict protocols.	**M**
2.1.1.11.	The mouth and limbs of large lizards may be taped, tied, or otherwise bound for a limited time from the point of capture to the short-term holding facility. The methods used must be in accordance with strict protocols (see guidance).	**M**
2.1.1.12.	Design, materials, and method of deployment of mechanical capture tools (e.g., grab sticks, nooses) ensure no other aspects of welfare are compromised other than free movement.	**M**
2.1.1.13.	Injured animals shall either be treated or euthanized humanely, as appropriate.	**M**
2.1.1.14.	Visibly gravid individuals shall be released at the site of capture unless destined for ranching programs.	**G**
2.1.2.	**Traps**	
2.1.2.1.	Terrestrial traps shall be set in shaded locations, out of direct sunlight.	**C/M**
2.1.2.2.	Traps shall be checked regularly and trapped animals immediately removed. Snares and nets are checked daily, and more frequently if environmental conditions necessitate (e.g., extreme heat).	**C/M**
2.1.2.3.	Traps shall be positioned to reduce risk of predation of trapped reptiles (e.g., positioned away from trails and hidden from aerial predators).	**M**

2.1.2.4.	Trap methods and mechanisms shall be incapable of injuring the animals caught, either through intrinsic means - e.g., trap springs and wires, or through the actions of the trapped animal - e.g. rolling, rubbing or entanglement. The trapping area is free from obstructions that may compromise the action for the trap.	**M**
2.1.3.	**Aquatic snakes**	
2.1.3.1.	Aquatic snake traps shall allow the animal to remain submerged AND have access to the water surface to breathe.	**M**
2.1.3.2.	Aquatic snakes entering trade as bycatch shall be subject to welfare considerations. Proximate stakeholders within the reptile trade (e.g., buyers) advise on appropriate standards.	**M**

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Commented [DN7]: Instead of an additional requirement here, we could instead make a comment in the "scope" section indicating that all by-catch should undergo welfare considerations? Inputs please.

Chapter 2.2. Handling

Ensuring correct handling techniques can vastly improve welfare outcomes both in terms of mental and physical wellbeing. In addition to ensuring welfare of the animal, correct handling guarantees the safety of staff working with reptiles.

Outcome

Good human-reptile relationships are in place and reptiles are handled in a way that protects welfare.

Scope: This chapter applies only to farms and processing facilities.

2.2.1.	**General**	
2.2.1.1.	Reptiles shall never be defanged, have their mouths sewn shut, or intentionally mutilated in any way.	**C**
2.2.1.2.	During handling the body weight of the reptile shall be well supported at all times.	**M**
2.2.1.3.	The reptile shall never be dropped, thrown or dragged as standard practice.	**M**
2.2.1.4.	The mouth of large snakes shall never be taped, tied or otherwise bound. The use of a sock or alternative material placed over the head of the snake is permissible provided it is in accordance with strict protocols.	**M**
2.2.1.5.	The mouth and limbs of large lizards may be taped, tied, or otherwise bound for a limited time.. The methods used must be in accordance with strict protocols (see guidance).	**M**
2.2.1.6.	Reptiles shall be handled as little as possible and moved in a calm manner that minimizes the risk of stress and injury.	**G**
2.2.1.7.	Reptiles shall not be turned upside down unless for research or veterinary purposes.	**M**

2.2.1.8.	Reptiles shall not be twisted along their longitudinal axis.	**M**
2.2.1.9.	Reptiles shall not be dangled by the tip of the tail or head.	**M**
2.2.1.10.	The reptile shall not be pinched, squeezed, or compressed in any way.	**M**
2.2.1.11.	Reproductively active, shedding, and recently fed reptiles shall not be handled as standard practice.	**G**
2.2.1.12	Reptiles in sub-optimal physical condition (i.e., injured or diseased, malnourished, dehydrated) shall not be handled unless in an emergency.	**M**
2.2.1.13.	Reptile bites shall be dislodged following recommended protocols to avoid harm to the animal.	**G**
2.2.1.14.	In the case of venomous reptiles, passive handling systems shall be used wherever possible, minimising contact between the reptile and handler.	**G**
2.2.1.15.	Restraint behind the head or 'necking' shall only be used in exceptional circumstances.	**G**

Chapter 2.3 Transportation of reptiles

Reptiles adapt well to dark, confined spaces and can survive without food and water for relatively long periods of time (weeks vs. days). As a result, many are tolerant of standard livestock transport conditions, and supply chains can be comparatively protracted over space and time. Common modes of transport used in the industry include foot, motorcycle, car, truck, canoe, and river boat, and each may employ different shipping methods.

Outcome
Good human-reptile relationships are in place and reptiles are transported in a way that protects welfare.

SCOPE: This chapter applies to supply chain entities that are responsible for the transportation of live reptiles.

2.3.1.	**General**	
2.3.1.1.	Reptiles shall never be defanged, have their mouths sewn shut, or intentionally mutilated in any way.	**C/M**
2.3.1.2.	Reptiles shall be maintained between 15- 35C throughout the transport process.	**C/M**
2.3.1.3.	Reptiles shall never be exposed to direct sunlight, hot surfaces, or damp conditions for prolonged periods of time that may risk welfare	**C/M**
2.3.1.4.	Reptiles shall never be transported in close proximity to fuel, chemical residues, or any other noxious agents (e.g., agrochemicals).	**C/M**
2.3.1.5.	Reptiles shall be well hydrated prior to transport (does not apply to reptiles immediately after wild capture)	**M**
2.3.1.6.	Food shall be withheld for at least three days prior to transport and for the entire transit period	**M**

2.3.1.7.	Reptiles shall be transported in free-draining and ventilated bags, crates, or other escape-proof containment	**M**
2.3.1.8.	Transport bags, crates, and other containments shall be in good condition; clean, free from chemical residues, loose threads, holes, sharp projections and other imperfections.	**M**
2.3.1.9.	The time reptiles are kept under transport conditions shall be minimized and does not exceed two days.	**M**
2.3.1.10.	Transport equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected between transport events.	**M**
2.3.1.11.	Crates and containers shall be well secured to prevent escape or excessive movement during transit.	**M**
2.3.1.12.	Stocking systems and densities during transport shall be configured such that individuals are able to move freely to prevent risks to welfare (e.g., crushing, suffocation)	**C/M**
2.3.1.13.	Species and size classes shall be separated such that it prevents risks to welfare	**M**
2.3.1.14.	To prevent long waiting times, the handling of reptiles during transport shall be planned and executed efficiently and timeously.	**M**
2.3.1.15.	Double handling' (unloading and reloading*) en route* shall be minimized.	**G**
2.3.1.16.	Transport containers shall be inspected on a regular basis to monitor reptile health and wellbeing.	**M**
2.3.1.17.	Dead reptiles shall be immediately removed from enclosures and the carcass is disposed of appropriately (e.g., incinerated).	**M**
2.3.1.18.	During transport handling, reptiles shall be handled and moved in an appropriate way to ensure the animal's wellbeing.	**C**

2.3.2.	**Large snakes**	
2.3.2.1.	Large snakes (e.g., boas/pythons) shall be bagged individually. Smaller snakes may be bagged communally.	**M**
2.3.3.	**Lizards**	
2.3.3.1.	Large lizards (~>2kg) shall be bagged individually.	**M**
2.3.4.	**Aquatic snakes**	
2.3.4.1.	Aquatic snakes held in crates or bags shall be watered daily to prevent dehydration.	**M**
2.3.4.2.	Aquatic snakes held in containers with water shall have water levels no deeper than half the length of the shortest individual, and no shallower than double the width of the largest individual in the container.	**M**
RRSS Star	Reptiles are transported in an optimal thermal environment maintained between 20-23C	✪

Chapter 2.4. Standards for temporary holding of reptiles

Temporary holding can occur for any number of reasons and at virtually any point in supply chains and is common when reptiles are held in people's homes prior to transport, at markets or processing facilities prior to sale or slaughter, and at restaurants prior to consumption. Each of these three main scenarios warrant specific welfare considerations. Other scenarios may arise from time to time, and relevant principles and best practice should be adapted and applied accordingly.

Outcome
Good human-reptile relationships are in place and reptiles are temporarily held in a way that protects welfare.

SCOPE: This chapter applies mainly to processing facilities but is relevant to any entity in the supply chain that temporarily holds reptiles prior to transport or processing.

2.4.1.	**General**	
2.4.1.1.	Facilities temporarily holding reptiles shall do so in a designated holding room or holding area.	**M**
2.4.1.2.	Holding areas shall be darkened and reptiles held in facilities are kept beneath light and breathable material	**G**
2.4.1.3.	Reptiles shall be held in free-draining and ventilated bags, crates, or other escape-proof containment	**M**
2.4.1.4.	Containments shall be in good condition; clean, free of loose threads, holes, sharp projections and other imperfections.	**M**
2.4.1.5.	Reptiles shall be held at average ambient temperatures between 20C and 35C	**C/M**
2.4.1.6.	Reptiles shall never be exposed to direct sunlight, hot surfaces or damp conditions for prolonged periods of time that may risk welfare.	**C/M**
2.4.1.7.	Reptiles shall not be exposed to damp conditions for prolonged periods of time that may risk welfare (see guidance)	**M**

2.4.1.8.	Reptiles shall never be held in close proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g., fuel), vibrations (e.g., operating machinery) or excessive activity (e.g.; public thoroughfare)	**C/M**
2.4.1.9.	Reptiles shall be held for no longer than two weeks, except for large boas and pythons (>5kg) that may be held for up to four weeks.	**M**
2.4.1.10.	A system shall be in place to record time each individual reptile has spent at facilities.	**M**
2.4.1.11.	Severely malnourished and/or dehydrated reptiles shall never be held for prolonged periods (i.e., processed or euthanized as soon as possible).	**C/M**
2.4.1.12.	Reptiles shall be offered clean fresh drinking water on arrival at the holding facility.	**C/M**
2.4.1.13.	Reptiles shall be offered water at least once a week.	**M**
2.4.1.14.	Handling of reptiles at the interface of different supply chain entities shall be minimised (e.g., moving animals between different bags, containers, enclosures etc.)	**G**
2.4.1.15.	Stocking systems and densities shall be such that individuals are able to move freely to prevent risks to welfare.	**C/M**
2.4.1.16.	Species and size classes shall be separated such that it prevents risks to welfare.	**M**
2.4.1.17.	Senior personnel shall be aware of the risks posed by the spread of disease and a protocol for isolation, treatment and sanitization is in place.	**G**
2.4.1.18.	Reptiles shall be inspected on a regular basis to monitor health and wellbeing.	**G**
2.4.1.19.	Sick or injured reptiles shall be either treated or euthanized, and the carcass disposed as appropriate (e.g., incinerated)	**M**

2.4.1.20.	Dead reptiles shall be immediately removed from enclosures and the carcass disposed as appropriate (e.g., incinerated).	M
2.4.1.21.	Unwanted eggs and neonates deposited during short term holding shall be euthanized humanely and disposed of using an appropriate method.	C/M
2.4.2.	**Aquatic snakes**	
2.4.2.1.	Aquatic snakes held in crates or bags shall be watered daily to prevent dehydration.	C/M
2.4.2.2.	Aquatic snakes held in water shall be able to fully submerge AND rest unobstructed at the water's surface.	M
2.4.2.3.	Aquatic snakes held in water shall have their water changed on a regular basis to maintain a healthy environment.	M
2.4.3.	**RRSS Star**	
2.4.3.1.	The physiological state of reptiles shall be assessed on arrival and individuals are afforded thermal consideration according to their physiological needs.	✪

Chapter 2.5. Standards for captive breeding and rearing of reptiles

Welfare standards are closely linked to productivity in the reptile farming industry. Design, layout and operation of the farm and enclosures takes into account the importance of the ambient environment and ensures adequate, reliable and functional facilities to ensure reptile wellbeing in terms of survival, growth and reproduction. Most successful reptile farms in Asia employ high welfare standards as a *de facto* economic imperative due to exacting quality thresholds. Production systems, methods and technologies are diverse and evolving rapidly. The standards should be approached in an equally dynamic and flexible manner.

Outcome

Commercial reptile production systems ensure prevention and mitigation of risks to reptile welfare.

Scope: This chapter applies to reptile farms.

2.5.1.	**Facilities and enclosures**	
2.5.1.1.	Facilities and enclosures shall be of a size and design that provides for normal physiological functions	**M**
2.5.1.2.	Enclosures shall be designed to prevent injury. This includes the use of non-abrasive and non-toxic materials (e.g. coated wood slats, PVC coated wire mesh), provision of adequate ventilation, and the absence of structures that may result in injury or entrapment.	**M**
2.5.1.3.	Equipment and enclosures shall be in good working order and maintained on a regular basis to prevent risk of injury.	**M**
2.5.1.4.	Reptiles shall be protected from pests and predators (e.g., ants, rats, feral cats).	**M**
2.5.1.5.	Reptiles shall not be housed close to excessive vibrations (e.g., operating machinery), chemical pollution or human activity (e.g., thoroughfares)	**C**
2.5.1.6.	High levels of hygiene shall be maintained. Facilities are free from strong odours and sewer gases.	**M**

2.5.2.	**General husbandry**	
2.5.2.1.	Direct sun, rain, draughts, and humidity levels shall be managed according to individual and species needs.	**M**
2.5.2.2.	Enclosures shall be clean and free from leftover food and faeces.	**M**
2.5.2.3.	Dead reptiles shall be immediately removed from enclosures and the carcass is disposed of appropriately (e.g., incinerated).	**M**
2.5.2.4.	Equipment and enclosures shall be disinfected on a regular basis using mild, non-toxic disinfectants (e.g., 3% bleach).	**M**
2.5.2.5.	Inspections shall be carried out on a weekly basis by a qualified individual (veterinarian or experienced manager) to assess reptile health, condition, and environmental parameters.	**M**
2.5.2.6.	Individuals of unknown origin, or wild-caught animals, shall never be introduced to the captive population.	**M**
2.5.2.7.	New arrivals of known origin shall be quarantined according to veterinary protocols (i.e., quarantined for 6 weeks).	**M**
2.5.2.8.	Stocking densities shall allow animals to move freely and unrestricted by other individuals.	**C**
2.5.2.9.	Animals shall be housed in similar sized cohorts. Size classes shall be graded on a regular basis to ensure size differences of no more than 10%.	**M**
2.5.2.10.	Personnel working with captive reptiles shall have a high standard of personal hygiene to prevent spread of disease among animals.	**M**
2.5.3.	**Temperature**	
2.5.3.1.	Farm staff shall demonstrate an awareness of the importance of temperature as a critical welfare parameter.	**M**

2.5.3.2.	Temperature may vary from 15 – 35C. Average temperatures shall be approximately 28C depending on species, size class and physiological condition.	C
2.5.3.3.	Supplementary heating: • Artificially heated surfaces shall not exceed 50C and cover no more than 20% of the enclosure's floor surface area • Electronic components (wires, elements, and connectors) shall be waterproof and protected from direct contact with reptiles by physical guards or barriers.	M
2.5.4.	**Water and humidity**	
2.5.4.1..	Reptiles shall have access to clean, fresh drinking water on a regular basis, and at least one a week.	C
2.5.4.2.	Humidity shall be maintained according to the needs of the species.	M
2.5.4.3.	Aquatic species shall be housed in clean fresh water, or in semi-natural environments (e.g., abundant aquatic vegetation for bio-filtration)	M
2.5.5.	**Nutrition**	
2.5.5.1.	Live prey animals shall never be offered as standard practice, unless in a veterinary emergency	C
2.5.5.2..	Reptiles shall be fed with a frequency and volume appropriate to species, size and prevailing climatic conditions.	C
2.5.5.3.	Diets shall be nutritionally balanced with the appropriate macro and micro nutrient profile.	M
2.5.5.4.	Frozen food items shall be used within one year.	G
2.5.5.5.	Records shall be kept of feed and feed supplement type, source and date.	G
2.5.5.6.	Feed shall be thoroughly thawed before feeding.	M

2.5.5.7.	Feed storage and feed management shall be carried out under hygienic conditions. Fresh feeds are stored in freezers and food preparation facilities are thoroughly cleaned after use.	M
2.5.5.8.	Food shall not be stored or prepared in close proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g., fuel)	M
2.5.5.9.	Uneaten food shall be removed from an enclosure within twelve hours.	M
2.5.5.10.	Force-feeding shall not be permitted except for therapeutic purposes.	M
2.5.5.11.	Reptiles shall be able to ingest food with minimal competition from other individuals and with minimal risk of ingesting foreign particles.	M
2.5.6.	**Breeding**	
2.5.6.1.	Reptiles shall be sexed by non-invasive means unless carried out by sufficiently trained and experienced personnel (i.e., popping and probing carried out by experienced persons only)	M
2.5.6.2.	Reptiles shall only be bred if they are in good condition with adequate body fat and good muscle tone.	M
2.5.6.3.	For species where male combat is known, enclosures shall not house more than one reproductively active male.	C
2.5.6.4.	Gravid reptiles shall be provided a suitable and secluded environment to lay eggs (e.g., high humidity, soft substrate)	C
2.5.6.5.	Eggs shall be handled and packed carefully to minimize rolling, jolting and rotation.	C
2.5.6.6.	Incubation temperatures shall be maintained according to species specific requirements (i.e., evidence of active or passive temperature management).	M

2.5.6.7.	Incubation humidity levels shall be maintained according to species specific requirements (i.e., evidence of active or passive humidity management).	M
2.5.6.8.	Female pythons undertaking natural incubation shall be housed individually and in an environment that does not risk welfare of the eggs (e.g., high humidity, soft substrate).	M
2.5.6.9.	With the exception of pythons, eggs shall be removed from reptile enclosures and incubated in a safe and controlled environment (e.g., insect proof, climate controlled).	C
2.5.6.10	Incubation mediums shall be sterilized or replaced after use.	G
2.5.6.11.	Hatchlings shall be afforded specialised husbandry conditions and monitored daily for condition and welfare (i.e., conditions similar to incubation environment).	C
2.5.6.12.	Hatchling reptiles less than two months of age shall not be transported or shipped.	G
2.5.7.	**Veterinary care**	
2.5.7.1.	Sick or injured reptiles shall be immediately isolated and quarantined for treatment. Reptiles remain in isolation for a minimum of 6 weeks.	M
2.5.7.2.	Sick, injured or welfare compromised reptiles that do not respond to treatment shall be euthanized humanely and the carcass disposed of as appropriate (e.g., incinerated).	C
2.5.7.3.	Staff shall demonstrate awareness of infectious diseases and the risks they pose, and be trained in basic detection techniques.	M
2.5.7.4.	Staff shall demonstrate basic knowledge of infectious disease mitigation protocols (e.g., immediate quarantining and information sharing).	M
2.5.7.5.	Carcasses of diseased animals shall be disposed of appropriately (e.g. incinerated).	M

2.5.7.6.	Sick or injured reptiles shall be never sold into trade or released into the wild.	M
2.5.7.7.	Medical records covering reptiles treated for sickness, the date of treatment and the product used, and the treatment protocol shall be kept.	G
2.5.7.8.	Records shall be kept of mortalities, any veterinary interventions and the reason for death (where known).	G
2.5.8.	**RRSS Star**	
2.5.8.1.	Reptiles shall be provided with an unrestricted ability to thermoregulate across a 10C differential between 15C and 35C.	✪
2.5.8.2.	Terrestrial reptiles shall be provided with an enriched humidity environment (e.g., large water bowl, cool damp to hot dry)	✪
2.5.8.3.	Reptiles shall have access to full light and complete dark during daylight hours (e.g., provision of shelters, basking areas)	✪

Chapter 2.6. Standards for humane killing of reptiles

Background

The killing of the animals is an inherent component of the trade in reptile skin, meat, and by-products. Despite this end result, the animals' wellbeing must be considered from the initial contact with the reptile until it has been killed.

Outcome

Methods used for killing reptiles are pain-free, rapid, and fail-safe, and are performed by competent individuals

SCOPE: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

2.6.1.	**Methods**	
2.6.1.1	The method used for killing (slaughter or euthanasia) shall involve a two-step approach comprising (1) stunning followed by (2) killing.	**C**
2.6.1.2.	The methods chosen shall be pain-free, rapid, as fail-safe as possible, and in compliance with chapter 7.14 of the OIE Standard For Humane Killing of Reptiles. Acceptable forms of humane killing (for slaughter or euthanasia) include: • Physical means, e.g. blunt force trauma • Non-physical means, e.g. especially designed chemical agents	**C**
2.6.1.3.	The stunning or killing device shall be positioned correctly according to the species and the method being used.	**M**
2.6.1.4.	If using a captive bolt pistol, the pistol shall be directed at the brain from the top of the skull.	**M**
2.6.1.5.	If using a blunt object (e.g., hammer), this shall be directed to the brain of an immobile reptile. The reptile shall be never swung against a hard object.	**M**

2.6.1.6.	If animals show any sign of sensibility they shall be immediately restunned.	M
2.6.1.7.	A secondary method of killing shall be used to verify death, such as decapitation or pithing.	M
2.6.1.8.	Decapitation shall be done with a rapid and forceful chop rather than a sawing motion.	M
2.6.1.9.	Pithing shall be carried out using a metal rod and a rapid succession of stabbing events to ensure the entire brain cavity is pithed.	G
2.6.1.10.	Unacceptable methods of killing include: • exsanguination, • extreme temperatures (heating or hyperthermia), • drowning, • suffocation (including burying reptiles underground, binding the head with rubber band), • direct pithing, • direct decapitation, and • harvesting tissues/organs.	C
2.6.2.	**Equipment**	
2.6.2.1.	Suitable equipment including reserve equipment shall be available (e.g., pithing rod, hammer, and sharp axe).	M
2.6.2.2.	Tools used for slaughter shall be in excellent working condition and are checked to be operational at the commencement of each workday.	M
2.6.3.	**Procedures**	
2.6.3.1.	All personnel stunning and killing reptiles shall be trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	C
2.6.3.2.	Training shall include: • Animal welfare principles • Good handling practices • Identification of sick/injured animals	M

	• Stunning methods and checking effectiveness of stunning • Slaughter methods	
2.6.3.3.	Reptiles shall be moved from the place of holding to the point of killing in a calm and gentle manner.	**M**
2.6.3.4.	The duration time from short term holding to killing shall be minimised	**M**
2.6.3.5.	The facility shall ensure that mature eggs and unborn neonates are euthanized according to standard practices for other life stages.	**M**
2.6.3.6.	Reptiles shall be cooled to between 15C and 20C prior to humane killing	**M**

Chapter 2.7. Management of welfare issues

Background

The establishment of welfare-specific management systems and procedures is critical for ensuring adequate welfare outcomes for reptiles. This section helps to ensure some of these processes are in place and that staff are competent to carry out the tasks assigned to them.

Outcome

Facilities have a clear strategy and set of protocols that effectively safeguard the welfare of their animals.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

2.7.1.	**Operational and risk management procedures**	
2.7.1.1.	Facilities shall be sufficient in size and area to accommodate the maximum number of animals held at any one time.	**M**
2.7.1.2.	Senior personnel shall be aware of, and keep, up-to-date information on current national animal welfare legislation.	**M**
2.7.1.3.	Facilities shall have standard operational procedures for reptile health and welfare.	**G**
2.7.1.4.	There shall be an emergency plan covering actions to protect reptiles in case of emergencies, such as fire or floods.	**G**
2.7.1.5.	Instructions on how to humanely kill reptiles shall be clearly displayed in the designated killing area.	**G**
2.7.1.6.	If an infectious disease is suspect, relevant authorities shall be notified.	**G**

Principle 3 – Social Responsibility

A number of internationally recognized human rights have been enumerated and incorporated into laws world-wide. In addition to acknowledging the need to safeguard those fundamental human rights, companies are increasingly recognizing the need to provide an operational environment that promotes a risk-free and high quality of life for workers, their families, and those who exist within the inference of the business operations. The RRSS have drawn on guidelines from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and its two covenants, the International convention on civil and political rights (ICCPR), the International convention on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (ICESCR), Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the Nagoya Protocol. It is also broadly aligned with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The RRSS is also respectful of the fact that many aspects of the reptile trade have evolved in isolation according to remote and marginalised geographies, and seeks to accommodate these wherever possible.

Chapter 3.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Background

The reptile trade can play a unique and important part in improving public health and community wellbeing in landscapes where few other opportunities exist. Production models are typically small-scale and often dependent on traditional household and community relationships and cultural systems. The trade plays an important role in artisanal and marginalised livelihoods. Poor management can expose local stakeholders to significant health and safety risks. Both the identification of potential health and safety impacts, as well as the mitigation of those impacts, will be most successfully achieved when undertaken in partnership with local stakeholders such as local community representatives, government officials, health service providers, public health officials, and community development workers, as well supply chain workers who live in communities.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Facilities respect the rights of local communities and stakeholders, and negative impacts are minimised.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

3.1.1.	**Free and Prior Informed Consent**	
3.1.1.1	The establishment of new facilities must obtain approval (Free and Prior Informed Consent; FPIC) from local stakeholders potentially affected by the new development.	M
3.1.1.2.	Existing facilities do not need to obtain FPIC, but substantive new developments (e.g., additional facilities/activities) must receive FPIC.	G

3.1.2.	**Stakeholder Engagement Processes**	
3.1.2.1.	Facilities shall identify all those local stakeholders (e.g., communities, hunters, middlemen, landowners etc.) who may be affected by operations.	G
3.1.2.2.	Facilities shall consult with local stakeholders to ensure accessible, inclusive and culturally appropriate engagement (e.g. women, indigenous groups, migrant workers, traditional landowners etc.)	M
3.1.2.3.	Facilities shall demonstrate meaningful engagement with and understanding of community relationships and dynamics	G
3.1.3.	**Strengthening Capacity**	
3.1.3.1.	Facilities shall assess stakeholder capacity in terms of minimising negative impacts and offer assistance where opportunities for intervention are identified.	M
3.1.3.2.	Facilities shall provide appropriate information and expertise to relevant local stakeholders to ensure RRSS requirements are met (e.g. hunters, welfare of by-catch in fisheries, environmental responsibilities etc.)	M
3.1.4.	**Communications and Access to Information**	
3.1.4.1.	Facilities shall ensure that performance summaries against the RRSS are freely available to local stakeholders.	M
3.1.4.2.	Facilities shall ensure that all communications with local stakeholders are carried out in a timely and appropriate manner (e.g., culturally respectful, local dialect)	M
3.1.5.	**Grievance Mechanism**	
3.1.5.1.	Facilities shall ensure that local stakeholders have access to a mechanism that allows them to raise and seek resolution to complaints and grievances that may occur in relation to the facility and/or its activities.	M
3.1.5.2.	Facilities shall consult with local stakeholders on the design of a culturally appropriate complaints and grievance procedure.	G

3.1.5.3.	Facilities shall ensure that concerns are addressed promptly using an understandable and transparent process that provides timely feedback to those concerned.	G

3.2. Fair Labour and Terms of Work

Background

Responsible employers are governed by international laws that ensure fair wages and respectful workplaces. These laws are also designed to protect human rights such as freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Facilities demonstrate good practices with regards to labour. Workers work in a respectful environment, free from discrimination, harassment and abuse.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

3.2.1.	**Human resources policy**	
3.2.1.1.	Facilities shall adopt and implement human resources policies and procedures that are consistent with national laws and international guidelines.	C
3.2.2.	**Hiring practices**	
3.2.2.1.	Facilities shall not engage in forced labour, including: • Original identification documents are not held by the employer • Employees must be able to move freely	C
3.2.2.2.	Facilities shall provide employees with contracts written in the employees' language, signed by both parties and stating conditions of employment.	M
3.2.2.3.	Facilities shall maintain copies of written contracts. These may be digital (e.g. photograph) or hardcopies.	G
3.2.2.4.	Facilities shall not employ workers under the legal minimum age according to national laws	C

3.2.2.5.	Provided it is legal, when facilities engage the assistance of underage workers aged 13-15 for light work provided that work does not involve hazardous activities (e.g., sharp knives, machinery)	M
3.2.2.6.	Provided it is legal, facilities shall ensure that underage workers aged 13-15 work no more than two hours per day and that work schedules do not affect formal education or recreational opportunities (e.g., sport).	C
3.2.2.7.	Facilities shall not discriminate against employees on the basis of age, sex, religion, social status, ethnicity or race.	C
3.2.2.8.	Facilities shall not verbally or physically abuse employees or otherwise harass them in such a way that risks mental wellbeing.	C
3.2.2.9.	Facilities shall not partake in the corruption or extortion of workers or their families	C
3.2.2.10.	Retrenchment is carried out in compliance with national law and in a way that is non-discriminatory, fair and where employees receive notice in a timely manner.	M
3.2.3.	**Wages**	
3.2.3.1.	Facilities shall ensure that wages comply with the national legal minimum or the minimum wage standards relevant to the sector or higher.	C
3.2.3.2.	Facilities shall ensure equal pay for equal work.	M
3.2.3.3.	Facilities may provide in-kind benefits as a proportion of wages provided the practice is compliant with national laws.	M
3.2.3.4.	Facilities shall pay wages in a manner that is consistent with local norms and reasonable for workers (e.g., bank transfer, cash or check).	M

3.2.3.5.	Facilities shall ensure that deductions from wages are not made for disciplinary purposes unless one of the following conditions exist: • Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are permitted by national law, and the law guarantees the procedural fairness of the disciplinary action; or • Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are permitted in a freely negotiated collective bargaining agreement or arbitration award.	M
3.2.3.6.	Facilities shall ensure workers are provided with a wage slip, including disclosure of computation of wages, benefits and deductions. This shall be in a language and in a way they can understand.	M
3.2.4.	**Working Hours and Leave**	
3.2.4.1.	Facilities shall ensure that regular working hours and leave schedules comply with national laws.	C
3.2.4.2.	Facilities shall ensure that workers are provided with at least 24 consecutive hours off in every 7-day period.	M
3.2.4.3.	Facilities shall ensure that overtime is consensual and limited to 12 hours a week.	M
3.2.4.4.	Facilities shall ensure that records are maintained of working hours and overtime.	G
3.2.5.	**Grievance Mechanism**	
3.2.5.1.	Facilities shall respect the workers' rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.	M
3.2.5.1.	Facilities shall ensure that workers have access to a mechanism that allows them to raise and seek resolution to workplace concerns without fear of retaliation (e.g., complaints box).	C
3.2.5.2.	Facilities shall ensure that concerns are addressed promptly using an understandable and transparent process that provides timely feedback to those concerned.	M

3.3. Occupational Health and Safety

Background

Due to the unique hazards associated with the reptile trade, a strong focus on occupational health and safety must be present. Occupational health impacts related to the reptile trade may include physical injuries from equipment (e.g., skinning knives), heat exhaustion, infections from zoonotic diseases and injuries caused by venomous snakes and other dangerous reptiles. There is a need to ensure frequent inspections, accident reporting and hazard assessment and management. Workers should be allowed to participate in workplace health and safety decisions and should be adequately trained in their tasks.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Facilities identify and mitigate occupational health and safety hazards, maintain working environments that protect workers' health and working capacity, and promote workplace safety and health.

SCOPE: This chapter is focused on farms and processing facilities but includes some upstream entities.

3.3.1.	**Health and Safety Management**	
3.3.1.1.	Facilities shall put in place a health and safety management system for identifying, managing and mitigating health and safety hazards.	**C**
3.3.1.2.	Facilities shall demonstrate a management system for measuring and improving health and safety performance.	**M**
3.3.2.3.	All personnel shall be sufficiently informed about the operation of the facility (e.g., regular staff meetings, notice board).	**G**
3.3.2.4.	All personnel shall undertake health and safety training in accordance with operational duties.	**G**
3.3.1.5.	Facilities shall identify and provide adequate signage to inform workers of potential hazards and hazardous areas.	**M**
3.3.1.6.	Facilities shall develop systems to effectively communicate with and enable input from employees on matters relating to occupational health and safety.	**M**

3.3.1.7.	Facilities shall ensure adequate emergency procedures and systems are in place. These include notification of relevant authorities and stakeholders where appropriate (e.g., zoonotic disease)	C
3.3.1.8.	Facilities shall ensure that at least one well maintained and fully operational first aid kit is available and accessible at all times.	M
3.3.2.	**General worker safety and hygiene**	
3.3.2.1.	Facilities shall ensure that flooring in walkways and work is constructed to minimise slipping, falling and injury to workers.	M
3.3.2.2.	Facilities shall restrict time employees spend in very hot or very cold areas (e.g., direct sun, refrigeration). Restrict times for people being in very cold or very hot areas;	M
3.3.2.3.	Facilities shall ensure that working areas are well ventilated and free from hazardous gasses and noxious odours.	M
3.3.2.4.	Facilities shall ensure that noise pollution is minimised (e.g., operating machinery, generators)	G
3.3.2.5.	Facilities shall ensure that a system of periodical cleaning is in place to ensure comprehensive coverage of all operational components.	G
3.3.2.6.	Facilities shall ensure that workers have access to appropriate cleaning facilities and equipment.	M
3.3.2.7.	Facilities shall ensure that liquid and solid waste are screened and disposed of in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.	M
3.3.2.8.	Facilities shall ensure that physical interactions between reptiles and handlers are minimised.	G
3.3.2.10.	Staff shall have access to facilities that allow them to maintain a high standard of personal hygiene throughout the working day (e.g., clean toilets, clean water, soap, etc).	M
3.3.2.11.	Facilities shall ensure that staff are provided with suitable protective clothing and equipment, free of charge, according to the task at hand and this is in good working order.	M
3.3.2.12.	Facilities shall ensure that protective clothing is cleaned thoroughly on a regular basis and is in good working order.	M
3.3.2.13.	Facilities shall maintain a storage area to ensure equipment is organised, secure, clean and dry.	G

3.3.2.14.	Facilities shall ensure workers have access to adequate tools and equipment for safe reptile handling (e.g., snake hook, gloves) and these are in good working order.	M
3.3.3.	**Biological hazards**	
3.3.3.1.	Facilities shall ensure that potentially hazardous biological agents and potential routes of infection are identified and mitigated against through appropriate procedures and equipment (e.g., contamination of microbiological agents during carcass handling)	M
3.3.3.2.	Facilities shall ensure that mitigation measures pertaining to bites from venomous reptiles include at least one additional fail-safe measure (e.g., minimal handling time AND protective handling equipment)	M
3.3.4.	**Wild harvests**	
3.3.4.1	Transportation is licenced, registered and roadworthy.	M
3.3.4.2	Hunters are licenced and have the necessary permissions to harvest reptiles, including landowner permission.	M
3.3.4.3	Hunters demonstrate competence in reptile capture, handling and equipment use.	G
3.3.4.4	Hunters share information on hunting destination and expected duration prior to departure.	G
3.3.4.5	Hunters carry a form of communication and identification (e.g., mobile phone, drivers licence)	G
3.3.4.6	Hunting parties consist of no less than two persons.	M
3.3.4.7	Hunters are aware of environmental hazards (e.g., weather, parasites, dangerous reptiles and animals)	G
3.3.4.8	Hunting equipment is in good working order	G
3.3.5.	**Processing facilities**	

3.3.5.1.	Facilities are of sufficient dimensions to allow unobstructed and discrete operation of all processes (e.g., temporary holding, killing, processing, carcass dressing)	G
3.3.5.2.	Facilities are aware of national regulations for livestock abattoirs and demonstrate efforts to align worker health and safety protocols.	G
3.3.5.3.	Systems are in place to prevent the contamination of reptile meat, if utilised for human consumption.	M
3.3.5.4.	Facilities shall ensure that sharp edged tools and equipment (e.g., skinning knives) are well maintained, used and stored in safe and appropriate manner.	M
3.3.6.	**Dangerous reptile management**	
3.3.6.1.	Facilities shall ensure that two or more people are present when feeding, handling, removing eggs, and humane killing, unless systems are in place to guarantee worker safety.	M
3.3.6.2.	Facilities shall ensure that a minimum of four people are present when boas and pythons over 40 kg are handled.	M
3.3.6.3.	Facilities shall ensure employees are aware of species-specific bite treatment protocols and trained in basic treatment protocols (e.g., application of pressure bandage)	M
3.3.6.4.	Facilities maintains specialist first aid equipment for the treatment of snakebite (e.g., pressure bandages)	M
3.3.6.5.	Facilities shall ensure venomous reptile are managed according to specially demarcated areas and separate from non-venomous species.	G
3.3.6.6.	Facilities ensure venomous reptiles are “double-bagged” during short term holding operations.	G
3.3.6.7.	Facilities maintain up-to-date contact details on local snakebite treatment facilities and sources of appropriate antivenin.	M
3.3.6.8.	Facilities shall ensure ‘first responder’ bite treatment protocols are clearly displayed wherever venomous reptiles are housed, maintained, or killed.	G

3.3.7.	**Manual handling and ergonomics**	
3.3.7.1.	Facilities ensure manual processes are designed to avoid heavy lifting and repetitive activities.	G
3.3.7.2.	Facilities shall provide workers with the necessary furniture and space according to the activity at hand (e.g., chairs, tables, floor space)	G
3.3.8.	**Staff competency and training**	
3.3.8.1.	Facilities shall ensure that workers are experienced, able and equipped to undertake designated tasks.	M
3.3.8.2.	Facilities shall ensure that inexperienced (new) employees undergo induction and are trained and monitored under supervision until deemed competent.	M
3.3.8.3.	All personnel complete an induction checklist before commencing employment.	G
3.3.8.4.	Records are kept on personnel concerning their training and assessment activities.	G
3.3.8.5.	Facilities shall ensure that workers are assessed on a regular basis for competency.	G
3.3.8.6.	Corrective action is taken against personnel observed failing to undertake a task correctly.	M
3.3.8.7.	Facility staff are aware of RRSS critical compliance standards in accordance with their respective responsibilities.	M
3.3.8.8.	Transport personnel are aware of RRSS critical compliance standards in accordance with their respective responsibilities	M
3.3.8.9.	Hunters are aware of RRSS critical compliance standards in accordance with their respective responsibilities	M
3.3.8.10	On-going training needs of personnel are identified and addressed.	M
3.3.9.	**Fire safety**	

3.3.9.1.	Facilities shall ensure that naked flames and fires are situated in a designated area away from other facility operations	M
3.3.9.2.	Facilities shall provide fire extinguishers according to government regulations and/or industry guidelines (i.e., number, type, positioning and maintenance schedule for farms and processing facilities).	M
3.3.9.3.	Fire extinguishers are clearly signposted and accessible to all personnel.	M
3.3.9.4.	Staff are trained in basic fire safety protocols (i.e., how to use fire extinguishers)	M

Chapter 3.4 Cultural Heritage and local community empowerment

Background

Cultural heritage is the tangible legacy of physical structures and artefacts, as well as intangible attributes of a group or society, such as knowledge that has cultural or spiritual value. Industrial development has historically inflicted profound and irreversible damage to cultural heritage. Because of atypical geographical and social reach of the reptile trade (e.g., into remote areas), it can have significant impacts – both positive and negative – on cultural heritage. Empowerment theory plays and important role in this process. Respect for the devolution of rights over the ownership and utilisation of traditional natural resources is increasingly viewed as an essential prerequisite for positive sustainable development. This is particularly so with many of the unique upstream components of the reptile trade. Companies involved in the reptile trade are increasingly recognizing the importance of protecting, and where possible, promoting the unique cultural dimensions of the industry. By respecting the rights of, and strengthening relationships with, traditional hunting and farming communities wherever they operate, the reptile trade can play a powerful role in preserving cultural heritage and empowering formally disadvantaged rural communities.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

The reptile trade plays an active role in respecting and protecting the cultural heritage of communities and indigenous peoples.

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

3.4.1.	**General**	
3.4.1.1.	Facilities shall ensure that prior to the development of a new supply chain, or when there are significant changes to existing supply chains, a screening process is carried out to identify risks and potential impacts to cultural heritage from the proposed supply chain activities.	C
3.4.1.2.	Facilities shall ensure that mitigation measures are in place to prevent adverse impacts of sourcing on cultural heritage and values.	C
3.4.1.3.	Facilities shall ensure that policies and monitoring systems are in place to achieve and sustain income growth for hunters and/or small-scale producers at a rate that is higher than the national average	M
3.4.1.4.	Facilities shall demonstrate a commitment to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard cultural heritage	M

3.4.2.	Life Star	
3.4.2.1..	Facilities shall ensure that sourcing practices favour cultural groups with a legitimate history in hunting reptiles and utilising reptile products.	✪
3.4.2.2..	Sourcing practices depend on small-holder production systems (i.e., family owned and operated farms) and/or wild harvests.	✪
3.4.2.3.	Sourcing practices support democratic and sovereign livelihoods (e.g., independent businesses rather than corporate agribusiness)	✪

Principle 4 – Environmental Responsibility

In recent years, many businesses have realised that acting in an environmentally responsible way is more than just a legal duty. It increasingly affects the bottom line profitability and long-term success of this business. This is particularly so in the reptile trade, where environmental compliance is linked directly to some of the most pressing sustainability challenges facing the planet, such as the loss of biodiversity and diminishing natural resources. Environmental compliance in the reptile trade can bring direct and significant to both stakeholders and the wider environment. There are a range of environmental rules that all businesses have to follow. This section outlines only those pertaining to the upstream components of the reptile trade. It also outlines those requirements and activities that can assist the reptile trade in making net positive contributions to broader sustainable development initiatives and environmental protection.

Chapter 4.1 Energy and emissions

Background

Humans are increasingly influencing the climate and the earth's temperature by burning fossil fuels to produce energy. These activities release gases such as carbon dioxide that have the ability to trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Many of these gases also occur naturally, but human activity is increasing the concentrations of some of them in the atmosphere. Global concern over greenhouse gas emissions and climate change has spurred the establishment of targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are applicable in over 190 countries. The reptile trade is a relatively minor energy consumer and emitter of greenhouse gas emissions. Stakeholders can however reduce fuel and energy consumption and thereby cut costs and improve competitiveness by adopting best practices in energy efficiency and emissions reductions.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Climate change impacts are minimised through increased energy efficiency, reduced energy consumption and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases

Scope: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

4.1.1.	**General**	
4.1.1.1.	Facilities shall implement energy savings initiatives involving heat recovery, controlling boiling temperatures, optimisation of refrigeration etc.	M
4.1.1.2.	Facilities shall reduce refrigeration and heating losses through the use of insulation materials on facilities, enclosures, equipment and machinery.	M
4.1.1.3.	Facilities shall adhere to government policy guidelines for climate change adaption.	G

4.1.2.	**RRSS star**	
4.1.2.1	Facilities shall integrate climate change mitigation measures into facility policy and planning (e.g., commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reduction, net zero carbon emissions).	✪
4.1.2.2.	Facilities identify and describe operational processes that contribute towards climate change resilience (e.g., measures to mitigate impact of extreme weather events, disruptions in supply chains)	✪

Chapter 4.2 Waste Management

Background

The reptile trade involves some waste materials that, if mismanaged, create risks to human health, safety and the environment. Organic wastes from farms and processing facilities can be harmful to ecosystems if released into the environment. Although these wastes have the potential to contaminate air and soil, most of the risk lies in water contamination. There are, however, existing and emerging materials, technologies, and waste management practices that aim to prevent or greatly reduce the potential for contamination from hazardous wastes.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Wastes and materials are managed in a manner that minimizes their short- and long-term physical and chemical risks, and protects the health and safety of communities and future land and water uses.

Scope: This chapter is focused on farms and processing facilities but in some cases includes third parties.

4.2.1.	**General**	
4.2.1.1.	Facilities shall ensure that waste is disposed of according to national and local laws and regulations.	C
4.2.1.2.	Facilities shall demonstrate methods of storing, handling, segregating, treating and disposing of waste materials that do not pose a health and safety risk to workers, the community or the environment.	C
4.2.1.3.	Facilities shall ensure regular and appropriate cleaning protocols for all operational components to ensure waste is managed according to associated risks (e.g., killing area is cleaned daily, enclosures are cleaned weekly)	M

4.2.1.4.	Facilities shall carry out a screening and assessment of all processes to identify opportunities for waste minimisation.	M
4.2.1.5.	Facilities shall demonstrate efforts to recover valuable materials from waste streams (e.g., by-products, manure) and upcycle where possible.	G
4.2.1.6.	Facilities shall ensure that reptiles are processed as soon after they are killed as feasible.	C
4.2.1.7.	Waste disposal service providers and contractors dispose of waste in a manner that does not pose risks to natural ecosystems, drinking water supplies or people.	M
4.2.1.8.	Facilities ensure recycled waste is sorted and segregated according to national laws and local bylaws.	M
4.2.1.9.	Facilities may burn waste where no other suitable waste disposal options exist and provided no volatile or toxic substances are burned (e.g., rubber tyres, batteries).	M
4.2.1.10	Facility shall segregate and clearly label bins according to waste type.	G
4.2.1.11.	Facilities shall control flies, rodents and other pests through the use of non-toxic traps and screens.	G
4.2.2.	**Farms**	
4.2.2.1.	Livestock carcasses, or unprocessed derivatives thereof, shall not be fed to other livestock.	C
4.2.3.	**Life star**	
4.2.3.3.	Facilities shall recycle those materials suitable for recycling (e.g., hard plastics, metals, glass). Recyclable materials are stored in a designated area.	✪
2.2.3.4..	Where possible facilities shall compost organic waste for the production of fertilizer.	✪

Chapter 4.3. Water Management

Background

Farms and processing facilities can affect water quality through the discharge of waste water into the environment. The design and installation of systems to prevent surface and groundwater contamination is important. Responsible facilities can minimize water pollution by collecting waste water as close to the source as possible, and carefully controlling the discharge of treated waste water into the environment. The impacts of water used by facilities are location-specific, depending on the local climate as well as on competition for water for other uses. In more arid regions water scarcity may be a critical concern, whereas in high rainfall regions or areas where the water table is above the level of the facility, challenges arise from the need to divert water. Responsible operators should pursue collective actions to address shared water challenges and opportunities among diverse stakeholders, and should adopt approaches that lead to positive water governance outcomes for all stakeholders. Such proactive and collaborative identification of potential water quality and quantity issues and the development of suitable management strategies can help prevent negative water quality and quantity impacts.

DESIRED OUTCOME:
Water resources are managed in a manner that strives to protect current and future uses of water.

SCOPE: This chapter applies to farms and processing facilities.

4.3.1.	**General**	
4.3.1.1.	Processing facilities shall install fat interceptors on all drains and these shall be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.	M
4.3.1.2.	Facilities shall install grids to reduce the introduction of solid materials to the waste water drainage system and these shall be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.	M
4.3.1.3.	Facilities shall install equipment and processes (artificial or biological) to remove nutrients and organic load from waste water (e.g., water recycling plants)	C
4.3.1.4.	Facilities shall ensure that all processing areas have concrete floors graded to wash down drains.	M
4.3.1.5.	Facilities shall engage in energy-efficient and environment-friendly water recycling processes wherever possible. This includes settling lagoons, fishponds, wetlands and irrigation systems.	G
4.3.1.6.	Facilities shall ensure settling lagoons and ponds are dredged on a regular basis to ensure proper functioning.	G

4.3.1.7.	Facilities shall use compressed air as a means of separating reptile skins from meat rather than water.	G
4.3.1.8.	Facilities shall ensure that all cleaning and sterilisation agents are environment friendly, particularly in regards to aquatic ecosystems (e.g., non-toxic and biodegradable)	M

Chapter 4.4 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Background

Biodiversity and ecosystem services concern the total variety of living organisms and habitats that collectively contribute towards maintaining planetary health. Biodiversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. It is a central component of sustainability and provides for food security, human health, clean air and water, and contributes to local livelihoods and economic development. The farming and wild harvest of reptiles typically takes place in agricultural landscapes that are already heavily modified, but the industry as a whole is uniquely positioned to make direct positive contributions to the natural environment. This is because reptile production systems typically rely to some extent on functional ecosystems. For example, many python and lizard harvests rely on a prey base comprising several different species, and collectively these food webs make up simple but beneficial ecosystems. The reptile trade is one of the few industries that can successfully function in remote rural areas, and therefore frequently operates in close proximity to Protected Areas. Provided the industry respects Protected Areas, there exist numerous opportunities to conserve biodiversity through the promotion of nature-based livelihoods, job creation and the market-based preservation of wildlife resources. Through adherence to the standards, the reptile trade can proceed in a manner that directly supports global biodiversity and ecosystem services and nature based solutions to global challenges.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Biodiversity and the benefits of ecosystem services are protected and the industry makes direct contributions towards sustainable land use practices

Scope: This chapter applies to farms, processing facilities and hunters.

4.4.1.	**General**	
4.4.1.1.	The establishment of new facilities shall be preceded by an Environmental Impact Assessment.	M
4.4.1.2.	Hunting activities minimise disturbances to the natural environment (e.g., no litter, no lighting fires, no discarded trapping materials)	C

4.4.1.3.	Facilities shall ensure that hunting activities involving excavations and/or major disturbance to vegetation are not carried out adjacent streambanks, river bunds and other sensitive environments.	M
4.4.1.4.	Hunting activities do not contribute to the loss of natural ecosystems or vegetation.	M
4.4.2.	**Protected Areas**	
4.4.2.1.	Facilities shall identify those supply chains that source from within or around Protected Areas.	G
4.4.2.1.	Facilities shall maintain a register of supply chains and associated actors who source from in or around Protected Areas (e.g., name of National Park, hunter details)	G
4.4.2.2.	Hunting and other sourcing activities respect rules and regulations pertaining to Protected Areas.	M
4.4.2.3.	Passive capture techniques (i.e., traps, nets and snares) are not deployed in close proximity (~ <500 m) to Protected Areas where by-catch risks are elevated.	C
4.4.2.4.	Hunters operating in proximity to Protected Areas maintain a record of by-catch (may be included with standard livestock register)	G
4.4.3.	**Trapping**	
4.4.3.1.	Traps are designed and deployed in a manner that minimises by-catch of non-target species.	M
4.4.3.2.	Efforts are made to restore habitats that have been disturbed during capture and trapping activities.	M
4.4.3.3.	Trapping and hunting methods present no risk – direct or indirect - to threatened species.	M
4.4.4.	**Life star**	

4.4.4.1.	Facilities shall finance and incentivize sustainable use of natural resources (ecosystems and biodiversity) wherever possible following regenerative agriculture and nature-based principles.	✪
4.4.4.2.	Facilities shall identify and evaluate opportunities for partnerships and conservation actions that enhance the long-term sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.	✪
4.4.4.3.	Farms shall demonstrate efforts to utilise locally harvested pest rodents sourced from chemical-free agricultural landscapes as a feed input (i.e., play a role in ecological pest control).	✪
4.4.4.4.	Farms shall demonstrate efforts to recycle high quality protein waste products from agri-food chains (e.g., day old chicks, still born pigs, fish skins, poultry offal)	✪
4.4.4.5.	Facilities shall demonstrate efforts to maintain orchards and vegetable gardens in available greenspace (e.g., around waste-water settling ponds)	✪

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