



## RRSS TR001

### RRSS Technical Requirements

Version 1.0





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## Principle 1 - Responsible Business Practice

The RRSS is intended to be applicable to all types of farming 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 recognizes 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

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.



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
1.1.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS ON OWN OPERATIONS				
1.1.1.1	<p><b>OPERATING LEGAL REQUIREMENTS</b> Facilities shall comply with all applicable trade and commerce laws and regulations. This covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing facility: if applicable, processing licenses and permits.</li> <li>• Farm: wildlife farming, agricultural, and livestock laws and regulations, and processing licenses and permits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Observations:</b> Activities taking place are consistent with licenses and permits. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of and compliance with legal requirements pertaining to facility activities. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of appropriate licenses and permits and quota allowance. For example, government permission to operate a farm or livestock abattoir, or to harvest wild reptiles.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
1.1.1.2	<p><b>CONSERVATION LEGAL REQUIREMENTS</b> Facilities shall comply with applicable wildlife protection, protected areas, trade and animal welfare laws and regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processing facility: if applicable, national harvest and international trade restrictions, including, but not limited to, hunting and export quotas and size restrictions, and CITES export permits.</li> <li>• Farm: if applicable, wildlife farming and CITES export licenses and permits</li> </ul> <p><b>Observations:</b> Activities taking place are consistent with such laws and regulations. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of and compliance with applicable wildlife protection, protected areas, trade and animal welfare laws and regulations pertaining to facility activities. For example, conservation status of traded species and national livestock welfare laws.</p>	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> If applicable, evidence of current and valid CITES export permits, harvest quotas, etc.</p>			
1.1.1.3	<p><b>CUSTOMARY LAWS AND SOCIETAL NORMS</b> Facilities shall comply with local customary laws, traditional governance systems and other societal norms (e.g. respect cultural beliefs and traditional authorities).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Activities taking place are consistent with local customary laws, traditional governance systems and other societal norms. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of and compliance with local customs, cultural traditions, religious sensitivities and other non-legally binding regulations that may significantly impact the wellbeing of local communities. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of concerns associated with customary laws, traditional governance systems and other societal norms in grievance records.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
1.1.2 LEGAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS ON SUPPLY CHAIN				
1.1.2.1	<p><b>SUPPLIERS' RESPECT FOR APPLICABLE LAWS</b> Facilities shall verify that suppliers comply with national hunting, trapping, farming and processing laws (e.g. permits, licenses).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of legal requirements for hunting and trapping and conduct checks to ensure supplier compliance. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> If applicable, evidence of suppliers' permissions to harvest, farm, or process reptiles, landowner permissions, etc.</p>	C	ALL	All facilities with external suppliers



## Chapter 1.2. Chain of Custody

Chain of custody refers to practices observed in all steps in the supply chain that take possession of reptiles or reptile products, including farmers, harvesters, middlemen, processing facilities, transporters. It provides a record of the sequence of nodes that have custody of reptiles (or reptile products) as they move through a supply chain. Chain of custody allows to follow the trail of products along the supply chain and back to their origin and thereby validate certification, due diligence and/or responsible practice 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.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
1.2.1. RECORD KEEPING				
1.2.1.1	<p><b>FACILITY AND DIRECT SUPPLIERS' RECORD KEEPING</b></p> <p>Facilities shall maintain a complete, accurate and real-time updated stock and livestock register detailing all incoming and outgoing skins and/or live reptiles including as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival date / time</li> <li>• Number</li> <li>• Species</li> <li>• Supplier / customer name</li> <li>• Departure date / time (if receiving live reptiles from a farm)</li> </ul> <p>Farms shall also include number of eggs / neonates produced at the facility, mortalities, breeding records and sales.</p>	C	ALL	ALL



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Cross reference stock and livestock register with a sample of reptiles or skins on site and vice versa. For farms, estimate number of individuals / skins based on size of individuals / skins (e.g. mass or length/width), reproductive events (i.e. number of eggs/neonates produced at the facility), and mortalities.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a stock and livestock register (hardcopy or digital) with data capture fields as indicated in requirement.</p>			
1.2.1.2	<p><b>RECORD BACK UP &amp; RETENTION</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that records are readily retrievable, backed-up and retained for 3 years. Hard copies may be duplicated or digitised (scanned or photographed). Digital records may be backed up and held securely.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Those new to the scheme may not be able to demonstrate retention periods but must have system in place.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need for backup and retention.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of backup and intent to retain.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
1.2.1.3	<p><b>STOCKPILES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall catalogue and maintain records of stockpiles. Stockpile records are cross-referenced to the stock and livestock register.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Presence or absence of large volumes of skins in storage (i.e. number of stored skins is approximately greater than the total number of reptiles processed over a one-year period).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a catalogue of stockpiled skins that can be cross-referenced with a stock and livestock register (hardcopy or digital; see 1.2.1.1.).</p> <p>N/A permitted if facility only has skins sourced from the current supply season / year.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
1.2.2 TRACEABILITY				
1.2.2.1	<p><b>SUPPLY CHAIN KNOWLEDGE</b> Facilities shall maintain a stock and livestock register detailing the contact details of all sourcing nodes (e.g. harvesters, satellite farms) and transporters against and corresponding to each intake transactions.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a stock and livestock register (hardcopy or digital) detailing names and contact details of all direct and indirect suppliers (e.g. harvesters, transporters) associated with incoming skins and/or reptiles.</p>	M	ALL	All facilities with external suppliers
1.2.2.2	<p><b>DIGITAL TRACING SYSTEM</b> Facilities shall employ a digital record keeping system detailing the contact details of all sourcing nodes (e.g. harvesters, satellite farms) and transporters against and corresponding to each intake transactions.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of electronic stock and livestock register with online capabilities detailing names and contact details of all direct and indirect suppliers (e.g. harvesters, transporters) associated with incoming skins and/or reptiles.</p>	M	ALL	All facilities with external suppliers
1.2.2.3	<p><b>PHYSICAL TAGGING AT FACILITY FOR CITES-LISTED SPECIES DESTINED FOR EXPORT</b> Facilities shall employ a physical tracing system for CITES-listed species destined for export that is compatible with CITES requirements.</p>	M	CITES-listed species	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of physical tracing system employed on CITES-listed species destined for export. Evidence the system is compatible with CITES requirements (e.g. use of tamperproof tags fitted to all skins destined for export).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of and compliance with CITES requirements pertaining to facility activities. For example, CITES vs non-CITES species and associated export implications.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a stock and livestock register (digital or hardcopy) detailing outgoing CITES-listed products/livestock and import country. Evidence of CITES export paperwork.</p>		destined for export	
1.2.2.4	<p><b>PHYSICAL TAGGING AT SOURCE NODE</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure a physical tracing system that originates at source node (e.g. satellite farm, harvester) level.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of a physical tracing system used for incoming livestock. For example, incoming reptiles are accompanied by a tamper proof tag.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel have protocols in place to ensure harvesters are equipped and trained in the use of a physical tracing system.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a physical tracing system extending to harvester level in a livestock register. For example, incoming livestock entries are accompanied by a unique identification number.</p>	G	ALL	All facilities with external suppliers



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
1.2.3 SUPPLY CHAIN DUE DILIGENCE				
1.2.3.1	<p><b>FACILITY'S DIRECT FARM OR PROCESSING FACILITY SUPPLIERS' SELF-ASSESSMENT</b>            All facility's direct farm or processing facility suppliers of reptiles and/or skins have performed a self-assessment against the critical requirements of the RRSS at least every 24 months.</p>	C	ALL	Facilities supplied by other processing facility or farm
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of records showing all direct farm or processing facility suppliers have performed a self-assessment against the critical requirements of the RRSS within the last 24 months.</p>			
1.2.3.2	<p><b>FACILITY'S DIRECT FARM OR PROCESSING FACILITY SUPPLIERS' SELF-ASSESSMENT WITH CORRECTIVE ACTIONS</b>            All facility's direct farm or processing facility suppliers of reptiles and/or skins have shared their self-assessment against the critical requirements of the RRSS with the facility and the supplier has set up and monitors corrective actions.</p>	M	ALL	Facilities supplied by other processing facility or farm
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of self-assessments and corrective action plans of all direct farm or processing facility suppliers.</p>			
1.2.3.3	<p><b>FACILITY'S DIRECT FARM OR PROCESSING FACILITY SUPPLIERS' CERTIFICATION</b>            All facility's direct farm or processing facility suppliers of reptiles and/or skins have been certified against the RRSS.</p>	G	ALL	Facilities supplied by other processing facility or farm
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Certificates of all direct farm or processing facility suppliers.</p>			
1.2.3.4	<p><b>HARVESTER AWARENESS OF THE RRSS</b>            Facilities ensure harvesters are aware of the Technical Requirements of RRSS Appendix I.</p>	M	ALL	Wild Reptile



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of responsibilities surrounding information transfer to distal supply chain actors (e.g. Information surrounding Appendix I is relayed to harvesters via intermediary supply chain actors).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No repeat occurrences of reptiles arriving in poor condition logged in the livestock register.</p>			Processing Facility
1.2.3.5	<p><b>TRANSPORTER AWARENESS OF THE RRSS</b> Facilities ensure transporters are aware of the Technical Requirements RRSS Appendix II.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of responsibilities surrounding information transfer to proximate supply chain actors (e.g. transport personnel delivering reptiles to facility are aware of RRSS Appendix II).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No repeat occurrences of reptiles arriving in poor condition logged in the livestock register.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
1.2.3.6	<p><b>HARVESTER DUE DILIGENCE</b> The facility shall conduct a second party audit against the RRSS Appendix I on a sample of harvesters. The sample size shall equal no less than the square root of the total number of harvesters that are supplying the facility. These audits shall be carried out annually and shall prioritize those supplying the most reptiles/skins. Sampling shall avoid those transporters audited during the previous year.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Second-party audit reports and list of harvesters with numbers of reptiles/skins for the calculation of the square root.</p>	G	ALL	Wild Reptile Processing Facility



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
1.2.3.7	<p><b>TRANSPORTER DUE DILIGENCE</b></p> <p>The facility shall conduct a second party audit against the RRSS Appendix II on a sample of transporters. The sample size shall equal no less than the square root of the total number of transporters that are supplying the facility. These audits shall be carried out annually and shall prioritize those supplying the most reptiles/skins. Sampling shall avoid those transporters audited during the previous year.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Transporters could be involved at several levels of the supply chain.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Second-party audit reports and list of transporters with number of reptiles / skins for the calculation of the square root.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
1.2.3.8	<p><b>HARVESTER COMPLIANCE WITH DUE DILIGENCE</b></p> <p>All audited harvesters comply with at least all Critical <u>AND</u> Major requirements of the RRSS Appendix I.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Second-party audit reports showing compliance with Critical and Major requirements for all second party audited harvesters.</p>	G	ALL	Wild Reptile Processing Facility
1.2.3.9	<p><b>TRANSPORTER COMPLIANCE WITH DUE DILIGENCE</b></p> <p>All audited transporters comply with at least all Critical <u>AND</u> Major requirements of the RRSS Appendix I.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> second-party audit reports showing compliance with Critical and Major requirements for all second party audited transporters.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
1.2.3.10	<p><b>RRSS MONITORING OF AQUATIC SNAKES SUPPLIERS</b></p> <p>Facilities shall have a system in place to monitor aquatic snakes entering the 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).</p>	M	Aquatic snakes	Wild Reptile Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of RRSS considerations regarding aquatic snakes sourced as bycatch from fisheries. Regular checks to ensure proximate stakeholders (e.g. buyers/transporters) are familiar with relevant RRSS standards (e.g. legal, welfare of aquatic reptiles) and these are encouraged and upheld wherever possible. (N/A permitted – either where no aquatic snakes are processed or where none are received from fisheries bycatch)</p>			

### Chapter 1.3. Conservation Monitoring

The sustainable use of reptile populations depends on controlled rates of offtake. Proper regulation of harvests ensures stable 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.



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
1.3.1 DATA ACCESS TO MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES				
1.3.1.1	<p><b>AVAILABILITY OF MONITORING DATA TO AUTHORITIES</b> Facilities must make monitoring data available to relevant government and regulatory authorities when required and within timebound requirements.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of harvest monitoring and the role of government and regulatory authorities in supporting sustainable trade. Permissions are granted where necessary.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of well-maintained records relating to harvest monitoring.</p>	C	ALL	Wild Reptile Processing Facility
	<p><b>ACCESS GRANTED TO AUTHORITIES FOR MONITORING</b> Facilities shall allow access for government approved independent monitoring of demographic (e.g., age and sex) and morphometric (e.g. snout vent length, total length, width and mass) parameters from a random sample of incoming livestock.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of harvest monitoring and the role of technical experts in supporting sustainable trade. Permissions granted for authorized independent experts to access the facility to process a random sample of incoming livestock for demographic and morphometric data.</p>			
1.3.2 DATA COLLECTION BY FACILITIES				
1.3.2.1	<p><b>WILD-HARVESTED REPTILES MONITORING BY FACILITY</b> Facilities receiving wild-harvested reptiles shall complete the livestock register on incoming reptiles with an estimate of body length and/or mass, and the geographic and temporal sourcing of the direct supplier.</p>	M	ALL	Wild Reptile Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a livestock register (hardcopy or digital) detailing all incoming wild-harvested reptiles with data capture fields as indicated in requirement.</p>			
1.3.2.2	<p><b>WILD-HARVESTED REPTILES ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY FACILITY</b> Facilities receiving wild-harvested reptiles shall complete the livestock register on incoming reptiles with method of capture, details of habitat, and harvester name and contact details.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a livestock register (hardcopy or digital) detailing all incoming wild-harvested reptiles with data capture fields as indicated in requirement.</p>	G	All	Wild Reptile Processing Facility
1.3.2.3	<p><b>FARMED REPTILES MONITORING BY FACILITY</b> Facilities shall demonstrate evidence of on-site production and/or legal acquisition of livestock.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of legitimate on-site production of species and quantities. For example, eggshells corresponding to number of neonates, incubator facilities corresponding to eggs or neonates. No evidence of opportunities for laundering (e.g. concurrent legal wild harvests and captive close-cycle production).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of receipts and permits for livestock transactions.</p>	C	ALL	Farm



## Principle 2 – Animal Welfare

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

The RRSS Animal Welfare Module is designed with reference to the Five Domains Model for animal welfare :

**1. Nutrition**

Reptiles have access to sufficient feed and water suited to the reptiles' 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 behavior.

**3. Health**

Reptiles are managed in a way that promotes good health and prevents disease. Sick or injured reptiles are treated. Husbandry and handling operations are conducted in a way that minimizes pain and distress.

**4. Behaviour**

Reptiles are managed in a way to ensure conditions and treatment are suitable to allow typical behaviours.

**5. Mental state**

Reptiles are free from thirst, hunger, anxiety, fear, pain, and distress.



## Chapter 2.1. Handling

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

### DESIRED OUTCOME

Good human-reptile relationships are in place and reptiles are handled in a way that is safe and protects the welfare of both reptiles and staff.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.1.1. GENERAL				
2.1.1.1.	<p><b>MUTILATIONS</b> Reptiles shall never be defanged, have their mouths sewn shut, limbs pierced, or be intentionally mutilated in any way.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Defanging and sewing mouths shut occasionally occur with venomous species in the reptile meat industry (e.g. retail of live snakes, live demonstrations). Nose rub around the mouth is an indicator of prolonged escape behavior rather than intentional mutilations evidence of which would be raised against a different requirement, dependent on cause.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of injury to the mouth region or limbs. Scales around the lips appear smooth and clean. No puncture wounds or signs of blood or scabbing around the limbs.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of receiving reptiles demonstrate an understanding of welfare requirements relating to mutilations.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.1.1.2.	<p><b>SUPPORT WHILST HANDLING</b></p> <p>During handling, the body weight of the reptile shall be well supported and controlled at all times using appropriate force to restrain the reptile in a way that minimizes risk of injury or stress.</p> <p>Large-bodied reptiles (<math>\geq 5</math> kg) shall be well supported at two or more points along the body.</p> <p>Snakes less than 5 kg and monitor lizards may be held by the base of the tail or neck for extremely short periods (e.g. moving from trap to containment) and not fully off the ground.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being dangled by the head or distal portion of the tail. No evidence of physical discomfort. The reptiles body movements are controlled in a calm and purposeful manner at all times.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>			
2.1.1.3.	<p><b>PROHIBITED ACTIONS</b></p> <p>The reptile shall never be dropped, thrown, or dragged.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles or enclosures containing reptiles being dropped, dragged, or thrown.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>			
2.1.1.4.	<p><b>SNAKE BINDINGS</b></p> <p>The mouth of snakes shall never be tied shut. They may be taped shut only for the duration of handling, providing there are no signs of abrasions, lacerations or excessive pressure (e.g., swelling due to blood flow restriction).</p>	M	Snake	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of tying of snake mouths to restrict biting/movement. The snout of large snakes shows no evidence of distortion, swelling or discoloration / abrasion due to binding.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding that bindings are not permitted.</p>			
2.1.1.5.	<p><b>LIZARD BINDINGS</b></p> <p>The mouth and limbs of lizards may be taped, tied, or otherwise bound provided methods and duration are in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bound limbs should lie alongside the body, not above the back (e.g. limbs are connected by a length of material and not bound together).</li> <li>Materials and methods do not cause abrasions, lacerations or excessive pressure (e.g. swelling due to blood flow restriction).</li> <li>Duration lasts no longer than 3 days.</li> </ul> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of blockage of the nostrils. No evidence of distortion to jaw alignment or tongue flicking. The toes and limbs of monitor lizards show no signs of fresh, symmetrical injuries to both left and right limbs due to binding.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of binding protocols.</p>	M	Lizard	ALL
2.1.1.6.	<p><b>REDUCING STRESS</b></p> <p>Reptiles shall be handled as little as possible and moved in a calm manner that minimizes the risk of stress and injury.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of excessive or unnecessary handling of reptiles. Handled reptiles appear calm and display minimal aggressive body movements. Practices extend up to and including the point of killing. Stress related hissing and voiding of the bowls is the exception rather than the rule.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>	G	ALL	ALL



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.1.1.7.	<p><b>NO INVERSION</b> Reptiles shall not be turned upside down unless for research or veterinary purposes. Grading should be completed with reptiles in a supported vertical plane.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Many snakes and show signs of stress when held upside down. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being turned upside down unless for research or veterinary purposes. <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>BITE RELEASE</b> Best practice protocols shall be followed when dislodging reptiles which hold on after biting, to minimize stress and injury to the reptile. (see Appendix 3 for guidance). <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of bite treatment protocols including techniques for minimizing stress and injury to the reptile.</p>			
2.1.1.9	<p><b>PASSIVE HANDLING</b> In the case of venomous reptiles, passive handling systems shall be used wherever possible, minimizing contact between the reptile and handler.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of passive capture and handling systems and techniques used in the management of venomous reptiles (e.g. bagging systems, shift boxes). A safe distance is maintained between the handler and the reptile at all times during handling (e.g., use of specialist tools). <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols for venomous reptiles.</p>	G	Venomous Reptiles	ALL



## Chapter 2.2. Standards for Processing Facilities

Holding areas can occur for any number of reasons and at virtually any point in the supply chains. Most holding areas occur at the processing facilities to which reptiles are brought to be humanely killed. However, holding areas may also be found in the homes / buildings of harvesters' and collectors', or at the facilities of agents or middlemen whilst reptiles are aggregated prior to transport.

### DESIRED OUTCOME

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

Note: The actions of upstream actors (e.g. harvesters and transporters) lie outside the control of processing facilities, but processing facilities are responsible for ensuring that the condition of the reptiles entering facilities is consistent with RRSS protocols.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.2.1. GENERAL				
2.2.1.1.	<b>REPTILE RECEPTION ASSESSMENTS</b> Reptiles shall be assessed on arrival at the processing facilities. If reptiles arrive in poor condition, the processing facility shall record this in the livestock register and have a system in place to make the supplier aware of the failing and that improvements must be made to continue supplying reptiles.	<b>C</b>	ALL	Processing Facility



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that all deliveries are assessed on arrival and that those conducting the assessment are aware of the standards expected.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the standards pertaining to transporters and harvesters.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register clearly indicates where reptiles have been received in poor condition.</p>			
2.2.1.2.	<p><b>REPTILE RECEPTION MITIGATION PLANS</b> The processing facility shall monitor incidences of reptiles arriving in poor condition and ensure effective mitigation plans are in place, including conducting due diligence audits of the suppliers involved.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Cross reference livestock register with records of mitigation plans and due diligence audits. N/A permitted if facility has no external suppliers.</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.3.	<p><b>HUMANE KILLING OF REPTILES IN POOR CONDITION</b> Severely malnourished and/or dehydrated reptiles shall be humanely killed upon detection.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of emaciated (body score &lt;2) or severely dehydrated reptiles.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of body condition and hydration scoring and have the authority to take appropriate action.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.4.	<p><b>DESIGNATED HOLDING AREA</b> Facilities temporarily holding reptiles shall do so in a designated holding room or holding area.</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Standards must be consistent with, and accommodate, climatic variations (inclusive of extreme weather events) and peak production volumes. All possible production scenarios must be considered during the audit process.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of a designated room or area where reptiles are held. This area is set apart from regular operations.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the need for a designated area, understanding the correlation between reduced disturbance and improved welfare.</p>			
2.2.1.5.	<p><b>DARKENED HOLDING AREA</b> Holding areas shall be darkened to aid in reducing stress.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of attempts to dampen visual stressors (e.g. human activity) without compromising air flow or thermal flux. Examples include darkened rooms and shade cloth coverings.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of how reduced visual stimuli can improve welfare.</p>	G	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.6.	<p><b>CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT</b> Reptiles shall be held in free-draining, ventilated bags or crates (unless species is aquatic and held in water), or other escape-proof containment . Recycled agri-food bags (e.g. sacks used for grain and fertilizer storage) shall not be used.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of secure, free-draining and well-ventilated containment. No evidence of recycled agri-food bags being used. Industrial grade mesh bags and plastic 'fruit' crates are industry standard but numerous satisfactory alternatives exist.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.2.1.7.	<p><b>CONTAINMENT CONDITION</b> Containments shall be in good condition, reducing the risk to the reptile(s) of abrasion, entanglement or entrapment.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that containments are clean, well maintained and fit for purpose. No evidence of unhygienic conditions or faults (e.g. holes and loose threads in bags, breaks and sharp projections in crates).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility
	<p><b>TEMPERATURE</b> Holding areas shall allow reptiles to be held at ambient temperatures between 20°C and 33°C with equipment available to cool or heat to maintain these temperatures when required. The only exception is for the final 12 hours prior to killing, when reptiles may be cooled to 15°C.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles held at temperatures above 33°C or below 20°C without action being taken, unless in last 12 hours before killing.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare and temperature thresholds.</p>			
2.2.1.9	<p><b>THERMAL COMFORT</b> The physiological state of reptiles shall be assessed on arrival and individuals afforded thermal consideration according to their physiological needs (see guidance).</p>	S	All	Processing Facility



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that reptiles are housed according to specific thermal needs. Reptiles that have recently fed (e.g., mid-body swelling), are shedding (e.g., opaque eyes) or females that are gravid (e.g., lower body swelling) are afforded the opportunity to thermoregulate. Remaining reptiles are maintained at the cooler end of their preferred thermal range.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the specific thermal requirements of reptiles according to species- and physiology-specific needs.</p>			
2.2.1.10.	<p><b>DIRECT SUNLIGHT</b> Reptiles shall not be held in direct sunlight or exposed to hot surfaces.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Sunlight can be beneficial to reptiles in certain contexts, but exposure to direct tropical sunlight and sun-warmed surfaces can rapidly and severely compromise reptile welfare.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being exposed to these situations or conditions, except during the actual process of offloading or moving.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare, temperature thresholds and direct sunlight.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.11.	<p><b>DAMP CONDITIONS</b> Reptiles shall not be held in damp conditions (unless aquatic species held in water) for prolonged periods of time.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of terrestrial species being exposed to wet or damp conditions for prolonged periods. Periodic wetting to hydrate reptiles does not result in stagnant pools that persist for more than 12 hours.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare and damp conditions.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.2.1.12.	<p><b>PROXIMITY TO STRESSORS</b>  Reptiles shall not be held in close proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. fuel), vibrations (e.g. operating machinery) or excessive activity (e.g. public thoroughfare).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Although reptile senses are very different from human senses, for the purpose of the RRSS we consider them similar, If the stimulus is detectable to humans, its detectable to reptiles.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence reptiles are held in olfactory proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. smell of fuel), physical proximity to vibrations (e.g. ground vibrations of generator) or visual proximity to excessive activity (e.g. line of sight dominated by a public thoroughfare).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between key stress stimuli and reptile welfare.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility
	<p><b>HOLDING PERIOD DURATION</b>  Reptiles shall be held for no longer than two weeks, except for large boas and pythons (&gt;5kg) that may be held for up to four weeks.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Cross reference sample of current stock with livestock register. Holding area arranged and managed to ensure the use of a 'first in, first out' system.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the duration requirements.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register details arrivals and departures.</p>			
2.2.1.13.	<p><b>WATER ON ARRIVAL</b>  Reptiles shall be offered clean (potable) fresh water on arrival at the holding facility.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of dehydrated or severely dehydrated reptiles.  <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of appropriate hydration methods (e.g., spray bags with water, soak bags in shallow basin).</p>			
2.2.1.15.	<p><b>WATER FREQUENCY</b>            Reptiles shall be offered water at least once a week.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of dehydrated reptiles.  <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of appropriate hydration methods and frequency.            N/A permitted if nothing held for more than one week.</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.16.	<p><b>STOCKING DENSITY</b>            Stocking systems and densities shall be such that individuals are able to adjust their position to prevent risks to welfare.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Soft walled containments (e.g. material bags) may naturally compress contents when raised off the ground. This is not necessarily a sign of overstocking.  <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of overstocking in holding areas. No signs of 'crushing' or undue discomfort. Reptiles should be able to adjust their body position with ease.  <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the importance of appropriate stocking systems and densities.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.17.	<p><b>SPECIES AND SIZE SEPARATION</b>            Species and size classes shall be separated such that it prevents risks to welfare. The variation in length within any group should be no greater than 25% of the mean length (i.e. Mean +/- 12.5% of the mean).</p>	M	ALL	Processing Facility



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of mixing of species and size is within required size band.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the importance of not mixing species and sizes.</p>			
2.2.1.18.	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF DISEASE RISKS</b></p> <p>Senior personnel shall be aware of the risks posed by the spread of disease and a protocol for isolation, treatment, and sanitization shall be in place in the event of a disease being detected.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of risks posed by infectious diseases (including zoonosis) and can explain the protocol.</p>	G	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.19.	<p><b>MONITORING FREQUENCY</b></p> <p>In cases where reptiles are held for more than three days, they shall be inspected once every three days to monitor health and wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of inspections taking place, where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the need for inspection protocols and explain how and when they are conducted.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Check livestock register to see whether any reptiles are held for more than 3 days. N/A permitted if nothing held for more than 3 days.</p>	G	ALL	Processing Facility
2.2.1.20.	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF SICK OR INJURED REPTILES</b></p> <p>Sick or injured reptiles shall be either treated, using proper approaches for the condition, or euthanized.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of treatment for any sick or injured reptiles being held.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the need to treat or euthanize sick or injured reptiles upon detection.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register details mortalities and circumstances surrounding death.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.2.1.21.	<b>MANAGEMENT OF DEAD REPTILES</b> Dead reptiles shall be removed upon detection.	M	ALL	Processing Facility
	<b>Observations:</b> No evidence of dead reptiles or evidence that they are not removed upon detection. <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of the management of dead reptiles.			
2.2.1.22.	<b>MANAGEMENT OF UNWANTED EGGS AND NEONATES</b> Unwanted eggs and neonates shall be euthanized humanely and disposed of using an appropriate method.	C	ALL	Wild Reptile Processing Facility
	<b>Observations:</b> No evidence of eggs or neonates being inappropriately discarded. Boiling of eggs is an acceptable method of euthanasia. Killing of neonates follows standard humane killing protocols. <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of protocols regarding eggs and neonates (e.g. humane destruction) and the reasons for these.			
2.2.2. AQUATIC SNAKES				
2.2.2.1.	<b>HYDRATION FREQUENCY</b> Aquatic snakes held in crates or bags shall be watered daily to prevent dehydration.	C	Aquatic Snakes	Processing Facility
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence that aquatic snakes held in crates and/or bags are watered daily. Individuals appear well hydrated and clean. <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of aquatic snake management protocols.			
2.2.2.2.	<b>STOCKING DENSITY</b> Aquatic snakes held in water shall be able to fully submerge and rest unobstructed at the water's surface.	M	Aquatic Snakes	Processing Facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that aquatic snakes held in water are able to fully submerge and rest unobstructed at the water's surface.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of aquatic snake management protocols.</p>			
2.2.2.3.	<p><b>WATER CHANGE FREQUENCY</b> Aquatic snakes held in water shall have their water changed on a regular basis to maintain a healthy environment.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of foul-smelling water used to house water snakes.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of holding areas demonstrate an understanding of aquatic snake management protocols.</p>	M	Aquatic Snakes	Processing Facility

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### Chapter 2.3. Standards for Captive Breeding and Rearing of Reptiles

Productivity in the reptile farming industry is closely linked to welfare standards. 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 promote reptile wellbeing in terms of survival, growth, and reproduction. Most successful reptile farms 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.

**DESIRED OUTCOME**

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

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
2.3.1. GENERAL				
2.3.1.1.	<p><b>REPTILE RECEPTION ASSESSMENTS</b>                      Reptiles shall be assessed on arrival. If reptiles arrive in poor condition, this shall be recorded in the livestock register and the farm shall have a system in place to make the transporter aware of the failing and that improvements must be made in order to continue supplying reptiles.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of major physical injuries, burns or other signs consistent with prohibited sourcing practices. Reptiles appear in good body condition and are free from chemical odors (e.g. petrol).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of transport protocols and sourcing policies.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register clearly indicates where reptiles have been received in poor condition.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS receiving reptiles from other farms.



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.1.2.	<p><b>REPTILE RECEPTION MITIGATION PLANS</b></p> <p>The farm shall monitor the incidence of reptiles arriving in poor condition and ensure effective mitigation plans are put in place, including conducting due diligence audits against the transporter involved.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS receiving reptiles from other farms.
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Cross reference livestock register with records of mitigation plans and due diligence audits.</p>			
2.3.1.3.	<p><b>ENCLOSURE SIZE AND DESIGN</b></p> <p>Facilities and enclosures shall be of a size and design that provides for normal physiological functions and critical behavioral activities (e.g., perches for arboreal species).</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>Notes:</b> Considerable variation exists among species. Species-specific knowledge is essential for correct interpretation.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of unstressed and healthy reptiles. Reptiles are in good body condition and are able to move freely throughout the enclosure without obstruction from other individuals.</p> <p>In the case of large pythons (&gt; 5 kg), the minimum floor space should be approximately double the area occupied by the snake.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of reptile welfare requirements related to housing.</p>			
2.3.1.4.	<p><b>ENCLOSURE DESIGN TO PREVENT INJURY</b></p> <p>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), and the absence of structures that may result in injury or entrapment.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of well-constructed enclosures comprised of non-abrasive materials and smooth joints.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the reasons for the design of enclosures in relation to welfare.</p>			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.1.5.	<p><b>ENCLOSURE MAINTENANCE</b> Equipment and enclosures shall be in good working order and maintained on a regular basis to prevent risk of injury.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of well-maintained enclosures free from faults. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of ongoing enclosure maintenance activities and fault checking practices.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>PROTECTION FROM PESTS AND PREDATORS</b> Reptiles shall be protected from pests and predators (e.g. ants, rats, feral cats).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of ectoparasites (e.g. ticks, mites), insect pests (e.g. ants, cockroaches) or predators (e.g. rodents, feral dogs and cats). If applicable, evidence of appropriate control measures (chemical or physical). <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of pest and predator risks and control measures.</p>			
2.3.1.7.	<p><b>PROXIMITY TO STRESSORS</b> Reptiles shall not be housed close to excessive vibrations (e.g. operating machinery), chemical pollution, or human activity (e.g. thoroughfares).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Although reptile senses are very different to human senses, for the purpose of the RRSS we consider them similar, If the stimulus is detectable to humans, its detectable to reptiles. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence reptiles are held in olfactory proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. smell of fuel), physical proximity to vibrations (e.g. ground vibrations of generator) or visual proximity to excessive activity (e.g. line of sight dominated by a public thoroughfare). <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between key stress stimuli and reptile welfare.</p>	C	ALL	ALL FARMS
	2.3.1.8.			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of regular cleaning. No evidence of manure buildup or unmanaged waste. No smell of sewer gases (e.g., ammonia and hydrogen sulfide).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of hygiene requirements.</p>			
2.3.2. GENERAL HUSBANDRY				
2.3.2.1.	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS</b> Exposure to sun, rain, drafts and humidity shall be managed according to individual and species needs.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Exposure to the elements can be beneficial to reptiles in certain contexts, but exposure to direct tropical sunlight or heavy rainfall for prolonged periods can rapidly and severely compromise reptile welfare.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of consideration for species-specific environmental parameters. Evidence of protection from extreme environmental conditions or the ability for all individuals to seek suitable shelter within the enclosure.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare and climatic conditions and the element of choice.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3. 2.2.	<p><b>LIGHTING</b> Reptiles shall have access to full light and complete darkness during the daylight hours (e.g. provision of shelters, basking areas) and complete darkness during the night time hours.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that all individuals have access to full light and complete darkness during the daylight hours and complete darkness during the night time hours. These conditions are typically met (but not always) by the provision of hides (i.e. micro shelters) where reptiles can access confined spaces that mimic underground burrows, thick vegetation etc.</p>	S	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.2.3.	<p><b>REMOVAL OF FEED AND FECES</b> Enclosures shall be clean and free from leftover feed and feces, and consistent with routine management schedules.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of effective routine cleaning activities with no evidence of a build up of leftover feed or feces. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of hygiene requirements.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF DEAD REPTILES</b> Dead reptiles shall be removed upon detection.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence decaying reptiles. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of protocols pertaining to removal of dead reptiles.</p>			
2.3.2.5.	<p><b>EQUIPMENT HYGIENE</b> Equipment which comes into contact with reptiles, shall be disinfected between batches of reptiles and following illness, using a non-toxic disinfectant (e.g. 3% bleach).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> A non-toxic disinfectant is available. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding protocols pertaining to when and how to disinfect equipment.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>MONITORING FREQUENCY</b> Inspections shall be carried out on at least a weekly basis by an experienced or qualified individual to assess reptile health, condition, and environmental parameters with remedial action being taken where necessary.</p>			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No conditions that should have been identified and acted upon.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of weekly inspections to assess risks to reptile welfare. Who carries out the assessments and what parameters they are looking for, ideally including accurate condition scoring of a representative sample and measurement of key environmental variables (e.g., thermometer to measure temperature). When is remedial action required?</p>			
2.3.2.7.	<p><b>VULNERABLE REPTILES</b> Reptiles that are gravid, shedding, and recently fed reptiles shall not be handled as standard practice.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of non-essential handling of reptiles that are gravid (i.e. visibly swollen with eggs or young), have recently fed (e.g. noticeable mid-body bulge) or are in a shedding cycle (e.g. opaque eyes).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of handling reptiles demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols for vulnerable reptiles.</p>	G	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.2.8.	<p><b>QUARANTINE</b> New arrivals shall be quarantined for at least 40 days , according to veterinary protocols. The quarantine facilities shall be designed and managed to ensure all critical requirements of the RRSS are met.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of quarantine facilities and biosecurity measures governing access.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of protocols regarding livestock acquisitions and quarantining.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register detailing stock acquisitions, including source.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS receiving reptiles from other farms.
2.3.2.9.	<p><b>STOCKING DENSITY</b> Stocking densities shall allow reptiles to move freely and unrestricted by other individuals.</p>	C	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Reptiles often aggregate or clump together to buffer against thermal flux. This behavior should not be mistaken for overstocking.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that reptiles can move freely about the enclosure and there are no signs of 'crushing' or hindrance by other individuals.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of stocking density requirements.</p>			
2.3.2.10.	<p><b>SIZE SEPARATION</b></p> <p>Unless for breeding purposes, reptiles shall be housed in similar size cohorts. Size classes shall be graded on a regular basis to ensure the variation in mass within any group should be no greater than 25% of the mean length (i.e. Mean +/- 12.5% of the mean).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of mixing of size classes in enclosures. No more than 25% size difference among individuals except in the case of breeding sexually size dimorphic species.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of size class grading.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.2.11.	<p><b>BIOSECURITY</b></p> <p>Biosecurity procedures shall be in place when there is a high risk of disease spread, i.e. staff moving from quarantine enclosures or enclosures with suspected outbreak of infectious disease.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Biosecurity procedures being used where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness and understanding of when and what biosecurity procedures are required.</p> <p>Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of what biosecurity procedures are required.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
2.3.3. TEMPERATURE				
2.3.3.1.	<p><b>AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF TEMPERATURE</b> Farm staff shall demonstrate an awareness of the importance of temperature as a critical welfare parameter.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Reptiles rely on variable temperatures to maintain optimal body condition. Typically this is achieved by shuttling between micro-habitats (e.g. basking in full sun vs underground burrow). <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel demonstrate an understanding of the role of temperature relative to reptile health and welfare.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>TEMPERATURE RANGES</b> Farms shall ensure that appropriate housing temperatures are based on species, size class, and physiological condition.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Reptiles have the ability to thermoregulate as required. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of species specific temperature requirements and set protocols accordingly.</p>			
2.3.3.3.	<p><b>EQUIPMENT TO MANAGE TEMPERATURE RANGE</b> Artificial heating and cooling systems may be used provided they do not present a welfare risk. Electronic components (wires, elements, and connectors) shall be waterproof (IP55 or greater) and protected from direct contact with reptiles by physical guards or barriers.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Reptiles have the ability to thermoregulate as required. <b>Interviews</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of species specific temperature requirements and set protocols accordingly. N/A if no equipment used.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.3.4.	<b>THERMOREGULATION</b> Reptiles shall be provided with an unrestricted ability to thermoregulate across a 10°C or more thermal differential.	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of enclosures incorporating thermocline ranging from ambient minimum (coolest point in facility, typically well aerated deep shade cooled by evaporative cooling) to a temperature that exceeds that which may be desired by the reptiles based on physiological state.			
2.3.4. WATER AND HUMIDITY				
2.3.4.1.	<b>WATER AVAILABILITY</b> Reptiles shall have access to clean (potable), fresh water on a regular basis, and at least once a week.	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of well-hydrated reptiles. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to describe how and when water is supplied.			
2.3.4.2.	<b>WATER CONDITION</b> Aquatic species shall be housed in clean fresh water, or in semi-natural environments (e.g. abundant aquatic vegetation for bio-filtration).	<b>M</b>	Aquatic snakes	ALL FARMS
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of aquatic species being held in clean, fresh water or in natural or semi-natural environments that include biological water filtration systems. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to describe how the water is managed to ensure clean conditions are maintained.			
2.3.4.3.	<b>HUMIDITY</b> Terrestrial reptiles shall be provided with an enriched humidity environment that ranges from hot dry niches (relative humidity <10%) to cool moist niches (relative humidity >80%).	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of enclosures incorporating a diversity of humidity niches. Evidence of sufficient space for all individuals to simultaneously access all available niches. Evidence of high humidity (i.e. wet) niches and low humidity niches (i.e. dry) Wet areas may include a container large enough for 10% of individuals to fully submerge at the same time.</p>			
2.3.5. NUTRITION				
2.3.5.1.	<p><b>LIVE PREY</b> Live prey animals shall never be offered as standard practice but may be given for the well-being of particular reptiles that otherwise refuse to feed.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Feeding live prey was once common but is now largely a legacy issue due to selective breeding and the development of artificial diets and feeding techniques. This transition varies across the industry but may be less evident in smaller, more remote facilities. Due consideration is required in the audit process to ensure equity.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of live prey being offered to reptiles as standard practice.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of ethical issues pertaining to feeding of live prey to reptiles and able to explain under what circumstances live prey may be used and the frequency of occurrence.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.5.2.	<p><b>FEEDING FREQUENCY</b> Reptiles shall be fed at a frequency and volume appropriate to species, size, body condition, and prevailing climatic conditions.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of healthy reptiles in good body condition in all size classes and age groups.  <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of species and size specific feeding frequency and meal size.            Farm personnel are able to explain the feeding routine for different age / size groups.</p>			
2.3.5.3.	<p><b>NUTRIENT BALANCE</b>            Diets shall be nutritionally balanced with the appropriate macro and micro nutrient profile.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of healthy reptiles in good body condition.  <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of science-based nutritional requirements including macro (e.g. protein, fat) and micro (e.g. vitamin and mineral supplements) nutrients.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.5.4.	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF FROZEN FEED</b>            Frozen feed is stored to maintain nutritional quality and fed in a way that ensures nutrients are readily available to the reptile.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence freezers are in good working order. No visual or olfactory evidence of decomposition. Stock is used in date order to reduce likelihood of degradation of nutrients.  <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain the method for thawing frozen feed.  <b>N/A permitted if no frozen feed used.</b></p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.5.5.	<p><b>FEED RECORDS</b>            Records shall be kept of feed and feed supplement type, source and date of receipt.</p> <p><b>Observation:</b> Cross reference stock with register to verify register is current and accurately maintained.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Feed register maintained.</p>	G	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.5.6.	<p><b>FEED STORAGE HYGIENE</b> Feed storage and feed management shall be carried out under hygienic conditions. Feeds are stored at appropriate temperatures and feed preparation facilities are thoroughly cleaned after use.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of clean, hygienic and well managed feed management systems. No evidence of facilities or equipment representing a contamination risks or risk to environmental health. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain the protocol for storage and preparation of feed.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>REMOVAL OF UNEATEN FEED</b> Uneaten feed shall be removed from an enclosure within twelve hours.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of putrid, stale or decomposing feed in enclosures. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm Personnel are able to explain the protocol for removing uneaten feed. N/A if feeding is always supervised / assisted.</p>			
2.3.5.8.	<p><b>FORCED AND ASSISTED FEEDING</b> Force-feeding shall not be permitted except for therapeutic purposes. Assisted-feeding is permitted providing the snake voluntarily initiates the feeding process.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> There is no evidence of force feeding as a standard practice in commercial reptile farms. It was historically used to ensure the survival of wild caught snakes that refused to eat. More recently it has been used to facilitate body condition in neonates and genetically valuable stock. Assist feeding - the act of manipulating feed items (typically sausages) to assist ease of swallowing - is permitted.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of force-feeding as standard practice. Force feeding is only carried out on individuals with a body condition score of 2 or less. In cases of assist feeding, evidence of the snake voluntarily initiating the feeding process by opening its mouth in an attempt to proactively swallow the feed item.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the difference between forced and assisted feeding and explain when each may be used.</p>			
2.3.5.9.	<p><b>MITIGATING COMPETITION AND INGESTION OF FOREIGN OBJECTS</b></p> <p>Reptiles shall be able to ingest feed with minimal competition from other individuals and with minimal risk of ingesting foreign objects.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of feed conflict between reptiles. Feed is delivered such that there is no direct competition between enclosure occupants (e.g. fed individually or <i>ad libitum</i>). Evidence that feed is presented on a clean surface free from foreign particles that may be accidentally ingested.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain how reptiles are fed to avoid competition / conflict and what provisions are made to reduce accidental ingestion of foreign objects.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
2.3.6. BREEDING				
2.3.6.1.	<p><b>SEXING METHODS</b> Sexing of reptiles, using invasive methods, shall only be carried out by sufficiently trained and experienced personnel. Non-invasive methods are preferred.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of species specific sexing methods and conditions of use for available methods.</p>	M	ALL	FARMS with breeding stock
	2.3.6.2.			
2.3.6.3.	<p><b>MALE COMBAT</b> For species where male combat is known, enclosures shall not house more than one reproductively active male during the breeding season.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of male combat in reproductively active reptiles. Evidence of management of reproductive activities according to species specific needs.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need for male partitioning where necessary (e.g. reticulated python). N/A permitted for species where male combat is not a trait.</p>	C	ALL	FARMS with breeding stock



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.6.4.	<b>EGG LAYING ENVIRONMENT</b> Gravid reptiles shall be provided a suitable and secluded environment to lay eggs (e.g. a humid environment, with access to a soft substrate).	<b>C</b>	ALL	FARMS with breeding stock
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of provision of species-specific conditions (e.g. breeding enclosures, laying boxes) for the purpose of laying eggs. Most reptiles require a warm and humid micro-climate in a secluded location and with a soft substrate. <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain how breeding enclosures are managed.			
2.3.6.5.	<b>EGG HANDLING</b> Eggs shall be handled and packed carefully to minimize rolling, jolting and rotation.	<b>M</b>	ALL	FARMS with breeding stock
	<b>Observations:</b> No evidence of eggs being mishandled (i.e. dropped, rolled, jolted, etc.). <b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain the protocol for removal and handling of eggs. N/A permitted if all incubation is natural.			
2.3.6.6.	<b>INCUBATION METHODS</b> Eggs shall be removed from reptile enclosures and incubated in a protected, controlled environment (e.g. insect proof, climate controlled). Pythons are permitted to undertake <i>in situ</i> maternal incubation (i.e. left with their eggs) provided the requirements of 2.3.6.8 are met.	<b>C</b>	ALL	FARMS with breeding stock
	<b>Note:</b> Much will depend on the species and the location. In some situation ambient conditions are such that minimal incubation provisions are necessary. <b>Observations:</b> Evidence of facilities, materials and/or equipment necessary for incubation (e.g. incubation medium, incubators, climate control electronics). <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of incubation protocols.			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.6.7.	<p><b>ARTIFICIAL INCUBATION CONDITIONS</b> Incubation temperatures and humidity shall be maintained according to species-specific requirements (i.e. evidence of active or passive temperature management).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Much will depend on the species and the location. In some situation ambient conditions are such that minimal incubation provisions are necessary. <b>Observations:</b> Evidence of facilities, materials and/or equipment necessary for maintenance of humidity during incubation (e.g. incubation medium, automatic misters etc. ). Enclosures include a substrate that facilitates seating the eggs and maintaining stable temperatures and humidity (e.g. layer of organic matter, soft sand etc.). <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of species appropriate incubation conditions for temperature and humidity.</p>	M	ALL	FARMS with artificial incubation
	<p><b>NATURAL INCUBATION CONDITIONS</b> Female pythons undertaking natural incubation shall be housed in an environment that does not risk welfare of the eggs or female (e.g. well ventilated and drained, humid and with access to a soft substrate and drinking water). <b>Observations:</b> Evidence of specialist facilities, materials and/or equipment necessary for incubation. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of natural incubation protocols. N/A permitted if no natural incubation.</p>			
2.3.6.9.	<p><b>INCUBATION MEDIA HYGIENE</b> Incubation media shall be sterilized or replaced after use.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm Personnel are able to explain the hygiene protocol for incubation substrates.</p>	G	ALL	FARMS with artificial incubation



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.3.6.10.	<p><b>NEONATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS</b>            Neonates shall be afforded specialized husbandry conditions and monitored daily for condition and welfare (i.e. conditions similar to incubation environment).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of specialist facilities, materials, and/or equipment necessary for neonate maintenance and welfare. Evidence of well-hydrated neonates with good body condition (body condition score &gt; 2).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain the routine for rearing neonates.</p>	C	ALL	FARMS WITH BREEDING STOCK
	<p><b>2.3.7. VETERINARY CARE</b></p>			
2.3.7.1.	<p><b>QUARANTINE</b>            Sick or injured reptiles shall be isolated for diagnosis and treatment. Suspected cases of infectious disease should be quarantined or euthanized.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of emaciated (body score &lt;3), severely dehydrated reptiles, or reptiles with severe injuries in the general population.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain how they identify sick or injured reptiles and who makes the decision regarding next steps. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of diagnostic tools and the importance of swift action to limit spread of infectious diseases or risk of poor welfare.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF SICK OR INJURED REPTILES</b>            Sick, injured or welfare compromised reptiles that do not respond to treatment shall be euthanized humanely. Sick or injured reptiles shall never be sold into trade or released into the wild.</p>			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of treated / quarantined reptiles which are not responding to treatment.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Farm personnel are able to explain how to determine when euthanasia should be deployed. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of humane killing methods.</p>			
2.3.7.3.	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF DISEASE RISKS</b></p> <p>Staff shall demonstrate an awareness of infectious diseases and the risks they pose, and be trained in basic detection and mitigation protocols (e.g. immediate quarantining and information sharing).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the risks of zoonotic diseases and disease prevention protocols, including quarantining, reporting and training staff.</p>	M	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.7.4.	<p><b>TREATMENT RECORDS</b></p> <p>Treatment records shall be kept covering all reptiles treated, the date of treatment, the treatment method and where applicable the medicinal product(s) used.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Cross check medical products in storage with treatment records. Cross check reptiles receiving treatment with the treatment records.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Treatment records detailing all treatments (even if no medicinal interventions) and capturing required data fields.</p>	G	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.7.5.	<p><b>VETERINARY ADVICE</b></p> <p>Facilities shall consult with a veterinarian on a regular basis, with records of findings maintained.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Record of veterinarian visits is maintained, detailing name, date, summary of findings and the veterinarian's signature.</p>	G	ALL	ALL FARMS
2.3.7.6.	<p><b>QUARANTINE FACILITES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall have designated quarantine facilities with associated biosecurity measures (e.g. for incoming livestock and suspected infectious disease).</p>	G	ALL	ALL FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of specialist quarantine facilities and biosecurity measures (e.g. foot baths, entry and exit sanitization protocols).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding the need for designated quarantine facilities and biosecurity measures.</p>			

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## Chapter 2.4. Standards for Humane Killing of Reptiles

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

### DESIRED OUTCOME

The killing method used will minimize agitation, fear, stress and pain to the reptiles, be reliable and reproducible and be performed by competent individuals.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.4.1. METHODS				
2.4.1.1.	<p><b>ONE STEP KILLING OR TWO STEP STUN KILL</b></p> <p>The killing method shall include the use of a stunning method followed by a killing step, or alternatively a one-step direct killing method that involves complete destruction of the brain. When it includes a stunning step, the facility shall ensure that death occurs during unconsciousness.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Killing method in use is consistent with that described by senior personnel and reptile remains unconscious until death.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the importance of the selection of an appropriate kill method.</p>			
2.4.1.2.	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE METHODS</b></p> <p>The killing method used shall comply with the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2023) Chapter 7.14. Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products. Acceptable methods include 1) physical means using a penetrative or</p>	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p>non-penetrative captive bolt or a percussive blow to the head or 2) non-physical means using especially designed chemical agents.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Killing method being used complies with the requirements and is effective.  <b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the procedure is able to describe the killing method being used and the key safe guards to it being repeatably successful.</p>			
2.4.1.3.	<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF DEATH</b>            Following killing and prior to any further process steps, death shall be confirmed, using methods detailed in the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2023) Chapter 7.14. Killing of reptiles for their skins, meat and other products.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> See Appendix 4 for list of signs of death.  <b>Observations:</b> Confirmation of death checks are being carried out.  <b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the checks is able to describe signs of death and / or signs of consciousness.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
2.4.1.4.	<p><b>CORRECT POSITION</b>            The stunning or killing device shall be positioned correctly according to the species and the method being used.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of consistent and fail-safe application of method with a rapid outcome.  <b>Interviews:</b> Personnel in charge of humane killing demonstrate an awareness and understanding of species-specific killing requirements. Able to demonstrate the location of the brain relative to the eyes and mouth.</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	ALL
2.4.1.5.	<p><b>SIGNS OF SENSIBILITY</b>            If reptiles show any signs of sensibility the means of killing shall be repeated immediately.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> See Appendix 4 for list of signs of sensibility.</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of unsuccessful or partially successful killing attempts (reptile shows signs of sensibility) being followed immediately by secondary attempts using the same method (e.g. repeated use of blunt force trauma).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the checks is able to describe signs of death and / or signs of consciousness and action required if noted.</p>			
2.4.1.6.	<p><b>SECONDARY KILLING METHOD</b></p> <p>A secondary method of killing shall be used to verify death, such as decapitation followed by pithing or pithing alone.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Secondary killing is not essential for humane killing but it does provide added assurances.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of a specified secondary method of killing.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
2.4.1.7.	<p><b>DECAPITATION</b></p> <p>When decapitation is used as part of a secondary killing method, it shall be done with a rapid and forceful chop rather than a sawing motion.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> If using decapitation as a secondary killing method, evidence it is carried out rapidly using a forceful chop rather than a sawing action.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the procedure is able to explain what tool and action is used.</p> <p>N/A permitted if not decapitating.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
2.4.1.8.	<p><b>PITHING METHOD</b></p> <p>When pithing is carried out, it shall be done using a firm rod and a rapid succession of stabbing events to ensure the entire brain cavity is pithed.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> If using pithing as a secondary killing method, evidence it is carried out using a firm rod and a rapid succession of stabbing actions to ensure complete destruction of the brain.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the procedure is able to explain what tool and action is used.</p> <p>N/A permitted if not pithing.</p>	G	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.4.1.9.	<p><b>UNACCEPTABLE KILLING METHODS</b> Unacceptable methods of killing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• exsanguination,</li> <li>• extreme temperatures (hypothermia or hyperthermia),</li> <li>• drowning,</li> <li>• suffocation (including burying reptiles underground, binding the head with rubber band), pithing while conscious,</li> <li>• decapitation while conscious, and</li> <li>• harvesting tissues/organs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence these methods are used.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
2.4.2. EQUIPMENT				
2.4.2.1.	<p><b>SUITABLE EQUIPMENT</b> Suitable equipment, including reserve equipment, shall be available (e.g. pithing rod, hammer, and sharp axe).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of suitable equipment and reserve equipment (e.g. bolt gun, hammer, firm surfaces, sharp axes).</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	ALL
2.4.2.2.	<p><b>WORKING CONDITION</b> Tools used for killing shall be in excellent working condition and are checked to be operational at the commencement of each workday during which killing will occur.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of suitable equipment and reserve equipment in good working order (e.g. operational bolt gun, hammer, firm surfaces, sharp axes). <b>Interviews:</b> The individual carrying out the killing procedure understands what good working condition looks like and knows whether the daily check was completed.</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	ALL
2.4.3. PROCEDURES				
2.4.3.1.	<b>TRAINED PERSONNEL</b>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p>All personnel stunning and killing reptiles shall be trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of fast, efficient and humane killing procedures carried out in a confident and methodical manner with accuracy and precision.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness and understanding of training protocols for staff.</p>			
2.4.3.2.	<p><b>FORMAL TRAINING</b> Formal training shall include animal welfare principles, good handling practices and stunning and humane killing methods.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of formal training, e.g. copies of SARCA / IMARC welfare workshop certificate.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
2.4.3.3.	<p><b>JUST IN TIME SYSTEM</b> The time between removal from the holding area to killing shall be minimized.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of 'just-in-time' production lines with a single handling event separating short-term holding from killing (e.g. reptiles are transported directly from short term holding to captive bolt gun positioning).</p>	M	ALL	ALL



## Chapter 2.5. Management of Welfare Issues

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.

### DESIRED OUTCOME

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

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
2.5.1. OPERATIONAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES				
2.5.1.1.	<p><b>STOCKING DENSITY</b> Facilities shall be sufficient in size and area to accommodate the maximum number of reptiles held at any one time.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Standards must be considerate of, and accommodate, all potential production scenarios. For example, many reptile harvests are highly seasonal resulting in highly variable production throughput at production facilities.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of over-crowding (e.g. forced stacking, over-stocked bags, overwhelmed short-term holding areas).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness and understanding of facility capacity vs trade volume dynamics.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register to indicate typical numbers at different times of the year.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
2.5.1.2.	<b>STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES</b>	G	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	Facilities shall have documented standard operating procedures for reptile health and welfare. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to standard operating procedures for reptile health and welfare.			
2.5.1.3.	<b>EMERGENCY PLAN</b> There shall be an emergency plan covering actions to protect reptiles in case of emergencies, such as fire, flooding, or water / power failure. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of facility-specific documentation (hard copy, digital, signage) relating to an emergency plan for the protection of livestock in the event of an emergency such as fire, flooding or water / power failure.	G	ALL	ALL
2.5.1.4.	<b>SIGNAGE</b> Instructions on how to humanely kill reptiles shall be clearly displayed in the designated killing area. <b>Observations:</b> Evidence of clearly displayed signage illustrating those methods used to humanely kill reptiles at the facility.	G	ALL	ALL
2.5.1.5.	<b>NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE</b> If an infectious disease is suspected, relevant authorities shall be notified. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness and understanding of infectious disease protocols and reporting to relevant government authorities (e.g. Department of Veterinary Services).	G	ALL	ALL



## 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 safe 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 marginalized geographies and seeks to accommodate these wherever possible.

### Chapter 3.1. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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 marginalized 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 as supply chain workers who live in communities.

#### DESIRED OUTCOME

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



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
3.1.1 FREE AND PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)				
3.1.1.1	<p><b>IDENTIFICATION OF AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS</b> Facilities shall maintain a record of local stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners, harvesters, middlemen, etc.) that they have identified and engaged with.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of local stakeholder engagement processes and demonstrable knowledge of supply chain nodes, actors and associated stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners, harvesters, middlemen, etc.).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a list of local stakeholders.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>STAKEHOLDERS' FPIC FOR NEW FACILITY</b> Prior to establishment of new facilities, farms or processing facilities shall obtain approval (Free and Prior Informed Consent; FPIC) from local stakeholders potentially affected by the new development.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of stakeholders and a reasonable range of affected and interested stakeholders have been identified prior to establishment of the new facility.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of dated and signed documentation detailing (FPIC) from recognized local authority or equivalent (e.g. community organization, traditional leaders) for new facilities (i.e. those built since last RRSS audit).</p>			
3.1.1.2	<p><b>STAKEHOLDERS' FPIC FOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO FACILITY</b> Substantive changes or additions to a facility (e.g., new or extension to buildings, new activities) shall obtain approval (FPIC) from local stakeholders potentially affected by the changes.</p>	G	ALL	All Facilities with substanti



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of change since last audit.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need to engage stakeholders before making substantive changes.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of signed documentation detailing FPIC from recognized local authority or equivalent (e.g. community organization, traditional leaders) for substantive additions to existing facilities (i.e. additions added since last RRSS audit; example of additions include significant increase in capacity, addition of new production process e.g. meat processing).</p>			ve changes
3.1.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESSES				
3.1.2.1	<p><b>APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b> Facilities shall consult with local stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners, harvesters, middlemen, etc.) to ensure accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate engagement (e.g. gender and age equity, indigenous groups, migrant workers, traditional landowners etc.).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need for accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate engagement and the importance of a range of contemporary societal issues specific to their location.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
3.1.2.2	<p><b>APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION</b> Facilities shall ensure that all communications with local stakeholders (e.g. communities, harvesters, middlemen, landowners etc.) are carried out in a timely and appropriate manner (e.g. culturally respectful, local dialect).</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need for timely and context specific, culturally appropriate communications (e.g. local dialects used by harvester communities).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of a record of timely and appropriate communications with local stakeholders (e.g. documents and correspondence (including via messaging applications) are translated into local dialect and disseminated in a timely fashion).</p>			
3.1.2.3	<p><b>MEANINGFUL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b> Facilities shall demonstrate meaningful engagement with and understanding of community relationships and dynamics (e.g. attend community meetings, synchronize production with local crop harvests to ensure synergies with seasonal labor capacity).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the need for meaningful engagement with contemporary societal issues, through attendance at local community meetings, employment records detailing employment synchronicity with crop growing seasons.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
3.1.3 STAKEHOLDERS' GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
3.1.3.1	<p><b>ACCESS TO A STAKEHOLDERS' GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> Facilities at any point in time 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. These shall be addressed using an understandable and defined process that provides timely response to those concerned.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of grievance processes.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of any relevant policies or procedures (e.g. complaints box) relating to complaints and grievance mechanism(s).</p>			
3.1.3.2.	<p><b>APPROPRIATE STAKEHOLDERS' GRIEVANCE MERCHANISM</b> Facilities shall consult with local stakeholders (e.g. communities, harvesters, middlemen, landowners etc.) on the design of a culturally appropriate complaints and grievance procedure.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of grievance processes and need to consult with local stakeholders on appropriate mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation (e.g. correspondence) confirming consultation with local stakeholders.</p>	G	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.1.4 STRENGTHENING CAPACITY				
3.1.4.1	<p><b>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF PROXIMATE STAKEHOLDERS</b> Facilities shall provide appropriate information, expertise, or training to relevant local stakeholders (e.g. indigenous peoples, local communities, landowners, harvesters, middlemen, etc.) to ensure RRSS requirements are met (e.g. harvesters, welfare of by-catch in fisheries, environmental responsibilities, etc.).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of local stakeholder engagement processes, transfer obligations regarding RRSS content, and demonstrable knowledge of supply chain nodes and actors included in RRSS scope (e.g. transporters, harvesters).</p>	M	ALL	ALL



### Chapter 3.2. Cultural Heritage and Local Community Empowerment

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 an important role in this process. Respect for the devolution of rights over the ownership and utilization 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 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC).

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.2.1 PRESERVATION OF IPLC's CULTURAL HERITAGE				
3.2.1.1	<p><b>NO ADVERSE IMPACT TO IPLC'S CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR NEW OR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO FACILITIES OR SUPPLY CHAIN</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that prior to the development of a new facility or any substantive changes to the existing facility or supply chains, a screening process is carried out to identify and mitigate risks and potential impacts to cultural heritage of IPLC from the proposed supply chain activities.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Note:</b> Integration within reptile supply chains may disproportionately affect IPLCs, requiring increased due diligence.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of local cultural heritage sites and cultural phenomena linked to reptile trade (e.g. traditional use of reptile products). They are able to identify any such sites and phenomena that may be affected by development of new facilities, supply chains or activities.</p>			
3.2.1.2	<p><b>PROTECTION OF IPLC’S CULTURAL HERITAGE</b> Facilities shall demonstrate a commitment to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard cultural heritage.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Strengthening economic benefits for IPLCs helps sustain traditional practices and cultural heritage such as the sustainable use of local biodiversity as a source of livelihood.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of policies to support small-scale harvesters and local producers and explain how these policies contribute to cultural heritage protection.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation of payments to small-scale producers / harvesters for reptiles / reptile products.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL
3.2.1.3	<p><b>SOURCING FAVOURS TRADITIONAL KNOW-HOW</b> Facilities shall ensure that sourcing practices favor cultural groups with a legitimate history in hunting and farming reptiles and/or utilizing reptile products.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of local indigenous groups with traditional links to hunting and harvesting forest products, including wild reptiles and traditional reptile farming practices. Evidence of interventions to safeguard cultural heritage and optimize livelihood impacts (e.g. supporting sustainable use programs, developing markets for traditional reptile-based products/crafts etc.).</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.2.1.4	<p><b>SOURCING FAVOURS SMALL-HOLDER PRODUCTION SYSTEMS</b> Facilities shall rely a major part of their sourcing on small-holder production systems (i.e. family owned and operated farms) and/or community-led wild harvests.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation demonstrating that more than 50% of reptile or skin volume is sourced from small/micro-scale production systems, including family owned and operated farms and/or community-led wild harvests (e.g. livestock register including supplier information).</p>			
3.2.1.5	<p><b>SOURCING SUPPORTS DEMOCRATIC AND SOVEREIGN LIVELIHOODS</b> Facilities shall rely a major part of their sourcing on practices that support democratic and sovereign livelihoods (e.g. independent businesses rather than corporate agribusiness).</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation demonstrating that more than 50% of individual reptiles or reptile skins is sourced from self-employed workers or small, independent operators (e.g. livestock register including supplier information).</p>			



### Chapter 3.3. Human Rights and Fair Labor

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 labor; the abolition of child labor; and the elimination of discrimination. In the absence of local regulatory requirements, international guidelines shall prevail.

**DESIRED OUTCOME**

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

**Note:** Throughout this chapter verification relies on interviews with senior personnel and workers. Auditors shall be able to interview workers without the presence of senior personnel.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.3.1. EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES				
3.3.1.1.	<p><b>EXISTENCE OF A HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY</b></p> <p>Facilities shall adopt and implement human resources policies and procedures that are consistent with applicable laws and international guidelines. These policies shall include compulsory benefits such as social security, health and unemployment insurance, annual leave, marriage leave and maternity leave.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of human resource policies and explain how these align with applicable laws and international guidelines.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documents demonstrating a human resource policy that complies with applicable laws and international guidelines.</p>			
3.3.1.2	<p><b>EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS</b></p> <p>Facilities shall provide personnel with contracts stating conditions of employment. Contracts shall be written in the personnel’s language and fully understood before being signed by both parties. Contracts shall include as a minimum requirements set by applicable laws, and copies of contracts shall be maintained.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel demonstrate an understanding of employment contracts.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of signed contracts written in personnel’s language and stating conditions of employment.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.1.3	<p><b>PERSONNEL WITH DISABILITIES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that the specialist needs of disabled personnel are identified and appropriately accommodated.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that disabled personnel are accommodated as and where necessary.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of legal requirements and best practices for accommodating disabled personnel.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of discriminatory practices related to disabled personnel in grievance records.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.2. HUMAN RIGHTS				
3.3.2.1.	<p><b>NO FORCED LABOR</b></p> <p>Facilities shall not engage in forced labor. Original identification documents shall not be held by the employer and employees shall have the freedom to leave the facility at any time.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to confirm they are not being held against their will and have freedom of movement. Senior personnel demonstrate</p>	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p>understanding of laws pertaining to forced labor and trafficking and of characteristics of forced labor.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Hiring documentation / agreements demonstrate voluntary employment, freedom to leave, and absence of practices such as retention of identity documents or coercion (e.g. original identity documentation, lack of consent, freedom to leave, no extortion of workers or their family).</p>			
3.3.2.2.	<p><b>NO CHILD LABOR</b></p> <p>Facilities shall not employ workers under the legal minimum age as defined by applicable laws or the ILO standard, which is 15 years, whichever is more stringent. This applies to all forms of employment, including temporary, seasonal, and subcontracted labor.</p> <p><b>Observation:</b> No evidence of young personnel under the legal minimum age at the facility.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws and company policies prohibiting child labor.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of young personnel under the legal minimum age in employee contracts.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
3.3.2.3.	<p><b>NO HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PERSONNEL</b></p> <p>Where applicable laws permit employment of young personnel, facilities shall ensure young personnel under the age of 16 are only assigned tasks that are non-hazardous and appropriate for their age.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of young personnel under the age of 16 carrying out hazardous activities.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an company policies prohibiting hazardous work for young personnel.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence in employee contracts of employees</p>	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile	Entity
	under the age of 16 being engaged in work that is heavy duty or hazardous (e.g. heavy lifting, working with knives, dangerous reptiles).			
3.3.2.4.	<p><b>NO IMPACT ON SCHOOLING FOR YOUNG PERSONNEL</b> Where applicable laws permit employment of young personnel, facilities shall ensure young personnels' work schedules do not affect their ability to attend and remain in formal education.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Young personnel aged under 16 confirm that work does not prevent school attendance. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws and company policies protecting education for young personnel.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence in employee contracts of employees aged under 16 being engaged in work interfering with formal education.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
3.3.2.5	<p><b>NO DISCRIMINATION</b> Facilities shall not discriminate against personnel on the basis of characteristics that are not related to their merit or the inherent requirements of the job. Protected characteristics include, but are not limited to, race, color, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, age, disability, HIV/AIDS status, trade union membership, and sexual orientation.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of discrimination against employees on the basis of characteristics as listed.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel express they have not experienced or observed discrimination. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws and company policies pertaining to equal opportunities and fair labor practices.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of discrimination in grievance records.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
3.3.2.6	<b>NO HARASSMENT</b>	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p>Facilities shall ensure that personnel are not subjected to verbal, physical, or psychological abuse, harassment, intimidation, or any behavior that compromises their dignity or mental wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of physical, verbal or psychological abuse, or any actions that may directly or indirectly compromise the mental wellbeing of personnel.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws and company policies prohibiting harassment and abuse. Junior personnel confirm they have not experienced or observed harassment or abuse.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of harassment in grievance records.</p>			
3.3.2.7	<p><b>FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION</b></p> <p>Facilities shall respect the workers’ rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the rights of personnel to freedom of association and collective bargaining.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation pertaining to the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.</p>	C	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.3. REMUNERATION				
3.3.3.1.	<p><b>MINIMUM WAGE</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that wages comply with the applicable legal minimum, where set.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of legal minimum wage rates.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of meeting minimum wage in documentation pertaining to wages (e.g. operating policy, employee contracts).</p>	C	ALL	ALL
3.3.3.2.	<p><b>FAIR WAGE</b></p>	G	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p>Facilities shall demonstrate consideration of the average wage rates relevant to the sector when setting wages.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of average wage rates relevant to the sector.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence that average wage rates relevant to the sector have been considered when setting wages (e.g. operating policy, employee contracts).</p>			
3.3.3.3.	<p><b>EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure equal pay for equal work.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of equal pay for equal work.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of discrimination in remuneration practices and related documentation (e.g. employee contracts).</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.3.4.	<p><b>IN-KIND BENEFITS</b></p> <p>Facilities shall not substitute wages with goods, services, or other forms of payment in kind, except where such practices are customary, mutually agreed upon, and compliant with applicable laws.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws pertaining to remuneration, including permitted in-kind benefits as a proportion of wages.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of details surrounding in-kind benefits in employee contracts.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.3.5.	<p><b>PAYMENT METHOD OF WAGES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall perform payment of wages in a manner that is consistent with local norms and reasonable for personnel (e.g. bank transfer, cash or check).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel express evidence of wages being paid in a manner that is reasonable for them (e.g. they can obtain cash due to them in an easy and timely manner).</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.3.3.6.	<p><b>DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that deductions from wages are not made for disciplinary purposes unless one of the following conditions exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are permitted by applicable law, and the law guarantees the procedural fairness of the disciplinary action; or</li> <li>• Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are permitted in a freely negotiated collective bargaining agreement or arbitration award.</li> </ul>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws pertaining to remuneration. Evidence that deductions for disciplinary purposes are not made unless permitted by law or collective agreements. Evidence collective bargaining was not negotiated as a result of coercion, intimidation or duress.</p>			
3.3.3.7.	<p><b>WAGE INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure personnel 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.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to explain the details laid out in their wage slip.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of wage slips detailing computation of wages, benefits and deductions in appropriate language.</p>			
3.3.3.8	<p><b>PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</b></p> <p>Facilities shall have personnel’s compensation and / or medical welfare schemes in place, where national schemes exist.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of national compensation and medical welfare schemes.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to personnel’s compensation and medical welfare schemes (e.g. employee contracts).</p>			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
<p>3.3.4. WORKING HOURS AND LEAVE</p> <p>Note: The inherently unpredictable nature of wild reptile harvests sometimes necessitates atypical working regimes. For example, at single delivery several hundred reptiles correlating with the arrival of the monsoons may be followed by months of below average deliveries associated with floods and inaccessible landscapes.</p>				
3.3.4.1.	<p><b>LEGAL WORKING HOURS</b> Facilities shall ensure that regular working hours and leave schedules comply with applicable laws.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to explain their normal working pattern and this fits with legal requirements. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws pertaining to working hours. Evidence that working hours respect legal requirements and personnel’s expectations.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to employee working hours and approximate compliance with applicable laws and employee expectations (e.g. employee contracts).</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
3.3.4.2.	<p><b>LEGAL REST PERIOD</b> Facilities shall ensure that personnel are provided with at least 24 consecutive hours off in every 7-day period.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to explain when and how long for they last had time off. Senior personnel demonstrate an understand the need for personnel to receive at least 24 consecutive hours off in every 7-day period.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to personnel working hours and at least 24 consecutive hours off in every 7-day period (e.g. employee contracts).</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
3.3.4.3.	<p><b>OVERTIME</b> Facilities shall ensure that overtime is voluntary, covered by a premium unless specified in applicable law and/or the employer can demonstrate that exceptional circumstances apply such as unexpected production peaks,</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile	Entity
	<p>accidents or emergencies, and limited to 12 hours a week, with a total work week not exceeding 60 hours.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to explain when they last completed overtime, how it was offered and how many hours were completed. Senior personnel demonstrate an understand the need for overtime to be voluntary, limited and to paid at a premium rate.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to personnel working hours and a maximum of 12 hours per week (e.g. employee contracts).</p>			
3.3.4.4.	<p><b>WORKING TIME RECORDS</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that records of working hours and overtime are maintained.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel are able to confirm that they complete timesheets or record their working hours in another way such as clocking in and out/signing in and out. Senior personnel demonstrate an understand the need to maintain timesheets.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to personnel working hours and overtime (e.g. copies of timesheets).</p>	G	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.3.5. PERSONNEL'S GRIEVANCE MECHANISM				
3.3.5.1	<p><b>ACCESS TO A PERSONNEL GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that personnel have access to a mechanism that allows them to raise and seek resolution to workplace concerns without fear of retaliation. These shall be addressed using an understandable and defined process that provides timely response to those concerned.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Personnel demonstrate an understanding of the grievance mechanism and don't show signs of retaliation following the use of the grievance mechanism. Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of grievance processes.</p>	C	ALL	Large-scale facility



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Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of any relevant policies or procedures (e.g. complaints box) relating to complaints and grievance mechanism(s).			

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### Chapter 3.4. Occupational Health and Safety

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.

**Note:** Throughout this chapter verification relies on interviews with senior personnel and workers. Auditors shall be able to interview workers without the presence of senior personnel. Health and safety management plans can be formal or informal risk assessments that identify and look to mitigate potential health and safety risks.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.4.1. HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT				
3.4.1.1.	<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY SYSTEM</b> Facilities shall put in place a health and safety management system for identifying, managing, and mitigating health and safety hazards, with a designated point of contact.	<b>C</b>	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of health and safety management system and how it is conveyed to workers. Workers are able to describe the system in place.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence pertaining to health and safety management system. Such evidence can be written or verbal.</p>			
3.4.1.2.	<p><b>EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</b> Facilities shall ensure effective emergency procedures and systems are in place. These include notification of relevant authorities and stakeholders where appropriate (e.g. zoonotic disease).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of emergency procedures for the notification of relevant authorities and stakeholders in case of emergency (e.g. suspected zoonotic disease infection).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence pertaining to emergency procedures and systems. Such evidence can be written or verbal. Records of notification of authorities and relevant stakeholders, during previous emergencies.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
3.4.1.3.	<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE</b> Facilities shall demonstrate a management system for reporting and mitigating health and safety performance issues (e.g. accident rates, health statistics).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of reporting health and safety performance and continual improvement (e.g. accident rates, health statistics).</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation pertaining to a health and safety management system that is capable of tracking performance and results are used to improve the system.</p>	<b>M</b>	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.4.1.4.	<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMUNICATION</b> Facilities shall sufficiently inform all personnel about the operation of the facility with regard to health and safety (e.g. regular staff meetings, notice board).</p>	<b>G</b>	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of keeping workers sufficiently informed about the operation of the facility (e.g. regular staff meetings, notice boards). Workers are able to describe the systems in place to keep them informed.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation pertaining to effective health and safety information sharing (e.g. record of meeting minutes).</p>			
3.4.1.5.	<p><b>HAZARD SIGNAGE</b></p> <p>Facilities shall identify potential hazards and hazardous areas and provide signage to inform workers of these hazards.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of appropriate signage (e.g. symbols, information, language) to inform workers of potential hazards (e.g. venomous snakes) and hazardous areas (e.g. humane killing area with wet floors, sharp knives).</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.4.1.6.	<p><b>HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTING FROM EMPLOYEES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall develop systems for employees to effectively report on matters relating to occupational health and safety.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of providing opportunities for employees to provide input to improve health and safety outcomes (e.g. suggestion box). Workers are able to describe the systems in place that enables them to provide input.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.4.1.7.	<p><b>FIRST AID PROVISION</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that at least one well maintained and fully operational first aid kit is available and accessible at all times. Where venomous snakes are involved, it shall include specialist first aid equipment for the treatment of snakebite.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of at least one well maintained and fully operational first aid kit in a location accessible to all facility personnel. First aid kit contains a reasonable assortment of medicines and equipment consistent with main activities carried out at the facility.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
3.4.2. GENERAL WORKER SAFETY AND HYGIENE				
3.4.2.1.	<p><b>SLIPS AND FALLS</b> Facilities shall ensure that flooring in walkways and work areas minimizes slipping, falling, and injury to personnel.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Facilities designated for processing reptiles (e.g., humane killing) may necessarily have relatively smooth and/or wet floors. <b>Observations:</b> Evidence of efforts to reduce the incidence of slips and falls. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Infrequent incidence of slips/falls recorded in accident book.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>TEMPERATURE</b> Facilities shall restrict the time personnel spend in extreme temperatures (e.g. direct sun, refrigeration) that may risk the welfare of personnel.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of workers suffering from temperature extremes. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with thermal extremes. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of records of grievances linked to excessively long periods of time in direct sun, refrigeration rooms, etc.</p>			
3.4.2.3.	<p><b>VENTILATION</b> Facilities shall ensure that working areas are well ventilated and free from hazardous gasses and noxious odors.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of adequate ventilation. No evidence of hazardous gasses or noxious odors. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of ventilation and hazards associated with air pollution. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of records of grievances linked to air pollution.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
3.4.2.4.	<p><b>NOISE</b> Facilities shall ensure that noise pollution is minimized (e.g. operating machinery, generators) and noise reduction equipment (e.g. ear plugs) is available where necessary.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of attempts to minimize noise pollution (e.g. generators situated away from working areas).  <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the hazards of noise pollution.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> No evidence of records of grievances linked to noise pollution.</p>			
3.4.2.5.	<p><b>PHYSICAL CONTACT MINIMIZED</b> Facilities shall ensure that physical interactions between live reptiles and personnel are minimized.</p>	G	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of unnecessary reptile handling practices. Physical contact between reptiles and workers is minimal.  <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with handling reptiles.</p>			
3.4.2.6.	<p><b>REST AND HYGIENE AREAS</b> Facilities shall provide access to facilities that allow personnel to rest and maintain an appropriate level of personal hygiene.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of facilities that allow workers to rest and clean themselves (e.g. drinking water, clean and working toilets, clean and running water, soap, etc.).</p>			
3.4.2.7.	<p><b>PROVISION OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING</b> Facilities shall ensure that personnel are provided with appropriate protective clothing and equipment, free of charge, and that these materials are in good working order and cleaned regularly.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of suitable protective clothing and equipment according to activity. No evidence of inadequate or dysfunctional clothing or equipment.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of protective clothing and equipment requirements according to facility activities (e.g. skin processing vs meat processing). Workers are able to confirm that the equipment is provided by the facility.</p>			
3.4.2.8.	<p><b>STORAGE AREA</b> Facilities shall maintain a storage area to ensure equipment is organized, secure, clean and dry.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of suitable storage facilities for equipment (e.g. weather and vermin proof rooms/cupboards with designated shelving/hanging space for equipment).</p>	G	ALL	ALL
3.4.2.9.	<p><b>SAFE HANDLING</b> Facilities shall ensure access to tools and equipment in good working condition and sufficient space for safe reptile handling (e.g. snake hook).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of suitable equipment for handling reptiles.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of equipment requirements for handling dangerous reptiles (e.g. hooks). No evidence of inadequate or dysfunctional equipment.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
3.4.2.10.	<p><b>HAZARDOUS TOOLS</b> Facilities shall ensure that sharp-edged tools and equipment (e.g. skinning knives) are maintained, used appropriately, and stored to avoid accidental harm.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of proper usage, maintenance and storage of sharp-edged tools.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of proper maintenance and storage of sharp edge tools.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
3.4.3. BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS				
3.4.3.1.	<p><b>IDENTIFICATION AND MITIGATION OF HAZARDS</b> Facilities shall ensure that potentially hazardous biological agents and potential routes of infection are identified and mitigated (e.g. footbaths, segregating organs from carcass).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of hazardous biological agents, associated risks and management protocols to mitigate them.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>PREVENTING CONTAMINATION OF MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION</b> Systems are in place to prevent the contamination of reptile meat, if utilized for human consumption.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of hygienic operating environments and handling processes.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of national regulations pertaining to meat handling and processing.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to regulated sale of meat for human consumption (e.g. permits, certificates).</p>			
3.4.4. DANGEROUS REPTILE MANAGEMENT				
3.4.4.1.	<p><b>MINIMUM PERSONNEL</b> Facilities shall ensure that two or more personnel are present when feeding, handling, removing eggs, and humane killing, unless systems are in place to guarantee worker safety.</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of two or more people present when feeding, handling, removing eggs, and humane killing. Exceptions may include any system that physically separates contact between the handler and the reptile.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with dangerous reptile management (e.g. large pythons, venomous snakes).</p>			
3.4.4.2.	<p><b>MINIMUM PERSONNEL &gt;40kg</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that four or more personnel are present when snakes over 40kg are handled.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of four or more personnel present when handling snakes weighing more than 40kg. Note: not all personnel present need to physically handle the snake.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with large snakes. Workers are able to explain process.</p>	M	Snakes	ALL
3.4.4.3.	<p><b>BITE TREATMENT PROTOCOLS</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure personnel are aware of species-specific bite treatment protocols and are trained in basic treatment protocols (e.g. application of pressure bandage, emergency transport plan).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Administration of antivenin by anyone other than a trained physician is not advised unless in an emergency.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with snakebite, including species-specific aspects (e.g. different venoms require different considerations). Understanding of treatment protocols and evidence of ability to apply emergency first aid (e.g. application of pressure bandage, immobilize and reassure patient, transport promptly to hospital).</p>	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
3.4.4.4.	<p><b>VENOMOUS REPTILE SEGREGATION</b> Facilities shall ensure venomous reptiles are segregated from non-venomous reptiles in clearly demarcated areas.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of clearly demarcated areas and/or protocols for ensuring segregation of venomous and non-venomous snakes (i.e. minimize risks associated with mis-identification).</p>	G	Venomous reptiles	ALL
	<p><b>VENOMOUS REPTILE DOUBLE CONTAINMENT</b> Facilities ensure venomous reptiles are held in at least two containment systems during transport and in holding areas.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of fail-safe holdings that include at least two containment systems (e.g. sealed bag inside a sealed container).</p>			
3.4.4.5.	<p><b>CONTACT DETAILS</b> Facilities maintain up-to-date contact details on local snakebite treatment facilities and sources of appropriate antivenin.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an awareness of local snakebite treatment facilities and sources of antivenin.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation of up-to-date contact details of snakebite treatment facilities and sources of antivenin.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>BITE TREATMENT SIGNAGE</b> Facilities shall ensure ‘first responder’ bite treatment protocols are clearly displayed wherever venomous reptiles are housed, maintained, or killed.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of emergency first aid treatment protocols clearly displayed in appropriate signage (e.g. infographics, local language) wherever venomous reptiles are held, handled or processed.</p>			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
3.4.5. MANUAL HANDLING AND ERGONOMICS				
3.4.5.1.	<b>MANUAL HANDLING</b> Facilities ensure manual processes are designed to avoid heavy lifting and repetitive activities.	G	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of effective mitigation of risks wherever these occur. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with heavy lifting and repetitive activities.			
3.4.6. STAFF COMPETENCY AND TRAINING				
3.4.6.1.	<b>EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCY</b> Facilities shall ensure that personnel are experienced, able, and equipped to undertake designated tasks competently.	M	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of staff competency through training, experience, tutorship or similar. Evidence of provision and ability to use appropriate equipment.			
3.4.6.2.	<b>TRAINING AND COMPETENCY RECORDS</b> Facilities shall maintain associated records of training and competency.	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of staff competency through training, experience, tutorship or similar. Evidence of provision of appropriate equipment. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to staff competency and training (e.g. operating policy, workshop attendance register, induction training etc.).			
3.4.6.3.	<b>INDUCTION AND SUPERVISION</b> Facilities shall ensure that inexperienced (new) employees undergo induction and are trained and monitored under supervision until deemed competent.	M	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of supervision of new workers.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to induction (e.g. records of signed and completed induction trainings).</p>			
3.4.6.4.	<p><b>COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT</b>            Facilities shall ensure that workers’ competency is assessed on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of competency assessments. Workers are able to explain how often they are assessed.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to regular staff assessments for competency and ongoing improvement.</p>	G	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.4.6.5.	<p><b>CORRECTIVE ACTION</b>            Facilities shall undertake corrective action against personnel observed failing to perform a task correctly.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding staff competency, check practices and corrective measures.  <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation relating to regular staff assessments for competency and associated remedial interventions.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility
3.4.6.6.	<p><b>PERSONNEL FOLLOW PROCEDURES</b>            Facility personnel shall follow standard operating procedures (verbal or documented) in accordance with their respective responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that all personnel are working to the same procedure and as described by senior personnel or documents.  <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance that procedures are followed at all times.</p>	C	ALL	ALL
3.4.6.7.	<p><b>TRAINING PLANS</b>            Facilities shall maintain a training plan for all personnel.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of identifying needs and providing training. Workers can explain what training they have received or have planned.</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
3.4.7. FIRE SAFETY				
3.4.7.1.	<p><b>NAKED FLAMES AND FIRES</b> Facilities shall ensure that naked flames and fires are situated in a designated area away from other facility operations.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that naked flames and fires are situated to reduce risk.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	3.4.7.2.			
3.4.7.3.	<p><b>TRAINING</b> Facilities shall train personnel in basic fire safety protocols (i.e. how to use fire extinguishers and human / reptile evacuation plans).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of fire safety protocols, including use of fire extinguishers, fire exits, etc.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation detailing fire safety training (e.g. induction checklists, certificates).</p>	M	ALL	Large-scale facility



## Principle 4 – Environmental Responsibility

In recent years, many businesses have realized 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 their 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 benefits 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. Environmental Responsibility

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 minimized through increased energy efficiency, reduced energy consumption and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases.



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
4.1.1. GENERAL				
4.1.1.1.	<p><b>REDUCING ENERGY WASTE</b> Facilities shall assess and mitigate any avoidable, unwanted temperature changes (e.g. close doors and windows when cooling/heating is on, insulation, etc.) which result in wasting energy.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Thermal environment is an important consideration for reptile production systems. Artificial heating and cooling systems are sometimes used to maintain thermal optimum. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of energy wastage through poor maintenance or implementation of cooling or heating technologies. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the use of insulation materials and passive energy systems to reduce energy use whilst maintaining environmental conditions.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION</b> Facilities shall implement initiatives to reduce energy consumption.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of energy saving initiatives. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of energy saving initiatives.</p>			
4.1.1.3.	<p><b>REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</b> Facilities shall commit to and implement initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation detailing adoption of climate change mitigation strategies into policy and planning (e.g. commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reduction, net zero carbon emissions into standard operating procedures document).</p>	S	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
4.1.1.4.	<b>ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE</b> Facilities identify and describe operational processes that contribute towards adapting to climate change (e.g. measures to mitigate impact of extreme weather such as reptile housing above high water mark; rainwater capture and storage; tree planting to combat heat waves).	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL
	<b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of impacts of climate change and operational processes that contribute towards climate change resilience.			

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## Chapter 4.2. Waste Management

The reptile trade generates some waste materials that, if mismanaged, create risks to human health, safety, and the environment. Organic wastes from farming and processing facilities can be harmful to ecosystems if released into the environment. Although this waste has 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.

**Note:** Throughout this chapter verification relies on interviews with senior personnel and workers. Auditors shall be able to interview workers without the presence of senior personnel.

Reference	Requirement <i>Audit Guide</i>	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
4.2.1. GENERAL				
4.2.1.1.	<b>LEGAL WASTE DISPOSAL OR RECYCLING</b> Facilities shall ensure that waste is disposed of or recycled according to applicable laws and regulations.	C	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><i>Audit Guide</i></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of inappropriate waste disposal. Evidence waste is disposed of according to applicable laws (e.g. regulated waste removal services, controlled burning of non-toxic materials, recycling organic waste through fishponds). Evidence of segregation of waste disposal bins according to waste type. Evidence of clear labelling on bins.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of applicable laws regarding waste disposal and recycling.</p>			
4.2.1.2.	<p><b>WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of waste management systems. Evidence of a reasonable variety of methods for storing, handling, segregating, treating and disposing of different waste materials in a safe and environment-friendly manner.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of waste management systems.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL	ALL
4.2.1.3.	<p><b>COMPOSTING</b></p> <p>Where possible facilities shall compost organic waste in a designated area to produce fertilizer.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of composting area for organic waste, sited and managed appropriately (e.g., no evidence of waste materials presenting a health risk).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of importance of composting as a means of recovering organic waste.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
4.2.1.4.	<p><b>CLEANING PROTOCOLS TO MANAGE WASTE</b> 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).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of regular and effective cleaning of all operational components, especially those that present high levels of risk (e.g. killing and processing area is deep cleaned daily, livestock enclosures are cleaned weekly). No evidence of strong odors.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of cleaning protocols for all operational components.</p>	M	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>MINIMIZING WASTE</b> Facilities shall carry out a screening and assessment of all processes to identify opportunities for waste minimization.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of documentation detailing regular assessments of cleaning protocols and processes to identify opportunities for waste management optimization (e.g. standard operating procedures).</p>			
4.2.1.5.	<p><b>PROMPT PROCESSING TO AVOID WASTE</b> Facilities shall ensure that reptiles are processed as soon after they are killed as feasible and within 12 hours, unless cooling facilities are available.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of delayed processing of carcasses. No evidence of decomposing carcasses. Evidence of efficient production systems in which reptile carcasses are fully processed within a 12 hour period. Exceptions may occur where cooling systems are employed.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of the value of the carcass and how efficient processes will result in less waste.</p>	C	ALL	Processing Facilities



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
4.2.1.7.	<b>INCINERATION</b> Facilities shall only incinerate waste where no other suitable waste disposal options exist and provided no volatile or toxic substances are burned (e.g. rubber tires, batteries).	M	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence that only non-volatile and non-toxic substances are incinerated (e.g. rubber tires, batteries). <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel shall demonstrate an understanding that burning is not the preferred disposal method and that all alternatives have been considered.			
4.2.1.8.	<b>NON TOXIC PEST CONTROL</b> Facilities shall control flies, rodents and other pests through the use of non-toxic traps and screens.	G	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of flies, rodents and other pests controlled through the use of non-toxic means. No evidence of toxic baits. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of the need for environmentally-friendly pest control protocols.			
<b>4.2.2. FARMS</b>				
4.2.2.1	<b>FEEDING OF SQUAMATE CARCASSES</b> Squamate carcasses, or unprocessed derivatives thereof, shall not be fed to other squamates.	C	ALL	Farms
	<b>Observations:</b> No evidence of squamates carcasses being fed to other squamates. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of hazards associated with squamate carcasses and safe disposal protocols.			



### Chapter 4.3. Water Management

Farming and processing facilities can affect water quality through the discharge of wastewater 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 wastewater as close to the source as possible, and carefully controlling the discharge of treated wastewater 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.

**Note:** Throughout this chapter verification relies on interviews with senior personnel and workers. Auditors shall be able to interview workers without the presence of senior personnel.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
<b>4.3.1. GENERAL</b>				
4.3.1.1.	<b>NON-POROUS FLOORS</b> Facilities shall ensure that all processing areas have non-porous floors which slope to ensure runoff flows to the drains.	<b>M</b>	ALL	Processing Facilities
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of graded floors that permit effective washing down of processing areas and prevent build-up of stagnant water.			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
4.3.1.2.	<b>GRIDDED DRAINS</b> Facilities shall install grids on all drains to reduce the introduction of solid materials. The grids shall be inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.	M	ALL	Processing Facilities
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of functional fat / solids interceptors on all drains linked to killing and carcass processing activities.			
4.3.1.3.	<b>WATER TREATMENT</b> Facilities shall install equipment and processes (artificial or biological) to remove nutrients and organic load from wastewater (e.g. water treatment plants, settling lagoons, fish ponds, etc.)	M	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of water treatment/purification plants or biological filtration systems. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of waste water management system, including processes for removal of nutrient loads (e.g. nitrogen and phosphates that may contribute towards eutrophication).			
4.3.1.4.	<b>DREDGING SETTLING PONDS</b> Facilities shall ensure settling lagoons and ponds are dredged on a regular basis to ensure proper functioning.	G	ALL	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of maintenance through regular dredging. <b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of management of waste water management through settling ponds and lagoons.			
4.3.1.5.	<b>CLEANING AGENTS</b> Facilities shall ensure that all cleaning and sterilization agents are environment friendly, particularly regarding aquatic ecosystems (e.g. non-toxic and biodegradable).	M	ALL	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
			Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Audit Guide</b></p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of highly toxic cleaning agents or sterilization materials. Evidence of sole use of non-toxic, environmentally friendly and biodegradable cleaning and sterilization agents.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of environmentally friendly waste water management.</p>			
4.3.1.6.	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE LOCAL WATER RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Facilities shall ensure that operations are managed in a way that mitigates the risk of detrimental impacts on quality and unsustainable exploitation of local water resources.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of processes or activities that could jeopardize sustainable use of local water resources.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of the demands and challenges placed on local water resources and have mitigation strategies to ensure a sustainable supply of good quality water.</p>	M	ALL	ALL

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## Chapter 4.4. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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 RRSS is closely aligned with the three main goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. 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 comprised of 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.

**Note:** Throughout this chapter verification relies on interviews with senior personnel and workers. Auditors shall be able to interview workers without the presence of senior personnel.



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
<b>4.4.1. GENERAL</b>				
4.4.1.1.	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> If it is required by law, the establishment of new facilities shall be preceded by an environmental impact assessment.	M	ALL	ALL
	<b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of when an environmental impact assessment is required by law.			
<b>4.4.2. PROTECTED AREAS</b>				
4.4.2.1.	<b>SUPPLY CHAINS IN PROTECTED AREAS</b> Facilities shall display knowledge of supply chains (e.g. satellite farms, harvesters) that operate or source from within or around established protected areas.	M	ALL	ALL facilities with external suppliers
	<b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel and workers demonstrate an understanding of sourcing activities taking place in or around established protected areas.			
4.4.2.2.	<b>REGISTER OF SUPPLY CHAINS IN PROTECTED AREAS</b> Facilities should maintain a register of supply chains and associated actors (satellite farmers, harvesters) who operate or source from in or around established protected areas (e.g. name of National Park, harvester details).	G	ALL	ALL facilities with external suppliers
	<b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Facilities should provide evidence of records of sourcing activities taking place in or around established protected areas. Information includes actor details (e.g. harvester name, address, contact number), established protected areas name and trade transaction details (e.g. species, size, number). This information may be included in the livestock register.			



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	Audit Guide		Reptile	Entity
<b>4.4.3. POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>				
4.4.3.1.	<p><b>INCENTIVIZE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES</b> Facilities shall finance and incentivize sustainable use of natural resources (ecosystems and biodiversity) wherever possible following regenerative agriculture and nature-based principles.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of sourcing practices, local geography, and knowledge of traded species. Evidence of sustainable use of indigenous natural resources using environmentally-friendly farming practices (e.g. agroecology) and/or managed wild harvests.</p>			
4.4.3.2.	<p><b>LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT</b> Facilities shall identify and evaluate opportunities for partnerships and conservation actions that enhance the long-term sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	Large-scale facility
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of sourcing practices, local geography, and knowledge of local biodiversity. Evidence of engagement with biodiversity-friendly initiatives (e.g. sustainable oil palm plantations, communities living in multi-use Protected Areas) to develop and promote legal and sustainable sourcing options for reptile supply chains (e.g. training of former poachers as professional reptile harvesters, supporting small-scale reptile farming activities as alternative to slash and burn cultivation).</p>			
4.4.3.3.	<p><b>UTILIZE LOCALLY HARVESTED PEST RODENTS</b> Farms shall demonstrate efforts to utilize locally harvested pest rodents sourced from chemical-free agricultural landscapes as a feed input (i.e. play a role in ecological pest control).</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	FARMS



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope	
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile	Entity
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of use of locally harvested rodent pests sourced from chemical-free agricultural landscapes as a feed input for livestock.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of how using safe, locally harvested rodents as feed can benefit the community.</p>			
4.4.3.4.	<p><b>UPCYCLE PROTEIN WASTE</b> Farms shall demonstrate efforts to upcycle protein waste products from agri-food chains (e.g. day old chicks, still born pigs, fish skins, poultry offal).</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of use of locally sourced waste protein sourced from legitimate agri-food supply chains as feed input for livestock (e.g. poultry chicks, still born pigs, fish and poultry offal).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Senior personnel demonstrate an understanding of how using locally sourced waste protein as feed can benefit the community.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	FARMS
4.4.3.5.	<p><b>ORCHARDS AND VEGETABLE GARDENS</b> Facilities shall demonstrate efforts to maintain orchards and vegetable gardens in available greenspace (e.g. around wastewater settling ponds)</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of the production of fruiting trees and food crops in available space around the facility.</p>	<b>S</b>	ALL	ALL



## Appendix 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 reptile 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.

### DESIRED OUTCOME

Reptiles are caught and restrained quickly and securely while ensuring no physical injury and minimal stress to the captured reptile and minimal impact of the capture method on the environment.

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
A1.1. Legal compliance			
A1.1.1	<b>CONSERVATION LEGAL REQUIREMENT</b> Harvesters shall comply with applicable wildlife protection, protected areas, trade and animal welfare laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, harvesting, export quotas, size restrictions and sensitive sites (protected areas and cultural sites).	C	ALL
	<b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. For example, harvest quotas and size restrictions. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of appropriate licenses and permits (e.g. purchased quota documentation).		
A1.1.2	<b>TRANSPORTATION LEGAL REQUIREMENT</b> If used on registered roads, modes of transportation shall be licensed and registered according to applicable laws.	C	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	Audit Guide		Reptile
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of and compliance with legal requirements pertaining to modes of transportation used when harvesting reptiles. For example, if hunting vehicles are used on registered roads they shall be licensed and registered according to applicable laws.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of appropriate licenses and registrations.</p>		
A1.2. Animal welfare			
A1.2.1 CAPTURE			
A1.2.1.1	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE LIVE CAPTURE METHODS</b>            Live capture methods shall not physically harm the reptiles.            Acceptable passive capture methods (traps) include: species-specific low-impact snares, nets, and cage traps (including funnel traps).            Acceptable active capture methods include: electro-stunning (aquatic snakes only), and direct capture (any form of hand capture or hand-held device used to restrain a free-ranging reptile without injury, e.g. gloves, sticks, catch-poles).            Capture methods that are not acceptable include: use of fire, smoke, explosives, fishing hooks (unless inadvertently as bycatch), and noxious chemicals (e.g. petroleum).</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of more than 1 in 20 individuals found dead, being injured or exhibiting unnatural movement or body posture.  <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of acceptable capture methods.</p>		
A1.2.1.2	<p><b>ADAPTED CAPTURE METHOD DESIGN</b>            Capture methods shall be tailored to: a) take account of the strength and capabilities of target individuals and species, b) exclude non-target individuals and species, with particular focus on threatened species (i.e. IUCN Red List conservation status of Vulnerable, Endangered and Critically Endangered or above) known to be present in the area.</p>	M	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Note:</b> Example by-catch species include small carnivores, predatory birds, and pangolins.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that practices include minimal by-catch of non-target sizes and species, and safe and secure capture of target individuals.</p>		
A1.2.1.3	<p><b>REDUCING RISK OF STRESS OR INJURY</b></p> <p>The design, materials used, and method of deployment of any capture device or equipment shall reduce the risk of stress or injury, with captivity being the only welfare challenge being introduced.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of appropriately designed, well maintained and properly used devices / equipment. No evidence of materials or defects that may accidentally or unintentionally harm reptiles during the capture process.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrate an understanding of the need to maintain good welfare outcomes during the harvesting process.</p>		
<b>A1.2.2 TRAPPING</b>			
A1.2.2.1	<p><b>TERRESTRIAL TRAPS SETTING</b></p> <p>Terrestrial traps shall be set in shaded locations, out of direct sunlight.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of trapped reptiles in direct sunlight.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the requirements for setting terrestrial traps in shaded locations and the risks posed by direct sunlight and other environmental factors.</p>		
A1.2.2.2	<p><b>TRAP MONITORING FREQUENCY</b></p> <p>Traps shall be checked at least daily are more frequently if environmental conditions necessitate (e.g. extreme heat). Trapped animals shall be removed upon detection.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of regular checks and no evidence of risks to welfare (e.g., dehydration).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the importance of checking traps and nets regularly.</p>		



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
A1.2.2.3	<p><b>RISK OF PREDATION</b> Traps shall be positioned to reduce risk of predation of trapped reptiles (e.g. positioned away from trails and hidden from aerial predators).</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of predated trapped reptiles. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the need to position traps to reduce risks of predation. For example, traps are hidden from aerial predators by covering with foliage and set away from trails frequented by terrestrial carnivores, including cats and dogs.</p>		
A1.2.2.4	<p><b>FREE FROM OBSTRUCTIONS</b> The trapping area shall remain free from obstructions that may compromise the action for the trap.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of trapping sites having been well prepared to ensure obstructions (e.g. rocks, logs, vegetation) cannot compromise the action of the trap or compromise the welfare of the trapped reptile (e.g. through rubbing or entanglement). <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrate an understanding of the importance of trap placement and associated risks.</p>		
A1.2.2.5	<p><b>AQUATIC SNAKE TRAPS</b> Aquatic snake traps shall allow the reptile to fully submerge and rest at the water’s surface.</p>	C	Aquatic Snakes
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that traps are set such that aquatic snakes have access to the water surface (to breathe) and are also able to submerge. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of acceptable methods used to capture aquatic snakes.</p>		
<b>A1.2.3 HANDLING</b>			
A1.2.3.1	<p><b>REDUCING STRESS</b> Reptiles shall be handled as little as possible and moved in a calm manner that minimizes the risk of stress and injury.</p>	C	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of excessive or unnecessary handling of reptiles. Handled reptiles appear calm and display minimal aggressive body movements. Stress related hissing and voiding of the bowls is the exception rather than the rule.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>		
A1.2.3.2	<p><b>SUPPORT WHILST HANDLING</b></p> <p>During handling, the body weight of the reptile shall be well supported and controlled at all times using appropriate force to restrain the reptile in a way that minimizes risk of injury or stress.</p> <p>Large-bodied reptiles (<math>\geq 5</math> kg) shall be well supported at two or more points along the body.</p> <p>Snakes less than 5 kg and monitor lizards may be held by the base of the tail or neck for extremely short periods (e.g. moving from trap to containment) and not fully off the ground.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being dangled by the head or distal portion of the tail. No evidence of physical discomfort. The reptiles body movements are controlled in a calm and purposeful manner at all times.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of handling protocols.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL
A1.2.3.3	<p><b>MUTILATIONS</b></p> <p>Reptiles shall never be defanged, have their mouths sewn shut, limbs pierced, or be intentionally mutilated in any way.</p>	<b>C</b>	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile
	<p><b>Note:</b> Defanging and sewing mouths shut occasionally occur with venomous species in the reptile meat industry (e.g. retail of live snakes, live demonstrations). Nose rub around the mouth is an indicator of prolonged escape behavior rather than intentional mutilations evidence of which would be raised against a different requirement, dependent on cause.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of injury to the mouth region or limbs. Scales around the lips appear smooth and clean. No puncture wounds or signs of blood or scabbing around the limbs.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of welfare requirements relating to mutilations.</p>		
A1.2.3.4	<p><b>SNAKE BINDINGS</b> The mouth of snakes shall never be tied shut. They may be taped shut only for the duration of handling, providing there are no signs of abrasions, lacerations or excessive pressure (e.g., swelling due to blood flow restriction).</p>	C	Snakes
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of tying of snake mouths to restrict biting/movement. The snout of large snakes shows no evidence of distortion, swelling or discoloration / abrasion due to binding.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding that bindings are not permitted.</p>		
A1.2.3.5	<p><b>LIZARD BINDINGS</b> The mouth and limbs of lizards may be taped, tied, or otherwise bound provided methods and duration are in accordance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bound limbs should lie alongside the body, not above the back (e.g. limbs are connected by a length of material and not bound together).</li> <li>Materials and methods do not cause abrasions, lacerations or excessive pressure (e.g. swelling due to blood flow restriction).</li> <li>Duration lasts no longer than 3 days.</li> </ul>	M	Lizards



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of blockage of the nostrils. No evidence of distortion to jaw alignment or tongue flicking. The toes and limbs of monitor lizards show no signs of fresh, symmetrical injuries to both left and right limbs due to binding.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of binding protocols.</p>		
A1.2.3.6	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF INJURED REPTILES</b> Injured reptiles shall be either treated, using proper approaches for the condition, or euthanized.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of treatment for any injured reptiles being held. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the need to treat or euthanize injured reptiles upon detection.</p>		
A1.2.3.7	<p><b>GRAVID REPTILES</b> Visibly gravid individuals shall be released at the site of capture unless destined for ranching programs.</p>	G	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> In some cases live young and/or eggs are collected for ranching purposes. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of visibly gravid individuals, live neonates or recently laid eggs captured for processing. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of catch and release protocols surrounding gravid reptiles. Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of when collection of live young and/or eggs is acceptable.</p>		
<b>A1.2.4. CONTAINMENT</b>			
A1.2.4.1	<p><b>SHADE DURING TRANSPORTATION</b> Reptiles shall not be transported in direct sunlight or exposed to hot surfaces.</p>	C	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		Reptile
	<p><b>Note:</b> Sunlight can be beneficial to reptiles in certain contexts, but exposure to direct tropical sunlight and sun-warmed surfaces can rapidly and severely compromise reptile welfare.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being exposed to these situations or conditions, except during the actual process of loading / offloading or moving.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare, temperature thresholds and direct sunlight.</p>		
A1.2.4.2	<p><b>DAMP CONDITIONS</b> Reptiles shall not be held in damp conditions (unless aquatic species held in water) for prolonged periods of time that may risk welfare.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of terrestrial species being exposed to permanently wet or damp conditions for prolonged periods. Periodic wetting to hydrate reptiles does not result in stagnant pools that persist for more than 12 hours.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare and damp conditions.</p>		
A1.2.4.3	<p><b>PROXIMITY TO STRESSORS</b> Reptiles shall not be held in close proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. fuel), vibrations (e.g. operating machinery) or excessive activity (e.g. public thoroughfare).</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> Although reptile senses are very different from human senses, for the purpose of the RRSS we consider them similar, If the stimulus is detectable to humans, it is detectable to reptiles.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence reptiles are held in olfactory proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. smell of fuel), physical proximity to vibrations (e.g. ground vibrations of generator) or visual proximity to excessive activity (e.g. line of sight dominated by a public thoroughfare).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between key stress stimuli and reptile welfare.</p>		



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
A1.2.4.4	<p><b>CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT</b>  Reptiles shall be held in free-draining, ventilated bags or crates (unless species is aquatic and held in water), or other escape-proof containment .  Recycled agri-food bags (e.g. sacks used for grain and fertilizer storage) shall not be used.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of secure, free-draining and well-ventilated containment. No evidence of recycled agri-food bags being used. Industrial grade mesh bags and plastic 'fruit' crates are industry standard but numerous satisfactory alternatives exist.  <b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>		
A1.2.4.5	<p><b>CONTAINMENT CONDITION</b>  Containments shall be in good condition, reducing the risk to the reptile(s) of abrasion, entanglement or entrapment.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that containments are clean, well maintained and fit for purpose. No evidence of unhygienic conditions or faults (e.g. holes and loose threads in bags, breaks and sharp projections in crates).  <b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>		
A1.2.4.6	<p><b>STOCKING DENSITY</b>  Stocking systems and densities shall be such that individuals are able to adjust their position to prevent risks to welfare.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> Soft walled containments (e.g. material bags) may naturally compress contents when raised off the ground. This is not necessarily a sign of overstocking.  <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of overstocking in holding areas. No signs of 'crushing' or undue discomfort. Reptiles should be able to adjust their body position with ease.  <b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the importance of appropriate stocking systems and densities.</p>		
A1.2.4.7	<p><b>SPECIES AND SIZE SEPARATION</b>  Species and size classes shall be separated such that it prevents risks to welfare. The variation in length within any group should be no greater than 25% of the mean length (i.e. Mean +/- 12.5% of the mean).</p>	M	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	Audit Guide		Reptile
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of mixing of species and size is within required size band.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvesters demonstrate an understanding of the importance of not mixing species and sizes.</p>		
A1.3. Occupational health and safety			
A1.3.1	<p><b>SAFE TRANSPORTATION</b> Modes of transportation shall be roadworthy.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of reasonable level of roadworthiness in vehicles used when harvesting reptiles. For example, evidence of brakes, lights and tread on tires. Note: Motorcycles are a common mode of transport. Due to socio-economic factors and the nature of the work, non-functional aesthetics should be ignored.</p>		
A1.3.2	<p><b>HARVESTER EXPERIENCE AND COMPETENCY</b> Harvesters shall demonstrate competence in reptile capture, handling, and equipment use.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of competence in reptile capture, handling, and equipment use. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of reptile capture and handling techniques. Evidence of proper use of equipment.</p>		
A1.3.3	<p><b>HARVEST PLAN</b> Harvesters shall share information with community members on hunting destinations and expected duration prior to departure.</p>	G	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> Harvests often take place in remote landscapes where communications and emergency services are limited. <b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the importance of sharing information on harvesting trip destination and duration. For example informing other community members of their expected movements in case of emergency.</p>		
A1.3.4	<p><b>HARVESTER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION</b> Harvesters shall carry a form of communication and identification (e.g. mobile phone, driver’s license).</p>	G	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<b>Audit Guide</b>		<b>Reptile</b>
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Check form of communication (and effectiveness in area) and identification.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the need to carry identification documents and an effective form of communication (e.g. two way radio, mobile phone).</p>		
A1.3.5	<p><b>HARVEST TEAM</b> Harvesting parties shall consist of no less than two persons.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of harvesting parties consisting of two or more people.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the importance of avoiding lone working.</p>	G	ALL
A1.3.6	<p><b>HARVESTER AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS</b> Harvesters shall be aware of environmental hazards (e.g. weather, parasites, dangerous reptiles and animals).</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates a reasonable knowledge of primary environmental hazards associated with harvesting. For example, elephants and crocodiles in the harvest environment, hazardous weather conditions (e.g. flooding of access roads) and parasites (e.g. malaria).</p>	G	ALL
<b>A1.4. Biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>			
A1.4.1	<p><b>MINIMIZE DISTURBANCES</b> Harvesting activities shall minimize disturbances to the natural environment</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of avoidable disturbance.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of the importance of minimizing impacts on the natural environment. For example, removal of litter, no lighting of fires, unused or discarded trapping materials (particularly nets) are removed or destroyed.</p>	C	ALL
A1.4.2	<p><b>NO DISTURBANCE NEAR SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS</b> Harvesting activities involving major disturbances to the environment shall not be carried where there is risk of erosion, water pollution or siltation e.g. adjacent to stream banks, river bunds, and other sensitive environments.</p>	M	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of harvest activities adjacent to sensitive environments.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of impacts of harvesting techniques on sensitive environments.</p>		
A1.4.3	<p><b>NO IMPACT ON NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS</b> Harvesting activities shall not contribute to the loss of natural ecosystems or vegetation, with no physical disturbance to primary indigenous ecosystems such as mature rainforests. Invasive harvesting techniques (e.g. vegetation removal, excavations) shall be restricted to secondary growth and agricultural landscapes.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that invasive techniques are restricted to secondary growth and agricultural landscapes. No evidence of invasive techniques in primary ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of impacts of harvesting techniques on ecosystems and the difference between primary and secondary ecosystems.</p>		
A1.4.4	<p><b>RESTORE HABITATS</b> Efforts shall be made to restore habitats that have been disturbed during capture and trapping activities.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that excavations are backfilled, logs and rocks are returned to original positions.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of impacts of harvesting techniques on the environment and associated mitigation measures.</p>		
A1.4.5	<p><b>HARVEST DISTANCE FROM PROTECTED AREAS</b> Passive capture techniques (i.e. traps, nets, and reptile-specific snares) shall not be deployed within 500m of a protected area to reduce risk of by-catch.</p>	M	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Note:</b> Edge habitat that separates agricultural areas from protected wildlife habitat often exhibits elevated levels of wildlife activity, and consequently presents an elevated risk of bycatch.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of passive capture taking place within 500m of a protected area boundary.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Harvester demonstrates an understanding of by-catch and the need to mitigate risks associated with trapping reptiles in close proximity to protected areas.</p>		
A1.4.6	<p><b>RECORD BY-CATCH</b> Harvesters shall maintain a record of by-catch.</p>	G	ALL
	<p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of records of by-catch.</p>		

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## Appendix 2: Standards for 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.

### DESIRED OUTCOME

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

Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope Reptile
<b>Audit Guide</b>			
A2.1. Legal compliance			
A2.1.1	<b>TRANSPORTATION LEGAL REQUIREMENT</b> Transporters shall comply with applicable laws and regulations related to road safety and vehicle permits and licensing.	C	ALL
	<b>Interviews:</b> Transporter demonstrates an understanding of, and compliance with road safety laws. For example, speed limits, road signs, and road rules. <b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Evidence of appropriate vehicle permit and driving license.		
A2.2. Animal welfare			
A2.2.1 GENERAL			
A2.2.1.1	<b>TEMPERATURE DURING TRANSPORT</b> Reptiles shall be maintained between 15 - 33°C throughout the transport process.	C	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Reptiles under transport conditions have a temperature between 15 - 33°C.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Transporter demonstrates an understanding of temperature thresholds for reptiles under transport conditions.</p>		
A2.2.1.2	<p><b>CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT</b> Reptiles are transported in a controlled thermal environment of 23-27°C.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of systems in place to effectively manage temperatures for the entire duration of transport (e.g., ice, air conditioners, timing of travel). Evidence of temperatures being managed at 23-27°C.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Transporter demonstrate an understanding of transport protocols pertaining to temperature monitoring.</p>		
A2.2.1.3	<p><b>CONTAINMENT DURATION DURING TRANSPORT</b> Reptiles shall be in containment for a maximum of two days. If after this period, they have not reached their final destination, they shall be assessed and action taken if the reptiles are in poor condition. The containment period may be extended only where reptiles are being transported under environmentally controlled conditions, i.e. specialized transport.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the need to minimize transport times and ensure overall containment time is met.</p> <p><b>Documents &amp; Records:</b> Livestock register shows that the duration between date of harvest or departure / and date of arrival at facility is no more than 2 days.</p>		
A2.2.1.4	<p><b>TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT HYGIENE</b> Transport equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected between transport events, using a non-toxic disinfectant (e.g., 3% bleach).</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of rigorous cleaning protocols. Transport equipment relatively clean with no signs of waste accumulation from prolonged use without cleaning.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of transport hygiene protocols.</p>		
A2.2.1.5	<p><b>SECURE LOAD</b></p>	M	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	Crates and containers shall be well secured to limit movement within the vehicle during transit and prevent reptile escape.		
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence of secure packing and interlocking systems / tie-downs associated with transport containments and methods. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the need to secure the load.		
A2.2.1.6	<b>TRANSPORT PLAN</b> To prevent long waiting times, the handling of reptiles during transport shall be planned and executed efficiently.	M	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> Evidence that loading / unloading and packing / unpacking of transported reptiles is carried out in a timely, organized, and efficient manner. Personnel have clearly defined roles and a thorough understanding of unloading/unpacking procedures. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of having a transport plan.		
A2.2.1.7	<b>CONTAINMENT HANDLING</b> During transport handling, containers shall be handled and moved in a controlled and calm manner and at no point dropped, tilted, or turned over.	C	ALL
	<b>Observations:</b> No evidence of improper handling.		
<b>A2.2.2 CONTAINMENT</b>			
A2.2.2.1	<b>SHADE DURING TRANSPORTATION</b> Reptiles shall not be transported in direct sunlight or exposed to hot surfaces.	C	ALL
	<b>Note:</b> Sunlight can be beneficial to reptiles in certain contexts, but exposure to direct tropical sunlight and sun-warmed surfaces can rapidly and severely compromise reptile welfare. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of reptiles being exposed to these situations or conditions, except during the actual process of loading / offloading or moving. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare, temperature thresholds and direct sunlight.		



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
A2.2.2.2	<p><b>DAMP CONDITIONS</b> Reptiles shall not be held in damp conditions (unless aquatic species held in water) for prolonged periods of time that may risk welfare.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of terrestrial species being exposed to permanently wet or damp conditions for prolonged periods. Periodic wetting to hydrate reptiles does not result in stagnant pools that persist for more than 12 hours. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between reptile welfare and damp conditions.</p>		
A2.2.2.3	<p><b>PROXIMITY TO STRESSORS</b> Reptiles shall not be held in close proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. fuel), vibrations (e.g. operating machinery) or excessive activity (e.g. public thoroughfare).</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> Although reptile senses are very different from human senses, for the purpose of the RRSS we consider them similar, If the stimulus is detectable to humans, it is detectable to reptiles. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence reptiles are held in olfactory proximity to noxious chemicals (e.g. smell of fuel), physical proximity to vibrations (e.g. ground vibrations of generator) or visual proximity to excessive activity (e.g. line of sight dominated by a public thoroughfare). <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between key stress stimuli and reptile welfare.</p>		
A2.2.2.4	<p><b>CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT</b> Reptiles shall be held in free-draining, ventilated bags or crates (unless species is aquatic and held in water), or other escape-proof containment . Recycled agri-food bags (e.g. sacks used for grain and fertilizer storage) shall not be used.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of secure, free-draining and well-ventilated containment. No evidence of recycled agri-food bags being used. Industrial grade mesh bags and plastic 'fruit' crates are industry standard but numerous satisfactory alternatives exist. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>		



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
A2.2.2.5	<p><b>CONTAINMENT CONDITION</b> Containments shall be in good condition, reducing the risk to the reptile(s) of abrasion, entanglement or entrapment.</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence that containments are clean, well maintained and fit for purpose. No evidence of unhygienic conditions or faults (e.g. holes and loose threads in bags, breaks and sharp projections in crates). <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of containment requirements.</p>		
A2.2.2.6	<p><b>STOCKING DENSITY</b> Stocking systems and densities shall be such that individuals are able to adjust their position to prevent risks to welfare.</p>	C	ALL
	<p><b>Note:</b> Soft walled containments (e.g. material bags) may naturally compress contents when raised off the ground. This is not necessarily a sign of overstocking. <b>Observations:</b> No evidence of overstocking in holding areas. No signs of 'crushing' or undue discomfort. Reptiles should be able to adjust their body position with ease. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the importance of appropriate stocking systems and densities.</p>		
A2.2.2.7	<p><b>SPECIES AND SIZE SEPARATION</b> Species and size classes shall be separated such that it prevents risks to welfare. The variation in length within any group should be no greater than 25% of the mean length (i.e. Mean +/- 12.5% of the mean).</p>	M	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> No evidence of mixing of species and size is within required size band. <b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrate an understanding of the importance of not mixing species and sizes.</p>		
A2.3. Occupational health and safety			
A2.3.1	<p><b>SAFE TRANSPORTATION</b> Modes of transportation are maintained in good working order.</p>	G	ALL



Reference	Requirement	Level	Scope
	<i>Audit Guide</i>		Reptile
	<p><b>Note:</b> Due to socio-economic factors and the nature of the work, non-functional aesthetics should be ignored.</p> <p><b>Observations:</b> Evidence of a high level of roadworthiness in vehicles used to transport reptiles. No evidence of excessive wear on tires, no evidence of faulty electronics (horn, lights, indicators), no cracks in windscreen obscuring driver's view etc.</p>		
A2.3.2	<p><b>TRANSPORTER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION</b> Transporters carry a form of communication and identification (e.g. mobile phone, driver's license).</p>	G	ALL
	<p><b>Observations:</b> Check form of communication (and effectiveness in area) and identification.</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Transporters demonstrates an understanding of the need to carry identification documents and an effective form of communication (e.g. two way radio, mobile phone).</p>		

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## Appendix 3: Reptile bites

Source: Aust PW, Webb GJW, DeNardo DF, Natusch DJD (2019) Welfare Principles for Snakes and Monitor Lizards in the Southeast Asian Skin Trade – a guide for stakeholders.

Reptile bites are a common hazard in the reptile trade.

Snakes bite for one of two reasons – fear or food.

Most fear-related bites comprise a rapid strike and release action. Consequences to the handler vary, but these bites are mostly harmless to the snakes.

Food-related bites and some defensive bites, where the snake holds on, are more serious.

In most cases, the snake seems to sense a mistake has been made and lets go, but occasionally it will retain its hold.

Unless performed correctly, forcefully dislodging a biting snake can result in significant injury to the reptile (e.g., broken teeth or jaws) or the handler (e.g., torn flesh).

As snake teeth tend to be recurved backwards, a biting snake is best removed by pushing its top and bottom jaws forward while gently prying the jaws open.

In constricting snakes, coils may have to be unraveled prior to disengaging the bite.

If this doesn't work, the head can be doused with alcohol or vinegar to encourage the reptile to let go.

Be sure to avoid pouring the liquid down the reptile's throat or trachea, and rinse the head thoroughly in clean water afterwards to ensure irritation is minimized.

Monitor lizards have very powerful jaws and short, strong, recurved teeth. They tend to bite-and-hold in a vice-like grip. Similar protocols to snake bites should be followed, although the force required to pry the jaws open may be significantly greater.

## Appendix 4: Assessment of effective stunning and killing

Source Article.7.14.6 WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 7.14 KILLING OF REPTILES FOR THEIR SKINS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS

The following animal-based criteria (or measurables) can be useful indicators of animal welfare. The use of these criteria and their appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different methods used to stun and kill reptiles. These criteria can be considered as tools to monitor the impact of the method and management used, given that both of these can affect animal welfare.

As far as criteria to measure the effectiveness of stunning and killing methods are concerned and whilst multiple criteria are preferable for the verification of unconsciousness or death, the presence of any of the following criteria should be regarded as sufficient to establish suspicion of consciousness:

- pupillary response to light or moving objects;
- eye movement in response to objects or movement;
- blink or nictitating membrane responses to touch or contact of the cornea in species where eyelids are present;
- spontaneous eyelid opening or closing in species where eyelids are present;
- intentional defensive responses;
- tongue movement;
- jaw tone.

In addition to the absence of all the criteria above, death may be inferred by confirming permanent cessation of the following:

- response to stimuli applied to the head, indicating brain activity;
- respiration;
- cardiac activity (while presence of a heartbeat does not necessarily mean that the reptile is alive, permanent cessation of a heartbeat indicates death). Cardiac activity should not be used as the sole indicator of death.



## Document Control

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