CSG Industry Thematic Group
Terms of Reference

Purpose
The CSG Industry Thematic Group brings together professionals engaged in the legal management, production, and trade in crocodilian species. Through decades of operating within regulated national and international frameworks, group members represent the many CSG members who possess practical expertise in traceability, compliance, and applied systems that support management and conservation outcomes.

Strategy
The following outline strategic areas in which the Industry Group may contribute to broader CSG objectives for both commercial and non-commercial crocodilian species.

1. Policy and Position Development

   The Industry Group can develop structured, science-aligned policy guidance to support clarity in crocodilian management discussions, including:

   - Wild Harvest Position: A document outlining the ecological, socioeconomic, and governance foundations of regulated wild harvest systems, clarifying distinctions between wild harvest, ranching and farming, and highlighting safeguards that underpin management.

   - Ranching versus Captive Breeding Conservation: A discussion paper examining how management tools developed in commercial systems work, explaining conservation and habitat benefits as well as benefits to local communities. Potential development for species/range state specific case studies.

   These materials can serve as reference tools for CSG leadership, range states and policymakers.

2. CITES Technical Guidance and Trade Literacy

   Given extensive experience operating under CITES frameworks, the Industry Group can contribute to improved regulatory literacy through:

   - CITES 101: Crocodilian Import and Export Guidance: Practical explanation of Appendix listings, source codes (W, R, C, F), Non-Detriment Findings, tagging systems, re-export documentation, and common compliance challenges
   - Visual trade flow diagrams clarifying permit pathways and documentation requirements

   Such materials strengthen transparency and consistency across jurisdictions and assist scientific community in legally importing and exporting biological samples.

3. Traceability Systems and Best Practices

   Industry participants operate within structured monitoring and chain-of-custody systems. The Industry Group may contribute technical guidance in areas such as:

   - Crocodilian traceability infrastructure and tagging models
   - Chain-of-custody documentation standards
   - Updating farming and ranching best practices reflecting current standards in: animal welfare; environmental management; biosecurity; recordkeeping and audit systems; and, by-product utilization

This expertise supports continuous improvement and alignment with evolving conservation expectations.

4. Support for Non-Commercial Species Conservation

Beyond commercially managed species, the Industry Group can engage constructively in broader conservation efforts by:

- Providing technical input to species action plans
- Sharing lessons learned from successful recovery programs
- Contributing relevant, non-sensitive data to inform assessments
- Facilitating connections between practitioners, researchers, and management experts

This engagement reinforces the principle that conservation credibility extends across all crocodilian species.

5. Science Translation and Communication

Clear communication strengthens conservation systems. The Group can assist in translating complex regulatory and management frameworks into accessible materials for:

- Policymakers
- Academic institutions
- Designers and manufacturers
- Conservation partners

Science-aligned messaging helps ensure informed decision-making and public trust.

Scope of participants

In this context, Industry represents individual members whose professional expertise lies in wildlife and agricultural economies that implement the sustainable use of crocodilian species. The Industry Group focuses on the practical application of science-based management frameworks, translating approved conservation programs into measurable conservation outcomes through lawful production, use and market systems.

All Industry members participate in CSG as individuals, not as representatives of businesses, associations, or commercial entities, and operate within the ethical standards, conflict-of-interest disclosures, and scientific integrity requirements of the IUCN SSC.

Inclusion in the Industry Group may include individuals professionally engaged or with experience in the following areas:

- Farms - crocodilian farming and grow-out operations
- Egg Collectors - licensed egg collection and release programs
- Wild Skin Trappers - regulated wild harvest conducted under approved management systems
- Raw Skin Traders - trade in fresh, salted, or wet blue crocodilian skins
- Finished Skin Traders - trade in crust or finished crocodilian leather
- Tanners - tanning and finishing of crocodilian skins
- Finished Goods Manufacturers - production of crocodilian leather products (eg footwear, leather goods, watch straps)
- Brands - material sourcing, sustainability, and product approval functions related to crocodilian materials
- Meat Processors - regulated processing of crocodilian meat
- Meat Wholesalers and Distributors - domestic and international distribution of crocodilian meat
- Byproduct Processors, Manufacturers, and Distributors - utilization and distribution of regulated crocodilian byproducts (eg skulls, teeth, oil, bones)
- Eco-Tourism Operators - crocodilian-based wildlife tourism activities conducted within approved management frameworks and dependent on healthy, free-ranging populations

- Regulated Hunting Operators - individuals involved in the operation or management of government-approved crocodilian hunting programs conducted under science-based quotas and regulatory oversight

Conclusion
The CSG Industry Group aims to contribute applied expertise in regulated management systems, traceability, and international trade compliance. Through policy development, technical guidance, and collaborative engagement, the Industry Group supports the integration of science-based management with practical conservation outcomes across crocodilian species globally.

Endorsement date: 9th March 2026
Endorsed by: CSG Executive Committee