

World trade in crocodilian skins 2022-2024

**Prepared as part of the International Alligator and
Crocodile Trade Study**

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World trade in crocodilian skins 2022-2024

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Executive summary

All crocodilians are listed in either Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and many are found in international trade for the leather and fashion industry, for meat, and as live animals for breeding operations, food, the pet industry, and zoos. This report shows the changing trends in the species involved in this trade since 2015 with special emphasis on the years 2022 to 2024, the most recent three-year period for which there are reasonably complete data.

The species involved in the skin trade are the 'classics' such as *Alligator mississippiensis*, *Crocodylus acutus*, *C. moreletii*, *C. niloticus*, *C. novaeguineae*, *C. porosus* and *C. siamensis*, and the caimans such as *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus*, *C. c. fuscus*, *C. latirostris* and *C. yacare*. More recently, black caiman *Melanosuchus niger* has entered the skin trade. Between 2015 and 2024 overall global trade has fluctuated between a low of just over one million skins in 2020, a year when there was a global pandemic, to over 1.8 million skins in 2022. The South American caiman trade, particularly from Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (hereafter referred to as Venezuela) has collapsed as the industry moves towards higher value skins. American alligator from the United States of America (hereafter referred to as the United States), Nile crocodile from Southern Africa, and Siamese crocodile from Thailand and Viet Nam have showed no such collapse. Since 2015 the total number of crocodilian skins traded globally has declined but 4.4 million skins were reported in trade over the three-year period 2022-2024. There were dramatic declines in all aspects of the trade in crocodilians in 2020 because of restrictions put in place to control the global pandemic of COVID-19, however trade levels in some species, notably *C. porosus* and *C. siamensis*, have showed signs of recovery since then.

Live animal trade involves relatively few individuals except for the Far Eastern trade in Siamese crocodile *C. siamensis*. These animals are bred in captivity in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and until 2019 were exported in large numbers to China where they are consumed as food. This trade has only just resumed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Crocodilian meat is traded widely but is particularly favoured in the Far East, especially China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (hereafter referred to as Hong Kong SAR); the top species in trade in the period 2022-2024 continued to be *C. niloticus*, *C. porosus* and *C. siamensis*.

Introduction

This report, the thirty-second produced by UNEP-WCMC for the International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study (IACTS), examines the international trade in crocodilian skins, with a particular focus on the years 2022 to 2024, but also refers to trends since 2015. It also attempts to identify and highlight problem areas such as apparent discrepancies in reporting and to recommend, where possible, workable solutions. The data used have been obtained from the CITES Trade Database maintained by UNEP-WCMC on behalf of the CITES Secretariat, with additional information provided by the Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe.

As in previous IACTS reports, this report presents an overview of global trade levels in classic skins (alligators and true crocodiles) and caimans, and a detailed species-by-species analysis of the trade in skins and other products such as live animals, meat, and teeth. All species within the order Crocodylia are listed in either Appendix I or II of CITES. Of those species specifically mentioned in this report as being in commercial trade, the following are listed in Appendix I: *Crocodylus acutus*, *C. moreletii*, *C. niloticus*, *C. porosus*, *C. siamensis*, *Caiman latirostris* and *Melanosuchus niger*; although all these species (excluding *C. siamensis*) have populations currently listed in Appendix II.

Data included

This report is based on an analysis of the annual reports submitted by the Parties to CITES for 2015 to 2024 and, where appropriate, data from outside of this period are presented to provide historical context. A list of annual reports for 2022-2024 that were available at the time of analysis (April 2026) is provided (Table 1). Additional data provided by FAO and the Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe (CFAZ) have been used where the annual report data are missing or thought to be incomplete.

All direct, commercial trade¹ in whole skins and sides, live animals, meat, and teeth of crocodilian species has been analysed, with two skin sides being considered equivalent to one full skin; trade in skins reported in other sub-units, such as 'tails', or in units of weight, area, or length, have been excluded. Re-exports have not been included in the estimation of annual production. The figures and tables contain information on trade from all sources, including captive-breeding, ranching and wild specimens, unless otherwise specified. Wherever possible, data reported by the producer countries have been used in preference to that reported by importing countries. This is because there may be a time lag between when the export and the import are reported, which could lead to the same skins being counted in different years and thus an overestimation of trade volume. However, where producer countries have failed to submit annual reports, or where exporter-reported trade volumes are substantially less than those reported by importers, importers' data have been used. The report discusses the key species in trade in taxonomic order, reviewing global trade trends before focussing on trends in trade from individual exporting countries.

¹ For this analysis, 'commercial trade' includes CITES purpose code T, and may also include codes P, H, Z, and Q.

Limitations of data

Incomplete data due to late submission of, or failure to submit, CITES annual reports remains an impediment to conducting trade studies using CITES trade data. Measures have been taken by the CITES Standing Committee to improve compliance with the reporting provisions of the Convention. These have included reminders being sent by the Secretariat on behalf of the Standing Committee and a recommendation to suspend trade in CITES-listed species should a Party fail, without providing sufficient justification, to submit reports for three consecutive years (Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP20)). Despite these efforts, some Parties fail to submit annual reports on a regular basis.

According to Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP20), annual reports for trade in 2024 should have been submitted by 31 October 2025. However, at the time of analysis (April 2026), several reports for the years 2022-2024 that might contain important crocodilian data had not yet been received by the CITES Secretariat. These include Argentina (2024), Australia (2023 and 2024), Brazil (2023), Venezuela (2023 and 2024), Papua New Guinea (2024), Paraguay (2024), Zambia (2024), and Zimbabwe (2023).

The accuracy of the data is a further limitation to analysis of the trade. The quality of some annual reports was poor as evidenced by comparisons of exporter- and importer-reported data and data obtained from other sources; occasionally skins have been misreported as bodies, sides, or live animals, while skin pieces, such as back strips, necks, flanks, and tails, have often been reported as whole skins. Since most of the countries trading in crocodilian skins report on a shipment-by-shipment basis, and many importers' reports include the exporters' permit numbers, importer-reported data can be cross-referenced with the original export permit information to keep reporting or typographical errors to a minimum. This type of checking is also useful for cross-referencing end-of-year trade, where an export may be reported in one year and the import of the same shipment reported the following year.

Analysing annual reports is also complicated by the inconsistent way in which the reports are compiled. According to CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2025/021 Annex 1, Parties may base their report simply on the permits and certificates that have been issued if they are unable to report on the actual number of specimens that entered or left the country. However, reporting based on permits issued, or a combination of actual trade and permits issued, may lead to overestimates of trade volume as permits are frequently issued for quantities exceeding those which are traded and indeed, some of the permits may expire without being used. Most Parties still fail to provide any details concerning the basis on which their annual reports are compiled.

Improvement in the reporting of crocodilian trade continues; however, the absence of annual reports from certain key producer countries as noted above, continues to be a hindrance to timely analysis of the trade.

Table 1. CITES annual reports for 2022-2024 available for analysis²

Country	2022	2023	2024	Country	2022	2023	2024
Afghanistan	-	-	-	Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✓
Albania	✓	✓	-	Ecuador	✓	-	-
Algeria	✓	✓	✓	Egypt	-	-	-
Andorra	✓	✓	✓	El Salvador	✓	✓	-
Angola	✓	✓	-	Equatorial Guinea	✓	✓	✓
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	Eritrea	✓	✓	-
Argentina	✓	✓	-	Estonia	✓	✓	✓
Armenia	✓	✓	✓	Eswatini	✓	✓	✓
Australia	✓	-	-	Ethiopia	✓	✓	✓
Austria	✓	✓	✓	Fiji	-	-	✓
Azerbaijan	✓	✓	✓	Finland	✓	✓	✓
Bahamas	-	✓	✓	France	✓	✓	✓
Bahrain	✓	✓	-	Gabon	✓	-	-
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	Gambia	✓	-	-
Barbados	✓	✓	✓	Georgia	✓	✓	✓
Belarus	✓	✓	-	Germany	✓	✓	✓
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	Ghana	✓	✓	✓
Belize	✓	✓	✓	Greece	✓	✓	✓
Benin	✓	✓	-	Grenada	-	-	-
Bhutan	✓	✓	✓	Guatemala	✓	-	-
Bolivia	✓	✓	✓	Guinea	✓	✓	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	Guinea Bissau	✓	✓	✓
Botswana	✓	✓	✓	Guyana	✓	✓	✓
Brazil	✓	-	✓	Honduras	✓	✓	✓
Brunei Darussalam	✓	✓	✓	Hong Kong SAR	✓	✓	✓
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	Hungary	✓	✓	✓
Burkina Faso	-	-	-	Iceland	-	-	-
Burundi	-	-	-	India	✓	✓	✓
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	Indonesia	✓	✓	✓
Cameroon	✓	✓	✓	Iran, Islamic Republic of	✓	✓	✓
Canada	✓	✓	✓	Iraq	✓	✓	✓
Cabo Verde	✓	✓	✓	Ireland	✓	✓	✓
Central African Republic	-	-	-	Israel	✓	✓	-
Chad	-	-	-	Italy	✓	✓	✓
Chile	✓	✓	✓	Jamaica	✓	✓	✓
China	✓	✓	✓	Japan	✓	✓	✓
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	Jordan	-	✓	✓
Comoros	✓	-	-	Kazakhstan	✓	✓	-
Congo	✓	✓	✓	Kenya	✓	✓	✓
Costa Rica	✓	✓	✓	Kuwait	✓	-	✓
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	✓	-	Kyrgyzstan	✓	✓	✓
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	Lao P.D.R.	✓	✓	✓
Cuba	✓	✓	✓	Latvia	✓	✓	✓
Cyprus	✓	✓	✓	Lebanon	✓	✓	-
Czechia	✓	✓	✓	Lesotho	✓	✓	-
Democratic Republic of the Congo	✓	✓	✓	Liberia	✓	✓	✓
Denmark	✓	✓	✓	Libya	✓	-	-
Djibouti	-	-	-	Liechtenstein	✓	✓	-
Dominica	-	-	-	Lithuania	✓	✓	✓
				Luxembourg	✓	✓	✓

² CITES annual reports and query responses received by UNEP-WCMC by 26 March 2026 were included in the analysis.

Country	2022	2023	2024
Macao, SAR	✓	✓	✓
Madagascar	✓	✓	✓
Malawi	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓
Maldives	✓	✓	-
Mali	-	✓	✓
Malta	✓	✓	✓
Mauritania	✓	✓	✓
Mauritius	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓	✓
Monaco	✓	✓	✓
Mongolia	✓	✓	-
Montenegro	✓	-	-
Morocco	✓	✓	✓
Mozambique	✓	✓	✓
Myanmar	✓	-	-
Namibia	✓	✓	✓
Nepal	✓	✓	✓
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓
New Zealand	✓	✓	✓
Nicaragua	✓	-	-
Niger	✓	✓	-
Nigeria	✓	-	-
North Macedonia	✓	-	-
Norway	✓	✓	✓
Oman	✓	-	-
Pakistan	✓	✓	✓
Palau	-	-	-
Panama	✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	-
Paraguay	✓	✓	-
Peru	✓	✓	✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓
Poland	✓	✓	✓
Portugal	✓	✓	✓
Qatar	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Korea	✓	✓	✓
Republic of Moldova	✓	✓	✓
Romania	✓	✓	✓
Russian Federation	✓	✓	✓
Rwanda	✓	✓	✓
Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	-	✓
Saint Lucia	-	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	✓	-
Samoa	✓	✓	✓
San Marino	-	✓	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	✓	✓	✓
Senegal	✓	✓	✓
Serbia	✓	-	-
Seychelles	✓	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-

Country	2022	2023	2024
Singapore	✓	✓	✓
Slovakia	✓	✓	✓
Slovenia	✓	✓	✓
Solomon Islands	✓	✓	-
Somalia	✓	✓	✓
South Africa	✓	✓	✓
Spain	✓	✓	✓
Sri Lanka	✓	✓	✓
Sudan	✓	✓	✓
Suriname	✓	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓
Switzerland	✓	✓	-
Syrian Arab Republic	-	-	-
Tajikistan	✓	✓	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✓
Togo	✓	✓	✓
Tonga	✓	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	✓	✓	✓
Tunisia	✓	✓	✓
Türkiye	✓	✓	✓
Uganda	✓	✓	✓
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓	✓
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	✓	✓	✓
United Republic of Tanzania	✓	✓	✓
United States of America	✓	✓	✓
Uruguay	✓	✓	✓
Uzbekistan	✓	✓	✓
Vanuatu	✓	✓	✓
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	✓	-	-
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓
Yemen	✓	✓	-
Zambia	✓	✓	-
Zimbabwe	✓	-	✓

Key: ✓ = report available; - = report not available

Overview of global trade in crocodilian skins

The overall volume of world trade in classic crocodilian and caiman skins has been variable over the 10-year period 2015 to 2024, with an average of 1.36 million skins³ exported annually (Table 2; Figure 1). Between 2015 and 2020, overall global trade generally appeared to be decreasing (Figure 1), but since 2020 there have been increases in some species, particularly *Crocodylus porosus* and *C. siamensis* from Thailand and Viet Nam. Trade in skins of *Alligator mississippiensis* from the United States has fluctuated regularly but averaged nearly 500,000 skins per annum over the period and *Crocodylus niloticus* skins from southern Africa averaged 235,000 skins per year, with a large decrease in 2024. Exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* from Colombia has averaged 364,000 skins yearly, while *C. crocodilus crocodilus* from Guyana and Venezuela have fallen to very low levels since 2020. *C. yacare* exports from Bolivia and Brazil averaged 43,000 skins per year. Overall, exports of ‘classic’ skins averaged 926,000 and of caimans, 435,000 over the 10-year period. Most of the crocodilian industry showed a steep fall in 2020 whilst countries took action to combat the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. In 2021, trade appeared to be picking up again, particularly with *C. niloticus*. *C. novaeguineae*, *C. porosus*, and *Caiman crocodilus fuscus*, and this trend continued in 2022 and 2023, mainly due to large exports of *Crocodylus siamensis* exported by Viet Nam. Overall trade continued to increase in 2024 but some species, particularly *C. niloticus*, showed a decline.

Some changes to the species in trade began in the early 2000s with two different species entering the market: captive-bred *Crocodylus acutus* from Colombia and Honduras, and in 2019, Cuba, and *Caiman latirostris* from Argentina and Brazil. Trade in these species continues, but in relatively small quantities. The first exports in recent years of wild *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus* skins from Guyana began in 2001 and continued until 2018, while 2005 saw the first exports of ranched *Caiman yacare* from Argentina.

In the 10-year period under review, *Crocodylus novaeguineae* production peaked in 2015 but decreased to approximately one-fifth that level between 2017 and 2019, and further to just over 2,000 skins in 2020. An average of only 2,100 skins were exported between 2020 and 2024, most from Papua New Guinea and very few from Indonesia. Trade in *C. porosus* has remained steady at between around 50,000 and 70,000 skins yearly and peaked at over 100,000 skins in 2016. The volume decreased subsequently to a low of just over 40,000 skins in 2020 but has picked up again subsequently. Trade in *C. siamensis* averaged 116,000 skins over the decade peaking at 432,241 in 2022. Viet Nam has been the producer of the most skins of this species between 2020 and 2023.

The following sections provide a more detailed review of each species and the primary exporter countries involved in the skin trade.

Table 2. Direct, commercial global exports of skins from the main taxa, 2015-2024.

Taxon	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Alligator mississippiensis</i>	428,521	553,371	463,466	596,258	507,496	472,822	449,191	552,259	464,455	448,051
<i>Crocodylus acutus</i>	3,353	3,233	5,040	5,295	8,187	2,291	1,697	5,671	894	4,461
<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>	1,291	1,640	3,000	4,088	421	0	200	2,062	170	0
<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>	278,094	317,121	250,150	230,312	260,239	159,967	238,467	231,394	219,470	166,436
<i>Crocodylus novaeguineae</i>	39,070	14,022	7,649	8,790	8,023	2,192	2,445	1,408	2,005	2,448

³ Individual ‘Species Accounts’ provide details of the source of the data on which the figures for each species and country are based.

Taxon	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	69,470	102,759	72,171	75,774	67,510	42,913	50,752	58,807	64,740	67,976
<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	58,558	33,349	35,407	55,825	19,761	48,495	70,830	432,241	209,281	194,475
Subtotal of 'classic' skins	878,357	1,025,495	836,883	976,342	871,637	728,680	813,582	1,283,842	961,015	883,847
<i>Caiman crocodilus crocodilus</i>	30,594	22,328	41,402	41,071	17,251	6,732	3,788	8,186	5,990	0
<i>Caiman crocodilus fuscus</i>	530,357	368,515	315,338	370,807	365,957	244,569	316,230	477,909	299,891	401,881
<i>Caiman latirostris</i>	8,610	5,525	3,652	2,811	3,909	10,356	2	4	0	702
<i>Caiman yacare</i>	128,203	52,709	58,243	31,953	43,956	13,509	22,227	52,835	16,639	25,632
<i>Melanosuchus niger</i>	584	0	0	1,044	0	0	0	0	528	0
Subtotal of caiman skins	698,348	449,077	418,635	447,686	431,073	275,166	342,247	538,934	323,048	428,215
Grand total	1,576,705	1,474,572	1,255,518	1,424,028	1,302,710	1,003,846	1,155,829	1,822,776	1,284,063	1,312,062

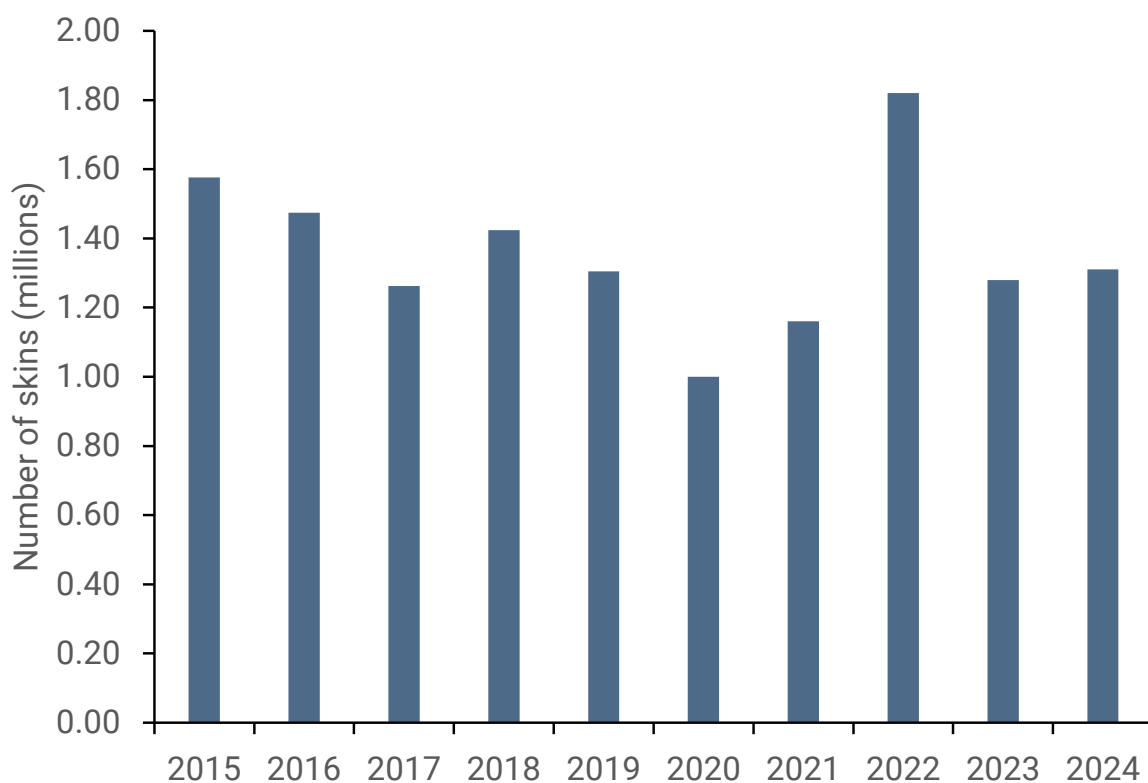


Figure 1. Direct, commercial global exports of crocodilian skins, 2015-2024.

Species accounts

Crocodylus acutus American Crocodile

Colombia has nine farms registered with CITES for production of this species, which was listed in Appendix I until 2017; the population of the Integrated Management District of Mangroves of the Bay of Cispata, Tinajones, La Balsa and Surrounding Areas, Department of Córdoba was transferred to Appendix II in 2017. Skin exports began in 2001 with 100 skins from captive-bred animals going to France and exports of small numbers of skins have continued, rising to 8,182 in 2019. Exports have since fluctuated with a peak of nearly 5,700 in 2022. The main importers in the period under review were Mexico, Viet Nam, and Republic of Korea, with some skins being imported by France and Spain.

Cuba reported exporting five skins from ranched individuals to Italy in 2019, but no further trade has been reported.

Honduras has one registered breeding operation for this species, and the first reported trade was of 500 skins imported by Japan in 2003. In the recent decade, Japan reported the import of 50 skins in 2015, but this was not confirmed by Honduras. No further trade has been recorded.

Crocodylus johnstoni Australian Freshwater Crocodile

Exports from Australia, the only range State, peaked at 3,875 skins in 1993, remained at this level until 1996, and subsequently fell to negligible levels. No trade in skins of this species has been reported since 2005.

Crocodylus moreletii Morelet's Crocodile

Found only in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico, this species was listed in CITES Appendix I until 23 June 2010 when the populations of Belize and Mexico were transferred to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimens traded for commercial purposes. Previously Mexico had three captive-breeding operations for this species registered with the CITES Secretariat. Exports of skins from Mexico have fluctuated from zero in 2010 to a peak of 4,088 skins in 2018 (Figure 2). In 2022 exports of 2,062 skins were reported but this fell to 170 in 2023. No skins have been reported in trade for 2024. All skin exports in the period under review were imported by France and the United States.

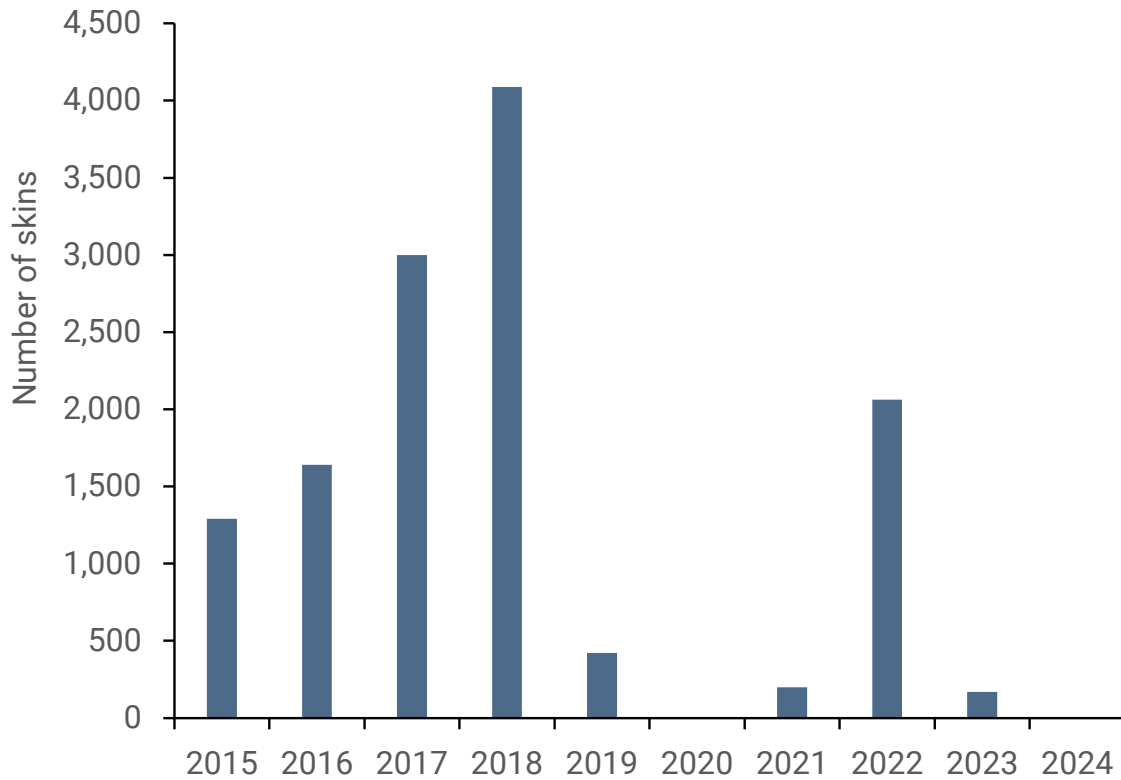


Figure 2. Direct, commercial exports of *Crocodylus moreletii* skins reported by Mexico, 2015-2024.

Crocodylus niloticus Nile Crocodile

Over the period 2015-2024, an average of over 235,000 *Crocodylus niloticus* skins were exported globally per year, with an increasing trend until 2016. Since that time exports have fluctuated between 220,000 and 260,000 with a massive fall of 39 per cent in 2020 likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 3); trade 2021-2023 appeared to return to pre-pandemic levels but decreased again in 2024. The section that follows summarises information on exports by range States and other countries with farms capable of commercial skin production. Currently, only three countries have captive-breeding operations registered with the CITES Secretariat: Mali, Senegal, and Tunisia, each with one registered operation. *Crocodylus niloticus* is listed in CITES Appendix I except for the populations of Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (hereafter referred to as Tanzania), Zambia and Zimbabwe, which are included in Appendix II.

Table 3. Direct, commercial exports of *C. niloticus* skins from producer countries, 2015-2024.

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Botswana	1,200	*6,000	3,200	1,600	1,960	*1,550	1,100	3,655	*1,000	2,000
Ethiopia	6	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	23	0
Israel	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenya	6,504	5,959	8,130	7,946	6,152	4,241	3,922	6,083	5,171	4,300
Madagascar	154	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malawi	6,246	12,097	5,449	1,757	8,276	0	*450	*3,320	3,307	1,580
Mali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mauritius	100	100	127	0	160	0	0	0	0	128
Mozambique	11,161	27,021	84,245	38,868	*61,980	3,332	0	4,000	0	556
Namibia	769	*706	*130	250	*271	0	0	*2,001	439	0
Senegal	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	*50	*50
South Africa	59,038	37,983	64,053	55,116	67,938	51,598	118,355	106,749	88,262	60,340
Sudan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tanzania	**1,294	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	323	0	*2	*335	0	0	0	0	1,367
Uganda	600	500	600	550	500	0	0	500	0	1
Zambia	65,998	112,434	2	10,214	27,519	*22,767	*22,867	*20,371	*19,812	*15,112
Zimbabwe	65,429	41,753	69,786	114,009	53,597	25,585	91,773	*84,713	*94,872	*81,002
	♦124,939	♦113,491	♦84,210	♦98,797	♦85,148	♦76,479	♦87,460	♦80,152	♦101,406	♦72,567
Total	278,094	317,121	250,150	230,312	260,239	159,967	238,467	231,394	219,470	166,436

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data; ** Data supplied by FAO; ♦ Data supplied by CFAZ (the Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe)⁴. These data have been used for the totals for years where the trade volumes reported by CFAZ are more than those reported in CITES annual reports.

Exports by range States

Botswana: Botswana reported exporting 3,655 skins in 2022, all from wild-caught animals. South Africa also reported the import of 3,655 skins in 2022, but from animals bred in captivity. In 2023 Botswana reported exports of 1,000 skins from ranched animals and a further 2,000 in 2024.

Central African Republic: No commercial exports of skins from the Central African Republic have been reported since 1986.

Congo: No commercial exports of skins from the Congo have been reported since 1989.

Ethiopia: Ethiopia's sole crocodile ranching operation (Arba Minch Crocodile Ranch) is owned and managed by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Organisation (EWCO) which also acts as both the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities. Production appears to be variable and there have been discrepancies between the information contained in Ethiopia's annual reports to CITES, data received directly from EWCO, and information from importing countries. Since 2018 the only exports reported by Ethiopia were 23 ranched skins to the United States in 2023.

Guinea: No trade in skins from Guinea has been reported since 1995.

Kenya: Kenya reported exporting 6,083 skins in 2022, 5,171 in 2023 and 4,300 in 2024 with the main importer being Singapore. Most of the skins were reported to be from ranching operations, although those exported to the United Kingdom in 2022, and a further 50 skins exported to the Republic of Korea that same year, were reported as being from animals bred in captivity.

Liberia: Commercial exports of skins from Liberia have not been reported since 1984.

⁴ Sue Childes on behalf of CFAZ, *pers. comm.* numerous dates.

Madagascar: The situation in Madagascar has long been under review by the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group. Based on serious concerns raised about the trade, the CITES Standing Committee recommended Parties to suspend trade in *C. niloticus* from Madagascar on 17 June 2010 until further notice (See Notification to the Parties No. 2010/015 and SC63 Doc. 13). This suspension was not lifted until the end of 2014, with importers reporting three skins in that year. Madagascar reported exporting 500 skins to France in 2016, all from captive-bred animals. No skin exports have been reported subsequently.

Malawi: In 2022, Italy reported importing 3,320 skins, and the Republic of Korea reported imports of 5,184 skins. This high quantity reported by the Republic of Korea has been excluded from Table 3 as a likely reporting error as it was anomalous with previous trade. In 2023, Italy reported importing 3,471 skins whereas Malawi reported exporting 3,307. Similarly, in 2024 Italy reported imports of 2,542 skins from Malawi whereas Malawi reported exporting 1,580. The data from Malawi have been used in Table 3. All skins were from ranched animals.

Mali: Mali has one captive-breeding operation registered with the CITES Secretariat (Ets Lassana Diaby Cuirs et Peaux) that was reportedly established in 1978 but was only registered with CITES in May 2008. Since then, Mali reported exports of 107 source 'D' skins to France in 2008 and 15 source 'D' skins to the United States in 2011, but no further trade has been reported.

Mozambique: In 2022, Mozambique reported exporting 4,000 skins to Zimbabwe, whilst the Republic of Korea reported importing 2,020, all with the source reported as wild. No trade has been reported for either 2021 or 2023, but Mozambique reported exporting 556 skins from captive-bred animals to Japan in 2024. This trade was confirmed by Japan.

Namibia: In 2022, the Republic of Korea reported importing 1,881 skins and South Africa reported imports of 120 skins, both shipments being of captive-bred origin. In 2023, Namibia reported exporting 439 captive-bred skins to South Africa, but no further trade has been reported for 2024.

Nigeria: No commercial shipments of skins from Nigeria have been reported since 1983.

Senegal: There is one farm registered with the CITES Secretariat for captive-breeding of this species that was established in 1995. In the three-year period under review, reported commercial trade by Senegal appears to have been two skins exported to Netherlands in 2022, however they were reportedly wild-caught specimens so were likely to have been hunting trophies. Portugal reported importing 50 skins in both 2023 and 2024, all reported as source code 'D'.

Somalia: No commercial shipments of skins have been reported from Somalia since 1981.

South Africa: South Africa reported exporting 106,749 skins in 2022, a further 88,262 in 2023 and 60,340 in 2024. Of the skins exported in 2023, 1,625 were exported to Switzerland and were reported as being ranched; these skins may have originated from ranching operations in Mozambique when that country was exporting ranched hatchlings to South Africa. There are no ranching operations in South Africa.

Sudan: No commercial trade in skins originating in Sudan has been reported since 2010 and Sudan has no captive-breeding operations registered with the CITES Secretariat.

Tanzania: Tanzania has not reported any commercial exports of skins since 2015.

Togo: No trade in skins has been reported since the early 1980s.

Uganda: In 2022, Uganda reported exports of 500 ranched skins to the Republic of Korea who also reported the import. No trade has been reported for 2023 and only one skin was exported to the United Arab Emirates in 2024.

Zambia: In 2022, Italy, Japan, Singapore and South Africa reported importing 20,371 skins from Zambia which were not reported by Zambia; Italy and Singapore reported importing a further 19,812 in 2023 and importers reported 15,112 skins in 2024. All skins were reported as coming from ranching operations. Importer-reported data have been used in Table 3 for 2020-2024.

Zimbabwe: Exports of skins of this species reported by Zimbabwe in its annual reports in the past been substantially lower than those reported by importers as well as the figures supplied by the Crocodile Farmers Association of Zimbabwe (CFAZ); the CFAZ figures have therefore been used in this analysis as a precautionary measure where they exceed those in the CITES annual report (see Table 3). However, it should be noted that not all skins exported from Zimbabwe are produced by CFAZ members and therefore it is likely that no set of figures accurately represents a complete record of Zimbabwe's skin exports. It is expected that this will improve in the future through closer collaboration between CFAZ and the CITES Management Authority.

Exports from non-range States with commercial crocodile farms

Brazil: No exports of *C. niloticus* skins have been recorded from Brazil since 2004.

Israel: No imports of captive-bred skins from Israel have been reported since 2015, except for one imported by the Republic of Korea in 2018.

Mauritius: Mauritius reported exporting 128 skins to South Africa in 2024. This was confirmed by the importer.

Crocodylus novaeguineae New Guinea Crocodile

Over the 10-year period 2015 to 2024, the total number of skins of this species exported by the two main producers, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, was just over 88,000. Trade peaked at 39,070 in 2015 then declined to just over 14,000 in 2016; trade was fewer than 10,000 in the eight following years, with the lowest trade level of 1,408 in 2022 (Table 4).

Table 4. Direct, commercial exports of *C. novaeguineae* skins from producer countries, 2015-2024.

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Indonesia	13,083	4,294	2,806	905	1,164	419	160	0	33	0
Papua New Guinea	25,987	9,728	4,843	7,885	6,859	1,773	*2,285	*1,408	1,972	*2,448
Total	39,070	14,022	7,649	8,790	8,023	2,192	2,445	1,408	2,005	2,448

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data

Indonesia: Exports increased steadily from over 11,000 skins in 2012 to over 13,000 in 2015. However, over the subsequent years, exports declined steeply to less than 1,000 skins in 2018, increased slightly in 2019, but then fell further in 2020 and 2021. No exports were reported in 2022 or 2024. Most of the skins exported were from wild-caught animals. The main importer of *C. novaeguineae* skins in the decade under review was Japan.

Papua New Guinea: Exports over the decade were highest in 2015 but, as with Indonesia, declined dramatically and the year 2022 had the lowest export quantity of the decade. All the reported imports 2022-2024, apart from 1,047 skins reported by Japan in 2024, have been of wild-sourced skins.

Crocodylus porosus Saltwater Crocodile

During the period under review, *Crocodylus porosus* was listed in CITES Appendix I, except for populations of Australia, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea which were listed in Appendix II. In 2017, the population of Malaysia was transferred to Appendix II. The total number of *C. porosus* skins in trade peaked at almost 103,000 skins in 2016. Exports fell to their lowest level since 2006 in 2020 and recovered gradually in the period under review to 68,000. Exports of *C. porosus* skins from range States between 2015 and 2024 are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Direct, commercial exports of *C. porosus* skins from range States 2015-2024.

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Australia	32,456	59,020	*48,883	*40,112	*37,427	30,720	33,699	*38,144	*39,993	*48,453
Bangladesh	400	*200	0	0	*477	0	0	0	0	0
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	8,133	6,394	3,770	6,317	5,575	2,302	3,323	3,460	*4,825	*5,682
Malaysia	3,555	5,215	4,413	5,370	4,421	1,250	1,500	3,829	6,585	*643
Papua New Guinea	8,044	12,320	6,726	7,129	10,818	3,999	5,793	5,186	6,437	*4,933
Philippines	9,532	7,141	*3,913	8,760	3,596	1,835	0	0	0	815
Singapore	0	5,739	150	244	32	50	750	670	153	352
Thailand	7,350	6,730	4,316	7,842	5,164	*2,757	5,687	7,518	6,747	7,108
Total	69,470	102,759	72,171	75,774	67,510	42,913	50,752	58,807	64,740	67,976

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data

Australia: Comparison of data reported by Australia and importing countries in certain years showed lower levels of trade reported by Australia. Given these discrepancies, and the lack of annual reports for 2023 and 2024 at the time of writing, the data provided in Table 5 have been taken from reports of the importing countries for most years. The destinations of the skins exported 2022-2024 were mainly France and Singapore, and the vast majority were reported as being from ranched individuals.

Bangladesh: This country has one farm registered with the CITES Secretariat in 2007. The stock is from animals bred in captivity in Malaysia. The first reported export was of 430 skins exported to Japan in 2014 with a further 400 exported in 2015. The 2016 annual report from Bangladesh showed no further exports of skins but Japan reported importing 600 skins; Japan reported importing no skins in 2015 so the difference, 200 skins, has been used in Table 5. No exports have been reported by Bangladesh in recent years, but Japan reported importing 477 skins in 2019. No further trade has been reported subsequently.

Brunei Darussalam: This country reported exporting five skins from captive-bred animals to the Republic of Korea in 2012; no other trade in skins from the country has been reported. There are no breeding operations in the country registered with the CITES Secretariat.

Indonesia: Indonesia's exports over the recent decade fell from just over 8,000 skins in 2015 and have been fewer for all the subsequent years, reaching a low of just over 2,300 in 2020. Since then, exports have increased to over 5,600 skins in 2024. The main importers 2022-2024 were China, Denmark, Japan, Italy, and Singapore. From 2006 onwards, all skins were from either captive-bred or ranched animals, with the proportion from captive-bred sources increasing from less than 20 per cent in 2005 to 100 per cent in 2024.

Malaysia: As with Indonesia, trade fell to its lowest level in 2020 but recovered in the following three years. Malaysia's 2024 report was not available at the time of writing but data from importing countries suggests exports have decreased considerably. The main importer has been Singapore with lesser quantities being

imported by Hong Kong SAR, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand. Until the species was transferred to Appendix II, there were seven CITES-registered captive-breeding operations for this species in Malaysia.

Papua New Guinea: Papua New Guinea's exports peaked at 12,320 skins in 2016 but have since fluctuated annually. As with many other species, exports collapsed to the lowest figure of the decade in 2020. France, Japan, and Singapore were the only importers between 2022 and 2024. The proportion of captive-sourced skins fluctuated throughout the decade but in the three-year period under review, 86 per cent of the skins were reportedly from animals bred in captivity.

Philippines: There are two farms registered with the CITES Secretariat to produce this species and small quantities of skins have been exported annually since 2007. Philippines' exports over the 10-year period peaked at 9,532 skins in 2015 and decreased to 1,835 skins in 2020. No further trade in skins was reported until 2024 when 815 were exported.

Singapore: There is now only one registered captive-breeding operation in Singapore, and all reported commercial exports of skins 2015-2024 were captive-bred. Nearly all the skins exported 2022-2024 were exported to China, but 30 skins were exported to Germany in 2022 (reported by the importer only), 45 were exported to Italy and Japan in 2023, and all exports of skins in 2024 were exported to the Republic of Korea, Italy and Germany.

Thailand: Thailand's reported exports of skins have fluctuated from year to year with more than 7,000 reported in several years 2015-2024 but declined to less than 3,000 in 2020 (Table 5). The principal importer between 2022 and 2024 was Japan, with China, Germany, and Italy, importing lesser quantities. As of April 2026, there are 18 CITES-registered captive-breeding operations for this species in Thailand.

Crocodylus rhombifer Cuban Crocodile

Cuba reported exporting four skins from captive-bred animals to Italy in 2019. This was the only commercial trade reported since 1998. Cuba has one captive-breeding establishment registered with the CITES Secretariat. No further exports have been reported.

Crocodylus siamensis Siamese Crocodile

Cambodia: Cambodia has 21 crocodile farms registered with the CITES Secretariat for the commercial production of this species. Japan reported importing 300 skins in 2019 although this was not reported by the exporter. No trade has been reported since.

Thailand: There are 30 crocodile farms registered with the CITES Secretariat for commercial production of this species in Thailand and all reported exports of skins were captive-bred. Reported trade declined from nearly 27,000 in 2015 to about 12,000 skins in 2019. Exports have subsequently increased to over 33,000 in 2022, more than 73,000 in 2023 and to almost 100,000 in 2024. The main importers over the period 2022 to 2024 were China, Viet Nam, Mexico, and Singapore.

Viet Nam: Since the first reported exports of *C. siamensis* from the country in 2004, exports steadily increased to a peak of 23,062 skins in 2008. Exports subsequently declined and fluctuated between just over 3,000 skins in 2010 and 18,500 skins in 2017 (Table 6). In 2018 there was a substantial increase in reported skins, totalling over 40,000 of which 96 per cent went to China and Thailand. Exports fell to under 8,000 in 2019 but increased

to 35,000 in 2020, and to 54,856 in 2021. Viet Nam reported exporting nearly 400,000 skins in 2022, a further 135,589 skins in 2023 and nearly 95,000 in 2024. It is not yet understood why this substantial increase in trade occurred but may indicate a significant change to the way the crocodile farming operates in Viet Nam. China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Türkiye have been the main destinations of the skins over the decade, with China importing the great majority of skins 2023-2024. Viet Nam has 10 captive-breeding operations registered with the CITES Secretariat for this species and all skins exported were reported as being from captive-bred animals.

Table 6. Direct, commercial exports of *C. siamensis* skins from range States, 2015-2024.

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cambodia	19,050	5,720	4,652	*3,512	*300	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	26,914	14,588	12,251	12,201	11,762	*13,393	15,974	33,660	73,692	99,943
Viet Nam	12,594	13,041	18,504	40,112	7,699	35,102	54,856	398,581	135,589	94,532
Total	58,558	33,349	35,407	55,825	19,761	48,495	70,830	432,241	209,281	194,475

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data

Alligator mississippiensis American Alligator

Reported exports of *A. mississippiensis* from the United States increased from around 31,000 skins in 1986 to 422,931 skins in 2006. Although exports declined the following two years, they have subsequently increased steadily and over 400,000 skins have been exported every year between 2015 and 2024 (Table 7; Figure 3). The year 2018 saw the highest number of skins exported at almost 600,000. Between 2022 and 2024, four countries (France, Germany, Italy, and Singapore) together imported 94 per cent of production.

Table 7. Direct, commercial exports of *A. mississippiensis* skins from the United States, 2015-2024.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
428,521	553,371	463,466	596,258	507,496	472,822	449,191	552,259	464,455	448,051

Since 2005 onwards, source code 'W' (wild-taken) appears to have been used for ranched animals obtained from eggs collected in the wild and over 99 per cent of the skins exported now are reported as source 'W'. This is the result of the decision by the United States CITES Management Authority that the code 'R' should only be used in the case of crocodilian populations transferred from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II subject to ranching. In 2022, 8,641 of the skins exported were reported by the United States as source 'I' (seizures/confiscations) however none of the skins exported in either 2023 or 2024 were reported with this source code and none have been reported by importing countries. This species is also bred in captivity in Israel, but there have been no reported exports of skins from Israel since 2001.

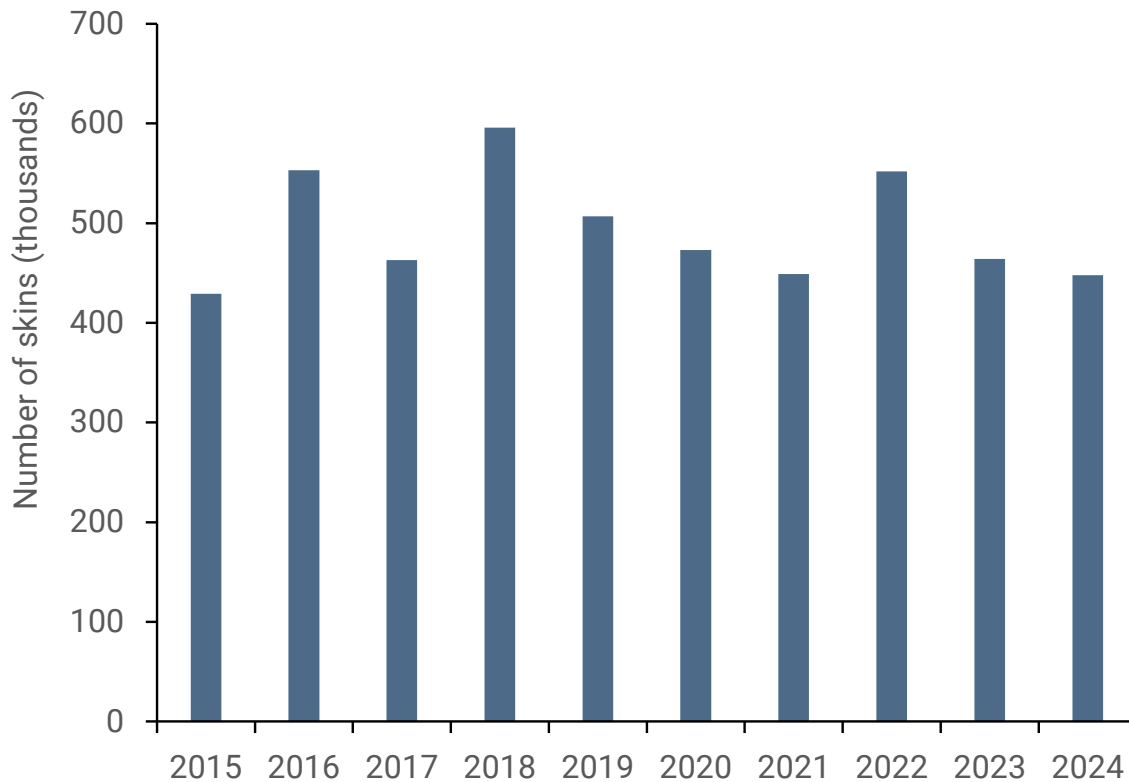


Figure 3. Direct, commercial exports of *Alligator mississippiensis* skins reported by the United States, 2015-2024.

Caiman crocodilus crocodilus Spectacled Caiman

Colombia used to regularly report exports of small numbers of skins from the nominate subspecies however, since 2010 they have been less frequent. The last reported exports from Colombia were 663 skins to Thailand in 2013.

Guyana was a major supplier of this subspecies in the late 1980s, with over 320,000 skins reported by importing countries between 1983 and 1989, but exports dwindled during the 1990s and early 2000s. Trade in the past decade peaked in 2015 with 20,000 skins. No skin exports were reported by either Guyana or importing countries in 2016, but Mexico reported importing 16,000 in 2017 and Guyana reported a further 10,000 skins to Mexico in 2018. No trade in skins has been reported since then. All skins were wild-sourced.

Venezuela has historically been the main supplier of skins of this subspecies, almost all from wild-collected animals. Between 2015 and 2019 Venezuela exported an average of 22,170 skins annually; however, trade appeared to collapse in 2020 and the annual average since then has been just over 6,000 skins (Figure 4). The main importers of skins from Venezuela have been Germany and Italy, but in 2022 over 8,000 were reported by Venezuela as exports to China. No skins have been reported in trade in 2024.

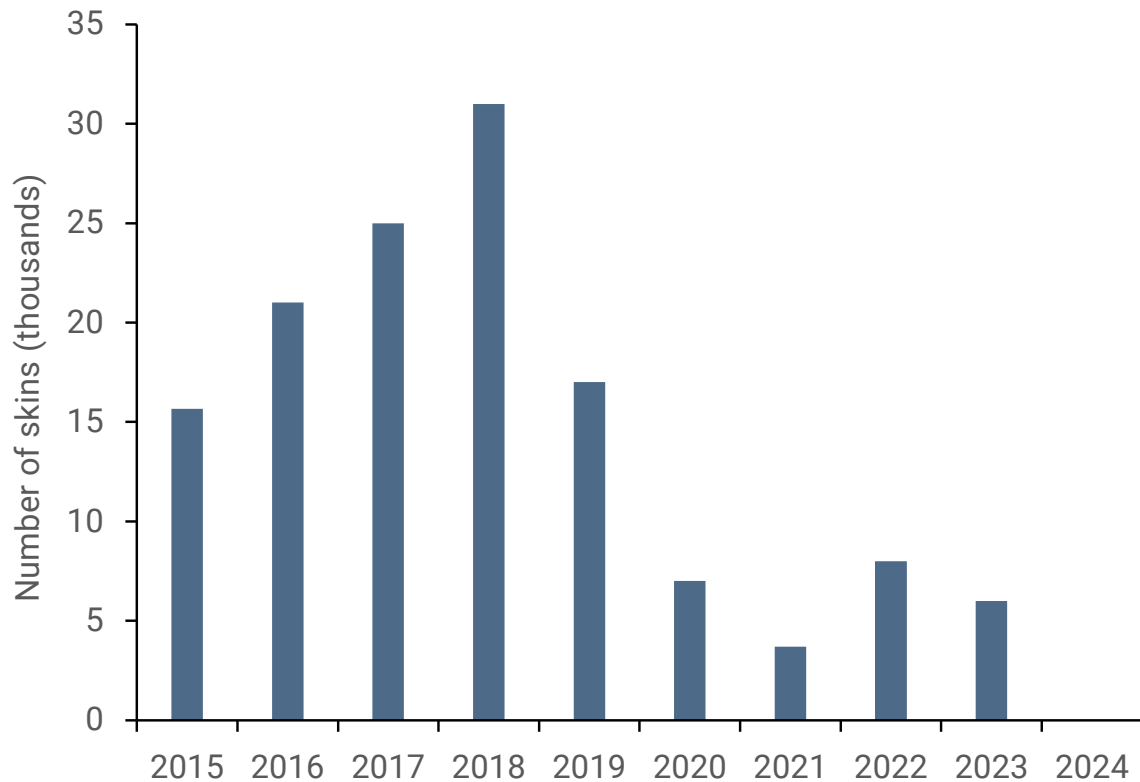


Figure 4. Direct, commercial exports of *Caiman crocodilus crocodilus* skins reported by Venezuela, 2015-2024. Importer-reported data were used for 2021 and 2023.

Caiman crocodilus fuscus Brown Caiman

Reported exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins from the two principal exporting countries between 2015 and 2024 are provided in Table 8.

Table 8. Direct, commercial exports of *C. crocodilus fuscus* skins from Colombia and Panama, 2015-2024.

Exporter	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Colombia	516,202	367,415	308,174	363,920	360,157	242,867	316,230	474,890	297,891	396,381
Panama	14,155	1,100	7,164	*6,887	5,800	1,000	0	3,019	2,000	5,500
Total	530,357	368,515	315,338	370,807	365,957	243,867	316,230	477,909	299,891	401,881

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data.

Argentina reported exporting 702 skins from captive-bred animals in 2020 – the first reported exports from this country, but none subsequently.

Colombia remains the major exporter of this subspecies. Over the past decade, exports peaked at 516,202 skins in 2015 but have fluctuated between a low of around 240,000 skins in 2020 and around 475,000 in 2022. Exports from Colombia averaged 390,000 skins annually in the three-year period under review and the primary importers were Germany, Mexico, and the United States.

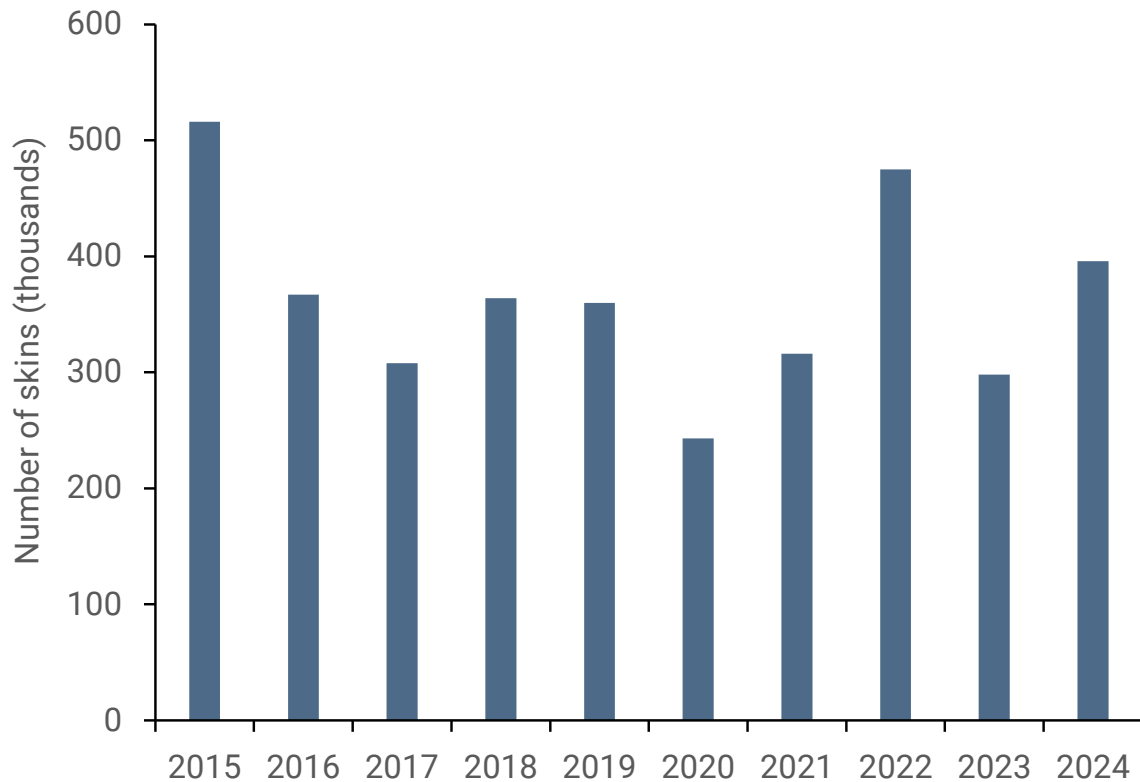


Figure 5. Direct commercial exports of *Caiman crocodilus fuscus* skins reported by Colombia, 2015-2024.

Panama is an important entrepôt State for skins coming from other countries. The first significant direct export of 10,250 skins was reported in 2000, and trade appears to have peaked in 2003 at 19,840 skins. Export quantities reported by Panama have been considerably less over the decade under review although it should be noted that the export of 12,155 skins to Spain in 2015 were not reported by the importer. Panama's main trading partner in recent years has been Mexico.

Other range States: No exports have been reported by Honduras since 1998; Nicaragua reported the export of one wild-sourced skin to Italy in 2006, while the United States reported the import of 134 wild-sourced skins from Nicaragua in 2008.

Caiman latirostris Broad-snouted Caiman

The Argentine population of this species was transferred from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II in 1997, and the first exports of skins from ranched animals were reported by Argentina in 2001. In 2020 Argentina reported exports of 10,356 ranched skins however only two skins were reported in 2021, and confirmed by the importer, Italy. Argentina reported exporting a further four wild-sourced skins to Japan in 2022 and no exports of this species in 2023. Argentina's 2024 annual report had not been received at the time of writing, but Mexico reported importing 702 skins from ranched individuals that year.

Brazil has reported exporting small numbers of skins from captive-bred animals in 2016 and 2018.

Caiman yacare⁵ Yacaré

Exports of *C. yacare* skins from the principal exporter of this species, Bolivia, appear to have peaked in 2015 at 112,000 skins and declined thereafter to approximately 10,000 skins in 2024 (Table 9).

Table 9. Direct, commercial exports of *C. yacare* skins from producer countries, 2015-2024.

Exporter	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Argentina	*3,105	*2,055	*1,510	0	0	4,219	2	911	200	0
Bolivia	112,379	43,492	45,043	29,734	34,686	6,610	*9,130	33,169	12,379	10,374
Brazil	*12,719	*6,162	11,690	2,219	*9,270	2,680	*13,095	*18,755	*4,060	15,258
Paraguay	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	128,203	52,709	58,243	31,953	43,956	13,509	22,227	52,835	16,639	25,632

Key: * Figure derived from importer data

Argentina: Exports have fluctuated with no skins reported in trade in 2018 or 2019. In 2020 Argentina reported exporting 4,219 skins to the United States but only two skins to Italy in 2021. In 2022 Argentina reported exporting 911 skins to Mexico, and a further 200 in 2023, trade which was confirmed by the importer. No imports of this species from Argentina have been reported in 2024.

Bolivia: Reported exports have decreased since a peak of over 112,000 skins in 2015 and have fluctuated subsequently between 45,000 in 2017 to just over 10,000 in 2024 (Table 9). The principal importers 2022-2024 were Brazil, Italy, Mexico, and the United States. Of the skins reported during the three-year period under review, the proportion of skins from wild-caught animals increased from 31 per cent in 2022 to 56 per cent in 2024, the remainder coming from ranched and captive-produced animals.

Brazil: For several years 2015-2024 the data from importers far exceed that reported by Brazil and have been used in Table 9. While all skins exported in 2010 were from captive-bred animals and primarily destined for Colombia, most of the skins traded in subsequent years were reported as coming from ranching operations and exported more widely, with the main importing country being Mexico.

Paraguay: Paraguay imposed a moratorium on all exports of wildlife in September 2003, a result of the findings of a technical mission from the CITES Secretariat. This moratorium was partially lifted in 2009 (CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2009/036 of 10 August 2009) and further partially lifted in 2011 (CITES Notification to the Parties No. 2011/009 of 19 January 2011) to allow exports of existing stocks of skins legally acquired in 2001, 2002 or 2003 once the CITES Secretariat, in cooperation with the IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group, had confirmed their legal origin. No exports of skins were reported in trade until 2012, when Paraguay exported 2,504 skins, mostly to Spain. In 2013 Paraguay exported 22,750 skins, all of which were wild-sourced. The moratorium was fully lifted in 2014 (CITES Notification 2014/009 of 10 February 2014) during which year 4,539 skins were reported by importers (Spain and the United States). Paraguay reported exporting 1,000 wild skins to Bolivia in 2016, but none have been reported since then.

Melanosuchus niger Black Caiman

The Brazilian population of this species was transferred from CITES Appendix I to Appendix II in 2007. Brazil reported the export of 584 skins to Argentina in 2015. No skins were exported in 2016 or 2017 but in 2018

⁵ According to CITES Standard nomenclature, which the CITES Trade Database follows, *Caiman yacare* is a synonym of the subspecies *Caiman crocodilus yacare*, and as such trade reported from range States as *Caiman crocodilus* has been included as trade in the subspecies *C. crocodilus yacare*.

Brazil reported exporting 1,044 skins, all sourced from the wild, to Mexico. These were reported as 2,088 skins by Mexico, and it is suspected these were the same specimens but were sides rather than whole skins. In 2023, Mexico reported importing 528 skins of ranched specimens from Brazil. No further trade has been reported for 2024.

All other crocodilian species

There have been no reported commercial exports from range States between 2015 and 2024 of skins of the following taxa: *Crocodylus cataphractus*, *C. intermedius*, *C. palustris*, *Alligator sinensis*, *Osteolaemus tetraspis*, *Paleosuchus palpebrosus*, *P. trigonatus*, *Gavialis gangeticus* or *Tomistoma schlegelii*.

Trade in live animals

The commercial export of live crocodilians outside of their range States poses a potential threat to the natural biological diversity of the importing countries, particularly if naturalized populations become established. Indeed, possibly discarded pet animals of spectacled caiman can currently be found in Florida and the Everglades National Park where damage to natural fauna is being reported. The continued growth of the crocodilian farming industry means that such threats are likely to continue and should be guarded against.

Live crocodilians are traded for many purposes. Young animals are frequently kept as personal pets; zoos regularly exhibit live individuals and there are well-established crocodile breeding establishments in countries such as Denmark, France, Morocco, South Africa, Spain, and Thailand. Crocodile farms and ranches import animals to supplement their gene pool, and some animals are imported by range States to strengthen wild populations. This variety of use, and the limited number of possible purpose codes used in CITES annual reports, means that some conclusions drawn from analysis of CITES data are only tentative. For example, the purpose code 'T', which indicates a commercial transaction, could apply equally if the animals were destined for either the pet trade or the farming industry. Below we consider the reported trade in live animals on a species-by-species basis.

Alligator mississippiensis

In 2022 Japan reported importing 2,028 captive-bred animals from Taiwan, Province of China. It is not currently known if this species is farmed in that country. Also, Mauritius reported exporting 90 captive-bred individuals to Thailand and 143 to Taiwan, Province of China, in 2024.

Alligator sinensis

No trade in this species was reported between 2022 and 2024.

Caiman crocodilus

Guyana: Guyana reported exporting 353 live animals to Canada and the Netherlands in 2022, 340 to Canada, India, Netherlands and the Russian Federation in 2023 and 310 to the Netherlands in 2024. All live animal exports were wild-sourced.

Suriname: This country regularly exports small numbers of wild-caught animals for the pet industry and in 2022, Indonesia reported importing 60 wild-caught animals.

Melanosuchus niger

No trade in live animals from range States was reported between 2022 and 2024.

Paleosuchus palpebrosus

For 2022 and 2024, Guyana published an annual export quota of 500 live, wild-sourced animals. In 2022 Guyana reported exporting 376 animals, a further 468 in 2023 and 308 in 2024 (no quota was published in 2023). Importing countries reported higher figures; over the three-year period, Guyana reported exporting 958 individuals to the United States whereas the United States reported imports of 2,089 individuals. It should be noted that although the annual reports cover the period January to December, the quota year for Guyana runs from April to April. Most of the animals were likely to be for the pet industry (recorded as purpose 'T'), and the main importing country has been the United States.

Paleosuchus trigonatus

For 2022 and 2024, Guyana published an annual export quota of 1,000 live, wild-sourced animals. Exports reported by Guyana remained below this number, with 613 reported as exports in 2022, 811 in 2023 and 536 in 2024. As with *P. palpebrosus*, importing countries reported higher figures in the three-year period under review; the United States reported imports of 3,510 while Guyana reported exports to the United States of 1,648.

Crocodylus mindorensis

Germany reported exporting three captive-bred animals to the Philippines in 2023 for breeding purposes (purpose code 'B'). The Philippines reported these individuals to be for reintroduction to the wild (purpose code 'N').

Crocodylus niloticus

In 2024 Kenya reported exporting 60 live, ranched, animals to China and a further 200 to Viet Nam. Most of the trade in this species consists of captive-bred animals going to crocodile farms and zoos.

Crocodylus porosus

Malaysia reported exporting 100 animals to the United Kingdom in 2022, reported as being captive-bred and for purpose 'T'.

Crocodylus siamensis

Over the decade under review, China has been the principal importer of live specimens of *C. siamensis* and began importing this species from Thailand in 1997, from Cambodia in 2000, and from Viet Nam in 2003. As shown in Table 10, China has imported 293,525 live specimens from these countries in the 10-year period 2015 to 2024, all of which were captive-bred and the majority for purpose 'T'. Trade to China stopped completely following the outbreak of Covid 19 in 2019 but began again in 2024 with exports from Cambodia and Viet Nam.

Table 10. Direct, commercial exports of live *Crocodylus siamensis* to China reported by the exporting countries, 2015-2024.

Exporter	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cambodia	2,000	*2,000	0	0	5,200	0	0	0	0	1,100
Thailand	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
Viet Nam	30,600	63,198	28,700	52,700	102,027	0	0	0	0	2,000
Total	32,600	65,198	28,700	54,700	109,227	0	0	0	0	3,100

Key: * Figure derived from importer-reported data.

Trade in other by-products

Meat

Between 1990 and 2002, the quantity traded globally fluctuated at around 400 tonnes (t) per year. Exports began an upward trend in 2003, and in 2007 peaked at just under 1,000 t. Trade levels subsequently decreased to 400 t in 2009 but averaged over 600 t per year between 2015 and 2019. Quantities fell between 2019 and 2022 perhaps as a reaction to 'exotic' meat suggested as the origin of COVID-19. However, Thailand's export of *Crocodylus siamensis*, particularly to Hong Kong SAR in 2023, reversed this trend. Total global commercial exports of crocodilian meat, as reported in CITES and CFAZ annual reports from 2015 to 2024, are provided in Figure 6. Global trade averaged just under 500 t per year during the decade under review.

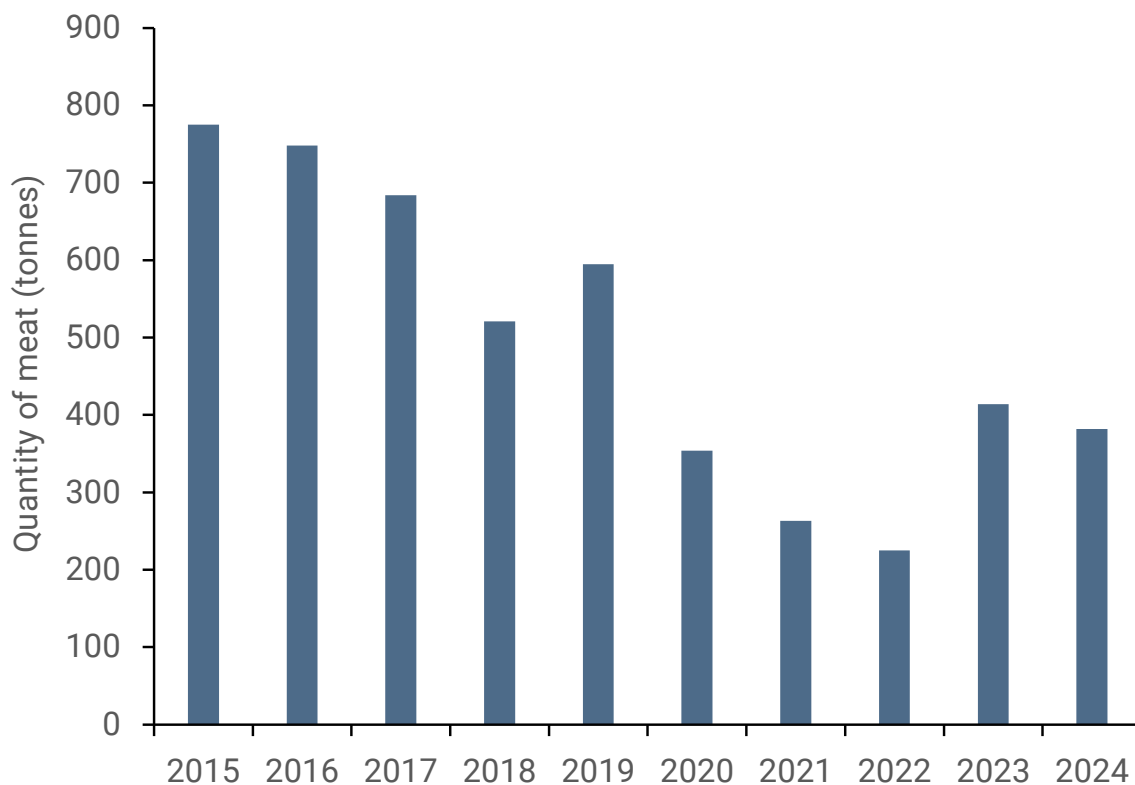


Figure 6. Direct, commercial global exports of crocodilian meat as reported by exporters in CITES and CFAZ annual reports, 2014–2023.

Since 1988, there have been major fluctuations in the countries and species involved in the meat trade. Until 1992, the main species in trade was *Alligator mississippiensis* from the United States, particularly to Canada, Japan, Taiwan, Province of China, and the United Kingdom. No exports to Taiwan, Province of China have been reported since 1994 and exports of meat from this species have fallen since 1995. No exports were reported in 2021 and the only importer in 2022 and 2023 was Canada. In 2024, the Cayman Islands reported importing a small amount that was confirmed by the United States.

Exports of *Crocodylus niloticus* meat, which originate mainly from South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, increased steadily from less than two tonnes in 1992 to over 470 t in 2007, but then decreased to 125 t in

2009. Exports subsequently recovered and were around 250 t in both 2011 and 2012. Despite a drop in 2013, over 200 t was exported each year between 2014 and 2017. In 2018, exports fell but increased again in 2019. Exports in 2020 amounted to less than 50 t. As with skin data for Zimbabwe, data provided by CFAZ have been used in preference to the CITES annual report except for the years 2018 and 2020, where the quantities reported to CITES were higher. Zimbabwe did not report any meat exports between 2021 and 2024. Reporting of the crocodile meat trade by southern African countries appears to vary with importer-reported totals. The main destinations for *C. niloticus* meat 2022-2024 were Europe and Hong Kong SAR.

Exports of *Crocodylus novaeguineae* meat are infrequent but Australia reported importing 10 t in 2020.

Australia's exports of *Crocodylus porosus* meat averaged almost 20 t over the decade under review. The main importer of Australia's production was Japan, with other large quantities imported by Singapore and the United States. *C. porosus* meat was also traded at relatively low levels from Indonesia, with 6 t reported by Indonesia in 2022, in addition to 9.5 t in 2023 and 8 t in 2024 reported by importers. Malaysia's exports have fallen from 1.3 t in 2020 to less than a tonne in the four following years. Papua New Guinea exported approximately 17 t in 2021 and 2022, and a further 21.5 t in 2023. No exports of meat have been reported from Papua New Guinea in 2024. Thailand reported exporting over one t to Hong Kong SAR in 2023, which was confirmed by the importer.

Until 2005, Thailand was the only exporter of *Crocodylus siamensis* meat and exports had averaged about 35 t annually between 1999 and 2003. Exports from Thailand increased to almost 400 t in 2006 and in the decade under review averaged about 279 t annually. The main importers were China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Other exporters of meat from this species have been Cambodia and Viet Nam however no exports have been reported by Cambodia since 2018, and no exports from Viet Nam were reported between 2020 and 2023. Viet Nam reported exporting 0.5 t to China in 2024.

Teeth

Australia is the world's foremost importer of crocodile teeth. Papua New Guinea and Singapore reported exporting over 70,000 teeth to Australia between 2022 and 2024. All the teeth were obtained from *Crocodylus porosus* from captive-breeding operations.

Reported seizures

Information on seizures is reported inconsistently in CITES annual reports. Furthermore, the data recorded by customs rarely allow the goods to be identified at the species level. Most of the seizures that are reported are of tourist items such as dried heads, whole stuffed baby crocodiles, etc., and personal imports of manufactured leather goods. Many of the items seized on import are subsequently released to the importer when adequate permits have been obtained. It should be noted that the United States uses source code 'I' to specify re-exportation or repatriation of the seized material, as well as to indicate the seizures themselves.

There were no significant seizures reported in the period 2022-2024.

Recommendations

The following recommendations made in previous IACTS reports remain valid:

- ◆ Countries should, where possible, adopt the CITES standard permit number format which identifies both the exporting country and the year of permit issuance (see CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on *Permits and certificates*). This would allow for more accurate cross-matching of shipments.
- ◆ Standardisation of the terminology used to describe parts of crocodilian skins would reduce the risk of double-counting and subsequent overestimation of trade levels. There is often confusion between hornbacks and back skins for *Crocodylus niloticus* and between whole skins and sides for caiman.
- ◆ As the source of specimens (e.g. wild, captive-bred, etc.) provides critical information for determining the conservation impact of trade, CITES Parties should strive to accurately report the source of crocodilian material as defined in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports* (see CITES Notification No. 2025/021 Annex 1).
- ◆ Countries with large-scale farming operations should establish strict monitoring and management programmes for their wild crocodilian populations, and any farming of non-native species should be strictly regulated to ensure there are no escapes into the wild. Although breeding in captivity can alleviate pressure on wild populations, it can also remove the incentive to preserve them.
- ◆ It is recommended that the CITES Secretariat and the Chair of the Standing Committee contact Parties in June of each year to remind them of their reporting obligations under Article VIII, paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Convention.
- ◆ Wherever possible, Parties should report the actual quantities of skins being traded and should specify whether their annual report compilation is based on actual trade or permits issued.

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Annex: Purpose and source codes

Table 11. Codes for purpose of trade

Code	Description
B	Breeding in captivity or artificial propagation
E	Educational
G	Botanical gardens
H	Hunting trophies
L	Law enforcement/judicial/forensic
M	Medical (including biomedical research)
N	Reintroduction or introduction into the wild
P	Personal
Q	Circuses and travelling exhibitions
S	Scientific
T	Commercial
Z	Zoos

Table 12. Codes for source of specimens in trade

Code	Description
A	Plants that are artificially propagated in accordance with Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18), as well as parts and derivatives thereof, exported under the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 5 (specimens of species included in Appendix I that have been propagated artificially for non-commercial purposes and specimens of species included in Appendices II and III)
C	Animals bred in captivity in accordance with Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19), as well as parts and derivatives thereof, exported under the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 5
D	Appendix-I animals bred in captivity for commercial purposes in operations included in the Secretariat's Register, in accordance with Resolution Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15), and Appendix-I plants artificially propagated for commercial purposes, as well as parts and derivatives thereof, exported under the provisions of Article VII, paragraph 4, of the Convention;
F	Animals born in captivity (F1 or subsequent generations) that do not fulfil the definition of 'bred in captivity' in Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19), as well as parts and derivatives thereof;
I	Confiscated or seized specimens (may be used with another code)
O	Pre-Convention specimens
R	Ranched specimens: specimens of animals reared in a controlled environment, taken as eggs or juveniles from the wild, where they would otherwise have had a very low probability of surviving to adulthood
U	Source unknown (must be justified)
W	Specimens taken from the wild
X	Specimens taken in 'the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State'
Y	Specimens of plants that fulfil the definition for 'assisted production' in Resolution Conf. 11.11 (Rev. CoP18) as well as parts and derivatives thereof