



For sustainable farming

**INTERNATIONAL CROCODILIAN
FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

WWW.INTERNATIONALCROCODILIAN.COM

WHO IS ICFA? Founded in 2016, the International Crocodilian Farmers' Association (ICFA) is a not-for-profit association. ICFA's objective is to advance and promote sustainable crocodilian farming practices around the world.

It strives to continuously improve animal welfare conditions on farms, increase biodiversity on our planet, and create jobs in rural communities which depend on natural resources for economic development. ICFA promotes and funds research to improve scientific knowledge in a variety of fields such as animal welfare, herpetology, and conservation.

The association is supported by major luxury brands, tanneries, manufacturers and business associations seeking to implement the highest ethical standards in our industry and ensure sustainable sourcing objectives are met in their supply chains.



AMBITIOUS ICFA STANDARDS TO ENSURE FARMING AND PRODUCTS SUSTAINABILITY

From farmers to brands, the crocodilian skins industry shares the demand for irreproachable quality and sustainable development. ICFA was created to lead the industry to develop and implement the highest standards in farming practices, outlined in ICFA Standard 1001:2019.

These standards are the outgrowth of the leading farmers' experiences, good husbandry practices, and existing science from around the world, including OIE¹ research. They were developed with the support of specialists from the University of Pretoria and with a Standards Development Committee, comprised of farmers, veterinarians, standards and certification specialists, regulators, and scientists with expertise in crocodilian production, animal welfare, and conservation. The standards development process and certification rules are based on the ISO/IEC², ISEAL³ and WTO⁴ procedures and guidelines. The standards adhere to all national and international regulatory

requirements as well as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)⁵. The fulfillment of the ICFA Standard and Certification requirements demonstrates that farming operations are legal, sustainable, and dedicated to the highest level of animal welfare. Once farms are accepted as a member of ICFA, they must become certified for compliance by an independent auditor within 3 years.

The ICFA standards are living documents derived from years of development and scientific knowledge of crocodilian welfare and farming practices.

1. World Organisation for Animal Health
2. International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
3. ISEAL is the global membership association for credible sustainability standards
4. World Trade Organization
5. CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

ANIMAL WELFARE, A PRIORITY

ICFA plays a role in the natural relationships between humans and animals.

Civilizations around the world have depended on the sustainable use of natural resources since the beginning of time.

Indigenous and rural people living in remote areas must coexist with wildlife, including crocodilians. Economic incentives tied to farming and egg collection encourage respect for crocodilians and a willingness to conserve habitats.

ICFA's values are tied to cultural beliefs and appreciation for crocodilians and wildlife. Our members are dedicated to the highest level of care for animal welfare and humane treatment of crocodilians on their farms.





SUSTAINABLE FARMING CONTRIBUTES TO WILD SPECIES CONSERVATION

Historically, crocodylians were considered a dangerous nuisance and hunted without restriction. For many local communities, hunting and egg harvesting was guided by their alimentary needs, but it intensified as the the market and demand for skins increased. Simultaneously, the demand for increased agricultural production to support urban populations led to wetlands being drained and converted for commercial food production. In the 1960s, leading conservation experts including the IUCN⁶ led the way to find a balanced approach to both conservation and the needs of local people. These efforts created a trade regulatory instrument that gave birth to CITES in 1975. In parallel, crocodylian farming was pioneered and developed

as a mechanism to assist in the conservation and replenishment of wild populations. **Crocodylian farming creates a viable business model that encourages local people to protect animals and their environment.** Crocodylian farming is now a leading example of sustainable use of wildlife.

CITES works. Regulated and sustainable trade works. Sustainable use works. I could cite many examples of successes, but let me mention just one. Crocodiles were listed in 1975, in response to severe depletion. The crocodile industry is now worth over 100 million dollars a year, the illegal trade has all but vanished and crocodiles are far more abundant than they were 50 years ago.

**Inger Anderson,
Executive Director United Nations
Environment Programme**

6. **IUCN : The International Union for the Conservation of Nature** is made up of governments and civil society organizations. Founded in 1948, IUCN has grown over the years to become the largest and most diverse environmental network in the world. It has 1300 members and 15 000 experts. UICN is a reference on the state of nature and natural resources in the world and on measures to preserve them.