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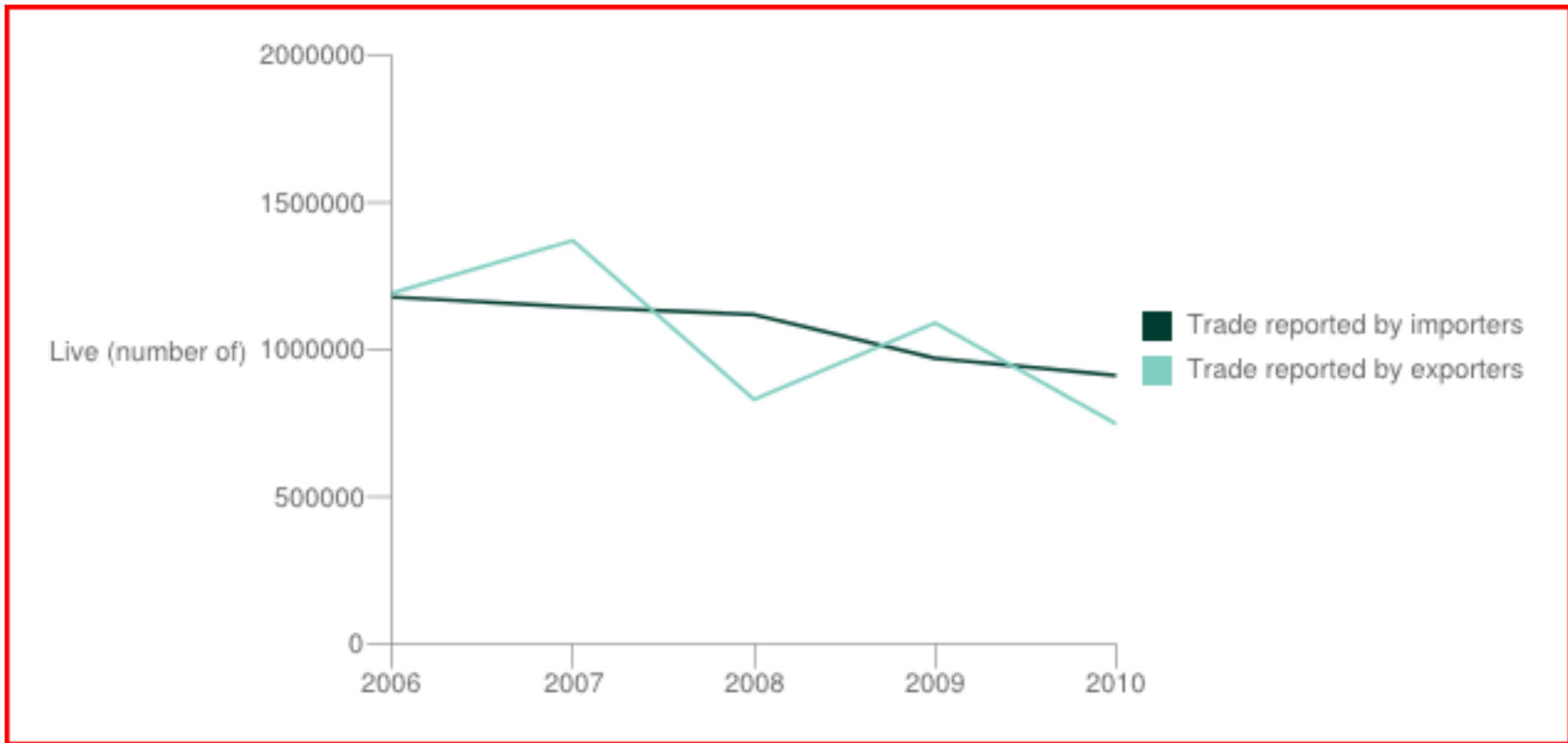
# Need for global animal welfare standards for reptiles

M. Lörtscher, Head CITES MA Switzerland, Import & keeping of exotic animals in Europe, Brussels 4-5 October 2012

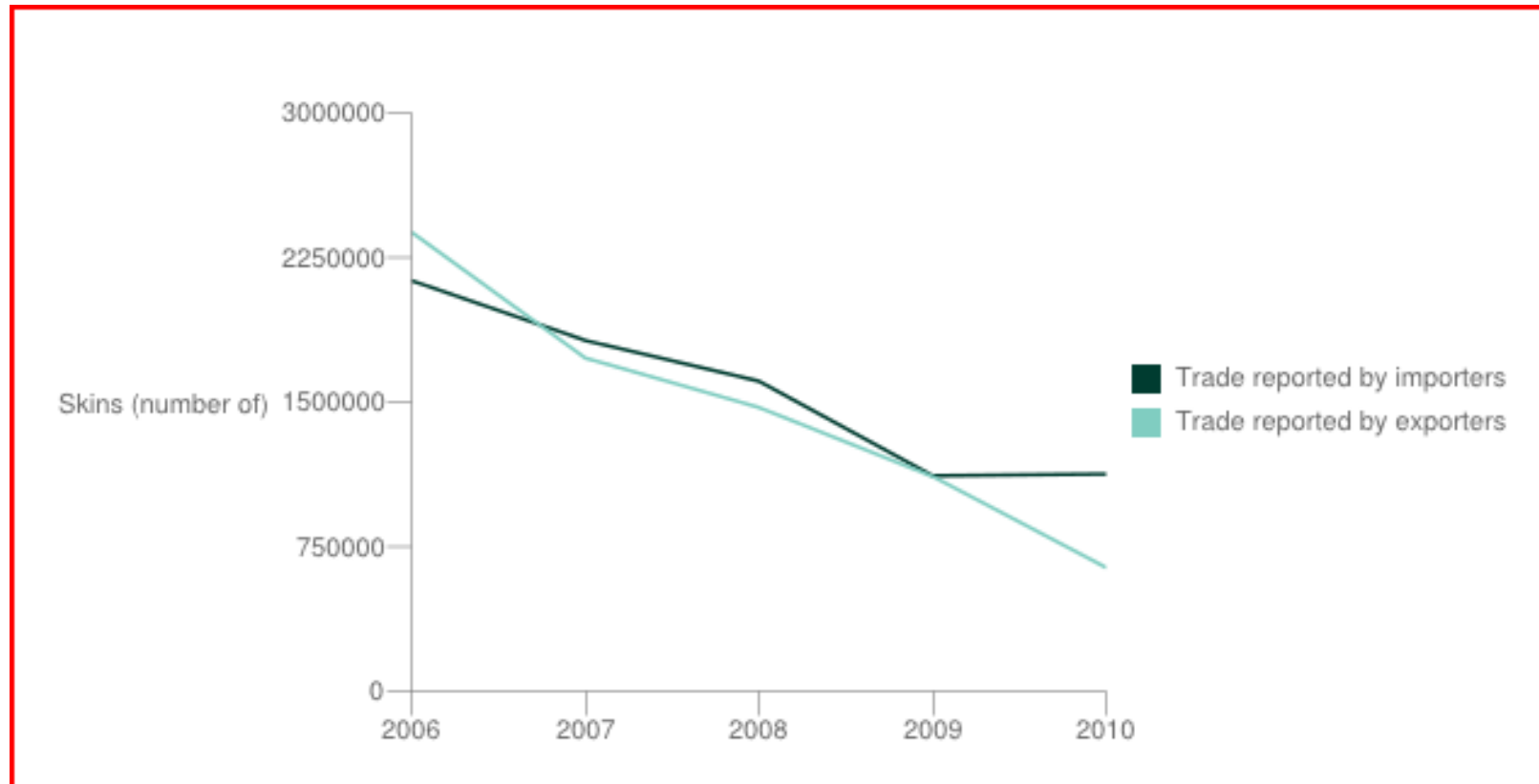


# Need for global animal welfare standards for reptiles

- Trade in Reptiles and Reptile leather products
- International Regulation of animal welfare for Reptiles – current situation
- Switzerland's activities – Why Switzerland?
- Current state of work
- Outlook




## Numbers of traded live reptiles (source [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))



## Numbers of traded skins of reptiles (source [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))





World Organisation for Animal Health

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## International Standard Setting

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- > Aquatic manual
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# Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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**PDF**

## CHAPTER 7.5.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

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#### Article 7.5.1.

#### General principles

- Object**

These recommendations address the need to ensure the *welfare* of food *animals* during pre-slaughter and *slaughter* processes, until they are dead.

These recommendations apply to the *slaughter* in *slaughterhouses* of the following domestic *animals*: cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep, goats, camelids, deer, horses, pigs, ratites, rabbits and *poultry*. Other *animals*, wherever they have been reared, and all *animals* slaughtered outside *slaughterhouses* should be managed to ensure that their *transport, lairage, restraint* and *slaughter* is carried out without causing undue stress to the *animals*; the principles underpinning these recommendations apply also to these *animals*.
- Personnel**

Persons engaged in the *unloading, moving, lairage, care, restraint, stunning, slaughter* and bleeding of *animals* play an important role in the *welfare* of those *animals*. For this reason, there should be a sufficient number of personnel, who should be patient, considerate, competent and familiar with the recommendations outlined in the present chapter and their application within the national context.

Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience. This competence should be demonstrated through a current certificate from the *Competent Authority* or from an independent body accredited by the *Competent Authority*.

The management of the *slaughterhouse* and the *Veterinary Services* should ensure that *slaughterhouse* staff are competent and carry out their tasks in accordance with the principles of *animal welfare*.
- Animal behaviour**

*Animal handlers* should be experienced and competent in handling and moving farm livestock, and understand the behaviour patterns of *animals*







# CITES and Animal Welfare

## Art. VIII Measures to be taken by the Parties

3. As far as possible, the Parties shall ensure that specimens shall pass through any formalities required for trade with a minimum of delay. To facilitate such passage, a Party may designate ports of exit and ports of entry at which specimens must be presented for clearance. **The Parties shall ensure further that all living specimens, during any period of transit, holding or shipment, are properly cared for so as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment.**

CITES Resolution 12.3 and 10.21 -> In international transport, the requirements as set out in the LAR (Live Animal Regulations) from IATA (International Air Transport Association) are to be respected.



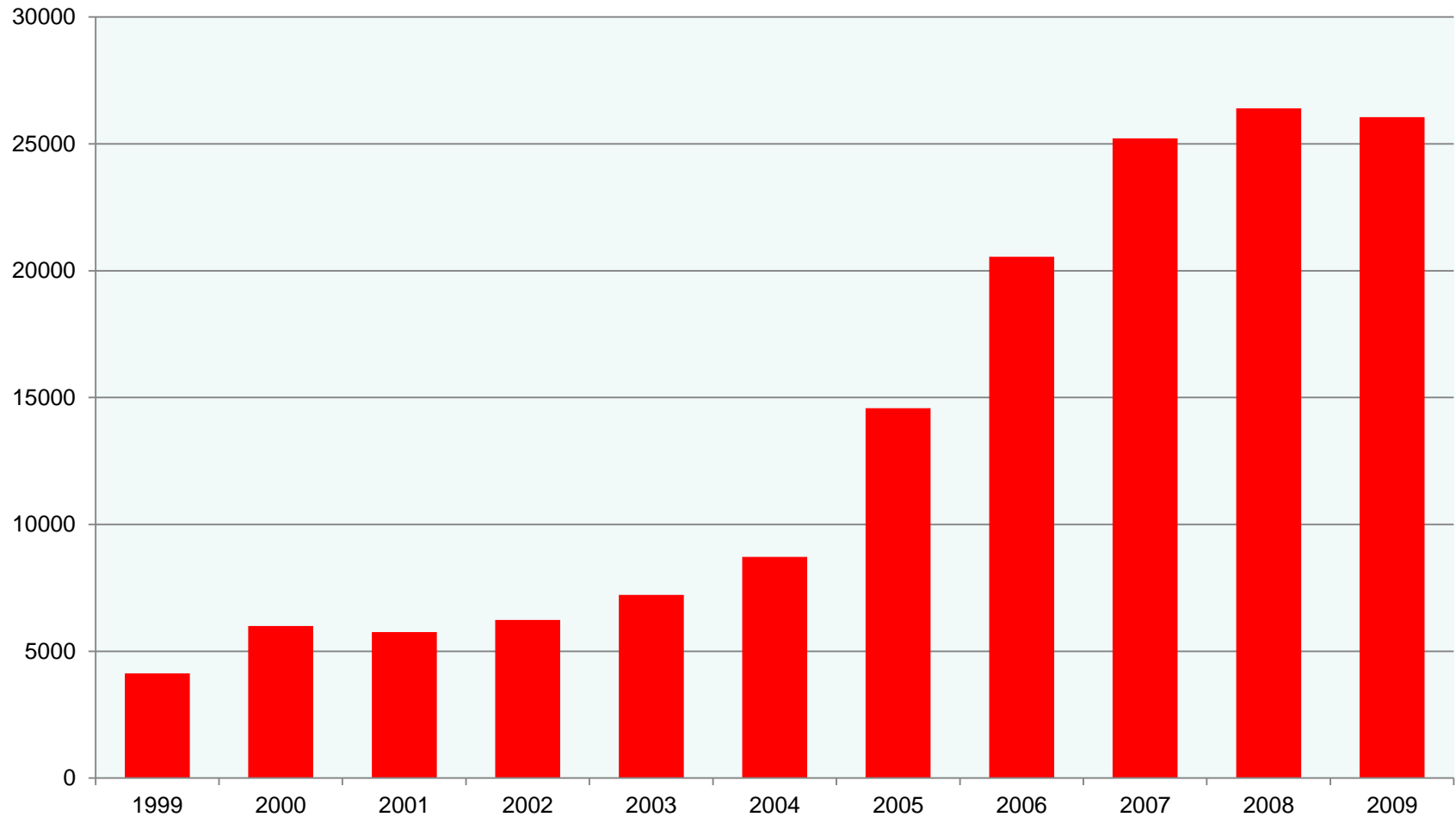
# Animal welfare in reptiles – a summary

- CITES has no direct influence on national animal welfare regulations (except trans-boundary transport)
- There exist no international welfare standards for the treatment of reptiles (OIE)
- OIE has currently not the resources to tackle that problem
- Political movements concerning animal welfare are strong (Motions, initiatives, bans)



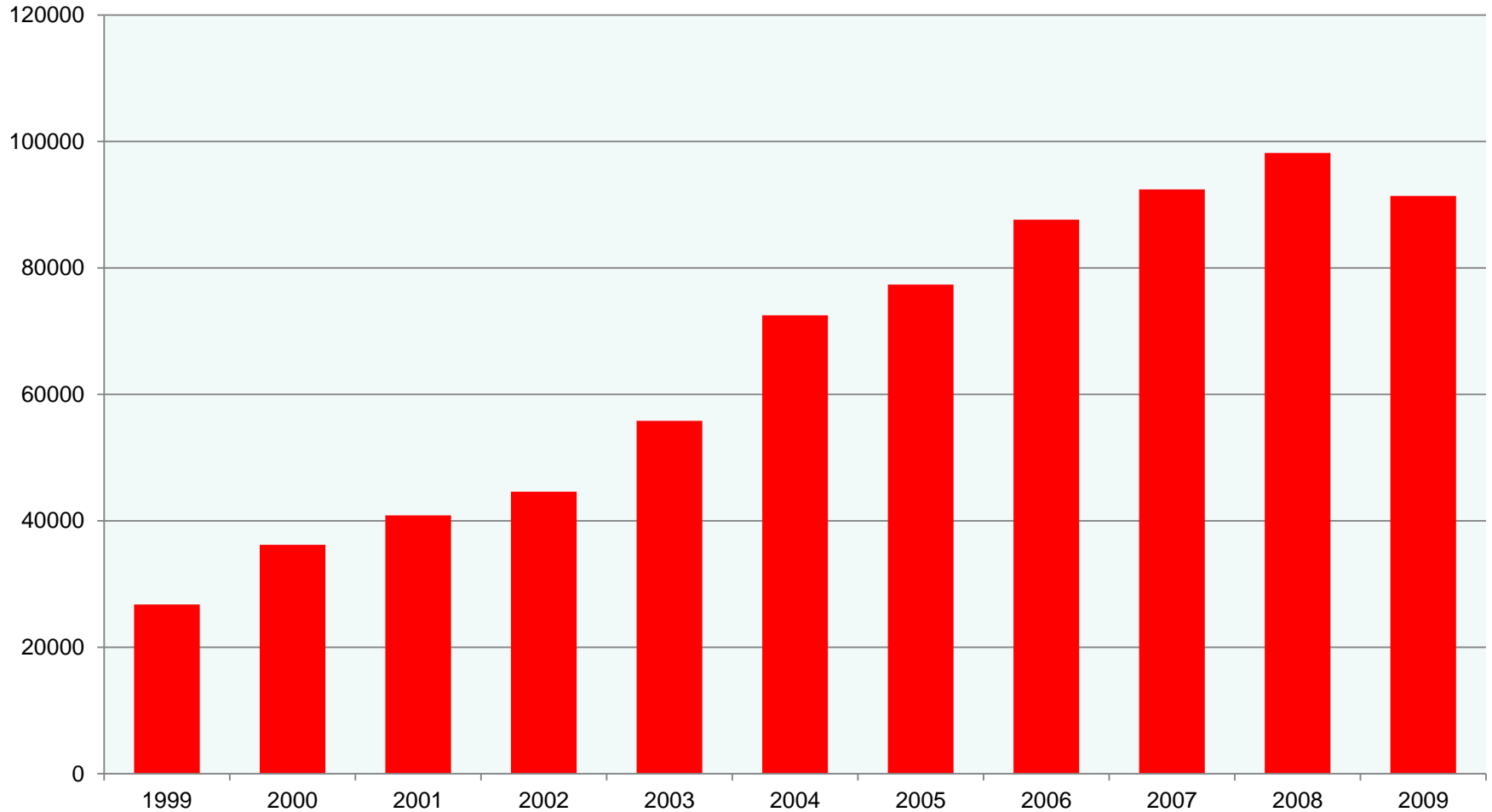


# Trade in reptile leather in Switzerland - Imports



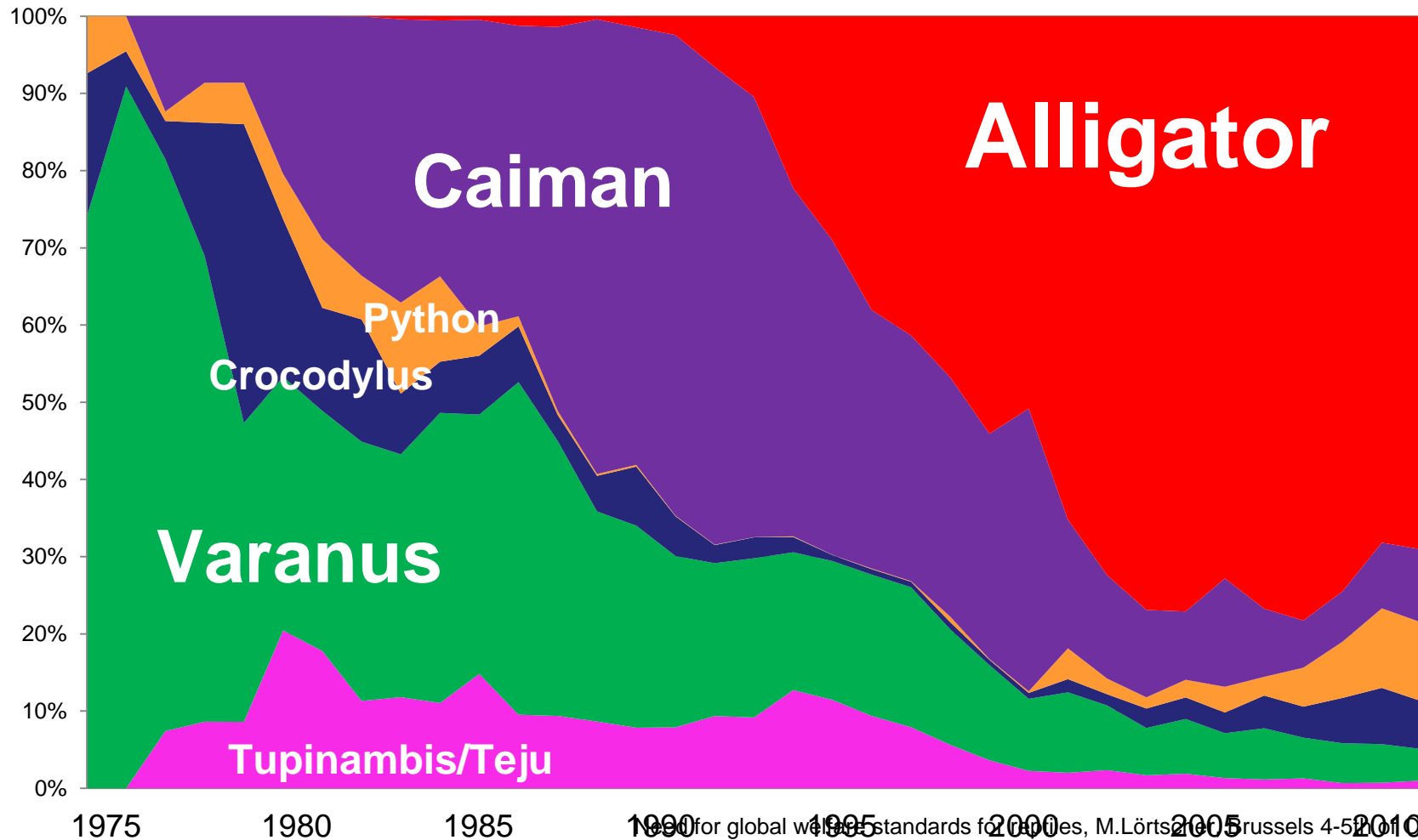


# Trade in reptile leather in Switzerland - Exports



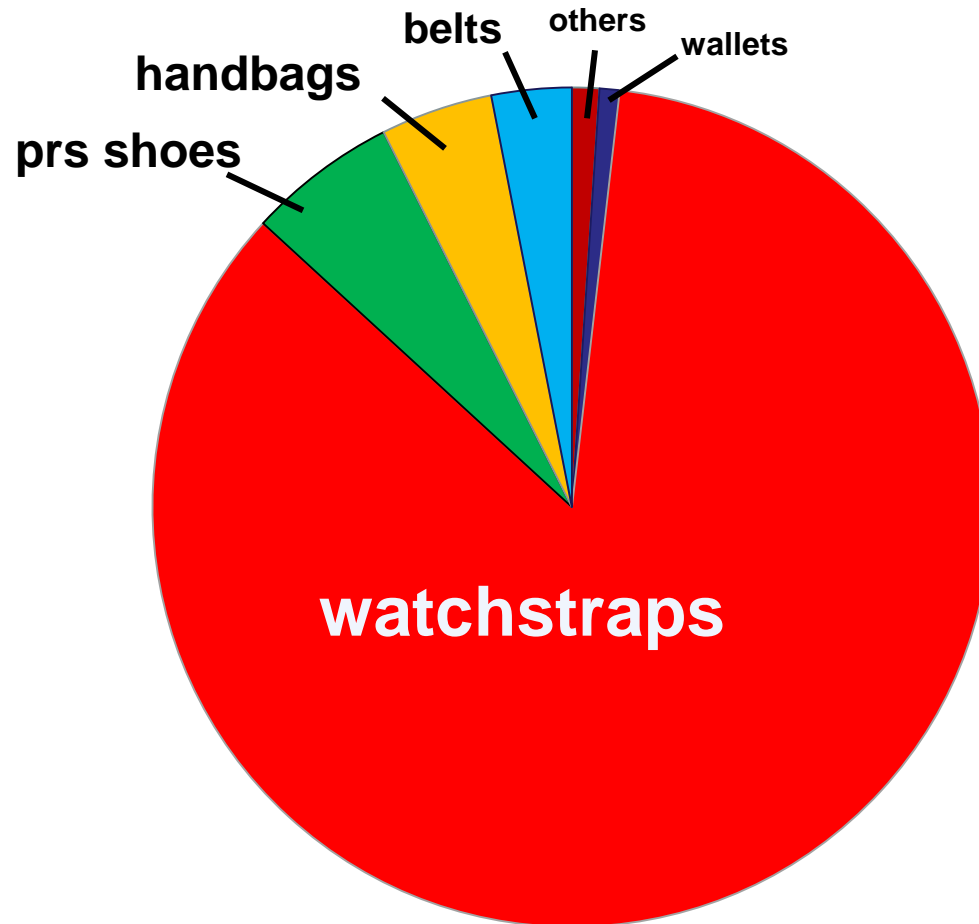


# Trade in reptile leather in CH – Species in %



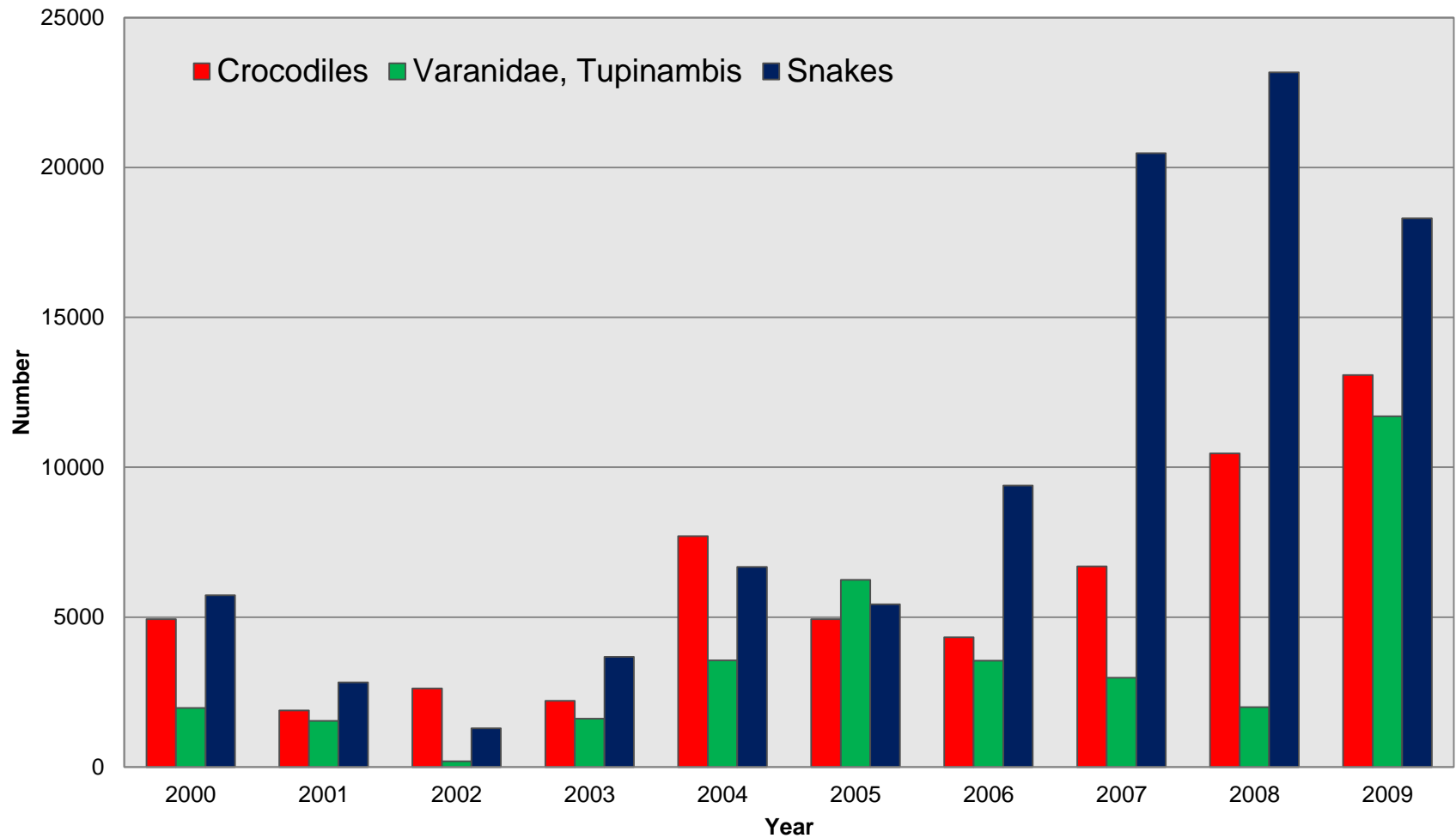


# Trade in reptile leather in CH – products



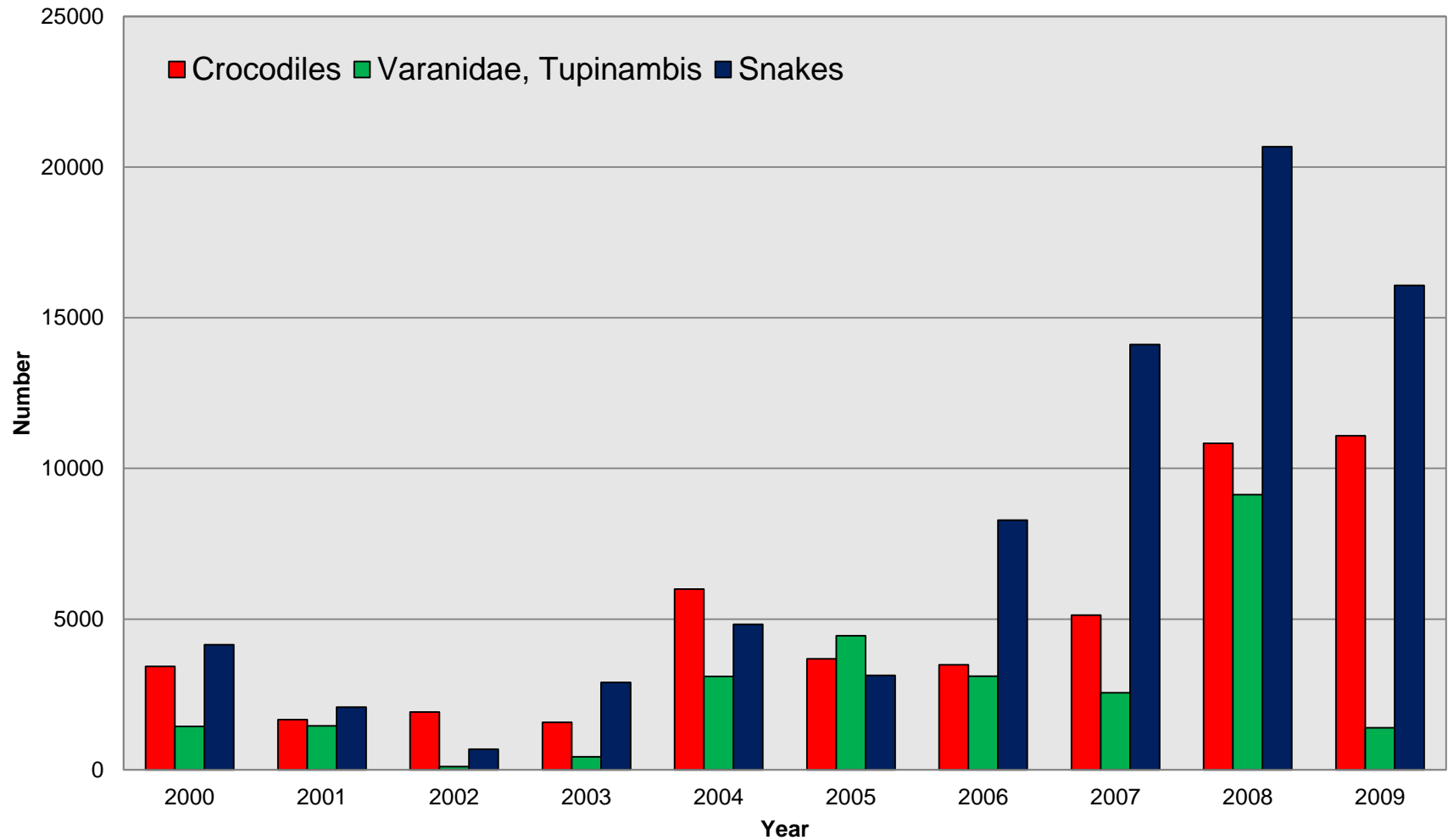


# Trade in reptile leather in CH – Import handbags





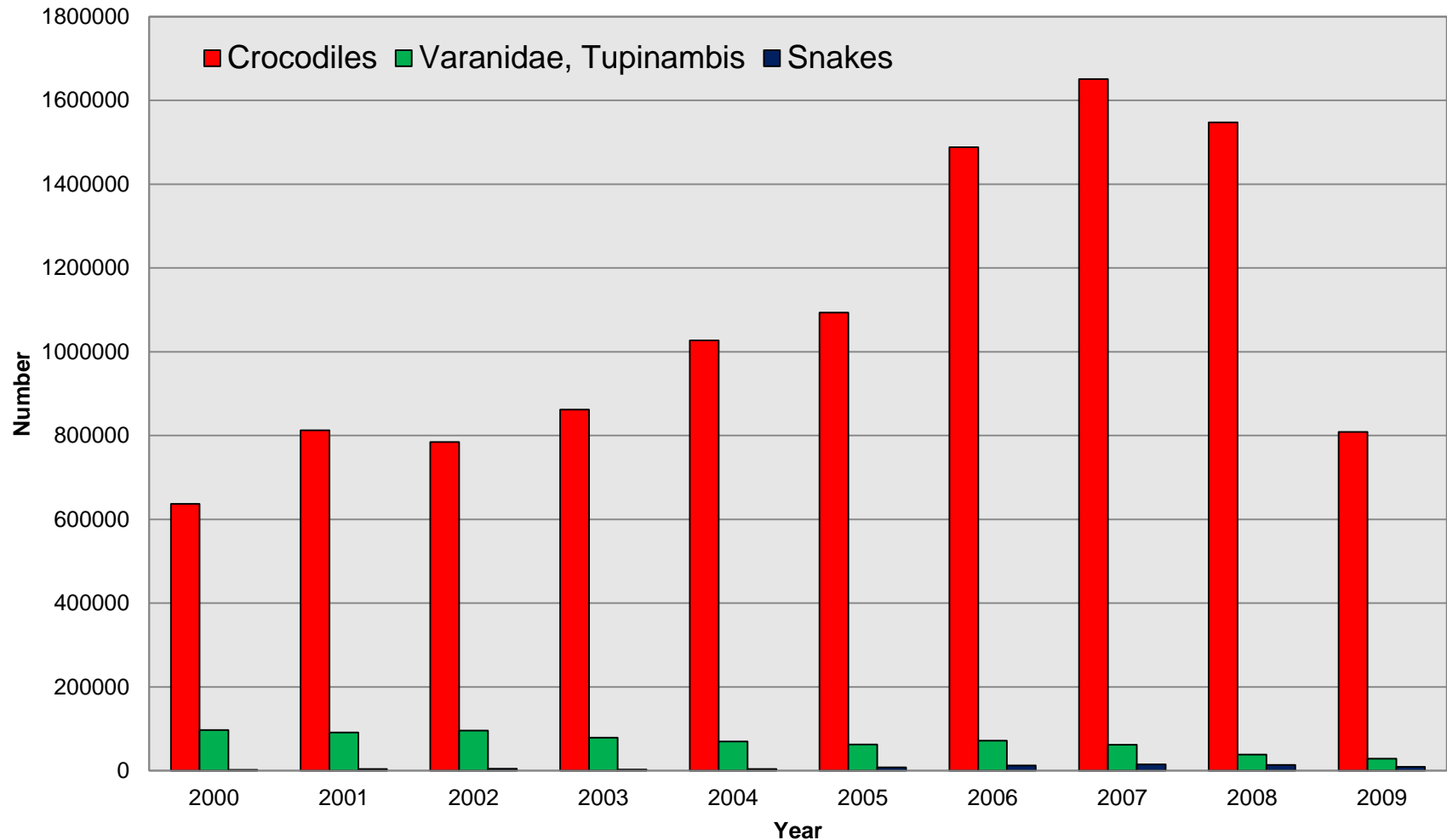
# Trade in reptile leather in CH – Export handbags





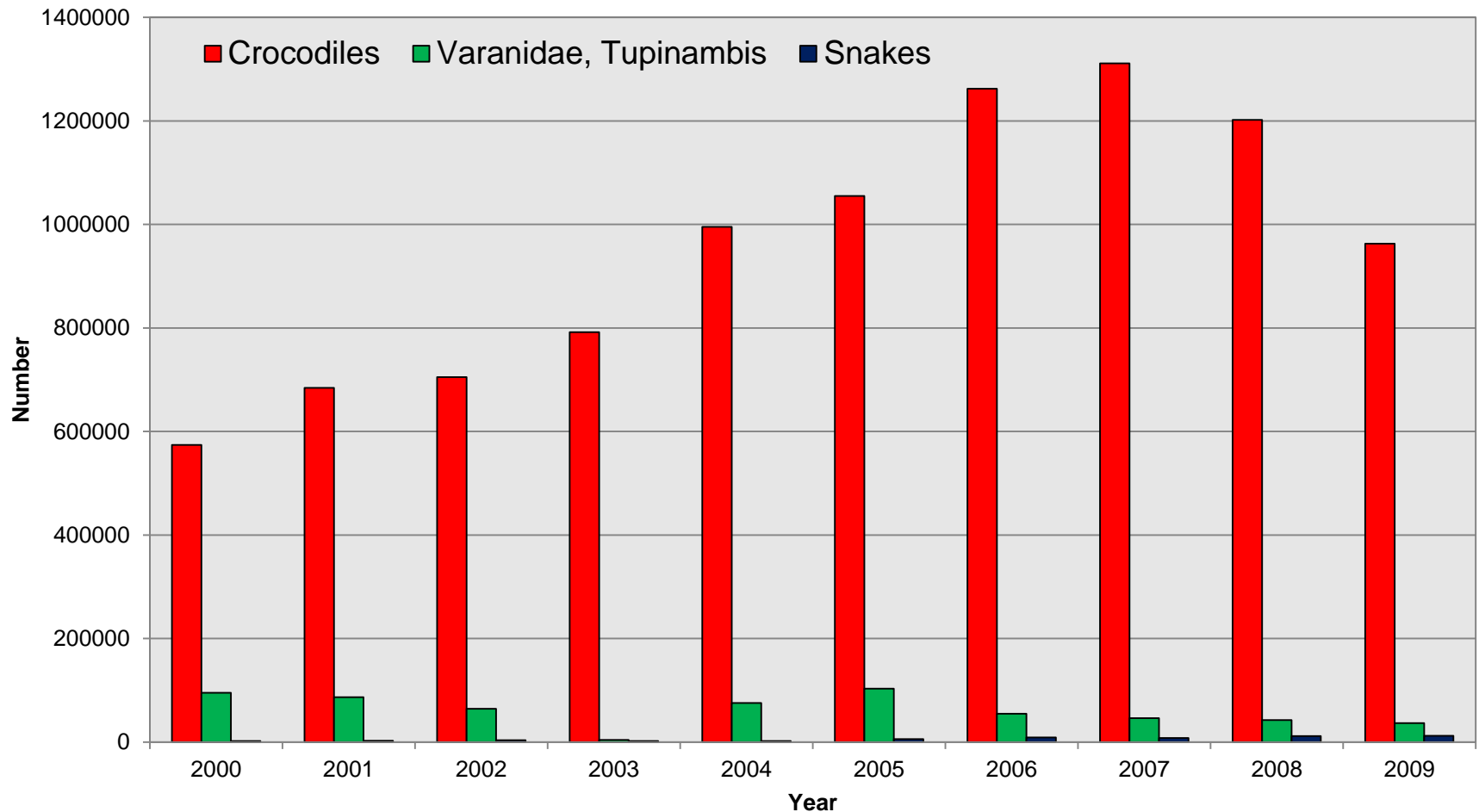


# Trade in reptile leather in CH – Import watchstraps





# Trade in reptile leather in CH – Export watchstraps





# Provenance

- Alligator: USA
- Caiman: Middle and South America
- Pythons: Indonesia/Malaysia/Vietnam
- Monitors lizards: Indonesia/Malaysia/Sudan/Tchad
- Tupinambis: South America



# Summary Switzerland

## Switzerland :

- Is a trade hub
- is concerned
- can have an influence



# Current and planned activities

- International Expert panel on slaughtering methods for reptiles established and working
- By the end of 2012 recommendations are planned
- Submission to OIE for inclusion in their recommendations
- Contacts with producer countries and trade on proposed recommendations



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Eidgenössisches Volkswirtschaftsdepartement EVD  
Bundesamt für Veterinärwesen

# Thank You!



Need for global welfare standards for reptiles, M.Lörtscher, Brussels 4-5th of October 2012