SANBI IDentifyIt - Species

Cape Fur Seal - *Arctocephalus pusillus*

**Family**
OTARIIDAE

**NEMBA Status**
Not listed

**CITES Listing**
Appendix II

**Geographic location / distribution**
Along the coast of Namibia and along the western and southern coasts of South Africa

**Physical characteristics**

*Length*: Male: 1.8-2.3m  Female: 1.2-1.6m  
*Weight*: Male: 200-350kg  Female: 40-90kg  
*Colour*:

Adult Males: Dark gray or brown on the back and lighter on the belly, darkening with age. Males have a mane on their neck which becomes lighter in colour with age.  
Adult Females: Smaller than males and their coats are brownish-gray on the back, light brown on the belly, and paler on the muzzle, lower jaw and face.  
Pups are black at birth and turn olive-grey with a pale throat as they get older

**Traded parts, derivatives and products**
Cape Fur Seal pelts (used for clothing e.g. fur coats, gloves, shoes, handbags), penises (sold as aphrodisiacs in traditional Asian medicine), carcass meal/meat (processed and canned as animal food) and seal oil (for use in medicinal capsules) are traded.  
Live animal; pelts  
Products (e.g. fur coats, gloves or handbags made from seal pelts); seal oil and carcass meal  
Trade is authorized under CITES Appendix II with the appropriate export permit or re-export certificate

**Threats**
Hunting: Direct Loss/Exploitation; Indirect effects: alien invasive species, overfishing by commercial fisheries resulting in food shortage, global/oceanic warming, pollution
Juvenile Cape Fur Seals. Copyright/Website: Africa Wildlife Films 4331_nature-untamed-escaping-great-white-11_04700380

Photographer: M. Bohnacker
Seal Skin. **Photographer:** Mickey Bohnacker  **Copyright/Website:** Mickey Bohnacker / Public Domain

Cape Fur Seal penis.  **Copyright/Website:** www.alibaba.com
Cape Fur Seal – *Arctocephalus pusillus*

- It has an obvious forehead & relatively long, heavy dog-like muzzle which ends in a tubular nose.

- Both males and females have a short, thick underfur, which is brownish-grey to olive in colour, with a paler underside and face.

- Back flippers have claws.

- Relatively long & muscular foreflippers.

- Pups are black at birth and turn olive-grey with pale throats after moulting for the first time at 4 months.

Cape Fur Seal Identification. Copyright/Website: TRAFFIC

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