

CITES

CITES is an acronym for the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora", signed by more than 150 countries worldwide. The aim of CITES is to protect the many endangered wildlife species of the World through controlling the international trade. Some 4,800 animal and 25,000 plant species are covered by CITES. More than 30 animal CITES-species (and a few plant species) live in Greenland and the surrounding waters.

The species are listed in three appendices:

Appendix I (globally endangered species):

This covers species which are banned from ALL export. No part, derivate or crafted products of these species may be exported. In Greenland this includes; Sperm whale, Bowhead whale (Greenland right whale), Fin whale (also known as the Razorback), Humpback whale and White-tailed eagle.

Appendix II and III (endangered and locally endangered species):

This covers the whole or any part of a species which can be exported for private, non-commercial use when accompanied by a CITES permit. Export of anything made from Narwhale, Beluga whale, Minke whale (from West Greenland), Walrus and Polar bear require a CITES permit which has to be kept with the product during transport.

Please note:

- If you export ANY product made from a "CITES species" (CITES Appendix II and III) from Greenland and import it to your home country (no matter whether this item was purchased in a shop or found in the wild) it MUST be accompanied by a CITES permit.
- The CITES permit is valid only for products for private and personal use. If the products are to be used in any other way, for example for commercial and scientific purposes, they require further documentation for export.
- Species protected in Greenland and all birds of prey are NOT eligible for sale or export; even if found dead.
- Other, frequently used materials (not covered by CITES or other rules) may be exported from Greenland free of regulations if for private use. This includes all species of seals (except Walrus), Reindeer, Musk ox, Sheep, Mammoth (tooth), driftwood and most stones and minerals.
- More information on the Internet:
www.wcmc.org.uk/cites.

Export of all products made from the whole, or any part of, Narwhal, Beluga whale, Minke whale (from West Greenland), Walrus and Polar bear must have a CITES permit. This applies to the whole range of products including Polar bear claws, jewellery made from Narwhale or Beluga tooth, Walrus skulls and souvenirs fashioned from Minke whale baleen etc. The CITES permit is issued at most of the shops and outlets selling these products.

Please note that no products made from whole, or any part of, Sperm whale (incl. teeth), Bowhead whale, Fin whale, Humpback whale, plus all species of birds of prey, can be exported.

- Without a CITES permit you risk the confiscation of your precious memory of Greenland.
- With a CITES permit you have proof of the origin of your product which will have been caught in the wild by a genuine Greenlandic sealer or hunter.
- With a CITES permit you have proof that you can legally import the product to your home country.



For more information:

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Internet:

www.wcmc.org.uk/cites (general information on CITES including CITES appendices).

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Buying handicraft?

Ask for a CITES permit



As a tourist in Greenland you will have the opportunity to take back home beautiful souvenir handicrafts, such as clothing, jewellery and other domestic products.

Greenlandic handicraft products are made from nature's own materials such as stones and gems, driftwood, and antlers, bones and teeth of wild animals. Some of the products may be made from animal species covered by CITES, aimed at protecting endangered wild animal and plant species by controlling international trade. In Greenland, products made from Narwhale, Beluga whale, Minke whale (from West Greenland), Walrus and Polar bear must be sold with a special CITES permit.

The CITES permit is your proof that you can legally export the product from Greenland and import this to your home country. **Remember to obtain a CITES permit** and keep it with the product. Present it to the Customs upon arrival in your home country.



The Greenlandic CITES permit covers 5 wildlife species: Narwhale, Beluga whale, Minke whale (from West Greenland), Walrus and Polar bear.

Narwhale



Walrus and Polar bear



Polar bear



Narwhale



Greenlandic handicraft products – more than mere souvenirs

The CITES permit is not just a document for the customs clearance officers. It proves that the product originates from wildlife species that can be legally hunted in Greenland. Within the population of 55,000, approximately 2,500 Greenlanders live as sealers and 7,000 are registered hunters. Each year they file reports on their catch so that the authorities can monitor and impose regulations as required. Whaling is conducted according to international regulations.

Greenlandic handicrafts are deeply rooted in the old hunting culture of the Inuit people. In the past the Inuit had a nomadic lifestyle and had to make all of their own tools and only the most important and useful items travelled with them. Survival was an art of its own and through the passage of time the tools of everyday life evolved into first class handicraft products, crafted by true artisans. Thus the Greenlandic handicrafts are more than just souvenirs; they combine art, nature and utility.

They possess *inua* – the spirit of things.