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First Issue :: 01

Green Trade Organization
Newsletter

Who are we

The Cebu Green Trade Organization (GTO) is established in 2011 as a non-profit organization that groups all shell and shell craft exporters in Cebu. GTO is a sector member of Philexport.

Founding Members:

- Antonio Chua
- Elmer Jugalbot
- Joy L. Sharpe
- Ruth L. Barbier
- Priscilo Orcullo
- Sheila Tagaro

President: Joy Sharpe

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How it all started...

With a stance against a total ban on shell and marine products export

With the confiscation of 2 containers with black corals and stuffed turtles in May 2011, it has been proposed to ban all export trade of shells and marine products.

GTO and its members strongly condemn the poaching and illegal shipping of marine products, but do feel that a total ban on export of shells and marine products is a backset for the country.

GTO produced position papers and economic impact papers on the current situation.

After meetings with congressmen and officials, the result is positive, the idea of a ban on shell export has been abandoned and tens of thousands of Filipinos keep their jobs.



Public hearing
July 14, 2011

Public hearing from the committee on Aquaculture & Fisheries Resources at Cebu Capitol

GTO was present to give support to the committee on Aquaculture & Fisheries Resources held on July 14, 2011.

The committee held a public hearing for the amendment of RA8550 and the proposed bill of the creation of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

On the public hearing, the following congressmen were present:

- Hon. Benhur L. Salimbangon
- Hon. Luigi Quisumbing
- Hon. Eduardo R. Gullas
- Hon. Irvin M. Alcala
- Hon. Florencio C. Garay
- Hon. Angelo B. Palmones

- Hon. Pablo P. Garcia
- Hon. Pablo John Garcia
- Hon. Pastor Alcover

As well as the current director of BFAR Atty. Asis G. Perez and Gov. Gwen Garcia



Forbidden shells in the Philippines
2001 Fisheries Administrative Order 208.



1989 Administrative Order 208: Prohibit "Trade" of the Philippine mollusks...
1999 Fisheries Administrative Order 208: Prohibit gathering of...
2001 Philippine Administrative Order 208: Prohibit...

GTO created a free educational poster showing all the shells forbidden by Philippine law.

GTO is active

- Meeting with other Philexport sectors to discuss shell trade & status
- Meeting with bureau of customs to discuss shell export regulations
- Meeting with Comm. Biazon at Country Club.
- Multiple BFAR conferences in Manila & Cebu
- GTO members inducted in the Philexport organization.

Science books handover at San Carlos University

The hand over was held during the 1st National Biodiversity & Environmental Management Conference held at San Carlos University on June 23, 2011.



The books are a great addition to the science library of San Carlos University and will help countless students and scientists study seashells in the Philippines.

The Philippine Marine Mollusks book set contains all the seashells known to science in the Philippines. It is a 7 year project which involved over 55 scientist from all over the world to document all seashells living in the Philippines. The result is 4300 scientific names published in 4 Volumes.

BFAR Dir. Atty Asis G. Perez

Director Perez took the opportunity to have an informal talk with GTO members about the future plans of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Also the Director explained his stance on current laws and regulations.

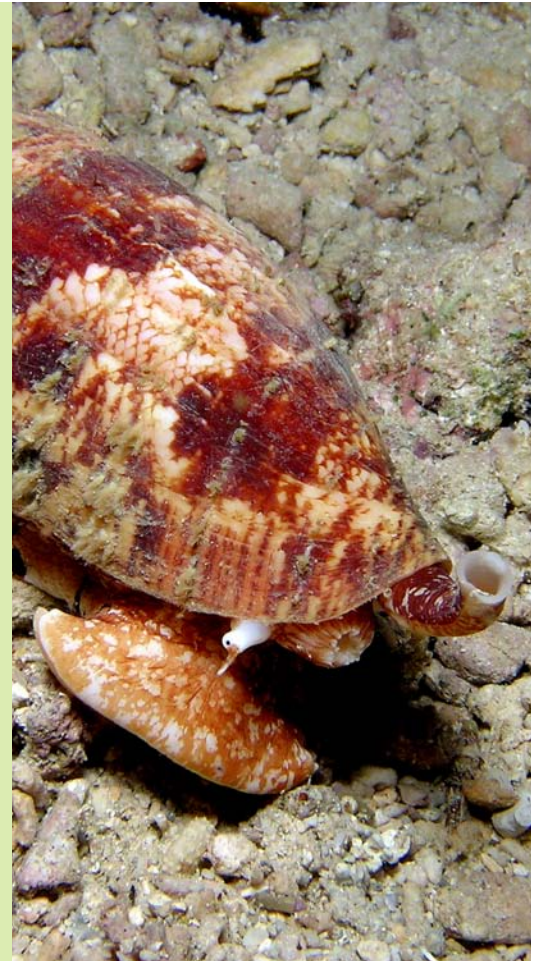


Conus Synthesis Meeting, 25 Oct 2011

During the last week of October the Biodiversity Synthesis Center at the Field Museum Chicago hosted an IUCN Red List workshop on behalf of the University of York, UK. The purpose of the meeting was to assess threats to over 640 species of cone snails, one of the largest assessments undertaken for this purpose at a single session.

Over the following months the assessments will be subject to stringent consistency and accuracy checks before publication on both the websites of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the Encyclopedia of Life where the data will be available for subscription-free access to researchers worldwide.

Members of GTO participated in the Chicago Workshop.



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Stance on total ban on shell and marine products export

With the recent confiscation of 2 containers with black corals and stuffed turtles, it has been proposed to ban all export trade of shells and marine products.

GTO and its members strongly condemn the poaching and illegal shipping of marine products, but do feel that a total ban on export of shells and marine products is not the solution to the problem.

GTO has produced a position paper and economic impact paper on the current situation.

Position Paper

- [Position Paper - read in browser](#)
- [Economic Impact - read in browser](#)

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The Cebu Green Trade Organization (GTO) established in 2011 as a non-profit foundation that groups all shell and shell craft exporters in Cebu. GTO is a sector member from PhilExport.

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