

11 December 2022, (Sunday)



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **NEWS CLIPPINGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



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GLOBAL GOALS

SUNDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2022  
DAILY TRIBUNE

# 4,000 join DENR-led National Bicycle Day event

Around 3,000 members of 200 cycling groups and 1,000 individuals signed up for the activity.

Some 4,000 bicycle enthusiasts took part in a mass cycling parade successfully hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in celebration of National Bicycle Day 2022.

Held last 27 November, the event marked the second year since former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed Proclamation 1052 declaring every fourth Sunday of November as National Bicycle Day.

DENR Undersecretary for Field Operations-Luzon, Visayas and Environment Juan Miguel Cuna said the annual event continued to attract more participants as the bicycle has become an alternative mode of transportation given the pandemic.

"Bicycles are not just fashionable and recreational. In many ways, cycling is a necessity compared to motorized transportation. It is more economical, cleaner, healthier, quieter and faster," Cuna said in his speech read by DENR-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service Director Khalil Bayam.

Around 3,000 members of 200 cycling groups and 1,000 individuals signed up for the activity. Bikers traversed a total of 51.94 kilometers from the host city Makati to Pasay, Manila, Quezon City, Pasig, Taguig and back to Makati City.

A push bike race for kids aged two, four and five years old was also conducted to instill in young minds the importance of biking.

Prizes such as loot bags from sponsors, two electric bikes and four mountain bikes were given away during the raffle draw.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR

BIKERS pedal along España Boulevard near Lacson Avenue in Manila during the 8th National Bicycle Day on 27 November 2022, organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

For his part, National Bicycle Organization Director Benedict Camara said the biking activity was in line with their organization's "continuing vision of clean air through a bicycle-friendly Philippines."

The DENR, through its SCIS-Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division, has partnered with the NBO since 2014 in promoting bicycles as an alternative means of transportation.

The DENR, through the SCIS, was instrumental in the signing in November

2020 of Proclamation 1052, which seeks to ensure ecological integrity and a clean and healthy environment.

The proclamation directs the DENR to lead the observance and celebration of National Bicycle Day in coordination with relevant non-government organizations and civil society groups.

Under the proclamation, all other agencies and instrumentalities of the national government,

including government-owned or government-controlled corporations and state universities and colleges, are enjoined to participate in the said event.

Local government units, as well as the private sector, are likewise encouraged to actively participate and render support and assistance to the DENR for the effective implementation of the proclamation.



Sustainable Philippines



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## Judiciary Magis, DENR Warriors triumph

Supreme Court Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez displayed his deadly marksmanship to share the limelight with defending champion Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the 9th UNTV Cup Wednesday at the Paco Arena in Manila.

Marquez conspired with former PBA player Chester Tolomia in leading the Judiciary Magis to a 96-76 demolition of the GSIS Furies while the DENR

Warriors outlasted the PNP Responders, 81-72, in Group B of the event exclusively organized for public servants.

In the lone Group A match, Senate mauled Ombudsman, 94-29, in the most lopsided game in the tourney thus far.

Tolomia topscored for the Magis with 28 points but Marquez drew the loudest cheers from the bleachers by scoring all his 15 points from the three-point zone.



# COP15: 5 THINGS TO WATCH AT BIGGEST BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT



**WORKERS** set up the Montreal Convention Centre on December 2 in preparation for the COP15 UN conference on biodiversity in Montreal. Environmental leaders are gathering in Montreal to hammer out a framework they hope will help provide much-needed protection for the world's biodiversity. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

**T**HE most important gathering on biodiversity in a decade kicked off this past week in Montreal, where countries will negotiate an ecological deal that could hold equal significance to the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

That's because scientists view biodiversity as one of the chief weapons in combating global warming.

Protecting the world's ecosystems, and the diverse life within them, from destruction, pollution and other threats, also means protecting natural carbon sinks that absorb emissions.

Businesses are increasingly interested in meeting their Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) goals through biodiversity measures—such as forestry preservation—and a record number of financial institutions are expected to attend the conference known as 15th Conference of Parties (COP15).

The United Nations-run gathering have representatives from 191 countries and follows COP27, a larger UN summit focused on climate change that took place in Egypt last month.

COP15 runs from December 7 to December 19. Here's what you need to know:

## What's on the table

REPRESENTATIVES are negotiating the wording of an agreement that lays out four long-term biodiversity goals for 2050, and 23 specific "action targets" to be completed by 2030, according to a news release from the UN on Sunday.

The latter group includes eight targets to protect biodiversity, and five geared at making sure humans use nature sustainably and share its bounties and benefits equitably.

The remainder are tools and solutions to achieve those targets and goals.

The final text requires unanimous agreement to pass.

## Who will be there

HIGH-LEVEL talks will be handled mainly by environment ministers. The work builds on goals first established by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, which was signed 30 years ago at the Rio Earth Summit and has been ratified by nearly 200 countries.

The US, which has not ratified the convention, is expected to play a key behind-the-scenes role as a COP15 observer, given recent progress in this area under President Joe Biden.

That includes his appointment of a special envoy for biodiversity and water resources, the Inflation Reduction Act, and a new report on nature-based solutions for climate unveiled by the White House at COP27.

About 1,400 organizations—including nongovernment organizations and businesses from 103 countries—are attending the conference as well.

Support from the financial sector is seen as key to successfully implementing an agreement because funding to support biodiversity measures is currently far less than various estimates of what's needed.

## Who won't be there

WORLD leaders are unlikely to attend but fewer speeches and less pomp and circumstance may be a good thing in terms of getting more technical work done.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be the notable exception, given Canada is the host country. (Technically this meeting should be taking place in China, which holds the COP15 presidency, but it was moved due to Covid lockdowns.)



TITLE: COP15: 5 Things to watch at biggest biodiversity...

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## Five things to watch

### 1. Targets and goals

2030: The biggest news to come out of COP15 would be a consensus on what's known as the "30 by 30" target. It asks countries to commit to protecting 30 percent of the world's land and sea by 2030, including key ecosystems around the world.

"It has gained enough support prior to the meeting to stand a high chance of landing. But it isn't a foregone conclusion," says Alistair Purdie, an analyst at clean energy research group BloombergNEF (BNEF) and lead author of a recent report released by the group ahead of COP15.

"Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa are yet to commit, so compromises from developed countries in other areas like finance and genetic resource benefit sharing will need to be made," Purdie says.

Genetic resource sharing means distributing any benefits—including profit—that come from using genes found in the world's living organisms to create new products.

Agriculture is an obvious example: much of the genetic information used to create new, drought-resistant crops comes from plants in the Southern hemisphere but the companies developing them are typically in the north. Medicine would be another example.

2050: An agreed goal to not only halt, but also start to reverse biodiversity loss by 2050 would be meaningful. That would likely mean enhancing the world's natural ecosystems, tackling extinctions, and maintaining genetic diversity among the planet's lifeforms. This could be expressed merely as an aspiration or backed up with numerical targets.

BNEF's report puts the chances of a meaningful deal at fifty-fifty but says, if it happens, COP15 could be as significant as the 2015 Paris Agreement.

### 2. 'Nature positive' language

THE idea of stopping and eventually reversing biodiversity loss—a strategy known as "nature positive"—is becoming the new "net zero" in terms of planet-friendly guiding principles for nations and businesses. The concept underpins many proposals in the draft agreement.

Target 18, for example, calls for slashing government subsidies and incentives that harm biodiversity by at least \$500 billion a year, and ensuring future incentives are at least neutral and increasingly positive.

### 3. Business requirements

TO get companies to adopt nature positive practices, businesses and financial institutions could be required to track and disclose their effect on biodiversity.

The aim would be to cut negative impacts by at least half by 2030, with a gradual increase toward positive impacts.

The trick will be measuring progress, according to Jessica Smith, nature lead at the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative. Unlike emissions, she says, changes to ecosystems aren't tracked a single way.

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures has been making progress on identifying metrics, Smith says, and could lead the way on this.

"We need a really robust definition of nature positive," she says.

### 4. Biodiversity finance

LACK of financing was one of the reasons the last biodiversity agreement, struck in 2010, failed to meet its targets.

The COP15 framework identifies a global gap of \$700 billion a year that would need to be bridged for success.

In their report, BNEF analysts note this is "seven times larger than the finance goal that has proved a pinch point in climate talks."

Target 19 calls for at least \$200 billion a year in financing by 2030 to narrow that gap. The elimination of half a billion dollars worth of harmful subsidies per year would make up the rest.

Significant financial "capacity building" will be needed to free up funds, says Ryan Riordan, research director of the Institute for Sustainable Finance at Canada's Queen's University.

"We need to develop the tools, and the methods, and the technology to value this stuff better," he says. "It's really easy for us to take a look at balance sheets and income statements of firms. How do we do that for habitats, or salt marshes, or peat bogs or coral reefs?"

Just as governments need a way to measure nature-positive impacts, the financial sector needs to be able to place a dollar value on biodiversity improvements or avoiding degradation. Some of the solutions being discussed within the financial community include a biodiversity index or biocredits.

### 5. Indigenous rights

THERE is a growing recognition of the value indigenous peoples can provide as stewards of biodiversity.

The current framework aims to make sure their traditional knowledge guides biodiversity decisions, their consent is given, and their rights are upheld.

It also acknowledges that decision-making, and benefits to natural systems, need to be shared equitably among people, cultures and countries.

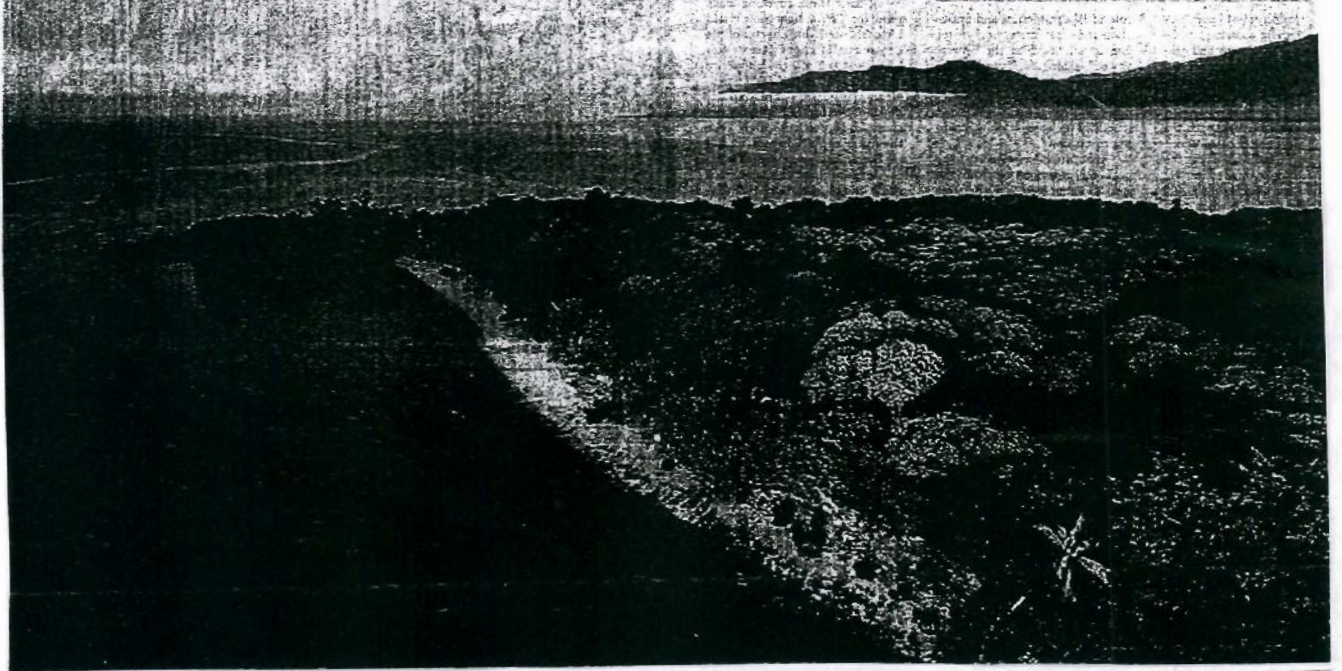


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# ACCIDENTAL TENANTS



A narrow strip of land developed to provide a nesting site for turtles in Davao City has attracted several species of birds, including some rare ones.

CLEANERGY Park from above. White-sand Nesting turtle beach can be seen. ABOITIZ.COM



A GREY-TAILED tattler was captured with a small crab caught between its beak near the shore of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park. DAVAO LIGHT PHOTO BY BRENDA MILAN



A PINK-NECKED Green Pigeon was captured perched on a branch at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in 2016. DAVAO LIGHT PHOTO BY PETER SIMPSON



A SPOTTED Imperial Pigeon was captured soaring above the beach area of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in 2016. DAVAO LIGHT PHOTO BY PETER SIMPSON



By MANUEL T. CAYON

**I**N Punta Dumalag in Davao City is a narrow strip of land jutting out into the sea, now secluded and guarded to secure a refuge for the wildlife. More popular for the steady stream of turtles nesting in the area since 2014, recent wildlife activity has also pointed at the increasing number of birds, endemic and endangered, rare and fabulous, which are observed to have carved a niche in the area.

Only recently did birdwatchers record more than 100 bird species on refuge at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Punta Dumalag in this city, adding another ecological reputation of its not only being a nesting site for turtles.

"An eight-hectare ecological preserve was once a grassland but has now become a haven for birds,"

the Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Co. said in a statement, after hosting birdwatchers to its protected ecological sanctuary.

When a team of birdwatchers, including England-born birdwatcher Pete Simpson, visited the park in 2016, they documented 25 bird species at the park, the Davao Light said.

At that time, the Pink-necked Green Pigeon (*Treron vernans*) was first photographed at the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park. The bird lives in a wide range of forested and human-modified habitats and is particularly found in Southeast Asia, a Davao Light statement said.

Since then, the number of endemic and migratory birds continues to rise, and by 2020, the number had finally reached 100. Davao Light quoted one Davao-born birdwatcher as saying, "What was really interesting is the sighting of the Pied Imperial-pigeon (*Ducula bicolor*) at the park," said Brenda Milan, a Davaoena birdwatcher and photographer.

She said the pigeon inhabits coastal forests on small offshore islands, only making occasional forays to mainland areas to hunt and sleep.

"Maybe something happened in their traditional roosting area, or where they regularly settle or congregate to rest, and they found Cleanergy Park a safer preserve," Milan said. "I think the birds feel

safe at the Cleanergy Park. There are very few people moving around in the area."

Another notable finding is the annual visit of the Spotted Imperial Pigeon (*Ducula carola*). "The nesting records of the Pied Imperial Pigeon are impressive for an urban park. A small flock was first seen in 2019 and they are now residents in the park, recently confirmed to be nesting," Simpson said.

The spotted imperial pigeon, also known as the grey-necked imperial pigeon, is a species endemic to the Philippines. It lives in forests and forest edges but goes down to the limestone shorelines, possibly to feed or to replenish the salt content needed by its body.

"The security personnel controls the number of people coming in and out of the area and prevents hunting, making the park a rare oasis of safety for the birds in Davao City," Simpson said, as he noted that these wild species of birds were hunted everywhere in the Philippines despite laws banning it.

For example, vulnerable spe-

cies like the Spotted Imperial Pigeon are threatened by habitat loss and hunting and are protected under Republic Act 9147 or the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

#### Only 5 bird species

DAVAO Light said there were only five bird species spotted during the time when a study was conducted by a group of researchers from the University of the Philippines Mindanao and the University of Southeastern Philippines who were commissioned to conduct a baseline study in 2013.

Planting of trees was among the recommendations of the study and in an effort to make the place more attractive to wildlife, tree planting activities were conducted at the site with the help of other public and private organizations.

In October, the Birdwatching in Davao group revisited the park. One bird captured by Milan is a grey-tailed tattler hunting for small crabs along the shores of the park. They darted about, bobbing and teetering between runs, and

locate prey by sight or by probing.

#### Turtle nesting

THE Aboitiz Cleanergy Park is more known as a nesting ground of the critically endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtles.

Park authorities has partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Region XI (DENR-XI) and the Davao city government to establish the Pawikan Rescue Center inside the park.

On May 20, an injured female hawksbill sea turtle was discovered and immediately turned over to the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park to ensure proper care and rehabilitation. The *pawikan* was a victim of spear-fishing practices, and had to undergo critical medical procedures in order to survive.

"We at Davao Light and AboitizPower are fully committed to our cause of saving the *pawikans*. We must all carry this responsibility so that our future generations will be able to see them. It can be through small acts such as keeping

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our coastal areas clean, not littering, and having safe practices when fishing. These are very simple but have a large impact on preserving our environment," Edillon Fermin of Davao Light said.

To date, a total of 4,811 hatchlings across 42 nests have been discovered and released into the sea since Fermin's team started collecting data in 2014. Fourteen *pawikans* have been rescued, and five were currently being nurtured at the Cleanergy Park.

Fermin and his team do their part in educating students and guests by hosting tours around the park and allowing visitors to release baby hatchlings into the sea

and watch them crawl through the sand and swim into the ocean.

Visitors are taught that it is critical to a *pawikan's* early stage of life to grovel through the sand and into the ocean on their own. The *pawikans* imprint themselves onto their birthing place—wherein after a few decades, they will return and make their own nests as parents for a new generation of hatchlings.

"It is important to let the youth understand the situation of the *pawikans* and all other endangered species, so that while they are still young, they are already aware of what they should do and how they could take action to save our wildlife," Fermin shared.

The Aboitiz Cleanergy Park

is completely wireless and is built entirely using recycled materials. Even at night, lights and lamps are not used, except for flashlights of roving guards and staff, in order not to disturb or confuse the *pawikans* nesting in the area.

The Aboitiz Cleanergy Park is managed by Davao Light and Power Co. Inc., an AboitizPower subsidiary, and Aboitiz Foundation Inc. "We're happy to know that our conservation efforts have paid off. We thank our partners for supporting the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park by regularly conducting coastal cleanup and tree-planting activities to maintain the natural habitat of these birds," said Rodger Velasco, president and chief operating officer of Davao Light.



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# Climate Change Commission, UP Resilience Institute partner on disaster risk assessments

The Climate Change Commission and the University of the Philippines Resilience Institute recently signed an agreement that is seen to further strengthen their partnership to develop a support mechanism for climate and disaster risk assessments and to build the capacities of institutional stakeholders at the grassroots, particularly for LGUs.

The Letter of Agreement was signed by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, UP President Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion and UPRI Executive Director and Professor Alfredo Mahar Francisco A. Lagmay on 25 November 2022 at the UPRI Building in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The LOA between CCC and UPRI aims to intensify collaboration on the development of science-based tools and instruments that will boost the resiliency of LGUs, enhance the vulnerability and risk assessment capabilities of target municipalities for climate hazards, and promote climate risk assessment in line with the National Climate Risk Management Framework.



The two parties' cooperation also aims to generate vulnerability and risk assessments of target municipalities using appropriate hazard maps as reference for climate change mainstreaming, and Local Climate Change Action Plan development and/or enhancement.

The agreement likewise targets providing support for capacity-building activities on climate change mainstreaming and resiliency building for LGUs and higher education institutions, including state colleges and universities.

It aims to further strengthen the generation of risk-policy interventions and recommendations as inputs in the formulation/enhancement of development plans of target LGUs, and the development of a repository of vulnerability and risk data and other climate change and disaster risk reduction management information, including the establishment of Geographic Information System in partner LGUs and HEIs.

The LOA reinforces and reiterates support to the existing MoA between the CCC and the UP System signed on 13 June 2013.

The ceremonial signing of the LOA was part of the commemoration of the 15th Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week on 19 to 25 November 2022 with the theme, "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima."

The Climate Change Commission is the lead policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in national, local, and sectoral development plans toward a climate-resilient and climate-smart Philippines.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

THE LOA was signed by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje, UP President Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion, and UPRI Executive Director and Professor Alfredo Mahar Francisco A. Lagmay on 25 November 2022 at the UPRI Building in UP Diliman, Quezon City.





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### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Nearly 10% of marine life threatened with extinction

GENEVA—The effects of human activity from climate change to pollution are “devastating” marine life, with nearly a tenth of underwater plants and animals assessed so far threatened with extinction, the latest Red List of Threatened Species showed on Friday. The report’s release coincides with a UN summit on nature in Montreal where the UN chief Antonio Guterres has urged countries to end an “orgy of destruction” and pass a deal to halt and reverse habitat loss. More than 1,550 of some 17,903 marine plants and animals assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature are at risk of extinction, according to the latest list which acts as a barometer of biodiversity and is published several times a year. Populations of the dugong, a plump, grey herbivorous mammal commonly known as the sea cow, have fallen to fewer than 250 adults in east Africa and fewer than 900 in the French territory of New Caledonia, the IUCN said. —REUTERS



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# Sea cows, abalone, pillar coral now threatened with extinction

By AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

**M**ONTREAL, Canada — Dugongs — large herbivorous marine mammals commonly known as “sea cows” — are now threatened with extinction, according to an official list updated Friday.

These gentle cousins of the manatee graze on seagrass in shallow coastal waters, and are an important source of ecotourism in their tropical habitats.

Despite their moniker, they are more closely related to elephants than to cows.

Dugong populations in East Africa and New Caledonia have now entered the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List as “critically endangered” and “endangered,” respectively.

Globally, the species remains classified as “vulnerable.” Their primary threats are unintentional capture in fishing gear in East Africa and poaching in New Caledonia, as well as boat injuries in both locations.

In East Africa, fossil fuel exploration and production, pollution and unauthorized development are also degrading their seagrass food source. In New Caledonia seagrass is being damaged by agricultural run-off and pollution from nickel mining, among

other sources.

Habitat degradation is compounded by climate change throughout the dugongs' range in the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.

The updated list comes as delegates from across the world meet in Montreal for a UN biodiversity conference to finalize a new framework for “a peace pact with nature,” with key goals to preserve Earth's forests, oceans and species.

IUCN Deputy Director Stewart Maginnis told AFP: “The ability to slow and limit extinction rate, to buy us more time has been focused very much on a large terrestrial species.” “But the fact is that we are 30 years behind on effective marine conservation — now hopefully we can catch that up.” Climate change is driving ocean acidification as well as deoxygenation, while flows of agricultural and industrial pollution from the land are causing significant impacts on ocean species, effects that cascade throughout food webs.

Maginnis stressed that the Red List



A DUGONG swims in the waters around Koh Libong Island in Trang province in southern Thailand. (AFP)

is not a hopeless catalog of doom — it serves as a scientifically rigorous tool that helps focus conservation action.

It includes more than 150,000 species, with over 42,000 threatened with extinction. Over 1,550 marine animals and plants assessed are at risk of extinction, with climate change impacting at least 41 percent of those threatened.

## Poaching, pollution, climate change

In other updates to the IUCN list, 44 percent of all abalone shellfish are now threatened with extinction, while pillar coral has moved to “critically endangered.” Abalone species are con-

sidered gastronomic delicacies, leading to unsustainable extraction and poaching by international organized crime networks, for example in South Africa.

They are also deeply susceptible to climate change, with a marine heatwave killing 99 percent of Roe's abalones off Western Australia in 2011.

Agricultural and pollution run-off also cause harmful algal blooms, which have eliminated the Omani abalone, a commercial species found in the Arabian Peninsula, across half of its former range.

Twenty of the world's 54 abalone species are now threatened with extinction.

“Abalones reflect humanity's disastrous guardianship of our oceans in mi-

crocosm: overfishing, pollution, disease, habitat loss, algal blooms, warming and acidification, to name but a few threats,” said Howard Peters of the University of York who led the assessment.

Pillar coral, which are found throughout the Caribbean, moved from “vulnerable” to “critically endangered” after its population shrunk by over 80 percent across most of its range since 1990.

Bleaching caused by sea surface temperature rise — as well as antibiotics, fertilizers and sewage running into the oceans — have left them deeply susceptible to Stony coral tissue loss disease, which has ravaged their numbers over the past four years.



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# We are waging war on nature

Today, one-third of all land is degraded, making it harder to feed growing populations.

Nature is humanity's best friend. Without nature, we have nothing. Without nature, we are nothing.

Nature is our life-support system.

It is the source and sustainer of the air we breathe, the food we eat, the energy we use, the jobs and economic activity we count on, the species that enrich human life and the landscapes and waterscapes we call home.

And yet humanity seems hellbent on destruction. We are waging war on nature.

Deforestation and desertification are creating wastelands of once-thriving ecosystems.

Our land, water and air are poisoned by chemicals and pesticides and choked with plastics.

Our addiction to fossil fuels has thrown our climate into chaos – from heatwaves and forest fires, to communities parched by heat and drought, or inundated and destroyed by terrifying floods.

Unsustainable production and consumption are sending emissions skyrocketing, and degrading our land, sea and air.

Today, one-third of all land is degraded, making it harder to feed growing populations.

Plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates – are all at risk.

A million species teeter on the brink.

Ocean degradation is accelerating the destruction of life-sustaining coral reefs and other marine ecosystems – and directly affecting those communities that depend on the



SECRETARY  
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UNITED NATIONS  
ANTONIO GUTERRES

oceans for their livelihoods.

Multinational corporations are filling their bank accounts while emptying our world of its natural gifts.

Ecosystems have become playthings of profit.

With our bottomless appetite for unchecked and unequal economic growth, humanity has become a weapon of mass extinction.

We are treating nature like a toilet. And ultimately, we are committing suicide by proxy.

Because the loss of nature and biodiversity comes with a steep human cost.

A cost we measure in lost jobs, hunger, diseases and deaths. In the estimated US\$3 trillion in annual losses by 2030 from ecosystem degradation. In higher prices for water, food, and energy. And in the deeply unjust and incalculable losses to the poorest countries, Indigenous populations, women and young people.

Those least responsible for this destruction are always the first to feel the impacts.

We need nothing less than a bold post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

One that beats back the biodiversity apocalypse by urgently tackling its drivers – land and sea-use change, overexploitation of species, climate change, pollution and invasive non-native species.

One that addresses the root causes of this destruction – harmful subsidies, misdirected investment, unsustainable food systems, and wider patterns of consumption and production.

One that supports other global agreements aiming at protecting our planet – from the Paris Agreement on climate, to agreements on land degradation, forests, oceans, chemicals, and pollution that can bring us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

And one with clear targets, benchmarks and accountability. No excuses. No delays.

Promises made must be promises kept.

It's time to forge a peace pact with nature.

This requires three concrete actions.

First: Governments must develop bold national action plans across all ministries, from finance and food, to energy and infrastructure.

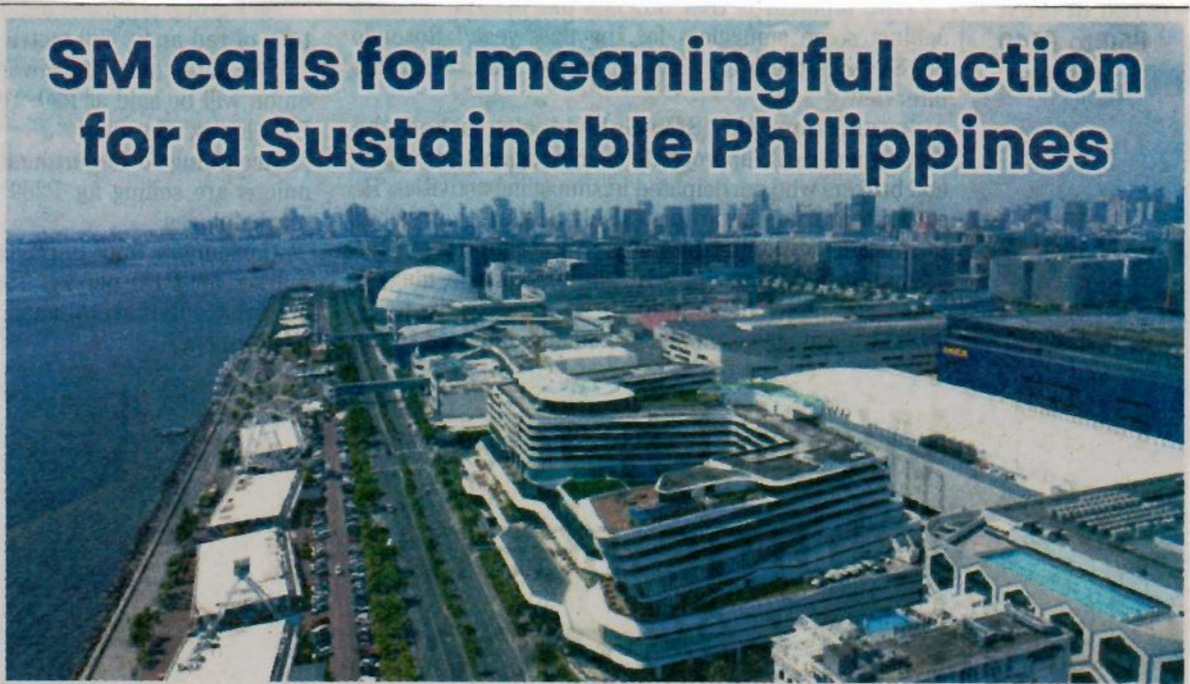
Plans that repurpose subsidies and tax breaks away from nature-destroying activities toward green solutions like renewable energy, plastic reduction, nature-friendly food production and sustainable resource extraction.

Plans that recognize and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, who have always been the most effective guardians of biodiversity.

And National Biodiversity Finance Plans to help close the finance gap.



Excerpts from the Secretary-General's remarks at the UN Biodiversity Conference—COP15.



MALL of Asia

# SM calls for meaningful action for a Sustainable Philippines

**T**he critical consensus according to global experts is that the world only has until 2030 before it reaches a tipping point.

Beyond this, global experts believe it will be a "new normal of extremes" – extreme heat, extreme precipitation, extreme winds.

In his remarks during a recently held sustainability forum hosted by Manila Bulletin, Hans "Chico" Sy, Jr. of the SM Group said SM is very aware of climate change in the way it affects the Philippines and individuals personally.

"As a company, SM wants to make sure that the Philippines keeps growing and is a sustainable place to live in," Mr. Sy said in his remarks.

Mr. Sy emphasized that "SM believes in practical, flexible realistic and meaningful solutions." And it offers these solutions in areas of the two biggest concerns in the next decade – energy and water.

SM Prime Holdings, the SM Group's property arm, is committed to deliver on its goal to increase its renewable energy portfolio to more than 50 percent this year.

It recently announced a long-term deal with AboitizPower for Cleanergy supply. This long-term contract will power SM Prime properties, including malls,

leisure homes,  
offices, hotels,

and other establishments under the Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA) by yearend.

"This means that the private sector is very supportive in funding the energy efforts of the country," Mr. Sy said.

On water recycling, SM's sewage treatment plants recycle about 8.8 billion liters of water in total, equivalent to over 3,500 Olympic sized pools, lessening dependence on fresh water sources for air conditioning operations, gardening, water closet flushing and other non-potable uses.

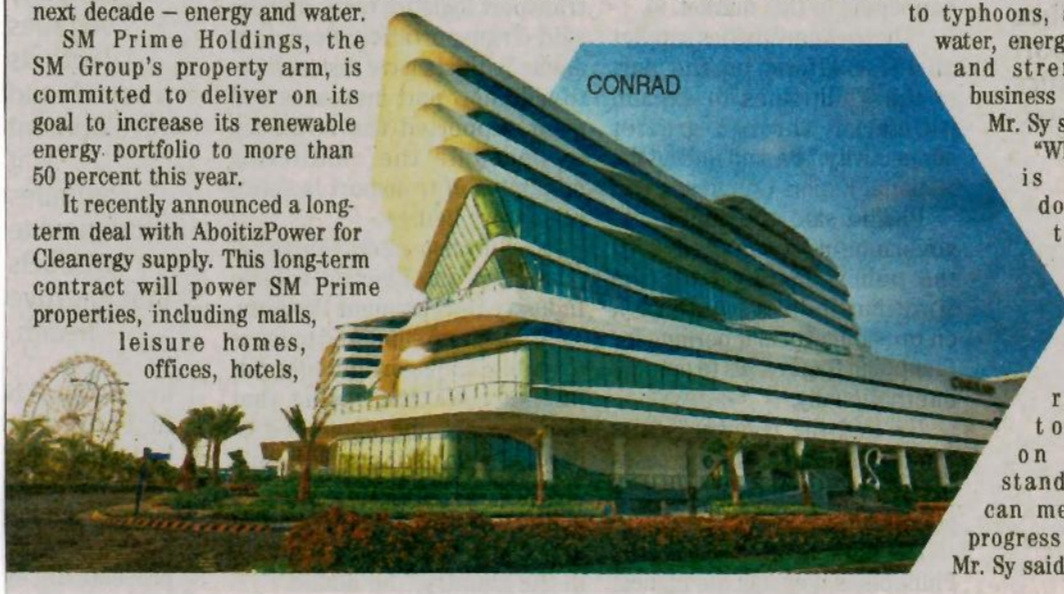
SM builds rain water catchments in its malls to harvest large volumes of rain water particularly in flood prone areas. In doing this, its 22 catchment basins help communities address flooding and optimize water as a scarce resource.

"Our strong focus on climate resilience means dealing with real, practical problems like reducing our vulnerability

to typhoons, addressing water, energy shortages and strengthening business continuity,"

Mr. Sy said.

"What matters is what we do and that things are simply done. We want to develop a common roadmap to agree on common standards that can measure our progress together," Mr. Sy said.





### SM Cares brings its Plastic Waste Collection program to SM Dasmariñas, SM Rosario



SM Cares' Plastic Waste Collection Program is a program in partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange and social enterprise HOPE. It aims to promote eco-stewardship among SM mall-goers by providing them with an avenue where they can dispose of their plastic waste responsibly. The newly designated Plastic Waste Collection booths in SM Dasmariñas and SM Rosario makes them 13th and 14th malls, respectively, to be used as sites for the program to date.

This amount is equivalent to 140,587.46 km driven by an average passenger vehicle; 4,280,985 mobile phones charged; 11,067.65 kgs of waste recycled instead of landfilled; 1.1 garbage truck worth of waste recycled; 1,523 trash bags recycled; 1,334 incandescent lights switched to LEDs; or 582 seedlings grown for 10 years.

"With this program, part of our goal is to create a circular economy for plastics in the country that our mall-goers can contribute to simply by visiting our malls, reducing

the barriers to participation for them," said Program Director for SM Environment and Sustainability Engr. Liza Silerio. "It's just one of our ways of being a responsible partner towards building sustainable communities."

SM Cares' other eco-stewardship and sustainability initiatives include the annual Green Film Festival, which promotes environmental awareness among the youth; the AweSMSeas project in partnership with the USAID and PRRCI, which promotes responsible plastic waste management to lessen marine plastic pollution; and the International Coastal Cleanup that gathers thousands of volunteers every year.

Visit

[www.smsupermalls.com/smcared](http://www.smsupermalls.com/smcared)

and [www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares/](http://www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares/)

to learn more.



# FedEx collaborates with Haribon for Sierra Madre reforestation

**F**EDEX Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corp. (NYSE: FDX) and one of the world's largest express transportation companies, through its global community engagement program FedEx Cares, collaborated with Haribon Foundation to reforest Mt. Batulusong in the south end of the Sierra Madre Mountain range.

FedEx held a tree planting activity on November 18 at Brgy. San Andres in Tanay, Rizal where 40 FedEx volunteers worked together to plant over 1,000 seedlings of indigenous trees.

"At FedEx, we are committed to serve the communities where we live and work. This collaboration with Haribon Foundation is one of the ways we are delivering sustainable solutions to support local community needs," FedEx Philippines acting managing director Maribeth Espinosa said.

From 2001 to 2021, the Philippines lost 1.34 million hectares of tree cover, which corresponds to 784 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

Reforestation activities help surrounding communities by providing livelihood and bringing back ecological health to their natural



■ FedEx Express Philippines acting managing director Maribeth Espinosa leads the local team in planting over 1,000 indigenous trees in Mt. Batulusong, Tanay, Rizal. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

resources.

This project is part of the FedEx Cares 50 by 50 campaign, which aims

to positively impact 50 million people around the world by the company's 50th anniversary in 2023.

Visit <https://fedexcares.com/> community-engagement for more information.



## MISS EARTH 2022 BEAUTIES: NEW VOICE OF BIODIVERSITY

# Beauty, brains plus biodiversity advocacy

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

**A**S Mina Sue Choi of South Korea takes home the crown of Miss Earth 2022, the mass communication student at the University of Illinois is expected to lead the recent 87 candidates of the much-coveted beauty pageant in a more challenging role: as advocates of biodiversity protection and conservation.

On November 13, the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and Miss Earth Foundation signified their partnership for biodiversity through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the ACB Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna.

Miss Earth 2021 Destiny Wagner and Atty. Genalyn Bagon-Soriano signed the MOU on behalf of Miss Earth Foundation and ACB, respectively.

At the end of the event, the candidates expressed their commitment to the advocacy through a manifesto stating their pledge for biodiversity.

### Pageant for a cause

LAUNCHED in 2001, the Miss Earth pageant is an international environmental event channeling the beauty pageant as an effective tool to promote environmental awareness.

Many women admire and aspire to be a beauty queen. At the same time, Carousel Productions Inc. believe beauty queens would be good and effective advocates of worthy causes.

The candidates and winners of the Miss Earth Beauty Pageant actively promote and get involved in the preservation of the environment and the protection of Mother Earth.

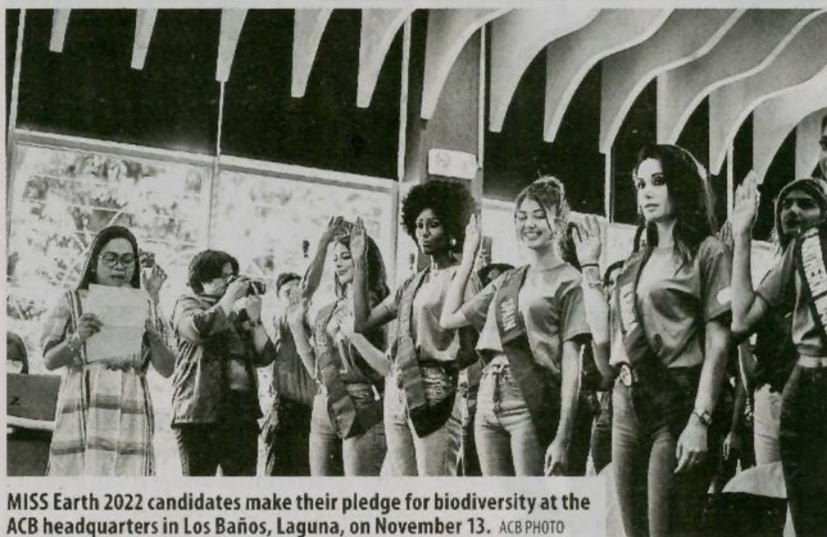
Apart from a strong emphasis on environmental protection programs, Miss Earth also showcases and promotes tourist destinations.

The winner serves as the ambassador to environmental protection campaigns worldwide.

### Biodiversity advocates

THIS year's event is focused on biodiversity protection and conservation.

At the ACB headquarters, the candidates gave a glimpse of what they know about



MISS Earth 2022 candidates make their pledge for biodiversity at the ACB headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna, on November 13. ACB PHOTO

biodiversity and shared their thoughts about its issues and concerns in their respective countries.

While some of the candidates can be considered new and quick learners, many already have their own personal experiences back home, even sharing learnings from their advocacies for nature.

The collaboration between ACB and Miss Earth Foundation aims to scale up the Asean body's efforts in raising awareness on biodiversity issues to a wide range of audiences.

Incidentally, this year's theme, "Miss Earth loves fauna," is a declaration that beauty pageants can be a strategic and effective platform in calling for collective actions to conserve, protect and sustainably use the rich biological resources within and beyond the Southeast Asian region.

### Effective communication

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said in a statement that together, ACB and Miss Earth Foundation can effectively communicate the values of protecting Asean's diverse yet vulnerable animal species, and of biodiversity as a whole.

"All these animal species play vital roles in the ecosystem that provides us with all our needs to survive," Lim said.

"We, at Miss Earth, will endeavor to use our platform to educate the public on the impacts of different issues affecting ecological balance, including habitat destruction and wildlife trafficking,"

Catherine Untalan-Vital, representing Miss Earth Foundation, said for her part.

As part of the partnership, the website of the Miss Earth pageant showcased along with every candidate an iconic species from their countries of origin.

For the Philippines, the critically endangered "kulasisi" or Philippine hanging parrot, which is endemic to several islands in the country, was highlighted.

### Biodiversity 101; unleash passion

RENEE LORICA, Knowledge Management specialist at ACB, gave a 30-minute session with the Miss Earth 2022 candidates, where some threw compelling questions that are difficult to answer.

"Their questions and even answers are very inciteful. *May mga hugot* [They unleash emotions]," Lorica said.

According to Lorica, the candidates are very passionate. She surmised that they are very eager to learn and do their part.

"They are ready. I think this partnership will work when they go back to their own countries, where they win or not," she noted.

### Social-media influencer

LORICA said the candidates can be very helpful in communicating the importance of biodiversity.

Most of the candidates are, in fact, social-media savvy, with some having strong followings on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In their own right, beauty pageant



**THE Asean Centre for Biodiversity and Miss Earth Foundation signify their partnership for biodiversity in a signing of a memorandum of understanding at the ACB Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna. Miss Earth 2021 Destiny Wagner (left) and Atty. Genalyn Bagon-Soriano sign the MOU on behalf of Miss Earth and the ACB, respectively.** ACB PHOTO

contestants, are strong influencers and the Miss Earth 2022 candidates can actually influence the public to help, protect and conserve biodiversity, in their own little ways.

"You know, everybody can be a biodiversity champion. The young and the old alike through social media," she said.

### Environmental sustainability, agriculture

MISS Earth Philippines 2022 Jenny Ramp from Santa Ignacia, Tarlac, told the BUSINESSMIRROR in an interview at the sideline of the ACB event that she intends to be the voice of biodiversity, and inspire and empower the youth to create change.

"A lot of people are wondering what they can do at home or what they can do in general. They might feel they are too young or feel that they have no power. I would like to remind everyone what they can do. A lot of people nowadays are in social media. As influencers, we can do a lot back in our own countries," she explained.

Besides promoting environmental sustainability, Ramp's advocacy is also to educate the people about the importance of agriculture and to appreciate the people behind the noble profession—the Filipino farmers.

"I dedicate my advocacy to all the hardworking farmers of my country, the

Philippines, who give all their strength to provide quality crops and staples for us. However, they do not receive enough practical and long-term support," she said.

She noted that the Filipino farmers are unable to increase crop yield and maintain farming efficiency due to a number of factors, such as natural disasters, lack of agriculture technology, and equipment, capital, and the challenge posed by the shrinking arable land due to industrialization.

"Our agricultural sector is highly pressured right now as the population steadily balloons and is unable to meet demands, thus, leading to more problems. As an environmental advocate, I call on our government and all my fellow citizens to create sustainable and long-term solutions for our dear farmers," she urged.

### Educating younger generations

MISS Indonesia Karina Basrewan said that as a Miss Earth 2022 candidate, she will use her influence to promote awareness about biodiversity, especially targeting the youth, who she said "are very much into social media."

Her advocacy is about the Komodo dragon, which is native to Indonesia.

Unfortunately, she said the largest member of the monitor lizard is threatened with extinction due to a number of factors, including natural disasters like earthquakes,

fires, volcanic activities, tourism, and illegal poaching of the dragons.

"Although most of it is due to natural disasters, we have to shift our focus on the main concern causing natural disasters, which is climate change. While climate change is an issue we can tackle separately when focusing specifically on the fauna and the endangered species, effective conservation actions need to be done in order to preserve our Komodo dragon," she said.

### Plastic pollution

CHARMAINENG, Singapore's Miss Earth 2022 candidate, is advocating the reduction of plastic waste pollution.

She said the recent Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the use of plastic packaging and medical resources.

"As a nurse, I have seen this first hand and can attest that we need to take action now. As citizens of the earth, I believe we can do our small part as we go about our daily lives which will contribute to a bigger, collective, and positive impact," Ng said.

"By doing simple things such as reducing non-essential plastics by bringing a reusable water bottle, or by refusing plastic straws, we are already taking part in the big picture of reducing plastic pollution," she added.

### Mobilizing people

LIM said the ACB is pleased to engage the Miss Earth Asean candidates and winners in promoting biodiversity in Southeast Asia and the world.

"As a region rich in biodiversity upon which the majority of the population depends on, and yet not appreciated as much, it would be mutually beneficial for ACB and Miss Earth [Foundation] to work together to raise awareness on one of Asean's most valuable resource, its biodiversity," she told the BUSINESSMIRROR via Messenger.

Lim added that it is also an opportunity to showcase Miss Earth's genuine concern for its advocacy, which is caring for Mother Earth and all the creatures that live on it.

"For Miss Earth, it is not enough to be just beautiful. The beauty must be matched with brains and heart that can mobilize more people to act and conserve what's left of our natural wealth," Lim ended.





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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**  
MIMAROPA Region  
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## NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF NGC MINERAL RESOURCES CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 21 of DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7942 otherwise known as "The Philippine Mining Act of 1995," that **NGC MINERAL RESOURCES CORPORATION**, a Filipino Corporation duly organized under Philippine Laws, with official address at 32/F Ore Central Tower, 31st Street corner 9th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634 has filed an application for Exploration Permit (EP) for the exploration of Nickel and other related minerals particularly described as follows:

- I. **EP Application No.** - EPA No. 387-MIMAROPA
- II. **Date of Filing** - 04 October 2022
- III. **Area Location** - Brgy. Aramaywan, Municipality of Quezon, and Brgys. Calategas and Bato-Bato, Municipality of Narra, all in the Province of Palawan

### IV. Description of the Applied Area

#### 1. Geographical Coordinates:

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Parcel 1 = 1,012.3400 hectares		
1	09° 20' 30.00"	118° 12' 00.00"
2	09° 22' 00.00"	118° 12' 00.00"
3	09° 22' 00.00"	118° 13' 00.00"
4	09° 22' 00.00"	118° 14' 30.00"
5	09° 21' 30.00"	118° 14' 30.00"
6	09° 21' 30.00"	118° 14' 00.00"
7	09° 21' 00.00"	118° 14' 00.00"
8	09° 21' 00.00"	118° 13' 30.00"
9	09° 20' 30.00"	118° 13' 30.00"
Parcel 2 = 1,265.6100 hectares		
1	09° 17' 30.00"	118° 12' 00.00"
2	09° 18' 00.00"	118° 12' 00.00"
3	09° 18' 00.00"	118° 11' 30.00"
4	09° 18' 30.00"	118° 11' 30.00"
5	09° 18' 30.00"	118° 10' 30.00"
6	09° 19' 30.00"	118° 10' 30.00"
7	09° 19' 30.00"	118° 13' 00.00"
8	09° 17' 30.00"	118° 13' 00.00"
<b>Total Area = 2,277.9500 hectares</b>		

#### 2. Sketch Plan

Please refer to "Annex A"

#### 3. Size

The applied area covers two thousand two hundred seventy-seven and 9500/1000 (2,277.9500) hectares.

#### 4. Restrictions

The applied area shall be subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 ("Entry Into Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 1 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications") of Executive Order No. 79 which provide, among others, that

- a. The following are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights and mining applications; old growth or virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, and other protected areas as defined by law and identified initial components of the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) pursuant to RA No. 7586; areas which the Secretary may exclude based, inter alia, on proper assessment of their environmental impacts and implications on sustainable land uses; offshore areas within 500 meters from the mean low tide level and onshore areas within 200 meters from the mean low tide along the coast, in case of seabed/marine aggregate quarrying and other areas less than 1,500 meters from the mean low tide level of land or island(s) and where the seabed depth is less than 30 meters measured at mean sea level; and areas expressly prohibited by law;
- b. The following areas are likewise closed to mining applications, protected areas categorized and established under the NIPAS; prime agricultural lands, in addition to lands covered by RA No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended; tourism development areas, as identified in the National Tourism Development Plan; and other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and existing mapping technologies;
- c. The following areas which are closed to mining applications but may be opened upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity: military and other Government Reservations; areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historic sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads, reservoirs, dams or other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops and DENR project areas;
- d. In cases of areas occupied by Indigenous Cultural Community/ies (ICC) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CALC/ CADT/CALT), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned ICCs; and
- e. In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaires that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking exploration therein.

Moreover, for applications within the Province of Palawan, the same shall be subject to the pertinent provisions of RA No. 7611 or the Strategic Environmental Plan (SEP) for Palawan Act.

### V. Term/Duration of the Exploration Permit

The term of the EP shall be for a period of two (2) years, from the date of issuance thereof, renewable for like periods but not to exceed a total term of six (6) years: Provided, That no renewal of Permit shall be allowed unless the Permittee has complied with all the terms and conditions thereof, and has not been found guilty of violation of any provision of the Act and DAO No. 2010-21. Provided further, That the conduct of a feasibility study and filing of the application for mining application shall be undertaken during the term of the EP, subject to the provisions of Section 30 of DAO No. 2010-21.

### VI. Relinquishment

The Permittee shall annually relinquish at least 20% of the permit area during the first two (2) years of exploration and at least 10% of the remaining area annually during the extended expiration period. However, if the permit is less than Five Thousand (5,000) hectares, the Permittee need not relinquish any part therefore.

### VII. Extent of Operations to be Undertaken

1. Research Work:
2. Reconnaissance/Regional Survey or Studies:
  - a. Geological Mapping/Alteration Studies
  - b. Geochemical Survey
3. Semi-detailed survey or follow-up studies:
  - a. Geological Mapping or follow-up studies
  - b. Geochemical Survey
  - c. Subsurface Investigation-Auger drilling, test pitting
4. Topographic Survey:
5. Detailed Geologic Survey:
  - a. Detailed Geologic Mapping
  - b. Geologic Survey
  - c. Subsurface investigation
    - Detailed subsurface investigation by X-Ray drilling in case the results of exploration activities indicate highly anomalous areas. To be undertaken during the renewal of the permit that may be issued.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims should be filed within ten (10) calendar days from the last date of publication/posting/radio announcement hereof, directly to the Regional Office concerned or through any concerned Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) of the DENR for filing in the Regional Office for purposes of its Resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators and/or the concerned appellate body(ies) pursuant to the provisions of RA No. 7942 and its Revised IRR. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant/contractor by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director, Mines and Geosciences Bureau MIMAROPA region located at 7th Floor DENR Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila or through e-mail at mines\_4b@yahoo.com.

GLYN MARCELO C. NOBLE  
Regional Director

Date Issued: 02 December 2022

