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DENR

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DENR: Dispose of masks, gloves properly

By: Leila B. Salaverria - Philippine Daily Inquirer | January 31, 2021 - 07:31 AM

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has reminded the public to dispose of their masks and gloves properly by putting them into yellow bins, which will be distributed to barangays to serve as receptacles for these health-care waste.

Benny Antiporda, undersecretary of the DENR, said the amount of household health-care waste had risen amid the pandemic, but these were not always disposed of properly. “They are thrown away indiscriminately,” Antiporda said at an online press briefing.

This was why the DENR has started distributing yellow bins to barangays where these health-care waste could be placed.

Antiporda reminded the public not to mix their discarded masks and gloves with regular household waste.

“Otherwise we would be putting the lives of the garbage collectors at risk,” he added.

Source: https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/361520/denr-dispose-of-masks-gloves-properly?fbclid=IwAR0rkUqWtu5RdObym_X3T6uuiDU8JLzNsQLuf6JAS5uldaqGDCKAiYh8p70#ixzz614q6deMX



AGRESIBO ANG DENR SA PAGPAPATUPAD NG ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



February 1, 2021 @ 12:25 AM 5 hours ago

NOONG ika-26 ng Enero 2021, ibinigay ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang parangal bilang pagkilala sa government agencies, non-government organizations, at private companies dahil sa ibinigay na kontribusyon ng mga ito na nagresulta sa pagpapasara ng open dumpsites at ang paghadlang sa pagtatapon ng basura sa Manila Bay.

Ang suporta ng mga ito ang nagpalakas sa kampanya sa solid waste management ng DENR sa ginanap na selebrasyon ng 20th year ng Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 at sa pagtatapos ng Zero Waste Month noong Enero 26.

Ayon kay Cimatu, agresibo ngayon ang DENR sa kampanya nito sa solid waste management at ang pagpapatupad ng mga probisyon ng RA 9003.

Kabilang sa mga ito ang pagpapasara ng mga open dumpsite, pagtatayo ng materials recovery facilities at pagtulong sa local government units para sa pagbuo ng kanilang 10-year solid waste management plans.

“Our action against open dumpsites has been relentless,” dagdag pa ni Cimatu.

Binigyang-diin ni Cimatu na ang DENR sa pamamagitan ni Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns Benny D. Antiporda at ng Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay nakapagpasara ng 38 open dumpsites sa isang araw bago pa ang selebrasyon ng 20th year ng RA 9003.

Samantala, nagbigay pa ng direktiba si Cimatu kay Antiporda na siya ring NSWMC’s Alternate Chair at sa EMB na ipasara ang lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa sa loob ng dalawang buwan.

“This is my directive to them (EMB) and to you Benny, all open dumpsites must be closed by end of March this year,” paliwanag ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa DENR chief, nakahanda rin ang ahensya na makipagtulungan sa LGUs upang maragdagan ang bilang ng sanitary landfills sa bansa at pag-aralan ang implementing rules and regulations ng RA 9003 upang makapagpatayo ng mas malalaking SLF.



Dagdag pa nito, nakatakda na ring maglabas ang komisyon ng listahan ng non-environmentally acceptable products and packaging (NEAP) sa gitna ng pagtutol mula sa plastic industry.

“We will make sure that NEAP will not be left behind in the waste management of our country,” saad ni Cimatú.



'Pag 'di tumalima sa open dumpsite closure LGU OFFICIALS KAKASUHAN

7 hours ago [jake](#)



HINDI magdadalawang isip si Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na sampahan ng mga kaso ang sinumang opisyal sa mga pamahalaang lokal na hindi tatalima sa March deadline sa pagpapasara sa "open dumpsites" na itinakda ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Ani Antiporda, lahat ng sangay ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ay inatasang isara ang lahat ng open dumpsites hanggang Marso ng kasalukuyang taon.

Kapag naisara na ay kailangan mag-apply ang mga pamahalaang lokal sa nakasasakop na DENR-EMB, ng sertipikasyong nagsasaad ng "safe closure and rehabilitation of said areas," patuloy ni Antiporda.

Ang pagpapasara ng mga bukas na imbakan ng mga basura ay nakabatay sa Republic Act 9003, o ang Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Batay sa rekord ng DENR, mayroon pang natitirang 233 bukas na mga imbakan ng basura sa maraming rehiyon sa bansa.

Idiniin ni Antiporda, kung sakaling hindi susundin ang March deadline na itinakda ni Secretary Roy Cimatu, bilang DENR undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, ay personal niyang pamumunuan ang pagpapasara ng mga imbakan ng mga basura at sasampahan niya ng mga kaso ang sinumang opisyal ng mga pamahalaang lokal na lalabag sa R.A. 9003.

Ininunod pa niya na kapag pinabayaang gumana ang mga bukas na basura ay maaaring sumabog ang mga ito dulot ng nabuong methane gas.

Kamakailan, sinabi ni Cimatu sa media na malaki ang tiwala niya kay Antiporda sa pagganap nito sa kanyang trabaho, tungkulin at obligasyon bilang isa sa mga opisyal ng DENR. (NELSON S. BADILLA)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/metro/pag-di-tumalima-sa-open-dumpsite-closure-lgu-officials-kakasuhan/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR19WVC--NyZ_OhWRQ_aOS226VuUZZ_SFM0SobG-jtB6V6xcNhv0LKVjts



Cagayan River rehab kicks off

By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

January 31, 2021

LAL-LO, Cagayan: The World Wetlands Day will highlight the launching of the Cagayan River Rehabilitation (CRR) project with 185 bamboo propagules to be planted in the 925-meter stretch of Cagayan riverbank along Barangay Bangag here, according to the Build Back Better (BBB) Task Force in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley). Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan said the project will kick off here in time with the celebration of the 25th World Wetlands Day on February 2. The BBB Task Force has identified a total of 19 sandbars through the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that need dredging as these obstruct the floodwater flow to the Aparri Delta and to the Babuyan Channel as its final destination. The sandbars in Barangay Bangag in Lal-lo town and Barangay Casicallan Norte and Dummun in Gattaran town, covering a total of 275 hectares with an estimated volume of seven million cubic meters, are the priority sites for immediate dredging. Bambalan said the launching will be led by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and DPWH Secretary Mark Villar through a ceremonial dredging of the sandbar along the Magapit Narrows and bamboo planting. Cimatu and Villar, BBB Task Force chairman and co-chairman, respectively, will be joined by Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello 3rd and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay. “This is a whole-of-government at its best with the support from almost all national agencies and the Cagayan provincial government,” Cimatu said in an earlier task force meeting. Meanwhile, this town’s mayor Florence Oliver Pascual has assured the DENR and the DPWH of the full support of the local government of Lal-lo to the rehabilitation program.



DENR-7 holds virtual session on management of mineral resources

By DENR-7Published on January 31, 2021

Embedded personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 7 have reinforced and strengthened their knowledge on the environment, particularly on the management of mineral resources through its ENR Frontline Course through virtual presentation on Jan. 14.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB-7) Director Armando Malicse shared his knowledge and expertise on mineral resource management services to the event participants from PENR and CENR Offices.

He emphasized that as DENR focal persons, employees must also know about the country's rich natural resources under the ground and the different mining companies that help harness the full potential out of these resources.

This way, they can help implement and spread the information about the various mining laws and regulations in the country aimed to protect these resources, Malicse added.

A total of 25 DENR personnel attended the nine-day learning event.

They were equipped with basic information on: (a) Introduction to Mining, (b) Status of Mining and Minerals Industry in the Philippines, (c) Introduction to the RA 7942 and DAO 2010-21, (d) SHES Provision at Each Stage of Mining Operation, (e) Financial Mechanisms for the Implementation of Environmental Programs, and (f) Common Lapses of Contractors/ Permittees/Permit Holders in SHES & Mining Tenements Components.

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Waterbird census in Manila Bay finds 20% decline over two years

Published January 31, 2021 10:05pm

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

The 2021 Asian Waterbird Census in Manila Bay found a shortage of 25,000 birds or a decline of nearly 20% since 2019, the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines (WBCP) said Sunday.

The census, conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources with the WBCP, Wetlands International Philippines Program, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, tallied 110,000 waterbirds.

The census covered Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Metro Manila, and the Candaba Marsh.

The WBCP said the most severe population decline was observed among long-distance shorebirds in Bulacan and gulls in the Pampanga rivers.

“This mirrors reductions in tidal flats as their feeding habitats,” the organization said in a statement.

“In contrast, there was an increase in waterbird presence by more than 100% representing just about 12,000 birds in NCR... However, these are now being reclaimed, signaling what is to come in Bulacan, Cavite and other areas,” said WBCP records committee chair and Wetlands International associate expert Arne Jensen.

More protection needed in Manila Bay

The WBCP said that out of the 60 species identified in the census, 15 were present in “internationally important numbers.”

The tally found 30,000 Whiskered Terns, 7,000 Pacific Golden Plovers, 6,000 Kentish Plovers, and nearly 6,000 Marsh Sandpipers.

“Manila Bay hosts the highest number of waterbirds of any Philippine wetlands yet it has less than 200 hectares protected and with a mountain of threats to its habitats and birds,” Jensen said.

“With 87% or about 95,000 waterbirds present in Bulacan, Pampanga and Bataan, it would not be an exaggeration to say North Manila Bay is one of the last Philippine wetlands refuge,” he added.

Jensen also noted that around 37,000 shorebirds, another 37,000 terns, 23,000 gulls, and 15,000 egrets were counted.



“Coastal fisherfolks and waterbirds alike all depend on the different types of wetlands found in the Bay,” he stressed.

WBCP President Mike Lu added that four of the 10 critical wetland sites in Manila Bay have been lost to development initiatives such as airports or reclamation projects in the past four years.

He urged a halt to the reclamation projects of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) as well as the flood mitigation programs of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that will “destroy the whole ecosystem of Manila Bay.”

“Reclamation should be stopped and the PRA and DPWH be reorganized for restoration and climate change adaptation to support global and national policies to implement nature-based solutions that maintain the wild birds' habitats while also protecting people,” Lu said.

The WBCP warned that 14 species in Manila Bay are “either near threatened or directly threatened with extinction,” including the Black-faced Spoonbill (*Platalea minor*), Chinese Egret (*Egretta eulophotes*), Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Asian Dowicher (*Limnodromus semipalmatus*), and Far Eastern Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*). —

DVM, GMA News

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/774014/waterbird-census-in-manila-bay-finds-20-decline-over-two-years/story/?fbclid=IwAR2QKCQJ6xoOkDIHi3ehCbIWLI_cBBSop9n8HR4bVYgZS8AD5obve-Y2d_o



Rescued Oriental honey buzzard in Sorsogon

Published On February 1, 2021



An Oriental honey buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) was rescued by a concerned citizen in Bgy. Caburacan in Castilla, Sorsogon on January 16 and turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Sorsogon. (DENR)



Philippine mines continue unhampered 4 years after Gina's shutdown order

Maria Elena Catajan, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism

Posted at Feb 01 2021 12:09 AM



A Lepanto miner works underground in Mankayan, Benguet. *Photograph: Lauren Alimondo*

BAGUIO CITY — In July 2016, in one of her first acts as environment secretary, Regina “Gina” Lopez ordered an industry-wide audit of 41 large-scale mines in the country. Seven months later, 23 metallic mines received closure orders and five others were told their operations would be suspended.

A statement issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) dated Feb. 2, 2017 cited “serious environmental violations.”

“My issue here is social justice. If there are businesses and foreigners that go and utilize the resources of that area for their benefit and the people of the island suffer, that’s social injustice,” Lopez said in a press conference that day.

It was a quick move rarely seen against an industry that has significant contributions to the national economy. Mining stocks plunged.

Mining companies are big employers in rural areas — over 180,000 workers nationwide, not counting indirect jobs created — and contributed 0.5 percent to the economy in 2019.

In Benguet, a mineral-rich province in the Cordillera region, mayors of two mining towns covered by the order welcomed Lopez’s bold move albeit concerns for thousands of residents who stood to lose their jobs.

Operations of Benguet Corp. (BC) in Itogon and Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC) in Mankayan were ordered closed and suspended, respectively. They are among the country’s oldest mines.

Itogon Mayor Victorio Palangdan has had a strenuous relationship with Benguet Corp., at times finding the company responsible for his town’s environmental problems. He is also backing demands of indigenous people’s organizations, which claim ancestral rights to the land, for a bigger share of BC’s profits.

Mankayan Mayor Frenzel Ayong also supported a closer look into Lepanto’s operations. “It’s a welcome development for the government to look into the details of the operation [of LCMC] as well as its compliances with the law,” he said.

Four years after Lopez’s crackdown, Benguet’s mines continue to operate to the dismay of civil society groups. Benguet Corp. and Lepanto did not cease operations except during strict lockdowns last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“The mines that were served with closure orders by former DENR Secretary Gina Lopez were not closed at all and are operating after some of them appealed their cases to the Office of the President and the others to the DENR itself,” said Rocky Dimaculangan, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP) vice president for communications and national coordinator towards sustainable mining.



“If there are companies among the firms in the first round of MICC audit that were compelled to suspend their operations, it could be because of other violations outside the audit,” he said.

The mining companies immediately appealed their cases to President Rodrigo Duterte in 2017. The shutdown orders were put on hold amid warnings from the CMP then that shutting down mining companies would put 67,000 jobs at risk and cost the government up to P16.7 billion in taxes.



A Lepanto miner works underground in Mankayan, Benguet. *Photograph: Lauren Alimondo*

In Cordillera alone, mining companies employ close to 17,000 workers, with over 7,000 in large-scale mines and 10,000 in small-scale mines.

Duterte ordered the Mining Industry Coordinating Council (MICC) to review DENR’s audit. Lopez, who co-chaired the interagency body with Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, questioned the review.

Three months later, in May 2017, Lopez was kicked out as environment secretary after the Commission on Appointments rejected her nomination. She died two years later after a battle with brain cancer.

In an e-mailed response to PCIJ’s questions, Malacañang said it could not disclose its basis for allowing the mining firms to operate despite Lopez’s orders as it was “protected by the deliberative process privilege.”

“Albeit the proceedings herein are quasi-judicial in character, publicly divulging information and records, which include information on the nature of the case, violations allegedly committed, arguments of the parties, and other filings and pleadings made thereon by mining contractor-parties, relative to pending cases before this office is a violation of the sub judice rule as it constitutes blatant disregard of the same evils sought to be prevented by said rule,” said Ryan Alvin Acosta, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs.

‘Culture of non-implementation’

There has been no word about the MICC review or a final decision from Duterte on the mining companies that appealed to his office, although the DENR under Secretary Roy Cimatu in the last four years has upheld the closure of several mining companies and allowed others to operate again.

In Benguet, the Cordillera People’s Alliance (CPA) slammed the failure to implement Lopez’s orders against Benguet Corp. and Lepanto.

“The audit was the result of the long-standing struggle of the affected communities against the destructive operations of the mines. However, the suspension was never implemented. No mines in the Cordillera ceased their operation,” said Santos Mero, vice chairperson of the coalition fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples in the region.

Fay Apil, director of the DENR’s Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Cordillera, said they were still waiting for the MICC to confirm or refute Lopez’s audit on the two mines.

This goes to the “culture of non-implementation” of laws and regulations that has plagued the mining industry, said former DENR undersecretary Antonio La Viña, an advocate of responsible mining.

“It should have been decided quickly. This is why there is so much conflict in the mining industry. It’s an inherently risky activity and there are clear rules, but when rules are violated they are not enforced,” he said.



The DENR should also make sure its cases are airtight, he said, as mining companies have the money to pay the best lawyers.

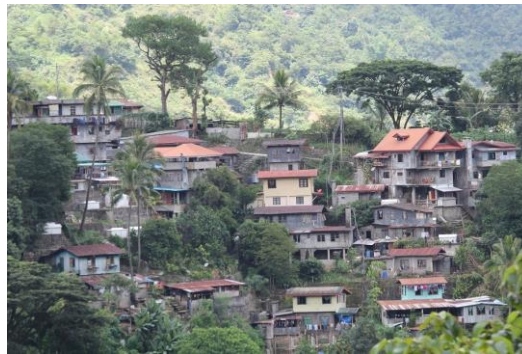
La Viña said one thing going against the mining industry was its problematic public image because of a history of mining disasters.

“In theory, responsible mining is possible. The mining companies must follow the law. It needs strict compliance because of the destructive nature of the activity,” he said.

In one of the country’s worst mining catastrophes, the 1996 Marcopper disaster in Marinduque province released 1.6 million cubic meters of toxic mine tailings into the Boac River when a drainage tunnel was fractured. It caused illnesses that residents suffer to this day.

In Itogon in September 2018, 19 months after Lopez issued a closure order on Benguet Corp., disaster struck as close to 100 small-scale miners taking refuge in a company bunkhouse and a church during the onslaught of Typhoon “Ompong” (international name: “Mangkhut”) were buried in a landslide.

Palangdan blamed the tragedy on Benguet Corp.’s operations, but the company pointed to illegal small-scale mining that it said it didn’t control. The bodies of the miners were not recovered.



Miners rest in this bunkhouse near Benguet Corporation’s office in Itogon, Benguet. *Photograph: Jean Nicole Cortes*

Philippines’ oldest operating mines

Benguet Corp. has been in Itogon for more than a century, the oldest operating mine in the country. It started open-pit and underground mining operations in the town in 1903, employing thousands to extract ores of gold, nickel and silver.

It ended its underground operations in 1992. But when pocket miners invaded the Acupan tunnel — one of two underground mines that formed the company’s gold operations — the company opened it to investors and established the Acupan Contract Mining Project (ACMP).

ACMP saw a large-scale operator and groupings of small-scale miners working together under a mine lease agreement while it prepared the mines for the final phases of rehabilitation and decommissioning.

Benguet Corp. lawyer Froilan Lawilao said it was the first of its kind. MGB hailed it as a model for partnership between a large-scale corporate mine operator and small-scale miners.

Sixteen mining associations and cooperatives, involving up to 1,000 small-scale miners, operate their own pocket mines under a 60-40 profit sharing agreement.

Lopez however thought the economic benefits to the community did not outweigh the environmental dangers. She ordered the Itogon mines closed after the DENR audit found Benguet Corp. liable for the October 2016 mine tailings spill that contaminated a 1.6-kilometer stretch of the river.

The audit report said the company committed the following violations:

- operating a prohibited controlled disposal facility;
- maintaining and storing toxic and hazardous materials without an accredited Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) facility;
- failing to install air pollution control devices and apply for a permit to operate upon installation, and
- failing to rehabilitate the Antamok open-pit mine after it ceased its operations.



Benguet Corp. received the show-cause order on Oct. 28 and filed its reply on Nov. 1. The company claimed it had proof the findings were altered from an original version that declared the company compliant with mining laws.

Lawilao said company officials were told by DENR inspectors that Benguet Corp. passed the audit. A memorandum dated Aug. 16, 2016 stated that the company had complied with all legal and technical standards and “contributed to the local economy, except for some minor lapses.”

Lawilao also noted inconsistencies in the audit report, where the auditors allegedly interchanged the sites of Benguet Corp. with Lepanto. “These inconsistencies are serious and [indicates] the mine audit report was haphazardly prepared,” he said.

More disturbing was the “generalized finding of deficiencies for BC and Lepanto,” he claimed.

Benguet Corp., he explained, did not rehabilitate the Antamok open-pit mine because its operations were merely suspended. There are plans to reopen it.

And because Benguet Corp. began operations before the Mining Act of 1995, it was not required to deposit an approved amount for rehabilitation once operations cease.

When small-scale miners’ rushed to the Antamok mine site, it eventually prompted Benguet Corp. to apply for final decommissioning, which will turn the area into a Minahang Bayan. This will allow small-scale miners to operate legally and under the government’s radar.

Lawilao said the infractions committed by the company were “mostly permitting issues or operational concerns” that could be fixed without stopping their operation. Executives were surprised when they saw the news in September 2016 that Benguet Corp. was among the companies recommended for closure, he said.

“In a nutshell, we alleged that we were issued a stoppage order without any basis. The audit findings are not bases to suspend the mining company's operation because these are minor offenses. We were just advised to implement remedial measures, like to register the [tailings] dam,” he said.



Environmental groups thumb down magnetite mining in Cagayan

Published January 31, 2021, 6:21 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Nearly 80 non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups have expressed their opposition to the impending magnetite offshore mining in Cagayan.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a letter sent to a host of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) officials, Cagayan provincial government officials, and Senate and House of Representatives members, the groups said they were “alarmed” that such a project was approved in the first place.

“We are alarmed that the (DENR) permitted another activity that is destructive and has irreversible negative impact to our marine ecosystems,” read the letter.

“We call on your offices to stop this project and investigate to ensure the protection of our people’s rights and the sustainable use of our natural marine resources,” it further read.

Among the 76 signatories to the letter were Oceana Philippines, Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc. (ELAC), Sanlakas, Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE), Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), President and Principal Investigator, [BALYENA.ORG](#), and the Philippine Earth Justice Center, Inc. (PEJC).

Heading the recipients was DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu. Magnetite is a valuable source of iron ore and is mainly used in steel production.

The groups claimed that the magnetite offshore mining in Cagayan poses geologic hazard to the province.

“It harms marine life and ecosystems. In particular, it poses hazards to marine mammals since the area is the only known breeding ground for humpback whales in the Philippines. The area is part of the Babuyan Marine Corridor, which is identified as an Important Marine Mammal Area,” they said.

“The project also impacts the access of fisherfolks to their fishing grounds since the mining activities will be within 14-15 kilometers from the coast of Cagayan. This is a possible violation of their constitutionally guaranteed preferential right to access their fishing grounds,” they pointed out.

Citing the need for transparency, the signatories asked the officials to make public the project documents in relation to environmental impact assessment laws and regulations, as well as proof of public consultation compliance.

“We demand science-based and sustainable use of our natural resources. We demand adherence to the precautionary principle for our environment. We demand compliance to laws and international commitment for sustainable development. We demand that peoples’ voices be heard, especially the affected communities who will bear the impacts of this project,” they said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/01/31/environmental-groups-thumb-down-magnetite-mining-in-cagayan/>



2 dead in alleged shootout in Davao Oriental

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:58 PM January 31, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — Two people were killed after allegedly resisting arrest from law enforcers and figuring into a shootout in Boston town in Davao Oriental on Sunday afternoon.

The Philippine National Police on Sunday identified the suspects as Jelfin Cotic and Jolan Cotic, who were a suspected leader and member of a crime group, respectively.

Police reportedly served warrants of arrest against the suspects in Brgy. Caatihan but they resisted arrest and engaged law enforcers in a firefight.

Caraga Regional Director Brig. Gen. Romeo Caramat Jr. said Jelfin and Jodan Cotic were previously indicted for murder and attempted murder.

Jelfin Cotic also had an outstanding warrant of arrest for murder under another criminal case.

Police said the suspects were members of the Kapatiran Group, which is a listed private armed group engaged in gun-for-hire, illegal logging, and extortion operating in Surigao del Sur and Davao Oriental.

Jelfin Cotic was also listed as No. 1 most wanted person in Caraga region in the 2nd quarter of 2020, police said.

The suspects were also allegedly involved in the killing of another group member, John Consegra, who was allegedly the one who fed information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that resulted in the confiscation of the logs of the suspect.

PNP also said the suspects were involved in the shooting of Special Action Force troopers and a certain Arnel Linawan Salomon, along with other DENR personnel during the recovery and retrieval of illegal cut logs in Brgy Bugac, Lingig, Surigao del Sur.

The suspects were likewise arrested in 2019 for frustrated murder, which, however, was dismissed due to lack of sufficient evidence and affidavit of desistance from the victim, PNP added.

Recovered at the house of Jelfin Cotic were a M16 rifle and a 9 mm pistol, while another M16 rifle was recovered at the house of Jodan Cotic, approximately 370 meters away from the residence of Jelfin, PNP said.

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“This is a welcome development that comes on the heels of President Duterte’s repeated call on all nations to act on the climate crisis with urgency as one united community under the Paris Agreement,” Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said in a statement over the weekend.

STAR/ File

Philippines welcomes US rejoining Paris accord on climate change

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 1, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines welcomes the announcement by United States President Joe Biden that the US is rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate change, according to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez.

“This is a welcome development that comes on the heels of President Duterte’s repeated call on all nations to act on the climate crisis with urgency as one united community under the Paris Agreement,” Dominguez said in a statement over the weekend.

“Now, more than ever, we need to ensure the mobilization of finance flows towards the adaptation needs of our most vulnerable communities. We need such action to be faster and on a greater scale. And we need it to bring about effective solutions on the ground across the globe,” he said.

The official stressed that more efforts should be focused on ensuring the mobilization of the \$100-billion annual funding target enshrined in the Paris Agreement for the adaptation and mitigation needs of developing countries.

“To ensure climate justice, developed countries must deliver on their commitments under the Paris Agreement, including support for developing economies, leading to low-carbon and sustainable development,” Dominguez said.

He explained that “the COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder that health, economic stability and nature are intertwined and it has shown to us the domino effect that is triggered when one element in this interconnected system is overturned.”

“The resolute and urgent response to the pandemic demonstrated the remarkable capacity of human society to put the emergency brake on the ‘business-as-usual’ mindset. It showed that we can act as one and radically change our ways and our systems to fight the scourge of a deadly virus for the greater good of all,” he said.

“The same unity, resolve and sense of urgency should be applied in combating the climate emergency and pursuing low-carbon and sustainable development,” Dominguez said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/02/01/2074509/philippines-welcomes-us-rejoining-paris-accord-climate-change>



Decarbonizing for a better working world

January 31, 2021 | 7:31 pm

Suits The C-Suite

By Clairma T. Mangangey



(First of two parts)

Climate change is an urgent issue and taking action is critically necessary to limit and reduce global carbon emissions. Businesses in particular will need to consider their own carbon footprint. With collective technological capabilities, financial resources, innovative capacity and global reach to search for solutions towards a low-carbon future, many businesses worldwide are setting carbon reduction targets, progressing towards net zero. In fact, just last week EY Global Ltd. (of which SGV is a member firm) announced its plans to achieve negative carbon emissions in 2021 and net zero by 2025.

Combatting climate change is a unique challenge for each organization, but it is clear that a collective effort is crucial to avert disaster. With the ongoing pandemic reinforcing the drive towards a sustainable future, transitioning to decarbonization is more vital than ever to achieve long-term resilience for organizations as well as to aid economic recovery.

THE COSTS AND IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Economist estimates that by 2050, the global economy will be 3% smaller due to a lack of climate resilience, potentially raising the cumulative cost of damages to \$8 trillion. Research from the EY Megatrends 2020 report also reveals that many Asian countries face high vulnerability to rapidly rising sea levels, flooding, and heat waves. Without clear action to decarbonize economies, hundreds of millions of people may be victims of coastal flooding by 2050.

Domestically, the increasingly worse effects of climate change directly impact the vulnerable agriculture and fishing industries in the Philippines. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said in a report that the production costs for crops and fish have increased between 2017 and 2019 compared to the period between 2016 and 2018. This alarming trend resulted in much lower income for farmers and fishermen.

MOUNTING PRESSURES FOR CARBON REDUCTION

Businesses are more cognizant of the significance of both decarbonization strategies and climate-related investments in achieving long-term sustainable growth. A rise in new industries to support clean technologies can be expected, while emission caps and carbon pricing could transform taxation and invert cost structures.

Certain governments in the Asia-Pacific have recognized the need to mitigate the disruptive risks of climate change. For example, Japan committed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and China, the largest carbon emitter in the world, announced its intent to establish peak emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2060.



The findings from the 2020 EY Climate Change and Sustainability Services (CCaSS) Institutional Investor survey indicate that investors need to look into long-term value by critically assessing company performance through environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, including climate change.

In order to meet investor expectations and appear future-proof, companies need to prioritize means of analyzing the opportunities and risks of climate change. They will also need to prioritize how to improve disclosure of their sustainability performance, or else risk the possibility of losing access to capital markets.

The decarbonization of businesses is further accelerated by consumers, particularly Generation Z, who are also increasingly aware of how their choices impact climate change. Gen Z is becoming even more influential as stakeholder capitalism continues to rise. They believe in the essential role business plays in addressing climate change and prioritize businesses that protect the environment and utilize sustainable supply chains.

SEC REQUIREMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

In a 2019 article, Sustainability reports: fad or for good? SGV Partner Benjamin N. Villacorte had articulated that companies are encouraged not to wait for sustainability reporting standards or a regulatory requirement to be mandatory.

Recall that in 2019, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) required publicly listed companies (PLCs) to submit their Sustainability Report with their 2019 Annual Report in 2020. The issued memorandum detailed that the guidelines will be adopted on a “comply or explain” approach for the first three years upon implementation. By 2023, PLCs are required to comply with Sustainability Reporting Guidelines specified in the memo, or else be penalized for an Incomplete Annual Report (under SEC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2005).

This pronouncement reiterates the need for structured sustainability reporting and for companies to manage their non-financial performance towards achieving the universal target of improved sustainability. For it to be effective and useful, companies should not only view sustainability as an exercise in compliance, but as their responsibility to earn their social license to operate.

BUILDING A DECARBONIZED FUTURE

Given the foreseeable impact of climate change alongside the mounting pressure from investors, employers, leaders, consumers and policymakers to address it, organizations are encouraged to embrace the decarbonization imperative. Adopting a decarbonization strategy will bring about the goodwill of investors, employees and consumers, and also build long-term, sustainable value. In the second part of this article, we will discuss how EY, as part of its commitment to sustainability, will tackle the challenge of becoming carbon negative by 2021.

This article is for general information only and is not a substitute for professional advice where the facts and circumstances warrant. The views reflected in this article are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of SGV, the global EY organization or its member firms.

Clairma T. Mangangey is the Climate Change and Sustainability Services Leader of SGV & Co.



Toledo Mangrove River Park launched

posted January 31, 2021 at 07:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Global Business Power Corporation (GBP), through subsidiaries Cebu Energy Development Corporation and Toledo Power Co., recently launched the Toledo Mangrove River Park Project to support the local government's efforts to make Toledo City an eco-tourism destination in Cebu Province.



RIVER PARK PROJECT. Leah Diaz, GBP First Vice President-Cebu Operations (third from left) leads the launching of the Toledo Mangrove River Park project also attended by the City Council, Toledo City department heads, and officials of three barangays spanning the project.

A joint venture between GBP and the City of Toledo under the administration of Mayor Joie Perales (third from right), GBP will finance the infrastructure component of the project, monitor its construction, and rehabilitate mangroves through propagule planting activities.

The project, encompassing Barangay Ibo, Barangay Poblacion and Barangay Tubod, will consist of a 300-meter stretch of boardwalk. It also aims to establish livelihood programs and encourage community participation in the protection of coastal resources and preservation of the natural mangrove habitat.

"We, at GBP, are dedicated to help our surrounding communities grow as the company grows. The soon-to-be Toledo Mangrove River Park is one of GBP's initiatives in creating a balanced development for the society, economy and the environment," said Leah Diaz, GBP First Vice President - Cebu Operations.

The launching was attended by the City Council, Toledo City department heads and officials of the three barangays.

GBP, through its subsidiaries, is an independent power producer in Visayas, Mindanao and Mindoro, with a total gross capacity of 1,091 MW.

1st Mangrove Propagation Center in the Visayas opens in Cordova, Cebu

By: Doris C. Bongcac - Editor/CDN Digital | January 31, 2021 - 11:43 AM



Contributed Photo

MANDAUE CITY, Cebu – The Visayas now has its own Mangrove Propagation and Information Center that is located in Cordova town on Mactan Island.

The two-storey facility in Barangay Day-as was inaugurated on January 27 with officials of Cordova town and the Metro Pacific Investments Foundation (MPIF), the corporate social responsibility arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), the Cebu Cordova Link Expressway Corporation (CCLEC) in attendance.

In an advisory, MPIC said that the center is the first of its kind in the Visayas and the third in the country.

The facility will serve as a training area to ensure the protection and propagation of mangrove trees, rehabilitation of degraded mangroves in Cordova town, as well as provide information for locals and visitors to appreciate the importance and benefits of mangroves in the ecosystem.

Its second floor is designed to serve as a viewing deck for bird-watching activities.

“Similar to our existing centers in Alaminos, Pangasinan and Del Carmen, Siargao, it will create employment opportunities that positively impacts the economic condition of their municipality,” MPIF President Melody M. Del Rosario said.



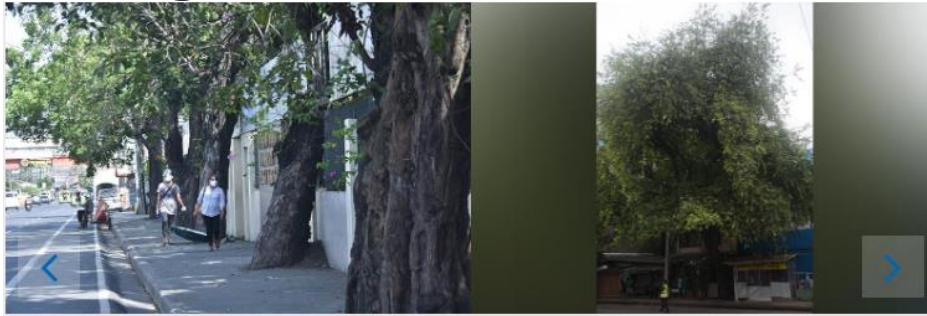


Timed with the inauguration of the center was the induction of the town's mangrove eco-guides. Four individuals nominated by the local government will serve as official mangrove eco-guides and will handle the daily operations and maintenance of the mangrove center. They are also tasked to provide orientation and guide visitors during their tour at the center and town's mangrove park.

“Aside from being a point of convergence for mangrove information and research, we intend to sustain it through creating complimentary programs that highlight our rich and thriving ecotourism,” said Cordova Mayor Mary Therese “Teche” Sitoy Cho.



Davao's heritage trees



SPARED. These narra trees in front of the Ateneo Davao de University Matina campus were at risk of being cut down because of the proposed flyover project in the area. However, in January this year, the Department of Public Works and Highways announced that the project has been terminated. (Photo by Mark Perandos)

CENTURY OLD? The profiling conducted by Idis and its volunteer citizen scientists claim that this sampalok tree along Roxas Avenue is around a century old. However, the current methodology used in determining the age of the heritage trees relies on verbal accounts of people living in the area. A more thorough analysis to determine the exact age of the tree will hopefully be conducted soon. (Photo by Mark Perandos)

January 31, 2021

FOR those passing by Pichon Street, it is a common sight to see commuters staying under the shade of a tangisang-bayawak while they wait for a jeep. You not only observe this along Pichon Street but also in other areas in the city where tall trees are.

In some areas, the trees have become natural waiting sheds whether it is for commuters hoping to get a ride to where they need to be or for trisikad drivers waiting for commuters. In other parts of the city, the trees have become natural landmarks for many while it has also served as a spot for many vendors.

These large trees have been providing shade to the people for decades. Their value and significance to the community and nature make them heritage trees.

Proposed House Bill 7804, also known as the Heritage Tree Act of 2020, defines a heritage tree as “any healthy native or endemic, exotic, rare, threatened, and endangered trees with a minimum girth of five meters (measure at one-half meter above ground) with consideration to the scientific rarity, historical, cultural, social, educational, and aesthetic significance of the tree.”

In a study conducted by the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis), titled “Mapping and Profiling urban heritage trees in Davao City through Citizen Science,” the group discovered that districts in the city where there are a high built-up rate and population densities, there are 260 heritage trees.

These geo-tagged trees, identified and documented by Idis and 38 volunteer citizen scientists, are found in the Poblacion, Agdao, Buhangin, Talomo, Tugbok, Toril, and Calinan.

Around 25 percent of the heritage trees identified in these areas are acacia trees, followed by narra (13 percent), and mangga (7 percent). Other heritage trees found are mahogany, talisay, gemelina, tugas, neem tree, agohe, kamatsile, Indian tree, kalumpang, fire tree, duhat, auri, cayamito, sampalok, banaba, bitaog, pagatpat, and among others.

Exotic, non-native, or introduced tree species account for 67 percent of the identified heritage trees the Idis team identified within the scope of their study. Examples of these are acacia, mahogany, kamunsil, ipil-ipil, caimito, and fire tree, among others.

“These species are not endemic to our country and at the same time the bioregion of the country. Some of them are introduced coming from other biomes,” Lemuel Manalo, Idis Environmental Research Specialist, said. For example, he said the mahogany came from the Americas.

Meanwhile, native trees only account for 33 percent of the heritage trees identified. These are the narra, molave or tugas, agohe, antipolo, tangisang-bayawak, and kalumpang.



The study also found that 29 percent of the geo-tagged trees are mostly along pedestrian sidewalks and school campuses.

Manalo, during the presentation of the study on December 8, 2020, said most of the acacias were spotted in Marfori and the University of Immaculate Conception Bolton Campus. Narra trees were commonly found at the Ateneo de Davao University (Addu) Matina campus.

Based also on their profiling, Addu's main campus along Jacinto Street and the Matina campus has a diverse set of heritage trees. Heritage trees identified in the Matina campus include acacia, lomboy, mahogany, narra, neem tree, sambong, and talisay. Trees at the main campus include acacia, caimito, mangga, mahogany, narra, nangka, talisay, sambong, and tugas, among others.

Several heritage trees were also identified at the Davao City Hall area like lomboy, narra, talisay, tangisang-bayawak, and tugas.

In terms of size, when it comes to tree trunk diameter, 36 percent of the identified heritage trees are classified as average. These are trees with a trunk diameter ranging between 30 centimeters (cm) to 60 cm. Trees that are classified as large (60 cm and above) account for 30 percent while extremely large trees (100 cm and above) account for 27 percent. An acacia tree at the Calinan Kidney Center was discovered to be the largest in terms of trunk size at 272 cm in diameter.

In terms of height, 53 percent of the identified heritage trees were of average size ranging between 10 meters (m) to 19 m. Short trees (less than 10 m) account for 25 percent while tall emergent trees (20 m to 50 m) account for 22 percent. The tallest tree the team found was an acacia tree at the Addu Matina Campus that was taller than the five-floor building beside it.

Manalo said several of the large trees are also located in the Marfori area.

In terms of tree age, 68 percent of the identified heritage trees are between 20 to 40 years old. These are mainly acacia, agoho, chico, and mahogany. Around 29 percent are trees aged 41 to 80 years old and include narra, acacia, and kamunsil.

Manalo said identifying the age of the heritage trees was the most difficult part of their profiling. When determining the exact age of the tree a lot of processes go into it to come out with a proper analysis. This may include counting the tree rings or extensive lab analysis.

"The method that we have adopted for the volunteers is they collected data through local knowledge by asking the local communities," he said. Confirmation of the tree's age was also done by checking old photos.

"Some of the very old trees are found in the Ateneo Matina campus, which is the Acacia trees," Manalo said, adding that the trees in the campus are also tall emergent trees.

Meanwhile, the study also showed that heritage trees are playing a huge role in ensuring the air quality of the city.

Based on their calculations, 158 of the 260 heritage trees were able to sequester 1,934,274 kilograms (kg) or 1,900 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the last 35 to 40 years. This is heavier than the Statue of Liberty in New York. The trees with the highest carbon sequestration are acacia, narra, mangga, mahogany, and talisay. Manalo said the trees also have a large socio-economic impact on the community. For pedestrians, the trees provided shade. It was also observed that street vendors stationed under the trees tend to attract more customers. The trees provided a natural waiting shed for commuters and helped increase walkability.

"Nearby street communities such as vendors, commuters, traffic enforcers have high respect and value for the trees covering them from too much heat," Manalo said.



The trees in schools and hospitals contributed to the mental well-being of people. In schools, it provided shade to students.

For residential areas, the trees were observed to have reduced glare and noise pollution, served as a windbreak, and had a cooling effect on the area.

Sady many of these large heritage trees around the city are under threat due to mass urbanization.

“While there are still a lot of trees existing in the urban areas, they are continuously being threatened to be destroyed, cut, or removed,” Manalo said.

In general, the trees are under threat due to construction and infrastructure development.

For example, in 2019, several trees were cut along the Davao River to make way for an embankment project. Also in the same year, decennia-old trees at Clifford Park along Roxas Avenue were cut to make way for a park rehabilitation project.

Last year, decades-old Narra trees outside the Ateneo de Davao University Matina Campus were put at risk following the proposed flyover project in Matina. Fortunately, the trees have been spared after the project was terminated by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Manalo said some trees are also being used as a collection area for waste.

In a bid to protect the heritage trees, Idis is urging the city council to pass a local ordinance that will protect and preserve the heritage trees and other existing trees in Davao City urban centers from removal, cutting, damaging, and other interventions that are detrimental to the health of the trees.

“All remaining urban trees, regardless of ecological distribution and conservation status -- native, endemic, exotic, or introduced should be protected and preserved,” Manalo said.

Recently, Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr. proposed an ordinance regulating, if not prohibiting, the cutting of old trees in the city. This developed after the trees in front of Addu’s Matina campus were put at risk of being cut down due to the Ma-a flyover project.

“As we all know, we do not have an existing local policy that mandates the protection and conservation of trees, much more of the remaining old native trees in the urban areas. We want to contribute to addressing air pollution through the protection of existing heritage trees in the urban areas of Davao City,” Chinkie Pelino-Golle, former Idis executive director, said.

On the national level, Davao First District Rep. Paolo Z. Duterte and ACT-CIS Rep. Eric Go Yap have filed House Bill 7804, also known as the Heritage Tree Act of 2020, on October 1, 2020. The proposed bill is pending with the House Committee on Natural Resources.

“Our heritage trees are living testament to how a community values its natural environment,” Davao City Mayor Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio said in a message during the presentation of the Idis’ study.

She added that the study will “make a difference in ensuring that we pursue development without sacrificing these natural resources so that future generations of Dabawenyos will be able to see and appreciate the beauty, the majesty, and the value of our heritage trees.”

“Our trees witness and will continue to witness the history of our city as some trees are older than us. If we continue to document this project, we can cover more areas and see more trees that are over 100 years old,” Mary Ann Fuertes, Idis Board of Trustee, said.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1884487/Davao/Local-News/Davaos-heritage-trees>

Siargao reptiles thrive as tourism pauses

By: Erwin Mascariñas - Philippine Daily Inquirer | January 31, 2021 - 09:25 AM

BUTUAN CITY—Humanity’s reset due to the coronavirus pandemic turned out to be a great time for reptiles to thrive on Siargao Island, a tourism haven in Mindanao and known for its beaches and world-class surfing spots.

Due to the lockdowns and quarantine restrictions, disturbances to the natural habitat from human activities were radically reduced, giving crocodiles and sea turtles the opportunity to flourish, according to scientists and conservationists.

As tourism ground to a halt in Siargao, environmental officials in the coastal town of Del Carmen in Surigao del Norte province saw a record number of sea turtle rescues.

From March to November last year, the Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Office (Menro) listed incidents of rescue and eventual release of 25 sea turtles after these were tagged. Another 23 were turned over by fishermen to the village council of Caub, of which five have already been released. The rest are awaiting tagging by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources before they are returned to the sea.

The reptiles were mostly trapped in fishnets and cages as they swam toward the now empty beaches.

“This is the first time that we have recorded this many rescued and released sea turtles in more than two decades. We believe that this is a result of the COVID-19 restrictions as it has kept humans and harmful waste off beaches,” said Gina Barquilla, coordinator of the town’s Bantay Dagat and designated environment officer.

A Menro report showed varying sizes and species of the turtles that were rescued and released. “It’s amazing because the turtles that we rescued were the green sea turtle and the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtles, and they [came in] different sizes, suggesting that juveniles to adult sea turtles thrive within our waters,” Barquilla said.



A team from a conservation group uses a radio transmitter to monitor the movement of a Philippine crocodile after it is released into the wild. —ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

Ocean healing

Del Carmen Vice Mayor Alfredo Matugas Coro II, who led the town’s environmental management campaign, said the phenomenon could be attributed to the ocean healing itself.

“With the travel restrictions, with less people in the ocean, we’ve given our ecosystem a time to breathe, to heal, a moment to allow nature to recover by itself,” he said.

Boosting the healing process, according to Coro, is the effort by government and nongovernment agencies to protect and conserve the town's rich marine ecosystem.

Wendie Goña of Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya Inc. noted that the act of fishers to turn over trapped sea turtles was a big turnaround from the previous practice of harvesting these for meat.

Sea turtles are indicator species of the health of marine ecosystems, said Julius Guirjen of the conservation group Rare Philippines.

“If you have sufficient numbers of sea turtles in the ocean, it could be that there's abundance of food, the habitat is conducive for them to live. If it's peaceful, there's less disturbance, it is preferable for them to live in that place,” he said.

There were also reports of sea turtles rescued and released in the other coastal towns of Burgos and General Luna, Guirjen said.



Populations of reptiles on Siargao Island, like this crocodile resting on a bank at Paghungawan Marsh in Pilar town and green sea turtle in Del Carmen town, have been left undisturbed during the pandemic. —ERWIN MASCARIÑAS

Shy crocs

“I think it's not only marine turtles. There were also several sightings of marine mammals here in Siargao, dolphins in particular,” he added.

The eerie silence of Siargao's tourist sites may have also given the shy Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) the chance to reproduce in the wild.

According to marine biologist Rainier Manalo, program head of crocodile research and conservation of the *Crocodylus Porosus* Philippines Inc. (CPPI), crocodile eggs have been found in nesting sites and are expected to hatch this month.



“We have a new hope for 2021, it will be an exciting year for the Mindorensis,” Manalo said. Most of the current reproduction of this reptile is in the highly controlled environment of crocodile conservation farms.

“This is the first in the Philippines, a hugely significant development in the conservation program,” Manalo said.

He said the eggs and nesting sites indicated a successful introduction of the critically endangered species in the wild.

In an effort to save the dwindling species, 36 juvenile Philippine crocodiles were released in Paghungawan Marsh in Pilar town in 2013 as part of the Siargao Island Crocodile Research and Biodiversity Conservation Project within the 279,000-hectare Siargao Island Protected Landscapes and Seascapes area.

Four years later, 29 other juveniles were introduced in the same wetland.

On Nov. 8, 2020, two nests with eggs were found by community-based scientists who have been constantly monitoring the area. The eggs were estimated to have been laid last October and were expected to hatch this month.

The finding provides evidence that the released Philippine crocodiles are not only surviving and thriving in the wild but are also able to reproduce, Manalo said.

Isabela experiment

He said similar projects were done in 2009 in Isabela province in Luzon, but the reintroduced crocodiles were already subadult, which had a hard time adapting as they were too old to learn how to hunt and hence dependent on being fed in captivity.

“When we introduced the crocodiles in Siargao Island, we had to make sure that we brought in juveniles from the parent stock in Palawan and then we placed them in a semiwild enclosure in Kapalong, Davao del Norte province before we released them in Pilar’s Paghungawan Marsh,” Manalo recalled.

The CPPI team is not expecting any egg nesting this time of the year as Philippine crocodiles are known to lay their eggs between March and July.

“This is an odd mix as we did not expect to find nested eggs around this time of the year, but since this is the first time for them to lay eggs, we still need to further observe and study this behavior,” Manalo said.

“We are not expecting a high rate of survival for the hatchlings, but we are very optimistic that next breeding season in 2021, we will find more nests,” he added.

“We have come full circle. After years of hard work, this is the culmination of our efforts,” Manalo said. “Of all the reintroduction and introduction programs, this is what we have been waiting for. Hopefully, in 2021, we will see the next generation of crocodile offspring in the wild.”



9 Pampanga LGUs trade trash for cement

posted January 31, 2021 at 07:30 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Nine local government units (LGU) in the province of Pampanga— Lubao, Sasmuan, San Fernando, Mexico, Guagua, Floridablanca, Macabebe, Mabalacat and Porac—have successfully reduced their residual plastics going into landfills.



They have diverted these to a more sustainable and environment-friendly recovery and disposal process via cement kiln co-processing, in partnership with Republic Cement's resource recovery group, Ecoloop.

Through Ecoloop's Cement-for-Trash program, these LGUs received cement, which they can use for environment or social development projects, in exchange for qualified residual plastic wastes.

These include waste that cannot be recycled or reused, which are usually plastic packaging such as sachets, plastic cutlery, grocery bags, food packaging, and straws, among others.

"Republic's Cement-For-Trash program not only helps save the environment but also helps LGUs save on landfilling and transport cost, as well as provides employment to support the Materials Recovery Facility operations," said Lubao Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) Engineer Dan Aquino.

Ecoloop's LGU partners diverted the equivalent of 100 dump trucks or 120 million sachets from landfills in the second half of last year.

Republic Cement is backed by the global expertise of CRH, a leading building materials company headquartered in Ireland, and diversified Filipino business conglomerate Aboitiz, recognized as one of the best-managed companies in Asia.

LGUs interested to participate in ecoloop's Cement-for-Trash Program may contact ecolooop@republiccement.com.



Environmental groups collect 2,000 assorted solid wastes



Photo credit to Interfacing Development Interventions

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

January 31, 2021

LOCAL environmental groups reiterated their call for the urgent passage of the ordinance banning single-use plastics in Davao City after nearly 2,000 different types of solid wastes were collected in a recent river clean-up drive.

In a joined statement Friday, January 29, 2021, the Interfacing Development Interventions (Idis) and Bantay Bukid volunteers said they were able to collect a total of 1,954 pieces of different types of solid wastes such as plastics, cans, bottles, glass, face masks, and face shields during the river cleanup and brand audit on January 27, 2021, at Panigan-Tamugan Watershed in Baguio District, Davao City.

"Most of the collected wastes were food packaging, plastic bottles, and household products packaging," Idis and Bantay Bukid said.

The groups also identified the top three brands that were collected at the river.

The two groups partnered for the river clean-up in celebration of the Zero Waste Month in January.

The groups said the alarming result of the river clean-up had intensified their call to once again call for the ban of single-use plastics in the city.

"While the banning of single-use plastics ordinance has been into several committee hearings, it could have been better if the City Council would urgently tackle this matter and pass this ordinance now," the groups said.

Juan Lumpit, a Bantay Bukid volunteer from Barangay Wines, said there is a need to immediately address the matter as plastic wastes ending up in the river.

"Basi sa among aktibidades na mao ang river clean-up ug paglista sa mga nagkadaiyang basura nga plastic nga napunitan, among nasuta nga grabe gayod ang problema diri sa kasapaan," Lumpit said.

(Based on our river clean-up and brand audit on various plastic wastes we collected, we found out that there is a serious problem with wastes in our rivers.)

"Dapat unta adunay lig-on nga polisiya aron mabawasan ang paggamit og plastic labi na sa mga dagkong kompanya. Among ipahimangno nga tagaan kini og pagtagad kay ang tubig sa Panigan-Tamugan kay maong ilimnon sa dakbayan sa sumusunod," Lumpit added.

(There should be a strong policy to lessen the use of plastics especially on the part of big companies. This must be looked into because the water in Panigan-Tamugan will be a source of drinking water in the future.)



Idis Program Coordinator Mavic Hilario said volunteers also found bottles of pesticides during the clean-up.

Hilario called on those who are using pesticides especially those whose areas are near rivers "to bury empty containers in accordance with good agricultural practice, or better yet practice organic farming" to protect rivers and watersheds.

The ordinance is still being deliberated in the City Council.



Punish Chinese dredging vessel to the fullest extent of the law – Pamalakaya

Published January 31, 2021, 2:42 PM

by [Jhon Aldrin Casinas](#)

The Chinese dredging vessel apprehended by Philippine authorities last week should be punished to the “fullest extent of the law,” a group of fisherfolk said Sunday.



Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) (Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a statement, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the “illegal presence” of MV Zhonhai 68 is a “highest violation” of the national territory.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Bureau of Customs seized the 2,340-ton dredging vessel off the coast of Bataan on Jan. 27.

“This was not the first time, and definitely not the only Chinese dredging vessel to operate in our coastal waters. Local fishers have been lamenting the decrease of fish catch due to rampant dredging operations in the provinces of Zambales and Bataan,” said Bobby Roldan, Pamalakaya vice chair for Luzon.

“This operation harms the marine life through excavation of seabed and movement of solid particles, noise pollution, and blurring of water that drive away the fish,” he added.

According to Roldan, the province’s fishing grounds used to be abundant of fish and other marine resources.

He said that it also used to serve as alternative fishing spots of Filipino fishers unable to go farther due to presence of Chinese vessels in Scarborough Shoal – a maritime territory claimed by China. “Iligal na nga ang pagpasok sa ating teritoryo, nandadambong pa ng ating likas-yaman (It already illegally entered our territory, but they have also robbed us of our national resources),” the fisherfolk leader said.

“Pero sila pa ang may ganang magpasa ng batas laban sa ituturing nilang dayuhan sa inaangking teritoryo sa West Philippine Sea (And they still have the audacity to pass a law against what they consider to be foreigners in disputed territory in the West Philippine Sea),” he added.

Roldan was referring to the Chinese government’s recently enacted “Coast Guard Law” which empowers its Coast Guard to fire at foreign vessels in marine territories in the South China Sea claimed by China.

The fishers’ group earlier said that Chinese naval forces cannot just fire at foreign vessels entering disputed marine waters in the South China Sea.



“China can’t just order its naval forces to shoot anyone that they consider as foreigners to the maritime waters that they illegally claim,” said

Pamalakaya Secretary General Salvador France in an earlier statement.

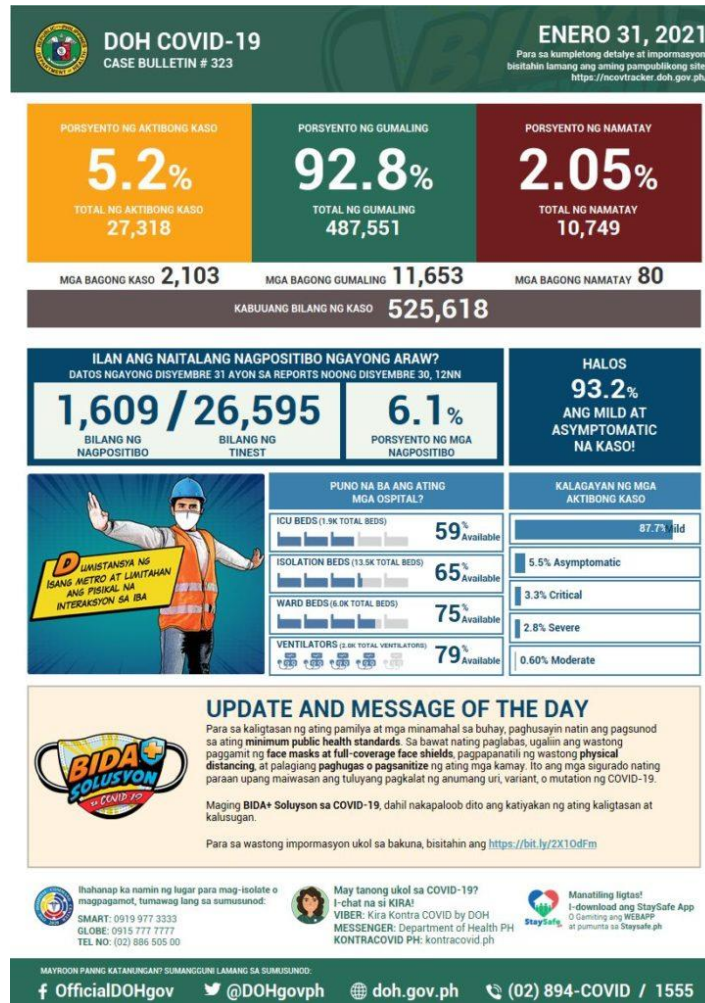
“This legislation would heighten the antagonistic approach of Chinese militias against Filipino fishers conducting economic activities within our own fishing grounds,” he added.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin, Jr announced on Twitter that he filed a diplomatic protest against China’s new law last Jan. 27.



BREAKING: 2,103 panibagong COVID-19 na naitala ng DOH; 80 nadagdag sa nasawi

By Erwin Aguilon January 31, 2021 - 04:08 PM



Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng mahigit dalawang libo at isandaang panibagong kaso ng COVID-19 ngayong araw.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa kabuuang 525,618 ang bilang ng mga nagkasakit.

Ito ay matapos makapagdagdag ng 2,103 na nagpositibo kaya umakyat na sa 27, 318 ang aktibong kaso.

Mayroon namang 11, 653 ang panibagong gumaling kaya umabot na ito sa 487, 551.

80 naman ang nadagdag sa nasawi kaya umakyat na ito sa 10, 749.

Sa kabuuang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso sa bansa, 5.2% (27,318) ang aktibong kaso, 92.8% (487,551) na ang gumaling, at 2.05% (10,749) ang namatay.

Inalis naman sa kabuang bilang ang isang nakarecover na nadoble ang entry.

Mayroon namang limang kaso na naunang iniulat na nakarecover ang inilagay sa namatay matapos ang isinagawang final validation.

Sampung laboratory naman ang bigong makapagsumite ng kanilang data.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/283979/breaking-2103-panibagong-covid-19-na-naitala-ng-doh-80-nadagdag-sa-nasawi>



IBANG BANSA 'DI PA NAKAPAGBABAKUNA, GERMANY BIBILI NA NG RESERBA PARA SA 2022



February 1, 2021 @ 12:30 AM 5 hours ago

NAKATAKDA nang mag-order ang bansang Germany ng reserba nitong bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease 2019 na magtatagal hanggang taong 2022.

Bibili ang Germany ng lahat ng uri ng bakuna gaya ng gawa ng AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BionNTech at Moderna, kasama na ang Sputnik V ng Russia at mga bakunang Chinese.

Katwiran ng Germany, kung hindi magagamit ang mga ito, oks lang at kung magagamit naman, oks din.

Ang Germany ang pinakamayamang bansa sa 27 kasapi ng European Union at pinangungunahan nito ang pagtiyak ng buong EU na magkaroon sila ng sapat na bakuna sa harap naman ng krisis sa suplay sa ibang bansa.

PAANO ANG PINAS?

Ayon kay vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr., magkakaroon tayo ng at least 5.6 milyong dose mula sa AstraZeneca at Pfizer/bionNTech.

Darating umano sa kalagitnaan ng buwang ito, Pebrero, ang 117,000 dose mula sa Pfizer-BioNTech habang susunod naman ang nasa 5,500,800 to 9,290,400 dose sa huling bahagi ng Pebrero mula sa AstraZeneca.

Ayon umano ito sa COVAX facility na itinatag ng World Health Organization para sa pantay-pantay na pagkakaroon ng bakuna ng lahat ng bansa, mayaman man o mahirap.

Pero, may malaking PERO si Sec. Galvez.

Ang laki ng suplay at kung kailan talaga darating ay nakasalalay pa rin sa problema sa suplay ng bakuna na makukuha ng WHO mula sa mga vaccine maker.

Matatandaang todo-reklamo ngayon ang WHO dahil nasa 15 porsyento lang ng suplay ang nakukuha nito samantalang 85 porsyento ang ibininebenta ng mga vaccine maker sa mayayamang bansa para kumita sila nang husto.



Heto nga, sa unang bahagi ng sulatin nating ito, hindi pa natatapos ang bakunahan sa Germany para sa 84 milyong populasyon nito, umorder na ng reserba para sa taong 2022.

Eh, name your price ang usapan sa mayayamang bansa.

Ang Israel nga, nagkakabalitaang plus 50 percent ang usapan para lang mabakunahan nila ang lahat ng nasa 9 milyon nilang mamamayan at malapit na nilang mabakunahan ang kalahati nito.

Ang Pilipinas kong mahal?

Dahil sa krisis na nararanasan natin, doon tayo sa mura at kung may nag-alok ng medyo mahal, anak ng tokwa, nandiyan ang suspetsa ng overpricing o tongpats.

Pero buo ang paniniwala natin sa pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na walang overpricing at walang tongpats.

HUWAG UMASA NANG UMASA

Napakaganda talaga ang balitang kahit papaano magkakaroon na tayo ng pagbabakuna at sana, masimulan na nga sa kalagitnaan ng buwang ito.

Pero huwag umasa na lahat ay mababakunahan na.

Una, magsisimula sa edad 18 lang ang mababakunahan.

Ikalawa, parehong hindi pupwede sa matatanda ang Pfizer/BioNTech at AstraZeneca.

Matatandaan ba ninyo ang balitang natuluyan o napabilis ang pagkamatay ng nasa 33 matatanda sa Norway at maging ng 10 sa Germany dahil sa Pfizer?

Ngayon, patakaran nang hindi basta-basta ituturok ang Pfizer sa mga senior citizen.

Ganito rin ang AstraZeneca na may mga bansang ipinagbabawal ito sa 55 anyo pataas o kaya'y 65 anyos pataas.

Ito'y dahil napakaliit umano ang bilang ng mga matatanda na 55 anyos pataas o 65 anyos pataas na pinagtestingan nito sa United Kingdom, South Africa at Brazil.

Isa pa, habang sinasabi ng Pfizer na nasa 90 porsyento itong epektibo laban sa COVID-19, 62 porsyentong epektibo lang naman ang AstraZeneca.

At dahil 9,290,400 lang ang mga unang darating na dose at kailangang dalawang beses ang turukan, nasa 4,645,200 lang ang mababakunahan mula sa 110 milyong Pinoy.

Pero sa kabuuan, magkakaroon din tayo ng nasa 140 milyong dose at inaasahang mababakunahan ang hanggang 70 milyong Filipino sa katapusan ng taon.



SINO-SINO NGA BA ANG UUNAHIN?

Sino-sino nga ba ang dapat na unahin?

Tatandaan natin na tatlong grupo ang bumibili ng bakuna: ang pambansang pamahalaan, ang mga local government unit at mga pribadong kompanya.

Sa mga pribadong kompanya, idodonasyon nila sa pamahalaan ang kalahati ng kanilang bibilhin at gagamitin nila ang kalahati para sa kanilang mga empleyado at opisyal.

Ang mga local government unit, tiyak na may uunahin din sila.

Ngayon nga ay iniimbitahan na ng mga LGU ang kanilang mga nasasakupan na magpalista at nasa kanila na umano ang kapangyarihang mamili kung sino ang dapat na makinabang.

Siyempre pa, para sa pambansang pamahalaan, nag-utos na si Pang. Digong na sa huli na magpapabakuna ang mga matataas na opisyal ng pamahalaan.

Pero tiyak na kabilang sa mga mauuna ang mga health worker, mahihirap na senior citizen at iba pang mga senior citizen, mahihirap na obrero sa mga pabrika, sakahan, pangisdaan, indigenous peoples at iba pa.

At maisasama na rin ang mga pulis at sundalo at pamilya ng mga ito at malamang ang mga guro rin, lalo't iniimbitahan sila na makasama sa pag-iiniksyon na gagawin sa mga eskwela.

Basta ang importante, magkakaroon sana ng tinatawag na "herd immunity" o uri o grupo ng mga mamamayan na kung mabakunahan ay sapat ang bilang para hindi makahawa ng iba.

Ang isa sa mga dapat nating gawin?

Ipagdasal nating hindi magkakaroon ng hoarding ang mga mayayamang bansa at hindi magsabwatan ang mga bansang may pagawaan ng mga bakuna at mga vaccine maker para paliitin nila ang suplay at magmahal ang mga bakuna para sila kumita kahit magkandaletse-letse ang kalusugan at buhay ng iba.



Tolentino wants DFA to summon Chinese envoy over coastguard law

Published January 31, 2021 2:25pm

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

Senator Francis Tolentino said Sunday that the Department of Foreign Affairs should call on China Ambassador to the Philippines Huang Xilian, as well Philippine officials in China to explain the recently passed Chinese law allowing the shooting of foreign vessels in disputed waters.

Tolentino made the remark on the eve of the effectivity of the new law, which was passed amid continued tensions over territorial disputes among China and other claimant-countries in the disputed South China Sea, including the Philippines.

In a Dabol B sa News TV interview, Tolentino said Huang should explain why the new law was swiftly passed, as he claimed that the National People's Congress of China was supposed to convene its session in March.

He said China's NPC Standing Committee, which is composed of around 160 members, worked on the new law, instead of its entire 3,000-member Congress.

"Minadali nila siguro para nakakasa na doon. Hindi ko alam yung punu't dulo nito. Kaya tama yung nag-file ng diplomatic protest si Sec. [Teddy Boy] Locsin. Pero siguro ang next step niyan, siguro i-summon, ipatawag yung Chinese ambassador," Tolentino said.

"Ipapatawag yun, pagpapaliwanagin... Ipaliwanag din [niya] yung epekto sa ating mangingisda," he added.

Aside from Huang, Tolentino said Philippine Ambassador to China Jose Santiago Sta. Romana should also be summoned to explain why the Philippines seemed to have not been informed ahead of time about the law.

"Tanungin bakit sa tagal niyo diyan, bakit hindi niyo na-monitor ito? Bakit hindi niyo na-monitor na meron palang nakaamba. Kung sikreto man o hindi, sa pag-aaral niyo, nakaamba na batas, nang sa ganun, nung pumunta rito yung foreign minister ng China, nabuksan ito," he said.



"So may pagkukulang din siguro yung embahada natin sa Beijing. Yun yung pangalawang dapat ipatawag ng Department of Foreign Affairs," he added.

Tolentino expressed concern about the new Chinese law's impact not only on Filipino fishermen, but even commercial vessels that may come near territories being claimed by China.

He added that with the new law, China's state forces may also demolish structures being constructed on the disputed territories and create exclusion zones.

Tolentino said ASEAN member states with claims in South China Sea territories may file a joint diplomatic protest with the United Nations regarding the new Chinese law.

"Lahat ng mga affected nations, pwedeng magkaroon ng emergency meeting, pag-usapan ito informally or formally, ano ba yung pwede nating gawin," he said.

"Pwede tayong mag-file ng joint diplomatic protest sa United Nations. Dapat magtulong-tulong na ang mga apektado, hindi lang tayo," he also said, adding that the Philippines itself may initiate the filing.

Just last week, Filipino fishermen were reportedly barred by Chinese vessels from accessing the fishing grounds near Pagasa Island.

The military is already looking into the allegations of [harassment of Chinese vessels on Filipino fishermen](#), although Western Command spokesman Colonel Stephen Penetrante said this was highly [improbable and "unlikely to happen."](#) —**LBG, GMA News**



Biden's climate agenda: Is this the beginning of the end for fossil fuels?

[Justin Rowlett](#)

Chief environment correspondent

[@BBCJustinRon](#) [Twitter](#)



GETTY IMAGES

image caption: After years of Trump, the new US administration wants to rejoin world efforts to tackle the climate change emergency

Fossil fuels have been the bedrock of US prosperity for more than a century.

The country's economy, security and society depend on them.

But in the few days since his inauguration, the new American president has gone to war against coal, oil and natural gas with a decisiveness that has caught everyone by surprise.

This week I spoke to the man Joe Biden has tasked with drawing up his climate change battle plans - John Kerry.

"It is one of his top priorities, without any question whatsoever," Mr Kerry assured me. "He'll make more progress on the issue than any previous president."

That seriousness is reflected in his choice of John Kerry as his special envoy on climate.

Mr Kerry was President Barack Obama's secretary of state and a key architect of the Paris climate change summit in 2015.

In other words, he is someone deeply invested in tackling global warming, who understands current global climate diplomacy, and personally knows many of the key people the US will have to work with.

Ambitious start

In the handful of days the new president has been in office, he has already exceeded expectations.

- We knew he was going to re-join the Paris climate accord, we didn't know that a few days later he'd order his domestic climate "tzar", Gina McCarthy, to draw up plans to commit the US to "the most aggressive" carbon cut possible.
- We expected him to try and kill the giant Keystone XL oil pipeline, but not that he'd pull the permit on his first day in office, stopping the 2,000km pipeline project dead in its tracks.



- We knew he planned to make climate change a priority in policy-making, but not that he'd order the Pentagon to make it an issue of national security.
- It is part of what is being called a "whole government" approach to the issue.

He is mobilising every department, every agency of the United States government to focus on climate and he is determined to try and restore America's credibility and reputation," explained Kerry.

Even some of the deepest green activists have been impressed.

"There is a shock-and-awe feel to the barrage of actions," says veteran environmental campaigner Bill McKibben.



The proposed route of the Keystone XL oil pipeline

He believes the flurry of executive orders is designed to make an important point.

The president wants to send "a decisive signal about the end of one epoch and the beginning of another," says Mr McKibben.

That signal is aimed at investors, he says. "Fossil fuel, Biden is making clear, is not a safe bet, or even a good bet, for making real money."

Oil feels the heat

The oil industry has been left reeling. Share prices plunged, and Goldman Sachs warned of a drop in US crude supplies.

"The industry is aghast at these changes," one oil services company CEO told Bloomberg. "They are more direct, more fierce and quicker than what folks expected."

Biden and his team have been meticulous in casting the agenda as an exercise in job creation and economic stimulus in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis.

Mr Kerry repeats the now familiar "build back better" mantra to me.

"If we're going to invest new money," he says, "let's invest it in clean energy, invest it in clean jobs, invest it in those technologies and other things that will build the future, rather than simply being the prisoners of the past."

Meanwhile, there have been a few modest sops to the fossil fuel industry.

Fracking won't stop, for example, although there will be tighter regulations, and Biden promised to put displaced fossil fuel workers to work sealing off the estimated one million leaking oil and gas wells.



The plan to build 1.5 million new energy-efficient homes, and manufacture and install half a million new electric-vehicle charging stations, would also create millions of "prevailing wage" jobs.

And the car industry will be delighted by the commitment to electrify the government's 650,000-strong fleet of vehicles.

But, at the same time, President Biden has reiterated his desire to end all fossil fuel subsidies, ordered a ban on new oil and gas leases on federal land, and said a third of all federal lands must be reserved for conservation.

He also ordered agencies to accelerate the authorising of renewables projects, as part of his effort to double wind capacity by 2030, and make the electricity sector zero-carbon by 2035.

Private sector 'buy-in'?

These initiatives don't depend on the Democrats wafer-thin majority in the Senate, Mr Kerry insisted. These are areas where the president already has authority.

"Now, that's not to say the president isn't going to try and get Congress to be part of this, of course he wants them. But this isn't going to be solely dependent on one source."

For instance, Mr Biden plans to reinstate and strengthen Obama-era regulations, repealed by Trump, on the three largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions: vehicles, power plants and methane leaks from oil and gas wells.

The key, says Mr Kerry, is "a massive shift" in attitudes in the private sector.

Companies are increasingly dealing with climate "upfront and directly", says Mr Kerry.

US car makers are coming to accept that fuel economy standards have to rise, for example.

Only this week General Motors announced plans to phase out petrol and diesel cars and trucks completely, and sell only vehicles with zero emissions by 2035.

And some big oil and gas companies have acknowledged some of the curbs on emissions lifted by President Trump need to be reinstated.

But Mr Kerry knows there will be pushback from others in the fossil fuel industry and from the lawmakers who back it.

Joe Manchin, the Democratic senator for West Virginia, is likely to be a particular thorn in the side of the Biden administration.

He is to lead the Senate Energy Committee and was elected as a defender of his states coal industry.

He famously campaigned with a TV ad that featured him using a hunting rifle to shoot a copy of one of Obama's climate change bills.

And, remember the Senate is split 50-50 with Vice-President Kamala Harris holding the casting vote.

US rejoining world stage 'with humility'

There will be more freedom of action on the international stage.

Indeed, this may be where Joe Biden and John Kerry have their most transformative impact.



Mr Kerry describes the Glasgow climate summit in November this year as "the last best chance the world has to come together to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis".

It is a propitious time to be talking.

The cost of renewables has fallen dramatically since he led America's delegation to the Paris talks.

Lots of countries are considering green investments as a way to stimulate their economies post-Covid.



GETTY IMAGES

image captionThe Los Angeles refinery, California's largest producer of gasoline

And that's consistent with net zero by mid-century pledges that more than 100 countries - including the EU and China - have made recently.

Mr Kerry knows America has to step carefully.

"I think that the fact that the United States has been absent for four years, requires us to approach this with a certain sensitivity and humility."

The hope is, Mr Kerry implies, that aggressive action on the domestic front will give credibility to American efforts to encourage other nations to up their climate ambition.

He said he and the rest of the administration will work hard with the UK government to ensure Glasgow is a success.

"I'm not going to contemplate anything else," he told me, "because it would be a dramatic failure for mankind."



Fighting climate change

posted February 01, 2021 at 12:40 am

It is good that more people are now getting aware of the danger the world faces due to climate change. Last week, researchers from the United Nations Development Programme and the University of Oxford revealed that in their survey of 1.2 million people in 50 nations, nearly two-thirds say humanity faces a climate emergency.

EDITORIAL

**“We hope decisive action
would follow rising
awareness of this global
threat.”**

Fighting Climate Change

The rising level of awareness among people in the different continents, plus the return of the United States to the Paris Agreement—the global pact to combat climate change—are for us good signs while we suffer from the effects of a slowly deteriorating environment.

Within hours of becoming president, Joe Biden moved to recommit the United States to the Paris Agreement, a year after the United States formally withdrew from the deal, despite being the world's second-largest producer of greenhouse gases behind China.

But the US now looks set to return to the climate agreement after a 30-day notice period, and is expected to resubmit an emissions reduction target for 2030.

Recent studies show the 20 warmest years on record have been in the past 22 years, and the top four in the past four years.

Over the past century, the average temperature of the Earth has risen by 1.8°F. Over the next one hundred years, scientists are projecting another 0.5 to 8.6°F rise in the temperature.

Official documents say the cause of this temperature change is human activities that have released large amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (such as methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases) into the atmosphere.

The majority of greenhouse gases come from burning fossil fuels to produce energy. Results of this global warming include rising ocean temperatures, a more acidic ocean, melting ice caps, and rising sea levels.

The negative consequences of human-driven climate change will continue to accelerate with disastrous effects. Seas continue to rise, inundating and eliminating nesting beaches and foraging habitat for marine wildlife. Warming seas are driving ocean animals further north, leading to cold stunning and further reducing sea turtle hatchling success. The effects of increasing ocean acidification will become more deadly to all marine life.

Human-driven climate change is a key driver of biodiversity collapse and species extinction—up to one million species may go extinct by the end of the century.

With the rising awareness on what climate change is doing and can further do to our environment. There is indeed an urgency to hit the brakes—for a better Earth, for a better world, and for a better environment.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/345794>

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