

01 May 2021, Saturday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

## DENR to issue violation notice vs shipowner for discharging untreated wastewater into Manila Bay

By Susan G. De Leon Published on April 30, 2021



A Philippine Coast Guard personnel inspects untreated water waste reportedly coming from the cooling system of MV Sarangani. (Philippine Coast Guard photo)

QUEZON CITY, April 30 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will be issuing a Notice of Violation against the owner of MV Sarangani after it was identified as the source of the untreated wastewater that was reportedly dumped in Manila Bay over the weekend.

It may be recalled that on Monday, April 26, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu visited the priority area of the Manila Bay rehabilitation where he discussed the incident with representatives of the Philippine Coast Guard, the local government of Manila, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

"After the investigation, if the shipowner is found liable, the DENR will impose fines. Additionally, the owner has to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid destruction to the environment, and the pollution of our waters," said Cimatu.

"We hope to get to the bottom of this issue during the investigation," the environment chief added.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said that samples taken from the actual discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 mL), based on the report of EMB.



## DENR to issue violation notice vs shipowner for discharging untreated wastewater into Manila Bay

This is higher than the standard effluent fecal coliform of 200 MPN/100 mL.

Likewise, the EMB reported that the ambient fecal coliform was high at 2,400 MPN/100 mL, as against the standard 100 MPN/100 mL.

Meanwhile, the oil and grease traced to the vessel were at 19 milligrams per liter (mg/L) exceeding the standard of 5 mg/L.

"We found out that the wastewater from the vessel is above the standard of the DENR. On this basis, we can now issue a Notice of Violation to the owner. A technical conference will be called to hear their side," Leones emphasized.

"After this requirement of the due process, the EMB and the Coast Guard will be filing a case against the shipowner before the Manila Bay Task Force (MBTF)," he added.

Leones said the MBTF will convene and discuss the violations of the shipowner and the penalties to be imposed.

"After we have completed the process, the MBTF will convene and they will be adjudicating the violations of the shipowner, and hopefully they will be coming up with the appropriate sanctions, penalties, and imposition of fines against the shipowner," he explained.

Leones said the shipowner could be facing charges for allegedly violating Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004, the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976, Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, and other regulations of the PPA.

If held liable, based on the provisions of the Clean Water Act, the vessel owner has to pay a daily fine ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 from the start of the discharge until such time that it has cleaned up the affected area.

"We are warning the public that if they violate laws and regulations, we will be imposing the maximum penalties and sanctions for discharging their untreated wastewater in Manila Bay," Leones said.

To avert similar incidents, Cimatu said the department will impose a 2.5-kilometer no-entry zone for vessels except for those that deliver dolomite for the ongoing beach nourishment project of the DENR. (PIA NCR)



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If held liable, the shipowner will pay a daily fine between P10,000 and P200,000 from the start of the discharge until such time that it has cleaned up the affected area and will also need to rehabilitate the vessel to avoid the destruction of marine ecosystem.

<https://bit.ly/3gPB4dM> ✓

April 29, 2021

## DENR TO ISSUE VIOLATION NOTICE VS. SHIPOWNER FOR WASTEWATER DISCHARGE IN MANILA BAY

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Usec. Jonas Leones said the wastewater dumped by MV Sarangani was above the standard of the department. Samples taken from the discharge area showed an effluent fecal coliform count of 1,700 most probable number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100 ml), which is higher than the standard effluence fecal coliform of 200 MPN/100 ml.



OneNews.ph



OneNewsPH

source: PhilSTAR.com  
file photo: The Philippine STAR/ Edd Gumbar





## DENR, police arrest suspected illegal loggers

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 30, 2021

JOINT anti-illegal logging task force of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) based in Cabanatuan City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Army (PA) recently apprehended five suspected illegal loggers for transporting undocumented forest products.

Nueva Ecija provincial environment and natural resources officer (Penro) Joselito Blanco identified the suspects as King Mark Mendoza, Rodman E. Mendez, Joseph Aplacador, Ronald Arguilles, and Julius del Rosario, all residents of Gabaldon town.

"The suspects were apprehended by our team in Sitio Cuyapa in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija after receiving information from a concerned citizen," he said.

Operatives also seized and apprehended 500 board feet of illegally sawn common hardwood and four units of motor vehicle called "kolong-kolong from the suspects.

The DENR is now preparing to file criminal charges against the suspects for violating the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.



## 8,000 seedlings given to 36 Iloilo villages



Photo By Iloilo City Office of Executive Assistant for Environment

April 30, 2021

THE Iloilo City Government has given some 8,000 seedlings as of April to 36 barangays in support of massive tree-planting activities all over the metropolis.

Executive Assistant for Environment Armando Dayrit and staff distributed seedlings that are mostly fruit-bearing and flowering trees such as fire trees, Palawan cherries, and golden shower trees.

"We encourage everyone to plant more trees. Trees greatly benefit our people and the city. It improves air quality, provides shade, mitigates storm water, and also enhances the architecture of our community," Dayrit said.

Continuous tree planting activities and maintenance are also conducted along the circumferential road, highways and floodways.

Residents may pick-up free seedlings at the City Agriculturist's Office or Caingin La Paz Tree Nursery. (PR)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1893235/ILOILO/Local-News/8000-seedlings-given-to-36-Iloilo-villages>



## ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Korean Embassy in PH explore partnership in tackling marine debris

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan Published on April 30, 2021



A clean-up vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is projected to arrive in the Philippines late next year. Photo courtesy of Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (ACB photo)

CALOOCAN CITY, April 30 (PIA) -- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines are exploring possible areas for collaboration, including raising awareness on the issue of coastal and marine conservation in the Philippines where marine plastic pollution is causing environmental damage and posing health risks.

At present, the Korean government's development cooperation agency Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has launched a marine litter management programme in the Philippines in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG). The multi-year assistance from 2021 to 2025 is focused on establishing a marine litter monitoring system, stationing a clean-up vessel near Manila Bay, and enhancing marine litter management capacity in the Philippines.

"Korea is glad to be contributing to the marine environmental protection in the Philippines, a country widely known for its beautiful coral reefs and aquatic biodiversity. Korea hopes that the marine litter management assistance will help mitigate risks posed by the increasing marine debris problem that many experts claim is undermining the marine landscape of the Philippine archipelago", said Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Philippines Inchul Kim.

A clean-up vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is projected to arrive in the Philippines late next year tentatively upon completion of necessary procurement procedures. The clean-up vessel will be the first marine vessel dedicated to collect marine litter in the Philippines.



## ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Korean Embassy in PH explore partnership in tackling marine debris

DENR notes that there is evident presence of marine litters or plastics floating at the Manila Bay, exacerbated during the Habagat Season (Wet Season) or strong typhoons, that are washed ashore. Meanwhile, as the World Bank Group recently published in March 2021, more than 75 per cent of the material value of the plastics, equivalent to USD 6 billion per year, is lost across three countries of Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand due to absence of recycling. Under a partnership between the Korean government and the World Bank Group, the World Bank's study on the Philippines was funded by the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) in efforts to support the mainstreaming of green growth through the World Bank's lending operations.

"Korea will continue to take part in the global efforts to address environmental issues through various multilateral and bilateral cooperation, ranging from hosting the upcoming 2021 P4G Summit and collaborating with various UN agencies and international organizations to bilateral development cooperation with the Philippines on the protection of marine environment and biodiversity", said Ambassador Kim.

Korea will be hosting the "Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G) 2030" Summit on 30-31 May 2021 in Korea, uniting heads of states, CEOs, investors, and civil society leaders. The Korean government has also been in close cooperation with various other international organisations to contribute to the preservation of marine environment in the region.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said these possible partnerships with Korea on marine litter management would be aligned with the priorities of the ASEAN, under the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.

"The ASEAN Member States have pledged to reduce and prevent marine debris as part of their commitments under the Bangkok Declaration Combatting Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region. The region recognises that marine pollution is a trans-boundary issue that requires integrated regional cooperation", Lim said.

She emphasized that pollution is one of the threats to marine biodiversity as thousands of animals are killed after ingesting or getting entangled in plastic products. The deterioration of ecosystems because of these wastes pose tangible and negative impacts on the people's health and livelihoods.

Tackling the issue of marine debris is highly relevant today because of the growing concerns over the volumes of medical wastes generated by the COVID-19 pandemic response and the fear that some of these may end up in waterways and oceans.

In a study published by ScienceDirect in September 2020, the average number of face masks used in 49 Asian countries in a day as of 31 July 2020 was estimated at 2.2 billion.

"Innovative actions in properly disposing and managing wastes, including those generated by the pandemic response, will help reduce marine litter that affects the health of our marine ecosystems and the capacity of our oceans to provide fisheries and food security, as well as to effectively serve as one of our natural solutions to climate change impacts", Lim added.





## ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Korean Embassy in PH explore partnership in tackling marine debris

The ACB is set to conduct a study aimed at identifying entry points for regional action, such as support to cooperation for research and assessments, which may help in protecting and recovering marine biodiversity threatened by marine litter.

Lim likewise noted that Korea's continued efforts and leadership in green growth may be synchronised with ACB's efforts to mainstream biodiversity into various sectors, including infrastructure and energy.

Over more than a decade, Korea has been promoting policies focused on green growth, a development paradigm that creates a growth engine and job creation based on "green technology and clean energy". Korea's Green New Deal, announced last year, further elaborates on the areas of focus as the promotion of green transition of infrastructures, low-carbon and decentralized energy and innovation in the green industry.

"We hope more businesses through the help of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea will be our partners in our endeavor of integrating biodiversity considerations into plans and business models", she said. (PIA NCR)



## DOT 'scubasureros' hold Samal reef cleanup

By Che Palicte April 30, 2021, 6:52 pm



COASTAL CLEANUP. Some Philippine Navy personnel collect the trash along a coastline in Brgy. Sta. Cruz Talikud, Island Garden City of Samal, on Friday (April 30, 2021). The activity is led by the Department of Tourism in Region 11, in partnership with other government agencies and scuba diving communities. (PNA photo by Che Palicte)

ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL, Davao del Norte - To kick off the month of the Ocean in May, the Department of Tourism in Region 11 (DOT-11) partnered with various government agencies and scuba diving communities for a synchronized cleanup in Brgy. Sta. Cruz Talikud here Friday.

DOT-11 Director Tanya Rabat-Tan said the cleanup is in line with the agency's advocacy to protect the local destinations, especially that Samal Island is one of the regions' top tourist spots.

At least 47 professional divers from the local government Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine Navy, and the Philippine National Police (PNP) and its Regional Maritime Unit participated in the cleanup.

"This is a good day to stand up together and do an active part in the sea and coastal cleanup. Marine pollution has been lingering for a long time. We cannot ignore this problem because our trash finds its way in the ocean and will eventually be digested by the fish," Tan said.

Tan said DOT is committed to support the island-city's drive in protecting its coastal resources, as she noted that many of the residents depend on the ocean for their livelihood.

"I hope that with our collective effort, we can combat marine pollution. We encourage all stakeholders to invest in sustainable practices that can preserve the cleanliness of our ocean," she said.



## DOT 'scubasureros' hold Samal reef cleanup

On top of the scuba divers, volunteer coastal sweepers also helped to remove accumulated beach litters in the coastal areas.

The shoreline scoopers, on the other hand, scoured the shoreline to remove marine debris in the shallow area.

"This goes to show how much we value a clean ocean and we want to create a noise that we need to take an active part in preserving nature," Tan said. (PNA)

## Climate Reality PH, Indonesia announce partnership during special Earth Day webcast

By Ma. Elaine P. Allanigue Published on April 30, 2021



The Climate Reality Project Philippines Facebook screengrab

QUEZON CITY, April 30 (PIA) -- The Climate Reality Project Philippines and Indonesia will join forces to build a more collaborative network of Climate Reality Leaders that will drive climate and sustainability actions in the Southeast Asian Region.

This partnership was announced last 24 April 2021 during the special Earth Day episode of Klimatotohanan, a fortnightly Facebook webcast produced by The Climate Reality Project Philippines.

The Philippine and Indonesian Branches are two of the 11 country offices of The Climate Reality Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to using strategic communications and grassroots strategies to educate government and private sector leaders and the public about the urgency and solvability of the climate crisis.

Together, the two branches handle almost 2,000 Climate Reality Leaders with diverse backgrounds and expertise who are working to solve the climate crisis in their respective industries and communities.

"Through this partnership, we will pursue collaboration in advancing climate action through the arts, strengthening youth engagement for climate action, developing information, education, and communication materials on the impacts of climate change in the region, and facilitating joint initiatives of Filipino and Indonesian Climate Reality Leaders and climate scientists," Nazrin Castro, Manager of the Philippines Branch, said.



## Climate Reality PH, Indonesia announce partnership during special Earth Day webcast

An initial result of this partnership is the collaboration of the respective youth clusters of both branches on the special Earth Day Klimatotohanan webcast, which delved into stories of how young climate advocates from the Philippines and Indonesia learned about the environmental and climate crisis, what pushed them to act on their advocacies, and what drives them to keep going.

The episode featured Clarence Gio Almoite, Project Coordinator of Sustainable Energy and Enterprise Development for Communities; Jayson M. Villeza, Environmental Management Specialist for the City Government of Muntinlupa and founder of the coffee shop on bicycle wheels, Bike and Break Fast Café; Abigail Ng, Vice President for Externals of Project Pulo; Anindita Sekar Jati, New Energy Nexus Communications Manager for Indonesia and Southeast Asia; Atika Rahmah, a communication staff at the Climate Change Advisory Council of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia; and Jonathan Davy, the co-founder and CEO of Ecoxyztem.

The collaboration between the youth groups will go beyond Earth Day and will include organizing networking activities and other events that will serve as platforms for young climate advocates in Southeast Asia to expand their networks and discuss solutions that will help the region address the climate crisis.

“As digital natives, we will launch social media campaigns to maximize our reach. We will also have a podcast to discuss the impacts of the climate crisis in our region, initiatives of young Climate Reality Leaders, and other issues,” Izza Arivia, youth Climate Reality Leader from Indonesia, said during the webcast.

Moreover, Arivia said that they will be organizing a Youth Climate Leadership Camp where they will train young Climate Reality Leaders and other young climate advocates in starting their own climate initiatives.

“The partnership between Youth Climate Reality Leaders of the two countries is an inspiration to create more international, interdisciplinary, and intergenerational activities necessary for more global climate actions,” according to Amanda Niode, Manager of the Indonesian Branch of the Climate Reality Project. (PIA NCR)

## Why invest in nature: Economists, policymakers in ASEAN weigh

By ACBPublished on May 1, 2021



Screen-grabbed from the first session of the Webinar Series on the Economics of Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review

LAGUNA, Apr. 30 -- Governments and businesses are called upon to think big and invest in greening projects that will not just bring employment opportunities but also productivity gains.

In a video message in a webinar recently organised by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta, stressed that humanity is not external to the environment, which is a natural asset on which economies, livelihoods, and well-being depend.

Dasgupta is the lead of the Dasgupta Review, an independent global report on the economics of biodiversity commissioned by the UK Treasury. "The lens with which our institutions see their societies is one which does not notice nature," he said.

Gathering economists and policymakers in the ASEAN region, the first session of the Webinar Series on the Economics of Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review was conducted via Zoom in cooperation with the European Union, German Development Bank (KfW), and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Protected Areas in ASEAN (BCAMP) Project, Small Grants Programme (SGP), and the Institutional Strengthening of Biodiversity Sector in the ASEAN II Project, respectively.

Drawing at least 200 participants, the webinar tapped a panel composed of senior officials from the finance and economic development ministries of ASEAN Member States and economic experts in the region. It was moderated by Dr. Cielito Habito, former socioeconomic planning secretary of the Philippines



## Why invest in nature: Economists, policymakers in ASEAN weigh

In the panel were Dr. Pham Khanh Nam, director of the Economy and Environment Partnership for Southeast Asia (EEPSEA Partnership); former Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Demetrio Ignacio, Jr.; Albay Representative Joey Salceda; and Paul Steele, chief economist of the International Institute for Environment and Development.

### 'Nature at the centre'

In her opening remarks, ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said the webinar was aimed at identifying actions from the recommendations of the Dasgupta Review, relevant to the Region, and why and how the business and finance sectors and government agencies must consider placing nature as part and parcel of their investment paradigm.

"The Dasgupta Review presents stirring assessments that provide solid bases for biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors. Integrating natural capital is crucial to doing business responsibly, both in the government and the private sectors, especially as we move beyond business as usual towards a better normal," she said.

Meanwhile, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Kung Phoak said the ASEAN strongly supports initiatives that put a premium on the region's rich biodiversity and natural capital and further promote nature-based solutions.

The ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, in particular, highlighted the need to put a spotlight on preserving the region's natural capital as the region's gears for recovery, he said.

Also gracing the online event, United Kingdom Ambassador to the ASEAN Jon Lambe stressed that "protecting nature carries real economic benefits and losing biodiversity carries real economic costs."

While the ASEAN region is one of the most biologically and culturally diverse regions with 18 per cent of the world's species, it is also projected to be one of the fastest-growing economies in the world.

Lim shared that with recognition of the underpinning role of nature and biodiversity in the economy, the ASEAN region is working on integrating natural capital in the national statistical system. Among the region's recent activity supported by the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) is the assessment of natural capital policy and practice in ASEAN public and private sectors.

### Internalise costs

Rep. Salceda, the former co-chair of the UN Green Climate Fund, said the Dasgupta Review strengthens the case for internalising the costs and returns to nature.

"Earnest accounting of the cost to nature will involve a change in macroeconomic models. Output, as measured by the gross domestic product, does not account for the destruction of the asset base... There should be some way to measure nature as an intergenerational wealth that can be exhausted or destroyed if overexploited," he said.



## Why invest in nature: Economists, policymakers in ASEAN weigh

Rep. Salceda, the former governor of Albay province in the Philippines, also shared that his province has not earned gains from producing clean energy in the country due to the lack of a national mechanism for cap and trade. He further expressed that a programme that aims to limit, or cap, the total level of emissions of certain chemicals, particularly carbon dioxide, as a result of industrial activity would be beneficial for greening initiatives as that of Albay's.

Meanwhile, Ignacio Jr. highlighted the need to build "a strong local constituency for biodiversity" to fuel change.

"At the local level, where people are closer to nature, it is important that they know and feel how they affect nature and how nature affects them," he said.

The Dasgupta Review provided broad transitions towards sustainable pathways, such as addressing excessive demand for goods and services that strained nature's capacity to supply, changing measures of economic success, and including nature's assets in the definition of 'wealth,' and institutional transformation in the finance and education systems.

One of the discussants, Dr. Pham Khanh Nam, shared that to balance the demand for goods and the supply, governments must consider boosting the resilience of the production system and shifting to high-technology and ecologically based farming systems. (ACB)





## Gov't to audit 4 mines in BARMM beginning October

April 29, 2021 | 7:46 pm



PHILSTAR

THE Intergovernmental Relations Body (IGRB), which regulates dealings between the National Government and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), said the Mining Industry Coordination Council (MICC) will conduct audit the operations of four mines in the region starting in October.

The audit was agreed to by Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III and BARMM Education Minister Mohagher Iqbal, who co-chair the IGRB, at a March 26 meeting, the Department of Finance (DoF) said in a statement Thursday.

The DoF said the Bangsamoro government agreed to have mines in the region included in the list of companies that MICC will look into in its third round of audits.

The audits will cover technical, legal, social, economic and environmental aspects of mining operations, it said, following the same procedure used by the MICC in the previous two audit rounds covering 50 mines since 2018.

The latest round took place in October 2019 and ended in December 2020. The initial round ran from February to August 2018.

Experts from the region can also join future audits of the MICC outside the BARMM to boost their technical capacity. — Beatrice M. Laforga

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/115158345163134/posts/4228382530507341/?app=fbl>

## When defenders of the environment and rights face threats themselves

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#), [Kristine Joy Patag](#)(Philstar.com)

- April 30, 2021 - 12:03pm



This photo was taken on Sept. 18, 2020 when the Center for Environmental Concerns Philippines filed their petition against the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 before the Supreme Court.

MANILA, Philippines — Last February, weeks before the historic Palawan plebiscite vote, long-time environmental lawyer Gerthie Mayo-Anda found photos of her sporting devil horns and of her home with Ipil-Ipil trees made out to be a haunted house in social media posts.

Environmental defenders like her were among the loudest voices in campaigning for the “no” vote on the proposed Palawan split — [and won](#) — a move largely seen as a threat to the ecosystem of the country’s “last ecological frontier.”

But Mayo-Anda, founder of Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC), acknowledged she is fortunate to only deal with maligning on social media, as other lawyers and environmental defenders experienced much worse for the profession and cause they chose.

ELAC was founded in 1990 and incorporated in 1997. The Palawan-based non-government organization engages in advocacy, education work and litigation.

Her fellow lawyer and environmental defender Robert Chan, who also vigorously campaigned for the “no” vote, found himself banned from returning to Palawan.

Chan is the executive director of Palawan NGO Network Inc. For more than a decade, the environmental lawyer worked on protecting coastal forests and reeds in Palawan.

New data from the National Union of Peoples’ Lawyers showed that in the last ten years, Philippine lawyers and judges reported at least 176 “prima-facie profession or work-related” attacks, including 73 killings.



## When defenders of the environment and rights face threats themselves

In 2019, international watchdog Global Witness said that the [Philippines is the deadliest country for land and environmental defenders in Asia](#) and second in the world, next to Colombia. A separate data release from Kalikasan Peoples Network for the Environment said that in the same year, [46 environmental defenders in the country were killed](#), a 53% increase compared to 2018 which only documented 30 deaths.

### When defenders are threatened

Even as sentinels of the rule of law, Filipino lawyers are not cloaked with immunity from violence or threats — especially in the Duterte administration, Mayo-Anda said, where many of her colleagues were murdered.

"That kind of atmosphere, why should people have the kind of temerity to take the law into their own hands? Because that's the context: There's a conducive climate, sorry for saying this, but the climate seems to be conducive to take the law into your own hands," she said in an interview with Philstar.com.

## Lawyering for the environment: An unwavering stance to empower communities

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#), [Kristine Joy Patag](#)(Philstar.com)

- April 30, 2021 - 9:40am



Environmental lawyer Gerthie Mayo-Anda (second from left) poses for a photo with residents of Palawan who filed a petition before the Supreme Court on June 16, 2019.  
Save Palawan Network, Facebook

*Part 1 of a two-part feature on environmental lawyers in the Philippines.*

*Read Part 2*

MANILA, Philippines — In a plebiscite last month, residents of Palawan voted against ratifying a law to divide the country's last ecological frontier into three smaller provinces.

The "no" vote won in 19 out of 23 municipalities, with 172,304 people voting against the breakup. Campaigners said it was like David's victory over Goliath.

On one side were political families who have long pushed for the division.

On the other side was the [Save Palawan Movement](#)—composed of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and people's organizations—advocating keeping Palawan as one province. Unlike the political elites, they had limited funds and no machinery.

For groups against the division, breaking up the country's biggest province would further jeopardize Palawan's already threatened forests and coastal ecosystems, and weaken the enforcement of environmental laws, while allowing political clans to grab more power.

## Lawyering for the environment: An unwavering stance to empower communities

Among those who vigorously campaigned against the split were environmental lawyers Gerthie Mayo-Anda and Robert Chan.

Legal empowerment



Undated photo shows environmental lawyer Gerthie Mayo-Anda.  
ELAC

Thirty years ago, Mayo-Anda founded the Environmental Legal Assistance Center, Inc., a non-governmental organization committed to helping communities uphold their constitutional right to a healthful and balanced ecology.

Their quest is to assist and defend indigenous peoples, fisherfolk, farmers, women, youth, and the marginalized—sectors who bear the brunt of climate change, deforestation, and destruction of coastal resources.

The Puerto Princesa-based ELAC provides legal representation in environmental court cases, legal advice in drafting environmental laws and paralegal training, and conducts research and advocacy related to environmental issues.

The organization — which has six staff members, including two lawyers — works on issues related to the access to and use of forestry and coastal resources, pollution, and land use tenure. It is also active in campaigns against mining, coal plants and monocrop plantations in Palawan.

"The way ELAC does its work, it is legal empowerment, it should not be litigation. Once you litigate, you go to the formal process and it's very tedious and stressful to the communities," Mayo-Anda, the group's executive director, said in an interview with Philstar.com.

## Lawyering for the environment: An unwavering stance to empower communities

"We explore what we call dialogue, engagements, metalegal remedies. If you can stop quarrying through writing a government agency, through an investigation or a petition, that will be great. If none of those works, it's either we file a case before the ombudsman against these certain government officials or we go to court," she added.

ELAC also set up satellite offices in other parts of Palawan and areas in Visayas to respond to requests for legal assistance. However, these were not sustained due to the lack of funding support.

Hard-hitting stand



Lawyer Robert Chan, executive director of PNNI, with running priest Robert Reyes in front of PNNI's chainsaw Christmas tree.  
PNNI, Facebook

Chan, the executive director of Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), cannot come home.

His team of cash-strapped para-enforcers is known for using citizen's arrest to confiscate over 700 chainsaws used to destroy Palawan's protected areas and natural resources. Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment called him a man with "uncompromising stance and hard-hitting actions on environmental issues."

But in January this year, the environmental lawyer was declared persona non grata by the provincial government reportedly as a response to critical statements that he made years ago about the problems of illegal logging and fishing in Palawan.

On top of that, there have also been threats of rebellion and sedition complaints, which he said have prevented his return to Palawan to campaign against the division.

## Lawyering for the environment: An unwavering stance to empower communities

But in a forum hosted by the Center for Environmental Concerns-Philippines on April 22, Chan said the persona non grata declaration against him "was only the flashpoint that gelled everything together."

"I am still persona non grata. I cannot transact with the provincial government, even pay real estate taxes. But it allowed people to see the oppression and they came together and helped us win," Chan, who is currently in Manila, said.

Pala-won



One Palawan campaigners and supporters celebrate their win in this undated photo.  
Save Palawan Movement, Facebook

In 2019, Duterte signed Republic Act 11259 that sought to divide Palawan into the provinces of Palawan del Norte, Palawan Oriental and Palawan del Sur.

Advocates and supporters of the proposal said breaking up the province would allow local governments to deliver services better and address development issues. But critics said it would harm the environment and the people, especially indigenous communities.

Palawan, with 1,780 islands and islets, is endowed with rich natural resources and highly diverse flora and fauna. According to UNESCO, it has 105 out of the 475 threatened species in the Philippines.

Mayo-Anda said the division was driven by political agenda and done without studies and consultations.

"The proponents never even considered the nature and characteristics of Palawan as a unique biodiversity area and its significant role in the life of this country," she said.

Had the "yes" vote won, "there will be legal battles and there will be more problems," Mayo-Anda said. Fortunately, the "no" vote prevailed.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/04/30/2094618/lawyering-environment-unwavering-stance-empower-communities/amp/>

## How the Philippines' low-carbon plans may fuel a switch to green jobs

Over 350,000 renewable energy jobs in the Philippines could be created by 2030. With the coal moratorium expected to add more clean energy capacity to the mix, could displaced power plant workers be among those to switch to green jobs?



By [Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez](#)  
Friday 30 April 2021

When CleanTech Global Renewables, an independent power producer, started building its first solar power plant in Bulacan, Philippines in 2015, its founder Aboy Castro knew the risks that were coming with the venture.

Only a limited pool of experienced solar engineers was available in the nascent clean power sector at that time, and despite the country having one of the first renewable [energy laws](#) in Southeast Asia, local clean energy markets were hampered by hostile regulatory environments and unreliable power grids.

Enticed by the government's feed-in-tariff incentive that year, which reduced taxes for renewable energy investors, Castro and his team forged ahead and developed the firm's first utility-scale solar installation of 15 megawatts (MW).



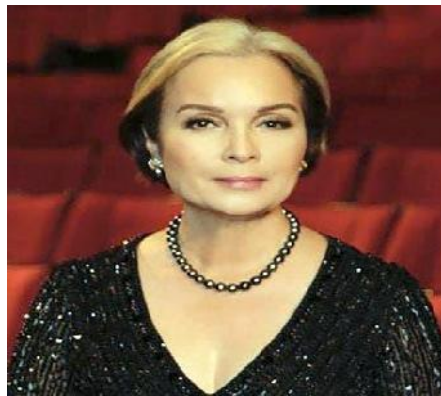
## Edsa to be a green avenue



By [Becky Garcia](#)  
May 1, 2021

Congratulations go to a group of private sector leaders and environment advocates for a laudable project with the goal of transforming Edsa to a green avenue.

The leader of the Green Edsa Movement is Eddie Yap, who gathered a group of core convenors to help restore sidewalk spaces on Edsa and reduce car lanes by planting trees on both sides of the long avenue. It was very timely that the launch happened on Earth Day and was hosted by Maan Hontiveros.



*Former Miss Universe Margie Moran Floirendo*



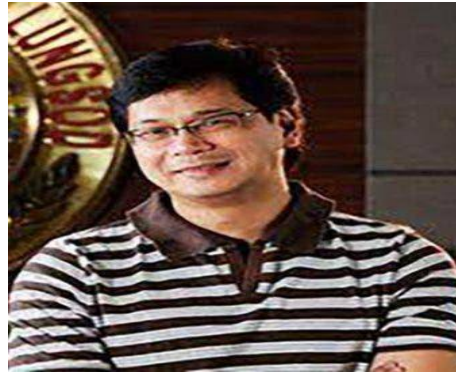
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## Edsa to be a green avenue



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*Green Edsa Movement Leader Eddie Yap*



*Philippine Tatler Editor Anton San Diego*



## Edsa to be a green avenue



*Department of Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade*



*SM Development Corporation President Jose Mari Banzon*



*Acclaimed business executive Maan Hontiveros*



## Edsa to be a green avenue



*Department of Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez*



*The project plans on prioritizing people's mobility as well as to have a greener environment.*

*The project plans on prioritizing people's mobility as well as to have a greener environment.*

This reminds me of Orchard Road in Singapore. Driving from the airport to the city, you get to pass tree lined sidewalks — what a refreshing sight.

Members of the convenors group are former Miss Universe Margie Moran Floirendo, Management Association of the Philippines Executive Marife Zamora, and Philippine Tatler Editor Anton San Diego.

Supporting convenors are from the Rotary Clubs of Las Pinas Uptown, Makati, Makati Central, Makati Uptown, and Mandaluyong. The Rotary Clubs of Pasig and Makati West were also invited.



## Edsa to be a green avenue

Villages and homeowners associations backing this project are Barangay Bel-Air Makati, Dasmariñas Village Association Makati, Forbes Park Association Makati, and the San Antonio in Pasig City. The Paragon Plaza Condominium Corporation and Valle Verde Federation in Pasig City also attended.

Additionally, environmental organizations like that of Bikers United Movement, Christians in Conservation Philippines, Earth Day Network Philippines, Green Convergence Philippines, MNL Moves and Zero Waste Philippines, also advocate for this plan of action.

We all look forward to the greening of Edsa.



## Runruno villagers trained on mushroom production

By Benjamin Moses M. EbreoPublished on April 30, 2021

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, April 30 (PIA) - At least 40 villagers from barangay Runruno in Quezon town were recently trained on mushroom production.

Runruno Barangay Captain John Babliing said the training, conducted by the Nueva Vizcaya Mushroom Growers Association (NVMGA) aims to impart technical knowledge of edible mushroom production as an alternative livelihood project for their community residents.

"This is a livelihood opportunity for our villagers ignorer to learn the rudiments of mushroom production that will help them earn income for their families," he said.

Babliing said the training covers preparation of mushroom housing and bed, maintenance and cost and return analysis which was also highlighted by mushroom processing demonstration among the participants.

He also thanked the NVMGA for sharing their knowledge and expertise on mushroom production and processing for the barangay residents.

"This is one way of capacitating and a big help for our villagers as budding local entrepreneurs so that they can provide food and earn income for their families," Babliing said.

He said the training was initiated by the barangay officials in partnership with the FCF Minerals Corporation through its 2021 Annual Social Development and Management Program (ASDMP). (MDCT/BME/PIA 2-Nueva Vizcaya)



## Villar backs urban farming to feed people, needs of community pantries

posted April 30, 2021 at 11:20 pm  
by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Community gardens can sustain neighborhood and complement community pantries, according to Senator Cynthia Villar.

The chairperson of the Senate Agriculture and Food committee said gardens are a more sustainable and cost-efficient way of providing daily supply of food or substance to community members, especially in poor neighborhoods.

"They only need vegetable seeds, seedlings of fruit-bearing trees, organic fertilizers and a small parcel of lot from a backyard or open spaces of subdivisions in a public place which some LGUs can even allocate for them," Villar said.

The senator has been encouraging the public to engage in urban farming or vegetable gardening. She has been distributing vegetable seeds and organic fertilizers, initially in her home city of Las Pinas, and now all over the country.

Through Villar SIPAG, the Nacionalista senator also gives for free organic fertilizer to gardeners and farmers.

The fertilizers were made from kitchen and garden wastes collected from Las Pinas household and brought to composting facilities in the city.

Because of the significant role of community gardens especially during this pandemic, Villar renewed her call for people to grow their own food in their own backyard or in a community garden.

These vegetables grown in the comfort of their homes, can also complement the now popular community pantries which sprouted across the country.

Villar also authored and filed Senate Bill No. 141, which sought to institutionalize urban agriculture in the country to meet food sufficiency targets and address hunger.

Topics: [Community gardens](#) , [Cynthia Villar](#) , [Senate Agriculture and Food](#)



## How To Really Reduce Plastic Use – And Why A Total Ban May Not Be The Real Solution

Survey shows Moms agree to ban only plastics with existing alternatives



BYTHEASIANPARENT PHILIPPINES

APRIL 30, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



Plastic pollution is a problem we can't ignore any longer. Every year, 8 million tons of plastic end up in our oceans, killing marine life and harming the environment.

The good news is people are beginning to be aware of the harmful effects of plastic pollution. A recent [theAsianparent PH](#) poll among 600 moms found that 51% of them support banning plastics with available replacements, such as disposable cutlery, straws, cups, and plates. Ready to cut down on plastic? To start, here are five simple things you can do to reduce your plastic carbon footprint.

### 1. Reframe caffeine fix.

Upgrade your barista's creation by using your own insulated tumbler! Contrary to popular belief, coffee cups aren't that easy to recycle: The outside is paper, with a thin layer of plastic inside. Reprocessing a cup means having to separate the two, making the recycling process a difficult one.

So the next time you pop in for your Venti coffee with three pumps of mocha and a splash of almond milk (hey, we don't judge!), sip it from an ultra-cute tumbler, and get an extra buzz knowing you're doing your bit in saving the environment!





## How To Really Reduce Plastic Use – And Why A Total Ban May Not Be The Real Solution

Survey shows Moms agree to ban only plastics with existing alternatives

### 2. BYOB.

And we mean bag. Single-use plastics—like the one's groceries use to bag produce, or what *tiangges* place your recent finds in—account for 40% of plastics produced every year. These plastics have a lifespan of minutes to hours in your hands yet linger in the environment for hundreds of years.

Make it a habit to pack reusable shopping bags and washable produce net bags the next time you head out. Bonus: there are so many cute designs to choose from, that you'll surely want to show them off!

### 3. Break up with plastic you can live without.

Disposable cutlery, straws, and condiment packets—do we *really* need them? In the US alone, 500 *million* plastic straws are tossed out daily, with each straw having to take up to 200 years to decompose.

The next time you order take-out or have food delivered, ask to skip the plastic cutlery, plates, and packets of ketchup (seriously, don't you have a bottle at home?) Doing this can personally save up to 466 items of unnecessary plastic a year!

### 4. Rethink diapers and period products.

Here's the stinky truth: a baby will use an average of 8,000 diapers in his life. That's about 3.6 million tons of waste in landfills a *year*. As for us ladies? A woman goes through an average of 11,000 pads or tampons in a lifetime. Think about it – most of the sanitary products you have ever used in your life are still lying around somewhere in a landfill. Doesn't sound nice, right?

Make the switch to cloth diapers (they come in adorable designs,) which can cut down on disposable diaper costs *and* help speed up potty training. As for our monthly visitor? Consider using a menstrual cup, a cloth napkin or *pasador* or investing in a few pairs of period panties, which have a special layer that helps prevent blood from seeping through.

### 5. Start the recycling process at home.

Plastic has gotten a bad rap recently but the truth is, plastic per se is not the issue. It's how we dispose of it. We can live with plastic. Most food products require plastic to keep the food fresh, safe from insects and infestation, and allow it to travel well – very important for an archipelago like ours. Banning plastic packaging for food would mean higher risk of contamination, a shorter shelf life, and an increase of up to 30% in food prices.

In the same survey among [theAsianparent](#) Moms, 59% don't know that a plastic ban includes banning of food packaging. This means that while moms do agree to ban plastic for the sake of the environment, they are not aware that the proposal includes packaging for food. This will be challenging for moms since most day-to-day basic food items come in plastic packaging to keep



## How To Really Reduce Plastic Use – And Why A Total Ban May Not Be The Real Solution

Survey shows Moms agree to ban only plastics with existing alternatives

them affordable like noodles, bread, and the like. In addition, no material has been developed that has the affordability and safety that plastic has – this might come in the future but for now there are just no replacements yet for plastic food packaging.

So, when it comes to plastic use, start the recycling and segregation at home. For instance: any plastic material with food residue *cannot* be recycled because we lack segregation and processing facilities in the country. So do your part and wash plastic packaging before throwing in a bin specifically for plastics.



## Tinamaan ng COVID-19 tumaas ng 8,748 sa Pilipinas; kaso umabot sa 1.03-M

(Philstar.com)

- April 30, 2021 - 4:00pm



Litrato ng mga emergency field hospitals na itinayo ng Philippine Red Cross sa Lung Center of the Philippines compound, ika-29 ng Abril, 2021, bagay na ginagamit para punan ang bed capacity para sa mga pasyenteng nangangailangan habang pandemya  
The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 8,748 bagong infection ng coronavirus disease, Biyernes, kung kaya nasa 1,037,460 na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- Lahat ng kaso: 1,037,460
- Nagpapagaling pa: 73,908, o 7.1% ng total infections
- Kagagaling lang: 4,143, dahilan para maging 946,318 na lahat ng gumagaling
- Kamamatay lang: 89, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 17,234

Anong bago ngayong araw?

- Ibinalita naman ni Philippine Ambassador to Russia Carlos Sorreta kanina na [bumabiyahen sa papuntang Pilipinas ang mga unang doses ng Russian COVID-19 vaccine na "Sputnik V"](#) ng kumpanyang Gamaleya. Inaasahang darating ng Pilipinas ang mga bakuna sa Sabado.
- Kinumpirma naman ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque na [ititigil na ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas ang "travel ban" nito sa mga dayuhang nais pumunta ng Pilipinas](#) simula bukas. Aniya, alinsunod na rin 'yan sa kapapasa lang na Resolution 113 ng Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.



## Tinamaan ng COVID-19 tumaas ng 8,748 sa Pilipinas; kaso umabot sa 1.03-M

- [Ikinabahala](#) naman ng Philippine Pharmacists Association ang isinagawang pamimigay ng ivermectin nina Sagip party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta at Anakalusugan party-list Rep. Michael Defensor kahapon kontra COVID-19. Maliban sa hindi pa tiyak kung mabisa ito sa virus, hindi rin daw kumpleto ang mga impormasyong dapat na matatagpuan sa mga resatang ipinakita para makakuha ng gamot.
- Kaugnay ng nasabing gamot, na walang batayan kung epektibo laban sa COVID-19 [ayon mismo sa manufacturer nito na Merck](#), [ipinaalala ni Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto na huwag basta-basta magpapaniwala sa mga "conspiracy theories"](#) at sa halip makinig sa mga aktwal na medical experts.
- Umabot na sa 149.21 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, ayon sa huling datos ng [World Health Organization](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang mahigit 3.14 milyong katao.  
— James Relativo



## How to disinfect rooms, items when caring for COVID-19 patient at home

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 30 2021 07:52 PM

MANILA - Filipinos tending to COVID-19 patients at home should prepare precautionary and disinfection procedures to avoid spreading the virus at home, a health professional said Friday as the government continues to push for home care programs for mild to moderate cases of the disease.

A patient who is recuperating from COVID-19 at home should have a separate set of items, and if possible, his or her own comfort room, said former Health Secretary Paulyn Ubial, who now leads the Philippine Red Cross' biomolecular laboratories.

"If you bring things inside the [patient's] room, it doesn't go out any more until the patient is discharged," she said in an online forum.

"Make sure food containers are disposables. We have to make sure there is nothing that will expose other people to the virus," she said.

- [Pulse oximeter yes, oxygen tank optional: What are COVID-19 home care essentials?](#)

A patient's dirty clothes should be soaked in a bleach and water solution before it is washed, Ubial said.

"The laundry is potentially infectious... After 30 minutes [of being soaked in bleach solution], that laundry can be treated as regular laundry," she said.

Should there be a lone bathroom in the house where a COVID-19 patient is staying,

A "clean as you go" system should be done in households where a bathroom needs to be shared, she said.

"Wipe the floor with 0.5 percent Clorox or bleach solution," she said.

Door knobs, toilet bowls, faucets, pails and dippers should also be disinfected with the same solution every time a COVID-19 patients uses a shared bathroom, she said.

Once a stay-at-home COVID-19 patient recuperates from the virus and receives a negative test result, the room he or she used should be disinfected and vacated for at least 3 days, the former Health secretary said.

"It has to be exposed to room temperature and sunlight for 3 days before reusing it," she said.

"Close off the room for 3 days. Open the windows then that's when you clean the floors and windows with Clorox, not immediately after [the discharge]," she said.

- [Who are qualified, not recommended for COVID-19 home care? Expert gives do's, don'ts](#)



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## How to disinfect rooms, items when caring for COVID-19 patient at home

- [Home care for COVID-19 patients harder amid rising demand, lack of health workers](#)

Taking a cue from private hospitals, the Department of Health (DOH) earlier said it is developing COVID-19 home care kits that would be bundled with teleconsult packages to encourage patients with mild to moderate symptoms to recuperate at home as the Philippines' healthcare system remains challenged by the deluge of coronavirus patients in hospitals.

- [PH developing COVID-19 home care packages to decongest hospitals](#)

Earlier this month, several hospitals in the capital region sought help from the national government as intensive care units were "almost 100 percent" after a spike in new COVID-19 cases happened in March, a year since the virus was first detected in the Philippines.

## Climate safety nets for all

The extreme weather that comes with climate change will leave the world's poorest and most vulnerable even worse off, overwhelming today's system of humanitarian aid. Strengthening poor people's climate resilience is crucial.



An aerial view of flood affected areas in Bihar. Image: [Public Resource Org, CC BY 2.0](#)



By [Kevin Watkins](#)  
April 30, 2021

As preparations for this year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow intensify, attention is focused on efforts to prevent a future catastrophe. But real-time climate catastrophes already are playing out in the lives of millions of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. What will COP26 offer them?

Stick a pin in a map of global humanitarian emergencies, and you will most likely land on a crisis that has been caused or aggravated by droughts, floods, and storms. In 2019, extreme weather events pushed more than [34 million people](#) into hunger and food insecurity.

In the 55 countries with food-insecurity crises, [75 million children](#) under the age of five are chronically undernourished and face higher risks of diarrhea, pneumonia, and other killer diseases that accompany droughts and floods.

At COP26, world leaders should task the World Bank and the United Nations with developing a strategy to reach the 155 million people facing food-insecurity crises, and to prioritise children in safety-net design.

## Climate safety nets for all

Save the Children is responding to these emergencies. In the Horn of Africa, our nutrition programs are treating the children of farming families devastated by successive droughts, floods, and the worst desert locust infestation in a generation. In the Sahel region, we are working with communities hit by drought and displaced by increasingly deadly conflicts over water. But humanitarian efforts are being overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis – and worse is to come.

COP26 is one of our last opportunities to lock in the measures needed to keep temperatures within the 1.5°-2° Celsius ceiling set in 2015 by the Paris climate agreement. But even 1.5°C of warming would have disastrous implications for poverty and malnutrition in the poorest countries.

The evidence from climate science points overwhelmingly toward less predictable rainfall, more extreme, frequent, and protracted droughts, and more destructive storms. Meanwhile, the World Meteorological Association [anticipates](#) a long-term decline in food productivity in Africa, the world's most food-insecure region.

Rich countries are already investing heavily in adapting to climate-change threats. When disasters strike, their citizens can fall back on elaborate safety nets, well-financed health systems, and insurance policies covering loss and damage to assets.

Flood defenses are being strengthened across Europe, and America's current [Farm Bill](#) includes a \$39 billion federal insurance program to protect heavily subsidised producers against crop losses.

Contrast that with the situation facing Africa's farmers. When extreme weather events destroy crops, kill livestock, and drive up food prices, families cope by cutting meals and reducing spending on health and education.

Lacking insurance and savings, the poorest households are forced to sell off productive assets, including livestock, effectively closing their route to recovery. Livestock losses during Somalia's 2016 drought cost the country's farmers an [estimated \\$2 billion](#) – an extraordinary loss for some of the world's poorest people.

The international community's preferred first-line response to climate disaster is to provide humanitarian aid. That aid saves lives, but the current system invariably delivers too little, too late. Last year, donors provided [only half](#) of the funding requested by the UN – a record gap. And much of the aid arrived long after the most vulnerable families had already been forced to cut food consumption, withdraw children from school, and sell assets.

There is a better way to support the world's most vulnerable populations. Three years ago, I met women pastoral farmers in Wajir, an arid area in northern Kenya, in the aftermath of a devastating drought.

They had managed to avoid cutting meals for children or selling off their livestock because they were receiving cash through Kenya's [Hunger Safety Net Programme](#). As soon as the drought struck, early payments were automatically triggered (based on rainfall data).

Well-designed safety nets succeed where humanitarian aid often fails, because they catch vulnerable people as soon as they start to fall, instead of waiting until they hit the ground; thus, they provide a springboard for recovery. There is [abundant evidence](#) from the [Sahel](#), the Horn of



## Climate safety nets for all

Africa, and other regions that small cash transfers improve nutrition, increase investment, and boost crop production, especially when targeted to women. And these programs can respond rapidly to a crisis. During the 2017 drought, [Ethiopia's safety net](#) was extended to reach an additional three million people.

Early action is the key to rapid recovery. Every dollar invested in recovery during the first few weeks of a drought in the Horn of Africa can save poor farmers [\\$50](#) in lost income and assets four months later. When linked to early-warning systems, safety nets can also provide a platform for crisis prevention.

In Bangladesh, vulnerable households were provided grants ahead of anticipated flooding, enabling them to relocate. Beyond saving lives and protecting assets, [the program](#) reached twice as many people as a previous humanitarian response had, and at half the cost.

Targeted safety-net programs could offer an efficient and equitable way to build resilience against climate change. Unfortunately, they are currently weakest where they are most urgently needed.

Fewer than [one in five people](#) in low-income countries are currently covered; and in Africa, safety nets are chronically under-financed, fragmented, and poorly equipped to address the critical challenge of responding to [child poverty and malnutrition](#).

At COP26, world leaders should task the World Bank and the United Nations with developing a strategy to reach the 155 million people facing food-insecurity crises, and to prioritise children in [safety-net design](#).

Increased finance will be crucial, especially given the post-pandemic fiscal constraints that many developing countries now face. The G7 has already agreed in principle to authorise a new allocation of the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset, special drawing rights (SDRs).

Reallocating these funds to the poorest countries would go a long way toward creating the fiscal space to invest in safety nets. So, too, would additional debt relief and the \$25 billion in new funding [proposed](#) by the World Bank's International Development Association.

As the host of COP26, the United Kingdom's government should focus its climate-adaptation efforts on galvanising support for safety nets. Reversing its recent [decision](#) to cut the UK's foreign-aid budget by one-third would be a good starting point.

Slashing support for nutrition programs and climate-related humanitarian responses in regions like the Sahel and the Horn of Africa is a short-sighted dereliction of leadership, and an embarrassing retreat from multilateralism.

Safety nets are not an antidote for climate injustice. But, linked to decisive action to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century, they could limit the harm suffered by those who bear the least responsibility for the climate crisis. We must seize that opportunity at COP26.

*Kevin Watkins is CEO of Save the Children UK.*

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Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/climate-safety-nets-for-all/>

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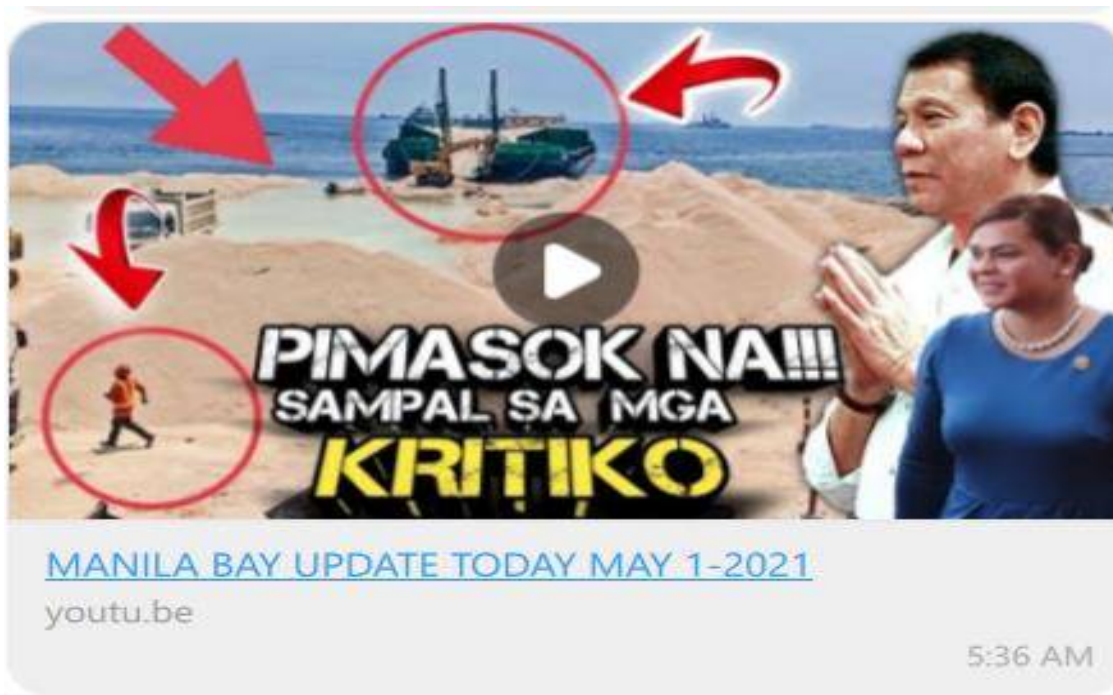
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[MANILA BAY... BULLDOZER HATAW NA HATAW NA!!!](https://youtu.be/2dZv0QPJZgA)

youtu.be

5:41 AM

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