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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Cimatu tells legislators: Protect wetlands

Published August 31, 2021, 1:44 PM

by [Joseph Pedrajas](#)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is urging lawmakers to come up with and pass a measure protecting the country's wetlands in a bid to fight threats of climate change.

Cimatu made the call as he said, "there has been no single Philippine legislation that advances wetland conservation and its wise use."

He added that while there are existing laws containing provisions that directly and indirectly promote wetland conservation, "not one deal specifically on wetlands."

"If legislated, the national law on wetland will serve as the mother law for all wetlands in the country including peatlands. This will address the gray areas on our existing policies relevant to wetlands conservation," Cimatu said in a statement.



Photo courtesy of DENR

Currently, the country has two existing bills for wetland protection and conservation, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said. They are the substitute bill entitled, "An Act Institutionalizing the National Wetlands Conservation Policy"; and House Bill 7206 or the proposed National Peatland and Peatland Resources Act.

The substitute bill, which will be known as the National Wetlands Conservation Act, will apply to the protection and conservation of all types of wetlands in the Philippines. This includes the protection of inland wetlands, such as rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps, coastal and marine, and human-made wetlands.

In the case of human-made wetlands, the proposed legislation will apply to those with high biodiversity value, critical wildlife habitat, and are part of the migratory routes of birds and fishes.

DENR Undersecretary for Special Concerns Edilberto Leonardo said the public's role in raising awareness for the protection and conservation of wetlands, including peatlands, is crucial for the immediate legislation of the existing bills.

A peatland is a type of wetland whose peat soils consist of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter. If kept wet, a peatland can store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined.



Leonardo said wetlands are one of the most productive habitats on earth which provide various benefits critical for human survival, such as a source of drinking water, food, shelter, and livelihood activities. “It also plays an important role in disaster risk reduction such as flood control,” he added.

“If our legislators would see and know how strongly the public supports these bills, they will realize how important the passage of these bills are into national laws,” he said. Leonardo called on the public to express its support to the measure by using social media and join public discussion about wetlands’ benefits. “They can even send petitions or letters of support to their district representatives and local government units to conserve these critical ecosystems,” he added.



## Cimatu gets praise from PRRD for his environmental protection efforts

August 30, 2021 4 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu already got compliments for his commitment to protect the environment during President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's "Talk to the People" recently.

During the event, President Duterte also thanked Cimatu for his part in the country, especially his efforts to facilitate Boracay Island and Manila Bay rehabilitation.

"In not so many words, talagang industrious ka. Typical of a military upbringing. Salamat sa contribution mo sa bayan natin," said the President.

"For so many years you had every chance to do it (clean up Manila Bay), was there anybody willing to take the problem by its horn? Si Cimatu lang, magpasalamat tayo," the President said as he talked about the critics of the "dolomite beach" in Manila Bay.

President Duterte also commended Cimatu for his eagerness to discuss the Manila Bay pollution.

In the meeting, Cimatu spoke on the major programs of the DENR under the Duterte Administration, especially the Boracay Island and Manila Bay Rehabilitation, and the Task Force Build Back Better.

In 2018, President Duterte signed an Executive Order (EO) No. 53 making the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force and Proclamation No. 475 mandating the closure of Boracay for six months after the Chief Executive dubbed Boracay as a "cesspool."

Cimatu said that after the Boracay rehabilitation, the water quality of Boracay was down to 50 most probable number/100 mL (mpn/100mL), making it good for swimming and other recreational activities.

On October 26, 2018, Boracay re-opened to the public, which according to Cimatu, increased tourism and generated employment.

The island also gained insider recognition after its restoration.



Conde Nast Traveller, recognized as one of the most seen and trusted authorities on lifestyle travel, named Boracay as “the Best Island in Asia” and one of the 30 Best Islands in the World for 2019.

After the Boracay restoration, President Duterte issued Administrative Order No. 16 making the Manila Bay Task Force in compliance with the Supreme Court mandamus to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level to make it fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation.

Cimatu said water quality in the Manila Bay area has improved to 7,000 most probable number per 100 milliliters (mpn/100 mL) in June 2021 from 5.75 million mpn/100 mL in 2019.

President Duterte emphasized that the task to clean up was “not an easy task,” but Cimatu took charge.

“Gano’n karumi ang dagat when Secretary Cimatu embarked sa kanyang expedition to clean Manila Bay, it is not an easy task,” the President pointed out.

Aside from the Manila Baywalk geoengineering interventions and beach nourishment projects, Cimatu said the Manila Bay Task Force was able to merge with private sectors to dredge rivers and esteros resulting in Manila Bay and construct a solar-powered sewage treatment plant.

The DENR also closed down non-compliant buildings and cleaned the Baseco beach in Tondo, Manila. It also remains to talk about the relocation of informal settler families inside the danger zones.

As a result of the strong typhoons that hit the country in 2020, President Duterte issued EO 120 creating the Task Force Build Back Better (TF BBB) co-chaired by Cimatu and DPWH Sec. Mark Villar.

The task force was tasked to restore the hard-hit areas of Cagayan province, Marikina City, and Bicol Region.

Cimatu said that with the help of the DPWH, a total volume of 346,914 cubic meters was dredged from the major rivers of Cagayan.

So far, 32,836 bamboo seedlings were also planted covering 101 hectares for the stabilization of river banks.

Cimatu also reported the success in rehabilitating the Marikina River Basin where 67,425 cubic meters were dredged and a total of 8,652 fruit-bearing trees and bamboo were planted.

In the Bicol River Basin, 33,872 cubic meters were dredged and 269,960 bamboo culms were planted.

The DENR chief also talked about the protection of forests to increase forest cover in the country and the planting of indigenous species in protected areas.

He also said that TF BBB has given biodiversity-friendly enterprises to communities and monitored threatened species.

Moreover, Cimatu highlighted that air quality in the country is within healthy and safe levels.



He also said that the DENR made the Adopt-an-Estero a strong program to authorize the Clean Water Act, closed down all open dumpsites, and managed the healthcare waste.

On land management, Cimatu said that under the Duterte administration, patents were endlessly granted to beneficiaries through the “Handog Titulo Program.” (AI/MTVN)



#EagleNews

### Baywalk waters may soon be fit for swimming, other recreations

57 views • Aug 31, 2021

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The waters off the Baywalk area along Manila Bay can soon be fit for swimming and other contact recreational activities.

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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPINo2pfSuA>



# PH eyes Japan's help in protecting ozone layer, climate

By Catherine Teves August 31, 2021, 5:54 pm



**MANILA** – The Philippines aims to secure Japan's assistance on safely disposing hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from various industries nationwide.

Such assistance will enable the country to destroy HCFCs and HFCs without releasing these substances' gases into the air -- protecting the ozone layer and climate, noted the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) OIC Assistant Director Vizminda Osorio.

"At present, the Philippines is coordinating with Japan's Ministry of the Environment regarding the possibility of having a destruction facility here in our country," she said during this month's *Ang Tinig Klima* program aired on August 27 for the 2021 observance of the annual International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (IDPOL) on Sept. 16.

Located in the atmosphere, she said the ozone layer is the mantle of ozone molecules shielding Earth from over-exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays.

HCFCs are ozone-depleting substances (ODS) used in refrigeration and other applications but which the Philippines is phasing out in line with its commitment under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Montreal Protocol is the international environmental agreement on preventing further ozone layer depletion by eliminating ODS use.

"It laid down mechanisms for control and phase-out of ODS," Osorio said.

HFCs are non-ODS alternatives to HCFCs but which have high global warming potential.

According to experts, there is a need for industry alternatives that will protect the ozone layer from further depletion without increasing global warming that is driving climate change.

Phasing down HFCs is aligned with Montreal Protocol's Kigali Amendment which the Philippines and other parties to this agreement approved in 2016, noted the Philippine Ozone Desk (POD).





POD facilitates and coordinates ODS phase-out projects and policies in the country.

The Kigali Amendment seeks to help boost the fight against climate change by requiring parties to the Montreal Protocol to gradually phase down HFC production and use, the POD added.

The Philippines has set its HFC phase-down in 2024.

Osorio said work is already underway to provide safe storage for HCFCs and HFCs in the country.

"EMB, with the help of Pollution Adjudication Board, is building a storage facility in San Mateo Rizal for such substances," she said.

Recovered HCFCs and HFCs will be temporarily stored in that facility before being delivered to the destruction facility for these substances, she noted.

Industry stakeholders concerned regularly receive EMB's reminder to always properly manage and recover respective HCFCs and HFCs so these won't leak into the air, Osorio continued.

"We're also seeking alternatives that don't destroy the ozone layer and increase global warming," she said.

"Montreal Protocol - Keeping Us, our Food and Vaccines Cool" is the 2021 IDPOL theme, said UN Environment Programme.

In 1994, UN General Assembly designated Sept. 16 of every year as IDPOL to commemorate countries' signing of Montreal Protocol in 1987.

Scientists' discovery of a hole in the ozone layer has fueled international action on the matter, including the crafting of the Montreal Protocol.

Earlier, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the Montreal Protocol as "an inspirational example of how humanity is capable of cooperating to address a global challenge" and a "key instrument for tackling today's climate crisis".

As a result of international cooperation on the matter, he said the ozone layer "is healing".  
**(PNA)**

Source:

[https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152141?fbclid=IwAR0GU\\_IJNpT\\_a7cRa51HRgZVMVqK9Ntgc4AThtnhJZNkvMsSiDSHlNX9HS0](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152141?fbclid=IwAR0GU_IJNpT_a7cRa51HRgZVMVqK9Ntgc4AThtnhJZNkvMsSiDSHlNX9HS0)



# DENR puts up rice mills, VCO facilities, solar dryers to uplift livelihood of upland dwellers, protect Wahig Inabanga watershed

August 31, 2021 3 min read

By Rjhay E. Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has put up two (2) rice mills, a virgin coconut oil facility, and a multi-commodity solar dryer in Wahig Inabanga watershed in Bohol to help protect the watershed and uplift the livelihood of upland dwellers.

It is part of the Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Management Program (INREMP) which aims to protect the watershed around the Wahig Inabanga River and to provide livelihood activities to civil society and people’s organizations in the upland.

Wahig Inabanga is the largest and most important river in Region 7 (Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor) and is recognized as a watershed reservation under Proclamation No. 468.



The area is a huge potential source of water for agricultural, commercial, industrial, and household uses, and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has constructed a dam to provide irrigation to about 5,000 hectares of agricultural land in four valley towns located in its vicinity (Sierra Bullones, Pilar, Dagohoy, and San Miguel).

The dam also supplies the domestic water needs of 637,097 households while the rice mills are now managed by the people's organization (PO) of DAFA and MVEGEGRO (Matinao Vegetable Growers Association).

A separate all-weather dryer facility has been put up for the KUFFARD (Kauswagan United Farmers for Forest and Agro-Forest Resources Development) and a multi-commodity solar tunnel dryer for COMASFARMA (Confraternity of Mayana Small Farmers).

Since these facilities have been constructed, around 2,700 beneficiaries have enjoyed their production of nearly 450,000 kilos of palay, corn, cassava, and assorted fish.



INREMP has also put up a virgin coconut oil facility to enhance the livelihood of the communities. For the fishing residents, a fish pen coral in the area has been constructed.

A total of P17.7 million has been allocated for these livelihood projects with 66 units and a total of 52 people's organization beneficiaries.

For their water supply, a concrete water reservoir and a water system transformer have been constructed while the upland communities who are helping the government in natural resource management (NRM) as they protect the forests and mountains were provided with farm-to-market roads (FMRs) through INREMP.

These FMRs are needed by the upland communities in order to transport their agricultural goods to the market from the mountains. Such roads, among around 15 rural infrastructure projects, have been constructed with the help of local government units (LGU) in the towns of Danao, Inabanga, Trinidad, San Miguel, and Talibon, among others.





INREMP is funded by the Asian Development Bank with a counterpart fund from the Philippine government. As the project nears completion, a total of 4,316.67 hectares of forest land has been properly put under NRM.

This consists of the following: 758 hectares of reforestation with a contract cost of P19.169 million, benefitting 24 POs; 1,439 hectares of agroforestry area, with a contract cost of P43.684 million, benefitting 47 POs; and 1,644 hectares of Assisted Natural Regeneration area with a contract cost of P46.625 million, benefitting 30 POs.

There is also a conservation farming area of 331 hectares with a contract cost of P19.8 million and 30 PO beneficiaries while a total of 134 hectares of commercial tree planting area has been put up,

Source: [https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/31/denr-puts-up-rice-mills-vco-facilities-solar-dryers-to-uplift-livelihood-of-upland-dwellers-protect-wahig-inabanga-watershed/?fbclid=IwAR0yKfwx6wrWPC6h1phJ3RUTGH0gHr\\_vhx4V1F1MEo1Wukqd-4GThmBslWA](https://maharlika.tv/2021/08/31/denr-puts-up-rice-mills-vco-facilities-solar-dryers-to-uplift-livelihood-of-upland-dwellers-protect-wahig-inabanga-watershed/?fbclid=IwAR0yKfwx6wrWPC6h1phJ3RUTGH0gHr_vhx4V1F1MEo1Wukqd-4GThmBslWA)



## Watershed protection

posted August 31, 2021 at 08:50 pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources puts up rice mills, a virgin coconut oil facility and a multi-commodity solar dryer as part of a project protecting the watershed around Wahig Inabanga River in Bohol. Wahig Inabanga is the largest and most important river in Central Visayas, and is recognized as a watershed reservation under Proclamation No. 468.



# Thousands of seedlings planted in Buhay Forest in Cavite

By [Dennis Abrina](#) August 31, 2021

**MAGALLANES, CAVITE:** Around 2,000 narra seedlings and 1,750 saplings of fruit-bearing trees, such as mango, calamandril, guyabano, kasoy and cacao, were planted at Buhay Forest in Barangay San Agustin here on Thursday.

Cavite Provincial Environment and [Natural Resources Office](#) (Penro) chief Ronita Unlayao stressed the importance of ensuring the survival of the seedlings planted.

"[Ang](#) inisyatibong ito ay marapat tularan ng ibang mga tree cutting permittee holders na kung saan ang replacement seedlings ay [sama](#)-samang itanim ng lokal na komunidad at iba't-ibang ahensiya sa lugar. Ito'y upang masigurado na ang pamalit na puno ay mabubuhay at magagampanan ang natatangi nitong halaga sa kalikasan," Unlayao said.

The activity was organized by the [Municipal Environment](#) and Natural Resources Office of Magallanes under engineer [Freddie Sisante](#) with the assistance of Penro-Cavite. Representatives from various stakeholders and partner agencies participated in the tree-planting activity.

The activity was undertaken to promote the [National Greening Program](#) of the department.



# 'Overdeveloped': Boracay resident says casino can be taken elsewhere

ABS-CBN News Posted at Aug 31 2021 10:17 AM

MANILA – Boracay residents are not in favor of the building of a casino in the island as this may spawn other developments that threaten its carrying capacity, a group of locals said Tuesday.

“We’re talking about 23 hectares of land that will be occupied, and that’s not good because we have issues in carrying capacity,” Natives of Boracay and Business Stakeholders founder Cris Cahilig said.

“Imagine the power requirement of the 23-hectare complex and also the sewerage system that is not fully capable yet on the island, as well as we have the building moratorium wherein we don’t allow the constructions anymore because of the overdevelopment.”

Cahilig said that the opening of a casino on the island is good for the economy and will provide employment to locals.

“But Boracay is saturated, Boracay is overdeveloped already. It’s better if [they build] somewhere else,” she added.

She said the building of a casino may in turn require the building of a hydroelectric power plant in mainland Aklan, which will threaten Boracay’s water reservoir.

“If they disallowed other developments to build, and they will allow these 23 hectares to be developed, in effects, what will be? They will allow a lot of developments in effect.”

“It’s very wrong to have Boracay as a sacrificial lamb because this government failed to address COVID-19,” she said.

Cahilig said the best way government can help Boracay’s economy is to vaccinate its residents so the island can reopen again to tourists.

She also backed calls to give Boracay its own quarantine classification separate from that of Aklan province.

“We have our own airport, we have our own port, tourists can go here without going out of the province,” she said.

News of the possible building of a casino in Boracay first surfaced in 2018 after President Duterte ordered the entire island closed to tourists for 6 months.

Macau casino giant Galaxy Entertainment and its Filipino partner, Leisure and Resorts World Corp (LRWC), earlier announced the building of a \$500-million integrated resort in Boracay.

LRWC claimed that the facility, set to be built in a 23-hectare property, is "not a "mega casino" as detractors claim, but a top leisure destination in Boracay targeting Asian families."

Duterte, however, said that Boracay should be casino-free when it opens. He added that he will give government-owned lands in the island to farmers.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/08/31/21/boracay-resident-says-casino-can-be-taken-elsewhere>



# Don't spoil Boracay with a casino

September 1, 2021

THE decision by President [Rodrigo Duterte](#) to allow the establishment of casinos on [Boracay Island](#) is unfortunate and wrong, and will result in costs far greater than any amount of revenue the government might hope to extract from it.

In his weekly "Talk to the People," aired during the wee hours last Thursday, Duterte said the reversal of his firm stance against gambling was necessary to provide more sources of revenue for the government.

To his credit, the President acknowledged the obvious contradiction and apologized for it. Speaking in Tagalog, he explained, "If you ask me why I said I don't like gambling, but now, I am encouraging the opening of a gambling house in Boracay for tourists? Please forgive me for the contradiction. We have no more money."

The President also recently lifted a three-year ban on the construction of new casinos in the country and in July, allowed the resumption of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs), which are primarily operated and staffed by Chinese workers.

"I would get money wherever I could. If it has to be from gambling, so be it... But I need money to keep the government running," Duterte said.

To provide some dimension to the revenue opportunity the President is considering, in 2019, the Philippine Amusement and [Gaming Corp.](#) reported that casino operations had generated a total of about P56 billion in tax revenues. Taxes from POGOs, which the Chinese government has repeatedly asked the [Philippines](#) to ban, amounted to about P6.4 billion.

That is not an insignificant amount of money, but it hardly qualifies as a miracle cure to the Philippines' financial woes; P56 billion would be the equivalent of just 0.11 percent of the P5.024-trillion proposed national budget for 2022. Of course, there are other benefits to the economy, such as taxes and consumer spending, that come from gaming industry workers' salaries and the casinos' place in local supply chains.

These benefits, however, have to be balanced against the added social and economic costs of allowing a gaming industry, including the increased risk of criminal activity, the impact on the environment, the impact on infrastructure and services and the increased risk of social issues such as gambling addiction. All of these risks can be properly monitored and controlled but at a cost to resources that might be better applied elsewhere.

Even so, there is probably some merit in lifting the ban on new casinos; their contribution to government revenues and the overall economy, while decidedly modest, seems to be nonetheless positive. If the country's financial shape is as bad as President Duterte seems to be suggesting it is, then every little gain will help.

However, we believe that current and likely near-term realities strongly suggest that any expansion of the casino industry should be constrained to areas where it is already established and that it should be kept away from Boracay in particular.

First, the coronavirus pandemic is nearly two years old and only now peaking in severity; any planning that assumes it will be under control by a certain date or that pre-pandemic "business as usual" will still be applicable is foolhardy.





Furthermore, the assertive anti-gambling stance of the Chinese government cannot be lightly dismissed. [China](#) is overwhelmingly the biggest market for gambling in the Philippines, but from the Chinese leadership's point of view, gambling primarily serves the purpose of money laundering and tax avoidance for its people. It has in the past, suggested - quite diplomatically, to be sure - that there may be consequences for countries that do not cooperate. Given the Philippines' deep reliance on Chinese investment, this may be more of a risk than our leaders are willing to recognize.

Finally, after having expended a great deal of time and money to restore Boracay to its rightful place as the Philippines' tourism destination showpiece, permitting a casino, with all the risks and stresses on the community that go with it, seems self-defeating. There are better ways for the government to raise revenues, but if those ways must be through casinos, there are certainly other places better suited for them.

# Dumaguete reclamation proponent: ‘No turning back’

By: Irma Faith Pal - Philippine Daily Inquirer | August 30, 2021 - 09:38 AM



NO WAY: Environmentalists, fisherfolk and youth groups hold a candle-lighting protest at the boulevard of Dumaguete City on Aug. 13 to express their sentiments against the proposed 174-hectare reclamation project in the area. (Photo courtesy of DENNIZ FUTALAN)

DUMAGUETE CITY, Negros Oriental, Philippines – A private developer is bent on undertaking the 174-hectare reclamation project in this city despite opposition from various groups who raised its devastating impact on the marine environment and the coastal communities relying on fisheries for food and livelihood.

E.M. Cuerpo Inc. told the city council in a letter last week that it would proceed with the project that it said would offer the needed infrastructure and “jobs and livelihood, income through taxes and fees, a strengthened tourism industry and a workforce who don’t need to seek overseas employment.”

“It is unlikely for E.M. Cuerpo to back out,” said the firm’s legal counsel, Alaine Arnolf Palomo, in the letter.

Councilor Agustin Miguel Perdices lamented that E.M. Cuerpo’s letter contained only general ideas.

Perdices was one of the councilors who lost by one vote when the city council voted 6-5 in July to grant Mayor Felipe Remollo the authority to enter into an agreement with E.M. Cuerpo for the reclamation project.

“We asked for numbers, we asked for figures, [but] all we got were sentences,” Perdices said.

Perdices’ sentiment was shared by the majority of the councilors who this time passed a resolution inviting E.M. Cuerpo to appear in their session on Sept. 8.

## Financially capable

In its letter, E.M. Cuerpo said it was financially capable of undertaking the P23-billion project despite its lack of experience in reclamation work.

E.M. Cuerpo, one of the country’s leading construction companies, earlier entered into a memorandum of understanding with Poly Changda Engineering Co., a China government-backed reclamation firm, to subcontract the project in Dumaguete.



They assured stakeholders of Dumaguete that “no tremendous damage would be caused to the environment and the livelihood of fishermen.”

“On the contrary, [the source of food and livelihood] will be supplemented greatly by the jobs and business opportunities the project will generate,” E.M. Cuerpo said.

The contractor did not specify the technology that would be used for the reclamation nor did they show the detailed mitigation plans.

### **No Pogo**

E.M. Cuerpo stressed it would not be assigning ownership of 49 percent of the reclaimed land to Poly Changda as payment for its reclamation services.

It also denied that Philippine offshore gaming operators (Pogos) will operate in the reclaimed area. Pogos refer to mostly Chinese firms operating online gambling services in the Philippines for markets abroad.

It said their project would infuse an initial investment of more than P23 billion, more than 40 times the city’s annual internal revenue allotment.

After the reclamation is completed, the contractor said new businesses in tourism, trading, technology, shipping, energy development, and education would come in.

The government stands to receive a 51-percent share of the reclaimed land, and 25 percent of the net income from the businesses generated there.

The contractor, on one hand, will own 49 percent of the reclaimed land and earn 75 percent from the net income of businesses developed in the area.



# Pagbubuga ng black smoke dahil sa dami ng cremated COVID-19 positive, ikinabahala ng CdeO residents

By [Bombo Radyo CdeO](#) -August 31, 2021 | 11:54 PM

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – Pinawi ngayon ni City Mayor Oscar Moreno ang pangamba ng publiko sa usaping pangkalusugan ukol sa pagbubuga ng makapal na usok mula sa mga bangkay na positibo ng Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) na isinailalim ng cremation mula sa dalawang pribadong funeral homes ng Cagayan de Oro City.

Una rito, ikinabahala ng ilang mga residente kung ano ang maidudulot nito sa kanilang katawan kung malanghap ang usok mula sa crematorium site na abalang-abala dahil kada-araw ay mayroong susunugin na mga bangkay na positibo ng virus sa Barangay Bulua ng lungsod.

Inihayag ni Moreno na pina-imbestigahan na niya ito at natuklasan na wala umanong nadadala na anumang ash fall mula sa crematorium na maaring dadapo sa katawan ng mga buhay o kaya'y sa mga pagkain sa loob ng kabahayan ang usok.

Aminado ang alkalde na labis ang pangamba ng ilang residente na malapit lamang sa cremation area subalit hindi raw umano sila dapat mangangamba.

Umapela rin ang mayor na sa halip na magalit ay intindihin na lamang at mag-alay ng dasal para sa mga yumao na mga tinamaan ng bayrus dahil wala naman umanong kahit isa na gustong masawi dahil sa virus infections.

Magugunitang sa mahigit isang taon na pandemya sa bansa, nasa 17,100 na ang cumulative cases sa lungsod kung saan 730 rito ang komfirmadong na sawi.



# Rescuers save 3 quarry workers in landslide in Bohol

By: Leo Udtohan - Correspondent / @leoudtohanINQ - Inquirer.net|August 30,2021 - 08:29 PM

TAGBILARAN CITY – Authorities rescued a family of three following a landslide in Barangay San Jose in Getafe town, Bohol on Monday afternoon, August 30.

Franco Torremocha, 46; his live-in partner Elizabeth Cuajao, 32; and their five-year-old son were quarrying limestone when the landslide occurred at around 2:50 p.m., said Police Corporal Rowel Botero, investigator of the Getafe police.

The family worked as laborers in a small quarry in the village, at least four kilometers away from the town proper.

Policemen immediately responded and conducted a rescue operation.

The three individuals were brought to the President Carlos P. Garcia Memorial Hospital in Talibon town for treatment of the minor injuries they sustained.

JPV



## Banks urged to focus on climate change, sustainable growth

BY **BMPLUS** AUGUST 31, 2021



As the pandemic continues to inflict the global economy, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) expressed the need for Asian banks to step up efforts to address climate change while pushing for sustainable growth.

In the first day of the four-day virtual 37th ABA General Meeting and Conference on “Achieving Sustainable Growth in the New Normal” hosted by the Asian Bankers Association’s (ABA) on August 24-27, RCBC president and chief executive officer Eugene S. Acevedo endeavored that the global banking community must address climate change and global heating amid the pandemic.

“With the pandemic continuing its devastating impact on global markets, countries around the world are intensely focused on transforming their economic base and preparing for what appears to be a long, tough journey ahead,” Acevedo said.

Acevedo chaired the first session of this year’s prestigious ABA meet, which was attended by some of the leading regional economists, bank executives, regulators, and representatives from the academe. Focusing on the topic “Responding to Challenges and Disruptions in a Changing Global Ecosystem”, the session featured speakers and panelists who shared their narratives on the challenges and disruptions brought about by the pandemic on their respective communities, and their efforts to find innovative solutions to adapt in the so-called new normal. Le Xia, chief economist for Asia at BBVA Research Department, said climate change and global heating is a much bigger threat compared to economic challenges brought about by the pandemic and the political tensions between the United States and China.

Ashwini Kumar Tewari, managing director of State Bank of India, agreed that climate change is a “bigger emergency” and that banks should prepare for it.

DBS Group Research managing director and chief economist Taimur Baig for his part said climate change initiatives can “give banks a major shot in the arm” while they struggle with low interest rates and all the other challenges.

“I think climate or green finance is probably going to be the only real fast-growing aspect of finance in the rest of our professional lives. Everything else is going to be a really hard slog,” Baig said.

He added that banks have an important role to play with the governments around the world, particularly in Asia, as large climate related finance needs are going to be met through fundraising and issuances.



He brought forward that Asian banks form regional consortiums because of the huge funding needs in terms of green projects, such as renewable energy (RE) sources.

“It is so large [and] very few banks are big enough to swallow it on their own. They would have to be part of syndicates, which will then work side by side with the governments. [For example] The government of Singapore has a \$100-billion plan to deal with rising sea levels. China is coming up with numbers that we can’t even fathom [because] it’s so large,” Baig further said.

In the Philippines, RCBC is one of the few Philippine banks leading the efforts to fund sustainable projects including the use of renewable energy. It is also one of the first major financial institutions in the country to formally announce that it will stop financing coal-fired power projects, which have a negative impact on the environment.

ABA is a regional association of commercial banks and financial institutions from some 25 countries in Asia Pacific. Established in 1981, the ABA aims to provide a forum for advancing the cause of the banking and finance industry in the region and promoting regional economic cooperation. RCBC is an active member of ABA and currently represented in the ABA Board of Directors by Acevedo.



# UN calls for tough acts for ecosystems

By Xinhua September 1, 2021

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary General António Guterres on Monday (Tuesday in [Manila](#)) called for bold action to safeguard biodiversity.

"Biodiversity is collapsing and we are the losers... Ecosystems are suffering. Oceans are overfished, choking with plastic waste and acidifying.

And, every year, we destroy 10 million hectares of forests," he told "PreCOP Biodiversity 2021," a high-level event organized by [Colombia](#) ahead of the upcoming 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in Kunming, [China](#).

"As people and livestock encroach further into wild habitats, we run the risk of unleashing terrifying new pandemics.

As we reduce the variety and abundance of life, we remove options for society - from medicines to foods to the crucial solutions we need to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption.

And when we degrade and destroy ecosystems around the world, we undermine their ability to absorb emissions and limit global heating to 1.5 degrees," he said.

"Humanity is waging a senseless and self-destructive war against nature. We must declare peace. This must be a priority for everyone, everywhere," he said.

Only bold action on the ground can end the biodiversity crisis, he said. "The future of humanity depends on our collective efforts.

So, today, I call on all countries to make strong, credible commitments and to take ambitious action. The world needs you to demonstrate leadership and political will. Let us work together to sustain all life on Earth so people and nature may benefit."

There is a need for a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will inspire action around the world by all - governments, businesses and citizens. Everyone must act on the understanding that protecting nature will create a fairer, healthier and more sustainable world, he said.

"The world is counting on an ambitious agreement that engages all stakeholders and equips us with the tools to transform our relationship with nature. The plan must fully reflect all the values of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems including - and especially - their value to our economies."

There is a need to support agriculture and fisheries that do not overexploit and destroy the natural world. There is a need for ecosystems that help the world adapt and build resilience to climate change.

Governments must shift the perverse subsidies that destroy healthy soils, pollute water and empty the oceans of fish to those that incentivize actions to sustain nature.





Countries need to deliver more, larger and better-managed conservation areas to safeguard species, functioning ecosystems and carbon stocks for this and future generations.

There is also a need to safeguard and empower the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities whose lands encompass much of the world's remaining biodiversity, he said.



## Planet in peril: Global conservation congress urges wildlife protection

posted August 31, 2021 at 11:00 am by [AFP and Marlowe Hood](#)

When the world's leading conservation congress kicks off Friday in the French port city of Marseille it will aim to deliver one key message: protecting wildlife must not be seen as a noble gesture but an absolute necessity—for people and the planet.

Loss of biodiversity, climate change, pollution, diseases spreading from the wild have become existential threats that cannot be "understood or addressed in isolation," the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said ahead of the meeting in a vision statement endorsed by its 1,400 members.

Over nine days, government ministries, indigenous groups, and NGOs—backed by a network of 16,000 scientists—will hammer out conservation proposals that could help set the agenda at critical upcoming UN summits on food systems, biodiversity, and climate change.

Previous congresses paved the way for global treaties on biodiversity and the international trade in endangered species.

"This is the only place where both governments and conservation organisations, big and small, are all members," said Susan Lieberman, a 30-year conservation veteran and vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

"When IUCN says 'this is our position', that's not just one more conservation group," she added.

"It's a position informed by almost every government and every conservation organisation in the world."

### 'Mass extinction'

The World Economic Forum has put a hard number on our vulnerability: \$44 trillion of economic value generated every year -- half of global GDP—largely dependent on services rendered by nature, from water for agriculture to healthy soil in which to grow our food.

The creatures with which we share the planet are at high risk too—from us.

As the human population climbs toward nine billion by mid-century, many creatures are being crowded, eaten, snared, poisoned, poached, hawked, and hunted out of existence.

Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of the IUCN's Red List Unit, said that if species' destruction continues on its current trajectory, "we'll be facing a major crisis soon".

"I would certainly say that we're on the cusp of a sixth mass extinction event," he told AFP.

In each of the previous mass die-offs over the last half-billion years, at least three-quarters of all species were wiped out.

The IUCN has assessed nearly 135,000 species over the last half-century for its Red List of Threatened Species, the gold standard for measuring how close animal and plant life are to vanishing forever.

Nearly 28 percent are currently at risk of extinction, with habitat loss, overexploitation, and illegal trade driving the loss.



Big cats, for example, have lost more than 90 percent of their historic range and population, with only 20,000 lions, 7,000 cheetahs, 4,000 tigers, and a few dozen Amur leopards left in the wild.

Invasive species are also taking a toll, especially in island ecosystems where unique species of birds have already fallen prey to rodents, snakes, and disease-bearing mosquitos that hitched rides from explorers, cargo ships, or passenger planes.

An update of the Red List on September 4 is likely to show a deepening crisis.

### **'Our right to exist'**

For the first time in the IUCN's seven-decade history, indigenous peoples will share their deep knowledge on how best to heal the natural world as voting members.

One proposal calls for a global pact to protect 80 percent of Amazonia by 2025.

"We are demanding from the world our right to exist as peoples, to live with dignity in our territories," said Jose Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, lead coordinator for COICA, which represents indigenous groups in nine Amazon-basin nations.

Recent research has warned that unbridled deforestation and climate change are pushing the Amazon towards a disastrous "regime change" which would see tropical forests give way to savannah-like landscapes.

Rates of tree loss drop sharply in the forests where native peoples live, especially if they hold some degree of title -- legal or customary -- over land.

"Indigenous peoples have long stewarded and protected the world's forests, a crucial bulwark against climate change," said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

### **An ocean of plastic pollution**

Other motions offer a lifeline to ailing oceans, including one calling for an end to plastic pollution by 2030.

Plastic debris causes the deaths of more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals, from otters to whales.

Wildlife trafficking, a multi-billion-dollar business that has flourished in the internet era, will also be in the spotlight.

This year's congress was delayed from 2020 and will still be hampered by the pandemic, with a hybrid format of in-person and online attendance.

And then there's the question of money and the fact that so little of it has been earmarked for nature.

Current global spending of about \$80 billion a year needs to be increased 10-fold, said Sebastien Moncorps, director of France's IUCN committee.

"That's about one percent of global GDP, but when you realise that half of all economic activity depends on nature being healthy, that's a good return on investment."

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/363745>

# How to make mapping and monitoring zero-deforestation commitments effective

Experts have identified 12 attributes of effective zero deforestation commitment, or ZDC, and mapping and monitoring systems.



The squirrel-sized black lion tamarin is one of the world's most endangered mammals. Image: [rogersmithpix](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

By Hans Nicholas Jong, Mongabay.com  
Aug. 31, 2021

Experts say that since there's no one-size-fits-all solution to achieve effective zero deforestation commitment (ZDC) mapping and monitoring, they have created an attribute framework to guide the development of effective ZDC mapping and monitoring systems.

Effective mapping and monitoring systems are deemed integral to help companies around the world in eliminating deforestation from their agricultural production systems and global commodity supply chains, such as oil palm, beef, and soy.

To identify the attributes of effective systems, 17 experts from academia, the private sector and environmental NGOs, [gathered](#) in 2019 for a two-day workshop supported by the Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP). SNAPP is a partnership of The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The experts identified 12 attributes of ZDC mapping and monitoring systems that contribute to their credibility, salience, legitimacy, and scalability — the four criteria that enable stakeholders to make better-informed decisions and act on their commitments to protect forests.

The goal of this effort was not to identify a single best ZDC mapping and monitoring approach, but to help supply chain actors and multi-stakeholder ZDC initiatives design mapping and monitoring systems that will meet user needs and contribute to reducing commodity-driver deforestation.

Kemen G. Austin, senior policy analyst, RTI International

The attributes can be used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing or potential mapping and monitoring systems, and to identify gaps that could be filled by integrating multiple approaches.

"The goal of this effort was not to identify a single best ZDC mapping and monitoring approach, but to help supply chain actors and multi-stakeholder ZDC initiatives design mapping and monitoring systems that will meet user needs and contribute to reducing commodity-driver deforestation," Kemen G. Austin, a senior policy analyst at NGO RTI and one of the report authors, told Mongabay by email.

The attribute framework is explained in detailed in a paper published in journal [BioScience](#).

### **Credibility**

There are three attributes contributing to a credible mapping and monitoring system — technical rigor, consistency, and accuracy.

The technical rigor of a ZDC mapping and monitoring system represents the degree to which the system integrates best scientific practices into its protocols.

Consistent ZDC mapping or monitoring systems use the same — or comparable — methods and assumptions across space and over time, a necessary condition for identifying differences and trends.

Accurate ZDC mapping and monitoring systems correctly identify forest cover characteristics and deforestation occurrence at or exceeding a minimum level of confidence specified by the ZDC initiative in question.

### **Saliency**

Besides being credible, mapping and monitoring systems also have to be salient, meaning that their outputs are relevant to their users and address their needs.

The three attributes associated with saliency are geographic scope, monitoring frequency, and land cover categorical detail, according to the experts.

In terms of geographic scope, it is fundamental for mapping and monitoring systems to include the geographic areas where companies with ZDCs that use the systems source their deforestation-risk products.

As for monitoring frequency, it will depend on the need of the users. If the users want to be more responsive to problems and deforestation on the ground, then they're likely need more frequent monitoring.

“Early detection on the order of days or weeks might be a priority for a company that wants to be able to act quickly if unexpected clearing is detected within their property,” the report states. “On the other hand, a system that provides less frequent but more accurate outputs may be preferable when identifying properties or producers that have not complied with ZDC criteria.” Categorical detail refers to the ability of mapping and monitoring systems to distinguish land cover and land cover change relevant to and matching the definition of deforestation used by a given individual or collective ZDC.

Different mapping and monitoring systems may use different land cover categories and definition of deforestation, depending on their needs.

For instance, the definition of deforestation and land cover category used by federal government mapping and monitoring system, are different from the ones used by the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA).

PRODES maps only primary forest, and loss within primary forest, in the Legal Amazon (which includes all of the Brazilian portion of the Amazon biome). Once an area has been deforested, PRODES will no longer map loss within that area, even if secondary forest regrowth has occurred.

As a result, PRODES can't be used to track compliance with other ZDCs that use a more liberal definition of forest.

On the other hand, HCSA defines several forest classes including high-, medium-, and low-density forests and young regenerating forests.

### ***Legitimacy***

ZDC experts define legitimate mapping and monitoring systems as ones that are fair and unbiased according to societal or ethical standards.

The three attributes contributing to a legitimate mapping and monitoring system are transparency, independence, and inclusivity.

Therefore, a legitimate mapping and monitoring system needs to be transparent, where users can access information on ZDC safeguarded areas and forest loss within these areas.

Its implementation also has to be independent from the influence of individual companies and commodity producers using the system..

Lastly, it has to be inclusive, which means it's designed via the participation of all potential users and affected stakeholders, including those who have been traditionally underrepresented.

### ***Scalability***

Scalability consists of three attributes: cost effectiveness, flexibility and sustainability.

In order for a system to be scalable and adopted by many users, it has to be cost effective at regional and national scales and across multiple years.

Lack of available data can increase the cost of a system significantly.

For instance, the overall cost of the mapping and monitoring system of the soy moratorium policy in Brazil is relatively low due to its reliance on free PRODES data. Furthermore, the Brazilian government had also mapped and registered property boundaries, further reducing the cost.

On the other hand, the HCSA mapping methodology requires intensive data collection and trained experts, and thus is relatively costly.

An assessment can cost up to \$100,000, which often covers a single oil palm concession of around 10,000 hectares in Indonesia.

Besides being cost effective, a scalable system also have to be flexible, meaning it can be applied in other biomes, regions and countries while producing comparable results.

Lastly, it has to be sustainable, based on data that will be available and reliable over the long term. This is so that the system is available to users over time.

“There has been a substantial increase in freely available high temporal and spatial resolution satellite imagery, and accessible open-source software tools capable of classifying such imagery,” the paper states. “However, the production of consistent and comparable maps and analyses still requires a sustained commitment of resources.”

### ***Trade-offs***

With 12 identified attributes that contribute to effective mapping and monitoring systems, there are bound to be some trade-offs.

The experts identified two of them: frequent detection or accurate monitoring, and local context dependence or large-scale consistency.

For the first trade-off, a mapping and monitoring system often has to choose between being highly accurate, which usually requires long-term data, or being near real-time, which is usually less accurate, particularly for small disturbances.

As a result, annual forest change monitoring system usually rely on data products with lower temporal resolution but higher accuracy, such as PRODES.

“In some cases this has resulted in a dual system, in which companies rely on accurate and vetted annual ‘definitive’ data for assessing and communicating effectiveness, but may also use near real-time data to support internal adaptive management and decision-making,” report author Austin stated.

This trade-off, however, can be addressed by improving the accuracy of near real-time forest disturbance detection. Once near real-time forest monitoring system achieves high accuracy, the need for multiple systems can be eliminated, Austin said.

She said there had been recent advances in near real-time change detection, including the [RADD](#) (RADar for Detecting Deforestation) system. But notes that the tropical forests, which are the most under threat, come with special challenges.

“With an increasing number of satellite platforms with more diverse sensors (e.g., radar, optical) we expect that this tradeoff might become less stark,” Austin wrote. “However, clouds will always be a barrier to optical remote sensing in the humid tropics. Moreover, the very best annual products also incorporate field-based verification of violations – something that would be very costly to replicate for near real-time detection systems.”

The second trade-off, which might be more difficult to be addressed, is choosing between local relevance, inclusivity, and categorical detail on the one hand, and consistency, frequency, and sustainability on the other.

“Some users require local assessments that may be highly detailed and resource intensive, while others desire products that are regularly available, fairly low-cost, and consistent across large spatial scales,” Austin noted.

An example of a monitoring system that focuses on local assessments that are highly detailed is HCSA.

The platform builds credibility and legitimacy by aiming for high accuracy in specific geographies, integrating context-specific land-cover categories, and by including representation of community lands.

This approach might lead to differences in definitions across landscapes, and thus sacrificing consistency.

“HCSA guidelines are less scalable because of the relatively high cost associated with locally refined assessments and, as a result, will be less frequently updated and may exclude some small-scale producers,” the experts said in the paper.

Austin notes that these trade-offs show how there’s not a single one-size-fits-all ZDC mapping and monitoring system that will meet the needs of all users.



“The variety of users and user needs may mean that multiple systems are necessary,” she said. “Our characterization of mapping and monitoring system attributes can be used to evaluate where and how integrating multiple approaches might lead to more effective ZDC implementation.”

While using multiple systems can fulfill the needs of a variety of users, it can also lead to confusion, particularly in cases where there are conflicting results, according to Austin.

“For example, there are a number of high carbon stock (HCS) maps in development across spatial scales, from individual assessments to third party maps (e.g., Barry Callebaut) to government-led indicative HCS mapping efforts,” she said. “Groups that are developing these mapping and monitoring systems should carefully consider how they can best complement each other, without creating confusion among users.”

*This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com).*





# Plastic pollution kills Pacific sea species

By [Agence France-Presse](#) September 1, 2021

**SUVA:** From endangered freshwater dolphins drowned by discarded fishing nets to elephants scavenging through rubbish, migratory species are among the most vulnerable to plastic pollution, a [United Nations](#) report on the Asia-Pacific region said on Tuesday, calling for greater action to cut waste.

Plastic particles have infiltrated even the most remote and seemingly pristine regions of the planet with tiny fragments discovered inside fish in the deepest recesses of the ocean and peppering [Arctic sea](#) ice.

The paper by the UN's Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals focused on the impacts of plastic on freshwater species in rivers and on land animals and birds, which researchers said were often overlooked victims of humanity's expanding trash crisis.

It said that because these creatures encounter different environments - including industrialized and polluted areas - they are likely at risk of higher exposure to plastics and associated contaminants.

Researchers cited estimates that 80 percent of the plastic that ends up in the oceans originates on land - with rivers thought to play a key role in carrying debris out to sea.

The report comes just days ahead of a major summit of the [International Union](#) for the Conservation of Nature, which will include a motion calling for an end to marine plastic pollution by 2030.

"Actions to address this global issue have fallen far short of what is needed," said CMS Executive Secretary [Amy Fraenkel](#).

"The focus has thus far been on cleaning up our oceans, but that is already too late in the process. We need to focus on solutions and prevention of plastic pollution upstream."

The UN report highlights two regions - the Ganges and [Mekong River](#) basins - which together contribute an estimated 200,000 tons of plastic pollution to the [Indian Ocean](#) and the [Pacific Ocean](#) every year.

Discarded fishing gear were found to be major threats. Dolphins can become entangled and trapped underwater by old nets with endangered [Irrawaddy](#) dolphins and [Ganges River](#) dolphins at particular risk.

The report also said migratory seabirds, such as Black-footed albatrosses and Laysan albatrosses, may not be able to tell plastic from prey when flying over the ocean and can accidentally eat floating debris.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/09/01/news/world/plastic-pollution-kills-pacific-sea-species/1813057>



## **Raging wildfire forces evacuation**

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE,  
United States (AFP)  
– Thousands of people  
were ordered to evacuate  
Monday as a huge wildfire  
loomed over a major US  
tourist spot, filling the air  
with choking smoke.

The Caldor Fire has  
already torn through  
more than 700 square  
kilometers, razing  
hundreds of buildings.

On Monday it was  
roaring towards South  
Lake Tahoe, the main  
resort town in the  
popular holiday area that  
straddles the California  
and Nevada border.



# Oil-rich Gulf faces prospect of unlivable heat as planet warms

By [Agence France-Presse](#) August 31, 2021

**DUBAI:** Gulf cities such as Dubai are known for their scorching summers, but experts warn climate change could soon make parts of the fossil fuel-rich region unlivable for humans.

Daily temperatures in the coastal metropolis regularly top 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for several months of the year and are exacerbated by high humidity.

"I work from 9 am until 4 pm in this heat," Pakistani scooter driver Sameer said, sweat dripping from his forehead.

"Sometimes, the company or people give us water to drink, and we get a break every three hours," added Sameer, who works for a mobile delivery app and declined to provide his surname.

A new report this month by the [UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) showed unequivocally that the climate is changing faster than previously feared, and because of human activity.

Even now, Dubai residents often leave for cooler climates during the hottest months, while many who stay spend their time scurrying between air-conditioned locations - or rely on delivery drivers for a panoply of services.

The UAE is also one of the world's most arid countries, and for the past several years it has used aircraft for cloud seeding to artificially produce rain.

One expert has warned of the risks for the region as climate change progresses.

"In general, the level of heat stress will increase significantly," said Elfatih Eltahir, a professor of hydrology and climate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

With higher temperatures and humidity towards the end of this century, some parts of the Gulf will experience periods of "heat stress conditions that will be incompatible with human survival", he warned.

## 'Wake-up call'

"That will not happen all the time, they will be episodes that would happen once or twice every seven years," he added.

The combination of heat and relative humidity has the potential to be deadly if the human body is unable to cool off through sweating.

Scientists have calculated that a healthy human adult in the shade with unlimited drinking water will die if so-called "wet-bulb" temperatures (TW) exceed 35C for six hours.

It was long assumed this theoretical threshold would never be crossed, but US researchers reported last year on two locations - one in the [United Arab Emirates](#), another in Pakistan - where the 35C TW barrier was breached more than once, if only fleetingly.

Calls to reduce carbon emissions pose major economic challenges for oil and gas-rich Gulf countries, from OPEC kingpin [Saudi Arabia](#) to Oman and Qatar.



UN chief [Antonio Guterres](#) has said the IPCC report "must sound a death knell" for coal, oil and gas, and warned that fossil fuels were destroying the planet.

But some [Gulf states](#) in recent years have taken up greener rhetoric as they try to improve their environmental credentials and diversify their economies away from oil.

Tanzeed Alam, managing director of [Dubai-based Earth Matters Consulting](#), said there was increasing interest in the environment and the impact of climate change in the UAE.

"But we are yet to see the large, family-owned businesses really taking this issue to the core of their business models," he told [AFP](#).

"Businesses don't often understand how they can cope with increased heatwaves, storms, flooding and other physical impacts," Alam said.

He expressed hope that the UN report would act as a "wake-up call."

### 'Clear decisions'

The United Arab Emirates aims to increase its reliance on clean energy to 50 percent by 2050 and reduce its carbon footprint for power generation by 70 percent.

Abu Dhabi, one of seven emirates along with Dubai that make up the country, says it is building the world's largest single-site solar plant.

Once fully operational, the [Al Dhafra](#) solar project will have the capacity to power some 160,000 households nationwide, according to the WAM state news agency. It is scheduled to commence operations in 2022.

In [Bahrain](#), where average summer temperatures range between 35C and 40C, [Mohammed Abdelaal](#)'s company Silent Power uses solar technology to cool water tanks.

He said demand had increased in several Gulf countries this summer, noting that the region's ample supply of sunlight facilitates the production of "clean, sustainable, low-cost energy."

Bahrain aims for 10 percent renewable energy by 2035, according to state media, while neighboring Saudi Arabia - with ambitious plans to diversify its oil-reliant economy - in March unveiled a campaign to generate half of its energy from renewables by 2030.

In [Kuwait](#), [Khaled Jamal al-Falih](#) expressed concern at what runaway climate change could mean for his country.

"In Kuwait today, a person who needs to run an errand can't do so until after six o'clock in the evening, and leaving the house means being in an air-conditioned car to go to an air-conditioned place," he told AFP.

Almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels, the country has a 15 percent renewable energy target by 2030, according to state media.

Falih said his house ran solely on solar power, and urged the government to make "clear decisions" to combat climate change.

The idea of being able to escape the reality of global warming has "become impossible," Falih said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/31/news/oil-rich-gulf-faces-prospect-of-unlivable-heat-as-planet-warms/1813028>



# Gulf faces unlivable heat

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) – Gulf cities such as Dubai are known for their scorching summers, but experts warn climate change could soon make parts of the fossil fuel-rich region unlivable for humans.

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# US envoy in Japan to discuss climate

By [Agence France-Presse](#) September 1, 2021



CLIMATE MATTERS US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate [John Kerry](#) (left) poses with Japanese Environment Minister [Shinjiro Koizumi](#) during a meeting at the latter's office in [Tokyo](#) on Aug. 31, 2021. Kerry is in Tokyo to discuss efforts to fight climate change with top Japanese officials ahead of a [United Nations](#) conference in November. AP PHOTO

**OKINAWA:** US climate envoy John Kerry will embark on a visit to [Japan](#) and [China](#) on Tuesday as Washington tries to build momentum ahead of a key summit on combating global warming set for November.

Kerry, who already visited China in April, will go to Tianjin to "continue discussions on key aspects of the climate crisis," the State Department said in a statement on Monday.

During the trip that is due to end on Friday, the former secretary of state will also meet international counterparts in Tokyo, the statement added, to "discuss efforts to drive collective climate action."

The US envoy's Asian tour "bolsters the [United States'](#) bilateral and multilateral efforts to raise climate ambition" ahead of the COP26 climate summit to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November.

After Kerry's visit to Shanghai in mid-April, the two countries pledged to "cooperate... to face the climate crisis," according to a joint statement, but Beijing said at the end of July that this cooperation would depend on "the overall health" of bilateral relations.

The UN's [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) report, published in August, warned the world is on course to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming by around 2030, a decade earlier than predicted just three years ago.

Years in the making, the sobering report approved by 195 nations shines a harsh spotlight on governments dithering in the face of mounting evidence that climate change is an existential threat.



# Illegal mining up 500% in Brazil

By [Agence France-Presse](#) September 1, 2021

**SÃO PAULO:** Illegal mining expanded by nearly 500 percent on protected indigenous reservations in [Brazil](#) in a decade and by more than 300 percent on protected park lands, according to a study released on Monday.

The massive surge in mining activity from 2010 to 2020 raised new concerns about the impact on the Amazon rainforest where the race for gold is fueling deforestation and leaving rivers polluted with mercury. The findings come from the organization Mapbiomas, a collaborative platform that analyzes satellite images with artificial intelligence to track the destruction of the world's biggest rainforest, which has accelerated under Brazil's far-right President [Jair Bolsonaro](#).

01 SEPTEMBER 2021, WEDNESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

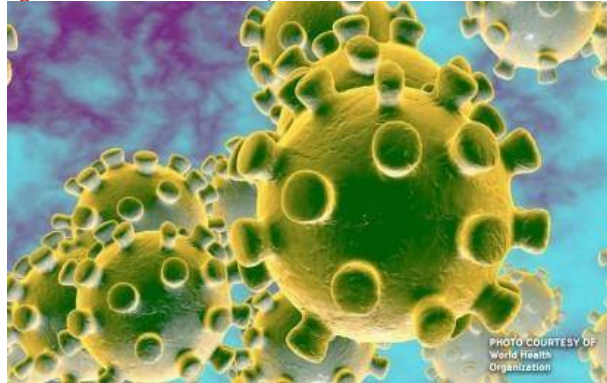
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





# PH Covid-19 recoveries reach 1,810,847

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 31, 2021, 5:27 pm



**MANILA** – The nation's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,810,847 after 16,759 new recoveries were reported on Tuesday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that recoveries account for 91 percent of the total case count which has reached 1,989,857 since the start of the pandemic last year.

Meanwhile, 13,827 new infections brought the total number of active cases nationwide to 145,562.

About 96.9 percent of these active cases are mild, 1.4 percent are asymptomatic, 0.6 percent are critical, 1.1 percent are severe, and 0.99 percent are moderate.

The DOH also logged 118 new deaths, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 33,448.

According to DOH data on August 29, about 25.4 percent of 49,187 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"About 172 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, 153 are recoveries. Moreover, 37 cases previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it added.

All laboratories were operational on August 29 while eight laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The DOH noted the eight non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.9 percent of samples tested, and 1.2 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 73 percent of 4,200 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 65 percent of 20,600 isolation beds, 71 percent of 14,900 ward beds, and 54 percent of 3,200 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 71 percent of 1,500 ICU beds, 66 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 74 percent of 4,200 ward beds, and 64 percent of 1,100 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1152153>



# Philippines' COVID-19 count nears 2 million with 13,827 new cases by end-August

(Philstar.com) - August 31, 2021 - 4:22pm



Health workers at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute attend to patients at the triage set up at the hospital lobby on Aug. 15, 2021.  
The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines ended August with 13,827 more coronavirus cases, its total count nearing two million and the World Health Organization saying the Delta variant is now dominant in the country.

Newly reported figures pushed the country's overall caseload to 1,989,857. Active cases were also down by 3,032 from the 148,594 on August 30.

The Department of Health said eight laboratories did not submit test results.

- **Active cases:** 145,562 or 7.3% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 16,759, bringing the number to 1,810,847
- **Deaths:** 118, or now 33,448 in total

## Delta now 'dominant variant'

- The World Health Organization said the Delta variant of COVID-19 is now the [dominant variant](#) in the country. It added there is now community transmission of the Delta at home, seeing the variant in the majority of samples for genome sequencing.
- DOH reported it has disbursed P237.28 million worth of [special risk allowance](#) to health workers. That amounts to 76.29% of the P311 million in total it got from the Department of Budget and Management for some 20,208 medical personnel.
- There are now 2,684 [inmates](#) at the Bureau of Corrections vaccinated for COVID-19. The number, however, remains a small percentage out of the overall 48,000 prisoners in BuCor's facilities.
- The Philippines vowed to donate COVID-19 vaccines to Myanmar, but it is unclear how many doses it would send as the country is [struggling](#) too in terms of supply.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/08/31/2123867/philippines-covid-19-count-nears-2-million-13827-new-cases-end-august/amp/>

## Delta most dominant PhI variant — WHO

WHO announcement came a day after the country logged 22,366 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day tally since the pandemic started last year

Published 5 hours ago on September 1, 2021 01:30 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



A picture taken on May 8, 2021 shows a sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the entrance of their headquarters in Geneva amid the Covid-19 coronavirus outbreak. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

The highly contagious Delta strain is now the most dominant coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) variant in the Philippines, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced on Tuesday.

“The information we have shows that now, the Delta variant has emerged as the dominant variant,” WHO country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe said in a virtual media briefing.

Abeyasinghe revealed that whole-genome sequencing results have indicated that more than 70 percent of the cases can be attributed to the Delta strain.

He added there are already confirmed community transmissions of Delta in the country. “Certainly, with these kinds of numbers, we are in community transmission of the Delta variant,” he added.

The WHO announcement came a day after the country logged 22,366 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day tally since the pandemic started last year.

To date, the total caseload of the Delta variant in the country is 1,789, including the 516 new cases the DoH reported on Sunday.

In the same bio-surveillance report, nearly 69 percent of the 748 samples reviewed were Delta variant cases.

Of the total number of Delta variant cases, 38 are active cases, 33 are deaths while the rest are tagged as recoveries.

In a separate media briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that since Delta’s detection in July, cases attributable to the strain have steadily increased.

In what affirmed the WHO statement, Vergeire said that Delta cases constituted a greater percentage in the recent sequencing runs compared to the Beta and Alpha variants.

She said Delta is now present in all the regions, except the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Vergeire added that most of the Delta cases were detected in Regions IV-A, III and NCR.



“The Health Department would like to once again reiterate that enhanced national response has been in place since the detection of these variants of concern locally,” she said. “From the start, we have responded as if there is already community transmission,” she added.

Last week, the DoH confirmed the community transmission of the Delta variant in Metro Manila and Region IV-A. However, the agency said more evidence was needed to declare that community transmission was taking place in the whole country.

## DoH opposes 'bakuna bubble'

Published 4 hours ago on September 1, 2021 02:00 AM

By [Jom Garner](#)



The Department of Health (DoH) on Tuesday said it is not in favor of the proposed “bakuna bubble” for fully vaccinated individuals in the National Capital Region (NCR).

“For now, we think we can’t enforce that yet,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a virtual media briefing.

Vergeire said it is not yet the right time to impose that plan due to several reasons such as supply issues of Covid-19 vaccine and high number of cases.

“We will reach that point, once the supplies are stable, once vaccine coverage has improved already, not just here in NCR but also in the other regions, and once our cases are already manageable,” she added.

In a “bakuna bubble” set up, Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion III explained that local government units that have 70 to 80 percent of vaccination rate should only allow fully vaccinated individuals to enter public establishments. Concepcion also said that the proposal is better than imposing lockdowns and “critical” to save the economy.

WHO nixes bakuna bubble  
Likewise, the World Health Organization (WHO) Philippines country representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe recommended against the bubble setup.

In a separate media briefing, Abeyasinghe said that even in a bubble setup, fully vaccinated individuals can still be at risk with Covid-19.

“The concept of bubbles for vaccinated people doesn’t actually hold true because you will continue to be at risk of getting infected and if you are infected, you could infect other people,” he said.  
“So we don’t advocate for vaccine bubbles at this point in time,” he added.

As of 29 August, the country has administered a total of 33,099,392 doses of Covid-19 vaccines.

Of the total administered doses, 13,784,681 individuals are fully vaccinated, while a total of 19,314,711 individuals are now partially vaccinated.

Meanwhile, the DoH on Tuesday said that P237 million worth of Special Risk Allowance (SRA) has been downloaded to local government units (LGU) and private hospitals.



“Yesterday, P237.38 million were already disbursed to our local government and private hospitals,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a virtual media briefing.

Vergeire said this is part of the P311 million disbursed funds from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for additional 20,208 healthcare workers.

There is also a total of P74.5 million of funds dedicated for healthcare workers’ SRA that are now ready for distribution for various LGU and private facilities.

The health official said that the agency is waiting for the second batch of funds for additional healthcare workers who are yet to receive their SRA.

“Until now, we are still waiting for the list of healthcare workers who are yet to receive their SRA,” she said.

“We already requested for the second batch of funds for the additional healthcare workers who submitted their requirements to our regional offices, we are waiting for the response of the DBM,” she added.

SRA pro-rated  
In a separate interview, Vergeire clarified that SRA allotted for healthcare workers are pro-rated, which means the SRA they will receive is based on the number of days they have gone to work.

“The SRA which is P5,000, specific to the guidelines, should be pro-rated. It will depend on how many days you went to work and catered or cared for a Covid-19 patient,” she explained.

The clarification was made after a social media post of a healthcare worker went viral on the Internet.

In the said post, a photo was shown with a caption, “Salamat po sa hazard pay (SRA) DoH,” with a photo of paycheck was also shown amounting to P227.

Vergeire said the DoH already reached out to the frontliner who posted it and explained the computation of her SRA.

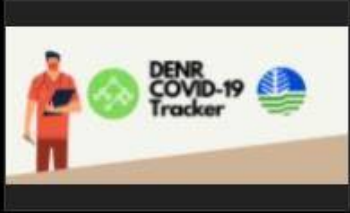
In the previous Congressional hearing, the DoH said it has disbursed P10.33 billion for the SRA and active-duty hazard pay of 685,431 medical workers from September 2020 to June 2021.



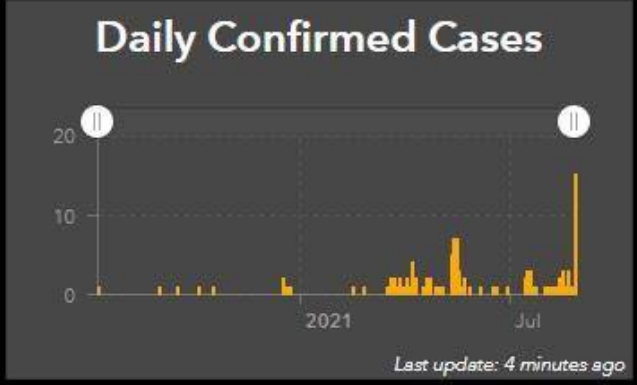
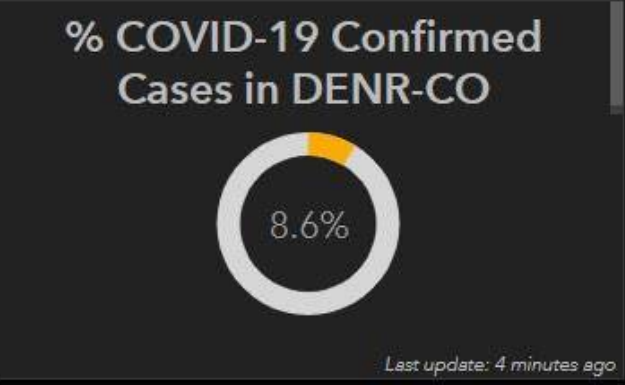
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**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**

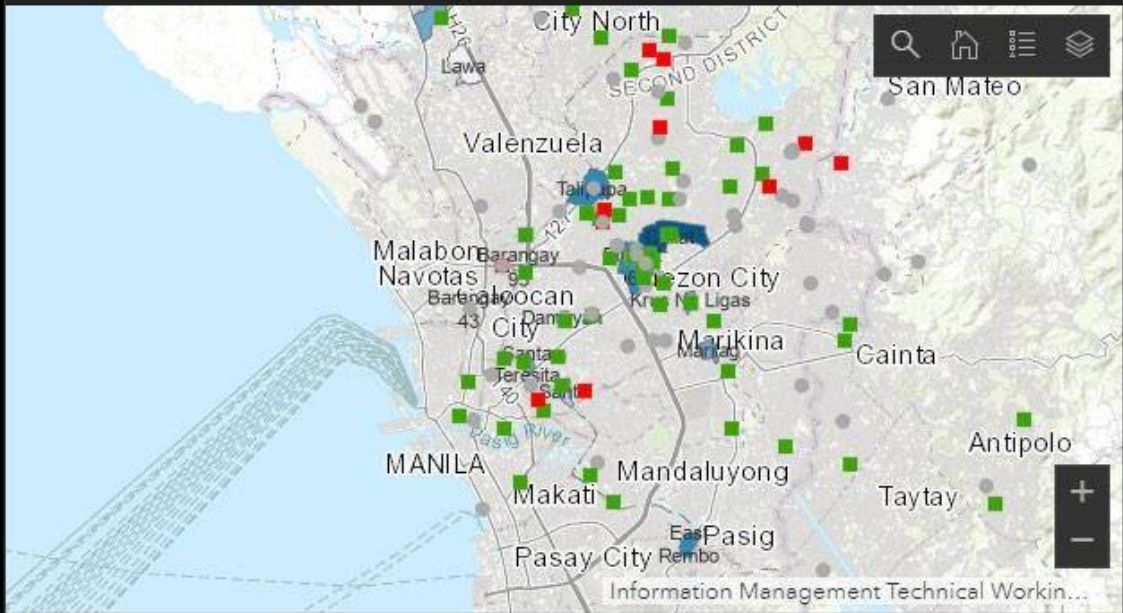
# DENR-CO COVID-19 Monitoring



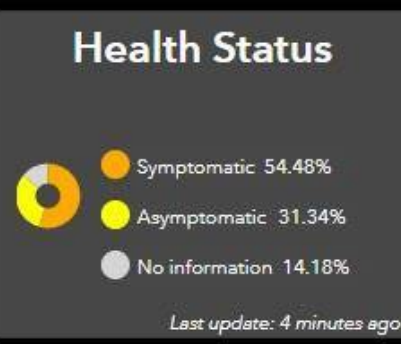
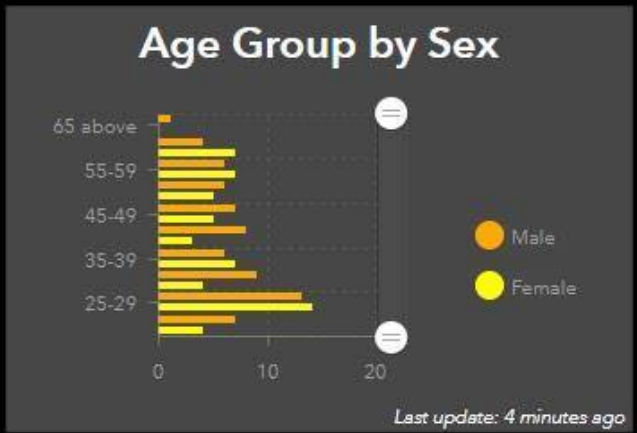
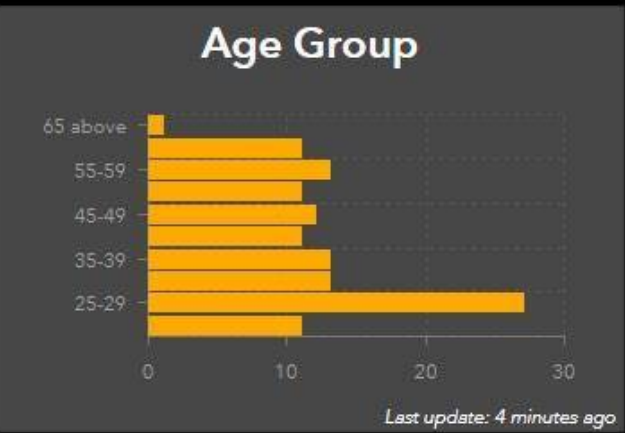
Data on COVID-19 include reported cases of DENR employees (Permanent, Contract of Service/Job Order, Support Staff (Triumph/Security)) as collected by the Contact Tracing Team of DENR Central Office.



## Residence of affected personnel



Please note that representative dots were randomly assigned within the barangay residence of the affected personnel and do not necessarily provide exact location/ addresses of the cases.



Developed by the DENR Statistics and Data Resource Management Division (SDRMD) - Knowledge Information Systems Service. To report data discrepancies and for any inquiries email us at [sdrmd@denr.gov.ph](mailto:sdrmd@denr.gov.ph)





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 535

## AGOSTO 31, 2021

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon, bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 7.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**145,562**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 91.0%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**1,810,847**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.68%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**33,448**

MGA BAGONG KASO **13,827**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **16,759**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **118**

KABUWANG BILANG NG KASO **1,989,857**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING AGOSTO 29

DATOS NGAYONG AGOSTO 31  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG AGOSTO 29

# 25.4%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 49,187

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**97.3%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



KABUWANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS) **73%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.6K TOTAL BEDS) **65%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (14.9K TOTAL BEDS) **71%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.2K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **54%** Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.5K TOTAL BEDS) **71%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS) **66%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS) **74%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) **64%** Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 95.9%

1.4% Asymptomatic

0.6% Critical

1.1% Severe

0.99% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Ipagpatuloy nating lahat ang pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng lahat. Para sa mga nakararanas ng anumang sintomas, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** upang mabigyan ng karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333.**

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333  
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777  
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](http://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!  
I-download ang StaySafe App  
O Gamiting ang WEBAPP  
at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](http://Staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

[doh.gov.ph](http://doh.gov.ph)

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

# ***RUMESBAKUNA KAPAG PAGKAKATAON MO NA***

***PARA SA'YO, SA IVONG MGA MAHAL SA  
BUHAY, SA KOMUNIDAD, SA PILIPINAS, AT  
SA BUONG MUNDO!***



**KUNG MAS MARAMING NABAKUNAHAN SA ISANG  
LUGAR, MAS NALALAPIT TAYONG MAPROTEKTAHAN ANG  
POPULASYON!**



Healthy  
Pilipinas



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

# **MAY NAITALANG REAKSYON? INAASAHAN AT NAWAWALA RIN ITO AGAD!**

SENYALES ITO NA  
ANG ATING KATAWAN  
AY BUMUBUO NG  
PROTEKSYON LABAN  
SA COVID-19.



**LIGTAS ITO!' WAG NA  
PAHULI SA BIDA  
BAKUNATION!**



Healthy  
Pilipinas



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

# 99.77%

SA MGA DOSIS NA NAIBAHAGI NA AY WALANG NAITALANG REAKSYON/SINTOMAS SA MGA NABAKUNAHAN.

## 0.23% LAMANG

SA MGA DOSIS NA NAIBAHAGI ANG MAYROONG REAKSYON/SINTOMAS SA MGA NABAKUNAHAN. KARAMIHAN AY MILD LAMANG!\*\*

## 27,806,881\*

DOSES NA ANG NAIPAMAHAGI!

\*NITONG AUGUST 15, 2021 (1ST AND 2ND DOSES / FULLY VACCINATED)

\*\*NITONG AUGUST 8, 2021 (1ST AND 2ND DOSES / FULLY VACCINATED)



Healthy  
Pilipinas



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

# NABABAHALA KA BA SA POSIBLENG REAKSYON NG MGA BAKUNA KONTRA COVID-19?

## 0.23% LAMANG

SA MGA DOSIS NA NAIBAHAGI ANG MAYROONG  
REAKSYON/SINTOMAS SA MGA NABAKUNAHAN.  
KARAMIHAN AY MILD NA LAMANG!



\*AS OF AUGUST 8, 2021  
(1ST AND 2ND DOSES  
/ FULLY VACCINATED )



Healthy  
Pilipinas



**RESBAKUNA**  
KASANGGA NG BIDA

01 SEPTEMBER 2021, WEDNESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**







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


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
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