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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



How will environment authorities address dearth of sanitary landfills? Read on

Published June 1, 2021, 10:48 AM

by [Elson Quismorio](#)

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is keen on helping all local government units (LGUs) in the country gain access to much-needed sanitary landfills (SLFs).



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo from Antiporda's office)

“As a solution for LGUs that cannot put up their own disposal facilities, the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the NSWMC are looking at the clustering of these LGUs [to share] a single sanitary landfill,” DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda said in a statement Tuesday, June 1.

This, as Antiporda bared the DENR’s plan to bring in the private sector through public-private partnership (PPP) in constructing an additional 300 SLFs nationwide within the next two years.

“There are only 237 sanitary landfills in operation across the country servicing some 449 LGUs which all have SLF requirements for their cities and municipalities. This number is still regrettably small,” he pointed out.

Antiporda, the undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns and NSWMC alternate chairman, reiterated that SLFs are the primary long-term method of solid waste disposal allowed under Republic Act (RA) No.9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“Moving forward with the additional 300 sanitary landfills within the next two years through the PPP scheme is the best option possible to effectively address the country’s management of solid waste,” he said.

The recent closure of all illegally operating open dumpsites in the country—as ordered by DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu—has magnified the need for LGUs to have their own SLFs. The shutdown of open dumpsites was in line with RA No.9003.

Also on Tuesday, the NSWMC bared that it had approved a total of 1,082 solid waste management plans (SWMPs) from LGUs or 63 percent of its target nationwide.

“The approved plans will serve as a blueprint on how these sanitary landfills will be optimized by these clustered LGUs,” Antiporda said.

Data from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) showed that another 558 SWMPs are currently under evaluation. Of the figure, 332 are almost finished pending the submission of additional data that mostly involve budgetary requirements and specifics on proper final disposal facilities.



“Enabling our local executives to strengthen their capacities for effective solid waste management is a priority of the DENR and the NSWMC, especially LGUs facing difficulties with their solid waste management programs,” Cimatú said.

“To the provinces whose towns and municipalities are now all with their approved SWMPs, we commend the leadership of your local executives,” he added.



DENR OKs 1,082 solid waste management plans

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 2, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) has approved 1,082 solid waste management plans (SWMP) submitted by local government units (LGUs), which is equivalent to 63 percent of its target nationwide.

Recently approved were four SWMPs submitted by Misamis Oriental LGUs; Camarines Sur, three; Misamis Occidental, Ilocos Norte, Benguet and Lanao del Norte, two each, and Cagayan, Albay, Sorsogon, Leyte, Northern Samar and Zamboanga del Sur, one each.

“Enabling our local executives to strengthen their capacities for effective solid waste management is a priority of the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the NSWMC, especially LGUs facing difficulties with their solid waste management programs,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Data from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau showed that 558 SWMPs are under evaluation, 332 of which are almost complete pending the submission of additional data, mostly involving budgetary requirements and specifics on proper final disposal facilities.

For LGUs that cannot put up their own facilities, the DENR and the NSWMC are looking at clustering or the sharing of sanitary landfills.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda bared plans for a public-private partnership for the establishment of additional 300 sanitary landfills nationwide in the next two years.

“There are only 237 sanitary landfills. across the country servicing some 449 LGUs... This number is still regrettably small,” he said.



1,082 solid waste management plans naaprubahan ng NSWMC



June 1, 2021 @ 6:58 PM 11 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Aabot sa 1,082 solid waste management (SWM) plans o 63% ng target sa buong bansa ang naaprubahan na ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) matapos aprubahan ang SWM plans ng karagdagang 22 local government units (LGUs) noong Mayo.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa naturang bilang, apat dito ang mula sa Misamis Oriental; tatlo sa Camarines Sur; tigalawa sa Misamis Occidental, Ilocos Norte, Benguet at Lanao del Norte; at tig-isa sa Cagayan, Albay, Sorsogon, Leyte, Northern Samar at Zamboanga del Sur.

Bunsod nito, pinuri ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary at NSWMC Chair Roy A. Cimatu ang LGUs sa maayos na trabaho ng mga ito kaya't naaprubahan ng komisyon ang kanilang plano.

“Enabling our local executives to strengthen their capacities for effective solid waste management is a priority of the DENR and the NSWMC, especially LGUs facing difficulties with their solid waste management programs,” sabi ni Cimatu.

“To the provinces whose towns and municipalities are now all with their approved SWMPs, we commend the leadership of your local executives,” dagdag pa nito.

Batay sa data ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, 558 SWM plans ang kasalukuyang “under evaluation”, 332 sa mga ito ay halos tapos na at hinihintay na lamang ang pagbibigay ng karagdagang tala kabilang na dito ang tungkol sa “budgetary requirements” at “proper final disposal facilities.”

Kaugnay nito sinabi naman ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns at NSWMC Alternate Chair Benny Antiporda, sinabi nito na napakaimportante ng mga SWM plans sa pagsisikap ng DENR at ng NSWMC na mabigyan ng kakayahan ang mga lokal na pamahalaan upang maipatupad ang solid waste management programs ng mga ito, partikular na ang may mga limited resources.

“As a solution for LGUs that cannot put up their own disposal facilities, the DENR and the NSWMC are looking at the clustering of these LGUs sharing a single sanitary landfill, and the approved plans will serve as a blueprint on how these sanitary landfills will be optimized by these clustered LGUs,” sabi ni Antiporda.



Idinagdag ni Antiporda ang plano ng DENR na makipagtulungan sa private sector sa pamamagitan ng private-public partnership (PPP) para makapagpatayo ng karagdagang 300 sanitary landfills sa buong bansa sa susunod na dalawang taon.

“There are only 237 sanitary landfills in operation across the country servicing some 449 LGUs which all have SLF requirements for their cities and municipalities. This number is still regrettably small,” punto pa nito.

Muling ipinaalala ni Antiporda na ang sanitary landfills ay nananatiling “primary long-term method” ng solid waste disposal na pinapayagan sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9003 o Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

“Moving forward with the additional 300 sanitary landfills within the next two years through the PPP scheme is the best option possible to effectively address the country’s management of solid waste,” aniya. **Santi Celario**



Target sa solid waste, 63% na

By Abante News Online — Last updated Jun 1, 2021

NEWS



Umabot na sa 1,082 solid waste management (SWM) plans o 63% ng target sa buong bansa ang naaprubahan na ng National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) matapos aprubahan ang SWM plans ng karagdagang 22 local government units (LGUs) kamakailan.

Sa kabuuang bilang, apat dito ang mula sa Misamis Oriental; 3 sa Camarines Sur; tig-2 sa Misamis Occidental, Ilocos Norte, Benguet at Lanao del Norte; at tig-isa sa Cagayan, Albay, Sorsogon, Leyte, Northern Samar at Zamboanga del Sur.

“Enabling our local executives to strengthen their capacities for effective solid waste management is a priority of the DENR and the NSWMC, especially LGUs facing difficulties with their solid waste management programs,” pahayg ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu

Batay sa data ng DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, 558 SWM plans ang kasalukuyang “under evaluation”, 332 sa mga ito ay halos tapos na at hinihintay na lamang ang pagbibigay ng karagdagang tala kabilang na dito ang tungkol sa “budgetary requirements” at “proper final disposal facilities.” (Riz Dominguez)

Source: <https://www.abante.com.ph/target-sa-solid-waste-63-na/>



335 OPEN DUMPSITES MATAGUMPAY NA NAISARA NG DENR

June 1, 2021 [Rannie Lao](#)



IPINAGMALAKI ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda ang tagumpay ng kagawaran sa pagpapasara ng lahat ng open dumpsites sa bansa.

Batay sa inilabas na pahayag ng DENR, sinabi rito na naipasara na nila ang lahat ng 335 open dumpsites sa buong bansa kasunod ng istriktong pagpapatupad sa Republic Act (RA) 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Napag-alaman sa naturang batas, pinagbabawal nito ang lahat ng open dumping, kung saan ang mga basura ay dapat itinatapon sa materials recovery facility o sanitary landfill.

“With the closure of all open dumpsites, LGUs have the option to bring their solid waste to existing sanitary landfills (SLF) or to a residual containment area,” ayon sa DENR.

Nabatid na mayroon namang 237 operational sanitary landfills ang bansa, 11 ang ginagawa pa, dagdag pa ng DENR.

“Local government units may ask the technical assistance of EMB (Environmental Management Bureau) on how to conduct the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan for the respective dumpsites in their areas of jurisdiction,” pahayag naman ni Antiporda. **BENEDICT ABAYGAR, JR.**



DENR puts spotlight on importance of environmental restoration during Environment Month celebration

By DENR Published on June 1, 2021

QUEZON CITY, June 1 -- As the country continues to grapple with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is focusing this year's Environment Month celebration on raising environmental consciousness among Filipinos to protect lives and secure the future generation.

"We may not be able to turn back time, but we can restore nature by moving forward," DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in highlighting the celebration's local theme, "Sama-samang pagkilos, sama-samang paghilom (Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Kalikasan)."

Cimatu underscored the importance of different sectors working together to do sustainable actions for the environment as he noted how conservation of nature plays a key role in combatting climate change, biodiversity loss, and even health risks.

"As the Department sets the pace towards environmental restoration, we hope all of us from the communities and the different sectors of society support this direction through our own sustainable actions for our planet," he added.

Just this month, the DENR set the example of progress after finally completing the closure of all 335 open dumpsites in the country in adherence to Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"Beyond this celebration, let us be sustainable and progressive in taking care of the environment. Let us take steps in greening our spaces and cities, cleaning our oceans, reducing our plastic consumption, and all other ways we can help," Cimatu said.

The Environment Month is celebrated every June by virtue of Proclamation No. 237 signed by then President Corazon Aquino on April 4, 1988. It coincides with World Environment Day on June 5.

World Oceans Day on June 8 and Coral Triangle Day on June 9 are also celebrated globally.

In support of these environment-focused celebrations, the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) has lined up several activities to celebrate and at the same time raise awareness among Filipinos to be responsible for the environment.

Throughout June, the DENR-EMB will be publishing infographics about marine plastic pollution through its social media pages to foster responsible solid waste behavior.

From June 5-10, Facebook followers of DENR-EMB can join "Greenvirogames," which is a series of games that include Graphics Interchange Format or GIF and scavenger hunt activities.

Cash prizes and other freebies await the winners.

The Community Livelihood Training on Upcycling, which is expected to be attended by communities within Manila Bay, will be held on June 8, 15, and 22.



As one of the highlights of Environment Month, the DENR-EMB is also set to recognize the Regional Champions on Environmental Management through its Game Changer Awards on June 30.

The event aims to acknowledge individuals, civil society groups, women's groups, youth groups, or local government units that led innovative environmental management projects, such as waste reduction, climate change mitigation, air quality management for their communities, as well as water quality conservation and protection, and information, education and communication initiatives for the environment.

It will also serve as an avenue to gather good practices on environmental management and inspire innovation. (DENR)

The Month of the Ocean 2021

by [Village Connect](#) about 13 hours ago



Benny D. Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reiterated its call to Filipinos to protect the ocean, citing its significant role in ensuring food security during a learning event in the culmination of the celebration of the Month of the Ocean (MOO) on May 24.

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu emphasized the importance of protecting the oceans not only to help generate jobs for the tourism sector but more importantly, to ensure food security for the entire country.

"During this health crisis, we have already seen how essential food is to our daily lives. It is, therefore, also fitting that we protect our oceans because through the interconnection of biodiversity, our food supply whether inland or water depends on our oceans," Cimatu said.



At the same time, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda has expressed concern over the "very alarming" state of our oceans.



"If every person throws a piece of candy wrapper in the ocean, after just a few months, we would lose our oceans. This is the simplest form of explanation to this growing problem," he said.

Antiporda pointed out that the growing problem of marine pollution is one of the main reasons why the DENR closed all illegally operating open dumpsites across the country and strictly implemented Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The dumpsite closures are also in line with the ongoing Manila Bay rehabilitation, which is one of the DENR's top priority programs in saving the country's oceans.

"In cleaning Manila Bay, we have three objectives – to see is to believe, dapat wala na tayong makikitang debris. Second, to smell is to believe – dapat pag dumaan tayo dyan, ang simoy ng hangin ay amoy dagat na at hindi amoy kubeta, and third, to test is to believe – pag-test natin ng water quality, dapat standard na siya," Antiporda pointed out.

Hosted by the Strategic Alliance and Environmental Partnership Division of the DENR Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service, the event featured the success story of the Calatagan Biodiversity Friendly Enterprise in Region 4-A and the Coral Rehabilitation Program of Region 11.

The learning event, which will also be presented to elementary and high school teachers and members of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, also showcased the best practices followed by communities and DENR personnel in their respective regions.

The MOO is celebrated annually in the Philippines during May by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 issued in 1998.

This year's celebration has a theme, "The Science We Need for The Ocean We Want.



DENR, USAID boost cooperation on natural resources protection, clean water accessibility

By DENR Published on June 1, 2021

QUEZON CITY, June 1 -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has entered into new agreements with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance the country's biodiversity conservation and water access and sanitation services.

Secretary Roy A. Cimatu welcomed the five-year partnership with the USAID for the Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (SIBOL) and the Safe Water projects during the signing of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on Thursday, May 27, 2021.

"Given the current pandemic, the DENR is committed more than ever to address the country's environmental challenges. We can easily attain this goal if we have partners like USAID," Cimatu said, adding that the international development agency has been a "time-tested partner for the environment."

The SIBOL and Safe Water programs are among the projects under the P7.25 billion (US\$150 million) USAID-Philippines agreement on enhanced ecosystems and community resilience signed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and USAID in February 2021.

The DENR is one of the implementing partners that will manage the delivery of program results toward the achievement of the objectives, while the USAID will provide technical assistance for the SIBOL and Safe Water initiatives.

SIBOL is a P1.1-billion project (US\$22 million) that aims to improve natural resource governance, stimulate public and private sector investments in conservation, and reduce environmental crimes.

Meanwhile, the Safe Water initiative is an P870-million project (US\$18.4 million) that intends to increase access to resilient water supply and sanitation services, improve the sustainable management of water resources, and strengthen the governance and regulation of the water sector.

The DENR through the Biodiversity Management Bureau and Forest Management Bureau, various DENR field offices across the region, as well as the NEDA, and the National Water Resources Board will be carrying out these projects in the next five years.

"Together, through these projects, we will advance our shared goals of environmental sustainability and improve the lives of Filipino communities," Cimatu said.

For his part, Acting Mission Director of USAID Sean Callahan said: "The long history of the partnership between DENR and USAID has been fruitful and together we have achieved much in creating a more secure environment that sustains both ecological integrity and human development."

Cimatu also acknowledged the significant contributions of USAID to the country's environment during the ceremony held last Thursday.



He cited the DENR-USAID partnership on the conservation of natural forests through the B+WISER (Biodiversity and Watersheds Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience) and Protect Wildlife projects.

"USAID, a consistent and effective ally of the DENR, has also supported us in creating sustainable models which guided us for the management of our ecosystems," he added.

Cimatu also highlighted a "milestone partnership" between the DENR and USAID through the Lawin Forest and Biodiversity Protection System that helped improve the management of over 90 percent of Philippine forests, which directly benefited Filipinos who depend on the forest for their livelihood. (DENR)



Divers discover coral garden in Manila Bay

By [Yashika F. Torib](#) June 1, 2021



Just when people thought that portions of Manila Bay are dead and incapable of sheltering marine life, a group of divers accidentally discovered a coral garden in Ternate, Cavite last May 17.

The dive was originally intended to install four marker buoys for the boundaries of the Core Zone of Ternate Marine Park (Tmp) and two artificial reefs.

It was held in celebration of the Month of the Ocean 2021 in collaboration between the Coastal and Marine Management of Cavite Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), Coast Guard Station Cavite, Ternate's Local Government Unit (LGU), and the Caylabne Bay Resort Management.

Professional and volunteer divers discovered 160.132 square meters of a coral garden within the Core Zone of Tmp.

"It was found approximately 20 meters away from the seashore and 26 feet deep," says Andrea Panganiban, Development Management Officer II of Penro Cavite.

"There are soft and hard corals with indicator species within. It could be opened for ecotourism such as responsible diving," she added.

Panganiban furthered that the discovery of a coral garden in Tmp will boost the morale of the Ternate community, thus urging them to protect the area from over-fishing.

"The purpose of Tmp is to boost eco-tourism and promote fish abundance," she said.

The corals were discovered by a team of volunteer divers led by Gerard Galza, a dive instructor certified by the Italy-based Confédération Mondiale des Activités Subaquatiques (Cmas) and Mario Elumba, course director of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (Padi).

Manila Bay is situated in the western part of Luzon and is bounded by Cavite and Metro Manila on the east, Bulacan, and Pampanga on the north, and Bataas on the west and northwest.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/06/01/business/maritime/divers-discover-coral-garden-in-manila-bay/1801493?fbclid=IwAR1WWVOQOAO_HjWyL-xUmtTmh48jznpg0i_GC1mvM2v4fEQHw-tCGivLX1U



DENR urges: Dispose used health gear responsibly

Residents should segregate wastes and should not be thrown indiscriminately since these are potential health hazards to people who come in contact with the disposed healthcare items

Published 4 hours ago on June 2, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called on residents in Central Luzon to be more responsible in disposing used masks, face shields, personal protective equipment and gloves to avoid the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

This, as the agency reported that it received information that at least 4,500 tons of used health gear from July 2020 until last May this year in Central Luzon.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said that used health gear should be disposed properly and separate it from other household wastes as they can be considered hazardous and pose danger to a person's health and to the environment.

"The proper disposal of these potentially contaminated healthcare items starts at home. These wastes must be placed in a yellow bin or any separate container, properly labeled as household healthcare wastes," said Moreno.

He suggested that residents should put these used health gear in separate containers and should not be thrown indiscriminately as they are potential health hazards to people who came in contact with these disposed healthcare items.

The DENR official also noted that if number of hazardous wastes would increase exponentially, these pollutants will adversely affect aquatic and terrestrial animals and would eventually destroy natural habitat.

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes is punishable under Republic Act No. 6969 otherwise known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/06/02/denr-urges-dispose-used-health-gear-responsibly/>



Public urged to properly dispose face masks, gloves



DISPOSED FACE MASKS. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources appeals to the public to dispose face masks properly to curb risks of pollution and biodiversity loss in Central Luzon. (DENR)

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 01, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the City of San Fernando appealed to the public to dispose face masks properly to curb risks of pollution and biodiversity loss in Central Luzon amid the prevailing threats of the Covid-19 pandemic.

DENR-Central Luzon Director Paquito Moreno Jr. said healthcare wastes, such as face masks and gloves, must be separated from other regular household wastes, since they are considered hospital wastes, which pose danger to health and the environment.

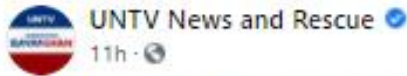
"The proper disposal of these potentially contaminated healthcare items starts at home. These wastes must be placed in a yellow bin or any separate container, properly labeled as 'household healthcare wastes,'" he said.

He added that the participation of households in the proper segregation of these wastes has played a significant part in containing the spread of the Covid-19, and that the public must refrain from indiscriminately throwing in public places, offices and open bins used face masks, as they pose potential health hazards to people who come in contact with them.

DENR records show that around 4,500 tons of hazardous wastes, usually composed of healthcare items like used face masks, personal protective equipment, face shields, and gloves, have been collected in the region since July 2020.

The DENR warned the public that if this figure would rise, plastic pollution and marine litter would affect the sustainability of aquatic and terrestrial animals, and would likewise smother the natural habitat of wildlife in the region.

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes is punishable under Republic Act 6969, also known as Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990.



Nakolekta ng MMDA ang sako-sakong mga basura kabilang na ang mga face mask na itinatapon sa isang estero sa Maynila.



YOUTUBE.COM

Face masks, nakolekta sa estero sa Maynila

Nakolekta ng MMDA ang sako-sakong mga basura kabilang na ang mga face mask na itinatap...

417

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MMDA launches metro beautification project

We are stepping up our efforts to make sure that these problems won't add up to the burdens brought by this pandemic

Published 4 hours ago on June 2, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Alvin Murcia](#) @tribunephil_alvi



The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has ramped up its efforts to beautify and sanitize the metropolis amid the pandemic and before the start of the rainy season as it started yesterday the cleanup of Estero de Tripa de Gallina in Manila.

Dubbed as “Metro Bayanihan: I MM,” the project will include intensified sidewalk clearing operations, cleaning of waterways, and anti-littering and anti-dengue drives to promote general cleanliness in Metro Manila and the well-being of its residents.

Benhur Abalos, MMDA chair, said the agency is closely coordinating with the 17 local government units in the National Capital Region to make sure the massive and intensified cleanup is inclusive and covers not only major thoroughfares, but all barangays.

The MMDA chair said they have been regularly cleaning up waterways with daily dredging and declogging operations. This will be intensified before the rainy season to mitigate flooding, dengue, leptospirosis and water-borne diseases.

“Garbage-laden waterways are oftentimes breeding ground of mosquitoes and other insects, which can cause diseases. We are stepping up our efforts to make sure that these problems won't add up to the burdens brought by this pandemic,” Abalos said.

Personnel of the Metro Parkways Clearing Group and Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office will undertake on a daily basis clearing of illegal structures on sidewalks and declogging and dredging of major waterways in Metro Manila to maintain its cleanliness. Trees are also trimmed and cables are bundled to avoid accidents.

The MMDA will also conduct misting and fogging operations to eliminate possible breeding areas and kill dengue-causing mosquitoes.

Staff from Health and Environmental Protection Office will also conduct lectures on anti-littering measures among barangay residents to provide awareness on illegal dumping of garbage.

The agency's intensified campaign is fully supported by the Metro Manila chief executives as they noted the proactive responses are vital to curb possible transmission of Covid-19, and underscored disease prevention and control is better than any cure.

Abalos appealed to the public to participate in the campaign to eradicate trash, control the spread of diseases and encourage sustainable healthy urban living.

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/06/02/mmda-launches-metro-beautification-project/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=mmda-launches-metro-beautification-project



Paglilinis ng mga estero mas palalakasin

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 2, 2021 - 12:00am



Ipinaliwanag ni MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos na bahagi ito ng inilunsad nilang programang "I love MM" para malabanan umano ang pagkasira ng Kamaynilaan. Nakapaloob sa programa ang paglilinis ng mga daluyan ng tubig, clearing operations sa mga bangketa, mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng anti-litteing at anti-dengue.

MANILA, Philippines — Mas palalakasin ngayon ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) ang paglilinis ng mga estero at iba pang daluyan ng tubig sa Kamaynilaan bilang paghahanda sa pagpasok ng tag-ulan.

Ipinaliwanag ni MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos na bahagi ito ng inilunsad nilang programang "I love MM" para malabanan umano ang pagkasira ng Kamaynilaan. Nakapaloob sa programa ang paglilinis ng mga daluyan ng tubig, clearing operations sa mga bangketa, mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng anti-litteing at anti-dengue.

Bilang pauna sa proyekto, inumpisahan na muli ng MMDA ang paglilinis ng Estero de Tripa de Galina sa Maynila habang nakasunod na ang iba pang mga pangunahing estero.

Nakikipag-ugnayan umano sila sa mga lokal na pamahalaan maging sa mga barangay para sa pakikipagtulungan sa paglilinis sa kani-kanilang mga lugar.

Pangungunahan ng Metro Parkways Clearing Group and Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office ang araw-araw umano na 'declogging' sa mga daluyan ng tubig, pagtatanggal sa mga ilegal na istruktura sa mga bangketa, pagtatanggal ng mga nakaharang na sanga ng puno at mga sala-salabat na kable para maiwasan ang mga aksidente.



BOC recognized for Wildlife Protection Initiatives

By BOC Published on June 1, 2021

MANILA, June 1 -- The Bureau of Customs' (BOC) commitment to border protection and civic duty to protect the environment were recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during the virtual celebration of World Wildlife Day.

The event was attended by various personalities, including: Senator Cynthia A. Villar, Senator Miguel F. Zubiri, AFOCO Executive Director Ricardo L. Calderon, and various heads and representatives of different environmental law enforcement and regulating agencies.

The event recognized the contributions of various agencies in protecting wildlife and promoting biodiversity in the country.

For the Bureau of Customs, various NAIA personnel were recognized for seizing various subjects of illegal wildlife trafficking. The personnel of the Bureau recognized were Calil G. Dimangadap, COO3 April Angeli P. Aboloc, COO3 Disabel M. Casimero and SAI Ian Rudolf S. Ramos, who were awarded the bronze award. While COO3 Jennifer M. Orbeta was recognized with the Silver Award; On the other hand, Engr. Paul O. Ditona, Chief EPCD, SAI Marcelino L. Cruz, COO3 Ronaldo B. Parado and NAIA District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan were awarded with the Gold Award for their invaluable role in wildlife protection.

The event also launched applications that will help environmental law enforcement officers in carrying out their duties. First are the eCITES PH and eLearning Modules, which would provide necessary information on environment protection as well as venue for online application of wildlife permits. Second was the Wildlife Philippines Podcast, which aims to promote up-to-date information dissemination through the use of podcasts.

The Bureau of Customs, under the leadership of Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, is one with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in upholding the conservation and protection of wildlife and deterring wildlife smuggling.

For her part, District Collector Talusan, in behalf of BOC and BOC NAIA, welcomed the recognition of the DENR. Likewise, she lauded the efforts of the men and women of the Port in protecting the environment and preventing the illegal trafficking of wildlife and other natural resources. Finally, Collector Talusan assured the public that the Port of NAIA will remain committed in implementing its mandate of protecting the country's borders. (BOC)



Wildlife trafficking, like everything else, has gone online during COVID-19

by [Imelda Abano](#), [Leilani Chavez](#) on 1 June 2021



- Regional and national reports show a decline in illegal wildlife trade activities in Southeast Asia in 2020, with operations down by more than 50% across the most-traded animals.
- Despite the decrease, experts say traders have shifted from face-to-face interactions and increased their presence on online platforms.
- Authorities also reported confiscating caches of stockpiled animal parts, indicating that the trade continues amid the pandemic. Traders may be waiting for looser border controls to carry on with business, experts say.
- While these trends suggest that the trade will bounce back in a post-COVID-19 era, experts suggest strengthening enforcement collaboration, improving wildlife laws, and increasing awareness of the health risks posed by illegally poached wildlife.

MANILA — When COVID-19 emerged in early 2020 in Southeast Asia, its governments took rapid containment actions: lockdowns, travel restrictions and trade suspensions, alerting the public about the virus.

The pandemic has also put illegal or unsustainable wildlife trade under the spotlight due to enhanced restrictions on movement and increasing awareness about the public health risks associated with wildlife consumption. The long-term impacts, though, remain to be seen.

Recent reports on wildlife trafficking in Southeast Asia suggest that, compared to 2019, on-the-ground activity has decreased due to pandemic restrictions and weakened demand for wildlife products. However, advertisements and trade continue to proliferate on social media platforms, and there is evidence that traders may be resorting to stockpiling animal parts in anticipation of demand recovering as restrictions are eased.

Data from the fourth edition of the Counter Wildlife Trafficking Digest of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), released May 21 this year, indicate that seizures of pangolin parts in China, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand dropped significantly in 2020, with 48 incidents in 2020 compared to 82 in 2019. The total volume of seizures also fell sharply to 9,765 kilograms (10.8 tons) of pangolin products from 2019's 155,795 kg (171.7 tons).

The report also found decreases in both the number and volume of seizures of tiger parts and elephant products. A total of 121 reported ivory seizures was recorded for 2020, down by 36% from 380 in 2019.



Recent data from the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reveal a similar trend. Body parts and live specimens accounting for 58 individual animals were recovered from a total of 12 seizures in 2020. That's the lowest number of seizures recorded by the environmental department in the past decade, down by half from 24 in 2019.

But it's possible the pandemic did little to dissuade traffickers, despite evidence that fewer traffickers are being caught on the ground, says Serene Chng, program officer of the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC.

"It is not clear what impact the pandemic has on wildlife trade," Chng says. "We are still studying this, but our early assessment shows wildlife trafficking has continued despite restrictions in movements within and between countries in Southeast Asia during pandemic lockdowns."

Wildlife crime going digital

The trade in wildlife and wildlife products is increasingly shifting to online platforms as traffickers have found new ways to connect with potential buyers. Experts say that due to limited law enforcement capacities, encrypted online or undetected transactions, the online trade is particularly difficult to address.

Online wildlife trade persists in many countries, including in member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), says TRAFFIC's Chng. The lockdowns and mobility restrictions implemented due to the pandemic, which limited face-to-face transactions, bolstered these activities as the numbers of confiscated wildlife are low compared to what's being advertised online, experts say.

"Social media is a very useful platform for reporting environmental crimes," says Theresa Mundita Lim, executive director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB). When she was director for the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Philippines' DENR, a post she held for 15 years, Lim says concerned individuals used social media to report environmental crimes to the DENR's page through direct messages. These reports referred to trade both on the ground and online.

"But in the same way that authorities use it to monitor the illegal activity, traders also took advantage of social media," Lim says. "That's when we realized that to strengthen enforcement, we have to be a step ahead too."

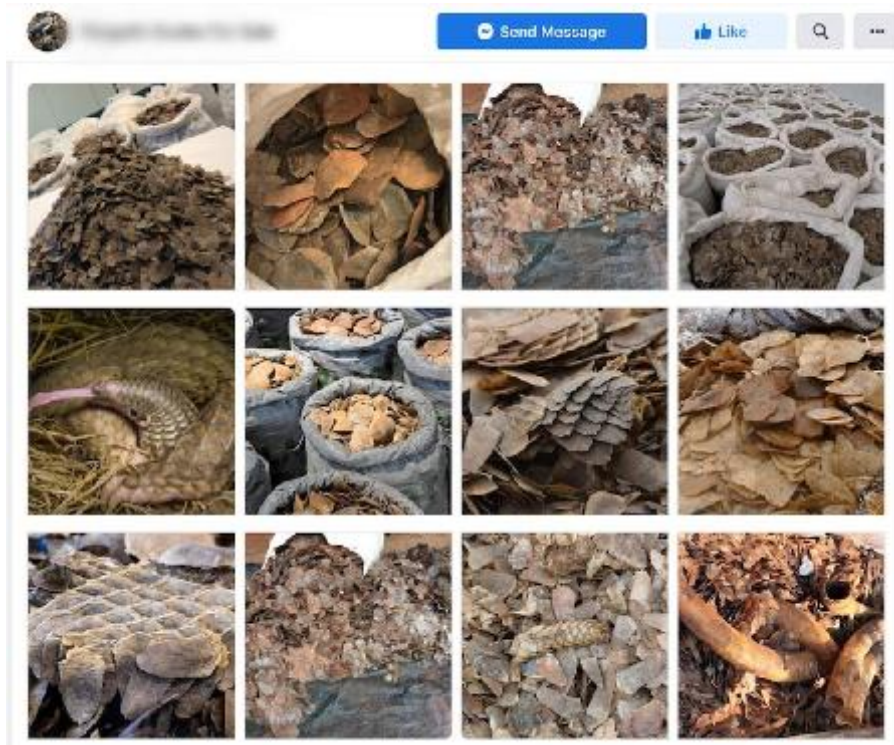


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The volume of online reports and unabated on-the-ground trade propelled the environmental department to create the Philippine Operation Group in Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Task Force POGI), an inter-agency unit that was among last year's recipients of the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award.



A pangolin bust in Medan, Indonesia, April 2015, recovered over 4,000 frozen pangolins. Around 97 were rescued alive and 77 kg of scales were confiscated. Image by Paul Hilton for WCS



A screengrab of a Facebook account selling pangolin scales, taken on May 31, 2021 by Mongabay. This particular trader used photographs of confiscated pangolin scales from various anti-wildlife trafficking and enforcement groups instead of posting original images. Despite Facebook's policies, accounts like this could still be created, seen and accessed on the platform.

Recently, Facebook and Instagram launched pop-up messages informing users about the illegal wildlife trade when certain wildlife-related search words are entered. For instance, when a user searches for a protected species combined with a commercial activity such as "tiger+buy," a pop-up will appear at the top of the search results to remind them that this activity contravenes Facebook's policies, and directs them to more information from conservation groups such as WWF.

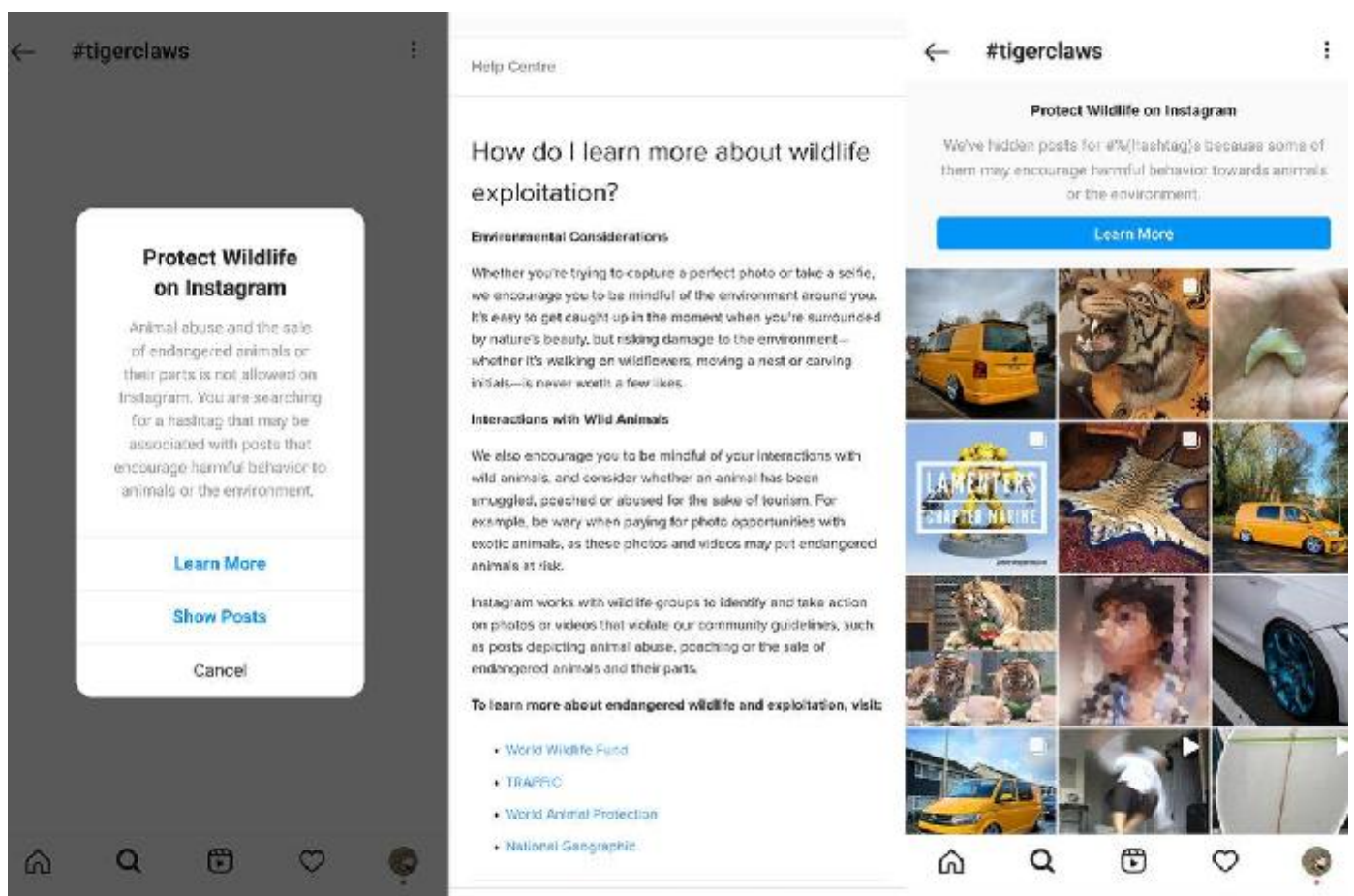
In some cases, searches for animal selfies on Instagram also result in an educational alert for users so they understand that, while a seemingly innocuous activity, everyone should be thoughtful about interactions with wild animals. Further, Facebook says users on both Facebook and Instagram can report live animals and wildlife products directly on the platforms for review.

Internet users in Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia spend an average of four hours a day online, and Facebook is the region's [top social media and commerce platform](#). Indonesia has the greatest number of users at 130 million, followed by the Philippines with 75 million users, Vietnam with 61 million and Thailand with 50 million users. As such, Facebook has become the prime trading ground for illegal wildlife.

Facebook's role in the proliferation of the illicit trade has placed Indonesia — a country with very little in the way of ivory sources — at the center of the ivory trade ring. A TRAFFIC [report](#) released last July indicated that 8,508 ivory items, from elephant tusks to jewelry and decorative items, were posted for sale on 1,559 Facebook and Instagram accounts in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam in 2016.

“[Indonesia] had the most traders dealing in ivory online,” the TRAFFIC report says. “These findings, coupled with recent ivory seizures from online traders in Indonesia and cross-border seizures, raise a red flag on the true extent of the country's ivory trade.”

In 2018, social media giants Facebook, Instagram, Google, Tiktok, Pinterest and others banded together to battle the illegal wildlife trade through the [Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online](#). From the initial 21 companies, the coalition has grown to include 40 corporate partners with more than 9 billion user accounts worldwide that have reported blocking or removing more than 4 million listings that violate prohibited wildlife policies.



Recently, Facebook and Instagram launched pop-up messages that inform users about illegal wildlife trade when certain wildlife-related search words are entered

In 2019, Facebook and Instagram also participated in the Coalition Wildlife Cyber Spotter program. This program trains volunteers to identify and report prohibited wildlife products and share that data with companies for time-bound actions.

Facebook's Asia-Pacific communications team tells Mongabay the company doesn't currently release data about wildlife trafficking but says there's more room for transparency and that it's working on this. Facebook says it has a long-standing policy prohibiting wildlife trafficking, which it updated in 2020 to address the latest trends and threats.

TRAFFIC reported a 70% decrease in ivory items for sale on Facebook between 2016 and 2019, and a 42% decrease in groups engaging in ivory trafficking during this same period. While TRAFFIC flagged 600 posts in its study, only 557 have been removed after the study's release, pointing to the need to strengthen Facebook's policies against the trade.

Facebook says it partnered with wildlife monitoring networks in the coalition on ways to better equip its team of reviewers to identify violating content and to help stay up to date with the latest trends in wildlife trafficking. The training focuses on threatened animals at high risk of the trade, as well as the parts that are most highly traded, like tiger fangs and ivory, among others. In addition, training modules include images of products and common lookalikes, associated search words, and visual clues to look for.

"There is no place for illegal wildlife trade on any Facebook app, and we prohibit content and ads attempting to trade, sell or purchase endangered animals," a Facebook spokesperson said. "Illegal wildlife trafficking is a shared challenge that goes beyond any single country, platform or company and we are always open to feedback, recommendations and new partnerships to help improve our response. In addition to proactive detection, partnerships with wildlife experts and work with law enforcement, we continue to invest to improve the enforcement of our policies."

A series of studies on Philippine species released by Emerson Sy from TRAFFIC shows the role Facebook and online social media platforms play in the sale of critically endangered Philippine wildlife.

Sy published a study last year indicating that two-thirds of globally traded monitor lizards advertised on Facebook from 2017 to 2020 occur solely in the Philippines. Around 541 monitor lizards were found in 20 different Facebook groups during the study period; two-thirds of these monitor lizards come from 11 species that are endemic to the Philippines.



Palawan Forest Turtle. Image by Nicolas Cegalerba and Joanna Szwemberg for KFI

Another species, the rare and critically endangered Philippine forest turtle (*Siebenrockiella leytensis*), is among the most coveted and most heavily sold in online trading sites, both in China and in the Philippines. Notoriously difficult to breed, it's often passed off as captive-bred by numerous private zoos and breeding facilities, Sy tells Mongabay.

"There are traders who sell these turtles online and we know that they're linked to private zoos," he says. "These turtles are as important and as critically endangered as our Philippine eagles yet they don't receive the same level of protection. These turtles have only been successfully bred in 2018. Any Philippine forest turtle sold before 2018 is likely poached from the wild."



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← Previous | Next →



Leyte turtle (Philippine turtle) pair

¥ 400,000

quantity

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add to cart



Super rare! Immediate combat adult pair!



An online listing in Japan of the rare Philippine forest turtle. Image courtesy of Emerson Sy

Philippine forest turtles are often monitored for sale in online trading sites in China, TRAFFIC’s report notes. Last April, the London-based wildlife monitoring group found four individuals advertising Philippine forest turtles online amid the pandemic. Two were offered for sale in a Japanese pet store, indicating the continuing demand for the species.

While Facebook strengthens its policies on wildlife trade, conservationists say that traders may have moved to other platforms like WeChat, WhatsApp, Telegram and other platforms that are hard to monitor. Regardless, experts say that the Coalition is a good step forward in monitoring the online trade.

“It has become increasingly challenging for wildlife cybercriminals to post content and keep the content live on Coalition platforms,” TRAFFIC’s Giavanna Grein tells Mongabay. “While users can always create a new account when content is removed, it takes time and trust to build connections and establish a profile or a page, which disrupts ongoing trafficking activities,”

New modus: Stockpiling

Amid the pandemic’s increased enforcement activities, experts noticed that traders employ a shift in strategies: Traders resorted to stockpiling ivory, pangolin scales and fossilized giant clam shells.

In Vietnam, investigations conducted by the Environmental Investigations Agency (EIA) and the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC) reveal that more than 22 tonnes of pangolin scales were being offered in Vietnam between January and March 2020, indicating that large quantities of pangolin scales are stockpiled in the country and would be ready to ship once border measures loosen. Experts also note a possible change in trade base; In Laos, traders are moving out of the capital Vientiane to unidentified bases in the countryside.



An Asian elephant in Khao Yai National Park, Thailand. Image by Gus Delintari



In August 2020, Singapore started crushing 9 tonnes of elephant ivory estimated to cost \$13.5 million to dissuade the trade. Image courtesy of the National Parks Board, Singapore

The WJC report indicated a similar strategy in the ivory trade. Increased law enforcement in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam prompted traders to stockpile raw ivory. While China has banned domestic ivory trade since 2018, the attention has shifted to Cambodia, where there's a "substantial open illegal ivory market driven by Chinese clientele."

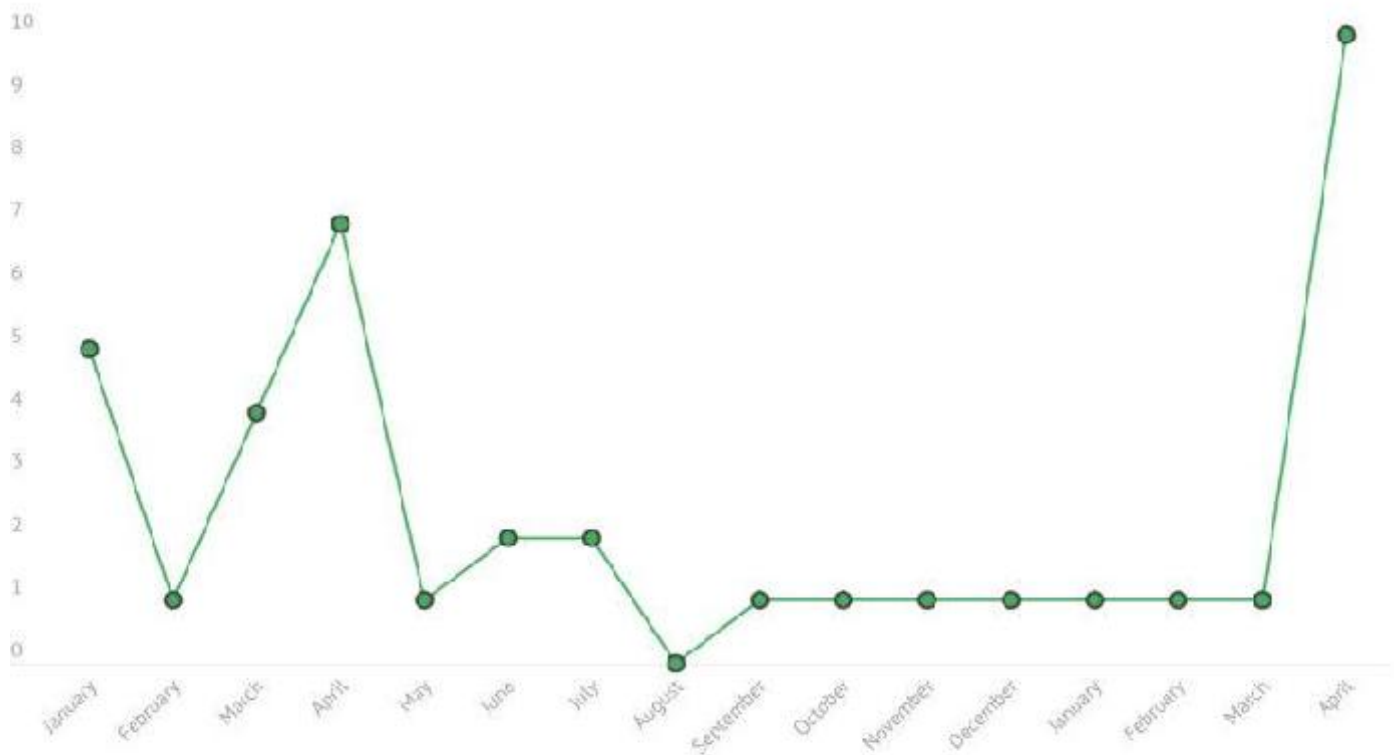
In Malaysia, a steady rise in elephant deaths in Borneo has been linked to the ivory trade and human conflict by the Sabah Wildlife Department in 2020. Last January, a pygmy elephant was gunned down, dismembered, left without a trunk and half of its skin carved out. The tusks weren't taken, leading authorities to regard the act as retaliation over increasing enforcement activities in the area.

Since October 2020, Philippine authorities have reported seizures of more than 150 metric tons of fossilized giant clam shells based on media reports. Data from the Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG) obtained by Mongabay, however, show the real number is much bigger in scale: from January to April this year alone, the country's police force confiscated around 621 metric tons of giant clam shells in nine operations across the country. Only 16 individuals were arrested, with some abandoning the loot to evade arrest.

Government data and media reports also show that the highest number of operations resulting in wildlife seizures occurred while the country was in the midst of the strictest phase of its lockdown. Figures from the PNP-MG show a total of 26 operations were conducted in 2020, leading to the arrest of 15 individuals. The highest number of seaborne operations happened during the height of the country's lockdown, from March 15 to April 30, 2020. The most number of operations resulting in wildlife seizures this year also transpired while the Philippines was under another lockdown, from March 29 to May 14, 2021.

The increase in coastal patrols corresponded with an increase in seizures of wildlife products. PNP-MG head Oliver Tanseco attributes this trend to the number of police checkpoints set up across the country to enforce the lockdown, freeing up maritime personnel to focus on sea-based operations. "Aside from coastal operations, the PNP-MG also supports in local peace and order, and criminality, like the drug war," Tanseco says. "But because numerous police personnel was deployed across the country, the Maritime Group was able to focus on coastal patrols and capture these elements."

In Malaysia, authorities seized more than 6 metric tons of African pangolin scales in April 2020 in Port Klang, the biggest seizure recorded in that port and the biggest confiscation of pangolin parts in Southeast Asia last year. This incident triggered fears among conservationists that traders may have been taking advantage of the lockdowns despite increased enforcement.



Seaborne operations resulting in wildlife seizures in the Philippines from January 2020 to April 2021

Chart: Mongabay Environews Philippines

Source: Philippine National Police-Maritime Group (PNP-MG)

In the Philippines, the PNP-MG conducted 13 operations from January to April this year, arresting 27 individuals. In March and April, the group rescued two reticulated monitor lizards (*Varanus* spp.) classified as vulnerable by the IUCN; 18 birds, including the near-threatened whistling green pigeon (*Treron formosae*), and the endemic white-eared brown dove (*Phapitreron leucotis*); and 100 pieces of *lapu-lapu*, a prized grouper threatened by overfishing.

The series of arrests conducted by enforcement units across the region, although lower compared to previous years, indicate that traders may be concocting new strategies to circumvent the mobility restrictions implemented by governments during the pandemic. Seizures, after all, are only the tip of the iceberg in measuring the scale of the trade, experts say.

“We make population estimates based on studies and surveys, but the number of confiscated animal parts ... the number of rescued wildlife — if you include the number of wildlife that’s being sold online — all those figures exceed our population estimates,” TRAFFIC’s Sy says.

For example, estimates for the population of the Philippine forest turtles in the wild range widely from four to 121 individuals per hectare after the species was rediscovered in 2004 in Palawan province. But in 2015, a single seizure resulted in the rescue of 3,921 individuals, exceeding the population estimates, Sy says. “It shows the gaps in learning more about species behaviors and life cycles, as well as limitations in enforcement measures.”

While the pandemic brought attention to illegal wildlife trafficking, it’s unlikely to lead to its demise. “The trade may come back once the restrictions are lifted,” says Giovanni Broussard, regional coordinator of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime’s (UNODC) Global Programme for Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime. “When people started to feel more confident that COVID is over due to the effectivity of vaccines and their fear in consuming wildlife is not there anymore ... traders are optimistic that the business will come back,” he says.



A Philippine pangolin pup and its mother, a critically endangered species. Image by Gregg Yan (CC BY-SA 4.0)



A foreign national residing in the Philippines posted photos of pangolin soup she apparently consumed in the Philippines in 2019. Chinese characters translate to "Pangolin soup – apparently good for the health." Image by TRAFFIC

Changing landscape

The persistence of the illegal wildlife trade, despite the slowdown wrought by COVID-19, proves that the pandemic won't stamp out the trade, and that it "will continue unabated" in the post-COVID-19 era, driven by market demand for food, medicine and trinkets, USAID's report says. Criminal networks that once sustained the ivory trade have expanded to pangolins in recent years, and the search for alternatives to ivory has seen a rapid increase in demand for giant clam shells.

The heavy trafficking of African and Asian pangolins, for one, is fueled by its perceived benefits in traditional medicine and a curiosity for the "exotic" meat in Guangdong province, China's biggest market for the species, a study finds.

A recent survey by WWF, released May 24, found that nearly 30% of respondents in China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States say they have consumed less or stopped consuming wildlife altogether due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, 9% of respondents said they were intent on purchasing wildlife products in the future.

The USAID report says COVID-19 in turn has drawn attention to the threat that the trade poses to human health, the global economy and biodiversity. But it adds the health emergency has also revealed the inadequacies of wildlife legislation, policies and enforcement on a global scale.

For example, China's planned revisions of its wildlife laws and regulations to prevent future pandemics still have significant loopholes that permit the exploitation of threatened species for traditional medicine, a billion-dollar industry considered a key driver of species declines. The consumption ban is unlikely to impact high-level and industrial-scale wildlife trafficking, the USAID report says.

USAID's digest also reports that a bulk of wildlife seizures occur in China and can be traced back to transshipment points in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East, indicating that traders are still managing to evade border control measures amid the pandemic.



Skins of tigers and clouded leopards were among wildlife parts seized by Malaysian authorities. Image by Elizabeth John/TRAFFIC

In the Philippines, officials are pushing for the revision of the country's wildlife laws to include wildlife syndicated crime and wildlife laundering. Among the proposed amendments is an increase in jail time of up to 20 years for wildlife trafficking. "Illegal wildlife trade is a transnational crime," says Theresa Tenazas, head of the DENR's Wildlife Resources Division (WRD). "The penalties in our wildlife law no longer serves as a deterrent. The landscape is changing — we live in an online era and we can't keep up with a 20-year-old law."

Southeast Asia's ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), the region's consolidated COVID-19 exit strategy, puts an emphasis on combating wildlife trafficking by sharing and exchanging information and strengthening regional enforcement mechanisms. While leaders are aware of the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, ACB's Lim says the challenge is always "operationalizing" these commitments on the ground.

With changing trading strategies, several approaches are necessary, Lim says. These include awareness campaigns for consumers, the recognition of wildlife enforcers as "front-liners," engaging with more communities as partners in combating the trade, and, most importantly, providing disincentives for traders.

"There have to be disincentives for traders who engage in the illegal market trade," Lim says. "There must be increased awareness, especially among consumers that certain wildlife species could harbor some viruses. If it's illegally poached, then you are sure that it didn't undergo any health inspection and could be carriers of the next pandemic."

The UNODC's Broussard says strengthening the capacities of cybercrime units in some regions is key, adding that his office is assisting wildlife units and organizations in Asian countries to identify and investigate the wildlife trade by providing training in investigation and strengthening skills of law enforcers.

TRAFFIC's Chng says a key point to address the illegal wildlife trade online is to continuously improve the public's legal awareness. This includes triggering further investigations into particular users, enforcement actions such as seizures, and arrests by law enforcement agencies. For coalition partners like the social media giants, she says this includes continuing to close or suspend groups and accounts that violate policies.

Citations:

Sy, E. Y., & Lorenzo II, A. N. (2020). The trade of live monitor lizards (Varanidae) in the Philippines. *Biawak*, 14(1-2), 35-44. Retrieved from http://varanidae.org/14_1-2_Sy_and_Lorenzo.pdf

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Source: <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/wildlife-trafficking-like-everything-else-has-gone-online-during-covid-19/>



Miners group back proposed ban on coastal mining

By TED CORDERO, GMA News

Published June 1, 2021 6:06pm



The Offshore Mining Chamber of the Philippines (OMCP) is backing the proposed ban on sand mining in some coastal towns in the Ilocos Region to prevent shoreline erosion.

In a statement, OMCP said offshore mining is relatively a new mining concept and needed professional capabilities and expertise.

It said that only those with the expertise and proper technology should be allowed to undertake mining operations in offshore areas, not in shorelines, to prevent further shoreline erosions. The group issued the statement after Probinsyano Ako party-list Representative Jose “Bonito” Singson Jr. presented his position to ban coastal mining in a congressional hearing.

Singson particularly raised concerns over the practice of some mining firms, especially those owned by the Chinese, to extract sand from shorelines in Ilocos Region in search of magnetite.

With this, OMCP cited the guidelines issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on May 16, 2016 that no mining within the 500 meters from the shorelines to offshore to prevent possible coastal erosion, and no mining 200 meters from on shoreline to inland areas of any coastal town.

OMCP added that proper and adequately evaluated Environmental Compliance Certificates must be secured first from the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau.

“Dredgers or mining vessels must have an Environmental Impact Assessment from the country of design and/or manufacture,” the group said, citing DENR guidelines.

“Companies involved in offshore mining or dredging must have ISO Certificate on their offshore mining or dredging standards of operation for Environmental Protection and Ecological Balance,” it added.

OMCP noted that offshore mining firms must be adequately capitalized as environmentally safe and ecologically balanced offshore mining vessels are capital intensive, complete with experienced technical people.



Likewise, the group said that an offshore miner must obtain a DENR-MGB approved feasibility of mining declaration, DENR-MGB approved Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program.

It must also have a duly approved public consultation and acceptance of the local community and resolution from the local government units of no objection to the offshore mining or dredging activity.

Before any export shipment can be done, there must be a mineral ore export permit (MOEP) no less duly passed upon by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for the proper payment 4% of excise taxes and proper payment of Mineral Reservation Fees to DENR-MGB of 5%, OMCP said.

So far, only one mining company—JDVC Resources Corporation—has been approved and fully permitted to do offshore large-scale mining operations to mine magnetite iron deposits off Cagayan.

JDVC has already deployed its first deep sea mining vessel, the MB Siphon 1, which has started to do its site developmental stage, preliminary seabed trenching, and bulk sampling preparatory to commercial export shipment.

OMCP counts as members Agbiag Mining and Development Corp., Cagayan Blue Ocean Offshore Aquamarine Services Corp., JDVC Resources Corp., Northern Orient Resources Development Corp., Advanced Technology Resources Mining and Business Process Technology Provider Corp., Mineralogic Resources Corp., and Royal Line Mining Corp.—AOL, GMA News



DepEd, BCSP unveil Philippine biodiversity toolkit for teachers, learners

By DepEdPublished on June 1, 2021

PASIG CITY, June 1 -- In line with the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity last May 22, the Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with the Biodiversity Conservation Society of the Philippines (BCSP), launched the Samot-Saring Buhay: A toolkit on Philippine Biodiversity to impart appreciation and awareness of the country's rich biodiversity last May 21.

Crafted to encourage participation and leadership of teachers and learners in conservation efforts, the Samot-Saring Buhay Toolkit provides information on Philippine biodiversity, threats, and conservation efforts. It also discusses the adversity faced by biodiversity and its effect on our health, economy, and resilience to hazards.

"Recognizing the role of the youth as partners in nurturing and renewing Philippine diversity, we in the Department of Education hold responsibility to equip more learners with the appropriate learning and thinking skills that will enable them to become agents of change and advocates of biodiversity," Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones said.

During the online launch, BCSP President Mr. Ranier Manalo also shared the importance of the toolkit with regard to society and the environment.

"We are also aware that this often involves complex issues in our daily lives, in terms of psychological, social, and economic significance. But at the end of the day we require policy harmonization for conservation and sustainability needs, this toolkit is for all of us," Mr. Manalo said.

Undersecretary for Curriculum and instruction Diosdado San Antonio and Undersecretary for Administration Alain Del B. Pascua also shared their appreciation for the creation of the biodiversity toolkit for teachers.

"We are thankful that we have this toolkit so that our schools and teachers can help heighten our advocacy for quality education, for quality health, and quality life," Usec. San Antonio said.

"In line with the Department of Education's core value Makakalikasan, this tool kit, which has been put together by advocates for the Philippine environment from different agencies and organizations, is a way of ensuring the continued protection and conservation of our natural resources. We do this by empowering our Filipino youth thru education and appreciation of our country's biodiversity," added Usec. Pascua.

The production of the toolkit is spearheaded by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) under the Administration Strand and will soon be available for download for free in various DepEd platforms like DepEd Commons, DepEd LMRDS, and Microsite on created resources for teaching climate change. (DepEd)



ASEAN crafts regional plan against plastic pollution

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 1, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Southeast Asian region has crafted a five-year plan to address plastic pollution in the marine areas of the member states in a bid to solve one of the critical environmental challenges in the world.

The 10 members of ASEAN recently launched the ASEAN Regional Action Plan for Combating Marine Debris which provides a scalable, solution-focused joint strategy to address marine plastic debris across the region until 2025.

The five-year plan is seen as a bolder and more collective commitment aligned with national agendas toward tackling a critical environmental challenge.

It is estimated that plastics account for 80 percent of all marine debris in the oceans and ASEAN alone generates more than 31 million metric tons of plastic waste.

At present, about 53 percent of the waste generated in ASEAN is uncollected. Of the waste that is collected, less than a quarter is recycled.

The remaining quantities are either illegally dumped after collection (around 34 percent of collected waste) or treated and disposed of (around 43 percent of collected waste).

Some 4.8 to 12.7 million MT of plastic leak into oceans each year with the whole Asia contributing to over 80 percent of the marine leakage.

Unfortunately, the Philippines is the third largest contributor with an estimated 750,000 MT of mismanaged plastic entering the ocean every year.

While ASEAN states are boosting efforts to combat plastic waste, shared river systems, connected coastlines and the international trade in plastic products and plastic waste exacerbate the threat of marine debris for the entire region.

Also, the COVID-19 pandemic put an additional burden on the sharp increase of single-use plastics, personal protective equipment, and plastics used as e-commerce and online deliveries soared.

ASEAN Secretary General DatoLim Jock Hoi said the action plan includes 14 regional actions across four pillars of policy support and planning, research, innovation and capacity building, public awareness, education and outreach, and private sector engagement.

The plan also supports ASEAN's overall commitment to tackle the challenge by reducing plastic inputs into the system, enhancing collection and minimizing leakage, as well as creating value for waste reuse.

Actions include guidelines for countries to phase out single-use plastics, harmonize regional policies on recycling and plastics packaging standards, and strengthen regional measurement and monitoring of marine debris.

The plan was developed through consultations with representatives from ASEAN, regional technical experts and the private sector. Support was also offered by the World Bank Group, through PROBLUE, an umbrella multi-donor trust fund that supports the sustainable and integrated development of marine and coastal resources in healthy oceans.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/06/01/2102143/asean-crafts-regional-plan-against-plastic-pollution>



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CPDO, Ata tribe reminds public: Ancestral domains not for sale



Contributed photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#) June 01, 2021

INDIGENOUS peoples (IP) leaders sought the support of the Davao City Government in promoting their call that the ancestral domains are not for sale by posting it on billboards.

In a press release on Tuesday, June 1, the City Planning and Development Office (CPDO) released a statement in support of the Ata Tribe in their call that the ancestral domains are not for sale.

CPDO said this call was reiterated by members of the Indigenous Political Structure of the Ata tribe of Paquibato District on May 15.

Members of the Indigenous Political Structure issued Resolution 10 series of 2021, reaffirming their commitment to protecting their ancestral domain from abuse due to rampant illegal sales of their lands and intrusive developments introduced to various areas.

During the gathering, IP leaders have collectively agreed to seek the support of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio in amplifying their efforts to promote awareness and recognition of, and respect for, their ancestral domain as enshrined in Republic Act (RA) 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) Law.

"Concretely, the IP leaders sought assistance in setting up billboards and signage in all the barangays of Paquibato District bearing the messages 'Ancestral Domains are NOT FOR SALE' and 'Penalty of IMPRISONMENT for the Seller and Buyer,' through Resolution 010 Series of 2021 signed by the nine members present in the meeting," CPDO said in a press release.

According to the City Planning, the entire Ata tribe's ancestral domain sprawls over an area of 65,796.87 hectares of land, with 56,506.03 hectares situated within the boundaries of Davao City.

"The Ata tribe leaders are hoping that by protecting their ancestral domain, they will be able to preserve and enrich their indigenous culture and practices and also enhance their way of life with the support of local and national government agencies," CPDO said.

SunStar Davao has sought comments from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), but it has yet to respond as of Tuesday afternoon, June 1.



According to RA 8371, "The indigenous concept of ownership generally holds that ancestral domains are the ICC's/IP's [Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples] private but community property which belongs to all generations and therefore cannot be sold, disposed or destroyed."



Climate summit urges more action

Published 4 hours ago on June 2, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



SEOUL, South Korea (AFP) — At the two-day P4G or ‘Partnering for Green Growth’ summit — the second of its kind following the inaugural meeting held in Copenhagen in 2018 — world leaders called in the concluding Seoul Declaration for more action in the global drive towards a greener planet.

“We recognize that climate change, desertification and land degradation, and biodiversity loss are three of the greatest environmental challenges of our times,” the declaration said at the virtual summit hosted by South Korea on Monday.

Top US and EU representatives urged other countries to do more in the global initiative towards a greener planet, stressing the world “cannot afford to wait.”

The US’ special climate envoy John Kerry told the P4G climate conference hosted by South Korea: “We are pressing other countries to step up their ambitions as well.”

Moments earlier, Vietnam called for developed countries to take the lead and provide financial assistance to others, but Kerry told Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh: “We all have to do it.” Kerry’s comments came as virtual negotiations resumed ahead of the next UN climate change conference in Glasgow in November, with scientists issuing increasingly dire warnings on the situation.

But Monday’s summit statement came as many of the largest emitters have so far failed to keep up their commitments and countries have not even agreed on a unified rulebook governing how the Paris agreement works in practice.

The Paris agreement sought to limit temperature increase to well below two degrees Celsius, aiming for 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

The UN says that emissions must fall nearly eight percent annually to keep 1.5C in play — equivalent to the emissions saved during the pandemic every single year through 2030. “Europe will be doing its part,” EU chief Ursula von der Leyen told the meeting. “But the reason we are here today is that we all need to do our share.

“It is a matter of self-interest, of mutual interest, and of collective interest, she said.”

Source: https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/06/02/climate-summit-urges-more-action/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=climate-summit-urges-more-action



UN climate chief: Paris accord rules must be wrapped up this year

By [Reuters](#) - June 2, 2021

BARCELONA. – Governments must finalize rules for the Paris Agreement on climate change at November's COP26 summit so the pact can be fully implemented and serve as the basis for a green recovery from the pandemic, the UN climate chief said on Monday.

As three weeks of virtual climate talks opened, Patricia Espinosa also called on rich nations to fulfill long-standing climate finance pledges to poorer, vulnerable nations in order to secure trust in the UN-led process.

"It's time to wrap up outstanding negotiations and implement the Paris Agreement," said Espinosa, noting that many nations have yet to submit stronger climate action plans that were due last year under the 2015 global accord.

"Unleashing its full potential will not only address climate change but help the world build forward from COVID-19 and drive the transformation towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future," she said.

The talks that kicked off on Monday are the first official UN climate negotiations to be held since the end of 2019, due to delays caused by COVID-19.

Espinosa told reporters she had recently urged ministers from the G7 group of wealthy nations to deliver the \$100 billion a year promised to developing countries from 2020 to help them adopt clean energy and adapt to climate change impacts.

New funding pledges will not be made at the UN climate talks that run until June 17, but they could emerge at the G7 leaders' meeting to be held in Britain from June 11-13.

Sonam P. Wangdi of Bhutan, who chairs the 46-member group of least developed countries at the UN talks, said in a statement climate finance was "a key piece of delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement."

Diann Black-Layne of Antigua and Barbuda, representing the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said its 44 members should get better access to climate finance, as they struggle to recover from hurricanes and access green technology.

The British cabinet official who will lead the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Alok Sharma, told the opening of the current round of talks that government representatives needed to move past "positional statements" and make tangible progress.

Due to concerns about the June talks being held online across multiple time zones and with potential technical difficulties for some delegates, it was decided the negotiations would not lead to formal decisions.

Those will have to be adopted in person, either at COP26 or at an extra session beforehand. Tricky issues that still need ironing out include rules to govern how global carbon markets work to ensure they help reduce planet-heating emissions, how to report and measure finance, and time-frames for emissions-cutting targets. – Reuters

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/un-climate-chief-paris-accord-rules-must-be-wrapped-up-this-year/



The thermometer registers 121 degrees Fahrenheit (49.4C) in Woodland Hills, California on September 5, 2020.

AFP/Apu Gomez

Global warming blamed for 1 in 3 heat-related deaths

[Marlowe Hood](#) (Agence France-Presse) - June 1, 2021 - 4:15pm

PARIS, France — More than a third of summer heat-related fatalities are due to climate change, researchers said Monday, warning of even higher death tolls as global temperatures climb.

Previous research on how climate change affects human health has mostly projected future risks from heatwaves, droughts, wild fires and other extreme events made worse by global warming.

How much worse depends on how quickly humanity curbs carbon emissions, which hit record levels in 2019 but dipped sharply during the pandemic.

But a new study by an international team of 70 experts is one of the first—and the largest—to look at health consequences that have already happened, the authors said.

The findings, published in *Nature Climate Change*, were stark: data from 732 locations in 43 countries spread across every inhabited continent revealed that, on average, 37 percent of all heat-related deaths can be attributed directly to global warming.

"Climate change is not something in the distant future," senior author Antonio Gasparrini, a professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told AFP.

"We can already measure negative impacts on health, in addition to the known environmental and ecological effects."

The authors said their methods—if extended worldwide—would add up to more than 100,000 heat-related deaths per year laid squarely at the feet of manmade climate change.

Differences across countries

That number could be an underestimate because two of the regions for which data was largely missing—south Asia and central Africa—are known to be especially vulnerable to extreme heat deaths.

The 100,000 figure is consistent with a recent analysis from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluations (IHME), published in *The Lancet*.



The IHME calculated just over 300,000 heat-related deaths worldwide from all causes in 2019. If just over a third of those deaths are due to climate change, as Gasparrini's team reported, the global total would indeed be more than 100,000.

India accounted for more than a third of the total in the IHME tally, and four of the five worst-hit countries were in south Asia and central Africa.

The share of heat-related deaths attributable to global warming in the new study varied widely from country to country.

In the United States, Australia, France, Britain and Spain, for example, that percentage was roughly in line with the average across all countries, between 35 and 39 percent.

For Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and Chile, the figure rose above 40 percent.

And for half-a-dozen countries—Brazil, Peru, Colombia, the Philippines, Kuwait and Guatemala—the percentage of heat-related mortality caused by climate change was 60 percent or more.

A complex methodology combining health data and temperature records from 1991 to 2018, coupled with climate modelling, allowed researchers to contrast the actual number of heat-related deaths with how many fewer deaths there would have been without manmade warming.

Adapt or die

The researchers found that it is not the increase in average summer temperature—up 1.5C since 1991 in the locations examined—that boosted death rates, but heatwaves: how long they last, nighttime temperatures, and humidity levels.

Also crucial is the ability of the population to adapt.

If 95% of the population has air conditioning, mortality will be lower. But if they don't, or if farmers must work outside in 45C (113F) heat to feed their families, the impacts can be catastrophic.

Even wealthy nations remain vulnerable: in 2003, a relentless heatwave in western Europe claimed 70,000 lives.

Deadly heatwaves that might have occurred once a century before climate change kicked in could, by mid-century, happen far more frequently, scientists warn.

The burgeoning field of attribution climate science measures by how much, for example, a typhoon's intensity, a drought's duration, or a storm surge's destruction has been amplified by global warming.

But little research has tried to do the same for human health, notes Dan Mitchell, a researcher at the Cabot Institute for the Environment at the University of Bristol.

"This shift in thinking is essential ... so that global leaders can understand the risks," he said in a comment in Nature Climate Change.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/science-and-environment/2021/06/01/2102370/global-warming-blamed-1-3-heat-related-deaths>



Debate on climate change science far from settled

[By Yen Makabenta](#) June 1, 2021

First word

IN answer to criticism of my recent columns on climate change, I say flatly that "climate change is the lie," not the issues I raised about the climate change travesty.

The objective behind my columns is to seek a full review of Philippine climate policy, including the country's hasty signing of the Paris climate agreement in 2015.

I want a serious discussion of the issues and reject the preposterous claim by climate-change believers that the debate is over.

To continue the discussion, I want to direct attention today to two important developments in the climate issue:

First, the staging in New York City of an unprecedented debate between climate scientists (climate change believers vs climate skeptics) on climate change.

And second, the recent publication of a major book on climate science by physicist Dr. Steven Koonin titled, *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, And Why It Matters*.

I'm interested to see what my critics will say about these events, whether they will call them fake news or misinformation, or attempt to dispute their findings.

Rupert Darwall, a senior fellow of the Real Clear Foundation, wrote a report on the debate and a review of Koonin's book, which I use here to make my case.

Climate debate in New York City

On Jan. 8, 2014, at the New York University in Brooklyn, there occurred a unique event in the annals of global warming - nearly eight hours of structured debate between three climate scientists supporting the consensus on man-made global warming and three climate scientists who dispute it, moderated by a team of six leading physicists from the American Physical Society (APS), led by Dr. Steven Koonin, a theoretical physicist at the New York University.

The debate, hosted by the APS, revealed consensus-supporting climate scientists harboring doubts and uncertainties and admitting to holes in climate science - in marked contrast to the emphatic messaging of bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations (UN).

At one point, Koonin read an extract from the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report released the previous year. Computer model-simulated responses to forcings - the term used by climate scientists for changes of energy flows into and out of the climate system, such as changes in solar radiation, volcanic eruptions and changes in the concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere - "can be scaled up or down." This scaling included greenhouse gas forcings.

Some forcings in some computer models had to be scaled down to match computer simulations to actual climate observations. But when it came to making centennial projections on which governments rely and drive climate policy, the scaling factors were removed, probably resulting in a 25- to 30-percent overprediction of the 2100 warming.



Holes in climate science

The ensuing dialogue between Koonin and Dr. William Collins of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory - a lead author of the climate model evaluation chapter in the Fifth Assessment Report - revealed something more troubling and deliberate than holes in scientific knowledge:

Doctor Koonin: But if the model tells you that you got the response to the forcing wrong by 30 percent, you should use that same 30-percent factor when you project out a century.

Doctor Collins: Yes. And one of the reasons we are not doing that is we are not using the models as [a] statistical projection tool.

Doctor Koonin: What are you using them as?

Doctor Collins: Well, we took exactly the same models that got the forcing wrong and which got sort of the projections wrong up to 2100.

Doctor Koonin: So, why do we even show centennial-scale projections?

Doctor Collins: Well, I mean, it is part of the [IPCC] assessment process.

Koonin was uncommonly well-suited to lead the APS climate workshop. He has a deep understanding of computer models, which have become the workhorses of climate science. As a young man, Koonin wrote a paper on computer modeling of nuclear reaction in stars and taught a course on computational physics at Caltech. In the early 1990s, he was involved in a program using satellites to measure the Earth's albedo - that is, the reflection of incoming solar radiation back into space. As a student at Caltech in the late 1960's, he was taught by Nobel physicist Richard Feynman and absorbed what Koonin calls Feynman's "absolute intellectual honesty."

On becoming BP's chief scientist in 2004, Koonin became part of the wider climate change milieu. Assignments included explaining the physics of man-made global warming to Prince Philip at a dinner in Buckingham Palace. In 2009, Koonin was appointed as undersecretary at the Department of Energy (DoE) in the Obama administration.

'The science' isn't as it should be

The APS climate debate was the turning point in Koonin's thinking about climate change and consensus climate science ("The Science"). "I began by believing that we were in a race to save the planet from climate catastrophe," Koonin writes in his new book, *Unsettled: What Climate Science Tells Us, What It Doesn't, And Why It Matters*. "I came away from the APS workshop not only surprised, but shaken by the realization that climate science was far less mature than I had supposed."

Unsettled is an authoritative primer on the science of climate change that lifts the lid on *The Science* and finds plenty that isn't as it should be. "As a scientist," writes Koonin, "I felt the scientific community was letting the public down by not telling the whole truth plainly." Koonin's aim is to right that wrong.

Unreliable computer models

Koonin's indictment of *The Science* starts with its reliance on unreliable computer models. Usefully describing the earth's climate, writes Koonin, is "one of the most challenging scientific simulation problems." Models divide the atmosphere into pancake-shaped boxes of around 100 kilometers (km) wide and 1-km deep. But the upward flow of energy from tropical thunderclouds, which is more than 30 times larger than that from human influences, occurs



over smaller scales than the programmed boxes. This forces climate modelers to make assumptions about what happens inside those boxes. As one modeler confesses, "it's a real challenge to model what we don't understand."

Inevitably, this leaves considerable scope for modelers' subjective views and preferences. A key question climate models are meant to solve is estimating the equilibrium climate sensitivity (ECS) of carbon dioxide, which aims to tell us by how many temperatures rise from a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Yet in 2020, climate modelers from Germany's Max Planck Institute admitted to tuning their model by targeting an ECS of about 3° Centigrade. "Talk about cooking the books," Koonin comments.

The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating. Self-evidently, computer projections can't be tested against a future that's yet to happen, but they can be tested against climates present and past. Climate models can't even agree on what the current global average temperature is.

Neither is it reassuring that for the years after 1960, the latest generation of climate models show a larger spread and greater uncertainty than earlier ones - implying that, far from advancing, The Science has been going backwards. That is not how science is meant to work.

Distortion of climate data

The second part of Koonin's indictment concerns the distortion, misrepresentation and mischaracterization of climate data to support a narrative of climate catastrophism based on increasing frequency of extreme weather events. As an example, Koonin takes a "shockingly misleading" claim and associated graph in the US government's 2017 Climate Science Special Report that the number of high-temperature records set in the past two decades far exceeds the number of low-temperature records across the 48 contiguous states. Koonin demonstrates that the sharp uptick in highs over the past two decades is an artifact of a methodology chosen to mislead.

Koonin also has sharp words for the policy side of the climate change consensus, which asserts that although climate change is an existential threat, solving it by totally decarbonizing society is straightforward and relatively painless. "Two decades ago, when I was in the private sector," Koonin writes, "I learned to say that the goal of stabilizing human influences on the climate was 'a challenge,' while in government it was talked about as 'an opportunity.' Now back in academia, I can forthrightly call it 'a practical impossibility.'"

Role of scientists

The most unsettling part of Unsettled concerns science and the role of scientists. "Science is one of the very few human activities - perhaps the only one - in which errors are systematically criticized and fairly often, in time, corrected," Karl Popper wrote nearly six decades ago. That condition does not pertain in climate science, where errors are embedded in a political narrative and criticism is suppressed.

There is pressure on climate scientists to conform to The Science and the emergence of a climate science knowledge monopoly. Its function is the manufacture of a product - political legitimacy - which, in turn, requires that competing views be delegitimized and driven out of public discourse through enforcement of a "moratorium on the asking of questions."

Many scientists take this lying down. Koonin won't.

Phony doctrine

To this day, the climate change (CC) movement has not recovered from the devastating



debate in New York. CC believers are wary of debating climate change with climate realists, particularly scientists. They won't even present a reasoned brief on their dogma of climate change. They want it to be granted a presumption of proof.

No wonder, Cal Thomas, the most widely syndicated columnist in America, calls climate change a phony doctrine.

yenobserver@gmail.com

02 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

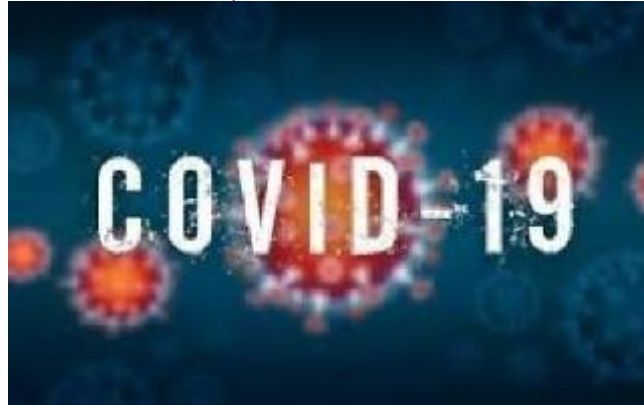
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



PH Covid-19 recoveries climb by 6.2K

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [June 1, 2021, 5:39 pm](#)



MANILA – The country's total number of recovered coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases has reached 1,161,252 after 6,230 more recoveries were reported on Tuesday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) noted that recoveries account for 94 percent of the total Covid-19 case count which has reached 1,235,467 since the start of the pandemic last year.

The agency also reported 5,177 new cases, bringing the total number of active cases to 53,203. About 93.1 percent of these active cases are mild, 2.3 percent are asymptomatic, 1.4 percent are critical, 1.8 percent are severe, and 1.30 percent are moderate.

Some 46 new deaths were also reported, pushing the country's total number of Covid-19 fatalities to 21,012.

The DOH data on May 30 showed about 11.7 percent of 36,978 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Some 11 duplicates were removed from the total case count, and of these, eight were recovered cases. Moreover, 15 cases that were previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

All laboratories were operational on May 30 while 10 laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

The DOH noted the 10 non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 4.3 percent of samples tested, and 6.6 percent of positive individuals based on data in the last 14 days.

To date, 59 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 47 percent of 13,600 isolation beds, 50 percent of 6,000 ward beds, and 39 percent of 2,000 ventilators are utilized by patients with Covid-19 nationwide.

Meanwhile, 53 percent of 700 intensive care unit beds, 40 percent of 3,800 isolation beds, 38 percent of 2,200 ward beds, and 37 percent of 800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use in the National Capital Region. (**PNA**)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1142211>



Coronavirus deaths in the Philippines breach 21,000

(Philstar.com) - June 1, 2021 - 4:00pm



Workers are in a rush to complete the LRT-2 (Light Rail Transit Line 2) East Extension Project which is set to be inaugurated by June.

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Tuesday recorded 5,177 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 1,235,467.

- Active cases: 53,203 or 4.3% of the total
- Recoveries: 6,230, pushing total to 1,161,252
- Deaths: 46, bringing total to 21,012

What's new today?

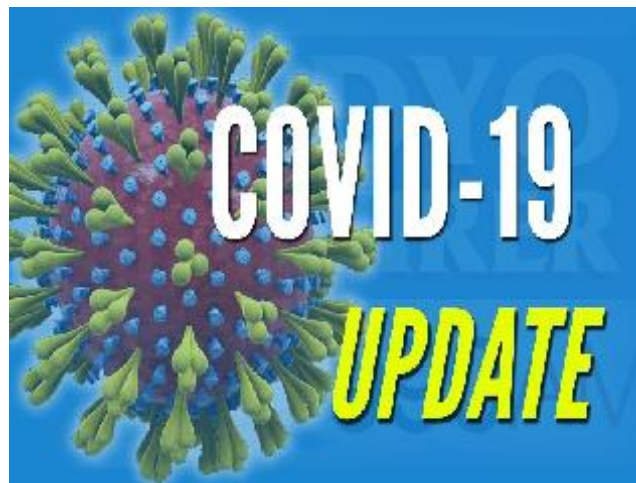
- Metro Manila and four nearby provinces will [remain](#) under General Community Quarantine with heightened restrictions for the entire June, President Rodrigo Duterte announced late Monday night.
- Malacañang said the president also approved [the extension](#) of the ban on travelers coming from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Oman and the United Arab Emirates until June 15.
- The government's pandemic task force is [allowing](#) travelers from the so-called NCR Plus bubble to vacation in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until mid-June.
- The COVAX facility will [deliver](#) 2.2 million COVID-19 shots developed by Pfizer-BioNtech to the Philippines on June 11, marking the beginning of a steady monthly supply from the global vaccine sharing initiative, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. announced.
- Duterte on Monday night also announced the Philippines' [commitment](#) to donate \$1 million, or around P50 million to COVAX, noting the initiative's significant contributions to the country's pandemic response.

—Bella Perez-Rubio with reports from Xave Gregorio



Global death toll bunsod ng COVID-19, higit 3.56 milyon na

By Angellic Jordan June 01, 2021 - 01:41 PM



Lagpas 3.56 milyon na ang bilang ng mga nasawing COVID-19 patient sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, umakyat na sa kabuuang 3,565,027 ang nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa bunsod ng nakakahawang sakit.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang nasawi dahil sa COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 609,767.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 462,966 na pumanaw bunsod ng pandemiya.

Nasa 331,909 naman ang death toll sa India habang 223,568 ang napaulat na nasawi sa Mexico.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 death toll sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- United Kingdom – 127,782
- Italy – 126,128
- Russia – 121,501
- France – 109,528
- Germany – 89,148
- Colombia – 88,774
- Iran – 80,156
- Spain – 79,953
- Argentina – 78,093
- Poland – 73,745

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 171,469,374 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 153,940,187 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/293484/global-death-toll-bunsod-ng-covid-19-higit-3-56-milyon-na>



June 01, 2021

PRRD Talk to the People Address – 31 May 2021



Summary of Classifications for June 1-30 2021

MECQ (until June 15, 2021)	GCQ	MGCQ
R2: CITY OF SANTIAGO, CAGAYAN CAR: APAYAO, BENGUET, IFUGAO R4-B: PUERTO PRINCESA CITY R6: ILOILO CITY R9: ZAMBOANGA CITY, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE R10: CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY CARAGA: BUTUAN CITY, AGUSAN DEL SUR	NCR + BULACAN, RIZAL, LAGUNA, and CAVITE (with restrictions) - *until June 15 CAR: BAGUIO CITY, KALINGA, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, ABRA R2: ISABELA, NUEVA VIZCAYA, QUIRINO R4-A: BATANGAS, QUEZON R10: ILIGAN CITY R11: DAVAO CITY BARMM: LANA DEL SUR, COTABATO CITY	REST OF THE PHILIPPINES 

Activities	MECQ	GCQ	GCQ (with restrictions for June 1-15)
Entertainment venues (bars, concert halls, theatre, etc.)	✗	✗	✗
Recreational venues (net cafes, billiards, arcades, etc.)	✗	✗	✗
Amusement parks, fairs, playgrounds, kiddie rides	✗	✗	✗
Cockfighting	✗	✗	✗
Lottery	Temporarily allowed <i>(inclusion in negative list suspended via Reso 115)</i>	Temporarily allowed <i>(inclusion in negative list suspended via Reso 115)</i>	Temporarily allowed <i>(inclusion in negative list suspended via Reso 115)</i>
Horse racing with Off-Track Betting (OTB) Stations	✗	Temporarily allowed <i>(inclusion in negative list suspended via Reso 114)</i>	Temporarily allowed <i>(inclusion in negative list suspended via Reso 114)</i>



Activities	MECQ	GCQ	GCQ (with restrictions for June 1-15)
Outdoor contact sports, games, scrimmages	Individual outdoor exercises (outdoor walks, jogging, running, biking) are allowed within the general area of their residence	Non-contact sports allowed	Non-contact sports allowed
Indoor sports courts and venues and Indoor tourist attractions	X	50%	X
Venues for meetings, conferences, exhibitions	X	50%	30% (10% if used for social events) <i>May add up to additional 10% if granted Safety Seal</i>
Personal care services (salons, parlors, beauty clinics etc.)	X	50%	40% allowed only for services not requiring mask removal; <i>May add up to additional 10% if granted Safety Seal</i>
Outdoor tourist attractions	X	50%	30% with strict MPHS adherence



Activities	MECQ	GCQ	GCQ (with restrictions for June 1-15)
Specialized markets of the DOT (staycation/DOT-accredited accommodations)	X	Allowed	Allowed (follow MPHS, safety protocols; without age restrictions) <i>Staycation hotels with CAOS - up to 100% venue capacity; other DOT-accredited accommodation establishments - 30%; with LGU oversight</i>
Indoor dining	X	50%	30% <i>May add up to additional 10% if granted Safety Seal</i>
Outdoor Dining (Al fresco)	Not applicable	Not applicable	50%
Religious Activities, wakes, weddings, baptism	10%; LGUs may increase up to 30% necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals only to immediate family members	30%; LGU can increase up to 50%	30%; LGU can increase to up to 50%



Activities	MECQ	GCQ	GCQ (with restrictions for June 1-15)
Interzonal travel from NCR Plus Areas	Not allowed <i>Limited to APOR only</i>	Allowed but subject to destination LGU restrictions	Allowed but subject to destination LGU restrictions <i>For P2P travel, allowed without age restrictions but with testing-before-travel requirement</i>
Intrazonal travel within NCR Plus Areas	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Allowed age groups	18-65	18-65 years	18-65 years



PRRD Talk to the People Address – 31 May 2021

“We were recipients of COVAX vaccines many times and it has helped a lot in our desire to vaccinate Filipinos... As a beneficiary of the generosity of COVAX and their desire also to help people, we will answer their pleadings of donation. **Philippines is giving 1 million dollars, it’s our turn also to return the goodwill that they have shown.**”

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE



PRRD Talk to the People Address – 31 May 2021



PRRD Talk to the People Address – 31 May 2021



“I also make this appeal: All our LGUs implementing the national vaccination program, we need to administer the vaccines quickly because we do not have a vaccine site to become a spreader in event... **Please use technology and advanced approaches to make sure the entire process is more effective.**”

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

Travel Restrictions

Extension of the travel restrictions until 15 June 2021

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh,
Nepal, Oman, United Arab Emirates

Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security

For NCR:	
Quezon City Secretary Francisco T. Duque III Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles	Pasig City Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat
Municipality of Pateros Chairperson Benjamin DC Abalos, Jr.	Marikina City Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III Chairman J. Prospero E. De Vera III
Taguig City Secretary Eduardo M. Año Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon	City of Manila Secretary Gregorio B. Honasan II Director-General Jeremiah B. Belgica
Mandaluyong City Secretary Ramon M. Lopez	Makati City Secretary Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr.

Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security

For NCR:	
San Juan City Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua	Muntinlupa City Secretary Arthur P. Tugade
Parañaque City Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.	Las Piñas City Secretary Mark A. Villar
Pasay City Secretary Herminio L. Roque, Jr.	Caloocan City Secretary William D. Dar
Malabon City Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III Chairperson J. Prospero E. De Vera III	Navotas City Secretary Wendel E. Avisado
Valenzuela City Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña	

IATF Resolution No. 118

Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security

For Bulacan Secretary Menardo I. Guevarra
Cavite Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana
Laguna Secretary Martin M. Andanar
Rizal Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi

IATF Resolution No. 118

PH World Ranking



	PHILIPPINES	Rank
Total Cases	1,230,301*	24
Active cases	54,290**	32
Cases per 100,000 population	1,116.64**	133
Case Fatality Rate	1.7%**	90

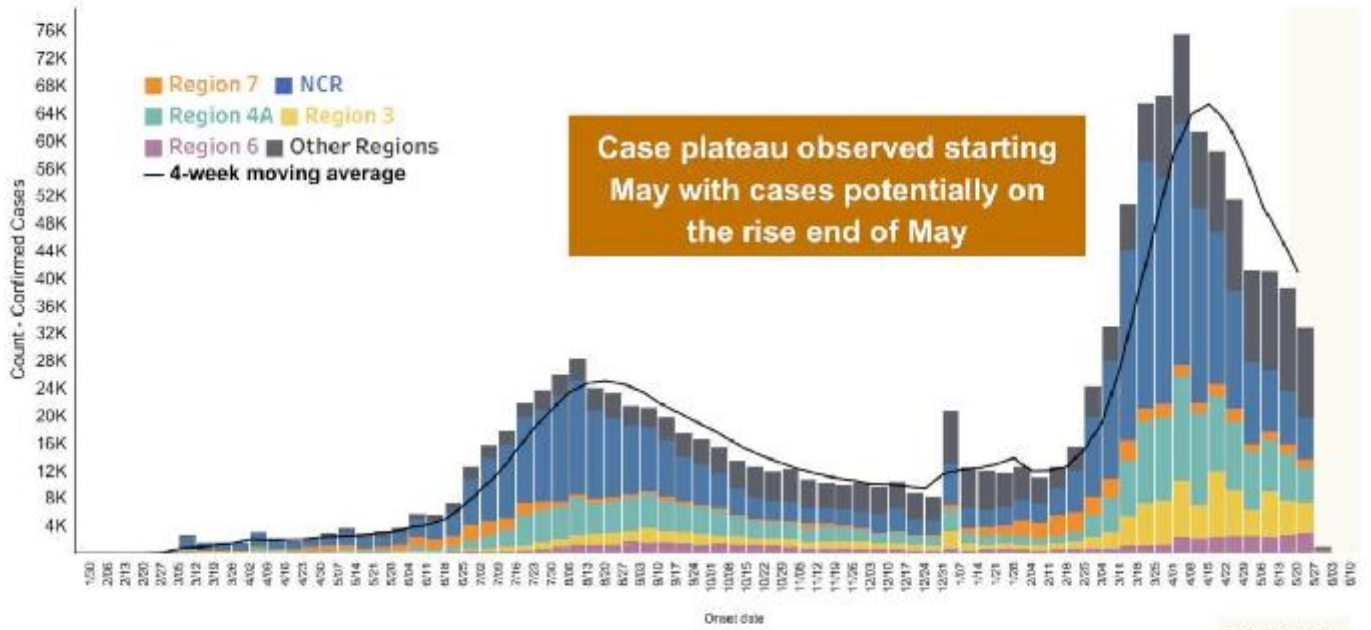
Source: *Johns Hopkins (2021/5/1) and **WHO COVID-19 Dashboard (Accessed on 2021/5/1)

COVID-19 Update – 31 May 2021

ACTIVE CASES		RECOVERIES
54,290 (4.4%)		1,155,045 (93.9%) Recovery Rate
Currently Admitted/Isolated (Assumed as infectious)		DEATHS
(93.3%) Mild	(1.4%) Critical	20,966 (1.70%) Case Fatality Rate
(2.2%) Asymptomatic	(1.8%) Severe	
1,230,301 TOTAL CASES		



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Adjusted Date of Onset (N=1,230,301)
Philippines, As of May 31, 2021



Note: Date of specimen collection (minus 3) or date of report (minus 5) were used as proxy, if date of onset is unavailable.

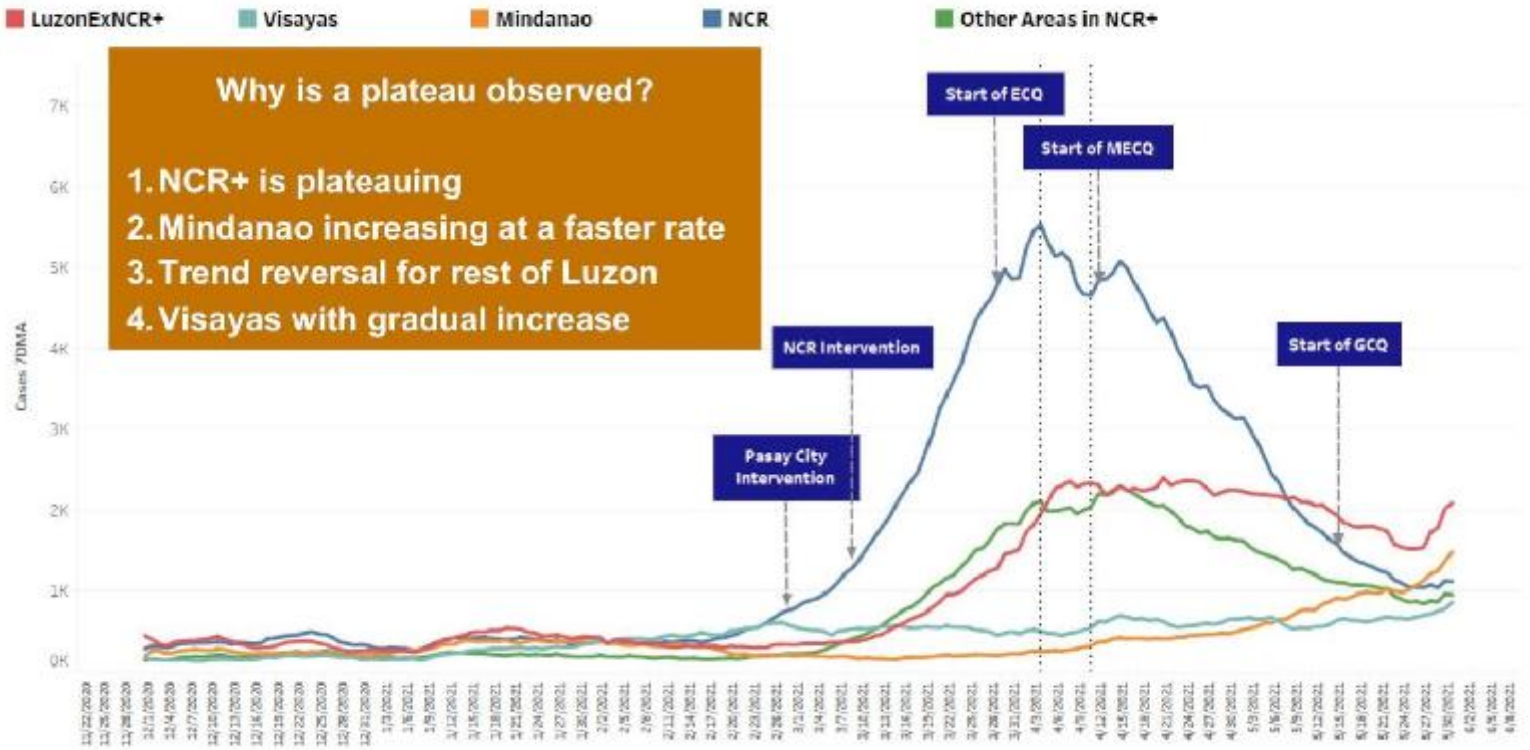
Data in this area may change due to incoming reports



Department of Health, Philippines



Confirmed Cases by Report Date around the Country



Improvements in ADAR and TWGR

Case Trends Nationwide and in NCR



	April 4-17 (peak)	May 2-15	May 16-29
Average Daily Attack Rate (per 100k population)			
Nationwide	9.2	5.94	5.19
NCR	34	13.42	8.11
2-week Growth Rate			
Nationwide	11%	-24%	-13%
NCR	-5%	-46%	-40%



Department of Health, Philippines



Improvements in National HCUR

		March 27 (Pre-ECQ)	Peak (April 13 - 15)	May 31	Absolute Change from Peak Estimate
Overall HCUR		45%	54%	48%	-6% pts
Isolation Beds	Utilization	44%	51%	46%	-5% pts
	No.	17,770	-	18,664	+894 beds
COVID-19 Ward Beds	Utilization	44%	57%	49%	-8% pts
	No.	10,457	-	11,868	+1,411 beds
ICU Beds	Utilization	57%	68%	57%	-11% pts
	No.	2,288	-	3,308	+1,020 beds
Mechanical Ventilators	Utilization	35%	48%	37%	-11% pts
	No.	2,326	-	2,651	+325 units



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02 JUNE 2021, WEDNESDAY



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