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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



'Discard face masks properly to minimize high risk of contamination' — DENR

Published September 1, 2020, 2:50 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is appealing to Metro Manila residents to properly discard used face masks and gloves as these pose a high risk of disease contamination among those retrieving these hazardous waste materials from rivers and coasts.



(Glyn Kirk/ AFP FILE PHOTO/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“Doing cleanup and maintenance activities really has become a challenge with the pandemic but we have to strive now more than ever in doing cleanups as disease-causing germs and viruses thrive in a dirty environment,” DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan said in a social media post.

She pointed out that improperly disposed face masks and gloves used to protect against the coronavirus pose a risk to the health of workers cleaning Metro Manila’s waterways.

The risk from cleaning up the esteros is “high enough already when they go down our rivers and coasts to retrieve improperly disposed waste,” she said adding “surgical masks and gloves that end up in our waterways only adds to these risks.”

Caancan advised Metro Manila residents to practice separating and labeling household medical wastes “to avoid cross-contamination.”

“Not only do we have to segregate biodegradable from recyclables and residuals, but special and hazardous wastes too,” she added.

Last August 27, Caancan along with DENR-NCR Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Ignacio Almira Jr., Conservation and Development Chief Aida Esguerra, and South Field Office Deputy Chief Environment Officer Bobby Tagapan, inspected the water outfalls of Manila Bay in Pasay City and Parañaque City to assess and strategize how to safely conduct cleanup activities with its partner-organizations.

Caancan and the team first inspected the entire stretch of Libertad Channel and its connecting waterway in Pasay City and then moved on to the shorelines of Manila Bay in Barangay Dongalo, Paranaque City. Their last stop was the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

DENR is leading efforts to clean, rehabilitate, and make the waters of Manila Bay safe and compliant to “Class SB” water quality standards that is suitable for swimming, skin diving and other recreational activities.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/01/discard-face-masks-properly-to-minimize-high-risk-of-contamination-denr/>



Sarangani fast tracks P19-M medical waste treatment project

By Allen Estabillo [September 1, 2020, 3:49 pm](#)



(Sarangani provincial capitol building)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The provincial government of Sarangani is pushing for the full operation early next year of its PHP19-million medical waste treatment facility in Alabel town.

Rolando Tuballes, head of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, said Tuesday they have fast-tracked the construction of the facility and its two-hectare sanitary landfill in Barangay Bagacay, Alabel.

Tuballes said the project, which will use the innovative Pyroclave technology, is due to be completed by the end of December.

He said the local government commissioned the project last July to Davao City-based “cleantech” or clean technology company RAD Green Solutions, the developer of proprietary technology Pyroclave Optima.

Pyroclave, one of the top non-incineration technologies available in the market, is a medical waste processor that uses pyrolysis, the process of decomposing organic material using extreme heat in the absence of oxygen, a project briefer said.

It is used to specifically treat infectious, pathological, and pharmaceutical wastes, as well as biomedical materials, such as syringes and needles, it said.

Tuballes said the treatment facility was designed as an economic enterprise and will mainly cater to six provincial government-run and supported hospitals and related facilities.

He said the local government would commission a “biohazard truck” for the collection of the medical wastes from the medical facilities.

The province’s six hospitals produce an average of 120 kg. of medical waste daily, with 20 kg. considered as infectious.

“The collected fees from the processing of the waste materials will be used for its operation and maintenance,” Tuballes said in a statement, adding that wastes processed at the Pyroclave would be disposed at the two-hectare sanitary landfill, which is projected to last about five to seven years.

However, he said they are planning to expand it to another two hectares to double its capacity and life span.

Tuballes said they have proposed a supplemental budget of PHP12.9 million for the construction of the sanitary landfill and administrative building, purchase of office equipment and fixtures, and support for the administrative functions and operations of the facility.



He said they are seeking an additional funding of PHP2.45 million next year for the maintenance and operation of the facility, including the conduct of training and seminars on the management of toxic and hazardous wastes.

It will also be used for the advocacy and information and education campaign on coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) waste management, he said.

Tuballes said Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon wants the facility to become operational at the soonest possible time due to the continuing pandemic.

He said the proper management and disposal of medical wastes, especially those used in Covid-19 isolation and treatment facilities, could help contain the spread of the virus. (**PNA**)



'Increased awareness' cited in Philippine Eagle rescue in Surigao

By Alexander Lopez [September 1, 2020, 8:42 pm](#)



RESCUED PHILIPPINE EAGLE. Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Caraga Executive Director Hadja Didaw D. Piang-Brahim (right) hands over to the Philippine Eagle Foundation on Sunday (Aug. 30, 2020) a Philippine Eagle which was rescued in Gigaquit-Alegria Mountain Range in Surigao del Norte. DENR-13 attributes the rescue to the growing public awareness on the conservation of endangered species. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-13)*

BUTUAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Caraga Region (DENR-13) has attributed to "increased awareness" among the public the rescue of a Philippine Eagle in Surigao del Norte's Gigaquit-Alegria Mountain Range.

Herzon Gallego, DENR-13 information officer, said a resident from Bacuag, Surigao del Norte, identified as Ryan Orquina handed over to DENR-13 a Philippine Eagle after being found by several residents in the mountain range last week.

"The eagle was formally turned over to our office last August 30 and was received by Regional Executive Director (RED) Hadja Didaw D. Piang-Brahim," Gallego told Philippine News Agency on Tuesday.

He said the rescued male eagle is estimated to be three to four years of age with the following specifications: 3.8 kilograms, a length of 92 centimeters (cm), a wingspan of 182 cm., a bill length of 10.4 cm. and the tarsus length is 16 cm.

In a Facebook post, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Tubod-Taganaan (CENRO) area in Surigao del Norte said Orquina bought the endangered eagle from the members of the indigenous people (IP) in the area.

The CENRO office added that members of the Mamanwa tribe captured it three weeks ago from the forests encompassing Lahi, Sico-Sico, Camam-onan (LaSiCam), along the Gigaquit-Alegria boundary.

"His intention of buying was to save the eagle from possible food consumption or be bought by others and held as a captive," the Facebook post said.

The CENRO added that the rescued eagle will be named "Balikatan."

Gallego said the eagle is healthy and fit and was immediately handed over to the representatives from the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) last Sunday.



“RED Piang-Brahim lauded the increased awareness of residents in the region on conservation. Such awareness saved the rescued Philippine Eagle,” Gallego said.

The CENRO in the area said the discovery has confirmed the presence of Philippine Eagle in the area.

“The discovery strongly supports and solidify our resolve to protect and declare the mountain ranges and watershed in those areas as critical habitat and a protected area under Republic Act 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (eNipas) Act of 2018,” the CENRO said.

“It is important for the two agencies to plan out information, education and communication activities among the IPs and other residents in the area to generate their support and cooperation in the protection and management of the said species and the forests it inhabits,” it added. **(PNA)**



Na-rescue na Philippine Eagle sa Surigao Del Norte, naiturn-over na sa DENR

By **Bombo Radyo Butuan** -September 2, 2020 | 3:55 AM

BUTUAN CITY – Dinala na sa Philippine Eagle Foundation o PEF Facility sa Davao ang na-rescue na Agila para sa karagdagang test gaya ng avian influenza at iba pang kakailanganing tests.

Ito ay matapos naiturn-over sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources o DENR ang sub-adult Philippine Eagle na binigyan ng pangalan na “Balikatan” ni Mr. Ryan Orquina sa Bacuag, Surigao del Norte sa nakaraang araw.

Ayon kay Orquina nabili niya ang nasabing agila na kinosiderang endangered species galing sa Indigenous People o IP sa tribong Mamanwa na napabalitaang nahuli tatlong araw na ang nakalipas sa kagubatang sakop sa Lahi, Sico-Sico, Camam-onan o LaSiCam, Gigaquit at Alegria areas.

Pahayag pa ni Orquina, ang kaniyang intensiyon sa pagbili ay ang pagligtas sa agila sa posibleng pagkatay nito o kaya ikukulong.

Ang pag-rescue at pagturn-over ay sinaksihan at isinagawas sa mga personahe sa DENR CENRO Tubod – Conservation and Devt Section (CDS) galing sa CENRO Tubod, Enforcement personnel galing sa PENRO-SDN, DENR Caraga CDD-PABES Chief & Technical staff, team galing sa Philippine Eagle Foundation at si Orquina kasama ang kaniyang pamilya.

Ang sub-adult Philippine Eagle, na tinatayang nasa edad 3 hanggang 4 na taon at lalaki, ay isinailalim sa physical check upang madetermina ang kaniyang health condition at nilagyan ng tag sa PEF.

Umabot ito sa bigat na 3.8 kilo na may 92 sentimetros ang tangkad habang ang lawak ng mga pakpak ay aabot sa 182 sentimetro at ang sungo ay may taas na 10.4 sentimetro at mga paa nito na 16 sentimetro ang taas.

Nilinaw naman na nasa magandang kondisyon ang nasabing agila.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/na-rescue-na-philippine-eagle-sa-surigao-del-norte-naiturn-over-na-sa-denr/>



Stop to illegal logging sought

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

September 2, 2020

PEÑABLANCA, Cagayan: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) has called the attention of local officials for the protection of the Peñablanca Protected Landscape and Seascape (PPLS) where the famous Callao cave is located. Gwendolyn Bambalan, DENR-Region 2 executive director, asked local authorities, particularly barangay (village) officials to be more vigilant in the forest protection efforts of the government particularly the PPLS, a declared national park. Also the chairman of the Protected Area Management Board, Bambalan explained that the PPLS was declared a national park because there are biodiversity species that are to be protected and managed.

In 2003, the PPLS was established under Proclamation 484. It has a total area of 118,781.58 hectares with 103,801 hectares terrestrial and 14,980 hectares marine. “We need [the] support [of] barangay captains in our campaign against illegal logging,” Bambalan said as she underlined the alarming incidence of apprehensions of illegally cut logs in the municipality. Ismael Manaligod, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, said the Cagayan Anti-Illegal Logging Task Force had apprehended five conveyances and 26,123 board feet of lumber and fitches worth P1,306,174 from May 12 to Aug. 14, 2020. This municipality, home to the famous Callao Cave, works to ensure the protection of its caves and cave resources. She said caves are considered protected areas and must be preserved. Meanwhile, Bambalan expressed thanks to Gov. Manuel Mamba for the full support of the provincial government and the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies in the apprehension of illegal logging activities in Cagayan province.



No damage to marine life in El Nido backhoe incident, official says

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Sep 1, 2020 7:17:59 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, September 1) — An environmental official assured that no marine life was harmed by the backhoe caught on video to be cruising along the shoreline in El Nido, Palawan on Aug. 26.

The heavy equipment was spotted by Barangay Corong-Corong residents seemingly casually passing along the shoreline, raising concerns that it might have damaged marine organisms.

However, Palawan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office officer-in-charge Eriberto Saños noted in an interview with CNN Philippines that the affected area is only the swash zone, or the land-ocean boundary, so no marine damage had been done, based on an assessment by marine biologists.

Even so, he said the operator of the backhoe has already been dismissed from work.

Saños also explained that the heavy equipment was in the area for a sewage treatment project by the local government.

“Based sa investigation, maraming bangka ang naka-dock along the shore,” he said. “So ang ginawa ng backhoe operator ay naghanap ng space at umikot para iwasan ‘yung mga bangka at mga lubid na na naroon kaya umikot sa may bandang dagat.”

[Translation: Based on the investigation, several boats were docked along the shore. So what the backhoe operator did was to look for a space and circled around the area to avoid bumping into the boats and the ropes, and ended up in the waters.]

Saños said a more in-depth joint probe between the local government and the Protected Area Management Office is also underway, and that those found to have violated any law will be dealt with accordingly.



Mining firms donate P5.29 million, rice to Masbate townsfolk after quake

By **BusinessMirror**

September 1, 2020

Filminera Resources Corp. (Filminera) and Phil Gold Processing & Refining Corp. (PGPRC) turned over P5.29 million in cash, plus 100 sacks of rice and 50 folding beds to the Municipality of Cataingan, following an earthquake in Masbate.

The donations were received by Cataingan Mayor Felipe Cabatana, Vice Mayor Thelma Ang and Sangguniang Bayan members.

Also, Filminera and PGPRC donated P1 million worth of relief goods and building materials to adjoining Masbate municipalities whose communities and households were severely affected by the earthquake.

Cataingan was hardest-hit by the quake, 6.6 on the Richter scale, last August 18, which shook the entire Masbate province. The earthquake's epicenter is 7 kilometers off Cataingan. The Filminera mine site in Aroroy is 150 kilometers away from Cataingan.

As a post-earthquake response, a team from Filminera and PGPRC joined Cataingan Mayor Cabatana, the municipal engineer and administrator, to inspect and assess the damaged public structures in the municipality.

In a recent weekend inspection, environmental experts from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, visited Filminera's mine site in Aroroy and reported in an exit conference that there were no cases of damage to property, or injury to people at the mine site. Community stakeholders, the local government units, and Filminera and PGPRC representatives attended the conference.

Filminera President Cris Acosta pointed out that inspection results simply confirmed the earlier findings of in-house technical experts and third-party international consultant GHD that there was no damage to structures and equipment.

GHD has been an advisor of the Masbate Gold Project since 2007. GHD was initially engaged to carry out the detailed design of the Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) and has been providing detailed design and construction supervision services for the TSF development. GHD also provides geotechnical assessments, deposition modelling, embankment design and analysis, mine site water balance modelling, and design of the water treatment plant.

The management of Filminera and PGPRC temporarily stopped mining in August 21 to give way to the inspection team, and has since resumed normal operations in August 27.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/09/01/mining-firms-donate-p5-29-million-rice-to-masbate-townsfolk-after-quake/>



The GeoRisk Philippines initiative

By **Atty. Dennis B. Funa**

September 1, 2020

GeoRisk Philippines is a government-led multi-agency initiative to serve as the central resource of information on natural hazards and risk assessment. The project is formally known as the “Geospatial Information Management & Analysis Project for Hazards & Risk Assessment in the Philippines.”

It aims to support the country’s resiliency against natural hazards and risks. The system is to make such hazard-related information available to everyone, i.e. land developers, property owners and buyers, real-estate investors, local government units, national government agencies and communities, to allow them to plan and prepare for such natural hazards. In other words, the initiative is to locate where the natural hazards are located anywhere in the Philippines and to assess the strength of its threat. It is a data-gathering initiative. This Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-led initiative was approved by President Duterte during the 39th cabinet meeting on July 1, 2019. The app was launched on July 16, 2019.

The information can be generated by Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) for seismic and volcanic hazards; and by Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) for hydro-meteorological and climatological hazards. Specifically, everyone would know where hazards on volcanic eruptions, floods and landslides could possibly be located.

This initiative was led by the DOST and the Phivolcs. It is funded by the DOST and monitored by the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development. Among its participants are the PAGASA, DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-MGB, DENR-National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, DND-Office of Civil Defense, and the Department of Education.

To serve as the platform of this initiative is an app or software application called Hazard Hunter Philippines. Hazard Hunter is a tool that can be used to generate indicative hazard assessment reports (Official Hazard Assessment Reports) on specific locations. A mobile app has also been developed and launched. This app was developed with the training support of the Geological Survey of Japan. This is an example of the use of technology to prepare for natural calamities. This app is available at hazardhunter.georisk.gov.ph. Users can zoom in on a specific location using GPS, coordinates or even Google maps. A visual search can also be done by zooming in on a map. Once a place is located, the app will display the hazards in that place as well as have a risk assessment report generated.

Another web application recently released by GeoRiskPH for local government units and decision-makers is the GeoAnalyticsPH: Tsunami Analytics, which is able to give summary reports on population, schools and health facilities exposed to tsunami hazards nationwide. It can also calculate the total area exposed to tsunami.

This government initiative can serve the non-life insurance industry in assessing risks for earthquake, flood, and other natural calamity-related insurance products. While not exactly providing catastrophe risk modelling, it would clearly identify risks sufficient to support initial underwriting assessments.



Nematodes in Hinatuan prove mining rehab success

posted September 01, 2020 at 10:20 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) has been invited to France for a poster presentation on a study on the presence of nematodes to prove the healthy condition of the soil in the rehabilitated area at the mine site.

Nematodes are microscopic wormlike organisms abundant in the upper soil layers that are a major component of the soil's ecosystem. At the mine site, nematodes are like "soil engineers"—the miners' partners in the restoration of the virility of the soil.



SOIL ENGINEERS. Earl John A. Gascon (left), Forester at HMC, says the nematodes are like a friendly army of soil engineers that will lead the way to a successful mine rehabilitation. Meanwhile, Rosemarie Macawile (right), a resident of HMC's host barangay Talavera and a landscaping aide at the mine site, shows the healthy soil at HMC's rehabilitated area.

"Despite huge economic contributions, mining is often linked to soil degradation and one of the biggest challenges for miners is to prove the success of our rehabilitation programs in bringing back life in the mined-out areas," explains Manuel A. Torres, Mine Environmental Protection and Enhancement manager at HMC. Hinatuan Mining spends at least P80 million yearly for rehabilitation programs.

The study by Dr. Joey Genevieve T. Martinez, DSc., Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences (CSM) at the Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) is to be presented at the International Congress on Nematology in Paris.

He used the soil environment at HMC for his academic research to prove that nematodes are ecological indicators of soil condition.

Current indicators of a successful mine rehabilitation are above ground such as vegetation. The study evaluated the effects of mining practices using soil nematodes as bio-indicators.

Some of the results of the study that will be presented to the Conference in Paris, to be attended by nematologists and scientists from all over the world, indicate that the chemical, physical and biological properties of the soil found in the 'undisturbed areas' at the mine site are similar to the soil found in the rehabilitated areas.

"In simpler terms this means that the condition of the soil in the rehabilitated are somewhat similar to the areas that have not been mined and this is a proud statement that says a lot about the efficiency of our rehabilitation program," says Torres.

Engr. Francis Arañes, Jr., HMC Resident Mine Manager, says that the mining company is grateful to Dr. Martinez for choosing HMC to be the focus for his research.

"The study underscores HMC's successful mine rehabilitation programs and brings the mining company's name to an international stage within the scientific community " Arañes beams.

The Philippines is a country well-endowed with mineral resources and mining companies such as HMC – a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corp. (NAC) – are mandated by law to conduct rehab programs that will establish a sustainable agricultural life for the communities after the mine life.



Earl John A. Gascon, HMC's dedicated company forester is excited to see the growth of various plants and crops all over the mine's rehabilitation area but even more proud to share with the communities around the mine site the news about the study on the nematodes.

"As a forester, I see this as HMC's legacy. The nematodes, our friendly army of soil engineers, will lead the way in soil rehab so the people in the mining community will enjoy the virility of the mined-out lands for AgroForest and Farming, for many, many years," exclaims Gascon.



People's coalition, Lucena diocese oppose Quezon coal power plants

Published September 1, 2020, 2:08 PM

by [Leslie Ann Aquino](#)

The Power for People Coalition joined the Diocese of Lucena in opposing the three coal-fired power plant projects in Quezon.

Gerry Arances, convenor of P4P, said “no new coal project must stand in Filipinos’ way to clean and affordable energy for all.”

“We stand in solidarity with communities in Quezon in their bid to abandon coal,” he said in a statement Monday.

“We commit to support this through all means available to us,” added Arances.

P4P along with the Church in Quezon province and community members filed a petition against a coal plant at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in November 2019 for the plant’s alleged failure to adhere to environmental and community education requirements.

The Diocese of Lucena on Monday issued a statement calling for the cancellation of three coal-fired power plant projects proposed to be built by SMC Global Power Holdings and Meralco’s Atimonan One Energy (A1E) in Quezon.

“We call upon these corporations and their power subsidiaries to listen to the cry of the Earth and cancel their plans to set up this dirty, deadly, and costly source of energy. We appeal to the local and national government and their respective agencies to listen to the cry of the people of Quezon and disallow these projects and any further coal plants in our beloved province,” the statement signed by over 100 members of the clergy including Lucena Bishop Mel Rey Uy read.

“Already, the people of Quezon have suffered respiratory and skin diseases associated with toxic coal plant emissions. They have been robbed of their land, their livelihood, and their rights from pollution, development aggression, and exclusion from decision-making processes,” it further read.

The diocese said they oppose the coal-fired power plants because these are entirely inconsistent with the care of the “common home” or the natural environment which is desperately needed today.

“Their cancellation not only prevents massive greenhouse gas emissions but will stand as a decisive rejection of all unsustainable and carbon-intensive practices here in Quezon and the rest of the country,” the statement read.

The issuance of the statement coincided with the start of the observance of the Season of Creation on September 1.

The Season of Creation is an annual period of prayer and action to address looming ecological issues, especially the climate crisis.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/01/peoples-coalition-lucena-diocese-oppose-quezon-coal-power-plants/>



DOH logs 3,483 new Covid cases, total infections now 224,264

By **Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco**

September 2, 2020



Health workers perform a rapid test on a man at a parking lot that has been converted into an extension of the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center in Manila on Monday, August 3, 2020.

The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday logged 3,483 new confirmed Covid cases, based on the total tests conducted by 93 out of 110 current operational labs, which brings the total number of infections in the country to 224,264.

Of the confirmed cases, 62,655 (27.9 percent) are active cases, 158,012 (70.5 percent) have recovered and 3,597 (1.6 percent) have died.

The DOH recorded 464 recoveries and 39 deaths as of 4 p.m. of September 1.

The top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were National Capital Region (NCR) with 1,689 or 53 percent, Region 4A (639 or 20 percent), and Region 3 (213 or 7 percent).

Meanwhile, the DOH announced that it partnered with Quezon City's local government to deploy the country's first end-to-end telemedicine project, which will strengthen the local government unit's (LGUs) ability to provide patients access to medical consultation.

Quezon City is the first LGU in NCR and Calabarzon to roll out telemedicine that connects to the national Covid-19 surveillance system.

The telemedicine project seeks to bolster the provision of primary care services to not only give patients quicker and more efficient access to medical consultation, but also to allow secondary and tertiary health care providers to focus on more serious cases that only they are capable of addressing.

The DOH sees telemedicine as an enabler for health facility referral where patients no longer need to transfer from one health facility to another due to unavailability of doctors or services.

Once a doctor sees the patient via telemedicine, the patient's data is stored in an electronic medical record capable of transmitting the information to other facilities.

"We are deploying this telemedicine project one LGU at a time in order to support their delivery of primary care services, and we enjoin more LGUs to adopt this program so we can have a nationwide end-to-end system," said Director Enrique Tayag of the DOH Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service.



“We already have telemedicine via the DOH Covid-19 hotline 1555, and this LGU-based telemedicine will further augment our efforts,” he added.

Dr. Tayag added that other telemedicine platforms of the DOH can be reached via the Covid-19 hotline 02-894-COVID (02-894-26843) and the telemedicine partners SeeYouDoc, CloudPx, HealthNowPH.

At the moment, the DOH Covid-19 hotline allows patients to talk to doctors over the phone while DOH telemedicine partners make online consultation with doctors available via web-based telemedicine appointment.

“Given our situation now, telemedicine has a multiplier effect as our limited number of doctors can practice their field and care for more patients,” explained Pierangelo A. Dominguez, head of the Local Economic Investments and Promotions Office and project coordinator in Quezon City.

The telemedicine project aims to monitor patients who were listed as close contacts of a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 positive patient and those who are already undergoing quarantine. Patients are regularly scheduled for telemedicine consultation with a doctor doing their check-up via video conference calls.

Should medical prescriptions be needed in the telemedicine consultation, e-prescriptions are sent via electronic medical records to patients’ emails.

At barangay health centers, doctors check patients who are scheduled for the day via telemedicine, while doctors at the temporary and treatment monitoring facilities need not enter the actual room of the patients as they can do their medical rounds in front of computer screens.

The DOH has high hopes that telemedicine will minimize the spread of the virus among health workers directly exposed to Covid-19.

DOH continues to reach out to cities like Muntinlupa, Caloocan, and San Juan to introduce similar technologies, which are directly connected to the national Covid-19 surveillance system of the government.

For cities with existing telemedicine projects like Taguig and Makati, the DOH continues to advocate the adoption of national guidelines for telemedicine practice developed in coordination with the University of the Philippines and the National Privacy Commission.

Image Credits: [AP/Aaron Favila](#)



Quarantine downgrade not a cause for complacency: Labella

By John Rey Saavedra **September 1, 2020, 5:38 pm**



SAFETY PROTOCOLS. In compliance with the minimum health and safety protocols imposed by the government, market-goers wear face mask and face shield in buying essential goods from the Carbon Public Market, Cebu's biggest wet market. Mayor Edgardo Labella on Tuesday (Sept. 1, 2020) urged city residents not to lower their guard against Covid-19, as Cebu City, along with other localities in the province, has been placed under MGCQ. *(PNA photo by John Rey Saavedra)*

CEBU CITY – As President Rodrigo Duterte placed the entire Cebu, including the capital city, under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), Mayor Edgardo Labella on Tuesday urged residents not to be complacent against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

He said city residents should “obey, follow and abide strictly the minimum public health standards” that include wearing face mask and face shield and physical distancing, as well as frequent handwashing and disinfection even during this lower risk status.

In a press briefing on Monday with Cebu Covid-19 response overseer Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and deputy overseer Melquiades Feliciano, Labella announced that he will not order the easing of border restrictions with neighboring cities of Mandaue and Talisay.

“Regardless of quarantine classification, we are still under quarantine. There should still be restrictions (of movements) if you have no something very important to go out from your homes,” he said.

In an executive order released on Tuesday, Labella urged industries to comply with the minimum health standards and safety protocols in their operations as allowed under MGCQ.

The new EO dated Aug. 31 also requires residents to carry their quarantine passes in going out of homes for essential activities. Labella also maintained control of the entry of buyers at the Carbon Public Market, Cebu’s biggest wet market.

With the MGCQ status, the city allowed agriculture, fisheries as well as food, beverage, medicine and vitamin manufacturing, hospitals and clinics, telecommunications and energy companies, gasoline stations, media outlets, among other firms, to operate in full capacity.

Alcoholic drink plants, textile, paper and rubber production, petroleum refinery, motor vehicle assembly, mining, postal, real estate, and housing service activities are also allowed to fully operate.

Financial firms such as banks, money transfer, pawnshop, and credit cooperatives can likewise fully operate along with legal and accounting firms, advertising and publishing, film, music, and TV production as well as malls, commercial centers, and non-leisure wholesale and retail establishments.

Labella allowed the dining and restaurant business to open with 75 percent operational capacity until 10 p.m. Also allowed with 75 percent operational capacities are barbershops and salons.

He also allowed up to a maximum of 50 percent operational capacity establishments engaged in government-accredited hotels as well as establishments under category 3 providing personal care and aesthetic procedures and services such as gyms, fitness studios, sports facilities, internet cafes, review centers, and pet grooming clinics.

Labella said the health infection and prevention control officer of every establishment “shall be the point person to implement health standards as well as proper contact tracing protocols”. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1113994>



'COVID-19 a wake up call to care for one's health, environment,' bishops urge

Published September 1, 2020, 12:53 PM

by [Leslie Ann Aquino](#)

"This pandemic is a wake up call, a warning shot to everybody to care for one's health, and equally (for) the environment because (these) are very much interrelated," San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza told church-run Radio Veritas Monday.



San Carlos Bishop Gerardo Alminaza (CBCP / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

"I hope we learn from this pandemic, to really care for the environment and for the Season of Creation to create an impact collectively in the country, in the community, in our own family," added the vice chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines National Secretariat for Social Action (CBCP-NASSA).

Kalookan Bishop Pablo David, CBCP's acting president, said the pandemic awakened the people of their vulnerabilities.

"It made us realize how helpless we can be despite all the scientific and technological advances that we think we have achieved. There is no way we can face the future with hope in the face of a climate emergency unless we respond with humility to the urgent call for ecological conversion," he said in a statement.

On Tuesday, church and civil organizations kicked off the Philippine celebration of the Season of Creation (SOC), an annual period of prayer and action observed by 2.2 billion Christians globally.

The observance, which will last until the first week of October, aims to urge people of all faiths to respond to the call to care for Earth, our common home.

"The Season of Creation is a very important period in the Church's calendar, lasting from the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1 to the first week of October. During this time, we are asked to focus on God as our Creator and we as creatures in communion with all that was brought into being by the work of His hands," Father John Leydon, Chairperson of the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) -Pilipinas said.

The online activities lined up include the launching of the Season of Creation, a Virtual Walk for Creation which features communities and sites battling ecological issues, daily reflections, and webinars and press conferences on issues such as Kaliwa Dam, mining, reclamation, financing of coal, promotion and defense of indigenous peoples and environmental defenders' rights, the advancement of renewable energy, and the Rights of Nature campaign.



International faith communities also expressed solidarity and support for the SOC initiatives in the Philippines.

“We realize that we can turn the crisis we are in today into an opportunity for a better, more just, and sustainable future. All the actions being held as part of the Season of Creation are a testament to that and a sign of hope and inspiration,” said Tomas Insua of GCCM in Rome.

According to the groups, this Season of Creation is an opportunity that is open to all to continue the process of ecological conversion, with the hope of empowering Christians and people of different faiths to commit decisively to care for our common home.

“Let us allow our common home to rest from our throw-away culture, our addiction to consumption, to unlimited economic growth, and to the dirty and deadly fossil fuels. Let us open ourselves to the new normal of interconnectedness and interrelatedness. We are in this together,” Bishop Jose Romeo Lazo of the Archdiocese of Jaro in Iloilo said.

With the theme “Jubilee for the Earth,” the 2020 SOC activities are led by the GCCM Pilipinas and its partners, and backed by the CBCP.

CSC comes up with omnibus guidelines for employees' safety

September 1, 2020



The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is creating omnibus guidelines to ensure the safety of employees and to avoid the interruption of service in government offices.

The guidelines will include the applicability of the skeletal workforce, work from home set-up and the basis for daily output. The CSC also issued guidelines for government employees who will be sick in this time of pandemic. The guidelines contain ways to help an employee who is positive with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The CSC has also reiterated that government employees must stand for integrity in serving the public. – *Report from Louise Erispe*



Will PH finally adopt nuclear energy?

posted September 01, 2020 at 11:55 am

by [Ernesto M. Hilario](#)

"Why is our DOE apparently intent on pushing the nuclear option when there are safer and less costly options?"

Before the March lockdown started, we noted that the Department of Energy had already submitted to Malacañang a draft executive order for the government to conduct a feasibility on the adoption of nuclear energy. It was only late last month, however, that the EO was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte.

The Department of Energy, perhaps out of a surfeit of zeal and impatience, announced days ago that it was exploring the possibility of putting up modular nuclear plants on at least three islands, including Palawan.

But the DOE should really hold its horses as the EO only provides for a feasibility study at this point, not what type of nuclear plant is preferable, whether it is only modular or full-blown with all the bells and whistles.

We can probably understand the seeming impatience of the Department in suggesting the immediate adoption of nuclear power as part of the country's energy mix, particularly since it had already floated the idea as early as four years ago.

In fact, the DOE has been actively moving towards the use of nuclear energy, citing the rapid growth in electricity demand and the urgent need to ensure 24/7 power supply.

After Duterte ordered in 2016 a study on the possibility of reopening the Bataan nuclear power plant, the DOE invited experts from the Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation to conduct a discreet visit in 2017 to inspect the nuclear facility. The Russian experts reported that the Bataan plant can become operational but would require repairs costing between US\$3 billion to US\$4 billion.

In December 2019, the DOE hosted the eight-day visit of an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts to review the country's infrastructure development for nuclear power. The result of the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR) conducted by the IAEA has not been made public as yet.

What we know is that the experts acknowledged that the Philippines is following a systematic approach in finalizing its nuclear power strategy and complete the associated infrastructure development.

On the part of the government, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi has indicated that the results from the INIR mission would help the Philippines focus its efforts on the identified gaps, accelerate the legislative process and prepare the national decision.

"It is high time we put the framework in place to bring nuclear power into the energy mix. We should learn the lessons from the past and catch up with the missed opportunities," Cusi is quoted as saying on the IAEA website.

But despite the DOE's fervent wish for the country to adopt nuclear energy as soon as possible, it could run into a brick wall as various sectors are just as fervent in their opposition to the project.

Bishop Ruperto Santos of the Diocese of Balanga in the province that hosts the now-mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, (BNPP), has been quoted in a recent report as saying that the feasibility study should be "transparent, non-partisan and not exclusive."

The prelate also expressed the hope that the study would shed light on the safety of nuclear energy in the Philippines, as this would "could settle with finality whether our country is ready and able (to produce) safe nuclear energy."

Greenpeace Southeast Asia is also opposed to DOE moves to tap nuclear energy, which it said "blatantly disregards any attempt at consultation even while proposing to expose the Filipino people to the inherent and serious dangers of nuclear power."

The environmental group warned that nuclear power is the most dangerous source of electricity, and throughout their life cycle, nuclear plants contribute significantly to climate change.



Besides, the group said nuclear is the most expensive option for power generation as capital costs are astronomical and construction delays can last as many as 17 years.

As things now stand, the Philippines is the only country in ASEAN with a completed but non-operational nuclear power plant.

Does that mean that other member-nations in the regional bloc are well aware of the pitfalls rather than the claimed benefits of nuclear energy that none of them are willing to put up even just one in their respective backyards?

So why is our DOE apparently intent on pushing the nuclear option when there are safer and less costly options, such as solar, wind farms, hydroelectric and geothermal, among others, to choose from?

That's the question we are also asking, but we're sure our readers can make their own informed judgment.

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STAND FOR TRUTH

Philippines asserts sovereignty over 11 islands in Northern Luzon

Published September 1, 2020 10:33pm

The Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have put up markers on 11 islands in Northern Luzon as part of efforts to secure the maritime territory of the country.

According to a report on “Stand for Truth” by MJ Geronimo on Tuesday, the islands are: Ali, Dinem, Siayan, Misanga in Itbayat, Batanes; Vohos and Dequey Island in Sabtang; Pinon, Pamoctan and Balintang in Calayan, Cagayan; and Palau and Dos Hermanas Island in Sta. Ana, Cagayan.

“Mayroong local chief executives sa area ng Northern Luzon na nagkwento kay presidente na maraming mga foreign personnel na pumupunta sa mga uninhabited island,” NOLCOM spokesperson Major Ericson Bulosan said.

“May mga galing sa Taiwan pati sa China at iba pang mga karatig-bansa. Isa sa mga dahilan kaya tayo nagsagawa niyo ay of course para mabigyan ng proteksyon ‘yong ating mga isla, ‘yong ating teritoryo,” he added.

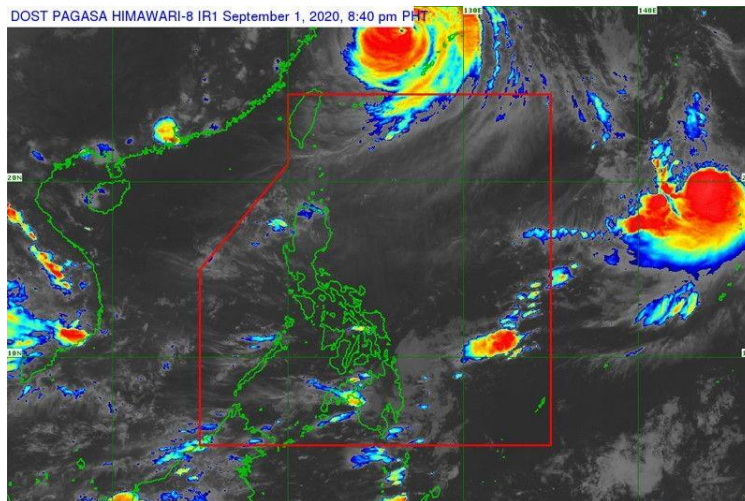
Bulosan said the markers will prevent any unauthorized foreign incursions.

“Importante na mamarkahan na natin ang mga ito para ‘yong mga foreign personnels ay magsisilbing babala sa kanila na hindi sila basta-basta aapak sa mga isla na ito sapagkat ito ay pagmamay-ari ng ating bansa,” Bulosan said.

Aside from the markers, he said NOLCOM, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will continue to patrol the islands against foreign poachers.

“[M]as panatag na ako na nalagyan ng sovereign markers, nalagyan na namin ng fishermen shelter, mayroon na kaming mga taga-NOLCOM doon,” Batanes Governor Marilou Cayco said. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/753856/philippines-asserts-sovereignty-over-11-islands-in-northern-luzon/story/>



The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) yesterday said the southwest monsoon would continue to bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro in the next 24 hours.

PAGASA

No tropical cyclone this week — PAGASA

[Helen Flores](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 2, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Aside from rains due to the southwest monsoon and thunderstorms, no tropical cyclone will affect the country this week.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) yesterday said the southwest monsoon would continue to bring cloudy skies with scattered rains and thunderstorms over Zambales, Bataan and Occidental Mindoro in the next 24 hours.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rains due to the southwest monsoon and thunderstorms.

Typhoon Julian left the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday night. It did not make landfall, but pulled the southwest monsoon, which brought rains over Luzon and parts of the Visayas.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the eye of Julian was estimated 915 kilometers north-northeast of extreme Northern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 215 kph.

PAGASA was also monitoring a tropical storm outside the Philippine area of responsibility.

As of 3 p.m. yesterday, the storm was located 2,355 kms east of extreme Northern Luzon, packing winds of 65 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 80 kph. It was moving south-southwest at 10 kph.

PAGASA weather forecaster Aldczar Aurelio said the storm was not expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility.

Two or three cyclones are projected to enter the country this month.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/09/02/2039442/no-tropical-cyclone-week-pagasa>



Pope Francis: Use pandemic to give the environment a vital 'rest'

[Associated Press](#) / 06:59 PM September 01, 2020



In this Oct. 4, 2019 file photo, Pope Francis walks towards a newly-planted oak tree during a tree-planting ceremony on the occasion of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology, at the Vatican. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how the Earth can recover “if we allow it to rest” and must spur people to adopt simpler lifestyles to help the planet, which is “groaning,” under the constant demand for economic growth, Pope Francis said on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in his latest, urgent appeal to help a fragile environment. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino, file)

VATICAN CITY — The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how the Earth can recover “if we allow it to rest” and must spur people to adopt simpler lifestyles to help a planet “groaning” under the constant demand for economic growth, Pope Francis said Tuesday.

In his latest, urgent appeal to help a fragile environment, Pope Francis renewed his call for the cancellation of the debts of the most vulnerable countries. That action would be just, he said, since rich countries have exploited poorer nations’ natural resources.

“In some ways, the current pandemic has led us to rediscover simpler and sustainable lifestyles,” Pope Francis said in a written message.

“Already we can see how the Earth can recover if we allow it to rest: the air becomes cleaner, the waters clearer, and animals have returned to many places from where they had previously disappeared,” he wrote. “The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads.”

The pontiff urged people to seize the opportunity to examine habits of energy usage, consumption, transportation, and diet.

Until now, “constant demand for growth and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting the natural world,” the pope said, adding, “Creation is groaning.”

Pope Francis hailed the indigenous communities that “live in harmony with the land and its multiple forms of life.”

Citing the medical, social, and economic crises triggered by the pandemic, Francis said it was “time for restorative justice.”

“We also need to ensure that the recovery packages being developed and deployed at global, regional, and national levels must be regeneration packages,” Pope Francis said, without naming any particular nations or regions.

Drawing attention to Earth’s fragility is a hallmark of Pope Francis’ papacy. He poignantly expressed the pressing responsibilities to heal and care for the environment in a 2015 encyclical.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1329892/pope-francis-use-pandemic-to-give-the-environment-a-vital-rest>



Earth's ice sheets tracking worst-case climate scenarios

Published September 1, 2020, 6:06 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, which hold enough frozen water to lift oceans 65 metres, are tracking the UN's worst-case scenarios for sea level rise, researchers said Monday, highlighting flaws in current climate change models.



Iced sheet mass loss due to melt-water and crumbling ice from 2007 to 2017 aligned almost perfectly with the IPCC's most extreme forecasts (AFP/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Mass loss from 2007 to 2017 due to melt-water and crumbling ice aligned almost perfectly with the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's (IPCC) most extreme forecasts, which see the two ice sheets adding up to 40 centimetres (nearly 16 inches) to global oceans by 2100, they reported in Nature Climate Change.

Such an increase would have a devastating impact worldwide, increasing the destructive power of storm surges and exposing coastal regions home to hundreds of millions of people to repeated and severe flooding.

That is nearly three times more than mid-range projections from the IPCC's last major Assessment Report in 2014, which predicts a 70-centimetre rise in sea level from all sources, including mountain glaciers and the expansion of ocean water as it warms.

Despite this clear mismatch between the observed reality of accelerating ice sheet disintegration and the models tracking those trends, a special IPCC report last year on the planet's frozen regions maintained the same end-of-century projections for Greenland, and allowed for only a small increase from Antarctica under the highest greenhouse gas emissions scenario.

"We need to come up with a new worst-case scenario for the ice sheets because they are already melting at a rate in line with our current one," lead author Thomas Slater, a researcher at the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling at the University of Leeds, told AFP.

"Sea level projections are critical in helping governments plan climate policy, mitigation and adaptation strategies," he added.

"If we underestimate future sea level rise, then these measures may be inadequate and leave coastal communities vulnerable."

Ice sheet losses at the upper end of the IPCC forecasts would by itself expose some 50 million people to annual coastal flooding worldwide by mid-century, according to research published last year.



– Balance upended –

Total sea level rise of at least a metre would likely require spending upward of \$70 billion a year in sea walls and other defences against flooding.

Several factors explain why the climate models underlying UN projections for sea level might have given short shrift to ice sheets, according to the new analysis.

Ice sheet models do well in describing the long-term impact of gradual global warming, which has seen temperatures at the poles rise far more quickly than for the planet as a whole.

But they have failed to account for short-term fluctuations in weather patterns that are, themselves, deeply influenced by climate change.

“For Greenland, much of the ice loss is now being driven by surface melt events during hot summers — processes not captured in the AR5 simulations,” said Slater, referring to the 2014 IPCC report, the fifth since 1992.

“We need to understand these better to improve our sea level rise predictions.”

Until the turn of the 21st century, the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets generally accumulated as much mass as they shed. Runoff, in other words, was compensated by fresh snowfall.

But over the last two decades ago, the gathering pace of global warming has upended this balance.

Last year, Greenland lost a record 532 billion tonnes of ice — the equivalent of six Olympic pools of cold, fresh water flowing into the Atlantic every second. This run-off accounted for 40 percent of sea level rise in 2019.

A new generation of climate models that better reflects how ice sheets, the oceans and the atmosphere interact will underpin the IPCC’s next major report, which will be completed next year, said Slater.

In another study published earlier this month in *The Cryosphere*, a journal of the European Geosciences Union, Slater and colleagues calculated that Earth’s ice masses — including mountain glaciers, the Arctic ice cap, and both ice sheets — lost nearly 28 trillion tonnes of mass between 1994 and 2017.

Less than half of that amount contributed to sea level rise. The Arctic ice cap, for example, forms in the ocean, and thus does not increase sea level when it melts.

The rate of ice loss, they found, has increased nearly 60 percent of that time period.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/09/01/earths-ice-sheets-tracking-worst-case-climate-scenarios/>



Iced sheet mass loss due to melt-water and crumbling ice from 2007 to 2017 aligned almost perfectly with the IPCC's most extreme forecasts.

AFP/Jonathan Nackstrand

Earth's ice sheets tracking worst-case climate scenarios

[Marlowe Hood](#) (Agence France-Presse) - September 1, 2020 - 8:01am

PARIS, France — The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, which hold enough frozen water to lift oceans 65 metres, are tracking the UN's worst-case scenarios for sea level rise, researchers said Monday, highlighting flaws in current climate change models.

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Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/09/01/2039324/earths-ice-sheets-tracking-worst-case-climate-scenarios>



Climate change fuels sharp increase in glacier lakes

posted September 01, 2020 at 01:00 pm

by [AFP and Marlowe Hood](#)

The volume of lakes formed as glaciers worldwide melt due to climate change has jumped by 50 percent in 30 years, according to a new study based on satellite data.



This file photo taken on February 13, 2020 shows a view of the town and ski resort of Chamonix, located at the base of Mont Blanc in the French Alps, and near the junction of France, Italy and Switzerland pictured. AFP

"We have known that not all meltwater is making it into the oceans immediately," lead author Dan Shugar, a geomorphologist and associate professor at the University of Calgary, said in a statement.

"But until now there were no data to estimate how much was being stored in lakes or groundwater."

The findings, published Monday in *Nature Climate Change*, will help scientists and governments identify potential hazards to communities downstream of these often unstable lakes, he said.

They will also improve the accuracy of sea level rise estimates through better understanding of how -- and how quickly -- water shed by glaciers makes it to the sea.

Between 1994 and 2017, the world's glaciers, especially in high-mountain regions, shed about 6.5 trillion tonnes in mass, according to earlier research.

"In the past 100 years, 35 percent of global sea-level rises came from glacier melting," Anders Levermann, climate professor at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Change Impact, told AFP.

The other main sources of sea level rise are ice sheets and the expansion of ocean water as it warms.

Glacial lake outbursts

Earth's average surface temperature has risen one degree Celsius since preindustrial times, but high-mountain regions around the world have warmed at twice that pace, accelerating glacier melt.

Unlike normal lakes, glacier lakes are unstable because they are often dammed by ice or sediment composed of loose rock and debris.

When accumulating water bursts through these accidental barriers, massive flooding can occur downstream. Known as glacial lake outbursts, this kind of flooding has been responsible for thousands of deaths in the last century, as well as the destruction of villages, infrastructure and livestock, according to the study, published in *Nature Climate Change*.

The most recent recorded incident was a glacial lake outburst that washed through the Hunza Valley in Pakistan in May.

In January, the UN Development Programme estimated that more than 3,000 glacial lakes have formed in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region, with 33 posing an imminent threat that could impact as many as seven million people.



The new study, based on 250,000 scenes from NASA's Landsat satellite missions, estimates current glacial lake volume at more than 150 cubic kilometres (37 cubic miles), equivalent to one-third the volume of Lake Erie in the United States or twice the volume of Lake Geneva.

A decade ago, it would have not been possible to process and analyse that volume of data, said Shugar.



Think you're making good climate choices? Take this miniquiz

Veronica Penney, *The New York Times*

Posted at Sep 01 2020 04:00 PM



How good do you think you are at picking the best ways to reduce your emissions? *Ka Young Lee, The New York Times*

If you take an airplane trip, can you make up for the planet-warming emissions from that flight by doing things like driving less and turning off the lights in your house? The answer is yes, but one choice might be far more effective than the other. And, according to a new study, most people are bad judges of which choices have the biggest effect on their carbon dioxide emissions. How good do you think you are at picking the best ways to reduce your emissions? Take this miniquiz based on the study and see if your guesses fall inside the range of realistic answers.

Go vegetarian or cut down on packaging?

You decide to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by becoming a vegetarian for one year. Your friend doesn't want to change her diet, but decides to cut down by purchasing only bulk foods (nothing with any form of packaging). How many years would it take your friend to save the same amount of greenhouse gases as you?

SOLUTION: You'd have to avoid food packaging for approximately 11 years to have the same effect as one year without meat, according to a 2013 study. Nearly everyone in the original survey guessed low, with the median response at 1.1 years. (The possible range of correct answers is 10.5 to 11.7 years. That's because it would be nearly impossible, and not necessarily a good idea, to completely eliminate all packaging. To cut down on spoilage, we're stuck with at least a bit of it!)

Where are the electricity hogs in your home?

Your house generates a lot of greenhouse gases, but not all the appliances and gadgets are equal. How many hours could you leave a lamp with an LED light bulb switched on and produce the same amount of greenhouse gases as a single load in a clothes dryer?

SOLUTION: You could leave an LED light on for roughly 300 hours, or 13 days straight, and have the same carbon footprint as one load in the dryer. In the original survey group, the median guess was 60 hours. Maybe switch to a clothesline? (The correct answer range is 272 to 354 hours, depending on the brightness of the bulb.)

Going on vacation?

Say you're taking a one-way, economy flight from New York to London. You might want to make up for those emissions by giving up quarter-pound hamburgers. How many burgers would you need to skip to offset that flight?

SOLUTION: You'd need to skip approximately 278 burgers. That's equivalent to all the beef consumed by the average American in 15 months. So, if you don't plan to stay in London and you don't want to take a sailboat home, you'd have to give up beef for more than two years in order to offset the emissions from your round trip. In the original survey group, the median guess was 100 burgers. (The range of correct answers was between 146 and 410. That's because different studies have different estimates of the emissions that come from raising cattle and processing meat.)



How much better is hybrid?

You have a midsize car and you're environmentally conscious, so you set yourself a strict limit of 100 miles per week. If you switched to a hybrid car, how many miles could you drive while still producing the same amount of greenhouse gases?

SOLUTION: On average, you could drive about 151 miles, but it depends on the cars. For example, if you switch from a Toyota Camry to a Toyota Prius, you could drive 190 miles — almost twice as far! The study group tended to overestimate the carbon trade-off, with a median guess of 200 miles. (The correct range is 112 to 190 miles, because different cars have different performance.)

Were you way off?

If so, don't feel bad. You're not alone. Researchers surveyed 965 people in the United States and Canada, and only one answered 3 of 4 questions correctly. Nobody got all four questions right.

When participants were asked to rank the effect of different activities, 4 out of 5 people underestimated the climate importance of flying. More than half overestimated the significance of reusable grocery bags.

"I was a little bit surprised at the persistence of some misperceptions," said Seth Wynes, a doctoral candidate at the University of British Columbia and the lead author of the study, published in August in the journal *Climatic Change*.

Wynes said people may have underestimated the greenhouse gas sources they can't see, like agricultural emissions, and put too much weight on the ones they encounter every day.

"You don't see the methane emissions that a cow produces," Wynes said. "You do see the exhaust coming out the back of the car."



Oso, nahuli-cam na gumagala sa loob ng isang supermarket sa California

Setyembre 1, 2020 6:10pm GMT+08:00

Laking gulat ng ilang namimili sa isang supermarket sa North California noong nakaraang linggo nang may makasabay silang kakaibang "parokyano"--isang oso.

Sa ulat ng Reuters, sinabing nangyari ang insidente noong Agosto 25 sa Kings Beach Safeway sa Lake Tahoe.

Ang kakaibang shopping experience ay nakuhanan ng video ni Rubi Nevarez at iniupload niya sa social media.

"We were just calmly arriving at the store. I didn't even imagine what we were going to find," sabi ni Nevarez.





Ayon pa kay Nevarez na ibinahagi ang kaniyang video sa Reuters; “As far as I know, this is the second time this has happened.”

Iniulat ng local media na isang oso rin ang nagpunta sa naturang tindahan noong Agosto 18 at umalis na may bitbit na isang bag ng tortilla chips.

Hindi malinaw kung ano ang hinahanap ng oso pero tahimik naman daw itong lumabas.

May nakita rin na tila nasa bibig ng oso.

“The bear went out by itself after seeing all the commotion he caused,” ani Nevarez. -

- **Reuter/FRJ,GMA**



Canada investigating acai berry versus Covid

Published 22 hours ago on September 1, 2020 07:48 AM

By **TDI**



Canadian researchers said Monday they are investigating a popular superfood — the acai berry — as a treatment to prevent Covid-19's most severe symptoms.

Past studies have shown the berry's extract may act as an inflammation inhibitor, which doctors believe could help prohibit the severe inflammatory response caused by the coronavirus.

University of Toronto scientists Michael Farkouh and Ana Andrezza, who have studied the berry's effect on inflammation responses for nearly five years, are researching how it can be used to fight Covid-19.

"It's a long shot," Farkouh told *AFP*. "But acai berries are cheap and easily accessible for everyone, as well as safe, so it was worth trying."

The pair enrolled some 580 patients who have tested positive for coronavirus in Canada and Brazil, where the berry is grown.

Half took doses of the extract while the rest received placebos.

The hope is that early intervention with acai could help prevent some of the disease's worst symptoms, which can lead to hospitalization and death, Farkouh said.

He explained that the extract specifically targets the same NLRP3 pathway as the coronavirus, which when activated triggers the body's response to fight off infection and stress.

Results of the 30-day study are expected to be released at the end of 2020.

p/jd

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/09/01/canada-investigating-acai-berry-versus-covid/>