

03 DECEMBER 2020, THURSDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# DENR to plant bamboo trees along Cagayan River banks to mitigate flooding in nearby communities

Published December 2, 2020, 12:58 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to plant bamboo trees along the banks of the Cagayan River to help mitigate flooding in communities that were submerged during the onslaught of typhoon Ulysses.



(DENR / MANILA BULLETIN)

DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu issued the directive during a meeting of the Build Back Better Task Force (BBBTF) last Nov. 27.

Cimatu ordered the DENR regional offices in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and CALABARZON to ensure the availability of bamboo planting materials.

He also directed the regional offices to immediately start identifying areas along the river channels that are most suitable for bamboo propagation under the government's Enhanced National Greening Program.

"The survival rate of bamboo is much higher and it has a faster growth rate compared to other trees," Cimatu pointed out.

He also cited bamboo's potential to be "a sustainable source of livelihood for the people of Cagayan Valley while protecting the integrity of Cagayan River."

Cimatu earlier noted that bamboo is one of the fastest growing renewable resources in the world and is a sustainable alternative to wood.

It is also an effective climate change solution.

Bamboo is valued for its ecological benefits as it absorbs greenhouse gases, insulates carbon dioxide from the environment, and produces 35 percent more oxygen than its equivalent tree size.

The plant's strong and extensive roots prevent soil erosion and landslides.

It can hasten aquifer recharge in a watershed and is a source of food and biofuel in the form of charcoal and briquettes.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/02/denr-to-plant-bamboo-trees-along-cagayan-river-banks-to-mitigate-flooding-in-nearby-communities/>



# Boracay task force records lowest coliform level in beach water

Published December 2, 2020, 9:13 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Boracay Inter-Agency Task Task Force (BIATF) has recorded the lowest coliform level in the beach waters since the island was placed under massive rehabilitation in 2018.



(Tara Yap/Manila Bulletin)

Citing the latest water quality monitoring results, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu said the coliform level was only “6.8 most probable number per (100) milliliters from our ambient stations in New Coast Boracay, Movenpick, Steve’s Cliff, and Front Beach Grotto.”

The safe level is below 100 mpn/100 ml to be able to classify a water as Class SB that is suitable for swimming, skin diving, and other recreational activities.

Water quality monitoring continues in Boracay Island, Cimatu said as the coliform level in Boracay’s waters went down significantly since the rehabilitation of the island paradise started two years ago.

To be able to sustain the gains the BIATF has achieved, Cimatu, who heads the task force said it continues to strictly enforce environmental laws.

He noted the operations conducted in October and November led by the National Bureau of Investigation with the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group against nine establishments occupying protected forestlands.

Cimatu said appropriate cases have already been filed against the establishments for violation of the Presidential Decree 705 or the Revised Forestry Code and PD 1067 or the Philippine Water Code.

“This proves that the rule of law is paramount and law enforcement is crucial and non-negotiable,” he said.

On the enforcement of the easement law, Cimatu reported that 249 out of 339 structures or 73 percent have complied with the 25+5 meter easement rule, as of November 2020.

Aside from that, Cimatu noted that the BIATF has recovered in July Wetland No. 6 in Barangay Manoc-manoc from its illegal occupants.

“Wetlands are important to the island because these help reduce soil erosion and store water to minimize the impacts of flooding,” he pointed out. “Of the nine wetlands, we have now recovered five. These are wetland Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8.”



The DENR chief also cited that the task force continues to provide assistance to displaced workers, especially during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

“The task force initiated the food-for-work program dubbed as ‘Boracay Wetland Bayanihan Program: We Clean and Heal as One,” he said.

“With boracay COVID-free, tourist arrivals are slowly improving and we hope this trend continues as the Christmas holidays and summer days approach,” Cimatú said.

“As the term of the task force nears its end on May 8, 2021, we envision a smooth transition to the new office that will be created to sustain the gains of the rehabilitation of our country’s prized jewel, Boracay Island,” he added.



# Hike in Boracay environmental fee defended

Published December 2, 2020, 5:40 PM

by [Tara Yap](#)

**ILOILO CITY** – The mayor and a councilor of Malay, Aklan defended the increase in environmental fee collected from tourists visiting Boracay Island.



A couple walks along the white sand beach of world-famous Boracay Island when it reopened to domestic tourists last October. (Tara Yap/Manila Bulletin)

“Malay LGU needs to increase it to sustain the environmental operations,” Mayor Frolibar Bautista said.

The Aklan Provincial Board had reviewed Municipal Ordinance No. 431 of Malay LGU.

Authored by Malay Councilor Nenette Aguirre Graf, the ordinance will collect P300 environmental fee for foreign tourists and P150 for domestic tourists.

Graf pointed out it is long overdue as Malay has only been collecting P75 environmental fee since 2005.

Only residents of Aklan are exempted from paying the environmental fee.

“The LGU needs this. It is drowning in debt as it tries to comply with the zero-waste mandate of the national government,” Graf said.

Graf said that Secretary Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had earlier mandated zero waste management in the country’s tourism crown jewel and most popular beach destination, which is undergoing massive rehabilitation since 2018.

“The island was closed to tourists for six months this year because of the pandemic. Where is the LGU going to get the money to shoulder the cost?” Graf said.

Malay LGU owes contractor around P150 million to haul off the trash generated by residents and tourists who started coming back last Oct. 1 when Boracay reopened after the pandemic’s travel restrictions have been eased.

Bautista and Graf noted that that the Aklan provincial government has a cut from the environmental fee collected from tourists.

The fee will only be collected once he ordinance is published in a newspaper or journal.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/12/02/hike-in-boracay-environmental-fee-defended/>



# Boracay task force to decide on plea over demolition of structures breaking easement rule

Ina Reformina, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Dec 03 2020 05:20 AM



A resident wearing a face mask walk along a beach in Boracay island on Thursday, the first day of the opening of the island to tourists during the COVID-19 pandemic. *AFP/File*

MANILA - The Boracay inter-agency task force (BIATF) will soon decide on a plea made by the island's commercial establishment operators and local residents for a moratorium on the demolition of structures sitting within the island's "25 + 5 meter" easement rule and forest lands.

Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu on Wednesday said 9 establishments were subject of a National Bureau of Investigation and BIATF joint operation for allegedly occupying protected forest lands, violating the Revised Forestry Code and the Philippine Water Code.

"While we understand really the pandemic, while we understand really their situation, we will now have to balance enforcement, at the same time, also the way we have to treat these people kasi wala naman siguro sila munang mapupuntahan," Cimatu said.

Details of these 9 establishments have not been given to the media.

The NBI said warrantless arrests were made, and appropriate charges filed before the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, though the names of respondents were not made available.

The BIATF -- chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and vice-chaired by the Department of Tourism and Department of the Interior and Local Government -- met in Aklan Wednesday to discuss preparations for the expected arrival in the Philippines of balikbayans and their families beginning December 7.

The IATF-Emerging Infectious Diseases has allowed visa-free entry of balikbayans, their foreign spouses and children. Former Filipino citizens, their spouses and children are also subject to pre-booked flights and COVID-19 testing upon arrival at the airport.

Cimatu said the pandemic would be factored in, as the BIATF continues to deliberate on the demolition stay plea.

Out of 339 structures, 249 have complied with the easement rule, which puts compliance at 73 percent, according to the BIATF.

## **BORACAY COLIFORM LEVEL**

Meanwhile, Cimatu said Boracay recorded its lowest coliform level in November at 6.8 "most probable number per milliliter."

The samples were taken from ambient stations at New Coast Boracay, Movenpick, Steve's Cliff, and Front Beach Grotto, according to the environment chief.



He assured government efforts to rehabilitate the island -- internationally popular for its white, powdery sand -- would continue, including recovering areas encroached by illegal structures.

“In July, we have recovered wetland No. 6 in Barangay Manoc-manoc from its illegal occupants. Wetlands are important to the island because these help reduce soil erosion and store water to minimize the impact of flooding,” Cimatu said.

“Of the 9 wetlands, we have now recovered 5 — these are wetlands Nos. 2 , 3, 4, 6 and 8.”

President Rodrigo Duterte had ordered the island closed to local and foreign tourists from April 26 to October 26, 2018, after calling it a “cesspool” at a business forum.

Prior to its closure, coliform level in Boracay was in the thousands or even millions, Cimatu had said.

The standard coliform level is 100 MPN/100 milliliter.



# NBI defends ‘warrantless’ arrests on 10 Boracay business operators

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

December 3, 2020

THE National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) defended its “warrantless” arrests on the operators of nine establishments that were found to be occupying protected forestlands in Boracay.

NBI Officer-In-Charge Director Eric Distor on November 28 identified the alleged violators as the Sea View Apartment, Aloha Villa, La Dolce Vota/Casa Monte, Private Mountain Casitas Boracay Inn, Cohiba Villas, Carolina Park View, Boracay Sunshine Shuttle and Limousine Corporation, Artista Beach, and Monkey House in Mt. Luho and Sitio Diniwid in Barangay Balabag.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, Rizaldy Rivera, special investigator of the NBI’s Environment Crime Division, told the media that the arrests were made on the request of Natividad Bernardino, general manager of the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG).

Rivera said that under the law, the NBI is mandated to assist the Boracay Interagency Task Force (BIATF) in implementing all the protocols pertinent to the rehabilitation of Boracay.

“According to the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the task force, there were still violators, hardcore violators. They were all issued Notices to Vacate, Notice of Demolition, Show Cause Order and none of them complied with the request of the national government,” he said. He said that the NBI provided the “legal muscle” even without a warrant, especially as the cases have been filed before the Aklan provincial prosecutor’s Office “which also upheld the legality of the arrest”.

The respondents, who include a Belgian, a Filipino-Australian and two Britons, were accused of violating Presidential Decree 705 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines).

Two were also charged with violation of Presidential Decree 1067 (Water Code) and a municipal ordinance mandating a 30-meter beach easement.

The arrests were made last November 24 in operations conducted by the NBI’s Environmental Crime Division (NBI-EnCD) in the area of Barangay Balabag.

“For as long as the task force needs the NBI Environment Crime Division, we are here to do our job,” Rivera said.

Meanwhile, Bernardino said the task force’s compliance rate in enforcing the 25+5 meter easement rule in Boracay was at 73 percent.

“[O]ut of 339 total inventory structures encroaching on the 25+5, we now have a compliance rate of 73 percent or 249 yung compliant na (are compliant) which leaves us with 90 structures na hindi pa (that are not yet) compliant and these are mostly residential structures of informal settlers in Barangay Manoc-Manoc,” she said.

With commercial establishments, Bernardino said there were still 20 which remained non-compliant. When Boracay was closed in April 2018 for its rehabilitation, hundreds of resorts and other commercial establishments were made to comply with various environmental laws, including removing structures built on beach and road easements and requiring those with at least 40 rooms to have their own sewage treatment facilities.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/03/second-headline/nbi-defends-warrantless-arrests-on-10-boracay-business-operators/804228/>





## NWRB GAD TRAINING VIA ZOOM



December 3, 2020 @ 12:34 AM 5 hours ago

ANG National Water Resources Board (NWRB) sa ilalim ng pamunuan ni Engineer Susan Abano ay nagtatag ng bagong General and Development (GAD) Focal group at nagsumite ng NWRB's GAD Plan and Budget para sa taong 2021, pati na rin ang work plan para sa taong 2020 hanggang 2025 sa DENR GAD Core.

Ang NWRB GAD ay nagsumite rin ng impormasyong sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (DENR-ERDB) na kinakailangan upang makapagtatag ng isang database ng GAD at sumailalim sa mga virtual training ng GAD na inorganisa ng DENR GAD Core Team, na kasali rin sa PCW webinar Series on HGDG and Planning and Budgeting.

Ang NWRB GAD ay naglunsad din ng mga sumusunod na webinar para sa NWRB Personnel:

1. 'Pagtukoy sa Gender Responsive Work From Home' Webinar Gender via Zoom, na tumutugon sa mga gawain mula sa kanilang bahay, mula alas-10 ng umaga hanggang alas-12 ng tanghali noong Oktubre 23, 2020, kasama si Dr. Sumagaysay na kinilala ng PCW bilang Specialist Batch 2.
2. 'Basic GAD Orientation' Webinar sa pamamagitan ng Zoom, mula 10:00 ng umaga hanggang 12:30 ng tanghali, noong Nobyembre 5, 2020, kasama si Ms. Grace Bernabe, accredited ng PCW bilang GAD Specialist mula sa Batch 6.
3. 'GAD Analysis Tools: Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) and Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG)' Webinar sa pamamagitan ng Zoom, mula 10:00 ng umaga hanggang 12:30 ng tanghali na isinagawa noong Oktubre 23, 2020, kasama si Ms. Grace Bernabe, accredited ng PCW bilang GAD Specialist mula sa Batch 6.



# Bill on stiffer penalties for wildlife abuse hurdles House panel

By Filane Mikee Cervantes December 2, 2020, 6:28 pm



MANILA – A measure seeking to impose stiffer penalties on the exploitation and abuse of wildlife in the country has hurdled committee level at the House of Representatives.

According to a statement on Wednesday, the House committee on natural resources, chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., approved the consolidated version of five bills calling for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats.

The proposed law would replace Republic Act 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act enacted in 2001.

Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the measure prescribes longer prison terms and higher fines for those who abuse the country's wildlife, especially endangered species.

He said the country has a diverse variety of wildlife, including the famous Philippine tarsier, tamaraw and Philippine eagle.

"There are 133 terrestrial mammals, 230 birds, 244 reptiles, and 97 amphibian species, and 120 fishes that can be found only here," he said.

Rodriguez said the nation's flora and fauna and their habitats should be protected from overexploitation, destruction, fragmentation, culling, poaching, hunting, pollution, and climate change for this generation and the future generations.

He further noted that the existing law "has to be updated, improved and strengthened to meet and address the demands and problems we have today."

Under the bill, the imposable penalties for serious offenses such as illegal killing of wildlife are imprisonment of 12 years and one day to 20 years and a fine of PHP200,000 to PHP2 million.

The minimum punishment for minor infractions is a prison term of one month and one day, plus a fine of PHP20,000.

Under the existing law, the maximum penalties are imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years, plus a fine of PHP100,000 to PHP2 million.

The lightest penalty is a prison term of 10 days and a PHP200 fine.

The consolidated bill designates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, in the case of Palawan, as implementers of the proposed law. (PNA)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1123648>



## House panel approves bill on wildlife abuse

By Reina C. Tolentino, TMT

December 3, 2020

A bill that seeks to impose heavier penalties on those who abuse wildlife in the Philippines has been approved by the the Committee on Natural Resources at the House of Representatives.

The bill is a consolidation of five measures.

“I am happy because of the penalties. We are prescribing longer prison terms and higher fines for those who abuse our wildlife, especially endangered species,” Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez said in a statement.

He noted that the country has a diverse variety of wildlife, including the Philippine tarsier, tamaraw and the Philippine eagle.

“There are 133 terrestrial mammals, 230 birds, 244 reptiles and 97 amphibian species, and 120 fishes that can be found only here,” he said.

The lawmaker stressed the need to update the existing law to better protect the nation’s flora and fauna “from overexploitation, destruction, fragmentation, culling, poaching, hunting, pollution and climate change.”

Under the bill, serious offenses like illegal killing of wildlife will be punishable by a minimum of 12 years to a maximum of 20 years imprisonment, and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

Those who commit minor infractions will be meted a prison term of a month and a fine of P200,000.

The maximum penalties under the current law are six years imprisonment and a fine of P100,000 to P2 million.

The lightest penalty is a 10-day jail term and a penalty of P200.



## Heavier penalties for wildlife abuse

posted December 02, 2020 at 11:00 pm

by [Maricel Cruz](#)

The House committee on natural resources has approved a proposed new law that seeks to impose heavier penalties on the exploitation and abuse of wildlife.

The proposal, endorsed by the committee led by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., is a consolidation of five bills authored by deputy speaker and Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Reps. Josephine Sato of Occidental Mindoro, Juan Miguel Arroyo of Pampanga, Luis Raymund Villafuerte of Camarines Sur and Alfred Vargas of Quezon City.

The consolidated bill calls for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats and the imposition of penalties for violations.

It would replace Republic Act 9147, enacted in 2001 during the administration of Arroyo's mother, former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

"I am happy because of the penalties. We are prescribing longer prison terms and higher fines for those who abuse our wildlife, especially endangered species," Rodriguez said.

He says the country has a diverse variety of wildlife, including the famous Philippine tarsier, tamaraw and Philippine eagle.

"There are 133 terrestrial mammals, 230 birds, 244 reptiles and 97 amphibian species and 120 fishes that can be found only here," he said.

Barzaga said the nation's flora and fauna and their habitats "should be protected from overexploitation, destruction, fragmentation, culling, poaching, hunting, pollution and climate change for us and for future generations as well."

He added that the existing law "has to be updated, improved and strengthened to meet and address the demands and problems we have today."

Under the consolidated bill, the imposable penalties for serious offenses such as the illegal killing of wildlife are imprisonment of 12 years and one day to 20 years and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

The minimum punishment for minor infractions is a prison term of one month and one day plus a fine of P20,000.

Under the existing law, the maximum penalties are imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years, plus a fine of P100,000 to P2 million.



# House panel OKs heavier penalties on wildlife abusers

[Wednesday, December 2, 2020 Ryan Ponce Pacpaco14](#)

**THE** House committee on natural resources has approved a proposed new law that seeks to impose heavier penalties on the exploitation and abuse of wildlife in the country.

The proposal, endorsed by the committee chaired by Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., is a consolidation of five bills authored by deputy speaker and Cagayan de Pro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Reps. Josephine Sato of Occidental Mindoro, Juan Miguel Arroyo of Pampanga, Luis Raymund Villafuerte of Camarines Sur, and Alfred Vargas of Quezon City.

The consolidated bill calls for the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats, and imposes penalties for violations.

It would replace Republic Act No. 9147, enacted in 2001 during the administration of Arroyo's mother, former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

*"I am happy because of the penalties. We are prescribing longer prison terms and higher fines for those who abuse our wildlife, especially endangered species,"* Rodriguez said.

He said the country has a diverse variety of wildlife, including the famous Philippine tarsier, tamaraw and Philippine eagle.

*"There are 133 terrestrial mammals, 230 birds, 244 reptiles, and 97 amphibian species, and 120 fishes that can be found only here,"* he said.

The House leader stressed that the nation's flora and fauna and their habitats "should be protected from overexploitation, destruction, fragmentation, culling, poaching, hunting, pollution, and climate change for us and for future generations as well."

He added that the existing law "has to be updated, improved and strengthened to meet and address the demands and problems we have today."

Under the consolidated bill, the imposable penalties for serious offenses such as illegal killing of wildlife are imprisonment of 12 years and one day to 20 years and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

The minimum punishment for minor infractions are a prison term of one month and one day, plus a fine of P20,000.

Under the existing law, the maximum penalties are imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years, plus a fine of P100,000 to P2 million.

The lightest penalty is a prison term of 10 days and a P200 fine.

The consolidated bill designates the DENR, Department of Agriculture and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, in the case of Palawan, as implementers of the proposed law.

They would be tasked to issue implementing rules and regulations.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/house-panel-oks-heavier-penalties-on-wildlife-abusers/>



## House panel OKs bill imposing stiffer penalties for wildlife abuse

**Published** December 2, 2020 11:46am

By ERWIN COLCOL, GMA News

The House Committee on Natural Resources has approved a measure seeking to impose stiffer penalties on the exploitation and abuse of the country's wildlife.

During its meeting, the panel approved the consolidated bill aiming to conserve and protect the wildlife resources in the country and their habitats and impose penalties for violations.

The measure replaces Republic Act 9147, or Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, which was enacted during the administration of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

“I am happy because of the penalties. We are prescribing longer prison terms and higher fines for those who abuse our wildlife, especially endangered species,” said Cagayan De Oro City Representative Rufus Rodriguez, one of the authors of the measure.

Rodriguez pointed out that the nation’s flora and fauna and their habitats “should be protected from overexploitation, destruction, fragmentation, culling, poaching, hunting, pollution, and climate change for us and for future generations as well.”

The existing law, he added, “has to be updated, improved and strengthened to meet and address the demands and problems we have today.”

Under the measure, violators of serious offenses such as illegal killing of wildlife will imposed a penalty of imprisonment of 12 years and one day to 20 years and a fine of P200,000 to P2 million.

Meanwhile, the minimum punishment for minor infractions are one month and one day imprisonment and a fine of P20,000.

Currently, the maximum penalties imposed are imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years and a fine of P100,000 to P2 million, while the minimum penalty is a prison term of 10 days and a P200 fine.

The measure mandates the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, and the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, in the case of Palawan, to implement the proposed measure and to issue its implementing rules and regulations. --**KBK, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/766457/house-panel-oks-bill-imposing-stiffer-penalties-for-wildlife-abuse/story/>



## Councilor proposes law protecting heritage trees



Photo by Mark Perandos

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

December 2, 2020

A DAVAO City councilor is lobbying to prohibit the cutting of heritage trees within the urban areas of the city.

Councilor Diosdado Mahipus Jr., in his privilege speech on Tuesday, December 1, proposed for the enactment of an ordinance regulating, if not prohibiting, the cutting of old trees in the city.

The proposal of Mahipus, who heads the committee on environment, came after the recent protest of some environmental groups who are calling the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Davao City District Engineer's Office to spare the eight trees planted along the sidewalk of Ateneo de Davao University (AddU) Grade school/High school Matina campus from being cut down.

On Thursday, November 26, Ecoteneo and the Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) sent a letter of concern to Engr. Richard Ragasa of the City District Engineering Office after learning that eight old trees, mostly Narras, are planned to be cut to give way to the laybay or road widening plan discussed between AddU and the DPWH two weeks ago.

In a recent SunStar Davao report, it was revealed that the proposed cutting down of the trees is part of the proposed 405-meter Ma-a Junction flyover project along McArthur highway that may potentially result in road widening and other road improvements.

"While indeed we acknowledge the continuing traffic congestion in some parts of the city, it must be stressed however, that road width is not the only factor causing traffic congestions. It is already a fact that the volume of motor vehicles being put out and allowed on our streets is also a factor. For this representation, road widening alone is eventually of minimal effect if motor vehicles on our roads also exponentially increase overtime as well," Mahipus said in his speech.

The councilor also said that DPWH should have already been aware that the city, in the previous instances, had been opposing the cutting of trees in infrastructure developments.

He also cited Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio's recent statement that this project must provide engineering solutions in such a way that even if the project pushes through, the trees should remain there.

Duterte-Carpio said in a recent interview that the city had been advocating the preservation of the environment by planting more trees.

With this, Mahipus said this is also the shared sentiment of the City Council.

He also called on DPWH to abate and prevent the cutting of trees in infrastructure developments in the city through the introduction of engineering solutions, as mentioned by the city mayor, and abide by the existing city environmental protection policy.

In August 2019, Mahipus led an investigation on the cutting down of 150 trees by DPWH to give way to the drainage and revetment project near Ma-a riverbanks.



During an environmental committee hearing organized, his committee discovered the project did not undergo proper consultation with the city government despite securing a permit from DENR.

Meanwhile, he said there is a need to introduce alternative modes of transportation, and encourage people not to rely on cars in their short distance travels.

"We should be able to encourage biking, we should be able to encourage walking because these are not only helpful in addressing the traffic problem, but will also be beneficial to an individual's health and the environment," Mahipus said.

He said there is also a need to have wider sidewalks, sidewalks with protective barriers, and "a network of tree-shaded walkways," which is already included in the proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Clup).

He added that his committee is in coordination with the committee on public works, headed by Councilor Edgard Ibuyan Jr., and already conducted hearings on the latter's proposed "tree line ordinance" where the planting of trees will be included in the project design of road developments in the City.

### 'Heritage Tree Ordinance'

In a previous SunStar Davao story published on November 11, 2019, Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) executive director Chinkie Peliño-Golle said the group had long been lobbying for a "Heritage Tree Ordinance," wherein the city will be doing an inventory of all existing old trees in the urban areas and preserve it.

"Basically, it is giving importance to existing trees na dugay na natanom sa mga urban areas, na iprotect sila, and dili sila i-cut (Basically, it is giving importance to existing trees that had long been planted in the urban areas. These trees will be protected, and will not be chopped off)," Peliño-Golle said in a previous interview.

This comes after trees planted at Clifford Park, an island fronting Davao City Central Post Office, were also cut down to give way to the Clifford Freedom Park Development Plan.

This move by the government drew negative comments from environmental groups and netizens.

Duterte-Carpio apologized to the public shortly after and committed to "carrying out more programs to establish rural and urban green spaces, promote ecological balance, sustainable utilization and management of resources, and to continue raising public awareness of the importance of environmental protection."

Peliño-Golle, in the case of the trees in Addu, urged the local council to intervene.

"We urge the City Council members to act on this because this is a relevant issue. We know that all the projects also have to secure the resolution of no objection so they should start working on the development of a policy that will regulate the continuous urban deforestation," she said.

Peliño-Golle said the City must craft a policy in preserving these trees, especially that continuous effects brought about climate change call for it.





## Mangroves seen more beneficial to seaside residents than fish farms

December 2, 2020 | 7:16 pm



PHILSTAR

MANGROVES are more beneficial to fishing communities than fish farming, which employs few workers, a marine scientist said at an online forum organized by Oceana Philippines.

Dr. Jurgenne H. Primavera said Wednesday that mangroves bring more socio-economic opportunity and protection from storms and flooding.

“With mangroves, there is social equity. Many more people will benefit, including small-scale fishers. In contrast, the fish pond industry employs very few full time workers... and seasonal (ones),” Ms. Primavera, a mangrove expert, said.

Citing a Zoological Society of London study, she said mangroves generate fishing and forestry products, benefiting small-scale fishing communities along the coast.

“Fish ponds (are for) food security,” she said, citing the intensive farming of milkfish and tilapia.

“Pero iyon lang (That is all),” she said, noting the absence of other benefits.

Ms. Primavera added that she did not foresee “any massive displacement of fishpond workers,” should fish farms be repurposed for the cultivation of mangrove forests.

The Oceana forum was examining the issue of converting fish farms back to mangrove forests.

According to Wetlands International, 71% of the wetlands in Manila Bay have been cleared and used for aquaculture. Oceana said these fish farms have since been abandoned and unutilized in recent years.

“Under the amended Fisheries Code, these should revert to the public domain for mangrove reforestation. Due to the lack of enforcement, however, these properties have remained in the possession of private entities, thus depriving us, especially the poor fisherfolk, of the benefits of having mangrove forests,” Oceana said in a media advisory.



Ms. Primavera said the ideal mangrove to fish farm ratio should be 4 to 1.

“For sustainability, no more than 20% of a given mangrove area should be converted to ponds,” she said.

Non-profit organization Forest Foundation Philippines described mangroves as important ecosystems which are crucial for mitigating climate change.

“A hectare of mangrove forests can store up to five times more carbon than most tropical forests around the world. This is, in part, due to the deep, organic rich soils in which they thrive. However, like most forest types, the areas of mangrove forest have been in decline,” the group said on its website. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



# Gov't urged to lift suspension on new mining deals

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINQ](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:08 AM December 03, 2020

The head of the country's biggest mining group on Wednesday called on the government to lift the suspension on new mineral agreements and the use of open pits in mining to spur economic growth.

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) chair Gerard Brimo stressed in a webinar hosted by Arangkada Philippines that the industry was largely unaffected by the lockdowns imposed globally, which would allow it to contribute to the economy's recovery once policies were changed.

"I think it is a growing realization in the government [that] we need to do something to keep the economy moving again. The way to do that is to fix the policies to grow the industry," he said.

Citing data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Brimo noted that the value of the country's mineral exports for the first half of the year declined by only 2 percent due largely to rising gold prices. Between January and June, mineral exports were valued at \$2.42 billion compared with \$2.47 billion in the same period last year.

The mining industry could have contributed more if not for the moratorium on new mineral agreements as well as the ban on the use of open pits to extract ores, Brimo said.

"For such a highly mineralized country, the large-scale metallic mining sector does not substantially contribute to the national economy. The industry has been stymied by policy problems, resulting in no new investments and therefore no growth," he added.

It was in 2012 when former President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 79, which effectively banned the issuance of new Mining Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) until a new revenue-sharing scheme has taken effect.

Meanwhile, the ban on open-pit mining was put in place in 2017 by the late Environment Secretary Regina Lopez and was affirmed by President Duterte himself.

There are three open-pit mining projects on hold while 15 new mining projects are in line to be issued mining permits once policies are relaxed.

Brimo said that allowing those three open-pit mine sites to operate would already raise the industry's exports and gross domestic product contributions to 9 percent and 1.5 percent from 6.4 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively, from additional export receipts, tax revenues and social programs.

The Mining Industry Coordinating Council—headed by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III—has deferred lifting the ban on new MPSAs and open pits, stating that the new tax scheme for mining under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act was not enough to satisfy the conditions under EO 79.



Under the TRAIN law, mining firms were slapped a higher excise tax of 4 percent from 2 percent. Civil society group Alyansa Tigil Mina said there must be a new fiscal regime to accommodate the request of large-scale miners, which must include “new rules on royalties, a tax on super profit or windfall profits, increased social-development funds and increased rehabilitation and decommissioning funds.”

But COMP said these “misguided” tax schemes would eventually lead to the downfall of the industry as taxes would eat up most of the companies’ profits and would make the local mining industry less attractive to potential investors.



# CCC cites climate emergency resolution

Published December 2, 2020, 3:15 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The recent adoption of a Congress resolution urging the declaration of a climate emergency is a considered a “full recognition” of a panel of experts’ call to shift from using the current term “climate change” to pursue immediate action against global warming, according to the Climate Change Commission (CCC).



Climate Change Commission (CCC WEBSITE / MANILA BULLETIN)

House Resolution (HR) No. 1377 urged the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency, ensuring enhanced and coherent climate actions in the executive and legislative agenda of the government.

It was introduced by House Committee on Climate Change chairman Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto; Deputy Speaker Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, the late Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar; Lanao del Sur Rep. Yasser Alonto Balindong; Masbate Rep. Elisa Kho; Negros Oriental Rep. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong; Bayan Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat; and CWS Rep. Romeo Momo Sr.

HR No. 1377 gave full recognition to the CCC’s National Panel of Technical Experts’ (NPTE) call to shift from using the term climate change to climate emergency to pursue immediate action against global warming.

The NPTE, chaired by Dr. Carlos Primo David of the University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences, had recommended that “as one of the most climatically vulnerable countries in the world, the Philippines should mobilize its people, institutions, and resources to enhance its ability to prepare and even prosper amidst the climate emergency.” The House resolution pointed out that “in declaring a climate emergency, the government admits that global warming exists and that the measures taken up to this point are not enough to limit the changes brought by it.”

“The decision stresses the need for the government and administration to devise measures that try and stop human-caused global warming,” it added.

HR 1377 also mandates itself to encourage that climate urgency be placed at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level, as well as encourage local governments to issue climate change declarations within their jurisdictions.

It also calls on the CCC to spearhead the collection and consolidation of relevant data with national government agencies as well as local government units, in collaboration with the NPTE, to come up with a climate risk assessment of the country, produce baseline studies that consider future scenarios and impacts of climate change, and perform sustainable development and resilient investment planning, programming, and financing on the national, sectoral, and local levels.



The resolution also calls on the major carbon emitters, locally and abroad, to take responsibility for climate change and to reinvest in renewable and sustainable energy; on local governments to adopt a “No to Coal” or “No to New Coal Policy” within their jurisdictions; and on local industries and local government units to pursue renewable and sustainable energy sources.

It also seeks the conduct of an audit of relevant national government agencies and local government units in relation to their compliance to existing environmental, climate, disaster risk reduction and management and appropriation laws, and international agreements in light of the climate and environmental emergency with the end in view of ensuring an enhanced national monitoring and evaluation system for the implementation of these laws and warranting the accountability of government officials, private entities, and other involved stakeholders.

The HR enjoins national government agencies to promote convergence of efforts toward strengthening data science, technology development, and research for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the establishment of a national integrated risk information system and a national loss and damage registry, to support science-based policy formulation and risk governance on national and sub-national levels.

Earlier this year, the call for a nationwide declaration of climate emergency was also adopted by national government agencies in the Cabinet Cluster for Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction, in recognition of HR No. 535 authored by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda.

In his previous State-of-the-Nation Addresses, President Duterte expressed in categorical terms that addressing climate change was a key focus of his administration and would continue to be a top priority.

During the 2020 United Nations General Assembly and the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit, Duterte called on other vulnerable countries, along with the Philippines, to demand climate justice and urge developed nations to rapidly cut their carbon emissions which are the most responsible for fueling the climate crisis.

He also asked the international community to keep their commitments to the goals of the Paris Agreement.



## Mitsubishi Power to upgrade Makban geothermal plant



By Jordeene B. Lagare

December 3, 2020

AP Renewables Inc., a subsidiary of listed Aboitiz Power Corp., has commissioned Mitsubishi Power Ltd. to upgrade the Makban Geothermal Power Plant in Laguna province. In a statement, Mitsubishi Power said it and local subsidiary MHI Power (Philippines) Plant Services Corp. would provide the turn-key upgrading service for the facility. For this order, Mitsubishi Power's Nagasaki Works will supply the newly designed steam turbine components while MHI Power, the contracting arm of Mitsubishi Power for its after-sales service business, will provide on-site installation services. Mitsubishi Power said it would also supply a new set of steam turbine components with optimum design for Unit No. 1 "to optimize its performance and minimize geothermal steam consumption per power output."



# Fishpond inventory for mangroves needed

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

December 3, 2020

Experts on Wednesday called on the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to conduct a full inventory of fishponds in Manila Bay that can be used for the reversion and rehabilitation of mangroves, whose number has been declining for decades.

During the “Reverting Abandoned, Underdeveloped, Unutilized Fishponds into Mangroves” webinar, Wilfredo Yap, executive director of the Santeh Aquaculture Science and Technology Foundation, said “priority should be given to update mangrove and fishpond area statistics and harmonize terminologies,” as data currently used by the government was “not in harmony.”

“[The] BFAR should make [a] full inventory of fishponds and determine how many have been titled and how many are patently illegal,” he added.

According to Rene Rollon, director of University of the Philippines Institute of Environmental Science and Metereology, many mangroves around Manila Bay have been lost over the years.

As of 2015, only 1,256 hectares of mangroves remain, primarily because of their conversion into aquaculture ponds.

As a result of the conversion of these mangroves areas for industrial use, Rollon said people “are permanently disconnecting [them] to [their] function with the open sea forever.

This is something to seriously think about... if we are into protecting and reforming our mangrove coverage.”

He also said mangroves served as a “greenbelt” for storm surges, particularly for those living in coastal areas. Mangroves are a natural protection for communities vulnerable both to rising sea levels and intense weather events caused by climate change.

He added that mangroves are essential to maintaining water quality, explaining that their dense network of roots and surrounding vegetation help filter and trap sediments and other pollutants.

Jurgenne Primavera, chief scientific mangrove adviser at Zoological Society of London, said rehabilitating degraded areas of mangroves included seafront planting and reversion of abandoned ponds.

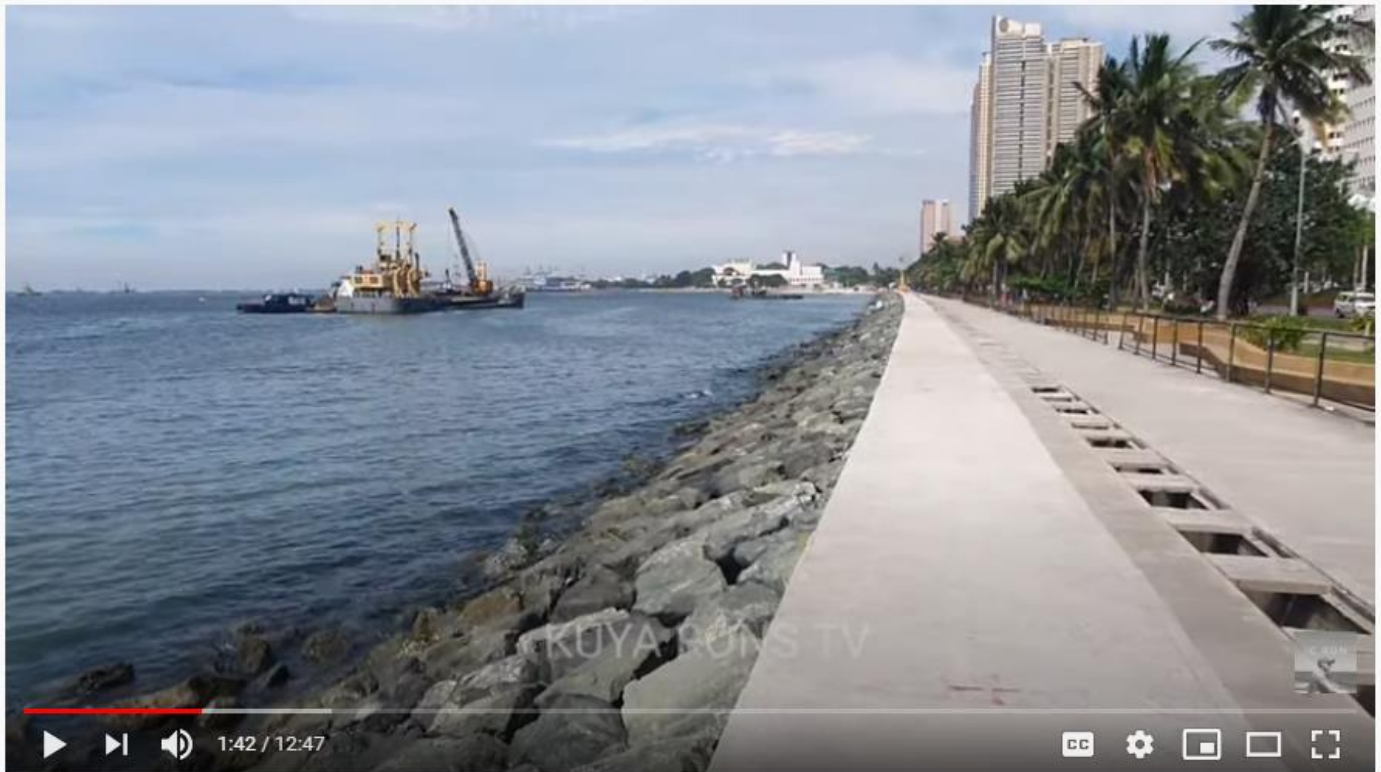
Mangroves, she added, also play an important role in ensuring food security, waste disposal, flood regulation, erosion control and promotion of forestry products, among others.

According to her, downgrading fish ponds need capital and investors to operate benefitting only aquafarmers, pond operators and aquaculture industries, whereas mangroves can be run solely municipal or small-scale fishermen and families, extending benefits among populations in coastal towns and cities.

“The money should all be for ponds reversion, pero (but) this is political will,” Primavera said, noting that the government should make mangrove rehabilitation a top priority.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/03/business/business-top/fishpond-inventory-for-mangroves-needed/804262/>





MANILA

### MANILA BAYWALK ANG LAKI NG GINANDA PATULOY KALINISAN

1,619 views • Dec 1, 2020

80 1 SHARE SAVE ...



**KUYA RONS TV**  
67.3K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Ang laki ng ginanda kahit hindibpa lubusang naayos lahat. Malinis na at hindi na katulad ng dati ng puno ng basura.

[#manilabay](#)

SHOW MORE

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTI1Nc1gDZY&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=KUYARONSTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTI1Nc1gDZY&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KUYARONSTV)



MANILA BAYWALK

### MANILA BAY SINISID NA PALATANDAAN NG PHASE2 OR PHASE1 NG DOLOMITE SAND! Miz July

4,708 views · Dec 1, 2020

199 4 SHARE SAVE ...



**Miz July**  
43.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE DECEMBER 2,,2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may DOLOMITE SAND

#ManilaBay  
#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyra9Tqp5lc&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=MizJuly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyra9Tqp5lc&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly)



MANILA BAYWALK

MANILA BAY HINIGOP NA BUHANGIN SA MAY DRAINAGED HINALUKAY NA NG DPS MANDARAGAT! Miz July

3,316 views · Dec 1, 2020

108 3 SHARE SAVE ...



Miz July  
43.4K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE DECEMBER 2,,2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may MYC

#ManilaBay

#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhjdmhIH\\_p0&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=MizJuly](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhjdmhIH_p0&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly)



#MAYORISKO #YORME #MANILA

DOLOMITE SAND? DAGAT NG MANILA BAY GINAWANG FOOT SPA DESTINATION!

3,370 views · Dec 1, 2020

👍 94    💬 1    ➦ SHARE    ⌵ SAVE    ...



**KHOPARS VLOG**  
91.8K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

Manila bay ( Harbour View )  
December 01, 2020

SHOW MORE

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTiTwlhn2ek&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=KHOPARS VLOG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTiTwlhn2ek&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KHOPARS_VLOG)



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

### MANILA BAY UPDATE,SABING BAWAL PA MALIGO!

228 views • Streamed live 23 hours ago

👍 13    💬 0    ➦ SHARE    ⋮ SAVE    ...



**DADDY D**  
1.9K subscribers

**SUBSCRIBE**

Source:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUVZoYkMTqw&feature=youtu.be&ab\\_channel=DADDYD](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUVZoYkMTqw&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=DADDYD)



## Triple emergencies: Climate, environment, transition

By [Rene E. Ofreneo](#)

December 2, 2020



Rene E. Ofreneo

LABOREM EXERCENS

The Philippines is facing triple emergencies: Climate, environment and transition.

But first, we salute the House of Representatives for unanimously adopting House Resolution 1377 declaring a climate and environmental emergency. Typhoon Rolly tells us that the Pacific Ocean is now spawning stronger and more destructive typhoons due to global warming. Typhoon Ulysses, which flooded whole provinces and cities in Luzon, reminds us of the poor capacity of our balding forests to hold water. Indeed, we are in a climate and environmental emergency.

Japan and other countries of the world have been declaring a climate and environmental emergency, primarily in recognition of what is now uncontested: Planet Earth is heating. Unmitigated, global warming poses an existential threat to all of humanity. By reckoning of the climate scientists, a rise in global temperature beyond 2.0 degrees from the pre-industrial era will be catastrophic. Arctic and Antarctic ice will melt, sea rise will inundate low-lying islands, coral reefs will die, agricultural crops will wilt, forest fires will break out everywhere, bio-diversity will disappear, etc. Hence, the battlecry of the climatologists in the 2015 Conference of Parties (UN Member States) in Paris: Limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees.

Global temperature has been rising due to the mounting greenhouse gases polluting the earth's atmosphere. The greenhouse gases are accounted mainly by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and gas. However, deforestation also contributes to GHG emission, while reforestation helps mitigate global warming and strengthens a country's adaptive capacity to climate change risks.

Most of the Philippine CSOs welcome House Resolution 1377. The Resolution provides the country extra power in its negotiation with developed countries on how to address global warming and finance mitigation and adaptation programs. The developed Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries (Europe, North America, Japan, etc.) and China happen to be the biggest GHG emitters because their past and present efforts to industrialize and modernize their countries are based on the intensive utilization of fossil fuel and extraction of natural resources.

In contrast, the Philippines is one of the lowest GHG emitters, and yet, it is in the top 5 of the list of countries that are most vulnerable to climate change risks. This is the logic behind the demand of developing countries for the developed countries to contribute more in the global effort to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees (maximum of 2.0 degrees). They owe the world a huge "carbon debt." The world is suffering from the "climate injustice" inflicted by the developed countries, including China, on the Philippines and other developing countries.

However, the declaration of a climate and environmental emergency should not be used solely for global negotiations on funding for global warming mitigation. They should steel the country's resolve to address its own climate and environmental concerns. As it is, the Philippines is one country in Asia with a comprehensive set of environmental laws. They include laws promoting forestry protection, clean water, clean air, solid waste management, environmental awareness, renewable energy, organic agriculture, disaster risk reduction and management, rights of indigenous people, green jobs, and so on.



And yet, the continuing degradation of the environment remains unchecked. This is reflected in the failure of the DENR to renew the forests despite the huge budgetary allocations for the ambitious National Greening Program under the Aquino and Duterte administrations. As the President himself mentioned, the government has failed to stop the unscrupulous loggers and miners in cutting trees. To this rogue gallery must be added the local elites engaged in quarrying even in protected and forested areas of the archipelago.

This brings us then to a different type of emergency: The failure of the country to bridge the gap between policy pronouncements on environmental protection and actual fulfillment of the declared environmental targets. Philippine environmental laws, including PDP 2011-2016 of the Aquino administration and PDP 2017-2022 of the Duterte administration, are full of such policy pronouncements and declared protection targets. The goals have remained paper goals, while targets have remained paper targets. Prime examples: Reforestation goal, all-out renewable goal and shift to organic farming.

This gap between rhetorics and practice is partly rooted in the problem of government to address “transition” issues, foremost of which are having a clear “transformation” program and getting the support of critical stakeholders in making the transformation happen. For example, the organic farming law was enacted in 2010 or 10 years ago. And yet, there is very little progress in the propagation of organic farming, which still accounts for only 2 percent or so of the total farming area of the country per estimates by experts from UP Los Baños. Chemical agriculture dependent on chemical inputs rules the countryside.

Shifting from environmentally-degrading practice to earth-friendly one is not easy. This is why experts from the UN Environmental Programme have been asking countries to address “transition” issues, specifically the needed adjustment and transformation programs.

But a transition program can be unjust and can deepen social and economic inequality. Hence, the demand of trade unions and CSOs around the world is the formulation of “just transition” programs. Adjustment and transformation measures should not be unjust to the poor and should not be exclusivistic. Going “green” can lead to a “greed” economy dominated by a few “green” entrepreneurs.

Going green without a clear or just transition can also go awry. This is what has been happening in the case of the jeepney modernization program, which jeepney drivers and small operators are still questioning four years after the program was announced. There is no “just transition” program to ensure that affected drivers can have stable jobs if they get out of the jeepney business or be able to manage financially the shift to modernization.

In addition to the above criticism, Dr. Ted Mendoza of UP Los Baños and the Science Director of the CSO called Community Legal Help, explained other “blind sides” of the jeepney modernization (based on his study, “Blind Sides” of PUV Modernization). First, he asked: Why blame the lowly jeepney for all the pollution when there are over 12 million vehicles (cars, vans, buses, motorbikes and trucks) in the country? Second, why impose an expensive e-jeepney modernization on poor jeepney drivers? Each modern jeepney is now estimated to cost from P2.5 million to P2.6 million. To be able to pay this amount, Mendoza estimated that a jeepney driver must earn P6,899 a day. With loans from the DBP and LBP, the payables get bigger. And with fare hikes strictly regulated by the government, the indebted jeepney driver is not in a position to cover the high cost of shifting to modernization.

Thirdly, Mendoza asks why the numerous requirements on jeepney drivers enrolling under the modernization program? Under DOTR Dept. Order 2017-11, jeepney drivers/operators are asked to surrender their franchise and old jeepney. This is like surrendering a driver’s lifeline. There are other requirements: Membership in a cooperative tasked to do fleet management, having “lay-over garage” with sufficient space, and cooperative training that involves additional expenses.



Dr. Mendoza concluded that shifting to less-emitting modality cannot be avoided. However, he is asking why a top-down approach and arbitrariness in implementing modernization schemes that require more, not less, consultation and dialogue? Clearly, the country has a long way to go before it can master just transition management.





## Plant trees, acquire a PUV franchise

To be successful, tree-planting initiatives, they say, need to engage local stakeholders and confront conflicting goals for land use.

Published 5 hours ago on December 3, 2020 01:50 AM

By [Concept News Central](#)



Reports that the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has mandated franchise applicants to plant trees in a bid to boost the government's reforestation program should be welcome news to all ecology warriors.

The mandatory tree planting for public transportation operators was scheduled to start last Tuesday, 1 December.

Under its memorandum issued last 20 November, those applying for a certificate of public convenience with at least 10 units and those applying for extension of CPC validity must plant trees. One unit is equivalent to one tree.

After three months, the policy will eventually cover all applicants with less than 10 PUV.

The LTFRB said transportation operators should coordinate with local government units, as well as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their tree planting activity.

Aiming to plant 50,000 trees, the LTFRB said the mandatory tree planting came after most of Luzon areas were battered by typhoons "Rolly" and "Ulysses."

Transport Secretary Arthur Tugade first raised the recommendation during the public briefing with President Rodrigo Duterte and other Cabinet officials in typhoon-hit Cagayan.

LTFRB Region II director Edward Cabase reportedly recommended the idea after Region II, composed of Cagayan Valley, Cagayan and Isabela were submerged by massive floods brought by typhoon "Ulysses."

In a previous report, the Ecological Threats Register (ETR) revealed that more than a billion people will be displaced from their houses in the next 30 years due to the climate crisis.



The report studied the risk profiles of 157 countries including the Philippines on threats such as population growth, water stress, food insecurity, droughts, floods, cyclones and rising temperatures and sea levels.

At least 60 percent of the countries in the report are expected to face flooding threats because of rising sea levels and temperatures.

The Philippines, under the medium-risk group of the ETR, will reportedly face at least three ecological threats in the coming years.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government is reportedly also planning to plant some 200 million trees in a massive campaign next year as a response to the devastating floods caused by the recent typhoons.

The entire Luzon is currently under a state of calamity after the recent typhoons that devastated most parts of the island. Typhoon "Quinta" left at least 22 dead after exiting the country on 27 October. It was followed by super typhoon "Rolly," dubbed as the strongest typhoon in the world in 2020, which killed 25 after making four landfalls in Southern Luzon early November.

The idea therefore of replacing the trees damaged by such calamities is perfect for a country visited by storms at least 20 times a year. And involving transport operators whose business involves vehicles that could be a contributing factor to pollution because of continued use of diesel engines already banned in other countries is a good way to start such a campaign.

We do applaud the widespread enthusiasm for increasing forest cover, but planting trees is not a simple solution. It's complicated and we need to be realistic about what we can and cannot achieve. We need to be thoughtful and plan for the long term.

In the first place, we have to be sure that this would not be another source of corruption coming from operators who would rather circumvent the LTFRB order.

Planting trees can indeed improve biodiversity, water quality and increase shade. But depending on where and how it is done, experts say tree planting can also harm native ecosystems and species, reduce water supply, dispossess local landholders and increase social inequity.

To be successful, tree-planting initiatives, they say, need to engage local stakeholders and confront conflicting goals for land use. We need to keep existing forests standing and allow trees to regenerate in areas that were formerly forests.

In many cases, trees will recover on their own. That is why, experts claim planting trees should only be the last option.

What is more important, we believe, is slowing the pace of climate change with a comprehensive strategy that starts with burning less fossil fuel.

We're better off not releasing greenhouse gases to begin with.



## Stop Kaliwa Dam

posted December 03, 2020 at 12:00 am

by [Danilo Suarez](#)

"It is simply wrong to subject our people to further danger and loss."

The Province of Quezon takes a firm stand against the construction of the Kaliwa Dam for many reasons. I have been vocal about my reservations on the implementation of the Kaliwa Dam joint project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and China Energy Engineering Corporation. This P12-billion peso project, which will be funded from Official Development Assistance loans from China, is set to mitigate the water crisis in Metro Manila. While the project's goal is laudable, I cannot consent to this if it will bring more harm than good, especially in our own backyard.

There have been vehement oppositions to this project from residents of the REINA area (Real, Infanta, and General Nakar) in Quezon, as well as from indigenous groups who have been living in the area for many years, and environmental advocates. There is a legitimate fear about the effects of this project. Recall that in 2004, the massive flooding and landslides caused by Typhoon Winnie in the REINA area took more than a thousand lives. Quezonians will not forget that tragedy 16 years ago.

As successive typhoons aggravate this fear of the people living in these areas, we cannot discount the fact that people rely so much on the protection that the mountains of Sierra Madre give against strong winds and heavy rains. Pursuing Kaliwa Dam, given the adverse environmental impact it would cause to Sierra Madre, would take away this blanket of security. Worse, it will submerge communities and hectares of agricultural land which have been the primary source of livelihood by the residents.

More than the environmental, agricultural, and economic damages it would cause, the Kaliwa Dam project takes a wrong turn by seeking funds from ODA loans. We have private entities as competent and as capable of completing dam projects at a lesser cost to the government. At this point where we are in the middle of fiscal deficits, we cannot afford to go deeper into the pit.

Hence, I echo the opposition of the Quezonians to this project. I reiterate my call to the government to seriously reconsider and withdraw the implementation of this project. It would be more prudent to reassess and choose a more viable option that would better augment the supply of potable water to Metro Manila without putting so many lives on the line. Our Sierra Madre which has been a blessing to this country from above must be protected. It is simply wrong to subject our people to further danger and loss in the middle of a pandemic and a state of calamity.



# COVID-19 cases sa bansa tumalon sa 434,357; gumaling halos 400,000 na

(Philstar.com) - December 2, 2020 - 1:50pm



Sa gitna ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, makikitang sumusunod sa physical distancing ang mga deboto sa larawan habang isinasagawa ang first Friday mass sa Plaza Miranda, Maynila, ika-27 ng Agosto, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Patuloy pa rin ang pag-akyat ng bilang ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases sa Pilipinas sa pagpasok ng ikalawang araw ng Disyembre sa gitna ng mga debate kung papayagan na ang paglabas-labas ng mga bata sa mga lugar gaya ng malls ngayong Kapaskuhan.

Sumabit na kasi sa 434,357 ang kabuuang bilang ng infections sa Pilipinas, matapos tablan nito ang 1,438 pang katao, ayon sa Kagawaran ng Kalusugan ngayong Miyerkules.

"Sa kabuuang bilang ng mga naitalang kaso sa bansa, 6.2% (26,916) ang aktibong kaso, 91.9% (399,005) na ang gumaling, at 1.94% (8,436) ang namatay," sabi ng Department of Health (DOH) ngayong araw.

"Samantala ay mayroon namang naitalang 232 na gumaling at 18 na pumanaw."

Natuklasan sa sumusunod na lugar ang karamihan sa mga COVID-19 cases na bagong balita lang ng DOH:

- Davao City (142)
- Laguna (89)
- Lungsod ng Quezon (80)
- Lungsod ng Maynila (63)
- Pampanga (58)

Tinanggal naman na mula sa total case count ang animna duplicates sa ngayon, matapos mapag-alamang tatlo sa kanila ay gumaling na.



Anim naman sa mga unang naibalitang gumaling na ay ni-reclassify naman na namatay. Nananatiling nasa 11 laboratoryo ang hindi nakapagpasa ng kani-kanilang mga datos sa COVID-19 Data Repository System (CDRS) nitong Martes.

## DOH: Menor de edad, huwag muna lumabas

Kasabay ng patuloy na peligro ng pandemya sa bansa, pinaalalahanan naman ng DOH ang publiko na huwag munang hahayaang lumabas-labas ng bahay ang mga menor de edad na wala pang 15-anyos.

Ito ang sinabi ni Health Secretary Francisco Duque III matapos lumabas ang mga balitang "papayagan" na ang mga batang pumunta sa matataong lugar gaya ng shopping malls basta't may kasamang matanda.

"Tandaan natin, sa siyam na buwan na ating karanasan sa COVID-19, ang dami nating bagong mga impormasyon na natutunan," sabi ni Duque sa media ngayong araw.

"At isa rito ay halos mga 3-5% ng ating total infected cases ay sa mga bata nangyari. So hindi po sila exempted sa hawaan."

Aniya, kahit na hindi magkaroon ng malalang sintomas ang mga bata, maaaring maglagi ang SARS-CoV-2 — ang virus na nagdudulot ng COVID-19 — sa ilong at lalamunan ng mga chikiting.

"Yan pa rin po ang ating posisyon, we discourage this. 'Wag na pong lumabas ang mga bata. 'Yung dati naman pagka 15 years of age hanggang 65, 'yan naman ay pinapahintulutan na 'yan. Pero siyempre, nasa mga local government units ang desisyon. Kung ipagbabawal nila 'yan, magandang masundan ng ordinansa," patuloy ni Duque.

Ayon sa [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](https://www.who.int/), halos 62.84 milyon na ang nahahawaan ng nasabing sakit sa buong daigdig. Sa bilang na 'yan, 1,465,144 na ang patay. — **James Relativo at may mga ulat mula kay Gaea Katreena Cabico**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/12/02/2060981/covid-19-cases-sa-bansa-tumalon-sa-434357-gumaling-halos-400000-na/amp/>

# PH not left behind without vaccine purchase agreement

December 2, 2022



The National Task Force against COVID-19 (NTF) asserted that the Philippines is not left behind despite having no purchase agreement.

According to NTF Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr., advanced payment is not permitted under Philippine laws. RA 11494 or Bayanihan 2 requires a vaccine to finish its clinical trial phase 3 before procurement to ensure its quality.

The Commission on Audit (COA) has been consulted on the possibility of advanced procurement. Sec. Galvez said that the implementation of the advanced procurement is through the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

The Vaccine Czar also shared that they have been constantly collaborating with other countries and vaccine manufacturers. The NTF is now evaluating how the local government units (LGUs) can help in the procurement of the vaccine.

Metro Manila mayors have expressed intent in assisting the national government in the COVID-19 vaccination program. The Philippines aims to immunize 70 to 80 million individuals in the next 3 to 5 years. – *Report from Bea Bernardo*



## 70% ng 1,487,013 patay sa COVID-19 nasa 12 bansa lamang



December 2, 2020 @ 3:21 PM 14 hours ago

Alam ba ninyong 1,043,044 milyon ang namatay sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa 12 bansa lamang na nangunguna sa rami ng biktima ng pandemya sa buong mundo?

Lumalabas na mahigit sa 70 porsyento ito ng kabuuang 1,487,013 bilang ng mga patay at ang natitirang 442,673 ang pinaghahati-hatian ng 214 bansa at teritoryo, kabilang na ang Pilipinas na may 8,418.

Ang top 4 bansa na may mahigit 100,000 patay ay US – 276,969; Brazil – 173,862; India – 138,159; Mexico – 105,940 at may kabuuang patay na 694,030 sa mga ito.

Kapag idinagdag ang mga patay sa Spain na 45,511 at sa United Kingdom na 59,051 na pang-6 at pang-7 sa nangungunang 12 bansang biktima ng pandemya, kalahati o 50 porsyento na ang patay rito kumpara sa kabuuang bilang ng mga patay na 1,485,717.

Ganyan kabagsik ang COVID-19.

### ILANG DAHILAN SA US, MEXICO, BRAZIL

Magandang sulyapan ang ilang mapagpasyang dahilan ng pagkakaroon ng sobrang dami ng patay sa nasabing mga bansa upang mailapat natin sa sarili nating mahal na Pilipinas.

Malinaw na US ang may pinakaraming patay sa COVID-19.

Hindi maikakaila na malaki ang pananagutan ng mismo ni Pangulong Donald Trump na bibihirang sumunod sa health protocol, gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask at social distancing.

At kinambalan ito ng 50 porsyentong mamamayan sa US na ayaw magsuot ng face mask at ayaw ring sumunod sa social distancing.

Ang face mask at social distancing ay napatunayan nang mabisa bilang sandata sa hawaan sa nasabing sakit.

Sa hangganan o border ng Mexico at US naman nagaganap ang pinakaraming may COVID-19 sa Mexico.

Ayon sa mga ulat, nasa loob ng teritoryo ng Mexico sa border ang napakaraming pabrika pang-aerospace at sasakyan na kailangan ng mga Amerikano at nagmula rito ang hawaan na kumalat sa buong Mexico, kasabay ng pagkakalat din ng turismo sa pagitan ng dalawang bansa.

Bagsak din umano rito ang sistemang pangkalusugan sa labis na kakulangan ng laboratory at diagnostic test at ang isang pinakamasakit umano, binabalewala ng mga namumuno ng bansa ang COVID-19, Trump style.



Sa Brazil, ikinasikat nang husto ng kanilang Pangulo ang pagbalewala nito sa COVID-19 na ikinagalit naman ng maraming gobernador at mismong mga matataas na pinuno ng kanilang health ministry o Department of Health sa atin.

Nagbunga ito ng pagkakasibak ng isang health secretary at pagre-resign na isa na pinalitan ngayon ng isang heneral na military na wala umanong kaalam-alam sa problema sa pandemya.

Dose-dosena umano ang mga doktor at nurse na namatay at napatunayang sila na rin ang isa sa mga naging tagapagpalaganap po carrier ng pandemya sa kanilang bansa.

Maganda umano ang sistemang pangkalusugan ng Brazil pero ang pagsasabing ng Pangulo nila na isang sipon lang ang COVID-19 at hindi kailangan ang social distancing sa matagal na panahon ay nagbunga ng hindi maganda.

Magkakatsokaran sina Trump, Mexican President Andrés López Obrador at Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro na ayaw magsuot ng face mask kahit nakikipag-usap sila sa iba.

Mismong sina Trump at Bolsonaro ay tinamaan ng COVID-19 ngunit gumaling.

## **SA INDIA**

Sinasabi mismo ng pamahalaang India na ang napakaraming pambansang piyesta, taglamig o winter at grabeng polusyon ang nagsama-sama para maging grabe ang COVID-19 sa kanila.

Sa ngayon, ang New Delhi na kapital ng bansa at may 20 milyong mamamayan ang isa sa mga malalaking lungsod na sinasalakay ng pandemya.

Kaya naman, kumukuha na sila ng mga doktor at nars sa ibang mga lalawigan nila para punuan ang labis na kakulangan ng mga doktor habang umaapaw na ang mga pasyente sa mga ospital na kinukulang na rin ng mga kama at kwarto para sa mga kritikal ang kalagayan.

Kabilang naman sa mga pambansang piyesta upang sila'y magtipon-tipon nang maramihan ang ngayo'y dumarating na Pasko ngayong Disyembre at Diwali, Navrati, Durga Puja, Dussehra na ginanap nitong mga buwan ng Oktubre at Nobyembre.

Nagbunga ang mga pagtitipon-tipon ng hawaan ng mga pamilya at pami-pamilya na ang mga naoospital.

Napansin ding ang mga kabataan hanggang 40-anyos ang maraming biktima dahil sa hindi pagsunod sa mga health protocol at katigasan ng ulo.

Kumakalat naman ang COVID-19 virus sa mga polusyon sa hangin mula sa mga umuubo at nagsasalita nang walang face mask.

Marami naman ang nagkakasakit sa baga ngayong winter kaya sa pag-ubo at pagsasalita ng mga ito, mabilis na kumakalat ang virus.

## **MGA REMEDYO**

Mayroon namang mga napakapositibong pangyayari sa mga bansang ating binabanggit sa itaas.

Si Trump, halimbawa, ay nagbuhos ng \$10 bilyon para sa paggawa ng mga bakuna at sa Disyembre 11, 2020 sisimulan na ang pagbabakuna sa Amerika para sa lahat mahigit 300 milyong mamamayan nito, kasama na ang apat milyong Pinoy na naroroon.





Sa Brazil, pinayagan ni Bolsonaro ang tatlong kompanya, mga Amerikano at Europeo, na gumagawa ng bakuna na magkaroon ng mga trial.

Sinuspinde naman nito ang China made na Sinovac dahil ito ang gusto ng kanyang karibal sa pagka-Pangulo na si Sao Paulo Governor Doria na bilhin para sa kanyang lugar.

Sa Mexico, natataranta sila sa rami umano ng namamatay at sinasabing nasa 103,000 ang “official” na bilang ngunit maaaring may 193,170 “excess death” o sobrang bilang ng patay para lang hanggang buwan ng Setyembre.

Labis umano ang kakulangan ng COVID test sa bansang ito.

Sa India naman, may tatlo umanong kompanya ang gumagawa mismo ng bakuna laban sa pandemya at ito ang inaasahan nilang magagamit sa mga susunod na buwan.

Kasabay ng istrikto ngayong pagpapatupad ng mga health protocol gaya ng pagpapamulta na halagang nasa P1,500 sa mga nahuhuling nagsusuot ng face mask.

Nasa 500,000 na ang nahuli at napagmulta nila.

## **SA PILIPINAS?**

Magandang balita ang pagdausdos ng ranggo natin mula sa Setyembre 2020 na minsang naging pang-18 tayo sa buong mundo sa may pinakaraming biktima.

Ngayon, pang-28 na lamang tayo at siyempre pa, nais nating pababa nang pababa ang ranggo natin na nangangahulugan ng pagbaba ng bilang ng nagkakasakit at namamatay.

Kayo na, mga Bro, ang manghimay-himay kung paano gumanda ang laban natin sa COVID-19.

Subalit nagpapasalamat tayo sa napakagandang mga batas at pandisiplinang aksyon ng administrasyong Duterte na aktibong nilalahukan ng mga local government unit.

May sarili ring mga diskarte ang mga LGU at ginagamit nila ang kanilang mga lokal na pondo para bumili ng mga pang-test at pati ang mediamen na hindi residente ng lungsod ay nalibre rito, lalo na sa Metro Manila.

Thanks kina Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, Pasay Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano at iba pang mga mayor na nagbibigay ng mga libreng test sa lahat.

Isa pang mahalaga ang pakikinig ng pambansang pamahalaan sa mga boses ng mga lokal na opisyal at halimbawa rito ang pagpapatigil ng balik-probinsya program na napansin ng mga LGU na isang dahilan ng paglaganap ng pandemya.

At kung mayroon man ito, mahigpit ang pagpapairal ng mga health protocol gaya ng pagdadala ng mga nagbabalik-probinsya ng sertipikasyon na wala silang COVID-19 at pagsasalang sa mga ito sa mga lokal na testing center pagdating nila sa lugar na pinupuntahan nila.

Patuloy ang pagpapairal ng iba’t ibang uri ng quarantine, gayundin ang contact tracing, testing, paghihiwalay ng mga may tama, pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield at social distancing.

Napakaganda rin ang ginagawa ng mga mamamayan na kooperasyon sa pagsunod sa mga health protocol.



At ngayon nga, naglalaan na ang pamahalaan ng sapat na pondo para sa 60 milyong Pinoy at target na unahing mabakunahan ang mga mahihirap na nabibilang sa nasabing 60 milyon.

Para madagdagan ang pambili ng bakuna, nagkaisa na rin ang ilang kilalang malalaking pribadong kompanya para bumili.

Kalahati ng bibilhin nilang 3 milyong dosage ang ibibigay nila sa DOH habang ang kalahati ay para sa mga empleyadong regular at kontraktwal ng mga pribadong kompanya.

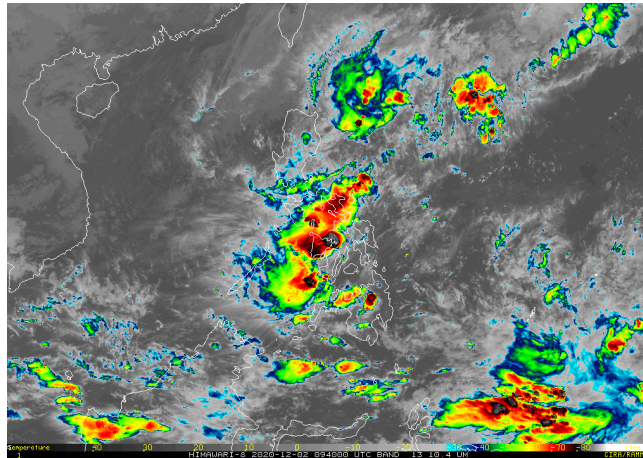
Kabilang sa mga pribadong kompanya na katuwang pamahalaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Udenna Corp., San Miguel Corp., International Container Terminal Services Inc., BDO Unibank, First Philippine Holdings Corp., Go Negosyo, LT Group Inc., Metro Pacific Investments Corp., Universal Leaf Philippines Inc., LBC Express Holdings Inc., GT Capital Holdings Inc., Wilcon Depot Inc., Ayala Healthcare Holdings Inc., Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Golden ABC Inc., Mercury Drug Corp. at Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc.

## **MARAMING SALAMAT**

Ang masasabi ng ULTIMATUM?

Maraming salamat sa kooperasyon sa buong pamahalaan ng mga mamamayan at sa pakikiisa ng mga pribadong kompanya sa giyera sa COVID-19.

Pero magandang alamin din ng lahat ang mga pagkakamali at nagaganap sa ibang mga bansa gaya ng mga nabanggit natin na makatutulong sa giyera natin sa pandemya.



This satellite image shows the low pressure area inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility which PAGASA said was last seen at Juban in Sorsogon by afternoon of December 2, 2020

RAMMB

## LPA's extension to bring rains in Bicol, other parts of the country

(Philstar.com) - December 2, 2020 - 6:11pm

MANILA, Philippines — PAGASA on Wednesday said the low pressure area inside the Philippine Area of Responsibility is closing in on Bicol Region and is bringing rains to several parts of the country.

The weather bureau in its 5 p.m. forecast said the LPA was last seen at 100 kilometers east of Juban in Sorsogon, but stressed that it is unlikely to intensify.

Bicol including parts of MIMAROPA, Visayas and Western Mindanao are seeing rains as a result of the LPA's trough or extension.

"Ito pong LPA na ito ay mababa ang tsansa na maging bagyo at posibleng malusaw pagtama sa kalupaan either sa may northern part ng Samar o Bicol Region," said weather specialist Ariel Rojas.

(This LPA has low chances of developing into a storm and may be gone once it hits land either on the northern part of Samar or Bicol Region.)

Still, PAGASA said, it will bring cloudy skies and chances of rain over central parts of the country. Apart from the LPA, no other weather disturbances are also in sight.

The agency yesterday said at least [two tropical cyclones](#) may still enter the Philippines before the year ends, seeing at least 21 this 2020, with "Ulysses" the last and by figures, the most destructive.

Northern Luzon, meanwhile, may experience rains due to the tail end of a frontal system, along with Ilocos Eigion, Cordillera Administrative Region and Cagayan.

PAGASA has warned residents to coordinate with local governments should evacuation be needed with rains, possibly bringing flashfloods and landslides as well.

Other parts of the island will continue to feel the effects of the northeast monsoon or the Amihan, the weather bureau added.



By tomorrow, the LPA is set to bring cloudy skies over Bicol Region that could bring scattered rains that could stretch until the Kalayaan Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

Central Luzon will have low chances of rain, while Metro Manila and parts of Southern Luzon will see generally fair weather, apart from chances of localized thunderstorms by afternoon and night.

Cloudy skies and scattered rains are also seen over Western and Central Visayas, but Eastern Visayas and Mindanao in turn, will see fair weather.

PAGASA added that gale warning is still up over the seaboard of Northern and Central Luzon, eastern seaboard of Quezon including Polilio Islands, as well as the northern and eastern seaboard of Bicol Region. — **Christian Deiparine**



# Chest-deep floods from LPA swamp parts of Eastern Samar

**Published** December 2, 2020 3:13pm

By JAMIL SANTOS, GMA News

Several areas in Can-Avid, Eastern Samar were swamped by chest-deep floods due to rains brought by a low-pressure area (LPA).

The Eastern Samar local government unit said the waters rose chest-deep in Barangay Obong and its nearby barangay when the creek overflowed on Tuesday morning, according to a Balitanghali report on Wednesday.

Residents' belongings and properties were damaged. The flood has already subsided.

In its 11 a.m. weather advisory, PAGASA said as of 10 a.m., the LPA was estimated based on all available data at 105 km east northeast of Catarman, Northern Samar or 180 km east of Juban, Sorsogon.

The LPA is forecast to move closer towards the Northern Samar - Bicol Region area, which remains less likely to develop into a tropical depression in the next 24 hours. —**LBG, GMA News**



# Mark Villar stresses need to invest in Marikina Dam

By [Eimor Santos, CNN Philippines](#)

Published Dec 2, 2020 6:20:51 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, December 2) — It's worth spending billions of pesos for the proposed Marikina Dam to prevent devastating floods when typhoons strike, Public Works Secretary Mark Villar said.

In an interview on CNN Philippines' "Front and Center," Villar cited the plan to build a multi-purpose dam in the upstream of the Marikina-Montalban River Basin as one of the long-term flood control projects of the government.

"That really attacks the source of the issue, of the problem, which is the water coming down from the mountains. When it rains, all of a sudden, we have a flood of water coming into Marikina River," Villar said.

Villar, who also heads the recently formed task force on typhoon rehabilitation, said the dam would enable communities to withstand strong typhoons, even those that could cause a rare "100-year flood" — a massive flood that only has a 1% chance of taking place each year.

"So of course, if you want to do this, it costs a lot of money. But then again, ito investment naman ito (this is an investment)," Villar added.

In a Senate hearing last week, Public Works Undersecretary Emil Sadain said the Marikina Dam [can be constructed within five years with an estimated cost of ₱38 billion](#).

Marikina City [was the first local government unit to declare a state of calamity in the aftermath of Typhoon Ulysses](#) which caused the river to swell, forcing residents to evacuate in mid-November. Floodwaters rose fast, reminiscent of the onslaught of Ondoy in 2009.

The proposal for the construction of Marikina Dam is now with the National Economic and Development Authority. It is among the major flood control projects worth a total of ₱138 billion in the Department of Public Works and Highways' pipeline. Reviving the Parañaque Spillway Project could cost ₱67 billion while building flood walls along Pasig River may cost around ₱33 billion.

"We can be sure that these billion-peso projects that go through the NEDA have gone through extensive study," Villar said.

## More needs to be done

Meanwhile, experts are calling on the government to go beyond infrastructure. Mahar Lagmay, executive director of the UP Resilience Institute, shared a seven-point action plan which includes the use of nature-based solutions in disaster risk reduction efforts. The forests should be protected and degraded areas rehabilitated to provide a natural defense from the wrath of typhoons, he said.

Landscape architect and urban planner Paulo Alcazaren agreed, urging the government to watch over protected areas. The [Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development](#) should find the sites where people won't get in harm's way, he said.



Villar recognized that flood control should be a holistic approach, citing the need for urban planning. He said the government is working on protecting easements.

"Along with the revetments (sloping structures placed on banks to absorb the energy of incoming water), we put structures so that the easements are protected," he said.

Advocates welcomed [congressional discussions on the declaration of a state of climate emergency](#) for a whole-of-government response to the crisis. They said it's high time.

"Bakit magdedeclare ng climate emergency? Kasi hindi natin sineryoso for the last 20 years yung urgency, yung epekto, yung disaster, na dulot ng intensified typhoons," said Rodney Galicha, Aksyon Klima Pilipinas convener.

[Translation: Why declare climate emergency? Because for the last 20 years, we did not take seriously the urgency, impact, and disaster brought by intensified typhoons.]

All plans should be communicated to the grassroots, Galicha said. Lagmay added that government agencies should establish early warning systems, while local officials cooperate in planning, response, and recovery efforts.

Disasters have become a perennial problem since people tend to forget the impact of a typhoon once it passes, Alcazaren said, joking that a "Department of Memory" may have to be created.

A declaration of climate emergency would "put the climate agenda at the forefront of policies and in the consciousness of the Filipino people," Lagmay said.

*Catch the full interviews on the premiere of CNN Philippines' "Front and Center" on December 2, Wednesday, 7 p.m.*



# Asean, EU hold talks anew on environment, climate change

By Recto Mercene  
December 2, 2020



*Top officials from Asean and the European Union in their recent high-level meet*

SENIOR officials from Asean and the European Union (EU) gathered virtually for the second round of their High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change.

During their meeting, the officials discussed their cooperation on shared regional and global challenges related to the protection of the environment and the fight against climate change, as agreed in the joint statement of the 22nd Asean-EU Ministerial Meeting. Following the first gathering in July 2019, the second dialogue provided an opportunity for further exchanges of experiences on environmental and climate goals, as well as the promotion of regional solutions for a green transition.

Astrid Schomaker, director for Global Sustainable Development at the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment; Jacob Werksman, principal adviser of the Directorate General for Climate Action; and Hazri Hassan, director for International Policy at the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment who represented Singapore as the Asean-EU country coordinator, chaired the meeting.

The European Green Deal, the outcomes of the 31st Meeting of Asean Senior Officials on the Environment, and placing sustainability at the heart of the recovery framework, were topics that guided the discussions.

Important areas of ongoing and potential cooperation between the two regional entities discussed included plastics and marine litter, circular economy, biodiversity, and natural capital. The EU informed of its intention to work toward a global agreement on plastics—deemed important for both blocs—highlighted the continued implementation of a plastics and marine-litter project in five Asean countries. The dialogue also touched on the subject of chemicals and waste, stressing the importance of promoting safety and sustainability, with reference to the relevant agreement, as both parties will address waste trafficking and illegal waste dumping.





It was also announced that the preparation of an Asean platform on circular economy is underway. The EU supports such, as part of a joint initiative between the two blocs. The platform will facilitate the sharing of good circular practices across Asean, engage key stakeholders, and help design policies that can accelerate a circular economy transition in the latter's member-states.

The two sides directed their attention to biodiversity and natural capital, as they emphasized the importance of next year's Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, of China's Yunnan province. It will highlight the urgent need to work jointly toward a realistic and ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In the second part of the discussion, all officials exchanged views on climate change, including in the areas of nationally determined contributions, concrete mitigation actions, long-term strategies, climate neutrality, as well as latest trends in sustainable finance. Both sides agreed to continue their cooperation on these topics as a follow up to the dialogue's discussions.

The High-Level Dialogue was supported by the Enhanced Regional EU-Asean Dialogue Instrument, a development-cooperation program that facilitates exchanges between the EU and Asean in priority policy areas of joint interest. Drawing on the EU's experience of regional integration, the E-READI policy dialogue facility further strengthens both the Asean regional integration process, as well as the overall partnership between the two blocs.



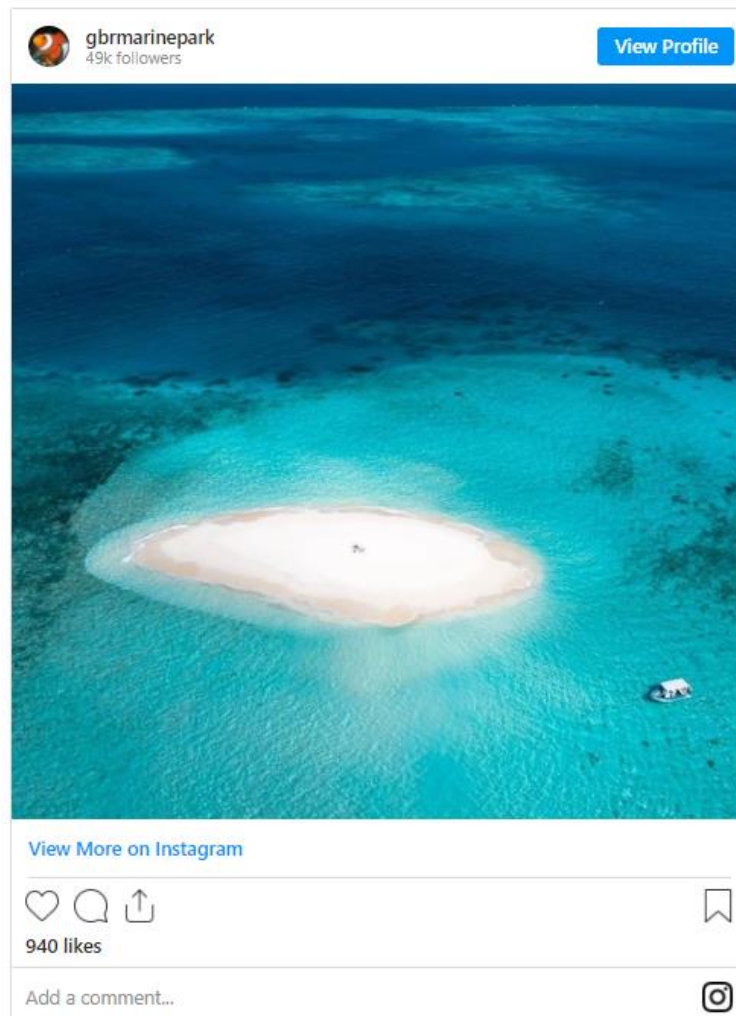
# Climate change biggest threat to natural World Heritage sites

Nina LARSON, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Dec 02 2020 11:16 PM

Climate change has become the biggest threat to UN-listed natural world heritage sites like glaciers and wetlands, and has pushed Australia's Great Barrier Reef into "critical" condition, conservationists said Wednesday.

In a fresh report, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) revealed that shifts due to the changing climate now imperil a full third of the 252 UNESCO-listed natural sites around the globe.



Overall, 94 of the sites are facing significant or critical risk from a wide range of factors -- including tourism, hunting, fire and water pollution -- marking an increase from the 62 listed in the previous study published in 2017.

The study also hinted that the Covid-19 pandemic was taking a toll on some of the world's most beautiful and precious natural places.

However, climate change is by far the biggest single threat.

It constitutes a high or very high risk factor at 83 of the sites, and has thus overtaken invasive and non-native species, which topped the threat list three years ago.

The report "reveals the damage climate change is wreaking on natural World Heritage, from shrinking glaciers to coral bleaching to increasingly frequent and severe fires and droughts," IUCN Director-General Bruno Oberle said in a statement.



"This report signals the urgency with which we must tackle environmental challenges together at the planetary scale."

The coronavirus crisis had showed the need for the global community to "stand together and work as one for the common good," the IUCN report said.

#### - Covid impact -

Since its assessment had begun before the novel coronavirus first surfaced late last year, IUCN said it had systematically recorded how the crisis was affecting the World Heritage sites.

But the report said it was becoming clear that the pandemic and associated restrictions were impacting or had the potential to impact more than 50 of the sites.

Some of the effects were positive, "most notably a decrease in pressure from tourism visitation on natural ecosystems," it said, warning though that "negative factors are numerous."

It pointed to how the closing of sites to tourism were causing a significant loss of revenues and livelihoods, as well as how limits on in-person staffing had lead to reduced control over illegal activities.

"These factors are increasing the risk of wildlife poaching and illegal use of natural resources, with incidents recorded in some sites since the pandemic," the report said.

Overall, the study found that 30 percent of the sites faced "significant" threats, and seven percent are considered "critical", meaning they "require urgent, additional and large-scale conservation measures" to be saved.

Alarmingly, two new sites have been moved up into the critical category since 2017, including the world's largest coral reef.

Australia's Great Barrier Reef has seen dramatic coral decline amid ocean warming, acidification and extreme weather, which in turn has resulted in shrinking populations of marine species, the report found.

Protected areas in Mexico's Gulf of California are also among the sites now deemed in critical condition, joining the likes of the Everglades National Park in the United States and Lake Turkana in Kenya, which already figured on the list.

The IUCN report pointed out that climate change had also exacerbated the spread of invasive species in a number of areas, including South Africa's Cape Flora Region Protected Areas.

Brazil's Pantanal Conservation Area was meanwhile badly damaged by unprecedented wildfires in 2019 and 2020.

Meanwhile, the rapidly-melting Kaskawulsh Glacier had altered the river course, depleting fish populations in the Kluane site in Canada and the United States.

The IUCN report found that eight sites had improved since 2017, but double as many have deteriorated in that time.

nl/rjm/spm

© Agence France-Presse

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/overseas/12/02/20/climate-change-biggest-threat-to-natural-world-heritage-sites>

# Humanity is waging a 'suicidal' war on nature, UN chief warns

By Laura Smith-Spark, CNN

Published Dec 3, 2020 1:00:33 AM



Photo courtesy: Into Ocon/AFP/Getty Images

(CNN) -- UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres issued a searing indictment of humanity's "war" on the environment Wednesday, in a speech on the state of the planet in which he urged everyone to prioritize "making peace with nature."

"We are facing a devastating pandemic, new heights of global heating, new lows of ecological degradation and new setbacks in our work towards global goals for more equitable, inclusive and sustainable development," Guterres said in the address, delivered at Columbia University in New York.

"To put it simply, the state of the planet is broken."

Two authoritative new reports -- one from the World Meteorological Organization and the other from the United Nations Environment Programme -- "spell out how close we are to climate catastrophe," said Guterres.

The UN chief laid out in stark terms the damage already done to the environment and warned that countries risked losing the opportunity afforded by the coronavirus pandemic to reset their priorities on climate change and environmental protections if they do not act now.

"Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back -- and it is already doing so with growing force and fury," he said, as biodiversity collapses, species risk extinction, deserts spread and forests are lost.

"Oceans are overfished -- and choking with plastic waste. The carbon dioxide they absorb is acidifying the seas. Coral reefs are bleached and dying," he said.

"Air and water pollution are killing 9 million people annually -- more than six times the current toll of the pandemic. And with people and livestock encroaching further into animal habitats and disrupting wild spaces, we could see more viruses and other disease-causing agents jump from animals to humans."

## Melting sea ice

The World Meteorological Organization's annual climate report, released Wednesday, reveals that this year is on track to be one of the three warmest on record globally, despite the cooling effects of La Niña.

The most notable warmth was observed across northern Asia, particularly the Siberian Arctic, where temperatures were more than 5°C above average, according to the report.

Ocean heat is at record levels and more than 80% of the global ocean experienced a marine heatwave at some time in 2020, it said, and Arctic sea ice for July and October 2020 was the lowest on record.



Meanwhile, Death Valley in California reached 54.4°C on August 16, the highest known temperature in the world in at least the past 80 years, the report said.

Against this backdrop, devastating fires, floods, cyclones and hurricanes "are increasingly the new normal," Guterres said.

Carbon dioxide levels are at record highs and still rising, despite Covid-19 lockdowns temporarily reducing emissions, the UN chief said. Methane and nitrous oxide levels are also soaring above pre-industrial levels. And climate policies around the world "have yet to rise to the challenge," Guterres said.

The fallout already seen from humankind's "assault on our planet" is impeding UN efforts to end poverty, ensure food security and limit instability and displacement, he said, with the impacts falling most heavily on the world's most vulnerable populations. But, he added, all is not lost.

"Let's be clear: human activities are at the root of our descent toward chaos. But that means human action can help solve it," he said. "Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority for everyone, everywhere."

As nations seek to recover from the damage caused by the pandemic, it is time to "flick the green switch" and transform the world economy into a sustainable one driven by renewable energy, Guterres said, for the sake of future generations who will be paying for it.

"Covid recovery and our planet's repair can be two sides of the same coin," he said.

## Carbon neutrality

Guterres set out three main priorities on climate change: first, achieving global carbon neutrality within the next three decades; second, aligning global finance behind the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C; and third, focusing effort and money on seeking breakthroughs to help the world adapt to a changing climate and build resilience to future changes.

There have been "worrying signs" that some countries are using the crisis caused by the pandemic to roll back environmental protections, while others are expanding their exploitation of natural resources, Guterres said. However, urgent action is needed.

"There can be no separating climate action from the larger planetary picture. Everything is interlinked -- the global commons and global well-being," he said.

"Nature feeds us, clothes us, quenches our thirst, generates our oxygen, shapes our culture and our faiths and forges our very identity. 2020 was to have been a 'super year' for nature. The pandemic has had other plans for us.

"Now we must use 2021 to address our planetary emergency."

Countries will meet in Kunming, China, in May next year to forge a framework to protect biodiversity and halt the extinction of species, Guterres said. This comes after the world failed to meet any of the global biodiversity targets set for 2020.

"Biodiversity is not just cute and charismatic wildlife; it is the living, breathing web of life," said Guterres, as he called for bigger, better managed conservation areas and policies that support sustainable agriculture and fisheries, rather than encouraging over-exploitation.

There will also be conferences next year on protecting the world's marine environments, sustainable transport, food production systems, sustainable urban development and ecosystem restoration, as well as the next UN climate conference, COP26, to be held in Scotland in November. These will provide a "wealth of opportunities to stop the plunder and start the healing," he said.

As the world faces this crisis, Guterres urged countries to pay more heed to the knowledge held by indigenous communities, who are stewards of 80% of the world's biodiversity on land.



He also called for recognition of the "central role" played by women, saying they were worst affected by climate change but represented the backbone of agriculture and acted as key defenders of the natural world.

In conclusion, Guterres called for solidarity as the world faces a "moment of truth for people and planet alike" and urged leaders to follow the blueprint set out by the Paris Agreement and other climate and development goals.

"Covid and climate have brought us to a threshold," he said. "Now is the time to transform humankind's relationship with the natural world -- and with each other."

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["Humanity is waging a 'suicidal' war on nature, UN chief warns"](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/12/3/Humanity-is-waging-a-suicidal-war-on-nature-UN-chief-warns)



## China to ban solid waste imports starting 2021



By Global Times

December 3, 2020

**BEIJING:** China is expected to realize zero import of solid waste by the end of 2020, after which the country will implement strict measures to consolidate the policy of banning the imports.

China imported 7.18 million tons of solid waste by November 15, a 41-percent year-on-year drop, Qiu Qiwen, chief at the Department of Solid Wastes and Chemicals under the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE), said at the monthly press conference on Monday.

China will ban all imports of solid waste from 2021 in all forms, Qiu reaffirmed.

China started reform on gradually banning solid waste imports in 2017. According to Qiu, from 2016 to 2019, the imports of solid waste dropped from 46.55 million tons to 13.48 million tons.

The next step will be the MEE continuing to consolidate its work on completing related laws and regulations, cooperating with the customs to crack down smuggles of solid waste and enforcing supervisions on recycling industries.

China began importing solid waste as a source of raw materials in the 1980s and for years has been the world's largest importer, despite its limited garbage disposal capacity.

Some companies illegally brought foreign waste into the country for profit, posing a threat to the environment and public health, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

At the meeting, Qiu also noted that all the medical waste created during the coronavirus pandemic in China has been properly processed so far, and most cities are capable of collecting, transferring and processing the medical waste by themselves.



## Pilandok, ipinanganak sa zoo sa Poland



December 2, 2020 @ 1:10 PM 17 hours ago

Poland – Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon nakunanan ng video ang pagsilang sa isang Philippine mouse deer o chevrotain, na mas kilalang bilang pilandok sa Pilipinas.

Nakunan sa isang zoo sa Wroclaw, Poland ang pagsilang ng pilandok nitong Nobyembre 10.

Kasing laki ito ng malaking kahon ng posporo at may timbang na 100 gramo ayon sa ulat ng Reuters.

“For the first time ever in the history of any species of mouse deer, an actual birth was filmed and then the first moment of life of the baby,” saad ng head ng Zoo Wroclaw na si Radoslaw Ratajszczak.

Anila, mahalaga ang pagkakapanganak ng naturang pilandok dahil iisa lamang ang lalaking pilandok sa Europe sa isang dosenang populasyon nito.

“They are very prone to predators...they are quite easy to catch,” ani Ratajszczak.

Aniya, katulad ito ng kuneho.

“And they are of course, like rabbits, very tasty, unfortunately,” lahad nito.

Mahirap din umanong pag-aralan ang mga pilandok dahil lagi itong nagtatago sa mga damuhan at nagpupunta sa liblib na lugar tuwing nanganganak.

Sa ngayon, hindi pa malinaw ang kasarian ng nasabing pilandok.

Umaasa naman ang mga conservationist na lalaki ito upang makatulong sa pagpaparami ng mga pilandok. **RNT/ELM**





# 2020 one of three hottest years ever -UN

**Published** December 2, 2020 9:56pm

This year is on course to be one of the three warmest ever recorded and could even top the record set in 2016, the United Nations said Wednesday.

The past six years, 2015 to 2020, are set to make up all six of the hottest years since modern records began in 1850, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said in its provisional 2020 State of the Global Climate report.

"2020 has, unfortunately, been yet another extraordinary year for our climate," said WMO secretary-general Petteri Taalas.

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius above the the pre-industrial (1850-1900) level, while countries will pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 C.

"The average global temperature in 2020 is set to be about 1.2 C above the pre-industrial level," said Taalas.

"There is at least a one in five chance of it temporarily exceeding 1.5 C by 2024."

The WMO said 2020 seemed on course to be the second-hottest year ever -- but the difference between the top three is small and the picture could change once this year's data sets are complete.

The years from 2015 to 2020 are therefore individually "likely to be the six warmest on record", the report said.

Temperature averages across the last five years, and across the last 10 year period, "are also the warmest on record", it added.

## **Wildfires and flooding**

In 2020, "we saw new extreme temperatures on land, sea and especially in the Arctic," said Taalas.

"Wildfires consumed vast areas in Australia, Siberia, the US West Coast and South America, sending plumes of smoke circumnavigating the globe.

"Flooding in parts of Africa and southeast Asia led to massive population displacement and undermined food security for millions."

Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere -- the main driver of climate change -- hit record highs last year and continued climbing in 2020 despite measures to halt the Covid-19 pandemic.

The annual impact of the coronavirus crisis was expected to be a drop of between 4.2 and 7.5 percent in carbon dioxide emissions.



However, CO<sub>2</sub> remains in the atmosphere for centuries, meaning the effect of the pandemic is negligible.

Record warm years usually coincide with a strong El Nino effect in Pacific Ocean surface temperatures, as in 2016.

But this year's opposite La Nina cool phase of the cycle has not been sufficient to keep this year's heat in check -- begging the question of how hot 2020 might have got without it.

The WMO said that more than 80 percent of the ocean area had experienced at least one marine heatwave so far in 2020.

"Sea level has increased throughout the altimeter record, but recently sea level has risen at a higher rate due partly to increased melting of ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica," the report said.

"In the Arctic, the annual minimum sea-ice extent was the second lowest on record and record low sea-ice extents were observed in the months of July and October."

### **Hurricanes, Siberia sweltering**

Meanwhile a record 30 named storms formed in the Atlantic Ocean, exhausting the alphabet and forcing a switch to the Greek alphabet for only the second time.

They included 13 hurricanes and six major hurricanes, which have maximum sustained winds of at least 178 kilometers (111 miles) per hour.

There were 12 land-falling storms in the continental United States, beating the previous record of nine set in 1916.

2020 was an exceptionally warm year in most of Russia, especially Siberia. Across Russia, temperatures from January to August were 3.7 C above average -- 1.5 C above the previous record set in 2007.

The heat in northern Siberia culminated in late June, when it reached 38 C at Verkhoyansk on June 20, provisionally the highest known temperature anywhere north of the Arctic Circle.

Cuba had its hottest day ever on April 12, at 39.7 C; Taipei on July 24 at 39.7 C; and Jerusalem on September 4 at 42.7 C.

Hamamatsu equaled Japan's national record on August 17 with 41.1 C.

The 2020 provisional State of the Global Climate report is based on temperature data from January to October.

The final 2020 report will be published in March 2021. **-Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/766556/2020-one-of-three-hottest-years-ever-un/story/>