

03 MAY 2021, MONDAY



NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu Transfers Authority To Issue Wood Processing Permits To DENR Regional Execs



BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 2, 2021



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu

FROM now on, Wood Processing Plant (WPP) permits can now be obtained from the Office of the Regional Executive Directors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

DENR Administrative Order 2021-05 or the “Revised Regulations Governing the Establishment and Operations of Wood Processing Plants” was handed down by Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Aside from transferring the authority to issue permits to WPP, the order also extended the validity of the permits from three to five years.

“This order is pursuant to the objectives of Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business to eliminate over-regulation and to promote efficiency,” Cimatu was quoted in a statement as saying.

With the order, only the applications for new WPP permits will be accepted and reviewed by the Undersecretary for Field Operations at the DENR Central Office.

Before the issuance of DAO 2021-05, the approval and renewal of WPP permits were conducted at the DENR Central Office per DAO 2016-07 or the DENR Manual of Authorities for Technical Matters dated May 19, 2016.

“This is but one of the many reforms the DENR has set out to do to shore up investments and employment in the country’s forest sector and increase the local supply of wood products and employment productivity in forest resource-dependent communities in the uplands,” Cimatu said.

He added that extending the permit’s validity to five years is also consistent with the provision of Executive Order (EO) 23.

EO 23, which declares a “moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in natural and residual forests nationwide,” requires WPPs to prove that they have a sustainable source of legally cut wood for at least five years to be able to operate.

Covered by the permits are WPP operators and lumber dealers engaged in the operation of sawmill, mini-sawmill, re-saw permit, plywood/veneer plants, blockboards, fiberboard, particleboard and other wood-based panel plants and wood treating plants.



Cimatu explained that this development is part of the DENR's efforts to fine-tune its regulatory policies with recent forestry policy reforms.

It will also help boost the establishment of production tree plantations in private lands which can be sources of domestic timber to minimize timber importation.

Meanwhile, for tenure instrument holders engaged in tree plantation development, the validity of the WPP permit is co-terminus with the said tenure instrument, to promote vertical integration.

With the reforms, private landowners and holders of forestry tenure instruments such as the Integrated Forest Management Agreement, Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement and Community-Based Forest Management Agreement are expected to establish their own WPPs to encourage vertical integration.



COVID survivor Antiporda worries for DENR's senior citizens, tells them how hard his ordeal was

Published May 2, 2021, 1:10 PM
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

His harrowing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) experience finally behind him, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda is now on a quest to save as many lives as possible from the dreaded ailment.



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda (Photo courtesy of Antiporda's office)

Foremost on his thoughts are the senior citizen employees of the DENR, since it's widely known that elders are the most vulnerable sector of the population as far as COVID-19 is concerned.

"Alam ko nabubugnot na kayo dahil hindi kayo makalabas ng bahay. Ngunit mas mahirap pag nagka-COVID ka kasi pakiramdam mo araw-araw parang unti-unting hinihila ang mga paa mo sa hukay (I know you're getting irritable because you can't leave the house. But being infected with COVID is more difficult because you will feel everyday that you're slowly being pulled toward your grave)," Antiporda told senior last Friday, April 30—his first "working day" in over a month.

Antiporda finally [tested negative](#) for the new coronavirus a day earlier, April 29. He first tested positive for the disease back on March 22 and had been on home-based medical treatment for weeks.

He took to Facebook several times to share details of his ordeal, from the sheer difficulty in breathing that he experienced to his wife also contracting COVID-19.

The DENR-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service (SCIS) observed Arbor Day on April 30 with a webinar titled, "Arbor Day Thriving Gracefully", wherein the participants were informed about the sources of in-house pollution and the ways to prevent and/ or mitigate them.

Antiporda, the supervising undersecretary for SCIS, made his appeal to the agency's seniors citizens to stay home during the online event.

He also serves as the undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns and alternate chairman of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).



DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda highlights the importance of waste segregation at-source during The Filipinos World program on RPN Radio last April 24. (Photo courtesy of Antiporda's office)

The DENR official had tried to keep himself preoccupied even if he was still on his sickbed. Last April 24, Antiporda joined an online discussion on the importance of waste segregation at-source during The Filipinos World program over RPN Radio.

He also tackled other solid waste management issues such as the closure of illegal dumpsites, distribution of shredder machines to local government units, and the notion of extended producers' responsibility in dealing with waste.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/02/covid-survivor-antiporda-worries-for-denrs-senior-citizens-tells-them-how-hard-his-ordeal-was/>



DENR goes after Manila Bay polluter ship

By ... -May 3, 2021

[‘What should be good for the goose should also be good for the gander.’](#)

PURSUANT to its mandate to safeguard the environment, with particular focus on Manila Bay, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has initiated a probe and issued a notice of violation against the owner of a ship which was established to be the source of untreated wastewater dumped in the bay.

The transgression of environmental laws and ordinances came to light when employees of the City of Manila’s Department of Public Services observed a yellowish trail of discharge in the water. The DPS conducts daily cleanup of Manila Bay’s shoreline along Roxas Boulevard, from the Rizal Park area to the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

On further investigation, environmental experts of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Metro Manila Development Authority affirmed that the discharge was emanating from M/V Sarangani’s cooling system.

A notice of violation coming from the office of the DENR secretary serves as an opportunity for the suspected violator to air his or her side, so that a proper investigation may be conducted by the authorities. At the outset, DENR officials were able to determine that the effluent fecal coliform count and the oil and grease content in the water samples taken were over the allowable levels.

After the forthcoming probe of the incident and if found liable, the shipowner will have to face charges and pay fines for violating stringent provisions of the Clean Water Act of 2004, the Marine Pollution Decree of 1976, Fisheries Code of 1998 and current regulations of the Philippine Ports Authority. An undersecretary of the DENR said the violator faced a daily fine ranging from P10,000 to P200,000 from the start of the discharge until the affected area is cleaned up.

It is just proper that the DENR and probably the courts impose this kind of fine on the shipowner-violator. This leads us to recall what Rep. Lito Atienza, a former DENR secretary, had been harping about. Atienza said that in 2019, the Supreme Court penalized Metro Manila’s water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad, along with the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System, with P1.84 billion in combined fines due to their failure to connect households and business establishments to a sewage system, and their lack of wastewater treatment facilities, thereby polluting Manila Bay every minute of the day. The fine and the mandamus of the High Tribunal have remained unheeded, Atienza said.

What should be good for the goose should also be good for the gander. This, the DENR should be reminded of.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_opinion/denr-goes-after-manila-bay-polluter-ship/



DENR To Spend P265M For Second Phase Of Manila Bay Rehab Project

 **BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA** MAY 3, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is set to spend P265 million for the second phase of the Manila Bay “Beach Nourishment Project,” along Roxas Boulevard in Manila, the BusinessMirror learned.

In an interview, Environment Undersecretary for Policy Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones, confirmed with the BusinessMirror the existence of the project as well as the P265-million appropriation saying it is part of the continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

To be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Beach Nourishment project involves the dredging of garbage and silt and the dumping of filling materials.

The first phase of the project involved the overlaying of crushed dolomite from a mining town in Cebu province at a 500 meter-portion of the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard.

The fund for the second phase is already downloaded to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), but remains with the DENR as the project is yet to be transferred or downloaded to the DPWH.

“The fund is still with us,” Leones told the BusinessMirror.

For the second phase, details remain sketchy, he said, as the DENR and the DPWH have yet to finalize the project design and plan. Leones, however, said there is “still no MOA [Memorandum of Agreement] yet for the project.”

He told the BusinessMirror the idea is to replenish around 300 meters of the beach area from the Manila Yacht Club toward the US Embassy, near where the dolomite beach.

The first phase of the Beach Nourishment Project has a total appropriation of P389 million, part of the total P1.7-billion Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program. Funding for the second phase was approved by Congress as part of the 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA), according to Leones.

He said the DENR will provide details of the project once the MOA and plan for the project become available.

The 2020 budget for the operational plan for the DENR Manila Bay Coastal Management strategy is P1.347 billion.



‘Manila Bay years away from being swimmable’

posted May 02, 2021 at 10:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

Buhay Party-list Rep. Joselito Atienza on Sunday said Manila Bay being “swimmable” is still years away.



OFF LIMITS. A Philippine coast guard patroller drives people out of the water of Manila Bay, as it still not safe to swim in it, on Sunday at the Baseco Beach in Manila. The Department of Health has not yet allowed people to plunge into the polluted waters. Norman Cruz

He said it may take “several years” before the public could enjoy swimming safely in the waters of Manila Bay at the rate households in the National Capital Region are being connected to a sewage system.

“Sadly, we expect the bay’s fecal coliform levels to stay extremely elevated in the years ahead, considering that some 85 percent or 13.9 million of the water-served population in Metro Manila are still not hooked up to a sewage network,” Atienza said.

The greater part of Metro Manila’s toilet waste will continue to get discharged into stormwater drains and flow untreated into channels, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day, the lawmaker noted.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should exert more pressure on the private water concessionaires and “expeditiously fulfill” their obligations under the Clean Water Act of 2004, Atienza said.

“Under the law, they are supposed to attach all households to a sewage system, and then treat all the collected wastewater. They can either reuse the cleaned water, or recycle it back into the natural environment,” the former Environment secretary added.

Both Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc. have projected they would need another 16 years, or until 2037, to connect all homes to a sewage network.

The Supreme Court in 2019 penalized the two concessionaires and the Metropolitan Waterworks Sewerage System with P1.84 billion in combined fines due to their failure to connect households to a sewage system and their lack of wastewater treatment facilities, Atienza noted.

The three parties were ordered to pay a rolling penalty of P322,102 per day until they achieve 100 percent sewage connection.

The tribunal upheld the penalty originally imposed by Atienza when he was the DENR chief in 2009, after the concessionaires failed to comply with the Clean Water Act’s five-year deadline for them to link up their customers to a sewage system.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/353391>



Manila Bay matagal pa malalanguyan

By Abante Tonite — Last updated May 2, 2021

NEWS



Bibilang pa ng maraming taon bago muling malanguyan ang Manila Bay, ayon kay House Deputy Speaker at Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza.

Sabi ni Atienza, umaabot pa sa 85% o 13.9 milyong populasyon ang hindi pa nakakabit sa sewerage network kaya umaagos pa rin ang dumi ng kanilang mga palikuran sa Manila Bay.

Upang malanguyan ang Manila Bay ang fecal coliform level nito ay dapat hindi lalagpas sa 200 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml) batay sa pagtataya ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Batay umano sa 21 monitoring station ng DENR sa paligid ng Manila Bay, ang average fecal coliform level nito ay 4.87 million MPN/100ml.

Maaaring makakuha ng viral at bacterial gastroenteritis, hepatitis, dysentery, typhoid fever at impeksyon ang lalangoy sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi ni Atienza na dapat puwersahin ng DENR ang implementasyon ng Clean Water Act of 2004 para maikabit ang sewerage network. (Billy Begas)



Daluyan pa rin ng dumi ng 14M NCR residents MANILA BAY NANANATILING DUGYOT

12 hours ago



BIBILANG pa ng maraming taon bago maging ligtas na languyan ang Manila Bay dahil sa kasalukuyan ay direktso pa sa dagat ang dumi ng halos 14 milyong residente sa Metro Manila.

Ito ang nabatid mula kay House Deputy Speaker Lito Atienza hinggil sa kasalukuyang kalagayan ng Manila Bay na patuloy na ginagastusan ng gobyerno, partikular na ang Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR), para mapaganda ito.

"It may take several years before the public can enjoy swimming safely in the waters of Manila Bay, at the rate households in the National Capital Region are being connected to a sewage system," ani Atienza.

Masakit man aniyang tanggapin, hindi pa rin bumababa ang fecal coliform levels sa Manila Bay dahil 85 percent o 13.9 milyong residente sa Metro Manila ay hindi pa konektado sa sewerage system.

"The greater part of Metro Manila's toilet waste will continue to get discharged into stormwater drains and flow untreated into channels, including the Pasig River, that all empty out into the bay every day," ani Atienza.

Sinabi ng mambabatas, bibilang pa ng 15 taon bago maikonek sa sewerage system ng Manila Water Co. Inc. at Maynilad Water Services Inc. ang palikuran ng lahat ng mga residente ng Metro Manila.

Mismong ang nabanggit na water concessionaires umano ang nagsabi na sa susunod na 15 taon ay direktso pa sa Manila Bay ang mga dumi ng halos 14 milyong residente sa Metro Manila.

Bago maging ligtas na languyan ang Manila Bay ay dapat hindi lalagpas sa 200 most probable number (MPN) per 100 milliliters (ml) ang coliform level subalit base sa pinakahuling water samples ng DENR sa 21 monitoring stations sa paligid ng Manila, umaabot pa ito sa 4.87 million MPN/100ml.

Lahat nang magtatangkang lumangoy sa Manila Bay ay posibleng makakuha ng sakit tulad ng viral and bacterial gastroenteritis, hepatitis, dysentery, typhoid fever at iba pa. (BERNARD TAGUINOD)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/daluyan-pa-rin-ng-dumi-ng-14m-ncr-residents-manila-bay-nananatiling-dugyot/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0yrIUQITQTvbj7kDB2s_Ps2IG0gsR6xxyXGd5oYt0MSjvx_ZC2fiokZM



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Balikan ang mga balitang ating tinutukan sa 24 Oras Weekend nitong Linggo, May 2, 2021.
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YOUTUBE.COM

Ilang residente, nagtampisaw sa Manila Bay dahil sa init ng panahon | 24 Oras Weekend

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'The water's unsafe for swimming'

May 3, 2021 1 min read

So says a Philippine Coast Guard patrolling along the shore of Manila Bay Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila. As such, children and adults alike needing an escape from the sweltering heat in the Metropolis were admonished to get off the water pronto as the beach is indeed unsafe for swimming.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration officially declared the start of the dry season in the whole archipelago.

(Kiara Lauren Ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/05/03/the-waters-unsafe-for-swimming/?fbclid=IwAR0mASVfWrqcF5pPflpiYVymqSZGbLZwRuDu-z2y1LMB2YQzwi_brXwqBc

DENR-6 suggests planting 'productive' trees

By [Ruby Silubrico](#) -Sunday, May 2, 2021



VINTAGE TREE CARE

ILOILO City — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources region 6 (DENR-6) recommends planting productive, fruit bearing trees.

DENR-6's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) head, Vicente Millezas said they prefer to plant trees that can produce fruits and lumber.

"If ever there is a tree planting activity, it is better that we have to plant native trees and also fruit bearing that produce fruits that we can sell and have enough income to the people. Manami ang productive trees although manami man ang protective trees kay naga protect gid ina sa aton environment like sa aton Maasin watershed may mga portion nga productive and protective areas," Millezas said.

According to the Rain Forest Restoration Initiative, native trees help recover and expand forest habitats for threatened native plant and animal species. They protect watershed and freshwater resources and secure the livelihood of local people.

Foreign or exotic trees are selected for their ability to grow faster and germinate easily, but have a detrimental effect on the ecosystem, preventing other plants to grow and thrive.

Common native trees that can produce lumber are Narra, Mahogany, Molave Dap-Dap, Ilang-Ilang, Salinbobog, and Balayong among others.

"We need to protect our forests especially this summer season. Makabulig gid sa pag hagan-hagan sang mainit nga panahon. Without forests, we clearly won't survive, so we have to protect our trees and forests," he said.

In 2020, during the height of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Iloilo Provincial Government launched its environmental program "Tanum Iloilo" (Plant Iloilo) program that aims to grow 1.5 million native and fruit-bearing trees.

Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. led the opening held at the Western Visayas Regional Museum. Forty-three local government units (LGUs) participated.



The program, initiated through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), was conceptualized for the conservation, protection, and preservation of the environment and to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Defensor said the launch was in time for the Arbor Day celebration. The tree-planting itself will be done in September during the province's annual "Pista sa Kakahuyan". He said health measures will be practiced during the tree planting activity.

The governor pushed for planting more endemic and fruit-bearing trees like the Duhat (Java plum) and caimito (star apple) to preserve their kind.

"We will put them in a place where they can have a bigger chance to develop. We need to sustain the trees that had been growing in our country ever since." /PN



Government urged to address chemical pollution

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 3, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Environmental watchdogs EcoWaste Coalition and Oceana Philippines have urged the government and other sectors to address the problem on chemical pollution.

The groups said the problem has caused the country's fish production to dwindle.

“As a fishing-dependent and archipelagic nation, it is important to prevent and control chemical and waste pollution as this makes the ocean sick and incapable of meeting the huge demand for fish,” EcoWaste national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

The EcoWaste and Oceana issued a joint statement in time for the observance of the “Month of the Ocean” this May as provided under Presidential Proclamation 57.

The groups cited a report titled “Aquatic Pollutants in Oceans and Fisheries” published by the International Pollutants Elimination and the National Toxics Network in Australia.

The report detailed how chemical pollutants compromise the reproduction, development and immune system of aquatic and marine organisms.

“Decision-makers from all branches of government including the judiciary must have the political will to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all,” Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Estenzo-Ramos said.

The report warned that the adverse impact of chemical pollution on the marine ecosystem is likely to get worse in the coming years due to climate change.

The EcoWaste and Oceana admitted that addressing chemical pollution requires concerted effort and a policy shift not only in government agencies but also in the business sector.



Environmental groups point to chemical pollution– not overfishing– as main cause of fishery decline

Published May 2, 2021, 11:27 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Is overfishing solely causing the fish population to drop? The answer is no, according to a report shared by environmental groups EcoWaste Coalition and Oceana Philippines.



A fisherman from Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila (Photo courtesy of EcoWaste Coalition)

According to the report "Aquatic Pollutants in Oceans and Fisheries," chemical pollution is the bigger culprit since it "compromises reproduction, development, and immune systems among aquatic and marine organisms".

"As a fishing dependent and archipelagic nation, it is incumbent on us to insist and support global and local action that will prevent and control chemical and waste pollution from all sources, which is making the ocean ecosystems sick and incapable of meeting the huge demand for fish," said Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition.

The group is a participating organization of the International Pollutants Elimination (IPEN), which, along with the National Toxics Network (NTN) of Australia, published the report.

The report said that "overfishing is not the sole cause of fishery declines," and that pollutants including industrial chemicals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, heavy metals, plastics and microplastics "have deleterious impacts to aquatic ecosystems at all trophic levels from plankton to whales."

Report authors warned that the impacts scientists have identified are only likely to grow in the coming years and will be exacerbated by a changing climate, noting that "the global seafood industry, and the livelihoods and survival of millions of artisanal fishers and communities who depend on seafood, are at a crossroads."

"The entire aquatic food web has been seriously compromised, with fewer and fewer fish at the top, losses of invertebrates in the sediments and water column, less healthy marine algae, coral, and other habitats, as well as a proliferation of bacteria and toxic algal blooms. Chemical pollution, along with climate change, itself a pollution consequence, are the chief reasons for these losses," noted Dr. Matt Landos, report author and director of Future Fisheries Veterinary Services in Australia.



Dr. Mariann Lloyd-Smith, IPEN Senior Advisor and report co-author, stated that the production and use of chemicals have grown exponentially over the past couple of decades.

"Many chemicals persist in the environment, making environments more toxic over time. If we do not address this problem, we will face permanent damage to the marine and aquatic environments that have nourished humans and every other life form since the beginning of time," she said.

Another report co-author in NTN National Coordinator Jo Immig said: "Governments around the world must urgently acknowledge the environmental, economic, and public health degradation caused by chemical pollution and act on the scientific evidence to develop policy and lead their communities to totally re-think how chemicals are used."

In this regard, Oceana Philippines Vice President Gloria Estenzo-Ramos urged local decision-makers from all branches of government to muster and "exercise the urgent political will to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all".

"Our laws are not lacking in addressing impacts of chemical including plastics pollution that destroys the health of our people and our oceans, but, there still is much foot-dragging in performing the mandates of their office. We hope this publication can be among the wake-up calls for all to prioritize health and act in solidarity now as our enduring gift to our present and future generations," Ramos reckoned.

May is dubbed as Month of the Ocean, the two local groups noted.



COVID-19 and the climate emergency

By: [Laurence L. Delina](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#) 04:03 AM May 03, 2021

COVID-19 had a huge impact in 2020 not only on global public health and personal well-being, but also on society, economy, politics, and the environment. Approaches to contain the pandemic have already caused output declines across key industrial sectors in China's manufacturing hubs by as much as 40 percent, just to cite one example. That is likely to have also cut a quarter or more of China's greenhouse gas emissions since stringent strategies were enacted in February last year. The same can be said with the Philippines' manufacturing industries and declines in their emissions of late.

From a strictly climate emergency perspective, these reductions are clearly not a bad thing; however, meaningful climate action requires addressing the emergency at its core: sustained, long-term structural changes, especially in terms of decarbonization. Rapidly replacing fossil fuels with sustainable and renewable energy resources is at the heart of climate action, since the energy sector has the lion's share of global emissions.

The "success" of this year's fleeting emissions decline could engender the misleading perception that emissions are falling in the longer-term, when in reality they are not. A pandemic-induced reduction in emissions will mean very little in the long run. The history of emissions rebound following the economic stimulus packages enacted to address the 2008 recession is a case in point.

Over the longer term, the Philippine government would need to provide economic stimulus to sectors that suffer from the impacts of the pandemic. One important approach is to fund features of the transition toward sustainability so that new jobs are created and, at the same time, the climate emergency is addressed. Helping pandemic-affected communities to recuperate and start the necessary shift toward a low-carbon future meets both their short- and long-term needs.

Public resources at this point have been focused on containing the pandemic. Although this focus is urgent and necessary, we must not be distracted from acting on the much more consequential climate crisis. The Philippine government had already lost the opportunity to contribute to the international climate negotiations when it did not send an official delegation to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2019. As climate action is pushed onto the margins of public policy in this country, we are losing valuable resources to build the needed momentum for climate action.

Our collective experience of the threat of COVID-19 — and the sense of urgency to respond to it — could make it easier to find a similar urgency when responding to the climate crisis. In the Philippines, where climate threats feel immediate given our experiences with weather extremes, climate action should have already informed national politics. The differences are stark. There are no vested interests that benefit directly from endorsing inaction and apathy on COVID-19, the way the vast coal and oil industry does with the climate emergency.

Perhaps the pandemic will lead to sustainability transitions that could make Filipino societies more willing to act on the climate emergency in the long run. Recognizing our common interdependence — that every Filipino's health is every Filipino's business — could strengthen the understanding that the Filipino is compassionate and that the spirit of bayanihan is alive among us. Surrendering to the fact that sacrifices and restraints are necessary for both the common good and our personal well-



being could help increase the saliency of the huge and deep changes in government regulations and personal values necessary to address the climate emergency.

Maybe this is wishful thinking, but crises can also be used as springboards for such critical shifts.

* * *

Laurence L. Delina (LLD@ust.hk), of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, is from South Cotabato.

Doing field research and conservation amid a pandemic: the Philippine Eagle Foundation experience

By JAYSON C. IBANEZ -MAY 2, 2021 10:19 PM

DAVAO CITY (MindaNews/ 02 May) — On March 9, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte placed the whole country under a State of Public Health Emergency because of COVID-19. Three days later, Metro Manila was on partial lockdown. All sea, land and air travel to and from the national capital were suspended.

One team was headed for Apayao from Manila to teach Indigenous *Isnag* women how to sew plushies as an extra livelihood for forest guard families. Their trip got cancelled. Meanwhile, another team who just finished an eagle survey in Zamboanga City struggled to get a return flight. We managed to bring both teams back to Davao City safely.

Then lockdowns and community quarantines became the norm. As health experts begged people to remain within the safety of their homes, we asked ourselves this hard question: How do we proceed with fieldwork under the constraints of the pandemic?

Here we report what our teams accomplished in the field under 2020's "new normal."

Eagle Rescues and Releases

We had the largest number of wild eagles retrieved in the entire history of the eagle conservation program during the 2020 pandemic. In just 10 months, seven birds were rescued; all on Mindanao island (see <https://www.mindanews.com/environment/2020/11/lockdown-tales-of-7-philippine-eagles-3-released-back-to-the-wild/>). One is an eaglet (< 1 year old), and the rest are immature birds (3-5 years old).

Of the seven birds, one died (eagle *Palimbang*), three were released back to the wild (eagles *Siocon*, *Makilala Hiraya*, and *Malambugok*), while three were kept at the Philippine Eagle Center for further rehabilitation (eagles *EYW Maharlika*, *Balikatan*, and *Tagoyaman*).

Despite very strict travel restrictions, we rescued six of the seven eagles and treated them at the Philippine Eagle Center (PEC). Our links with local governments and the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) were invaluable. These partners, with extra help from local community hosts, also facilitated and co-financed three eagle releases and monitoring.

Digital technology also provided important reporting, communication, and eagle monitoring tools. And people's generous online donations helped fund some costs of these rescues and releases.



Philippine Eagle Balikatan and two more eagles were reported to Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) via FB messenger by concerned citizens who also sent photos as evidence. Photo courtesy of PEF

But the unprecedented number of rescues also say that our wild eagles remain vulnerable to trapping and shooting.

Four of the rescued eagles were captured by locals using native traps. Three of these birds were trapped intentionally. One of which was sold for Php 8,000.00 (US \$ 163.00). While the other two were trapped in retaliation by farmers because the eagles killed and ate their domestic piglets. X-rays also showed that two eagles had air gun pellets in their bodies. One had a broken leg bone



X-rays of Philippine Eagles EYW Maharlika (A) and Tagoyaman Fernando (B) showing shotgun pellets (encircled in red) and broken right leg (encircled in blue). Photo courtesy of PEF

Many Filipinos value the eagle as a national treasure. But some still harm them. To these people, the eagle is either food, a fancy commodity that can be sold, or a livestock pest needing drastic control. The gap in conservation values and attitudes remains huge. Wildlife laws are not acting as a deterrent either.

Wild Population Surveys

Finding eagle pairs, and protecting their families is integral to eagle conservation. Four eagle pairs were documented in 2020, and two of these are new nesting records. The new records bring the number of eagle pairs known on Mindanao island to 39 pairs.

A survey in March at the Pasonanca Natural Park, Zamboanga City recorded an eagle pair doing courtship displays. We anticipate nesting by this pair come 2020-21 nesting season. In July, two adult birds were documented at Dakeol Forests in Maitum, Sarangani Province. In December, DENR staff photographed a one-year-old eaglet at the same forest (see <https://www.mindanews.com/environment/2020/11/denr-to-declare-sarangani-forest-as-a-critical-habitat-due-to-philippine-eagle-sightings/>).

One of the two new eagle territories is near the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) geothermal complex at Mt Apo in North Cotabato. We planned the nest search early in the year, but it was postponed many times because of the pandemic. Until finally, EDC management gave our biologists the green light in November.

The team's patience and grit paid off. After a 14-day mandatory quarantine in a hotel in Kidapawan City, and 190 hours of careful search and observation, our biologists finally found the eagle couple, and their almost two-year old offspring photographed while hunting a long-tailed macaque. This is the 7th Philippine Eagle pair documented at the 90,000 ha Mt Apo Key Biodiversity Area.



Two-year old juvenile Philippine Eagle flying over the forests of the EDC Geothermal Reservation in North Cotabato. Photo courtesy of PEF

The other new nest site was discovered by the Provincial Information Office (PIO) of Davao Oriental. PIO's Eden Licayan forwarded to us photos and videos of an eagle couple and their one-year-old offspring taken at Mt Tagub-Kampalili in Lupon, Davao Oriental (see <https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2020/12/pef-confirms-family-of-philippine-eagles-seen-in-davao-oriental-town/>). Eagles were also recorded from the same locality in the past. This is the 8th nesting site recorded within the province.

Remote Telemetry Monitoring

Six wild eagles have miniature, solar-powered GPS/GSM trackers on their backs. Three are wild birds that were trapped and tagged.



Philippine Eagle Kalabugao with her solar powered GPS-GSM transmitter. Photo courtesy of PEF

These "free-living" birds are eagles Kalabugao, Sinaka, and Arakan. The rest are rehabilitated eagles released back in the wild (Eagles Siocon, Makilala Hiraya, and Malambugok).

Using the mobile cellular network, we monitored these birds from the safety and comforts of our work station (either office or home). We received periodic streams of GPS coordinates from the trackers via the internet.



Movement route of Phil eagle Mallambugok from September 2020 to March 2021 mapped via Google Earth using readings from its GPS-GSM transmitter. Photo courtesy of PEF

Mapping and analyzing GPS data allow us to study and learn new and exciting aspects of the eagles' life during the pandemic. And how they survive and use and move across the landscape. Remote telemetry monitoring also allows us to know the exact location of these birds and check on them in the field when needed.

Culture-based Conservation

Indigenous and local communities in remote uplands is a sector most vulnerable to COVID-19 impacts. We pivoted to more emergency support to ten remote communities who performed clear environmental services during the pandemic. For example, we facilitated food/cash-for-work arrangements with families living close to two eagle nest sites as COVID-19 emergency aids.

At Mt Mahuson in Arakan, North Cotabato, 28 families received food packs worth Php 50,000.00 in May. In exchange, the families donated 14,000 wildlings of endemic trees. These seedlings were then planted in a barren land close to an eagle nest site.



At Mt Tago in Manolo Fortich, 145 food packs worth Php 50,000.00 were distributed to 29 Higaonon/Bukidnon families whose household heads are volunteer forest guards. In exchange, they collected and planted 2,900 wildlings in a one-hectare grassland in front of a Philippine Eagle nest site.



Datu Honorio Somuhoy of the Guilang-guilang Apo Datu Nanikuran Association prepares the food ration for their forest guard families. Photo courtesy of PEF



Guilang-guilang forest guard collects seedlings of native trees from the forest in exchange for the food rations. Photo courtesy of PEF

We also assisted five Indigenous communities develop a COVID-19 resilient ancestral domain management plan: *Bagobo Klata* (2), *Obu Manuvu* (1), *Mandaya* (1), and *Manobo Tinananen* (1). We helped three sectors – Indigenous leaders, women group, and the youth- carry out each plan



Registration and sanitation prior to a conservation planning workshop with Bagobo Klata leaders and elders at Mt Apo. Photo courtesy of PEF

Each of four women groups also received a small grant (Php 25,000.00) for an emergency livelihood project of their choice: (i) *Bagobo Klata* of Sirib, Davao City – coffee production, (ii) *Bagobo Klata* of Manuel Guinga – rice retail enterprise, (iii) *Mandaya* of PM Sobrecarey – banana (*Lacatan & Cardava*) farming, and (iv) *Manobo Tinananen* of Tumanding, Arakan – sewing machines for a face mask enterprise.



PEF Director for Research and Conservation Jayson Ibanez turns over two electric sewing machines to indigenous women of Mt Sinaka in Arakan North Cotabato. Photo courtesy of PEF

We also helped organize an association for 29 families who live near the smallest Philippine Eagle nesting territory on record (< 2000 ha of forest cover). The *Kaguko-Pag-asa-Pormon Environmental Conservation Association* (KPP-ECA) in Mt Sinaka, Arakan created and implemented a conservation plan, which helped protect a Philippine Eagle couple and its new offspring.



KPP-ECA organized their forest guards whose monthly patrols kept trespassers away from the nest site and the eagle family. We helped them set up their own tree nursery, which contained 10,000 seedlings of native trees. In October, they planted 6,000 seedlings of these seedlings in a four-hectare reforestation area.



Bantay Sinaka members of KPP ECA plant native trees along the boundaries of the restoration plot at Mt Sinaka in North Cotabato. Photo courtesy of PEF

We are committed to build local skills and capacities. The pandemic is not an excuse. We piloted on-site webinar sessions as our “new normal” for capacity development. Under strict social distancing and health protocols, we provided multi-media equipment, internet access, remote speakers, and travel and meal arrangements. We covered timely topics such as (i) COVID-19 and personal health (ii) gender and development, (iii) managing personal finances, and (iv) leadership, among others.

In Leyte island, two communities were assisted – (i) 20 families in Catmon, Silago in Southern Leyte, and (ii) 30 families in Kagbana, Burauen in Leyte. Forest guards were organized and supported. In Kagbana, forest guard families raised 4,000 abaca (*Musa textilis*) suckers to reintroduce abaca growths in the forests after the fiber crop was wiped out by mosaic and bunchy top diseases over a decade ago.

Forest Guards

Patrols by community volunteers to protect eagles and forests became even more important during the pandemic. Protected forests are like containment units of zoonotic diseases. They help prevent the spill-over of viral and bacterial diseases from animals to people. Forests are also carbon sinks that mitigate global climate changes.

But the pandemic triggered economic hardships that also fueled more timber poaching, wildlife hunting poaching, and slash-and-burn farming. Our forest guards kept these unsustainable forest uses at bay.

We maintained support to 173 forest guards (FGs) from three Indigenous groups who are neighbors to three eagle pairs at Mt Apo in Davao City. These Indigenous communities are the *Bagobo Tagabawa* of Sibulan (27 FGs), *Bagobo Klata* of Manuel Guianga, Sirib and Tamayong (36 FGs), and the *Obu Manuvu* of Carmen, Tawantawan, Tambobong and Salaysay (100 FGs), Bagobo Tagabawa of Eden, Catigan, Dalioan Plantation, Tagurano and Tungkalan (10 FGs).

The Davao City LGU provided uniforms, and monthly patrol allowances to these *Bantay Bukid* volunteers. The PEF, in turn, assisted during patrols, gave skills training, and collated patrol attendances and reports. The *Bantay Bukid* FGs patrolled at least ten days each month in four watersheds (Sibulan, Talomo-Lipadas, Panigan-Tamugan and Davao watersheds). We also introduced an android phone-based wildlife and threat monitoring system that automated the patrol results.

Four more FG groups were supported. At Brgy Guilang-guilang, Manolo Fortich, 20 FGs did work shifts monitoring a nesting eagle pair. Unfortunately, the egg failed to hatch. They also did monthly patrols, pacified locals who reported eagles that killed and ate domestic animals, and field-tested the KALUMBATA App – a customized wildlife and threat monitoring system for FGs in Bukidnon.



Indigenous Bagobo Tagabawa Bantay Bukid volunteers of Mt. Apo view on the mobile phone screen the BANOG monitoring app. Photo courtesy of PEF

At Brgy Tumanding, Arakan, the old SEBNAKA FGs renamed their group to *Tamong ta Sinaka*, and its 23 members re-trained. New uniforms and gears were provided and monthly patrols were also undertaken.

Forty-three new FGs were also trained and assisted from three local communities. The two new FG groups are the (i) Ako Bantay Malambugok (ABM) *Mandaya* FGs of Pantuyan, Caraga in Davao Oriental, and the (ii) *Bantay Sinaka* of Salasang, Arakan, North Cotabato. The ABM FGs were trained and deputized as Wildlife Enforcement Officers (WEO) by the DENR, while LGUs Caraga and Davao Oriental provided uniforms and patrol subsidies. Salasang's *Bantay Sinaka*, on the other hand, is supported by LGU Arakan.

Forest Restoration

Our carbon forest restoration team wrapped up 2020 with over 20,000 seedlings at its nursery and over 6,000 wildlings planted at the Ayala Land, Inc (ALI) Davao Carbon Forest (DCF). This restoration project aims to transform 6 hectares of grasslands into an urban green space that sequesters carbon, stores water, and provides habitat for wildlife.

Three volunteer groups helped us plant and nurture the wildlings. Our first group consisted of officers from the 11th Forward Service Support Unit (FSSU) of the Philippine Army who nurtured 2,500 native trees in a one-hectare plot.



Philippine Eagle sighted in Lupon, Davao Oriental. Photo by EDEN JHAN LICAYAN, Provincial Information Office, Davao Oriental

Our second group is the *Bantay Bukid* volunteers in Davao City. Since June 2020, nearly 100 *Bantay Bukid* volunteers made weekly shifts doing reforestation chores. Our third volunteer group are mountaineers from various clubs in Davao City. Since September 2020, a batch of 10 to 15 volunteers spent each weekend removing the highly invasive *Paragrass* and other weeds.

To help raise funds for the ALI-Davao Carbon Forest, we did online crowdfunding through "Nurture-a-Carbon Forest" webinars. A total of 980 "carbon warriors" from four organizations joined and donated funds: (i) Stella Maris Academy of Davao – Class of 1995, (ii) Ayala Land Inc (Inc) personnel and partners, (iii) Ateneo de Davao University Environmental Science students, and the (iv) Philippine Science High School – Southern Mindanao Campus Class of 1995.



The Student Environmental Alliance of Davao (SEAD) also hosted an online benefit concert in December 2020. Joey Ayala and other national and local artists performed at this virtual gig. SEAD donated an electric grass cutter and garden tools from the funds raised from the concert (See <https://www.mindanews.com/feature/2021/01/how-the-philippine-eagle-foundations-forest-restoration-project-survived-the-pandemic/>).

At our forest restoration site in Mt. Sinaka, Arakan, KPP-ECA members planted and nurtured 6,000 wildlings in a four-hectare restoration plot. They planted seedlings of native trees from their nurseries such as Duguan (*Myristica philippensis*), White Lauan (*Shorea contorta*), Red Lauan (*S. negrosensis*), and Narra (*Pterocarpus indicus*). LGU Arakan provided additional support through a cash-for-work scheme.

Tough years ahead

The year 2020 has been hard for everyone. And the challenges ahead will continue to be tough. But many of our peers in conservation have stepped up and squared off with these challenges.

Adversity was an opportunity, and the PEF is a proud part of the country's network of environmental front liners and supporters who continue to push hard and kept conservation work moving no matter what.

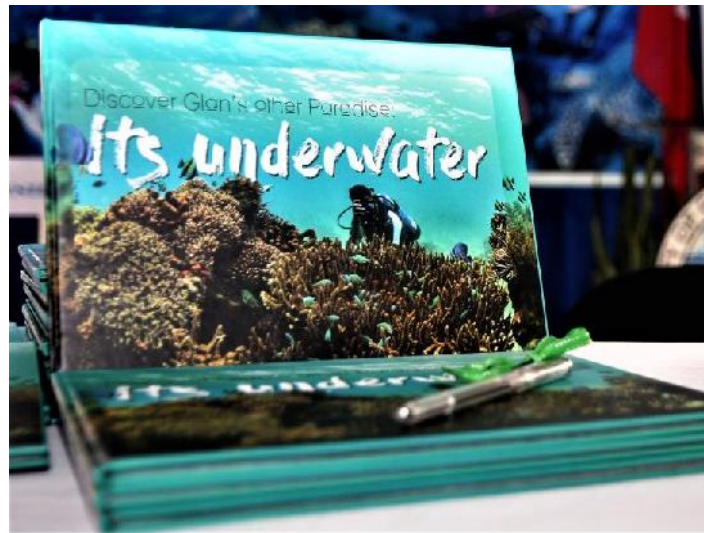
(Jayson C. Ibanez is the Director of Research and Conservation at the Philippine Eagle Foundation. He is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of the Philippines in Mindanao.)



Dive into Glan's 'other paradise'

Published 1 day ago on May 2, 2021 12:20 AM

By [TDI](#) @tribunephil



Glan scuba diving coffee table book.

Scuba divers may now start making plans to explore the marine world of southern Mindanao with the recent launch of the dive tourism program of Glan, Sarangani.

In ceremonies held during the town's annual Mahin Festival, the municipal government formally introduced the Sumbang Point and Binuni Reef dive spots and launched the coffee table book titled Discover Glan's Other Paradise: It's Underwater.



Binuni Reef and Belimac Resort reef by Ferds Sol.

"There are many things that Glan can be proud of that we have kept for so long, and it is but high time to discover all those and show off to the world — the most beautiful municipalities in Sarangani and the Soccsksargen Region," said Mayor Vivien Yap.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF DOT

The event was held in line with the recent 25th anniversary of the declaration of Sarangani Bay as a Protected Seascape by then President Fidel Ramos. It was also later listed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as a Key Marine Biodiversity Area.



Sumbang Point, located near Belimac Beach Resort, is habitat to 16 genera of hard corals and five soft corals, and about 100 distinct marine species, including hawksbill turtles, giant clams, marble shrimps and rare nudibranchs.

Binuni Reef, with a maximum depth of 12 meters, has a vertically-zoned intertidal area with patchy seagrass. The subtidal area is characterized by colonies of hard corals of massive, breaching and encrusting life forms. It also has 12 hard coral and four soft coral genera and 62 distinct fish species.

The dive tourism program is supported by the DENR, the Department of Tourism (DoT) and the provincial government. In 2017, Sarangani Bay was declared by the DoT as the diving haven of Soccsksargen during a dive safari.

Dives should be coursed through Sarangani Divers in Gen. Santos City, the accredited dive center for proper documentation.

The bay covers an area of 215,950 hectares and is also home to yellow fin tuna, sperm whales, pilot whales, dolphins, clown fishes, lion fishes, sergeant fishes and sea turtles. Its coral resources cover more than 2,293 hectares spread in 20 coral reef areas with about 60 important live hard coral genera and 411 reef species.

Whale sharks, cheilinus undulatos (Mameng) and dugong (sea cows), are also occasionally sighted, particularly on the western side of the bay.

Situated on the bay's eastern part, Glan is known for its powdery white sand coves, crystal-clear waters and cozy beach resorts, most notably at Gumasa Beach. It is also host to the Sarangani Bay Festival, the country's biggest beach party which integrates environmental education, physical wellness and family recreation.



Nestlé embarks on all-out war vs plastic

By: [Rommel W. Domingo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:15 AM May 02, 2021



In August 2020, Nestlé Philippines collected 2,400 metric tons of plastic waste, the same volume that it produced that month.

After achieving “plastic neutral” status just seven months ago, Nestlé Philippines is ramping up its solid waste management efforts to support Philippine and global climate goals.

Kais Marzouki, Nestlé Philippines chair and chief executive, said in a virtual forum last week the company intended to collect and divert an annual average of 26,000 metric tons of plastic waste away from landfills and oceans.

Marzouki said this was an important step toward ensuring none of their waste—mainly packaging of their products—ends up in the environment.

Nestlé’s additional commitments toward helping protect the environment also include reducing their use of virgin plastics by one-third by 2025, and reducing 30 percent of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2025 in their local operations—including factories, administrative offices and logistics networks.

“We will reduce our use of virgin plastics by 1,100 metric tons this year versus our 2019 usage,” he said.

In a 2019 report titled “No Time To Waste,” United Kingdom-based Christian charity Tearfund tagged the global foods giant—along with three other beverage makers—for their significant use of single-use plastic in their products.

But in August last year, Marzouki said Nestlé Philippines achieved their most important environmental milestone thus far, “by becoming the country’s first multinational FMCG (fast-moving consumer goods) company to attain plastic neutrality.” “This means we are collecting and co-processing, and therefore diverting from nature, the equivalent amount of plastic that we generate in our packaging,” he added. “Since then, (we have) collected 18,000 metric tons of plastic waste in the last seven months.” The CEO noted that as the world’s largest food and beverage manufacturer, the Nestlé group is called upon to take a leadership role in tackling climate change, which is one of the greatest threats to society today.

Markouzi said that, accordingly, Nestlé is leveraging its global size, scale, and reach to make a difference as it urgently pursues its ambition to halve its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and reach net zero not later than 2050.



In terms of plastic waste, Nestle is working with local governments like that of Valenzuela City in campaigns like “May Balik sa Plastik.” The initiative is aimed at decreasing the amount of residual wastes in the city’s transfer station and landfill by incentivizing their collection per kilogram. Residual plastic waste is given a monetary value, giving locals a reason to collect rather than discard the waste haphazardly.

The waste are sorted for recycling or upcycling, or co-processing in cement kilns. For this latter part of the program, Nestle has partnered with Republic Cement for the use of the plastic waste in their manufacturing process. In Baliwag, Bulacan, Nestle’s partners are turning waste into eco-bricks and eco-pavers.

Also, in terms of electricity needed in their factories and corporate administrative offices, Nestle has been running such facilities in Luzon with renewable energy. Four factories in Batangas and Laguna as well as offices for their headquarters and a property-focused subsidiary are now using 100-percent renewable energy.

For this, Nestle is sourcing a total of 24.46 megawatts from the Aboitiz Power group’s MakBan geothermal complex.

“Nestlé Philippines will take a leading role in working towards net zero GHG emissions by integrating sustainable practices in our operations,” Markouzi said. “We will continue to seek out partnerships and collaborate with consumers, the government, industry, NGOs and other stakeholders, as we journey to a net zero future.”



Director for corporate and regulatory affairs of CCBPI Juan Lorenzo Tañada (left panel) and Mayor Demetrius Narag (right) of Basco signed a memorandum of understanding last April 22. The partnership demonstrates the vast potential of PET plastic bottle collection for recycling here in the Philippines. Mayor Narag is joined by Carlito Cari, municipal environment officer of Basco.

Coca-Cola Philippines, Basco sign MOU for PET bottle collection, recycling

[Louella Desiderio](#) (The Philippine Star) - May 3, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) has partnered with the municipality of Basco in Batanes for the collection and recycling of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles.

In a statement, CCBPI said it signed a memorandum of understanding with the municipal government of Basco, which covers clearing about 20,000 kilograms or 20 tons of post-consumer recyclable PET bottles.

In addition, there would be a post-consumer PET flow from Batanes to Gen. Trias in Cavite where CCBPI and Indorama Ventures' bottle-to-bottle recycling facility PETValue is being built.

“This project is very important to us because for the longest time, it has been a challenge especially for our MENRO (Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office) on how we can take out from Basco the piled up PET bottles (in our area). The municipal government’s budgetary and operational limitation hamper us from doing a big scale transport of our PET bottles, and there are only a few junk shops that operate in Basco that can help us ship out these materials,” Basco Mayor Demetrius Narag said.

Juan Lorenzo Tañada, director for corporate and regulatory affairs at CCBPI, said the PET bottles collected from Basco would be used as initial feedstock for the PETValue’s processes.

“We will be storing them responsibly while we wait for the facility to be operational,” he said.

CCBPI has been working with local government units and non-government organization partners to help build the recycling facility’s feedstock or stored post-consumer PET bottles.



CCBPI and global leader in green technologies Indorama Ventures, are building the country's first bottle-to-bottle, food-grade recycling facility called PETValue which will have the capacity to process approximately 30,000 metric tons per year or almost three billion pieces of plastic bottles.

Through the facility, PET plastic bottles, including those produced by other manufacturers, would be collected and processed so the plastic bottles could be used again and again within the circular economy.

The PETValue project has been granted pioneer status by the Board of Investments for being the first facility of its kind in the country.

Construction of the PETValue is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of this year.



Balyenang napadpad sa Davao Oriental pumanaw na

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 02 2021 03:47 PM



Namatay ang isang Bryde's whale na napadpad sa dalampasigan ng Mati City, Davao Oriental noong Mayo 1, 2021. *Retrato mula kay Darrell Blatchley*

Binawian ng buhay ngayong Linggo ang isang adult na Bryde's whale na napadpad sa dalampasigan ng Mati City, Davao Oriental noong hapon ng Sabado.

Ayon sa marine biologist na si Darrell Blatchley, may nakita silang plastic bag sa loob ng tiyan ng balyena pero hindi pa matiyak kung iyon ang sanhi ng pagkamatay.

Sinubukan pa ng mga residente na itulak ang balyena papunta sa dagat sa Barangay Lanca pero nahirapan umano sila dahil sa bigat nito.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Blatchley na kalauna'y namamatay ang halos lahat ng mga stranded na balyena.

Kabilang sa mga sanhi ng pagka-stranded nila ay ang stress o sakit.

-- **Ulat ni Hernel Tocmo**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/02/21/balyenang-napadpad-sa-davao-oriental-pumanaw-na?fbclid=IwAR0wa-bb1TWm5U58pAq1n3toZ-jsnQWcVYXa5Lg7Y_GuYN20iOJVektvMs



Shellfish, alamang sa 7coastal areas positibo sa red tide – BFAR

By [Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - May 3, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa inilabas na shellfish bulletin No. 13 ng BFAR nitong Sabado, nabatid na ang mga shellfish na nakokolekta mula sa coastal areas ng Puerto Princesa Bay, Puerto Princesa City sa Palawan; Coastal waters ng Dauis at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol; Tambobo Bay, Siaton sa Negros Oriental; Coastal waters ng Calubian sa Leyte; Balite Bay, Mati City sa Davao Oriental; at Lianga Bay at coastal waters ng Hinatuan sa Surigao del Sur; ay nananatiling positibo sa PSP o toxic red tide na lampas sa regulatory limit.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — Mahigpit munang ipinagbabawal ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang pagkain ng anumang shellfish at alamang mula sa pitong coastal areas sa bansa matapos na matuklasang positibo ang mga ito sa Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) o toxic red tide.

Sa inilabas na shellfish bulletin No. 13 ng BFAR nitong Sabado, nabatid na ang mga shellfish na nakokolekta mula sa coastal areas ng Puerto Princesa Bay, Puerto Princesa City sa Palawan; Coastal waters ng Dauis at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol; Tambobo Bay, Siaton sa Negros Oriental; Coastal waters ng Calubian sa Leyte; Balite Bay, Mati City sa Davao Oriental; at Lianga Bay at coastal waters ng Hinatuan sa Surigao del Sur; ay nananatiling positibo sa PSP o toxic red tide na lampas sa regulatory limit.

Samantala, nadagdag sa listahan ang Bislig Bay sa Surigao del Sur matapos makumpirmang positibo na rin ito ngayon sa PSP.

“All types of shellfish and *Acetes* sp. or alamang gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption,” babala ng BFAR.

Nilinaw naman ng BFAR na ang mga isda, pusit, hipon at mga alimango na mahuhuli sa mga naturang lugar ay ligtas para sa human consumption ngunit kailangang sariwang kakainin ang mga ito at tiyaking nahugasang mabuti.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2021/05/03/2095485/shellfish-alamang-sa-7coastal-areas-positibo-sa-red-tide-bfar/amp/>



COVID 19 cases sa Metro Manila bumaba ng 18 porsiyento

By Jan Escosio May 02, 2021 - 07:24 PM



Kumpara sa naitalang bilang ng noong nakaraang linggo, bumaba na ang kaso ng COVID 19 sa Metro Manila.

Ito ang ibinahagi sa isang panayam kay OCTA Research fellow Guido David at aniya ang reproduction rate ay 0.83 hanggang noong nakaraang linggo, samantalang ang average na bilang ng kaso kada araw ay 3,144 hanggang kahapon, Mayo 1.

Sinabi nito, ang naitalang pinakamataas na 5,500 sa Metro Manila sa kasagsagan nang pagsirit ng kaso ay bumaba ng 43 porsiyento.

Dagdag pa ni David 17 porsiyento na lang ang positivity rate sa Kalakhang Maynila gayundin ang hospital utilization rate.

Ngunit bilin nito, hindi dapat maging kampante ang publiko sa katuwiran na mataas pa rin ang bilang at dapat ay mas mag ingat para tuluyan mapababa ang bilang ng kaso.

Source: <https://radio.inquirer.net/291181/covid-19-cases-sa-metro-manila-bumaba-ng-18-porsiyento>



Community pantry, ni-level up ng ilan nating kababayan | 24 Oras Weekend

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PRRD's order firm to defend PH possession sans war: Lorenzana

By Priam Nepomuceno May 2, 2021, 11:49 pm



Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (Screengrab from [Delfin Lorenzana Facebook page](#))

MANILA – Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana dismissed claims that his recent statements on the Chinese incursions in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) are not aligned with those of President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

In a statement to reporters Sunday, he said the Chief Executive's orders to the defense department regarding the WPS have been very "firm and straightforward" and that is to defend the country's possessions without going to war.

"President Duterte's orders to us have been very firm and straightforward: defend what is rightfully ours without going to war and maintain the peace in the seas. *Yung nagsasabi na hindi kami align ng Presidente* (those saying that our statements are not aligned with the President). let me clarify that my pronouncements echo the stand of our President and Commander-in-Chief," Lorenzana added.

And as part of the Philippines' long-standing and multi-faceted relationship with China, he said both nations maintain cooperation in various areas that are mutually beneficial to the Filipino and Chinese people.

"We can be cordial and cooperative with other nations but not at the expense of our sovereignty and sovereign rights," he added.

While mindful of China's far more superior military capabilities, Lorenzana said this knowledge does not deter them from defending national interest, and dignity as a people, with all available resources or assets.

"Thus, the conduct of maritime patrol in the WPS and Kalayaan Island Group by the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will continue. The government will not waiver in its position. *Walang alisan* (There is no leaving)," he added

Also, the latest developments have made it clear that there is a need for all stakeholders to cooperate.

"They can now take this as an opportunity to advance the values and principles we collectively affirm and profess to respect - including the peaceful settlement of disputes - as partners and as signatories to UNCLOS (United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea) and all relevant international instruments," he said.



Earlier, Lorenzana said China has no legal basis to prevent the Philippines from conducting maritime exercises in the WPS.

"They have no authority or legal basis to prevent us from conducting these exercises within the WPS. *Atin yan* (That is ours)," he said.

This came following China's calls to stop the ongoing maritime exercises of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, noting that such actions are "complicating the situation and escalating the disputes".

He added that Beijing's "historical" claims on the West Philippine Sea have no basis.

"Their claims according to their so-called historical rights have no basis while we have two international documents saying the area is ours: the UNCLOS of which China is a signatory and the Arbitral Award of 2016," he added.

UNCLOS, he said, gave the Philippines sovereign rights to explore the natural resources of an area that is 200 nautical miles away from the mainland.

"The Arbitral Award has categorically stated that the Chinese claim bounded by their so-called nine-dash line according to their 'historical right' has no basis in fact. Therefore, it is they who are encroaching and should desist and leave," he added.

He opposed China's claims that Philippine maritime exercises are "complicating the situation and escalating disputes", saying it is the other way around.

"*Walang basis 'yung nine-dash line nila*, according to an international tribunal, *sila ang nagko-complicate ng situation* by insisting to stay within our WPS (Their nine-dash line has no basis according to an international tribunal, they are the ones complicating the situation by insisting to stay within our WPS)," he added. (PNA)



This handout satellite imagery taken on March 23, 2021 and received on March 25 from Maxar Technologies shows Chinese vessels anchored at the Whitsun Reef, around 320 kilometres (175 nautical miles) west of Bataraza in Palawan in the South China Sea. Chinese vessels gathered near a disputed reef in the South China Sea are "fishing boats" sheltering from poor weather, the foreign ministry said March 22, a day after the Philippines described their presence as an incursion.

AFP/Satellite image ©2021 Maxar Technologies, Handout

Palace: 'All or nothing' policies in West Philippine Sea dangerous, unproductive

(Philstar.com) - May 2, 2021 - 5:13pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Palace on Sunday urged critics to let President Rodrigo Duterte continue his "careful, calculated, calibrated" approach to tensions with China in the West Philippine Sea instead of calling for "all or nothing" policies.

In a statement sent to reporters, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque again said that asserting the country's sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea — the part of the South China Sea within its Exclusive Economic Zone — will lead to war.

"History shows that countries who demand all or nothing policies often get nothing at all, or even end up provoking war. This is exactly what the president is avoiding," Roque wrote.

"All or nothing policies are not only inconsistent with international law and international reality—they are dangerous and they will not work."

Members of the Philippine delegation in the South China Sea arbitration case as well as members of the academe have said that standing by the 2016 arbitral award [does not necessarily mean going to war with](#), and have suggested other possible measures to uphold the ruling.

"The claim that enforcing the arbitral award means going to war with China, a war the Philippines will surely lose, is an utterly false claim, designed to intimidate the Filipino people to submit to the will of China," retired Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said in 2019.

Roque in his statement was responding to pronouncements by Carpio and former foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario earlier Thursday, urging the two to "leave international relations to the one who has the foresight, information, and constitutional mandate to make sound foreign policy decisions."

But even officials on Duterte's Cabinet have described Beijing as "intruders" with Chinese ships still present in the West Philippine Sea, [according to the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea](#).

China has rejected the arbitral ruling that the Philippines won in The Hague in 2016 based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which held that China's sweeping nine-dash line claim has no legal basis.



President Rodrigo Duterte has [asserted that he cannot do anything on the maritime dispute](#) as doing so, he claimed, would mean going to war with China.

"[Duterte] knows that, as a responsible member of the world community, the Philippines must pursue its claims by legal and diplomatic means. We must lay the basis for negotiation, by building a relationship of mutual trust and confidence, and without engaging in name-calling and brinkmanship," Roque said in his statement.

"He has never renounced our claims and entitlements, and in fact he and his administration have repeatedly and consistently asserted them in bilateral talks with China and in multilateral fora like the United Nations."

UN urged: Act on Chinese presence in WPS

To recall, Carpio and Del Rosario said that Duterte shelved the ruling and refrained from pressuring China to follow the ruling in order to ease tensions in exchange for economic and medical aid amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Duterte in a public address on Wednesday night also blamed the previous administration and its officials for losing territories in the sea, particularly Del Rosario and Carpio themselves.

Fisherfolk petition UN

Progressive fisherfolk group Pamalakaya earlier Sunday said it had filed three petitions before the United Nations, urging the international body to act on what it said was the continuous Chinese usurpation of the West Philippine Sea.

In a statement issued Sunday morning, the fishers' federation said that the petitions called on the UN to declare the controversial China Coast Guard Law null and void, calling for the demilitarization of the South China Sea, and look into the impacts of Chinese incursion to the livelihood of Filipino fishers and domestic food security.

Beijing passed the controversial law earlier in January allowing its coast guard to fire at foreign vessels. The Philippines has since filed a diplomatic protest over the law.

"With the increasing aggression and militarization of China in the West Philippine Sea through the passing of Coast Guard Law, we humbly appeal for your intervention by openly denouncing and declaring the law null and void," one of the petitions addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres read.

Pamalakaya also slammed China for its "relentless disregard" of the international tribunal that invalidated Beijing's sweeping claim over almost the entire South China Sea, which includes 80% of the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and extended continental shelf.

"Our petitions complement the very principles of the arbitral ruling against China. These include the immediate pullout of Chinese personnel in our territorial waters, respect the rights of our fishers, and demilitarize our traditional fishing grounds," Fernando Hicap, Pamalakaya national chairperson, said in a statement.

"Moreover, our appeal is in the framework of upholding the basic rights to food and livelihood of our fisherfolk, who are the direct victims, and for the peaceful, diplomatic and non-military resolution to the Chinese aggression and plunder," the former lawmaker added.

The fishers federation said that they filed the petitions due to lack of concrete and decisive actions from the Duterte government.

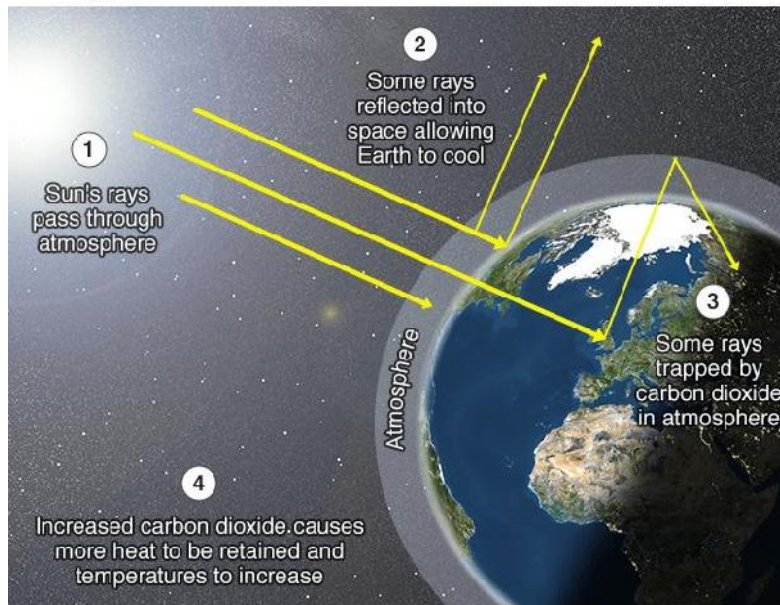


“The Filipino fishers are tired of Mr. Duterte compromising our sovereignty in the name of foreign loans and now, vaccines,” Hicap said.

— **Franco Luna with reports from Patricia Lourdes Viray**



The greenhouse effect



Climate change, a world issue

May 3, 2021 4 min read

It's May. And the temperature is unquestionably troubling, not only in the metropolis but in other parts of the archipelago republic.

Many have started talking once more about global warming, which refers to the increase in average global temperature since the Industrial Revolution, with the average global temperature increasing by about one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1880.

Experts have said this global warming is a continuing process, with scientists expecting the average global temperature to rise an additional 0.3 to 0.7 degrees Celsius (0.54–1.26 degrees Fahrenheit) through 2035.

Certain gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, trap the sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere, according to scientists.

These greenhouse gases (GHGs) exist naturally in the atmosphere and help keep the Earth's surface warm enough to sustain life.

Without greenhouse gases, the average temperature on Earth would be zero degrees Fahrenheit, instead of today's roughly 58.3 degrees Fahrenheit or 14.611°C .

Human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels (i.e., coal, natural gas, and oil) to power vehicles, factories, and homes, release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

But other activities, including deforestation – or the slash and burn technique or what Tagalogs call the kaingin system or what the Ilocanos describe as panagpuor kadagiti bambantay – and raising livestock, also emit greenhouse gases.

Is the Philippines, a nation of 110 million people plus, affected by the global warming issue? It is.

The Germanwatch institute, an independent development and environmental NGO, based in Bonn and Berlin and founded in 1991, presented in Madrid the results of the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 during COP25 – the 2019 United Nations Climate Change Conference.



According to this analysis, based on the impacts of extreme weather events and the socio-economic losses they cause, Japan, the Philippines and Germany are the most affected places by climate change today.

Germanwatch aims to exert influence on public policy regarding environmental protection as well as relations between countries in the Global North and South.

The COP25 was the 25th United Nations Climate Change conference from December 2 to 13, 2019 under the presidency of the Chilean government.

Higher concentrations of these greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap more heat on Earth, causing an anthropogenic (i.e., human-caused) rise in global temperatures.

Climate scientists agree that human activity is the main driver behind the global warming we are experiencing.

In discussions, the terms climate change and global warming are often used interchangeably, but climate change broadly refers to persistent changes in average weather (e.g., temperature, precipitation, humidity, wind, atmospheric pressure, ocean temperature, etc.) while global warming narrowly refers to a rise in the Earth's average global temperature.

Climate change can refer to natural fluctuations in the Earth's average temperature throughout geologic time, between cold periods (glacial periods, known as ice ages) and warm periods (interglacial periods).

The climate change we are currently experiencing, however, is caused by human activity. Scientists have concluded that, over the last 50 years, the Earth's surface should have been cooling slightly based on natural factors, like solar intensity and volcano activity.

However, the increased burning of fossil fuels has led to global warming – and at a significantly faster rate than at any time over the last 800,000 years.

Some ask what the impact is of climate change.

Scientists say the rise in average global temperatures because of human activities has many impacts on the planet, including more intense and frequent droughts and storms, melting glaciers and ice sheets, rising sea levels, warming oceans, and ocean acidification.

People around the world are already feeling the impact of climate change on the environment. At the same time, changing weather patterns can ruin crops and cause serious water shortages, and rising sea levels are threatening low-lying islands and coastal cities.

Tropical and insect-borne diseases are spreading as their hosts move into new habitats that were previously too cold for them to survive.

It is a truism, according to scientists, that climate change represents a significant threat to the health and well-being of human societies, especially in communities that lack resources and are therefore ill-equipped to deal with the effects of a warmer climate.
(AI/MTVN)

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