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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Boracay wetlands take spotlight in PH celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022

Published on: February 02, 2022

By DENR

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources—through the Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB)—will celebrate the gains made in the rehabilitation of Boracay wetlands during the local observance of the World Wetlands Day 2022.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that this year's celebration focuses on our concrete actions for wetlands to save them from further degradation.

"Wetlands are among our country's natural assets and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We believe that showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public," Cimatu said.

"By restoring the 'Wetlands of Boracay,' we do not only conserve their ecological functions in the island but also add up to the diversification of Boracay's tourism attraction sites," he added.

The DENR will lead the Philippines' World Wetlands Day celebration at the Boracay Wetland Conservation Park, formerly Wetland No. 2, in Barangay Balabag, Boracay Island on February 2.

The event will showcase the partnership in wetland conservation with private companies such as Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., Energy Development Corp. (EDC), and J.G. Summit Olefins Corp.

During the main event, the EDC, an adopter of the DENR's "Adopt-a-Wetland Program," will be turning over the completed project for Wetland No. 2 to the DENR after more than three years of rehabilitation.

With the theme "Wetlands Action for People and Nature," this year's World Wetlands Day highlights the importance of concerted actions in conserving and ensuring the sustainable use of wetlands for human beings, the environment, and all living creatures that depend on it.

DENR-BMB OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said this year's theme also serves as a "clarion call for Filipinos to act for the welfare of the country's wetlands."



"We need to invest financial, human, and political capital to save our wetlands from disappearing and restore those we have degraded. It is also an appeal to re-strategize and capitalize on nature-based solutions such as wetland conservation, which provides sound and sustainable benefits for human beings, the environment, and all creatures on the planet," Bernardino said.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on February 2 to raise global awareness on the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet.

The date also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971.

Presidential Proclamation No. 74, Series of 1999, also declares February 2 of every year as National Wetlands Day in recognition of the immense importance of wetlands to the welfare of the Filipino people and the protection of global biodiversity.

This year's celebration is particularly significant because it will be the first time that it will be celebrated as a United Nations International Day through a resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on August 30, 2021. (DENR)



Rehabilitated Boracay wetlands showcased as Philippines marks World Wetlands Day

By Catalina Ricci S. Madarang - February 3, 2022 - 12:20 PM



Boracay Wetland Conservation Park in Boracay Island (Facebook/DENR)

The wetlands in Boracay took the spotlight during the celebration of the local observance of **World Wetlands Day 2022**.

The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** through its Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) led the event at the **Boracay Wetland Conservation Park** on February 2.

DENR's Facebook page also released photos of the newly rehabilitated conservation park, which was formerly called Wetland No. 2, located in Barangay Balabag on the island of Boracay.

 **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** on Tuesday

PRESS RELEASE | Boracay wetlands take spotlight in PH celebration of World Wetlands Day 2022

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Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3rtGGPT>



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Energy Development Corporation (EDC), a private company, completed the rehabilitation of the park after more than three years.

In 2018, EDC “adopted” the task of rehabilitating the once-degraded fragmented forest.

In a separate statement, the DENR-BMB said that Wetland No. 2 served as “a reservoir not only of rainwater of the surrounding catchment during rainy season but also of the domestic sewerage of residential houses adjacent to the wetland.”

It is also the last remaining intact wetland on the entire island.

The adoption of the wetlands is part of DENR’s “Adopt-a-Wetland Program.”

Aside from EDC, other companies involved in the initiative included the Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Boracay Tubi System Inc., Energy Development Corp. (EDC), and J.G. Summit Olefins Corp.

In a statement, Environment Secretary **Roy Cimatu** highlighted the importance of restoring the island’s wetlands for tourism and ecological purposes.

“Wetlands are among our country’s natural assets and thus we have made them part of our ongoing rehabilitation of Boracay Island. We believe that showcasing their importance through wetlands recovery and restoration in the island is an effective means of spreading awareness to the public,” Cimatu [said](#).

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World Wetlands Day

National Geographic defines a **wetland** as “an area of land that is either covered by water or saturated with water.”

Wetlands are also considered as “giant sponges” and “reservoirs” of Earth.

They mainly protect coastal communities from storm surges and flooding brought by strong storms.

“During heavy rains, wetlands absorb excess water, limiting the effects of flooding. Wetlands also protect coastal areas from storm surges that can wash away fragile beaches and coastal communities. Saltwater swamps and tidal salt marshes help secure coastal soil and sand,” National Geographic [said](#).

They only [cover](#) around 6% of the Earth. However, 40% of all plant and animal species thrive in them.

These include mangrove trees that are known as natural shields against strong typhoons.

The **United Nations** [established](#) World Wetlands Day on Feb. 2, 1971 to raise global awareness on the importance of wetlands to the people and the planet.

The day also marked the adoption of the international treaty called the Convention on Wetlands.

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2022/02/03/209799/rehabilitated-boracay-wetlands-showcased-as-philippines-marks-world-wetlands-day/>



Boracay wetlands take the spotlight in World Wetlands Day 2022

by [Village Connect](#) 3 days ago



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DENR: 1,000 metric tons of COVID health care waste generated per day

Published February 3, 2022, 5:16 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

Following the recent upsurge of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recorded an increase in health care waste generated per day.

“Sa ngayon meron tayong 1,000 metric tons of waste or health care waste kada araw. Napakarami niyan (We generate 1,000 metric tons of health care waste per day which is a lot),” DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said, citing the Environmental Management Bureau’s (EMB) data in Laging Handa on Thursday, Feb. 3.

Leones said that the agency is currently coordinating with local government units (LGUs) nationwide to strengthen the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or the Republic Act (RA) 9003.

“Ang ginagawa natin yung mga barangay sila muna ang magkokolekta at nilalagay muna yan sa temporary transfer station. Dun kinukuha ng ating munisipyo yung mga health care waste na ito para dalhin sa treatment facility to sanitize them, bago siya dalhin sa final disposal sites (The barangays collect the health care waste and put them in a temporary transfer station. The municipality will then collect and bring the wastes to treatment facilities to sanitize them before throwing them to final disposal sites),” he explained.

The RA 9003 covers proper segregation, collection, transport, treatment, and disposal of solid waste to protect public health and the environment.

Violators will be punished with a fine of P300 to P1000 or render community service of one to 15 days for littering alone. Other penalties and charges depend on the gravity of the individual’s violation.

For the protection of garbage collectors and sweepers, Leones said that the DENR has written to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and LGUs to provide collectors with protective gears and facemasks to ensure their safety against the infectious disease.

“Yung mga personal protective equipment (PPEs) natin, facemasks additional gastusin din sa kanila ito. So when LGUs procure the services of these transporters dapat kasama sa contract nila yung mga protection sa trabaho nila para di sila mainfect (The PPEs and facemasks adds to the collectors’ expenses. So when LGUs procure the services of these transporters they have to include these things in their contract to ensure the workers’ safety),” he said.



Medical waste mounting, 1,000 MT collected daily

by [Manila Standard](#) February 4, 2022, 1:55 am

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has painted a giant heap of medical waste collected daily – estimated at 1,000 metric tons – as the Philippines, now under various Alert levels, continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic.



*Members of the sanitation department of the Quezon Medical Center manage the overflowing hazardous waste at their facility in Lucena City, Quezon on Thursday, February 3. The provincial government commits to the hospital administration that they will act swiftly on the matter to ensure the safety of the surrounding residential area and the patients of the hospital. **Danny Pata***

DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones said: “That’s a lot. That means if our truck is 6-tonner, 166 trucks go out daily to collect this waste.”

The DENR coordinates with local officials to strictly enforce segregation and collection rules under the Solid Waste Management Act, he said in a press briefing.

Leones said barangays were responsible for bringing garbage to temporary transfer stations, where city or town authorities separate the healthcare waste. This is transferred to treatment facilities then to a final disposal site, he said. Meanwhile, the Department of Health told laboratories and hospitals to dispose of their medical wastes properly amid reports that seven children caught coronavirus disease 2019 after playing with garbage dumped by a diagnostic center in Catanduanes.

“First of all, we want to remind laboratories and facilities that there are laws that cover this kind of violation as well as policies) to guide you on what you’re supposed to do regarding these medical wastes,” Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in a media briefing.

A media report on Monday revealed that a village in the province’s capital town Virac had found on January 24 garbage containing over 1,900 syringes and 2,000 blood sample tubes for COVID-19 tests and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) test kits, some of which were scattered on the shoreline.

“We are not going to tolerate this kind of irresponsible behavior,” she added.

Globally, the World Health Organization said tons of medical waste from the Covid-19 response expose the urgent need to improve health care waste management practices in countries.



In the Philippines, Vergeire said DOH continued to closely coordinate with other agencies, including health care facilities and local governments in providing guidelines on the disposal of COVID-19 wastes.

She said facilities were required to have a proper waste management system or else they cannot operate.



166 six-tonner trucks na face mask araw-araw nalilikom ng DENR



February 3, 2022 @ 4:21 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Iniulat ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na nakalilikom sila ng mga kalat na face masks at nakapupuno ng 166 six-tonner truck araw-araw.

Sa Laging Handa public briefing, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Julius Leonen na nasa 1,000 metric tons ng face mask ang nakokolekta araw-araw.

“Ibig sabihin kung six-tonner yung ating truck, 166 na trucks ang lumalabas kada araw para kolektahin ang mga waste na ito.”

Nakikipag-ugnayan na rin ang DENR sa mga lokal na pamahalaan lalo pa sa barangay level upang matiyak na mahigpit silang sumusunod sa Solid Waste Management Act.

Base sa ulat, in-charge ang barangay governments sa pagkolekta ng mga basura sa kabahayan at pagdadala sa “transfer station” na siyang kukuhanin naman ng municipal governments.

Pagkatapos nito, mismong municipal government ang magdadala nito sa landfills at treatment facilities. **RNT/FGDC**



DENR: Face mask, iba pang medical waste tambak

By Abante Tonite — Last updated Feb 3, 2022

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Higit 1,000 tonelada ng mga medical waste katulad ng face mask, surgical glove ang nahahakot kada araw mula nang manalasa ang pandemya ng COVID-19 sa bansa, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kahapon.

Sa kanyang pagharap sa Laging Handa public briefing, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na 166 trak ang lumalabas kada araw para kolektahin ang mga medical waste kaya nakipag-ugnayan na sila sa mga lokal na pamahalaan para maghigpit sa implementasyon ng segregation o paghihiwalay ng mga basura at sa paghahakot nito.

“Nabigla rin tayo dahil talagang noong ginawa nating mandatory iyong paggamit ng face mask, talagang dumami iyong mga COVID-related waste natin, mga face mask. Sa ngayon, ang tinataya ng ating Environmental Management Bureau, mayroon tayong 1,000 metriko toneladang waste, mga healthcare waste kada araw ang kinukolekta natin. So, napakarami niyan,” ani Leones.

Inabisuhan na aniya ng DENR ang bawat local government unit para sa maayos na pangangasiwa sa pagtatapon ng medical waste para hindi magdulot ng panganib sa mga tao. (Aileen Taliping)

Source: <https://tonite.abante.com.ph/denr-face-mask-iba-pang-medical-waste-tambak/>



Waste from face masks fill 166 six-tonner trucks daily —DENR

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published February 3, 2022 3:44pm



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said Thursday the waste from face masks fills 166 six-tonner trucks every day.

At the Laging Handa public briefing, DENR Undersecretary Julius Leonen said that around 1,000 metric tons of waste from face masks are being collected daily.

“Ibig sabihin kung six-tonner yung ating truck, 166 na trucks ang lumalabas kada araw para kolektahin ang mga waste na ito” (It means if we use six-tonner trucks, 166 of them go out every day to collect this waste), he said.

The DENR has been coordinating with local government units especially in the barangay level to make sure they are strictly following the Solid Waste Management Act.

Barangay governments are in charge of collecting waste from households and taking them to “transfer station”, where the municipal governments will pick them up.

In turn, the municipal government will transport the collected waste to their final destination such as landfills and treatment facilities, according to the DENR official.

On Tuesday, the World Health Organization warned that the vast amount of waste produced in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic [poses a threat to human and environmental health](#).

The tens of thousands of tons of extra medical waste has caused a huge strain on healthcare waste management systems, the WHO said in a report.

According to the UN health agency, the extra waste is “threatening human and environmental health and exposing a dire need to improve waste management practices.” —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/820581/waste-from-face-masks-fill-166-six-tonner-trucks-daily-denr/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1ltDXntDBdFABTiYUEnYT2B17dlxGX2ANKo7oulUsULqg08V7V76bNXj8

1,000 metric tons ng medical waste, nakokolekta ng DENR kada araw

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Feb. 3, 2022 at 4:24pm



Aabot sa 1,000 metrikong tonelada ng healthcare waste ang nakokolekta kada araw sa bansa sa gitna ng COVID-19 pandemic.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Jonas Leones, simula naging mandato na ang pagsusuot ng face mask ay tumaas ang mga COVID-related waste.

Ibig sabihin, umaabot sa 166 six-tonner truck ang lumalabas kada araw para kolektahin ang nasabing medical waste.

Tiniyak naman ni Leones na nakikipag-ugnayan na sila sa mga Local Government Units (LGU) partikular sa mga barangay para sa mas istriktong pangongolekta ng mga basura.

Matatandaang pitong bata mula sa Virac, Catanduanes ang nagpositibo sa COVID-19 antigen test matapos paglaruan ang medical waste ng isang laboratoryo.

Nauna na ring nagbabala ang Department of Health (DOH) sa mga hospital at LGU na hindi nila palalagpasin ang maling pagtatapon ng mga basura na maaaring magdulot ng panganib sa publiko.

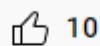
Source: <https://rmn.ph/1000-metric-tons-ng-medical-waste-nakokolekta-ng-denr-kada-araw/?fbclid=IwAR38DnJmXZ8sQC6QaNw8EM47gIKMrNRzwXPuj9ZJPZCKzXh9rnoyr2zdIXo>



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Sa taya nga ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, aabot na sa 1,000 metric

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Medical waste from face masks fill 166 truckloads daily – DENR

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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources reports medical waste fills 166 six-tonner trucks daily.

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkN9p8qymwk&ab_channel=UNTVNewsandRescue



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1,000 metrikong tonelada ng medical wastes,
nakokolekta sa bansa kada araw, ayon sa DENR. | via
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Labs na nagtatapon ng basura sa dagat balak kasuhan ng DENR



February 3, 2022 @ 4:40 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ikinokonsidera ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mga laboratory na nagkakat ng medical waste sa karagatan ng Catanduanes.

“Dito sa Catanduanes, meron tayong nahuli na nag-dump lang ng kanilang mga laboratory wastes, healthcare waste, sa dalampasigan. Kinakasuhan na natin ito,” ani DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones sa Laging Handa public briefing.

Sinabi ni Leones sa GMA News Online na hinihintay pa ng DENR ang paliwanag ng laboratory hinggil sa isyu bago magdesisyon sa pagsasampa ng kaso.

Maaalalang walo sa 23 bata sa Virac, Catanduanes ang nagpositibo sa COVID makaraang mapaglaruan ang mga hazardous waste ng diagnostics laboratory na nakakalat.

Binigyan naman ng palugit na hanggang Pebrero 9 upang makapagsumite ng position paper tungkol sa insidente. RNT/FGDC



DZBB Super Radyo

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), pinag-iisipang kasuhan ang isang laboratoryo na nagtapon ng medical wastes sa tabing dagat sa Catanduanes. | via @mamutuesday

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BABALA SA PAGTATAPON NG BASURA SA COVID-19



February 3, 2022 @ 11:07 AM 20 hours ago

HUWAG ipagwalang-bahala ang panganib na dala ng hindi tamang pagtatapon ng basura na nauugnay sa COVID-19.

Tingnan natin ang naganap sa Brgy. Concepcion, Virac, Catanduanes.

May nagka-COVID na walo mula sa 23 bata na naglalaro sa tapunan ng medical waste ng isang diagnostic laboratory sa nasabing bayan.

Nakitaan ng COVID ang mga bata sa pamamagitan ng antigen test na isinagawa ng rural health unit.

Paano ngayon ang mga bata na malamang na hindi bakunado para magkaroon sana ng pangontra sa virus ng COVID.

Paano na rin ang mga magulang ng mga bata na posibleng nahawaan din dahil, siyempre, kasa-kasama nila ang mga bata sa pagtulog at sa loob ng bahay sa lahat ng araw?

Paano kung may maospital o kaya'y mamatay sa mga biktima?

Bukod sa napakalaking gastos sa pagpapagamot, kapag nasawi ang isang biktima, hindi na pupwedeng tapatan ito ng ng halaga ng salapi.

LIBO-LIBONG MEDICAL WASTE

Bago isinalang sa COVID test ang mga bata, nadiskubre nina Brgy. Concepcion Captain Anthony Arcilla ang mga basura malapit sa isang tulay sa lugar.

Binubuo ang mga ito ng mga eringilya, mga ginamit sa pag-test, personal protective equipment, maliliit na bote na may lamang ihi at dumi ng tao at iba pa.

Basta lang itinambak ang mga basurang ito nang hindi nakasilid sa mga dapat na kalagayan at hindi ipinatapon sa mga basurero ng barangay o lungsod na nakaaalam ng tamang pagtatapon ng basura.

Mabilis namang iniulat nina kapitan sa pamahalaang lokal, municipal environment officer na si Sir Andy Po at Department of Environment ang kanilang nadiskubre at mabilis na umaksyon ang mga ito.

Ang DENR na mismo ang gumawa ng abiso sa diagnostic laboratory na magpaliwanag hanggang Pebrero 9 ukol sa pangyayari.



At kung hindi maayos ang sagot ng mga ito, maaaring masara at magmulta ang establisimyento.

MAHIGPIT NA HABILIN

Mahigpit na kautusan ang ipinaaabot ng pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng DENR at mga lokal na pamahalaan sa mga ganitong laboratoryo, ospital, klinika at iba pa para sa tamang pagtatapon ng basurang galing sa nasabing mga establisimyento.

Maging sa mga negosyante ng mga medical na supply at gamot kahit saang lugar sa bansa.

Alam na alam nilang ang mga basurero ng mga lokal na pamahalaan at ng mga taga-DENR ang tama nilang ugnayan sa pagtatapon ng ganitong mga basura.

Ito'y para maligtas sa pagkakasakit ang mga mamamayan.

WALANG PUWANG

Kapag nilabag establisimyento at mga opisyal at empleyado nito ang mga batas o panuntunan sa pagtatapon ng basura, tiyak na may kalalagyan ang mga ito.

Hindi lang ang pagmumulta at pagpapasara ang aabutin ng establisimyento kundi kaukulang kaso rin sa mga may-ari, doktor, medical technologist at iba pa na sangkot sa kapabayaan o sadyang paglabag sa batas at panuntunan.

Hindi natin bibigyan ng puwang ang diagnostic laboratory na makalusot sa pananagutan at babantayan natin ang kasong ito.

Managot ang dapat managot dito at maaasahan natin ang mga taga-DENR, lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan na aaksyon sa pangyayari.



6 gov't agencies sign deal to bring back 'better' Cagayan Valley

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. [February 3, 2022, 5:29 pm](#)



IT'S A DEAL. DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan and DPWH Regional Director Loreta Malaluan lead the signing of a memorandum of agreement for sustained Cagayan River restoration, along with officials of other government agencies. The signing was held at the DPWH regional office in Tuguegarao City on Thursday (Feb. 3, 2022) *(Photo courtesy of DENR-Cagayan Valley)*

TUGUEGARAO CITY – To avoid future flooding of the "Ulysses" magnitude in Cagayan Valley, several government agencies under the Regional Build Back Better Task Force (RBBBTF) have agreed to continue their commitment and perform their responsibilities to sustain the rehabilitation of the Cagayan River.

On Thursday, officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to “bring back a better Cagayan Valley; a community that is economically better, safe, and more climate-resilient”.

DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan and Regional Director Loreta Malaluan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), task force chair and co-chair, respectively, led the signing along with DHSUD Regional Director Grace de Vera, OCD Regional Director Leon Rafael Jr., DILG Regional Director Jonathan Paul Leusen Jr., and DTI Assistant Regional Director Winston Singun.

“We vow to sustain the whole-of-government efforts to rehabilitate the river as we signed the joint memorandum of agreement by the Regional Build Back Better Task Force,” Bambalan told the Philippine News Agency during a briefing after the signing at the DPWH regional office here.

She said the DENR has allotted PHP56 million for the project this year.

“We have yet to see the priority of the next administration but we have projects in place and short-term priorities such as dredging, desilting, and river control projects are in place,” Bambalan added.

She noted the accomplishments under the project so far, saying sandbars were removed at the pilot site in Barangay Bangag, Lal-lo town, with a total of 374,000 cubic meters dredged last year.



Also, the DPWH is now removing the sandbars in Dummun village in Gattaran town.

These sandbars are priority sites for immediate dredging as they obstruct the flow of floodwater to the Aparri Delta and Babuyan Channel.

The task force has earlier identified 19 sandbars through the DPWH, covering a total of 275 hectares and an estimated volume of seven million cubic meters.

“You see now that at least we have deepened the sites, the water has been starting to directly flow to the Babuyan Channel,” Bambalan said.

To stabilize the riverbanks, a total of 585 hectares of land were planted with bamboos and indigenous species by the DENR and the local government in 14 municipalities where the Cagayan River and major tributaries are located.

Joining the event virtually, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu lauded the regional leaders for their continued support of the project.

“Let us hope that what this administration has started to build back better the mighty Cagayan River will be built upon by the next administration,” he said as he cited the accomplishments of the lead agencies in the six key-result areas.

These areas are resilient infrastructure through management, dredging and desilting, and construction of structural measures for flood control; delineation of areas prone to climate-related hazards, relocation of affected families and construction of evacuation centers; provision of basic needs, medical services, electricity, road lines, sewers, telecommunication and transportation that can be mobilized during typhoons; sustainable livelihood programs; improved land-use planning and enforcement of Building Code; and intensive watershed management.

Bambalan also said the local government units have been instrumental in providing long-term solutions to the flooding problem.

Cagayan Valley region, particularly Cagayan province, was badly hit by Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020 and suffered extensive and destructive flooding that also claimed several lives. **(PNA)**



PH hawk-eagle, flying tree snake released back into wild

Published February 3, 2022, 2:31 PM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol (DENR-5) through its Camarines Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) has separately released a Philippine hawk-eagle (*Nisaetus philippensis*) and paradise flying tree snake (*Chrysopelea paradasi*) back to their natural habitats.

“The Philippine hawk-eagle was found by a resident of Barangay Alawihao, Daet, Camarines Norte, shivering on a grass field and was immobile due to the heavy rains. The resident informed the office to which the officer responded immediately. Upon examination, the wildlife was in good condition and was released into the wild by Camarines Norte PENR Officer-In-Charge Marlon C. Francia,” the DENR-5 said in a social media post on Wednesday.



BORN TO BE WILD. A paradise flying tree snake (*Chrysopelea paradasi*) surrendered to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol by a resident of Mercedes, Camarines Norte and released back into the wild on Wednesday, Feb. 2. (Photo from DENR Bicol Facebook page/Manila Bulletin)

“A resident of Barangay Del Rosario, Mercedes, Camarines Norte voluntarily surrendered the juvenile, meter-long paradise flying tree snake. It was also in good condition and was immediately released into the wild,” the post read.

The DENR-5 also continuously calls on the public to report such incidents and turnover any wildlife to the authorities for proper handling and release to its natural habitat.

“Continuous Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) campaigns are being conducted by the DENR, which have caused increasing numbers of public turnovers to the office,” it added.

Under DENR Administrative Order DAO No. 2019-09 titled, “Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories”, the Philippine hawk-eagle is considered endangered while the paradise flying tree snake falls under the category “Other Wildlife Species”.

All wildlife in the Philippines is protected under Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/02/03/ph-hawk-eagle-flying-tree-snake-released-back-into-wild/>



PH hawk-eagle, flying tree snake released back into wild

By Connie Calipay February 3, 2022, 12:48 pm



BORN TO BE WILD. A paradise flying tree snake (*Chrysopelea paradasi*) surrendered to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Bicol by a resident of Mercedes, Camarines Norte and released back into the wild on Wednesday (Feb. 2, 2022). All wildlife in the Philippines is protected under Republic Act 9147, the "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act". (Photo from DENR Bicol Facebook page)

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Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1166944>



Agar trees

By [Ma. Isabel Ongpin](#) February 4, 2022

WE all know that our forests are imperiled. Development, climate change and poaching have reduced them to endangered levels enough to imperil our future (if not our present) sustainability.

While we all understand the reasons for illegal logging — obtaining hardwood for building like narra, molave, dungon, mangkono and other hardwood tree species that command high prices — few of us know of the most lucratively-priced tree among all — the agarwood tree. Known variously as lapnisan or lanete, the agarwood tree is from the *Aquilaria* species of the Thymelaeaceae Family. There are many *Aquilaria* species (19) and the one endemic to the [Philippines](#) is *Aquilaria malaccensis*. Collectively and colloquially, these species are known as agarwood, or oud.

The agarwood tree is the most expensive tree in the world because its oil is used in perfume-making and in the huge world flavor and fragrance market. Its oil has a musky, soft but defined fragrance that is very pleasing. It is used both for aesthetic and religious purposes as well as a fragrance. A kilogram of its wood can go from \$100 to \$100,000 depending on the quality of its heartwood, where the oil is extracted from. The oil itself sells for \$50,000 to \$80,000 per liter.

The demand for agarwood and its oil has increased phenomenally since the 1970s, resulting in a global trade estimated between \$6 and \$8 billion. It is an old trade said to have started 3,000 years ago with the Egyptians who used its wood and oil for perfume, incense, carvings and death ceremonies. It was known as the "wood of the gods." It was carried on the Silk Route between [Asia](#) and the Middle East. The Spaniards called it "madera de olor" (aromatic wood).

Needless to say, the demand has impacted on the forests of South Asia and Southeast Asia where the agarwood tree grows. There is an undefined market and a clandestine trade for which no authentic data is available. In the Philippines there are periodic apprehensions of poachers of agarwood trees. It is illegal to trade or log agarwood trees here unless one has a permit from the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) and that is given only for tree farms, not for gathering from the wild. So far the first to secure permits and licenses in this country is Iba Botanicals managed by [Benjamin Warren Mead](#), an Australian investor with Filipino partners, Gourmet Farms of [Ernest Escaler](#) and [Luis Lorenzo Jr.](#), a former Agriculture secretary. Iba Botanicals is raising agarwood trees in Zambales, Bukidnon, Cavite, Batangas, Cebu and Palawan through various arrangements. It is also propagating seedlings and saplings which it sells to whoever is interested in planting agarwood trees. And committing to buy them back at maturity (from 7 to 10 years).



Heartwood of agarwood tree with oil, agarwood tree plantation, agarwood trunk. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



In 1995, the [International Union](#) for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) — the leading global authority on endangered species — placed agarwood on its "red list," which severely restricted international trade unless sourced from legal and sustainable plantation sources. This led to coordinated efforts to restrict the illegal harvesting and poaching of agarwood as well as the initiatives around Asia for the establishment of legal plantation sources of the highly desired product. India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and others now have legally verified plantation sources for agarwood. Though the most desired agarwood species — *Aquilaria malaccensis* — is grown in these countries, its native land is the Philippines. Yet we are among the last to participate in the lucrative plantation industry. With the initiative of Iba Botanicals, the Philippines will now become part of this worldwide trade in a sustainable manner.

What does an agarwood tree look like? It is an evergreen tree with a white trunk. It grows to about 40 meters and has a stem of 60 centimeters. It actually produces white or light yellow wood. But not every agarwood tree is a producer of the scented oil. To do so, the agarwood tree must be stressed by hurting it. In nature, the stress is usually in the form of a fungus infection, insect infestation and other natural enemies that attack the tree through wounds or holes made by one or the other. The strange thing is that an agarwood tree to be valuable because of its oil must have an infection that the heartwood reacts to by producing oil. The heartwood of a tree is in the center of its stem. The most prized agarwood trees are diseased, malformed ones because their defense mechanism has produced a dark stain in its heartwood that contains the precious agarwood oil. Wildlife poachers know this and puncture holes into the trees to stress them enough until they are ready for harvesting as oil-laden wood. Iba Botanicals will be more scientific and is bringing in a modern inoculation method from specialized laboratories that will in effect bring on the stress necessary for the heartwood to react by producing oil. Otherwise without stress mechanisms applied, less than 10 percent of agar trees will produce oil with natural stress factors.

Agarwood oil and wood also have medicinal properties which the ancients have known and used. Ayurvedic medicine has a place for them in its repertoire of healing. So too Chinese medicine. Our ethnic tribes surely know about these properties.

I happened to see and hear my friend, Ernest Escaler, on television before the Christmas holidays extolling agarwood trees and offering seedlings for sale. Intrigued, I bought three saplings and gave one to my daughter, one to a friend and one I planted in my garden. I am planning for a sustainable future. Agarwood trees are found in Mindanao jungles and Visayan forests. They like a moderate elevation and a relatively cool climate mostly, but with proper care as in Zambales, Cavite, etc., they can grow to mature trees. They thrive in a wide range of soils, including poor sandy soil. By the way, Iba Botanicals is a commendable agricultural investment, focusing on modernizing our agriculture and producing profitable cash crops. In Zambales, Iba Botanicals aside from agarwood tree farms, grows ilang ilang and vetiver grass, which also produce oils for the flavor and fragrance market. In Zambales alone, Iba Botanicals employs 200-plus Aetas.

Benjamin Mead came to the Philippines to grow plants for energy use. He learned about agarwood trees from the travails of the DENR in pursuit of poachers who illegally keep decimating their numbers in our forests. Luis "Cito" Lorenzo, Jr. is a former Agriculture secretary whose Mindanao-based family has always been engaged in agriculture. Ernest Escaler has a pioneer organic farm in Cavite and is also into coffee processing.

There are now some agarwood tree farms but due to the decimation of agarwood trees, Iba Botanicals with the permits and licenses from the DENR is offering the public agarwood trees to grow and sell back to Iba Botanicals at maturity (inoculation protocols will be available). It can be a profitable exercise just to have one tree nurtured carefully for its heartwood oil. Ernest



estimates that 3 kilograms of heartwood with oil, the average harvested from one agarwood tree, would fetch \$8,000 per kg. This industry is a plus all around — for the country, for the DENR, for Iba Botanicals, the Aetas in Zambales, the flavor and fragrance market and for the agarwood tree nurturers. And for Mother Nature.



1K puslit na chainsaw nasabat ng BOC sa Maynila



February 3, 2022 @ 6:58 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nasabat ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang nasa 667 kahon ng puslit na chainsaw.

Sinabing naglalaman ito ng 1,034 unit na nagkakahalaga ng P1,010,127.

Nadiskubre ito habang nagsasagawa ng physical examination sa Manila International Container Port (MICP) designated examination area (DEA) noong Enero 13.

Napag-alaman na wala itong importation permit galing sa Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (FMB-DENR).

Galing naman ang naturang mga gamit sa China na naka-consign sa JJJJ Enterprises. **RNT/FGDC**



Lasting legacy! Environment watchdogs urge Digong to ratify global ban on waste exports

FEB 3, 2022, 4:25 PM

James Veloso

Writer/Columnist

EcoWaste Coalition and Greenpeace Philippines said President Rodrigo Duterte should “not miss the opportunity of leaving a lasting legacy by decisively fixing glaring policy gaps to protect our people and the environment from the relentless threats of exploitative and unjust trade in hazardous waste and other wastes.”

ENVIRONMENTAL groups are asking President Rodrigo Duterte to rush the government’s “long-overdue” ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, which prohibits the export of hazardous wastes for recycling or disposal from rich countries to developing countries like the Philippines.

Given Duterte’s strong reactions on the incidents of foreign waste being dumped in the Philippines from Canada and South Korea, EcoWaste Coalition and Greenpeace Philippines said the President should

“not miss the opportunity of leaving a lasting legacy by decisively fixing glaring policy gaps to protect our people and the environment from the relentless threats of exploitative and unjust trade in hazardous waste and other wastes.”

“With the clock counting down, we appeal to the President and his Cabinet to hurry the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and enforce a complementary total ban on foreign waste imports to uphold environmental justice and human rights,” Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition, said in a joint statement Thursday (February 3).

“In the final months of his presidency, President Duterte can demonstrate his commitment to protecting Filipinos and our environment by securing the Philippines’ ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment. This move will prevent the entry of hazardous wastes from 38 OECD nations, some of which have been sending to the Philippines for years,” Marian Ledesma, Zero Waste Campaigner, Greenpeace Southeast Asia-Philippines, also said.

“This is also a chance for the Philippine government to show strong leadership alongside other Asian nations who have closed their borders on imported waste and to respond to the exploitation of Global South countries in the waste trade,” she added.

Last year following Duterte’s last State of the Nation Address (SONA), the EcoWaste Coalition through a letter appealed to Duterte to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, impose a comprehensive ban on foreign waste imports, and support a stronger ASEAN response to stop global waste dumping as recommended in the report titled “Waste Trade in Southeast Asia: Legal Justifications for Regional Action.”



In its response last September 2021, the government through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) told the EcoWaste Coalition that it has initiated the conduct of the cost-benefit study for the Philippine ratification of the Basel Ban Amendment.

“The study has shown the overall beneficial impact of the Ban Amendment in the Philippines, where the long-term financial, environmental, and social benefits outweigh the short term-costs,” wrote EMD Director William Cuñado, who also said that DENR is “getting the requisite Certificates of Concurrence from the different stakeholders to facilitate the ratification process.”

“We’re keeping our fingers crossed that President Duterte will ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and have it immediately transmitted for Senate concurrence,” the EcoWaste Coalition and Greenpeace said.

The EMB also informed the EcoWaste Coalition that it has already conducted several public consultations (held in 2019 and 2020) on the proposed amendments to DAO 2013-22 (Revised Procedures and Standards on the Management of Hazardous Wastes), including amendments to Chapter 10 on the “Import of Recyclable Materials Containing Hazardous Substances and Export of Hazardous Wastes.”

“After review of the EMB Policy Technical Working Group, this will be forwarded to the DENR for final review and endorsement to the DENR Secretary. We hope that the amended DAO will be approved this year (2021),” Cuñado said.



Panukala na ibigay sa mga kompanya ang responsibilidad sa mga plastic na produkto, aprubado na sa Kamara

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Feb. 3, 2022 at 11:13am



Pinagtibay na sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa sa Mababang Kapulungan ng Kongreso ang House Bill 10696 o ang Extended Producer Responsibility Act.

Sa botong 194 pabor at 6 na tutol ay nakalusot sa plenaryo ng Kamara ang panukalang layong gawing accountable ang mga kompanya sa kanilang plastic products at packaging.

Nakasaad sa panukala na ang mga producers o manufacturers ang may responsibilidad na sa kanilang mga produkto kung saan ang mga kumpanya na ang magpapabalik sa mga consumers sa biniling plastik na produkto at sila na ang magre-recycle at magdi-dispose nito.

Ang nasabing paraan ay magiging bahagi ng Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) ng isang kumpanya upang mitaguyod ang zero waste lifestyle.

Mahaharap sa P20 million na multa at kanselasyon ng permit ang mga negosyo o kumpanyang lalabag sa oras na ito ay maisabatas.

Bibigyan naman ng insentibo ang mga kumpanyang makasusunod sa extended producer scheme.

Source: https://rmn.ph/panukala-na-ibigay-sa-mga-kompanya-ang-responsibilidad-sa-mga-plastic-na-produkto-aprubado-na-sa-kamara/?fbclid=IwAR0wSvWVDnWV734Zkmh3bx7VyouOzdS5sFQpGXf3c9RpnLv5nBYG Wu_YVrE



Proper waste disposal ng mga ospital, dapat sundin ayon sa isang infectious disease expert

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Feb. 3, 2022 at 1:40pm



Ipinaalala ni Dr. Edsel Salvaña, isang Infectious Diseases Specialist ang kahalagahan ng proper disposal ng medical waste.

Sa Laging Handa public press briefing, sinabi ni Dr. Salvaña, na mayroong guidelines na inilabas ang Department of Health (DOH) na dapat sundin ng mga ospital at laboratoryo pagdating sa kanilang waste disposal.

Aniya, mahalagang masunod ito o hindi dapat mag-shortcut upang hindi kumalat ang sakit tulad ng COVID-19.

Source: https://rmn.ph/proper-waste-disposal-ng-mga-ospital-dapat-sundin-ayon-sa-isang-infectious-disease-expert/?fbclid=IwAR3fviat7TT7zo4CIWq3RD7RpGcgerz6y-3ctd0nH_MHHezuyY-vlpfLXVE



Mandaluyong City papalitan ng grocery ang mga basura ng kanilang residente

By **Bombo Jovino Galang** -February 3, 2022 | 5:38 AM



Gumawa ng paraan ang Mandaluyong City Government para mabawasan ang basura sa kanilang lungsod.

Ito ay matapos na ilunsad ang “Palit Basura Project” kung saan papalitan ng City Government ng mga grocery ang maipong basura ng kanilang residente.

Layun nito na maturuan ang mga residente na ihiwalay ang kanilang mga basura na maari pang pakinabangan.

Kasama nila ang Mandaluyong City Police Station at Barangay Ecological Solid Waste Management ay matitiyak na ang bilang ng mga plastic sachets ay maiturn-over sa Eco-bricks Production Facility/Material Recovery Facility na matatagpuan sa Mandaluyong Technical-Vocational Training Center.



DOST to assist Ilocos Norte in Paoay Lake cleanup

By Leilanie Adriano February 3, 2022, 11:42 am



PAOAY LAKE. A lifeguard monitors the entry and safety of visitors at the inflatable island which is one of the features of the Paoay Lake Water Park Complex in this January 31, 2022 photo. The Department of Science and Technology is offering a cost-effective technology to solve Paoay Lake's E. coli problem. *(Photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)*

LAOAG CITY – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with the Ilocos Norte government and the communities around the lake, is offering a cost-effective solution for Paoay Lake's E. coli problem.

DOST Ilocos regional director Armando Ganal said in an interview Thursday a powder called Vigormin is the low-cost solution to reduce the coliform level due to wastewater, drainage systems, and residual solid waste accumulating in the lake during surface runoff.

But instead of pouring the Vigormin powder directly to the 387-hectare lake, Ganal said this will be applied in the septic tanks of households surrounding the lake.

"Vigormin is an organo-mineral that acts to lower the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) level of wastewater," said Ganal as he reported the department will provide around 500 kilos of the material to the Ilocos Norte government for free and enjoin the households with open-bottom septic tanks to use it.

According to Ganal, the product is now available online through e-commerce apps and can also be found in selected stores in the region.

"We are endorsing this to be used in the Paoay lake area. It is effective as we have already used it in several areas in the region," he added.

The DOST has asked the Ilocos Norte government to conduct an inventory on the number of households that have open-bottom septic tanks around the lake as one of the immediate interventions to treat the wastewater problem.

The provincial government, meanwhile, appealed to communities around the lake not to raise livestock and graze animals around the lake with the assurance that they will be given an alternative livelihood.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will also help in the dredging activity around the body of water to help reduce sources of domestic pollution that goes to the lake.

As part of Ilocos Norte's aggressive development and promotion of outdoor attractions in the face of a pandemic, the provincial government-funded Paoay lake waterpark with an inflatable island and a food park opened on January 31.



During the opening of the waterpark, Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc has urged visitors and the communities around the lake to do their share in ensuring its cleanliness and protection.

The Paoay Lake waterpark complex features a mix-use infrastructure development where visitors can enjoy eating, playing, biking or boating.

In compliance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources order, the governor reminded visitors to minimize their contact with the lake while several quick and long-term interventions are being implemented to reduce water pollution.

Before the opening of the water park, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered water testing and the result showed the lake water is highly contaminated with E. coli bacteria and unfit for swimming.

E. coli bacteria are found in the environment, foods, and intestines of people and animals. **(PNA)**



NegOcc pushes for establishment of local conservation areas

By Nanette Guadalquiver February 3, 2022, 12:44 pm



BACOLOD CITY – The Negros Occidental provincial government is pushing for the establishment of local conservation areas (LCAs) in various cities and municipalities of the province on the occasion of World Wetlands Day on Wednesday.

In a statement, the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), headed by lawyer Julie Ann Bedrio, said local environment and natural resources officers need to intensify the campaign for wetlands conservation and protection through the conduct of various activities that will lead to the setting up of LCAs.

“(The observance) is a reminder that we also have the network of coastal wetlands LCAs named the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area (NOCWCA), covering 10 local government units. Let us continue to value, manage, restore and love our wetlands,” the PEMO added.

The NOCWCA, located in southern Negros, covers a coastline of 109.52 kilometers, spanning 52 coastal barangays, from Bago City, Pulupandan, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan, Himamaylan City, Kabankalan City down to Ilog.

On Oct. 20, 2016, the NOCWCA was declared as the seventh Ramsar site (wetland of international importance) in the Philippines.

In October last year, the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Area Management Alliance (NOCWAMA), with its entry titled “Network of Alliances for Coastal Wetlands Conservation”, was named one of the Top 10 winners of the Galing Pook Awards, which recognizes innovative practices by LGUs.

The NOCWCA serves as a habitat of globally-threatened species, extensive mangroves, and mudflats that serve as feeding grounds for thousands of migratory birds.

Its high biodiversity also supports the livelihood of coastal communities and serves as a major food source for Negros Occidental.

Observed every February 2, World Wetlands Day aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet.



The day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

This year, Negros Occidental adopts the logo and the theme of the United Nation Environment Programme, with “a call to take action for wetlands” as the focus of the campaign that seeks to invest in financial, human, and political capital to save the world’s wetlands from disappearing and to restore those that have been degraded.

The Feb. 2, 2022 World Wetlands Day is being observed as a United Nations International Day, following its adoption by the General Assembly on August 30, 2021 in a resolution co-sponsored by 75 member-states. **(PNA)**



Daan-daang bagong pisang pawikan natagpuan sa Oriental Mindoro

ni [Jasmin Joy Evangelista](#) | February 3, 2022



Photo: DENR

Natagpuan sa Barangay Estrella, Naujan, Oriental Mindoro ang napakaraming mga maliliit na pawikan.

Ikinagulat ito ng Barangay Tanod na si Joel Cesar Alcovera matapos niyang mapansin ang mga maliliit na pawikan na gumagapang sa buhanginan.

Nagtawag siya ng iba pang residente upang ipakita ang mga ito at doon nila napag-alaman na nasa higit isandaang bagong pisang pawikan ang mga ito.

Inilagay nila sa palanggana ang mga pawikan at dinala sa tabing dagat para pabalikan sa dagat na kanilang natural na tirahan.

Ayon kay Barangay Secretary Warly Panganiban, plano ng pamunuan ng barangay na lagyan ng ilaw ang tabing-dagat dahil halos taon-taon may napipisang mga itlog ng pawikan sa kanilang tabing-dagat.

Umaabot ng 75 hanggang 90 araw ang mga itlog ng pawikan bago mapisa.



Despite crackdown, 'demand keeps China' on wildlife smuggling map

Holly Chik, [South China Morning Post](#)

Posted at Feb 02 2022 02:27 PM | Updated as of Feb 02 2022 02:39 PM

China will continue to be a major destination for the global illegal wildlife trade because of its demand for wildlife products, particularly for traditional Chinese medicine, according to The Hague-based Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC).

"Whilst continued pressure on the trafficking networks is essential, demand reduction and education are also very important," a spokeswoman for the non-profit foundation said.

The WJC said demand persisted in China despite a crackdown on the trade, including introducing a total ban on elephant ivory sales in late 2017.

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The commission also said the South Korea-China shipping route should be flagged as "high risk" for wildlife trafficking.

It found that South Korea "appears to be increasingly popular among wildlife smuggling networks as a transit location", where 26 seizures of shipments destined for China have been recorded since 2013, involving more than 23 tonnes of ivory and 10 tonnes of pangolin scales.

China's ivory ban at risk from legal trade in woolly mammoth tusks

Pangolin scales have been used in Chinese medicine for centuries but their efficacy has never been scientifically proven. In 2020, references to pangolins and their body parts were removed from an official Chinese compendium of drugs.

Ivory carving is an ancient art in China and finely worked pieces, whether elaborate depictions of traditional Buddhist scenes or more simple seals and chopsticks, are prized by collectors.

The WJC said effective and intelligence-led law enforcement efforts in China had led to changes in the global trafficking landscape, with Vietnamese criminal networks replacing or competing with Chinese traffickers in African countries.

In December 2020, the "biggest ivory smuggling racket" in China ended with 17 people jailed, including two ringleaders for life.

The group smuggled at least 20 tonnes of elephant ivory from Nigeria to China under the cover of a timber business between 2013 and 2019, taking advantage of free ports in Asia and bribing a customs officer, according to a WJC report.

The report said two sons of a family from the Chinese eastern coastal province of Fujian opened a timber shop in 2011 in a market in Dongguan, the biggest timber trading centre in southern China.

The shop did very little business and the pair appeared to have little understanding of the timber trade, the report said, citing other timber traders in the market. But the younger son was soon driving a new luxury car and bought a flat near the market.

The family, identified by the surname Chen, also started building a seven-storey ancestral house in their hometown in 2012, described by the authorities as "extravagantly decorated", according to the report.

The WJC said "the Chen (group) used their established timber business in Nigeria as a cover to smuggle ivory, and wooden crates and timber planks as the concealment method".

The first seizure by Chinese customs took place in 2013 when officers at a Dongguan port inspected a shipment from Nigeria via Hong Kong that was declared as rosewood timber.

They uncovered almost 2,000 pieces of ivory and two rhino horns concealed inside custom-made wooden crates hidden in containers behind tight stacks of heavy timber planks.

"This was likely a favoured concealment method not only because of the Chens' existing timber business, but also due to timber planks being heavy and cumbersome to move so they could potentially act as a deterrent to customs officers from fully unloading a container during an inspection," the WJC said.

China bans trade, eating of wild animals in battle against coronavirus

The authorities identified the owners of the shipment as Chen and his two sons. But the trio fled to Malaysia the next day and evaded arrest.

From Malaysia, the family continued their smuggling business with new partners and fake passports with which the youngest son entered China 21 times between 2015 and 2019.

The group also shifted to "a more costly but secure route", taking shipments via South Korea and adding stops along the way to reduce their risk of being detected, the report said.

"The Chen (group) used longer, more expensive shipping routes with multiple transit points, to re-export shipments with 'new' bills of lading and obscure the originating port in Africa," the report said.

"They also took advantage of the fact that transshipment hubs do not have the capacity to inspect every container by sending shipments to Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea."

After investigators found that one of the sons had been using a false identity to return to the country, they also discovered that he often travelled to the eastern province of Anhui despite having no business or family ties there.

They later tracked down a cable factory there that stored two ivory shipments totalling nearly 16 tonnes that had been transported from Nigeria to China via Singapore and South Korea in 2017 and 2018.

But in 2018 the group struggled to sell their ivory after the trade ban in China came into effect.

"The ivory shipment of February 2018 was stranded for more than a year in storage as it had become too difficult to sell due to the government's strict ivory crackdown," the report said.

One of the biggest problems in the fight against illegal wildlife trade

The WJC said their analysis of Chinese court documents showed more criminals being convicted because of investigations conducted on or through the Chinese chat app WeChat. Some traffickers have turned to other apps to avoid detection.

Authorities found that the son often drove to the airport and stayed for a few hours but there were no records of him flying. Big data analysis of the flight and passenger records showed the times he stayed at the airport matched the arrival and departure time of a Malaysian businessman, revealing their illegal partnership.

A Chinese customs officer who aided clearance of the illegal cargo was among those convicted of colluding to import 25 batches of products for the businessman.



The officer confessed to initially charging 200,000 yuan (US\$31,400) per container but gradually doubled the bribes.

Four months after the son was arrested while dining at a restaurant in China in November 2018, police arrested 20 members along the supply chain and seized about 2,750 pieces of ivory weighing 7.5 tonnes at the cable factory in Anhui.

"The case certainly identifies the resilience of organised crime groups to absorb losses and prosper even after law enforcement interventions. Criminal networks are often resourceful and where demand exists, a supply chain is often formed or adapted to feed it," a WJC spokeswoman said.

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AS LONG AS (President Vladimir

against Putin's inner circle – to deter what they fear to be a looming invasion of ex-Soviet Ukraine, despite strenuous denials from Moscow.



ERNESTO BENAVIDES/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SPECIALISTS remove oil from a cormorant affected by the oil spill at the Parque de las Leyendas Zoo in Lima, Peru. The spill, described as an 'ecological disaster' by the Peruvian government, happened when a tanker was unloading oil at a refinery owned by Spanish company Repsol.



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04 FEBRUARY 2022, FRIDAY



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COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Almost 76% of PH's target population now fully vaxxed

By Marita Moaje February 3, 2022, 11:22 am



CUSTOMS CHECK. A Bureau of Customs personnel inspects the boxes containing the newly delivered Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine shortly after it arrives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in Pasay City on Wednesday (Feb. 2, 2022) night. The latest vaccine delivery, a total of 455,130 doses, is procured by the national government. *(PNA photo by Robert Oswald P. Alfiler)*

MANILA – A total of 59,120,367 individuals nationwide or 75.7 percent of the target population are now fully vaccinated against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), according to the National Task Force Against Covid-19.

In an interview Wednesday night, National Task Force Against Covid-19 consultant Dr. Maria Paz Corrales said the number is 53 percent of the total Philippine population.

More are expected to receive the life-saving shots as the national government further ramps up its vaccination campaign, expanding it to children aged 5 to 11 years old starting February 4, and in provinces badly hit by Typhoon Odette last year.

Corrales said a total of 780,000 doses of reformulated Pfizer vaccine for this age group would arrive February 3.

She added that the government is planning to hold another round of the national vaccination days for the young age group that would also cover booster doses.

“Meron tayong pinaplanong (We are planning a) national vaccination day that will cover the pediatric population, that’s 5 to 17, and then for the senior citizens, and the booster. We have to ramp up the three so the government is planning to have a national vaccination days para tumaas ang (to increase the number of) vaccination. We hope to achieve 90 million by June,” Corrales said.

In areas stricken by "Odette", Corrales said the use of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson and the Sputnik Light vaccines are recommended since they get protected against the disease immediately, without having to return for a second dose.

“The problem is ‘yung mga Odette stricken areas, may ibang may problema pa sa storage kasi ‘yung iba wala pang kuryente, may iba naman, ‘yung mga vaccinators apektado dahil sa (There are areas with storage problems since some are still without power. There are also some vaccinators affected by the) Omicron surge but they have fully recuperated and they are going back to work. The government is doing all its efforts to help build again those Odette stricken areas,” Corrales said.



The country was at the height of its national vaccination days in December when "Odette" struck provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, causing massive flooding and power outages that went on for days, disrupting the vaccination program in many areas.

Corrales was among the officials who welcomed the arrival of 455,130 doses of government procured Pfizer vaccine Wednesday night at the NAIA Terminal 3.

Corrales said the latest vaccine shipment was intended for the adult population and does not include the reformulated Pfizer jabs for children 5 to 11 years old. **(PNA)**



Alert level system, protocols should stay despite drop in cases

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz [February 3, 2022, 5:09 pm](#)



Infectious diseases expert Dr. Edsel Salvana (*Presidential Photo*)

MANILA – An infectious diseases expert on Thursday recommended that minimum public health standards and the alert level system should continue to be enforced despite a notable drop in the country's Covid-19 cases.

In a Laging Handa briefing, Dr. Edsel Salvaña—a member of the Department of Health's (DOH) Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Disease—said abolishing the alert level system at the moment is not “timely” as a shift to Alert Level 1 would allow for the return to “100 percent” capacity of the country's economy while maintaining minimum health protocols.

“Kailangan rin natin ng framework na kung biglang tumaas iyong mga kaso, then mayroon tayong calibrated response para hindi tuluy-tuloy iyong paglaganap at mapi-pressure naman po ang ating mga ospital (We need a framework if there's a sudden spike in cases, then we have a calibrated response so there wouldn't be continuous spread and pressure to our hospitals),” Salvaña said.

Despite optimism among the infectious disease experts of the DOH's Technical Advisory Group due to the continuing trend of fewer Covid-19 cases, he said the disease should not be “underestimated” to avoid being taken by surprise by possible new variants.

“Sinabi na ng WHO [World Health Organization], malayo pa 'yung end noong pandemic 'no. Mayroon pa rin tayong inaasahan na baka may mga lumabas pa na bagong variants (The WHO said that the end of the pandemic won't be that soon. We're still expecting new variants to come out),” Salvaña said.

He said other countries that have eased down health protocols to the point of not requiring face masks in public should not be emulated, and the Philippines should instead follow a “care and science-based” approach.

“Hindi po ibig sabihin na dahil mababa ang kaso, tatanggalin na natin lahat itong pagmamask at pagpi-physical distance dahil alam natin na nandiyan pa rin naman iyong virus at puwede pa rin siyang umusbong ulit (It doesn't mean that because cases are low that we should stop wearing mask or physical distancing because we know that virus is still out there and it can still spread again),” Salvaña said.



The current drop in Covid-19 cases, he said, can mainly be attributed to a large portion of the population being vaccinated and continued compliance with minimum public health standards.

To maintain the current drop in Covid-19 cases, he urged the public to get themselves fully vaccinated and to receive a booster shot.

“Tuluy-tuloy naman iyong proteksiyon against severe disease ng kahit dalawang doses lang ng bakuna, mas maganda talaga na mayroon tayong third dose lalung-lalo na doon sa ating vulnerable population dahil over time nagkakaroon talaga ng waning ng protection (There is continued protection against a severe disease even with two vaccine doses, but it’s better to have a third dose especially those among the vulnerable population as the protection it provides wanes over time),” Salvaña said.

To date, there are 153,335 active Covid-19 cases in the country after 8,702 new cases and 15,290 new recoveries were reported on Thursday, a drop from Wednesday’s 160,297 active cases. **(PNA)**



COVID-19, HINDI PA ENDEMIC – DOH

MULA SA P1

Ayon kay Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire, ang turing pa rin ng World Health Organization (WHO) dito ay pandemic.

“Bumababa ang kaso pero we cannot still say that it’s endemic already kasi mayroon pang ibang factors. Katulad noon, kailangan mataas ang immunity ng isang lugar,” saad ni Vergeire.

“Yong immunity nakukuha natin, of course, vaccination is very important and of course mayroon ding natural immunity kapag nagkakasakit ‘yong mga tao,” dagdag niya.

Sinabi pa ng DoH official na kailangang mababa rin at katanggap-tanggap ang bilang ng mga namamatay sa sakit.

Kung matatandaan, ibinaba na sa “moderate” ang risk classification ng Pilipinas para sa COVID-19 at batay na rin sa datos ng DOH na binabantayan ng OCTA Research, lumalabas base sa ginagamit na indicators na ang mga lungsod ng Angeles, Dagupan, Lucena, Olongapo at Naga ay “moderate” risk na rin.

Negatibo na daw ang growth rate sa

nasabing mga lungsod at mas mababa na rin ang reproduction number at inaasahang mas bubuti pa ang mga binabantayang numero sa iba pang mga lugar sa mga susunod na araw.

Hindi pa man magawa ng Pilipinas sa ngayon ang ginagawa ng ibang bansang pag-alis sa pandemic health protocols, sinabi ni Vergeire na nagpaplano na ang pamahalaan ng mga hakbang sa oras na posible nang maalis ang “pandemic stage” ng COVID.

“We are discussing but we don’t really want to define it as an exit strategy because everything is still evolving, we are still not certain. Pero mayroon na tayong parang transition plan,” sabi ni Vergeire.

Ayon pa sa DoH undersecretary, posibleng maisailalim sa pinakamaluwag na Alert Level 1 ang mga rehiyon sa Pilipinas, kasama ang National Capital Region, pero hindi lang ang bilang ng kaso at health care utilization rate ang titingnan sa ilalim ng Alert Level 1.

“Ang additional metrics para maging Alert Level 1, kailangan mataas ang vaccination coverage... ‘Yong safety seals certification, kailangan may percentage ng establishments na mayroong certified safety seal,” sabi ni Vergeire.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 691

PEBRERO 3, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

4.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
153,335

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

94.2%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,377,958

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,168

MGA BAGONG KASO **8,702**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **15,290**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **71**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,585,461**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 1
DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 3
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 1

25.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

42,446

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS
96.8%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)	44% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)	43% Utilized
WARD BEDS (15.8K TOTAL BEDS)	43% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	24% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)	37% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)	32% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.3K TOTAL BEDS)	36% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	23% Utilized

4,923 Asymptomatic
143,493 Mild
3,067 Moderate
1,528 Severe
324 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

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bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

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seeyoudoc.com
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KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
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CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
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HealthNow



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May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

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



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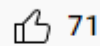
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