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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

DENR, Police partner for greening program in Tarlac

By Gabriela Liana Barela Published on March 4, 2021

TARLAC CITY, March 4 (PIA) -- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Tarlac Police Provincial Office partnered in forest protection and greening program.

Under the agreement, DENR will work with the 10 Municipal Police Stations (MPS) in the 1st congressional district and the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company in protecting and developing the established forest plantations under the National Greening Program (NGP).

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Celia Esteban said the police committed to protect and develop some 20 hectares NGP plantations found in Sitio Canding and Sitio Libag in Barangay Maasin of San Clemente town.

"After three years, the established NGP plantations have no more funds for protection and maintenance and this is where the police will enter to adopt these areas which were established by our partner people's organizations," Esteban explained.

MPS shall also act as the overall project manager and shall take charge in the mobilization of personnel prioritizing in hiring the people's organizations within the area.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Tarlac Police Provincial Office partnered in forest protection and greening program. (DENR)

Moreover, they will be responsible in the funding of survey, mapping and planning, produce seedlings for replanting, maintenance and protection of the adopted plantation.

DENR, on the other hand, shall provide them technical assistance in relation to the project.

Camiling MPS Chief PLtCol. Jovy Arceo conveyed the police's eagerness in the project. "Rest assured, we will protect and develop these plantations to increase forest cover in the province," Arceo affirmed.

This initiative is also in line with Philippine National Police's Kaligtasan at Kalikasan program.

Since 2011, DENR has already established more than 122,000 hectares of forest plantations within degraded watersheds and forestlands in Central Luzon. (CLJD/GLSB-PIA 3)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1068576>



DENR-12 donates 40 TV sets to S. Kudarat schools

By Edwin Fernandez March 4, 2021, 3:07 pm



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS. Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto Mangudadatu (left) and DENR-12 Director Felix Alicer sign the memorandum of agreement on Wednesday (Mar. 3, 2021) for the donation of 40 television sets by the DENR for Sultan Kudarat public schools. The donation intends to raise environmental awareness in schools. *(Photo courtesy of DENR-12)*

COTABATO CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) has donated 40 television sets to public schools in Sultan Kudarat province to help improve its environmental awareness campaign.

In a statement Thursday, Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto Mangudadatu said he has instructed provincial education officials to use the television sets responsibly, even as he thanked DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu for the donation.

“Everybody is having a difficult time because of the pandemic and the donation you made will surely help our schools in Sultan Kudarat,” Mangudadatu said.

On Wednesday afternoon, the governor, together with DENR-12 Director Felix Alicer, signed a memorandum of agreement for the donation that forms part of DENR Project – Task Force Tayo ang Kalikasan.”

Alicer said the donation was part of the department’s effort to promote environmental awareness and sustainable development.

“The best way to promote environmental consciousness is through behavior change and what better way to effect it but through the youth,” Alicer said.

He said DENR-12 is looking forward to a strong partnership with the province for its environmental programs, particularly on land management and biodiversity conservation initiatives. **(PNA)**



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March 4, 2021 2 min read

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Source: https://maharlika.tv/2021/03/04/denr-12-donates-40-tv-sets-to-s-kudarat-schools/?fbclid=IwAR1g4Fe05mU3P48Xn06UCQoeG4QkQB1KV_Mt_gtc8blyMmXvU0IXRo2DvEM



105,000 baby turtles released in Mati City in 3 years

Published March 4, 2021, 2:16 PM

by [Ivy Tejano](#)

DAVAO CITY – The local environmental conservation group Amihan sa Dahican-Save our Seas (SOS) has released 105,000 baby turtles into the sea of Dahican in Mati City for the last three years.

Mati City Information Office (CIO) head Ben Tesiorna said that the city recorded the highest number of released turtles among other cities in the Philippines, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The DENR said Mati City is abundant of marine wildlife that every year, marine turtles or “pawikan” lay eggs on the shore of Dahican. It added that three species of turtles nest on Dahican beach – the Green turtle, the Hawksbill, and the Olive Ridley.

Winston Plaza, one of the founders of the group, said that there are currently 5,000 eggs of Olive Ridley in the hatchery and it will take 50 to 60 days for them to hatch.

Plaza added that a turtle will take an hour to lay eggs because they will dig a hole, lay eggs on it, and cover it again with sand to protect them from predators. “Kung asa sila gipanganak, didto sad sila mubalik para mangitlog. Sensitive sad ning mga pawikan nga kabalo sila kung asa ang limpyo ug safe nga lugar para mangitlog (Turtles usually return to the place they were born to lay eggs. They are also sensitive enough to choose the right place where they can lay and hatch eggs),” Plaza said.

The group also conducts coastal cleanup twice a week to maintain the cleanliness of the beach and save the sea creatures from harm.

Amihan sa Dahican-SOS is committed to help conserving marine wildlife species. They patrol every night on the beach to record turtles laying eggs and relocate hundreds of eggs to the hatchery to protect them from predators.

The group was recognized during the 6th Gawad Bayani ng Kalikasan and was featured in the multinational television channels like the National Geographic and Animal Planet. Aside from marine conservation activities, they offer shelter to kids and help them in their education and share surfing and skimboarding skills with tourists since the team are all extraordinary surfers.



Villar bats for stronger law for wildlife protection

Published March 4, 2021, 6:50 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, on Thursday filed a bill to strengthen wildlife protection and conservation in the country, just in time for the observance of World Wildlife Day this month.



Sen. Cynthia Villar (Senate of the Philippines / MANILA BULLETIN)

Senate Bill 2078, or “An Act Strengthening The Wildlife Conservation And Protection Mechanism In The Philippines,” will amend Republic Act 9147, known As The “Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act Of 2001.” RA 9147 is a measure that provided the necessary environmental policy enabling Philippine government to manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the country comprehensively.

But according to Villar, the 20-year old law needs to be amended as violations remain rampant and many are even undetected.

“Wildlife crimes have also evolved, violators have become more equipped, organized, and syndicated or with international connections. Likewise, the trade and transport of wildlife species have become wide-scale and transnational in nature. Thus, we need to give more ‘teeth,’ so to speak, to existing policies and laws to help enforcement authorities,” Villar said.

The lady senator added that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic intensifies the need to protect wildlife resources to prevent the risks of zoonotic diseases or the transmission of disease from animal to human.

According to the Wildlife Conservation Society, habitat loss forces animals to move to areas populated by people, who become exposed to the pathogens of animals that in turn spread viruses.

Destruction of natural habitats has been linked to the spread of infectious diseases such as Ebola, HIV, swine fever and avian flu. More than two thirds of these diseases originate in animals, and about 70% come from wild animals, or what is referred to as zoonotic diseases.

There were studies also suggesting that COVID-19 virus may have originated from bats and that the first people infected were traders in bat meat, who may have subsequently visited the Hunan (China) seafood market, where the virus spread was first traced.

The Philippines is one of the world’s 17 megadiverse or biodiversity-rich countries, which hosts two-thirds of the Earth’s biodiversity and contain about 70 to 80 percent of the world’s plant and animal species. So, wildlife protection is crucial.

“We need to not only create awareness but to take action because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours. There is so much at stake and we become vulnerable to the adverse side effects if we do not act fast. Thus a stronger law and an even stronger enforcement of it is crucial. Senate Bill 2058 which I filed yesterday will provide timely or relevant amendments to RA 9147” Villar said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/03/04/villar-bats-for-stronger-law-for-wildlife-protection/>



Villar files bill to strengthen wildlife protection in PHL

ByBMPlus March 4, 2021



Sen. Cynthia Villar

Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, filed a bill to strengthen wildlife protection and conservation in the country, just in time for the observance of World Wildlife Day today (March 3).

Senate Bill No. 2078 or “An Act Strengthening The Wildlife Conservation And Protection Mechanism In The Philippines” will amend Republic Act No. 9147, Otherwise Known As The “Wildlife Resources Conservation And Protection Act Of 2001”.

RA No. 9147 is as a measure that provided the necessary environmental policy enabling Philippine government to manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the country comprehensively. But according to Villar, the 20-year old law needs to be amended violations remain rampant and many are even undetected.

“Wildlife crimes have also evolved, violators have become more equipped, organized, and syndicated or with international connections. Likewise, the trade and transport of wildlife species have become wide-scale and transnational in nature. Thus, we need to give more “teeth” so to speak to existing policies and laws to help enforcement authorities”, said Villar.

The senator added that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic intensifies the need to protect wildlife resources to prevent the risks of zoonotic diseases or the transmission of disease from animal to human.

According to the Wildlife Conservation Society, habitat loss forces animals to move to areas populated by people, who become exposed to the pathogens of animals that in turn spread viruses. “Destruction of natural habitats has been linked to the spread of infectious diseases such as Ebola, HIV, swine fever and avian flu. More than two thirds of these diseases originate in animals, and about 70% come from wild animals, or what is referred to as zoonotic diseases.

There were studies also suggesting that COVID-19 virus may have originated from bats and that the first people infected were traders in bat meat, who may have subsequently visited the Huanan seafood market, where the virus spread was first traced.

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“We need to not only create awareness but to take action because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours. There is so much at stake and we become vulnerable to the adverse side effects if we do not act fast. Thus a stronger law and an even stronger enforcement of it is crucial. Senate Bill 2058 which I filed yesterday will provide timely or relevant amendments to RA 9147” Villar said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/04/villar-files-bill-to-strengthen-wildlife-protection-in-phl/>



Stronger laws urged to protect Philippine wildlife

posted March 04, 2021 at 11:10 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Since wildlife crimes have also evolved and violators have become more equipped, organized and syndicated or have international connections, Senator Cynthia Villar vouched to give more teeth to existing laws and policies on wildlife protection.

Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, said this would also help enforcement authorities as the trade and transport of wildlife species had become wide-scale and transnational in nature.

To address this concern, Villar filed Senate Bill 2078, or “An Act Strengthening The Wildlife Conservation And Protection Mechanism In The Philippines.” It will amend Republic Act 9147, otherwise known as the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act Of 2001”.

RA 9147 is a measure that provided the necessary environmental policy enabling Philippine government to manage and conserve the wildlife resources of the country comprehensively.

However, Villar said the 20-year old law needs to be amended because violations, which have remained rampant and many are even undetected, have been evolving.

She also pointed out the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic intensifies the need to protect wildlife resources to prevent the risks of zoonotic diseases or the transmission of disease from animal to human.

The Wildlife Conservation Society said habitat loss forces animals to move to areas populated by people, who become exposed to the pathogens of animals that in turn spread viruses.

“Destruction of natural habitats has been linked to the spread of infectious diseases such as Ebola, HIV, swine fever and avian flu. More than two thirds of these diseases originate in animals, and about 70 percent come from wild animals, or what is referred to as zoonotic diseases,” said Villar.

She said there were studies also suggesting that the COVID-19 virus may have originated from bats and that the first people infected were traders in bat meat, who may have subsequently visited the Huanan seafood market, where the virus spread was first traced.

The Philippines is one of the world’s 17 megadiverse or biodiversity-rich countries, which hosts two-thirds of the Earth’s biodiversity and contain about 70 to 80 percent of the world’s plant and animal species. So, wildlife protection is crucial.

“We need to not only create awareness but to take action because any damage or loss will cost too much for a country such as ours,” said the Nacionalista Party senator.

She further said there is so much at stake and we become vulnerable to the adverse side effects if we do not act fast.

“Thus a stronger law and an even stronger enforcement of it is crucial,” said Villar.



Protecting wildlife

Thursday, March 4, 2021 People's Tonight20



A **SNOWBALLING** move in Congress to protect and conserve the country's wildlife, notably those facing extinction, should be welcomed by all sectors of Philippine society.

This after environmentalists, including ordinary citizens, have raised the alarm signal that impoverished Philippines may soon find itself on the edge of ecological disaster.

No less than Senator Cynthia A. Villar noted that destruction of national habitats has been linked to the spread of dreaded infectious diseases, such as Ebola and HIV.

Villar said that two-thirds of these deadly diseases originate from animals, with about 70 percent coming from wild animals, or what is referred to as zoonotic diseases.

There are also studies suggesting that the COVID-19 virus may have originated from bats, according to Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources.

Earlier, the Wildlife Conservation Society said that habitat loss forces wild animals to move to areas populated by people, who become exposed to the pathogens of animals that in turn spread viruses.

Thus, Villar is on the right track in filing Senate Bill (SB) 2078, which seeks to amend Republic Act (RA) No. 9147, otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

She said the 20-year-old legislation needs to be amended, noting that violations remain rampant and many violations are even undetected. *"Let's give more teeth to the law,"* she added.

Like other well-meaning Filipinos, we share the view of the lady lawmaker that wildlife protection is crucial since the Philippines is one of the world's biodiversity-rich countries.

Villar filed SB 2078, or An act strengthening the wildlife conservation mechanisms in the Philippines, on March 3, when the country marked World Wildlife Day.



Lower House underscores urgency of passing Sustainable Forest Management Act

Published March 4, 2021, 5:19 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

House of Representatives members are confident the Senate will pass soon its own version of the bill providing for sustainable management of the country's forest and forest lands.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The Lower House has already disposed of House Bill 8179 when it registered 228 affirmative and zero negative votes to pass the measure on third and final reading.

The Senate version is authored by Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr and is now pending at the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez, a co-author of Bill No. 8179 or the Sustainable Forest Management Act, said the country urgently needs a clear strategy to conserve and preserve its forests and forest resources.

"Our forested areas have been greatly depleted by commercial and illegal exploitation, conversion, population growth, illegal occupation, and unlawful tree-cutting and wood gathering," he said.

Rodriguez is optimistic that the heavy penalties sought to be imposed for violations of various provisions of the measure will help lessen the continued degradation of the country's forest.

Any person found illegally harvesting, gathering, collecting or possessing forest resources would suffer imprisonment of six years and one day to 12 years, or a fine ten times the value of the resource.

Such offense would be considered as economic sabotage and punishable by imprisonment of 20 years to 40 years if it is committed by at least two persons in an organized and systematic manner, and when the value of the products amounts to at least P1 million.

Illegal forest land occupants would face a prison term of six years to 12 years and a fine of P100,000 to P500,000.

HB 8179 consolidated four different bills filed by Reps. Divina Grace Yu (PDP-Laban, Zamboanga del Sur); Leonardo L. Babasa Jr. (PDP-Laban, Zamboanga del Sur); and Cheryl Deloso Montalla (NUP, Zambales).

Cavite Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said the bill categorizes all forest lands into protection and production forest lands for purposes of management and planning.



He said the bill introduces the Forest Management Agreement which is a contract that the state may enter with qualified persons in connection for the exploration, development and utilization of all forest lands and resources.

“The bill pursues community-based forest management approach in managing forests for poverty alleviation, sustainability, and ensure the participation of all sectors of society in such approach,” said Barzaga.

According to him the bill also creates a community-based forest law enforcement team from representatives of stakeholders in a particular watershed.



Binay urges IATF, LGUs to craft comprehensive vaccine waste disposal plan

March 4, 2021 14 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA — Senator Nancy Binay has urged the IATF, local government units and the private sector to come up with a comprehensive medical waste management plan as Covid-19 vaccines begin to roll-out this year to ensure that medical wastes will be disposed of properly.

In a statement, Binay said she filed Senate Resolution No. 656 urging the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the public and private sectors, to come up with a concrete plan on the proper handling and management of COVID-19 vaccination medical wastes in order to prevent harmful health risks.

“Whereas, based on the Philippine National Development and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines (Interim Plan, January 2021), waste generated at the health care facilities after vaccination may pose harm and risks to the health care workers and communities if not properly managed,” the resolution stated.

According to Binay, proper planning and implementation of managing wastes generated in the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination is required, considering the complexity of the nature of the vaccines. Proper handling, storage, collection, and disposal of the wastes shall be followed to ensure protection of the environment and the general public.

“Mayroon nang interim guidelines ang Department of Health tungkol sa vaccine waste disposal. Pero hindi pwedeng ‘interim guidelines’ lang ang inilalabas natin because this isn’t a temporary problem. What we need is a comprehensive implementable plan. We’re dealing with infectious medical wastes here magnified in millions of used vials... yung basta na lang itatapon sa basurahan, kukunin ng truck ng basura at itatambak kung saan, elevates public health risks,” Binay said.

The senator said the capacity and capability of LGUs, especially from geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, should be a primary consideration, as she emphasized the need for a systems approach in tackling the issue.

“I’m worried about the LGUs. Lahat ba mayroon nakalatag na local vaccination plan at comprehensive medical waste disposal plan? Gaano ba ka-ready ang mga LGU once na magsi-rollout na ang mga bakuna? Without a local vax plan, these concerns could get out of hand, and we should be anticipatory rather than reactive regarding what threatens to be an environmental and public health hazard,” Binay said.



The senator expressed alarm at the snail's pace at which infectious healthcare waste is being processed since the pandemic.

Her resolution cited data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which showed that only 29% of the 19,188 metric tons of Infectious healthcare waste from April to July 2020 has been been treated and disposed of, although the waste has already been pulled out from medical facilities.

"The cause of delay is partly due to the lack of a capacity that waste treatment and disposal facilities have, and partly because waste haulers need permits so the DENR can keep track of where hospital wastes go," Binay said.

She added that the country cannot afford to play catch-up, especially as they plan to vaccinate around 60 to 70 million Filipinos would generate massive amounts of waste.

"Ang apela natin ay gawing part ng checklist ng IATF na magkaroon ng 'comprehensive local vaccination plan' at 'infectious medical/healthcare waste plan' ang bawat LGU. In a span of two to five years, we expect more than 70 million Filipinos ang babakunahan. Dahil double-dose, that would mean over 140 million units for the vaccine paraphernalia alone. Hindi pa natin binibilang kung ilang tonelada ang concomitant waste diyan. It's about readiness. I really hope that the IATF and LGUs are prepared once the vaccines start arriving. Sana seryosohin ng IATF ito, at wag naman ibabaon sa limot," Binay pointed out. (AI/MTVN)



ZERO WASTE TARGET NG PANUKALA SA KONGRESO

11 hours ago [jake](#)



INIHAİN ni Deputy Speaker at Las Piñas Congresswoman Camille Villar ang panukala na naglalayong itaguyod ang zero waste lifestyle sa pamamagitan ng paglilipat ng recycling costs mula sa konsyumer papuntang producers, o mas kilala bilang extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Base sa House Bill 8691 o ang Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2021, producers o manufacturers ang may responsibilidad para sa kanilang produkto, tulad ng pag-recycle at tamang pagtatapon nito na makatutulong sa problema sa basurang dulot ng paggamit ng single-use plastics.

“This may be a new concept for us but this practice has already been observed by several organizations worldwide. As we introduce this concept, we heighten the importance of waste segregation among households and hold manufacturers accountable for the their post-consumer items and packaging,” saad ni Villar.

Layon din ng panukala na bigyan ng benepisyo o incentives ang mga kumpanyang mayroong extended producer schemes.

“Through this measure, we intend to advance awareness on EPR programs although some private organizations and business entities have already adopted such mechanisms in some areas. Also, we are hopeful that Filipinos will pool their used plastic and packaging materials and learn to increase the recycling rate, reuse, or dispose of them at the cost of the manufacturers,” dagdag pa ni Villar.

Iginiit ng mambabatas na kapag naisabatas ito, makatutulong ang programa sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na naglalaan ng malaking pondo sa solid waste disposal, at ang matitipid na pera ay pwedeng magamit sa ilang programa para sa publiko.

Sa katunayan, ilang pribadong organisasyon na ang nag-adopt ng ganitong klaseng programa at gumagawa ng plastic chairs at ecobricks mula sa tinapong plastic wrappers, basag na bote at ceramic.

Plastic ang pinakamalaking kontribusyon sa kabuuang basura sa bansa at dahil dito, pangatlo ang Pilipinas sa biggest polluter kasunod lamang ng China at Indonesia. Mayroong 2.7 million metric tons ng plastic waste sa ating bansa taon-taon.

Ayon naman sa World Wildlife Fund, nagko-consume ng 20 kilong plastic ang bawat Pilipino at tinatayang 15 kilo nito ay nagiging basura. Katumbas lamang ng 9% ang recycling rate sa bansa at aabot sa 35% ng basurang plastic ang napupunta sa kapaligiran.

Base sa datos ng environmental group na Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, single-use plastics tulad ng sachets ang pinakamalaking kontribusyon sa problema sa basura sa bansa. Araw-araw, tinatayang 48 million shopping bags ang ginagamit sa buong bansa at aabot sa kabuuang 17 billion ang nakukonsumo kada taon. Bukod dito, 16.5 billion na “labo” bags ang nagagamit bawat taon.

“We need to act now and support this legislation. Plastic waste is not only a problem in our country but also around the world that threaten our marine life, ecosystem and the environment. We have to step up awareness to bring up our recycling rate and moving to a greener lifestyle such as bringing our own packaging or reusable ecobags when buying,” giit ni Villar. (CESAR BARQUILLA)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/zero-waste-target-ng-panukala-sa-kongreso/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0JHMT2aLJAY748SAbYwkArli30PHv-8433FtEDakHLATfhSWJeFQ009TM



Group joins fight for environment

posted March 04, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Jess Malabanan](#)

CAMP PEPITO, Angeles City—PATROL Partylist Rep. Jorge Bustos said his group has embarked on environmental projects apparently to save the ecology and eventually weather climate change.

Bustos, a former member of the Philippine National Police, distributed cleaning materials to different communities, from broomsticks to shovels and garbage bins, as initial steps to address the sanitation and garbage problem in the countryside.

Thousands of fruit-bearing trees, courtesy of businessman Jose Ma. Hizon, were also distributed to the public.

Bustos said the PATROL Partylist coordinated with religious organizations in Pampanga in making the project a success as he reminded the public to be conscious of the proper waste disposal to prevent the mounting garbage problem.

Part of the project, Bustos said, is to give rice subsidies in exchange for garbage collected in the community and household.

“We have prepared an initial of 50 sacks of rice for the program that is being implemented in Masantol, Pampanga, by the parish church there,” said Bustos on the sidelines of the launching of “SingKwento”, a project of the PATROL partylist focus on environment and peace and order.

At least 50 different organizations, mostly environmentalists and business leaders, have joined the “SingKwento” launching held in this police camp.

PATROL party-list, also known as Partido ng Pamilyang Pilipino, distributed 50 computer sets to different police units in Central Luzon and 50 bicycles for the cops deployed in tourist destination areas.

“This is our own little way in helping our police and the environment. Sana makatulong and go a long way,” Bustos pointed out, adding that the peace and order and restoration of ecology is a shared responsibility between the government and the communities.

“Our main advocacy is about public safety and the importance of balance ecology, that is why we have come up with the “Singkwento” program that has reached as far as Zamboanga del Sur,” Bustos said.



3 OPEN DUMPSITES IPINASARA NG LGU

14 hours ago [jake](#)



TULUYAN nang natuldukan ang operasyon ng tatlong illegal dumpsites sa isang tagong bahagi ng Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal bunsod ng reklamong inihain ng mga residente ng nasabing komunidad.

Sa tulong ng pinagsanib na pwersa ng mga magkakapitbahay at ng lokal na pamahalaan ay nilinis at tuluyang isinara ang tatlong iligal na tambakan ng basura sa Sitio Bato-bato na nakakubli sa likod ng isang malaking gusali.

Ayon kay Vic Badaguas, hepe ng Taytay general services office, sila man ay nagulat sa kanilang dinatnat nang sila ay tumungo sa Sitio Bato-bato, Barangay Dolores para sa isang ocular inspection makaraang maghain ng reklamo ang mga residente sa nasabing lugar.

“Ang nakita namin ay isang kubling tambakan na basura sa dati-rating malalim na bahagi ng Sitio Bato-bato. Sa tagal nang operasyon ng illegal dumpsite na ito, mas mataas pa siya ngayon kaysa sa level ng mga kabahayan,” ani Badaguas sa isang panayam.

Aniya umabot sa 1.7 metro ang lalim ng basurang itinambak sa apat na ektaryang lupain sa likod ng isang kilalang shopping mall.

Lubos din aniya ang panganib sa kalusugan sa mga residente, kabilang ang mga batang kanila pang inabutang naglalaro sa paligid ng naturang iligal na pasilidad na possible rin aniyang pagmulan ng malaking sunog lalo pa’t ang basura ay lumilikha ng methane gas habang tumatagal.

“Shoutout sa `yo ParengKap, unahin mo muna siguro sa iyong mga itineraries ang pagbisita sa iyong nasasakupang sitios kasi malaking problema po itong inyong kakaharapin. Kawawa naman ang kalusugan ng iyong mga residente lalo na ang mga bata... puwedeng pagmulan ng malaking sunog pati ito sir,” pasaring ni Badaguas sa Kapitan ng Barangay Dolores na si Allan de Leon.

Sa isinagawang imbestigasyon ng nasabing tanggapan, lumalabas din aniya na 10 taon na palang nag-ooperate ang tatlong illegal dumpsites, batay na rin sa kanilang pakikipagpulong sa mga residente ng Sitio Bato-bato.

Agad namang ipinag-utos ni Taytay Mayor Joric Gacula na alamin kung sino ang may-ari ng nasabing private dumpsite, mga operator sa likod ng operasyon, maging ang mga protektor sa likod ng iligal na tambakan ng basura, para sa pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mga responsable sa likod ng operasyon ng naturang open-pit dumpsite.

Mahigpit na ipinagbabawal sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, ang anomang uri ng open-pit dumpsite. Malinaw rin na sinasabi sa nasabing batas ang responsibilidad ng barangay na tiyakin ang pagpapatupad ng RA 9003 sa bawat komunidad lalo pa’t sila ang higit na nakakaalam sa mga kaganapan sa pinakamaliit na unit ng lipunan batay sa Local Government Code. (FERNAN ANGELES)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/probinsiya/3-open-dumpsites-ipinasara-ng-lgu/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR3rOqwuOajKgOMj9xgiN1jWoUvmXepjgzIttkzpYNrtn70LYB-OTbvJcTs



Councilor calls for temporary suspension of quarry applications

[CRISTINA E. ALIVIO](#)

March 04, 2021

A DAVAO City councilor is urging her colleagues to hold in abeyance all the new applicants and renewal of permits for quarry operations but retain those that have existing permits to operate until the result of the study on Davao's river resources is already available.

Councilor Mabel Sunga-Acosta, City Council committee chairperson on peace and public safety, said during an interview on the Kitakaran sa Konseho on Davao City Disaster Radio on March 4, 2021 that the city has received several applications for quarry operation even as it has already approved more than 100 quarry permits.

"Akong gisugyot nga kung pwede dili usa ta magdawat og new applicants (ug) dili usa ta mag-renew. Ang atong ipa-operate katong nag-operate na karon tungod naa nay gitawag nga sustainability of resources study sa Davao River system, gibadgetan na ni ug ang lead agency is ang Cenro -- city environment nato na office ug hopefully according to their timeline mugawas na ang study by September (I discussed with them if we can put on hold new and renewal applications for quarry permits. Those we will allow to operate for now are those that we have already approved. This is because Cenro (City Environment and Natural Resources Office) is currently conducting a study on the sustainability of our resources. We expect the study to be released by September based on their timeline)," she said.

Acosta also said that even with the administration's Build Build Build program, sand and gravel extracted by existing quarry operators are still sufficient to supply for the construction industry.

She added that it would be difficult to revert the actions if the study finds out the certain area is already over-extracted.

"Kay ngano, lisod kaayo ibalik ang sand and gravel kung na-extract na nimo. Mas maayo pa let's go to the conservative route and seek a balance between progress (or) kining economy and environmental protection (You cannot return the sand and gravel you extracted from where you got it. It is better now that we conserve and seek a balance between our economic progress and environmental protection)," Acosta said.

She said economy and environmental protection must not compete with each other but must complement each other.

Acosta also identified challenges in the quarry operations. She said based on the community where quarrying is being done, it has been observed that quarry operators are using bigger trucks than what is legally allowed.

Aside from that, those who are holders of legal or official quarry permits are subcontracting, which means that legal operators allow other operators who have no official permit to quarry using their permits.

Illegal quarry operators also pose challenges that could result in over-extraction.

These, she said, must be strictly monitored. However, as to how, Acosta said the office that could answer this is only the Davao City Environment Office (Cenro).

Last August 12, 2020, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio released an Executive Order (EO) 48, creating an inter-agency task group to address issues relating to quarrying activities in the city, especially the unregulated and illegal operations.

The task group is composed of the head of Cenro as chairperson, the head of the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau (MGB)-Davao Region as vice-chairperson, and the head/representatives of the City Engineer's Office (CEO), City Planning and Development Office (CPDO)-Zoning Division, City Treasurer's Office (CTO), Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR), Mindanao Association of Mining Engineers, Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. (SFFI), and Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) as members.



They are tasked to conduct regular ocular inspections, prepare reports on violations and recommendations, monitor and ensure all terms and conditions of quarry permits are complied with, formulate mitigating measures to properly address any negative environmental impact during operation, and make a periodic report to the mayor.

In EO, the mayor emphasized the need to address all issues and to guarantee the proper implementation of quarrying laws and other related policies and ordinances.



Pampanga reaches P1-B mark in quarry revenues

By Jerry Hernandez

March 4, 2021

Revenues from quarry operations in Pampanga reached the P1-billion mark in February 2021, according to a report.

The figure includes P1,036,607,994 revenue from quarry taxes and sand and gravel fees that was collected from July 2019 to February 2021.

It consists of collections from sand tax; administrative fee; weighing scale fee; sand and gravel permit; and motor vehicle and heavy equipment accreditation, including fines and penalties.

The highest monthly collection was made last month — P72.8 million.

In a statement, Gov. Dennis Pineda thanked the quarry associations and the provincial treasurer's office for the surge in collection and proper regulation of the industry.

“The amount we collected proved that the monitoring and collecting system we put in place is efficient. Taxing according to actual volume hauled is right. This also showed that quarry operators and haulers are also cooperating with our policies,” he said.

Pineda added that high collections bring benefits to the communities that augment more funds to Pampanga's local income, especially in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the province's initiatives to respond to Covid-19 include setting up of quarantine facilities, establishing the “Balik Pilipinas, Balik Pampanga” program for returning Kapampangans, putting up of mobile and fixed swabbing centers, converting permanent evacuation centers as isolation areas, improving transportation fleet and supporting publictransport and monitoring of testing laboratories.

Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991 distributes the sand tax at a 40-30-30 percent sharing to barangay, towns or cities and province, respectively.

Meanwhile, Porac Sand and Gravel Quarry Operators Association Inc. donated two ambulances to the provincial government to boost its health care program.

ASEAN voices biodiversity concerns at virtual UN body meeting

By ACB Published on March 4, 2021



Photo by ACB.

LAGUNA, Mar. 4 -- The ASEAN Member States participated in a series of informal sessions of the United Nations' Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and voiced national and subregional positions in preparation for the subsidiary body's formal meeting taking place later this year.

Delivering the sub-regional positions of the ASEAN, the Philippines welcomed the proposed recommendations to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Conference of Parties to address modalities for modifying descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and for describing new areas.

"These modalities will strengthen the system of EBSAs, which can help the international community effectively manage these areas to contribute to the overall goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF)," the Philippines said in its intervention during a session on marine and coastal biodiversity.

With 2000 pre-registered participants, the open-ended intergovernmental scientific advisory body held these sessions 17-19 and 24-26 February, providing an opportunity for Parties and observers to exchange opinions on key agenda items as part of the process to develop a scientifically and technically sound post-2020 GBF.

This framework will be further reviewed for adoption later this year at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the CBD that will be hosted by the Government of China.

The ASEAN Member States through the Philippines' intervention called for support for the adoption of an integrated coastal management approach, and efforts to reduce pressures to marine and coastal issues and increase the coverage and improve the management of marine protected areas.

Meanwhile, Thailand expressed support for the inclusion of marine debris in the post-2020 GBF to strengthen the conservation of marine biodiversity.

"The regional effort for marine debris management should be prioritised and enhanced. For example, the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, which reflects the cooperation between ASEAN member states to address the challenges at the regional level, will also significantly facilitate CBD's implementation and can be applied as a model for other regions," Thailand said.



In the session on biodiversity and agriculture, Thailand encouraged the CBD parties to integrate sustainable agricultural practices into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national agricultural strategies according to their national circumstances.

Expressing concerns on the negative impacts of agricultural wastes on soil biodiversity and climate change, Thailand recommended that agricultural waste management and appropriate use of fertilizers to control pests be added in sustainable soil management practices in the draft plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity.

Indonesia in its intervention called for greater global efforts to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts and implications of invasive alien species (IAS).

It noted that the ASEAN region has made significant progress in consolidating ongoing efforts in IAS management and exchanging essential taxonomic information useful for agencies that are managing IAS through the ASEAN IAS Database.

At present, an action plan for IAS is being developed based on the results of the baseline study on the IAS management in the ASEAN region, and this will be augmented by other activities, such as capacity building, training, and knowledge exchange.

Meanwhile, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim underlined the use of indicators in the preparation of national reports and the value of a simple monitoring framework that uses a select set of headline indicators in tracking the progress in the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF.

"The proposed headline indicators will be relevant, as the ACB facilitates coordination in the ASEAN region to disaggregate such headline indicators into component indicators that suit the needs and capacities of the AMS," she said.

The ACB is an intergovernmental organisation that facilitates and coordinates biodiversity-related actions in the 10 ASEAN Member States. (ACB)



No water shortage in Metro Manila this year

By Azer Parrocha March 4, 2021, 1:27 pm



CABINET MEETING. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte presides over the 53rd Cabinet Meeting at the Malacañan Palace on Wednesday night (March 3, 2021). Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has assured during the meeting that Metro Manila will have enough water supply for the public this year with the dry season's peak fast approaching. (Presidential photo by Karl Norman Alonzo)

MANILA – Metro Manila will have enough water supply for the public this year with the dry season's peak fast approaching, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said Thursday.

Nograles said the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) made this assurance during Wednesday night's Cabinet meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte.

"According to the MWSS Chair and OIC Admin Reynaldo Velasco, we expect to have a sufficient supply of water this year in Metro Manila. *Wala ho tayong water shortage dito sa Maynila* (There won't be a water shortage in Manila)," Nograles said in a virtual presser.

He said the MWSS is also taking steps to ensure adequate water supply this summer and is working to fast-track several projects that will address the water requirements of Metro Manila in the long run.

These projects are The New Centennial Water Source or Kaliwa Dam project, the Long-Term Water Source Development for Metro Manila project or the Upper-Kaliwa and Kanan River, the East Bay Water Supply Project Phase 1 and Phase 2, the Wawa-Calawis Water Supply Project Phase 1 and Phase 2.

"Altogether these projects will be able to supply a total of 1.368 million liters per day," he said.

In March 2019, rotation water service interruptions hit Metro Manila and nearby areas.

President Rodrigo Duterte threatened to fire MWSS officials and revoke the contracts with water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynila.

The two water concessionaires said the rotational water service interruptions were caused by the continued drop in Angat and Ipo dams' water level.

Last November, Duterte directed the Department of Justice to discuss with the two water concessionaires about the proposed revision of their existing contracts.

Finishing touches

Nograles said the government is making "finishing touches" on proposed new water concession agreements with Maynilad and Manila Water which Duterte approved last year.

"*Abangan natin ang latest developments tungkol dito. Pero yung inatas ni Pangulong Duterte* (Let's wait for the latest development about this. But President Duterte directed the concerned agency) to work out the new concession agreements are already within their final stages, finishing touches na lang po (is all that's left)," he said.

Nograles assured that the Department of Justice (DOJ) "knows(s) what to do."



“This is being finalized, finishing touches *na lang* then *‘yun nga pakikipag-negotiate na* (are left and then negotiation),” he added.

New deals were pushed by Duterte after he ordered the review of the government’s existing deals in 2019.

The revision process is eyed to do away with lopsided arrangements unfavorable to consumers which include provisions that left them with no choice but to shoulder billions of pesos in corporate income taxes.

A DOJ panel of reviewers found numerous onerous provisions in the water concession agreements with the two water concessionaires.

This stemmed from a decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in Singapore which directed the Philippine government to pay PHP7.4 billion to Manila Water and PHP3.4 billion to Maynilad for the losses they suffered from unenforced water rate increases. **(PNA)**



PH receives 1st batch of AstraZeneca vaccines through COVAX

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [March 5, 2021, 12:13 am](#)



COVAX VACCINES. Cargoes containing the 487,200 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine are being unloaded from a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines aircraft that arrived at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Thursday night (March 4, 2021). It marked the first delivery of the life-saving shots against Covid-19 through COVAX Facility and the second batch after the China-donated 600,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines that arrived on Feb. 28. *(PNP photo by Joey Razon)*

MANILA – A total of 487,200 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine have finally arrived in the Philippines on March 4, marking the first delivery of the life-saving shots against SARS-CoV-2 through COVAX facility.

The KLM commercial flight carrying the vials from Belgium that landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 at past 7 p.m. were personally welcomed by President Rodrigo Duterte, senior government officials, and members of the diplomatic corps.

WHO Representative to the Philippines Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe said this first batch of supply is a "testament to the strength of collaboration, cooperation, and compassion."

He thanked all donor countries, mostly from Europe for their contribution and investments that made the consignment of safe and effective vaccines to Manila possible.

The first batch of AstraZeneca vaccines was produced in South Korea and donated by more than a dozen countries, including Australia, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Norway, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, and Greece.

"The consignment received today will be followed by up to 4.5 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines scheduled to arrive before the end of May in batches in addition to other vaccine stated to be delivered to the Philippines through the COVAX Facility," Abeyasinghe said in his speech.

The vaccine supply from COVAX is expected to cover at least 20 percent of the country's population, with medical front-liners, the elderly, and those suffering from co-morbidities as priorities.

"Standing together in solidarity has indeed made us stronger," he said. "We honor the government of the Philippines for the strong leadership provided under the leadership of President Rodrigo Duterte throughout the response and the dedicated team of the Department of Health."

Abeyasinghe said WHO's work with the Philippine government also includes supporting the DOH in strategic planning, demand generation, and establishing a "robust information system" for vaccine tracking and user monitoring.

"The WHO, UNICEF, and other UN organizations and our partners in the Philippines and our donors look forward to supporting the Covid-19 vaccination campaign throughout the country," he added.

Duterte said the latest delivery would boost the national vaccination program.

"The need for international solidarity and cooperation cannot be made clearer than this pandemic because no one is safe globally until everyone is safe," he said.



He enjoined all government agencies to actively institutionalize and sustain the whole-of-government approach, while asking the public to cooperate and get vaccinated.

"Be the government's partner in preventing further spread of the disease. I encourage you to get vaccinated at the soonest possible time. These vaccines are safe and they are the key to reopening our society, " he said.

Meanwhile, he commended vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez, the Inter Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the DOH for their efforts throughout the government's pandemic response.

He also expressed the country's gratitude to all COVAX donor countries and reiterated his earlier position that these shots "should be treated as a global public good."

"I don't know how to express my gratitude to the donor countries that you remembered the poor nations [it] is in fact already a plus for humanity. And in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines and of the people, and all, I'd like to say again that we felt the gratitude in our hearts and may God bless you for your benevolence," he said.

The vaccines were transported to Metropac in Marikina for storage, with distribution expected to start immediately after repackaging.

In a statement, the EU Delegation in Manila said the bloc, as one of the contributors in the COVAX Facility, has so far provided PHP130 billion to help 92 low and middle-income countries, including the Philippines.

"Team Europe is proud to contribute to the COVAX facility to help provide affordable and fair access to vaccines for Filipinos. Under COVAX, the Philippines will receive vaccines for 22 million Filipinos," said EU Ambassador to the Philippines Luc Véron.

Véron along with other members of the diplomatic corps in the Philippines witnessed the vaccines delivery at the Villamor Air Base.

Among those present are Italian Amb. Giorgio Guglielmino, British Amb. Daniel Pruce, Norway Amb. Bjorn Jahnsen, Spanish Amb. Jorge Sanchez, the Netherlands Amb. Saskia DeLang, German Amb. Anke Reiffenstuel, India Amb. Shambhu Kumaran, South Korean Amb. Kim In-Chul, French Amb. Michéle Boccoz, and Australian Amb. Steven Robinson. **(PNA)**



Pinatubo on Alert Level 1 amid ‘low-level of unrest’ after 25 years

By Arlie O. Calalo

March 4, 2021

THE Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Thursday raised Alert Level 1 (Low-level unrest) after it detected a “low-level of unrest”.

Phivolcs Chief Renato Solidum said the seismic activity “may be related to tectonic processes beneath the volcano although no imminent eruption is foreseen”.

Phivolcs said entry into the Pinatubo crater area must be conducted with extreme caution and should be avoided if possible.

Communities and local government units surrounding Pinatubo are reminded to be always prepared for both earthquake and volcanic hazards and to review, prepare and strengthen their contingency, emergency and other disaster preparedness plans, it said in its bulletin.

Solidum said that while there was “currently no threat, communities and local government units surrounding the volcano, nonetheless, have to be reminded to be always prepared for both earthquake and volcanic hazards and to build on the lessons of what they have experienced in the past years”.

Solidum said the agency is closely monitoring the volcano’s condition.

The Pinatubo Volcano Network (PVN) has detected since Jan. 20, 2021 a total of 1,722 imperceptible earthquakes beneath the Pinatubo edifice.

The first cluster of earthquakes from January 20 to 26 occurred along the Sacobia Lineament at depths of 15-28 kilometers and ranged between magnitude 1.0 and 2.5, Phivolcs said.

This was succeeded by a more persistent cluster of earthquakes occurring along a north-northwest-south-southeast-trending structure 10 to 35 kilometers beneath the center of the edifice itself, with a few shallower earthquakes occurring on both ends of the cluster, it said further.

The volcano, located in Botoan, Zambales, had a cataclysmic eruption on June 15, 1991, after laying dormant for 600 years, killing hundreds of people, displacing thousands of others from the surrounding provinces and closing down the two US bases in the Philippines — the Clark Airbase and Subic Naval base in Pampanga and Zambales.

The US Geological Survey, on its website, said volcanic ash circled the globe, causing temperatures to drop temporarily from 1991 through 1993 by about 1°F (0.5°C).

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/04/news/pinatubo-on-alert-level-1-amid-low-level-of-unrest-after-25-years/847340/>



Bulkang Pinatubo itinaas sa 'Alert Level 1' matapos ang maraming taon

(Philstar.com) - March 4, 2021 - 10:07am



Satellite image ng Bulkang Pinatubo mula sa kalawakan
Google Maps

MANILA, Philippines — Matapos manahimik nang maraming taon, iniakyat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) ang alerto sa Bulkang Pinatubo dahil sa patuloy na aktibidad at ligalig na iinakikita nito.

'Yan ang inanunsyo ng Phivolcs matapos umabot sa 1,722 ang mahihinang lindol sa ilalim ng Bulkang Pinatubo mula ika-20 ng Enero 2021, ayon sa Pinatubo Volcano Network.

"Bunsod ng paulit-ulit na paglindol, ang DOST-PHIVOLCS ay nagtataas ng alerto ng Bulkang Pinatubo mula Alert Level 0 patungong Alert Level 1," sabi ng Phivolcs kanina.

"Ito ay nangangahulugang mayroong bahagyang pagligalig na maaaring dulot ng tectonic na kaganapan sa ilalim ng bulkan at hindi naman namamataan ang pagputok nito sa nalalapit na panahon."

PINATUBO VOLCANO BULLETIN

04 Marso 2021

7:00 ng Umaga [#PinatuboVolcano](#) <https://t.co/Wb38gT4TNc> pic.twitter.com/mfufGKxxkm

— PHIVOLCS-DOST (@phivolcs_dost) [March 4, 2021](#)

Umabot sa magnitude 2.8 na lindol ang pangalawang kumpol ng mga pagyanig sa paligid ng Pinatubo na nasa hilaga-hilagang kanluran at timog-timog silangan ng bulkan at may lalim na 15-25 kilometro.

Ang lahat ng mga naitalang lindol sa ngayon ay dulot ng mga pagbitak ng bato sa ilalim ng bulkan, ayon sa pamahalaan.

Malubhang pinag-iingat ngayon at pinaiiwasan ang pagpasok ninuman sa Pinatubo Crater hanggang maaari.



"Ang mga pamayanan at lokal na pamahalaan sa paligid ng Pinatubo ay pinaaalalahanan na laging maging handa laban sa mga panganib ng lindol at pagputok ng bulkan at muling suriin, ihanda at pagtibayin ang kanilang contingency, emergency at iba pang planong paghahanda laban sa sakuna," patuloy ng state volcanologists.

Patuloy namang nagmamanman ang Phivolcs sa pamamagitan ng pagdadagdag ng mga himpilan sa PVN at may dalas na geochemical survey ng Pinatubo Crater. Oobserbahan din ang ground deformation gamit ang satellite data.

[Ika-15 ng Hunyo, 1991](#) nang matatandaang magdilim nang husto sa paligid ng bulkan kasabay ng pagluwa nito abo, bato at iba pang volcanic material sa kalangitan.

Maraming winasak na tahanan, bukirin at imprastruktura ang bulkan at pumatay ng dose-dosenang tao kasabay ng pag-displace ng libu-libong pamilya.

Kinikilala ng mga geologists ang 1991 eruption nito bilang isa sa pinakamalakas sa nakaraang siglo. — **James Relativo**



Toxic climate killed 1,500 Britons since 2000

By Global Times

March 4, 2021

YORK: At least 1,500 deaths in Britain can be directly linked to climate change since 2000, as the country grappled with severe heat waves, while four major floods caused billions in financial losses, Oxford University scientists said on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

In a study, they analyzed existing data from two deadly heat waves in 2003 and 2018, as well as four floods between 2000 and 2016 that cost about an estimated \$18 billion in losses. They found that at least half of the total damages and deaths that occurred could be attributed to climate change.

Friederike Otto, acting director of Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute and one of the study's authors, said far more data needed to be collected and analyzed worldwide for the true consequences of climate change to be understood.

If metrics were agreed, "I think it would become far more obvious to everyone that the impacts of climate change are real and not something that will happen in the future and to someone else... but that they are upon us and costing lives here and now," said Otto.

The authors looked at the two specific British heat waves because the influence of climate change on them had already been analyzed, although others also occurred in the time frame.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius compared with preindustrial levels, more than 190 countries must submit action plans setting out measures to combat climate change.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/04/news/world/toxic-climate-killed-1500-britons-since-2000/847289/>



Food waste: Amount thrown away totals 900 million tonnes

By Victoria Gill Science correspondent, BBC News

Published 6 hours ago



More than 900 million tonnes of food is thrown away every year, according to a global report.

The **UN Environment Programme's** Food Waste Index revealed that 17% of the food available to consumers - in shops, households and restaurants - goes directly into the bin.

Some 60% of that waste is in the home.

The lockdown appears to have had a surprising impact - at least in the UK - by reducing domestic food waste.



CHRIS TERRY

image captionTV cook, Bake Off winner and food writer Nadiya Hussain has joined the campaign against kitchen waste

Sustainability charity **Wrap**, the UN's partner organisation on this report, says people have been planning their shopping and their meals more carefully.

And in an effort to build on that, well-known chefs have been enlisted to inspire less wasteful kitchen habits.

'23 million trucks of food'

The report has highlighted a global problem that is "much bigger than previously estimated," Richard Swannell from Wrap told BBC News.

"The 923 million tonnes of food being wasted each year would fill 23 million 40-tonne trucks. Bumper-to-bumper, enough to circle the Earth seven times."



It is an issue previously considered to be a problem almost exclusive to richer countries - with consumers simply buying more than they could eat - but this research found "substantial" food waste "everywhere it looked".

There are gaps in the findings that could reveal how the scale of the problem varies in low- and high-income countries. The report, for example, could not distinguish between "involuntary" and "voluntary" waste.

"We haven't looked deeper [at this issue] but in low-income countries, the cold chain is not fully assured because of lack of access to energy," Martina Otto from Unep told BBC News.

The data to distinguish between the waste of edible food and inedible parts - like bones and shells - was only available for high-income countries. Lower-income countries, Ms Otto pointed out, were likely to be wasting much less edible food.



VICTORIA GILL

image caption There is likely to be far less voluntary food waste in low-income countries

But the end result, she said, was that the world was "just throwing away all the resources used to make that food".

Ahead of major global climate and biodiversity summits later this year, Unep executive director Inger Andersen is pushing for countries to commit to combatting waste - halving it by 2030.

"If we want to get serious about tackling climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, businesses, governments and citizens around the world have to do their part to reduce food waste," she said.

Richard Swannell pointed out: "Wasted food is responsible for 8-10% of greenhouse gas emissions, so if food waste was a country, it would be the third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases on the planet."

Tips to reduce food waste:

Plan your portions and buy the right amount: a mug should hold the right amount of uncooked rice for four adults, and you can measure a single portion of spaghetti using a 1p or £1 coin;



Cool your fridge down: the average UK fridge temperature is almost 7°C. It should be lower than 5°C; Understand date labels: a "use by" date is about food safety. If the use by date has passed, you **should not** eat or serve it, even if it looks and smells okay. If something is getting close to the use by date, you can freeze it. A "best before" date is about quality.

In the UK, the average household could save £700 per year, according to Wrap research, by buying only the food they ate.

The lockdown effect



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image caption Throwing away food can also mean that resources used to grow it have been wasted

Where food waste is voluntary, the Covid-19 lockdown appears to have had the surprising effect of revealing precisely how it can be remedied.

According to research by Wrap, planning, careful storage and batch-cooking during the lockdown reduced people's reported levels of food waste by 22% compared with 2019.

"Being confined to our homes has resulted in an increase in behaviours such as batch cooking and meal planning," the charity said. "But the latest insights suggest that food waste levels are likely to rise again as we emerge from lockdown."

In an effort to avoid that, well-known cooks and chefs have lent their names and social media profiles to the campaign against kitchen waste.

British TV cook Nadiya Hussain is working with Wrap and offering tips and leftovers recipes via Instagram. And Italian restaurateur Massimo Bottura, chef patron of Modena eatery Osteria Francescana, which has three Michelin stars, has been appointed Unep goodwill ambassador "in the fight against food waste and loss".

Throughout the lockdown in Italy, his family produced an online cooking show called Kitchen Quarantine, encouraging people to "see the invisible potential" in every ingredient.

While millions of tonnes of food was thrown away, an estimated 690 million people were affected by hunger in 2019. That number is expected to rise sharply in the wake of the pandemic.

Ms Andersen pointed out that tackling waste "would cut greenhouse gas emissions, slow the destruction of nature through land conversion and pollution, enhance the availability of food and thus reduce hunger and save money at a time of global recession".

Follow Victoria [on Twitter](#)

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-56271385>

05 MARCH 2021, FRIDAY



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