

06 NOVEMBER 2020, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR, PLDT-Smart kapit-kamay para itaas ang kamalayan, konserbasyon ng peatlands



November 5, 2020 @ 5:40 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa pamamagitan ng kanyang Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) katuwang ang digital service provider PLDT Inc. (PLDT) at ang kanyang wireless unit Smart Communication Inc. (Smart) para tulungan na maitaas ang kamalayan ng Caraga region sa peatlands sa naturang rehiyon.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, ang peatlands ay pangunahing mahalagang hakbang para sa ligtas na inuming tubig, patulong para ipreserba ang global biodiversity at tulungan ang mapababa ang bagta ng baha.

“Peatlands are dubbed as ‘one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth’ according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature or IUCN because apart from all these uses, they also help mitigate climate change and global warming,” ayon kay Cimatu.

Sinabi ng DENR na ang Peatlands ay isang uri ng wetlands na binubuo ng carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter.

Pinapanatili nito ang pagiging basa.

Ang Peatlands ay pinapanatili ang dalawang ulit ang carbon na ang lahat na may kombinasyon ng pinagsanib na world’s forest.

Kaugnay nito, mahalaga ang papel nito na magpapagaan sa climate change lalo na tumataas na natural carbon sinks ay napipinsala at nananatiling hindi napapansin.

Ang DENR at PLDT-Smart ay pananatilihin ang programa ng konserbasyon sa peatlands sa web activity na nakatakdang isagawa sa Nobyembre 6, 2020 na magsisimula ang Climate Change Consciousness Week sa huling bahagi ng buwan.

Ang Peatlands conservation program ay kabilang ang Caimpugan Peatland sa Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS).

Matatagpuan ito sa Agusan del Sur ang Caimpugan Peatland ang bukod tanging naitala at nananatiling meron peat swamp forest ang pinakamalaki sa buong Pilipinas.



Si PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan ang guest of honor sa virtual event.

Kaugnay nito si Ramsar Convention Secretary General Martha Rojas-Urrego ay may special participation dahil ang AMWS ay denisenyo ng Wetland of International Importance ng inter-governmental treaty on wetlands. **(Santi Celario)**



DENR partners with PLDT-Smart for peatland conservation program

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

November 5, 2020

To help raise awareness on the importance of peatlands, particularly in the Caraga region, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is partnering with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and its wireless unit, Smart Communications Inc. (Smart), to jointly implement a peatland conservation program.

In a news statement, Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu underscored the importance of peatlands, a type of wetlands ecosystem vital in providing safe drinking water, assist in preserving global biodiversity and help reduce flood risks.

“Peatlands are dubbed as ‘one of the most valuable ecosystems on Earth’ according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, because apart from all these uses, they also help mitigate climate change and global warming,” Cimatu said.

Peatlands have peat soils consisting of carbon-rich dead and decaying plant matter.

If kept wet, peatlands can store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests combined. Its crucial role in mitigating climate change, as well as the huge costs that arise when these natural carbon sinks are damaged, remains largely overlooked.

DENR and PLDT-Smart will present the conservation program on peatlands in a web activity that will be held today, November 6, to kick-off the Climate Change Consciousness Week in the latter part of the month.

The peatlands to be featured in the conservation program will include the Caimpugan Peatland in the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS).

Located in Agusan del Sur, the Caimpugan Peatland holds the only recorded remaining intact peat swamp forest—the largest of its kind—in the Philippines.

PLDT Chairman and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan will be the guest of honor for the virtual event.

Also participating in the web event is Ramsar Convention Secretary-General Martha Rojas-Urrego.

AMWS is designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and is recognized as an Asean Heritage Park.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/11/05/denr-partners-with-pldt-smart-for-peatland-conservation-program/>

DENR sends team to investigate lahar flow in Guinobatan, Albay

Marje Pelayo • November 5, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered an investigation into the incident of lahar flow in Barangay San Francisco in Guinobatan, Albay which is being associated with quarry operations at the foot of Mount Mayon.

A team from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is on its way to the site to assess and delve into what caused the incident.

President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the DENR and other concerned agencies to investigate the matter as residents blame the quarrying activities in the area for the lahar flow.

According to Environment Undersecretary Jones Leones, around 100 quarry operators are now under investigation.

Some of them acquired their permits from the local government unit (LGU) while others are said to not have a permit to operate at all, the official noted.

The agency targets to complete its investigation and come up with a report within the next 15 days.

“Kasi ang nangyari doon, because of the heavy rains parang naging shallow ang riverbeds doon. Nagkaroon ngayon ng overflowing. Nag-flooding doon. Saka ang mga buhangin masyadong malakas kasi maraming naka-stock doon sa periphery ng bulkan [What happened there was the riverbeds became shallow due to the heavy rains. The river overflowed; thus, the flooding. And a large stock of sand at the periphery of the volcano came raging down],” Leones explained.

“So noong umulan talagang nagbagsakan ang mga buhangin, mga quarrying materials [So when it rained, the sand and other quarrying materials cascaded rapidly],” he added.

Leones stressed that any operator who will be proven to be guilty of negligence or violations may face administrative charges.

Affected residents may also claim for damages that cause them, the official added.

“Kung may napinsalang indibidwal on the basis of our findings pwede nilang magamit iyon para mag claim sila ng danyos or magkaroon ng criminal case sila against doon sa sinomang nakagawa ng pinsala sa kanila [If any individual was hurt or affected, on the basis of our findings, they could file for claims for the damages or they may file a criminal case against those that cause them damage],” Usec. Leones said.

According to Albay Governor Al Bichara, they will cooperate with the order of the President, but appealed that the investigation should be finished first before suspending the operations as the materials from the quarrying operations will be needed for the rehabilitation of damaged houses and establishments in the province.

“If they will stop quarrying, we will run out of aggregates for reconstruction, rehabilitation of our province, not only that of the region because most of the aggregates come from Albay,” the governor said in a statement.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) earlier noted that lahar or mudflow usually searches an alternative path on the slope of the volcano if the old one turns shallow.

This could also happen to other volcanoes like in Mt. Pinatubo, the agency warns. —**MNP (with details from Rey Pelayo)**

Source: <https://www.untvweb.com/news/denr-sends-team-to-investigate-lahar-flow-in-guinobatan-albay/>



MGB exec sees need for dredging masterplan around Mayon volcano

November 5, 2020 11:28 PM by [Kristan Carag](#)



A house is partially submerged in debris after Typhoon Goni swept through Daraga, Albay province, Philippines, November 2, 2020, in this photo obtained from social media. David Lee/via REUTERS

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) – Bicol Region stressed the need for a dredging masterplan for river channels around the Mayon Volcano.

“Yung mga ilog dito, walang iisang dredging master plan. Iyon nga ang dapat magkaroon tayo,” MGB – Bicol Region Dir. Guillermo Molina confirmed on Wednesday, November 4, during DZRH’s *Coffee Break*.

“Iyon ang susundan nung permits na iissue either ng DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) o ng LGUs (local government units),” Molina explained.

The government official made the call after a lahar flow buried a number of houses in Albay amidst the onslaught of Super Typhoon Rolly in the province.

Molina said that the individual dredging plans of contractors might have contributed to the disaster.

“Kung ano yung slope ng river channel masunod mag-mula sa taas hanggang sa baba, standard. Walang malalim sa isang lugar kasi baka doon nagsisimula yung turbulence ng isang ilog,” Molina said.

Molina said that multiple agencies, including DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), will need to work together in order to create a dredging masterplan.



Lahar flow that killed 5 not caused by quarrying: Albay exec

By Samuel Toledo and Mar Serrano **November 5, 2020, 6:03 pm**



TRAGEDY. Rampaging floods caused by Super Typhoon Rolly on Sunday (Nov. 1, 2020) buried over a hundred houses in mud and boulders in Barangay San Francisco, Guinobatan town in Albay. Five people were killed in the tragedy. *(Photo by Connie Calipay)*

LEGAZPI CITY – After an aerial survey over Mayon Volcano, the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apsemo) has declared that quarry operations did not trigger the lahar flow that killed five people and submerged houses in volcanic debris in a Guinobatan town village at the height of Super Typhoon Rolly in Albay last Sunday.

Cedric Daep, Apsemo chief, in an interview on Thursday said: “We see in the aerial survey that the volume of lahar was too big to be affected by the quarry sites. In fact, it is the opposite. Without quarrying, the river beds and channels at the foot of Mayon, lahar could have had silted immediately these rivers”.

He said, however, it is important for an in-depth investigation to be immediately conducted over the lahar flow incident.

“Really, I cannot find any connection between these quarry sites and the pathways the lahar followed,” Daep told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

He recalled that after a strong eruption of Mt. Mayon in September 1984, a strong typhoon hit Albay and lahar covered the villages of Maninila and Tandarora in Guinobatan; Budiao-Banadero-Matnog channel in Daraga; and Bulawan River in Binitayan in Malilipot, all towns surrounding the volcano.

“And there were no big quarry operations yet at the foot of Mayon that time when these destructive lahar flows covered rivers and villages,” Daep said.

He added that after the Feb. 2, 1993 eruption of the volcano, a typhoon again came at the end of that year and lahar covered the Mayon Riviera Subdivision and Sta. Misericordia village in Sto. Domingo town, as well as several areas in Daraga and Legazpi City.

“But there was no big quarry site or operation yet taking place in Mayon Volcano when these devastating lahar flows hit populated places,” Daep said.

He recalled that when Typhoon Milenyo came in September followed by Super Typhoon Reming in November of 2006, millions of cubic meters of lahar and volcanic debris flowed from Mt. Mayon, killing at least 600 people while 500 others remained missing until today.

“Again, there are no massive quarrying activities going on in Mayon that time,” he said.

What probably triggered the lahar flow tragedy last Sunday, Daep said, was volcanic materials earlier loosened by Typhoon Quinta that came down the rivers.

“Then when Super Typhoon Rolly brought again torrential rains seven days after Quinta, the rivers could not contain anymore the additional volume of the loosened lahar sediments that instead went to the affected villages in Guinobatan,” he said.



Daep said the occurrences of lahar flow triggered by torrential rains or strong typhoons are part of the hazards posed by a very active volcano such as Mayon.

Meanwhile, Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) regional director Guillermo Molina said a task force created by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) main office in Manila is set to arrive in Albay to investigate the quarry operations and the extent of volcanic materials that cascaded down the slopes of the volcano during the onslaught of "Rolly".

The task force, he said, will be a nine-man team composed of mining engineers, geologists, volcanologists, and representatives from the local government units who would undertake an assessment on the quarry operations and the lahar threat around the volcano.

Molina said the regional task force earlier created would be merged with the one from the DENR central office.

He also said the task force would determine if the terms and conditions of the quarry permit issued to the operators were strictly followed.

The DENR on Wednesday sent a letter to Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara recommending the suspension of all quarry operations around Mayon volcano.

Bichara issued on the same day an executive order temporarily suspending quarry operation in the town of Guinobatan.

When asked why the town was singled out in the suspension order, the governor said, "Quarrying in Guinobatan was the center of the burning controversy, why to burn the entire house (Albay)?"

He lamented that some people who are against quarrying reportedly organized a rally when President Rodrigo Duterte visited the town on Tuesday.

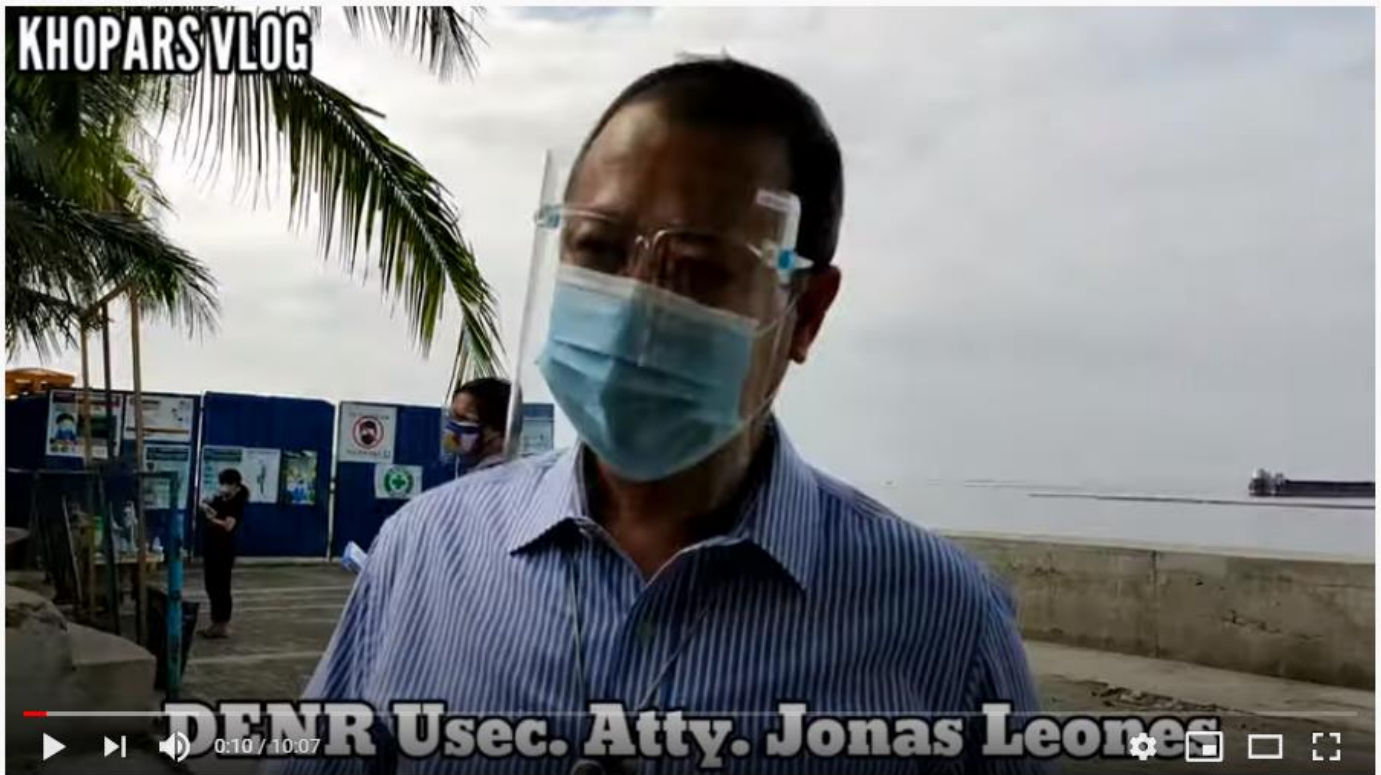
Because of that incident, the President ordered DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu to stop quarry operations in Albay, he said.

Bichara said, "to stop quarry operation is not good since, after the disaster that hit the region, we are now in the rehabilitation phase, we have to rebuild the various infrastructure destroyed by 'Quinta' and 'Rolly'."

"When we stop to quarry, where do we get the aggregates to construct the public infrastructure the government plans to build?" he added.

Bichara said when he took over as governor of the province, he was able to increase the revenues from quarrying from a measly PHP10 million to over PHP200 million a year.

Of this amount, 30 percent goes to the host municipality, another 30 percent to the province, and the rest or 40 percent goes to the host barangays, the governor said. **(PNA)**



#MAYORISKO #YORME #MANILA

DENR NAG SALITA NA! CONFIDENT KAMI SA DOLOMITE SAND!

1,813 views • Nov 4, 2020

👍 120 💬 0 ➦ SHARE 📌 SAVE ⋮



KHOPARS VLOG
90.1K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY (ROXAS BOULEVARD)
NOVEMBER 5, 2020

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbZiRL0vgL0&feature=share&ab_channel=KHOPARSVLOG



MANILA BAYWALK

MANILA BAY SAFE BA ITONG KAIN! DAMBUHALANG MGA ISDA NAG LIPANA! Miz July

30,186 views • Nov 3, 2020

441 likes 11 comments SHARE SAVE ...



Miz July
38.3K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE NOVEMBER 4,2020 Update po tayo ngayon sa may MYC MANILA BAY

#ManilaBay
#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj44UVUqISs&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



MANILA BAY

GRABE! LIBO LIBONG ISDA NA NAMAN! DUMAGSA SA MANILA BAY! MALA AQUARIUM NA SA LINAW ANG TUBIG!

8,257 views • Nov 2, 2020

218 2 SHARE SAVE ...



Vincent Tabigue
115K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#Mayorisko #Presidentduterte #Denroycimatu #Usecbennyantiporda #Savemanilabay
#Libolibongisda #Pinoyabroad #Ofw #Manilabayupdate #Manilaupdate #Vincenttabigue

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n18BYeHzFHA&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=VincentTabigue



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

MANILA BAYWALK

MANILA BAY ITO YUNG AYAW NILA WALANG BASURA! Miz July

11,760 views • Streamed live 23 hours ago

416 9 SHARE SAVE ...



Miz July
38.3K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

MANILA BAY UPDATE NOVEMBER 5,2020 LIVE Update po tayo ngayon sa may MYC

#ManilaBay
#SaveManilaBay

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzK0H0LMVOc&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=MizJuly



MANILA

DOLOMITE SAND AREA INSPECTION NG FOREIGN ENGINEER 11-04-2020

38,603 views • Nov 3, 2020

626 16 SHARE SAVE ...



KUYA RONS TV

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay
#dolomitesand
#rollph

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7v_QtTLNcc&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=KUYARONSTV



SHOW CHAT REPLAY

#manilabay #manilabaytoday #manilabayupdate

WOW! HETO NA! DREDGING VESSEL UMARANGKADA NA! MANILA BAY

188 views • Streamed live on Nov 2, 2020

👍 15 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ SAVE ⋮



MYN Tv
25.8K subscribers

JOIN

SUBSCRIBE

#manilabay #manilabaytoday #manilabayupdate #tatakduarte #manilaupdate #mayoriskomoreno

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FoWO3qNsB8&feature=share&ab_channel=MYNTv



MANILA BAY

ANG TUNAY NA YAMAN SA DAGAT NG Manila Bay! ALL AROUND TOUR LET'S GO!

3,930 views • Nov 4, 2020

167 4 SHARE SAVE ...



kaYouTubero
196K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

#kaYouTubero #kaPatrol #BatangMaynila #MayorIskoSolution #NoToKotong

Video created:

SHOW MORE

Source:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShitI1zgpRs&feature=youtu.be&ab_channel=kaYouTubero



Guimaras, DENR-EMB inks deal to reduce air pollution

Published November 5, 2020, 8:55 AM

by [Tara Yap](#)

ILOILO CITY—The provincial government of Guimaras inked an agreement with the regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-6) – Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-6) to reduce air pollution.



GUIMARAS WIND TURBINES—Wind turbines serve as backdrop for a salt farm in San Lorenzo town, Guimaras province. (Tara Yap/Manila Bulletin)

“What we have is free air, it doesn’t cost anything. But it is our responsibility to maintain it,” said Guimaras Governor Samuel Gumarin.

As part of the National Clean Air Month celebration, Gumarin signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with EMB-6 Regional Director Ramar Niel Pascua.

The MOA is a collaborative effort in addressing the sources of air pollution, particularly motor vehicle emissions.

Gumarin said out that the growth and development of Guimaras, a small island province across Iloilo City, have seen an increase in the number of cars and motorcycles.

“There’s a need to lessen the pollution coming from these sources,” he added.

Gumarin also issued an executive order to create the Guimaras Anti-Smoke Belching Unit (ASBU) and strengthen the implementation of the Philippine Clean Air Act in the province’s five towns.

EMB-6 has committed to provide technical assistance to the province of Guimaras and lend its equipment in monitoring air quality.



Guimaras, DENR-EMB 6 kumilos laban sa polusyon



November 5, 2020 @ 3:57 PM 15 hours ago

ILOILO CITY – Gumawa ang lalawigang pamahalaan ng Guimaras at Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-6)-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-6) ng kasunduan na pangkontrol sa polusyon sa lalawigan mula sa mga sasakyan.

Mismong sina Guimara Governor Samuel Gumarin at DENR-EMB 6 Regional Director Ramar Niel Pascua ang pumirma sa memorandum of agreement at itinaon ito sa National Clean Air Month.

Sinabi ni Gumarin na dumarami ang mga sasakyan, kasama ang mga motorsiklo, sa maliit niyang lalawigan kaya naman ngayon pa lang ay gumawa na sila ng paraan para makontrol ang polusyon sa hangin sa pamamagitan ng pag-iisyu nito ng isang executive order para itayo ang anti-smoke belching unit o ASBU.

Sasakupin ng ASBU ang limang bayan ng lalawigan para ipatupad na rin umano ang Philippine Clean Air Act.

Para matupad ang mga programang kontro-polusyon, pahihiramin naman ng DENR-EMB 6 ang lalawigan ng mga makina para rito at tutulong na rin maging sa mga teknikal na pangangailangan ng una. RNT

Source: https://www.remate.ph/guimaras-denr-emb-6-kumilos-laban-sa-polusyon/?fbclid=IwAR3SrhMNojp4RgWb9HHavhbFJzWPa4XAIf_qCU_rKXDSRBxSoOmrY3haHQ

Biliran Governor offers reward for wildlife poachers

By [Wilmark Amazona, for CNN Philippines](#)

Published Nov 5, 2020 11:54:41 AM



Tacloban City (CNN Philippines, November 5) — Biliran Governor Rogelio Espina is offering a reward of up to P20,000 for anyone who can help identify three men photographed shooting a critically endangered Visayan hornbill.

A post on the [Biliran Island's official Facebook page](#) quoted Espina as saying that the reward would range from ₱5,000 to ₱20,000.

Photos of the poachers as well as the Visayan hornbill were posted by Julius Sabile on social media over the weekend. The poachers were shown using a homemade gun during the incident in a forested area of Libtong village.

Sabile said that he told the men not to shoot the bird but they did not listen to him.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' office in Eastern Visayas said the Visayan Hornbill is one of the identified critically endangered bird species in the country.

It is usually found in the rainforest in the islands of Panay, Negros, Masbate, Guimaras, and Ticao.

The agency added that those found capturing and killing the critically endangered bird could face a jail time of up to 12 years and payment of fine ranging from ₱100,000 to ₱1 million, as mandated under Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

In its last assessment, the [International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species](#) lists the bird as endangered, adding there were only around 1,200 mature individuals in existence.



Rare owl crashes onto car in Pasay

By: [Dexter Cabalza](#) - Reporter / [@dexcabalzaINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:24 AM November 05, 2020



EYES ONLY FOR YOU Pasay City government employee Maria Victoria Bagcat holds the boobook owl that crashed on her car while she was driving to work. The owl, rarely seen although it is native to the Philippines, is now in the care of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. —PHOTO COURTESY OF PASAY INFORMATION OFFICE

MANILA, Philippines — A chocolate boobook, a native owl listed as a “vulnerable” and “near threatened” species, was found in Pasay after it fell on the roof of a car being driven by a city hall employee.

Maria Victoria Bagcat, an administrative assistant at the Pasay City government’s human resources management and development office, said she was driving to work on Tuesday morning on Bradco Avenue in Aseana complex when she heard a thud coming from her car roof.

When she pulled over to see what it was, she saw the medium-sized, brown hawk-like owl lying on the street.

Bagcat took the bird and turned it over to city hall personnel.

It did not appear to have suffered any visible wounds, according to the city information office.

Turned over to DENR

It was later turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) whose personnel identified it as a chocolate boobook (*Ninox randi*), one of the 17 owl species endemic to the Philippines.

The medium-sized bird can be found in areas like Basilan, Cebu, Luzon, Marinduque, Mindanao, Mindoro, Negros and Siquijor.

Deriving its name from its dark feathers, it weighs an average of 191 grams. It has a wing span of up to 24 centimeters and a long tail of 13 cm, according to bird conservation group BirdLife International.



It is described as “near threatened” on the red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature for its “moderately rapid population declines owing to the conversion and fragmentation of its Philippine lowland forest habitat.”

Under DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09, the chocolate boobook is among the “vulnerable” species in the updated list of threatened Philippine fauna.

It lives in lowland forests, but can also thrive in urban areas where there are many trees, such as parks.

The bird is considered a natural pest controller, with rats as part of its usual diet.

Two chocolate boobooks were rescued in May in Iloilo City, with one of them found to have broken its wings.



Helda LUBHANG MAHALAGA ANG BALANSE NG WATER SUPPLY AT WATER DEMAND



November 6, 2020 @ 12:30 AM 6 hours ago

NAPAG-ALAMAN sa interactive Focal Group Discussion na dinaluhan ng inyong Agarang Serbisyo Lady na lubhang mahalaga ang pagkakaroon ng isang matatag na government regulatory agency on water.

Sa kasalukuyan kasi, napakarami ng mga ahensyang may kinalaman sa usapin ng tubig maliban sa National Water Resources Board (NWRB).

Nagreresulta ito sa mabagal na pasilitasyon ng pag-apruba ng mga kinakailangang programa at proyekto.

Kontra rin ito sa kagustuhan ni Pangulong Digong Duterte na mabilis na proseso at pagkilos ng pamahalaan.

Kaya sa National Water Summit noong 2019, lumutang ang pagsusulong ng Department of Water para pagsama-samahin ang water-related agencies and offices.

Patuloy itong dinirinig sa Kongreso.

Isinusulong din ng National Economic and Development Authority na imbes na isang departamento ay lumikha na lang ng isang Water Regulatory Commission katulad ng nasa sektor ng enerhiya at komunikasyon.

Paliwanag nga ng kinatawan ng MWSS, masyadong malawak ang saklaw at sakop ng NWRB na nasa higit-kumulang 3,000 water utilities kumpara sa dalawampung tao na nasa dibisyong tumututok dito, lumalabas na 1:150 ang ratio.

Isa sa napapanahong tinalakay ang pagkakaroon ng balanse ng water supply and water demand.

Magandang halimbawa rito ang karanasan ng Boracay Water District na siyang namamahala sa tubig at sanidad ng buong isla ng Malay na dinarayo ng halos dalawang milyong turista bago dumating ang COVID-19 global pandemic.

Kung maaalala natin, anim na buwang ipinasara ni Pangulong Duterte ang Boracay sa lahat ng turista matapos mapag-alaman na lubha nang nasasalaula ang kapaligiran nito.

Agad tumalima ang mga kaugnay na ahensya ng pamahalaan partikular ang DENR.

Naibalik ang kagandahan ng paraisong isla at upang hindi na maulit pa ang paglapastangan sa kanyang ganda, nilimitahan ang bisita kada araw.



Kailangang gawin ang mga ganitong drastikong hakbangin para maipakita ang kaseryosohan ng pamahalaan sa mga naisin nito.

Kung hindi lang nagkaroon ng pandemya, mas na-excite ang mga turista na puntahan at bisitahin ang isla na may puting buhangin na hindi nag-iinit tamaan man ng matinding sikat ng araw.

Aminado naman ang Baguio City Water District na napakaraming ilegal na water wells sa buong lungsod na hindi naipasasara.

Sa kataasan ng prime tourist destination na ito na halos dalawang milyon din ang bumibisita kada taon, tanging sa underground water lamang ito umaasa ng tubig.

Pag-amin ng ibang mga water district, sa ngayon ay halos balanse pa ang supply at demand, kaya pang magbigay ng serbisyo, pero hindi na nila tiyak sa hinaharap o ilang taon mula ngayon.

Katulad sa Metropolitan Manila at karatig lalawigan na sineserbisuhan ng Manila Water at Maynilad Water Company, kailangan na nitong maghanap ng alternatibo at iba pang mapagkukunan ng tubig dahil sa patuloy na lumalaking populasyon ng NCR at mga lalawigan ng Cavite, Laguna, Rizal at Bulacan.

Para sa Prime Water, magagarantiya ang kakayahan ng underground water kung may naisasagawang Hydrological study sa bawat lugar, para rito rin maibase ang kukunin at gagamiting tubig.

Sa huling datos na aking nakalap, nasa 28.52 billion m³ ng tubig ang nakukuha buhat sa iba't ibang water resources sa bansa.

Sa mga ito, 74% ay nagagamit sa agrikultura, 28% sa industriya at 17% sa domestikong pangangailangan.



VIRTUAL V

Hey!

FMB ADVISORY

All clients of Forest Management Bureau and other stakeholders are hereby advised to direct their queries and concerns through our official email address,

fmb@denr.gov.ph.

Thank you!





Climate emergency

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:08 AM November 05, 2020

Per early assessments, Supertyphoon “Rolly,” the 18th storm to hit the Philippines this year, left in its wake 20 dead, affected 2.1 million in Luzon, displaced 372,381 people, left 53,863 homes without electricity, toppled communication and power transmission lines, and caused over P6 billion in damage to agriculture and public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, public buildings, and flood control structures.

While it eventually weakened when it made landfall, “Rolly” would be the third monster typhoon to hit the Philippines in eight years, after “Yolanda” in 2013 and “Ferdie” in 2016—a grave reminder that the Philippines is facing ever-greater odds due to climate change.

This is, of course, on top of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has also brought to the fore the issues of climate change and environmental destruction affecting the transmission of infectious diseases.

The Global Peace Index 2019, which rates countries according to peacefulness, ranked the Philippines as the country most susceptible to hazards brought about by climate change. It noted that 47 percent of the country’s population live in areas highly exposed to climate hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, typhoons, and drought.

The Global Climate Risk Index 2020, on the other hand, presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 25) in Madrid in December last year, said Japan, the Philippines, and Germany were the most affected by extreme weather events for 2018, suffering the most due to their vulnerability and low coping capacity.

In its climate change risk profile of the Philippines, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) attributed the country’s vulnerability to its high exposure to natural hazards such as typhoons, landslides, floods and droughts; and its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and vast coastlines where the majority of the population live on increasingly depleted natural and marine resources. It further noted that sea levels in the Philippines are rising faster than the global average, putting the population at risk of storm surges and flooding.

For years, the government has been talking about disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, “building back better,” and other soothing platitudes, especially in the wake of yet another natural calamity. And yet, year in and year out, Filipinos die, lose their homes and livelihoods from natural disasters, and government is overwhelmed by disaster response needs. The need for permanent evacuation centers has always been there given the recurring pattern of calamities in the country, and yet few LGUs have had the vision to pursue this course of action, resorting every time to commandeering schools and other temporary shelters. The pandemic has made the problem acutely worse, with the need for more expansive space and basic health facilities (such as running water) to allow for physical distancing and other safety protocols among evacuees.

The Philippines has committed to pushing the implementation this year of the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius through the lowering of greenhouse gas emissions. Countries are expected to submit their gas emission targets, called the Nationally Determined Contributions, this year.



But apart from joining the global response to climate emergency, the country must now seriously examine its game plan to make the country better equipped to cope with climate change hazards.

Filipino climate scientists have urged the government to declare a “climate emergency,” to underline the urgency of the situation at hand. In a resolution submitted in February to the Climate Change Commission, the National Panel of Technical Experts (NPTE) pointed out that using the term “climate change” is no longer sufficient. “It is time to shift from using the term ‘climate change,’ a declaration of an observation, to ‘climate emergency,’ a call to action,” they said.

The NPTE scientists said that “As one of the most climatically vulnerable countries in the world, the Philippines should mobilize its people, institutions, and resources to enhance its ability to prepare and even prosper amidst the climate emergency.” Specifically, data such as natural hazards, exposure levels, and vulnerabilities that would impact on cities and municipalities across the country should be consolidated in a single platform for comprehensive analysis, as a serious start toward the “critical work” of climate risk assessment.

Supertyphoon “Rolly” is the latest shuddering warning that there is no time to lose to fortify the country against the looming climate emergency. Without a comprehensive and coherent response in place, the country stands to suffer even more catastrophic disasters.



Pena: Signal No. 5!

[ROX PENA](#)

November 5, 2020

IN THE 70's and 80's, the strongest typhoons were only Signal No. 3. Today, we have Signal No. 4 and No. 5. Rolly, for instance, was a Signal No. 5 super typhoon with sustained winds reaching 220 km/h. Only two typhoons have so far reached Signal No. 5. The other is Lawin in 2016.

Are typhoons crossing the Philippines becoming stronger? It was in 2015 when the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) modified the public storm warning signal because tropical cyclones have become more intense. Public Storm Warning Signal (PSWS) No. 5 has been added to the storm warning signal.

Is Climate Change to blame for stronger typhoons? I was asked this question when I gave a lecture on Climate Change to high school students at the Angeles University Foundation in Angeles City many years back. My answer was based on basic Science. A typhoon forms when winds blow into areas of the ocean where the water is warm. These winds collect moisture and rise, while colder air moves in below. This creates pressure, which causes the winds to move very quickly.

Since heat is a factor in typhoon formation, I explained (based on common sense) that the hotter the weather, the stronger the typhoon. The hotter weather is due to global warming. My answer proved to be correct. An article in the leading journal Science (Sobel et al. 2016) concludes: " We thus expect tropical cyclone intensities to increase with warming, both on average and at the high end of the scale, so that the strongest future storms will exceed the strength of any in the past."

There was also this study done by researchers at the University of Sheffield, PAG-ASA, the Oscar Lopez Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management (OML Centre). Geographers from the University of Sheffield have analysed annual data over the period from 1951 to 2013 and saw a slightly decreasing trend in the number of smaller cyclones (above 118 kph) that hit land in the Philippines, particularly in the last two decades. More hazardous tropical cyclones (above 150 kph) were shown to be on the increase in recent years, especially in Luzon.

Since we will see more strong typhoons in the future, there is no choice but to adapt. Design of road, buildings, bridges, flood control infrastructures should be based on this new normal. Health care facilities and disaster response plans should likewise be updated. These and all other preparations are contained in the Philippine National Climate Change Action Plan.

Additionally, the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR) is expected to be approved soon. The DDR shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, managing, and organizing national efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risks. It would be an institutionalized agency coordinating the national response to disasters and emergencies, replacing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).



Measures vs threats to biosecurity proposed

Monday, November 2, 2020 Ryan Ponce Pacpaco79

NOTING the entry into the country of various hazardous materials recently, a House leader has filed a bill that could provide for a strategic and integrated approach to analyzing and managing relevant risks from biological and non-biological threats in order to protect human, plants and animal populations, including the environment and the eco-system.

In filing House Bill No. 1336 or Biosecurity Act of 2020, Deputy Speaker and 1-Pacman party-list Rep. Mikee Romero noted that the Philippines, being an archipelagic country with vast coastline and porous borders is vulnerable to different threats or risks to its animals, plants, human (or population) and its environment.

“The different Biosecurity threats may be in the form of foreign invasive species or invasive alien species (IAS) that may affect the agricultural plants and animals. Or infectious diseases that affect humans,” explained Romero, President of the 54-strong Party-list Coalition Foundation Inc. (PCFI).

The Act defines Biosecurity as the strategic and integrated approach to analyzing and managing relevant risks in order to protect the general health and well-being of the country’s human and animal populations, environment and ecosystem from biological threats (posed by diseases and other living organisms) and non-biological threats (including, but not limited to, hazardous and solid wastes; chemical, biological, radiological-nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) materials and weapons of mass destruction) brought or caused to be brought into the country, or used, manufactured or produced which may cause harm, either through malicious intent or negligence. Romero cited Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which specifies that it is the prime duty of the Government to serve and protect the people.

It is the State’s duty and obligation to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the present and future generation of Filipinos, Romero said.

“That hazardous materials can enter the country in many ways. The ballast water of ships from foreign ports, can contain thousands of aquatic microbes, plants and animals, and can be released into the Philippine waters, thus, introducing invasive marine species,” Romero added.

The lawmaker mentioned the case of the Canadian garbage, which was shipped to the Philippines in 2013 via the Port of Manila that made headlines and led to protests by environmentalists and public health activists.

There was also the case of the 5,000 tons of waste from Jeju Island, South Korea that made its way to the Port of Cebu in January 2017, according to him.

He said the shipment of waste may have been intentionally misdeclared since its documents declared it as wood chips and recycled synthetic resins.

“Biosecurity bill is earnestly sought to safeguard the nation’s survival and well-being of the human, plant and animal populations, environment and ecosystem in the face of Biosecurity threats,” Romero stressed.



Protected reefs in Pilar, Sorsogon see notable increase in fish population

Published November 5, 2020, 4:13 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The protected reefs off the coast of Pilar town in Sorsogon have seen a notable increase in fish population, two years after the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines led a study on the extent of damage suffered by the reefs.

In its latest study, the WWF-Philippines, together with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Region 5 (Bicol Region), CBP Marine Services, and Palompon Institute of Technology, found that fish populations have come back in the protected reefs of Pilar, Sorsogon.

They particularly looked at, among other factors, the average biomass of the area that shows how much fish can be expected in a given area.

Based on the study, the average biomass of the reef fishes off the coast of Pilar was listed as “moderate,” but the increase was almost double the average biomass reported during the last reef study conducted in 2017.

There had also been an increase in the number of target species of fish present in the reefs. Target species are selected for long-term study to provide a detailed picture of the progress of an ecosystem. The WWF-Philippines study revealed that “more than a quarter of the reef fish off the coast of Pilar were fusiliers and snappers.”

“This was a marked increase compared to the 2017 study,” it added.

While reef fish populations have recovered, WWF-Philippines said, however, “much of the physical structure of the reef remains in poor condition.”

Hard coral constituted less than 2 percent of the reef, while most of the surface area was covered by soft corals and macroalgae. This is also because of siltation coming from the river that hinders reef-building hard corals to grow, it added.

The study suggested the conduct of coral transplanting and establishment of artificial reefs in damaged areas to help the reef structure recover.

Likewise, it emphasized the ridge-to-reef approach in making management plans among local government units. “Our highlands should also be given equal importance to address siltation coming from the river,” WWF-Philippines said.

“The restoration of the beauty of the marine protected areas of Pilar and of the municipalities surrounding the Ticao-Burias Pass Protected Seascape (TBPPS) will come as a big improvement to the biodiversity of this important region,” WWF-Philippines project manager Jun Narvadez said in a statement.

The municipality of Pilar is part of the TBPPS, which is recognized as an important habitat for whale shark and manta ray.

WWF-Philippines has been active in the Ticao-Burias Pass since 1998, working with local communities toward securing the TBPPS environment for the sake of its wild inhabitants.

The group noted that, in past years, the reefs off the coast of Pilar had been subjected to blast fishing, a practice where homemade explosives are thrown into the sea in order to stun fish and make them easier to catch.



The practice of blast fishing, combined with changes in climate, led to a drop in biodiversity and reef productivity where much of the reef cover had been turned into rubble, and dominated by sand, algae, and soft corals, as opposed to reef-building hard corals, it added.

It noted that a municipal ordinance was put forward in 2005, designating the reefs off the coast of Pilar as a marine protected area (MPA).

The study conducted in 2017 then revealed a small increase in biodiversity since the establishment of the MPA, a trend which continued to the present day, WWF-Philippines said.



PHL's Batangas hailed world's most loved city

By Jonathan L. Mayuga

November 4, 2020



Batangas City, a first-class city in the Province of Batangas, emerged as the global winner in this year's We Love Cities Campaign of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

In a news statement, WWF said the official announcement of the award was held online via Zoom last October 28, which was attended by representatives from WWF national offices and We Love Cities campaign finalists.

“We’re overwhelmed and happy. This challenge brought us together and made us proud as citizens of our city. We want to thank WWF-Philippines for their great support and guidance throughout this challenge.

This means a lot to us, especially since we’ve been hit by the pandemic. The city is doing its best in implementing various initiatives and efforts. We have something new to hold on to, and this is great news to all of us. This win will inspire us to keep on going and to work hand-in-hand for this city,” Oliver Gonzales, Environment and Natural Resources Officer of Batangas City was quoted as saying the news statement released by the WWF.

The We Love Cities Campaign, which has empowered the general public globally with the opportunity to celebrate, vote, and upgrade their city through suggestions made and addressed to decision-makers, is interwoven with the One Planet City Challenge (OPCC) a biennial global challenge organized by WWF to guide cities toward the most effective climate action, while publicly recognizing the most ambitious cities as leaders in the field of sustainable urban development.

Batangas City and two other national finalists—Muntinlupa City and Santa Rosa City represented the Philippines in this year's We Love Cities campaign, WWF said.

All the three Philippine cities ranked into the Top 10, out of 54 cities in 26 participating countries across the globe for the 2020 edition.

Citizens from these countries expressed their love and support for their cities with the campaign garnering over 1,170,000 votes through all channels, 4,600,000 social-media engagements and a social-media reach of 80,000,000.



“Our three Philippine cities that participated in the We Love Cities initiative really stepped up to the plate and did quite well, even as they were addressing the current challenges brought by the pandemic. We are truly honored by their participation. Thus, this We Love Cities award for Batangas City is particularly special. It also highlights the active engagement that Filipinos have with their cities as they promote their solutions, and aim to make their cities more livable, sustainable, and resilient. It is truly aligned with WWF’s call: ‘Together Possible,’” Atty. Angela Ibay, WWF-Philippines’s Climate and Energy Programme Head said.

In addition to recognizing the importance of public engagement in achieving sustainability goals, Batangas City aims to be the first carbon-neutral city in the country by 2030 and has developed comprehensive climate mitigation and adaptation plan to realize this vision.



NATION

Bamboo planting

Published 2 hours ago on November 6, 2020 05:00 AM

By **Andrio Atienza**



Puerto Princesa City residents planted some 500 bamboo seedlings at Gintong Butil Agri Farm in Barangay Sta. Lucia over the weekend.

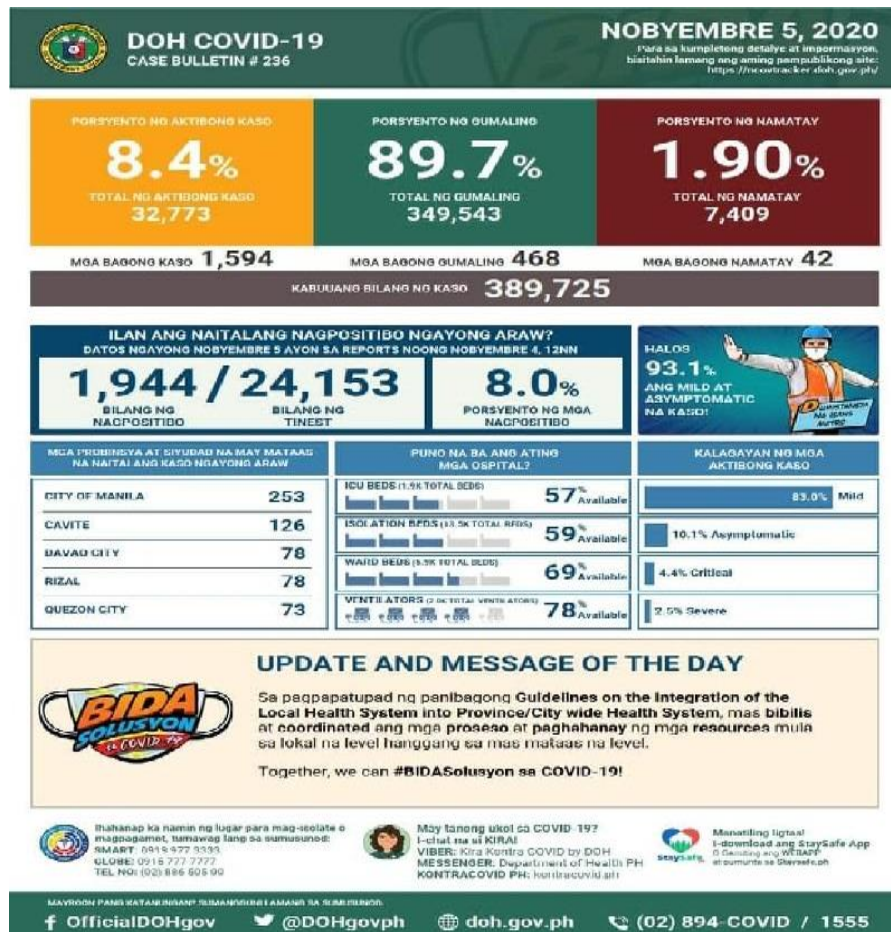
The activity was an advocacy of Reverend Father Benigno Beltran, SVD, executive director of the Children of Mother Earth which manages young performing artists from Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila. He wants to plant at least one million bamboo seedlings nationwide.

The city is planning to start a three-hectare Bamboo Park in the Yamang Butil area of Barangay Sta. Lucia.



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, halos 390,000 na

By Angellic Jordan November 05, 2020 - 04:08 PM



Mahigit 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (November 5), umabot na sa 389,725 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 32,773 o 8.4 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,594 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

83.0 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 10.1 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 2.5 porsyento ang severe habang 4.4 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 42 muli ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 7,409 o 1.90 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 468 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 349,543 o 89.7 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/273791/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-halos-390000-na>



Covid-19 vaccination may start by May 2021: Galvez

By Lade Jean Kabagani **November 5, 2020, 4:30 pm**



National Policy Against Covid-19 chief implementer and Presidential Peace Adviser Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr. (Screengrabbed from PTV4)

MANILA – The vaccination program for coronavirus disease (Covid-19) could start by mid-2021, National Policy Against Covid-19 chief implementer, Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr., said on Thursday.

"The best-case-scenario for the Covid-19 vaccination is May 2021," Galvez said in a Laging Handa press briefing.

"One of our indications for the Covid-19 vaccination is the supply and demand," said Galvez.

Galvez, the government's vaccine czar, said a core group that will fully focus on the vaccination plan will be established.

Vaccine roadmap

Galvez said the vaccine roadmap is set to be approved by President Rodrigo Duterte.

Once approved, the government will immediately meet with a vaccine expert panel to prepare for the national immunization program.

The panel is composed of vaccine experts, technical experts, and scientists who will identify, evaluate, and recommend potential vaccine candidates for the country.

The government, he said, will create a core group to have organized coordination from the national down to the local level.

The task group on Covid-19 vaccine will be led by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Health (DOH).

Galvez said there will be integration of work and efforts within the vaccination task group to hasten the procurement process of the viable vaccine, once available.

"This will enhance the performance and indication measures through the integrated efforts of the agencies, so that, the DOH could concentrate on the immunization program within the local level, at the same time, the selection of vaccine," Galvez said in Filipino.

Meanwhile, Galvez said boosting Covid-19 testing is a good example for the vaccination roadmap where "both the public and the private sector were mobilized together."



"We will do the same here, the vaccination—we will make it available to the public, particularly for those most vulnerable people and the indigents," Galvez said.

He added that President Duterte instructed them to prioritize vulnerable sectors and other marginalized groups for the Covid-19 vaccine.

He said the President wants the vaccine given free to the prioritized sectors and poor communities.

Logistical strategy

In the vaccine distribution, Galvez said the government will use the 'hub-and-spoke' strategy in preparation for the country's logistical requirement for the viable vaccine.

"We are already having an initial planning with the private sectors and also with our logistic officers," he said.

He added that the government targets to conduct a logistical summit to rollout various "complexities" of the vaccine's logistical requirements including shipment, storage, and distribution.

Galvez then urged the public to continue adhering to health protocols and minimum standards while waiting for the availability of the vaccine.

"To be realistic, we have to see the worst-case scenario that the vaccine might be available by the end of [the year] 2021, considering the constraint of the different supply chain wherein the demand of the vaccine is worldwide," he said.

Galvez said the country already has available cold-chain storage.

Some groups in the private sector have already volunteered to help the government prepare the vaccine storage, he added.

"I'm thankful to the private sector for throwing their support to us, like what they did when we ramped up our testing capacity," said Galvez, noting that the private sector and medical companies have vowed to make a decent and non-profit vaccine price once available in the market.

Galvez said the government will sustain the localized programs against the pandemic during the implementation of inoculation for the Covid-19 vaccine.

The vaccine task group will operate under the supervision of the National Task Force and the IATF, he said.

Galvez, meanwhile, appealed to the local government units to start their preparations for the national vaccine program.

The government earlier said it targets to cover an initial 20 million Filipinos for the Covid-19 immunization. **(PNA)**



Pagbuo ng task force na tututok sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na napuruhan ng bagyo, hindi na kailangan – Palasyo

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Nov. 5, 2020 at 6:19am



Naniniwala ang Malacañang na hindi na kailangang bumuo pa ng task force na tututok sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na sinalanta ng mga nagdaang bagyo.

Matatandaang iminungkahi ni Camarines Sur Representative Luis Raymund Villafuerte ang pagbuo ng task force na mangunguna sa rehabilitasyon ng mga lugar na napuruhan ng Bagyong Rolly sa Bicol Region at CALABARZON.

Ayon kay Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque, nananatiling 'top of the situation' si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Nakatutok ang Pangulo sa mabilis na pagbangon ng mga komunidad na tinamaan ng Bagyong Rolly.

Dagdag pa ni Roque, nakapagsagawa ng aerial inspection ang Pangulo sa Albay at Catanduanes at nakita ang lawak ng pinsala.

Inatasan na ng Pangulo ang mga kaukulang ahensya na kumilos at gawin ang kinakailangang aksyon.

Gayumpaman, satisfied ang Pangulo sa kahandaan ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno at lokal na pamahalaan na nakatulong para mabawasan ang bilang ng casualties.

Source: https://rmn.ph/pagbuo-ng-task-force-na-tututok-sa-rehabilitasyon-ng-mga-lugar-na-napuruhan-ng-bagyo-hindi-na-kailangan-palasyo/?fbclid=IwAR0_qli1SV3YdkI22yOjUUXFSt7nVdk_6hzTDYHawojm1aox8q89PyMNob8



'Rolly' damage estimated at P12B in Bicol alone

Published 21 seconds ago on November 6, 2020 12:04 AM

By [John Roson](#)



MANY affected residents are still staying at evacuation areas.

Damage left by super-typhoon "Rolly" was estimated at more than P12 billion in Bicol alone, the Regional Office of Civil Defense unit reported.

The amount included P4.621 billion worth of damage to roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure and P3.119 billion worth of damage to agricultural areas, the OCD-Bicol said in a report emailed Thursday night.

Some P4.061 billion worth of damage was left on schools and other educational infrastructure, and almost P237 million covering school furniture, learning materials, and computer equipment were destroyed, the report said.

Earlier, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported that some P11 billion worth of damage was recorded to infrastructure and agriculture in Bicol, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, as well as regions not directly hit like Eastern Visayas, Central Luzon, Cordillera, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila.

At least 25 persons were reported dead because of the super-typhoon, but the NDRRMC currently recognizes only 20. Some 160 people were reported injured in Bicol alone.

OCD-Bicol reported that of the 354,840 persons displaced in the region during Rolly's onslaught, 105,590 are still taking shelter in evacuation centers and at the homes of relatives and friends.

"Rolly," said to be the strongest typhoon to hit this year, also destroyed 160,559 houses in Bicol alone. Of the number, 132,702 incurred damage while 27,857 were destroyed, the OCD said.

As of 6 p.m. today, the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, and parts of Masbate still have no electricity, it said.

Catanduanes, which bore the super-typhoon's brunt, is also experiencing problems with water supply while some parts of the region still have intermittent to no mobile phone signal, the OCD said.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/11/06/rolly-damage-estimated-at-p12b-in-bicol-alone/>



Residents wash their belongings drenched by Typhoon Rolly in San Andres, Catanduanes on Wednesday.

Ernie Peñaredondo

European Union to provide P63 million in aid for Rolly victims

[Pia Lee-Brago](#) (The Philippine Star) - November 6, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The European Union has announced a rapid emergency humanitarian aid of €1.3 million or roughly P63 million for families affected by Typhoon Rolly that devastated many parts of Luzon.

Janez Lenarčič, EU commissioner for crisis management, said the EU contribution will support the Filipino people through EU's humanitarian partners on the ground who are providing critical support to those hit hardest by the strongest typhoon this year.

“It will not only cover the immediate needs of the most affected populations, but will also help the Filipino people restore their homes and livelihoods so they can get back on their feet as soon as possible. The EU stands in solidarity with those affected in the Philippines,” Lenarčič said.

Typhoon Rolly affected more than two million people mostly in Luzon, including Metro Manila. It also forced the evacuation of 500,000 people as heavy rains and strong wind devastated communities and claimed lives.

The funding is part of the EU's Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT).

Rolly was the world's strongest typhoon this year and the most devastating since Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013. It made landfall early morning Sunday in Catanduanes.

Initial assessments showed that up to 90 percent of homes in the capital Virac were destroyed.

EU said it has sent a humanitarian aid expert to affected areas to further assess the situation.

EU taps ALERT for responding to large natural disasters where over 100,000 people or over half of the population are affected. Depending on the type of disaster, the aim is to allocate funds within 24 to 48 hours of the onset of the emergency.



The United Kingdom also announced it is preparing £1 million for people affected by Rolly in the Philippines and Vietnam.

For the Philippines, the fund will help provide food, clean water and shelter to affected individuals. Victims of extreme flooding will be the fund's beneficiaries in Vietnam.

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Minister for Asia Nigel Adams announced the coming UK aid.

He said the £1 million aid will go to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), through the British Red Cross Society, and to local Red Cross partners and help to provide shelter, clean water, food and support livelihoods for around 160,000 people in Vietnam and 80,000 in the Philippines.

Four typhoons affected over 1.3 million people and submerged 300,000 houses in central Vietnam.

Britain is also monitoring the situation in neighboring Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

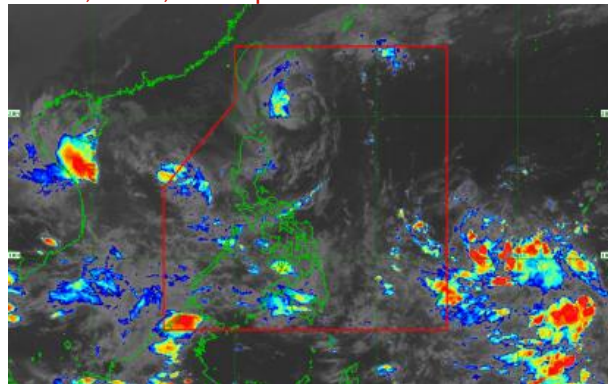
"The typhoons that have hit the Philippines and Vietnam have had a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods across the region," Adams said.

"Today's £1 million UK aid package will help to deliver life-saving food, clean water and safe shelter to those who need it most and help both the Philippines and Vietnam recover from such destructive natural disasters," he said. – **Delon Porcalla, Paolo Romero**



Signal No. 3 likely as 'Siony' nears Batanes

By Ma. Cristina Arayata November 5, 2020, 10:02 pm



MANILA – Areas along the projected track of Severe Tropical Storm Siony may likely be placed under Tropical cyclone warning signal (TCWS) no. 3.

In its 8 p.m. weather bulletin Thursday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said "Siony" was last spotted at 255 km. east of Basco, Batanes.

"Siony" is expected to further intensify into a typhoon before making a landfall or passing near Batanes early Friday.

It presently packs maximum sustained winds of up to 100 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 125 kph.

"Siony" is forecast to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) on Friday afternoon or evening and is expected to turn towards the southwest on Saturday morning and accelerate over the West Philippine Sea towards southern Vietnam.

Tropical cyclone wind signal (TCWS) no. 2 is hoisted over Batanes and Babuyan Islands while TCWS no. 1 is in effect over the northern portion of mainland Cagayan (Santa Ana, Gonzaga, Lal-Lo, Allacapan, Santa Teresita, Buguey, Camalaniugan, Aparri, Ballesteros, Abulug, Pamplona, Sanchez-Mira, Claveria, Santa Praxedes), the northern portion of Apayao (Santa Marcela, Luna, Calanasan), and the northern portion of Ilocos Norte (Adams, Pagudpud, Bangui, Dumalneg, Burgos, Vintar, Pasuquin, Bacarra)

Flooding and rain-induced landslides may occur during heavy or prolonged rainfall, especially in areas susceptible to these hazards,

Rough to high seas will continue in areas where TCWS no. 2 and no. 1 were hoisted while rough to very rough seas will be experienced over the eastern seaboard of Luzon, western seaboard of northern Luzon, and western seaboard of southern Luzon.

Meanwhile, moderate to rough seas (1.5 to 2.5 m) will be experienced over the western seaboard of Central Luzon and the eastern seaboard of Visayas and Mindanao.

PAGASA advised fishing boats and other small seacraft not to venture to the sea.

Moderate to rough seas may prevail over the western seaboard of central Luzon, and the eastern seaboard of Visayas and Mindanao.

PAGASA advised mariners of small seacraft to take precautionary measures when venturing onto the sea. **(PNA)**



2 volcanic earthquake, naitala sa bulkang Mayon

ni [Thea Janica Teh](#) | November 5, 2020



Dalawang volcanic earthquakes ang naitala ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) sa bulkang Mayon sa 24-hour observation period nito ngayong Huwebes.

Sa inilabas na bulletin kaninang alas-8 ng umaga, sinabi ng Phivolcs na may lumabas na white steam-laden plumes at gumapang sa bandang silangang bahagi ng bulkan.

Huli umanong naglabas ng sulfur dioxide ang bulkan noong Oktubre 29, 2020 na may baseline average na 436 ton/day.

Dagdag pa ng Phivolcs, “Overall, the Mayon edifice is still inflated with respect to baseline parameters.”

Nakataas pa rin sa Alert Level 1 ang bulkang Mayon dahil sa patuloy na pagsasagawa ng abnormal na kondisyon.

Kaya naman pinaalalahanan ang publiko na huwag pumasok sa 6-kilometer radius permanent danger zone dahil maaaring magkaroon ng rock falls, landslide at pagbuga ng usok.

Naging sanhi rin ng pagdaloy ng lahar ang pananalanta ng bagyong Rolly kamakailan sa Bicol Region.



US officially leaves Paris Climate Agreement

November 5, 2020, 1:20 pm



WASHINGTON – The United States formally left the Paris Agreement on Wednesday, marking the only nation among nearly 200 signatories that abandoned the global agenda on combating climate change.

US President Donald Trump announced in June 2017 that his country would leave the Paris Agreement.

According to the agreement, its signatories can only formally request to quit the pact three years after it takes force, which falls upon Nov. 4, 2019, and the withdrawal will take effect one year from delivery of the notification, meaning that the United States will formally pull out of the pact on Nov. 4 this year.

Trump announced the withdrawal soon after he took office, citing concerns about the pact's threat to the US economy.

The Trump administration also rolled back environmental rules made in the Obama era to prop up the coal industry by allowing it to emit more greenhouse gases into the air. (*Xinhua*)



US pormal ng kumalas sa Paris Climate Change Agreement

By **Bombo Jovino Galang**

-November 5, 2020 | 1:12 AM

Pormal ng nag-withdraw ang US sa Paris climate change agreement.

Ang nasabing usapin ay unang inanunsiyo ni US President Donald Trump noong June 2017 at ngayon lamang ito naging epektibo.

Ayon sa United Nations regulations body, naging epektibo ang pagkalas ng US sa Paris Climate Change Agreement isang araw pagkatapos ng US elections.

Paglililaw nila na maaaring sumali muli ang US kung gugustuhin ng pangulo.

Binuo ang Paris deal noong 2015 para palakasin ang pagtugon ng mga bansa sa banta ng climate change.



Protect nature or face deadlier pandemics than COVID-19, scientists warn

November 5, 2020 2:34 AM by [DZRH News Online](#)



FILE PHOTO: A bird flies through the sky in front of a snow-covered mountain in Fuessen, Germany, January 15, 2019. REUTERS/Andreas Gebert/File Photo

By Matthew Green

LONDON (Reuters) – Pandemics will emerge more often, spread faster, cost more and kill more people than COVID-19 without bold action to halt the habitat destruction that helps viruses hop from wildlife to humans, according to a study published on Thursday.

The findings <http://www.ipbes.net/pandemics> suggest that moves to protect tropical forests and other rich ecosystems to help slow climate change and save animal, bird and plant species could also prevent pandemics.

“It turns out that by doing something about pandemics we are also doing something about climate change and biodiversity, and that’s a good thing,” Peter Daszak, a zoologist who chaired the study by 22 international experts, told Reuters.

The group found that about half of an estimated 1.7 million undiscovered viruses in nature might be able to infect people.

Activities such as trading in wildlife, poaching or clearing forest to grow soy or palm oil can bring humans and pathogens into closer proximity. Scientists say COVID-19 probably originated in bats and began spreading among humans at a market in China.

Prevention would be 100 times cheaper than the cost of responding to pandemics, but governments as yet mostly rely on reactive measures such as vaccines, the report found. It called for greater international collaboration to curb the risks.

The global cost of COVID-19 was estimated at \$8-16 trillion by July. The cost in the United States alone could reach up to \$16 trillion by late next year, the report said.

The study was produced by a government-backed group, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which has more than 130 member states.

Experts who were not involved endorsed the conclusions. John Spicer, a marine zoologist at Britain’s University of Plymouth, welcomed the focus on pandemics, biodiversity and climate.

“Transformative change is what is required and this is what the report puts forward,” Spicer said.

(Reporting by Matthew Green; Editing by Peter Graff)

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/protect-nature-or-face-deadlier-pandemics-than-covid-19-scientists-warn/>

Delhi battling dual crises of pollution and coronavirus

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 09:53 PM November 05, 2020



A vendor selling traditional snacks waits for customers on Rajpath street amid smoggy conditions in New Delhi on November 4, 2020. (Photo by Jewel SAMAD / AFP)

NEW DELHI — India’s capital is reeling from the double impact of the coronavirus and severe air pollution, New Delhi’s chief minister warned Thursday, as the megacity reported a record jump in cases and its worst smog in a year.

With fears growing about rising infections, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also banned firecrackers from being used this month during Diwali, the biggest festival on the Hindu calendar.

The air quality index — measuring the tiny particles which enter the bloodstream and vital organs — was at its most dangerous since last November, according to the state-run System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

The toxic haze blanketing Delhi, which regularly turns the city of 20 million people into the world’s most-polluted, came as officials late Wednesday reported a new daily-high of 6,842 virus infections in the capital.

And the filthy air is actually driving more cases of COVID-19, Kejriwal told an online briefing. “The corona situation is worsening because of pollution,” he said, echoing medical analysis which says existing illnesses caused by poor air quality could make people more vulnerable to the coronavirus.

Anumita Roy Chowdhury, of the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment, told AFP: “Some global studies have already shown how the effect of the pandemic is higher in more polluted regions.”

And Santosh Harish, at the Delhi-based Center for Policy Research, said: “Evidence from previous related infections and emerging research suggest that pollution exposure could increase the severity of the infection and the transmission of the virus.”

More crop burning

Kejriwal blamed the choking smoke on agricultural burning, saying regional state governments were not helping farmers to find alternative ways to clear their fields.



“We will come together to celebrate Diwali without crackers. If we burst crackers, we are affecting the lives of our family and our children,” he added.

The cracker frenzy usually turns Delhi’s grey winter skies into a putrid yellow.

Every winter, Delhi is blanketed by haze from a build-up of vehicle fumes, industrial emissions, and smoke from agricultural fires in regions around the capital.

The pollution is exacerbated by cooler temperatures and slow-moving winds that trap pollutants over the city.

SAFAR said Thursday that crop stubble burning in states near the capital was the highest this season with some 4,135 fires.

India is the world’s second most-infected nation after the United States with more than 8.3 million COVID-19 cases.

Healthcare systems, already stretched by the pandemic, could be further stressed by more hospitalizations from pollution-related illnesses, researchers say.



Massive iceberg threatens remote penguin sanctuary

Published November 5, 2020, 6:22 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

The world's biggest iceberg is on a collision course with a remote South Atlantic island that is home to thousands of penguins and seals, and could impede their ability to gather food, scientists told AFP Wednesday.



A68a iceberg, drifting in the South Atlantic, is 160 kilometres (93 miles) long and 48 kilometres (30 miles) across at its widest point (AFP/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Icebergs naturally break off from Antarctica into the ocean, but climate change has accelerated the process — in this case, with potentially devastating consequences for abundant wildlife in the British Overseas Territory of South Georgia.

Shaped like a closed hand with a pointing finger, the iceberg known as A68a split off in 2017 from Larsen Ice Shelf on the West Antarctic Peninsula, which has warmed faster than any other part of Earth's southernmost continent.

At its current rate of travel, it will take the giant ice cube — which is several times the area of greater London — 20 to 30 days to run aground into the island's shallow waters.

A68a is 160 kilometres (93 miles) long and 48 kilometres (30 miles) across at its widest point, but the iceberg is less than 200 metres deep, which means it could park dangerously close to the island.

"We put the odds of collision at 50/50," Andrew Fleming from the British Antarctic Survey told AFP.

Many thousands of King penguins — a species with a bright splash of yellow on their heads — live on the island, alongside Macaroni, Chinstrap and Gentoo penguins.

Seals also populate South Georgia, as do wandering albatrosses, the largest bird species that can fly.

If the iceberg runs aground next to South Georgia, foraging routes could be blocked, hampering the ability of penguin parents to feed their young, and thus threatening the survival of seal pups and penguin chicks.



– Release of stored carbon –

“Global numbers of penguins and seals would drop by a large margin,” Geraint Tarling, also from the British Antarctic Survey, told AFP in an interview.

The incoming iceberg would also crush organisms and their seafloor ecosystem, which would need decades or centuries to recover.

Carbon stored by these organisms would be released into the ocean and atmosphere, adding to carbon emissions caused by human activity, the researchers said.

As A68a drifted with currents across the South Atlantic, the iceberg did a great job of distributing microscopic edibles for the ocean’s tiniest creatures, said Tarling.

“Over hundreds of years, this iceberg has accumulated a lot of nutrients and dust, and they are starting to leach out and fertilise the oceans.”

Up to a kilometre thick, icebergs are the solid-ice extension of land-bound glaciers. They naturally break off from ice shelves as snow-laden glaciers push toward the sea.

But global warming has increased the frequency of this process, known as calving.

“The amount of ice going from the centre of the Antarctic continent out towards the edges is increasing in speed,” Tarling said.

Up to the end of the 20th century, the Larsen Ice Shelf had been stable for more than 10,000 years. In 1995, however, a huge chunk broke off, followed by another in 2002.

This was followed by the breakup of the nearby Wilkins Ice Shelf in 2008 and 2009, and A68a in 2017.

Hydrofracturing — when water seeps into cracks at the surface, splitting the ice farther down — was almost certainly the main culprit in each case.

How captivity saved these animals from extinction

By Isabelle Gerretsen, CNN

Updated 0214 GMT (1014 HKT) September 18, 2020

(CNN) A 130-year-old tortoise [made headlines earlier this year](#), when it emerged that his prolific sex life had helped save his entire species from extinction in the wild.

"Diego" helped boost a dying tortoise population to over 2,000 after he was shipped from San Diego Zoo to the Galapagos Islands. The amorous reptile was part of a captive breeding program -- initiatives where endangered animals in zoos or other facilities are encouraged to reproduce, with the aim of releasing the offspring in the wild to revive populations that are on the brink.

Global wildlife populations have fallen by an average of [68% in just over four decades](#), the World Wildlife Fund warned in a report released last week.

As species around the world face growing pressures from habitat loss, climate change and the illegal wildlife trade, captive breeding programs are becoming increasingly common, according to Lesley Dickie, CEO of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, a UK charity founded to save species from extinction.

Dickie says these programs provide a last-ditch option to save a species that has become extinct in the wild, or whose numbers are too small to sustain a wild population.

But successful captive breeding isn't straightforward. There is a danger that removing animals from their natural habitats will harm the remaining wild population, reducing its genetic diversity and decreasing its survival rates. Inbreeding can be a problem, and captive animals can [introduce infectious diseases into the wild](#).

Another challenge is making sure that animals released into the wild know how to fend for themselves in unfamiliar surroundings, according to Rachel Plotkin, a wildlife expert at the David Suzuki Foundation, an environmental organization based in Canada. She adds that breeding initiatives may not work unless they are combined with addressing the habitat degradation that is often the root cause of a species' decline.

But she and Dickie agree that some species simply would not exist in the wild today without the efforts of these programs. Here are six examples of species that have recovered, thanks to captive breeding.

California condor



A California condor in Marble Gorge, east of Grand Canyon National Park, March 2007.

The California condor, a magnificent vulture with a 3-meter wingspan, was almost wiped out in the 1980s. A combination of [hunting, accidental poisoning, and the toxic pesticide DDT](#) decimated populations until there were fewer than 30 California condors left in the wild. The birds were captured and taken to zoos and in 1988, the first zoo-bred condor chick hatched at the San Diego Wild Animal Park (now the San Diego Zoo Safari Park). Four years later, captive-bred condors began being released into the wild and there are now thought to be around [330 birds](#) flying free across the United States.

Golden lion tamarin



A golden lion tamarin monkey at ZSL London Zoo.

In the 1960s and 70s, this small monkey, found only in Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil, was driven to the brink of extinction. A combination of [deforestation and the pet trade](#) reduced the population to just a few hundred individuals, until nearly 150 zoos joined forces to save the species. They started a global captive breeding program which, together with efforts from Brazilian conservationists to protect its forest home, has helped increase the number of wild golden lion tamarins to more than 3,500.

Arabian oryx



Arabian Oryx at a sanctuary in Umm al-Zamool, United Arab Emirates.

This antelope with long, straight horns and distinctive facial markings once roamed all over the Arabian Peninsula. But by the early 1970s, the Arabian oryx was hunted to extinction in the wild. With oryx numbers already declining, in the early 1960s the Fauna Preservation Society launched Operation Oryx to save the species. Starting out with just nine oryx captured from the wild, Phoenix Zoo, in the US, led a successful captive-breeding program.

As the breeding program expanded, in the early 1980s Arabian oryx were reintroduced into the deserts of central Oman. There are now over 1,000 living in the wild, with the species reintroduced to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates. The oryx has been downgraded from endangered to vulnerable, the result of a conservation effort that involved [multiple governments, zoos and conservation organizations](#).

Przewalski's horse



A wild Przewalski's horse.

A distant relative to the common horse, this short, stocky wild horse used to roam the grasslands of central Asia, but habitat loss and hunting meant that by the 1960s it was extinct in the wild.

A few Przewalski's horses remained in zoos around the world and in 1977, the Foundation for the Preservation and Protection of the Przewalski's Horse began an exchange of the horses between zoos, in an effort to improve genetic diversity.

In 1992, 16 horses were released into the wild in Mongolia, and they have since been introduced to China and Kazakhstan. A population even lives in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, the site of a notorious nuclear power plant accident.

They are now classified as endangered, with an estimated 2,000 living in the wild. According to San Diego Zoo, which has led breeding efforts, all Przewalski's horses alive today are descended from 14 individuals captured at the start of the 20th century.

[Scientists recently cloned a Przewalski's horse](#) for the first time, with the hope of improving genetic diversity in the wild population.

Mauritius kestrel



The Mauritius kestrel was successfully bred in captivity.

In 1974, the Mauritius kestrel was the rarest bird in the world. Habitat loss, overuse of pesticides and the introduction of non-native species meant that there were just four individuals left in the wild. A captive breeding program in its only natural habitat, the African island of Mauritius, successfully removed kestrel eggs from nests in the wild and hatched them in incubators.

The reintroduction of the birds into the wild allowed the population to grow to around 800 in the 2000s, but reintroductions [stopped in the 1990s](#) and kestrel numbers are now declining. With only around 200 individuals in the wild, the kestrel is now listed as endangered.

Galapagos giant tortoise



Galapagos giant tortoise Diego at a breeding center on Santa Cruz Island, 2016.



In the 1960s, the giant tortoise population on Española, one of the Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador, [was reduced to just 15 individuals](#). In the 1960s and 70s, all the surviving tortoises were taken to a captive breeding center on the nearby island of Santa Cruz with the aim of repopulating the species.

Since then, more than 2,000 tortoises bred at the center have been returned to their native island. Diego, who was transferred from San Diego Zoo to Santa Cruz island to join the breeding program, is believed to have fathered around 800 tortoises -- [40% of today's population](#). Estimated to be around 130 years old, Diego recently moved [back to his home island of Española](#).