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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## DENR Responds to Oil Spill Off Misamis Oriental Coast



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has taken necessary measures to mitigate the impact of an oil spill incident off the town of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental province last April 3, Black Saturday.

The oil spill resulted from the sinking of cargo vessel MV Racal IV that has been docked in a shipyard in the coastal town of Jasaan for five years.

"In incidents such as these, our goal is to always protect the ecosystem, the biodiversity it hosts, and the people in the area," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 10 has been working in coordination with the local government of Jasaan and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent further contamination of coastal communities.



Based on the initial investigation led by EMB-Region 10 Regional Director Reynaldo Digamo and his team of technical experts, three tons of bunker oil has contaminated one square kilometer portion of the bay, affecting five barangays namely, Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya and Solana.

The EMB-Region 10 also observed a "faint odor" from the spill that persisted, particularly along the coast of Barangay Luz Banzon, which was severely affected by the incident.

It said that accumulated oil debris was also seen in mangrove trees and docked boats, thus affecting the livelihood of the fisherfolk in affected villages.

Digamo said PCG-Region 10 has commissioned Far East Fuel Corp., a registered transport, storage, and disposal facility, to remove and transport the collected oil and oil-contaminated materials.



"We have already coordinated with the owner of the vessel and the local government unit, the PCG, and the fisherfolk residents near the area to prevent further contamination," Digamo said.

MV Racal IV owners Sherwin Doctora and Dr. Lord Sanny Salvaña have committed to pay for the damages during a meeting with Jasaan Mayor Redentor Jardin, municipal and provincial officials, and EMB-Region 10.

Citing the assessment of the PCG-Region 10, the EMB-Region 10 reported that 80 percent of the spilled oil has been removed.

Digamo said the EMB-Region 10 will conduct an in-depth investigation on the incident.



## DENR acts on oil spill

posted April 09, 2021 at 11:00 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has taken steps to ease the impact of an oil spill off the town of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental, on April 3.

“In incidents such as these, our goal is to always protect the ecosystem, the biodiversity it hosts and the people in the area,” Secretary Roy Cimatu said.

He says the agency’s Environmental Management Bureau in Region 10 has been working in coordination with the local government of Jasaan and the Philippine Coast Guard to prevent further contamination of the coastal communities.

The oil spill resulted from the sinking of the m/vs Racal IV that was docked in a shipyard in the coastal town of Jasaan for five years.

Based on the initial investigation led by EMB-Region 10 director Reynaldo Digamo and his team of technical experts, three tons of bunker oil had contaminated one square kilometer of the bay, affecting barangays Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya and Solana.

Officials also noticed a “faint odor” from the spill that persisted particularly along the coast of Barangay Luz Banzon, which was severely affected by the incident.

Accumulated oil debris was also seen in mangrove trees and docked boats, thus affecting the livelihood of the fisherfolk in the affected villages.

Digamo says PCG-Region 10 has commissioned Far East Fuel Corp., a registered transport, storage and disposal facility, to remove and transport the collected oil and oil-contaminated materials.

“We have already coordinated with the owner of the vessel and the local government unit, the PCG and the fisherfolk residents near the area to prevent further contamination,” he said.

Citing the assessment of the PCG-Region 10, the EMB-Region 10 reported that 80 percent of the spilled oil had been removed.

Digamo says the EMB-Region 10 will conduct an in-depth investigation on the incident.



## DENR tumugon sa oil spill sa baybayin ng Misamis Oriental



April 9, 2021 @ 1:03 PM 17 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang mabawasan ang epekto ng oil spill incident sa bayan ng Jasaan sa lalawigan ng Misamis Oriental gumawa na ng hakbang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) nitong nakalipas na Abril 3.

Ayon sa DENR ang naganap na oil spill ay resulta ng paglubog ng cargo vessel na MV Racal IV na nakadaong sa shipyard ng Jasaan nang may limang taon na.

“In incidents such as these, our goal is to always protect the ecosystem, the biodiversity it hosts, and the people in the area,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Sinabi ni Cimatu, ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa Region 10 ay nakikipagtulungan na sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Jasaan at sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang mapigilan ang kontaminasyon ng coastal communities.

Batay sa inisyal na imbestigasyon na pinangunahan ni EMB-Region 10 Regional Director Reynaldo Digamo at nang kanyang grupo ng mga technical experts, tatlong toneladang bunker oil ang nakapag-kontamina sa one square kilometer portion ng baybayin na nakaaapekto sa mga barangay ng Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya at Solano.

Kaugnay nito naobserbahan din ng EMB-Region 10 ang mabahong amoy na nagmumula sa oil spill particular na sa baybayin ng Barangay Luz Banzon na siyang labis na naapektuhan ng insidente.

Makikita rin ang mga naipong oil debris sa mangrove trees at mga nakadaong na barko na siya ring nakaaapekto sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda na naninirahan sa mga apektadong barangay.

Ayon kay Digamo, kinausap na ng PCG-Region 10 ang Far East Fuel Corp., isang rehistradong transport, storage at disposal facility upang tanggalin at hakutin ang mga nakolektang langis at oil-contaminated materials.

“We have already coordinated with the owner of the vessel and the local government unit, the PCG, and the fisherfolk residents near the area to prevent further contamination,” sabi pa ni Digamo.

Samantala sa ginanap na pulong kasama sina Jasaan Mayor Redentor Jardin, municipal and provincial officials at EMB-Region 10, nangako naman ang may-ari ng MV Racal IV na sina Sherwin Doctora at Dr. Lord Sanny Salvaña na magbabayad sila ng danyos.



Batay naman sa pag-aanalisa ng PCG-Region 10, sinabi ng EMB-Region 10 na 80 percent na ng tumapong langis ang natanggal.

Sinabi pa ni Digamo na magsasagawa ng mas malalim na imbestigasyon ang EMB-Region 10 sa naganap na insidente. **Santi Celario**



# DENR, umaksyon upang mabawasan ang epekto ng oil spill sa baybayin ng Misamis Oriental

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Apr. 9, 2021 at 11:41am



Kumilos agad ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang mabawasan ang epekto ng oil spill incident sa bayan ng Jasaan, sa probinsiya ng Misamis Oriental.

Ang naganap na oil spill ay resulta ng paglubog ng cargo vessel na MV Racal IV na nakadaong sa shipyard ng Jasaan nang may limang taon na.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa Region 10 ay nakikipagtulungan na sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Jasaan at sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang mapigilan ang kontaminasyon sa coastal communities.

Lumilitaw na tatlong toneladang bunker oil ang nakapag-kontamina sa one square kilometer portion ng baybayin na nakaaapekto sa mga barangay ng Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya at Solano.

Mabahong amoy na rin ang nagmumula sa oil spill particular na sa baybayin ng Barangay Luz Banzon na siyang labis na naapektuhan ng insidente.

May mga naipong oil debris na rin sa mangrove trees at mga nakadaong na barko na siya ring nakakaapekto sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda na naninirahan sa mga apektadong barangay.

Isang rehistradong transport, storage at disposal facility ang rumesponde upang tanggalin at hakutin ang mga nakolektang langis at oil-contaminated materials.

Batay sa report ng EMB-Region 10, nasa 80% na ng tumapong langis ang natanggal.

Source: [https://rmn.ph/denr-umaksyon-upang-mabawasan-ang-epekto-ng-oil-spill-sa-baybayin-ng-misamis-oriental/?fbclid=IwAR1VUd\\_eN\\_Q9QyvszRmzGaxc9JkiNtm9FxE13I\\_PD9ZkKmMByKKVFC\\_XFJE](https://rmn.ph/denr-umaksyon-upang-mabawasan-ang-epekto-ng-oil-spill-sa-baybayin-ng-misamis-oriental/?fbclid=IwAR1VUd_eN_Q9QyvszRmzGaxc9JkiNtm9FxE13I_PD9ZkKmMByKKVFC_XFJE)



# DENR: 80 percent of spilled oil from sunken cargo off Misamis Oriental coast removed

Published April 9, 2021, 12:58 PM

by [Martin Sadongdong](#)

Around 80 percent of the oil that spilled from a cargo that sunk off the coast of Jasaan, Misamis Oriental during the Holy Week was already cleared, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced Friday, April 9.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) (MANILA BULLETIN)

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that the DENR has taken measures to mitigate the impact of an oil spill incident which resulted from the sinking of cargo vessel MV Racal IV on Black Saturday, April 3, in the coastal town of Jasaan.

“In incidents such as these, our goal is to always protect the ecosystem, the biodiversity it hosts, and the people in the area,” he said.

Cimatu said the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Region 10 has coordinated with the local government of Jasaan and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent the further contamination of the coastal communities.

Based on the assessment, the EMB-Region 10 reported that 80 percent of the spilled oil was already removed in the affected areas.

EMB-Region 10 Regional Director Reynaldo Digamo said three tons of bunker oil has contaminated one square kilometer portion of the bay, affecting five barangays namely Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya, and Solana.

The EMB-Region 10 also observed a “faint odor” from the spill, particularly along the coast of Barangay Luz Banzon which was severely affected by the incident.

It said that accumulated oil debris was also seen in mangrove trees and docked boats, thus, affecting the livelihood of the fisherfolk in the villages.

Digamo said the PCG-Region 10 has commissioned Far East Fuel Corp., a registered transport, storage, and disposal facility, to remove and transport the collected oil and oil-contaminated materials.

“We have already coordinated with the owner of the vessel and the local government unit, the PCG, and the fisherfolk residents near the area to prevent further contamination,” Digamo said.

The DENR said that MV Racal IV owners Sherwin Doctora and Dr. Lord Sanny Salvaña have committed to pay for the damages during a meeting with Jasaan Mayor Redentor Jardin, municipal and provincial officials, and EMB-Region 10.





Initial investigation by officials said that the cargo vessel sunk when a breach in its hull caused seawater to seep in. The unused cargo vessel was docked at a shipyard in Jasaan for five years already.

Digamo said an in-depth investigation is now underway to determine any liability of the cargo owners.



# Fishing banned in Misamis after oil spill

[Gerry Lee Gorit](#), [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - April 10, 2021 - 12:00am

MISAMIS ORIENTAL, Philippines — Fishing activities have been banned in the waters affected by an oil spill off Jasaan town in this province after a cargo vessel sank on Saturday last week.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the Environmental Management Bureau has been coordinating with the Jasaan municipal government and Coast Guard personnel to prevent further contamination of coastal communities.

Initial investigation showed that three tons of bunker oil spilled in the waters off the coast of Barangays Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya and Solana.

The owner of the cargo vessel committed to pay for the damage during a meeting with Mayor Redentor Jardin and other concerned officials.



## OIL SPILL SA BAYBAYIN NG MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IIMBESTIGAHAN NG DENR



April 10, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

GUMAWA na ng hakbang ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang mabawasan ang epekto ng oil spill incident sa bayan ng Jasaan, sa probinsiya ng Misamis Oriental noong nakaraang Abril 3.

Ang naganap na oil spill ay resulta ng paglubog ng cargo vessel na MV Racal IV na nakadaong sa shipyard ng Jasaan nang may limang taon na.

“In incidents such as these, our goal is to always protect the ecosystem, the biodiversity it hosts, and the people in the area,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Ayon kay Cimatu, ang DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) sa Region 10 ay nakikipagtulungan na sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Jasaan at sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) upang mapigilan ang kontaminasyon ng coastal communities.

Batay sa inisyal na imbestigasyon na pinangunahan ni EMB-Region 10 Regional Director Reynaldo Digamo at nang kanyang grupo ng technical experts, tatlong toneladang bunker oil ang nakapag-kontamina sa one square kilometer portion ng baybayin na nakaaapekto sa mga barangay ng Lower Jasaan, Upper Jasaan, Luz Banzon, Kimaya at Solano.

Naobserbahan din ng EMB-Region 10 ang mabahong amoy na nagmumula sa oil spill partikular na sa baybayin ng Barangay Luz Banzon na siyang labis na naapektuhan ng insidente.

Makikita rin ang mga naipong oil debris sa mangrove trees at mga nakadaong na barko na siya ring nakaaapekto sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda na naninirahan sa mga apektadong barangay.

Ayon kay Digamo, kinausap na ng PCG-Region 10 ang Far East Fuel Corp., isang rehistradong transport, storage at disposal facility upang tanggalin at hakutin ang mga nakolektang langis at oil-contaminated materials.

“We have already coordinated with the owner of the vessel and the local government unit, the PCG, and the fisherfolk residents near the area to prevent further contamination,” sabi pa ni Digamo.

Sa ginanap na pulong kasama sina Jasaan Mayor Redentor Jardin, municipal and provincial officials at EMB-Region 10, nangako naman ang may-ari ng MV Racal IV na sina Sherwin Doctora at Dr. Lord Sanny Salvaña na magbabayad sila ng danyos.



Batay naman sa pag-aanalisa ng PCG-Region 10, sinabi ng EMB-Region 10 na 80 percent na ng tumapong langis ang natanggal.

Sinabi pa ni Digamo na magsasagawa ng mas malalim na imbestigasyon ang EMB-Region 10 sa naganap na insidente.



# DENR launches Climate, Disaster Resiliency Awards

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue Published on April 9, 2021



**DENR Facebook Page**

QUEZON CITY, April 9 (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Office and Climate Change Service (CCS), recently launched "Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan: A Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards."

DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said the awards aim to give recognition to Filipino "movers and workers" who have been making change to bolster climate and disaster resiliency.

"This award will be a testament of the zeal and passion of all the people who do not merely talk but labor in the peripherals to bring knowledge and assistance on climate change concerns to those who need them most," Cimatu said.

The Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards, which is in support to the Global Good Stories Movement, seek to recognize the stories of individuals, both women and men, and groups on the impacts of climate change and disasters in their communities, and on how they are addressing them through pursuing relevant programs on environmental protection and conservation, climate change, and disaster risk reduction.

The Global Good Stories Movement is a movement of people who share the common belief that "we can change the story of the world by changing the storyline."

"We know there are pockets of good stories and narratives at different levels. As we seek them out, document and publicize them, we hope such can create even more ripples of hope for expanded good stories," said Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems, and Climate Change, and the Chairperson of DENR National GAD Focal Point System.

The nationwide search is open to good stories about women leadership, community livelihood development, integrated water resources management, and coastal/upland protection.

It is also on the lookout for stories about critical resilient infrastructure, climate and disaster information services, solid waste management, marine conservation, and coastal governance, road sharing and non-motorized mobility, edible landscaping and food gardens.



Stories on eco-governance, environmental legislation, environmental education, arts for the earth, environmental jurisprudence, youth leadership, environmental diplomacy, marine enforcement, renewable energy, cultural heritage, beach restoration, environmental litigation, water use and recycling, are also welcome.

The initiatives should have been going on at least for the last three years, until to date, or at least, since 2018.

The entries will be judged according to the following criteria: climate and disaster resiliency content (60 percent), visual appeal of the photographs and video (30 percent), and geographical reach of the initiative (10 percent).

The winners of the Climate and Disaster Resiliency Recognition Awards will be awarded P50,000 for first prize, P40,000 for second prize, and P30,000 for third prize.

Consolation prizes of P15,000 each will also be given to seven selected entries.

The winners will be announced and awarded by the end of June 2021 as part of the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month.

Participants must submit their entries and filled-up entry form individually to [cco.denr@yahoo.com](mailto:cco.denr@yahoo.com) and [ccs.denr@gmail.com](mailto:ccs.denr@gmail.com) on or before May 4, 2021.

Entries may also be submitted to the nearest DENR Community or Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office or DENR regional offices. (PIA NCR)



## DENR gives farm equipment to Sibugay farmers



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources gives P1.19 million worth of farm equipment to boost the economic livelihood of the Calula Community-Based Forest Management in the town of R.T. Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay. A photo handout shows DENR and Municipal Government officials hand over the machine to the recipient group of farmers. (SunStar Zamboanga)

April 09, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave P1.19 million worth of farm equipment to boost the economic livelihood of an association of rubber farmers in the province of Zamboanga Sibugay.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the recipient of the assistance of the rubber creeping machine set is an upland farmers' association known as the Calula Community-Based Forest Management (CCBFM), which is into rubber farming in the town of R.T. Lim, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Samuel Lastimado, CCBFM president, said the machine is a great support in the semi-processing of rubber, which is their main source of livelihood.

"The rubber creeping machine is a big help for us as this will add value to our harvested rubber," Lastimado said during the turnover of the machine Tuesday, April 6.

Lastimado added that the machine has the capacity to process around one ton of rubber daily and will be made available to all of his members in the association.

The CCBFM is a peoples' organization who are beneficiaries of the National Greening Program (NGP) and Community-Based Forest Management Program wherein they were able to establish a total of 215 hectares of rubber plantation since 2011.

DENR Regional Executive Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez has advised the association members to work together and continue to sustain their livelihood and eradicate poverty in the uplands.

R.T. Lim Vice Mayor Michael Piodema said the rubber livelihood project will really help the people in Calula village to uplift their financial stability.

Piodema is optimistic CCBFM will manage it wisely and become a role model to other upland communities.

Ronald Gadot, DENR assistant regional director for technical services, said the members of the association should cooperate and have that spirit of livelihood where there is full of life and energy.

"Let this small assistance grow until you will achieve progress under the spirit of sharing and collaboration," Gadot added. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1891186>



# DENR seizes P84,000 worth of illegal lumber

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

April 09, 2021

THE Community Environment and Natural Resources (Cenro) based in Guiguinto, Bulacan confiscated more than 1,800 board feet of illegally sourced premium dipterocarp lumbers worth over P84,000 on Tuesday, April 6.

Bulacan Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Emelita Lingat said the illegal lumbers composed of Yakal, Guijo and Tangile species were apprehended in a sash factory found in Barangay Tumana in Sta. Maria town.

"We have intensified our monitoring and surveillance not only in our forests area but also to lumber establishments in the province to check of any forest contraband," she said.

Rolly Mulato, head of Cenro in Guiguinto, Bulacan, identified the suspect as Emiliano Jacinto, owner of the sash factory.

"Upon inspection of our team, the owner failed to show any legal documents for the possession of such forest products," he said.

He added that his office is now preparing to file criminal charges against the suspect for violating the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines or Presidential Decree (PD) 705.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Central Luzon, appealed to the public to report to the nearest DENR office in their area of any illegal forest activities or call hotline 0945-368-5303.

"Protecting our forests is a challenging task for the DENR. The support and cooperation of our community is vital to our campaign against illegal logging," he said.

According to study, the dipterocarp species belongs to premium hardwood and is among the favorite target of timber poachers because of the expensive price of its lumber due to its excellent wood quality.





# Illegal lumber seized in Bulacan

BY JONAS REYES

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan – The forest protection team of the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO) has confiscated 1,800 board feet of illegal lumber last Tuesday, and the premium dipterocarp lumbers was valued at over P84,000 that were composed of Yakal, Guijo and Tangile species.

In a statement, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) Emelita Lingat said that the illegally cut lumber were found inside a factory in Barangay Tumana in Sta. Maria town.

"We have intensified our monitoring and surveillance not only in our forests area but also to lumber establishments in the province to check of any forest contraband," Lingat said.

The suspect was identified as Emiliano Jacinto, owner of the sash factory.

"Upon inspection of our team, the owner failed to show any legal documents for the possession of such forest products," CENRO chief Rolly Mulato said.



## Dumagats continue plea for govt action

By Eireene Jairee Gomez April 10, 2021

The Dumagats of Antipolo on Friday expressed disappointment over the alleged failure of the government to act on the cases they filed against the operators of the Masungi Georeserve along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The current operator of the reserve is a private company, which generates profits from payments made by local and international tourists who visit to the site.

The Dumagats accused the two parties of violating the Anti-Graft Law as well as the Indigenous People's Rights Act.

The cases stemmed from a memorandum of agreement (MoA) between the DENR and Masungi Georeserve, which an official of the department said was allegedly disadvantageous to the government. Environment Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon had questioned the MoA for being perpetual in nature with no payments due the government.

“Multiple attempts to get the side of the DENR failed, with the buck being passed by the office of (Environment) Secretary Roy Cimatu, who serves as chairman of the department's oversight committee for the MOA, to Undersecretaries Mitch Cuna and Jonas Leones,” the Dumagats said in a statement sent to The Manila Times.

The Dumagats had been asking the DENR chief to explain why Masungi Georeserve is not covered by a special use agreement in protected areas that Cimatu himself had issued as an administrative order in 2017. The local tribe asked if Masugni was exempt from the order.

The Dumagats asked that the MoA between the DENR and the operators of Masungi Georeserve be revoked.

They also asked that reforms be instituted by the government, particularly the DENR, before future MoAs are signed with the private sector.

The Dumagats expressed fear and anger at the false accusations that they were land grabbers, as they have been living and caring for the area since the Spanish era.

The Masungi Georeserve is a conservation area located in Baras, Rizal.

In 1993, the DENR proposed the site be declared as a strict nature reserve and wildlife sanctuary.



## Legarda files bill to protect resources in pandemic

By Currie Cator April 10, 2021

A lawmaker on Friday filed a measure that seeks to create an ecosystem and natural accounting system in a bid to protect the natural resources of the country during the health crisis.



Rep. Loren Legarda

“For decades, the debate has been whether to choose the economy over conservation of natural resources. This is a false dichotomy,” Loren Legarda, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, said. “The economy and all of society are fully and entirely dependent on resources — our natural capital that include our forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems.”

House Bill (HB) 9181, or the “Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Law of 2021,” includes “externalities,” which are not valued as capital in the national income accounts system.

“Conventional national income accounting systems measure economic performance by determining the value of goods and services produced, and aggregating them to develop economic development indicators, such as the Gross National Product and Gross Domestic Product,” explained Legarda.

The goods and services included in the new accounting system would be those that are “marketed.” But according to Legarda, those would be reliant on what the natural environment generates.

“Consumption benefits of products and amenities provided by the natural environment, waste disposal services, and pollution are part of producing marketed commodities, but are not evaluated (positively or negatively) and reflected in national income accounting,” she stressed.

Legarda said HB 9181 proposes a national income accounting system, which will provide “vital information for economic management and policy-making.”

“The bill, when passed into law, will allow government planners to have a full understanding of the natural capital available and expendable in the pursuit of national goals,” the lawmaker said.

She likewise underscored that the measure is essential, as climate crisis and biodiversity losses “could potentially lead to the next pandemic.”



# Legarda files bill to implement an ecosystem and natural accounting system that applies to PH environment

Published April 9, 2021, 10:54 AM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda has filed a bill seeking to develop and implement an ecosystem and natural accounting system that applies to the Philippine environment, giving importance to the role, value, and impact of the country's natural resources on the economy.



Deputy Speaker and Antique Rep. Loren Legarda (Congresswoman Loren Legarda Official Facebook Page / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“For decades, the debate has been whether to choose economy over conservation of natural resources. This is a false dichotomy. The economy and all of society are fully and entirely dependent on natural resources—our natural capital that includes our forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems,” Legarda, a three-term senator, said.

House Bill 9181, known as the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Law of 2021, will include what was formerly considered “externalities,” not valued as capital, in the national income accounts. Conventional national income accounting systems measure economic performance by determining the value of goods and services produced in a country and aggregating them to develop economic development indicators, such as the Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Legarda explained that “the goods and services included in this accounting system are those that are “marketed,” the prices of which are the basis for estimating the value that is then included in computing economic indicators. This methodology thus reflects the goods and services produced, sold, and bought in the economy.

However, these goods and services are almost entirely reliant on the goods and services that the natural environment generates.

“Consumption benefits of products and amenities provided by the natural environment, waste disposal services, and pollution are part of producing marketed commodities but are not valued (positively or negatively) and reflected in national income accounting. While it is difficult to undertake this valuation, and many would say it would tend to commodify what is priceless, the lack of such valuation has led to the appreciation of these services as having zero instead of priceless value,” Legarda said.

Indicators and standards generated by the national income accounting system are considered vital information for economic management and policymaking. They serve as the basis for socio-economic planning, formulation of development programs, and policy analysis to aid legislation, among others. Legarda stressed that it is important that the national income accounts reflect a more accurate state of development and economic performance of the country and should incorporate both environmental and non-environmental economic inputs and outputs for policymakers to make responsive, relevant, and effective laws, plans, and programs necessary for national development.



“The bill, when passed into law, will allow government planners to have a full understanding of the natural capital available and expendable in the pursuit of national goals. For instance, there has not been an accounting of whether our legally harvested sand and gravel will suffice to meet the needs of both the Build Build Build program and the demands of the private sector. Good housekeeping requires that you budget what you have and not live beyond your means. It is the same for national patrimony. Not taking into account how much we have and how to allocate it drives our ecosystems to ruin. The climate crisis and biodiversity losses that could potentially lead to the next pandemic highlight the urgency of having this bill approved and implemented,” Legarda added.

The proposed measure adheres to the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), which the UN introduced in 2006 and has been continuously advancing further with the adoption of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting in March 2001 and the UN collaborative project with other organizations on Natural Capital Accounting and Ecosystem Valuation that will end in 2021.

A Working Group of experts on environment and natural resources, economics, management, and science and technology from the Climate Crisis and Sustainable Development Network (CCSDN) and the former Sustainable Development Committee of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) assisted in drafting the bill.

They include Dr. Marian delos Angeles, Dr. Corazon Claudio, Dr. Laura David, Ms. Maricor Ebarvia, Dr. Angelina Galang, former NEDA chief Dr. Cielito Habito, Dr. Ben Malayang, and Ms. Rina Ma. Rosales.



## 'China digging up WPS materials'

posted April 09, 2021 at 09:20 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

A group of environmentalists on Friday accused China of using the Philippines' earth materials in reclamation and infrastructure projects in the disputed West Philippine Sea.

At a virtual media conference, Villardo Abueme, Homonhon Environmental Rescuers Organization (HERO) president, said China is using earth materials sourced from dredging and mining activities in different parts of the country are reportedly being used in the reclamation and infrastructure projects of China off Spratly Islands in the West Philippine Sea.

He cited the unabated dredging, extraction of sand and filling materials from as far as Cagayan to McArthur, Leyte in the Visayas that continue to destroy the country's natural resources.

"It is very environmentally destructive, unsustainable and deprived local contractors from quality and affordable sand, gravel, aggregates and filling materials," Abuema said.

"This is actually worse than invasion. Literally they are taking Philippine soil out of the country, leaving poor villages, mostly farm communities to pay for the environmental backlash brought by the unsustainable and very destructive extractive activity," he added.

According to HERO, "pillagers of environment" are operating in the Davao region, Central Mindanao, Northern Luzon, and other areas in the Visayas.

Abueme urged Senator Risa Hontiveros to investigate and stop the destructive trade.

Camilo de Guzman, KALikha University of the Philippines-Diliman chairperson, asserted that "the West Philippine Sea is ours."

"And no aggression from China can say otherwise. We are not for sale, and we will not watch silently while our fisher folks are being driven out of their fishing grounds further into poverty and hunger, especially during a pandemic," he said.

Amid China's aggression in the West Philippine Sea and intrusion of Chinese vessels in the waters off the Julian Felipe Reef, KALikha UP Diliman is set to hold an online forum to discuss various forms of aggression and their implications on national sovereignty.

"The forum aims to give light to the situations that Filipinos depending on the resources in the West Philippine Sea are facing. Worrying about our fisherfolks and the national sovereignty are valid and pressing issues, but we also have to remember the long-term environmental damage that China is causing in our territories," said Amber Quiban, KALikha's national campaign and advocacies officer.

"We cannot allow China to continuously build these islands over reefs because these will result to loss of habitat for a lot of marine wildlife and the loss of sources of food and livelihood for many Filipinos. These activities have a serious impact on our marine ecosystem. We are already facing a massive environmental crisis," De Guzman said.



# CCC on World Health Day: Build a more just, equitable, healthier world

By Joedie Mae D. BoliverPublished on April 9, 2021



***Clockwise from top left: coastal flooding in Tuvalu, infectious disease risks in urban settings in Sierra Leone, disruption of livelihoods in Scandinavia and Nepal. (Courtesy of World Health Organization)***

CALOOCAN CITY, April 9 (PIA) -- The Climate Change Commission (CCC) on Monday joined the global community in calling for the protection of rights of all people to equal opportunities and adequate access to essential services, in celebration of World Health Day.

April 7th of each year marks the celebration of World Health Day to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages.

With the theme, "Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone," this year's celebration highlights the World Health Organization (WHO) principle that "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit all countries hard, but its impact has been harshest on those communities already facing significant risk and vulnerability to sudden systematic shocks. These communities are also less likely to have access to quality health care services and more likely to experience adverse consequences as a result of measures implemented to contain the pandemic.

In data from the WHO, up to 60 percent of people living in the Western Pacific region, which includes the Philippines, lack coverage in terms of essential health services. More than 1 billion people living in informal settlements or "slums" are facing increased challenges in preventing infection and transmission of the coronavirus.

As of Monday, the country's COVID-19 cases top 800,000. As daily cases continue to break previous records, the government imposed Enhanced Community Quarantine in the National Capital Region and its nearby provinces, affecting the livelihoods of millions.



With this, the CCC joins the call to ensure that everyone has living and working conditions that are conducive to good health, and that all people are able to access quality health services depending on their needs and values within their communities.

Moreover, the Commission encourages all Filipinos across the globe to amplify the importance of breaking all forms of gender, social, and health inequities to ensure inclusive recovery from emerging challenges like COVID-19, as well as increased resilience to disasters and climate-related risks. (PIA NCR)





# E-Waste Zero focuses on responsible disposal, recycling

By ... -April 9, 2021



Globe Telecom has established E-Waste Zero, an environmental program focused on responsible disposal and recycling of electronic wastes.

E-Waste Zero provides a way for people to donate their old, non-working electronic devices via participating Globe Stores, select malls, schools, and offices of partner organizations nationwide which will then be turned over to DENR-accredited Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facilities for proper handling and recycling.

More than 100 bins under the Globe E-waste Zero program are now placed in different collection points nationwide such as Globe Stores and malls, which the public can easily access. These bins can accommodate mobile phones, IT accessories such as mouse, earphones, and speakers; Internet and WiFi modems and routers; cable wires, batteries, circuit boards, CDs /DVDs, and other small electronic devices. Bigger items such as computer sets, IT servers, and electronic network equipment (antennas, transmitters, etc.), and home appliances (washing machine, oven, refrigerator, and the like) may be requested for pick up.

Last year, the program collected and responsibly disposed of over 250,000 kg of e-waste, bringing the total collection to more than 1.4 million kg since the program started in 2014. These e-wastes are delivered to Globe's partner Treatment, Storage, and Disposal (TSD) facilities, namely Total Environment Solutions – Asset Material Management Philippines (TES-AMM) in Pasig City, and Maritrans Recycler, Inc. in Cebu. E-wastes are segregated to recover plastic materials, electronic components, glass, and precious metals but the final recycling process is done in TES-AMM's facility in Singapore.

“Responsible disposal of e-waste also helps bring additional funds for the education sector. In 2016, Globe turned over classrooms in Altavas and New Washington, Aklan from the proceeds of the e-waste recycling program and other fundraising initiatives. Today, proceeds from e-waste donations will help provide devices and connectivity support to public school teachers and students in areas needing them the most,” said Yoly Crisanto, Globe chief sustainability officer and senior vice president for Corporate Communications.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_special\\_feature/e-waste-zero-focuses-on-responsible-disposal-recycling/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/e-waste-zero-focuses-on-responsible-disposal-recycling/)



This photo taken on April 6, 2021 shows a man wearing personal protective equipment walking into a makeshift ward built for COVID-19 patients at a hospital in Manila. More contagious variants of the coronavirus have been blamed for a record surge in infections in Metro Manila that has overwhelmed hospitals and sent the national capital region into lockdown.

AFP/Jam Sta Rosa

## Philippines records new record-high 178,351 active cases, 401 fatalities

(Philstar.com) - April 9, 2021 - 4:05pm

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 4:23 p.m.**) — The Philippines on Friday logged 12,225 new COVID-19 cases, pushing national caseload to 840,554.

- Active cases: 178,351 or 21.2% of the total
- Recoveries: 946, bringing the number to 647,683
- Deaths: 401 or now 14,520 in total

What's new today?

- Friday's case tally shows the highest recorded active cases in the country at 12,225.
- The Philippines also logged the highest death toll in a day, at 401 new fatalities.
- Friday's number also showed 21.4% daily positivity rate of the 39,630 who were tested for the coronavirus.
- ANX Research reported that the Philippines, along with India, Malaysia and Indonesia, are likely to be among [“laggards” in Asia tourism revival](#) as these destinations remain “weak” in terms of reopening to tourists amid slow vaccination and uncontrolled local outbreaks.
- The Department of Health asserted that “every centavo” of its nine billion Bayanihan funds was accounted for in the construction of health infrastructure amid questions on the breakdown of expenditure.
- President Rodrigo Duterte hailed COVID-19 frontliners and fallen soldiers in his [Day of Valor message](#). On the same day, Agence France-Presse published a report on families of COVID-19 positive patients scouring Metro Manila for hospitals that can admit them.
- The Bureau of Immigration clarified that foreigners are still not allowed to enter the country, but those intending to come in for emergency or humanitarian reasons must first seek exemption from the National Covid Task Force against COVID-19.

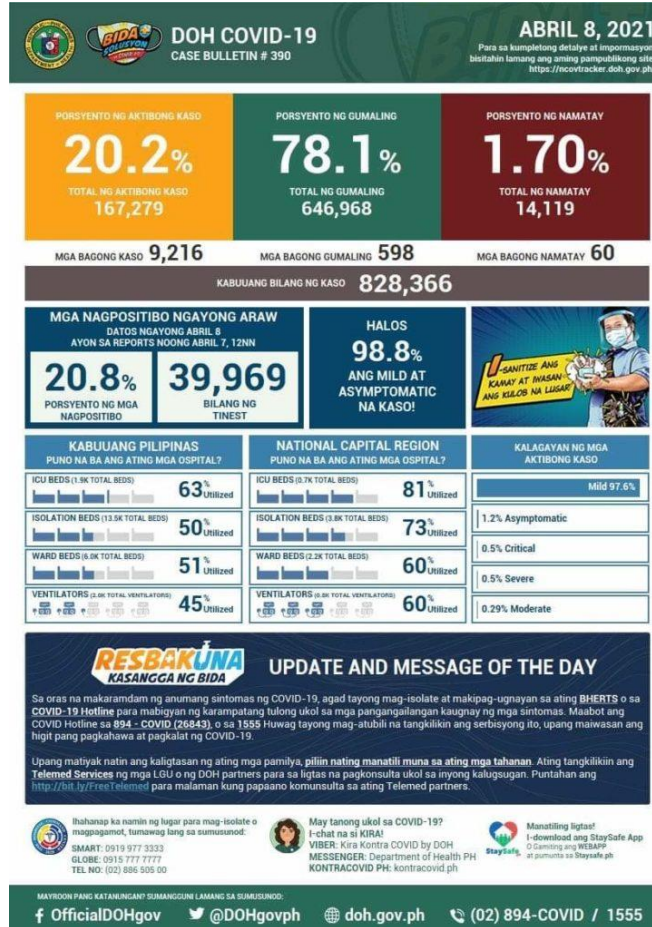


- The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases is set to meet on Saturday to discuss the quarantine qualification of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal. Latest announcement from the Palace said “NCR Plus” bubble will remain under enhanced community quarantine until April 11.

— **Kristine Joy Patag**

# BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, umabot na sa higit 828,000

By Angellic Jordan April 08, 2021 - 04:07 PM



Higit 9,000 ang panibagong napaulat na kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (April 8), pumalo na sa 828,366 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 167,279 o 20.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 9,216 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

97.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 1.2 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.29 porsyento ang moderate; 0.5 porsyento ang severe habang 0.5 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 60 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 14,119 o 1.70 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 598 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 646,968 o 78.1 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Source: <https://radio.inquirer.net/289088/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-umabot-na-sa-higit-828000>



# OCTA Research bats for another week of ECQ in NCR Plus

By JULIA MARI ORNEDO, GMA News

Published April 9, 2021 12:21pm Updated April 9, 2021 2:51pm

The government should extend the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the NCR Plus bubble for another week to slow down the surge in COVID-19 cases, the OCTA Research group said Friday.

If ECQ extension "cannot be considered for socioeconomic reasons," the group suggested a two-week modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) to "sustain the gains" made over the previous weeks.

Professor Ranjit Rye said the COVID-19 situation in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal — collectively dubbed NCR Plus — is "not yet ideal for opening up."

Rye said the reproduction number of the coronavirus remains above 1, meaning each COVID-19 case can still infect more than one other person, and the average number of daily new cases continues to be "very high."

"Moreover, a continuing concern is that hospital capacity in the region and the bubble remain at critical capacity. We need time to slow this surge down. We cannot open prematurely as this could accelerate the surge," he warned.

Malacañang earlier said it was "unlikely" that the ECQ, the strictest lockdown classification, would be extended past April 11.

The Department of Health has also explained that the loosening of restrictions **will be gradual**, with MECQ imposed first instead of jumping straight to general community quarantine, a less stringent classification that allows more economic activity.

The government's inter-agency COVID-19 task force **will meet on Saturday** to discuss the quarantine restrictions over NCR Plus.

Meanwhile, OCTA Research urged the national government to work with its local counterparts and the private sector to accelerate COVID-19 vaccination in NCR Plus.

"In particular, we need to expand the number of vaccination sites in the NCR to accommodate more individuals and reduce the possibility of superspreader events due to crowding in vaccination centers," Rye said.

OCTA suggested using university gyms and even malls as alternative vaccination sites.

The Philippines has vaccinated **over 922,000 individuals** as of April 6 while active COVID-19 cases have soared to **more than 167,000** as of Thursday afternoon. —**KBK, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/783087/octa-research-vouches-for-2-week-mecq-to-sustain-ecq-gains/story/>



## 3,600 HCW TODAS SA US COVID-19; PINOY PINAKAMARAMI SA MGA DAYUHAN



April 9, 2021 @ 4:28 AM 1 day ago

Tiyak na titindigan ka ng balahibo sa pagragasa ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19, maging sa United States na nangunguna ngayon sa matagumpay na lumalaban dito pangalawa sa bansang China.

Lumitaw sa rekord at imbestigasyon ng pahayagang Guardian at KHN na nasa 3,600 health care workers (HCW) ang nasawi sa United States mula sa nakaraang taon hanggang kamakailan lamang.

Ayon sa ulat ng dalawang pahayagan, mahigit sa katlo sa mga namatay ang ipinanganak o galing sa ibang bansa at ang Pilipinas ang may pinakamarami rito.

Tatlong beses umanong higit na nakasalang sa panganib at kamatayan ang mga HCW kumpara sa mga karaniwang mamamayang tinamaan ng pandemya.

### KAPALPAKAN NG US AUTHORITIES

Isa sa naging pangunahin dahilan umano ang kapalpakan ng mga awtoridad sa US na magbigay ng buong proteksyon sa mga health worker.

Kabilang sa mga kapalpakan umano ang labis na kakulangan, kamahalan at maling pagpapagamit ng mga personal protective equipment.

Ehemplo umano rito ang labis na kakulangan ng N95 mask, may presyong \$79 bawat isa at paggamit lamang ng N95 sa mga kasong severe at kritikal.

Ang kakulangan ng face mask at paggamit ng sariling google lamang ang sinasabing ikinamatay ni Dr. Frank Gabrin, ang kauna-unahang doktor na namatay.

Namatay rin si [Adeline Fagan](#), OB-GYN, sa kawalan ng pambili ng bagong N95 mask at kinamatayan na lamang niya ang araw-araw niyang nilalabhan at nililinis hanggang sa masira na nag-iisa niyang N95 mask.

Pinagagamit lamang din ang N95 mask sa mga nakasalang sa intubation o nanggagamot sa mga severe at kritikal na biktima at mga ordinaryong surgical mask lamang ang sa pinakamaraming iba sa kabila ng pare-parehong panganib na sinusuong nila.



Hands off o hindi rin umano gaanong iniintindi ng Department of Labor ang libo-libong reklamo ng mga HCW, karamihan ukol sa kakulangan ng PPE at napakarami ring employer, kasama ang mga ospital, clinic, nursing homes ang hindi nag-uulat na namamatayan sila mismo ng mga HCW at nagrerelaks lang umano rito ang Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Kasama sa mga kapalpakan din ang kawalan ng COVID testing, contract tracing at kawalan ng matinong habilin ng mga awtoridad ukol sa pagsusuot ng face mask.

## **KARAMIHAN ITIM AT LATINO**

Nasa 70 porsyento umano ng mga namamatay ang mga maitim o negro at Latino at 30 porsyento sa hanay ng mga puti.

Isa pa, karaniwang ang mga mababa ang sahod ang higit na namamatay kumpara, halimbawa, sa mga doktor na mataas ang sahod.

Kasama sa mga may mababang sahod at hindi makabili ng sarili nilang PPE ang mga nars, nursing home employee at support staff ng mga ito.

Kasama sa mga namatay ang isang Pinay nurse na si Estrella Quillopa na taga, Camalaniugan, Cagayan, nagtrabaho sa isang pampublikong ospital sa California at naging kabilang ito sa mga ipinanganak sa labas ng US na namatay habang naninilbihan kina Uncle Sam.

At kahit na may pagbabakuna na sa US simula noong Disyembre 2020, meron pa rin umanong namatay na 400 HCW pangunahin sa kapalpakan sa patakaran ng pagsusuot ng N95 mask para lamang sa mga umaalalay sa mga nasa kritikal at severe na kalagayan.

## **SA PINAS KAYA?**

Sinasabing may 82 nang patay na nurse sa Pilipinas at tila iba pa ang nasa 30 na doktor at iba pang mga health worker.

Ang totoo, nahihirapan ang hanay ng media na mairekord nang husto ang bilang ng mga namamatay na health worker dahil sa istriktong pagpapairal ng pagkapribado ng mga biktima at kagustuhan din ng mga biktima na maging pribado ang kanilang kinasasapitan.

Sa rami kasi ng mga basher na nakatuon hindi lang sa mga biktima kundi mismo sa mga doktor, ospital at nasa pamahalaan.

Sa halip na tumuong at gumawa ng mga paraan para mabawasan ang panganib na hinaharap ng mga HCW, mas ninanais pa, halimbawa, ng mga politiko na pumoposisyon sa halalang 2022 at mam-bash sa isa't isa, kasama na ang pamahalaan.

Halimbawa, sino sa mga basher sa mga nasa pamahalaan ang nagtataas man lang ng isang daliri para tumulong sa mga nangangailangang HCW?

Sumbong ng ating Uzi, mga Bro, marami ang nakaupo lang sa harap ng kanilang mga computer, laptop at cellphone para mam-bash.



Kapag may kinukuha ng ambulansya at itinatakbo sa ospital, ni hindi man lang tumanaw ang maraming basher, tingnan kung may maiaambag sila kahit isang kilong bigas man lang sa mga ni-lockdown na pamilya.

At lalong hindi umano makita ang mukha ng mga ito sa mga lamayan sa takot sa sila'y madamay na mamatay.

At lahat pa ay isinisisi sa pamahalaan.

Anak ng tokwa, ganyan katindi ang mga nagaganap na sa totoo lang, nakapagpapalala sa kalagayan natin sa pandemya, aminin man nila o hindi.

Sana magbago na tayo, kahit man lang sa panahong ng pandemya at saka na lang ang mga bashing at awayang-pulitikal matapos nito.





## 58 quakes recorded in Taal Volcano in past 24 hours

Published April 9, 2021, 8:51 AM

by [Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) detected a total of 58 earthquakes in Taal Volcano from Thursday, April 8 to Friday, April 9.



(Ali Vicoy / MANILA BULLETIN)

In a volcano bulletin issued on Friday, Phivolcs said of the 58 quakes recorded, 51 of these were episodes of volcanic tremors having durations of one to three minutes, one was a volcano-tectonic event, and six were low-frequency volcanic earthquakes.

Phivolcs said a low-level background tremor that started at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday is ongoing as of Friday morning.

It also observed a “weak” emission of steam-laden plumes from Taal Volcano’s vents that rose five meters.

Taal Volcano’s sulfur dioxide emission averaged 1,155 tonnes per day on Thursday, while, temperature highs of 71.8 degrees Celsius and pH of 1.59 were last measured from the main crater lake on March 4 and Feb. 12, 2021, respectively.

Phivolcs added that ground deformation parameters continued to indicate a “very slow and steady inflation and expansion of the Taal region since after the January 2020 eruption.”

“These parameters may indicate increased magmatic activity at shallow depths beneath the edifice,” it said.

Phivolcs pointed out that Taal Volcano will remain under Alert Level 2.

It has been Alert Level 2 since March 9, 2021.

“Sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within and around TVI (Taal Volcano Island),” it pointed out.

It warned the public from entering the volcano island, which is a permanent danger zone, especially the vicinities of the main crater and Daang Kastila fissure.

Occupancy and boating on Taal Lake should also be strictly prohibited, Phivolcs added.

Local government units were advised to continuously assess and strengthen the preparedness of previously evacuated barangays around Taal Lake in case of renewed unrest.

Civil aviation authorities were also asked to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from explosions and wind-remobilized ash may pose hazards to aircraft.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/09/58-quakes-recorded-in-taal-volcano-in-past-24-hours/>



# Fast-track 'Code of Conduct' in South China Sea, Locsin to ASEAN

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora April 9, 2021, 9:55 pm



*(PNA file photo)*

**MANILA** – The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) must adopt a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea where all parties, including China, shall accept restraints, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Friday.

Locsin issued the statement after two Chinese missile vessels on Thursday “approached” a boat carrying a team of journalists within the West Philippine Sea, reportedly only 90 nautical miles off mainland Palawan.

As the Mutual Defense Treaty is only triggered by an attack on Filipino public vessels, he said a situation that involves a civilian boat sailing in the West Philippine Sea “opens a whole new area of interest.”

“(W)hat if Filipinos on a pleasure craft, one of many yachts out there, crosses an invisible line drawn by China in Philippine waters? What if they are fired upon or heaven forbid rammed – no, not that; those yachts cost millions of dollars,” he said.

“This is why it is imperative for Asean to adopt a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea whereby all parties, China included, accept restraints.”

As China coordinator, Locsin said the Philippines is pushing for Asean cooperation and “no dilly-dallying”, which he said is already happening despite the pandemic.

If such an attack happens, he assured that the Philippine government, through the DFA, would lodge a strong protest.

“If that happens, expect a strong protest from DFA for hurt of pleasure-seekers if not death. Would China actually say they are in our territory? But if one went to Hong Kong without a visa, would it be right to shoot one? See, a whole new area of interest,” Locsin said.

ABS-CBN News reporter Chiara Zambrano reported that China Coast Guard ship 5101, “approached and headed straight” toward her team. They were supposed to visit Ayungin Shoal.

They were asked via radio communication what their purpose was but they decided to just turn around. **(PNA)**



# PH, US discuss defense pact amid Chinese swarming in WPS

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora April 9, 2021, 2:02 pm



**MANILA** – Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. and US State Secretary Antony Blinken on Friday discussed the two nations' concerns over the continued presence of Chinese vessels at the West Philippine Sea, including the Julian Felipe Reef.

In a readout, the State Department said "both expressed their shared concerns" with the massing of Chinese vessels in the area and "reiterated their calls on the People's Republic of China to abide by the 2016 arbitration ruling".

During the call, Blinken reaffirmed the applicability of the 1951 United States-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty to the South China Sea.

The US State Department said both officials noted the importance of "working closely to enhance" the seven-decades-old defense pact in light of the recent geopolitical developments and challenges in the Asia Pacific region, particularly in the West Philippine Sea.

"Secretary Blinken and Secretary Locsin welcomed enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the South China Sea," it said.

The two top diplomats also touched on Washington D.C.'s assistance to Manila's Covid-19 response as well as its efforts to combat rising hate and violence against Asian-Americans in the US.

"Both Secretaries expressed confidence and optimism in the future trajectory of the Philippines-United States bilateral cooperation as this year marks the 75th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries," the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The call coincided with the commemoration of Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor), which honors thousands of Filipino and American troops who were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese and were forced to march some 112 kilometers from Bataan to Tarlac with no food and water in 1942. **(PNA)**



## Biodiversity 'hot spots' devastated in warming world

posted April 09, 2021 at 09:20 am

by [AFP](#)

Unless nations dramatically improve on carbon cutting pledges made under the 2015 Paris climate treaty, the planet's richest concentrations of animal and plant life will be irreversibly ravaged by global warming, scientists warned Friday.

An analysis of 8,000 published risk assessments for species showed a high danger for extinction in nearly 300 biodiversity "hot spots", on land and in the sea, if temperatures rise three degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, they reported in the journal Biological Conservation.

Earth's surface has heated up 1C so far, and the Paris Agreement enjoins nations to cap warming at "well below" 2C, and 1.5C if possible.

National commitments to slash greenhouse gas emissions -- assuming they are honoured -- would still see temperatures soar well above 3C by century's end, if not sooner.

So-called endemic species -- plants and animals found exclusively in a specific area -- will be hit hardest in a warming world.

From snow leopards in the Himalayas and the vaquita porpoise in the Gulf of California to lemurs in Madagascar and forest elephants in central Africa, many of the planet's most cherished creatures will wind up on a path to extinction unless humanity stops loading the atmosphere with CO2 and methane, the study found.

Endemic land species in biodiverse hot spots are nearly three times as likely to suffer losses due to climate change than more widespread flora and fauna, and 10 times more likely than invasive species.

- Trapped in an enclosed sea -

"Climate change threatens areas overflowing with species that cannot be found anywhere else in the world," said lead author Stella Manes, a researcher at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

"The risk for such species to be lost forever increases more than 10-fold if we miss the goals of the Paris Agreement."

More and more scientists concede that capping global warming at 1.5C target is probably out of reach.

But every tenth of a degree matters when it comes to avoiding impacts, they say.

Some concentrations of wildlife are more vulnerable than others.

In mountain regions, 84 percent of endemic animals and plants face extinction in a 3C world, while on islands -- already devastated by invasive species -- the figure rises to 100 percent.

"By nature, these species cannot easily move to more favourable environments," explained co-author Mark Costello, a marine ecologist from the University of Auckland.

Marine species in the Mediterranean are especially threatened because they are trapped in an enclosed sea, he added.

Overall, more than 90 percent of land-based endemic species, and 95 percent of marine ones, will be adversely affected if Earth warms another two degrees, the international team of researchers found.

- Safe havens not so safe -

In the tropics, two out of three species could perish due to climate change alone.

The findings may impel conservationists to rethink how to best protect endangered wildlife.

Up to now, the main threats have been habitat loss due to expanding urban areas, mining and agriculture, on the one hand, and hunting for food and body parts to sell on the black market, on the other.

A key strategy in the face of this onslaught has been carving out protected areas, especially around biodiversity hot spots.

But these safe havens may be of little use in the face of global warming.



"Unfortunately, our study shows that those biodiversity rich-spots will not be able to act as species refugia from climate change," said co-author Mariana Vale, also from Federal University.

Even before the impact of global warming has truly kicked in, scientists have ascertained that Earth is at the outset of a so-called mass extinction event in which species are disappearing at 100 to 1,000 the normal, or "background", rate.

There have been five previous mass extinctions in the last 500 million years.



## New high-altitude gecko species found

The species lives along the Jinsha River basin

BEIJING (Xinhua) – Chinese researchers have discovered a new species of gecko living at high altitude in southwest China's provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan.

The new species, called *Gekko jinjiangensis*, was found at an elevation of 2,000 to 2,476 meters, the highest of any known gecko, according to

an article published in the journal *Asian Herpetological Research*.

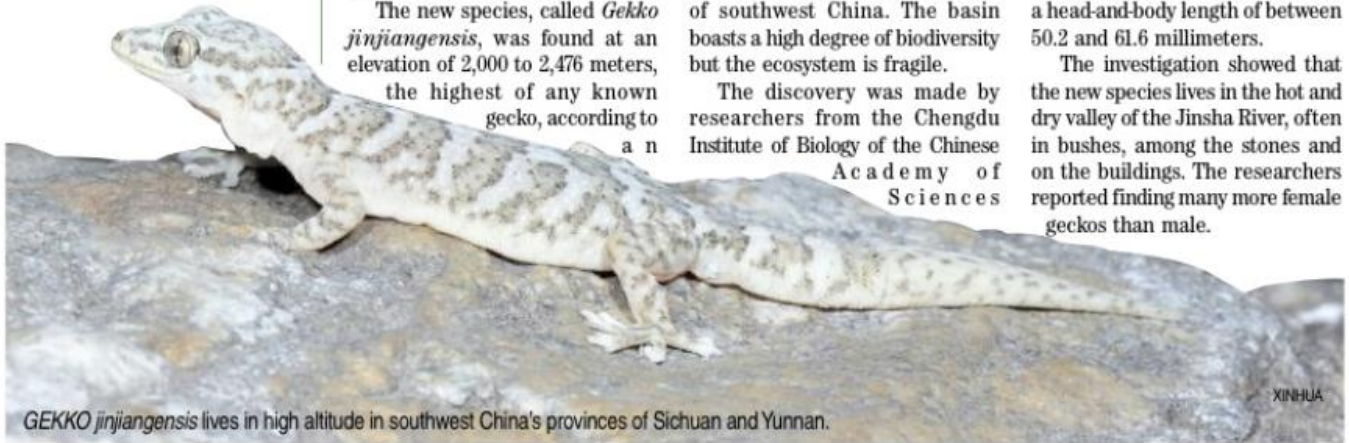
The species lives along the Jinsha River basin, which is situated in the mountainous region of southwest China. The basin boasts a high degree of biodiversity but the ecosystem is fragile.

The discovery was made by researchers from the Chengdu Institute of Biology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

during a two-year investigation into amphibians and reptiles around the Jinsha River basin from 2019 to 2020.

The new gecko species can be distinguished by its small size, with a head-and-body length of between 50.2 and 61.6 millimeters.

The investigation showed that the new species lives in the hot and dry valley of the Jinsha River, often in bushes, among the stones and on the buildings. The researchers reported finding many more female geckos than male.



GEKKO *jinjiangensis* lives in high altitude in southwest China's provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan.

XINHUA

10 APRIL 2021, SATURDAY



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