

11 FEBRUARY 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

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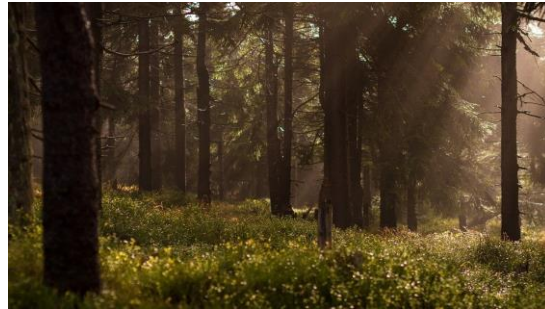


Forest bathing, anyone?

Published February 10, 2021, 11:14 AM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) is pushing for a new kind of therapy in the country called “forest bathing,” which is a Japanese innovation.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

“I firmly believe that forest bathing can also be a hit in the Philippines as long as we protect and conserve our forests especially our protected areas and our wetlands,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The DENR announced that it has entered into a partnership with the private sector for the creation of more green spaces in urban areas via the “Urban Forest Bathing Project,” which is part of BMB’s Urban Biodiversity Program.

“The Urban Forest Bathing Project not only will help the environment, as more trees and land spaces will be used for this if deemed successful; it will also help the people nourish their mental and emotional well-being,” Cimatu said, adding that it’s “a win-win for both the environment and the people.”

Forest bathing is based on a Japanese concept called shinrin-yoku, with shinrin meaning “forest,” and yoku meaning “bathing.” Developed in Japan during the 1980s, forest bathing means taking in the forest atmosphere during a leisurely walk.

The environment chief added that he looks forward to the BMB’s promotion of forest bathing in urban areas as health is increasingly becoming a priority for people living in cities.

The project, which is covered by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), will be undertaken in collaboration with the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects (PALA), and the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP).

Under the MOU, the BMB shall lead the implementation of the project with concerned DENR regional and field offices and local government units (LGU), issue policy recommendations and guidelines on its establishment, and assist in the formulation of the detailed Site Development Plan of each area identified for urban forest bathing.

It shall also monitor and evaluate periodically the progress of the implementation of urban forest bathing.

The PTFCF shall conduct scientific and technical research to generate knowledge on urban biodiversity conservation and support to urban forest bathing and the formulation of policy guidelines for the establishment of urban forest bathing. It shall collaborate with BMB for the preparation and implementation of the project.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/10/forest-bathing-anyone/>



DENR closes Bulacan dump

[Ramon Efren Lazaro](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 11, 2021 - 12:00am

MALOLOS, Philippines — A dump in this city was closed on Tuesday.

Paquito Moreno, executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Central Luzon, ordered the closure of the dump based on the recommendation of Environment Management Bureau (EMB) regional office director Wilson Trajeco.

The EMB reported that a monitoring team discovered a bulk of mixed waste adjacent to a material recovery facility in Barangay Mambog on Jan. 13. The city government claimed it was its transfer station.

A dump truck owned by the city government was also caught dumping waste in the facility.

The EMB team said freshly dumped sacks of waste emitting obnoxious odor was observed.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered the closure of all dumps in the country by the end of March.

DENR records show that 195 open dumps are still operating in the country, most of them in Western Visayas, Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Bicol and Davao.

Under Section 37 of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, the establishment and maintenance of open dumps are prohibited due to the serious threat posed to the environment and public health.

The DENR said charges would be filed against erring LGUs.



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Apat na hektaryang dumpsite sa Malolos, Bulacan isinara ng DENR dahil umano sa paglabag sa republic act 9003 na Ecological Solid Waste Management Act 2000 at republic act 8749 Clean Air Act of 1999.



👍 4



Phl eagle couple spotted in Surigao

This indicates that the eagle sites are still thriving in that territory. So, the fact that they are breeding, then the nesting site is still intact

Published 3 hours ago on February 11, 2021 02:30 AM

By [Ivy Marie Mangadlao](#)



HOPE is seen as a pair of Philippine eagles are spotted by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur. The pair is believed to be nesting around the Tinuy-an Falls, a protected landscape that assures continuity of the critically endangered species.

BUTUAN CITY — Just a few weeks after the sighting of a couple of Philippine eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) in the forested area of Tinuy-an Falls in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, locals and government agencies quickly activated a campaign to protect the critically endangered birds.

The move was led by the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO)-Bislig, which conducted a Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) call for the preservation and protection of the critically endangered species on Tuesday.

“It is high time for the government, private sector, and the community to strengthen the conservation and rehabilitation of the forest which could help save the Philippine eagle,” Officer-in-Charge, CENRO Officer Victor B. Sabornido said.

The campaign was conducted in Barangay Burboanan and Mone in collaboration with the local government units, Indigenous People of Matricoso and Mandaya, and the Philippine National Police-Bislig.

According to a CENRO-Bislig statement, the two Eagles — a coupling male and female — were found to be incubating an egg within the Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape in Barangay Burboanan on 28 January.

Jayson Carungay Ibanez, Director of Research and Conservation at the Philippine Eagle Foundation, reported that it was the third recorded nesting site in Bislig City and the first in over a decade.

“This indicates that the eagle sites are still thriving in that territory. So, the fact that they are breeding, then the nesting site is still intact,” Ibanez added.

With an estimated 400 nesting pairs left in the wild, Philippine Eagle is listed as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the Red List of Threatened Species.

It is high time for the government, the private sector, and the community to strengthen the conservation and rehabilitation of the forest which could help save the Philippine eagle.



An article entitled Ecology and Conservation of Philippine Eagles stated that habitat loss and human persecution continue to impact the species adversely.

Tinuy-an Falls is one of Surigao del Sur's tourism gems which features a waterfall known as the "Little Niagara of the Philippines" for its multi-tiered cascades that are 55 meters high and 95 meters wide.

Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018 proclaimed the site as one of the three protected areas in the Caraga region.



50 unggoy na ibinibiyaha naharang sa Zamboanga checkpoint

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 10 2021 06:53 PM



Agad dinala ang mga unggoy sa lokal na tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa bayan para maibalik ang mga ito sa kagubatan. *Dynah Diestro*

SIOCON, Zamboanga del Norte — Nasa 50 unggoy ang na-rescue noong Linggo nang maharang ng mga awtoridad ang isang motorcab na siyang pinagkakargahan sa mga ito.

Naghinala ang mga awtoridad sa mga nakitang kahon na gawa sa kawayan habang nagsasagawa ng checkpoint sa Barangay S. Cabral.

"Hindi kasi nila inakala na may checkpoint. Pagkahinto ng motorcab eh di agad hiningi 'yung mga dokumento, permit to transport the monkeys kasi hindi puwedeng ibiyaha ito kung walang permit," ani Police Maj. Edison Alviar, hepe ng Siocon Municipal Police Station.

Bigo ang nagpakilalang may-ari ng mga unggoy na si Florenia Manera na magpresenta ng mga hinihinging dokumento.

Agad dinala ang mga unggoy sa lokal na tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa bayan para maibalik ito sa kani-kanilang tirahan sa kagubatan.

Ayon kay City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) officer Rey Jalandoni, binibigyan lang nila ng permiso ang panghuhuli ng mga unggoy kung may dokumento ito galing sa Biodiversity Bureau ng DENR lalo't gagamitin para sa isang pag-aaral.

Isa ang bayan ng Siocon na kilalang tahanan ng mga ligaw na hayop dahil sa makapal nitong kagubatan.

Inaalam pa ng DENR kung saan gagamitin at saan ibibiyaha ang mga hinuling unggoy.

Handa nilang kasuhan ng paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act ang mga dawit kung mapapatunayan nilang ibebenta ang mga hinuling unggoy.

—Mula sa ulat ni **Dynah Diestro**

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/10/21/50-unggoy-na-ibinibiyaha-naharang-sa-zamboanga-checkpoint?fbclid=IwAR0ODiQ3IR9MO09QgpyzgBF1HmPSfTfHSG6sQlkdKlbV53ASVBA BVY05SJg>



Solon files bill seeking to 'fine-tune' PH's small scale mining law

Published February 10, 2021, 4:14 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

Agusan Del Sur Rep. Eddiebong Plaza on Wednesday pushed Congress to pass the measure that seeks to amend the 30-year old People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 (PSSMA), saying it needs to be fine-tuned to address the current needs of the national and local government.



(MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Noting the obsolete provisions of the law, Plaza said it is imperative that Congress amend Republic Act 7076 in order to "capture the sentiments and aspirations" of small-scale miners, the national government's desires and plans for the sector and make the local government units (LGUs) active partners in managing the small-scale mining operations on the ground. Plaza noted the current law is no longer realistic and needs updating in order to realize the intended benefits that the law covers.

"Since its inception 30 years ago, RA 7076's intended goal of encouraging growth and productivity is nowhere to be seen. Ordinary people engaged in small scale mining in communities hosting 'minahan ng bayan' remained to be mired in poverty, burdened by social and health problems, and the environment suffer from unregulated, unscrupulous practices," Plaza told the House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr.

Plaza had filed House Bill No. 5784 which primarily seeks to modernize and empower the small-scale mining industry and make it an engine of growth and development in the countryside.

The bill also aims to promote small-scale mining in the uplands and in the ancestral domains of indigenous peoples (IPs) where poverty is intense.

The House lawmaker also lamented how gold production of the small-scale mining sector fell drastically especially after the government issued Executive Order 79 in 2012 which bans mining activities in several areas in the country, affecting the government's gold reserves.

"It declined in 2011, less than P35-billion in 2012 and to barely a billion pesos in 2018. No gold is going to government reserve, no revenue for the LGUs (local government units) and the national government," he lamented.

"The people and the communities, environment and the government are equally suffering under the present set up provided by the current RA 7076," he further said.

He also said LGUs with small-scale mining activities are losing income in the past eight years since the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2015-03 which imposed strict rules and requirements in the implementation of the law.



“Most especially my province is affected and I think that there is still a lot of provinces that are affected with regards to small scale mining, na hindi na makatotohanan yung batas (the law is no longer realistic) on the ground,” he said. “So I think we need to do something about this in order for the national government to get the necessary income that the national government and LGUs need,” he stressed.



House panel tackles amendments on small-scale mining law

Zandro Ochona, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Feb 10 2021 10:50 PM

MANILA - The House Committee on Natural Resources initially deliberated Wednesday House Bill 5784, authored by Agusan del Sur Rep. Eddiebong Plaza, which seeks to modernize and empower the small-scale mining industry by amending Republic Act 7076 or the “People’s Small-scale Mining Act.”

In the explanatory note of the bill, Plaza said that amending the 30-year-old law would open up growth and development in the countryside, particularly in the uplands and ancestral domain of the Indigenous Peoples (IP).

Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr. who chairs the committee also requested for local government groups to participate in the next hearing to shed their opinion on the measure.

Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate requested to get data from the Mines and Geoscience Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on a list of all small-scale mining companies in the country.

Zarate fears several large-scale mining companies may be registering as small-scale miners to circumvent the law.

The panel also approved House Bills 4088 filed by Deputy Speaker Rose Marie Arenas, and 8039 by Deputy Speaker Henry Oaminal.

HB 4088 aims to reclassify the Mangabul Reservation in Bayambang, Pangasinan into an alienable and disposable land of the public domain.

It also aims to distribute the land ownership to bona fide and long-term farmers. Meanwhile, HB 8039 aims to declare lands in Don Victoriano, Misamis Occidental as alienable and disposable lands open to disposition for agricultural, commercial, residential, and industrial, as well as for other productive purposes.

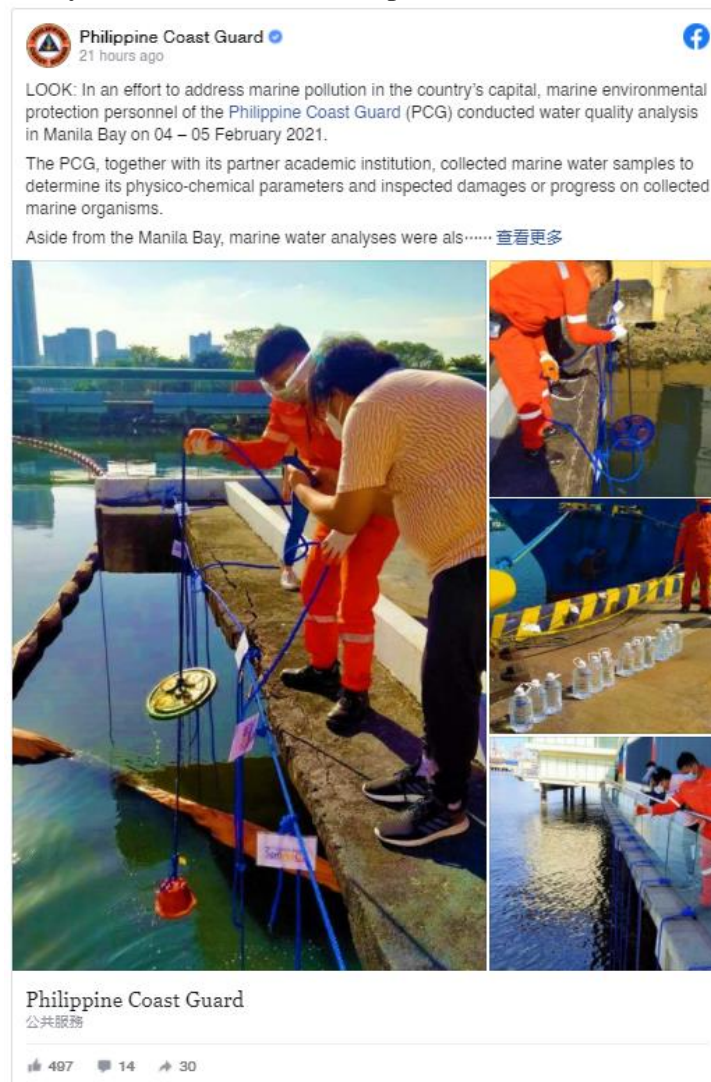


Water quality analysis conducted in Manila Bay, provincial ports to address marine pollution

Published February 10, 2021, 10:54 AM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted a water quality analysis in Manila Bay and several provincial ports in the country to address the marine pollution.



In a statement, the PCG said it collected marine samples on February 4 and 5 with the help of its academic institution to determine the physico-chemical parameters and inspected damages or progress on collected marine organisms in Manila Bay.

The Coast Guard said it also performed marine water analysis in the ports of Bicol, Cebu, and Davao.

“This is part of the effort to sustain the marine environmental protection that greatly affects the local fishing and tourism industries,” the PCG said in a statement, adding that it will coordinate with the concerned units for the release of results.

Last week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it will perform a series of inspections to identify and stop polluters in the coastal and marine ecosystem of the Manila Bay.

Among the first steps this year, according to DENR, is to examine the riverbanks of the Pasig River for illegal drainage pipes and to trace their source from the Laguna de Bay outlet in Napindan Channel all the way to Manila Bay.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/10/water-quality-analysis-conducted-in-manila-bay-provincial-ports-to-address-marine-pollution/>



PCG addresses marine pollution

BY RAFFY AYENG
@tribunephil_raf

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) recently conducted water sampling analyses in Manila Bay and other major ports to address pollution.

Representatives of the Marine Environmental Protection Unit, together with partner institutions, collected water samples to determine physio-chemical parameters and inspected damage or progress on collected marine organisms, the PCG said.

Aside from Manila Bay, analyses were also performed in the ports of Bicol, Cebu, and Davao “to uphold marine environmental protection that greatly impacts the local fishing and tourism industries.”

“Analyses were done weekly in order to monitor the quality of water in those said vicinity waters,” the PCG added.

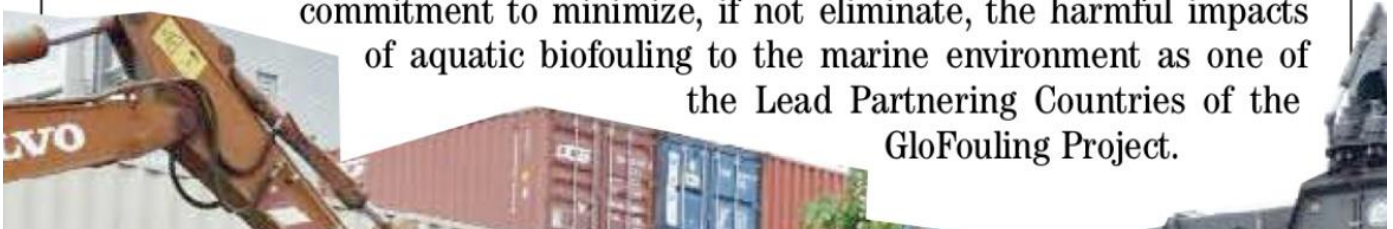
In December, the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) announced it has volunteered to be the first beneficiary of the newly developed General Training Course on Biofouling Management and Invasive Aquatic Species, emphasizing its commitment to ensuring the sustainability of marine life.

Marina Administrator Robert Empedrad reiterated the Philippines’ commitment to minimize, if not eliminate, the harmful impacts of aquatic biofouling to the marine environment as one of the Lead Partnering Countries of the GloFouling Project.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF PCG

THE Philippine Coast Guard conducts water quality analysis in Manila Bay.





Water quality analysis isinagawa sa Manila Bay



February 10, 2021 @ 3:42 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagsagawa ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ng water quality analysis sa Manila Bay at ilang provincial ports sa bansa upang masolusyunan ang marine pollution.

Sa pahayag, nangolekta ang PCG ng marine samples noong Pebrero 4 at 5 sa tulong ng kanilang academic institution para matukoy ang physico-chemical parameters.

“This is part of the effort to sustain the marine environmental protection that greatly affects the local fishing and tourism industries,” lahad ng PCG.

Noong nakaraang linggo, nag-inspeksyon din ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) upang matukoy at mapigil ang coastal at marine ecosystem sa Manila Bay. **RNT/FGDC**



NWRB NAGBABALA SA MGA 'DI NAGBABAYAD NG WATER BILLS



February 11, 2021 @ 12:15 AM 7 hours ago

MATATANDAANG isinailalim ni Pangulong Duterte ang buong bansa sa State of Calamity noong Marso 17, 2020, na pinalawig pa mula Setyembre 13, 2020 hanggang Setyembre 12, 2021.

Nakasaad sa mga proklamasyong ito na hindi papayagang magputol ng serbisyong pantubig ang mga UWSP sa panahon ng pandemya (NWRB Memorandum Order No. 2020-011).

Sa isang pagpupulong ng Board of Directors ng National Water Resources Board na ginanap sa NWRB Conference Room, sa ika-8 palapag ng National Irrigation Administration Building, EDSA, Quezon City noong Pebrero 17, 2021, napag-usapan ang mga hinaing ng mga water concessionaire ng tubig o ang utilities/water service provider na sila ay nakararanas ng mga problema sa mga hindi nagbabayad ng water bills matapos maglabas ng Memorandum No. 2020-011 ang NWRB kung saan pansamantalang pinahinto ang pag-disconnect ng water supply sa mga indibidwal o sa mga household na hindi pa nakapagbayad habang nasa panahon ng State of Public Health Emergency.

Ang layunin ng Memorandum Order ay hindi protektahan ang mga mapang-abusong kliyente na sadya o wala nang balak bayaran ang kanilang water bills.

Ang iminungkahing patakaran ay magbibigay-linaw kung ano ang responsibilidad sa mga water utility company at pati na rin sa kanilang mga kliyente.

Subalit, ginagamit ding dahilan ito ng mga kustomer upang hindi na magbayad ng kanilang tubig.

Hinihimok ng NWRB ang kanilang mga kliyente na kinakailangan nilang magbayad ng kanilang ginamit na tubig simula nang mag-Enhanced Community Quarantine noong March 2020.

Ayon sa inaprubahan na resolution at kinumpirma ng board ng NWRB, ang pagbabayad sa paggamit ng tubig noong kasagsagan ng pandemya ay makatutulong nang malaki upang maipagpatuloy ng utilities water service providers ang pagbibigay-serbisyo sa panahon ng State of Public Health Emergency na idineklara ni Pangulong Rodrigo R. Duterte noong Marso 9, 2020.



Sa bagong labas na resolusyon, hinihikayat ang lahat na magbayad ng kanilang tubig.

Inatasan din nito ang mga UWSP na magbigay ng palugit o “grace period” sa pagbabayad at payagan ang hulugang pagbabayad o “installment” matapos ang grace period.

Dagdag pa ng resolusyon, walang ipapataw na anomang multa sa halaga ng tubig na kailangang bayaran.



OFFSHORE MINING SA CAGAYAN, PINAPANGAMBAHAN NG MGA MANGINGISDA!

Pinapangambahan ng ilang lokal na mangingisda ang inapubahang offshore mining sa Cagayan! Ang ilang environmental groups, tutol din dito dahil daw sa posibleng epekto nito sa karagatan at buhay ilang. Pero para sa DENR at kumpanyang may hawak ng proyekto, wala silang nakikitang posibleng dahilan sa pagkasira ng kalikasan. Panoorin ang video!

Sapagkat nakikita sa Monitoring Camera sa mismong Suction and Cutter Dredger ng Vessel na dinudumog ito nang mga isda at ang malaking vessel na Stationary/Anchored ay nagsisilbing lilim ng mga isda."

Office of the Regional Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Regional Office No. II

STAND
TRUTH

5:06 / 8:12

43

22 Comments 3 Shares



SP approves Mariveles ordinance on sewage treatment systems

posted February 10, 2021 at 08:30 pm

by [Butch Gunio](#)

-- The Sangguniang Panlalawigan presided over by Vice Governor Cris Garcia has unanimously approved the establishment of a proper sewage treatment and septage management system in the municipality of Mariveles.

The ordinance states the sewage disposal “is given attention to help keep the town’s environment safe and prevent the spread of water-borne diseases by safely transporting wastewater for treatment.”

“The local government of Mariveles, as part of its shared responsibility, promulgates local laws to implement measures to prevent and to control water pollution and to promote health and ensure a balanced ecology,” stated the provincial ordinance.

It echoed the town’s own measure authored by Councilor Tito Catipon at the Sangguniang Bayan.

Government structures, industrial and commercial establishments, and residences will be required to install a proper sewage treatment and septage system.

Republic Act 9725 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 mandates local government units to manage and improve water quality in their respective territories.

The ordinance mentioned that the Supreme Court issued a mandamus on Manila Bay in 2016, directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters fit for swimming and other forms of contact recreation.

Mariveles forms part of the Manila Bay area.



Bagong Mindoro snake species ipinangalan kay National Scientist Angel C. Alcala



February 10, 2021 @ 3:54 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinangalan ang bagong snake species na nadiskubre ng mga siyentista mula sa University of Kansas kay National Scientist Angel C. Alcala bilang paggawad sa kontribusyon nito sa conservation biology.

Tinukoy itong *Calamaria alcalai* na nakitang may mas mahabang tail at “more subcaudal” kumpara sa iba pang nakita sa Pilipinas.

Batay sa mga siyentistang sina Jeffrey Weinell, Alan Leviton, at Rafe Brown kakaiba ito dahil sa “meristic, mensural, at color pattern characters” na taglay nito.

“Notably, the new species has a relatively longer tail and more subcaudals compared to all other Philippine species of *Calamaria*, which likely explains why the new species was initially misidentified as a species of *Pseudorabdion*, inasmuch as tail length tends to be shorter in *Calamaria* species compared to *Pseudorabdion* species,” saad sa journal.

“The discovery of a new *Calamaria* from Mindoro, one apparently distantly related to other Philippine *Calamaria* (and initially misidentified as an unknown species of *Pseudorabdion*), highlights the importance of critically examining samples (determining species identity) of allegedly widely-distributed species collected during broad, comprehensive, regional biodiversity surveys,” pahayag pa ng mga ito. **RNT/FGDC**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bagong-mindoro-snake-species-ipinangalan-kay-national-scientist-angel-c-alcala/>



New Mindoro snake species named after National Scientist Angel C. Alcala

February 10, 2021 | Filed under: Lifestyle, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

Scientists from the University of Kansas have named the new snake species after National Scientist Angel C. Alcala in honor of his invaluable contribution to the field of conservation biology.

The three scientists said it is just fitting to honor Alcala for his “numerous contributions on the systematic, biogeography, and ecology of amphibians and reptiles of the country, and in general, for his influential promotion of conservation and sustainable management of the archipelago’s terrestrial and marine biodiversity.”

The new species, *Calamaria alcalai*, was found to have a “longer tail” and “more subcaudal” scales than any other of its kind found in the Philippines.



CALAMARI Alcalai (Facebook/Scott Travers)

The description of the new species of reed snake was published in the *Philippine Journal of Systematic Biology* on Feb. 8, 2021.

Scientists Jeffrey Weinell, Alan Leviton, and Rafe Brown said the new species differs from all other species genetically and by its distinctive combination of “meristic, mensural, and color pattern characters.”

“Notably, the new species has a relatively longer tail and more subcaudals compared to all other Philippine species of *Calamaria*, which likely explains why the new species was initially misidentified as a species of *Pseudorabdion*, inasmuch as tail length tends to be shorter in *Calamaria* species compared to *Pseudorabdion* species,” the journal read.

“The discovery of a new *Calamaria* from Mindoro, one apparently distantly related to other Philippine *Calamaria* (and initially misidentified as an unknown species of *Pseudorabdion*), highlights the importance of critically examining samples (determining species identity) of allegedly widely-distributed species collected during broad, comprehensive, regional biodiversity surveys,” the scientists said.

Moreover, the study found that *Calamaria alcalai* has a “potentially close relationship” to the widespread Sundaland species *C. schlegeli*.

Sundaland is the currently partially drowned continental landmass that encompasses Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and the Malay Peninsula.



This discovery suggests an additional Calamaria colonization of the Philippines from continental Asia, the study pointed out.

The study noted that Calamaria alcalai is currently only known from two nearby forested sites in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, and is likely endemic in the area.

“But if proper faunal inventory efforts on Mindoro are ever forthcoming, it will be interesting to determine if the new species’ distribution extends to the eastern half of the island, beyond the central mountain range that bisects this island from north to south,” it stated.

In December 2020, scientists also discovered the Levitonius mirus, also known as Waray dwarf burrowing snake, in its native habitat on the islands of Samar and Leyte. (Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz)



Wildlife watchdog calls for tougher crackdown on illegal sale of endemic monitor lizards in PH

Published February 10, 2021, 10:23 AM

by [Noreen Jazul](#)

TRAFFIC, an organization that monitors global wildlife trading, has called for tougher crackdown on the illegal sale of monitor lizards in the country, especially species endemic to the Philippines.

ONLINE TRADE OF LIVE MONITOR LIZARDS IN THE PHILIPPINES
Trade in all native wild-caught monitors is illegal

A 30-month online survey from Sept 2017–Feb 2020 found

541 individual animals offered for sale

- 88% lizard hatchlings/ juveniles
- 359 posts offering monitor lizards
- 187 Facebook accounts involved
- 20 Facebook groups involved
- 13 species of monitor lizards offered

Endemic species offered for sale online:

- Marbled water monitor *V. marmoratus*
- Yellow-headed water monitor *V. cumingi*
- Large-scaled water monitor *V. nuchalis*
- Samar water monitor *V. samarensis*
- Gray's monitor *V. olivaceus*

One Komodo Dragon was offered for sale online during the Sept 2017-Feb 2020 survey. Found only in Indonesia, it is illegal to trade internationally.

TRAFFIC
From: *The Trade of Live Monitor Lizards (Varanidae) in the Philippines*
Photo of top lizard © Ekaterina Pokrovsky | Dreamstime.com

(TRAFFIC / MANILA BULLETIN)

The organization made the call after it found that over 541 monitor lizards — two-thirds of which occur solely in the Philippines — were listed for sale in over 20 Facebook groups in the country in the past 30 months.

In its “The Trade of Live Monitor Lizards (Varanidae) in the Philippines” report, TRAFFIC warned that ongoing poaching, smuggling, and laundering are endangering endemic monitor lizards in the country.

The most common endemic species being illegally sold online is the Marbled Water Monitor *Varanus marmoratus*, according to TRAFFIC.

“It is illegal to trade any wild-caught native monitors since the country’s wildlife authority has not issued permits to collect and trade native wild reptiles for commercial purposes since 2001,” TRAFFIC said.

“Although the report was unable to establish whether the lizards listed online were all wild-caught, the evidence of sellers’ posts claiming the lizards were hunted and the existence of scant registered wildlife farms, points to the potential illegal harvesting of monitor lizards from the wild,” it added.

Emerson Sy, TRAFFIC’s lead author of the report, said “more must be done” to stop the illegal trade of native and range-restricted species.

“Although some social media platforms remove posts offering wildlife, if they violate use terms, much more must be done by enforcement agencies to crack down on those catching, selling, and buying these animals,” Sy said.

“There must be greater vigilance at the provincial level to prevent the illegal harvesting of local monitor lizards, and for enhanced vigilance at seaports and airports”, he added.



TRAFFIC also called for “greater scrutiny” of wildlife captive breeding facilities, after “emerging evidence” showed that some are involved in wildlife laundering or “the process of fraudulently declaring illegal or wild-caught animals as bred in captivity.”

“If facilities that claim to breed reptiles in captivity don’t undergo thorough checks, the unscrupulous will continue to sneak wild animals into trade under the guise of legal captive breeding. Better checks and balances will also ensure that facilities falsely claiming to conduct breeding for conservation do not gain access to wild-caught animals,” the organization said.

EDC, UP expand partnership on biodiversity conservation

By **BMPPlus**

February 9, 2021

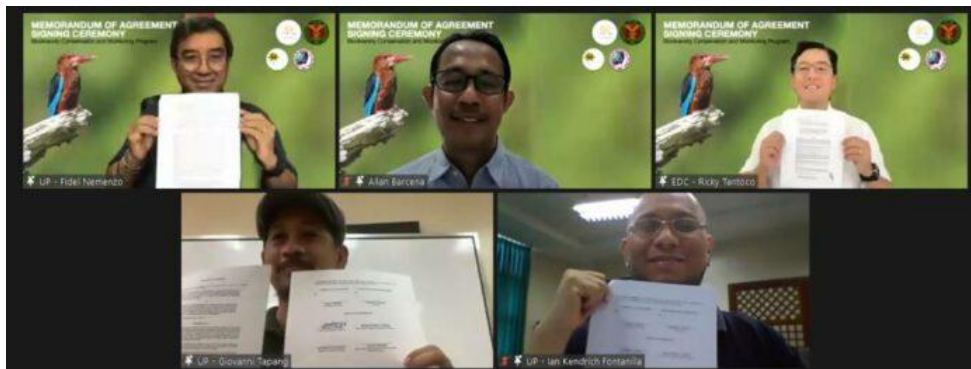


Photo shows (top, L to R) UP Diliman Chancellor Dr. Fidel R. Nemenzo, EDC Corporate Social Responsibility and Public Relations Head Atty. Allan V. Barcena, EDC President and COO Richard Tantoco, (bottom, L to R) UP College of Science Dean Dr. Giovanni A. Tapang, and UP Institute of Biology Director Dr. Ian Kendrich Fontanilla during the ceremonial signing ceremony held via zoom that aims the continued partnership between EDC and UP in further conserving and protecting biodiversity.

Lopez-led geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC) and the country's premiere state-university, University of the Philippines (UP), have formally continued its partnership as they inked the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the expanded Biodiversity Conservation and Monitoring Program (BCMP) III on 29 January 2021.

The continued partnership between EDC and UP, which started more than a decade ago, was formally sealed in a ceremonial MOA signing via Zoom, led by EDC President and Chief Operating Officer Richard B. Tantoco and UP Diliman Chancellor Dr. Fidel R. Nemenzo.

Tantoco said EDC has been an institution that has faith for UP and that it will continue to support the University in its endeavors especially for its science-based activities that aim to protect and conserve the environment.

“Now that we have such a propitious relationship, I am happy to extend and expand what we have into the future. Many discoveries have been made by our partnership and many more “best practices” will be developed, [and it] all started with chance encounters. And if we continue to work collaboratively, to conserve and understand the biodiversity that surrounds us, I cannot emphasize enough how much good our partnership can bring as we continue to look for ways to help Mother Earth,” Tantoco said.



The BCMP I and II, which started in 2008 and 2012, respectively, have so far resulted in greater knowledge and understanding of the rich flora and fauna that thrive within the EDC's geothermal facilities including the Golden Flying Fox in Negros and Bicol, the tarsiers in Leyte, and the Philippine Eagle in Mt. Apo. For its third phase, which is scheduled to be implemented starting this year until 2024, the program will focus on Biodiversity Metrics, Flagship Species Initiative, Flora Conservation, Botanical Treasures and the establishment of the UP-Institute of Biology (UPIB)-EDC Biodiversity Hub.



Nemenzo, for his part, acknowledged the fruitful collaboration between the two institutions and recognized the benefits it brought not only to EDC but also to UP. Through the partnership, according to Nemenzo, UP was able to contribute to its mandate as a research and public service university. The UP Chancellor said he is looking forward to the productive years of the partnership.

Nemenzo, likewise, paid tribute to the pioneering works of three outstanding scientists — the late Dr. Perry Ong, Dr. Leonard Co, and Dr. Daniel Lagunsad — who paved the way for the partnership between UP and EDC and whose works are still of valuable contribution to the development of biodiversity conservation and monitoring.

“In the next year of this partnership, our hope is to honor what these pioneers have built and expand BCMP’s contribution to EDC, [to] UP, the science of biodiversity conservation and the wider Philippine society in general. Maraming salamat, EDC, for your faith and trust in UP. I am excited to see the fruits of this collaboration and look forward to at least four more years of partnership between UP and EDC,” Nemenzo said during the ceremonial MOA signing held via Zoom. EDC’s over 1,499MW total installed capacity accounts for 20% percent of the country’s total installed RE capacity while its 1,204.67MW geothermal portfolio accounts for 62 percent of the country’s total installed geothermal capacity and has put the Philippines on the map as the 3rd largest geothermal producer in the world.



House panel to track climate change funds

By Jovee Marie de la Cruz
February 11, 2021



FOLLOWING the study report on the “over-reported” climate financing to the Philippines, the chairman of the House Committee on Climate Change on Wednesday said he will activate the congressional oversight function to track the funds and craft specific measures to govern the climate finance accountability.

During a roundtable discussion on climate adaption finance tracking, Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto said his committee will closely coordinate with the Department of Finance (DOF), Climate Change Commission (CCC) and Department of Budget and Management on this matter.

“The most obvious answer by the legislative is the [activation of] congressional oversight, which serves as check and balance for the Executive branch of the government by reviewing and evaluating its projects and operations including its management of climate finance,” he said.

According to Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC) Deputy Executive Director Angelo Kairos dela Cruz, the Philippines received \$4.3 billion worth of climate financing between 2013 and 2017. However, \$2.1 billion of the amount was allocated for adaptation; but some \$770 million, or 37 percent, could be considered as “over-reported” funds.

“In total, the team calculates that 37 percent of the \$2.10 billion of adaptation finance reported by donors across the 18 assessed projects can be considered as over-reported. Primarily arising in projects committed by Japan (\$425 million), the World Bank (\$156 million), France (\$98 million), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (\$54 million), and Korea (\$32 million). Highlighting the high potential for inflated adaptation finance figures and a significant level of inaccuracy in current donor reporting methods,” he said during the forum.

Dela Cruz said developed countries usually account for their climate-related spending as part of their commitments to international agreements such as in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“Over-reporting inflates actual contributions to our climate action. It is possible that it is simply a report wrongly made with no bad intentions, but without anyone looking, it is almost as if we are accepting the reports as they are,” Dela Cruz said.

Moreover, Chatto agreed that the government should track the climate change funds.

“We have to track the climate change fund and make sure it goes to projects that are much needed, whether for adaptation or mitigation, and make sure that there will be no fund duplication as sources come from local and international [donors],” the lawmaker said.

“The committee will work closely with CCC for our oversight functions. We would like even more to know about international sources because we have heard that utilization of these funds for local governments is very, very difficult. We would like to reach out to LGUs and make these funds available to them,” he said.



Coca-Cola continues to champion sustainability by supporting young social, environmental stewards

Published February 10, 2021, 8:36 AM

by [Jonathan Castillo](#)

Beyond what has already been played out in the news of the ongoing global pandemic, humanity also bore witness to many awe-inspiring initiatives from non-government organizations, private groups, and individuals across all sectors, in the year that has been.



The renewed sense of social responsibility, rightfully taking spotlight especially in the Philippines, also highlights the impact that the youth sector can collectively make in the face of challenges and adversity. Such as that of the Negros Occidental chapter of the Red Cross Youth (RCY) and Kilusan Para sa Kalikasan (KKK), who were the recipients of the Coke Barkada Awards for 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The Coke Barkada Award is a special award given to one of the chosen Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) to recognize and empower the outstanding youth group that share the passion to improve the well-being of communities through projects that are aligned with Coca-Cola Philippines' sustainability priorities. And for the past two years, these two model youth organizations managed to stand out for their noble work.

A cleaner, safer province with the help from RCY

Composed of youth volunteers from school councils all over the country's "sugar bowl," RCY Negros Occidental is led by young humanitarian leaders empowered through training and education by the Philippine Red Cross.

These young individuals—responding to the call to help mitigate the spread of the COVID-19—repurposed 31 used steel drums into "Red Cross Youth Drumvatory Handwashing Facilities"—installing them in populated locations such as hospitals, health centers, establishments, and local government offices across the province. According to the group, each *drumvatory* is approximately used 4,000 times in a single day, no doubt an encouraging response.





A clearer, greener tomorrow led by the 'KKK'

Meanwhile the KKK, whose members are students from the Mindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography (MSU-TCTO), initiates programs and activities geared towards environmental conservation all while providing opportunities for the youth to actively participate in these efforts. Through their “Kahapan ma Kawman” project for instance, they set out to empower the heavily discriminated Badjao community by spearheading community-based solid waste management programs and bio-intensive gardening.

This has seen the installation of waste bins situated near the homes of tribal leaders who, after being trained on proper waste disposal, were then tasked to share this know-how with their constituents. Meanwhile, by extending knowledge on the development of bio-intensive gardens, food security, self-reliance and additional income for community members is also promoted.

A brighter, better shared future

“Every year, we are ignited with a light of hope emanated by our Coke Barkada Awardees and their projects. Much like our own Company initiatives, these efforts aim to address the immediate and long-term needs of communities, proving that even the youth can play a part in making a positive impact on the lives of others,” said Cecile Alcantara, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines President. She added that they will remain committed towards seeking out and supporting youth groups that spark positive change.

“It’s quite heartening that for 15 years now, we have been seeing such bright and responsible young minds who do their share in community and nation building. Thus, through the Coke Barkada Award and TAYO Awards Foundation, Coca-Cola will continue to support these youth groups so that they can further serve as an inspiration to others.” No doubt, with groups like RCY Negros Occidental and the KKK leading the change, hope springs eternal. Together with these youth organizations, Coca-Cola Philippines will continue to work towards achieving its World Without Waste vision: to collect and recycle every single bottle it sells by 2030. In line with this, the Company is set to make progress this year on the PETValue recycling plant, the biggest bottle-to-bottle recycling facility in the country.



Plastic waste collection will start with SM Megamall begins today, onwards, and will soon roll out in across other SM Malls nationwide.

Photo Release

You can now dispose cleaned and dry plastic waste at SM Megamall – Here's how

(Philstar.com) - February 10, 2021 - 3:29pm

SM, PCEx launch program to promote responsible plastic waste disposal

MANILA, Philippines — SM Supermalls, through its corporate social responsibility arm SM Cares, has partnered with Philippine-based, non-profit organization Plastic Credit Exchange (PCEx) for a plastic waste collection initiative.

Called the Plastic Waste Collection Program, it aims to help communities dispose of their plastic waste more responsibly and inspire the public to adopt more sustainable practices when it comes to plastic use.

Plastic waste collection will start with SM Megamall (located at RDU Supermarket, Bldg. B), beginning today, February 10, onwards, and will soon be rolled out in stages across other SM Malls nationwide.

Mall shoppers, communities and offices within the area are encouraged to bring their empty, cleaned and dried plastic waste every day, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. only.

The project promotes responsible plastic waste disposal by encouraging individuals to clean and dry all kinds of plastic waste they generate at home, including plastic bottles, food containers, plastic utensils and sachets.

Acceptable types of plastics include PET (soda bottles, furniture), HDPE (bottles, grocery bags, pouches), LDPE (grocery bags, containers, dispensing bottles), PP (car parts, food containers, dishware), and PS (cafeteria trays, plastic utensils, toys), as well as all other plastic types except for PVC.

“Our partnership with SM Supermalls and SM Cares will provide a more extensive opportunity for Filipinos to dispose of their plastic waste responsibly. The PCEx Team remains committed to furthering programs and channels to help save the environment,” said Richard de Guzman, development manager for sustainable community at PCEx.



“We all have the collective responsibility to do our part for the planet, and this plastic waste collection program is just one of the many initiatives lined up,” he added.

“Through the Plastic Waste Collection Program, we are hoping to help instill an eco-conscious mindset among Filipinos when it comes to their use and disposal of plastic. This will be a good community-based initiative on responsible solid waste management, and we are grateful for the partnership with Plastic Credit Exchange,” said Engr. Liza Silerio, program director on environment for SM Cares.

Filipinos are known to be heavy plastic users. According to a 2020 report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Philippines, Filipinos consumed about 2.15 million tons of plastic in 2019, with 35% of this number leaked to the open environment. The report also revealed that the plastic waste recycling rate was only at 9% of the said figure for that year.

The Plastic Waste Collection Program supports the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12, which promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns, and SDG 14, which supports conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

Of the plastic collected, those that are recyclable will be sent to vetted partners and reconverted into new useful products.

Whatever cannot be recycled will be used as an alternative fuel to coal in cement co-processing; i.e. the use of suitable waste materials for the purpose of energy and resource recovery and resultant reduction in the use of non-renewable resources. Co-processing is recognized by the UNEP as the environmentally preferred option for managing end-of-life plastics.

SM’s other initiatives for the environment include the Trash to Cash recycling market every first Friday and Saturday of the month, across all SM Malls; electronic waste collection program; water recycling across all of its malls; the use of solar energy; the annual Green Film Festival; and the AweSMSeas campaign on marine plastic pollution, in partnership with USAID and PRRCFI, to name a few.

PCEx is the world’s first global, non-profit, fully integrated plastic offset platform. It offers a seamless, traceable and effective solution to offsetting post-consumer plastics responsibly to ensure they don’t wind up in nature.

SM Cares is Supermalls corporate social responsibility arm, responsible for initiatives focusing on supporting communities and care for the environment. In addition to its programs on the environment, SM Cares’ advocacies include programs on women and breastfeeding mothers, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, children and youth and bike-friendly initiatives.

Learn more by
visiting www.smsupermalls.com/smcares and www.plasticcreditexchange.com.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/business-life/2021/02/10/2076725/you-can-now-dispose-cleaned-and-dry-plastic-waste-sm-megamall-heres-how>



Isabela village chief, 8 others held for illegal logging

[Artemio Dumlao](#) (The Philippine Star) - February 11, 2021 - 12:00am

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines — A barangay captain in San Mariano, Isabela and eight others were arrested after they were caught loading freshly sawn lumber into a truck along Pinacanauan River before dawn yesterday.

Harley Deolazo, 54, chairman of Barangay Cataguing, and his villagemates Jerold, Jerry and Jackson, all surnamed Malsi, as well as Helbert Martinez, Donald Cachuela, Jeffrey Deray, Michael Bacani and Jomari Palattao, all residents of Barangay Buyasan, face charges for illegal logging, according to Cagayan Valley police director Brig. Gen. Crizaldo Nieves.

Police said 2,000 board feet of logs were seized from the suspects.



PH Covid-19 recovered cases nears 500K mark

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor February 10, 2021, 5:03 pm



MANILA – The country's total number of recovered cases from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) is now 499,971 as 276 more recovered from the disease, the Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday said.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the DOH said the figure represents 92.3 percent of those who tested positive of the virus that has so far beaten the illness.

The agency also reported 1,345 new confirmed cases and 114 new deaths.

These figures brought the overall tally of active cases to 30,188 and the death toll to 11,401.

The DOH noted about 88.2 percent of the active cases are mild, 6.1 percent are asymptomatic, 2.5 percent are severe, 0.60 percent are moderate, and 2.6 percent are in critical condition.

"There were 12 duplicates that were removed from the total case count, and, of these, 10 recovered cases have been removed. In addition, 190 cases were found to have tested negative and have been removed from the total case count. Moreover, nine cases that were previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as death after final validation," it said.

DOH data on Feb. 9 showed that 1,545 or 5.6 percent of 27,462 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

Currently, there is a 21,400-bed capacity dedicated to patients with Covid-19.

Available are 61 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 65 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, and 78 percent of 6,000 ward beds.

About 79 percent of 2,100 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use. (PNA)



PFIZER, MODERNA MAY 181 PATAY SA US



February 10, 2021 @ 12:40 AM 1 day ago

AYON sa LifeSiteNews.com na nakabase sa United States, may 181 nang patay mula sa mga nabakunahan ng Pfizer at Moderna mula sa unang araw ng pagbabakuna hanggang Enero 15, 2021.

Makaraan naman ng isang araw o Enero 16, inilabas din ng Catholic Citizens. Org. na may namatay na 55 sa US makaraang maturukan ng Pfizer at Moderna.

Sinasabi ng online newspaper na LifeSiteNews.com na base ito sa mismong ulat ng U.S. government's Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) mula nang masimulan ang pagbabakuna sa mga Kano noong Disyembre 14, 2020.

Pinagtatahan lang ng LifeSiteNews.com ang dalawang beses nang pagbagsak ng sistema ng VAERS na hawak ng Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nang dalawang beses mula Disyembre 14, 2021 hanggang Enero 15, 2021.

Sinasabi rin ng Catholic Citizens. Org. na VAERS din ang may rekord ng mga patay.

Kabilang umano sa mga namatay makaraang maturukan ng Pfizer si Dr. Gregory Michael, 56, noong Enero 3, 2021 sa Florida at si Tim Zook, x-ray technologist sa South Coast Global Medical Center, Santa Ana, California.

Namatay naman si baseball legend Hank Aaron matapos mabakunahan ng Moderna.

Nauna rito, may namatay na 33 sa Norway at 10 sa Germany makaraang maturukan din ng Pfizer.

Siyempre pa, todo-deny o tanggi ang mga kompanyang gumagawa ng Pfizer at Moderna na may kinalaman ang kanilang mga bakuna sa mga namatay.

At ipinipilit nilang ligtas at epektibo ang mga ito at sinasabing 90-95 porsyento silang epektibo laban sa coronavirus.

Tanong: Oks lang ba tayong maturukan ng Pfizer at Moderna?

PFIZER ANG MAUUNA, MODERNA SUSUNOD

Ang pagkakaalam natin, bakunang Pfizer ang mauunang darating sa bansa at nasa 117,000 dose ito.

Kung saka-sakali, sa darating na Linggo hanggang sa katapusan ng buwang ito darating.



May order na rin tayo na Moderna.

Uulitin natin, mga Bro, sinasabing may 181 patay sa Pfizer at Moderna sa US, 33 sa Norway at 10 sa Germany.

Itinatanggi naman ng mga kompanyang Pfizer at Moderna na epekto ng kanilang mga bakuna ang mga kamatayang nabanggit.

At pukpukan na nga ang pagbabakuna sa US gamit ang dalawang bakunang ito.

Pinapayagan ang 16-anyos pataas para sa Pfizer pero ang Moderna, dapat umanong adults o 18-anyos pataas lang ang pupwede.

Mahigit 41 milyong umano ang nabakunahan, kabilang na ang mahigit 9.5 milyong dalawang beses nang nabakunahan.

Sa rami ng patay na iniismol at dine-deny ng Pfizer at Moderna, uulitin natin ang katanungan: Oks ba tayong magpabakuna sa mga bakunang ito?

ASTRAZENECA MAHINANG KLASE VS VARIANT, MATATANDA

Sa United Kingdom pangunahing nakabase ang kompanyang AstraZeneca na may sariling gawang bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Habang nagsasagawa ito ng trial sa Brazil, namatay si Dr. João Pedro R. Feitosa, 28, volunteer sa trial at hindi naging malinaw kung tunay na AstraZeneca at hindi placebo ng bakuna ang itinurok sa kanya.

Sinasabing nasa 79 porsyento ang epekto nito laban sa COVID-19.

Pero pinatigil ng South Africa ang paggamit dito dahil waepek umano ito laban sa South African Variant.

Pinatigil ding gamitin ito sa maraming bansa sa Europa sa mga matatanda na edad 55-65 pataas dahil wala umanong malinaw na rekord kung nakasasama o nakabubuti sa mga may edad.

Tayo naman, sinasabing napasok na tayo ng United Kingdom variant na kaiba sa South African variant at medyo dumarami na ang nahahawa ng UK variant.

Itong UK variant, may napatay na sa La Trinidad, Benguet at isang 84-anyos na lalaki na bihirang lumabas ng bahay ngunit nahawa pa rin.

May kabuuan nang 25 biktima ng UK variant ngunit 22 umano rito ang gumaling na at ang dalawa naman ay nasa pangangalaga pa ng mga awtoridad.

Ngayon naman, isa ang AstraZeneca sa dalawang aprub na sa Pinas bilang bakuna.

Pero kahit mahina, ang AstraZeneca ang pangunahing gamit sa UK na nakapagbabakuna na ng 12 milyon.

Oks lang din ba tayo rito, lalo't magkakaroon umano tayo ng bakunang ito na nasa 5-9 milyong dose hanggang sa katapusan ng Marso?

COVISHIELD AT COVAXIN NG INDIA

Simula noong Enero 16, 2021, nagsimula naman ang bansang India ng pagbabakuna gamit ang mga sarili nilang gawang bakuna na Covishield at Covaxin.



Napakabilis nila sa pagbabakuna at nitong nagdaang Miyerkules lamang, may 2,990,299 nabakunahan at kabilang ang mga ito sa nasa 50 milyon nang nabakunahan.

Gayunman, may 10 nang patay makaraan silang mabakunahan.

Ayon sa mga awtoridad, hindi namatay sa bakuna kontra COVID-19 ang mga biktima kundi dahil sa ibang sakit.

Ngunit katwiran nila, ipagpalagay na lang umanong namatay ang mga biktima sa bakuna, aksidente lamang.

At minamaliit lang nila ang bilang ng mga patay sa pagsasabing nasa 0.0007 lang umano ng namatay sa mula sa milyon-milyong nabakunahan na.

Meron din umanong 447 na naospital matapos mabakunahan at meron dito ang seryoso ang kalagayan.

Tanong: Sakaling magbenta ang India ng Covishield at Covaxin, oks lang ba tayo?

SINOVAC AT SINOPHARM

Noon pang Hulyo 2020 ginagamit ang Sinovac na gawang China ng mga health worker at sundalo sa nasabing bansa.

Ngunit nitong nakaraang mga araw lang ito binigyan ng tatak ng para sa Emergency Use Authority sa China.

Nauna rito, may EUA na ang Sinopharm nitong nakaraang Disyembre 2020 at gamit din ito ng mga sundalo, pulis at mga opisyal at sundalo ng pamahalaang China.

May dalawa pang bakunang ginagamit ng mga militar at iba pa.

Sa kabuuan, may 31 milyon na umano sa China ang nabakunahan.

At wala pa namang naiuulat na namatay.

Kahit pa sa mga trial nila sa ibang bansa gaya ng Sinopharm sa United Arab Emirates at Bahrain at Sinovac naman sa Brazil at Indonesia.

Epektbo laban sa COVID-19 ang Sinovac sa bisa nitong 50.4 sa Brazil, 78% sa Indonesia at 91.5% sa Turkey.

Ang Sinopharm naman ay may bisang 79%.

Halos magkatumbas na ang bilang ng nababakunahan sa China na may tig-10 milyon bawat isa.

Tanong naman: Oks lang ba tayo na maturukan ng Sinovac at Sinopharm?

'Hanging' glacier broke off to trigger India flood

[Soutik Biswas](#)

India correspondent Published 12 hours ago



EPA

A huge surge of water, rocks, snow and sediment surged downhill, breaching the dam

A devastating flash flood in India's northern state of Uttarakhand killed at least 32 people and trapped workers in underground tunnels. It also sparked informed speculation on what caused Sunday's deluge.

Did an avalanche cause a glacial lake to burst? Or could an avalanche or landslide have dammed a river for some time, causing it to overflow? Or did ice blocks break off a glacier due to a rise in temperature?

Rescue efforts are still continuing, with more than 170 people missing - **12 workers were pulled out** from a tunnel after being trapped in the freezing dark.

Now a team of scientists investigating the incident believe a piece of a Himalayan glacier did fall into water and trigger the huge flood in Uttarakhand state.

A glacier is a slowly flowing river of ice, accumulating snow, rock, sediment and often liquid water.

Power project before and after the flash flood in Uttarakhand



2018



February 9, 2021

Source: Satellite image ©2021 Maxar Technologies

BBC

Five scientists flew over the glacier in a helicopter, took pictures, looked at satellite photographs and collected data from the devastated area.

The origin of the incident, they say, was a glacier on a remote and inaccessible 5,600m (18,372ft) peak called Raunthi.

The scientists believe that a part of this glacier was wrapped around and hanging on a slope, held up by a mass of rock. This part weakened over a period of time due to freezing and melting.

This chunk of ice and rock broke off on Sunday, and hurtled down a steep mountain slope, they say.

When it reached the floor of a valley they believe its rocks, snow and sediment fell into a relatively narrow mountain stream at a height of 3,600m, blocking it.

As the water level increased in the stream, it burst. A surge of water and rubble then rushed further down breaching the dam and causing massive floods downstream. Water, gravity and geology conspired to create havoc, leading to numerous deaths and leaving hundreds in danger.

"What we have found is actually not very common. The weakening of the 'hanging' glacier must have happened over a long period of time as the ice froze and thawed," Dr Kalachand Sain, director of the Dehradun-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, which sent the team of the scientists, told the BBC.

Climate change, he said, is the "main factor" for rapid temperature changes leading to freezing and thawing of ice, and glacial fractures over time. Glaciers collect snow in winter, and lose snow in summer. But when temperatures rise, they lose ice faster than they can collect it. Ice melts can lead to the retreat of glaciers.

There are some 10,000 glaciers in the Indian Himalayas. Uttarakhand itself has up to 1,495 glaciers and many are receding due to the warming climate. "If something as uncommon as what happened on Sunday even occurs in 10% of our glaciers, the danger to life and property is immense," Dr Sain said.

Clearly, India needs more surveillance of glaciers.





‘21 crucial for climate change – UN

By Xinhua February 10, 2021

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday (Tuesday in Manila) told member-states that 2021 is a “crucial year” for climate change.

“2021 is a crucial year in the fight against climate change,” the UN chief was speaking to a member-states meeting as part of the preparations toward the latest annual UN climate conference, known as COP26, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November. Originally scheduled for last year, it had to be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The world is far from achieving agreed goals to reduce global warming in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Guterres warned in his ongoing bid to secure greater commitment to averting climate catastrophe.

While acknowledging progress made over the past year, including toward cutting carbon emissions, it is not enough, he said.

“The world remains way off target in staying within the 1.5-degree limit of the Paris Agreement,” Guterres told member-states. “This is why we need more ambition, more ambition on mitigation, ambition on adaptation and ambition on finance.”

The secretary-general said the global coalition to make net zero emissions a reality, needs to grow, to cover more than 90 percent of all carbon entering the atmosphere, underscoring a UN priority.

As commitments must be supported by clear and credible plans, he urged countries to provide significantly more ambitious nationally determined contributions, as outlined in the agreement, adding “the major economies and members of the G20 must lead the way.”

The secretary-general said coal must be phased out by 2040, while financing for the sector, and for other fossil fuels, must instead be redirected toward clean energy solutions.

He also called for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience, which requires increasing support to vulnerable nations, including the world’s least developed countries and small island developing states.

“We have a moral obligation to do much better, and with new and scaled up finance initiatives and instruments,” the UN chief said.

“Developed countries must meet their commitment made over ten years ago and reaffirmed in Paris, to mobilize \$100 billion per year in climate finance to developing countries... This must be fully delivered in the run-up to COP26.”

With nine months to go until Glasgow, and the disruption of the coronavirus pandemic continuing, Guterres underlined the UN’s commitment to ensuring preparatory negotiations will take place virtually.

“We simply cannot allow the pandemic to keep us from working together on the crucial pathway to Glasgow. Although there will be challenges, we must adapt. The stakes are too high to do otherwise,” he said.

The secretary-general has directed UN officials worldwide to make offices and venues available so that all countries can participate in virtual negotiations.

“We will support this process in every way possible to ensure its success,” he said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/10/news/world/21-crucial-for-climate-change-un/838713/>



Bolder climate action could save millions of lives each year by 2040

February 10, 2021 | 3:47 pm



They found that changes towards “flexitarian” diets—with moderate amounts of animal-based foods and a high share of plant-based foods—offered the greatest health benefits as well as reducing carbon emissions.

TORONTO — Countries could save millions of lives annually by 2040 if they commit to bolder plans to cut planet-heating emissions and curb global warming in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change, researchers said Tuesday.

A study published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* journal found policies to that end could, each year, save 5.86 million lives due to better diets, 1.18 million lives from cleaner air and 1.15 million lives through more walking and cycling by 2040.

In 2015, governments set a global goal of limiting average temperature rise to “well below” 2°C above pre-industrial times and set emissions reduction targets as a first step to getting there.

On Monday, however, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged countries to take bolder action ahead of November’s COP26 UN climate conference and come up with stronger 2030 targets consistent with cutting emissions to net zero by 2050.

The new research highlighted how the potential health benefits of climate action could give added impetus to countries to submit more ambitious national climate plans ahead of COP26. The nine countries modeled in the study—the United States, China, Brazil, Germany, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, South Africa and Britain—represent half of the world’s population and 70% of global emissions.

Six of them have yet to submit revised climate action plans, which were due in 2020 but put back by many countries as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic delayed the climate summit for a year.

“Ahead of COP26, we’d like to see governments focus on health as one of the priorities in climate change policies,” said lead author Ian Hamilton, executive director of The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change.

“There’s good evidence to show that meeting the Paris Agreement commitments will be good for our health, and that these benefits accumulate to those individuals in the countries taking leadership,” he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

SHORT-TERM WINS

Using national and international data, the study analyzed emissions generated by the energy, agriculture and transport sectors, along with factors like national diets and lifestyles.



The researchers modeled the scenarios required for each country to meet the Paris accord, including changes like adopting cleaner energy and reducing car use, as well as to achieve global development goals such as zero hunger.

They found that changes towards “flexitarian” diets—with moderate amounts of animal-based foods and a high share of plant-based foods—offered the greatest health benefits as well as reducing carbon emissions.

For example, many deaths would be avoided by lower rates of non-communicable diseases such as obesity and heart disease, connected to excessive consumption of carbon-intensive red meat and processed foods, and lack of access to fruit and vegetables.

“Why wouldn’t we prioritize investments that will save more lives near-term if they give us the same amount of carbon value?” said Aaron Bernstein, interim director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Changing diets is a complex challenge for governments, he noted, but potential ways to do it include subsidizing healthier foods and putting a price on the emissions produced by more carbon-intensive foods that require a lot of natural resources.

Beef production, for instance, fuels greenhouse gas emissions as carbon-storing forests are cut down for pasture and cattle burp out methane.

A focus on health is one way to make climate action more personal and appealing, Mr. Bernstein added, instead of being framed as a cost now that will bring benefits for future generations.

“We have to make this issue relevant to today, and (talk about) improving the welfare, economic opportunities, and health of people in a time frame that they can get their heads around,” he said.

A separate study out on Tuesday found pollution from burning fossil fuels causes one in five premature deaths globally, totaling 8.7 million in 2018 and suggesting the health impacts of those emissions may be far higher than previously thought. — **Jack Graham/Thomson Reuters Foundation**



New efforts to clean the polluted air around the world

Published February 11, 2021, 12:53 AM
by [Manila Bulletin](#)



Since the historic Paris Climate Agreement of December, 2015, many nations around the world have taken concrete steps to carry out its goal of reducing carbon emissions – mostly from industries and from motor vehicles cars – around the world so as to limit the rise in world temperatures that are now melting polar glaciers, raising ocean levels, and generating more and more powerful typhoons and hurricanes.

Early this week, the United States announced concrete steps it taking to help achieve its goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. We in the Philippines should see how we too can make our contributions and see which of these steps we too can adopt.

The US, now under new President Joseph Biden, announced it will:

- Offer new tax incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles, on top of the present \$7,500 tax credit.
- Electrify the fleet of 650,000 government cars, as well as the nation's 500,000 school buses.
- Build an additional 500,000 public charging stations for electric vehicles by 2030.
- Invest \$5 billion in battery research to further reduce electric vehicle prices.
- Ensure every American city has high-quality zero-emissions public transport options.

The US states of California and Massachusetts have announced they will ban the sale of fossil fuel (gasoline and diesel) cars by 2040.

General Motors has committed \$27 billion in developing 30 new electric car models by 2025 while Ford Motor Co. will double its investment in vehicle electrification to \$22 billion. Another country, Australia, is now the world leader in manufacturing electric buses and trucks and in building fast-charging equipment.

Last March, 2020, the European Union called on all European nations to enact laws to meet the target of net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. Last October, President Xi Jin Ping announced before the United Nations that China will be carbon-neutral by 2060, followed a week later by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledging that Japan will be too by 2050.

These are the world's top industrial nations and top sources of industrial emissions and it is only right that they now take the lead in cleaning up the atmosphere. But the rest of the world must join in the overall effort, including our own, the Philippines.

Right now, we are largely concerned with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, but so are the other nations of the world. In the midst of all their efforts for recovery, they are carrying on their long-term plans and doing their part to clean up the pollution in the world's atmosphere. We too must do our part.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/11/new-efforts-to-clean-the-polluted-air-around-the-world/>

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