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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR open to UP experts' advice on Manila Bay rehab if it's free

Published October 10, 2020, 7:52 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it has taken note of the observations of the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) on the Manila Bay rehabilitation and expressed willingness to get the experts' services if it will be provided at no cost to the government.

“Our office is open for them and I myself will offer to them one of my tables, at least, be sure that it (consultation) will be free,” DENR Undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda said in a statement.

He noted that the DENR will be constrained to work with UP-MSI if its experts would demand for high professional fees.

“We are seeking for your immediate assistance on this matter. But if it needs a big amount of money, the funds of the people, I’m sorry but our experts are enough,” Antiporda told UP-MSI.

He pointed out that the DENR already has its own set of experts—marine scientists, biologists and geologists—who are actively involved in the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

He also noted that DENR Secretary and Manila Bay Task Force chief Roy Cimatu “is not only a soldier and a pilot, but also an engineer.”

Based on the DENR’s experience, Antiporda said it requires a lot money to get the services of UP experts, contrary to public perception that transactions between government agencies are free.

“Every time we consult them (UP experts), we pay them so much money and people don’t know that,” he said.

The UP-MSI released a statement last Sept. 30 enumerating the environmental problems in Manila Bay that need to be addressed, including poor water quality and threat of erosion.

The institution also cited the implications of using crushed dolomite boulders in the bay, among them erosion, ocean acidification, and health problems.

The UP-MSI likewise pointed out that “there are no shortcuts to a cleaner environment,” and “at most, it is a beautification effort that is costly and temporary.”

Antiporda defended that the project is more than just aesthetics as it is a strategy to promote pro-environment behavior among Filipinos, with the white sand inspiring people to be more mindful of their obligation to keep Manila Bay clean.

He also reassured that the funds used for the project will not be put to waste as engineering interventions are being made to prevent the artificial white sand from being washed away.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/10/denr-open-to-up-experts-advice-on-manila-bay-rehab-if-its-free/>



ONE News
21h · 🌐

ICYMI | Environment Usec. Benny Antiporda denied that the project was merely for aesthetics. "In the past whenever there's a storm, trash and debris would pile from the bay putting the lives of motorists at risk."

READ MORE: <https://bit.ly/2SI4tJn>

MANILA BAY WHITE SAND NOT WASHED OUT, ONLY COVERED—DENR

Environment Asec. Darius Nicer said the dolomite sand dumped in Manila's baywalk had only been covered by "greyish sand" and other materials, as opposed to claims that the multi-million project had been washed away barely a month since being opened to the public.

OneNews.ph OneNewsPH file photo: The Philippine STAR/KJ Rosaes

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Senator Nancy rebuffs retired DENR chief general Cimatu

October 10, 2020 2 min read

DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu

By Junex Doronio

SHORT OF SCOLDING a retired military general, potential 2022 vice presidential contender Senator Nancy has boldly admonished Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu that the Supreme Court did not order the government to rehabilitate Manila Bay by dumping crushed dolomite to make it look like a white sand on a 500-meter portion of the bay's coastline.

"The [high court's] mandamus order is intended to clean the water and not to create [artificial] beach in Manila Bay," Binay told Cimatu, referring to the Supreme Court's 2008 ruling that directed 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay.

Dubbed as the "future Kamala Harris of the Philippines," some political observers said that the daughter of former Vice President Jejomar Binay might succeed where his father failed.

The elder Binay lost in the 2016 presidential elections despite his reputed mighty political war chest and well-organized campaign machinery.

Senator Binay on Friday called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to give top priority in cleaning up the waters of Manila Bay as ordered in the Supreme Court's 2008 mandamus.

"Dapat ang main goal is to clean the water (Our main goal should be to clean the water). Yeah, maganda ho talaga yong nakikita natin ngayon na white sand, pero kung babalikan natin, madumi pa rin ang tubig, hindi ba (the white sand we are seeing now is pleasing, but if we backtrack, the water quality is still poor, isn't it)." she stressed.

However, the lady senator from Makati expressed hopes that if the Manila Bay is cleaned up the next generation will stand to benefit.

"Baka apo sa tuhod na natin 'yong maabutan na pwedeng nang magswimming dyan kasi malinis na 'yong tubig (It might be our great grandchildren who will finally enjoy swimming in a clean Manila Bay)," Binay said.

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/10/senator-nancy-rebuffs-retired-denr-chief-general-cimatu/?fbclid=IwAR2pYp8gBxX0I8vdleQjStzhStJ->



Binay: Dolomite beach not part of 2008 SC writ of mandamus

By: [Marlon Ramos](#) - Reporter / [@MRamosINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM October 10, 2020



GOING, GOING ... Despite warnings from experts, environment officials maintain that the P389-million “beach nourishment” project in Manila Bay will not be washed out. —GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

The Supreme Court did not order the government to rehabilitate Manila Bay by dumping crushed dolomite on the artificial white sand beach that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) created on a 500-meter portion of the bay’s coastline, Sen. Nancy Binay said on Friday.

“The [high court’s] mandamus order is intended to clean the water and not to create [artificial] beach in Manila Bay,” Binay reminded Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, referring to the Supreme Court’s 2008 ruling that directed 13 government agencies to clean up Manila Bay.

“The aim is to improve the water quality. And the issue now is that because we have limited funds, the money should have been used for projects that will clean the water [in Manila Bay],” she said at the hearing in the Senate on the DENR’s proposed P25.5-billion budget for 2021. Cimatu said the DENR spent P398 million for the entire rehabilitation project of that portion of Manila Bay, including P28 million for the purchase and transport of the crushed dolomite from Cebu.

Sen. Imee Marcos pointed out that the artificial white sand laid over the original beach sand had apparently been washed away by the recent strong rains in Metro Manila as shown in photos and videos shared on social media.

She also quizzed the environment officials why they stopped the dumping of the dolomite if the crushed mineral was not hazardous as claimed by critics of the project.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, who presided over the budget hearing, asked Cimatu to demand water concessionaires Manila Water and Maynilad to complete the construction and operations of water treatment facilities as mandated in their concession contracts to help rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Villar also appealed to Cimatu to reject all reclamation projects in Manila Bay that would imperil the protected wetlands and residential areas in the cities of Las Piñas and Parañaque.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1345957/binay-dolomite-beach-not-part-of-2008-sc-writ-of-mandamus>



Manila Bay linisin 'wag gawing beach

By Abante News Online — Last updated Oct 10, 2020

FEATURED NEWS




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Mas mabuting ginamit na lang ng pondo sa pagpapaganda ng baywalk sa Manila Bay sa paglinis ng tubig at hindi para gawing white sand beach ito.

Ito ang sinabi ni Senadora Binay sa budget hearing ng panukalang pondo ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Binanggit pa ni Binay ang Supreme Court mandamus kung saan inatasan ang 13 ahenisya ng gobyerno na linisan, i-rehabilitate at ipreserba ang Manila Bay.

“Ang  Google Inside Article Banner mandamus naman talaga is to clean the water and not to create ‘yung beach. Dahil limitado na ‘yung pondo, baka ‘yung pondo na gagastusin for the baywalk, baka dapat mas nilagay na lang sa paglilinis ng tubig,” sabi ni Binay.

“Maganda ‘yung nakikita natin na white sand pero ‘yung babalikan natin, madumi pa rin ‘yung tubig,” dagdag pa nito.

Ayon kay DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, target ng ahensiya na gawing tourist center ang baywalk.



UP Biologists, iminungkahing bakawan ang itanim sa Manila Bay sa halip na dolomite sand

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) -Oct. 10, 2020 at 7:46am



Pinayuhan ng mga biologist mula sa University of the Philippines (UP) ang pamahalaan na magtanim na lamang ng bakawan o mangroves sa halip na tambakan ng dolomite sand ang Manila Bay.

Ayon sa UP Diliman Institute of Biology (IB), ang pagtanim ng bakawan ay maituturing na “cheap” at “cost-effective” na uri ng rehabilitasyon.

Suportado rin ito ng International Union for Conservation of Nature bilang isa sa pinaka-epektibong solusyon para sa pagsusulong ng biodiversity at conservation.

Dagdag pa ng IB, dapat ikinokonsidera sa isang rehabilitation program ang land-sea connectivity, maging ang mga short-term, at long-term na impact sa mga species, ecosystem at seascape.

Hindi sila suportado sa dolomite white sand project, lalo na kung ang pondong inilaan dito ay napunta sana sa mas epektibong mga proyektong pangkalikasan.

Ang pagtatambak ng dolomite sand ay hindi nakakatulong para magkaroon ng habitat ang mga vulnerable at endangered bird species.

Nabatid na ₱28 million mula sa ₱389 million allocation para sa Manila Bay Rehabilitation and Clean Up project ay nakalaan sa dolomite sand.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/up-biologists-iminungkahing-bakawan-ang-itanim-sa-manila-bay-sa-halip-na-dolomite-sand/?fbclid=IwAR0y78sBDk0qQZPHNxBJmDgWUjai4NCgDCBwrORTyjD0wTQmvDwt1-SISuQ>



Dolomite do, or don't?

Published 5 hours ago on October 11, 2020 01:10 AM

By [Vincent Noel Aureus](#)



Dolomite contains calcium, a mineral nutrient needed by tomatoes. PHOTOGRAPH BY VINCENT NOEL AUREUS FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE

There has been public outcry against the rehabilitation of Manila Bay using crushed dolomite quarried and shipped from Cebu. There were many issues raised regarding this topic: wouldn't dolomite be harmful to the environment, isn't it insensitive to spend for beautification of Manila Bay at this time, wouldn't the funds be better use for the pandemic response? The list goes on. On the other hand, some also praised the government's effort in trying to give Manila Bay a facelift.

To begin with, what is dolomite?

Well, it's basically a sedimentary rock that contains calcium and magnesium. It's actually used for aquarium purposes also, either as decorative sand and/or to adjust and buffer the pH of the water towards higher alkalinity and stronger hardness. For aquaponics, which has been mostly the topic of this column for the past year, it's used to supplement the system for calcium and magnesium if there is deficiency of these minerals required by crops for healthy growth.

The question now is this: is the use of dolomite safe to the local ecosystem of the Manila Bay?

To be honest, I don't think this writer is qualified to categorically answer that question because it will require an assessment of the local ecosystem and the conditions present there, in particular (preliminarily at least) the mineral content of the area (for example, calcium and magnesium) and the hardness and pH of the water. And this writer neither has a copy of that assessment nor has he conducted one.



Why are these benchmarks important?

Remember that ecosystems survive and thrive provided that they live within the range of conditions most preferential for their existence. While, indeed, living creatures can withstand variations in those conditions, they typically prefer changes — if any — to be gradual. Otherwise, shock happens and this causes stress and even death.

For example, in an aquaponics system, a temperature change of more than two degrees Celsius within 48 hours should be avoided. As for pH, if memory serves this writer well, a sudden change of more than 0.5 in the pH of the water poses risks upon the ecosystem and the living creatures (for instance, aquatic animals, beneficial bacteria, etc) residing therein. Applying the same principle to fish ponds and fish cages in lakes, this is why massive fish kill can happen there after a strong, sudden and unrelenting rain. The temperature suddenly changes, so does the pH, and the drastic swing in environmental conditions shocks the fish and can kill them.

Now, let's go back to Manila Bay.

The question, perhaps, should be this: what are the ideal parameters and the environmental conditions that the local ecosystem prefers? Did the introduction of dolomite, and its mineral contents (calcium and magnesium) drastically change those conditions, particularly pH, hardness of the water, and alkalinity? What are the second-order and third-order effects, if any?

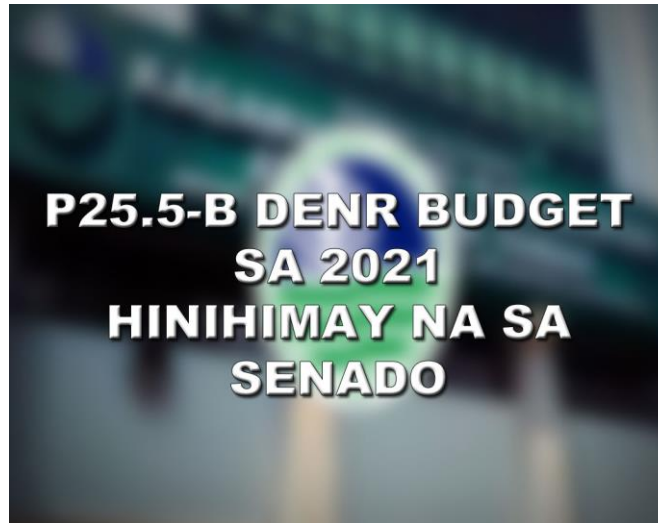
The only way to determine this is by having a benchmark of those parameters prior to the introduction of the dolomite sand. And, thereafter, those same parameters should be measured after the introduction of the dolomite, especially given that a substantial amount of it has been washed into the sea after the downpour of rain.

Were there changes, and if yes, were the changes drastic? How is the ecosystem before, and after, the use of dolomite in Manila Bay? The public should ask for the environmental impact assessment report, or its equivalent, to shed light to and settle the issue.



P25.5-B DENR BUDGET SA 2021 HINIHMAY NA SA SENADO

October 9, 2020



SINIMULAN nang talakayin ni Senador Cynthia Villar ang P25.5 bilyong badyet ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa 2021 upang mahusay na mapangalaan nito ang ating kapaligiran.

"We aim to ensure that the proposed budget of DENR will be efficiently utilized towards the conservation, management, development, and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, which constitute the primary responsibilities of DENR," ayon kay Villar.

Kaugnay nito, kinuwestiyon naman ni Senador Imee Marcos ang pagtaas ng 60% sa pondong inilalaan ng pamahalaan sa National Greening Program na tumaas mula sa P3.15 bilyon tungo sa P5.15 bilyon para sa 2021.

Ayon kay Marcos, palagi na lamang natutuklasan ng Commission on Audit (COA) na nabibigo ang ahensiya sa pagtudla sa kanilang targets kaya't hindi nararapat na itaas ang pondo rito.

"The national government has given billions to this program and yet, year on year, our forest cover is diminished. Has the implementation or the program guidelines significantly changed so that these errors along the way will no longer be repeated?," ayon kay Marcos.

Dinirinig ng Senate Finance subcommittee ang panukalang P25.5 bilyong badyet ng DENR sa pamumuno ni Villar sa ginanap na virtual hearing.

"Inatasan natin ang ahensiya sa pagbaling mula sa people's organization approach tungo sa paglalahok ng pamilya sa pagtatayo ng mga plantasyon at pagpapalakas sa paggamit ng punong kawayan upang mapahusay ang survival rate ng puno sa greening program," ayon kay Cimatú bilang tugon sa katanungan ni Marcos. (ESTONG REYES)

Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/p25-5-b-denr-budget-sa-2021-hinihimay-na-sa-senado/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR0nNJ7yBufWSamrPovIx-AMyKxtvgTpdOEIAm4Bbr_NEHEeaH9D3sUIhi



Wildlife rescue centers: Giving hope, chance for wildlife survival

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

October 11, 2020



These are among the rescued animals at the DENR -BMB Wildlife Rescue Center in Quezon City.

Birds of prey that lost their ability to hunt, native monkeys that have become overly dependent on food handouts for many years as pets to “animal lovers,” water monitor lizards, turtles and many others.

These are just some of the animal wildlife sheltered in different Wildlife Rescue Centers (WRCs) in the Philippines, either they are used as evidence in a court case involving illegal wildlife trade or undergoing treatment for injury or health-related problems and undergoing rehabilitation before finally being released back into the wild.

Animal cruelty

Rogelio Demelletes, senior ecosystems specialist at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), said many animals rescued by the DENR have underwent “torture” one way or the other.

Interviewed via telephone on October 5, Demelletes, a wildlife law enforcer, said even upon rescue the animals may succumb to stress.

“One time, we were able to rescue native birds in Lucena and we had to travel all the way back to Quezon City. Some of the birds died,” he said.

Wild animals being smuggled in and out of territories are tied with a rope or taped and stuck in a small container so that they won’t be detected by authorities in checkpoints, seaports or airports. Some were suffering and were barely alive because of injuries.

Upon rescue, these animals have to go somewhere—a facility for treatment, rehabilitation and, finally, preparation for their release back to the wild.

QC’s Wildlife Rescue Center

One such facility is the WRC of the DENR at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City.

Being run and managed by BMB, the DENR’s main WRC serves as temporary shelter and rehabilitation facility for confiscated, donated and/or abandoned indigenous and exotic wildlife.

It currently houses 1,055 various native and exotic animals that were turned over to the DENR.

Among those housed in the WRC are long-tailed macaques, reticulated python, brahminy kite, red eared sliders and Burmese pythons.



Other DENR animal shelters

Glenn Maguad, OIC at the Wildlife Rescue Center of DENR-BMB, said, fortunately, the facility in Quezon City is not alone as there are now other WRCs in other parts of the country.

They are either managed by the DENR through its field offices in different regions, provinces, cities and municipalities or by local government units or accredited private institutions and partners of the DENR

The DENR record shows there are WRCs one each in Regions 3, 4A, 11, and 13; three in Region 4B; five in Region 7; four each in Regions 8 and 9; and two in Region 10.

The WRC in Quezon City is augmented by 37 private facilities that also act as DENR-designated WRCs, whose permit to operate range from a zoological park and botanical garden, mini zoo, to a full-pledge WRC.

'Halfway house'

While some of the animals were voluntarily turned over or were captured because of injuries, many of the animals sheltered in WRCs are undocumented wildlife and were confiscated by authorities from illegal traders.

Some are not as lucky, as they ended up being slaughtered for meat and other byproducts with zero chance of being rescued in animal cages and finally landing in WRCs, the halfway house for rescued animals.

DENR Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon said Wildlife Rescue Centers are not supposed to serve as permanent homes to rescued animals.

"They are supposed to be temporary homes. They are designed to be halfway centers, where rescued animals are temporarily kept while being treated of injuries and rehabilitated before they are released back into the wild," Calderon told the BusinessMirror in a telephone interview on October 2.

Calderon, concurrent director of the DENR-BMB, said rescued wildlife, including those confiscated from illegal pet traders, are given a second chance during rehabilitation.

In Wildlife Rescue Centers, they are taught to be wild again, if possible, they are taught to hunt to be able to survive once released back into the wild, he said.

Calderon said the revolving fund from the Integrated Protected Areas Fund, or fees generated in the operation of a protected area or national park, boosts the operation of these WRCs such as the the NAPWC.

Monkey problems

Caring for monkeys is more complicated than other animals in WRCs which is also a problem because there were instances when monkeys were released back to the wild, Calderon said.

At the WRC in Quezon City, "monkeys are housed individually because almost all are imprinted and have stereotypic behaviors," Maguad said.

Most of the long-tailed macaques in the center were turned over to the DENR because they are no longer wanted as pets, or because of their violent and aggressive behavior once they become mature.

Maguad said unlike other animals, while many monkeys are in good physical condition and are supposed to be fit for release, the DENR-BMB rarely release them back into the wild "because of high imprinting and prolonged exposure to humans."



Once they become dependent to food handouts, monkeys lose their survival instincts. “When released, they raid houses of humans in the nearby area to forage for food,” he said.

Biting incident

Last year, Calderon said he received a report of monkey-biting incident from the National Power Corp. involving one of its security guards assigned at the Angat Watershed. The incident occurred a day after the monkey’s release in the area.

“When the DENR went to retrieve the monkey, it was nowhere to be found,” Calderon said. “This happens when the monkey, which has been domesticated, becomes hungry and starts to raid houses in search of food,” he said.

The monkey, which was turned over to the DENR by a resort owner in Bulacan, was recaptured by residents and was turned over to the DENR later that week.

Release protocols

The DENR, Calderon said, observes strict release protocol for rescued animals.

Part of the protocol is to ensure that the rescued animal is healthy and fit for release or is no longer suffering from injuries. The area where they will be released are also properly assessed as the animal’s natural habitat.

More importantly, the DENR official said the local government units and communities of the release site are properly informed of the planned release and are educated about the animals to boost their protection and conservation.

He said only when the conditions for release are met will the DENR, including the social preparation part wherein the people are informed and asked to support the protection and conservation of the released wildlife in the area, will the rescued animals be released to their natural habitat.

“Once the animals are acclimatized or ready for release, we release them immediately,” he said

Wildlife reporting, rescue

Emerson T. Sy, researcher at Traffic, a wildlife trafficking watchdog, said besides strengthening law enforcement to prevent illegal wildlife trade, there is a need to strengthen information, education and communication about wildlife reporting and rescue.

“We need more public participation in wildlife reporting and rescue. We’ve seen success stories in Philippine Eagle and Philippine Pangolin,” Sy said.

He added that there are instances wherein pangolins retrieved in Metro Manila were reported by the public to the authorities. Likewise, public participation is critical to the rescue of several PHL eagles, citing one case last week in Bukidnon.

According to Sy, WildAlert, the USAID-funded project with the DENR, could facilitate the reporting by the public to the authorities.

“We really have to actively participate since zoonotic diseases due to illegal wildlife trade can affect all of us as we have experienced with Covid-19,” he said. Covid-19 is a pandemic that started in China in December 2019. It has infected more 36 million people worldwide, and about 330,000 in the Philippines.



Prevention better than cure

According to Sy, there is a need to be more proactive by going for prevention rather than cure when it comes to wildlife crime.

“We have to change our mindset from being reactive to proactive,” he said, which include engaging the public and educating the people of the long-term benefit of protecting and conserving the country’s rare and unique wildlife species, rather than engaging in illegal wildlife trade.

“Illegal wildlife trade is a short-term gain for a very few individuals and takes away the opportunity for a local community to develop. Wildlife animals, in their natural habitat, will be more beneficial to a local community and could be a viable long-term income generating attraction,” he said.

A living testament

While in very rare cases rescued animals with very little chance to survive are put to sleep, even the injured ones are kept alive to serve a higher purpose—to be part of the campaign to educate the public about the importance of protecting the environment and the country’s rich biodiversity.

Calderon said in the DENR’s WRC in Quezon City, “Girlie,” a Philippine eagle with a blind eye is the poster girl of wildlife rescue in the Philippines.

The female Philippine eagle who is now about 40 years old is one of the attractions in the WRC and part of a tour for young children visiting the park.

Girlie has been in the care of the DENR’s WRC at the NAPWC since 2008.

“She is old, and has one blind eye and definitely, no longer fit for release but we decided to keep her as part of IEC program,” Calderon said.

While the WRCs are a testimony to the successful effort of wildlife law enforcers in fighting illegal wildlife trade and animal cruelty, the animals sheltered there are now living testaments that there’s always hope and chance for survival in wildlife rescue.

Image credits: [Gaudencio de la Cruz/DENR -SCIS](#)



P643M pondo sa wildlife protection vs poaching hirit ng DENR



October 10, 2020 @ 10:18 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines-Naglaan ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources ng mahigit P600 milyon para sa wildlife protection upang maiwasan ang panghuhuli ng mga endemic at endangered plant at animal species sa bansa.

Kinumpirma ni DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau Director and Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon sa kanyang pagharap sa pagdinig ng Senado kaugnay sa panukalang P25.5 bilyong budget ng DENR para sa 201, na dahil sa COVID-19 lockdowns, tumaas ang demand ng "plantitos at plantitas."

"Yun pong ating programa sa wildlife kasama po 'yun sa ating protected area management na kung saan meron po tayong P643 million for 2021 sapagkat dito po sa ating mga protected area, dito po ang gene pool ng ating mga endemic flora and fauna kaya po ang mga habitat natin pinoproteksyunan natin at pinapangalagaan natin," ayon kay Calderon.

Aniya, may 107 legislated protected areas nationwide na sumasakop sa 7.2 million ektaryang lupain.

Kasabay nito, binalaan ni Calderon ang publiko laban sa pangunguha ng plant species sa naturang mga lugar dahil mahaharap sila sa multa at pagkakulong sa paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Sa ilalim ng Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, walang sinoman ang pwedeng mangalaga ng wildlife maliban na lang kung mapatunayan niya na may financial at technical capability at pasilidad siya para alagaan ang naturang wildlife.

Sa nasabi ring pagdinig, tinanong ni Senator Nancy Binay ang DENR kung may sapat itong budget para pondohan ang kampanya na nagbibigay kabatiran sa publiko kung anong species ang pinapayagan o ipinagbabawal na kolektahin.

Sinagot naman ito ni Calderon na meron silang inilaang P78M, kabilang ang pondo para sa information education campaign na isinagawa ng regional offices ng ahensya, subalit hindi iyon sapat.

Noong Agosto, nagpanukala ang Bureau of Plant Industry ng guidelines para i-regulate ang lumalagong ornamental plant industry sa bansa. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/p643m-pondo-sa-wildlife-protection-vs-poaching-hirit-ng-denr/>



PH an important migratory bird route: DENR

By Marita Moaje October 10, 2020, 2:31 pm



(Photo courtesy of the DENR FB page)

MANILA – The Philippines is an important part of the bird migration routes in the East Asia-Australasian Flyway, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as it joined the celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day on Saturday.

“Migratory birds as far as Siberia, China, Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand prefer the wetland areas of Central Luzon as their nesting, feeding and breeding ground while escaping the cold season from their country of origin,” the DENR Central Luzon said in its FB page on Friday.

The DENR encourages the public to report anyone who they see hunting or selling migratory birds in the country.

The agency said more than 148,000 migratory birds have been observed in the 23 counting sites in the Manila Bay as well as in the inland wetland areas of Central Luzon during the January 2020 Asian Waterbirds Census (AWC).

The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated to make a global campaign to raise awareness about the threats faced by migratory birds.

The worldmigratorybirdday.org states that there is a need for international cooperation to conserve these migratory birds and for them to stay alive in the wilds.

The organization added that birds found in cities and the countryside, in parks and backyards, in forests and mountains, and wetlands and along the shores “connect all these habitats and they connect us, reminding us of our own connection to the planet, the environment, wildlife and each other”.

The DENR reminds the public that illegal hunting and selling of migratory birds is prohibited and may be reported to @denr3official or by calling 09453685303. (**PNA**)



PH an important migratory bird route: DENR

October 10, 2020 2 min read

(Photo courtesy of the DENR FB page)

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Source: https://maharlika.tv/2020/10/10/ph-an-important-migratory-bird-route-denr/?fbclid=IwAR33ixwV-41MUEncslbQl3iHHLj6ma_MPTTPAoe4-tidFQnNS15dDMK3OU8



Villar stresses value of wetland park as bird sanctuary

By [BMPlus](#) October 9, 2020



Sen. Cynthia Villar stressed anew the importance of wetlands in providing wildlife habitats, including as sanctuary of migratory birds.

On the occasion of the World Migratory Bird Day, Villar said the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park (LPWP) located South of Manila Bay, has served as resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds coming from Japan, China, and Siberia.

“Wetlands have a unique characteristic and serve a lot of functions that is why these areas are protected and preserved,” Villar said.

Villar, chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, authored Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas Act or E-NIPAS Act, which lists the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park as a protected area.

The park is a 175- hectare nature reserve providing sanctuary to 82 species of wild bird including Philippine ducks, Chinese egret, and the Black-winged stilts.

It has 36 hectares of mangrove forest, the thickest and most diverse among the remaining mangrove areas in Manila Bay. There are at present 11 mangrove species growing in the area. It is the spawning ground of fishes in Manila Bay supporting the livelihood of 300,000 fisherfolk in Manila Bay.

The Ramsar Convention recognizes Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park’s global importance to biodiversity that it declared the park as a Wetland of International Importance along with six other sites in the Philippines, namely; 1.the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park in Palawan; 2. the Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park in Sulu; 3. the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Agusan del Sur; 4. the Naujan Lake National Park in Oriental Mindoro; 5. the Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary in Cebu; and 6. the Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area in Negros Occidental.

Villar also underscored the urgency of preserving the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in the face of plans to reclaim Manila Bay.

“There are reclamation projects that plan to build on the buffer zones of the park. We are vigorously opposing this because buffer zones should not be touched in order to preserve the landscape where the wetland now thrives,” Villar said.

The senator has expressed her opposition to the plan of Bacoor and Paranaque local governments to reclaim 320 hectares and 287 hectares, respectively, in portions of Manila Bay which are delineated as buffer zones of Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

The World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated twice this year—May 9 and October 10. With the theme “Birds Connect Our World,” this year’s celebration aims to highlight the importance of conserving and restoring the ecological connectivity and integrity of ecosystems that support the natural movements of migratory birds.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/10/09/villar-stresses-value-of-wetland-park-as-bird-sanctuary/>



Denr Releases 9 Captive-Bred Luzon Bleeding Heart Pigeons

BY VILLAGE CONNECT ON OCTOBER 10, 2020



Three out of the nine Luzon bleeding heart pigeons step out of a wooden cage to return to their home in the wild as they will be released in Angat Watershed, Bulacan.

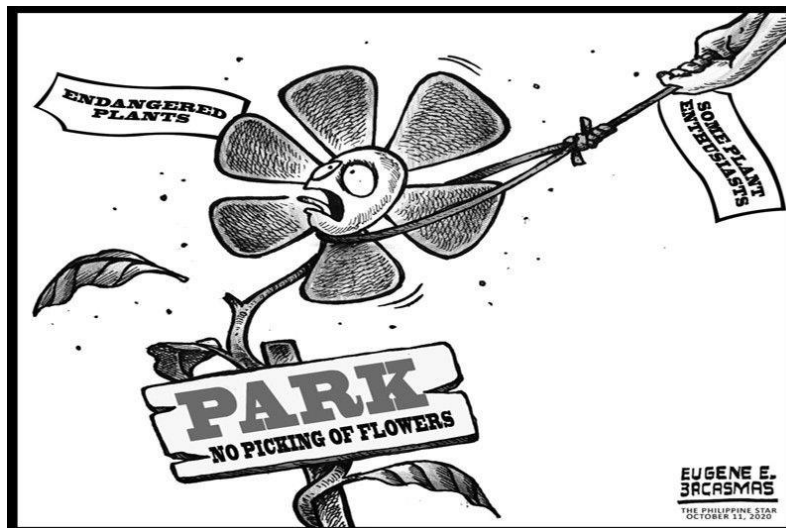
Dr. Rona Rose Sinaon, resident veterinarian of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Rescue Center, and Mr. Anson Tagtag, chief at the Wildlife Conservation Section (both not in photo) facilitate the release of nine bleeding heart pigeons in the early morning of September 15, 2020.

The Luzon bleeding heart pigeons (*Gallicolumba Luzonica*) are progenies of two pairs of parental stocks of its species, which have been subjected to the captive-breeding program of DENR, Singapore Zoo, and Avilon Zoo.

The parental stocks were originally under the care of Avilon Zoo before they were sent to Singapore Zoo in 2012. Endemic here in Luzon, the pigeons are listed as vulnerable under the national list of threatened fauna.

The captive-bred bleeding hearts were released with the optimism that they would save the dwindling wildlife population of their kind.

Source: <http://villageconnect.com.ph/denr-releases-9-captive-bred-luzon-bleeding-heart-pigeons/2577>



EDITORIAL - Plantitos, plantitas

(The Philippine Star) - October 11, 2020 - 12:00am

The coronavirus lockdowns have an upside: they have given people time to stop and smell the roses literally. People cooped up in their homes, involuntarily or by choice to avoid COVID infection, have taken to gardening, according to several reports. The phenomenon has even created new words to describe the budding gardeners: plantitos and plantitas.

While gardening has become an environment-friendly way of de-stressing amid the pandemic restrictions, however, the renewed interest in plants has led to certain problems.

In Baguio City, for example, officials have appealed to citizens to stop getting plants from parks. The city and neighboring La Trinidad Valley in Benguet, one of the country's principal vegetable producing areas, are sources of a wide variety of flowers, potted succulents, cacti and other ornamental plants. The items are sold all over the country, including in Metro Manila, even if many of the species rarely thrive in the lowland heat.

A bigger problem is that some of the new plant enthusiasts are poaching endangered species from their natural habitats, either for personal enjoyment at home or for commercial propagation. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources sounded the alarm before the weekend about this emerging problem.

Limited resources and personnel have long made the conservation of endangered flora and fauna in this country a challenge. The country is blessed with rich biodiversity. But illegal logging, slash-and-burn farming and unsustainable forestry activities have depleted forests and destroyed the habitats of many species, putting them on vulnerable or endangered lists.

Environmental advocates are hoping that the plantitos and plantitas in the time of COVID, apart from indulging their interest in gardening, will also find time to look at the problems confronting those who are working to preserve this biodiversity. The enthusiasts may also help prevent poaching of flora from parks, where the plants are meant for the enjoyment of the general public.



LIFESTYLE

Tawi-Tawi to conserve nearly extinct Sulu hornbill

Published 1 day ago on October 10, 2020 02:40 AM

By [Edgar Allan M. Sembrano](#)



The Sulu hornbill is the rarest hornbill species found only in the Sulu Archipelago in southern Philippines. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF FILEMON ROMERO

The municipality of Panglima Sugala in the province of Tawi-Tawi is now taking steps to preserve the critically endangered Sulu hornbill (*Anthracoceros montani*), the rarest hornbill species found only in the Sulu Archipelago in southern Philippines.

This initiative was begun before the lockdown measures imposed in the country since March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the species is on its Red List, meaning it is critically endangered with a continuous decreasing population. In its last assessment in 2016, the IUCN noted there were only less than 50 mature individuals in the wild that were under threat from hunting, logging, mining and commercial developments. It added there was neither a systematic monitoring scheme nor offsite conservation program on the part of the state where this species is located.

Filemon Romero, environmentalist and former chancellor of the Mindanao State University-Tawi-tawi College of Technology and Oceanography, said the United States gave the Protect Wildlife Project grant through its Agency for International Development to the Philippines for the conservation of wildlife in the country.

One of those projects is the conservation of the Sulu hornbill in partnership with the municipality of Panglima Sugala, the Global Development Alternatives Inc., Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., the regional government of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and various local schools and institutions.

Romero, the Tawi-Tawi coordinator of Project Wildlife, added that the purpose of the grant is to know the conservation status of the said hornbill species and its population; determine the remaining forest area in the town's Upper Malum Watershed; and heighten the conservation awareness on the species locally called tawsi in Tausug and kaak in the Sinama languages.



“Protect wildlife is providing focused technical assistance and resources to align conservation policies with on-the-ground action and enforcement for conserving threatened wildlife habitats and wildlife species,” he said.

“It seeks to reduce threats to biodiversity, reduce poaching/use of illegally harvested wildlife and wildlife products in target habitats and in transit points, and improve ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of wildlife conservation initiatives and human well-being (and) is trying to address most of the threats to biodiversity, wildlife habitats and species in the target sites in Tawi-Tawi,” he added.

He said the project will bring to fore the global importance of the biodiversity of Tawi-Tawi and the rare Sulu hornbill.



Iloilo's Wildlife, Conservation Park Opens To Public



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) October 9, 2020

Visitors are advised to take extra caution while at the Mari-it Wildlife and Conservation Park in Lambunao, Iloilo town which is now open to the public.

Dr. JB Ian Bullo, veterinarian of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) in Barangay Jayubo where the park is located, said that this period happens to be a breeding season for some animals inside the park.

"Since it is breeding season, the areas to be visited are limited; they can no longer go beyond the deer (area)," he said in an interview.

Deer breeds from October to November. It is also the breeding season until January for the Visayan writhed hornbill or the "talarak" and the Visayan warty pig.

"When they visit, we make sure that they won't create too much noise," he added.

Nonetheless, he said that visitors are manageable because there are not much since the area is far from the town proper.

Mari-it (enchanted) is the first conservation, breeding, and rescue park in Panay Island. It is situated in a 1,000-hectare lot within the 3,000-hectare campus of the West Visayas State University-College of Agriculture and Forestry (WVSU-CAF) in Barangay Jayubo, some 16 kilometers away from the town center of Lambunao.

It currently hosts 15 Visayan writhed hornbills, considered as the world's second most critically endangered hornbill, and endangered Visayan tarictic hornbill; 20 endangered Visayan spotted deer; 11 critically endangered Visayan warty pigs; five vulnerable Visayan leopard cats; and two cloud rats, among others.

He said that it is prohibited to approach the deer, leopard cats, and monkeys because they are aggressive while breeding.

Jennifer Osorio, Lambunao tourism officer, in an interview Thursday, said that guests should observe protocols such as wearing of face masks, face shields, washing of hands, and logging in and out for contact tracing.



“The maximum number of guests is only 30 at a time,” she said.

Osorio said that most of the guests are also from Lambunao or if not from schools that are into educational tour.

Meanwhile, she said that the pandemic has allowed animals to rest. While the number of guests is controlled, the animals could still be stressed if they are exposed to noise or anything that is new to them, she added.

“It’s rejuvenating time,” she said.

The wildlife and conservation park is being promoted as an eco-tourism site. Apart from the endangered species, it also hosts rich flora and fauna. (PNA)

Source: <http://thephilippinepost.com/iloilos-wildlife-conservation-park-opens-to-public/?fbclid=IwAR1rD2X-OQI-2OvWpYKQhw6UvxJCsgJnvjx9-k1vsUc2Tew5Rq-1HvwnuL8>



People, birds, nature: we are all connected

By Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim-ACB Published on October 10, 2020

LAGUNA, Oct. 10 -- Billions of birds travel long distances for their migration, thereby connecting the world's important ecosystems. The more we learn about the journeys of these birds, the more we understand that their survival is intricately connected with ours.

In joining the global community in the celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day today under the theme, "Birds Connect Our World," the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity gives focus on conserving threatened migratory birds and habitats. Global data sources show that in the ASEAN region, 70 migratory species from a total of 510 have been listed as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened.

The fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook painted a grim picture not only on the conservation of migratory birds, but also with other biodiversity targets that the world has failed to achieve.

We remain hopeful, however, as we continue to look for creative and efficient ways to achieve our targets. BirdLife International recently reported that at the global level, various conservation efforts were able to avert the extinction of up to 18 bird species, and slowing down the extinction rate of birds by 40 per cent since 2010. In the ASEAN region, the number of Ramsar sites—or wetlands of international importance, has grown with 25 new designated sites over the past decade. At present, the region has a total of 56 Ramsar sites, covering an estimated area of 2.6 million hectares. These favorable circumstances offer an optimistic glimpse of the conservation of migratory birds and the protection of ecosystems.

As the issues of migratory birds conservation transcend boundaries, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the ACB are working towards a more robust regional cooperation. Neighbouring AMS share wildlife resources that move across national boundaries -- both in terrestrial and marine areas.

At the ecosystems level, the ASEAN, through programmes like the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme, is scaling up support for protected areas designated as AHPs, which have high conservation value and offer valuable contributions to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity. AHPs are given technical support in capacity development, monitoring and law enforcement, education, and public awareness. Conserving the AHPs means keeping safe the migration sites of birds, while also addressing the socio-economic needs of the communities around the protected areas. Hence, transboundary cooperation among member states would be beneficial to all. For instance, the advancing collaboration between the protected area managements of Malaysia and Thailand aims to support a larger number of wildlife populations and conserve more migratory species and their habitats.

Another key initiative in the region is the ASEAN Flyway Network (AFN) which facilitates cooperation among the member states, flyway site managers, and local, national, and international partners on the conservation of wetland habitats and migratory waterbirds. With the support of the government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, wetland assessment and waterbird surveys were conducted in designated and potential flyway sites including priority coastal areas to identify and monitor the number of birds, and the quality of biodiversity in the areas. Data from these activities provide crucial information on the threats to these internationally important wetland habitats, as well as actions needed to conserve and protect them.



The ACB is also assisting organisations, such as the Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc. (Philbio), in filling knowledge gaps on migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Tawi-Tawi Group of Islands. Efforts to identify the birds present in the archipelago and to understand their ecological requirements will help us develop effective conservation actions to protect them. The research aims to increase understanding on species distribution, movement and likely local migration of wildlife species to and from ASEAN countries.

In all these efforts, we cannot discount the roles of local communities that contribute to and benefit from healthy and thriving ecosystems. Hence, there is a greater emphasis on encouraging citizen science, where community members hold key roles in monitoring the birds' movements and interaction with the environment and sharing these information to support knowledge management and enforcement of wildlife laws.

The ACB also puts a premium on the youth's participation through the ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP), which builds capacity and relationships for young leaders in biodiversity conservation through experiential learning. Under the AYBP, the ACB will serve as an adviser to this year's Flyway Youth Forum, the first-ever international youth event on migratory waterbirds and wetland conservation in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Moreover, in the hope to ignite appreciation for biodiversity at a very young age, the ACB supported the publication of a children's book on migratory birds. The book entitled "Papan at ang mga Dayong Ibon" was launched earlier today as part of this year's celebration of WMBD.

At the global level, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has called for the inclusion of ecological connectivity in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In 2017, the Philippines' successful hosting of the CMS COP12 adopted decisions, which highlighted the importance of well-connected networks of protected areas in addressing the needs of migratory species, throughout their life cycles and migratory ranges.

As we prepare for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, we need to ensure that there is enough attention for migratory bird species, and the flyways that sustain their migration. Tangible benefits can be derived from their protection such as ensuring genetic diversity and gene flow and preventing spillovers of zoonotic diseases by keeping viruses within their natural hosts to name a few. Therefore, the healing and restoration of nature and biodiversity is a key in our pathway towards recovery in the face of public health crises such as what we are experiencing now.

This is a clear path that we must take, and it is recognising that our solutions are in nature and biodiversity, including these animals that move across borders. May our celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day inspire us to initiate transformative actions that will promote the value of migratory birds to ecosystem health and to our own well-being. (ACB)



8 nag-iimbak ng mapanganib na kemikal, kulong

On Oct 10, 2020



Arestado ang walong katao ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) sa pag-iimbak ng mapanganib na sangkap nang walang kaukulang permit o clearance mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Kinilala ni NBI officer-in-charge Eric B. Distor ang mga naaresto na sina Patrick Edwardson Malibiran, Renato de Pablo, Eddie Ramoso, Josephine Pauso, Julius Villacastin, Federico Cortez, Eliseo Amar at Aldwin Calano.

Ayon kay Distor, nag-ugat ang operasyon sa intelligence report na natanggap ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division na ang 88 Golden Place Smelting Inc., nagsasagawa ng gold smelting/refinery sa Bulacan. Nang iberipika ng NBI-EnCD sa DENR-Environmental Management Bureau, lumalabas na walang ECC o Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC) ang kompanya at wala ring permit to operate, wastewater discharge permit at hazardous waste registration ID .

Isinalang sa Inquest proceedings sa Meycauayan Prosecutor's Office para sa paglabag sa "Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990 ang mga inaresto. (Jocelyn Domenden)

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2020/10/10/8-nag-iimbak-ng-mapanganib-na-kemikal-kulong/?fbclid=IwAR1S0DfH6R5wrz-3HTkxOji0Cbh7VEmrbNPidb3YBf52KGlvtbrc9fcZAc>



P90K halaga ng halaman, ninakaw

@Balitang Probinsiya | October 10, 2020

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Isang pamilya ang nagtungo sa pulisya para i-report ang naganap na pagnanakaw sa mga pananim nilang halaman na nagkakahalaga ng P90, 000 kamakalawa sa Bgy. Magsaysay.

Ang biktima ay ang pamilya Lipang na kilalang nagtatanim ng mga mamahaling halaman na bougainvillea sa nasabing barangay.

Ayon sa mga biktima, pagkagising nila kinaumagahan ay wala na sa kanilang bakuran ang mga pananim nilang halaman.

Patuloy pa ang isinagawang imbestigasyon ng pulisya sa naganap na nakawan.

Panawagan ng mga awtoridad sa publiko na i-report sa kanilang tanggapan kapag may nalaman silang nagbebenta ng naturang halaman upang madakip ang mga suspek.



Embracing climate advocacy starts with oneself

By Ludwig O. Federigan

October 10, 2020

For 16 days from July to September, I had the opportunity to become one of the climate reality mentors for the two global pieces of training of the Climate Reality Leadership Corps — the very first time these were conducted virtually — conducted by no less than the former United States vice president Al Gore, founder of the Washington-based The Climate Reality Project. For these two pieces of training, I am privileged to mentor 36 new climate reality leaders who are now in their climate journey to perform their acts of leadership.

As part of their acts of leadership, I interviewed two new climate reality leaders: Genesis Kelly Lontoc, associate chairman of the Department of Economics at Ateneo de Manila University, and Ainah Buenavista, chapter president of the United Architects of the Philippines Graduate Auxiliary-Quezon City Chapter.

Question: Who is your inspiration in embracing environmental and climate advocacy that motivated you to aspire to become a climate reality leader?

Genesis: My biggest influences in choosing to become a Climate Reality Leader are Al Gore, Jeffrey Sachs and Kate Raworth. They are at the forefront of major global initiatives that promote sustainable development. They have been able to inspire many to pursue a more sustainable world.

Ainah: During my academic studies it became my priority to consider sustainable principles in my projects. At school, we were thought to become a sensible and careful designer when we plan and create our studies. Back then, wanting to advocate for the protection of the environment only means considering the environmental impact of what we want to create, writing it on a paper, and submitting it to our professors.

When I met engineer Ludwig Federigan, a year after my graduation in an online platform, he shared to me his environmental journey. Conversations about environmental advocacy began and I remember him saying: “Taking an advocacy is like aspiring to have a degree course: it will take responsibility and require commitment.” At that time, I felt a burning ‘yes’ and feeling wanting to go outside my comfort zone. What he does inspires me. I thought maybe I can also do more for the environment. It pushed me to realign my ways and continued pursuing a dream to become an environmental advocate. When doors opened for me to join the Climate Reality Leadership Corps, I felt more supported and encouraged by people who share the same passion as mine. Everyone who joined the training inspired me to start acting too.

Question: What are your two major takeaways of the global training?

Genesis: There are two important things that I learned. First, the climate crisis is a concern of everyone as we only have one earth. Second, all nations and the whole world need to take urgent and concerted action toward achieving sustainable development. While it is imperative to generate economic progress, it should not be done at the expense of the environment. If we can take good care of the earth today, then the earth will be able to take good care of us and our succeeding generations tomorrow.

Ainah: It made me realize two things. First, our future depends on how we act on the present. What our communities look like right now are the effects of the decisions we made in the past. It feels devastating to see environmental destruction caused by calamities and caused by irresponsible human acts. All of these contribute to the cause and effect of climate change. If we use the “now” to act, to change our habits and lifestyle, and to be involved in promoting environmental justice, there is a bigger possibility that we can save more lives and be able to preserve a beautiful environment that we still have. Second is to embrace the phrase “think global, act local.” While we think about the global significance of our actions, we should start it within ourselves and bring that action to our communities.



Question: Can you share three environmental actions that you plan to adopt to start living a sustainable lifestyle?

Genesis: As a new climate reality leader, I intend to adopt more environmentally friendly ways of living like continuously learn more about environmental opportunities and issues so that I can help craft relevant and impactful solutions. I intend to become active in my community like sharing relevant information and proposing policy actions regarding the environment.

Ainah: Knowing climate change shifted the way I think about how I will live my life from now on and for the next years to come. I will start by acting at home and work. Three things that I have in mind include one, saving energy by being mindful of the things I use every day such as using less of energy-intensive appliances and purchasing energy-efficient alternatives; two, embracing the 3R's (reduce, reuse, and recycle) by looking into products that will not produce harmful effects to the environment; three, engaging organizations that are into eco-friendly, green and sustainable practices.

Question: As a young leader or professional, how do you intend to nurture this new learning that you have? If there is a way to align climate advocacy with your current work, how do you plan to do it?

Genesis: As an educator of economics and business, I plan to integrate the concepts of sustainable development in my classes. For my college students, sharing with them sustainable development concepts will hopefully instill in them heightened consciousness about the real world and ignite their commitment to action. For my graduate school students, sharing with them sustainable development concepts will hopefully enable them to initiate positive changes in their companies.

Ainah: As a newly minted climate reality leader, I want to spend more time learning and committing myself to be a fierce eco warrior for climate action. Entering the climate advocacy is only the start of my journey. I will not only pursue a study that relates to environmental protection soon but I will also embrace this mission in my choices every day.

I will take opportunities that will lead me to elevate my ability and capability to serve our nature and I am willing to connect and work with people who share the same passion as mine.

Taking an advocacy is a choice, just like a decision we make every day. But it is not a choice that is easy to make, as the journey would require a considerable amount of time and commitment that, at times, go unappreciated. Making a difference inspires one to work for the climate. Though the task remains challenging, it is just right that embracing climate advocacy should start with oneself.

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a nonresident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia (United Kingdom) and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University (USA). You can reach him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com.



Govt urged: Act vs increasing Covid waste

By Eireene Jairee Gomez

October 11, 2020

THE government should act on the increasing volume of biomedical wastes across the country amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, according to an expert.

In a webinar last week, Dr. Paula Sta. Maria, co-chairman of the Climate Change Committee-Philippine College of Physicians, said the health industry, in its service, creates biomedical waste that could have “serious impacts on human health and the environment if not managed properly.”

As Covid-19 cases in the Philippines continue to pile, hospitals and medical facilities are also seeing a surge in the volume of infectious medical waste they produce.

Biomedical wastes are infectious as they are generated during diagnosis, testing, treatment, research, or production of biological products for humans or animals.

They are sourced from laboratories and research centers, hospitals and health facilities, blood banks, nursing homes, mortuary and autopsy centers, animal research, and testing labs.

“However, as we transitioned to home care, biomedical wastes have found the way into our communities. And now, with the Covid-19 pandemic, biomedical waste is everywhere,” Sta. Maria said.

Sta. Maria said 80 percent of the total generated biomedical wastes in the country are infectious, 15 percent are pathologic or infectious, 3 percent are chemical and pharmaceutical, 1 percent are sharp, and 1 percent are radioactive.

She said biomedical wastes have to be segregated and placed on their designated bins, after which they are collected and stored in preparation for their treatment.

She said some ways of treating medical wastes include “thermal, irradiative, chemical and biological processes, and incineration which is the predominant medical waste management in the developing world.”

The Covid-19 pandemic, Sta. Maria said, heightened the awareness on biomedical wastes in the Philippines and that the government could measure the magnitude of the problem by reviewing the challenges of its handling in other countries.

Citing data from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Sta. Maria said the country has produced 19,187.8 metric tons of infectious health care waste from April to July 2020 alone. In 2019, about 88,878 metric tons of infectious waste were produced in the country. Of the total, only 29 percent had been treated and disposed of.

She said sanitary workers were not adequately provided with protection against Covid-19.

The expert urged the government to look at the “blueprints” such as Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the “Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000” and RA 6969 or the “Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990.”

Sta. Maria called for complete government infrastructure and logistics in the medical industry, coupled with training for sanitation workers deeply rooted with research.



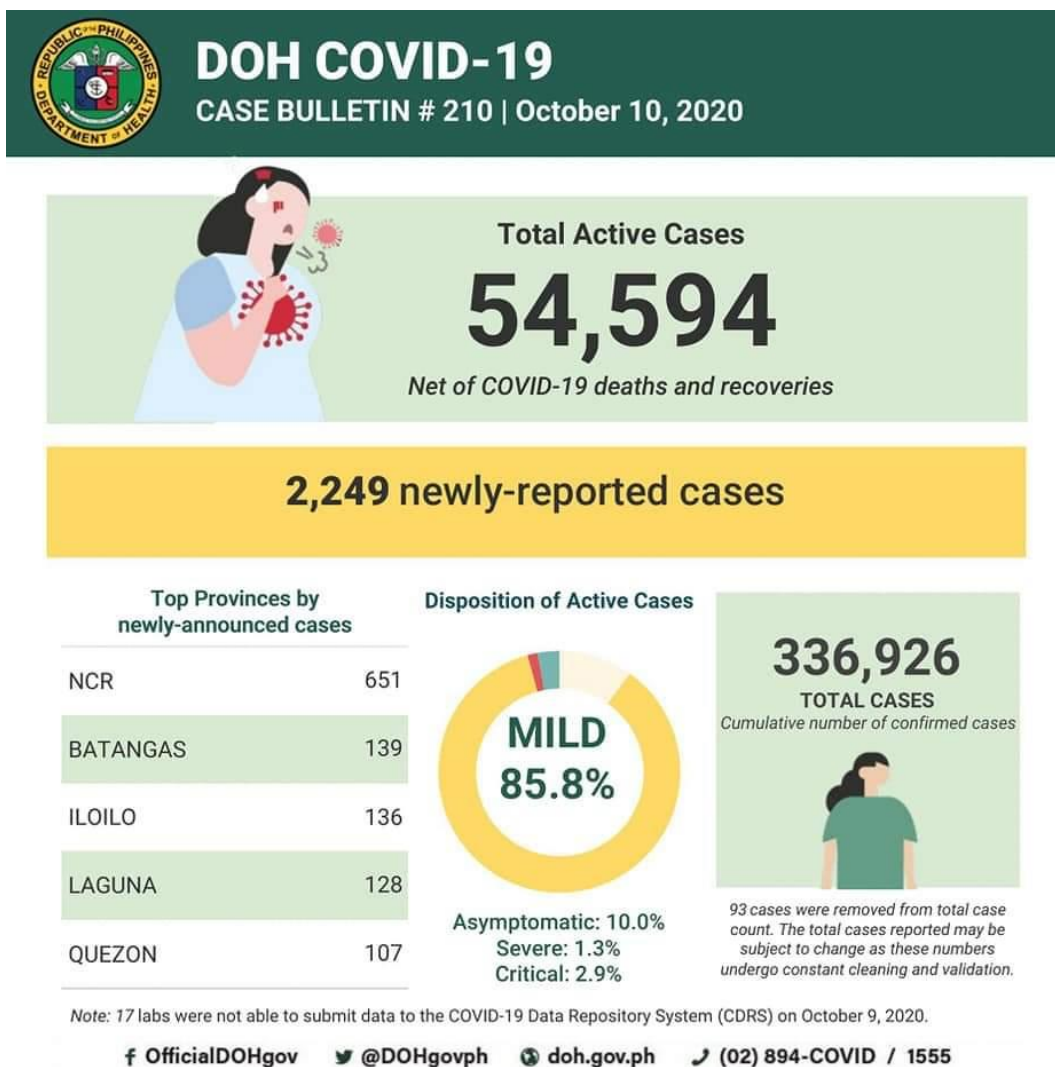
“We should implement the law on ecological waste starting at [the] source and shift from incineration to use of autoclave and steam-based green options to treat biomedical waste.

The Covid-19 pandemic proved that sustainably managing biomedical wastes will mutually benefit people and planetary health,” she ended.



BREAKING: Mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, umabot na sa 336,926

By Angellic Jordan October 10, 2020 - 05:18 PM



Hindi muli lalagpas sa 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Sabado (October 10), umabot na sa 336,926 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 54,594 ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,249 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.8 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 10.0 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.3 porsyento ang severe habang 2.9 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 87 ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 6,238 ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 842 naman ang gumaling pa sa bansa.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 276,094 ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



DOH COVID-19

CASE BULLETIN # 210 | October 10, 2020

Total Reported Recoveries

276,094



+842 reported today

21 case/s have been removed from the list of COVID-19 patients and recoveries.

Total Reported Deaths

6,238

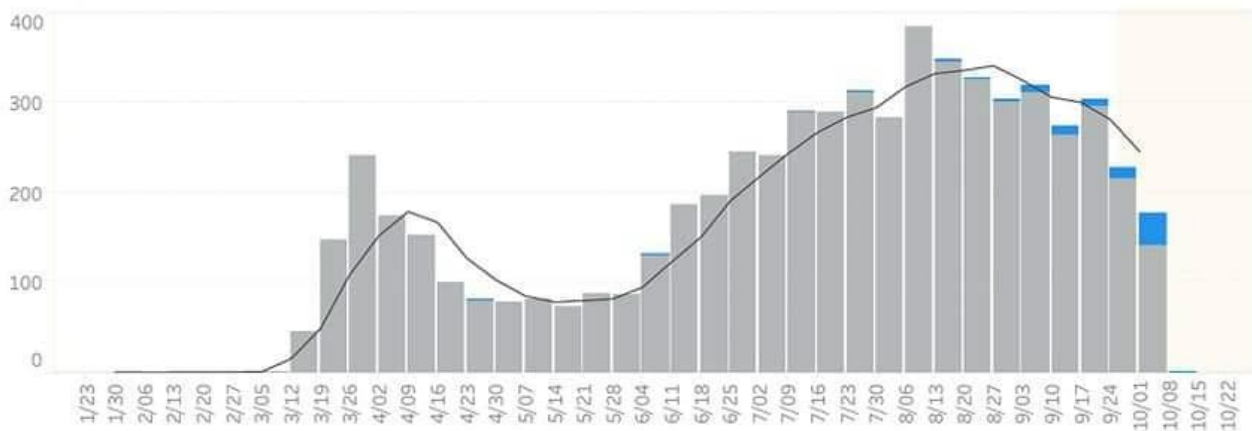


+87 reported today

1 case/s have been removed from the list of COVID-19 patients and deaths.

Confirmed Deaths by Week of Death (Nationwide)

■ Reported on October 10, 2020 ■ Previously Reported - 4-week Moving Average



* 34 cases were previously tagged as recoveries but upon further validation have been removed from the list of recoveries.

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🌐 doh.gov.ph

📞 (02) 894-COVID / 1555



Senate sees early resumption of session to tackle 2021 proposed national budget

By: [Consuelo Marquez](#) - Reporter / [@ConsINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:43 PM October 10, 2020



FILE PHOTO — Senate President Vicente Sotto III. (Albert Calvelo /Senate PRIB)

MANILA, Philippines — Senate is eyeing a resumption of its session earlier than Nov. 16 to work on the proposed 2021 national budget once it receives its approved version from the House of Representatives, two senators said Saturday.

In an interview with DWIZ, Senator Panfilo Lacson suggested that the Senate may return to work a week before Nov. 16 if the House will transmit its budget bill in the third week of October.

“Pwede pa naming gawin kung nasa amin (yung budget bill) Oct 20-25, pwede kami mag-resume ng session one week earlier than Nov 16 para ma-sponsor sa floor ang committee report at pagkatapos may isang linggo para magbasa, pag-aralan ang committee report para pagpasok ng Nov 16, debate na kami,” Lacson said.

(What we can do is if the budget is transmitted to us by October 20 to 25, we can resume session one week earlier than November 16 so that we can already sponsor the committee report to the floor then after a week of hearings, we will study the report so that by Nov. 16 we can already conduct debates.)

When sought for opinion for early resumption of session, Senate President Vicente Sotto III approved the idea, saying they are not limited to resume the session on Nov. 16.

“Correct, agree. Payag ako. Pwede ko naman iresume yun e, hindi naman kailangan November 16,” he said in another interview with DWIZ.

(Correct, agree. I can resume the session, the session should not only be opened on November 16.)

Both chambers are set to go on a break on Oct. 17. The scheduled resumption of session for both chambers will be on Nov. 16.

On Friday night, [President Rodrigo Duterte](#) authorized the Congress to conduct a special session on Oct. 13 until Oct. 16 to resume the congressional deliberations and avoid delays for the passage of 2021 proposed budget.



This after House Speaker Alan Cayetano and his allies decided to stop sessions at the lower chamber until Nov. 16 with the proposed spending measure approved only at second reading.

Cayetano and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco are currently on a clash for the House speakership post which endangers the timely passage of the 2021 national budget.

'Special session'

Lacson, meanwhile, said if the House will show disrespect to the President if they will not approve the spending measure on third reading during the special session.

“Kapag hindi pa nila napasa ang budget on third reading hanggang Biyernes, talagang lantaran na ang pagsuway sa kagustuhan ng Pangulo,” the senator said.

(If they will not pass it on time until Friday then it shows a display of disobedience to the President’s wish.)

Sotto also hoped the upper chamber will approve its version of the spending measure on time for the duration of the special session.

He also described President’s move to call for a special session as “master stroke” after the House suspended its session earlier than Oct. 17.

“Sana. ‘Yun ang iniisip namin. Siguro yun iniisip ng Pangulo. Tingin ko sa ginawa ng Pangulo tinatawag na special session ‘yun dahil ‘yun ang nasa sulat niya,” the Senate leader said when asked if the budget will be transmitted to the Senate on time due to the special session.

(I hope so, that’s what we are thinking. And the President may also be thinking of the same thing. What the President calls it is a special session because that’s what was written.)

“Technically sa akin, it is a master stroke (clever move) sapagka’t nagkaroon ng ibang diskarte ang HOR, ang diskarte, bigla silang suspend,” he added.

(Technically, for me, it is a master stroke because the HOR had a different style, they suddenly decided to suspend.)

CFC



“It’s his way of making sure the proposed 2021 budget program is enacted into law, because as we all know this budget is for fighting COVID-19,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in Filipino in a radio interview.

The STAR/Felicer Santos, file

Palace sees signing of budget by yearend

[Christina Mendez](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 11, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — With President Duterte calling for a special session this week, there should be no more stumbling block to the passage of the P4.5-trillion budget for next year on or before Dec. 31, Malacañang said yesterday.

“It’s his way of making sure the proposed 2021 budget program is enacted into law, because as we all know this budget is for fighting COVID-19,” presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in Filipino in a radio interview.

He said Duterte had to act decisively by ordering the House of Representatives to return to work this week to make sure the budget is approved on third and final reading and transmitted to the Senate before the congressional break on Thursday.

Roque maintained that Duterte did not want to get embroiled in political maneuverings in the lower chamber, arising from the leadership squabble between Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco.

In a televised address Thursday night, the President called on Cayetano to resolve the leadership row in the House and focus his attention on passing the budget.

“The President was telling them, ‘don’t drag me into your mess, I’m out of it. It’s an internal matter in Congress.’ What he hates is that this battle over a position might affect the national budget,” he said.

The leadership row was triggered by Cayetano’s refusal to give up the speakership in favor of Velasco based on their term-sharing agreement brokered by the President last year.

Duterte certified the budget measure or House Bill 7727 as urgent immediately after announcing his call for a special session from Oct. 13 to 16.



In certifying HB 7727 as urgent, the President cited the need “to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year, strengthen efforts to respond more effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and support initiatives towards national economic recovery.”

House leaders have committed to devote the special session to budget deliberations and set aside their political agenda.

With the President’s calling for special session, the minority bloc said it has abandoned its plan to hold parallel deliberations on the budget.

Minority Leader Rep. Benny Abante said they had considered holding parallel deliberations in response to Cayetano’s five-week suspension and “in order to fulfill our mandate to thoroughly scrutinize the budget and to properly evaluate the proposed allocations for the government’s various line departments.”

Majority Leader Martin Romualdez also appealed to allies and the “constructive minority” for full cooperation.

“The House leadership will immediately act next week on the request of President Duterte to pass the proposed P4.5-trillion national budget for 2021 on third and final reading,” Romualdez said in a statement.

“The members of the super majority and our colleagues from the constructive minority bloc are one with the Duterte administration in the implementation of its comprehensive plan to rebuild the Philippine economy, defeat coronavirus disease-2019 and ensure that government services are not derailed,” the Leyte congressman said.

“We appeal to our colleagues to give their full cooperation in ensuring the swift enactment of legal and constitutional General Appropriations Bill (GAB) as requested by President Duterte to support his vision for the nation in the years to come,” he added.

Minority support

Abante said the administration can count on the minority bloc to help in the swift passage of the budget.

“We in the minority support any initiative that will fast-track the deliberations and subsequent passage of the 2021 national budget. The special session called by President Duterte, together with his certification of the General Appropriations Bill as urgent, serves to emphasize the importance of passing the budget on time in order for the government to promptly carry out the programs and projects necessary to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy and to provide aid for our people in these challenging times,” Abante said in a statement.

“We in the minority will now be able to resume working with our colleagues in the majority to craft a pro-people budget that is on time, on target and on point. Our priorities should now be crystal clear; let us set aside politics, eschew the infighting that has plagued the chamber in recent weeks and focus on the task at hand,” Abante appealed.



The minority bloc earlier issued a statement signed by about 20 members questioning the move of Cayetano and his allies to swiftly pass the budget bill on second reading and suspending the session for two weeks.

Cayetano welcomed the President's call for a special session, abandoning a declaration made hours earlier that he was standing pat on his decision to suspend session.

In anticipation of the House's prompt approval of the proposed national outlay, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he might ask his colleagues to cut short their break so they could immediately play their part and facilitate the timely passage of the national budget.

"I will suggest it, when the GAB1 (General Appropriation) is transmitted to us before All Saints' Day. I'll suggest we resume one week earlier," Lacson said.

Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said Lacson's suggestion might be tackled at a caucus on Monday.

"We have a caucus on Monday 1 p.m. to discuss that so we can get a consensus by then," Zubiri said.

Lacson said an early resumption of session would allow Sen. Sonny Angara, Senate finance committee chairman, to sponsor the committee report on the floor, after which they can start scrutinizing the proposed 2021 budget for over 100 government agencies.

"The message of the President is very clear that he doesn't want to delay passage of the 2021 budget," he said.

Lacson said as a matter of practice, senators need four days to a week to examine the budget.

"Our target is on or before Dec. 19, the GAB must be in Malacañang to sign. Our budget calendar should be Oct. 12 in our House version, let's say Oct. 14," Lacson said.

No moral authority

Meanwhile, Velasco allies said Cayetano has lost his moral authority to lead the House after his questionable handling of the budget issue.

"Speaker Cayetano has miserably failed in his duty to lead the House in its mandate to review and pass the budget in the manner provided for in the Constitution and rules of the House," Oriental Mindoro Rep. Salvador Leachon said.

"It's shameful to the people. Why does the President need to be involved out of one's undeterred desire to cling to power when it's clear that all what is needed is to just comply with a gentleman's agreement," Leachon stressed.

The congressman believed that Proclamation No. 27 issued by Duterte is a clear indication that the suspension of session for more than a month did not sit well with him as it is unconstitutional.



“There could be no other interpretation except that the suspension was illegal and unconstitutional, especially when the President said that it is incumbent for Congress to pass a budget through process that is legal and constitutional,” he said.

Cebu City Rep. Rodrigo Abellanosa agreed and said Cayetano has forfeited his right to govern the lower chamber.

“Speaker Cayetano has failed in his sworn duty to uphold and defend the Constitution when he caused the railroading of the budget and suspended the session without giving all lawmakers the chance to scrutinize and allocate the budget properly,” Abellanosa said.

“With all due respect, I think the Speaker already lost his moral authority to lead the House. Speaker Cayetano, it’s time for you to let go of the House leadership and hand it over to Congressman Velasco in accordance with the term-sharing deal brokered by no less than the President,” he said.

Ako Probinsyano party-list Rep. Jose Singson Jr. said Cayetano has failed House members and the people they represent in Congress following his mishandling of the 2021 budget.

“Speaker Cayetano has failed the nation and this is all because of his vicious desire to cling to power,” the party-list lawmaker said.

Singson said the ongoing speakership row has exposed Cayetano’s trait and real agenda.

“Cayetano has shown how power can be addictive that he would do everything to stay in power at the expense of the budget, Congress and the Filipino people,” Singson said. — **Edu Punay, Cecille Suerte Felipe**



#WalangTubig: Maynilad announces temporary water interruption from October 13-15

October 10, 2020 9:40 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



Residents of Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City line up for limited water supply. (Photo courtesy: RH Christian Maño)

Water concessionaire Maynilad announced on Saturday that their customers in some parts of Metro Manila and Cavite will be experiencing water supply interruptions starting next week due to maintenance activities in two facilities of the west zone concessionaire.

In an advisory, Maynilad said it is set to move the suction and discharge pipe of the Daang Hari Pumping Station in Las Piñas City to pave the way for the drainage project of the Department of Public Works and Highways. It said repairs would also be done on the Putatan Water Treatment Plant 2 in Muntinlupa City.

The said activities will affect the water supply in the areas of Las Piñas, Parañaque, and Cavite starting at 9:00 PM on October 13, Tuesday until 1:00 AM on October 15, Thursday. Consumers to start saving water and visit the Maynilad official website for the schedule of water interruption.

Here is the list of affected areas and schedule of water disruption:

LAS PIÑAS

- Almanza Dos (T.S. Cruz Subdivision, BF Almanza, Enclave Filinvest Alabang, Global Estate Resorts, Inc.)

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 6:00 a.m. of Oct. 14

-from 5:00 p.m. of Oct. 14 to 1:00 a.m. of Oct. 15

- Almanza Uno, BF International Village/CAA (BF EVA, BF Executive Triangle, BF 4-S, Southland Classic, Garden Rio, BF International, BF Mariposa, BF Topman Village, BF Inner Circle), Pilar, Pulang Lupa Dos, Talon Uno, Tres to Singko

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 12:00 noon of Oct. 14

- Almanza Dos (Versailles)

-from 10:00 a.m. of Oct. 14 to 1:00 a.m. of Oct. 15

- Almanza Dos (Southvale, Sonera)

-from 6:00 a.m. of Oct. 14 to 1:00 a.m. of Oct. 15

MUNTINLUPA

- Poblacion, Tunasan

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 6:00 a.m. of Oct. 14



- Poblacion (New Bilibid Prison area, Promiseland, NHA Phase 1 to 4, MCX)

-from 10 a.m. of Oct. 14 to 1 a.m. of Oct. 15

- Tunasan (Victoria Homes, Sapphire Heights, Ruby Park, Emerald Hills, Jade Heights, Pearl Heights)

-from 5:00 p.m. of Oct. 14 to 1 a.m. of Oct. 15

- Alabang, Ayala Alabang

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 12 noon of Oct. 14

PARAÑAQUE

- BF Homes (Mayuga BF, President's Ave., Sampaloc, Tahanan Village, J. Elizalde, Lirag, Massville, Goodwill 2, Estrada A. Luz, Tehran, Dela Rama, Villongco, Vinzon, Jackielou Ville, N. Jacinto/Aguirre, Phase 6 BF, East Phase 6 – Sison, Freixas, Legarda, Barreto, Magalona),
- Marcelo Green Village (Sampaguita, Severina Right, Severina Left, South Green Park), San Antonio (Goodwill 3, Meliton, 4th Estate, Garcia Heights, Soreena & Seacom Compound, Sta. Lucia, SAV 1 at 9, San Gabriel, Greenvale, Magdalena, Jestra, Don Aguedo, Hernandez/Resurreccion)

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 8:00 a.m. of Oct. 14

- BF Homes (Rio De Janeiro/Palace, V. Valdez/Tropical Ave., Marcelo Ave/J. Elizalde, N. Abelardo, Inner Circle, BF Heva, BF North Concha, BF Menlo, BF PDP, BF EVS, BF GAHA, BF West Executive, BF East Phase 6 – JP Laurel, Buencamino)

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 12:00 noon of Oct. 14

BACOR, CAVITE

- Molino II to IV and VII, Queens Row Central, Queens Row East, Queens Row West, San Nicolas III

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 12:00 noon of Oct. 14

IMUS, CAVITE

- Pasong Buaya II

-from 9:00 p.m. of Oct. 13 to 12:00 noon of Oct. 14



Social media shed light on rare, endangered stingray species

Published October 10, 2020, 1:32 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A team of scientists from the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia has tapped social media platforms to monitor the distribution and understand the vulnerability of the elusive ornate eagle ray (*Aetomylaeus vespertilio*).



A team of scientists from the Philippines, Malaysia, and Australia has tapped social media platforms to monitor the distribution and understand the vulnerability of the elusive ornate eagle ray (Screengrab from the video of LAMAVE / MANILA BULLETIN)

The results of a study titled “Citizen science sheds light on the cryptic ornate eagle ray *Aetomylaeus vespertilio*” led by marine experts from the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE), Universiti Malaysia Sabah, and James Cook University were released recently.

The study analyzed relevant photographs freely available on internet-based social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Youtube between February and March, 2019 to analyze the distribution of ornate eagle ray.

Using the photographs, the researchers looked for a unique spot pattern on the pelvic and pectoral fins of individual stingrays.

A total of 53 reports of the species were found, identifying 46 individuals from the Red Sea (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt), Seychelles, South Africa, Maldives, Malaysia, Philippines, Palau, and Australia.

The reports from Palau, Seychelles, and South Africa were the first confirmed reports in these countries, which according to the researchers expanded the species current known range.

Meanwhile, the report from Richard’s Bay in South Africa represented the southernmost record of the species in the Western Indian Ocean.

The study also found out that many reports uncovered on social media occurred within marine protected areas or MPAs, such as those seen in Ningaloo Reef and Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and Cagayancillo, Palawan in the Philippines.

The team noted that the effectiveness of MPAs to conserve rays and other mobile species is “highly complex” and “while it is uncertain whether these existing protected areas are providing sufficient protection to conserve the species, it is encouraging that the species are present in these areas and how citizen science can be a powerful tool to help monitor these areas.”



They pointed out that sourcing photographs from popular social media platforms has expanded the known distribution of the elusive species of stingray.

The citizen science-sourced data shared by the public and analyzed by the scientists has contributed to the understanding of the vulnerability of this species, while also creating opportunities for conservation.



Pambihira, endangered stingray species nabigyang linaw sa social media



October 10, 2020 @ 4:50 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinili ng grupo ng mga siyentista mula sa Pilipinas, Malaysia at Australia na gamitin ang social media platforms para i-monitor ang distribusyon at ipaunawa ang kahinaan ng mailap na ornate eagle ray o *Aetomylaeus vesperilio*.

Inilabas kamakailan ang resulta ng isang pag-aaral na pinamagatang “Citizen science sheds light on the cryptic ornate eagle ray *Aetomylaeus vesperilio*” na pinangunahan ng marine experts mula sa Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE), Universiti Malaysia Sabah at James Cook University.

Inalisa sa naturang pag-aaral ang mahahalagang larawan na malayang ipinakita sa internet-based social media platforms, kabilang ang Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at YouTube sa pagitan ng mga buwan ng Pebrero at Marso 2019 para ianalisa ang distribusyon ng ornate eagle ray.

Gamit ang kanilang mga larawan, hinanap ng mga researcher ang unique spot pattern sa pelvic at pectoral fins ng bawat stingray.

Kabuuang 53 ulat ng species ang natagpuan, kabilang ang 46 individuals mula sa Red Sea (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt), Seychelles, South Africa, Maldives, Malaysia, Philippines, Palau at Australia.

Lumabas din sa pag-aaral na maraming ulat na natuklasan sa social media ay nangyari sa marine protected areas, tulad sa Ningaloo Reef at Great Barrier Reef sa Australia at Cagayancillo, Palawan sa Philippines.

Natuklasan din na kumplikado ang pagiging epektibo ng MPAs sa pangangalaga ng rays at iba pang mobile species at dahil hindi pa ganu’n katiyak na protektado nga ang species sa mga umiiral nang protected areas, hinihikayat na pakilusin ang citizen science para makatulong sa pag-monitor sa mga naturang lugar.

Nabatid na ang citizen science-sourced data na sini-share ng publiko at inaanalisa ng mga siyentista ay nakatutulong sa pang-unawa sa kahinaan ng naturang species subalit nagsisilbing oportunidad para sa konserbasyon nito. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/pambihira-endangered-stingray-species-nabigyang-linaw-sa-social-media/>



US says climate change doesn't threaten snow-dwelling wolverines

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 04:31 PM October 10, 2020



A wolverine. Image: AFP/Frederick Florin

American wildlife officials said Thursday they were withdrawing a proposal to protect wolverines after finding the rare snow-dwelling predators aren't as threatened by climate change as previously thought.

The move was condemned by conservation groups, who said it was a result of the Trump administration's denial of climate science, and that extra measures were badly needed to save the estimated 300 or so wolverines left in the contiguous United States.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) said its decision "reflects the latest and best available science, including improvements to our understanding of the biology and behavior of the species, as well as advances in snow and climate modeling."

In 2016, a court ruled the FWS must consider further its decision to drop proposed protections that the agency itself first put forward in 2013.

"In the time since our original proposal, the science on wolverine has been greatly advanced thanks to the work of state wildlife agencies and researchers in the U.S. and around the world," said FWS official Noreen Walsh.

The FWS said Thursday it had recorded 86 photographic detections of the animals through camera-trapping and 157 hair samples between 2016 to 2017, and determined it wasn't as rare as thought, even though it couldn't make an estimate for actual population size.

It added that climate modeling indicated snow cover wasn't receding as rapidly as thought in certain areas, snow cover isn't as critical for the species to build dens, and that wolverines in the lower 48 states are connected to populations in Canada and Alaska where they can migrate. But Timothy Preso, an attorney with Earthjustice, part of a coalition that intends to sue the government, told AFP the FWS announcement amounted to "smoke and mirrors."

"What they did was a one year snapshot of where there was wolverine occupancy detected by remote cameras, and they don't know whether that was numerous individuals, or one individual traversing an area."



“What we know is that climate change is literally melting the wolverine habitat out from under it,” he added, attributing the new decision to the Trump administration’s hostility to climate science.

What’s more, he said, the fact that the species is more abundant in Canada and Alaska isn’t a good rationale for not protecting it in the contiguous U.S.

Wolverines, which resemble small bears and have bushy tails, once roamed the northern U.S., but their population has been decimated by trapping, poisoning and habitat loss that started in the 19th century.

The largest member of the weasel family, they now exist only in small populations in Idaho, Montana, Washington, Wyoming and northeast Oregon, and are at risk from climate change because they dig their dens in declining snowpack to birth and raise their young.

Signed in 1973, the Endangered Species Act is credited with saving iconic American species such as the gray wolf, bald eagle and grizzly bear.

It protects listed species from being killed or harmed, protects their habitats, and creates plans to restore healthy populations, among other things. **IB**



'Real and imminent' extinction risk to whales

By Helen BriggsBBC Environment correspondent
10 October 2020



Only a few hundred North Atlantic right whales remain

More than 350 scientists and conservationists from 40 countries have signed a letter calling for global action to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises from extinction.

They say more than half of all species are of conservation concern, with two on the "knife-edge" of extinction.

Lack of action over polluted and over-exploited seas means that many will be declared extinct within our lifetimes, the letter says.

Even large iconic whales are not safe.

"Let this be a historic moment when realising that whales are in danger sparks a powerful wave of action from everyone: regulators, scientists, politicians and the public to save our oceans," said Mark Simmonds.

The visiting research fellow at the University of Bristol, UK, and senior marine scientist with Humane Society International, has coordinated [the letter](#), which has been signed by experts across the world.

Growing threats

"Save the whales" was a familiar green slogan in the 1970s and 1980s, part of a movement that helped bring an end to commercial whaling.

While stricken populations in most parts of the world have had a chance to recover from organised hunting, they are now facing myriad threats from human actions, including plastic pollution, loss of habitat and prey, climate change and collisions with ships.

By far the biggest threat is becoming accidentally captured in fishing equipment and nets, which kills an estimated 300,000 whales, dolphins and porpoises a year.



Rally in Mexico to draw attention to the vaquita



Hundreds of scientists have expressed the same concern - that we are moving closer to a number of preventable extinctions. And unless we act now, future generations will be denied the chance to experience these intelligent social and inspiring creatures.

They point to the decline of the North Atlantic right whale, of which only a few hundred individuals remain, and the vaquita, a porpoise found in the Gulf of California, which may be down to the last 10 of its kind.

- **Biodiversity: Why the nature crisis matters, in five graphics**
- **Wildlife in 'catastrophic decline', report warns**
- **Earth's 'lost species' only the tip of the iceberg.**

And they say it is almost inevitable that these two species will follow the Chinese river dolphin down the path to extinction. The dolphin, also known as the baiji, was once a common sight in the Yangtze River but is now thought to have died out.

The letter, which has been signed by experts in the UK, US, Mexico, South Africa and Brazil, among others, points out that these "dramatic" declines could have been avoided, but that the political will has been lacking.

Dr Susan Lieberman of the Wildlife Conservation Society said she signed the letter to help scientists raise these issues more widely.

"It is critical that governments develop, fund, and implement additional needed actions to better protect and save these iconic species - so they don't end going the way of the baiji," she told BBC News.



Dolphin chasing sardines off South Africa

The scientists say that more than half of the 90 living species of whales, dolphins and porpoises, are of conservation concern, and the trend of acting "too little, too late" must end.

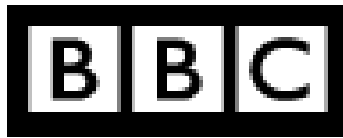
They are calling on countries with whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) in their waters to act to monitor threats and do more to protect them.

Sarah Dolman of Whale and Dolphin Conservation, UK, said accidental capture in fishing gear, known as bycatch, is an issue around UK waters, causing the deaths of thousands of cetaceans and other animals, including seals and birds, a year.

These include harbour porpoises and common dolphins, and increasing numbers of minke and humpback whales off the coast of Scotland.

She said entanglement in fishing nets was a "horrible way to die" with some animals surviving with broken teeth or beaks, or losing their young.

She told BBC News: "We have a long way to go before we can be confident the fish we are eating is not causing bycatch of protected species like whales and dolphins."



The letter is part of a growing movement by scientists and conservationists to raise awareness of the threats faced by whales and their smaller relatives, the dolphins and porpoises.

The matter was discussed in September at a meeting of the scientific conservation committee of the International Whaling Commission, which has a core mission to prevent extinctions.

Members have set up an "extinction initiative" to work out how many extinctions we may be facing and what more we can do to prevent them.

Follow Helen on [**Twitter**](#).



Help protect nature, China tells US, allies

ByXinhua October 11, 2020

BEIJING: China urges the United States to stop slandering Beijing and make real contributions to protecting the global environment instead of creating trouble, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said.

Hua made the remarks at a press briefing in response to recent US accusations over China's environmental issues.

She said the Chinese government attaches great importance to ecological and environmental protection. It has made resource conservation and environmental protection a basic state policy and sustainable development a national strategy.

It has earnestly fulfilled its obligations under international environmental treaties on climate change, biodiversity governance, ozone layer protection and chemical pollution prevention and control with remarkable results.

As for carbon emissions, Hua said that by the end of 2019, China's CO2 emissions per unit of the GDP were 48.1-percent less compared with those in 2005, and the share of nonfossil fuels reached 15.3 percent, achieving 2020 climate action targets ahead of schedule.

Investment in renewable energy exceeded \$100 billion for five consecutive years, and China is home to over half of the world's new energy vehicles. The country has announced that it will enhance the nationally determined contribution targets and strive for the peaking of CO2 emissions before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060.

China has contributed greatly to global forest resources, sustainable forest products and trade, Hua said, adding that from 2009 to 2019, China completed afforestation of 70.39 million hectares, registering the highest increase in forest resources worldwide, according to the spokesman.

Noting China strictly manages solid waste and marine debris, she said by the end of 2020, the country will basically achieve the goal of zero import of solid waste. Nearly 99 percent of China's urban household waste is treated to make it harmless.

China implements the world's most rigorous Vessel Monitoring System and has zero tolerance for illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, Hua added.

Hua said China has also been deeply involved in international exchange and cooperation. It was the first to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity. It initiated the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition.

It has undertaken exchange and cooperation on environmental protection with more than 100 countries, carried out a large number of cooperation projects on biodiversity, and played a constructive role in improving global governance on biodiversity.

“By contrast, the per capita emissions of the United States are three times the global average, more than twice — once almost five times — that of China, with accumulated emissions about three times that of China's,” Hua said.



Facts have proved that the US itself is the biggest perpetrator damaging international environmental cooperation and poses the most potent threat to the global environment, Hua said.

Noting that US officials have discredited and attacked China entirely for political reasons, Hua said they should stop the malicious slanders against China, reflect upon its own behavior, assume its responsibility to the environment and make tangible contributions to the protection of the global environment instead of stirring up troubles.



Beijing urges Washington to protect environment

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BEIJING, China (Xinhua) – China urges the United States to stop “slandering” Beijing, and make real contributions to protecting the global environment “instead of creating trouble,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Friday.

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Climate targets and economic recovery

By: [Francisca Tondreau](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

05:01 AM October 10, 2020

SANTIAGO—With the world gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers have turned their attention to economic stimulus and financial support of households and firms. As a result, many countries have been delaying the preparation and submission of their new emissions-reduction targets under the Paris climate agreement. These updated targets, known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs, were originally due earlier this year, ahead of the COP26 climate-change conference in Glasgow, Scotland in November. But that, too, has been postponed.

The switch from summits to stimulus is understandable. But we should not lose sight of the important role that NDCs can play in economic recovery efforts. NDCs are among the best vehicles for governments to articulate their vision of future economic growth and technological transformation, both of which have clear links to job creation. Moreover, setting the targets provides a golden opportunity for countries to identify shovel-ready projects and activities that can deliver both climate and economic benefits.

Chile is a good example. The government announced an updated climate pledge in April, together with a new climate bill that is currently before the National Congress. The updated NDC links climate action to sustainable development and a just energy transition. At its core is a commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and it is easy to see how the government's pandemic response can help to achieve this goal by accelerating the necessary transitions in the energy and transportation sectors.

But Chile's new NDC also shows another front where countries' economic recovery plans can receive a significant boost: nature-based solutions. The NDC demonstrates an understanding of the role nature can play in achieving carbon neutrality, as well as in adapting to the effects of climate change and recognizing the importance of creating and maintaining natural carbon sinks.

For starters, Chile's climate plan links ocean and climate health, while acknowledging the economic value of coastal ecosystems. We don't need to look far for an example of how healthy marine ecosystems support local economies. In Mexico, in the Gulf of California and the Baja California Peninsula alone, marine ecosystems generate \$518 million in annual tourism revenues and directly account for at least 3,575 jobs. Given Chile's extensive coastline, the possibilities are much likely orders of magnitude higher. The NDC does not disappoint in this regard: It includes a commitment to turn 25 percent of its exclusive economic zone into a protected area. If properly implemented, this pledge would create new economic opportunities for the country.



The new NDC also significantly strengthens Chile's commitments regarding forests. The government has doubled its target for sustainable forests management and restoration from 100,000 hectares to 200,000 hectares by 2030. Likewise, it will plant 200,000 hectares of new forests (up from 100,000 hectares), of which at least 100,000 hectares will comprise permanent forest cover and at least 70,000 hectares will be native species. Finally, Chile has said it will cut emissions from deforestation and land degradation by 25 percent by 2030.

The link to economic growth (albeit understudied and underappreciated) is clear here as well. Pursuing these targets will enable governments to create a variety of jobs, including foresters, botanists, machinery operators, and laborers. And restored landscapes offer additional benefits. A 2016 study by the World Resources Institute found that in Latin America, reviving degraded lands would yield \$23 billion in net benefits over a period of 50 years. On average, farmers who restore their land can earn an extra \$1,140 per hectare in net economic value.

Chile's NDC gives us a good example of what an NDC can and should be: not a legally binding policy document, but a political signal to ministries, private-sector actors, and development-finance institutions to identify and pursue opportunities to link a government's climate plans to economic recovery.

Instead of delaying work on the NDCs while the pandemic continues, governments should consider how these targets could be used to leverage the economic contribution of nature-based solutions. In short, climate action, as expressed through an NDC, can go hand in hand with economic recovery plans. When nature is protected, it has much to offer in return. Project Syndicate

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Celebs to lead TED global call on climate

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by [AFP](#)

San Francisco—The Pope and Prince William will join activists, artists, celebrities and politicians on Saturday at a free streamed TED event aimed at unifying people to confront the climate crisis.

The Countdown program will kick off on the TED channel at YouTube starting at 8 am (1500 GMT) in California and feature 50 speakers, the pontiff and the second-in-line to the British throne among them.

“You’ll be hearing from all different kinds of folks from all walks of life; from the front lines to the grassroots to the treetops,” actor Mark Ruffalo, who is among the Countdown hosts, said during a briefing ahead of the event.

“They’ll be talking a little bit about the problems and a lot about the solutions.”

Countdown will last about five hours, for the first time providing a free look at the blend of arts, ideas, innovation and enlightenment that are trademarks of prestigious TED conferences.

“Climate can’t wait,” said TED head Chris Anderson.

“If there’s one thing that we surely must learn from this year, it’s that when scientists warn you that there is something terrible coming, you have to pay attention.”

While Countdown will spotlight science about the climate crisis and how it is harming the health of the planet, it will be geared to things people can do to stop it, according to organizers.

For example a talk will be given by the mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone where there is a project to plant a million trees to protect land from floods and absorb carbon dioxide.

Speakers also include European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, teenage climate activist Xiye Bastida, actor Chris Hemsworth, and former US vice president Al Gore.

Hundreds of smaller “TEDx” events are planned around the world to encourage local action.

Climate apolitical

Countdown is billed as a global initiative to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis, turning ideas into action.

It comes as some world leaders have weaponized the issue for political gain.

US President Donald Trump triggered outrage recently by suggesting global warming will reverse itself and dismissing the climate crisis as a cause of ferocious fires engulfing swaths of the US West.

Christiana Figueres, former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, warned the topic has been “politicized.”

“But, democracies have a way of changing the leaderships in those countries,” she said.

Droughts, floods, wildfires, and other disasters linked to climate change don’t check political affiliations before bringing ruin to people’s lives, she noted somberly.

“This is about responsibility to the human race, what unites us not what divides us,” she continued.

Ruffalo said the people refusing to find solutions to the climate crisis “will be the ones we see refusing to respond to the reality of the pandemic in a scientific and reality-based way.”

Clarion call

Countdown organizers have set a goal of mobilizing governments and citizens to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half over the next decade and get to net-zero carbon pollution by the year 2050.



“You can think of Saturday as a clarion call, a warning that we must reignite our efforts to take on this daunting challenge,” Anderson said.

“But it’s also a day of hope that there is a pathway to do this and we must walk down it together.”

Since starting as an intimate gathering in California 36 years ago, TED has grown into a global media platform with a stated devotion to “ideas worth spreading.”

TED has a massive following for its trademark presentations in which speakers strive to give “the talk of their lives” in 18 minutes.