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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Nagkalat na COVID-19 essentials waste sa Anilao, Batangas, ikinabahala ng DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)
-Mar. 11, 2021 at 6:30pm



Photo Courtesy: BBC

Ikinabahala ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang mga basurang face mask, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at surgical gloves na natagpuan sa mga bahura o reefs sa isang sikat na diving spot sa Anilao, Batangas.

Sa interview ng RMN Manila, sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones na sa kabila ng kanilang pagsisikap na ituro sa publiko ang tamang pagtatapon ng mga basurang nabanggit ay may mga nakakalusot pa rin.

Ayon kay Leones, dahil sa pangyayari ay nagbaba agad ng kautusan si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu na makipag-ugnayan sa Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) para tutukan ang bawat LGUs sa tamang pamamaraan ng pagtapon ng mga COVID-19 essentials waste.

Kaugnay nito, pinaalalahanan ng DENR ang mga LGUs na mas paigtingin pa ang segregation ng mga basura sa mga kabahayaan nang sa gayon ay hindi na ito mapunta pa sa karagatan.

Bukod sa mga residential area, pinaniniwalaan ding galing ang mga basurang ito sa ilang cruise ship kaya't nakikipag-ugnayan na rin ang ahensya sa Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at mga operator ng pantalan.

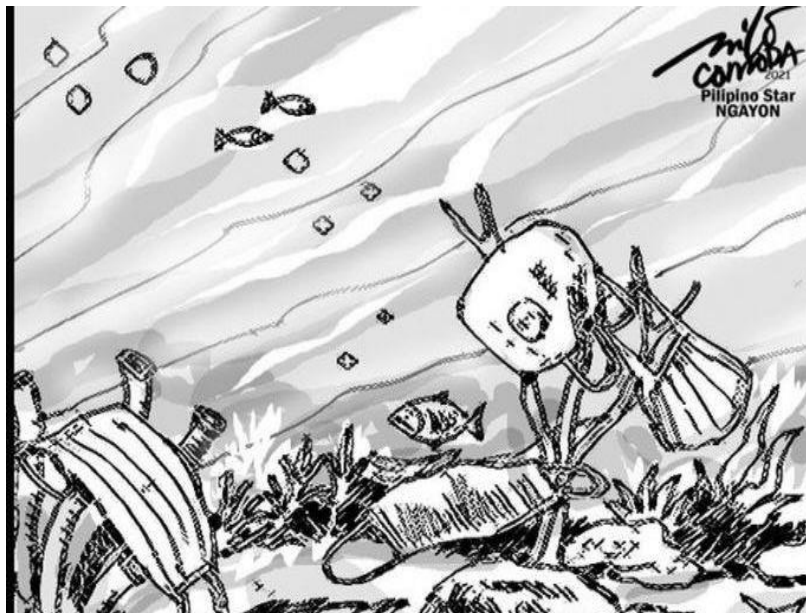
Samantala, selyado na rin ang kasunduan ng DENR at Department of Health (DOH) tungkol sa proper disposal ng mga vaccine vials, syringe at iba pang kagamitan sa COVID-19 vaccination program ng bansa.

Source: <https://rmn.ph/nagkalat-na-covid-19-essentials-waste-sa-anilao-batangas-ikinabahala-ng-denr/>



EDITORIAL - Face masks nasa pusod na ng dagat

(Pilipino Star Ngayon)
- March 12, 2021 - 12:00am



Ang mga itinatapong single-use face masks ay humantong na sa dagat at sumisira ng likas na yaman. Kahit na madalas ang paalala sa mamamayan na itapon nang maayos ang face masks, face shield at iba pang personal protective equipment (PPE) laban sa COVID-19, marami pa ring irresponsable sa pagtatapon ng mga ito. Ngayon nga, hindi lamang sa kalye makikita ang ginamit na face masks kundi pati na rin sa ilalim ng dagat.

Kung hindi magkakaroon ng disiplina ang mga tao sa pagtatapon ng ginamit na face masks, maaaring sa mga susunod na panahon ay santambak na basura ang makokolekta sa karagatan. At malaking banta ang mga basurang ito sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran. Bukod pa rito, maaaring mamatay ang mga lamandagat gaya ng balyena kapag kinain ang face masks na tinapon sa dagat. Babara ang mga ito sa bituka ng mga balyena at iba pang nabubuhay sa dagat.

Sa report ng British Broadcasting Network (BBC) nagulat ang divers nang makakuha ng face masks sa coral reef ng Anilao, Batangas. Mga asul na face masks ang naiahon ng divers.

Paboritong dive spot ang Anilao coral reef at hindi akalain ng mga professional divers na ang magandang tanawin sa ilalim ng dagat ay mapapalitan ng mga nakakasulasok na basura na ginamit sa panahon ng pandemya.

Bukod sa face masks nakakuha rin ang grupo ng diver ng iba pang plastic na basura na kinabibilangan ng face shield, plastic bottles, tarpaulin at mga sako. Nakalalat ang mga nabanggit sa mismong dive spot.

Hindi lamang sa Anilao coral reef may mga itinatapong face masks at face shield. Noong nakaraang taon, nakita rin sa dagat na malapit sa Baseco ang mga face masks na lulutang-lutang. Bukod sa face masks, may nakita ring face shield at mga guwantes.



EDITORIAL - Face masks nasa pusod na ng dagat

Noong nakaraang taon din nakita ang mga itinapong used test kits para sa COVID sa isang kalye sa Sampaloc, Maynila. Nagkalat sa kalsada ang mga test kits na ikinarga ng isang magbabasura sa kanyang traysikad. Ayon sa magbabasura, napulot lang niya ang black bag.

Maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng mga basura lalo na ngayong may pandemya. Huwag tapon nang tapon sapagkat maaring kumalat ang sakit. Kapag humantong sa dagat, apektado ang kapaligiran at pati ang mga lamandagat. Isaayos ang pagtatapon ng mga basura para walang maperwisyo. Maging disiplinado sana ang mamamayan sa pagkakataong ito lalo pa nga ngayong may pandemya.



EDITORIAL - Ginamit na face masks humahantong sa dagat

(Pang-masa) - March 11, 2021 - 12:00am

MARAMING iresponsable sa pagtatapon ng mga ginamit nilang face masks. Sa ngayon, hindi lamang sa kalye makikita ang mga ginamit na face masks kundi pati na rin sa ilalim ng dagat. Kung hindi magkakaroon ng disiplina ang mga tao sa pagtatapon ng used face masks, maaaring sa mga susunod na panahon ay santambak na basura ang makokolekta sa karagatan. At malaking banta ang mga basurang ito sa pagkasira ng kapaligiran. Bukod pa rito, maa-ring mamatay ang mga lamandagat gaya ng balyena kapag kinain ang face masks na tinapon sa dagat. Babara ang mga ito sa bituka ng mga balyena at iba pang nabubuhay sa dagat.

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Ganito Kasi 'Yan

ni **ANDY VERDE** DZRH anchorman

E-mail Address: andres5421@yahoo.com

TAMA po lamang ng para matugunan ang lumalalang problema sa climate change at kasalukuyang pandemya ay dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng bawat isang Pinoy ang aktibong partisipasyon ng kababaihan sa mga polisiya at programa ng gobierno.

“Ang ating mga kababaihan, lalo na ang ating mga kababaihan na nagmula sa ating mga low-income communities, ay kabilang sa mga pinaka-

apektado ng climate change at COVID-19, dahil sila ay mayroong mas kaunting resources at impormasyon na magagamit upang labanan ang epekto ng mga ito,” ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Analiza Rebuerta-Teh.

Sa 2020 report ng international climate research organization Project Drawdown, ang pagpapalakas sa mga kababaihan sa develo-

ping countries tulad ng Pilipinas ay pumapangalawa sa 76 solutions para sa “curbing global warming to 2 degrees Celsius”.

“Ang mga kababaihan rin ay may likas na kagalingan sa pag-adapt sa climate change. Ang pagbibigay edukasyon sa ating mga kababaihan at batang babae ay nakakatulong din upang itaas ang kanilang resilience mula sa mga kalamidad,” sabi ni Teh na bumabase sa naturang ulat.

Sa National Women’s Month celebration ngayong taon, binigyang diin ng report ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang kaha-

lagahan ng kababaihan upang magkaroon ng pagbabago tungkol sa problema sa climate crisis at COVID-19.

Ang month-long event ay nakatutok sa patas at aktibong partisipasyon ng kababaihan sa mga isyu patungkol sa environment, partikular na ang climate change, disaster risk reduction at health crisis.

“For women’s month this year, we highlight on expanding and upscaling transformative actions of individuals, women, men, groups and communities, that is why we are taking centerstage a climate and disaster resiliency recognition awards scheme,

dubbed as, ‘Mga Kwentong KLIMA-likasan Tungo sa Katatagan’ (Stories on climate-environment towards stability),” saad ni Teh.

Layunin ng DENR sa pamamagitan ng Gender and Development Office and Climate Change Service (CCS) na mabigyan ng halaga ang kuwento ng mga indibidwal at grupong kung ano ang epekto ng climate change sa kanilang komunidad at paano nila ito nilalabanan sa pamamagitan ng mga programa sa environmental protection and conservation, climate change at disaster risk reduction.

KABABAIHAN MAHALAGA SA CLIMATE CHANGE



PNP, DENR arrest wild duck hunters

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Laudemir Salac said that the arrest of the two suspects was due to the vigilance of netizens who posted the killing of the wild birds on social media



Published
5 hours ago
on
March 12, 2021 02:23 AM
By
[Jonas Reyes](#)



APALIT, Pampanga — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Apalit Municipal Police Station (MPS) arrested two bird hunters for killing four wild wandering whistling ducks in Barangay Sampaloc of this town.

Said species are known to inhabit tropical and subtropical Australia, the Philippines, Borneo, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.

The suspects were identified as 59-year-old Fidel Aguilar and 46-year-old Ferdinand Tongol, both residents of San Simon town. The two were caught hunting migratory birds using shotguns at the wetland area of Sitio Tagulod in Barangay Sampaloc.

Authorities confiscated the firearms used along with the four dead wild birds.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Laudemir Salac said that the arrest of the two suspects was due to the vigilance of netizens who posted the killing of the wild birds on social media.

“Barangay Sampaloc, especially Sitio Tagulod, is now becoming a favorite area for bird hunters, since it is a well-known home of many local and migratory birds, including the wild ducks,” he said.



PNP, DENR arrest wild duck hunters

“Hunting and killing of wildlife like the migratory birds are illegal and punishable against our wildlife law. Even in the midst of this pandemic, we remain steadfast in our pursuit to stop illegal hunting of our wildlife,” he added.

Salac further noted that penalty for killing wildlife in the country is a maximum of one year imprisonment and a fine of P100,000.

Aguilar and Tongol are now under the custody of the Apalit MPS.

They will be charged with violation of Section 27 of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Resources and Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.



2 bird hunters nabbed for killing wild ducks

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

March 11, 2021

SUSPECTS Fidel Aguilar, 59, a resident of Pulong Camias, Barangay San Jose, and Ferdinand Tongol, 46, a resident of Nayong Tsinoy, Barangay San Pablo, both of San Simon town, were arrested for killing four wild ducks in Apalit town.

The arrest was implemented by joint operatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and local police of Apalit after the two suspects hunted and killed four wandering whistling duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) locally known as "batiki."

Police Master Sergeant Eduardo Gonzales said the suspects were nabbed while illegally hunting migratory birds using shotgun in a wetland area in Sitio Tagulod, Barangay Sampaloc in Apalit.

Authorities also seized from the suspects' possession four dead wandering whistling duck.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Penro) Laudemir Salac said the operation of the provincial DENR and local police was a follow-up from a report posted on social media from a concerned citizen that illegal bird hunting was prevalent in a wetland portion in Apalit town. "Barangay Sampaloc, especially Sitio Tagulod, is now becoming a favorite area for bird hunters, since it is a well-known home of many local and migratory birds, including the wild ducks," Salac said, adding that the DENR-Penro has been conducting surveillance operations in the area and other adjacent villages to chase illegal wildlife hunters.

"Hunting and killing of wildlife like the migratory birds are illegal and punishable against our wildlife law. Even in the midst of this pandemic, we remain steadfast in our pursuit to stop illegal hunting of our wildlife," Salac noted.

If found guilty, the suspects may be imprisoned for a maximum of one year and may be fined P100,000.

The suspects are now under the custody of Apalit Municipal Police Station, while criminal charges are being prepared for violation of Section 27 of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources and Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

The DENR appealed to the public to report to authorities any illegal hunting and wildlife trade through hotline 0945-368-5303.

Earlier, the police and DENR personnel apprehended four suspects for selling a bayawak (*Varanus marmoratus*) in Guagua town.

Last year, DENR-Pampanga also arrested six suspects for illegal hunting and killing of two bird species of Great egrets in the famous 32,000-hectare Candaba swamp.



2 bird hunters nabbed for killing wild ducks

According to studies, wandering whistling ducks is one of the migratory birds that frequent the wetland areas of Central Luzon. It is found in northern and eastern Australia, from the Kimberley region, across the north of Australia, to south-eastern New South Wales and also distributed through Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands, and usually lives in deep vegetated lagoons and swamps, flooded grasslands, sewerage farms, grain stubbles, pastures, irrigated lands and rice fields.



2 bird hunter timbog sa pagpaslang ng migratory birds

INARESTO ang dalawang bird hunter sa bayan ng Apalit, lalawigan ng Pampanga, nitong Linggo, 7 Marso, dahil sa pagpatay sa migratory birds.

Kinilala ni P/MSgt. Eduardo Gonzales, imbestigador ng Apalit police, ang mga nadakip na suspek na sina Fidel Aguilar, 59 anyos, at Ferdinand Tongol, 46 anyos, dahil sa ilegal na panghuhuli at pagpatay sa apat na 'whistling ducks' o batiki na may scientific name na *dendrocygna arcuate*, sa Sitio Tagulod, Brgy. Sampaloc, sa naturang bayan.

Sa ilalim ng Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, nahaharap ang dalawang suspek sa isang taon pagkakakulong at pagmumulta ng P100,000.

Noong Disyembre 2020, nadakip din ng mga awtoridad ang anim na lalaki dahil sa pamamaril at pagpatay sa dalawang Great Egrets.

Samantala, nahuli din noong Sabado, 6 Marso, ang apat na suspek dahil sa pagbebenta ng malaking bayawak (*varanus marmoratus*) sa bayan ng Guagua.



Philippines Graphic

March 8 at 4:00 PM · 🌐



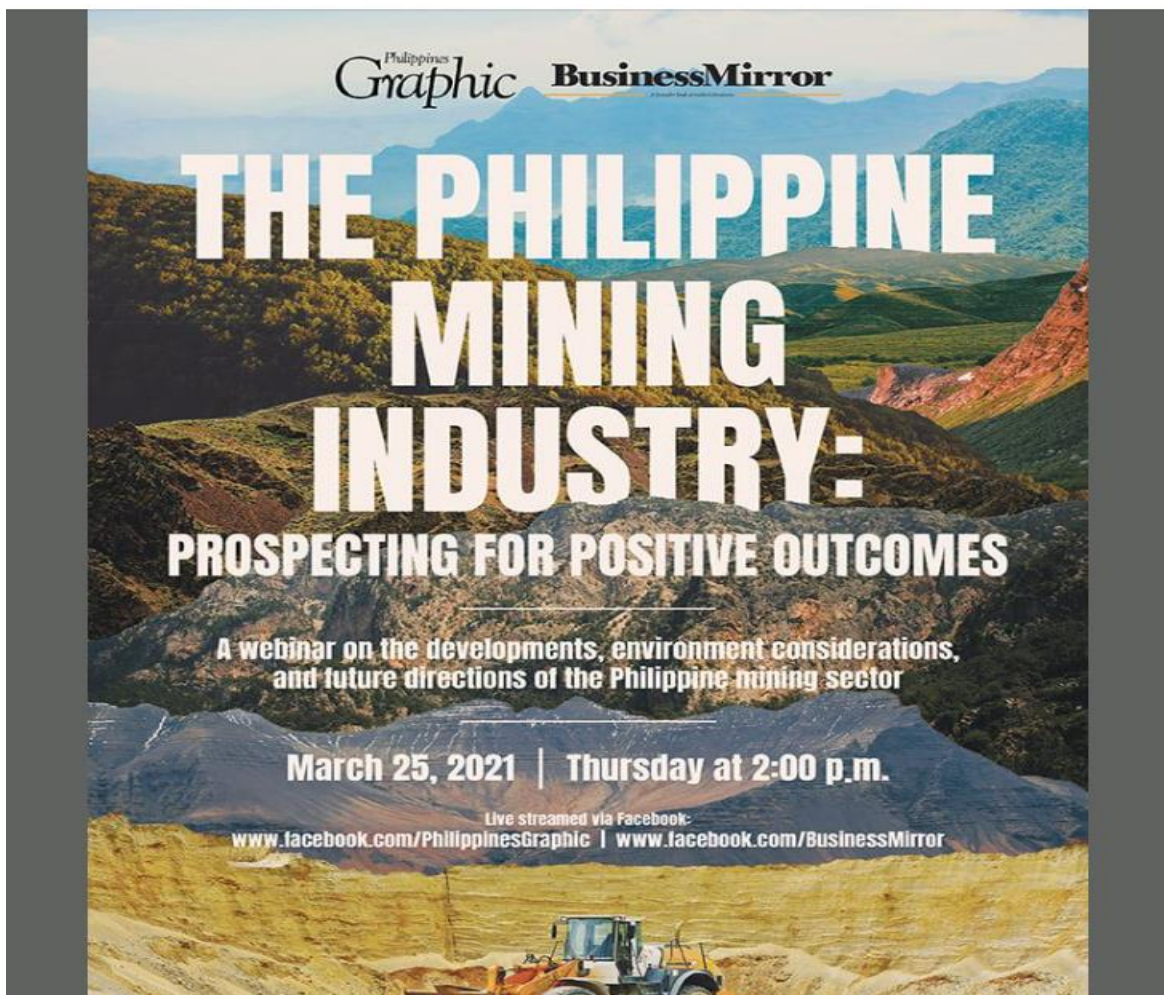
While the mining industry can be tapped to help the country's economic recovery, the late former Environment Secretary Regina Lopez banned open pit mining during her 10 months in office back in 2017, saying the environmental degradation ruined the economic potential of places where it was done.

What is the status of the mining industry now?

Philippines Graphic, in cooperation with BusinessMirror, will have a webinar titled "The Philippine Mining Industry: Prospecting for Positive Outcomes — A Review of the Developments, Environmental Consideration and Future Directions of the Philippine Mining Sector" which will be held on March 25, 2021, Thursday at 2 pm.

Register your participation now through this link:

<https://mailchi.mp/8c6f59f2f8ec/miningwebinar...> ✓





NWRB DIGITAL POSTER MAKING CONTEST



March 12, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 5 hours ago

ANG Pilipinas ay nalilibutan ng tubig dahil isa tayong arkepelagong bansa, nasa limang milyon katao ang umiinom at gumagamit ng hindi siguradong malinis na tubig. Kaya, ginugunita natin ang petsang March 22 bilang pagkilala na ang tubig ay isang esensiyal na bagay sa araw ng "World Water Day".

Alam n'yo bang nasa isang bilyong tao sa mundo ang walang access sa malinis at ligtas na tubig, pinakamarami sa sub-Saharan desert ng Africa?

Para maging makabuluhan at makadagdag-kaalaman hinggil sa kahalagahan ng tubig, may contest na inorganisa ang National Water Resources Board (NWRB), ito ang Digital Poster Making Contest para sa World Water Day 2021 #Water2Me.

Inaanyayahan ng NWRB ang lahat ng mga mahilig sa artwork na naninirahan sa Metro Manila na lumahok sa Digital Poster Making Contest nito na may temang, Valuing Water: "#Water2Me" o nagpapakita na mahalaga ang papel ng tubig sa ating buhay.

Ang layunin ng Digital Poster Making Contest ay upang mapalaganap sa isipan ng bawat isa, ang kahalagahan ng tubig sa ating pang araw araw na buhay.

Nilalaman ng inyong artwork ay nagpapakita ng mga sumusunod:

Ang tubig ay nangangahulugan ng ibat ibang bagay sa ibat ibang tao.

Ito ay tungkol sa anong paraan ng tubig sa inyo.

Kung paano at bakit mahalaga ang tubig sa iyong bahay (home) at sa buhay pamilya (family life), inyong pang araw-araw na buhay (livelihood), inyong nakasanayan kultural gawain (cultural practices), iyong pamamaraan (well being), at sa inyong local environment.



NWRB DIGITAL POSTER MAKING CONTEST

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtatala at pagdiriwang ng lahat ng iba't ibang mga paraan na nagpapakita na tayo ay nakikinabang sa tubig sa ating buhay, maaari nating pahalagahan nang maayos paggamit ng tubig at mapanatili itong mabisa para sa lahat

Sa mga interesado, abangan ang kolum ng inyong lingkod kung ano ang contest mechanics ng NWRB para sa World Water Day 2021 #WATER2 ME.



QC urges residents to recycle, join cash for trash program

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINO](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:13 AM March 12, 2021

MANILA, Philippines — Quezon City's local government unit (LGU) has urged residents to join its cash for trash program, wherein recyclable trash would be sorted and exchanged for points, which may be converted into cash.

In a post on Quezon City's Facebook page, the government said that people within the city can start sorting out their garbage for the Trash to Cashback Program by following steps laid out.

According to the LGU, the trash must be segregated at source, brought to the Trash to Cashback booths, and have them weighed. People would have to open a bXTRA account — Quezon City's partner in the project — to allow their environmental points to be credited to their accounts.

Every trash has a corresponding price per amount: for example, handing over one kilogram of clear and cleaned Polyethylene terephthalate or PET bottles corresponds to 10 environmental points (EPs), while one kilogram of clear High-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastics would give 18 EPs.

As of now, one EP is equal to one cashback, and one cashback is equal to one peso. The EPs would be converted into bXTRA cashback which may be used to redeem items bXTRA's partner outlets.

"QCitizens, ipunin na ang inyong recyclables para makapangolekta ng environmental points na magagamit pangbili ng pagkain at toiletries," the local government said.

(QCitizens, start segregating your recyclables so that you could start collecting environmental points which can be used to buy food and toiletries.)

"Sa pakikipagtulungan ng lokal na pamahalaan, Quezon City Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD), at Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc. (BEST), ang Trash to Cashback ay isang programa na naglalayong mahikayat ang mga tao na magrecycle," it added.

(Created with the help of the local government's Quezon City Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department and the at Basic Environmental Systems & Technologies, Inc. [BEST] the Trash to Cashback would be a program that would push people towards recycling.)

The LGU said that the bins containing the submitted items would then be brought to a partner company which would give the materials a "second life".

Quezon City further added that people participating in the project should ensure that the items would not bear any label and are clean to ensure that these would be admitted into the program.

JPV

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1406022/qc-urges-residents-to-recycle-join-cash-for-trash-program#ixzz6oqFbInx4>

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Anti-dam group asks court to stop construction of Kaliwa Dam access road

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - March 11, 2021 - 9:17pm



MANILA, Philippines — Groups opposing the Kaliwa Dam project asked a court in Quezon province to compel the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and other government agencies to stop the construction of an access road leading to the dam site.

The Stop Kaliwa Dam Network (SKDN), Dumagat leaders and local leaders filed a petition for environmental protection order and writ of continuing mandamus Thursday before the Infanta Regional Trial Court, saying the access road violated several processes and decrees protecting and preserving the culture, ecology and biodiversity in the area where it is being built.

The petitioners asked the court to immediately issue a Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) directing the regional office of the DPWH to discontinue the construction of the access road and MWSS to stop its operation. Work on the access road was believed to have started before 2018.

The petition for TEPO also sought to order Infanta Mayor Filipina Grace America and General Nakar Mayor Eliseo Ruzol Sr. "to cease and desist from allowing, or abetting or aiding in any manner the construction of the Kaliwa Dam access road in their respective jurisdictions and from processing and/or issuing permits and clearances pertaining to the road project."

A judge can issue a TEPO effective for only 72 hours if the matter is "of extreme urgency and the applicant will suffer grave injustice and irreparable injury," according to the [Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases](#).

Within the period, the court where the case is assigned shall conduct a summary hearing to determine whether the TEPO may be extended until the termination of the case.



Anti-dam group asks court to stop construction of Kaliwa Dam access road

Continuing mandamus

The petitioners asked the court to issue a writ of continuing mandamus ordering the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau to revisit and review the Environmental Compliance Certificate application for the access road.

They also appealed to the court to order the respondents to remove the access road, and rehabilitate and restore the environment in the area affected by the project.

“Petitioners likewise pray for other applicable reliefs that relate to the right of the petitioners, their generation, and generations yet unborn, to a balanced and healthful ecology, and to the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of the environment,” the petition read.

Alleged violations inside a protected area

The access road sits on the Sierra Madre Mountain Range, a protected area. Projects within the National Integrated Protected Area System require clearance from the Protected Area Management Board.

“MWSS and DPWH IV -A did not secure a clearance from the Protected Area Management Board before the road construction,” said Conrad Vargas, executive director of the Prelature of Infanta Community Organization of the Philippines, Inc. and who is one of the petitioners.

He added the MWSS and DPWH Calabarzon did not comply with the stoppage order issued by the province’s environment and natural resources officer in 2018.

Conchita Calzado, a leader from General Nakar, said the access road project has no Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of the indigenous peoples’ communities in the area.

“The access road project has no FPIC even though it is included in our Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title. We’re surprised that the road is being constructed without any consultations,” Calzado said in Filipino.

The China-backed Kaliwa Dam is expected to add 600 million liters per day to the water supply of Metro Manila, which is dependent on Angat Dam in Bulacan.

Thousands of households in Rizal and Quezon, including IP communities, will be at risk of flooding and other effects of possible dam failure or dam break once the project is completed. The area where the dam will be built is also home to threatened flora and fauna.

“This P400-million worth project has already destroyed large portions of our mountains and forests in Quezon and disrupted the lives and culture of Dumagats,” Fr. Pete Montallana, co-convenor of SKDN, said.

“We remain confounded by how our government can confidently say that Kaliwa Dam and its annexed projects are for the common good; therefore, they will do everything to fast-track the project,” he said.



Pasig river now only a meter deep

[Thursday, March 11, 2021](#) [Mario Fetalino Jr.](#)

I JUST learned that if one falls into the Pasig River, he may not actually drown and die.

Why? Because some parts of Metro Manila's historic river is now only a meter deep.

The depth of the major water artery in certain areas has been reduced to just a little more than three feet due to garbage and silt that piled up over a long period of time.

This is according to San Miguel Corporation led by its President Ramon S. Ang.

SMC is gearing up to clean and widen Pasig River with the arrival of its two new dredging equipment of SMC capable of pulling 600,000 tons of silt and solid waste out of its waters per year for the next five years.

Through the years, Pasig River has become narrower and shallower because of accumulated silt and waste. By cleaning and widening the river, its capacity to keep water flowing within its banks will increase especially during heavy rains.

SMC, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Highways and other concerned government units, is targeting to extract 50,000 tons of waste per month from the river.

After a thorough assessment of Pasig River, SMC identified sections where the depth of water has been reduced to as little as one meter. These are the most critical portions of the river that cause widespread flooding.

For the Pasig River to effectively serve its purpose of channeling flood waters out to the Manila Bay, its depth should at least be 10 meters.

But garbage and silt over the many decades have reduced this to just one meter in these areas, clogging the river and causing water to overflow everywhere.

Currently, SMC is already undertaking a major river cleanup—its five-year, P1 billion corporate social responsibility initiative to dredge and clean up the 27-kilometer Tullahan-Tinajeros River System, which benefits other flood-prone areas such as Malabon and Navotas.

Launched in early 2020, with work only fully commencing following the lifting of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), the project is seen to help solve flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Caloocan, Quezon City, as well as Bulacan province, for the long-term.

At the end of 2020, SMC reported it extracted a total of 83,600 metric tons of garbage and silt from the section of the river located in Malabon and Navotas.

SMC has since committed to put in more resources and acquire more heavy machinery for the effort.

During the series of typhoons that hit Luzon and Metro Manila towards the end of 2020, both flood-prone cities reported no major flooding incidents despite increased water volume. This is largely seen as the combined result of having effective pumping stations and the ongoing Tullahan cleanup by SMC.



Pasig river now only a meter deep

"We have had considerable experience in cleaning up rivers, primarily because of Tullahan, and also our successful initiatives to clean up rivers below Skyway 3. We are even putting in more resources and buying more equipment for the Tullahan initiative. We are also looking to do this for rivers in Bulacan. Naturally, cleaning up the Pasig River is a big goal that we do not take lightly," Ang said.

There have been many noteworthy efforts that have been initiated in the past, in order to rehabilitate the Pasig river. Unfortunately, it has always been a very costly undertaking.

"Now that San Miguel has a chance to help, we will give it our all," Ang said.

When SMC gives its all, wonderful things happen.

**

For comments, please call or text 09569012811 or email lastmohican2004@yahoo.com

RAFI inks partnership with RCM for biodiversity conservation initiatives

BY: [PR](#) - MARCH 10, 2021

As the impact of climate change continues to intensify, civil society organizations have come together to implement advocacies and initiatives to address pressing issues concerning environmental enhancement and biodiversity conservation in the country.

Leading more people to become biodiversity champions, the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI), through its biodiversity conservation arm, One To Tree (OTT), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), organizations sharing the same passion and vision of taking action through service to the community and the environment.



The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rotary Club of Manila to take action through service to the community and the environment | Contributed Photo

RAFI-OTT and RCM is working together to conserve the Philippine environment through reforestation initiatives such as, but not limited to, establishing forest parks, urban forests, or mini-forests. This partnership will help engage communities to protect and rehabilitate the environment through establishing native tree nurseries and tree plantations, in collaboration with different partner communities.

For more information on the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) One To Tree program, visit www.onetotree.org, www.rafi.org.ph, or www.facebook.com/rafi.org.ph.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed last March 3 by RAFI-OTT's Executive Committee Chairperson David Aboitiz, and President of RCM Bobby Joseph, with RCM Immediate Past President and National Chairman of The Rotary Ecological and Environmental Strategem (TREES) Jackie Rodriguez, RC – South Davao President Bertel Ingmar Bertelsen, and RAFI-OTT Partnership and Portfolio Manager Miggo Bautista, as witnesses during the signing.



RAFI inks partnership with RCM for biodiversity conservation initiatives

One To Tree (RAFI-OTT, formerly known as RAFI Biodiversity Conservation Unit (BCU)), has been active in reforestation and conservation for over two decades and has achieved a more than 80% survival rate for tree growing. RAFI-OTT also assists companies in the service delivery of Environmental Compliance Certificate requirements set by the Philippine Government, as well as helping them achieve their carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation goals.

For more information on the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) One To Tree program, visit www.onetotree.org, www.rafi.org.ph, or www.facebook.com/rafi.org.ph.

RAFI is a non-stock, non-profit organization in Cebu dedicated to elevating the Dignity of Man through solutions that enable people to achieve higher levels of well-being. RAFI's main program domains include Economic, focused on improving the economic well-being of communities; Social, creating opportunities for growth and improving a sense of identity and purpose; and Physical, building healthy, resilient and livable communities.

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/367103/rafi-inks-partnership-with-rcm-for-biodiversity-conservation-initiatives#ixzz6oq0aD0Ar>

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Earth Hour to go digital on March 27

By: [Frances Mangosing](#) - Reporter / [@FMangosingINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:24 AM March 12, 2021

MANILA, Philippines— Earth Hour, an annual environmental campaign that raises awareness on climate change, will be held online on March 27.

In past years, the event is marked by switching off lights for an hour as a symbolic gesture to the commitment to saving the planet.

The World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature in the Philippines seeks to unite people online for the event on March 27 at 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

But this is the first time that, before the light-off event, WWF-Philippines will hold a watch party for several shows featuring sustainable lifestyles that can help slow the irreversible destruction that climate change can bring.

Earth Hour PHlix will run from 3:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m on March 27.

"We've never had this kind of Netflix kind of webinar series type that's available for everyone to understand different kinds of topics," said Gia Ibay, climate and energy program head of WWF-Philippines.

"This one will be available to everyone for them to really understand what else they can do, the sustainable actions they can do, and apply it," Ibay said.

"The fact that it's digital, we believe it will reach more people. If you share and share the digital format, it also magnifies the message," she said.

TSB

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1406002/earth-hour-to-go-digital-on-march-27#ixzz6oqGMn0IR>

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WWF-Philippines Invites Filipinos to Take Climate Action, Speak Up for Nature this Earth Hour 2021



Earth Hour, one of the largest global grassroots movements for the environment, will virtually bring together millions of people, businesses and leaders from around the world to shine a spotlight on the urgent need to address nature loss and climate change. With [evidence](#) pointing towards a close link between nature's destruction and rising incidences of infectious disease outbreaks like COVID-19, Earth Hour 2021 will unite people online to speak up for nature. This global event comes ahead of key moments when world leaders will take critical decisions on [nature](#), [climate change](#) and [sustainable development](#), setting the course of our future.

The occurrence of several catastrophic incidents last year including extreme weather events, devastating wildfires and the COVID-19 outbreak highlighted that preventing nature loss is crucial for safeguarding our future. A [global assessment of biodiversity targets](#) showed that the world failed to meet the 2020 deadline for achieving the targets set for preventing nature loss a decade ago. Earth Hour marks a pivotal opportunity for civil society organisations, individuals, businesses and environmentalists to call on world leaders to set nature on a path to recovery by 2030.

"Healthy natural ecosystems are the cornerstone of thriving, equitable and sustainable societies. Our current socio-economic models are leading to the devastating destruction of nature which is increasing our vulnerability to pandemics, accelerating climate change, and placing livelihoods at risk," said Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International. "2021 is a crucial year for humanity. As the world tries to turn the tide and recover from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild itself, we need to put nature at the centre of our recovery efforts to future proof our economies and societies. Earth Hour is a critical moment for individuals, leaders, and environmentalists to unite and call for urgent action to reverse nature loss and secure a nature-positive world by 2030."

In the past decade, Earth Hour has inspired global initiatives for the protection of nature, climate, and the environment, helping drive awareness, action and policy change. The movement helped in the creation of a 3.5 million hectares protected marine area in Argentina, a 2,700-hectare Earth Hour forest in Uganda, secured new legislation for the protection of seas and forests in Russia,

WWF-Philippines Invites Filipinos to Take Climate Action, Speak Up for Nature this Earth Hour 2021

pushed for a ban on single-use plastics and Styrofoam products in the Ecuadorian capital, and initiated the planting of 20,000 mangrove seedlings in 13 cities in Indonesia.



DECADE OF ACTION

2020 marked the beginning of the "Decade of Action," where measures must be undertaken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030. The beginning of the 2020s also underscored an alarming reality – that the ASEAN region has been underperforming for many of the SDGs, and has, in fact, regressed in terms of climate action. In light of the coming SDG deadline and the many disasters that occurred last year as a result of climate change and environmental degradation, sector representatives from all across the globe have pushed for increased, ambitious action for the sake of the planet.

A recent draft of the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), launched on the 5th of February, 2021, includes plans to reduce carbon emissions by 75% by the year 2030. This is a sharp increase compared to the less ambitious goal of 30% emission reduction by the year 2040, which had been included in a draft that was presented at the end of 2020. While the country's carbon emission reduction goal is set at 75%, only 2% is marked as unconditional. Approximately 73%, meanwhile, is conditional – which means external support will be needed in order for the Philippines to meet its new, more ambitious climate commitments.

"We welcome the government's increased commitment to combating climate change. We urge the government, however, to be more ambitious – marking only a 2% unconditional cut in emissions does not send a strong enough message through Philippine society about the importance of protecting the environment. Given the state of the environment today, as well as our country's reliance on natural resources and the climate we have today, we must work to restructure our society towards becoming a green economy that puts nature first," said WWF-Philippines Earth Hour Pilipinas National Director Atty. Angela Ibay.



WWF-Philippines Invites Filipinos to Take Climate Action, Speak Up for Nature this Earth Hour 2021

EARTH HOUR PHILIPPINES 2021: PHLIX

"The NDC we'll set and the commitments we'll make for the planet are the responsibility of all of Philippine society, from the government to businesses, to the communities and individuals. This Earth Hour is a reminder of this shared responsibility we have to take care of our planet, for the sake of our future and the futures of coming generations. We must work together and take action now, while there is still time for us to do so," added Ibay.

Earth Hour 2021 is asking people to speak up for nature in as many diverse and creative ways as possible. People from across the globe can share their stories of why nature matters, and come together safely for the switch-off at 8:30 PM on the 27th of March. Additionally, WWF-Philippines is asking the Filipino public to lend their voices to the movement, by sharing their hopes and dreams for the future online, through the #SpeakUpForNature hashtag.

Similar to last year, Earth Hour Philippines 2021 will be mostly digital, with several online events held throughout the month of March. WWF-Philippines' Ambassadors, together with the National Youth Council, have been sharing their visions for tomorrow while encouraging the public to share on social media their hopes and dreams for a sustainable future, as part of the rollout for the #SpeakUpForNature campaign. The Earth Hour Sustainability Challenge, meanwhile, will be running from the 11th to the 30th of March. The Earth Hour Sustainability Challenge will see local influencers sharing their own sustainable lifestyle choices while meeting various challenges set down by WWF-Philippines. Funds will be raised to support WWF-Philippines' conservation efforts while encouraging Filipinos to make environmentally-friendly lifestyle choices.

"Each year, we hear about all the ways in which people try to make this difference for the sake of our home and our planet – and of course, this year is no different. That is why we've put together the Earth Hour Sustainability Challenge. We want you all to share with us what you're doing for the planet, to show us that we can take action as well and that we can all speak up for nature," said WWF-Philippines Ambassador Robi Domingo.

On the day itself, prior to the switch-off, WWF-Philippines will be running a watch party through their Facebook page. Named EH PHlix 2021, the live stream consists of several shows featuring different ways Filipinos can practice sustainability and speak up for nature from the safety of their homes. PHlix begins with Wildlife Conservation for Kids, hosted by WWF-Philippines Ambassadors Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and Xia Vigor, together with WWF-Philippines' Education for Sustainable Development team; afterwards is Feed the Future: Sustainable Dining 101 with WWF-Philippines Ambassadors Pia Wurtzbach and KC Concepcion, the WWF-Philippines Sustainable Consumption and Production team, Rina Papio of Greenspace, and Cyma, Souv and Green Pastures owner Chef Robby Goco; finally, Tackling the Plastic Problem with WWF-Philippines Ambassador Iza Calzado, KALIPI President Wilma Arevalo and the WWF-Philippines Plastics Program.

"EH PHlix is a series of web shows on the environment and conservation, where we've brought together experts to talk about some of the most pressing environmental issues and the steps we



WWF-Philippines Invites Filipinos to Take Climate Action, Speak Up for Nature this Earth Hour 2021

can take to address them. Each episode, we'll be joined with staff from WWF-Philippines, while field experts will join us to share with us their experiences in taking care of the planet," shared WWF-Philippines Ambassador Karen Ibasco. "I'll be speaking during this year's countdown as well, this time as a guest; I'll be talking alongside climate experts and conservationists, where we discuss what needs to be done for us to sustainably recover from this pandemic."

"I've been working with WWF-Philippines and my fellow ambassadors over the past few weeks to put together EH PHlix. Preparing for this year's Earth Hour has been a very different experience – but the past year has prepared us for this, and a virtual Earth Hour lets us reach millions of Filipinos," said WWF-Philippines Ambassador Karen Ibasco.

"Many challenges had to be overcome in order to record this year's Earth Hour, like recording from home without a live audience to support me. But I never felt alone and it never felt like a wasted effort, knowing that Filipinos from all across the country would be tuning in on Earth Hour to share the moment and to stand together for the planet... What we want Filipinos to understand coming out of Earth Hour PHlix, and with our work in WWF-Philippines in general, is that it isn't difficult for us to make sustainable lifestyle decisions," added WWF-Philippines Ambassador Pia Wurtzbach.

EH PHlix will run from 3:30PM to 9:30PM. The program will end with the Countdown to Earth Hour 2021, to be hosted by WWF-Philippines National Ambassadors Marc Nelson and Rovi Ison Fernandez, and which will run from 7:00PM to 9:30PM. The grand switch-off will take place between 8:30PM to 9:30PM – WWF-Philippines encourages all viewers to share with them their own Earth Hour celebrations through social media.

Official hashtags for Earth Hour Philippines 2021 are #EarthHour2021, #EarthHourPhilippines2021, and #SpeakUpForNature.

#SpeakUpForNature

"2021 is a critical year because of key UN conferences where world leaders will make pledges for nature, aiming to reverse nature loss by 2030. What that means for us is an opportunity to use the moment to speak up for nature, and to show our leaders what we care about so that they go into these conferences with a clear message and mandate from us citizens... Some things are easier than others to do, but many imperfect actions are better than none in these next ten years we have left to change the ending," said WWF-Philippines Executive Director Katherine Custodio.

Visit www.earthhour.org to find out more about events happening this Earth Hour around the world. Follow WWF-Philippines on social media for updates and events related to Earth Hour Philippines 2021. Lend your support to the environment and speak up for nature with the official Earth Hour hashtags #EarthHour2021, #EarthHourPhilippines2021 and #SpeakUpForNature.



WWF-Philippines Invites Filipinos to Take Climate Action, Speak Up for Nature this Earth Hour 2021

Earth Hour Philippines 2021 is co-presented by CityMalls. WWF-Philippines would also like to thank the following major sponsors: foodpanda, GCash, Araneta City and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang Professional League (MPL) Philippines. We would also like to thank our official media partners for #EarthHourPhilippines2021: ABS-CBN News, ANC, CNN Philippines, GMA, Net 25, GTV, Teleradyo, CLTV36, DZBB, DWLS, Radyo Veritas, Radyo Agila, Philippine Star, The Daily Tribune, Esquire, Adobo Magazine, WhenInManila.Com, Our Awesome Planet, Gadgets Magazine, GRID Magazine, Commoner PH and Globaltronics.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the following National Government Agencies: The Office of the President of the Philippines, The Office of the Vice President of the Philippines, The Presidential Communications Operations Office, The Climate Change Commission, The Department of Energy, The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, The National Parks Development Committee, The League of Municipalities, and The Department of Education and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines.

Source: <http://villageconnect.com.ph/wwf-philippines-invites-filipinos-to-take-climate-action-speak-up-for-nature-this-earth-hour-2021/3644>



Understanding the language of nature



By [Gab Mejia](#)
March 12, 2021

I REMEMBER when I was a child wondering what the world would be like if animals could talk to us. Imagine your dear pet with whom you have shared your life, being able to engage in conversations, call your name and ask for food in a language we could all understand. There were even TV shows and movies showing futuristic inventions of collars with built-in translators that could instantly interpret any sound of your pet into an audible word in the dictionary. Ten years ago, Google even released an advertisement called “Google Translate for Animals,” a mobile application that translates any animal speech into human vernacular — which of course, was just a measly prank meant for April Fool’s Day. Yet, apart from the nonsensical fictional world where animals could talk to us, maybe in this reality we share they already are — but not in a language we can listen to, but a language we can barely feel, see and smell.



Truth is that nature communicates in different ways beyond our physical senses. Dolphins and other cetaceans communicate with their pods through a series of clicking sounds and whistles underwater. Whales communicate through songs and hymns, where some of its vocal frequencies are way beyond the scope of what our human ears could possibly hear. Much like bats, they communicate through echolocation by sending ultrasonic frequency waves. Even dogs communicate more with each other through scent and smell by sniffing each other and the territories they mark. Apart from the auditory and olfactory, some birds even communicate visually through the vibrant colors of their feathers as well as their impeccable dance rituals in order to court their mate. Even plants and trees, which for many of us may seem inanimate, communicate through electrical and chemical signals that they secretly send to each other, much of which is just recently being studied. The same plant, locally known as “makahiya,” folds its leaves downward in response to touch as a way to defend itself, the same shy behavior for which it was named. Recent studies and articles published in the National Geographic shares how some trees practice the crown shyness, a phenomenon where the branches and overhanging canopies of



Understanding the language of nature

the trees avoid contact with each other. This behavior forms mysterious gaps that helps the trees stay healthy, avoid diseases, and share resources with each other.

Indeed, nature in the form of the plethora of species of flora and fauna in our world interacts in unique ways with each other. Even the ways we interact with a dog may be unsurprisingly different from the way we interact with livestock such as pigs and chickens. Where much of the difference lies within the levels of intimate experiences and connections we share with such creatures despite the lack of verbal, visual, auditory, and olfactory ways in which we communicate. Dogs and household cats can't speak, but somehow, if not everyone, a lot of people love them. So, why can't we feel and do the same for the forests that hold these trees? Why can't we feel and do the same for the oceans that hold these dolphins, whales and reefs? The growing gap and lack of opportunities for us to develop these levels of intimate experience and connections with nature, is as much a consequence of the fact that much of it is no longer with us. We destroy our forests, we pollute our oceans, and we kill these creatures from the same home which we are part of. No longer with us to feel and experience. No way for us to see, smell, hear and feel the world around us.

Nature has been speaking, we just haven't been listening. More so, acting upon to bridge these gaps of these different levels of interactions that we have yet to understand. Sure, we humans can memorize and speak hundreds and thousands of words, write sentences, books, and journals, and speak many tongues and languages. Yet how many of us can truly understand more than just what is written and said by our own. For the true ways that nature speaks to us are more than just a play of tongue. It is seen, heard and felt — appreciated but can also be feared.

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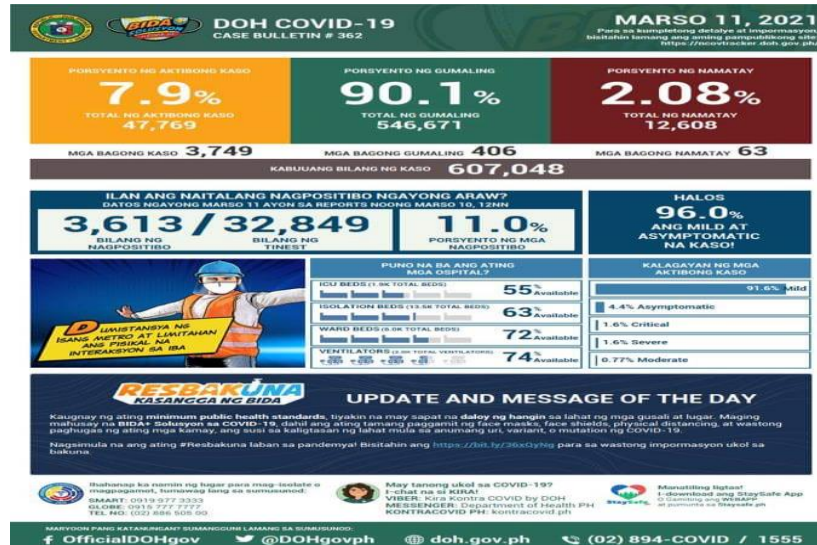
<https://www.instagram.com/gabmejia/>

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/03/12/opinion/columnists/understanding-the-language-of-nature/850145/>



BREAKING: Kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 607,048 na; Higit 3,000 ang nadagdag

By Angellic Jordan March 11, 2021 - 04:08 PM



Lumagpas muli sa 3,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Huwebes (March 11), pumalo na sa 607,048 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 47,769 o 7.9 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 3,749 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

91.6 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 4.4 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.77 porsyento ang moderate; 1.6 porsyento ang severe habang 1.6 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 63 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 12,608 o 2.08 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 406 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 546,671 o 90.1 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/286834/breaking-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-607048-na-higit-3000-ang-nadagdag#ixzz6oq9v3end>

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OCTA pushes for 'hard GCO' to prevent further surge in infections

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Mar 11, 2021 3:12:05 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, March 11) — An independent research group that has been studying the country's coronavirus situation is recommending stricter mobility restrictions particularly for Metro Manila, saying compliance with minimum public health standards alone is no longer enough at this point due to the dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases.

OCTA Research fellow Ranjit Rye told CNN Philippines' Balitaan on Thursday that Metro Manila, epicenter of the local coronavirus outbreak, now has a reproduction rate of around 1.5. This means that a patient sickened with COVID-19 could infect up to two other people.

Starting February 25, the country has been seeing around 2,000 to more than 3,000 infections daily, majority of which were being recorded in the capital region. If the trend continues, the country could record as many as 6,000 COVID-19 cases daily by the end of March, with Metro Manila contributing to up to 3,000 of these infections, [according to the latest OCTA projections](#).

"It's so much faster than the last surge we had last year," Rye said, referring to the rise in infections in August 2020. During the second half of that month, Metro Manila eased to the more relaxed general community quarantine.

In reopening the economy, government officials have repeatedly called on the public to wear face masks and face shields and practice social distancing, but OCTA Research said much more needs to be done now. Rye said some of the restrictions may have to be reinstated but refused to specify which ones, saying the group leaves it to economic managers and government health experts.

"The one thing that OCTA is trying to say here is that subscribing o pagsusunod sa minimum public health standards is not enough, kailangan po meron tayong (we need to have) mobility restrictions," Rye said.



OCTA pushes for 'hard GCQ' to prevent further surge in infections

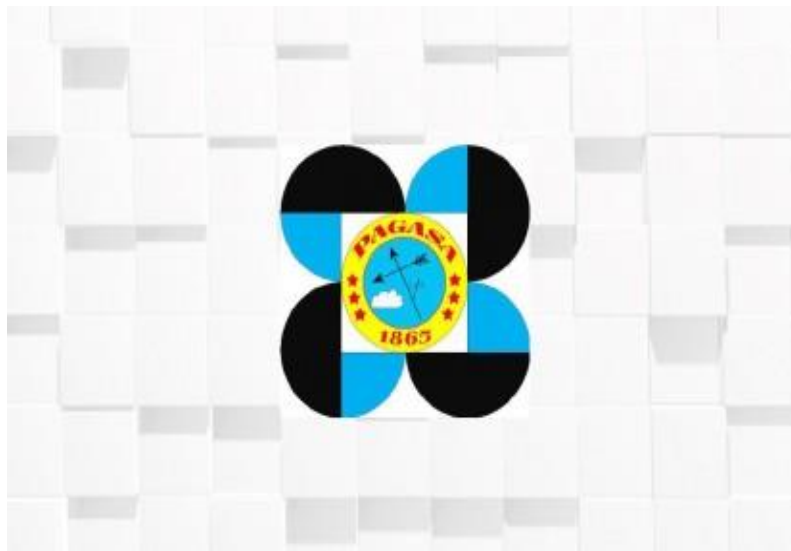
"For the next two to three weeks or month, we need to have a hard GCQ. That's the position of OCTA. We need to impose a strict compliance with the GCQ the way we understand the GCQ... for it to have an impact on the R (reproduction rate)," Rye said.

He said OCTA Research will provide some insights [during the Metro Manila mayors' meeting Thursday night](#). The local chief executives are expected to come up with unified policies on curfew hours and border control to curb the spread of COVID-19.



LPA may trigger flooding, landslides, in Visayas, Mindanao

By Catherine Teves March 11, 2021, 1:13 pm



MANILA – The risk for flooding and rain-induced landslides is rising in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Rain from the low-pressure area (LPA) east of Mindanao's General Santos City can set off such dangerous occurrences in both areas, noted Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) weather forecaster Ana Claren.

"Strong rainfall is possible there until around Saturday (March 13)," she said on Thursday.

In its daily weather forecast on Thursday, PAGASA said the LPA may bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over Visayas and Mindanao.

Some of those thunderstorms can have moderate to at times heavy rainfall that may trigger flash floods and landslides.

Claren said available data so far indicates it is less likely for the LPA to intensify into a tropical cyclone.

"That LPA may instead already dissipate while crossing the country," she said.

PAGASA cautioned about the possible overflow of waterways in the Visayas' Region VIII (Eastern Visayas), as well as Mindanao's Regions XIII (Caraga) and X (Northern Mindanao) due to rain from the LPA.

Eastern Visayas waterways likely to be particularly affected are Leyte province's Sangputan, Palo, Solano (Quilot), Daguitan Marabang, Cadac-an, Bongquirogon, Salug, Pagbangan, Pagsangahan and Binahaan; Southern Leyte province's Bisay, Himbangan and Pandan; Eastern Samar province's Oras, Dolores, Ulot, Taft, Borongan, Suribao, Llorente, Balangiga and Sulat; Northern Samar province's Catarman, Bugko, Pambujan, Catubig, Palapag, Mawo and Gamay; Samar province's



LPA may trigger flooding, landslides, in Visayas, Mindanao

Basey, Silanga, Calbiga and Jibatan, as well as all rivers and tributaries in Biliran province. The likely affected waterways in Caraga are Surigao del Norte province's Surigao and Magallanes; Agusan del Sur province's Ojot, Wawa, Libang, Maosam, Kasilan, Gibong, Adgaoan, Simulao, Kayonan and Andanan; Dinagat Islands' Malinao Inlet and Gaas Lulet; Agusan del Norte province's Lake-Mainit-Tubay, Asiga, Agusan, Linugos and Cabadbaran as well as Surigao del Sur province's Cantillan, Toracan, Tandag, Tago, Hubo-Oteiza, Hinatuan and Bislig.

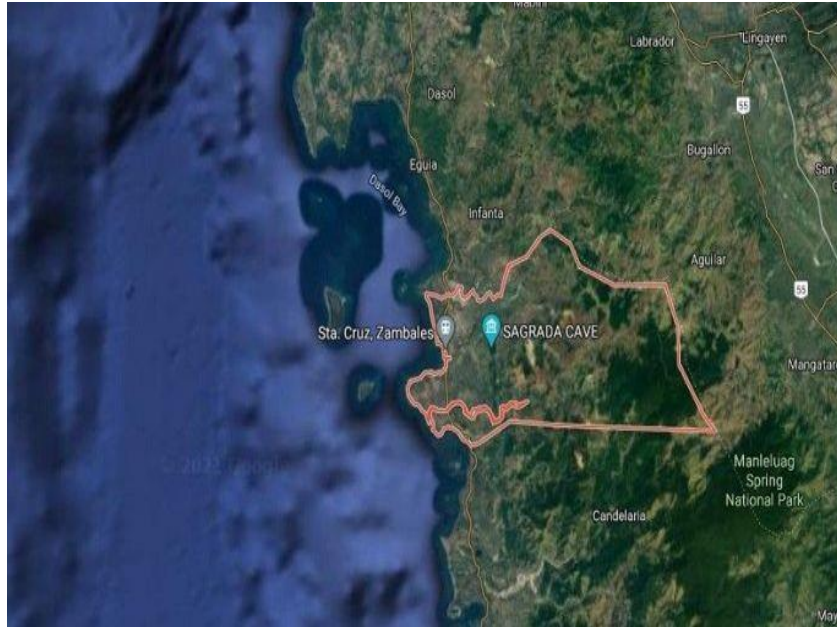
In Northern Mindanao, waterways likely to be affected are Lanao del Norte province's Mandulog, Agus, Liangan and Maranding; Misamis Occidental province's Clarin, Palilan and Aloran; Misamis Oriental province's Odiongan, Gingoog, Balatukan, Cabulig, Lower Tagoloan, Lower/Middle Western Cagayan, Iponan and Alubijid; Bukidnon province's Upper Tagaloan and Upper/Eastern Cagayan as well as all rivers and tributaries in Camiguin province. (PNA)



5.1 magnitude na lindol niyanig katubigan malapit sa Zambales

(Philstar.com)

- March 11, 2021 - 5:22pm



Satellite image ng Santa Cruz, Zambales mula sa kalawakan

MANILA, Philippines — Isang 5.1 magnitude na lindol ang yumugtog malapit sa kapuluan ng Luzon, ayon sa pinakabagong ulat ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), Huwebes ng hapon.

Nangyari ang lindol bandang 3:24 p.m. kanina 71 kilometro mula Santa Cruz, Zambales — ilang oras matapos ang [2021 Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill ng Office of Civil Defense](#) ngayong araw.

[#EarthquakePH](#) [#EarthquakeZambales](#)

Earthquake Information No.2

Date and Time: 11 Mar 2021 - 03:24 PM

Magnitude = 5.1

Depth = 015 kilometers

Location = 15.70N, 119.25E - 071 km S 84° W of Santa Cruz

(Zambales)<https://t.co/HVy6DXQkQS> pic.twitter.com/CWRQP4SLaB

— PHIVOLCS-DOST (@phivolcs_dost) [March 11, 2021](#)

Sa kabila nito, walang nai-report na intensities ang Phivolcs dahil nasa gitna ng tubig nangyari ang insidente.

Inaasahan ang mga "aftershocks," o serye ng mga mas mahihinang lindol, sa mga susunod na oras wika ng state volcanologists ngunit wala pa namang nakikitang pinsala na maidudulot nito sa tao.

[Una nang ini-report na 5.7 magnitude ang naturang earthquake](#) — na "tectonic" ang origin — ngunit agad namang nirebisa ng pamahalaan.



5.1 magnitude na lindol niyanig katubigan malapit sa Zambales

Wala pa namang inilalabas na babala ang gobyerno pagdating sa posibleng "tsunami" sa ngayon, o biglang pagragasa ng tubig sa lupa bunsod ng paggalaw ng kalupaan.

Ganap na 2 p.m. ngayong araw nang magdaos ng pambansang earthquake drill ang gobyerno para sa first quarter ng 2021, bagay na isinagawa sa pamamagitan ng online platform ng social media.

"Sa ating earthquake drill ngayong araw, ating isaisip ang mahalagang paalala para sa ating kaligtasan sa oras ng lindol: mag-duck, cover and hold," ayon kay Civil Defense Deputy Administrator for Operations Assistant Secretary Casiano Monilla bago patunugin ang sirena.

"Kapag nagkaroon ng pagyanig, siguraduhing protektado ang lahat ng mahal sa buhay at lumikas sa tamang panahon. Laging tandaan na walang pinipiling oras ang sakuna."

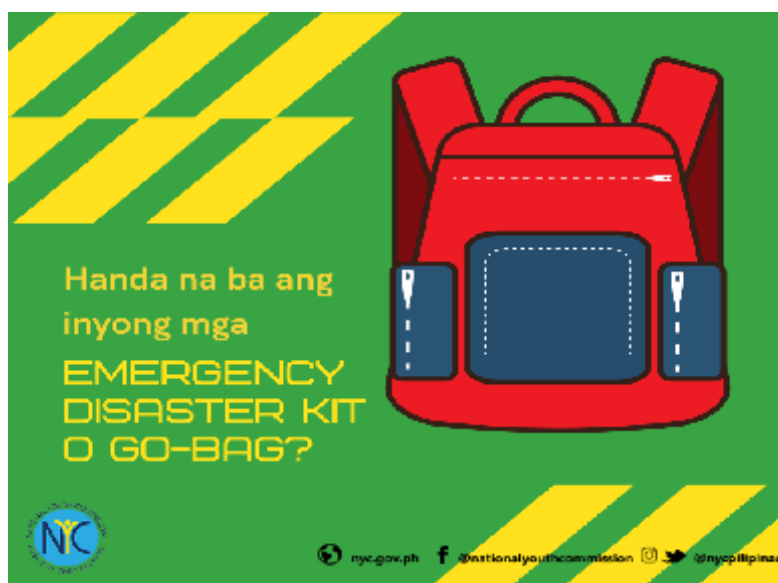


LIST: Items to put in your emergency disaster kit

Published March 11, 2021, 3:36 PM

by [Gabriela Baron](#)

Being equipped with the proper supplies is vital for survival in an event of an emergency and disaster. Part of preparedness includes having an emergency disaster kit.



(Photo from NYC)

Here are the most essential items to include in your emergency disaster kit or go-bag, according to the National Youth Commission (NYC).

- Drinking water
- Extra batteries
- Cash
- First aid kit (medicines for fever, diarrhea, and wound)
- Towels, tissues, and sanitary supplies
- Emergency whistle
- Blanket and clothes
- Prescription medications
- Special needs of children and older adults
- Flashlight, portable radio, and power bank
- Ready to eat food that can last up to three days



LIST: Items to put in your emergency disaster kit

- Raincoat, rain boots, and slippers
- Rope
- Paper and pencil

NYC also recommends to include important documents such as identification cards with blood type and emergency number; birth certificate; marriage contract; and land title.

Emergency disaster kit must also contain items that will be needed within 72 hours or three days during the disaster.

The kits should be placed somewhere easily seen or retrieved anytime.



More groups nix House's Boracay GOCC plan

By [MA. STELLA F. ARNALDO](#)

MARCH 12, 2021



Boracay Island, Aklan
Image credits: [Stella Arnaldo](#)

MORE tourism stakeholders and island associations have come forward to signal their opposition to the creation of the Boracay Island Development Association (Bida) as a powerful government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC), as provided in a yet-unnumbered substitute bill at the House of Representatives.

In a position paper, 17 multisectoral groups with nearly 20,000 members, along with barangay captains of Yapak, Manoc-Manoc and Balabag in Malay, Aklan, said, "We are one in our strong opposition to Bida as a GOCC, clothed with powers and functions, which duplicate, and overlap with, those already vested upon and exercised by the national government's line and attached agencies and violate the policy of devolution and decentralization, and repugnant to the very essence of federalism advocated and espoused by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte himself."

The groups added they were in "ardent opposition" to the Bida GOCC "with powers and functions which encroach upon and divest local government units of their constitutionally granted (1987 Philippine Constitution) local autonomy and law-mandated powers and functions, rights and prerogatives," as provided under Republic Act 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991).

In an interview with the BusinessMirror, Virgilio Sacdalan, president of the Compliant Association of Boracay, one of the groups which signed the position paper, said, "We drew up this position paper after carefully studying and discussing the proposed substitute bill on Bida with the heads and members of associations of the various stakeholder groups on the island."

He added, a signature campaign had been launched involving 17 barangays and 20 organization members and employees before signing then sending the position paper to Duterte, Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III, House Speaker Lord Allan Q. Velasco and members of Congress.



More groups nix House's Boracay GOCC plan

Conspicuously absent among the signatories, however, were heads of the pioneering Boracay Foundation Inc. and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay, signaling a possible rift among the stakeholders on the issue that carves the future path of the island.

What the groups opposing the Bida GOCC endorsed instead was the continued operation of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) to oversee the rehabilitation of the island, "or in the alternative, the creation by law of a nationally empowered body with the same or similar mandate and limitation as a policy-making and regulatory authority like BIATF, with strengthened integration of national agencies, expanded local participation, and recognition of vested rights." The BIATF's term is supposed to end in May 2021.

The groups underscored that they were "not alone" in disagreeing with the proposed Boracay GOCC, citing government agencies like the Departments of Finance, Interior and Local Government, and Budget Management; as well as political organizations and local government representatives such as the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the provincial government of Aklan and its provincial board, the municipal government and the municipal council, Aklan House representatives, among others.

The multisectoral groups stress they support Duterte's wish to safeguard the environment and his vision of returning the island "to its former glory." They add they would continue partnering with national and local governments to "promote and accelerate the sustainable development and balanced growth of Boracay Island."

The position paper was also signed by the Boracay Island Travel Agencies/Tour Operators Association; Boracay Windsport Association; Boracay Private Clinic Sectoral Group; Caticlan Boracay Transport Multipurpose Cooperative; Malay Fisherfolk Seaweed Planters Association; Boracay Women's Cooperative; Natives of Boracay and Business Stakeholders Inc.; Malay Boracay Vendors, Peddlers, Masseurs, Manicurists, and Hair Braiders Association Inc.; Boracay Tumandok Indigenous Cultural Communities Indigenous Peoples Malay Aklan Inc.; Boracay Muslim Association; Boracay Island Hopping Adventure MPC; Boracay Photographers Association Inc.; Association of Standup Paddle Boracay Inc.; Boracay Watersport Association Inc.; Boracaynons Samahang Mangingisda Inc; and the Aquanaut Diving Association Inc.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/03/12/more-groups-nix-houses-boracay-gocc-plan/>

Certification has failed to stop rampant deforestation— so, how to improve it?

Eco labels like Fairtrade, RSPO, FSC and Rainforest Alliance claim to make palm oil, soy, cocoa and wood products sustainable, but are not stopping climate-critical rates of deforestation, a report from Greenpeace has highlighted. How do they need to change?



Logs being transported down a river from Ogan Komering Ilir paper mill South Sumatra, Indonesia. Image: Robin Hicks/Eco-Business

By [Robin Hicks](#)

March 11, 2021

The eco labels that certify forest-risk commodities such as palm oil, soy, wood and cocoa have failed to stop ongoing deforestation despite their sustainability assurances, and are in need of an overhaul to halt further ecosystem degradation, according to a report from environmental campaign group, Greenpeace.

In “Destruction: certified”, the [report](#) published on Wednesday (10 March), Greenpeace says that such schemes are enabling agribusinesses to operate as normal, and risk increasing the deforestation caused by farming these commodities if certification stimulates demand without addressing sustainability issues.

While some certification schemes have strong standards, Greenpeace argues that implementation is weak and a lack of transparency and traceability means that these schemes are failing to prevent illegal forest clearance, land disputes and human rights abuses.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/certification-has-failed-to-stop-rampant-deforestation-so-how-to-improve-it/>



ASEANO awards grants for research on plastic pollution

March 11, 2021, 1:20 pm



JAKARTA – The ASEAN-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the Asean Region (ASEANO) has awarded grants to four young scientists and researchers, including an Indonesian and a Filipina, for research on reducing plastic pollution.

ASEANO said it disbursed the grants, in collaboration with the Indonesian think-tank Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), as part of efforts to find innovative solutions and ideas to tackle the problem of plastic pollution.

“More than 11 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year, and this is expected to double in the next 20 years,” said Norwegian Ambassador to Asean, Morten Hoglund, during an event held to select the four recipients of the ASEANO research grants on March 9, 2021).

Hoglund reiterated Norway’s strong commitment to clean oceans and rivers, adding that it has been one of the country’s strongest priorities globally for the past few years.

“In the Asean region, we have entered into a number of partnerships to assist local and national authorities,” he said.

The recipients of the grant included an Indonesian lecturer from Padjajaran University, Ibnu Faizal, whose research revolves around waste distribution and pattern on the mangrove ecosystem in Citarum River’s estuaries, especially in Muara Gembong area in West Java.

His research, selected from 181 proposals sent in from all over the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), has won him a USD7,500 grant from ASEANO.

Muara Gembong, a subdistrict of Bekasi Regency, West Java has been named the most polluted area in the province, and Faizal’s research could unveil many new aspects of the origins of plastic waste and its impact on Citarum River’s estuaries, according to ASEANO.

Indonesia produces 6.8 million tons of plastic waste annually. Based on a 2017 survey, only 10 percent, or 680 thousand of the 6.8 million tons of plastic waste was recycled, while 9 percent or 620 thousand tons of plastic waste ended up in the ocean and rivers.



ASEANO awards grants for research on plastic pollution

Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Trang was also awarded a USD7,500 grant for her doctoral research on the impact of plastic litter on the seagrass communities in Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area in Vietnam. She will conduct her research over a three-month period.

The other recipients of the ASEANO grant are Thailand's Kanin Laopirun and the Philippines' Princess Lydia S Fuentes. Laopirun's research is focusing on assessing the circular economy and plastic waste management in Thailand, as well as the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Fuentes is studying the socio-economic impact of marine litter on coastal barangays of Roxas City, the Philippines.

"The objective of the ASEANO research grant competition is to provide an opportunity for knowledge transfer and know-how among academics in Asean member countries and find the solution to plastic pollution through evidence-based policy," said Ratnawati, research manager with CSEAS.

With the funding, it is hoped that young researchers will come up with new and innovative solutions to reduce plastic waste, especially marine debris in the Asean, she added.

ASEANO is a three-year program in the Norwegian-Asean Regional Integration Program. It mainly focuses on capacity and knowledge development for tackling plastic pollution in the Asean region and targets Indonesia and the Philippines as the first case studies areas. (*Antara*)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1133261>



Pandemic crippling nature conservation efforts

The pandemic and its economic fall-out have put rangers out of work, forced cuts to anti-poaching patrols, and sparked a range of environmental roll-backs.



Published 3 hours ago
on March 12, 2021 05:00 AM
By [Agence France-Presse](#)



DISINFECTANT is sprayed in a park in Hong Kong after its Center for Health Protection reported eight additional confirmed cases of Covid-19 Wednesday, taking its total tally to 11,128. / XINHUA

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — The Covid-19 pandemic has not only had devastating effects on humans, it has also heavily impacted efforts to safeguard natural ecosystems and habitats around the globe, conservationists warned Thursday.

The pandemic and its economic fall-out have put rangers out of work, forced cuts to anti-poaching patrols, and sparked a range of environmental roll-backs, the International Union for Conservation of Nature said.

A special edition of the IUCN's PARKS journal, containing a collection of new research papers on the pandemic's various impacts on nature conservation, indicated the crisis was being felt in protected areas worldwide.

"While the global health crisis remains priority, this new research reveals just how severe a toll the Covid-19 pandemic has taken on conservation efforts and on communities dedicated to protecting nature," IUCN director general Dr Bruno Oberle said in the statement.

Surveys done of protected areas across 90 countries showed that in general the impacts had been most severe in Africa, as well as in Latin America and Asia.

More than half of Africa's protected areas reported they had been forced to halt or reduce field patrols and anti-poaching operations.



Pandemic crippling nature conservation efforts

'Massive' job losses

The closing of sites to tourism have dealt a particularly harsh blow.

"There has been a massive impact on wildlife tourism, so there has been a massive loss of jobs, loss of income," PARKS journal co-editor Adrian Philips, of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, told AFP.

"Many poor communities which were previously dependent upon tourists, have found themselves unable to survive without doing some poaching to find food," he said.

A survey of rangers in more than 60 countries found that more than a quarter of them had seen their salaries reduced or delayed, while one in five had lost their jobs due to Covid-related budget cuts.

This has obviously left such areas more vulnerable to poaching and other illegal activities.

Data is lacking on how the pandemic measures have affected poaching levels, but Philips said there didn't seem to be a huge increase in high-profile poaching of rhinos for instance.

That is likely in part due to the collapse in international travel, which meant getting game to receptive markets in Asia was far more complicated.

Instead, he said, "there has been an increase in low-level poaching, bush meat" for food.

In a bid to shed light on the pandemic's impacts on environmental policy, the special PARKS issue analyzed a range of economic stimulus packages and other government policies implemented or advanced between January and October last year.

There were positive examples of economic recovery packages scaling up environmental protections and explicitly benefiting protected areas, it found.

But more policies rolled back protections in favor of unsustainable development like road construction and oil and gas extraction in areas designated for conservation.

Smart investment

"We cannot allow the current crisis to further jeopardize our natural environment," Rachel Golden Kroner of the environmental organization Conservation International warned in the statement.

"If we are to build a sustainable future, roll-backs of environmental protections must be avoided," she said.

The PARKS special edition also highlighted that poor conservation was behind the growing number of viruses jumping from animals to humans, as the one that caused Covid-19 did.

Boosting conservation efforts was thus a smart investment.

"Investing in nature conservation and restoration to prevent the future emergence of zoonotic pathogens such as coronaviruses costs a small fraction of the trillions of dollars governments have been forced to spend to combat Covid-19 and stimulate an economic recovery," said one of the paper's authors Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, of the Global Environment Facility.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2021/03/12/pandemic-crippling-nature-conservation-efforts/>

12 MARCH 2021, Friday



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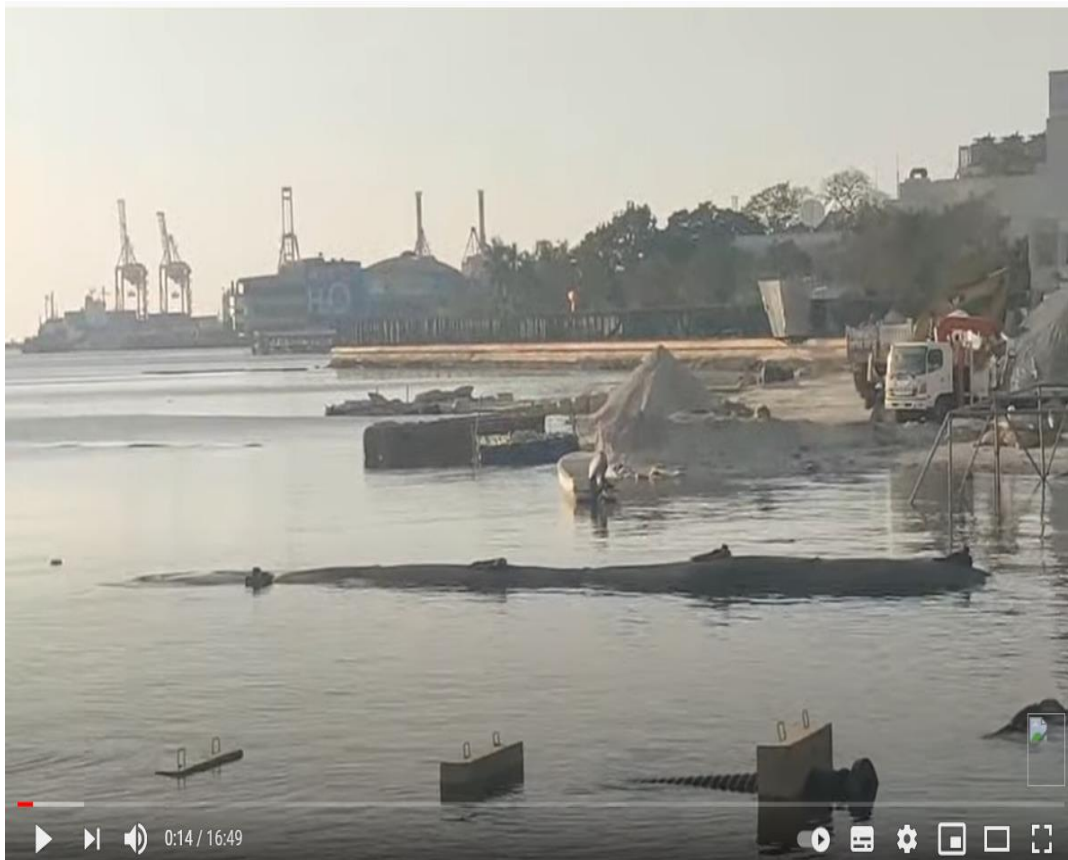
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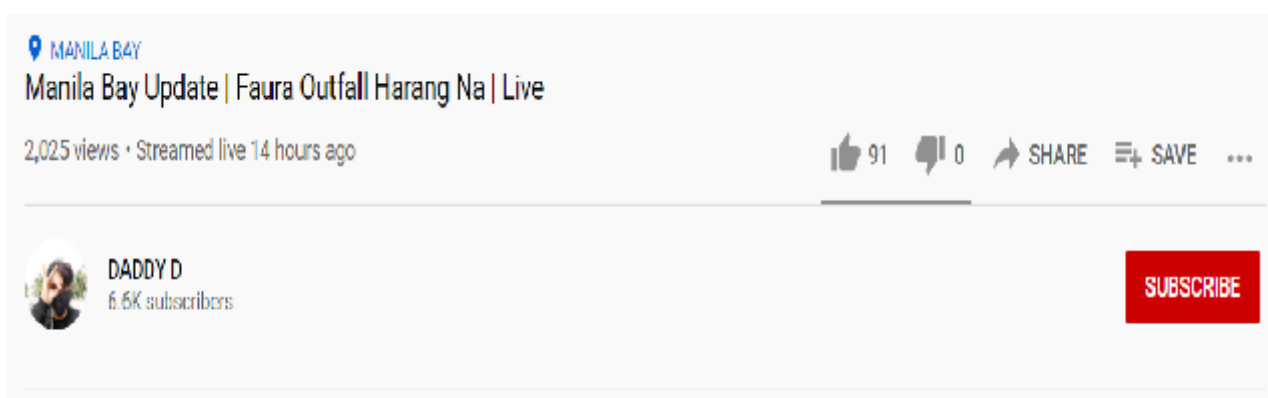
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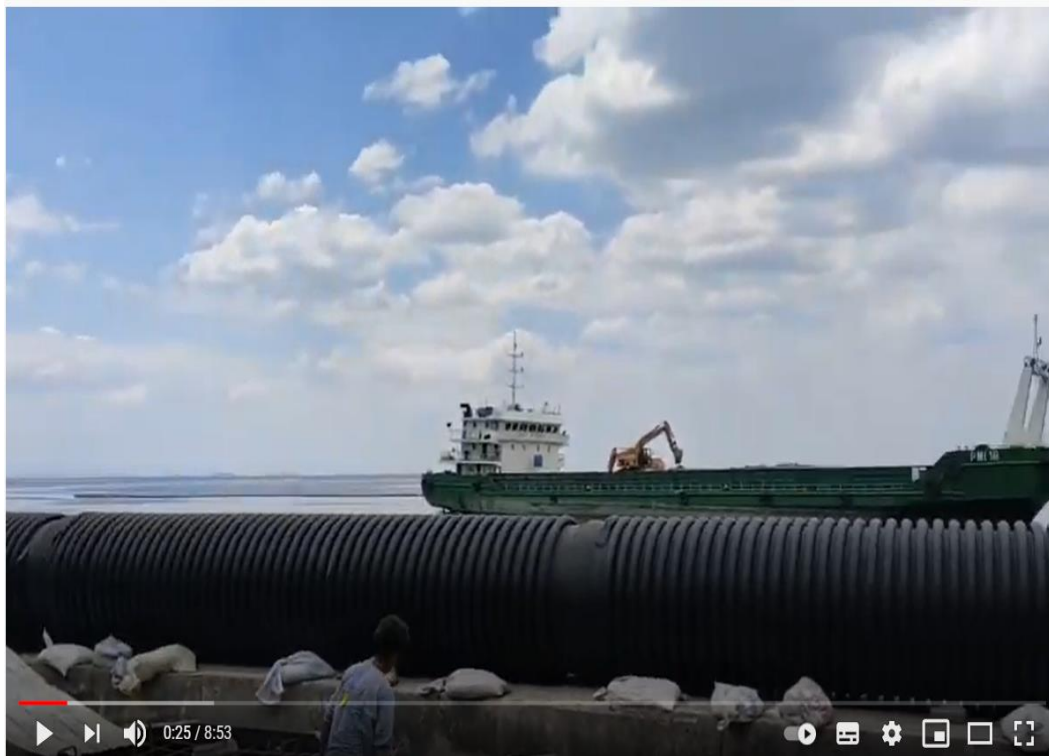
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