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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



“All government programs and initiatives are leaning toward the declaration of a climate emergency,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press statement.

STAR/ File

Government keen on declaring climate emergency – Cimatu

[Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 12, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — A “climate emergency” may be declared by government to compel a whole-nation effort in addressing the worsening impact of climate change on the environment, economy and communities, a Cabinet official said yesterday.

“All government programs and initiatives are leaning toward the declaration of a climate emergency,” Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press statement.

Cimatu, who chairs the Cabinet cluster on climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, released the statement after environmental group Greenpeace Philippines urged President Duterte to declare a climate emergency to help the country achieve its goals under the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In doing so, the Duterte administration can compel more concerted efforts among the government, civil organizations, private sector and other stakeholders in protecting the country against various impacts of climate change.

As early as February this year, Cimatu’s Cabinet cluster came out with a resolution in support of House Resolution No. 535, titled “Declaring a Disaster and Climate Change Emergency,” filed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda in November 2019.

“The Philippines has already suffered billions of losses, damages and disruptions due to the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards, so there’s an urgent need to address more projected adverse impacts to ensure climate justice for the current and future generations of Filipinos,” he said.

Cimatu said the CCAM-DRR also approved a separate resolution underscoring the urgent need to consolidate government data in order to generate a nationwide climate risk assessment.

This would facilitate local government units in gaining easier access to the People’s Survival Fund for their climate change-related development projects.



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources secretary said the administration remains committed to honoring the Paris Agreement, in which world leaders committed to keep the planet's temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

It was in 2017 when Duterte signed the agreement, which came into force in November 2016. The Philippines committed to reduce its greenhouse emissions by 70 percent by 2030, but said that it would need technical and financial support to achieve the goal.

At Friday's Senate hearing on the DENR budget for 2021, Environment Assistant Secretary Ric Calderon underscored that about P643 million is earmarked for protected area management next year.

Calderon, also DENR biodiversity director, said that with the help of the Senate, the country now has a total of 107 legislated protected areas, covering around 7.2 million hectares all over the country, which serve as the gene pool for endemic flora and fauna.

Manila Bay sands

In a separate statement, the DENR said the Manila Bay nourishment project has passed the standard for structural integrity and soundness, contrary to criticisms that the dolomite sand overlaid along the baywalk on Roxas Boulevard is already being washed away.

"The dolomite overlay will not be totally washed out because we have installed engineering interventions in the perimeter of the sand," said DENR Undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs Jonas Leones.

DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer, who heads the Manila Bay Operations Center, added that there is no definitive proof that a substantial portion of the dolomite beach was washed away.

Citing a recent inspection, Nicer said around nine to 10 inches of various sediments settled on top of the dolomite overlay, causing a perceived discoloration of portions of the white beach as observed from a distance.

"Due to the natural wave action of wash and backwash, greyish sand, stones, rocks and other materials piled up over the dolomite sand," he said.

Nicer also clarified that Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC), which supplied the artificial white sand, has been in operation for almost two decades, contrary to allegations that it was created for the sole purpose of supplying dolomite for the project.

Addressing the cost, DENR spokesman Benny Antiporda said that only six percent or P28 million of the P389 million allotted for the entire Manila Bay rehabilitation project was spent for the dolomite overlay.

Antiporda said other issues raised by environmental groups such as planting of mangrove, protection of the ecosystem and biodiversity, fishing areas, and improvement of water quality are all being addressed simultaneously by the DENR and its partner agencies.



Endangered plants

Meanwhile, Calderon warned so-called “plantitos” and “plantitas” against collecting critically endangered plants — inadvertently or not — as they pursue their newfound hobby of urban gardening in the midst of this pandemic.

As the outbreak of COVID-19 forced people to stay home, many Filipinos in urban areas ventured into planting crops or ornamental plants as a way of coping with stress and boredom – calling themselves plantitos or plantitas.

However, at Friday’s Senate hearing on the DENR budget, Sen. Nancy Binay said this might have triggered “poaching” for plants in the wild.

Calderon told senators that Filipinos should be mindful of Republic Act 9147, the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, when gathering or collecting plant species.

“We just can’t gather any plants from our forests, they must have a permit when doing so because they might gather the threatened and critically endangered plants,” he said in Filipino.

Protect wetlands – Villar

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the committee on environment and natural resources, reiterated the importance of wetlands in providing wildlife habitats and as sanctuary to migratory birds.

On the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day on Oct. 10, Villar said the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park (LPWP) located south of Manila Bay, has served as resting and feeding grounds for migratory birds flocking from Japan, China and Siberia.

Villar authored Republic Act 11038, the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas Act or E-NIPAS Act, which lists the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park as a protected area.

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

Villar underscored the urgency of preserving the bird sanctuary 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,” she said.

The Ramsar Convention recognizes Las Piñas-Parañaque 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. – **Paolo Romero**



DENR: Gov't programs, initiatives leaning toward declaration of climate emergency

Published October 11, 2020, 2:32 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu has assured that programs and initiatives prepared by the government are leaning toward the declaration of a climate emergency.

Cimatu, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), pointed out that as early as February this year, the Cabinet cluster has approved a resolution supporting House Resolution No. 535 or “Declaring a Disaster and Climate Change Emergency” filed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda in November 2019.

He believes that the declaration of climate emergency would help deepen the country’s commitment to protect its economy, environment, and communities from climate change.

“The Philippines has already suffered billions of losses, damages, and disruptions due to the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards, so there’s an urgent need to address more projected adverse impacts to ensure climate justice for the current and future generations of Filipinos,” Cimatu pointed out.

Also in February, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR approved another resolution underscoring the urgent need to consolidate government data in order to generate a nationwide climate risk assessment.

Cimatu said it is high time for the government to maintain a reliable climate risk profile that could inform and support development and investment planning and climate finance.

“With the consolidated government data, which is very important in articulation of climate rationale for project proposal development, the local government units could be enabled to have easier access to the People’s Survival Fund for their climate change-related development projects,” he added.

The two resolutions issued by the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR support strategies to enable the country achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement, in which world leaders committed to keep the planet’s temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The agreement, which is the culmination of decades of international efforts to combat climate change, establishes a framework of global climate action, support for developing nations, and transparent reporting and strengthening of climate goals.

In 2017, President Duterte signed the Paris Agreement, which came into force in November 2016. The Philippines committed to reduce its greenhouse emissions by 70 percent by 2030, but will need technical and financial support to achieve it.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/11/denr-govt-programs-initiatives-leaning-toward-declaration-of-climate-emergency/>



Climate emergency declaration mulled

Sunday, October 11, 2020 Joel dela Torre

THE Philippine government is mulling over the declaration of a “climate emergency” to help deepen the country’s commitment to protect its economy, environment and communities from climate change.

According to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the country has already suffered billions of pesos in losses, damage and disruptions due to the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards hence the need to urgently address more projected adverse effects to ensure climate justice for the current and future generations of Filipinos.

The Philippines, he added, continues to put in place measures to tackle climate change while all government programs and initiatives are leaning towards the declaration of “climate emergency.”

Cimatu, who chairs the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR), said he issued the statement after environmental group Greenpeace Philippines urged President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to declare a climate emergency as a policy instrument to help the Philippines achieve its goals under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Responding to the call, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the Chief Executive would consider declaring a climate emergency given that mitigating effects of climate change is high on his agenda.

As early as February this year, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR approved a resolution supporting House Resolution No. 535, entitled “Declaring a Disaster and Climate Change Emergency” filed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda in November 2019.

Also in February, the Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR approved another resolution underscoring the urgent need to consolidate government data in order to generate a nationwide climate risk assessment.

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In 2017, President Duterte signed the Paris Agreement, which came into force in November 2016. The Philippines committed to reduce its greenhouse emissions by 70 percent by 2030, but will need technical and financial support to achieve it.



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Environment Sec. Roy Cimatu says the government is leaning towards declaring a climate emergency.



The Philippines has already suffered billions of losses, damages and disruptions due to the impacts of hydrometeorological hazards, so there's an urgent need to address more projected, adverse impacts to ensure climate justice for the current and future generations of Filipinos.

courtesy: BusinessWorld Online

SEC. ROY CIMATU

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OCTOBER 11, 2020

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Dolomite overlay will not be totally washed out, says DENR official

Published October 11, 2020, 9:40 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) remains confident of the structural integrity and soundness of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project, as proven by the initial assessments conducted by its own experts.

Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones explained that the dolomite overlay will not be totally washed out “because we have installed engineering interventions in the perimeter of the sand.”

Leones further explained that two sand-filled geotubes with a diameter of two meters were installed to mitigate soil erosion, prevent storm damage, and provide stability to the project.

The use of a geotextile tube system is more economical than the traditional method of constructing a breakwater, he added.

Manila Bay Operations Center head and DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer also noted that there is no definitive proof that any substantial portion of the dolomite beach has been washed away based on beach area and volume measurement.

Nicer explained that the dolomite sand allegedly being washed away was only based on the perceived discoloration of some portions of the white beach as observed from a distance.

“Due to the natural wave action of wash and backwash, greyish sand, stones, rocks and other materials piled up over the dolomite sand,” Nicer said, explaining why certain portions of the white beach look darker in shade.

Based on the inspection conducted by DENR experts, he said around nine to 10 inches of various sediments were found on top of the dolomite overlay.

He also clarified that Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC), which supplied the artificial white sand, has been in operation for almost two decades now, dispelling allegations that it was created for the sole purpose of supplying dolomite for the project.

Nicer said DMC was first issued a permit to operate at Barangay Pugalo in Alcoy town, Cebu province in November 2002.

DENR Undersecretary and Spokesperson Benny Antiporda said the beach nourishment project is an initiative not just by the DENR, but all other agencies that are part of the Manila Bay Task Force formed in 2019 by President Rodrigo Duterte under Administrative Order No. 16.

The members of the DENR-led task force were the same agencies directed to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay in the writ of continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court in 2008.

Antiporda said noted environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa, who initiated the case that led to the high tribunal issuing the writ of continuing mandamus, “is involved in our decision-making and actions.”

The DENR official said the DENR’s pool of experts—including marine scientists, biologists, and geologists—are working on the project, and the agency welcomes a third party to conduct an audit.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/11/dolomite-overlay-will-not-be-totally-washed-out-says-denr-official/>



DENR: Dolomite won't be washed out

Sunday, October 11, 2020 Cory Martinez



File photo shows Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretaries, Atty. Jonas R. Leones (left) and Benny D. Antiporda (right) showing House Committee on Natural Resources Chairperson, Rep. Elpidio Barzaga, Jr. (center) the white dolomite sand being utilized in the beach nourishment project of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program. Barzaga learned of the positive effects of the project to the ecosystem. The inspection was conducted on September 12, 2020 at the 120-meter x 60-meter beach nourishment project site, which was inaugurated during the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day celebration on September 19.

THE dolomite overlay in a portion of the Manila Bay will not be totally washed out as engineering interventions have been installed along the perimeter of the sand.

This was the assurance made by Jonas Leones, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs in the midst of criticisms and apprehensions of several sectors that the budget used in procuring the dolomite sand will only go to waste as it can be easily washed away by the waters.

Leones guaranteed the structural integrity and soundness of the Manila Bay beach nourishment project, citing initial assessments conducted by its experts.

He disclosed that two sand-filled geotubes with a diameter of two meters were installed to mitigate soil erosion, prevent storm damage and provide stability to the project.

Leones added that the use of geotextile tube system is more economical than the traditional method of constructing a breakwater.

Meanwhile, Daniel Darius Nicer, Manila Bay Operations Center Head and DENR Assistant Secretary, said there is no definitive proof that any substantial portion of the dolomite beach has been washed away based on beach area and volume measurement.

Nicer noted that the alleged “washing away” of the dolomite sand was only based on the perceived discoloration of some portions of the white beach as observed from a distance.

“Due to the natural wave action of wash and backwash, greyish sand, stones, rocks and other materials piled up over the dolomite sand,” Nicer said, as he explained why certain portions of the white beach to look darker in shade.

Based on the inspection conducted by DENR experts, Nicer said around 9 to 10 inches of various sediments were found on top of the dolomite overlay.

Nicer also clarified that Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC), which supplied the artificial white sand, has been in operation for almost two decades now, dispelling allegations that it was created for the sole purpose of supplying dolomite for the project.



In fact, Nicer said, the DMC was first issued permit to operate at Barangay Pugalo in Alcoy town, Cebu province in November 2002.

Meanwhile, the DENR is open to get advice from the experts of the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) with regards to the Manila Bay rehabilitation if it is free of charge.

DENR Undersecretary and Spokesperson Benny D. Antiporda said the observation of the UP-MSI experts on the bay's rehabilitation is substantial and that their immediate assistance is highly appreciated.

However, Antiporda said that if they demand for high professional fees, they will just set aside the idea as the DENR has already its own set of experts—marine scientists, biologists and geologists—who are actively involved in the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

"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 also noted that DENR Secretary and Manila Bay Task Force chief Roy A. Cimatú "is not only a soldier and a pilot, but also an engineer."

Based on the DENR's experience, 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," Antiporda disclosed.

On Sept. 30, the UP-MSI released a statement 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.

It lambasted the beach nourishment, saying "there are no shortcuts to a cleaner environment," and "at most, it is a beautification effort that is costly and temporary."

But Antiporda maintained 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.

The DENR official likewise cited the warm reception and overwhelming support the project is getting from the public, proving that the government did right on rehabilitating the historic bay.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/nation/denr-dolomite-wont-be-washed-out/?fbclid=IwAR02FaAhZNLDsWUVQ9hzYE7V14s4ugf1dInGYQuoXTAd2R7wsIJgqWWzUZQ>



DENR tiniyak ang integridad ng beach nourishment project



October 11, 2020 @ 12:18 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang structural integrity at katatagan ng Manila Bay beach nourishment project at pinaninindigan nito base na rin sa ginawang inisyal na pagsusuri ng mga dalubhasa.

“The dolomite overlay will not be totally washed out because we have installed engineering interventions in the perimeter of the sand,” ayon kay DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas Leones sa ginanap na virtual press conference sa pamamagitan ng Zoom.

Ayon kay Leones, dalawang sand-filled geotubes na may diameter na dalawang metro ang inilagay upang maiwasan ang soil erosion, ang pagkasira dahil sa bagyo at magpapatatag sa proyekto.

Aniya, ang paggamit ng geotextile tube ay mas economical kumpara sa tradisyunal na paraan ng paglalagay ng breakwater.

Kaugnay nito ipinaliwanag naman ni Manila Bay Operations Head at DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer na walang tuwirang pruwera na may mahalagang bahagi ng dolomite beach ang na “washed away” base sa beach area at volume measurement.

Sinabi pa ni Nicer na ang umano’y “washing away” ng dolomite sand ay batay lamang sa hinihinalang “discoloration” ng ibang bahagi ng white beach na naobserbahan sa malayong distansiya.

“Due to the natural wave action of wash and backwash, greyish sand, stones, rocks and other materials piled up over the dolomite sand,” saad pa ni Nicer na nagpaliwanag pa kung bakit may mga bahagi ng white beach ang nagkaroon ng dark shade.

Base sa isinagawang inspeksiyon ng mga eksperto mula sa DENR, sinabi pa ni Nicer na mga 9 hanggang 10 pulgada ng iba’t-ibang sediments ang nakita sa ibabaw ng dolomite overlay.

Nilinaw din ni Nicer na ang Dolomite Mining Corp. (DMC) na siyang nagsuplay ng artipisyal na white sand sa proyekto, ay halos dalawang dekada nang nag-o-operate, kung kaya mapapasinungalingan ang alegasyon na ito ay itinaguyod para lamang sa layuning makapag-suplay ng dolomite para sa proyekto.



Sa katunayan nito, ang unang permit to operate ng DMC sa Barangay Pugalo sa Alcoy, sa lalawigan ng Cebu ay inisyu noong November 2002, sabi pa ni Nicer.

Samantala kinondena naman ni DENR Undersecretary at Spokesperson Benny Antiporda ang mga pahayag ng kritiko na patuloy na nag-aakusa sa DENR na dinudumihan nito ang Manila Bay ng white sand na proyekto.

“Is there anything far worse than basura? Is there anything far more hazardous than basura?” tanong pa ni Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito: “We cleaned it (Manila Bay) up. We took off the dirty sand and silt, even the garbage there. Pinalitan namin ng malinis na buhangin, nilagyan ng white sand sa ibabaw.”

Kabaligtaran sa mga sinasabi ng kritiko, sinabi ni Antiporda ang layunin ng proyekto: “protect the environment, protect the people who traverse Roxas Boulevard, and make Manila Bay and the Baywalk area beautiful again.”

Sinabi ni Antiporda na ang beach nourishment ay inisyatibo hindi lamang ng DENR kundi ng lahat ng mga ahensiya na bahagi ng Manila Bay Task Force na binuo noong 2019 ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa ilalim ng Administrative Order No.

16. **Santi Celario**



DENR handa sa technical advice ng UP-MSI



October 11, 2020 @ 12:00 PM 19 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Bukas ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa ano mang obserbasyon ng University of the Philippine-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) sa Manila Bay rehabilitation at sinabi nitong binibigyan ng pansin ito ng ahensya sa anumang payo mula sa eksperto ng institusyon ngunit kung ito ay libre o walang bayad .

“Our office is open for them and I myself will offer to them one of my tables,” ayon kay DENR Undersecretary at Spokesperson Benny D. Antiporda, at idinagdag pa nito , “at least, be sure that it (consultation) will be free.”

Ayon kay Antiporda, mapipigilan ang DENR na makatrabaho ang UP-MSI kung ang kanilang mga eksperto ay sisingil ng mataas na 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,” ayon pa sabi ni Antiporda sa UP-MSI.

Sinabi ni Antiporda ang DENR ay may kanyang mga sariling experts sa marine scientists, biologists at geologists na aktibong kasama sa Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Nabatid pa sa opisyal na ang DENR Secretary at Manila Bay Task Force chief Roy A. Cimatu ay hindi lamang sundalo at piloto, subalit inhenyero din.

Base sa karanasan ng DENR’s kailangan ng maraming pera para makuha ang serbisyo ng UP expert kabaliktaran ang pagkakaalam ng publiko na ang transaksyon sa pagitan ng gobyerno ay libre.

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

Nauna rito nitong nakalipas na Setyembre 30 naglabas ang UP-MSI ng pahayag hinggil sa environmental problem sa Manila na kinakailangan solusyunan kabilang na ang mababang water quality at ang banta sa erosion. **Santi Celario**



Philippine News Info

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"The white sand did not disappear. It's still there underneath the gray sand."

Kapansin-pansin nitong mga nakaraang araw ang tila paglaho ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay.

Paliwanag ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, hindi tuluyang natangay ng alon ang buhangin kundi nagkaroon ng "discoloration". | via Vivienne Gulla, ABS-CBN News

BASAHIN: <https://bit.ly/3nA0r40>



Fig. 1

- Grey sand, silt, etc. are deposited along the edge of the Manila Bay beach, about 2 inches on top of the dolomite sand

(Photo taken by: ASec. Daniel Nicer)(October 7, 2020)



... can be observed that the various deposited sediments have been over-layed by about 9-10 inches on top of the dolomite sand underneath (Photos taken by: ASec. Daniel Nicer)(October 7, 2020)



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2 Comments



Bagong baywalk sa Baseco nakatakda nang buksan

Published 13 hours ago on October 11, 2020 04:51 PM

By [Pat C. Santos](#) [@tribunephil_pat](#)



Sinabi ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno ngayong Linggo na nakatakda nang buksan sa publiko ang bagong gawang bayside walk park na matatagpuan sa coastal side ng Baseco compound.

Idinagdag ni Moreno na inaasahang magagamit na ang baywalk sa loob ng isa hanggang dalawang linggo.

“Alam mo ganun din kami ng nanay at tatay ko kaya kami napadpad sa Maynila upang humanap ng greener pastures dahil siguro sa matinding gutom dinanas sa probinsiya kaya naman gusto kong bigyan ng dignidad ang Baseco at maging salamin ng pag-asa na kahit tayo lumaki sa squatter, meron din tayong dignidad,” sabi ni Moreno.

Muling nanawagan si Moreno sa mga residente na alagaan ang kanilang pag-aari.

“Mga kababayan may munti lang akong pakiusap sa inyo na sana po alagaan po natin ito. Ito po ay regalo sa inyo ng pamahalaang lungsod kung kaya naman po sana ay panatiliin natin ang kalinisan nito sa lahat ng oras. Kailangan po namin ang tulong ninyo upang makamit po natin ang inaasam na bagong Maynila,” ayon pa kay Moreno.

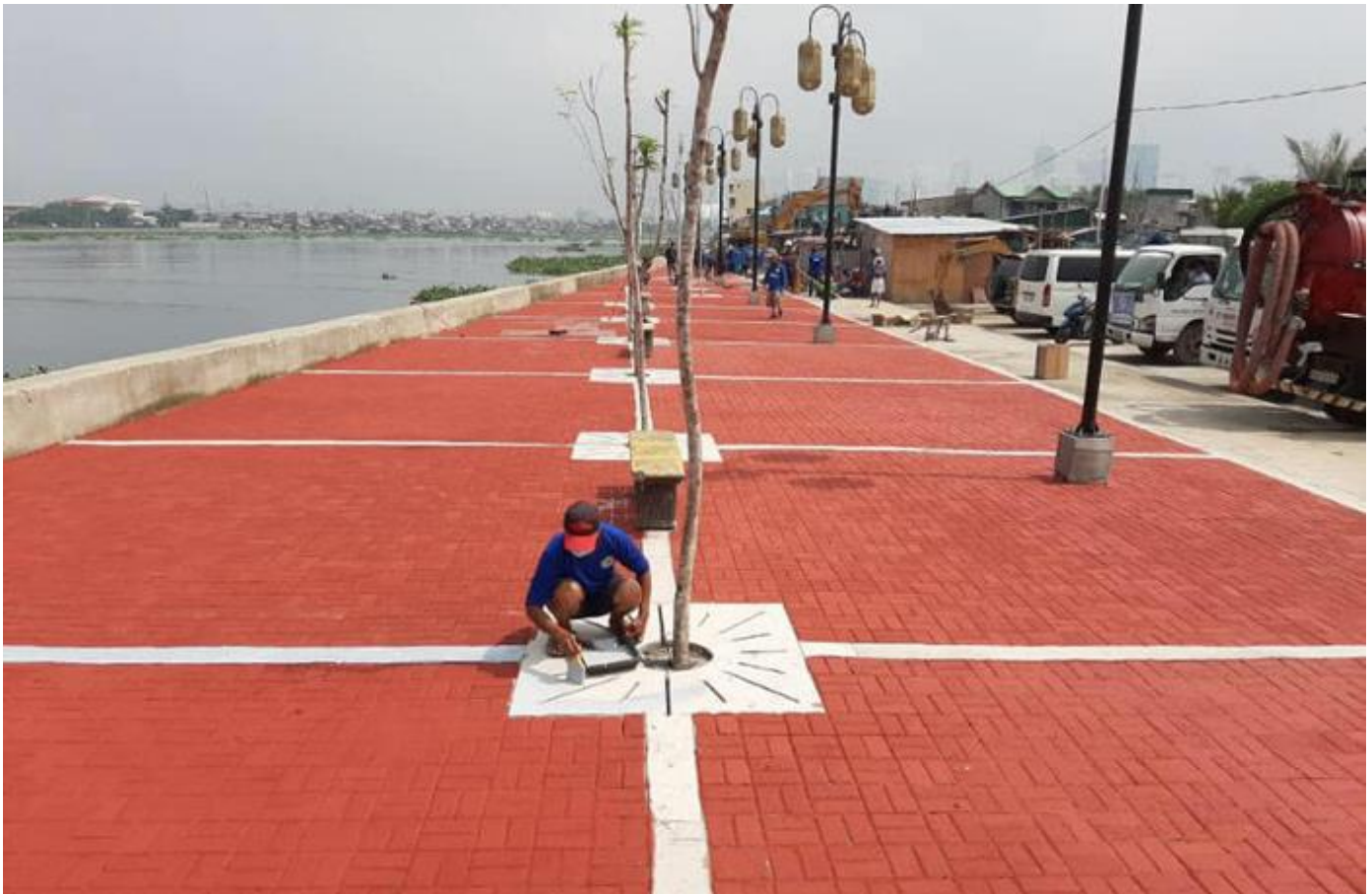
Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni Armand Andres, ng Manila City Engineer, na nagsimula ang pagsasaayos ng baywalk noong Agosto.

“Ang utos ni Mayor ay ayusin lang at gamitin ang mga resources ng siyudad ng Maynila,” sabi ni Andres,



Baseco baywalk

posted October 11, 2020 at 11:48 pm



Manila's engineering crewmen put the finishing touches on the Baseco Baywalk, laying the bricks and painting them to make them pleasing to the eye. The Baywalk is part of the city's goal of having more open spaces for residents to appreciate and enjoy. MPIO



Mangroves not dolomite: UP biologists offer services to rehabilitate Manila Bay

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 09 2020 06:06 PM | Updated as of Oct 11 2020 08:26 AM



People flock to baywalk to witness the sunset by the new "white sand" project in Manila Bay on September 19, 2020. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — "Science-based" programs should be implemented in order to rehabilitate Manila Bay, biologists from the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman said, as they offered their services to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"We advocate and are willing to assist the DENR in a science-based rehabilitation program for Manila Bay that targets the recovery of its biological functions and services (e.g., through restoring and protecting key habitats, managing invasive species, reducing pollution, etc.) and understands the interplay between natural processes and human activities," the UP Institute of Biology said in a recent statement.

"To be successful, the rehabilitation program needs to demonstrate a grasp of land-sea connectivity as well as possible immediate, short-term, and long-term impacts at species, ecosystem, and seascape scales. Its core must be the strategic protection and conservation of biodiversity and ecological integrity providing the ecosystem services: the very reason why we need to rehabilitate Manila Bay," it added.

The institute said that the budget for [dolomite sand](#) could have been allotted as resources for the pandemic response or "viable, scientifically sound projects that can restore Manila Bay to a state that is fit for recreation."

"The recent effort of dumping dolomite sand on a reclaimed part of Manila Bay is not the best way of spending government money; a critical resource during the pandemic that could have been put to better use by spending for the needs of medical frontliners and the millions of our hungry fellow Filipinos," the experts said.

"The fund should have been directed to more viable, scientifically sound projects that can restore Manila Bay to a state that is fit for recreation. Collaborative action among institutions and stakeholders is needed to ensure that efforts to rehabilitate Manila bay will benefit both the environment and the society," it added.

They added that the dumping of dolomite sand reduced the habitat of migrating waterbirds including those "threatened species."

"The dumping of dolomite in Manila Bay has effectively covered part of the intertidal area used by the birds thereby reducing their habitat," the institute said.

"Any habitat reduction or loss will reduce opportunities for migratory birds to feed and refuel on their migration journey," it added.

Citing the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) as an example, the group of biologists suggested that rehabilitating mangroves can help in "biodiversity conservation" in Manila Bay.



“Rehabilitating mangroves (based on species-substrate matching and species zonation) is an example of a nature-based solution (NbS) that is cheaper and more cost-effective than the dolomite dumping project,” the group added.

The UP Marine Science Institute earlier said that the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is an "arduous task" and efforts should come from residents, people using the area, and the government.

The institute noted that authorities should address "poor water quality" and the "threat of erosion" in Manila Bay under the government's rehabilitation program.

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/09/20/mangroves-not-dolomite-up-biologists-offer-services-to-rehabilitate-manila-bay?fbclid=IwAR16iK-hHf5_G92QzAtE2LsxLpWJqGGO3n1cH57sX3UUrJYDYZBJdM3gli8



EDITORIAL

Better rehab plan

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:30 AM October 11, 2020

On paper, the Manila Bay “beach nourishment project” looked environmentally correct: It is supposed to rehabilitate and protect the bay’s coastal resources and prevent flooding and erosion, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ FAQs. But, as scientists from the University of the Philippines point out, the government instead implemented a project that is “even more detrimental to the existing biodiversity as well as to the communities in the area.”

Manila Bay, according to the scientists from UP’s Institute of Biology, plays a significant role in maintaining ecological integrity, meaning the ability to support and maintain the ecosystem in the area, including forests, mangroves, wetlands, and mudflats that are sources of food and are habitats for marine and wildlife. Environmentalists now fear that the crushed dolomite, commonly used in construction, that was dumped on the 500-meter stretch of the baywalk will kill the bay’s marine life and, once eroded, will cause marine sedimentation. This could worsen the bay’s already dismal state and result in the loss of globally important waterbird sites as well as sardine spawning grounds (just last year, a new sardine species, *Sardinella pacifica*, was discovered in the bay), among other environmentally ruinous effects.

“The recent effort of dumping dolomite sand on a reclaimed part of Manila Bay is not the best way of spending government money; a critical resource during the pandemic that could have been put to better use by spending for the needs of medical frontliners and the millions of our hungry fellow Filipinos,” said the Institute in a statement last week. It added that the millions of pesos used for the project “could have been directed to more viable, scientifically sound projects that can restore Manila Bay to a state that is fit for recreation.”

A scientifically sound alternative the UP experts are proposing is for the government to plant mangroves and rehabilitate mangrove habitats in the area, as a cheaper, more cost-effective “nature-based solution” that will at the same time help improve the bay’s biodiversity and ability to withstand climate change. “Having ecologically healthy mangroves will also help lessen heavy metal contamination, a condition that [has] beset Manila Bay for a long time,” said the scientists.

The UP group has offered to help the DENR craft and implement such a science-based rehab program for the bay—an offer the government should take up, because its much-touted white sand project, which is costing taxpayers P389 million (P28 million alone for the 3,500 tons of crushed dolomite slapped on a tiny portion of the Manila Bay coastline), is looking more forlorn and pointless by the day. Recent photos showed that, just weeks after the dolomite dumping, a good portion of the sand has been eroded and washed away with the onset of rains. That P389 million earmarked for the bay project, on the other hand, could plant at least 13,000 hectares of mangroves, according to the group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas,

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque earlier defended the controversial project by saying the effect of “going to places like Manila Bay that has a white beach” cannot be quantified “when it comes to the mental health of our people” amid the pandemic. A long-cooped-up populace took that glib rationale as a cue, and crowds flocked to the “Manila Bay Sands” as soon as it was opened late last month, violating the government’s own guidelines on physical distancing. “People now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand,” President Duterte crowed in his late-night public address last Sept. 21.



Infrawatch PH convener Terry Ridon, however, said Mr. Duterte may have confused the objectives of the Manila Bay rehabilitation, which has three phases: cleanup/water quality improvement, rehabilitation and settlement, and education and sustainment, none of which is addressed by the white sand project. “The urgent objective of rehabilitating Manila Bay was not to give the public a nice place to visit, as the President said. The objective is to improve water quality, protect biodiversity, and ensure sustainable development. As admitted by DENR officials themselves, beach nourishment is not found in any Manila Bay master plan,” Ridon pointed out.

In an odd move, the DENR recently suspended the two mining companies that provided the crushed dolomite and is now investigating whether they violated pertinent laws (according to environmental groups, at least five were violated by the Manila Bay project). Odd—because where does the DENR get off leading the probe when it is a principal party to the case, having greenlighted the venture, imported the sand, and, against the warnings and misgivings of independent experts, vociferously vouched for what is now proving to be a quicksand of a project?



DENR: PH an important migratory bird route

Saturday, October 10, 2020 People's Tonight

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. *Philippine News Agency*



Kalibasib, the tamaraw born and bred in captivity, has died

Published October 11, 2020, 5:02 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

“Kalibasib,” the lone surviving Philippine tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*) bred in captivity, died last Saturday, Oct. 10.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) OIC Assistant Secretary for Climate Change and concurrent Director of the DENR-Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Ricardo Calderon confirmed the death of Kalibasib in a text message to the Manila Bulletin.

“[Before it died], Kalibasib had slight diarrhea. It was already sent to the San Jose Municipal Veterinary Office in Occidental Mindoro for necropsy,” Calderon said.

“Old age is also suspected as the cause of its death because it was born in 1999,” he added. Kalibasib, which is short for Kalikasan Bagong Sibol (nature newly sprung), was born on June 24, 1999, making it 21 years old on its death. Experts say a Philippine tamaraw could live up to 20 to 25 years.

Kalibasib was the first and only Philippine tamaraw born and bred in captivity, housed at the Mindoro Biodiversity Conservation, Research, and Educational Center, formerly the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm, located in Brgy. Manoot, Rizal, Occidental Mindoro.

Twenty adult tamaraws, including Kalibasib’s mother “Mimi” were taken from the wild when the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm was opened in 1980. The farm was part of the captive breeding program of the DENR to conserve the Philippine tamaraw, which is endemic to Mindoro.

However, all 20 tamaraws originally captured for the gene pool have died. Since then, Kalibasib was the farm’s lone occupant.

Incidentally, Kalibasib died during the celebration of National Tamaraw Month.

Presidential Proclamation 273 of 2002 declared October of every year as a “Special Month for the Conservation and Protection of the Tamaraw in Mindoro.”

The tamaraw is a much smaller version of the carabao, and is distinguished by its V-shaped, backward-pointing stout horns, which it shakes to signal aggression.

Estimated at around 10,000 heads in the 1960s, tamaraw population has significantly dwindled in recent years due to diseases, illegal poaching, and habitat loss. It has been listed as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Most of the tamaraw population remain within the 2,500-hectare strict protection zone inside the 106,655-hectare Mts. Iglit-Baco Natural Park in Mindoro.

Based on the DENR-BMB’s latest count, there are around 480 tamaraw individuals remaining in the wild. “We really have to sustain our conservation effort along this line,” Calderon said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/11/kalibasib-the-tamaraw-born-and-bred-in-captivity-has-died/>



Lone captive tamaraw in Mindoro dies

Published 42 mins ago on October 12, 2020 06:15 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Kalibasib when it was still alive. (EE image)

The lone captive Tamaraw at the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm, in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro has died.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced the death of the wild carabao named Kalibasib, short for (Kalikasang Bagong Sibol or nature newly sprung), at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, 10 October.

In his report submitted to the Provincial Environment Natural Resources Office (PENRO) base in Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro, Neil Anthony del Mundo, said Kalibasib or “Kali” had no injury or manifestation of disease.

The tamaraw was observed to be having some sort of diarrhea on Friday but was still eating well and last eaten banana mid Saturday morning, according to Del Mundo.

Del Mundo, who studied Zoology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, said Kalibasib was born on 24 June 1999 and the sole progeny of the tamaraw breeding program in the 90s at the Tamaraw Gene Pool Farm in Barangay Manoot.

“A Tamaraw’s life span is estimated to be from 20 to 25-years old. It is said that if we compare the age of a tamaraw to humans, we multiply it by four, so in a human age, Kali is 84-years old,” Del Mundo said.

Del Mundo said Kalibasib, who died on the very month of this year’s celebration of National Tamaraw Month, is the longest living tamaraw on record at age 21.

“Currently, we are trying to contact veterinarians to conduct necropsy on the carcass of Kalibasib but according to the Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Kristoffer Gonzales, they are on isolation,” Del Mundo said.

He said the Municipal Veterinarian of San Jose cannot be reached and most of the local government unit employees of San Jose are in isolation facilities as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the municipal building.

The TCP expressed hope that Kalibasib’s passing will drive the people of Mindoro to enhance the protection of the tamaraw and their natural habitats so that it did not die in vain.

The DENR has yet to issue a formal statement of the tamaraw’s death.

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/12/lone-captive-tamaraw-in-mindoro-dies/>



First PH tamaraw born in captivity dies

October 11, 2020 | Filed under: News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY ELLALYN DE VERA-RUIZ

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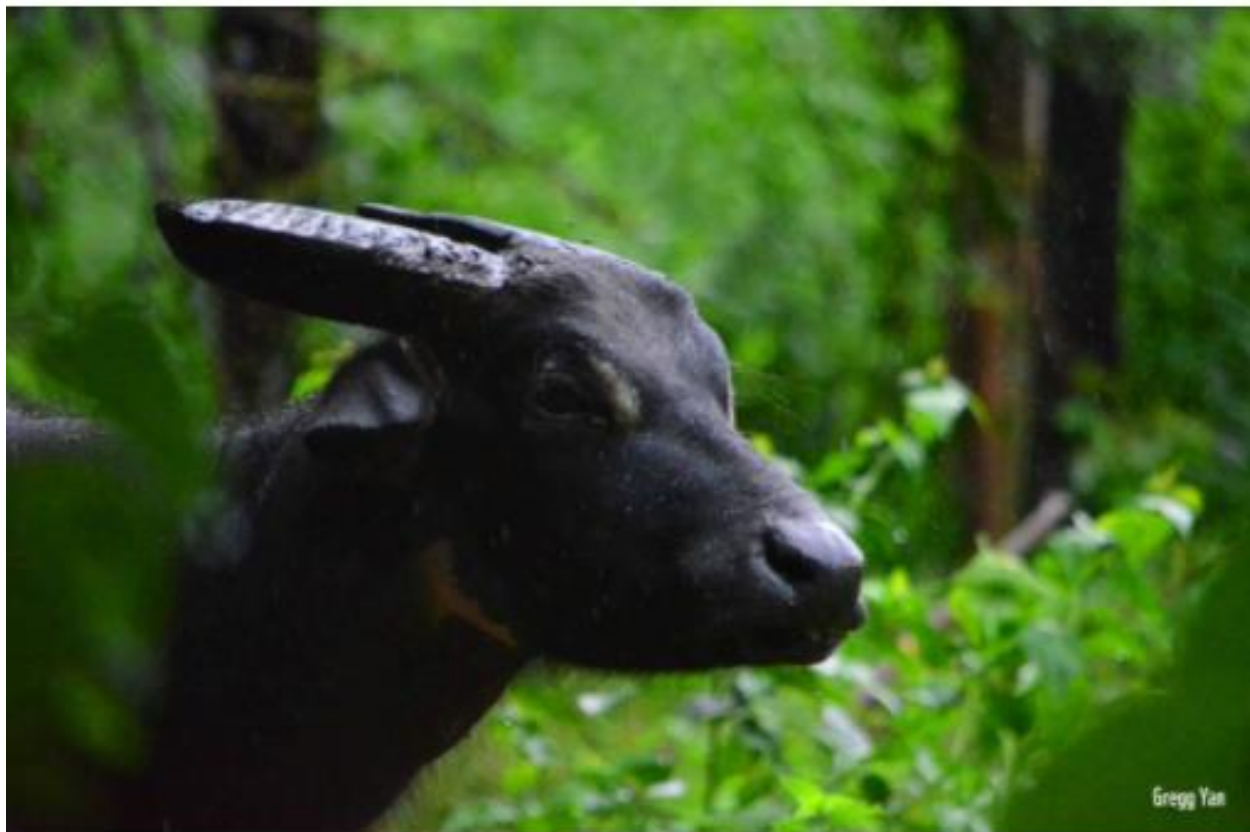
12h · 🌐



LOOK: Sad news as we all celebrate Tamaraw Month.

Kalibasib, the only captive-bred tamaraw that made this far, died Saturday. Kalibasib made it possible for many to see upclose a tamaraw, critically endangered & threatened by poaching.

Photo by: Gregg Yan/ @BIOFIN_PH | via [INQUIRER.net](https://www.inquirer.net)



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Na-rescue ng Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) ng Goa, Camarines Sur ang tatlong endangered na ibon sa Brgy. Patitinan, Saghay, Camarines Sur. Dalawang Rufuous Hornbills (*Buceros hydrocorax*) at isang Oriental Honey Buzzard (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) ang nakuha ng mga otoridad.

Nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa RA 9147 o Wildlife Resources Conservation & Protection Act ang mga nahulian ng mga ibon.

DENR Bicol



808

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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2225715067585235&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



Customs seize misdeclared parcel, finds live python inside

Published October 11, 2020, 5:43 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The authorities of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) recently intercepted a live reticulated python from an outbound parcel in the warehouse of German courier DHL.

According to the BOC, the package was misdeclared as “wood curtains, lanterns, and rattan basket” shipped by a certain “Janrei Fernandez” from Sampaloc, Manila, supposedly bound for New York, in the US. But during the physical examination conducted by a customs examiner, the snake was found inside a rattan basket.

The seized python was immediately turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for proper handling and care.

The BOC reminded the public that the importation, exportation, and trade of wildlife animals without the necessary permits are penalized under Republic Act 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) in relation to Republic Act 10863 (Customs Modernization and Tariff Act). Violators may face imprisonment of one year and one day to two years and a fine of P2,000 to P200,000.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service commended the BOC for the interception of the species and expressed appreciation for its efforts to counter attempts of wildlife smuggling.

“In the US, the python is listed as Injurious on the Lacey Act and importation is strictly regulated. Another current issue is the potential risk of spreading zoonotic diseases which we are all suffering due to Covid-19,” Alfred Colby, Senior Special Agent and Regional Attaché for Southeast Asia, said in a letter addressed to the BOC.

Previous apprehensions of the BOC-NAIA involving smuggling of wildlife animals and species were also commended by the DENR and international bodies, including Traffic South East Asia, a leading international NGO working exclusively on wildlife trade.



Photo: Bureau of Customs

Customs NAIA finds live python hidden in basket

Published October 11, 2020 11:38pm

A live reticulated python was intercepted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Complex, the Bureau of Customs reported Sunday.

According to the bureau, the snake was hidden in a rattan basket in a courier service's warehouse in the NAIA Complex and misdeclared as "wood curtains, lanterns, rattan basket."

It was shipped by a Janrei Fernandez of Sampaloc, Manila and was supposed to be bound for New York.

The Customs Examiner found the python during a physical examination and turned it over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



The BOC also said that the US Fish and Wildlife Service commended the bureau for seizing the animal. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/759408/customs-naia-finds-live-python-hidden-in-basket/story/>



Mining firms give P9.3M for tree project

By Leander C. Domingo, TMT

October 12, 2020

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Melbourne- and London-based mining firms here have mutually agreed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 to develop areas in support of the National Greening Program (NGP), allocating funds in the amount of P9.3 million.

According to DENR Region 2 Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, the agreement pertains to a tree replacement program that included site assessment, seedling production, plantation establishment and three-year maintenance and protection activities.

The agreement takes effect in 2021.

Of the total funding, FCF Minerals Corp., which operates the Runruno Gold-Molybdenum Project in Quezon town, will allocate P6.4 million while OceanaGold (Philippines) Inc., which operates the Didipio Gold and Copper Project in Kasibu town, will set aside P2.9 million.

OceanaGold's operation has stopped over its expired Financial Technical Assistance Agreement or FTAA.

A memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed between DENR-Region 2 and the mining companies, committing to transfer the full amount covering the cost of project implementation or transfer the funds on an annual budget requirement basis as per the approved work and financial plan.

In the signing of the MoA for the tree replacement program, Bambalan represented the DENR, Leopoldo Castro Jr. Represented FCF Minerals and Jayson Magdaong represented OceanaGold.

Witnesses to the signing were DENR Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Officer Edgar Martin, DENR Quirino Provincial Officer Mariam Frances Malana and NGP Regional Coordinator Edmund Malupeng.

Bambalan explained that the tree replacement program forms part of the mining companies' compliance with the terms and conditions of the tree cutting permit issued by the DENR.

DENR regulations require the permittee to replace each tree cut affected by the mining operations with 100 seedlings of indigenous species.

Earlier, she recommended an area development scheme in support of the NGP rather than just producing, buying and donating seedlings for better impact.

"We engage a people's organization or a community to develop and maintain the plantation not only to promote partnership but also to create employment opportunities, especially this time of the pandemic," Bambalan said, adding that it will be the local communities that will eventually manage the plantation.

In the replacement program, FCF Minerals will be funding a total of 192 hectares of plantations while OceanaGold will also fund 90 hectares; all within the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino. Bambalan said the sites that include NGP graduated areas with low survival rates and other suitable areas will be planted with timber and fruit trees.

"The DENR is tasked to conduct survey, mapping and planning, and engage beneficiaries within the project sites for the actual implementation of program activities following the family approach in NGP," she added.

The agency will provide technical assistance to the identified partners in seedling production, plantation establishment and protection and maintenance of the planted areas, Bambalan said.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/10/12/news/regions/mining-firms-give-p9-3m-for-tree-project/779308/>



Mining revival

[Philequity Corner](#) - [Wilson Sy](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 12, 2020 - 12:00am

“The government is pushing for the revival of the mining industry,” Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez announced last week. The government plans to privatize several of its mining assets, including mining claims of Basay Mining Corp., Hercules Mining, Marinduque Mining, and Nonoc Mining. The aim is to increase public tax revenues, attract private investments, and provide alternative employment among the locals in the rural areas, Sec. Dominguez added. With tourism receipts falling and income from POGO declining, the country needs other revenues sources.

One of the world’s most mineralized countries

The Philippines is the fifth most mineralized country globally, third for gold, fourth for copper, fifth for nickel, and sixth for chromite. Copper is often found with gold in the Philippines as a by-product. According to the latest report by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the Philippines has total gold reserves of 4.89 million kilograms of gold, 1.14 billion metric tons (MT) of copper, 2.05 billion MT of nickel, and 44.86 MT of chromite as of 2018. In 2019, exports of nickel, gold, and copper alone brought about \$2.6 billion in revenues.

There are about 190,000 mining jobs in the country as of 2019. There are four indirect jobs created in the upstream and downstream industries for every position in the industry.

Recovery in industrial metal prices

The government’s plan to revive the mining industry is very timely. We have written about gold in previous articles, and we showed how strongly gold performed this year (see [Pandemic sparks gold rush](#), June 29 and [Gold at historic highs](#), Aug. 10). The Philippines is not only benefitting from the rise of gold, but also from the recovery of other metals.

As a group, industrial metals have climbed steadily since May as China’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has gathered momentum. Copper is back in a bull market, with prices gaining eight percent for the year and 54 percent since the COVID-19 lows recorded in March.

Nickel has increased five percent year-to-date and 33 percent since the lows recorded in March. Other industrial metals like Aluminum and zinc have also recovered.

When the global economy recovers from the pandemic upon the discovery of an effective vaccine or cure, industrial metal prices may rise further.

A Biden win will boost industrial metals

According to a Bloomberg report last Friday, Biden’s odds of winning the US election jumped to 82.6 percent. A Biden win will be a boost to prices of industrial metals. His \$1.7 trillion clean energy plan and \$1.3 trillion infrastructure improvement program would boost demand for copper used in construction wiring, plumbing, and electricity transmission. Used in EV and renewable energy projects, other industrial metals like nickel, cobalt, lithium, and manganese would also benefit.



Competitive advantage

The Philippine mining industry has a definite competitive advantage compared to other mining nations. The world's top copper smelters are in China, Japan, Korea, and India, which are basically in our neighborhood. To ship copper ore from Chile to China takes 32 days. It takes seven days if it comes from Australia, but only two days from the Philippines. Hence, the Philippines has the advantage not only in terms of production, but also on transport. If we do this right, we could be a mining powerhouse again, just like in the 1970s.

Responsible mining

Philippine mining stocks welcomed the government's plan to revive mining. PSE's mining index increased by 12 percent last week. We hope that the country will successfully revive a responsible mining industry that will create jobs and generate revenues for the government, and at the same time, safeguard the environment. Responsible mining and environmental protection can go hand in hand.

Philequity Management is the fund manager of the leading mutual funds in the Philippines. Visit www.philequity.net to learn more about Philequity's managed funds or to view previous articles. For inquiries or to send feedback, please call (02) 8250-8700 or email ask@philequity.net.



Double entry sa P1.2B greening project ng ELCAC, pinarerebyu ni Binay sa DENR



October 11, 2020 @ 8:53 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hiniling ni Senador Nancy Binay sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na rebyuhin ang P1.2 bilyong greening program ng End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) baka mayn double entry sa recipient na barangay ng naturang proyekto.

Sa pahayag, sinabi ni Binay na dapat matiyak ng DENR na walang double-entry ng pagpopondo dahil may magkakasalungat na accounts ang DENR at National Security Council (NSC)/National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC) sa P1.2 bilyong pondo na inilaan sa greening program ng barangay na wala nang conflict.

Ayon kay Binay, dapat maresolbahan kaagad ang isyu bago simulan ang budget plenary hearing dahil sangkot dito ang napakalaking pondo na maaaring gamitin sa ibang ahensiya na nanghihingi ng pangastos.

“Kasi kung may double-entry pala, that’s 1.2 billion funding that we can allocate maybe to DOH or another agency in need, ‘di ba? So siguro magandang tingnan kung talagang hindi nago-overlap ang listahan ng barangays,” ayon kay Binay.

Sa ginanap na budget deliberation ng DENR, nakatakdang magbigay ng NTF-ELCAC ng tig- P1.5 million sa 822 barangays na nalinis sa conflict para sa kanilang greening projects.

Ipinaliwanag ni Binay na ibinulgar ng National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) na may P1.2 bilyon na pondo na bahagi ng badyet na P16 bilyon ng NTF-ELCAC.

“So more or less, close to 1.2 billion, well, technically, parang additional 1.2 billion for the greening program. May coordination po ba with DENR and iyong implementing, or kayo po ba ang magiging implementing agency, or tuturuan n’yo ba ang mga barangay na gagawa nitong greening program? And paano po natin maa-avoid ang overlapping of funding?” ayon kay Binay.

Pero, sinabi naman ng DENR na isinama na ang P5 bilyong alokasyon ng National Greening Program ang mga barangay sa ilalim ng ELCAC greening project.



“Actually the target for the ELCAC barangays are already included within our budget. Hindi po siya over and above the national greening project. So for 2020, we have about 276 barangays who are involved, who are within the ELCAC areas. So mayroon po tayong target about 27,751 hectares doon sa iba’t ibang barangay,” ayon kay Director Lourdes Wagan of the Forest Management Bureau.

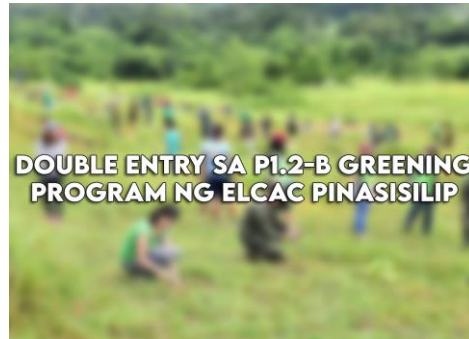
Pero, sinalungat ni Binay ang katuwiran ng NTF-ELCAC.

“Kasi noong pinipresent sa amin iyong ELCAC budget, it is considered over and above doon sa greening program. Kasi ‘di ba parang each barangay will get 20 million, and part of the 20 million is a 1.5 million greening project,” ayon kay Binay. **Ernie Reyes**



DOUBLE ENTRY SA P1.2-B GREENING PROGRAM NG ELCAC PINASISILIP

19 hours ago [jp admin](#)



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Source: http://saksingayon.com/nasyunal/double-entry-sa-p1-2-b-greening-program-ng-elcac-pinasisilip/?utm_source=ReviveOldPost&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=ReviveOldPost&fbclid=IwAR1rfrptxmSaWwc2UK0aDF08WHadSvLYU0SF7h2GR53o3VNkBH8xGn4-Jrs



Marikina gets seeds, aid from Villar

posted October 11, 2020 at 11:00 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Senator Cynthia A. Villar donated 50 sacks of fertilizer and 24 packs of seeds to Technical Education and Skills Development Authority-Marikina City to help establish farms and vegetable gardens in support of the city government's goal to achieve food sustainability amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The assistance, provided through the Villar Social Institute for Poverty Alleviation and Governance, were turned over to the National TVET Trainers Academy of TESDA -Marikina City.

Perla Lucas, NTTA-TESDA Administrator, earlier sought the assistance of Villar, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food, whose advocacy is to transform vacant lots and pocket spaces into urban farms by planting assorted vegetables.

Villar said the organic fertilizers came from kitchen wastes collected from households in Las Pinas City. The kitchen wastes were then turned over to composting and vermi-composting centers where they are converted into organic fertilizers.

The collection of kitchen wastes in the city is in line with the senator's ongoing initiative to manage the city's waste and at the same time, provide livelihood to residents.

"Our composting and recycling projects have transformed 70% of Las Pinas City's household wastes into reusable resources and enabled us to save on garbage hauling services. This is very timely given the challenges on garbage collection with the ongoing restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic," Villar said, who also chairs the Senate Committee on Environment.

Villar said that workers in composting and recycling centers live nearby and operate on spacious areas where social distancing can be easily observed.

In a month, the composting centers established by the senator produce 70 tons of fertilizers which are being given to farmers from nearby provinces.

"In Metro Manila, there are also urban gardeners and vegetable farmers who benefit from this free farm input," Villar said. The senator vowed to continue to work with national and local governments, as well as communities to advance urban gardening so Filipino families are able to meet their daily nutrition needs especially during the COVID-19 health crisis.



Caloocan dad doles out 50 plastic bins

posted October 11, 2020 at 06:40 pm

by [Jun David](#)

Caloocan City Councilor Orvince Howard A. Hernandez has distributed 50 plastic trash bins to 30 barangays and 20 health centers for centralized use to promote and maintain cleanliness in the communities and prevent the spread of diseases that are normally caused by filthy surroundings.

Hernandez, concurrent president of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of Caloocan City, announced that 150 more trash bins will be given to other barangays.

“Our total is 200 trash bins for hazardous wastes. We still have 150 that are set for distribution. This is just a start as there are pledges already from the private sector that they will donate more plastic trash bins as they recognize the importance of what we are doing here in Caloocan City,” Hernandez said, adding that all 200 pieces were donated by Sentinel Upcycling Corporation.

He urged households and businesses in the city to gather, segregate, and donate their plastic garbage to manufacturers engaged in recycling in exchange for plastic trash bin donations.

Hernandez noted that city folks have been encouraged to dispose of their wastes in the trash bins when they see the garbage containers in their barangays.

“The initial success of our effort is noticeable. And because the people responded positively to our call to dispose of their garbage in the centralized plastic trash bins that we placed in their vicinity, we are inspired to put up more of these in our barangays,” he said.

“This is also a project of our good mayor, Mayor Oca Malapitan, and Rep. Along Malapitan, who believe that the cleanliness of our neighborhoods should be an ongoing concern for our citizens,” said the solon.

Hernandez said one way of acquiring more plastic trash bins is by donating plastic wastes to manufacturers that recycle waste materials as a major component of their operation.

“We have talked to factories that recycle plastics, and they are willing to help, like Sentinel Upcycling Corporation. We are just helping each other. Instead of putting our plastics directly to the trash bin, let’s collect, segregate, and donate them in exchange for the plastic trash bins,” he stressed.

“The beauty of this strategy is that it won’t cost our city government a penny, it won’t cost our people a single centavo. And I am very thankful to our partners in the private sector for their generosity,” the councilor said.

“This is part of our call to have a centralized trash area in our barangays, especially for used face shields, face masks and other hazardous wastes,” Hernandez added.



Paghihiwalay ng basurang nabubulok at 'di nabubulok, mahigpit na ipinatutupad sa Maynila



October 11, 2020 @ 10:10 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinaalalahanan ng lokal na pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila na mahigpit nang ipatutupad ang “waste segregation scheme” o paghihiwalay ng mga nabubulok sa hindi nabubulok na basura upang maging maayos ang sistema ng koleksiyon ng mga truck na humahakot sa mga ito.

Ang naturang paalala ay batay sa umiiral na City Ordinance No. 7876 “An ordinance requiring all residents of, and business establishments within the City of Manila to provide their homes and establishments with containers with which to segregate biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage for composting and recycling purposes.”

Sa nasabing ordinansa, ang sinuman lalabag ay mahaharap sa kaukulang parusa. Sa unang paglabag ay pagmumultahin ng hindi tataas sa P1,000; sa pangalawang paglabag ay pagmumultahin ng hindi tataas sa P2,000; at sa pangatlong paglabag ay pagmumultahin ng hindi tataas sa P5,000 at pagsuspende ng business permit ng isang establisyemento na hindi tatagal ng isang taon.

Batay sa abiso ng Department of Public and Services (DPS) sa pamumuno ni Dir. Kenneth Amurao, kokolektahin ng mga truck ng basura ang mga “non-biodegradable” o mga hindi nabubulok na basura tuwing araw ng Martes, Huwebes at Sabado habang ang mga “biodegradable” o nabubulok na basura ay kokolektahin tuwing araw ng Lunes, Miyerkules, Biyernes at Linggo.

Hiniling naman ni Dir. Amurao sa mga residente ng Maynila na hintayin ang oras ng dating ng truck bago ilabas ang mga basura upang hindi ito kumalat sa kalsada.

Kaugnay nito, pinayuhan naman ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso ang mga barangay officials na dapat ay sa kanila magmula ang pagtuturo at pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga residente ng kanilang nasasakupan sa tamang pagsasaayos ng kani-kanilang mga basura.

Samantala, bukod sa pagpapatupad ng waste segregation scheme ay mahigpit din na ipinagbabawal ang pagtatapon ng anumang basura sa mga daan at katubigan sa Lungsod ng Maynila.

Bilang bahagi ng Anti-Littering Campaign ng DPS, ipinapaalala ng departamento sa lahat ng Manilenyo na maging responsable sa pagtatapon ng basura. **JAY Reyes**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/paghihiwalay-ng-basurang-nabubulok-at-di-nabubulok-mahigpit-na-ipinatutupad-sa-maynila/>



COMMENTARY

Forests, pandemics, and money

By: [Rodel D. Lasco](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:10 AM October 11, 2020

The warning signs are everywhere. In the pursuit of “development,” humans have radically modified the natural world. Among the worst affected are the planet’s forest ecosystems. The world has lost about 40 percent of its forests since the dawn of the industrial age. In the Philippines, we have lost half of our forest cover in the last century.

How is this connected to the current pandemic? Scientists have warned that, as humans encroach into hitherto undisturbed forests, close human proximity to disease-carrying wild animals leads to a higher risk of infection. Indeed, an increasing body of evidence shows a direct relationship between shrinking forests and the rise of epidemics.

In a recently published paper in the journal *Nature*, Gibb and coauthors (2020) analyzed almost 7,000 ecological communities worldwide and 376 host species of human diseases to find out if there is a link between ecosystem destruction and epidemics. Their findings showed that wildlife hosts of human pathogens and parasites are much greater in human-disturbed ecosystems, in some cases two times higher, compared to nearby pristine habitats. This trend is especially true for rodents, bats, and perching birds. As we know by now, COVID-19 likely came from bats originally through an intermediary animal. These findings suggest the need to temper the rampant conversion of natural systems to other land uses. Failure to do so will increasingly expose people to new forms of diseases.

But is it financially viable to protect and conserve the world’s remaining forests, especially tropical forests, which are significant sources of novel human diseases? In their paper in the journal *Science*, Dobson and coauthors (2020) estimated that reducing deforestation by half globally and stopping and monitoring wildlife trade will require about \$31 billion. That may appear large, but they also calculated that the benefits of reducing deforestation to climate change mitigation alone are worth as much as \$27 billion.

More significantly, these numbers are dwarfed by the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic, which the authors conservatively estimated to be as high as \$16 trillion. The present value of the prevention costs for 10 years is just 2 percent of the total cost of the pandemic.

For the Philippines, this human-nature interconnection provides additional incentives to pursue a relentless program to protect and conserve our remaining forests. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ national greening program is a step in the right direction, and it provides a platform for addressing deeply ingrained systemic issues. For example, there is a need to widen stakeholders’ participation in restoring and managing forest lands. At the individual level, the wise use of forest products like wood, paper, and yes, even ornamental plants, will translate to lesser pressure on forests.

The pandemic reminds us that taking care of our forests is literally a matter of life and death.

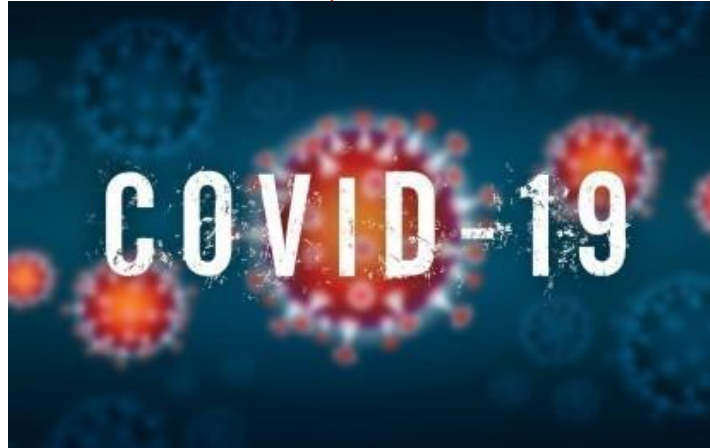
Dr. Rodel D. Lasco is a member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), Philippines. He is the executive director of The OML Center, a foundation devoted to discovering climate change adaptation solutions (<http://www.omlopezcenter.org/>).

Source: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/134350/forests-pandemics-and-money>



PH Covid-19 recoveries up by 17K to 293,075

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor [October 11, 2020, 5:24 pm](#)



MANILA – A total of 17,057 new recovered cases reported on Sunday pushed the overall tally of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) recoveries nationwide to 293,075.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) also reported 2,502 new confirmed cases, bringing the total number of active cases to 39,945.

Of the active cases, about 83 percent are mild, 11.2 percent are asymptomatic, 1.8 percent are severe, and 3.9 percent are in critical condition.

The majority of the newly announced cases are from the National Capital Region (NCR) with 782, the provinces of Rizal with 141, Laguna with 128, Cavite with 125, and Bulacan with 119 infections.

The DOH also reported some 83 deaths, which brings the death toll to 6,321.

Of the 83 deaths, 24 or 29 percent occurred in October, 21 or 23 percent in September, 23 or 28 percent in August, nine or 11 percent in July, two or 2 percent in June, one or 1 percent in May, two or 2 percent in April, and one or 1 percent in March.

"Some 87 duplicates were removed from the total case count and 35 of these were recovered cases. Moreover, 41 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," the DOH said.

As of Saturday, the 110 licensed reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) laboratories and 35 licensed GeneXpert laboratories have conducted a total of 3,876,311 tests nationwide.

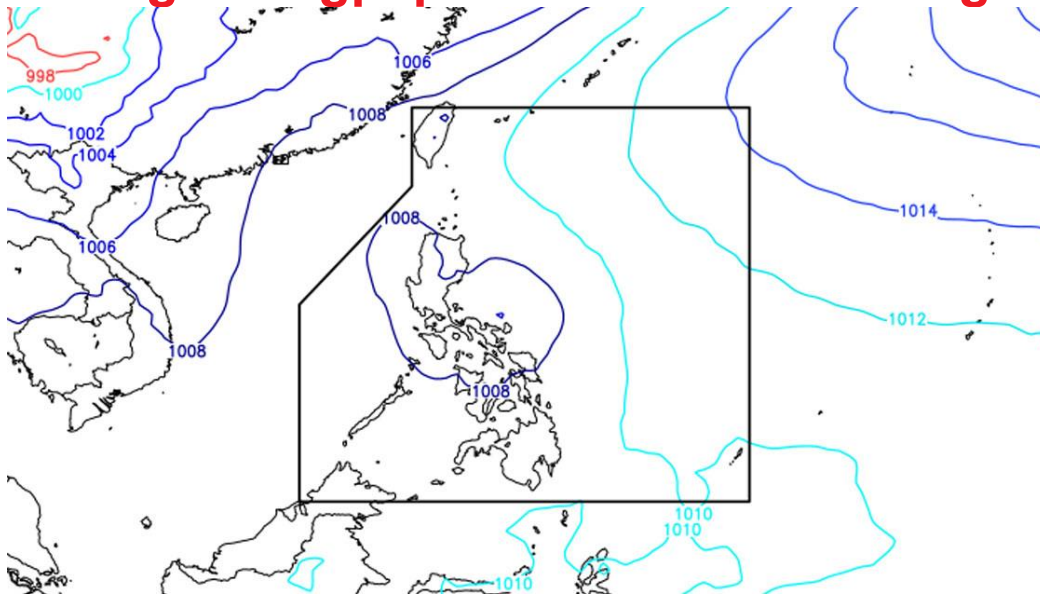
DOH said it has 20,500 total bed capacity dedicated to Covid-19 patients.

Occupied are about 46 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds; 45 percent of 13,100 isolation beds; and 44 percent of 5,500 ward beds.

About 25 percent of 2,100 ventilators are in use. (PNA)



2 LPA, Habagat magpapaulan sa halos buong bansa



October 11, 2020 @ 8:33 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Magpapaulan sa halos buong bansa ang dalawang low pressure areas (LPA) at habagat sa halos buong bansa ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Namataan ang mga LPA sa paligid ng Conner, Apayao habang ang isa ay sa tinatayang 840 kilometro ng Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur.

Makararanas ng makulimlim na kalangitan na may kalat-kalat na pag-ulan at thunderstorms sa Metro Manila, nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon, Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga, at BARMM.

Sa Mindanao naman magiging bahagya hanggang sa maulap na may panaka-nakang pag-ulan dala ng habagat.

Posible ang pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa sa mga nabanggit na lugar sa tuwing lalakas ang buhos ng ulan.

Magiging maalon ang karagatan ng Extreme Northern Luzon na may taas na 4.5 metro.

Habang ang Visayas at nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon ay magiging maalon din na aabot sa 2.8 metro.

Samantala, mahina hanggang sa katamtaman ang lakas ng alon sa Mindanao. **RNT/ELM**



2 LPA at Habagat, magpapaulan sa bansa

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | October 11, 2020



Dalawang low pressure areas (LPA) at Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) ang magpapaulan sa malaking bahagi ng bansa ngayong Linggo, ayon sa forecast ng PAGASA.

Makararanas ang Metro Manila, natitirang bahagi ng Luzon, Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Caraga at BARMM ng maulap na papawirin, kalat-kalat na pag-ulan at pagkulong at pagkidlat na may posibilidad ng pagbaha o landslides sa mga lugar na katamtaman hanggang sa malakas na buhos ng ulan.

Samantala, ang natitirang bahagi ng Mindanao ay bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na papawirin na may manaka-nakang pag-ulan dahil sa habagat at localized thunderstorms. Pinapayuhan ang mga residente sa mga pagbaha o landslides sa matinding thunderstorms.

Namataan ang isang LPA sa bahagi ng Conner, Apayao, habang ang isa pang LPA ay tinatayang nasa layong 840km silangan ng Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, dakong alas-3 ng madaling-araw kanina.

Makakaapekto ang habagat sa Central at Southern Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.

Gayundin, minomonitor ng PAGASA ang Severe Tropical Storm Chan-Hom na matatagpuan sa labas ng Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). Matatagpuan ang sentro ng Chan-Hom 2,185 km hilagang-silangan ng Extreme Northern Luzon.

Magiging mapanganib sa katubigang baybayin ng Extreme Northern Luzon na aabot ang taas ng pag-alon sa 4.5 metro.

Para sa karagatan ng Visayas at ibang bahagi ng Luzon, katamtaman hanggang sa mataas na pag-alon na aabot sa 2.8 metro.

Gayunman, ang coastal waters ng Mindanao ay magiging bahagya hanggang sa katamtaman lamang.



Pagasa warns: La Mesa Dam may overflow with continuous rain

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabriellLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:58 PM October 11, 2020



La Mesa Dam. (File photo by JOAN BONDOC / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

MANILA, Philippines — Continuous rain may cause the La Mesa Dam to overflow, as the current water level is now at 79.81 meters — less than a meter shy of the 80.15-meter spilling level.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said in an advisory on Sunday afternoon that if the dam will overflow, low-lying areas along the Tullahan River may experience flooding.

The following areas were identified by Pagasa:

Quezon City
Fairview
Forrest Hills Subdivision
Quirino Highway
Sta. Quiteria
San Bartolome
Valenzuela
Barangay Ligon
North Expressway
La Huerta Subdivision
Malabon

“All the residents living in the aforementioned areas, especially those near the river banks, are advised to be alert for possible floodings,” Pagasa said.

“The Pagasa shall continue to monitor the hydrological condition of La Mesa Dam and provide an update to the concerned agencies and local government units (LGUs),” it added.

Earlier, Pagasa said that a low-pressure area (LPA) 190 kilometers west southwest of Sinait in Ilocos Sur continues to intensify the southwest monsoon or “Habagat,” bringing rains over a huge part of Luzon including Metro Manila.

A heavy rainfall warning was also issued, with Metro Manila, Bulacan, and Bataan under a yellow rainfall warning, which means that rainfall of between 7.5 millimeters to 15 millimeters will persist for an hour.

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1346390/pagasa-warns-la-mesa-dam-may-overflow-with-continuous-rain>



Ipo Dam hits spilling levels, emergency water discharges done

Published October 11, 2020, 6:11 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The water in Ipo Dam has reached spilling levels, prompting authorities to conduct emergency water discharges at around 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has issued a hydrological dam situationer for Ipo Dam, which noted that the water level of Ipo Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan has reached 101.47 meters at around 3:45 p.m.

The dam's spilling level is at 101 meters.

Due to continuous heavy rains, "Ipo Dam Management will conduct [a] spilling operation at 5 p.m. today (Oct. 11) with initial approximate discharge of 70 cubic meters per second," PAGASA said.

"Residents living along low-lying areas and near the riverbank of Angat River from Norzagaray, Angat, San Rafael, Bustos, Baliuag, Pulilan, Plaridel, and Hagonoy are advised to take precautionary measures and be alert for possible increase in the water level," it added.

PAGASA and the Ipo Dam Management said they will continue to monitor the hydrological condition of Ipo Dam in the next few hours.



Celebrities lead TED global call to act on climate crisis

Agence France-Presse / 06:35 AM October 11, 2020



(COMBO) This combination of file pictures created on October 10, 2020 shows (L-R, top to bottom) UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in Madrid, on December 2, 2019; European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels on March 13, 2020; Pope Francis in Bari, Italy, on February 23, 2020; Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas in Mumbai on February 22, 2020; Britain's Prince William in London on May 3, 2019; actress and activist Jane Fonda in Washington, DC, on December 17, 2019; actor Don Cheadle in Los Angeles on September 16, 2018; actor Chris Hemsworth in New York City on June 11, 2019; and actor Mark Ruffalo in Brussels on February 5, 2020. – The Pope and Prince William will join activists, artists, celebrities and politicians on October 10, 2020, 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. (Photos by AFP)

SAN FRANCISCO, United States – With a call to save the planet, Prince William and Pope Francis on Saturday joined activists, artists, celebrities and politicians in a free streamed TED event aimed at mobilizing and unifying people to confront the climate crisis.

“The shared goals of our generation are clear,” William said in a video message kicking off the event, dubbed Countdown.

“Together we must protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world and fix our climate.”

For more than five hours the second-in-line to the British throne and other speakers delved in the reality of the climate crisis, the need for action, and what can be done.

Solutions posed included ways of farming that welcome wildlife as well as crops; transportation systems powered by electricity; cities designed for people instead of cars; economies that thrive by keeping the planet healthy instead of destroying it, and voting for political leaders keen to end the climate crisis.



“We are living during a historic moment marked by difficult challenges, as we all know,” Pope Francis said while urging people of all faiths to unite to protect Mother Earth.

“The world is shaken by the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which highlights yet an even bigger challenge – the socio-environmental crisis.”

The Pope joined other speakers in saying the climate crisis is real and backed by science, and needs to be urgently confronted in ways that are socially just.

“The Earth must be worked and nursed, cultivated and protected,” the Pope said.
“We cannot continue to squeeze it like an orange.”

Countdown also focused on ways in which damage to the environment also fuels social and racial injustice.

“Black people breathe the most toxic air relative to the general population, and it is people of color who are most likely to suffer in the climate crisis,” said British Parliament member David Lammy.

“It gives all new meaning to the Black Lives Matter slogan ‘I can’t breathe.’”

Lammy called for climate and social justice leaders to join forces, and for a new international “ecocide” law to criminalize “the most severe actions against nature itself.”

Capitalism ‘monstrous’

Firms that make fortunes from fossil fuels or other greenhouse gas-emitting operations cause damage they don’t pay for, while funneling money to politicians who help preserve the status quo, said another speaker, US economist Rebecca Henderson, who called on businesses to step up.

“We let capitalism turn into something monstrous,” she said, adding: “It’s going to be tough to keep free enterprise alive if most people believe the rich and the white are trashing the planet for their own benefit.”

Other speakers presented ways people can help stop slow down climate change.

The mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, for example, explained a project there to plant a million trees to protect against flooding and to absorb carbon dioxide.

Climate knows no politics

Countdown came as some world leaders have seized on the issue of climate change for political gain.

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

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



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

An array of Countdown speakers urged people to use their voting power to elect decision-makers who prioritize stopping the climate crisis.

“I want to cast my vote in favor of the planet,” filmmaker Ava DuVernay said.

“If you are eligible to vote, anywhere in the world, elect people who care and urge others to do the same. Vote for the planet.”

‘Clarion call’

Countdown organizers 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.

TED head Chris Anderson called Countdown “a clarion call” to tackle the daunting challenges of climate change.

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

A recording of the live event is available at countdown.ted.com.

gsg



Celebrities lead TED global call to act on climate crisis

posted October 11, 2020 at 08:10 pm

by [AFP](#)

With a call to save the planet, Prince William and Pope Francis on Saturday joined activists, artists, celebrities, and politicians in a free streamed TED event aimed at mobilizing and unifying people to confront the climate crisis.



This handout photo courtesy of TED shows Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, speaking at Countdown Global Launch 2020 on Oct. 10.

“The shared goals of our generation are clear,” William said in a video message kicking off the event, dubbed Countdown.

“Together we must protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world, and fix our climate.”

For more than five hours the second-in-line to the British throne and other speakers delved in the reality of the climate crisis, the need for action, and what can be done.

Solutions posed included ways of farming that welcome wildlife as well as crops; transportation systems powered by electricity; cities designed for people instead of cars; economies that thrive by keeping the planet healthy instead of destroying it and voting for political leaders keen to end the climate crisis.

“We are living during a historic moment marked by difficult challenges, as we all know,” Pope Francis said while urging people of all faiths to unite to protect Mother Earth.

“The world is shaken by the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlights yet an even bigger challenge - the socio-environmental crisis.”

The Pope joined other speakers in saying the climate crisis is real and backed by science, and needs to be urgently confronted in ways that are socially just.

“The Earth must be worked and nursed, cultivated, and protected. We cannot continue to squeeze it like an orange,” the Pope said.

Countdown also focused on ways in which damage to the environment also fuels social and racial injustice.



Earth squeezed like an orange: Pope, prince, celebs call for climate action

Published October 11, 2020 10:30am

Celebrities from filmmaker Ava DuVernay to Britain's Prince William to the Pope himself issued powerful calls Saturday calling for people to mobilize and unify to confront the climate crisis.

Here are some quotes from the free, streamed TED event:

"The Earth must be worked and nursed, cultivated and protected. We cannot continue to squeeze it like an orange."

-- Pope Francis

"I want to cast my vote in favor of the planet."

-- Filmmaker Ava DuVernay

"Young people no longer believe that change is too difficult. They believe that the climate crisis and the threat to our biodiversity deserve our full attention and ambition."

-- Prince William

"We let capitalism morph into something monstrous. The truth is business is screwed if we don't fix climate change."

-- US economist Rebecca Henderson

"The fossil fuel industry knows how to stop global warming, but they are waiting for someone else to pay and nobody is calling them out on it."

-- Oxford professor and climate science scholar Myles Allen

"What happens in the next 10 years will likely determine the state of the planet we hand over for future generations. Our children have every right to be alarmed."

-- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research director Johan Rockstrom

"We must make sure each country has a plan to zero emissions. Billions of people around the world are already suffering from our failure to act."

-- UN secretary general Antonio Guterres



"We can and need to be a part of this movement: eat local food, ride your bike more, understand what you are spending your money on, vote for people who share our vision. Let's change the world.

-- Music star Prince Royce

"Black people breathe in the most toxic air relative to the general population, and it is people of color who are more likely to suffer in the climate crisis. It gives all new meaning to the Black Lives Matter slogan 'I can't breathe.'"

-- British Parliament member David Lammy

"We can do nothing and hope the problem goes away; we can despair and fall into paralysis, or we can become stubborn optimists and rise to the challenge."

-- Christiana Figueres, former executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

"California uses more electricity playing video games than the entire country of Senegal uses overall. There is a mind-blowing gap between the energy haves and the energy have-nots."

-- Kenyan energy researcher Rose Mutiso

"What about committing to never buying a car or two-wheeler again with an internal combustion engine?"

-- Climate activist Xiye Bastida

"Tree restoration is not a silver bullet, there is no silver bullet. It is part the solution."

-- Ecology professor Thomas Crowther

"The good news is it is now clearly cheaper to save the planet than to ruin it. The bad news is we are running out of time."

-- Prominent Silicon Valley investor John Doerr

—Agence France-Presse

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/759345/earth-squeezed-like-an-orange-pope-prince-celebs-call-for-climate-action/story/>



Pull investments from companies not committed to environment, pope says

October 11, 2020 | 11:40 am



The pope listed three action points: better education about the environment, sustainable agriculture and access to clean water, and a transition away from fossil fuels. Image via Mazur / catholicnews.org.uk / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Saturday urged people to pull investments from companies that are not committed to protecting the environment, adding his voice to calls for the economic model that emerges from the coronavirus pandemic to be a sustainable one.

Pope Francis spoke in a video message for an online event called “Countdown Global Launch, A Call to Action on Climate Change.”

“Science tells us, every day with more precision, that we need to act urgently ... if we are to have any hope of avoiding radical and catastrophic climate change,” he said.

The pope listed three action points: better education about the environment, sustainable agriculture and access to clean water, and a transition away from fossil fuels.

“One way to encourage this change is to lead companies towards the urgent need to commit to the integral care of our common home, excluding from investments companies that do not meet (these) parameters ... and rewarding those that (do),” he said.

He said the pandemic had made the need to address the climate crisis and related social problems even more pressing.

“The current economic system is unsustainable. We are faced with a moral imperative ... to rethink many things,” he said, listing means of production, consumerism, waste, indifference to the poor, and harmful energy sources.

In June, a Vatican document urged Catholics to disinvest from the armaments and fossil fuel industries and to monitor companies in sectors such as mining for possible damage to the environment.

Other speakers and activists at the online event included actress Jane Fonda, Britain’s Prince William, former US Vice-President Al Gore, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. — **Philip Pullella/Reuters**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/pull-investments-from-companies-not-committed-to-environment-pope-says/?fbclid=IwAR3UGp0kUrHlGRbXfsCSW6_R7dtmJOHzzwVhVQ3hosQZwZBeO0e5NLGYOCA



Mga kumpanyang walang malasakit sa kalikasan, kinondena ni Pope Francis

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | October 11, 2020



Hinimok ni Pope Francis ang lahat na bawiin ang ipinuhunan sa mga kumpanya na walang pagpapahalaga na protektahan ang kapaligiran. Ayon sa kanya, dapat ding gumawa ng paraan upang mapanatili ang matatag na ekonomiya habang patuloy na lumalaban sa pandemya ng Coronavirus. Ito ang naging video message ng Pope para sa online event na "Countdown Global Launch, A Call to Action on Climate Change."

"Science tells us, every day with more precision, that we need to act urgently... if we are to have any hope of avoiding radical and catastrophic climate change," sabi ni Pope Francis. Sa mensahe rin ng Pope, may tatlong punto siyang binanggit. Una, maayos at tamang edukasyon tungkol sa kapaligiran, pagpapanatili ng agrikultura at pagkakaroon ng malinis na tubig at paglilipat nang malayo sa mga fossil fuels.

"One way to encourage this change is to lead companies towards the urgent need to commit to the integral care of our common home, excluding from investments companies that do not meet (these) parameters... and rewarding those that (do)," sabi niya. Ayon sa Pope, ang pandemya ang nagtulak na pagtuunan ng pansin ang climate crisis at iba pang social problems na nararanasan ng lahat ng bansa.

"The current economic system is unsustainable. We are faced with a moral imperative... To rethink many things," ani Pope Francis, kung saan nasa listahan din niya ang patungkol sa produksiyon, consumerism, basura, kawalan ng malasakit sa mahihirap at ang pinsalang dulot ng energy sources.

Samantala, noong June, iminungkahi sa mga Catholics sa isang dokumento ng Vatican na kuhanin at i-withdraw na lamang ang naging puhunan nila sa mga industriya ng armaments at fossil fuels. Gayundin, i-monitor ang mga kumpanya sa sektor ng pagmimina sa posibleng pagkasira ng kapaligiran.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/mga-kumpanyang-walang-malasakit-sa-kalikasan-kinondena-ni-pope-francis>



Prince William, in global TED event, urges climate solution by 2030

posted October 11, 2020 at 09:00 am

by [AFP](#)

Prince William issued an urgent plea Saturday for a global effort to resolve the climate crisis by the end of this decade so that "we won't have to sacrifice everything we enjoy."



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 in California and feature 50 speakers, the pontiff and the second-in-line to the British throne among them. AFP

The prince was speaking as part of a free streamed TED event aimed at unifying people to face the threats of climate change. Speakers range from Pope Francis to actor Chris Hemsworth and former US vice president Al Gore.

The remarks from William, the duke of Cambridge, came in a prerecorded 18-minute video, part of which was released early on YouTube.

"The shared goals of our generation are clear -- together we must protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world and fix our climate," he said.

The 38-year-old prince recently helped launch the Earthshot prize, providing a cash award for people, companies, organizations, governments, cities or even countries that propose workable solutions to climate change.

The prince joined forces with Sir David Attenborough, the respected broadcaster and natural historian, in launching what they hoped would become a "Nobel Prize for environmentalism."

Laying out the global challenge in his TED remarks, the prince said, "We must strive to do all of this in a decade."

"If we achieve these goals, by 2030 our lives won't be worse and we won't have to sacrifice everything we enjoy. Instead, the way we live will be healthier, cleaner, smarter and better for all."

Other participants include UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Mexican activist Xiye Bastida and actors Priyanka Chopra, Jane Fonda, Don Cheadle and Mark Ruffalo.

Saturday's program, dubbed Countdown, featured the blend of arts, ideas and innovation seen as the hallmarks of TED events.

Hundreds of TEDx mini-events were also taking place around the world in an effort to encourage local action for the environment.

The six-hour main program began in California at 8:00 am (1500 GMT) on YouTube's TED channel. In a TED first, it was being aired free of charge.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/336464>



Earthshot – for world's environmental problems

Published October 12, 2020, 2:33 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



Prince William of Britain, grandson and second-in-line to the throne after his father Prince Charles, launched Friday the Earthshot Project that will award five one-million-pound (\$1.29-million) prizes a year for the next ten years for protecting and restoring nature, clean air, reviving oceans, waste reduction, and climate change.

The prizes will seek to stimulate worldwide efforts to solve the world's worsening environmental problems. "By 2030, we really hope to have made huge strides in fixing some of the biggest problems the earth faces," Prince William said. Nominations open on November 1 for the first awards which will be given out in autumn next year.

In three of the categories – protection and restoring nature, clean air, and waste reduction – individual nations would benefit from their own moves. Two would benefit the entire world:

- Projects for reviving oceans would benefit the many island nations around the world, including the Philippines, which are increasingly suffering from wastes of many nations pouring into the oceans, killing fish and other animal life, and turning so many areas into floating garbage dumps.

- Projects for climate change would benefit the entire planet. The most dangerous of industrial emissions, carbon dioxide, is causing the world's temperature to rise, causing the polar icebergs to melt, raising ocean levels, and inundating low-lying islands.

The Global Carbon Project, established in 2001 to quantify global greenhouse emissions, said that between 1750 and 2018, the United States, released 397 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide, followed by China with 214 billion, Russia with 180 billion Germany with 90 billion, United Kingdom with 77 billion, Japan with 58 billion. The industries may have been responsible for their development in these centuries but they also spewed huge amounts of carbon dioxide that raised temperatures that affected the entire planet.

Last month, in his speech before the United Nations General Assembly, President Xi Jinping of China, now the planet's biggest carbon emitter, made what was described as a "jaw-dropping" announcement – that China will start cutting its carbon emissions and end its net contribution to climate change before 2060. That may be a long way in the future – 40 years – but it is the first concrete goal set by any country.

United States President Donald Trump has rejected the Paris agreement on climate change while criticizing China for being the world's largest source of carbon emissions today. It is hoped that China's recent announcement of its goal of zero contribution to climate change will move the US and other nations to take action, like China, on their respective pollution.

The Earthshot Prize launched last Friday should stimulate governments and private industries around the world to take steps to solve the world's great environmental problems and to start doing it now.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/12/earthshot-for-worlds-environmental-problems/>



Three dead as forest fires burn in Syria, Lebanon

posted October 11, 2020 at 10:00 am

by [AFP](#)

Forest fires in Syria and neighbouring Lebanon have killed three people and burned swathes of land since Thursday, state media and officials said.



A handout picture released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) on October 10, 2020 shows smoke above a forest that caught fire in a mountainous region in Syria's Latakia province which overlooks the Mediterranean sea the previous day.
SANA/AFP

Syrian state television on Saturday morning broadcast scenes from the affected areas, where firefighters were working to extinguish the blazes.

It said hundreds of hectares had burned in the countryside of Syria's coastal Latakia and Tartus provinces, and in the central Homs province.

The health ministry said three people had died in Latakia province since Friday as a result of the fires, and that 70 people were taken to hospital suffering breathing difficulties.

Dozens of fires were burning, including "45 in Latakia and 33 in Tartus", Syria's Agriculture Minister Mohammed Hassan Qatana told a radio station late Friday.

The Latakia fire brigade said they were "facing the largest series of fires seen in Latakia province in years". Official news agency SANA said fire burned homes in Baniyas, in Tartus province.

In neighbouring Lebanon, there have been more than 100 fires across the country since Thursday, according to George Abu Musa, head of operations for the country's civil defence.

"The situation is crazy, there are fires everywhere," Abu Musa told AFP.

"We have mobilised 80 percent of our personnel and almost all our centres in Lebanon," he said.

He said most of the blazes had been extinguished but some were still burning in the mountainous Chouf region in the south, and in Akkar in the north.

Military helicopters were assisting firefighters in "hard-to-reach" areas, he added.

Abu Musa was unable to identify the cause of the blazes, but said wind and high temperatures were helping them spread.

On Friday, authorities reported several fires across northern and central Israel and the occupied West Bank as temperatures soared, forcing thousands to evacuate.

Dozens of fires hit Lebanon in mid-October last year, amid unusually high temperatures and strong winds.

The government faced heavy criticism and accusations of ill-preparedness over its response to the 2019 blazes.

Days after Lebanon's 2019 fires, mass protests broke out, triggered by proposed tax hikes but quickly transforming into months-long demonstrations against the ruling class, deemed by protesters as inept and corrupt.

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/336466>



Forest fires burn in Syria, Lebanon

Published 47 mins ago on October 12, 2020 06:10 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



FIRE devours a forest in Syria's Latakia province in this handout photo released by the official Syrian Arab News Agency. Three people have been killed so far. SANA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DAMASCUS, Syria (AFP) — Forest fires in Syria and neighbouring Lebanon have killed three people and burned swathes of land since Thursday, state media and officials said.

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Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/12/forest-fires-burn-in-syria-lebanon/>