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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR nagbigay ng P500K lumber sa #OdettePH hit areas



February 12, 2022 @ 10:01 AM 21 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nagbigay ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Tacloban City ng nasa P500,000 halaga ng lumber sa ilang munisipalidad sa Southern Leyte na sinalanta ng bagyong Odette.

Binubuo naman ang donasyon ng mga lumber na nakumpiska sa undocumented forest products sa Samar Island.

“The donation is in support to the efforts of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the region to rehabilitate or reconstruct the houses and other structures damaged during the onslaught of Typhoon Odette,” ani Forester Glenn Garciano, officer-in-charge sa Enforcement Division of DENR-8.

Tinanggap naman ito ng Brgy. Son-ok II, Pintuyan (159 pcs.); Brgy.Candayuman, Liloan (159 pcs.); at Limasawa (216 pcs).

Kasama rin sa napagkalooban ng DENR ang 801st Brigade na may 111 piraso ng lumber.

Bukod dito, sinabi rin ni DENR-8 Regional Executive Director, Tirso Parian, Jr. na nagbigay sila ng relief goods, used clothing, cash assistance sa lahat ng DENR employees na apektado sa probinsya.

“We are glad that fruit of our intensified forest protection and law enforcement efforts in the region will help typhoon victims in Southern Leyte rebuild their houses and structures which were damaged by Typhoon Odette last December,” ani Parian. **RNT/FGDC**



Responsible mining in PH real, not myth

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) February 12, 2022

WITH numerous controversies surrounding the mining industry for decades, local companies in the Philippines proved that responsible mining here is not a myth, but real and is happening.

At the "Elevating the Mission of Responsible Mining" two-day online forum organized by the Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau (MGB), executives of several mining firms in the country discussed some of their practices that adhere to the national and international standards of responsible mining.

The government has been strictly enforcing measures on the mining industry to ensure it will adopt environmentally sustainable and responsible extractive practices.

The Philippines is one of the countries in the world rich in mineral resources, which can reap tremendous benefits for the economy and its people if responsible and sustainable practices are strictly adhered to by the mining industry.

During the online forum, Jose Bayani Baylon, vice president for Corporate Communications of Nickel Asia Corp., shared how responsible mining companies operate to guarantee the sustainability of the industry as a potential economic growth driver.

"An organization that abides by the rules, regulations, customs and traditions, practices and processes, and fulfill its obligations to its stakeholders, partners, clients, suppliers... is what make a responsible organization. Many say there are incidents and accidents... that makes you irresponsible, but that's not the point. The gauge of responsibility is not that there are incidents, but what a company does in response to those incidents," Baylon said.

Every year, the Mining Industry Coordinating Council conducts a multi-stakeholder review on the performance of existing mining operations as mandated by Executive Order 79 in 2012. The purpose of the audit is to address issues relating to the mining industry and to improve the regulation of the sector.

Responsible mining in the Philippines is real, Baylon stressed. "The question whether or not responsible mining is real... is an insult to the MGB. These people have sworn to do one thing, which is to foster responsible mining in the country... It is an insult to these people in the MGB to claim that there is no responsible mining."

He even recalled the first visit of former Environment Secretary Gina Lopez in Rio Tuba mine in Palawan in 2017. "Her first few words she uttered were 'pwede pala' (it can be done), an acknowledgment that responsible mining is possible, is happening, thanks of course to the efforts of the companies and of the MGB."

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/02/12/business/top-business/responsible-mining-in-ph-real-not-myth/1832643>



Legislation needed to push for ore processing plants

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star February 13, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has called for appropriate legislation to compel mining companies to put up ore processing plants which could boost the value of the mining industry.

In a virtual forum, MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said the agency has had discussions on value-adding for the mining industry through the establishment of ore processing plants.

“Since the time that I assumed office as director, we have been talking about how the country would proceed from direct ore shipments to [the] establishment of a processing plant,” Moncano said.

“We have realized that it will need legislation to force investors or mining companies to put up processing plants. A department administrative order would not be enough, it would require legislation,” he said.

Moncano cited the need for the gradual reduction in the shipment of direct shipping ore, and instead pursued the processing of ore to be able to generate more value for the local mining industry.

He said at present, 90 percent of the country’s shipping ore is exported without processing.

Moncano shared that there is a pending bill, which pushes for the MGB’s proposal for a gradual reduction in direct shipping ore.

In July last year, Rep. Shirlyn Bañas-Nogralles filed House Bill 9775, or the proposed Promotion of Mineral Processing and Value-Adding Act, which aims to gradually restrict the direct shipping of nickel laterite ores, magnetite sands or iron concentrates and other raw metallic ores.

The bill not only seeks to increase the mining industry’s contribution to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) but also employment.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that the mining sector had a 0.49 percent contribution to the country’s GDP in the three quarters of 2021 at P65.7 billion.

This is lower than the 0.65 percent GDP contribution in the same period in the previous year at P89.4 billion.

Apart from the enactment of a law, Moncano cited the need for investments in the establishment of processing plants.

He said that since it is expensive to put up these processing plants, the capacity of local investors to fund it is also another challenge.



PAWIKANG MAY HOOK SA BIBIG, NASAGIP. Sumalang sa basic surgery ang isang olive ridley sea turtle para matanggal ang nylon string at fishing hook na nalunok nito.

Ang pawikan ay nasagip noong Enero 29 matapos ma-trap sa lambat sa Barangay Silway, General Santos City.

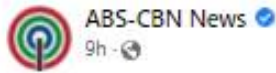
Ayon sa Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, nahihirapang makakain ang pawikan dahil sa kondisyon. Matapos ang operasyon ay pinakawalan din ito. (📷: DENR Soccsksargen) | via Hernel Tocmo

BASA HIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/PAWIKAN>



👍👎❤️ 248

2 Comments 9 Shares



Higit 100 olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings ang pinakawalan sa dalampasigan sa Barangay Navitas, Panay, Capiz Lunes.

Mula sa 126 itlog ay 106 ang napisa at matagumpay na ibinalik sa dagat ng mga miyembro ng Capiz Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Ito ang ikalawang beses na may pinakawalang mga baby pawikan sa lugar. (📷: CaPENRO) | via Rolan Escaniel

BASAHIN ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/PAWIKAN>



192

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DZRH News 18h · 🌐

Mas mahirap na laban sa plastic pollution dahil sa pandemya ano ang gagawin ng gobyerno

Three hundred million tons of plastic waste This much plastic

SPECIAL ON SATURDAY
FACTS & FIGURES
REPORTING: NICOLE LOPEZ

MAS MAHIRAP NA LABAN SA PLASTIC POLLUTION
DAHIL SA PANDEMYA: ANO ANG GAGAWIN NG GOBYERNO?

0:02 / 4:22

👍👎 206

19 Comments 18 Shares



Let the tallest grass grow

The iconic 'Bahay Kubo' is more than just shelter and being the subject of a children's song: Experts now report how bamboo, with its capacity for carbon sequestration, can help fight climate change.

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA FEBRUARY 13, 2022

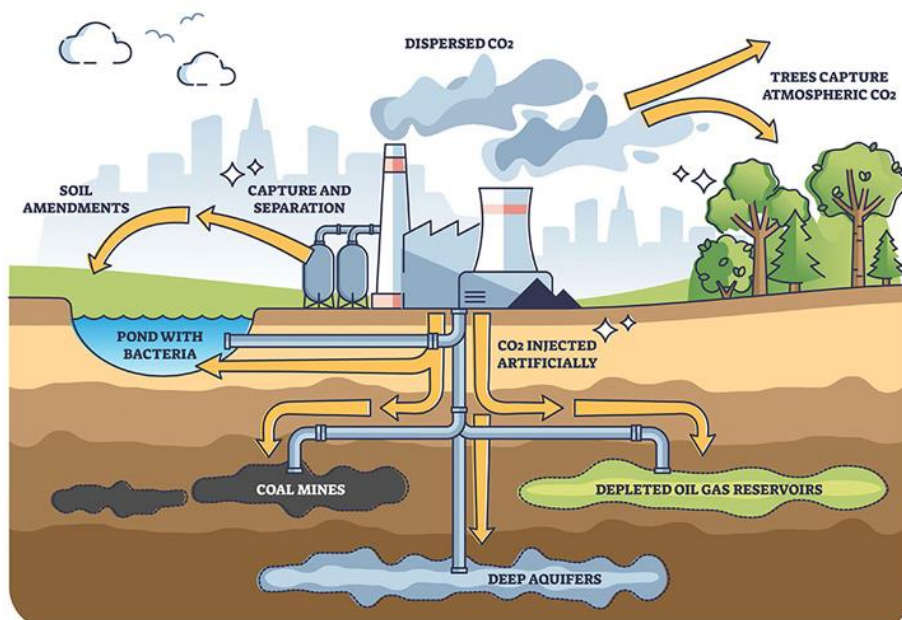


Bamboo house of a Mandaya tribe in Davao Oriental.

BASE Bahay Foundation, a not-for-profit organization promoting the use of bamboo as construction material for socialized housing projects, believes the Philippines can help fight climate change by planting bamboo and making use of this flexible construction material.

The Philippines, through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), is in fact promoting the cultivation of bamboo in rural areas and has utilized several species of this resilient, easy-to-grow member of the grass species, in the implementation of the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).

CARBON SEQUESTRATION





Bamboo is being planted on the banks of major rivers undergoing massive rehabilitation by the DENR, including the “mighty” Cagayan River, the country’s largest river. So far, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu reported in his agency’s 2021 year-end report that the agency-led Task Force Build Back Better that he cochairs with former Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar has 585 hectares of bamboo plantations along the Cagayan River.

Together with other indigenous construction materials that can be adequately found in their surroundings, indigenous cultural communities in the Philippines have been known to make use of bamboo in building their traditional houses.

The bahay kubo or nipa hut, for one, is 50 percent to 80 percent made of bamboo materials.

Why bamboo?

BAMBOO, a giant grass species, has proven itself to be one of the best tools in mitigating climate change, noted Pablo Jorillo, general manager of Base Bahay Foundation, in his message at the International Conference on Project Management last year.

During the conference which focused on the theme “Project Management Towards Resiliency and Recovery,” Jorillo discussed the Management of Carbon Sequestration and Emission Reduction Along the Bamboo Value Chain, as Base Bahay’s research and work advocates for the use of bamboo to build more affordable housing communities across the Philippines.

In an earlier interview, Jorillo said bamboo, with the application of the right processing technology, could last up to 25 years, reinforcing walls of socialized housing projects.

Using bamboo can also cut the cost of construction materials by up to 30 percent to 35 percent, adding that the more bamboo materials are used, the greater the savings.

He said bamboo can also be used in interior design and decoration, and some countries have even perfected its use and application in building construction.



“Bamboo is able to take carbon out of the atmosphere faster than almost any other plant.”—Pablo Jorillo, general manager of Base Bahay Foundation

Carbon sequestration capacity

BAMBOO, Jorillo said, has a huge capacity to sequester carbon instead of being released into the atmosphere.

“With the amount of carbon dioxide increasing in our atmosphere because of human activities—mainly the burning of fossil fuels—and therefore amplifying the warming effect of trapped greenhouse gases, carbon sequestration has become one of the most effective ways to reduce the levels of carbon in our atmosphere,” he said.

Jorillo explained that carbon sequestration is recognized by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol as one of the most practical ways to combat climate change—and bamboo is a natural and renewable resource that is able to rapidly sequester carbon in biomass and soil.



“Bamboo is able to take carbon out of the atmosphere faster than almost any other plant,” Jorillo said.

Bamboo in housing

“THE housing sector and construction industry at large can therefore play a great role in reducing our carbon emissions if they are able to use bamboo as a mainstream building material,” Jorillo said.

Bamboo naturally sequesters carbon in the atmosphere through photosynthesis, and naturally stores it in its culms. When it is harvested, treated, and eventually used as building material, Jorillo says the sequestered carbon still stays in the bamboo biomass.

This presents bamboo as a truly sustainable construction material, as opposed to steel, cement and glass, the manufacturing of which represents 11 percent of carbon-dioxide emissions in 2018, according to the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2019.

The same report states that the buildings and construction sector accounted for 36 percent of final energy use, and 39 percent of energy- and process-related carbon-dioxide emissions in 2018.

Creating carbon pool

USING bamboo, on the other hand, has a completely opposite effect. A carbon pool is created when you use harvested wood like bamboo. Bamboo products such as houses, furniture, boards, or engineered bamboo are durable and can store carbon for a long time, hence becoming a carbon pool or carbon reservoir.

Carbon storage in harvested biomass is more significant in bamboo than in trees because of the former’s fast growth and renewability.

The more you use bamboo, the more you store carbon, says Jorillo.

As a non-profit that advocates for and implements the use of Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology in affordable housing, Base Bahay Foundation is leading the charge in research and innovation surrounding the use of bamboo for the affordable housing sector, and, eventually, the construction industry at large.

Initiated by the Hilti Foundation in 2014 to provide alternative and affordable housing solutions to people in the Asia Pacific that are exposed to natural disasters such as typhoons and earthquakes, Base Bahay’s Cement-Bamboo Frame Technology is certified by the Accreditation of Innovative Technologies for Housing (AITECH) by the National Housing Authority.

Mainstreaming

ULTIMATELY, what Base Bahay aims to achieve is to incorporate the mainstream use of bamboo in the National Building Code, so as to standardize its use across all kinds of structures.

“Our vision is to be the global reference for bamboo and sustainable construction, in order to help countries find alternative construction methods,” Jorillo said.



Binangonan plants more bamboo trees

Published February 12, 2022, 12:02 PM

by [Nel Andrade](#)

The municipal government of Binangonan joined the Rizal provincial government's pro-environment program by planting bamboo in various parts of the town.

The office of Mayor Cesar Ynares said more vacant spaces are now greener with the bamboo trees planted by various groups, both private and public.

Government agencies such as the Philippine Coast Guard, Marine Environmental Protection Group Rizal, Laguna Lake Development Authority, Philippine National Police, and municipal government employees including barangay leaders joined the recent bamboo tree-planting activities.

The municipal government acknowledged the support of volunteers in the private sector including the Barkadahan ng Kababaihan Sa Binangonan, and TRIPPERS Rider Group who planted bamboo trees in various locations in the town during the simultaneous event.

The planting activity, which is being done regularly in the town, is part of the contribution of the municipal government to the Oplan BUSILAK Program of Governor Rebecca Ynares and the National Greening Program and Manila Bay Clean-Up Rehabilitation and Preservation Program of the national government.

The Oplan BUSILAK (Revive Stream River Lake and Sea) Program is a clean and green effort of volunteers from the communities whose tasks are to clean waterways, plant trees, and do other pro-environment activities.



USAID, Nestlé PHL partner to support LGUs in solid waste and climate concerns

BY BUSINESSMIRROR FEBRUARY 13, 2022



(Right) Rene Acosta, Clean Cities, Blue Ocean Program Asia regional director, and Arlene Bantoto, Nestlé Philippines senior vice president and head of Public Affairs, Communications, and Sustainability, sign the memorandum of understanding to help improve local solid waste management in the country.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), through its Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program, and Nestlé Philippines Inc. marked the Philippines's Zero Waste Month in January through a partnership to help local government units (LGUs) and community leaders better understand the link between climate change and solid waste management.

Tetra Tech's Rene Acosta, CCBO Asia Regional Director, and Nestlé Philippines Senior Vice President Arlene Bantoto signed the memorandum of understanding during the recent event, a USAID news release said.

USAID and Nestlé Philippines committed to share practical tips about improving local solid waste management, increase communities' access to solid waste management education, and implement Nestlé Philippines's Climate Change and Solid Waste Management Education Program.

"Combatting ocean plastics pollution is a challenge that requires strong partnerships," said USAID Philippines Mission Director Ryan Washburn. "USAID is pleased to partner with Nestlé Philippines in supporting local governments to reduce waste-linked contributions to ocean plastics and the climate crisis," Washburn added.

The Philippines generates an estimated 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, of which 20 percent is estimated to end up in the ocean.

While the country has legislation on solid waste management, LGUs sometimes struggle to implement and enforce regulations.

By extending Nestlé Philippines' Climate Change and Solid Waste Management Education Program to USAID CCBO engagement sites in Metro Manila and Iloilo, USAID and Nestlé Philippines will support local government efforts to enhance their solid waste management systems and develop resilience to climate change.

"As a food and beverage manufacturer with a major presence in the country, we are called upon to be at the forefront in helping tackle the urgent issues of climate change and plastic waste," said Nestlé Philippines Chairman and CEO Kais Marzouki.

"As Nestlé Philippines sustains plastic neutrality, and other pioneering initiatives for the environment, it is important for us to help capacitate people at the grassroots level," Marzouki said. "We welcome this partnership with USAID Philippines and look forward to working with other partners as we accelerate our journey toward a waste-free future."



USAID launched CCBO in August 2019 as its flagship program to respond to the ocean plastics pollution crisis. The five-year (2019 to 2024), \$48-million (P2.5-billion) program works at the global level and in specific countries like the Philippines to address ocean plastics directly at their source.

By strengthening waste management systems and building circular economies city by city, the program builds sustainable solutions that reduce ocean plastics while empowering vulnerable populations and mitigating pollution that affects human health and the climate, the news release said.



Nature can't wait

[HIDDEN AGENDA](#) - [Mary Ann LL. Reyes](#) - The Philippine Star February 13, 2022 | 12:00am

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, environmental concerns seem to have taken a back seat.

This is understandable though. Many are concerned with issues facing us now – health both physical and mental, employment and income uncertainties, and the upcoming national and local elections. Environmental problems are mostly related with us being stewards for the next generations. And so for some, it is believed that the environment can wait.

But there are those who believe otherwise.

San Miguel Corp., for instance, announced that since 2019, its group-wide reforestation initiative, which is aimed at helping mitigate the impact of climate change and at empowering communities, has planted 3.8 million trees. This is in partnership with various local government units, local communities, indigenous people, employee volunteers, and other organizations.

The seedling survival rate has been high, SMC president Ramon Ang says, at 89 percent for upland trees and 91 percent for mangrove saplings.

Then there is SMC's massive river clean-up project.

Mr. Ang said that as of Jan. 19, they have already removed 646,624 tons of waste from Tullahan River since June 2020, and 172,700 tons from the Pasig River since July 2021.

By June, they expect to breach the one million ton mark for the Tullahan-Tenejeros River System. In the case of the Pasig River cleanup project, which is a P2-billion initiative fully funded by SMC, the goal is to extract three million tons of waste in five years.

Earlier, SMC's top executive noted that the ongoing Tullahan River rehabilitation efforts has already significantly reduced flooding in Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela during heavy rainfall.

The group is likewise preparing for major initiatives to clean up polluted rivers and tributaries in Bulacan. SMC said that next will be the rehabilitation and cleanup programs for the rivers of Bulacan, including the Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system.

SMC is also engaged in organizing weekly coastal cleanups in Calatagan and Balayan in Batangas, as well as at the Tanza Marine Tree Park area in Navotas City.

Last Jan. 5, the company said that in just five days, they were able to collect 1,340 bags of garbage in Batangas. SMC is teaming up with at least five barangays in Calatagan to put up a materials recovery facility that will manage waste efficiently and responsibly.

Meanwhile, the Tanza Marine Tree Park, a 26-hectare island that is home to the last remaining old-growth mangrove forest in the metropolis, but is polluted with marine trash washing up on its shores, has been benefitting from SMC's clean-up activities conducted together with volunteers, as well as the DENR and the Navotas LGU.

Mr. Ang pointed out that while these efforts alone will not make the waste problem go away, there is great value in them since it brings public awareness to the threat of pollution, and encourages more Filipinos to do their part.

The accumulation of election-related trash is indeed a problem. It has been reported that in 2016, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) collected 206.61 tons of campaign-



related materials for the entire election season in Metro Manila. The figures does not yet include other regions.

In the May 2019 polls, the MMDA collected 168.84 tons of election paraphernalia, including those placed outside Comelec-designated areas during the campaign period. A day after the elections, the MMDA collected 23.42 tons more of campaign materials that filled up seven dump trucks, according to news reports.

A massive volume of campaign materials that end up in garbage dumps is likewise expected in this year's elections, considering that over 18,000 national and local posts are to be contested by over 45,000 candidates.

Even during previous elections, government agencies led by the DENR have been calling on candidates to respect the provisions of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act by opting to either refrain from using wasteful campaign materials or volunteering to clean up their trash post-election.

Environmental groups such as the EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace and the Mother Earth Foundation have also called on the Comelec to make a vigorous push for the conduct of 'green' elections by issuing regulations on a 'zero-waste' policy in campaigning.

A Pulse Asia survey has shown that 63 percent of the population now have access to social media, which makes it possible to conduct a successful digital-based election campaign this year.

It would also be good to hear how others address problems like garbage collection and disposal, dumping of wastes in bodies of water, flooding, irresponsible mining practices, illegal logging, air pollution, flooding, land use, disaster preparedness, among others. We need concrete and workable solutions, not promises.

For comments, e-mail at mareyes@philstarmedia.com

Climate accountability now

Last year's COP26 summit in Glasgow failed to deliver results sufficient to address the climate crisis. 2022 must be the year of accountability. Countries that are major emitters must deliver on financing for vulnerable countries.



To overcome inertia, policymakers everywhere would do well to listen to those on the front lines of the climate crisis who are demonstrating real leadership and innovation. Image: Brook Mitchell / Getty Images

By [Mary Robinson](#)

It has been 30 years since world leaders gathered in Rio de Janeiro and agreed on a set of measures to start the global mobilisation against human-caused climate change and to meet the imperative of a more sustainable development model. The [Rio Declaration](#) affirmed that “human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”

Today, tens of millions of people who were not even born in 1992 are suffering the worst of the climate crisis. In a world already plagued by economic inequality and social injustice, Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated the policy failures of the past three decades. Political leaders have not lived up to their previous commitments.

To overcome inertia, policymakers everywhere would do well to listen to those on the front lines of the climate crisis who are demonstrating real leadership and innovation. Among them are [Yvonne Aki-Sawyer](#), the mayor of Freetown in Sierra Leone, and young activists like [Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti](#) from Kenya, and [Mitzi Jonelle Tan](#) from the Philippines, with whom I [discussed](#) future challenges at *Project Syndicate's* “[Generation Green](#)” event last month.

These intergenerational debates are critical for driving progress and upholding one of the Rio Declaration's central principles: “The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.”

One of Rio's strongest [legacies](#) is the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The UNFCCC has been the key multilateral body in the international community's effort to strengthen the political consensus on climate action through annual Conference of the Parties (COP) summits.

At COP26 in Glasgow last November, there was some [progress](#) toward strengthening the 2015 Paris climate agreement's nationally determined contributions to emissions reduction, closing the gap in financing for climate adaptation, and ending the use of [coal](#). But these advances were nowhere close to sufficient, given the existential threat posed by rising emissions and temperatures.



That is why 2022 must be the year of accountability, with all major emitters delivering on the promises of the so-called [Glasgow Climate Pact](#). That declaration maintained a lifeline for limiting global warming to 1.5 degree Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels, as agreed in the Paris accord. All countries at COP26 promised to step up their ambitions and revisit their emissions-reduction targets as soon as this year. In concrete terms, those who still have not set Paris-aligned 2030 targets should do so by [COP27](#) in Sharm El-Sheikh this November. While all countries must fast-track implementation of their new commitments, it is particularly important that wealthy G20 economies do so, because they are responsible for most global [emissions](#).

Climate finance remains another critical part of the puzzle. It has been over a decade since rich countries pledged, at [COP15](#) in Copenhagen, to provide \$100 billion annually to support developing countries in their mitigation and adaptation efforts. That target has [never been met](#). In the interests of global trust and goodwill, rich countries must follow through on this commitment this year.

COP27 will be held by an African country, on the shores of the Red Sea. Africa is the continent most [vulnerable](#) to climate change, despite African countries' negligible contribution to the problem. In the interest of justice and solidarity, I hope to see Africa speak with one voice to ensure that COP27 advances the region's concerns on adaptation, finance, and [loss and damage](#) (L&D) – the acknowledgement that countries are suffering climate effects beyond their ability to adapt.

COP26 left unfinished business on L&D, because the United States, backed by the European Union, [postponed](#) the creation of a new financial mechanism to rebuild communities in the aftermath of climate-related disasters. Country representatives nonetheless have committed to holding further discussions on the issue, which means that COP27 represents a major opportunity to achieve a breakthrough.

An effective L&D fund is increasingly important for climate-vulnerable states. At COP26, the Scottish government and the Belgian region of Wallonia took the first step by [pledging](#) \$2.7 million and \$1 million, respectively, for L&D (with matching funds from philanthropic organizations). But this money currently has nowhere to go.

Another encouraging development is the [deal](#) concluded by South Africa, the EU, the United Kingdom, the US, France, and Germany to support South Africa's "just transition" away from coal. This now needs to be built upon – and emulated elsewhere.

The spirit of multilateralism that animated the Rio summit and its outcome remains indispensable today, even though the geopolitical climate is fraught with tensions, mutual suspicion, and weak institutions. As my fellow Elder [Ban Ki-moon told](#) the "Generation Green" audience, "We all have a part to play in addressing the climate crisis – especially those with the power needed to bring about change."

To honor the legacy of the Rio summit, to meet the needs of those already living with the consequences of the climate crisis, and to limit the repercussions for future generations, we all must strive to go further and faster to protect our shared home. And 2022 must be the turning point.

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, is Chair of The Elders.

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Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/opinion/climate-accountability-now/>



Amazon deforestation: Record high destruction of trees in January

By Georgina Rannard BBC News

Published 1 day ago



REUTERS

Deforestation usually slows down in January because the rainy season prevents loggers accessing the forest

The number of trees cut down in the Brazilian Amazon in January far exceeded deforestation for the same month last year, according to government satellite data.

The area destroyed was five times larger than 2021, the highest January total since records began in 2015.

Environmentalists accuse Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro of allowing deforestation to accelerate.

Protecting the Amazon is essential if we are to tackle climate change.

Trees are felled for their wood as well as to clear spaces to plant crops to supply global food companies.

At the climate change summit COP26 in Glasgow last year, more than 100 governments promised to stop and reverse deforestation by 2030.

The latest satellite data from Brazil's space agency Inpe again calls into question the Brazilian government's commitment to protecting its huge rainforest, say environmentalists.

"The new data yet again exposes how the government's actions contradict its greenwashing campaigns," explains Cristiane Mazzetti of Greenpeace Brazil.

Greenpeace are calling on supermarkets in the UK and elsewhere to drop suppliers who are involved in deforestation from their meat and dairy supply chains suppliers.

Deforestation totalled 430 square kilometres (166 square miles) in January - an area more than seven times the size of Manhattan, New York.

Felling large numbers of trees at the start of the year is unusual because the rainy season usually stops loggers from accessing dense forest.

Brazil's vast rainforest absorbs huge amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, acting as what's known as a carbon sink. But the more trees cut down, the less the forest can soak up emissions.



But the area is also home to communities who say they need to use the forest for mining and commercial farming in order to make a living.

At the same time, indigenous communities living in the Amazon fight to protect the rainforest and their ways of life.

Mr Bolsonaro has weakened environmental protections for the region and argued that the government should exploit the area to reduce poverty.

There are a number of factors driving this level of deforestation.

Strong global demand for agricultural commodities such as beef and soya beans is fuelling some of these illegal clearances - Another is the expectation that a new law will soon be passed in Brazil to legitimise and forgive land grabbing.

The Brazilian government argues that in the period between August last year and January 2022, overall deforestation was lower compared to the same period twelve months ago.

Environmentalists say that they are not surprised by the record January felling, given that President Bolsonaro has significantly weakened legal protections since he took office in 2019.

At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow last year, Mr Bolsonaro was one of the world leaders who promised to halt and reverse deforestation by the end of this decade.

Political observers argue that despite this change in tone, the policies on the ground remain the same.



Ghostly monkey, succulent bamboo among new species in Mekong

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FEBRUARY 13, 2022



In this undated photo, a Popa langur moves along a forest floor.

BANGKOK—A monkey with ghostly white circles around its eyes is among 224 new species listed in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) latest update on the greater Mekong region.

The conservation group's report, released recently, highlights the need to protect the rich biodiversity and habitats in the region, which includes Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar.

The species listed were found in 2020 but last year's report was delayed. The monkey is called the Popa langur, for it lives on the steep hillsides of the extinct Mt. Popa volcano in Myanmar.

It was the only new mammal. There are also dozens of newly identified reptiles, frogs and newts, fish and 155 plant species, including the only known succulent bamboo species, found in Laos.

The Mekong region is a biodiversity hotspot and home to tigers, Asian elephants, saola—an extremely rare animal also called the Asian unicorn, or spindlehorn—and thousands of other species.

Including this latest list, scientists have identified more than 3,000 new species in the region since 1997, the WWF said.

Scientists used measurements and samples from museum collections to compare and identify key differences with features of the newly discovered animals and plants, the report said.

Studying such differences can help determine the range of species and threats to their survival, Thomas Ziegler, a curator at the University of Cologne's Institute of Zoology, said in introducing the report.

Identifying new species is tricky, though, and sometimes can only be determined using a variety of methods, such as frog calls and genetic data used to distinguish the Cardamom leaf little frog, found high up in the Cardamom mountains in a wildlife refuge.

Some species are found in more than one country, including the bright orange twin slug snake, which consumes slugs.

The Popa langur was identified based on genetic matching of recently gathered bones with specimens from Britain's Natural History Museum collected more than a century ago, the report said.

Two main distinguishing characteristics were the broad white rings around its eyes and its front-pointing whiskers.



The WWF, working with Fauna and Flora International, caught images of the monkeys using camera traps in 2018. FFI reported the discovery late last year.

The monkey is a candidate to be listed as a critically endangered species on the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the report said, since only 200 to 250 are thought to survive in the wild, in a handful of places.

Underscoring the urgency of such work, more than 38,000 of the 138,000 species the IUCN tracks are threatened with extinction.

A new type of begonia with reddish flowers and a berry-like fruit also was found in the uplands of Myanmar, where illegal mining and logging have become an increasingly dire threat in the country, which is in the midst of political turmoil following a military takeover a year ago.

Despite human encroachments on tropical forests and other wild zones, much of the Greater Mekong is still little explored and each year dozens of new species are found—a glimmer of hope as so many species go extinct.

Not all new species are found deep in jungles. One of the new plant species is a ginger plant called “stink bug» for its pungent odor similar to big beetles Thais use to make a kind of chili dipping paste served with rice, the report said.

It was found in northeastern Thailand, in a plant shop. AP



Australia lists koalas as endangered in two eastern states

By **Reuters** - February 12, 2022 - 2:26 PM



Wildlife officer Lindy Thomas poses with koalas and their joeys produced by artificial insemination at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, Gold Coast, October 30, 2006. (Reuters/Greg White/File Photo)

SYDNEY — Australia on Friday listed koalas along much of its east coast as endangered after the native marsupial's habitats were hit by prolonged drought, bushfires and developers cutting down trees.

Scientists and academics have been warning that the iconic Australian mammal could become extinct unless the government immediately intervened to protect them and their habitat.

"The new listing highlights the challenges the species is facing," Environment Minister Sussan Ley said in a statement. "Together we can ensure a healthy future for the koala and this decision ... will play a key role in that process."

Ley said koalas in the states of New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory will be listed as endangered versus their previous designation of vulnerable.

Australia has lost about 30% of its koalas over the past three years, the Australian Koala Foundation said last year, with numbers estimated to have dropped to less than 58,000 from more than 80,000 in 2018 with the worst decline in New South Wales, where the numbers have dropped by 41%.

A World Wide Fund for Nature study estimated bushfires in late 2019 and early 2020 had killed or injured more than 60,000 koalas, when flames burned more than 17 million hectares (65,630 square miles), an area nearly half the size of Germany.

But even before the fires, koala habitats had been in rapid decline due to land clearing for agriculture, urban development, mining and forestry. Koalas dwell mostly in eucalypt forests in eastern states and on the coastal fringes.

Environment groups welcomed the decision although they said it should have happened much earlier.

"We should never have allowed things to get to the point where we are at risk of losing a national icon," International Fund for Animal Welfare Manager Josey Sharrad said.

"If we can't protect an iconic species endemic to Australia, what chance do lesser known but no less important species have?" (\$1 = 1.3957 Australian dollars)

—Reporting by Renju Jose; Editing by Stephen Coates

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/trends-spotlights/2022/02/12/210559/australia-lists-koalas-as-endangered-in-two-eastern-states/>

13 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

PUBLICATIONS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

TITLE: _____

PAGE: _____

Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. Nos. (832) 529-6232; 529-62-82 Website: www.denr.gov.ph / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 2021-01

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN GRANTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES GRATUITOUS PERMITS FOR THE SPECIAL USES OF FOREST LANDS

In view of the various government agencies' exigent use of forest lands through special forest land uses modalities to cater public infrastructure projects or utility systems towards a more balanced economic, environmental and social development and pursuant to the provisions of Section 4 Item C, sub item c2 of Forestry Administrative Order No. 8-3 dated 01 July 1941 and Sections 19, 20, 49, 57 and 64 of Presidential Decree No. 705, as amended, the following guidelines are hereby issued as guidance in granting government agencies a gratuitous permit for the special uses of forest lands.

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to sustainably manage the country's forest resources and to protect and advance the rights of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 2. Objective. The objective of this guidelines is to ensure that government agencies' undertaking in the development of government-managed projects of national interest and infrastructures for public use within forest lands are appropriately granted with a permit which is gratuitous in concept and in conformity to government plans and standards.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. This order shall cover all Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP) applications for special land uses or projects that are non-profit and of national interest, as well as infrastructures for public service and use to be implemented and/or being managed by National government agencies and local government units.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall be used in, and understood to mean as follows:

- 4.1 Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) - the document issued by the Secretary, or the Director or Regional Director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), certifying that based on the representations of the proponent and as reviewed and validated by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Review Committee, the proposed project or undertaking will not cause a significant negative environmental impact...
4.2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - the document(s) of studies on the environmental impacts of a project including the discussions on direct and indirect consequences upon human welfare and ecological and environmental integrity...
4.3 Gratuitous Special Use Permit - a 5-year permit authorizing a head of a government agency and/or local chief executive to use certain portions of forest lands free of charge for the development of government-managed projects of national interest and infrastructures for public service and use, and non-commercial projects of GOCCs...
4.4 Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) - the document required of proponents describing the environmental impact of, and mitigation and enhancement measures for, projects or undertakings located in an Environmentally Critical Area...
4.5 Infrastructures for public service and use - shall refer to infrastructure projects intended for public use and use such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, health centers, flood control facilities, water reservoir or impounding dam and its related facilities, air strip, landing site, harbor, public market, public plazas, and evacuation site...
4.6 Projects of national interest - refers to identified priority projects that are to be implemented and/or being managed by the government.

SECTION 5. Qualification of Applicants. The following are qualified to apply for GSUP:

- 5.1 Head of government agency or its duly authorized representative; and
5.2 Local chief executive at the municipal, city or provincial level duly authorized by the local legislative bodies.

SECTION 6. Application requirements. The following requirements shall be submitted by the applicant together with the duly accomplished application form (Annex A):

- a. Letter of Intent
b. Certification as to the land classification of the area being applied for GSUP to be issued by DENR
c. GIS-generated map of the area
d. Appropriate certification from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
e. Indicative Management Plan (Annex B)
f. Proof of budget allocation for the development and management of the project
g. Agency resolution or authorization designating the authorized representative of the national government agencies and other relevant agencies to officiate apply with the DENR regarding gratuitous permit acquisition.
h. Local Government Unit (LGU) endorsement (in case the applicant is an NGA)
i. Resolution authorizing the local chief executive to apply for gratuitous special use permit (in case the applicant is an LGU)
j. In case of LGU, a proof that proposed project is indicated in the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) and within the ambit of the approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)
k. Appropriate clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (if the project is located in Palawan).

SECTION 7. Submission of application, processing, and approval of GSUP. For the purposes of this Order, the following procedures are hereby issued for the processing and approval of GSUP application. The process flows are attached as Annex C.1 and Annex C.2 herein.

- 7.1 Government agencies and LGUs must file the duly accomplished application form with the corresponding documentary requirements prescribed by the Department at the CENRO/Implementing PENRO and the proponent to pay the amount of P3,000.00 per application to cover administrative costs.
7.2 The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of the area being applied.
7.3 The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall prepare a GIS-generated map of the area based from the map submitted by the applicant, and subsequently, will serve as reference of the region in preparing the final map to be approved by the Regional Executive Director.
7.4 The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall prepare a Completed Staff Work (CSW) report indicating the findings and recommendations based on items 7.2 and 7.3 hereof for endorsement at the PENRO and subsequently to the Regional Office.
7.5 The Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division and Survey and Mapping Division of the Regional Office shall prepare the GSUP (Annex D.1) and its corresponding terms and conditions and the final map of the same, respectively.
7.6 The Regional Executive Director (RED) shall approve the corresponding map of the GSUP area.
7.7 The GSUP and its terms and conditions shall be approved by the RED. In case the project traverses two (2) or more regions, the GSUP (Annex D.2) and its terms and conditions shall be approved by the Undersecretary for Field Operations.

The proponents, who will implement such projects, shall jointly file the GSUP application, and submit the corresponding documentary requirements to the concerned Regional Office with jurisdiction over the majority of the area to be covered by the project. A joint-review of the application and its supporting documents shall be conducted to be chaired by the concerned REDs. The REDs shall endorse the same for the approval/disapproval of Undersecretary for Field Operations.

SECTION 8. Duration of the GSUP. The GSUP shall have a maximum non-renewable term of five (5) years for the (a) construction of roads and bridges and (b) construction and operation of schools, hospitals, health centers, flood control facilities, water reservoir or impounding dam and its related facilities, air strip, landing site, harbor, public market, public plazas and evacuation site.

SECTION 9. Application for Presidential Proclamation. All national government agencies and LGUs with approved GSUP for the construction and operation of infrastructure projects or facilities for public service and use specified in Section 4.5 herein, other than roads and bridges, shall apply for the issuance of Presidential Proclamation within one (1) year from the issuance of GSUP to ensure effective management and sustainability of the infrastructure and facilities and its long-term use of the area where the infrastructure or facilities exists. In case of failure to secure a Presidential Proclamation within the duration of the GSUP, the Permittee shall apply for FLAG pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-59 and other related policies on special uses of forest lands.

SECTION 10. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement. The permit holder, within three (3) months or the prescribed schedule of EIA upon issuance of the GSUP, shall secure an ECC from the EMB, copy of which shall be submitted to the DENR Regional Office.

SECTION 11. Terms and Conditions of the GSUP. The GSUP issued in consonance with this regulation (Annex E) shall be subject to the following provisions:

- 11.1 The area granted in this Permit is a public forest land based on existing records, and shall not be involved in any private transactions;
11.2 The annual government share or user's fee is waived in favor of the Permittee;
11.3 The Permittee shall: (a) comply with the laws, rules and regulations and instructions now or hereinafter enforced for the proper use of the land; (b) respect any legal prior claims; (c) conserve the corners and boundary lines of the area; (d) protect any wetlands such as spring, waterfalls, peatlands, swamps, lake, and marshes or natural/historical/archaeological sites in the area; (e) report to the nearest local forest officer(s) all forest violations in the area and adjacent lands; and (f) submit a year-end report, not later than March 30 of the succeeding year, to the concerned RED thru the CENRO/PENRO the kind, number and value of improvement(s) introduced in the area, among others;
11.4 The area granted in this Permit shall be for public service and use. As such, the Permittee shall: (a) not appropriate for himself/herself exclusive use of public trails traversing or adjoining the area or impede the use thereof by the public; (b) not sublease the area or any portion thereof; and (c) protect and conserve threatened wildlife identified under existing rules and regulations;
11.5 A separate permit shall be secured by the Permittee should tree cutting be necessary. However, no tree, regardless of species, shall be cut in the permitted area if found within forty (40) meters from banks of rivers, creeks or streams, buffer strips and shorelines. In case the said 40-meter strip is bereft of trees, the same shall be rehabilitated by the Permittee;
11.6 The Permittee shall strictly observe the terms and conditions of the ECC. In case the Permittee will conduct periodic rehabilitation of the infrastructures or introduce new appearances within the GSUP area, the same shall secure an appropriate clearance from the EMB for the purpose and submit the clearance to the concerned DENR Regional Office prior to such undertakings thereof;
11.7 The Permittee shall protect the permitted area from forest fires and other forms of forest destruction and eventualities;
11.8 Non-use of the area within six (6) months after it is granted will result in the cancellation of the Permit except in cases of force majeure or fortuitous events;
11.9 In case the area no longer serves the purpose as warranted under the said Permit, the Permit shall be cancelled and the subsequent management and administration of the affected area shall be assumed by the DENR; and
11.10 Violation or non-compliance of any of the terms and conditions of the Permit or any environment and natural resources management laws, policies, rules and regulations shall be sufficient grounds for the cancellation of the GSUP without prejudice to whatever legal action that may be taken.

SECTION 12. Transitory Provision. All national government agencies and LGUs with existing Special Land Use Permits (SLUPs) and FLAGs covering non-profit government-managed projects and infrastructure projects for public service and use as enumerated in Section 4.5 of this Order may opt to apply for GSUP, provided that, only the SLUPs and/or FLAGs deemed necessary to be transformed into GSUP may be considered. Provided further, that upon approval of GSUP application, the said SLUP or FLAG shall automatically be deemed cancelled. Similarly, the GSUP to be issued shall contain the terms and conditions stipulated in this Order.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provisions of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All Orders and similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).



ANNEX A. Application Form. Application for Gratuitous Special Use Permit. Includes fields for Applicant Name, Address, Location, and other details.

ANNEX B. Indicative Management Plan. Includes sections for Introduction, Objectives, Project Schedule, Technical Aspect, Management Aspects, and Financial Aspects.

ANNEX C. Processing and Approval of Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP). Flowchart showing steps from application to approval, involving DENR, CENRO, PENRO, and Regional Office.

ANNEX D. Processing and Approval of Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP). Flowchart showing steps from application to approval, involving DENR, CENRO, PENRO, and Regional Office.



ANNEX D.1. Sample GSUP for projects within one (1) region. Includes fields for Region, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and specific permit details.

ANNEX D.2. Sample GSUP for projects within two (2) or more regions. Includes fields for Region, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and specific permit details.

ANNEX E. Additional Terms and Conditions. Includes sections for the area granted, annual government share, permittee obligations, and non-use of the area.

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Republic of the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources... DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 2021-01

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN GRANTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES GRATUITOUS PERMITS FOR THE SPECIAL USES OF FOREST LANDS

In view of the various government agencies' exigent use of forest lands through special forest land uses modalities to cater public infrastructure projects or utility systems towards a more balanced economic, environmental and social development...

SECTION 1. Basic Policy. It is the policy of the State to sustainably manage the country's forest resources and to protect and advance the rights of the Filipino people to a balanced and healthful ecology...

SECTION 2. Objective. The objective of this guidelines is to ensure that government agencies partaking in the development of government-managed projects of national interest and infrastructure for public use within forest lands are appropriately granted with a permit which is gratuitous in concept and in conformity to government plans and standards.

SECTION 3. Scope and Coverage. This order shall cover all Gratuitous Special Use Permit (GSUP) applications for special land uses or projects that are non-profit and of national interest, as well as the infrastructures for public service and use to be implemented and/or being managed by National government agencies and local government units.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of this Order, the following terms shall be used in, and understood to mean as follows:

- 4.1. Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) - the document issued by the Secretary, or the Director or Regional Director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), certifying that based on the representations of the proponent and the preparers, as reviewed and validated by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Review Committee, the proposed project or undertaking will not cause a significant negative environmental impact...
4.2. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - the document(s) of studies on the environmental impacts of a project including the discussions on direct and indirect consequences upon human welfare and ecological and environmental integrity...
4.3. Gratuitous Special Use Permit - a 5-year permit authorizing a head of a government agency and/or local chief executive to use certain portions of forest lands free of charge for the development of government-managed projects of national interest and infrastructure for public service and use, and non-commercial projects of GOCCs...
4.4. Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) - the document required of proponents describing the environmental impact of, and mitigation and enhancement measures for, projects or undertakings located in an Environmentally Critical Area...
4.5. Infrastructures for public service and use - shall refer to infrastructure projects intended for public service and use such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, health centers, flood control facilities, water reservoir or impounding dam and its related facilities, air strip, landing site, harbor, public market, public plazas, and evacuation site...
4.6. Projects of national interest - refers to identified priority projects that are to be implemented and/or being managed by the government.

SECTION 5. Qualification of Applicants. The following are qualified to apply for GSUP:

- 5.1. Head of government agency or its duly authorized representative; and
5.2. Local chief executive at the municipal, city or provincial level duly authorized by the local legislative bodies.

SECTION 6. Application requirements. The following requirements shall be submitted by the applicant together with the duly accomplished application form (Annex A):

- a. Letter of Intent
b. Certification as to the land classification of the area being applied for GSUP to be issued by DENR
c. GIS-generated map of the area
d. Appropriate certification from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
e. Indicative Management Plan (Annex B)
f. Proof of budget allocation for the development and management of the project
g. Agency resolution or authorization designating the authorized representative of the national government agency and other relevant agencies to officially apply with the DENR regarding gratuitous permit acquisition.
h. Local Government Unit (LGU) endorsement (in case the applicant is an NCA)
i. Resolution authorizing the local chief executive to apply for gratuitous special use permit (in case the applicant is an LGU)
j. In case of LGUs, a proof that proposed project is indicated in the Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP) and within the ambit of the approved Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)
k. Appropriate clearance from the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (if the project is located in Palawan).

SECTION 7. Submission of application, processing, and approval of GSUP. For the purpose of this Order, the following procedures are hereby issued for the processing and approval of GSUP applications. The process flows are attached as Annex C.1 and Annex C.2 herein.

- 7.1. Government agencies and LGUs must file the duly accomplished application form with the corresponding documentary requirements prescribed by the Department at the CENRO/Implementing PENRO and the proponent to pay the amount of P3,000.00 per application to cover administrative costs.
7.2. The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall conduct an assessment and evaluation of the area being applied.
7.3. The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall prepare a GIS-generated map of the area based from the map submitted by the applicant, and subsequently, will serve as reference of the region in preparing the final map to be approved by the Regional Executive Director.
7.4. The CENRO/Implementing PENRO shall prepare a Completed Staff Work (CSW) report indicating the findings and recommendations based on items 7.2 and 7.3 hereof for endorsement at the PENRO and subsequently to the Regional Office.
7.5. The Licenses, Patents and Deeds Division and Survey and Mapping Division of the Regional Office shall prepare the GSUP (Annex D.1) and its corresponding terms and conditions and the final map of the same, respectively.
7.6. The Regional Executive Director (RED) shall approve the corresponding map of the GSUP area.
7.7. The GSUP and its terms and conditions shall be approved by the RED. In case the project location is within the region, the GSUP (Annex D.2) and its terms and conditions shall be approved by the Undersecretary for Field Operations.

The proponents, who will implement such projects, shall jointly file the GSUP application and submit the corresponding documentary requirements to the concerned Regional Office with jurisdiction over the majority of the area to be covered by the project. A joint-review of the application and its supporting documents shall be conducted to be chaired by the concerned REDs. The REDs shall endorse the same for the approval/disapproval of Undersecretary for Field Operations.

SECTION 8. Duration of the GSUP. The GSUP shall have a maximum non-renewable term of five (5) years for the (a) construction of roads and bridges and (b) construction and operation of schools, hospitals, health centers, flood control facilities, water reservoir or impounding dam and its related facilities, air strip, landing site, harbor, public market, public plazas and evacuation site.

SECTION 9. Application for Presidential Proclamation. All national government agencies and LGUs with approved GSUP for the construction and operation of infrastructure projects or facilities for public service and use specified in Section 4.5 herein, other than roads and bridges, shall apply for the issuance of Presidential Proclamation within one (1) year from the issuance of GSUP to ensure effective management and sustainability of the infrastructure and facilities and its long-term use of the area where the infrastructure or facilities exists. In case of failure to secure a Presidential Proclamation within the duration of the GSUP, the Permittee shall apply for FLAG pursuant to DENR Administrative Order No. 2004-59 and other related policies on special uses of forest lands.

SECTION 10. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requirement. The permit holder, within three (3) months or based on prescribed schedule of EMB upon issuance of the GSUP, shall secure an ECC from the EMB, copy of which shall be submitted to the DENR Regional Office.

SECTION 11. Terms and Conditions of the GSUP. The GSUP issued in consonance with this regulations (Annex E) shall be subject to the following provisions:

- 11.1. The area granted in this Permit is a public forest land based on existing records, and shall not be involved in any private transactions.
11.2. The annual government share or user's fee is waived in favor of the Permittee.
11.3. The Permittee shall: (a) comply with the laws, rules and regulations and instructions now or hereinafter enforced for the proper use of the land; (b) respect any legal prior claims; (c) conserve the corners and boundary lines of the area; (d) protect any wetlands such as spring, waterfalls, peatlands, swamps, lake, and marshes or natural/historical/archaeological sites in the area; (e) report to the nearest local forest officer(s) all forest violations in the area and adjacent lands; and (f) submit a year-end report, not later than March 30 of the succeeding year, to the concerned RED thru the CENRO/PENRO the kind, number and value of improvement(s) introduced in the area, among others;
11.4. The area granted in this Permit shall be for public service and use. As such, the Permittee shall: (a) not appropriate for himself/herself exclusive use of public trails traversing or adjoining the area or impede the use thereof by the public; (b) not sublease the area or any portion thereof; and (c) protect and conserve threatened wildlife identified under existing rules and regulations;
11.5. A separate permit shall be secured by the Permittee should tree cutting be necessary. However, no tree, regardless of species, shall be cut in the permitted area if found within forty (40) meters from banks of rivers, creeks or streams, buffer strips and shorelines. In case the said 40-meter strip is bereft of trees, the same shall be rehabilitated by the Permittee.
11.6. The Permittee shall strictly observe the terms and conditions of the ECC. In case the Permittee will conduct periodic rehabilitation of the infrastructures or introduce new appearances within the GSUP area, the same shall secure an appropriate clearance from the EMB for the purpose and submit the clearance to the concerned DENR Regional Office prior to such undertakings thereof;
11.7. The Permittee shall protect the permitted area from forest fires and other forms of forest destruction and eventualities;
11.8. Non-use of the area within six (6) months after it is granted will result in the cancellation of the Permit except in cases of force majeure or fortuitous events;
11.9. In case the area no longer serves the purpose as warranted under the said Permit, the Permit shall be cancelled and the subsequent management and administration of the affected area shall be assumed by the DENR; and
11.10. Violation or non-compliance of any of the terms and conditions of the Permit or any environment and natural resources management laws, policies, rules and regulations shall be sufficient grounds for the cancellation of the GSUP without prejudice to whatever legal action that may be taken.

SECTION 12. Transitory Provision. All national government agencies and LGUs with existing Special Land Use Permits (SLUPs) and FLAGs covering non-profit government-managed projects and infrastructure projects for public service and use as enumerated in Section 4.5 of this Order may opt to apply for GSUP. Provided that, only the SLUPs and/or FLAGs deemed necessary to be transformed into GSUP may be considered. Provided further, that upon approval of GSUP application, the said SLUP or FLAG shall automatically be deemed cancelled. Similarly, the GSUP to be issued shall contain the terms and conditions stipulated in this Order.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provisions of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other portions or provisions hereof which are not affected shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All Orders and similar issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgement of receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).

ROY A. CIMATU Secretary

ANNEX A. Application Form. Application for Gratuitous Special Use Permit. Includes fields for Applicant Name, Address, Location, and Project Description.

ANNEX B. Indicative Management Plan. Includes fields for Project address, Client name, and Municipality.

ANNEX C. Indicative Management Plan. Includes sections for I. INTRODUCTION, II. OBJECTIVES, III. PROJECT SCHEDULE, IV. TECHNICAL ASPECT, V. MANAGEMENT ASPECTS, and VI. FINANCIAL ASPECTS.

PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF GRATUITOUS SPECIAL USE PERMIT (GSUP). Flowchart showing steps from DENR Regional Office to CENRO to PENRO.



ANNEX D.1. (Sample GSUP for projects within one (1) region). Includes fields for Republic of the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region, and Department of Public Works and Highways Region V.

ANNEX D.2. (Sample GSUP for projects within two (2) or more regions). Includes fields for Republic of the Philippines, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region, and Department of Public Works and Highways Region III.

ANNEX E. Additional Terms and Conditions. Lists 13 specific conditions for the GSUP, including land use restrictions, environmental protection, and reporting requirements.

13 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH records 3,792 new COVID-19 cases

[Sheila Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star February 13, 2022 | 12:00am



Members of the Manila Police District Raxabago station conduct profiling on 56 residents, including 25 minors, for violating health protocols and city ordinances which includes curfew for minors during a police operation in Tondo, Manila on Thursday night, Feb. 10, 2022.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday documented 3,792 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the overall tally to 3,634,368 cases.

Based on DOH Case Bulletin for Feb. 12, there were 84,229 active cases of COVID-19, representing 2.3 percent of the total cases.

“All laboratories were operational on Feb. 10, 2022. However four labs were not able to submit their data to the COVID-19 Document Repository System (CDRS),” the DOH reported.

Data showed that 76 patients have succumbed to the virus, bringing to 54,930 the total number of fatalities.

On the other hand, there were 10,662 patients who survived the illness, increasing the number of survivors to 3,495,209.

The positivity rate was pegged at 14.3 percent of the 32,067 swab samples tested.



COVID-19 booster efficacy wanes significantly by fourth month — study

Agence France-Presse February 12, 2022 | 10:15am



Motorists queue for booster shot for COVID-19 during a drive-thru vaccination at Quirino Grandstand in Manila on Jan. 15, 2022.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, file

WASHINGTON, United States — The efficacy of third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines wanes substantially by the fourth month after administration, a new study by the US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Friday.

Though it's now well documented that vaccine efficacy goes down after two doses, relatively little has been published on the duration of protection after a booster.

The new study was based on more than 241,204 visits to the emergency department or an urgent care clinic, and 93,408 hospitalizations, which are more serious, among adults with Covid-19-like illness during August 26, 2021–January 22, 2022.

Vaccine efficacy was estimated by comparing the odds of a positive Covid test between vaccinated and unvaccinated patients and using statistical methods to control for calendar week, geographic area, while adjusting for age, the level of local transmission, and patient characteristics like comorbidities.

During the Omicron-predominant period, vaccine efficacy against Covid-associated emergency department or urgent care visits was 87 percent during the two months after a third dose, but fell to 66 percent by the fourth month.

Vaccine efficacy against hospitalization was 91 percent in the first two months, but fell to 78 percent by the fourth month after a third dose.

"The finding that protection conferred by mRNA vaccines waned in the months after receipt of a third vaccine dose reinforces the importance of further consideration of additional doses to sustain or improve protection," the authors concluded.

Speaking at a White House Covid briefing on Wednesday, President Joe Biden's top medical advisor Anthony Fauci said it was likely that fourth doses would more likely be needed for subsets of people who mount weaker immune responses, such as the elderly and immunocompromised.

New antibody authorized

In a separate development Friday, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a new lab-grown antibody treatment by pharmaceutical company Lilly called bebtelovimab.



The drug is administered as an intravenous injection over at least 30 seconds and has been green lighted for the treatment of mild-to-moderate Covid among people 12 and over at high risk of severe disease.

Data supporting the authorization came from a clinical trial that showed the drug has strong promise against Omicron. Lilly's previous antibody treatment was de-authorized by the FDA after it was found to be ineffective against this variant.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 700

PEBRERO 12, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

2.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
84,229

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

96.2%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,495,209

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
54,930

MGA BAGONG KASO **3,792**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **10,662**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **76**

KABUUNANG BILANG NG KASO **3,634,368**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING PEBRERO 10

DATOS NGAYONG PEBRERO 12
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG PEBRERO 10

14.3%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

32,067

BILANG NG
TINVEST

HALOS
94.4%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUUNANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
36% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)
32% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.1K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
19% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
31% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.2K TOTAL BEDS)
29% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
18% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

3,016 Asymptomatic

76,487 Mild

2,971 Moderate

1,443 Severe

312 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access
here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
✉ seeyoudoc.com
📞 SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
✉ konsulta.md
📞 KonsultaMD

CloudPx
✉ cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
📞 TelAventusMD

HealthNow
📞 healthnow.ph/
✉ help@healthnow.ph
📱 HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

[doh.gov.ph](https://www.doh.gov.ph)

[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

13 FEBRUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tpOEX4K6jMI>

📍 MANILA BAY WHITE BEACH

MANILA BAY UPDATE FEBRUARY 12,2022 PAG TATAGPO NG PHASE2 AT PHASE1! Miz July

2,822 views...

👍 193 🗑️ DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...

 **Miz July**
68.4K subscribers

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MANILA BAY UPDATE February 12, 2022

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314

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engr. berto

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#manilabay

MANILA BAY UPDATE FEBRUARY 12, 2022

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109

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...



BTV Pinas

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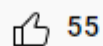
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptJb75bd2XI>

#rehabilitation #manilabay #philippines

Manila Bay Update: February 12, 2022

2,614 views • 12 Feb 2022



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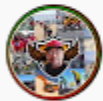
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