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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Cimatu: PH leaning toward declaring climate emergency

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:41 AM October 12, 2020



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is leaning toward declaring a climate emergency, which would deepen the country’s commitment to action to check the climate crisis, according to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Cimatu, who also chairs the Cabinet cluster on climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction, said the government’s programs and initiatives were already geared toward the declaration of a climate emergency.

Environmentalists and scientists have repeatedly urged President Duterte to declare a climate emergency as a policy instrument to help the country achieve its goals under the Paris Agreement.

“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 said in a statement on Sunday.

The declaration of a climate emergency, he said, would also deepen the country’s commitment to protect the environment, the economy and communities from the impacts of the climate crisis.

Cabinet cluster

Cimatu said that early this year, his Cabinet cluster had approved a resolution supporting House Resolution No. 535, which would declare a disaster and climate change emergency in the country. The House resolution was authored and filed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda in November last year.

The Cabinet cluster also approved another resolution that underscored the need to consolidate government data to form a nationwide climate risk assessment.

Greenpeace Philippines said the declaration of a climate emergency will allow a recovery that will “transform our economy and society to tackle the climate crisis.”

Mr. Duterte, in his speech in the UN General Assembly last month, urged the signatories to the Paris Agreement to make good their pledges for climate action.

His spokesperson, Harry Roque, said Mr. Duterte would consider the suggestion to declare a climate emergency, citing climate change as “on top of the President’s agenda.”

—*Jhesset O. Enano*



Climate emergency posibleng ideklara – Cimatú



October 12, 2020 @ 1:22 PM 17 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Lahat ng programa at inisyatiba ng gobyerno ay nakasandig patungo sa deklasyon ng climate emergency.

Ito ang inihayag ngayong Lunes ni Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatú na siyang pinuno ng Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Ginawa ni Cimatú ang pahayag makaraang hilingin ng environmental group na Greenpeace Philippine kay Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte na magdeklara ng climate emergency bilang policy instrument upang tulungan ang Pilipinas na makamit ang pagnanais nito sa ilalim ng Paris Climate Agreement.

Bilang sagot sa panawagan, sinabi naman ni Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque na kinokonsidera ng Chief Executive ang pagdedeklara ng climate emergency dahil sa epekto ng climate change.

Ayon kay Cimatú, bago ang Pebrero 2020, inaprubahan ng Cabinet Cluster on CCAM-DRR ang resolusyon bilang suporta sa House Resolution No. 535, na may titulong “Declaring a Disaster and Climate Change Emergency” na inihain ni Albay Rep. Joey Salceda nitong November 2019.

Sinabi ni Cimatú ang declaration sa climate emergency ay makatutulong sa bansa para sa pagnananis nito na protektahan ang ekonomiya, kalikasan at komunidad sa climate change.

Nitong Pebrero naman, inaprubahan ng Cabinet Cluster ng CCAM-DRR ang isa pang resolusyon na humihiling na kailangang i-consolidate ng gobyerno ang data para sa kautusang bumuo ng nationwide climate risk assessment. **SANTI CELARIO**



December goal for Manila beach completion



Published 3 hours ago
on October 13, 2020 03:40 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reiterated the Manila Bay Beach Nourishment Project, which is meant to make the historic bay beautiful and swimmable, is still unfinished as what critics perceived it to be.

Benny Antiporda, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, stated they still target to finish the beach nourishment project by the end of the year, even if DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu decided to suspend the operations of two dolomite firms in Alcoy, Cebu.

Cimatu suspended Dolomite Mining Corporation (DMC) for its quarry operations and Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC), a processing plant for dolomite, following an inspection last 25 September, pending the results of the investigation for alleged coral reef damage, water quality monitoring and ambient air quality.

“It still remains the same. December is still our target,” Antiporda said.

“Since the dolomite firms have been suspended, this will automatically affect the operation and our finishing of the beach project. But again, there is this statement coming from the secretary that if dolomite mining really violates environmental law or if it has an environmental impact, we might as well use black sand. That is the statement of our secretary,” he added.

At the same time, he insisted that of the P389 million allotted for the entire Manila Bay rehabilitation project, only six percent or P28 million was spent for the dolomite overlay.

He said other issues such as the planting of mangroves, the 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.

DENR Assistant Secretary Daniel Nicer said the government will push through with the multimillion-peso project despite the COVID-19 pandemic.



December goal for Manila beach completion

The beach nourishment project has been receiving negative comments from netizens since it was first made public last month.

However, Nicer reiterated the department's previous statement that the area where the dolomite white sand is being poured is still under construction, so it's not engineered to look perfect.

"It's still under development. It's not intended to be perfectly covered by white sand, and frankly it's also not intended to be permanent. You will still pour in additional white sand," Nicer said.



DENR, tiwalang matatag ang inilatag na dolomite sand sa Manila Bay

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Oct. 12, 2020 at 4:16am



Nananatiling tiwala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na matibay at matatag ang Manila Bay Nourishment Project.

Ito ay patunay mula sa initial assessments na isinasagawa ng mga eksperto.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones, hindi basta-basta aanurin ang inilatag na dolomite sand sa lugar dahil mayroon silang mga ginawang 'engineering interventions' para dito.

Paliwanag pa ni Leones, may inilagay silang dalawang geotubes na mayroong dalawang metro ang dayametro para maiwasan ang soil erosion at masira ng bagyo.

Ang paggamit ng geotextile tube system ay mas makakamura kumpara sa pagtatayo ng breakwater.

Sinabi naman ni Manila Bay Operations Center Head at Environment Assistant Secretary Daniel Darius Nicer, walang patunay na mabilis lamang na maaanod ang dolomite sand.

Hindi aniya ito inaanod kundi nagkakaroon ng discoloration sa ilang bahagi ng white beach.

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

Batay sa inspeksyong isinasagawa ng mga eksperto mula sa DENR, nasa siyam hanggang 10 pulgadang iba't ibang uri ng sediments ang tumatabon sa dolomites.

Paglililaw naman ni Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, ang proyekto ay hindi lamang inisyatibo ng DENR, kundi maging ng iba pang ahensyang bahagi ng Manila Bay Task Force na binuo pa noong 2019 ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa ilalim ng No. 16.



A better option

[THAT DOES IT](#) - [Korina Sanchez](#) (The Freeman) - October 12, 2020 - 12:00am

Instead of laying crushed dolomite on roughly 500 meters of coastline on Manila Bay, the rehabilitation of mangroves should have been a better option. This is the statement of the UP Institute of Biology, another group of experts questioning the move of the DENR to beautify the place. Science should have played a major part, not just aesthetics. The laying of dolomite did not help at all in solving the problems of Manila Bay, particularly the pollution. Claiming dolomite has no long-term adverse effects on nature is also untrue. Even senators are criticizing the DENR's "dolomite beach" citing the 2008 Supreme Court writ of mandamus made no mention of simply beautifying the beach but to improve water quality.

Surely, the DENR will not listen or give any weight to any group or persons criticizing the project. All that matters to them is President Duterte's approval of the project. The project cost P389 million where crushed dolomite was transported from Cebu to Manila Bay which included P28 million to purchase and transport. Definitely not a small amount.

But only last month DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu suspended the operations of the two companies mining dolomite due to the alleged destruction of the environment particularly the coral reefs. The allegations are currently being investigated before they can be allowed to continue. Earlier, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia ordered to stop the operations of the two companies because apparently they were not authorized.

Because of the current turmoil in the leadership of the Lower House, the passage of the budget for the coming year is delayed because deliberations are not yet over. That budget includes a huge amount for the fight against COVID-19 and everything related to it. That is why Duterte himself has ordered the House to have extended sessions to pass the said budget even threatening to do it for them. It is ironic to hear the Palace wanting the budget passed for pandemic fund use when hundreds of millions have been spent on a project that only seems to attract criticism instead of praise. Sure, you can walk on dolomite beach but will you swim in its waters? Will you appreciate whatever odors are emanating from Manila Bay? It is really difficult to understand the priorities of the administration during a pandemic. I would hate to see all that going to waste if it is true that strong storms or a storm surge would wash everything away.



Mining firms told to develop NGP sites

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

October 12, 2020



Two mining companies operating in the Cagayan Valley have agreed to a condition set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to develop National Greening Program (NGP) sites.

The firms have agreed to replace every tree they cut down as part of their operation with 100 native trees.

The condition is embodied under a “Tree Replacement Program” agreement entered into by FCF Minerals and OceanaGold Philippines Inc. (OGPI) with the DENR Region 2 Office in support of the government’s Expanded-NGP (E-NGP).

DENR Region 2 Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn C. Bambalan, FCF Minerals represented by Leopoldo G. Castro Jr. and OceanaGold Philippines represented by Jayson Magdaong signed the agreement as a precondition for the issuance of tree-cutting permits by the DENR recently.

Based on DENR regulations, the company is required to replace each tree affected by their operation with 100 native tree seedlings. The mining companies themselves will develop the area as part of the agreement.

To recall, Bambalan recommended for the area development scheme in support of the NGP rather than just producing, buying, and donating seedlings to yield 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 in a statement. “Eventually, it will be the local communities who will manage the plantation,” she added.

To cover the replacement scheme from site assessment, seedling production, plantation establishment, and 3-year maintenance and protection activities, the FCF and OGPI shall allocate funds in the amount of P6.4 million and P2.9 million, respectively.

As part of the agreement, the mining companies may transfer the full amount covering the cost of the entire duration of implementation or transfer the funds on annual budget requirement basis per approved work and financial plan.



Mining firms told to develop NGP sites

A total of 192 hectares of plantations will be funded by the FCF and 90 hectares by the OGPI within the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

The sites which include NGP graduated areas with low survival rate and other suitable areas will be planted with timber and fruit trees.

Meanwhile, the DENR is tasked to conduct survey, mapping, and planning, and engage beneficiaries within the project sites for the actual implementation of the program activities following the family approach in NGP. The agency shall also provide technical assistance to the identified partners in seedling production, plantation establishment and protection and maintenance of the planted areas. The tree replacement program will be implemented for 3 years starting in 2021.



2 mining firms bolster DENR reforestation program

posted October 12, 2020 at 10:00 pm

by [Ben Moses Ebreo](#)

Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya—Two mining firms here recently gave their support to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) reforestation program.

DENR Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan led the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the FCF Minerals Corporation and OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. (OGPI) in support of the agency's National Greening Program.

FCF Minerals was represented by Leopoldo Castro Jr. while OGPI was represented by Jayson Magdaong in the MOA signing, witnessed by Nueva Vizcaya PENR officer Edgar Martin, Quirino PENR officer Mariam Frances Malana and regional NGP coordinator Edmund Malupeng.

Bambalan said the three-year tree replacement program which will start in 2021 was part of the mining companies' compliance with the terms and conditions of the tree cutting permit issued by the DENR. Ben Moses Ebreo

Based on these regulations, the permittee or mining companies are required to replace each tree cut affected by their mining operations with 100 seedlings of indigenous species.

Bambalan earlier recommended to the mining companies an area development scheme in support of the NGP rather than just producing, buying and donating seedlings to yield 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 pandemic. "Eventually, it will be the local communities who will manage the plantation," she said.

Under the MOA, FCF and OGPI shall allocate funds in the amount of P6.4 million and P2.9 million, respectively to cover the replacement scheme from site assessment, seedling production, plantation establishment, and three-year maintenance and protection activities.

The mining companies may also transfer the full amount covering the cost of the entire duration of the project implementation or transfer the funds on annual budget requirement basis based on the approved work and financial plan.

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It shall provide technical assistance to the identified partners in seedling production, plantation establishment and protection and maintenance of the planted areas.



Positive outlook towards mining industry hailed

[Monday, October 12, 2020](#) [People's Journal](#)



Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez

SURIGAO del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers on Monday expressed elation upon learning that the government's policy makers



Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers

have finally reconsidered the government's mining position as the economy continues to suffer as a result of the global pandemic.

In his earlier statements, Barbers invited the government to look at the looming scenario post-coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) where the economy will take a hard dive as the debts we incurred to address the COVID-19 problem will mount and payments will start to fall due and other sources of income are still suffering and have not fully recovered.

"I am elated to know that no less than Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez has finally adopted a positive outlook towards our mining industry. Having come from Surigao del Norte, the mining capital of the country, I know the potential that this industry can bring to our economy. It is the only industry that does not need to incur loans that the people will eventually shoulder. It is the only industry that can put our economy back on its feet," said Barbers, chairman of the House committee on dangerous drugs.

"Today, the price of gold is at its highest at around US\$ 2,000 per ounce. We have plenty of gold, estimated at 16 to 18 million ounces. In the coming years, it is projected that 50% of car sales will be on electric cars. These cars need a lot of copper and nickel to run. We have all these minerals here, more than two billion tons of copper. Imagine the returns if we are to start now," Barbers added.



Positive outlook towards mining industry hailed

The lawmaker previously stressed mining can contribute as much as 6-10 percent in our GDP. Currently, its contribution is 0.6%. In countries like Australia and Canada where mining contributes 6% or higher, the economy is prosperous and people are gainfully employed.

“Secretary Dominguez’ insight is timely as the industry will not only raise much needed revenues not provide jobs to people. This activity will multiply ten-fold and will surely revitalize and jumpstart the economy. This is the much-needed stimulus that is not based on loans.

We have these God given resources now, there is no reason for our people to go hungry or for the economy to fail,” Barbers said.



EDITORIAL

Reviving mining

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:07 AM October 12, 2020

In need of funds to cover mounting expenses to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the Duterte administration is looking at privatizing some of its mining assets. Aside from raising revenues, the government hopes to revive the mining sector and, in the process, generate jobs especially in the countryside where unemployment has worsened.

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO), an agency attached to the Department of Finance, lists four mining assets now being considered for sale to the private sector. These include the mining claims of Basay Mining Corp., Hercules Minerals and Oils Inc., and Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp., as well as the mineral claims and assets of Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp.

The Philippines is among the 10 most mineralized countries worldwide. However, such potential remains untapped due to a host of reasons, foremost of which are regulatory barriers that have discouraged investors. For instance, Executive Order No. 79, issued in 2012 by then President Benigno Aquino III, set out reforms in the mining sector to ensure that mining companies adhere to environmental protection and responsible mining practices. However, a provision in that EO states that “no new mineral agreements shall be entered into until a legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms shall have taken effect.” Such legislation remains lacking to this day. Add to this the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Administrative Order No. 2017-10 banning open-pit mining, which particularly affected a huge mining project being planned in Mindanao. The mining industry’s contribution to the economy (as measured by gross domestic product or GDP) slid to just 0.5 percent in 2019 from 0.8 percent in 2016. At the same time, the number of workers in mines shrank to 184,000 last year from more than 230,000 in 2016. For the first half of 2020, the value of the country’s metallic mineral production declined by 14 percent, after the already depressed mining operations were affected by the lockdowns imposed to contain the coronavirus health crisis.

The regulatory impediments are one thing. A bigger problem facing the mining sector is that of public image. The government and the private sector have to overcome the general suspicion and dislike for mining among the public. Even President Duterte is not keen on mining, saying it has done more harm than good to the environment. This seems to be buttressed by study after study on the impact of mining on the environment, including on indigenous communities living around mine sites and often displaced or otherwise adversely affected by the extractive work in their midst.

The Duterte administration, in effect, has to hurdle two major obstacles if it is to successfully privatize its mining assets. It can start by pushing Congress to act on House Bill No. 5022, which seeks to rationalize and institute a single fiscal regime applicable to all mineral agreements. Without this, the government is not allowed to enter into mining contracts with the private sector. At the same time, it must prod legislators to update the provisions of the Small-Scale



EDITORIAL

Reviving mining

Mining Act to make the marginal operators become more responsible. It must also empower local government units to forcefully implement rules and regulations to address irresponsible small-scale mining in their areas.

Changing the public's dubious regard for mining will have to start with the government seriously taking a look at the problem of illegal small mining operations, which have caused nearly all the widely reported problems in the past—miners getting trapped in abandoned mines, or pollutants being diverted to public waterways, to name a few. But it's also true that some large-scale mining companies have engaged in similar irresponsible behavior, including those that caused environmental damage in Bicol and in Nueva Vizcaya due to cyanide spills, depletion of water resources, and violations of provincial laws.

Given the mining sector's present predicament, the most difficult task in reviving the industry is finding the balance between strictly enforcing environmental laws to protect the country's natural resources and the well-being of the communities around mining sites, and not being too constricting as to make the mining industry an altogether unprofitable enterprise.



DENR, hinimok na imbestigahan ang petisyon vs planta ng cement manufacturer sa La Union

By [Bombo Radyo La Union](#)

-October 12, 2020 | 8:51 PM

LA UNION – Dismayado ang 28 petitioners sa pagbasura ng Office of the Regional Panel of Arbitrators ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Regional Office 1 sa inihain nilang petisyon laban sa planta ng Holcim Philippines, Inc. na nakabase sa Barangay Quirino sa bayan ng Bacnotan, La Union.

Sa panayam ng *Bombo Radyo* sa isa sa mga petitioners na si Eduardo Orejudos, sinabi nito na halos 68 taon nang inilalaban ng kanilang mga magulang at ipinagpapatuloy lamang nila ito ang paghingi ng kompensasyon mula sa naturang planta.

Ayon kay Orejudos, pinakikinabangan daw ng nasabing kompanya ang kanilang mga lupain sa pamamagitan ng pagkuha ng mga raw materials sa paggawa ng semento sa loob ng matagal na panahon ngunit wala man silang natatanggap na bayad.

Nagawa pa umano nilang sulutan si DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu tungkol sa naturang usapin ngunit wala silang nahintay na sagot.

Umaangal din ang mga petitioners sa mabagal na paglabas ng desisyon ng Office of the Regional Panel of Arbitrators na sa loob ng dalawang taon na pabalik-balik sila sa nasabing tanggapan ay ibabasura lamang ito dahil sa kawalan ng hurisdiksiyon.

Nanawagan si Orejudos at mga kasama nitong petitioners kay Sec. Cimatu na magsagawa muli ng pagsisiyasat upang tuklasin ang katotohanan hinggil sa kanilang hinaing at paghingi ng kompensasyon na matagal na nilang hinihintay mula sa planta.



EDITORIAL - Kasuhan, magtatapon sa kalye ng medical wastes

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - October 13, 2020 - 12:00am

MARAMING iresponsableng mamamayan na basta na lang itinatapon sa kung saan-saan ang medical wastes. Alam kaya nila na 80 percent ng medical wastes ay infectious? Masyadong delikado ang mga basurang medical hindi lang sa kalusugan kundi pati sa kapaligiran!

Noong nakaraang buwan, sangkaterbang used-rapid test kits ang nagkalat sa kalye sa Sampaloc, Manila. Hindi napansin ng pedicab driver na nabutas na pala ang karga niyang bag na ang laman ay mga ginamit na test kits para sa COVID-19. Ayon sa pedicab driver, pinulot niya ang garbage bag sa Palanca St., Quiapo.

Nang imbestigahan, napag-alamang ang mga used test kits ay nagmula sa isang laboratoryo. Sinampahan na ng kaso ang may-ari ng laboratoryo dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000) at RA 6969 (Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act of 1990).

Kamakailan, ganunding medical wastes ang nakita sa may Corinthian sa EDSA. Mga used rapid test kits na ayon sa mga nakakita ay basta na lang iniwan ng isang tao sa nasabing lugar.

Karaniwan na rin ngayon na makikita sa mga kalsada sa Metro Manila ang mga ginamit na face masks. Kakalat-kalat at natititud-tisod ng mga paa. Maaaring nalaglag ang mga ito sa trak na basura. Hagi lang nang hagi ang mga basurero sa kinukolektang basura at wala na silang pakialam kung may nalaglag na used face masks.

Napakadelikado sa kalusugan at sa kapaligiran kung basta na lang itatapon ang medical wastes sa kung saan-saan. Nararapat na ang mga basurang ito ay may isang selyadong lagayan at nararapat na sunugin para hindi kumalat ang sakit.

Ayon kay Dr. Paula Sta. Maria, co-chairman ng Climate Change Committee-Philippine College of Physicians, mula nang manalasa ang COVID-19 sa bansa, dumami ang medical wastes. Galing ang mga ito sa hospitals, laboratories, health facilities, blood banks, nursing homes, mortuary, autopsy centers at testing laboratories. Ayon pa kay Dr. Sta. Maria, nararapat ay nakahiwalay ang mga ito at may designated bins at idaraan sa treatment tulad ng thermal, irradiative, chemical at biological processes at incineration.

Maiiwasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 kung magkakaroon nang tamang disposal sa medical wastes. Obligahin ang mga ospital, laboratoryo at health care facilities na isaayos ang pagtatapon ng kanilang basurang medical. Ang mga mahuhuling magtatapon nito sa kalye ay parusahan.



EDITORIAL - Isaayos, pagtatapon ng medical wastes

(Pang-masa) - October 12, 2020 - 12:00am

NOONG nakaraang buwan, nakunan ng CCTV ang paglaglag ng used rapid test kits mula sa itim na garbage bag habang nakakarga sa pedicab sa isang kalye sa Sampaloc, Manila. Hindi napansin ng pedicab driver na nabutas na pala ang karga niyang bag at tumapon na ang mga laman. Nagkalat sa kalsada ang mga ginamit na test kits para sa COVID-19. Ayon sa pedicab driver, pinulot niya ang garbage bag sa Palanca St., Quiapo.

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Maiiwasan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19 kung magkakaroon nang tamang disposal sa medical wastes. Kung mahigpit ang mga awtoridad sa pagsusuot ng face masks, face shield at pagsunod sa social distancing dapat din namang obligahin ang mga establishment sa tama at maayos na pagtatapon ng basurang medical.



‘Plantito at plantita’ may P1 milyong multa, 22-taong kulong

By [Victor Martin](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- October 13, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa opisyal na pahayag ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Cagayan sa programang “Pagdidinamagan” ng Cagayan Provincial Information Office (CPIO), maaaring magmulta ng mula P100,000 hanggang P1-milyon ang sinumang nangongolekta ng mga maituturing na “critically endangered” na mga halaman sa lalawigan, maliban pa sa pagkakakulong ng anim hanggang 22 taon.

Marcus Spiske via Pixabay

Sa ilegal na pangongolekta ng mga halaman

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela, Philippines — Nagbabala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR) sa mga binansagang “plantito” at “plantita” na nahuhumaling sa pagtanim ngayong kasagsagan ng pandemya dulot ng COVID-19 na maaari silang magmulta ng hanggang P1 milyon at makulong ng 22-taon dahil sa mga ilegal na pangongolekta ng mga halaman.

Sa opisyal na pahayag ng Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Cagayan sa programang “Pagdidinamagan” ng Cagayan Provincial Information Office (CPIO), maaaring magmulta ng mula P100,000 hanggang P1-milyon ang sinumang nangongolekta ng mga maituturing na “critically endangered” na mga halaman sa lalawigan, maliban pa sa pagkakakulong ng anim hanggang 22 taon.

Dahil dito, binalaan ni Atty. Ismael Manaligod, hepe ng PENRO-Cagayan ang mga “plantitos at plantitas” na nangongolekta at bumibili ng iba’t ibang uri ng halaman na huwag basta-basta manguha sa mga nasa kagubatan para makaiwas sa pagkakahuli.

Sinabi ni Manaligod na maaaring makipag-ugnayan ang mga plant collectors at garden lovers sa tanggapan ng DENR para malaman kung ang mga halaman na itanim o ibebenta nila ay kasali sa mga critically endangered na mahigpit na ipinagbabawal para hindi tuluyang maubos o mawala sa kalikasan.



‘Plantito at plantita’ may P1 milyong multa, 22-taong kulong

Kabilang sa mga tinukoy na bawal ay ang mga orchids, forest flora at ang mga natural na bonsai plants na matatagpuan sa mga kagubatan sa bayan ng Baggao, Penablanca, Gattaran at ang kagubatan ng Sierra Madre.

Naghigpit na rin ang DENR-Cagayan sa mga inilagay na checkpoints para imonitor ang mga sasakyan lalo na ang mga pribadong behikulo na naglalaman ng mga halaman papasok at palabas sa nasabing lalawigan.



Tamaraw dies on Tamaraw Month



By [Ire Joe V.C. Laurente](#)

October 13, 2020

CALAPAN CITY, Mindoro Oriental: A tamaraw (*Bubalus mindorensis*), a water buffalo endemic to the island of Mindoro, that was born in captivity died on Sunday, according to Mindoro Occidental Gov. Ed Gadiano.

In a phone interview with The Manila Times, Gadiano said Kalibasib or Kalikasang Bagong Sibol (nature's new growth), a Tamaraw that was also bred in captivity, had succumbed to old age.

Ironically, October is observed in the country as Tamaraw Month. Kalibasib's death has made the gene pool of the Tamaraw Conservation Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) empty.

The tamaraw was 21 years old, Gadiano said.

"In the 21 years of the animal's life, (he) gave meaning and happiness to every Mindoreno as we progressed and recognized [all natives] as one race," Gadiano said.

"Sa selebrasyon ng Tamaraw Month, magsilbi sana itong paalala para sa kontribusyon sa pagpapalaganap ng kamalayan pagbibigay proteksyon at pangangalaga sa mga tamaraw ay isang napakahalagang responsibilidad (As we celebrate Tamaraw Month, may Kalibasib's death remind us that protecting and caring for the tamaraw is a very important responsibility)," he added in a message.

Kalibasib was bred in a controlled gene pool in Barangay Manoot in the town of Rizal in Mindoro Occidental.

According to records of the DENR, there are only fewer than 600 tamaraw in the wild of Mindoro island most of which are contained within 106,655 hectares of mountainous terrain in the central part of the island.

The animals have been declared as a critically endangered species, and their population is dwindling.

In an entry of Wikipedia, the tamaraw or Mindoro dwarf buffalo, is a small hooped mammal belonging to the family Bovidae.

The tamaraw is endemic to the island of Mindoro in the Philippines and is the only endemic Philippine bovine. It is believed, however, to have once also thrived on the larger island of Luzon.



3 LUZON BLEEDING HEART PIGEONS PINAKAWALAN NG DENR



October 12, 2020 @ 7:46 AM 21 hours ago

PINAKAWALAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang siyam na captive-bred Luzon bleeding heart pigeons upang maisalba ang lumiliit na bilang ng kanilang populasyon.

Tatlo sa siyam na Luzon bleeding heart pigeons ang lumabas sa kanilang kulungan upang sila ay makabalik na sa kanilang tunay na tahanan.

‘Yan ang magandang hakbang ng DENR na pakawalan sa parte ng Angat Watershed, Bulacan.

Sina Dr. Rona Rose Sinaon, resident veterinarian ng DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Wildlife Rescue Center at Mr. Anson Tagtag, hepe ng Wildlife Conservation Section ang nanguna sa pagpapakawala at pagpapalaya sa siyam na bleeding heart pigeons noong umaga ng Setyembre 15, 2020.

Ang Luzon bleeding heart pigeons (*Gallicolumba luzonica*) ay mga kalahi ng dalawang pares ng parental stocks ng kanilang species na sumailalim sa captive-breeding program ng DENR, Singapore Zoo, at Avilon Zoo.

Nagmula ang parental stocks sa Avilon Zoo bago ito dinala sa Singapore Zoo noong 2012.

Itinuturing na endemic sa Luzon, ang mga kalapating ito ay nasa “vulnerable” sa listahan ng “threatened fauna.”



Ang captive-bred bleeding hearts ay pinakawalan kalakip ang pag-asang maisalba ang lumiliit na populasyon ng kanilang lahi.



Bryde's whale, napadpad sa bayan ng Banguingui, Sulu



Oktubre 12, 2020 8:07am GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: PEEWEE BACUÑO

Isang Bryde's whale ang napadpad sa baybayin ng Barangay Dungon, Banguingui, Sulu nitong Linggo ng umaga. Nakita ito ng mga mangingisda sa lugar.

Agad na ipinagbigay-alam ng mga mangingisda sa pamahalaang lokal ang kanilang nakita kung kaya't mabilis na nagtungo sa lugar ang mga kinatawan nito.

May habang 39 hanggang 40 talampakan ang Bryde's whale. Gumagalaw pa raw ito noong unang makita subalit namatay rin kinalaunan habang sinusuri ng mga kinatawan ng local government unit.

Dinala ang Bryde's whale sa pantalan ng Barangay Dungon. Ipinaalam na rin ng LGU Banguingui sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Sulu ang pangyayari.

Ito raw ang unang pagkakataon na may napadpad na ganitong uri ng hayop sa lugar.

Ang Bryde's whale ay miyembro ng baleen whale family. Itinuturing din ito na "great whale" tulad ng mga blue whales at humpback whales.

Karaniwang matatagpuan ang mga Bryde's whale sa karagatan na may mainit na temperatura tulad ng Atlantic, Indian at Pacific.

Itinuturing na vulnerable ang mga Bryde's whale dahil sa mga banta sa kanilang populasyon tulad ng paghuli at ocean noise.

Ang mga Bryde's whale ay protektado ng batas sa ilalim ng Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Pinag-aaralan pa ng Banguingui LGU kung paano ililibing ang Bryde's whale dahil sa sobrang laki at bigat nito. —KG, GMA News



Pinoy scientists discover new subspecies of microsnail

[October 12, 2020](#) 5 min read

Roughly the size of a worker ant, the *Hypselostoma latispira masungiensis* subspecies of microsnail was found among limestone boulders at Masungi Georeserve in Baras, Rizal province. Inset shows the size of the microsnail in relation to the tip of a human finger. (Photo Courtesy of Masungi Georeserve)

By Tracy Cabrera

LET's set aside troubling news about the coronavirus global pandemic and tackle something Pinoys can be proud of despite the health safety protocols and lockdowns that has imprisoned most of us for a long time.

Local scientists from the University of the Philippines have discovered in Baras, Rizal what has been described as a new subspecies of the snail known as *Hypseloptoma latispira*. Snails serve an important role in the ecosystem as they eat very low on the food web as most these mollusks consume rotting vegetation like moist leaf litter as well as fungi. At times eating soil directly, they provide calcium and other nutrients vital to the formation of shells and embryos.

Though the new snail, named *Hypselostoma latispira masungiensis*, is only roughly the size of a worker ant and its shell measures less than 5 millimeters, the discovery of this miniscule creature lends a colossal voice to the campaign to protect the country's karst ecosystems that serve as its habitat.

The identification of the Masungi snail was the result of a three-year study by Filipino scientists from the University of the Philippines, namely Harold Lipae, Angelique Estabillo, Ian Kendrick Fontanilla and Emmanuel Ryan de Chavez.

In their paper published in the *Philippine Journal of Systematic Biology*, the *masungiensis* was discovered in 1984 in Baguio City, more than 200 kilometers away.

While the Baguio snails are relatively smaller in shell size and have a narrower body whorl (shell structure) and apertural width, their genetic similarity with the Masungi snails was discovered to be at 99.98 percent.



Pinoy scientists discover new subspecies of microsnail

According to De Chavez, the Hypselostoma are dependent on karsts or areas that are made up of limestone since these are rich sources of calcium that are used for their shells and eggs.

One of the few malacologists (scientists who study mollusks) in the country whose studies focus on land snails, De Chavez first studied these terrestrial animals at the Pamitinan Protected Landscape in neighboring Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) town, where limestone boulders and caves were also abundant.

Recognizing that the limestones in Masungi were even more intact than Pamitinan, he sought the approval of the Masungi Georeserve Foundation in 2017 to study and research snails in the area.

His hunch to search for snails in the georeserve was immediately proven right. On the first day of their initial reconnaissance, he and his students found the Masungi snail quietly existing among craggy boulders in an area called '600 Steps'. At 614 meters above sea level, it was the highest spot in all of Masungi, where the temperature drops to a chill and moss and lichens are abundant—an ideal living spot for the snails.

“At that time, we couldn’t identify it yet, but it looked different since its ventral side was exposed,” said De Chavez, who also serves as curator for mollusks at the UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History.

The Masungi snails were also very particular about their microhabitat: even a slight change in the elevation and they would be found nowhere.

Their study continued over the next three years, where they would conduct DNA analysis on the Masungi snail and even go to Baguio to find the original Hypselostoma.

But how did the microsnail hailing from the summer capital make its way to Rizal more than 200 kilometers away?

One of their hypotheses, said De Chavez, is that the microsnails could have used the karst forests along eastern Luzon as ‘stepping stones’ from Baguio to Baras.

“We also consider wind dispersal, meaning they could have been carried by strong winds during the storms. They could also be carried by their predators since they could withstand the digestion process,” the malacologist explained.

Another theory is that these microsnails may actually be extensive across the country, but many remain unstudied because of the very few Filipino scientists who focus on land snails.

While they may not be as charismatic or popular as other species, snails play a crucial role in our ecosystem, functioning as recyclers of nutrients in the soil and as an important food item for certain animals, including birds.

“Among land snails, microsnails that are dependent on limestones are the most common ones to be extinct. Because they’re not easily seen, people don’t think they exist,” the Chavez pointed out.



Pinoy scientists discover new subspecies of microsnail

Habitat destruction stands as the biggest threat to microsnails, so studying and conserving karst ecosystems like Masungi is a significant step toward ensuring their survival.

In support, Masungi Georeserve Foundation managing trustee Ann Dumaliang said that “the discovery of the new microsnail further raises the urgency of protecting Masungi and other karst ecosystems against destruction.”

“Since the snail is a range-restricted and karst-dependent species, if the limestones and the areas around it are quarried, this species and others can easily go extinct,” she added.

De Chavez also noted that in Masungi alone, his team had recorded 45 different species of snails, including the *masungiensis*, a much bigger number compared to those recorded in Mount Makiling and Mount Banahaw.

“We need to protect these snails because they are also part of our natural heritage. If they go extinct, a little part of our being Filipino goes away with it,” he concluded.



Caloocan residents suffer floods after developer allegedly dumped soil on creek

Published October 12, 2020, 8:41 AM
by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

Caloocan Mayor Oscar “Oca” Malapitan slammed a real estate developer for reportedly covering a creek in Pangarap Village, resulting to frequent floods in the area.



(Caloocan PIO / MANILA BULLETIN)

Residents of Barangays 181 and 182 said Carmel Development, Inc. (CDI) dumped layers of soil on the creek, making the area flood-prone at the slightest downpour. Several houses were also damaged by the floods.

Barangay 182 Chairman Rowelle Brin said around 40,000 residents, including children, are suffering twice as hard amid the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic due to CDI’s “act of intimidation.”

“They are doing it without court order because they want us to leave Pangarap Village. They are not contented with cutting our power supply, this is what they’re doing now. It’s their way of forcing the residents out of the property,” Brin said in a statement issued on Sunday. “We are not squatters. We have our land titles.”

Malapitan said he has deployed the City Legal Office and City Environmental Management Office to take legal actions to protect the city’s waterways.

The local chief executive also requested the Philippine National Police and Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help them enforce laws to stop CDI’s alleged “harassment.”

“The proper resolution of land disputes is through the various legal and humane processes instituted by law in order to preserve peace and order,” he said in a statement issued on Sunday.

In 2018, CDI was issued a temporary restraining order by the Caloocan Regional Trial Court (RTC) for barring workers from Meralco from entering Pangarap Village, leading residents from the said barangays to suffer from power shortage for nearly a month.

However, Brin said they are still experiencing water and power shortage. Only barangay halls and schools in the area have water and power supply, he said.

CDI and the residents of Pangarap Village have been locked in a land dispute for many years after Pangarap Village became a resettlement area by virtue of a presidential decree issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.



COVID, tumatagal ng 28 days sa pera, glass, stainless



Published 17 hours ago
on October 12, 2020 12:12 PM
By [Concept News Central](#)



SADYANG madumi ang pera bago pa man lumitaw sa mundo ang SARS-COV 2.

Nagulantang ang mga scientist sa Australia matapos nilang mapatunayan na ang COVID-19 ay tumatagal ng hanggang 28 araw sa perang papel, glass at stainless – di hamak na mas matagal kaysa ordinaryong flu virus.

Sa harap nito, sinabi ng mga researcher na mas lalong dapat mag-ingat ang mga tao at dapat ugaliin ang paghuhugas o disinfection ng mga kamay, gayundin ang pag-iwas na hawakan ang mukha.

Ayon sa Australian national science agency na CSIRO, sa temperaturang 20 degrees Celsius o 68 degrees Fahrenheit ay nananatiling nakahahawa ang SARS-COV-2 sa smooth surfaces tulad ng mobile phone screens.

Ang findings ay na-published sa Virology Journal.

Ang Influeza A virus na sanhi ng ordinaryong flu ay tumatagal ng 17 araw.

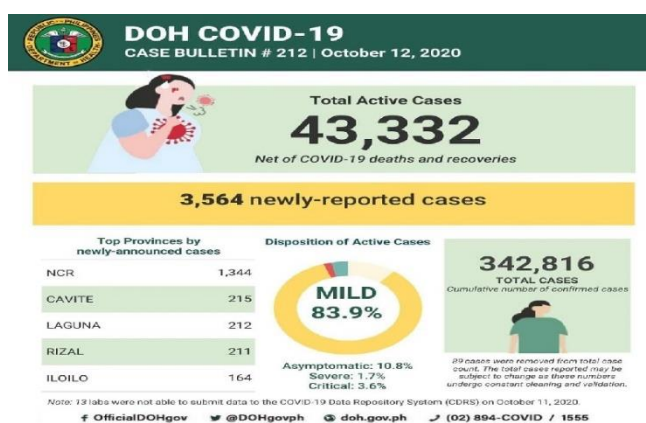
Sa kanilang eksperimento, pinatuyo ng mga scientists ang virus na nasa artificial mucus na tulad ng mga inilalabas ng mga pasyente sa pamamagitan ng pag-ubo o pagbahing.

Matapos ang isang buwan ay binalikan ng mga researcher ang natuyong mucus at doon nila nakita na nakahahawa pa rin ang virus doon.

p/jd

BREAKING: Bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, nasa 342,816 na

By Angellic Jordan October 12, 2020 - 04:08 PM



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

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (October 12), umabot na sa 342,816 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 43,332 ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 3,564 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

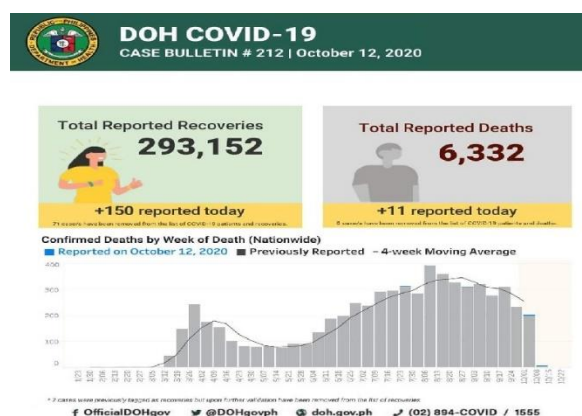
83.9 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 10.8 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 1.7 porsyento ang severe habang 3.6 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 11 ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 6,332 ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 150 naman ang gumaling pa sa bansa.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 293,152 ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/269078/breaking-bilang-ng-kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-nasa-342816-na#ixzz6ahGoAVBk>

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Bilang ng nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo nadagdagan pa ng halos 4,000

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo October 12, 2020 - 10:23 AM



Umabot na sa 1,081,408 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Sa huling datos na nakalap ng Radyo INQUIRER, pinakamaraming bilang ng nasawi sa US na umabot na sa 219,695.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 150,000 ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa Brazil.

Ang death toll sa India ay mahigit 109,000 na.

Habang ang death toll sa Mexico ay umabot na sa mahigit 83,700.

Umabot naman na sa mahigit 28.3 million na ang bilang ng mga naka-recover na sa sakit.

Habang nasa mahigit 8.3 million pa ang aktibong kaso.

Narito ang bilang ng mga nasawi sa iba't ibang ng mga bansa:

USA – 219,695

Brazil – 150,506

India – 109,184

Mexico – 83,781

UK – 42,825

Italy – 36,166

Peru – 33,305

Spain – 32,929

France – 32,683

Iran – 28,544

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/269009/bilang-ng-nasawi-sa-covid-19-sa-buong-mundo-nadagdagan-pa-ng-halos-4000#ixzz6ahIOKHhq>

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Brace for rainy Christmas season as La Niña phenomenon to peak by yearend — Pagasa

By: [Krissy Aguilar](#) - Reporter / [@KAguilarINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 09:04 AM October 12, 2020



MANILA, Philippines — The public can expect more rainy days during the Christmas season as the La Niña phenomenon will likely reach its peak between November and December, the state weather bureau said Monday.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) climate monitoring chief Analiza Solis said the La Niña phenomenon may last until April 2021.

“Based po sa recent conditions, nakikita po natin yung kasagsagan ng La Niña between November, December,” Solis said in an interview on Teleradyo.

(Based on recent conditions, we see that the peak of La Niña will happen between November and December.)

“Posibleng magtagal po at least hanggang April next year,” she added.

(This may last at least until April next year.)

Solis said rainfall brought by the La Niña phenomenon will fill in the country’s dams, especially those located in Luzon like Angat Dam.

“Kumbaga po favorable at mamaximize natin yung potential benefits ng La Niña. Kailangan lang po maiwasan natin yung mga adverse impacts nito na mga flooding and landslides,” she said.

(This is favorable and we can maximize the potential benefits of La Niña. We just need to avoid its adverse impacts like flooding and landslides.)

gsg

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1346540/brace-or-rainy-christmas-season-as-la-nina-phenomenon-to-peak-by-yearend-pagasa#ixzz6ahFdtmvi>

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Unang alarma nakataas sa Marikina River



October 12, 2020 @ 7:33 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Patuloy na binabantayan ng Marikina City Government ang galaw ng tubig sa ilog ng Marikina dahil sa patuloy na pagbuhos ng ulan na posibleng tumaas pa kapag hindi tumigil ang pagbuhos ng malakas na ulan.

Ayon sa PIO ng Marikina City Government umakyat na sa 15.4 meters ang water level ng Marikina River nitong 4:50 ng hapon kanina kung saan nasa unang alarma pa lamang kayat wala pang dapat ipangamba ang mga residente pero dapat ay maging mapagmatyag sila sa daloy ng ilog ng Marikina.

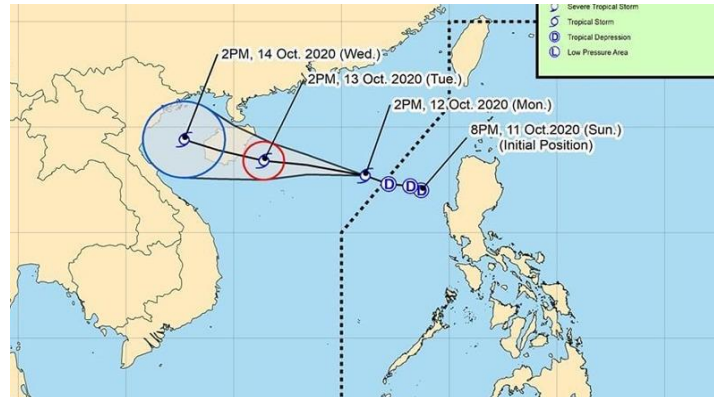
Paliwanag ng Marikina City Government, patuloy ang kanilang ginagawang monitoring sa galaw ng ilog ng Marikina upang agad na mabigyan ng babala ang mga residente na nakatira malapit sa ilog.

Hinikayat din ng LGU ng Marikina ang mga residente na maging mapagmatyag sa galaw ng tubig at agad lumikas sakaling patuloy ang pagbuhos ng ulan at tumaas pa ang level ng tubig.

Tiniyak naman ng Marikina City Government na nakahanda na ang kanilang mga Rescue Team 161 sakaling tumaas pa ang tubig sa naturang ilog. (Maritess Pumaras)



#NikaPH tropical storm na kahit nakalabas na ng PAR



October 12, 2020 @ 6:58 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Naging tropical storm ang bagyong Nika kahit na nakalabas na ito sa Philippine area of responsibility, batay sa PAGASA.

Sa ulat alas-11 ng umaga nang lumabas ito sa PAR habang naging tropical storm naman sa ganap na alas-2 ng hapon.

Namataan ang bagyong Nika sa layong 520 kilometrong kanluran ng Sinait, Ilocos Sur na kumikilos ng 20 km per hour taglay ang hangin na 65 kph malapit sa gitna at pagbugsong 80 kph.

Samantala, iniulat din ng PAGASA na patuloy itong makaaapekto kasabay ng hanging Habagat at magpapaulan sa Metro Manila, Ilocos Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Camarines provinces, Mindoro provinces, at Palawan.

Habang nagbabala naman sa mga posibilidad ng pagbaha o pagguho ng lupa sa kasagsagan ng buhos ng ulan, kulog, at kidlat. **RNT/FGDC**

PRRD wants 2021 budget to be sole topic of special session



President Rodrigo R. Duterte (File photo)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte wants the proposed PHP4.5-trillion national budget for 2021 to be the sole topic of discussions when the House of Representatives holds its special session from Oct. 13 to 16.

In a Palace press briefing, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte no longer wanted to be involved in the speakership row which threatens the timely passage of the proposed national budget.

“Any talk of speakership will delay the passage of the 2021 budget,” he said, adding that Duterte did not care who would sit as House Speaker.

Roque said lawmakers were free to dispute over the speakership, but only after the proposed budget is passed.

“*Ang siguradung-sigurado po na sinabi ng Presidente, in the Visayan, ‘Natagam na’ko diyan sa pulitika.’ Dalang-dala na ako sa pulitika. Bahala na kayo kung anong gusto ninyong gawin. Pero, meanwhile, ang pakiusap niya ipasa ang 2021 budget (What the President said is, in the Visayan ‘I’m fed up with politicking’. Do whatever you want. But meanwhile, he is appealing to them to pass the 2021 budget),” he said.*

Not favoring anyone

According to Roque, Duterte was not favoring either Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and Marinduque Rep. Lord Allan Velasco as speaker of the lower chamber of Congress.

“*Kung mayroon pong mga nagsasabi diyan na the President is endorsing one over the other, hindi po totoo iyan (If there are people saying that the President is endorsing one over the other, it’s not true),” he said.*

He said Duterte is hoping that the proposed budget would be passed by Oct. 16.

“*Wala na po siyang pakialam. Bahala na ang mga members ng Kongreso ang pumili pero matapos po nilang maipasa ang budget hopefully on October 16 (He doesn’t care. It’s up to members of Congress to select their speaker but after they pass the budget hopefully on Oct. 16),” he added.*



PRRD wants 2021 budget to be sole topic of special session

Roque said the timely passage of the proposed 2021 budget should be the top priority of the Congress amid the prevailing coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Last Friday, Duterte, through Proclamation 1027, called on the Congress to hold a special session on October 13 to 16 to "resume the congressional deliberations on the proposed 2021 national budget and to avoid any further delays on the prompt passage thereof in accordance with the Constitution and applicable laws, rules, and regulations".

Cayetano and Velasco are currently embroiled in a fight for the highest position in the House of Representatives despite a supposed term-sharing agreement.

Under the agreement brokered by Duterte, Cayetano is to serve as Speaker in the first 15 months of the 18th Congress, then Velasco takes over the remaining 21 months beginning this month.

On Monday, a total of 186 House members elected Velasco as next Speaker in a remote plenary session at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City.

Cayetano, however, insisted that the session where Velasco was elected was "fake" as it was held outside the session hall of the House of Representatives at Batasan Pambansa in Quezon City. *(PNA)*



AGAWAN SA SALAPING-BAYAN ITIGIL NA



October 12, 2020 @ 8:18 AM 21 hours ago

ANO sa palagay ninyo ang mangyayari kung hindi maipasa ang pambansang badyet para sa taong 2021 sa tamang araw?

Ang tama kasi, dapat aprubado na ito ng Pangulo ng bansa bago mag-Enero 1, 2021 para may magamit agad na panggastos ng pamahalaan.

Sa ibang mga bansa na istrikto sa pagsunod sa batas para rito, kung walang badyet, sinususpende ang operasyon ng pamahalaan at ilang ahensya lang ang pinagagana gaya ng mga para sa ospital, militar, pulis, kuryente, bumbero, tubig at iba.

Skeletal force o kakaunti pang tao ang pinagtatrabaho kaya halos paralisado ang gobyerno dahil walang tiyak na pampasahod.

Sa rami ng nangangailangan na mamamayang Filipino sa lahat ng araw kahit sa mga unang araw ng Enero, dapat sanang nasa tamang araw ang badyet para may magastos agad ang pamahalaan.

REENACTED BUDGET

Sa mahal kong Pinas, karaniwang reenacted budget ang ginagawa kung nawawala sa tamang oras ang pagpasa ng budget.

Kung normal ang sitwasyon, maaaring magawa ito.

Ang siste, mga Bro, ang dami ng nagkakasakit at namamatay araw-araw dahil sa coronavirus disease 2019.

Malaki rin ang posibilidad na may mga maysakit na namamatay na lang din dahil hindi madala sa mga ospital na puno ng mga may COVID-19.

Napakarami rin ang nawalan ng trabaho o negosyo o anomang pagkakitaan dahil pa rin sa nasabing pandemya o kung meron man, pautay-utay at kulang na kulang para pantugon sa pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan ng mga indibidwal o pamilya.



AGAWAN SA SALAPING-BAYAN ITIGIL NA

Santambak din ang mga nagugutom at dumating pa ang napakagastos na pag-aaral ng mga bata.

Mula sa reenacted budget, nasaan ang agarang panggastos ng pamahalaan laban sa mga paghihirap o krisis na ito?

Paano kung nagkaubusan ng badyet dahil sa pandemya sa katapusan ng taon na sa totoo lang, eh, kahit sa mga panahong ito, ramdam na ramdam na ang pagkasaid ng kabang-bayan?

Ang totoo, pinagsisimulan ng demanda sa mga opisyal ng bayan ang pagrambol ng mga pondo kahit pa ikatwiran nilang ginawa nila iyon para sa matinding pangangailangan.

Pero pinakamahalaga sa lahat, nasaan ang klarong pondo para sa kapakanan ng taumbayan sa oras ng kalamidad na dulot ng pandemya?

At pagbangon na rin ng pambansang ekonomiya!

LAHAT DAPAT GUMAGANA

Lahat ng sangay ng pamahalaan dapat gumagana upang hindi mapagkaitan ng tamang serbisyo-publiko sa tamang oras ang lahat ng Filipino.

Bibihira ang mga pamahalaang barangay na malalim ang bulsa at mayroong nadudukot kahit pa wala kaagad ang pondo galing sa Internal Revenue Allotment na ibinibigay mula sa pambansang badyet.

Ganito rin ang kalagayan ng mahihirap na bayan at tanggapin natin o hindi, may mahihirap ding lalawigan, lungsod at region.

‘Yun bang == higit na nabubuhay rin sa IRA kaysa sarili nilang kita sa iba’t ibang paraan.

May mga departamento ring bagama’t malalaki ang badyet gaya ng Department of Education, nakalulunod din ang mga gastos.

Halimbawa, sa paggawa lang ng mga module at pagbibigay ng sapat na gadget para sa halos isang milyong titser, aba, inilutang ang P20 bilyon at mahigit pa.

Paano ngayon kung walang badyet na nakaprograma para sa IRA at iba pang badyet na dapat malinaw na mapagdudukutan ng mga ahensya ng pamahalaan?

AGAWAN SA PWESTO AT KORAPSYON

Nitong nakararaang mga araw, nag-aagawan sa pwesto sa pagka-Speaker sa Kamara sina Alan Peter Cayetano at Cong. Lord Allan Velasco.

Pero nakasingit din ang awayan sa mga masasabaw o may perang pwesto sa Kamara gaya ng Deputy Speaker at chairman sa mga komite.

Naririyang din ang agawan o awayan sa dambuhala at mala-pulgas na pork barrel.

Kung sino ang mamamayani sa pagka-Speaker, masasama ang kanyang alipores na kumabig ng mga masasabaw na pwesto at dambuhalang pondong pandistrito.



AGAWAN SA SALAPING-BAYAN ITIGIL NA

‘Yun bang === bulsa muna nila bago serbisyo publiko ang gusto.

Malinaw na malinaw ang mga usaping ito, mga Bro, kahit sa mga ordinarong mamamayan pero higit na malinaw sa hanay ng mga katulad nila.

SPECIAL SESSION AT PAG-APRUBA

Dahil sa linaw ng mga interes na hindi pabor sa mga mamamayan kundi sa mga mambabatas lang at mga kakosa nila sa ibang mga sangay ng pamahalaan, kasama ang mga nasa lokal na pamahalaan at maiimpluwesyang ibang tao at kompanya, hiniling ng Malakanyang sa Kongreso, lalo na sa Kamara, na magsagawa ng special session sa Oktubre 13-16, 2020.

Ito’y para mailagay sa ayos at tamang panahon ang pagbuo ng pambansang badyet para sa 2021 at maisumite ang badyet ng Kamara sa Senado para ang mga senador naman ang bubusisi sa badyet.

Puno kasi ng mga dagdag-bawas na karaniwang ginagawa ng mga taga-Kamara sa panukala ng Malakanyang at ganito rin ang gagawin ng Senado sa panukala ng Kamara.

Sa pamamagitan ng special session sa Kamara at sa Senado rin ‘pag nasa kamay na nila ang kopya ng badyet mula sa Kamara, maaaring matapos ang badyet bago mag-Pasko, maisumite ito sa Malakanyang na bubusisiin din ng Pangulo bago nito aprubahan o tigbakin sa pamamagitan ng veto.

Kapag inaprubahan ng Pangulo ang buong panukala o kalakhan nito at may veto sa ilang bahagi bago sumikat ang unang araw ng taong 2021, makaaasa ang mga mamamayan ng karampatang kalinga mula sa pamahalaan mula Malakanyang hanggang sa mga barangay.

Sana nga, mga Bro, maging maayos ang lahat.

Tanong ngayon sa lahat ng mamamayan: Ano-ano naman ang magagawa natin para maging kaagapay ng buong pamahalaan sa pagpapanumbalik sa normal ng bagsak nating bayan?



A fishing boat which slammed into damaged houses lies atop debris on November 10, 2013, after super typhoon Yolanda battered Tacloban City two days earlier. REUTERS/ Romeo Ranoco

Philippines 4th hardest hit by natural disasters in last 20 years —UN

Published October 12, 2020 7:29pm

Updated October 12, 2020 9:29pm

By STEPHANIE NEBEHAY, Reuters

GENEVA — Extreme weather events have increased dramatically in the past 20 years, taking a heavy human and economic toll worldwide, and are likely to wreak further havoc, the United Nations said on Monday.

Heatwaves and droughts will pose the greatest threat in the next decade, as temperatures continue to rise due to heat-trapping gases, experts said.

China (577) and the United States (467) recorded the highest number of disaster events from 2000 to 2019, followed by India (321), the Philippines (304) and Indonesia (278), the U.N. said in a report issued the day before the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction. Eight of the top 10 countries are in Asia.

Some 7,348 major disaster events were recorded globally, claiming 1.23 million lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and causing \$2.97 trillion in economic losses during the two-decade period.

Drought, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires and extreme temperature events caused major damage.

"The good news is that more lives have been saved but the bad news is that more people are being affected by the expanding climate emergency," Mami Mizutori, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, told a news briefing.

She called for governments to invest in early warning systems and implement disaster risk reduction strategies.

Debarati Guha-Sapir of the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at the University of Louvain, Belgium, which provided data for the report, said: "If this level of growth in extreme weather events continues over the next twenty years, the future of mankind looks very bleak indeed."



Philippines 4th hardest hit by natural disasters in last 20 years —UN

"Heatwaves are going to be our biggest challenge in the next 10 years, especially in the poor countries," she said.

Last month was the world's hottest September on record, with unusually high temperatures recorded off Siberia, in the Middle East, and in parts of South America and Australia, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service said.

Global temperatures will continue to warm over the next five years, and may even temporarily rise to more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in July. Scientists have set 1.5°C (2.7°F) as the ceiling for avoiding catastrophic climate change. — **Reuters**



UN: Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000



Published 10 hours ago
on October 12, 2020 07:33 PM
By [Agence France-Presse](#)



Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years, the United Nations said on Monday.

The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, claiming 1.23 lives, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some \$2.97 trillion.

The figure far outstrips the 4,212 major natural disasters recorded between 1980 and 1999, the UN office said in a new report entitled “The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019”.

The sharp increase was largely attributable to a rise in climate-related disasters, including extreme weather events like floods, drought, and storms, the report said.

Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

“We are wilfully destructive,” UNDRR chief Mami Mizutori told reporters in a virtual briefing. “That is the only conclusion one can come to when reviewing disaster events over the last 20 years.”

She accused governments of not doing enough to prevent climate hazards and called for better preparation for looming disasters.

‘Uphill battle’

“The odds are being stacked against us when we fail to act on science and early warnings to invest in prevention, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction,” she said.

The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed over one million people and infected over 37 million in the past nine months.



UN: Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000

But Mizutori suggested coronavirus was “the latest proof that political and business leaders are yet to tune in to the world around them”.

Monday’s report showed 6,681 climate-linked events had been recorded since the turn of the century, up from 3,656 during the previous 20-year-period.

While major floods had more than doubled to 3,254, there had been 2,034 major storms up from 1,457 in the prior period.

Mizutori said public health authorities and rescue workers were “fighting an uphill battle against an ever-rising tide of extreme weather events”.

While better preparedness and early warning systems had helped bring down the number of deaths in many natural disaster settings, she warned that “more people are being affected by the expanding climate emergency”.

Deadliest disaster

Monday’s report relied on statistics from the Emergency Events Database, which records all disasters that kill 10 or more people, affect 100 or more people or result in a state of emergency declaration.

The data showed that Asia has suffered the highest number of disasters in the past 20 years with 3,068 such events, followed by the Americas with 1,756 and Africa with 1,192.

In terms of affected countries, China topped the list with 577 events followed by the United States with 467.

While a warming climate appeared to be driving the number and severity of such disasters, there had also been an increase in geophysical events like earthquakes and tsunamis that are not related to climate but are particularly deadly.

The deadliest single disaster in the past 20 years was the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, with 226,400 deaths, followed by the Haiti earthquake in 2010, which claimed some 222,000 lives.



Rising air pollution in Delhi adds to coronavirus concerns

[The Straits Times/Asia News Network](#) / 05:28 PM October 12, 2020



Shoppers in masks at a market area in New Delhi's old quarter yesterday. Health experts fear air pollution could increase the risk for patients who have ailments such as chronic bronchitis and other respiratory diseases. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW DELHI — As New Delhi's air quality starts to deteriorate in what has become an annual occurrence in the run-up to winter, concerns are growing over how the coming pollution could potentially complicate the Covid-19 situation.

India's capital has been among the worst affected cities in the country by the coronavirus pandemic, with more than 300,000 people infected and a death toll of 5,740.

Last Saturday, the city recorded 2,866 fresh cases, as it battled a second wave.

Health experts fear air pollution could increase the risk for patients who have ailments such as chronic bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

"We might see a spike. Right now the trend is slightly going down but we don't know how air pollution will contribute to an increase," said Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, an expert on public health, policies and strategies, adding that air pollution exacerbates the condition of people who have respiratory or pulmonary disease.

He warned: "There are studies in which air pollution is linked to increased mortality, but such evidence is limited."

Studies have also pointed to increased Covid-19 infection rates in areas that suffer from high pollution.

A study by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in the United States in May found that someone who lived in an area of high-particulate pollution for decades was 8 per cent more likely to die from Covid-19 than someone in a place with less pollution.

An Italian study by environmental scientists at Aarhus University and health researchers at the University of Siena found that the mortality rate from Covid-19 came up to 12 per cent in the northern part of Italy, while it was around 4.5 per cent in the rest of the country.

The researchers concluded there was a probable correlation between pollution and mortality.



Rising air pollution in Delhi adds to coronavirus concerns

In India, cold air traps pollutants in the atmosphere during the winter months, which are also when farmers burn the stubble in their fields to prepare for the next set of crops.

All this adds to existing pollution from vehicles, construction activity, burning of waste and use of unclean fuels.

A report by the US Health Effects Institute said that around 1.2 million people died in India in 2017 because of air pollution.

According to weather forecasters, pollution levels have already started climbing and will get worse from the middle of this month.

Air quality had improved following a stringent lockdown, now eased, that shut down economic activity.

Delhi's air quality turned "poor" between last Wednesday and yesterday, for the first time since June.

According to Safar (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the situation could improve in the coming week due to favourable winds.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal last Monday announced a campaign against pollution, with plans to control dust by filling up potholes and closely monitoring construction sites, among other measures.

A report from the National Centre for Disease Control has warned that Delhi could hit 15,000 new cases a day due to respiratory problems related to winter and festive gatherings, with the festive season kicking off this month, according to Indian media reports.

Referring to solutions, environmentalists say the problem, as in previous years, has been implementation and enforcement.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1346824/rising-air-pollution-in-delhi-adds-to-coronavirus-concerns#ixzz6ahTCoeUE>

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The Antarctic ozone hole is one of the largest and deepest in recent years

By David Williams, CNN

Published Oct 12, 2020 11:45:43 PM

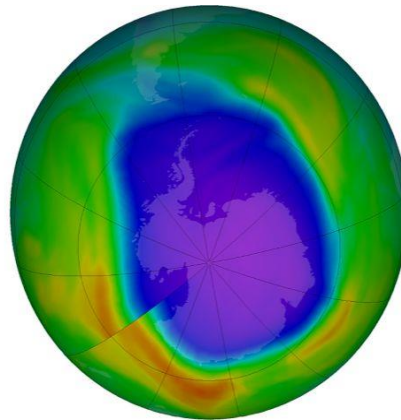


Photo courtesy: NASA

(CNN) -- The ozone hole that typically grows over the Antarctic each September and October has become one of the largest and deepest in recent years -- just one year after scientists recorded its smallest size since it was discovered.

The 2020 ozone hole grew rapidly from mid-August and had grown to about 9.2 million square miles when it peaked in early October, according to a statement from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

It then shrank to about 8.9 million square miles -- more than twice the size of the United States -- covering almost the entire Antarctic continent, the agency said.

The WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch program works closely with the Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS), NASA, Environment and Climate Change Canada and other partners to monitor the Earth's ozone layer.

The ozone layer in our atmosphere protects the Earth from ultraviolet radiation.

"There is much variability in how far ozone hole events develop each year. The 2020 ozone hole resembles the one from 2018, which also was a quite large hole, and is definitely in the upper part of the pack of the last fifteen years or so," said CAMS Director Vincent-Henri Peuch in a statement.

The depletion is directly related to the temperatures in the stratosphere, where the ozone layer sits, because the polar stratospheric clouds that play an important role in the process only form at temperatures below -78 degrees Celsius (-108.4 Fahrenheit).

Ice crystals in the clouds react with compounds in the atmosphere that can then rapidly destroy ozone when they are exposed to sunlight, the WMO said.



The Antarctic ozone hole is one of the largest and deepest in recent years

NASA said last year's ozone hole was particularly small because of unusual weather patterns that cause warmer stratospheric temperatures over Antarctica.

The Antarctic ozone hole will shrink as temperatures warm up in the Southern Hemisphere, where it's spring, and will return to normal by December, the WMO said.

Peuch said this year's data confirms the need to continue enforcing the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which banned the emission of ozone depleting chemicals.

It banned chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, which were common in refrigerators, aerosol cans and other products before scientists realized they were damaging to the ozone layer.

A 2018 report by the UN Environment Programme and the WMO predicted that ozone values over Antarctica would return to pre-1980s levels by 2060.

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["The Antarctic ozone hole is one of the largest and deepest in recent years"](#)

Earth's first mammals took it easy and lived far longer than their modern counterparts

By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Updated 1505 GMT (2305 HKT) October 12, 2020



Morganucodon (left) and Kuehneotherium (right) hunting in Early Jurassic Wales 200 million years ago.

(CNN)Earth's earliest [mammals](#) spent their lives at a more leisurely pace than their modern counterparts, but they lived a lot longer, analysis of some 200-million-year-old teeth has shown.

Using X-ray technology, palaeontologists studied the fossilized teeth of some of Earth's earliest mammals, Morganucodon and Kuehneotherium, shrew-sized insectivores that walked the earth alongside early dinosaurs during the Early Jurassic marine transgression, in what is now Glamorgan in South Wales.

Experts from the UK's University of Bristol and Finland's University of Helsinki studied growth rings in the mammals' tooth sockets, discovering the animals lived for up to 14 years -- surprising, given similarly sized modern-day animals, such as mice and shrews, have a lifespan of between one and two years in the wild.

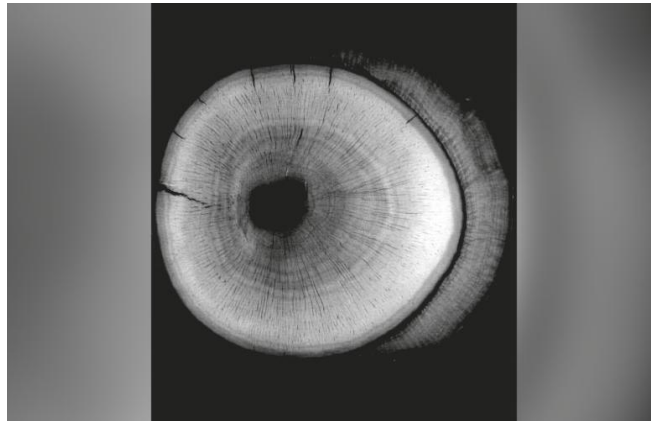


[T. rex skeleton sells for \\$31.8 million setting new world record](#)

The tiny mammals had fallen into caves and holes in the rock, where their skeletons and teeth fossilized and remained well preserved.

"We digitally reconstructed the tooth roots in 3-D and these showed that Morganucodon lived for up to 14 years, and Kuehneotherium for up to nine years. I was dumbfounded as these lifespans were much longer than the one to three years we anticipated for tiny mammals of the same size," Dr Elis Newham, Research Associate at the University of Bristol, said in a statement.

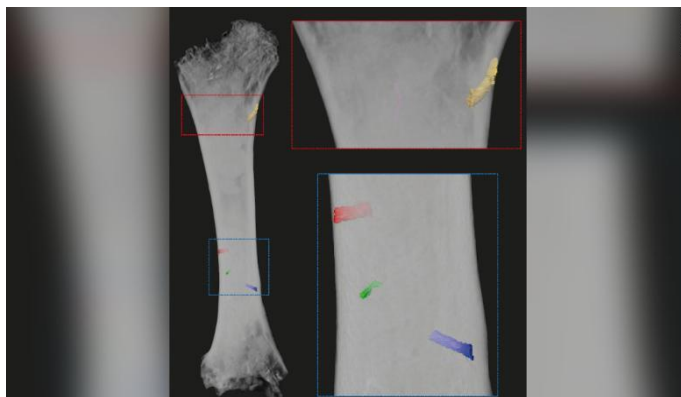
Earth's first mammals took it easy and lived far longer than their modern counterparts



A micro-CT scan of a fossil Morganucodon tooth root from 200 million years ago, showing annual growth rings.

"They were otherwise quite mammal-like in their skeletons, skulls and teeth. They had specialized chewing teeth, relatively large brains and probably had hair, but their long lifespan shows they were living life at more of a reptilian pace than a mammalian one," Newham said.

"There is good evidence that the ancestors of mammals began to become increasingly warm-blooded from the Late Permian, more than 270 million years ago, but, even 70 million years later, our ancestors were still functioning more like modern reptiles than mammals," he added.



Measuring the blood vessels in this reconstructed fossilized femur belonging to a Morganucodon let the scientists estimate how much blood could supply the bone during exercise.

Newham said it was previously thought that the key characteristics of mammals -- including their warm-bloodedness -- all evolved at the same time.

"By contrast, our findings clearly show that, although they had bigger brains and more advanced behavior, they didn't live fast and die young but led a slower-paced, longer life akin to those of small reptiles, like lizards."



Earth's first mammals took it easy and lived far longer than their modern counterparts

Still, while the mammals had a reptilian pace of life, experts found evidence of sustained exercise in the bone tissue -- which contained blood vessels and fat -- of the early mammals.

"We found that in the thigh bones of Morganucodon, the blood vessels had flow rates a little higher than in lizards of the same size, but much lower than in modern mammals. This suggests these early mammals were active for longer than small reptiles but could not live the energetic lifestyles of living mammals," Newham added.

The research was published Monday in the journal [Nature](#).

German ship completes historic Arctic expedition

By Jonathan Amos BBC Science Correspondent

- 4 hours ago



Image copyrightANNIKA MEYERImage captionRV Polarstern returns to the port city Bremerhaven early on Monday

The German Research Vessel Polarstern has sailed back into its home port after completing a remarkable expedition to the Arctic Ocean.

The ship spent a year in the polar north, much of it with its engines turned off so it could simply drift in the sea-ice.

The point was to study the Arctic climate and how it is changing.

And expedition leader, Prof Markus Rex, returned with a warning. "The sea-ice is dying," he said.

"The region is at risk. We were able to witness how the ice disappears and in areas where there should have been ice that was many metres thick, and even at the North Pole - that ice was gone," the Alfred Wegener Institute scientist told a media conference in Bremerhaven on Monday.



Image copyrightSTEFAN HENDRICKSImage captionMid-winter in the Arctic is accompanied by 24-hour darkness

RV Polarstern was on station to document this summer's floes shrink to their second lowest ever extent in the modern era.

The floating ice withdrew to just under 3.74 million sq km (1.44 million sq miles). The only time this minimum has been beaten in the age of satellites was 2012, when the pack ice was reduced to 3.41 million sq km.

German ship completes historic Arctic expedition

The downward trend is about 13% per decade, averaged across the month of September.

"This reflects the warming of the Arctic," said Prof Rex. "The ice is disappearing and if in a few decades we have an ice-free Arctic - this will have a major impact on the climate around the world."



Image copyrightESTHER HORVATHImage captionOn occasions the expedition was harassed by polar bears

The €130m (£120m/\$150m) cruise [set off from Tromsø, Norway](#), on 20 September last year. The project was named the Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate (MOSAiC).

The idea was to recreate the historic voyage of Norwegian polar researcher Fridtjof Nansen, who undertook the first ice drift through the Arctic Ocean more than 125 years ago.

RV Polarstern embedded itself in the ice on the Siberian side of the Arctic basin with the intention of floating across the top of the world and emerging from the floes just east of Greenland.

In the course of this drift, hundreds of researchers came aboard to study the region's environment.

They deployed a battery of instruments to try to understand precisely how the ocean and atmosphere are responding to the warming forced on the Arctic by the global increase in greenhouse gases.



Image copyrightMOSAIC/AWIImage captionInvestigations were conducted to improve future measurements made from space

German ship completes historic Arctic expedition

Coronavirus only briefly interrupted the expedition - not by making participants ill, but by obliging the ship at one point to leave the floes to go pick up its next rotation of scientists. Other ships and planes were supposed to deliver the participants direct to RV Polarstern, but international movement restrictions made this extremely challenging in the early-to-middle part of this year.

Despite the hiatus, Prof Rex declared the MOSAiC project a huge success.

The mass of data and samples now in the possession of researchers would make the modelling they use to project future climate change much more robust, he explained.

It was as if the MOSAiC scientists had been shown the inner workings of an intricate clock, he said.

"We looked at all the different elements, down to the different screws of this Arctic system. And now we understand the entire clockwork better than ever before. And maybe we can rebuild this Arctic system on a computer model," he told reporters.



Image copyright KERSTIN_ROLFES Image caption The ship returned to a world that is very different from the one it left



Image copyright STEFFEN GRAUPNER Image caption Prof Rex said the sea-ice was very thin or even absent in places where it used to be thick



German ship completes historic Arctic expedition

Arctic sea ice minimum extent

2020

3.7 million sq km



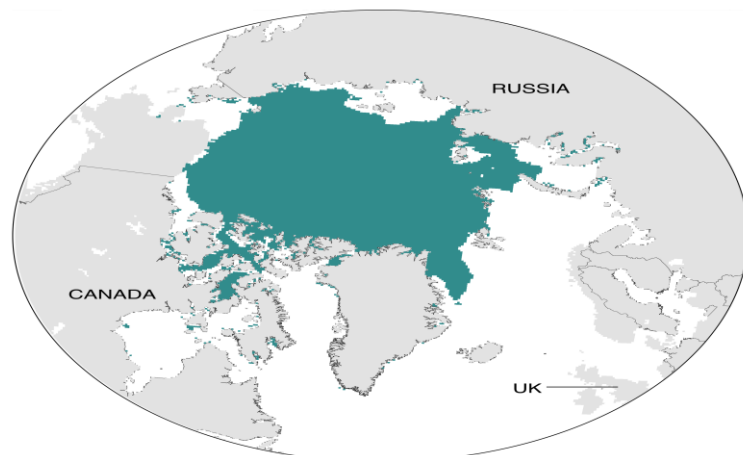
Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center



Arctic sea ice minimum extent

1980

7.5 million sq km



Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center

