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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## [DENR, SMC ink partnership for major Pasig River dredging project](#)

JUN 13, 2021, 4:58 PM

Santiago Celario

Writer

*The Pasig River dredging project, which is part of SMC's commitment to the Adopt-a-River Program, aims to improve the river's water flow and mitigate flooding by deepening and widening the shallow and narrow portions of the waterbody.*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and conglomerate San Miguel Corporation (SMC) signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to start the Pasig River Dredging Project last June 9.

DENR said the MOA signing, held at the Petron Sales Training Office in Manila, signifies the start of the project and the commitment of DENR and SMC to work together in the dredging and cleanup of Pasig River. (See also: [Time for plastic-less lifestyle; PH dominates top 50 polluting rivers in the world](#).)

*"This project does not only directly complement our ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay, but one can just imagine the positive impacts the cleanup and rehabilitation of Pasig River could bring to the majority of our population and to the ecosystems that connect to it," DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a press release.*

DENR said the dredging project, which is part of SMC's commitment to the Adopt-a-River Program, aims to improve Pasig River's water flow and mitigate flooding by deepening and widening the shallow and narrow portions of the waterbody.

The ongoing Tullahan-Tinajeros River Rehabilitation Project is SMC's first Adopt-a-River partnership with the DENR.

*"Indeed, this is another significant step towards our ultimate goal of restoring and enhancing the environmental integrity of Pasig River, one of the most iconic and important waterways in the country," Cimatu said.*

In the agreement, DENR will provide the technical expertise for the project while SMC will provide manpower support and dredging equipment.

The implementation of the dredging project will also involve the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine Coast Guard, whose officials have expressed support for the project during the MOA signing.



Meanwhile SMC President Ramon Ang regarded the event as a "very historic gathering" as representatives from various government agencies, along with the local governments of Manila and Mandaluyong, were also in attendance.

After the MOA signing, a site and equipment inspection for the initial operations were also held in the former Pandacan Oil Terminal.

The SMC has identified the narrow and shallow portions of the river along the Pandacan-Paco area, Estrella in Makati City, and near C5 Road, Manila Bay, and EDSA, as priority dredging sites.

The SMC said that larger equipment will be used as the Pasig River is a much bigger river system compared to the Tullahan-Tinajeros River.

Ang said that SMC has invested in a cutter suction dredger—which can dredge 1,000 tons per hour, 10,000 tons per 10 hours a day, or 3 million tons a year—and hopper barge for high volume dredging and transfer of dredged materials to a designated site.

He said they are also looking into conducting percussion drilling for areas that are difficult to dredge due to heavy materials.

Under the MOA, the DENR will also help in the evaluation of soil test results to be conducted by the SMC to identify the location and find the best usage for the dredged materials.

Moreover, it will assist in the application for an environmental compliance certificate or ECC for the relocation site of dredged materials.

*"On behalf of the DENR, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to SMC for its unwavering and continuing commitment to various environmental causes," Cimatu said.*

(SC)



## DENR, SMC nagsanib-pwersa sa Pasig River dredging project



June 13, 2021 @ 4:31 PM 14 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang simulan ang paglilinis sa Pasig River Dredging Project nagsanib-pwersa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at San Miguel Corporation (SMC) upang simulan noong Miyerkules, Hunyo 9 ang paglilinis sa naturang ilog na isang paraan upang malinis ang largest river system na konektado sa Manila Bay.

Sa press release ng DENR sinabi nitong sa pamamagitan ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing na ginanap sa Petron Sales Training Office sa Maynila ay sinimulan na ang proyekto at ang pangako ng DENR at ng SMC na magtulungan para sa dredging at cleanup ng Pasig River.

“This project does not only directly complement our ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay, but one can just imagine the positive impacts the cleanup and rehabilitation of Pasig River could bring to the majority of our population and to the ecosystems that connect to it,” sabi ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Ayon pa sa DENR ang dredging project ay bahagi ng pangako ng SMC sa kanilang Adopt-a-River Program na layuning maisaayos ang daloy ng tubig sa Pasig River upang mapigilan ang pagbaha sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalalim at pagpapalawak sa mababaw at masikip na bahagi ng ilog.

Ang isinasagawang Tullahan-Tinejeros River Rehabilitation Project ay ang unang Adopt-a-River partnership ng SMC at DENR.

“Indeed, this is another significant step towards our ultimate goal of restoring and enhancing the environmental integrity of Pasig River, one of the most iconic and important waterways in the country,” saad ni Cimatu.

Base sa nakasaad sa kasunduan, ang DENR ang magbibigay ng technical expertise para sa proyekto habang ang SMC naman ang para sa manpower support at dredging equipment.

Sa implementasyon ng dredging project, tutulong din ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of the Interior and Local Government, at Philippine Coast Guard kung saan ay nagpahayag ng suporta sa proyekto ang kanilang mga opisyal sa ginanap na MOA signing.

Samantala Ikinokonsidera ni SMC President Ramon Ang na isang “very historic gathering” ang okasyon dahil sa pakikiisa ng mga kinatawan ng iba’t-ibang government agencies, maging ang pagtungo ng mga alkalde ng Maynila at Mandaluyong.



Matapos ang MOA signing ay agad na nagsagawa ng site at equipment inspection para sa pangunang operasyon sa dating Pandacan Oil Terminal.

Tinukoy ng SMC ang mga mabababaw at makikitid na bahagi ng ilog sa Pandacan-Paco area, Estrella sa Makati City, malapit sa C5 Road, Manila Bay at EDSA na siyang bibigyan ng prayoridad para sa dredging.

Ayon sa SMC, mas malalaking equipment ang gagamitin sa operasyon dahil mas malaki ang Pasig River kumpara sa Tullahan-Tinejeros River.

Sinabi pa ni Ang, ang SMC ay namuhunan para sa cutter suction dredger na kayang makapaghukay ng 1,000 tonelada kada oras, 10,000 tonelada kada sampung oras at 3 milyong tonelada kada taon, at ang hopper barge na kaya namang maghukay ng mas marami para ilipat ang mga nahukay sa itinalagang lugar.

Aniya, tinitignan din nila ang pagsasagawa ng “percussion drilling” para sa mga lugar na mahirap hukayin dahil na rin sa mabibigat na bagay.

Nakasaad pa sa MOA na ang DENR ay tutulong sa “evaluation” ng soil test results na gagawin ng SMC upang matukoy ang mga lugar kung saan pinakamabuting magamit ang mga nahukay na materyales.

Bukod dito, tutulong din ang ahensiya para sa aplikasyon ng environmental compliance certificate o ECC para sa relocation site ng “dredged materials.”

“On behalf of the DENR, I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to SMC for its unwavering and continuing commitment to various environmental causes,” sabi pa ni Cimat. **Santi Celario**



## 34th ANNIVERSARY NG DENR GINUNITA, USEC BENNY ANTIPODA MAY PAALALA



June 13, 2021 @ 12:23 PM 18 hours ago

IPINAGDIWANG nitong June 10, 2021 ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang 34th founding anniversary nito.

Kasabay nito, nagpaalala si DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Unit Benny Antiporda sa mga kawani ng kagawaran na kahit pa panahon ng pandemya dulot ng COVID-19 ay dapat magpatuloy pa rin ang pangangalaga sa kalikasan at kapaligiran dahil ito ang kanilang pangunahing trabaho.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan si USec. Antiporda sa tuluyang pagsasabatas at mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng “single use plastic” policy sa buong bansa dahil malaki ang mababawas ng mga basurang ito sa polusyon sa lupa at maging sa katubigan.

Sa isang pag-aaral, lumalabas na 2.7 millions metric tons ng plastic wastes ang naiipon ng Pilipinas kada taon kung saan 20% nito ay napupunta sa karagatan at iba pang anyo ng katubigan.

-ooOoo-

### **PALAKASIN ANG KUMPIYANSA NG MGA MANGGAGAWA – BELLO**

Una nang ipinahayag ni Labor Assistant Secretary at Bureau of Working Conditions Director Ma. Teresita Cucueco na ang safety seal ay makapagpapalakas ng kumpiyansa ng mga manggagawa na sila ay ligtas sa kani-kanilang lugar-paggawa.

“Kung ang kanilang kompanya ay sumusunod sa minimum public health standards, protocols, at iba pang mga kinakailangan para sa safety seal, mas kumpiyansa ang mga manggagawa na sabihing, “Oo, ligtas ang aking pinagtatrabahuhan, at sigurado ako na mababa ang tsansa na mahahawa ako ng COVID-19,” pahayag pa ni Cucueco.

Upang matiyak ang mahigpit at tuloy-tuloy na pagsunod sa health protocols, may bisa lamang ang sertipikasyon sa loob ng anim na buwan mula sa petsa nang ito ay ma-isyu—maliban sa mga establisimyento sa turismo, kung saan ang sertipikasyon ay epektibo sa loob ng isang taon at dapat ma-renew isang buwan bago ito mag expire.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/34th-anniversary-ng-denr-ginunita-usec-benny-antiporda-may-paalala/>



The initiative is aimed at ensuring the proper collection, transport, disposal, and recycling of electronic and hazardous waste from cell sites and offices.

BusinessWorld/File

## PLDT, Smart get DENR backing on e-waste disposal programs

[Richmond Mercurio](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 13, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — PLDT Inc. and wireless subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. have signed a tripartite partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and its accredited provider JMR Trade & Transport Services (JMR) for electronic waste disposal programs.

The initiative is aimed at ensuring the proper collection, transport, disposal, and recycling of electronic and hazardous waste from cell sites and offices.

E-waste includes discarded phones, tablets, computers, chargers and device accessories, while hazardous waste includes used lead acid batteries and fiber optic cables.

PLDT said the partnership is aligned with Smart's e-waste program which uses technology to encourage a proper way of recycling discarded electronic devices.

Doing so would help avoid harmful effects of electronic waste on health and the environment, the telco said.

As part of the partnership, DENR's Environment Management Bureau Region 3 will coordinate with other regional offices to provide support to the waste recovery project.

The agency will also link PLDT and JMR to its network of scientific researchers and experts.

PLDT has also committed to ramp up environmental awareness and proper disposal of e-waste among its staff, employees, partners and stakeholders.

PLDT and Smart's e-waste disposal programs are aligned with the group's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly on responsible consumption and production.

Under this, companies are to ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/06/13/2105023/pldt-smart-get-denr-backing-e-waste-disposal-programs>

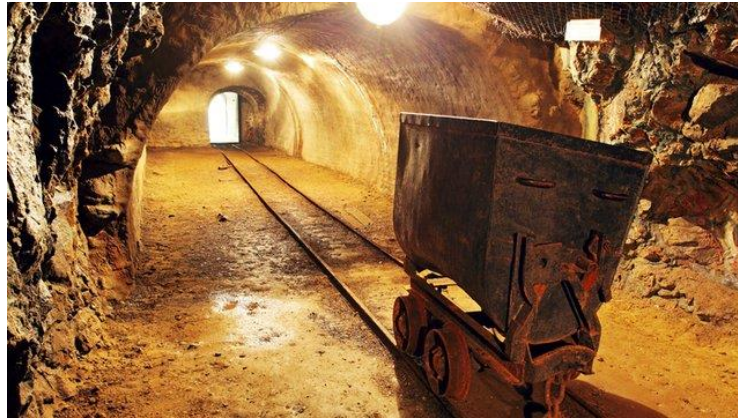


## Mining attracts multiple players

Land banking can occur offshore as well as onshore and must be curbed in the greater interest of spurring this new industry to contribute to the country's recovery

Published 5 hours ago on June 14, 2021 02:30 AM

By [TDT](#) [@tribunephil](#)



The lifting of the mining moratorium and the ban on open-pit mining could revive the domestic industry, igniting hope from investors from across the globe to explore opportunities in the country, the Offshore Mining Chamber of the Philippines (OMCP) said over the weekend.

Mining, after all, is an economic bedrock in many countries, with emerging economies and developed nations benefitting from its role in inclusive growth, social development and poverty alleviation.

The OMCP said "it has been receiving many expressions of interest from major world players in offshore mining to explore opportunities in the country."

Among the companies that offered their interests are Primetals Technologies of Austria, Duro Felguera of Spain, funders from Switzerland, international JORC, and VALMIN professional practitioners from Singapore, Indonesia, Europe and Australia.

Other offshore mining-related companies from Indonesia, Malta, Australia, China, Hong Kong, and Japan signified interest in investing in the country.

The Japanese companies are comprised of Nakanishi Shipbuilding, Kurimoto Iron Works, Kansai Design Company, and JTrade Company.

However, the OMCP suggested that the national government should approve offshore mining tenement applications from legitimate offshore mining companies with adequate capital, proven technical expertise, and capability to engage and deploy offshore equipment for proper exploration, seabed scientific research and sea bottom profiling facilities.

OMCP chair Gary Olivar said the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) should review its mine tenement ownership systems and processes to delist inactive tenement claims.

"Land banking can occur offshore as well as onshore and must be curbed in the greater interest of spurring this new industry to contribute to the country's recovery," he added.

Olivar also lauded one of OMCP's members, Cagayan Blue Ocean Offshore Aquamarine Services Corporation (CBO), which invested heavily in an offshore exploration tugboat named "AHTS NOAH."





After paying all applicable duties and taxes, the vessel is docked in the Port of Manila for deployment off Cagayan and Pangasinan waters for offshore scientific exploration, environmentally safe dredging of flood-stricken areas, and widening of rivers and the offshore regions.

With specialized equipment, including the HY600 HC cable dredge, the “NOAH” can scan up to 100 meters below the sea crust to properly quantify mineral resources under the ocean. Its capability to conduct sea bottom profiles under the seabed can identify objects to be avoided, like corals, cables, vintage bombs, sunken vessels and others.



Photo shows the aftermath of an incident in Tondo, Manila where cargo vessel M/V Titan 8 caught fire and led to a series of explosions.

Release/Philippine Coast Guard

## PCG conducts water sampling after cargo vessel burns in Tondo

(Philstar.com) - June 13, 2021 - 11:37am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coast Guard on Sunday initiated water sampling efforts to assess the environmental impact of the burned cargo vessel in the waters of Delpan Bridge, Tondo, Manila on Saturday.

To recall, the M/V Titan 8 en route to Palawan caught fire on Saturday morning, leading to several explosions and fires that spread to the nearby slum areas. The fires declared under control at 1:54 p.m. and were fully put out at 2:57 p.m.

Six persons were injured and two were reported missing from the vessel's crew.

Asked if those missing were still alive, PCG communications officer said in a text message Sunday: "We're doing search and rescue, not search and retrieval."

Traces of oil and oil sheens that easily dissipated were observed in the surrounding waters, the PCG told reporters.

In a statement, the PCG said its Marine Environmental Protection Command would also lay absorbent pads to cover the thick 'oil sheens' in the area where the ship sank.

According to a vessel profile by the Maritime Industry Authority, the M/V Titan-8 was a cargo ship built in 2008 capable of carrying 199.5 gross tons.

The PCG said it was taking in cargo at the time the incident occurred but added that it has yet to pinpoint the source of the fire.

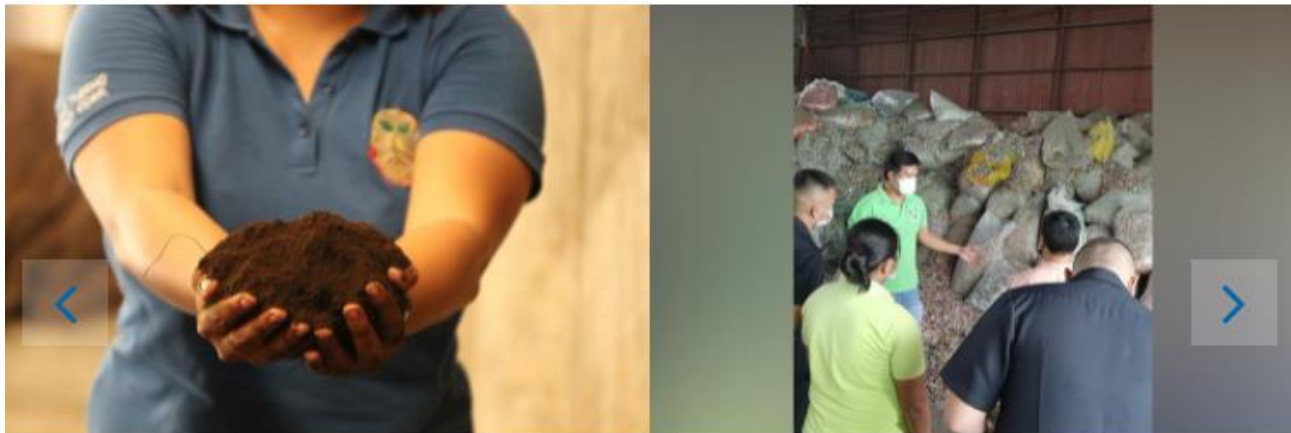
The Titan 8's operator, who was not named, told the PCG he was taking a bath when he heard an explosion, prompting him and his crew to jump from the vessel.

— with a report from The STAR

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/06/13/2105216/pcg-conducts-water-sampling-after-cargo-vessel-burns-tondo>



## How Davao faces its garbage concern



COMPOSTING. Plant Manager Aimea Lumpay holds a handful of odor-free treated biodegradable waste that went through hyperthermophilic aerobic composting. (Photo by John Orquiza)

Photo by Winder Recycling Company

### JENNIE P. ARADO

June 13, 2021

EVEN before the pandemic, the city government of Davao and the different environmentalist groups were already anticipating the exhaustion sooner or later of the 11.75-hectare landfill the city currently uses in Carmen, Tugbok District.

The city's solution to this waste problem has already been highlighted and made public for several years now. In 2017, Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio even visited a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant in Kitakyushu, Japan to observe their use of the technology. The project, with an initial grant amount of P2.5 billion through official development assistance (ODA), is in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica). However, in a February 2020 interview, project manager and City Administrator for Administration lawyer Dwight Domingo said additional funding for the facility is still being sought.

"Apparently, right now, the Department of Energy already told us na wala na to (that it was scrapped). Dili na available ang fix na price sa pagbaligya og kuryente (The fixed price for the electricity is no longer available) and because of that the financial projection of study was changed," Domingo said, who added that the project requires participation of utility companies such as Davao Light Power Corporation (DLPC).

The WTE project was initially proposed to be constructed in a 10-hectare property in Biao Escuela, Tugbok District.

However, environmentalist groups in the city continue to advocate against WTE because of its impact on the environment and health of the residents. According to them, the process of incineration produces toxic chemicals also known as dioxins, which are cancer-causing and are extremely dangerous.

They said a drop of dioxin in a lake "can "cause harm to the fish living there." This was first said by Jorge Emmanuel, former United Nations (UN) Chief-technical advisor on environmental concerns in 2016 when the news of proposed WTE in Davao made noise again.

Emmanuel added the Philippines is not financially ready for the adverse effects of WTE on the health of the people.



In the same way, former executive director of Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability (Idis) Chinkie Golle said WTE highlights the amount of waste the city produces.

“Kay ang imong ginatubag lang kay ang end lang sa surface problem, which is daghang basura. Pero on our part, among gina-oppose is didto sa ngano daghan og basura? Tungod wala nila gipatuman ang Ecological Solid Waste Management hilabi na sa mga households, barangays, and to establishments,” she said in a previous interview.

The Carmen landfill is getting filled to the brim and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) projects it will be fully exhausted by 2023.

Since March 2020, when the city started experiencing the pandemic, waste produced by the city ballooned to 600 to 650 tons per day. Cenro plans to purchase another 10-hectare property adjacent to the existing landfill for expansion.

Despite WTE, Cenro head Marivic Reyes said there is still a need to rehabilitate the sanitary landfill, as the ashes from the incineration will be buried in the landfill.

On average, a landfill’s life span usually lasts five to eight years. The Carmen landfill was first opened in 2008 and its extended life was said to be partially because of households observing proper waste segregation.

### **Making use of biodegradable waste to its full potential**

Many private individuals also believe that before getting into a huge commitment such as the WTE project, it is also crucial that Dabawenyos understand how to properly dispose of their garbage.

The Davao Thermo Biotech Corp. is an environmental solutions company currently engaged in biodegradable waste management and natural biofertilizer production. It started The Yellow Drum Project with companies but later on engaged with household owners.

The Yellow Drum Project provides a 10-liter yellow drum to their subscribers where different types of biodegradable waste are collected and will eventually be converted into biofertilizer in their facility in Toril.

“We collect the hazardous and non-hazardous biodegradable and we compost it using high-temperature composting technology and convert it into usable potent biofertilizer,” explained Dr. Bo Puentespina, Jr., Davao Thermo Biotech Corp. chief executive officer.

“We have to change climate change realities. We have to change our attitude with respect to how we dispose of our biodegradables. In our law, it says that biodegradables must have to be composted at source – meaning in our homes, then in our barangays. It’s not supposed to go to the landfills,” Dr. Puentespina added.

The process used by Davao Thermo Biotech Corp. is Japanese-patented and is the only company in the country permitted to do it outside Japan.

“We use hyperthermophilic aerobic composting. Hyperthermophilic means ‘high temperature’ while aerobic requires oxygen. We use special bacteria that help with the decomposing of the waste. We have ‘blowers’ to supply the air requirement for decomposing. Within 45 days, the



fermentation process takes place while we also turn the mound of treated waste every now and then to let the air through and for more balanced decomposing,” said Plant Manager Aimea B. Lumpay.

The Yellow Drum Project currently has more or less 40 household subscribers in different parts of Davao City while it also continues to work with restaurants, companies, and other private institutions. Puentespina shared that these companies follow environmental standards to continue operation and so The Yellow Drum Project partnership was fondly responded to by private sectors.

“We want more people to be aware that this project exists – that there is a solution for their biodegradable waste. They don’t need to mix it with their non-bio waste and throw it in the trash. They can actually make something good out of their biowaste. We understand that not all people have the capacity or resources to do composting at home so this project is actually ideal for those people,” said Lyen Queen Yap-Joaquin, business development officer.

**Repurposing non-biodegradable waste**

Winder Recycling Company in Sasa, Davao City has been focusing on converting single-use plastic to useful items that would last for a long time such as tables, benches, school chairs, pots, and many others.

Engineer Winchester Lemen shared that their equipment can accommodate other types of plastic or non-biodegradable waste, but they decided to specifically focus on single-use plastic, those that are not accepted in junk shops as these types of waste are rarely recycled and some, unfortunately, end up in the sea.

“Karaniwan po sa single-use plastic tinatapon na lang natin kasi alam natin wala na itong pakinabang gaya ng plastic bottles ng softdrinks, mga sachets ng shampoo, packaging ng chichirya, pwede po yang dalhin dito sa planta natin,” said Engr. Lemen.

The collected garbage goes through a meticulous process in their plant in Sasa before it becomes a durable repurposed item. The single-use plastic items are broken and cut into tiny pieces before they are washed and dried. Then they proceed to the melting machine, keeping the 14-percent moisture content, where the plastics are molded into molders depending on the planned by-product. They have molders for chairs, tables, benches, plant pots, etc.

Aside from these small items, Lemen also looks forward to bigger repurposing projects such as bricks to make houses. He said they have worked hard to ensure the durability of their products.

“Ito po ay masusi nating pinag-aralan dahil sabi nga nila, kailangan po natin ng alternative solution. Hindi lang po basta semento. Meron po tayong dapat gawin doon sa mga plastic waste natin. Kaya naisip po naming tibayan talaga yung mga produkto para po mapakinabangan ng mas matagal nung ating mga consumers,” said Lemen.

Winder Recycling Corporation and the Davao Thermo Biotech Corp. continue to seek partnership with the local government to influence more people in segregating their waste. They understand that with the mandate of the government, especially at the barangay level, it would be easier for residents to participate.

As the local government has yet to respond, the two companies continue to form professional relationships with huge companies to help with their waste problems.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1897618>



# Bridging science and policy to protect oceans, life, and livelihoods

BY DR. THERESA MUNDITA S. LIM

JUNE 10, 2021

Today, on World Oceans Day, the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) joins the rest of the international community in celebrating oceans and recognizing their necessity to our everyday lives. This occasion with the theme Life and Livelihoods reminds us why these vast bodies of water must be protected and sustainably managed.

Humanity cannot exist without oceans. The Asean region has immensely rich and diverse marine resources, which comprise 30 percent of the world's coral reefs, 35 percent of mangroves, and at least 18 percent of seagrass meadows. The region's 173,000 kilometers of coastline serve as a vital resource base for key industries—fisheries, tourism, shipping—and for its population of 650 million people. Fish and marine products are among the most traded goods across the world.

While oceans are heavily affected by climate change, these natural systems are our frontlines against climate change. For example, healthy mangroves, tidal flats, seagrass beds, and coral reefs act as natural barriers against strong winds and storm surges and contribute to our resilience to rising temperatures.

There is no argument that oceans have gained much attention in recent years as the new frontier of sustainable development.

The blue economy, or the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, has improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems. However, oceans are continuously under threat due to a host of factors, many of which are human-driven. The greater challenge rests on making this so-called blue economy “green” and ensuring that protecting marine biodiversity is a cross-sectoral endeavor supported by available science and technology.

The ACB has been working with partners to further improve the science-policy interface in safeguarding our marine ecosystems, including access to biodiversity data and sharing of information. Also, as the secretariat of the Asean Heritage Parks (AHP) that include nine marine protected areas, the Center supports species monitoring in AHPs, one of which in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park. An ongoing project at the TRNP is a study of sharks and other big sea predators using underwater visual census. From March 2021 to date, 23 sharks and rays have been recorded in TRNP.

With mandates on facilitating cooperation in mainstreaming biodiversity considerations across sectors, the ACB, with its partners, likewise continues to assist the Asean member-states to scale up our efforts in biodiversity conservation across sectors.

Today, coinciding with World Oceans Day, the ACB and the United Kingdom Mission to the Asean are hosting the Asean-UK COP26: Framing the Future for Nature and Climate, an online event in preparation for two global events—15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change scheduled for this year.

This year is critical for oceans as leaders of nations are set to agree on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a landmark 10-year strategic plan to reverse the loss of marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The proposal of scientists and leaders to protect at least 30 percent of the planet, including oceans, by 2030, is backed by the best available science and can be an



opportunity to empower countries to further advance their priorities for better ocean management. However, in order to achieve this, the support and involvement of everyone is paramount.

The Asean is committed to further exchange best practices, flesh out opportunities, and concretize plans in raising ambition on nature-based solutions, climate, and biodiversity.

As negotiations are underway, the ACB continues to pursue its mandate to support the member-states' efforts to access science and technology, develop their capacities to implement the target effectively, and mobilize resources to achieve regional and national goals toward healthy oceans.

Healthy oceans that teem with an abundance of life are critical to humanity's subsistence, livelihood, and well-being. Therefore, it is high time that we work together as we bridge science and policy to protect our marine ecosystems. I am optimistic that our collective efforts will make waves and benefit all, generations after generations.

Happy World Oceans Day!

*Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim is the Executive Director of the Asean Center for Biodiversity.*



# Migration as a resilience strategy to climate impacts

June 14, 2021

In celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Philippines launched the report "Framing the Human Narrative of Migration in the Context of Climate Change" which reviews the existing evidence on migration in the Philippines in the context of the climate emergency.

While the Philippines is one of the smallest contributors to causes of climate change, it ranks as the second most affected by climate risks impacts globally, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020. Aside from experiencing an average 20 typhoons a year, the country now faces more frequent and extreme weather changes, rising temperature, heavier rainfall and sea level rise.

The report finds that farmers and fisherfolk, women, elderly and urban poor are the most vulnerable to climate impacts. In particular, women are more affected than men, constituting 80 percent of people displaced by climate emergency in the country. In response to the increasing climate risks, the report finds that Filipinos rely on voluntary adaptive strategies such as permanent and circular migration as well as involuntary adaptive strategies such as distress migration and systematic relocation.

"It is crucial to have a clearer understanding of the nexus between climate change and migration, and to explore both the opportunities and challenges presented by migration as an adaptation strategy," said Kristin Dadey, IOM Philippines Chief of Mission.

"The findings of the report will support key stakeholders in continuing to develop policies and programs based on the experience of Filipino people who are clearly confronted by the impact of the climate emergency," continued Dadey, emphasizing that such evidence-based programming will ultimately enhance efforts to respond to the immediate needs, while ensuring that migration is utilized as a tool towards sustainable adaptation and risk mitigation.

The report analyzed a total of 35 published papers, with the majority coming from 2011 to 2020 when some of the most destructive climate-related disasters occurred in the Philippines. Exploratory interviews and consultations were also conducted with local governments and vulnerable community members, to provide an initial framework for in-depth policy research on climate migration.

"The report gathers insights from different sectors on the issue of climate change and highlights the human narratives behind the impacts of climate change in the Philippines," said Gustavo Gonzalez, UN's Resident Coordinator and Chair of the UN Network on Migration in the Philippines, highlighting the significance of the report.

"We need to prepare for the massive uprooting that this climate emergency threatens to trigger. The report recovers for us the human face of the most crucial social and ecological challenge of our time," said Fr. Jose Ramon "Fr. Jett" Villarin, SJ, a climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Jerome Ilagan, the Chief of the Policy Research and Development Division of the Philippine government's Climate Change Commission, expressed his support to IOM for its efforts and cited that the report will be useful especially in informing strategic ways forward to mainstream climate change adaptation and climate resilience initiatives nationwide, especially to the





vulnerable communities.

"Through the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, our government, as part of the National Adaptation Plan process, consistent with the National Climate Risk Management Framework, is committed to ensure that all Filipinos are equipped with the evidence-based and citizen-centric knowledge and capacities to adapt and thrive in this era of climate change," he said.

As the Coordinator and Secretariat of the UN Network on Migration, IOM has conducted various studies on the impact of climate change on migration. The report seeks to further complement this initiative in the Philippines context by informing future programs with the most recent and relevant information. The report is part of the Climate Change Adaptation and Community Resilience in the Philippines Program, with support and funding from the IOM Development Fund (IDF).



# 94 pawikan hatchlings, nadiskubre sa harap ng bahay ng isang travel vlogger

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 13 2021 10:02 PM



Ikinagulat ng vlogger na si Kyle "Kulas" Jennerman nang matagpuan ang 94 pawikan hatchlings sa harapan ng kaniyang bahay sa Davao Oriental. *Photo courtesy of Jennerman/Becoming Filipino*

Ikinagulat ni Kyle "Kulas" Jennerman ng Becoming Filipino vlog nang matagpuan niya ang 94 na bagong pisa na pawikan sa harap ng kanyang bahay sa Barangay San Antonio, Cateel, Davao Oriental noong Huwebes.

Aniya, napansin nila na may hinuhukay sa buhangin ang mga aso at nakita nila ang mga pawikan hatchlings. Labing-isa sa 94 na pawikan ang patay na nang kanilang datnan.

Bagama't nakatira lamang sa tabi ng dagat, pinakawalan nila ang mga pawikan, sa tulong na rin ng Bantay Dagat.

Nitong Hunyo 8, ipinadiwang ang International Ocean Day.

Kilala ang Canadian travel vlogger na si "Kulas" sa mga video nito sa kanyang paglalakbay sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Pilipinas, at pagmamahal nito sa bansa.

Mahigit anim na taon nang nakatira sa Pilipinas si "Kulas" at lumipat mula Cagayan de Oro City sa Cateel, Davao Oriental.

- ulat ni Hernel Tocmo



# Another king cobra caught and killed in Cotabato

Published June 13, 2021, 1:00 PM by [Dennis Principe](#)

Another king cobra was killed by a farmer Saturday, June 12, in Tulunan town in North Cotabato, raising fears about the presence of more of its kind in the area.

A photo of the cobra, which is estimated to be at least 10-feet long, went viral after it was posted by netizen Chokoy Saban.



FARMER'S CATCH. Chokoy Saban and his catch, a deadly king cobra Saturday, June 12 in Tulunan town in Cotabato (Chokoy Saban/MANILA BULLETIN)

A check among residents reveals the latest king cobra killed, locally known as “Banakon” was one of the many cobras that were caught and slaughtered the last two years within their community.

A few days before the latest catch, a farmer died of an apparent snakebite, allegedly from a banakon, in Banga, Cotabato.

“Ang naturang mga king cobra ay napatay habang gumagala sa mga sakahan at sa mga kalye na di naman pangkaraniwan noong mga nakalipas na maraming taon (Those king cobras were killed while wandering farms and streets which is unusual the last couple of years.),” as posted by DXND Radyo Bida’s Facebook page.



A close-up look at the Banakon or king cobra killed by a farmer in Cotabato. (Chokoy Saban/MANILA BULLETIN)

“Ilang residente ng mga North Cotabato, kasama na ang isang bata, ang nasawi pagkatapos matuklaw ng King Cobra sa magkakahiwalay na insidente nitong nakalipas na dalawang taon. (A number of residents, including a child were killed after being bitten by a king cobra in separate incidents the last two years.),” added the FB post of DXND.

A mature king cobra reportedly can grow up to 18 feet long and its venom is powerful enough to kill an elephant.

Meantime, experts in Cotabato believe the presence of cobras outside of their comfort zones could be a sign that these reptiles are finding it hard to search for food within their natural habitat.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/13/another-king-cobra-caught-and-killed-in-cotabato/>



# Crematorium sa Panay na tumatanggap ng COVID deaths, inireklamo sa masangsang na amoy

By **Bombo Radyo Iloilo** - June 10, 2021 | 7:48 PM

ILOILO CITY – Inireklamo ng mga residente ng Barangay Balabago, Jaro, Iloilo City ang masangsang na amoy mula sa Gegato Abecia Funeral Homes.

Ang nasabing punerarya ay nag-iisang crematorium sa Panay na tumatanggap ng mga namatay sa COVID-19.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Iloilo kay Punong Barangay Edgar Arañador, sinabi nito na sa kanyang pakikipag-usap sa punerarya, may sira ang chimney sa crematorium na dahilan ng paglabas ng masangsang na amoy.

Hunyo 15 pa aniya darating ang mga equipment na kakailanganin upang maayos ang chimney.

Una rito, noong nakaraang taon anya, inireklamo rin ang crematorium sa kaparehong problema.



PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB DUNGO JR. FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE @tribunephil\_bob

**Mining the bay** One man's trash is another man's treasure is apparently the motto that this pair lives by in salvaging plastic strewn on Manila Bay.



(L-R) Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, France's President Emmanuel Macron and US President Joe Biden wait for the start of a working session at the G7 summit in Carbis Bay, Cornwall on June 12, 2021. G7 leaders from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States meet this weekend for the first time in nearly two years, for three-day talks in Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

AFP/Brendan Smialowski, Pool

## G7 to agree climate, conservation targets as summit ends

[Joe Jackson](#) (Agence France-Presse) - June 13, 2021 - 2:43pm

CARBIS BAY, United Kingdom — G7 leaders on Sunday will back new conservation and emission targets to curb climate change, and finalise collective action on several other fronts, as they wrap up a three-day summit aimed at showcasing revived Western unity.

The group of leading economies, holding their first in-person gathering in nearly two years due to the coronavirus pandemic, will agree to protect at least 30% of both land and ocean globally by the end of the decade.

The "Nature Compact" struck to try to halt and reverse biodiversity loss is also set to see them commit to nearly halve their carbon emissions by 2030, relative to 2010.

It includes mandating the use of only so-called clean coal for power "as soon as possible", ending most government support for the fossil fuel sector overseas and phasing out petrol and diesel cars.

Hailing the pact, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson — who is hosting the beachside summit in Cornwall, southwest England — said the G7 wanted to "drive a global Green Industrial Revolution to transform the way we live".

"There is a direct relationship between reducing emissions, restoring nature, creating jobs and ensuring long-term economic growth," he added, in remarks released ahead of the summit's conclusion.

Climate change was a key G7 priority for his government, as it tries to lay the groundwork for hosting the UN COP26 environment summit in Glasgow in November.

But before the pledges had even been formally adopted, environmental campaigners blasted them as lacking enforcement and the necessary scope.

"Despite the green soundbites, Boris Johnson has simply reheated old promises and peppered his plan with hypocrisy, rather than taking real action to tackle the climate and nature emergency," said Greenpeace UK's executive director John Sauven.

He also noted wealthy nations had a "dismal track record" over the last decade honouring international climate finance commitments.



## Ties renewed

The G7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and United States — were eager to hold their first physical summit since August 2019 to renew ties after the discord of Donald Trump's four years in power.

Joe Biden has sought to turn the page on his predecessor's international isolationism, seeking to open a new chapter in the Western alliance after Trump alienated and exasperated it at every turn.

The UK government turned to its royals to add a dash of grandeur to the G7 detente, with Queen Elizabeth II and her son Prince Charles hosting a Friday night reception with G7 leaders and European Union chiefs also attending.

Joined Saturday by counterparts from Australia, South Africa and South Korea — with India also taking part remotely -- they then enjoyed an evening beach barbecue around fire pits, featuring a sea shanty band and toasted marshmallows.

Despite the lighter moments, the summit was largely consumed with the tough task of forging a more comprehensive response to the pandemic.

Leaders agreed a declaration to help prevent future pandemics and are expected to commit to donate one billion Covid-19 vaccine doses to poor countries.

However, there they also faced pushback, with critics arguing it provides just a fraction of what is needed to inoculate the world against the virus, which has claimed nearly four million lives globally and is still spawning new variants.

## Tea with the queen

The allies also unveiled US-led plans to counter China in infrastructure funding for poorer nations, promising to "collectively catalyse" hundreds of billions of investment.

The "Build Back Better World" (B3W) project is aimed squarely at competing with Beijing's trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which has been widely criticised for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt.

The leaders will publish further details on the B3W in the traditional end-of-summit communique, alongside issuing the Carbis Bay Declaration on health policy.

G7 leaders were set to return to discussions on other shared foreign policy challenges, on promoting "open societies".

Washington is pushing for a stronger stance on China's alleged forced labour practices against its Muslim Uyghur minority.

Current tense relations with Moscow, in particular over its cyber activity, are also expected to feature.

Most of those present will reconvene Monday in Brussels for a NATO meeting, before Biden heads on to his first summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Geneva, vowing to deliver a blunt message about Russian behaviour.

Before that, the US president will visit the queen at Windsor Castle late Sunday, where he and First Lady Jill Biden will take tea with Britain's longest-serving monarch.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2021/06/13/2105226/g7-agree-climate-conservation-targets-summit-ends>



# G7 vows action on Covid vaccines, climate change

[By Agence France-Presse](#) June 13, 2021

**CARBIS BAY, United Kingdom:** G7 leaders on Sunday vowed to start delivering one billion doses of Covid vaccines and to step up action on climate change, in a summit call to arms by a revived democratic alliance that also confronted China and Russia.

In a final communique issued at their first physical summit in nearly two years, the leaders of the elite club largely hewed to US President Joe Biden's push to regain the West's cohesion after the tumultuous era of his predecessor Donald Trump.

"We will harness the power of democracy, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights to answer the biggest questions and overcome the greatest challenges," the leaders said.

But the pledge on vaccines for poorer nations fell drastically short of the 11 billion doses that campaigners say are needed to end a pandemic that has claimed nearly four million lives and wrecked economies around the globe.

"I'm afraid there will be smiles (at the G7) but they are not solutions," former British prime minister Gordon Brown told Sky News, calling the summit "an unforgivable moral failure".

"Millions of people will go unvaccinated and thousands of people I'm afraid will die," said Brown, who helped coordinate international responses to the world's last major economic shock in 2008.

Likewise, the G7's pledges to deliver more aid for countries at the sharp end of climate change, and to phase out fossil fuel investments, were decried as too little, too late ahead of a UN summit in November.

"The G7 have failed to set us up for a successful COP26 as trust is sorely lacking between rich and developing countries," said Greenpeace International executive director Jennifer Morgan.

"We need authentic leadership and that means treating the pandemic and the climate crisis for what they are: an interconnected inequality emergency," she said.



Leaders of the G7 pose for a group photo on overlooking the beach at the Carbis Bay Hotel in Carbis Bay, St. Ives, Cornwall, England, Friday, June 11, 2021. AP PHOTO





## 'Green Industrial Revolution'

Nevertheless, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the summit's host, said the G7 wanted to "drive a global Green Industrial Revolution to transform the way we live."

"There is a direct relationship between reducing emissions, restoring nature, creating jobs and ensuring long-term economic growth," he said.

Johnson also touted a G7 pledge to get 40 million more girls into schools over the next five years, as part of the post-pandemic reconstruction.

A White House official agreed the three-day gathering in Cornwall, southwest England, had been an "unusually substantive and productive G7."

Angela Merkel, attending her last G7 as German chancellor, said Biden had brought "new momentum" to efforts to tackle the world's problems.

India and South Africa, who took part in the G7 talks as guests, had pressed for the gathering to waive intellectual property rights on Western vaccines. But Britain and Germany were notable holdouts on that.

Campaigners also complained the G7 had failed to flesh out how it will pay for a newly agreed "Nature Compact" - to protect 30 percent of the world's land and oceans from despoliation by 2030.

The leaders committed to nearly halve their carbon emissions by 2030, relative to 2010, and to phase out the use of "unabated coal" - fuel whose emissions have not gone through any filtering - "as soon as possible."

They vowed to end most government support for the fossil fuel sector overseas, and to phase out petrol and diesel cars.



Extinction Rebellion environmental activists with masks of G7 leaders protest in the water in St Ives, Cornwall during the G7 summit on June 13, 2021. AFP PHOTO

The G7 had sharp words for Beijing and Moscow, in the buildup to a NATO summit in Brussels on Monday and Biden's first sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Switzerland on Wednesday.

They demanded China end abuses including forced labor in Xinjiang, where activists say up to one million people from Uyghur and other Muslim minorities are interned in camps, and in Hong Kong.



And they pressed China to let experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) investigate further how Covid-19 first emerged, amid suspicions that the coronavirus may have escaped from a Chinese laboratory.

The allies adopted a US initiative to counter China in infrastructure funding for poorer nations, promising to "collectively catalyze" hundreds of billions of investment.

The "Build Back Better World" (B3W) project is aimed squarely at competing with Beijing's trillion-dollar Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which has been widely criticized for saddling small countries with unmanageable debt.

And the G7 demanded that Russia "credibly explain" the use of chemical agents on its soil, end its "systematic crackdown" on opposition groups and media, and "hold to account" criminals waging ransomware attacks.

### **Royal blessing**

A lingering row between Britain and the European Union over post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland hung over the talks.

But London sought to bring all sides together using the "soft power" diplomacy of Queen Elizabeth II and her heir Prince Charles, at a Friday night reception for leaders and EU chiefs.

Joined Saturday by counterparts from Australia, South Africa and South Korea - with India also taking part remotely - they then enjoyed an evening beach barbecue around fire pits, featuring a sea shanty band and toasted marshmallows.



# 5 Ways to Make Mining More Sustainable

By: [Empowering Pumps & Equipment Staff](#)

Author: Megan R. Nichols

Despite technological advancements that have made the industry more green, mining still uses significant amounts of resources — water, land, carbon and energy — and often causes severe harm to the environment. This damage, if not correctly handled, can last for decades after mining operations have shut down, make the land more vulnerable to natural processes like soil erosion and can worsen after the equipment is out.

Now, as industries and governments around the world look for ways to reduce carbon output and environmental impact, experts and individuals from in and out of mining are pushing the industry to take a serious look at how it can reduce its footprint.

Discover five ways the mining industry can reduce environmental impact and make its practices more sustainable.

## 1. LOWER-IMPACT MINING TECHNIQUES

Traditional mining techniques can have a severe impact on the environment, and some popular methods — like open pit and underground mining — [present some of the most significant](#) environmental risks.

By instead using new, alternative low-impact mining techniques — like in-situ leaching — mining companies can reduce their environmental impact.

With many of these techniques, companies can significantly reduce surface disturbance at mining sites, lower soil erosion and move less material that would need backfilled. Lowering interference in this way can both reduce environmental impact and result in less work when preparing a site for quicker revegetation or rehabilitation.

## 2. REUSING MINING WASTE

Mining naturally produces significant amounts of waste — such as tailings, rocks and wastewater. In many cases, businesses leave waste behind when mining operations cease — or, in the case of tailings, stored in large structures like tailings dams, [which are prone to failure](#) and, as a result, cause severe environmental damage.



Luckily, for almost every category of mining waste, there are [at least one or two ways](#) to reuse that waste on- or off-site.

Companies can use waste rocks in simple on-site construction, like backfilling voids and reconstructing mined terrain in a way that prevents soil erosion.

When adequately treated, mine water can be reused in just about any fashion — for agriculture, as coolant, in on-site dust suppression and for drinking water.

Even tailings, often toxic and left behind in mine sites or stored in large-scale tailings dams, can find eco-friendly use. Depending on the mineral and chemical composition of the tailings, businesses can use them in the production of bricks, as paint extenders or in agroforestry.

Some new technologies even make it possible to further mine from these tailings, reducing the overall amount of minerals that get left behind in mining sites while also reducing the volume of waste stored in tailings dams.

However, not all of the applications are economic right now. The mining industry will likely need to invest in further research and development in the areas of mine waste reuse to make some of the methods workable at scale.

### 3. ECO-FRIENDLY EQUIPMENT

Mining companies wanting to reduce their environmental impact can switch to more eco-friendly equipment.

Battery-driven mining equipment is often powerful enough to replace diesel-driven options. Replacing diesel engines with electric engines where possible can significantly reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> produced by mining operations.

In general, the mining industry is already moving in the direction of electric equipment, with more and more mining manufacturers offering eco-friendly alternatives. Some are making more significant commitments — like Swedish mining equipment manufacturer Epiroc, which plans [to be 100 percent electric](#) within the next few years.

A push towards exclusively using electric mining equipment could easily result in massive carbon savings for mining companies.

Businesses wanting to become more sustainable could also upgrade to more advanced, durable equipment that lasts longer, reducing the turnover of machinery and decreasing the resources needed. Improved durability can also reduce the environmental costs of damaged equipment — like rubber or plastic shed as a piece of equipment breaks down.

Simple switches, for example — like adopting tires that provide better longevity and [higher ROI in rock-strewn environments](#) — can cut down on equipment costs over time while also reducing how much rubber and plastic a mining operation outputs.

### 4. REHABILITATING MINING SITES

Many modern mining techniques cause [significant disruption to the environment](#) — like stripping the topsoil layer necessary for plant growth and raising soil and water acidity, making the area inhospitable to new vegetation and leaving it prone to soil erosion.

Worse, this erosion can often continue for years after a mining company has packed up and moved out.



As a result, many former mine sites are left unproductive, unusable by landowners and, in some cases, almost entirely inhospitable to plant and animal life. However, this damage isn't guaranteed to be permanent. Companies can use many land rehabilitation techniques to make mined land productive again or speed up the land's natural recovery process.

For example, it's possible to use [biosolids to replenish depleted](#) topsoil. Soil with biosolids, if seeded and watered, can produce vegetation capable of preventing further soil erosion within as few as 12 weeks. Combined with other rehabilitative techniques — like the use of waste rocks to fill in excavated areas — it's possible to significantly reduce the disruption caused by mining.

Some mining companies — like Alcoa in Australia — have gone further and [implemented large-scale reforestation schemes](#) that look to restore every local species present at a mine site before operations began.

## 5. SHUTTING DOWN ILLEGAL MINING

Illegal mining remains a significant issue for the industry — for example, experts estimate that around [14,000 people are currently involved](#) in illegal mining in South Africa. There, illegal mining often takes place on properties not suited for large-scale mining and without regard to regulations that reduce the environmental impact.

Preventing illegal or unregulated mining operations can help ensure that all mining is bound by the same environmental standards and ensure accountability.

## IMPROVING MINING SUSTAINABILITY

Despite recent strides and new technology, the mining industry remains unsustainable in many areas. Fortunately, there are a variety of technologies and techniques — both in-use and in development — that the sector can use to reduce its environmental impact.

Advanced land rehabilitation techniques, coupled with low-impact mining methods and reuse of mine waste, can cut back on the impact that mining operations have on their immediate environment. Companies can also use new equipment powered by electric engines to reduce their carbon footprint and become more eco-friendly.

Not all of these technologies are economical yet. However, the mining industry as a whole does seem to be moving in the direction of sustainability. Over the next few years, these technologies should become more practical. As a result, it may be easier for companies to make themselves more eco-friendly.

*[Megan Ray Nichols](#) is a STEM writer and the editor of *Schooled By Science*. She regularly writes for *IMPO Magazine* and *American Machinist*. For more from Megan, follow her on Twitter, [@nicholsrmegan](#), or subscribe to her [blog](#).*

[Read more about mining equipment!](#)

14 JUNE 2021, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Philippines sees 7,302 new COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - June 13, 2021 - 4:01pm



People look over colorful artworks painted on oversized face masks worn by "Higantes" heads depicting some Philippine heroes on display inside the SM City Taytay in Rizal on June 9, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — Health authorities on Sunday said 7,302 more Filipinos contracted the COVID-19, pushing the total to 1,315,639.

Today's development comes ahead of government's decision on a new quarantine status for "NCR Plus" this week.

The Department of Health said one laboratory did not submit screening results.

- Active cases: 59,865 or 4.6% of the total
- Recoveries: 7,701, bringing the number to 1,232,986
- Deaths: 137, or now 22,788 in total

What's new today?

- OCTA Research backed Metro Manila's [shift](#) to an "ordinary" General Community Quarantine by mid-June, as experts said the picture in the capital region has improved.
- The Philippine National Police said it will keep manning border control [checkpoints](#) in NCR Plus should it transition to a more relaxed quarantine status.
- DepEd TV teacher-broadcasters received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of the [A4](#) priority group. Teaching and support staff were moved up in the list by the pandemic task force after appeals from education officials.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/13/2105221/philippines-sees-7302-new-covid-19-cases/amp/>



# PH Covid-19 recovery tally up by 7.7K to 1,232,986

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **June 13, 2021, 5:09 pm**



**MANILA** – An additional 7,701 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the overall recovery count to 1,232,986 or 93.7 percent of the country's total case on Sunday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) also reported 7,302 new confirmed cases and 137 new deaths.

These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 59,865 and the death toll to 22,788.

The latest figures showed 91.2 percent of the active cases are mild, 4.6 percent are asymptomatic, 1.8 percent are severe, 1.26 percent are moderate, and 1.3 percent are in critical condition.

"There were 15 duplicates removed from the total case count as four of these are recoveries. Moreover, 65 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

DOH data on June 11, likewise, showed that 12.4 percent of 50,757 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

All laboratories were operational on June 11 while one laboratory was not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

"Based on data in the last 14 days, the one non-reporting labs contribute, on average, 0.17 percent of samples tested and 1.7 percent of positive individuals," the DOH said.

To date, 58 percent of 3,400 intensive care unit beds, 48 percent of 19,200 isolation beds, 47 percent of 12,300 ward beds, and 36 percent of 2,700 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 46 percent of 1,200 intensive care unit beds, 37 percent of 4,700 isolation beds, 32 percent of 3,600 ward beds, and 32 percent of 1,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are being used in the National Capital Region.

The public is reminded again to stay at home and to observe minimum health standards when going out.

The DOH urged those experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to immediately isolate and contact the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1143581>





# DOH, OCTA monitor Visayas, Mindanao over increase in COVID-19 cases

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 13, 2021 5:35:46 PM



(FILE PHOTO)

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 13)** — The Health Department is closely monitoring the Visayas and Mindanao due to the rising number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

OCTA Research said provinces such as Negros Oriental, Leyte and Agusan del Norte are having a significant increase in new cases, while Iloilo, Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Negros Oriental, and Agusan del Norte have high healthcare utilization rates.

"*Ngayon naman* we're averaging 6,500 (cases) — 27% of that is from NCR Plus. *Malaki ang binaba sa* NCR Plus. That means *malaki talaga 'yung tinaas ng* cases outside NCR Plus. So, it's mostly where the increase is happening, or the spikes have happened all over the country. And *ngayon*, even Tacloban and even Dumaguete are having a sharp increase in cases," said Guido David of OCTA Research.

[Translation: Now, we're averaging 6,500 — 27% of that is from NCR Plus. NCR Plus showed a marked improvement. That means cases outside NCR Plus have risen significantly. So, it's mostly where the increase is happening, or the spikes have happened all over the country. And now, even Tacloban and even Dumaguete are having a sharp increase in cases.]

In areas like Iloilo City, they are still looking for more healthcare workers, such as nurses and nursing aides, for the city's isolation facilities.

According to Iloilo Mayor Jerry Treñas, the city has been under strict modified enhanced community quarantine for weeks now yet the number of COVID-19 cases have continued to rise.

Treñas says what the city needs is a regular supply of vaccines.

"Unfortunately, it is really the vaccines that we need. We need a steady supply of vaccines not only here for Iloilo City but also for Region 6 because if you look at the figures, it's really Region 6 where the cases are going up every day," says Treñas.

In Zamboanga City, the rise in the number of cases has slowed down. But hospitals are still having a hard time accommodating COVID-19 patients experiencing moderate to severe symptoms.



"We are still very careful about the hospitalization capacity. Our ICUs still have a high utilization rate. We tried to step up our quarantine efforts. There were times *na napuno ang ating* isolation facilities, *napilitan mag-home quarantine 'yung ibang nag-positibo,*" says Atty. Kenneth Beldua, Zamboanga City spokesperson.

[Translation: We are still very careful about the hospitalization capacity. Our ICUs still have a high utilization rate. We tried to step up our quarantine efforts. There were times when our isolation facilities became full, and others who tested positive were forced to go under home quarantine.]

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire made an assurance this weekend that the government will be allocating more vaccines to areas with a surge in cases.

14 JUNE 2021, MONDAY



**DENR**

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