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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Vendors hub, itatayo ng DENR sa Manila Baywalk

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - November 14, 2021 - 12:00am



People pass by the Manila Bay dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard on Sept. 26, 2021.  
The STAR/Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — Magtatayo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng vendors hub sa Manila Baywalk na magbibigay ng permanenteng puwesto para sa mga mobile vendors sa naturang lugar.

Ayon kay Atty. Jonas Leones, DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, ang vendors' hub ay malaking pakinabang sa mga vendors sa lugar para sa kanilang mga paninda.

Anya lalagyan din dito ng souvenir shop at itatayo rin dito ang solar-powered comfort rooms sa Mandamus Office sa baywalk bilang bahagi ng rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ang hakbang ay pagtutulungang maipatupad sa pangunguna ni DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, at Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service OIC Director and Manila Bay Task Force Ground Commander Reuel N. Sorilla kasama si DENR National Capital Region Executive Director Jacqueline A. Caanacan at Manila Bay Coordinating Office Deputy Executive Director Jacob Meimban.

Ang vendors hub ay katabi ng Dolomite beach resort na kamakailan lamang ay dinumog ng nga namamasyal. Ang resort ay sarado ngayon para sa dagdag proyektong ginagawa sa lugar ng DENR.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2021/11/14/2141157/vendors-hub-itatayo-ng-denr-sa-manila-baywalk/amp/>



# 2020 Lockdowns cut air pollution by over 50% —DENR exec

Published November 13, 2021 7:38pm



Air pollution

An Environment official said Saturday that the 2020 lockdowns due to COVID-19 pushed down air pollution metrics in the country by over 50% of the pre-pandemic level.

In an interview on Super Radyo dzBB, Engineer Jundy de Socorro, chief Air quality Management Section of the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said that the total suspended particulates dropped to 40 micrograms per normal cubic meter. De Socorro based the decline rate from the guideline values under the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999, which was set at 90 micrograms/cubic meter.

But he clarified that the pollution record in 2020 was excluded in the annual air pollution assessment because it was not comparable with previous years' as the data sampling was impacted by the lockdowns, and there were data collection stations that were not calibrated.

"Hindi siya comparable sa annual assessment kasi may mga station na hindi na-calibrate at hindi nakumpleto ang sampling, laluna sa dami ng lockdowns."

But he said the effect of the enhanced community quarantine on air quality was very obvious. "Last year, ang laki ng ibinaba ng air pollution, makikita na natin ang skyline ng Metro Manila against the bluish sky background actually from Bataan," he said.

(Air pollution dropped dramatically, so much so that we can see from Bataan Metro Manila's skyline against a bluish sky background).

He pointed out that based on their emissions inventory, 75% of air pollution comes from transportation.

Pressed on their assessment on the implementation of the Clean Air Act, Socorro said that from 2004, which had 144 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> -- way above the guideline value -- the 2019 pre-pandemic pollution value was around 100.

In the second quarter of 2021, the value dropped to 88 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>, or a 39% reduction from the 2004 level. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/810793/2020-lockdowns-cut-air-pollution-by-over-50-denr-exec/story/?fbclid=IwAR0WMnhNR83XTCvDSSRM9wC\\_hdvL6E28dBrFTHNv3U-op2PL3otz1fl6Xa4](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/810793/2020-lockdowns-cut-air-pollution-by-over-50-denr-exec/story/?fbclid=IwAR0WMnhNR83XTCvDSSRM9wC_hdvL6E28dBrFTHNv3U-op2PL3otz1fl6Xa4)



## MGB hopeful on resumption of open pit mining

[Catherine Talavera](#) - The Philippine Star November 14, 2021 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hopeful the draft department administrative order (DAO) lifting the ban on open pit mining will be signed before the end of the Duterte administration.

MGB director Wilfredo Moncano said environment secretary Roy Cimatu gave the assurance that the administrative order would be signed before the end of President Duterte's term.

"Actually, I am hopeful this will be signed before the year ends," Moncano said.

The lifting of the ban on open pit mining was a provision earlier included in the draft implementing rules and regulation (IRR) of Executive Order (EO) 130, which allows the government to enter into new mineral agreements.

The said provision, however, was omitted in the signed IRR under DAO 2021-25.

Moncano said consultations with stakeholders regarding the open pit ban were already conducted during the drafting of the EO 130 IRR.

"If you will recall, after the issuance of EO 130, the MGB conducted a two-day consultation for the drafting of the IRR of EO 130. In that consultation, it was already included, the lifting of the open pit ban was already included in that presentation," Moncano said, referring consultations attended by mining companies as well as non-governmental organizations and representatives from the academe.

"Right now this draft DAO has already passed the DENR policy technical working group and DENR review committee composed of usecs (undersecretaries) and we have also discussed with Department of Finance (DOF)," Moncano said.

Moncano said the draft DAO also has a provision on alternatives to the open pit mining method.

"The main criteria in allowing open pit is that (if) it's the only possible option in recovering these minerals. But if there are other options that is not termed open pit," Moncano said.

He earlier said the lifting of the open pit mining ban could help boost the country's economic recovery.

Environmental groups, however, continue to oppose the lifting due to its negative impact on the environment and communities.

With the lifting of the open pit ban likely to be pushed by the current administration, Moncano expressed hope that the next administration will retain the policy.

"My prayer, my hope is that there will not be a change of this policy because that will be again a destabilization of our mining and business environment," Moncano said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/2021/11/14/2141094/mgb-hopeful-resumption-open-pit-mining>



# More sectors join bid for copper mining in South Cotabato

[John Unson](#) - Philstar.com November 13, 2021 | 3:19pm



Blaan women perform an ethnic dance during a gathering where tribal leaders asserted their rights to manage and harness the natural resources obtainable in their ancestral lands as guaranteed by the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

Philstar.com / John Unson

KORONADAL CITY, Philippines — More sectors have joined the bandwagon of local communities seeking imprimatur from the South Cotabato provincial government to extract copper from Blaan ancestral lands nearby.

The South Cotabato Sangguniang Panlalawigan is presently initiating consultations on mounting public clamors for its members to lift a longtime anti-open pit mining ordinance in the province.

Ethnic Blaan and T'boli datos have earlier passed manifestos urging the South Cotabato SP to repeal the ordinance for thousands of indigenous people to benefit from the copper deposits in South Cotabato's Tampakan town, touted as the largest in Asia.

Victor Villa, owner of the Mang Gorio chain of restaurants here and in Cotabato City, told reporters Saturday he and many friends in the local business community are anticipating an economic boom around if copper mining in Tampakan is permitted.

"We want that to proceed so that the Blaan people there will prosper. Surely, that will also usher in tremendous improvements in South Cotabato's business climate," Villa said.

Villa said the now 24-year Indigenous Peoples Rights Act empowers the Blaan and T'bolis to decide on how to manage and utilize obtainable natural resources in their ancestral domains.

Nornie Demerin, a mother of four and a senior official of the Kanami Koronadal Farmers and Fisherfolk Association, said Saturday their group wants the anti-open-pit mining ordinance covering all towns in South Cotabato lifted immediately.

"It is all about responsible mining and we believe that the Blaan and T'boli communities, along with the Tampakan local government unit and the South Cotabato provincial government shall make that happen," Demerin said.

Tampakan town is only about 14 kilometers from this city, which is the capital of South Cotabato.

Blaan tribal datos and baes, or women who are also community leaders, together urged last October 20, during a traditional gathering in Tampakan, the members of the South Cotabato SP to allow them to extract copper from their ancestral domains.



Joseph Tolentino, a community leader in Barangay New Pangasinan here, said Saturday a mining operation in Tampakan will generate employment for thousands of South Cotabato residents and raise huge revenues for the provincial government.

“Bigger tax collections by the Tampakan local government unit and the South Cotabato provincial government means more socio-economic projects for the people,” Tolentino, chairperson of their barangay’s committee on agriculture, said.

In a statement Friday, officials of different irrigators organizations here, whose members are farmers engaged in rice farming, said they are in favor, too, of allowing extraction of copper in Tampakan.

Elvis Villaray, vice chairman of the Topland Communal Irrigators Association, said they can compel the Blaan tribal councils and the mining firm that would operate in Tampakan to provide them irrigation facilities as corporate social responsibility projects.

“We have been experiencing for a longtime now an annoying lack of water to irrigate thousands of hectares of rice farms near Tampakan. We can have a dam there to direct the flow of rivers there to rice farms downstream, in Koronadal City and in municipalities around,” Villaray said.

The South Cotabato SP is expected to wind up before yearend with its consultations on proposals to lift the provincial anti-open pit mining law.

Thousands of Blaans, meanwhile, are making their common wish for the repeal of the ordinance felt by the South Cotabato SP via continuing dialogues, subject to anti-COVID-19 protocols, in towns in South Cotabato and in its capital, Koronadal City.



# Can the 'pawikan' survive climate change this time?

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA NOVEMBER 14, 2021



A green marine turtle photographed by ocean conservation-advocate Danny Ocampo near Apo Island.

On November 1, the Philippine National Police Maritime Group helped in successfully rescuing and releasing back into the wild a nesting green marine turtle that was trapped under a small seaport in Barangay Taganak in the Turtle Islands in Tawi-Tawi, a known green marine turtle nesting ground.

Incidents like this are bound to happen as marine turtles, locally known as pawikan, struggle to survive the impacts of destructive development activities and human encroachment of their wildlife habitats, which are being aggravated by severe climate change.

As world leaders contend on the issue of limiting to 1.5 degrees Celsius the increase in global temperature at the conclusion of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) meeting in Glasgow, the severe effects of climate change is already being strongly felt in coastal communities.

## Marine turtle country

The Philippines is known to host to five out of the seven known species of marine turtles, whose ecosystem functions are crucial in maintaining a balanced marine ecosystem.

The green and live ridley turtles are the most common nesters in the country, followed by the hawksbill turtles.

The leatherback turtles are also known to nest in the Philippines, while there is still no record of the loggerhead species nesting in the country.

Being host to thousands of nesting marine turtles, particularly in the Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary in Tawi-Tawi, the Philippines is in a unique position to save this endangered species from extinction.

Scientists believe they have evolved as they learned to adapt and survive for millions of years despite global climate events.

With the Philippines being a country most vulnerable to climate change, can these mysterious creatures of the sea survive this time around?

## Sea level rise

"Definitely, climate change has a huge effect on marine turtle population. Because of climate change, sea level rises, thereby, destroying their nesting grounds," said veterinarian Aracelli Salinas, the leading authority on marine turtle conservation at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) told the BusinessMirror on November 10.



“Once the marine turtles are able to find a new nesting ground, the effect of temperature increase affects the development of the eggs,” Salinas added.

She said sea-level rise and storm surges that threaten communities due to extreme weather events attributed to climate change compel communities to implement measures like the building of sea walls that aggravate the problem.

This can be observed in many parts of the country with the development in coastal areas and the establishment of more beach resorts to accommodate tourists.

Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim added that sea-level rise can have an adverse effect on the survival of marine turtles even after hatching.

She explained that marine turtles lay their eggs in dry sand, which they can easily dig into, and where the hatchlings can also easily dig out of, to emerge.

“Sea-level rise will affect this, because the beaches, where the females will need to lay their eggs, will become submerged. So say, even if there are still a few males to fertilize the females’ eggs, there will eventually be no suitable place above the shoreline for female turtles to deposit their eggs,” Lim said.

### **‘Warmer temperature yields more female turtles’**

The warming of global temperature also has an uncanny way of affecting marine turtles.

Unlike most sea creatures, temperature affects the development of marine turtles while inside the egg.

Lim, interviewed by BusinessMirror on November 1 via Messenger, said there were studies on the marine turtle eggs in Turtle Islands that proved that the sex of the marine turtles is determined by temperature.

Lim started her career as a veterinarian working under the Pawikan Conservation Project in Tawi-Tawi. She said even before climate change was seriously considered a threat to biodiversity, the scientists, as well as the DENR-BMB’s own study, were already alarming marine turtle conservation workers.

“Warmer temperatures [around 31 degrees C] of the sand would yield more female hatchlings, and cooler temperatures [around 27° C], more males. From this data, we can already gather that with rising temperatures, the sex ratio in marine turtles will be affected,” Lim said.

According to Lim, eventually, there could be lesser males than females, and the breeding capacity will be reduced due to warmer temperatures.

### **Ocean acidification**

Another adverse effect of climate change, ocean acidification will affect the food chain as planktons and shellfish that serve as part of the diet of marine turtles will be depleted.

“All these climate-related impacts will affect migration patterns and the survival of our marine turtles,” Lim said.

Arnel A. Yaptinchay of the Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines (MWWP) said it took marine turtles million years to adapt and survive dramatic climatic changes. This time, however, the catastrophic effect of climate change may be too severe that marine turtles will not be able to adapt and survive.

He said that in the marine turtles’ feeding area, depending on the species, corals may die, and cause the plankton, and even the fish and other marine life, to vanish.





“Each and every aspect and life phase will be affected negatively. While climate change will have a positive effect on some species, it might not be the same for marine turtles,” he explained.

“As food becomes unavailable in one area, they will naturally go to an area where there is abundant food for them to survive,” said Yaptinchay, whose organization rescues and saves marine wildlife.

### **Cyclonic activities**

Elson Aca of Balena.Org, who conducted a vulnerability assessment of marine turtles' nesting sites in the Philippines, said the intensity of typhoons can also adversely affect the population of marine turtles.

“Today, typhoons are so intense that it can affect coastal areas. Typhoons can wash ashore nesting areas and destroy other ecosystems like seagrass and corals,” said Aca, who conducted the study as part of his dissertation for his Master of Science in Environmental Management.

“The thing is, they [marine turtles] were able to adapt to changes before. But with the rate of change in climate, how can marine turtles adapt now?” he asked.

The anthropogenic or environmental threats, due to climate change, Aca said, is aggravating the situation, further affecting the population of marine turtles.

### **Saving marine turtles**

Lim said although climate change can affect marine turtle populations, addressing the direct man-made threats to them and to their habitats and feeding areas can also contribute to climate mitigation and as adaptation measures.

“So far the most obvious causes of mortalities are still pollution and marine plastics. These are the direct threats,” she said.

She pointed out that more studies would have to be undertaken on the migration patterns of marine turtles and, in the long term, to observe for changes to help address the problem.

For her part, Salinas said the DENR-BMB is already working with marine turtle hatchery managers in various parts of the country to manage the ratio of male and female marine turtles produced in controlled areas.

Trained managers of marine turtle hatcheries monitor the temperature of nests, both inside and outside, and put shades in some of the nests in the hatchery, she said.

Moreover, Salinas said the DENR-BMB has come up with guidelines on the declaration of marine turtle nesting grounds through BMB Technical Bulletin 2020-05 issued on November 20, 2020, by then-DENR-BMB Director Ricardo L. Calderon.

Declaring an area as a marine turtle nesting ground and establishing hatcheries in partnership with local government units, she said, is crucial to saving the marine turtles from extinction.



## Greater public-private sector tie-up needed to address COVID-19 pandemic, climate change — President Duterte

Published on: November 13, 2021

By PND

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Thursday called for stronger public-private collaboration in addressing the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, as he underscored key areas of cooperation.

In his virtual participation to the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Dialogue with Economic Leaders, he noted ABAC's substantial contribution to the region's pandemic response efforts.

The APEC Business Advisory Council is the private-sector arm of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. It advises Leaders and other APEC officials on issues of interest to business.

The President said public and private sectors could work together in improving digitalization and literacy in rural communities, establishing a national Social Protection Floor (SPF) and facilitating developing economies' transition to a low-carbon economy.

He emphasized the importance of promoting digital literacy to facilitate the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the digital economy, saying "this will help increase the economic productivity of marginalized groups under the new normal".

To facilitate digital inclusion efforts, the Filipino leader underscored the need to "establish the necessary infrastructure for accessible, stable and affordable energy supply in remote communities".

Establishing a national SPF could address the gaps in the social protection programs that were exposed during the pandemic, he said, stressing SPF will guarantee a minimum set of social security benefits for all, including workers in the informal sector and gig economy.

Tackling climate change, the President reiterated the call for a sustainable, scaled-up and predictable support from developed countries to help developing economies adapt to and mitigate the adverse consequences of changing climate.

This includes climate finance, technology transfer and development and capacity-building.



“In the interest of climate justice, we need these to transition to climate-smart development and adapt to and mitigate the worsening effects of climate change,” he said.

Joining the President during the dialogue were Trade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Robert E.A. Borje. (PND)



## Going clean and green! PH to avail \$10-B for renewable energy shift

NOV 13, 2021, 3:13 PM

Rose De La Cruz  
Columnist

***The Philippines plans to tap the funds to be raised by GEAPP worth \$10 billion to shift from coal to renewable energy for its energy mix. Similarly, a private-sector fund-raising commitment of \$130 million under GFANZ will also be made available to countries to lessen their carbon footprints.***

FOLLOWING the pledges of \$130 trillion raised by an international coalition of private financial institutions in Glasgow early this month for use in shifting global economies to clean energy, the Philippines said it would gladly grab the \$10 billion promised it to shift its power plants from coal to clean energy.

Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez, who headed the Philippine delegation to the 26th UN climate change conference of parties (COP26) in Scotland, said the Philippines plans to tap a \$10-billion global fund to help the country reduce its carbon emissions by transitioning to renewable energy.

Dominguez said yesterday he discussed with Rajiv Shah, president of The Rockefeller Foundation, the prospects of accessing the global fund raised by the group led by Bezos Earth Fund and IKEA Foundation.

Last week, the group launched at COP26 the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP), a global fund that can be used by developing nations while they transition to renewable energy.

Dominguez told Shah of the Philippines' plan to improve Mindanao's hydropower facilities to wean the region away from coal energy. Dominguez has also asked Shah how the Philippines can work with GEAPP to speed up the country's efforts to transition to renewable energy.

During the meeting, Dominguez said there should be a mix of grants, investments and subsidies in delivering the funding needs of nations most vulnerable to climate change. Shah, for his part, vowed to study this approach in partnering with developing economies like the Philippines.

Aside from the private sector, the GEAPP obtained its resources from three developed countries and eight multilateral lenders.

The global fund, composed of public and private capital, is expected to rise to \$50 billion within the next five years, and then to \$100 billion within the next decade to hasten the transition to renewable energy of more than 60 states across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The GEAPP will serve as a platform for developmental work among economies involved, as well as a source for financing options ranging from project grants to technical assistance.



Japan last week pledged to grant \$25 million for the energy transition mechanism of the Asian Development Bank. The ETM looks to retire coal plants and introduce alternative options in the Philippines and Indonesia.

### **54% coal in energy mix**

Coal accounts for at least 54 percent of the country's energy mix and, in turn, contributed about half of its carbon emissions in 2019. Through the ETM, the Philippines can decommission more than half of its coal facilities within the next 10 to 15 years.

Based on data from the Department of Finance, the country suffered P506.1 billion in economic losses to climate hazards between 2010 and 2020.

Despite the eye-popping pledge by many of the world's biggest banks, climate experts say the commitment leaves unclear whether and how the trillions of dollars will be effectively marshaled into transitioning the world's energy production away from fossil fuels.

### **GFANZ**

The Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) — which represents more than 450 banks, insurers and other asset managers in dozens of countries — unveiled the pledge as world leaders in Glasgow prepared for a day of discussions related to financing clean energy development.

The "GFANZ" group is led by Mark Carney, former head of the Bank of England, and Mike Bloomberg, the billionaire financier. Under the pledge, the projects and companies generated by loans given by the financial institutions would be by 2050 "net zero," meaning they would, in aggregate, not add to carbon emissions.

While much attention has been focused on the climate spending of governments around the world, leaders in Glasgow spent Wednesday pointing to the need for private capital to fund clean energy investment.

The falling price of renewable energy has increasingly made clean energy projects an attractive investment, and private capital has significantly more capacity to fund these efforts than governments alone can marshal.

Officials at the Department of Treasury say they have been focused on unlocking the approximately \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion they say is necessary in private sector investments to achieve a global net-zero economy, compared to the hundreds of billions nations have pledged in government spending, the Financial Times reported.

*"As big as the public sector effort is across all our countries, the \$100-trillion-plus price tag to address climate change globally is far bigger," Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen said on Wednesday morning in Glasgow at an event devoted to climate finance. "The private sector is ready to supply the financing to set us on a course to avoid the worst effects of climate change."*

### **'Publicity stunt'**

Still, dozens of climate groups have criticized the Glasgow "financial alliance" as a publicity stunt — particularly because the commitment avoids calling for a cessation of financing of production of carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

Many of the same banks behind the pledge continue to finance the construction or expansion of coal plants, for instance. Environmental groups are adamant that new production of coal, oil and gas must be stopped to avoid the consequences of catastrophic warming. Since the Paris climate accord, large banks have financed more than \$4 trillion in fees from the oil, gas, and coal industries, according to Bloomberg News.



*“These commitments live and die on how they treat fossil fuels. It’s the elephant in the room that they seem to conveniently ignore,” said Justin Guay, a climate expert formerly at the Sierra Club. “Dealing with fossil fuels is not optional; it’s mandatory.”*

Also unclear is exactly how the trillions in private capital will be effectively turned into clean energy projects, particularly for the developing world. Even if the banks set aside assets to be used for clean energy investments, that capital needs specific initiatives to finance.

The world leaders hailing the pledge recognized the ongoing obstacle. “Questions remain,” Yellen acknowledged. “Will enough investment opportunities materialize to absorb all this capital? How quickly can this reorientation occur?”

### **‘Watershed’**

Added Carney, the former Bank of England chief also named the United Nations special envoy for climate action and finance: “The money is here, but that money needs net-zero-aligned projects. ... This is a watershed. Now, it’s about plugging it in.”

The Biden administration says it is doing everything it can to help. Treasury officials led a group of financial regulators last month in a new report underlining the risks posed by climate change to the financial system — a move intended to signal to private sector markets that they should shift their investments away from fossil fuel-intensive projects. Yellen has also held several meetings with the multilateral development banks and Treasury officials have said they have sped up the climate-related work at those institutions.

*“The billions we are talking about here at COP in public funding — the new commitments being made here — are critically important,” John Morton, Treasury’s chief climate official, told reporters in Scotland on Tuesday. “But the question of how we get to the trillions required to finance the global transition is one that has to involve the private sector as a central player.”*



# Calls for action vs climate change urged

By [Mayvelin U Caraballo](#)

November 14, 2021

PRU Life [UK](#) advocated for various stakeholder measures to promote adaptation and resilience to climate change following the release of its report on the impact of this global problem on Filipinos' health, wellbeing, and financial security.

It said in a statement on Friday that the groundbreaking study authored by planetary health expert [Ramon Lorenzo Guinto](#), examines the health effects of climate change and their possible constraints on Filipino families' financial security and well-being, as well as action recommendations.

According to the insurance provider, the report is intended to act as a reference for the government and businesses in formulating mitigation plans and solutions.

"As the [Philippines'](#) leading life insurance company, Pru Life UK believes that it is important to start considering the health impacts from climate change in our business processes, for us to be able to develop more responsive products and expand access of Filipinos to protection despite the anticipated risks," Eng Teng Wong, Pru Life UK president and chief executive officer, remarked in the statement.

It was stressed that when climate change progresses, public health will be jeopardized. Climate change affects health in two ways: directly, as in the case of old people who suffer from heat stroke as a result of exposure to high heat, and indirectly, as in the case of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria.

Life insurance, Pru Life UK noted, provides a financial safety net for incidents that are intimately linked to health and welfare. The paper's main finding is that no disease group is immune to the effects of climate change.

"With this paper as a guide, we commit to embed sustainability and climate change variables in our operations and to continue to develop customer-centric products for greater insurance protection that can help improve health and financial protection and reduce future climate-related losses in every Filipino family," Wong highlighted.

The paper identifies five of the most critical activities that must be implemented to offset the expected health effects of climate change.

These include: climate change must be viewed as a public health issue; rapid decarbonization to stabilize the climate; building societal resilience to climate change; communicate climate and health knowledge to raise awareness and equip them with tools to contribute to both mitigation and adaptation; and financial security at all levels.

# COP26: Climate summit approaches 'moment of truth'

Published 5 hours ago



REUTERS

Scientists say extreme weather events, such as severe flooding, are becoming more frequent because of climate change

**The president of the COP26 climate summit said the talks had reached a "moment of truth for our planet".**

As the meeting entered its final hours, he urged delegates to agree to a draft agreement aimed at averting dangerous global warming.

But he faced late objections from India and others to a clause on cutting fossil fuels, and calls for more financial help for developing nations.

It's still not clear what needs to happen for these issues to be resolved.

"You all know that the world is willing us on to be bold - to be ambitious" said the UK's Alok Sharma, who is chairing the talks.

"So much rests on the decisions we collectively take today," he told delegates, urging them to get on board with the draft plan published earlier on Saturday.

The key achievements of the draft so far are the inclusion of a commitment to phase-out coal, re-visiting emissions-cutting plans on a more regular basis and increased financial help for developing countries.

But India's environment minister Bhupender Yadav told the meeting that "consensus remains elusive".

## Major world cities facing floods from a one metre rise in sea level



Source: Climate Central





In an apparent reference to coal, he said: "Targeting any particular sector is uncalled for. Every country will arrive at net zero as per its national circumstances."

"Developing countries have a right to their fair share of the global carbon budget and are entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels," he added.

He also objected to proposals to end "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies" - financial benefits provided to producers of oil, gas and coal.

China, which is understood to have earlier raised concerns about the wording, said it hoped that "all parties will show excellent flexibility" and said it now wanted only small edits to the text. South Africa's negotiator backed objections over the section on fossil fuels saying: "We don't feel that one size fits all is a good approach."

But Mr Sharma said the text was a "balanced package".

US climate envoy John Kerry said: "If it's a good negotiation all the parties are uncomfortable. And this, I think, has been a good negotiation."



GETTY IMAGES

Fires and other extreme weather phenomena can become the norm if temperature rises are not capped

Lia Nicholson, from Antigua and Barbuda's delegation, and speaking on behalf of small island states, said they were "extremely disappointed" by the lack of progress on loss and damage - the principle that richer countries, which bear the main responsibility for the global warming, should pay compensation to poorer ones because of climate impacts.

She said: "We will express our grievances in due course," but added: "We implore all parties to support our common outcome and move forward."

Promises in Glasgow will not be enough to limit global warming to 1.5C. It is a key part of the 2015 Paris agreement that most countries signed up to.

Scientists say that limiting temperature rise to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels will protect us from the most dangerous impacts of climate change.

Meeting the goal requires global emissions to be cut by 45% by 2030 and to zero overall by 2050. One example of the impact of global temperature rise above 2C is the death of virtually all tropical coral reefs, scientists say.

One estimate by the Climate Action Tracker calculated that the planet is still **set to warm by 2.4C if the current pledges are all met.**

### **In the room: Malcolm Senior at COP26**

At COPs, it often all comes down to a huddle. Inside the main Plenary Room, the days of negotiations turn into a face-to-face discussion, like merchants in a souk.



Around them, delegates cluster, keen to be there at the moment when key differences between the groups or countries are resolved.

This afternoon, US climate envoy John Kerry and chief US negotiator Sue Biniiaz stood toe-to-toe with Ahmadou Sebory Toure, the delegate from Guinea, who also represents the G77 group of nations, a large part of the developing world.

At stake, how much money the developed world may have to pay to the developing world to compensate for the loss and damage done to developing countries because of climate change. Interest in that ends when Mr Kerry sweeps across the room to talk to the UK President of the COP, Alok Sharma and his chief negotiator, Archie Young.

Then, all eyes move to the EU's chief negotiator, Frans Timmermans, as his team work out the repercussions of the G77 huddle.

Eventually, the COP chairman decides enough is enough and further discussions must take place elsewhere. The session ends and so do the huddles. For now.

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But experts say the 1.5C target is still achievable: at COP15 in Copenhagen more than a decade ago, estimates suggested the world was heading for between 3.5 and 4.2C of warming. If the references to phasing out coal and fossil fuel subsidies remain in the final deal, it would be an historic moment in climate negotiations.

Gabriela Bucher, Oxfam's international executive director, said: "Clearly some world leaders think they aren't living on the same planet as the rest of us. It seems no amount of fires, rising sea levels or droughts will bring them to their senses to stop increasing emissions at the expense of humanity.

"The world's poorest have done the least to cause the climate emergency, yet are the ones left struggling to survive while also footing the bill.

Climate finance, or the money promised by richer countries to poorer countries to fight climate change, continues to be one of the most contentious points. In 2009, developed nations pledged to provide \$100bn per year to emerging economies by 2020. But this target was not met.

### **What has been agreed at COP26?**

A series of agreements between groups of countries have been announced so far:

- In a surprise announcement, the US and China agreed to work together this decade to limit global temperature rise to 1.5C
- More than 100 world leaders promised to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, including Brazil, home to the Amazon rainforest
- The US and the EU announced a global partnership to cut emissions of the greenhouse gas methane by 2030 - reducing methane in the atmosphere is seen as one of the best ways to quickly reduce global warming
- More than 40 countries committed to move away from coal - but the world's biggest users like China and the US did not sign up
- A new alliance that commits countries to setting a date to ending oil and gas use - and halting granting new licences for exploration - was launched



# Seven ways to curb climate change

By Paul Rincon Science editor, BBC News website

Published 1 day ago



GETTY IMAGES

The COP26 climate summit in Glasgow has been billed as a last chance to limit global warming to 1.5C.

But beyond the deals and photo opportunities, what are the key things countries need to do in order to tackle climate change?

## 1. Keep fossil fuels in the ground

Burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and especially coal, releases carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into the atmosphere, trapping heat and raising global temperatures.

It's an issue which has to be tackled at government level if temperature rises are to be limited to 1.5C - the level considered the gateway to dangerous climate change.

However, many major coal-dependent countries - such as Australia, the US, China and India - have declined to sign a deal at the summit aimed at phasing out the energy source in the coming decades.

## 2. Curb methane emissions

A recent UN report has suggested that reducing emissions of methane could make an important contribution to tackling the planetary emergency.



GETTY IMAGES

Researchers have found that changing cows' diets can reduce the methane they produce

A substantial amount of methane is released from "flaring" - the burning of natural gas during oil extraction - and could be stopped with technical fixes. Finding better ways of disposing of rubbish is also important, because landfill sites are another big methane source.



At COP26, **nearly 100 countries agreed to cut methane emissions**, in a deal spearheaded by the US and the EU. The Global Methane Pledge aims to limit methane emissions by 30% compared with 2020 levels.

### 3. Switch to renewable energy

Electricity and heat generation make a greater contribution to global emissions than any economic sector.

Transforming the global energy system from one reliant on fossil fuels to one dominated by clean technology - known as decarbonisation - is critical for meeting current climate goals.



PA MEDIA

Wind and solar power will need to dominate the energy mix by 2050 if countries are to deliver on their **net zero targets**.

There are challenges, however.

Less wind means less electricity generated, but better battery technology could help us store surplus energy from renewables, ready to be released when needed.

### 4. Abandon petrol and diesel

We'll also need to change the way we power the vehicles we use to get around on land, sea and in the air.

Ditching petrol and diesel cars and switching to electric vehicles will be critical.



GETTY IMAGES

Lorries and buses could be powered by hydrogen fuel, ideally produced using renewable energy.

And scientists are working on new, cleaner fuels for aircraft, although campaigners are also urging people to reduce the number of flights they take.

### 5. Plant more trees

A UN report in 2018 said that, to have a realistic chance of keeping the global temperature rise under 1.5C, we'll have to remove CO2 from the air.



Forests are excellent at soaking it up from the atmosphere - one reason why campaigners and scientists emphasise the need to protect the natural world by reducing deforestation.



REUTERS

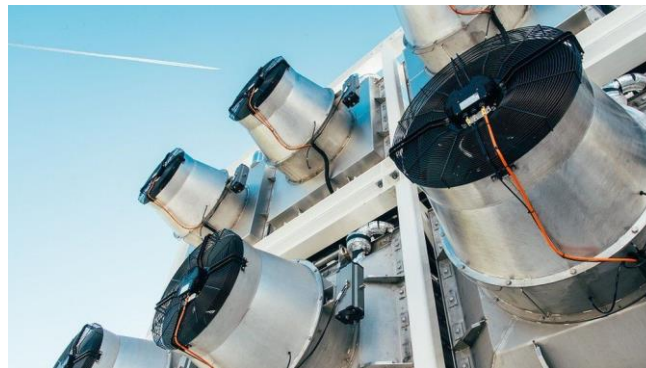
Programmes of mass tree-planting are seen as a way of offsetting CO2 emissions.

Trees are likely to be important as countries wrestle with their net zero targets, because once emissions have been reduced as much as possible, remaining emissions could be "cancelled out" by carbon sinks such as forests.

## 6. Remove greenhouse gases from the air

Emerging technologies that artificially remove CO2 from the atmosphere, or stop it being released in the first place, could play a role.

A number of direct-air capture facilities are being developed, including plants built by Carbon Engineering in Texas and Climeworks in Switzerland. They work by using huge fans to push air through a chemical filter that absorbs CO2.



CLIMEWORKS

Climeworks' first direct-air capture plant opened in 2017 and it now has 15 machines in operation around the world

Another method is carbon capture and storage, which captures emissions at "point sources" where they are produced, such as at coal-fired power plants. The CO2 is then buried deep underground.

However, the technology is expensive - and controversial, because it is seen by critics as helping perpetuate a reliance on fossil fuels.

## 7. Give financial aid to help poorer countries

At the Copenhagen COP summit in 2009, rich countries pledged to provide \$100bn (£74.6bn) in financing by 2020, designed to help developing countries fight and adapt to climate change.

That target date has not been met, although the UK government, as holders of the COP presidency, recently outlined a plan for putting the funding in place by 2023.



**GETTY IMAGES**

Countries such as Kiribati in the Pacific Ocean are on the front line of the effects of global warming

Many coal-dependent countries are facing severe energy shortages that jeopardise their recovery from Covid and disproportionately affect the poor. These factors stop them moving away from polluting industries.

Some experts believe poorer nations will need continuing financial support to help them move towards greener energy. For instance, the US, EU and UK recently provided \$8.5bn to help South Africa phase out coal use.



# COP26 chief says 'moment of truth' for the planet in last-ditch plea to save troubled climate agreement

By Angela Dewan, Ivana Kottasová, Amy Cassidy and Ingrid Formanek, CNN

Published Nov 13, 2021 11:55:39 PM



**(CNN)** -- COP26 President Alok Sharma made an impassioned plea to delegates Saturday to back a draft climate agreement, saying it was the "moment of truth" as talks went deep into overtime without clear sign that consensus was near.

In an effort to avert failure at the talks, Sharma called on countries to seize the moment, saying negotiations had "reached a critical juncture where we must come together."

The COP26 climate talks seemed to have reached boiling point on Saturday -- at one point, Sharma struggled to convene all delegations in a room where they were due to give their feedback on the latest draft of a potential agreement. But Sharma insisted a deal will be made Saturday.

Divisions over key elements of the draft persist, particularly between developing and wealthier nations over money to fund the Global South's adaptation to the climate crisis, and requests for a new system for the developed world to pay "damages" from the climate crisis.

The tensions follow late-night marathon talks in which slow progress was made, but clearly not enough to announce an agreement 18 hours after Sharma's 6 p.m. local time deadline on Friday.

An agreement requires getting all 197 parties in attendance to reach consensus on each and every word of the final text, a painstaking effort that involves compromises and frank discussions about the world's structures of power and who is most responsible for the climate crisis.

The UN published a third draft of the agreement Saturday morning that retained reference to phasing out coal and ending subsidies for fossil fuels, albeit watered down.

If the final text even makes mention of fossil fuels, it would be an unprecedented inclusion in the history of the COP process. In all 25 COPs before Glasgow, never has an agreement mentioned fossil fuels as drivers -- let alone the main cause -- of the climate crisis.

The draft urges countries to rapidly scale up the use of clean power generation while it phases out coal power and "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies." It also recognizes "the need for support towards a just transition" -- money to support jobs and livelihoods as the world moves away from fossil fuels. Both additions leave the text more open to interpretation than the original.



A section that calls on parties to update their emissions-reduction plans by the end of next year was also retained, which would mean countries come forward with new pledges three years earlier than they are required to now under the 2015 Paris Agreement. Several countries have expressed opposition to this new timeline, claiming it tries to set new rules to the overarching 2015 Paris Agreement.

There are also divisions over language on just how much the world should allow the Earth to warm, the future of fossil fuels and rules for carbon markets to avoid double counting emissions reduction, or "cheating" on credits.

But the most contentious issue had been whether wealthy nations in the developed world should be obliged to set up a dedicated "loss and damage" fund to pay money to poorer countries for climate crisis impacts, which implicitly acknowledges wealthy nations' outsized role in causing the climate crisis.

The issue has pitted the developed and developing world against each other, a characteristic typical of COP conferences.

Many developing countries are unhappy with the draft text, which refers to a potential fund for loss and damage, but focuses more on creating a "dialogue," which could delay a fund from actually being established.

A delegate from Guinea, representing a group of 77 nations including China, said that the group could live with the current text.

"However, the group expresses its extreme disappointment .... on a dialogue related to loss and damage. This is a far way from the concrete core for loss and damage facility that the group came together to make and seek an answer here in Glasgow," he said.

"But in the spirit of compromise, we'll be able to live with this paragraph, as is in the understanding that it does not reflect nor prejudice the inner key vocal outcome that we seek on finance for loss and damage to reach the most vulnerable."

Tasneem Essop, executive director of Climate Action Network (CAN), said that the latest draft text was a "clear betrayal by rich nations" to poor and vulnerable countries.

By blocking progress on a dedicated facility for loss and damage, "rich countries have once again demonstrated their complete lack of solidarity and responsibility to protect those facing the worst of the climate impacts," Essop said. "We urge developing countries to act in the interest of their citizens and stand strong in the face of bullies."

A source familiar with the talks told CNN that European Union was against establishing an official fund for loss and damage. And a senior US official said Thursday the country does not support the creation of such a fund. Another source close to the talks told CNN said that the US was holding back progress on the fund.

An EU spokesperson declined to confirm the bloc's position, but pointed to remarks by its climate policy chief Frans Timmermans made earlier Friday, saying that loss and damage "is a key part of our conversation" and that it was "time to move and find the solutions" to the damage the climate crisis was causing for vulnerable nations.

Beyond the divide between rich and developing countries are major coal, oil and gas producers showing opposition to an article that calls for the phasing out of unabated coal and an end to fossil fuel subsidies.





A source close to the negotiations told CNN that the Australian delegation was generally being quiet in talks but was blocking progress on language around coal and even the measures to update its emissions plans by the end of 2022. A spokesperson for the delegation declined to comment.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, "[COP26 chief says 'moment of truth' for the planet in last-ditch plea to save troubled climate agreement](#)"*



# Climate deniers present a bouquet of weeds

By [Ben Kritz](#) November 14, 2021

THE COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland ended on Friday, November 12, and while its results were in many ways not as good as hoped, it has at least sharpened the focus of the world's attention on accelerating climate change and the need to do something to respond to it.

COP26 has also predictably increased climate deniers' frantically desperate efforts to get someone to listen to their crackpot views.

The spread of disinformation, which, if believed and reflected in policy and decision-making would result in people suffering or having their lives put at risk, should not be tolerated or enabled, but when it is, it must be challenged. Earlier this week, our in-house anti-environmentalist made another of his tiresome attempts to thwart human survival and progress, presenting a "nosegay of articles and reports" copied from online source by him and his "team," smugly confident that these will finally put an end to all this COP26 silliness.

The assembled "articles and reports" are not so much a fragrant bouquet as they are a stinking fistful of weeds. If I had a "team" that did such poor research, I'd fire the lot of them on the spot.

One completely irrational and illegitimate notion that certain columnists need to disabuse themselves of is the vain belief that someone else's opinion is in any way credible evidence for anything. If an opinion column seeks to advance a particular argument, it must support that argument with some kind of objective and logical evidence. "Climate change is not real" is an argument, but "because certain people with credentials said so" is not evidence, it's "tsismis."

And describing op-ed pieces in other publications as "articles and reports" does nothing to disguise them.

All it does is to give the second-hand reader the impression that one is either unable to properly identify and understand different types of news content or is making a feeble attempt to fool the audience.

Let's turn our attention to the actual authors behind the cited opinion pieces, since these are the real sources of much destructive disinformation.

The first one is identified as "Swedish economist and environmentalist [Bjorn Lomborg](#)," who we can reasonably assume is actually the Danish political economist [Bjorn Lomborg](#) and should be identified as such, because we white people get just as offended as Asians when told we all look alike. Lomborg's contribution to this week's nonsense was an op-ed piece written for Rupert Murdoch's Wall Street Journal on November 3.

The second cited op-ed was by [Tim Black](#), an itinerant English professor and journalist associated with the loosely organized libertarian anti-environmentalist LM (Living Marxism) Network, written for the online commentary site Spiked.

The third piece cited was an opinion column by [Michael Schellenberger](#), a former public relations entrepreneur with a bachelor's degree in Peace and Global Studies and one-time conservative candidate for governor of California (he finished ninth in a field of 27 candidates), written for the Falun Gong religious cult newsletter [Epoch Times](#) on October 27.



Now remember, the argument that was set forth was that climate change and the imperative to respond to it are grossly exaggerated, because that is the view of these selected experts. Therefore, the basis of the argument is the credibility of the supposed experts. We will deal with Messrs. Black and Schellenberger in their turn, but let's take a look at the bona fides of Dr. Lomborg now.

Bjorn Lomborg is an associate professor of statistics in the [Department of Political Science](#) at the [University of Aarhus, Denmark](#); he holds a PhD in political science with a concentration on game theory from the University of Copenhagen and has a master's degree in political science from the University of Aarhus.

Lomborg has been repeatedly debunked by climate scientists and economists alike and has on several occasions been accused of distorting or misrepresenting climate research studies and their findings, accusations that have had some real consequences, as is explained below. He has written several books, all of which have provoked severe criticism.

As one recent example, his book *False Alarm: How Climate Change Panic Costs Us Trillions, Hurts the Poor and Fails to Fix the Planet*, which was published last year, was savagely panned by the Policy and Communications Director of the [Grantham Institute](#) at the [London School of Economics](#); you can read the review, which also includes a short video, at <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/news/a-closer-examination-of-the-fantastical-numbers-in-bjorn-lomborgs-new-book/>.

The critique, as its author, [Bob Ward](#), explains, "details five examples of Dr Lomborg's misuse of outdated, concocted and misinterpreted numbers that are central to his 'lukewarmer' argument in the following ways: Ignoring the costs of fossil fuel subsidies; illegitimately doubling the cost estimates of action by the European Union; misrepresenting the impact of the Paris Agreement on climate change; cherry-picking an outdated model estimate of the costs of climate change impacts; and miscalculating the 'optimal' level of global warming."

And detail them Ward does, leaving Lomborg looking foolish, not for the first time in the Danish economist's long career as a contrarian. Bad book reviews are one thing, but what is a really exemplary assessment of Lomborg's intellectual impropriety is the action taken against him by his own government in the early 2000s.

In 2002, three formal complaints against Lomborg for misrepresentation of scientific findings in his 2001 book *The Skeptical Environmentalist* were lodged with the [Danish Committee for Scientific Dishonesty](#) (now called the Danish Committee on Research Misconduct), an agency under the [Danish Ministry of Research and Information Technology](#). After a review, the committee ruled, "The publication is deemed clearly contrary to the standards of good scientific practice... There has been such perversion of the scientific message in the form of systematically biased representation that the objective criteria for upholding scientific dishonesty have been met."

After the ruling, Denmark's Prime Minister at the time, [Anders Fogh Rasmussen](#), requested a review of the work of the Institute for Environmental Valuation, or IEV, later renamed the [Environmental Assessment Institute](#) (EAI), a government scientific body to which Rasmussen had just appointed Lomborg to head in February 2002. The Danish Parliament authorized the creation of a review panel of five nonaffiliated scientists, which in August 2003 released its final report, stating, "The panel must conclude that none of the reports [of the IEV/EAI] represent scientific work or methods in the traditional scientific sense."



That decision created an uncomfortable situation for Rasmussen, although probably not for Lomborg, as he seems to be immune to embarrassment. Some months passed while very public quibbling and appeals of both the decisions by the Committee for Scientific Dishonesty and the ad-hoc review panel were aired, but Lomborg was eventually forced out, making a face-saving resignation in 2004 to found the Copenhagen Consensus, a new think-tank dedicated to his brand of anti-environmentalism, and "return to academia." The Environmental Assessment Institute was also disbanded and exists now only as a desk within the [Danish Economic Council](#).

*ben.kritz@manilatimes.net*

*Twitter: @benkritz*



# Last chance for survival

[BREAKTHROUGH](#) - [Elfren S. Cruz](#) - The Philippine Star November 14, 2021 | 12:00am

I keep reading that the ongoing COP26 is the last chance for earth's survival. COP26 is the shorthand for the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. This is the annual UN climate summit and this year it was attended by almost 200 countries in Glasgow, Scotland.

If this is really the last chance, then the planet is doomed. The goal of climate experts is that the rise of global temperature should be limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius. That is the threshold at which scientists say the world is likely to experience a range of catastrophes and irreversible tipping points that would transform the climate and life on earth as we know it. According to Alok Sharma, the UN official charged with leading the conference, the goals of COP 26 can be broken down into "a handful of digestible objectives from advancing climate financing to slashing coal and growing the deployment of renewable energy....This is going to be a decisive decade...We need to get it right."

So far the summit is not getting it right. Based on these observations, it looks like the world is headed for an eventual climate disaster.

Slashing coal was a primary objective of the summit. In the end the three biggest users of coal – China, United States and India – refused to sign the Coal Pact which tried to set timelines for the cessation of the building of coal-powered plants.

Coal is one of the dirtiest energy sources in use and coal plants still generate 38 percent of the world's electricity. China is already the world's biggest source of pollution. However, China is still planning to build more coal-powered plants which are really the cheapest sources of power. The United States will not sign the Coal Pact because of domestic politics. There are certain states like West Virginia whose local economy is still heavily dependent on coal. The Republican Party has made the possible banning of coal as a hot button political issue and certain powerful Democratic politicians like Senator Munchin from West Virginia are also strongly opposed to any ban. He and his son are also coal brokers and derive income from the coal industry.

Australia is the world's biggest exporter of coal and, not surprisingly, this ban is one of the very few issues where Australia and China are on the same side.

According to a New York Times report, the world's ten biggest polluters count for more than two-thirds of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The world's four biggest emitters – China, United States, European Union, India – are responsible for over half of global greenhouse gas output.

Climate financing has become a major global issue. There are calls for industrialized nations who are the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions which is heating up the planet to accept responsibility and to pay for the damage they have caused. This has become a major source of conflict between the rich countries, the biggest source of pollution, and the poor countries which are the biggest victims of global pollution.

The rich countries do not even want to officially use the term liability and compensation. Reparations is the actual term. However, the term being used by rich countries is "loss and damage."

Nicola Sturgeon is the first head of a rich country to publicly acknowledge this responsibility. She announced that Scotland would devote two million pounds to address what she called



“structural inequalities.” She called on rich countries to “start paying their debt to developing countries around the world. There is no longer any excuse for not doing so.”

At the ongoing summit, she said: “Finance is key to this, not as an act of charity but as an act of reparation.”

One area where there may be an agreement is to fight deforestation. At the COP26 there is an agreement to put an end to deforestation before the end of the decade. However, in 2014, there was also a global agreement to halve deforestation by 2020 and end it by 2030. This target was missed and the second target looks like it will have the same fate. However, it seems that there will be greater efforts this time.

Deforestation hotspots like Brazil and Indonesia have joined the pledge and rich countries have promised to contribute cash. According to an Economist report: “Slashing, burning or thinning forests or otherwise degrading ecosystems account for 11 percent of emissions. Standing forests by contrast serve as carbon sinks, breathing in a net 7.6 billion tons of carbon dioxide each year. These programs to plant and protect forests will be essential to meeting the goal to limit greenhouse gas emission and lower the world’s rise in temperature.”

In this war to save the earth there will be major forces at work to – believe it or not – impede any real effort. While climate activists were out in the streets, inside the COP26 the group with the largest delegation was the group that included the largest sources of emissions – the fossil fuels industry.

Whether in organized groups or alone, we must find ways to help save planet earth.

\* \* \*

A Writing Date via Zoom: Young Writers’ Hangout: Nov. 20, 2-3 p.m. with poet & Ateneo professor D.M. Reyes.

Contact [writethingsph@gmail.com](mailto:writethingsph@gmail.com). 0945.2273216

Email: [elfrencruz@gmail.com](mailto:elfrencruz@gmail.com)

14 NOVEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

# Metro Manila stays under Alert Level 2 until Nov. 30

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Nov 13, 2021 9:40:06 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 13)** – Metro Manila and nearby provinces will stay under Alert Level 2 until Nov. 30, the Inter-Agency Task Force announced on Saturday.

Catanduanes is the only area in the country which will be placed under the strictest Alert Level 4, effective Nov. 17 until the end of the month.

Here are the updated alert levels in the country:

**Alert Level 3 (from Nov. 15-30):**

- Baguio City
- Siquijor

**Alert Level 3 (from Nov. 17-30):**

- Batanes
- Quirino
- Nueva Vizcaya
- City of Isabela
- Zamboanga City

**Alert Level 2 (effective immediately until Nov. 30):**

- Ilocos Sur
- La Union
- Pangasinan
- Dagupan
- Ilocos Norte
- Tacloban
- Southern Leyte
- Samar (Western Samar)
- Ormoc City
- Eastern Samar
- Northern Samar
- Leyte
- Biliran
- South Cotabato
- Sarangani
- General Santos City
- Sultan Kudarat
- Cotabato (North Cotabato)





**Alert Level 2 (from Nov. 15-30):**

- National Capital Region
- Rizal
- Batangas
- Quezon
- Lucena City
- Laguna
- Cavite
- Pampanga
- Angeles City
- Bulacan
- Tarlac
- Zambales
- Olongapo
- Nueva Ecija
- Bataan
- Aurora
- Bacolod City
- Iloilo City
- Iloilo Province
- Negros Occidental
- Capiz
- Antique
- Aklan
- Guimaras
- Negros Oriental
- Lapu-Lapu City
- Cebu City
- Mandaue City
- Cebu Province
- Bohol
- Cagayan de Oro City
- Misamis Occidental
- Misamis Oriental
- Bukidnon
- Camiguin
- Lanao del Norte
- Iligan City
- Davao del Norte
- Davao de Oro
- Davao Occidental
- Davao City
- Davao del Sur
- Davao Oriental

**Alert Level 2 (from Nov. 17-30):**

- City of Santiago
- Cagayan
- Isabela
- Albay
- Sorsogon
- Naga City
- Camarines Sur
- Camarines Norte
- Masbate



- Zamboanga del Norte
- Zamboanga Sibugay
- Zamboanga del Sur

President Rodrigo Duterte recently approved the [nationwide implementation of the COVID-19 alert level system](#), through Executive Order No. 151.



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 609

## NOBYEMBRE 13, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 1.0%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
**29,382**

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 97.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
**2,740,426**

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.61%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
**45,272**

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,997**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **1,696**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **238**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,815,080**

### MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 11

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 13  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 11

# 4.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 45,964

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**69.2%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!

**D** UMISTANSYA NG  
ISANG METRO AT LIMITAHAN  
ANG PISIKAL NA  
INTERAKSYON SA IBA

#### KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)  
**36%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)  
**30%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.6K TOTAL BEDS)  
**23%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**21%** Utilized

#### NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)  
**30%** Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)  
**26%** Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.0K TOTAL BEDS)  
**25%** Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)  
**21%** Utilized

#### KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 63.6%

5.6% Asymptomatic

4.3% Critical

10.1% Severe

16.34% Moderate



## UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Kasama pa rin sa mga alituntuning gagabay sa ating kaligtasan mula sa COVID-19 ay ang tamang pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** at pakikiisa sa pambansang pagbabakuna. Kasabay nito ang ating pagiging alisto sa mga sintomas. Sa oras na makaramdam ay agad makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** na maabot sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**, para sa karampatang gabay.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon.



Ihahanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333  
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777  
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: [kontracovid.ph](http://kontracovid.ph)



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](http://Staysafe.ph)

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

[doh.gov.ph](http://doh.gov.ph)

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

14 NOVEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



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# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **VLOGS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gONiD42avUA&ab\\_channel=enr.berto](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gONiD42avUA&ab_channel=enr.berto)

WOW NA WOW! TALAGANG PANG WORLD-CLASS!

6,748 views · Streamed live 19 hours ago

483 7 SHARE SAVE ...



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187K subscribers

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


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