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**DENR**

# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





“Our office is open for them. At least, be sure that it will be free,” said DENR Undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda.

[twitter.com/DENROfficial](https://twitter.com/DENROfficial)

## DENR open to UP experts’ advice if free

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - October 14, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said it is open to getting advice from experts of the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute (UP-MSI) concerning the Manila Bay rehabilitation project provided it is free.

“Our office is open for them. At least, be sure that it will be free,” said DENR Undersecretary and spokesperson Benny Antiporda.

He said the DENR will be constrained from working with UP-MSI if its experts demand high professional fees.

“We are seeking your immediate assistance on this matter. But if it needs a big amount of money, the funds of the people, I’m sorry but our experts are enough,” Antiporda told UP-MSI.

Antiporda said the DENR already has its own set of experts – marine scientists, biologists and geologists –who are actively involved in the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

He said that based on the DENR’s experience, it requires a lot of money to get the services of UP experts, contrary to public perception that transactions between government agencies are free.

On Sept. 30, UP-MSI released a statement enumerating the environmental problems in Manila Bay that need to be addressed, including poor water quality and threat of erosion.

The institution also cited the implications of using crushed dolomite boulders in the bay, among them erosion, ocean acidification and health problems.

The UP-MSI said “there are no shortcuts to a cleaner environment,” and “at most, it is a beautification effort that is costly and temporary.”

But Antiporda maintained that the project is more than just aesthetics as it is a strategy to promote pro-environment behavior among Filipinos, with the white sand inspiring people to be more mindful of their obligation to keep Manila Bay clean.

He also reassured the public that the funds used for the project will not be put to waste as engineering interventions are being made to prevent the artificial white sand from being washed away.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2020/10/14/2049378/denr-open-experts-advice-if-free>



## INTEGRIDAD NG ISTRUKTURA NG MANILA BAY PROJECT TINYAK NG DENR



October 14, 2020 @ 12:35 AM 5 hours ago

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

“We don’t think we are there to destroy our environment. Hindi para sa amin ‘yan; para sa mga susunod na henerasyon pa ‘yan,” ang sabi pa niya.

Sinabi ni Antiporda na ang beach nourishment ay inisyatibo hindi lamang ng DENR kundi ng lahat ng mga ahensya na bahagi ng Manila Bay Task Force na binuo noong 2019 ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte sa ilalim ng Administrative Order No. 16.

Ang mga miyembro ng DENR-led task force ay ang mga ahensya na naatasan din upang linisin, irehabiliteyt at ipreserba ang Manila Bay na nakasaad sa writ of continuing mandamus na inisyu ng Supreme Court noong 2008.

Sabi ni Antiporda na ang kilalang environment lawyer na si Antonio Oposa na naghain ng kaso at naging sanhi ng paglabas ng high tribunal ng writ of continuing mandamus ay kasama nila sa mga pagpapasya sa kanilang ginagawa.

Ayon pa sa DENR official, ang DENR ay binubuo ng mga eksperto, kabilang na rito ang mga marine scientist, mga biologist at mga geologist na siyang nagtutulong-tulong sa proyekto at bukas rin ang ahensya sa third party na magsagawa ng audit.

Iginiit din ni Antiporda na sa P389 million na inilaan sa buong Manila Bay rehabilitation project, 6 na porsyento o P28 million lamang ang ginamit sa dolomite overlay.

Aniya, ang iba pang mga isyu katulad ng pagtanim ng mangrove, proteksyon sa ecosystem at biodiversity, mga lugar ng pangisdaan, at pag-improve ng water quality ay magkakasabay na tinutugon ng DENR at ng iba pa nitong mga partner agency.





PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY PNA

MANILA Bay's 'white sand' is kept tidy by workers to keep the stretch of Roxas Boulevard attractive to local tourists.



In this September 18, 2020 photo, DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda places crushed dolomite sand in an aquarium with fish to prove that the recent fishkill in Baseco is not connected to the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.

## UP scientists to DENR exec: Expert advice is free, lab work and research need funding

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 13, 2020 - 3:19pm

MANILA, Philippines — The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute on Tuesday stressed that it is committed to collaborating with government agencies and the private sector after an environment department official remarked on UP scientists allegedly being paid millions.

In a statement, UP MSI said that the institution provides "scientific advice and technical inputs of its experts for free, in accordance with UP's mandate as a national university."

It issued the clarification days after Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said that the department is open to get advice from UP MSI's experts as long as the consultation will be free.

"We are seeking for your immediate assistance on this matter. But if it needs a big amount of money, the funds of the people, I'm sorry but our experts are enough," Antiporda, who also serves as DENR's spokesperson, said.

He added that "every time we consult them, we pay them so much money and people don't know that."

Antiporda made the remarks in reaction to the UP marine scientists' statement that crushed dolomite sand will not help solve Manila Bay's environmental problems.

Dr. Laura David, UP MSI director, said the institution has had collaborations with DENR and that it recognizes the agency's expertise in various fields.

### **Expertise and advice are free, lab tests and research are not**

"UP MSI affirms its continued commitment to make available to the government the services of its researchers, scientists and experts, including the DENR, as needed to further the country's development," the institution said.



It, however, pointed out that some problems and questions cannot be addressed without conducting laboratory experiments or research in the field.

"The costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients," UP MSI said, explaining it is not a line agency of the government.

It also said that its internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses funds are limited to maintaining its laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory in Pangasinan.

"Recognizing the need and the limited funds available, the University was given General Appropriations Act funding for the first time in 46 years so that UP MSI could conduct necessary marine scientific research in Philippine waters," David said.

"Hence, for as long as the science inquiries of the national government agencies fall within planned marine scientific research, only minimal additional funding will be needed," she added.

'Costly effort'

In a statement issued on September 30, the UP MSI said that overlaying a small portion of Manila Bay's shoreline with crushed dolomite rocks is a "beautification effort that is costly and temporary."

"There are no shortcuts to a cleaner environment. The use of crushed dolomite sand will not help solve the environmental problems in Manila Bay," it said.

The institution pointed out that dolomite sand grains will erode during storms and that the addition of crush dolomite rocks will not solve the acidification happening in Manila Bay

To rehabilitate Manila Bay, UP MSI suggested infrastructure infusion for wastewater treatment plants, transfer of informal settlers and massive reforestation of the watershed.

"The clean-up of Manila Bay will be a long and arduous task. It must be a concerted effort by everyone living in its watersheds and those using the bay," it said.





# UP marine scientists to DENR: Experts' services are free but pay for research expenses

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 13 2020 04:06 PM



Pedestrians take photos of the crushed dolomite "white sand" project in Manila Bay on September 28, 2020. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

MANILA — Marine scientists from the University of the Philippines said Tuesday their services to help rehabilitate [Manila Bay](#) are for free but other research expenses should be shouldered by “clients.”

This, after DENR undersecretary Benny Antiporda earlier said the government is willing to coordinate with the UP Marine Science Institute (MSI) as long as it’s “free.”

“[The] UP MSI would like to clarify that the Institute provides the scientific advice and technical inputs of its experts for free, in accordance with UP’s mandate as national university,” the institute said in a statement.

“However, some questions and problems cannot be addressed without conducting research in the field or laboratory experiments so as to come up with science-based answers or to develop local capabilities,” it added.

The institute said expenses used to conduct the research should be shouldered by the client as they are not a “line agency in the government’s executive branch.”

“The costs of scientific research and investigation, from the use of laboratories and research equipment and facilities, to support for research assistants, should be, as they actually are shouldered by the clients, as the UPMSI is not a line agency in the government’s executive branch,” the UP MSI said.

“Moreover, all of the UPMSI’s research and development activities are project-based, with very specific fund disbursement guidelines and limitations. The internal Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) funds of UPMSI are limited to maintaining the laboratory facilities and field equipment in Diliman and the Bolinao Marine Laboratory,” it added.

The marine scientists earlier said there are no shortcuts in addressing environmental problems in Manila Bay, and dumping dolomite does not offer a solution.

They added that the rehabilitation of Manila Bay is an “arduous task” and efforts should come from residents, people using the area, and the government noting that authorities should address “poor water quality” and the “threat of erosion” in Manila Bay under the government’s rehabilitation program.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/13/20/up-marine-scientists-to-denr-experts-services-are-free-but-pay-for-research-expenses?fbclid=IwAR3GfiE8OaFC26Gi0un9WWFIZzM7rf3MJKpatJabhJZ9FTIT6vuYe4wtZO4>





# Manila Bay project, makakasira sa pangingsda, ipinahihinto

ni [Twinle Esquiedo](#) | October 13, 2020



Photo: Patrick Roque

Nagbabala ang mga mangingsda sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Cavite tungkol sa 420-hectare reclamation project sa Manila Bay, dahil maaari raw itong lumabag sa utos ng Supreme Court.

Sa isang panayam, nanawagan si Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) Chairperson Fernando Hicap na ihinto ang proyektong ito.

“The local execs of Cavite are at risk of violating the highest court’s order to protect and restore the fishing waters of Manila Bay if they will not cease and desist from pursuing destructive reclamation projects.

“We are demanding Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, to heed his constituents in coastal areas to stop dump-filling the Manila Bay that will result to their displacement and destruction of fishing grounds.”

Sabi pa ni Hicap, hinihimok ng grupo ang mga lokal na opisyal na tingnan ang mga inilagay na bakal sa pampang ng Manila Bay sa bahagi ng Bacoor City.

Aniya, sisirain ng proyektong ito ang 420 hectares kasama ang productive fishing grounds, mussel at oyster farms.

“Moreover, it will wipe out a large number of fishing population who subsist in Manila Bay’s fishing waters by fishing and shellfish farming,” sabi pa ni Hicap.



## Hirit ng mga eksperto...

Walang naitulong ang “white sand” sa planong ayusin ang mga problema ng Manila Bay

ni [Korina Sanchez](#) - @Isyung 'K' | October 13, 2020

Imbes na maglagay nang maglagay ng “dolomite” sa kakarampot na bahagi ng Manila Bay, dapat ginastusan na lang ang rehabilitasyon ng mga bakawan o mangroves.

Ito ang pahayag ng UP Institute of Biology na nais tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, pero sa pamamagitan ng agham at hindi sa pagpapaganda lamang. Anila, ang paglatag ng dolomite ay walang naitulong sa planong ayusin ang mga problema ng Manila Bay.

Dagdag pa nito, hindi rin umano totoong walang pangmatagalang masamang epekto ang paglatag ng dolomite sa kalikasan, kung saan pati ang mga senador ay binabatikos ang “dolomite beach” ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Hindi umano bahagi ng 2008 writ of mandamus ng Korte Suprema ang pagpapaganda lamang ng lugar.

Siguradong hindi makikinig ang DENR sa anumang grupo o tao na kokontra o babatikos sa nasabing “dolomite beach” sapagkat ang mahalaga sa kanila ay aprubado ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang proyekto. Aabot sa P389-M ang halaga ng proyekto, kung saan dinurog na dolomite mula Cebu ang linalatag sa Manila Bay.

Pero ang huling balita noong nakaraang buwan ay sinuspinde ni DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu ang dalawang kumpanyang nagmimina ng dolomite dahil sa umano’y peligro ng kanilang operasyon sa kalikasan partikular sa mga bahura. Anila’y iimbestigahan muna ang mga alegasyon. Naunang naglabas din si Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia ng utos na patigilin ang operasyon ng dalawang kumpanya dahil hindi sila awtorisado.

Samantala, sa kasalukuyang nagaganap na gulo sa liderato ng Mababang Kapulungan, ang pagpasa ng budget para sa darating na taon ang tila naaantala dahil hindi pa tapos ang mga deliberasyon.

Kasama sa budget ang malaking pondo kontra COVID-19 at lahat ng may kaugnayan dito. Kaya naman, minamadali na ni Pangulong Duterte ang Kamara para ipasa na ito, dahil kung hindi ay siya na ang kikiilos.

Mahirap intindihin ang Palasyo na kailangan nang ipasa ang bagong budget para magamit ang nakalaang budget panlaban sa pandemya, kung may ginastos na milyun-milyon para sa pagpapaganda lamang ng Manila Bay. Maganda nga ang malalakaran ng mga tao, pero ano naman ang amoy ng Manila Bay? Kung puti ang buhangin d’yan, handa ba tayong lumangoy? Mahirap talagang intindihin ang prayoridad, baka sayang lang ang ginawa sa Manila Bay!



GMA News

17h

May epekto kaya ang malalakas na pag-ulan nitong mga nakaraang araw sa artificial white sand sa Manila Bay? Alamin sa report.



669

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# DENR donates bamboo saplings to Manila to boost 'green spaces'

By Marita Moaje October 13, 2020, 6:35 pm



(Photo courtesy of the DENR-NCR)

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) has donated bamboo saplings to Manila to help boost the city's green spaces.

DENR-NCR regional executive director Jacqueline Caanca turned over the plants to Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko Moreno' Domagoso and Vice Mayor Honey Lacuna-Pangan on Monday.

In a post on Tuesday, the agency said the donated bamboo saplings consisted of 55 Iron Bamboo or *Ferrocalamus* and 50 Thailand Bamboo or *Bambusa dolichomerithalla*.

"The plants would help the city enhance its 'green spaces' and provide the people with cleaner air and water, and reduce flooding among others," the DENR NCR's post reads.

Meanwhile, Caanca said they were assisted by the Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau of the DENR and the DENR Calabarzon in sourcing the appropriate bamboo saplings that may be planted in the city.

Domagoso thanked DENR-NCR for being the city's partner for the environment.

"Ilalagay po natin ito sa may Liwasang Bonifacio para lalo nating paramihin ang mga 'green spaces' sa ating lungsod (we will put these at the Liwasang Bonifacio so we could propagate more green spaces in the city)," Domagoso said. (PNA)



GMA News  
9h · 🌐

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Minsan, may mga bagay na kailangan talaga ng oras para mabalik sa dati. 🌍

Sa mga litratong ibinahagi ng Masungi Georeserve, isang conservation area sa Baras, Rizal, makikita ang pagpapagaling ng kalikasan sa loob ng dalawang dekada.

"In the 1990's, Masungi's limestones and forests were devastated by rampant logging and land speculation," pahayag ni Billie Dumaliang, advocacy officer ng Masungi Georeserve. "Every day, you could hear the sound of chainsaws cutting down trees."

Ngunit dahil sa paglunsad ng joint venture project sa pagitan ng DENR at Blue Star, ang mother company ng Masungi Georeserve Foundation, nagawang protektahan ang lugar.

"A secondary forest has now grown and hundreds of different wildlife have returned," sabi ni Dumaliang.

Bisitahin ang [www.gmanews.tv](http://www.gmanews.tv) para sa iba pang mga balita.

1996

HOW IT STARTED



2016

HOW IT'S GOING



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Source:

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# QC wildlife park reopens for shooting photos, videos

Published October 13, 2020, 11:40 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Planning to capture a special moment with the calming nature reserve as backdrop?



## PHOTO AND VIDEO SHOOTS ARE NOW WELCOME AT NAPWC!

Want to capture your special moment at the Nature Park in the City's Heart? The NAPWC now welcomes private and commercial photo and video shoots. Check the guidelines to know more about it. Give us a call or shoot us an email and we'll be happy to assist you.



[napwc@bmb.gov.ph](mailto:napwc@bmb.gov.ph) | 8924 6031 local 236/243

(Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN)

The Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City has just reopened its doors to private and commercial video and photo shoots.

To schedule a photo/video shoot, it is encouraged to contact the Park Information Office at 8924-6031 local 236 or send an email at [napwc@bmb.gov.ph](mailto:napwc@bmb.gov.ph) prior to the target date of the activity.

The park administration reminded that walk-ins will not be accommodated and health and safety protocols must be observed at all times.

Applicants will be sent their approved requests via email, while corresponding fees will be paid at the Park Information Office prior to the commencement of photo/video shoot.

A printed or an electronic copy of the request approval message will be presented at the gate on the day of the photo/video shoot.





The 23.85-hectare NAPWC, under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), is a legislated protected area found in Quezon City.

With the passage of the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018 or Republic Act (RA) 11038, an amendment to the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) or RA 7586, the NAPWC became one of the 94 protected areas legislated in Congress, and classified as national park.

More than 3,000 individual trees can be found within the park wherein 13 species are found to be endemic to the Philippines including Katmon, Kamatog and Antipolo.

Various species of animals also inhabit the park.

The artificial lagoon found in the park serves as habitat to a number of fish species like tilapia, catfish and snakehead, among others.

It is also a venue for recreational, civic, religious and educational activities on biodiversity conservation, as well as for special and milestone events.

Another frequently visited site within the Park is the Wildlife Rescue Center that serves as temporary shelter and rehabilitation facility for confiscated, donated and/or abandoned indigenous and exotic wildlife.

The Wildlife Rescue Center also serves as training ground for practitioners and students of veterinary medicine, zoology, biology, botany, and natural science.



## Cenro-Guipos releases tarsier in Lakewood



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur retrieves and safely releases back to the wild a Philippine Tarsier. A photo handout shows the tarsier they safely released last week. (SunStar Zamboanga)

October 13, 2020

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently released back to the wild a Philippine Tarsier in Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the release of the Philippine Tarsier last week was spearheaded by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Guipos, Zamboanga del Sur.

Tan said the tarsier was retrieved after a Facebook post by Roel Logronio of Kaumahan B, Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur, seeking help for the tarsier that he spotted in Gatub, Lakewood while tending his farmland last October 2, 2020.

He said the tarsier was released back to the wild after it was found healthy and without any injury by the Cenro Guipos personnel.

Meanwhile, the DENR advised the public to report sightings of wildlife injuries to their nearest Cenro or message DENR Zamboanga Peninsula on Facebook for proper action. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



# PH gov't should re-acquire mine site, minerals in N. Vizcaya — Kalikasan

Published October 13, 2020, 6:53 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

An environmental group on Monday recommended that the Philippine government should acquire a Australian-Canadian mining firm's mined copper minerals in Nueva Vizcaya and utilize it to fund the country's coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment demanded that OceanaGold's property and facilities should be returned to the people and the government.

It is a move that should have done since the termination of the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) that has already expired for more than a year, Kalikasan national coordinator Leon Dulce stressed.

"They must at once close shop and implement rehabilitation to all the areas they have damaged," he added.

The FTAA is a contract between the Philippine government and a local or foreign mining company for the large-scale exploration, development, and utilization of mineral resources.

OceanaGold's FTAA expired last June 20, 2019 after its 25 years of operation in Nueva Vizcaya.

Kalikasan pointed out that people's organizations and barangay officials of Barangay Didipio, the mine's host community, have long been opposing the Australian-Canadian mine that has caused depletion of the community's water resources and agricultural yield, among other rights violations. They strongly opposed the mine's request for an ore transport permit.

"OceanaGold's request to transport copper concentrate is a clear indication that they are still operating despite the lack of an existing contract. This clear violation of the law must be investigated by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau," Dulce added.

The group also called for the return of the indigenous people's lands, pointing out the need to restore forests and agricultural lands to be once again a source of their sustenance to help them recover in the middle of the pandemic.

"The Philippine government must decisively stand with the Filipino people. Foreign large-scale mining is not the solution to the economic and health crisis we are facing. In fact, the destruction of the environment will only further our vulnerability from infectious diseases such as COVID-19. We urge President Duterte to immediately reject OceanaGold's FTAA renewal," he said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/13/ph-govt-should-re-acquire-mine-site-minerals-in-n-vizcaya-kalikasan/>





# Eco groups urge government to ban importation of e-waste

Published October 13, 2020, 6:13 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Environmental groups are urging the Philippine government to follow the lead of Thailand in banning the importation of electronic wastes, such as old mobile phones, computers, home appliances, lamps, and other unwanted electrical and electronic equipment.

“The Thai policy banning the entry of e-waste was imposed to protect public health and the environment from toxic pollution resulting from the dirty recycling of these hazardous waste imports. It’s high time for our own government to follow in the footsteps of Thailand and enact a sweeping ban on the importation of e-waste, plastic waste, and other wastes for environmental health and justice,” said EcoWaste Coalition chemical safety campaigner Thony Dizon.

Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Marian Ledesma noted that the country’s neighbors are closing doors to all kinds of waste imports, which places the Philippines “in danger of becoming the most preferred destination in the region for waste.”

“The Philippine government must plug all holes that allow our country to be a dumping ground by ratifying the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and enacting a total ban on waste imports,” Ledesma said.

In observance of the International E-Waste Day on Wednesday, Oct. 14, the groups stressed that the sweeping prohibition on waste imports will serve as a strong deterrent against schemes to transfer hazardous waste and other wastes from other countries to the Philippines where such wastes can be cheaply processed, recycled, or disposed of at the expense of people’s health and the environment.

The groups cited the failed smuggling of e-waste—falsely declared as “assorted electronic accessories”—from Hong Kong that was discovered at a port in Northern Mindanao in May 2019. As reported by customs officials, the shipment was intended as a “test cargo,” and that 70 more containers would have followed had it not been intercepted.

The trash was returned quickly to the sender after its discovery.

EcoWaste and Greenpeace urged the Duterte administration to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment, an international law prohibiting the export of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries, and for the imposition of a more encompassing ban on waste importation.

They pointed out that ratifying the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and banning waste importation on the whole would allow the Philippines to focus on its own waste management issues, fully enforce waste and pollution prevention laws, and improve clean recycling facilities with government support and possibly incentives.

Adopting these twin measures, the groups added, will encourage the enactment of other essential policies and regulations to prevent and reduce waste generation, including the ban on single-use plastics, the promotion of reuse and refill systems, the adoption of extended producer responsibility and other strategies toward clean production, zero waste, and a toxics-free society.

The Thai Ministry of Commerce announced last Sept. 15 the start of a ban on the importation of 428 types of electric and electronic components and scraps. Violators will be jailed for up to 10 years, or fined five times the price of the illegal waste import, or both.



In the Philippines, EcoWaste wrote Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu in 2019 to reiterate the need to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and to propose a comprehensive ban on the importation of wastes, including plastic and electronic wastes, which is still allowed under DENR Administrative Order (AO) 2013-22.

The AO permits the importation of “recyclable materials,” such as scrap metals, scrap plastics, electronic assemblies and scrap, used oil and fly ash subject to certain limiting conditions and compliance to the requirements set by the Environmental Management Bureau.



# Greenpeace renews call to Duterte to declare climate emergency

Published October 13, 2020, 11:14 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

Greenpeace has renewed its call to President Rodrigo Duterte to declare a climate emergency following the release of a United Nations (UN) report showing a “staggering rise” in climate disasters in the past 20 years.

The report released by the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction and the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters noted that the Philippines is the 4th country hardest hit by natural disasters, mostly from climate-related events.

“Unless the worst impacts of the climate crisis are averted, the cost in human lives and economic losses will continue to rise to catastrophic proportions,” Greenpeace Philippines climate justice campaigner Virginia Benosa-Llorin said.

“The Duterte administration must use the opportunity of the COVID (coronavirus) recovery to build in strong climate action into a response that will enable the country to weather other future crises that may happen alongside the climate emergency,” she added.

The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 published by the Germanwatch also ranked the Philippines as the 2nd country most affected by impacts of weather-related loss events in 2018.

The country, meanwhile, ranked first on the list of countries facing the highest risk of climate change hazards in another report by the Global Peace Index.

The impacts of climate change—including increases in ocean warming and other climate-related stressors—threaten coastal ecosystems and the services, goods and benefits that the majority of Filipinos depend on.

Greenpeace research as early as 2007 showed that only one of the 16 regions of the Philippines is not vulnerable to a one-meter rise in sea level, and the regions and provinces most susceptible to sea level rise, extreme weather events, and landslides are also among those with the highest poverty incidence.

The group believes that responding to COVID and other crises in a climate-changed world means putting the well-being of people and nature first.

Concretely, this means directing finance to green, people-centered investments across a range of public sectors, such as health, energy, transport, water, food, waste, and education.

This can be reflected in a national budget that invests in people’s health and wellbeing as a strategy for resilience and sustainability, it pointed out.

Greenpeace has been calling for the declaration of a climate emergency that will put climate action at the center of all policy decision-making from local to national level.

It said it is willing to help the government craft the document and ensure the Philippines’ rapid and just transition to a low-carbon pathway through the phaseout of coal and fossil fuel investments, as well as uphold climate justice for millions of Filipinos by holding fossil fuel companies accountable for the climate crisis.

“With strong, coordinated climate action, we can make our cities and country safer and ready for any crisis, through policies that would enable a better normal to protect communities from the effects and impacts of climate change,” Llorin said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/13/greenpeace-renews-call-to-duterte-to-declare-climate-emergency/>





**NATION**

# Palayan illegal loggers

Published 3 hours ago on October 14, 2020 03:00 AM

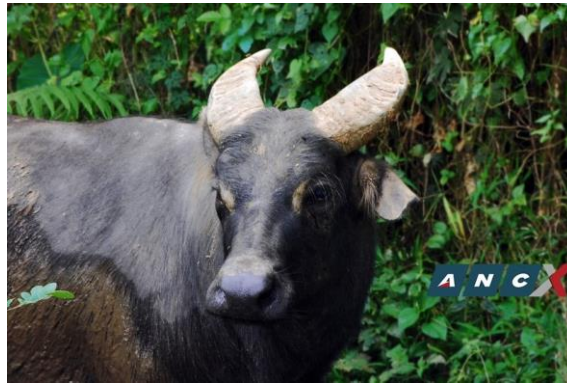
By [Jonas Reyes](#)



PALAYAN CITY, Nueva Ecija — Two suspected illegal loggers were apprehended by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the police in Barangay Maligaya here.

Acting on tips, the police nabbed suspects Pepito Torres, a 52-year-old resident of Barangay Doña Josefa here, and Fernando Albo, 56, of Barangay Lourdes in Cabanatuan City.

They were caught with two caliber .45 handguns, a homemade caliber .22 gun with silencer, grenade and various ammunitions.



*Kali has played a vital role in raising awareness for the conservation of the world's rarest buffalo species endemic to the Philippines. Photo from WWF-Philippines*

## Kalibasib, the last captive-bred Philippine tamaraw, dies at 21

The last official census puts the population of the rare buffalos at 480.

ANCX Staff | Oct 12 2020

Rare buffalos can only live up to 20 to 25 years, but knowing this does not make the passing of Kalibasib, the last tamaraw endemic to the Philippines bred in captivity, less heartbreaking.



*Kali's name is a portmanteau of "Kalikasan Bagong Sibol." Photo from WWF-Philippines*

World Wide Fund-Philippines today announced the death of Kalibasib who had been living in Mindoro Island. "We'd like to bid our own goodbyes to one of the most iconic wildlife in the country. Kalibasib, otherwise known as Kali, lived a long life, reaching the age of 21," the Facebook post said. "Kali has played a vital role in raising awareness for the conservation of the world's rarest and most endangered water buffalo species endemic to the Philippines."

Kali's name is a portmanteau of "Kalikasan Bagong Sibol," a phrase that translates to nature newly sprung. [In 2018, the Inquirer reported that Kali was already showing signs of slowing down.](#) There was cloudiness in his eyes due to a scratch—and doctors predicted it may take a while to heal. In the same report, the water buffalo was described as "about a meter tall and weighs just as much as a '2-year-old Carabao," according to a coordinator for the Tamaraw Conservation Project.

There are still Tamaraws left, according to WWF-PH's Alo Lantin, communications officer. They are limited to the slopes of the Iglit-Baco National Park. "There are rumored pockets of tamaraw beyond the national park, but that hasn't been confirmed yet," says Lantin. "And the last official census puts their population at 480."

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/culture/spotlight/10/12/20/kalibasib-the-last-captive-bred-philippine-tamaraw-dies-at-21>



ABS-CBN News

14h · 🌐



Paalam, Kali.

Pumanaw na ang nag-iisang captive-bred tamaraw sa bansa sa edad na 21. #HeadlinePilipinas



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## Villar: Wetland Park Mahalaga Bilang Bird Sanctuary

On Oct 13, 2020



MULING iginiit ni Senadora Cynthia Villar ang kahalagahan ng wetlands o latian sa pagbibigay ng wildlife habitats, kabilang ang santuwaryo ng mga migratory bird.

Sa paggunita ng World Migratory Bird Day, sinabi ni Villar na ang Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park (LPWP) na nasa timog ng Manila Bay ang nagsisilbing pahingahan at feeding grounds ng migratory birds mula sa Japan, China at Siberia.

“Wetlands have a unique characteristic and serve a lot of functions that is why these areas are protected and preserved,” ayon kay Villar.

Iniakda ni Villar, chairperson ng Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, ang Republic Act 11038 o ang Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas Act o E-NIPAS Act, kung saan nakalista bilang protected area ang Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Nagsisilbing santuwaryo ang 175- hectare nature reserve park sa 82 uri ng wild bird ns kinabibilangan ng Philippine ducks, Chinese egret at Black-winged stilts.

Meron itong 36 ektarya ng mangrove forest, ang pinakamakapal at iba-ibang natitirang mangrove areas sa Manila Bay. Sa kasalukuyan, may 11 uri ng mangrove o bakawan ang tumutubo sa naturang lugar.

Ito rin ang lugar ng paitluga ng mga isda sa Manila Bay na sumusuporta sa pangkabuhayan ng mahigit 300,000 mangingisda.

Kinilala ng Ramsar Convention ang global importance ng Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park's biodiversity kaya idineklara itong Wetland of International Importance kasama ang anim pang lugar sa Pilipinas.

Ang mga ito ay ang sumusunod: 1. Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park sa Palawan; 2. Tubbataha Reefs National Marine Park sa Sulu; 3. Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary sa Agusan del Sur; 4. Naujan Lake National Park sa Oriental Mindoro; 5. Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary sa Cebu at 6. Negros Occidental Coastal Wetlands Conservation Area in Negros Occidental.

Binigyan-diin ni Villar ang pagmimintina sa Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park sa kabila ng planong reklamasyon sa Manila Bay.

“There are reclamation projects that plan to build on the buffer zones of the park. We are vigorously opposing this because buffer zones should not be touched in order to preserve the landscape where the wetland now thrives,” sabi ni Villar.



Tinutulan din ng senador ang balak ng Bacoor at Paranaque local government na i-reclaim ang 320 hectares and 287 hectares, ayon sa pagkakasunud-sunod sa Manila Bay na buffer zone ng Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park.

Ipinagdiriwang ang World Migratory Bird Day dalawang beses sa taong ito —May 9 at October 10.

May temang “Birds Connect Our World,” layunin ng pagdiriwang sa taong ito na itampok ang kahalagahan ng pagpapanatili at pagbabalik “ecological connectivity at integrity ng ecosystems” na sumusuporta sa natural na paggalaw ng migratory birds. **(Mylene Alfonso)**



# PH kids learn about migratory birds, endemic duck in a new children's book

By ACB Published on October 13, 2020

LAGUNA, Oct. 13 -- Learning about nature may be challenging under COVID-19 stay-at-home restrictions, but the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), in partnership with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) found fun ways to do it while cultivating the children's sense of adventure.

Through a combination of technology and old-school story-telling style, grade-schoolers were introduced to some of the migratory birds, their connection to human and environmental health, and the reason for their conservation, during the celebration of the World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) on 10 October.

The SCPW and the ACB launched a children's book on migratory birds titled, "Si Papan at ang mga Dayong Ibon" during the webinar "Click it, Sketch It: An Adventure with Migratory Birds".

The book narrates the adventures of Papan, a Philippine duck in the Candaba marshlands, and the migratory birds Takyad, a Black-winged Stilt and Kalay, a Far Eastern Curlew. Takyad flew from Alaska, where the changing climate caused their late winter migration to the south. Meanwhile, Kalay faced a number of difficulties during their migration from Siberia to Australia, including being hunted by humans and facing pollution in their feeding areas and the declining number and quality of staging sites. In the story, the migratory birds and the endemic duck lamented their dwindling population despite the important roles they play in maintaining ecological balance.

"The survival of migratory birds is intricately connected with ours," said ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim, underlining to the WMBD theme, "Birds Connect Our World." "Tangible benefits can be derived from their protection such as ensuring genetic diversity and gene flow and preventing spillovers of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 by keeping viruses within their natural hosts, to name a few."

Drivers of biodiversity loss such as human encroachment, land-use conversion, and hunting and poaching continue to persist, contributing to the decline in numbers of these ecologically valuable birds, she said.

Global data sources show that in the ASEAN region, 70 migratory species from a total of 510 have been listed as critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable, and near threatened.

The ASEAN region, being one of the important flyway sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, is rich with wetlands, home to 60 per cent of tropical peatlands and 42 per cent of mangrove forests in the world. All these ecosystems serve as habitats for local birds, and migration sites for migratory species. Conserving these ecosystems is therefore connected to keeping these birds safe and their population thriving.

According to the ACB, the ASEAN Member States remain hopeful and continue to look for creative and efficient ways to achieve the region's biodiversity conservation targets. The number of Ramsar sites—or wetlands of international importance, has grown with 25 new designated sites over the past decade. At present, the region has a total of 56 Ramsar sites, covering an estimated area of 2.6 million hectares.





"These favourable circumstances offer an optimistic glimpse of the conservation of migratory birds and the protection of ecosystems," Lim said.

Other efforts are being done in the region, including facilitating cooperation and research through the ASEAN Flyway Network; protected areas and ecosystems conservation through the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) Programme; and mainstreaming of biodiversity across diverse sectors and segments of society, including youth.

Lim emphasised the importance of the youth's participation in biodiversity conservation. One of the Centre's programme, called the ASEAN Youth Biodiversity Programme (AYBP), builds capacity and relationships for young leaders in biodiversity conservation through experiential learning.

Under the AYBP, the ACB will likewise serve as an adviser to this year's Flyway Youth Forum, the first-ever international youth event on migratory waterbirds and wetland conservation in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

"With this book, we hope to ignite the children's appreciation for birds and biodiversity," Lim said. "It is never too early to start developing the love for nature. It is from this appreciation that we can foster a deeper understanding of its value and vital connection to our lives."

Based on a story developed by the SCPW Executive Director, Ms. Amy Lecciones, Darry Shel Estorba and Dana Rose Salonoy collaborated on writing and illustrating the storybook on migratory birds.

"The SCPW hopes to continue collaborating with ACB in communicating the importance of wetlands and biodiversity through various media and catering to various audiences," said Lecciones. "This children's storybook is part of our efforts to come up with communication materials that will appeal to our young audience and have an even broader reach if it will be translated into other ASEAN languages."

The virtual launch of the publication featured a storytelling session among the young audiences from all over the country including a group from the New Faith Children's Home Foundation, performances from the children, and a colouring activity.

A video on migratory birds produced by the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership and localised by SCPW was also shown during the event. (ACB)



## Bagong subspecies ng suso nadiskubre sa Baras, Rizal

Posted by: [Tracy Cabrera](#) on October 13, 2020 in [Hataw Lifestyle](#) [Leave a comment](#)

**ISANTABI** muna natin ang tungkol sa pandemya ng coronavirus at pag-usapan ang bagay na makapagpapasikat sa ating mga Pinoy sa kabila ng ipinaiiral na health safety protocols at lockdown na halos nagpabilanggo sa karamihan sa atin sa nakalipas na ilang buwan.

Sa Baras, Rizal ay nakadiskubre ng mga siyentista mula sa University of the Philippines (UP) ang inilarawan nilang bagong subspecies ng susong *Hypseloptoma latispira*.

Nagsisilbi ang mga suso bilang mahalagang bahagi sa ating ecosystem dahil lubhang napakababa nila sa habi ng pagkain sanhi ng pagkain nila ng nabubulok na halaman tulad ng mga dahon o kabote.

Habang ang bagong suso, na pinangalanang *Hypselostoma latispira masungiensis*, ay kasing laki lamang ng isang langgam at ang talukap nito'y may sukat lang na 5 milimetro. Ang pagkadiskubre nito ay nagbigay ng malakas na boses para sa kampanya ng proteksiyon ng ating Karst ecosystem na habitat o tirahan ng malilinggit na suso. Ang pagkakakilanlan sa Masungi snail ay resulta ng tatlong-taong pag-aaral ng mga Pinoy scientists na sina Harold Lipae, Angeliq Estabillo, Ian Kendrick Fontanilla, at Emmanuel Ryan de Chavez.

Ayon kay De Chavez, nakadepende ang *Hypselostoma* sa Karst o mga bahagi ng ating ecosystem na binubuo ng limestone dahil mayamang source ito ng calcium na ginagamit sa pagbubuo ng kanilang mga talukap at itlog. Isa sa ilang malacologists (mga siyentistang pinag-aaralan ang mga mollusk tulad ng suso) sa bansa. Unang pinag-aralan ni De Chavez ang kakaibang mga suso sa Pamitinan Protected Landscape sa kalapit na munisipalidad ng Rodriguez (dating Montalban), na maraming matatagpuang limestone boulder at kuweba.

"At that time, we couldn't identify it yet, but it looked different since its ventral side was exposed," wika ng siyentista, na nagsisilbing curator para sa mga mollusk sa UP Los Baños Museum of Natural History.

Ayon kay Masungi Georeserve Foundation managing trustee Ann Dumaliang, ang pagkakadiskubre ng bagong microsnail ay nagbibigay diin sa "halaga ng pagbibigay proteksiyon sa Masungi at ibang mga Karst ecosystem laban sa pagkasira nito."

"Since the snail is a range-restricted and karst-dependent species, if the limestones and the areas around it are quarried, this species and others can easily go extinct," dagdag ni Dumaliang.

"We need to protect these snails because they are also part of our natural heritage. If they go extinct, a little part of our being Filipino goes away with it," punto naman ni De Chavez. **(TRACY CABRERA)**

Source: <https://www.hatawtabloid.com/2020/10/13/bagong-subspecies-ng-suso-nadiskubre-sa-baras-rizal/?fbclid=IwAR0rjn1f6MiJLm0Vl8p8nMDNqHtFSaa6TxFQNBIXvfiFhAfIX4ae2OuGis>

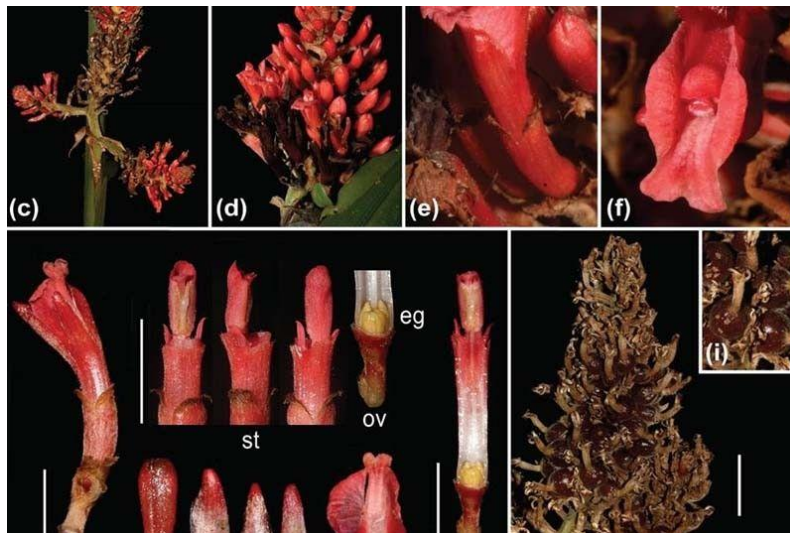


Photo of *Plagiostachys lourdesiae* from the Nordic Journal of Botany  
Nordic Journal of Botany

## New ginger species discovered in Mindanao

(Philstar.com) - October 13, 2020 - 9:44am

MANILA, Philippines — A new plant species endemic to the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Zamboanga del Sur in Mindanao has been discovered.

*Plagiostachys lourdesiae* is part of the *Plagiostachys* species, a small genus of the family Zingiberaceae or commonly known as ginger.

Rudolph Docot discovered the new ginger species during a botanical exploration for the *Plagiostachys* species. The discovery was published in the Nordic Journal of Botany.

The genus is said to be unique because “its flower head breaks through the lead sheaths just above the ground, appearing lateral,” according to a release. In terms of overall structure, its most closely related species is the *Plagiostachys escritorii*, which was discovered on Mt. Apo in 1915.

Docot, a faculty member of the Far Eastern University, named *Plagiostachys lourdesiae* after Dr. Lourdes Montinola, FEU’s chair emeritus.

“The scientist recognized the commitment of Dr. Montinola to the legacy of her father in developing quality education in the Philippines as well as dedication to preserving Philippine heritage, culture, and arts,” the release read. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**





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"BLUE BIRD." Isang indigo-banded kingfisher na naghahanap ng pagkain matapos ang pag-ulan ang namataan sa Masungi Georeserve sa Rizal nitong Lunes.

Ang natatanging ibon na 5 pulgada lang ang laki ay sa Pilipinas lang matatagpuan.

"Studies say the blue color on the kingfisher is not due to pigmentation but due to a transparent material on its feathers reflecting light in a special way," paliwanag ng Masungi Georeserve sa kulay ng ibon.

Ang indigo-banded kingfisher ay isa lang sa 70 naitalang species ng ibon sa conservation area, dahilan para mas lalo pang dapat ingatan ang lugar. (📍: Masungi Georeserve)



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## Blocked hole

Published 6 hours ago on October 14, 2020 12:04 AM

By [WJG](#)



Some animals stray into dangerous territory with disastrous consequences. For the hundreds of pilot whales that went close to the western beaches of Tasmania in Australia last 23 September, around 380 got stranded in shallow waters and died from exhaustion.

Rescuers managed to save 50 whales by transferring each to deeper waters where they were able to swim back to the ocean.

Early on Monday, a python strayed into the mainline of the Cotabato Electric Cooperative (Cotelco) in Kidapawan. Soon, lights of houses in the area were turning on and off, prompting Cotelco to shut down a transmission line for one hour to find the cause of the power disruption.

Later, Cotelco inspectors saw the mangled body of the snake. The python was apparently electrocuted when it clung to a high voltage cable.

In the coastal village of Barangay Dumoy, Davao City, some tiny fishes locally known as ibis recently were swimming together with kids who were skimboarding near the beach when a curious one decided to explore the area further.

The daring tiny fish swam into a small hole where it got stuck. The ibis tried to wiggle itself out of the hole, but the more it got trapped. Soon, it could no longer move. The water also disappeared and the fish died.

Actually, the ibis did not end up in a watery grave. The hole happened to be the right ear canal of 7-year-old boy Noe Formentera.

The bizarre incident caused quite a commotion at the house of Noe's family as his mother, siblings and neighbor didn't know how to get the fish out of his ear that day. Fortunately, Noe's father arrived home and had the composure to safely pull out the trapped ibis using forceps.

The poor ibis didn't live to know that it became part of a viral video passed on to and featured on a TV show that reported the deadly fishing expedition.



## Killer red tide

Published 3 hours ago on October 14, 2020 03:20 AM

By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



TACLOBAN CITY — A four-year old died while 13 others were taken to hospitals here and in Catbalogan City, all victims of suspected paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP).

Dr. Jevai Palomas, a pediatrician at Samar Provincial Hospital (SPH), said the child, from Barangay Old Mahayag in Catbalogan, was declared dead on arrival at around 4 a.m. Tuesday.

Two other children were brought to Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center in Tacloban City while 11 others — four adults and seven children — are under observation at SPH.

The poisoning victims reportedly ate shellfish harvested from Lucerdoni Tarangnan, Samar and Old Mahayag.

Last month, two children aged three and eight also died while four other family members were hospitalized after eating tahong (mussels) in the island municipality of Daram in Samar.

They experienced numbness, abdominal pain, vomiting and difficulty in breathing, all common symptoms of PSP.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) declared red tide infestation in the waters of Maqueda Bay (Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao and Hinabangan in Samar), Irong-Irong Bay (Catbalogan) and Cambatutay Bay (Tarangnan town).

The latest advisory from BFAR regional office on 12 October listed 13 waters in Eastern Visayas still infected with algal blooms.

The public has been repeatedly advised to refrain from gathering, selling and eating all types and shellfish and alamang (small shrimp) gathered from the prohibited areas.

“Fish, squid, shrimp and crab are safe to eat provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking,” the advisory read.

Other red tide-infested areas are the coastal waters of Daram, Samar; San Pedro Bay, Basey; Matarinao Bay (General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan and Salcedo in Eastern Samar); Cancabato Bay, Tacloban; Zumarraga, Samar; Biliran islands; Villareal Bay in Samar; Leyte; Carigara Bay (Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Carigara and Capoocan, Leyte); and Guiuan, Eastern Samar.

Source: [https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/14/killer-red-tide/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=killer-red-tide](https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/10/14/killer-red-tide/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=killer-red-tide)





Bike enthusiasts enjoy a morning ride around the premises of the SM City Marikina on October 10, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

# 1,990 new COVID-19 cases bring Philippine tally to over 344,000

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 13, 2020 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the Philippines reached 344,713 Tuesday after the Department of Health reported nearly 2,000 infections.

The DOH announced 1,990 new COVID-19 infections, of which 92% occurred within the last two weeks. The day before, the country logged over 3,000 additional cases after a week of reporting daily new cases at the 2,000 level.

Metro Manila was still the top source of newly-reported cases with 580. Cavite came in second with 114, followed by Rizal with 105, Laguna with 100 and Misamis Oriental with 94.

The department also registered 327 new recoveries, with the country's recovery count rising to 293,383.

The death toll, however, reached 6,372 as 40 more people succumbed to the disease. Most of the additional fatalities were from Western Visayas (13) and Calabarzon (10).

Excluding recoveries and deaths, 44,958 are active cases in the Philippines.

Tuesday's figures were based on the data from all except 17 testing laboratories.

More than 3.94 million people have been tested for coronavirus in the country.

The DOH said the country's 10.03% positivity rate—or the percentage of people who test positive for COVID-19 out of the total number of persons tested—still needs "improvement." It was double the less than 5% benchmark of the World Health Organization.

With over 344,000 cumulative infections, the Philippines has the most number of COVID-19 cases in Southeast Asia. It also ranks 18th globally in terms of coronavirus infections.

COVID-19 has so far claimed the lives of 1.079 million victims from more than 37 million recorded infections since the virus emerged in China late last year.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/13/2049266/1990-new-covid-19-cases-bring-philippine-tally-over-344000>

# PH climbs to rank 18 among countries with highest number of COVID-19 cases

October 12, 2020



The Philippines has climbed to the 18th rank among countries with the highest number of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in the world based on the report of John Hopkins University.

The United States of America and India are sharing the number one spot with more than 7 million COVID-19 cases, followed by Brazil with more than 5 million cases, then Russia with over 1.2 million cases, and Colombia with over 900,000 cases.

However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reminded to be careful in interpreting such data.

“You have to look at it from a comprehensive perspective, what capacity do we have? How good are we on reporting? And what is the population rate of infection we are seeing?” WHO Country Representative Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe has pointed out.

The Department of Health (DOH) has also clarified that the ranking is based on cumulative cases. Although the number of recoveries and fatalities have not yet been deducted, “82% po ryan naka-recover na. Mayroon po tayo sa ngayon na 1.8% na mga namatay. So ang active cases is about 15 percent. Ibig sabihin 15 percent of the total number of cases, ‘yun na lang po yung binabantayan natin sa ngayon. (82% of [the cases] have recovered. We currently have a death rate of 1.8%. So our active cases are about 15%, meaning 15% of the total number of cases is now under monitoring).”

Meanwhile, the DOH has released the guidelines on having good ventilation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Habang wala pa pong conclusive na evidence ng airborne transmission, nirerekomenda na ho ng DOH na tayo ay maniguro para sigurado na may sapat na ventilation ang mga enclosed spaces katulad sa ating mga workplaces, sa mga comfort rooms at sa mga sasakyan (While there is no conclusive evidence on airborne transmission, the DOH recommends that we must make sure that enclosed spaces have enough ventilation such as workplaces, comfort rooms, and cars).” – *Report from Mark Fetalco*

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/ph-climbs-to-rank-18-among-countries-with-highest-number-of-covid-19-cases/>



# South China Sea situation remains 'volatile': Gapay

By Priam Nepomuceno October 13, 2020, 4:25 pm



*(File photo)*

**MANILA** – The situation in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) remains volatile due to "certain actions" of both China and the United States to protect their interests in the disputed waters, the country's military chief said on Tuesday.

"So we have seen aggressive actions on the part of China, you know from reclaiming the area and deploying you know, warships there, (Chinese) Coast Guards are very visible in that area and their maritime militias are there, they are practically swarming most of the areas in the West Philippine Sea and here comes the United States, of course, protecting their interest in maintaining sea lanes (of communications) open and free," said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Gilbert Gapay in an online news conference with the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP).

With these developments affecting Manila's interest, Gapay said the AFP, within the limits of its capability, is maintaining a presence in the West Philippine Sea.

"We conduct naval and air patrols every day in the West Philippine Sea and it involves seven Navy assets, and no more than 20 aircraft alternately performing air patrols in the area and we are augmented by the Philippine Coast Guard just to maintain the presence in the West Philippine Sea and to send the message to the other countries there and to our allies that this is an assertion of our sovereignty and our efforts in protecting and preserving territorial integrity of the country," he added.

As part of Philippine efforts to maintain a presence in the West Philippine Sea, Gapay said the AFP is now improving the Philippines' facilities in the nine occupied features in the area.

"We have troops in those islands, from Pag-asa plus eight other small features in that island, small features in the West Philippine Sea, we (have) barracks there, we're building local monitoring stations there, and other life support facilities for our troops and this is also one way of maintaining presence in the area," he added.

Gapay said the AFP is also maintaining and continuing relentless maritime domain awareness operations in the area.

"We have a number of local monitoring stations, monitoring all the vessels plying the West Philippine Sea, challenging them every now and then," he added.

Since the Philippines wants a peaceful resolution and approach to the different issues in the disputed waters, Gapay said most of the actions being adopted by the country are diplomatic.

"If there are some incursions, we right away file a diplomatic protest and at a tactical level we maintain open lines of communications with our counterparts on the ground, the Western Command we have open lines of communication with Southern Theater Command of China which is the military unit operating in the South China Sea so these are part of the bilateral and multilateral actions being implemented by the Armed Forces," he added.

With the Philippines pretty much involved in the crafting of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, Gapay said the AFP has aired its desire to have it fast-tracked so that it will be ready within the end of the year or early next year. **(PNA)**





# CSC urges gov't agencies to submit list of needed personnel to be filled by contractual workers

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Oct 13, 2020 10:40:11 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, October 13) — The Civil Service Commission is urging government agencies to submit a list of positions they need to give the government's contractual workers a chance to be regularized. During the House of Representatives plenary debates on Tuesday, Bataan Rep. Joet Garcia, the sponsor of the agency's 2021 budget, said the CSC is urging all government agencies to submit a list of positions they need to the Department of Budget and Management to be able create them and give contract of service (COS) and job order (JO) workers a chance to be regularized, as long as they are qualified to the position.

This is in response to Bayan Muna Party-list Rep. Ferdinand Gaité's question on what can be done to help these workers get a permanent job to get rid of contractualization in the system.

Gaité cited CSC data that showed that as of end-August, there are 653,816 contractual government employees. Moreover, 127,047 are considered to be casual and contractual, he said.

He also mentioned the nearing effectivity of Joint Circular no. 1, series of 2017.

This joint circular allowed government agencies to hire new and renew contracts of existing contract of service and job order workers until Dec. 31, 2018, which was later extended until end of 2020. Starting next year, hiring of COS and JO personnel is only allowed based on the provisions of the said circular, which include hiring through contractors or service providers.

With efforts to end contractualization, it seems like the government itself is the main violator of such move, Gaité said. Moreover, job security should also be ensured especially now that the country is being challenged by the global health crisis that has led to the unemployment of millions of Filipinos.

"The government is the main violator of this policy of hiring government workers not as regular employees, but as job order and contract of service na walang kasiguraduhan sa trabaho (who do not have job security)," Gaité said.

Garcia said the CSC is open to the suggestion of regularizing these workers, but a measure is needed to do so. Any measure that will be able to help COS and JO workers is also welcome, he said.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/10/13/csc-urges-agencies-to-submit-list-of-needed-personnel-for-cos-jo.html>



## Ofel to bring moderate to heavy rains over Bicol Region, provinces of Samar, southern Quezon, Marinduque, Romblon

**Published** October 14, 2020 2:41am

Tropical Depression Ofel continues to move northwestward and is approaching the coastal waters of eastern Samar, according to the 2 a.m. Severe Weather Bulletin issued by PAGASA.

Ofel will make landfall over eastern Samar and cross the Samar island on Wednesday morning before emerging over the Samar Sea around noontime.

The tropical depression will then move west-northwestward over the inland seas of Southern Luzon and may pass close or over Masbate, Romblon, and Mindoro Provinces. It is likely to emerge over the West Philippine Sea on Thursday morning and exit the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) by Friday afternoon.

Ofel will remain a tropical depression while crossing the Samar Island-southern Luzon area and as it crosses Mindoro island weather disturbance is expected and the tropical depression is forecast to intensify into a tropical storm.

Ofel will bring moderate to heavy rains over Bicol Region, northern Samar, eastern Samar, Samar, southern Quezon, Marinduque, and Romblon.

Light to moderate with at times heavy rains will also be experienced over Metro Manila, Mindoro Provinces, and the rest of Visayas and CALABARZON.

There may be flooding and rain-induced landslides during heavy or prolonged rainfall especially in areas that are highly or very highly susceptible to these hazards.

PAGASA Regional Services Divisions may issue local thunderstorm/rainfall advisories and heavy rainfall warnings as appropriate.



## Areas under Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal (TCWS) No. 1:

- Southern portion of Quezon (San Francisco, San Andres, San Narciso, Mulanay, Catanauan, Buenavista, Guinayangan, Tagkawayan, Calauag, Quezon, Alabat, Perez, Atimonan, Unisan, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Plaridel, Gumaca, Lopez, General Luna, Macalelon, Pitogo)
- Marinduque
- Romblon
- Camarines Norte
- Camarines Sur
- Catanduanes
- Albay
- Sorsogon
- Masbate (including Ticao and Burias Islands)
- Northern Samar
- Eastern Samar
- Samar
- Biliran
- northern portion of Leyte (Tabango, Leyte, San Isidro, Calubian, Capoocan, Carigara, Jaro, Pastrana, Dagami, Tabontabon, Tanauan, Palo, Santa Fe, Alangalang, Tacloban City, Babatngon, San Miguel, Barugo, Tunga)

There will be strong- to near gale-force winds will be experienced in areas under TCWS No. 1 during the passage of the tropical depression. These winds may cause at most very light damage to structures and vegetation.

Meanwhile, occasional gusts associated with the northeasterly surface windflow being enhanced by Ofel and Tropical Storm Nangka, which is outside PAR, may be experienced over Batanes, the northern and eastern portions of Cagayan (including Babuyan Islands), the northern portions of Apayao, Ilocos Norte, and Quezon, the eastern portion of Isabela, and Aurora, especially in coastal and mountainous areas.

Moderate to rough seas will be experienced over the seaboard of Luzon and Eastern Visayas in the next 24 hours, especially in areas where TCWS No. 1 is in effect. Those with small seacrafts are advised not to venture out to sea over these areas.

As of 1 a.m. on Wednesday, the center of Tropical Depression Ofel was estimated based on all available data at 30 kilometers east northeast of Borongan City, Eastern Samar with maximum sustained winds of 45 kilometers per hour near the center with gustiness of up to 55 kph as it moves northwestward at the speed of 10 kph. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/759742/ofel-to-bring-moderate-to-heavy-rains-over-bicol-region-provinces-of-samar-southern-quezon-marinduque-rom/story/?fbclid=IwAR1x3ZdQDRFkG2hctqu8LN4EhPtQVWTlgtvI\\_0xx6WX8ByCFqY7E5EIB-\\_o](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/759742/ofel-to-bring-moderate-to-heavy-rains-over-bicol-region-provinces-of-samar-southern-quezon-marinduque-rom/story/?fbclid=IwAR1x3ZdQDRFkG2hctqu8LN4EhPtQVWTlgtvI_0xx6WX8ByCFqY7E5EIB-_o)





# PAGASA raises flood alert in Eastern Visayas

By Sarwell Meniano **October 13, 2020, 10:42 am**



**FLOOD ALERT.** One of the major rivers in Palo, Leyte is regularly monitored through automatic warning systems for potential flooding. In its weather bulletin on Tuesday (Oct. 13, 2020), PAGASA said the Visayas will experience scattered rains and thunderstorms due to the southwest monsoon and a low pressure area. *(File photo)*

**TACLOBAN CITY** – The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has warned of possible flooding in major river systems in Eastern Visayas due to rains brought by a low pressure area (LPA).

In an advisory issued early Tuesday, PAGASA identified several rivers in six provinces that would likely be affected by the downpour.

These watercourses are in Sangputan, Palo, Solano, Daguitan, Marabong, Cadacan, Bongquirogon, Salug, Pagbanagaran, Pagsangahan, and Binahaan in Leyte; and Catarman, Bugko, Pambujan, Catubig, Palapag, Mano, and Gamay in Northern Samar.

Other affected rivers are in Oras, Dolores, Ulot, Taft, Borongan, Suribao, Llorento, Balangiga, and Sulat in Eastern Samar; Basey, Silaga, Calbiga, and Jibatan in Samar; Bisay, Himbangan, and Pandan in Southern Leyte; and all river systems in Biliran.

People living in low-lying areas near these river systems have been advised to stay alert for possible flash floods.

Those residing near mountain slopes have been told to watch out for signs of landslides.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has identified 2,433 villages in the region as highly susceptible to flooding and urged their respective local governments to take precautionary measures.

As of 3 a.m. Tuesday, the LPA was estimated at 335 kilometers east of Surigao City, Surigao del Norte.

The weather bureau asked the public and local disaster risk reduction and management offices to continue monitoring updates on the weather disturbance. **(PNA)**



# 4.8-magnitude quake rattles Eastern Samar

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 13 2020 04:21 PM

MANILA— A magnitude 4.8 earthquake struck Eastern Samar on Tuesday afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

The tremor happened 25 kilometers northeast of Hernani town at 2:49 in the afternoon, according to Phivolcs.

State seismologists added it was tectonic in origin and had a depth of 48 kilometers.

ABS-CBN News 14 hours ago

Niyanig ng magnitude 4.8 na lindol ang Hernani, Eastern Samar ngayong Oktubre 13, 2020, 2:49 p.m. Naramdaman ang intensity 3 sa Llorente, Eastern Samar at intensity 2 naman sa La Paz, Julita, Dagami, Tanauan, and Dulag, Leyte. #earthquake #EarthquakePH #LindolPH | via Phivolcs

BASAHI: <https://bit.ly/3111y3j>

792 likes, 39 comments, 224 shares

Intensity 4 was felt in Hernani, while intensity 3 was felt in Llorente, Eastern Samar. Intensity 2, meanwhile, was felt in Catbalogan City, La Paz, Julita, Dagami, Tanauan, Dulag and Barugo in Leyte.

The tremor was not expected to cause damage and aftershocks, Philvolcs added.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/13/20/48-magnitude-quake-rattles-eastern-samar?fbclid=IwAR3wHqtpCo9y519EtXO7fiR0nnFe\\_iW91xF30hnYxv8\\_6-Lg0GAeRMYJD3s](https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/13/20/48-magnitude-quake-rattles-eastern-samar?fbclid=IwAR3wHqtpCo9y519EtXO7fiR0nnFe_iW91xF30hnYxv8_6-Lg0GAeRMYJD3s)



# Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000: UN

Published October 13, 2020, 11:50 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

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

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

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

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

Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

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

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

## 'Uphill battle'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Deadliest disaster

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





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

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

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

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



In this file photo, motorists waded through a flooded highway, caused by heavy rains due to typhoon Phanfone, in Ormoc City, Leyte province in central Philippines on December 25, 2019.

AFP/Ronald Frank Dejon

## Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000: UN

(Agence France-Presse) - October 13, 2020 - 8:34am

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

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

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## Climate change root of natural disasters – UN



By Agence France-Presse

October 14, 2020

**NEW YORK:** Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years, the United Nations said on Monday (Tuesday in Manila).

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

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

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

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

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

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## Surge in natural disasters takes heavy human and economic toll — UN

October 13, 2020 | 1:41 pm

Philippines among countries with highest number of disaster events



*An SUV gets caught in a flood on Timog corner Scout Tobias in Quezon City after a sudden downpour of rain on October 12, 2020. The Philippines recorded 304 disaster events from 2000 to 2019, landing it among the top 10 countries to report extreme weather events. — Photo via PhilStar/Michael Varcas*

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

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



*Image via Global Water Partnership CC BY-NC-SA 2.0*

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

Last month was the world’s hottest September on record, with unusually high temperatures recorded off Siberia, in the Middle East, and in parts of South America and Australia, the European Union’s Copernicus Climate Change Service said. Global temperatures will continue to warm over the next five years, and may even temporarily rise to more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in July. Scientists have set 1.5C as the ceiling for avoiding catastrophic climate change. — **Stephanie Nebehay/Reuters**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/surge-in-natural-disasters-takes-heavy-human-and-economic-toll-un/?fbclid=IwAR0FxlK92r2m0AqapH1kr86G2A24Rb0r7nmztFcGhaQTJWI4c9mml6bkv5Y>



Rescuers continue their search for missing miners in a landslide caused by Typhoon Ompong at a small-scale mining camp in Itogon, Benguet, September 19, 2018. REUTERS/Harlington Palangchao

## Climate change spurs doubling of disasters since 2000 —UN

**Published** October 13, 2020 6:57pm

By NINA LARSON, Agence France-Presse

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

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

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

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

Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.

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

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

### 'Uphill battle'

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

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



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

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

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

The Philippines [is in 4th place with 304 disasters within the period.](#)

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

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

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/759688/climate-change-spurs-doubling-of-disasters-since-2000-un/story/>



# CLIMATE CHANGE | UN chief urges banks to stop backing fossil fuel projects

October 13, 2020 , 12:17 PM

LONDON, Oct 12 (Reuters) – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged development banks to stop backing fossil fuel projects, after a report found the World Bank had invested \$12 billion in the sector since the 2015 Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

Environmental campaigners have for years tried to prevent the oil, coal and natural gas industry from producing dangerous levels of the greenhouse gases that cause climate change by persuading commercial banks to stop lending them money.

But the world's state-backed development banks, whose support is often crucial in determining whether projects in developing countries go ahead, are also facing growing calls to starve the industry of finance.

Guterres urged a coalition of finance ministers and economic policymakers from dozens of countries to ensure development banks end fossil fuel investments and boost renewable energy.

"We need speed, scale, and decisive leadership," Guterres said in a video message to a virtual meeting of the group.

Earlier on Monday, a report by Berlin-based environmental group Urgewald said that the World Bank had invested more than \$12 billion in fossil fuels since the Paris accord, \$10.5 billion of which was direct finance for new projects.

That put the World Bank far ahead of other development banks in supporting the sector, said Heike Mainhardt, a senior adviser to Urgewald, who wrote the report.

With the world already on track to produce far more fossil fuels than would be compatible with temperature goals agreed in Paris, the report questioned why the World Bank would back increased oil and natural gas production in countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Mozambique.

The World Bank said the report gave a "distorted and unsubstantiated view," adding that it had committed nearly \$9.4 billion to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries from 2015-19.

The bank also said the report ignored its mandate to help around 789 million people living without electricity, mostly in rural Africa and Asia.

Mainhardt said the bank's support for fossil fuels was hindering a transition to cleaner energy needed to achieve the Paris accord's goal of avoiding catastrophic climate change.

"It's so misleading for them to act like they are a champion of the climate when they really are such a huge part of the problem," Mainhardt told Reuters. "Because the World Bank keeps giving billions in public assistance, that distorts the market for fossil fuels, it slows down the energy transition."

*(Reporting by Matthew Green Editing by Chizu Nomiyama and Aurora Ellis)*

Source: [https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-un-chief-urges-banks-to-stop-backing-fossil-fuel-projects?fbclid=IwAR07H\\_3kUhr1rY1p8ufvEva0uGPI6CfEI5qVLG6UJrbVl6NVOB9kgerqnT](https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/climate-change-un-chief-urges-banks-to-stop-backing-fossil-fuel-projects?fbclid=IwAR07H_3kUhr1rY1p8ufvEva0uGPI6CfEI5qVLG6UJrbVl6NVOB9kgerqnT)



# UN warns that world risks becoming 'uninhabitable hell' for millions unless leaders take climate action

By Helen Regan, CNN

Published Oct 13, 2020 5:50:46 PM



(CNN) — There has been a "staggering" rise in [natural disasters](#) over the past 20 years and the [climate crisis](#) is to blame, the United Nations said Monday.

Researchers pointed to a failure of political and business leaders to take meaningful action to mitigate the impact of climatic change and stop the planet from turning into "an uninhabitable hell for millions of people."

Meanwhile, the coronavirus pandemic, which has killed more than 1 million people and infected at least 37 million, has exposed the failure of "almost all nations" to prevent a "wave of death and illness" despite repeated warnings from experts, the report said.

Between 2000 and 2019, there were 7,348 major natural disasters -- including earthquakes, tsunamis and hurricanes -- that claimed 1.23 million lives, affected 4.2 billion people and resulted in \$2.97 trillion in global economic losses, according to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

That's almost double the 4,212 disasters recorded from 1980-1999, the UN said in its new report [The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019](#).

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters' Emergency Events Database characterizes a natural disaster as having at least 10 or more people reported killed, 100 or more people reported affected, declaration of a state of emergency, or a call for international assistance.

The vast majority of those disasters were climate-related, with researchers reporting more flooding, storms, droughts, heatwaves, hurricanes and wildfires in the past 20 years.

The sharp increase has been attributed to rising global temperatures, which scientists say is increasing the frequency of extreme weather and disaster events. The report found floods, storms, heatwaves, droughts, hurricanes and wildfires have all significantly increased in the past 20 years.

"It is baffling that we willingly and knowingly continue to sow the seeds of our own destruction," said UNDRR chief Mami Mizutori and Debarati Guha-Sapir of Belgium's Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, in a joint foreword to the report.

"It really is all about governance if we want to deliver this planet from the scourge of poverty, further loss of species and biodiversity, the explosion of urban risk and the worst consequences of global warming."

Asia was the worst hit from climate disasters in the past 20 years, suffering from 3,068 disaster events between 2000 and 2019. That was followed by 1,756 disasters in the Americas and 1,192 in Africa.

The worst affected country over the past two decades is China, which experienced more than 500 natural disasters, followed by the United States, with 467 disaster events.



Among the deadliest -- considered mega disasters because they each killed more than 100,000 people -- were the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2008 Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

There has been some success in protecting vulnerable communities thanks to better early warning systems and responses, the report said. Disaster management agencies in countries like Bangladesh and [India have saved many lives](#) India have saved many lives through better preparedness for cyclones and floods.

But researchers warn that "the odds continue to be stacked against" these communities.

"In particular by industrial nations that are failing miserably on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to levels commensurate with the desired goal of keeping global warming at 1.5° C as set out in the Paris Agreement," Mizutori and Guha-Sapir said.

They called on countries to do more to strengthen disaster risk governance and to better prepare for future climate catastrophes.

Currently, the world is on course for a temperature increase of 3.2 degrees Celsius or more, unless industrialized nations can drastically cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

That projected temperature increase is enough to increase the frequency of extreme climate events across the world, the report said, rendering any improvements to disaster response or climate adaptation "obsolete in many countries."

Emissions will need to be reduced by at least 7.2% every year over the next 10 years in order to achieve the 1.5 degree target agreed in Paris.

"We have seen little progress on reducing climate disruption and environmental degradation," said UN Secretary-General António Guterres. "To eradicate poverty and reduce the impacts of climate change, we must place the public good above all other considerations."

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["UN warns that world risks becoming 'uninhabitable hell' for millions unless leaders take climate action"](#)

Source: [https://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/10/13/UN-natural-disasters-climate-crisis.html?fbclid=IwAR0EqzizIDGqDs36\\_tknzgMe3DsBm33ex\\_ZOgR7sBx51pV3Tk1bsk3NbVAc](https://www.cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/10/13/UN-natural-disasters-climate-crisis.html?fbclid=IwAR0EqzizIDGqDs36_tknzgMe3DsBm33ex_ZOgR7sBx51pV3Tk1bsk3NbVAc)



## Earth 'squeezed like an orange': Call for climate action

posted October 13, 2020 at 10:30 am

by [AFP](#)

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



*This combination of pictures created on October 10, 2020 of handout photos courtesy of TED shows (From Top L) US actor Don Cheadle, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, US actor Mark Ruffalo, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, Pope Francis, Australian actor Chris Hemsworth, US actress Jane Fonda, former US Vice President Al Gore speaking at the Countdown Global Launch 2020 on October 10, 2020. With a call to save the planet, Prince William and Pope Francis on Saturday joined activists, artists, celebrities and politicians in a free streamed TED event aimed at mobilizing and unifying people to confront the climate crisis. AFP*

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

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

—Pope Francis

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

—Filmmaker Ava DuVernay

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

—Prince William

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

—US economist Rebecca Henderson

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

—Oxford professor and climate science scholar Myles Allen

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

—Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research director Johan Rockstrom

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

—UN secretary general Antonio Guterres

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

—Music star Prince Royce

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

—British Parliament member David Lammy



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

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

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

—Kenyan energy researcher Rose Mutiso

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

—Climate activist Xiye Bastida

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

—Ecology professor Thomas Crowther

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

—Prominent Silicon Valley investor John Doerr





# Indonesia is putting business before the environment and that could be disastrous for its rainforests

By Helen Regan, CNN (Analysis)

Published Oct 13, 2020 8:31:03 PM



Last week, Indonesia's parliament passed a controversial and sweeping jobs law that environmentalists say will have a disastrous impact on the country's forests and rich biodiversity. (FILE PHOTO)

(CNN) — Last week, Indonesia's parliament passed a controversial and sweeping jobs law that environmentalists say will have a disastrous impact on the country's forests and rich biodiversity.

The omnibus jobs creation law was intended to simplify Indonesia's complex web of overlapping regulations to make it easier for companies to do business in the country. It includes changes to more than 70 laws across the labor, business and environmental sectors.

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has promised the law will help boost the country's ailing coronavirus-hit economy by cutting through red tape and bureaucracy to attract foreign investment and create jobs in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in the capital Jakarta and other cities in a three-day national strike against the reforms, with demonstrators, labor unions, and rights groups saying the law undermines workers rights. On Thursday, protesters violently clashed with police, who fired tear gas and water cannons in an attempt to disperse crowds in central Jakarta.

Rights group Amnesty International called the law "catastrophic," saying the bill was rushed through parliament with no meaningful public consultation and criticized the drafting process as opaque. Amnesty's Indonesia Executive Director Usman Hamid said in a statement that the law will "harm workers' wallets, job security and their human rights as a whole."

Union and Muslim groups are preparing to challenge the law in court and another wave of protests is expected this week, according to Reuters.

But while the protests have focused on concerns over labor rights, environmentalists say the law loosens environmental protections and could lead to widespread deforestation and habitat loss.

Indonesia's rainforests are the world's third largest after the Amazon and Africa's Congo Basin and are ecologically important for their rich biodiversity, with animals including elephants, clouded leopards, sun bears and the critically endangered orangutan.

Deforestation is already driving many species toward extinction and environmentalists warn that the law could give them a "strong push towards the edge," said Phelim Kine, senior Asia director at environmental campaign group Mighty Earth.

## Why environmentalists are worried

Indonesia supplies more than half of the world's palm oil and the industry contributes about 2.4% to the country's GDP. But the industry is a major cause of deforestation in Indonesia and palm oil has had a devastating impact on the environment.



The new law will remove a requirement that Indonesian provinces have a forest cover of 30%, raising concerns that extractive industries and palm oil plantations could drastically step up land clearance and escalate conflicts over land and Indigenous rights.

Indonesian environmental group the Sustainable Madani Foundation warned that the law will weaken environmental protections for forests and several provinces that are home to palm oil plantations, like Riau, Jambi and South Sumatra, could completely lose their natural forests in 20 years.

"That's staggering, that's the equivalent of telling a United States citizen that an American corporation is going to raze Yosemite, or in the UK that they'll pave the Lake District. The environmental impacts are almost incalculable," Kine said.

Borneo is burning: How the world's demand for palm oil is driving deforestation in Indonesia

Adding to concerns is that previously, companies were responsible for environmental damage in their concessions, whether they were at fault or not. But environmentalists say these "strict liability" provisions are now vague and proof of wrongdoing is now required to prosecute the company.

Officials say this is to provide legal certainty in criminal investigations, according to Reuters, but environmentalists are worried it will weaken laws aimed at prosecuting companies that cause forest fires.

"We are afraid the changes of the liability mechanism will blur the lines in trial and hamper law enforcement for the forest fire issue," said Grita Anindarini, a researcher for the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law.

Intense forest fires from land burning rage across Indonesia every year, with toxic haze spreading as far as Malaysia and Singapore. Farmland is burned to prepare for the next year's crop and to clear forests, with the carbon-rich peat burning for weeks and creating a health crisis with disastrous consequences for the climate crisis.

Indonesia's Environment Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said on Twitter that the rights of Indigenous peoples and those living in forest areas have greater protection under the new law and that obligations for companies to maintain forest areas will in fact be tighter.

## 'Major setback in environmental law'

Campaigners say the law makes changes to several other key environmental rules, including removing environmental reviews for many new projects.

It also integrates environmental permits with business permits and compliance monitoring will now be "risk-based."

Companies would previously need to fill out an environmental impact assessment, called an AMDAL, to assess the impact their project would have on the environment and local communities. Now, only companies whose activities pose a "high risk" to the environment will need to secure this license.

"The government said high risk means (companies') activities will have a significant impact on the environment, and if you have high risk activities you must conduct an environmental impact assessment," said Grita, who added that it's not clear what constitutes a high risk activity or how a company will be judged.

According to Grita, companies now only need to consult those people "directly impacted" by the project, raising concerns that local people and environmental advocates will be left out of the consultation process. "It's very unclear who is directly impacted," she said.

The new rules have raised fears that the system of checks and balances on those polluting or exploiting the environment will be diminished.

This is a "major setback in environmental law," Grita said.

But Environment Minister Siti said the law makes it easier for the government to revoke business permits for companies that undermine environmental laws.



"By combining the processing of the AMDAL license with the processing of business permits, if a company violates it, the government can revoke both at once," the minister said on her official Twitter account.

She continued that corporations "playing around" in forest areas will be subject to "strict criminal sanctions."

## Moving forward

Environmentalists say Indonesia could have used the opportunity to recover its economy in a sustainable way.

"They could have made it a golden region for economic green growth with forest cover and biodiversity treated as priceless assets rather than items to be pillaged," Kine said.

Reuters reported that banks like Citibank and ANZ have said if the jobs law is implemented well, there will be a better investment climate for Indonesia.

But others within the industry say it may backfire. A group of 35 global investors managing \$4.1 trillion in assets issued a letter to the Indonesian government warning of the damaging consequences for the environment, according to Reuters.

Grita said that Indonesia's environmental law is "one of the most progressive laws we have" and progress has been made in recent years to step up environmental protection, though implementation and monitoring is still weak. The palm oil industry in particular has come under pressure from buyers, financiers, and civil society groups among others to reduce deforestation and the destruction of peatlands.

Meanwhile, companies — including in Indonesia — are increasingly committing to "No Deforestation, No Peatland, No Exploitation" (NDPE) policies and major palm oil importers like the European Union and UK are considering stricter standards for agricultural imports. One UK proposal would prohibit companies that can't prove their supply chains are not linked to illegal deforestation, and 21 major food firms, including McDonald's, say the plans should be expanded to apply to all deforestation.

Concerns have also been raised that Indonesia's new law will move the country's environmental legislation away from international best practices.

There are calls for the government to repeal the law, and Kine said the focus now will be on ensuring it's implemented in a way that "mitigates the extent of the damage that the law on its face can inflict."

With reporting from Reuters.

This story was first published on CNN.com "[Indonesia is putting business before the environment and that could be disastrous for its rainforests](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/10/13/indonesia-omnibus-law-environment.html)"