

15 DECEMBER 2020, Tuesday



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**

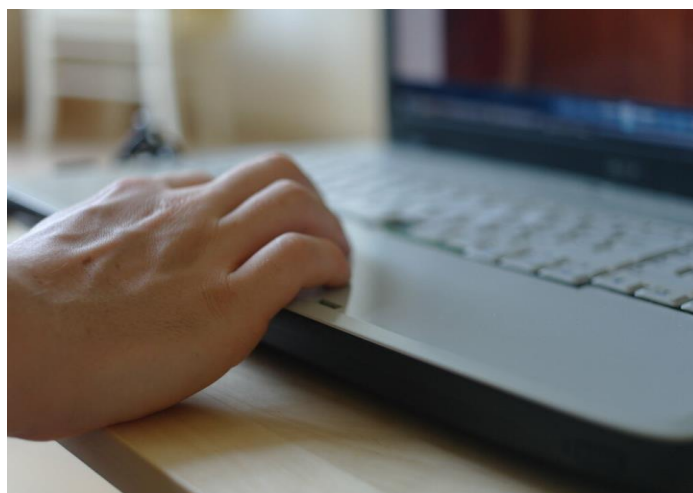


## Free online short course on solid waste management offered

Published December 14, 2020, 12:29 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A free online short course on solid waste management is being offered to the public to help promote the effective management of disposable face masks and gloves and other household wastes.



(FLICKR / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) jointly created the e-learning material on the implementation of solid waste management pursuant to NSWMC Resolution No. 1424, Series of 2020.

NSWMC is the primary agency tasked to implement the provisions of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The 17-member commission, which includes TESDA, is chaired by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu.

DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Local Government Units (LGU) Concerns Benny Antiporda said the digital learning material was designed to help people practice effective SWM amid the pandemic.

“Gaining knowledge about best SWM practices is vital at this time because household health care waste, such as disposable face masks and gloves, must be disposed of properly,” Antiporda said.

The online short course has two units – Introduction to Ecological Solid Waste Management and Practicing Solid Waste Management.

The first unit includes lectures on Philippine environmental laws and regulations, ecological SWM, as well as sources of waste, while the second unit consists of lessons on waste segregation, composting, recycling, managing residual waste with potential for recycling, and proper waste collection, treatment, and disposal.



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## Free online short course on solid waste management offered

Learners will have to take a test at the end of the course to earn a certificate.

“For those who have some time to spare during this lockdown, we suggest this as a good way to spend your time productively and learn something new that can help the environment,” Antiporda said.

Enrollment is through the TESDA website [e-tesda.gov.ph](http://e-tesda.gov.ph).

## Libreng online short course sa solid waste management alok sa publiko



December 14, 2020 @ 6:19 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang magkaroon ng kaalaman hinggil sa tamang pagtatapon ng basura kahit nasa pandemya ang bansa, magkatuwang na bumuo ang National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) at ang Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) ng online short course on solid waste management (SWM) na libre sa publiko.

Base sa NSWMC Resolution No. 1424, Series of 2020, ang technical working group ng komisyon at ang TESDA ay gumawa ng e-learning material para sa implementasyon ng SWM sa workplace.

Ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), ang NSWMC ang pangunahing ahensya na naatasang magpatupad ng mga probisyon na nakasaad sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Ang 17-member komisyon ay pinamumunuan ni Secretary Roy A. Cimatu ng DENR.

Nabatid kay NSWMC Alternate Chair at DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management ang Local Government Units Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, ang digital learning material ay ginawa upang matulungan ang mga tao na magawa ang epektibong SWM habang tayo ay nasa new normal.

“Through this online course, we make learning SWM possible even while we are in a pandemic,” paliwanag ni Antiporda.

“Gaining knowledge about best SWM practices is vital at this time because household health care waste, such as disposable face masks and gloves, must be disposed of properly,” dagdag pa nito.

Sinabi pa ng DENR ang online short course ay may dalawang unit.



## Libreng online short course sa solid waste management alok sa publiko

Ito ay ang Introduction to Ecological Solid Waste Management at Practicing Solid Waste Management.

Kabilang sa unang unit ang pag-aaral sa Philippine environmental laws and regulations, ecological SWM maging ang pinanggagalingan ng basura.

Sa ikalawang unit naman, kabilang sa mga pag-aaralan ang waste segregation, composting, recycling, managing residual waste na may potensiyal para sa recycling at ang tamang waste collection, treatment at disposal.

Magkakaroon ng pagsusulit ang mga mag-aaral pagkatapos ng kurso bago sila bigyan ng certificate.

“For those who have some time to spare during this lockdown, we suggest this as a good way to spend your time productively and learn something new that can help the environment,” sabi pa ni Antiporda.

Libreng makukuha ang kurso na ito sa pamamagitan ng pagbisita at pagpapatala sa TESDA website na <http://www.e-tesda.gov.ph>. (Santi Celario)



## After Ulysses flooding, DENR tightens rules on grant of mining, quarry permits

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)  
December 14, 2020



THE Philippine Army Disaster Response Team 525th and Barangay Disaster Relief and Response Team in Doña Pepeng Subdivision rescue residents trapped in North Libis Subdivision in San Mateo, Rizal.

Following the Great Flood in Luzon at the height of Typhoon Ulysses last month and the discovery of illegal mining and massive tree-cutting activities in Magpet, Cotabato early this month, applications for small-scale mining permits and the establishment of Minahang Bayans will go through the proverbial “eye of the needle,” an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said in light of recent developments, the DENR will also be thinking twice before allowing small-scale mining operations to legally continue, including the grant of Minahang Bayan applications.

“Definitely, all these will have an impact on mining and quarrying,” said Leones, the designated spokesman of DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who has recently issued an order to DENR field personnel in Region 12 to strictly monitor tree-cutting activities in Magpet town upon discovering that a portion of a forest near the Mount Apo Natural Park has been “shaved off” apparently to pave way for the establishment of, possibly, a banana plantation.

The Mount Apo Natural Park is a Protected Area and is known to host at least 7 nesting pairs of the critically-endangered Philippine eagle.

Cimatu has earlier called for intensified monitoring of tree-cutting activities in the area, saying such destructive activity weakens the country’s natural defense against extreme weather events, such as excessive rain that trigger flashflood and landslide.





## After Ulysses flooding, DENR tightens rules on grant of mining, quarry permits

“We cannot allow people to further destroy our forests especially when we know that flooding is among its direct consequences,” Cimatu pointed out in a news statement.

“Many Filipinos have suffered enough from the devastation of massive flooding because of forest denudation,” Cimatu stated.

The DENR chief called on the local government of Magpet to be always on the lookout for any illegal tree-cutting activity within its area of jurisdiction and coordinate such activity with the DENR Regional Office.

In the same news statement, DENR-12 Regional Executive Director Felix Alicer said the tree-cutting activity was discovered during the Dec. 7 raid conducted in Barangay Don Panaca by operatives of the DENR, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the local government of Cotabato, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The joint operation team then discovered an illegal small-scale mining operation in the area located some 10 kilometers away from the Mt. Apo Natural Park.

The mining site has not been declared a Minahang Bayan or a common area where small-scale miners are allowed to operate, prompting Cimatu to order its immediate closure.

The operation also led authorities to a five-hectare area that has been cleared of trees, around 300 meters away from the mining site.

The felled trees were identified as Ulian and Agoho. Some 15.296 cubic meters of logs were also seen on the site.

Alicer said the “cleared area” is suspected to be intended for land conversion, particularly as a banana plantation, considering that the vicinity of Barangay Don Panaca within a banana-growing town.

“What we are seeing here is that the threat to denudation is not so much on timber poaching but land conversion,” Alicer said. “A banana plantation has higher economic benefits,” he added.

Alicer noted that barangay officials in the area are not empowered to apprehend the suspects.

“The barangay chiefs around the area, however, have helped us monitor the site which prevented the suspected planned land conversion,” he said.

At the same time, Alicer said they have not yet been able to remove the logs from the site because it can only be reached after a two-and-a-half hour-walk through a rugged terrain.

In Rizal, after the suspension of all small-scale mining, quarry and other related operations, including the development of subdivisions, near the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), the same challenge was posed by Rizal Gov. Rebecca Ynares to the DENR to do the same for large-scale mining and quarry operations in Rizal.



## After Ulysses flooding, DENR tightens rules on grant of mining, quarry permits

The DENR heeded the challenge and suspended 11 quarry and quarry processing operations, stopped all land-related development activities, including building construction within the UMRBPL with no proper tenure pending a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Marikina River Basin.

Some senators gave some DENR officials a dressing down during a hearing for a remark that even with a healthy river basin, flooding is inevitable because of the volume of water dumped by Ulysses which exceeded the water absorption capacity of the Marikina River Basin.

Asked whether these recent developments will affect the DENR's policy related to mining and quarrying, Leones said "definitely."

Leones acknowledged that even small-scale mining or quarrying has an adverse impact on the environment. "Even small-scale requires cutting of trees that's why we are now pursuing programmatic ECCs (environmental clearance certificates)," said Leones.

He said for large-scale mining, the DENR is strictly enforcing progressive rehabilitation of mines, which he said, will also be enforced for quarrying, to minimize the environmental impact of their operations.

For new ECC applications considered to be environmentally critical projects that include large-scale mining and quarrying operations, Leones added that the DENR will strictly require programmatic environmental impact statement, documentation of comprehensive studies on environmental baseline condition of a continuous area. This includes an assessment of the carrying capacity of the area to absorb the impacts of co-located projects such as those in industrial estates or economic zones.

This also goes for applications for existing and to be expanded, modified, and rehabilitated projects.

For non-environmentally critical projects, the DENR will require Performance Report and Management Plan, or PEPRMP, documentation of actual cumulative environmental impacts of co-located projects with proposals for expansions, will be required before the grant of ECC.

The PEPRMP should also describe the effectiveness of current environmental mitigation measures and plans for performance improvement.

For small-scale mining, he said, the DENR Regional Office will be directed to probe the environmental sustainability of small-scale mining permits being sought as well as the declaration of Minahang Bayan.

The Regional Executive Director of the DENR sits as chairman of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board, which regulates small-scale mining.

As for quarrying, Leones said the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau and Mines and Geosciences Bureau will be ordered to tighten the screw to strictly regulate operators and "do things right."





## ATN Holdings wants DENR to lift suspension on its Rizal crushing plant

Published December 14, 2020, 2:00 PM

by [Madelaine B. Mirafior](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had just started its post-Typhoon Ulysses audit of all quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal, but listed ATN Holdings Inc. (AHI) is already calling on the government to lift the suspension on the operations of its crushing plant in the province.

In a regulatory filing, AHI told the Philippine Stock Exchange that its crushing plant operations in Rizal, under the mineral processing permit (MPP) no. 2020-001-IV, “does not contribute to the pollution of the Marikina Riven Basin because it implements a ‘dry’ crushing process wherein all by-products are mixed back to the soil as a form of nourishment”.

“[AHI’s] dry crushing process is promoted and encouraged by the DENR-MGB [Mines and Geosciences Bureau] to minimize solids carry over that may contaminate the flow of water,” AHI said.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

AHI further assured the local bourse that DENR’s “temporary suspension against the Company only covers the operation of the crushing plant and not the company’s ability to generate cash flow from its existing stockpile of 500,000 cubic meters of finished products”.

“Given that DENR has visited the plant and cleared the Company of said violation, we expect the temporary suspension against the Company will be lifted in the coming week,” it further said.

AHI’s disclosure came days after MGB temporarily suspended all quarry and crushing plant operations in Rizal Province within the coverage of Marikina River Basin, the river system of which drains toward the Marikina River.

According to MGB Director Wilfredo Moncano, the directive was in response to a call made by Rizal provincial government.



## ATN Holdings wants DENR to lift suspension on its Rizal crushing plant

Governor Rebecca Ynares had specifically urged the DENR to suspend the mining permits of quarry operators in the province pending the conduct of a comprehensive probe as to whether quarrying contributed to the flooding in the province.

The temporary suspension includes five Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSAs) and six MPPs, including that of AHI's.

Aside from AHI, suspension orders were also issued to Asensio-Pinzon Aggregates Corp., San Rafael Development Corp., Montalban Millex Aggregates Corp., Hardrock Aggregates, Inc., and Rapid City Realty and Development Corp., Oxford Mines, Inc., Viba Aggregates & Marketing; Amiterra Aggregates Corp., Dream Rock Resources Phils., Inc., and Superior Aggregates.

"The listed permits shall remain suspended until a joint assessment with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Composite Team has been completed and the cause of flooding in San Mateo and Rodriguez, Rizal and in Marikina City during Typhoon Ulysses on November 12, 2020 has been identified," MGB said.

Meanwhile, AHI pointed out that such temporary suspension coincides with its two-week period of annual maintenance program including but not limited to, replacement of new conveyor belts, replacement of new vibrating screen bearings, repair of heavy mobile equipment, and new parts of the crusher hopper, which will last until next week.

It was just last week when the DENR, through its regional office in CALABARZON, has formed four composite teams to investigate quarry operations in Rizal, following the massive flooding that submerged some parts of the province and Marikina City during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses last month.

Equipped with aerial mapping drones, the investigating teams will zero in on the quarry operations within the Marikina River Basin, which residents blamed for the destructive Ulysses floods.

"The DENR has to reevaluate the operation of all mining companies in the area so we can find out whether they contributed to the massive flooding during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses," DENR Undersecretary for Enforcement, Mining, and Muslim Affairs Jim Sampulna said.



## PH gov't still determined to award the country's best mining companies

Published December 14, 2020, 1:04 PM

by [Madelaine B. Miraflor](#)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippine government is still determined to award the country's best mining companies.

A Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) memorandum showed that the agency, tasked to regulate and develop the country's mining sector, has already started the nomination process for the Presidential Mineral Industry Environmental Awards (PMIEA), Best Mining Forest Contest, and Safety Mines Awards.



“Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the various Selection Committees and MGB opted to continue to give recognition to the private sector's initiatives and exemplary achievements in the protection of the environment and ecology to further promote private sector participation, enhance public awareness on the protection of the environment and ecology, and contribute to the growth of the economy and improvement in the quality of life of Filipinos,” MGB said.

The PMIEA, pursuant to Executive Order No. 399, series of 1997, recognizes the exemplary practices and commitments of entities involved in underground and surface mining operation, quarry operation, mineral exploration, and mineral processing.

The PMIEA Selection Committee (PMIEASC) is normally co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the President of Chamber of Mines of the Philippines.

Its members include the respective secretaries of the following agencies: Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, and Department of Science and Technology. Other members of the said Committee are the Presidents of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association; and Philippine Mining and Exploration Association.

Normally, the conferment of the aforementioned awards is being celebrated during the Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference (ANMSEC) in Baguio City.





## PH gov't still determined to award the country's best mining companies

However, for this year's selection, the ceremony will be held virtually and is tentatively scheduled in March 2021.

For this year's selection, nominees are required to submit PMIEA and Mining Forest Program (MFP) write-up, supporting Safety and Health, Environment, and Social Development and MFP documents, and audio-visual presentation.

Offsite validation will be conducted to adhere to the ongoing community quarantine due to COVID-19.

During last year's ANMSEC, six companies were given PMIEA, namely Agata Mining Ventures, Inc., Cagdianao Mining Corporation, Holcim Mining and Development Corp., Republic Cement and Building Materials, Inc, Mindanao Mineral Processing and Refining Corp., and Mt. Labo Exploration and Development Corp. for Mineral Exploration Category.



Pinangunahan ni Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan ng DENR Region-02 ang pagpirma ng MOA para sa Cagayan River Restoration Project sa panig ng pamahalaan habang kumatawan sa paglalagda sina Managing Head Antonio Talaue ng kumpanyang Great River North Consortium at President Feng Li ng Riverfront Construction Incorporated.

Philippine Coast Guard/Released

## Libreng dredging sa Cagayan River, kasado na

[Victor Martin](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - December 15, 2020 - 12:00am

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines — Inaasahang maisasagawa na anumang araw ang libreng rehabilitation o dredging sa Cagayan River matapos lagdaan ang memorandum of agreement (MOA) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at dalawang dredging companies na mamamahala sa paghuhukay.

Pinangunahan ni Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan ng DENR Region-02 ang pagpirma ng MOA para sa Cagayan River Restoration Project sa panig ng pamahalaan habang kumatawan sa paglalagda sina Managing Head Antonio Talaue ng kumpanyang Great River North Consortium at President Feng Li ng Riverfront Construction Incorporated.

Ayon kay Bambalan, inaprubahan ng Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) ang River Dredging Plan (RDP) na may sukat na 30.8 kilometers mula sa pinaka-bukana ng Cagayan River sa bayan ng Aparri hanggang sa bayan ng Lal-lo pataas sa bayan ng Alcala bilang River Dredging Zone.

Ayon naman kay Gov. Manuel Mamba, pangulo ng IAC, isasagawa ng Great River North Consortium at Riverfront Construction Inc. ang river restoration na walang gastos ang pamahalaan kung kaya't malaking tulong ito para maiayos ang daluyan ng tubig sa Cagayan River, ang tinaguriang pinakamalaking ilog ng Pilipinas.

Matatandaan na nitong bagyong Ulysses, lumubog ang halos lahat ng bayan sa Cagayan kung saan umabot sa 12 ang nasawi, halos kalahating milyong tao ang apektado at bilyong halaga ng mga pananim at ari-arian ang nawasak.

Ang Cagayan River na kilala ring “Rio Grande de Cagayan” ang daluyan ng nasa 20 na ilog mula sa mga lalawigan ng Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, Kalinga, Mt. Province at Apayao, kung kaya't dito naiipon lahat ng mga tubig lalo sa panahon ng tag-ulan.



## 2 firms tapped to dredge Cagayan River

[Victor Martin](#) (The Philippine Star) - December 15, 2020 - 12:00am

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya, Philippines — The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has accredited two dredging firms to rehabilitate the mineral-rich Cagayan River at no cost to the government.

MGB-Cagayan Valley director Mario Ancheta said the Great River North Consortium (GRNC) and Riverfront Construction Inc. (RCI) were issued certificates of accreditation, authorizing them to undertake the project.

The companies were also authorized to deal, trade or sell minerals and mineral products that they could extract from the river.

“The accreditation is solely for the Cagayan River Restoration Project and will be valid for two years,” Ancheta said.

While the GRNC and RCI will shoulder the full cost of the project including the disposal of the dredged materials, the companies are not allowed to process or dispose of them outside the country.

The firms are required to report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources any precious materials or objects that they would recover from the river, Ancheta said.





## EDITORIAL - Dredging sa Cagayan at Marikina River

(Pilipino Star Ngayon) - December 14, 2020 - 12:00am

Pagpapalalim at paglilinis sa mga ilog sa bansa ang nararapat gawin ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para hindi na maulit ang nangyaring baha noong nakaraang buwan. Hindi na kailangang hintayin pang may dumalaw na bagyo bago isagawa ang pagpapalalim sa mga ilog.

Nagkamalay na sa wakas ang DENR at ipinag-utos ang pagpapalalim (dredging) sa Cagayan River. Masyado nang mababaw ang pinakamahabang ilog sa Pilipinas kaya nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ulysses noong nakaraang buwan, umapaw ito at lumubog ang buong probinsiya ng Cagayan at pati ang Isabela. Unang itinuro na ang pagpapakawala ng tubig sa Magat Dam ang dahilan nang pagbaha. Para makaligtas, nag-akyat sa bubong ng kanilang bahay ang mga residente para makaligtas sa rumagasang baha.

Buhangin (sandbars) ang dahilan kaya bumabaw ang Cagayan River. Ito ang nararapat alisin para hindi na muling magbaha sa darating na panahon. Tinukoy na ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang mga portion ng ilog na dapat kayurin ang buhangin para lumalim. Pinakamara-ming sandbars sa ilog na sakop ng Tuguegarao City at sa mga bayan ng Solana, Iguig, Gattaran, Enrile at Amulung.

Ngayong palalalimin na ang Cagayan River, dapat din namang umpisahan din ang pagpapalalim sa Marikina River para maiwasan din ang pagbaha. Taun-taon ay bumabaha sa Marikina, Rodriguez, San Mateo at Taytay, Rizal dahil mababaw na ang Marikina River. Kapag hindi napalalim ang Marikina River, mauulit ang mga pagbaha. Linisin din sa basura ang ilog. Nang bumaha noong nakaraang buwan dahil sa Bagyong Ulysses, sangkaterbang basura ang inanod na nagmula sa ilog.

Sana maiprayoridad ng DENR ang pagpapalalim sa mga ilog para maiwasan ang pagbaha. At nararapat din namang tingnan ang mga ginagawang pagku-quarry na isa rin sa dahilan kung bakit nagbabaha. Magkaroon din ng kampanya ang DENR para sa malawakang pagtanim ng mga punongkahoy. Hindi na sana maulit ang mga nangyari na nagkukumahog sa pag-akyat sa bubong ng mga bahay ang mga residente para makaligtas sa baha. Hindi sana pawang plano ang DENR at maisakatuparan sa lalong madaling panahon ang dredging sa mga ilog.



## EDITORIAL - Palalimin ang mga ilog at linisin sa basura

(Pang-masa ) - December 13, 2020 - 12:00am

KUNG hindi pa nanalasa ang Bagyong Ulysses noong nakaraang buwan, hindi pa kikilos ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para ipag-utos na palalimin (dredging) ang Cagayan River. Masyado nang mababaw ang pinakamahabang ilog sa Pilipinas kaya nang manalasa ang Bagyong Ulysses, umapaw ito at lumubog ang buong probinsiya ng Cagayan at pati ang Isabela. Unang itinuro na ang pagpapakawala ng tubig sa Magat Dam ang dahilan nang pagbaha. Para makaligtas, nag-akyat sa bubong ng kanilang bahay ang mga residente para makaligtas sa rumagasang baha.

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Baleen whale

## Offshore mining in Cagayan feared to put endangered marine life at risk

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - December 14, 2020 - 6:57pm

MANILA, Philippines — A massive offshore mining project off the waters of Cagayan province could threaten endangered marine mammals that thrive in the area and result in a further decline in fisheries production, organizations warned Monday.

The Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to reconsider the permit it had issued to the JDVC Resources Corporation to proceed with its offshore mining operations as the damage to the environment, particularly to marine life, will be “irreversible and will ultimately adversely affect” fishers in the province.

The project is said to be the first large-scale offshore mining in the Philippines. The firm is allowed to mine within an area of 1,092.59 hectares, located 14 kilometers offshore from the town of Gonzaga.

The company’s operations focus on the mining of magnetite, which is used in iron and steel industries.

PMMSN, a group of individuals committed to responding to stranded marine mammals, said the waters between Babuyan Group of Islands and mainland Luzon, particularly the Balintang Channel, has the highest marine mammal species diversity in a regional scale.

Cagayan also hosts two species of baleen whales, 11 species of delphinids, two species of beaked whales, two species of kogiids and one species of sperm whale, which are all classified as endangered according to the Fisheries Administrative Order 208.

The dugongs found near Paluai Island are also classified as critically endangered.





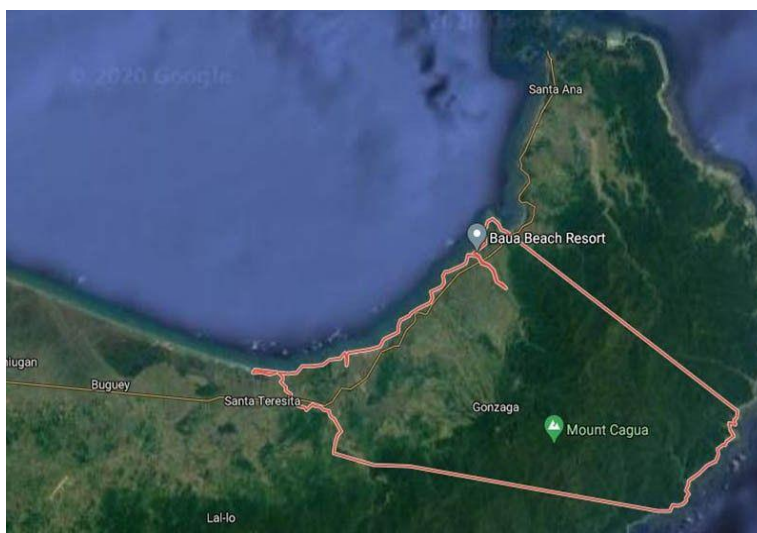
## Offshore mining in Cagayan feared to put endangered marine life at risk

“Moreover the offshore mining site is part of the only known breeding area for humpback whales in the Philippines. The humpback whales from various parts of the north Pacific basin visit the area from November to June every year to breed,” PMMSN said.

### Noise, pollution

Noise and pollution that will emanate from the mining would affect the marine mammals in the area and would cause an increase in marine mammal strandings in the province, PMMSN pointed out.

According to the [project fact sheet](#) uploaded on the website of DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau, the extraction process through siphon vessel with magnetic separator, poses “no hazard at all and no social complication as the siphon vessel is stationed at the ocean far from the shore.”



Screengrab from Google Maps shows Gonzaga town in Cagayan.  
Google Maps

The siphoning action does not also produce significant sea bottom topography disturbances, the fact sheet read.

### Fish catch depletion

Capture fisheries production in Cagayan declined to 22.4 metric tons in 2019 from 31.1 MT in 2015, PMMSN noted.

“This proposed large-scale offshore mining will further exacerbate this dire situation,” it said.

“Magnetite mining would render coastline and marine degradation, fish catch depletion, among other severe impacts to the coastal productivity because large-scale mining activities are inherently destructive and anti-environment,” Fernando Hicap, chairperson of fishers group PAMALAKAYA, also said.



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## Offshore mining in Cagayan feared to put endangered marine life at risk

Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, meanwhile, warned that offshore mining projects would increase the flood risks of coastal municipalities in Cagayan.

“Magnetite mining projects in the northern coasts were already proven to cause long-term coastal erosion impacts as the seabed becomes disturbed,” Leon Dulce, Kalikasan PNE national coordinator, said.

The group also slammed the government's move to order the renegotiation of the contract of Australian-Canadian mining firm OceanaGold. OceanaGold's Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement covers some 12,332 hectares in the Caraballo-Maparang mountain ranges, where the northernmost headwaters of the Cagayan River originates.

Scientists' group Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) earlier said the degraded condition of watershed areas due to deforestation and other land disturbances contributed to the severe flooding in Cagayan following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses last month.



## Paglalagay ng kubeta sa baybayin ng Manila Bay ipatutupad



December 14, 2020 @ 4:41 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Bilang pagsunod sa Korte Suprema para linisin, i-rehabilitate at mapanatili ang ningning ng Manila Bay, isang proyekto ang ilulunsad ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources katuwang ang ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan bukas Disyembre 15, 2020 (Martes): Kubeta Ko dakong alas 10:00 ng umaga sa San Miguel Avenue, Parola 3, Barangay 275, Manila.

Ayon sa DENR, ang naturang proyekto ay dadaluhan bukas ng mga opisyal ng ahensya (DENR), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Maynilad Water Services, Inc., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at ni Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno.

Nauna rito magugunitang sinabi ng DENR na upang maisakatuparan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay makikipagtulungan ang DENR sa Manila City government, water concessionaire Maynilad at Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) upang mawakasan na ang ginagawang “pagdumi” ng mga tao sa Manila Bay at ginagawang palikuran ang Baybayin.

Upang maisakatuparan ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, ipinagbabawal na rin ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila ang pagdumi sa paligid ng baybayin. **Santi Celario**



- Headline
- Editorial
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MANILA

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## Nagtabon ng fake white sand sa Manila Bay, papanagutin na

[SAPOL](#) - [Jarius Bondoc](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon ) - December 14, 2020 - 12:00am

Tulad ng inaasahan, kinakain ng alon ang fake white sand beach sa kalahating kilometro ng Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Hindi mapipigilan ng pagsa-sandbag sa paligid ang pagkaubos ng pinulbos na dolomite. Maglalaho ang P400 milyong ginasta ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Alam ng mga Pilipino sa 7,641 isla natin na gan'un ang dagat. Mainam sana kung tinamnan na lang ng bakawan ang buong 190-kilometrong pampang ng Manila Bay, mula Bataan hanggang Cavite. Nagka-pagkain pa sana ang madla. Punung-puno ng "nilad", specie ng bakawan, ang sinaunang siyudad, kaya Maynilad ang tawag.

Pinahahabla ng mga environment lawyers at mangi-ngisda ang mga nagpakana ng fake white beach. Limang batas ang nilabag:

- (1) Environmental Impact Systems Law. Maseselang pook ang pinanggalingan ng dolomite sa Cebu at pinag-tambakan na Manila Bay. Tumapon ang dolomite sa corals sa pagkarga sa barges, at dagdag dumi lang sa Manila Bay. Pero wala itong environmental impact survey.
- (2) Fisheries Code. Bawal maglagay sa dagat, lawa o ilog ng makapipinsala ng halaman, hayop, tao, at kapaligiran. Parusa: P15,000 multa kada araw na paglabag, at 12 taong bilanggo.
- (3) Clean Water Act. Bawal maglagay ng anoman sa dagat, lawa, ilog o paligid na ikakalat ng tubig. Parusa: P400,000 multa, 10% dagdag kada dalawang taon, at suspensiyon o pagsara ng salaring kumpanya.
- (4) National Cultural Heritage Act. Historical landmark mula 2012 ang kahabaan ng Roxas Blvd. sa Intramuros, Manila, hanggang Cultural Center, Pasay. Hindi ipinagpaalam ang proyekto sa National Historical Commission. Parusa: P400,000 multa, at 10 taong kulong.
- (5) Local Government Code. Dapat prinesenta muna ang proyekto sa public hearings ng Manila city council at Cebu provincial board dahil sa epekto nito sa klima, halaman, hayop, at tao, at pagkaubos ng likas na yaman. Walang pahintulot ng dalawang LGU ang fake white sand beach.



Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office - PRCMO

15h · 🌐

LOOK: PRCMO IN ACTION IN ESTERO DE SAN MIGUEL

Here's the result of the regular cleanup and maintenance activities in [#EsteroDeSanMiguel](#) in Manila.

The River Warriors collected 37 sacks of mixed nonbio- and biodegradable materials from the waterway's portion along Arlegui Street.

This National Volunteer Month and season of giving, let us continually give our all-out heart and service to our country by leading the way in loving and protecting our waterways, environment, and one another—together with the River Warriors!

[#PusoParaSallogPasig!](#) ❤️

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## Wildlife smuggler, kulong ng 6 buwan matapos ang tangkang pagpupuslit ng halos 800 tarantula

By [Bombo Jerald Ulep](#)

-December 14, 2020 | 6:02 PM



Makukulong ng anim na buwan at pagmumultahin din ng P120,000 ang isang wildlife smuggler matapos ang tangka nitong pagpupuslit ng 757 pirasong tarantulas.

Nasampahan ito ng kaso noong nakaraang taon dahil sa paglabag sa wildlife protection and customs laws.

Sinabi ng Bureau of Customs (BoC)-Port of NAIA (Ninoy Aquino International Airport) na hinatulang guilty ni Judge Allan B. Ariola ng Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 48 si Jesse Camaro dahil sa iligal nitong pag-transport ng mga tarantula na nagkakahalaga ng P310,900 at customs duties and taxes na nagkakahalaga ng P54,752

Nilabag raw nito ang Section 27 ng Republic Act (RA) 9147, o mas kilalang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 at paglabag sa Section 1401 ng RA 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

Ang convicted wildlife smuggler ay naaresyo noong April 1, 2019 ng BoC-NAIA frontliners at sa pakikipag-ugnayan ng mga ito sa operatiba ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-National Capital Region (NCR).

Ang mga tarantula ay isinilid ng suspek sa mga kahon ng cookies at oatmeal mula Poland sa Central Mail Exchange Center sa Pasay City na walang kaukulang import permit mula sa DENR.

Ang mga tarantula ay agad namang itinurn-over sa DENR Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit.

Pinapurihan naman ni District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan ng Port of NAIA ang effort ng BoC-NAIA frontliners at DENR-NCR maging Office of the City Prosecutor ng Pasay City dahil sa matagumpay na conviction ng wildlife smuggler.

Sinabi ni Talusan na ang conviction ay bunga ng pagpupursige ng BoC na habulin at panagutin ang mga smugglers ng illegal goods at mga kontrabando.



## Importer of 757 tarantulas sentenced to 6 months imprisonment

[December 14, 2020](#)

By Kiara Lauren Ibanez/Benjamin Cuaresma

MANILA — The Pasay City Metropolitan Trial Court has sentenced the man who tried to illegally import 757 pieces of tarantulas to six months imprisonment and ordered to pay fine of P120,000.

In his decision, Judge Allan Ariola of MTC Branch 48, Jose Camaro was found guilty of illegally transporting the tarantulas with an estimated value of P310,900 and customs duties and taxes amounting to P54,752.

Camaro was apprehended by Bureau of Customs-NAIA frontliners last April 1, 2019 while claiming the illegally imported 757 tarantulas concealed inside boxes of cookies and oatmeal from Poland at the Central Mail Exchange Center, without the required import permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



The seized tarantulas were immediately turned over to the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.



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## Importer of 757 tarantulas sentenced to 6 months imprisonment

District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan said the conviction is a testament of the commitment of the Bureau of Customs under the leadership of Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero to penalize smugglers of illegal goods and contraband.

Talusan said this should serve as a deterrent and warning to others engaging in similar illegal activities that the full force of law will eventually place them behind bars. (FC/MTVN)



## ‘Butanding’ sighting proves Sorsogon, Masbate waters are significant reproductive habitats for whale sharks

Published December 14, 2020, 4:05 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The sighting of a newborn whale shark off the waters of Sorsogon and Masbate has provided proof that the areas serve as significant reproductive habitats for the endangered whale shark, locally called “butanding,” according to a study.

A new scientific publication by the Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LAMAVE) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Region 5 (BFAR-Bicol Region) that was released on Monday, highlighted the importance of Donsol in Sorsogon and Ticao-Burias Pass in Masbate as a likely pupping ground and nursery area for the whale shark.

The study cited the discovery of a newborn whale shark, as well as the observation of whale sharks’ mating-like behavior early this year.

On March 15, 2020 a free-swimming neonate whale shark was found in the shallow waters of Donsol by a member of staff from the Donsol Tourism Office.

Researchers from LAMAVE identified the whale shark as a male and measuring 60 centimeters (cm).

LAMAVE said it is smaller than the largest embryo, measuring 64 cm, reported in the only investigation of a pregnant female in Taiwan in the 1990s. This indicates that what was seen in Donsol was a newborn whale shark.

“Given their poor at-birth swimming abilities, it is likely that neonates remain fairly close to their birthing grounds, thus indicating Donsol and the Ticao-Burias Pass to be an important pupping ground and nursery area. It is the third neonate recorded in the area and it was the 1,930th individual whale shark to be identified in the Philippines,” the experts said.

LAMAVE, who have been conducting research in Donsol since 2015 also underscored the value of local ecological knowledge of the Butanding interaction officers, who have, on occasion, reported mating-like behaviour by whale sharks where one individual was observed swimming below a second whale shark with its ventral side up.

The researchers also observed a large male whale shark lowering and “unfurling” its claspers or male reproductive organ.

The team concluded that these findings paired with previous reports of newborn whale sharks within the area, as well as the globally rare co-occurrence of adult males and females, “strongly suggests that Donsol and the Ticao-Burias Pass is an important reproductive habitat for the world’s largest fish.”

“The Philippines is already a globally important area for whale sharks: the country’s waters host the second-largest known aggregation of whale sharks in the world. However, this new study suggests that for the first time the country, and specifically Donsol and the Ticao-Burias Pass, is a globally unique habitat for the whale shark and important for their reproduction,” LAMAVE said.

“The continued protection of the area is paramount, and development within the area that may impact the species and/or the environment should be strictly regulated,” it added.



## Solon rallies peers to fund bamboo production

[Monday, December 14, 2020](#) [Ryan Ponce Pacpaco](#)

DEPUTY Speaker Deogracias Victor ‘DV’ B. Savellano has asked his peers in the House of Representatives to take a second look at the bamboo industry as a source of income and as an environmental solution to the incessant flooding that has plagued the country for years on end.

Savellano, in a privilege speech on the occasion of Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness Week (Nov. 19-25), said the bamboo is the answer to the widespread flooding in the country as well as a good source of income for the Filipino people.

Savellano pointed out that there are two intertwined ways by which the country can stop flooding – one is Infrastructure like dam, dike, irrigation, spillway, slope protection, flood control projects, dredging, and pumping stations among others; the other is through tree planting which could take years.

*“Ang isang solusyon ay ang pagtatanim na mas mabagal at mahirap. Kailangan natin magtanim ng mga puno sa mga bundok at talampas kung saan nagmumula ang tubig sa mga ilog. Medyo mabagal ito dahil ang isang puno ay kailangan itanim at alagaan ng sampung taon bago maging matayog,”* he said.

The deputy speaker stressed the need to slow the flow of water from the mountains to the plains and the metropolis.

*“Sa pagpabagal ng daloy ng tubig, kailangan sila parehas – infrastructure at tanim. Ang puno ay sampung taon bago lumaki pero ang malalakas na bagyo ay taon-taon,”* said Savellano.

Savellano, however, posited that there is a faster way to reap the benefits of tree planting, and that is by way of planting bamboo.

Planting bamboo is way much cheaper than the infrastructure solution which entails billions of pesos.

*“Ang kawayan ay mura, mabilis tumubo. Hind kailangan alagaan masyado. Malakas sumipsip ng tubig. Laganap sa buong Pilipinas,”* the lawmaker from Ilocos Sur said.

*“Ang kawayan ay hindi namimili ng lugar sa Pilipinas. Ang kawayan ay pwedeng pagmulan ng labong na pagkain. Ang tubo ng kawayan ay three to fourfeet kada 24 hours. Wala nang bibilis pa diyan. Sa ilang buwan lang ay matayog na ang kawayan. Kung maghintay ka ng dalawang taon, ang isang puno ng kawayan ay nagiging umpok ng 15 kawayan. Times 15 in 2 years. Matulin po talaga sa pagdami,”* he explained.

The bamboo can very well take the place of trees.

*“Ito ay mahusay na pamalit ng puno. Pwede ito ma-harvest sa loob ng 4 na taon. Pagkatapos, taun-taon na siyang pwede i-harvest. Marami tayong dalubhasa ng kawayan at ito ay pwedeng maging malaking industriya. Pero pinakamahalaga sa lahat, pwede ito panlaban sa baha. Kung ngayon ka na magtatanim, sa 2022 malaki na ang inyong kawayan.”*



## Solon rallies peers to fund bamboo production

Savellano noted that a boost to the bamboo industry is the Philippine Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC) which is under the Department of Trade and Industry. It was established through Executive Order 879 in 2010 by then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. It failed to leave up to its expectations until it was revived by DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez in 2016.

It was also in 2016 when Savellano filed a bill for the creation of the Philippine Bamboo Industry Roadmap.

But while the lawmaker and Lopez are focused on keeping the agency afloat amid the floodings, the budget allocation for the PBIDC for 2021 is zero.

While the private sector is currently looking for strategies to fuel the industry, congress looked the other way around.

*“Zero. Wala. Kabo. Bokya. Hindi binigyan kahit piso,”* Savellano lamented.

*“Nakakahiya ang manlimos sa mga tao pero wala kaming magawa. Sa budget na P3.4 trillion, ang lahat sana ng proyekto na may kinalaman o pwedeng may tulong sa kawayan ay gawin nang maayos. Ipatupad ng tama,”* he said.

Savellano said that the bamboo, which has been declared as a high-value crop by the Department of Agriculture on February 6, 2020 has a variety of uses.

*“Mula kawayan poles, pwede na itong gawing barbecue sticks, floor panels, charcoal briquettes, furniture, tela, papel at bullet proof vest,”* Savellano said..

*“Kapag malalaki na ang inyong mga kawayan, bibilhin ng DepEd ang inyong mga bamboo school chairs at desks. Mandato yan ng EO 879 at ang problema na lang daw nila ay wala na silang mabili. Kailangan na ito ipatupad! Negosyo na yan ng inyong mga kababayan,”* he said.

*“Inaanyayahan ko ang aking mga kapwa Congressman na ilaan ang ilang bahagi ng budget sa flood control projects sa pagtanim ng kawayan sa mga bundok. Tuloy pa din ang infra projects na panlaban sa baha mula sa DPWH at NIA pero huwag ninyo kalimutan ang bamboo plantations sa bundok.”*



## Creation of authority for water resources management pushed in Senate



Published 2 days ago

On December 13, 2020 06:27 PM

By [Hananeel Bordey](#) [@tribunephil\\_hana](#)



A bill establishing the Water Resources and Management Authority is being pushed in the Senate after the recent allegedly “man-made” flooding disasters hit several areas in Luzon.

Senator Imee Marcos has filed Senate Bill 1940 which seeks to establish the Water Resources Management Authority as the sole government unit in charge of managing, integrating, and unifying policies pertaining the use, distribution, and management of water resources in the country.

In explaining the bill, Marcos said that the Executive Order that former President Fidel Ramos issued in 1996 to encourage private sector’s participation in the operation and facilities of the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has caused complications and confusion.

“As a result, the institutional arrangements in the Philippines’ water sector have become exceedingly complicated, with overlapping functions of over 30 national government offices, local water boards and privatized water utility operators,” she said.

For Marcos, the MWSS should have been the main government authority in the management of water resources in the country.

“The recent spate of “man-made” flooding disasters has made the consolidation of these entities into a single coherent and comprehensive Water Resources and Management Authority urgent and critical,” she said.

Under the bill, the proposed agency will be the primary agency responsible for the comprehensive and integrated water resources development and management of the Philippines.



## Creation of authority for water resources management pushed in Senate

This will exercise authority over water supply, sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, storm water, and urban drainage.

The said agency will also be in charge of the policy-making and planning activities, resource regulation, administration and management, and coordination among water resources development activities in the country.

It will be headed by an administrator who shall have extensive knowledge on public administration and has 10 years minimum experience in the administration of water, sanitation, irrigation, flood control and drainage programs 6 preferably in a public agency.

There will also be five offices in the proposed agency: finance, administrative, planning and engineering, regulatory and financial assistance services, and operations offices.

Water Resources Regional Offices will be likewise established under the proposed measure.

To establish the proposed agency, the government needs to provide P2 billion for its operations and creation. Thereafter, its funding will be sourced from the national budget.

This proposed agency will be subrogated to all the rights and assume all the obligations of DPWH, National Irrigation Administration (NIA), National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), River Basin Control Office, Manila Bay Coordinating Office, Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Laguna Lake Development Authority, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, the Water Resources Regional Offices, and all other offices whose powers are transferred by the proposed law.

The bill is currently pending at the committee level.





## Parañaque poised to ban single-use plastics

posted December 14, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Joel E. Zurbano](#)

The City of Parañaque is joining other local government units in Metro Manila in phasing out single-use plastics.

Beginning next month, the city government will impose a policy against the use of single-use plastics in all commercial establishments in the city.

Ordinance No. 18-40 regulating the use, provision and sale of Styrofoam, plastic bags and plastic for prepared food and beverage containers was supposed to be enforced in June this year but was cancelled due to coronavirus disease outbreak.

“This means that starting early next year, the city will no longer allow stores and restaurants to use plastic bags, and disposable straws and cutlery,” said Mayor Edwin Olivarez.

Not only is Styrofoam bad for the environment, but it may also cause harm to humans and animals.

Polystyrene Styrofoam containers are usually used for drinks and food. It is a petroleum-based plastic with insulation properties.

Manufacturing Styrofoam pollutes the air and creates large amounts of solid and liquid waste. In 1986, it was reported to be the fifth largest creator of hazardous waste, according to a US Environmental Protection Agency report.

As early as 2011, the city council has already prohibited the use of plastic bags on dry goods and Styrofoam on food items, according to the city councilors.

However, city councilors amended the ordinance after experiencing terrible flash floods in the city during rainy seasons due to disposed plastic bags and other non-biodegradable containers clogging the canals, creeks, rivers, and other waterways.

Under the ordinance, the ban also plastic spoons and forks, cups, and stirrers as well as polystyrene plates, cups, bowls and serving trays.

Only manufacturers in the city will be allowed to use such plastics for packaging, but supermarkets and public market vendors will be asked to use biodegradable plastic.

“Paranaque will be plastic-free city by January,” said Olivarez, explaining that under the approved local law, violators will be fined P5,000 for every offense while on the third offense, violators will be shut down and their business license revoked for one year.

Other cities in the National Capital Region like Makati, Quezon City, Taguig, Pasig, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, and Pasay have already said no to plastic.

A study showed that the Philippines is one of the top producers of plastic waste in the world.

Topics: [Parañaque City](#) , [Metro Manila](#) , [single-use plastics](#) , [Edwin Olivarez](#)



## NCIP asked to halt raising of TSF 2



TSF 2. The Tailings Facility Storage 2 of the Benguet Corporation in Itogon, Benguet is being eyed to be raised to 775 meters above sea level to accommodate more tailings to come from its existing operation. The lower downstream communities in Itogon composed of three barangays joined for the call to stop the plan to raise the dam level.

(Redjie Melvic Cawis)

[LAUREN ALIMONDO](#)

December 15, 2020

MORE than 200 members of the indigenous peoples of Itogon and residents of the lower downstream communities signed a petition, asking the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples in the Cordillera Administrative Region (NCIP-CAR) to stop Benguet Corporation's (BC) plan to raise the level of its Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) 2.

In their petition forwarded to NCIP-CAR on Friday, December 11, some of the issues raised by the indigenous community members are whether the land that the TSF 2 was constructed is owned by the state or BC, whether or not the increase of the crest elevation of the TSF 2 requires the building permit from the Office of the Municipal Engineer/Building Official and whether or not the resolution of objection or non-objection of the concerned local government units are required.

The petition also underscored the mining firm has neither acquired from the NCIP the required Certification Precondition nor the Certificate of Non-Overlap for its Acupan Contract Mining Project.

BC implemented the Acupan Contract Mining Project in 2002 until today and has started activities in increase the crest elevation of the TSF 2.

Petitioners also cited the NCIP has not issued the required Certificate of Non-Overlap (CNO) or Certificate Precondition.



## NCIP asked to halt raising of TSF 2

The petition also cited Section 59 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act or Republic Act (RA) 8371 wherein all departments and other governmental agencies shall henceforth be strictly enjoined from issuing, renewing, or granting any concession, license or lease, or entering into any production-sharing agreement, without prior certification from the NCIP that the area affected does not overlap with any ancestral domain.

Such certification shall only be issued after a field-based investigation is conducted by the Ancestral Domains Office of the area concerned: provided that no certification shall be issued by the NCIP without the free and prior informed and written consent of ICCs/IPs concerned; provided further that no department, government agency or government-owned or -controlled corporation may issue new concession, license, lease, or production sharing agreement while there is a pending application for a CADT; and provided that the ICCs/IPs shall have the right to stop or suspend, in accordance with this Act, any project that has not satisfied the requirement of this consultation process.

On December 10, residents and community elders also signed a manifesto of their stand versus the plan of the mining firm.

This is not the first time the Itogon stakeholders expressed opposition to the project.

On February 2, 2020, the lower downstream communities and Indigenous Peoples of barangays in Itogon collectively presented a petition to the dam raising project of Benguet Corporation. In August this year, the downstream communities held a peaceful assembly and traditional rites at the dam site to manifest their disapproval to the dam raising.



## Agarwood buy-bust injures 2 cops, civilian

Two suspects, identified as Jury Jaradal and a certain alias Berting, eluded arrest.



Published 3 hours ago  
on December 15, 2020 04:00 AM  
By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



Two policemen and a civilian were wounded when an agarwood buy-bust operation resulted in a shootout in San Rafael Village in Taft, Eastern Samar on Sunday afternoon.

Hurt during the shootout were Cpl. Jerome Ortega, Pat. Bernardino Julia Magsambol Jr. and Romeo Recto, who were taken to Taft District Hospital.

Two suspects, identified as Jury Jaradal and a certain alias Berting, eluded arrest.

The police conducted an illegal logging operation, with one cop acting as a local buyer of agarwood, locally known as lapnisan, an endangered tree species.

After they ascertained that the items were indeed agarwood, they handed marked money as payment and the poseur buyer signaled the arrest.

However, the suspects sensed they transacted with police officers and immediately fired at the operating team.

Ortega was hit with a bullet to the left side of the waist, Magsambol sustained leg injuries and Recto was hurt on the foot and shoulder.

Agarwood is a fragrant and dark, resinous wood used in incense, perfume and small carvings. Depending on its quality, market price may reach up to P700,000.

Even globally, agarwood is rarely found in trees and its formation can take up to 10 years.





## 2 cops wounded in E. Samar anti-illegal logging operation

[December 14, 2020](#) 2 min read

**TACLOBAN CITY** – Two policemen were injured during an anti-illegal logging operation that resulted in a shootout in Taft, Eastern Samar on Sunday afternoon.

The police regional office here identified the wounded personnel as Cpl. Jerome Ortega and Pat. Bernardino Julius Magsambol Jr., both members of the Regional Special Operations Group.

They were part of the operating unit led by Capt. J-Rale Paalisbo that was conducting an entrapment operation for poachers of agarwood, an endangered tree species locally know as Lapnisan, in San Rafael village.

In a report released Monday morning, the police said a member of the operating team who acted as a buyer of the illegally-cut timber identified the items as agarwood and subsequently handed the payment together with the marked money.

The poseur buyer activated the prearranged signal of removing his face mask to signal that the transaction has been consummated after which they will introduce themselves as police officers to effect the arrest.

However, the suspects identified as Jury Recto, his father Romeo Recto, 45, and a certain Berting Loriaga, all local residents, immediately pulled out their firearms and shot at the operating team, prompting the latter to return fire.

Ortega was hit in the lower left side of his waist and Magsambol in the upper part of his knee. They were rushed to the Taft District Hospital but were later transferred to Tacloban City for further treatment.

Meanwhile, the older Recto was hit in the left leg and shoulder. He was brought to Casano Hospital in nearby Dolores town.

The two other suspects fled to unknown directions and evaded arrest, the police said. **(PNA)**



## Climate Change Commission appeals for ensured climate action

Published December 13, 2020, 3:14 PM  
by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Philippines' Climate Change Commission (CCC) appealed to global and national leaders to ensure that climate ambition and action remain alive in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which was adopted by 195 countries, including the country, in 2015.



(Zaldy Comanda / FILE PHOTO / MANILA BULLETIN)

The agreement was formally adopted through Decision 1/CP.21 during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, France on Dec. 12, 2015.

As a landmark agreement to combat climate change and accelerate and intensify actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future, the Paris Agreement brought developed and developing nations for the first time into a common cause – to undertake ambitious efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mostly in the form of carbon dioxide, and adapt to its effects.

It primarily aims to keep the global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5°C.

It also aims to strengthen the countries' resilience to climate change impacts, as well as increase mobilization of climate finance for adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

CCC urged developed countries to take greater action to support these ambitious goals.

Sufficient financial flows, technologies, and capacity development support should be made available to developing countries and the most vulnerable countries, it added.

The Agreement also puts in place transparency, compliance, and reporting mechanisms to track the progress of these goals.



## Climate Change Commission appeals for ensured climate action

While the CCC recognized that the Paris Agreement spurred many countries to increase pledges on climate finance and to commit net zero carbon emissions targets, the Commission believes that countries still need to present more ambitious climate plans, in line with the coronavirus recovery plans, to ensure that the 1.5°C long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement is achieved.

The CCC noted that the Paris Agreement requires countries to communicate their greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and outline mitigate and adaptation options through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which need to be submitted by the end of this year.

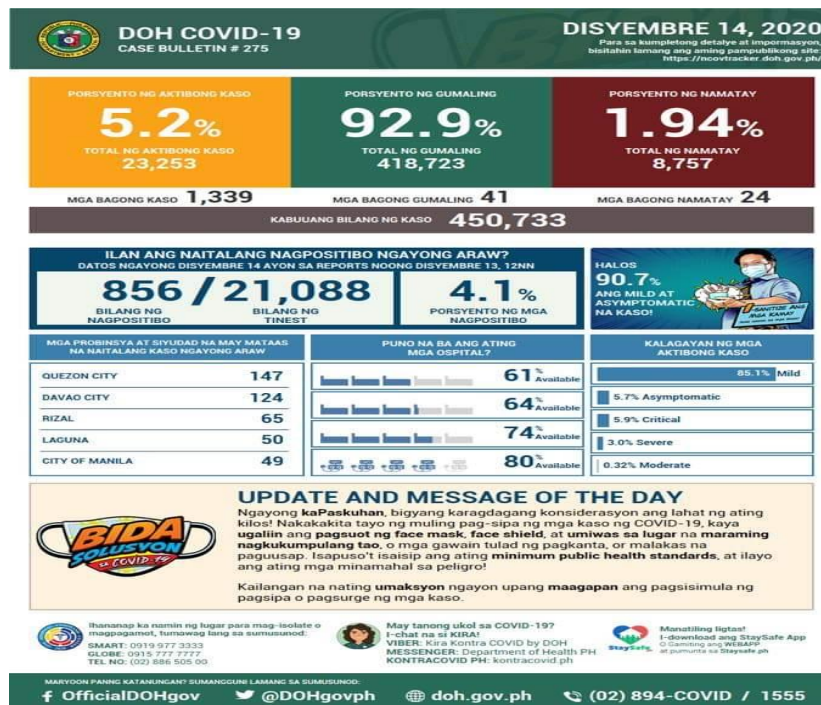
The climate body also mentioned that House Resolution No. 1377 calling for the declaration of a national climate emergency in the Philippines, the issuance of a moratorium on new coal power projects, and the adoption of a sustainable finance framework in the banking and financing industry are some of the ambitious announcements of the Philippines towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

It also hopes that the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement puts the climate crisis at the heart of the global agenda and reminds all nations of the common goal and aspiration they committed to five years ago for a safer, healthier, and more sustainable planet for all.



# BREAKING: Mga tinamaan ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, pumalo na sa 450,000

By Angellic Jordan December 14, 2020 - 04:05 PM



Hindi muli bababa sa 1,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (December 14), umabot na sa 450,733 ang confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa.

Sa nasabing bilang, 23,253 o 5.2 porsyento ang aktibong kaso.

Sinabi ng kagawaran na 1,339 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa.

85.1 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 5.7 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.32 porsyento ang moderate; 3.0 porsyento ang severe habang 5.9 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Nasa 24 naman ang napaulat na nasawi.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 8,757 o 1.94 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa.

Ayon pa sa DOH, 41 naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19.

Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 418,723 o 92.9 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/279638/breaking-mga-tinamaan-ng-covid-19-sa-pilipinas-pumalo-na-sa-450000#ixzz6gdRoB61z>

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## COVID-19 reproduction rate in NCR on the rise —OCTA Research

Published December 14, 2020 12:04pm  
By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

An uptrend in the reproduction rate of COVID-19 cases in Metro Manila has been observed and is projected to continue in the coming days, Dr. Guido David of the OCTA Research team said as the holiday season approaches.

The reproduction number (Ro) or the average number of people infected by one person in a susceptible population is "now at 1.06 and increasing," David told GMA News reporter Joseph Morong on Monday.

The research team previously said that a value higher than one indicates the pandemic is spreading.

From 0.90 on December 1, NCR's reproduction number hit 0.94 on December 5, then reached 0.96 on December 10. On Dec. 11, the [Ro in the region was at 0.99](#), according to David on Sunday. It was 0.88 last November.

The reproduction number of 1.06 in the capital region was aligned with David's projection last Saturday that [it will breach the 1.0 mark](#).

He has attributed the upward trend to holiday mobility.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is expected to [reach close to half a million](#) by the end of the year, according to David.

So far, the Philippines has recorded [449,400 COVID-19 cases](#). Of this number, 418,687 recovered while 8,733 died. The number of active COVID-19 cases is 21,980.

Based on the Department of Health's data, almost half of the total COVID-19 infections in the country had been recorded in Metro Manila. As of December 13, there were 203,028 reported cases in the region, of which 192,764 recovered, 3,724 died, and 6,540 are still considered active cases. —  
KG, GMA News



## UNAHAN, SIRAAN SA BAKUNA; PINAS DAPAT MAG-INGAT SA BIBILHIN



December 14, 2020 @ 10:20 AM 18 hours ago

BAGO pa ang sinasabing unang pagbabakuna sa United Kingdom limang araw na ang nakararaan, Hunyo 2020 pa lang daan-daang libo na sa bansang China ang tinuturuan ng bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Naunang tinuruan ang mga sundalo at makaraan, ang mga health worker at sinasabing mahigit 350,000 ang nabakunahan sa mga ito.

Pagdating ng Nobyembre, sinabing milyon na ang nabakunahan.

Nakatutok ang pagbabakuna sa lahat ng empleyado at opisyal ng pamahalaang China, kabilang na ang mga ambassador at obrerong pinupwesto sa ibang bansa.

Libo-libo sa mga obrero ang nagtatrabaho sa mga proyektong inilunsad ng China sa iba't ibang bansa.

Sa huli, ang mga kompanyang Sinovac at Sinopharm ang iniuulat na nagsasagawa ng mga pagbabakuna.

### KONTING KASAYSAYAN

Magandang magkaroon tayo ng kahit kaunting linaw sa kasaysayan ng ibang mga bansa upang maging katulong natin sa pakikibaka sa pandemya.

At itong nagaganap nga sa China ang isang makatutulong sa atin, bukod sa kasaysayaan sa ibang mga bansa.

Ayon sa mga ulat, Nobyembre 17, 2019 pa lang natagpuan na ang isang 55-anyos sa Hubei Province na kauna-unahang biktima at pagdating ng Disyembre, may 60 katao nang natamaan.

Mula noon, nagkarambola na ang lahat ng bansa nang lumundag ang COVID-19 sa iba't ibang bansa at sa Pilipinas natagpuan ang sinasabing kauna-unahang patay sa labas ng China.



## UNAHAN, SIRAAN SA BAKUNA; PINAS DAPAT MAG-INGAT SA BIBILHIN

### TAGUMPAY VS PANDEMYA

Pero napakahalaga ring makita na ang China ang nangungunang bansang nagtatagumpay laban sa pandemya dahil sa mga aksyon nito.

Lalo na ang pagbabakuna na kinambalan ng napakaistriktong mga lockdown at pagpapairal ng mga tinatawag nating health protocol o kailangang gawin laban sa nasabing sakit.

Habang nagkakaroon ng mga panibagong surge o spike o bugso sa Europa, America, Latin Amerika at Gitnang Silangan na mas matindi kaysa sa mga buwang Abril-Mayo 2020, nanatili na ang China sa maayos na kalagayan.

Nagsimulang humupa ang COVID-19 noong Marso 2, 2020 nang sa unang pagkakataon, walang namatay sa China bagama't may nagsasabi namang meron sa bilang na 42.

Pero heto ang isang napakahalagang datos: May 80,026 ang may impeksyon samantalang may 2,912 na patay sa China noong Marso 2, 2020 at China ang nangunguna sa listahan ng mga bansa na naapektuhan.

Buwan ng Setyembre pa lang, sinasabi na ganap nang nakontrol ang pandemya sa China at paunti-unti na lang ang nagkakasakit at namamatay.

Kahapon, may kabuuang biktima sa China na 86,725 at 4,634 kaya naman kakaunti na lang ang naidagdag na nagkakasakit at namatay.

Ngayon, mula sa nangunguna noong Pebrero-Marso 2020, pang-79 na lang ito sa mahigit 200 bansa at teritoryong pinasok ng pandemya.

### UNAHAN SA PAGBABAKUNA

Halos magkasabay ang Russia at UK sa pagbabakuna nitong nagdaang mga araw.

At anomang araw, nagsisimula na rin ang pagbabakuna sa United States at Canada.

Wala nang puknat ang pagbabakuna sa UK at Russia.

Pero magandang tandaan na sinasabing Abril 2020 pa lang, nagbabakuna na ang ilang Chinese doctor sa kanilang hanay gamit ang kaalaman sa panggagamot sa SARS o Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome at ebola na tumama sa Africa.

'Yung bang === dahil naging matagumpay ang laban sa SARS at ebola, gumawa na rin sila ng mga bakuna o gamot mula rito at tiningting sa hanay mismo ng mga doktor.

Heto ang isang mahalaga pa sa unahan sa pagbabakuna.

Ibinebenta at hindi libre ang bakuna kaya naman, kumikita na ang mga kompanyang Amerikano at Europeo sa pagbebenta.

Ang US lang, nagbitiw ng \$10 bilyon para makabili ng bakuna sa mga ito at ang iba pang pinakamayayamang bansa na kasapi ng tinatawag na grupong G-20, kasama ang Europa, nag-



## **UNAHAN, SIRAAN SA BAKUNA; PINAS DAPAT MAG-INGAT SA BIBILHIN**

order na ng para sa kanilang populasyon na bumubuo ng 60 porsyento ng 7 bilyong tao sa buong mundo.

Mismong ang China na may sariling gawang bakuna ay nag-order na rin.

### **SIRAAN SA BAKUNA AT TAMANG PAGPILI**

Magkakalaban ang mga kompanya ng gamot.

Pinalulutang ng mga kompanyang Amerikano at Europeo na kaduda-duda ang mga bakuna na gawang China at Russia.

Pero mismong mga Chino at Russiano ay nababakunahan na rin nang maramihan.

Sinasabi ng mga kompanyang Amerikano at Europeo na wala pang rebyu at kumpirmasyon mula sa mga siyentipikong internasyunal ukol sa mga gawang China at Russia.

Pero ang masasabi natin, bahagi ito ng pera-pera na sistema sa pandaigdigang kalusugan.

Ang tiyak, matagal nang nagbabakuna ang China at naging matagumpay sila.

Ang Russia, makikita sa mga susunod na araw ang maramihang pagbabakuna, partikular sa Moscow City.

Sa UK, US at Canada, makikita pa lang din sa mga susunod na linggo at buwan kung ano-ano talaga ang epekto ng kanilang mga gawang bakuna.

Makikita natin kung katulad ng naiulat na rito sa Remate online, may anim na namatay sa Pfizer/bioNTech, isang kompanyang Amerikano, na gamit na sa UK ngayon.

Para sa atin sa mahal kong Pinas, magandang manood muna tayo at pag-aralan nang husto kung alin talagang mga bakuna ang pupwede sa atin?

Naririyang na ang pondo natin, ang P72 bilyon na pambili para sa sinasabing 60 milyong nangangailangan ng pagbabakuna at hindi kayang bumili.

Magdasal tayo na tamang bakuna ang mabibili natin at hindi magiging isang Dengvaxia.





## Albay to use high-tech drone in mapping volcanic materials

By Samuel Toledo December 14, 2020, 8:02 pm



Cedric Daep, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (*PNA file photo*)

**LEGAZPI CITY** – Albay province will be using a high-tech drone to come up with new mapping of lahar and other volcanic deposits at the slopes of Mayon Volcano for more precise contingency planning.

In an interview on Monday, Cedric Daep, chief of the Albay Public Safety and Emergency Management Office (Apsemo), said they already requested the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the acquisition of a drone that could capture vital details.

He said this is needed in accurately mapping lahar and other volcanic materials that threaten populated communities around Mayon during bad weather conditions.

Daep said a UNDP representative in the Philippines has positively responded to their request after hearing that a lahar mapping based on more accurate inputs has a bigger chance of saving communities in high-risk areas.

“And the data to be supplied by this high-tech drone could supplement the inputs coming from the geo-space satellites,” Daep told the Philippine News Agency.

He said with these added important data, analysis in planning for contingencies, to avoid if not totally eliminate lahar or volcanic material- triggered disasters, would be more in-depth and precise.

“Right now we are only using the data being supplied by the geo-space monitors and the aerial and ocular surveys over Mayon Volcano. With these drone-generated inputs, we could come up with a more precise analysis that would in return guide our planners and decision-makers,” Daep said.

Thousands of people had lost their lives due to massive lahar, mudflow, and debris-carrying flash floods coming from Mayon Volcano due to torrential rains brought by strong typhoons that hit Bicol in the past decades.



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## Albay to use high-tech drone in mapping volcanic materials

The worst disaster that hit Bicol was the onslaught of Super Typhoon Reming in 2006 that submerged most of Albay and Legazpi City under over six-foot deep rampaging floodwater mixed with lahar and big rocks that killed at least 1,000 people. Some five hundred more people remain missing in the province.

Last Nov. 5, at least five people were buried alive in lahar, sand, and rocks in the Mayon foot-slope village of San Francisco in Guinobatan town when Super Typhoon Rolly battered Albay.

Relocating the affected residents is the main priority of the Albay provincial government to avoid losing more lives in the lahar- threatened communities.

A 14-hectare land worth PHP36 million is now being acquired by the local government to put up a relocation site for those who were left homeless by the past typhoons that hit Bicol. **(PNA)**



## P8.5 B lost to air pollution from coal-fired power plants

Published December 14, 2020, 11:38 AM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The burden of diseases from air pollution caused by coal-fired power plants costs Filipinos P8.5 billion annually, a new report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) revealed Monday.

The report titled “Air Quality and Health Impact of Coal-Fired Power in the Philippines” provided an analysis of the air quality, toxic deposition, and health impacts of coal plants in the Philippines, as well as its cost to the public and the economy.

“The climate crisis, air pollution, and the pandemic are mutually compounding threats that have coal at their center. This report sheds light on the hidden health and economic costs of coal, which has long been the dominant source of energy in our country,” said CREA Southeast Asia analyst Isabella Suarez.

Currently, coal accounts for 54 percent of the country’s gross power generation with an installed generating capacity of approximately 10 gigawatts (GW), with another nine GW in various stages of construction and permitting.

The study estimated that currently operating coal plants in the Philippines emit approximately 1,500 kilograms (kg) of mercury per year, of which approximately 800 kg is deposited onto land and ocean.

Annually, 56 kg are deposited in protected areas around the country. Of the total projected annual mercury deposition, about 27 percent occurs on cropland, 13 percent on forest and scrubland, 53 percent into ocean and freshwater ecosystems, and seven percent into built-up areas.

Furthermore, acid deposition, which is a secondary compound formed when gases such as sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) react with other atmospheric chemicals, is estimated at 77,000 tons per year.

These compounds can be carried over great distances and deposited in wet form as rain or fog, or can simply settle out of the air as dry particles or gases (dry deposition).

The study noted that a cluster of coal-fired power plants in the southern part of Luzon is the biggest hotspot of acid deposition in the country, blanketing Batangas and Laguna in acid deposition.

“The addition of large capacity plants will see this area extend further west, all the way to Paracale, Camarines Norte. A few kilometers away, acid deposition from the Bataan plants are observed over Manila Bay. This hotspot spans over approximately 33 protected areas, many of which are forestlands,” it said.

While many power plants are not built in close proximity to cities, their emissions nevertheless contribute to air pollution in these high-density areas, increasing the risk of death and illness from both acute and chronic diseases, CREA said.

With additional planned capacity, the total number of premature deaths attributed to coal pollution increases by approximately 60 percent from 632 to 1,009 deaths annually.



## P8.5 B lost to air pollution from coal-fired power plants

The burden of disease from particulate matter 2.5-related ischaemic heart disease and lower respiratory infection, as well as nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), are the highest of these avoidable deaths, the study noted.

Pollution from the current operating fleet was responsible for an estimated 640 air pollution-related deaths in 2019, as well as 1,300 new cases of child asthma, 149,000 days of work absence, and 240 preterm births, it added.

“Currently, air pollution from CFPPs (coal-fired power plants) is estimated to cost the country P8.5 billion annually. If all new proposed coal makes it onto the grid, this increases to nearly P14 billion,” the study said.

The study added that Luzon bears almost 68 percent of estimated premature deaths linked to air pollution, as the region has the highest megawatt (MW) capacity of coal installed.

This is followed by Mindanao at 19 percent and Visayas at 13 percent.

“With the additional planned capacity, the disparity between the three main island groups widens. Luzon’s burden could increase to 77 percent of the 1,009 estimated premature deaths, as the greatest number of coal plants are proposed here,” CREA noted.

The study cited that with the existing operating fleet, the provinces with the highest health impacts from coal are also among the most populous.

Under the current scenario, cases of premature death normalized against population density are highest in Batangas, followed by Misamis Oriental and Pangasinan.

It pointed out that health impacts in Metro Manila will more than double with the number of coal plants planned within 300 km from the capital city; a similar spike in cases of premature deaths due to coal pollution can be observed in Bataan and La Union, where major MW-capacity projects are proposed to be built.

With the additional coal capacity planned, provinces that are at risk of more than a 50 percent increase in premature deaths linked to air pollution also increase Zambales, Lanao del Norte, Pangasinan, Cavite, Tarlac, and Pampanga.

Over the next decade, CREA said the cumulative impact of air pollution from plants operating today will average nearly 7,000 avoidable deaths and cost the economy and Philippine population nearly P103 billion.

“We hope the findings of the report can inform the Philippine government and key decision-makers to go all in on the clean energy transition. Our continued reliance on coal is not just affecting the reliability of the energy system or the price of electricity, but is also impacting Filipinos’ health and well-being. It’s time to make that a main factor in the equation,” Suarez said.

Paeng Lopez of Health Care Without Harm asserted that, “coal plants are a consistent source of health-damaging air pollution, and there have been plenty of studies during this COVID-19 pandemic that show a direct link between the increase in both morbidity and mortality rates in relation to exposure to air pollution. Therefore, all initiatives by the government towards healthy and just recovery under the new normal should include the significant reduction of Filipinos’





## P8.5 B lost to air pollution from coal-fired power plants

susceptibility to diseases like COVID-19 through decisive steps that, among others, reduce our dependence on coal.”

In previous months, several studies have shown that a critical number of COVID-19 deaths around the world are attributable to dirty air. Studies have also shown that coal energy is a huge climate driver that needs to be stopped.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia energy justice campaigner Khevin Yu expressed that “under the current state of climate emergency, we need to prioritize protecting Filipinos – especially our most vulnerable communities – from the harmful and deadly effects of coal energy.”

“Coal energy should be immediately isolated and then replaced by safer and more affordable renewable energy sources,” he added. “Both the government and energy companies should protect the welfare of the people. And to achieve a better normal for all, we need to phase out coal now.”

The report also complements the coal moratorium that the Department of Energy (DoE) implemented recently.

“While DoE’s coal moratorium signals a welcome policy shift from coal, unfortunately, it does not cover the 14.6 GW, 23 coal plants that are still in the pipeline. DoE can definitely do so much more,” said Ian Rivera, national coordinator of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice. “In line with the House of Representatives’ climate and environmental emergency declaration, DoE should calibrate the Philippine Energy Plan by increasingly and swiftly withdrawing from coal, which means cancellation of all coal projects in the pipeline and phasing out of existing 33 coal plants which have a capacity of 10.4 GW.”



## Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework: Will it be a new social contract for greening growth?



By [The Manila Times](#)  
December 15, 2020

WITH the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member-states (AMS) are now in the middle of dealing with a combination of shocks — the public health crisis, a lagging economy, stressed financial sectors and climate change risk. As the pandemic is far from over, the Asean economy is projected to contract by 3.8 percent in 2020, the first economic contraction in 22 years. The initial and individual country responses to the pandemic has been two-pronged: first, to tackle the health emergency and second, to restore economy. Given the scale of socio-economic impacts, the 37th Asean Summit recognized the need for coordinated actions and promulgated the Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), which serves as the consolidated exit strategy for the region. The five strategic areas of ACRF are intended to address both the region's immediate needs during the reopening stage for a successful transition to the new normal as well as medium- and long-term needs through the stages of Covid-19 recovery and for longer-term sustainability. The framework also aims to advance more sustainable and resilient future.

The pandemic has put Asean governments in a bind, having to choose between saving lives and protecting livelihoods. Since March, AMS have announced several special economic recovery packages equal to 2 to 7 percent of the national GDPs, which include interventions for immediate relief, liquidity and payment deferrals to low-income households and small businesses. These broader economy-wide interventions to stop contraction and stimulate growth came in phases. Despite the right intentions, implementing these measures is not easy. Financial aid to small and medium enterprises is not effectively distributed because of challenges in identifying and targeting those in immediate need. The challenge of millions of migrant laborers and those in the informal sectors raises systemic choices: Will they return to old jobs and if not, what kind of decent employment could they find? The persistent need for social distancing directives and health protocols continue to disrupt supply chains, impede cash flow and make it difficult for small businesses and unskilled workers to resume normal operations.

### **Mission impossible**

But the ACRP and its implementation plan gives an opportunity to shape the future in a manner that would deliver a new social contract among the public organizations, private sector and the people; one that rests on the pillar of commitment to create jobs, accelerate economic growth and achieve environmental sustainability. For policy makers, the trinity of jobs, growth and sustainability is often dubbed as mission impossible.



## Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework: Will it be a new social contract for greening growth?

The European Union unveiled a 740-billion-euro recovery package as a centerpiece of its economic response to the pandemic. About 25 percent European Union stimulus packages are set aside for climate friendly measures like retrofitting old buildings, clean energy technologies, low-carbon vehicles and sustainable land use. These investments under the Green New Deal are planned to create one million new jobs in the low carbon sector over the next decade, while investing in the circular economy could add another 700,00 jobs.

The Asean region had been on an unsustainable and vulnerable path before the pandemic and the economic recovery must avoid the dangers and fragilities of the past. Not only with respect to climate but more broadly with respect to the environment and plant boundaries such as biodiversity and natural capital. Being the most vulnerable region in the world to climate change, the pandemic has compromised Asean's accumulated efforts to decarbonize its electricity sector, industries and transportation networks and put a temporary halt to investments in building sustainable smart cities.

However, the ACRF strategies gives the assurance that there is no going back to the old normal, which was characterized by climate risks, high inequality and low labor productivity. In this context, Asean member-states will need to consider more ambitious stimulus packages that can help revive local economies, restore decent jobs, and also build a low-carbon future for its citizens.

### **Once-in-a-generation opportunity**

As policymakers prepare interventions and industries consider changes to their business models, the pandemic crisis and stimulus packages offer a once-in-a-generation opportunity that could work towards building a more sustainable future. In this context, the implementation of ACRF should consider the following three principles in guiding the future initiatives and investments.

First, the right investments will need to be fast and labor- intensive in the short run, and have higher multiplier co-benefits in the long run. Investments with these characteristics include low-carbon infrastructure such as renewable energy assets, building energy efficiency, research and development in green technologies, rural support for climate smart agriculture, education and skill development, natural capital investment to improve ecosystem resilience, and restoration of degraded forests. There is strong evidence that fiscal multipliers from these types of investments outperform those of alternative investments.

Second, the forthcoming stimulus packages will also need supporting policies to maximize the benefits of the investments. Falling fossil fuel prices provide an opportunity for carbon pricing and pervasive subsidy reform, which can provide a source of much needed revenues, and can be part of wider fiscal reforms to restore financial stability. Complimentary and supporting regulations and competition policies can provide clear signals and induce innovation in high growth sectors, lowering the level of budget expenditure to bring the economies back to full activity. Any change in current policies will need to carefully consider distributional consequences to ensure social safety nets for unemployed workers and vulnerable communities.



## **Asean Comprehensive Recovery Framework: Will it be a new social contract for greening growth?**

And the third, it will be critical to mobilize all pools of finance — public, private and international — and utilize them more effectively. This includes strengthening national development banks, bolstering, and making effective use of international climate finance, capitalizing bond markets, and enhancing strategic partnership with the international financial community. Recovery packages are set in a macro-fiscal context, where fiscal expansion is necessary but severely constrained in many Asean countries. Hence, it will be crucial to substantially augment the mobilization of private finance through trade and investment channels while aligning financial outlays with the Paris Climate Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

As the implementation of ACRF unfolds, coordinated policy responses will require resolute leadership at regional level, a willingness to experiment and change at national level, and innovative public-private financing models at local level. The new social contract and greening of the recovery will be an economically prudent bold choice for Asean to reduce damaging inequalities and bring back the growth within planetary boundaries.



## The World Needs Biden to Lead on Climate Reporting

The next president should make the U.S. adopt the gold standard for mandating climate-related financial disclosures.

By [Michael R. Bloomberg](#)

December 14, 2020, 6:00 PM GMT+8



Climate change is risky business.  
Photographer: Saeed Khan/AFP/Getty Images

President-elect Joe Biden's pledge to rejoin the Paris climate agreement sends an important signal to the world about U.S. leadership. But the action will merely take us back to four years ago. To push us forward, on his first day in office, President Biden should bring together a group of G-20 leaders to join the U.S. in endorsing a mandatory standard for global businesses to measure and report the risks they face from climate change.

It's a critically important step that's entirely within reach, because such a standard already exists and has won widespread global support.

In 2017, under the auspices of the Financial Stability Board, the international Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), which I chair, issued a set of guidelines to help companies measure and report climate risks and opportunities, including those associated with the shift away from fossil fuels. That information empowers companies to protect themselves and embrace opportunities; provides investors with information they need to make smart decisions; and will help drive more capital to companies that are acting responsibly.

So far more than 1,600 companies and organizations in nearly 80 countries on six continents have endorsed or adopted TCFD reporting guidelines. Together they represent more than \$16 trillion in total market capitalization, and they include financial firms with more than \$155 trillion in assets under management. A number of countries have endorsed the framework, including Canada, France and Japan, and New Zealand and the U.K. have already announced they will make risk disclosure along TCFD guidelines mandatory.

As the world's biggest economy, official U.S. support for the TCFD guidelines would serve to unify the global effort to measure climate risk, remove uncertainty about the direction of regulation, and enable the creation of a single system that is consistent across borders and industries. On the other hand: To not make disclosure an immediate priority, or to create a new U.S. standard



## The World Needs Biden to Lead on Climate Reporting

different from what the rest of the world is already adopting, would be a highly costly mistake that would deal a major blow to climate progress globally.

Climate risk data — like any kind of financial data — is only useful to investors if they can compare it across companies on an apples-to-apples basis. If the data isn't consistent and comparable, it's not very helpful. And when financial regulation is confusing or contradictory across different jurisdictions, it can inhibit investment and economic growth — or worse, set the conditions for future economic crises.

The 2008 crisis demonstrated the devastation that can happen when risks aren't properly understood, consistently disclosed, and priced into markets. But more than a decade after the crisis, financial markets are still operating largely in the dark when it comes to climate change, which is one of the biggest risks facing the global economy.

In the U.S., public companies are required to disclose key information about their financial health in quarterly and annual filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission, so that shareholders and investors can make informed decisions. However, those requirements currently don't specifically include information about risks and opportunities associated with climate change, even though it will affect virtually every industry either directly or indirectly.

This lack of information leaves companies and investors — including public pension systems and individual retirement accounts — vulnerable to major losses. It threatens the resilience and stability of the global economy. It skews the market unfairly in favor of companies that are exposed to or ignoring risks, and unfairly away from companies that are acting responsibly. And by hiding opportunities for smart investment, it is slowing the global response to climate change.

Business leaders know they can't afford to ignore climate change or pretend it isn't happening. They want to reduce the risks their companies face. The problem is, they often don't have enough information to act. That is starting to change, as more and more leaders from the public and private sectors and from countries around the world recognize the importance of better risk disclosure and are endorsing the TCFD guidelines.

So we are at a crucial moment: In the months ahead, the U.S. will determine whether there will be a single global disclosure framework for climate risks that helps drive a faster and more effective response to climate change — or competing frameworks that make it harder for investors and businesses to identify risks, leading to more economic harm and slower progress. The right choice is clear, and the benefits of making it can't be overstated.

Climate disclosure is not a flashy topic, but it is one of the most important tools we have to speed progress on climate change and prevent economic hardship on a scale that, over the long term, could dwarf the effects of the 2008 financial crisis. The faster we make it standard practice globally, the safer and stronger the economy will be, and the U.S. can help lead the way.

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LONDON/BRUSSELS — United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on every country to declare a “climate emergency” on Saturday, as world leaders marking the fifth anniversary of the Paris climate accord made mostly incremental pledges relative to the scale of the crisis.

Mr. Guterres made his call at a summit aimed at building on momentum behind the Paris deal, buoyed in recent months by renewed commitment from China and the prospect of US President-elect Joseph R. Biden bringing the United States back into the pact.

Nevertheless, the dozens of leaders who spoke mostly offered tweaks to existing commitments or promises of bolder moves before crucial talks in Glasgow in late 2021, rather than breakthrough new policies to hasten the end of fossil fuels.

“Can anybody still deny that we are facing a dramatic emergency?” Mr. Guterres, a former Portuguese prime minister who has made climate change his signature issue, said via video.

“That is why today, I call on all leaders worldwide to declare a State of Climate Emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached.”

With the impacts of climate change increasingly stark since the Paris deal was struck—ranging from wildfires in Australia and California to collapsing ice sheets—popular pressure has grown on leaders to listen to warnings from scientists.

Britain, co-hosting the summit, made one of the clearest new commitments, announcing late on Friday it would stop direct government support for overseas fossil fuel projects.



Campaigners hailed the move for putting pressure on other G7 economies to restrict support for oil and gas companies.

Renewed pledges to back Paris from countries such as India, Germany and France were welcomed less in terms of substance and more for keeping alive hopes of faster action to meet the monumental challenge of halving global emissions by 2030 in line with the Paris deal.

### **DISAPPOINTMENT ON COAL**

Chinese President Xi Jinping, who surprised many in September when he announced the world's biggest producer of climate-warming emissions would become carbon neutral by 2060, and unveiled targets to speed the expansion of wind and solar power.

"China always honors its commitments," Xi said.

But China showed no signs of bowing to calls from Guterres and campaigners to wind down finance for new coal-fired power plants, a major source of emissions.

Japan and South Korea, which both pledged in October to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, likewise made no commitments on coal finance—though they did pledge to submit more ambitious emissions targets under the Paris accord.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, by contrast, drew praise for saying the country "will not have any more power based on coal." It was not immediately clear what the pledge would mean for Pakistan's existing plans to build coal plants under a deal with China.

Argentina, Barbados, Canada, Colombia, Iceland, and Peru were among 15 countries who shifted from "incremental" to "major" increases in their emissions pledges, the UN, British and French co-hosts said in a statement.

Climate negotiators say that the Paris process has begun to look far stronger than it did even six few months ago, with countries representing around 65% of global carbon emissions now expected to have committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions or carbon neutrality by early next year.

But campaigners pointed to the gulf that still yawns between the pace of action and the Paris goals of capping rising global temperatures quickly enough to avoid catastrophic impacts.

"It is the melting of permafrost; forest fires that hit closer to the home of the climate crisis deniers; droughts that ransack living beings of their resources; floods that reminded many of us that we have no escape," Selina Neirok Leem, a campaigner from the Marshall Islands, told the summit.

Major emitters Australia and Brazil did not make ambitious enough pledges to qualify to speak, diplomats said.

### **'TURN THE CORNER'**

Mr. Guterres said economic recovery packages in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic were an opportunity to act on climate—but said G20 countries had so far spent 50% more of their stimulus on sectors linked to fossil fuels than on cleaner energy.





“This is unacceptable,” Mr. Guterres said. “The trillions of dollars needed for COVID recovery is money that we are borrowing from future generations.”

The European Union, which plans to spend 30% of its 1.8-trillion-euro (\$2.2 trillion) budget and COVID-19 recovery fund on climate action, boosted its own 2030 climate pledge on Friday, aiming to cut emissions at least 55% by 2030, from 1990 levels.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged the world to cooperate to tackle the “toxic tea cosy” of greenhouse gases now quilting the planet, while investors and businesses underscored their support for action.

“We call on companies and governments around the world to do all we can to make 2021 the year we turn the corner for good,” said Apple Inc. Chief Executive Tim Cook. — **Matthew Green and Kate Abnett/Reuters**

## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020



An almost deserted street in Kolkata, West Bengal in India on April 2020. Normally busy streets had few motorists as governments imposed lockdowns to stop spread of Covid-19, in their cities. Image: [Mitrarudra](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

By Robert McSweeney and Ayesha Tandon, Carbon Brief

Dec. 14, 2020

Global carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from fossil fuel and industry are expected to drop by 7 per cent in 2020, new analysis shows, as economies around the world feel the effects of Covid-19 lockdowns.

The latest estimates from the [Global Carbon Project](#) (GCP) suggest that these emissions will clock in at 34bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> (GtCO<sub>2</sub>) this year – a fall of 2.4GtCO<sub>2</sub> compared to 2019.

This annual decline is the largest absolute drop in emissions ever recorded, the researchers say, and the largest relative fall since the second world war.

Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen in all the world’s biggest emitters, the study estimates – including by 12 per cent in the US, 11 per cent in the EU, 9 per cent in India and 1.7 per cent in China.

Combined with the impacts of land-use change, human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions this year will total 40GtCO<sub>2</sub>, the estimates suggest. This will see atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels increase to an annual average of 412 parts per million – 48 per cent higher than before the Industrial Revolution.

While a drop in emissions in a single year will not slow the pace of global warming, the researchers say, there is a “unique opportunity” to secure long-term emissions cuts by following an economic recovery “aligned with tackling climate change”.

## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020

### What is the impact of Covid on 2020’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions?

The provisional estimate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2020 is the GCP’s [15th in an annual series](#) of “global carbon budgets” produced by an international group of scientists. This year’s study, published in Earth System Science Data, uses four different methods to assess regional and global emissions across the world.

The findings highlight the scale of the impact that Covid-19 has had on the world’s economies.

The peak of the decrease in emissions this year occurred in the [first half of April](#), the researchers say in a briefing document. This was when lockdown measures in response to Covid-19 were at their most comprehensive – particularly in Europe and the US, they note:

“At that point, daily global fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were around 17 per cent below their average 2019 levels.”

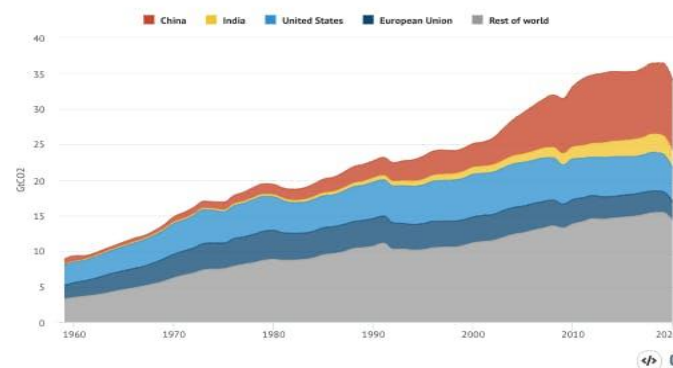
For the year as a whole, the researchers estimate that CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels and industry (FF&I) – which includes emissions from burning fossil fuels, manufacturing cement and other industrial processes – will decline by 2.4GtCO<sub>2</sub> compared to 2019. This has “never been seen before”, the researchers say, and is equivalent to a drop of 7 per cent in global emissions.

[Dr Glen Peters](#), research director at the [Centre for International Climate Research](#) (CICERO) in Norway, told a press briefing:

“You’d have to go back to 1945 – the second world war – to see a relative drop bigger than this 7 per cent.”

This year has also seen the first clear fall in global emissions since a [1.3 per cent drop in 2009](#) – visible in the chart below – which was driven by the global financial crisis that started in 2008.

Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels by region, 1959-2020



Annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and industry by major country and rest of world from 1959-2020, in billions of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year (GtCO<sub>2</sub>). Note that 2020 numbers are preliminary estimates. Data from the Global Carbon Project; chart by Carbon Brief using Highcharts.

That crisis was followed by a “huge rebound” in emissions in the early 2010s, explained Peters. Global emissions subsequently [plateaued between 2014 and 2016](#), he said, which started to get scientists “a little bit excited that maybe emissions were peaking”. However, emissions then “jumped up again” in [2017](#) and [2018](#) before levelling out in [2019](#).

## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020

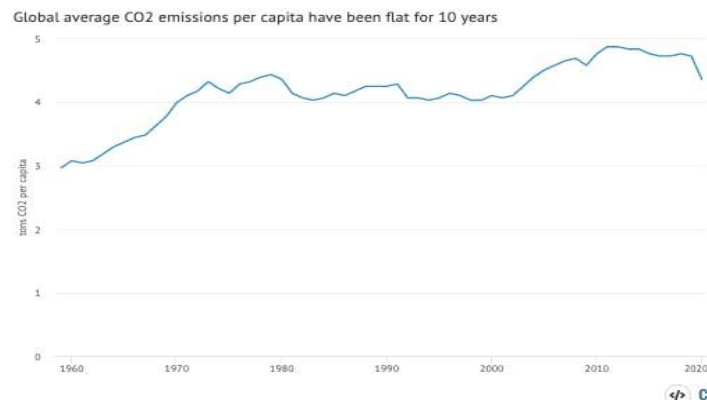
With emissions staying “about flat in 2019”, there was more talk of “whether a peak in emissions was coming”, Peters continued, including “some positive trends in certain countries, which were helping to get global emissions down”.

To see whether this was indeed a peak, rather than just a pause in rising emissions, “we needed another year or two”, Peters said. However, the impact of Covid-19 means “we’re not going to know if emissions were coming up to a peak”, he added, “at least not for a few more years now”.

### Decadal trends and economic recovery

The new study notes that global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions “have increased every decade” since the 1960s. And, while the growth rate in emissions declined from 4.3 per cent per year in the 1960s to 0.9 per cent per year in the 1990s, it has increased again in the 21st century – to 3.0 per cent per year in the 2000s and 1.2 per cent per year in the 2010s.

While emissions have continued to grow, per capita emissions have remained relatively flat over the past decade. The chart below shows global average per-capita emissions for each year from 1959 to 2020.



Global per-capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and industry from 1959-2020, in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita. Note that 2020 numbers are preliminary estimates. Data from the [Global Carbon Project](#); chart by Carbon Brief using Highcharts.

On the five-year anniversary of the [Paris Agreement](#), which is marked this week, the researchers note that “the growth in global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has begun to falter”. However, the rebound in emissions seen in the aftermath of previous global crises suggests that the way countries stimulate their economies after Covid-19 lockdowns will play a key role in future emissions.

([Carbon Brief](#) has been tracking the “green recovery” plans that have been proposed, agreed and implemented by major economies around the world.)

[Prof Corinne Le Quéré](#), a Royal Society research professor of climate change science at the [University of East Anglia](#), told journalists that “this year alone will not change anything” in terms of the pace of warming, but economic stimulus packages “will have a massive effect”.

The huge impact of Covid-19 lockdowns means a rebound in global emissions “is very likely”, Le Quéré added, but “what is more difficult to say is exactly what the size of the rebound will be in 2021 – whether it will come back to the 2019 level or perhaps even higher”.



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Stimulus packages “will make a difference” to emissions in 2021, Le Quéré noted, but “there are a lot of investments that could be aligned with tackling climate change that will take longer to kick in”.

Le Quéré also referenced a recent study – covered by [Carbon Brief](#) – that found that a global economic recovery “tilted towards green stimulus and reductions in fossil fuel investments” offers a “good chance” of limiting warming to 1.5C.

Also referring to the Paris global warming limits, [Prof Pierre Friedlingstein](#), chair in mathematical modelling of climate systems at the [University of Exeter](#), told the press briefing that “we need sustained reductions in emissions of 1-2GtCO<sub>2</sub> per year over the next 20-30 years to limit warming well below 2C”.

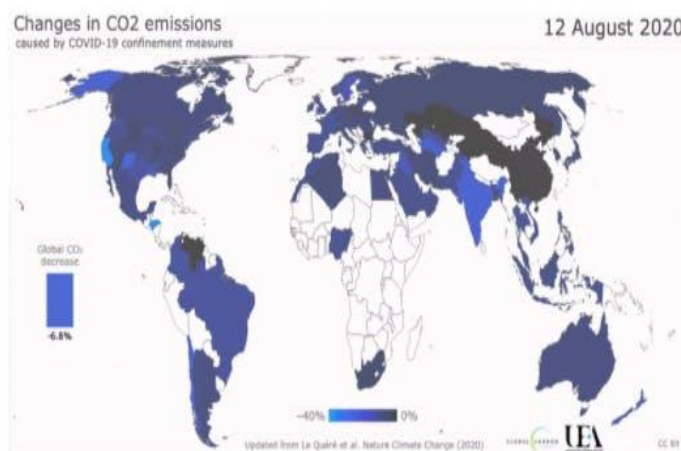
The combination of economic stimulus packages, the drop in emissions in 2020, new [net-zero commitments](#) and the emerging effects of existing climate policies provides a “unique opportunity” to make long-term cuts to global emissions, Friedlingstein added.

### China slows emissions reduction

The study finds that 2020 will see emissions reductions of 9-12 per cent in the US, EU and India, as lockdowns accelerate a pre-existing trend of decreasing emissions.

However, in China, the expected reduction in emissions for 2020 is much more modest. This is partly due to its trend of increasing emissions in recent years, but also a result of an earlier, shorter lockdown that allowed emissions to rebound more quickly, the researchers say.

The animation below – an update from a [study](#) by Le Quéré and colleagues earlier this year – shows how daily CO<sub>2</sub> emissions changed as individual countries locked down in response to Covid-19 throughout 2020. The most intense blue shading shows the largest changes.



The plot below shows the changes in fossil fuels emissions for the four highest emitters – the US, China, EU and India – for 2017 to 2020, as well as the rest of the world. It highlights that emissions fell in every country or region shown.

## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020

### US

US emissions from fossil fuels contributed 14 per cent of the global total in 2019. However, researchers explain that overall emissions in the US have been decreasing by 0.7 per cent per year for the past decade, largely driven by a decrease of roughly in emissions from the burning of fossil fuels since 2010.

The researchers predict a 10 per cent reduction in emissions from the burning of fossil fuels in the US in 2020 and 12 per cent reduction in its overall emissions.

The study estimates that the Covid-19 pandemic will drive down US coal emissions by 18 per cent in 2020. Furthermore, despite the trends of increasing emissions from oil, gas, and cement over recent years, they are projected to decline this year by 14 per cent, 1.7 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively.

The researchers also note that the US has seen a significant decrease in coal emissions use in recent years, accompanied by a boom in shale gas and strong growth in renewable energy.

“Covid-19 essentially accelerated or locked in some of those declines in coal,” Peters told the press briefing.

### EU and UK

The researchers estimate a drop in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the [EU27](#) of 11 per cent for 2020.

The EU has experienced similar changes in coal use as the US over the past decade, the researchers note. Emissions from oil, gas and cement are also estimated to drop by 12 per cent, 3 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, this year – although consumption of both oil and gas have been rebounding in recent years, the study notes.

According to researchers, a 13 per cent drop in emissions is predicted in the UK this year as a result of the extensive lockdown measures introduced in March, plus the second wave of the pandemic. This is “one of the biggest drops worldwide”, Le Quéré told the press briefing, adding that “the only country that has a bigger drop is France with 15 per cent”.

### India

The researchers note that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in [India](#) – the world’s third largest emitter – were already below their normal levels in 2019 before the pandemic hit. This was a result of “economic turmoil and strong hydropower generation”, the researchers say, adding that emissions in India only rose by 1 per cent in 2019.

This anomalously low growth in emissions was noted in a [Carbon Brief](#) analysis in October 2019.

“India is a little bit interesting,” Peters told the press briefing. “It’s had rapid growth in the last decade at around about 5 per cent per year. Things were looking a little bit shaky last year – a weaker economy, a big year for hydro because of weather, so emissions didn’t grow much in 2019.”

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Despite a trend of growing emissions in India from oil and coal over the past decade – alongside moderate growth in gas and cement – the pandemic is expected to reduce emissions by 7 per cent, 10 per cent, 2 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, in these four areas in 2020.

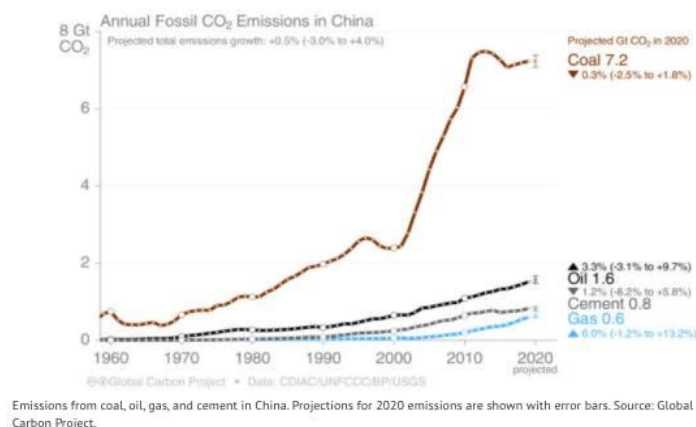
As a [Carbon Brief](#) analysis in May noted, 2020 is the first year in four decades in which emissions in India have dropped. According to the researchers, a 9 per cent reduction in emissions is expected in India over 2020.

### China

As the largest emitter in the world, China has been “dominating the global trend” of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the past decade with an increase in emissions of 1.2 per cent per year, the researchers say.

In fact, last year’s GCP update [noted that](#) global fossil fuel emissions in 2019 would have decreased were it not for China’s rising emissions.

While China has seen a modest rise in gas, oil and cement emissions over the past decade, the main driver of this rise in emissions is from coal use. The plot below – from the GCP – shows annual emissions from coal, oil, gas and cement in China since the late 1950s.



China’s emissions from coal are expected to decrease by 0.3 per cent over 2020, the researchers say, but will still total an estimated 7.2GtCO<sub>2</sub>. China is also expected to see an increase in both oil and gas emissions of 3 per cent and 6 per cent this year.

Furthermore, the researchers note that the pandemic started earlier in China and the lockdown period was shorter, so emissions rebounded much more quickly. The relative drop in emissions from China due to the pandemic is, therefore, smaller than the other big emitters, with a decrease of 1.7 per cent expected in 2020.

[Carbon Brief](#) analysis published in June found that although “emissions fell an estimated 25 per cent in the six weeks following the lockdown, from early February to mid-March” in China, and decreased again in April, they had already rebounded past pre-covid levels by May.

## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020

Another [Carbon Brief](#) piece published this month reported that “China’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have rebounded from a steep, but short-lived, fall due to the Covid-19 lockdown to reach a new record high”, largely due to a ramping up of steel production.

### *Rest of the world*

For the rest of the world, emissions from coal, oil, gas and cement are expected to drop by 7 per cent, 7 per cent, 4 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively, in 2020, the study finds. This contributes to an estimated overall 7 per cent reduction in emissions for 2020.

### Surface transport emissions halved

The impact of Covid-19 has hit every sector of society. The chart below – an update to data published in a [study](#) by Le Quéré and colleagues earlier this year – shows the reductions in daily CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for a range of sectors through 2020. It discounts other factors, such as natural variability, the temperature-induced change in heating demand and the effect of economic stimulus packages that have already begun.

The chart highlights how surface transport – travel by roads and rail – has been the sector most affected by lockdowns around the world. This is also reflected in the next chart, which shows the global trend for changes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2017 to 2020, split by fuel type.

The most significant reduction in emissions this year is from oil, which dropped by almost 1GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2020.

The GCP estimates that emissions from surface transport fell by approximately half at the peak of the pandemic and [analysis](#) in October found that ground transport emissions had been cut by 841MtCO<sub>2</sub> compared to the same time period in 2019.

This is a significant factor for the global emissions reduction, as surface transport accounts for roughly 20 per cent of global emissions, the researchers say.

This decrease is largely due to reductions in road emissions. Le Quéré told the press briefing that these changes “were not a structural decrease, but forced changes in behaviour” and so the emissions were likely to pick up again rapidly following a relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions.

Emissions from aviation were also reduced drastically, with a reduction of 75 per cent seen during the peak of Covid-19 lockdowns. However, aviation emissions “account for just under 3 per cent of global emissions”, the researchers note, and so the change in emissions from this sector was much less significant for the overall decrease in emissions.

At the start of December 2020, emissions from road transport and aviation were still below their December 2019 levels, by approximately 10 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, the researchers note. They add that the combined effects of reductions in aviation and surface transport emissions are acting to keep global monthly emissions in December 2020 roughly 3 per cent below their December 2019 levels.



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Meanwhile, coal emissions also fell. “Emissions from coal use was sort of trending downwards, which is a good sign”, Peters told the press briefing. However, it is not possible to determine if this was a sustained trend due to the impacts of the pandemic, he added: “It will be interesting to see how coal rebounds in the next years ahead.”

The chart below highlights that coal still makes a large proportion of fossil CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year.

Emissions from industry – including the production of metals, chemicals and manufacturing – make up 22 per cent of global emissions. During the peak of Covid-19 lockdowns, emissions from this sector dropped by up to 30 per cent, the study finds, and restrictions are still acting to reduce emissions from industry in many worldwide.

The rebound in emissions from industry “could be pre-existing trends in industry”, Le Quéré told the press briefing, or it could be “the beginning of the effect of economic stimulus in countries such as China”.

And, finally, electricity generation is the most highly emitting sector in the world, contributing 44 per cent of global emissions. During the peak of the pandemic, emissions from this sector were cut by up to 15 per cent, the study finds, largely due to the previously mentioned reductions in coal in the EU and US.

### Carbon sinks and sources

While CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels make by far the largest contribution (an average of 81 per cent over 1959-2019) to global emissions, a substantial portion (19 per cent) come from land-use change.

While fossil emissions have continued to grow, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use, land-use change and forestry “have remained relatively constant” over the past half-century, the paper says.

Land-use emissions in 2020 are “similar to the previous decade’s average” at around 6GtCO<sub>2</sub>, the researchers say. This is lower than the “anomalously high emissions in 2019”, which saw the [highest rates of deforestation in the Amazon](#) since 2008 and huge fires across [Indonesia’s carbon-rich peatlands](#).

Combining fossil and land-use emissions gives a total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of around 40GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2020, compared to 43GtCO<sub>2</sub> in 2019, the researchers say.

These carbon “sources” are partially offset by carbon “sinks” that soak up a significant portion of human-caused emissions each year. The paper estimates that the ocean and land surface absorb an average of 24 per cent and 32 per cent of annual emissions, respectively.

This leaves around 45 per cent of emissions that end up in the atmosphere each year. Here, they add to the accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> that is [warming the Earth](#). Taken together, these elements are known as the “global carbon budget”.

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## Global Carbon Project: Coronavirus causes ‘record fall’ in fossil-fuel emissions in 2020

(This differs from the commonly used term “[carbon budget](#)”, referring to the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that can be released while keeping warming below [global limits of 1.5 or 2C](#).)

This year’s budget is shown in the figure below. Values above zero represent sources of CO<sub>2</sub> and values below zero represent carbon sinks.

With the addition of this year’s emissions, the study estimates that the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will increase by 2.5 parts per million (ppm).

This is “near the 2019 growth rate”, the researchers say, despite the lower emissions. They note that large year-to-year variations in the natural land sink can cause variations in how much CO<sub>2</sub> makes to the atmosphere.

Analysis for [Carbon Brief](#) – published earlier this year – predicted that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> would rise by 2.48ppm this year. The authors added:

“This increase is 0.32ppm smaller than if there had been no lockdown – equivalent to 11 per cent of the expected rise. This means that, although global emissions are smaller, they are still continuing – just at a slower rate. Additional CO<sub>2</sub> is still accumulating in the atmosphere.”

This year’s emissions will “bring the 2020 atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to an expected level of 412ppm averaged over the year”, the paper says. This means that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels in 2020 will be 48 per cent above [pre-industrial levels](#), 16 per cent above 1990 and 3 per cent above 2015, the researchers note.

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