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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



BIATF yields Boracay rehab to Aklan provincial, Malay local governments

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by [Tara Yap](#)



A COUPLE walks on the white beach of Boracay Island with the iconic Willy's Rock in the background. (Tara Yap)

ILOILO CITY – The provincial government of Aklan and the local government of Malay are now responsible for continuing the rehabilitation of world-famous Boracay Island.

The national government's Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), turned over the responsibility to the two local governments as its mandate is set to end by June 30.

"We have already done our part. I am challenging the local governments to maintain Boracay's beauty," urged DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna during the turnover ceremony Thursday, June 16.

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista vowed that they will continue the work of the BIATF.

The BIATF was created by President Duterte in 2018 following the initial six-month closure of the country's famous beach destination to curb its environmental degradation.

Last year, Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 147 that extended the BIATF's term until June 30, the day his presidency ends.

The Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) was proposed in Congress but this did not prosper.

Sampulna, who once served as DENR Region 6 (Western Visayas) director, cited former DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu for leading the agency's efforts during much of Boracay's rehabilitation.



BIATF yields Boracay rehab to Aklan provincial, Malay local governments

DENR Region 6 director Livino Duran urged the incoming administration of President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to create an oversight committee.

Duran said that in the absence of BIATF, national government agencies, including the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), and DENR should still serve a role.

'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED': Environment chief touts Boracay wins

June 17, 2022



Former Environment and Natural Resources secretary Roy Cimatu (front row, third from left) leads a walkthrough of Bolabog Ati Pathwalk leading to the Balabag Wetland in Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan. Joining him are officials of DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways, and local government units. (Joseph B.A. Marzan photo)

By *Joseph B.A. Marzan*

"Mission accomplished, Mr. President [Duterte!]"

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Jim Sampulna on Thursday claimed victory in the Duterte administration's continuous "grand makeover" of Boracay Island in Aklan, as it turned over the island's reins to the local government.

Sampulna led the culminating activity of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), the main group composed of different national government agencies, which took charge of the island's rehabilitation and its maintenance after reopening to the public in October 2018.

The acting environment secretary took pride in how Boracay was cleaned since its closure in April 2018, citing the low levels of bacterial coliform from the island waters' samples tested.

"We can now see by the shorelines, along the beach, how Boracay has been cleaner. Before, the coliform level was by the thousands, and now I only ask for 100 plus but they give me only [between] 70 to 80, which is very much liveable. It doesn't stink anymore. All of that is because of former [DENR] Secretary Roy Cimatu. We acknowledge that much of this was planned by Secretary Cimatu," Sampulna told media.



'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED': Environment chief touts Boracay wins

He cited the wetlands, roads, and sidewalks, which were developed with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and private companies who adopted the wetlands.

"The [Balabag Wetland Park], this used to be a wasteland. Now, what you are seeing is a wetland from paradise. We have so much wetlands fixed, aside from the road, and I thank the DPWH for coming out with the roads," he said.

Sampulna said Executive Order No. 53, which created the BIATF, made him feel tough even as he said he was personally hurt by demolition works they conducted.

"My heart hurt when we started demolishing houses, even in the [beachfront]. Because of [Executive Order No. 53] from [President Duterte], who is a strong man, I also became strong. We opened so many roads, which had nice houses in their middle," he stated.

The BIATF culmination also kicks off the gradual turnover of the island's management to the local government unit (LGU) of Malay, Aklan, that is set to be completed on June 1.

Sampulna said that in addition to maintaining the island's rehabilitation, they should also seek improvement of its features, facilities, and services.

He mulled the appointment of a local ENR officer to continue monitoring the carrying capacity as well as the LGU's compliance with local and international environmental standards.

"We have done already our part, so I would challenge [the Malay LGU] to make good of what Boracay is, because Boracay is of the Filipino people, not just theirs. They need to improve and maintain this beauty of Boracay," the environment secretary said.

But the environment chief hopes that President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. would continue the gains made by the outgoing administration, mulling recommending Marcos to continue the existence of the BIATF.

"For [Marcos], we are informing you sir that Boracay is now clean, and we hope that we can keep [the island] like this. [Marcos] has a lot of experience, he is a good leader, so I think he would continue this," he stated.

"[Boracay Island] is a crown jewel of the Philippines. This is [an] internationally-known vacation and leisure beach resort [island], so if he doesn't continue [the island's maintenance], it would be difficult and our gains would be destroyed," he added.

Boracay Island was closed on April 26, 2018, via Proclamation No. 475 issued by President Rodrigo Duterte, and was reopened on October 26 of the same year.

Source: <https://dailyguardian.com.ph/mission-accomplished-environment-chief-touts-boracay-wins/?fbclid=IwAR3RR4H-5ufcc4RmElcHhc4rqIMBy7GmDAap5KtM6rRDA8atD0jY7jglhMI>



Aboitiz turns over rehabilitated Boracay wetland park to DENR and Boracay LGU

[Friday, June 17, 2022 Journal Online](#)



The Aboitiz Group was recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) after it turned over the newly rehabilitated Boracay's Balabag Wetland Park to DENR and the Boracay LGU. This comes after four years of intensive work in transforming the then "wasteland" into what is now a wetland park. From right to left, AEV Assistant Vice President for Corporate External Relations Missy De Guzman, former DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu, DENR Acting Sec. Jim Sampulna, AEV Manager for Corporate External Relations Fatima Mateo, AEV First Vice President for Corporate External Relations Christopher Camba, DENR USec Ernesto Adobo, and AEV Manager for Corporate External Relations Marc Alejo

The Aboitiz Group handed over the rehabilitated [Wetland No. 4 now known as the Balabag Wetland Park](#) to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) during a turnover ceremony held on June 16, 2022. As a testament to the Group's commitment to the preservation of biodiversity and environmental protection in the Boracay islands, the one-hectare lagoon area in Barangay Balabag has been transformed into a linear urban park in partnership with key national government agencies led by the DENR Region VI, the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The event was attended by DENR Acting Sec. Jim Sampulna, Former DENR Sec. Roy A. Cimatu, Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores, Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista, DENR USec. Ernesto Adobo Jr., EMB Exec. Director Natividad Y. Bernardino, DILG USec Epimaco Densing III, DOJ ASec Margaret Castillo – Padilla, TIEZA COO Mark Lapid, Dir. Martin Jose V. Despi from the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group (BIARMG) and various representatives from project partners.

Aboitiz turns over rehabilitated Boracay wetland park to DENR and Boracay LGU

Aboitiz Group President and Chief Executive Officer Sabin M. Aboitiz emphasized how central partnerships such as this are to the Aboitiz Group's Transformation journey. "The Aboitiz Group's contribution to Boracay's rehabilitation is part of our commitment to co-create safe, empowered, and sustainable communities. As sustainability is a major part of our Great Transformation into the Philippines' first techglomerate, we will continue to do our part to uplift and bring focus to environmentally and socially impactful initiatives for all our stakeholders. We are proud to have partnered with DENR, BMB, DPWH, TIEZA, DOT, and the LGU of Boracay to build the Balabag Wetland Park, a space that we hope continues to promote education for the community on the protection, conservation, enhancement, and rehabilitation of Boracay's natural ecosystems," said the Aboitiz chief.



A symbolic key turnover by AEV First Vice President for External Affairs Christopher Camba to DENR 6 Executive Director Livino Duran, witnessed by other representatives from the Aboitiz Group

For his part, DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna said, "The Balabag Wetland Park, formerly Wetland No. 4, is another testament to the successful wetland rehabilitation of Boracay Island. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Aboitiz Equity Ventures for being our partner in the rehabilitation and transformation of Wetland No. 4 into an urban linear park, which now serves as the center of the wetland ecotourism circuit of Boracay. May the Balabag Wetland Park serve as a success story as we capitalize on nature-based solutions such as wetland conservation and rehabilitation in our localities for a greener, more sustainable, and resilient approach to building back better."

Dir. Natividad Y. Bernardino, OIC Director of the Biodiversity Management Bureau, expressed deep appreciation for the partnership that made the rehabilitation project possible. "The DENR

Aboitiz turns over rehabilitated Boracay wetland park to DENR and Boracay LGU

and the BIATF (Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force) are grateful to the Aboitiz Group for rehabilitating Wetland No. 4 under BMB's 'Adopt-A-Wetland' program. From being a 'waste receptacle,' Wetland No. 4 has now been transformed into a lagoon with a linear park, attracting tourists and locals right in the middle of Boracay's commercial area," said Dir. Bernardino.

Since the beginning of the rehabilitation project in 2018, the Aboitiz Group has made it its aim to conceptualize and deploy nature-based solutions to create a functional public space out of the wetland area. By using low-impact eco-tourism designs, the Balabag Wetland Park has become not only a recreational space, but also an educational and experiential space by generating awareness about the importance of wetlands and creating opportunities for collaboration and partnerships among the local community, students, and even tourists.



The newly rehabilitated Wetland No. 4 or Balabag Wetland Park in Boracay is now open to locals and tourists after Aboitiz Group turned over the project to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Balabag Wetland Park has been transformed into a linear urban park in partnership with key national government agencies led by the DENR, the Department of Public Works and Highways(DPWH), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), DENR Region VI and the Department of Tourism (DOT).

Several improvements have been made in the wetland area throughout its rehabilitation, which has not only turned the Park into an enjoyable tourist spot but has also revived the biodiversity of the wetland, evidenced by the return of endemic species of plants and wild migratory birds in the area. Aerators have been installed to maintain the water quality of the lagoon, while endemic trees and plants have been planted along the lagoon's perimeter boardwalk to help rebuild the biodiversity in the area. An accompanying plaza was also constructed that serves as both a flood management measure and an attraction site for tourists and locals alike. The Balabag Wetland



Aboitiz turns over rehabilitated Boracay wetland park to DENR and Boracay LGU

Park also features an activity area for community events, and educational signages have been placed around the Park to add to the experience.

The Aboitiz Group hopes that through the partnership project, it has been able to contribute to the government's mission of imparting the value of environmental protection and the continued preservation of Philippine wetlands to the greater community.

DENR, volunteers plant trees for Environment Month

Published on: June 17, 2022

By Venus Villanueva



KALIBO, Aklan (PIA) -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (DENR-PENRO) - Aklan, together with various volunteer groups, recently planted a total of 900 tree seedlings in participation to the Nationwide Simultaneous Tree Planting Activity in celebration of the Philippine Environment Month 2022 this June.

The tree planting activity was conducted at Barangay Cabugao, Ibajay, Aklan and joined by 259 volunteers coming from national government agencies and other organizations in the province like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine National Police (PNP) Ibajay, Aklan State University (ASU) Ibajay Campus, Community Defense Unit (CDU), Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) Ibajay, Engineering Brigade, and Riders and Vloggers.

Of the 900 tree seedlings planted, 500 were Narra while 400 were Mountain Agoho, according to DENR PENRO Aklan.

DENR, volunteers plant trees for Environment Month



DENR employees and volunteers from other government agencies and organizations plant tree seedlings in Barangay Cabugao, Ibajay, Aklan in participation to the Nationwide Tree Planting Activity in celebration of the 2022 Philippine Environment Month. (Photo taken from Aklan Kalikasan FB Page of DENR-Aklan)

Theme of this year's Environment Month celebration is "Aksyon Para sa Natatanging Mundo."

Meanwhile, another activity, spearheaded by DENR PENRO Aklan early this month to protect the earth, was the conduct of a coastal clean-up together with volunteers from the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) of LGU New Washington, Aklan and from Barangay Lalab, Batan, Aklan.

The activity was in celebration of World Environment Day with the theme "Only One Earth."

The coastal clean-up, conducted at the downstream of Jal-o River in New Washington and Batan, Aklan, netted a total of 410 kilograms of solid wastes composed of plastics, PET bottles, fishing nets, rubbers, styrofoams, slippers, sanitary pads, glass bottles, rusted metals and PVC pipes.

At the clean-up activity, PENRO-Aklan head Merlene Aborka gave a brief orientation on the significance of World Environment Day, the value of natural resources, and the proper disposal of wastes.

"Everyone must be involved in making an action to protect and conserve the environment for the present and future generation," Aborka told the volunteers. (JBG/VGV/PIA 6 Aklan)



DENR distributes land titles in Cagayan Valley



By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

June 17, 2022

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) in Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)) has distributed a total of 2,383 patents to beneficiaries under the Malawakang Handog Titulo Program (MHTP).

The land titles were distributed all over Cagayan Valley, which comprises the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Isabela, Cagayan and the island province of Batanes, DENR Region 2 Executive Director [Gwendolyn Bambalan](#) said.

The recently conducted MHTP series of awarding ceremonies was in collaboration with the Registry of Deeds (RoD) represented by lawyer Melba Niña Quinto in Nueva Vizcaya, lawyer [Brenda Lyn Afalla](#) in Quirino, lawyer [Ariel Vallejo](#) in Isabela, lawyer [Herminio Sychangco Jr.](#) in Cagayan and [Maria Jocelyn Puriran](#) in Batanes.

The DENR Region 2 said the activity was in support of the government program of the Duterte administration dubbed "Pamana sa Mamamayang Pilipino: A Duterte Legacy," which is also part of the government's land disposition program under [Republic Act](#) 10023 or the "Residential [Free Patent Act](#)."

Earlier, responding to DENR acting secretary [Jim Sampulna](#) directing field officials to facilitate the land titling process in the department, Bambalan moved to strengthen the land management disposition program in the region and created a regional committee.

Bambalan said the creation of the committee is meant to deliberate all environmental and administrative cases to fasttrack the resolution of land conflicts that are relevant to the speedy issuance of patents and that through the committee, the resolution of land cases is now being facilitated.

Meanwhile, [Juan Miguel Cuna](#), DENR undersecretary for Field Operations for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, lauded the officials of the DENR, RoD and local government units (LGUs) for facilitating the patent processing and issuance of the land titles awarded.

Cuna encouraged the DENR and RoD officials to continue building partnerships with the LGUs to expedite not only the land titling process but also to facilitate the resolution of land conflicts.

Benito [Antonio de Leon](#), undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management and LGU Concerns, said the strong collaboration of the DENR with the different LGU partners and the RoD sustained its activities under the land administration and management program.

De Leon explained that the Handog Titulo program aims primarily to uplift the socioeconomic condition of farmer-beneficiaries by encouraging investments and empowering them through having the security of tenure over their property.



DENR distributes land titles in Cagayan Valley

Bambalan has encouraged patent beneficiaries to make use of their land productively to uplift their livelihood and economic condition.

The patent awardees were also given seedlings as part of the DENR's environment month celebration.



DENR claims no trace of illegal activities in Sierra Madre landslide

Published June 17, 2022, 11:45 PM

by [Liezle Basa Iñigo](#)

QUIRINO — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 2 claimed that there were no traces of illegal activities in Sierra Madre.



Photo from the DENR

Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan of the DENR issued the statement after conducting an investigation to determine the cause of a landslide which covers an approximate average width of 90 meters and total height of 1,592 meters above sea level.

The landslide took place at Sitio Diariong, Barangay Villa Gracia, Maddela, Quirino.

"The landslide incident was a natural occurrence due to heavy rains," stressed director Bambalan.

The investigating team was composed of personnel from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices of San Isidro in Isabela and Nagtipunan in Quirino and the local government units of San Agustin and Maddela towns.

Bambalan added that the area is covered with mossy forest and limestone rock formation within the Quirino Protected Landscape.

She also noted that the team discovered bedrocks and boulders along the Sili Creek found at the foot of the incident area, and discolored flowing water from the top of the landslide site.

Bambalan also noted the absence of inhabitants or community in the area and that no traces of illegal activities were found in the site and nearby areas.

The investigators spent almost a week to reach the exact location of the landslide in the mountain.



DENR claims no trace of illegal activities in Sierra Madre landslide

The agency has yet to ascertain the condition of the uppermost area of the mountain and determine what possibly caused the landslide incident.

The DENR together with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau has scheduled aerial surveillance in coordination with proper authorities to identify what caused the landslide.

The DENR conducted the investigation after a netizen posted on his Facebook account photos of landslide with caption 'Mahal naming Sierra Madre, baki it may sugat ka, sana'y huwag lumala ang sugat mo. Sanay mapansin natin ito.'

The post went viral in social media with 17,000 reactions when shared by Philippine Weather System/Pacific Storm Update.

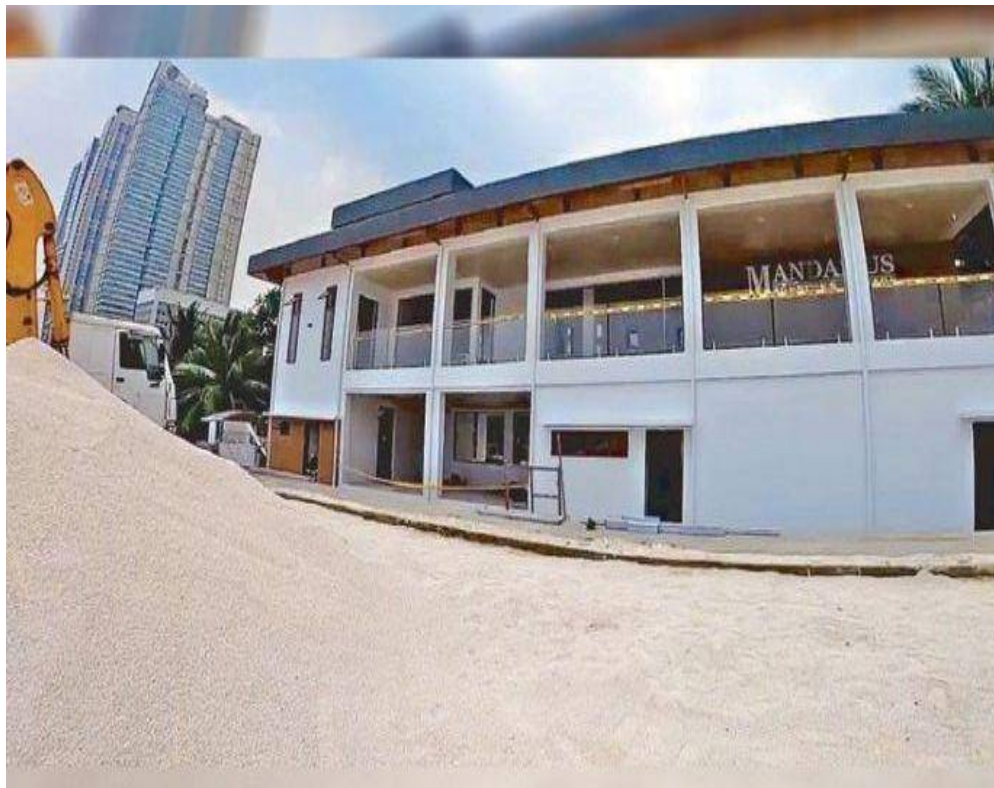
Ervin Suguitan, employee of LGU San Agustin, Isabela and a freelance photographer of San Agustin Isabela took the photos on May 28 and posted them on his FB account on May 29.

"Naisipan ko lang na ipost noon kasi nababahala ako kasi noong nagpaki ta yan, naging chocolate ang Cagayan river sa amin," he told the Manila Bulletin.



DENR: Building at dolomite beach for 'mandamus agencies'

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star)
- June 18, 2022 - 12:00am



The Mandamus building is under construction in a screengrab from a video uploaded on YouTube by Sam Albuero on June 11.

STAR/ File

MANILA, Philippines — A two-story building is under construction at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach to house personnel of 13 agencies tasked to implement the Supreme Court (SC)'s writ of continuing mandamus to rehabilitate Manila Bay, a Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) official said yesterday.

DENR Undersecretary for policy, planning and international affairs Jonas Leones said among the agencies that will make use of the building, which sits on a 200-square-meter area, are the DENR; the departments of public works and highways, interior and local government, national defense, budget and management, education and health; Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the Local Water Utilities Administration.

The SC, in 2008, gave the 13 agencies 10 years to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay and restore and maintain its waters to make it fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.

"The target is for the building to be completed before the next administration comes in. The plan is for the representatives of said government agencies to hold office there so they can have easy or immediate access to the area," Leones said.



DENR: Building at dolomite beach for 'mandamus agencies'

"If there is a need to hold meetings, it will be easy for them since they are already being housed under one building. Even policemen will be deployed there, and (closed-circuit television cameras) will be installed," he added.



5 CLuzon LGUs get Manila BAYani Award

By [Jerry M. Hernandez](#)

June 18, 2022

FIVE local government units (LGUs) in Central [Luzon](#) have been conferred the [Manila Bayani Awards](#) by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR). The recognitions were a result of significant efforts and contributions of the LGUs in the cleanup and rehabilitation of the [Manila Bay](#) area. Balanga in [Bataan](#) and Palayan in Nueva Ecija were among the cities that were given awards while the other three recipients were Sasmuan town and the Environment and [Natural Resources Office](#) of the provincial government of Pampanga and Marilao in Bulacan. Acting Environment Secretary [Jim Sampulna](#) lauded the LGU awardees for exerting efforts to help the agency in the massive cleanup of major river systems and tributaries within the Manila Bay area in the region. "Congratulations to all the awardees. With your relentless support, we will ultimately win this battle for Manila Bay," he said during the awarding ceremony. DENR [Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr.](#) thanked their partner LGUs for continuously supporting the Manila Bay rehabilitation program. "It is through our strategic partnership and collective efforts that we have been able to execute activities that brought significant contributions and progress in our rehabilitation efforts," he said. Moreno added that among such efforts include daily cleanup drives, grubbing, trash trap installation, and establishment of toilet facilities. The Manila BAYani Awards aims to recognize LGUs, groups, and individuals that have shown exemplary and innovative strategies in the implementation of the Manila Bay cleanup and rehabilitation program. Since the massive cleanup of the Manila Bay started in 2019, over 280,000 tons of waste have been collected from more than 37,000 river and coastal cleanups in the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.



'Estero rangers' lauded

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

June 18, 2022

THE Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Pampanga lauded the efforts of the "estero rangers" of this town in the battle to protect Manila Bay and in the various environment programs of the Department of Environment and natural Resources (DENR).

Penro Pampanga officer Roger V. Encarnacion and Mayor Dante Torres presented certificates of recognition to the estero rangers in simple ceremonies at the Plaza Burgos Park in Guagua towns. Estero rangers are tasked by the DENR as additional manpower in the protection of vital waterways.

Estero rangers are tasked to conduct removal of garbage from esteros fitted with trash traps and house-to-house garbage collection in selected alleys for transfer and storage at pickup points accessible to garbage trucks.

Estero rangers also serve as the communication link between the agency and the community in connection with the ongoing rehabilitation of Manila Bay.



Next DENR should be conservation champion, not bureaucrat — groups

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - PhilStar.com

June 16, 2022 | 12:39pm



A man arrives at a shallow part of Agos River, where the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is planning to build a dam.

PhilStar.com / Efigenio Toledo IV

MANILA, Philippines — The next environment secretary should be a champion for conservation and protector of environment defenders, green groups said Thursday as they stressed risks brought by the climate crisis.

In a joint statement, the organizations urged President-elect Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to appoint an environment secretary who will bring about transformative change to the department mandated to manage the country's natural resources and ensure a healthful ecology for all Filipinos.

"It can no longer be business as usual," they said.

Signatories include Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Earth Island Institute Philippines, The Manila Observatory, Kids for Kids, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, and Living Laudato Si'.

The DENR under the Duterte administration focused on rehabilitating Boracay island and other tourist destinations, cleaning degraded waterways such as Manila Bay, and improving the management of solid waste.

Why is this important?

Forest loss persists in the country, with only 3% of the primary forests left.



Next DENR should be conservation champion, not bureaucrat — groups

As an archipelagic nation, the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts such as strong cyclones, flooding and sea level rise, which disproportionately affect the poor.

The Philippines has also been consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous countries for environmental and land activists.

"More than being a regulator or bureaucrat, the environment secretary must be a fierce, progressive, and passionate champion of the conservation of forests and biodiversity, the protection of environment defenders, and the enforcement of environmental laws, over and above the interests of a few," the groups said.



Fish 'spillover' seen as NegOr town's marine reserves thrive

By Mary Judaline Partlow June 17, 2022, 5:36 pm



MARINE RESERVE. Fish are thriving in this undated photograph of a Marine Protected Area in Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental. The town now has 10 no-take marine reserves to allow fisheries to recoup, even as signs of spillover have been reported in recent months. *(Photo courtesy of Wilbert Partosa/Zamboangita Coastal Resource Management Office)*

DUMAGUETE CITY – Marine protected areas (MPAs) in the municipality of Zamboanguita in Negros Oriental are thriving, with some of them already showing signs of "spillover" a few years after they were identified as fish sanctuaries.

Wilbert Partosa, officer-in-charge of the town's Coastal Resource Management Office, said in a phone interview Friday there are 10 MPAs spread out in different villages, some of them sharing boundaries.

"I went diving recently with some other divers in the marine reserves as part of our regular monitoring and some fish species have spawned and we can see indications of spillover already," he said in mixed English and Cebuano.

Three of the MPAs were initially established in 1999 while the rest were proposed in 2017 during the administration of incumbent Mayor Glenson Alanano. One of the MPAs is under the diving ordinance because of its rich seagrass beds unlike the others that have coral formations but it is still protected, he said.

"After having gone through the processes with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), consultations with the communities, fisherfolk, and other stakeholders, the town council finally approved the ordinance declaring the establishment of the additional MPAs last year," Partosa said.



Fish 'spillover' seen as NegOr town's marine reserves thrive

Also known as marine reserves, these MPAs are designed to regulate activities to protect and preserve underwater resources as well as to allow fisheries to recoup, he said.

Unregulated fishing in the past decades led to a decline in fisheries not only in Zamboanguita but in other parts of the province, local marine scientists had previously reported.

Partosa said fishing inside the MPAs is not allowed, while snorkeling and scuba diving within the reserve requires a permit/ticket from the local government unit, costing PHP50 and PHP200 per person, respectively.

In the early days of the establishment of the MPAs, some marginal fisherfolk showed resistance as they did not understand clearly and were not present during consultations on the future benefits of these marine sanctuaries, he noted.

Organized fishermen's associations, meanwhile, are supporting the MPAs after they realized that in a few years, their fish catch will improve from the spillovers, Partosa said. Further, there are still plenty of fishing grounds in other parts of the town.

As more beach resorts and dive shops are sprouting in Zamboanguita, the LGU is also looking at striking a balance between pump-priming its local economy while promoting eco-tourism as a stable source of income, Partosa said.

Twenty Bantay Dagat or sea patrol volunteer organizations help to ensure that the MPAs are safe from illegal encroachment while also implementing local ordinances on protecting the environment.

The Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime Group and the Coast Guard are also assisting in law enforcement.

On the other hand, the Zamboanguita Diving and Leisure Resorts Association (ZDLRA), which recently inducted its new officials, has committed to helping safeguard the MPAs, some of which are situated near or fronting their property, Partosa said.

Some of the attractions of the town include underwater macro-photography, with minute marine creatures usually found in seagrass beds, and the famed Wednesday flea market at Sitio Maluay in Barangay Malatapay, which is co-located with the wharf that is the closest jump-off point for tourists taking motorized boats to the world-renowned dive destination, Apo Island.

Now that fish in these no-take marine reserves are already starting to flourish, Partosa said with the cooperation of all stakeholders, Zamboanguita will have sustainable fisheries in the future while becoming one of Negros Oriental's favorite tourist destinations that will spur economic growth. (PNA)



'Crown-of-thorns' starfish threatens Sarangani town's marine life

By Richelyn Gubalani June 17, 2022, 11:52 am



PLUCKING THE THREAT. Sea divers in Sarangani province pull Crown of Thorns (COTS) starfish from the coral reefs of Sarangani Bay due to their rapid population growth. The Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape Office on Friday (June 17, 2022) warned that if not controlled, the COTS could destroy the marine life balance along the shores of the province. *(Photo courtesy of SBPSO)*

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – An official of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) in Sarangani province warned Friday of an impending outbreak of the Crown of Thorns (COTS) starfish in the waters of Glan town.

"If not immediately controlled, it would most likely affect the livelihood of fishermen in the area," Cirilo Lagnason Jr., SBPS deputy protected area superintendent, said in an interview.

The coastal town of Glan in the southern part of the province is still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Lagnason said more dive spots recently had an increase of hundreds of starfish within a 100 square meter radius of the municipality's shorelines.

"We encourage stakeholders such beach owners and big companies in Sarangani doing tree planting activities as part of their social corporate responsibility to also help us in our problem because we need an urgent solution," Lagnason said.

He described COTS as a major cause of coral loss as it rapidly destroys large parts of the reef in the province.



'Crown-of-thorns' starfish threatens Sarangani town's marine life

"As we know, fish live in the reef. Without the coral reef, we won't have any fish living around, so we need to act fast to stop it," he said.

The venomous COTS or *Acanthaster planci*, is one of the largest starfish worldwide that preys upon hard, or stony, coral polyps.

Cutting the COTS into pieces can regenerate into multiple starfish and make the problem worse.

Injecting the starfish with vinegar or bile salts is an effective means of destroying the coral killers.

The waters of Sarangani Bay have rich fishing grounds. Local folk depends mostly on fishing, and it has been their primary source of living.

Lagnason said with the help of divers, they have managed to safely remove 175,000 COTS since October 2021. (PNA)



Dredging activity sa Marikina River, patuloy

Published on: June 17, 2022

Updated as of June 17, 2022 3:22 pm

By Jimmyley Guzman



Mga kuha mula sa Marikina PIO

LUNGSOD PASIG, (PIA) -- Nagpapatuloy ang dredging activity sa Marikina River bilang bahagi ng ng proyekto ng pamahalaang lungsod laban sa pagbaha.

Ayon kay Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro regular na ginagawa ang dredging activity upang hindi agad umapaw ang ilog sa oras na bumuhos ang malakas na ulan.



Dredging activity sa Marikina River, patuloy

Anim (6) na backhoe kasama ang amphibious excavator ang sabay-sabay na naghuhukay sa ilog sa bahagi ng Brgy. Tumana at sa bahagi ng Marikina River Park upang tanggalin ang mga dumepositong banlik, putik, buhangin at iba pang materyales na natatangay mula sa kabundukan.

Idinagdag pa ni Teodoro na ang patuloy na dredging activity ay para sa kapanatagan at kaligtasan ng mga taga-Marikina lalo na ng mga nakatira malapit sa ilog lalo na't kung tag-ulan. (*Marikina City/PIA-NCR*)



Masungi Georeserve

17 hrs · 🌐

LOOK: Stories about Masungi Georeserve were once more raised in international discussions through Masungi volunteer Gio Almonte. He joined the recent **Stockholm+50** conference in Sweden on June 3 along with other global environmental leaders.

In his blog about the two-day meeting, Almonte mentioned, "I shared the experiences being faced by Masungi Georeserve regarding land-based issues as well as the current positions of an indigenous group affected by the activities within a protected area. As I spoke at that time, I told them that the concern is somewhat inevitable due to the silent response of the government, specifically the local environmental agency that should be at the frontline of sustaining the protected area and working together with indigenous groups in the PA."

Among the green champions Almonte conversed with are the following:

Photo 1: Philda Nani Kereng, Botswana's Minister of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation & Tourism

Photo 2: Members of the "Fridays for the Future," a movement founded by climate activist Greta Thunberg

Photo 3: Associate Professor Maria Ivanova from the University of Massachusetts Boston's Global Governance and Director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability

Photo 4: Alejandro Luque of Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force

Stockholm+50 is an international meeting assembled by the United Nations, hosted by Sweden, and supported by the Government of Kenya. Environment leaders attending the event forge 50 years of multilateral environmental action to carry out urgent solutions to guarantee a healthy planet in the future.

Join the movement to **#SaveMasungi** and collaborate with us at communications@masungigeoreserve.com.

#Stockholm50



Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/masungigeoreserve/posts/pfbid02tBQPYbyVs3dGpWRfWjuCtyZC4K2jDRDFD1jughfRrtFA3dtv24Dhzp1QNWfnDxpSI>

Quick fixes may deepen energy, climate risks

ADB financing for RE projects, not fossil gas, being pushed by civil society organizations



[BYCAI ORDINARIO](#)

JUNE 18, 2022



[Jimmy Domingo](#)

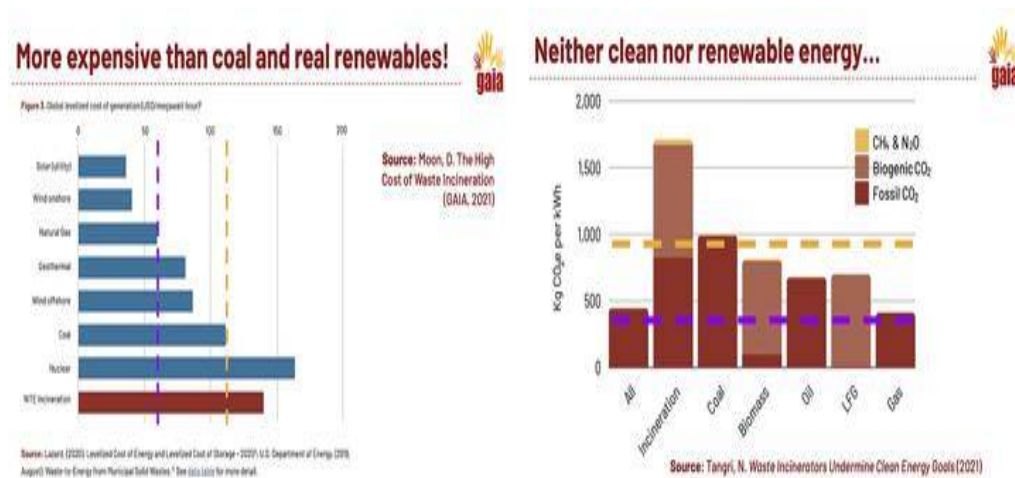
Climate campaigners stage a protest at the Asian Development Bank headquarters in Mandaluyong City on June 15, 2022, to call on the participants of the 2022 Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) to commit to make the low-carbon energy transition in Asia and the Pacific happen quickly enough to stay under the 1.5°C limit for global warming– this means a just transition to renewable energy before 2050. ACEF is one of the largest international events covering key aspects of clean energy promotion in Asia. High-level decision-makers, investors, businesses, and experts from Asia and throughout the world attend the event. It is hosted and co-organized annually by the ADB.

THE Asian Development Bank's (ADB) efforts to finance renewable energy (RE) and not false solutions such as fossil gas should be scaled up before it's too late, according to civil society organizations (CSOs).

In a briefing on Thursday, NGO Forum on ADB Energy Campaigns and Policy Strategist Tanya Lee Roberts-Davis said investing in fossil gas, or "short-sighted technocratic fixes" such as carbon capture technologies, should be replaced with investments in clean energy sources.



Quick fixes may deepen energy, climate risks



Roberts-Davis said attendees at the recent Asia Clean Energy Forum 2022 were mainly composed of private proponents who were pushing for the adoption of “risky, speculative projects such as green and blended hydrogen” and have the most to gain from these proposals.

“So, who has been in the room so far that we’ve seen at the Asian clean energy forum? It’s been primarily private-sector proponents, centering the discussion on risky speculative projects, such as green and blended hydrogen production and carbon capture projects, waste-to-energy projects and others,” Roberts-Davis said.

“For these we remain highly cognizant that the key actors behind the push for a hydrogen society and for the expansion of carbon capture schemes are primarily oil and gas companies. As by design, these are the ones that will reap the profit of prolonged reliance on fossil fuels,” she added.

Roberts-Davis said the ADB should heed the call of CSOs. If the aim of ADB is to help the region attain net-zero, it must invest in renewables which is the only way the bank can meet the Paris Climate accord.

Roberts-Davis: “We are reiterating our collective assertion to the ADB that the surest way to tackle economic climate and energy injustice, and to support a rights-based pathway that aims to avoid overshooting 1.5 degrees, would be to pivot entirely away from the systems that are carbon- and resource-intensive, as well as heavy greenhouse emitters.”

“So in this regard, in relation to ACEF, we are reiterating our collective assertion to the ADB that the surest way to tackle economic climate and energy injustice, and to support a rights-based pathway that aims to avoid overshooting 1.5 degrees, would be to pivot entirely away from the systems that are carbon- and resource-intensive, as well as heavy greenhouse emitters,” she stressed.

Fossil gas is not clean energy, as explained by Avril de Torres of the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development (CEED), who said these are composed of methane that traps heat in the atmosphere “far more effectively than carbon dioxide.”



Quick fixes may deepen energy, climate risks

De Torres said because of this, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also said in its 2021 assessment report that methane emissions should also be drastically reduced.

What is worrisome, she said, is that Southeast Asia already has 117 gigawatts while East Asia has 77 gigawatts of new fossil gas power plant capacity that are still in the construction phase.

In the report "Financing a Fossil Future," CEED said 29.9 gigawatts of capacity is currently planned to expand gas development in the Philippines. Half or 14.1 gigawatts of the proposed gas expansion is being undertaken by San Miguel Corporation Global Power Corporation (SMC Global Power).

"Alarmingly, 84 percent of total financing for midstream gas projects mapped in the report are found to have been linked to public financial institutions. But ADB's financing is not limited to the midstream industry that is also found to have funded the 2,500-megawatt gas power plants," De Torres said.

"As ADB hosts its annual ACEF, we want to remind them that fossil gas is not a clean energy. It is primarily composed of methane which leaks into the atmosphere at every stage of its life. Methane traps heat in the atmosphere far more effectively than carbon dioxide," she added.

Plastic problem

In a statement, Yobel Putra, of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives-Asia Pacific, said apart from these, plastic is also on track to become a bigger climate problem compared to coal.

Waste-to-energy (WTE) incineration is considered as a false climate solution, Putra said in a presentation on Thursday, since it is a carbon-intensive process that undermines carbon neutrality.

This is the reason for the European Union's decision to exclude WTE from its Sustainable Finance Taxonomy and "gradually withdraw" its financing for these types of activities.

"It harms rather than supports the transition to a circular economy [discouraging waste prevention and recycling] while tending to lock in an increasing generation of waste over time," he said in a presentation.

"Substituting one form of dirty fossil fuel with another and claiming it as renewable is greenwashing. Worse, ADB's suggestion to couple its climate harming projects with carbon capture technology is a huge distraction. Our time is running out, ADB should stop becoming a climate criminal before it is too late," he also said in a statement.

Civil society groups from across Asia are condemning the Asian Development Bank's Asia Clean Energy Forum 2022, hosted from June 14 to 17, as failing to provide a platform for discussion about real climate and energy solutions grounded in science and the lived realities of the region's diverse communities.

To highlight critical concerns about the ADB's proposed and current energy investments, a range of events are being organized online and in person by community groups and their allies.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/18/quick-fixes-may-deepen-energy-climate-risks/>



Starbucks Philippines aims to 'go greener', operator says

Jekki Pascual, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Jun 17 2022 06:20 PM

MANILA - Starbucks Philippines on Friday said it would "go greener" as part of its sustainability program to help protect the environment.

Starbucks is upgrading its sustainable efforts to care for the environment, Starbucks Philippines franchisee Rustan Coffee Corp president Noey Lopez said in a briefing.

"We really try to go greener," said Lopez as other officials listed down new ways consumers can experience a more earth-friendly coffee experience.

Among the sustainability efforts includes reducing plastic waste, offering straw-less lid or the use of paper straws, the company said.

Starbucks also has a personal cup program where consumers get a discount if they bring their own cup. Cups made of recyclable materials are also available, it said.

Lopez added that not only are some of their products green but the construction of branches as well.

Its drive-thru branch in Taguig is LEED-certified and some stores have solar panels.

"We want to really reduce our environmental footprint," Lopez said.

Lopez shared that during the pandemic, the closing of branches was minimal and that most jobs were retained.

Starbucks Philippines also said it would disburse a \$70,000 (P3.7 million) grant to three non-government organizations, namely Gawad Kalinga, House Project, and Teach for the Philippines



PAGTATAYO NG 'FOSSIL GAS' TINUTULAN

[June 16, 2022 jp admin](#)



"FOSSIL gas will not make our world better!"

Ito ang ipinahayag ng consumers, environmental and energy advocacy groups kaugnay ng plano umanong pagtatayo nito ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC) sa ginanap na Annual Stockholders meeting nitong Miyerkoles.

Dahil dito ay lumusob ang grupong Power for People Coalition (P4P) at Protect VIP sa SMC headquarters na may dalang San Miguel beer cans na kinortehan ng 'fossil gas plant' upang ihayag na ang SMC ay hindi lamang 'iconic' sa kanilang beer, kundi sila rin ang biggest developer ng fossil gas sa Pilipinas at Southeast Asia na may higit 14 GW new fossil gas kapasidad na kanilang iminumungkahi.

"Building dependence on fossil gas means dependence on imported fuels, exposure to volatile power supply and prices, leaving consumers to the constant threat of rising electricity rates, and vulnerability to geopolitical shocks globally – on top of an already catastrophic climate crisis triggered by fossil fuels. This is the kind of future that SMC is locking us in," pahayag ni Gerry Arances, Convenor of P4P.

Para sa P4P, Protect VIP, at mga kaalyadong grupo, ang fossil gas ay hindi rin mahusay gaya ng coal kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang affordability, sustainability, o promotion of national energy security.

"As SMC's stockholders meet today, we wonder if the hardships they bring with their fossil gas projects ever figure in their discussions – or if SMC's rising revenues are all that matter. As one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines, SMC has the ability to influence the quality of life of



PAGTATAYO NG 'FOSSIL GAS' TINUTULAN

Filipinos. They should be held accountable if they negatively use it to promote detrimental and costly energy," dagdag ni Arances.

Binansagan bilang 'clean' na alternatibo sa coal, ang fossil gas at ang kanyang supercooled form na liquefied natural gas (LNG) ay ipinagmamalaki bilang 'transition' fuel sa gitna ng mga panawagang palitan ng renewable energy dahil sa global climate targets.

"Fossil gas technologies would operate for a minimum number of 25-35 years, effectively stalling the actual development of genuine renewable energy infrastructures in Negros Occidental and other islands, taking the Philippines on a detour away from a real clean energy transition amidst worsening climate impacts," pahayag naman ni Bianca Montilla ng Youth for Climate Hope (Y4CH) ng Negros Occidental, kung saan ay plano ng SMC na magtayo ng 300 MW LNG plant.

Kabilang sa mga grupong tumututol sa fossil gas ang ECOSILAK – Youth for VIP, na kabilang sa grupong Protect Verde Island Passage (Protect VIP) network, PALAG Na! sa Ozamiz at Davao City sa Mindanao, Konsyumer Negros, Youth for Climate Hope sa Negros Occidental, SM-ZOTO sa Navotas, Freedom from Debt Coalition sa Tabango, Leyte, Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, KPML, Sanlakas, at Partido Lakas ng Masa sa Cebu. (TJ DELOS REYES)

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/107427980954216/posts/pfbid02tcXFbDZfPTgjuwBQrcDm8AXSTecwi55up3wh1pECZcaKBABR54OoDvjs8xi9kudNAI/?app=fbl>



City councilor recycles election tarpaulins



By [Jerico Joshua Kahulugan](#)

June 18, 2022

[TUGUEGARAO CITY](#), Cagayan: Tuguegarao City Councilor-elect Tirso Mangada initiated the recycling of used election tarpaulins collected during the "Oplan Baklas" cleanup drive.

Mangada said all collected campaign materials were converted to reusable eco-bags which will be given free to ambulant vendors in this city.

"Matapos [ang](#) halos isang buwan noong tayo ay nagsagawa ng Oplan Baklas ng mga campaign materials [sa](#) katapos na halalan ay hindi natin sinayang ang pagkakataon na ma-convert ang mga tarpaulins into bags, ma-recycle at gawing kapakipakinabang ang mga ito (After almost a month of cleaning up the campaign materials used in the recently-concluded elections, we did not waste the chance to convert the tarpaulins into bags)," Mangada said to The [Manila Times](#).

His supporters volunteered to convert the election materials to a usable material for ambulant vendors.

"Sa tulong ng mananahi from Annafunan West na si Nanay [Rebecca Nozaleda](#) na suportado din ng kanyang asawa na si Tatay Benjamin San Gabriel Nozaleda at kanilang mga anak ay nag-boluntaryo ito upang suportahan din ang ating adbokasiya para sa mga campaign materials na ating nabaklas (With the help of a seamstress from Annafunan West, Nanay Rebecca Nozaleda, who is supported by her husband Tatay Benjamin San Gabriel Nozaleda and their children who volunteered to support our advocacy to recycle the campaign materials that we collected) " he said.



Economic strength lies in biodiversity

June 18, 2022

A STUDY released this week by the [Academy of Sciences Malaysia](#) makes the case that environmental and biodiversity preservation, far from being a cost sink for Southeast [Asian countries](#), is in reality a core part of the economy. These findings should give added urgency to the development of a robust environmental policy by the incoming [Marcos](#) administration.

The study, "The Nexus of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Socioeconomic Development in Southeast Asia," is the first to quantify the economic value of conservation and biodiversity in the region, which is home to three of the world's 17 so-called megadiverse countries, namely, the [Philippines](#), [Indonesia](#) and [Malaysia](#).

According to the report, the biodiversity found in Southeast Asia pumps some \$2.19 trillion into the regional economy in terms of jobs, tourism assets and other conservation-related economic activities.

The paper provides several examples of biodiversity projects that have resulted in considerable economic gains, including the [Mount Kitanglad Range Natural Park](#) (MKRNP) in Mindanao, which is a preserve for the critically endangered Philippine eagle. Establishing the park has not only helped to protect the birds and their habitat, it has paid dividends in providing livelihood opportunities for the three Indigenous communities in the area, the Higaonon, Talaandig and Bukidnon, through work in managing the park and in expanded ecotourism opportunities. Other countries where there are similarly economically beneficial projects noted by the study include Indonesia, Malaysia, [Laos](#), Vietnam and Thailand.

The study's timing is significant because countries around the world, including all 10 members of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (Asean) are currently negotiating a global strategy to conserve nature through the [United Nations](#) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The key goal of the convention is to formulate a science-based policy to protect or conserve at least 30 percent of the planet's land and ocean by 2030, dubbed the "30 x 30" plan.

The Academy of Sciences researchers thus are presenting a formidable argument that conservation efforts provide more than intangible, qualitative benefits, and are actually drivers of economic growth. By quantifying the economic value of biodiversity, the research study presents a stark choice: if countries allow it to erode through unsustainable development, that value will be deducted from their economies; but if they increase their efforts to preserve biodiversity, their economies will grow.

Overlooked priorities

The research study only makes broad and admittedly somewhat ambiguous suggestions about how biodiversity could be prioritized in economic planning, presenting a case for adopting a policy perspective rather than a road map for how that policy might be carried out. And of course, the country cannot simply forego other economic priorities that are necessary for its well-being and growth — energy supply, agricultural development, housing, infrastructure, business expansion and so on.

What makes the study valuable, however, is that it provides a guide and a rationale for pursuing some particular priorities that have been overlooked, to the country's detriment environmentally



Economic strength lies in biodiversity

as well as economically. Perhaps foremost among these is the long-overdue creation of the [National Land Use Act](#), which would clearly define the purpose of the various parts of the Philippines' lands, and prevent irresponsible developments such as deforestation, mining in ecological or culturally sensitive areas, or conversion of agricultural lands to create environmentally unfriendly residential sprawl.

Another area that should receive a much greater policy emphasis is support for research and development across a variety of sectors. Agriculture perhaps comes to mind first because of the critical need for food security, but research in sustainable development and methodologies is also badly needed in areas such as energy, engineering and construction, [waste management](#), and transportation.

The most important takeaway from the recent study is its demonstration in objective terms that responsible environmental management and conservation does not have to be a trade-off for economic development. Too often, conservation is viewed as a luxury for which the country cannot always afford to make sacrifices, but it is clear that is not unavoidable. As the study shows, an economic policy that champions conservation and sustainability is not only an enhancement to growth, it is a necessity.

Today's crises are different

The fallout from Covid-19, climate change and conflicts are no longer isolated pockets of misery. We need a new multilateral system – one mirroring national schemes on taxes, incentives and accountability – to provide global public goods.



Climate change-induced drought in Mongolia. Image: [Asian Development Bank](#), [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#) via Flickr



By [Mauricio Cárdenas](#)
4 minute read June 17, 2022

Just as one generation gives way to the next, global challenges are superseded by a new cohort. The once-in-a-century Covid-19 pandemic – and the risk that other dangerous new viruses may emerge at any time – is far from the only example. Extreme weather events resulting from climate change are having catastrophic consequences. Information technology and data are sometimes used maliciously or for cyberwarfare. Even today's surging food prices and rising global hunger can be traced to a failure to disseminate open-source technologies.

We seemingly live in a permanent state of danger. Crises are no longer isolated tail-risk events that affect a few. They are much more frequent, multidimensional, and interdependent, and – because they transcend national borders – have the potential to affect everyone simultaneously.

Today's crises are different

Moreover, they involve so many externalities that both markets and national governments have insufficient incentive to solve them.

Solutions to these problems depend on the availability of global public goods, but the current international system is unable to provide a sufficient supply. We need major coordinated investments in pandemic preparedness and response, for example, or to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions (a global public bad), because no individual country's actions will resolve today's crises, much less prevent new ones.

A rethink of the way multilateralism works is imperative. The post-war international financial architecture was designed to support national governments so that they could provide national public goods. The priority now is to think about the new institutions required to provide public goods that transcend national borders.

The overlapping nature of current crises makes an even stronger case for a new framework. Greater frequency of extreme weather events, such as flooding and droughts, heighten the risk of infectious and water-borne diseases. Rising average temperatures and altered rainfall patterns are reducing the [potential yield](#) of staple crops (by 6 per cent in the case of maize, for example) that are crucial for food security – an essential component of good health. In 2010-19, the proportion of the global land surface suffering [extreme drought](#) in any month reached 22 per cent, up from 13 per cent in 1950-99.

Previous emergencies, like the global financial crisis of 2008-09 (which was really a developed-world phenomenon) or the Asian and Latin American financial crisis of the late 1990s, were essentially economic in nature, resulting from the excessive accumulation of financial risks. The solutions were in the hands of central bankers and finance ministers. They included new financial regulations and fiscal and monetary policies to restore lost employment and output.

Today's crises, in contrast, are interdependent and truly global in scope, with a potentially much greater impact. What is distinctive is that solutions no longer depend exclusively on the competence of national economic authorities. Addressing them effectively requires leadership and action between governments around the world. One example of this approach is the proposed [Global Health Threats Council](#). The early detection of pandemic threats and the development of herd immunity against known pathogens is a classic case of a [non-rival and non-excludable](#) global public good.

But taxpayers in individual countries lack the incentives to provide goods whose benefits are enjoyed globally. Moreover, we cannot expect official development assistance (ODA) or philanthropy to do the job. The numbers simply don't add up. ODA totalled [\\$180 billion last year](#), with private donors adding a few billion more. But global public goods require trillions of dollars. Moreover, aid budgets are too cyclical, and priorities shift. But what seems urgent and politically appealing does not always coincide with what is important, which should be the focus of global public goods.

The world is unprepared to cope with the new generation of crises. Rather than focusing only on deficiencies in one particular area when a crisis hits, we need to understand why we are systematically bad at producing the global public goods that all these new crises require.

Today's crises are different

That is why we need to introduce a new multilateral system. Ideally, its main elements should mirror the tools used to provide national public goods: taxation, incentives, and accountability.

Since global public goods require significant and stable financing, we should focus on building global fiscal capacity, universally funded on an ability-to-pay basis. Leadership at the national level is of course also required to ensure an adequate cross-government and cross-sectoral response.

Providing taxpayers and governments with the right incentives to act will not be easy. But most governments take the International Monetary Fund's periodic [Article IV consultations](#) very seriously; including an assessment of how they are addressing climate and pandemic risks would be a good start. Likewise, credit-rating agencies should expand the methodologies they use to assess risks for governments and corporations.

The world is unprepared to cope with the new generation of crises. Rather than focusing only on deficiencies in one particular area when a crisis hits, we need to understand why we are systematically bad at producing the global public goods that all these new crises require. Unless we address this issue, specific gaps will continue to appear. If another pandemic threat were to emerge tomorrow, for example, [we would be no better prepared](#) than we were for Covid-19.

The current climate, health, and food crises should trigger the global collaboration needed to tackle such threats. If they don't, it is fair to ask what would.

Mauricio Cárdenas, a former finance minister of Colombia, is Visiting Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.



Australia addresses climate issues



By Agence France-Presse

June 18, 2022



FIERY DEVASTATION In this photo provided by the [Department of Fire and Emergency Services](#), a firefighter attends to a fire near Wooroloo, northeast of Perth, [Australia](#) on Feb. 2, 2021. AP FILE PHOTO

SYDNEY: Flood, fire and drought-battered Australia is trying to clean up its act on climate change, but dependence on fossil fuel riches could stymie the national makeover.

Center-left Prime Minister [Anthony Albanese](#) swept to power in May promising weary Australians that he would tackle climate change.

He followed through on a key plank of that promise Thursday, nearly doubling the country's 2030 emissions reduction target to 43 percent.

Albanese faces a thorny dilemma: Australians want real steps to slow global heating, but they live in a country that depends on exporting the fossil fuels that cause it.

Australia's emissions — while high per person — account for just over 1 percent of global emissions.

Much more significant are the fossil fuels dug up in Australia and burned overseas.



Australia addresses climate issues

Estimates differ, but these could account for anywhere between three and five percent of global emissions, making Australia one of the world's largest carbon polluters.

Another beneficiary of the May election wants to put an end to that.

"You don't end the climate wars by opening up new coal and gas mines," said Australian [Greens](#) leader [Adam Bandt](#), whose party now holds the balance of power in the Senate and wants radical energy reform in return for working with the government.

The sticking point for the Greens, Bandt told [Agence France-Presse](#) (AFP), was that the government had pledged support for 114 new coal and gas projects already in Australia's investment pipeline.

Modeling by the Greens found these projects would more than double Australia's emissions.

"None of these new projects the government wants to open are factored into their climate modelling," Bandt said.

Wilder climate

First discovered in 1791, Australia's vast coal deposits make it the world's second-largest exporter.

It is also one of the top exporters of gas — mostly natural gas and gas exploited from coal seams.

Fossil fuels account for about a quarter of Australian exports, with most destined for Japan, China and South Korea, according to Reserve Bank of Australia analysis.

Domestically, about 70 percent of electricity comes from coal and gas, according to official figures.

Given the economic sensitivities, the Albanese government has so far dodged calls to set a deadline for withdrawal from the sector, arguing international markets will decide when coal is no longer viable.

The approach may quell dissent from the coal and gas industry, used to getting its way after a decade of conservative governments.

But it could cause economic turmoil, with central bank analysts warning coal demand could fall by up to 80 percent by the middle of the decade, leaving "stranded assets" that cannot be sold.

Already the strains are starting to show.

Mining giant BHP on Thursday announced it had been unable to sell its coal assets in the populous state of New South Wales.

The country's largest energy producer and carbon emitter [AGL](#) is also facing an uncertain future.

When AGL tried to split off the most polluting parts of its business, green-minded tech billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes sought to buy the company to stop the plan.



Australia addresses climate issues

His bid was rejected, but Cannon-Brookes successfully lobbied fellow investors to block the demerger, arguing it would hurt shareholders and delay coal-fired power station closures.

Greenpeace Australia's chief executive [David Ritter](#) said AGL's experience was a lesson to listen to the call for climate action.

"Every corporation that makes the same mistakes can expect to also run into real turbulence very, very quickly," he told AFP.

This turbulence will come from activists, but also from the Australian public who have seen first-hand how a wilder climate can turn on them.

After the 'Black Summer'

Australia's 2019-20 "Black Summer" bushfires scorched 24 million hectares of land, cloaked cities in smoke and killed more than 30 people along with an estimated tens of millions of wild animals.

In the two subsequent years, dramatic floods swamped Australia's east coast, this year killing more than 20 people as waters reached rooftops and torrents swept cars off roads.

Before the bushfires, veteran firefighter [Greg Mullins](#) tried to warn the government it was not prepared for the infernos to come.

For 14 years, Mullins had led the fire service in Australia's largest state, New South Wales, and he was joined by other retired emergency services leaders in sounding the alarm that climate change had dramatically escalated the fire threat.

"It was all political. Because we mentioned climate change, they just locked us out," he told AFP.

He and fellow members of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action are calling for far more ambitious emissions cuts — 75 percent by 2030.

"We've lost the last decade of climate action, they've got to do a lot of catching up," he said.

18 JUNE 2022, Saturday



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18 JUN 2022

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Aklan LGUs take over Boracay rehab

By TARA J. YAP

ILOILO CITY — The provincial government of Aklan and the local government of Malay are now responsible for continuing the rehabilitation of world-famous Boracay Island.

The national government's Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF), chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),

turned over the responsibility to the two local governments as its mandate is set to end by June 30.

"We have already done our part. I am challenging the local governments to maintain Boracay's beauty," urged DENR acting Secretary Jim Sampulna during the turnover ceremony on Thursday, June 16.

Aklan Gov. Florencio Miraflores and Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista vowed

that they will continue the work of the BIATF.

The BIATF was created by President Duterte in 2018 following the initial six-month closure of the country's famous beach destination to curb its environmental degradation.

Last year, Duterte issued Executive Order (EO) No. 147 that extended the BIATF's term until June 30, the day when he steps down from the presidency.



STRATEGIC
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Pinagkalooban ng DENR ng "Manila Bay-ani Award" ang Villar SIPAG sa pagdiriwang ng Philippine Environment Month bilang pasasalamat sa kanilang walang kapagurang dedikasyon at commitment sa pagprotekta sa Manila Bay. Bilang chairperson ng Senate Committee on Environment, nangunguna si Sen. Cynthia Villar sa environmental protection and preservation sa kabila ng climate change at iba pang hamon na kinahaharap ng ating "Mother Earth." Kasama ring tumanggap ng parangal sina ex-DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, Atty. Rita Linda Jimeno, former DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda, Atty. Antonio Oposa, Jr. at Congressman-Elect Edward Hagedorn.



Local governance is crucial



ALL ABOUT
CHOICES

**LUDWIG O.
FEDERIGAN**

WE care deeply about people's lives and the nation's well-being. We have perennially witnessed the vulnerability of our communities to disasters and the prevalence of risks nationwide.

As an archipelagic country situated in the typhoon belt, the Philippines is among those highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Annually are hit by an average of 20 typhoons, the intensities of which have increased in recent years.

In Germanwatch's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index, the Philippines ranked fourth among the countries most affected by extreme weather events from 2000 to 2019. The grim weather we've experienced, as well as projected climate change impacts, have given us a glimpse of the future.

One of the effects of climate change are slow onset events, defined as those which "evolve gradually from incremental changes occurring over many years or from an increased frequency or intensity of recurring events."

An example is the rise in sea levels, which in the Philippines is thrice higher than the global average. This has put 64 coastal provinces, 822 coastal municipalities and 25 major coastal cities at risk. An estimated 13.6 million Filipinos will need relocation.

This is how climate change has affected the lives and livelihoods of our people. Without urgent action, it will become the new norm. Those whose livelihoods depend on the environment will suffer the worst. Those at greater risk deserve better.

We can do something about this. We can break the cycle of destruction and reconstruction by assessing and understanding the risks. We must effectively address climate change impacts at the local level, with the primary goal of enhancing resilience and reducing potential losses and damage.

In the international arena, we have made our voice loud and clear as we continue to hold those behind global warming accountable. At home, we have pioneering laws that bring the synergies of climate change action and disaster risk reduction and management at the forefront of national and local development planning.

Under the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units (LGUs) are mandated to exercise police powers and share, with the national government, the responsibility to maintain the ecological balance in their jurisdictions. As a corporate body, LGUs are mandated to promote the general welfare.

The Climate Change Act of 2009, as amended by Republic Act (RA) 10174, recognizes the role of local governments as frontline agencies in the formulation, planning and implementation of climate action plans in their areas.

The "Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010" (RA 10121), meanwhile, acknowledges the need to build LGU capacities to institutionalize arrangements and measures for reducing disaster risks and enhancing disaster preparedness.

Memorandum Circular 2014-135 issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government provides that cities and



municipalities, with the support of provincial governments, consider climate change adaptation as a regular function.

Pursuant to the Climate Change Act, all LGUs are mandated to formulate a Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), which should contain policies, programs, and measures to increase community resilience (adaptation actions) and encourage low-emission development strategies (mitigation actions).

The National Framework Strategy on Climate Change also further directs LGUs to align their climate plans with national policies such as the National Climate Change Action Plan as well as integrate their LCCAPs into local development plans.

The LCCAPs include background information relevant to the plan such as the planning process, how LGUs can best manage emissions given its resources and available policies, how LGUs can best manage risks and protect vulnerable populations following guidelines in developing the LCCAP, and a summary of steps to be undertaken as the LGU implements the plan.

Having an LCCAP gives the LGU an edge in accessing climate finance as it provides context and justification for funding from sources such as the People's Survival Fund, an annual P1 billion allocated for climate change projects.

Since an LGU has its own unique set of climate and disaster risks, each should undertake its own analysis — this is not something that can be copy-pasted from another LGU's LCCAP.

Select national government agencies are doing collaborative work to strategically and systematically deliver the needed support and services to local governments in the formulation of science-based and risk-informed action plans.

LCCAPs must effectively articulate the community's climate actions as well as the priorities for investment. These must serve as comprehensive guides for LGUs in pursuit of climate action toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

We must heed the call for greater and more ambitious action as climate change is the most defining issue of our time, deserving of every Filipino's awareness, attention and action. We have a gargantuan task ahead.

(Part 2 of "The splendor of Masungi and why it must be saved" will be published next week.)

The author is the executive director of the Young Environmental Forum and a nonresident fellow of the Stratbase ADR Institute. He completed his climate change and development course at the University of East Anglia and an executive program on sustainability leadership at Yale University. You can email him at ludwig.federigan@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @WiggyFederigan.



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PH's ADB loans doubled under Duterte admin

By Ben O. de Vera
@bendeveraINQ

During President Duterte's watch, the Philippines borrowed over half of the total low-interest loans it obtained from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB), in order to support pandemic response and infrastructure development, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said.

"On behalf of the Philippine government, I thank the ADB for being the Philippines' most reliable multilateral development partner. It is worth emphasizing that more than half of the \$32.5-billion worth of loans ever given by the ADB to the country since 1969 were extended during the Duterte admin-

istration," Dominguez said during last Thursday's ceremonial signing of the loan agreement for the South Commuter Railway project.

Last year, the ADB extended to its host-country a total of \$2.8 billion in financial assistance—the fifth-largest among its member-countries. Concessional loans approved by the ADB for the Philippines in 2021 reached \$2.2 billion, the second-highest after India's \$4.6 billion.

"We see the high level of financing provided to us by the ADB as a vote of confidence for President Duterte's economic development agenda and fiscal management," the Finance chief said. "The Philippine-ADB portfolio has also been rebalanced to closely align

with the priorities set by the Philippine government, particularly the 'Build, Build, Build' infrastructure program. The bank has also provided technical assistance to the government for the design of various projects. At every turn, it was the Duterte administration's priorities that drove the ADB's development assistance agenda for the Philippines."

"Just recently, the ADB extended to the Philippines its first-ever climate change policy-based loan to support our commitments. Climate change might be a global problem. The issue, however, exhibits itself most starkly in our smallest communities. I am sure that the bank will be ready to help

us promote the exchange of climate change action and adaptation practices among the Asean countries," he added.

Dominguez was referring to the \$250-million financing for the Philippines' climate change action program—the ADB's first-of-its-kind climate policy-based loan, making the country among the pioneers in climate-related development finance.

Dominguez said the ADB was also the favorite partner of other multilateral and bilateral lenders in co-financing Philippine projects, with \$8.7-billion worth during the past six years or nearly three-fourths of total co-financing in the last 50 years. "JICA has been the largest of these co-fi-

ancing partners," he said, referring to the Japan International Cooperation Agency or Jica.

In the case of the \$8.1-billion (about P434-billion), 56.8-kilometer South Commuter Railway that will connect Manila and Calamba, Laguna, the ADB's \$4.3-billion loan—the lender's biggest-ever for the country hosting its headquarters—will bankroll more than half of the project cost.

The Japanese government's aid arm, Jica, will chip in \$1.7 billion through another loan, while the government shall shell out the remaining \$2.1 billion for the forthcoming rail system that would cut travel time between Manila and Calamba to less than one hour from two hours by bus at present. INQ



'Crown-of-thorns' starfish threatens Sarangani town's marine life

GENERAL SANTOS CITY — An official of the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS) in Sarangani province warned Friday of an impending outbreak of the Crown of Thorns (COTS) starfish in the waters of Glan town.

"If not immediately controlled, it

would most likely affect the livelihood of fishermen in the area," Cirilo Lagnason Jr., SBPS deputy protected area superintendent said in an interview.

The coastal town of Glan in the southern part of the province is still reeling from the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

Lagnason said more dive spots recently had an increase of hundreds of starfish within a 100 square meter radius of the municipality's shorelines.

"We encourage stakeholders such as beach owners and big companies in Sarangani doing tree planting activities as part of their social corporate respon-

sibility to also help us in our problem because we need an urgent solution," Lagnason said.

He described COTS as a major cause of coral loss as it rapidly destroys large parts of the reef in the province.

"As we know, fish live in the reef. Without the coral reef, we won't have any fish living around, so we need to act fast to stop it," he said.

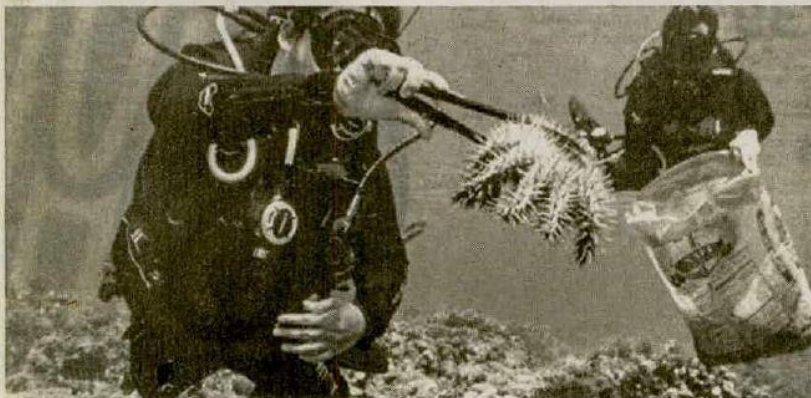
The venomous COTS (*Acanthaster planci*) is one of the largest starfish worldwide that preys upon hard, or stony, coral polyps.

Cutting the COTS into pieces can regenerate into multiple starfish and make the problem worse.

Injecting the starfish with vinegar or bile salts is an effective means of destroying the coral killers.

The waters of Sarangani Bay have rich fishing grounds. Local folk depends mostly on fishing, and it has been their primary source of living.

Lagnason said with the help of divers, they have managed to safely remove 175,000 COTS since October 2021. (PNA)



PLUCKING THE THREAT — Sea divers in Sarangani province pull Crown of Thorns (COTS) starfish from the coral reefs of Sarangani Bay. (Photo courtesy of SBPSO)



PH sounds alarm over water scarcity

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

THE Philippines underscored the urgent need for climate justice to successfully realize responsible global and regional partnerships ensuring water sustainability and sufficiency across regions.

At the recent plenary session of the 2nd Dushanbe Water Process Conference in Tajikistan, Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert Borje called attention to water scarcity as "one of the future global climate risks" and urged regional and global action to "formulate and implement water development strategies and trajectories in the era of climate change, up to the last mile and up to the

last person."

Borje stressed that at the heart of climate change action is the principle of climate justice where more needs to be done for "those who are least responsible for climate change, to those with the least resources, to those most exposed, vulnerable and at risk, we need to do more."

He also challenged developed and industrialized countries, "to

the most responsible, to those with the most resources, you have to do more."

"To this end, we need climate financing. Make it more accessible and available. Unlock it for the developing world," he underlined as he stressed that this was not a plea for handouts but an urgent call for "responsible partnership" leading to actions with results.

A week earlier in the Stockholm+50 International Meeting held earlier this month in Sweden, Borje pointed out that climate justice "should not be a choice but an obligation" and that "justice requires us to do more," while underscoring that the world's "collective moral fiber should be outraged if we cannot deliver climate justice."

He also called for a review of the global approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation with a paradigm that stresses "Build Right at First Sight" as climate financing resources for developing nations remain difficult to access.

While the Philippines is emitting only 0.3 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the country is one of the most vulnerable to the harsh effects of climate change such as super typhoons, drought and the superheating of the oceans.

President Rodrigo Duterte designated Borje as the head of delegation and the President's personal representative to the 2nd Dushanbe Water Process Conference.



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ECO-PAMILYA LAUNCHED — San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora (center) poses with members of the Eco-Pamilya program launched Friday, June 17, at the San Juan City Hall. Eco-Pamilya is a continuing program of San Juan City that aims to create a holistic approach in the protection, preservation, and conservation of the environment. The Eco-Pamilyas attended a Basic Environmental Awareness Seminar and learned proper waste segregation, composting, and rainwater harvesting. (Mark Balmores)



SMC's nonstop infra, environmental projects

EVERYMAN

By Melandrew T. Velasco

THERE is no stopping San Miguel Corporation from pursuing its infrastructure and environmental projects.

These projects, preceded by thorough studies to ensure there will be no irreparable damage to the environment, promote sustainable development.

One of these is the Metro Rail Transit 7, spanning 22 kilometers from North Avenue in

Quezon City to San Jose del Monte, Bulacan with 14 stations, which can accommodate 650,000 passengers daily.

According to SMC, construction work for MRT 7 focused on the first 12 stations and is estimated over 60 per cent complete.

SMC is now constructing the train depot on a 20-hectare property in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. Aside from accommodating the train cars, the depot will house facilities for the maintenance and operation of the trains.

The New Manila International Airport project in Bulacan is also on track after it got the nod of the Dutch government of an Export Credit Insurance for the land development phase.

The project's long-term environmental and social impact mitigation measures were reviewed to ensure the project is sustainable and aligned with the country's climate ambitions.

Environmental and social impact assessment was conducted by a group of experts.

The ECI was extended to Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V. to cover its EUR1.5 billion contract for land development works at the airport site in Bulacan. The New Manila International Airport project is the largest in Boskalis' history.

The new airport will feature four parallel runways, a world class terminal, and a modern and interlinked infrastructure network that includes expressways and railways.

The designs of the NMIA, prepared by the architectural firm Palafox Associates "reflect the vision of a modern Philippine city that provides built-in solutions to various socio-economic, environmental, and climate issues, and correct the mistakes seen in many urban developments of Metro Manila."

"These designs presented to us by Arch. Palafox and his team will be close to actual. There will probably be some adjustments by the time we implement, and we will still continue to improve as needed, but in terms of the overall concept, design, and the features, this is it," SMC President and CEO Ramon S. Ang said.

He added the aerocity project, designed and built with sustainability in mind, will be properly zoned, with areas dedicated to agriculture and food production, logistics, health and wellness, aeronautics, finance, science and technology, commerce, residences, education, tourism, entertainment, recreation, and government among others. It will utilize renewable energy.

The design will adopt green architectural and green urbanism guidelines over and above the country's building and zoning codes, and follow

structural codes of other countries similarly situated in earthquake zones like the Philippines.

As SMC undertakes a massive infrastructure like the NMIA, it continues to uphold its commitment to restore and rehabilitate the existing mangrove forest cover at the Bulacan coastal area.

The initiative is a major component of the project to address flooding in Bulacan.

It is admirable that in the business community there are companies like SMC that are actively involved in environment protection.

Last year, SMC signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct major clean-up and dredging of the Pasig River.

Pasig River stretches 25.2 kilometers connecting Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay.

As SMC undertakes a massive infrastructure like the NMIA, it continues to uphold its commitment to restore and rehabilitate the existing mangrove forest cover at the Bulacan coastal area

The DENR Pasig Rehabilitation Program lists 47 identified Pasig River tributaries grouped into nine clusters.

It is the conglomerate's commitment in line with DENR's Adopt-a-River Program and complements efforts to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

The clean-up and dredging activities, which started in July 2021, will improve water flow and mitigate flooding.

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

A total 437,890 tons of silt and waste from the Pasig River has been extracted by SMC's dredging teams to date.

SMC has allotted P2-billion for the Pasig River rehabilitation effort.

From their previous depths of two-three meters, completed sections of the Pasig River now measure five to six meters deep.

Recently, the project got a boost with the arrival of more equipment from Japan shipping giant NYK Line. The two high-capacity excavators form part of NYK's \$1.5 million donation to the SMC river rehabilitation initiative.

(Velasco, the official biographer of FVR's family, is a book author with at least 50 titles to his credit. His recent works include "Silver Linings" featuring some of the EDSA 1 heroes and a coffee-table book on Paranaque City.)



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COCA-COLA PHILIPPINES, PLASTIC BANK PARTNERSHIP ACCELERATES

COLLECTION AND RECYCLING ECOSYSTEM IN CAVITE

In celebration of World Oceans Day, Coca-Cola Philippines and Plastic Bank announced that in 2022, they will together help to collect 10 million post-consumer PET plastic bottles to address and solve the global packaging waste issue while improving the lives of partner collectors and junk shops enrolled in the Plastic Bank Ecosystem Impact Program. This is double their target in 2021, when five million used PET bottles were successfully recycled and diverted from landfills and oceans.

Through the Ecosystem Impact Week event, which ran from June 8 to 12, 2022 at Robinsons Place General Trias, Coca-Cola Philippines, Plastic Bank and the local government of General Trias, Cavite, aim to educate more Filipinos on the value of collecting and recycling recyclable plastics. A collection booth has been set up for consumers visiting the mall, where they can bring clean and used recyclable plastic bottles and help give these a second life.

“At Coca-Cola, we recognize that we have a big role to play in helping solve the plastic waste problem,” said Tony del Rosario, president of Coca-Cola Philippines and vice president for East Franchise Operations of Coca-Cola ASEAN and South Pacific.

“With partners like Plastic Bank, the government, non-government organizations, civil society, industry and private sectors, we know that a World Without Waste with measurable, positive impact is possible,” Del Rosario added.

Plastic Bank is a social enterprise that builds collection and recycling ecosystems in coastal communities by working directly with individuals in the informal waste sector and micro and small enterprises like junk shops. Through the Plastic Bank Ecosystem, collector partners are given access to training, tools and equipment for efficient waste collection, and a source of livelihood. The program also connects collector partners to the market (Mate-



rial Recovery Facilities or junk shop branches) that buys their waste collection to ensure the sustainability of the program.

Empowering communities one individual at a time

In January 2022, Jenny Arcilla, owner of Jecka Junkshop, turned her business into a Plastic Bank Partner Branch. Through the partnership, her shop was refurbished and given the proper equipment, ensuring safe working conditions for her all-female staff. After

receiving training, they also learned how to use the Plastic Bank App, which assists shop owners in tracking collections and sharing their waste collection impact online.

Around the same time in January, Vicky Advincula (Nanay Vicky) also began working as a collector in General Trias. While currently employed as a street sweeper, Nanay Vicky also collects and cleans recyclable plastics that are sold to junk shops.

“Plastic Bank works with

about 500 recycling communities around the world and some 20,000 community members, most of whom are like Jenny and Nanay Vicky. By supporting collection communities in coastal areas, we effectively prevent plastic from reaching the oceans. Our partnership with Coca-Cola Philippines has helped us reach critical scale in just two years – from the volume of plastic we collect to the number of lives we directly impact,” said Gidget Velez, chief country development officer of Plastic Bank PH.

Creating a value chain for recycling

In 2018, The Coca-Cola Company announced its global goal to help collect and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells by 2030 to achieve its vision of a World Without Waste. These are:

- Design – make its packaging 100-percent recyclable globally by 2025, and use at least 50-percent recycled material in its packaging

by 2030;

- Collect – collect and recycle every bottle and can that they sell by 2030;
- Partner – work with like-minded institutions to support a healthy, debris-free environment.

Coca-Cola Philippines has since invested in community programs and critical infrastructure to make the recycling value chain a reality. PETValue, the first bottle-to-bottle recycling plant in the Philippines located in General Trias, is expected to process 30,000 metric tons of plastic PET bottles and produce around 16,000 metric tons of recycled PET resins every year.

The company also said that the PETValue facility, once operational, will generate more than 200 local jobs.

For more information about Coca-Cola's World Without Waste goals, visit www.coca-cola.com.ph/en/sustainability/worldwithoutwaste.



STRATEGIC
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The Manila Times



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'NATURAL-HIGH' Manila's street children enjoy a swim during high tide in the Pasig River on Friday, June 17, 2022.
PHOTO BY JOHN RYAN BALDEMOR



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denrgov.ph

MAY 30 2022

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2022-11

SUBJECT: AMENDING SECTION 9.6 OF DAO NO. 2018-14 OR THE GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF AREA CLEARANCE FOR RECLAMATION PROJECTS AND PROCLAMATION/ SPECIAL PATENTS OVER RECLAIMED LANDS

In order to further streamline the requirements for the application of an Environmental Compliance Certificate and to ensure optimum economic development without delay, Section 9.6 of DAO No. 2018-14 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 9.6 - The proponent shall simultaneously submit to the concerned EMB Office a project description for scoping together with a copy of the duly received application for area clearance.

The proponent shall include in the draft EIS the findings of the DENR RO composite team for reclamation projects and shall be considered during the review and evaluation of the ECC application.

The ECC shall form part of the requirements for the issuance of the Area Clearance."

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of the receipt of the copy thereof by the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).


JIM O. SANTULNA, CESO V
Acting Secretary



18 JUNE 2022, Saturday



DENR

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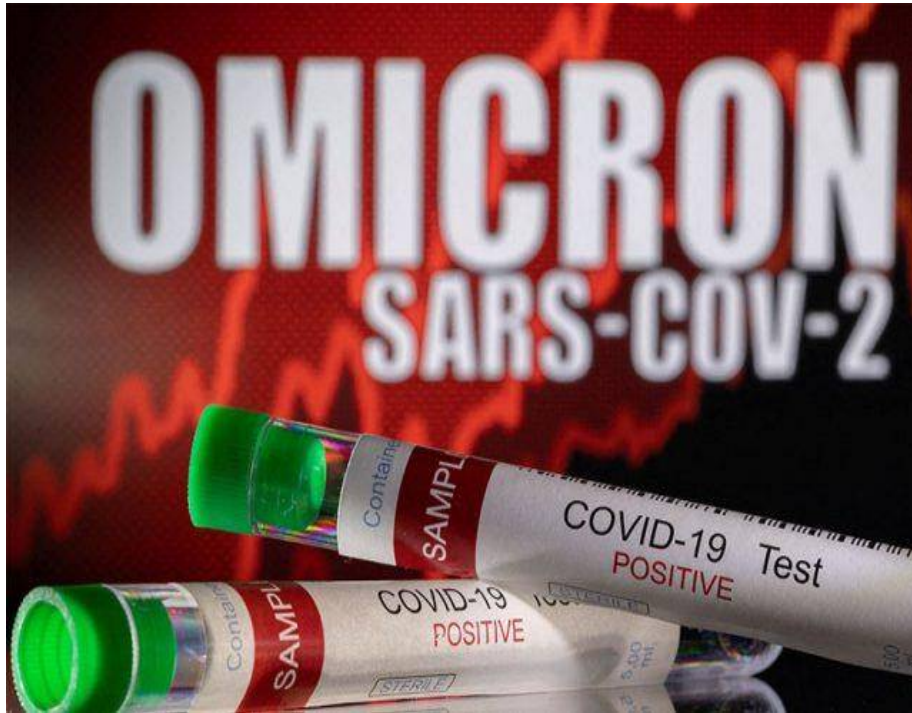
COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Omicron less likely to cause long COVID — UK study

By [Jennifer Rigby via Reuters](#)

- June 17, 2022 - 4:25 PM



Test tubes labelled "COVID-19 Test Positive" are seen in front of displayed words "OMICRON SARS-COV-2" in this illustration taken December 11, 2021. (Reuters/Dado Ruvic/Illustration/File Photo)

LONDON— The Omicron variant of coronavirus is less likely to cause long COVID than previous variants, according to the first peer-reviewed study of its kind from the United Kingdom.

Researchers at King's College London, using data from the ZOE COVID Symptom study app, found the odds of developing long COVID after infection were 20% to 50% lower during the Omicron wave in the UK compared to Delta. The figure varied depending on the patient's age and the timing of their last vaccination.

Long COVID, which includes prolonged symptoms ranging from fatigue to 'brain fog', can be debilitating and continue for weeks or months. It is increasingly being recognised as a public health problem, and researchers have been racing to find out if Omicron presents as big a risk of long COVID as previously dominant variants.

The study from King's is believed to be the first academic research to show Omicron does not present as great a risk of long COVID, but that does not mean long COVID patient numbers are dropping, the team said.

While the risk of long COVID was lower during Omicron, more people were infected, so the absolute number now suffering is higher.

"It's good news, but please don't decommission any of your long COVID services," lead researcher Dr Claire Steves told Reuters, appealing to health-service providers.

The UK's Office for National Statistics said in May that 438,000 people in the country have long COVID after Omicron infection, representing 24% of all long COVID patients.



Omicron less likely to cause long COVID — UK study

It also said the risk of lingering symptoms after Omicron was lower than with Delta, but only for double-vaccinated people. It found no statistical difference for those who were triple vaccinated.

In the King's research, 4.5% of the 56,003 people studied during Omicron's peak, December 2021-March 2022, reported long COVID. That compared to 10.8% of 41,361 people during the Delta wave, June-November 2021. It did not compare vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

While the study – published in The Lancet journal on Thursday – compared Delta and Omicron, Dr Steves said previous work had showed no substantial difference in long COVID risk between other variants.

More work was needed to establish why Omicron may have a lower long COVID risk, the team added.

— Reporting by Jennifer Rigby; Editing by Bernadette Baum

18 JUNE 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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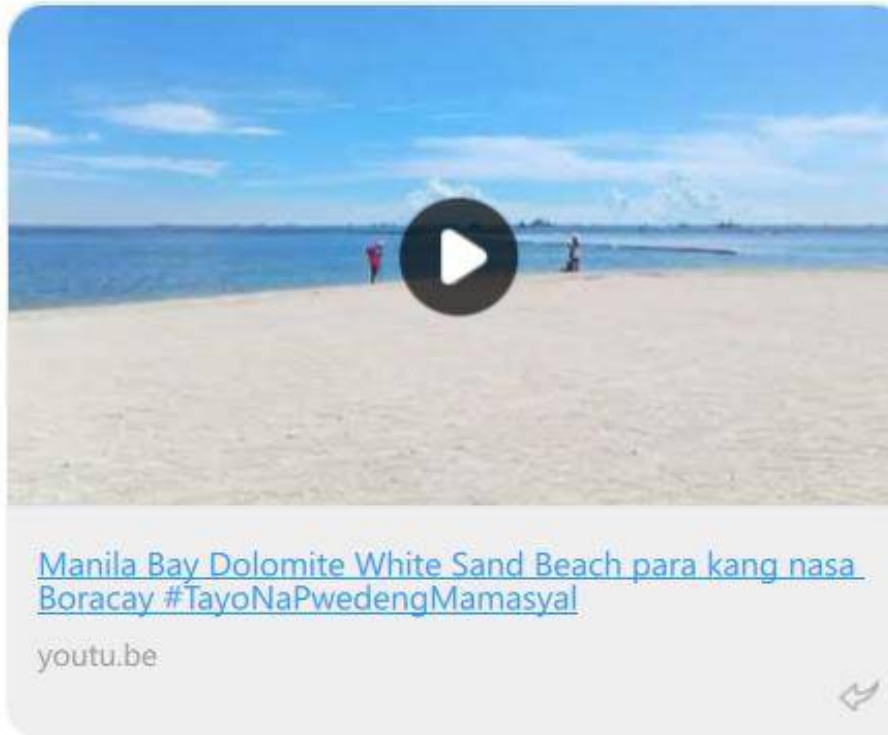
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