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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-LMB pinarangalang top performing agency sa FOI award



January 18, 2021 @ 7:00 PM 9 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sa ikalawang pagkakataon muling kinilala ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources Land Management Bureau (DENR-LMB) bilang “Top Requested and Performing Agencies” sa eFOI (Freedom of Information) portal para sa taong 2020.

Ipinagkaloob ito ng Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) sa pamamagitan ng isang virtual ceremony.

Ayon sa DENR, kilala sa pagtataguyod ng freedom of information, nakamit ng LMB ang pagkilala dahil sa taas ng grado nito sa pagsagot sa mga hiling na impormasyon ng publiko.

“I’d like to commend the LMB for exercising information transparency and responsibility amidst the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your commitment in the service is truly admirable. Let us continue this success for 2021,” ani DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

Nabatid pa sa DENR ang LMB ay matagumpay na nakapagproseso ng 90% ng information requests bagama’t may ipinatutupad na quarantine, sa pamamagitan ng inisyatibo na maglagay ng FOI Desk sa Public Assistance Section (PAS) sa ilalim ng Records and Knowledge Management Division (RKMD) upang sagutin ang lahat ng katanungan at kahilingan tungkol sa lupa.

“We are honored to be recognized again as one of the ‘Top Requested and Performing Agencies’ for this year. This motivates us to continue working and providing Filipinos with access to information particularly on land matters. We thank the PCOO for recognizing our efforts on FOI,” saad ni LMB Director Atty. Emelyne V. Talabis.



DENR-LMB pinarangalang top performing agency sa FOI award

Ang FOI Awards ay taunang ginaganap na layuning mabigyan ng pagkilala ang mga natatanging kontribusyon ng government offices sa executive branch kabilang na ang government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs) at local water districts (LWDs), para na rin mabigyan ng pag-unlad ang FOI program ng PCOO.

Sa taong 2020, ang FOI Awards ay may temang “Committed, Responsive and Revolutionary” nagsusulong na: Commit—that government institutions shall continue to uphold the people’s right to access information and initiate important discourses in bridging current policy and implementation gaps; Respond—that government institutions shall pursue to make critical and informed decisions based on timely, credible, and verified information and take on an active role in addressing disinformation; and, Revolutionize— that government institutions shall seek and adopt innovative methods in building and reconstructing better systems and approaches which facilitate the effective disclosure of information all amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ang FOI program ay ipinatutupad batay sa Executive Order (EO) No. 2 series of 2016 na nagpapasagawa sa Executive branch ng karapatan ng publiko na makakuha ng impormasyon at mailahad ng buo at magkaroon ng transparency sa pagbibigay ng serbisyo publiko. (**Santi Celario**)



DENR nagpasalamat sa Manila-based vloggers sa pagsuporta sa Manila Bay rehab



January 18, 2021 @ 6:56 AM 24 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Dahil sa pagsuporta sa Manila Bay reha Nagpasalamat si Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda sa Manila City vloggers dahil sa regular at tamang pagbibigay ng mga ito ng kaganapan sa isinasagawang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ayon kay Antiporda, patuloy ang mga vloggers sa pagbibigay ng positibong “vlogs” o video blogs at nagbabahagi ng mga kaganapan simula nang umpisahan ang Manila Bay rehabilitation na tinawag na “Battle for Manila Bay” noong 2019.

“Most of their posts have been viewed by thousands of people, which have contributed in informing the public on the status of the historic bay. The vlogs about Manila Bay have proven that they are very effective in informing and educating the Filipinos,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Nagpasalamat din si Antiporda kay Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso dahil sa patuloy nitong pagsuporta sa mga programa at proyekto ng DENR.

Sa kanyang huling pulong sa Manila-based vloggers, sinamantala ni Antiporda ang pagkakataon upang magbigay ng kasalukuyang kaganapan sa mga nagawa ng DENR sa ikalawang taon ng Manila Bay rehabilitation program.

Kabilang na dito ang pagbaba ng fecal coliform level ng baybayin, pagtatayo ng solar-powered sewage treatment plant sa Roxas Boulevard at mangrove planting activity sa BASECO lagoon sa Tondo, Manila.



DENR nagpasalamat sa Manila-based vloggers sa pagsuporta sa Manila Bay rehab

Inanunsiyo din ni Antiporda na nasa 30 porsiyento na ang Manila Bay beach rehabilitation project. Ang paglalatatag ng dolomite sand sa 500-meter coastline sa Manila Bay ay matatapos ng isa o dalawang buwan.

“Sinasabi nilang dinagdagan ang dolomite. Hindi totoo iyon. Walang ganon. Wala pong na wash-out, na wash-in po ang black sand. I-rereiterate po namin na pumasok po ang black sand, nilinis po nila iyon,” saad ni Antiporda.

Dagdag pa nito: “Maraming naririnig na haka-hakang negatibo na sinasabi, pero handa naman po kaming tanggapin. Let’s just wait for the project to finish and that’s the time siguro na bago sila humusga. That’s the time na we will face them kung sakali talagang may pagkakamali at pagkukulang. But based on our studies, perfect po ang proyektong ito para sa ating taong bayan.”

Bukod sa Manila Bay rehabilitation ay ibinahagi din ng DENR official ang mga programa sa solid waste management at isa sa mga ito ay ang pag-turn-over ng composting machines sa local government units na kayang mag-convert ng food waste sa soil conditioners.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na ang DENR-Environment Management Bureau ay nagpapalano na humingi ng tulong sa Department of the Interior and Local Government upang makagawa ng patakaran sa pangangasiwa ng food wastes. **Santi Celario**



Over 2K land titles distributed in Central Luzon in 2020

By Zorayda Tecson January 18, 2021, 4:22 pm



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office here was able to distribute 2,249 land titles covering some 47 hectares of public lands to landless residents of Central Luzon last year.

“Land title is the most concrete proof of ownership over a land you occupy. And this 'Handog Titulo' program is the modest government contribution in promoting social justice and alleviating poverty in the rural sector,” said Paquito Moreno, Jr., executive director of the DENR regional office, in a statement on Monday.

Moreno said land administration and management is one of the priority programs of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, which is anchored on the 10-point socio-economic agenda of President Rodrigo Duterte. This includes ensuring security of land tenure to encourage investments and address bottlenecks in land management and titling agencies.

Since 2011, the land distribution program of DENR has benefitted around 345,000 farmers and their families through the issuance of 63,381 land titles covering 19,504 hectares in the region.

The DENR is set to distribute another 1,725 land titles this year. *(PNA)*

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127692>



Pandemic increased household residual wastes – DENR

We need to act so that less waste will clog our drainage or go to our bins and landfills, adversely affecting our health and daily conditions.



Published 16 mins ago
on January 19, 2021 05:00 AM
By [Elmer Recuerdo](#)



TACLOBAN CITY — The coronavirus disease pandemic, which forced people to stay home most of the time, has resulted in one other problem — a rise in residual household waste.

A report from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) in Eastern Visayas reveals that in 2020, the region generated a total of 20,853,183 kilograms of wastes.

Of this, 6,194,015 or 29 percent is biodegradable, 1,651,737 or 8 percent is recyclable, 1,445,270 or 7 percent is special wastes, 11,562,161 or 56 percent is residual wastes, which include non-compostable and non-recyclable items such as used tetra packs, plastics, and diapers.

The EMB disclosed that in previous years, residual wastes do not constitute more than 50 percent of the total regional waste generation. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, residual wastes generation in 2020 constituted 56 percent.

“Practices and efforts towards the containment of the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic have affected our waste generation,” Regional Executive Director Tirso Parian, Jr. of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Eastern Visayas.



Pandemic increased household residual wastes – DENR

“We need to act so that less waste will clog our drainage or go to our bins and landfills, adversely affecting our health and daily conditions,” he said.

Parian led the department’s observance of “Zero Waste Month” this January. “Let us put on a healthy attitude towards the environment we live in. Ensuring the safety and welfare of the community through proper solid waste management is a shared responsibility,” he said.



Polusyon sa hangin tumaas muli



January 18, 2021 @ 8:31 AM 22 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tumaas ang total suspended particles o TSP dulot ng matinding polusyon sa hangin makaraang magbalik ang mga public transportation sa kalye.

Sa isang media forum ng Balitaan sa Maynila, sinabi ni dating Phil. Medical Association President at ngayon ay pangulo naman ng Clean Air Phils.Movement Inc., Dr.Leo Olarte na sinisikap pa rin ng kanilang grupo na maging malinis ang hangin dahil muling tumaas ang air pollution ngayon kumpara noong mga buwan na ipinataw ang total lockdown sa Metro Manila.

Layon aniya ng kanilang grupo na maging malinis ang hangin, kalikasan upang sa gayon ay hindi magdulot ng mga sakit sa baga lalo na ngayong may kinakaharap na krisis sa kalusugan dahil sa Covid-19.

Ayon pa kay Olarte, 80% ng air pollution ay mula sa mga usok ng mga sasakyan sa Metro Manila na nakakaapekto naman sa ating lahat dahil sa maduming hangin na nalalanghap.

Umaasa naman ang grupo na sa loob ng 5 taon ay mag-improved na ang public transportation system sa Metro Manila lalo na na kapag nabawasan na ang trapik dahil sa mga ginawang skyway.

Sa kanilang pagsisikap na mapabuti at magkaroon ng malinis na hangin at kapaligiran, ang Clean Air Phils. ay katuwang ang ilang mga ahensya tulad ng DENR, DOH, DoTr. **Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/polusyon-sa-hangin-tumaas-muli/>



DENR-8 rescues PH long-tailed macaque

Published January 18, 2021, 2:02 PM

by [Restituto Cayubit](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 8 (DENR-8) has rescued a monkey that caused fear at a household here after it broke free from being held captive, a report from the agency said on Monday, January 18.



The rescued monkey inside the cage at the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center for assessment and rehabilitation. (Photo by DENR-8/Restituto A. Cayubit)

DENR-8 Regional Executive Director Tirso P. Parian, Jr. told The Manila Bulletin the monkey, a Philippine long-tailed macaque, had sowed fear among members of a household, which included minors, when it went wild after breaking free from its reins.

“This should serve as a reminder that any wildlife deserves to be left alone in the wild because this is where they belong. Unless one has secured the necessary permits, having custody of any wildlife is a violation of R.A. 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act”, Parian said.

Parian explained that the monkey was rescued by personnel of the DENR-8 after it escaped from its owner in Barangay 59-A here.

After its escape, a member of the household reported to barangay officials that the monkey invaded their home and ransacked the contents of their refrigerator.

This caused so much fear in the household that the members of the family, including some children, decided to lock themselves in a room.

That was when the DENR-8 personnel were summoned to rescue the monkey, which was assessed to be sub-adult, was a subspecies of crab-eating macaque.



DENR-8 rescues PH long-tailed macaque

It was already very aggressive, and its temperament may have also been aggravated by a wound in his belly that was punctured by the wire used to tie it down.

Parian reported that the monkey was then brought to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center at PENRO-Leyte for assessment and rehabilitation.

“Unfortunately, most rescued monkeys are no longer released back to the wild because they are normally not accepted by other monkey troops and are instead attacked and killed. Even if released, it will have to undergo extensive rehabilitation and preparation,” Parian said.

Parian warned that sections 27 and 28 of R.A. 9147 or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act,” prohibits the injuring, killing, collection and trading of wildlife. Any violation thereof is punishable with a fine of as low as P1,000 to as high as P5,000,000 and/or imprisonment of one month to as long as twelve years, depending on the classification and status of the wildlife.



2 nabbed in Zamboanga del Sur for illegal logging

January 18, 2021

TWO persons were arrested in a law enforcement operation for illegal logging in the province of Zamboanga del Sur, the police reported Monday, January 18.

Police Captain Edwin Duco, Police Regional Office-Zamboanga Peninsula information officer, identified the arrested suspects as Samson Balendres Baluarte, 39, and Bonifacio Largo Quindang Jr., 24, both farmers and residents of Purok 3 in Bacayawan village, Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur.

Duco said the two were arrested around 5:20 p.m. Sunday, January 17, in a law enforcement operation against illegal logging in Poblacion village, Dimataling.

They were arrested for violation of Municipal Ordinance 19, series 2017, "an ordinance penalizing unauthorized cutting of trees within the municipality of Dimataling, Zamboanga Del Sur" and Municipal Ordinance 20, series 2017, "an ordinance regulating the ownership, possession, and used of chainsaws and penalizing violations thereof."

Duco said the arrested violators were brought to Dimataling Municipal Police Station and turned over to the Municipal Agriculture Officer of Dimataling for proper disposition. (**SunStar Zamboanga**)



MWSS raises hope for Kaliwa Dam's construction

Published January 18, 2021, 6:00 AM

by [Madelaine B. Miraflor](#)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is hoping to finally issue the 'notice to proceed' for the construction of the P12-billion Kaliwa Dam after years of delay.

In a text exchange, MWSS Administrator Emmanuel Salamat has remained hopeful that the actual construction of the controversial project, which involves the construction of a massive dam within the provinces of Quezon and Rizal, will start soon.



(MWSS / MANILA BULLETIN)

This, according to him, will happen “with all the support of concerned agencies.”

“We are exerting our best efforts to complete the FPIC [Free Prior and Informed Consent] process to catch up with the timeline before we can issue the notice to proceed to start the construction,” Salamat said.

“We just need the assistance of NCIP [National Commission on Indigenous Peoples] and DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] to fast-track the necessary clearances,” he added.

The Kaliwa Dam project, considered as the government's long-term solution to Metro Manila's water woes, is a joint venture of MWSS and China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC) and will have the capacity to treat as much as 600 million liters of water per day (mld).

The project will be constructed by CEEC through an Official Development Assistance (ODA) deal between Philippines and China.



MWSS raises hope for Kaliwa Dam's construction

Right now, Metro Manila is still 97 percent dependent on the 53-year old Angat Dam.

The FPIC application process for Kaliwa Dam project started in 2018, but was faced with many delays primarily due to environmental concerns expressed by several groups and communities toward the project.



Holcim Philippines Invests On New Alternative Fuel Processing Facility



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)
January 18, 2021

To strengthen environmental performance and efficiency of operations, leading building solutions provider Holcim Philippines, Inc. will invest Php121.5 million until 2022 on improving [waste management unit Geocycle's](#) ability to drive use of alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production at its Bulacan plant.

Holcim Philippines will invest to raise the efficiency of shredding operations to convert qualified waste materials to alternative fuels, install new equipment, and improve storage and feeding facilities at its cement plant in Norzagaray, Bulacan. These will enable its Geocycle unit to support the company's Bulacan plant in using more qualified post-consumer and municipal solid wastes as alternative fuels instead of coal.

Holcim Philippines President and CEO John Stull: "Over the years, our Geocycle unit has enabled us to help communities and business partners all over the country manage their wastes in a sustainable manner as we produce essential building materials on a more cost- efficient and environment-friendly manner. This investment ensures we can continue being a reliable partner in the country's sustainable development, while also meeting our objectives of making our operations more efficient and respectful of nature."

The use of alternative fuels and raw materials in producing cement is a key focus of Holcim Philippines to lower the carbon footprint and consumption of non-renewable resources in its operations. This is aligned with the goals of the global building materials leader LafargeHolcim Group to further make operations sustainable.

Holcim Philippines is one of the pioneers in using qualified wastes such as non-recyclable plastics and biomass as alternative fuels in cement manufacturing through [co-processing technology](#) since 2003. In co-processing, qualified waste materials are pre-processed as alternative fuel and fed into



Holcim Philippines Invests On New Alternative Fuel Processing Facility

the high-temperature kilns along with other traditional fuels to produce cement. This process transforms wastes to alternative fuel and converts these into energy for cement production. The technology is recognized globally and is approved by the Philippine authorities due to its proven advantages in environmental and safety performance.

In 2020, Holcim Philippines co-processed close to 130,000 tons of qualified wastes from local governments, industry partners and agricultural processors in its plants in Luzon and Mindanao led by its Geocycle unit. Geocycle has been [ISO certified](#) since 2010 and was recertified last year for ISO 9001 (Quality Management System), ISO 14001 (Environment Management System) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety) by third-party certification body Certification International Philippines.



MR.D.I.Y. Philippines Making an Impact on the Environment

Published January 18, 2021, 3:18 PM
by [Manila Bulletin](#)

The largest home improvement retailer in Southeast Asia, MR. D.I.Y., planted its 100 seeds and turned over cash proceeds from The Good Bag, Reusable Bag campaign last January 8, 2021 to ABS CBN Foundation Inc. Bantay Kalikasan Mother Nurture campaign for the benefit of La Mesa Watershed.



The ceremonial turnover kick-started with a short program where MR.D.I.Y. Philippines Marketing Manager Mark Charles Salecina said, “The Good Bag campaign aims to do good not only to our valued customers, but gather funds to adopt 100 trees for La Mesa Watershed by selling reusable eco bags at the 100 MR.D.I.Y. stores nationwide. MR.D.I.Y. Philippines wants to give back something good to the community by protecting the environment.”



MR.D.I.Y. Philippines Making an Impact on the Environment



MR. D.I.Y. Philippines Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ms. Roselle Marisol Andaya expressed her gratitude and said, “Today, before MR.D.I.Y. Philippines turns over the cash proceeds from the successful campaign to the foundation, as well as plant 100 more trees, which coincide with the most recent 100th store opening at SM Hypermarket Novaliches, I would like to sincerely thank our valued customers who supported this campaign, our hardworking team of MR.DIYers across all departments in the smooth execution of The Good Bag campaign, and more importantly, to ABS CBN Foundation Inc. for initiating sustainability programs for our environment and allowing us, retail establishments to somehow contribute to such a worthwhile endeavor.”





MR.D.I.Y. Philippines Making an Impact on the Environment



The cash donation of Three Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand Seventy Four pesos (Php375,074.00) was received by Ms. Sarah Agcaoli, Officer-in-Charge & Operations Head and Mr. Mar Zeri Ramirez, Officer-in-Charge & Operations Manager of ABS CBN Foundation Inc. Bantay Kalikasan-Save the La Mesa Watershed.

The day ended with planting seedlings which signifies our efforts to do good for the environment as these ensure we have enough trees, clean air and water now and for the next generations to come.

For more MR.D.I.Y corporate social responsibility (CSR) updates, please visit MR. D.I.Y. official Facebook at @mrdiyPH and corporate website at www.mrdiy.com/ph.



Globe, ZSL Philippines Partner on Mangrove Protection for Climate Resilient Coastal Communities

Published January 18, 2021, 10:42 AM

by [Jonathan Castillo](#)



Mangrove planting in the Philippines. Photo from www.zsl.org

Globe has sealed a five-year partnership with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Philippines for the protection and rehabilitation of local mangrove forests which are being threatened by the conversion of vast areas into ponds for commercial fish and shrimp farming.

ZSL Philippines is one of the primary organizations focused on mangrove rehabilitation through abandoned fishpond reversion, green-gray technology intervention and close collaboration with People's Organizations (POs). It was instrumental in the establishment of The Katunggan It Ibajay Ecopark in Aklan and another ecopark in Pedada, Iloilo which now serves as ecological tourist spots of Panay island. With an established eco-tourism, proceeds of both eco parks go to the respective POs for their continuous operation, maintenance and improvement.

As a long-time advocate of environmental protection and climate change prevention, Globe now focuses on mangrove conservation to step up its carbon sequestration efforts. This is aligned with its commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by actively supporting the Race To Zero global campaign spearheaded by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP26 Presidency and backed by the [GSMA](#), the global mobile industry body, to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero no later than 2050.

“For several years now, we have been actively protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing our forests to stop land degradation and biodiversity loss and to combat the effects of global warming. We are further stepping up our efforts to lessen the impact of our operations on the environment as we put into action our commitment to reduce our carbon footprint,” said Yoly Crisanto, Globe Chief Sustainability Officer and Senior Vice President for Corporate Communications.



Globe, ZSL Philippines Partner on Mangrove Protection for Climate Resilient Coastal Communities

In line with this, Globe decided to partner with ZSL Philippines which has proven expertise in mangrove ecosystems, to help with the conservation efforts starting with Iloilo which is considered as one of the top areas for mangrove rehabilitation programs due to its vulnerability to typhoons. The province also has a number of abandoned fishponds which make it suitable for rehabilitation efforts.

With the addition of ZSL in its list of partners, Globe will be able to further strengthen its reforestation efforts which started with the Cordillera mountain ranges and Arakan Valley and later on moved to Bukidnon and Zambales. The partnership with ZSL will bring Globe's total forest supported areas to 161 hectares.

"ZSL Philippines welcomes the partnership with Globe Telecom as it provides the opportunity to promote the importance of sustainable mangrove rehabilitation and conservation through the participation of communities, government, business sector, and Globe's subscribers. The application of ZSL-developed science-based protocols as guidance, the establishment of a long-term carbon off-set mechanism to measure, and the use of existing technology to develop and/or enhance the capacity of coastal resource managers are among the important features of the Globe Telecom and ZSL Philippines partnership for conservation and sustainability," said Godof Villapando, Jr., Country Director of ZSL Philippines.

Mangroves are tropical trees found in coastal saline or brackish water. They are needed for climate stabilization since they can capture and store up to five times more carbon from the atmosphere than terrestrial forests. They also play a vital role in coastal protection especially during a storm surge. With mangrove forests in place, the damage brought about by strong wind and waves becomes less destructive compared to a coastline with limited vegetation.

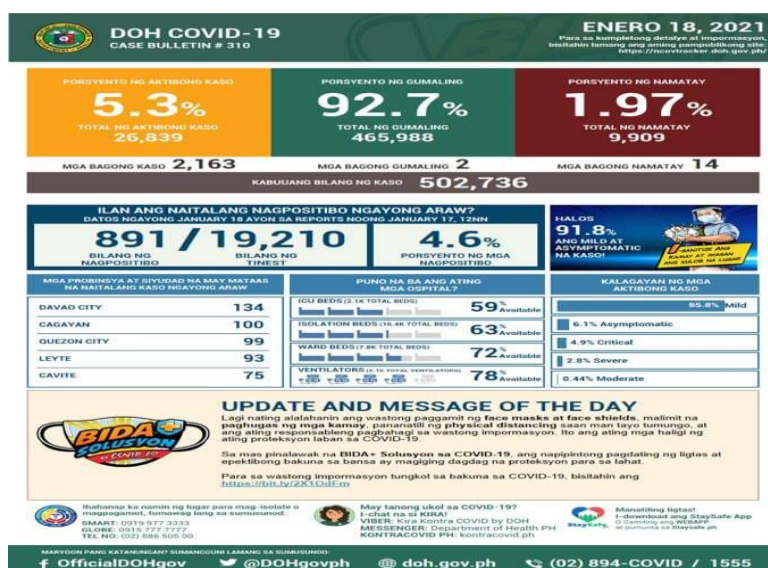
Likewise, mangroves are a source of valuable plant and animal products used as food, traditional herbal medicine and other wood and forest products. They also serve as nesting grounds for hundreds of bird species, and are home to a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and aquatic animals.

However, ZSL Philippines stated that since 1980, an estimated 20 to 35% of global mangroves have been lost, with current losses at around 1% per year as a result of human impact and natural disturbances.

As a purpose-driven company, Globe remains committed to the 10 UN Global Compact principles and contributes to 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals such as UN SDG No. 13 which underscores the importance of climate action to save lives and livelihoods to address climate emergencies, and UN SDG No. 15 which promotes the protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Globe joins over 9,600 companies demonstrating commitment to environmental transparency by disclosing through [CDP](#), a global non-profit organization that runs the world's leading environmental disclosure platform.

BREAKING: Bilang ng nagpositibo sa COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, higit 502,000 na

By Angellic Jordan January 18, 2021 - 04:08 PM



Mahigit 2,000 ang panibagong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease o COVID-19 sa Pilipinas. Sa huling datos ng Department of Health (DOH) bandang araw ng Lunes (January 18), umabot na sa 502,736 confirmed cases ng nakakahawang sakit sa bansa. Sa nasabing bilang, 26,839 o 5.3 porsyento ang aktibong kaso. Sinabi ng kagawaran na 2,163 ang bagong napaulat na kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa. 85.8 porsyento sa active COVID-19 cases ang mild; 6.1 porsyento ang asymptomatic; 0.49 porsyento ang moderate; 2.8 porsyento ang severe habang 4.9 porsyento ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon. Nasa 14 naman ang napaulat na nasawi. Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 9,909 o 1.97 porsyento ang COVID-19 related deaths sa bansa. Ayon pa sa DOH, dalawa naman ang gumaling pa sa COVID-19. Dahil dito, umakyat na sa 465,988 o 92.7 porsyento ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas.



PH Covid-19 recovered cases reach 465,988

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor January 18, 2021, 6:35 pm



MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Monday reported two new recoveries that pushed the country's overall tally of recovered cases from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) to 465,988, or 92.7 percent of those who tested positive for the virus.

In its 4 p.m. case bulletin, the DOH also reported 2,163 new confirmed cases and 14 new deaths, bringing the overall tally of active cases to 26,839 and the death toll to 9,909.

The department said that of the active cases, about 85.8 percent were mild, 6.1 percent were asymptomatic, 2.8 percent were severe, 0.44 percent were moderate, and 4.9 percent were in critical condition.

"There were four duplicates that were removed from the total case count, and of these, two deaths have been removed. Moreover, three cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths," it added.

Davao City topped the list of places that logged the highest number of new cases with 134 infections.

It was followed by Cagayan with 100; Quezon City with 99; Leyte with 93; and Cavite with 75.

DOH data on January 17 showed that 891 or 4.6 percent of 19,210 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

"Four labs were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Data Repository System on January 5, 2021," it said.

Some 26,300 beds are dedicated to patients with Covid-19. Available are 59 percent of 2,100 intensive care unit beds, 63 percent of 16,400 isolation beds, and 72 percent of 7,800 ward beds.



PH Covid-19 recovered cases reach 465,988

About 78 percent of 2,100 ventilators are available for Covid-19 patients' use.

The DOH reminded the public to prioritize their health by exercising at least 30 minutes daily.

It also reiterated the importance of observing minimum public health standards – the proper wearing of face masks and full-coverage face shields, physical distancing, and not staying outdoors for a long period. *(PNA)*



PSA report bares poor human-waste disposal practice in parts of Metro Manila, Calabarzon areas

By [Cai Ordinario](#)

January 19, 2021



In this file photo: A family walks past rows of houses built on the sidewalk next to the Pasig River.

Despite rapid urbanization, regions such as Metro Manila and Calabarzon still have areas where open defecation occurs, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Based on the results of the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), while Metro Manila and Calabarzon have the least number of cases of open defecation, there are still less than 25 cases recorded in these regions.

PSA said open defecation refers to the disposal of human feces in fields, forests, bushes, open bodies of water, beaches or other open spaces, or with solid waste.

“Urban [80.9 percent] and rural [79.9 percent] areas had almost similar proportions of families with access to basic sanitation facilities,” PSA added.

“The number of rural residents with families practicing open defecation [5.6 percent] is higher than that of urban residents [1.6 percent],” PSA added.

Overall, based on the APIS, of the 25.848 million families nationwide, around 3.3 percent still endure open defecation.

The highest incidence nationwide is recorded in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm) where 19.6 percent of the 683,000 families who still resort to open defecation.

This is followed by Western Visayas where 11.1 percent of the 1.907 million families in the region still do not have proper sanitation facilities inducing them to resort to open defecation.

Meanwhile, data also showed that basic sanitation facilities in Metro Manila are enjoyed by 79 percent of the 3.449 million families in the region in 2020. This is less than the 79.8 percent recorded in the 2019 APIS.



PSA report bares poor human-waste disposal practice in parts of Metro Manila, Calabarzon areas

Data also showed that limited sanitation facilities, covered 19.4 percent and unimproved sanitation facilities at 1.5 percent. In 2019, while limited sanitation was at 14.9 percent and unimproved facilities at 4.9 percent.

For Calabarzon, basic sanitation facilities covered 87.4 percent of the 3.97 million families in the region. This is lower than the 88.7 percent recorded in 2019.

In terms of limited sanitation facilities, this covered 10.9 percent and unimproved sanitation facilities at 1 percent. In 2019, limited sanitation was at 8.4 percent while unimproved facilities, 1.7 percent.

The PSA said improved sanitation facilities are those designed to hygienically separate excreta from human contact. These include wet and dry sanitation technologies.

Wet sanitation technologies include flush and pour flush toilets connecting to sewers, septic tanks or pit latrines while dry technologies include ventilated improved pit latrines; pit latrines with slabs; or composting toilets.

Basic sanitation facilities include the use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households, while limited facilities mean the use of improved facilities shared between two or more households.

PSA said unimproved sanitation facilities means using pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines or bucket latrines.



How to rebuild the plastic circular economy in 2021?

2020 was a bad year plastic recycling and ocean pollution. Eco-Business asked Circulate Capital CEO Rob Kaplan how the circular economy can be rebuilt in Asia this year.



By [Robin Hicks](#)

Monday 18 January 2021

In 2020, the Covid's pandemic led to a resurgence in consumption of single-use plastic and crippled already strained systems for collecting, processing and recycling plastic in Asia Pacific.

The low price of oil has sent virgin plastic prices tumbling, which in turn has hurt demand for recycled plastic, and put many recycling companies out of business.

This year will be about finding ways to revive the nascent circular economy for plastic, which according to a [report commissioned by Circulate Capital in August](#), may have suffered permanent damage over the last year, as 40 per cent of recyclers in South and Southeast Asia have faced bankruptcy.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/podcasts/how-to-rebuild-the-plastic-circular-economy-in-2021/>



Nations failing to fund climate adaptation: UN

Published January 18, 2021, 6:21 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

The world is falling short of promises made under the Paris climate deal to help the most vulnerable nations deal with the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, according to the United Nations.



Adaptation — reducing the fall out among communities and increasing their capacity to deal with climate-related disasters such as floods and drought — is a key pillar of the landmark 2015 accord

Adaptation — reducing the fallout among communities and increasing their capacity to deal with climate-related disasters such as floods and drought — is a pillar of the landmark 2015 accord, which aims to chart a path away from catastrophic warming.

The deal requires signatories to implement adaptation measures through national planning, but also through funding to at-risk countries.

The UN Environment Programme Adaptation Gap report found that the current finance levels of around \$30 billion annually for adaptation fell far short of the annual cost in developing nations of \$70 billion.

It said the true cost of adapting to climate impacts in these nations could be as high as \$300 billion every year by the end of the decade and \$500 billion by mid-century.

“The hard truth is that climate change is upon us,” said Inger Andersen, UNEP executive director.

“Its impacts will intensify and hit vulnerable countries and communities the hardest — even if we meet the Paris Agreement goals of holding global warming this century to well below 2C.”

UNEP called for a drastic scale-up of public and private finance for adaptation, as well as increased investment in nature-based solutions such as protecting and sustainably restoring ecosystems.

Nations failing to fund climate adaptation: UN

– Limit losses –

With just over 1C of warming since the start of the industrial era, Earth is already experiencing more intense and frequent extreme weather such as droughts and flooding, as well as storms supercharged by rising seas.

Much of the devastation wrought by climate-linked disasters falls on developing nations, and despite promises to help out financially, richer countries still aren't hitting their adaptation funding targets.

UNEP said funding for adaptation currently represented just five percent of all climate finance.

With the cost of natural disasters set to skyrocket this century, hard-hit nations are finding it difficult to secure the finance to rebuild after extreme events.

Mozambique, which was battered by twin cyclones in early 2019, said that one year since the disasters it had received less than a quarter of the estimated \$3 billion it needed to recover.

The UN report found that cutting greenhouse gas emissions will provide a long-term economic benefit by reducing the costs associated with climate change.

Achieving the 2C Paris Agreement temperature rise limit could curb losses in annual growth to 1.6 percent, compared with 2.2 percent for 3C of warming — the current trajectory if nations' current Paris pledges are upheld.

Under the deal's "ratchet" mechanism, countries are supposed to file new emissions reduction plans — known as nationally determined contributions, or NDCs — every five years.

The deadline for the first round of new NDC submissions was December 31, 2020. However just 71 countries representing under a third of global emissions have done so.

UNEP says global emissions must fall 7.6 percent annually this decade to keep the more ambitious Paris temperature target of 1.5C in play.

State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Apart from being the warmest or second warmest year on record for surface temperature, the year 2020 also saw global sea levels and atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations reaching new highs.



A local man feels the coolness of water while temperatures soar in Calcutta, India. Image: [Saikat Paul, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

By Zeke Hausfather, Carbon Brief

Jan. 18, 2021

With all the official climate data now in, the world's surface temperatures in 2020 have been confirmed as effectively tied with 2016 as the warmest year on record.

In this article, Carbon Brief explains why the year proved to be so remarkable across the planet's oceans, atmosphere, cryosphere and surface.

Last year set a number of records for the Earth's climate:

- **[Record warm surface temperatures](#)**: It was the warmest or second warmest year on record for surface temperature – depending on the dataset used – and effectively tied with 2016 within the range of measurement uncertainty in all the surface temperature records examined here. This is all the more remarkable because the latter half of 2020 has seen a natural cooling effect from a modest [La Niña event](#).
- **[Record levels of ocean heat content](#)**: It was the warmest year on record for ocean heat content, which increased markedly between 2019 and 2020.
- **[Record warmth in satellite records](#)**: It was either the warmest or second warmest year in the Earth's [troposphere](#) – the lower part of the atmosphere – [depending on](#) the dataset examined.
- **[Arctic sea ice sees second lowest summer minimum](#)**: It saw record lows in sea ice extent and volume in the Arctic for much of the period between July and November. The minimum Arctic sea ice extent reached in September was the [second lowest on record](#).
- **[Sea levels continue to rise](#)**: Global sea levels and atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations reached new record highs in 2020, while the world's glaciers continued to melt rapidly.

State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Record warm surface temperatures

Global surface temperatures in 2020 were exceptionally warm. Data from NASA show it was the warmest year on record, while data from [NOAA](#), [Berkeley Earth](#), [Copernicus ERA5](#) and the newly updated Hadley Centre/UEA [HadCRUT5](#) record have it as the second warmest.

In all cases, the difference between 2020 and 2016 average temperatures is less than 0.03C, while the global records [can only predict](#) current temperatures within around 0.05C or so. This means that scientists cannot be confident that 2020 was cooler than 2016 – and the two are best seen as a tie for the warmest year on record.

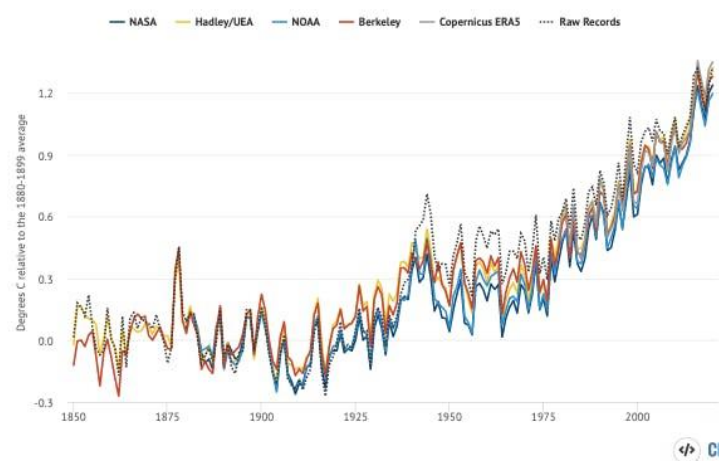
Temperatures back in 2016 were boosted up to a [few tenths of a degree](#) by one of the largest [El Niño](#) events in the past century. In contrast, 2020 [was characterised](#) by a modest La Niña event that likely had a natural cooling influence in the second half of the year.

It is rather remarkable that a La Niña year could match the warmth of one of the strongest El Niños on record just a few years ago – illustrating the powerful impact that human greenhouse gas emissions are having on global temperatures.

Global surface temperature records [can be calculated](#) back to 1850, though some groups choose to start their records in 1880 when more data was available. Prior to 1850, records exist for some specific regions, but are not sufficiently widespread to calculate global temperatures with any reasonable accuracy. These records are created by combining [ship-and buoy-based measurements](#) of ocean sea surface temperatures with temperature readings of the surface air temperature from weather stations on land (Copernicus ERA5 is an exception, as it uses weather model-based [reanalysis](#)).

The chart below shows global temperature records since 1850, with temperatures shown relative to the 1880-1899 period to highlight warming since the [pre-industrial period](#).

Global surface temperature records, 1850-2020



Annual global average surface temperatures from 1850-2020. Data from NASA GISTEMP, NOAA GlobalTemp, Hadley/UEA HadCRUT5, Berkeley Earth and Carbon Brief's raw temperature record. 1979-2000 temperatures from Copernicus ERA5 (as the reanalysis record starts in 1979). Anomalies plotted with respect to a 1880-1899 baseline to show warming since the preindustrial period. Chart by Carbon Brief using Highcharts.

State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Temperatures in 2020 were between 1.2C and 1.3C warmer than temperatures in the late 19th century (between 1880 and 1900), depending on the temperature record chosen. They represented the seventh consecutive year that global temperatures have exceeded 1C above pre-industrial levels in most of the datasets and the third year above 1.2C in most datasets.

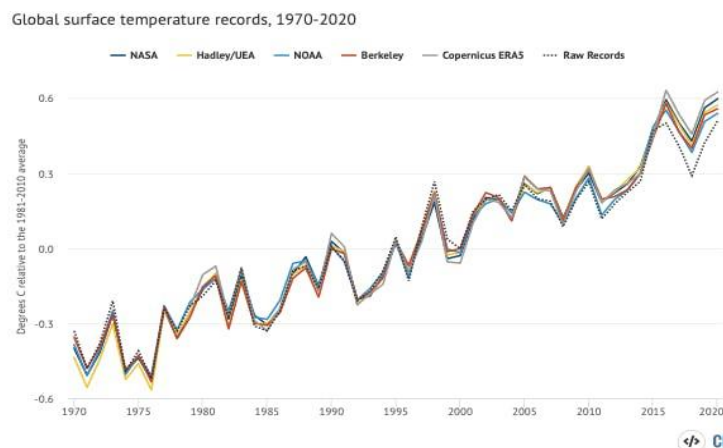
In an update to the data shown in prior years, Carbon Brief's [State of the Climate](#) now uses the new [HadCRUT5](#) instead of [HadCRUT4](#) (see the [recent Carbon Brief analysis](#) of HadCRUT5 for details). The Cowtan and Way record is no longer shown as it is largely redundant with HadCRUT5; it uses the same data and a similar approach to filling in data gaps. (Cowtan and Way [was created](#) to deal with data gaps in HadCRUT4.)

The global warming seen over the past century is not a result of any [adjustments](#) made to the underlying temperature records. The figure above includes a “raw records” line (shown as a dotted line) calculated by Carbon Brief using data not subject to any adjustments or corrections for changes in measurement techniques. Over the full 1850-2020 period, the [adjusted temperature records](#) actually tend to show less warming than the raw data.

The past six years of the record really stand out as much warmer than anything that has come before. This can be seen in the figure below from Berkeley Earth. Each shaded curve represents the annual average temperature for that year. The further that curve is to the right, the warmer it was.

The width of each year's curve reflects the uncertainty in the annual temperature values (caused by factors such as changes in measurement techniques and the fact that some parts of the world have fewer measurement locations than others).

The figure below provides a zoomed-in look at global surface temperature records over the past 50 years. This plot uses a more recent 1981-2010 period as a baseline to provide a clearer view of differences between temperature records over the past few decades. Note that the 1981-2010 period is around 0.6C to 0.75C warmer than the 1880-1900 pre-industrial period, depending on the record used.





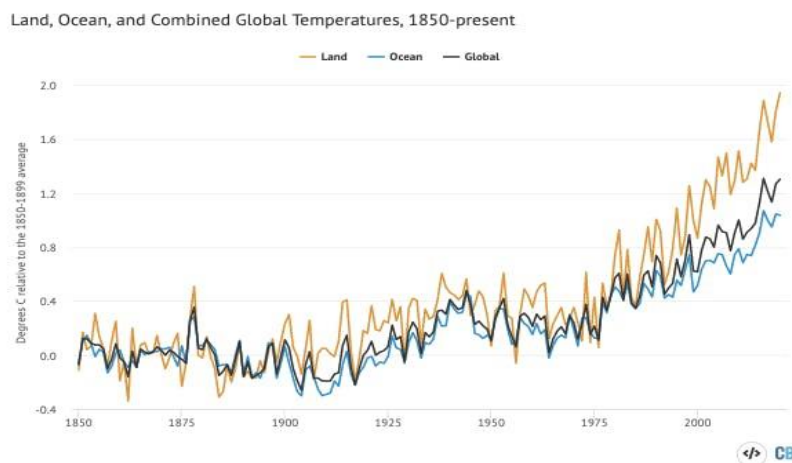
State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Patterns of surface warming in 2020

The focus on global surface temperature as a key metric of climate change is important, but can obscure very different rates of change across the planet.

For example, while most of the Earth's surface is covered by oceans, nearly all human settlements and activities are in land areas. The land has been warming around 70 per cent faster than the oceans – and 40 per cent faster than the global average – in the years since 1970.

The figure below shows global average surface temperatures in black, land-only temperatures in orange, and ocean-only temperatures in blue. It is based on a combination of HadCRUT5 data from 1850-1978 and Copernicus/ERA5 data thereafter, as, at the time of writing, only ERA5 had released the data needed to separately calculate land and ocean temperatures through to the end of 2020.



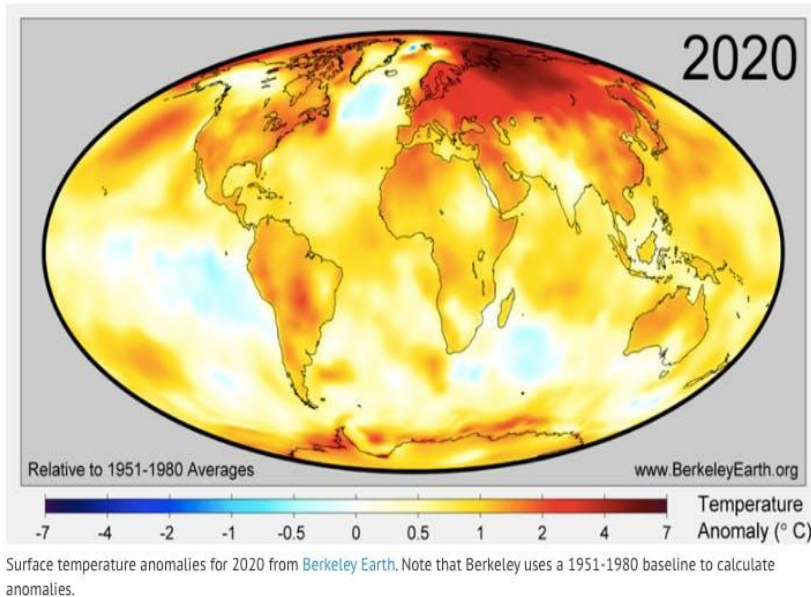
Annual global average surface temperatures from 1850-2020. Data from Hadley/UEA HadCRUT5 from 1850-1978 and Copernicus ERA5 from 1979-2020 (as the reanalysis record starts in 1979). The two datasets are combined by minimising the overlap between the 1981-2010 period. Anomalies plotted with respect to a 1850-1899 baseline to show warming since the pre-industrial period. Chart by Carbon Brief using Highcharts.

While the world as a whole has warmed by around 1.3C since the pre-industrial period (1850-1899) in this dataset, land areas have warmed a much larger amount – by 1.9C on average. In contrast, the oceans have warmed more slowly – by around 1C since pre-industrial times. (See [Carbon Brief](#)'s recent guest post on why the land and ocean warm at different rates.)

Different parts of the land and ocean are also warming at different rates. The warmth in 2020 covered large regions of the world, with particularly high temperatures in the Arctic, over Siberia, Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East, the northern Pacific Ocean and the Antarctic Ocean. The figure below, from Berkeley Earth, shows the average annual temperature anomalies across the world for the year.

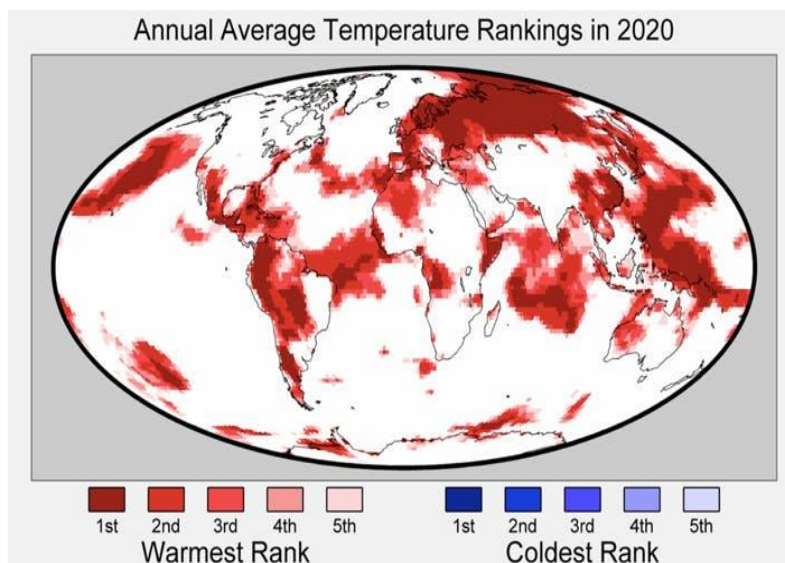


State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record



Based on [an analysis](#) by Berkeley Earth, 2020 had the warmest annual average since instrumental records began in the following 45 countries: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Estonia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, France, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Nauru, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

The figure below – also from Berkeley Earth – shows the regions of the world where either warm or cold records were set in 2020. It is noteworthy that while large parts of the planet set new warm records, there was no location on Earth where annual average temperatures were among the coldest on record.



Regions of the world among the five warmest (reds) of five coolest (blues) on record for average annual temperatures in 2020. Figure from Berkeley Earth.

State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Observations closely tracking climate modelling projections

[Climate models](#) provide physics-based estimates of future warming given different assumptions about future emissions, greenhouse gas concentrations and other [climate-influencing factors](#).

Here, Carbon Brief examines two different sets of climate models – both the older models ([CMIP5](#)) used in the 2013 [fifth assessment report \(AR5\)](#) from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) and the new models ([CMIP6](#)) developed for the upcoming 2021 IPCC sixth assessment report.

In CMIP5, model estimates of temperatures prior to 2005 are a “hindcast” using known past climate influences, while temperatures projected after 2005 are a “forecast” based on an estimate of how things might change. CMIP6 models, on the other hand, have hindcasts reaching up until 2014.

The figure below shows the range of individual CMIP5 models projections since 1850, as well as future projections through to 2100 under the middle-of-the-road [RCP4.5](#) emissions scenario. The black line shows the average of 38 different models, while the grey area shows the 95 per cent ([two sigma](#)) range of the model projections. Observational temperatures are plotted on top of the climate model data, with individual observational records are represented by coloured lines.

The climate model outputs shown here are blended – that is, they combine surface air temperature over the land with sea surface temperatures over the ocean in the same way they are measured in the observational climate record. This allows for a [more accurate comparison](#) of the two.

Observations fall well within the range of CMIP5 climate model projections over the past 170 years. Temperatures in 2020 are quite close to the model average. The figure below shows a zoomed in view of climate models and observations over the past 70 years (1950-2020). It also includes a dashed black line showing non-blended model results (e.g. global surface air temperatures).

While not all of the models participating in CMIP6 have reported runs at the time this was written, enough – 33 models – had both historical and RCP4.5 future warming projections to enable a comparison with observations. The figure below shows an analysis of both CMIP6 models and observations between 1950 and 2020. (Note that only non-blended model results are shown for CMIP6, as blended CMIP6 fields have yet to be created.)

CMIP6 models generally predict more warming than CMIP5 – both in the historical period and in the future. Observations are noticeably below the model average in recent years in CMIP6, though still well within the 95 per cent range (grey area).

For more discussion of the new CMIP6 results and how they differ from the prior generation of CMIP5 models, see the Carbon Brief [CMIP6 explainer](#).

State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Record warmth in satellite records

In addition to surface measurements over the world's land and oceans, [satellite microwave sounding units](#) have been providing estimates of global lower atmospheric temperatures since 1979.

These measurements, while subject to [some large uncertainties](#), also show 2020 as a record warm year – effectively tied with 2016 within the margin of uncertainty.

The record produced by [Remote Sensing Systems](#) (RSS) shows 2020 as the warmest year on record, slightly warmer than 2016, while the record from the [University of Alabama, Huntsville](#) (UAH) shows it as the second warmest, slightly cooler than 2016. The chart below shows the two records – RSS in red and UAH in blue.

These satellites measure the temperature of the lower troposphere and capture average temperature changes around 5km above the surface.

This region of the atmosphere tends to be influenced more strongly by El Niño and La Niña events than the surface and satellite records show correspondingly larger warming or cooling spikes during these events. This is why, for example, 1998 shows up as one of the warmest years in satellites, but not in surface records.

The two lower tropospheric temperature records show large differences after the early 2000s. RSS shows an overall rate of warming quite similar to surface temperature records, while UAH shows considerably slower warming in recent years than has been observed on the surface. Both have [seen large adjustments](#) in recent years that have warmed RSS and cooled UAH compared to prior versions of each record.

Record levels of ocean heat content

[More than 90 per cent](#) of the heat trapped by increasing greenhouse gas concentrations is taken up by the Earth's oceans.

While surface temperatures fluctuate a bit from year to year due to natural variability, ocean heat content increases much more smoothly and is, in many ways, a [more reliable indicator](#) of the warming of the Earth – albeit one with a shorter historical record.

Last year set a clear record for the highest ocean heat content since reliable records began in 1958, according to the [Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences](#) (IAP-CAS), which maintains an up-to-date ocean heat content database.

The figure below shows ocean heat content for each year in the region of the ocean between 0 to 700 metres (light blue bars) and 700 to 2,000 metres (dark blue) of depth, which comprises the bulk of the world's oceans. Ocean warming is plotted relative to the 1958-1960 average.



State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Ocean heat content in 2020 was significantly higher than in 2019, the next warmest year. While 2016 was quite a warm year on the surface, it was only the sixth warmest year for ocean heat content, as the El Niño event that helped 2016 surface temperatures be so warm [redistributed heat](#) out of the ocean and into the atmosphere.

Ocean heat content [accelerated notably after 1990](#), due to an increase in heat being trapped by greenhouse gases and to recovery from the [Pinatubo](#) volcanic eruption in 1992, and most years after that have set a new record.

Sea levels continue to rise

Modern-day sea levels have risen to a new high, [due to a combination](#) of melting land ice (such as glaciers and ice sheets), the thermal expansion of water as it warms and changes in [land water storage](#). In recent years, there have been [larger contributions](#) to sea level rise from melting ice sheets and glaciers.

Since the early 1990s, the increase in global sea level has been estimated using altimeter data from satellites. Earlier global sea levels have been reconstructed from a network of global tide gauge measurements. This allows researchers to estimate how sea level has changed [since the late 1800s](#).

The chart below shows five different sea level rise datasets (coloured lines), along with satellite altimeter measurements from NASA (in black) after 1993. (As sea level rise data has not yet been released for the whole year, the figure below only includes data through to the end of 2019.)

Sea levels have risen by between 0.18 and 0.2m (180-200mm) since 1900. While sea level rise estimates mostly agree in recent decades, larger divergences are evident before 1980. There is also evidence of accelerating sea level rise over the post-1993 period when high-quality satellite altimetry data is available. (See Carbon Brief's [explainer](#) on how climate change is accelerating sea level rise.)

Glacier melt continues to accelerate

Scientists measure the mass of glaciers around the world using a variety of remote sensing techniques, as well as through [GRACE](#) measurements of the Earth's gravitational field. The balance between snow falling on a glacier and ice loss through melting or "[calving](#)" determines if glaciers grow or shrink over time.

An international consortium called the [World Glacier Monitoring Service](#) tracks 164 different glaciers in 19 different regions around the world. The figure below shows the change in global average glacier mass from 1950 through to the end of 2019 (2020 values are not yet available).

Glacier melt is reported in [metres of water equivalent](#), which is a measure of how much mass has been lost on average.

Greenhouse gas concentrations reach new highs

Greenhouse gas concentrations reached a new high in 2020, driven by human emissions from fossil fuels, land use and agriculture.



State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Three greenhouse gases – CO₂, [methane](#) (CH₄) and [nitrous oxide](#) (N₂O) – are responsible for the bulk of additional heat trapped by human activities. CO₂ is by far the largest factor, accounting for roughly 50 per cent of the increase in “[radiative forcing](#)” since the year 1750.

Methane accounts for 29 per cent, while nitrous oxide accounts for around 5 per cent. The remaining 16 per cent comes from other factors including carbon monoxide, [black carbon](#) and [halocarbons](#), such as CFCs.

Human emissions of greenhouse gases have increased atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide to their highest levels in at least [a few million years](#) – if not longer.

The figure below shows concentrations of these greenhouse gases – in [parts per million](#) (ppm) for CO₂ (blue line) and parts per billion (ppb) for methane (orange) and nitrous oxide (red) – from the early 1980s through to October 2020 for CO₂ and September 2020 for CH₄ and N₂O (the most recent data currently available).

The data shows that greenhouse gases [continued to accumulate in the atmosphere](#), despite the [temporary dip in global emissions](#) caused by Covid-19 lockdowns around the world.

Arctic sea ice sees second lowest summer minimum

Arctic sea ice spent much of the northern hemisphere summer months at record lows in 2020. It set daily record lows during large parts of July, August, October, and November. It saw the [second lowest](#) summer minimum sea ice extent – behind only 2012 – since records began in the late 1970s.

The Arctic experienced an unusually slow sea ice recovery after the September minimum, though it has recovered to just below the long term (1979-2010) average in recent months.

In contrast to the Arctic, sea ice surrounding Antarctica remained within the long-term average range for the entirety of 2020.

The figure below shows both Arctic (red line) and Antarctic (blue line) sea ice extent for each day of the year, along with how it compares to the historical range (corresponding shading).

The remarkably low levels of Arctic sea ice for much of the summer in 2020 made the Northern Sea Route (e.g. the Northeast Passage) open [for shipping](#) for a record long period of time.

The Berkeley Earth chart below shows the periods each year that the Northern Sea Route has been open (blue lines). Prior to the year 2005, open ocean passages in the Arctic rarely formed; in 2020 (red line) the Northeast Passage was open for three and a half months straight. This was in part due to [exceptional warming in Siberia](#), and associated ice-free conditions north of that region.

Looking ahead to a slightly cooler 2021

While a modest La Niña event likely helped cool the latter part of 2020, these conditions are [expected to persist](#) for the first half of the year. Because there is [a lag of a few months](#) between when El Niño or La Niña conditions peak in the tropical Pacific and their impact on global temperatures, current La Niña conditions will likely have a larger impact on 2021, which is why the year is expected to be cooler than the prior two years.



State of the climate: 2020 ties as warmest year on record

Three groups – the [UK Met Office](#), NASA’s [Dr Gavin Schmidt](#), and [Berkeley Earth](#) – have already predicted what temperatures might look like in 2021. All three suggest that 2021 will most likely be cooler than 2020.

The Met Office and Berkeley Earth both predict that it will be around the fifth warmest year on record, with a best guess of somewhere between the fourth to the seventh (though it is too early to firmly rule out a cooler or warmer outcome than that).

The figure below shows the range of possible 2021 temperature outcomes in green based on the Berkeley Earth analysis, with the average estimate shown by the horizontal black bar.

The [NASA projection](#) is a bit higher, with a best estimate of 2021 as the third warmest year on record, with a likely range of between the first and sixth. While it is unclear what specific factors are driving the differences between these forecasts, it may in part be driven in part by different assumptions around how big an effect the La Niña event will have on 2021 temperatures.

The figure below, by Schmidt, shows 1980-2019 temperatures in black, a 2020 projection made at the end of 2019 in dark blue, a 2020 projection using data through to November in light blue, and a 2021 projection based on modelled future El Niño conditions in green.

While it is too early to predict with any certainty where 2021 will end up, it would be nothing out of the ordinary to have a year a bit cooler than the prior few.

What matters for the climate is not the leaderboard of individual years. Rather, it is the long-term upward trend in global temperatures [driven by human emissions of greenhouse gases](#). Until the world reduces emissions down to net-zero, the planet [will continue to warm](#).

This story was published with permission from [Carbon Brief](#).

19 JANUARY 2021, Tuesday



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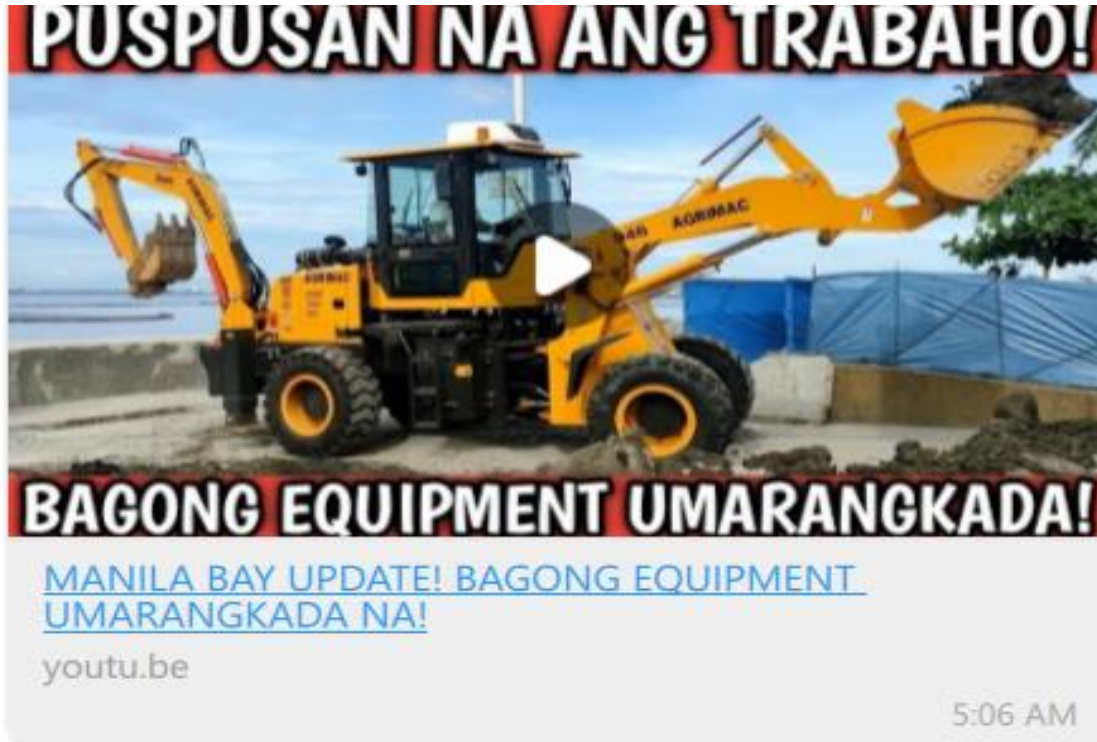
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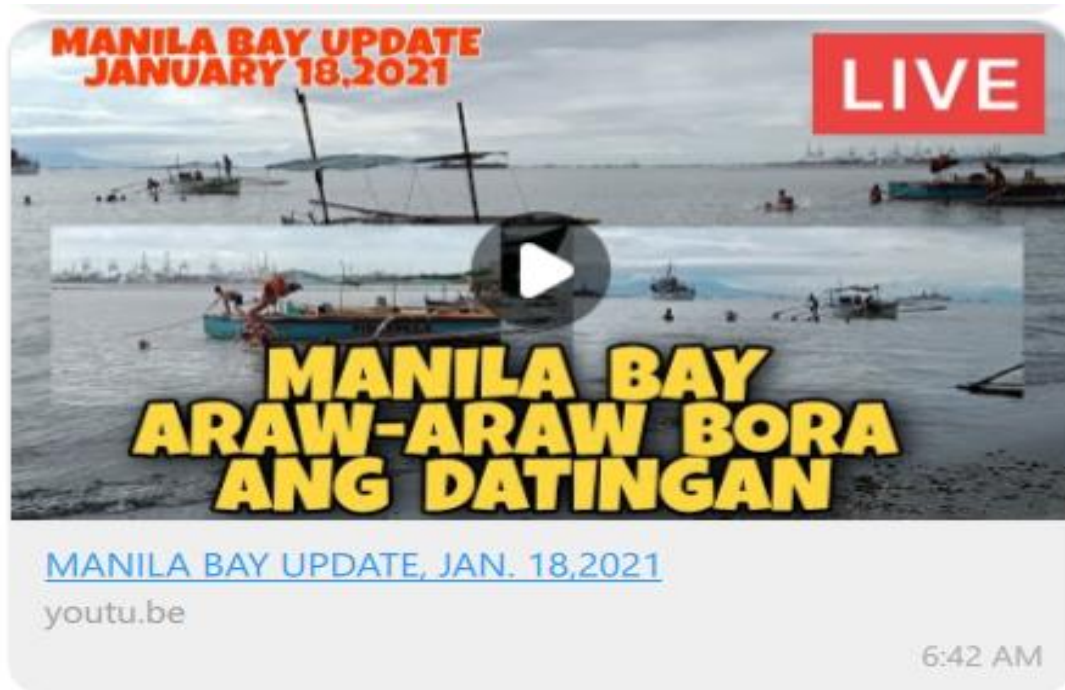
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