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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



SMC's Pasig, Tullahan River rehab initiatives get a boost from Japanese shipping giant

November 20, 2021 14 min read

MANILA — Shipping and logistics company NYK Line of Japan has joined San Miguel Corporation (SMC) in its multi-billion initiative to rehabilitate the Pasig and Tullahan-Tinajeros River systems, and undo years of toxic and waste contamination that has made these waterways among the world's biggest contributors to ocean pollution.

NYK will donate \$1.5 million over a five-year period to buy additional equipment needed for the project.

The donation was formalized during a virtual ceremony attended by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu, NYK Line president Hitoshi Nagasawa and SMC president Ramon S. Ang.

Ang thanked Nagasawa for the support which he described as both “unexpected and meaningful”, as it was the Japanese firm’s way of showing its appreciation for the country of origin of many of its seafarers.

SMC and NYK have had no previous professional dealings, and it was the first time that Ang and Nagasawa had met.

“I truly admire Mr. Nagasawa-san. NYK reached out to us, after reading about our Pasig River and Tullahan river rehabilitation efforts. They said they wanted to do something for their Filipino seafarers, to show their appreciation for their home country. So after a meeting where they asked to hear more about our river rehabilitation projects, they decided they wanted to support it, on behalf of their Filipinos crews,” SMC president Ramon S. Ang related.

“This kind gesture from one of Japan’s major companies shows that they care about their Filipino workforce and the environment. This is something we truly appreciate. It is also a recognition of the importance of the task we’ve set for ourselves – to continue the clean-up and rehabilitation of our rivers, to try and reverse the decades of pollution that they’ve suffered. This way, we can safeguard lives and protect livelihoods from flooding, and move closer to a better, more livable Metro Manila,” he added.

For his part, NYK President Nagasawa said: “As a global shipping and logistics company, protecting the marine environment is part of our DNA and something that we treat very seriously. ESG is the foundation for the NYK Group’s aspiration to become a sustainable business entity, and we think that the project we are about to join is exactly in line with our future goals.”



NYK's donation will be coursed through the San Miguel Foundation and will go towards the acquisition of additional equipment to be used for targeted river dredging and clean-up operations.

NYK is one of Japan's largest shipping firms, with operations in liner trade, air cargo transportation, logistics, and bulk shipping, as well as real estate. Some 70% of its seafarers are Filipino.

SMC is spending P1 billion for the clean-up of the 27-km. Tullahan-Tinajeros river. Since June 2020, the company's dredging teams have already removed 533,498 metric tons of silt and solid waste from an 11-kilometer stretch spanning the river's sections in Navotas, at the mouth of Manila Bay, to Malabon, and Valenzuela.

"Our goal is to deepen and, where necessary, widen the Tullahan River, so it can take in more excess water coming from the La Mesa Dam, especially during heavy rainfall, and help minimize and mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela—all known to be flood prone areas," Ang said.

Meanwhile, it has committed P2 billion for its Pasig River rehabilitation effort, which officially began July of this year. It has already removed over 100,000 tons of waste from its two pilot areas, along Pandacan, and near the Malacanang Palace, in Manila.

Ang said that the goal of the Pasig River project is to remove up to 3 million tons of silt and solid waste from the river, so it can channel more floodwaters and alleviate flooding not only in Metro Manila, including Marikina, but also divert excess water from the heavily-silted Laguna Lake, which affects surrounding Laguna provinces.

For his part, DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu earlier lauded the initiatives, as they both support the larger Manila Bay Rehabilitation program. Both the Tullahan and Pasig Rivers are major tributaries to the Manila Bay.

Both are also included in the list of top 10 list top plastic-emitting rivers responsible for the world's ocean plastics, according to a report by a respected research website, <http://www.ourworldindata.org>. Pasig River was ranked number 1 on the list. (ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2021/11/20/smcs-pasig-tullahan-river-rehab-initiatives-get-a-boost-from-japanese-shipping-giant/?fbclid=IwAR1VhGvqRC9-dSh1oI1IHFqb9Td6Nq4pCPBzphretiEPDTz7bormODxnfeI>



Proposed policy to boost mining ops nationwide: MGB

By Catherine Teves **November 20, 2021, 3:08 pm**



MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) is proposing the implementation of a policy that allows only one operator per mining tenement in the country.

Implementing such policy will help improve the execution of mining agreements and promote the holistic, harmonious, and systematic conduct of mining operations, MGB Mining Tenements Management Division chief Danilo Deleña said Friday during Day 2 of a virtual mining stakeholders' forum.

Deleña said the MGB drafted the policy due to "persistent disputes and issues among contractors and multiple operators, which compromise the conduct of mining operations within mining tenements."

"That's why there's (a) need to limit the operator under a mining tenement," he said.

He said the MGB has proposed the policy to Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu for review and approval.

If approved, the DENR would issue an administrative order institutionalizing the policy, Deleña said, adding that the MGB is hoping the department would issue the order soon.

The proposed policy covers all mineral production sharing agreements (MPSAs) and financial or technical assistance agreements (FTAAs), according to the MGB.

The bureau defines the MPSA as a mineral agreement in which the "government shares in the production of the contractor, whether in kind or in value, as owner of the minerals," while the contractor "shall provide the necessary financing, technology, management, and personnel for the mining project."

On the other hand, the FTAA is an agreement that "may be entered into between a contractor and the government for the large-scale exploration, development, and utilization of gold, copper, nickel, chromite, lead, zinc and other minerals except for cement raw materials, marble, granite, sand and gravel and construction aggregates."

Deleña said the proposed policy requires mining tenement operators to meet certain qualifications.

He said under DENR Memorandum Order 99-10, an operator must have satisfactory environmental management and community relations in previous mineral resource use ventures and must possess technical competence and financial capability to conduct mining operation within the area covered by the MPSA or FTAA concerned.



The proposed policy likewise identified grounds for either suspending the mining operations of contractors authorized to undertake these or canceling MPSAs and FTAAAs concerned, Deleña said.

"Failure of the operator to conduct mining operations in the contract area under the MPSA or FTAA for more than one year from authorization therein shall cause withdrawal of the said authority," he said.

Deleña said the proposed policy has a transitory provision covering existing multiple operators under either MPSAs or FTAAAs.

He said under that provision, operators "shall continue to be authorized until (the) expiration of the term of their respective operating agreement, memorandum of agreement, and other similar forms of agreement."

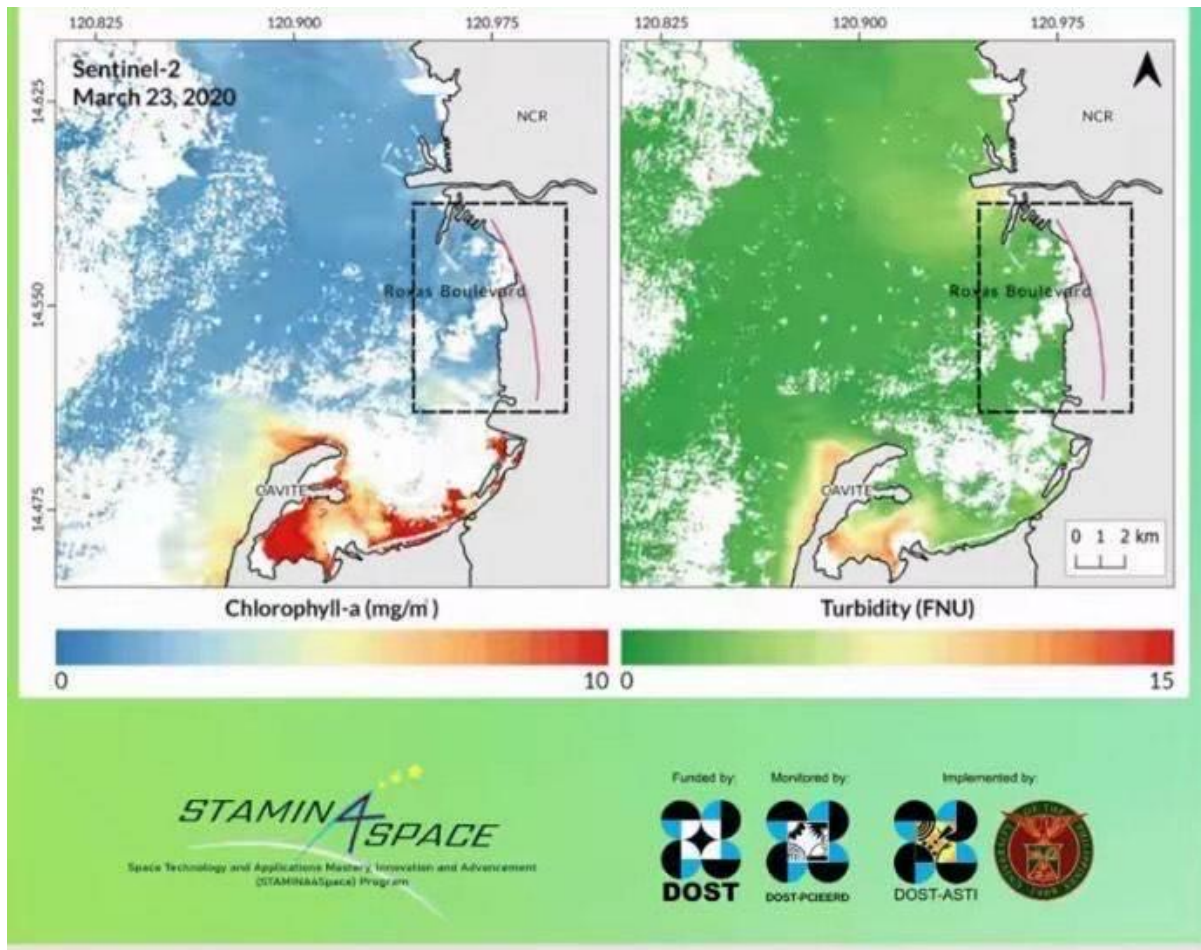
"The authorization of multiple operators shall cease upon expiration of the term of their respective agreements and the contractor shall elect which operator shall remain to conduct mining operation" under the mining agreement concerned, he added. **(PNA)**



Manila Bay's 'discoloration' in 2020 due to increased pollution, says PhilSA

Published November 20, 2021, 3:44 PM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



The sudden color change of Manila Bay's waters from dark blue to turquoise blue in 2020 was caused by increased pollution emanating from Bacoor Bay and Pasig River, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) disclosed, Thursday, Nov. 18.

On its official page, the Philippine Space Agency looked back on the discoloration of Manila Bay's waters that took place on March 25, 2020, a week after the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) took place.

The bright turquoise waters of Manila Bay stirred the news and social media last year, leaving unanswered queries.

PhilSA recalled the reason behind the phenomenon during the observance of the Environmental Awareness Month.

"Using spaceborne images, researchers were able to estimate the chlorophyll-a concentration and water turbidity in the area from March 13 to March 28. High water turbidity could indicate high water pollution while chlorophyll-a suggests algal abundance," the agency said.

PhilSA also said that based on satellite images, high chlorophyll-a and turbidity values were already observed as early as March 23, with turbidity levels doubling up by March 25, suggesting that the discoloration of Manila Bay may have been caused by high water pollution.



“However, since chlorophyll-a levels did not increase significantly around Manila Bay, the change could not be attributed to algal bloom,” it added.

The agency explained that the main “hotspots” were Pasig River and Bacoor Bay. Depending on the wind direction and water circulation, the waters from the aforementioned areas may have influenced the waters in Manila Bay.

The pollutants from Bacoor Bay were mainly from the aquaculture industry and commercial establishments while those from Pasig River were collective wastes from commercial, industrial, and residential activities, it also pointed.

“Significant decline in chlorophyll-a and turbidity was already observed by March 28,[2020],” PhilSA assured the public. (Charie Mae F. Abarca)



Asean groups highlight solutions to reduce plastic waste in rivers, coasts

BY BUSINESSMIRROR NOVEMBER 21, 2021



An intermediate egret and smaller Chinese egrets pick through a multihued garbage along the shores of Manila Bay, still among the most polluted bodies of water on Earth.

“Around 11 million tons of plastic enter our oceans yearly. This is equivalent to an entire garbage truck’s worth of plastic every minute,” said World Wide Fund for Nature Global Plastics Policy Coordinator Huy Ho during a webinar on “Replicable models on marine plastic pollution monitoring” early this month.

“The economic damage of plastic to Earth’s marine ecosystems is estimated at \$13 billion, severely affecting 1,500 species,” Ho added.

Organized by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia Resource Facility under the Asean-Norwegian Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the Asean Region (Aseano), the event highlighted regional efforts to stem the flow of plastic waste into the oceans, a Pemsea news release said.

“One of the main challenges for Asian countries is the prevalence of *tingi* [sachet] culture, where people prefer to buy small, disposable goodie sachets instead of buying in bulk,” explained Dr. Edwin Lineses of De La Salle University Dasmariñas, Philippines.

A 2004 study by Prahalad explained how sachets enabled the global poor to procure goods that well-off people consume, albeit in smaller amounts.

This practice has spurred millions of tons of single use plastics that are choking Asia’s rivers and coasts. The global Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the problem.

“In 2020, the Philippines alone was using an estimated 49 million disposable face masks daily,” Lineses added.

The Aseano project aims to develop and promote sound and sustainable measures to reduce the impacts of plastic pollution and their implications on socioeconomic development and the environment.

The project focuses on the city or municipal level, with Cavite’s Imus River and Indonesia’s Citarum River as project sites.

One of Cavite’s six major river systems, the Imus River, originates in the highlands of Tagaytay and wends through the cities of Dasmariñas, Imus and Bacoor before emptying its contents into Manila Bay.

“Cavite alone generates well over a thousand tons of solid waste daily,” said Anabelle Cayabyab, Cavite Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer.



“What we need is to change the attitude of people in both generating and managing their solid waste because they think the government will always clean up after them. There is no magic solution. We need everyone’s cooperation,” Cayabyab pointed out.

The webinar’s experts highlighted the dangers of marine pollution, particularly buoys and nets from the fishing and aquaculture industries.

“Ghost nets abandoned by fishing fleets kill marine life, which is why fishing vessels should register their nets upon purchase,” recommended Oceans Asia Operations Director Gary Stokes. “We need more accountability from the fishing industry.”

Norwegian Institute for Water Research’s (Niva) Dr. Marianne Olsen highlighted the need to harmonize and standardize sampling, monitoring and reporting systems to get a clearer view of how much plastic flows into our oceans.

Funded by the Norwegian Development Program to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics, Aseano is led by Niva and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Indonesia in close collaboration with the Pemsea Resource Facility and Asean Secretariat under the purview of the Asean Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.

The results of the project will be synthesized into a local government training manual, toolkit and best practices handbook of policy, monitoring tools, and technologies for plastics management that can be used as a reference by local government units in Southeast Asia.

The webinar is a run-up to the upcoming East Asian Seas Congress on December 1 and 2.

“We must step up the monitoring of riverine and marine plastic litter to make informed and effective decisions,” said Ekkaphab Phanthavong, deputy secretary-general of Asean Socio-Cultural Community.

“This event promotes solutions for healthier rivers and coasts in the Asean, which is vital because millions of people depend on them for their lives and livelihoods,” he pointed out. Image courtesy of Gregg Yan



Wife, colleagues recall famed vet's passion to save Philippine Eagles

Published November 20, 2021, 2:41 PM

by [Keith Bacongco](#)

DAVAO CITY – The widow and colleagues of the late veterinarian Roberto Puentespina Jr. recounted how passionate he was in his effort to help save the critically-endangered Philippine Eagle.

In the industry, his colleagues described his passion in wildlife veterinary care and environment as infectious.



Dr. Roberto "Doc Bo" Puentespina Jr. (right with cap) working on an injured Philippine Eagle in 1995 assisted by Philippine Eagle Foundation staff. File Photo courtesy Rene Lumawag Archive/Manila Bulletin)

Olive, a renowned artisan behind the world-class Malagos cheese, recounted that a week after she had their first son, Roberto III, she could not just easily reach out to him because he was at the Philippine Eagle Center.

"When I married him, I knew that he is not just mine. He is such a big personality that I knew I had to share him with a lot of his passion and projects. In fact, when I had my first son nahirapan nga akong tumawag sa kanya dahil nasa Philippine Eagle siya," she recalled during the tribute night with their fellow University of the Philippines alumni, mostly from Los Baños campus.

Maybe a week after he was born, she recalled, they had an activity at the Philippine Eagle Center. Olive was referring to their first son Roberto III, who was born in 1995.

She added that while she was moments before giving birth to their third child, Sophia in 2000, her husband was, again, with the Philippine Eagles.

"I think there was a health audit, wherein they would catch the eagle that's already inside the cage and examine its health status," recalled Olive.

The 57-year-old veterinarian succumbed to an illness on November 15 at a private hospital.

Popularly known by his nickname as Doc Bo, he is regarded as among the pioneers of the wildlife veterinary care in Mindanao. He had contributed his services to keep the eagles in captivity healthy as well as providing medical services to some injured eagles before being released back to the wild.

He further gained fame when he pioneered the use of birds and other animals in his weekly "Malagos Bird Show" to create awareness on the protection of environment and climate change mitigation.



Former Philippine Eagle Foundation breeding program chief Domingo Tadena attested Olive's statement saying that Doc Bo had dedicated so much of his time in providing his services to the Philippine Eagles.

Tadena, who had worked with him in conservation efforts of Philippine Eagles for 30 years, recalled that they were able to hatch 21 eaglets with the support of Doc Bo.

Now 74 years old, he recalled that he first met Doc Bo sometime in mid-1980s up in the hinterlands of Baracatan of this city, where the first captive-breeding camp was located.

"He was still studying in college when he went to our camp to work on his school requirement. And he brought a big bottle of rum. After that, he offered to become a volunteer. And until he became a doctor, he continued to volunteer to us," he told Manila Bulletin.

Tadena recalled that Doc Bo spent a night at the camp because he had to work at night. "The eagles would attack you if you're inside the cage during the day. "

Former PEF field biologist Dr. Camille Concepcion-Silvosa also shared the same sentiments saying that Doc Bo's passion and generosity was infectious and inspiring. "You will be sorely missed Doc Bo. You are my environmental education hero."

For Anna Mae Sumaya, former PEF animal keeper, also described Doc Bo as very passionate on his work adding that he never failed to impart learnings. "I will always remember him as a warm and compassionate person who always has good stories to share."

Tadena further acknowledged Doc Bo's vital contribution in their effort to save the Philippine Eagles, adding that the former was always around whenever they needed his medical services especially for injured eagles.

In 1995, he recalled, Doc Bo assisted the PEF staff to save an injured eagle from Surigao that suffered a fractured leg. "He placed a splint on the fractured leg of the eagle. It was a successful one, the leg eventually healed."

He added that Doc Bo loves to be always in the field especially in the forests.



Sato seeks passage of ecological protection bills: 'No price tag on environmental sustainability'

Published November 19, 2021, 2:52 PM

by [Ben Rosario](#)

Stressing that there is “no price tag on environmental sustainability”, Occidental Mindoro Rep. Josephine “Nene” Sato batted for the prioritization of bills ensuring environmental protection and biodiversity pending in Congress.

Sato said provinces such as Occidental Mindoro should continue to enjoy protection in law to ensure their ecological integrity.

Sato, who is now serving as a United Nations Development Program’s (UNDP) Global Legislative Champion for Biodiversity and Environment, has pledged to continue to ensure the protection of the province’s ecology as she vowed solid support for programs and advocacies that would protect and conserve the environmental jewels of the island district. To better guarantee this the senior administration lawmaker stressed the significance of the swift passage of bills on environment and biodiversity, among them legislative proposals she has filed in the House of Representatives.

Among these measures are those seeking to revise and strengthen the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act and prosecute illegal wildlife trade as an organized transnational crime; strengthen and institutionalize the national policy on access and benefit-sharing from the utilization of the Philippine Genetic Resources (or the “PGRABS” bill); institutionalize the Tamaraw Conservation Program that will scale-up tamaraw conservation efforts similar to that of the Philippine eagle; and declare the entire island of Mindoro as a mining-free zone to institutionalize the 25-year mining moratorium.

“There is no price tag on environment sustainability. No promise of economic benefit can outweigh the importance of environment sustainability and biodiversity conservation. Let us all work together in taking care of Mother Nature and of making sure that no one, nothing hurts her,” the veteran lawmaker said.

The lawmaker, who is now seeking to go back to the capitol and serve as the province’s governor, is likewise the brains and efforts behind the enactment of the landmark Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018 (or Republic Act 11038), which increased to 107 the country’s total protected areas spanning 15 regions, across 53 provinces covering over three million hectares or roughly 10% of the Philippines’ land area.

“There is no planet B, we do not have a spare planet. Compromising the environment and our biodiversity will have far reaching adverse impact and will put the next generation in dire condition. So, if there’s a plan, program, project or any activity that may potentially harm the environment, don’t do it,” Sato said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/11/19/sato-seeks-passage-of-ecological-protection-bills-no-price-tag-on-environmental-sustainability/>



After COP26, what next?

NOV 20, 2021, 4:26 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

For the first time in 30 years, the climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland put forth in the agreement the issue of fossil fuels and the need to reduce climate warming to only 1.5C. Although rich countries have pledged to up the ante, it remains to be seen if leaders of wealthy nations would keep their word. COP27 to be held for the first time in Africa will certainly play up the urgency of climate change to vulnerable countries and regions like Africa.

The greatest accomplishment of the recently-concluded climate summit of leaders in Glasgow, Scotland was that for the first time in 30 years, fossil fuels featured in a UN climate agreement, a landmark moment, even if there were last-minute watering down of language on coal.

Thus wrote Louise Boyle, senior climate correspondent of the Independent, that even as developed countries pledged to double finance by 2025 for poorer nations to help them adapt to climate impacts, the Glasgow pact also “requests” that countries revisit and strengthen 2030 climate plans by the end of 2022, which ups the ante as countries were previously not expected to present new emissions-cutting targets until 2025.

But the bad news is that “keeping 1.5C alive” the aspiration of the Paris Agreement to prevent catastrophic warming, “the goal is fast slipping out of reach, 1.5C is hanging by a thread” as declared by Chris Stark, chief executive of the Climate Change Committee, the UK’s independent adviser on the issue, Boyle noted.

“Current 2030 national pledges put the planet on a dangerous path to 2.4C warming by 2100. Cop26 also saw rich countries fall far short on the \$100- billion annual climate finance for poorer nations that had been agreed to be delivered in 2020. The new projected delivery date is 2023, Boyle added.

2-week talking shop

Whether Cop26 will ultimately be judged as a two-week talking shop or the moment that the world turned the tide on planet-heating emissions depends on what happens next. Will national leaders return home and resolve to honor the promises they made together in Glasgow with concrete actions? UK Cop26 president Alok Sharma said 1.5C remains on the table “but its pulse is weak,” adding that “it will only survive if we keep our promises, if we translate commitments into rapid action.”

No other COP, not even the landmark event in Paris six years ago, received as much attention. A lot of this is to do with extreme climate impacts around the world that are impossible to ignore.



But there should also be much gratitude to the young people, activist groups, and Indigenous communities who tirelessly raise the climate crisis into the collective conscious.

In Glasgow it was just as common to hear a conversation about 1.5C, extreme weather, just transitions and green jobs in a pub, a supermarket, or a train station platform as it was in the cavernous plenary halls.

Keeping that level of public engagement will be critical in the year to come to hold leaders' feet to the fire and make sure they don't shirk their urgent responsibilities.

98 months to halve global emissions

"We have 98 months to halve global emissions," Shauna Aminath, environment minister for the low-lying Maldives, reminded leaders at Cop26 on the final day. "The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees is a death sentence for us."

People participate in a protest rally during a global day of action on climate change in Glasgow on November 6, 2021, during the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference. (Getty)

COP27 in Africa

Now Cop26 has come to an end, Nature4Climate's coalition lead James Lloyd, has been looking forward to COP27 and the issues likely to be the focus of the first COP to be staged in Africa.

Writing in The Independent he said: "African countries contribute only 4 percent to global emissions and yet they are among the worst hit by climate change."

"The latest IPCC report indicates that the African continent is warming faster than the global average, which makes its countries more vulnerable to climate change's devastating impacts, from extreme rainfall to drought to coastal flooding. Adapting to such impacts will therefore be a priority for African nations."

"African communities, which account for 18 percent of the global population, count on an estimated 33 million smallholder farms which together are responsible for 70 per cent of the continent's food supply."

Reducing countries' and communities' vulnerability to climate impacts requires urgent adaptation and finance to help developing countries absorb impacts and build resilient communities, with the meaningful engagement of indigenous peoples and their ancestral knowledge at the heart of this action."

The ocean is essential to tackling climate change. So why has it been neglected in global climate talks?

Climate change is commonly discussed as though it's a uniquely atmospheric phenomena. But the crisis is deeply entwined with the ocean, and this has largely been neglected in international climate talks.



Waves in Washington, America. Image: [Ron Clausen, CC BY-SA 4.0](#).

By Dr Sali Bache, *The Conversation* Nov. 19, 2021

Climate change is commonly discussed as though it's a uniquely atmospheric phenomena. But the crisis is deeply entwined with the ocean, and this has largely been neglected in international climate talks.

The latest international climate negotiations made some progress by, for the first time, [anchoring oceans](#) permanently into the multilateral climate change regime. But the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) is still leagues from where it needs to be to adequately reflect the importance of oceans to our climate system.

Most countries have targets for land-based emissions — but there are no such targets for oceans. Yet the ocean plays a vital role in helping balance the conditions humans and most other species need to survive, while also offering a substantial part of the solution to stop the planet warming over the crucial limit of 1.5°C this century.

So how can oceans help us tackle the climate crisis? And what progress has been made in international negotiations?

The ocean's incredible potential

Since industrialisation, the ocean has absorbed [93 per cent of human-generated heat](#) and [one-third of anthropogenic carbon dioxide](#) (CO₂). The consequences of this are profound, including the thermal expansion of water (the key cause of sea level rise), ocean acidification, [deoxygenation](#) (oxygen loss), and forcing marine life to redistribute to other places.

Alarmingly, this may one day lead the ocean to reverse its role as a carbon sink and release CO₂ [back into the atmosphere](#), as its absorption ability declines.

Equally important is ocean-based climate mitigation, which could provide [more than 20 per cent of the emissions reductions](#) needed for the 1.5°C goal.

Crucially, we must see changes to maritime industries. The shipping industry alone has a similar carbon footprint to Germany — if shipping were a country it would be the world's sixth-largest emitter. Although high on the [International Maritime Organisation's agenda](#), the [decarbonisation of shipping](#) still lacks [adequate targets or processes](#).

Oceans can also provide climate-safe, sustainable food choices. Current food systems, such as emissions-intensive agriculture, fishing, and processed foods are responsible for [one-third of global emissions](#). Considerable environmental (and health) benefits can be gained by shifting our diets to sustainable “[blue foods](#)”.

These include seafoods sourced from fisheries with sustainable management practices, such as avoiding overfishing and reducing carbon emissions. Markets and technologies should also be geared towards the large-scale production and consumption of aquatic plants such as seagrasses.

There’s also a wealth of opportunity in “blue carbon” — capturing CO₂ in the atmosphere by conserving and restoring marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes. However, the success of nature-based solutions depends on a healthy ocean ecosystem. For example, there are emerging concerns around the impact of [plastic pollution](#) on plankton’s ability to absorb CO₂.

But perhaps the greatest impact would come from adopting offshore renewable energy. This has the potential to offer [one-tenth of the emissions reductions we need to reach the 1.5°C goal](#). The International Energy Agency has estimated offshore wind could [power the world 18 times over its current consumption rate](#).

Climate talks are making slow progress

For more than a decade, the inclusion of oceans in climate talks has been piecemeal and inconsistent. Where they have been part of negotiations, including at COP26, talk has focused on the potential for coastal areas to adapt to climate change impacts such as sea-level rise, as first raised in international fora [in 1989](#) by small island states.

The final COP26 agreement, known as the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), made slight progress.

The pact recognised the importance of ensuring the [ocean ecosystem’s integrity](#). It established the “the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue” as an annual process to strengthen ocean-based action. And [it invited](#) UNFCCC bodies to consider how to “integrate and strengthen ocean-based action into existing mandates and workplans” and report back.

While these are positive measures, at this stage they don’t require action by parties. Therefore, they’re only a theoretical inclusion, not action-oriented.

We still lack national targets and clear, mandatory international requirements for countries to consider sinks, sources and activities beyond the shoreline in their climate planning and reporting.

Where COP26 did progress was its focus on whether ocean impacts and mitigation will finally be brought into the mainstream climate agenda. For the first time in five years, a new [“Because the Ocean” declaration](#) was released, which calls for the systematic inclusion of the oceans in the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement process.

What do we do now?

What’s now needed is a list of mandated requirements that ensure countries report on and take responsibility for climate impacts within their maritime territories.

But as COP26 president Alok Sharma said of the summit as a whole, it was a “fragile win”. We still lack any reference to consistency with existing mechanisms, such as the [law of the sea convention](#) or how funding will be allocated specifically to oceans.



As such, the actual impact of COP26 on the inclusion of oceans in climate action remains uncertain. It will depend on how the UNFCCC bodies respond to these directives, and their success in extending obligations to state parties.

Responding to the climate crisis means we need to stop pretending the ocean and atmosphere are separate. We must start including ocean action as a routine part of climate action.

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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



A2, A3 sectors can choose brand of additional shots: DOH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora November 20, 2021, 5:30 pm



BOOSTER SHOTS. Medical worker Mari Marta Flores (left) receives her booster shot against Covid-19 at a mall in Taguig City on Wednesday (Nov. 17, 2021). Soon, senior citizens and adults with comorbidities will also get their additional doses. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

MANILA – Senior citizens (A2) and immunocompromised individuals (A3) have the option to pick their vaccine brands once the government rolls out the third or additional doses, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said Saturday.

Vergeire said the guidelines for the two priority sectors will be released soon after a meeting with health experts on Thursday.

"[I]to pong sa ating senior citizens at saka sa immunocompromised, *tinitingnan natin kasi* it is medically-indicated *and kailangan 'pag* immunocompromised, it's going to be called a third dose (We're studying the rollout for the senior citizens and immunocompromised because theirs would be medically indicated. For the immunocompromised, the term would be the third dose)," she said.

"Although *pareho po natin ibibigay iyong* choice ng homologous or heterologous *para sa kanila* (We will give them both the choice of homologous and heterologous). So we will be issuing out these guidelines in the coming days *para po sa* information ng public," she added. Homologous dosing refers to the administration of the same vaccine brand as the ones given to complete an individual's primary vaccine series while heterologous allows the use of a different vaccine type or brand.

On November 17, the government rolled out the booster vaccination for health care workers to increase the level of their antibodies against Covid-19.

Among the health care workers who received their booster shots since Wednesday, Vergeire said only a few experienced mild side effects, such as pain in the injection area, headache, fever, and an increase in blood pressure.

"All of them were managed accordingly *at wala namang na-hospitalize at wala po tayong* (nobody was hospitalized and we did not get any) bad outcome," she said.

"We are still trying to evaluate the data as to how many got homologous and how many got heterologous vaccines among our health care workers. What we can say right now is *mababa po ang mga nagiging reaksiyon ng ating mga* health care workers *dito sa* booster doses *na sinasagawa natin* (the adverse reaction among our health care workers after getting their booster is low)," she added. (PNA)

COVID-19 task force advises people to still bring face shields when going out

Philstar.com November 20, 2021 | 3:24pm



A man hangs his face shield at the back of his head while walking along EDSA-Kamuning in Quezon City on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Thinking of finally getting rid of your face shields? You may just want to keep them as the government's COVID-19 task force advises you to still bring them with you when you go out.

While face shields are optional in areas under Alert Levels 1, 2 and 3, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases announced Friday that these plastic barriers may still be required by private establishments.

The likely result is that different establishments will have different rules regarding the wearing of face shields, which leaves ordinary folk with no option but to bring them in tow when going out.

“Our advice is just bring your face shield,” National Task Force Against COVID-19 spokesperson Restituto Padilla said in Filipino over state-run People’s Television. “If you are required to use it, then wear it.”

“This is for our benefit and the good of all. We are not giving this condition to burden people but to protect them, so please don’t resent this,” he added.

Government officials and experts have said that face shields could cut the risk of COVID-19 transmission, although the United States’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there is not enough evidence as to the effectiveness of using the plastic barriers.

The requirement of wearing face shields in public places was eased as the Philippines saw a dramatic decline in COVID-19 cases, with the number of new infections plunging to below the 1,500-level for the fourth straight day on Friday. — **Xave Gregorio**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 616

NOBYEMBRE 20, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

0.8%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
22,070

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

97.6%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,755,526

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.66%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
46,903

MGA BAGONG KASO **1,474**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **2,565**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **205**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,824,499**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING NOBYEMBRE 18

DATOS NGAYONG NOBYEMBRE 20
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG NOBYEMBRE 18

3.2%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

38,636

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
62.2%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

**SANITIZE ANG
KAMAY AT IWASAN
ANG KULOB NA LUGAR**

KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)
32% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (20.0K TOTAL BEDS)
28% Utilized

WARD BEDS (13.5K TOTAL BEDS)
18% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
19% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
33% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
25% Utilized

WARD BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
23% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
21% Utilized

Mild 58.1%

4.1% Asymptomatic

5.3% Critical

12.5% Severe

20.02% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

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

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



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

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



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

21 NOVEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

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Please click this link:

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#ManilaBayUpdate #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

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MANILA

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RONSTV VLOG
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#manilabay #bbm #duterte

WOW! IBANG IBA NA ANG MANILA BAY! ANG DATING TAMBAK NG BASURA SA MAYNILA

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THANKS



SAVE



BTV

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