

23 APRIL 2022, SATURDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## DENR Welcomes New CCC Vice-Chair

Friday, April 22, 2022 Journal Online



Officials of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** led by Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna (2nd from left) welcome Secretary Robert Borje (3rd from left), newly appointed vice-chairperson and executive director of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) during the latter's courtesy call to the Environment chief on April 18 at the DENR Central Office. Sampulna said the Department will support CCC's future endeavors to achieve a climate-resilient environment. Also in photo are DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Atty. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh and **DENR** Climate Change Service Director Elenida D. Basug (right and left, respectively).



# DENR Celebrates Newly-Minted Lawyers

Friday, April 22, 2022 Journal Online



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (**DENR**) acting secretary Jim O. Sampulna (left, foreground) celebrates the success of 17 newly-minted lawyers from the DENR Central Office by giving each a **DENR** official jacket. Sampulna individually congratulated the 2020/2021 Bar examination passers after they were presented by the Legal Affairs Service (LAS) Director Atty. Norlito Eneran (2nd from left) and Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs Atty. Michelle Angelica Go (background, in green) during the flag raising ceremony on April 18. They are part of the 8,241 passers or 72.28% of the 11,402 examinees in the biggest and first-ever digital Bar examination in Philippine history. Photo shows Sampulna handing a jacket to Charmel Toni Acuavera (right) of the LAS.



## 4 eco warriors feted posthumously

Venguilla was cornered when four men armed with bolos and a homemade shotgun waylaid his team. He was hacked to death by the men.

Published 3 hours ago on April 23, 2022 04:45 AM

By [Neil Alcober](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) honored posthumously four environmental heroes over the weekend in ceremonies held at its central office in Quezon City.

The awardees were forest rangers Ronaldo Corpuz and Bienvenido Venguilla Jr., DENR informant Gaudencio Araña, and community environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) Miliarete “Milet” Buisan-Panaligan.

A brainchild of former DENR Secretary Ramon Paje under the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc., honoring exemplary contributions by people on ecological protection is now on its third year.

Corpuz was recognized for his action in October 2019 when as a forest ranger in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, he, along with other law enforcement personnel, conducted anti-timber poaching surveillance in Barangay Portal in Rizal province.

Several pieces of illegal lumber were seized from that operation of Bantay Gubat. An unidentified gunman later fatally shot Corpuz in front of his house.

Araña, an informant of CENRO Muñoz, was responsible in giving information on illegal logging activities within the municipalities of Pantangan and Rizal, Nueva Ecija.

His tips led to the apprehension of several illegally sourced wood products which earned the ire of unscrupulous individuals.

Araña was gunned down by two unidentified male suspects on 11 September 2019 along the provincial road in Barangay Poblacion Norte, Rizal, in this province.

Meanwhile, on 4 September 2019, a group of forest rangers led by Venguilla conducted inspections of natural greening program plantation sites in Barangay New Ibahay, El Nido, Palawan.

On their way out of the forest, they chanced upon men cutting trees with a chain saw. The men scampered away and the team of Venguilla seized the chainsaw.

Venguilla was cornered when four men armed with bolos and a homemade shotgun waylaid his team. He was hacked to death by the men.



Panaligan stood out as among courageous CENRO officers as she had openly declared her willingness to die for the service. She was the No. 2 CENRO in terms of apprehensions on on illegal logging cases.

She died of complication due to a lingering disease in August 2018.

Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the chair of the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc., thanked the honorees for their sacrifices and for giving their lives to protect the environment and natural resources.

“The ultimate sacrifices you have made are beyond mathematical calculations — beyond any algebraic formula, money-wise. Rest assured, however, that the environmental foundation will tell and retell your heroic efforts for the narratives that will provide enduring values for the foundation of a future that will lasts,” he said.

Each of the respective families of the environmental heroes received a trophy and cash assistance of P300,000.



## COVER STORY

# Meet our 2022 environment heroes

By Carolyn Bonquin, CNN Philippines  
Published Apr 22, 2022 6:01:18 PM

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines)**— The Philippines is considered as the most dangerous place for environment defenders in Asia.

In 2020, international rights group Global Witness reported 29 forest rangers were killed in the country. A year before that, 43 forest rangers were slain in the line of duty.

For the Earth Day celebration this April 22, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recognized four environment defenders as heroes.

### **Gaudencio Araña, Forest Ranger & Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer**



Gaudencio Araña provided DENR with key information about the illegal logging activities in Pantabangan and Rizal, Nueva Ecija. This led to the apprehension of illegally-sourced wood products.

The 56-year-old forest ranger was shot to death by two men in motorcycle on September 11, 2019, while walking home. The culprits were later found to be illegal loggers.



## Ronaldo Corpuz, Forest Ranger, DENR CENRO MUNOZ



Ronaldo Corpuz helped seize illegal lumber through surveillance operations against timber poaching and illegal transport of forest products in Rizal, Nueva Ecija in October 2019.

Three days after the successful operation, the 43-year-old Corpuz was fatally shot. DENR said the suspects were illegal loggers who admitted their involvement in Corpuz' death

## Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., Forest Ranger



Bienvenido Veguilla Jr., 44, was killed by illegal loggers on September 14, 2019. He was leading a group of forest rangers from a tree planting site when they passed by an illegal logging operation in Bgy. New Ibajay, El Nido, Palawan.

Initially, they only found a chainsaw. But later, four men chased them with bolos and home-made shotgun. One of the loggers hacked Veguilla to death. His colleagues were able to escape.

## Miliarete Panaligan, CENRO-Real, Quezon





Miliarete Panaligan received death threats while she was still alive. She served as a long-time environment officer in Real, Quezon. Her dedication to her role led DENR to building a total of 277 illegal logging cases from 2010 to 2016.

In 2017, she worked on up to eight apprehensions a month. She also included the Dumagat Tribe in the national greening programs in Quezon province. Panaligan died of a heart attack at the age of 58.

### Prioritize environment measures

These four are among the many laudable environment defenders.

Everyday, many forest rangers are risking their lives to protect the environment from the abuse of smugglers and illegal loggers. More often than not, they are not able to defend themselves.

Reynato Puno, former chief justice and founder of Environment Heroes Foundation Inc., said the next administration and batch of lawmakers should prioritize the passage of a bill to allow DENR to have its own law enforcement unit.

He is referring to House Bill 6973, filed by Antique representative Loren Legarda. This seeks to create an Environment Protection and Enforcement Bureau under DENR. However, this was not passed into law by the 18th Congress.

“This bill should be given a fresh push when we have the elections later on, we have new congress, we have a new president. This is a priority bill that should be enacted into law if we want to give more protection to our environment, more protection to the people sacrificing their lives to protect our forest,” Puno said.

Puno added the next president should also focus on saving the environment. “We see how environment is being degraded and we see the tragic results of this especially in developing countries like Philippines— we have more violent typhoons,” he said.

Environment department spokesperson Jonas Leones said the passage of the bill will help forest rangers better protect themselves, noting that some violators could be part of a big organized group. This will also allow more apprehensions of environment criminals like smugglers of wildlife animals and illegal loggers.

“[B]ecause now, we are just relying on regular law enforcement natin, the PNP, 'di naman natin sila pwedeng kaladkarin pag may illegal logging activities. Kung meron kami sariling team, mas madali kami makapunta and we can have sophisticated equipment to protect ourselves and the environment,” Leones said.

[Translation: Because now, we are just relying on regular law enforcement, the PNP, we can't always call on them if there are illegal logging activities. If we have our own team, it would be easier for us to respond and have sophisticated equipment to protect ourselves and the environment.]





## [Legarda on Earth Day: Let's be 'Earth Defenders'](#)

APR 22, 2022, 12:59 PM

Opinyon News Team  
News Reporter

**Loren Legarda has called on the government, private sector, and civil society to engage in projects and programs that would address overexploitation, habitat loss, and pollution.**

*“We should not simply appreciate our planet and all life in it. We have to protect it, we have to fight for it, and as this year’s theme tells us, we have to invest in it,” senatorial candidate Loren Legarda declared in observance of this year’s Earth Day celebration with the global theme, “Invest in our Planet.”*

Legarda made the statement as she led the “Pagyabong 2022: Enrichment Tree Planting Activity” of Philippine native tree species, organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City.

The NAPWC is a legislated protected area and classified as a national park under Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018.

Authored by Legarda during her Senate term, RA 11038 declared 94 natural parks, protected landscapes or seascapes, and reserves as protected areas under national law, bringing the total number of areas protected by law to 107.

*“The enactment of the ENIPAS measure has benefited protected areas in the country, by giving more access to funding for conservation programs as well as the prosecution of prohibited acts enumerated in the law,” Legarda said.*

Legarda also called on the government, private sector, and civil society to engage in projects and programs that would address overexploitation, habitat loss, and pollution.



*“In light of the fast-declining state of our environment due to our destructive ways and the intensifying effects of the climate crisis, let us be the Earth’s defenders who are needed today and tomorrow. Let us continue to help bring back the life of our planet, so our children and future generations can also marvel at its beauty. Patuloy nating payabungin ang ganda at siglang ating kalikasan.” Legarda concluded.*



# Let's be the Earth's Defenders, says Loren Legarda

By: [Angelic Jordan](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:15 PM April 22, 2022



Senatorial candidate Loren Legarda.

MANILA, Philippines — Senatorial candidate Loren Legarda on Earth Day called on the government, private sector, and civil society to engage in projects and programs that would address overexploitation, habitat loss, and pollution.

“In light of the fast-declining state of our environment due to our destructive ways and the intensifying effects of the climate crisis, let us be the Earth’s defenders who are needed today and tomorrow. Let us continue to help bring back the life of our planet, so our children and future generations can also marvel at its beauty. Patuloy nating payabungin ang ganda at sigla ng ating kalikasan [Let us continue to nurture the beauty and vitality of our nature],” Legarda said

As the only candidate for the 2022 Elections with a clear track record on the environment and climate agenda, the Three-term Senator also stressed that people should not only appreciate the planet but also protect and fight for it as this year’s Earth Day celebration’s theme states, “Invest in Our Planet.”

Legarda made these statements as she led the “Pagyabong 2022: Enrichment Tree Planting Activity” of Philippine native tree species, organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City today.



The NAPWC is a legislated protected area and classified as a national park under Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, a law that Legarda authored in the Senate, which declared 94 natural parks, protected landscapes or seascapes, and reserves as protected areas under national law, bringing the total number of areas protected by law to 107.

“The enactment of the ENIPAS measure has benefited protected areas in the country by giving more access to funding for conservation programs as well as the prosecution of prohibited acts enumerated in the law,” Legarda said.



## On Earth Day, Legarda calls on Filipinos to invest and defend it for the next generation

[hataw tabloid](#) April 22, 2022 [Elections](#), [Front Page](#), [Gov't/Politics](#), [News](#)

Environmentalist and Senatorial candidate Loren Legarda called on all Filipinos to be defenders and stewards of creation for the next generation as the world marks Earth Day on Friday, April 22.

“We should not simply appreciate our planet and all life in it. We have to protect it, we have to fight for it, and as this year’s theme tells us, we have to invest in it,” Legarda said during the Pagyabong 2022: Enrichment Tree Planting Activity” held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City.

With this year’s global theme “Invest in our Planet,” Legarda, who is currently serving as Antique’s congresswoman, said that existing environmental laws should be strictly implemented like the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018, which she authored and declared 94 natural parks, protected landscapes or seascapes, and reserves as protected areas under national law.

“The enactment of the ENIPAS measure has benefited protected areas in the country, by giving more access to funding for conservation programs as well as the prosecution of prohibited acts enumerated in the law,” she said.

Legarda, the only candidate who is an acknowledged environment and climate champion (locally and internationally) and author of multiple landmark environment and climate laws, strengthened her call to all sectors – government, private, and civil groups to invest and engage in projects that will help in solving issues such overexploitation of natural resources and pollution.

“In light of the fast-declining state of our environment due to our destructive ways and the intensifying effects of the climate crisis, let us be the Earth’s defenders who are needed today and tomorrow,” she said. “Let us continue to help bring back the life of our planet, so our children and future generations can also marvel at its beauty. Patuloy nating payabungin ang ganda at sigla ng ating kalikasan,” Legarda concluded.

Source: [https://hatawtabloid.com/2022/04/22/on-earth-day-legarda-calls-on-filipinos-to-invest-and-defend-it-for-the-next-generation/?fbclid=IwAR3ajbg--xELQ4-sBrTNzgzD7L\\_j9-XVGeLvmz4LJf7O1guwopuiJSEw](https://hatawtabloid.com/2022/04/22/on-earth-day-legarda-calls-on-filipinos-to-invest-and-defend-it-for-the-next-generation/?fbclid=IwAR3ajbg--xELQ4-sBrTNzgzD7L_j9-XVGeLvmz4LJf7O1guwopuiJSEw)



# Filipinos urged to value nature, resources

By Wilnard Bacelonia and Ben Cal [April 22, 2022, 6:30 pm](#)



(Image courtesy of DENR)

**MANILA** – The Philippines is lucky to have rich seas, vast coastlines, and other natural resources inland but the public should learn to take care of them.

Senator Francis Tolentino, one of the vice-chairpersons of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Climate Change, said Friday that the annual observance of Earth Day is a reminder to value God's gifts.

"*Ang biodiversity po ay laging nangingibabaw. Bukod tangi po ang bansang Pilipinas kung ating titingnan ang likas na yaman na manggagaling sa natural resources. Kung kaya nga po, dapat po natin itong ingatan, hindi lamang po ngayon, kundi pati na sa mga susunod na henerasyon* (Biodiversity is always dominant. The Philippines is one of a kind if we look at our natural resources. That is why we should take care of it, not only now, but also in the next generations)," he said in a video message.

Tolentino urged Filipinos to develop natural resources as well as to follow the law and zoning regulations.

"*Sa paggunita po natin ngayon ng Earth Day 2022, naniniwala po ako na ang ating pagkakaisa at pagmamahal sa ating kalikasan ang lalo pang magpapasiguro na magkakaroon po ng isang maunlad na Pilipinas* (As we celebrate Earth Day 2022 today, I believe that our unity and love for our nature will further ensure that we will have a prosperous Philippines," he added.

Outgoing Antique Representative Loren Legarda, who is eyeing a Senate comeback, participated in a tree-planting activity at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City, one of the 94 protected areas under the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act which she authored.

"*Sa pagdiriwang natin ng Earth Day, hinihikayat ko kayo na maging aktibong kabahagi ng pangangalaga ng kalusugan ng ating mundo. Ang pagpapayaman ng ating kalikasan ay dapat nating gawing prayoridad sa ating pang araw-araw na gawain dahil ito ang bumubuhay sa atin* (As we celebrate Earth Day, I urge everyone to be active in taking care of the Earth's health. We should make it a priority to nurture our natural resources because they make living possible)," she said in statement.

In Bulacan, vice presidential candidate Senator Francis Pangilinan planted a mango tree at the Ascension of our Lord Parish in Pulilan town



"As I said, the last man standing in the vice presidential race is a farmer," he said in the activity captured on video on Facebook.

## Activities

The Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office also conducted clean-up drives and tree planting activities in Paombong town where 100 fruit-bearing trees, including nipa palm, were planted inside an eco-park.

Manila Water and partners likewise jumpstarted their two-day Earth Day Celebration with the theme, "Saving the Earth: Securing Water for the Future".

Along with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Water and Resources Board, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System regulatory and corporate offices, Local Water Utilities Administration, and Bantay Kalikasan organization, Manila Water led a ceremonial tree planting activity at Balara Filters Park in Pansol, Quezon City.

The event is part of Annual Million Trees Challenge, a five-year program that promotes water security and protection of the environment and encourages partners to contribute and adopt a land.

Manila Water is adopting 200 hectares of land at the La Mesa Watershed and will plant seedlings together with its subsidiaries and partner government agencies and local government units.

The ceremonial tree planting activity is a primer for the Arbor Day celebration in June 2022.

On Saturday at 6 a.m., the Hike and Bike for Nature will be held at La Mesa Nature Reserve along Quirino Highway.

April 22 of every year is regarded as the Philippines' Earth Day pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1481 series of 2008.

This year's theme, "Invest in our Planet", seeks to rally all efforts toward protecting the planet and investing in sustainable practices to secure a "green future."

Earthday.org will launch an Earth Day Climate Action Summit via YouTube livestream at around 8 p.m. Friday. **(PNA)**



# Earth Day 2022: Groups urge Philippine leaders to declare climate emergency, solve plastic pollution

Raya Capulong and Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 22 2022 05:23 PM



Environmental advocates from Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and other networks criticized the government during their protest for their supposed negligence in responding to climate issues, adding that they should also be held accountable. Raya Capulong, ABS-CBN News

MANILA - Green campaigners on Friday raised the need to declare a climate emergency, as well as the country's unabated plastic pollution problem this Earth Day 2022, mounting protests and forums to raise awareness on said environmental issues.

Environmental advocates from Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) and other networks criticized the government during their protest for its supposed negligence in responding to climate issues. Activists said government officials should also be held accountable.

The groups lamented the government's continuing push for fossil fuel and coal use. Green campaigners have repeatedly urged government to transition to clean energy to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"Mahina ang mga nanunungkulan sa usapin ng siyensa ng climate change, sa kanila hindi sentrong usapin ang krisis ng klima, sa kanila ang climate crisis ay isang normal lang na sitwasyon at pangyayari, hindi lang ito lack of science kundi wala talaga silang pakialam," said Ian Rivera, PMCJ's national coordinator.

(Our leaders are weak regarding the science on climate change. For them this is not the center of the discussions, deeming it a normal situation. It is no longer about lacking the science knowledge on this, they just don't care.)

Rivera said they are worried about a new study released by the United Nations' (UN) climate experts, warning about a [catastrophic climate change](#) by 2025 if carbon emission levels remain unchanged.

They also called on the public to vote for leaders in the upcoming elections who would prioritize climate justice and measures promoting a 'green agenda', saying this would be a vote for survival.

"Itong pagkilos na ito ay panawagan sa lahat ng mamamayan na hindi na sapat ang pagbabago ang eleksyon kundi kailangan ng baguhin ang mga polisiya para sa panahon ng katindihan ng krisis sa klima ay tayong lahat ay may chance ng survival," the environmentalist added.





(This movement is calling on the public that changes in the upcoming elections will no longer be enough. We need to change the policies during this time, we are facing climate crisis and we need a chance of survival.)

The groups marched towards the Mendiola Peace Arch, where they were blocked by police. At one point, members laid on the ground for their protest.

## PLASTIC CRISIS

James Boston, senior fellow at US-based Johns Hopkins University's Foreign Policy Institute, said multilateral efforts must be done to solve the world's plastic crisis.

Boston recommended coordination between the public and state, fueled by science, a clean seas campaign, and coastal cleanups. Aside from this, "science diplomacy" must be enforced between nations to further inform people and governments on the matter.

He also urged members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to foster marine environmental conservation cooperation.

"More than 8 million tons of plastics enter the ocean each year, equals to dumping a garbage truck of plastic every minute into the ocean. As many as 51 trillion microplastic particles, 500 times more than the stars of our galaxy, litter our oceans and seas," Boston said in a webinar.

"I look at the need to support ASEAN development... the key objective is to foster cooperation and ocean observation monitoring, sharing of data and forecasting, [and] expand and strengthen existing regional agreements relevant to marine plastic litter," he added.

Boston likewise warned about the "ecological catastrophe" in the South China Sea, which is also being threatened by marine litter.

"The approach is to foster a social media global campaign to save the South China Sea from exploitation in plastic pollution... the need to appeal to the UN for marine protected areas in the [said waters]" he added.

A study published last year showed the Philippines is the worst plastic polluter in the world's oceans, producing over a third of global plastic waste. The Pasig River, meanwhile, has been identified as the top plastic discard source worldwide.

This was why Gloria Ramos, Oceana Philippines vice president, is calling for more refillable glass bottles and the phasing out of single-use plastics, noting that recycling "is not working" to save the oceans.

"There is no way to fully control where a single-use plastic bottle ends up. It could be in a recycle bin, in the trash, on the street, or in the ocean," Ramos wrote on her presentation.

"The call for action is stop plastic at the source... demand accountability because the law is there," she added, noting the [Writ of Kalikasan](#) that the Supreme Court issued to government over the country's plastic pollution problem.

"It cannot be stand alone, relying solely on laws or science, these have to be merged together. It is so important to collaborate with other stakeholders," she said, noting the importance of media to extend the messaging.

Local government share the burden now on plastic pollution, which she said "can no longer be managed."



Environment Secretary Jim Sapulna last month bared his support in banning single-use plastics after the pollution became "uncontrollable."

"I myself, the DENR is supporting the bill banning the use of small plastic, ano. Kasi iyan ang hindi natin naku-control – shampoo, sabon, all of these things, hindi natin naku-control ito," he had said.

(We cannot control it anymore - shampoo, soaps (plastic products), all of these things cannot be controlled anymore.)

Lawmakers in the House last year passed a measure seeking to gradually phase out the production, sale, and use of single-use plastics, while the Senate passed a bill seeking to make plastic manufacturers accountable for their plastic waste.

Some environmentalists have pushed for zero-waste initiatives and plastic-free homes to help address the plastic pollution problem.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/04/22/22/climate-crisis-plastic-pollution-take-spotlight-on-earth-day-2022?fbclid=IwAR0QngLPozU1zrG1rsiwb9ISyZGp7hXYgtIrDKBH6J0KLyARmDEjGIMRRds>



# Boracay advised to observe 19K daily carrying capacity

By Perla Lena April 22, 2022, 6:12 pm



BE COMPLIANT. Tourists enjoy the white beach of Boracay Island during the Holy Week before the pandemic in 2020. The Department of Tourism said the island should observe the 19,215 daily visitors while its 2018 carrying capacity study is being reviewed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. *(PNA file photo courtesy of Jun Aguirre)*

**ILOILO CITY** – The Department of Tourism (DOT) urged Boracay local government to comply with its allowed 19,215 visitors daily while its carrying capacity is being reviewed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“DENR is currently doing a review on the carrying capacity study in 2018. They are expecting that the study will be released by June 15,” said DOT Regional Director Cristine Mansinares in an interview on Friday.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat this week called on the local government unit (LGU) of Malay for exceeding the daily threshold on the island during the Holy Week.

The number of tourists staying on the island was recorded at 21, 252 on April 14 and 22, 519 on the next day.

The figures differ from the data of the Malay Tourism Office which showed from April 11 to 17 (Holy Week), the arrivals reached 44,981; the highest was on Maundy Thursday with 12,266 guests.

The Malay data, however, referred to the new arrivals and did not include the guests already staying on the island, who were still part of the carrying capacity, according to Mansinares.

DOT, meantime, has yet to receive a copy of the reply of the local government of Malay town on the violation since the letter of Puyat was addressed to the DENR and was copy furnished to the LGU.

Mansinares added that the DENR, DOT, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) are already discussing possible measures to address the problem.

“In terms of details as to the next steps, we will rely on our respective secretaries through the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation Management Group,” she added.



The regional director said the local government is also conscious of their upcoming events to make sure that these will not trigger the surge of tourists.

From April 26 to May 1, the island will be celebrating “Love Boracay” formerly “LaBoracay” marking the start of the closure of the island for rehabilitation as ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte in 2018. **(PNA)**



# DENR gets boost from P1.1-B project

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) April 23, 2022



Department of Environment and Natural Resources

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#)' (DENR) P1.1-billion Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (Sibol) project is seen boosting environmental protection and supporting economic activity in far-flung rural areas.

Funded by the [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAid), Sibol has elevated [Philippines](#)' appreciation for natural resources and biodiversity protection. The project has trained Filipino natural resource managers on how to properly account for environment-provided benefits.

A total of 275 government staff and researchers from Philippine public universities has completed a three-month training that will support the government's promotion of economic growth through the conservation of the country's ecosystems.

The training serves as a foundation for incorporating environmental valuation into the design of economic plans at the local level.

The Philippines' capability to quantify the economic value of its natural resources will be applied in natural capital accounting.

"When we have competent natural resource managers who are able to account for and monitor the economic value of ecosystem services, the country is in a better position to understand the drivers behind natural resource depletion. It's a necessary intervention that will preserve the country's biodiversity, oceans and landscapes," said [USAid Philippines Environment Office](#) Director [John Edgar](#).

Natural resource managers and researchers from the DENR, [Bureau of Fisheries](#) and Aquatic Resources, [National Economic and Development Authority](#), [Palawan Council](#) for Sustainable Development and six public universities learned various methods for measuring the value of benefits derived from the environment such as food, water and fuel, soil conservation and coastal protection.

"This [capability will help in] updating the country's asset accounts, or the value of resources found in Philippine forests, coral reefs and fisheries," said the DENR.

According to the [World Conservation Monitoring Center](#), the Philippines is one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world, which account for 70 percent of the entire planet's species of flora and fauna.



Sibol is a five-year natural resources management and biodiversity conservation project. It is among the biggest and most important initiatives in the country that could profoundly impact the environment in generations to come, according to USAid.

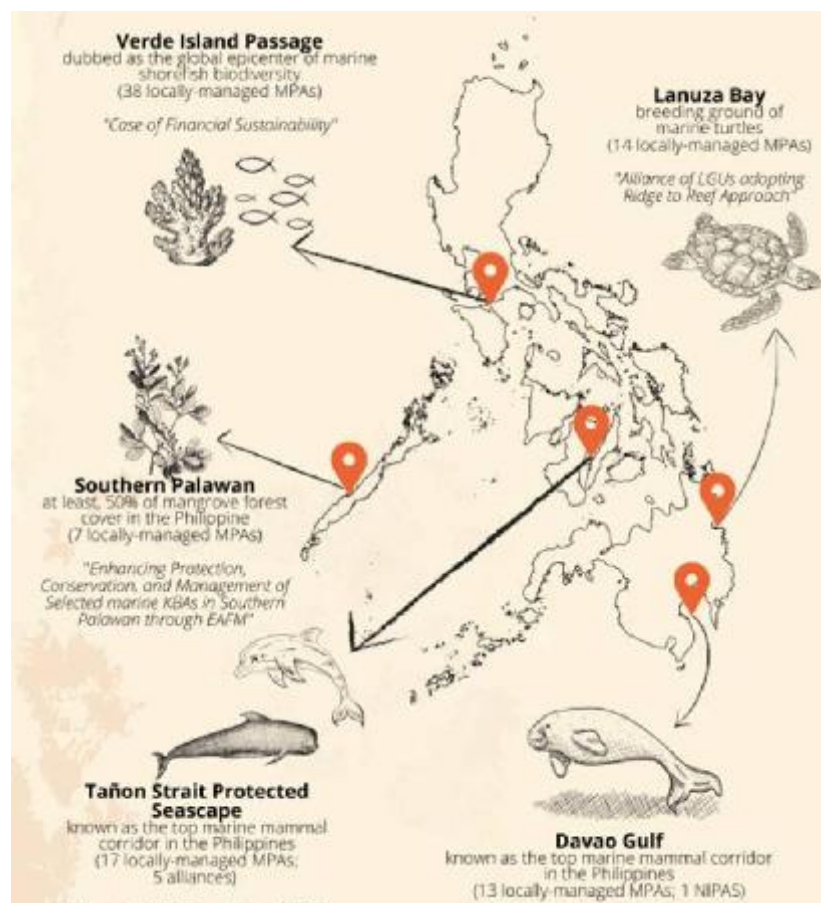
Launched in 2020, Sibol aims to work with the government to achieve its goals of improving natural resource governance, stimulating public and private sector investments, and reducing environmental crime.

Such goals will lead to greater ecosystem stability and inclusive green growth. Sibol has four sites in the following key protected areas in the Philippines: Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape; [Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park](#) and Cleopatra's [Needle Forest Reserve](#); Mantalingahan Protected Landscape; and [Siargao Island](#) Protected Landscape and Seascape.



# Joint Memorandum Circular of DENR, DA, DILG to strengthen marine protected areas, enrich coral reefs and marine habitats

April 23, 2022



DENR-SMARTSeas marine protected area network. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A JOINT Memorandum Circular (JMC) between the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) and two other state agencies is expected to strengthen the establishment of marine protected area network (MPAN), restore damaged coastal ecosystems, and enrich coral reefs and marine habitats.

This policy mandates collaboration between the DENR, [Department of Agriculture](#) (DA) and [Department of the Interior](#) and Local Government (DILG) in improving the coastal and marine environment through cooperation.

"The eventual approval of the joint (DA-DENR-DILG) policy guidelines on the establishment and management of MPANs will be valuable in biodiversity conservation efforts," Dr. [Vincent Hilomen](#), SMARTSeas [PH](#) national project manager, said.

The JMC ensures that biodiversity conservation is given priority equally along with economic development.

"There will be a value for a government policy that places conservation as equally important to development and progress. Many of the degraded coastal and marine habitats resulted from the relentless push for development and progress with little afterthought of the higher costs to the environment," Hilomen said.



A joint effort of DENR, DA, and DILG will help the government hurdle the difficulties of putting up MPAs and MPAN amid coastal residents' usual opposition against these.

MPAN is a collection of individual MPAs or reserves operating cooperatively and synergistically under the SMARTSeas.

"One of the greatest challenges that we are experiencing in establishing MPANs is still the acceptance of the community. There are several instances where the communities resist to set aside a portion of their waters for protection purposes because they think that access to their fishing areas will be limited," Hilomen said.

The DENR's SMARTSeas PH project or Strengthening Marine Protected Areas to Conserve Marine Key Biodiversity Areas in the [Philippines](#) is funded under a \$28.53 million co-financing scheme between government and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It also received a GEF grant of \$8 million.

For more information, visit <https://growthfeatures.com/2022/04/12/joint-memorandum-circular-of-denr-da-dilg-to-strengthen-marine-protected-areas-enrich-coral-reefs-and-marine-habitats/>

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/04/23/public-square/joint-memorandum-circular-of-denr-da-dilg-to-strengthen-marine-protected-areas-enrich-coral-reefs-and-marine-habitats/1840914>





# 129K hectares of Region 3 forests rehabilitated

By [Philippine News Agency](#) April 23, 2022



More than 129,000 hectares of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated under the Enhanced National Greening Program since 2011. PNA PHOTO

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga: More than 129,000 hectares (ha) of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central [Luzon](#) have been rehabilitated since the Enhanced [National Greening Program](#) (E-NGP) started in 2011, the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR)-Region 3 (Central Luzon) office here said Tuesday.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of DENR-Region 3, said the E-NGP in the region was strengthened to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

"Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government's climate change mitigation program," he said in a statement.

Moreno said the agency established more than 3,200 ha of bamboo plantation in 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

This, he said, is in addition to the more than 14,000 ha of bamboo plantations under NGP before the onset of the health crisis.

Moreno said partnership and collaboration with private firms were also strengthened to sustain these plantations, where more than 5,800 ha of unfunded NGP areas have been adopted by different organizations.

He admitted that the task of ensuring the survival of planted trees needs more manpower and resources that the DENR cannot provide.

"This is where the private sector comes in by adopting established NGP plantations, where the company commits to continue the fight for a better tomorrow," he said.

The DENR has also partnered with families in upland areas, peoples' organizations, the Philippine [National Police](#), [Bureau of Fire Protection](#) and the Philippine Army in the region to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response to forest fires and reported illegal forest activities in NGP areas.

Apart from its ecological value, the NGP has generated 154,055 jobs in the region for plantation maintenance and protection activities.



"We see more jobs being provided to local communities including our Indigenous People, especially at a time like this, when the economy is still reeling from the effects of the pandemic," Moreno said.

NGP aims to reforest 1.5 million ha of denuded lands and watersheds in the country.

It was expanded until 2028 under Executive Order 193 to reforest and develop the remaining degraded forest areas nationwide.



# Campaign posters removed from trees

By [Franz R. Sumangil](#) April 23, 2022

THE [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) in Region 12 (DENR-12) has removed a total of 7,229 campaign materials nailed and dangled on trees across the Soccsksargen region.

DENR-12 Director [Felix Alicer](#) said the region-wide removal of campaign posters and paraphernalia from trees, dubbed "Oplan Baklas," was carried out on Wednesday.

"This was in close coordination with our partners, the Commission on Elections, local government units, police and the [Environmental Management Bureau](#), and Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#)," Alicer said.

Alicer also said most of the removed campaign materials from local and national candidates were made of tarpaulin, plywood and fabric streamers.

Based on reports from the provincial DENR offices, about 6,063 posters were removed from trees in South [Cotabato](#), 717 in North Cotabato, 256 in [Sarangani Province](#) and 193 in [Sultan Kudarat](#).

The provincial and community offices of DENR-12 have already conducted operations in their respective areas of responsibility prior to the simultaneous Oplan Baklas operations.

Alicer appealed to all candidates and their supporters to strictly follow the law and spare the trees from campaign materials.

"There are designated common poster areas for the candidates, and the trees are not one of those. We have to spare the trees from these election materials since these trees provide various environmental benefits to us," he said.

Alicer also added that violators could face legal sanctions if they continue to ignore the provisions of various election and environmental laws.



## Spare trees from campaign ads, says DENR-8

He said putting the campaign posters on trees violate at least two laws — Republic Act 3571 which prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of trees along public roads, in parks, schools, and other public areas, and Presidential Decree 953 that penalizes unauthorized cutting, damaging and injuring trees.

Published 5 hours ago on April 23, 2022 03:50 AM

By Elmer Recuerdo



In line with the celebration of Earth Day, officials from the Manila Water spearhead a tree-planting activity at the Balara Filters Park in Barangay Pansol, Quezon City. | Photograph by Analy Labor for the daily tribune @tribuneph1\_ana

**TACLOBAN CITY** — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas renewed its call to all candidates in the 2022 national and local elections to refrain from putting campaign materials on trees.

This, as the agency marked the Earth Day celebration with “Operation Baklas,” a simultaneous region-wide drive to remove campaign materials posted on trees.

It added that campaign posters of both national and local candidates that were either tied or nailed on trees were removed in major thoroughfares all over the region as they violate both environmental laws and Commission on Elections (Comelec) guidelines.

DENR-8 regional executive director Arturo Fadriquela said the trees are not legitimate areas for putting up election materials and advised candidates and their political supporters to follow election provisions as to where they should put up campaign materials.

“The Earth Day is a timely reminder for the candidates and their supporters to practice an environment-friendly election campaign,” Fadriquela said.

“The ‘Operation Baklas’ intends to once again remind the general public that adorning our trees with posters, especially when using nails, could damage their health conditions,” he added.

He said putting the campaign posters on trees violate at least two laws — Republic Act 3571 which prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of trees along public roads, in parks, schools and other public areas, and Presidential Decree 953 that penalizes unauthorized cutting, damaging and injuring trees.



Fadriquela also urged all candidates and their political supporters to voluntarily remove campaign materials that are nailed or posted trees as a way of showing their support to protect the environment.

Aside from DENR and Comelec, other agencies that participated in the removal of campaign materials include the Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine National Police and local government units.



## DENR removes 2 cubic meters of campaign materials



Photo courtesy of DENR-Davao

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

April 22, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Davao Region removed approximately two cubic meters worth of unlawfully posted campaign materials on April 18, 2022.

The clearing operations focused mainly on the removal of campaign elections materials that were posted on trees, plants, and the environment, which is considered a violation under the Republic Act 3571, an act that prohibits the cutting, destroying or injuring of planted or growing trees, flowering plants and shrubs, or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises or any other public ground.

According to Jayvee Agas, DENR-Davao Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) chief, the clearing operations team focused on Dacudao Avenue and Buhangin Diversion Road in Davao City.

“Ito yung mga areas na napansin namin na with visible campaign materials na naka-post sa trees,” Agas told SunStar Davao on Thursday, April 21.

She said the team confiscated mostly tarpaulins and posters with wooden frames and wooden posts from the said clearing operations.

The action came after DENR-Davao Director Bagani Evasco expedited the order after netizens and environmental advocates expressed concerns over the issue, including environmental group Davao City Youth for Green Environment (DCYGE).

“We always sought intervention and prevention for keeping a healthy and sustainable way of campaigning... Along with DENR-Davao, we have joined forces to do the right thing as it is a clear violation of RA 3571,” DCYGE told SunStar Davao in an online message.

The group added, “With this, we have all the right to take down campaign posters because it is clear to us that those people are not knowledgeable enough about environmental laws.”



Agas said DENR-Davao, in coordination with City Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Cenro) and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (Penro), is continuously monitoring activities related to the unlawful posting of campaign materials in the region.

“To make sure na hindi siya ilalagay sa mga puno. Ito kasi yung lagi namin sinasabi everytime na may campaign periods tayo. Yung mga campaign materials hindi natin siya ilalagay sa puno, much more na hindi siya ipapako kasi nakaksira siya (To make sure they won’t put it on trees because this is what we always say every campaign period. We should not post campaign materials on trees, much more to nail iron them),” Agas said.

According to DCYGE, nailing, tacking, or stapling campaign materials damages the protective bark of the tree and causes punctures which allows harmful organisms to enter and affect the health of trees or even kill it.

With this, DENR-Davao reminds election candidates and their supporters to avoid posting campaign materials on trees. Such actions may be punished with imprisonment of 6 months to two years and a fine ranging from P500 to P5,000.



## 8,000 campaign poster binaklas ng DENR R2



April 22, 2022 @ 6:26 AM 1 day ago

CAGAYAN VALLEY-Halos mahigit 8,000 campaign materials at poster na nakapako sa mga puno sa mga pangunahing kalsada at pampublikong lugar ang pinagtatangal sa first inter-agency regionwide Oplan Baklas dito sa region 2 o Cagayan Valley.

Ayon kay DENR Region 2 Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan, ang aktibidad ay ang kauna-unahang synchronized collaborative Oplan Baklas sa rehiyon.

Kaisa at kasama ng DENR ang Commission on Elections (COMELEC), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at Philippine Army (P.A) ay magkatuwang na pinag-aalis ang illegal na nakakabit sa mga hindi awtorisado o ipinagbabawal na lugar.

Ang mga binaklas na campaign materyales sa mga lalawigan ng Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya at Batanes ay itinurn-over sa Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

Ang mga nakumpiskang campaign materials ay nakatakdang ire-recycle upang mabawasan ang mga basurang napupunta sa mga sanitary landfill.

Kaugnay nito, inatasan ang mga field officials na ipagpatuloy ang pagbabantay sa mga posibleng lalabag sa kautusan. **Rey Velasco**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/8000-campaign-poster-binaklas-ng-denr-r2/>





## DENR opens envi-trade fair on organic products



ENVI-TRADE FAIR. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources opened its Envi-Trade Fair, where organic products from all over Central Luzon are being sold by various partner peoples' organizations. (DENR)

IAN OCAMPO FLORA

April 22, 2022

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Central Luzon opened on Friday, April 22, its Envi-Trade Fair, where organic products from all over the region are presented for sale by various partner organizations.

DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr. noted that the trade fair serves as a channel to inspire social entrepreneurs to establish a profit-generating venture that likewise values a healthy and green planet.

“Our trade fair activity underscores how people from all parts of Central Luzon can come together for a common cause of showcasing products from their respective localities, while giving us all a better appreciation of the bounties that we can gain if we just live in harmony with nature,” Moreno said.

The fair, which will run until April 22, is part of the annual celebration of the Month of the Planet Earth.

This year’s theme “Invest in Our Planet” rallies for courage to preserve and protect public health and communities’ livelihood by conserving nature.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1927055/pampanga/local-news/denr-opens-envi-trade-fair-on-organic-products>



# Elusive Philippine warty pig spotted on Mt. Apo

Published April 22, 2022 9:24pm

The Philippine warty pig or baboy ramo was recently seen on Mt. Apo.

According to #KuyaKimAnoNa on “24 Oras” Friday, staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region XI spotted the animal during their annual monitoring at Mt. Apo Natural Park in Davao del Sur.

Park protection officer Jodel Erano said they were surprised to see the elusive creature. “Mailap kasi 'yun eh, wild kasi,” he said.

Erano said the wild pig, which was wounded, was estimated to be 70-80 years old based on its tusks.

Meanwhile, Amer Oraiz, a hiker from Iligan City, also encountered a wild pig when he went up the mountain last year.

“Natatakot po, first time ko kasing maka-encounter sa personalan ng isang baboy ramo. Sabi kasi ng iba is wild sya, nangangagat,” he said.

Oraiz also noticed that the pig was wounded and had swollen feet.

According to International Union for Conservation of Nature, Philippine warty pigs are vulnerable or may soon be extinct due to hunting and loss of their forest habitat.

Jose Lechoncito Jr., DENR XI wildlife resource permitting section chief, said these animals would have better chances of survival if left without human intervention.

“Huwag natin silang gagalawin, huhulihin, hayaan lang natin sila na mabuhay sa kanilang natural habitat,” he said.

He also urged the public to report wildlife threats to the nearest DENR office. – **RC, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/829416/elusive-philippine-warty-pig-spotted-on-mt-apo/story/?fbclid=IwAR1doN1jOgZJP-6pwJYDMYnFA35GfYVVL0cA9W5ioC8jdVcgUT4\\_Txhyn9o0](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/829416/elusive-philippine-warty-pig-spotted-on-mt-apo/story/?fbclid=IwAR1doN1jOgZJP-6pwJYDMYnFA35GfYVVL0cA9W5ioC8jdVcgUT4_Txhyn9o0)



### Baboy ramo sa Mt. Apo | #Shorts

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## 1,700 fisherfolk march on Earth Day to stop dredging for black sand mining in Aparri



April 22, 2022

ONE thousand seven hundred fisherfolk from more than 12 barangays in Aparri marched on Friday, Earth Day, to protest black sand mining operations in the town, which they say is happening in the guise of river dredging.

This was the first time that a protest of this magnitude was organized in the town.

The fisherfolk were joined by other groups from neighboring towns of Gattaran, Ballesteros, Buguey, Gonzaga, and Sta. Ana.

A prayer service and program were held at the San Pedro Telmo Parish Church where fisherfolk shared the effects of the alleged mining operations to their livelihood and environment.

Mayoralty candidates for the 2022 elections, incumbent mayor Bryan Dale Chan, and long-time former mayor Dr. Ismael Tumaru, were in attendance to respond to their problems.

Fisherfolk report that the supposed river dredging activities produce sound, light, and chemical pollution that have gravely disturbed the ecosystem, messed with reproductive patterns of aquatic resources, decimated the fish and shrimp population, including that of the aramang or spider shrimp, which is endemic in the area.

The dwindling catch has considerably slashed the income of 11,000 fisherfolk and their families. Before the river dredging operations started in the first quarter of 2021, fisherfolk said one boat could catch up to 200 kilos of fish overnight off the coast of Aparri. Now, they would be lucky to take home three kilos of fish. They also shared that from December 2021 to April 2022, each fisherman would earn 300 to 1,000 pesos for three days' work, a far cry from their 3,000 to 7,000 peso earnings before that period.

Aparri fisherfolk and residents reported the return of mining activity in the first quarter of 2021 with dredging seacrafts and huge sea carriers of the Chinese firm Riverfront Construction Inc. visibly operating in the Cagayan River, the Aparri delta, and the West Philippine Sea.



The Cagayan Provincial government headed by Governor Manuel N. Mamba explained that the presence of large ships is due to the ongoing large-scale dredging to desilt the Cagayan river, not only as a river rehabilitation and flood control project, but also as a necessary “enabling activity for the reopening of the Aparri port and the establishment of an international seaport.”

The project, entitled the Cagayan River Restoration Project, is headed by the Department of Environment and Natural Environment with Mamba as the convenor of an inter-agency committee that includes the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Mamba has also said he will resign if the people can prove there were indeed mining activities there.

But local fishermen attest that the vessels suck sand at the open sea, right at the areas where they fish, which are several kilometers from the mouth of the river, way beyond the designated dredging segments. Marine traffic tracking reveal back and forth trips of the vessels from Northern Philippines to China which, fisherfolk believe, is the end destination of the mined magnetite from the black sand. For example, Hong Chang, a bulk carrier that can haul up to 64,000 metric tons of sand material has done trips between Aparri to China at least four times since the dredging project started.

Fisherfolk and many Aparri residents also insist that the river dredging project actually brings the threat of erosion to an area that is already perennially inundated by floods brought about by strong rains and typhoons. As a flood-control project, it defeats its purpose, they said.

Mayor Chan speaking at the Earth Day program shared the RCI does not have a permit to dredge the river, but only a general engineering permit.

He also said that the project went into full swing without public hearings and proper consultation with the people. Chan reiterated his support to the fisherfolk in their fight to stop black sand mining.

Addressing government leaders, dried fish vendor Marlyne Bugarin cried, “We plead for your compassion. Our fervent hope is that disaster brought about by black sand mining be stopped. May the Lord touch your hearts so that you will feel and see our call.”

Parish priest Fr. Manuel Catral said the Earth Day event dubbed “Alay Lakad Para sa Kabuhayan, Kalikasan, Kinabukasan” was intended to be a platform for the fisherfolk to express their depressing situation to the people of Aparri and its future leaders.

“Fishing is the lifeblood of Aparri. Its people’s identities are closely anchored in its waters. The Parish of San Pedro Telmo is united with the fisherfolk in their clamor to stop ecological plunder of the river and the seas and claim their economic, social, and cultural rights,” Catral said. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1927069/baguio/local-news/1700-fisherfolk-march-on-earth-day-to-stop-dredging-for-black-sand-mining-in-aparri>



# BAN Toxics pushes for toxics and wastes-free schools in the Philippines

Friday, April 22, 2022 Journal Online



**T'BOLI, SOUTH COTABATO –** In light of today's commemoration of Earth Day, environmental watchdog group BAN Toxics calls on the government to advocate for toxics and wastes-free schools across the Philippines.

This year's Earth Day theme is "Invest in Our Planet." Earth Day is celebrated yearly to support environmental rights and protection. The protection of children from toxic chemicals and wastes should be prioritized because they are uniquely vulnerable to its adverse effects.

Students and teachers from T'Boli National High School and Edwards National High School from T'Boli, South Cotabato also joined the call for a toxics-free future.

BAN Toxics has been advocating for sound chemicals and wastes management, with a special focus on children's protection through their Toxics-Free Schools Program (TFSP). The Toxics-Free Schools Program was spearheaded in 2014 by BAN Toxics, with the support of the Department of Education (DepEd).

The program's goal was to make schools safe for children and faculty members and to increase awareness on the issue of toxic and waste pollution in schools and homes. Moreover, the program seeks to engage schools and communities on proper sound chemicals and wastes management.



Toxics-Free Schools Program focuses on the toxic chemicals and wastes that might be found in schools. The hazardous chemicals include lead, mercury, phthalates, cadmium, and arsenic. Exposure to these chemicals pose serious health risks to children.



Human exposure to lead comes from the use of fossil fuels, leaded gasoline, industrial facilities, and use of lead-based paint in homes and schools. Primary sources of human exposure to mercury are from mercury-added products such as dental amalgam and mercurial thermometer, and gold mining activities. Phthalates are usually found in personal care products such as soap and shampoo, as well as plastic-based school supplies. People are exposed to cadmium through cigarettes, batteries, and cadmium-added paint. Primary exposure to arsenic are from pesticides and drinking contaminated water and food.

The program also promotes proper and sound waste management both in school and at home. This includes proper waste segregation, implementing the 3Rs, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, urban gardening and composting, and minimization of single-use plastics usage.

BAN Toxics is a non-governmental organization that strongly [supports the protection of the environment and advocates for an environmentally sustainable future](#) through the promotion of sound chemicals and wastes management practices. The organization continues to promote the Toxics-Free School Program by partnering with academic institutions to protect children from the adverse effects of toxic chemicals and wastes pollution.

“This Earth Day, we call on the government to take a stronger stance to protect children from the harmful effects of toxic chemicals and wastes. We need to capacitate our schools and communities to take action against toxic and waste pollution,” says Reynaldo San Juan Jr., executive director of [BAN Toxics](#).



# Earth Day pledge: Start shopping sustainably at SM

BYBMPLUS APRIL 21, 2022



SM Mall of Asia main facade

In commemoration of Earth Day this 2022, the SM Store calls on its customers to join them in making a conscious and deliberate shift toward green living.

“Our goal is to make sustainability as accessible as possible for all Filipinos nationwide. The idea that living green is not something that can be integrated in our day-to-day life should be a thing of the past. As we’ve learned, even the simplest of changes in the way we spend can lessen our carbon footprint,” shares the SM Retail Inc President Ponciano Manalo.

As a leader in the retail space, the SM Store has always aimed to make life better for its customers. With top-of-the-line product innovations, marketing, and a diversified portfolio of brands and business partners, it is to no surprise that they have become the beloved household brand Filipinos have come to know. Today, they are taking that mission to the next level by addressing a fundamental barrier to shifting to green living— accessibility.

Associating affordability to living an eco-friendly lifestyle could possibly be the biggest hurdle in allowing the concept to be widely accepted to the mass market. Green products were either hard to find or too expensive. The SM Store, however, has already begun the push for more affordable, sustainable options to meet the demand. Joined by a vast number of retail affiliates, the fruits of this pursuit can already be found inside their stores.

”To date, we are working across our multiple channels—tapping SM’s partners and communities in integrating a greener approach. From ensuring the processes are completely sustainable to achieving the eco-friendly design, we hope that with our joined efforts, our customers and stakeholders can reach a point where they will see how easy it is to embrace green living. More than being a commitment to our people, it’s an investment for our planet,” added Manalo.

Since the start of the pandemic, awareness and acceptance of adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle has gradually increased. In a report published by Kantar in 2021, 75% of Filipinos are actively seeking out brands that offer products or services that can lessen their environmental impact. As concern toward the environment and the impending climate crisis become more widespread, the need to implement more sustainable practices is becoming a shared call to action across the globe.



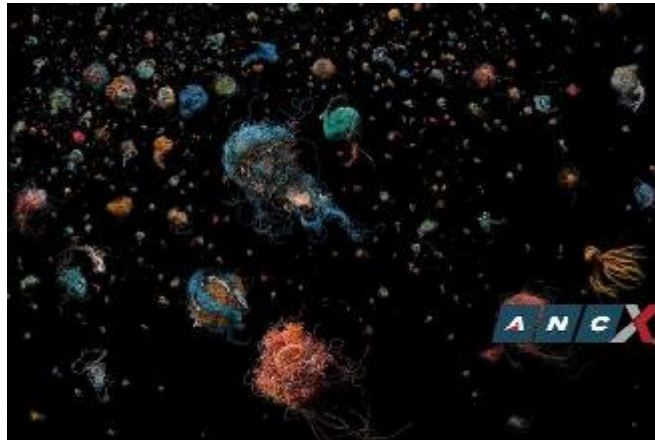


## **Making green shopping easier**

As the leading retail brand in the country, the SM Store is doing its part in influencing customers to make purchasing decisions that will help the environment and the planet.

The urgency to make sustainable living a practice is shared by customers and businesses alike. In 2021, a study conducted by Euromonitor showed that 67 percent of customers across the globe have tried their hand in creating positive impact by being more conscious of their own purchases. As customers develop a more sustainable shopping behavior, demand for brands that offer eco-friendly products and services has increased.

At the SM Store, brands with sustainable business practices are easily accessible to customers seeking to build green habits. Making a conscious decision in living green is as easy as heading over to the nearest SM Store. For more information about SM's sustainability initiatives, visit [www.smgreenmovement.com](http://www.smgreenmovement.com).



*From 'SOUP,' by Mandy Barker. Photo courtesy of Emerging Islands*

## LOOK! Startling photographs from an eye-opening Earth Day exhibit inspired by La Union's waters

"Follow the Water," which runs for a month, invites viewers to rediscover Philippine waters and the challenges it's confronted with.

ANCX Staff | Apr 22 2022

When the pandemic lockdowns were implemented in 2020, documentary photographer Hannah Reyes Morales, independent curator David Loughran, and creative and communications strategist Samantha Zarandin found themselves in the small surftown of San Juan, La Union.

With the Covid situation in Manila rendering them unable to do business and creative pursuits, they said yes to the invitation of Nat Geo explorer Nicola Sebastian, who's been based in the coastal town, to have a short vacation. The three intended to seek shelter, find healing, and recalibrate their plans.



*From the 'SOUP,' series by Mandy Barker, a piece co-created with Emerging Islands.*



The La Union waters proved nurturing, to say the least, allowing group not only to rediscover themselves, but also nature around them. In the process, Morales, Loughran and Zarandin found a deeper purpose for their stay.

“As artists, we thought we had to form our own response [to the pandemic situation], find a venue so that people can continue to make art and tell stories,” Sebastian, a writer and surfer, tells ANCX. Because San Juan provided a way for them to innovate, explore ideas and possibilities together thru art, the group formed Emerging Islands, a coastal-based arts organization and residency.



*From 'Langit, Lupa, Impiyerno,' by Geric Cruz*

The project began with a workshop Morales led with fellow Nat Geo photographer Mandy Barker who is globally acclaimed for her work involving marine plastic debris. They provided training to photography students who come from different backgrounds—one was a marine researcher, some were fine art photographers, and there was also a surf photographer. Over the course of a few weeks, Morales and company also mentored them on the issue of plastic in Philippine waterways.



*From 'Guardians of the Marsh,' Photo by Gab Mejia*

With the help of local communities in La Union, plastic sachets were collected from the area's waterways. The gathered trash was sent to Barker, a conservation photographer based in the UK. She came up with an incredible artwork called “Dip Sea KISS,” a map of Luzon formed by plastic sachets.

Barker's work inspired the outdoor photography exhibition “Follow the Water,” which opens Friday, April 22 at Flotsam and Jetsam Artist Beach Hostel, in San Juan. The photography showcase, which runs for a month, invites viewers to rediscover Philippine waters and the challenges it's confronted with, as well as journey to other coasts and islands across Southeast Asia through photography.



*'Butanding,' by Hannah Reyes Morales*

“What we’ve realized, as we explore other stories from other areas within Southeast Asia is that they have similar questions, ideas and sensibilities when it comes to coastal culture,” says Sebastian. “They have the same issues when it comes to climate change and environmental degradation. There are really echoes and resonance across the different stories.”

The “Emerging Islands” project allowed the group to understand the idea of a global archipelago. “We can start to connect over these issues of climate change, and understand that we have to work on these problems together,” adds Sebastian.



*From 'Pearls,' photo courtesy of Archie Geotina, Bren Lopez, and Ikit Agudo*

Aside from Barker’s work, the exhibition also features photographs of award-winning foreign and local photographers. The foreign works include “The Banda Journal,” by Muhammad Fadli, which explores the impact of colonization in a remote island in Indonesia; “Mekong, Mother of Rivers,” by Huiying Ore, which documents the damming of the Mekong River in Laos; “What the Water Gave Us,” by Woong Soak Teng, which takes a look at how objects of civilization find their way to a riverbed in Vietnam.



*From 'What the Water Gave Us,' by Woong Soak Teng*

Works by Filipino photographers include “Langit, Lupa, Impiyerno,” by Geric Cruz, a long-term project that looks at the devotees of Manila Bay; “Pearls,” a collaborative work by Archie Geotina and Bren Lopez featuring Ikit Agudo, which centers on Filipinas in surf; “Cities Made of Water,” by Morales and Sebastian, which documents coastal communities in the heart of the Coral Triangle; and “Guardians of the Marsh,” by Gab Mejia, which lovingly documents the stewards of the Agusan Marsh amidst its destruction.

The exhibition likewise presents student work from the workshop mentored by Barker and Emerging Islands.



*From 'The Banda Journal,' by Muhammad Fadli*

Loughran says “Follow the Water” is a prime example of how artists can take on the issues of the natural world. “It’s not something that we do a lot in this country,” he observes. “That is why this project has a workshop component—we want to show how artists could do things, think about the issues in their local environment and to use art to tell those stories.”

Find out more about Emerging Islands on [www.emergingislands.com](http://www.emergingislands.com).

*Photo courtesy of Emerging Islands*

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/ancx/culture/spotlight/04/22/22/look-an-earth-day-exhibit-inspired-by-la-union-waters>



## How 'green' is your mind?

Among the most potent problems that need stronger action is the protection of environmental defenders. Danger and threat still lurk among indigenous communities that are directly affected by the encroachment of mining activities and infrastructure development.

Published 1 day ago on April 22, 2022 12:25 AM

By [Concept News Central](#)



Today is Earth Day.

Yet as stalwarts for environmental consciousness have said time and again, such a day should be every day.

Every single day, as we live and breathe.

The reasons are “as clear as day,” the idiom goes but the truth is, they are as hazy as the metro skies.

It’s interesting, though, that for this year, [earthday.org](http://earthday.org) has declared the following:

“This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods.

“For Earth Day 2022, we need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It’s going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.”

This is a call for unity — an urgent one that keeps resounding in the rumbling of volcanoes, the rush of floodwaters, the cracking of ice caps.

The pandemic has even weighed in on the importance of this call to action, showing us within a year of lockdowns and quarantines how big a difference we can make as humans to bring back the kind of planet we used to have that would sustain us far into the future.



Remember what happened when industries paused, populations were forced to stay home and life slowed down? We got clearer skies, more breathable air, and animals in the wild coming out of hiding.

A healthier environment, we saw, could be achieved, just as the Earth Day founders Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin and activist Denis Hayes on 22 April 1970 wanted people to desire enough to do their part.

Millions of people in the US reportedly participated in the first Earth Day 52 years ago. The annual movement that inspired global celebration resulted in governments creating laws that would impact basic human needs like clean water, air, and energy sources, among others, to sustain life.

Through the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a framework is available for all to do their share of "economic development and social prosperity while protecting the planet."

But frameworks are useless when they are simply relegated to words. It's just as bad as taking facts and embellishing them to suit one's ends.

This is why it's not just important, but crucial, to choose our next leaders with care.

As this year's Earth Hour movement also highlighted last 24 March, Filipino voters must look into each candidate's stance on biodiversity conservation and climate change.

All the hype about crowd volume in campaign rallies is for naught if we don't ask about the candidates' plans for or views on the environment.

If unity is the UniTeam's rallying cry, how does it plan to bring this about in the realm of the environment? While all presidential aspirants and their VPs recognize the urgency of the climate crisis, not all of them share views on so-called "green issues" including renewable energy, mining, and sharing resources in the West Philippine Sea.

What they all agree on is the need for reforestation and regulation of plastic use, but these have been reduced to general terms as it seems we have yet to see a more widespread application of solutions to these issues with long-term effects.

Among the most potent problems that need stronger action is the protection of "environmental defenders." Danger and threat still lurk among indigenous communities that are directly affected by the encroachment of mining activities and infrastructure development. Will our next leaders simply spout the right words but fail to protect our people, our land, and resources?





## Editorial: Earth Day



April 22, 2022

ON APRIL 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was organized by some 20 million Americans "to call for increased protections for our planet."

In 1990, Earth Day went global "mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries."

According to earthday.org, "Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro."

In the past couple of years, Earth Day has reminded us to constantly take care of our home in the vast universe -- Earth. At present one of the biggest threats to the livability on Earth is climate change.

Recently, the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that climate change is expected to worsen in the next decades if nothing is done.

"The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health," the panel said in a report by the Associated Press (AP) in February 28, 2022.

Report co-author Maarten van Aalst, a climate scientist for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, was quoted in the same AP report saying that "all the risks are coming at us faster than we thought before."

The report also noted the increasing temperature on Earth. It states that the world is currently 1.1 degrees warmer than in pre-industrial times. This is just a shy away from the global limit of 1.5 degrees, which was agreed upon by the nations under the 2015 Paris agreement.

The report states that if global temperatures go beyond 1.5 degrees, "then many human and natural systems will face additional severe risks... some will be irreversible, even if global warming is reduced."

We are just brushing over the surface here and if you want to know more, the Climate Change report can be downloaded from <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/reports>.



Nonetheless, we don't need this report to tell us the effects of climate change and global warming when we ourselves can feel the changes. For example, Davao Region and Mindanao are already experiencing storms and typhoons almost every year. Before we used to brag about how the island is somehow not affected by the typhoons. But in recent years, the typhoon's trajectory has been going lower by the year.

It can also be observed the drastic change in weather throughout the year. Like how it can be rainy during the "dry season" wherein in the mornings we experience intense heat while in the afternoons and evenings it is raining hard. The frequent rains are causing frequent flooding in some parts of the city. These flooding are worsened by clogged canals due to garbage. While floods in some areas have become deeper due to the lack of trees in upland areas.

Hence, Earth Day's theme is aptly dubbed "Invest in Our Planet." We have to invest in preserving and protecting our health, our families, and our livelihoods.

"And while there is still time to solve the climate crisis, time to choose BOTH a prosperous and sustainable future, and time to restore nature and build a healthy planet for our children and their children, time is short," EarthDay.org said.

Let's do every effort we can, no matter how big or small, to take care of our home. Let's not only do this on Earth Day only but every day as long as we live on Earth.



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- Column
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Daily Tribune was live.

16h · 🌐



As we celebrate Earth Day today, Atty. Alfred Campañano tells us the scope of House Bill 9147 or the Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act, and why this matters more today. Watch him here on Kalingang KaTribu Legal Diaries, with host Venice Bautista.

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20h · 🌐



LOOK: Earth Day is an annual event celebrated around the world to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, it now includes events coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network in more than 193 countries.

#EarthDay

#DailyTribune



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# Converge 'greens' Pampanga data center

CHARLENE A. CAYABYAB

April 22, 2022

WITH sustainability high on its agenda, leading fiber broadband provider Converge ICT Solutions Inc. has switched to 100 percent clean energy to run its data center that is owned and operated by its parent company, ComClark Network and Technologies Corp.

Converge shared this milestone on Earth Day 2022, signifying its commitment to ensure a livable planet and environmental sustainability.

Converge recently entered into a supply contract with First Gen subsidiary, Greencore Geothermal, to secure 14.4MW of geothermal energy for two years (or 7.2 MW per year) until 2024 for the Pampanga data center.

The contract was availed under the government's Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA) as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) and with Greencore in compliance with the Department of Energy's Renewable Portfolio Standards.

"As part of our green initiatives and overall sustainability commitment, we are progressively moving towards the use of renewable energy in our operations. Data centers which operate 24/7 require a lot of cooling and thus, consume a lot of energy. This is the reason why we need to ensure that our power requirement comes from renewable sources like geothermal energy so that it will have less impact on the environment," Converge Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony Uy said.

"Converge is continuously looking for ways to further reduce its carbon footprint as we have always believed that we need to protect the environment for our business to be sustainable and continue to flourish," Uy said.

In 2021, Converge concluded a similar agreement with Lopez Holdings' First Gen, contracting 48 MW of geothermal energy until 2023 for the company's headquarters in Pasig, Metro Manila which also houses a data center.

"Greening" company operations is among the key principles of the Converge sustainability framework, under the pillar of "Giving Back to Our Planet." This sustainability framework is now integrated in the overall company strategy to ensure Converge remains aligned with environmental, economic, social, and governance goals as it pursues company growth.

Aside from switching to clean energy, Converge is eyeing to implement a solar hybrid system to further cut down on energy costs, and exploring the viability of electric vehicle integration.

"Converge has set an internal target of reducing greenhouse gas scope two emissions by 75 percent by 2030, and achieving Net Zero by 2050, thereby adopting the globally set target in the Paris Agreement as our own goal. We are committed to grow responsibly and sustainably, as we fiber-power the country," Converge Chief Strategy Officer Benjamin Azada said.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1927059/pampanga/local-news/converge-greens-pampanga-data-center>



# Mitigating effects of climate change a private-public collaboration -- advocates

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Apr 23, 2022 12:41:02 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, April 23)** — As the world celebrates Earth Day, environment advocates renewed their call for a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors in addressing the impact of climate change.

Speaking to CNN Philippines' The Exchange, The Low Impact Filipina founder Angel Mata-Jamilan said sustainable living is not the only way to address the environment problem.

"It's a collaboration among private sectors and of course we have to strengthen our government policies, as well," she said.

ECHOstore founder and owner Chit Juan shared the same sentiment. She noted that while there are a number of initiatives coming from companies, the government has to put in place policies to help protect the environment.

While more and more are getting involved in promoting sustainability, the country is still far from achieving its climate action targets, according to Roderick De Castro, executive director of Business for Sustainable Development.

"Systems have to be in place," de Castro said, citing the need to improve emission of coal-fired plants to reduce their carbon dioxide levels, and to eventually shift to renewable energy.

Source: <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/4/23/private-public-collaboration-vs-climate-change.html>



# Climate change

[SENTINEL](#) - [Ramon T. Tulfo](#) - The Philippine Star April 23, 2022 | 12:00am

President Rodrigo “Digong” Duterte hopes that his successor will outdo him in addressing the problem of climate change, virtually admitting he didn’t pay much attention to its adverse side effects.

He blames industrialized nations for contributing to carbon emissions that caused changes in weather patterns, such as typhoons.

(Digressing, Mindanao used to be typhoon-free in my youth, but is now often visited by giant storms, such as Supertyphoon Pablo, due to climate change.)

Digong admitted he used to be a skeptic of climate change but is now a believer of the phenomenon.

The President said developing countries sustain huge damage due to the carbon being spewed by factories in industrialized countries.

Digong warned that the next generation of Filipinos would face a problem if the climate change issue was not addressed.

\* \* \*

Among the greatest polluters in the country’s urban areas are motor vehicles, which emit thick black smoke from their mufflers.

The thick black smoke from motor vehicles is caused by old, defective engines. This is due, in part, to the poor-quality fuel that runs them.

Metro Manila is one of the most heavily polluted megacities in Asia because of the thick black smoke from motor vehicles.

In my own little way, I tried to help in contributing to less carbon emissions from motor vehicles by promoting Omstar DX-1, a US-made fuel conditioner.

Omstar DX-1 not only eliminates thick black smoke from vehicles – cars, trucks, buses and even ships – it also cleans their engines, making them run smoothly on less fuel.

I used to be a skeptic on the efficacy of the fuel additive – the oil is poured into the gasoline or diesel tank and oil crank – until I tried it on my old Toyota Land Cruiser.

The Toyota Land Cruiser, which I bought in the early 2000s, used to consume a full tank’s worth of diesel every five days and emit black smoke.

When I used Omstar DX-1, the car ran on a full tank for seven days, which meant a 20-percent saving on fuel, and its black smoke was gone.

The engine hummed like the car was new, making me enjoy music from the car stereo. Before the US-made fuel additive, the sputtering noise from the SUV’s engine muffled the music from the car stereo.

The exclusive distributor of Omstar DX-1 (formerly branded as D-1280X), an American resident, gave me many samples of the fuel additive, which I shared with friends who were car owners. They, too, came with glowing reports about the fuel additive.

In a lucky twist of fate (in my favor), the American distributor was recalled to the home office in California, and I was made the exclusive distributor.



I initially promoted the product among some government agencies with plenty of service vehicles. Some government vehicles that tested the product yielded results similar to my Toyota Land Cruiser's and those of my friends' cars.

But the problem came from the people "downstairs" who were asking for bribes, so they would recommend the product to their superiors who had ordered the testing of the product in the first place.

No way! Why should I bribe government functionaries when I'm making government vehicles run smoothly and emission-free, aside from saving fuel, to boot?

I witnessed corruption firsthand when government functionaries wouldn't recommend Omstar DX-1 to their superiors if I didn't grease their palms.

It was not only in government, but also in private companies, that I was exposed to corruption firsthand.

\* \* \*

Omstar DX-1 is used by many companies in the US, Mexico and Europe.

The product has earned carbon credits from the European Union Emissions Trading System for contributing to a carbon emissions-free environment.

A decade ago, I nearly closed a deal with Iran to supply that country with Omstar DX-1.

An Iranian official with the rank of minister surreptitiously came to Manila to talk with me and my principals from California.

Iran, I learned from the minister, is one of the most polluted countries in the world.

The deal didn't push through because of Iran's problematic relations with the US, the source of Omstar DX-1.

\* \* \*

The passing of Ambassador to China Chito Sta. Romana was a big loss to us, especially when it comes to our relations with our superpower neighbor.

Nobody understood China more than Sta. Romana, who lived in that country from 1971 to 1986. He was part of a student delegation to the then Bamboo Curtain, and he chose to remain.

He joined ABC News from 1989 to 2016 to cover China, first as a correspondent and later as its bureau chief.

Mainland Chinese considered Sta. Romana one of their own not only due to his long stay in China, but also because he spoke fluent Mandarin, their national language.

Sta. Romana may be credited for keeping our tension-filled relations with China on an even keel.

Our quarrel with China concerns sovereignty over some areas and islands in the South China Sea, which we call the West Philippine Sea.

Sta. Romana's appointment as ambassador to China probably doused our simmering relations with our giant neighbor with cold water.

Because he was a former journalist, Sta. Romana helped me in my work as special envoy to China for public diplomacy.





Chito gave me information about Chinese personalities in the country, such as Michael Yang, who ingratiated himself with President Duterte and has given the latter headaches because of his capers.

Chito was always accessible to Filipinos working or vacationing in China. I could call Chito on his cellphone at any time during office hours and even off-hours.

Let's hope the guy who replaces Sta. Romana matches his savvy in diplomacy and in being a Sinophile.



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# Mark Carney says Putin's war is making climate fight harder

BY BLOOMBERG NEWS

APRIL 23, 2022



Vladimir Putin in 2021.

Mark Carney, the former Bank of England governor, said Russia's war on Ukraine and a deepening energy crisis would lead to a near-term increase in the financing of fossil fuels and a rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

The comments by Carney, who is now vice chair of Brookfield Asset Management and the co-chair of a global alliance that's promised to end financed emissions, show that efforts to fight climate change are being complicated as geopolitical turmoil sets the agenda for capital flows.

"One of the things that's going to happen is that because of Russia's unjustified invasion and the response to that, there is going to be more investment in fossil fuels and financing of fossil fuels in the near term," Carney said in an interview Thursday from the International Monetary Fund's spring meeting in Washington. "Near-term there's more emissions; this situation makes the job harder."

Banks have so far been reluctant to acknowledge they'll need to shelve their near-term climate goals in response to the war.

Putin's belligerence has turned Russia into an international pariah, with the West urgently trying to wean itself off the country's oil, gas and coal.

That's put pressure on other producers to ratchet up supplies, in a development that threatens to raise emissions at the worst possible time for the climate. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently issued a stark alert that the world's emissions must peak immediately to have a shot at keeping the temperature from rising more than 1.5° Celsius.

It's been a year since Carney unveiled the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, a coalition of the biggest names in banking, investing and insurance that's pledged to eliminate portfolio emissions.

Over that same period, banks have provided more than \$600 billion in capital to oil, coal and gas producers, roughly unchanged from the previous year, according to Bloomberg data. And major asset managers still hold about \$550 billion in fossil-fuel developers, an analysis by Reclaim Finance shows. Those figures don't capture the full picture of the transition work that's under way, according to Carney. But he also said that capital flows into renewable energy remain well below where they need to be. "The brutal reality" is that financing for clean energy sources is only one-third of the level it needs to reach, he said. Convened by the United Nations, GFANZ comprises seven groups spanning all corners of the financial industry.



Signatories representing a combined \$130 trillion in assets must commit to use science-based guidelines to document their path toward net-zero carbon emissions, and to provide 2030 interim goals. Michael R. Bloomberg, the owner and founder of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP, has been co-chair of GFANZ together with Carney since November.

The disconnect between the proliferation of net-zero pledges and the continued flow of cash into fossil-fuel producers last month prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint an expert group to police the net-zero movement. And the Science Based Targets initiative is now planning to withhold net-zero certification from banks and asset managers that don't meet deadlines to cut the flow of capital to fossil-fuel production.



# Europe lashed by extreme weather as climate crisis grows

Published April 22, 2022, 10:42 PM

by [Agence-France-Presse](#)

PARIS, France – Europe endured record extreme weather in 2021, from the hottest day and the warmest summer to deadly wildfires and flooding, the European Union's climate monitoring service reported Friday.

While Earth's surface was nearly 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels last year, Europe saw an average increase of more than two degrees, a threshold beyond which dangerous extreme weather events become more likely and intense, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said.

The warmest summer on record featured a heatwave along the Mediterranean rim lasting weeks and the hottest day ever registered in Europe, a blistering 48.8C (120 degrees Fahrenheit) in Italy's Sicily.

In Greece, high temperatures fuelled deadly wildfires described by the prime minister as the country's "greatest ecological disaster in decades".

Forests and homes across more than 8,000 square kilometres (3,000 square miles) were burned to the ground.

A slow-moving, low-pressure system over Germany, meanwhile, broke the record in mid-July for the most rain dumped in a single day.

The downpour was nourished by another unprecedented weather extreme, surface water temperatures over part of the Baltic Sea more than 5C above average.

Flooding in Germany and Belgium caused by the heavy rain — made far more likely by climate change, according to peer-reviewed studies — killed scores and caused billions of euros in damage.

As the climate continues to warm, flooding on this scale will become more frequent, the EU climate monitor has warned.

"2021 was a year of extremes including the hottest summer in Europe, heatwaves in the Mediterranean, flooding and wind droughts in western Europe," C3S director Carlo Buontempo said in a statement.

"This shows that the understanding of weather and climate extremes is becoming increasingly relevant for key sectors of society."

## – 'Running out of time' –

The annual report, in its fifth edition, also detailed weather extremes in the Arctic, which has warmed 3C above the 19th-century benchmark — nearly three times the global average.

Carbon emissions from Arctic wildfires, mostly in eastern Siberia, topped 16 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, roughly equivalent to the total annual carbon pollution of Bolivia.

Greenland's ice sheet — which along with the West Antarctic ice sheet has become the main driver of sea level rise — shed some 400 billion tonnes in mass in 2021.

The pace at which the world's ice sheets are disintegrating has accelerated more than three-fold in the last 30 years.



“Scientific experts like the IPCC have warned us we are running out of time to limit global warming to 1.5C,” said Mauro Facchini, head of Earth observation at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, referring to the UN’s science advisory panel.

“This report stresses the urgent necessity to act as climate-related extreme events are already occurring.”



GMA News

11h · 🌐



EARTH DAY 🌍

TINGNAN: Bilang paggunita sa Earth Day, ilang volunteers ang nagsagawa ng clean up drive para linisin ang beach at landfill na puno ng basura sa Mumbai, India.

COURTESY: REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas

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**DENR**

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## DENR turns over land to DOH's RITM

**ACTING Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna has a one gift to the country's health research arm -- a 9,000 square meter land.**

Last April 8, Sampulna on signed a deed of conveyance on a parcel of land that will be turned over to the Department of Health (DOH)'s Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

"This deed of conveyance is the DENR's simple gift and contribution for RITM to further advance their research work, and prepare to address the current pandemic and health concerns that may arise in the future," the DENR head said.

RITM has been responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases for the last 20 years, including the first severe acute respiratory syndrome-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) outbreak in 2003.

It was also at the forefront controlling the AH1N1 pandemic in 2009, measles outbreak in 2013, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) outbreak in 2014 to 2015, polio outbreak in 2018, and SARS-CoV outbreak in 2019.

The ceremonial signing was under President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's Proclamation No. 1276 dated Jan. 6, 2022, which states that a parcel of patrimonial land within the Alabang Stock Farm, Muntinlupa City, will be for RITM building site purposes.

Sampulna said the 9,077-square meter land is adjacent to the current site of the health research facility in

Alabang.

RITM Director Celia C. Carlos thanked the DENR for facilitating the preparation of the deed of conveyance, and for allocating the land in their favor, noting that one of the facility's problems was the lack of space.

"I wish to acknowledge the big help provided by Land Management Bureau Director Atty. Emelyne V. Talabis and her staff who guided and supported us in all stages of this jour-

ney towards RITM acquisition of additional lots," said Carlos.

Carlos added that the additional parcel of land will help expand the facility's healthcare services and technologies.

RITM currently houses 18 National Reference Laboratories in infectious diseases, which allow health care workers and professionals to perform confirmatory tests, and implement quality assurance.

**Joel dela Torre**



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PAGE

UPPER  
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PAGE  
NUMBER

DATE  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04-23-22

TIME

PAGE

DATE

## 4 eco warriors feted posthumously

BY NEIL ALCOBER

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) honored posthumously four environmental heroes over the weekend in ceremonies held at its central office in Quezon City.

The awardees were forest rangers Ronaldo Corpuz and Bienvenido Venguilla Jr., DENR informant Gaudencio Araña, and community environment and natural resources officer (CENRO) Miliarete "Milet" Buisan-Panaligan.

A brainchild of former DENR Secretary Ramon Paje under the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc., honoring exemplary contributions by people on ecological protection is now on its third year.

Corpuz was recognized for his action in October 2019 when as a forest ranger in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, he, along with other

Venguilla was cornered when four men armed with bolos and a homemade shotgun waylaid his team. He was hacked to death by the men.

law enforcement personnel, conducted anti-timber poaching surveillance in Barangay Portal in Rizal province.

Several pieces of illegal lumber were seized from that operation of Bantay Gubat. An unidentified gunman later fatally shot Corpuz in front of his house.

Araña, an informant of CENRO Muñoz, was responsible in giving information on illegal logging activities within the municipalities of Pantangan and Rizal, Nueva Ecija.

His tips led to the apprehension of several illegally sourced wood products which earned the ire of unscrupulous individuals.

Araña was gunned down by two unidentified male suspects on 11 September 2019 along the provincial road in Barangay Poblacion Norte, Rizal, in this province.

Meanwhile, on 4 September 2019, a group of forest rangers led by Venguilla conducted inspections of natural greening program plantation sites in Barangay New Ibahay, El Nido, Palawan.

On their way out of the

forest, they chanced upon cutting trees with a chain saw. The men scampered away the team of Venguilla as the chainsaw.

Venguilla was cornered when four men armed with bolos and a homemade shotgun waylaid his team. He was hacked to death by the men.

Panaligan stood out as an courageous CENRO officer she had openly declared willingness to die for the service. She was the No. 2 CENRO in terms of apprehensions on illegal logging cases.

She died of complications due to a lingering disease in August 2018.

Former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the chair of the Environmental Heroes Foundation Inc., thanked honorees for their sacrifice and for giving their lives to protect the environment and natural resources.

"The ultimate sacrifice you have made are beyond mathematical calculation — beyond any algebraic formula, money-wise. Be assured, however, that I will tell and retell your heroic efforts for the narratives that will provide enduring value for the foundation of a future that will last," he said.

Each of the respective families of the environmental heroes received a trophy and a cash assistance of P300,000.



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PAGE

UPPER  
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 STORY

BANNER  
 BOX

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04-23-22

TOP

PAGE

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANALY LABOR FOR THE DAILY TRIBUNE [@tribunaphilippines](#)  
IN line with the celebration of Earth Day, officials from the Manila Water spearhead a tree-planting activity at the Balara Filters Park in Barangay Pansol, Quezon City.



FILE:

DATE



**EARTH DEFENDER** - Nationalist People's Coalition senatorial bet Loren Legarda leads the tree planting organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Friday, April 22, 2022 in commemoration of Earth Day.

## Legarda's Earth Day message: Invest in 'green initiatives,' please

by ELSON A. BRISORDO

Senatorial candidate and House Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda has called for more initiatives to protect and preserve the environment as she led on Friday, April 22 the country's observance of Earth Day.

Legarda, a known environmental champion, urged the government, private sector, and civil society to engage in projects and programs that would address overexploitation, habitat loss and pollution.

"In light of the fast declining state of our environment due to our destructive ways and the intensifying effects of the climate crisis, let us be the Earth's defenders who are needed today and tomorrow. Let us continue to help bring back the life of our planet, so our children and future generations can also marvel at its beauty. *Patuloy nating payabungin ang ganda at sigla ng ating kalikasan* (Let's continue to nurture the beauty and zest of the environment)," she appealed.

"We should not simply appreciate our planet and all life in it. We have to protect it, we have to fight for it, and as this year's theme tells us, we have to invest in it," the Antique congresswoman stressed.

Legarda made the statement as she led the "Tayagabong 2022: Enrichment Tree-Planting Activity" of Philip

pine native tree species, organized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB), the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), and the Climate Change Commission (CCC), at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC) in Quezon City in observance of this year's Earth Day celebration with the global theme, "Invest in our Planet."

The NAPWC is a legislated protected area and classified as a national park under Republic Act (RA) 11038 (The Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (ENIPAS) Act of 2018), a law that Legarda authored in the Senate, which declared 94 natural parks, protected landscapes or seascapes, and reserves as protected areas under national law, bringing the total number of areas protected by law to 109.

"The enactment of the ENIPAS measure has benefited protected areas in the country, by giving more access to funding for conservation programs as well as the prosecution of prohibited acts enumerated in the law," said the former three-term senator.

Legarda, a Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) stalwart running under the UniTeam banner, is the only senatorial candidate with a clear track record and legislative agenda on environmental protection and climate change adaptation.



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A7  
PAGE

BPTB  
 LOWE

PAGE 1  
STORY

PAGE 2  
STORY

PICTURE

CARTOON

04-23-22

TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE:



**OFF TO SEA** Eighteen Olive ridley sea turtle hatchlings were released into the sea at Sitio Isla Bonita, Barangay Bagbag, Rosario, Cavite on Friday, April 22, 2022, to commemorate International Earth Day. The event was spearheaded by Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Arianne Joyce Mugol, Isla Bonita's Bantay Dagat head Nestor Llanoza, Seaman First Class Mark Anthony Verano and Apprentice Seaman Alnizar Ismael of the Philippine Coast Guard in Rosario, Cavite. Llanoza, a fisherman, said he saw a turtle laying eggs on the beach of Isla Bonita on March 3. Bantay Dagat volunteers protected the area until the eggs were hatched. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA



## Baby Olive Ridley sea turtles released for Int'l Earth Day

By **DENNIS  
ABRINA**

**ROSARIO, Cavite** - Exactly 18 new hatchlings of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles breed were released into the sea off Isla Bonita in Barangay Bagbag, April 22, 2022, in celebration of International Earth Day.

It will be recalled that on March 3, 2022, fishermen witnessed a turtle laying eggs on the sandy part of Isla Bonita shore. It was later named "Patol".

The mother Olive Ridley Sea Turtle was called "Patol" because of the broken leg on its left rear side.

The baby turtles releasing activity was led by Ariarne Joyce Mugol, DENR-PENRO (Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office)-Cavite, Nestor Llanza, Bantay Dagat-MENRO, SNI Verano, and ASN Ismael of Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)-Rosario.

According to Llanza, baby turtles have to walk on the sand because of the earth's magnetic field. "It is possible that they will return again after 20 years to give birth," Llanza added.

It is said that there are two to five times when a turtle gives birth in the same place and time.



Ariarne Joyce Mugol, DENR-PENRO-Cavite, Nestor Llanza, Bantay Dagat-MENRO, SNI Verano, and ASN Ismael of PCG-Rosario Cavite led the release of the baby turtles on April 22, 2022, in celebration of International Earth Day.

Photo by Dennis Abrina



TIME

PAGE

DATE

# DENR gets boost from P1.1-B project

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

**T**HE Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) P1.1-billion Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans and Landscapes (Sibol) project is seen boosting environmental protection and supporting economic activity in far-flung rural areas.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAid), Sibol has elevated Philippines' appreciation for natural resources and biodiversity protection. The project has trained Filipino natural resource managers

on how to properly account for environment-provided benefits.

A total of 275 government staff and researchers from Philippine public universities has completed a three-month training that will support the government's promotion of

economic growth through the conservation of the country's ecosystems.

The training serves as a foundation for incorporating environmental valuation into the design of economic plans at the local level.

The Philippines' capability to quantify the economic value of its natural resources will be applied in natural capital accounting.

"When we have competent natural resource managers who are able to account for and monitor the economic value of ecosystem services, the country is in a better position to understand the drivers behind natural resource depletion. It's a necessary intervention that

will preserve the country's biodiversity, oceans and landscapes," said USAid Philippines Environment Office Director John Edgar.

Natural resource managers and researchers from the DENR, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, National Economic and Development Authority, Palawan Council for Sustainable Development and six public universities learned various methods for measuring the value of benefits derived from the environment such as food, water and fuel, soil conservation and coastal protection.

"This [capability will help in] updating the country's asset ac-

counts, or the value of resources found in Philippine forests, coral reefs and fisheries," said the DENR.

According to the World Conservation Monitoring Center, the Philippines is one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world, which account for 70 percent of the entire planet's species of flora and fauna.

Sibol is a five-year natural resources management and biodiversity conservation project. It is among the biggest and most important initiatives in the country that could profoundly impact the environment in generations to come, according to USAid.

Launched in 2020, Sibol aims

to work with the government to achieve its goals of improving natural resource governance, stimulating public and private sector investments, and reducing environmental crime.

Such goals will lead to greater ecosystem stability and inclusive green growth. Sibol has four sites in the following key protected areas in the Philippines: Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape; Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park and Cleopatra's Needle Forest Reserve; Mantalingahan Protected Landscape; and Siargao Island Protected Landscape and Seascape.



## Campaign posters removed from trees

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 12 (DENR-12) has removed a total of 7,229 campaign materials nailed and dangled on trees across the Soccsksargen region.

DENR-12 Director Felix Alicer said the region-wide removal of campaign posters and paraphernalia from trees, dubbed "Oplan Baklas," was carried out on Wednesday.

"This was in close coordination with our partners, the Commission on Elections, local government units, police and the Environmental Management Bureau, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau," Alicer said.

Alicer also said most of the removed campaign materials from local and national candidates were made of tarpaulin, plywood and fabric streamers.

Based on reports from the provincial DENR offices, about 6,063 posters were removed from trees in South Cotabato, 717 in North Cotabato, 256 in Sarangani Province and 193 in Sultan Kudarat.

The provincial and community offices of DENR-12 have already conducted operations in their respective

areas of responsibility prior to the simultaneous Oplan Baklas operations.

Alicer appealed to all candidates and their supporters to strictly follow the law and spare the trees from campaign materials.

"There are designated common poster areas for the candidates, and the trees are not one of those. We have to spare the trees from these election materials since these trees provide various environmental benefits to us," he said.

Alicer also added that violators could face legal sanctions if they continue to ignore the provisions of various election and environmental laws.

Under Republic Act 3571, cutting, destroying, or injuring planted or growing trees, flowering plants, shrubs, or plants of scenic value along public roads, in plazas, parks, school premises, or on any other public pleasure grounds is prohibited.

The synchronized national and local election is set on May 9, 2022.

FRANZ SUMANGIL





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AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



04-23-22

DATE:

PAGE:

DATE:

# Spare trees from campaign ads, says DENR-8

He said putting the campaign posters on trees violate at least two laws – Republic Act 3571 which prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of trees along public roads, in parks, schools, and other public areas, and Presidential Decree 953 that penalizes unauthorized cutting, damaging and injuring trees.

BY ELMER RECUPERDO

**TAGLOBAN CITY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas renewed its call to all candidates in the 2022 national and local elections to refrain from putting campaign materials on trees.

This, as the agency marked the Earth Day celebration with "Operation Baklas," a simultaneous region-wide drive to remove campaign materials posted on trees.

It added that campaign posters of both national and local candidates that were either tied or nailed on trees were removed in major thoroughfares all over the region as they violate both environmental laws and Commission on

Elections (Comelec) guidelines.

DENR-8 regional executive director Arturo Fadriquela said the trees are not legitimate areas for putting up election materials and advised candidates and their political supporters to follow election provisions as to where they should put up campaign materials.

"The Earth Day is a timely reminder for the candidates and their supporters to practice an environment-friendly election campaign," Fadriquela said.

"The 'Operation Baklas' intends to once again remind the general public that adorning our trees with posters, especially when using nails, could damage their health conditions," he added.

He said putting the campaign posters on

trees violate at least two laws – Republic Act 3571 which prohibits the cutting, destroying, or injuring of trees along public roads, in parks, schools and other public areas, and Presidential Decree 953 that penalizes unauthorized cutting, damaging and injuring trees.

Fadriquela also urged all candidates and their political supporters to voluntarily remove campaign materials that are nailed or posted on trees as a way of showing their support to protect the environment.

Aside from DENR and Comelec, other agencies that participated in the removal of campaign materials include the Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine National Police and local government units.



## 129K hectares of Region 3 forests rehabilitated

**SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga:** More than 129,000 hectares (ha) of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated since the Enhanced National Greening Program (E-NGP) started in 2011, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 3 (Central Luzon) office here said Tuesday.

Paquito Moreno Jr., executive director of DENR-Region 3, said the E-NGP in the region was strengthened to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change.

"Preserving our forest cover and making more of our forest landscapes intact is an important component of the government's climate change mitigation program," he said in a statement.

Moreno said the agency established more than 3,200 ha of bamboo plantation in 2021 amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

This, he said, is in addition to the more than 14,000 ha of bamboo plantations under NGP before

the onset of the health crisis.

Moreno said partnership and collaboration with private firms were also strengthened to sustain these plantations, where more than 5,800 ha of unfunded NGP areas have been adopted by different organizations.

He admitted that the task of ensuring the survival of planted trees needs more manpower and resources that the DENR cannot provide.

"This is where the private sector comes in by adopting established NGP plantations, where the company commits to continue the fight for a better tomorrow," he said.

The DENR has also partnered with families in upland areas, peoples' organizations, the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and the Philippine Army in the region to monitor the development of plantations and facilitate quick response to forest fires and reported illegal forest activities in NGP areas.



■ More than 129,000 hectares of denuded forest lands and watersheds in Central Luzon have been rehabilitated under the Enhanced National Greening Program since 2011. PNA PHOTO

Apart from its ecological value, the NGP has generated 154,055 jobs in the region for plantation maintenance and protection activities.

"We see more jobs being provided to local communities including our Indigenous People, especially at a time like this, when the economy is still reeling from the effects

of the pandemic," Moreno said. NGP aims to reforest 1.5 million ha of denuded lands and watersheds in the country.

It was expanded until 2022 under Executive Order 193 to reforest and develop the remaining degraded forest areas nationwide.



TITLE:

PAGE:

DATE:

## Manila Water, partners kick off 2-day Earth Day activities



Photo shows Manila Water President and CEO Jocot de Dios (center) joined by MWSS-RO Chief Regulator Atty Patrick Lester Ty (fourth from the left); NWRB Water Rights Division Head Mary Jane Dominguez (second from left); DILG Central Office Disaster Information Coordinating Center Director Allan Tabell; ABS-CBN Foundation Managing Director Roberta Lopez-Feliciano (fifth from left); LWUA Officer-in-Charge Eileen Dela Vega (seventh from left); CCESD - Division Chief of Environmental Education Division (representing Mayor Joy Belmonte of Quezon City) Lea Gaon; DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanac, MWSS-CC Water and Sewerage Department Manager Ramon Fabul together with Manila Water executives at the ceremonial kickoff of the tree planting activity at the Orosa Hall, Balara Filters Park, Brgy. Pansol, Quezon City.

AS part of the 2022 Earth Day Celebration, Manila Water, together with its partner agencies, kicked off a 2-day environmental event with a theme, "Saving the Earth, Securing Water for the Future".

Manila Water was joined by its partner organizations Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Water and Resources Board (NWRB), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO), Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Corporate Office (MWSS-CO), Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) and ABS-CBN's Bantay Kalikasan at the ceremonial tree planting activity at Orosa Hall, Balara Filters Park, Brgy. Pansol, Quezon City on April 22, 2022, Friday.

This activity signifies Manila Water's commitment to environmental sustainability and its response to MWSS' call for participation in the Annual Million Trees Challenge (AMTC). The AMTC is a 5-year program that promotes water security and protection of the environment and encourages its partners to

contribute and adopt a land. For this, Manila Water is adopting 200 hectares of land at the La Mesa Watershed and will plant saxifages together with its subsidiaries and partner government agencies and local government units. The ceremonial tree planting activity is a primer for the Arbor Day celebration in June 2022.

Manila Water President and CEO Jocot de Dios shared that the company is committed to protecting and restoring water sources both surface water and groundwater. He also explained that partnership is key to securing good raw water quality while enhancing biodiversity and contributing to carbon capture for climate change mitigation.

Joining the event were MWSS-CO Admin Leonor Ueclas, DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caanac, MWSS-CO Water and Sewerage Department Manager Ramon Fabul, MWSS-RO Chief Regulator Atty Patrick Lester Ty, LWUA Officer-in-Charge Eileen Dela Vega, ABS-CBN Managing Director Roberta Lopez-Feliciano together with Manila Water officials.

The tree planting activity will be followed by LAKBAY KALIKASAN: Hike and Bike for Nature on the 23rd of

April 2022, Saturday, 6:00 am at the La Mesa Nature Reserve, Quirino Highway, Quezon.

Around 50 hikers and 100 bikers from Manila Water and partner agencies registered for the event. The 2.5-kilometer hike trail highlights the biodiversity inside the La Mesa Nature Reserve while the 9-kilometer bike trail takes cyclists to a scenic run within the La Mesa Watershed.



# Pasig pilot-testing garbage collection fix

**Sotto has ordered the deployment of eight garbage trucks and assigned more than 30 field staff in Barangay Pinagbuhatan.**

BY NEIL ALCORER

The Pasig City government has launched the "Garbage Collection by Admin" project to address the problem of uncollected garbage in the city being blamed on contractors.

Mayor Vico Sotto said that starting Monday, 25 April, the local government will collect garbages in its pilot barangay, Pinagbuhatan.

"Every December (Christmas), contractors get

in trouble with people. If the contractor makes a mistake, they have a penalty, but we cannot discipline their employees," Sotto said.

"Because we strictly follow the law in a public bidding, there is always a risk that the new contractor will win," he added. "Here (in the Garbage Collection by Admin), the collection will be more consistent. We can also save money."

Sotto has ordered the deployment of eight garbage trucks and assigned more than 30 field

staff in Barangay Pinagbuhatan.

"After three months, we will assess if the program is good, so that this will be implemented also in other barangays," he said.

Sotto earlier imposed penalties on Metro Waste, the firm contracted by the city government to collect garbage, for its failure to collect tons of trash during the holiday season.

According to him, Metro Waste admitted encountering manpower problem.



## Candidates urged to act on climate crisis

THE Filipino youth on Friday renewed their call for presidential aspirants to ensure climate justice and climate action is the next administration's top agenda.

The call was made in the aftermath of Typhoon "Agaton" and ahead of Earth Day, as Greenpeace and youth partners delivered "love letters" from Filipinos across the country to 2022 presidential candidates' headquarters in Metro Manila.

This was one of the activities under the "Love, 52" youth and elections campaign, led by youth organizations from various sectors, together with Greenpeace. The groups are calling on the presidential candidate who will win on May 9, 2022 to protect communities and ensure that the country's next generation will not experience the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

The groups are also calling on the candidates to stand for inclusive, transparent and inspired models of governance that are fully accountable to people and which protect and strengthen democratic processes and institutions.

"This election poses a gross lack of discourse on the climate crisis — at a time when scientists around the world are standing up for climate justice," said Love, 52 youth partner Cris Jamil Hertez, from the Better Normal Youth Movement. "Meanwhile, typhoons continue to claim lives, homes and livelihood. We can't keep playing catch-up with our climate; our future leaders must listen to the youth."

"Our generation and future ones have the most to lose if our next leaders still choose to sit idly by," said Love, 52 youth partner Carmela Adelantar, from the National Society of Parliamentarians Inc. "They need to hold the world's biggest polluters accountable for the crisis we're facing,

and come up with coherent plans that will at least help us stay alive beyond the next decade."

"We no longer have time to wait. The next administration must place climate action as top priority agenda," said Greenpeace campaigner Joanna Sustento. "The climate crisis is not just about the environment — it's about food, water, lives, health and the economy. They also need to ensure that democratic processes and institutions are protected and strengthened."

Greenpeace believes that there needs to be stronger climate action at home.

In particular, the environment group said that the Philippine government must hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the climate crisis and call on other countries to do the same. "It must also lead the call for a global phase out of fossil fuels toward a just transition to renewable energy."

The group also highlighted the need to call on rich countries for more ambitious emissions reductions targets, more money for climate finance and compensation for loss and damage and, at the same time, ensure rapid transition to renewable energy at home by phasing out coal, stopping fossil gas expansion and targeting a 50-percent contribution for renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030.

Also, Greenpeace urged the government to ensure that the Climate Emergency Declaration is followed through with a coherent climate plan. "The government must institute climate action as the central policy of the state, and must protect people and climate on the basis of climate justice. Climate action must also be at the heart of the country's Covid recovery plan," it said.

**EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ**



# Climate action begins at home

**W**e have to accept the sobering reality that the world is not as advanced and as resilient as we think it to be. Despite gains made to address societal issues, we remain unprepared for the life-threatening challenges that come our way. As we continue to celebrate Earth Month — yesterday was Earth Day — this is an opportune time for solidarity, caring and empathy.

The global climate emergency is the most disastrous and lingering crisis the world will ever have. Its massive scale has never been more evident than today. The release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's three working group reports in the past months reminds us that our future remains fragile and uncertain unless we act immediately. The seven warmest years on record have all been in the past seven years (2015-2021), and the trend is set to continue.

The climate crisis affects food production, water security, settlements, jobs and livelihood, human welfare, safety and security, poverty reduction, economic growth and consequently the

people amid the realities we face. for achieving the Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree Celsius long-term temperature goal closes. Scientists recently concluded that emissions must fall immediately.

Global warming beyond 1.5 C will disrupt basic social and economic activities. It will transform human life as we know it. It is the global warming threshold that will enable vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines to survive and thrive.

We need to push the climate agenda forward to protect the interests of and deliver social justice to most-hit communities. The Covid-19 pandemic taught us three ways: as a test of our current coping mechanisms, as a drill for future crises, and as a wake-up call to the connection of the health crisis to the destruction of biodiversity and ecosystems on which we all depend.

The celebration of Earth Day manifests one important matter: Climate change should not be addressed in isolation but through an effective collaboration of efforts from different fields and specializations to ensure the safety of our

people amid the realities we face.

We are all responsible for creating a sustainable and healthy planet regardless of gender, age, religion and nationality. Climate action begins at home. We must raise our voices and take action to assure that our future continues to be safe and sustainable.

But how can an ordinary citizen do this very challenging task? Let me share three simple acts:

- We must understand what climate change is, its effects and how we can address it. Continuously search for strategies not to contribute to the prevailing crisis.

- We help raise awareness. There is now a momentum and discussions and peaceful rebellions have commenced. All we have to do is learn how to sustain it and move forward. With the power of social media, we have at our fingers the power to act, influence and mobilize others by raising awareness.

- We innovate. We can identify and challenge existing efforts and breakthrough barriers. We can bring fresh and innovative perspectives.

The latest climate science is unequivocal. The climate emergency



## ALL ABOUT CHOICES

LUDWIG O. FEDERIGAN

overall pursuit of sustainable development. There is no doubt that the Sustainable Development Goals are under constant threat from our inaction.

We have seen, many times, the impact of natural hazard extremes and the prevalence of disaster risk, exacerbated by climate change. These kill thousands of individuals, wipe out cities and communities, and undo years of development gains.

Scientists agree that the main cause of climate change is human activity and its production of excessive greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that alter the atmosphere's composition. Unless drastic avoidance and GHG emission reduction are introduced, global temperatures are projected to increase by 2100.

The latest climate science warns that we have less than a decade left before the window of opportunity

will make health emergencies along with food and water crises a constant threat. Covid-19 slowed national and international efforts to build the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change.

We must admit that restoring the status quo is no longer an option. A new and better normal must emerge from this crisis.

We need to stage a recovery that values the intrinsic link between human health and the state of the environment. We need to build a better economic system that is more resilient in facing pandemics, climate change and other emerging global challenges.

In the past months, the resolute and urgent global response to the pandemic demonstrated society's remarkable capacity to put the emergency brake on "business-as-usual." It showed that we can act as one and radically change our ways and our systems to contain the rapid spread of a deadly virus for the greater good of all.

We must apply the same unity, resolve and urgency in combating the climate emergency, in disaster response, and in pursuing low-car-

bon and sustainable development.

Keeping the climate movement alive during this difficult time will only be possible with the ingenuity and relentless advocacy of all of us. We are the real climate leaders of today. Our commitment to advance climate action in the country will inspire every Filipino to advance efforts that will ensure a better life for the current and future generations.

We all have opportunities to make a difference. We must take hold of the chance to responsibly manage our environment and lead the way toward making the nation and planet resilient and sustainable for us and future generations.

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



## SENTINEL

RAMON T. TULFO

### Climate change

**P**resident Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte hopes that his successor will outdo him in addressing the problem of climate change, virtually admitting he didn't pay much attention to its adverse side effects.



He blames industrialized nations for contributing to carbon emissions that caused changes in weather patterns, such as typhoons.

(Digressing, Mindanao used to be typhoon-free in my youth, but is now often visited by giant storms, such as Super typhoon Pablo, due to climate change.)

Digong admitted he used to be a skeptic of climate change but is now a believer of the phenomenon.

The President said developing countries sustain huge damage due to the carbon being spewed by factories in industrialized countries.

Digong warned that the next generation of Filipinos would face a problem if the climate change issue was not addressed.

Among the greatest polluters in the country's urban areas are motor vehicles, which emit thick black smoke from their mufflers.

The thick black smoke from motor vehicles is caused by old, defective engines. This is due, in part, to the poor-quality fuel that runs them.

Metro Manila is one of the most heavily polluted megacities in Asia because of the thick black smoke from motor vehicles.

In my own little way, I tried to help in contributing to less carbon emissions from motor vehicles by promoting Omstar DX-1, a US-made fuel conditioner.

Omstar DX-1 not only eliminates thick black smoke from vehicles - cars, trucks, buses and even ships - it also cleans their engines, making them run smoothly on less fuel.

I used to be a skeptic on the efficacy of the fuel additive - the oil is poured into the gasoline or diesel tank and oil crank - until I tried it on my old Toyota Land Cruiser.

The Toyota Land Cruiser, which I bought in the early 2000s, used to consume a full tank's worth of diesel every five days and emit black smoke.

When I used Omstar DX-1, the car ran on a full tank for seven days, which meant a 20-percent saving on fuel, and its black smoke was gone.

The engine hummed like the car was new, making me enjoy music from the car stereo. Before the US-made fuel additive, the sputtering noise from the SUV's engine muffled the music from the car stereo.

The exclusive distributor of Omstar DX-1 (formerly branded as D-1280X), an American resident, gave me many samples of the fuel additive, which I shared with friends who were car owners. They, too, came with glowing reports about the fuel additive.



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COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

7  
PAGE

UPPER  
LOWER

FACT  
SHEET

RAMMER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

04-23-22

TITLE: CLIMATE CHANGE

PAGE 1/2

DATE

In a lucky twist of fate (in my favor), the American distributor was recalled to the home office in California, and I was made the exclusive distributor.

I initially promoted the product among some government agencies with plenty of service vehicles. Some government vehicles that tested the product yielded results similar to my Toyota Land Cruiser's and those of my friends' cars.

But the problem came from the people "downstairs" who were asking for bribes, so they would recommend the product to their superiors who had ordered the testing of the product in the first place.

No way! Why should I bribe government functionaries when I'm making government vehicles run smoothly and emission-free, aside from saving fuel, to boot?

I witnessed corruption firsthand when government functionaries wouldn't recommend Onstar DX-1 to their superiors if I didn't grease their palms.

It was not only in government, but also in private companies, that I was exposed to corruption firsthand.

Onstar DX-1 is used by many companies in the US, Mexico and Europe.

The product has earned carbon credits from the European Union Emissions Trading System for contributing to a carbon emissions-free environment.

A decade ago, I nearly closed a deal with Iran to supply that country with Onstar DX-1.

An Iranian official with the rank of minister surreptitiously came to Manila to talk with me and my principals from California.

Iran, I learned from the minister, is one of the most polluted countries in the world.

The deal didn't push through because of Iran's problematic relations with the US, the source of Onstar DX-1.

The passing of Ambassador to China Chito Sta. Romana was a big loss to us, especially when it comes to our relations with our superpower neighbor.

Nobody understood China more than Sta. Romana, who lived in that country from 1971 to 1986. He was part of a student delegation to the then Bamboo Curtain, and he chose to remain.

He joined ABC News from 1989 to 2016 to cover China, first as a correspondent and later as its bureau chief.

Mainland Chinese considered Sta. Romana one of their own not only due to his long stay in China, but also because he spoke fluent Mandarin, their national language.

Sta. Romana may be credited for keeping our tension-filled relations with China on an even keel.

Our quarrel with China concerns sovereignty over some areas and islands in the South China Sea, which we call the West Philippine Sea.

Sta. Romana's appointment as ambassador to China probably doused our simmering relations with our giant neighbor with cold water.

Because he was a former journalist, Sta. Romana helped me in my work as special envoy to China for public diplomacy.

Chito gave me information about Chinese personalities in the country, such as Michael Yang, who ingratiated himself with President Duterte and has given the latter headaches because of his capers.

Chito was always accessible to Filipinos working or vacationing in China. I could call Chito on his cellphone at any time during office hours and even off-hours.

Let's hope the guy who replaces Sta. Romana matches his savvy in diplomacy and in being a Sinophile.





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AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE



18-23-22

TIME:

PAGE:

DATE:

REGIONS

## State of calamity in flood-hit Capiz

The Capiz provincial government has placed the province under a state of calamity more than a week after rains spawned by Tropical Storm "Agaton" (Megi) flooded its capital city of Roxas and all its 16 municipalities. The province initially released P10.491 million worth of aid—mainly food, water and clothing—for some 250,000 affected residents, with the Philippine Red Cross lending a hand. —STORY BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.

18

# Flood-hit Capiz now under state of calamity

Provincial gov't partners with Red Cross to distribute aid to flood victims

ILOILO CITY—The Capiz provincial government has placed the province under a state of calamity due to last week's massive flooding, the worst in recent memory for the landlocked province on Panay Island.

The provincial board, in a resolution passed on Thursday, authorized the release of P10,491,000 for assistance to affected residents, especially food, water and clothing.

The provincial board also authorized Gov. Esteban Evan Conteras to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Red Cross for the latter to administer and disburse of the province's calamity funds to affected residents.

The flooding, caused by heavy rain spawned by Tropical Storm "Agaton" (international name: Megi), trapped many residents on rooftops and in their houses and affected all of the province's 16 towns and its capital, Roxas City.

Many towns were flooded from April 11, when the storm struck, up to April 15 with more than 215,000 residents forced to leave their homes.

Nineteen residents died and a male resident, a passenger of a boat that capsized at the height of the storm, was still missing as of Thursday.

So far, only around 19 per-



RECOVERY Search and recovery operations continued on April 21 for the remaining missing passenger of one of two motorboats that capsized along the Panay River in Panitan, Capiz, on April 13 at the height of last week's flooding due to Tropical Depression "Agaton" (Megi). Thirteen passengers were rescued while four others died after they were swept away by strong currents. —CAPIZ PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE FACEBOOK PHOTO

sons were still staying in an evacuation center in the town of Dumarao as of Friday, according to Judy Grace Pelaez, executive officer of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO).

### Iloilo, too

The neighboring province of Iloilo, also on Panay island, likewise continued to grapple

with the devastation wrought by Agaton.

On Wednesday, the Iloilo PDRRMO passed a resolution recommending to the provincial board to declare the province under a state of calamity.

The PDRRMO reported that out of the province's 42 towns and a component city, 20 towns reported that the

typhoon had affected from 15 percent to 100 percent of their population.

Five persons also died in the flooding that affected mostly the northern towns of the province.

Damage to agriculture was initially estimated at P705,765,801.55, according to the Iloilo PDRRMO. —NESTOR P. BURGOS JR. 110



STRATEGIC  
COMMUNICATION  
AND  
INITIATIVES  
SERVICE

PHILIPPINE DAILY  
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**INQUIRER**

**A8**  
PAGE

UPPER  
 LOWER

FEATURE  
STORY

BANNER  
STORY

EDITORIAL

CARTOON

02-23-22

URL:

PAGE

DATE

**A8**

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SATURDAY / APRIL 23  
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**OFF TO THE SEA FOR A CAUSE** Fishers and environmentalists commemorate Earth Day on Friday by sailing from the shore of Batangas City to bring attention to the need to protect Verde Passage, a resource-rich body of water spanning Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon and the Mindoro provinces, which is threatened by natural gas exploration activities. **PHOTO FROM POSTER**

PHOTO FROM POSTER



## Mark Carney says Putin's war is making climate fight harder

**M**ARK Carney, the former Bank of England governor, said Russia's war on Ukraine and a deepening energy crisis would lead to a near-term increase in the financing of fossil fuels and a rise in greenhouse gas emissions.

The comments by Carney, who is now vice chair of Brookfield Asset Management and the co-chair of a global alliance that's promised to end financed emissions, show that efforts to fight climate change are being complicated as geopolitical turmoil sets the agenda for capital flows.

"One of the things that's going to happen is that because of Russia's unjustified invasion and the response to that, there is going to be more investment in fossil fuels and financing of fossil fuels in the near term," Carney said in an interview Thursday from the International Monetary Fund's spring meeting in Washington. "Near-term there's more emissions; this situation makes the job harder."

Banks have so far been reluctant to acknowledge they'll need to shelve their near-term climate goals in response to the war.

Putin's belligerence has turned Russia into an international pariah, with the West urgently trying to wean itself off the country's oil, gas and coal.

That's put pressure on other producers to ratchet up supplies in a development that threatens to raise emissions at the worst possible time for the climate. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently issued a stark alert that the world's emissions must peak immediately to have a shot at keeping the temperature from rising more than 1.5° Celsius.

It's been a year since Carney unveiled the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, a coalition of the biggest names in

banking, investing and insurance that's pledged to eliminate portfolio emissions.

Over that same period, banks have provided more than \$600 billion in capital to oil, coal and gas producers, roughly unchanged from the previous year, according to Bloomberg data. And major asset managers still hold about \$560 billion in fossil-fuel developers, an analysis by Reclaim Finance shows. Those figures don't capture the full picture of the transition work that's under way, according to Carney. But he also said that capital flows into renewable energy remain well below where they need to be. "The brutal reality" is that financing for clean energy sources is only one-third of the level it needs to reach, he said. Convened by the United Nations, GFANZ comprises seven groups spanning all corners of the financial industry.

Signatories representing a combined \$130 trillion in assets must commit to use science-based guidelines to document their path toward net-zero carbon emissions, and to provide 2030 interim goals. Michael R. Bloomberg, the owner and founder of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP, has been co-chair of GFANZ together with Carney since November.

The disconnect between the proliferation of net-zero pledges and the continued flow of cash into fossil-fuel producers last month prompted UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to appoint an expert group to police the net-zero movement. And the Science Based Targets Initiative is now planning to withhold net-zero certification from banks and asset managers that don't meet deadlines to cut the flow of capital to fossil-fuel production.

*Bloomberg News*



STRATEGIC  
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THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**MANILA BULLETIN**  
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Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
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820-6633 to 40; 899-0022; 820-6633  
Website: [www.denr.gov.ph](http://www.denr.gov.ph); Email: [denr@denr.gov.ph](mailto:denr@denr.gov.ph)  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU  
REGIONS SECTION / CENTRAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

TO : All Regional Executive Directors  
FROM : The Undersecretary for Field Operations  
SUBJECT : CLARIFICATION ON THE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL LINES OF FOREST LANDS, NATIONAL PARKS, PRESERVATION AREAS AND OTHER LINES OF LANDS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN  
DATE : 18 NOV 2008

In relation to the above-mentioned subject, since the submission requirements pertain to various rules and regulations of the Department, have been satisfied by the proponent or upon establishment of an undeniable authority over a particular protected area or land of public domain, an Environmental Compliance Certificate may be processed and issued.

For your guidance.

ATTY. JUAN MIGUEL T. CUSA

cc: The Assistant Secretary for Staff Services  
The Director (FAB, HWH, LAR, LMD)

Let's Go Green!!!

ATTACHMENT 2

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_

SWORN STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY

I, Name of Proponent, a legal age Filipino, a resident of Christiana Adriano, and the applicant of the application to acquire/transfer/lease/ etc. of land of public domain located at (insert the address of the project/land), after being sworn to in accordance with law, do hereby depose and say this:

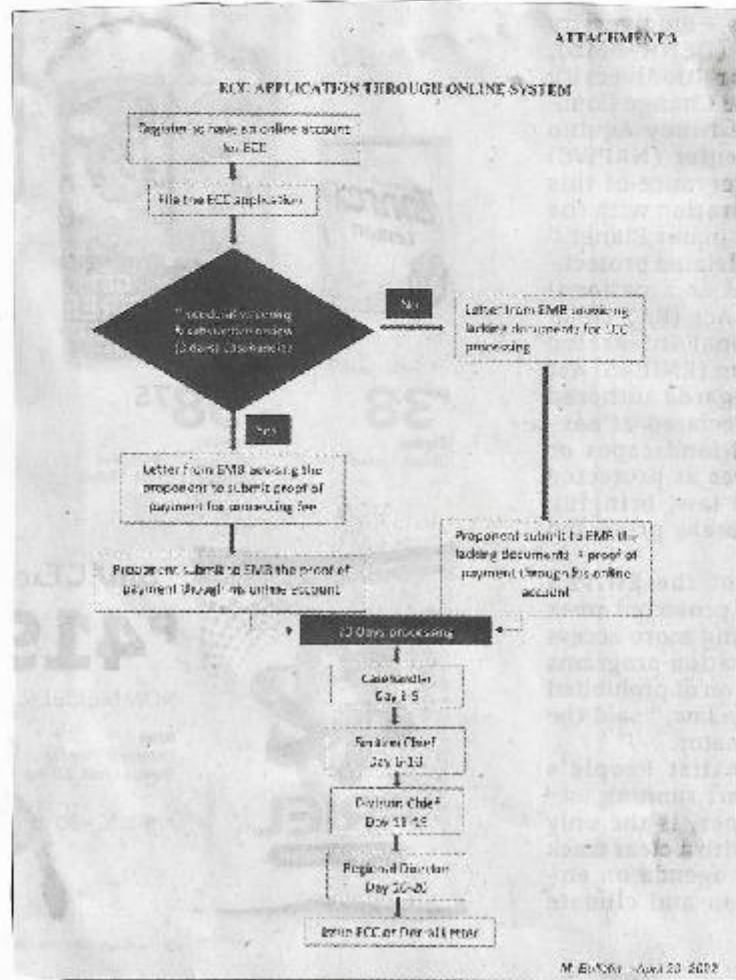
- I declare, confirm and affirm the authenticity and truthfulness of the information stated herein and undertake to perform the following:
  - To the best of my knowledge, there was no complaint, opposition or protest against the establishment of the proposed land of public domain prior to the submission of the online ECC application;
  - The Proponent recognized and hereby consent to the authority of DENR to deny the ECC application in case of proven misrepresentation or material falsehood on the submitted IEC Checklist Report;
  - The project Proponent authorized higher representative, and/or caused the processing of the ECC and thus, duly informed of the Account Name and the corresponding Password of the Online ECC application;
- All information and commitments in the Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Checklist Report are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. The undersigned Proponent or his/her authorized representative of the Proponent shall implement all commitments, including measures and monitoring requirements indicated in the IEC Checklist Report; and
- I will take full responsibility and accountability in complying with all the terms and conditions of the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) that will be issued emanating from the said IEE;
- I am executing this Sworn Statement of Accountability to attest to the foregoing statements, and to comply with the requirements of P.D. 1585 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Done this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Affiant

SEBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
affiants personally appeared before me exhibiting their Community Tax

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March 25, 2022

EMB Memorandum Circular No. 002  
Series 2022

**SUBJECT: STREAMLINING FOR SECURING ECC FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING AN IEE CHECKLIST WITH AUTO-APPROVAL and/or DENIAL WITHIN THE TWENTY (20) DAYS PROCESSING THROUGH THE EMB ONLINE SYSTEM**

**Section I. Rationale**

On June 9, 2016, EMB Memorandum Circular No. 2016-008 was issued for the implementation of online processing of Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) applications for Category B Projects requiring Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) Checklist Report. Since 2016, no updating of procedures and requirements of the established ECC online system was made.

In response to the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act (RA 11032) that mandates each government agency to establish effective practices for the efficient delivery of government services by simplifying requirements and procedures that will reduce red tape and expedite the business transaction in government, the procedures and requirements for ECC applications filed through the online system shall be streamlined.

**Section II. Objectives**

The objectives of this Memorandum Circular are the following:

1. Streamline the procedures and requirements of ECC requiring IEE Checklist on its applications;
2. Simplified the procedures and meet the twenty (20) working days requirements pursuant to RA 11032.

**Section III. Coverage**

This Order only covers the following:

1. Applicable for projects requiring IEE Checklist on its ECC applications;
2. Applicable for new and single projects filed through the online system;
3. Applicable for existing single projects to be expanded, modified and/or rehabilitated.

**Section IV. ECC Minimum Documentary Requirements**

The following are the minimum documentary requirements for ECC applications filed through the online system:

1. Proof of authority over the project site
  - a. For projects within E-NEPAS - PAMB Clearance  
The system will not accept the ECC application without attaching the PAMB Clearance.  
For the list of E-NEPAS, refer to Annex 1.
  - b. Sand and Gravel Project - Approved Area Status and/or Clearance
  - c. Reclamation Projects - Notice from DENR RCD that the project can proceed with ECC application
  - d. Mining projects - valid Mineral Agreement or Exploration Permit
  - e. For projects within the DENR tenurial instruments (i.e. Forest Land Use Agreement (FLAg), Forest Land Use Agreement for Tourism Purposes (FLAgT), Foreshore Lease Agreement (FLA), Special Use Agreement in Protected Area (SAPA), the establishment of an ostensible authority (authentication duly received by the DENR concerned for the tenurial instrument) over a particular protected area or land of public domain (Attachment 1 - DENR Memorandum dated 16 Nov. 2010) is sufficient as proof of authority. However, the project shall not be allowed to commence if the said instrument was not issued in favor of the ECC applicant/proponent.
  - f. For projects within the ancestral domain, the proponent is required to submit a received letter filed to NCIP on their intent to use the ancestral domain.  
However, the project shall not commence the implementation if Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) was not issued to the proponent. The said FPIC shall be submitted to EMB prior to the implementation.
  - g. Other projects - any of the following: land title/s, lease contract, deed of absolute sale, notarized Memorandum of Agreement between the proponent and the owner of the project area, or Usufruct Agreement for projects under usufruct area, etc.
  - h. For government road projects and irrigation projects, there is no need for proof of authority since the government has the power to take private property for public use (eminent domain). However, if said projects traverse in a public/ancestral domain, the proponent shall comply with the requirements under item 'a' and/or 'e' and/or 'f'.
2. Certification from LGU on the compatibility of the proposed project with existing land use plan and/or zoning certificate and/or Sangguniang Bayan Resolution on Land Reclassification / Land Use Exemption / Land Use Conversion.



3. Project Description including project components
4. Geotagged photographs of the project site (North, South, East and West quadrant) taken for the last 30 days.
5. Filing Environmental Impact and Management Plan (EMP) checklist
6. Proof of Payment (Bank Receipt) for the Application Fee
7. Project layout overlay in Google map or Site Development Plan signed by registered professionals or Survey Plan for CGAC/Quarry projects.
8. Duty accomplished project environmental monitoring and audit prioritization scheme (PEMAPS) questionnaire
9. Notarized Sworn Statement of Accountability of Proponent (Attachment 2) Submission of notarized Sworn Statement of Accountability of Proponent
10. Requirements for the following projects:
  - a. Sand and gravel project and Quarry project- Geological Assessment Report (EMB MC 2020-27)
  - b. Sanitary Landfill - EMB Central Office Clearance
  - c. Wood processing project - Valid log supply contract
11. Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment Report (EGGAR) as post-ECC condition for all projects as indicated in DAO 2000-28

#### Section V. ECC Online Application Streamlined Procedures

1. Visit the EMB website ([www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph)) and register to have an ECC online account by filling up forms providing proponent information.
2. Encode the project information and fill up the online checklist in the ECC online system.
3. Upon submission of all the requirements on the online system, the EMB shall proceed on the procedural screening and substantive review to determine the completeness and authenticity/appropriateness of the submitted documents in the online system.

The system only allows one (1) time procedural screening and substantive review.

4. The EMB will notify the applicant of the results of procedural/substantive of the document in the ECC online account within three (3) working days.

**If acceptable**, the applicant will be advised to pay the processing fee through the following channels:

1. Pay to nearest Landbank (Over-the-Counter Collection Facility)
2. Pay via the internet using the Electronic Payment Portal of Landbank using any Bancnet Debit card.

The proof of payment shall be submitted online within seven (7) days from receipt of notification. The online system will generate acknowledgment that the ECC application was received.

**If not Acceptable**, the EMB will provide the proponent the list of lacking documents based on the requirements in Section IV and will also be advised to pay the processing fee. Failure to submit the lacking documents including the proof of payment within twenty (20) working days, the application will be dropped from the online system. However, the proponent has the option to re-file their application.

Once the lacking documents are submitted, the online system will automatically receive the proponent's ECC application and acknowledgment of receipt will be generated by the system. Day one (1) of ECC application processing shall commence upon issuance of acknowledgment receipt to proponent. However, if the proponent will fail to comply and submit ALL the required documents based on EMB evaluation, the application is subject to denial but still has the option to re-file the application.

5. Auto-forwarding of the ECC Application on the online system

NUMBER OF DAYS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	ACTIVITY
Day 1		Acceptance of ECC application
Day 1-5	Case Handler	Substantive review
Day 6-10	Section Chief	Validation of the substantive review by the Case Handler
Day 11-15	Division Chief	Review and concurrence with the recommendation by the Section Chief
Day 16-20	Regional Director	Decision of the ECC Application (Approval or denial) based on the recommendation of the Division Chief

See attached diagram for ECC application through online system (Attachment 3).

#### Section VI. Decision of the ECC Application

The EMB Regional Office may deny or approve the ECC application within twenty (20) working days from receipt of the application, and the issuance thereof can be printed online. *If no action from the EMB RO was made, the online system shall automatically issue the ECC within twenty (20) working days from the acceptance of the ECC Application.*

#### Section VII. Basis of Denial of ECC applications

The ECC application filed through the online system can be denied by EMB based on the following criteria:

1. Misrepresentation of submitted documents in the online system.
2. The submitted documents were found not appropriate as required in Section IV (e.g. Certificate of Title as proof of ownership is required for submission but instead, the proponent submits a Tax Declaration; application of tenon instrument is not duly received by the DENR, etc.)



3. Invalid proof of payment. Upon verification the proof of payment was already used in another ECC application or payment was not paid upon verification at Landbank.  
If the Official Receipt (OR) was already registered in the system but was not used/consumed in the ECC approval/contract, the proponent must attach a letter from the EMB Regional Office that they can still use the issued OR or proof of payment.
4. Any complaint filed relevant to the environmental impacts and mitigating measures of the proposed project within the application period which is not acted by the proponent within the twenty (20) working days processing of ECC.  
*Note: Other complaints not relevant to environmental impacts and mitigating measures can be included as post ECC conditions (e.g. boundary issues, permit from other government agencies, overlap of project area, among others).*

**Section VIII. Processing Fee of ECC application**

The proponent shall pay the amount the online processing fee:

1. New ECC application - Php 50,000.00
2. Amendment application of ECC - Php 2,000.00

In case of denial of ECC application, the proponent can use the processing fee within the calendar year of the date of payment (eg. payment posted on June 1, 2022, is still valid until December 31, 2022) for ECC re-application of the same project. Payment on ECC application processing is not refundable.

**Section IX. Certified True Copy of ECC**

The proponent has an option to obtain a certified true copy of ECC issued online from the EMB Region concerned subject to applicable fee.

**Section X. Repealing Clause**

All orders, circulars, memoranda and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended and/or modified accordingly.

**Section XI. Separability Clause**

If any provision of this Order is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and in effect.

**Section XII. Effectivity**

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and upon acknowledgment of receipt of a copy thereof by the Office of the National Administration Registrar (ONAR), UP Law Center.

ENGR. WILLIAM P. CUÑADO



ATTACHMENT 1



23 APRIL 2022, SATURDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# Rollout of 2nd booster shot starts April 25: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 22, 2022, 3:21 pm



*(File photo)*

**MANILA** – The government will begin the rollout of the second booster shot or fourth dose of the Covid-19 vaccine on April 25, a health official said Friday.

Only immunocompromised individuals, ages 18 years old and above are eligible to receive the additional jab at least three months after their first booster shot or their third dose.

*"Ito ang mga bakunang aprubadong iturok na* (Here are the vaccines approved to be given as) second booster or as your fourth dose, AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer, Sinopharm, and Sinovac," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said in an online media forum.

As of April 21, the country has reached 74.8 percent of its target as 67.3 million individuals are now fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

More than 1.7 million children ages 5 to 11 years old and 9.1 million adolescents have completed their primary series of Covid-19 vaccines.

About 12.7 million eligible individuals are now part of the vaccinated plus or boosted population while 37.5 million are yet to receive their first booster shot.

"As of April 21, we have vaccinated a total of 44,438 individuals during the special vaccination days in Region 12, Soccsksargen, Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental," Vergeire said.

To increase the low vaccination rate in Region 5 and Palawan, Vergeire said special vaccination days will be held in both regions on April 25 and 26. **(PNA)**



# 50% of health care workers yet to get booster shots: DOH

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 22, 2022, 6:53 pm



(File photo)

**MANILA** – Just nearly half of fully vaccinated health care workers have received their coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) booster shots, a health official said Friday.

The government has already achieved 95 percent of its target health care workers for the primary series.

Of the 2.9 million health care workers who are fully inoculated, only 1.3 million have received booster shots based on the National Covid-19 Vaccination Dashboard data.

"*Dito sa booster doses (With the booster doses), we only have an accomplishment of 49.07 percent,*" Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said during an online media forum.

Department of Health Technical Advisory Group member Anna Ong-Lim said the low booster rate among health care workers could be attributed to the decrease in new cases, which is the "enemy of any successful vaccination program".

"It's actually a phenomenon observed across different (types of) vaccines *kapag nababawasan ang dami ng kaso, syempre nagiging kampante ang mga tao. Bumaba ang update ng mga bakuna at dahil dumadami ang pools of susceptibles, tumataas na naman ang kaso* (when cases go down, people are complacent. Vaccine update goes down and then cases go up because the pools of susceptibles increase). It's really human nature," she said.

Lim urged health care workers to take advantage of the lull or downtrend in the number of new cases to add another layer to their protection against Covid-19.

"*Magpa-booster na tayo dahil hindi pa naman nawawala 'yung sakit na ito* (Let's get our booster shots because Covid-19 is still here)," she said.

Overall, about 67 million Filipinos have the complete primary series of Covid-19 jabs but only 12.97 million have availed of booster shots.

The rollout of the fourth dose or the second booster shot for the immuno-compromised aged 18 years and above who received their initial booster shot at least three months ago will begin on April 25.

Medical front-liners and the elderly will get their additional booster shots next. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1172751>

23 APRIL 2022, SATURDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



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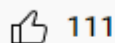
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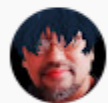
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
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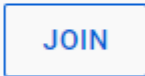

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