

23 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Manila Baywalk water quality improving: DENR

By Catherine Teves January 22, 2022, 6:15 pm



GENTLE REMINDER. Two marshals hold signage reminding visitors at the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach to observe minimum health protocols in this photo taken on Oct. 25, 2021. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources leads the Manila Bay rehabilitation which includes the creation of the Dolomite Beach. *(File photo)*

MANILA - The national government's continuing rehabilitation of Manila Bay has considerably lowered the level of coliform bacteria in the natural harbor's water bordering the Baywalk area.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Climate Change Service officer-in-charge Director Elenida Basug said on Friday the rehabilitation's solid waste management (SWM) strategies, geoengineering interventions and monitoring of establishments' regulatory compliance helped lower the coliform level and improved the quality of water.

"That (coliform bacteria) level decreased to an average (of) 21,100 most probable number (mpn) per 100 milliliters (ml) in the third quarter of 2021 from 5.75 million mpn per 100 ml in 2019," she said, citing Manila Bay Coordinating Office data during the weekly *Ang Tinig Klima* program.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, during an inspection last June, said the standard fecal coliform level in Manila Bay should drop to 100 mpn/100ml for its waters to become safe for swimming.

Basug said about 19,000 clean-up activities linked to Manila Bay's rehabilitation, and declogging between January and September 2021 were carried out, with 50,618 cubic meters of waste from shores and tributaries of this water body were recovered.

An estimated 82,000 volunteers and "estero" rangers were involved in such efforts, she added.

To help promote a clean environment, Basug said DENR's office for National Capital Region provided pushcarts for selected barangays in the bay area.

Those pushcarts will help improve and facilitate the collection and transport of waste there, she noted.

"DENR reported noticeable improvement in quality of Manila Bay's water and promised to continue its work in accordance with the continuing Supreme Court (SC) mandamus," she said.



On Dec. 18, 2008, the Supreme Court issued SC Mandamus on Manila Bay directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters fit for swimming and other forms of contact recreation.

Manila Bay's DENR-led rehabilitation began in January 2019 which includes the creation of the Dolomite beach along Baywalk.

"Secretary Cimatú said the Dolomite beach aims to inspire behavior change among Filipinos by showing that a beautiful and clean environment is possible if we strive to achieve this," Basug said. **(PNA)**



Typhoons are threats to ecosystems, wildlife

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JANUARY 23, 2022



The aerial view of the heavy devastation of Surigao City caused by Typhoon Odette as recorded by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Typhoon Odette (international code name Rai) devastated parts of Visayas and Mindanao in December last year.

The typhoon, which nearly reached the supertyphoon category, caused severe and widespread damage, killing at least 409 people, and damage of at least P39.3 billion or \$794 million.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Odette falls under the “typhoon category” with its maximum sustained winds of up to 195 kilometers per hour, while the “supertyphoon” has a maximum sustained winds of more than 220 km/hour.”

While the impact of Odette to people and the economy can be measured by the numbers, the same could not be said about ecosystems and the all-important wildlife that are equally vulnerable to such natural calamity.

Serious threat

Strong typhoons like Odette that cause widespread destruction of forests, landslides and floods are a serious threat to wildlife as they are to humans.

Forests are home to both plant and animal wildlife. Their capacity to shield the country’s already threatened wildlife depends on their capacity to withstand the devastation.

A healthy forest ecosystem or coastal and marine habitat means plant and animal wildlife are safe and sound even during the worst weather. But for those in an already damaged ecosystem, the wildlife are always in peril.

No scientific study

The lack of empirical data, before or after the occurrence of such natural calamity, is due to the fact that there are no extensive studies on natural calamities’ impact on habitats and wildlife in the Philippines.

The same could also be said about its neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

In the case of the Philippines, an official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said that due to limited resources, the local government units (LGUs) are tapped in monitoring the impacts of typhoons to wetlands, caves and other ecosystems.

Dual positions

Anson Tagtag, OIC division chief of the Caves, Wetlands and Other Ecosystems Division of the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB), said when it comes to natural calamities, wetlands and caves have dual positions.



Wetlands, for instance, is seen as a buffer for natural calamities, like flooding, Tagtag told the BusinessMirror on January 18.

“Wetlands are water basins and they are repositories of floodwater. If these wetlands, like river systems, remain intact or maintained, they hold water [that help in] preventing flooding,” he said in a telephone interview.

On the other hand, Tagtag said that when wetlands are already disturbed by humans, these ecosystems’ capacity to hold water is compromised, resulting in massive flooding.

The same can be said about caves.

“The dynamics of cave systems are dependent on natural vegetation. If the vegetation on top of caves are already ruined, hence, water easily sip through the soil, eventually affecting the caves below.

Ecosystems monitoring

Important ecosystems are being monitored by the DENR-BMB, but there’s no scientific study yet on the impact of a devastating typhoon, like Odette.

On the part of the Wetland Management Program of the DENR-BMB, which aims to manage and conserve the most important ecosystems, Tagtag said the first step was to identify the wetlands and conduct a physical assessment and learn the ecosystem services they provide.

“We already have a map of wetlands in the Philippines, but due to limited resources, we prioritize what can be managed. Of course, we want to manage them all, because that’s our target. But then, we identify priorities that we can manage,” he said.

No impact study

Wetlands are sometimes subsumed in protected areas like Naujan Lake.

Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and all Ramsar Sites are being monitored, he said. However, there’s no extensive study on the impact of every disastrous event or natural calamity.

“I can’t remember if we have [an impact study of natural calamities]. In wetlands, we check and monitor. For caves, I mean the managed caves, monitoring is regularly done,” Tagtag added.

“When there’s a disturbance, we are able to know through monitoring through our partnership with LGUs. We have 3,000 plus caves in the Philippines but only around 700 are classified,” he explained.

He said the practical thing in monitoring important ecosystems is through partnership with communities.

Conserving ecosystems ‘a must’

Tagtag highlighted the need to conserve wetlands, caves and other important ecosystems, saying their capacity to cushion the impact of natural calamities and protect plant and animal wildlife depends on their condition.

“If rivers are silted, naturally, their capacity is reduced. This causes flooding that may affect wildlife,” he explained.

“The best way to use natural resources is by not using them at all,” he said.

No targeted research in AHPs

Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said even in other countries there are no targeted research studies on the impact of natural calamities in Asean Heritage Parks (AHPs), which represent the best of the best of protected areas in Southeast Asia.



However, Lim, a former DENR-BMB director, said natural calamities have always direct impact on natural ecosystems and wildlife.

Lim said there used to be a plan to conduct a study on the impact of natural calamities to a select area and the wildlife that thrive in that area.

Not enough literature

The plan, she said, was conceptualized by ACB's Knowledge Management chief, Dr. Arvin Diesmos, who used to be with the National Museum of Natural History but there was not enough literature as basis to pursue the plan.

Nevertheless, Lim said that though it will probably have to be a long-term study, she said it is a good time to start now, with the support of ACB.

"I think this is a good time to start it and ACB can support such an initiative," she pointed out.

A question of resiliency

"But of course, there is always an impact of these disasters on wildlife, on natural ecosystems. The question is how quickly they can recover or if they can even recover at all. This is what we call 'resiliency,'" Lim told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on January 17.

Lim said ecosystems that are still intact or healthy have the capacity to recover faster.

On the other hand, she said wild animals can always move into thicker growth to shelter themselves from areas being battered by the storm, citing, for example, the movement from the eastern portion to the western portion of a great forest along the Eastern seaboard.

Performing ecological function

Lim said when wildlife survives the wrath of natural calamities, they continue to perform their important ecological function, helping restore forests—the home to plant and animal wildlife.

"If the pollinators and seed dispersers survive the wrath, they will continue to perform their ecological function and restore the forest in time for the next storm," she explained.

"But as you know, the state of the ecosystems accessible to humans is no longer as pristine, and so the wildlife's range to seek safety is already more limited than ideal," she noted.

Aggravating this, she added, is the frequency of natural calamities, "which makes them vulnerable even more."

"But if we are aware of the thresholds, so we keep enough high biodiversity-protected areas to retain their ecological functions, then we not only have more resilient protected areas and wildlife populations, but more resilient communities and infrastructure, as well," she ended.

Image credits: [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Piolo, sumabak sa coastal cleanup sa Batangas

[Joy Cantos](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon January 23, 2022 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Nakiisa ang award winning actor na si Piolo Pascual sa pagsasagawa ng coastal at underwater cleanup sa Batangas.

Ayon kay Ang Probinsyano Partylist Rep. Alfred delos Santos, ang aktibidades ay isinagawa nila ng aktor at ng iba pa nilang mga kasamahan sa Brgy. Mainit, Mabini, Batangas.

Sa nasabing cleanup drive, sinabi ni Delos Santos na nasa kabuuang 135 kilo ng basura ang nakolekta ng 50 volunteers na pinamumunuan ng lokal na tanggapan ng turismo sa nasabing bayan. Sinaksihan ang aktibidad ng mga kinatawan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon.

Nabatid na dahil sa pandemya ay sa kaniyang tahanan sa Batangas naglalagi si Pascual at sinusuportahan nito ang karamihan sa mga proyekto ng naturang partylist.

“I am thankful to have been part of this initiative by Ang Probinsyano Partylist. Environmental issues are close to my heart, and I consider Batangas my home now. I fully support the partylist’s call for everyone to act now and act fast,” anang aktor.

Inihayag pa ni Pascual na magiging aktibo rin siya sa pagtulong sa outreach program ng Ang Probinsyano Partylist sa Manila at mga karatig lalawigan sa mga susunod na buwan.



Piolo Pascual, Ang Probinsyano PL, nanguna sa coastal at underwater cleanup drive sa Batangas

ni [Jeff Tumbado](#) | January 22, 2022



File photo

Pinangunahan ng award winning actor na si Piolo Pascual at ni Ang Probinsyano Partylist Representative Alfred delos Santos ang pagsasagawa ng coastal at underwater cleanup drive sa Barangay Mainit sa bayan ng Mabini sa Batangas kahapon, araw ng Biyernes, Enero 21, 2022.

Kasama nina Pascual at delos Santos ang nasa 50 iba pang volunteers mula sa local tourism ng Mabini at ilang taga-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kung saan ang naturang community cleanup activity ay nakapag-ipon ng nasa 135 kilo ng waste materials.

Sa isang pahayag ni Pascual, ang community cleanup drive ay isa lamang umano sa maraming proyekto ng Ang Probinsyano Partylist na kanyang sinusoportahan.

“I am thankful to have been part of this initiative by Ang Probinsyano Partylist. Environmental issues are close to my heart, and I consider Batangas my home now. I fully support the partylist’s call for everyone to act now and act fast,” pahayag ng aktor.

Dagdag pa ni Pascual na magiging kasama pa siya ng nabanggit na partylist sa pagtulong sa mga joint project sa Maynila at karatig-lalawigan sa parating na mga buwan.

“We welcome the support of Mr. Piolo Pascual in our projects. Rural development is one of our main advocacies. We believe that a clean environment leads to better tourism opportunities for the community, therefore improving the livelihood of our kababayans. We look forward to working closely with him, hoping to inspire our kababayans to also take part in projects such as this cleanup drive,” wika naman ni delos Santos.

Samantala, nagagalak naman ang Mabini local tourism office sa kolaborasyon sa pagitan ng dalawa dahil sa kabila ng pandemya ay magpapatuloy pa rin ang kanilang regular na cleanup drive projects.

Source: <https://www.bulgaronline.com/post/piolo-pascual-ang-probinsyano-pl-nanguna-sa-coastal-at-underwater-cleanup-drive-sa-batangas>



Papa 'P' joins Probinsyano Party-list in Mabini coastal, underwater cleanup drive

January 21, 2022 1 min read

Award-winning actor Piolo Pascual joined hands with the Ang Probinsyano Partylist for a coastal and underwater cleanup drive in Barangay Mainit, Mabini, Batangas on Friday (January 21, 2022).



The community cleanup activity yielded a total of 135 kilograms of waste materials collected by 50 volunteers headed by the local tourism office of Mabini. Representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) were also present for proper documentation and disposal of the collected materials.

(Kiara Lauren ibanez/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/ai/mtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/01/21/papa-p-joins-probinsyano-party-list-in-mabini-coastal-underwater-cleanup-drive/?fbclid=IwAR1ZKbCJXclnBCDy9yYvk-v5RzLKua3TlgZAxO-exSIPrVKA7F3TxB4G24>



Pondo para sa reforestation, maaring gamitin para sa trabaho sa mga lugar na sinalanta ni 'Odette'

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#) - Jan. 22, 2022 at 7:03pm



Ang bulto ng pondong P2.26 bilyon para sa reforestation sa ilalim ng National Greening Program o NGP ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay dapat mapunta sa mga lugar na dinaanan ng Bagyong Odette.

Ayon kay Senator Joel Villanueva ito ay para mabigyan ng trabaho at kabuhayan ang mga nasalanta habang nagtatanim ng mga puno sa mga lugar na nasira ng sakuna.

Dagdag pa ni Villanueva, nasa posisyon ang pamahalaan na gamitin ang pondo ng NGP para makapagbigay ng kabuhayan sa mga biktima at maprotektahan ang kapaligiran.

Dagdag pa ni Villanueva, magagamit ang pondo para sa NGP para sa mangrove planting na magsisilbing fish nursery at maging "tsunami at storm surge armor" para sa mga komunidad na malapit sa dagat.

Ang NGP ay inilunsad noong 2011, at ang P2.26 bilyon na pondo nito ay isa sa mga programa sa P19-bilyon na pondo ng DENR sa 2022.

Source: https://rmn.ph/pondo-para-sa-reforestation-maaring-gamitin-para-sa-trabaho-sa-mga-lugar-na-sinalanta-ni-odette/?fbclid=IwAR2ANeQstV_3h-AltK5yvfpA6aN0h9UjWpUNNoWex2xS3g6dAo8lb552eYA



OPMC seeks to explore in Zambales, Dinagat Islands

January 21, 2022 | 12:06 am



ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. (OPMC) has applied for permits to explore in Zambales and the Dinagat Islands for nickel and other associated metals, it said in stock market disclosure on Thursday.

It said applications were submitted to regional offices of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for five areas in Zambales spanning around 13,816 hectares and two areas in Dinagat Islands covering around 863 hectares.

It said three out of the five areas in Zambales were already designated by the mining bureau's office in Central Luzon with separate exploration permit application numbers.

The mining company said it is "authorized to conduct exploration and production of petroleum, minerals and renewable energy."

Another disclosure will be posted to the Philippine Stock Exchange once the applications are converted to exploration permits, according to OPMC.

The company's move to apply for exploration permits comes after the government lifted the four-year ban on open-pit mining on Dec. 23.

Incorporated in 1969, OPMC is a local exploration and production company engaged in upstream petroleum activities in the country.

Its petroleum operations are located mainly in Northwest Palawan. Most of its operational activities depend on its service contracts with the government.

OPMC has three wholly owned subsidiaries, namely: Oriental Mahogany Woodworks, Inc., Linapacan Oil Gas and Power Corp., and Oriental Land Corp.

In the third quarter of 2021, the company reported a net loss of \$845,403, turning around from a net income of \$1.29 million in the same quarter in 2020.

For the January-September period last year, however, the company posted a net income of \$529,086, although lower by 82.2% than the \$2.98 million recorded in the same three quarters a year earlier.

In the stock exchange on Thursday, OPMC shares went up by 20% or P0.002 to P0.012 each.
— **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/opmc-seeks-to-explore-in-zambales-dinagat-islands/?fbclid=IwAR1bUUpv6Sz5Dc_A2Mbl7f_CyEdBEUvurwKkYUyBrxlpGN5O56-mxxilHXQ



Higit 100 pawikan ang pinakawalan sa karagatan ng Nagas, Oas, Albay. Bago napisa ang mga itlog, isang magpinsan ang matiyagang nag-alaga sa mga ito.

Ayon kay Buddy Rico Macaranga, isa sa mga nag-alaga, noong Oktubre'y dalawang beses nilang nakita ang isang pawikang naghuhukay sa buhangin at nadiskubreng may mga itlog ito. Ipinaabot nila ito sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources at sinabihan silang bantayan ito.

Araw-araw na minonitor ni Macaranga at ng pinsang si Rene Añonuevo, Jr. ang mga itlog dahil halos nasa tapat lang ng bahay nila ang puwesto ng mga ito.

Makalipas ang dalawang buwan, napisa na ang mga itlog.

Wala mang natanggap na pabuya, masaya si Macaranga na nakatulong sila para sa kalikasan lalo't itinuturing na endangered species ang mga pawikan. (📷: Macaranga) | via Aireen Perol-Jaymalin

BASAHING ang mga kaugnay na ulat: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/patrol/tag/PAWIKAN>



800

16 Comments 30 Shares



DOST-FPRDI finds new use for invasive 'lapnis' tree

BY BUSINESSMIRROR JANUARY 23, 2022



Lapnis shrub

The DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) is exploring the possibility of using lapnis bast fibers for paper conservation.

Lapnis, or paper mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera* [L.] L'Herit ex Vent), is a shrub introduced in the Philippines in 1935 as a reforestation species and a source of fiber.

Over the years, however, it has come to be known as a pest that is thriving uncontrollably and invading vast tracks of idle lands in the country.

“Our initial research showed that lapnis’s strength and long fibers make it a good substitute for imported conservation paper,” said Project Leader Cesar O. Austria.

Paper conservation is the process of restoring and preserving all kinds of important paper-based objects, such as archival documents and art works.

Made by hand or machine, paper for conservation is used to repair tears, consolidate and give support to strengthen weak and brittle paper artifacts.

Generally, these papers should be strong, insect- and tear-resistant, acid-free and translucent.

According to Austria, the country mostly imports these papers from Thailand and Japan.



“The DOST-FPRDI produced at least five different kinds of lapnis handmade papers that were evaluated by a paper conservator,” Austria said.

“Thin lapnis handmade paper is particularly good as backing material for supporting artwork on paper; as pre-coated lining papers for mending tears; and as hinges for framing art on paper, among others,” she explained.

Austria added that further studies will be done at the Institute to improve lapnis handmade paper’s color, fiber formation and distribution, and clarity, such as free from specks, dirt or foreign particles.

The DOST-FPRDI also now offers training on lapnis handmade paper production.

Funded by the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development, the initiative is part of a recently concluded project that studied lapnis’s ability to grow new shoots after being cut down.

The project is envisioned to help curb the spread of lapnis in the country—not by killing it off, but by finding possible uses for its wood and non-wood components. **Apple Jean C. Martinde Leon/S&T Media Services**



ABS-CBN News

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"IBONG ADARNA" SA ANTIQUE? Isang golden pheasant ang nakuhanan ng larawan ni Ricardo Go habang nagbibisikleta sa Semirara Island Aviary sa Caluya, Antique.

"Ibong Adarna" kung tawagin ng mga residente ang naturang ibon. Kuwento ng mga residente, ang nakitang ibon ay ang nag-iisang uri nito sa isla. | via Rolen Escaniel

Para sa iba pang mga balita, magtungo lamang sa news.abs-cbn.com.



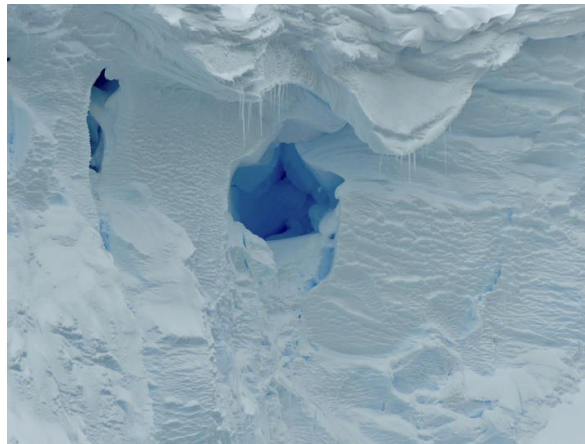
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Ocean heat is at record levels, with major consequences

BY KEVIN TRENBERTH, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND / THE CONVERSATION CREATIVE COMMONS JANUARY 23, 2022



This 2019 photo provided by the British Antarctic Survey shows a hole in the Thwaites glacier in Antarctica. Starting January 6, a team of scientists are sailing to the massive but melting Thwaites glacier, “the place in the world that’s the hardest to get to,” so they can better figure out how much and how fast seas will rise because of global warming eating away at Antarctica’s ice.

The world witnessed record-breaking climate and weather disasters in 2021, from destructive flash floods that swept through mountain towns in Europe and inundated subway systems in China and the US, to heat waves and wildfires.

Typhoon Odette (international codename Rai) killed over 400 people in the Philippines; Hurricane Ida caused an estimated \$74 billion in damage in the US.

Globally, it was the sixth hottest year on record for surface temperatures, according to data released by National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their annual global climate report on January 13.

But under the surface, ocean temperatures set new heat records in 2021.

As climate scientist Kevin Trenberth explains, while the temperature at Earth’s surface is what people experience day to day, the temperature in the upper part of the ocean is a better indicator of how excess heat is accumulating on the planet.

The Conversation spoke with Trenberth, coauthor of a study published on January 11 by 23 researchers at 14 institutes that tracked warming in the world’s oceans.

Question: Your latest research shows ocean heat is at record highs. What does that tell us about global warming?

The world’s oceans are hotter than ever recorded, and their heat has increased each decade since the 1960s.

This relentless increase is a primary indicator of human-induced climate change.

As oceans warm, their heat supercharges weather systems, creating more powerful storms and hurricanes, and more intense rainfall. That threatens human lives and livelihoods as well as marine life.

The oceans take up about 93 percent of the extra energy trapped by the increasing greenhouse gases from human activities, particularly burning fossil fuels.

Because water holds more heat than land does and the volumes involved are immense, the upper oceans are a primary memory of global warming. I explain this in more detail in my new book *The Changing Flow of Energy Through the Climate System*.



Our study provided the first analysis of 2021's ocean warming, and we were able to attribute the warming to human activities. Global warming is alive and well, unfortunately.

The global mean surface temperature was the fifth or sixth warmest on record in 2021 (the record depends on the dataset used), in part, because of the year-long La Niña conditions, in which cool conditions in the tropical Pacific influence weather patterns around the world.

There is a lot more natural variability in surface air temperatures than in ocean temperatures because of El Niño/La Niña and weather events.

That natural variability on top of a warming ocean creates hot spots, sometimes called "marine heat waves," that vary from year to year.

Those hot spots have profound influences on marine life, from tiny plankton to fish, marine mammals and birds.

Other hot spots are responsible for more activity in the atmosphere, such as hurricanes.

While surface temperatures are both a consequence and a cause, the main source of the phenomena causing extremes relates to ocean heat that energizes weather systems.

We found that all oceans are warming, with the largest amounts of warming in the Atlantic Ocean and in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica.

That's a concern for Antarctica's ice—heat in the Southern Ocean can creep under Antarctica's ice shelves, thinning them and resulting in calving off of huge icebergs.

Warming oceans are also a concern for sea level rise.

In what ways does extra ocean heat affect air temperature and moisture on land?

The global heating increases evaporation and drying on land, as well as raising temperatures, increasing risk of heat waves and wildfires.

We've seen the impact in 2021, especially in western North America, but also amid heat waves in Russia, Greece, Italy and Turkey.

The warmer oceans also supply atmospheric rivers of moisture to land areas, increasing the risk of flooding, like the US West Coast has been experiencing.

The year 2021 saw several destructive cyclones, including Hurricane Ida in the US and Typhoon Odette/Rai in the Philippines. How does ocean temperature affect storms like those?

Warmer oceans provide extra moisture to the atmosphere. That extra moisture fuels storms, especially hurricanes.

The result can be prodigious rainfall, as the US saw from Ida, and widespread flooding as occurred in many places over the past year.

The storms may also become more intense, bigger and last longer.

Several major flooding events have occurred in Australia this past year, and also in New Zealand.

Bigger snowfalls can also occur in winter provided temperatures remain below about freezing because warmer air holds more moisture.



If greenhouse-gas emissions slowed, would the ocean cool down?

In the oceans, warm water sits on top of cooler denser waters. However, the oceans warm from the top down, and consequently the ocean is becoming more stratified.

This inhibits mixing between layers that otherwise allows the ocean to warm to deeper levels and to take up carbon dioxide and oxygen. Hence it impacts all marine life.

We found that the top 500 meters of the ocean has clearly been warming since 1980; the 500-1,000 meter depths have been warming since about 1990; the 1,000-1,500 meter depths since 1998; and below 1,500 meters since about 2005.

The slow penetration of heat downward means that oceans will continue to warm, and sea level will continue to rise even after greenhouse gases are stabilized.

The final area to pay attention to is the need to expand scientists' ability to monitor changes in the oceans.

One way we do this is through the Argo array—currently about 3,900 profiling floats that send back data on temperature and salinity from the surface to about 2,000 meters in depth, measured as they rise up and then sink back down, in ocean basins around the world.

These robotic, diving and drifting instruments require constant replenishment and their observations are invaluable.

Image credits: [David Vaughan/British Antarctic Survey via AP](#)

23 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Philippines records 30,552 new coronavirus infections

Philstar.com January 22, 2022 | 4:17pm



Authorities ask for vaccination cards from individuals and motorists entering Taguig City during their vaccination checkpoint operation held at Brgy. North Daang Hari on Jan. 21, 2022.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines logged 30,552 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of people who have been recorded as having tested positive for the coronavirus to 3,387,524.

The Department of Health reported that 97 more people died, pushing the death toll to 53,406.

Meanwhile, 41,471 were tagged as recovered, which brought down the number of active cases to 280,619. There are now 3,053,499 people who have recovered from the infection.

All labs were able to submit testing data, DOH said.

Vaccines still effective vs severe COVID

- COVID-19 vaccines and boosters still have a [high efficacy against severe disease](#) during the Omicron wave of the virus, according to a large real-world study from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Malacañang clarified that the government is [not issuing cards exempted unvaccinated people](#) from mobility restrictions

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/22/2155676/philippines-records-30552-new-coronavirus-infections>



DOH: Too early to say if Metro Manila can shift to Alert Level 2 in February

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 22, 2022 6:18:27 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 22)— The Department of Health (DOH) said it is still too early to say whether Metro Manila can deescalate to Alert Level 2 next month.

"I think it's too early to declare and to say to people that we will shift or deescalate to Alert Level 2," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire told a Laging Handa briefing on Saturday.

"Kahit po sa tingin natin bumabagal na po ang pagdami ng kaso, bumaba na ang numero araw-araw, pero alalahanin po natin na mayroon pa rin po tayong mga kababayan na hindi na po nagpapa-test," she also said. "Mayroon din tayong mga kababayan na nag-a-antigen test na hindi po naire-report sa DOH."

[Translation: Even though we think the cases are slowing down and the numbers are going down every day, we have to remember that there are people who don't get tested. There are people who undergo antigen tests but do not get reported to the DOH.]

The Alert Level 3 classification in the capital region has been extended until Jan. 31.

Vergeire said officials are closely monitoring the COVID-19 trends, but she maintained earlier projections that case peak may happen by the end of the month or by the middle of February.

Coronavirus infections nationwide jumped to 3,387,524 after the DOH listed 30,552 fresh cases on Saturday.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/22/DOH-Metro-Manila-Alert-Level-2-February.html>



Government to provinces: Increase bed capacity for COVID-19 patients

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star January 23, 2022 | 12:00am



A health worker fixes at bed at East Avenue Medical Centers' Center for Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Disease in Quezon City on August 17, 2020.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Increasing hospital beds dedicated to COVID-19 patients would prevent provinces from being placed under stricter alert levels, Malacañang said, as it urged regional health offices to continue monitoring the health care capacities of local governments.

Acting presidential spokesman Karlo Nograles said the government is monitoring the situation in Bataan, Iloilo City, Ormoc City, Naga City, Dagupan City, Western Samar, Tacloban City, Biliran and Zamboanga del Sur, which are among the areas that are under Alert Level 3 because of rising pandemic infections.

“With regard to other areas, we’re also consistently monitoring them, advising them. We are triggering now or we are now pushing the regional IATFs (Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases) and the regional task forces also to help us in monitoring the dedicated beds,” Nograles said at a press briefing last Friday.

“If they increase their dedicated COVID beds, then they (would) stay in Alert Level 3, but if they breach the threshold, then we have no choice but to escalate them (to a stricter classification). That’s why actively, we are coordinating with them, the respective LGUs (local government units) to look at their metrics,” he added.

Nograles previously said that the bed utilization rate would be classified as high risk if it reaches 71 percent.

Areas with high risk bed utilization rate, average daily attack rate or the number of new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population and two-week growth rate may be escalated to Alert Level 4, the second most stringent classification.

“We need to increase the dedicated beds for COVID so it won’t reach the threshold of 71 percent bed utilization (rate) and... that’s one of the points we are pushing to LGUs,” Nograles said.

Business establishments and activities in areas under Alert Level 4 are allowed only up to 10 percent capacity for indoor venues and 30 percent for outdoor venues.



For Alert Level 3 areas, the allowed maximum capacity is 30 percent for indoor venues and 50 percent for outdoor venues. Only vaccinated individuals can enter indoor venues.

Four provinces will be under Alert Level 4 until the end of the month, namely Kalinga, Ifugao, and Mountain Province in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Northern Samar in Eastern Visayas.

Several areas, including Metro Manila, are under Alert Level 3. Six regions are classified as critical risk because of the high growth in COVID-19 infections, namely Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos, Calabarzon, Cordillera Administrative Region and Central Luzon. The rest of the regions are classified as high risk.

The entire Philippines is at critical risk, but its health care utilization rate is still at low risk as of last week.

The IATF has ordered the interior and health departments and its regional units to address the low percentage of dedicated beds for COVID-19 by augmenting the human resources for health and decongesting hospitals of mild and asymptomatic cases through step-down facilities.

The task force has also called for the establishment of functional LGU emergency operations centers and the strengthening of LGU and community access and preference for home care services among mild and asymptomatic cases.



In preliminary study, Sputnik V shows higher omicron-antibody levels than Pfizer

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 21 2022 02:13 AM



Vials labelled Sputnik V, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine are seen in this illustration taken January 16, 2022. *Dado Ruvic illustration, Reuters*

MOSCOW—A small preliminary laboratory study has shown that levels of omicron-neutralizing antibodies of people vaccinated with Russia's Sputnik V vaccine did not decline as much as of those who had Pfizer shots.

The joint Russian-Italian study — funded by the Russian Direct Investment Fund, which markets Sputnik V abroad — compared the blood serum of people who had received the different vaccines.

Researchers said samples taken three to 6 months after the 2nd dose of a vaccine have shown that the levels of antibodies in recipients of 2 doses of Sputnik V were more resistant to omicron than in those vaccinated with Pfizer.

It included 51 people vaccinated with Sputnik V and 17 after 2 shots of the Pfizer vaccine.

"Today the necessity of third booster vaccination is obvious," the preliminary study published on January 19 said.

The preliminary study, that will seek certification by peer review, showed that omicron-specific neutralizing antibodies were detected in the blood serum of 74.2% of the people vaccinated with Sputnik and in 56.9% of those vaccinated with Pfizer/BioNtech.

An earlier preliminary study by the Gamaleya Institute, the developer of Sputnik V, showed that a booster shot of Sputnik Light vaccine provided a stronger antibody response against omicron than the 2-dose Sputnik V vaccine alone.

Omicron has pushed COVID-19 case figures to record highs in parts of western Europe and the United States. But the variant has only now began to hit Russia, where the daily nationwide new infections spiked to 38,850 on Tuesday from 33,899 the day before.

Russia has so far officially recorded more than 1,600 cases of the variant and has mobilized its health system to tackle an increase in cases but authorities said they realized that there are many more cases related to omicron. *(Reporting by Polina Nikolskaya, additional reporting by Emilio Parodi in Milan, editing by Gabrielle Tétraut-Farber and Tomasz Janowski)*

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/01/21/22/sputnik-v-shows-high-omicron-antibody-levels-study>

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Covid-19 Situation and Response



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 679

ENERO 22, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

8.3%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
280,619

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

90.1%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,053,499

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.58%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
53,406

MGA BAGONG KASO **30,552**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **41,471**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **97**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,387,524**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 20
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 22
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 20

45.1%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

68,049

BILANG NG
TINIST

HALOS
98.3%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

ALAMIN
ANG TAMANG
IMPORMASYON

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.8K TOTAL BEDS)	52% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (20.4K TOTAL BEDS)	52% Utilized
WARD BEDS (14.8K TOTAL BEDS)	53% Utilized
VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	24% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)	50% Utilized
ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)	47% Utilized
WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)	53% Utilized
VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)	28% Utilized

8,591 Asymptomatic
267,236 Mild
2,996 Moderate
1,491 Severe
305 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

Telimed and Medgate
medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

MedCheck
medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App
o gamitin ang WEBAPP
at pumunta sa Staysafe.ph



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

2158-5779 (for Globe users)
225-655-779 (for other users)



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?
I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH
KONTRACOVDPH: kontracovid.ph

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

[OfficialDOHgov](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov)

[@DOHgovph](https://twitter.com/DOHgovph)

doh.gov.ph

[02\) 894-COVID / 1555](tel:02894COVID)

23 JANUARY 2022, SUNDAY



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