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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



EO 130 seen leading to lifting of open-pit mining ban

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINO](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:05 AM April 24, 2021
(Conclusion)

When President Duterte, through an executive order (EO), instructed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to review all the country's existing mineral agreements, did he also give the agency the green light to finally lift the ban on open-pit mines?

"It's a separate interpretation to be provided by the DENR chief," said Wilfredo Moncano, director of the Mines and Geoscience Bureau. "While the EO covered all [mining] operations... the secretary must still issue an administrative order to address [the ban on open pit mining]."

As it stands, the weeks ahead are especially crucial for miners. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is set to gather his team to interpret the President's directive through the issuance of the EO 130's implementing rules and regulations (IRR).

Thereafter, the environment chief may or may not issue an administrative order that would lift the ban on open-pit mines based on meetings among members of the technical working group. The ban on open-pit mining has been in place for four years now.

Environmental concerns

Open-pit or surface mining has been a contentious issue among miners and environmental advocates. The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said it is a globally accepted mining method. Alyansa Tigil Mina and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment insist this mining technique has caused extensive environmental damage.

Currently, there are mining companies employing the open-pit method.

The Chamber said the government must put in place stable policies if it wanted the industry to move forward and decide where it stands on the issue of open-pit mining as well as the suspension orders issued during the term of the late former DENR chief, Regina Paz Lopez.

Both industry players and the environmentalists are also looking at how the government would define "responsible mining," which should be made clear in the IRR of EO 130.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator for Kalikasan, believes the People's Mining Bill "provides us with an earnest attempt" to do mineral extraction sustainably. The bill includes raising the industry's taxation regime to 10 percent from the current average of 4 percent (9 percent for those that pay royalties), and further raising the royalties imposed to 10 percent from 5 percent.

Stringent mining laws

According to COMP officials Gerard Brimo and Rocky Dimaculangan, the Philippines already has one of the most stringent mining laws in the world.

"We are one of the few mining countries that require setting aside funds for social development programs ... We are also one of the few mining countries that require every large-scale metallic operator to secure ISO certifications on environmental management," they said.



EO 130 seen leading to lifting of open-pit mining ban

“When the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Mineral Awards was launched in 2017, the best metallic mine and processing plant was adjudged to be in the Philippines, as voted no less than by the various Asean mining ministers, surely an evidence, if it was ever needed, that responsible mining does exist in our country,” they added.

One thing is clear: both sides of the spectrum recognize that consumers depend on metals and minerals for just about everything—from building houses and vehicles to gadgets and appliances.

“Mining can provide a meaningful opportunity for economic expansion by encouraging both foreign and domestic firms to expand. We do have to highlight that any expansion must still be governed by standards designed to protect our environment and ensure responsible and sustainable mining practices,” said Nicholas Mapa, senior economist at ING Bank Manila.

“Given that the government has cited this EO as a move to bolster increasingly empty coffers, authorities should look to increase royalties on windfall or super-profits to maximize the impact on the fiscal position ... [they] may also relax some tariffs on imported machinery given the high capital requirements for the industry while still ensuring that local labor is employed with proper safety and guidelines enforced,” he added. INQ

Read more: <https://business.inquirer.net/321619/eo-130-seen-leading-to-lifting-of-open-pit-mining-ban#ixzz6staptDZH>

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Philippine government lifts moratorium on mineral agreements

[Villaraza & Angangco](#)



[Philippines](#) April 23 2021

In a bid to strengthen the country's financial position to fund various government projects, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order ("EO") No. 130 – Series of 2021 which amended Section 4 of EO No. 17 – Series of 2012.

Section 4 of EO No. 17 prohibited the execution of new mineral agreements pending legislation rationalizing existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanisms. EO No. 130, however, lifted this prohibition and now permits the Philippine Government, through the Secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources ("DENR"),¹ to enter into new mineral agreements, subject to compliance with Republic Act No. 7942, otherwise known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995" ("Mining Act") and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Terms and Conditions of the New Mineral Agreements

In contradistinction with EO No. 17 which passively waits upon Congress to pass new legislation amending the current fiscal structure of mineral agreements, EO No. 130 instructed the DENR to prescribe the terms and conditions of the new mineral agreements that would "maximize government revenues and share in the production" and to possibly declare mineral reservations to collect appropriate royalties pursuant to Chapter II, Section 5 of the Mining Act. EO No. 130 also mandated the DENR and the Department of Finance ("DOF") to undertake appropriate measures to rationalize existing revenue sharing schemes and mechanics.

The DENR's formulation of the required terms and conditions as well as the fiscal structure governing agreements under the purview of the Mining Act is not novel. For instance, Chapter VII, Section 56 of DENR Administrative Order No. 21-10 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations ("Mining Act IRR") of the Mining Act prescribes additional terms and conditions mandated to be incorporated in the financial or technical assistance agreement ("FTAA"), on top of the stipulations enumerated under Chapter VI, Section 35 of the Mining Act. Furthermore, supplementary to Chapter XIV, Section 80 of the Mining Act, DENR Administrative Order ("DAO") No. 99 – 56 dated 27 December 1999 or the "Guidelines Establishing the Fiscal Regime of Financial or Technical Assistance Agreements" mandates the collection of "additional government share" for FTAA's, in addition to the basic government share which includes the contractor's (a) corporate income tax, (b) excise tax, (c) special allowance, (d) withholding tax due from the contractor's foreign stockholders arising from dividend or interest payments they received; and (d) other taxes, duties and fees. The Supreme Court in *La Bugal-B'laan Tribal Association, Inc v. Ramos* (G.R. No. 127882, 1 December 2004) confirmed the constitutionality of DAO No. 99-56, explaining that the phrase "among other things" signified the government's entitlement to "additional government share."



Philippine government lifts moratorium on mineral agreements

Chapter II, Section 5 of the Mining Act provides that when national interest requires, the President, upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DENR, may establish mineral reservations. In this connection, Chapter 1, Section 13 of the Mining Act IRR provides the payment of royalty amounting to at least “five percent (5%) of the market value of the gross output of the minerals/mineral products extracted or produced from the Mineral Reservations exclusive of all other taxes.”

For mineral agreements, the mandatory terms and conditions thereof are set out under Chapter VI, Section 39 of DENR Administrative Order No. 21-10. In relation to the prescribed profit-sharing mechanism in mineral production sharing agreements, Chapter XIV, Section 80 of the Mining Act limits the total government share on the excise tax on mineral products under Section 151(a) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended. Notably, unlike FTAA, the DENR has not issued any administrative order adopting a similar financial regime for mineral production sharing agreements. The absence of DENR issuance on mineral production sharing agreements may be due to the wording of Chapter XIV, Section 80 of the Mining Act which lacks the phrase “among other things” found in FTAA, effectively limiting the government share on mineral production sharing agreements to excise tax on mineral products. Thus, without proper legislation, it appears that the DENR and DOF may be constrained from finding ways to meet its mandate under EO No. 130.

Environmental Protection

EO No. 130 also recognized that the DENR has already issued rules and regulations to avoid environmental degradation brought about by mining activities. As part of the environmental protection program of the DENR, the Mining Act IRR requires the submission of an Environmental Compliance Certificate (“ECC”) and Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (“EPEP”) for applications of mineral agreements.² An ECC is a document issued by the DENR, certifying that “the proposed project or undertaking will not cause a significant negative environmental impact; that the proponent has complied with all the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment System; and that the proponent is committed to implement its approved Environmental Management Plan in the Environmental Impact Statement or mitigation measures in the Initial Environmental Examination.”³ Meanwhile, an EPEP “shall provide a description of the expected and considered acceptable impacts and shall set out the life-of-mine environmental protection and enhancement strategies based on best practice in environmental management in mining,” among others.⁴

Further, a Certificate of Environmental Management and Community Relations Record is required as a condition for the approval of any mineral agreements.⁵ Finally, applicants for mineral agreements involving exploration activities are required to submit an Environmental Work Program (“EWP”) which “shall provide a description of the expected and considered acceptable impacts and shall set out the environmental protection and enhancement strategies based on best practice in environmental management in mineral explanation,” among others.⁶ The contents of EWP are notably similar with the contents of EPEP but an EWP is only required for mineral agreements which undertake exploration activities. Operation of mining projects without an



Philippine government lifts moratorium on mineral agreements

approved or revised EPEP exposes contractors/permit holders to criminal penalties prescribed under the Mining Act.⁷

Review of Existing Mining Contracts

It should be noted that EO No. 17 requires the DENR to undertake a review of existing mining contracts and agreements for possible renegotiation of the terms and conditions, which in all cases shall be mutually acceptable to the government and the mining contractor.

There is no doubt that lifting of the moratorium could potentially boost government collection to fund its projects, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This also effectively utilizes the State's natural resources to aid the country's failing economy. Notwithstanding, a legislative amendment of the Mining Act to widen government shares is an equally pressing matter to cure the measly government share (i.e. 4% excise tax) from mining production sharing agreements.



Faith-based groups to Duterte: Reconsider the lifting on the ban on new mining permits

Published April 23, 2021, 5:16 PM

by [Leslie Ann Aquino](#)

Faith-based organizations composed of Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical churches have expressed grave alarm over the lifting of the ban on issuing licenses for new mining operations by the Office of the President.



FBO PH/FB

In a joint statement, the groups said “this may lead to the entry of many mining companies, if and when the 291 filed mining applications are approved.”

“We would like to remind the president, that large-scale mining, which may contribute to the economy due to an increase in excise taxes, will only be for a short-term. Because mining operations are almost always in mountains and forested areas – the focal ecosystems – our other ecosystems will also be affected as well,” read the statement posted by FBO PH on their Facebook page Friday, April 23.

They said the short term benefit is not commensurate to the long term destruction and loss on our ecosystem and in the future of our country.

“Mining companies are notorious for violating safety standards for their workers, affected communities and the environment. Our people have been victims of the destructive effects of large-scale mining on our forests, rivers, lakes, seas, air and on our biodiversity,” read the statement.

They added that human rights violations – especially against indigenous peoples, peasants, fisher folks, women and children, and environmental defenders – are rampant where these companies operate, most often perpetrated and backed by security forces.



Faith-based groups to Duterte: Reconsider the lifting on the ban on new mining permits

Mining activities, they said, have also brought serious health hazards to communities and exploited the health and labor of mine workers.

"Scientists have pointed out that environmental destruction and climate change are major causes why diseases like COVID-19 are now in our midst. Thus, further opening up our country to further mining activities will only exacerbate our vulnerability to COVID-19 and other diseases," the statement read.

"It is in this regard that we call on President Rodrigo R. Duterte to reconsider the lifting on the ban on new mining permits," it further read.

The statement was signed by Father Antonio E. Labiao, Jr.

Forum Convenor, FBO PH

Executive Secretary, CBCP//Caritas Philippines; Bishop Reuel Norman O. Marigza Steering Committee, FBO PH

General Secretary, NCCP-ACT Alliance;

Bishop Noel A. Pantoja

Steering Committee, FBO PH

Executive Director, PCEC-PHILRADS;

Mervin Toquero

Program Secretary, Program Unit on

Faith, Witness and Service, NCCP; and

Dr. Zeneth Maramara

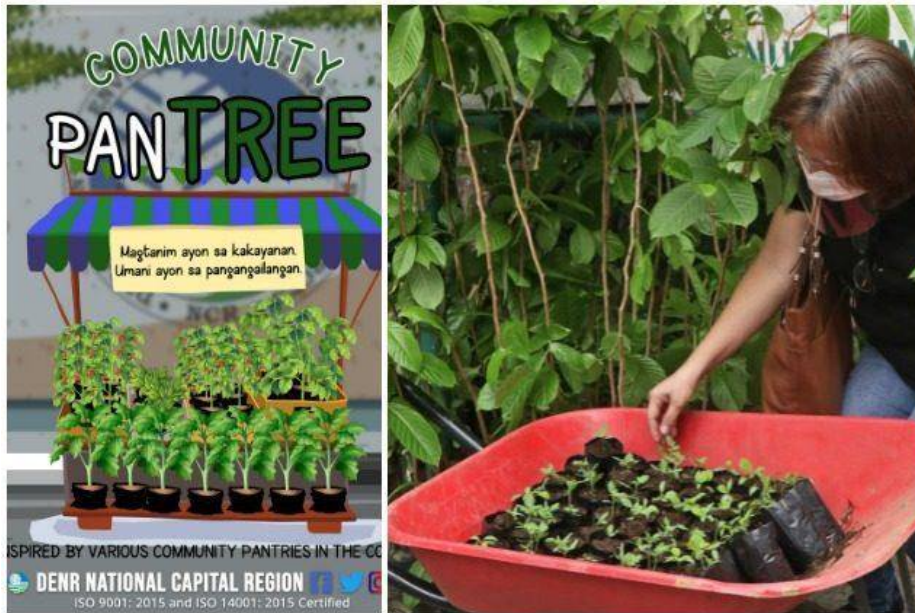
Chair, Creation Care Commission, PCEC.



SA: DENR-NCR is giving away free fruits, vegetables seedlings in 'Community Pan-TREE'

By [Catalina Ricci S. Madarang](#)

- April 23, 2021 - 5:05 PM



Photos of DENR-NCR's community pan-tree (DENR-NCR/Facebook)

In celebration of Earth Day this year, a new community pantry distributing seedlings instead of food has been established in Quezon City.

Called "Community Pan-Tree," this is an initiative of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region.

The pan-tree is located at DENR-NCR's headquarters in Quezon City and is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In a Facebook post, the agency said it hopes that this program will encourage residents of Metro Manila to start urban gardening and help them cope with pandemic stress.

"In celebration of Earth Day 2021 and to help Metro Manilans cope with the stress caused by the pandemic through urban gardening and planting, DENR National Capital Region will be establishing a Community Pan-TREE," it said.

"Inspired by the various community pantries that started sprouting in various areas of the country, DENR National Capital Region's Community Pan-TREE will be giving away seedlings of fruit-bearing trees and vegetables to those in need. Private individuals and groups who share a passion for urban greening may also donate plants in support of the project," it added.

DENR-NCR also hoped that this initiative will address the issue of food security in the region, amid the pandemic and the changing climate.



SA: DENR-NCR is giving away free fruits, vegetables seedlings in 'Community Pan-TREE'

To those who will drop by, the agency advised them to bring their own pots and other recyclable containers. They also reminded residents to observe the mandated minimum health protocols.

In a separate post, DENR-NCR shared photos of people lining up to get seedlings. Seedlings that were distributed include fruit-bearing trees atis, bayabas, bignay, guyabano, and lipote, as well as seedlings of eggplant, tomato, and other vegetables.

In an interview with ABS-CBN, DENR Regional Executive Director Jacqueline Caancan said that their goal is to distribute seedlings several people as possible.

Citing the slogan of the Maginhawa community pantry, Caancan also quipped that their version is: "Magtanim ayon sa kakayahan. Umani ayon sa pangangailangan."

The official also assured that the agency has plans to establish more community pan-trees in other parts of the region.

"Just as we worry about our health during these times, we also need to worry about the health of Mother Earth. And to restore her health, we must contribute by doing our part as responsible stewards, to plant more trees and reduce our ecological footprints," she [said](#).

Community pantries spread across Metro Manila and some provinces after organizer Ana Patricia Non [started it](#) in Maginhawa Street in Quezon City.

Other similar bayanihan initiatives were also launched after. These include a free [online library for literature lovers](#), [a go-to hub for hygiene kits](#), [free breakfast taho and coffee](#), and [a pantry dedicated for delivery riders](#).

"Community Pan-Tree" sa Earth Day i tinayo ng DENR



April 22, 2021 @ 2:52 PM 2 days ago

MANILA, Philippines – Nagtayo ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) ng kanilang sariling bersyon ng community pantry bunsod ng pagiging inspirado ng nasabing inisyatiba.

Kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Earth Day, itinayo ng DENR-NCR ang tinawag nilang "Community Pan-Tree."

Dito imbes na pagkain ay libreng punla at mga buto ng prutas at mga gulat ang kanilang ipinamamahagi ngayong Earth Day.





“Community Pan-Tree” sa Earth Day i tinayo ng DENR



“Magtanim ayon sa kakayanan. Umani ayon sa pangangailangan,” saad naman sa bersyon ng DENR-NCR.

Ayon sa DENR-NCR ang “Community Pan-Tree” ay isang kontribusyon matugunan ang isyu ng food security sa rehiyon at promosyon para sa resiliency sa community sa panahon ng pandemya at nagbabagong klima.

Idinagdag pa ng DENR na ang inisyatiba ay upang matulungan ang mga residente ng Metro Manila upang makayanan ang kahirapan bunsod ng health crisis sa pamamagitan ng urban gardening at pagtanim.

Sa panahon ng pandemya napipigilan ang movement ng mga tao at nangangailangan ang pangangailanga ng paghahalamanan bunsod ng locked-down sa mga Pilipino at bilang altrernatibo ang pagtanim ng halaman para maibsan ang stress at pagkabagot.

Sa selebrasyon ng Earth Day 2021 isasabay ang pagdiriwang para matulungan ang mga Metro Manila residence mapagaan ang kanilang stress bunga ng pandemya sa pamamagitan ng urban.

Sinabi pa ng DENR ang “Community Pan-Tree” ay magbubukas sa Huwebes simula alas 9:00 ng umaga hanggang 3:00 ng haponi sa DENR-ncr Technical Services Office sa North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. *Santi Celario*

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/community-pan-tree-sa-earth-day-itinayo-ng-denr/>



EDITORIAL

Obscene waste

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:07 AM April 24, 2021

Can you eat sand? Can the view of a magnificent sunset from an artificial beach feed you and your family, or cure COVID-19?

Everyone knows the answers to these questions. No, no, and certainly not.

And yet, in the midst of what is undoubtedly the most serious health, economic, and policy crisis the country has faced since World War II, the government continues to spend precious funds—to the tune of P389 million—to create an artificial beach on a short stretch of seaside on Manila Bay.

Environmentalists have sounded the alarm on the disastrous effects of the “dolomite beach,” from environmental damage to the surrounding waters, to flooding and sewerage build-up, and even to the loss of livelihood of fisherfolk.

But to these concerns must be added the context against which the beach project takes place. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on whole families, neighborhoods, livelihoods, and the economy as a whole. Apart from the cloud of grief that hovers over so many as the number of deaths and infirmities keeps rising steadily—the total number of confirmed cases is set to reach a million in the next few days—there is the economic black hole into which the crisis has plunged the people.

Widespread and lengthy lockdowns have led to the closure of establishments and the consequent massive loss of jobs. This has led to unprecedented hunger for a great many families, the impact of which is felt not just in the short term, but also in long-term consequences especially among children on whom stunting and poor nutrition have already inflicted lifelong damage.

Recognizing the reality of hunger and the growing desperation of impoverished folk, a young woman entrepreneur set up a “community pantry” from which folks could avail themselves of free foodstuff donated by concerned individuals. The community pantry on Maginhawa Street in Quezon City has, in just a few days, influenced more than 350 other individuals, groups, and institutions to set up their own versions of the free larder. But, bizarrely, this has earned the ire of state-sponsored anti-communist groups and troll brigades. What are they so irate about? The long lines at all hours of the day at these community pantries are proof that the problem of hunger is real and urgent, and that wrong priorities on the part of the government lie at the root of this crisis.

The heaviest toll of COVID-19 is being felt in the health sector, as dramatic stories of patients rushed to hospitals only to die in their cars, in hallways outside emergency rooms, or unattended in quarantine tents fill the media. Health care personnel tell of their frustration and fear as the continuing lack of personal protective equipment and regular testing put them at continued risk of infections, while they can only writhe in frustration as scarce hospital beds, monitors, ventilators, and other basic necessities in the COVID-19 fight hamper their best efforts to keep patients alive.



EDITORIAL

Obscene waste

In light of these fatal shortages, one wonders how much good P389 million could do if reallocated for those in urgent need of treatment, medication, and food. Certainly, much more good than an ersatz beach—adorned with artificial, ugly “rock formations,” fronting a stretch of polluted water, and requiring costly upkeep—could contribute to the public welfare.

To defend themselves from charges of pursuing skewed priorities when other far more urgent matters call for attention and a responsive budget, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has said the budget for the project had already been approved as part of long-term efforts to rehabilitate the Bay. (An insane excuse at this point: If a household that had a budget for, say, landscaping or beautification refused to use that money to save a family member from a life-threatening illness or emergency, wouldn't that family be judged universally in harsh terms?) That fait accompli argument was likewise invoked by Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia when she approved a fresh shipment of dolomite sand from her province for the Manila Bay project. Ironically, the DENR is charged with protecting the environment and promoting ecologically sound practices and policies. It had no business in the first place proposing and defending such a hare-brained idea as a “dolomite beach.”

That it continues to do so, and that the administration has not seen fit to stop this obscene waste while abject hunger and death stalk the land, is a testament to the lack of empathy, conscience, and clear thinking among the country's so-called leaders. As former vice president Jejomar Binay lamented in a tweet: “Some people in government have lost not only their compassion and sense of priorities but their common sense.” Let them eat dolomite!

Read more: <https://opinion.inquirer.net/139611/obscene-waste#ixzz6stYNxObg>

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Mayors want DENR, HLURB to probe illegal sale of Guimaras lands

Last updated Apr 23, 2021



Photo courtesy of landscouts

POLITIKO - The bible of Philippine Politics.

Local chief executives in Guimaras urged concerned authorities to investigate the alleged illegal selling and buying of lands in the island province.

This has become rampant, Nueva Valencia Mayor Emmanuel Galila said.

Buenavista Mayor Eugenio Reyes, Jordan Mayor Ruben Corpuz Sibunag Mayor Annabelle Samaniego, and San Lorenzo Mayor Niña Gajo also came out with a resolution directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to conduct an investigation. (<https://bit.ly/3enzc96>)

Owners, developers, operators or sellers of subdivision projects have not secured the necessary clearances and permits from local government units prior to commencing their land development projects, the mayors said.

"The lands being developed are not even classified as residential but agricultural. Thus these activities violate the provisions of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 957 (Subdivision and Condominium Buyers' Protective Decree) as amended by PD 1216," explained Galila.

The developers and sellers, he added, were subdividing lands into 200 square meters and would sell these at only P500 per square meter.

As the lands are not yet converted into residential ones, the mayors warned everyone not to be easily enticed by these offers.

Source: <https://visayas.politics.com.ph/mayors-want-denr-hlurb-to-probe-illegal-sale-of-guimaras-lands/>



Captured PH Eagle 'Tagoyaman' released back into wilds

Published April 23, 2021, 3:43 PM

[by Roy Mabasa](#)

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson A.O. has joined Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and other national and local officials in releasing a rescued and rehabilitated Philippine Eagle back to its forest home in Bukidnon province.

Tagoyaman Fernando is among the seven Philippine Eagles that were rescued last year – the highest rescue rate recorded in the history of Philippine Eagle conservation – and the first Philippine Eagle to be released back to the wild this year.

“The Australian Embassy is proud to continue our support to the Philippine Eagle Foundation for the protection and preservation of the Philippine Eagle. I traveled to Bukidnon to witness Tagoyaman’s release because it is an important milestone in the Philippines’ efforts in conserving local wildlife biodiversity,” Ambassador Robinson said in a statement, adding that Australia stands with our friends in the Philippines as they protect their natural resources, in their lands or seas.

Tagoyaman’s release coincided with the observance of Earth Day 2021 and was made possible through the support of the Australian Government, Whitley Fund for Nature, Jurong Bird Park, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region X, and the local government of San Fernando and Bukidnon.

Philippine Eagle Foundation Executive Director Dennis Salvador said cited the challenges they faced in rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing Philippine Eagles in the middle of a pandemic.

“It’s difficult to mobilize field operations when travel restrictions are imposed and sources of funds are shut down. Still, we are able to persevere, thanks to the support of the Australian Government and other conservation partners,” said Salvador said during the short program in honor of Tagoyaman’s release.

In October 2020, Tagoyaman was retrieved in San Fernando, Bukidnon after getting accidentally caught in a native trap intended for other animals. The bird was brought to the Philippine Eagle Center for check-up and rehabilitation.

Salvador said Tagoyaman’s release on Earth Day is also a resounding call for long-term solutions to the problematic relationship with nature and wildlife.

“We believe that by conserving the Philippine Eagle and the biodiversity it represents, we can avoid another disease outbreak,” he said.

The PEF conducted an education campaign targeting communities surrounding the release site and Indigenous forest guards were trained to perform voluntary forest patrols and monitor the bird’s movements using the GPS transmitter attached to its back, for the next six months.



Captured PH Eagle 'Tagoyaman' released back into wilds

"Collaborations and partnerships play a big role in Philippine Eagle conservation. The PEF can't save the eagles alone. We need the help of our local communities, government agencies, the private sector, and the Filipino people so that one day Philippine Eagles will thrive in the wild," Salvador added.

Also present during the ceremony releasing Tagoyaman were San Fernando Vice Mayor Norberto Catalan and Philippine Eagle Foundation Trustee Francis Ledesma.



'Tagoyaman Fernando' flies back into the forest on Earth Day

Published April 23, 2021, 12:43 PM

by [Zea Capistrano](#)

DAVAO CITY – After six months of rehabilitation, a rescued Philippine Eagle named Tagoyaman Fernando was released back into the forest in Bukidnon province on Thursday, April 22.



FREE AGAIN. Tagoyaman Fernando, the Philippine Eagle rescued in San Fernando, Bukidnon province in October last year, flies back home on Thursday, April 22. (Photo courtesy of the Philippine Eagle Foundation / MANILA BULLETIN)

"We hope to see Tagoyaman successfully breed and contribute to his species' wild population in the future," said Dennis Salvador, Executive Director of the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF).

"His release on Earth Day is also our resounding call for long-term solutions to our problematic relationship with nature and wildlife. We believe that by conserving the Philippine Eagle and the biodiversity it represents, we can avoid another disease outbreak," Salvador added.

The PEF, in its statement, said Tagoyaman is the first Philippine Eagle to be released back into the wild this year and he was among the seven Philippine Eagles rescued last year.

Tagoyaman was rescued in October last year by Datu Tagoyaman Sinangkap in San Fernando, Bukidnon. The Philippine Eagle was found caught in a native trap made for deer and wild pigs. He was brought to the Philippine Eagle Center here for treatment and rehabilitation.

The PEF added that they recorded "the highest rescue rate recorded in the history of Philippine Eagle conservation."



'Tagoyaman Fernando' flies back into the forest on Earth Day

Salvador said, "rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing Philippine Eagles in the middle of a pandemic is very challenging."

"It's difficult to mobilize field operations when travel restrictions are imposed and sources of funds are shut down. Still, we are able to persevere, thanks to the support of the Australian Government and other conservation partners," he said.

The PEF said the short program was attended by Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven J. Robinson AO, Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri, San Fernando town Vice Mayor Norberto Catalan, and Philippine Eagle Foundation Trustee Francis Ledesma.

"The Australian Embassy is proud to continue our support to the Philippine Eagle Foundation for the protection and preservation of the Philippine Eagle," said Robinson.

"I traveled to Bukidnon to witness Tagoyaman's release because it is an important milestone in the Philippines' efforts in conserving local wildlife biodiversity. Australia stands with our friends in the Philippines as they protect their natural resources, in their lands or seas. This initiative reinforces our deep and expanding relationship as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries," he added.

Tagoyaman's release was supported by the Australian Government, Whitley Fund for Nature, Jurong Bird Park, DENR Region X, and the local government of San Fernando and Bukidnon.



Barmm environment ministry rescues slow loris



ZAMBOANGA. Personnel of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (Menre) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao rescue last week a Philippine slow loris locally known as "kokam" in the province of Tawi-Tawi. A photo handout shows the animal is now under the care of Menre and soon will be released back to its natural habitat. (SunStar Zamboanga)

April 23, 2021

THE Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (Menre) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Barmm), together with the police, rescued a Philippine slow loris, locally known as "kokam," in the province of Tawi-Tawi.

Saido Espilero, Community Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy officer of the first district of Tawi-Tawi, said the slow loris, in a malnourished condition, was rescued last week in Mandulan village, Bongao, the province's capital.

Espilero said the slow loris was held captive for a few months by a resident of Mandulan village before it was rescued.

"The slow loris is now being monitored to determine if it has any diseases or if it is already capable of acclimatizing to its natural diet and habitat," Espilero said.

He said the rescue also served as an opportunity for Menre personnel to conduct community awareness campaign about the ecological importance of native and endemic wildlife species in Tawi-Tawi, as well as the dangers of mishandling venomous species such as the Philippine slow loris.



Barmm environment ministry rescues slow loris

A native to the country's Sulu Archipelago, slow loris is classified as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2015 due to their decreasing population.

Their continuing decline is mainly due to human encroachment into their natural habitat, harvesting them for pet trade.

Espirilo said they are eyeing Bud Kabugan as a release site to ensure the animal's safety after its full recovery. (SunStar Zamboanga)

Wildlife spotted in Sao Paulo river after removal of tons of trash

By [Reuters](#)

- April 23, 2021 - 9:22 AM



An egret catches a fish near domestic waste and garbage at Pinheiros river in Sao Paulo, Brazil April 20, 2021. Picture taken April 20, 2021. (Reuters/Amanda Perobelli)

Recent sightings of fish, ducks and herons in a stretch of the infamously polluted Pinheiros river in São Paulo have raised hopes that wildlife in the city's main waterway may finally be returning.

Brazil's most populous city has an ambitious project to clean up Pinheiros by the end of 2022.

São Paulo Governor João Doria told Reuters that the clean-up of the Pinheiros river was the largest environmental project in the country in terms of investment, costing some 4 billion reais (\$735 million).

Doria said 30,000 tons of surface garbage had already been removed from the river.

Improved water oxygenation and a reduction in Pinheiros' foul odor remain long-term goals for now.

But Jose Bueno, an urban planner with the river conservation group Rios e Ruas, said new bike paths and cafes should help locals to feel closer to the river and embrace the agenda of keeping it clean.

"When I see fish in Pinheiros river, I see life. So we are not defending something invisible, something abstract. We are protecting what is alive," he said.

(\$1 = 5.4443 reais) — Reporting by Leonardo Benassatto; Editing by Aurora Ellis and Rosalba O'Brien

Source: <https://interaksyon.philstar.com/politics-issues/2021/04/23/190359/wildlife-spotted-in-sao-paulo-river-after-removal-of-tons-of-trash/>



Nasa 300 kilo ng manta ray meat kumpiskado sa Zamboanga del Norte

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 23 2021 06:55 PM | Updated as of Apr 23 2021 06:56 PM



Itinapon ng ilang tauhan ng barko ang mga karne nang matunugang sumusugod na ang mga awtoridad. Retrato mula sa BFAR-Region 9

LABASON, Zamboanga del Norte — Higit 300 kilo ng manta ray meat ang natagpuan ng mga awtoridad sa 2 fishing vessel sa dalampasigan ng bayan na ito kamakailan.

Ayon sa ulat ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 9, nahuli pa sa akto ng kanilang mga tauhan ang ilang miyembro ng fishing crew na pinapatay ang mga manta ray noong Abril 18.

Itinapon naman ng ilang tauhan ng barko ang mga karne nang matunugang sumusugod na ang mga awtoridad.

Kakasuhan ng BFAR ang operators ng FB Ron Ron at FB Lionel James dahil sa paglabag sa fisheries code.

Itinuturing ang manta rays na endangered species.

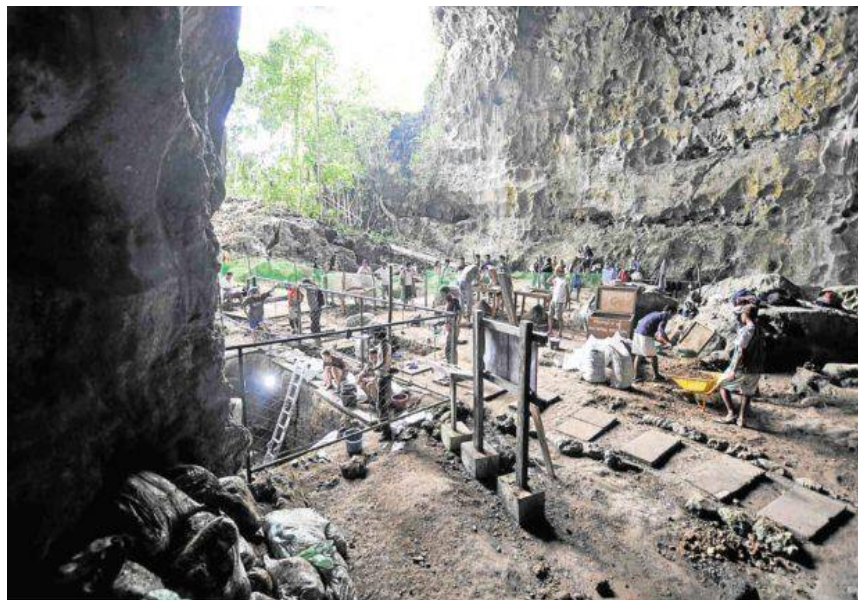
— Ulat ni Jewel Reyes

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159426496145168/?app=fbl>



Fossils of giant cloud rats unearthed in N. Luzon caves

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)
[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:33 PM April 23, 2021



Callao Cave in Cagayan

MANILA, Philippines — The fossils of three unique species of a giant cloud rodent were unearthed in the caves in Northern Luzon, a breakthrough study from the University of the Philippines (UP) showed.

According to an article posted in UP's website, the discovery was made by a team from UP, the Philippine National Museum, and the Field Museum of Natural History from the United States, after they studied fossil remains obtained from different caves in Northern Luzon.

All three species were believed to have lived simultaneously with the oldest human species known in the country, the *Homo luzonensis*. Two of the rodent species went extinct only around 2,000 years ago.

"These are three previously unknown species from an unusual group of rodents, locally known as buot or bugkun, and known in English as giant cloud rats, that live only in the Philippines," Dr. Janine Ochoa, the lead author of the journal which was published in the *Journal of Mammalogy*, said.

Ochoa is also an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at UP Diliman

Co-author Dr. Lawrence Heaney, who is from the Negaunee Curator of Mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago says that the giant rodents weighed from one to two kilograms.

National Museum's zooarcheologist and co-author Marian Reyes said that the species are relatives of an ancient branch that arrived in the Philippines from mainland Asia around 14 million years ago.



Fossils of giant cloud rats unearthed in N. Luzon caves

"These giant rats and their relatives are members of an ancient branch on the tree of life that arrived from the Asian mainland about 14 million years ago and live only in the Philippines," Reyes said.

"The two that became extinct [more recently] were giants among rodents, both weighing about a kilogram. They were big enough that it might have been worthwhile to hunt and eat them," Heaney added.

Local terms were used in naming the three new species.

UP said that the largest of the fossil cloud rats was called *Carpomys dakal*, "named so because it is much larger compared to the known living species in the same genus, *Carpomys melanurus* and *Carpomys phaeurus*".

One of the fossil species was called *Crateromys ballik* — ballik, or small in the Dupaningan Agta dialect, because it is smaller.

The third species is named after Cagayan where most of the sites are located, hence, *Batomys cagayanensis*.

The fossils were discovered in Callao Cave in Cagayan and other nearby caves. Famously, Callao Cave was the site where *Homo luzonensis* was found, which shook claims on the origin of civilization in the country as this human species was believed to have existed 67,000 years ago.

The discovery contradicts the belief that the first settlers in the country were cavemen from Palawan, whose remains were dated to be around 30,000 to 40,000 years ago.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1423107/three-unique-giant-cloud-rodent-species-believed-to-have-lived-in-ph-breakthrough-up-study-shows#ixzz6stUrSB1Z>

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Scientists discover species of giant rats that lived in PH until 2,000 years ago

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Apr 24 2021 04:48 AM



Buots dwelled in trees and ate leaves, buds, and seeds, according to one scientist. They also have "furry or fluffy tails and striking fur colors." *Photo by Lauren Nassef and drawing by Velizar Simeonovski, Field Museum of Natural History*

MANILA—Scientists from University of the Philippines (UP), the National Museum, and Field Museum of Natural History in the United States have discovered 3 species of giant cloud rats, locally known as buot or bugkun, that lived only in the Philippines until they went extinct some 2,000 years ago, according to their study published Friday.

"These are three previously unknown species from an unusual group of rodents, locally known as buot or bugkun, and known in English as giant cloud rats, that live only in the Philippines," said Dr. Janine Ochoa, anthropology assistant professor at UP Diliman and lead author of the [journal paper](#) published by the [Journal of Mammalogy](#).

The researchers found fossil species of the rats in Callao Cave and several adjacent smaller caves in Peñablanca town, Cagayan, with some specimens located in the same deep layer where the *Homo luzonensis* was discovered in 2019.

- [The LOST TOMB of CALLAO](#)
- [Homo luzonensis team pursue tests to place dwarf species in human family tree](#)



Scientists discover species of giant rats that lived in PH until 2,000 years ago

Callao Cave has been the subject of excavations of the National Museum as early as 1979.

Co-author Marian Reyes, zooarchaeologist at the National Museum of the Philippines, said the giant rats were "members of an ancient branch on the tree of life that arrived from the Asian mainland about 14 million years ago and live only in the Philippines."

Buots dwelled in trees and ate leaves, buds, and seeds, according to Reyes. They also have "furry or fluffy tails and striking fur colors."

EXTINCTION

The study said that of the 3 rat species discovered, 2 went extinct only 2,000 years ago.

"Our records demonstrate that these giant rodents were able to survive the profound climatic changes from the Ice Age to current humid tropics that have impacted the earth over tens of millennia. The question is, what might have caused their final extinction?" said Philip Piper, a co-author based at the Australian National University.

Co-author Dr. Armand Mijares of the UP Diliman Archaeological Studies Program, who headed the excavations of Callao, offered a clue.

"A clue might be in that the last recorded occurrence of two of the species is around 2,000 years ago or shortly after. This is after the first arrival of agricultural societies and the introduction of animals like domestic dogs, pigs, and macaque monkeys in Luzon... While we can't say for certain based on our current information, this implies that humans likely played some role in their extinction," Mijares said.

Added Dr. Lawrence Heaney, Negaunee Curator of Mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago and another co-author of the study: "The two that became extinct [more recently] were giants among rodents, both weighing about a kilogram. They were big enough that it might have been worthwhile to hunt and eat them."

Heaney said the study showed how "Philippines has the greatest concentration of unique species of mammals of any country."

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/24/21/scientists-discover-species-of-giant-rats-that-lived-in-ph-until-2000-years-ago>



Bantayan LGUs mark Earth Day with mangrove planting

By [Mitchelle L. Palaubsanon](#) (The Freeman)

-April 23, 2021 - 12:00am

CEBU, Philippines — In celebration of Earth Day 2021, the three municipalities of Bantayan Island have conducted an island-wide simultaneous mangrove/tree planting activities yesterday.

The activity aims to promote awareness of the growing problems of climate change, air, water and land pollution.

The event was participated and actively supported by all stakeholders within the three municipalities of Santa Fe, Bantayan and Madridejos.

The municipality of Santa Fe also organized the "Sikad Para sa Kinaiyahan", a cycling competition and Zumba dancing exercise.

The Environmental Management Bureau 7 in partnership with the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAPI) in Region 7 and PCAPI-Foundation also conducted seminar-workshop on environmental laws focusing on the involvement of the youth sector in environmental management for the different youth leaders, and Sangguniang Kabataan leaders in the said towns.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources 7 regional director Paquito Melicor Jr. said that this Earth Month, he is encouraging everyone to take a step forward towards conservation and restoration of the Earth.

"Through simple actions like engaging in tree growing activities, proper waste segregation and proper waste segregation and clean-up drives in the convenience and safety of our homes each of us can contribute positive effects for our environment," Melicor said.

On the other hand, the Department of Finance and Climate Change Commission chairperson-designate Carlos G. Dominguez said that the climate body's emphasis on addressing the challenge of single-use plastics will be under the theme of "PINASiglang Mundo," which ties into the global theme for this year to "Restore Our Earth" and drive planetary protection and action.

"On this year's Earth Day, we are called to Restore Our Earth. To do that, one of the most important actions we have to take is to push for effective policies and realistic solutions to address the growing challenges from single-use plastics pollution, and to set us on the path of sustainable consumption and production," Dominguez said in a statement.

This year's Earth Day 2021 celebration highlights the role of every individual and member of the community to address the global climate crisis and its resulting effects on ecosystems, biodiversity, food and water, public health, industries, and communities.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1481 in April 2008 declared April 22 as "Philippines' Earth Day."
— GMR (FREEMAN)

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/cebu-news/2021/04/23/2093251/bantayan-igus-mark-earth-day-mangrove-planting/amp/>



On Earth Day, PH Coast Guard collects 4 tons of garbage in Cavite clean-up drive

Published April 23, 2021, 10:55 AM

[by Richa Noriega](#)

In celebration of Earth Day 2021, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted a coastal clean-up drive in Tanza, Cavite on Thursday, April 22, where they collected four tons of garbage.

The PCG shared in a Facebook post several photos of Coast Guard Station Cavite personnel who participated in the clean-up drive along the coast of Barangay Capipisa.



The clean-up was held in cooperation with the employees of the Cavite Gateway Terminal.

The PCG said most of the collected garbage were plastic, glass bottles, and tattered clothes.

The PCG Station Cavite said it will continue to conduct coastal clean-up drives and other marine environmental protection initiatives to preserve the country's natural resources amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Earth Day is an annual celebration held on April 22 to demonstrate support and raise awareness about the different environmental protection initiatives that are being taken to protect the planet from human's harmful activities.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/04/23/on-earth-day-ph-coast-guard-collects-4-tons-of-garbage-in-cavite-clean-up-drive/>

Israel, San Juan promote urban gardening on Earth Day

By Lucia F. BroñoPublished on April 23, 2021



Hundreds of vegetable kits were distributed to promote urban gardening among the youth. In photo: (L-R) Ms. Kate P. Enriquez from Kabayanan Elementary School; Ms. Cecille Carandang, San Juan City Schools Division Superintendent; Ms. Gladys Baniqued-Turiano, MASHAV Officer; Mr. Brian Geli, Chief of PIO of San Juan City Mayor's Office (Contributed photo)

CALOOCAN CITY, April 23 (PIA) -- The Embassy of Israel in the Philippines, in cooperation with MASHAV and the City Government of San Juan, on Thursday celebrated Earth Day 2021 by promoting urban gardening among the youth. A total of 280 vegetable kits were distributed to various elementary and secondary public schools in the city through this project.

Ambassador Rafael Harpaz said that the vegetable kit encourages the young generation to grow their own food in the comfort of their backyards. "The COVID-19 pandemic limits the youth to stay at home. Planting is a fun and exciting activity they can do with their family." Ambassador Harpaz added.



Mayor Francis Zamora (Zoom meeting screengrab)



Israel, San Juan promote urban gardening on Earth Day

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora extended his big thanks to the initiative of the embassy. He mentioned as the guest speaker that promoting urban gardening promotes environmental awareness and protection, as well as food security. He also looked forward to inviting Ambassador Harpaz to visit the homes of the children in San Juan once their vegetable garden grew.

Ms. Cecille Carandang, San Juan Schools Division Superintendent, said that the project gives hope and inspiration to the youth of the city and is a step closer to a sustainable and Earth-friendly environment.

MASHAV, Israel's agency for international development cooperation under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel is active in supporting worthy endeavors. The urban gardening project is part of the cooperation between the embassy, MASHAV, and the local government of San Juan.

Among the public schools that participated in the said project are: San Juan National High School Senior High School, San Juan Elementary School, San Perfecto Elementary School, Salapan Elementary School, Pedro Cruz Elementary School, Pinaglabanan Elementary School, West Crame Elementary School, Kabayanan Elementary School, Sta. Lucia Elementary School, and Nicanor Ibuna Elementary School.

The Earth Day celebration of the embassy was held via Zoom on Thursday, 22 April 2021. (PIA NCR)

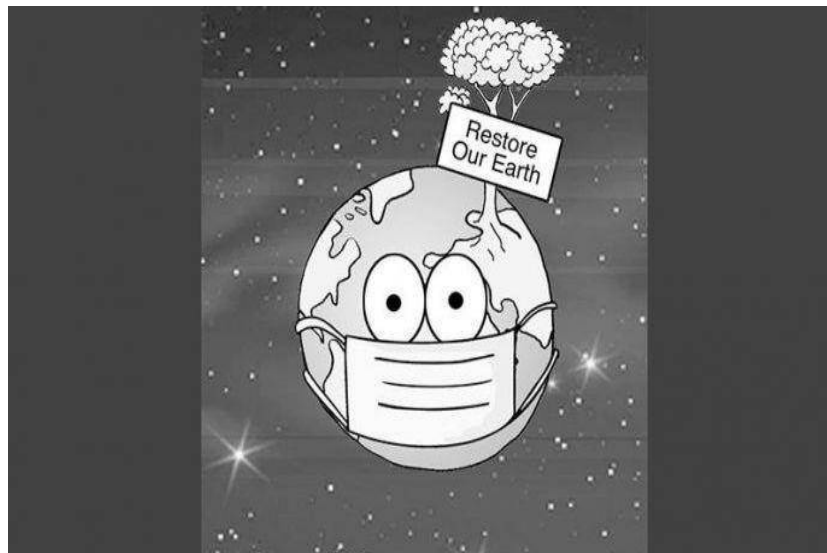
Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1073214>



EDITORIAL – Protektahan ang daigdig

(Pang-Masa)

- April 24, 2021 - 12:00am



NOONG Huwebes ay ipinagdiwang ang Earth Day na may temang “Ibalik ang ating Daigdig”. Mahigit 1 bilyong katao sa 192 bansa ang nakiisa sa pagdiriwang ng Earth Day. Unang pinagdiwang ang Earth Day noong Abril 1970.

Sa tema ngayon ng pagdiriwang ng Earth Day na “Ibalik ang ating Daigdig” makikita na maraming nawala sa tinitirahang daigdig. Maraming nasalaula at nasira. Hindi naprotektahan. Inabuso ang kapaligiran at kalikasan na naging dahilan ng climate change. Lumala ang mga pagbaha dahil sa walang patumanggang pagpuputol ng mga punong kahoy sa kabundukan. Naguho ang mga bundok dahil sa iresponsableng pagmimina. Maraming lamandagat particular ang mga balyena ang namamatay dahil nakakakain nang itinapong basura sa estero at mga ilog na humahantong sa karagatan.

Maraming paraan para makatulong na maibalik ang dating daigdig. Ang pinakamadaling paraan at magagawa ng sinuman ay maging resposable sa pagtatapon ng mga single-use plastic. Sa kasalukuyan, isa ang Pilipinas sa mga bansa sa Southeast Asia na pinakamaraming plastic na basura at humahantong ang mga ito sa dagat.

Kabilang sa mga basurang plastic na makikita sa Manila Bay at mga sache ng kape, shampoo, catsup at toothpaste, cup ng noodles, plastic shopping bags, sando plastic bags at marami pang iba. Tuwing may bagyo at malalaki ang alon sa Manila Bay, ang mga basurang plastic na itinapon ay isinusukang pabalik nang malalaking alon.

Kung magiging responsible ang mamamayan sa pagtatapon ng plastic na basura, malaki ang maitutulong para maprotektahan ang mundong kinalalagyan.

Kailangang magkaisa at magtulong-tulong para maibalik ang dating mundo. Kailangan ang malusog na mundo para masuportahan ang pinagkukunan ng ikabubuhay. Kung patuloy na wawasakin, walang ibang kawawa kundi ang mga tao na rin.

Protektahan ang daigdig.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/punto-mo/2021/04/24/2093460/editorial-protektahan-ang-daigdig/amp/>



Davao City generating 600-650 tons of waste per day



File photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

April 23, 2021

SINCE the start of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic, Davao City generated around 600 tons of garbage per day, according to the Davao City Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro).

Cenro head Marivic Reyes said the city's average volume of collected garbage is around 600 to 650 tons per day since the Covid-19 pandemic hit the city in March 2020 until present.

For March 2021, the city recorded an average of 620 tons.

However, this does not include those collected by Ancillary Service Unit during its cleanup drive in canals.

The figure is slightly lower compared to the average 900 tons of garbage per day in 2019, during pre-pandemic.

Reyes said that despite the closure of large establishments, including hotels, the volume of waste collected remains high due to waste generated within households.

"Ma-question gani sa amo ang uban, ngano daghan man gihapon ang volume collected considering na ang ubang establishments, mga hotel, kay sarado. Ngano daghan gihapon ang ma-declare nga collection? (We were questioned why we still collected a high volume of garbage despite the closure of most establishments, and hotels)," she said.



Davao City generating 600-650 tons of waste per day

She added, "Considering nga daghan tao na sa balay-balay. Ang pamaagi karon kay dili na sila mukaon sa gawas, magpa-deliver nalang sila sa balay. (Considering that most of the people are at home, people would rather order food online)."

The official said household waste is a major contributor to the waste generated per day.

The gradual resumption of business establishment and offices had also contributed to the continuous increase of collected waste, she said.

Despite continuous information drive, Reyes admitted that the majority of Dabawenyos do not practice waste segregation, which is mandated under Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

"To be honest, malisudan ko, considering... Kinahanglan namo ang kooperasyon sa barangay (we are struggling in the implementation. That is why we need the cooperation of the barangays)," the Cenro head said, emphasizing the responsibility of the barangay officials to enforce the Solid Waste law.

Out of the 182 city barangays, only around 30 percent practice solid waste management and that have material recovery facilities (MRF).

The main function of the MRF is to maximize the quantity of recyclables processed, while producing materials that will generate the highest possible revenues in the market. MRFs can also process wastes into a feedstock for biological conversion through composting and anaerobic digestion.

As of Friday, April 23, only five barangays in the city have MRF. These are Barangays Hizon, Gumalang, Mahayag, Tacunan, and Catalunan Grande.

Reyes said it is important to practice solid waste management, including the non-throwing of biodegradables, as Cenro will only collect residuals.

Currently, the sanitary landfill in New Carmen, Tugbok has accumulated around 900,000 tons of garbage since 2016, exceeding its maximum capacity level of 700,000 to 800,000 tons.

Reyes said the city's landfill operation is still manageable despite exceeding its capacity. But she said there is already a need to expand the current landfill.

She said the City Government is working on expanding the New Carmen landfill.



Davao City generating 600-650 tons of waste per day

With the passage of the "No to Single-Use Plastics Ordinance of 2021" in the 19th City Council early March this year, which regulates the sale, distribution, and use of single-use plastics in the city, Reyes said they will be intensifying the information campaign down to the barangays.

Reyes told SunStar Davao in a previous interview that the regulation on single-use plastic could help decongest the city's landfill.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1892609/Davao/Local-News/Davao-City-generating-600-650-tons-of-waste-per-day>



OCTA warns vs. easing of curbs

posted April 24, 2021 at 01:20 am

by [Willie Casas and Othel V. Campos](#)

The OCTA Research Group warned Friday against further easing COVID-19 restrictions in the National Capital Region even after coronavirus transmission showed signs of slowing down.

The warning was raised two days before the Metro Manila Council is set to meet Sunday to discuss its recommendation to the government's COVID-19 task force on the possible quarantine classification of the capital region for May, its chairman Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez told Teleradyo.

Metro Manila and the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal are under modified enhanced community quarantine – the second toughest lockdown level – until April 30.

Olivarez said they would meet with health experts to assess the COVID-19 situation in every local government unit.

Fr. Nicanor Austriaco, an OCTA Research fellow, said the reproduction number should be less than 1 for several weeks, adding a reproduction number of 1 or higher indicated sustained transmission of the virus.

Metro Manila's reproduction number is currently at 0.99.

"We urge the national government, as one possible benchmark for changing quarantine levels, is not to exit MECQ (modified enhanced community quarantine) until at least the R is less than 0.9 in a sustained manner," Austriaco said in a webinar organized by the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

"As (OCTA fellow) Prof. Guido (David) pointed out, we're currently somewhat unstable and the reason why it's unstable is because not all the LGUs (local government units) are decreasing and so you always have the possibility that as some of the LGUs recover there will be an outbreak in one LGU that will spill over to the adjacent LGUs," he said.

The average daily cases in the NCR in the past seven days is 4,200 compared to 5,200 cases two weeks ago, said David.

"How fast we decongest our hospitals depends upon the sustained reproduction number that we are able to maintain in the next few weeks," Austriaco said.

Cost to economy

The month-long lockdown is expected to cost the economy about P300 billion in economic losses despite the partial lifting of restrictions to businesses and establishments in the last half of April 2021, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the shifting of the restriction level to MECQ from ECQ might have tempered losses, but not enough to really get the economy up and about.

"The rough estimate of GDP loss during MECQ can be around P120 billion," he said, noting that during the strictest lockdown in the first half of April 2021, losses to the economy was estimated at 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product or about P180 billion.



OCTA warns vs. easing of curbs

Adding to the stressed economy was an equally stressed labor sector which was estimated to have lost as much as P83 billion in terms of lost wage values.

COVID updates

The Philippines logged on Friday 8,719 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the total to 979,740, the Department of Health reported.

Active cases stood at 102,799, which is 10.5 percent of the total. Of the total, 96.4 percent were mild; 1.3 percent were asymptomatic; 0.7 percent were critical; 0.9 percent were severe; and 0.58 percent were moderate.

The DOH also reported that 13,812 persons recently recovered, bringing the total recoveries to 860,412, which is 87.8 percent of the total.

The department recorded 159 new fatalities, bringing the death toll to 16,529, which is 1.69 percent of the total.

Deaths probed

The Food and Drug Administration said Friday 19 of the 24 deaths after getting inoculated were not related to the COVID-19 vaccines.

Five other cases are still pending investigation, the FDA added.

Ten of the fatalities got CoronaVac (Sinovac) while 14 received the AstraZeneca vaccine.

"Although it is sad that there are reported deaths, our evaluation shows that they are not related to vaccination," FDA Director General Eric Domingo said.

Over 1.3 million individuals have been vaccinated in the Philippines as of April 20.

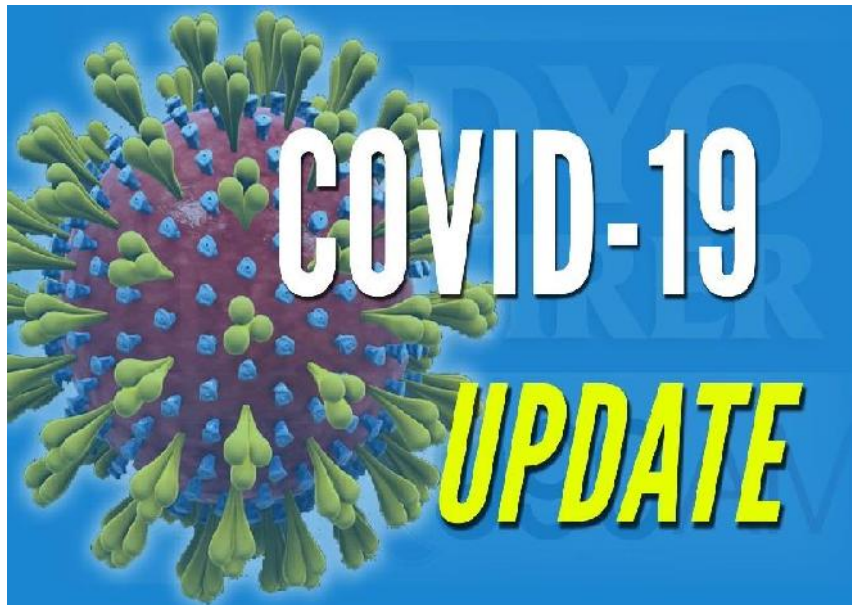
Out of the 24 who died following their vaccination, 11 were found to have been infected with COVID-19, eight had cardiovascular or cerebrovascular illness and three reportedly suffered another infectious disease.

Topics: [OCTA Research Group](#) , [COVID-19](#) , [transmission](#) , [Metro Manila Council](#)



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 145.36 milyon

By Angellic Jordan April 23, 2021 - 02:00 PM



Pumalo na sa 145.36 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 145,366,079 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 32,669,121 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 16,263,695 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 14,172,139 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 5,408,606 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Russia - 4,736,121
- Turkey - 4,501,382
- United Kingdom - 4,398,431
- Italy - 3,920,945
- Spain - 3,456,886
- Germany - 3,238,054
- Argentina - 2,796,768
- Poland - 2,731,256
- Colombia - 2,720,619
- Iran - 2,335,905
- Mexico - 2,319,519
- Ukraine - 2,004,630

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 3,085,913 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 123,648,581 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/290461/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-145-36-milyon#ixzz6stnlABjQ>

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Paalam, Edwin Sevidal; pasasalamat sa mediamen na naglantad ng sarili ukol sa COVID-19



April 23, 2021 @ 4:57 PM 12 hours ago

Halos magkasabay ang pamamahagi ng impormasyon ng dalawang mediaman ukol sa pagtama ng coronavirus disease o COVID-19 sa kanila.

Inilantad mismo ni kasamang Bernadette Sembrano, ng TV Patrol, ang sarili na tinamaan siya ng nasabing sakit.

Inilantad din ni kasamang Ellen Fernando, ng Pilipino Star Ngayon, ang sarili bilang biktima rin ng pandemya.

Habang nag-self-isolate lang si Sembrano dahil asymptomatic o wala siyang sintomas, nagpadala naman si Fernando sa isang quarantine facility.

Sa gitna ng mga ito, nagpaalam naman ang isang kinikilala at beterano sa media na si kasamang Edwin Sevidal, Radyo Patrol 37.

Sumuko ang kanyang katawan sa bagsik ng COVID-19 na sumalakay sa kanya.

Paalam, Edwin Sevidal, sir at dalhin mo ang aming panalangin para sa iyong walang hanggang katahimikan at ligaya sa bisig ng Lumikha sa ating lahat.

PASASALAMAT

Pinasasalamatan natin ang mediamen na ito dahil sa kanilang ambag sa giyera laban sa COVID-19.

Unang bagay sa kanilang ginawa ang paggana ng contact tracing kung sino-sino ang nakasalamuha nila na nanghawa at nahawaan nila.



Paalam, Edwin Sevidal; pasasalamat sa mediamen na naglantad ng sarili ukol sa COVID-19

Kung makikilala ang mga nakahawa o nahawaan nila, mabibigyan ng babala ang mga ito na magbantay sa kanilang mga sarili, mag-isolate o magpa-quarantine rin, kung kinakailangan, para matigil o mabawasan ang mga hawaan.

Sumunod na mahalagang bagay ang pagsasabi ni Sembrano na nakahahawa ang katulad niya dahil sa patuloy na pakikisalamuha niya sa mga tao at dito mahalaga ang pagsunod sa mga health protocol na pinairal gaya ng pagsusuot ng face mask, social distancing at iba pa upang hindi malagay sa panganib ang iba, kasama na ang mga mahal natin sa buhay.

Kasunod ang mariin niyang abiso na kung may pagkakataon na magpabakuna ang isang tao, dapat itong magpabakuna bilang isang epektibong hakbang sa pagsugpo sa pandemya.

Napakahalaga ang bakuna laban sa pagkakaospital at kamatayan.

Noong nasa quarantine facility naman si Fernando, may mga pagkakataon na ibinabahagi niya ang kanyang karanasan at mabuting hindi siya tinamaan ng severe o kritikal na kalagayan kundi mild o moderate lamang bilang symptomatic o may sintomas naman.

Naibahagi rin niyang maayos ang pagtrato sa kanya ng mga namamahala sa pasilidad na pinagdalan sa kanya at masasabi nating pantay-pantay na maayos na inasikaso rin ang iba ng local government unit na nakasasakop sa pasilidad.

Pinasasalamatan natin sila nang lubos sa kanilang paglantad at paghahayag ng kanilang mga karanasan at kaisipan para na rin sa kapakanan ng ibang tao.

PAGKAKAISA AT PAGTUTULUNGAN VS BASHING, SISIHAN

Walang pinipiling salakayin ng COVID-19.

Parehong binibiktima ng virus ang mga magkakakontra sa pulitika, relihiyon, ekonomiya at iba pa.

Maging ang magkakakampi.

Parehong dinadala ng virus ang mga ito sa ospital o sa cremation kaya para sa mga matindi ang tama ng severe o kritikal na kalagayan.

Kaya naman, isa itong kaaway sa buhay at lipunan na nagtutulak sa ating lahat na magkaisa at magtulungan.

Sa halip na isailalim sa bashing, sisihan at iba pa sa social media ang mga biktima, mas magandang maghanap tayo ng mga paraan para matulungan ang mga ito o ang kanilang mga pamilya.

Ang mga pamilya, tatandaan nating lahat, ay nila-lockdown din sa oras na tinamaan ang isang miyembro nito.



Paalam, Edwin Sevidal; pasasalamat sa mediamen na naglantad ng sarili ukol sa COVID-19

At kung na-lockdown, naririyang ang posibilidad ng gutom at paghihirap, lalo na sa mga mahihirap o nawalan ng pagkakitaan sa mga panahon ng pandemya.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa, maingat natin ang mga biktima mula sa malungkot at unhealthy na kalagayan at mapagaan din natin ang dinadalang krisis na dumadapo sa kanilang mga pamilya.

Kung magagawa natin ang mga ito, kontribusyon na rin natin sa pagsugpo sa pandemya sa mas maagang panahon para makabalik na rin tayo sa normal na pamumuhay.

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

Kung mapapansin ninyo, mga Bro, punom-puno ang Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at iba pa ng mga "prayer" sa oras na ma-COVID ang isang tao.

'Yun bang === malakas ang paniniwalang pakikitinggan ng Diyos ang mga dasal para sa paggaling ng maysakit.

Magkagayunman, nakalulungkot damhin o isipin na napakarami ngayon ang mga naghahayag ng condolence o humihiling ng tulong dahil sa laki ng gastos para sa mga nakoko-COVID.

Sa diretsahang salita, mga Bro, ang laki na nga ang gastos sa pagpapagamot, kahit sa self-isolation, lumundag na rin sa pagkataas-taas ang singil sa cremation para sa mga namamatay, lalo na sa mga may COVID.

Mula rito, naririyang pa rin ang ating panawagan para sa pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan.

At dalhin natin ang pahayag mismo sa pananampalataya sa Diyos na "Faith without works is dead."

Talikuran muna natin ang pulitika na pinagmumulan ngayon ng siraan at pagkawatak-watak at bashing sa social media.

Ang mga politiko na higit na namumuhunan sa paninira sa iba, lalo na sa kanilang mga kalaban, ay tawagan din natin ang pansin nila para magbuhos ng anomang meron sila bilang ayuda sa mga biktima ng COVID at tukod sa pag-ahon ng lahat mula sa salot na pandemya.



Building Brand Authenticity Through Regenerative Thinking



BYATTY. ALLAN V. BARCENA

APRIL 23, 2021

3 MINUTE READ



Atty. Allan V. Barcena

The reality of climate change can no longer be flatly denied when its adverse impacts continue to be staggeringly felt across all nations and societies. In the Philippines, one need not look far than the perennial super typhoons we have been experiencing in the past decade alone, which are clear manifestations of the consequences of global warming. The devastation wrought upon individuals, communities and businesses is not only immense but getting worse each and every time.

The effects of natural disasters on the economy are what the private sector is called upon to address and mitigate in particular. According to the World Economic Forum global risk perception survey, issues such as extreme weather events, major natural catastrophes and ineffective climate change adaptation strategies have topped the list of concerns among businesses.

To be fair, this is how sustainability has become the most prevalent corporate buzzword in the past few years. Companies have been making great strides in pivoting toward the tenet of the "triple bottom line" or "people, planet and profit," primarily by adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) prescribed by the United Nations.

Almost half of the 17 UN SDGs concern nature and the environment, and these have been serving as great tools for companies to understand the issues of climate change and to see how they can contribute toward these goals. They form an integral part of the now commonly utilized format of sustainability reporting, which help set a company's sustainability agenda more clearly. Global consultancy and auditing firm KPMG says that as much as 67% of companies worldwide are now utilizing sustainability reporting.



Building Brand Authenticity Through Regenerative Thinking

However, a gap is emerging between the sustainability goals companies identify as relevant to their operations and their actual business goals. Just as the SDGs present themselves as a convenient checklist of aspects of sustainability, there is an ever-present danger of being confined to just that—compliance with the usual sustainability measures without genuine impact in reality.

More than just doing no harm to the environment, the bigger task is to ensure that future generations thrive with more abundant resources. Environmental conservation may not be enough as it is believed that we are consuming resources equivalent to 1.75 Earths every year. This is where regenerative development comes in to address the challenge of going beyond sustainability.

As the term implies, regenerative development seeks to ensure that resources are continuously made available and even made more abundant as much as possible for future generations. It may mean discovering new supply sources or innovating on processes and technologies. It may demand certain shifts in the way we have been used to doing things. Regenerative thinking asks how we can create more value in a unified and inclusive manner, ensuring that we elevate all stakeholders and improve all aspects of human living.

In marketing communications and public relations, regenerative development also helps achieve more genuine and impactful reputation management. It serves as a better tool in achieving brand authenticity and avoiding the ever-present danger of “greenwashing.” Sustainability should precisely be incorporated in the way a company operates and not just in what it offers, and a regenerative model helps ensure that an organization’s vision is aligned with its mission—its day-to-day tasks and basic operations.

Regenerative development also inspires a more proactive stance in terms of producing more positive outcomes. More than just reporting numbers as factor of avoidance or prudent use, it challenges companies to redefine value in terms of creation and innovation. It demands a more optimistic mindset of ensuring abundance rather than a pessimistic stance of scarcity and competition.

Last not but least, as an inclusive mindset, regenerative development naturally leads to collaborations and partnerships. As companies are forced to take a hard look at the individuals, communities and sectors that it affects, these stakeholders are no longer nameless faces but active participants in creating shared value. This is one way how a regenerative mindset can be ingrained in business operations so that we do not fall prey to lip service or “greenwashing.” ###

The author is corporate social responsibility and public relations head of Energy Development Corporation. This piece is based on his talk during the 27th National PR Congress organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines last February.



ADB, TNC Ink Tie Up For Ecosystem Mgmt In Asia Pacific



[BYCAI ORDINARIO](#)

APRIL 23, 2021

2 MINUTE READ

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have inked a partnership for nature-positive investments, environmental sustainability, and action on climate change throughout Asia and the Pacific.

The partnership will focus on biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration; nature-based solutions and sustainable infrastructure; and coastal resilience.

ADB and TNC will also cooperate on finance for oceans, freshwater, and biodiversity; sustainable urban planning and development; and gender integration and poverty reduction in nature conservation.

"The coronavirus disease pandemic [Covid-19] has been a wake-up call on the importance of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity to protect humanity. It's vital that we make the recovery from Covid-19 a green and inclusive recovery," ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Bambang Susantono said.

"We must take actions that address the root causes of the pandemic and avoid future infectious zoonotic disease outbreaks, promote good health, create jobs that are fit for the future, and support women's empowerment and economic well-being through nature-positive investments," he added.

ADB and TNC have agreed to undertake a two-year work plan where they will pilot initiatives aimed at sustainable management of coastal ecosystems and catalyzing investment in development planning tools and digital technologies, which seek improve ecosystem management.

This work plan will contribute to ADB's Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies.

Further, ADB and TNC will cooperate on technical assistance for coral reef restoration through an innovative financing and insurance initiative.

The partnership will also yield knowledge products and activities that will integrate gender equity in promoting nature preservation and climate action.

"The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have also revealed the power and importance of collaboration to address complex issues with the urgency they require," said TNC Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Morris.



ADB, TNC Ink Tie Up For Ecosystem Mgmt In Asia Pacific

"The Nature Conservancy and the Asian Development Bank are demonstrating to the world the power of cross-sector partnerships and community-based conservation to create a brighter future for people and nature," she added.

TNC is a charitable environmental organization founded in 1951 and headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, United States. TNC currently impacts conservation in over 70 countries worldwide and has several national affiliates.

World leaders pledge climate cooperation despite other rifts

AP

By [Associated Press](#)
April 23, 2021

WASHINGTON: The leaders of Russia and China put aside their raw-worded disputes with U.S. President Joe Biden on Thursday long enough to pledge international cooperation on cutting climate-wrecking coal and petroleum emissions in a livestreamed summit showcasing America's return to the fight against global warming.

Neither Vladimir Putin nor Xi Jinping immediately followed the United States and some of its developed allies in making specific new pledges to reduce damaging fossil fuel pollution during the first day of the two-day U.S.-hosted summit. But climate advocates hoped the high-profile — if glitch-ridden — virtual gathering would kickstart new action by major polluters, paving the way for a November U.N. meeting in Glasgow critical to drastically slowing climate change over the coming decade.



CLIMATE COOPERATION In this video image, world leaders participate in the White House Climate Leaders Summit via Zoom on April 22, 2021. The U.S. opened Thursday's summit, which is being held virtually by livestream because of the pandemic, with an ambitious pledge to cut by at least one-half the climate-wrecking coal and petroleum fumes that America is pumping out. AP PHOTO

The entire world faces "a moment of peril" but also "a moment of opportunity," Biden declared, speaking from a TV-style chrome-blue set for the virtual summit of 40 world leaders. Participants appeared one after the other onscreen for what appeared to be a mix of live and recorded addresses.



World leaders pledge climate cooperation despite other rifts

"The signs are unmistakable," Biden said. "The science is undeniable. The cost of inaction keeps mounting."

Biden's new U.S. commitment, timed to the summit, would cut America's fossil fuel emissions as much as 52% by 2030. It comes after four years of international withdrawal from the issue under President Donald Trump, who mocked the science of climate change and pulled the U.S. out of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accord.

Biden's administration this week is sketching out a vision of a prosperous, clean-energy United States where factories churn out cutting-edge batteries and electric cars for export, line workers re-lay an efficient national electrical grid and crews cap abandoned oil and gas rigs and coal mines.

But Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell dismissed the administration's plans as costly and ineffective.

UN chief wants US climate pledges, engagement in negotiations

"This is quite the one-two punch," McConnell said in a Senate speech Thursday. "Toothless requests of our foreign adversaries ... and maximum pain for American citizens."

At the summit, Japan announced its own new 46% emissions reduction target and South Korea said it would stop public financing of new coal-fired power plants, potentially an important step toward persuading China and other coal-reliant nations to curb building and funding of new ones as well.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, one of the leaders shown watching summit proceedings in the coronavirus pandemic's familiar Brady Bunch-style multibox conference screen, said his nation would up its fossil fuel pollution cuts from 30% to at least 40%.

Travel precautions under the pandemic compelled the summit to play out on livestream, limiting opportunities for spontaneous interaction and negotiation. Its opening hours were sometimes marked by electronic echoes, random beeps and off-screen voices.

But the summit also marshaled an impressive display of the world's most powerful leaders speaking on the single issue of climate change.

China's Xi, whose country is the world's biggest emissions culprit, followed by the United States, spoke first among the other global figures. He made no reference to disputes over territorial claims, trade and other matters that had made it uncertain until Wednesday that he would even take part in the U.S. summit. And he said China would work with America in cutting emissions.

"To protect the environment is to protect productivity, and to boost the environment is to boost productivity. It's as simple as that," Xi said.



World leaders pledge climate cooperation despite other rifts

Putin and his government have been irate over Biden's characterization of him as a "killer" for Russia's aggressive moves against its opponents, and he is under pressure this week over the declining health of jailed opposition figure Alexei Navalny. But he made no mention of those disputes in his own climate remarks.

Full Coverage: Climate

"Russia is genuinely interested in galvanizing international cooperation so as to look further for effective solutions to climate change as well as to all other vital challenges," Putin said. Russia by some measures is the world's fourth-biggest emitter of climate-damaging fossil fuel fumes.

Climate efforts in recent years have proved a forum where even rival world leaders want to be seen as putting aside disputes to serve as international statesmen and women, even though the cumulative output of fossil fuel emissions is still hurtling the Earth toward disastrous temperature rises.

The pandemic made gathering world leaders for the climate summit too risky. So Biden's staff built a small set in the East Room that looked like it was taken from a daytime talk show.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris joined Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House climate envoy John Kerry at a horseshoe-shaped table set up around a giant potted plant to watch fellow leaders' speeches.

The format meant a cavalcade of short speeches by world leaders, some scripted, some not. "This is not bunny-hugging," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said of the climate efforts. "This is about growth and jobs."

The Biden administration's pledge would require by far the most ambitious U.S. climate effort ever, nearly doubling the reductions that the Obama administration had committed to in the Paris climate accord.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was one of many allies welcoming the U.S. return after Trump..

"I'm delighted to see that the United States is back, is back to work together with us in climate politics," Merkel declared in her virtual appearance. "Because there can be no doubt about the world needing your contribution if we really want to fulfill our ambitious goals."

Pope Francis contributed a video from the Vatican, saying, "I wish you success in this beautiful decision to meet, walk together going forward and I am with you all the way."

The new urgency comes as scientists say that climate change caused by coal plants, car engines and other fossil fuel use is worsening droughts, floods, hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters and that humans are running out of time to stave off catastrophic extremes of global warming.



World leaders pledge climate cooperation despite other rifts

Leaders of smaller states and island nations buffeted by rising seas and worsening hurricanes appealed for aid and fast emissions cuts from world powers.

"We are the least contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, but the most affected by climate change," said Gaston Alfonso Browne, prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda. He called for debt relief and more international assistance to recover from storms and the pandemic to prevent a flow of climate refugees. His people he said, are "teetering on the edge of despair."

Longtime climate policy experts, no strangers to climate summits with solemn pledges, watched some speeches with skepticism. After Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro promised an end to clearcutting in the Amazon, Dan Wilkinson of Human Rights Watch's environmental programs noted, "It is going to be hard for anyone to take it seriously until they actually start taking steps."



EU officials urge cooperation vs. climate change

April 23, 2021, 6:42 pm



European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen

ANKARA – European Union (EU) officials have called for joint commitment and action across the world to reduce emissions by 2030 in the fight against climate change.

"Today we must strengthen global unity around ambitious new targets," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate on Thursday hosted by US President Joe Biden, adding that five years had passed since the Paris agreement was signed.

Warning that the world was getting "dangerously" close to 1.5 C of global warming, von der Leyen said the time is ripe for fresh climate action because of this.

She underlined that in the coming COP26 meeting in Glasgow, the world must show that it understands that the preceding Paris Agreement "is humanities' life insurance."

"Science tells us it is not too late yet but we must hurry up," she added.

Touching on efforts to tackle the negative effects of climate change, von der Leyen cited the European Green New Deal and the continent's first Climate Law that passed just recently, as well as the block's goals on dealing a significant dent in emissions.



EU officials urge cooperation vs. climate change

Von der Leyen said EU countries had agreed by 2030 to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 55 percent below their 1990 level.

"Climate action is also a massive opportunity for economies, it creates new markets and mobilizes new investments, transforming industries and it unleashes innovation for a healthier and more prosperous future," she added.

'We are ready to take responsibility'

Charles Michel, the president of the EU Council, said the world is currently facing a great challenge in the face of climate change and since fossil fuel use is not sustainable, humanity must adapt itself to a new situation.

"In December 2019, leaders committed to climate neutrality by 2050 and we were the first major economy to take such a bold decision," Michel said.

He said they had decided to allocate at least €100 billion (USD 120 billion) annually for "climate finance", adding they expected developed countries to increase their contributions.

As the EU wants to introduce a carbon regulation mechanism at its borders, Michel said this was needed for competition on equal terms and must comply with the rules of the World Trade Organization.

He added that with the intention of being a strong and loyal partner, the bloc is prepared to join forces with all global partners and take responsibility for the well-being of humanity and the planet. (*Anadolu*)

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1137815>



[Editorial, Opinion-Editorial](#)

Climate justice: Toward a sustainable future

Published April 24, 2021, 12:10 AM

by [Manila Bulletin](#)



After the historic Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force in November 2016 when 55 parties accounting for at least 55 percent of global greenhouse gases (GHG) had ratified it, notable progress has been made.

According to the World Resources Institute, 189 countries have ratified or joined the Agreement, representing 81 percent of GHG. This figure quickly shot up to 93 percent when President Joe Biden formally signified the United States' participation when he assumed office.

Despite these written commitments, 2019 was the [second warmest year on record](#) and the end of the warmest decade (2010- 2019) ever recorded. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels and other [greenhouse gases in the atmosphere](#) rose to new records in 2019.

According to a recent United Nations report: "Although greenhouse gas emissions are projected to drop about six percent in 2020 due to travel bans and economic slowdowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this improvement is only temporary. [Climate change is not on pause](#). Once the global economy begins to recover from the pandemic, emissions are expected to return to higher levels."

As the world marked Earth Day 2021, attention was focused on the top 10 GHG emitters, considering that the top three – China, the United States, and the European Union countries combined, contribute 41.5 percent of total global emissions, while the bottom 100 countries – including the Philippines – for a measly 3.6 percent. The other countries in the top ten are India, Russia, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia, and Iran and Canada.



[Editorial](#), [Opinion-Editorial](#)

Climate justice: Toward a sustainable future

The first round of preliminary GHG reduction commitments that were unveiled in 2015 would have cumulatively resulted in a global temperature that was at least 3 degrees Celsius hotter, a stark contrast to the avowed goal of the Paris Agreement signatories to cap global warming below 2 degrees Celsius.

President Xi Jin Ping declared last year at the UN General Assembly that China intends to achieve net zero emissions by 2060; Beijing has not officially announced its renewed national defined contribution (NDC).

All eyes are on the virtual World Climate Summit convened by President Biden where the new US commitment is expected to be known. Special ambassador on climate change John Kerry visited China recently to conduct negotiations on climate cooperation.

Climate justice is the core issue, considering that the burden of global warming is borne disproportionately by poorer countries that are more vulnerable to natural disasters. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres points out: "As is always the case, the poor and vulnerable are the first to suffer and the worst hit."

Another key dimension is youth involvement. Even schoolchildren are now participating in marches, strikes and protests – by hundreds of thousands – to call out the "intergenerational injustice of climate change."

AmBisyon 2040, the Philippines' long-term national development plan mirrors the country's commitment to climate-related Sustainable Development Goals: Livable cities and disaster-resilient communities.

Climate justice is the key to assuring a sustainable environment for future generations.

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