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Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park: A bastion of PHL's unique biodiversity, natural heritage

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park

One of the few remaining rainforests in the Philippines can be found in Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park (MKRNP).

This protected area in Bukidnon province in northern Mindanao is home to some of rarest plant and animal wildlife, including the critically endangered Philippine Eagle, the country's national bird.



Rafflesia

Declared as a Protected Area through Republic Act 8978 in 2000, MKRNP was also declared as an Asean Heritage Park (AHP) in 2009, the 28th area set aside for conservation to earn the title.

With a total land area of 47,270 hectares, the MKRNP is shared by eight municipalities in Bukidnon.

'Cream of the crop'

Being an AHP, MKRNP is considered the cream of the crop among protected areas not only in the Philippines but also in Southeast Asia.

Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim describes MKRNP as "one of the last bastions of the Philippines's unique biodiversity and natural heritage."

"It hosts rare and endemic wildlife, including the Philippine Eagle. It is home to 168 bird species, 131 butterflies, and 63 mammals, 17 of which are endemic," Lim, a former Department of Environment And Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) director told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on September 22.



Essential to communities

According to Lim, MKRNP is also essential to the lives of the communities. It serves as a watershed that provides water for irrigation, power generation and domestic use for Bukidnon, as well as the province of Misamis Oriental. It is the catchment area of the Cagayan, Tagoloan and Pulangi river system.

“Before the pandemic, the park has vibrant tourism activities with its evergreen and montane forests, grasslands, wetlands and caves, drawing in hikers, campers and bird watchers,” she said.

One can find wealth in indigenous knowledge in Mt. Kitanglad as it is the ancestral domain of the Talaandig, Higaonon and Bukidnon ethnolinguistic groups, Lim added.

The biodiversity expert said being part of the roster of AHPs, Mt. Kitanglad has been receiving various kinds of support from ACB through its AHP Programme.

The AHPs have access to regional assistance for capacity development, equipment, management planning and law enforcement.

The ACB has been supporting Mt. Kitanglad, along with two other AHPs in Region 10—Mt. Malindang Range Natural Park, and Mts. Timpoong Hibok-hibok Natural Monument—through a project that helps develop and improve the parks’ web sites and online booking systems.

“This project is part of the ACB’s bid to boost ecotourism in the AHPs and raise public awareness. And ensure that as we recover from the pandemic, we have this natural richness that we can turn to for healing and resilience,” she said.

Ecosystem services

The MKRNP provides various ecosystem services that range from water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial use. Water flowing from the MKRNP is also used for power generation.

The benefits of these ecosystem services are being enjoyed by around 100,000 households living around the MKRNP, including those in neighboring towns and cities of Bukidnon like Cagayan de Oro City.

More prominently, the bounty of MKRNP are shared by the major indigenous tribes of the Talaandig, Higaonon and Bukidnon.

Endemic species

According to the DENR, Mount Kitanglad hosts over 600 rare and endemic species.

Besides the Philippine Eagle, the Philippine Tarsier is known to inhabit the AHP.

MKRNP is also home to Rafflesia, the second largest flower in the world.

Threats

Like other protected areas, MKRNP is threatened by various destructive human activities. Slash-and-burn farming, unsustainable charcoal production, illegal tree cutting and forest fires are among the serious threats affecting the natural park.

According to the DENR, about 1,100 hectares of Mt. Kitanglad’s forest have been degrading annually based on 2003 to 2010 data.

The degradation is particularly evident in the headwaters of Mt. Kitanglad watersheds that drain into the Cagayan de Oro River basin, which drains into the Macajalar Bay in Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental.



The intrusion of migrants and timber poachers are some of the biggest or more serious threats that are being observed within the MKRNP

As such, MKRNP Protected Area Superintendent (PASu) Daniel F. Somera said education campaigns in the community and monitoring are being conducted to eradicate illegal activities.

“If the situation warrants, the filing of formal complaints in court is also religiously undertaken against those who are caught doing such [illegal] activities, thereby, sending a strong signal to the public not to indulge in illegal activities,” he said.

Public-private partnership

To help protect and conserve MKRNP, the government has forged ties with the Kitanglad Guard Volunteers (KGV), the Forest Foundation Philippines and Holcim Philippines Inc.

The partnership aims to plant more than 300 hectares of coffee, abaca and bamboo as a sustainable agroforestry system to protect the AHP.

Somera said that with the limited manpower, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) has successfully tapped the cooperation of the upland communities to spearhead the community-based park protection in the area.

“The strong partnership of the DENR with our local volunteers, the KGVs, is very essential in executing our protection work,” he pointed out.

Greening program

More than 400 volunteers from KGV now serve as contractors of the DENR’s National Greening Program.

Somera said KGV started its humble beginnings with only more than a dozen members in 1995.

“The number rose to more than 400 volunteers who proved their worth in the significant decline of man-made disturbances within the park. Their park protection is also being reciprocated as they are given top priority in the provision of livelihood assistance,” Somera said.

Through the National Greening Program, the DENR hopes to develop an area of 50 hectares to plant bamboo for creek/riverbank rehabilitation and buffer zone-line enhancement to make it more visible to the public, while maintaining other NGP sites planted in the previous years.

Protecting Kitanglad

Besides being the DENR’s partner in greening Mt. Kitanglad Range, the KGV are also helping protect the entire MKRNP.

Emiliano Lumiston, a KGV, said as part of their duty, they are on call, especially when there’s a report of illegal activities in the area.

“We protect the forest. As part of our duties and responsibilities, we also apprehend those involved in illegal activities,” Lumiston, who has been a KGV since 2000, told the BusinessMirror in Filipino.

“Since our number increased, illegal activities have stopped,” he boasted.

Ecotourism

As part of the park’s income-generating programs, the MKRNP PAMB, through his office, has continuously facilitated the entry of visitors to the park following the strict Covid-19 protocols, Somera said told the BusinessMirror via e-mail on September 16.

“Given this pandemic, the visitors allowed entry to the park are exclusively the residents in the province of Bukidnon to prevent the possible spread of this dreaded disease,” he said.



With the aim of further promoting the park as a potential ecotourism destination, various ecotourism amenities and infrastructures have been constructed and maintained to ensure better services to the visiting public, he said.

According to Somera, the dormitory-type building within Cinchona Forest Reserve in Kaatuan, Lantapan, Bukidnon, is among the infrastructures that is more than halfway of completion.

“Among other existing infrastructures [others in progress of construction], these amenities are expected to give additional rapport and recognition of the park that promotes regulated ecotourism activities in tandem with partner local government units,” he said.

Wellspring of living tradition

Given its unique and outstanding features, the PAMB, through the PASu, has also applied for the park’s inscription to the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) World Heritage site under the Landscape and Culture category.

However, considering the current public-health crisis, other activities, including the site validation by the Unesco team is still held in abeyance.

According to Somera, MKRNP is not only a biodiversity important area with a unique landscape and processes. It is also a wellspring of living tradition by the IP communities.

“The range has more than a dozen peaks with Mts. Dulangdulang and Kitanglad as the second and fourth highest peaks in the country. Besides its undulating landscape, the range has several precipices, especially in areas where creeks and rivers originate, making it the headwater of three major river systems in Mindanao,” he said.

Images courtesy of Growth Publishing/DENR and Melody



DZRH News September 24 at 4:46 PM · 🌐

ICYMI: Nagkilos-protesta ang ilang grupo ng mga raliyista sa Dolomite Beach kanina. Ipinrotesta nila ang reclamation projects at pagkontra sa paggiba sa mga fishing structure, talabahan at kahalintulad sa Manila Bay sa bahagi ng Cavite. | Report ni RH29 Boy Gonzales #DZRHNationwide



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Asean plays vital role in saving Earth

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [September 25, 2021, 2:58 pm](#)



MANILA – Saving the planet starts with the protection of marine ecosystems and as a region that covers almost half of the world's water, countries in Southeast Asia play an important role in realizing this goal.

Given the concentration of biodiversity in the region, member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) are urged to take collective action to successfully reach the global goal to conserve at least 30 percent of the planet by 2030.

Even with the pandemic, Asean Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) said member states must find ways to forge more partnerships that would help build their capacity to better conserve the region's marine resources.

"The seas connecting the Asean encourage the member states to unite and forge stronger linkages in addressing the climate crisis and the pandemic we are currently in. Thus, the protection and sustainable management of our biodiversity—our common natural heritage, serve as our compass as we set sail towards recovery," ACB Executive Director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim said during a forum on Friday afternoon hosted by the ACB and the Philippine Mission to Asean.

Southeast Asia is home to a third of the world's coastal and marine habitats that include coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries, sandy and rocky beaches, seagrass and seaweed beds, and other soft-bottom communities.

The ACB said these habitats and their resident species provide breeding, nursing, and feeding grounds for marine plants and animals, food, and resources important to the livelihoods of coastal communities.

However, the continuous overexploitation of resources and climate change make Asean's marine ecosystem one of the world's "most threatened" in terms of marine degradation.

"This has a profound impact on the planet and its inhabitants inevitably threatening food security, local tourism, and global warming mitigation, among others," Philippine Permanent Representative to the Asean in Jakarta Noel Servigon said.

"As such, it is fitting that marine biodiversity conservation should be a major area of cooperation and collective action among Asean member states and their partners," he added.

Clarissa Arida, ACB director for program development and implementation, said nearshore ecosystems have also become more vulnerable to habitat change and pollution. By 2050, it is estimated that close to 500 million people will live in coastal and marine areas in Southeast Asia.



"With pollution from land-based sources, the ecosystem services expected of coastal and MPAs will not be able to sustain our fisheries," she said.

To date, Asean is expanding its cooperation with global partners to effectively manage ecological networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Southeast Asia.

Under a proposed regional project, Asean will increase conservation efforts in key marine ecosystems in Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines, including the Tubbataha Reef Natural Park in Sulu-Celebes Sea and the Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Landscape and Seascape in the West Philippine Sea.

In the Philippines, a total of 72 MPAs have been established, covering at least 3.1 million hectares of the country's waters.

Desiree Eve Maano, chief of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Coastal and Marine Management Section, said the country plans to increase this and cover other regions such as the West Philippine Sea Offshore areas.

The call for collective action coincides with the celebration of Manila's Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (MANA Mo), which aims to raise awareness and appreciation of the Philippines' marine biodiversity, conservation efforts, and how these contribute to the sustainable development of the country and the Asean region. **(PNA)**



Solon urges LGUs to apply for underutilized climate fund

Published September 25, 2021, 1:54 PM by [Mario Casayuran](#)

As a big chunk of the ₱1-billion fund for climate change projects remains unspent, a lawmaker on Saturday, September 25, urged local government units (LGUs) to apply for funding for their projects.



Rizal 2nd District Rep. Fidel Nograles

Rizal 2nd District Representative Fidel Nograles said the fund “remains underused even as our communities are perennially laid to waste because of calamities that have become more intense.”

He advised LGUs, though, to “apply more rigor in fulfilling requirements for funding” to avoid the rejection of their applications.

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) recently revealed that only ₱164 million of the ₱1-billion People’s Survival Fund has been disbursed to LGUs since 2016.

To date, only six climate adaptation projects have been approved since the PSF was set up through Republic Act 10174 in 2012.

A 2021 report by the Bureau of Treasury said that 129 proponents from LGUs and local community organizations had pitched 172 project proposals for the PSF worth a total of ₱14.57 billion.

However, most applications failed to pass the initial screening because of incomplete documents or because the project activities are not eligible, the report said.

Nograles said that LGUs should discard the “pwede na” (that’s ok) attitude when it comes to conceptualizing climate adaptation programs.

The lawyer also advised the CCC to revisit its strategy to entice more LGUs to submit their proposals.

“Kasi kung walang kumakagat, baka hindi epektibo ang impormasyong bumababa sa mga LGU (If LGUs are not interested, it could be that the information filtering to the ground is not effective),” Nograles said.

He also called on LGUs to “adopt a mitigation mindset” to minimize dealing with heavy losses caused by calamities.



The Philippines ranked 17th in the world as the most affected country from extreme weather events in the Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2021.

The country ranked seventh in the CRI in economic losses, with climate-related events costing the Philippines a total of US\$ 4.5 billion in absolute losses in 2018.

“The gravity of our losses in life and income should spur us towards crafting programs that seek to protect our people against the threat of climate change,” Nograles said.



Green groups ask world leaders to act with 'greater ambition, speed' on climate change

By [Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - September 25, 2021 - 10:34am



Green groups ask world leaders to act with 'greater ambition and speed' on climate change
AFP/Jam Sta. Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — Communities and movements in Asia who are bearing the brunt of a warming planet called on world leaders to act more forcefully against climate change by scaling up efforts to fully decarbonize by 2050 and delivering on climate finance obligations.

More than a hundred organizations from Asia issued the call on Saturday as world leaders attend the United Nations General Assembly this week.

Global South economies, which include many countries from Asia, bear the brunt of climate change, with warming temperatures and extreme weather events exacerbating social and economic impacts.

“We challenge all governments, especially the biggest historical and continuing emitters—your actions now and in the next few years are most crucial. Long term targets will mean nothing without these immediate actions,” said groups which include Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and 350.org Pilipinas.

The organizations called on all governments to immediately stop building new coal projects, domestically and overseas, as it is a “very critical step” toward a fossil fuel-free future.

At the UNGA, Chinese leader Xi Jinping announced that China—the biggest public backer of coal—would not build new coal-fired power projects overseas.

The Philippine energy department earlier called for a coal moratorium. However, several coal projects remain in the pipeline.

“Further, stopping coal expansion and the rapid phase out of existing coal energy must be accompanied by similar measures toward other fossil fuels. Fossil gas should not be considered as a transition fuel,” they said.

Climate finance

While the organizations welcomed announcement of wealthy nations to increase their climate finance contributions, they stressed that rich economies such as the United States and the European Union should “give more to cover their full share of paying for adaptation and loss and damage in the Global South.”



“Their climate finance obligations, the scale of need, and the reparations for climate debt owed to the South is way more than \$100b,” the groups said.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier told developed countries to deliver on their climate finance pledges to poorer countries to help them deal with the catastrophic impacts of climate change as it is their “moral obligation that cannot be avoided.”

“World leaders and governments must act with much greater ambition and speed to fulfill their duties and obligations to people and the planet. We are running out of time,” the groups said.

Young people’s demands

Young people in the Philippines took to the streets on Friday to demand urgent action to avert the devastating climate change and call out the government’s inaction.

“Whether it’s the COVID-19 pandemic, or the climate crisis, or environmental protection of places like Manila Bay, the answer of our government has remained the same: policies and measures that are harmful for both the people and the planet,” said Xian Guevarra, Youth Advocates for Climate Action Philippines.

They urged the Duterte government to halt destructive policies and projects, and put people at the center of climate adaptation efforts.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries must limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius. To do that, the world needs to slash global emissions in half by 2030, and to net-zero by 2050.

But the synthesis report released by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the climate pledges of 113 countries showed that the current contributions would warm the planet by 2.7 degrees Celsius.



Filipino among top 10 climate science communicators

BYRIZAL RAOUL REYES SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



John Leo Algo, deputy executive director for Programs and Campaigns at Living Laudato Si' Philippines, joins nine others in the FameLab Climate Change Communicators Online Final.

A Filipino has been named as one of the top 10 international finalists to compete at the FameLab Climate Change Communicators Online Final this September 2021.

The British Council announced in a news release that John Leo Algo, a climate and environment advocate and citizen journalist who has represented the Philippines and the youth sector in regional and global UN conferences since 2017, made it to the elite group.

“Communication is key to addressing our problems, big or small. The world needs more people that are passionate about conveying the urgency of addressing the climate crisis,” shared Algo, also the deputy executive director for Programs and Campaigns at Living Laudato Si' Philippines.

The finalists bested other video entrants from around the world, impressing the judges with their three-minute video talks on the theme “Trust in Climate Science.”

The FameLab Climate Change Communicators received entries from aspiring science communicators from Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam.

Besides Algo, the other finalists are: Aditi Chandra, engineer and entrepreneur at Kay Bouvet Engineering, India; Arka Chakraborty, a student at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Bangladesh; Danny Joseph Daniels, CVO at Lombris, Mexico.

Emiliane Daher Pereira, researcher at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Larissa Cunha Pinheiro, PhD student in Nuclear Engineering at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mayur Bonkile, a PhD student at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India.

Minh Anh Le, research assistant at Institute of Health, Economics, and Technology, Vietnam; Navjeet Kaur, a PhD student at University of Mumbai, India; and Pallavi Pokharel, a recent graduate of Kathmandu University, Nepal.

Their video entries covered a range of climate science topics from clean energy to coral reef preservation, breaking down some of the latest international developments in science and technology to help tackle the climate crisis.



The finalists will undergo online training and networking, including a two-day online masterclass with the leading science communicator Wendy Sadler to hone their skills before the final selection.

“We had a great response to FameLab Climate Change Communicators, and we thank everyone who took the time to create and send us their video entries,” Adrian Fenton, senior consultant in Public Engagement at the British Council explained in a news statement.

“It’s been so inspiring to have received such high quality, personal entries from around the world from individuals who share our passion for building trust in climate science,” Fenton added.

Dr. Ahmed Alboksmaty, research associate in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial College London and member of the judging panel for the FameLab Climate Change Communicators video entry round, said: “It was an honor and a pleasure to watch the video entries tackling a range of climate science-related topics. We had some tough decisions to make but the 10 finalists stood out with their content, clarity and charisma—and really made us want to hear more!”

Global audiences will have the chance to hear the finalists at the FameLab Climate Change Communicators International Online Final, which will be streamed on the British Council YouTube channel on September 28.

Moreover, the top FameLab Climate Change Communicator will progress through to the FameLab International Online Final in November 2021, one of the world’s leading science communication competitions.

FameLab Climate Change Communicators is one of many activities the British Council is delivering as part of The Climate Connection programme: the British Council’s global platforms for dialogue, cooperation, and action against climate change.

Image courtesy of British Council photo



Study: Wildlife protection drive reduce biodiversity threats

BY BUSINESSMIRROR SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

The Protect Wildlife Activity (PWA), a wildlife conservation initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was found to have contributed greatly to reduce the threats to wildlife and biodiversity.

This was observed by the evaluation team under the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca)-led Final Performance Evaluation of PWA commissioned by USAID.

Covering several biodiversity hotspots in the Philippines, the PWA was evaluated so that the results can help inform similar natural resource-conservation activities at present or in the future, said Searca Director Dr. Glenn B. Gregorio.

He added that the findings can contribute to the growing body of evidence on good practices and a better understanding of the enabling and hindering factors in biodiversity conservation and anti-wildlife trafficking.

To disseminate the key findings of the evaluation and highlight the lessons learned from the PWA, Searca's Emerging Innovation for Growth Department organized a virtual learning event that featured speakers who gave an overview of the PWA and discussed the overall results and synthesis of the evaluation.

Also presented were videos showcasing the efforts and contributions of the PWA to the various stakeholders in the six sites covered by the evaluation: Pasonanca Natural Park, Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape, and Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape.

"USAID is a strong partner of the Philippine government in conserving the countries' rich biodiversity resources and believes that conservation is an essential component to building prosperous, stable and equitable societies," said Dr. John Edgar, USAID Environment Office chief.

He explained that the project evaluation is important to measure its effectiveness, relevance and efficiency, and to enable those who design and implement projects to refine the designs and introduce improvements for future efforts.

Edgar affirmed that the findings and results as presented in the learning event will be helpful to the stakeholders and also expressed hope that there will be more opportunities for future collaborations.

Rebecca Paz, PWA Chief of Party, presenting a brief background and accomplishments of the PWA, emphasized that "there is a connection between biodiversity conservation, the flow of ecosystems goods and services and the improvement of human well-being."

She added: "The preservation of biodiversity in protected areas and in coastal and marine areas supports livelihoods and the growth of the local economy, thus, PWA is not about protecting nature from people but protecting nature for the people."

During the open forum, the evaluation team and stakeholders discussed the best practices of the PWA, which contributed greatly to the increase in income of the beneficiaries and reduced the threats to wildlife and biodiversity.



The documentary videos were complemented by key local implementing partners who shared their plans after the PWA.

Dr. Rey Navacilla, DAI Global Site Manager for Pasonanca Natural Park, said the formulation of the Ayala and Manicahan watershed management and development plan will be instrumental in looking at the potential of these dams as sources of water for Zamboanga City, which will help improve the natural park's water resource sustainability.

Elizabeth Maclang, Protected Area Supervisor (PASu) of Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, said they will prioritize the use of camera traps that help the enforcers monitor the activities inside the protected area as well as the continuation of the payment for ecosystem services.

For Mt. Mantalingahan Protected Landscape, Forester Efren Hibal, PASu, explained that they are focusing on the creation of a GIS team for DENR to facilitate the zoning system in the protected area. They will utilize spatial planning and other technologies, which they gained from the PWA.

Joy Ologuin, PASu for Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape, emphasized that they are going to continue the efforts of the PWA, especially the strengthening of enforcers, with the enforcement protocol developed, and institutionalizing the payment for ecosystem services.

Dr. Albert P. Aquino, USAID Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, said "protecting our wildlife doesn't end here in our collective efforts as well as the stories that we tell. After all, these collective efforts to protect wildlife is a continuing story and still is evolving so please let's do our share."

Gregorio thanked USAID for partnering with Searca and expressed hope for more opportunities to work together. He affirmed that Searca strongly supports USAID not only to protect biodiversity in the Philippines, but also the rest of Southeast Asia and beyond.



UN redoubles green energy push to save climate, boost electricity

[Juliette Michel](#) - Agence France-Presse September 25, 2021 | 9:24am



An aerial view of solar panels at the Sutter Greenworks Solar Site on September 19, 2021 in Calverton, New York.

Bruce Bennett/Getty Images/AFP

UNITED NATIONS, United States — The United Nations chief called Friday for the world to redouble its renewable energy efforts to avert a climate emergency and address global energy poverty.

"Today, we face a moment of truth," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who described the mandate as a "double imperative—to end energy poverty and to limit climate change.

"And we have an answer that will fulfil both imperatives," Guterres said. "Affordable, renewable and sustainable energy for all."

The comments came as governments and the private sector pledged to spend more than \$400 billion at a high-level summit that called for an acceleration of efforts to avert catastrophic climate change and simultaneously bring electricity to more of the 760 million people around the world who currently lack it.

The "energy compact" lists commitments from more than 35 governments and several large companies, including TotalEnergies, Schneider Electric and Google.

The aim is to revamp the global energy system, which accounts for about 75% of total greenhouse gases, according to the United Nations.

Jennifer Layke, global energy director at the World Resources Institute, said the pledges serve "transparency purposes" and enable NGOs to hold companies and governments accountable.

But "to deliver on climate, we still have a long way to go to get to the level of transformation on the energy transition that is required," she said.

Ending fossil fuel subsidies

The spending pledges, many of which have been announced previously, include projects to expand electricity access in developing countries, boost clean cooking technologies and improve energy efficiency as part of a drive to decarbonize the energy system.

Guterres noted there has been some progress, with renewable energy now comprising 29% of global electricity generation.

"But it's not nearly fast enough," Guterres said. "We are still a long way from being able to provide affordable and clean energy for all."



He said the world must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% in 2030 from 2010 levels to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

He called for a quadrupling of solar and wind capacity by that time, part of a push to triple investments on renewable energy and energy efficiency to \$5 trillion per-year.

And Guterres called on authorities to phase out subsidies on fossil fuel production and "put a price on carbon."

An IMF study published Friday estimated that direct and indirect subsidies of fossil fuels added up to \$5.9 trillion, about 6.8 percent of global GDP in 2020.

"Underpricing fossil fuel undermines domestic and global environmental objectives, hurting people and hurting the planet," said IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

"It is also a badly targeted policy that predominantly benefits higher-income households and deprives governments of precious fiscal resources."

"Raising fuel prices is, of course, very challenging," Georgieva said, adding, "but doing nothing will pose far greater challenges."



How fast will the Earth heat? New tool provides granular estimates

‘The stable climate was an assumption that we just took for granted. Everything else was built on top of that assumption. For 12,000 years, the climate was essentially stable, so we could look backward at actuarial data and forecast the future.’—Spencer Glendon, founder of Probable Futures

BY BLOOMBERG NEWS SEPTEMBER 26, 2021



Smoke rises above farm and environmentally protected land while on fire near São Jose do Rio Pardo, São Paulo state, Brazil, on August 24, 2021. Extreme weather is slamming crops across the globe, bringing with it the threat of further food inflation at a time costs are already hovering near the highest in a decade and hunger is on the rise.

AN initiative called Probable Futures hopes its interactive maps showing how fast the Earth could heat will lead citizens and countries to ask questions about how climate change is transforming their world—a first step in grappling with adaptation and the prevention of ever-worsening conditions.

Spencer Glendon, the 52-year-old founder of Probable Futures and a senior fellow at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Massachusetts, was investment manager Wellington Management’s research director. He’s always been drawn to issues that could transform financial markets if only people paid attention.

The modern economy is built on a simple and, until recently, correct assumption, that the global climate is stable. The smartest way to treat the Earth’s climate in any risk assessment—dating back to the origin of risk assessments—was to ignore it. But a changing climate can no longer be ignored, and professionals of every stripe are missing tools to help them think through the implications, Glendon said.

When the past was a more useful indicator of the future, tools like spreadsheets were all most people need to extrapolate, Glendon said. Climate change requires an understanding of natural systems knocked off their rails by greenhouse gas pollution. The Earth has heated up about 1.1° Celsius since industrialization—hotter than it’s been in 125,000 years.

“The stable climate was an assumption that we just took for granted,” he said. “Everything else was built on top of that assumption. For 12,000 years, the climate was essentially stable, so we could look backward at actuarial data and forecast the future,” Glendon said.

What everyone needs a lot more of, he emphasized, are maps.

Scenarios

WORKING with experts at the Woodwell Center, Probable Futures built a global mapping tool that shows rising risks across several levels of temperature change. Two levels—warming of 0.5°C and 1°C above pre-industrial temperatures—already lie in the past. The Probable Futures scenarios step up in half-degree increments to 3°C, a catastrophic amount that’s also a common estimate for the expected warming by 2100 if emissions don’t cease.



Scalable maps for precipitation and drought are in the works. The interactive maps were published with a thorough introduction to climate science and Earth system modeling, to explain how the tools work.

Their approach allows users, who might range from financiers to educators, to better understand what happens when natural systems undergo strain. For instance, the maps show that if temperatures rise 2.5°C, much of California's Sierra Nevada mountain region may go from having no days above 32°C (90°F) to as long as a month.

Higher temperatures respect no boundaries, but policies to protect people do. That creates the potential for vast disparities in the ways that neighbors cope with the same heat. Adjacent countries that experience similar changes but live under different governments may face different levels of risk. The annual number of nights in Israel no cooler than 20°C will also engulf Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

Higher elevations safeguard Lebanon for a while. The Middle East, northern Africa, and southern and Western Asia will experience warming much more dangerous than cooler and richer Europe.

Millions of people are just beginning to grasp climate change, said Alison Smart, the group's executive director. "We envision Probable Futures as being kind of the first stop, to set that foundation, and help them understand the scope, the scale, the urgency, and, really, the terms that the Earth sets for how we can live."

Beneficiaries

BUSINESSES and investors increasingly require such data. A California climate risk advisory group issued a report Monday that recommends the state ensure everyone has access to climate data and technical help using it. The Probable Futures tool might help, said co-author Alicia Seiger, managing director of Stanford University's Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance.

As governments and companies build infrastructure for hotter times, everyone must know what conditions may be like, and mapping tools may increasingly be seen as necessary public infrastructure. Probable Futures expects to make parts of its tool publicly accessible so that people and organizations can customize maps.

"The need for technical assistance is huge," Seiger said. "This level of information can be plenty for the kind of decision-making that's required."

Image courtesy of Jonne Roriz/Bloomberg



Leaders to UN: A warmer world is a more violent one, too

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

UNITED NATIONS—Using apocalyptic images, three presidents and seven foreign ministers warned on Thursday that a warmer world is also a more violent one.

At a ministerial meeting of the Security Council, the officials urged the UN's most powerful body to do more to address the security implications of climate change and make global warming a key part of all UN peacekeeping operations.

The leaders and ministers pushing for more UN action said warming is making the world less safe, pointing to Africa's conflict-plagued Sahel region and Syria and Iraq as examples.

Micheal Martin, Ireland's president, who chaired the meeting, said climate change "is already contributing to conflict in many parts of the world."

Vietnam President Nguyen Xuan Phuc said climate change "is a war without gunfire so to speak that causes economic damage and losses in lives no less dire than actual wars."

"The effects of climate change are particularly profound when they overlap with fragility and past or current conflicts," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

He added: "And when natural resources like water become scarce because of climate change, grievances and tensions can explode, complicating efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace."

"Our lives and daily realities are at the nexus of climate change insecurity," said Ilwad Elman, a Somali-Canadian peace activist. "The impact of climate change and environmental degradation are also changing what it takes to build peace ... because we are experiencing climate-related shocks and stresses."

The Security Council first discussed the impact of climate on peace and security in 2007 and has held a number of meetings about it since, most recently in February.

But it remains off the council's agenda because of divisions among members. That means there can be no legally binding resolutions or official requests for action.

Ireland's Martin said he recognized the different views but if the council is to meet its responsibility to maintain international peace and security, "it must have the information and tools to analyze and address climate-related security risks."

For years, academics who study conflict and climate change have been highlighting how events like a once-in-a-millennium Syrian drought have exacerbated conflicts without being the sole causes. It's a more nuanced approach to understanding conflict—and to developing tools that reduce its impact on societies.

"Look at almost every place where you see threats to international peace and security today, and you'll find that climate change is making things less peaceful, less secure, and rendering our response even more challenging," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

He cited a list of nations including Syria, Mali, Yemen, South Sudan and Ethiopia.

"We have to stop debating whether the climate crisis belongs in the Security Council," Blinken said, "and instead ask how the council can leverage its unique powers to tackle the negative impacts of climate on peace and security."



Russian and Chinese diplomats reiterated their countries' objections to putting climate change on the agenda of the council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security, when other UN and international forums are addressing the entire climate issue.

"There is a Russian saying that ... too many cooks spoil the broth," said Russia's Deputy UN ambassador Dmitry Polyansky. He accused council members of introducing "a completely unnecessary political component to an already complicated and sensitive discussion."

Chinese UN Ambassador Zhang Jun said the council must "refrain from using a wholesale approach," saying that not all war-torn countries "were plunged into chaos because of climate change."

Both Russia and China, which is the world's top emitter of climate-damaging pollution, stressed their countries' commitment to cut emissions.

So did Blinken for the United States, the second largest carbon polluter, and India, the third-largest, which also said climate change doesn't belong on the council agenda.

Reenat Sandhu, a deputy Indian foreign secretary, said singling out one cause of conflict is "counterproductive."

"Climate change may enhance conflict, but cannot be determined as a reason for it," she said. "Oversimplification of causes of conflict will not help in resolving them nor can it justify extreme policy measures. We need to bring back our focus to where it should be—combating climate change."

Still, most of the leaders who spoke on Thursday morning painted a gloomy picture for the planet as a whole. They said climate change needs to be fought in the same way the world is battling the coronavirus because, for the planet, it is a matter of life and death.

Decisions at the November UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland "will decide whether this decade will be remembered as the decade when we started to save the planet or the beginning of the end," said Estonia President Kersti Kaljulaid.

At the General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders on Thursday, Angola President Joao Lourenco said Earth "has been giving us increasingly clear signals that she is not happy with how we treat her, and is defending herself in the most violent manner possible."

The previous evening, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who will host the climate negotiations in Scotland, gave a speech that started with a lesson on extinction among mammals—and then reminded the world that humans, too, are mammals.

"Our grandchildren will know that we are the culprits. And they'll know that we knew—that we were warned," Johnson said. "And they will ask themselves what kind of people we were to be so selfish and so shortsighted."



Climate change: Whisper it cautiously... there's been progress in run up to COP26

Published 21 hours ago



REUTERS

image caption Steam rises from a coal fired power plant in South Africa - an announcement from China may mean fewer such plants are built

With just five weeks left until world leaders gather in Glasgow for a critical climate summit, the BBC's Matt McGrath and Roger Harrabin consider progress made at this week's UN gathering and the outstanding issues that remain.

Climate change was the dominant theme at this year's UN General Assembly (UNGA) as countries recognised the seriousness of the global situation.

All across the planet, the hallmarks of rising temperatures are being keenly felt with **intense wildfires**, storms and **floods** taking place on scales rarely seen.

Against this backdrop, Boris Johnson **told the UN** it was "time to grow up" on the climate issue. The prime minister fought to bring **November's UN climate summit** to Britain, and it's clear he sees himself and the UK as global leaders in tackling this planetary threat.

His bizarre if powerful speech at the UN harnessed the Greek tragedian Sophocles and TV's Kermit the Frog to accuse some other leaders of behaving like adolescents waiting for someone else to tidy up their mess.



REUTERS

image caption Britain's prime minister addressing the UN this week

Did it encourage or annoy them? That's not yet clear.

But how's Mr Johnson faring with his own policies?

Well, even the most grudging environmentalist would give him high marks for target-setting. The UK pledges to cut 78% of its emissions by 2035 - that's from a 1990 baseline.



That doesn't include emissions created abroad in the process of manufacturing the goods bought in the UK - but leave that to one side for the moment, because Britain is not on course for that 78% target anyway.

A report showed its current plans are projected to deliver less than a quarter of the cuts needed to meet the goal. The government didn't deny that.

It warned little progress has been made recently in areas such as agriculture, power, and waste (a major source of emissions).



image caption Students and young people take to the streets to protest against climate change

The government has promised to put effective policies in place before the November conference, known as COP26, is held in Glasgow. But it's had policy rows over gas boilers, farm subsidies, aviation - and especially over how the zero-carbon revolution will be funded.

What's more, several of Mr Johnson's current policies will send emissions up, not down.

He's not opposing a coal mine in Cumbria or oil drilling off Shetland; he's cutting taxes on flying; and he's building new roads and the HS2 railway despite the massive amount of CO2 created to make the infrastructure.

Environmentalists warn these will prove embarrassing during the Glasgow summit.

What did major emitters China and the US say?

Both the US and China used the UN platform to take important steps forward.

President Biden underlined his commitment to a multilateral approach to climate change by announcing a significant increase in the US financial contribution to climate aid.

The US will in future pay \$11.4bn per annum in climate finance, doubling the amount they previously committed to at a leader's summit in April.

"It's welcome but not sufficient," said Jennifer Tollman, who's with E3G, a climate change think tank.



For the second year in a row, China's President Xi used the UN meeting to make a major climate announcement



"This still needs to get through Congress. And even if that happens, the doubling wouldn't actually be happening until 2024."

The other big climate story was China's statement that it would not build any more coal plants overseas.

It's the second year in a row that China's President Xi Jinping has used the forum to announce significant climate policy.

While critics have pointed out that China was already in the process of slowing down these projects, there has been a general welcome for the step.

"China's overseas moratorium is a big deal," said Li Shuo from Greenpeace.

"Beijing has been the last man standing in supporting coal projects across the developing world. Its ban on these projects will significantly shape the global energy landscape in the years to come."

There are still no details on what the new commitment will mean, or when it comes into force and what exactly it . But **analysis suggests** that it would result in the cancellation of 11 coal projects across eight countries in Africa alone.

While applauding the move, many experts said they wanted more clarity from China on reducing its domestic reliance on coal.

China's dependence on coal is such that the **country has increased its share of global coal-fired power generation to 53% in 2020.**

"The main event is for China to pledge a major cut in its emissions now, in this decade, as US, EU and others have," tweeted former US climate envoy Todd Stern.

"China counts for 27% of global CO2 emissions. No chance to keep 1.5C alive unless China steps up for real," he wrote, referring to the key temperature threshold that scientists believe is the threshold of highly dangerous warming.

Where else was there progress?



Whisper it cautiously, but there were a few announcements at UNGA that suggest progress is being made.

According to analysis carried out by E3G, some of the highlights included:

- The US, EU and others pledging to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030
- Denmark and Costa Rica launching a Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance to phase out fossil fuels.
- Turkey committing to ratify the Paris Agreement and is said to be working on a carbon cutting plan.



- Brazil indicating it would not block negotiations in Glasgow on carbon markets, one of the stickiest of the outstanding issues from the Paris agreement.
- India is said to be moving towards submitting a new NDC before Glasgow.

What main challenges lie ahead?

Despite the cautious sense of progress at the UN meeting, some major questions remain. Many countries including China and India haven't yet submitted new carbon cutting plans, as they are expected to do before the summit.

Just as important, the developed world is still scrambling to come up with the \$100bn per annum that's meant to flow to the developing world from 2020.

With just five weeks left until Glasgow, diplomats are working hard to try and secure a figure that has become a symbol of trust between rich and poor nations.

To get to the key number may require some creative accounting.

"One of the things that is floating around but is by no means certain to land, is this idea of \$500bn over five years," Jennifer Tollman told BBC News.



Climate change is a key issue in the German federal election

"It's something I've heard come up more and more frequently, it's not going to be \$100bn in 2021, but maybe that needs to be \$120bn by 2022."

Coal is one of the other major questions.

It will be part of the discussions next week in Milan at what is termed the Pre-COP meeting. But critically it will also be on the agenda when the heads of the **G20 group of countries** gather in Rome, just days before Glasgow.

The G20 nations represents 80% of global emissions - if they can agree a strong statement that signals that coal has no future, this will be a major boost for COP26.

"The next 5 weeks are key," said Laurence Tubiana, from the European Climate Foundation and a key architect of the Paris agreement.

"In particular we need G20 countries to deliver when they meet in Rome, and for those countries yet to submit stronger plans to do so - now!"



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Upang mapreserba ang kagandahan ng kalikasan at mapanatiling maayos ang kabundukan, nagsagawa ng tree planting ang mga miyembro ng Sindangan Municipal Police Station sa lalawigan ng Zamboanga del Norte sa pakikipagtulungan ng Municipal Environment And Natural

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Pinangunahan ni Major Melfred Fabian ang isinagawang clean up drive sa border area ng Barangay Limpapa, Zamboanga City at bayan ng Sibuco probinsya ng Zamboanga del Norte.

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26 SEPTEMBER 2021, SUNDAY



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NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



27K new recoveries from Covid-19 hike count to 2.2M

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [September 25, 2021, 8:10 pm](#)



MANILA – An additional 27,120 have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), raising the total to 2,267,678, the Department of Health (DOH) reported Saturday.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH also added 16,907 to the active cases, jacking up the number of those undergoing treatment to 165,092.

The death toll remained at 37,405 as no new fatalities have been reported for two days straight since September 23.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire earlier said the "zero death" in its bulletin was due to a storage issue in its COVID-KAYA system.

"The Department of Information and Communications Technology is currently addressing issues encountered by the system. When the issue is resolved, the succeeding increase in deaths in the following reports will be due to the previous days' backlogs," the DOH said.

Since the start of the pandemic last year, the DOH has recorded a total of 2,470,175 Covid-19 cases, of which 6.7 percent are undergoing treatment, 91.8 percent are recoveries, and 1.51 percent are fatalities.

Around 81.3 percent of the active cases have mild symptoms, 13.3 percent are asymptomatic, 0.7 percent are critical, 1.6 percent are severe, and 3.12 are moderate.

The DOH said 23.6 percent turned out positive for SARS-CoV-2 from the 74,606 individuals who were tested on Thursday.

All laboratories that day were operational but four failed to submit data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

The four laboratories make up at least 0.7 percent of all the samples tested and 0.8 percent of the positive individuals in the last 14 days.

Vergeire, in a Laging Handa briefing on Saturday, said the DOH is trying to analyze if the use of antigen tests is affecting the output of laboratories.

She added that DOH will gradually include antigen test results in its daily case bulletin upon thorough validation.



Department of Health case bulletin as of Sept. 25, 2021, 5 p.m.

"[S]imula po next week, unti-unti na po nating ipapasok iyan at magkakaroon naman tayo ng qualifier kung ilan ang RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction), ilan naman po ang antigen test doon po sa kasong ire-report natin sa ating public (Starting next week, we will gradually include that and we will have a qualifier to distinguish the number of RT-PCR test result from antigen)," she said.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 hospital bed occupancy rate nationwide remains high, with 76 percent of 4,400 intensive care unit (ICU) beds occupied as well as 64 percent of 21,100 isolation beds, and 70 percent of 16,000 ward beds.

In the National Capital Region, in use are 76 percent of the 1,600 ICU beds, 54 percent of the 4,700 isolation beds, and 68 percent of the 4,500 ward beds. **(PNA)**



Philippines reports 16,907 new COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - September 25, 2021 - 6:28pm



Commuters prepare to board an EDSA carousel bus at the Monumento station in Quezon City on Sept. 23, 2021.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Saturday reported 16,907 more coronavirus cases, bringing the country's overall count to over 2.47 million.

The total COVID-19 infections in the Philippines stood at 2,470,235, the Department of Health said.

No deaths were recorded on for the second straight day due to "technical issues in COVIDKaya," the DOH said. COVIDKaya is a digital platform which stores data from all confirmed COVID-19 cases and their close contacts.

"The Department of Information and Communications Technology is currently addressing issues encountered by the system. When the issue is resolved, the succeeding increase in deaths in the following reports will be due to the previous days' backlog," it said.

- **Active cases:** 165,110 or 6.7% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 27,120, bringing the number to 2,267,720
- **Deaths:** 0, still at 37,405

The positivity rate was at 23.6%, based on the test results of 74,606 people who got screened on Thursday.

Antigen tests and face shields

- DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said validated positive results from **antigen tests** will be slowly included in the country's daily COVID-19 case count.
- Vergeire also advised the public to "cautiously interpret our current data" given issues with **laboratory** outputs.
- The **face shields** delivered to healthcare workers are in good condition, the DOH said, following the admission of an official from Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corp. that the firm tampered with the expiration of the protective gear being sold to the government.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/25/2129653/philippines-reports-16907-new-covid-19-cases/amp/>



Metro Manila seen easing to Alert Level 3

By [Ralph Edwin Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - September 26, 2021 - 12:00am



Buildings are reflected beside boats docked in the waters of Manila Bay yesterday. Parks are slowly opening up with health restrictions as the government eases quarantine measures in the hope of helping the economy rebound from months of COVID lockdowns.

MANILA, Philippines — Amid reports of a declining COVID-19 reproduction rate, Metro Manila may be placed under a less-stringent alert level from the current Alert Level 4 set to lapse by the end of the month, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos said yesterday.

In an interview over dzMM, Abalos noted the lower reproduction rate for COVID-19 recorded by the OCTA Research Group.

“There is a downward trend of the growth rate in the region. The one-week growth rate even saw negative numbers. The indications are good,” Abalos said in Filipino.

“Hopefully, by the end of the week, Metro Manila could be placed under Alert Level 3,” he added.

The Department of Health earlier said Metro Manila is down to “moderate” risk classification.

Abalos also said 69 percent of Metro Manila residents have received jabs against COVID-19.

“Whatever variant may come, we already have a template. What is important is we keep our discipline. I hope this could be finished and we downgrade to alert level 3, and 30 percent capacity would be allowed,” he said.

The MMDA official also said the recommendations of health experts on President Duterte’s order no longer requiring face shields outside would be released soon.

The President earlier in the week said the use of face shields would no longer be required outdoors.

But they would still be required in crowded and close-contact areas.

“I am also asking about this so our mayors and communities could be guided on how to go about this. In the meantime, we would be lenient on this,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said it is likely that the pilot implementation of the new Alert Level System in the National Capital Region would be extended until October.



“Most probably, our countrymen can expect this alert level system in NCR to continue until October,” DILG Undersecretary Epimaco Densing said in an interview over dzBB.

He noted that government officials are seeing the two-fold benefits of the new alert level system – controlling the number of COVID-19 cases while also reopening the economy.

Densing said they saw that the public is also strictly following health protocols under the Alert Level System, even if it allows for more activities.

The DILG said governors have expressed approval to also implement the Alert Level System in other provinces and highly urbanized cities in the country. “We may have to tweak some provisions, based on our talks with some local officials,” he added. – **Romina Cabrera**



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**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 560

SETYEMBRE 25, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.7%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
165,092

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.8%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,267,678

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
37,405

MGA BAGONG KASO **16,907**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **27,120**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **N/A**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,470,175**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 23

DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 25
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 23

23.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

74,606

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
94.6%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



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 (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)
76% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.1K TOTAL BEDS)
64% Utilized

WARD BEDS (16.0K TOTAL BEDS)
70% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
55% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.6K TOTAL BEDS)
76% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
54% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)
68% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
60% Utilized

Mild **81.3%**

13.3% Asymptomatic

0.7% Critical

1.6% Severe

3.12% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

No deaths were reported today due to technical issues in COVIDKaya. The Department of Information and Communications Technology is currently addressing issues encountered by the system. When the issue is resolved, the succeeding increase in deaths in the following reports will be due to the previous days' backlogs.

Ipagpatuloy natin ang pagtupad sa **Minimum Public Health Standards** para mapigilan ang paghakawa at tuluyang pagkalat ng COVID-19. Kasabay nito, maging alisto sa mga sintomas at agad na makipag-ugnyan sa ating **BHERTS** o **One COVID Referral Center** upang lubos na maprotektahan ang ating mga tahanan. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

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



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

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I-chat na si KIRA!

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


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


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



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manila bay rehabilitation project ongoing.

DATE : SEPTEMBER 24, 202

DAY : FRIDAY



DENR

IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service



'No funds allocated for dolomite project in 2022'

The government will no longer spend a single centavo next year for the Manila Bay dolomite beach project of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which received backlash from the public.

This was discovered during House deliberations last Wednesday on the proposed P22.295-billion budget of the DENR and its attached agencies for 2022.

House appropriations committee vice chairman and Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco Jr. sponsored the DENR's budget, which hurdled the plenary.

Deputy Speaker and Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza Jr. asked if the proposed DENR budget would include more funding for the Manila Bay rehabilitation project.

Haresco said P1.6 billion would be allocated to the rehabilitation, but the amount will no longer cover the dolomite beach project.

"There is no allocation for dolomite anymore," Haresco said.

He said the entire budget for the program would go to the rehabilitation of Manila Bay's surrounding rivers and water system.

Last year, the government earmarked P389 million for the bay's rehabilitation project. Of the amount, P28 million was allotted for the dolomite overlay.

The artificial beach is expected to be finished by the third quarter of 2022.

In the second phase of the Baywalk project, the existing stretch of white sand near the US embassy will be replenished to achieve the one-meter thickness of sand indicated in the initial plan.

The stretch of sand will expand toward the Padre Faura outfall, according to the DENR.

The project was criticized as a waste of public funds during the COVID-19 pandemic. But President Duterte has defended the project.

The DENR says that the beach nourishment project is a significant component of the bay's rehabilitation.

- Edu Punay



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PAG-IBIG FUND PINAPURIHAN NG EMPLOYERS GROUP DAHIL SA CONDONATION

NAKATANGGAP ng papuri ang Pag-IBIG Fund o Home Development Mutual Fund mula ECOP o ang Employers Confederation of the Philippines, PCCI o ang Philippine Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated, at PHILEXPORT o Philippine Exporters Confederation, Incorporated, matapos aprubahan nito ang kahilingan para sa penalty condonation.

Sakop nito ang huling dalawang taon ng 2020 at 2021 kung saan maraming negosyo ang nahirapan sanhi ng epekto ng COVID-19 sa ekonomiya.

Ayon kay Pag-IBIG Fund chief executive officer Acmad Rizaldy Moti, matapos nilang

maaprubahan ang kahilingan ng tatlong employers group ay kanila itong pag-uusapan sa Pag-IBIG board na pinamumunuan ni Human Settlements and Urban Development secretary Eduardo del Rosario.

Dagdag pa ni CEO Moti, kinunsidera rin ng Pag-IBIG Fund management ang pagbibigay ng mas mahabang panahon ng pagbabayad sakaling hindi kayanin ng mga ito na makapag-remit sa loob ng anim na buwan. Tulong ito ng ahensya para tuluyang makabangon ang mga negosyo sa bansa.

Bagamat aabot sa halagang P868 million ang mawawala mula sa penalties, makatutulong naman ito para magpatuloy na bukas ang

mga negosyo.

Nitong 2020, umabot sa 35,049 na mga negosyo ang nagsara na ikinawala ng hanapbuhay ng 710,417 manggagawa.

APO ISLAND, KAUNA-UNAHANG "ZERO WASTE ISLAND BARANGAY" SA PILIPINAS

KINILALA ng GAIA o Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives ang Apo island sa Dauin, Negros Oriental bilang "first island barangay" sa Pilipinas na nagpatupad ng "zero-waste practices."

Kabilang sa mga ipinatupad sa buong isla ay ang pagsasagawa ng information campaign para maipaalam sa mga residente ang tamang paghihiwa-hiwalay ng basura ayon sa nabubulok o hindi



REMAITE OPINION

ANGINYONG LINGKOD

NI DR. HILDA C. ONG

nabubulok at pang-resiklo.

Ginagawa din ang "door-to-door segregated waste collection system", pagsasagawa ng composting method at pagkakaroon ng decentralized MRF o Materials Recovery Facility.

Sa kasalukuyan ang Apo island ay mayroong pitong waste workers, apat sa MRF, at mayroong ordinansa para sa regulasyon ng single-use plastics sa buong isla.

Ang GAIA ay isang world-

wide alliance na binubuo ng higit kumulang walong daang grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations at mga environmentalists sa 90 bansa.

Kilala ang Apo island bilang isang tourist destination, may magandang beach at dive spot at may protected marine sanctuary.

Ilan pa sa mga lugar na mayroong "zero waste policies" ang Samar, Leyte at ang Ilocos Norte.



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Apo Island unang zero waste barangay sa PH

UMANI ng mga papuri at pagkilala ang Isla ng Apo sa Negros Oriental dahil sa kamangha-manghang mga inisyatibo roon dahilang upang itanghal itong kauna-unahang 'zero waste island barangay' sa Pilipinas.

Ang island community na matatag-

puan sa bayan ng Dauin ay kinilala ng Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) sa pagpapatupad ng mga sistema ng pamamahala sa basura na sinimulan ng grupong War On Waste (WOW) Negros Oriental noong nakaraang taon.

Nabatid na ang GAIA ay may alyansa sa buong mundo ng mahigit sa 800 mga grassroots group, mga non-governmental organization, at mga indibidwal sa 90 mga bansa.

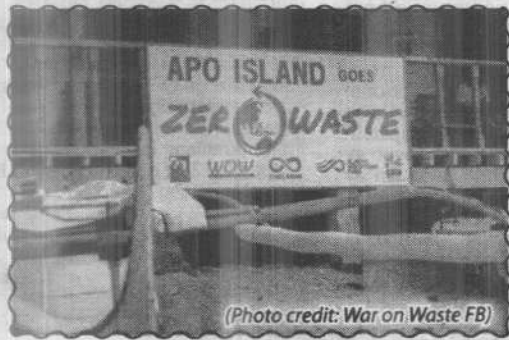
"We want to recognize Apo Island for their amazing work on their Zero Waste journey. We want to acknowledge their hard work and to encourage them to sustain it and do more," batay sa pahayag ni GAIA Asia Pacific Regional Coordinator Froilan Grate nitong Setyembre 18.

Ilan sa mga zero waste na hakbang ng barangay ay pagsasagawa ng information campaign upang turuan ang mga sambahayan ukol sa tamang paghihiwalay ng basura, paggamit ng composting, door-to-door na pagkolekta ng mga hiniwalay na basura, at pagtatayo ng desentralisadong Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Sinasanay din ang mga nasa komunidad ukol sa 'waste assessment' at 'brand audit' upang ipakilala makatulong sa pagdisenyo ng waste management system na akma para sa isla.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang Apo Island ay may pitong waste worker, apat na MRE, at ordinansang kumokontrol sa single-use plastics doon.

Kilala ang Apo Island bilang hotspot ng mga turista at tahanan ng malinis na puting mga beach, dive spot, at protektadong santuwaryo ng dagat. **(Dolly Cabreza)**



(Photo credit: War on Waste FB)



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REHABILITATION OF RESORT ISLAND

NBI NABS 4 OVER OCCUPATION OF BORACAY FORESTLANDS

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
@nestorburgosINQ

ILOILO CITY—Operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday arrested four residents and property owners on Boracay Island, including a German, for allegedly occupying forestland areas.

The NBI team arrested them in separate locations in Barangay Balabag for violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 (Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines). They were taken to the Aklan Rehabilitation Center in the capital town of Kalibo, according to special investigator Rizaldy Rivera of the NBI's Environment Crime Division.

Rivera, who led the team, said criminal complaints were filed against them on Wednesday in the Aklan provincial prosecutor's office with recommended bail of P36,000 each.

He said those arrested had failed to comply with show cause orders and notices to vacate which were sent to them earlier. They also failed to present any document or proof, including titles and tenurial instruments from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, authorizing their occupation of the forestland areas.

The property owners on Thursday had yet to issue a statement regarding their arrest. "We need to implement the

law because this is part of the rehabilitation of the island," Rivera told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

The NBI operation is part of efforts to clear forestlands in Boracay, which has been undergoing rehabilitation since April 2018.

But residents and property owners have questioned the classification of areas as forestland, citing commercial development and residential structures in these areas.

They also pointed out that they were issued building permits and paid local government fees and taxes for decades.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1064, issued on May 22,

2006, by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, categorized 628.96 hectares, or 60.94 percent of the island, as alienable and disposable, and the rest as forestland and protected areas.

Most of the areas categorized as public land are occupied and built up with residential and commercial structures.

The Supreme Court on Oct. 8, 2008, upheld Proclamation 1064 declaring the entire island a property of the state, except those with titles.

NBI operatives last year also arrested 10 property owners and residents for the same offense. The government has filed at least 163 cases against illegal occupants of forestlands. INQ



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Regional Updates

Fishers to raise DENR dismantling order in global food system summit

FISHERFOLK and civil society organizations seek to raise the dismantling order of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at the Global People's Summit on Food Systems.

Ronnel Arambulo, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) spokesman, said the government is destroying the livelihood of the poor sectors with its plan to dismantle fisheries structures situated along the Cavite shore of Manila Bay.

The Global People's Summit on Food Systems is an initiative to counter the United Nations Food Systems Summit in New York City held on Sept. 23.

"The DENR order to dismantle fisheries structures in Cavite should be the kind of policy the United Nations should stop. The fisherfolk and urban poor families are suffering because of the lockdown, and declining household incomes, but the Duterte government is hell-bent in destroying sources of food and livelihood," Mr. Arambulo said in a statement on Thursday.

According to PAMALAKAYA, international groups also showed their support to stop the dismantling of the fisheries structures such as Andhra Pradesh Vyavsaya Vruthidarula Union (APVVU), Southeast Asia Sub-Region of the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanisms (CSM) for Relations with the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and International Women's Alliance.

The group also disclosed that lawmakers under the Makabayan bloc are set to file a house resolution to check the justification of the DENR's dismantling order.

Anakpawis Party-list National President Ariel B. Casilao said the DENR order is a clearing operation for reclamation projects, and urged fisherfolk communities in Manila Bay to unite since it will displace their sources of livelihood.

"Instead of genuinely cleaning up the waters of Manila Bay, the DENR is busy coordinating with the local government unit to displace more fisherfolk and urban poor families relying on fisheries as livelihood," Mr. Casilao said.

The dismantling of fishing structures in Cavite will take place on Sept. 25.

DENR previously said that the dismantling will be conducted as part of the rehabilitation efforts in Manila Bay and will not cover any mussel farms operating legally.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



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LIE-IN PROTEST. Fisherfolks joined by progressive groups from Pamalakaya, Anakpawis and the People's Coalition for Food Sovereignty stage a lie-in protest in front of the headquarters of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to denounce the agency's order to dismantle mussel farms and fisheries structures in Manila Bay. **Manny Palmero**



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3 katao, timbog sa illegal logging

SANTIAGO CITY, Isabela – Tatlong katao ang nadakip matapos maaktuhan sa pagbiyahe ng mga iligal na mga kahoy sa Barangay Pag-asa, Echague sa lalawigan ito, ayon sa ulat kahapon.

Batay sa report ng Echague PNP sa Police Regional Office 2 (PRO2) nakilala ang mga nadakip na suspek na sina Pedferlyn Salvador, 47; Gilbert Domingo, 37; at Jomar Adzuara, 25, pawang mga residente ng Barangay

Villa Bello sa bayan ng Jones.

Ayon kay P/Lt. Col. Andree Abella, information chief ng PRO2, kasalukuyang nagpapatrulya ang mga kagawad ng Echague PNP nang maaktuhan ang isang 6x6 na sasakyan (BAF857) na puno ng mga nilagareng kahoy.

Agad na sinita ang mga suspek at napagalaman na walang kaulang dokumento ang mga kahoy matapos madiskubre na expired ang mga dalang

permit at dokumento.

Nakuha ng mga otoridad ang 157 piraso ng mga nalagareng kahoy na umaabot sa 1,751 board feet at tinatayang nasa P70,000.00 ang halaga.

Agad naman na dinala sa himpilan ng pulisya ang mga nakumpiskang mga kahoy kabilang na ang tatlong mga suspek na nahaharap ngayon sa kasong paglabag sa PD 705 o ang the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. (Victor Martin)



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Wildlife rangers on Wednesday pose with a sedated nine-meter-long python they caught near a village in Kampar, Indonesia and later released back into the neighboring jungle of Pelalawan. The python is estimated to weigh about 100 kilograms.

AFP



The Masungi Georeserve Foundation is shortlisted in Lush Spring Prize 2021

54 projects from around the world have been included in the shortlist for the £220,000 Lush Spring Prize for environmental and social regeneration



1996



2016

GREEN REVIVAL The Masungi Georeserve in 1996 and 2016

The Lush Spring Prize was set up to support “regenerative” projects, those that go beyond sustainability by taking holistic approaches to building the health of ecology, economy, and social systems. It seeks to support those who are actively involved in restoring all the systems they are part of. By supporting regenerative projects the Spring Prize hopes to raise the profile of the movement as a whole to inspire more individ-

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation is dedicated to the restoration of some 3,000 hectares of limestone formations and to supporting the threatened biodiversity in the mountains of Baras, Rizal, Philippines.

uals, groups, communities, funders, and businesses to start engaging with regenerative processes. The Lush Spring Prize, a joint venture between Lush Cosmetics and Ethical Consumer, is now in its fourth cycle, having started in 2017 and distributed more than £600,000 to date.

From 400 applications received for 2021, 54 were shortlisted, including the Philippines’ Masungi Georeserve Foundation. The prize saw a 61 percent increase in reach, with applications being submitted by inspiring projects spanning 81 countries and every continent, except Antarctica.

Projects were driven by a range of stakeholders, including grassroots campaigners, small scale agro-ecological producers, regenerative businesses, indigenous groups, academics, global

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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The Masungi Georeserve... B-8◀

solidarity networks, and think tanks. Their work addresses multiple issues needed to support life, including ecosystem restoration, regenerative food production, building community, creating resilient housing and circular economies, while also supporting displaced people, protecting indigenous rights and access to land.

The Lush Spring is seeking winners in the four regular categories—Influence, Established, Young, and Intentional.

Shortlisted under Young Projects, which is looking to give away three awards of up to £20,000 among young community groups, organizations, businesses, or networks one to five years old is the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The foundation is dedicated to the restoration of some 3,000 hectares of limestone formations and to supporting the threatened biodiversity in the mountains of Baras, Rizal, Phil-



MOTHER NATURE Billie Dumaliang of Masungi Georeserve

ippines. Its Masungi Geopark Project is one of the largest collaborative reforestation efforts in the country, in an area which is heavily threatened by large-scale mining, land speculation, and timber-poaching, including illegal activities.

The team faces multiple threats, such as harassment from quarrying entities. Despite this, the project has increased measures to protect the area from activities like quarrying and land grabbing. Their efforts include

community development. Park rangers, for instance, are locals of the community, including some of those previously involved in illegal activities within the watershed. The project engages continuously with the Indigenous Community within the area to develop non-timber forest products to help boost their livelihood.

Should Masungi Georeserve Foundation win, the prize will go a long way in helping them expand their reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and community building efforts.

A skill sharing event and celebration will be held online between Oct. 23 and 31 in the runup to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, with small regional events running alongside. It seeks to create spaces of peer learning, where groups can share effective practice with one another, and network in a safe and supportive space. The winner of 2021's Spring Prize will be announced during this time, having been decided by a panel of 12 judges.



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Confronting climate change

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly earlier this week, President Duterte

expressed the sentiment of many nations that are struggling to procure COVID vaccines even for first doses while "selfish" wealthy states prepare to administer third-dose boosters to their people.

The President also made a valid point in calling for greater action from wealthy states to combat climate change. In this issue, however, it would be even better if the President looks in his own backyard first.

Scientists have said the Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Coastal communities, many of which are dependent on fishing, are threatened by rising ocean temperatures and sea levels. In recent years, the country has been battered by unusually powerful tropical cyclones and deadly storm surges.

These problems have been compounded by the fact that the country has lost much of its forest cover due to illegal logging as well as destructive and unsustainable agro-forestry activities. Denuded mountains have led to torrential flooding and deadly landslides in the past years.

The country's extensive coral reefs that are used as spawning grounds of fish and other marine life have been rapidly depleted by pollution, destructive fishing methods and illegal harvesting

EDITORIAL

particularly in the West Philippine Sea, where mostly Chinese poachers operate.

In urban centers, weak enforcement of laws against pollution has resulted in continued poor air quality and serious flooding due to clogged and heavily silted rivers and waterways.

The Duterte administration has been successful in its cleanup of Boracay Island and several other popular coastal tourist destinations. Environment officials have also claimed progress in the challenging cleanup of Manila Bay and its tributaries starting with the Pasig River.

President Duterte has defended the controversial creation of a synthetic white beach using crushed dolomite in Manila parallel to Roxas Boulevard. More worrisome than the dolomite beach, however, is his administration's approval of massive commercial reclamation projects the size of cities in Manila Bay, which could aggravate the flooding problem in the affected areas and obviously would be bad for the marine ecosystem.

The reclamation projects would negate the benefits derived from the creation of the only internationally protected wetland in the National Capital Region, the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area. The wetland is a solid example of commitment to global efforts to confront climate change. The President who calls out the UN on climate change should protect this commitment.



BP WATERWORKS, INC.,
Applicant.

Case No. 21-3122

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Applicant, an authorized operator of the waterworks system within S & V Liloan Subdivision, Barangay Liloan, Cebu City, applies for the renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and authority to increase water rates as follows:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Public Tap

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 273.00	60.00	65.50	76.40	87.30	92.80

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	₱ 283.00	63.60	70.40	72.10	77.00	81.90

Commercial and Industrial

Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min.)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3
1/2"	₱ 1,638.00	125.60	136.50	163.80	163.80

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **October 11, 2021**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least **fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing**, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cebu and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 3rd day of September 2021.

By Authority of the Board:


Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Cebu City

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay Liloan
Cebu City

The Homeowners Assn. President
S & V Liloan Subdivision
Barangay Liloan
Cebu City

The General Manager
Metro Cebu Water District
Magallanes - Lapu-Lapu Sts.
Cebu City 6000