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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Pangasinan Forest is Critical Habitat for Wildlife Species at Risk of Extinction

BY [VILLAGE CONNECT](#) ON FEBRUARY 26, 2021 [NEWS](#)



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has designated a 4,422.8-hectare forest in Mangatarem town in the province of Pangasinan as part of its national efforts to conserve threatened and endemic wild animals and plants in the country.

Under the DENR Administrative Order recently signed by Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, the forest area will be called as the Mangatarem Critical Habitat. It is located in barangays Cacaoiten, Cabaluyan II, Calomboyan Sur, Lawak Langka, Catarataran, Pacalat and Malabobo.

“In doing this, we at the DENR can save habitats which are critical for the survival of threatened species or species at risk of extinction, including other associated wildlife, and at the same time provide this land area a legal framework to protect it from destructive uses,” Cimatu said.





Pangasinan Forest is Critical Habitat for Wildlife Species at Risk of Extinction

Mangatarem Critical Habitat is a 4,422.80-hectare forest that serves as home to several threatened and endemic fauna species including Philippine deer (*Rusa marianna*), Philippine warty pig (*Sus philippensis*), Philippine duck (*Anas luzonica*), Flame-breasted fruit dove (*Ptilinopus marchei*), Philippine eagle owl (*Bubo philippensis*), Luzon scops owl (*Otus longicornis*), and Rufous hornbill (*Buceros hydrocorax*).

Flora species also include the threatened oi-oi (*Diospyros philippinensis*), kalíngag (*Cinnamomum mercadoi*), malabayábas (*Tristaniopsis decorticata*) and several more endemic species found in the forest.

Cimatu explained that the DAO will help the DENR work hand-in-hand with the local government, communities and other stakeholders involved in accomplishing the locally-driven ecosystems management approach.



“We need to sustainably manage this certain area, as this is one of the most important and few remaining forest blocks in Pangasinan. Through this, we can both protect the endemic and threatened flora and fauna living in it, while sustaining the ecosystem services and community livelihood dependent on the forest,” Cimatu pointed out.

Under the DAO, the management of the Mangatarem Critical Habitat shall be under the DENR-Region I (Ilocos Region), together with the local government of Mangatarem and stakeholders.

Moreover, they will be responsible for the preparation of the Critical Habitat Management Plan to ensure that existing ecosystems in the critical habitat are preserved.



Pangasinan Forest is Critical Habitat for Wildlife Species at Risk of Extinction

Dumping of waste products detrimental to wildlife; squatting and/or occupying any portion of the critical habitat; mineral exploration and/or extraction; burning; logging; and quarrying, will be also strictly prohibited in accordance with Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

Mangatarem Critical Habitat is the ninth to be included in the list of declared critical habitats across the country.

The others are Rafflesia schadenbergiana Critical Habitat, Cabusao Wetland Critical Habitat, Malasi Tree Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Critical Habitat, Carmen Critical Habitat, Adams Wildlife Critical Habitat, Magsaysay Critical Habitat for Hawksbill Turtles, Cleopatra's Needle Critical Habitat, and Dumaran Critical Habitat.



Maitum declares Dakeol Forest, home to Philippine eagles, as critical habitat

By [BONG S. SARMIENTO](#)

-FEBRUARY 26, 2021 5:01 PM

MAITUM, Sarangani (MindaNews / 26 February) — The municipal government of Maitum, Sarangani has declared the Dakeol Forest, which spans 3,000 hectares of diverse flora and fauna, as a critical habitat to protect its rich biodiversity, officials said.



The municipal hall of Maitum, Sarangani on 24 February 2021. MindaNews photo by BONG S. SARMIENTO

Mayor Alexander Bryan Reganit said the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) has designated Dakeol Forest in Barangay Batian as a critical habitat in line with Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001.

“Dakeol Forest is home to our national bird, the mighty Philippine eagle, and other plant and animal species that need to be protected,” the official said.

Vice Mayor Tito Balazon, Sr., SB presiding officer, said the Dakeol Forest plays a vital role for the local environment, which prompted the local legislators to declare it as a critical habitat to ensure the safety of flora and fauna found in its environs.

According to Balazon, the Dakeol Forest serves as home to several species such as the red luan, wild orchids, ferns, insects, bats, monkeys and birds, including the endangered Philippine eagle.

Balazon said the municipal council officially declared Dakeol Forest as a critical habitat in December, a copy of which was obtained by MindaNews this week.

The municipal government already endorsed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) the declaration of Daekol Forest as a critical habitat.

Maitum declares Dakeol Forest, home to Philippine

The DENR needs to issue a Department Administrative Order (DAO) that will formally recognize Dakeol Forest as critical habitat.

As of this month, there are nine declared critical habitats across the country issued with a DENR-DAO, data from the agency showed.

In a statement, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the DAO will help the DENR work hand-in-hand with the local government, communities and other stakeholders involved in accomplishing the locally-driven ecosystems management approach.

Last November, DENR's Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) stationed in nearby Kiamba town reported the sighting of a juvenile Philippine eagle in Sitio Angko, Barangay Batian.

An assessment by the Davao City-based Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) showed that the juvenile raptor was 10 months to a year old and believed to be the offspring of Sarangani Pride, a Philippine eagle that was rescued in Barangay Batian and released back to the wild in 2017.

Conservationists monitor the movements of Sarangani Pride through a harnessed solar-powered Global Positioning System-Global System for Mobile Communications or GPS-GSM transmitter.

Last month, another Philippine eagle was rescued in Maitum's Barangay Ticulab after it was trapped in rattan vines after preying on a monkey.



Eaglet "Sarangani Pride" in Maitum, Sarangani. Photo courtesy of Edgardo Calderon of CENRO Kiamba for SARANGANI INFORMATION OFFICE

Edgar Calderon, team leader and park maintenance foreman of the CENRO-Kiamba, said that together with personnel from the PEF and the Maitum local government, they scoured Dakeol Forest last year to monitor the raptor's nesting sites in the area.



Maitum declares Dakeol Forest, home to Philippine

Weighing as much as eight kilograms, the Philippine eagle is considered the top predator of the country's tropical rainforest.

The eagle "plays an important role in keeping the ecosystem in balance and provides an umbrella of protection to all other life forms in its territory," Jayson Ibañez, PEF research and conservation director, explained earlier.

Only an estimated 400 pairs of Philippine eagles remain in the wild, landing the raptor on the "critically endangered" list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Dakeol Forest is also home to Philippine serpent eagles (*Spilornis holospilus*), whose population trend is classified as "decreasing." (*Bong S. Sarmiento / MindaNews*)

Source: <https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2021/02/maitum-declares-dakeol-forest-home-to-philippine-eagles-as-critical-habitat/>



Sanitary landfill operators to get DBP backing

Published February 26, 2021, 9:18 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has moved a step closer to achieving its aim of having enough sanitary landfills (SLFs) to address the country's garbage situation.



(Pexels / FILE PHOTO)

This, after Benny Antiporda, the undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units Concerns, invited on Friday, Feb.26 representatives from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to a key meeting with SLF operators.

Antiporda said DBP presented to the SLF operators their "Green Financing Program", which provides financing assistance to strategic sectors, industries and local government units (LGUs) in adopting environment-friendly processes and technologies.

"DBP showed willingness to extend financial assistance to SLF operators," the DENR said in a Facebook post, which featured pictures of the meeting.

Antiporda said earlier this month that it's the agency's dream to establish 300 SLFs—a key tool in its all-out battle against garbage—all over the country.

He reckoned that the path to achieving this is through a public-private partnership involving the DENR, LGUs, and SLFs.

"As the Alternate Chair of the National Solid Waste Management Commission, USec Antiporda wants to create an avenue where we see the DENR and the private sector collaborate towards the betterment of our environment and natural resources," the DENR said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/26/sanitary-landfill-operators-to-get-dbp-backing/>



Mining sector recorded 1.13% growth in 2020

By: [Karl R. Ocampo](#) - Reporter / [@kocampoINO](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:12 AM February 26, 2021

Despite disruptions in shipments and operations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the metallic mining industry was able to remain resilient and posted a 1.13-percent growth last year, the Mines and Geoscience Bureau (MGB) reported.

The value of the industry's metallic mineral production increased to P132.21 billion from P130.74 billion in 2019. The MGB said it was nickel that "steered the local mining industry to this upswing" as it continued to cater to China's growing demand for stainless steel.

Next to Indonesia, the Philippines was the second-biggest supplier of nickel ore to China while China was the country's top export market followed by Japan.

The nickel industry contributed 52 percent or P64.48 billion of the industry's total earnings in 2020, followed by gold with P47.6 billion. The shared value of silver, chromite and iron amounted to P1.26 billion, or less than 1 percent of the entire tally.

The MGB noted that metal prices in 2020 were higher than their pre-pandemic levels due largely to the depreciation in the US dollar and lower interest rates.

This offset the decline in the country's mineral production as quarantines and lockdowns hampered mining operations and disrupted the movement of people and supplies.

Moreover, care and maintenance programs as well as suspensions imposed by the government held back 11 mining projects from posting any production during the period.

The nonoperation of OceanaGold's gold-copper project in Didipio, Nueva Vizcaya province, in particular, hurt the country's gold, silver and copper output.

Notable developments in 2020 included the entry of Tribal Mining Corp.'s Kematu gold-silver project in South Cotabato in its commercial phase and Johson Gold Mining Corp.'s return to the production scene.

Boon or bane

This year, the MGB said there were seven factors that could spell the boon or bane of the mineral sector—metal prices, the strength of the peso against the dollar, the duration and intensity of the ongoing pandemic, fuel prices, mining companies' strategies in adapting to the new normal, and policy support from the government in terms of tax reforms, ease of doing business and foreign investments.

All told, the mineral sector was still able to rise above the challenges of the pandemic but would need government support to sustain its momentum.

"We are hoping that as the year progresses, new mining projects will enter the production stream and those mining operations that recorded zero production in 2020 will resume operations to inject the much-needed lift to the mining sector," the MGB said.



Mining sector recorded 1.13% growth in 2020

“Given the pressing developments in the global and local scenes, the outlook for 2021 for the mineral industry remains uncertain as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a threat to lives and livelihoods,” it added.

Read more: <https://business.inquirer.net/318501/mining-sector-recorded-1-13-growth-in-2020#ixzz6nbzR8peK>

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47 migratory birds resting, refueling in Las Pinas wetland park

Published February 26, 2021, 2:54 PM

by [Jean Fernando](#)

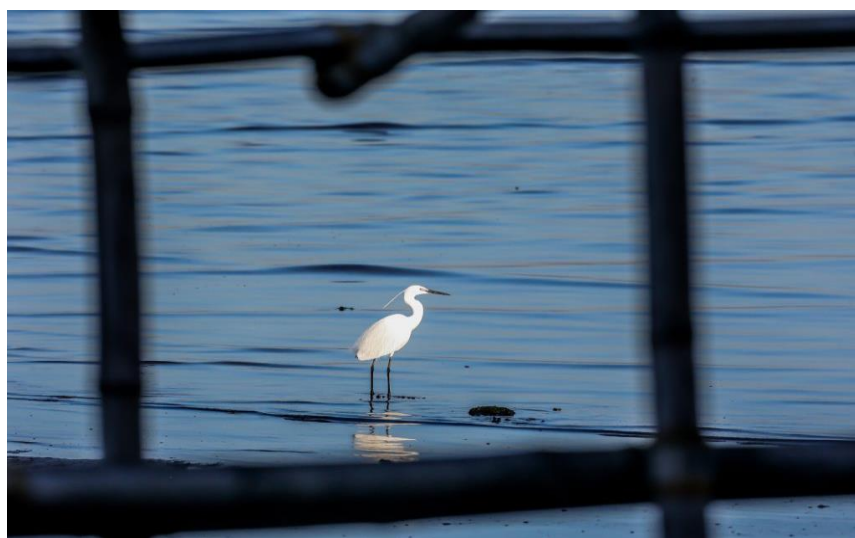
A total of 47 migratory birds from China, Japan, and Siberia have found a temporary home at a wetland park in Las Pinas City for resting and refueling.



Migratory birds are seen in the mudflats of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, Feb. 25, 2021. (Xinhua/ MANILA BULLETIN)

Las Pinas-Paranaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA) superintendent Rey Aguinaldo said the migratory birds normally rest at the LPPCHEA during the months of December, February, and March.

Aguinaldo said the migratory birds are seen resting at the wetland park after escaping the winter season in China, Japan, and Siberia.



A little egret rests at the mudflats of the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park in Las Pinas City, the Philippines, Feb. 25, 2021. (Xinhua/ MANILA BULLETIN)



47 migratory birds resting, refueling in Las Pinas wetland park

The nature reserve, situated south of Manila Bay, covers around 175 hectares of wetland ecosystem, with mangroves, ponds and lagoons, mudflats, salt marshes, and mixed beach forest.

Aguinaldo said the migratory birds usually migrate to LPPCHEA in December and rest up to March.

When summer comes in the Philippines, the migratory birds will then leave for home.

Aguinaldo said the wetland area gives the migratory birds the chance to commune and they are preserving it as part of ecotourism.

He added that there are 84 bird species that can be seen at the wetland, 47 of which are migratory birds, East-Asia Flyway Network; two threatened species of the Philippine duck and Chinese egret, and five species of the Philippine duck, hanging parakeet, bulbul (an African and Asian songbird), pygmy woodpecker, and pink bellied imperial pigeon.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/26/47-migratory-birds-resting-refueling-in-las-pinaz-wetland-park/>



HUNGRY BIRDS



By [The Manila Times](#)
February 26, 2021



Migratory birds look for food in the wetlands of the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area in Las Piñas City on Feb. 25, 2021. The wetlands consist of 175 hectares of mudflats and mangrove forests that serve as a habitat for various species of migratory birds and fishes. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/26/headline-photos/hungry-birds/845535/>



Migratory bird-watching safe despite H5N8's jump to human

By Catherine Teves February 26, 2021, 7:49 pm



(PNA file photo)

MANILA – Local government units (LGUs) with wetlands where migratory birds flock can continue promoting bird-watching even with the reported poultry-to-human transmission of the H5N8 avian influenza (AI) virus strain in Russia.

There is a slim chance for migratory birds to bring H5N8 to the Philippines, noted Biodiversity Management Bureau Wildlife Rescue Center (WRC) in charge, Dr. Glenn Maguad.

"Migratory birds infected with H5N8 will most likely already die and fall into the sea while in flight heading to our country," he said on Friday.

He said generally, only the very healthy migratory birds survive the long flight from their places of origin and make it to the country.

That means bird-watching is still a safe activity, he noted.

Maguad, however, warned that what we should watch out for is the possible entry of wildlife and poultry smuggled into the Philippines.

He said such contraband items do not undergo required checking and could be possible carriers of the H5N8 virus.

Candaba Swamp in Pampanga is among the destinations of migratory birds traveling along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), a route connecting northeast Asia to southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

EAAF is one of several globally recognized routes that migratory birds use annually.



Migratory bird-watching safe despite H5N8's jump to human

According to BirdLife International, a worldwide partnership of bird conservation organizations, over 50 million migratory waterbirds use the EAAF.

Maguad said LGUs promoting bird-watching must ensure that people always observe birds from a distance.

"The first rule in bird-watching is for people not to go near birds," he said.

Direct contact with infected birds is a means of transmitting AI viruses, noted WRC veterinarian Dr. Rona Sinaon.

She said such viruses have the chance to mutate and adapt if transmitted.

"There are many AI viruses since these mutate easily and have high adaptability," she added.
(PNA)



DAVAO

PAMB defers Mount Apo closure



DEFERRED. The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) deferred the closure of Mount Apo Natural Park to trekkers, saying that it can be rehabilitated without the closure. Earlier, Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco said they were looking at the possibility of closing the trails “due to the unappealing findings from the team’s recent conduct of trail and camp assessment.” (Photo by DENR-Davao)

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

February 25, 2021

THE Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) has deferred the closure of Mount Apo from trekkers.

In a press statement, PAMB adopted the deferment of the agenda for the closure of Mount Apo Natural Park (MANP) during its emergency en banc meeting on Tuesday, February 23.

During the meeting, 25 PAMB members, both in Davao Region and Soccsksargen, voted in favor of the motion to defer the proposed closure, while eight were against it.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Davao Region (DENR-Davao) Executive Director Bagani Fidel Evasco, who is also the PAMB chairman, previously said they are eyeing for the temporary closure of Mount Apo to trekkers “due to the unappealing findings from the team’s recent conduct of trail and camp assessment.”

Evasco, together with selected officials and personnel from Davao Oriental and Davao del Sur, recently conducted a trail and camp assessment from February 11 to 14, passing Sitio Paradise Digos trail to Camp Gudi-Gudi then to the summit.



PAMB defers Mount Apo closure

Following the activity, multiple observations were publicly released such as trekkers' non-observance of the IATF guidelines on health protocols, occurrence of littering and vandalism, traces of drug substances, and alarming soil cultivation within its Strict Protection Zone (SPZ).

The director then pushed for its immediate rehabilitation by having it temporarily closed.

"We aim for the improvement of condition and sustainability of Mount Apo. We must do what it takes to safeguard the country's highest peak -- to protect it as a key biodiversity area and one of our immense natural resources," Evasco said during the meeting.

DENR-Davao Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) chief Jayvee Agas told SunStar Davao in a phone interview on Thursday, February 25, that majority of those who favor the deferment of its closure deemed that the rehabilitation of MANP can be done even without closing it to trekkers.

"Ang stand naman po nila is that pwede namang i-pursue ang rehabilitation plan (Their stand is that the rehabilitation plan can still be pursued) even without closing Mount Apo. But they assured the DENR that they will still support our rehabilitation plan," Agas said.

The DENR official said Mount Apo trails were opened to the public sometime in November 2020 after months of being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Since kaka-open lang (the mountain was just recently opened to the public), well maybe that's one of their reasons din na gi-defer na (why they deferred it)," she said.

Despite the plan being deferred, she said DENR will still pursue its strategic plans to improve the condition of Mount Apo.

"One of our aims is to have a standardization of unified trekking and camping policies. Mag-set siguro og (Maybe to set) higher standards, or stricter policies which should be followed by the trekkers and mountaineers," Agas said.

The official also said they are already crafting its action plan to intensify information drive, accelerate the rehabilitation and improve the management of MANP trails and camping facilities.

She also said they are planning for the retooling of trekking mechanisms and policies, for setting up of standard facilities such as comfort rooms, as well as wayfinding signages, and for intensifying patrolling activities.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1887089/Davao/Local-News/PAMB-defers-Mount-Apo-closure>



Cenro-Siocon seize illegally cut lumber



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday, February 24, seized illegally cut lumbers in Tamao village, Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte. A photo handout shows DENR personnel inspecting the confiscated lumber. (SunStar Zamboanga)

February 26, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro)-Sicon, had seized illegally cut lumbers in the province of Zamboanga del Norte, a DENR official announced Friday, February 26, 2021.

DENR Regional Information Officer Rosevirico Tan said the illegal cut lumber was seized around 1 a.m. Wednesday in Tamao village, Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the apprehension was made following information received by Quick Response Team (QRT) Focal Person Allan Nalug that a stockpile of undocumented lumbers was seen abandoned near the highway of Tamao village.

Seized were some 185 flitches of Falcata lumbers with a total volume of 934.78 board feet, based on the report of Cenro-Siocon headed by Rey Jalandoni.

Tan said the confiscated illegally cut lumbers were deposited at Cenro-Siocon for proper disposition.

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1887158>



Ecija illegal logging task force foils “water-logging”

[Friday, February 26, 2021 Steve A. Gosuico](#)

GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija — A joint government anti-illegal logging task force intercepted several pieces of illegally-sawn lumber that were found abandoned along the Sumacbao river banks here on Wednesday.

Major Ronnie G. Caagbay, town police head, said the abandoned illegal wood shipment was discovered in Bgy. Pias at 11:30 a.m. It had an estimated total volume of 430 board feet valued at P17,200, he said.

The illegally-cut logs were believed being floated from the mountains through so-called “water-logging” by small-time timber poachers through the Sumacbao river, it was learned.

Provincial police office chief Col. Jaime O. Santos said the illegal logging activity was foiled by joint personnel of the local police and the CENRO-Cabanatuan office under Jimmy Aberin.

“This intensified effort among different agencies including the Philippine National Police shall thrive to sustain a cooperative outcome in combating illegal logging activities as a solution to deforestation and rainforest conservation,” said Santos.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/ecija-illegal-logging-task-force-foils-water-logging/>



House panel OKs designation of Sagrada Familia caves as ecotourism zone



Feb 26, 2021 @ 12:01

By Billy Begas

The House Committee on Tourism has submitted its report to the plenary on the approval of the measure declaring the Sagrada Familia caves in Zambales as an ecotourism zone

Zambales Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla, author of House Bill 8774 said Sagrada Familia Caves in Sta. Cruz town is a series of caves which are popular for spelunkers.

The collective name of the caves was derived from the formation of stalagmites in one of the caves that resembled the structure of the Holy Family which when translated to Spanish is Sagrada Familia.

A few crevices on the roof of the caves allow penetration of sunlight that makes it easy for anyone to appreciate the beautiful rock and mineral formation within.

The textured stairs leading to the caves are made up of coral fragments alongside the cliff. These coralline remnants are scientific proof that millions of years ago the area was part of the ocean floor.

Tourists flock the area especially during Holy Week due to the belief that climbing up the mountain to reach the holy cave is a form of penance.

Despite the hidden beauty of the Sagrada Familia caves and the frequency of tourist visit in the area, no comprehensive plan has even been made to ensure the protection of the caves.

The measure mandates the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to develop an ecotourism master plan.

A similar measure was filed and approved by the House of Representatives in the 16th and 17th Congress. However, the Senate failed to pass it.

Source: <https://centralluzon.politics.com.ph/house-panel-oks-designation-of-sagrada-familia-caves-as-ecotourism-zone/>

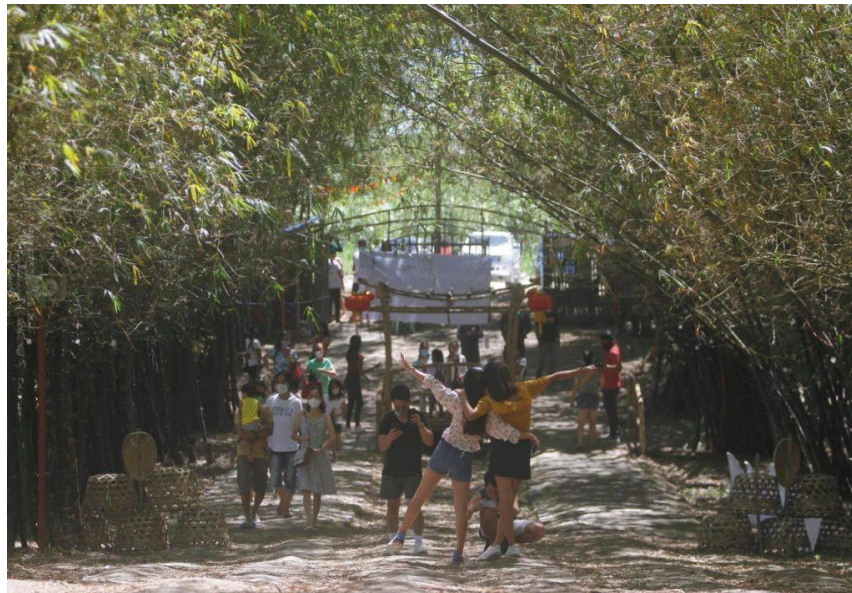


For just P20, enjoy a relaxing vibe at the Bamboo Forest, a hit tourist spot in Medellin, Cebu

Published February 26, 2021, 2:48 PM

by [Calvin Cordova](#)

CEBU CITY – A sprawling bamboo plantation in northern Cebu is becoming a favorite hangout.



(JUAN CARLO DE VELA / MANILA BULLETIN)

It wouldn't be hard to be mesmerized by the Bamboo Forest in Barangay Luy-a, Medellin as its pathway lined with badges of bamboo trees offers a magnificent view.

Upon entering, one will be greeted by the cool breeze for a very relaxing feel.

Jose Mari Miranda, owner of the 2.3-hectare bamboo plantation, said the Bamboo Forest is a great place for people who love to go outside to enjoy nature. "Families, friends are going here because they want to relax and enjoy nature," said Miranda said.

Miranda said he didn't expect that the place would become a tourist spot. "We planted the bamboo trees for our banana plantation. Bamboos are being used to prop up banana trees. But when the bamboo trees started growing, people started coming here. It became known so we just decided to develop the place," Miranda, president of the Bogo-Medellin Sugarcane Planters Association, said.

The place currently has at least 200 badges of bamboos but Miranda is looking to expand the plantation.

The tourist spot was one of the stops of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia who led the reopening of tourism activities in northern Cebu last Thursday.

For an entrance fee of P20, one would get to enjoy nature and various Cebu delicacies. Visitors can have their picnics on benches underneath the badges of bamboo or at the several kiosks.



For just P20, enjoy a relaxing vibe at the Bamboo Forest, a hit tourist spot in Medellin, Cebu

One of the visitors during the ceremonial launching of the place was the family of Julie Lagundi from Lapu-Lapu City.

The Lagundis endured a three-hour travel just to visit the place. Lapu-Lapu is about 117 kilometers from Medellin.

“We like it here. It gives us Japanese feels,” said Lagundi as she and her family pose for photo opportunities while clad in a “yukata” (summer kimono).

The place has also photo booths where visitors can have their pictures while in their Japanese and Korean costumes.

Old tractors and “kawa” (large flat pot or cooking pan) are also displayed in the sprawling plantation.

The place is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. during Sunday.

Lagundi said places like the Bamboo Forest is great place to escape from the stress brought about by the current pandemic.

“We’ve been staying at home for several months because of the pandemic that’s why we really drove here all the way from Lapu-Lapu to get some fresh air and this place is the perfect place to enjoy fresh air,” Lagundi said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/02/26/for-just-p20-enjoy-a-relaxing-vibe-at-the-bamboo-forest-a-hit-tourist-spot-in-medellin-cebu/>



Experts urge government, LGUs anew to step up efforts to stem effects of climate change

Ina Reformina, ABS-CBN News
Posted at Feb 26 2021 11:34 PM

MANILA - The COVID-19 pandemic should serve as a lesson for government to rethink its development goals and strategies in order to ensure resilience in various parts of the archipelago to better respond to future health and environmental crises, according to an economist.

Speaking at a webinar on "Climate Change and COVID-19: Adapting to Two New Normals," University of the Philippines (UP) School of Economics Assistant Professor Dr. Toby Melissa Monsod said using gross domestic product (GDP) and other macroeconomic indicators such as employment and unemployment rates, price stability and inflation, and infrastructure projects, as the primary goal in crafting the national development plan is a "very very poor gauge of welfare and progress".

"When we talk about development, hopefully, economists really should be looking at welfare and outcomes and improving the quality of life; if you don't see that then the picture is very different.

"It (GDP) is notoriously incongruent with a number of things. For example, you may have a lot of production, for example in Laguna de Bay or Pasig River, you can have factories which are working for fish ponds that are producing output [but] pollution into Laguna de Bay or Pasig is not accounted for in those numbers," Monsod said.

She added, "So if you pollute, your output doesn't go down, they don't correct for that, and so GDP does not correct for environmental damage," she said.

In the case of the coronavirus pandemic, Monsod said the Philippines' robust economic performance in the past decade was not enough to effectively address the health crisis, with the pandemic even plunging the country into the "sharpest reversal in growth among our regional neighbors", dropping by around -14 percentage points.

"Over the last 10 years, [the Philippines had] high, robust economic growth, second only to China in the last quarter of 2019... We [were] led to believe that we are resilient, like coming into the pandemic our economic managers actually said -- this was in March 2020 — that economic fundamentals [were] on our side, they thought that even under the worst possible scenario, the worst scenario, we would still grow in 2020 and in the medium term by about 6 percent. That's what they thought in March.

"Obviously, this did not happen. We kind of fell really steeply in the second quarter of last year, and in the entire year (2020) we had the sharpest reversal in growth among our regional neighbors.... so our profound lesson was that we are not as economic-resilient as we think or thought," Monsod explained.

She further said, had the Philippines been "more prepared" in dealing with the pandemic, it could have saved about 3.6 percentage points in lost growth forecast for 2020 or roughly P680 billion.

"If only we did our homework because the pandemic was not something unexpected — in 2005, WHO (World Health Organization) and everyone was already saying we need to prepare for these



Experts urge government, LGUs anew to step up efforts to stem effects of climate change

things. Many countries learned from SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), the asian flu, and all that, we didn't quite do that and that's what happens," she said.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, EMERGING DISEASES PREPAREDNESS

National and local leaders must, therefore, realize that progress should come with human development; addressing environmental issues; and emerging disease preparedness, according to Monsod.

"Countries have overtaken us in terms of human development — China has overtaken us; East Asia and the Pacific countries, as a whole, the average has overtaken us; Indonesia, we are now the same HDI (human development index); Vietnam may soon overtake us.

"That's what happens when we forget that incomes like GDP is not the same as outcomes and by outcomes we're talking about the quality of life," she said.

For example, economic managers, who "control" policies and planning, need to tailor-fit targets in farming and marine fisheries to the realities of a changing climate which impact on production and food security, Monsod stressed.

Dr. Faye Cruz, head of the Manila Observatory Regional Climate Systems Laboratory, presented research findings of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) which are relevant to food security and health, among others.

These data include the following:

Warming trend:

- A. Observed warming trend in the Philippines from the 1950's: average rate of about 0.1 C per decade warming.
- B. Day time vs night time temperature: night time temperatures warming at a slightly higher rate at 0.15 C per decade.
- C. Projections: continue to increase at a range from 0.9 C to 2.3 C by mid 21st century (2036-2065), and from 1.3 C to 4.1 C at the end of the 21st century (2070-2099).

Rainfall:

- A. Some areas in western Luzon with increasing trends mainly before and after the rainy season of June - August
- B. Increasing trends (more rainfall) in eastern Visayas and northeast Mindanao during the rainy season of December - February
- C. Drying trends in Palawan to northern mainly in the months of March - August
- D. Projections:
Drier tendency over central Mindanao



Experts urge government, LGUs anew to step up efforts to stem effects of climate change

Tropical cyclones:

Small decrease in the number of tropical cyclones over the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), small increase in “very strong” typhoons.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FARM, MARINE RESOURCE YIELD

Two members of the National Panel of Technical Experts of the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines namely, Dr. Felino Lansigan, professor emeritus of the University of the Philippines Los Baños; and Dr. Laura David, physical oceanographer professor and director of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, echoed Dr. Cruz on the impact of climate change on food security.

As part of efforts to yield more crops, Lansigan said improved plant varieties resistant to or tolerant to climate stresses are now available to farmers, such as rice and corn varieties resistant to flooding, drought, and heat; and salinity-tolerant varieties.

Alternate wetting and drying technique resulting in a 40-percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and adopting a planting calendar on when to plant what type of varieties/crops are also available options.

David, for her part, explained marine ecosystem protection and management should not be downplayed.

The simple planting of mangroves and protecting seagrass, for example, are vital climate change mitigating measures, she explained.

“Yung ating mangrove and seagrass na dapat alagaan because tatamaan sila ng climate change, sila din yung makakapagbaba nung climate change itself, kasi they sequester carbon.

“Si seagrass, halos kapantay niya yung tropical forest [carbon] sequestration. Si mangroves, ang laki ng kinukupkop niyang carbon so ‘pag inalagaan mo siya, you also reduce that increase in temperature and all the cascading effects of climate change,” David explained.

David shared data published in 2011 showing oceanic mangroves can sequester over 2,000 carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO₂eq) per hectare, while seagrass can sequester at least 500 CO₂eq per hectare.

The same expanse of tropical forest can sequester over 600 CO₂eq.

Lansigan and David also stressed the need to involve and empower communities and local government units for the above mentioned programs to succeed.

The webinar is part of a series sponsored by the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), Embassy of the Netherlands, and Climate Adaptation Summit 2021.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/02/26/21/experts-urge-government-lgus-anew-to-step-up-efforts-to-stem-effects-of-climate-change>



Campaigning for a lifestyle with fewer plastics



Contributed photo

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

February 26, 2021

BEING an advocate of something entails full responsibility, commitment, passion and determination.

For Jill Banta, regional coordinator for Mindanao of the Break Free from Plastic (BFFP) PH, living a life with less plastic consumption may seem quite impossible.

But with the rampant environmental issues the world is currently facing, which experts had cited that plastic consumption and its irresponsible disposal had contributed, pushing for a "plastic-free lifestyle" may also be a difficult task.

Banta, who has been working for BFFP-PH for a year now, admitted that lobbying this initiative may sound noble, but it faces a lot of challenges.

Jill said her group is one of the global movements envisioning a future free from plastic pollution.

Aside from launching information drives to different sectors, including the youth, her group is also crafting and pushing policies in banning single-use plastics, supporting zero waste solution initiatives from different sectors, and opposing actions and interventions that are harmful to the environment.

These efforts had started to bear their fruits.

Recently, Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio certified the passage of the ban of single-use plastic in the city as urgent on February 1. More than a week after, the ordinance was delivered on the plenary of the 19th City Council and is currently waiting for its passage.



Campaigning for a lifestyle with fewer plastics

For Jill, it is a stepping stone.

Of all environmental issues, she is highly concerned with the large number of plastics that continue to pollute not only large bodies of water but also the city's landfill filling up to its capacity.

Being a graduate of Bachelor of Science and Materials Science and Engineering, her advocacy towards the environment was further expanded. Understanding the science of plastics, she further understood how it became a leading contributor to polluting the ecosystem.

Prior to joining BFFP, she was exposed to different environmental activities in her first job at another environmental group in Bukidnon. She got the job right after college.

During her stay in Bukidnon, she got to explore different communities, wherein she also got to impart her insights and advocacy, especially to the youth.

"I was able to form a relationship with them. I also taught in different schools, wherein lessons I taught to my students about their national resources, applied their learnings in managing natural resources. I am happy to be able to contribute to their formulation," Jill said, adding that informing and empowering the youth in this cause is "very important"

She said working for environmental groups for nearly four years is a fulfilling career, which she would rather call a "mission."

But as time goes by, she then realizes that there are more in-depth reasons behind environmental-related issues.

"The issues in the environment that we are all facing is an everyday issue. It affects our family, friends, community, especially the ordinary people," Jill said.

She said based on their study, Filipinos are into "tingi" culture, due to some people who can't afford to buy bulk items. But with the large volume of waste generated in the city's landfill, she said this might result in other problems in health, and eventually, to the economy.

With this, she believes that pushing for environmentally friendly policies, such as banning single-use plastic will not only benefit the environment but everyone.

"We have to address environmental issues that intersect to other social issues. We have to collectively address this issue," Jill said.



Fight vs. floods: Marikina River dredging in full swing

Published February 26, 2021, 1:31 PM

by [Bethena Unite](#)

The dredging operations in Marikina River are now in full swing in an effort to increase its capacity for rainwater, thus mitigating floods in nearby areas.



(Photo via DPWH)

About 50,000 cubic meters of soil, sand, and silt is expected to be dredged from the river, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar said.

The dredging began on February 17 and is expected to continue throughout the summer season.

“Two amphibious excavators are now operating to dredge heavily-silted portions of Marikina River. This operation will significantly help in preventing the events of flooding in Marikina City which is considered a catch basin of rainwater coming from upstream areas of San Mateo and Montalban, Rizal, and the cities of Antipolo and Quezon,” Villar said.

Wheel and crawler-type backhoes and trucks were also deployed to haul and transport the dredged volume to disposal sites.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through Army Corps of Engineer and Philippine Navy Seabees, sent a contingent of dump trucks and excavators to augment the DPWH fleet.

According to DPWH-Bureau of Equipment Director Toribio Noel L. Ilaos, Marikina City has become prone to heavy flooding in the absence of an efficient drainage system. Without flood protection structures to channel rainwater to the sea, lives and properties are at risk of even greater damages.

“Dredging plays a vital role in flood control, and at the same time, the department equally sees these operations as a prelude to an even greater goal of restoring the Marikina River to its pristine and natural state,” Ilaos said.



Fight vs. floods: Marikina River dredging in full swing

Meanwhile, flood-control structures such as concrete barriers, sewerage, and drainages projects will be undertaken to reinforce the flood control mechanisms that are presently being implemented along Marikina River.

The DPWH, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), has also recently begun a massive dredging operation along the Cagayan River as a response to recent flooding due to typhoons.

DPWH to dredge 50,000 cubic meters of soil from Marikina River

By DPWH Published on February 26, 2021



Photo by DPWH

QUEZON CITY, Feb. 26 -- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has commenced its operations to dredge an estimated 50,000 cubic meters of soil, sand, and silt along Marikina River in an effort to increase its capacity in handling rainwater and prevent overflow.

Citing a report from DPWH Bureau of Equipment (BOE) Director Toribio Noel L. Ilaog, Secretary Mark A. Villar said that the dredging operation started on February 17, 2021 is expected to be carried-out towards the summer season within two (2) to three (3) months.

“Two (2) amphibious excavators are now operating to dredge heavily-silted portions of Marikina River. This operation will significantly help in preventing the events of flooding in Marikina City which is considered a catch basin of rainwater coming from upstream areas of San Mateo and Montalban, Rizal and the cities of Antipolo and Quezon,” said Secretary Villar.

According to Director Ilaog, due to the mountainous areas of the nearby province of Rizal and due to the clogging of esteros Marikina City has become prone to heavy flooding in the absence of an efficient drainage system. In the absence of flood protection structures to channel rainwater to the sea, lives and properties are at risk of even greater damages.

The DPWH National Capital Region headed by Director Eric Ayapana also deployed wheel and crawler-type backhoes, while each of its District Engineering Office provided trucks to haul and transport the large dredged volume to disposal sites.

Exhibiting “whole of government approach”, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, thru Army Corps of Engineer and Philippine Navy Seabees, sent a contingent of dump trucks and excavators to augment the DPWH Fleet.

“Dredging plays a vital role in flood control, and at the same time, the Department equally sees these operations as a prelude to an even greater goal of restoring the Marikina River to its pristine and natural state,” said Director Ilaog.



DPWH to dredge 50,000 cubic meters of soil from Marikina River

In addition, flood-control structures such as concrete barriers, sewerage and drainages projects will be undertaken to reinforce the flood control mechanisms which are presently being implemented along Marikina River.

Aside from Marikina River, DPWH in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has also recently began a massive dredging operation along Cagayan River as a response to recent flooding due to typhoon. (DPWH)



Marikina River dredging to help prevent floods

February 26, 2021 | 8:32 pm



PHILSTAR

The Department of Public Works and Highways on Friday said it had started dredging the Marikina River to expand its capacity in handling rainwater and prevent floods in nearby communities.

The dredging of about 50,000 cubic meters of soil, sand and silt started on Feb. 17, and would continue toward the summer season within two to three months, the agency said in a statement.

“Due to the mountainous areas of the nearby province of Rizal and due to the clogging of esteros, Marikina City has become prone to heavy flooding in the absence of an efficient drainage system,” it said.

Lives and properties are at risk without flood-control structures to channel rainwater to the sea, it added.

Marikina City is a catch basin of rainwater coming from the upstream areas of San Mateo and Montalban, Rizal, as well as from the cities of Antipolo and Quezon, according to Public Works Secretary Mark A. Villar. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/marikina-river-dredging-to-help-prevent-floods/>



Environmental group prods Senate to kill off pro-waste incineration bill

Published February 26, 2021, 3:19 PM
by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

Pollution watchdog EcoWaste Coalition is urging senators to take the lead in keeping the ban on waste incineration amid an aggressive move by their House of Representatives counterparts to institutionalize it.



(PHOTO VIA ELLSON QUISMORIO/ MANILA BULLETIN)

“As we commemorate the EDSA Revolution, we also call on the members of the Senate to set a high moral leadership and put into action the virtues of democracy and love for our country. We need to stop sacrificing our communities and it will start by scrapping the Waste-to-Energy Bill,” Aileen Lucero, National Coordinator of EcoWaste Coalition, said in a statement Friday, Feb.26.

According to Lucero, one of the recent injustices against nature was the House of Representatives’ push to promote incineration under the guise of waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities, as well as the attempt to repeal specific provisions in the Clean Air Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, and other relevant laws.

It was on November 24, 2020 when the House approved on third and final reading House Bill (HB) 7829, or the proposed “Waste Treatment Technology Act.” The measure allows for the use of WTE technologies, including incineration, with the caveat that it shouldn’t produce poisonous or toxic fumes.

The congressmen have packaged the proposed law as a solution to the country’s perennial garbage problem. A counterpart measure is still pending at the Senate floor.

Last year, with the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the declaration of a climate emergency by the Lower Chamber, several environment groups, including the EcoWaste Coalition, made the urgent call for policies in mitigating the waste and climate crisis. The declaration urged local governments and government bodies to adopt policies to mitigate climate change.



Environmental group prods Senate to kill off pro-waste incineration bill

According to a factsheet by GAIA Asia Pacific, WTE incineration—while marketed in the guise of advancing renewable energy—is not an environmentally sustainable form of energy source and waste management solution.

It is a known fact that when burning of waste happens, toxic substances are released which undeniably compromise the health and safety of individuals, the factsheet said.

“It is really very important in calling on the government to scrap this proposal on waste-to-energy incineration and to show its sincerity for the sake of the health and well-being of the people,” Lucero said.

“Our lawmakers should instead uphold our existing environmental laws and approve the green laws pending in the 18th Congress, including the passage of the National Single-Use Plastics Ban as well as ordinances that would hold culprits accountable of polluting practices,” she further said.



Localized lockdown sa Metro Manila, inirekomenda ng OCTA

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- February 27, 2021 - 12:00am



Sa latest update ng grupo, patuloy ang pagtaas ng antas ng pagkahawa sa Metro Manila na umabot na sa 1.32 mula 1.22 noong Pebrero 21.

Dahil sa tumataas na kaso ng COVID-19

MANILA, Philippines — Inirekomenda ng OCTA Research team sa Metro Manila LGUs na magpatupad ng localized lockdown dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng kaso ng Covid-19 araw-araw sa NCR.

Sa latest update ng grupo, patuloy ang pagtaas ng antas ng pagkahawa sa Metro Manila na umabot na sa 1.32 mula 1.22 noong Pebrero 21.

“New cases in NCR are expected to increase at least in the short term. Positivity rate in NCR was 5% over the past seven days,” ayon sa OCTA.

Ngayon ay nasa 56 barangay at lugar na ang isinailalim sa loca-lized lockdown sa Pasay matapos makitaan din ng 160% surge sa mga bagong kaso ng virus mula Pebrero 16 hanggang 21.

Base rin sa pag-aaral ng OCTA, nakapagtala rin ng 40% pagtaas sa kaso ng COVID sa Malabon, Manila, Makati, Taguig, Parañaque at Marikina kumpara sa nakalipas na dalawang linggo.

Sa buong bansa naman, nakitaan ang Cebu City ng pinakamataas na bagong mga kaso ng COVID-19 na umaabot sa 220 kada-araw sa nakalipas na pitong araw mula Pebrero 16 hanggang 22.

“Hospital occupancy was still moderate at 53 percent, as the increase in critical care utilization has been controlled not just b the slowing down of the pandemic in Cebu City, but also the continued pandemic management of the local government, which helped increase hospital bed capacity by at least 10 percent,” dagdag ng OCTA.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/02/27/2080714/localized-lockdown-sa-metro-manila-inirekomenda-ng-octa/amp/>



'Volcanic tremors' sa Bulkang Taal sumirit sa 113 sa nakaraang 24 oras

(Philstar.com)

- February 26, 2021 - 2:20pm



Sa undated photo na ito, tuloy sa trabaho ang mangingisdang ito sa lawa malapit sa Bulkang Taal
Philstar.com/Efigenio Toledo IV, File

MANILA, Philippines — Tuloy-tuloy ang pagtaas ng volcanic tremors na naibalita ng Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) sa Bulkang Taal nitong Linggo, 10 araw matapos ang mga "forced evacuations" dahil sa mga aktibidad ng bulkan.

Basahin: ['Forced evacuations' ikinasa sa Batangas dahil sa volcanic activity ng Taal](#)

"Sa nakalipas na 24 oras, ang Taal Volcano Network ay nakapagtala ng isang daan at labing tatlong (113) yugto ng volcanic tremor na tumagal mula isa (1) hanggang tatlumpu't apat (34) na minuto," ayon sa Phivolcs, Biyernes.

Malaking pagtalon ito mula sa [anim lang nitong Lunes](#) at [o nitong Martes](#). Tumaas 'yan sa [dalawang tremor episodes nitong Miyerkules](#) hanggang [umabot ng 69 noong Huwebes](#).

TAAL VOLCANO BULLETIN

Ika-26 ng Pebrero 2021

Alas-8 ng umaga [#TaalVolcano](#) <https://t.co/4NpCNNE9Zr> pic.twitter.com/nioyPBMNk9

— PHIVOLCS-DOST (@phivolcs_dost) [February 26, 2021](#)

Kasalukuyang nasa Alert Level 1 pa rin ang bulkan, kung saan maaaaring maganap ang mga biglaang "phreatic na pagputok, volcanic earthquake, bahagyang abo at mapanganib na ipon o pagbuga ng volcanic gas... sa mga paligid ng Taal Volcano Island," pagpapatuloy ng state volcanologists.

"Sa kabila nito, mayroon lamang mahinang pagsingaw mula sa mga furmaroles o gas vents sa Main Crater."



'Volcanic tremors' sa Bulkang Taal sumirit sa 113 sa nakaraang 24 oras

Mahigpit pa ring ipinagbabawal ng Phivolcs ang pagpasok ninuman sa Taal Volcano Island, na siyang "permanent danger zone."

Umabot sa 64 katao ang inilikas sa probinsya ng Batangas noong nakaraang linggo kaugnay ng seismic activity nito, habang mahigit na binabantayan ang mga mangingisdang pinapayagang pumasok sa Taal Lake.

Volcanic tremor? Ano 'yun?

Ayon sa [Pacific Northwest Seismic Network](#), tumutukoy ang volcanic o harmonic tremor sa tuloy-tuloy na pagyanig ng lupa na sinyales ng "magmatic activity" na pwedeng signos ng pagputok.

Ginagamit ang volcanic tremor bilang babala sa nagbabadyang pagsabog lalo na sa mga nakatira malapit sa bulkan para na rin makalikas sa mas ligtas na lugar.

"This method of prediction has been used successfully to predict the eruptions of Mount St. Helens in the 1980's and the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines," ayon sa PNSN. — **James Relativo**

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/02/26/2080554/volcanic-tremors-sa-bulkang-taal-sumirit-sa-113-sa-nakaraang-24-oras/amp/>



EDSA REVOLT, ISA NA LANG TAUNANG SEREMONYA



February 26, 2021 @ 1:36 AM 1 day ago

ANYARE sa EDSA Revolution 1 o People Power Revolution?

Nakalulungkot na tanawing parang isa na lang itong taunang seremonya pero para sa iilang tao na lamang.

Mabibilang sa daliri ang nag-alay ng pagkilala rito noong Pebrero 22 sa People Power Monument na pinangunahan ni Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte.

At kokonti rin ang dumalo sa misa sa EDSA Shrine na pinangunahan ni Vatican's envoy to the Philippines, Archbishop Charles John Brown.

Hindi dumalo dahil naka-self quarantine naman si dating Pangulong Fidel Ramos sa kanyang tahanan sa Alabang.

Si Pang. Rodrigo Duterte, gaya ng dati, hindi rin dumalo at katulad ni Pang. Ramos, nagpadala ng kanyang mensahe.

'Yung ibang mga lider, kasama na si ex-Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile na kasama sa paglundag-lundag noon sa entablado, wala rin.

Ayon naman sa ating Uzi, hindi siya sure kung dumalo si Vice President Leni Robredo pero nagbigay rin ng mensahe.

Maliit na bilang din ang mga militante ang dumalo.

NA-COVID-19 ANG ANIBERSARYO

Sabi ng mga sumilip at nag-usyoso sa mga dumalo sa magkahiwalay na dalawang okasyon sa People Power Monument at pamisa sa EDSA Shrine, mas marami pa ang 1,000 pulis na nagbantay at nagtiyak ng mapayapa at maayos na selebrasyon.



EDSA REVOLT, ISA NA LANG TAUNANG SEREMONYA

Kasama na rin sa binantayan nila ang obligasyon ng lahat na magsuot ng face mask at face shield, mag-social distancing at iba pang anyo ng health protocol.

Sabi nila, noong nakaraang taon, nasa 1,000 lang ang dumalo sa pagtitipon at ngayon, mas kokonti.

Inginunguso nila ang coronavirus disease-19 na may sala dahil bawal na nga ang maramihang pagtitipon.

MALALIM NA DAHILAN

Pero kung tinatanong ang mga taga-barangay, nakalulungkot marinig ang mga sagot nila.

Wala raw naman nangyayari sa gobyerno, lalo na sa korapsyon o pagpapayaman sa pwesto.

Naging talamak din, anila, ang iba't ibang anyo ng korap na Kamag-anak Incorporated na nagsimula noong panahon mismo ni ex-President Cory Aquino hanggang sa ngayon.

Kitang-kita umano ito sa Kamara at Senado na may sumusubok para pagkaperahan lang ang pambansang badyet nang bilyon-bilyong piso ngunit hindi nila nalilinlang si Pang. Duterte na panay ang veto rito.

May pag-asa na sanang umunlad ngayon ang mga Pinoy pero dumating naman ang anak ng tokwang COVID-19 na sinamahan pa ng mga kalamidad.

Naririyang din ang pagpapatuloy umano ng pagmamay-ari o kontrol sa yaman ng bansa ng iilang tao at pamilya at ang higit na nakararaming mamamayan ay iskwater pa rin sa sarili nilang bayan.

Pero oks umano ang klarong pagbabawas nang malaki sa krimen na nauugnay sa droga na sa mga panahon na ito umano nangyari.

At natitimpla ngayon ang galaw ng mga oligarko sa pagsasamantala sa kaban ng bayan at yaman ng bansa kahit hirap pa rin si Pang. Duterte na basagin ito.

MGA MENSAHE SA DIWA NG EDSA

Pawang magaganda ang mga mensahe ngayong selebrasyon gaya ng panawagan ni Pang. Digong para sa pagkakaisa at paglimot sa mga diperensya ng mga nagbabangayan at sa halip, isapuso at panatilihing buhay ang mensahe ng EDSA na kalayaan at karapatan bilang mga Pinoy hanggang sa dulo ng kasaysayan.

Hinahanap naman ni ex-Pres. Ramos ang apoy ng EDSA at pagpapanatili nitong lumagablab ng lahat.

Si Vatican envoy Brown naman, sinabing walang kapayapaan kung walang katarungang panlipunan na makikita sa pagkakapantay sa dangal ng mga mamamayan.

Paano nga magkaisa ang lahat para bigyang-buhay ang lahat ng mga mensaheng ito?

Ngayon nga ay nahaharap ang buong bansa sa matinding krisis na dala ng COVID-19.



EDSA REVOLT, ISA NA LANG TAUNANG SEREMONYA

Paano ipadarama ng mga lider ng bansa sa mamamayan ang diwa ng EDSA laban sa pandemya at sa kahirapan at gutom na nararanasan ng mamamayan?

Paano ipadama ng mga mamamayan sa isa't isa at sa pamahalaan ang diwa nito sa gitna ng nabanggit na kalagayan o sa ibang kalagayan?

Paano magkumbinsihan ang isa't isa na magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19 upang makamit natin ang malaking kabawasan sa hawahan, pagkakasakit at pagkamatay at maibalik na rin ang normal nating pamumuhay, makapaghanapbuhay, mapadala sa iskul ang mga bata at iba pa?

Sa hanay ng Lions Club International-District 301-A2, may nakatakdang operahan sa seryosong karamdaman, ang butihing maybahay ni Dr. Jonathan de Guzman na si Dinah sa Philippine General Hospital.

Nagtulong-tulong ang mga Lion na magdonasyon ng dugo na kailangan ng maysakit at kahit papaano, naibsan ang mabigat na pasanin ng pamilya ni Doc. De Guzman.

Maituturing na rin ito na pagpapakita ng diwa ng EDSA sa ibang paraan.

‘Yung iba kaya?



UN: Latest climate pledges ‘very far’ from Paris goals

[Agence France-Presse](#) / 09:44 PM February 26, 2021

PARIS — Renewed promises to slash greenhouse gas emissions from countries as part of the Paris climate deal are “very far” from what is required to avert catastrophic global warming, the United Nations said Friday.

In its assessment of the pledges made in recent months by around 75 countries and the European Union, UN Climate Change said that only around 30 percent of global emissions were covered in the commitments.

“It’s incredible to think that just when nations are facing an emergency that could eventually end human life on this planet — despite every study, every report and clear warnings from scientists throughout the world — many nations are sticking to their business as usual approach,” said the UN’s climate chief Patricia Espinosa.

Under the landmark 2015 Paris deal, nations promised to work to limit global temperature rises to “well below” two degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

To achieve this, and to gun for a safer temperature cap of 1.5C, nations committed to slashing emissions, as well as to provide assistance to the most climate-vulnerable countries.

The deal included a “ratchet” mechanism in which signatories agreed to a rolling five-year review of their climate pledges — known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs — in which they are supposed to display ever greater ambition for action.

The first deadline for renewed NDCs passed last year.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the world’s pre-eminent body on global warming — says that emissions should be around 45 percent lower by 2030 compared with 2010 levels to meet the 1.5C goal.

The UN said on Friday that the combined impact of the renewed NDCs would constitute a less than one percent drop in emissions in the same timeframe.

Espinosa urged major emitters, particularly G20 nations, to “lead the way” in showing greater ambition to cut emissions.

Many leading polluters — including China, the US and Japan — either missed the NDC deadline or failed to build upon existing pledges, according to Climate Action Tracker.

‘Shocking lack of urgency’

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Friday’s assessment was a “red alert for our planet.”

“Decision-makers must walk the talk,” he said.

“Long-term commitments must be matched by immediate actions to launch the decade of transformation that people and planet so desperately need.”



UN: Latest climate pledges ‘very far’ from Paris goals

With just over 1C of warming so far, Earth is already plagued with increasingly intense droughts, wildfires and superstorms made more potent by rising seas.

Many of the countries that did submit renewed NDC targets are among those most threatened by climate-driven extreme weather events.

Aubrey Webson, chair of the AOSIS negotiating bloc of small island states, said the UN assessment confirmed a “shocking lack of urgency and genuine action” from big emitters.

“We are flirting dangerously with the 1.5C warming limit that the world agreed we need to stay within. It is small island developing States like ours that will pay the ultimate price if we do not,” he said.

2021 is being billed as a key year for the climate, with the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow providing a new informal deadline for renewed NDCs after the pandemic year.

Espinosa said that it was in some cases understandable that countries battling Covid-19 had neglected to meet the NDC deadline.

“However, we also note that the climate change emergency did not stop for the pandemic and that it won’t go away because of another emergency,” she told reporters.

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1400575/un-latest-climate-pledges-very-far-from-paris-goals#ixzz6ncEEl3HL>

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Climate change: Carbon emission promises 'put Earth on red alert'

By Roger Harrabin
BBC environment analyst
Published
8 hours ago



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image caption Policies notified to the UN suggest the move to greener technologies will not be fast enough

The world will heat by more than 1.5C unless nations produce tougher policies, a global stocktake has confirmed.

Governments must halve emissions by 2030 if they intend the Earth to stay within the 1.5C "safe" threshold.

But the latest set of national policies submitted to the UN shows emissions will merely be stabilised by 2030.

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, called it a red alert for our planet.

He said: "It shows governments are nowhere close to the level of ambition needed to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees and meet the goals of the Paris (Climate) Agreement.

"The major emitters must step up with much more ambitious emissions reductions targets."

Dr Niklas Hohne from the New Climate Institute told BBC News: "There is a huge gap to fill if we are serious about 1.5C (the threshold nations have agreed not to pass).

"Global emissions have to be halved – but with current proposals they will only be stable. That's really not good enough."

Some nations have not even submitted a climate plan, and some – such as Australia – are judged to have offered no substantial improvement on previous proposals.



Climate change: Carbon emission promises 'put Earth on red alert'

Emissions from those countries doing little or nothing extra comprise 10-15% of global emissions. Mexico and Brazil have attracted criticism for not doing more.

There are some positive signs, though. The EU, for instance, made the biggest jump from a target of a 40% cut to a 55% cut, based on 1990 levels.

media captionHow much did climate change cost the US economy in 2020?

"The target could have been more, but it's a good step in the right direction," Dr Hohne said.

He also applauded Nepal, Argentina and the UK, which aims to reduce emissions by 68% by the target date of 2030, based on 1990 levels.

He held up the UK's governance of climate policy as [an example to the rest of the world](#). Britain has a Climate Change Act which sets ambitions into law, overseen by an independent body.

The UK plans to be producing virtually no emissions by 2050 – the so-called Net Zero target. "It's a robust system that helps give longer term certainty," Dr Hohne said. "It sends a strong signal to investors."

The emissions proposals, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), reveal a productive rivalry between Japan and China over Net Zero.

Initially, Japan had no mid-century target. Then China proposed Net Zero by 2060, and Japan was stung into a counter-bid of Net Zero by 2050. China's proposal is yet to be formally confirmed to the UN.

The US has promised an ambitious submission under President Biden. And India – which long maintained that its poverty should exempt it from emissions cuts – is said to be pondering a target.

Contradictory priorities

There is a difference, though, between what governments say and what they do. And many nations have tensions between contradictory priorities. Germany, for instance, is a member of the Powering Past Coal international alliance. Yet last year it opened a new coal-fired plant.

The UK is founder of that alliance but currently is permitting [a new coal mine to be dug](#) in the face of scientific and international criticism.

It's also building a high-speed rail link that won't be carbon neutral until the back end of the century, and [it has a £27bn roads programme](#).

The UK is also slipping away from the strict targets imposed by its climate advisors.

Yet on the other hand, the UK is cutting out coal from power generation, investing heavily in renewables and mandating that no more petrol or diesel cars should be sold after 2030.

Mr Guterres said: "Decision-makers must walk the talk. Long-term commitments must be matched by immediate actions to launch the decade of transformation that people and planet so desperately need."



Climate change: Carbon emission promises 'put Earth on red alert'

Aubrey Webson, chairman of the Association of Small Island States, said: "We applaud the countries that have announced 2050 Net Zero pledges.

"But without credible 2030 pathways in their updated climate plans, those mid-century pledges are largely meaningless. This report confirms the shocking lack of urgency, and genuine action."

Dr Hohne added: "There is a gap between nations' stated plans and what's needed. There's also a gap between their pledges and their policies to deliver on those pledges. There is progress. It's slow, slow, slow. But it is progress."

[Follow Roger on Twitter @rharrabin](#)



Australia acts vs ecosystems collapse



By [Xinhua](#)

February 27, 2021

CANBERRA: A coalition of Australian scientists have warned that urgent action is needed to save 19 ecosystems from collapse.

In a report, 38 scientists from 29 universities and government agencies described that some ecosystems are collapsing due to the impact of humans ranging from coral reefs, deserts and rainforests to waterways.

Dana Bergstrom, the lead author of the study from the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), said the scientists examined 20 ecosystems, finding that 19 of them were experiencing potentially-irreversible changes as a result of rising temperatures, invasive species and habitat loss.

However, the study found that urgent action could still make a difference. “None of the 19 ecosystems has yet collapsed across its entire range, but for all case studies there is documented evidence of ecosystem collapse in some areas,” Bergstrom told The Guardian.

“Urgent action will be essential to prevent the loss of any of these ecosystems in their entirety.” Euan Ritchie, a contributor to the study from Deakin University, described the report as the most comprehensive analysis of Australia’s environment ever undertaken.

The only ecosystem studied that was found to have a better than low likelihood of recovery was the subtropical rainforest of coastal New South Wales.

The study called for a “three As” approach to restoring the ecosystems by increasing awareness of their value, better planning to anticipate threats and taking rapid action to mitigate them.

“People talk about climate change as something in the future. Climate change is here and collapse is coming,” Bergstrom said. “But we have the ability and we have the skills. We just need the willpower to make it happen.”

“Protecting these iconic ecosystems is not just for the animals and plants that live there. Our economic livelihoods, and ultimately our survival, are intimately connected to the natural world.”

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/02/27/news/world/australia-acts-vs-ecosystems-collapse/845841/>

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