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**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## Let's do it: DENR chief urges Filipinos to take climate action, join Earth Hour 2021

Published March 26, 2021, 4:10 PM

by [Betheena Unite](#)

Take climate action by participating in the global Earth Hour movement on Saturday, March 27.



This file NASA Earth Observatory photo released August 21, 2014 and acquired March 30, 2014 shows an image of Earth. (Photo by HANDOUT / NASA / AFP)

This was the appeal made by Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu as he called on Filipinos to participate in the worldwide event that will be observed in the Philippines from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

“I enjoin all households and businesses across the country to jointly switch off their lights and other energy-consuming devices for an hour, and to encourage action towards the environment even after the lights are turned back on,” he said.

Computers, television sets, air conditioning units and non-essential lights may be switched off to express a shared concern for the environment.

“Now more than ever, environmental responsibility is critical and must be sustained. Let us do our share and switch off for an hour in support of a healthy future for humankind and the environment,” Cimatu further said.



## Let's do it: DENR chief urges Filipinos to take climate action, join Earth Hour 2021

However, the DENR chief emphasized that beyond this symbolic action, Filipinos should reduce electrical consumption to lessen carbon footprint and emissions generated by carbon dioxide and fossil fuel, which are major causes of climate change.

He also proposed shifting to renewable sources of energy such as solar technology and use of light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, which draw less power compared to incandescent and fluorescent lights.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, let us recognize the inevitable truth that the state of our planet and our health and well-being are inherently related. We should persist against harmful human activities and shift towards environment-friendly lifestyle choices,” he added.

Earth Hour is an annual global environmental movement organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia and eventually spread to over 7,000 cities and 180 countries and territories.



## Earth Hour tonight to highlight fight to save nature

By [Rhodina Villanueva](#) (Philstar.com)

-March 27, 2021 - 12:00am



Earth Hour, one of the largest global grassroots movements for the environment, will virtually bring together millions of people, businesses and leaders from around the world to speak up for nature.

MANILA, Philippines — Conservation group World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will highlight the urgent need to address nature loss and climate change during the observance of Earth Hour tonight.

Earth Hour, one of the largest global grassroots movements for the environment, will virtually bring together millions of people, businesses and leaders from around the world to speak up for nature.

“Earth Hour 2021 is asking people to speak up for nature in as many diverse and creative ways as possible. People from across the globe can share their stories of why nature matters, and come together safely for the switch-off at 8:30 p.m. tonight,” said WWF-Philippines Earth Hour Pilipinas national director Angela Ibay.

With evidence pointing towards a close link between nature’s destruction and rising incidences of infectious disease

outbreaks like COVID-19, Earth Hour 2021 will unite people online to make their voices heard on issues concerning the environment, Ibay added.

This global event comes ahead of key moments when world

leaders will take critical decisions on nature, climate change and sustainable development, setting the course of our future.



## Earth Hour tonight to highlight fight to save nature

“The occurrence of several catastrophic incidents last year including extreme weather events, devastating wildfires and the COVID-19 outbreak highlighted that preventing nature loss is crucial for safeguarding our future. A global assessment of biodiversity targets showed that the world failed to meet the 2020 deadline for achieving the targets set for preventing nature loss a decade ago. Earth Hour marks a pivotal opportunity for civil society

organizations, individuals, businesses and environmentalists to call on world leaders to set nature on a path to recovery by 2030,” the group noted.

Marco Lambertini, director general of WWF International,

said, “Healthy natural ecosystems are the cornerstone of thriving, equitable and sustainable societies. Our current socio-economic models

are leading to the devastating destruction of nature which is increasing our vulnerability to pandemics, accelerating climate change and placing livelihoods at risk.”

He added, “2021 is a crucial year for humanity. As the world tries to turn the tide and recover from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuild itself, we need to put nature at the center of our recovery efforts to future proof our economies and societies. Earth Hour is a critical moment for individuals, leaders and environmentalists to unite and call for urgent action to reverse nature loss and secure a nature-positive world by 2030.”

For her part, WWF-Philippines executive director Katherine

Custodio said, “2021 is a critical year because of key UN conferences where world leaders will make pledges for nature, aiming to reverse

nature loss by 2030. What that means for us is an opportunity to use the moment to speak up for nature and to show our leaders what we care about so that they go into these conferences with a clear message and mandate from us citizens.”

Meanwhile, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu urged all Filipinos to participate in the global Earth Hour movement.

“I enjoin all households and businesses across the country to jointly switch off their lights and other energy-consuming devices for an hour and to encourage action towards the environment even after the lights are turned back on,” Cimatu said.



## Bamboo shows potential as lumber alternative

[IAN OCAMPO FLORA](#)

March 26, 2021

BAMBOO may soon be the next best alternative to lumber.

This, as bamboo's many vital economic and ecologic uses may yet propel it as the country's next alternative material for lumber and as an effective greening agent to increase the country's forest cover.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu made this statement, as he promoted the use of bamboo species as an alternative to lumber.

Cimatu is also keen on using different bamboo species for the government's greening programs.

According to the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), bamboo is a popular non-timber forest product and a viable substitute for wood in furniture, wall and floor panels.

PCAARRD said bamboo can be used in handicrafts and consumed as food.

Studies show it also prevents soil erosion and sequester carbon from the atmosphere. There are 62 species of bamboo thriving in the Philippines and 21 of which can only be found in the country.

### Engineered bamboo and greening efforts

Since interest on the many uses of bamboo peaked in the past 10 years, many areas in the country have ventured into the possibility of using bamboo as an alternative to lumber. Bayambang town in Pangasinan hosts a factory for "engineered bamboo."

"Bamboo can be a potential alternative to lumber and this is what they are doing in Pangasinan in the Green Bamboo Factory," Cimatu said.

Cimatu said bamboo is easy to plant and grow, and has high survival, but many of our people have not understood the benefits and uses of this species.

Commercial species of kawayan tinik (*Bambusa blumeana*), bayog (*Bambusa sp.*), kawayan kiling (*Bambusa vulgaris*) and giant bamboo (*Dendrocalamus asper*) have long been used in the cottage industries of basket weaving, hut-making and furniture making in the many provinces of the country

"Our country has only 23 percent remaining forest cover and we are thinking of using bamboo as reforestation species to increase our forest cover under the National Greening Program (NGP)," he said.



## Bamboo shows potential as lumber alternative

"If we plant more bamboo, it can be a source of material for lumber using the technology to convert it. It can reduce dependency on wood from forest plantation, thus, allowing more trees to grow and cover our bald mountains," he said.

Bamboo reduces carbon sink. It is otherwise known as a "carbon sequester" as a hectare of bamboo plantation sequesters 12 tons of carbon dioxide each year. As watershed protection, a bamboo plant typically binds six cubic meter of soil. It yields six times more cellulose than the fast growing pine tree.

### Bamboo plantations and bamboo desks

Pampanga boasts of one of the biggest efforts in propagating bamboo since 2010.

The bamboos were planted by the then provincial bamboo council and the municipality in coordination with the Pampanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Pamcham), which then pushed for bamboo propagation and the use of engineered bamboo as an alternative to commercial lumber.

The bamboos were to be used for the unique line of environment-friendly products developed in the nearby materials recovery facility in Lubao town. The town, with the help of the Department of Trade and Industry, facilitated the training for the engineering of bamboo slots for the creation of bamboo desks.

The facility was also able to make charcoal briquettes with a very high British Thermal Unit (BTU) and these were produced from shredded shavings and waste from the engineered bamboo furniture.

In 2011, the facility was able to give members of the Magalang Bamboo Growers Association (MBGA) skills and technical knowledge on how to make bamboo slots for furniture and bamboo parquets.

The ultimate objective of the project is a sustainable income for farmers and livelihood for their families and the community, to be achieved by turning bamboo, "the poor man's timber," into a cash crop, not only through pole sales but also through nursery raising, plantation and primary processing for bamboo-based products and for food processing.

Former Pamcham Bamboo Program coordinator Myrna Bituin said the potential of bamboo is limitless.

"Just imagine using bamboo in making furniture and even floor parquets. The engineered bamboos are flat and nodes are removed so that the bamboo can be fashioned as slots," Bituin said.

Such products, she stressed, are durable and insect-resistant since engineered bamboo-finished products are chemically treated.





## Bamboo shows potential as lumber alternative

Even at present, the Lubao facility has been making bamboo desks. A school desk made of bamboo would cost more than P1,000 compared to the P700 to P800 for a school desk made of wood. However, desks made of bamboo are sturdier and could last up to five years. Lumber desks can only manage a maximum of two years inside classrooms.

### Local efforts and ecotourism

Cimatu visited recently the 610-hectare bamboo plantation in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija that was established by the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in his effort to promote the benefits of bamboo species.

The bamboo plantation in Nueva Ecija was established in 2013 under NGP and is now planted with 3,000 species of giant bamboo, kawayan tinik, kawayan kiling and bayog that can be potential sources of engineered bamboo.

Not known to many, bamboo has been termed as "poor man's lumber" and "green gold" because of its many economical and ecological benefits. But in Lubao town, its bamboo propagation initiative had turned into an ecotourism attraction.

It all started as a long-term response to protect Barangay Sta. Catalina from soil erosion by planting bamboo along the riverbank. But this propagation of more bamboo species for commercial use turned out to be a viable tourism potential for the town.

The Bamboo Hub and Eco Village features 25 fully-grown clumps of bamboo that were planted inside the six-hectare ecological park. The eco-park attracts an average of 600 people on weekends since the area was developed into a themed-ecotourism destination.

The property is managed by the Lubao Municipal Government and has become a favorite tourism destination attracting families and health buffs that avail of amenities like covered pathways, bike lanes, and even its own fish spa.

The DENR is now advocating the use of bamboo and its propagation for commercial and environmental purposes.

In Pampanga, some groups are even urging local government units to reinforce dikes and river barriers with trees and bamboo. Bamboo is said to be very effective in preventing slope erosion and barrier breach and with a steady supply of bamboo materials, potential for livelihood development and a bamboo industry is not far behind.

Most promoters of bamboo propagation in the region believe that a sustainable bamboo industry will position the Philippines as the second largest bamboo producer in the world, next only to China whose current market share is about 50 percent.





## DENR, tiniyak na mayroong proper management sa vaccine-related wastes

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Mar. 26, 2021 at 4:54am



Bago pa man dumating ang mga COVID-19 vaccines sa bansa, alam na ng Pilipinas ang proper handling ng mga vaccine related waste.

Ito ang tiniyak ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) kasabay ng pagsasagawa ng vaccine rollout sa bansa laban sa coronavirus pandemic.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, mayroong guidelines at procedures na sinusunod para sa maayos na pagtatapon ng medical vials at mga hiringilya na ginamit sa immunization program.

Mayroong 53 transporters at 23 treatment, storage and disposal facilities ang nakarehistro sa buong bansa.

Ang mga syringes at vials na ginamit sa vaccination ay classified bilang hazardous waste at kailangan ng special permit para ito ay ibiyahe.



## Nestlé-DENR to build materials recovery facility in Caloocan

March 26, 2021 | 8:24 pm



Food and beverage manufacturer Nestlé Philippines, Inc. has partnered with the Environment department to build a materials recovery facility (MRF) in a barangay in Caloocan City and co-develop learning materials on solid waste management.

The initiative aims to increase the country's capacity for proper waste disposal.

Officials from Nestlé and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) inked the memorandum of agreement (MoA) on Friday in a virtual signing event.

Under the MoA, Nestlé will build an MRF in Brgy. 164 in Caloocan City. Once completed, the facility will be operated and maintained by the barangay.

DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Analiza R. Teh said the department will provide technical assistance and monitoring of the facility, based on applicable environmental rules.

“With the additional MRF, we hope to see improved waste collection efficiency, [the] servicing [of] less-accessible households, reduced quantity of solid waste to be disposed to dumpsites, increased recovered recyclable materials for income opportunities, the promotion of livelihood programs ... and changed attitudes and habits amongst residents,” Ms. Teh said during the virtual signing.

The MRF will receive mixed waste for sorting, segregation, composting, and recycling. It must be established in each barangay or barangay cluster, according to the DENR.

In a separate press release issued on Friday, DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu was quoted as saying that the MRF will allow Brgy. 164 “to comply with government regulations for the proper disposal of wastes” and effectively manage the inflow and outflow of wastes.”



## Nestlé-DENR to build materials recovery facility in Caloocan

During the virtual signing, Nestlé Senior Vice President and Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability Arlene T. Bantoto said that the firm is looking to build two more MRFs in cities in the coming months, and “will continue to find innovative ways to tackle the country’s plastic waste challenge.”

Nestlé Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Kais Marzouki said based on the MoA, Nestlé and the DENR will also be co-developing modules on how local government units (LGUs) can implement Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

He was quoted as saying that the partnership aims to provide additional learning materials to LGUs so that they can educate communities on the importance of proper waste management.

In a recorded message aired during the virtual signing, Mr. Marzouki said that, with the MoA, the firm has “renewed its solidarity with the government in caring for the environment.”

In August last year, Nestlé emerged as the first multinational consumer goods company in the country to achieve plastic neutrality, as it was able to recover and co-process the equivalent amount of plastic the firm put out in the market, according to Mr. Marzouki.

Nestle has committed to make its packaging 100% recyclable by 2025. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



## New partnership to boost Caloocan solid waste management

By Catherine Teves March 26, 2021, 4:55 pm



**MANILA** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), food giant Nestle Philippines, Inc., and the Caloocan City government are partnering to help boost the implementation of Republic Act (RA) 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed Friday will promote proper waste segregation, recycling and reuse communities along Tullahan-Tinejeros river system, which discharges into Manila Bay, to reduce the volume of trash for disposal and open up income opportunities from garbage while mitigating pollution there.

"Solid waste management remains a major challenge in the country especially in urban areas like Metro Manila," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu in his message during the virtual MOA signing event, highlighting why government needs partners in implementing RA 9003.

He said he is looking forward to seeing more partnerships on RA 9003, anticipating further rise in Philippine waste generation due to the continuing onslaught of novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Covid-19's emergence is fueling demand for and use of personal protective equipment and other disposable medical supplies.

DENR Undersecretary Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, Nestle corporate affairs chief Arlene Tan-Bantoto, and Caloocan's Barangay 164 Chairperson Mila Uy signed the MOA.

Teh said under the MOA, Nestle will build a materials recovery (MRF) facility in Barangay (village) 164.





## New partnership to boost Caloocan solid waste management

The village will operationalize the MRF following RA 9003 while segregating waste at source and ensuring segregated waste collection within its area, she noted.

She said DENR will provide technical assistance on such matters and monitor compliance with RA 9003 and other environmental laws.

"With the MRF, we hope to see improved waste collection efficiency servicing even less accessible households, reduced quantity of solid waste to be disposed to dump sites and increased recovered recyclable materials for use in income opportunities for the poor," she said at the event.

Aside from segregating waste, RA 9003 requires the establishment of MRFs nationwide.

MRF is an area that "includes a solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and a recycling facility," said RA 9003.

Nestle Philippines Chairperson and CEO Kais Marzouki assured the food giant's support for implementing RA 9003, noting this company treats solid waste as an "urgent priority".

"We at Nestle Philippines recognize the impact of solid waste, particularly plastic waste, on our environment," he said in his message during the MOA signing.

He said Nestle is the first multi-national fast-moving consumer group in the Philippines to "recover and could process the equivalent amount of plastic we put out in the market".

Nestle is committed to make its product packaging 100 percent recyclable or reusable by 2025, he added.

"We are committed to do our part in shaping a waste-free future," he said.

Tan-Bantoto said Nestle is thankful for the opportunity to build an MRF for Barangay 164.

"We believe there is more to be done," she also said, noting Nestle plans to build two more city-based MRFs in the future.

The village officials thanked DENR and Nestle for helping address its waste problem.

"It's a big help to our community," Uy said at the event.

Teaching residents the proper way of segregating waste will improve solid waste management while enabling villagers to earn from recycling and reusing trash, she noted. (PNA)



## Improved wastewater treatment seen

The system is designed to be environmentally friendly, takes low maintenance cost, and certified by the DoST as a green technology.



Published 3 hours ago  
on March 27, 2021 03:35 AM  
By [Mar T. Supnad](#)



CLARK FREEPORT — The Clark Water Corporation (CWC) on Thursday rolled out its Wastewater Treatment Plant Efficiency Improvement Project as an initial step for its compliance to government's regulation on water treatment.

With the support and directive of the Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the CWC carried out its preliminary steps to adhere to the requirements stipulated in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Administrative Order 2016-08 and for the renewal of its discharge permit.

The desludging of the existing Anaerobic and Facultative Ponds is also a response to the demands of DENR- Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region 3 to renew the discharge permit of CWC.

CDC president and CEO Manuel Gaerlan, in a statement, said that the program signals a significant action on the part of CWC and the state-owned firm to meet all the instructions of the EMB R3.

The desludging activity was also initiated due to the ultimatum given by EMB R3 insinuating that a cease-and-desist order will be issued by their office if CWC does not start with the initial steps.



## Improved wastewater treatment seen

To continuously support and to help facilitate the timely compliance of CWC to the requirements of DENR-EMB, the CDC has also recently presented a cost-effective technology to address the standards set in DAO 2016-08.

The technology is a hybrid wastewater treatment system that incorporates microbe (bio) remediation and reed bed technology and the system is designed to be environmentally friendly, takes low maintenance cost, and certified by the Department of Science and Technology (DoST) as a green technology.



## Wooden boat, 2,556.4 board feet of dipterocarp seized in Eastern Samar anti-illegal logging operation

Published March 26, 2021, 3:31 PM  
by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – An 82-foot long and 7-feet wide unfinished wooden boat, together with 2,556.4 board feet or 270 pieces of assorted dipterocarp species and other equipment, was seized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Enforcement Division, Philippine National Police (PNP)-Maritime Group Borongan, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources last Thursday in an anti-illegal logging operation in Barangay Casuguran, Guian, Eastern Samar.

The unfinished wooden boat was apprehended through surveillance by the apprehending team.

It was allegedly commissioned by the provincial government of Eastern Samar but was claimed by one Daipen Montes. However, upon apprehension, the claimant failed to present the necessary documents for the building of the boat and cutting of trees.

The claimant will be charged for violation of Section 68 of Presidential Decree 705 as amended by Executive Order 277 and further renumbered as Section 77 by Republic Act 7161 or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines.





## Northern Samar intensifies anti-logging operations

[RONALD O. REYES](#)

March 26, 2021

POLICE in Northern Samar have intensified its anti-logging operations following the arrest of seven suspects and the seizure 800 pieces of “lawaan” worth P239,999 in Bobon, Northern Samar early dawn of March 23, 2021.

“We have been intensifying our forest protection efforts in the past weeks and with our recent confiscations and apprehensions we hope to send a strong message to illegal loggers that we will deal with them with the full force of the law,” said Colonel Arnel Apud, director of Northern Samar Police Provincial Office.

“I also urge the public to be vigilant and help us protect our environment by reporting any suspected illegal logging activities in their localities,” he added.

Lieutenant Neil Fernandez, chief of Bobon Municipal Police Station, said the 800 pieces of “lawaan” were in assorted sizes with an estimated volume of 4,799.9 board feet and were loaded in a six-wheeler truck.

The seven arrested suspects failed to show the required permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its transport.

The suspects will face charges for violation of Presidential Decree 705 or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines. **(SunStar Philippines)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1889957/Tacloban/Local-News/Northern-Samar-intensifies-anti-logging-operations>



## Tarsier released in Zamboanga del Norte forest



ZAMBOANGA. The Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) releases a Philippine Tarsier into the natural forest area of Cogon Eco-Tourism Park in Cogon village, Dipolog City. A photo handout shows the tarsier that was recovered at a farmland in Labrador village, Polancio, Zamboanga del Norte. (SunStar Zamboanga)

March 26, 2021

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) released a Philippine Tarsier back to the natural habitat in that province, an official announced Friday, March 26, 2021.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the Tarsier was released last week into the natural forest area of Cogon Eco-Tourism Park in Cogon village, Dipolog City, the capital of Zamboanga del Norte.

Tan said the tarsier was turned over to Penro-Zamboanga del Norte by Jerry Obina and Herlence Dadan on March 16.

The two caught the wildlife at a farmland in Labrador village in the town of Polancio and noticed that it was pregnant.

Tan said the two immediately brought the tarsier to the PENRO-Zamboanga del Norte for proper care.



## Tarsier released in Zamboanga del Norte forest

He said upon assessment by Penro-Zamboanga del Norte personnel, the wildlife was found healthy, in good condition and suitable for release back to its natural habitat.

He added that the Philippine Tarsier is listed by the International Union of Conservation of Nature as a nearly threatened species based on the decline of its population over the years, which is mainly due to the loss of its natural habitat as a result of deforestation. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



## P460-K dried seahorse shipment intercepted in Bacolod port

By Nanette Guadalquiver March 26, 2021, 7:51 pm



**INTERCEPTED.** A joint team of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police - Maritime Group seize more than 15 kg. of dried seahorse on board an Iloilo City-bound vessel docked at the Banago port in Bacolod City on Friday (March 26, 2021). The shipment was valued at PHP460,000. (Photo courtesy of PCG-Negros Occidental)

**BACOLOD CITY** – More than 15 kg. of dried seahorse were seized by maritime authorities on board the MV FastCat M3 docked at the Banago port here Friday.

Capt. Ludovico Librilla Jr., commander of Coast Guard Station - Negros Occidental, said the shipment was bound for Iloilo City and was intercepted during the pre-departure inspection.

At about 11:30 a.m., a joint team of the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine National Police - Maritime Group checked the shipment after MSgt. Roger Cordero found the box containing the endangered species.

Upon verification, they found out that the shipment was declared as dried fish in the bill of lading by a certain Renante Panaguiton, who sent the cargo at 10 a.m. to an unknown consignee in Iloilo City.

The inventory, witnessed by Roy de Peña of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and MSgt. Eric Apableo, yielded 5 kg. of dried small seahorse valued at PHP100,000, along with 10 kg. of dried medium seahorse worth PHP200,000 and .25 kg. of dried big seahorse worth PHP160,000, for a total of PHP460,000.

The seized species, with the scientific name *Hippocampus* sp., were turned over to the BFAR.

Librilla said an investigation is being conducted on the whereabouts of the sender.





## **P460-K dried seahorse shipment intercepted in Bacolod port**

Section 97 of Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, prohibits the collection and sale of seahorses.

Carrying dried seahorses is also a violation of RA 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation Act, which prohibits the killing and trading of endangered species.

Nine seahorse species are listed as vulnerable and one as endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. (*PNA*)



## GenSan moves to protect, preserve water resources

By Richelyn Gubalani March 26, 2021, 1:39 pm



Facade of the city hall building of General Santos City. (PNA GenSan file photo)

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY** – The city government plans to expand the rehabilitation of watershed and forest areas to protect and preserve the area’s water resources.

Allan Marcilla, head of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, said Friday they are in talks with various sectors and agencies to plant more trees in the upland and riverbank areas and the regular cleanup of rivers and creeks.

He said the move is aimed to avert the destruction of the city’s water resources and water shortage.

Marcilla said that based on a study commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity or Surge project, the city’s water supply has started to become scarce.

He said the situation is mainly due to the city’s increasing population, estimated at over 650,000, and water usage.

“This is a reality on the ground, and there are some barangays that are already experiencing problems with water supplies from our water district,” Marcilla told reporters.

A USAID-Surge briefer cited that over 25,000 households in the city proper and nearby areas are currently served by the General Santos City Water District.

It said communities in other parts of the city that are not connected to the water district rely on small-scale water utilities like rural waterworks and sanitation associations, which reached a total of 174.



## GenSan moves to protect, preserve water resources

In coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Environmental Management Bureau, the city conducted a series of tree growing activities and awareness campaigns in line with the Philippine Water Week.

Marcilla said the city's rehabilitation efforts are focused on the four major rivers traversing the area –Buayan, Silway-Klinan, Silway, and Tinagacan.

DENR had declared the critical Silway River as a water quality management area.

In line with the celebration, the official said the USAid-Surge turned over to the local government early this week its commissioned Local Sustainable Sanitation Plan.

He said the plan would address the challenges faced by local communities in maintaining and expanding access to safe and clean water.

Based on data as of 2019 from the city's field health services information system, some 140,458 or 91 percent of the area's over 154 households were reported to have access to safe and clean water. *(PNA)*



## More demolition of illegal structures at Busol

March 26, 2021

BAGUIO City Mayor Benjamin Magalong vowed on March 24 to pursue the demolition of illegal structures at the Busol watershed to preserve the pinestand, which is the biggest source of potable water and one of the few remaining forest reserves in the city.

"To finally put an end to this decades-long problem, we shall continue to take action and remove illegal settlers within our watersheds for the benefit of the people," the mayor said.

The mayor added the city conducted a series of dialogues with the watershed occupants on the city's demolition plan even before the pandemic happened.

Magalong added they had an agreement with around 150 occupants and heads of the four barangays straddling the reservation for them to cooperate with the city by refraining from introducing improvements or expansion of their existing structures, helping guard against further intrusions and undertaking preservation measures for the watershed.

The mayor said a recent inspection of the site showed stark violation of the agreement as there were expansions undertaken and new structures that mushroomed to the detriment of the forest reserve and water resource of the city.

Because of these findings, demolition was scheduled after the affected parties were notified in January, according to the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO).

The demolition targeted 16 structures and was set for March 23 and 24. Five structures were torn down and 11 were spared due to a temporary restraining order issued by the court.

It will be recalled that on Aug. 9, 2019, the mayor agreed to put on hold the demolition of eight ongoing constructions at the watershed after securing the commitment of the informal settlers to guard the reservation from further intrusion.

The mayor then conducted a dialogue with the occupants where he stressed the city's firm position to safeguard the remaining unoccupied portion of the watershed placed at only 60 percent of the entire Baguio side of the reservation it shares with La Trinidad, Benguet.

Magalong said that while the city gives humanitarian consideration to the predicament of the occupants, many of whom are ancestral land claimants who claimed to be long time settlers of the forest reserve, law and order must be respected.

But while the city is deciding on what action to take and while court cases remain pending, the mayor said the city can strike an agreement with the occupants toward the achievement of a common aim to preserve what is left of the watershed.

"If we don't agree soon, we are sure to move in the direction of removing all of you from the watershed because our priority is to save the watershed from further intrusion and destruction," the mayor issued this challenge then leading to the agreement.





## More demolition of illegal structures at Busol

The mayor also agreed to give them time to organize and present a plan of action for the guarding and preservation of the watershed and promised to explore ways to help them in their predicament.

Busol, the city's biggest source of potable water, is embroiled in several court cases involving informal settlers and ancestral land claimants.

On February 4, 2009 the Supreme Court ruled with finality sustaining the city government's bid to demolish some structures covered by Demolition Order No. 33 series of 2005 of former mayor Braulio Yaranon.

The High Tribunal sustained the City Government's contention that the city is governed by its charter and "thus, (lot occupants) cannot claim their alleged ancestral lands under the provisions of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (Ipra)."

To date there are other cases pending before the various courts.

The city is also poised to pursue the reversion procedures before the Office of the Solicitor General to reclaim the 7.8 hectare lot within the Busol watershed that was divided into 22 lots and illegally titled by unscrupulous individuals in 2015.

The subject lot is covered by a 211 title or part of those titles issued under Civil Reservation Case 1 Record 211 and which were declared void by the Supreme Court because the court that issued the same had no jurisdiction. The said titles can be legalized only upon undergoing validation proceedings. **(PR)**



## CDC exec hits EMB-Central Luzon chief



INSPECTION. Clark Development Corporation (CDC) President and CEO Manuel R. Gaerlan (rightmost), together with CDC Chairman Edgardo Pamintuan (2nd from left), Clark Water Corporation (CWC) President and CEO Virgilio Rivera Jr. (3rd from left), and CWC Market Sector Lead for Water, Prime Infra Melvin John Tan (leftmost) inspected the commencement of the siphoning activity and desludging works at the existing Anaerobic and Facultative Ponds in Clark Freeport Zone. (Contributed photo)

March 26, 2021

CLARK Development Corporation President and CEO Manuel Gaerlan expressed disappointment over the “no-show” of Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Central Luzon Director William Trajeco during the inceptive ground works for the desludging of the sewage treatment facility of Clark Water Corporation (CWC) on Thursday, March 25.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Efficiency Improvement Project was rolled out Thursday, March 25, in Clark Freeport, as an initial step for CWC compliance to government regulations on effluent standards.

With the support and directive of the CDC, the CWC carried out its preliminary steps to adhere to the requirements stipulated in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ (DENR) Administrative Order 2016-o8 and for the renewal of its discharge permit.

Despite the efforts of CDC and CWC to come up with the “win-win solution” to the brewing water problem in Clark, Gaerlan said the EMB director failed to make himself available to witness the preliminary work of the water firm in cooperation with the state-owned firm to resolve issue.

The preliminary move for the desludging of the existing Anaerobic and Facultative Ponds is also a response to the demands of DENR-EMB-Central Luzon to renew the discharge permit of CWC. EMB is an agency under the DENR.

Gaerlan underscored the importance of the event as this signals a significant action on the part of CWC and the state-owned firm to meet all the insistence of the EMB-Central Luzon.

The desludging activity was also initiated due to the ultimatum given by EMB-Central Luzon insinuating that a cease-and-desist-order (CDO) will be served by their office if no initial steps were made.



## CDC exec hits EMB-Central Luzon chief

To continuously support and to help facilitate fast compliance of CWC to the requirements of DENR-EMB, the CDC has also recently presented an alternative technology that is feasible and cost-effective methods responsive to government's regulation.

This technology is a hybrid waste water treatment that incorporates Bio Remediation and Reed Bed technology.

It is an environmentally friendly, low maintenance cost, and green approach guaranteed to meet the DENR parameters. It would not require major construction works and estimated to only take four-months project timeline.

It is a modular and portable design and Environmental Technology verified by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). This is also being used in various countries such as US, China, Indonesia, Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada and Korea, among others.

To continuously support and to help facilitate the timely compliance of CWC to the requirements of DENR-EMB, the CDC has also recently presented a cost-effective technology to address the standards set in DAO 2016-08.

This technology is a hybrid wastewater treatment system that incorporates microbe (bio) remediation and reed bed technology. The system is designed to be environmentally friendly, takes low maintenance cost, and certified by DOST as a green technology.

It would not require major construction works and estimated to only take four-month project timeline for full adaption.

The modular and portable design of the microbe remediation proposed by CDC is also patented in various countries such as the US, China, Indonesia, Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada, and Korea.

Also present in the event is CDC Chairman Edgardo D. Pamintuan who has taken a very active role in resolving the issues between CDC, CWC, and EMB-Central Luzon.

Earlier, a virtual town hall meeting was organized by CDC to present feasible and cost-effective methods that are modern, compliant, and inexpensive that make the business climate for Clark locators and investors more sustainable.

The technology also addresses standards set by the DENR. The town hall meeting was attended by officers and members of Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) and CWC.

This aims to provide updates, and developments with regard to the various steps taken by the state-owned firm in guiding CWC for its compliance to the AO issued by the DENR. **(PR)**

Source: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1890026>



## #Connect2Earth: Globe solidifies climate change support through action-led initiatives

06:34 PM March 26, 2021

Earth Hour is the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, representing large-scale public clamor for a sustainable future and the protection of the environment.

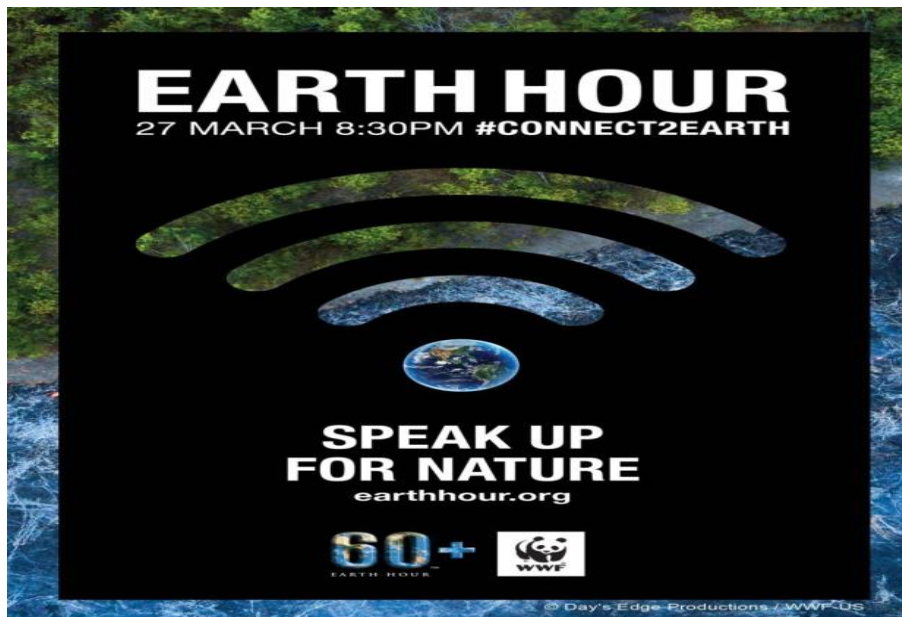


On Saturday, 27 March at 8:30 p.m. local time, this global event will virtually bring together millions of people, businesses and leaders from around the world to shine a spotlight on the urgent need to address nature loss and climate change. With evidence pointing towards a close link between nature's destruction and rising incidences of infectious disease outbreaks like COVID-19, Earth Hour 2021 will unite people online to speak up for nature. This event comes ahead of key moments when world leaders will take critical decisions on nature, climate change and sustainable development, setting the course of our future.

As part of its support to Earth Hour, Globe has also established several initiatives that put the planet first such as WasSUP ('Wag Sa Single Use Plastic), a sustainability program that advocates a zero waste lifestyle and educates Globe employees on how avoidance of single-use plastics can protect the environment. Globe has collaborated with Green Antz Builders Inc. for proper disposal and processing of single-use plastic wastes within their office premises by purchasing a new plastic shredder. Clean and dry plastics are shredded and brought to the Green Antz facility in Arca South, Taguig for further processing and conversion to eco-bricks and eco pavers.



## #Connect2Earth: Globe solidifies climate change support through action-led initiatives



It also worked with Vending Experts Night and Day Philippines, Inc. (VEND Phils. Inc.) to come out with first vending machines that operate using the Quick Response (QR) code for cashless and contactless transactions via GCash. 28 machines have been installed in Globe offices and an automatic PhP1.00 GCASH rebate is given every time a Ka-Globe uses his or her own mug.

Globe customers may further take part in the zero-carbon initiatives. Here's how:

- **Donate your Globe Rewards Points**

Be part of the reforestation advocacy by supporting Globe's reforestation initiatives through your Globe Rewards points. Globe supports Hineleban Foundation for the reforestation of denuded primary forests in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur. Together with its has already raised a total of PhP 15.6 million equivalent to 156 hectares of reforestation sites planted with Calliandra as pioneer species coupled with multiple native trees such as Narra, White Lauan, Balsa, Bitag, and Ulayan.

Every 100 Rewards points donation is equivalent to one tree. To donate, just download the Globe Rewards app on your mobile device and click the "DONATE" banner. Tap "HINELEBAN100" and press "REDEEM". Download the app via <https://www.globe.com.ph/rewards.html#GRewardsApp>

The company also engaged in a long-term partnership with The Mead Foundation for the reforestation of upland forests in Iba, Zambales in collaboration with the local IP community. To support, go to <https://mead-foundation.org/trees/> and scan the QR code using your GCASH app. Every PhP100 donation is equivalent to 1 native tree planted.





## #Connect2Earth: Globe solidifies climate change support through action-led initiatives

- **Go Digital – Use GCASH and help reforest the country**

Every successful GCash transaction earns you equivalent green energy in GCash Forest. You can collect these green energy by linking your health accounts, switching to online GCash transactions and reducing your carbon footprint. With enough green energy, you can plant a virtual tree and a real tree will be planted on your behalf by partner local communities. Help rebuild Philippine forests and protect our remaining watersheds! Download the app now via Google Play and App Store or go directly to <https://www.gcash.com/gforest/>

- **Enroll in Paperless Billing**

Globe actively encourages its customers to shift to electronic billing in order to reduce paper consumption and decrease environmental footprint. In addition, by automating and migrating to a paperless process, the company was able to save over 781 tons of paper, equivalent to saving 18,753 trees in 2020.

- **Practice Zero waste at home. Donate your old, non-working electronic gadgets through Globe’s Ewaste Zero program**

E-waste Zero is Globe’s environmental program focused on responsible disposal and recycling of electronic wastes. The program was formerly called “Project 1 Phone” and remains to be a platform for everyone to donate their old, non-working electronic devices via participating Globe Stores, select malls and offices of partner organizations.

Since its launch in 2014, Globe has worked with more than 66 corporations, private organizations, NGOs and schools nationwide. To date, more than 1.4 million kilograms of ewaste were donated, collected and recycled responsibly.

You may drop your e-waste items in more than 120 locations nationwide. This includes select Globe stores, participating malls and offices of partner organizations. To see the full list of drop of points or request for free door-to-door pickups, go to Globe’s Sustainability website – <https://www.globe.com.ph/about-us/sustainability/environment.html>

- **Together, let us reduce our carbon footprint. Switch to renewable energy or simply switch off lights when not in use**

Conserve energy by being mindful of your power consumption. Turn off lights and home appliances when not in use and, if possible, shift to renewable energy by using solar panels.

Similarly, Globe is constantly finding ways to reduce its impact to the environment by shifting to renewable or clean energy sources. In 2020, a total of 7 key sites have totally shifted to clean energy sources which is a milestone for the company since it started its efforts on decarbonizing its facilities. It has also decommissioned legacy machines to ensure only energy efficient systems are in place for its operations.



## #Connect2Earth: Globe solidifies climate change support through action-led initiatives

Globe has been supporting Earth Hour since it was first held in 2007. This year, Globe will again participate by turning off lights and non-critical equipment in its offices and key facilities during the global event on Saturday. Through this action, the company hopes to encourage the public to continuously look for ways to live and operate sustainably.

All these are part of Globe's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as UN SDG No. 12—Sustainable Consumption and Production—which is about achieving economic growth and sustainable development by urgently reducing ecological footprint. It is also about decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing resource efficiency and promoting sustainable lifestyles by changing the way people produce and consume goods and resources; and SDG No. 13, which is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Read more: <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/194621/connect2earth-globe-solidifies-climate-change-support-through-action-led-initiatives#ixzz6qFsmD49C>

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## Earth Hour 2021 rallies global action on nature's plight

By Catherine Teves March 26, 2021, 8:08 pm



**MANILA** – This year's observance of the annual Earth Hour aims to intensify global action that will help nature recover faster than it is declining.

Such observance is an opportunity that people worldwide must grab to speak up for nature and demand world leaders' action on such decline, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) which is the international conservation organization behind Earth Hour.

Nature is vital to life on Earth but rate of this resource's loss in the last 50 years is already "unprecedented in human history," WWF warned.

WWF said surge in global trade, consumption and human population growth as well as continuing urbanization are fueling such decline.

"We are losing nature faster than it can restore itself and without urgent action, significant harm to people and planet is inevitable: inadequate food and water for our growing global population, significant harm to our economies and the mass extinction of an estimated one million species," it said.

Citing earlier data, WWF said healthy nature can provide humanity various services collectively worth some USD125 trillion annually.

The Philippines will observe Earth Hour this Saturday (March 27) at 8:30 p.m. WWF noted this year's Earth Hour will occur less than a year before UN Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity holds its 15th meeting.

That meeting will focus on the state of nature, noted WWF "By speaking up for nature this Earth Hour, we can put the spotlight on our planet and spark global conversation on the need for change, building momentum and a 'domino effect' that directly influences the direction of this crucial UN biodiversity conference in a few months," WWF said.

Such global conversation can turn that conference into the event where world leaders formally commit to end nature loss and put Earth on the path to recovery by 2030, it noted.



## Earth Hour 2021 rallies global action on nature's plight

"No matter where you are in the world, you can make an impact and join us for the Hour as we speak up for nature!" said WWF.

The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is still raging so WWF is recommending that people participate in Earth Hour online or digitally instead.

Among online activities for this year's Earth Hour is airing of the first 'Virtual Spotlight' video which people can watch and share, it said.

"If you are planning to be in a public space or are thinking of spending the Hour with friends and family outside your home, please follow local guidelines, remember to wear a mask and maintain social distancing," WWF continued, citing the basic precautions against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Earth Hour is WWF's flagship global movement that promotes concerted action for the environment and Earth.

Beginning as a 2007 lights out event in Australia, Earth Hour evolved into an annual observance in over 100 countries worldwide. (PNA)



## Rethinking climate change and health of nature



By [Amado S. Tolentino, JR.](#)

March 27, 2021

THE upside of the coronavirus pestilence is greater awareness of biodiversity or species of plants and animals' conservation. Nearly all the new infectious diseases that scientists know about originate in animals and so will the emergence of diseases in the years to come. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) began in chimpanzees, SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in bats, influenza in aquatic birds. At some point, the animal pathogens jump the species barrier to humans which experts call a spillover. Spillovers have always occurred, but the rapid environmental changes wreaked by humans in recent years have accelerated the spread.

Scientists believe bats are most likely the source of the coronavirus, with pangolins also being eyed as the transmitter of the pathogens. While China cracked down on wildlife trade after the SARS epidemic in 2003, the emergence of Covid-19 clearly showed a lot more needs to be done. Apart from killer diseases traced to animals, the world continues to confront the many problems that are endangering both plant and wildlife.

### **Biodiversity loss and its impact on humanity**

Biodiversity loss is the dying out or the extermination of species because of environmental forces like habitat fragmentation, global climate change, natural disaster and over-exploitation of species for human use. Mankind is using 25 percent more natural resources than the planet can sustain.

Concomitant with biodiversity loss is habitat destruction. As more and more people need space, damaging human activities continue to encroach on natural environments, thereby destroying the habitats of countless species. As the population increases, cities and industrial areas are growing, fragmenting the remaining habitat and leaving 'isolated islands' of natural populations of plants and animals which are too small to survive.

Research shows that only one quarter of land areas and one-third of oceans remain undamaged by human activity. Mankind is also laying heavy pressure on populations of the wild species both by meat-hunting and large-scale industrial fishing. Increased hunting has also reduced the number of waterbirds and rare marine species (dugong, dolphins and sea turtles). Wildlife poaching and trafficking as well as intensive harvesting of aquatic resources, including aquatic vegetation also present threats to many species. Another is agriculture intensification to meet the needs of the overgrown population for food.

Moreover, the planet is on the verge of a climate catastrophe due to endless production of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane). In this regard, the impact of climate change on human health, on the other hand, is varied. Sunburn of our lungs happens when we inhale smog which causes chest pain, coughing and difficulty breathing. It triggers asthma attacks exacerbating conditions of bronchitis and emphysema. Extreme high temperature contributes directly to death from cardiovascular and respiratory disease.





## Rethinking climate change and health of nature

Climate change has caused the extension of mosquito season beyond the summer months. That means more spread of malaria, dengue fever and other diseases.

Depletion of the ozone layer has a harmful effect on human health too. This typically results in higher ultraviolet rays from the sun reaching us on earth. Research confirms that higher levels of UV rays cause non-melanoma skin cancer. Additionally, it plays a major role in malignant melanoma development.

It is now commonly known that floods contaminate freshwater supplies, heighten the risk of waterborne diseases and create breeding grounds for disease-carrying insects. A lack of safe drinking water can compromise hygiene and increase the risk of diarrheal disease.

### **The way to fight back**

With biodiversity in our ecosystem, the result is a greener environment. In addition, a healthy ecosystem can help reduce the risk of all diseases and the way people respond to them. Environmental changes brought about by climate are regulated because of biodiversity.

Culture too is enriched through biodiversity as it involves the existence of numerous species and people in one environment. In short, the ecosystem becomes the hallmark of diversity because it helps sustain the lives of diverse living things.

We should, therefore, work towards maintaining biodiversity and find solutions to prevent its decline resulting to loss. Governments must strive hard in formulating stricter laws and create awareness among people on environmental issues and its consequences. They must demonstrate to people that it is the responsibility of everyone to save our planet Earth by maintaining a rich biodiversity. Otherwise, humans will need to find another planet to live in.

Best of all, do no harm. Instead of being contributors to the earth's destruction, we should all genuinely fulfill our duties of being the "stewards of nature" through collective action with patience and forbearance.

Corollary to the stewardship concept is the call on the UN for the recognition of the right to a healthy environment as a human right which is proposed in the Global Pact for the Environment. Approval by the UN General Assembly of the pact will make the right to a healthy environment a 'hard law,' binding on all signatory states.

As gleaned from the foregoing discussion, the Covid-19 pandemic has its roots in habitat loss and illegal wildlife trade. To quote from a recent Manila Times editorial, "The new human right can help ensure that the global green recovery the world needs to rebuild society following the pandemic takes both biodiversity and the climate emergencies into account."

## RAFI OTT Partners with GCash for Reforestation Project

BY: [PR](#) - MARCH 26, 2021

With the Philippines being one of the most severely deforested countries in the tropics due to climate change, the private sector and civil society are working together to urgently address this massive threat to humanity.

As part of its mission to encourage more people to become biodiversity champions, the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI), through its biodiversity conservation arm, One To Tree (OTT), has partnered with Globe Fintech Innovations, Inc. (Mynt), the company behind the digital financial services provider GCash, through its mobile application GCash Forest.



Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc., through its biodiversity conservation arm, One To Tree (OTT), has partnered with Globe Fintech Innovations, Inc. Forest. | Contributed Photo

With over 33 million users, 86,000 partner merchants and more than 1M social sellers throughout the country, GCash Forest gives its users the power to reduce their carbon footprint, reforest the Philippines by planting and growing trees virtually, and empower local communities.

To implement this project, Mynt and RAFI-OTT will partner to reforest areas in Carmen, Cebu, with 300,000 fruit-bearing trees and timber within five years. This partnership is set to increase watershed forest cover and contribute to biodiversity enhancement.

It will also support two partner communities in Carmen, namely Nagkahiusang Mag-uma sa Communal in Brgy. Caurasan and Libuton Farmer's Association in Brgy. Liburon. Mynt and RAFI-OTT will collaborate with these partners on mechanisms to enhance sustainability of the tree growing initiative, including community mobilization, production of native tree seedlings, timber and/or agroforestry development or enhancement training, and maintenance and monitoring. This will also create an opportunity for alternative sources of income for the farmers.

*This partnership will give those who may not be able to physically go out and plant or care for indigenous trees the opportunity to contribute to this effort – from wherever they may be.*



## RAFI OTT Partners with GCash for Reforestation Project

AMAYA ABOITIZ

President and CEO of RAFI

“We welcome RAFI as our GREEN partner to achieve our goal in making the Philippines “greener” for our future generations to experience through GCash’s innovative cashless technology. We also commit to creating the so called “lazy environmentalists” into active and committed “green heroes” caring immensely for the environment starting in the Visayas but nationwide,” said Martha Sazon, President and CEO of GCash.

Amaya Aboitiz, President and CEO of RAFI says, “Both Mynt and RAFI, through its One To Tree program, recognize the importance of finding ways to include and engage more people in the process of restoring our forest cover. This partnership will give those who may not be able to physically go out and plant or care for indigenous trees the opportunity to contribute to this effort – from wherever they may be.”

One To Tree (RAFI-OTT, formerly known as RAFI Biodiversity Conservation Unit (BCU)), has been active in reforestation and conservation for over two decades and has achieved a more than 80% survival rate for tree growing. RAFI-OTT also assists companies in the service delivery of Environmental Compliance Certificate requirements set by the Philippine Government, as well as helping them achieve their carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation goals.

For more information on the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) One To Tree program, visit [www.onetotree.org](http://www.onetotree.org), [www.rafi.org.ph](http://www.rafi.org.ph), or [www.facebook.com/rafi.org.ph](http://www.facebook.com/rafi.org.ph).

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/369699/rafi-ott-partners-with-gcash-for-reforestation-project-%E2%80%AF#ixzz6qFugt6Vg>

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## Mati City named outstanding coastal community

By Che Palicte March 26, 2021, 2:59 pm



**OUTSTANDING COASTAL COMMUNITY.** Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat (2nd from right) receives the PHP2-million check on Friday (March 26, 2021) as the city wins the 2020 Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan Outstanding Coastal Community. Initiated by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the award recognizes outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal areas to sustainable fisheries management. *(Photo courtesy of Mayor Michelle Rabat)*

**DAVAO CITY--**Davao Oriental's capital Mati City has been named the regional winner of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) 2020 Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) Search for Outstanding Coastal Community.

During Friday's awarding ceremony, Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat received a PHP2-million cheque and a plaque of recognition from BFAR.

Rabat said the prize would be used for the continuing mangrove protection in Guang-Guang Mangrove Park and for additional budget for the fisherfolks in Mati.

"This award recognizes our perseverance for fisheries protection and conservation and managing our aquatic resources. Next stop, nationals," Rabat said.

Mati City will automatically vie for the national level competition of MMK this year.

With or without an award, Rabat said the city government remains committed to protecting the environment.

"Because the Mati City would not be where we are now without these abundant marine resources," she added.

Meanwhile, San Isidro town Mayor Justina Yu also received a PHP1-million cheque and a plaque of recognition while the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) received PHP500K and plaque of recognition for winning second and third place, respectively.



## Mati City named outstanding coastal community

The Search for MMK aims to recognize outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities or cities to sustainable fisheries management.

The MMK is the banner program of the DA-BFAR which aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation centers on the significance of sustainably managing the fisheries and aquatic resources and promotes stakeholder's engagement in the cause of resource protection and conservation.

It also aims to recognize outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities/cities to sustainable fisheries management.

The contest has five general criteria: no illegal fishing, observance of the closed fishing season, the establishment of marine protected areas, clean coastal waters without domestic and industrial wastes, and effective mangrove protection and rehabilitation program. *(PNA)*





## 580K Covid-19 recoveries, 9.8K new cases: DOH

By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz March 26, 2021, 5:20 pm



(Infographic courtesy of DOH)

**MANILA** – The Department of Health (DOH) on Friday reported 663 new recoveries from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), raising the total number of recoveries to 580,689 or 82.6 percent of all Covid-19 cases.

The country also recorded 9,838 new infections, the highest single-day number of cases since the start of the pandemic.

This brought the number of active cases to 109,018 or 15.5 percent of all infections.

Among the active cases, 95.1 percent show mild symptoms, followed by those who are asymptomatic at 3 percent, severe cases at 0.8 percent, those in critical condition at 0.7 percent, and moderate cases at 0.42 percent.

It reported 54 new deaths from Covid-19, with the country’s death toll now at 13,149 or 1.87 percent of the country’s 702,856 infections since the start of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, beds at the National Capital Region (NCR) are at moderate nearing high risk, with the 700 beds in intensive care units (ICU) at 72 percent occupancy, 3,800 isolation beds at 68 percent occupancy, 2,200 ward beds at 55 percent occupancy, and ventilators at 52 percent utilization.

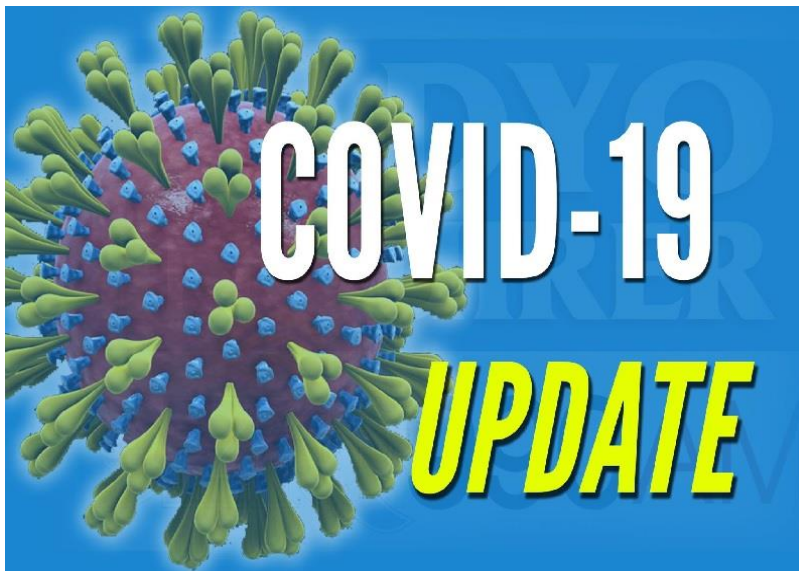
For the whole country, 1,900 beds in ICUs are at 54 percent occupancy, 13,500 isolation beds at 43 percent occupancy, 6,000 ward beds at 43 percent occupancy, and 2,000 ventilators at 36 percent utilization. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1135023>



## Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 126.06 milyon

By Angellic Jordan March 26, 2021 - 01:12 PM



Pumalo na sa 126.06 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 126,068,887 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 30,774,033 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang Brazil na may 12,324,765 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 11,846,652 naman ang kaso sa India habang 4,492,692 ang napaulat na kaso sa Russia.

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

- France - 4,424,087
- United Kingdom - 4,319,128
- Italy - 3,464,543
- Spain - 3,247,738
- Turkey - 3,120,013
- Germany - 2,732,130
- Colombia - 2,359,942
- Argentina - 2,278,115
- Mexico - 2,214,542
- Poland - 2,154,821

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,767,376 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 101,724,317 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

Read more: <https://radio.inquirer.net/288131/kaso-ng-covid-19-sa-mundo-umabot-na-sa-126-06-milyon#ixzz6qG9Hiwr>

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## BAGONG QUARANTINE STATUS IDEDEKLARA SA LUNES

written by [Jaymark Dagala](#) March 27, 2021



Nagpahiwatig ang malakaniyang na posibleng malagay pa rin sa mas mahigpit na quarantine status sa Metro Manila at mga karatig lalawigan nito.

Ayon iyan kay Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque kung hindi magbabago at kung patuloy pang tataas ang bagong mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa tinaguriang NCR plus bubble.

Pero nilinaw ng kalihim na hindi naman aniya aabot muli sa pagsasara ng mga negosyo bagkus ay hihigpitan pa ang galaw ng mga tao upang hindi na kumalat pa ang virus.

Sa ilalim ng general community quarantine (GCQ) bubble, tanging essential travel lamang ang pinapayagan habang limitado lamang sa alfresco dine in ang mga kainan at bawal din ang malakihang religious gatherings.

Maliban pa ito sa pagpapatupad ng uniformed curfew hours na nagsisimula ng alas-10 ng gabi na tatagal hanggang ala singko ng umaga kinabukasan.

Samantala, ibinunyag naman ni interior Usec. Epimaco Densing na posibleng magdeklara si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ng panibagong quarantine status para sa NCR plus bubble sa Lunes ng susunod na linggo.



## 'Work from home' scheme giit sa government agencies na nasa Quezon City

By [Angie dela Cruz](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)  
- March 27, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon kay Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, kung papayagan ng mga gov't. agencies na nasa QC na maipatupad ang naturang scheme, malaking tulong ito para mabawasan ang pagsirit ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa lungsod.  
Charles Deluvio via Unsplash/Stock

MANILA, Philippines — Hiniling ng Quezon City government sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno na ang tanggapan ay nasa lungsod na magpairal ng 'work from home scheme' sa kanilang mga tauhan mula sa Lunes, Holy Monday hanggang Easter Sunday.

Ayon kay Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, kung papayagan ng mga gov't. agencies na nasa QC na maipatupad ang naturang scheme, malaking tulong ito para mabawasan ang pagsirit ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa lungsod.

"Our target is to limit the mobility of people in the next nine days. As much as possible, we want everyone to stay home to contain the spread of COVID-19. We hope to reduce the number of infection significantly, thus easing the burden on our healthcare system and our medical frontliners who are tirelessly working 24/7," sabi ni Mayor Belmonte.

Nakapagtala ang QC Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU) ng kabuuang 310 COVID-19 cases sa loob ng 30 national government offices sa Quezon City mula January 2021, na 192 sa mga ito ay aktibo hanggang nitong Marso 24.

Sinabi ni Dr. Rolly Cruz, head ng City Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit (CESU), na kailangang maibaba ang workforce na kung maaari ay mas mababa sa gobyerno ng may 30 hanggang 50 percent.

Base sa kanilang contact tracing, sinabi ni Cruz na ang mabilis na pagdami ng kaso ay nagmumula sa workplace at nadadala ang virus sa miyembro ng kanilang pamilya.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2021/03/27/2087330/work-home-scheme-giit-sa-government-agencies-na-nasa-quezon-city/amp/>





## DAMUTAN O AGAWAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19 MATINDI



March 26, 2021 @ 2:29 PM 15 hours ago

NAGAGANAP ang mga damutan o agawan ng mga bakuna laban sa coronavirus disease o COVID-19.

Kaya naman, hindi madaling makakuha ang maraming bansa ng mga bakuna kahit pa may pambili sila.

Nagaganap ang damutan o agawan sa ilalim ng sinasabi ng World Health Organization na vaccine nationalism.

Sa vaccine nationalism, iniuutos ng mga pamahalaan sa mga bansang doon ginagawa ang mga bakuna na unahin muna silang suplayan bago maglabas ang mga ito patungo sa ibang bansa.

Target ng mga nasabing pamahalaan na bakunahan muna lahat ang kanilang mga mamamayan nang kumpleto o ng dalawang dose para sa iba at mayroon pa silang reserba na kasinlaki ng bulto ng suplay para sa unang pagbabakuna nila.

Mayroon namang naglalabas nang vaccine manufacturer ngunit inuutusan silang tumigil upang matugunan ang paglala ng pandemya sa sarili nilang bansa.

### INDIA MUNA BAGO ANG IBA

Nagsimulang magdeliber ang India ng mga bakuna sa ibang bansa noong Enero 20, 2021 lalo't matatagpuan dito ang pinakamalalaking kompanya ng gamot sa buong mundo, kasama na ang bakuna laban sa COVID-19.

Kabilang sa ginagawang bakuna ang AstraZeneca makaraang mag-partner ang AstraZeneca/Oxford University na imbentor ng nasabing bakuna at ang pribadong kompanyang India Serum Institute na pinakamalaking vaccine maker sa mundo.

Ayon sa Indian Express, nakapagdeliber na ito ng 60.4 milyong doses sa 80 bansa, lalo na sa mga bansang kalapit nito at sa mga bansang pasok sa mga benepisyaryo ng Covax Facility ng World Health Organization.





## **DAMUTAN O AGAWAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19 MATINDI**

Subalit ngayong inaatake ang India ng maramihang impeksyon o nagkakasakit na naglalaro sa 30,000-40,000 araw-araw, iniutos ng pamahalaan nila ang paglalabas ng bakuna.

At aabot umano ito ng kung ilang buwan, depende sa kalagayang-COVID ng nasabing bansa.

Naglabas ang India ng mga bakuna ngunit malaking bulto rito ang pangontra sa paglalabas din ng China.

Nag-aagawan ang India at China ng mga bansang gusto nilang maging alyado sa kapangyarihan at komersyo at ginagamit ang mga bakuna sa COVID-19 na pangkabig ng suporta ng ibang bansa sa kanilang iringan.

Matatandaang nag-aagawan ng teritoryo ang India at China at maging ng impluwensya sa malalayong bansa.

Gayunman, tutuparin na lang umano nila ang mga natanguan na nilang kontrata bago ang pagbabawal ng export ng bakuna.

### **SA EUROPA, BAWAL DING MAG-EXPORT**

May planta ang AstraZeneca sa United Kingdom, Belgium, The Netherlands at Italy.

Bagama't orig sa UK ang bakunang AstraZeneca, sabay-sabay na ginagawa ito sa nasabing mga planta sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nitong mga nagdaang araw lamang, iniutos ng European Community ang pag-raid sa planta sa Belgium, gayundin sa Italy.

Sa Belgium, iniimbestigahan ang sinasabi ng management ng planta na nagkakaproblema sila sa paggawa mismo ng bakuna dahil sa problema sa suplay at kalidad ng mga sangkap ng mga ito para rito.

Ngunit sa Italy, nakatagpo ang Italy police ng nasa 29 milyong dosage sa planta sa Anagni.

Nang tanungin ang management, ididelibel umano nila ang 13M dosage sa Covax Facility at ang 16M, para naman sa EU.

Subalit malaki ang pagdududa ng EU na para talaga sa EU at Covax Facility ang mga bakuna kundi para sa UK.

Nag-order kasi ang UK ng 100M dose mula sa mga planta lalo na sa Belgium at suspetsa ng EU na para sa UK ito.

Matatandaang may away ang EU at UK makaraang humiwalay ang huli sa una para mapanatili umano nito ang pambansa nitong kalayaan at dito nagkaroon ng mga harangan sa negosyo at maging sa bakuna.

Bukod dito, matindi ang pangangailangan ng EU sa pagpapabakuna sa mahigit 450 milyong nitong mamamayan at laging sinasabi ng kompanyang AstraZeneca na hindi ito makapagdeliber nang buo sa mga kontrata nito sa 27 bansang kasapi ng EU.



## **DAMUTAN O AGAWAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19 MATINDI**

Sa ngayon, may kontrata itong 80M dosage para sa EU ngunit hanggang 30M lang ang kaya nitong ideliber.

Kaya sa huli, hinarang ng Italy ang paglalabas ng AstraZeneca ng bakuna patungo sa ibang bansa at sinuportahan ang Italy ng Germany at iba pa.

### **KANO MUNA BAGO ANG IBA**

Nang manalo bilang Pangulo ng US si Joseph Biden, ginawa ang patakaranang “Kano muna bago ang iba.”

Kaya naman, ang lahat ng bakunang gawa sa US gaya Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson at Novavax ay kailangang magamit muna sa lahat ng naninirahan sa US na nasa 300 milyon.

Sinasabing matatapos halos lahat na mabakunahan ang mga nasa US bago mag-Hulyo 2021 at mula rito, pupwede na umanong mag-export ang mga vaccine manufacturer ng mga bakuna.

Subalit uunahin ng US na hatiran ang mga kapitbansa nitong Mexico at Canada.

Ang Canada ay bibili para sa 70M mamamayan nito subalit nasa 4-6 beses na mas maraming suplay ang bibilhn nito kumpara sa pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan nito para magamit sa mga susunod na panahon.

Ang Mexico naman ay mayamang bansa at kaya nitong bumili ng para sa 126 milyong mamamayan nito.

Kung meron mang makalulusot sa ngayon gaya ng 117,000 Pfizer para sa Pilipinas, manggagaling ito sa Covax Facility at darating sa susunod na buwan.

### **NAHIHIRAPAN MISMO ANG WHO**

Mismong ang WHO ay hirap na hirap sa pagkuha o pagbili ng bakuna na nasimulan na nitong ideliber sa ilan sa 130 bansang nangangailangan ng bakuna.

Ang 130 bansa ay binubuo ng higit na mahihirap na bansa na biktima ng vaccine nationalism at kakapusan ng salapi na pambili ng bakuna.

Matagal nang inirereklamo ng WHO ang pagkakaroon nito ng \$2 bilyon lamang na pondo nito para pambili ng bakuna at nitong mga huling araw lang nagsimulang magbigay ng tig-kokonting halaga ang mayayamang bansa.

Pero ang pamimigay ng mayayamang bansa ay 4% lang mula sa kabuuan nilang badyet sa pagbili ng bakuna, ayon na rin sa kahilingan ni France President Emmanuel Macron.

Pero hindi pa pangunahin na diwa ito ng kanilang pag-ayuda sa mahihirap na bansa kundi pangontra sa China at Russia na malakihan at malawakang nagdodonasyon o nagbebenta ng bakuna sa iba't ibang bansa.



## **DAMUTAN O AGAWAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19 MATINDI**

Ayaw ng mayayamang bansa na maunahan sila ng China at Russia sa pakikipagkaibigan at pagpapatatag ng aliyansa sa pulitika at ekonomiya sa ibang bansa.

May 220 bansa at teritoryo na bumubuo ng United Nations at dito nag-aagawan ang China, Russia, at mayayamag bansa na gaya ng US, France, Canada, Japan, Germany, Mexico sa impluwensya sa pulitika at interes sa negosyo.

### **PINAS NASAAN?**

Naririyang nangangailangan ng bakuna na nagkakahalaga ng P82 bilyon para mabakunahan ang nasa 60-70 porsyento ng mahigit 100M Pinoy.

Magkasama sa P82B ang inutang ng Pilipinas sa World Bank, Asian Development Bank at iba pang malalaking dayuhang bangko at mismong pondo na inilalaan ng pamahalaan ng Pilipinas.

Ngayon dahil sa pagdadamot at agawan sa bakuna ng mayayamang bansa na nakorner na ang 80% ng suplay ng bakuna sa buong mundo, hirap na hirap tayo sa pagkakaroon ng bakuna, kahit naririyang nangangailangan ang pondong pambili natin.

Mabuti na lang at nakapagdeliber na ang China sa atin ng isang milyong dosage ng Sinovac at mahigit sa 500,000 AstraZeneca na ginagamit na natin.

Sinasabing mahigit nang 500,000 Pinoy ang nabakunahan sa iba't ibang sulok ng mahal kong Pinas at ginagawan ang lahat ng paraan ng pamahalaan para maturukan na rin ang iba.

Ang problema, kapos na kapos ang bakuna dahil nasa 1.7M ang dapat na maunang mabakunahan, lalo na ang mga health worker at nangangailangan ang mga ito ng nasa 3.4M dosage.

### **MAGPABAKUNA NA TAYO**

Ngayon ay gumagrabang ang kalagayan natin sa COVID-19.

Sabay-sabay na sumasalakay ang orig na virus at mga bagong anyo nito gaya ng Philippine variant, UK variant, Brazil variant at South Africa variant.

Kaya naman dumating na tayo sa puntong mas marami na ang nagkakasakit ngayon kumpara sa anomang panahon ng pandemya nitong nakaraang taon.

Upang maligtas tayo sa matinding COVID-19, pagpapaospital at kamatayan, magpabakuna na tayo.

Pangunahin na boluntaryo ang pagpapabakuna subalit kung nasa listahan tayo ng mga dapat mauna na mabakunahan, magpaturok na tayo.

Tandaan natin ang sinasabi ng ating mga awtoridad, kaobispuhan at iba pa, at maging ng mga doktor, nurse at iba pang mga health worker na obligadong lumalahok sa giyera sa pandemya na ang "the best vaccine is the available vaccine."

Huwag nating hintaying maunang darating at magpakita sa atin ang mga ambulansya ng ospital at karo ng punerarya bago tayo magpabakuna.



## **DAMUTAN O AGAWAN SA BAKUNA VS COVID-19 MATINDI**

O kaya'y magkalubog-lubog muna tayo sa krisis sa buhay at pagkakaospital bago tayo magpabakuna.

Ang mga bakunang available ngayon ay ikinaliligtas na ng milyon-milyong mamamayan gaya ng Sinovac sa bansang China at AstraZeneca sa UK.

Totoong may mga hindi magagandang balita ukol sa mga balitang ito subalit higit na marami ang nakikipagsapalarang mabakunahan at nasasagip sila hindi lang sa pagkakasakit at kamatayan kundi sa kahirapan na matindi ring bunga ng pandemya.



## Dry season begins in some parts of the Philippines — PAGASA

Published March 26, 2021 9:38pm

The dry season has officially started in some areas in the Philippines.

According to Nathaniel “Mang Tani” Cruz’s report on “24 Oras,” warm winds from the Pacific Ocean called the easterlies will now prevail over a large portion of the country in the following days.

Cruz said that the dry season was not delayed this year as it usually occurs on the third and last week of March.

PAGASA earlier advised the public to expect [warmer days ahead](#).

This weekend, the temperature in Metro Manila is expected to hit 41°C.

Meanwhile, the temperature in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija, and Catbalogan, Samar is expected to hit 39°C on Saturday and 40°C on Sunday.

Tagbilaran, Cotabato, and Zamboanga City are also expected to experience a temperature of 38°C while the temperature in Tuguegarao may hit 37°C.

In May 2020, the temperature in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro reached 56°C.

PAGASA said this was the highest recorded temperature in the country since 2010.—**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

Tags: [dry season](#), [weather](#), [PAGASA](#)





## Lack of tribes' consent stalls P12.2-B Kaliwa Dam project funded by China's Export-Import Bank

[Friday, March 26, 2021 People's Tonight](#)

THE Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) needs the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of six indigenous groups to start construction of the P12.2 billion New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project (NCWS-KDP) which is being funded by China's Export-Import Bank.

In order for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to allow the start of the P12.2-B NCWS-KDP, the MWSS first needs the FPIC of the six tribes which will be affected by the project.

However, Agta-Dumagat leader Marcelino Tena said only one of the six indigenous groups has given its FPIC to the MWSS and claimed that it had received a P20 million fund from the agency.

Tena revealed this during the recent deliberation of the House Committee on Indigenous Cultural Communities and Indigenous Peoples.

MWSS deputy administrator Leonor Cleofas said the project contractor, China Energy Engineering Corp. (CEEC), should secure all the permits and clearances needed before construction works start.

Cleofas said the CEEC is merely conducting surveys and a geological investigation to come up with a detailed engineering design for the dam.

Meanwhile, Deputy Speaker and Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate and ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro have called for a special audit on MWSS funds following Tena's revelation that the agency had provided P20 million to the tribe which had given its FPIC.

*"Parang padulas ito, they are using the carrot and stick method,"* claimed Zarate.

IP leader Thelma Aumentado explained that the money was part of MWSS assistance to the tribe affected with the construction of another project, the Angat-Umiray project in Quezon.

Source: <https://journal.com.ph/news/provincial/lack-of-tribes-consent-stalls-p12-2-b-kaliwa-dam-project-funded-by-chinas-export-import-bank/>



## Biden has invited Putin, Xi to virtual climate summit - US official

Published March 27, 2021 4:44am



In all, 40 world leaders have been asked to attend the two-day meeting meant to mark Washington's return to the front lines of the fight against man-made climate change, after former president Donald Trump disengaged from the process.

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden has invited his counterparts Xi Jinping of China and Russia's Vladimir Putin to a virtual climate summit he is hosting in April, the White House announced on Friday.

In all, 40 world leaders have been asked to attend the two-day meeting meant to mark Washington's return to the front lines of the fight against man-made climate change, after former president Donald Trump disengaged from the process.

"They know they're invited," Biden said of Xi and Putin. "But I haven't spoken to either one of them yet."

The start of the summit on April 22 coincides with Earth Day, and will come ahead of a major UN meeting on climate change scheduled for November in Glasgow, Scotland.

It is being staged entirely online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden kept his campaign pledge to rejoin the Paris climate agreement on his first day in the White House, after Trump pulled out of the deal.

The return of the world's largest economy and second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide became effective on February 19, and means almost all the world's nations are now parties to the agreement signed in 2015. -- **Agence France-Presse**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/781431/biden-has-invited-putin-xi-to-virtual-climate-summit-us-official/story/>



## Urban transformation is essential to overcoming the climate crisis and stemming urban poverty

Cutting carbon emissions in developing world cities will be critical in the fight against climate change, according to a new study. Supplying buildings with cleaner energy, bolstering flood defences and expanding public transport can help.



Flooding in Karawang, Indonesia. Rapid and unplanned urbanisation is leading to urban sprawl that has made cities highly vulnerable to climate change induced flooding, droughts and heatwaves. Image: [Leolintang / Shutterstock.com](#)

By [Gillian Parker](#)  
March 26, 2021

Cities, as economic engines and populations hubs, must be at the centre of attempts to overcome the tripartite challenge of Covid-19 recovery, sustainable and inclusive development and climate change, according to a [report](#) by the Coalition for Urban Transitions published on 17 March.

More than half the world's population dwell in cities, and by 2050 the United Nations expects that proportion to reach 68 per cent. The Coalition for Urban Transtion's report focused on six emerging economies that represent about 40 per cent of the world's population.

China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa – which account for a third of global GDP and about 40 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel use – could cut annual emissions by up to 90 per cent by 2050 by adopting a bundle of low-carbon measures, the report said.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/urban-transformation-is-essential-to-overcoming-the-climate-crisis-and-stemming-urban-poverty/>



## CONTINUED THREATS | Elephants in Africa face growing risk of extinction

March 26, 2021 , 09:14 AM

GENEVA (Reuters) – African elephants living in forests and savannas are increasingly threatened with extinction, the Red List of species in trouble showed on Thursday, as conservationists called for an urgent end to poaching.

The new assessments by the International Union for Conservation of Nature underscore the persistent pressures faced by the two species of elephants in Africa due to poaching for ivory and human encroachment.

“We must urgently put an end to poaching and ensure that sufficient suitable habitat for both forest and savannah elephants is conserved,” said Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General.

The Swiss-based body’s latest survey said the savanna elephant was “endangered” and the much smaller, lighter forest elephant was “critically endangered” – its highest category before extinction in the wild.

Previously IUCN had treated both elephants together which it considered as “vulnerable” but opted to separate them following genetic evidence that they are different species.

The IUCN cited data showing that the populations of Africa’s savanna elephants found in a variety of habitats had decreased by at least 60% over the last 50 years while the number of forest elephants found mostly in Central Africa had fallen by 86% over 31 years.

Combined, around 415,000 remain, it said.

Despite the overall decline, some populations of forest elephants were rebounding due to successful conservation measures such as those taken by Gabon and Republic of Congo. In Southern Africa’s Kavango–Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, savanna elephant numbers were also stable or growing, IUCN said.

IUCN’s latest assessment – the first of three annual updates – assessed 134,425 species of plants, fungi and animals of which more than a quarter are threatened with extinction.

*Reporting by Emma Farge; Editing by Nick Macfie*

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/163550757135020/posts/2472289136261159/>



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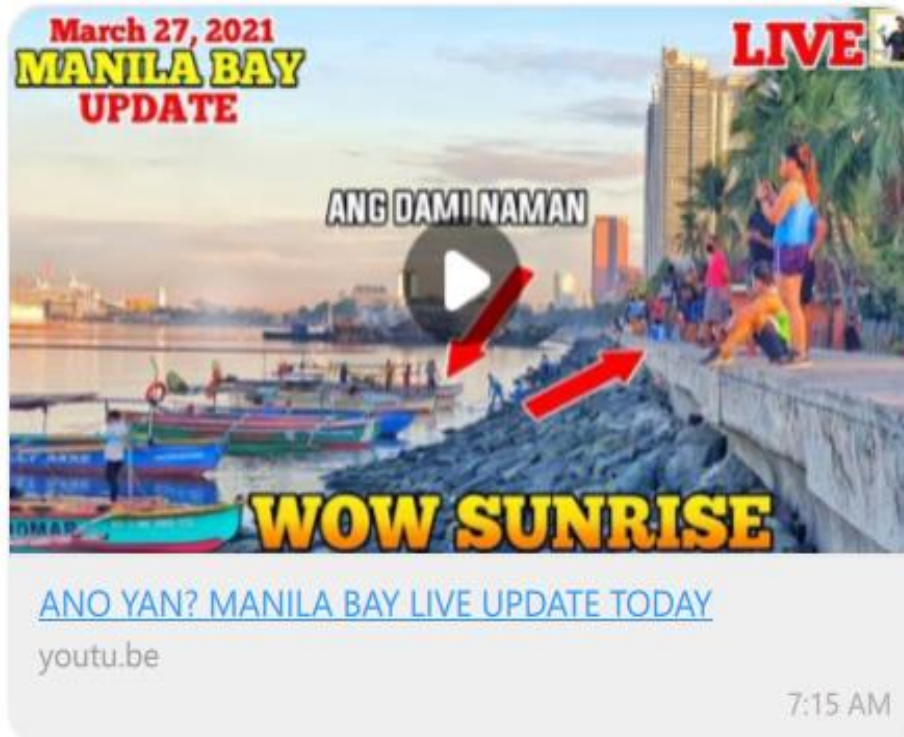
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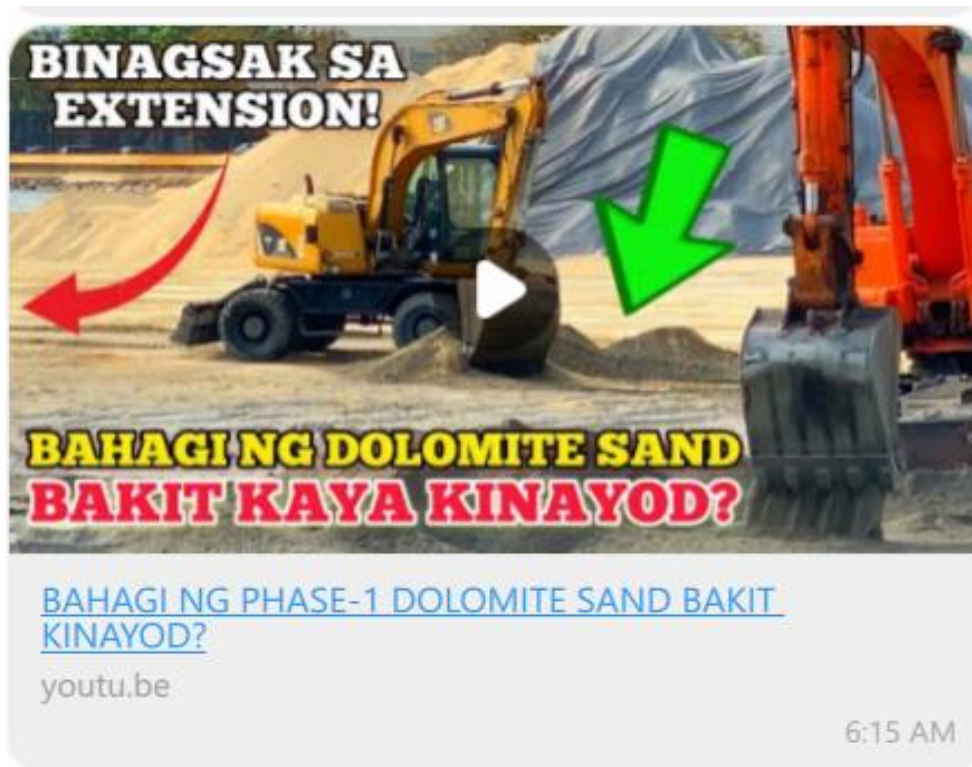
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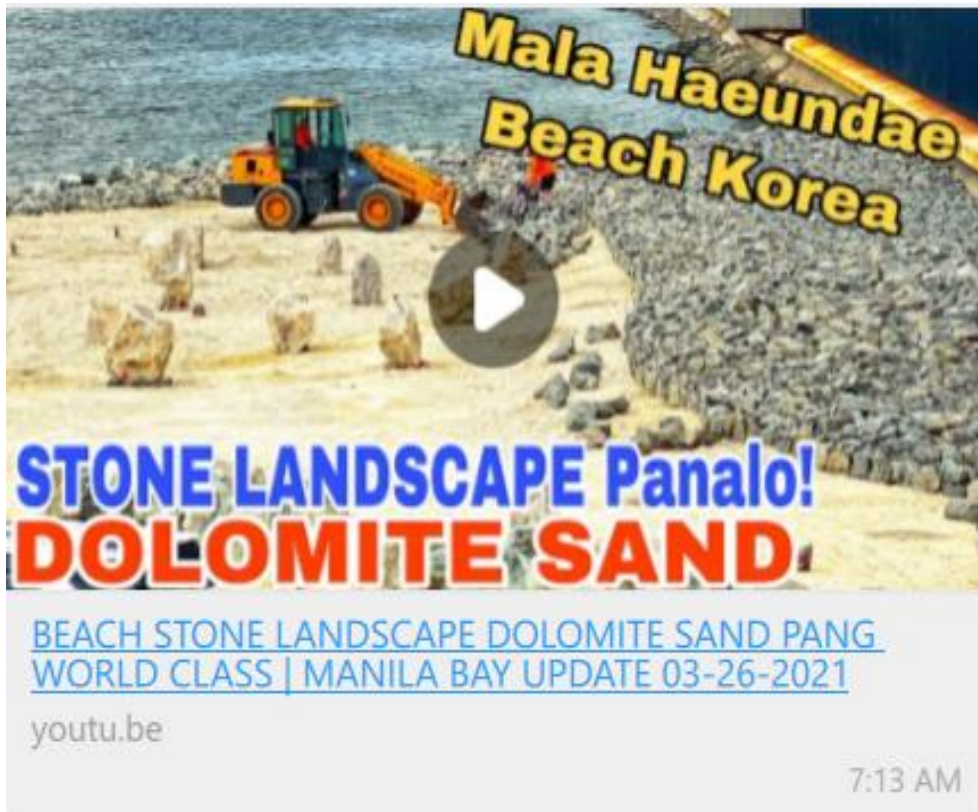
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