

29 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



[Cimatu hopes visiting water birds inspire Filipinos to take care of environment](#)

JAN 28, 2022, 1:19 PM



Santiago Celario
Writer

HIGHLIGHTING the importance maintaining ecological integrity, balance and prosperity of our coastal areas Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu has called on Filipinos to be more conscientious about the impact of migratory birds on the environment.

Cimatu made the appeal as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) together with environment and wildlife volunteers nationwide wrap up its annual water bird count this month.



[Cimatu hopes visiting water birds inspire Filipinos to take care of environment](#)

"Maintaining the ecological integrity and abundance of our coastal areas, offshore habitats, and inland wetlands is crucial for bird migration and beneficial to people. Let us make Filipinos aware of this to inspire them to take care of our environment as we in the DENR has always envisioned," Cimatu said.

DENR said in the past five years, 300,000 to 500,000 water birds have been recorded in over 150 wetland sites throughout the country.

The Philippines is located mid-way of the East-Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and serves as a wintering ground for migratory birds traversing from Alaska, Russian Far East to Japan, China, Southeast Asia and down to Australia and New Zealand.

The EAAF is one of the nine major flyways in the world which migratory water birds cross annually to escape the harsh winter of the north.

Meanwhile Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) OIC Director Natividad Bernardino said that "the availability of intact and functional wetlands determines the ability of migratory birds to complete their migration cycle."

"These migratory water birds rely on healthy wetlands which serve as their 'staging site' or temporary stop-over to rest and feed to build up sufficient energy for the next phase of their journey down south and back to their breeding ground in the northern hemisphere," she said.

"We, at the BMB, remain committed to our mandate in wetland conservation. We work hand in hand with our field counterparts and local government units in managing our wetlands. The results of the Asian Waterbird Census help us identify wetland sites for priority protection and management and set aside wetlands of national and international importance," she added.

The Asian Waterbird Census is an annual event conducted during the second and third week of January.



DENR wraps up Asian Waterbird Census 2022, urges public to protect environment

Published January 28, 2022, 6:03 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

To provide healthy wetlands for migratory birds, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged the public to maintain a clean environment as it concluded the Asian Waterbird Census 2022 recently.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu (File photo)

“Filipinos should be more conscientious about the impact of migratory birds on the environment. Maintaining the ecological integrity and abundance of our coastal areas, offshore habitats, and inland wetlands are crucial for bird migration and beneficial to people,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a statement on Jan. 27.

The annual waterbird count is held every second or third week of January. It is part of the International Waterbird Census, a global waterbird monitoring program coordinated by Wetlands International.

According to Cimatu, a total of 300,000 to 500,000 waterbirds have been recorded in over 150 wetland areas across the country in the last five years.

Likewise, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Bernardino emphasized the importance of a well-kept environment. She said that the capacity of migrating birds to complete their migration cycle depends on intact and functional wetlands.



DENR wraps up Asian Waterbird Census 2022, urges public to protect environment

“These migratory waterbirds rely on healthy wetlands which serve as their staging site or temporary stop-over to rest and feed to build up sufficient energy for the next phase of their journey down south and back to their breeding ground in the northern hemisphere,” Bernardino said.

“The results of the Asian Waterbird Census help us identify wetland sites for priority protection and management and set aside wetlands of national and international importance,” she added.



DENR bans chainsaw registration in Region 2

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) and [Vince Jacob Visaya](#)

January 29, 2022

TUGUEGARAO CITY: In a bid to conserve the remaining forest cover in Region 2 ([Cagayan Valley](#)), the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) banned the issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration, an official said.

[Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan](#) said on Friday that this was done to ensure the regulation of cutting of trees as part of the intensified forest protection and anti-illegal logging campaign of the agency.

Certificates of chainsaw registration were issued to owners as a document that authorize their use for tree harvesting under DENR Department Order 2003-24.

Known for its large forest reserves, Cagayan Valley is bounded by three mountain ranges: the Sierra Madre Mountains on the East, the Cordillera Mountains on the West, and the Caraballo Mountains on the South.

Cagayan Valley, which comprises the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino and Batanes, has a total land area of over 2.6 million hectares which consists of over 1.7 hectares of forest land with a forest cover of more than 1 million hectares, which is so far the largest forest cover in the Philippines.

"The regulation and prohibition on the use of chainsaws is in line with the directive of Environment Secretary [Roy Cimatu](#) to crackdown illegal forest activities and enhance forest conservation efforts through tree planting and growing," the DENR-Region 2 chief explained.

She said there is a need to momentarily suspend the issuance of certificates of registration or permit to use chainsaws as it is seen as the major source and avenue of illegal forest activities.

She also emphasized the long years of growing trees is defeated by the use of chainsaws that can cut a single tree in just a few seconds.

She said curbing illegal forest activities involves three principles.

"First is the source; we have to check the status of the forests. Second is the route; we have to monitor the shipment through our north and south forest products monitoring checkpoints. And third is the destination, where we have to ensure that all lumber dealers are officially registered in the DENR," the regional environment chief explained.

Meanwhile, the DENR-Region 2 urged lumber dealers to apply for a permit to ensure the proper regulation and monitoring by the agency.

The Region 2 environment chief also asked for the support of the law enforcement agencies of the Philippine Army and the Philippine [National Police](#) to turn over to the department all apprehended chainsaws for proper action.

As per the report of the DENR-Region 2 Enforcement Division, 312 of the 672 issued certificates of chainsaw registration have already expired, she said.



DENR bans chainsaw registration in Region 2

Under [Republic Act 9175](#) or the "[Chainsaw Act](#) of 2002," chainsaw ownership, possession, sale, transfer importation and/or use of chain saws is regulated to prevent them from being used in illegal logging or unauthorized clearing of forests.



Chainsaw registration remains suspended: DENR-2

By Villamor Visaya, Jr. January 28, 2022, 8:54 pm



TUGUEGARAO CITY – To conserve the remaining forest cover in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-2) said the ban on the issuance of certificates of chainsaw registration, which authorizes its use for tree harvesting, is still suspended, an official said.

DENR-2 Regional Executive Director Gwendolyn Bambalan told reporters on Friday that the move was to ensure the regulation of cutting of trees as part of the intensified forest protection and anti-illegal logging campaign of the agency.

A report of the agency's Enforcement Division showed at least 312 of the 672 issued certificates of chainsaw registration in Cagayan Valley have expired this month. The issuance of certificates of registration was halted in December last year.

Bambalan said the regulation and prohibition of the use of chainsaws are in line with the directive of DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu for a crackdown on illegal forest activities and enhancement of forest conservation efforts through tree planting and growing.

She cited the need "to momentarily suspend" the issuance of certificates of registration or the permit to use chainsaws as this is seen as the major source and avenue of illegal forest activities.

She emphasized the long years of growing trees while a chainsaw can cut a single tree in seconds.

"In curbing illegal forest activities, we are considering three principles. First is the source, we have to check the status of the forests. Second is the route, we have to monitor the shipment through our north and south forest products monitoring checkpoints. And third is the destination where we have to ensure that all lumber dealers are officially registered in the DENR," Bambalan said.

The DENR official also urged the lumber dealers to apply for a permit to ensure the proper regulation and monitoring by the agency.

Bambalan also called for the support of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police in its watch over forest covers and apprehension of perpetrators of illegal forest activities. **(PNA)**



SMC steps up P3B program to revive Tullahan, Pasig Rivers

January 28, 2022



Cleanup activities in Niugan, Malabon and in Pandacan, Manila will help reduce severe flooding in nearby areas and complement flood mitigation efforts in [Metro](#) Manila. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

[SAN Miguel Corp.](#) (SMC) eyes to remove a total of one million tons of silt and solid waste from the Tullahan-Tinajeros river system by June this year since it implemented its massive P1-billion program to clean up and rehabilitate the 27-kilometer river system and help mitigate flooding in Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and other flood-prone areas.

SMC President and Chief Executive Officer [Ramon Ang](#) expressed confidence the company can achieve it within four to five months, with its current daily dredging output already at 3,000 tons per day.

The SMC river cleanup initiative, in partnership with the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), complements other flood mitigation efforts in Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and [Caloocan](#).

To date, the project has removed 178,300 tons of waste from the historic river, dubbed as the number one plastics-emitting river in the world, accounting for a huge chunk of the planet's ocean plastics. Total extraction output from June 2020 to date has already reached 653,434 tons.

"For the [Pasig River](#) initiative, we are targeting a higher daily output of 3,000 tons in a span of three years. That's 3 million tons in all. Just like in Tullahan, we will continue to adjust our targets as needed, and also prioritize flood-prone areas near these rivers," Ang added.



SMC steps up P3B program to revive Tullahan, Pasig Rivers

Ang is confident that the company will exceed its own 600,000 tons yearly target waste extraction from the Pasig River or 50,000 tons per month.

Currently, SMC's dredging is ongoing near Catmon, Maysilo and Niugan in Malabon, with the area covering the first sectors from the mouth of [Manila Bay](#) in [Navotas City](#) before moving to Malabon and [Valenzuela City](#), particularly the sections of the river in Marulas, Valenzuela and in Potrero and Tinajeros, Malabon.



Ligao City residents get food in exchange for trash

By Connie Calipay January 28, 2022, 8:16 pm



WASTE MANAGEMENT SCHEME. This undated photo shows residents of Ligao City segregating their waste to exchange them for food and non-food items under the local government unit's "May Kabuhayan sa Basura" program. The scheme is being implemented by the city's Ecological Solid Waste Management department as part of its Incentive Mechanism Program. *(Photo from Ligao City Facebook page)*

LEGAZPI CITY – Residents of Ligao City in Albay have been enjoying free food as well as non-food items in exchange for their plastic, paper, and metal wastes as part of the city's Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Incentive Mechanism Program.

A social media post of the Ligao City government on Friday said it is conducting a series of waste collection activities under its "May Kabuhayan sa Basura" program.

The post said the ESWM team has so far collected over 975 bottles and 2,064.5 kilos of other recyclable wastes from residents of four barangays.

"The Incentive Mechanism Program (IMP), under Mayor Patricia Gonzalez-Alsua, is part of the city government's bid to reduce plastic waste and encourage recycling and proper waste segregation," it read.

Residents can bring their recyclable wastes to the IMP kiosk in their village at designated schedules to get in return free noodles, canned goods and other food items, as well as soap, shampoo and other non-food items. *(PNA)*



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Caught in the warmth of the early morning sun, the Legacy Trail can offer a glimpse of what a few years worth of conservation and protection can bring about. Our restoration efforts in this location only started in 2017 but much has already been done in safekeeping & rehabilitating the area. 🌞 🌿

Safe and private visits may be requested at www.masungigeoereserve.com ? at least four (4) days ahead of time for a minimum of five (5) persons.





Baguio City institutionalizes Pine Tree Festival

Kennedy Caachbay, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jan 28 2022 04:41 PM | Updated as of Jan 28 2022 04:48 PM

The 'City of Pines' now officially has a Pine Tree festival.

Baguio City Council has passed an ordinance institutionalizing Saleng (Pine Tree) Festival, formally including it in the city's annual calendar of activities.

Signed on January 21, 2022 by Mayor Benjamin Magalong, the festival shall "strengthen and enhance public understanding and awareness on the significance of urban tree, the forests and watershed to the community while balancing agriculture, economy, and environment."

Saleng Festival will be celebrated from June to September each year.

Environment-related activities will be held during the months-long event, including commemorations of International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day, Philippine Environment Month, among others.

The local government will also feature tree cart parades and exhibits.

The first Saleng Festival was observed in May last year, with the theme "Restoring Our Ecosystem-Together." Activities such as bamboo propagule planting, free emission testing, and 'cycling for the environment' were held.

The widely-popular Session road was also closed to traffic on some days to give way for the Saleng Festival's activities.

Its institutionalization was sought last year "to strengthen cooperation for reforestation and caring for the environment," according to the City Environment and Parks Management Office.

Baguio's Sangguniang Kabataan Federation President and Councilor Levy Orcales also says the role of the youth is crucial in implementing the ordinance.

"With the passage of this ordinance, it reinforces the much-needed collaboration (of the community) as stewards for envi protection. (Especially the) youth, since we are the generation that will either break or make the promises of this ordinance."



Baguio City dads mull tax incentives for lands with 'greens'

Published January 28, 2022, 2:38 PM

by [Philippine News Agency](#)

BAGUIO CITY – Real property owners in the city might soon reap the benefits of tree planting as the city government looks at granting tax incentives to properties that maintain trees.

City Council information officer Jordan Habbiling, in a media release on Tuesday night, said the measure was broached during the latest city council meeting where the officials discussed the increase of real property taxes as a result of the 2020 ordinance that increased the market value of lands from 1 percent to 300 percent to as high as 4,000 to 5,000 percent.

Habbiling said an owner of a hotel along Leonard Wood Road who was allowed to speak during the session described the increase in real property tax as “inequitable and exorbitant.”

He said according to the resource speaker, some property owners have resorted to converting their green areas and cutting trees to build structures or use them for economic activities to raise the money for real property taxes.

“Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan, Councilors Mylen Yaranon, Philian Weygan-Allan, and Joel Alangab said one way of cushioning the impact of the tax increase is by giving incentive to those who maintain trees in their properties,” Habbiling said.

He said the councilors are proposing the incentive to help protect the remaining trees in private lands and contribute to the city’s environmental protection efforts.

He said Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda committed to pushing for other alternatives, such as urging the local finance committee to review the approved fair market values for a possible reassessment of the valuation of properties based on their actual use and reduce the taxes for land planted with trees.



Have you stopped wearing reusable fabric masks? Here's how to cut down waste without compromising your health

By [Aleasha McCallion, Forbes McGain and Kim Borg via The Conversation](#)

- January 29, 2022 - 12:05 AM



A surgical face mask washes up on the shore of so-called Baseco Beach in Manila. (Philstar.com/EC Toledo IV)

At the beginning of the pandemic, many of us opted to buy reusable fabric masks to help fight the spread of COVID – they're better for the environment than disposables, can be locally made, and come in a range of creative designs.

But since the highly infectious Omicron variant emerged, we've been urged to wear well-fitted respirator mask as a first choice (N95, KN95, or P mask). These, however, have a short shelf-life, and it may be jarring to switch back to a more wasteful product for many environmentally-minded Aussies.

While it's too soon to say exactly how many disposable masks go to landfill in Australia, we do know textile waste is already a massive issue. Every year, each Australian throws away [around 23 kilograms of clothes](#) on average, with [more than 780,000 tons of leather, rubber and other textile waste](#) generated Australia-wide.

As waste generation is likely to increase as we protect ourselves against Omicron, are there ways we can minimize our waste without compromising our health?

Making the most out of masks

Australians have been advised since [mid-2020](#) that N95 masks offer the best protection against coronavirus. They typically offer a tighter fit to the face and a higher level of filtration than fabric masks, [protecting the wearer from aerosols and droplets](#).



Have you stopped wearing reusable fabric masks? Here's how to cut down waste without compromising your health

But supply chain issues, concerns of shortages, and lower transmission rates of earlier variants meant the comparatively less effective fabric and surgical masks were [fit-for-purpose](#) in lower-risk settings. This is no longer the case under the Omicron variant.

An easy way to minimize waste if you own N95 masks is to safely extend their life. In hospital settings, it's advised to avoid use beyond one day and to dispose if they become soiled or moist.

This, however, is not realistic for the general public, such as when supply is low. There are a range of methods to reuse N95 masks safely, which are [supported by the mask's inventor](#). There are also re-usable options such as [elastometric respirators](#).

For disposable respirators, the most straightforward reuse method in non-medical settings is to rotate your mask every three or four days, storing it in a clean paper bag when not in use. Wash your hands thoroughly before and after you touch your mask, and keep your mask dry – if your mask gets wet, stop using it. Consider numbering your masks so you don't mix them up.

The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recommends using N95s](#) up to five times before throwing it away (if they've been kept clean and aren't damaged). But it's important to note the long-term effects of cleaning and reuse are still unknown.

How to safely reuse your N95.

There's no need to throw away fabric masks. Having your favourite fabric masks on hand as backup in your car, bag or pockets is important because [any mask is better than no mask](#) in low-risk and fleeting contact settings, such as outside.

Double masking – placing your fabric mask over a disposable surgical mask – offers [increased protection](#) compared to a single fabric or surgical mask. And fabric masks will also offer protection against other droplet-based diseases, like the flu.

Sustainability in healthcare

The surge in disposable mask waste points to a broader issue that's getting increasingly recognized: hospital waste.

Take single use plastic hospital gowns, for example. An estimated 1 million gowns have been used each year of the pandemic at just one (of six) acute public hospitals in Victoria, according to an ongoing investigation undertaken by co-author Forbes McGain.

This number is a conservative estimate, and only captures public hospitals when we know disposal gowns are used in many other settings. This includes in private hospitals, aged care, residential and home care, allied health services and testing and vaccination centers.

[Environmentally sustainable healthcare](#) is an emerging field aimed at finding alternative solutions to the waste generated in healthcare, [its impacts](#) on the environment, and how we [educate health professionals](#) on sustainable practices.

For example, research shows there's potential [to expand](#) the “tiered approach”, which offers further choice of protection depending on low or high risk settings. For example, integrating reusable

Have you stopped wearing reusable fabric masks? Here's how to cut down waste without compromising your health

gowns when appropriate could help keep people safe, put less strain on supply systems, and help reduce waste.

Spearheading this effort is textile scientist Meriel Chamberlin, who is collaborating with clinicians to develop compliant, safe and reusable textile gowns that offer protection and comfort with a lower environmental impact than disposables.

When it comes to masks, [more sustainable options](#) are also being developed. This includes [masks and filters](#) made from biodegradable agricultural crop waste.

Research is also underway to identify processes for re-purposing discarded single-use face masks [into road pavements materials](#).



Wearing reusable cloth masks to protect against COVID is no longer advised, but it's worth holding onto them as a back up.

Liza poor/Unsplash, [CC BY](#)

Six ways to offset our daily waste

Even during a pandemic, people don't want to be wasteful. Tellingly, "Plastic Free July" saw a huge global increase in participation from [250 million participants in 2019](#), to [326 million in 2020](#).

There are many ways to reduce waste without compromising your health. The key is to focus on behaviors within your control, such as minimizing [single-use plastics](#). To help offset your daily waste from disposable masks, consider:

1. Making the switch to refillable cleaning products to cut down on single-use packaging (there are even delivery options)
2. If you've shifted to online grocery delivery, choose paper over plastic bags and either reuse them at home or compost them after use



Have you stopped wearing reusable fabric masks? Here's how to cut down waste without compromising your health

3. When dining at home, repurpose your leftovers, prioritize older food, and avoid over-buying to cut down on food waste
4. If you're shopping online more, find second-hand retailers and peer-to-peer platforms to give pre-loved items a new life (there are delivery options for this too)
5. Before throwing away household items (clothing, furniture), try selling or giving them away online – you'd be surprised what other people find useful
6. If your household items are damaged, get them repaired, or use them for a different purpose, such as using well-worn clothes as cleaning rags.

Just because we're in a period of significant social change, doesn't mean we have to lose momentum on sustainability.



Disaster agency cites problems in warning system

January 28, 2022 | 8:17 pm



DENR

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council has found issues in the system used in warning people about incoming natural disasters, its operations chief told a congressional hearing on Friday.

Council operations chief Joe-Mar S. Perez said they have identified problems in the early warning system, including unsent, delayed and double sending of alerts.

Mr. Perez said the council was coordinating with other agencies such as the Information and Communications Technology department and telecommunication companies to fix the problem.

During the hearing, the country's major telecommunication companies also explained how they fixed connection problems experienced by victims of Typhoon Odette. — **Jaspearl Emerald G. Tan**

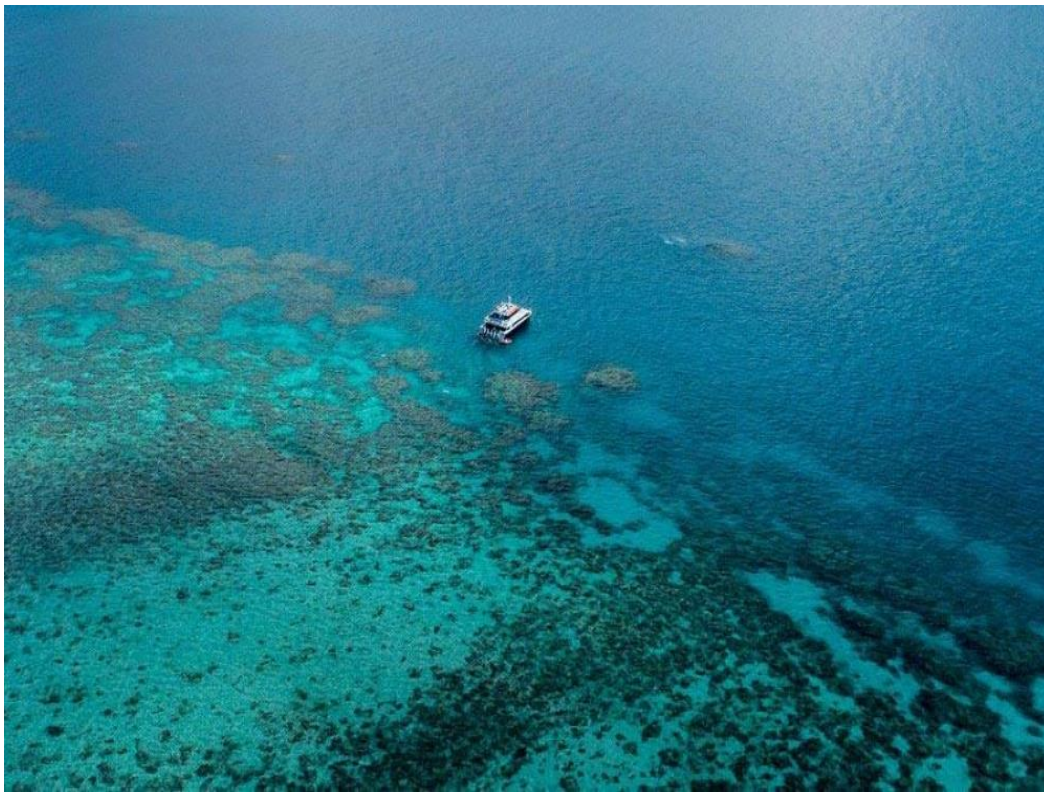


Australia hikes Great Barrier Reef protection



By Agence France-Presse

January 29, 2022



Aerial photo taken on June 2, 2021 shows the [Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, Australia](#). The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef in Australia's state of Queensland, is described as the "planet's most beautiful marine environment" and is the main conservation target of the Citizens of the Great Barrier Reef, a charity cooperative organization that runs a series of preserving programs. XINHUA FILE PHOTO

SYDNEY, Australia: Australia unveiled a billion-dollar package to protect the climate-ravaged Great Barrier Reef on Friday, hoping to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from [Unesco's](#) World Heritage list.

Conservative Prime Minister [Scott Morrison](#) announced the Aus\$1 billion (\$700 million) nine-year plan months after narrowly avoiding the reef being placed on Unesco's "in danger" list.

"We are backing the health of the reef and the economic future of tourism operators, hospitality providers and Queensland communities that are at the heart of the reef economy," Morrison said.

The move comes ahead of a general election expected in May, when Morrison will have to win key Queensland seats near the reef to remain in power.

When the UN previously threatened to downgrade the reef's World Heritage listing in 2015, Australia created a "Reef 2050" plan and poured billions of dollars into protection.

The measures are believed to have arrested the pace of decline, but much of the world's largest reef system has already been damaged.



Australia hikes Great Barrier Reef protection

A recent study found bleaching had affected 98 percent of the reef since 1998, leaving just a fraction of it untouched.

The Morrison government's support for coal and reluctance to tackle climate change has seen the party bleed support in major cities and prompted the emergence of a string of electoral challenges from climate-focused independents.

Australians are overwhelmingly in favor of action to limit climate change, having experienced a string of warming-worsened disasters from bushfires to droughts and floods.

A 2021 poll by Sydney's [Lowy Institute](#) found 60 percent of Australians believed "global warming is a serious and pressing problem."

Eight in 10 Australians supported a net-zero emissions target by 2050, which the government reluctantly adopted ahead of a landmark [United Nations](#) climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland last year.

One of the world's biggest exporters of coal and gas, Australia's economy is heavily reliant on fossil fuels. Its political parties also receive significant funds from coal and gas-linked donors.

29 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



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Philippines reports 18,638 new COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com)

- January 28, 2022 - 4:04pm



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

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines reported 18,638 new coronavirus infections on Friday, bringing the total number of cases to 3,511,491.

Of these new infections, 98% or 18,281 occurred in the last two weeks, according to the Department of Health.

The DOH said the top regions with the most number of new infections in the past 14 days were Calabarzon (2,379 or 13%), Metro Manila (2,211 or 12%) and Western Visayas (1,969 or 11%).

The DOH also said that of the total number of infections, 231,658 are still active.

It also tallied 68 more fatalities, bringing the death toll to 53,801, while 13,106 more recovered, pushing the total number of recoveries to 3,226,032.

Looser borders

- The Philippines decided to loosen border controls as the Omicron-driven surge that started late December showed signs of tapering off.

- It suspended the "green-yellow-red list" system, which is used to classify countries, territories and jurisdictions based on their COVID-19 risk levels.



Philippines reports 18,638 new COVID-19 cases

- Beginning February 1, fully-vaccinated travelers no longer need to quarantine and would only have to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin.
- Fully-vaccinated nationals of non-visa required countries will be allowed to enter the Philippines starting February 10.

Source: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/28/2157022/philippines-reports-18638-new-covid-19-cases/amp/&ved=2ahUKEwiF5rDVvNX1AhWTSWwGHWGGDqYQFnoECAQQBQ&usg=AOvVaw23lwCuwGgno_a93JPv21_E



OCTA: NCR not yet ready for Alert Level 2

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 28, 2022 10:06:48 AM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 28) — Although new COVID-19 cases are on the downtrend in Metro Manila, it is not yet low enough to merit a downgrade to Alert Level 2, OCTA Research said on Friday.

OCTA fellow Guido David said that the healthcare utilization in the National Capital Region is currently at low risk, but all other metrics used by the Inter-Agency Task Force as basis for the alert level classification remains at high risk.

"The average daily attack rate will still be high and the positivity rate will still be above 10% and I think those will be major considerations in deciding whether to go down in alert level two," he told CNN Philippines.

David projects that it could go down to moderate risk by next week.

He added, "My sense is that they might wait for the number of cases to decrease even further and that will be a long way actually because after next week, the NCR might already be moving to low risk. When that happens, definitely I think Alert Level 2 can be considered."

David also said the new coronavirus infections in Metro Manila and the majority of Calabarzon and Central Luzon continue to go down. During the peak, these three regions accounted for 88% of the daily new cases, but it is now at only 32% and still decreasing.

He reiterated that it's possible for the National Capital Region to record 500 to 1,000 daily cases by mid-February since the current figure is now at around 2,200.

Metro Manila remains under Alert Level 3 until Jan. 31. The next classification has yet to be announced by the IATF.



OCTA: NCR not yet ready for Alert Level 2

Most major cities outside Metro Manila, such as Metro Cebu and Baguio City, are starting to record a lower number of new cases, he claimed.

"I am foreseeing that because the trends have been close to peaking or peaking in many areas outside NCR Plus, that the number of cases will probably start to decrease over the next few days," argued David. "I would tend to guess that soon we will be at less than 10,000 cases per day. It could happen probably within one to two weeks."

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/1/28/Metro-Manila-alert-level-February-OCTA.html>



Philippines sets new COVID-19 rules for arriving travelers

(Philstar.com)

- January 28, 2022 - 3:18pm



This Dec. 24, 2020 photo shows passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines will enforce new protocols for arriving travelers, Malacañang said Friday as the government suspended its COVID-19 risk classifications for countries and territories.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said the Philippines suspended the "green-yellow-red list" system, which is used to classify countries, territories and jurisdictions based on their COVID-19 risk levels.

Starting February 1, fully-vaccinated travelers will be required to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin.

Upon arrival in the Philippines, they will no longer be required to observe mandatory facility-based quarantine. But they will need to self-monitor for any signs or symptoms for seven days with the first day being the date of arrival and report to the local government unit of destination upon the manifestation of symptoms, if any.

Nograles said fully-vaccinated travelers must have any of the following proofs of vaccination against COVID-19:

- World Health Organization International Certificates of Vaccination and Prophylaxis
- VaxCertPH
- National or state digital certificate of the foreign government which has accepted VaxCertPH under a reciprocal arrangement unless otherwise permitted by the IATF

Meanwhile, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travelers will need to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 48 hours prior to departure from the country of origin.



Philippines sets new COVID-19 rules for arriving travelers

They will also be required to undergo facility-based quarantine until the release of their negative RT-PCR test taken on the fifth day. Then, they will undergo home quarantine until the 14th day, with the date of arrival being the first day.

The government tasked local government units and Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams to monitor arriving passengers undergoing home quarantine.

For children below 12 years old who cannot be vaccinated, they will follow the quarantine protocol applied to the parent or guardian traveling with them.

Nograles added those who are currently undergoing quarantine as of February 1 may avail of the aforementioned testing and quarantine protocols.

The new COVID-19 travel protocols were based on the recommendations of the Task Force on COVID-19 New Variants and Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics.

Entry of fully-vaccinated foreigners

Nograles also announced that fully-vaccinated nationals of non-visa required countries will be allowed to enter the Philippines starting February 10.

"Remember we were supposed to do this nung December 1 pa and then we suspended it. And then now we're implementing it again," he said.

Fully-vaccinated foreign nationals must have passport valid for at least six months at the time of arrival, and with return or outbound ticket to their country of origin or next country of destination.

The must have any of the following proofs of vaccination against COVID-19:

- World Health Organization International Certificates of Vaccination and Prophylaxis
- VaxCertPH
- National or state digital certificate of the foreign government which has accepted VaxCertPH under a reciprocal arrangement unless otherwise permitted by the IATF

According to Nograles, minors are exempted from the requirement of being fully-vaccinated and providing proof of immunization prior to boarding.

Fully-vaccinated foreigners will not be included in the arrival quota set by the Department of Transportation and its One-Stop-Shop. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 685

ENERO 28, 2022

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

6.6%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
231,658

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

91.9%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
3,226,032

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.53%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
53,801

MGA BAGONG KASO **18,638**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **13,106**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **68**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,511,491**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 26
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 28
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 26

34.6%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

62,671

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
97.9%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!

BAWAL
WALANG
FACE MASK

KABUANG PILIPINAS
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA
AKTIBONG KASO

ICU BEDS (3.9K TOTAL BEDS)
49% Utilized

ICU BEDS (1.3K TOTAL BEDS)
42% Utilized

7,055 Asymptomatic

ISOLATION BEDS (20.7K TOTAL BEDS)
49% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.7K TOTAL BEDS)
39% Utilized

219,811 Mild

WARD BEDS (15.9K TOTAL BEDS)
51% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)
45% Utilized

2,971 Moderate

VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
24% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.0K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
24% Utilized

1,509 Severe

312 Critical

DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines

DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

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

bit.ly/OHCCHotline

DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine

SeeYouDoc
seeyoudoc.com
SeeYouDoc

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

HealthNow
healthnow.ph/
help@healthnow.ph
HealthNow

KonsultaMD
konsulta.md
KonsultaMD

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

CloudPx
cloudpx.ph/

TelAventusMD
TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph
TelAventusMD



Manatiling ligtas!

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



Walang internet or load?
Report via SMS

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



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

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

MAYROON PANG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

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

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

doh.gov.ph

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

29 JANUARY 2022, Saturday



DENR

NEWS

ALERTS

VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Please click this link:

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MR. ED Llander

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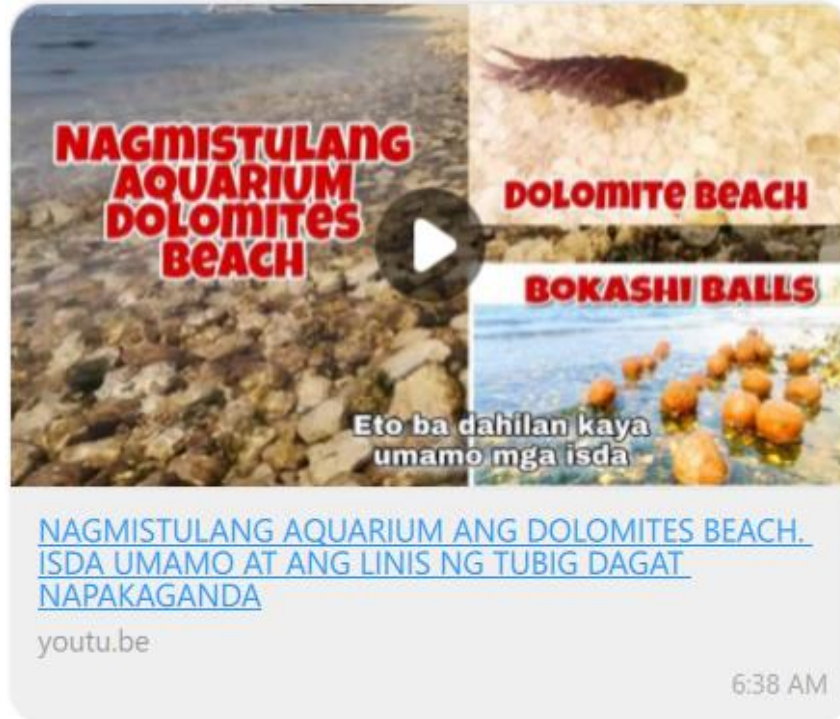
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#manilabay
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 5,958 views • 28 Jan 2022

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 SHARE
 THANKS
 SAVE
 ...


 BTV Pinas

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📍 MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH

NAGMISTULANG AQUARIUM ANG DOLOMITES BEACH. ISDA UMAMO AT ANG LINIS NG TUBIG DAGAT NAPAKAGANDA

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