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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR sees improved water quality in Manila

Bay

JUL 28, 2021, 5:46 PM

Santiago Celario
Writer

Once completed, the Libertad Sewage Treatment Plant can clean up to 10 million liters of wastewater per day.

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is hopeful that the soon-to-rise Libertad sewage treatment plant (STP) and wastewater interceptor will further improve the water quality of Manila Bay.

“The current fecal coliform level in Libertad Outfall 1 is at 160 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 ml (milliliters). But with the groundbreaking of yet another STP coupled with wastewater interceptor in partnership with MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority), we will be able to boost our capability to mitigate water pollution,” DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu said during the groundbreaking ceremony for the establishment of the facility.

He explained that the Libertad STP aims to treat wastewater coming from the Tripa de Gallina — identified as the “main polluter” that has been discharging wastewater to the Libertad Channel and drains into Manila Bay.

Cimatu said projects, such as the construction of the Libertad STP and wastewater interceptor, are pursuant to the 2008 Supreme Court writ of continuing mandamus to “*clean up, rehabilitate and preserve Manila Bay.*”

Meanwhile, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos said the construction of a new STP will help address the issue of bad smell and restore the quality of water in Metro Manila.

Millions of liters treated

DENR said the Libertad STP can treat 10 million liters of wastewater per day and has a catchment area of 779 hectares.

It is the second STP in partnership with MMDA. The first one is the fully-operational solar-powered STP along Roxas Boulevard in Manila which was inaugurated last year.



The DENR will be funding the STP's construction while the MMDA will be in charge of the maintenance and operations of the treatment plant.

The construction of the STP and wastewater interceptor is scheduled for completion in November 2021.

Cimatu also said the DENR is planning to use the treated wastewater for watering plants and for the firetrucks of Pasay City.

He emphasized that the government will not relent in ensuring the rehabilitation of Manila Bay as the DENR also targets the cleanup of the section of Manila Bay in Navotas City.

"There's still a lot of work to be done along the Navotas Fish Port. This is my target towards the end of the year. If not, I still have six months," said Cimatu, who chairs the Manila Bay Task Force.

He pointed out that cleanup efforts are also ongoing in the provinces of Cavite, Bataan, Bulacan, and Pampanga to address the pollution in Manila Bay.

"I believe that a multi-sectoral and participatory approach would yield more palpable results toward minimizing pollution and protecting the water bodies that empty into Manila Bay," Cimatu said.

(SC)



DENR nakikita ang pagbuti ng water quality sa Manila Bay sa pagtatayo ng Libertad STP



July 28, 2021 @ 6:28 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Upang mapabuti ang water quality sa Manila Bay umaasa ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ang pagtatayo ng Libertad sewage treatment plants (STP) at wastewater interceptor ay magpapabuti sa water quality ng baybayin.

“The current fecal coliform level in Libertad Outfall 1 is at 160 million MPN (most probable number) per 100 ml (milliliters). But with the groundbreaking of yet another STP coupled with wastewater interceptor in partnership with MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority), we will be able to boost our capability to mitigate water pollution,” pahayag ni Cimatú sa ginanap na groundbreaking ceremony sa pagtatayo ng Libertad STP at wastewater interceptor sa Pasay City kamakailan.

Sa press release ipinaliwanag pa nito na layunin ng Libertad STP na linisin ang wastewater na nanggagaling sa Tripa de Gallina na tinukoy na siyang “main polluter” at nagdidiskarga ng wastewater sa Libertad Channel patungo sa Manila Bay.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na ang mga proyekto tulad ng pagtatayo ng Libertad STP at wastewater interceptor ay bahagi ng pagsunod sa 2008 Supreme Court writ of continuing mandamus upang ma “cleanup, rehabilitate at preserve Manila Bay.”

Ayon naman kay MMDA Chairman Benhur Abalos, ang pagtatayo ng bagong STP ay makatutulong upang matugunan ang isyu ng mabahong amoy at maibalik ang maayos na kalidad ng tubig sa Metro Manila.

Kaugnay nito sinabi ng DENR ang Libertad STP ay kayang magsala ng 10 million liters ng wastewater kada isang araw at mayroon itong catchment area na 779 hectares. Ito rin ang ikalawang STP sa pakikipagtulungan ng MMDA. Ang una ay ang gumagana nang solar-powered STP na matatagpuan sa Roxas Boulevard sa Manila na binuksan noong isang taon.

Ang DENR ang magpoponda sa pagpapatayo ng STP habang ang MMDA naman ang tututok sa maintenance at operation ng treatment plant.

Inaasahang matatapos ang pagtatayo ng STP at wastewater interceptor sa Nobyembre 2021.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatú na plano ng DENR na gamitin ang “treated wastewater” sa pagdidilig ng mga halaman at para na rin sa mga truck ng bumbero sa Pasay City.

Binigyang-diin pa nito na hindi susuko ang gobyerno para sa rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay habang plano rin ng DENR na magsagawa ng cleanup sa bahagi ng Manila Bay sa Navotas City.



“There’s still a lot of work to be done along the Navotas Fish Port. This is my target towards the end of the year. If not, I still have six months,” saad ni Cimatú na pinamumunuan din ng Manila Bay Task Force.

Ayon pa dito, nagsasagawa na rin ng cleanup sa mga probinsiya ng Cavite, Bataan, Bulacan at Pampanga upang mabigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa polusyon sa Manila Bay.

“I believe that a multi-sectoral and participatory approach would yield more palpable results toward minimizing pollution and protecting the water bodies that empty into Manila Bay,” sabi ni Cimatú. **Santi Celario**



“The absence of a clear-cut policy in the management of confiscated, abandoned and seized goods inventory... and weak implementation of rules and regulations on the management of confiscated products resulted in undetermined losses to the government,” the COA said in its 2020 audit report.

STAR/File

COA flags DENR over P46.5 million seized forest products

[Rhodina Villanueva](#), [Elizabeth Marcelo](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 29, 2021 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Audit has scolded the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for poor handling of confiscated forest products worth P46.563 million.

“The absence of a clear-cut policy in the management of confiscated, abandoned and seized goods inventory... and weak implementation of rules and regulations on the management of confiscated products resulted in undetermined losses to the government,” the COA said in its 2020 audit report.

The audit body said forest products seized by the DENR central office have no proper storage facilities. There was lack of representation with the courts for immediate disposal of the confiscated items, in violation of the regulations on illegal logging, it added.

Forest products confiscated by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Offices (PENROs) of Northern Samar and Cebu worth P10.655 million and P1.106 million, respectively, remain idle for almost 10 years now, the COA said.

The PENROs of Aklan, Catanduanes and Capiz were faulted for not initiating disposal proceedings for seized items worth P1.064 million, P2.957 million and P3 million, respectively.

The COA said the PENROs of Pangasinan, Pampanga, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Masbate exposed P16.01 million of seized forest products to misuse and deterioration.

The condition and whereabouts of P3.848 million worth of products confiscated by the PENRO of Isabela cannot be determined, the COA said.

Marcial Amaro of the DENR’s Forest Management Bureau said the agency should not be blamed for poor handling of seized forest products.

Amaro said confiscated forest products should be turned over to the Department of Education under an executive order issued by the late former president Benigno Aquino III.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/07/29/2115926/coa-flags-denr-over-p465-million-seized-forest-products>



GMA News

6h · 🌐



Halos 15 tonelada ng basura ang nakolekta sa mahigit isang araw lang na paglilinis ng Baseco Beach.

Pero sabi ng MMDA, hindi lang mga taga-Baseco ang dapat sisihin kundi maging mga lalawigan sa palibot ng Metro Manila.

Mag-subscribe sa GMA News Youtube (youtube.com/gmanews) para sa pinakamalalaking balita.



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House OKs bill on gradual phaseout of single-use plastic products

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:06 PM July 28, 2021



Garbage collected in many parts of the country, like Divisoria in Manila, is composed mostly of plastics.

(File photo by EARVIN PERIAS)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives approved on Wednesday a measure seeking the gradual phaseout and ban on single-use plastic products.

With 190 affirmative votes, zero negative, and one abstention, the lower chamber approved House Bill No. 9147, or the “Single-Use Plastic Products Regulation Act.”

Under the bill, the following noncompostable single-use products will be phased out within four years from the time the measure takes effect:

- plates and saucers
- cups, bowls, and lids
- cutlery such as spoons, forks, knives, and chopsticks
- food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene
- oxo-degradable plastics
- film wrap, packaging, or bags of less than 50 microns in thickness
- sachets and pouches that are multilayered with other materials

Meanwhile, the following products will be phased out within a year from the time the measure takes effect:

- drinking straws
- stirrers
- sticks for candies, balloons, and cotton buds
- buntings
- confetti
- packaging or bags of less than 10 microns in thickness

“Thereafter, the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision or use of the said plastic products shall be prohibited,” the measure states.



“Properly labelled flexible disposable plastic drinking straws for persons with special medical conditions shall be allowed, when no suitable reusable or compostable alternatives are available,” it adds.

The measure mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate within six months a phase-out plan on single-use plastic wastes, with components on reducing consumption, increasing recovery, keeping producers accountable, developing alternatives, and raising awareness.

Commercial establishments are also obligated to promote reusable, recyclable, and retrievable products in their stores, charge customers P5 for every plastic bag or single-use plastic used for take-out food and delivery service, and facilitate customer return of used plastic products to the store.

[atm]



House passes bill banning single-use plastics

BY JOVEE MARIE DE LA CRUZ JULY 28, 2021



Large plastic bags contain single-use plastics

The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved on third and final reading a bill banning single-use plastics.

Voting 190 affirmative, zero negative vote, and one abstention, lawmakers passed House Bill 9147 to protect life on land and water from the hazards posed by plastic pollution, and ensure that non-compostable single-use synthetic plastic products deemed necessary to society do not leak into nature.

The bill phases out, within a year, the production, importation, sale, distribution, provision, and use of single-use plastic drinking straw, stirrers, candy stick, balloon stick, cotton bud sticks, buntings, confetti, and packaging/bags less than 10 microns thick.

It also phases out within four years tableware, film wrap, packaging or bags less than 50 microns thick, sachets and pouches, oxodegradable plastic and styropor food and beverage containers.

The measure penalizes violators with fines ranging from P50,000 up to P500,000 for micro enterprises and 250,000 up to P1 million for larger businesses.

It mandates the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to formulate within 6 months a phase-out plan on single-use plastic wastes, with components on reducing consumption, increasing recovery, keeping producers accountable, developing alternatives, and raising awareness.

It shall also obligate commercial establishments to promote reusable, recyclable, and retrievable products in their stores, charge P5 from customers for every plastic bag or single-use plastic used for take-out food or delivery service, and facilitate customer return of used plastic products to the store.

Antique Rep. Loren Legarda, one of the principal authors of the bill, appealed to the public to break free from their dependence on single-use plastic products, practice ecological solid waste management, lead a low-carbon lifestyle, and embrace green and sustainable living by using reusable utensils, cloth or native reusable bags made of organic or recycled materials, and reusable containers made of non-toxic and non-hazardous materials.

Legarda also noted that by patronizing these alternatives, “we are also promoting and supporting sustainable businesses and MSME initiatives while trying to restore our planet’s health.”



She said the Philippines is known for its rich marine ecosystems but is also one of the major sources of plastic trash in the world, contributing almost three million metric tons of plastic wastes and 500,000 metric tons of plastic waste leakage per year. She added plastic production and incineration use petrochemicals from fossil fuel and thus contribute to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change.

According to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Filipinos use 59.7 billion pieces of sachets, 17.5 billion pieces of shopping bags, 16.5 billion pieces of plastic labo bag, and 1.1 billion diapers yearly.

Earlier, Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana Philippines explained that the regulation and phase-out of single-use plastics are already covered by Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

“What is lacking here is the implementation. We don’t need this [new] bill for the agencies to do their job because it’s already in Republic Act 9003,” she said.

Ramos pointed out that Republic Act 9003 mandates the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to prepare, within one year from the effectivity of the law, the list of non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAPs) to be banned following a phase-out plan that will be developed in consultation with stakeholders.

However, she said 20 years since the law has passed, NSWMC has yet to develop a phase-out plan for NEAPs, which should include single-use plastics.

Image courtesy of BusinessMirror file photo



International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem

Published on: July 28, 2021

By PIA-NCR

Statement of Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Today, the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) joins the rest of the world in celebrating the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem, which is observed each year to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of protecting the world's most productive ecosystems.

Mangroves in the ASEAN are rich and diverse, armouring communities against the cruel impacts of climate change and, at the same time, underpinning community livelihoods as well as economies. The region hosts 42 per cent of mangrove forests in the world, with an estimated total area of 42,914 square kilometres as of 2020. At least 47 out of the 70 known mangrove species in the world can be found in the region, according to the database of the ASEAN Clearing House Mechanism.

It is worthy to note how crucial these ecosystems are in supporting the interconnectivity of key biodiversity areas. As they link the land and the sea, mangrove systems receive nutrients and organic matter from terrestrial ecosystems, estuaries, and marine systems. These nutrient-rich ecosystems serve as habitats for land animals and nesting and breeding areas for fish and shellfish, migratory birds, and sea turtles. The benefits arising from mangrove ecosystems extend to nearby ecosystems such as fisheries. By serving as nursery habitats, mangrove areas allow key marine species to thrive before moving to other areas as they mature.

In Thailand, for instance, the Ao Phang Nga-Mu Ko Surin- Mu ko Similan National Park, a designated ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP), has one of the country's most extensive and best-preserved mangrove forests that support marine species like the critically endangered black finless porpoise and green sea turtles.

Apart from cleaning and filtering out pollutants from the water before it reaches the ocean, mangroves' sturdy root systems form a natural barrier against storm surges and floods.

Similarly, several studies show that the movement and exchange of organic carbon among ecosystems support the networks of coastal ecosystems that release and trap carbon and nutrient from adjacent ecosystems. With their high carbon sequestration and storage capacity, mangrove systems, along with seagrass and coral reefs, are considered tools for climate change mitigation.

These valuable contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation and the people's welfare are enough reasons for us to do more to protect these ecosystems. At this point, amid the more frequent and intense climate-related disasters coming our way, actions to integrate biodiversity considerations into programmes and policies are even more dire and urgent. Biodiversity and climate change issues are interdependent and should not be tackled separately.

Over the years, we have seen the decline of mangroves, losing over 26 per cent of all mangroves in the ASEAN region alone from 1980 to 2005, largely due to human-driven activities, such as logging and conversion to other uses. The first step to address the loss of mangroves is to assess and appreciate the true value of mangrove systems. Taking into account the opportunity costs of losing nature brings us closer to the best possible solution for our present woes.



At the regional and national levels, there are increasing efforts to protect and restore mangroves and other crucial ecosystems. In Brunei Darussalam, the government is paying close attention to widening the coverage of its mangroves and peat swamp forests in the development of its national biodiversity strategies and plans. To quote the statement of Dr. Nor Imtihan Binti Haji Abdul Razak, permanent secretary for planning, land use, and environment of Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Development, and chair of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment during an online event recently led by the ACB: "every decision made for development requires consideration for nature and biological resources."

This August, the ACB, together with the ASEAN Secretariat, will formally launch the ASEAN Green Initiative, which aims to plant and grow 10 million native trees in 10 years across the region. The initiative, which is in line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, encourages the use of local species and the active participation of the community and local experts to ensure that ecosystems are effectively restored to their healthy and stable state.

Indeed, the role of communities to protect mangroves is important. The ACB continues to support civil society organisations through the Small Grants Programme, in cooperation with the German Development Bank (KfW) in enabling communities to restore and protect ecosystems and improving livelihood opportunities. One of the programme's sites is a designated AHP, Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, an extensive mangrove forested island. The project is ongoing despite some setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am likewise pleased that biodiversity and nature-based solutions are high on the agenda of the ASEAN Member States based on earlier pronouncements made, including more recently at the online event co-convened by the ACB and the United Kingdom COP26 Presidency.

On this occasion, let us take this opportunity to motivate each other to work closely together and step up efforts for the protection of nature's marvels, for we are part of nature. #WeAreASEANBiodiversity!

Happy International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem!



Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve, an ASEAN Heritage Park in Singapore



GMA News

12h

Tanso at ginto ang minerals na nakukuha mula sa mga e-waste o electronic waste. Kaya malaking tulong daw ang tamang pag-dispose at pag-recycle ng mga ito. Nababawasan kasi ang kailangang minahing mineral dahil sa pag-re-recycle.

Paano nga ba na-re-recycle ang mga e-waste? Alamin sa video na ito.



201

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KAGUBATAN SA LEYTE, APEKTADO NG MALAKING WILDFIRE

written by [Judith Estrada-Larino](#) July 28, 2021



Malaking bahagi ng kagubatan ng Silago, Southern Leyte ang apektado ng malaking wildfire.

Nagsanib puwersa naman ang mga tauhan ng fire station ng bayan ng Silago at katabing bayan ng Hinunangan at maging ang Barangay Volunteer Fire Brigades para maapula ang apoy.

Ayon kay Alfie Almine Cruzada, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer ng Silago, hirap ang mga awtoridad na apulahin ang wildfire na umusbong noon pang isang linggo at kahapon lamang narespondehan ng mga bumbero.

Ipinabatid ni Cruzada na kadalasang nagkakaroon ng wildfire sa kanilang lugar sa mga buwan ng Hulyo hanggang Setyembre at pinalala ito ng sobrang init ng panahon at hanging Habagat.



Kagubatan sa bayan ng Southern Leyte apektado ng wildfire

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 28 2021 04:54 PM



Larawan mula kay Alfie Almine Cruzada.

Apektado ng malaking wildfire ang kagubatan sa bayan ng Silago, Southern Leyte ngayong Miyerkoles.

Para maapula ang apoy, nagtulong-tulong na ang Fire Station ng Silago at katabing bayan ng Hinunangan. Tumulong din ang Barangay Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Ayon sa Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer ng Silago, Southern Leyte na si Alfie Almine Cruzada, posibleng nagsimula ang wildfire noon pang nakaraang linggo pero dahil hirap ang mga awtoridad na maabot ito, Miyerkoles na ito narespondehan ng mga bombero.

Dagdag pa ni Almine, sa tuwing buwan ng Hulyo hanggang Setyembre, madalas ang nangyayaring wildfire sa kanilang lugar.

Ang sobrang init umano nitong mga nakaraang araw na dinagdagan pa ng hanging habagat ang nagpalala sa sitwasyon.

Maliban sa mga nasunog na mga punong-kahoy na nagsisilbing tirahan nga mga ibon at iba pang mga hayop, nasunog din ang fiber optic cable ng PLDT.

—Ulat ni Sharon Evite

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/28/21/sigalo-southern-leyte-wildfire-july-2021?fbclid=IwAR0PuTZbNdPBisLSOUESvU6k22z2WQqCAPy9NR4JxJebClmtdminrhSe3WQ>



A resident collects wood for home use on a flooded rice field caused by Typhoon Kammuri in Ilagan on December 5, 2019.

AFP/Bill Visaya

Earth's 'vital signs' worsening as humanity's impact deepens

[Patrick Galey](#) (Agence France-Presse) - July 28, 2021 - 8:59am

PARIS — The global economy's business-as-usual approach to climate change has seen Earth's "vital signs" deteriorate to record levels, an influential group of scientists said Wednesday, warning that several climate tipping points were now imminent.

The researchers, part of a group of more than 14,000 scientists who have signed on to an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency, said that governments had consistently failed to address the root cause of climate change: "the overexploitation of the Earth".

Since a similar assessment in 2019, they noted an "unprecedented surge" in climate-related disasters, including flooding in South America and Southeast Asia, record-shattering heatwaves and wildfires in Australia and the US, and devastating cyclones in Africa and South Asia.

Of 31 "vital signs" — key metrics of planetary health that include greenhouse gas emissions, glacier thickness, sea-ice extent and deforestation — they found that 18 hit record highs or lows.

For example, despite a dip in pollution linked to the pandemic, levels of atmospheric CO2 and methane hit all-time highs in 2021.

Greenland and Antarctica both recently showed all-time low levels of ice mass, and glaciers are melting 31 percent faster than they did just 15 years ago, the authors said.

Both ocean heat and global sea levels set new records since 2019, and the annual loss rate of the Brazilian Amazon reached a 12-year high in 2020.

Echoing previous research, they said that forest degradation linked to fire, drought and logging was causing parts of the Brazilian Amazon to now act as a source of carbon, rather than absorb the gas from the atmosphere.

Livestock such as cows and sheep are now at record levels, numbering more than four billion and with a mass exceeding that of all humans and wild land mammals combined, they said.



Tim Lenton, director of the University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute and study co-author, said the recent record-breaking heatwave in the Western United States and Canada showed that the climate had already begun to "behave in shocking, unexpected ways".

"We need to respond to the evidence that we are hitting climate tipping points with equally urgent action to decarbonise the global economy and start restoring instead of destroying nature," he said.

'Address the root cause'

The researchers said there was "mounting evidence that we are nearing or have already crossed" a number of climate tipping points.

These include melting of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets, which may now be irreversible on a centuries-long time scale, regardless of how or if humankind slashes its emissions.

They said increasing ocean deoxygenation and warming waters were threatening warm-water coral reefs, upon which half a billion people rely for food, income and storm protection.

"Given these alarming developments, we need short, frequent, and easily accessible updates on the climate emergency," said the study, published in the journal *BioScience*.

The authors echoed previous calls for transformative change in six areas: eliminating fossil fuels, slashing pollutants, restoring ecosystems, switching to plant-based diets, moving away from indefinite growth models, and stabilising the human population.

They also called for climate change education to be included in school core curriculums globally in order to raise awareness.

In the immediate term, they proposed a trio of emergency responses to the climate emergency.

These consisted of "a significant carbon price", a global phase-out and ban of fossil fuels, and the development of strategic climate reserves such as restoring and maintaining carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots.

"We need to stop treating the climate emergency as a stand-alone issue — global heating is not the sole symptom of our stressed Earth system," said William Ripple, distinguished professor of ecology at Oregon State University's College of Forestry.

"Policies to combat the climate crisis or any other symptoms should address their root cause: human overexploitation of the planet."



Overexploitation causes Earth's vital signs to deteriorate

JUL 28, 2021, 1:35 PM

Rose De La Cruz
Columnist

An influential group of scientists have signed an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency with the Earth's 'vital signs' seen to be deteriorating at record levels from overexploitation and the global economy's business-as-usual approach.

An influential group of scientists have signed an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency with the Earth's 'vital signs' seen to be deteriorating at record levels from overexploitation and the global economy's business-as-usual approach.

They pointed to several 'tipping points' that are now becoming imminent.

Agence-France Presse (AFP) said the researchers, part of a group of more than 14,000 scientists who have signed on to an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency, said that governments had consistently failed to address the root cause of climate change: "the overexploitation of the Earth."

Since a similar assessment in 2019, they noted an "unprecedented surge" in climate-related disasters, including flooding in South America and Southeast Asia, record-shattering heatwaves and wildfires in Australia and the US, and devastating cyclones in Africa and South Asia.

Vital signs

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Emergency responses

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"Policies to combat the climate crisis or any other symptoms should address their root cause: human overexploitation of the planet."

The gaps in the global deal for nature

Despite improvements in the new draft, much work remains to strengthen the CBD's biodiversity framework, as COP15 negotiations are further delayed.



The new draft of the UN's biodiversity framework aims to have at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems under restoration by 2030. Image: Jani Sipilä/Greenpeace.

[Catherine Early, China Dialogue](#)

July 28, 2021

Parts of the latest draft of the international deal to reverse the decline of nature have pleased some campaigners, but significant gaps remain.

The new [draft](#) of the “Global Biodiversity Framework” was published earlier this month by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), following a series of virtual discussions held in May and June.

Overall, the new document is a “pretty significant improvement” on the original “[zero draft](#)” published in January 2020, according to Linda Krueger, global biodiversity policy lead at The Nature Conservancy (TNC). She points to a new target for at least 20 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems to be under restoration, and well-connected to each other, by 2030. Restoration was mentioned only briefly within another target in the “zero draft”.

The framework contains four overarching goals for 2050. These are about improving the integrity of ecosystems; protecting and enhancing nature’s contribution to people; fairly sharing the benefits of genetic resources; and financing and implementing the framework.

There are also milestones against which progress towards each goal will be assessed, and 21 “action targets” that governments need to act on immediately and achieve by 2030.

A key action target – to ensure at least 30 per cent of land and sea areas are protected – has been strengthened to stress that such areas need to be “effectively and equitably managed”, in recognition that [many existing protected areas](#) lack good governance.

In addition, there is stronger recognition of the role of local communities and indigenous people in protecting nature, said Krueger. And there is a target for all businesses to report on their dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, and at least halve negative impacts. The Campaign for Nature (CfN) was also pleased with these elements.

However, Krueger believes the framework lacks elements that could make it more transformational. In particular, targets to explicitly tackle the sectors that are driving biodiversity loss through land use change, degradation and habitat loss.

The first 2030 action target states that all land and sea areas should be under spatial planning to address the impacts of land and sea use change. But this needs to spell out the sectors, such as infrastructure and agriculture, answerable to the target, she said.

TNC, CfN and other groups are campaigning for an overall [global goal for nature](#) similar to the climate-related goal of net zero emissions. This would involve aiming for zero net loss of nature from 2020, net positive nature by 2030, and full recovery by 2050. The groups want this added to the framework's overall mission statement, Krueger said.

The whole document is 12 pages, and mostly [consists of] targets covering where we need to be. The 'how do we get there' is 1.5 pages. Do we seriously believe we will get there with this?

Li Shuo, senior global policy advisor, climate, biodiversity and oceans, Greenpeace East Asia

Other campaigners were far more critical of the draft. Li Shuo, senior global policy advisor on climate, biodiversity and oceans at Greenpeace East Asia, compared the draft to a Paris climate agreement with "only the 1.5C goal and nothing else".

He attacked in particular the lack of means of implementing the targets. "The whole document is 12 pages, and mostly [consists of] targets covering where we need to be. The 'how do we get there' is 1.5 pages. Do we seriously believe we will get there with this?" he said.

The CBD secretariat has said that the implementation components could be included in a decision by parties, rather than within the framework itself. For Li, focussing on targets alone would make good rhetoric but fall short on delivery.

Krueger believed that placing details on implementation separately within a COP decision could work in theory, but without knowing what those would be, the targets were just "words on a paper".

NGO the Center for Biological Diversity slammed the draft for not aiming for an end to all extinctions. Instead, the document calls for the rate of extinction to be reduced at least tenfold, and the risk of species extinctions across all taxonomic groups halved.

Tanya Sanerib, international legal director of the campaign group, also pointed to the lack of emphasis on eliminating unsustainable trade and exploitation of biodiversity. Despite the link between the origins of Covid-19 and the wildlife trade, the draft only asks for such trade to be "safe for human health", she said. "To truly minimise future pandemic risk, we need to rethink commercial use of wildlife," she said.

A significant gap is the lack of a monitoring system against which to assess progress towards goals, milestones and targets. Alongside the draft framework, the CBD published [a draft of proposed indicators](#) setting out the methodological basis for how targets will be measured. However, full details on how countries will carry out the monitoring, report on it, and how reviews would be carried out are missing.

Deputy executive secretary of the CBD, David Cooper, explained that the indicators would provide a quantitative element to the targets. The majority of those proposed are already in use by countries through other processes, such as the UN system for environmental economic accounting, and UN protocols covering biosafety and genetic resources.

"It will be important also to invest in increasing the capacity of all countries to monitor biodiversity and to report on it, particularly developing countries," he said.

Francis Ogwal, co-chair of the framework's working group, pointed out that implementation of the [failed Aichi targets](#) was delayed for several years while the indicators were drawn up.

But Krueger said that a much more comprehensive list than that proposed would be needed. "By the time the framework is signed, we really want to know how we're going to measure all these targets. Without having that finalised it could be very frustrating again, and cause other delays," she said.

The draft made some headway on the resources needed to protect nature, stating that the finance gap should be progressively closed so that by 2030 at least US\$700 billion per year is flowing into implementing the framework. This would be achieved through a reduction in harmful subsidies, and an increase in financial resources from all sources. The figure comes from [estimates produced](#) by TNC and US-based think-tank the Paulson Institute.

Krueger welcomed the framework's recognition of the level of finance needed, but stressed that countries should produce National Biodiversity Finance Plans to ensure implementation.

CfN said that the proposed increase of \$10 billion per year of finance from wealthy to developing nations fell far short of what conservationists and economists say is needed. There has been some progress on finance outside the CBD process though. At the G7, Canada announced a doubling of its international climate finance to \$5.3 billion over five years, including support for nature and nature-based solutions, and Germany announced an increase from €4 billion to €6 billion by 2025, with focus on nature-based solutions to climate change.

Meanwhile, the final political negotiations on the framework have again been pushed back. They were meant to take place at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) in Kunming, China this coming October. But the COP has been delayed until 2022 due to the ongoing pandemic. A high-level meeting of CBD officials agreed to only a partial convening of the COP in October to focus on procedural and administrative issues.

The October meeting needed to provide real impetus, not be just another show of rhetoric that hardly unlocks any contentious issues, Li said. "China needs to understand that much of the responsibilities for the success of COP15 are on its shoulders now. It needs to rise up, otherwise the global nature protection agenda will fail."

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Extreme heat waves are a taste of what's to come under a changing climate

A new study suggests that record-shattering heat events will become more frequent and more intense as the world continues to warm due to human-induced climate change.



Heat spots in the Amazon in 2020. Image: Christian Braga/Greenpeace.

[Elizabeth Claire Alberts, Mongabay.com](https://www.mongabay.com)

July 28, 2021

In late June, Portland, Oregon, experienced its [hottest day on record](#), reaching 42° Celsius (108° Fahrenheit). The last time it had been this hot was in 1981, when temperatures soared to 41°C (107°F). The very next day, the [record was broken again](#), but this time by an even higher margin at 44°C (112°F).

Other parts of the Pacific Northwest roasted and broiled as well. On June 30, the town of Lytton in British Columbia, Canada, reached a dangerous peak of 49°C (121°F), which helped fuel a wildfire that essentially razed the entire town.

A new paper published July 26 in [Nature Climate Change](#) provides some sobering news for the future: these record-shattering heat events are set to become more common and more intense as global temperatures continue to rise over the coming decades due to human-induced climate change.

“We are arguing that in the coming decade or two, we should definitely expect to see more frequent and higher-intensity events, meaning that records are broken by larger margins,” lead author Erich Fischer, a climate scientist at ETH Zürich, told Mongabay in an interview. “What happens after that depends on our emissions and whether we are able to bring the emissions rapidly down.”

Fischer and his colleagues took a different methodological approach to previous studies on the subject. Instead of looking at extreme heat waves as anomalies relative to common temperature means, they measured the intensity of the events by the margin at which they broke previous records. They argue that these events tend to happen at times of accelerated warming, and that these extreme heat events would generate the greatest impacts the first time they occurred at a certain location.

Using climate models that took a high-emissions scenario into account, the researchers found that weeklong heat extremes that break previous records would be two to seven times more likely in the mid-latitudes between 2021 and 2050, with about a 6 per cent chance of these events happening each year. The models also showed that extreme heat was three to 21 times more probable between 2051 and 2080 when compared to the preceding three decades, with a 17 per cent chance of these events each year. This suggests that after the year 2050, we could be seeing heat extremes about every six years.

It is in our hands. If we are going where we are aiming for with the Paris Agreement, it could substantially ... reduce the probability of seeing those record-shattering events in the future.

Erich Fischer, climate scientist, ETH Zürich

Fischer said their study is meant to offer a complementary perspective to other scientific approaches that define climate extremes as anomalies.

Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, a climate scientist at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), who was not involved in the study, said he was pleased to see this paper come out at the time it did.

“It came right as we were analysing the heat wave in the US Pacific,” van Oldenborgh told Mongabay in an interview. “The big problem with that heat wave was that it had this enormous jump in record temperatures. Records were broken by up to five degrees in Portland and Vancouver and other places. We had two hypotheses how this could work: one of them is that it’s sheer bad luck, and the world is a big place and things happen sometimes. The other is that new mechanisms have come into play that weren’t producing heat back a few years ago, and made this kind of heat much more likely. And the amazing thing is, of course, that paper addresses exactly these questions.”

Van Oldenborgh said he and his colleagues will be able to use and build upon this study in their future research, and that he’s already reached out to Fischer and his team to collaborate on another paper looking at extreme heat events.

The theory of [planetary boundaries](#) suggests that the world has nine Earth system processes that are essential for regulating and stabilising the Earth, but have certain limits within which they can withstand human-driven pressures.

It is suggested that climate change — one of the core boundaries — already exceeded the safe operating space when we passed 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which, in turn, has accelerated global warming. The Paris Agreement, however, aims to curtail global warming by rapidly decreasing global emissions and make sure the planet does not warm by more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels.

While the study’s findings generate serious concerns about the state of our planet, Fischer said he feels hopeful when seeing the actions currently being taken to try and curb emissions and stabilize the planet. If we do manage to bring down emissions, this would help reduce the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, Fischer said.

“It is in our hands,” he said. “If we are going where we are aiming for with the Paris Agreement, it could substantially ... reduce the probability of seeing those record-shattering events in the future.”

This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](#).



Earth's vital signs deteriorate – scientists

[By Agence France-Presse](#) July 29, 2021

ONTARIO: The global economy's business-as-usual approach to climate change has seen Earth's "vital signs" deteriorate to record levels, an influential group of scientists said on Wednesday, warning that several climate tipping points were now imminent.

The researchers, part of a group of more than 14,000 scientists who have signed on to an initiative declaring a worldwide climate emergency, said that governments had consistently failed to address the root cause of climate change: "the overexploitation of the Earth."

Since a similar assessment in 2019, they noted an "unprecedented surge" in climate-related disasters including flooding in [South America](#) and [Southeast Asia](#); record-shattering heat waves and wildfires in [Australia](#) and the [United States](#); and devastating cyclones in [Africa](#) and [South Asia](#).

Of 31 "vital signs" - key metrics of planetary health that include greenhouse gas emissions, glacier thickness, sea-ice extent and deforestation - they found that 18 hit record-highs or lows.

For example, despite a dip in pollution linked to the pandemic, levels of atmospheric CO2 and methane hit all-time highs in 2021. Greenland and [Antarctica](#) both recently showed all-time low levels of ice mass and glaciers are melting 31 percent faster than they did just 15 years ago, the authors said.

Both ocean heat and global sea levels set new records since 2019, and the annual loss rate of the Brazilian [Amazon](#) reached a 12-year-high in 2020.

Echoing previous research, they said forest degradation linked to fire, drought and logging was causing parts of the Brazilian Amazon to now act as a source of carbon, rather than absorb the gas from the atmosphere.

Livestock, such as cows and sheep, are now at record levels, numbering more than 4 billion and with a mass exceeding that of all humans and wild land mammals combined, they said.

[Tim Lenton](#), director of the [University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute](#) and study co-author, said the recent record-breaking heat wave in the [Western United States](#) and [Canada](#) showed that the climate had already begun to "behave in shocking, unexpected ways."

"We need to respond to the evidence that we are hitting climate tipping points with equally urgent action to decarbonize the global economy and start restoring instead of destroying nature," he said.



Illegal mining in Colombia worsens - UN

[By Agence France-Presse](#)

July 29, 2021

CALI: The illegal mining of gold from [Colombia](#)'s rivers and waterways is on the rise, according to a report from the [United Nations Office](#) on Drugs and Crime published on Tuesday (Wednesday in [Manila](#)). More than 52,000 hectares of nature reserves - an area similar to the size of [Madrid](#) - was affected by illegal alluvial gold extraction in 2020, the [UN](#) said. In total, more than 100,000 hectares - 69 percent of which is illegal - of one of the most biodiverse countries in the world show "evidence" of alluvial gold exploitation, the UN report said.



Monsoon rains flood parts of Metro Manila – MMDA

By [Zsastee Villanueva](#) July 28, 2021



Photo by: Mike Alquinto Children play with the big waves along Baseco area in Tondo Manila, on 28 July 2021, as the southwest monsoon continue to dump rain on Metro Manila and northern Luzon.

RAINS brought by the southwest monsoon flooded parts of [Metro](#) Manila on Wednesday although its major roads were clear, the [Metropolitan Manila Development Authority](#) (MMDA) said.

As of 3 p.m., the [Metro Manila Development Authority](#) (MMDA) reported that there are no floods in Metro Manila major roads except for a gutter deep flood at the [Roxas Boulevard](#) Quirino service road.

The MMDA reported flooding in Muntinlupa, Manila, Valenzuela, and Malabon: Muntinlupa

Purok 1 Dulo, Brgy. Buli - knee deep
Navarro compound, Brgy. Bayanan - knee deep
[Miranda](#) compound, Brgy. Bayanan - knee deep
Purok 6 Blk 4, Brgy. Bayanan - knee deep

Manila

Roxas Blvd. [Quirino Svc.](#) Rd.- gutter deep
Quirino Mabini - gutter deep (subsided as of 2:13pm)
Quirino Del Pilar- gutter deep (subsided as of 2:13pm)

Valenzuela

T Santiago, Brgy. Dalandanan- 3-4 inches
[Maysan](#) 2 to Bagbaguin- gutter deep
Rivera St., Brgy Polo- 4-6 inches
Lope de Guzman [St. Esteban](#), Brgy. Dalandanan- 10-12 inches
Manolo esteban south dalandanan- 14-15 inches (not passable to light vehicles based on MMDA flood gauge)

Malabon

C. Arellano Ibaba - 2-3 inches deep
MH [Del Pilar Tatawid](#) - 3-4 inches deep

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/07/28/news/monsoon-rains-flood-partsof-metro-manila-mmda/1808767>



3 Luzon dams continue to release water amid heavy monsoon rains

Published July 28, 2021, 9:41 AM by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)



IPO DAM (MWSS / MANILA BULLETIN)

Ipo, Ambuklao, and Binga dams in Luzon on Wednesday, July 28, continued to release water from their reservoirs due to excessive rainfall from the southwest monsoon or “habagat.”

Based on the latest monitoring of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Ipo Dam in Bulacan has one gate opened at 0.15 meters (m).

Dam authorities started to conduct emergency water discharges from the Ipo Dam reservoir last Sunday, July 25.

As of Wednesday, Ipo Dam’s water level still rose from 100.76 m to 100.92 m. Its spilling level is at 101 m.

Five gates were also kept open in Benguet’s Ambuklao Dam on Wednesday morning.

Ambuklao Dam’s gates had a three-meter opening as its current water level continued to increase from 751.83 m to 751.98 m.

The current level is just 0.02 m short of its 752.0-meter normal high water level.

Binga Dam in Benguet also had six gates opened on Wednesday morning.

Its water level slightly went up from 574.44 meters to 574.70 m. Binga Dam’s normal high water level is at 575 m.

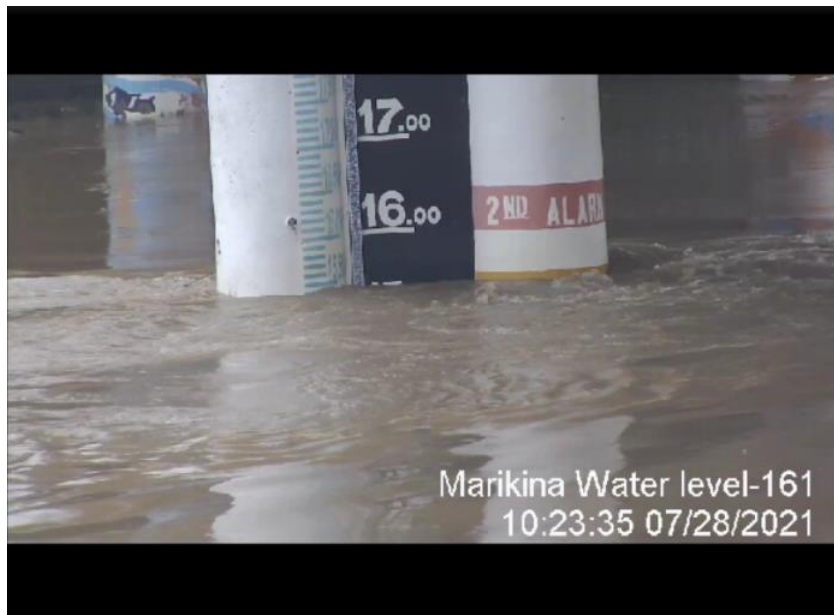
The water outflow from Ambuklao Dam goes down to Binga Dam, and further down to San Roque Dam in Pangasinan.

PAGASA’s monitoring showed that the water level in San Roque Dam significantly increased from 233.70 m to 236.12 m but still far from its 280-m normal high water level.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/07/28/3-luzon-dams-continue-spilling-water-amid-heavy-monsoon-rains/>

Marikina River placed under first alarm as water level reaches 15m

July 28, 2021



The Marikina River water level has been raised to the first alarm on Tuesday night (July 27) due to the rains brought upon by the southwest monsoon. The water level has breached 15 meters. (Screengrab from Marikina LGU live video)

By NG Seruela

The Marikina River water level was raised to the first alarm on Tuesday night (July 27) due to the rains brought upon by the southwest monsoon.

According to the Marikina City Public Information Office's (PIO) Facebook page, the river's water level is at 15.4 meters as of July 28, 10:00 a.m. It was placed under the first alarm at 11:18 p.m. as it reached a water level of 15 meters.

The Marikina PIO said all eight gates in the Manggahan floodway were opened as the first alarm was declared.

As of this writing, no flooded areas are reported. – *jlo*

Source: <https://ptvnews.ph/marikina-river-placed-under-first-alarm-as-water-level-reaches-15m/>

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Marikina residents are seen inside the public market of the city on July 28, 2021. The Department of Health reports an increase in new COVID-19 infections following the detection of the local transmission of its Delta variant.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

NCR stays in GCQ 'with heightened restrictions' until Aug. 15

(Philstar.com) - July 29, 2021 - 1:00am

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday announced that Metro Manila would remain under general community quarantine with heightened curbs until mid-August amid the threat of the more infectious Delta variant of COVID-19.

The president approved the pandemic task force's recommendation in a taped address aired at midnight. It came despite experts' call for a "circuit-breaking" lockdown in the capital region, home to 13.4 million people, as the country detects more persons with the Delta.

Authorities have confirmed local transmission of the variant, with NCR cities accounting for 25 of the total 119 infections.

The IATF said these areas, along with Metro Manila, would also be under **GCQ**:

General Community Quarantine with heightened restrictions (August 1 to 15)

- **Region 1:** Ilocos Sur
- **Region 2:** Cagayan
- **Region 3:** Bulacan
- **Region 4-A:** Laguna, Lucena City, Cavite, Rizal
- **Region 5:** Naga City
- **Region 6:** Antique, Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz
- **Region 7:** Negros Oriental
- **Region 9:** Zamboanga del Sur
- **Region 10:** Misamis Oriental
- **Region 11:** Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, Davao Occidental
- **CARAGA:** Butuan City

General Community Quarantine (August 1 to 31)

- **CAR:** Baguio City, Apayao
- **Region 2:** Santiago City, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino
- **Region 4A:** Quezon, Batangas
- **Region 4B:** Puerto Princesa



- **Region 6:** Guimaras, Negros Occidental
- **Region 9:** Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Norte
- **Region 11:** Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur
- **Region 12:** General Santos City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, North Cotabato, South Cotabato
- **CARAGA:** Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Sur
- **BARMM:** Cotabato City

These cities and provinces, meanwhile, would revert to stricter quarantine classifications:

Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (August 1 to 15)

- **Region 1:** Ilocos Norte
- **Region 3:** Bataan
- **Region 7:** Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City

Enhanced Community Quarantine (August 1 to 7)

- **Region 5:** Iloilo City, Iloilo province
- **Region 10:** Cagayan de Oro City, Gingoog City (component city of Misamis Oriental)

The rest of the Philippines, Duterte said, would stay under modified general community quarantine or MGCQ, the lowest classification.

Health officials on July 28 reported 4,478 new COVID-19 cases. DOH has acknowledged an ongoing increase in additional infections, but it refused to call it another surge.

Total coronavirus cases in the country have since stood at 1,566,667, with deaths at 27,401.



'Circuit-breaker' lockdown sa Agosto pinaboran ng mga negosyante

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - July 29, 2021 - 12:00am



Kids stroll on a bike at Marikina Riverbanks on July 11, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Ilang mga negosyante ang pabor sa pagpapa-tupad ng lockdown sa susunod na buwan upang mapigilan ang mabilis na pagtaas ng kaso ng Delta variant ng COVID-19.

Ayon kay Presidential adviser on entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion, mas pabor ang mga negosyante na gawin ang lockdown sa Agosto kaysa sa nalalabing apat buwan ng taon o “ber months” kung saan gumagastos na ang mga mamamayan bilang paghahanda sa Pasko.

Inaasahan din aniya na magsisimula na ang election spending sa buwan ng Setyembre, Oktubre Nobyembre at Disyembre.

Sinabi rin ni Concepcion na mas mabuting sa Agosto ipatupad ang “circuit-breaker lockdown” dahil nililimitahan ng mga negosyante ang paglalabas ng pera sa nasabing buwan dahil itinuturing itong “ghost month.”

“August is a ghost month. It is the weakest month for most of us so... The whole strategy is to hit it now if a lockdown is inevitable,” ani Concepcion.

Mas mabuti rin aniya na resolbahin ang problema ng mas maaga kaysa hintayin pang lumaki at saka magpapatupad ng lockdown.



A woman braves the heavy rain in Kamuning EDSA in Quezon City in this July 22 photo. Metro Manila and nearby areas have been experiencing monsoon rains due to the southwest monsoon or the habagat

The STAR/Michael Varcas

Philippines sees 4,478 more COVID-19 cases

(Philstar.com) - July 28, 2021 - 4:28pm

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines on Wednesday reported 4,478 new coronavirus cases to bring its total count of infections to 1,566,667.

Today's numbers saw active cases down by 1,925 from July 27's 56,477. The Department of Health said four laboratories failed to submit testing results.

"The low number of cases reported today was due to the 9 p.m. extraction done the day prior, not the usual 1 p.m.," DOH said. "Because of that, there were some cases reported yesterday that should have been included in the case counts today."

- **Active cases:** 54,552 or 3.5% of the total
- **Recoveries:** 6,149, bringing the number to 1,484,714
- **Deaths:** 84, or now 27,401 in total

Metro Manila's increasing COVID-19 cases

- DOH said there is no "[definite evidence](#)" yet that Metro Manila is now under a new surge in COVID-19 infections. It came after OCTA Research yesterday said the capital region is officially seeing an uptick in cases.
- A health official reported that there are now 25 cases of the highly transmissible [Delta](#) variant in Metro Manila. The country's total count to date is at 119.
- The Quezon City local government said 82 of its [police](#) officers had tested positive for COVID-19. They are from Station 3 in Talipapa in Novaliches who were tested on July 23.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/28/2115857/philippines-sees-4478-more-covid-19-cases>



Passengers bound to their respective destination line up at EDSA carousel bus station in Caloocan City on March 17, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas, file

DOH: 25 Delta variant cases detected in Metro Manila

[Christian Deiparine](#) (Philstar.com) - July 28, 2021 - 3:58pm

MANILA, Philippines — A health official on Wednesday bared that nine cities in Metro Manila have reported cases of the highly transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19, but stressed there is no surge in infections in the capital region.

The Philippines has confirmed local transmission of the variant that is driving a significant uptick in cases across Southeast Asia.

Dr. Manuel Mapue II said at a "Laging Handa" government forum that the nine Metro Manila cities account for 25 of the 119 total Delta cases in the country.

Mapue is chief of the Department of Health's epidemiology and surveillance unit in the National Capital Region.

The country's capital, the city of Manila, has the most Delta variant cases at ten, followed by Pasig with seven and San Juan with two.

Quezon City, Las Piñas, Makati, Malabon, Parañaque, and Taguig, all have one case each.

Mapue said that, of the 25 cases recorded in NCR, one has died, eight have been listed as recovered, while 16 remain active cases.

NCR's number contradict the Department of Health tally of 12 active cases across the country as of July 24.

Officials have yet to respond if there have been new cases detected since then, but the department raised its count to eight from zero on July 20 after re-tests on persons who were already cleared by local governments as recovered.

The detection of Delta variant cases in Metro Manila has stirred calls for and fears of a new lockdown. The government returned it to stricter quarantine status in past months as infections skyrocketed to overwhelm hospitals.

OCTA Research on Tuesday said the capital region is now seeing a surge in cases, a conclusion that the health department disagrees with.



"We still can't call this a surge because we don't have evidence yet to call it that," Mapue said in Filipino. "Although, we can see that cases are beginning to go up."

He added that per their records, new infections are starting to rise in Las Piñas, Makati, Pasay and in San Juan.

Mapue said DOH would declare the existence of a surge should the increase in additional cases become steady.

He said Metro Manila mayors' decision to extend curfew hours would help stem the increase in cases because people's movements would be limited. He said, however, that improving detection, isolation, and tracing strategies would be more effective.

"It would also help for the public to continue practicing public health standards," Mapue continued in Filipino, "and limit going out and going to crowded places."

OCTA Research has called for a new lockdown in Metro Manila before cases go up further.

"We don't want what happened in Indonesia, in India, and what is happening in Thailand, where cases exploded because their response was too little and too late," OCTA Research fellow Ranjit Rye said in Filipino.

Mapue said the region has added supplies of personal protective equipments and masks and has ramped up vaccinations among vulnerable groups to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to announce this week the new quarantine classifications for cities and provinces for August.



New PH daily vaccination record: 659,029 doses

By Lade Jean Kabagani July 28, 2021, 8:01 pm



INSULATED. Dr. Ryan Buendia, a cardiologist of St. Luke's Medical Center Taguig, receives the Sinovac vaccine in this undated photo. Front-line health care workers were the first to be inoculated against the deadly disease in March. (PNA photo by Joey O. Razon)

MANILA – The Philippines registered a new daily high of 659,029 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine administered on Tuesday.

National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 chief Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the feat manifested the country's vaccination capacity following the steady delivery of jabs for the past two weeks.

The previous record was 472,356 jabs on July 22.

"We are very happy that we were able to achieve milestone after milestone. This shows that we have the capacity and capability to achieve our 500,000 inoculations per day target as long as there's a steady supply of vaccines arriving in the country," Galvez said in a statement on Wednesday.

From 500,000 daily doses this quarter, the government eyes to increase to 750,000 jabs during the last three months so it could inoculate 77,746,906 Filipinos, or 70 percent of the country's population, by the end of the year.

Galvez lauded the local government units (LGUs) and the private sector for helping the national government to push for an effective vaccination program since rollout began in March.

"We applaud our implementing units from the local government and the private sector for remaining committed to carrying out their vaccination rollout as quickly and efficiently as possible, and ultimately, protecting as many people as we can against the disease," he said.

Galvez also credited the developments in the vaccination program to the health care workers who relentlessly serve the public amid the prevailing threat of the pandemic.

"The latest milestone in the vaccine program is both inspiring and crucial, as the country faces the threat of the Covid-19 Delta variant," he added.

Despite inclement weather, Galvez is optimistic that the increase in the daily vaccination rate would continue in the coming weeks.



“At this point where many LGUs are affected by the typhoon, we are also seeing their creativity and eagerness to ensure that the vaccine rollout will remain unhampered for their respective localities,” he said.

“We trust the LGUs’ capability to manage and balance the ongoing immunization program while ensuring the safety and well-being of their constituents,” he added.

As of Tuesday, the Philippines has administered 18,174,405 doses, 11.3 million of which were given as initial shots and 6.8 million as second shots. **(PNA)**



Bold moves to beat Delta

[GO NEGOSYO PILIPINAS ANGAT LAHAT!](#) - [Joey Concepcion](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 29, 2021 - 12:00am

Our country's objective is very clear: we have to protect the 4th quarter of the year since it is the time when our businesses are at their peak, and also the period when consumer spending is at its highest due to the Christmas season. Timely for the upcoming change of the country's leaders in 2022, election spending will also start to ramp up during that period. Along with that, we also have our government's stimulus package kicking in. These are the reasons why we need to protect the 4th quarter at all costs, as the last few months of the year will determine if the majority of us will survive the current year.

Likewise, it will also set the tone and provide a forecast of how favorable 2022 will be. So, while we are still in the 3rd quarter of the year, we need to do everything to provide a strong cushion for the 4th quarter to protect it against the Delta variant that may possibly hit us severely.

The proper and most rational approach for us to adopt in our own homes and workspaces is an intensified vaccination so that we can achieve herd immunity. Each family must aim to target 100 percent vaccination of their households. For our safety, it may be reasonable not to go out with our peers who are not yet vaccinated, and the same thing can also apply with the members of our families. In our workspaces, we must aim to vaccinate 100 percent of our employees, if not, lower than 80 percent of them. To put it into its proper context, when we say 'workspaces,' we refer to office buildings, manufacturing facilities, malls, restaurants, health and wellness centers and the like. We need to make sure that the places where we work have people that are fully-vaccinated, more so the front liners.

The transport groups, which take people from their homes to workplaces, back and forth, must inoculate their drivers and conductors. In this way, we build a wall of defense and the more we do it, that wall becomes stronger. When we are able to do this, we then galvanize that wall, so we can achieve micro-herd immunity in our own bubble. This is the approach we must take for us to have a better chance to save lives and livelihoods for a better Christmas and New Year.

We need to do that as soon as possible – this is because the Delta variant is exponentially stronger a thousand times in viral load as compared to previously detected variants. For example, if the Alpha variant is two to three times more contagious than the original COVID-19 strain, then the Delta variant is six times more transmissible than the Alpha variant. To demonstrate this, an individual infected with the Delta variant can easily transmit COVID-19 up to seven people through close contact in less than 15 minutes from exposure. The transmissibility of infection from a human carrier is actually highest during the first four days from the onset of the symptoms.

With this, I introduce the principle of reciprocity with reference to achieving a fully-vaccinated population. The more vaccinated individuals occupy an area, the higher freedom and mobility they deserve. As we vaccinate more people in workplaces, this is where our businesses can finally ask for an increased operational capacity – which means, more employees can be allowed to go back to work, more customers can enter various retail outlets, and more passengers can be allowed to ride a particular mode of public transportation. However, if the Delta variant is still right in front of our eyes, an increase of capacity to those I mentioned will be put on hold. This will be the case until we see an abrupt decrease in the cases of those who tested positive with the Delta variant.



The caveat is – we need to incentivize the vaccinated population by giving them more mobility and accessibility to establishments, especially because the unvaccinated people are an imminent threat against the vaccinated ones. If we are limiting outdoor mobility of children below 18 years of age – who are not yet vaccinated, then what prevents us from applying the same logic to adults who are not also vaccinated? Interestingly, children have stronger immunity than the adult population. We have to realize that the ones who are causing the increase of cases are those who are unvaccinated. We are actually playing Russian roulette with them since they are a threat to their own bodies as they do not have sufficient protection and threatening others who are at risk because of them.

Further, the unvaccinated population creates a ripple effect to the entire healthcare capacity if their hospitalization – one thing that vaccines prevent – will lead to the total exhaustion of the country's medical system. If the unvaccinated are the main culprit, then what are we going to do to prevent our country from collapsing? So much for excuses that there is still a dearth of vaccine supply. Look at our office, even if our employees know for a fact that we have procured our own vaccines, some of them take their chance on getting vaccinated using the supplies from the national government. If there is a will, there is a way.

We have to be at our most rational self in rethinking if we are on the right track to finally use a silver bullet against the Delta variant. We have to brace ourselves for the fiercest, boldest move, just in a snap when push comes to shove.



WALA KANG BAKUNA O COVID PASS? SUSPENDIDO KA, BAWAL KANG KUMAIN



July 28, 2021 @ 1:56 PM 17 hours ago

SINISILIP natin ang mga ibang bansa kung ano-ano ang mga nagaganap o ginagawa nila roon kaugnay ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 at kung ano ang epekto sa atin ng mga ito.

SA FRANCE

May kapapasa lang silang batas laban sa COVID-19.

Heto: Obligado na lahat ng health worker na magpabakuna laban sa virus hanggang Setyembre 15, 2021, hindi na uubra ang boluntaryong pagpapabakuna at sususpendihin sa trabaho ang umaayaw.

Heto pa: Kung wala kang COVID Pass na tanda ng doble bakuna o paggaling sa sakit o negatibo sa COVID test, bawal kang pumasok at kumain sa restoran, bawal bumiyahe sa tren o eroplano at bawal ka ring pumunta sa public places.

Pairalin ang COVID PASS sa 12 anyos pataas at magsisimula ito sa Setyembre 30, 2021.

Katwiran ng gobyerno, laban umano ang mga ito sa lockdown, pamigil sa dumaraming kaso ng COVID-19 sa mga ospital at proteksyon ng mga delikado o vulnerable ang kalagayan.

SA UNITED KINGDOM

Umabot na sa 70 porsyento rito ang bakunado ng single shot, 59% ang double shot at naaabot na nila ang halos herd immunity mula sa 68 milyong populasyon nila.

Isa pa, nasa 25,000 na lang umano ang naiimpeksyon araw-araw at nasa 14 na lang din ang namamatay.

Kaya inalis na nila ang lahat ng health protocol at anomang uri ng community quarantine at malaya na sila lahat na gawin ang gusto nila.

Tumindig naman ang balahibo ng 1,200 siyentista at nagbabala silang lilikha ito ng COVID variants na hindi tatablan ng anomang bakuna.

Marami na ring bansa ang natakot na magiging superspreader ang mga British sa buong mundo dahil sentro ito ng pandaigdigang biyahe.

'Yun bang === malayang pumasok at lumabas sa UK ang mga British at dayuhan at kung may dala silang COVID virus, kakalat na nang husto ang pandemya.

Ngayon, naalarma ang mga bansang Italy, New Zealand at Israel sa patakaran sa gitna ng ulat na 99% ng COVID infection o 25,000 biktima araw-araw ay gawa ng mabagsik at madaling makahawang Delta variant sa UK.



SA UNITED STATES

Natataranta ang mga awtoridad dito sa pagdami ng mga nako-COVID at nagmumula ito sa hanay ng mga hindi bakunado, kasama ang mga bata.

Delta variant ang ngayo'y bumubuo ng 95% ng mga nagkakasakit at itinatakbo sa ospital.

Nasa 50,000 araw-araw ang nagkakasakit o naoospital at nasa 300-500 ang namamatay rin araw-araw.

Sa kabila nito, marami pa rin ang ayaw magpabakuna dahil boluntaryo lang ito.

Katwiran ng iba, bakunado na ang kanilang kapitbahay kaya hindi na sila tatamaan.

Katwiran ng marami, labag umano sa kalayaan at karapatang pantao ang hindi nila pagpapabakuna o pagpapabakuna.

Ngayon, pinalalabas sa telebisyon at social media ang pagsisisi mismo ng mga buhay pang may severe o critical na kalagayan at nananawagan na magpabakuna na ang mga ayaw magpabakuna.

Kinalilimutan ng mga nagpapakita at nagsasalita ang pagkapribado ng kanilang buhay para lang masalba ang iba sa kapahamakan.

SA INDONESIA AT INDIA

Itong dalawang bansa ang labis na sinasalakay ng Delta variant.

Medyo humuhupa na ang pandemya sa India na noong Abril hanggang Hunyo ay umaabot sa 3,000-5,000 ang patay araw-araw.

Ngayon naglalaro na lang ang patay sa 500 araw-araw pero malaking bilang pa rin ito.

Sa Indonesia, may ekstensyon ang pambansang lockdown nila dahil nasa mahigit 1,200 ang patay nila araw-araw.

Ang kakaiba sa mga ito, mga Bro, ay ang paglilibing.

Noong kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng Delta variant sa India, umaapaw ang mga sementeryo at crematory kaya kung saan-saan na lang sinunusunog ang mga bangkay at itinatapon na lang sa mga ilog ang iba.

Sa Indonesia, paglilibing ang ginagawa at dumating na ang punto na sumusuko na ang mga sepulturero sa pagod at kakulangan nila sa paglilibing kaya naman nanawagan na sila sa mga kamag-anak ng mga namamatayan na tumulong sa paghuhukay ng lupa.

SA PILIPINAS?

Nagsisimula pa lang tayong atakehin ng Delta variant at sa loob lang ng mahigit isang buwan, may 119 na tayong kaso at 4 patay.

Kapag dumaluhong sa atin ang orig na COVID-19 at mga variant nitong Alpha mula sa UK, Beta mula sa South Africa at Delta mula India ngunit galing sa Amerika at Denmark, ano na?

Huwag na huwag tayong tumunganga at hintaying magka-COVID-COVID at Delta-Delta tayo bago kumilos.

Magpabakuna na at sumunod tayo sa mga pinairal na health protocol.

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/wala-kang-bakuna-o-covid-pass-suspendido-ka-bawal-kang-kumain/>

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