

29 OCTOBER 2020, THURSDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



# DENR maintains Manila Bay dolomite sand not being washed out

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:11 PM October 28, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday maintained that the dolomite sand overlay on the artificial beach strip in Manila Bay was not washed out but was only covered by black sand caused by recent rains.

DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas Leones made the clarification after news reports allegedly quoted him saying that “about 10 percent of the dolomite sand in Manila Bay has been swept to sea by the heavy rains.”

“There is no truth to the news reports that the dolomite sand has already been washed out to the sea,” he said in a statement.

He said that the dolomite sand is still intact and was only “washed” in by black sand.

He likewise maintained that the washed in dolomite “will not be washed out to the sea because of the geo-engineering intervention we put on the project.”

“Ang two layers niyan ay regular black sand. Ang top layer ay dolomite. Yung water kapag nagkaroon ng malakas na wave, nadadala iyung black sand dun sa dolomite,” Leones said.

(The two layers are regular black sand. The top layer is dolomite. When there are heavy rains, the black sand is being washed in.)

He added that the project is still with the contractor and they are still liable for conducting measures for the project.

“We stand by our [statement](#) that the dolomite sand is not being washed out, rather it is just being washed in. We assure the public that we will protect the people’s money,” the DENR official said. [ac]



## Dolomite 'intact' despite typhoon, heavy rains, DENR official says

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

October 28, 2020

AN official of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday said the crushed dolomite used in the controversial P389-million beach nourishment project at the Baywalk area along Roxas Boulevard, Manila remains intact despite heavy rains the past several days.

“There is no truth to the news reports that the dolomite sand has already been washed out to the sea,” DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones said in a news statement.

Leones said that even after the heavy rains spawned by the weather disturbance, the crushed dolomite remains intact. Typhoon Quinta also brought rains in some parts of Metro Manila early this week.

News reports earlier quoted the official as saying that “about 10 percent of the dolomite sand in Manila Bay has been swept to sea by the heavy rains.”

He explained that two layers underneath the crushed dolomite are regular black sand. Whenever a strong wave comes in, the black sand is washed in atop the crushed dolomite, Leones said.

He clarified that the washed dolomite “will not be washed out to the sea because of the geoengineering intervention we put on the project.”

“Besides, the project is still with the contractor. They are still liable in conducting measures for the project,” Leones explained. The project was implemented by MAC Builders and Dragonhart Construction joint venture early this year.

The contract for the Manila Bay Beach Nourishment Project is part of the P1.7-billion joint project of the DENR and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) dubbed Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program.

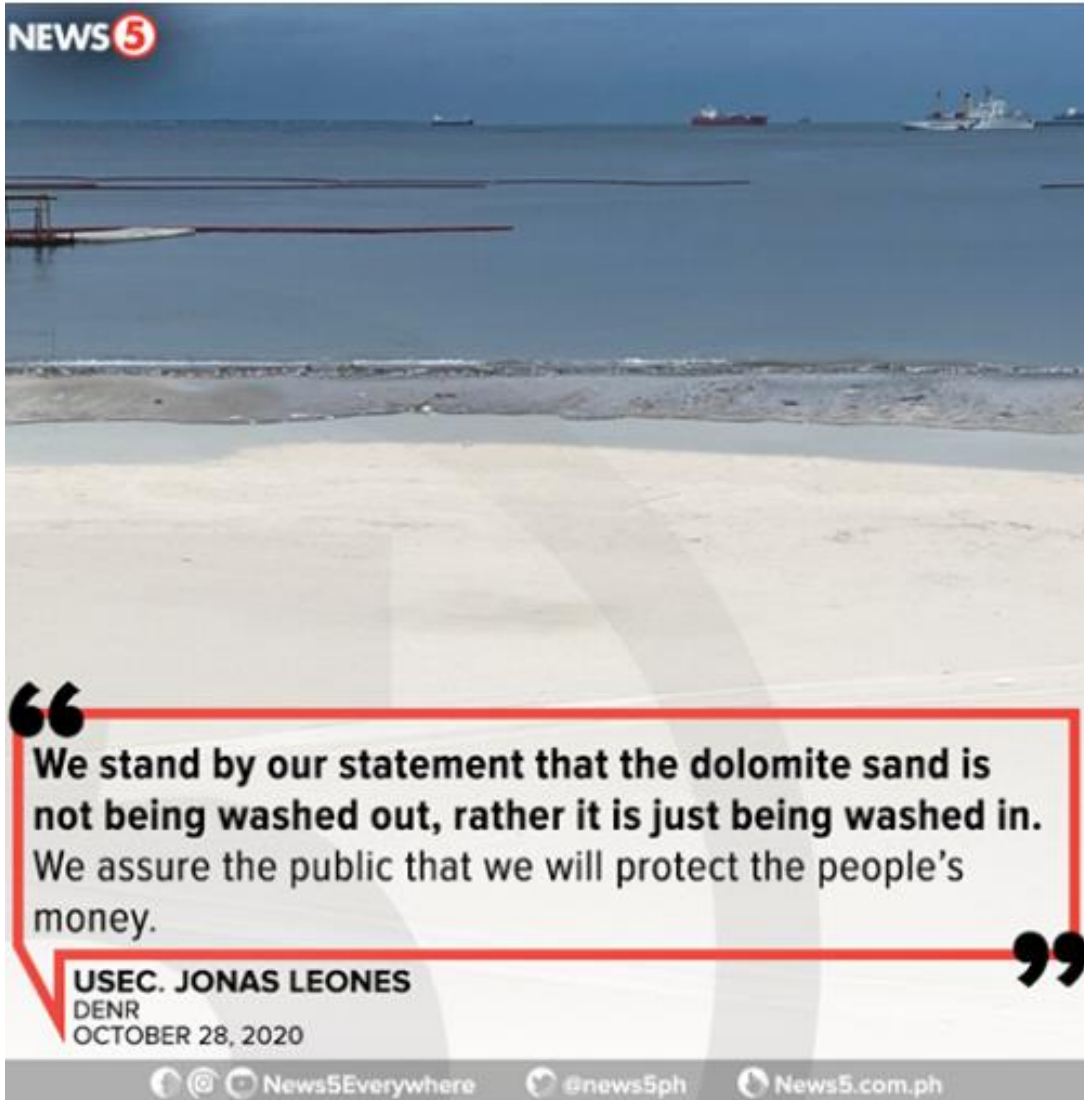
“We stand by our statement that the dolomite sand is not being washed out, rather it is just being washed in. We assure the public that we will protect the people’s money,” he said.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/10/28/dolomite-intact-despite-typhoon-heavy-rains-denr-official-says/>



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Pinasinungalingan ni Environment Usec. Jonas Leones ang balitang 10% na ng dolomite sand sa Manila Bay ang na-wash out. Giit niya, nadadala lang ng malakas na alon ang black sand kaya napupunta ito sa pampang.



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## Netizens Raise PHP1.1M For Unemployed Tamaraw Rangers



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#) October 26, 2020

Pong Capati emigrated from the Philippines to America in 1982, retiring after 30 years of work. Last July, he heard about #TogetherforTamaraws, an online fundraising campaign to help conservation frontliners affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I realized that without rangers, we cannot protect the tamaraw. I really wanted to help so I shared the campaign to my family, friends and colleagues. With my niece Sofia, we fused our love for food and art and managed to raise over PHP30,000 for our rangers.”



Other funds were raised in the most creative ways: Ruth Ann Cabria sold items online to declutter her home; Artist Issa Barte auctioned art pieces; Photographer Derald Umali raffled off a film camera.

All put, some 150 individuals and institutions raised over PHP1.1 million to help Mindoro’s tamaraw rangers and forest wardens, many of whom lost their jobs because of the pandemic. The funds shall be turned over on October 29 to cap off Tamaraw Month, celebrated in the Philippines each October.

“These creative fundraising efforts show how the worst times can also bring out the best in people,” says DENR-BMB Assistant Secretary Ricardo Calderon. “Our Bayanihan Spirit lives on through crowdfunding. We thank our partners, donors and contributors in proving how everyone can do their part for conservation.”

### Together for Tamaraws

Since March 2020, most of the Philippines has been under general or enhanced community quarantine. The country’s national parks were closed to prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

This left Mindoro’s Iglit-Baco Natural Park with little funding, cutting off the sole source of income for 32 wardens and one ranger, all members of Mindoro’s indigenous Taw’buid, Buid and Iraya tribes. Only 23 TCP rangers and three wardens are currently patrolling a core area of 2500 hectares inside the 106,655-hectare Iglit-Baco park, which hosts at least 480 of the world’s last 600 tamaraws.



“The Tamaraw Conservation Programme (TCP) and Mounts Iglit-Baco Natural Park (MIBNP) are indebted to those who have and will continue to help us,” says TCP head Neil Anthony del Mundo. “The assistance to be given to our wardens and rangers will go a long way in keeping both our tamaraws and protected areas safe.”

### Critical Time for Biodiversity

#TogetherforTamaraws is led by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) project under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the DENR’s Biodiversity Management Bureau and MIMAROPA Regional Office.

In July, the Philippine Parks & Biodiversity NGO further created the Tamaraw Society for its 20 for 20 campaign where they called on 20 organizations or individuals to pledge or fundraise PHP20,000 each. The Tamaraw Society is currently comprised of the following 18 entities: D’Aboville Foundation and Demo Farm, Eco Explorations, Masungi Georeserve Foundation, Ecoheroes, Far Eastern University, Fund the Forest, JaDine Habb Fans Club, Kids for Kids / Bye Bye Plastic Bags, Giselle Sy, Hey Namski x FIASFUD, Michael Montesano, Oscar Lopez, Planet CORA, Elmer and Kitkat Mercado, Ruth Cabria, The Learned Tribe, Thirty Five Studio, and WWF-Philippines.

“This is a critical time for Philippine biodiversity,” says UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Enrico Gaveglia. “With Philippine protected areas undermanned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the threat of plant and animal poaching is at its highest. We need to do our part in ensuring that our conservation frontliners have the means and capacity to continue their mission. After all, if not for the TCP and MIBNP rangers working hand in hand with the Mangyan communities of Mts. Iglit-Baco, the tamaraw might well be extinct.”

Against the backdrop of the pandemic, the past few months have been a challenging time for Tamaraw conservation in the country. In September, MIBNP and TCP rangers successfully intercepted and caught three tamaraw poachers drying meat inside the park. The poachers later escaped and are still at large. Kalibasib, the world’s only captive-bred tamaraw, also died last 10 October after 21 years in captivity.

### Space Needed for Tamaraw Herds

Today’s tamaraw populations are fragmented, with only four remaining populations spread throughout Mindoro. From an estimated 10,000 heads in 1900, tamaraw numbers plummeted to under 100 heads in 1969. Conservation efforts have paid off tremendously, helping the population recover to over 600. Impressive, but still a far cry from the original population.





“To truly allow the tamaraw population to grow, it is essential to provide more space for the species,” says D’ABOVILLE Foundation program manager Emmanuel Schütz, another donor. “This is a landscape approach where local communities must and shall benefit from the environmental enhancement and security that tamaraw conservation induces.”

The donation turnover ceremony shall be held at Barangay Poypoy in Mindoro Occidental. The funds shall be used to pay for wages, supplies and equipment.

The DENR-BMB, UNDP-BIOFIN and its allies shall continue fundraising for Mindoro’s tamaraw rangers. Individuals who wish to donate can click [bit.ly/TogetherForTamaraws](http://bit.ly/TogetherForTamaraws) or email [biofin.ph@undp.org](mailto:biofin.ph@undp.org) while those who wish to join the Tamaraw Society can click [bit.ly/TamarawSociety](http://bit.ly/TamarawSociety).



## DENR seizes illegally cut Black Ferns



ZAMBOANGA. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources confiscates 11 pieces of black ferns that were illegally cut in Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay. A photo handout shows DENR personnel load the ferns into a vehicle for safe keeping. (SunStar Zamboanga)

October 28, 2020

PERSONNEL of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have confiscated 11 pieces of Black Ferns, the cutting of which is prohibited under the law.

Rosevirico Tan, DENR regional information officer, said the Black Ferns, locally known as "Mamaku," were confiscated last week in Sitio Tipolo, Talamimi village, Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Tan said a team from the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) from Imelda, Zamboanga Sibugay were on patrol when they chanced upon the illegally cut forest products abandoned along the roadside.

Tan said the forest products, which have an estimated value of P3,850, were deposited in Cenro Imelda's depository shed for safekeeping and further investigation.

He said the confiscation was made since the cutting of Black Ferns is prohibited under Presidential Decree 705, as amended by Executive Order 277 or The Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines. **(SunStar Zamboanga)**



## Mga bakawan at bahagi ng ilog sa Kawit, Cavite, nabura dahil sa umano'y illegal reclamation

Oktubre 29, 2020 12:36am GMT+08:00

Sinalakay ng mga tauhan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang isang illegal reclamation project umano sa Kawit, Cavite na sumira sa mga bakawan at tinabunan malaking bahagi ng ilog.

Sa ulat ni John Consulta sa GMA News "24 Oras" nitong Miyerkules, ipinakita ang larawan na kuha sa lugar noong 2016 na makikita pa ang mga bakawan at malaking bahagi ng ilog ng Ilang-ilang.

Pero sa drone video ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division na kuha kamakailan, tumambad ang malawak na reclamation project na aabot umano sa isang hektarya ang lawak na bumura sa mga bakawan at malaking bahagi ng ilog.

Kasama ng DENR-Cavite, sinalakay ng mga tauhan ng NBI ang naturang illegal reclamation project at inaresto ang tatlong manggagawa na inabutan sa lugar at kinumpiska ang mga heavy equipment.

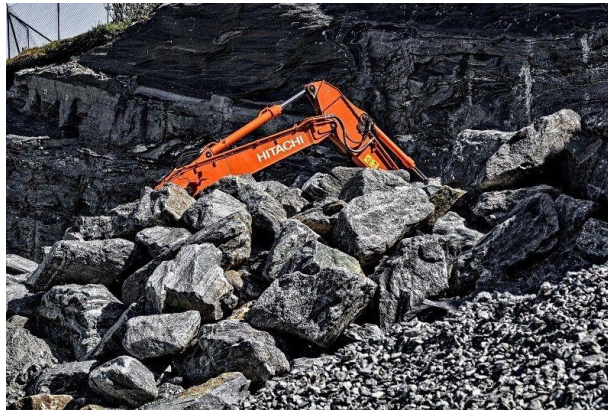
Ayon kay Atty. Eric Nuqui, hepe ng NBI-Environmental Crime Division, natuklasan nila na walang permit mula sa mga kinaaukulang ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang kompanyang nasa likod ng reclamation project.

Nangangamba si Nuqui sa epekto ng ginawang pagtatapon ng lupa sa lugar tulad sa peligro ng pagbaha dahil sa nawalang bahagi ng ilog.

Tumanggi muna ang NBI na pangalanan ang kompanyang nasa likod ng ilegal na reklamasyon habang patuloy ang imbestigasyon.

Hindi naman nagbigay ng pahayag ang mga inarestong trabahador.--**FRJ, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/761835/mga-bakawan-at-bahagi-ng-ilog-sa-kawit-cavite-nabura-dahil-sa-umano-y-illegal-reclamation/story/>



Investors, however, were unconvinced of both Nickel Asia's and Philex Mining's positive prospects with the mine closures with shares at both firms down at the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

[Philstar.com/stock](http://Philstar.com/stock)

## Nickel Asia shuts, Philex Mining restarts some mining sites

[Ramon Royandoyan](#) (Philstar.com) - October 28, 2020 - 11:37am

MANILA, Philippines — Operations of two mining firms were disrupted by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

On one hand, Nickel Asia Corp. disclosed to the stock exchange mining activities at Tagana-an mine in Surigao del Norte will be suspended indefinitely after the local government placed the site on lockdown "until further orders."

The suspension of mining in the area came after 19 workers tested positive for COVID-19. As a precautionary measure, the company shut down the mining site from October 19 to 25, but municipal officials stepped in and ordered the area shut for the meantime.

Non-mining activities of Hinatuan Mining Corp., a Nickel Asia subsidiary operating the mine, would resume after a 2-week suspension from October 27 to November 10. Nickel Asia said a financial blowback from the decisions are not expected to be significant. Hinatuan Mining accounted for 11% of the parent's total ore volume in 2019.

"HMC is already at the tail-end of its mining season and the last of its ore shipments have been loaded and the rest diverted to NAC's other subsidiaries, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation and Cagdianao Mining Corporation," the company said.

It was unclear how many Nickel Asia's 6,971 employees as of last year are deployed to Tagana-an mines.

While Nickel Asia was halting some production, Philex Mining Corp. is restarting some. After a 2-day suspension until October 24 because of 26 COVID-19 cases, the Pangilinan-led firm said activities at the Padcal mine in Benguet province resumes Wednesday at 50% capacity.

While work was on hold, Philex conducted contact tracing and tested 1,425 employees and their families. Out of the total, 151 people tested positive for COVID-19, of whom eight people already recovered.



Since most cases were contained at Philex Mining's underground mines, the company expects to nearly go back to normal operations at 90% capacity in 3 days. "(Barring) any resurgence of infection, Management believes that there is a minimal impact to the operations and financial results for 2020," Philex Mining said.

Investors, however, were unconvinced of both Nickel Asia's and Philex Mining's positive prospects with the mine closures. As of 11:22 a.m., shares at Nickel Asia were down 1.59% to P3.83 apiece. Philex Mining dropped 1.44% to P5.47 each.



# Lumad rep berates NCIP for allowing mining in Tampakan

By [Divina Nova Joy Dela Cruz](#)

October 29, 2020

BAYAN Muna Rep. Eufemia Cullamat on Wednesday condemned the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for granting a Certification Precondition (CP) to Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI), the developer of the Tampakan project in South Cotabato.

The CP issued to SMI certifies that the company has complied with the procedure and process requirements and the Free and Prior Informed Consent of indigenous cultural communities. It is an essential requirement that would allow SMI to explore and extract mining deposits within the ancestral domain covered by the Tampakan project. It was issued by NCIP Chairman Allen Capuyan in Quezon City on September 19.

Cullamat said the mining operations was opposed by indigenous peoples in the area and was against the local government ordinance moratorium on open-pit mining that was upheld by the Koronadal City Regional Trial Court.

She added that the revival of mining operations might displace 4,000 indigenous peoples at the onset of the open-pit mining operations, which includes excavation.

“Nagugulat nalang ang lahat na matagal na palang napahintulutan ang muling operasyon ng minahang ito sa gitna ng malawakang oposisyon. Ginawa pa sa gitna ng pandemya kung kailan mahirap para sa mga ordinaryong mamamayan na magtipon upang ipakita ang pagtutol sa desisyong ito (We are surprised that the revival of operations mining operations had been allowed despite massive opposition. This was done in the middle of the pandemic when it is difficult for ordinary citizens to organize and show opposition to this decision),” Cullamat said in a statement.

“Malinaw na hindi para sa kapakanan ng mga katutubo ang inatupag ng NCIP. Ang NCIP ay ahensya ng gobyerno na nagbebenta sa aming mga lupang ninuno at naghahati sa aming hanay upang mabilis makapasok ang mga mapangwasak na malalaking negosyo tulad ng mga minahan sa aming mga komunidad at sakahan (It is clear that the NCIP is not for the welfare of the indigenous people. The NCIP is a government agency that sells our ancestral lands and divides our ranks to hasten the entry of destructive big businesses such as mining in our communities and farms),” the Manobo Lumad leader added.

Tampakan represents one of the largest copper resources in the Philippines and in the world having an estimated resource of 2.94 billion tonnes of ore grading 0.6 percent copper. The deposit also has a resource of 18 million oz of gold. The proposed copper and gold mine is being developed by Sagittarius Mines.





# Mining and economic recovery

By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano

October 29, 2020

During the bi-annual meeting of the nine-person Advisory Council (where I serve as a member) of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) held early October, I raised the concern that the huge stimulus funds created by most countries to stave off economic recession due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic gave rise to two serious financial challenges: one is the growing indebtedness of developing countries (DCs); and two is the difficulty in raising additional revenues by DCs to pay their future debt obligation and finance their development projects.

ADBI is a key think tank organization of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) located in Tokyo, Japan and is recognized as one of the best publicly-funded think tanks in the world. Its advisory council reviews and recommends future research and training activities for ADBI.

Applying my concern to the Philippine case, our debt to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio is projected to rise from around 40 percent in 2010 to more than 50 percent of our GDP this year (the highest recorded was in 2004 at 71.6 percent), and that our budget deficit will increase from around 4 percent in 2019 to hover around 9 to 10 percent of our GDP this year. Undeniably, the question I raised in the ADBI meeting is a key macroeconomic issue that will soon confront countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Other eminent members of the council from various countries around the world agreed.

I believe that this is the context by which the Department of Finance (DoF) raised the issue last week that we need to take a second look at our mining industry as a possible source of revenue, given serious revenue shortfalls as a result of the severe contraction of our economy caused by the pandemic.

## Mineral-rich country

The Philippines is one of the richest mineral resource-endowed country in the world as it is geologically located at the ring of fire that stretches from the north of Japan down to the south of the Indonesian archipelago. The country is ranked the world's fifth most mineral-rich country. It has the world's third largest gold reserve deposits, and accounts for 6.4 percent of the world's estimated reserves of nickel as of 2018. According to the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), the Philippines has the potential to be among the top ten largest mining powers in the world as (in terms of occurrence per unit area) it ranks fourth in copper, fifth in nickel and sixth in chromite resources. Out of its 30 million hectares of land area, 30 percent (or 9 million hectares) has been found to be geologically prospective for metallic minerals, while an additional 17 percent (or 5 million hectares) of its total land area is potentially rich in non-metallic deposits.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources estimated in 2012 the country's metallic reserves at around 14.5 billion metric tons and the non-metallic reserves at 67.66 billion metric tons with a total value appraised at \$1.4 trillion. Gold, nickel and copper contribute roughly about three fourths of the appraised value. Mindanao island has more than 70 percent of the country's gold reserves and 62 percent of copper; while Luzon is rich in nickel (53 percent), zinc (85 percent), and chromite (47 percent). Despite these potentials, only 703,090 hectares have been awarded mining permits and exploration permits as of 2019, corresponding to only 7.8 percent of the 9 million hectares that are potentially geologically mineral endowed.

## Opposition to mining development

The doctoral dissertation of Karlo S. Adriano (our eldest son) titled "Mining the Mining Industry" listed a number of economic reasons, besides its adverse environmental impacts, for the strong opposition against the development of the mining industry. Among which are as follows:



- a. Contribution to the country's gross value added (GVA) is minimal;
- b. Share of mineral exports to total exports is negligible;
- c. Limited job creation because of its capital-intensive nature;
- d. Mining investments had the smallest contribution to foreign direct investments (FDI);
- e. Government revenues from mining are low compared to countries in Africa, Latin America, among others, where a substantial mining industry operates; and
- f. Fully developing the sector will result in the so-called "resource curse" phenomenon.

### Addressing the criticisms

Each of these concerns was systematically tackled in Karlo's dissertation with the use of time-series data, simulations, and employment of a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model. There is not enough space in this column to discuss in detail his arguments.

But the elephant in the room, which our policy makers and anti-mining groups conveniently forget, is the operation of small-scale mining players. The "People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991" (Republic Act 7076) provides the legal framework for the operations of small-scale mines. They contribute around 35 percent of total mineral outputs (which are practically not taxed by the government), cause severe environmental degradation, a major source of corruption (including the 'revolutionary tax' imposed by the communist insurgents), particularly at the local government unit level, and operate with hardly any environmental monitoring done by the government.

### 'Small is beautiful'

In 1973, a book was written by a Leftist thinker, E.F. Schumacher, titled *Small is Beautiful*. The book inspired many idealistic youth (including this author) to romanticize the virtue of being a small producer tending to one's family needs, producing without a tinge of greed that often characterized the operations of big corporations. This model well encapsulated Karl Marx's socialist utopia: "From each according to his ability; to each according to his needs."

The problem with the analysis is that it presupposes that greed is uniquely owned by big corporations and alien to small producers. Adam Smith's proposition that "man is by nature greedy" in his classic book *Wealth of Nations* proved to be a far realistic assumption about the nature of man than Marx's socialist utopia.

However, advances in welfare economics, which brought about the idea of "corporate social responsibility" (CSR), influenced big corporations to transform themselves to become partners in the country's economic development to gain more consumers' support. Many of the big responsible mining firms have made CSR an important component of their operations.

Along this line, my concrete suggestion, if we allow mining firms to fully develop in the country as a major revenue source, is that they contribute significant funds in the procurement of Covid-19 vaccine, once fully tested and publicly released, for free distribution particularly to the poor Filipinos.

*fdadriano88@gmail.com*



# Lamanok island's petroglyphs declared important cultural property

Published October 28, 2020, 6:34 PM

by [Hanah Tabios](#)

The archaeological sites and petroglyphs of Lamanok island, an area seven kilometers north of Anda, Bohol, has been officially declared as an Important Cultural Property (ICP) by the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP).



Lamanok Island, an area seven kilometers north of Anda Bohol, has been declared as an Important Cultural Property (ICP) by the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP). (Courtesy: National Museum of the Philippines-Bohol)

In a Facebook post, the NMP-Bohol said Lamanok is the province's first declared archaeological site.

Dubbed as Bohol's "cradle of civilization", the mystical place of Lamanok boasts a richness in beauty and heritage.

It is known for its lush vegetation and tall limestone cliffs, as well as for the practice of centuries-old customs linked to the island's rich folklore.

According to the Bohol tourism office, people on the island still believe in making offerings to spirits, "diwata" or deities.

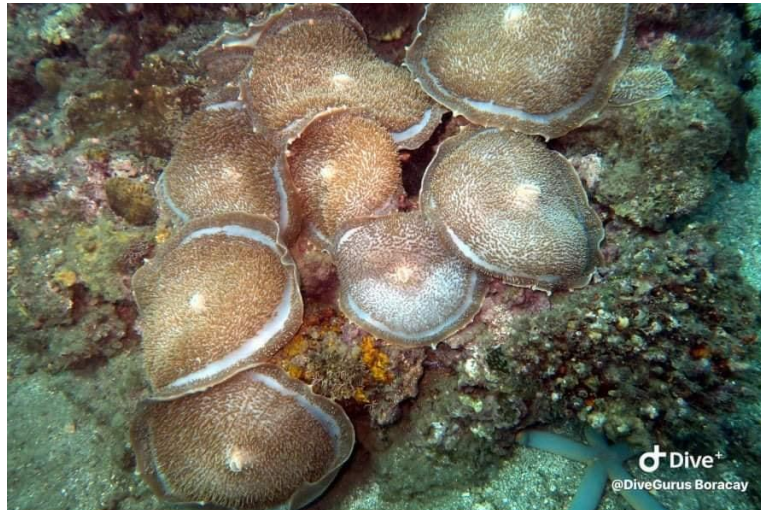
"To them, making offerings to appease the nature spirits will lead to a bountiful harvest or good catch. This practice is rooted from their ancestral beliefs long before the Spaniards converted the islanders to Catholicism," it said.

During the pre-colonial times, Lamanok also served as a holy spot for local priests and medicine men to make offerings to nature spirits. These mystical creatures were often called upon for bountiful harvest or a good catch.

The NMP said an ICP is defined by Article II Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10066 as referring to a cultural property having exceptional cultural, artistic, and historical significance to the Philippines.

A marker, along with the official declaration, has yet to be placed on the island.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/10/28/lamanok-islands-petroglyphs-declared-important-cultural-property/>



Nadiskubre ng mga divers ang Corallimorphs o Mushroom Anemones sa Libertad, Antique.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Ilang uri ng mga kakaibang yamang dagat nadiskubre sa karagatan ng Libertad, Antique

Oktubre 28, 2020 5:19am GMT+08:00

SINULAT NI: JUN N. AGUIRRE

Boracay Island, Aklan - Pinaghahandaan na sa ngayon ng ilang mga diving schools sa isla ng Boracay na gawin ang karagatan ng karatig lalawigan ng Antique na panibagong diving destination dahil sa kakaibang Corallimorphs o Mushroom Anemones na nakita sa lugar.

Sa Libertad, Antique nadiskubre ng mga divers ang kakaibang yamang dagat na ito . Isa daw itong uri ng yamang dagat na bibihira lamang makita sa ibang karagatan.

Maliban sa Mushroom Anemones, nadiskubre din ang isang Giant Moray Eel na isa ring attraction sa dagat.

Sa kasalukuyan, nakikipag ugnayan na ang mga divers na base sa Boracay sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Libertad para mapangalagaan ang likas na yamang dagat ng Antique at maging isa itong diving attraction sa bansa. -- **BAP, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/promdi/761690/ilang-uri-ng-mga-kakaibang-yamang-dagat-nadiskubre-sa-karagatan-ng-libertad-antique/story/>



## Bataan 2020 todo tanggi sa pag-angkat ng delikadong basura



October 28, 2020 @ 7:53 PM 10 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Mariing itinanggi ng Bataan 2020, Inc., isang kompanyang paper manufacturer, na nag-angkat ito ng delikadong solid waste mula sa United States.

Ginawa ang pagtanggap sa bintang ng Bureau of Customs na basura ang mga inangkat nito lalo't natagpuang may mga nakahalang katulad ng face mask nang dumating ito sa Port of Subic.

Kasunod ng bintang ang pagsasabi ni BOC spokesperson Vincent Maronilla na sasampahan ng ahensya ang kompanya ng kasong paglabag ng Republic Act No. 10863 o Customs Modernization and Tariff Act at mga kaukulang batas pangkapaligiran kasabay ng pagsasabing ipababalik ang materyales sa bansang pinanggalingan nito.

Matatandaan na noong Oktubre 22, dumating ang nagsamang pwersa ng BOC at Department of Environment and Natural Resources sa nasabing port at pinabuksan nila ang lima sa 30 container van at lumanta dito ang mga nakahalang face mask sa mga papel at karton.

Ayon naman sa kompanya, kilala at iginagalang umano ito na miyembro ng Philippine Paper Manufacturers Association (PPMA) na 20 taon nang gumagawa ng papel, kasama ang pag-recycle ng papel, carton, tissue at iba pa.

Katwiran ng kompanya, pasado umano sa sukatang internasyunal ang kalidad ng mga papel at may kasamang mga kaukulang papeles.

Kaya naman, nang hilingin ng mga awtoridad na buksan ang mga container van, agad silang pumayag.

Mangilan-ngilan lang naman umano ang mga face mask na nakahalo sa mga karton at papel.

Wala umanong nakalalason o makasasama sa kalusugan sa mga materyales, lalo't lagi umanong sumusunod ang kompanya sa mga batas ng mga kaukulang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

May permiso rin umano sila mula sa pamahalaan na bilang importer ng recyclable materials at pinoproseso ang mga ito sa sukatan ng ISO and Forestry Stewardship Council na pasado sa internasyunal na pamantayan. **RNT**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/bataan-2020-todo-tanggi-sa-pag-angkat-ng-delikadong-basura/>



# Fishkill hits four villages around Buhi Lake

Published October 27, 2020, 2:16 PM

by [Niño Luces](#)

**BUHI, Camarines Sur** – At least 20 metric tons of “tilapia”, estimated to be worth P2.1 million, were reported to have floated to the surface of Lake Buhi in Camarines Sur on Monday, October 26.

Buhi Municipal Information Officer Mark Nazarrea told The Manila Bulletin four villages near the lake were affected by the fish kill.

These were Barangays Iraya, Ibayugan, Tambo and Cabatuan.

“Mostly affected po nito yung mga fishermen na may fish cage. Sa ngayon po patuloy pa ang ginagawang imbestigasyon at assessment sa nangyari,” he said.

He said that the incident could have been spawned typhoon Quinta, which hit the region on Sunday night.

Nazarrea said that low dissolve oxygen was among the causes of the fish kill.

“Sa rapid assessment na ginawa ng Lake Development Office (LDO) at ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Bicol, lumalabas sa findings ay low dissolve oxygen ang dahilan ng fish kill. Ayon sa BFAR, dapat nasa 5 parts per million (PPM) and ideal pero during the testing na ginawa kahapon, nasa 0.18 PPM to 4.37PPM lang. So yun ang isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit nalunod ang mga isda,” he said.

The total number of fishermen, who were affected by the fish kill, has yet to be determined.

Nazarrea added that the local government was going to give financial aid to the affected fishermen.

“Hindi naman nagpapabaya ang ating lokal na pamahalaan sa mga apektadong mangingisda. Hinihintay pa natin ang kumpletong report kung ilang mangingisda ang apektado,” he explained.



News5  
11h · 🌐

Nailigtas ng Philippine Coast Guard ang isang green sea turtle na na-trap sa fish cage sa Barangay Achila, Ubay, Bohol sa gitna ng bagyong #QuintaPH noong Lunes.

📍: PCG/Coast Guard Ubay



👍❤️😱 929

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# Cebuano photographer's photo of mangrove tree makes it to UNESCO Thai exhibit

By: Immae Lachica - General Assignments Reporter/CDN Digital|October 28,2020 - 03:37 PM

CEBU CITY, Philippines— A Cebuano photographer's photo of a mangrove tree bagged a spot at the Thai National Science Museum exhibit held in partnership with UNESCO.

Mark Kevin Badayos, 27, is still on cloud nine after learning that his photo w as one of the chosen photos by UNESCO to be displayed in the exhibit.

“Actually, I did not expect that my photo will be part of the exhibit. I just submitted my photo with the said subject to try my luck in the international scene,” he said.

Badayos was fortunate enough that he had a beautiful subject just near where he lives in barangay Calajoan, Mingalnilla town southern Cebu.

The photo showed a beautiful mangrove tree in the middle of the calm seas with the sky serving as a backdrop.

The photo was taken a few minutes after sunrise last June 20, 2020, and he got the news that he got into the exhibit just last October 26, 2020.

“I am so blessed to be part of this,” he added.



/bmjo

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/347941/cebuano-photographers-photo-of-mangrove-tree-makes-it-to-unesco-thai-exhibit>





People attend mass at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo, Manila on October 23, 2020.

The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

## COVID-19 cases in Philippines climb to 375,180 with 2,053 new infections

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) (Philstar.com) - October 28, 2020 - 4:00pm

MANILA, Philippines — The total number of coronavirus cases in the country rose to 375,180 after the Department of Health reported 2,053 additional infections Wednesday.

The areas with the highest number of new COVID-19 cases were Caloocan City with 108, Quezon City with 103, Negros Occidental with 97, Benguet with 93 and Rizal with 85.

The DOH also logged 540 more recovered patients, pushing the total recoveries to 329,111. COVID-19 survivors accounted for 87.7% of the country's confirmed cases.

But the death toll climbed to 7,114 after 61 additional coronavirus-related fatalities were registered.

The number of active cases in the Philippines stands at 38,955, or 10.4% of the cumulative total. Of the figure, 83% are exhibiting mild symptoms, 11.1% are asymptomatic, 2.2% are severe cases and 3.8% are in critical condition.

The Philippine Red Cross resumed its coronavirus testing Tuesday evening hours after the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. paid P500 million to the humanitarian organization, less than half of its debt totalling to P1.1 billion.

OCTA Research Team said the temporary halt in the operations of Red Cross led to the drop of reported cases in Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas by 40% to 50%, crippling the government's isolation and contact tracing programs and affecting testing information.

Metro Manila will remain under general community quarantine until November 30. Batangas, Lanao del Sur, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Tacloban City and Iligan City will be also under GCQ until end-November.

COVID-19 has infected over 43.89 million people across the globe, with over 1.16 million deaths.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/10/28/2052897/covid-19-cases-philippines-climb-375180-2053-new-infections>

# DOH reiterates warning vs use of misting, fog machines as disinfectants

Aileen Cerrudo • October 28, 2020



Misting and fog machines are still not recommended by the Department of Health (DOH) to be used as disinfectants to protect individuals from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The health department said there is no concrete evidence proving the effectiveness of such machines in killing the virus. Instead, these machines pose risks in further spreading the virus in the environment.

“The routine application of disinfectants to environmental surfaced by spraying or fogging in indoor spaces also known as fumigation or misting is not recommended for COVID-19,” according to DOH Spokesperson Usec. Maria Rosario Vergeire.

The World Health Organization (WHO) released a report in May stating that misting machines used as a disinfectant might result in skin irritation and difficulty in breathing. Fogging, meanwhile, may have negative environmental effects.

*“Iyan po iyong kasama sa sinasabing rekomendasyon ng WHO that it may cause harm, cause more harm than good (That is included in WHO’s recommendation),”* Vergeire said.

The health department reminded households to use the right amount of disinfectant directly on objects or any household items.

The DOH added it is better to wipe the surface with disinfectant instead of just spraying them. **AAC (with reports from Aiko Miguel)**



## Carbon emissions shifting to households during COVID-19 pandemic

October 28, 2020 | 7:25 pm



HOUSEHOLDS are taking up the slack on carbon emissions due to work-from-home schemes after companies shut down by the pandemic cut back on their on-site operations, according to officials from the power, telecom, and electric vehicle industries.

“Offices, manufacturers and firms are on shut down mode. We’re not using much of our power and electricity. Since people are working from home... this is where the carbon footprint will increase,” Gerhard P. Tan, an engineer who is Globe Telecom, Inc.’s director of technology strategy, said at the BusinessWorld Insights webinar Wednesday.

He said industry and individuals have a collective responsibility to lower the Philippines’ overall carbon footprint.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) Chief Sustainability Officer Raymond B. Ravelo said coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has decreased the company’s emissions since the beginning of the lockdown.

“People have been working from home. When the community quarantine started, we started deploying fewer people. It’s been naturally easier to cut down our emissions,” he said, adding that the firm had been making a push for renewable energy and vehicle electrification even before the pandemic.

“We were able to reduce (emissions) on a year-on-year basis,” he said, citing data issued in September.

Edmund Araga, the President of the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines, said the global health emergency has impacted the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) as well as procurement, distribution and fleet operations.



He said EVs did their part during the emergency with electric-powered jeepneys and tricycles helped ferry healthcare frontliners between hospitals and their homes.

According to Meralco's Mr. Ravelo, EVs will help reduce emissions over the long term.

“One thing that the pandemic taught us is that there is greater awareness of respiratory health. In that light, decarbonization is very important. Having zero-emissions alternatives is very important and that's where EVs are well positioned,” he said.

Dealing with any crisis is expensive, said First Philippine Holdings Corp. Chief Sustainability Officer Agnes C. de Jesus. However, she added that firms needed to “act now on climate change as delayed action will be more costly.”

She added that companies can reduce emissions through short or long-term targets, and by looking at various means to mitigate carbon emissions, including minimizing them in their supply chains. — **Angelica Y. Yang**



## Future-proofing energy security

October 28, 2020 | 6:40 pm

### Static

By Marvin Tort



FREEPIK

The Department of Energy (DoE) says it will no longer give permits for the construction of new coal-fired power plants. And, perhaps signaling preference for more renewable energy projects in the future, energy officials are also now allowing foreign investors to fully own big geothermal plant projects in the country.

Energy officials have noted the need for a “more flexible” power supply mix. The aim is to build “a more sustainable power system that will be resilient in the face of structural changes in demand and will be flexible enough to accommodate the entry of new, cleaner, and indigenous technological innovations,” Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi told a virtual conference on Tuesday.

The ongoing shift away from “traditional” energy sources like coal and oil is perhaps likewise indicated by the recent decision of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. to shut down its oil refinery in Batangas. Meanwhile, Petron Corp. says it is also considering eventually closing its refinery in Bataan. And when it does, the Philippines will become mainly an importer of gasoline and diesel.

Secretary Cusi points to the goal of “sustainable growth” as the main driver for transitioning from fossil fuel-based energy like coal and oil to “cleaner energy sources.” The ban on coal, energy officials say, will be in effect until there is a significant increase in demand for power, and prevailing supply will be insufficient. In short, the ban is not forever.

The “temporary ban” or the moratorium on new approvals has several consequences, unintended or otherwise. One, it favors those who are already invested in coal and are efficiently and profitably operating coal plants, and have access to cheap coal. The ban poses a barrier or a limitation to entry for those who intend to compete in this field in the future.

Two, it may place on the backburner all planned but still-unpermitted coal projects and forces energy investors to look for alternatives. Those with capital, but not the technology to pursue “cleaner” energy projects, will be prompted to either divest, diversify, or venture with clean-energy investors. This indirectly pushes capital towards renewable projects in the pipeline.



Three, the ban favors those already invested in renewables, even those operating at not-so-efficient or not-so-profitable levels. By putting an end to investments, even temporarily, on coal energy, then existing players can be given temporary relief from the drop in energy demand because of COVID-19. But this also puts them in a position to sell or supply more, and thus achieve optimization or profitability, as demand rises in the future.

Four, the ban, in a way, protects and favors existing players, including coal-fired plants, if it has the twin effect of deterring further competition from coal — even temporarily — and, paving the way for a longer gestation period for new “clean energy” projects to materialize. If power supply will be indirectly capped meantime, existing players can cut losses or better recoup investments as soon as demand rises again.

Note that the ban on endorsing new coal-fired power plants will reportedly not affect those already given prior endorsements. In Luzon alone, there are reportedly 3,436 megawatts (MW) of coal-fired power projects already committed. Then, we have another 135 MW in Visayas, and another 420 MW in Mindanao. The “one we need to sort out,” according to an Energy official, covers about 10,000 MW of “indicative” coal-fired power plant projects across the country.

It is also unclear to me where the pursuit of cleaner energy puts the “nuclear” initiative. And given pronouncements previously that tend to support the consideration of the nuclear option, I am uncertain now whether this is still something that is going to be pursued. In this line, it will be very interesting how the government’s 20-year Philippine Energy Plan will look like.

As for allowing foreigners to fully own large-scale geothermal exploration, development, and utilization projects, or those requiring an initial investment cost of about \$50 million or more, this signals a couple of things: that there is not enough capital in the country interested in such projects; or, that there is not enough technical expertise; or, both; or, that there is foreign group interested to come in but only if they can fully own and control the venture.

Frankly, it makes no difference to me if foreigners are allowed 100% ownership of large-scale renewable energy projects. The risks associated with such I deem relatively low for us. After all, it is not as if foreign investors can simply pack up the big power projects and repatriate them lock, stock, and barrel. Neither can they “pilfer” local production and then send them home.

And it is highly unlikely for foreign military agents or saboteurs to invest at least \$50 million in a local energy project just to get the chance to “sabotage” our energy security in the future. It will be simpler and cheaper for them to just fund a foreign military team in the future to infiltrate and bomb existing power installations in the Philippines.

It is a different story if foreigners destructively mined our minerals and just sent raw ore abroad; or foreign poachers harvested fish from our seas; or foreign farmers are allowed to own and use our land to grow food mainly for their use. Foreigners producing solar, geothermal, or hydropower or natural gas power in the country cannot “steal” and take home what they produce.



Also, at this point, solar is said to be at its cheapest in terms of installation and cost of production worldwide. This is abundant energy at reasonable cost, and produced in a way that is renewable and sustainable. This situation benefits both people and the environment, as long as we also consider the recycling of waste generated by the replacement of old panels.

The writing is on the wall even for fossil fuels. And I think Shell and Petron know this. Land travel and air travel are currently down, thus also the demand for their fossil fuel. But with newer hybrid technology and electric cars coming out, industries and consumers are also looking for cheaper and more energy-efficient ways to run factories and homes, and to move cargo and people from one point to another. Many may opt to shift away from gasoline and diesel.

Reducing power industry demand particularly for fossil fuel like bunker and coal further insulates us from external factors like supply bottlenecks and geopolitics that impact on the prices of imported fuel. Shifting to renewables and electric alternatives might actually make oil refineries in the country irrelevant, eventually.

I believe the Energy department is on the right track. While government policy calibrations will always have industry winners and industry losers, overall, the winner should be the consumer and the country. But even power and fuel are products that need to be sold at a profit. Lower energy and fuel prices benefit consumers and producers, but this should not be at the expense of those producing them nor the environment. I believe clean energy is a win-win for both.

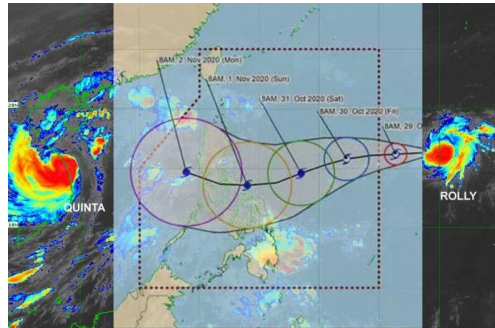
Marvin Tort is a former managing editor of BusinessWorld, and a former chairman of the Philippines Press Council

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## ‘Quinta’ out; ‘Rolly’ to enter PH today

By Victor Reyes -October 29, 2020



*Path of Rolly based on Pagasa reports (Artwork by MBI)*

TYPHOON “Quinta” exited the country yesterday, leaving some P1.8 billion in damage to agriculture in Oriental Mindoro which is now under a state of calamity.

A tropical depression, to be named “Rolly,” is forecast to enter the Philippine area of responsibility today, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services (PAGASA).

Weather specialist Ariel Roxas said the tropical depression may intensify into a storm in 48 to 72 hours.

“Based on the forecast track, it will make a landfall on Sunday in the Bicol region, it may make the landfall as a typhoon,” he said.

PAGASA said the tropical depression was some 1,910 km east of Central Luzon as of 3 p.m. yesterday and was moving northwest at 10 kph. It was packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 70 kph.

In a tropical cyclone advisory issued at 10 a.m., PAGASA said the tropical depression may intensity into a storm within 24 hours.

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Humerlito Dolor the towns of Victoria, Socoro, San Teodoro, Pinamalayan, Mansalay, and Gloria were severely affected by Quinta.

He also said about 5,200 houses were destroyed while 27,000 others were damaged.

Occidental Mindoro Gov. Eduardo Gadiano said they are planning to place the entire province under a state of calamity.

Gadiano reported massive damage to agriculture and infrastructure but could not immediately give figures. He said damage assessment was still ongoing as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, the NDRRMC placed the official death toll from Quinta at nine — two in Negros Oriental (both drowning), two in Occidental Mindoro (both drowning), two in Romblon (one drowning and one hit by fallen tree), one in Marinduque (drowning), one in Oriental Mindoro (hit by fallen tree), and one in Palawan (hit by fallen tree).

The NDRRMC said it is verifying five other deaths reported in Palawan.

Police and local government officials earlier reported two deaths in Quezon (one drowning and one hit by fallen tree), one in Cagayan (drowning), and one in Laguna (hit by fallen tree). They were yet to be included in the NDRRMC tally.

Source: [https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news\\_news/quinta-out-rolly-to-enter-ph-today/](https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_news/quinta-out-rolly-to-enter-ph-today/)





## Old cars root of air pollution – UN

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

October 29, 2020

**UNITED NATIONS:** Getting rid of old cars was helping clean the skies over developed nations, but many clunkers were ending up in developing countries where they added significantly to air pollution, a United Nations report warned.

The European Union, Japan and United States exported around 3 million used vehicles each year between 2015 and 2018, with most going to low- and middle-income countries and more than half ending up in Africa, according to a report released Monday by the UN Environment Program (UNEP).

With the expansion of car ownership in developing countries expected to be a major source of emissions in coming decades, the UNEP called for tightening the rules for exporting and importing old, polluting vehicles.

“Developed countries must stop exporting vehicles that fail environment and safety inspections and are no longer considered roadworthy in their own countries, while importing countries should introduce stronger quality standards,” said UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen.

The agency cited an investigation by Dutch authorities in 2019 that found the average age of vehicles waiting to be exported was 18 years.

They also had more than 200,000 kilometers on their odometers on average and many were missing catalytic converters that reduce toxic gases from exhaust.

UNEP said two-thirds of the 146 countries it looked at had weak rules regarding the import of used vehicles, and some had no pollution standards.



# Ice loss to add 0.4C to global temperatures: study

Published October 28, 2020, 6:39 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

The loss of billions of tonnes of ice from Earth's frozen spaces is likely to increase global temperatures by an additional 0.4 degrees Celsius, according to research Tuesday highlighting the danger of a "vicious circle" of warming.

Arctic summer sea ice levels have declined by more than 10 percent each decade since the late 1970s and mountain glaciers have shed roughly 250 billion tonnes of ice annually over the last century.

Ice loss from the West Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets is accelerating and already outstripping what scientists until recently believed to be the worst-case melt scenarios.

Decades of studies have sought to quantify how Earth's melting ice will contribute to sea level rise — Antarctica and Greenland alone contain enough frozen water to boost oceans' height by around 60 metres.

But little research has tried to predict how ice loss will add to the already 1.0 degree C of global warming emissions from fossil fuels since the start of the Industrial Era.

Scientists at Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) used a climate model that includes components on atmosphere, ocean, sea- and land-ice data to predict temperature change from ice loss under a variety of emissions scenarios.

They found that under current levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> — roughly 400 parts per million — the melting of Arctic sea ice, mountain glaciers and the polar ice caps would raise temperatures by 0.4C.

That's on top of the 1.5C of warming our current emissions levels have rendered all but inevitable, and the safer cap on global warming aimed for in the Paris climate accord.

The main driver of temperature gain from ice loss would be due to a process known as albedo feedback, in which heat reflective bright ice is replaced by absorbant darker sea water and/or soil.

"If global ice masses shrink, this changes how much of the sunlight that hits the Earth's surface is reflected back into space," said lead author Nico Wunderling.

He likened the albedo effect to wearing either white or black clothes in summer.

"If you wear dark, you heat up more easily," Wunderling noted.

This is one of Earth's so-called climate "feedback loops", in which increased temperatures lead to further ice loss, which in turn further increases temperatures.

## - Tipping point -

Other ways that temperatures would rise further as ice receded include increased water vapour in the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effects, said authors of the study published in Nature Communications.

Looking solely at Arctic sea ice — which unlike polar ice caps might be totally absent during summer months within decades — they found its melt would contribute 0.2C to global temperatures alone.



The largest ice masses in Greenland and West Antarctica, by comparison, are huge and will likely take centuries to melt fully even if emissions continue their unabated growth.

But the authors highlighted the risk that those enormous bodies of frozen water could soon reach a point of no return as temperatures creep ever higher.

Given the unknowns surrounding ice cap tipping points, Wunderling told AFP it would be best to act in “a risk-averse” way and try to drag down emissions as soon as possible.

“With continued global warming, it becomes more and more likely that we cross tipping points -- not just in the ice-sheets, but also in other parts of the climate system,” he said.

“If the Paris Agreement is fulfilled we can avoid many of the strongest and potentially irreversible impacts on Earth’s ice masses, the global climate and humanity.”



# Used masks and gloves are showing up on beaches and in oceans

By Parija Kavilanz, CNN Business

Published Oct 28, 2020 9:50:34 PM



(CNN) -- The pandemic has not only upended millions of lives around the world, it's now threatening the world's oceans.

Pandemic-generated waste, such as discarded disposable masks, gloves and wipes are floating into waterways and oceans. The proof is in the waste that's already washed ashore on beaches in the past several months.

As many as 62,210 PPE items, including single-use masks and gloves were collected during the annual International Coastal Cleanup event last month. It's the world's largest volunteer effort, held every September, involving participants from dozens of countries who remove and log a sample volume of plastics and marine waste from the ocean and waterways.

This year, 76 countries participated in the clean up and collected at least 1.6 million pounds of trash, including tens of thousands of PPE products.

It was the first time in the 35-year history of the event that PPE was added as a data category, along with cigarette butts, food wrappers, plastic straws and bottles, said Dr. George Leonard, chief scientist with Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit working to protect oceans and advance marine conservation.

"We absolutely believe that PPE waste is a significant threat to oceans and marine life," said Leonard.

At a time when the world's oceans are already choking on as much as 8 million metric tons of plastic leaked into them annually, Leonard cautions that this latest threat could exacerbate an already tenuous situation. At this rate, the World Economic Forum has warned that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in terms of weight in the world's oceans.

Leonard said the pandemic has created a two-pronged problem: "There's enhanced demand and use of single-use plastics like bags and containers by consumers and businesses for groceries and food takeout," he said.

"Then there's the global use of disposable masks and gloves. No one would have thought a few months ago that the entire world would be using them," said Leonard.

The scientific journal Environmental Science & Technology estimates that globally 129 billion disposable face masks and 65 billion throwaway gloves are being used every month through the pandemic.

## Flowing from land into the ocean

For the past eight years, San Diego resident and teacher Janis Jones has voluntarily given her time to picking up plastic waste --bags, utensils, straws, styrofoam takeout containers -- from her local beach.



"I am an obsessive beach cleaner," said Jones. But when the fast spread of Covid-19 forced her area beaches to close in March, the committed conservationist tweaked her approach.

"I began walking around my neighborhood instead," she said. At first it was for exercise. "I was trapped in a house all day working from home. So I got out to do a four to five mile walk." En route, Jones started noticing discarded gloves and masks on the roadside, in parking lots and in creeks.

"Most of these are the single use varieties," she said. When she could, she would pick them up and dispose of them properly. Jones said the volume of PPE waste has grown significantly since April and she decided to document it by photographing each mask and glove she found.

"By now the number is over 1,000," she said. "I've been able to go to the beach a couple of times and found gloves there, too." Her fear is that the littered mask and gloves will eventually end up in the ocean.

In fact, the Coastal Clean Up day event in the nearby beaches last month surfaced 413 latex gloves and more than 700 single-use surgical masks from San Diego beaches.

"A much as 80% of plastic waste in oceans comes from land," said Chad Nelsen, CEO of the Surfrider Foundation, a California-based nonprofit focused on protecting oceans and beaches. "Every mask or glove that you see on the street that's not picked up will most likely go into a storm drain, into a river then into the ocean."

Nelsen said the safest place for used single-use masks and gloves to end up is in landfills.

"Also, people may not realize that these blue masks and gloves have plastic in them," said Nelsen. "So what we're using just for a couple of minutes can last on Earth for thousands of years. It won't biodegrade. When it does decompose into microplastics, it will be digested by animals on land and my marine wildlife."

Said Nelsen, "We're just scratching the surface of this threat. If we are not concerned or careful, it could become a big setback and a disastrous situation for oceans."

This story was first published on CNN.com, ["Used masks and gloves are showing up on beaches and in oceans"](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/10/28/Used-masks-and-gloves-are-showing-up-on-beaches-and-in-oceans.html)



# LOOK: Turtle flipping bird wins comedy wildlife photo contest

By: [Ian Biong](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:27 PM October 28, 2020



Terry the Turtle flipping the bird. Image: Mark Fitzpatrick/Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards 2020

Despite the fierce competition, a photo of a turtle flipping the bird emerged victorious in the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards this year, and rightfully so.

The hilarious photo of the seemingly grumpy turtle Terry, masterfully shot by photographer Mark Fitzpatrick, bested around 7,000 entries from all over the world.

The image was captured when Fitzpatrick was swimming with turtles off Lady Elliot Island in Queensland, Australia, the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards said in a release.

Terry was actually pulling back his flipper as he swam towards the camera, but the shot's perfect timing made it seem like he was indeed flipping the bird.

“A huge thank you to the Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards, I’m stoked and honored to be awarded the Comedy Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 2020,” the Fitzpatrick said.

“It’s been amazing to see the reaction to my photo of Terry the Turtle flipping the bird, with Terry giving people a laugh in what has been a difficult year for many, as well as helping spread an important conservation message,” he added.

For the photo, Fitzpatrick wins a safari in the Masai Mara in Kenya with Alex Walker’s Serian, a unique handmade trophy from the Wonder Workshop in Tanzania, a photography bag from Think Tank and a brand new Nikon camera.

“Hopefully Terry the Turtle can encourage more people to take a moment and think about how much our incredible wildlife depend on us and what we can do to help them. Flippers crossed that this award puts Terry in a better mood the next time I see him at Lady Elliot Island!” Fitzpatrick noted.



The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards was founded by photographers and conservationists Paul Joynson-Hicks and Tom Sullam. The global, online and free-to-enter photography competition aims “to highlight the extremely important message of wildlife conservation in an engaging and positive way.”

Photos of the 2020 [finalists](#) as well as the winners in different categories can be viewed in the awards’ official [website](#). **JB**



# Marauding, biting monkeys bring fear to historic Indian tourist haven

Bhuvan Bagga, Agence France-Presse

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A monkey drinks from a water tap on a hot day in the northern Indian hill town of Shimla on April 19, 2017. *Agence France-Presse*

SHIMLA, India - Thousands of monkeys are menacing the historic Indian city of Shimla, where sterilizations and illegal poisonings have failed to blunt their frequent attacks on tourists and farms.

During India's nationwide coronavirus lockdown, most of the macaques left the city for the countryside to look for food.

As restrictions have eased, they have returned to bully inhabitants and snatch grocery bags, and up to 50 troops of hungry monkeys now prowl the former colonial British summer escape in the Himalayan hills.

The city of 160,000 people has long been a major draw for tourists seeking to avoid India's searing summer heat, but the food waste they leave behind has become a magnet for the hungry simians.

Nand Lal showed AFP the wounds from one altercation with the animals this month.

"I was passing a group of monkeys when the dominant male suddenly attacked me and three others piled in," said the 46-year-old, who required multiple anti-rabies injections after the assault.

"Luckily I could grab a stick and fight them off. I had bruises all over my face and head. I was bleeding from a bite on my back."

Days after the assault, Lal said, he could still hear the "chattering" of his attackers and the two dozen other monkeys that watched.

"People are very scared and they don't know what to do," according to retired High Court judge Kuldeep Chand Sood, who pointed to a bite in his leg inflicted as he sat reading on the terrace of his home.

"I was just going through my book when suddenly a big monkey attacked and bit me," he told AFP at his home in the macaque-infested Sanjauli district.

## MONKEY MENACE

Many Sanjauli homes now have metal cages over their terraces and windows to keep out the invaders, who have even been known to steal from refrigerators.

Rajesh Sharma, a government wildlife officer in Shimla, said garbage bins overflowing with food attract the animals.

Improving rubbish collection has meant "the monkeys are finding it harder".

"But their habits are the same. They now try to snatch any packet they see in anyone's hand," she explained.





"If they don't find it, they try and bite someone."

Even tourists at the Jakhoo temple, which holds one of India's largest statues of the monkey god Hanuman, have had glasses and other shiny items stolen.

When not targeting humans, the estimated 130,000-plus monkeys in the state are stealing or destroying millions of dollars of fruit and crops each year from farms.

While Hindus consider monkeys sacred, the government has now declared the animals can be killed if they threaten property.

Official extermination campaigns are yet to be launched, but farmers have illegally poisoned hundreds of the animals.

In Shimla and other towns in the state, the authorities have sought to sterilize the monkeys in a bid to bring numbers down.

About 157,000 of the animals have been sterilized across Himachal Pradesh in recent years, in what one expert said was the "only way" to bring the problem under control.

"If we kill monkeys like some who poison monkeys, that can pose a threat to humans and other wild animals as well," said Pooja Kanwar, a specialist at the Shimla monkey sterilization center.

But monkey catchers say the animals are increasingly wise to their tactic of leaving bananas and bread in cages to trap them.

"When a monkey is caught, it alerts the others," said Sharma.

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