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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DENR-BMB naglabas ng pag-aaral sa economic value ng marine turtles, blue-naped parrots



March 29, 2021 @ 6:50 PM 11 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang tumaas ang pagbibigay ng halaga at pansin sa “economic benefit” ng wildlife conservation nagsagawa ng economic valuation study ang Biodiversity Management Bureau ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-BMB) para mabigyan halaga ang mga ito.

Umaasa si DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na sa pamamagitan ng pag-aaral ay mas maraming tao ang magbibigay ng halaga para mapangalagaan at mabigyan ng proteksiyon ang ating wildlife.

Ito ay inilabas kasabay ng selebrasyon ng World Wildlife Day noong Marso 3.

“We hope that in popularizing the findings, we can entice more Filipinos to think about the long-term benefits of our wildlife such as marine turtles and blue-naped parrots, and not just short-time gains,” saad ni Cimatu.

Batay sa ulat, ang pag-aaral na ito na isinagawa ng DENR-Asian Development Bank (ADB)/ Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project on Combating Environmental Organized Crime in the Philippines ay layuning magkaroon ng sapat na pagkalinga sa wildlife upang maging balanse ang ecosystems at magkaroon ng benipisyo ang mga tao.

Sinabi ni environmental economist at study leader na si Dr. Agustin Arcenas “the economic valuation of resources is vital in monitoring whether steps to protect these resources are effective, as well as evaluating the efficiency of projects and programs geared toward managing the resources, especially in situations where no other feasible metric currently exists.”



DENR-BMB naglabas ng pag-aaral sa economic value ng marine turtles, blue-naped parrots

Base sa DENR-ADB/GEF study, ang isang marine turtle ay inaasahang may economic value na P4.80 million (estimated US\$95,900) sa buhay nito na tumatagal ng 57-taon.

Ito ay base sa ecological role nito sa coastal at marine ecosystems (P900,000 per turtle) at sa tourism value nito (P3.90 million per turtle).

Kaugnay nito samantala, ang annual use value ng lahat ng populasyon ng Philippine marine turtle na may bilang na 7,294 base na rin sa DENR-BMB, ay tinatayang aabot sa halagang P2.89 billion hanggang P3.19 billion (US\$57.88 – 63.85 million) kada taon.

Lumalabas din sa pag-aaral na ang blue-naped parrot (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*) ay tinatayang may economic use value na P186,000 (US\$3,700) sa buong anim na taon na itinatagal ng buhay nito.

Ito ay base na rin sa trade value at tourism value (P5,000/blue-naped parrot when combined) at ang ecological role nito sa forest ecosystems (P181,000/blue-naped parrot).

Ang buong populasyon ng Philippine parrot ay tinatayang 8,500 individuals, base na rin sa wildlife conservation group na Katala Foundation. Ang annual use value nito ay umaabot sa P36.23 million at P295.19 million (US\$724,500 – 5.90 million) kada taon.

Katapat ng study findings, nagsagawa rin ng survey sa Cebu at Manila ang DENR-ADB/GEF Project upang matantiya ang non-use value ng marine turtles at blue-naped parrots.

Ito ay tinatayang may annual value na P9.30 billion para sa populasyon ng Philippine marine turtle at P33.38 billion para naman sa populasyon ng local blue-naped parrot.

Ito ay malaki ang pagkakaiba sa mga ibinebentang blue-naped parrot na may halaga lamang na P5,000 (US\$100) kada isa.

Masyado ring mababa ang bentahan ng blue-naped parrot sa Barangay Buliluyan, Bataraza, Palawan na may halaga lamang na P200 (US\$4.1) kada piraso, base na rin ito sa ginawang pag-aaral.

Base naman sa DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 sa bagong listahan ng Philippine threatened fauna and their categories, ang hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) at leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) ay “critically endangered” habang ang loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) at olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) at kasama sa “endangered”.

Base rin sa parehas na Department Order, ang blue-naped parrot ay kasama sa “critically endangered”. Kabilang naman ang marine turtles at blue-naped parrots sa listahan ng Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendices, “affording different levels of protection from over-exploitation.”



DENR-BMB naglabas ng pag-aaral sa economic value ng marine turtles, blue-naped parrots

Kabilang din ang mga ito sa International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni DENR-BMB Wildlife Resources Division OIC chief Theresa Tenazas ang economic valuation study ay makasusuporta upang maamiyendahan ang 20-year-old Wildlife Act.

Sinabi rin ni Cimatu na nakahanda ang DENR na magsagawa ng marami pang pag-aaral sa economic valuation ng iba pang species ng wildlife sa mga darating na taon. **(Santi Celario)**

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/denr-bmb-naglabas-ng-pag-aaral-sa-economic-value-ng-marine-turtles-blue-naped-parrots/>



Bicol River rehab para sa long-term solution sa palagiang pagbaha, umarangkada na ayon sa DENR

By [RadyoMaN Manila](#)

-Mar. 29, 2021 at 2:27pm



Photo Courtesy: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Facebook Page

Pinasimulan na ang ceremonial sandbar dredging at bamboo planting sa kahabaan ng Bicol River bilang bahagi ng malawakang rehabilitasyon.

Ayon kay Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary Rodolfo Garcia, inaprubahan na ni Pangulong Duterte ang pagtatayo ng pitong flood control projects at rehabilitasyon ng flood gates at pumping stations sa kahabaan ng Bicol River system.

Aniya, natukoy na ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ang sampung lugar para sa madaliang paghuhukay na tinatayang may volume na 1.63 million cubic meters ng sandbars.

Ang Bicol River ang pangwalo sa pinakamalaking ilog sa bansa kung ang pag-uusapan ay ang drainage basin size.

Ang kapasidad ng drainage ng Bicol River ay labis na nabawasan partikular na sa downstream section.

Ang average width ng Bicol River ay 80 meters ngunit kumitid ito ng 55 meters na siyang nagiging dahilan ng malawakang pagbaha sa mga karatig na lugar sa rehiyon.

Ninety percent ng Bicol River ay nasa Camarines Sur at Albay habang ang natitirang bahagi ay sa Camarines Norte.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2316600095231066/posts/3691434447747617/?app=fbl>



DENR exec clarifies grasslands, degraded forests are ‘not idle agricultural lands’ for CARP

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 30, 2021



File photo shows felled trees at a forest in the Cordillera.

A Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) official clarified on Monday that grasslands, degraded and denuded forests are not classified as idle agricultural lands, stressing these lands are not meant for agricultural production.

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, Foreign assisted and Special Projects Concerns Marcial C. Amaro Jr., also concurrent director of the DENR's Forests Management Bureau (FMB), said in the past, in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), grasslands and sometimes areas that are classified as forestlands have been covered by the program and were eventually distributed to landless farmers.

With the Duterte administration's aggressive implementation of the CARP Phase 2, Amaro said the DENR is closely watching over grasslands and open, degraded and denuded forest as they may again be mistaken as "idle agricultural lands."

Managing the country's grasslands, as well as open, degraded and denuded forests that are targeted for reforestation are two major concerns of the DENR-FMB.

"The DENR also has jurisdiction over grazing lands or grazing areas. We also have targets to put these under proper management and therefore contribute to livestock production and food security in general," said Amaro.

"Most of these areas have already been encroached [upon]," he revealed.

"It's like this. In upland areas, more people still believe that if an area is open, it's idle agricultural land," Amaro lamented.



DENR exec clarifies grasslands, degraded forests are ‘not idle agricultural lands’ for CARP

He said grasslands are also not meant for reforestation as these are earmarked for livestock grazing.

“Once people start encroaching upon grasslands, you can no longer force them to move out,” Amaro pointed out, adding grasslands, like forests, are not meant for cultivation or habitation.

“They can only support crops that are meant for forage of cattle or small ruminants,” he said.

“If you distribute (these lands), the people will become more miserable because these areas are not meant for intensive or extensive cultivation for food production. You will only be giving them false hopes. They may have land or a place to build their house but the conditions there is harsh and farming in these areas is not sustainable,” he said.



DENR-12 warns against wildlife trade



By [FRANZ R. SUMANGIL](#)

March 30, 2021

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region 12 issued a warning against individuals who collect, gather, and sell rare plants and wildlife.

Forester Dirie Macabaning, chief of DENR-12 Enforcement Division, confirmed that the agency is widening its scope especially in social media to monitor more effectively the illegal selling of forest animals and rare plants.

According to Macabaning, since last year, the agency rescued 57 animals from individuals not authorized in keeping said wildlife.

Macabaning explains that capturing and collecting wildlife species and rare plants are in violation of Republic Act 9147 or Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

A person caught violating the said law may be imprisoned for up to 12 years and must pay a fine amounting to P1 million.

Macabaning is asking the public to report individuals or groups who may be violating R.A. 9147.



Plan to turn Taal area into Global Geopark in the works

March 29, 2021 | 4:50 pm



Despite red tape, Batangas attracts more green energy players

To put an end to the “no man’s land” problem of the Taal Volcano island in Batangas province, a public-private initiative wants to turn the protected landscape into a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)-recognized Global Geopark, said Saturnino G. Belen, chairman of First Asia Venture Capital Inc., a venture capital company, at a recent [Liveable Cities LocalLabs event](#).

“Right now, it’s really just being run by all these government agencies ... and nothing has really happened, in terms of any development plan,” said Mr. Belen. “It’s really a formula for disaster.”

He added that they are hiring an accreditor consultant to guide them through the Geopark application process with UNESCO. [UNESCO Global Geoparks](#) are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education, and sustainable development, yielding geotourism-related local enterprises and job creation.

[The Taal Volcano is a protected landscape](#) of over 62,000 hectares, and covers 20% of the province’s total land area. In 2018, the area was placed under the jurisdiction of [the Department of Environment and Natural Resources \(DENR\)](#) by the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018, which transferred the control and management of said areas from local government units to the agency. “You can’t even construct a fence within the 62,000 hectares under that law,” said Batangas Governor Hermilando I. Mandanas. “During the 2020 volcanic eruption, we had to ask permission to put up an evacuation center.”



Plan to turn Taal area into Global Geopark in the works

GREEN ENERGY

Despite the bureaucracy hampering the development of the Taal area, the province of Batangas continues to attract green energy players as it continues to cement its status as the top source of electric power in the country. It generates 5,300 megawatts (MW) of energy—more than enough to power Metro Manila, which consumes 4,900 MW.

Ayala Corp. intends to bring solar energy to the province, said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, at the same event. “There’s a new concern about the green economy, and it’s increasingly getting tougher to invest in fossil fuels. ... In Alaminos, Pangasinan, we put up a solar plant and battery storage. It’s our intention to spill over in Batangas and also bring solar energy to your province.”

The provincial government’s policy is to support private sector players that use green energy. “We gave an 80% real property tax discount to a project because it uses solar,” Mr. Mandanas said. “Out of the 5,300 MW the province generates, we also attract those who use natural gas because it is less harmful to the environment.”

A natural gasification plant is in the process of being set up, he added, as well as [a 50 MW wind project in Mabini](#) to be undertaken by Mabini Energy Corporation. Calatagan, moreover, has not reached its full potential yet: it is programmed for 100 MW of solar power but currently only produces 60.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Meanwhile, Batangas has been developing a government property in Laiya, San Juan, for those volcanic eruption evacuees involved in the tourism industry. “We don’t want to move evacuees just so they have houses,” said Mr. Mandanas. “There has to be a livelihood component as well. Otherwise, it won’t be successful.”

Government property in the western part of the province has also been identified for Pag-IBIG housing, with 1,000 units scheduled to be finished this year.

“The property is very accessible. This is something we should’ve done before but are now moving towards,” said Mr. Mandanas. “We give priority to frontliners.” — **Patricia B. Mirasol**



CDC to upgrade wastewater treatment plant

By [JONATHAN L. MAYUGA](#)

MARCH 30, 2021



Clark Development Corp. (CDC), in collaboration with Clark Water Corp. (CWC), are gearing up efforts to upgrade its wastewater treatment processes to make its sewage treatment facility compliant with the new standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The sewage treatment facility serves the Clark Freeport Zone. CDC and CWC want to ensure that the facility is compliant with the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2016-08 on Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR).

In a statement, CDC and CWC said the current waste treatment facility which has the capacity to treat as much as 27 million liters of wastewater per day will undergo a series of preparatory works including removal of sludge to maximize its processing capacity and improve the flow of water.

These activities will increase its overall treatment efficiency and prepare the facility for the installation of upgrades.

During the project commencement, CDC Chairman Edgardo Pamintuan said they will adhere to the new government-mandated environmental regulations.

“Our collaborative actions to continuously improve our wastewater facilities and services to support the government’s initiatives of promoting environmental sustainability is significant in pursuing our mission to make the Freeport a preferred business and tourism destination in the region,” Pamintuan said.

Meanwhile, CDC President and CEO Manuel Gaerlan said upgrading the wastewater treatment plant is a big investment for CWC that will have an economic impact on various locators and investors.



CDC to upgrade wastewater treatment plant

He said CDC and CWC are working together to set in place acceptable solutions that will balance the interest of the locators while complying with DAO 2016-08.

Gearlan added that CDC will push through with finalizing the revised Compliance Action Plan to the requirement of DAO 2016-08 for submission to DENR.

CDC is the government-owned and controlled corporation that administers the Clark Freeport Zone.

As the water and wastewater service provider of Clark Freeport Zone, CWC President and CEO Virgilio C. Rivera, Jr. said the company will remain steadfast in its commitment to uphold environmental sustainability by providing world-class wastewater services to the locators of the Clark Freeport Zone.

“We are determined in meeting the environmental standards set by the government and we are working closely with CDC to ensure that we take care of the current and future water supply and wastewater services needs of our customers especially the locators who are major contributors to the export economy of the country,” said Rivera.



Tree planting ng SMC, umani ng papuri!

By [Non Alquitran](#)(Pang-Masa)

-March 29, 2021 - 12:00am

MALAKAS ang dating ng plano ni San Miguel Corpo-ration President at COO Ramon S. Ang na magtanim ng aabot sa 200,000 mangroves sa mga tabing dagat ng Bulacan para pigilan ang malakihang pagbaha kaya't hindi nakapagtataka kung umani ito ng papuri. Hindi naman kaila sa inyo mga kosa na kapag tinamaan ng malakas na bagyo ang Pinas, aba mara-ming mababang lugar ang binabaha at maraming mga Pinoy ang nagbubuwis ng buhay. Bilyones din ang napipinsalang mga tahanan at kagamitan.

Kaya mapalad itong taga-Bulacan dahil may isang Ramon S. Ang na kusang kumilos para hindi bumaha ang kanilang lugar. Kung sabagay, ang pagtanim ng mangroves din ang iminungkahi ng environmental experts nang sa gayon maiwasan ang pagbaha sa Bulacan kung saan ipatatayo ang makabagong Manila international airport na pinondohan ng SMC ni Ang, o RSA sa business community.

Pinuri ni Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) chairman at acting administrator Reynaldo V. Velasco ang proyekto ni RSA at hinikayat niya ang ibang pilantropong Pinoy at LGUs na tularan ito para pigilin ang pagbaha sa bansa. Sinamahan si Velasco ng MWSS Annual Million Tree Challenge at ng Million Trees Foundation Inc. (MTFI) sa pagbigay puri kay RSA sa kanyang magandang adhikain. Sinabi ng environment experts na ang mangroves ang sasagupa sa tubig-baha tuwing may bagyo kaya malaki ang papel nito sa kalikasan. Get's n'yo mga kosa? Hak hak hak! Kanya-kanyang gimik lang 'yan!

Napag-usapan na din lang ang baha, hindi lang ang pagtanim ng mangroves ang proyekto ni RSA kundi maging ang paglinis, paghukay at pagpalawak ng mga ilog tulad ng Marilao-Meycauayan-Obando river system sa Bulacan pa rin. Hindi lang 'yan! Nagsasagawa rin si RSA ng coastal clean-up sa Tullahan-Tinajeros river system na nagsimula sa Manila Bay sa Navotas hanggang sa Tinajeros Bridge sa Bulacan.

Hindi naman pahuhuli ang Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at pinahukay din ang ilog mula sa Tinajeros Bridge hanggang Bgy. Potrero sa Malabon at sa Valenzuela City. Dahil sa mga proyekto ni RSA, aba nagresulta ito sa hindi pagbaha ng mga bahain na lugar sa Malabon at Navotas ng nakaraang taon. Mismooooo!

Kaya nagpahayag si RSA na handa na ang SMC para isulong ang kasunod na yugto ng kanilang river clean-up at flood management na ang ibig sabihin nito ay maraming trabaho. Wow...Sana all para maibsan ang magugutom na Pinoy sa panahon ng pandemya. Mismooooo!

Kung sabagay, malaki rin ang partisipasyon ni RSA sa 5-year watershed rehabilitation project sa pitong critical watershed areas hindi lang sa Metro Manila kundi maging sa mga probinsiya ng Rizal, Cavite at Bulacan sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim ng 1 milyon na kahoy kada taon, ani book publisher, author at communication specialist Melandrew Velasco.

Bilang MTFI head, sinisiguro ni Velasco na itutuloy nila ang proyekto ng ATMC, lalo na sa 142 critical watersheds sa Pinas, ayon sa River Basin Control Office ng DENR. Ayon pa kay Velasco, gagamit sila ng makabagong teknolohiya sa kanilang mga proyekto para mapakinabangan ito ng Pinas sa lalong madaling panahon. Abangan!

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/punto-mo/2021/03/29/2087670/tree-planting-ng-smc-umani-ng-papuri/amp/>

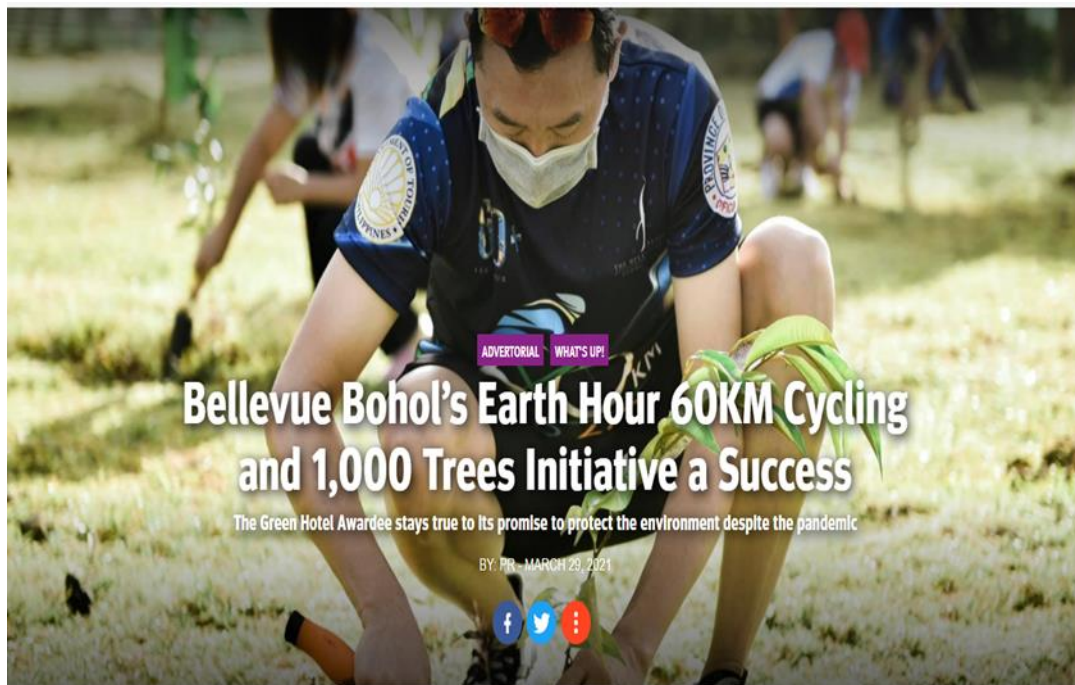


Mangrove rehab in Bulacan



By [Frederick Silverio](#)
March 30, 2021

ENVIRONMENT officials in Bulacan continue to coordinate with San Miguel Corp. (SMC) for the mangrove rehabilitation projects in the coastal areas of Manila Bay in Bulacan. SMC is the project proponent of the proposed international airport in Bulacan, Bulacan, and the mangrove rehabilitation project is part of the company's effort to help mitigate the flood problems in the province and, at the same time, serve as spawning grounds for aquatic life in the coastal waters of Manila Bay in Bulacan. In July last year, a 10-hectare coastal area in Hagonoy was planted with mangrove seedlings. Now, SMC is proposing a 20-hectare mangrove development project in Barangay Masukol in Paombong town.



As a recipient of the ASEAN Green hotel awards for two consecutive years, The Bellevue Resort-Bohol vowed to continuously launch new and sustainable green initiatives. Gathering as early as 4am on March 27, 2021, 68 bikers from local volunteers assembled at The Bellevue Pavilion to kicked-off Earth Hour with a 60-kilometer fun ride around Panglao Island in an effort to promote fitness and awareness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change.



Bellevue Bohol organized 60KM for 60+, a Cycling and Tree Growing Event | Contributed Photo

Earth Hour (60+) is a collective effort to rehabilitate and preserve our planet – the worldwide campaign is supported by volunteers from across the globe. This year, Bellevue Bohol organized 60KM for 60+, a Cycling and Tree Growing Event as part of its beyond-the-hour participation in partnership with Department of Tourism, Provincial Government of Bohol led by Governor Arthur C. Yap, LGU Panglao and Dauis, Globe Telecom and Clean Code. The resort has strictly implemented its health and safety measures throughout the event to ensure everyone's safety.

Bellevue Bohol's Earth Hour 60KM Cycling and 1,000 Trees Initiative a Success

Since its opening in 2013, the luxury and eco-friendly resort has been participating in Earth Hour for its eighth consecutive year in efforts to reduce its industrial footprint and highlight the importance of playing an active role in protecting the environment in Bohol.

The 1000 trees planting initiative for a greener Bohol was also achieved during the event with the help of 119 dedicated volunteers including bikers, in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bohol Environment Management Office (BEMO) and the Provincial Youth Development Office (PYDO). The native tree seedlings have found its new home in Mahogany Water Reservoir, Brgy. Lourdes, Panglao and now undercare with the resort's tree growing project to ensure their survival as part of its sustainable tourism advocacy.



The 1000 trees planting initiative for a greener Bohol was also achieved during the event | Contributed Photo

Since its opening in 2013, the luxury and eco-friendly resort has been participating in Earth Hour for its eighth consecutive year in efforts to reduce its industrial footprint and highlight the importance of playing an active role in protecting the environment in Bohol.

Bohol Earth Hour 2021 rides to Dauis-Panglao back roads

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu Published on March 29, 2021



BE VISIBLE, BE PREDICTABLE. Bikers need to be wearing very visible jerseys to be seen by drivers and motorists. For March 27, Earth Hour organizers said when bikers do not follow traffic rules, then expect commotion, and accidents in the streets. (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol FILE PHOTO)

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol, March 26 (PIA) -- Hundreds of bikers are expected to converge at the Tagbilaran City Plaza Rizal in front of the St. Joseph Cathedral Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in a gesture of support for Earth Hour 2021 by riding their bikes and campaign for "Share the Road" and "Bike Responsibly."

Elsewhere in towns of Bohol where there are organized bike organizations, the same activities that are supportive of sustainable environment, healthy lifestyle, and responsible use of the roads will be done.

"On Earth Hour, we bikers and our families commit to turn our lights off, do some activities that lead to reduced use of power and gear up for a 36-kilometer night bike ride to bring our calls to households in Panglao and Dauis," said Earth Hour night rides organizer and mountain biker Jude Ybas.

The activity kicks off in front of the National Museum at the old Bohol Capitol, where bikers in bike helmets and blinkers start to pedal at 7:00 p.m. and head northwest along Carlos P. Garcia Ave toward J.S. Torralba St., turn left to old City Hall down to Butalid Causeway to Sonculan Dauis.

From there, the bike group proceeds to ride along Dauis-Panglao via Songculan Road to Tangnan, turn left at Tangnan to Lourdes Road, and follow the central route to Panglao until the Panglao Bohol Airport entrance.

Riders then take the airport road to Tawala and then head east to Lourdes-Libaong Brgy. road, exiting at the Panglao Dauis to Mayacabac Road, then to Borja Bridge then left to Venancio P. Inting Avenue, back to Tagbilaran City Plaza.



Bohol Earth Hour 2021 rides to Dauis-Panglao back roads

Organizers urged the public to join them in the advocacy by turning off non-essential lights for an hour, organize activities that does not use electric power, and go for health lifestyle.

The organizers also shared that those who wish to ride should be strictly and properly geared, preferably with bright or neon colored jerseys, with bike helmets and lights.

"Our policy even then is 'No helmet, no ride, no blinkers, no ride'," Ybas said.

Other than environment advocacy, Earth House 2021 also advocates for "Biking Responsibly" and "Share the Road". (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)

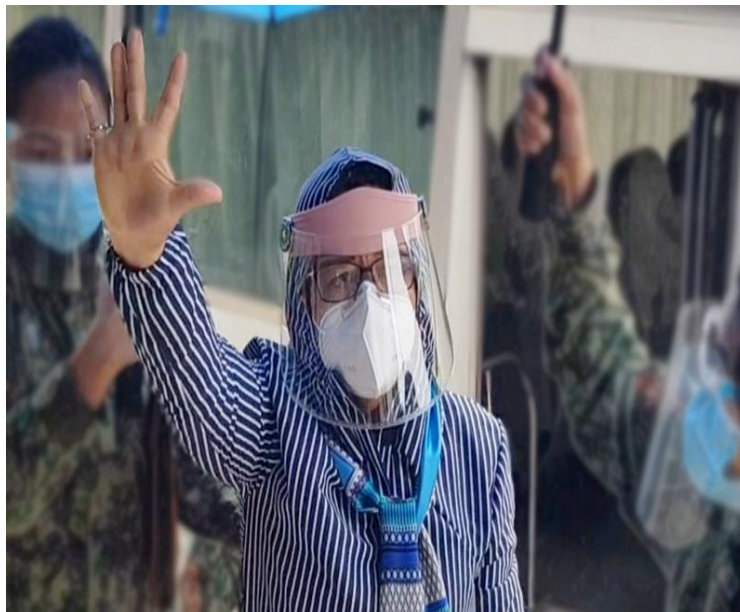


De Lima seeks Senate probe on Cagayan offshore mining project

Published March 29, 2021, 1:06 PM

by [Mario Casayuran](#)

Opposition Senator Leila M. de Lima has asked the Senate Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to investigate the Cagayan Offshore Magnetite Mining project due to its reported negative environmental and social impacts to local communities and ecosystems in the province of Cagayan.



Senator Leila De Lima (PHOTO BY JANSEN ROMERO / FILE PHOTO)

In filing Senate Resolution (SR) 687, De Lima said the government is duty-bound to protect the lives and livelihood of its citizens over all transactions and contracts, particularly the agreements it has entered into with individuals and entities concerning the coastal areas of Cagayan and other black sand mining areas.

“Government measures and policies must anticipate, prevent, and address the root causes of environmental degradation. The destruction of the environment, more particularly, its natural defenses like sand bars which help protect from strong waves and storm surges during typhoons poses increased disaster threats and risks to the surrounding communities,” she said.

“Swift and effective intervention must therefore be conducted to ensure the protection of the environment and the safety of our countrymen,” she added.

De Lima is the chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development.

In early December 2020, it was reported that the government has authorized the first large-scale offshore mining in the country which was set to begin operations in Cagayan in January 2021.

A recent press release said JDVC Resources Corporation, a majority-owned subsidiary of Apollo Global Capital, was ready to proceed with its offshore mining operations after securing the necessary permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).



De Lima seeks Senate probe on Cagayan offshore mining project

Various environmental groups rejected the project, explaining in a position paper dated January 25 that it poses geologic hazards and hazards to other marine resources and ecosystems and increases vulnerability to armed conflict, among others.

Meanwhile, De Lima said it is “reasonable” for Cagayan citizens to be more reluctant to endorse a project that they perceive will destroy the environment and also put their homes and livelihoods at higher risk of severe flooding events, considering that they have only recently begun to recover from the massive flooding in November 2020.

“The recent record-level flooding in Cagayan brought about by typhoon Ulysses may be an indication of a worsening trend rather than a statistical aberration,” she said.

“It is imperative that the project’s proponents and other concerned government agencies are able to effectively communicate and actively consult with the people of Cagayan so that they are able to make informed decisions on matters concerning public health and safety and other environmental hazards,” she added.

Citing the lack of conclusive data, De Lima likewise stressed that it is prudent to conduct a more comprehensive study of the impacts of black sand mining in the Philippines in general and specifically, a thorough review of the Cagayan Offshore Magnetite Mining Project.

“All activities which tend to disturb or destroy the environment must always be preceded by meticulous assessment of their consequences. Environmental impact studies shall also be conducted to aid both the public and private sectors in chartering the course of the activities that involve and affect the environment,” she appealed.

“An in-depth study on how to restore the ecosystem must be launched to ensure that rehabilitation measures are put in place to save these areas from further destruction and erosion,” she added.

De Lima recalled that during her stint as justice secretary, she created a task force led by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to lead a crackdown against several illegal black sand mining operators in Cagayan and Ilocos Sur.

The move led to the filing of charges against several individuals.



What to do during Holy Week ECQ? Help reduce wastes, that's what

Published March 29, 2021, 2:33 PM

by [Ellson Quismorio](#)

How about giving Mother Earth a “garbage break” this Holy Week?

Such was the appeal of the EcoWaste Coalition and Caritas Philippines on Holy Monday, March 29, as the two pro-environment organizations told Filipinos to embrace a “zero-waste lifestyle”.



(PIXABAY / FILE PHOTO)

“Let us celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Holy Week with a deeper reflection on what is happening to our environment and the climate and the need for us to speak and act as one to defend our Mother Earth from being further degraded and harmed,” said Father Antonio Labiao, Jr., Executive Secretary of Caritas Philippines and board member of the EcoWaste Coalition.

“Let us reflect on the insidious throw-away culture that is turning our lands and oceans into dumping grounds for chemical and waste pollutants. Let us listen to the cries of Mother Earth who is choking from tons upon tons of single-use plastic waste, and act with compassion and urgency to save her from this sorry plight,” he said, noting that it's the second time Holy Week is being observed in the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Jove Benosa, Zero Waste Campaigner of the EcoWaste Coalition, asked the faithful to explore and embrace practices that would help reduce trash in households and communities during the week-long enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the “NCR-plus” area.

“As we adopt stricter COVID-19 curbs during the Holy Week, let us pay closer attention to practical ways of reducing garbage and beating the plastic pollution crisis in our midst,” he said.



What to do during Holy Week ECQ? Help reduce wastes, that's what

The two groups gave the following eco-tips for good measure:

1. Abstain from, or better still, quit polluting habits such as the arbitrary use and disposal of single-use plastics, the mixing of discards, and the open dumping or burning of garbage.
2. Segregate waste materials at its source in order to reuse, repair, and recycle inorganic or non-biodegradable discards, and compost organic or biodegradable materials.
3. Turn food waste and other organics into compost, which can be used to fertilize the soil for home or neighborhood gardens.
4. Opt for reusable cloth or fabric face masks – especially for non-medical frontliners — instead of single-use non-biodegradable and non-recyclable face masks.
5. Safely dispose of soiled face masks, worn-out face shields and used gloves, tissues, wipes and other potentially infectious waste.
6. Gather old and used items in good condition and donate them to charitable causes such as the “Segunda Mana,” the special donations-in-kind program of Caritas Manila.

The groups likewise reiterated the need for all citizens to abide by the minimum public health protocols to stem the spread of COVID-19.

These include regularly washing hands with soap and water, observing good respiratory hygiene, maintaining safe physical distancing, and practicing proper disposal of used face masks and other COVID-related waste.



Plastic bag excise tax seen impacting workers, consumers most

March 29, 2021 | 8:09 pm



WORKERS and consumers are expected to bear the brunt of a proposed P20 tax on plastic carrier bags by weight, a major union said.

Alan T. Tanjusay, spokesman and policy advocacy officer for the Associated Labor Unions-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, said that the proposed tax, if signed into law, will cause plastic carrier bag manufacturers to pass on the extra costs to consumers or downsize operations.

“If enacted as is, plastics manufacturers will either raise the cost of the plastic and pass the burden to consumers or will cease to manufacture and downsize,” Mr. Tanjusay told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail on March 24.

The House Committee on Ways and Means approved an unnumbered substitute bill that will collect a P20 excise tax per kilogram of plastic carrier bags removed from the place of production. The panel is chaired by Representative Jose Ma. Clemente S. Salceda.

Mr. Tanjusay said the substitute bill “failed to justify and articulate why plastic carrier bags are being singled out with an excise tax.”

“We all get the impression that the bill will... (kill) the industry and cut jobs,” he added.

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) described the measure as “discriminatory.”

“Why should we single out plastic bags when any carrier bags could also be potential waste items, and unrecyclable? If the spirit for bill is anchored on the premise that it will reduce waste significantly, then it is indeed discriminatory,” FPI told *BusinessWorld* in an e-mail Monday.

In a separate e-mail on March 24, the FPI said that the measure was also “anti-poor,” since it will lead customers to buy other types of carrier bags at higher prices.



Plastic bag excise tax seen impacting workers, consumers most

According to the substitute bill, all revenue from the excise tax will be used to support the solid waste management programs of local government units.

An earlier version of the bill, House Bill 178, which sought a P10 excise tax on plastic carrier bags, was approved by the House Committee on Appropriations. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/plastic-bag-excise-tax-seen-impacting-workers-consumers-most/>

Oponganon to do 40Km Mactan swim, raise awareness on plastic pollution

By: Glendale G. Rosal - Multimedia Correspondent - CDN Digital | March 29, 2021 - 04:10 PM



Open water swimmer Cleevan Kayne Alegres prepares to call it a day with his dog Sparta after one of his swims in preparation for his April 24, 40Km swim around Mactan Island. | Contributed photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Open water swimmer Cleevan Kayne Alegres is on a mission to save the oceans from plastic pollution. That is why on April 24, he tries to become the first person to swim around Mactan Island.

The 25-year-old Oponganon felt the urgency to act and raise awareness about plastic pollution and the importance of recycling, so he will take on the daunting challenge to swim 20 hours non-stop, covering more than 40 kilometers around Mactan Island.

For the public's eye, they only knew of Alegres's swim as a highlight to commemorate Magellan's circumnavigation and the 500th year of Christianity in the Philippines.

However, there is more to it.

No less than the Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Junard "Ahong" Chan extended his support to the young swimmer. He will provide escort and other forms of support to help Alegres accomplish his daunting mission.

Plastic waste compactor

But, Alegres has another important thing in mind. He proposes to encourage the Lapu-Lapu City LGU to purchase a plastic waste compactor for the city.

It is to recycle and repurpose plastic wastes to address the city's plastic pollution, which continues to plague the island's pristine beaches.

"Nagdako jud ko sa dagat. Among balay sa Maribago tupad ra JPark unya daplin ra pud sa dagat, so kamao jud ko molangoy. Kahibaw jud ko unsa ka grabe ang basura sa dagat. Sige ko ug apil ug

Oponganon to do 40Km Mactan swim, raise awareness on plastic pollution

coastal clean-up before pero para nako dili siya enough. Mag swim ko mohapit na lang jud ko ug pangolekta ug basura sa dagat para makalimpyo sad ko gamay,” Alegres told CDN Digital.

(I grew up in the sea. Our house in Maribago is just beside JPark and it is near the sea, so I know how to swim. I also know how serious the garbage thrown at sea. I have joined coastal cleanups before but for me, it is not enough. When I swim I take time to collect the garbage found at sea so that at least I can do my own little part in cleaning the sea.)

Alegres knows that there is no certainty for the Lapu-Lapu City government to purchase a plastic waste compactor unit because each unit is a bit expensive, but he remains very optimistic.

“Ang kuwang jud sa Lapu-Lapu City kay compactor. Tanan plastic waste ana pwede mahimong mga butang like chairs, tables, ug uban items nga magamit pa ug balik kaysa magsige ta ug labay og plastic sa landfill nga mapuno ra gihapon ug mabalik ra gihapon sa atong dagat,” said the Biology graduate of Cebu Doctors’ University.

(What the Lapu-Lapu City government lacks is a compactor. All the plastic waste can be made into things like chairs, tables and other items that can be reused instead of throwing the plastic waste everytime in our landfill which can be filled up and the waste will return to the sea.)

“Akong proposal sa atong mayor nga kung ma successful ko sa akong pag swim, maayo unta maka donate sila ug usa ka compactor para sa atong city, and we will start from there. Pinaka ultimate goal jud nako ani maayo unta kada barangay sa Lapu-Lapu naa unta compactor kay halos tanan barangays diri naa sa coastal area and grabe kaayo ang plastic pollution,” he said.

(My proposal to the mayor if I am successful with my swim is that he can donate a compactor for the city, and we will start from there. My ultimate goal is that all barangays in Lapu-Lapu can each have a compactor because most of our barangays are in the coastal areas and plastic pollution has become worse.)



Cleevan Kayne Alegres, an Oponganon, does a practice swim in Mactan Island. | Contributed photo

Oponganon to do 40Km Mactan swim, raise awareness on plastic pollution

To prove that he has what it takes to conquer Mactan's waters known for its treacherous current, Alegres swam a total of 14-kilometers last Sunday, March 28, 2021, as part of his preparation.

Local paddleboarders aided him during his swim, which lasted six hours.

His swim last Sunday served as the longest distance he ever recorded.

Alegres, who is a veterinary intern at Southwestern University-Phinma, is not new to long-distance swims. In fact, he was the swimmer of the Tribu Lapu-Lapu triathlon team, which placed second in the men's relay of the 2018 Ironman 70.3 Philippines held in Mactan. The following year, they topped the men's relay in the Alveo Ironman 70.3 Davao.

Alegres also addressed those who bashed him on social media, saying that he was not doing the swim to make a name for himself.

"Ako jud tumong ani kay ang pag raise og awareness about plastic pollution. Kani akong swim para ni sa tanan taga Mactan Island kay grabe akong hope nga maayo unta i consider ni Mayor nga magpalit ta og plastic waste compactor," said Alegres.

(My purpose in this is to raise awareness about plastic pollution. My swim is for the all residents of Mactan Island because I have a strong hope that the mayor may consider buying a plastic waste compactor.)

He also said that he idolized American long-distance swimmer Dian Nyad and "Pinoy Aquaman" Ingemar Macarine.



Oponganon Cleevan Kayne Alegres is trying to raise awareness on plastic pollution by doing a 40 Km swim around Mactan Island on April 24. | Contributed Photo



Oponganon to do 40Km Mactan swim, raise awareness on plastic pollution

“Daghan nag ingon nga dili daw nako makaya. Dili daw ko mag tuga-tuga pero ako naman na testing pag Sunday, doable ra jud siya pero it doesn’t mean nga sayon ra. Lisud jud kaayo siya pero akong kayanon kay gusto ko naa ko mabilin legacy as a swimmer nga naay good cause para sa atong environment,” he said.

(Many have told me that I can’t do it. That I should not waste my time to try, but I tried it on Sunday and it is doable but it also does not mean that it is easy to do. It is difficult to do but I can endure it because I want to leave a legacy as a swimmer that their is a good cause (to advocate) for the environment

His inspiration is his family and girlfriend, who continue to encourage him with his mission. His main focus now is his 20K swim across Hilitungan Strait in Mactan Island to Olango Island and vice versa on Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021).

He said that he had already done crossing from Mactan Island to Olango Island last December 6 but on Easter Sunday he would swim around Olango Island.

Read more: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/370226/oponganon-to-do-40km-mactan-swim-raise-awareness-on-plastic-pollution#ixzz6qXJULKIK>

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Parkmall partners with Pagtambayayong for environmental advocacy, climate change



March 29, 2021

PARKMALL, a leading community mall that has always been an active supporter of the environment, and Pagtambayayong Foundation Inc., officially announced on March 27, 2021 their partnership for managing and repurposing used in-mall materials.

Parkmall will donate to Pagtambayayong Foundation its used printed materials such as tarpaulins, which are then distributed to qualified urban poor groups and homeowners associations for them to develop and upcycle into aprons, pencil cases, backpacks, shopping bags and others that they can display for sale. Through this collaboration between the business sector and the local communities, the urban poor is given an opportunity to earn extra income and at the same time advocate for climate change.



Parkmall partners with Pagtambayayong for environmental advocacy, climate change

Pagtambayayong Foundation shared how the partnership with Parkmall will further allow it to help its partner communities achieve its objective of both helping the poor and the environment. “We are hoping that Parkmall’s example will serve as a moral compass to big businesses to give attention to climate change and do their share in terms of carbon emission reduction. Businesses should have a bigger responsibility in fighting climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Urban poor communities contribute the least in carbon emissions but are affected the most by the ill effects of climate change. They are victims of double injustice—that of poverty and climate change. Yet despite that, they are still active participants in climate action,” shared engineer Paula Godofreda Fernandez, Pagtambayayong Foundation Inc.’s executive director.

It was Parkmall that initiated the partnership realizing the need to outsmart waste management, taking actions that both benefit the business and the communities it serves. “Waste has been a problem for all of us wherever we are in the world. What is the first step to managing our problem? We realize the need to teach by example. If big organizations like us can make deliberate efforts and responsible choices, we can start the conversation and influence action towards being better as a company for the community. We want people to know that it is possible to lessen our waste and this task involves all sectors to work together,” explained Yael Sacris-Torres, Parkmall’s mall manager.

The following homeowner associations are the beneficiaries of this partnership: Sitio Mahusay Action Group and Ibabao 2 in Mandaue, Looc Naval in Lapu-Lapu City, Ibabao 2 in Cebu City and Selma Crushers in Talisay City.

About Parkmall: Since its beginnings in 2012, Parkmall has been the number one community mall in Cebu, organizing and supporting events that rally for environmental advocacy. For many years, Parkmall has initiated month-long activities in time for Earth Month. Even with the challenge of a pandemic, Parkmall continued organizing Hortikultura Sugbo on March 12 to 21, Eco Bazaar from March 25 to 31 and was the venue for Cycling for Climate Change on March 27.

About Pagtambayayong—A Foundation for Mutual Aid Inc.: It is a church-related, non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization founded in 1982, with a mission to organize and support the organization of grassroots communities, especially through self-help housing cooperatives, decent employment and appropriate technology.



Rafi teams up with GCash for reforestation project

Mon, 29 March 2021, 11:46 pm · 2 min read

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rafi president and chief executive officer Amaya Aboitiz said, “This partnership will give those who may not be able to physically go out and plant or care for indigenous trees the opportunity to contribute to this effort — from wherever they may be.”

Rafi OTT, formerly known as Rafi Biodiversity Conservation Unit, has been active in reforestation and conservation for over two decades and has achieved a more than 80 percent survival rate for tree growing. (PR)

Source: <https://ph.news.yahoo.com/news/rafi-teams-gcash-reforestation-project-154600433.html>



Mati, outstanding coastal community in Davao



Photo by Ace Perez

[RALPH LAWRENCE G. LLEMIT](#)

March 28, 2021

THE Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) named Mati City in Davao Oriental as an outstanding coastal community in the region.

BFAR held the awarding of the regional Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK) Search for Outstanding Coastal Community on Friday, March 26, 2021.

The MMK search, a banner program of Bfar, aims to recognize outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities or cities to sustainable fisheries management.

It also aims to promote fisheries protection and conservation centers on the significance of sustainably managing the fisheries and aquatic resources and promotes stakeholder's engagement in the cause of resource protection and conservation.

One of its goals is to recognize outstanding initiatives and contributions of coastal municipalities/cities to sustainable fisheries management.

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

Mati City Mayor Michelle Rabat received the P2-million cheque and plaque of recognition from BFAR during the awarding ceremony.



Mati, outstanding coastal community in Davao

According to the mayor, the winning prize will be used for the continuing mangrove protection in Guang-Guang Mangrove Park and additional budget for the fisherfolks in Mati.

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, the municipality of San Isidro, also in Davao Oriental, won second place and received P1 million plus plaque of recognition, and the Island Garden City of Samal (Igacos) in Davao del Norte, won third place with P500,000 cheque and plaque of recognition.

Tagum City and Municipality of Lupon also received a plaque of recognition for winning 4th and 5th place, respectively.



Defense chief tiptoes on reef case with China

posted March 30, 2021 at 01:30 am

by [Rey E. Requejo and Maricel V. Cruz](#)

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has said deploying Filipino ships in the Julian Felipe Reef may “militarize” the area but quickly added “we have to avoid provocation”—with some 200 Chinese vessels there, reported by Beijing as taking shelter from bad weather.

Lorenzana on Monday announced a Coast Guard ship might be stationed off Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea to monitor the large number of Chinese vessels that have massed in the vicinity since March 7.

Lorenzana, in an interview with CNN Philippines, said Coast Guard ships would be constantly stationed in the area.

“I think we are going to station a Coast Guard ship there continuously,” he said.

The Philippine Navy will still be in the general vicinity so as not to be accused of “provoking an incident” and “militarizing the area”.

There have been no physical confrontations but Lorenzana noted the Chinese vessels had sent out “warnings” for the Philippine ships not to approach them.

In the meantime, a Philippine air force jet is conducting daily patrols over Chinese fishing vessels parked near the reef, Lorenzana said, as Beijing refuses to pull the ships out of the area.

Meanwhile, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington stood with the Philippines as China maritime militia ships swarm around Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea.

“The United States stands with our ally, the Philippines, in the face of the PRC’s maritime militia amassing at WhitsunReef,” Blinken posted on his Twitter account.

“We will always stand by our allies and stand up for the rules-based international order,” he added.

Blinken made the statement as Lorenzana assured the public the government was assessing the situation in Julian Felipe Reef and was ready to defend the country’s sovereignty.

“I assure our people that we are addressing the situation. We stand by our position calling for the immediate withdrawal of Chinese vessels in the Julian Felipe Reef, which was communicated to the Chinese Ambassador,” Lorenzana said last weekend.

“We are ready to defend our national sovereignty and protect the marine resources of the Philippines,” he added.

At the same time, Lorenzana announced that more Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard ships would be sent to the area.

“There will be an increased presence of the Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard ships to conduct sovereignty patrols and protect our fishermen in the West Philippine Sea,” he stressed.



Defense chief tiptoes on reef case with China

Earlier, the Department of Foreign Affairs filed diplomatic protest against the presence of 220 Chinese militia vessels at Julian Felipe Reef.

In Congress, a congressional leader took note of “considerable risk” that a Chinese vessel might end up accidentally running aground in the shallow waters and submerged ridges of the West Philippine Sea.

“We would urge the National Task Force for the WPS to seriously consider this risk, at the rate Chinese vessels are swarming around Julian Felipe Reef,” Surigao del Sur Rep. Johnny Pimentel, chairperson of the House committee on strategic intelligence, said.

“In fact, the task force may have to prepare a contingency plan – a comprehensive course of action – in the event of such an unpleasant incident,” Pimentel said.

At the same time, Pimentel, a deputy speaker, voiced concern over the “reef degradation” caused by the horde of Chinese vessels.

“It is not really good for ships to moor there for extended periods because anchors can cause extensive damage to coral reefs and reef-associated habitat such as seagrass beds,” Pimentel pointed out.

“In fact, the hazard of reef damage gets worse during bad weather owing to the risk of anchor dragging and grounding,” Pimentel said.

Last week, the Philippine government demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Chinese vessels moored within the West Philippine Sea, saying their presence was a blatant infringement of the country’s sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction.

The Chinese Embassy denied the vessels were operated by Chinese maritime militia.

It said the vessels were only “seeking shelter” near the reef, which they claimed was part of China’s Nansha Islands or Spratlys in the South China Sea.

In related developments, Australia has expressed concern over recent “destabilizing actions” in the South China Sea, its envoy to the Philippines said Monday, as China continued its assertive maritime agenda in the vital waterway.

“Australia supports an Indo-Pacific region which is secure, stable and sovereign. The South China Sea, [which] is a critical international waterway, is governed by international rules and norms, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is very important to us,” Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Steven Robinson told ANC.

“As a consequence, we remain concerned about any destabilizing actions that could provoke escalation in the South China Sea.”

France and Germany, the latest among those who issued a statement, also called on parties “to refrain from measures which endanger peace, stability, and security” in the Indo-Pacific.

Lorenzana said the Philippines would use white ships, meaning law enforcement vessels like the Coast Guard and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, which are civilian ships.



Defense chief tiptoes on reef case with China

He added there was also a suggestion to take a tanker near the reef like what was previously done in the Ayungin Reef where a Navy landing ship, the BRP Sierra Madre (LT-57), which ran aground in 1999, is now being used as headquarters by Philippine Marine Corps personnel tasked to guard the country's claims in the area.

Lorenzana, however, said they were still looking at this proposal.

At the same time, Navy chief Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Bacordo said several naval ships were ready for patrol missions at the Julian Felipe Reef but this would be up to the operational commanders when to deploy them.

Some of the ships that can be deployed to patrol the WPS include the offshore patrol vessel BRP Ramon Alcaraz (PS-16) and the anti-submarine corvette BRP Conrado Yap (PS-39).

"As to what vessels will be deployed to Julian Felipe Reef or the details of their deployment, that's the call of the operational commanders," Bacordo said.

The military's first missile frigate, the BRP Jose Rizal (FF-150) would be deployed to the WPS only through an order from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Lorenzana said: "We are ready to defend our national sovereignty and protect the marine resources of the Philippines," Lorenzana said, repeating a call for the Chinese ships to withdraw.

He added there would be an "increased presence" of navy and coast guard ships patrolling Philippine waters.

The resource-rich South China Sea is contested by several countries, including the Philippines and China.

Beijing often invokes the so-called nine-dash line to justify its apparent historic rights over most of it, and has ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision that declared this assertion as without basis.

President Rodrigo Duterte has expressed concern over the presence of the vessels to the Chinese ambassador in Manila, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said Thursday.

Duterte has fostered warmer ties with Beijing since taking office in 2016 in exchange for greater economic cooperation with its superpower neighbor.

But the shift has failed to stem Chinese ambitions in the South China Sea, or unlock much of the billions of dollars of promised trade and loans. With PNA and AFP

Topics: [Delfin Lorenzana](#) , [Filipino ships](#) , [Julian Felipe Reef](#) , [Chinese vessels](#)

Source: <https://manilastandard.net/mobile/article/350774>



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RECORD-BREAKING NA NAMAN. Nakapagtala ang DOH ng 10,016 pang kaso ng #COVID19 sa bansa kaya sumampa na sa 731,894 ang kabuuang bilang ng mga tinamaan ng naturang sakit.

Ito na ang pinakamataas na bilang ng mga naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 sa loob ng isang araw mula noong makapasok ang sakit sa bansa.

Nasa 115,495 ang nananatiling active cases.

Add'l recoveries: 78; total: 603,213

New deaths: 16; total: 13,186

See Translation



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/27254475167/posts/10159362718645168/?app=fbl>

Duterte retains ECQ status of NCR, 4 areas until April 4

By Azer Parrocha March 30, 2021, 12:30 am



QUARANTINE CLASSIFICATIONS. President Rodrigo Duterte announces new quarantine classifications for April during his weekly talk to the people at Malacañan Palace on Monday night (March 29, 2021). Santiago City in Isabela will be placed under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) from April 1 to 30 while Quirino Province will also be under MECQ from April 1 to 15. (Presidential photo by King Rodriguez)

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte has retained the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) classification of the National Capital Region (NCR), Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal until April 4, 2021.

This, as he announced the new quarantine classifications in different parts of the country starting April 1 during his regular public address aired over state-run PTV-4 on Monday night.

The ECQ status -- the most restrictive status -- is, however, subject to further review.

From April 1 to 30, Santiago City in Isabela will be placed under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

Similarly, Quirino Province will be under MECQ from April 1 to 15, 2021.

In Luzon, the entire Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); Cagayan, Isabela, and Nueva Vizcaya in Region II; and Batangas will be placed under general community quarantine (GCQ) until April 30.

Also under GCQ for the whole month of April are Tacloban City (Visayas); and Iligan City, Davao City, and Lanao del Sur (Mindanao).

All other areas will be placed under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), the most relaxed quarantine classification, for the month of April.

The country saw at most 10,016 daily infections since new Covid-19 variants have been detected.

As of Monday, the country has recorded 731,894 confirmed Covid-19 cases, 13,186 are deaths, and 603,213 are recoveries.



Duterte retains ECQ status of NCR, 4 areas until April 4

Malacañang earlier assured that the national government will be providing emergency subsidies to Filipinos in areas placed under ECQ.

Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado said around 22.9 million beneficiaries could be given emergency assistance during the ECQ period.

Around PHP23 billion in unutilized funds will be tapped for the assistance program.

During the ECQ last year, beneficiaries received PHP5,000 and PHP8,000 for the months of April and May. The second tranche of cash aid was also distributed for Filipinos who did not receive the first tranche. (*PNA*)



MAGKAKASALUNGAT NA KAISIPAN SA ECQ



March 29, 2021 @ 12:09 PM 18 hours ago

NAPAKARAMI ang lumalabas na kaisipan ukol sa deklarasyon ng enhanced community quarantine na idineklara ng pamahalaan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte para sa Metro Manila, Bulacan, Laguna, Cavite at Rizal.

Pero hindi lang marami kundi salu-salungat pa hanggang makalikha ng gulo at kalituhan ang mga ito sa mga mamamayan.

Nasa sa atin na ang pagpapasya kung aling kaisipan ang dapat nating higit na bigyan ng pansin at pahalagahan ukol sa ECQ na idineklara laban sa gumagrabeng kalagayan natin sa pandemya.

MGA PROBLEMANG PANGKALUSUGAN

Isinailalim sa ECQ ang nasabing mga lugar makaraang sunod-sunod ang halos aabot sa 10,000 biktima ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 araw-araw at matatagpuan dito ang pinakamaraming kaso ng nasabing pandemya.

May malalayong lugar din gaya ng Tuguegarao City sa lalawigan ng Cagayan na nagnanais na ring magdeklara ng ECQ dahil din sa grabeng kalagayan nila.

Dahil sa paglala ng pangkalusugang kalagayan partikular dahil sa COVID-19, marami nang ospital, pampubliko at pribado, ang umaapaw o puno ng mga biktima kaya nag-anunsyo silang hindi na sila tatanggap pa ng pasyenteng taglay ang nasabing sakit.

Malinaw nang gumagala hindi lang ang orig na COVID-19 kundi maging ang mga variant o bagong anyo nito na United Kingdom variant, Brazil variant, South African Variant, Philippine variant at iba pang hindi pa pinangangalanan.



MAGKAKASALUNGAT NA KAISIPAN SA ECQ

Mas mabilis na makahawa ang nasabing variants kaysa orig na sakit at ito ang isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan ng pagsirit ng bilang ng mga nagkakasakit at maging ang mga malulusog at malalakas ang katawan gaya ng mga pulis ay nadadale na rin.

Ang isa pang nakatatatag, maging ang mga alam na alam kung paano lalaban sa pandemya at may dala-dalang mabibisang pangontra rito, ang mga health professional gaya ng mga doktor, nars at iba pa, ay nadadale rin nang higit kumpara sa kalagayan nila sa orig na virus.

Heto pa ang masama.

Kulang na kulang na nga tayo ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19, nagkaubusan pa ang mga gamot gaya na tocilizumab at remdesivir laban dito.

MAPAIT NA BUNGA

Kung pagsasamasamahin ang populasyon ng Metro Manila na may 13 milyon, Rizal na may 3 milyon, Bulacan na may 3.3 milyon, Cavite na may 4 milyon at Laguna na mahigit 3 milyon, mahigit 26.3 milyon lahat at kapat o $\frac{1}{4}$ sila sa mahigit na 100 milyong kabuuang populasyon ng mahal kong Pinas.

Nasa mga lugar na ito ang sentro ng negosyo, transportasyon, pinakamalalaki at pinakamodernong ospital at iba pa at pinakasentro rin ng pamahalaan na binubuo ng ehekutibo, lehislatura at hudikatura.

Lahat ng mamamayan sa National Capital Region Plus kung tawagin ngayon ay apektado ng ECQ at higit na apektado ang mga karaniwang mamamayan na karamihan ay nagbebenta ng pawis o lakas-paggawa, nagsasaka, nangingisda, nagtitinda, nagtsutsuper at iba pa para mabuhay.

Sa ECQ, nagsasara o tumutumal ang higit na nakararaming negosyo dahil sa pagtigil o pagbabawas ng operasyon ng mga ito at naririyang ang pagkalugi o panghihina ng mga ito.

At sa gitna ng kalagayang ito, nawawalan o labis na napeperwisyo naman ang mga karaniwang mamamayan, lalo na ang mga obrero at iba pang mga anakpawis na konektado at sumusuko sa mga negosyo.

Ang mapait pa, kung sila'y nako-COVID-19, kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya sa gutom at paghihirap bukod sa hirap ngayon ng pagpapaospital na magastos, kasama ang napakamahal na ring cremation sa mga nasasawi sa nasabing sakit.

UMAPOY NA PAMUMULITIKA

Umaapoy ang salungatan ng mga kaisipan at kilos, lalo na sa hanay ng mga politiko, ukol sa ECQ.

Ngunit, tanggapin man o hindi ng mga politiko, nauugat ito sa nalalapit nang pambansang halalan na ang totoo ay pormal nang magsisimula sa Oktubre 1, 2021 na pagpa-file ng kandidatura ng mga politiko.

Dahil nakatuon ang mga mata ng mga politiko sa halalan, kanya-kanyang bato ng putik ang pangunahing ginagawa ng mga ito para makaiskor sila sa kanilang mga kalaban.



MAGKAKASALUNGAT NA KAISIPAN SA ECQ

Kasabay ito ng pagbubuhay nila ng sariling bangko at pagsama na rin ng sari-saring isyu sa ECQ.

Para malinaw, ang grupong kinabibilangan ni Pang. Digong ang target na pabagsakin ng mga kontra-politiko nito para sila naman ang papalit.

May grupong kontra-Digong, lalo na ang mga militante, na nakaugalian nang kontrahin lahat ng nakaupong Pangulo at administrasyon mula't sapul at halos wala silang makitang tama sa ginagawa ng lahat ng nagdaang administrasyon.

Tanging sarili lang nila ang kanilang pinaniniwalaang tama sa pamamalakad ng buong pamahalaan at pakikipaggyera sa COVID-19.

Naririyang naman ang mga trapong politiko na grupo o indibidwal na wala ring makitang tama kundi puro mali na ginagawa umano ng grupong Digong at sarili rin nila ang pinaniniwalaang tama at walang mali.

Hindi lang ang deklarasyon ng ECQ ang sinasabi ng mga militante at trapong politiko na mali at palpak.

Inihahalo na rin nila maging ang iba pang mga bagay gaya ng panlabas na relasyon ng bansa, lalo na sa China, giyera sa droga at korapsyon.

SARADONG ISIPAN

Ayaw ng mga kontra-Digong na intindihin ang posisyon ng Pangulo at administrasyon nito na sa pamamagitan ng ECQ, makontrol nang malaki ang pananalasa ng COVID-19 dahil mababawasan at mapipigilan nang malaki ang hawaan ng mga may dala ng virus at sari-sari nang variant nito.

Mababawasan ang hawaan dahil mapipigilan ang paglabas ng mga hindi pupwedeng lumabas ng bahay mula alas-6:00 ng hapon hanggang alas-5:00 ng umaga at mapipigilan din ang direkta at malapitang ugnayan ng maraming tao na may halong positibo sa sakit mula asymptomatic o walang sintomas hanggang sa mga meron nito at itinatakbo sa mga ospital o inihahatid sa sementeryo.

Ang malaking pagbabawas ng pagtitipon ng maraming tao kahit saan, sa pampubliko at pribadong lugar, maging sa mga opisina, pabrika, mall, simbahan at pananatili sa bahay ng marami ay mabisa ring panlaban sa pandemya.

Ngunit dahil sa pamumulitika, walang kooperasyon na ipinakikita ang mga kritiko at trapong politiko dahil lahat ng bagay at isyu ay sinasakyan o nililikha nila sa layong pagpapabagsak ng administrasyong kasalukuyan, may eleksyon o wala.

PAKIKIGULO NG IBA

Habang naglilibay ang mga dila at nagiging lason sa isipan ng mga mamamayan ang mga talsik ng laway ng mga nag-aaway-away na politiko, nakikigulo rin ang kanilang mga tagasunod o mga kaalyado nila.



MAGKAKASALUNGAT NA KAISIPAN SA ECQ

At kasama sa mga sumasali sa gulo ang ilang pastor, pari at obispo sa mga away.

‘Yun bang === hindi lang mga politiko ang inaaway o sinasalungat ng mga tagasunod at relihiyoso kundi maging ang kanilang mga hanay.

Sa mga social media at tradisyunal na media na kinabibilangan ng radio, telebisyon at diaryo, kitang-kita ang away ng mga pro-Digong at pro-trapo o pro-militante o anti-Digong at anti-trapo o anti-militante.

Nagmimistulang war zone ang social media, kabilang na ang Facebook, Twitter, Instagram at tradisyunal na media.

Umaabot na nga sa insultuhan at “patayan” kasabay ng batuhan ng putik sa mga politiko, ang mga away o gulo ng mga ito.

Samantala, habang ipinipilit, halimbawa, ni Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo ang religious freedom o kalayaan sa pananampalataya, lalo na sa harap ng pagbabawal ng misa sa mga Banal na Araw o Holy Week ngayong taon, may mga pari namang isinara na nila sa panahong ito ang kanilang mga simbahan dahil sa paglipana ng COVID-19, gusto man ng mga obispo na magbukas sila.

Halimbawa sa National Shrine of Our Lady of the Abandoned sa Sta. Ana, Manila, kusang isinara ng mga pari ang shrine pati ang patio nito at kinandado na rin nila ang kanilang gate para walang makapasok na deboto para sa kaligtasan na rin ng kanilang mga mananampalataya.

Kung iisipin, hind lang naman ang Pinas ang nagbawal sa mga religious gathering kundi maging ang Germany sa kasalukuyan, partikular sa buong Mahal na Araw.

Nauna rito, kinotrol mismo nitong 2019 ng pamahalaang Korea ang simbahang Shincheonji Daegu Church na naging superspreader ng pandemya at binalaan ang mga pari na maaaresto sila kung hindi sila tatalima sa mga health protocol at itatago ang kanilang mga miyembro na may COVID-19 mula sa mga contact tracer ng pamahalaan.

Minsan na ring isinara ng Italian Police mismo ang St. Peter Square sa Roma, Italy noong nakaraang taon at nakansela ang mga pamisa at palibing.

Minsan na ring sinuspinde nitong nakaraang taon ng Saudi Arabia ang mga pagdarasal at indibidwal na pagninilay-nilay sa araw ng Ramadan nitong nakaraang taon din mismo sa Grand Mosque [Masjid al-Haram] sa Mecca at ang Prophet’s Mosque [Masjid al-Nabawi] sa Medina.

Ganito rin ang naganap sa maraming bansang Muslim at sinabihan na lang lahat na sa kani-kanilang bahay na lang sila magdasal.

MAKATOTOHANANG PAGHARAP SA ECQ

Nakitaan naman natin ng napakaseryosong tindig ng mga health worker ukol sa ECQ.

Tama at napapanahon, anila, ang deklarasyon ng pamahalaang Duterte ng ECQ bilang mabisang hakbang laban sa nakababahala nang paglaganap ng COVID-19 at mga variant nito.



MAGKAKASALUNGAT NA KAISIPAN SA ECQ

Labis nilang kinatatakutan ang paglala ng nagaganap nang punuang ospital at hindi na sila tatanggap ng maysakit.

Kasama sa mga health worker na ito ang Philippine College of Physicians na pinangungunahan ni President Dr. Mario Panaligan, Philippine Hospital Association na pinamumuhan naman ni Dr. Jaime Almora, Philippine Nurses Association ni Melbert Reyes, Philippine College of Emergency Medicine ni Dr. Pauline Convocar.

Para kina Dr. Panaligan, ang pinakaistriktong community quarantine ang kailangan para mapigilan ang pananalasa ng pandemya na ikinasasakit at ikinalalagas na rin nang husto sa kanilang hanay at hindi lang sa mga mamamayan.

Dapat umanong kambalan ito ng pagsunod sa mga health protocol dahil hindi sapat ang bakuna na sandata.

Ipinagdiinan naman ni Dr. Almora ang pananatili sa bahay ng mga mamamayan maliban lang kung kinakailangan.

Iminungkahi naman nina Reyes ang pagbubuo ng pangmatagalang solusyon at makatutulong dito ang mga health expert at mga nasa aktuwal ng giyera sa pandemya.

Makatutulong din nang malaki ang paggawa ng paraan na mapag-isa ang ngayo'y hiwa-hiwalay na network na ginagamit para masubaybayan ang lahat ng problema at programa laban sa COVID-19, kasama na ang contact tracing at paglalapat ng mga gamot at bakuna at mga pwede sa bahay at hindi sa ospital.

Silang mga doktor at iba pang health worker ang buhay na saksi sa mga namamatay na umabot na sa mahigit 13,000 simula noong nakaraang taon at ramdam na ramdam nila ang nakatatakot na kalagayan dahil maging sila'y namamatayan din.

Tumbok na tumbok ng mga health worker na ito na pinakamahalaga ang buhay sa lahat na siya namang nasa likod ng deklarasyon ng ECQ.

Saksi rin sila sa hindi rin birong hirap na dinaranas ng mga pamilya ng 721,892 nagka-COVID-19, kasama ang mga namatayan.

Ramdam na ramdam nila na napaparalisa na nga ang kalayaang mabuhay nang normal ang buong pamilyang may miyembrong nagkaka-COVID-19, nababaon pa sila sa hirap-pinansyal at iba pang mga krisis.

Nagsalita ang mga doktor nang walang halong pulitika at higit nilang pinahahalagahan ang buhay higit sa ano pa man.

Ngayon, kanino ba tayo makikinig at papanig, kung kinakailangan, mga Bro, sa giyera sa ECQ?

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/magkakasalungat-na-kaisipan-sa-ecq/>



185 tortoises found in suitcase at Galapagos airport

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Mar 29 2021 07:28 AM

Staff at an airport on the Galapagos Islands found 185 tortoises in a suitcase that was heading for Ecuador's mainland, environment authorities said on Sunday.

The discovery was made "during a routine inspection," the environment ministry said on Twitter, adding that police were investigating.

Trafficking fauna off the Galapagos Islands is a crime punishable by between one and three years in prison.

The islands are a protected wildlife area and home to unique species of flora and fauna.

They lie 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) west of Ecuador.

On Twitter, Environment Minister Marcelo Mata blasted "these crimes against Ecuadorans' wild fauna and natural heritage."

The Galapagos Islands' star attraction are their giant tortoises, which arrived on the volcanic islands between three and four million years ago.

It is believed that ocean currents deposited them on the islands after which they developed into 15 separate species, three of which are extinct.

The archipelago was made famous by British geologist and naturalist Charles Darwin's observations on evolution after visiting the islands.

Read More: [Galapagos Islands](#) [tortoises](#) [environment protection](#) [Ecuador wildlife](#)

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/classified-odd/03/29/21/185-tortoises-found-in-suitcase-at-galapagos-airport>

Can the global economy support nature?

Economic systems need fundamental change if the biodiversity crisis is to be overcome, a landmark UK government review has concluded.



Rice fields and forest plantations integrated in the landscape provide food and timber resources while regulating water provision to an ancient agricultural irrigation system. Due to their steepness and inaccessibility, karsts are natural repositories of native biodiversity. Libo Country, Guizhou Province. Image: [CIFOR, via Flickr. CC BY NC-ND 2.0.](#)

[Catherine Early, China Dialogue](#)

March 29, 2021

Urgent change in how economies think, act and measure success is needed to protect and enhance global prosperity and the natural world, a major review commissioned by the UK government has recommended.

[The review](#), written by leading economist Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta and published in February, concluded that humanity has collectively mismanaged its natural assets.

As such, demands far exceed nature's capacity to supply the goods and services humans rely on, such as food, clean air and water, and the absorption of carbon emissions.

Falls in biodiversity are therefore putting economies, livelihoods and wellbeing at risk, it says. Dasgupta recommended ecosystems be restored and enhanced, and that finance and education systems be transformed to take nature into account.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – the globally dominant form of measuring economic success – does not factor in the depreciation of nature, and therefore encourages humanity to pursue unsustainable economic growth and development. Other metrics should be used, he said.

The report advocates, for example, the concept of inclusive wealth.

What is inclusive wealth?

Speaking to a [UK parliament](#) committee, Dasgupta compared how businesses view assets with how economies view natural assets.

Can the global economy support nature?

“No manager will be in a position where he cannot tell you what furniture he has on his factory floor or how many workers he has... Likewise, we need to have stock accounts, not flow accounts... but most countries don’t even know how many wetlands they have. Nobody cares,” he said.

Dasgupta’s findings echo those of other recent reports, in particular the World Economic Forum’s New Nature Economy [series](#), which found that \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world’s GDP — is dependent on nature.

Campaigners believe the review will garner mainstream attention because it was commissioned by the Treasury — the UK government’s finance department — and written by an esteemed economist.

A precedent can be found in the 2006 review of the economics of climate change by Nicholas Stern.

From review to reality

Though hopes have been raised by high-level responses to the review, environmental campaigners are under no illusion about the scale of the challenge in implementing its recommendations.

“Coherence between environmental ambitions and other policies and objectives is sometimes particularly difficult. That’s because of all sorts of challenges with interest groups, the power dynamics in governments, and understanding of the consequences of environmental change for the economy,” said Neville Ash, director of the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

He gave the example of the European Commission. It has ambitious environmental targets, under both its Green Deal and Biodiversity Strategy.

But it is struggling to achieve agreement with the European Parliament and Council on bringing the Common Agricultural Policy — through which farmers are subsidised — into alignment with those ambitions.

In its [response](#) to the Dasgupta review, the WWF wants to see the creation of a Global Commission on the Economy and Nature (GCEN), modelled on [the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate](#), which comprises former heads of government and finance ministers and leaders in the fields of economics and business.

If you cut down a forest and sell the timber, your GDP goes up, but of course you’ve lost the forest.

Neville Ash, director of the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The GCEN would bring together global leaders across society to develop a worldwide action plan for a nature-positive economy, building on the recommendations of the Dasgupta review, WWF says.

It could promote cooperation between countries, develop policy recommendations and coordinate implementation.

Can the global economy support nature?

Toby Roxburgh, head of sustainable economic policy at WWF UK, said existing national-level efforts on nature need to be scaled up through international cooperation and cross-border mechanisms.

Currently, no mechanism or process exists that could oversee such an effort or provide such a platform and the GCEN would help to fill this gap, he said.

A proposal for the establishment of the GCEN is gathering momentum and interest, according to WWF. Colombia's president, Ivan Duque, has already [voiced his support](#) for the idea, and WWF wants the UK government to promote it at the next meeting of the G7, which it will host in June.

Building momentum

Several countries are already accounting for the state of their forests, wetlands and other natural capital in novel ways, according to Ash. For example, over 100 nations are part of the UN's [System of Environmental-Economic Accounting \(SEEA\)](#), he said.

This system was officially adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in mid-March, marking "a major step forward" that goes beyond the use of GDP, according to the UN, and more countries are preparing to sign up.

The Dasgupta review is giving additional momentum to what was already happening in these countries, Ash said. "There's a recognition that we can't continue to use solely GDP as a measure of wealth — if you cut down a forest and sell the timber, your GDP goes up, but of course you've lost the forest," he said.

"Will we see countries replacing GDP? I don't think so anytime soon," Ash said. "But what we're seeing is development of other measures alongside GDP to better understand the state of the economy, and particularly the wealth of nations in relation to stocks as well as financial flows," he added.

Roxburgh agreed there are signs finance ministries were becoming more aware of these issues. In 2019, New Zealand published the world's first "[wellbeing budget](#)", which measures economic success based on how it delivers on natural as well as human, social, financial and physical capitals, he noted.

UK leadership?

WWF is urging the UK to lead by example, given that it commissioned the review, and is hosting the G7 and COP26 climate talks later this year.

The government welcomed it but is still considering what actions to take in response, according to Treasury minister Kemi Badenoch, who chaired the review's advisory panel.

She [told](#) MPs in March that the review's findings could be incorporated into the Green Book which the Treasury issues to government officials to help them appraise the environmental and climate impacts of policies and projects.

Can the global economy support nature?

“I imagine that biodiversity is going to be one of those things that we would like to incorporate into that work,” she said. The UK has made nature a key theme of COP26, and would be taking forward discussions on accounting for nature and climate change through the UN talks and the G7, Badenoch added.

The UK government budget, published a couple of weeks after the Dasgupta review, included a proposal to expand the monetary policy remit for the Bank of England to reflect the importance of environmental sustainability and the transition to net zero.

This could become a “game-changer” for how nature and climate change are taken into account economically, according to WWF.

COP15 biodiversity talks

Though finance ministries need to play a key role in transforming economies to be more nature-friendly, in the end, success would look different from one country to the next, Roxburgh said.

“Some transformations, especially to the global finance system, will require global interventions and cooperation,” he said.

Ash said UN talks on the new global targets to protect biodiversity at COP15, which China is due to host in Kunming this year, also had a role to play in tackling the challenges laid out by Dasgupta, such as reforming perverse subsidies, making sure money flows into sustainable economic activity, and ensuring that consumption and production are sustainable.

“There are lots of big underlying issues beyond the relatively straightforward ones that often grab the headlines, around protecting more of the planet and species recovery programmes. It’s not just a problem of agreeing on a global set of targets and then having national priorities which aren’t aligned with those,” he said.

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European firms are driving offshore wind in Asia—what does this mean for the energy transition?

Asian governments see massive potential in offshore wind, as they ramp up climate action. But to get the industry started they are relying on European expertise. Does this matter?



European companies have played a key role in developing Asian offshore wind projects.
Image: Ingeteam

By [Jason Deign](#)
March 29, 2021

In recent months, China, Japan and South Korea have committed to net-zero carbon emissions targets, and see offshore wind as an increasingly important way to achieving their goals.

This is translating into bumper growth. Offshore wind is one of the fastest growing parts of the energy sector, as Asian nations place their [bets on its tumbling electricity prices and improving technology](#) to meet climate targets.

But a failed pilot has underscored the key role that European companies could play in helping kick-start offshore wind development across Asian markets.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/european-firms-are-driving-offshore-wind-in-asia-what-does-this-mean-for-the-energy-transition/>

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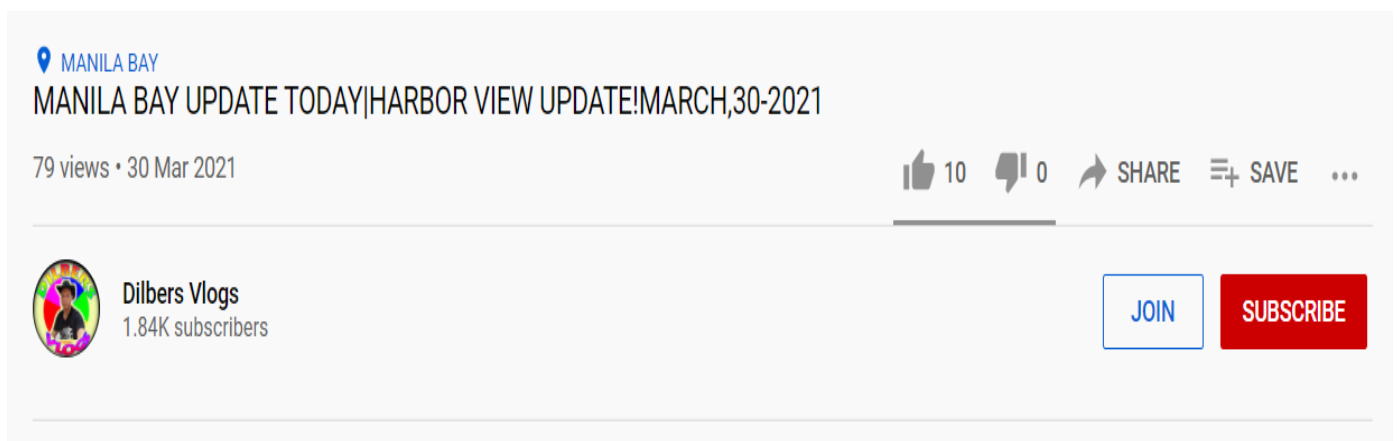
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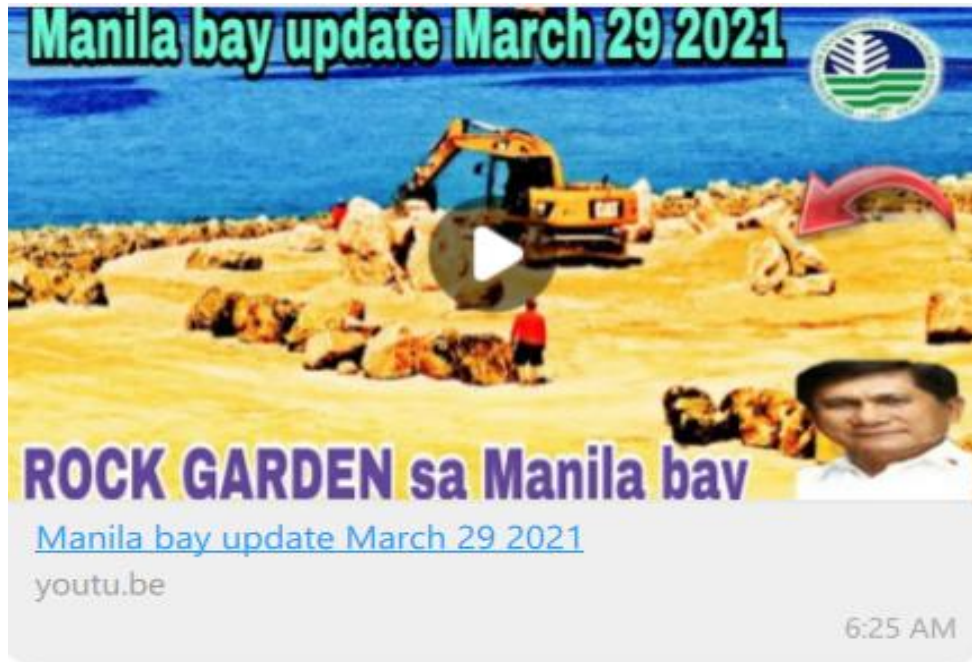
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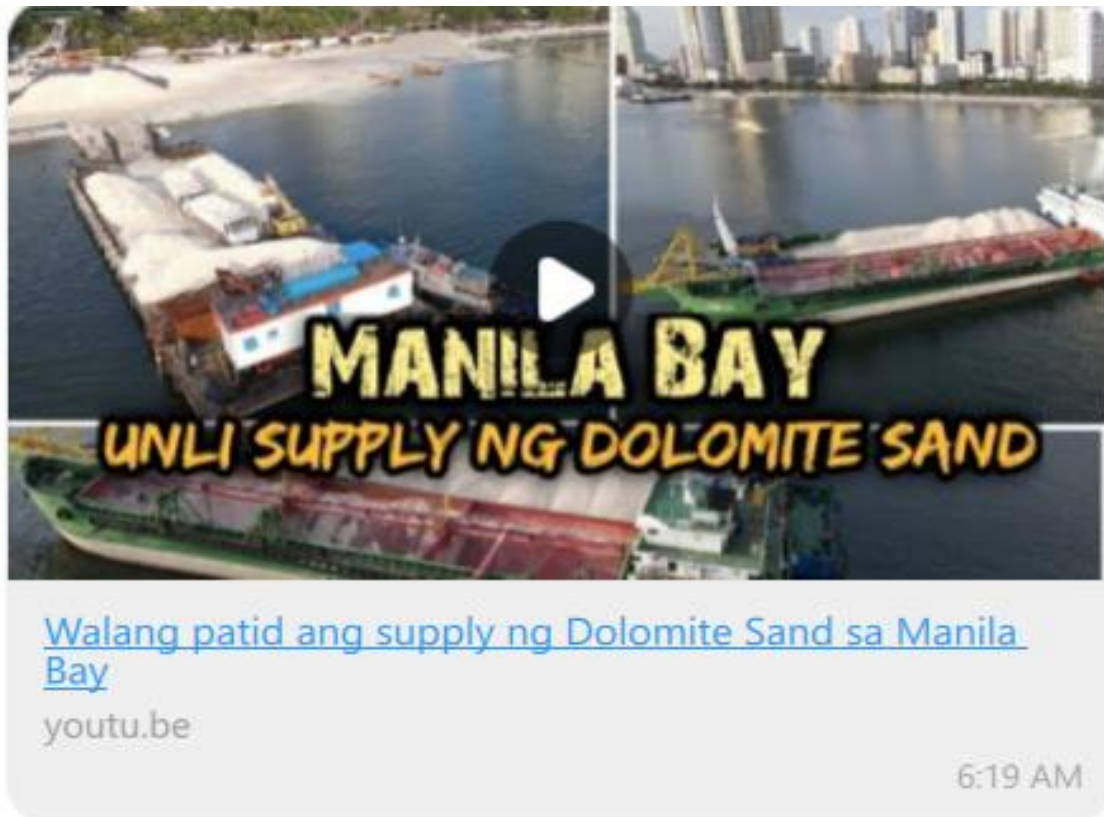
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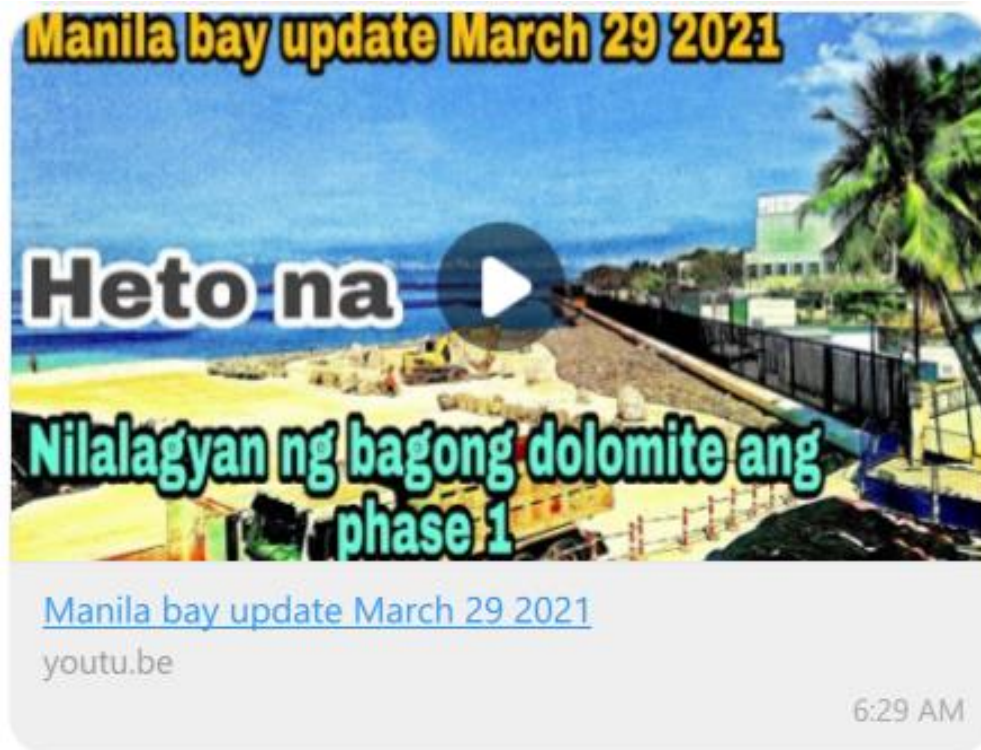
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