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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Green program gets biggest share of DENR 2022 budget

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA SEPTEMBER 28, 2021



Cyclists take selfies in front of the newly installed Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach archway on Roxas Boulevard, which leads to a stretch of artificial white-sand beach on Manila Bay.

The Enhanced National Greening Program or ENGP will get the largest share of the P9.7-billion budget for the priority programs of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as approved by the House of Representatives for the agency's operations next year.

The ENGP will receive a total of P3.68 billion, while the Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation will receive P1.01 billion. The Manila Bay Rehabilitation will get P1.67 billion.

Other priority programs of the DENR and their respective budget allocation next year are Solid Waste Management Program, P1.07 billion; Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-Illegal logging P696.41 million; Improved Land Administration and Management, P415.34 million, and GeoHazard, Groundwater Assessment and Responsible Mining with P407.65-million budget.

Also, the Scaling Up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Programs will get P271.8 million, while Clean Water and Clean Air will be given P315.49 million and P143 million, respectively.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu welcomed the approval of his agency's P25.29-billion proposed budget for 2022 by the House of Representatives after two and a half hours of plenary deliberation on Wednesday, September 22.

"I am very much grateful for all the support extended to us by our lawmakers for the approval of our budget. I am optimistic that the DENR would get the same extent of support from the senators just like their counterparts in the House when they meet at the bicameral conference committee," Cimatu said.

The agency's proposed budget for 2022 will help sustain the country's gains and achieve green growth recovery even in the coming years.

The DENR's 2022 budget, which is 7 percent higher than the agency's 2021 approved budget of P23.59 billion, is sponsored by Aklan Rep. Teodorico Haresco.

Cimatu noted that the DENR has been receiving an average amount of P21.11 billion or 0.79 percent of the national budget for the past 10 years.

"It's way far from what the agency needs to fully realize its mandate, but we will soldier on to give vital support to the government's sustainable development programs," Cimatu pointed out.



Nevertheless, the DENR chief said the proposed budget will help the department fulfill its water resilience and water security programs to adapt to climate change and recover from the setback caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

“We shall be focusing on the strategic thrust of water resilience and water security to heighten integrated watershed management, promote sustainable livelihood for the upland communities, address pollution, protect wildlife and biodiversity,” he stressed.

Under the budget, priority support will also be given to 24 climate-vulnerable provinces under the Risk Resiliency Program according to the Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) Roadmap.

These are Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Sarangani, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Bukidnon, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, Sulu, Lanao del Sur, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Catanduanes and Siquijor.

These provinces have been identified based on high poverty incidence, high risks to climate hazards, situated in critical watersheds, and with existing convergence sites.

Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Iloilo, and Metro Davao are also part of the “priority geographic focus” to address the carrying capacities of these major urban hubs.

By expense class, 38.43 percent or P9.72 billion of the 2022 proposed budget will be allocated for personnel services, P9.91 billion (39.21 percent) for maintenance and other operating expenses, and P5.65 billion (22.36 percent) for capital outlay.

Image courtesy of Roy Domingo



Vulnerable countries urged to lead fight vs. climate change

September 29, 2021, 7:05 pm



DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III

MANILA – Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on climate-vulnerable countries to “lead the charge” in saving the planet from the worsening climate crisis and to demand from rich nations largely responsible for this global emergency to fulfill their pledge of providing the massive financing needed to accomplish this goal.

In his statement at the opening of the Ministerial Dialogue of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Wednesday, Dominguez also urged these countries, which include the Philippines, to work together in building a “global insurance safety net” that will enable them to access affordable financing arrangements, investments, and technologies to reverse the devastating effects of climate change.

“This Climate Vulnerable Forum, consisting of countries most threatened by the ill effects of global warming, has the golden opportunity to serve as a world leader in this fight against climate change. Let us lead the charge now and show the rest of the global community how simultaneous and concerted actions can make a lasting impact in saving the only planet we have,” Dominguez said during the virtual CVF-Asia Regional Dialogue.

Co-hosted by the Philippines and Bangladesh, which chairs CVF, the three-day Asia Regional Dialogue aims to identify and promote headline climate change policy priorities for vulnerable developing countries of the region ahead of critical multilateral global policy events in 2021, such as the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to be held starting October 31 in Glasgow, Scotland.

“We must now demand the wealthier countries to raise the financing to support the achievement” of the respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement of climate-vulnerable economies, said Dominguez, who represents the Philippines in the CVF.

NDCs embody the efforts of signatories to the Paris agreement to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

“Those countries that contribute the most to greenhouse gas emissions must bear the greater burden for mitigating the planet’s warming. Those most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change should receive the most urgent support. These are the essential components of climate justice,” Dominguez said.



The Ministerial Dialogue provides an opportunity for Ministers of CVF member and observer-countries in the region to exchange on challenges, successes, and experiences in climate change policy and develop collective policy priorities.

Dominguez said climate-vulnerable countries “need to work together to come up with new financial frameworks in order to build a global insurance safety net.”

“We should be able to devise a toolkit of innovative, responsive, affordable, and accessible financial solutions to mitigate the adverse effects of climate events on vulnerable nations. The toolkit should be able to assist the developing countries through financing arrangements, investments and technology transfers,” he said.

Dominguez said the discussion among developing nations “facing the most severe consequences of global warming” while bearing the least responsibility for the pollution caused by industrialization, “underscores the inseparability of our efforts to mitigate global warming and our demand for climate justice.”

Citing the Philippines as an example, he said the country contributes only about 3/10 of 1 percent to total global greenhouse gas emissions.

But as an archipelago sitting on both the typhoon belt and the Pacific Ring of Fire, the Philippines is most exposed to the adverse effects of climate change.

This is evident in the Philippines’s 9th-place ranking among 181 nations in the 2020 World Risk Index, which lists the countries most affected by extreme weather events; and in its 4th-place status in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, which named the Top 10 countries most severely hit by extreme weather events from 2000 to 2019.

Taking these grim realities into account, Dominguez said the Philippines committed an ambitious NDC of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent over the next decade.

“This ambitious goal will require comprehensive policy changes and a whole-of-nation approach,” said Dominguez, who is also chairperson-designate of the Philippines’ Climate Change Commission (CCC).

Included in this “whole-of-nation” approach is the Duterte administration’s push for the Congressional passage of a bill that will ban single-use plastics to provide every Filipino the opportunity to directly help in saving the world’s environment; and an ongoing study on possible financing mechanisms to enable the government to improve the generating capacity of a hydropower plant in Mindanao.

A concomitant goal is to acquire and repurpose coal-fired power plants in Mindanao so it can shift most of its energy requirements to hydropower, and eventually spur investments from companies seeking to expand their operations in areas powered by clean energy, Dominguez said.

He said the board of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC), which he chairs, will also work on expanding the assets and crops it covers so that Filipino farmers can be given adequate financial protection from economic losses arising from climate change while reinforcing the country’s risk and resilience efforts. **(PR)**



Green groups ask Duterte to order immediate release of banned plastics list

September 29, 2021 | 8:30 pm



PHILSTAR

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS have requested President Rodrigo R. Duterte to compel the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to immediately release the list of products deemed environmentally-unacceptable.

In a letter shared with reporters, seven environment groups including EcoWaste Coalition, Greenpeace Philippines and Oceana Philippines, named 10 single-use products which must be included in the list.

These are: labo bags, bags including oxo-degradable plastics; cutlery; straws; stirrers; bottles, cups and plates; thin plastic take-out containers; styrofoam or polystyrene food containers; and sachet, packaging or multilayered products.

“It has been twenty years since the passage of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or RA (Republic Act) 9003. However, implementation still falls short,” the groups told the President in their letter.

Under the RA 9003, the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) is required to prepare the non-environmentally acceptable products (NEAP) within a year of the law’s enactment and provide yearly updates.

The environment groups said that the NSWMC’s mandate has been “long overdue,” adding that 96 local government units have urged the commission to release the NEAP list. So far, the NSWMC has come up with a resolution classifying plastic soft drink straws and stirrers as the first two products under the NEAP.

The chairman of the NSWMC is Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, while Environment Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda is the commission’s alternate chairman.

In August, Mr. Antiporda said he has ordered the NSWMC and Solid Waste Management Division to publish the NEAP in two newspapers of national circulation.

BusinessWorld reached out to the department for updates on the target date of the NEAP’s publication, but it has not yet replied as of press time. — **Angelica Y. Yang**

Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/green-groups-ask-duterte-to-order-immediate-release-of-banned-plastics-list/>



Green groups urge Palace anew to order ban on single-use plastics

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA SEPTEMBER 30, 2021



Large plastic bags contain single-use plastics

Environmental groups has asked President Duterte to order the immediate release of Non-environmentally Acceptable Products and Packaging (NEAPP) that will effectively ban single-use plastics in the Philippines.

Through a letter addressed to Malacañang, leaders of the groups EcoWaste Coalition, Break Free from Plastic, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Greenpeace Philippines, Health Care Without Harm South East Asia, Mother Earth Foundation, and Oceana Philippines urged Duterte to direct the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) to effect the ban on single-use plastic.

“This mandate is two decade long overdue and the Commission only listed plastic soft drink straw and stirrer in February. The plastic pollution crisis should be addressed as urgently as Covid-19 response. The longer we don’t ban single-use plastics, the worse it will get,” Coleen Salamat of EcoWaste Coalition said in a news statement.

The groups listed 10 items that should be included in the ban.

These include plastic “labo” bags, plastic bags including oxo-degradable plastics, plastic cutleries: spoon, fork, and knives, plastic straws, plastic stirrers, plastic bottles plastic cups and plates, thin plastic take-out containers styrofoam or polystyrene food containers, and sachet, packaging, or products that are multilayered with other materials.

They said that plastic is not just a waste management issue but a climate and health concern as well that continues to worsen due to the pandemic.

So far, 95 local governments have issued resolutions urging the NSWMC to release the NEAPP list and include single-use plastics.

“Our oceans are already drowning in plastics. Our existing environmental laws are powerful, it is powerful enough to end the plastic crisis. Still, the implementation falls short. The Commission is composed of 14 national government agencies. RA 9003 was passed 21 years ago but to date, not much has been done to address the perils of plastic pollution,” Atty. Gloria Estenzo Ramos, vice president of Oceana said.



“We respectfully note that in 2019 during a Cabinet meeting on climate change, a pronouncement was made that the administration will push for a ban on single-use plastics. We are reaching out to the Office of the President as his [President Duterte’s] term comes to an end. To truly address the plastic and climate crisis, we have to stop it at the source. We sincerely hope that the administration will follow through on this promise,” Salamat added.

Image courtesy of BusinessMirror file photo



Photos of Manila Bay's polluted mangroves show there's more work that needs to be done

Coconuts Manila

Wed, 29 September 2021, 3:39 pm-1 min read



It has been a year since the shores of Manila Bay have been dumped with 389 million pesos worth of crushed dolomite to pass off as white sand — a beautification project by the DENR that has raised eyebrows among marine conservationists, scientists, and anyone else who dares to question why the government would spend an equivalent of \$8 million for fake sand in the time of a pandemic.

And while the public's indignation towards the Manila Bay dolomite beach brouhaha has been refueled by the "MANILABAYWALKDOLOMITEBEACH" issue, these photos demonstrate why the present problem goes beyond a 500-meter stretch of sand and an absurd entrance sign.

Photos by Diuvs de Jesus, a marine biologist and member of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, showcase the Navotas mudflats and mangroves in a dire and polluted state. The Navotas mudflats make up part of the Manila Bay coast.

Like the rest of Manila Bay, the Navotas mudflats is a sanctuary for thousands of migratory birds, with about 90 species seeking shelter here during migratory season.

Diuvs wrote on Facebook, "Spending millions for the dolomite beach in the disguise of 'cleanup' when other parts of Manila Bay's mangroves and mudflats are threatened by plastic pollution and reclamation? "Development" in exchange of destroying our ecosystems?"

These mudflats of Navotas are almost filled now with filling materials for reclamation. This haven for migratory birds will soon be buildings."

Calls to rehabilitate the Navotas bird haven have been made for years. These recent photos prove that even after spending 389 million pesos, nothing has really changed.



Diuvs De Jesus
on Saturday

Spending millions for the dolomite beach in the disguise of "cleanup" other parts of Manila Bay's mangroves and mudflats are threatened plastic pollution and reclamation? "Development" in exchange of de our ecosystems?

These mudflats of Navotas are almost filled now with filling materia reclamation. This haven for migratory birds will soon be buildings.

#ManilaBay #savemanilabay #mangroves #plastics #marinelitter #philippines ... See More

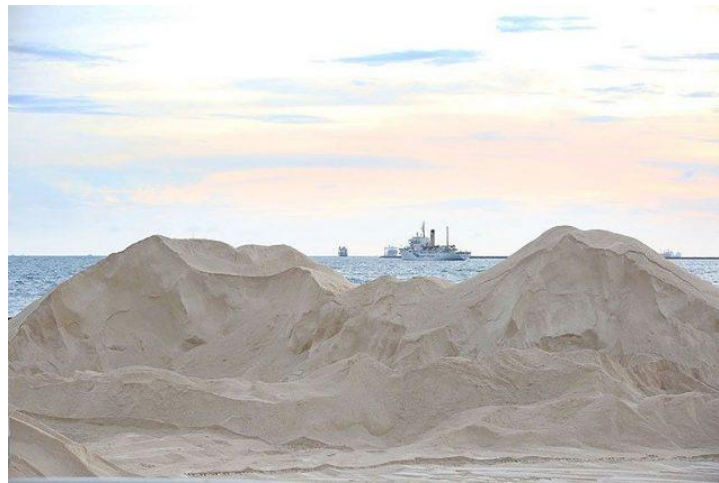


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Writ of Kalikasan could force environmental impact study of Manila Bay dolomite beach

September 29, 2021 | 9:02 pm



PHILSTAR

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (Agham) said it may apply for the issuance of a writ of kalikasan against the government's Manila Bay dolomite beach, with a view towards triggering an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

“(The issuance of the) writ of kalikasan... activates discovery measures. It will hopefully get the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to conduct an EIA (and) produce all of the documents related to the project,” Tara Alessandra S. Abrina, an Agham member, said in a briefing Wednesday.

A writ of kalikasan may be issued by the courts to an individual or group on the basis of the constitutional right to a balanced and healthy ecology, in the event such rights are violated or threatened. Parties holding this legal remedy may file a motion for the inspection of documents or an inspection of the area.

The beach project has yet to undergo an EIA, with a scientist from the UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) confirming that the DENR has not made any attempts to contact the institute to conduct such an assessment.

Marine science professor Maria Lourdes San Diego-McGlone said that UP MSI Director Laura T. David made no mention in a recent meeting of any attempts by the Environment to seek the expertise of the institute in conducting any assessment of the project.

Last year, the DENR said the dolomite beach did not need to undergo an environmental impact study since it is a rehabilitation, not construction project.

Agham's Ms. Abrina said the presence of dolomite sand in the bay will likely increase the suspended solids in the water, affecting the feeding and survival of fish and other marine organisms.

Citing its recent policy paper, Agham said that the dolomite overlay has shifted the priority and resources to tourism, rather than the Supreme Court-ordered restoration of the bay's water to “recreational water class 1” or “Class SB” levels.



“While marine science and biology experts from public institutions and the academe have expressed their concern for the dolomite project, the Duterte government remains firm in defending and even requested an additional budget for the project,” it said in a statement Wednesday.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte named the dolomite beach a priority project in his State of the Nation Address, with an additional P265 million of funds allotted for its second phase.
— **Angelica Y. Yang**



Scientists ask DENR to release assessment on dolomite beach

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

Published September 29, 2021 2:34pm



Mamila Bay dolomite beach

A group of scientists on Wednesday called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to release an environmental impact screening (EIS) on the dolomite project in Manila Bay.

In a statement, AGHAM-Advocates of Science and Technology for the People said that a Writ of Kalikasan may be petitioned against the project if the DENR refused to conduct the EIS.

“With plans to extend the area of the overlay project, it is incumbent upon the DENR to tap these resources and publicly release an EIS before expanding,” AGHAM said.

“Otherwise, a Writ of Kalikasan, which is another special civil action on environmental cases, may be petitioned, particularly to motion for discovery measures such as an ocular inspection or production of documents,” it added.

The writ of kalikasan is a remedy for unlawful actions that violate the right to a balanced and healthful ecology.

In a press conference, Dr. Caroline Jaraula from UP Marine Science Institute’s (UPMSI) said the “impact of dolomite on fisheries and marine habitats should be examined.”

DENR - Environment Management Bureau director William Cuñado in 2020 said that a [certificate of non-coverage for EIS was issued](#) for the Manila Bay project.

AGHAM recently published a paper on its assessment on the DENR project.

The paper “emphasizes the importance of impact assessments and stakeholder engagement in project design and implementation.”

It also cites “the wealth of information on Manila Bay from years of research, especially by the DENR’s own agencies” as “sufficient for an analysis with little marginal cost for assessment.”

AGHAM Diliman’s Tara Abrina presented data showing that the natural sediments movements in Manila Bay will affect the dolomite overlay and that the coastal hazards might hasten the dispersal of the sand.



Abrina also pointed out that the water quality on Manila Bay, particularly on the Roxas Boulevard portion, is still below the target of the Mandamus ruling.

AGHAM's paper concluded that the short term and temporary nature of beach nourishment as coastal protection must be weighed against its costs.

It pointed out that the DENR shifted priority and resources to tourism resources from the Mandamus and Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan water quality and waste targets.

The group said the dolomite project is still subject to assessment.

In 2020, environmental groups also said it was also considering filing a writ of kalikasan to stop the dolomite project. —**LBG, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/805068/scientists-ask-denr-to-release-assessment-on-dolomite-beach/story/?fbclid=IwAR3JvGyV8r5HvEqjQnqlD9I9ZyyS0eMPeAFUln4bEULCRSnNINvLP6M7w-Y>



 **DZRH News** ✓
21h · 🌐

LOOK: Tinakpan ng garbage bag ang 'ManilaBayWalkDolomiteBeach' arch matapos batikusin ng netizens dahil walang 'spacing' ang kada salita sa arko nito. | Report at kuha ni RH6 Sherwin Alfaro #DZRHNationwide



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USAID opens opportunities for Pinays in solid waste sector

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora **September 29, 2021, 5:22 pm**



SOLID WASTE. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Acting Mission Director Sean Callahan joins government and civil society partners for the virtual launch of a new USAID project on Wednesday (Sept. 29, 2021). The PHP75-million project would help women working in Metro Manila’s solid waste and recycling sectors gain access to business and livelihood opportunities. *(Photo courtesy of US Embassy in Manila)*

MANILA – The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on Wednesday has launched a PHP75-million project that would help women working in Metro Manila’s solid waste and recycling sectors gain access to business and livelihood opportunities.

The four-year Women in Waste’s Economic Empowerment (WWE) project would provide business and personal empowerment training, as well as funding and mentorship opportunities so that women in these sectors can continue to support their families and further contribute to the country’s economy.

“USAID is pleased to work with the government of the Philippines, private sector, and non-governmental organizations to advance gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, all while turning the tide on ocean plastics,” USAID Acting Mission Director Sean Callahan said.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the EcoWaste Coalition and the Johns Hopkins University Self-Empowerment and Equity for Change (SEE Change) Initiative.

Joining Callahan during the launch were partners from the local governments of Parañaque City and Pasig City; Linis Ganda, the widest junk shop network in the Philippines; and the Rotary Club of Alabang Madrigal Business Club.

The Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority will also soon join the program’s roster of supporting partners.

This latest initiative is part of USAID’s five-year, USD48-million (approximately PHP2.4-billion) Clean Cities, Blue Ocean (CCBO) program, which works globally to target plastic pollution.

In the Philippines, CCBO is working with partners in three engagement sites —Manila Bay (via Las Piñas and Pasig Cities), Batangas Province and City, and Iloilo Province and City — to identify, test, and scale locally-driven solutions to promote the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and enhance solid waste management systems. **(PNA)**

Source:

https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1155078?fbclid=IwAR1aTnWYlfz3nsxOlx_agzaHABfMQ7LtC4Sgsk_xq0Mr4NIK7cvupEhzcWE



OpinYon Batangas

September 28 at 5:10 PM · 🌐



Batangas Province nanguna sa USAID-SIBOL training-workshop project

BATANGAS City – Dahil sa maayos at komprehensibong pangangalaga ng sa Inang Kalikasan, naimbitahan ang Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PGENRO) upang manguna sa isang virtual Training-Workshop on Ecosystem Services Assessment, Accounting, Valuation, and Policy ang Philippines Sustainable Interventions for Biodiversity, Oceans, and Landscape (SIBOL).

Dumalo sa pagsasanay ang mga kinatawan ng mga lokal na pamahalaan sa baybaying dagat ng Batangas, government agencies, marine protected area (MPA) managers, mangingisda, organisasyon at mamamayan upang mabigyan sila ng sapat na kaalaman para sa iba't-ibang mapagkukunan ng mga alternatibong livelihood mula sa maayos na pamamahala at pangangalaga ng mga MPAs at ng buong karagatan, katulad ng umiiral ngayon sa mga Bayan ng Mabini at Tingloy.

Ang SIBOL ay isang proyekto ng United States Agency for International Development (USAID), na inilunsad upang suportahan ang sustainable management ng mga likas na yaman ng Pilipinas at labanan ang mga environmental crimes.

Binigyang-diin sa presentasyon kung paano nabuo ang conservation fee scheme ng Tingloy at Mabini, na inilalaan naman ng mga nasabing LGUs sa mga programa at gawain na may kaugnayan sa pamamahala ng mga MPAs, tulad ng installation at maintenance ng mga markers at boya, financial support sa mga Bantay Dagat, procurement at maintenance ng patrol boats, mga pagpupulong at pagsasanay, paglilinis ng ilalim at baybaying dagat, IEC campaigns, at development projects para sa turismo.

Dulot ng pangangailangang mapangalagaan ang kapaligiran, na dinadayo ng mga turista at pinakikinabangan ng mga mangingisda, nagkaroon ng mga pagkilos sa dalawang bayan tungo sa wastong conservation management. Naging katulong dito ang environmental groups na Haribon Foundation at World Wildlife Philippines.

Matapos ang maraming pagpupulong, konsultasyon, data gathering at public hearings, naipasa ng mga pamahalaang local ng Mabini at Tingloy ang Unified Municipal Ordinance, na nagpahintulot na sumingil ng conservation fees mula sa mga divers.

Noong 2003, ang daily dive pass ay nagkakahalaga ng ₱100 habang ang annual dive pass ay ₱1,800. Naging ₱200 at ₱3,400 ang mga ito mula 2015 hanggang sa kasalukuyan. Pinaghahatian ang naiipong pondo ng Mabini at Tingloy.

Sa tulong din ng conservation fees, mas naisaayos ang mga imprastruktura at mga kagamitan, na mas nagpalakas pa sa tourist industry dito. Kaugnay ng paglago ng economic activities, ang mga mangingisda ay naging mga dive boat operators at boatmen, ang mga kalalakihan ay nagkaroon ng trabaho bilang mga dive guides at waiters, at ang mga kababaihan ay naglilinis at nagluluto sa mga resorts. Higit sa lahat, nabawasan ang mga banta at iba pang mapanirang gawain na kaugnay sa pangangisda.

Ang ganitong pamamaraan ay ginagawa na rin sa iba pang mga bayan sa lalawigan na nasa tabing dagat, tulad ng Calatagan, Bauan, San Luis, Lian, Lobo, San Juan at Batangas City, samantalang ang ibang mga bayan ay naghahanda na rin para mangolekta ng conservation fees.

Ayon sa PGENRO, hindi naging madali ang mga pinagdaang gawain kaya ang mga bayan ng Mabini at Tingloy ay nananatiling masigasig at magkakatulong, kaagapay ang lahat ng mga mamamayan at mga gumagamit ng karagatan, upang maabot ang tuloy-tuloy na tagumpay at benepisyong natatamo nila hanggang sa kasalukuyan, sa kabila ng pandemya. (IAm/OpBats)

#USAID #SIBOL #BatangasNews #opinyonnews #OpinYonBatangas



Batangas Province nanguna sa USAID-SIBOL train- ing-workshop project

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MORE POLLUTION | Legal action mulled to stop PAREX over environmental issues, says expert

September 29, 2021 , 03:29 PM

By Beatrice Puenta

(September 29, 2021) – Various groups have started exploring legal options to oppose the construction of the Pasig River Expressway (PAREX) over its drastic impact on the environment, an urban planner said on Tuesday, stressing that the fund poured into the project could have been used for other purposes.

Paulo Alcazaren, a landscape architect, stressed that the big-ticket infrastructure plan might do more harm than good contrary to what the project proponents say. Alcazaren said PAREX would barely solve the country's traffic woes since it would only cater to provide spaces for cars, not for people's mobility.

"Building more roads will not ease traffic unless we refocus our infrastructure building to public transport and non-motorized pedestrian lanes," said Alcazaren on One News' The Chiefs. "It brings pollution to a corridor that didn't have air pollution and compromises the integrity of the Pasig River as a floodway."

PAREX, a 19.37-kilometer expressway, is a joint-venture infrastructure project with Ramon Ang's San Miguel Corporation (SMC), which will fund the P95-billion project. President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to sign it by next month, according to Bataan Rep. Jose Enrique Garcia III on Wednesday.

[Ang](#), one of the wealthiest businessmen in the country, dismissed the criticisms as "lies" as he stressed that they commit to ensuring sustainability in the project. It wasn't the first time that the SMC was hit by environmental concerns for its infrastructure projects as similar issues were raised in its planned airport and aerocity in Bulacan.

While the project may decongest roads at first, Alcazaren believes the flow of traffic will return to its usual condition after a few months. He also dismissed Ang's statement as a "fickle idea" after receiving criticisms on social media.

"Traffic is not the problem. It's the lack of a comprehensive mass transport system. You must change the paradigm from one that looks at moving cars to one that moves people and to get away from the mindset that's catering to the cars," explained Alcazaren.

Alcazaren also hit the "token" consultations that the government conducts before approving huge projects, depriving the public of their right to know. He also lamented the lack of publicly accessible documents.

He advised Ang to spend his money on other opportunities such as improving the Metro Rail Transit-7 that extends along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City up until San Jose del Monte in Bulacan. Alcazaren particularly hit the project's lack of intermodal systems with other means of public transport.

"Everyone has now thrown in their hats and supported the 'No to PAREX Movement' so I believe it would happen. Hopefully, it will be nipped in the bud. Mr. Ang has other things he could spend the P95 billion on—it's not as if there aren't any other opportunities for him," said Alcazaren.

(PM)

Source: https://news.tv5.com.ph/breaking/read/more-pollution-legal-action-mulled-to-stop-parex-over-environmental-issues-says-expert?fbclid=IwAR0AFKp2W-Lf7IQSzf1epKFcGXHrfCeqxxGz_toia758MLOUJQ9bhMvsqY



Groups say San Miguel's Pasig River Expressway project to impact environment

Bruce Rodriguez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Sep 29 2021 06:14 PM



Artist's rendering of the proposed Pasig River Expressway. *Handout photo*

MANILA – Metro Manila may face hotter temperatures and more severe flooding if the proposed Pasig River Expressway (PAREX) pushes through, according to groups that are opposing the project.

Seventy six groups and nearly 1,000 individuals have banded together to urge government to scrap the project proposed by San Miguel Corporation, saying the new tollway would "kill" the Pasig River, the capital region's main river system which is already suffering from severe pollution.

In an online press briefing, former customs commissioner Sunny Sevilla, who is now part of the Move As One Coalition said, their position is that no part of the Pasig river should be obstructed.

"Kahit anong scenario, kahit mismo doon sa mga larawan na inilabas ng San Miguel noong kanilang groundbreaking (ceremony), makikita naman po six-lane expressway po ito. Wala naman pong lugar sa baybay. So talagang na sa ibabaw po ng river 'yun," Sevilla added.

(In any scenario, even with the photos released by San Miguel during their groundbreaking ceremony, you would see it's a six-lane expressway. There's no more space along the riverbanks so it would be constructed over the river.)

RJ Mallari of Greenpeace Philippines said the project would harm Metro Manila's climate resiliency, and cause more urban heat and flooding.

"Kaunting pagbabago lang po sa channel ng mga ilog na 'yan pwede pong magdulot ng pagbabago sa sistema sa pagdaloy ng tubig."

(Any small change to the channel of the river might cause a change in the system of how the water flows.)

Mallari warned this may exacerbate the already severe flooding problem in some parts of Metro Manila.

Sevilla said they've received no response to the several letters they have sent to government including the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) as well as San Miguel president and CEO Ramon Ang.

SMC has already secured approval for the project from the TRB, and broke ground for its construction last September 24.

San Miguel has maintained that the PAREX project will not just address the traffic congestion problem in Metro Manila but also help rehabilitate Pasig River.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/business/09/29/21/groups-hit-san-miguels-pasig-river-expressway-project>



Government told: Review decision to allow black sand offshore mining in Lingayen Gulf

BY JASPER Y. ARCALAS SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan on Monday joined calls for the government to reconsider its decision of approving an offshore mining project in Lingayen Gulf, which it argued would be detrimental to the country's food security and fish production.

The group argued that the project that seeks to extract 25 million dry metric tons of black sand per year in Lingayen Gulf would endanger the aquaculture and fisheries industries in the area, affecting the livelihood of a lot of fisherfolk.

The group explained that the Lingayen Gulf has around 3,000 cages for bangus, thousands of hectares and fishponds, hundreds of fishpens with an estimated production from bangus cages alone at 125,000 to 150,000 metric tons.

The group added that the gulf is one of the country's major fishing grounds covering 2,064 square kilometers of water, surrounded by the towns of Agoos, Alaminos, Anda, Aringay, Bani, Bauang, Binmaley, Bolinao, Caba, Dagupan, Labrador, Lingayen, Rosario, San Fabian, San Fernando (La Union), Santo Tomas, and Sual.

"At a farm-gate price of P110 per kilo, revenue from bangus production in Pangasinan alone is at least P16.5 billion. We're very much concerned about the danger that this project poses to both the aquaculture and fisheries industries and the livelihood of fishers and aquaculture operators in the gulf," said Norberto Chingcuanco, Tugon Kabuhayan's co-convenor.

"We're asking the national government to reconsider its decision to approve the project's implementation. It will adversely impact the livelihood of fisherfolk especially since excavation will be allowed from 500 meters from shore seaward," Chingcuanco added.

On top of this, the group argued that the gulf is home to coral reef, sea grass, and a spawning and nursery grounds for various important fish species.

"If we do not prevent the possible destruction of our coral reefs, livelihood and food security will be threatened," it said.

"It's difficult to comprehend why some government agencies would allow a project that will further compromise our fish food security especially since the government is projecting that we need to import fish in the coming months," it added.

The group noted that former President Fidel Ramos declared Lingayen Gulf, through Proclamation 156 of 1993, "as an area to be devoted to sustain production of fish and other marine products, preserve genetic diversity, protect natural features, and enhance outdoor recreation."

"The sand and other raw materials where magnetite will be extracted also contains eggs, larvae and fry which are abundant in the gulf," it said.

"It is fair to assume that suctioning and processing raw silt along with sea water from where the magnetite will be taken are likely to kill the eggs, larvae, fry as well as small fishes," it added.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/27/government-told-review-decision-to-allow-black-sand-offshore-mining-in-lingayen-gulf/>



Editorial Cartoon September 29, 2021



BY BUSINESSMIRROR EDITORIAL

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

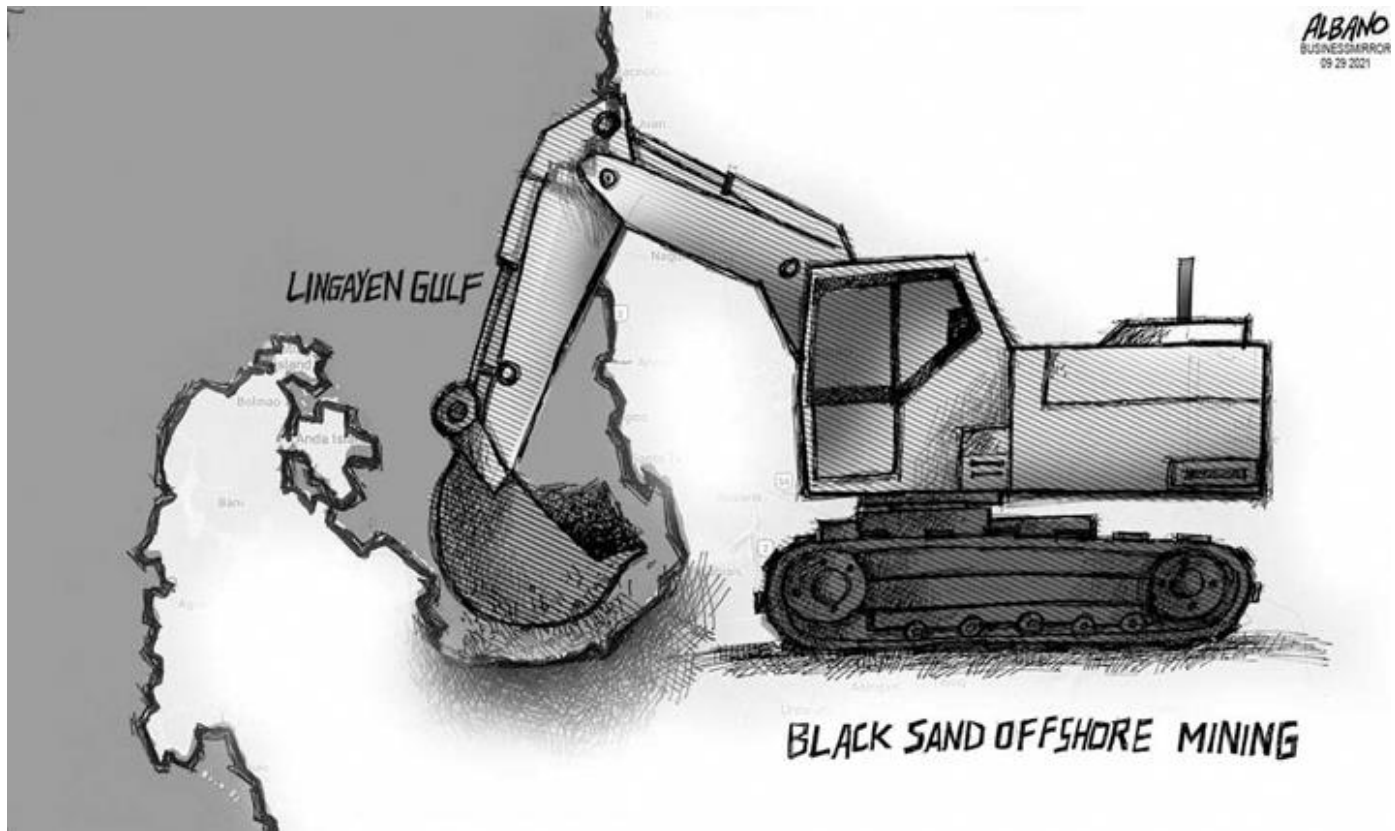


Image courtesy of Jimbo Albano



"Scubasurero"

Nagsagawa ng coastal at underwater clean-up ang mga kawani ng Port of Cebu, Philippine Coast Guard at PNP sa Barangay Agus, Lapu-Lapu City nitong weekend. Bahagi ito ng community service at ilang proyekto ng Port of Cebu para sa pagdiriwang nila sa kanilang 135th founding anniversary.

👤: Bureau of Customs



👍❤️ 83

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Pasintabi po sa mga kumakain. Masangang na amoy ang inirereklamo ng mga nakatira malapit sa Laguna de Bay. Ano kaya ang sanhi niyan? | via Jenny Dongon



YOUTUBE.COM

Mabahong amoy mula sa Laguna de Bay, idinadaing ng mga residente

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Youth call time on decades of 'empty' climate promises

Agence France-Presse September 29, 2021 | 2:56pm



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg delivers a speech as Executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Mexican politician and diplomat Patricia Espinosa (L) and Milan mayor Giuseppe Sala (2ndL) listen during the opening plenary session of the Youth4Climate event on September 28, 2021 in Milan.

AFP / Miguel Medina

MILAN, Italy — Youth activists on Tuesday called out decades of "empty words and promises" from world leaders as they demanded action—and money—to tackle global warming ahead of a pivotal UN climate summit.

With just weeks to go before the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, seen as crucial to the viability of the Paris climate agreement, campaigners used the opening of a three-day event in Milan to lambast governments' failure to address the crisis.

Swedish wunderkind Greta Thunberg slammed governments for "shamelessly congratulating themselves" for insufficient pledges to cut emissions and promises of financing.

Hurling leaders' own words back at them, the 18-year-old laid bare to delegates at the Youth4Climate event the gap between words and action.

"There is no Planet B, there is no planet blah, blah, blah," Thunberg said to warm applause.

Echoing a speech by COP26 summit host Boris Johnson in April, she continued: "This is not about some expensive politically correct dream of bunny hugging, or build back better, blah blah blah, green economy, blah blah blah, net zero by 2050, blah blah blah, climate neutral blah blah blah.

"This is all we hear from our so-called leaders: words, words that sound great but so far have led to no action, our hopes and dreams drowned in their empty words and promises," said Thunberg.

Some 400 youth activists from nearly 200 countries gathered in Milan will submit a joint declaration to a ministerial meeting at the end of the week, as a lead-in to COP26 in November in Glasgow.

"Our leaders' intentional lack of action is a betrayal of all present and future generations," said Thunberg.



She said governments had been "shamelessly congratulating themselves while still failing to come up with the long overdue funding" for developing nations.

Ugandan youth activist Vanessa Nakate echoed Thunberg's exasperation at leaders' lack of urgency.

"How long must children sleep hungry because their farms have been washed away, because their crops have been dried up because of the extreme weather conditions?" she asked attendees.

"How long are we to watch them die of thirst and gasp for air in the floods? World leaders watch this happen and allow this to continue."

'Show us the money'

COP26 is vital for the effective implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, which saw countries commit to limit global temperature rises to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius.

The landmark deal aims for a safer warming cap of 1.5C.

But six years after the accord was struck, countries still haven't agreed how it will work in practice.

Among long-overdue issues still outstanding for COP26 is how each country's carbon cuts will be counted, as well as how the fight against climate change is financed.

Nations already suffering from extreme floods, droughts and storms supercharged by rising seas have called on developed countries at COP26 to make good on a decade-old promise to provide \$100 billion each year to help them recover and adapt.

COP26 President Alok Sharma told delegates on Tuesday that the summit was a chance for "developed countries to make good on their promise of money to support developing countries dealing with rising impact of climate change".

Host Britain says it wants the Glasgow summit to keep the 1.5C temperature goal viable, specifically by seeking a global agreement to phase out coal power.

However the United Nations this month said that the latest round of country emissions reductions plans still puts Earth on course for a "catastrophic" 2.7C of warming.

"It's time for our leaders to stop talking and start acting, it's time for the polluters to pay, it's time to keep promises," said Nakate.

"No more empty promises, no more empty summits, no more empty conferences. It's time to show us the money."



The country that makes breakfast for the world is plagued by frost, drought

BY BLOOMBERG NEWS SEPTEMBER 29, 2021



Fires burn on a farm near environmentally protected land in Sao Paulo state on August 24.

NO country on Earth puts more breakfasts on kitchen tables than Brazil.

The farms that dot the vast plains and highlands that rise above the Atlantic coast produce four-fifths of the world's orange juice exports, half of its sugar exports, a third of coffee exports and a third of the soy and corn used to feed egg-laying hens and other livestock.

So when the region's crops were scorched and then frozen this year by a devastating one-two punch fueled by climate change—the worst drought in a century followed by an unprecedented Antarctic front that repeatedly coated the land in thick frost—global commodity markets shook.

The cost of Arabica beans soared 30 percent over a six-day stretch in late July; orange juice jumped 20 percent in three weeks; and sugar hit a four-year high in August.

The price spikes are contributing to a surge in international food inflation—a United Nations index has jumped 33 percent over the past 12 months—that's deepening financial hardship in the pandemic and forcing millions of lower-income families to scale back grocery purchases across the globe. What's more, the episode is sending an ominous warning of what's to come as scientists anticipate rising global temperatures and declining soil humidity will increasingly wreak havoc on farm lands in Brazil—and much of the rest of the world.

"It's a vicious cycle," says Marcelo Seluchi, a meteorologist at Brazil's Natural Disaster Monitoring and Alert Center. "There is no rain because there is no humidity, and there is no humidity because there is no rain." Deforestation of the Amazon, which ranchers clear cut to raise cattle and plant crops, is playing a big role, he says. By his calculation, Brazil hasn't had a normal rainy season since 2010.

"It's been a very peculiar year," he says. "Floods in Germany and China, and there's a very serious drought problem in Brazil."

There's also drought across the border in Argentina and in Chile, Canada, Madagascar, Mexico and Russia. The United States has been cleaved in two this summer: The West has been ravaged by record heat waves, forest fires and a drought so severe that, like in Brazil, giant lakes and rivers are drying up and straining hydro-electric power; the East, meanwhile, has been drenched by record-setting tropical storms and deadly floods.

"The world is on a very dangerous path," Seluchi says.

All of this, according to a recent study published in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, will lead to a 10-percent decline in crop yields over the next three decades, a period in which the global population is expected to grow more than one-fifth.



The destruction wrought in Brazil provides a glimpse of that future. Between the drought and the frost, crops on some 1.5 million square kilometers of land have been damaged—an area the size of Peru. The coffee losses are the most stunning: as much as 1.3 billion pounds of beans destroyed, enough to brew every single cup that Americans drink over a four-month period.

This has triggered a frantic rush among the world's biggest coffee retailers—companies like Starbucks Corp. and Nestle SA—to secure supplies.

“These guys are scrambling pretty hard,” says Jack Scoville, a trader at commodities broker Price Futures Group in Chicago. Starbucks said in a statement that it always buys months in advance, and Mark Schneider, Nestle's CEO, told investors on a July conference call that the company protected its finances by purchasing hedging contracts that stretch into early next year.

Scoville, though, warned that successfully locking in prices isn't the same as getting enough coffee over the long term. Brazil's poor harvest will roil the market for years, he predicts. He's seeing buyers who normally get all of their beans from Brazil and Vietnam suddenly turn elsewhere to try to make up for shortfalls.

That's exactly the situation that Bader Olabi, a roaster in Istanbul, finds himself in. He's hunting for new suppliers in Colombia, India and Africa to replace the 100 containers of beans he gets from Brazil each year. He knows it won't be easy to convince customers that those coffees are just as good. In Turkey, Olabi says, “Brazilian coffee is the best.”

In Austin, Texas, Greater Goods Coffee Co., a specialty roaster, is planning to raise prices soon to offset the higher cost it had to pay for beans. Sara Gibson, the head roaster, calls it a wake-up call to customers. They'll have to accept higher bills to help make farming more sustainable in the era of climate change, she says. “That's my hill to die on.”

Brazil is now predicting its coffee crop will shrink by more than 25 percent this year. Ground zero for this wipeout was Caconde, a hamlet carved out of the lush hardwood forests of northwestern Sao Paulo state.

Coffee is 80 percent of the economy here. Stand on top of the highest peak and it's coffee farms as far as the eye can see. One of them is a tidy, little plot owned by a 70-year-old former banker by the name of Antonio Ribeiro Goulart.

Goulart lost it all when the frost hit.

The leaves on every single tree he has — some 11,000 in all — went from a vibrant green to a dull brown in the span of 24 hours. One month later, he still seemed in a state of shock. He kept running his hands slowly through the dead branches as he talked. The leaves would crackle and then crumble into tiny pieces. “They were completely spectacular before the frost,” he says softly.

Goulart's family has owned this plot for over a century. He inherited it from his father and settled in after spending some three decades at Banco Bradesco. He was a mid-level sort there, tasked with running a branch in downtown Sao Paulo when he retired ten years ago.

Back in 2019, he had pledged a portion of this year's crop to a supplier that sold him a new husking machine, but that was impossible now. There will be no harvest for Goulart this year or next. Even 2023 is almost certainly lost. He will call the supplier and renegotiate the terms, he said. And then, like thousands of farmers around him, he will lop off all the branches on all the trees in the hope that the trunks sprout new shoots. If they do not, as he fears, he will cut them down to the stump and start from zero.



“There is no other solution,” he says.

Goulart may have loved the way his trees looked before the polar winds swept through, but the truth is the harvest in Caconde was already weak. The drought, which is now in its seventh month, was far too harsh to produce a good crop. Soil humidity was down to a mere 20%. Ideally, that number would be closer to 60 percent, says Ademar Pereira, the head of the local coffee growers’ association.

“We’ve never seen that before,” Pereira says.

When you tally up the accumulated rain shortfall over the past decade across many basins in Brazil, it comes to about a year’s worth of precipitation, according to ONS, the national electrical grid operator. The monsoons that farmers rely on have been arriving later and later each year. The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts this trend will worsen in coming years, with longer dry seasons stretching from central Brazil up into the Amazon.

It was along the outer edge of the rain forest, in a town called Nova Mutum, that Cleverson Bertamoni saw his corn fields go up in smoke one July day.

Bertamoni frantically piled farm hands into his two water trucks and sent them out to douse the fire. Still, it raged on. Bertamoni pleaded for help. His neighbors rushed over 13 more trucks. By the time the flames were finally out, some six hours later, almost 250 acres had been destroyed.

For Bertamoni, 43, it was unlike any fire he’s ever encountered in a career that began when he was a young boy following his parents into their soybean and corn fields. The ground is so dry now, he said, that a simple spark from a combine was enough to trigger the blaze. “It spread so fast.”

Bertamoni suddenly found himself 16,000 bags of corn short of what he had promised to deliver to trading houses in Sao Paulo. The contract stipulated he had to fork over \$120,000 to make up the difference. This wouldn’t work. He didn’t have that kind of cash. So he brokered a deal with them: He’d turn over 20,000 bags from next year’s harvest instead.

Bertamoni is relieved, albeit a bit edgy. It should all work out fine, he figures, just as long as the rains come and he can keep the fires at bay.

Image courtesy of Bloomberg



Preserving biodiversity: Effective, lasting solutions based on science and innovation

BY BUSINESSMIRROR SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Emphasizing the need to “produce more with less,” Qu Dongyu, director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), urged all stakeholders in agri-food systems to upscale science and innovation and find “effective and long-lasting solutions” to support biodiversity.

The agri-food sector is a key player in the management of biodiversity as well as its custodian, he said in his opening remarks at the 18th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). The meeting kicked off on September 27.

The CGRFA is the only permanent intergovernmental body that specifically addresses all biological diversity for food and agriculture, and aims to reach international consensus on policies for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

The week-long session will address an array of issues in relation to genetic resources for food and agriculture. It will focus on devising and implementing global action plans for animal, aquatic, forest and plant genetic resources—and digging deeper into the worlds of micro-organisms and pollinators. The Commission will also consider a policy response to the first-ever global assessment of The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

Biodiversity loss has been associated with the higher risk of zoonotic pathogen emergence as well as reduced resilience in the face of climate change for food crops and livestock. “We are facing a critical time in the planet’s history,” Qu said.

FAO, which hosts the CGRFA, has been actively involved in global fora such as the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD), the One Planet Summit and the World Conservation Congress, and has been fostering dialogue to help Members effectively contribute to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will be considered at a major summit in Kunming, China, in October.

He noted that, within the past 12 months, FAO’s governing bodies have adopted a strategy and an action plan on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

He also emphasized that agriculture plays a positive role in biodiversity conservation, and insisted on policies that could lead it to be an even greater contributor, as well as aimed to form a bridge leading to more food diversity to feed the world’s growing population.

“Biodiversity allows farmers, breeders, scientist and all other stakeholders along the agri-food chain to keep the agri-food systems up and running,” Qu said. “And it is this diversity that forms the basis of innovation and inspires scientists, the private sector, farmers and traders to discover new solutions and make technological breakthroughs.”

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/09/29/preserving-biodiversity-effective-lasting-solutions-based-on-science-and-innovation/>



New lizard species discovered in Peru

Agence France-Presse September 29, 2021 | 8:26am



Undated picture distributed by the Peruvian National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP) on September 28, 2021, of a Liolaemus Warjantay, a new species of lizard discovered in the Cotahuasi Reserve, in Arequipa, Peru. The new species belongs to the genus Liolaemus, characterized for having one of the greatest diversities of known lizards, more than 280 different species, which inhabit much of the surface of South America and have the ability to adapt to an extraordinary variety of habitats.

SERNANP / AFP

LIMA, Peru — Scientists have discovered a new lizard species in Peru, the national conservation agency said Tuesday.

The new species, called Liolaemus warjantay, was found in the Peruvian Andes at an altitude of 4,500 meters (14,700 feet), according to a statement from the National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State.

"A valuable contribution of Peru's protected natural areas to the world is the recent discovery of a new species of lizard," the statement said.

The lizard's head is dark gray, and females have pale yellow eyelids.



Undated picture distributed by the Peruvian National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP) on September 28, 2021, of a Liolaemus Warjantay, a new species of lizard discovered in the Cotahuasi Reserve, in Arequipa, Peru. The new species belongs to the genus Liolaemus, characterized for having one of the greatest diversities of known lizards, more than 280 different species, which inhabit much of the surface of South America and have the ability to adapt to an extraordinary variety of habitats.

SERNANP / AFP





The discovery was registered a few weeks ago in cooperation with scientists from Argentina, Chile and Bolivia.

The Cotahuasi Subbasin Landscape Reserve, where the lizard was found, is a protected area in the Arequipa region in southwestern Peru, with an area of 490,550 hectares (1,900 square miles).



US to declare 23 species, including ivory-billed woodpecker, extinct

Published September 30, 2021 3:27am



File photo photo of a black woodpecker

The ivory-billed woodpecker - not officially seen since 1944 and long sought by birders in the American South - is one of 23 species that would be declared extinct by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under a proposal it announced on Wednesday.

Government scientists have exhausted efforts to find these 23 bird, fish and other species and warned that climate change and dwindling habitats on top of other pressures, could make such disappearances more common, the service said in a statement.

"With climate change and natural area loss pushing more and more species to the brink, now is the time to lift up proactive, collaborative, and innovative efforts to save America's wildlife," said Deb Haaland, US Secretary of the Interior.

Each of the 23 species represents a permanent loss to America's natural heritage, Bridget Fahey, who oversees species classification for the Fish and Wildlife Service, told the New York Times.

"And it's a sobering reminder that extinction is a consequence of human-caused environmental change," Fahey told the newspaper.

The extinctions include 11 birds, eight freshwater mussels, two species of fish, a bat and a plant, the agency said.

The ivory-billed woodpecker, also known to bird watchers as the "Lord God Bird" was America's largest woodpecker but logging of old growth forests in the South destroyed its habitat. Its last confirmed sighting was in 1944 in northeast Louisiana, the service said.

Also on the list is Bachman's warbler, considered one of America's rarest songbirds. It has not been seen since 1962 in the United States. The last documented sighting of the migratory bird was in Cuba in 1981.

Eleven species are proposed to be listed as extinct in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, due to the heightened risks of limited geographic range, the service said.

The wildlife service will accept public comment for the next 60 days and a final judgment will be published Dec. 29, said Brian Hires, a service spokesman.

"These decisions are being made based on the best available science," he said. -- Reuters

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/805157/us-to-declare-23-species-including-ivory-billed-woodpecker-extinct/story/>

30 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



12,805 new coronavirus infections push Philippines caseload to 2.54M

Philstar.com September 29, 2021 | 4:15pm



People camp out along the walkway surrounding the Ali Mall in Quezon City as they wait for the opening of Comelec's satellite voter registration booth on Monday midnight, Sept. 27, 2021.

The STAR / Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Local health authorities on Wednesday reported 12,805 more COVID-19 infections, bringing the national caseload to 2,535,732.

Today's numbers saw active cases up by 200 from the 132,139 reported on September 28. The Department of Health said one laboratory did not submit screening results.

- Active cases: 132,339 or 5.2% of the total
- Recoveries: 12,236, pushing total to 2,365,229
- Deaths: 186, bringing total to 38,164

Gov't looking to vaccinate minors with comorbidities by October 15

- Minors with comorbidities will be the first ones to be vaccinated as the government opens the COVID-19 inoculation program to children, the Department of Health said.
- In a briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said the government is eyeing to begin the administration of COVID-19 jabs to minors with comorbidities in Metro Manila on October 15 because the vaccination coverage in the capital region is already “quite good.”
- Nationwide, a total of 19% of the population has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 — a long way from the 90% the government says must be inoculated to attain herd immunity.



339 more Delta cases recorded – DOH

[Shiela Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star September 30, 2021 | 12:00am



At a press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the new cases detected by the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) bring to 3,366 the total Delta variant cases in the country.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health (DOH) recorded 339 new cases of the highly transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19 in the country yesterday.

At a press briefing, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the new cases detected by the Philippine Genome Center (PGC) bring to 3,366 the total Delta variant cases in the country.

Vergeire said the 339 new cases account for 45.3 percent of the 633 additional cases of P.3 and other variants of concern as sequenced by the PGC out of 748 swab samples.

A total of 186 or 24.9 percent of these are Beta variant cases and 98 or 13.1 percent Alpha variant cases; nine or 1.2 percent, P.3 variant cases, and one was a Gamma variant case.

“This batch is included in the retrospective samples from the months of April to June 2021 to help in our epidemiologic and phylogenetic analysis and mapping that DOH is doing with PGC,” Vergeire said.

Data show there is now a total of 2,920 Beta variant cases; 2,559 Alpha variant cases; 461 P.3 variant cases and three Gamma variant cases.

Among the 633 variant cases, 609 are local cases, 17 are returning overseas Filipinos and seven still for verification.

The DOH said 616 of these cases are listed as recovered, 10 died, five are active cases and two still being verified of their clinical statuses.

Military doctors, nurses

Military medical personnel are already prepared for deployment to different hospitals struggling with a lack of staff to handle COVID-19 patients, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said yesterday.

Col. Fatima Claire Navarro, AFP surgeon general, said an agreement with the DOH and hospitals requesting assistance will be finalized for details on the fielding of military doctors and nurses.

Navarro said the document would define the specific number of military doctors, nurses and nursing aides to be deployed as needed by hospitals concerned and the duration of their services.



The agreement, which will be implemented by the AFP Health Service Command as guided by the Office of the Surgeon General, “will further define the scope of cooperation and is borne out of the experiences and exigencies of our two agencies, such as our deployment of AFP medical teams and personnel to augment efforts in Cebu and Davao,” she said.

Recently, President Duterte asked Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to prepare AFP medical personnel for deployment to hospitals in need of more medical staff.

Likewise, licensed nurses serving in the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) have been deployed to augment the workforce in private hospitals dealing with big COVID-19 caseloads.

Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, Department of the Interior and Local Government spokesman, said a total of 154 BFP nurses were deployed to 27 hospitals nationwide to augment short-staffed facilities even before President Duterte’s directive to the uniformed services.

“We want to assure the President that he can rely on the BFP in the augmentation of understaffed hospitals. On top of the currently deployed BFP nurses, we still have 14 remaining licensed nurses to be deployed,” he said.

Malaya said that seven other hospitals have also requested for the services of uniformed nurses.

In the National Capital Region, 18 BFP nurses were deployed since Aug. 31. Twelve of them were split between the Muntinlupa and Las Piñas City Health Offices as vaccinators, and six others joining the nursing staff of the Medical Center Muntinlupa.

The other nurses are deployed in various hospitals nationwide, including Cagayan Valley, Mimaropa (Mindoro provinces, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan or Region 4B), Bicol, Western and Eastern Visayas regions and Davao region. – **Michael Punongbayan, Romina Cabrera**



COVID-19 vaccination for minors aged 12 to 17 to start with kids with health risks

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com September 29, 2021 | 1:14pm



Pfizer vaccines are shown prior to its preparation during the vaccination program for A1 to A3 priority categories at Mandaluyong mega vaccination site just near Mandaluyong City Hall on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Minors with comorbidities will be the first ones to be vaccinated as the government opens the COVID-19 inoculation program to children, the Department of Health said Wednesday.

“The DOH confirmed that pediatric vaccination will start among 12 to 17 year olds with comorbidities as part of priority group A3,” the agency said in a statement.

“Expansion beyond this group will follow once adequate coverage of the A2 priority group or senior citizens has been achieved nationwide and vaccine supply becomes sufficient to include children,” it added.

In a briefing, Health Undersecretary Myrna Cabotaje said the government is eyeing to begin the administration of COVID-19 jabs to minors with comorbidities in Metro Manila on October 15 because the vaccination coverage in the capital region is “quite good.”

The department said that children and their parents or guardians should sign consent forms for vaccination. Medical certificates must be also presented.

Minors with health risks will receive vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna, the only two brands that secured emergency use authorizations for adolescents aged 12 to 17 in the country.

The government also widened the vaccination program to include adults not previously prioritized for COVID-19 jabs.

Currently, the inoculation drive in the country covers health workers, senior citizens, people with comorbidities, essential workers and indigents.

Since March 20.8 million people have so far completed vaccination against COVID-19, while 23.9 million have received partial protection.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/09/29/2130556/covid-19-vaccination-minors-aged-12-17-start-kids-health-risks>



POLICE POWER LABAN SA AYAW MAGPABAKUNA AT ANTI-BAKUNA



September 29, 2021 @ 8:47 PM 10 hours ago

SINUSUPPORTAHAN natin ang pahayag ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na posibleng gagamitin nito ang police power laban sa mga taong kumontra sa programang pagbabakuna laban sa COVID-19 at piling magbabakuna ang mga ayaw nito.

Sa kasalukuyan, boluntaryo ang pagpapabakuna at marami ang sumasalang rito para maligtas sa pagkakasakit o pagkakaospital o kamatayan sa virus.

Inaasahang magkakaroon ng 135 milyong dose sa Disyembre 2021 kaya kung mabilis ang pagbabakuna, magkakaroon ng maraming bakunado na may doble turok at isang turok.

Sa nakalipas na anim na buwan, lumagpas na sa 20.3M ang doble bakunado samantalang mahigit na sa 22.5M ang may isang turok.

Sa kabuuan, mahigit nang 44M dose ang naituturok at kung maiturok lahat ang 137M dose, magdodoble o magti-triple ang mga bakunado sa Kapaskuhan.

Sa Metro Manila lang, mahigit 7M na o halos kalahati ng nasa 15M milyong residente ang natuturuan.

MGA KONTRA-BAKUNA

Magkagayunman, hindi kasimilis ng inaasahan ang takbo ng programa dahil may mga nangangampanya laban sa pagbabakuna at ginagamit pa ang kanilang kasikatan o propesyon o institusyon para maging kapani-paniwala sila.

Kabilang sa mga binabanggit ng Pangulo na nangangampanya ang mga doktor mismo, abogado, espesyalista, heneral at iba pa.

May gumagamit din ng paniniwalang walang dapat pakialamanan sa pagitan ng simbahan at estado at ipinipilit nilang dapat manatili ang boluntaryong sistema samantalang sinasabi ng iba na dapat sa Diyos lang umasa ang lahat sa kaligtasan sa pandemya at hindi sa bakuna.

Napapaniwala umano ng mga anti-bakuna ang maraming Pilipino na hindi magbabakuna dahil sa paggamit ng mga ito ng kanilang mga kasikatan o awtoridad.

Sa huli, nagiging sagabal ang mga ito sa pagnanais ng pamahalaan na mabakunahan lahat sa pinakamadaling panahon upang higit na mas maaga ang pagbabalik-normal ng buong bayan kaysa abutin tayo ng 2-3 taon.



Ang mga kontra-bakuna, kasama ng mga ayaw magpabakuna, ay nagiging panganib sa kalusugan ng iba at panganib na rin sa buong bayan.

LALONG DARAMI ANG BABAKUNAHAN

Kahapon, inaprubahan na ng Pangulo ang pagbabakuna sa lahat, kasama edad 12-19 simula ngayong Oktubre at Pfizer o Moderna ang gagamitin sa kanila.

Ang Sinovac, nag-aplay na rin ng pahintulot na maiturok ito maging sa 3 anyos subalit hindi pa inaaprubahan ng Food and Drug Administration.

Kung bibili naman ang pamahalaan ng Cuba vaccine, gaya ng ginawa na Vietnam na bumili ng 10M dose, pupwede na rin sa 2 anyos.

Paliwanag ng Pangulo, dapat mabakunahan na ang lahat maliban lang kung talagang walang available na bakuna sa isang lugar.

ANG POLICE POWER

Hindi na bago ang paggamit ng police power ng estado at sa katunayan, nasa anyo ito ng mga umiiral na batas gaya ng mga Bayanihan law at State of National Calamity na nagpapahintulot o nagbabawal sa atin ng ilan o maraming bagay o gawain para na rin sa ikabubuti ng buong bayan sa panahon ng pandemya.

May kaukulang mga parusa o multa sa mga lalabag sa mga lockdown o community quarantine at overpricing o pagtatago ng mga gamot para magmahal ang mga ito sa huli.

May mga health protocol gaya ng social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask at face shield at iba pa na may multa o kulong sa lalabag.

Ang police power para sa sapilitang pagpapabakuna at pagpigil sa mga anti-bakuna ay wala pa sa atin.

Sa United States, police power ang gamit para sa sapilitang pagbabakuna sa lahat ng empleyado ng gobyernong pederal at obrero ng malalaking kompanya.

Kung ayaw sumunod, maaaring matanggal sa trabaho ang mga empleyado at ang mga kompanya naman ay bawal makipagtransaksyon sa pamahalaan.

Lahat din ng healthworker sa France ay dapat na magpabakuna at kung hindi, masususpende o masisibak sila sa trabaho.

Sa China, lahat ng dapat na mabakunahan kailangang mabakunahan at maging sa Vietnam at sa mga bansang ito, walang puwang ang mga anti-bakuna.

Huwag na nating hintayin ang pagpapairal ng police power kundi isipin na lang na kung hindi tayo magpabakuna o kaya'y kontra-bakuna, manganganib ang iba na magkasakit, maospital o mamamatay at makasasama ito sa ating lipunan, bukod sa pananatili natin sa krisis at paghihirap sa matagal na panahon.



#OneDENR

**Covid-19
Situation and Response**



DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 564

SETYEMBRE 29, 2021

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

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

5.2%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO
132,339

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

93.3%

TOTAL NG GUMALING
2,365,229

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

1.51%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY
38,164

MGA BAGONG KASO **12,805**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **12,236**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **186**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **2,535,732**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING SETYEMBRE 27

DATOS NGAYONG SETYEMBRE 29
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG SETYEMBRE 27

22.9%

PORSYENTO NG MGA
NAGPOSITIBO

51,327

BILANG NG
TINEST

HALOS
93.1%
ANG MILD AT
ASYMPTOMATIC
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (4.4K TOTAL BEDS)
74% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (21.4K TOTAL BEDS)
63% Utilized

WARD BEDS (15.9K TOTAL BEDS)
67% Utilized

VENTILATORS (3.3K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
53% Utilized

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

ICU BEDS (1.6K TOTAL BEDS)
75% Utilized

ISOLATION BEDS (4.8K TOTAL BEDS)
53% Utilized

WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)
64% Utilized

VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS)
56% Utilized

KALAGAYAN NG MGA AKTIBONG KASO

Mild 76.7%

16.4% Asymptomatic

0.9% Critical

2.1% Severe

3.91% Moderate



UPDATE AND MESSAGE OF THE DAY

Iwasan nating maging kampante sa ating pagsunod sa **Minimum Public Health Standards**. Kung makaramdam ng anumang sintomas, agad na makipag-ugnayan sa **BHERTS** o sa **One COVID Referral Center** upang mabigyan ng karampatang gabay. Maaabot ang One COVID Referral Center sa **1555, (02)886-505-00, 0915-777-7777, o sa 0919-977-3333**.

Para sa iba pang pangangailangang medikal, puntahan ang <http://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine> upang malaman kung papaano maabot ang serbisyo ng ating **Telemedicine Service Providers**, at ang <http://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines> para maabot ang ating mga ospital sa lalong mabilis na panahon."



Ihanap ka namin ng lugar para mag-isolate o magpagamot, tumawag lang sa sumusunod:

SMART: 0919 977 3333
GLOBE: 0915 777 7777
TEL NO: (02) 886 505 00



May tanong ukol sa COVID-19?

I-chat na si KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH

MESSANGER: Department of Health PH

KONTRACOVID PH: kontracovid.ph



Manatiling ligtas!

I-download ang StaySafe App

O Gamiting ang WEBAPP

at pumunta sa [Staysafe.ph](https://staysafe.ph)

MARYOON PANNG KATANUNGAN? SUMANGGUNI LAMANG SA SUMUSUNOD:

OfficialDOHgov

@DOHgovph

doh.gov.ph

(02) 894-COVID / 1555

30 SEPTEMBER 2021, THURSDAY



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
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

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
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




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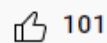


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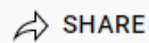
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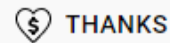
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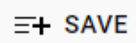
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
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


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