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NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



SAPAT ANG TUBIG NGAYONG TAG-INIT AYON SA NWRB



April 13, 2021 @ 12:20 AM 6 hours ago

WALANG dapat ikabahala sa suplay ng tubig sa National Capital Region ngayong panahon ng tag-init, ito ang pagseseguro ng National Water Resources Board (NWRB) na pinamumunuan nina Secretary Roy Cimatu ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources bilang chairman, at si Dr. Seville David, Jr., bilang executive director.

Bagamat nasa two hundred three point eighty-one meters (203.81 meters) lamang ang antas ng tubig kumpara sa normal high water level sa Angat Dam kakayanin umanong mabigyan ng tubig ang NCR at ang mga taniman sa Bulacan at Pampanga sa pamamagitan ng National Irrigation Administration.

Inaasahan ng NWRB na ngayong panahon ng tag-init ay mas tataas ang paggamit sa tubig sa mga kabahayan at sa mga ospital lalo pa't tumataas ang bilang ng mga pumapasok sanhi ng COVID-19.

Pero kagaya noong nakaraang taon, magiging normal at maayos ang suplay ng tubig hanggang sa pagpasok ng tag-ulan sa buwan ng June 2021.

Sa kabila nito, hiningi pa rin ng pamunuan ng NWRB sa mga residente ang pagtitipid at wastong paggamit ng tubig.

Nitong March 26, 2021 ay pormal nang idineklara ng PAGASA o Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration ang pagsisimula ng "summer" sa Pilipinas.



SAPAT ANG TUBIG NGAYONG TAG-INIT AYON SA NWRB

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WATER SERVICE INTERRUPTION

Tapusin ng Manila Water ang permanenteng pag-aayos ng mainline na nasira kagabi ng kontratista ng third-party na AWIN Technology, simula 5:00 PM ng Abril 12, 2021

Magreresulta ito sa pagkagambala sa serbisyo sa tubig na nakaaapekto sa higit sa 512,000 populasyon na may 102,415 na households, commercial at business establishments sa 35 barangay sa Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan at mga Lungsod ng Quezon hanggang 4:00 ng umaga, araw ng Abril 13, 2021.



Surrender Invasive Turtles, DENR Tells Public



By [Featuresdesk \(MD\)](#)

April 12, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has warned about indiscriminately disposing of turtles commonly called “red-eared sliders”, which people raise as pets.

Such turtles are actually invasive alien species (IAS) that threaten the environment and health, noted DENR-National Capital Region (NCR) development management officer Giselle Garcia.

“If people no longer want to look after those turtles, they must surrender these animals to us instead of just releasing them outdoors,” she said.

She said the DENR-NCR will turn over the turtles to the Biodiversity Management Bureau’s Wildlife Rescue Center for safekeeping.

IAS are “plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health,” said Convention on Biological Diversity, the international legal instrument for biodiversity conservation.

Garcia is not discounting the possibility that the red-eared slider that DENR-NCR reported found earlier in Balisampan Creek in Makati City might be a pet that its owner no longer wants to look after.

“Red-eared sliders grow big, making it difficult to clean aquariums in which people raise them, so some owners may decide to release these turtles instead,” she said.



Surrender Invasive Turtles, DENR Tells Public

Once released outdoors, however, she said red-eared sliders adapt to the environment, considerably multiply and compete with other species for food and space.

The turtles also eat native species in water bodies until these IAS become dominant while altering the local ecosystem, she continued.

“That endangers our country’s native biodiversity,” she said.

DENR-NCR likewise said red-eared sliders can be vectors or transmitters of diseases that affect humans and animals.

According to DENR-NCR, such turtles originated in the US and became one of the most popular reptiles in the pet trade.

Over 52 million red-eared sliders have been exported to foreign markets between 1989 and 1997 alone, DENR-NCR said.

The Philippines already disallows importation of such turtles, said Garcia.

She noted such restriction aims to ultimately help rid the country of those turtles.

Garcia said people who want to adopt red-eared sliders that are already in the country and raise these as pets, must first secure DENR’s permit to do so.

This is in keeping with RA 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act), she said.

“We’re still discouraging the public from having red-eared sliders as pets since these species are IAS,” she said. (PNA)



Rescued sea turtle released in Biliran

By Sarwell Meniano April 12, 2021, 4:37 pm



BACK TO SEA. Authorities in Biliran town, Biliran province releasing a sea turtle back to its natural habitat. The reptile was released Monday (April 12, 2021) hours after a fisherman found the turtle trapped in an artificial reef. *(Photo courtesy of DENR)*

TACLOBAN CITY – Local authorities released on Monday a marine turtle hours after a fisherman found the trapped reptile off the coast of Biliran province.

Personnel from the Provincial Environment and Natural Resource Office (PENRO) in Biliran, the local police, and some fishermen facilitated the release of the sea turtle locally known as 'pawikan'.

“The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recognizes every effort that answers our call for the conservation of our marine turtles,” said DENR Eastern Visayas regional executive director Tirso Parian, Jr. in a statement.

Parian lauded a fisherman from San Isidro village in Biliran town who turned over the marine turtle to the town police.

According to the fisherman, he found the pawikan trapped in an artificial reef.

To ensure that the pawikan is back safely to its natural habitat, he decided to turn it over to the police station who immediately coordinated with PENRO Biliran for its release.

Per assessment of PENRO, the reptile was identified as a green sea turtle measuring 43 centimeters in length and 42 cms. in width.

Before its release, the team placed a DENR metal tag with serial number PH1084K on its right flipper.



Rescued sea turtle released in Biliran

The DENR called on the community to turn over captured or rescued marine turtles to authorities and report any sightings of the species to the nearest DENR office for proper care and immediate release to its natural habitat.

The green sea turtle is listed as endangered per DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 dated July 12, 2019 prompting the government to move for stronger conservation measures. **(PNA)**



ACB supports shorebird identification workshop for Philippines' DENR staff

By ACB Published on April 12, 2021

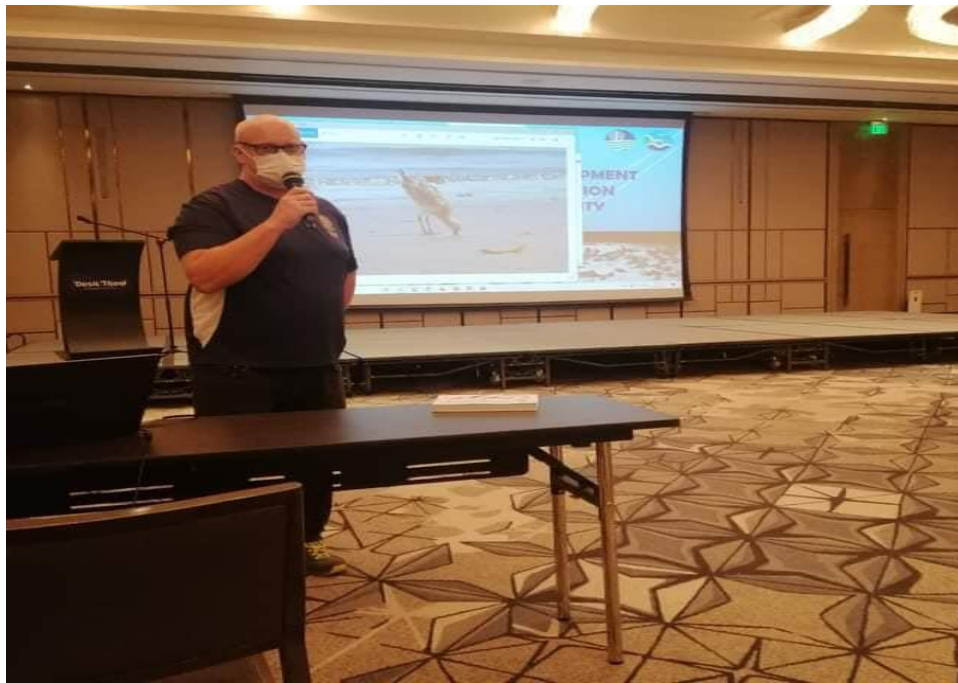


Photo by ACB.

LAGUNA, Apr. 12 -- The Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, Inc. (SCPW), in partnership with DENR XI and with funding support from the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), conducted a two-day workshop on shorebird identification on 25-26 March 2021 in Davao City.

Dubbed as “Expanded Capacity Development on Shorebird Identification,” the activity was aimed to enhance the knowledge and capability of the participants on the importance of wetlands, improve their skills on migratory bird identification, and intensify actions particularly on the conservation of migratory birds’ breeding sites in the region.

It was attended by participants from the Conservation and Development Division’s (CDD) Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section (PAMBCS), and regional and field offices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region XI.

The Philippines is part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF), one of the major areas in the world where migratory birds visit to feed and rest. To keep these avifauna species safe and to safeguard these habitats in the flyway, the DENR regularly monitors them through the annual Asian Waterbird Census (AWC). The yearly activity aims to keep records of bird sightings across the globe. With the Davao region as a vital area in the Philippine flyway, the coastal area covering Panabo and Carmen Coastal Wetlands was surveyed for its potential as a wetlands of international importance for migratory waterbirds. The study was conducted under the project, Improving Biodiversity Conservation of Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in ASEAN Region – Phase I, with support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund and co-led by the ACB and Singapore in 2019.



ACB supports shorebird identification workshop for Philippines' DENR staff

The report authored by Mr. Pete Simpson, a Davao-based professional birder who led the waterbird surveys and wetland assessments in 2019, noted that “the site holds what is currently the highest known non-breeding (northern wintering) population of the Critically Endangered Chinese Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bernsteini*), with three birds present for the previous two winters and at least four birds present in the winter of 2019–2020.” According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the Chinese Crested Tern is classified as Critically Endangered with only 30–49 birds and declining (IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2018).

The workshop covered lectures on shorebird identification and monitoring on the first day and capped by a field practicum the next day in Panabo and Carmen, Davao del Norte, where the two identified waterbird sites in Davao region are located. Though the end of March concludes the bird migration season, the participants were still able to sight 33 species. Mr. Simpson served as the resource person of the workshop.

Ms. Amy Lecciones, Executive Director of SCPW congratulated the participants and emphasised that “the SCPW promotes CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) and capacity building so that people can take action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands which are important habitats of shorebirds”. She likewise expressed her appreciation to the ACB and their support to SCPW activities through the Active, Clean and Bountiful Wetlands Project.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim underscored the importance of identifying and monitoring species, particularly in key biodiversity areas.

“The presence of waterbirds is a good indicator of the health of our wetland ecosystems. Thus, identifying and documenting these provides a better picture of how effective these ecosystems are in providing basic services-- water, food, and means to adapt to the changing climate-- to the community and the people,” she said. (ACB)



Kayangan Lake Palawan's Natural Jewel

by  [Village Connect](#) about 16 hours ago



Known as one of the clearest lakes in all of Asia this gem and the island that holds it is one of the most stunning places on the planet. [Kayangan Lake](#) and the nearby viewpoint are one of the most photographed places in all of the Philippines.

Surrounded by towering limestone cliffs dotted with greenery, Kayangan is the cleanest lake in the Philippines and one of the cleanest in Asia. The water is so clear that you can see through to the rock formations beneath the surface.





Kayangan Lake Palawan's Natural Jewel

The main viewpoint most people are familiar with is not actually of the lake, but the bay on the other side of Coron Island. Currently, they have parts of the lake roped off for conservation and during our 2019 visit to Coron, there were no Bamboo rafts on offer.

Kayangan Lake is the ancestral domain of the indigenous people, Tagbanua, who are referred to as the guardians of Coron.

The Tagbanua believe in *panyain* or spirits that dwell in nature, including the lakes, trees and the seas, like Kayangan Island. They hold to various sacred and conservation-related practices relating to resource use. For example, certain areas are protected as fish sanctuaries or sacred sites where the giant, human-like octopus (*panlalabyut*) are believed to dwell, and which may bring harm on anyone who trespasses in the area.



During World War II, the Japanese used the area as a naval base, and many of the ships were sunk by the Americans, which has now become popular dive sites.

However, just before noon is one of the best times to see the famous viewpoint at the top of the hill at Kayangan Lake with no shadows in the bay. The best approach is to visit in the early morning and visit the lake and then on the way out stop at the viewpoint while it is sunny.

Meanwhile, the DOT has vowed to continue providing technical assistance in the areas of product development, marketing and promotions and capacity building for both the local government and tourism workers.

The DOT has conducted rigid inspections and regularly monitors its accredited accommodation establishments (AEs) to ensure that minimum health and safety protocols are enforced. As of February 15, 2021, a total of 20 AEs have been accredited.



Kayangan Lake Palawan's Natural Jewel

Coron prides itself on being almost COVID-free, which is a positive pull factor for visitors to enjoy the many beautiful bleach-white sand beaches, large limestone cliffs, endemic terrestrial wildlife and rich marine ecosystem. It is home to Kayangan Lake, touted as the cleanest lake in the country.

Often cited in many lists of top dive spots in the world, its main draw are the World War II Japanese wrecks as well as the other fun dive spots.

Coron is a top destination for both international and local travelers. In 2019, Palawan welcomed 1,987,605 visitors, 15 percent or a total of 292,549 of which visited Coron.

Coron has attracted some 2,900 visitors since it reopened on 01 December 2020.



Pangatalan Island in Palawan, elected as a sustainable island



By [The Manila Times](#)

April 13, 2021



Pangatalan Island

On September 15, the Philippine Embassy in Paris, received Frédéric Tardieu, president of Sulubaaï Environment Foundation (SEF), to sign an agreement between the French Fund for World Conservation and Sulubaaï Environment Foundation in the presence of French Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian and Philippine Ambassador to France, Ma. Theresa Lazaro.

Sulubaaï Environment Foundation is a Philippine-based non-profit organization dedicated to conserve, protect, and restore the natural resources of Palawan through environmentally sustainable practices and active ecosystems restoration. It is a private initiative funded by eco-tourism.

According to Frédéric Tardieu, Sulubaaï Environmental Foundation president, “We would simply like to connect to as many people as possible to explain our work on coral restoration, on the marine protected areas creation with the local community and especially on the rebirth of Pangatalan Island which was elected as a sustainable island by Small Island. Organization. Mission blue (US NGO) declared our bay as Hope Spot. Our gratitude to our Sea Academy project.”

In 2012, Sulubaaï Environment Foundation was born out of a common love for the ocean and desire to help the local communities of Palawan. The foundation decided to implement the first project site on Pangatalan Island. At that time, they found the island in various states of damage — trees were cut, mangroves thinned, sand on the main beach was sold, and coral reefs were severely destroyed.



Pangatalan Island in Palawan, elected as a sustainable island

The first task was to prevent further damages : replant thousands of plants and collect seeds around the island for mangrove regrowth.

On March 2016, the group added a new dimension to the project and started to focus the efforts on 45 hectares of Co-Managed Marine Protected Area (MPA) surrounding Pangatalan island. The foundation started protecting, surveying and restoring marine ecosystems.

The projects include: coral reef restoration, mangrove regrowth, re-vegetation, education and eco-tourism. The goal is to develop and implement sustainable ways on and around Pangatalan Island.



Baguio designates 'tree zones' to spread green cover

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 04:40 AM April 12, 2021



ENDURING This area surrounded by pine trees at Camp John Hay in this 2012 photograph used to be frequented by Baguio residents before the pandemic struck. John Hay hosts one of the biggest clusters of pine cover remaining in Baguio City. —RICHARD BALONGLONG

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — Over 900 hectares of land in the city have been marked as tree zones and will require city council protection to preserve and rebuild the city's remaining green cover, the legislative research unit of the city council said.

Apart from 14 protected watersheds spanning 77 ha and 61 ha of parks and tree plazas, the research team listed idle village lots, school grounds and properties not suited for settlements as areas fit for the reforestation program.

The city council has previously backed a 21-year forest management plan (2022-2043) that will regrow new pine trees to replace the casualties of overdevelopment and overcrowding.

The summer capital has 2.5 million trees, which is insufficient for Baguio's current population of 370,000, according to a 2019 inventory ordered by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. Only 500,000 of these trees are Benguet pines.

The research team's report submitted to Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan on March 30 indicated that 18 ha of private parks, 2 ha of open areas in local campuses, 15 ha of barangay land and 42 ha of land in government reservations could accommodate new forests. The land use inventories were provided by city environment officer Rhenan Diwas and city planning and development coordinator Donna Tabangin.

Safe spaces

Late last year, the council also discussed measures for buying private lands that would be reclassified into tree parks or provide tax incentives for landowners who maintain large clusters of trees in their properties.



Baguio designates ‘tree zones’ to spread green cover

Buying back small forests will help protect Baguio’s remaining “safe spaces” and stave off the city’s urban decay, Tabangin said in a meeting with other city officials in September last year.

The carrying capacity study of Baguio resources that was undertaken by data consultancy group Certeza Infosystems showed that the city’s ideal urban forest cover should be 30 to 40 percent of its land area. But its present forest cover represents only 23 percent of the territory.

Increasing the city’s tree cover would also solve the city’s warming temperature, according to Diwas.

In 2016, a heat index of 29 degrees Centigrade that was measured in April became the warmest recorded day in Baguio, the country’s coldest city.

Warmer dense areas

Diwas, in an earlier city managers meeting, said areas that have become dense with buildings “have become warmer compared to the surrounding rural areas when in fact we are at a higher elevation.”

To bring back the cold for which Baguio is known, the forest management program will put up tree parks in strategic areas where the heat index is high, he said.

Diwas said ornamental trees would be grown in parks and pocket lots designated as “green spaces” around buildings.

“Storm water tree pits,” or trees that would line small city streets would also be developed,” he said.

Because of the “urban heat island effect,” Baguio hot spots were first detected in 1998, Diwas said, citing a heat index study conducted by the University of the Cordillera. According to the same study, the hot spots have since permeated all of Baguio in 2019.

The council is also deliberating on a proposal to impose a five-year moratorium on all tree cutting activities.

—VINCENT CABREZA

Read more: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1417663/baguio-designates-tree-zones-to-spread-green-cover#ixzz6rr4fbPh5>

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Holcim PH shares contributions to environment stewardship

By ...
-April 13, 2021



Holcim Philippines Inc. participated last March in several virtual roundtable discussions on sustainability conducted by private and public partners to share its accomplishments.

On March 30, Alan Cuyno, project manager of Holcim Philippines' waste management co-processing unit Geocycle, shared the company's contributions to addressing the country's plastic pollution challenge in the Consumer Care Webinar of the Consumer Policy and Advocacy Division of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Cuyno discussed Geocycle's achievements in reducing plastic waste going to landfills, rivers, and oceans. The co-processing technology allows Holcim Philippines to save traditional fuels and use alternatives to produce cement. Co-processing lowers CO₂ emissions and helps preserve natural resources for a longer time. Finally, it enables the company to recycle materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.

Cuyno was also tapped by the Climate Change Service of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to serve as a panelist for talks on the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gases and its potential co-processing to reduce carbon emissions of the cement industry.

Holcim Philippines Environment Manager Stephanie Frogoso participated in a discussion hosted by the World Resources Institute and Business for Sustainable Development on the barriers and opportunities in advocating for science-based targets in reducing Philippine companies' carbon emissions. She highlighted Holcim Philippines' plans to improve its carbon footprint in line with the goals set by LafargeHolcim Group on climate and energy.

Source: https://malaya.com.ph/index.php/news_special_feature/holcim-ph-shares-contributions-to-environment-stewardship/

Siquijor opens 1st Zero Waste Store

By Mary Jane S. Banglos Published on April 12, 2021



Some of the artworks made from waste materials on display at the newly-opened Juana Zero Store in Panglao, Siquijor. (MEF photo)

SIQUIJOR, April 8 -- In celebration of Global Day of Action organized by GAIA, Mother Earth Foundation opened on March 31 its first zero waste store in the province.

Dubbed "Juana Zero Store," it features eco-products made from indigenous materials like bayong, nito plates, bamboo cutleries, *walis tingting*, shampoo bars, and other reusable items like metal straw, cutlery set, and collapsible cups.

Recycled and handcrafted products from local suppliers like wallets and artworks made from residuals and rags from trimmings are also displayed.

To realize the zero waste goal, the store has a refilling station of basic condiments like oils, soy sauce, and vinegar.

This effort hopes to reduce the amount of plastic thrown by Siquijodnons everyday, estimated at 0.3-0.5 kg per person/day.



Siquijor opens 1st Zero Waste Store



Native delicacies on a cutlery set served during the launching of the MEF's first Juana Zero Store in Siquijor. (MEF photo)

Through the store, the organization hopes to encourage more Siquijodnons to take part in the zero waste movement.

"Juana zero aims to provide alternative products of single-use plastics na kung saan ang priority natin is product from locals. In turn, makakatulong tayo sa kanila lalo ngayong pandemic na magkaroon ng dagdag income. At the same time, makaka-influence tayo sa mga Siquijodnons na tangkilikin ang sariling product and to promote zero waste," Project Officer Sherra Marie Cervantes said.

"We're very excited. Plus, yung proceeds ng Juana Zero ay mapupunta sa zero waste scholars, mga anak ng waste workers na tinutulungan ng MEF sa kanilang pag-aaral," she added. (rac/MJSBanglos)



Basura nauna pa sa tao sa pinakamalalim na parte ng karagatan

OPINION

On Apr 12, 2021



HAGUPIT

Joel Egco

HINDI natin tatalakayin sa pitak na ito ang mga basurang nasa ibabaw ng karagatan gaya ng mga barko ng Intsik na nagkalat sa iba't ibang bahura natin.

Ang paksa natin ay tutukoy sa mga basurang napunta sa kaila-ilaliman ng ating karagatan, ang ikatlo sa pinaka-malalim na bahagi ng karagatan sa buong mundo – ang 'Emden Deep' na tinatawag, na matatagpuan 34,100 talampakan o 10,400 na metrong lalim sa pusod ng karagatan na kung tawagin ay 'Philippine Trench'.

Dito naikwento kamakailan ni Dr. Deo Florence L. Onda, isang microbial oceanographer na Associate Professor at Deputy Director for Research of the Marine Science Institute (MSI) ng University of the Philippines, Diliman, na gumawa ng kasaysayan bilang kauna-unahang Filipino at isa sa unang dalawang nilalang na nakapunta sa Emden Deep, at kanyang ikinagulat ang mga nasaksihan sa paglusong nila sa pinaka-malalim na parteng iyon ng karagatan.

Naganap ang kakaibang karanasan ni Dr. Onda noong March 23, kasama ang Amerikanong 'undersea explorer' na si Victor Vescovo sakay ng DSSV Pressure Drop, na natatanging sasakyang dagat sa mundo na ginawa upang kayanin ang pagsisid sakay ang tao sa pinaka-malalim na lugar sa karagatan.

Sa tinatawag na 'Emden Deep Expedition' na pinangunahan at ginastusan ng pribadong kumpanyang Caldan Oceanic, namalas ni Dr. Onda ang kakaibang kapaligiran sa ilalim ng karagatan na matatagpuan pa sa ating bansa.

Sari-sari at mga kakaibang laman-dagat ang kanyang nakita habang sila ay pumapailalim sa Emden Deep. Ngunit gumulat kay Dr. Onda ang isang bagay na una ay inakala niyang isang uri ng 'jelly fish', ngunit nang kanila itong lapitan, laking gulat ng duktor, na ito pala ay isang plastic.



Basura nauna pa sa tao sa pinakamalalim na parte ng karagatan

Paliwanag ni Dr. Onda, kaya siya nagulat bukod sa agiging unang taong nakarating sa pusod ng karagatan ay kanila nang napag-aralan na ang plastic ay di kayang magtagal sa kaila-ilaliman ng dagat, dahil ang pressure sa bahaging ito ng karagatan ay kaya nang sirain ang plastic.

Bukod doon, iba't bang mga bagay pa, na gamit ng tao ang mga tumambad sa kanila, gaya ng mga damt na luray-luray, bote ng tubig na plastic at maging isang teddy bear pa nga daw.

Iisa lang ang ibig sabihin nito, ayon kay Dr. Onda. Ang tao ay walang pakundangan sa pagtatapon ng basura. Biruin niyo nga naman, nakarating na sa pinaka-malalim na parte ng karagatan na para sa mga dalubhasa ay di kakayanin ang pressure at agaran itong masisira. Siguro, ito ay likas-yamang katangian ng parteng iyon ng karagatan upang protektahan ang sarili nilang kapaligiran.

Ngunit sa panahon ngayon, ang mga plastic o bagay na likha ng tao ay di na kayang tunawin agad-agad, at nagiging sanhi pa ng panganib di lang sa kasalukuyan kundi sa mga darating na panahon.

Kaya nga nakikiusap si Dr. Onda, na kung maaari ay bawas-bawasan natin ang paggamit ng plastic at mga bagay na nakakasira ng ating mundo. Alam ng doktor na ito na di kayang gawin ng tao ang biglang hinto sa paggamit ng plastic o mga bagay na di recyclable.

Kelan pa kaya tayo matututo? Aantayin pa ba nating isuka ng karagatan ang mga itinapon nating mga bagay sa karagatan? Nangyari na ito sa Japan na kilalang gumagalang sa kapaligiran, nang tamaan sila ng Tsunami matapos ang malakas na lindol. Di ba pagtaas at nang umapaw ang karagatan, sangkaterbang basura rin ang tumambad sa kanila na ibinalik ng karagatan.



Linis-estero nilunsad ng Caloocan bilang paghahanda sa tag-ulan

[April 12, 2021](#) 1 min read



Bilang paghahanda sa parating na tag-ulan, naglunsad na ang mga tauhan ng Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management (DPSTM) katuwang ang Oplan Clean Agad sa mga estero ng Caloocan City.

Makikitang kinokolekta ng mga ito ang sandamakmak na basura na nagkaipon-ipon at nakaharahang sa daluyan ng tubig sa estero ng Tanigue Street, Caloocan City.

Ang mga plastic at iba pang basura ay isa sa mga dahilan ng pagbaha sa mga lansangan ng Metro Manila. (Aj Rabulan/BENJAMIN CUARESMA/AI/MTVN)

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/2165747740135352/posts/4009752945734813/?app=fbl>



PH coronavirus recoveries rise to 703,625

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor April 12, 2021, 4:51 pm



MANILA – At least 267 more patients have recovered from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country's overall recovery count to 703,625 as of Monday.

In its latest case bulletin, the Department of Health (DOH) said those who have beaten the illness account for 80.3 percent of the Philippines' total case tally which has reached 876,225.

The agency also reported 11,378 new confirmed cases and 204 new deaths.

These figures brought the overall tally of active cases to 157,451 and the death toll to 15,149.

The DOH said about 97 percent of the active cases are mild, 1.7 percent are asymptomatic, 0.5 percent are severe, 0.32 percent are moderate, and 0.5 percent are in critical condition.

"There were 21 duplicates removed from the total case count as 12 of these are recoveries. Moreover, 34 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation," it said.

DOH data on April 11 showed that 19.5 percent of 27,378 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

Six laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System on April 11.

To date, 65 percent of 1,900 intensive care unit beds, 50 percent of 13,500 isolation beds, 52 percent of 6,000 ward beds, and 44 percent of 2,000 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.



PH coronavirus recoveries rise to 703,625

Meanwhile, 86 percent of 700 intensive care unit beds, 69 percent of 3,800 isolation beds, 57 percent of 2,200 ward beds, and 58 percent of 800 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are used in the National Capital Region.

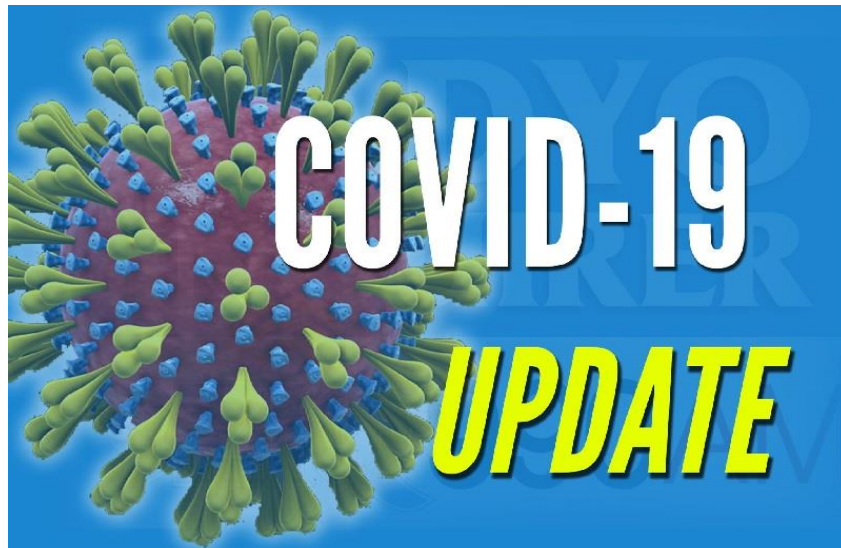
The public is reminded to stay at home and to observe minimum health standards when going out.

The DOH urged those experiencing Covid-19 symptoms to immediately isolate and contact the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams. *(PNA)*



Kaso ng COVID-19 sa mundo, umabot na sa 136.64 milyon

By Angellic Jordan April 12, 2021 - 01:26 PM



Pumalo na sa 136.64 milyon ang bilang ng kumpirmadong kaso ng COVID-19 sa buong mundo.

Batay sa huling tala, pumalo na sa kabuuang 136,641,901 ang tinamaan ng nakakahawang sakit sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nangunguna pa rin sa may pinakamaraming naitalang kaso ng COVID-19 ang Estados Unidos na may 31,918,591 cases.

Sumunod na rito ang India na may 13,527,717 na nagpositibo sa pandemiya.

Nasa 13,482,543 naman ang kaso sa Brazil habang 5,058,680 ang napaulat na kaso sa France.

Narito naman ang naitalang COVID-19 cases sa iba pang bansa at teritoryo:

- Russia - 4,641,390
- United Kingdom - 4,369,775
- Turkey - 3,849,011
- Italy - 3,769,814
- Spain - 3,347,512
- Germany - 3,009,541
- Poland - 2,574,631
- Colombia - 2,536,198
- Argentina - 2,532,562
- Mexico - 2,280,213
- Iran - 2,070,141

Samantala, lumabas din sa pinakahuling datos na umakyat na sa kabuuang 2,949,409 ang bilang ng nasawi sa iba't ibang bansa.

Nasa 109,881,553 naman ang total recoveries ng COVID-19 pandemic sa buong mundo.

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PH raises WPS concerns, pushes for equitable access to vaccines in ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting

By DFA Published on April 12, 2021



Ambassador Elizabeth P. Buensuceso, DFA Acting Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs, discusses the COC negotiations and calls for equitable access to vaccines in a recent virtual ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on 7 April 2021.

PASAY CITY, Apr. 12 -- Acting Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs, Ambassador Elizabeth P. Buensuceso, raised the issue of the presence of Chinese maritime militia ships at Julian Felipe Reef in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) in a meeting of ASEAN's senior officials, as she called for an environment conducive for the negotiations on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea.

"The continued deployment and lingering presence of a large swarm of maritime militia vessels within the Philippines' maritime zones remains a serious concern and we reiterate that a conducive environment is crucial for the COC negotiations," Acting Undersecretary Buensuceso emphasized during the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held by videoconference on 7 April 2021.

Acting Undersecretary Buensuceso, who is also the Philippine ASEAN SOM Leader, reiterated that the Philippines, as current country coordinator for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, remains committed to move forward the COC negotiations between ASEAN Member States and China, highlighting the importance of the sincere support and cooperation of all parties involved in achieving this goal.

"As we exert efforts in realizing an effective and substantive COC, we urge all parties to adhere to the rule of law and exercise self-restraint in line with the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South and China Sea (DOC)," the Acting Undersecretary added.

She said that actions that intimidate, escalate tensions, and undermine mutual trust and confidence violate sovereignty and sovereign rights, especially those that run counter to international law, particularly the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). She



PH raises WPS concerns, pushes for equitable access to vaccines in ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting

added that these actions also impede the progress and momentum of the COC negotiations and threaten its success.

Amid the ongoing pandemic, Acting Undersecretary Buensuceso also called on ASEAN to raise its collective voice to push for equitable access to vaccines.

“We have to raise our concern (with regard to equitable access to vaccines) in all forums,” the Filipino senior diplomat urged her ASEAN colleagues, citing the UN Human Rights Council resolution on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access by all countries to vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the UN Security Council Resolution 2565 on strengthening international cooperation to facilitate equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

She said that developing countries should not be at a disadvantage when it comes to access to vaccines amid concerns for limited supplies.

She stressed that the procurement of vaccines under the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund (CARF) is highly commendable under the current circumstances given its urgency, but ASEAN should expedite its collective vaccine procurement so as not to lag behind in efforts to achieve herd immunity in the region and to address reports of global shortage of vaccines.

The Meeting, a regular gathering of ASEAN's senior diplomats, also discussed a wide range of issues and concerns, including updates on Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship deliverables, ASEAN's COVID-19 response, ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision, review of the implementation of the ASEAN Charter, sub-regional cooperation, cross-pillar coordination, external relations, and ASEAN candidatures. (DFA)



PROBLEMA SA EEZ SADYANG PINALALABO, PINIPILIPIT PARA SA HALALANG 2022



April 12, 2021 @ 7:52 AM 23 hours ago

PINALALABAS ng mga kritiko ng pamahalaan ngayon na hindi ramdam ng mga Pinoy ang liderato ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte, lalo na sa mga nagaganap sa Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) na ipinagkaloob ng Permanent Court of Arbitration sa Pilipinas.

Kung hindi ka magsasaliksik, mapaniniwala ka sa kanilang mga sinasabi at mawawalan ka ng timbang, malilito at magdududa ka sa pamahalaan, gaya ng nais nilang maganap.

Meron pa nga silang #NasaanangPangulo?

IBINASURA NG INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Kung matatandaan ninyo, nagsampa ng reklamo na crime against humanity laban kay China President Xi Jin Ping sina daing Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario at dating Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales kaugnay sa pagpapalubog umano ng Chinese vessel sa isang bangkang pangisdang Pinoy at pinabayaan ang mga tripulante sa karagatan at hindi sila sinagip.

Sinadya na ngang banggain at palubugin ang bangka, pinabayaan pa ang mga mangingisda na mamatay sa karagatan, diin nila sa pagsasampa ng kasong crime against humanity.

Heto ngayon ang sagot ng ICC: hindi nila sakop ang kaso dahil hindi maituturing na teritoryo ng Pilipinas ang EEZ kundi kaloob lang sa Pinas para gumampan ng tungkulin sa karagatan gaya ng pangangalaga rito, pagkuha ng mga yamang dagat, pagtiyak na maging malinis at iba pa sa ngalan ng sovereign right.



PROBLEMA SA EEZ SADYANG PINALALABO, PINIPILIPIT PARA SA HALALANG 2022

Ayon sa ICC, sovereign right lang meron ang Pinas sa EEZ at hindi sovereignty o soberenya na lahat ng kapangyarihan ng pamahalaan ay maaari nitong gawin at hindi pupwedeng pakialaman ng sinomang dayuhang bansa.

Ang sovereignty o soberenya ay nasa loob lang 22.22 kilometro o 12 nautical miles mula sa pampang patungo sa karagatan at maaaring mas malayo pa dahil sa paglalapat ng archipelagic doctrine kung tawagin.

Sa archipelagic doctrine, mga Bro, puro straight line ang ginagawa para masakop ang lahat ng karagatan ng Pinas pero magmumula lagi sa 12 nautical miles mula sa isang sulok ng Pinas patungo sa 12 nautical miles sa kabila, halimbawa, mula Palawan hanggang Ilocos Norte.

Ang EEZ naman ay magmumula sa dalampasigan na gaya rin ng territorial sea pero aabot ito sa laot na may layong 200 nautical miles.

Mantakin ninyo, mismo si ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda na ginagamit ng grupo nina ex-Sec. Del Rosario at ex-Omb Morales para imbestigahan si Pangulong Digong sa giyera sa droga ang nanguna sa pagbasura sa complaint nina Del Rosario?

PAGKAKAIBA PANG IBA

Sa territorial sea, mga Bro, kapag pumasok ang isang kalaban para giyerahin ang may hawak ng nasabing teritoryo, pwedeng ngipin sa ngipin at mata sa mata ang labanan.

Ipupusta ng may teritoryo ang kanyang buhay at yaman para lang hindi maagaw at maangkin ng iba ang kanyang nasasakupang lugar na eksklusib na para sa kanya.

Kaya nga, kung pakikidding ninyo ang mga salita ni Pangulong Digong ukol sa kontrobersya sa EEZ, sinasabi niya, “hanggang diyan ka lang (China man o US o iba).

‘Yun bang === ibang usapan na talaga kung teritoryo ng Pinas ang papasukin at aangkinin ng iba.

Pero sa EEZ, medyo dinaraan ‘yan sa diplomasya at iginigiit lang ng awardee, gaya ng Pilipinas, ang karapatan nito na kikilos nang narapat ngunit naaayon sa tadhana ng United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea na dapat pangalagaan ang EEZ, pupwedeng pagkunan ng mga yamang dagat, langis at iba pang mina, panatilihing malinis, hindi kuta ng mga iligalista at iba pa.

Heto pa, kung hindi kinikilala ng China ang EEZ na bahagi ng Pinas sa ilalim ng sovereign right, alam ba ninyo na hindi rin kinikilala mismo ng Amerika na teritoryo ng Pinas ang West Philippine Sea?

Sa paningin nina Joe Biden, bahagi ng international waters ang West Philippine Sea at ang mahalaga ay malaya silang Kano na makapaglayag ng kanilang mga negosyo at may makikilusan ang mga militar nito laban sa China na kaagaw nito sa karagatan.



PROBLEMA SA EEZ SADYANG PINALALABO, PINIPILIPIT PARA SA HALALANG 2022

ALAM NG MGA KRITIKO

Alam at malinaw sa mga lider-lider na politiko ang pagkakaiba ng territorial sea na roon pinaiiral ang sovereignty o soberenya at EEZ na alanganin ang pagmamay-ari ng mga bansa, lalo't nag-aagawan ang maraming bansa gaya ng nagaganap sa buong South China Sea, kasama na ang WPS.

Pero pinalalabo nila ang usapan hanggang sa maniwala ang iba o mga tagasunod nila na teritoryo natin ang EEZ na dapat pagbuwisan ng buhay.

At kung dinaraan sa diplomasya ang problema, sinasabi nilang mahina ang mga lider ng bansa na gumagamit ng ganitong paraan.

Lalo ngayong may pulitikahan na dahil nalalapit na ang halalang 2022 at filing na kandidatura sa darating na Oktubre, itong problema sa EEZ ang isa sa mga gamit ng mga kritiko sa propaganda para lang siraan ang pamahalaan Duterte o sinomang mga kandidato nito sa pagka-Presidente, bise presidente, senador, kongresman at iba pa.

MAGTULUNGAN, HUWAG MAMULITIKA

Sa panahon ngayon ng pandemya na daan-daang libo ang nagkakasakit, libo-libo na ang namamatay at bumabagsak ang ekonomiya ng mga mamamayan at pamahalaan, may higit na mahalagang gawin kaysa mamulitika.

Sa halip na ubusin natin ang oras para magkahati-hati at hindi magkasundo-sundo ang mga mamamayan para sa halalang 2022, pairalin natin ang nagkakaisang paghahanap ng mga solusyon sa mga problema ng bansa.

Halimbawa ang panawagan sa lahat ng apektadong bansa na mag-usap-usap at hindi padadala sa sulsol ng mga may malalaking interes na hindi tugma sa interes ng magkakalapit-bansa.

Gayundin na magtulong-tulong tayo sa paghahanap ng mapagkukunan ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 na hino-hoard ng Amerika, United Kingdom, Europa at India.

Magtulong-tulong din tayo laban sa hoarding ng mga nasabing bansa upang magkaroon na ang World Health Organization ng sapat na bakuna na ibigay sa mga bansang mahihirap, gaya ng mahal nating Pinas.

Magtulong-tulong din tayong iahon ang mga kapitbahay nating labis na nasasalanta ng COVID-19 na pilit na nilalabanan ng mga kwarantana ng pambansa at mga lokal na pamahalaan.



PH to benefit from energy law in 3 yrs



By [Jordeene B. Lagare](#)
April 13, 2021

It will take up to three years for the Philippines to fully benefit from the Energy Efficiency Conservation (EE&C) law that was enacted two years ago.

Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance President Alexander Ablaza, in a virtual event held Monday, said, “we get to feel the impact of the law down the road in the next three years.”

“After 29 years of a voluntary energy efficiency market in the Philippines, we still need the next three years to start experiencing the impacts of the law,” said Ablaza during event dubbed “Energy Efficiency Day.”

Ablaza is referring to Republic Act (RA) 11285, or the “Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act,” that President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law on April 12, 2019.

The said law, among others, aims to institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation as a national way of life geared towards the efficient and judicious utilization of energy by formulating, developing and implementing energy efficiency and conservation plans/programs to secure the country’s energy supply.

Since its enforcement, the Department of Energy (DoE) has promulgated circulars to accelerate the implementation of the said law.

In a speech, Energy Undersecretary Jesus Cristino Posadas said the DoE has made concrete steps to push the agenda into the mainstream.

“With the roll out of supporting issuances of the EE&C Act, the DoE has collaborated with other government agencies to stimulate investment particularly in the use of energy efficient technologies in designated establishments,” said Posadas, who represented Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi in the event.

“The culmination of our partnership with the Board of Investments will be in the finalization of the department circular on the recommendation of energy efficiency projects to the BOI (Board of Investments), which will be held later this week,” he added.

Ablaza said RA 11285 raised the Philippines’ energy efficiency score above global and Southeast Asia averages.

But the country, he said, should aspire to make it to the top tier along with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

House Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco, in the same event, cited the need to craft a national plan to accelerate energy efficiency and conservation practices across the nation.



PH to benefit from energy law in 3 yrs

“The first order of the day is to set up a national plan so that everyone will be on the same page,” said Velasco.

Velasco urged government agencies to do their part. “All government agencies are directed to ensure efficient use of energy in their offices, facilities and transportation units.”

He also said that local government units must establish their respective energy efficiency and conservation plans.

With the EE&C law in place, Velasco said the country has the appropriate policy framework to manage budgets, funds and fiscal incentives toward energy efficiency adoption.

“Now, the actual challenge is how to encourage national government agencies to become more energy efficient or how NGAs (national government agencies) can overcome initial apprehensions on partnerships with private energy service companies,” he added.



Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

By Navin Singh Khadka

Environment correspondent, BBC World Service

Published

21 hours ago



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image captionForest fires in some parts of northern India have been the strongest in one and a half decades

The lush-green mountains in the background usually make the famous Nainital lake in Uttarakhand state of northern India more picturesque.

But for several weeks now haze from forest fires has hidden the mountains, and the lake's beauty has visibly shrunk.

"You can smell the haze from this side of the lake where I live," said Shekhar Pathak, an expert on the history of forests in the region.

"Not just the pine trees that are highly prone to fires, even the oak forests are burning and that means the situation is quite serious."

Locals in areas worst-affected by forest fires told the BBC they don't sleep at night these days.

"We wake up in the middle of the night and check around the forests to make sure the fires are not approaching us," said Kedar Avani of Banaa village in Pithoragarh district, the eastern-most Himalayan district in the state.

"Fires have eaten up our haystacks and grass stored for our livestock, and now we fear our houses will be gutted too."



Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

Mr Avani said that the fires were so strong that the heat could be felt even at a distance of 20 metres. "There is no way we can put them out," he said.



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image captionScientists say forest fires in Uttarakhand have led to record carbon emissions since 2003

Record forest fires

Scientists say the forest fires in some parts of northern India and neighbouring Nepal have been the strongest in the past 15 years. The European Union's Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service (CAMS) said that [Uttarakhand's forest fires emitted nearly 0.2 mega tonnes of carbon](#) in the past one month, a record since 2003.

Based on the analysis of satellite pictures, it estimated Nepal emitted nearly 18 mega tonnes of carbon in the same period, the highest since 2016 when it emitted 27 mega tonnes of carbon.

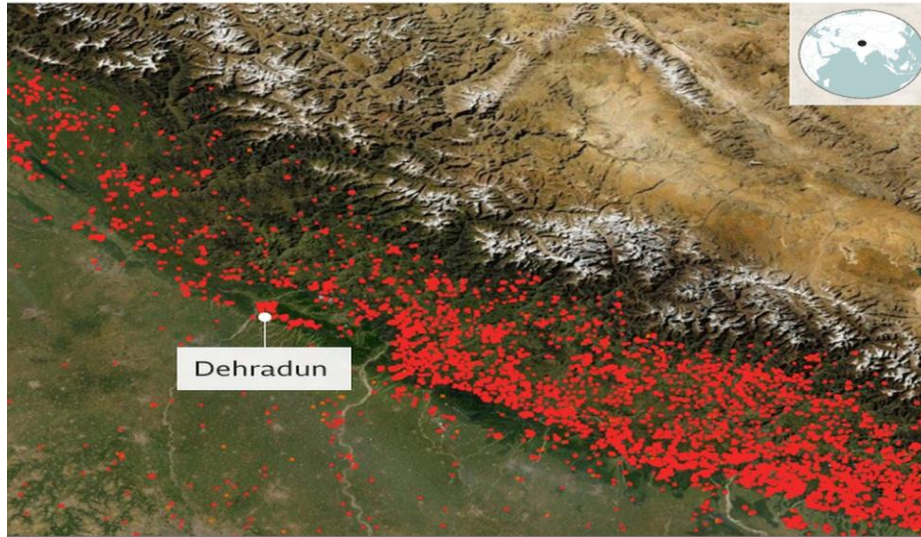
"This shows the intensity with which the fires are burning in the region and it is quite worrying," said Mark Parrington, senior scientist at CAMS.

Nearly 20 people have been reportedly killed by the fires in Uttarakhand and Nepal. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of forests are believed to have been razed although official figures are yet to be published.



Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

Number of forest fires in Uttarakhand in last 7 days



Dehradun is the capital of Uttarakhand

At one point last month, around 500 forest fires were recorded in Nepal. Its air quality has remained at hazardous levels for several days now.

Some of the Himalayan nation's forests and national parks adjoin India's forested and protected areas which means that fires can spread both ways.

Prolonged dry spell

Many parts of north India and Nepal have seen a prolonged dry spell in the past few months, leaving forests "tinder dry".



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

Local communities play a crucial role in fighting forest fires



Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

"It has neither rained nor snowed for several months now," said Mr Pathak. "That is why even oak forests are burning up - the ground they stand on is totally dry."

What has also left people in the region worried is that the forest fires are usually at their peak in May. The fear that the worst is yet to come.

Scientists say although climate change can't be directly blamed for forest fires, it has intensified the dryness in the region.

Authorities in Uttarakhand and Nepal have said several forest fires have been caused by stubble burning in agricultural lands adjoining forests.

But experts say the problems are not just limited to the weather and stubble burning.

"Government planners usually think about forests just as carbon sinks. They often forget forest fires, and how they can become sources of carbon emissions," said Vijendra Ajnabi, a natural resource management expert with Oxfam, who is based in India's Chhattisgarh state.

"Forest fires are yet to be a priority issue. That is why you don't usually hear this being discussed in the parliament."

Forest fires no natural hazard?



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image caption Air quality in the region, particularly in Nepal, has become hazardous largely due to forest fires

India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has not recognised forest fires as natural hazards.

On its website, it has listed cyclone, tsunami, heatwave, landslide, floods and earthquakes under such category.

Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

An analysis done by the Forest Survey of India in 2019 showed that nearly 36% of the country's forests are prone to fires and nearly one third of that is highly vulnerable.

"The reason why we have not listed forest fires as natural hazards is because in India most of such fires are deliberately caused by people mainly for agricultural purposes and, therefore, it is an anthropogenic [man-made] hazard," said Krishna Vatsa, a member of the NDMA.

"But we do recognise that forest fires are becoming a serious hazard and that is why we are working with forest departments and other agencies of all the states to deal with the issue."

Deficiencies in fire service

Based on the findings of Standing Fire Advisory Committee, the NDMA in the past had highlighted serious shortcomings in the country's fire services.

The committee had found that there was more than 80% of deficiency in fire-fighting and rescue vehicles and the number of fire services personnel in the country was 96% less than what was required.

"We have made progress since those findings but we know we have to do much more," said DK Shami, an adviser and a senior official at India's Directorate General of Fire Services.

"Then we had around 50,000 fire personnel and now we have more than 75,000 and growing."

In a significant rise in budget allocation compared to the past, the government is now giving 50bn rupees (\$670m) to the states for fire services between this year and 2026 - that's five times over what was usually given in the past."

But experts on the ground say that has hardly helped in fighting forest fires in many places.

"There is almost no preparedness on the part of the administration while the fires are becoming more and more intense," Aniruddh Jadeja, an environmental activist in Kumaon district of Uttarakhand, said.

"Our forests are so big and the number of staff in government forest departments is very limited. So they can barely do anything when there is a serious forest fire."



IMAGE COPYRIGHTGETTY IMAGES

image captionThe number of firefighting personnel in India is inadequate given the fire risks its forests face



Why India and Nepal's forest fires are worrying scientists

Forest experts in Nepal have something similar to say.

"We hear about millions of dollars the country receives as climate finance from foreign donors, but nothing is being spent to prevent and fight forest fires," said Bharati Pathak, president of the Federation of Community Forestry Users in Nepal.

"We had earned global recognition as a success story of community forestry and now forest fires are threatening to undo all that," she added.

Nepalese government officials said they were doing all they could.

"With limited resources, we are doing our best but the fires are on difficult geography like mountain slopes and the dry weather and people deliberately causing fires have not helped," said Prakash Lamsal, spokesperson at Nepal's forest ministry.

"We all have seen how difficult it is to contain forest fires even in the developed world."

Local communities' help

Experts said local communities living within or nearby forests could help in putting fires out to a great extent but that is not happening.

"That is because there is a serious trust deficit between these communities and the forest administrations of the states," said Mr Pathak.

"Many indigenous communities want their rights including access to forest resources to be respected and, therefore, there are tensions between them and forest administrations and that clearly has affected the fight against forest fires."

Local communities in different forested areas of India have protested, arguing their rights to forest lands and other resources have been undermined and violated by conservation policies.

Authorities say they are protecting forests as per the law.

"Authorities usually put the blame [for forest fires] on communities but they can actually work with these local people to keep the fires out," said Mr Ajnabi.

13 APRIL 2021, Tuesday



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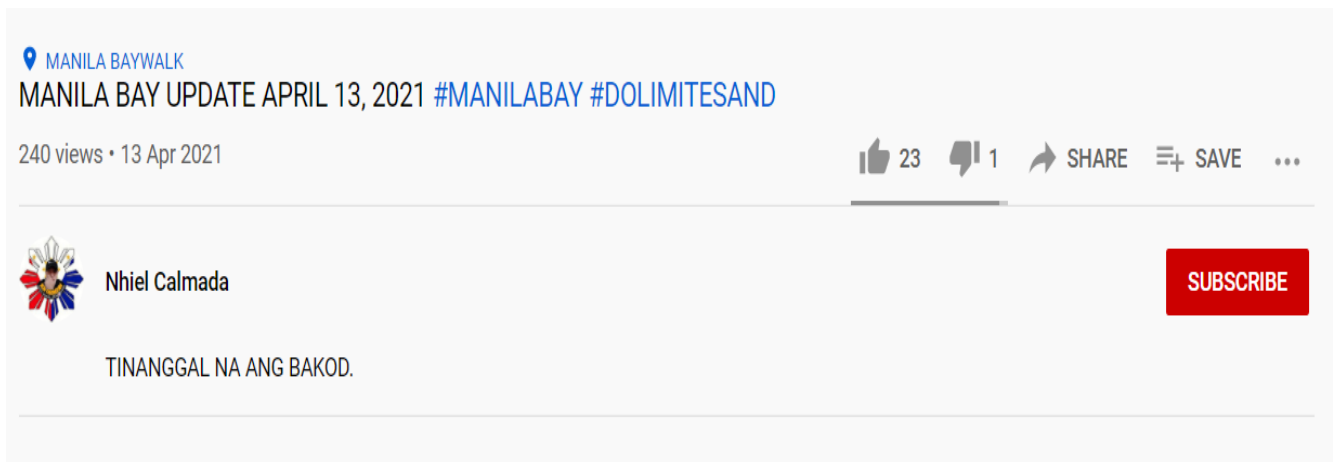
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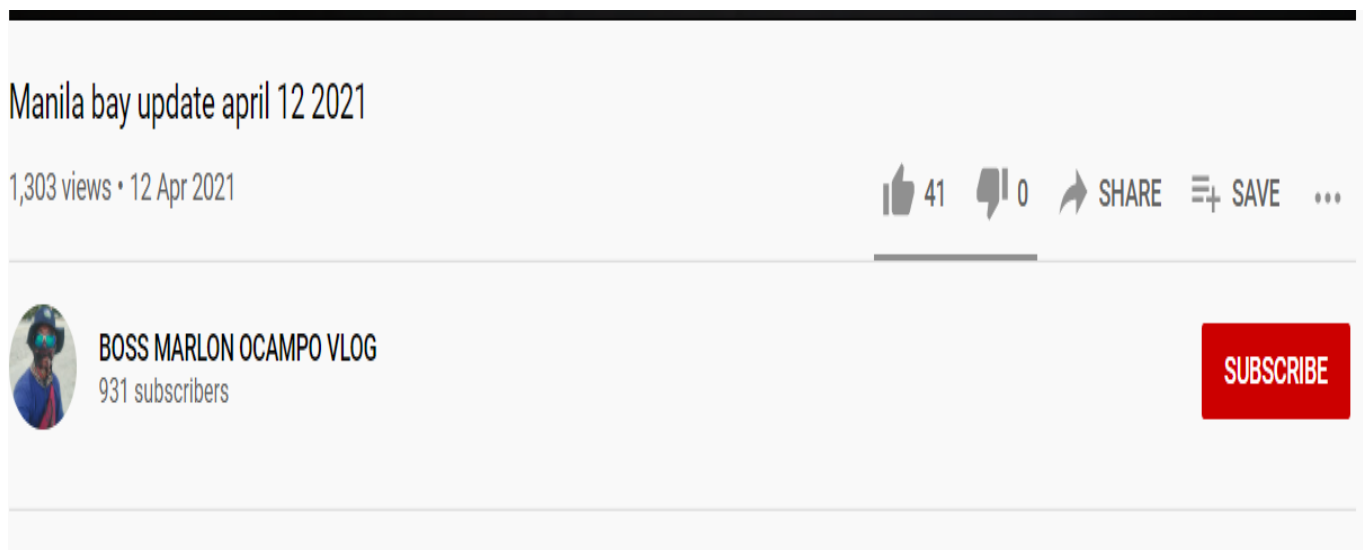
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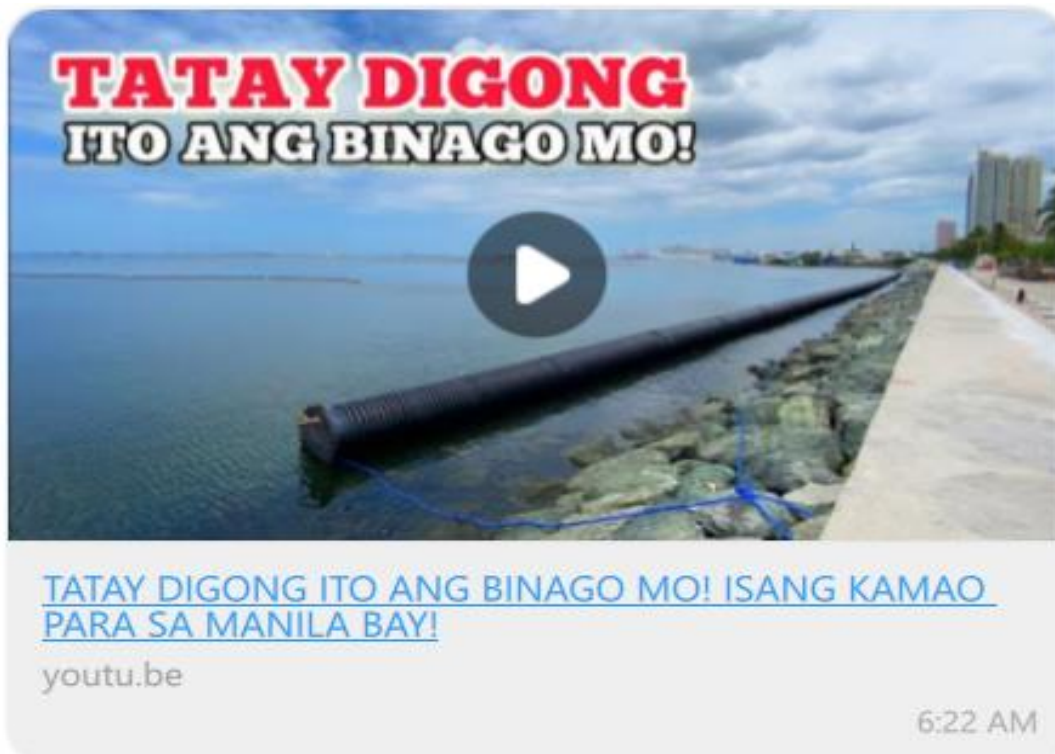
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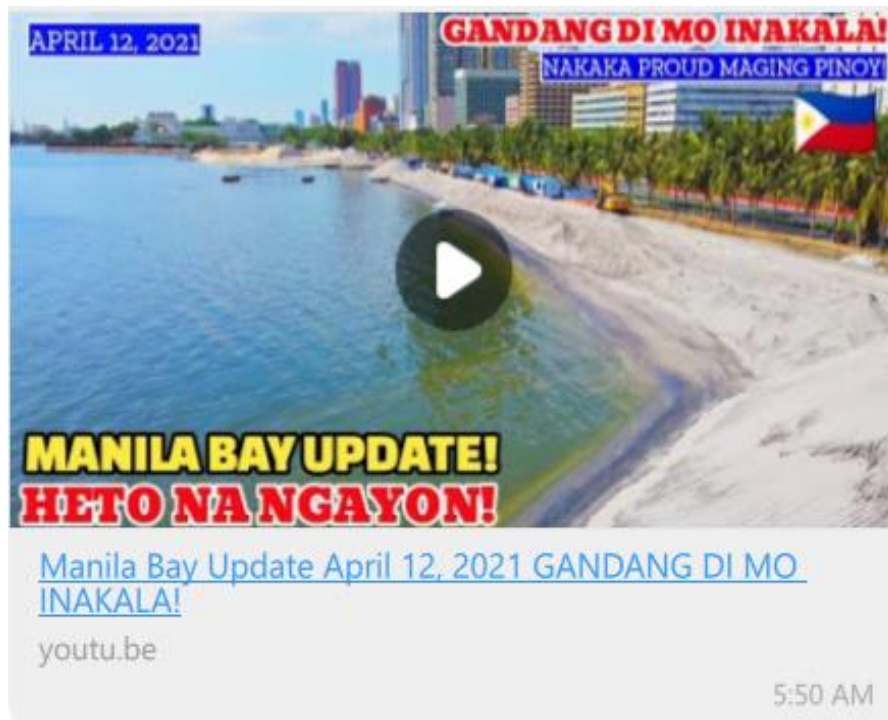
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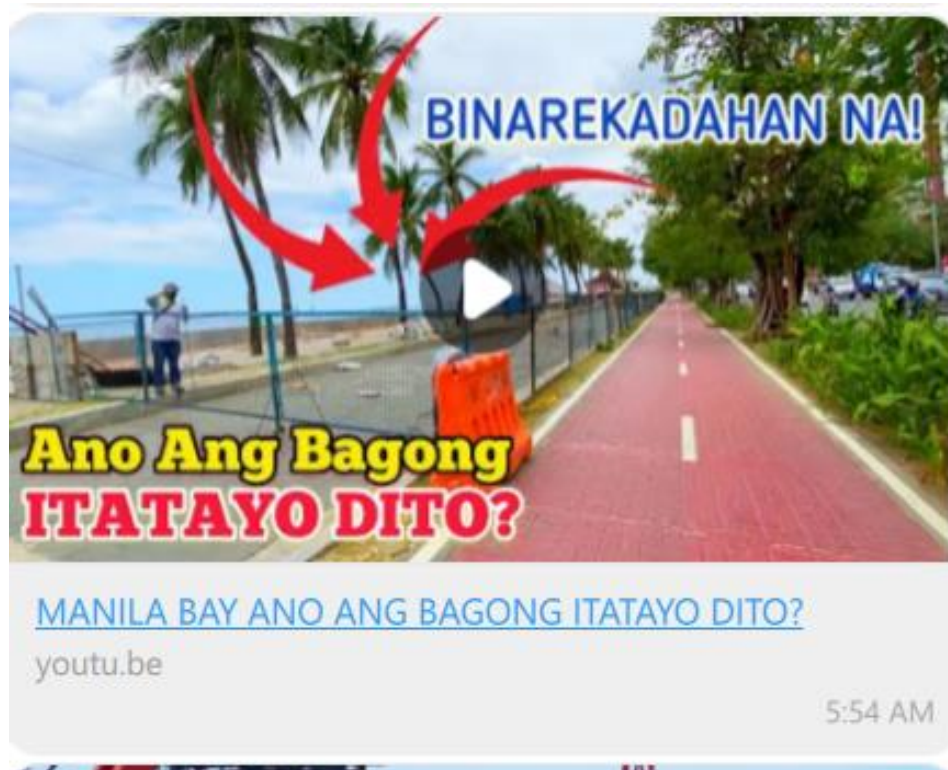
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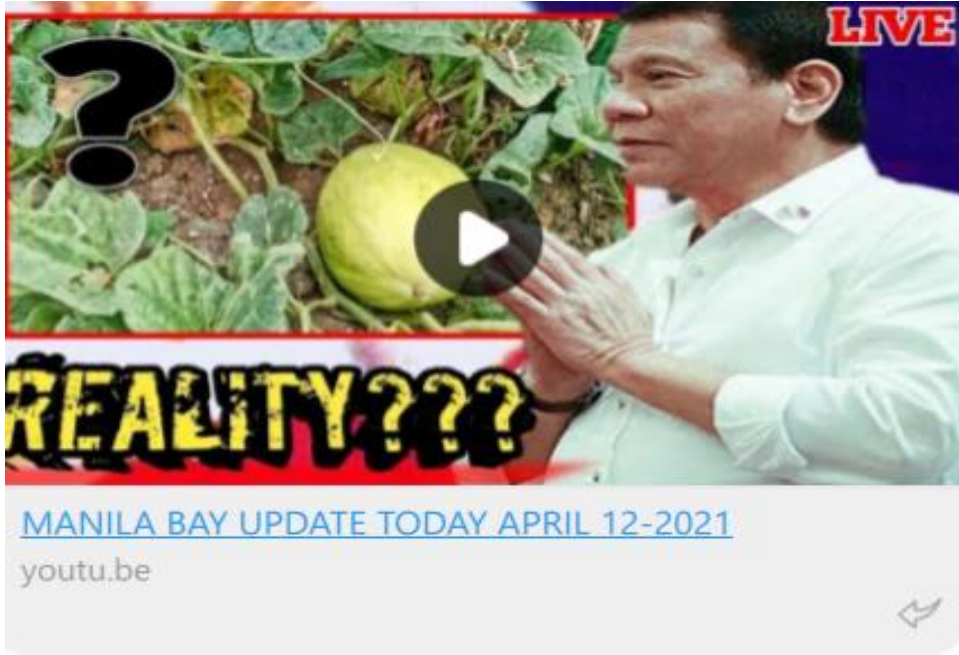
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