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DENR

NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



More mineral processing plants in PH sought

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) June 26, 2022

FORMER [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR) Acting Secretary [Jim Sampulna](#) pushed for the establishment of more mineral processing plants and utilization of rare earth deposits to help increase the country's mineral production and revenue generation.

"Mineral processing plants make the mined mineral ready to use for application. For example, limestone, if processed, will become cement, which is ready to use for construction," Sampulna said.



[Acting Department](#) of the Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Jim Sampulna. PHOTO FROM DENR WEBSITE.

"If we have more of these plants and more minerals will be processed in the country, then its value will increase even more than 100 percent, and lesser raw materials will be shipped out to other countries, like [Japan](#) or [China](#)," he added.

The DENR Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) has so far issued 108 mineral processing permits, most of which are for construction materials.

Likewise, Sampulna proposed the identification of rare earth elements ([REEs](#)), such as scandium and yttrium, in operating mines.

Sampulna, who was the former DENR undersecretary for mining, said that these metals are essential parts for many high-technology devices.

"The [Philippines](#) is conducive to these minerals. It could contribute to the national government through the identification and utilization of these commodities. To date, there are only a few operating mines, which have identified REEs," he said.

Sampulna cited that a proposed iron mineral processing plant in Zamboanga had its groundbreaking ceremony on June 18, to support the DENR's initiatives toward self-utilization of mineral commodities in the country.

"We hope that investors will push for the opening of more processing plants in the Philippines," he said.

He also assured Filipinos that the DENR will continue to strengthen its regulation and monitoring of mining operations to ensure sustainable and responsible mineral production in the country.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/26/business/sunday-business-it/more-mineral-processing-plants-in-ph-sought/1848687>



Coffee table book featuring Boracay rehabilitation launched

Published June 25, 2022, 11:00 AM

by [Tara Yap](#)



'BORACAY: A Paradise Reborn,' a coffee table book featuring the rehabilitation work at world-famous Boracay Island. (EMB-6)

ILOILO CITY – “Boracay: A Paradise Reborn,” a coffee table book featuring the rehabilitation efforts at world-famous Boracay Island, was launched here Thursday, June 23, by the Environmental Management Bureau, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

“This is to spread awareness on the rehabilitation process of Boracay for the past four years and to make the accomplishments of the various national government agencies,” said EMB-Region 6 (Western Visayas) Director Atty. Ramar Pascua.

The 70-page book has various photos and stories of accomplishments since the Duterte administration’s massive rehabilitation of the country’s most famous beach destination started late April 2018.

President Duterte ordered Boracay closed for an initial six months to jumpstart the government’s program to curb environmental degradation on the island.

The DENR, then led by Secretary Roy Cimatu, spearheaded the rehabilitation, being the chairman of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF).

Aside from the DENR, the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also had its own programs to address with the various concerns in Boracay.

Pascua said that local governments and the national government agencies must continue the rehabilitation works in Boracay.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/25/coffee-table-book-featuring-boracay-rehabilitation-launched/>



DENR-8 launches solid waste management advocacy campaign

Published on: June 25, 2022

By DENR-8

TACLOBAN CITY -- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Eastern Visayas in partnership with the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) launched the Solid Waste Management Advocacy Campaign to raise public awareness on proper solid waste management.

The campaign featured the 'Pinas Basura Buster' (PBB) mascot, audio video presentations, and the new mobile game application for children five to eight years old called 'Basura Buster.'

EMB-8 Regional Director Engr. Reynaldo B. Barra said the campaign seeks to build strong foundation on proper solid waste management among children and youth who are expected to soon serve as ambassadors of solid waste management.

Usec. Benito Antonio T. De Leon, undersecretary for Enforcement, Solid Waste Management, Local Government Units Concerns and Attached Agencies of DENR, solicited the support of partners from the local government units (LGUs), academe, media, and other stakeholders in molding the mindset of the youth towards proper solid waste management.

"We have always believed in the capacity of the youth to propagate sound environmental practices, however the responsibility to shape young mind lie in our hands, so we ask your assistance in disseminating our advocacy. Please help us get on board the different sectors of our society in our solid waste management advocacy campaign," he said.

"We hope that this event will provide not just entertainment but most importantly will convey the message that we are altogether in realizing, collaborating, and supporting our solid waste management program," Undersecretary De Leon added.

Director Khalil S. Bayam of the Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service DENR central office encouraged everyone to be part of the advocacy and to work together to protect the environment and conserve our natural resources.

The DENR invites its partners from the LGUs, academe, youth, media and the general public to use the mobile game application 'Basura Buster' which can be downloaded through the Goggle Playstore and the PBB materials in spreading SWM concepts in Region 8.



The Department hopes that through the SWM advocacy campaign as represented by Pinas the Basura Buster, the different sectors will rally forward the message to pursue sound environmental practices.

The launching of the SWM Advocacy Campaign in Eastern Visayas was graced by Tacloban City Environment and Natural Resources Officer Jonathan R. Hijada, DENR Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services Dario O. Suarez, Assistant Regional Director for Management Services Arturo Salazar, EMB Regional Director Reynaldo Barra, and MGB Division Chief Engr. Reynaldo Babatugon. Undersecretary De Leon and SCIS Director Bayam took part in the launching through virtual messages. The launching was attended by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officers (PENROs), Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers (CENROs), representatives from the local government units, academe, ENR Ambassadors, youth, government agencies, media and partner industries. (DENR-8)



HR@Your Service at DENR

Saturday, June 25, 2022 Journal Online



Former **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampluna and Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, Strategic Communication and Sectoral Initiatives Hiro V. Masuda (6th and 5th from left, front row) celebrate with personnel of the Human Resource Development Service the opening of HR@YourService at the DENR Central Office on June 20, 2022. The activity underscores employee welfare by bringing together government agencies such as the National Bureau of Investigation, Land Transportation Office, Philippine Statistics Authority, and insurance and health companies for more convenient transactions of **DENR** personnel.



Essential Gov't Services for DENR Employees

Saturday, June 25, 2022 Journal Online



Employees of the **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** avail of services from various government agencies and health and wellness establishments on the first day of “HR@YourService” on June 20, 2022. The week-long activity, held in celebration of the DENR 35th Anniversary and the Environment Month, is spearheaded by the DENR Human Resource Development Service in line with the thrust of former **DENR** Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna to provide employees convenient access to essential services such as application for birth, marriage and death certificates, application for student driver’s permit, and updating of records with the Social Security System (SSS). Among the service providers present are (from top left, clockwise): SSS, Philippine Statistics Authority, Pag-IBIG Fund, and an optical clinic.



SINP-PAMB approves research on Philippine Ironwoods for genetic conservation ecosystem restoration

Published on: June 25, 2022

By DENR-8

TACLOBAN CITY -- The Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) of Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) approved the Resolution of the Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS) - DENR Research Project on Philippine Ironwoods for Genetic Conservation and Ecosystem within the municipalities of Paranas, Samar and Giporlos, Eastern Samar during the recently held SINP-PAMB Executive Committee meeting presided by DENR Regional Executive Director Arturo E. Fadriquela.

This was one of the highlighted agenda since the conduct of genetic sampling from ironwood (locally known as mangkono) by researchers needed further clarification from the SINP-PAMB.

The proponents of this research project composed of researchers from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) said the expected output will generate a special distribution map of ironwood in Samar. This will help the DENR in monitoring the extent of ironwood in the area and assist the Department in the policy guidelines relative to the utilization of the species.

Also, DNA barcoding and genotyping of ironwoods will facilitate effective conservation ways and will guarantee the existing conservation initiatives based on their genetic makeup. This research project will also aid academic and other research institutions in their future research endeavors.

“The conservation of ironwood is important because people continue to harvest it despite the restrictions. I am confident that through this research, its conservation will be made possible,” Regional Executive Director Fadriquela said.

“It is true that this research will increase our knowledge primarily in the DENR but ultimately, the PAMB can use the research material in managing this Protected Area since this is a site-specific study. It is important that we have these scientific studies as basis in coming up with significant decisions,” he added.

Under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) 2017-11 or the Updated National List of Threatened Philippine Plants and their Categories, mangkono (*Xanthostemon verdugonianus*) is listed as “endangered,” meaning its survival in the wild is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. (DENR-8)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/06/25/sinp-pamb-approves-research-on-philippine-ironwoods-for-genetic-conservation-ecosystem-restoration>



PENRO-Biliran releases critically endangered Philippine Hanging Parakeet

Published on: June 25, 2022

By DENR-8

TACLOBAN CITY -- A pair of critically endangered Philippine Hanging Parakeet (colasisi) and a pair of white-eared brown dove (alimukon) were turned over by residents to the Maritime Law Enforcement stationed at Brgy. Alegria, Caibiran, Biliran.

Assessed by a licensed veterinarian as physically fit, said species were immediately released at the forested area of Brgy. Talustusan, Naval.

“It is becoming a practice among residents to immediately report to proper authorities each time they come across somebody in their locality with unlawful possession of any form of wildlife. Probably a product of our sustained effort of conducting information, education, and communication (IEC) activities regarding environmental laws among the communities”, said Maria Cristina Alberto Santos, designated information officer of PENRO-Biliran.

Under DENR Administrative Order 2019-09 that updated the list of threatened Philippine fauna and their categories, the Philippine Hanging Parrot, commonly known as “colasisi” is categorized as critically endangered. Meaning, it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future. While not listed among those threatened Philippine fauna, possession of the white-eared brown dove without a permit is still unlawful per provision of Republic Act 9147 or the “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

“We call on the citizenry to support our effort to curb, if not totally halt, injuring, killing and the illegal trade of wildlife. As responsible stewards of the environment, immediately report to the nearest DENR field office or other law enforcement agencies any information relative to any violation of R.A. 9147,” reminded Arturo E. Fadriquela, OIC-Regional Executive Director of DENR in Region 8. (DENR-8)

Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/06/25/penro-biliran-releases-critically-endangered-philippine-hanging-parakeet>



Over 8K mangrove buds planted in Zambo City for Arbor Day

By Teofilo Garcia, Jr. [June 25, 2022, 4:43 pm](#)



ARBOR DAY. Zamboanga City Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar leads the planting of mangrove propagules on Saturday (June 25, 2022) as the city joins the celebration of Philippine Arbor Day. At least 8,520 mangrove propagules were planted at the city-owned mangrove site in Barangay Talon-Talon. *(Photo courtesy of City Hall Public Information Office)*

ZAMBOANGA CITY – At least 8,520 mangrove propagules were planted Saturday on the coast of Barangay Talon-Talon as this city joined the country's Arbor Day celebration.

Dubbed "Arbor Day na Zamboanga", the planting activity covered an area of 3.4 hectares at the mangrove site owned and managed by the government, through the Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources (OCENR).

Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco-Salazar, who led the activity, said some 1,400 participants coming from different local and national government offices as well as from the academe, non-government organizations, and security sector took part in planting mangrove propagules.

"I commend the OCENR for continuously undertaking initiatives to protect and preserve our environment," Salazar said.

During the activity, a Certificate of Recognition was presented to Edison Delos Reyes, an employee of the OCENR, for his dedication to service even if it almost caused his life.

On May 17, this year, poachers mauled and hacked Delos Reyes whose attention he called while on duty in the mangrove conservation site of the city government in Barangay Talon-Talon.

Arbor Day in the Philippines has been institutionalized to be observed every June 25 throughout the nation by planting trees and ornamental plants and other forms of relevant activities.

Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities traditionally take the opportunity to organize tree-planting and litter-collecting events. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1177535>



Personal Collection's Ongoing Environment-Centric Efforts to Scale Up Protection of PH Coastlines

Friday, June 24, 2022 Journal Online



Personal Collection Bataan branch's employees and dealers (Orion, Bataan Mangrove Planting)

Personal Collection (PC) took the lead in planting over 100,000 mangroves and collecting thousands of kilos of plastic waste from shorelines in less than a year'

Personal Collection Direct Selling Inc. ramps up mangrove-planting and coastal clean-up activities across the Philippines as it celebrates the triumphant first year of its #GreenLifeGreatLife movement – a commitment to step up the company's participation in making the world a better place for future generations.

After pioneering the shift from merely recyclable to biodegradable packaging that's good for the environment, Personal Collection's eco-warriors did not miss the chance to make their contributions count.

Last April, dealers and employees planted over 30,000 mangrove seedlings in Sta. Cruz in Zambales, Noveleta in Cavite, and Orion in Bataan. In addition to the 70,000 mangroves Personal Collection's volunteers planted from November to December last year, this brings the total to 100,000 mangroves in just a span of eight months. These efforts are deemed important in protecting the coastlines from erosion and flooding and in preserving the marine life and the creatures that take shelter in the affected aquatic habitats.

This substantial achievement has been possible with the help of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) and the proactive support of Personal Collection's thousands of dealers and employees all over the country.



Personal Collection's mangrove-planting initiative inspires teamwork (Orion, Bataan Mangrove Planting)



Alongside [mangrove planting](#), Personal Collection has been organizing coastal clean-ups since October last year as it aims to help in addressing the gigantic plastic pollution problem in the country. In fact, the Philippines is the world's third-largest plastic waste contributor, with over 0.75 million metric tons of mismanaged plastic waste dumped in landfills or in oceans yearly as shown in a World Bank report (Market Study for the Philippines: Plastics Circularity Opportunities and Barriers, March 21, 2021).

In partnership with Marine Conservation Philippines, Personal Collection has led volunteers in different parts of the country and has collected thousands of kilos of trash from the coasts of Dumaguete, Siaton, Bayawan, Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park, BASECO Beach in Manila, Isla Pulo in Navotas, and Centennial Park in Malabon.

Launched last June 8, 2021, Personal Collection's #GreenLifeGreatLife movement is in line with the company's commitment to creating a positive impact on the environment. It started with manufacturing eco-friendly packaging for its top-selling flagship household products: Tuff TBC (Toilet Bowl Cleanser), Tuff MSC (Multi-Surface Cleaner), and sof & mmmmm..... Concentrated Fabric Conditioner. The biodegradable packaging is designed to decompose within five to 10 years in landfill conditions, unlike regular plastic bottles which could take up to 1,000 years before disintegrating into harmful microplastics.

In April this year, Personal Collection officially launched Tuff Naturals, the company's first liquid laundry detergent. It comes not only in biodegradable packaging but is also comprised of 95% biodegradable ingredients – unarguably the smarter choice for the environment.




With the #GreenLifeGreatLife movement, **Personal Collection** takes the lead in offering the Great Life through high-quality and environmentally responsible products and supporting employees, direct sellers, and customers to become ambassadors of sustainable living and environmental conservation.

To learn more about the **Personal Collection** #GreenLifeGreatLife movement, visit www.personalcollection.com.ph and follow www.facebook.com/pcdsiofficial, @pcdsiofficial on Instagram for more updates.



Dolomite beach sa Manila Bay, permanente nang bukas sa publiko, ayon sa DENR;

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Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQNSSo1kx30>



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Dagsa ang mga tao ngayong araw sa Dolomite Beach para mamasyal kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya.

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Green groups to Marcos: Carry out protection measures

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA JUNE 26, 2022



[Wikimedia CC BY SA-4.0](#)

A web-style viewing platform of Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province with a spectacular view of Laguna de Bay.

Barely a week from assuming the country's highest position, President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has yet to name his secretary who will manage the country's environment and natural resources.

Environment Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna has already formed a transition team for the next Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) leadership and has assured a smooth turnover of the agency's programs and projects to the incoming administration.

Ahead of Marcos Jr.'s anointed DENR chief, various groups are already anxious about its leader and what will be Marcos's marching orders that will define his policy in the next six years.

Fight illegal fishing, restore ocean abundance

Oceana Philippines, an ocean conservation nongovernment organization and its network of stakeholders, was among the first to urge the incoming Marcos administration to continue the fight against illegal commercial fishing, and to strengthen policies to restore ocean abundance.

The group told the Business Mirror via e-mail on June 22 that the new administration should continue the reforms made in the fight against illegal commercial fishing in municipal waters to attain food and nutritional security, and alleviate the worsening poverty in coastal communities all over the country.

"Our municipal waters can be a major source of protein for the Filipino people. But in order to do that, the government must continue to protect our fragile marine habitats and the preferential rights of our artisanal fishers to the municipal waters" and the licenses of violators "must be revoked," Oceana added.

Oceana Philippines Vice President Gloria Estenzo Ramos pointed out that they wish the next administration "to embed protection and resiliency of our marine and natural ecosystems first and foremost, and fully implement our fisheries and environmental laws, especially the vessel-monitoring mechanisms."

Eco group's wish list for BBM

The group EcoWaste Coalition, a waste and pollution watchdog, and its network of environmental groups came up with a wish list for Marcos Jr.



Aileen Lucero said No. 1 on their list is for the issuance of a directive to hasten the phase-out of Nonenvironmentally Acceptable Products and Packaging with single-use plastic as an immediate priority.

The group's No. 2 wish is for the Marcos administration to hasten government ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment and stop waste importation.

"[Marcos Jr. must] develop a legislative agenda for the environment, with the active participation of rights holders and impacted communities and sectors, to adequately address waste and pollution issues amid a climate emergency," Lucero told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on June 22.

Third, the new administration must also declare the government's commitment to sustainable and socially just-waste policy and programs, and suspend, if not reverse, the planned shift to waste-to-energy incineration and other "false solutions" to the garbage problem, Lucero said.

Lucero added that Mr. Marcos should reiterate the government's commitment to toxic polychlorinated biphenyls-free Philippines by 2025.

She added that the government should ensure compliance with all other chemical safety-related targets, including, but not limited to the 2020 phase-out of mercury-added products, and the 2017 and 2019 phase-out of lead-containing decorative and industrial paints.

Lucero pointed out that the new leaders should "stop red-tagging among environmental defenders and start convergence."

Climate action, justice a must

Asked what they expect from the incoming Marcos administration, Lea Guerrero, country director at Greenpeace Southeast Asia Philippines, said with the country being among the most vulnerable to climate impacts, action and justice must be Marcos Jr.'s top priority.

Guerrero admitted that Marcos Jr. comes to office at a crucial time when the world only has a few more years to keep global temperature rise within the 1.5 degrees Celsius in order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.

"Concretely, this means he must prioritize dropping all nuclear plans," Guerrero told the BusinessMirror via Messenger on June 22.

"Nuclear [power] is the most dangerous and most expensive way to generate electricity. It will put Filipino families at risk and will not solve the climate crisis," she added.

Stop fossil fuel expansion

She said stopping the further expansion of fossil fuels, including fossil gas, means canceling all fossil gas projects in construction and in the pipeline, upholding the coal moratorium to cancel all projects in the pipeline, as well as dropping plans of exploration.

She added that the Commission on Human Rights final report on the National Inquiry on Climate Change has given basis for the Philippine government to ensure Carbon Majors are compelled to undertake human rights due diligence and are held accountable for failure to remediate human rights abuses arising from their business operations.

"If he is sincere in his pronouncements on climate action and promoting renewable energy, Ferdinand Marcos Jr. must drop all plans for nuclear energy and fossil gas," Guerrero said.

"The key to a healthy environment is a healthy democracy,» she said.



To promote this, she said the new president must support people's participation in governance, strengthen democratic institutions, and advance and protect justice and human rights.

Preparing for the worst

Meanwhile, a skeptical Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, said they are preparing for the worst from the Marcos administration.

"We know their bottom lines are mega infrastructure, dirty energy and extractive projects to feed their edifice complex, and we know they will employ massive disinformation tactics to 'greenwash' over the destruction," Dulce said via Messenger on June 21.

According to Dulce, the network, along with its network of environmental groups, "will hit the ground running on day one of the new administration with demands to reimpose a moratorium on mining applications and a national ban on open-pit mining.»

Overhaul EIS system

Dulce said they will demand a full overhaul of the Environmental Impact Statement system, which he said has been deliberately weakened by bureaucrats in the DENR to make it easier to railroad the implementation of destructive big-business projects.

"We will demand decisive action over land-use conflicts with critical watersheds, such as the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal, and the Environmentally Critical Areas Network of Palawan," Dulce pointed out.

„We will accept nothing less than an accomplished, independent scientist or environmental lawyer who has extensive field and community experience as Environment secretary in Marcos Jr.'s cabinet," he added.

Dulce explained that the next environment chief should serve as a check and balance to the various big business interests in the Cabinet.

Image credits: [Wikimedia CC BY SA-4.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)



Philippine withdrawal from mining transparency initiative removes checks, balances in industry — groups

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 24, 2022 | 3:01pm



A huge lagoon of copper mine tailings are impounded in containment area that used to be an open pit mine of the Marcopper Mining Corporation in this town in central Marinduque island 30 March 1996. The waste pit said to contain about 30 million tons of copper mine waste spilled through a sealed underground tunnel into Boac river 24 March killing all aquatic life.

AFP/Romeo Gacad

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated, 4:35 p.m.**) — Environmental groups condemned the withdrawal of the Philippines from a global initiative on extractives transparency, saying it removes any checks and balances in the mining industry.

In a letter addressed to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, Finance chief Carlos Dominguez expressed its withdrawal over what it called a “subjective, biased and unfair” quality assurance assessment.”

“The Philippines has no confidence in the ability of the EITI to undertake an impartial, transparent, and evidence-based validation process,” Domiguez said.

EITI is a global coalition of companies, civil society, and governments working together to improve accountability in the management of revenues from oil, gas, metals, and minerals.

Membership in the initiative entails a commitment to “disclose information on each member country’s extractive industry value chain.”

In a statement, Alyansa Tigil Mina said it is a “concrete example of the government’s betrayal to its environmental and transparency commitments and its continuing patronage to irresponsible mining in the Philippines.”

“This withdrawal from EITI eventually exposes the pretentious effort of the Duterte government to promote “responsible mining”, as it backs out from a legitimate, robust and internationally accepted process. We are proven right, that ‘responsible mining’ is indeed fake news,” said Jaybee Garganera, national coordinator of ATM.

The group also criticized the unilateral decision of the government in withdrawing from the EITI, noting that there should be at least the informed consent of the other members from the mining industry and civil society.

Despite the withdrawal from EITI, Dominguez said that the Philippines has the process, systems and manpower to ensure transparency in the extractives sector.



‘Harder to demand accountability’

In December 2021, the Duterte government lifted the nationwide ban on open-pit mining in a bid to bring more money into the Philippines after the economic slowdown brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also lifted a nine-year-old ban on new mining agreements in April of the same year.

Kalikasan People’s Network for the Environment said that it will be harder for people’s organizations to demand accountability from the government for any failures to protect natural resources following the withdrawal from EITI.

“It can easily whitewash any accidents or ill-effects that result from mining projects,” said Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan PNE.

President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said this week that he wants to ensure that mining operations in the Philippines are “environmentally neutral.”

Dulce challenged the incoming administration to allow scrutiny of its mining plans, including projects it will allow.

“The people deserve to know how mining companies will use our natural resources and what's in it for each stakeholder. The lack of transparency measures will only make the mining industry more prone to abuse,” he said.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/06/24/2190642/philippine-withdrawal-mining-transparency-initiative-removes-checks-balances-industry-groups>



Catholic social action network joins opposition vs Tampakan mining project

BYCBCP NEWS JUNE 26, 2022



[Clyde Jomoc/SAC-Marbel](#)

Bishop Cerilo Casicas of Marbel (front row, fourth from left) joins a march towards the South Cotabato capitol building in Koronadal City to protest the lifting of the ban on open-pit mining in the province on June 1. The Catholic Church's social action network has added its voice to the opposition against the massive copper-gold project in South Cotabato province's Tampakan town.

Speaking on behalf of the network, Caritas Philippines National Director Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo backed the anti-mining campaign of Marbel diocese through its social action center.

Bagaforo said they "firmly believe that local actions matter greatly in the fight against climate emergency and planetary crisis."

"We encourage and join the people of South Cotabato in demanding for public accountability and in carrying out regular scrutiny of government transactions related, in particular, to environment actions," Bagaforo said in a statement.

The statement was released recently after the 40th National Social Action General Assembly (Nasaga) held in General Santos City.

More than 240 delegates from at least 71 dioceses attended the four-day assembly.

South Cotabato Gov. Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. earlier vetoed a local council resolution lifting the ban on open-pit mining

The veto came after thousands of people took the streets to show their opposition against mining.

The Nasaga participants urged the province's officials "to work more tediously to guard the ecological sanctity of Tampakan and respect the will of the people."

They also hope that with such collective voice and action, "the national government will heed the call of its people to make the moratorium against mining in the country a national institutional policy and make all parties involved in irresponsible and unlawful mining operations face justice." **CBCP News**

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/06/26/catholic-social-action-network-joins-opposition-vs-tampakan-mining-project/>



EDITORIAL - Saving a watershed

The Philippine Star June 26, 2022 | 12:00am



With the risks posed by extreme weather disturbances caused by climate change, Metro Manila faces few options to prevent ruinous flooding. One is to install more flood pumping stations. Another is to clear drainage systems and natural waterways of obstructions, garbage and heavy siltation.

A third measure is to preserve the watershed that protects the National Capital Region. The watershed encompasses the Upper Marikina River Basin and Masungi Georeserve in Rizal. The Upper Marikina watershed was declared a protected area under Presidential Proclamation 296 in November 2011.

The watershed is now imperiled by large-scale quarrying covering 1,300 hectares of the protected area. The mayors of Marikina, Muntinlupa, Pasig and Quezon City have called on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel the mineral production sharing agreements issued to the quarrying firms. DENR officials, however, have said it is simpler to just wait for the MPSAs to end in 2023.

The mayors have cited the assessment of the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau that the quarry firms have committed "gross violations" of the Philippine Mining Act. But the MGB said the MPSAs have been in place since 1998, before the Marikina watershed was declared a protected area, and three companies with the agreements have not been operational since 2004, partly because of protests from residents.

In Masungi, quarrying applications were banned in 1993 through an administrative order issued by then environment chief Angel Alcala, who was later named National Scientist. The georeserve is home to threatened and endangered endemic wildlife.



The DENR has been working with civic groups on reforestation projects in the watershed, but complaints about quarrying in the watershed persist. Following catastrophic typhoons in 2020, even officials of Rizal province have asked the DENR to act on the complaints. The approaching typhoon season will give an indication of the state of the watershed.



Pangamba sa pagmimina

GO NORTH - [Artemio Dumlao](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon June 26, 2022 | 12:00am

Matagal nang nilalaban ng indigenous peoples ng Bgy. Bulalacao, Mankayan, Benguet ang tangkang pagmimina ng ginto ng Crescent Mining Development Corporation (CMDC) sa kanilang lugar. Malaki ang pangamba nila na makasisira ito imbes na makatulong.

Subalit tila mawawalan ng saysay ang kanilang pagsalungat sapagkat naindorso na ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau at National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Cordillera ang renewal ng Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) ng CMDC. Iginawad ng DENR ang 25 taong renewal sa CMDC noong Marso 2, 2022.

Ito ay nagpapalakas naman ng loob sa CMDC para iarangkada ang proseso ng pagkuha ng Certificate of Precondition (CP) sa kabila na sinasalungat ng mga taga-Bulalacao, Mankayan ang tangkang pagmimina.

Sa nangyayaring ito, ano pa ang silbi ng Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) sa mandato ng Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), kung hindi sasailalim sa prosesong ito ang pagtatangka ng CMDC.

Pero hindi titigil ang mga taga-Bulalacao, Mankayan na salungatin ang pagtatangka ng CMDC sa kanilang lupang ninuno. Naipakita na nila ito sa CMDC nang magsagawa ito ng confirmatory drilling, 10 taon na ang nakalilipas. Lalabanan uli nila ang panibagong pagtatangka ng CMDC.

Hindi masisisi ang mga taga-Bulalacao kung lumaban sa CMDC sapagkat batid nila na walang benepisyong maibibigay sa kanila ang pagmimina. Wawasakin lamang nito ang kanilang gubat at bundok at saka iiwan.

* * *

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Multi-sectoral conference on climate change in Zamboanga successfully concluded

Published June 24, 2022, 9:50 PM

by [Bonita Ermac](#)

PIÑAN, Zamboanga del Norte — The 9th South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy (SSCBDA) concluded on Friday afternoon, June 24, its three-day symposium that focused on various practices meant to mitigate the impact of climate change.



9th SSCBDA panelists Mr Rogelio Navarro, MDRRMO Molave, Zamboanga Del Sur; Ms Maria Malu Cagay, Project Manager-Project Prosper; Nilo Munoz, Tambulig DRRMO ZDS; Ms Zenaida Delica Williston, Vice Chairperson-GNDR/CDP; Imelda Villas-Sergio Osmeña MDRRMO, ZDN; Mr. Roberto “Ka Dodoy” Ballon-Kapunungan sa Gagmay’ng Mangingisda Conception, Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay and Ms Mayfourth Luneta-Innovation Specialist, Pinnovation Academy answered questions from the media practitioners in a press conference here Friday. (Bonita L. Ermac)

Some 240 delegates from civil society, national and local government units and agencies, and other sectors including the media, attended the SSCBDA – an innovative modality for sharing and learning from good practices at the local and community levels, conducted across the globe by various networks and organizations.

The three-day event held at Manuel’s Resort in Piñan was hosted by project PROSPER 3 (Participation in Resilience Building and Organizing Safe and Progressive Communities for Empowerment, Climate, and Disaster Risk Reduction) being implemented by the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc. (CDP) and with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Civil Society in Development (CISU) network in Copenhagen.

The theme for the event was ‘Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risks and Climate Change.’



Mr. Roberto ‘Ka-Dodoy’ Ballon of Kapunungan sa Gagma’ng Mangingisda sa Conception, Kabasalan Zamboanga Sibugay shared his award-winning ecosystem-based adaptation strategy. Mr. Noriben Jay Lubguban, Municipal DRRMO, Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga Del Sur talked about Ecosystem-based Adaptation in a valley of rivers Salug Valley, and Ms. Candy Lachica Hidalgo, Deputy Coordinator Philippine Misereor Partnership Incorporated on the rights of nature. (Bonita L. Ermac)



Speakers from various local government units, provinces, government agencies, vulnerable communities, and CSOs across the Philippines presented their good practices and innovative solutions to provide models and case stories featuring nature-based initiatives to address the impacts of climate change.

Various networks, including Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines (DRRNetPhils), Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), and the United Nations Office of the South-South Cooperation also provided technical support for the 9th SSCBDA.

The event shared the stories through exhibit and deep dive sessions PROSPER's impact in 'transforming the lives of the people living in nine municipalities along Salug Valley towards inclusive, adaptive, flood and drought resilient communities with better ecosystem practices for sustainable livelihoods and development.'

Salug Valley covers twelve (12) municipalities of Regions IX and X, and the Regional and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices (LDRRMOs) of Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Misamis Occidental provided critical support and information in identifying the needs of communities in the valley and in project implementation.

PROSPER is a five-year project (2017-2022) with Phase 1 launched in the Zamboanga Peninsula on disaster management and training of duty bearers on inclusive Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM).

Phase 2 focused on family-level preparedness and School DRRM Awareness for Teachers and Schoolchildren.

"The SSCBDA is an academy centered on a learning platform wherein participants from CSOs, national and local governments, academia and training institutions learn from at-risk communities in disaster risk reduction climate change adaptation, and building community resilience", said Zenaida Delica Willison, Vice-Chair of the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and founding Board Member of the Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc.

Over the last three days, climate change experts shared experiences and lessons through the 'deep dive sessions' and other learning events including site visits to Salug Valley communities.

During the event, CDP had organized Paghahalad: an interactive photo exhibit of PROSPER communities' actions and innovative solutions from the Pinnovation Academy.

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During the event, CDP had organized Paghahalad: an interactive photo exhibit of PROSPER communities' actions and innovative solutions from the Pinnovation Academy.

Incumbent Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo also opened the event with her keynote message, congratulating everyone for the success of the event.



Inquirer Read-Along: Kids learn about environmental sustainability

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:53 PM June 25, 2022



MANILA, Philippines — Children learned about sustainable and responsible acts that could protect the environment and future generations during the virtual [Inquirer Read-Along](#) session held Saturday.

The storytelling session, which featured celebrity reader Arlene Muhlach and professional storyteller Rich Rodriguez, tackled stories about environmental sustainability in line with the celebration of the Philippine Environment Month in June.

The Read-Along session, aired live on Inquirer’s Facebook pages, was held in partnership with Globe.

The program kicked off with a video message from Apple Evangelista, head of Globe’s Sustainability and Social Responsibility, who introduced Camp Kalikasan, a website put up by Globe in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature Philippines to promote environmental education.

Rodriguez read “Ang Alamat ng Duhat,” written by Segundo D. Matias, Jr. and illustrated by Rovi Jesh R. Salegumba. It is a modern legend that tells the origin of the Java plum or “duhat” from the story of Duha’s devotion to her black-skinned tribe.



Muhlach read the book “The Crying Trees,” written by Mary Ann Ordinario-Floresta and illustrated by Yasmin S. Ong. The book is about a great grandfather tree that sacrificed its life to save the little trees in the forest.

“I hope you can impart reading to be a regular thing in the lives of children,” Muhlach said during the session, addressing the parents about the importance of reading.

The session was hosted by Inquirer Entertainment reporter JC Cruz and Inquirer Research Head Ana Roa.

Some 80 students, teachers, and guests from Antonio Regidor Elementary School, Renato Lopez Elementary School, San Miguel Elementary School, and Sabang Elementary School attended via Zoom.

Launched in 2007, the Inquirer Read-along is a corporate social responsibility project of the company that aims to promote the love of reading among children.



Nathalie Grace Adalid, Inquirer Research



Hotel 101 group launches sustainability campaign

[Rosette Adel](#) - Philstar.com June 25, 2022 | 5:54pm



It is also looking at launching the project in the second half, the company said in a disclosure yesterday.

Hotel101 FB page

MANILA, Philippines — A hotel group this month launched green initiatives in partnership with the Pasay City Government and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Last Thursday Hotel 101 Group announced its sustainability campaign called 101 Stay Green led by its green team. They signed sustainable agreements with the LGU and the PCG, respectively.

This also came after the Department of Tourism expressed commitment to support the global climate change mitigation efforts by promoting green tourism, among others.

Among the initiatives of the 101 hotels include efforts in water and energy conservation as well as waste management and community engagement, according to Hotel 101 Group Green Team lead and Hotel 101 Manila hotel manager Ryann Dimayuga.

The hotel group's general manager Gel Gomez considers the formalization of the hotel group's green campaign as a "big win for the environment."

"Today is a big win for the environment as we have gathered everyone for the launch of Hotel 101 Group's sustainability initiatives, and as we commit to a common goal of protecting the environment and putting our stake in our future and the future generations," Gomez said.

"I am also happy to strengthen our partnerships between the Pasay City government, and the Philippine Coast Guard, both of which we worked closely with during the height of the pandemic, ensuring a safe and happy stay for all our guests across our hotels," she added.

Pasay City Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano, on the other hand, is thankful that the hotel group is working closely with the LGU for its sustainable initiatives.

"We are happy and thankful for Hotel 101's eco-projects and plans and to be able to work hand-in-hand guaranteeing our public an eco-conscious, practical, and leisurely stay in our hotels," the mayor said.

"This is really part of our vision for Pasay City, to be the first Eco-City in the Philippines. So we will always be of support to your endeavors and your journey towards sustainability," she added.



PCG Deputy Commandant for Administration Vice Admiral Rolando Lazor Punzalan Jr. likewise congratulated the hotel group for the efforts to save the environment.

“As part of its mandate, the Philippine Coast Guard ensures safe and cleaner seas. But the PCG, through its Marine Environmental Protection Command led by CG RADM Robert Patrimonio, shares the advocacy of likewise, protecting our land-based environment. Without hesitation, PCG vigorously supports Hotel 101 Groups’ sustainability initiatives for the environment capped up with a MOA Signing event and is honored to have as partners, the City of Pasay and Hotel 101 Group in this very sublime commitment,” Punzalan said.

Going green

Next month, Hotel 101 Manila will host all of Pasay City Barangay Captains for a half-day training on environmental issues, together with the Philippine Coast Guard Marine Environmental Command.

It added that the group is working toward benchmarking and adopting the criteria provided by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)’s Hotel Sustainability Basics badge and ASEAN Green Tourism Standard, both of which aim to transition the hotels to operate greener.

WTTC last April launched its “Hotel Sustainable Basics,” a globally recognized and coordinated set of criteria that will be implemented by hotels in the minimum drive to responsible travel and tourism during the WTTC at the global summit in Manila.

This highlights 12 actions essential to hotel sustainability that aims to help hotels address and improve their environmental impact.

Meanwhile, as part of the Going Green efforts, Horizon Café at Hotel 101 Manila also introduced its TLC Plant-Based Burger paired with fried sweet potato chips to provide guests a healthier option of a traditional burger with no meat. This will be available on the menu starting June 27.

“These initiatives are part of our authentic, collective efforts in each of our hotels and departments, that contribute to the whole 101 STAY GREEN initiative. I hope that we continue to work together, build on our partnerships, think of more creative ideas to engage our audiences, to make sure we leave a better, greener, and happier future,” Gomez said.

The Hotel 101 Group is a subsidiary of DoubleDragon Corporation, which also operates Hotel 101, Injap Tower Hotel in Iloilo City, and Jinjiang Inn Philippines.



DOST-FPRDI to study lesser-used bamboo species

BY JUNE 26, 2022



[DOST-FPRDI](#)

Thailand bamboo (left) and Yellow bamboo.

How many kinds of bamboo do you know? One? Two?

Did you know that there are more than 1,500 bamboo species in the world, and many of these are found in the Philippines? Of the ones growing in the country only a handful are popular and used commercially, however.

To optimize the use of the country's rich bamboo resources, the Department of Science and Technology's Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) has recently started a project that will uncover information on the basic properties of lesser-used local bamboos.

According to DOST-FPRDI's Forester Oliver S. Marasigan, the research project aims to give the bamboo industry and plantation growers a wider range of options for bamboo plantation and reforestation projects.

The results will be useful for those engaged in bamboo cultivation and processing, such as people's organizations, private businesses and government agencies.

"The research will provide recommendations for the possible end-uses of selected lesser-used bamboos, such as Dragon bamboo (*Dendrocalamus giganteus*), Solid bamboo (*Dendrocalamus strictus*), String bamboo (*Gigantochloa apus*), Iron bamboo (*Guadua angustifolia*), Yellow bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris* var. *striata*), Thailand bamboo (*Thyrsostachys siamensis*), and Fishpole bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*)," Marasigan explained.

"Bamboo is one of the best alternative materials for timber as it is fast-growing with high carbon sequestration rate, and can be re-harvested without any harmful impact

The study will look into the form and structure of each species, their cells and tissues, as well as their physical and mechanical properties.

Results will be published and will serve as inputs to a policy brief on their potential uses, whether as materials for construction, furniture, handicrafts, engineered bamboo, among others.



The P5 million research project is funded by the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, and is in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau.



'Waste for soap' program up in San Simon town



WASTE FOR SOAP. Residents of San Simon town exchange their recyclable plastic wastes to soap through the LGU's "Basurang Plastik Mu, Libayan Miyang Sabun" program. (Contributed photo)

PRINCESS CLEA ARCELLAZ

June 25, 2022

AS PART of its program to boost recycling among residents, the local government launched the "garbage for soap" program.

Dubbed as "Basurang Plastik Mu, Libayan Miyang Sabun," the program implemented by the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) exchanges recyclable items from residents into soap and detergents.

Among the items allowed for exchange are plastic bags, thin film plastics, food and household items plastic wrappers, tetra packs, and laminates.

Mayor Abundio Punsalan, Jr. said personnel of MENRO are scheduled to go around the 14 barangays of this town for the program.

The mayor urged Simonians to participate in the program and be one in the goal of saving the environment.

"Double benefit itong program na ito dahil makakatipid na ang Simonians sa pagbili ng sabon, makakatulong pa sa kalikasan dahil sa pagbawas ng plastic na itatapon," he said.



Sperm whale, sumadsad sa Masbate

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 25 2022 10:36 PM



Kuha ng BFAR-Bicol

Isang sperm whale ang sumadsad sa mababaw na bahagi ng dagat sa Dimasalang, Masbate nitong Sabado.

Ayon kay BFAR-Bicol spokesperson Nonie Enolva, unang nakita ang balyena dakong alas-10 ng umaga sa Barangay Banahao at agad naitaboy ng mga residente sa mas malalim na bahagi ng dagat.

Nag-low tide naman dakong alas-2 ng hapon, kaya muli itong sumadsad sa bahagi ng dagat na nasa 6-7 feet na lamang ang lalim.

Tinatayang nasa 6-7 tonelada ang bigat at 12-15 feet ang haba ng balyena.

Nananatili itong malakas pero nasa lugar na ang mga taga-BFAR, LGU at mga taga-barangay para i-monitor ang kalagayan nito.

Nagpasaklolo rin sila sa PNP para matiyak na walang mga taong makakalapit sa balyena.

Dakong alas-10 ng gabi ang high tide sa Masbate na inaasahan ng mga awtoridad na makatutulong para mabilis na makabalik sa laot ang balyena. - **Jonathan Magistrado**

Source: https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/25/22/sperm-whale-sumadsad-sa-masbate?fbclid=IwAR3IyOWwdJKtpG12HoUQtHXuxh5GRXOWH1dYNU5CmML11SU_gJjwhza5enw



Tourists are back in Iceland. But so is whale hunting

Jenna Gottlieb, CNN • Published 25th June 2022

Reykjavik, Iceland (CNN) — After a four-year hiatus, Iceland's last remaining whaling company, Hvalur hf., will resume its hunt this summer, much to the chagrin of tourism officials.

As the Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on Iceland's tourism industry, backlash over whaling is the last thing many tourism officials want.

"It is actually well known and widely reported that the tourism industry believes that whaling hurts Iceland's image as a tourism destination," said Jóhannes Þór Skúlason, the executive director of the [Icelandic Tourist Board](#). "All you need do is look at how whaling is reported on in the foreign press."

"It is often reported in larger publications with heated coverage," continued Jóhannes. "In the tourism industry, both in private companies and in public polls; in letters, phone calls, and in other communications, whaling has a very precise effect, and tourism companies feel it the moment whaling enters the discussion again."

Company representatives have expressed outrage over the planned whale hunt. "The tourism industry and most Icelandic citizens are against whaling," said Ásberg Jónsson, CEO of [Travel Connect](#), a large travel services company based in Reykjavík.

"It's saddening and frustrating to hear that this company, Hvalur, intends to resume killing these animals in Iceland. It is very damaging to our country's reputation. This, in turn, has repercussions for our export and tourism industries."

Stakes are high as tourism in Iceland ground to a halt during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. "We are an island, so obviously the barrier to travel here is a little higher than people visiting a neighboring country," said Sigríður Dögg Guðmundsdóttir, the head of [Visit Iceland](#).

Dependence on tourism



Whale watching is a popular tourist activity in Iceland.

Matthew Williams-Ellis/VWPCS/AP

While Covid-19 wreaked havoc on nations across the globe, many countries aren't as dependent on tourism as Iceland. Leading up to the pandemic, tourism was the country's largest export.

According to data from the Iceland Chamber of Commerce, the sector's growth peaked in 2017 when tourism exports accounted for 42% of the country's total exports.

In the wake of the pandemic, GDP growth took a hit last year. Activities related to travel bookings, air transport, accommodation and restaurants decreased by 50-75% from 2019. This led to a contraction in the tourism sector by 3.9% of GDP in 2020.

Hvalur last sent its vessels to hunt in the summer of 2018, and a total of 146 whales were caught during the season. Depending on the light, the whaling season typically begins in June and lasts until September. It's estimated that about 150 people work on the whaling boats in the whaling station in west Iceland and in the company's processing facilities outside of Reykjavík.



The tails of two 35-tonne Fin whales killed by hunters in June 2009.
Halldor Kolbeins/AFP/Getty Images

Some argue that whaling is part of Icelandic culture and should resume.

"Whaling has a long tradition here in Iceland, and I think reasonable and controlled hunting should be allowed," a casual worker at the whaling station, who did not want to be identified because it could affect his employment, told CNN Travel. "It is only around 125-150 fin whales hunted each year in the seven seasons since Iceland started hunting whales again in 2006. That year, I think only eight whales were hunted."

Negative emails



Tourism workers say whaling damages Iceland's reputation.
Mayall/ullstein bild/Getty Images

It's puzzling to many that Hvalur, which is run by CEO Kristján Loftsson, continues whale hunting in light of the environmental concerns and its poor financials.

"It is difficult for us to understand why, as not only is whale hunting a harmful practice, it's also no longer a financially viable one," said Travel Connect's Ásberg.

Hvalur's Loftsson declined to comment.

Iceland's whaling activities account for roughly 3% of all whales hunted worldwide, according to a 2019 report from Iceland's Ministry of Industries and Innovation. In 2017, the total revenue of whale watching companies amounted to 3.2 billion Icelandic króna (\$26.5 million). Meanwhile, Hvalur's revenue from whaling activities in 2017 amounted to 1.7 billion króna (\$14.1 million)

However, whale watching tours bring more revenue as it's a popular activity for tourists year-round.

Many are fed up with the impact of one company, especially as tourism companies are expecting this summer to return to a "pre-Covid" number of tourists, and a controversial issue like whale hunting is disappointing.

"Overall, our travel brands haven't experienced a lot of cancellations because of this, but every now and then, we receive negative emails about the subject," said Ásberg. "We always explain that as a company, we do not support whale hunting whatsoever. Everyone should be able to see these incredible creatures thriving in their natural habitat."

A last hurrah?



Tourism to Iceland was hit by Covid.

Ryan Pyle/Getty Images

The 2022 season could be Hvalur's last as the current license to hunt whales will expire in 2023, and Iceland's Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture will then decide whether or not to stop issuing whaling licenses from 2024 onwards. It appears that there is little demand for whaling products and that the industry does very little for Iceland's economy.

"Any whaling in Icelandic waters is science-based and in accordance with international law," said Sigríður. "Hvalur has the required license to undertake whaling activity this summer. It is up to the management and owners to determine whether they will use it and for the Icelandic people and government to determine if any future licenses will be granted. In the last three years, only one Minke whale and no large whales have been caught."

All Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in March 2022, and tourism executives have high hopes for a good summer.

"Tourism in Iceland is rebounding well," said Sigríður. "In our projections, we expect near-to-normal numbers this summer and a full return the next year."

Global warming leading to sleep loss - study

Kyodo News

Posted at Jun 25 2022 05:05 PM | Updated as of Jun 25 2022 05:20 PM



A man sleeps on a folding bed at an overpass as traffic builds up along EDSA near Kamuning Road in Quezon City on December 21, 2021. *Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/file*

Global warming is leading to shorter sleep durations across the world that could increase health risks especially affecting the elderly, women and people in low-income countries, a recent study has found.

Researchers warn that rising temperatures may lead to growing global disparities in productivity and health if unmitigated climate change continues, according to the worldwide study published in May in the journal *One Earth*.

With higher nighttime temperatures, individuals are already losing 44 hours of sleep per year on average, representing an additional 11 nights of less than the recommended seven hours of sleep.

Researchers from Danish and German institutions used data collected from 47,628 adults with sleep-tracking wristbands across 68 countries and linked them to local meteorological data registered from 2015 to 2017.

Rising nighttime temperature may affect health and behavior by increasing sleep loss, they said.

Sleep deprivation has been associated with "reduced cognitive performance, diminished productivity, compromised immune function, adverse cardiovascular outcomes, depression, anger, and suicidal behavior," the study said.

It found that in hotter nighttime temperatures people fell asleep later and woke earlier, with sleep loss and the risk of insufficient sleep increasing steeply when nights exceed 10 C.

While rising temperatures harm sleep in general, the elderly, women, people living in lower-income countries and those already in hotter regions are disproportionately affected, the study said.

For each degree of temperature rise, those above 65-years-old lost nearly twice as much sleep as other age groups, while women slept a quarter less than men.

People in lower-income countries were around three times more likely to experience sleep loss compared with people in higher-income countries, and those already living in hotter regions lost considerably more sleep.



Annual sleep loss could increase to around 50 hours per person if greenhouse gas concentrations remain relatively steady and up to 58 hours if they rise steeply, the study predicted.

Nighttime minimum temperatures above 25 C increased the likelihood of getting less than seven hours of sleep by 3.5 percentage points compared with temperatures of 5 to 10 C, while people lost 14 minutes of sleep when nights were over 30 C, the study found.

There was limited evidence showing bodies adjust to warmer-than-usual temperatures, making policy and technological interventions that reduce outside heat crucial, it said.

The researchers cautioned that while cooling technology can promote sleep, it may also increase greenhouse gas emissions and displace ambient heat, not necessarily solving global sleep disparities.

The study likely underestimated the magnitude of climate change's impact as the sample group was composed of self-selected participants, with more males and people mainly from wealthier countries, it noted.

Coverage was also sparse for large parts of Africa, Central and South America, and the Middle East -- regions that already rank as the warmest in the world, it said.

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Creation of add'l mineral processing plants urged

**By CORY
MARTINEZ**

MORE mineral processing plants must be established, and full utilization of "rare" earth deposits must be carried out to help increase the country's mineral production and revenue generation.

This was stressed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna, saying that mineral processing plants make the mined mineral ready for application.

Sampulna cited limestone as an example wherein he said that if processed, it will become cement, which is ready to use for construction.

"If we have more of these plants and more minerals will be processed in the country, then its value will increase even more than 100%, and lesser raw materials will be shipped out to other countries, like Japan or China," he said.

The DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has issued 108 mineral processing permits, most of which are for construction materials.

He also proposed identifying rare earth elements (REEs), such as scandium and yttrium, in operating mines.

Sampulna, the former DENR undersecretary for mining, said that these metals are "essential" for many high-technology devices.

"The Philippines is conducive to these minerals. It could contribute to the national government by identifying and utilizing these commodities. To date, only a few operating mines have identified REEs," he said.

Sampulna cited that a

proposed iron mineral processing plant in Zamboanga had its groundbreaking ceremony on June 18, to support the DENR's initiatives toward the self-utilization of mineral commodities in the country.

"We hope that investors will push for opening more processing plants in the Philippines," he said.

He also assured Filipinos that the DENR will continue "strengthening" its regulation and monitoring of mining operations to ensure sustainable and responsible mineral production in the country.



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Bali G20: Last best chance to fix climate crisis

When Martin Luther King reminded us of “the fierce urgency of now,” he also warned that “there is such a thing as being too late.” On fixing the climate crisis, we are almost at that point.

With record heat waves now raging across North America, Europe, and Asia; drought, wildfires, crop failures, and famine in some regions; unprecedented floods elsewhere; and record-high global ocean temperatures the last six years in a row, the summer of 2022 seems like we are all walking through the gates of hell. Perhaps the “fierce urgency” of this summer’s climate chaos will move governments to finally act.

Despite 30 years of United Nations climate change conferences, global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and the climate crisis continues to worsen.

This November, the 27th United Nations climate conference (COP27) will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and the Group of 20 Summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia. These government summits may be our last best chance to fix the climate crisis.

To resolve the climate crisis, governments need to address three significant issues this November.

First, the collective emissions reduction commitments of all nations remain insufficient. For a chance to save a habitable planet, global emissions must be reduced by 50 percent by 2030, and to zero by 2040. And we cannot simply trade emissions credits or buy offsets, as fossil fuel interests propose—we need a 50 percent reduction in actual emissions.

Yet the collective commitments of nations remain far from this goal. Current commitments, including those at COP26 in Glasgow last fall put the world on track for an apocalyptic 2.5 degrees Celsius temperature increase, far beyond the agreed 1.5 degrees “safe” limit. While holding warming to 1.5 degrees is no longer possible, a 2-degree goal is still within reach. Every carbon atom we keep out of the atmosphere now will make the future a little more habitable.

Second, climate agreements lack legal force or any enforcement mechanisms. These agreements are essentially just promises, with no consequences for noncompliance.

COMMENTARY

RICK STEINER

This is often where international agreements fall apart. Governments make promises, but when they return home, fail to adopt them in national law or policy.

A 2014 global agreement to cut deforestation by 50 percent failed this way. At Glasgow last year, the government of Indonesia first agreed to end deforestation by 2030, but after pressure from its home government, rescinded this commitment only two days later.

For emissions reduction agreements to work, they have to be sufficient and legally binding. The international community must establish consequences, sanctions, and penalties for failure to make, or implement, sufficient commitments.

Finally, there is a continuing failure of wealthy nations to commit the financing necessary, both domestically and internationally, to reduce emissions. A decade ago, the world’s wealthy nations agreed to a \$100 billion per year Green Climate Fund to support the climate adaptation and energy transition needs of developing nations. But less than 1 percent of this has actually been funded.

Further, the world’s most polluting governments have not invested sufficiently in their own domestic transition to low carbon energy economies. The clean energy spending proposed in President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better bill would have been a historic step for the United States, but this effort was killed by Senate Republicans and two Senate Democrats.

The minimum global investment necessary this decade to save the future of our home planet—a “Living Planet Emergency Fund”—is \$4 trillion per year (roughly 5 percent of world gross domestic product). By comparison, the US alone spent more than \$8 trillion in just two years in COVID-19 response.

The threat from climate change is far more consequential. Either we fully fund the low-carbon energy transition now, or we will

lose any chance for a habitable world.

Given how easy it is for fossil fuel interests to block progress at UN summits, we should no longer rely on the UN process to solve this problem. Besides, the world’s less developed countries have already made their case—they aren’t the cause of the crisis, and thus cannot be the solution. As such, it seems unlikely that the UN meeting this November will produce much progress.

The necessary fix to the climate crisis now sits squarely with the G20 at its meeting in Bali this November.

In Bali, G20 governments must do the following:

First, adopt a legally binding agreement for all members to reduce emissions by 50 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2040. Second, establish an enforcement mechanism and penalties for noncompliance. Third, establish a \$4 trillion per year Living Planet Emergency Fund (\$2 trillion in domestic spending, \$2 trillion in international spending), financed by a global minimum carbon tax and subsidy reallocation in each country.

And then, each G20 government must go home and adopt these agreed actions in their own law and regulation.

If the G20 resolves the three issues, it is still possible to hold global warming to under 2 degrees, saving the future of humanity and our living home planet. *The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network.*

Rick Steiner is founder of Oasis Earth and the author of “Oasis Earth: Planet in Peril,” available as a free download here: <https://www.oasis-earth.com/oasis-earth-planet-in-peril>

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Stop cutting trees

The Philippines' summer capital, known for its cool air and pine trees, has been the favorite refuge of Filipinos wanting to escape the scorching heat in Metro Manila and other parts of the country. But while Baguio City remains the coolest place in the country, it has been feeling the heat of climate change, registering an unusually higher heat index of 27 degrees Celsius last month, exacerbated by the steady loss of its tree cover. Just as well that its city council has recently proposed a five-year moratorium on tree-cutting activities to protect its trees.

The battle to preserve the beloved city's trees has been ongoing for at least two decades now as locals saw more of these trees being felled to give way to progress and development—malls, subdivisions, and other infrastructure projects. In 2019, the Supreme Court stopped a mall giant from cutting more than a hundred trees for an expansion plan, but the temporary restraining order came only after about 60 trees have already been cut. The city, according to the Global Forest Watch (GFW), has lost 40 hectares of relative tree cover from 2001 to 2021.

The pine trees—mostly Benguet or Cordillera pine (*Pinus insularis*/*Pinus kesiya*)—have given Baguio its identity as the “city of pines.” But more than serving as tourist attraction and providing ambiance to a favorite getaway, these trees are the lungs of the city. Trees, in general, provide humans with oxygen they need; a mature pine tree releases about 45 pounds (20 kilos) of oxygen each year. One large pine tree aged 10 years or above, for example, can provide a day's supply of oxygen for four people. Trees are the source of food and nutrition, they cool and clean the air, and in the case of the Cordillera region, prevent soil erosion and landslides. The region loses about 100,000 tons of topsoil every year and could be worse without the pine trees.

Ironically, a previous World Health Organization report released eight years ago has found Baguio City's air as among the most polluted in the country. Hardly surprising given the city's status as a top destination—the influx of tourists means an increased demand for roads, hotels, and other infrastructure often at the expense of nature zones. And while this demand boosts local businesses and generates more jobs, it also means more garbage, more air pollution, and more trees being cut.

This, however, is not unique to Baguio. Three years ago, Cebuanos started a petition to stop the government from cutting down more than 150 acacia trees in Naga and Carcar, Cebu, that will be affected by a road-widening project connected to the still ongoing construction of the Metro Cebu Expressway. The trees were saved after the Cebu provincial government issued a temporary ban on cutting down trees that are over 100 years old—the heritage trees in question were planted in 1915, making them 107 years old today. Recently, there was an uproar in Bacolod after the government cut 26 fully grown trees including molave, mahogany, and narra for infrastructure projects.

Cutting or destroying trees along public roads, plazas and parks, and other public grounds are prohibited under Republic Act No. 3571—unless necessary for public safety, a reason that the government has used to justify the various tree-cutting it has done. There needs to be a middle ground between development and the environment given that the Philippines, according to GFW data, has lost 1.34 million hectares of tree cover from 2001 to 2021, resulting in deforestation.

The government has a Heritage Tree Program that prohibits the cutting of endemic, exotic, rare, threatened, or endangered trees that are at least 50 years old and have historical, cultural, or aesthetic value. Quezon City, where many of Metro Manila's 29 heritage trees can be found, passed a city ordinance in 2017 banning the cutting and destruction of century and heritage trees.

More than local ordinances, however, planting more trees and protecting them must become a national policy, especially as the world stands at the crossroads of climate change and must keep global temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius—a goal that has increasingly become impossible if stakeholders continue their “business as usual” stance. While reducing fossil fuel emissions and shifting to clean energy remain to be most crucial in addressing global warming, forest covers provide a complementary solution because trees absorb carbon from the air through photosynthesis.

All the more reason to stop cutting trees and planting more of them. Trees not only beautify the environment, they also sustain life.



Colgate-Palmolive PH, Green Antz ramp up program for plastic neutrality

A PRIVATE company, and a circular economy and innovation group have stepped up a program on plastic waste collection to achieve plastic neutrality.

The program initiated by Colgate-Palmolive Philippines and Green Antz Builders includes agreements with the governments of Manila, Quezon City and Taguig in collaboration with Department of Education (DepEd) units and City Environment and Natural Resources Offices, a news release said.

The program also encompasses drop-off points for plastic waste in various Ayala Malls in Metro Manila.

Colgate-Palmolive PH and Green Antz celebrated the first year of a closed loop plastic waste management initiative in Bulacan that diverted from the environment hundreds of tons of plastic waste in cooperation with five local government units (LGUs) and 112 public schools under the auspices of the DepEd.

The LGUs are those of Baliuag, Malolos City, Plaridel, Pulilan and San Ildefonso.

The plastic waste is collected by the LGUs, communities and schools, and sent to Green Antz to make into eco-bricks.

They are then used in the building of "Wash and Brush Stations," which are turned over to the LGUs. Some 20 handwashing stations have been constructed during the period.

An innovative and visionary social enterprise, Green Antz offers building and housing solu-



A NEW "Wash and Brush Station" made of eco-bricks at the Plaridel Municipal Hall is inaugurated by Mayor Tessie Vistan (right), Colgate-Palmolive Philippines President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev (center), and Green Antz President and CEO Rommel Benig.

tions that integrate eco-friendly practices and green technologies in its products and services.

The company helps create livelihood opportunities as it produces eco-bricks, eco-pavers, and other materials composed, in part, of plastic waste. Its tagline is "Creating Sustainability. Challenging Poverty. Now."

The Bulacan initiative covers more than 2,000 teachers and almost 70,000 students, who, besides collecting plastic waste, learn proper solid waste management habits at an early age.

The initiative is changing residents' mindsets on plastic waste, inspiring new behavior and understanding about environmental responsibility. Plastic waste is exchanged for bond paper, printers, segregation bins, clock towers, thermal scanners or alcohol dispensers for schools.

Incentives for Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Offices and collectors include rice and grocery packages.

Marking their first-year milestone in Bulacan, Colgate-Palmolive PH and Green Antz renewed their partnership agreement as well as a memorandum of understanding with the Municipality of Plaridel.

A new "Wash and Brush Station" at the Plaridel Municipal Hall was turned over to Mayor Tessie Vistan by Colgate-Palmolive PH President and General Manager Arvind Sachdev and Green Antz President and CEO Rommel Benig.

"I am always on the lookout for trusted allies in delivering essential services to our constituents. The LGU needs partners, especially in our goal to safeguard the environment. We are



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Pagudpud handa maging tourism ecozone ng Norte

Handang-handa na ang Lokal na Pamahalaan ng Pagudpud sa Ilocos Norte na magtatag ng tourism economic zone sa Brgy. Caparispisan.

Sinabi ni relected Mayor Rafael Ralph Benemerito na ang pagtatatag ng economic zone ay magiging isa sa kanyang mga pagunahing prioridad sa ilalim ng kanyang ikalawang termino upang maakit ang mas maraming mamumuhunan at turista sa lugar.

"We have already discussed this with the Investment Office [under the Ilocos Norte government] and there are groups looking for real estate properties to be developed in Pagudpud," wika ni Benemerito.

Nangako noong 2021 ang state-run Mariano Marcos State University-Special Economic Zone Institute (MMSU-SEZI) at ang Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) na tutulungan ang Pagudpud na maging tourism economic zone.

Nagbabangko ang gobyerno ng Pagudpud sa mga likas na yaman nito para sa balanseng pag-unlad, nang sa gayo'y pinapabuti ang buhay ng mga residente nito sa pamamagitan ng pagbuo ng mga espesyal na ecozones bilang isang plataporma para sa pagbawi at katatagan ng ekonomiya.

Sa una, ang iba't ibang kinatawan mula sa Pagudpud local government unit, Ilocos Norte government, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at ang Naval Forces Northern Luzon ay nagpatawag ng pulong upang pag usapan ang mga batayan ng pag unlad ng economic zone at tukuyin ang mga posibleng industriya na kailangang palakasin upang mapalakas ang pagiging mapagkumpetensiya sa pandaigdigang pamilihan. (Betchai Julian)

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



DOH doesn't expect Metro Manila to be placed under Alert Level 2 despite high positivity rate

[Angelica Y. Yang](#) - Philstar.com June 25, 2022 | 2:28am



Commuters, who are heading to their workplaces, line up at the Nepa Q-Mart station of the EDSA Bus Carousel in Quezon City early Tuesday morning, June 21, 2022, to beat the influx of passengers. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority estimated last week that there will be a possible increase in passenger volume as fewer private cars may ply EDSA due to the continuing hike in oil prices.

The STAR / Miguel De Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — An official from the Department of Health (DOH) said Saturday that she doesn't expect the capital to be placed under a higher alert level, citing manageable admissions in many hospitals.

This comes despite independent pandemic monitor [OCTA Research's report](#) that the positivity rate in the National Capital Region reached 5.6% on June 22.

Having a positivity rate of below 5% indicates that a country can manage its COVID-19 caseload, the World Health Organization said in its recommendation.

But Health Department Undersecretary and spokesperson Maria Rosario Vergeire said Saturday that they still do not expect the capital to raise its current alert level status.

"Base sa ating datos, hindi ho natin nakikita that we will be escalating ang NCR to a higher alert level kasi katulad nga ng sabi ko, mas binibigyan natin ng weight itong hospital admissions natin because we know that the COVID-19 will really cause infections- huwag lang nga severe and critical," she said in an interview on Laging Handa.

("Based on our data, we don't see that we will be escalating the NCR to a higher alert level because we give more weight to hospital admissions. We know that COVID-19 will really cause infections, we just hope that they won't be severe and critical.")

According to her, many areas in the capital have generally logged a hospital admissions rate of less than 50%, indicating the healthcare facilities are still not overwhelmed by the cases.

"Patuloy natin binabantayan but for now, as I've said, escalation to alert level 2- hindi pa ho natin nakikita, although we cannot say kung by next week, biglang magtaasan [ng admissions]. That's the time that we are going to decide and it's going to be IATF (Interagency Task Force against COVID-19) to decide," Vergeire said.



("We are currently monitoring the situation, but as I've said, we do not see escalation to Alert Level 2. Although we cannot say that this will be the case next week because there might be a rise in hospital admissions. That's the time we are going to decide and it's going to be IATF to decide.")

Health Secretary Francisco Duque earlier said this week that a surge in the hospital occupancy rate to up to 70% will likely trigger the escalation to a higher pandemic alert level.

Other metrics used in evaluating the COVID-19 risks in an area include the growth rate; and the average daily attack rate (ADAR), or percentage of those at risk of a disease in a population.

Five areas under 'moderate risk'

While the DOH is monitoring all areas in the NCR, it is paying close attention to five areas which Vergeire said are now under moderate risk.

"These five areas would be Pasig, San Juan, Quezon City, Marikina and Pateros pero uulitin ko, kaya sila napunta sa moderate risk case classification dahil nag-umpisa tayo sa mga mababang kaso nung mga past weeks tapos biglang nagkaroon sila ng kaso. That's why their growth rate began to increase," she explained on Saturday.

("These five areas would be Pasig, San Juan, Quezon City, Marikina and Pateros but I will repeat that they were placed under moderate risk classification because they started with a low number of cases in the past weeks and then there suddenly was a surge. That's why their growth rate began to increase.")

An area is said to be under moderate risk if it has a positive two-week growth rate and an ADAR of at least six average cases per day per 100,000 people, the DOH has said.

The Philippines logged an additional 770 COVID-19 infections on Friday, raising the total caseload to 3.70 million recorded since the start of the pandemic, health records showed.

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






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