

28 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





## DENR, JICA turn over P53M-worth access road in Ifugao town

Published on: June 27, 2022 By Marcelo Lihgawon

LAGAWE, Ifugao (PIA) - - An access road more than P53 million worth in one of the barangays here was turned-over to the municipality in a ceremony on June 13.

Mayor Martin Habawel, Jr. led other officials in accepting the newly concreted 5.3 kilometers access road to barangay Montabiong from officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The municipal government proposed the said access road with project cost of P53M funded through the Forestland Management Project by JICA and the Philippine government.

The road as rationalized is to make access and transportation for Montabiong and the nearby barangays easier and faster, and to support the transport of agro-products to the market which can potentially improve the economy of the municipality.

"No words can really express our feeling of gratitude. This project is very helpful not just for Montabiong and Jucbong but to the entire municipality. We are looking forward in seeking more projects with the present working and funding partners," Habawel said.

DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo said the access road is a gesture of compensation to the upland people for protecting and providing watersheds to the lowlands.

Pablo enjoined the residents of Montabiong to utilize the road in taking care of their forest particularly the identified watersheds.

Officials and representatives from DENR, JICA, Japan Embassy, barangay officials and folks of Montabiong and Jucbong witnessed the turn-over of the access road. (JDP/MBL- PIA CAR,Ifugao)





Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/06/27/denr-jica-turn-over-p53m-worth-access-road-in-ifugao-town>



## Villar, French Ambassador celebrate 75th relations at LPPWP

[June 27, 2022](#) 3 min read

By Ernie Reyes

MANILA — Senator Cynthia Villar and French Ambassador to the Philippines Michele Boccoz together with French Senator Samantha Cazebone of the Parliament of France celebrate the 75th anniversary of the two countries' diplomatic relations at the Las Pinas-Paranaque Wetland Park (LPPWP).

The two officials led the unveiling of a sculpture named "Intertwined" to symbolize the Inauguration of the Philippines-France Friendship Day.

Villar stressed she is happy that the events were held at LPPWP which was declared as "Ramsar Wetland of International Importance." It is also a wetland protected area under the 2018 E-NIPAS Law.

"It gives me an opportunity to once again thank the French community here in the Philippines particularly the 'Together Ensemble Foundation' which partnered with us since last year to further maintain and preserve this wetland, which as most of you know is listed in the Ramsar Convention as Wetland of International Importance," said Villar.

"So, truly, this is a joyous day. The relations between France and the Philippines has always been strong. I believe, the French' joie de vivre (enjoyment of life) and the Filipinos' hospitable nature have a lot to do with our flourishing relations over the centuries," said Villar.

As to her part, Ambassador Boccoz said, "This is all the most valid as France and Philippines share the importance they attach to protect the environment and biodiversity."

The diplomatic ties between the Philippines and France were established on June 26, 1947, after the signing of a Treaty of Amity in Paris by then Philippine Vice President Elpidio Quirino, who was also foreign affairs secretary, and then French foreign minister Georges Bidault.

"France remains one of our country's largest trading partners and investors from the European Union (EU) with most of the investments going into private services, electricity, gas, water and manufacturing industries," Villar added.

France is the Philippines' 14th largest supplier and 18th most important client based on base Global Trade Atlas- Global Trade Information Services.





As she braces for stronger ties between the two countries, Villar emphasized that the relations between our two countries and our people cover such a diverse scope, and the mutual interest and benefits of our people remain at the heart of it all.

“We also have our mutual concern regarding overseas Filipinos in France, particularly our OFWs, who are part of my main advocacies, too,” related Villar.

The event was organized by Together-Ensemble Foundation Inc. in partnership with the DEN-NCR, Las Piñas – LPPWP and Protected Area Management Office (PAMO).

It was also attended by OIC Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Gilbert Gonzales who represented DENR-OIC Mr. Joselin Marcus Fragada Jr. and DENR-NCR Regional Executive Director Ms. Jacqueline A. Caancan, among others.

Photo caption:

Unveiling a sculptor entitled “Intertwined” by artist Raphael Daniel David during the inauguration of the France-Philippines Friendship Day at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park on Sunday, June 26, 2022. In photos are (from left) Together-Ensemble (TE) vice president commissioner Ramon Moreno Jr., TE Founder and President Hubert d’ Aboville, France Senator Samantha Cazebonne, France representative for ASEAN economic relations Francois Corbin, French Ambassador Michèle Boccoz, TE Board member Neric Acosta, Senator Cynthia Villar, Sculptor Raphael Daniel David, DENR Asec. Gilbert D. Gonzales, DENR-NCR regional director Jacqueline Caancan, Asec. Hero Masuda, assistant director Jun Almira, BMB director Natividad Benardino, and (seated) director Khalil Bayam.

# SM Cares and DENR-NCR celebrate World Oceans Day with special plastic waste collection program

BYBMPPLUS JUNE 27, 2022



In observance of World Oceans Day, SM Cares held a special version of its Plastic Waste Collection Program in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) to underscore the importance of adopting sustainable habits such as reducing plastic consumption and planting trees.

Conducted simultaneously in the following SM malls: Megamall, Mall of Asia, North EDSA, Fairview, Southmall, East Ortigas, Marikina, and Marilao, the activity supported DENR-NCR's Community PanTREE, a program that was launched in 2021 with the aim of providing free fruit-bearing seedlings to encourage urban and backyard gardening. Participants who brought at least 1 kg of plastic waste each got a free seedling from the Community PanTREE.



More than 700 kg of plastic was collected through the activity, and has distributed 700 pcs of seedlings across the 8 collection venues.

“The goal of this activity is to help divert plastic waste from ending up in landfills and bodies of water while also giving the participants the opportunity to grow their own trees,” said Director of SM Cares’ Program on Environment Engr. Liza Silerio. SM’s Plastic Waste Collection program has gathered over 16,000 kg of plastic for re-processing since it began in 2021. Currently available in 12 SM malls, it is just one of SM Cares’ numerous sustainability projects. The pioneering Trash to Cash recycling market and the E-Waste Collection Programs round up the initiatives on solid waste management.



Other projects include the annual Green Film Festival, which promotes environmental awareness; the AweSMSeas project in partnership with the USAID and PRRCI, which promotes responsible plastic waste management; and the International Coastal Cleanup that gathers thousands of volunteers every year, among others.

Through these efforts, SM Cares supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly "SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation," "SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities," "SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production," "SDG 13: Climate Action," "SDG 14: Life Below Water," and "SDG 15: Life on Land."

To learn more, visit [www.smsupermalls.com/smcares](http://www.smsupermalls.com/smcares).



## DENR-Davao brings vets to Mt. Apo to treat warty pig



Photo courtesy to DENR-Davao

IONA FINLAY C. MENDOZA

June 27, 2022

INJURIES were discovered on the Philippine warty pig spotted at Mt. Apo during a recent medical mission conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Davao Region (DENR-Davao).

DENR-Davao said in a statement on June 24 that the warty pig had difficulties in moving and was reportedly “using his snout to gain balance while dragging his limbs.” The limbs also had cuts and scrapes but no visible fractures were seen.

A common lice called *Haematopinus suis* was also found on the pig’s body, which, according to DENR-Davao, was common for pig species. The pig also had a wound caused by a twine embedded in his body.

Upon further inspection of the medical team, the warty pig tested negative for the African Swine Fever as well as from other parasites.

The DENR-Davao reported that the pig is currently recovering from its injuries and was given long-acting antibiotics, multivitamins, anti-parasitic, and general anesthetic for tranquilization to safely conduct the medical assessment.

“The post-procedural assessment proved that Warty is a resilient animal. Prognosis is good. A favorable sign of recovery,” DENR-Davao said in their statement.

Along with DENR-Davao, the medical mission was also composed of teams from the Protected Area Management Office of the Mt Apo Natural Park (PAMO-MANP), volunteer experts from the Energy Development Corporation (EDC), Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), University of the Philippines at Los Banos-College of Veterinary Medicine (UPLB-CVM), Philippine Veterinary Medical Association-Southern Mindanao Chapter (PVMA-SMC), Digos City Veterinary Services Office, Davao Crocodile Park and Zoo, and, Animal Rescue Rehabilitation and Fostering, Inc. (ARRF, Inc.)





The warty pig, with the scientific name *Sus philippensis* and most commonly known as baboy-ramo or baboy-ilahas, was first spotted at Mt. Apo during the Holy Week monitoring of DENR-Davao from April 11 to 17, 2022.

It was the first sighting of a male warty pig in the peak area of Mt. Apo which indicates a progressive natural recovery of Mt. Apo's peak area, making it a thriving habitat for the warty pig and other species. **ICM with DENR-Davao**

# Personal Collection's ongoing environment-centric efforts to scale up protection of PHL coastlines

BYBMPLUS JUNE 25, 2022



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

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.

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](http://www.personalcollection.com.ph) and follow [www.facebook.com/pcdsiofficial](https://www.facebook.com/pcdsiofficial), @pcdsiofficial on Instagram for more updates.



## DENR-MGB says sinkhole found at the bottom of Pusuac Dam

Published on: June 27, 2022 By Thelma Bicarme

CABARROGUIS, Quirino (PIA) - - The result of the initial assessment conducted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) on April 19, 2022 at the site of the two reported drowning incidents at Barangay Rizal, Diffun confirmed the presence of sinkhole at the bottom of Pusuac dam where the drowning incidents occurred.

Based on the report of the Geological Survey Division of MGB, there were two separate drowning incidents that happened at Pusuac Dam, Purok 3, Brgy. Rizal, Diffun last March 30 and April 1, 2022.

"According to MDRRM Officer Hensel Guillermo, the first victim was Fidel Alog who went fishing around the area and dove into the entrance of the underwater cave. He never resurfaced," the report stated.

Another drowning incident based on the report, happened on April 1, 2022, when one Eddie Ancheta attempted to see the underwater cave opening himself but also never resurfaced.

"The bodies were not retrieved as of this assessment," the report further stated.

During the ocular assessment, boulder sized limestones were seen despite the area being a flat topography and no hilly portions were present that could be the source of the said limestone boulders.



During the conduct of area assessment near the Pusuac Dam.

"On the way to Pusuac Dam, a solution sink containing water with an aperture size ranging from 8-10 meters with at least 6-8 meters deep was noticed. The walls of the solution sink are limestones," the report stated.





Furthermore, it was also mentioned in the MGB report that just a few meters from the identified solution sink, a cave opening with 2-3 meters was also seen.

It was also stated on the report that there were additional six solution sinks identified in approximately 500 meters southwest of Pusuac Dam and these sinks are in a residential area of Purok 3.

"According to a local, water level in the said solution sinks lowered when the MDRRMO attempted to drain the water from Pusuac dam. More sinks were mentioned by the same local but were not assessed due to time constraint," the report further stated.

The GSD has recommended a more detailed karst subsidence assessment in the entire municipality of Diffun to investigate other possible areas with sinkhole.

In a phone interview with MDRRM Officer Guillermo, he said while waiting for the MGB to conduct subsidence assessment, they conducted another retrieval operation with the help of the Philippine Navy which resulted to the retrieval of Ancheta's body. (OTB/TCB/PIA Quirino)



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DENR, nagtanim ng 9,000 puno sa buong Cordillera

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Nasa 9,000 punong kahoy ang pinagtulang-tulongang itanim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera at iba pang partner agencies para sa Carbon Neutral Program ng ahensiya.

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# PRC inks memo on Carbon Neutral Program Convergence

Published June 25, 2022, 3:55 PM

by [Charie Mae F. Abarca](#)

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), together with its partner agencies, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Carbon Neutral Program Convergence, aiming to further recognize sustainable forestry and help mitigate climate change.



Employees of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, together with the members of the Society of Filipino Foresters Inc. and the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) during the tree planting activity at the La Mesa Ecopark on June 25 in celebration of Arbor Day. (Image courtesy of DENR)

PRC started its Carbon Neutral Program initiatives in 2019. Of its initiatives, the declaration of June 25 of every year as PRC Nationwide Tree Planting Day was among the notable ones. This declaration gave way for its tree planting activities held annually during PRC Week Celebration.

Citing the rapid acceleration and worsening climate crisis, PRC, together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Society of Filipino Foresters, Inc. (SFFI), and the Climate Change Commission, inked an agreement to push for the Carbon Neutral Program Convergence.

This is also known as the process of balancing carbon dioxide emissions with carbon offsets.

“The Carbon Neutral Program shall be a continuing program for Filipino professionals around the country to achieve carbon neutrality by way of reforestation initiatives,” said PRC.

PRC inked the MOA on June 13, 2022 in Quezon City.



## DISTORTING OUR DISTORTED HISTORY

June 28, 2022 6 min read

**The historic guns of Corregidor. (Photo credits: Blog-ph.com)**

NEARLY two years ago, the area now known as the Manila Baywalk Dolomite Beach had sparked public dismay and social media criticisms due to its cost of more than P300 million at a time when the coronavirus pandemic was being marked by a surge in the number of daily new infections.

The criticisms that focused on the crushed dolomite stones that resulted in the white sandy surface of the beach now seem to be so far away.

People ask, is it healthy to breathe in the fine granules of dolomite? Is it healthy for the coastal ecosystem to have dolomite sand mix with sea life? Moreover, could a typhoon or flood wash away the dolomite 'sand'—and the P389 million project?

These are pertinent questions but it seems they have been set aside as the controversial beach from beside the United States Embassy in Manila has now reopened to the public.

We, for one, were never interested in checking out what has been advertised as the famed Dolomite Beach by the Manila Bay, although we were also glad that finally the area beside the US Embassy had been rehabilitated and cleaned of the thrash that perennially spoils the view of our world-famed Manila sunset.

Although it was on its initial stage back in 2020, the beach had attracted attention from both local and domestic tourists hoping to get a different experience of a clean shore and a dose of 'marine benefits' in a pandemic setting. But it was later closed because of the great risk of people flocking to cavort in the white sandy stretch that health experts feared would make it a super spreader event that would, unfortunately, contribute to the spread of Covid-19. And so for a time, it remained inaccessible to the public.

Then early this year, it was softly reopened and hordes of people—young and old—descended on the dolomite sands, unmindful of the risk of catching the deadly coronavirus and dropping all semblance of following the health protocols, thus forcing the authorities to tighten up security on the entry points along the stretch of Roxas Boulevard.

Yet despite getting criticisms from environmentalists and health enthusiasts for the seemingly haphazard opening of the rehabilitated Manila Bay beachfront, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was egged on to continue with its rehabilitation of the once polluted bay area.



And after several rescheduling, the controversial Dolomite Beach finally reopened on Independence Day following rehabilitation to improve water quality around the area. Curious as to how it now looked months after its closure and reopening, people decided to return to the controversial beach to again cavort in its sands, but they were astonished to see other things they did not expect.

Aside from the white dolomite sands spread more liberally this time, there was surprisingly a replica of a World War II Heritage cannon in the Remedios area, which its locators inadvertently advertised were set up by transferred gun barrels of different artillery batteries from Corregidor.

And perhaps to satisfy the curiosity of those asking for an explanation, the DENR pointed out that the inclusion of the cannons in the rehabilitation of the bay is meant “to encourage patriotism among the public and to signify that the battle to clean up Manila Bay is not yet over.” Despite the explanation though, not all are in praise of the project even as some prominent personalities, among them historians and a number from the academe, slammed the DENR for the controversial move.

The country’s foremost scholar on World War II in the Philippines and Asia-Pacific, Dr. Ricardo Jose, pointed out that the transfer of the gun barrels from Corregidor to replicate Fort Drum Island at the mouth of Manila Bay was a “total distortion of history.”

And we agree because the transfer stripped the historical artifacts of their context because there were simply no artillery turrets found on that portion of Roxas Boulevard.

Even former Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Museum curator Jose Custodio agreed, saying that the DENR project creates a myth that disregards the historical significance of the Corregidor guns.

Custodio pointed out: “It is truly ironic that at a time the country and people are reeling from massive inflation and economic hardship that this wasteful, expensive and yet totally ill-conceived project was undertaken by rank amateurs who know nothing of history and historical preservation.”

Concerned citizens likewise joined the fray, questioning why the National Historical Commission has allowed the transfer of the barrels. They cited Executive Order 58, series of 1954, declaring Corregidor as a national shrine and that includes its historical relics like the gun barrels that were willfully transferred to the Dolomite Beach.

Many of us are still digesting the pros and cons of having the turrets along the rehabilitated bay and some have doubts about how this could add to the aesthetic and historical value of the project.

Should we then go distort history just to add aesthetics to a controversial project? And are the cannons—part of the Corregidor battle site—some kind of décor authorities can just move around?

History is blameless in this score and so are our heritage advocates who have raised up their arms in protest.

They have an important point that we should pay attention to and we beg for an answer to the question of whether it is right for us to encourage patriotism by distorting our already distorted history—thanks to our infatuation for what is foreign and un-Filipino.





FOR your comments or suggestions, complaints or requests, just send a message through my email filespolice@yahoo.com.ph or text me at cellphone numbers 09054292382 for Globe subscribers and 09391252568 for Smart. Thank you and Mabuhay!

(aimtvn)

Source: <https://maharlika.tv/2022/06/28/distorting-our-distorted-history/?fbclid=IwAR0eQDxe2e9q8LxZJnHqa99j8CUrqLppEmCbu6JwrDIgt3NTqG3wFmeHrO4>

# NEDA's climate strategy: RE liberalization, taxes on single-use plastics

BY CAI ORDINARIO

JUNE 27, 2022



In file photo: The Burgos wind farm of First Gen-owned Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the country's largest renewable energy producer.

TAXES on single-use plastics such as water bottles and the liberalization of renewable energy are among the top recommendations of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) to the next administration as part of its efforts to combat climate change.

In his last Ask Neda Briefing on Monday, outgoing Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change on the economy should be at the core of the next Philippine Development Plan (PDP).

Chua said their recommendations also include the enactment of an electric vehicle law as well as greater use of digital technologies to undertake climate smart infrastructure projects.

"These are some of the examples where we think we can make climate change mitigation and adaptation more in line with our priorities," Chua said.

"[We also want to] make sure that all infra are planned very well and not just accepting unsolicited proposals that are totally out of the scope of our plans," he added.

For infrastructure, Chua said Neda recommends the crafting of better policies on master plans to ensure that infrastructure projects are well-planned and coordinated.

"We want to have a policy on the master plan so that all our infra are well thought out and that they connect really the transport with the urban planning with the land use with the water used with the issue of population demographic and congestion," he said.

Neda Undersecretary for Regional Development Mercedita Sombilla also said that local government units (LGUs) through Regional Development Councils (RDCs) are expected to take on a larger role in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Sombilla said LGUs are always at the forefront of climate change-related natural catastrophes and that, with the funds extended to them through the Mandanas ruling, they are in a better position to take action in their locales.

In a presentation citing the 2021 Climate Risk Index, Sombilla said the Philippines is ranked 4th most affected by impacts of climate-related extreme weather events.

## Climate-related damage

The estimated cost of damage due to climate-related hazards reached P455 billion and geophysical hazards P7 billion between 2010 and 2019.



Citing data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Sombilla said 98 percent of total damage incurred by the Philippines from 2010-2019 is caused by climate-related hazards.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the Philippines, based on the 2010 Philippine Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report, Sombilla said, is largely due to energy which accounts for 37 percent of emissions.

This is closely followed by agriculture which accounts for 30 percent of all GHG emissions; transportation, 17 percent; waste, 11 percent; and industry, 6 percent. By 2030, the country aims to reduce or avoid 75 percent of GHG emissions.

In terms of climate smart infrastructure, Neda Officer in Charge Undersecretary Roderick M. Planta said urbanization is an important consideration.

Major trends shaping urbanization in the Asean include city congestion, increasing emissions, and the volume of waste as well as higher urban populations since an additional 70 million more people are expected to live in Asean cities by 2025.

Planta also said urbanization is affected by the vulnerability of countries to natural disasters, climate change, and threats to security.

The prevalence of poverty and informal employment, he said, is another trend shaping urbanization in the region.

“Smart and sustainable infrastructure is not a goal itself, but a strategic approach and pathway to achieving our goal of laying down the foundation for inclusive growth, high-trust and resilient society, and globally-competitive knowledge economy,” Planta said in a presentation.

Further, Planta said promoting sustainable urban infrastructure is guided through the Neda Project Development and Other Related Studies (PDRS) Fund. At least 13 sector-wide master plans in urban areas nationwide were funded and completed.

These master plans, Planta said, will guide the preparation and implementation of programs and projects for sustainable infrastructure development.

Utilizing tools such as Urban Carrying Capacity can also be used as guide for planning and implementing sustainable urban development.

Planta said urban carrying capacity considers the level of human activities, population growth, land use and physical development, which can be sustained by the urban environment without causing serious degradation and irreversible damage.





# Climate change, smart infra seen part of Bongbong Marcos socioeconomic plans

By: [Ben O. de Vera](#) - Reporter / [@bendeveraINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 06:24 PM June 27, 2022

MANILA, Philippines—Climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as smart infrastructure development are expected to form part of the incoming Marcos administration’s medium-term socioeconomic blueprint, officials of the state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said on Monday (June 27).

At a press briefing, Socioeconomic Planning Undersecretary Roderick Planta noted that smart and sustainable infrastructure was supportive of achieving the United Nations’ (UN) sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the Paris agreement on climate change action. “So it really makes sense that this will feature in the next PDPs,” Planta said, referring to the six-year Philippine Development Plans being formulated by each administration.

The outgoing Duterte administration put in place the 2017-2022 PDP, whose socioeconomic targets were downscaled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The next administration will begin work on the 2023-2028 PDP as soon as it takes over in July.

Socioeconomic Planning Undersecretary Mercedita Sombilla also noted that incoming Neda chief Arsenio Balisacan had expressed support for the next PDP to revolve around climate change, which impacts lives and livelihood in the Philippines, one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world due to its location in the typhoon belt.

Sombilla said Balisacan considers climate change as a development challenge that needs to be addressed.

Outgoing Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Neda chief Karl Kendrick Chua said prioritizing climate change adaptation and mitigation plus smart and sustainable infrastructure were part of his transition discussions with Balisacan.

Specifically, Chua said the next administration should pursue policies like shifting to renewable energy—solar, tidal and wind, using electric vehicles and taxing single-use plastics to make climate change response more in line with the government’s priorities.

“On smart infrastructure, we want to use digital technologies, we want to have a policy on master plan so that all our infrastructure are well thought of — that they really connect transport with urban planning, with land use, with water use, [and] the issue of population, demographic and congestion,” said Chua.

“And also to make sure that all infrastructures are planned very well and not just accepting unsolicited proposals that are totally out of the scope of our plans,” Chua said.

As economic officials of the incoming Marcos administration were looking at public-private partnership (PPP) to enhance infrastructure investments at a time that the government needed to repay pandemic-induced ballooning debts and narrow the budget deficit through fiscal consolidation, Chua reiterated the need to protect consumers who will ultimately shoulder the cost of contingent liabilities.

“PPPs are really part of several modes of [infrastructure] financing, and well-structured PPPs that really serve the people and improve the quality of their lives, and at the same time protect the government, which is the custodian of the people’s money, are, of course, welcome,” Chua said.



“In fact, in the ICC [Investment Coordination Committee] secretariat, we have been receiving a lot of PPP proposals, both solicited and unsolicited over the past six years during the Duterte administration, and it is our job to make sure that all submissions are complete and compliant, and that they really serve to deliver better services to the people without risking the government or adding to contingent liabilities, which eventually are paid by the people,” Chua said.

“So this is a very difficult balancing act that we continue to do, and I’m sure the next administration will have that at the heart when they evaluate PPP projects,” Chua added.

Last month, Chua said the amended guidelines of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law will protect Filipinos from liabilities wrought by big-ticket infrastructure projects jointly undertaken by the government and the private sector.

Business groups have been jittery about the revised BOT law implementing rules and regulations (IRR) approved by President Rodrigo Duterte’s economic managers, which not only shielded the government from arbitration, but also provided supposedly “anti-market” definitions of contingent liabilities arising from PPP projects.

Contingent liabilities included material adverse government action (Maga) clauses, force majeure, breach of government warranties, as well as failure to deliver contractual obligations, according to the amended IRR.

The Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) had projected the contingent liability stock—or the aggregate amount—wrought by PPP projects to have risen to P456.2 billion in 2021 from the estimated P311.8 billion in 2020. It was on top of the P60.4-billion “flow” of contingent liabilities or the amount which “may materialize within a specific interval of time taking into consideration a project’s risk factors” among 18 national PPP contracts signed between 2008 and 2020.

Last year, the ICC ordered agencies and local governments implementing massive PPP projects to ensure private proponents’ financial capacity by setting minimum equity requirements.

The Duterte administration had previously shunned PPPs, especially unsolicited projects, as it did not want disadvantageous provisions like government guarantees, subsidies, and Maga clauses. But the current pipeline of flagship infrastructure projects in the ambitious “Build, Build, Build” program included 20 unsolicited PPP projects worth P1.5 trillion, which will be financed by tycoons’ deep pockets.

TSB



# 'Polluter friendly': Duterte urged to veto bill on management of plastic waste

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 27 2022 02:31 PM

An environmental group is urging President Rodrigo Duterte to veto a bill mandating consumer brands to manage plastic waste, saying the "polluter friendly" measure would not tackle the mounting crisis.

Von Hernandez, global coordinator of Break Free From Plastic, said the bill that sought to institutionalize the extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme that was ratified by Congress in May would only provide "false solutions".

"They say it's a compromised bill but unfortunately, I think it's polluter friendly," he told ANC's "Rundown" Monday.

"This law will institutionalize a practice that is already faulty to begin with, and which is why we are calling on President Duterte and maybe the incoming administration to veto this bill because it will not really significantly impact the reduction of pollution of plastics in the country."

Under the EPR, obliged companies "have the responsibility for the proper and effective recovery, treatment, recycling or disposal of their products after they have been sold and used by consumers" to reduce waste generation and improve the recyclability of packaging, according to a Senate press release.

Based on the latest data from the World Population Review, the Philippines ranked first among countries in 2021 that released the most plastic into the ocean.

The Philippines also placed third in the list of countries with the most plastic pollution.

A new Reuters investigation has flagged the use of plastics in countries like the Philippines, saying sachets are helping fuel a global waste crisis.

Sachets made of plastic and aluminum are almost impossible to destroy and end up littering neighborhoods, clogging waterways, and harming wildlife, the report said.

Citing studies, Hernandez said less than 10 percent of all plastics produced worldwide have only been recycled. Majority end up in landfill, into the ocean or in environment, he added.

"The key really is to stop production because right now we're already overflowing with plastic waste," Hernandez said. "It's showing up in our water, in our food, in our blood as microplastics."

Sen. Cynthia Villar earlier said the EPR bill "is not a solution in itself, but it is a move in the right direction."

"We need to rescue our country from being a marine litter culprit and demonstrate that a developing country can and will make this work," Villar, chairperson of the Senate environment committee, said in January.

Under the Senate version of the bill, producers, distributors, retailers implementing EPR programs would also be eligible to tax incentives,





On the other hand, fines ranging from P5 million to P20 million were proposed as penalties for failure to comply with the mandated EPR, as well as failure to meet the targets imposed by the bill.

"The EPR bill is not meant to put additional burden to the companies who are plastic packaging wastes generators, but rather it is an acknowledgment and a call for help that plastic waste problem will not be solved without their invaluable cooperation," Villar said.

Source: [https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/06/27/22/duterte-urged-to-veto-bill-on-plastic-waste-management?fbclid=IwAR2aJDKtlz9mdorCEyLJXh95UoOU7vPWmdo4Urt6l9eMI9XyVDKJg\\_KC7IM](https://news.abs-cbn.com/video/news/06/27/22/duterte-urged-to-veto-bill-on-plastic-waste-management?fbclid=IwAR2aJDKtlz9mdorCEyLJXh95UoOU7vPWmdo4Urt6l9eMI9XyVDKJg_KC7IM)



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### 'Polluter friendly': Duterte urged to veto bill on management of plastic waste | ANC

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An environmental group is urging President Rodrigo Duterte to veto a bill mandating consumer brands to manage plastic waste.

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# PCG, sinimulan na ang pagpapatrol sa Manila Bay at Pasig River

[Doris Franche](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon June 28, 2022 | 12:00am



People pass by the Manila Bay dolomite beach along Roxas Boulevard on Sept. 26, 2021.

The STAR/Jesse Bustos, file

MANILA, Philippines — Sinimulan na ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang paglilibot sa Manila Bay at Pasig River bilang bahagi ng security measures para sa ingurasyon ni President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa June 30.

Ayon kay PCG Spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo, ngayon pa lamang ay kailangang tiyakin ang seguridad ni Marcos, ng mga dadalo at ang mismong lugar na pagdarausan ng inagurasyon, ang National Museum.

Sinabi ni Balilo na nakatakda silang mag-deploy ng mas marami pang tauhan bukas.

Dagdag niya, mayroon ding Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRV) na itatalaga sa magkakaibang shift.

Una nang sinabi ng PCG na magpapatupad ito ng no-sail zone sa bahagi ng Pasig River malapit sa Malacañang sa naturang araw.

Sinabi rin ni Lieutenant Commander Michael Encina na ang pagsasara ng Malacañang Restricted Area ay magmumula sa Hospicio De San Jose hanggang sa Pureza, Santa Mesa, Manila.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2022/06/28/2191434/pcg-sinimulan-na-ang-pagpapatrol-sa-manila-bay-pasig-river>





## OCD, partners hold tree growing activity in Bataan

Published on: June 27, 2022 By Camille Anne Bartolome

BALANGA CITY (PIA) -- Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and its partners conducted a Juan For Treesilience: A Tree Planting and Tree Growing Activity in barangay Alangan in Limay, Bataan.

This is line with the observance of Philippine Arbor Day pursuant to Proclamation No. 396, series of 2003.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Executive Director and OCD Administrator Ricardo Jalad said the undertaking is part of the agency's commitment to sustain and ensure growth of trees planted in the same area in 2019.

"Let us continue and replicate this activity not only during Arbor Day, but also to support the National Greening Program of the government and for the benefit of our future generation," he stressed.

Meanwhile, OCD turned-over farming equipment to Alangan Farmers-Producers Association Inc. to help them maintain and sustain the growth of the trees planted.

Donated items include three brush cutters, three knapsack sprayer, 10 hole diggers, and 25 sacks of fertilizers.

BPI Foundation Inc. likewise donated P50,000 cash to the farmers' association for the sustainability of the project. (CLJD/CASB-PIA 3)



Source: <https://pia.gov.ph/news/2022/06/27/ocd-partners-hold-tree-growing-activity-in-bataan>



# 177 illegal loggers nabbed in Mimaropa in 6 months

By: [Madonna T. Virola](#) - Correspondent / [@mvirolaINQ](#)

[Inquirer Southern Luzon](#) / 09:33 PM June 27, 2022



CITY OF CALAPAN — At least 177 people have been arrested in the intensified operations against illegal logging activities in Mimaropa in the last six months, according to a report from the Mimaropa police regional office on Monday.

Police said they have confiscated 32,884.07 board feet of illegally cut good lumber valued at P1,192,774.81 in 155 separate police operations conducted since January.

The most recent arrests involved two people in separate anti-illegal logging operations on June 25 in Occidental Mindoro.

One was Carlos Tayag, 27, who was arrested at 1:30 a.m. in Barangay Barahan, Sta. Cruz town. Recovered from him were 154 board feet of illegally cut lumber valued at P7,700. The report did not specify what kind of lumber was seized.

The other one was Richard Oñana, 30, who was nabbed at about 5:03 p.m. by police from San Jose, the Maritime Group, and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office - San Jose, after being caught transporting undocumented forest products in Barangay Caminawit, San Jose town.

Recovered from Oñana's possession were 200 board feet of lumber valued at P11,000.

The suspects will be facing charges for violation of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.

More than 340,000 seedlings of fruit and non-fruit bearing trees had been planted by police Mimaropa and partners, according to a report from the Regional Community Affairs and Development Division.

“Part of our commitment is to preserve our natural resources and be the steward of protecting the environment in order to address environmental degradation and provide a sustainable environment to communities in partnership with other concerned agencies and stakeholders,” said Brig. Gen. Sidney Sultan Hernia, regional police chief. INQ

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1617670/177-illegal-loggers-nabbed-in-mimaropa-in-6-months>



# Why geothermal energy is key to fighting climate change and how it can power a safer future

Philstar.com June 27, 2022 | 5:40pm



EDC's 112.5MW Palinpinon-1 geothermal power plant in Valencia, Negros Oriental has been supplying clean, renewable 24/7 power to Negros and other parts of Luzon and Visayas for over 38 years.

Photo Release

MANILA, Philippines — Climate change is real and definitely upon us. You cannot see it when you go outside of your house, but you can feel it.

You don't need to have a scientific mind to realize this, as natural calamities and weather disturbances are evident in the Philippines: the occurrence of frequent and stronger typhoons, intense heat during summer period, and heavy rains and flooding during the rainy season that damage property and critical infrastructure. Certainly, this change is a little discomforting and makes us a bit apprehensive about our future.

While we cannot stop this environmental threat overnight, we can slow the rate and mitigate the effects of the climate crisis by reducing human emissions. All of us need to make our efforts count to combat climate change through the reduction of emissions and the promotion of renewable energy sources, not tomorrow, not next year. We should take action now for our generation and for generations yet to come.

## Shift now or regret later

Although the Philippines is not a substantial greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter, several studies and reports project that our country's GHG emissions will continue to increase in the years to come. This growth will be due to robust growth of the economy, amplified urbanization, improved demand and use of energy, and the continuous increase in the number of vehicles, all of which are highly dependent on crude oil for energy.

Energy use is changing fast. According to the 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, our window of opportunity to respond to the climate crisis is rapidly closing. If we fail to cut our carbon emissions fast, we will experience the irreversible effects of climate change on the planet, and humanity's survival will be at stake.

The shift to renewable sources, therefore, needs to happen faster, not just in power generation but in heating, buildings, and transport, to check the rise in global temperatures.

## Let's talk about geo

The best and simplest we can do now is to educate ourselves on how to face the climate crisis. While it seems that we can do little as ordinary citizens, if we arm ourselves with knowledge of the science behind climate change and its effects on people and the environment, we can start to take steps toward positive change, and influence others to do the same.





This is why the country's leading geothermal producer, First Gen-owned **Energy Development Corporation** (EDC), launched **Geo Talks**. It is an online program dedicated to spreading relevant information and deepening the public's understanding of geothermal energy and its relation to relevant environmental issues, particularly climate change, faced by the world and the country today.

Launched in time for the celebration of World Environment Day, the pilot episode of Geo Talks dubbed as "Why Geo" (short for geothermal) on digital platforms hosted by the well-known broadcaster and journalist Jing Castañeda.

Distinguished guests during the first Geo Talks episode were industry experts Jeff Caranto, president of the National Geothermal Association of the Philippines (NGAP) and AVP and Head of EDC's Exploration, and Carlos Lorenzo Vega, vice president for Power Marketing Trading, and Economics of First Gen Corporation.

The first episode ignited the conversation about the ongoing climate change, its effects on our lives, and how we can turn it around through decarbonization by utilizing geothermal energy.

Caranto enlightened the audience with a comprehensive discussion of geothermal energy as an alternative power source and how it can help alleviate the negative impacts of climate change. "Geothermal energy is a renewable energy source that comes from reservoirs of hot water beneath the Earth's surface. With applications in several economic sectors—electricity, industry, and buildings—the increased use of geothermal energy can significantly minimize the use of fossil fuels and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions," he explained.

He highlighted the timely release of Geo Talks to reach the general public and disseminate accurate information, especially amidst the widespread fake news and disinformation. Caranto also showed a simple video presentation on how geothermal energy works in the Philippine context.

But among the renewable energy sources available, why geo? Industry expert Caranto answered, "It's baseload energy or always available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That is why EDC's geothermal product is called Geo 24/7. Geothermal provides a clean, stable, and reliable energy source compared to other RE sources, such as wind and solar, that are intermittent."

### **RCOA and GEOP**

Given the significant role of geothermal energy in our fight against climate concerns, the question now is how to shift?

EDC is one of the leading private entities in the country that collaborates with other businesses and the government to spearhead the shift to renewable energy.



(Left to right) Jeff Caranto, President of the National Geothermal Association of the Philippines (NGAP) and AVP and Head of EDC’s Exploration, Carlos Lorenzo Vega, Vice President for Power Marketing, Trading, and Economics of First Gen Corporation and veteran broadcaster and journalist Jing Castañeda during the pilot episode of EDC’s Geo Talks. The first episode focused on climate change, its effects, and how we can turn it around by using geothermal energy.

Photo Release

In his segment at Geo Talks, Vega shared more information about the Green Energy Option Program (GEOP) and Retail Competition and Open Access (RCOA), programs under Republic Act 9513, or the Renewable Energy Law.

“GEOP allows business owners with average monthly electricity consumption of 100 kilowatts (kW) or Php 300,000 bill per month to exclusively source their electricity from renewable sources like hydro, wind, solar, and geothermal through licensed GEOP suppliers like EDC’s BacMan Geothermal, Inc. and Green Core Geothermal, Inc. subsidiaries. Aside from being able to do their part in saving the environment, business owners who will be participating in this program can enjoy reliable electricity at affordable charge rates,” he said.

RCOA, on the other hand, empowers business owners, whose average consumption during the last 12 months reached a minimum of 500kW or P1.2 million monthly electricity bill, to choose their own retail electricity supplier. With RCOA, corporations and business entities like malls, ice plants or manufacturing companies, can choose a clean and reliable energy source to power their businesses.

### Impacts on the lives of Filipinos



EDC SIKAT scholars in Negros.

Photo Release

Corporations and businesses are some of the major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. This is why programs that incentivize the use of RE like RCOA and GEOP will be the Philippines' stepping stone in our collective efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Our role as individuals is to patronize the brands that get power from RE for their operations.



The shift can also help the country recover economically, as the RE industry is one of the thriving industries in the world. Renewables can promote economic growth, especially in rural areas of the country where communities can benefit from green jobs created from RE projects and investments.

We are running out of time. We have a responsibility to our planet and humanity. With geothermal energy and RE programs like RCOA and GEOP, we can improve the overall quality of life of Filipinos and that of future generations. Renewables hold the key to powering a safer future.

The [Energy Development Corporation \(EDC\)](#) is the leading 100% clean, renewable energy company in the Philippines, with over 40 years of experience in geothermal technology. With power plants situated across the country, EDC is the world's largest vertically integrated geothermal company. The company also strives to provide the best customer and value-adding services to all its customers.

*Watch the full episode of Geo Talks at [EDC's official Facebook page](#). To learn more about lowering your business' carbon footprint by shifting to renewable energy, visit [Energy Development Corporation's official website](#) or email [sales@energy.com.ph](mailto:sales@energy.com.ph).*

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/business/science-and-environment/2022/06/27/2190645/why-geothermal-energy-key-fighting-climate-change-and-how-it-can-power-safer-future>





# Chico River pump irrigation inaugurated

By [Vince Jacob Visaya](#) June 28, 2022



The Chico River Pump Irrigation Project in Kalinga during its initial construction phase in this file photo taken in 2020 from the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**TABUK CITY, Kalinga:** The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and Chinese officials formally inaugurated the P4.373-billion [Chico River](#) Pump Irrigation Project at Barangay Katabogon, Pinukpuk, Kalinga on Saturday, June 25.

NIA Administrator [Ricardo Visaya](#), who led the opening, said the Chico River pump project will irrigate 8,700 hectares (ha) in Cagayan (7,539 ha in Tuao and Piat) and part of Kalinga (1,170 ha in Pinukpuk) benefitting 4,992 farmers and their families.

The construction of the project started in 2018 through the [China CAMC Engineering Corp.](#)

"Finally, this will enhance the productivity of farms being planted by farmers in Cagayan and Kalinga provinces," he said.

The flagship infrastructure project was financed by the People's Republic of [China](#) through the China Export-Import Bank under President [Duterte](#)'s Build, Build, Build program.

The project encountered opposition that delayed its progress following complaints from the [National Commission](#) on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in 2019 that their consent was not obtained.

NCIP officials also complained that the main beneficiaries are residents in [Cagayan Valley](#) but the source of water for the irrigation project comes from the Chico River along upstream Kalinga. They had feared that the water stock would be lessened as Kalinga farmers also use the water to irrigate their farms.

The NCIP also complained of earth-moving activities at the pump house site during the construction period. A certification precondition from the NCIP was then asked to be issued as NIA and China contractors had complied with the requirements.

The [Regional Project Monitoring Committee](#) (RPMC) of the [Cordillera Regional Development Council](#) visited the Chico River Pump Irrigation site implemented by the NIA on Aug. 23, 2018, to validate various claims concerning the project. The RPMC then held a joint meeting with their counterpart in Region 2. This visit was a result of agreements made on July 12, 2018 by the joint task force composed of the Regional Development Council committees on Indigenous Peoples Concerns and Infrastructure Development to gather information and address concerns on the project.



RPMC chairwoman and NEDA-CAR [Regional Director Milagros Rimando](#) led the conduct of a meeting with the community elders to validate the various issues such as the lack of consultations and hiring of Chinese workers, among others.

During that meeting, the RPMC was able to confirm that consultations conducted by NIA Region 2 and the [Kalinga Provincial Office](#) of the NCIP with the affected communities were done properly. "The elders acknowledged the role of NCIP in helping resolve issues pertaining to the project," Rimando added in a Neda report posted on its website.

The community leaders and elders gave assurance that there were consultations done by the DENR in connection with the issuance of an Environmental Compliance Certificate. The households in the affected community were also paid disturbance compensation for the duration of the project. Other concerns raised by the elders included the suggestion to prioritize locals in employment as there are plenty of skilled workers from Kalinga, and urged the NIA, as project owner and implementer, to look into the earth spoils being dumped along with adjacent farms and river banks.



# Undercover land rush

## ROUGH TRADE

By [Ben Kritz](#) June 28, 2022



LAND use is a touchy subject in any country, and particularly so here in the [Philippines](#). The seemingly endless struggle to produce enough food for a steadily expanding population is constantly handicapped by strong competition for control of the land needed to grow it.

The proposition is deceptively simple: in order to achieve "food security," whatever detailed form that might take, the Philippines needs to start with fully utilizing its lands for which the best use is actually agriculture and then, maximizing those lands' output to minimize the necessity of sourcing food supplies from elsewhere. In spite of the existence of an enormous bureaucracy, comprising an alphabet soup of agencies that are supposed to work together toward that objective, it remains elusive.

The reason for that is likewise simple. Land that is suitable for agriculture is suitable for a lot of other uses, too, and in spite of there being a complex web of administrative and regulatory responsibility across several levels of government, there is nothing that remotely resembles a coherent plan or even broadly applicable general standards. As a consequence, land that could be or ought to be devoted to agriculture is rather easily swallowed up for other purposes, often ones that do not necessarily provide any other benefits to the country.

The election of the son of the late dictator [Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr.](#) to his dad's old job has heightened concerns that land-grabbing will increase, although to be fair, there is no tangible reason — at least not yet — to suppose that will be the case. Whether [Marcos Jr.](#)'s decision to head the [Department of Agriculture](#) himself will help or hurt the situation is likewise unknowable at this point. As the move was the political equivalent of a [Jollibee](#) manager taking over the french fry station because he couldn't talk anyone into filling in for someone who called in sick, some pessimism is understandable, but a wait-and-see attitude is more reasonable. Who knows, he might be really good at cooking fries.





Addressing the problem of land use and harmful land conversion cannot even begin without a clear picture of the scope and scale of the problem, and that seems to be knowledge the Philippines does not have yet, at least not in a useful amount. Fortunately, there is some information about this, thanks to the work of an organization called the [Land Matrix Initiative](#) (LMI), an international think-tank that tracks large-scale land acquisitions (LSLA) worldwide. LMI recently released its reports for 2022; an overall global report, with individual country reports for most countries with a large agricultural sector, including the Philippines.

LSLAs are defined as acquisitions of land — whether through outright purchase, lease, licensing, or concession — of either 200 hectares or more, or double the nation's median land holding size, whichever figure is smaller. The data excludes land acquired for mining, for reasons that are not made clear, but may be supposed that mining land acquisition tends to be more publicly transparent, and primarily (but not always) involves lands that are not designated as potential agricultural lands.

The situation here is, to put it kindly, rather alarming, not just for what the LMI report says, but for what it isn't able to say. Among all Asian countries, even including giants such as [India](#) and [China](#), the Philippines has the fifth-highest number of LSLA deals since 2000, a total of 87 involving a bit more than 300,000 hectares. More worryingly, there were (as of 2021) a total of about 3.2 million hectares under negotiation, representing about 58 percent of the Philippines' 5.6 million hectares of arable land. The report drily notes that this "might have grave implications for [the Philippines'] food self-sufficiency capacity."

In terms of who is investing in Philippine lands, foreign investors slightly outnumber domestic investors, and their acquisitions tend to be larger. Some identified examples include various parcels totaling 19,000 hectares by [UK's Bronzeoak](#), primarily for energy projects; about 50,000 hectares by Chinese enterprises, for purposes that are not entirely clear; 14,000 hectares by Japan's [Sumitomo Group](#), presumably for the production of ethanol; and a couple of Korean projects, although the largest one, totaling about 11,000 hectares and intended for renewable energy, has since been abandoned.

Of already concluded land deals, 99 percent of the involved land area involves ethanol and biofuel production. Again, mastering understatement, the report notes, "This may have adverse environmental and food security impacts."

These findings are already cause for concern, but LMI goes to some lengths to emphasize its limitations, thus making it clear that the problem may be much bigger than it appears. Its reports rely primarily on publicly disclosed data from government sources, supplemented with data provided by the public. Here in the Philippines, the atmosphere of secrecy surrounding land deals severely limits how much detail can be provided. Information on the status of about 35 percent of land deals — what they are intended for, and what stage of development they are currently in — is simply not available. Likewise, about 80 percent of contracted projects do not have information about their terms, i.e., whether they are purchase, lease, or concession agreements.

Closing this vast information gap should be considered a critical priority. We can only hope that doing so won't reveal what many fear is already happening, that a stealthy land rush is ongoing in the Philippines, and has been for years.

*ben.kritz@manilatimes.net*

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/06/28/opinion/columns/undercover-land-rush/1848954>



# Long road ahead to hammer out UN biodiversity blueprint

[Laure Fillon](#) - Agence France-Presse June 27, 2022 | 8:25am



Placards reading "Climate Justice" and "Human change, not climate change" are pictured during a protest on World Environment Day on June 5, 2021 in Barcelona.

AFP/Pau Barrena

NAIROBI, Kenya — Delegates from almost 200 nations have made little progress towards hammering out a blueprint for a global pact to protect nature from human activity, after almost a week of difficult talks in Nairobi.

The meetings wrapping up Sunday were aimed at ironing out differences among the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) 196 members, with barely six months before a crucial COP15 summit in December.

The ambitious goal is to draw up a draft text outlining a global framework to "live in harmony with nature" by 2050, with key targets to be met by 2030.

Many hope the landmark deal, when finalised, will be as ambitious in its goals to protect life on Earth as the Paris agreement was for climate change.

A closing media release from the CBD said delegates had "achieved consensus on several targets".

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the CBD's executive secretary, acknowledged at the closing news conference that progress had been "limited".

But she added: "We cannot afford to fail."

"There's a lot of work -- lot more that what we thought,"

## 'Security issue for humanity'

"Most of the time was spent on technical bickering, with major decisions left unresolved and postponed for the COP," Brian O'Donnell, director of the Campaign for Nature, told AFP earlier.

"It is now critically important that environment ministers and heads of state engage, take ownership and rescue this process."

Delegates in Nairobi spent hours discussing formulations or seeking to introduce new elements, instead of reconciling differing viewpoints and refining rather than overhauling the text.

One delegate on Saturday night spoke of feeling "desperate". Another described the Nairobi round as "a step" and voiced hope for further informal meetings before December.

"We need to continue with the dialogue with the intention to simplify and reduce the brackets (on the disputed issues) and alternatives," said Vinod Mathur, head of India's National Biodiversity Authority.



For that to happen, warned Francis Ogwal of Uganda, one of the two co-chairs of the Kenya negotiations, "there has to be a very big shift of mind in the way we are negotiating".

Proposals include a global commitment to set aside at least 30 percent of both land and oceans as protected zones by the end of the decade, as well as efforts to cut plastic and agricultural pollution.

But time is running out.

One million species are threatened with extinction and tropical forests are disappearing, while intensive agriculture is depleting the soil and pollution is affecting even the most remote areas of the planet.

"It's not any longer an ecological issue only... It is increasingly an issue that affects our economy, our society, our health, our wellbeing," Marco Lambertini, director general of WWF International, told a press conference.

"It is a security issue for humanity."

'Crucial' to fix food system

Lambertini accused some countries of using a "delaying tactic", pointing the finger at Brazil in particular. Behind the scenes, Argentina and South Africa were also getting blamed.

One of the main stumbling blocks concerns agriculture, particularly targets for a reduction in pesticides and fertilisers.

The European Union wants to see the pesticide issue specifically mentioned in the text, but "there is little support" for that position, said one delegate.

Delegates from the Global South have highlighted the need to produce more, with much of the planet undergoing a major food security crisis, and reject any reference to agroecology, the use of ecological principles in farming.

"Agriculture is currently responsible for 70 percent of biodiversity loss," said Guido Broekhoven of WWF International, adding that it was "absolutely crucial" to fix a system where 30 percent of food goes to waste.

Countries are also divided on the issue of the funding needed to implement the biodiversity goals.

Brazil, backed by 22 countries including Argentina, South Africa, Cameroon, Egypt and Indonesia, renewed calls for rich countries to provide at least \$100 billion a year until 2030 to help developing countries preserve their rich biodiversity.

The African bloc is also asking for a fund dedicated to biodiversity, according to one country delegate.

Although leaders of 93 countries committed in September 2020 to ending the biodiversity crisis, the issue is struggling to gain as much traction on the international political agenda as climate change.

"There is also a need to see where our political leaders want us to be," said Canada's van Havre.

"We're looking to see who's going to step up to pick up that ball."

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/climate-and-environment/2022/06/27/2191235/long-road-ahead-hammer-out-un-biodiversity-blueprint>





# Ailing oceans in the spotlight at major UN meet

By MARLOWE HOOD, AFP

Published June 27, 2022 3:52pm



A general view shows Turtle Beach in Midway Atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Pacific Ocean on September 1, 2016. Saul Loeb/AFP

A long-delayed UN conference on how to restore the faltering health of global oceans kicks off in Lisbon Monday, with thousands of policymakers, experts and advocates on the case.

Humanity needs healthy oceans. They generate 50% of the oxygen we breathe and provide essential protein and nutrients to billions of people every day.

Covering more than two-thirds of Earth's surface, the seven seas have also softened the impact of climate change for life on land.

But at a terrible cost.

Absorbing around a quarter of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution — even as emissions increased by half over the last 60 years — has turned sea water acidic, threatening aquatic food chains and the ocean's capacity to pull down carbon.

And soaking up more than 90% of the excess heat from global warming has spawned massive marine heatwaves that are killing off precious coral reefs and expanding dead zones bereft of oxygen.

"We have only begun to understand the extent to which climate change is going to wreak havoc on ocean health," said Charlotte de Fontaubert, the World Bank's global lead for the blue economy.

Making things worse is an unending torrent of pollution, including a garbage truck's worth of plastic every minute, according the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

On current trends, yearly plastic waste will nearly triple to one billion tonnes by 2060, according to a recent OECD report.

## Wild fish stocks

Microplastics, found inside Arctic ice and fish in the ocean's deepest trenches, are estimated to kill more than a million seabirds and over 100,000 marine mammals each year.

Solutions on the table range from recycling to global caps on plastic production.

Global fisheries will also be under the spotlight during the five-day UN Ocean Conference, originally slated for April 2020 and jointly hosted by Portugal and Kenya.



"At least one-third of wild fish stocks are overfished and less than 10 percent of the ocean is protected," Kathryn Matthews, chief scientist for US-based NGO Oceana, told AFP.

"Destructive and illegal fishing vessels operate with impunity in many coastal waters and on the high seas."

One culprit is nearly \$35 billion in subsidies. Baby steps taken last week by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to reduce handouts to industry will hardly make a dent, experts said.

The conference will also see a push for a moratorium on deep-sea mining of rare metals needed for a boom electric vehicle battery construction.

Scientists say poorly understood seabed ecosystems are fragile and could take decades or longer to heal once disrupted.

Another major focus will be "blue food", the new watchword for ensuring that marine harvests from all sources are sustainable and socially responsible.

### **Protected areas**

Rising aquaculture yields — from salmon and tuna to shellfish and algae — are on track to overtake wild marine harvests in decline since the 1990s, with each producing roughly 100 million tonnes per year.

If properly managed, "wild ocean fish can provide a climate-friendly, micro-nutrient protein source that can feed one billion people a healthy seafood meal every day — forever," said Matthews.

The Lisbon meet will see ministers and even a few heads of state, including French President Emmanuel Macron, but is not a formal negotiating session.

But participants will push for a strong oceans agenda at two critical summits later this year: the COP27 UN climate talks in November, hosted by Egypt, followed by the long-delayed COP15 biodiversity negotiations, recently moved from China to Montreal.

Oceans are already at the heart of a draft biodiversity treaty tasked with halting what many scientists fear is the first "mass extinction" event in 65 million years.

Nearly 100 nations support a cornerstone provision that would designate 30 percent of the planet's land and ocean as protected areas.

For climate change, the focus will be on carbon sequestration: boosting the ocean's capacity to soak up CO<sub>2</sub>, whether by enhancing natural sinks such as mangroves or through geoengineering schemes.

At the same time, scientists warn, a drastic reduction of greenhouse gases is needed to restore ocean health.

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/836217/ailing-oceans-in-the-spotlight-at-major-un-meet/story/?utm\\_source=GMANews&utm\\_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0afpKHRpGg4BMZhe-wTAYk68hodNvSkWR82gWyBAMgkxcNSA0WaD--4GA](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/science/836217/ailing-oceans-in-the-spotlight-at-major-un-meet/story/?utm_source=GMANews&utm_medium=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0afpKHRpGg4BMZhe-wTAYk68hodNvSkWR82gWyBAMgkxcNSA0WaD--4GA)



## Bonn climate talks end with 'almost empty pages'

Financial help for irreversible climate damage was a key sticking point at the latest UN climate talks, with anger from developing nations growing.

By Catherine Early, [China Dialogue](#) June 27, 2022

“Kicking the can”, “pointing fingers”, and “divorced from climate impacts” were descriptions used by observers to describe progress at the latest round of global climate talks in Germany.

The Bonn climate talks marked a shift in emphasis. After the “Paris rulebook”, which governs how measures set out in the Paris Agreement will work in practice, was finalised at last year’s [COP26](#) climate summit, the focus has now shifted to implementation.

However, in the few months since the Glasgow meeting, geopolitics has been further complicated by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and the knock-on fears for energy and food security. Outgoing UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa recently said that these immediate problems were distracting politicians.

“This is where I think that the focus can shift far away from climate change, even if those very issues, like energy and food security, are very much linked to climate change,” she told [Carbon Brief](#).

### *Climate compensation*

Loss and damage was a major theme in the Bonn talks. It refers to the impacts of climate change where adaptation is impossible, including immediate damage from extreme weather and slow-onset problems such as the loss of agricultural land and rising sea levels. Loss and damage has risen up the agenda as climate change has become more severe, hitting poorer countries the hardest.

Developed countries have [pushed back on earmarking specific finance for loss and damage](#), anxious to avoid opening the door to “compensation” claims around historical responsibility.

Developing countries in the G77 plus China negotiating group left the Glasgow talks disappointed that richer nations had failed to agree to its demands for a finance facility for loss and damage. As a compromise, the “[Glasgow Dialogue](#)” was set up, under which the issue would be discussed, starting in Bonn.

Perhaps the most decisive outcome from the Bonn talks is that developed countries now realise that the chorus calling for solutions to loss and damage is only getting louder.

David Waskow, director of the International Climate Initiative, World Resources Institute



But developed countries “kicked the can down the road”, according to Mary Friel, climate justice lead for the charity Christian Aid. The issue of loss and damage was not added to the formal negotiating agenda for the upcoming UN climate talks at COP27, which will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November. However, New Zealand voiced support for loss and damage finance, joining Scotland, which pledged £1 million (US\$1.2 million) in Glasgow. Some countries called for scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to write a report on the issue to inform the talks.

### *Mitigation ambition*

A new strand of discussions known as the “[mitigation work programme](#)” began in Bonn. Countries agreed to start the programme at COP26, to reflect the need to urgently scale up the ambition of current mitigation plans and the pledges made in Glasgow, which [have been estimated](#) to push global average temperature rises to around 2.4C, rather than the “well under 2C” agreed in Paris in 2015.

The talks did not progress far in Bonn, as several major bones of contention emerged. Language being negotiated included the term “major emitters”, which the US insisted on to force countries such as China to take greater responsibility for cutting greenhouse gases this decade. However, China, along with India and Saudi Arabia, strongly opposed this, arguing that the US had far greater historical responsibility for climate change.

Another split surfaced over the duration of the programme. Some supported the idea that it should continue until 2030, while others, including China, wanted it to last a year only. The [Alliance of Small Island States](#) (AOSIS), meanwhile, called for it to have no restrictions on timescale, given the huge gaps between commitments and action seen so far.

Countries also discussed whether individual sectors of the economy should have specific climate targets, an idea backed by the EU. But developing countries, including India, opposed this. Such were the disagreements that the final text that emerged from discussions on the programme may not be taken forward for negotiation at COP27, said Tom Evans, a researcher at thinktank E3G.

Discussions had missed the point, Evans said in a press conference. “The merits of what this should look like and the pros and cons of the design can be argued endlessly. The key thing that we’re not seeing is a sense that there needs to be a collaborative approach. You have to put aside the arguments about who does what.”

The climate crisis would not be solved if the process was used to “just point fingers at each other”, he added.

### *Political momentum*

Other technical discussions in Bonn centred around the first “[global stocktake](#)”, under which countries will assess whether they are collectively taking sufficient action to keep within the temperature rise agreed in Paris. The outcome of the stocktake will inform the next round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), with updates to these national climate plans next due in 2025.

Countries also discussed how much climate finance should be provided after 2025, following up on the long-standing US\$100 billion annual climate finance goal – which has yet to be met. Finance for adaptation was also a theme, following on from the COP26 pledge by developed countries [to double adaptation finance by 2025](#).

The Global Goal on Adaptation, which broadly aims to increase the capacity for nations to adapt to climate impacts, remains undefined, seven years after it was included in the Paris Agreement. It will be taken forward for formal discussions at COP27.

With just over four months until the Egypt summit, the state of play at the close of the Bonn talks was “divorced from the climate impacts that are already hitting”, according to Alex Scott, E3G’s climate diplomacy and geopolitics programme leader.

Frameworks agreed in Glasgow to turn political vision into reality, such as those on adaptation and loss and damage, had not made progress in Bonn, with “almost blank pages” on what they will look like, she said.

“It looks like negotiators have come here without the political wiggle room to work out what the pathways forward need to be, and to make sure that we get to COP27 with a real sense of how we’re going to realise that political vision for faster action this decade,” Scott said.

The Egyptian presidency of COP27 will have a “huge agenda” to take forward, but is lacking support from other political leaders, she added.

The Bonn talks were the last under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) before COP27. However, there are other opportunities for politicians to discuss climate before then. These include the G7 summit in Germany, the Petersberg Climate Dialogue – an annual forum for ministers to discuss action – and the UN General Assembly in September. This will be followed by the Clean Energy Ministerial, which will discuss initiatives in energy and transport, as well as the meetings of the International Monetary Forum and World Bank in October.

These are key opportunities for political momentum to increase ahead of COP27, said David Waskow, director of the International Climate Initiative at the World Resources Institute.

“Perhaps the most decisive outcome from the Bonn talks is that developed countries now realise that the chorus calling for solutions to loss and damage is only getting louder, and addressing this issue is a central measure of success for the UN climate summit in Egypt,” he said.

“Now the pressure is on for leaders to pick up the slack and use upcoming diplomatic gatherings to deliver the political momentum that is needed ahead of COP27,” he added.

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28 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has given recognition to volunteers and partners who had significant contribution to the cleanup and rehabilitation of Manila Bay during the "Manila BAYani Awards" ceremony on June 14, 2022 at the Diamond Hotel in Manila. The signatories of the award are the International Council for Environmental Law (ICEL), the DENR, Normandy Chair for Peace, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD), Asia Pacific Center for Environmental Law and Juliana Oposa.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna led the recognition of local government units (LGUs), private organizations, river rangers, and individuals in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon for their active participation in the Manila Bay rehabilitation program. Acting Secretary Sampulna also attributed the success of the Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program to the "strong will" of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to accomplish a monumental task. "We would not have accomplished our task without the people and organizations who helped us as we journey along our rehabilitation and cleanup efforts. We have a lot of heroes amid all this," Sampulna added.

Senator Cynthia Villar was specially cited in gratitude by the DENR as one of the recipients of the "Manila BAYani Award" in recognition of her efforts as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment because of her persistence in strongly reminding the concerned agencies to do their job as mandated by the Supreme Court under the continuing mandamus to clean the Manila Bay issued on December 18, 2008. The continuing mandamus compels the DILG, DENR and 11 other national agencies (NGAs) to rehabilitate and preserve the Manila Bay to make it fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation in its waters. Based on the Order, the government agencies were given 10 years to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

Senator Villar was also recognized for her efforts in physically initiating the cleaning of Baseco Compound, in Barangay 649, Gasangan, Zone 68, Port Area, Manila which she started in 2015 thereby boosting environmental awareness among Filipinos.

She did monthly clean up and tree-planting activities as well as the construction of toilets and establishment of various livelihood projects for the residents.



USEC. Analiza Rebuelta-Teh, USEC Juan Miguel T. Cuna, Former DENR Sec. Roy A Cimatu, Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, Atty. Ride Linda Jimeno, NIA Senior Deputy Director Benny Antiporda, Atty. Antonio Oposa Jr., DENR Secretary Jim O. Sampulna

Senator Cynthia Villar in addressing the poor sanitary conditions of the people who have no access to toilet facilities in Baseco, she has tapped the help of the DOH, DSWD, the City of Manila and Maynilad together and launched the "Zero Open Defecation for Baseco Compound" project in May 2017. She initiated the paving of the street and built a communal septic tank. She also sought the commitment of authorities for the regular collection of garbage to prevent solid waste accumulation in Manila Bay. In a bid to turn the compound into a model community rehabilitation project and site for urban agriculture and aquaculture, she asked the help of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) to establish urban gardens which have been the source of vegetables for residents' own consumption and livelihood. Recycling projects were also initiated in the area provided by the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

Together with the residents of Baseco, mangroves were also planted in the area to serve as natural barriers that will protect the community in the event of storm surges. The Baseco compound is located near the sea wall of Manila Bay, making it vulnerable to flooding and storm surges during typhoon. Aquaculture was also introduced in the area with the help of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) who provided the training and distribution of fishing boats and tribikes to the residents.

The Senator has always mobilized other sectors in helping Baseco such as partner-organizations namely Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Soils



Certificate of Gratitude given to Sen. Cynthia A. Villar and Villar SIPAG Foundation as recipients of "Manila BAYani Awards"

and Water Management, Department of Education, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Maynilad, Kabalik sa Kaunleran ng Baseco, MBC-DZRH, and Gasangan barangay officials.

It may be recalled that on Dec. 18, 2008, the Supreme Court issued a Continuing Mandamus on Manila Bay (G.R. 171947-48) directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to class "B" level to make them fit for swimming, sky-driving and other forms of contact recreation. The 13

agencies involved are:

1. DENR
2. DILG
3. DepEd
4. DOH
5. DA
6. DPWH
7. DBM
8. Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)
9. Philippine National Police-Maritime Group
10. Philippine Ports Authority (PPA)
11. Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
12. Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS)
13. Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA)

Among those who also received the Manila Bay Awards were:

1. Former DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
2. Former MMDA Chair Danilo Lim
3. Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso
4. Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla
5. Senator-elect and former DPWH Sec. Mark Villar
6. NIA Senior Deputy Administrator and former DENR Undersecretary Benny D. Antiporda
7. Environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr.
8. Atty. Rita Linda V. Jimeno
9. Congressman - Elect Edward Hagedorn

Also recognized during the event are the: Villar SIPAG Foundation, Wild Bird Club, Asian Terminal Inc., Brgy. 412 in Sampaloc, Manila, environmental planner Jason Villeza, the "river rangers" of Bacoor City, Cavite City, and the municipalities of Naic, Kawit, and Noveleta in the province of Cavite.

Among the LGUs includes: Balanga, Bataan; Palayan, Nueva Ecija; Sasmuan, Pampanga; Marilao, Bulacan and the Environment and Natural Resources Office of the Provincial Government of Pampanga.

Senator Cynthia Villar's initiatives for the protection and conservation of Manila Bay



Tree planting at LPPWP during Arbor Day Celebration



Monthly clean-up at Las Piñas-Perañaque Wetland Park



Mangroves planting at Baseco



Urban farming at Gasangan in Baseco



Turned over toilet facilities to residents of Brgy 649 Baseco, Tondo



Regular clean-up drive at the shoreline of Baseco, Tondo



Distribution of bangus (milkfish) fingerlings to Baseco residents





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# DENR launches environmental lab

By Joel dela Torre

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has launched a laboratory that would cater to the needs for environmental services and research required in the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws.

Housed at a three-storey building inside the DENR compound in Quezon City,

the facility has been strengthened and upgraded through the able efforts of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

According to DENR Officer-in-Charge Joselin Marcus Fragada Jr., the laboratory is capable of providing high-quality and reliable analytical lab services.

"EMB, the first and so far, only government agency to establish the Dioxins and Furans Laboratory in

the Philippines that provides support in the government's pursuit of alternative interventions in environmental issues, such as on solid waste management," Fragada said during the launching last June 24.

The facility's layout ensures complete and effective separation of incompatible work areas, and is provided with safety equipment such as fume hoods, emergency showers and

eyewash stations, fire extinguishers, chemical spill kits, etc.

The facility has an array of analytical instruments and equipment used for various environmental analytical measurements.

Fragada said the laboratory was launched to make it better known to the public that the DENR has a facility that would cater to the needs for environmental laboratory services and research required in the im-

plementation and enforcement of environmental laws.

The Organics Laboratory and Bacteriological Laboratory are situated on the first floor while the Air Laboratory is located on the second floor and the third floor is for the Inorganics Laboratory that is intended for analysis of inorganic parameters in environmental samples.

An annex building houses the Toxicity Testing Laboratory.





## #Buhayilog: How to revive Asia's rivers

**P**ROJECT ASEANO, an international initiative to combat river waste, commissioned several studies to trace the sources of plastic pollution in the Imus River in Cavite, a rapidly-growing province south of Manila in the Philippines. Among the contributors of plastic waste are Food Service Enterprises (FSEs) like restaurants, plus households, which generate enormous amounts of garbage, especially from disposable sand-bags and sachets.

### Sachet Culture

SACHETS are most commonly sold in sari-sari stores, ubiquitous Filipino neighborhood stores which sell repacked goods ranging from rice to cigarettes. "Sari-sari stores sell what regular people can easily afford from a day's wage," shares Amy Demetillo, a sari-sari store owner from Dasmariñas. "Families can easily budget the available finances of their households because they buy only what they need, even if it's just enough to cook a single meal."

Though they generate significant amounts of waste, sari-sari stores help improve the lives of regular people, even becoming a lifeline for those who make next to nothing.

"Sachet culture is ingrained not just in the Philippines, but in many impoverished communities around the world, particularly in developing countries. We can't just ban them, so a better solution might be to shift to biodegradable sachet packaging," recommends Dr. Edwin Lineses of DLSU-Dasmariñas.

Another waste contributor is the Food Service Industry (FSI), whose kiosks and restaurants generate enormous amounts of garbage. Good thing many establishments are doing their part to minimize in-store waste. "We only give straws to our drive-through customers," shares Lodde Navarro, who works for an international fast-food chain. "Dine-in customers are given metal utensils, plus durable plastic plates and cups. We



**RIVER RANGERS FROM IMUS HAUL SACKS OF NEWLY-COLLECTED GARBAGE IN CHEST-DEEP WATERS.** "Tomorrow, new trash will flow down from the uplands to again cover this riverbank with garbage," shares ranger Junjun Brinola. Though the work is ceaseless, regular river cleanups can help prevent garbage from flowing out to sea. (Gregg Yen / PEMSEA)

also ask those who order take-out meals if they really need disposable utensils. These small steps help reduce our contribution of plastic waste."

### Tackling plastic pollution

**PARTNERSHIPS** in Environmental Management of the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), which is implementing Project ASEANO in the Philippines and Indonesia, is tackling plastic pollution through an integrated plastic waste management approach which combines the use of science to adjust policies, adopt suitable technologies and build local capacity to monitor and manage waste.

The Philippine component of the project centers on the Imus River Watershed, one of six river systems in Cavite. The Imus River itself begins in the uplands of Tagaytay and Silang and passes through some of Cavite's most densely-populated hubs, including Dasmariñas, Imus, Kawit and Bacoor, before discharging its contents into Manila Bay.

Project ASEANO launched #Buhayilog (Filipino for Life Beside a River), an interactive map of the Imus River which

shows the various natural elements, challenges and solutions needed by both the public and governments to better understand how to manage Asia's rivers.

The map creatively explains real-world challenges like sedimentation and pollution, highlights solutions like deploying trash booms and conducting regular river cleanups, and points readers to an array of downloadable studies from social scientists, economists and environmental analysts.

"There are so many practical solutions to address the global challenge of plastic waste. Solutions can range from empowering often-ignored players like basureros and junkshops, to educating the next generation to be mindful of the waste they generate," says PEMSEA executive director Aimee Gonzales.

Project ASEANO has been working closely with public and private sector allies to unlock the keys to reviving Asia's rivers.

"The project's studies can help various sectors enhance their sense of social responsibility and be partners in addressing plastic pollution in other major rivers and tributaries," notes Cavite PGENRO





## DENR, UP join hands for tarsier conservation

By **CORY MARTINEZ**

**THE continuing conservation of endangered Philippine tarsiers in Mt. Matutum, South Cotabato will be receiving a new "boost" as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) launches another special project for the conservation effort.**

The DENR and the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman will jointly conduct a study on the Philippine Tarsier in Mt. Matutum to better understand the ecology and behavior of Philippine tarsiers within Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape (MMPL) to enhance and supplement conservation efforts in the Tarsier Sanctuary.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the Philippine tarsier as endangered in 1986, 1988, and 1990.

In 2008, it was reclassified as "near threatened".

While tarsiers have been known to be popular in Bohol, the nocturnal (active at night) primate endemic to the Philippines has also been found in Siargao Island, Maripipi Island, Dinagat Island, Samar, Leyte, and Basilan.

Tarsiers are one of the

smallest primates (where monkeys and the human species belong), and their height ranges from only 3.35 to 6.30 inches.

Tarsiers weigh 80 to 160 grams and are arboreal (tree-living) creatures.

Meanwhile, the DENR also launched a project to evaluate carbon input in reforested and secondary forests in Mount Timolan Protected Landscape, Zamboanga del Sur.

Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Government College will implement the project on the Mt. Timolan Protected Landscape.

The said project will study differences in the production and decomposition for quantifying carbon input in reforested and secondary forests in Mt. Timolan Protected Landscape.

The Mt. Timolan Protected Landscape, spanning over 1,994,79 hectares and a buffer zone of 695.39 hectares, is an important watershed.

It supports river systems that are sources of irrigation for many rice farms.

According to the Philippine Clearing House Mechanism for Biodiversity, 80% of Mt. Timolan's landscape consists of dipterocarp forests, while seven percent is made up of man-made forest plan-

tations of Gmelina and Acacia.

DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said that the special projects are under DENR's Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS), where DENR shells out its fund for special conservation programs.

During the launching of the two special projects at the Radisson Hotel, Sampulna said that the projects' signing of a memorandum

of agreement (MOA) - indicates that successful partnerships lead to attaining shared goals on sustainable development.

The partnerships extend to international agencies, the academe, and other government and civic institutions.

"The project in Mt. Timolan will surely help achieve the country's international commitment to climate change," Sampulna said.





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# NEDA urges more focus on climate change, smart infra

By LEE C. CHIPONGIAN

**O**utgoing Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua is confident the incoming Marcos government will put equal focus – if not more – on the impact of climate change on industries and sustainable development particularly in the use of smart infrastructure.

Chua, during his last “#AskNEDA” press chat on Monday, June 27, said that to improve productivity, the next administration will need to shift to a higher gear its climate change response since the Philippines suffers more economic losses as a vulnerable country to extreme weather events.

Chua said he has already spoken with incoming National Economic De-

velopment Authority (NEDA) director-general Arsenio M. Balisacan, himself a former socioeconomic planning secretary under the Aquino government, on transition plans and issues. Part of future talks will include climate change risks and response, and the integration of digital technology to infrastructure planning under the 2023-2028 Philippine Development Plan or PDP.

Mercedita A. Sombilla, the Regional Development Group undersecretary, said the PDP will “revolve” around climate change. “I think Sec Balisacan really recognized this also, he has been alluding to have climate change as a particular challenge in all development activities,” she said during the press chat.

NEDA assistant secretary Roderick

M. Planta, for his part, said it “will really makes sense” if smart infrastructure is operationalizing the sustainable development goals or SDGs and the Paris Climate Change actions. “This will feature in the next PDPs,” he added.

Sombilla on Monday presented NEDA’s seven-year national climate change action plans and reiterated the need to “keep temperature rise below 1.5 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels” as the “rate of global warming is still unprecedented.”

She said it is possible to achieve the target since global warming is influenced by human activities, but urged both the public and private sectors to “act fast” since “we are likely to reach 1.5 degrees celsius of warming within the next two decades.”

Based on the 2021 Climate Risk Index, the Philippines is the fourth most affected by extreme climate change disturbances while the Philippine Statistics Authority said 98 percent of total damages between 2010 and 2019 are “caused by climate-related hazards”.

As such NEDA has been recommending priorities via sectors to mitigate climate change, especially in the energy and transport sector, agriculture, forestry and land use, as well as waste and industry, water and infrastructure. In terms of greenhouse gases emissions (GHG), the Philippines only contributed 0.40 percent to total historical GHG emissions in 1990 to 2018. This is lower than the 0.52 percent global average, said Sombilla.

Chua said they have **►B-2**

## NEDA urges...



backed and are trying to “fully liberalize” all renewable energies, tidal, solar and wind. “The EDC (Economic Development Committee) cluster has a resolution pushing for that (to) create better balance between dirty sources of energy and the cleaner ones,” he said.

Chua said they are supporting the electric vehicle law and that NEDA is “in line with proposal to have a tax on single-use plastics especially water bottles because these has reached the tummys of turtles as I’ve been told.”

“On smart infra, we want to use digital technologies. We want to have a policy on masterplans so that all our infra are well-thought out, that they connect really the transport with the urban planning, with

the land use, with the water use, issue on population and the demographic, and congestion,” he said.

He also added that NEDA has been ensuring that all infrastructure projects are “planned very well and not just accepting unsolicited proposals that are totally out of the scope of our plans.”

Chua was first tapped to serve the government in 2016, first as finance undersecretary before moving to NEDA as its chief in 2020, during the height of the pandemic.

He has confirmed Monday that so far, he has not received any offers to stay on as economic official under the Marcos government. “No offer but will study full-time to be more relevant,” he told reporters.





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## Eco groups pitch 'green wish list' to BBM

TWO days before the Presidential inauguration, civil society leaders made a pitch for priority action points to ensure a healthy environment and democracy

under the new administration.

According to the EcoWaste Coalition, the groups came out with a "green wish list" they wished to be pri-

oritized by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and his administration.

On top of their list is the dropping of all nuclear plans along with the

stopping of further expansion of fossil fuels, including fossil gas.

According to Lea Guerrero, country director for Greenpeace Philippines, BBM must drop

all plans for nuclear energy and fossil gas if he is sincere in his pronouncements on climate change action and promoting renewable energy.

Joel dela Torre





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## Ice plants probed over ammonia leaks

No one was reported to have been affected physically in the two incidents

BY CHERK BALAGTAS

Some residents in the cities of Malabon and Navotas have expressed apprehension over reports of ammonia leaks in two ice plants over the weekend.

P/Cpl. Dandy Sargenton of the Navotas City police said an ammonia leak was reported Saturday evening at the Magsinpan Ice Plant and Cold Storage Inc. along M. Naval Street in Barangay North Bay Boulevard South.

Plant maintenance chief Roey Ganzo said he was cleaning up liquid sludge when he noticed the strong smell of ammonia inside the plant. People in the neighborhood also reported smelling the chemical.

Personnel from the Navotas office of the Bureau of Fire Protection led by F/Insp. Gabriel Trinidad proceeded to the ice plant to determine the cause of the leak and whether it posed to danger to the health of plant workers and residents.

The plant has been in operation for about 10 years, with at least four ammonia leak incidents suspected to have occurred in the last two years.

A suspected ammonia leak was also reported Sunday afternoon at the Tube Ice Corporation located along Bustamante Street in Barangay Tinajeros, Malabon City, Senior Fire Officer 1 Julius Viernes reported.

No one was reported to have been affected physically in the two incidents.





## Coca-Cola opens waste solution contest

REIMAGINE Recycling, an annual program that aims to scale plastic waste solutions and promote a circular economy, is calling on individuals and groups that currently implement community-based plastic waste solution programs to submit proposals that it can support with up to P500,000 grant funding. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 15, 2022.

Now on its fourth year, Reimagine Recycling is a project of Save Philippine Seas and Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines that aims to help those with existing projects on preventing waste leakage in rivers and seas, mainstreaming gender sensitivity in waste management and improving the welfare of informal waste sector expand their projects through capacity building workshops on stakeholder management, communications and business models, mentoring and financial grant funding.

"At Coca-Cola, we believe in the power of partnerships to help address the global plastic waste issue. By partnering with Save Philippine Seas

and supporting entrepreneurs to expand and scale their existing solutions that promote a circular economy, we are also strengthening our commitment to achieve our global goal of a World Without Waste," said Tony del Rosario, president of Coca-Cola Philippines and vice president for Coca-Cola Franchise Operations in the East Region (Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines).

In 2018, the Coca-Cola Co. through its World Without Waste vision, announced its global goal to collect, and recycle the equivalent of every bottle and can it sells by 2030. In the Philippines, Coca-Cola is set to open this year PETValue, the first bottle-to-bottle recycling facility in the country. PETValue is a joint venture between Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. and Indorama Ventures, a global leader in packaging solutions and green technology.

"Consistent with our resolve to help uplift the lives of the communities that we serve, the Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines is delighted to work with

Save Philippine Seas in providing opportunities for Filipinos, especially those who are part of the waste collection value-chain, to improve their lives while helping solve the plastic waste issue in the country," said Cecile Alcantara, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines president.

"We're proud to see how last year's Reimagine Recycling grantees have been able to grow their initiatives through the resources and mentorship of the program. We are excited to look for more initiatives that we can support and help scale," said Anna Oposa, executive director of Save Philippine Seas.

This year, Reimagine Recycling will also include the special participation of Tetra Pak (Philippines) Inc.

To qualify, proposals must be submitted by organizations, associations or groups with established and ongoing projects that aim to improve the welfare of those in the waste management sector, especially in coastal communities; promote gender mainstreaming in the waste management sector; and prevent waste from going into rivers and marine

ecosystems. Projects must be in existence for at least six months by July 2022.

Proposals may be submitted by private entities (including start-ups and social enterprises), civil society organizations or academic institutions.

Examples of proposals that would be considered are as follows: Low-cost technology to recycle/upcycle plastics; digital platforms that improve transparency and traceability in waste collection; digital platforms for citizen science projects; equipment to collect river- or ocean-bound waste; incentive programs for informal waste pickers; and monitoring or reporting tool for waste collection/recycling rates

Out of the proposals received, 15 entries will be selected to receive capacity-building workshops and mentoring in the areas of stakeholder management, communications and business models. Out of the 15 shortlisted entries, winners will be selected this year to receive up to P500,000 each to expand and scale their projects.





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## Regional Updates



PHILIPPINE RED CROSS-SORSOGON CHAPTER

**LOCAL emergency response teams and members of the Philippine Red Cross-Sorsogon check the lahar flow along the southwestern side of Bulusan Volcano on the evening of June 26.**

### Minimal lahar flows from Bulusan during thunderstorm, alert level remains low

A SMALL volume of mudflow was recorded along the southwestern slope of Bulusan on Sunday evening, but no major change was detected in the volcano's low level of unrest, according to state volcanologists.

In an advisory on Monday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the lahar flow lasted for 54 minutes along Calang Creek during a thunderstorm in Sorsogon province.

The creek located in the town of Irosin is the major channel along the southwestern slopes of Bulusan.

The provincial government of Sorsogon said in a separate report on Monday that minimal lahar flow was also recorded along several communities in Juban town.

"Alert level 1 still prevails over Bulusan Volcano, which means that it is currently at low-level unrest," said Phivolcs, which has a five-level alert system for volcanoes.

In the 24-hour period from 5 a.m. Sunday, Phivolcs recorded seven volcanic earthquakes in Bulusan, 559 tons of sulfur dioxide flux and a moderate plume emission of up to 150 meters high.

The four-kilometer permanent danger zone around the volcano remains strictly off limits.

Sudden steam-driven eruptions remains a threat under alert level 1, according to Phivolcs.

The provincial government said disaster management teams are monitoring the situation and are prepared to evacuate 19 households that are at high risk should the lahar flow continue.

Bulusan erupted on June 5 and 12, prompting evacuation of residents in some areas that were affected by ash fall. Phivolcs raised the alert level to one after the first eruption this month.

Light to moderate rains with possible sudden heavy downpour are expected in the province and the rest of Bicol Region due to a low pressure area east of the country, according to state weather bureau PAGASA.

"This weather disturbance remains less likely to develop into a tropical depression in the next 48 hours," PAGASA said in an advisory issued at 11 a.m. Monday. — MSJ





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REGIONS

## Bulusan lahar flow threatens villages

LEGAZPI CITY—Lahar flow from Mt. Bulusan threatens at least four areas in the towns of Juban and Irosin in Sorsogon province following Sunday's heavy rainfall. After lahar flow was observed on the southwestern slopes of the volcano in Irosin on Sunday night, disaster response officials prepared for the possible evacuation of families living in villages on the path of the mudflow.

—STORY BY MA. APRIL MIER-MANJARES



# Heavy rainfall triggers lahar flow on slopes of Mt. Bulusan

4 villages in Juban, Irosin towns closely watched for possible evacuation of residents

By Ma. April Mier-Manjares  
@MaAprilMierINQ

LEGAZPI CITY—At least four areas in the towns of Juban and Irosin in Sorsogon province were in danger of getting hit by lahar flows from Mt. Bulusan triggered by the heavy rainfall on Sunday, authorities said on Monday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the lahar flows occurred on the southwestern slopes of the volcano in Irosin in Sorsogon on Sunday night.

In an advisory issued at 1 a.m. on Monday, Phivolcs said a small volume of lahar flow, which began at 7:04 p.m. on Sunday along Calang Creek in Barangay Cogon of Irosin was detected by seismic and infrasound stations of the Bulusan Volcano Network.

The event lasted for 54 minutes during a period of thunderstorms in the province, Phivolcs said.

On Sunday night, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration issued a thunderstorm advisory in six provinces



INSPECTION Disaster response personnel from the Sorsogon provincial government and the town of Juban, members of the Philippine Red Cross and policemen from Irosin town inspect on Sunday night areas affected by Mt. Bulusan's lahar flow in Irosin and Juban towns. —PHILIPPINE RED CROSS PHOTO VIA THE SORSOGON PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE FACEBOOK

of the Bicol region. Moderate to heavy rains with lightning and strong winds were experienced over the region.

Salvador Mendoza, spokesperson for the Sorsogon provincial government, said based on their assessment, the lahar flow was observed in the villages of Rangas, Añog and Ca-

latagan in Juban and along the Cadac-an River in Irosin.

### Rumbling sound

Mendoza said local officials were monitoring the situation and preparing for the possible evacuation of at least 19 families near the lahar-threatened areas.

Ricmar Paluyo, a resident

of Barangay Cogon, said they initially thought that the volcano erupted again when they heard the loud sound at around 7 p.m. on Sunday.

"We heard a rumbling sound—like boulders were rolling down from the slopes of the volcano," he said in a phone interview on Monday.

The dike connected to the Cadac-an River is only at least 10 meters from their house, he added.

Cogon Village Councilman Ronnel Sotto said the quarrying operations in their area would help dredge the gullies connected to the Cadac-an River and control the lahar flow.

"No residents were directly affected because the dike was already concreted and deep enough to hold the flow of lahar," he said.

Sotto said moderate rainfall would help unload the volcanic deposits gradually, and avoid a one-time voluminous flow.

Arvee Lodronio, head of the municipal disaster risk reduction and management of Juban, said the villages of Rangas, Añog and Bacolod would be affected if heavy rains would trig-

ger another lahar flow along the Rangas River and the tributaries of the Cadac-an River.

### No major threat

So far, however, there was no major threat when they assessed the area on Monday but the water that contained ash sediments already reached the village of Añog, said Lodronio.

Science Undersecretary and Phivolcs head Renato Solidum Jr., in a Viber interview on Monday, noted that the volcano released some 140,000 cubic meters of ash during the June 5 phreatic eruption and 570,000 cu. m in another steam-driven eruption on June 12.

Phivolcs earlier warned local officials and residents near the channels of another lahar and sediment-laden stream flows that could be triggered by heavy rainfall.

On Sunday, Phivolcs detected seven volcanic earthquakes in the past 24 hours, while the sulfur dioxide flux was measured at 559 tons.

The volcano is still inflated and remains under alert level 1, or in abnormal condition. no





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Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU - R6  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
Region VI, Western Visayas  
EMB Building, DENR Compound, Parola, Iloilo City  
Tel. No. (033) 536-6989 Email: emb.r6@emb.gov.ph



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to participate in the Public Hearing for the proposed **Philippine Domestic Submarine Cable Network (PDSCN) Project Region VI - Segment 8** on the following date: **onsite registration is at 9:00 AM and the Public Hearing proper will promptly start at 09:30 AM.**

Date / Time	8 July 2022 (Friday) / 09:30 AM
Venue	Brgy. Poblacion Uno (I), San Carlos City, Negros Occidental and Online Meeting via Zoom Meeting ID: 819 3868 4256 Passcode: PDSCN8PH78
Brief Description	A consortium of telecommunication service providers, namely, Globe Telecom, Inc., InfiniVAN Inc. (IVAN), and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (ETPI), plans to strengthen their network interconnectivity through the proposed Philippine Domestic Submarine Cable Network (PDSCN) Project that is composed of twenty-four (24) segments connecting various islands, provinces, and regions in the Philippines. The proponents apply for the Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) of the PDSCN Project Segment 8 which will establish the 26.945km-connection from Barangay Poblacion Uno (I), City of San Carlos, Province of Negros Occidental, Region VI to Barangay Ibo, City of Toledo, Province of Cebu, Region VII.
Proposed Location	Brgy. Poblacion Uno (I), San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, Region VI to Brgy. Ibo, Toledo City, Cebu, Region VII
Proponent	Globe Telecom, Inc./ InfiniVAN Inc. (IVAN) Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (ETPI)

The public hearing aims to achieve efficient exchange of information and views between and among the project proponent, the EMB-DENR, relevant agencies, LGUs and other stakeholders on environmental impacts of the proposed project currently applying for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Full copies of Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) and EIS Summary for the Public can be accessed thru EMB R6 website at <http://r6.emb.gov.ph/>.

For pre-registration and access of online meeting details or for more information, please contact the EIA Section of EMB R6 at mobile numbers 0999-6253-691/033-336-6989/ local number: 1005.

ATTY. RAMARNIEL V. PASCUA  
Regional Director


EIS No. R6-2022-019847

"Productivity with Environmental Protection is the best answer to poverty"



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 Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU**  
20th Corner, Visayas Avenue, Cebu, Cebu City 6000  
Tel No. (032) 853-4378  
Website: [www.emb.gov.ph](http://www.emb.gov.ph) Email: [ecomb@emb.gov.ph](mailto:ecomb@emb.gov.ph)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

On the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT of the proposed NCM Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project of NEW CARGAR MANUFACTURING INC. located in Barangay Perrelos, Cargar City, Province of Cebu.

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the proposed NCM Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project to attend Public Hearing that is scheduled as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
07 July 2022	1:00 PM <i>(Registration will start at 12:30 PM)</i>	Brgy. Perrelos Gymnasium, Brgy. Perrelos, Cargar City, Cebu

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the New Cargar Manufacturing Inc. application for Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), The Environmental Performance Report and Management Plan (EPRMP) of the aforementioned project is being reviewed by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The following is the project information:

<b>Proponent</b>	New Cargar Manufacturing Inc.
<b>Project Name</b>	Steel Rolling Mill Plant's Optimization Project
<b>Project Location</b>	Barangay Perrelos, Cargar City, Province of Cebu
<b>Components</b>	Reheating Furnace Rolling Mill Stands (Roughing Mill, Intermediate Mill, Finishing Mill, Cooling Bed, Bundling Area Support Facilities (Biller, Storage Area, Finished Goods Warehouse, Roll Shop, Fuel Storage, Generator Stat. Substation, Rain Catchment Basin, Production Line, Admin. Building, Fabrication Office, Mechanical Office, Production Office, Furnace Stack, Water Cooling System, Scale Pit, Reservoir, Septic Tanks
<b>Rationale</b>	The Project is also envisioned because of the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• job creation: Additional employment</li> <li>• Economic value preservation: Ensure that economic gains remain in the Philippines or the locale of the mill.</li> <li>• Ensure product quality. Substitution of imported substandard steel with locally produced high quality products.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Capacity</b>	Existing: 160,000 MTPY Proposed: 370,000 MTPY
<b>Area</b>	9,7193 hectares

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should preferably confirm their attendance/ participation and may give their opinions in a concise position paper submitted to the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION (EIAMD) of this Office through email or [eiamd@emb.gov.ph](mailto:eiamd@emb.gov.ph), three (3) days before the Public Hearing schedule. Those who will not be able to register or submit written positions may be given the opportunity to share their issues on the day of the hearing itself.

The project's EIS and Executive Summary for the Public are downloadable at our website: [www.eia.emb.gov.ph](http://www.eia.emb.gov.ph). (Kindly access the Notice of Public Hearing/Consultation link found in our website) while copies will be available in the following offices:

<b>EMB Region VII</b> DENR Compound, Greenplains Subdivision, Bantigue, Marikina City, Tel No. (032) 260-9777	<b>CPDO-Cargar City</b> City Hall, Cargar City, Cebu
--	---

For more details, please contact the EIAMD Division at this Office at telephone numbers (02) 8539 4378 local 116 and look for the project case handler Engr. Josef D. Politian or at this email: [joe.politian@emb.gov.ph](mailto:joe.politian@emb.gov.ph).

J. Politian

MT - June 21 & 28, 2022



28 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



**DENR**

# **NEWS ALERTS**

# **COVID-19 NEWS**

**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**





# Philippines logs 4,634 new COVID-19 cases in past week; tally up by 53%

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com June 27, 2022 | 4:54pm



Residents of San Juan City participated in this year's Watah Watah Festival on Friday, June 24, 2022. This tradition is held yearly to celebrate the feast of St. John the Baptist.

The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health said Monday that the number of COVID-19 cases recorded from June 20 to 26 was 53% higher than the infections reported from a week before.

The DOH tallied 4,634 new cases, or 662 infections per day, last week. This was a significant rise from 3,051 cases logged from June 13 to 19.

Of the additional cases, 14 had severe and critical illness.

Authorities attribute the spike in infections to the presence of more transmissible variants with immune escape characteristics, increased mobility, and the waning COVID-19 vaccine immunity of the public.

OCTA Research said Monday that the positivity rate in Metro Manila rose to 5.9% on June 25, exceeding the five-percent threshold set by the World Health Organization to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is under control.

The capital region, home to more than 13 million individuals, is under the lowest alert level until the end of June.

## COVID-19 admissions

According to the DOH, there are currently 591 severe and critical admissions, which represent 10.7% of total COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the archipelago.

Despite the increase in cases, the healthcare utilization rate remains low. Of the 2,628 beds in intensive care units across the country, only 14.9% were utilized. Meanwhile, only 18.1% of 22,251 non-ICU beds were used.

The health department also reported that 51 fatalities were verified during the past week although none of those happened from June 13 to 26.

Over 70.35 million Filipinos have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. However, only 14.94 million have gotten booster shots.

Since the start of pandemic in 2020, the Philippines has confirmed 3.7 million infections, with at least 60,000 deaths.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/27/2191281/philippines-logs-4634-new-covid-19-cases-past-week-tally-53>





# PH logs 662 daily average COVID-19 cases on June 20-26, 53% higher than past week

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 27, 2022 4:37:30 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 27)** — The country on Monday logged a daily average of 662 COVID-19 cases on June 20-26, reflecting a 53% rise from the previous week, the Department of Health's latest bulletin showed.

The DOH noted 4,634 new infections for the week. Of the fresh cases, 14 are in critical and severe condition.

Meanwhile, the department also confirmed 51 deaths. The deaths occurred on the following dates:

- February 2022 – 2
- January 2022 - 4
- November 2021 – 3
- October 2021 – 1
- September 2021 – 8
- August 2021 – 8
- July 2021 – 3
- June 2021 – 5
- May 2021 – 3
- April 2021 – 8
- March 2021 – 5
- February 2021 – 1



For healthcare utilization, 18.1% of non-intensive care unit beds — or 4,034 out of 22,251 beds— were occupied. Meanwhile, 14.9% or 391 ICU beds out of 2,628 were utilized.

The DOH added that a total of 591 patients with severe or critical condition were admitted to the hospital.

The vaccination coverage rate for the target population reached 78.17%, and 77.48% for the target elderly population. Meanwhile, 14.94 million individuals have been boosted against COVID-19.

The independent OCTA Research earlier said that COVID-19 cases are projected to go up further before the "weak surge" could begin to temper by mid-July.





# OCTA flags rising COVID-19 positivity rate in NCR, 8 other areas

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 27, 2022 9:52:21 AM

Updated Jun 27, 2022 2:30:00 PM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 27)** — The positivity rate in National Capital Region and eight other areas surpassed the recommended benchmark set by the World Health Organization, the OCTA Research said on Monday.

The WHO has set a positivity rate benchmark of below 5%. The NCR recorded a positivity rate of 5.9% based on OCTA's data from June 25. This means more than 5 out of 100 people test positive for COVID-19.

OCTA Research fellow Guido David said the provinces of Rizal (11.9%), Laguna (7.5%), South Cotabato (7.4%), Cavite (6%), Pampanga (5.9%), Cagayan (5.8%), Iloilo (5.7%), and Batangas (5.6%) are also seeing significant increases in their positivity rate that is beyond the WHO's standards.

OCTA also said cases are projected to go up further before the "weak surge" could begin to temper by mid-July.

"We are averaging 663 cases per day in the whole country. This could reach 1,000 by next week. We are expecting it to go up further, maybe it will reach its peak by first or second week of July then hopefully we start to see a decrease in cases," David told CNN Philippines. "It's going to be a weak surge."

Health reform advocate Tony Leachon told CNN Philippines' *The Source* that the situation is concerning, but is not yet a cause for "real alarm" while hospital utilization remains controlled.

"It's a concern since we are actually increasing our COVID-19 cases. But no cause for real alarm considering the health care utilization rate is actually controlled. It's around less than 20% of the cases," Leachon said. "But we should be alert because of the increasing transmission and these may be underreported since most of the tests are actually done by rapid antigen tests."

Leachon said he, along with other members of the newly-formed Advisory Council of Experts, have agreed on the importance of having a unified approach in addressing COVID-19, which entails keeping the mask mandate, ramping up the administration of primary doses and boosters, and eventually removing the alert level system to attract more investors to the country.



He also called on the government to consider expanding the second booster drive to economic frontliners and people with comorbidities, and the commercialization of vaccines after the first 100 days of the administration of President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

The Department of Health recently noted that daily COVID-19 cases in the NCR may reach up to 1,500-2,000 by the end of July. But it does not yet see the need to escalate Metro Manila to Alert Level 2 even if five cities and municipality are now under moderate risk classification.





**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**





# National COVID-19 Case Bulletin

## June 27, 2022

Official DOHgov  
@DOHgovph

### Healthcare Utilization

(as of June 26, 2022)

**18.1%**  
**Non-ICU Bed Utilization**  
4,034 out of 22,251 non-ICU beds used

**14.9%**  
**ICU Bed Utilization**  
391 out of 2,628 ICU beds used

**591**  
**Severe and Critical Admissions**  
10.7% of total COVID-19 admissions

### Vaccination Accomplishment

(as of June 26, 2022)

**78.17%**  
**% Coverage of Target Population\***

**77.48%**  
**% Coverage of Target A2 Population\*\***

**70,358,612**  
**Fully Vaccinated Individuals**  
+323,341 vaccinated on Jun 20 to Jun 26

**14,947,878**  
**Individuals with Booster/Additional Dose**  
+108,945 vaccinated on Jun 20 to Jun 26

(added on Jun 20 to Jun 26)



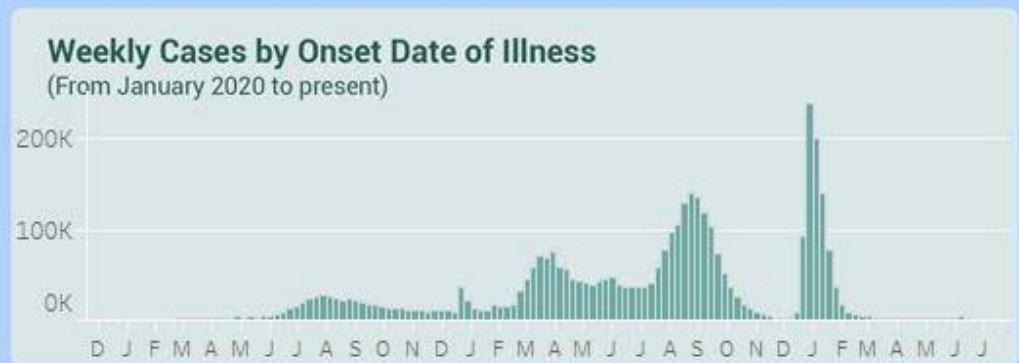
### COVID-19 Cases

(as of June 26, 2022)

**+4,634**  
**New Cases**  
Daily Average Cases = 662  
(53% higher than cases on Jun 13 to Jun 19)

**+14**  
**Severe and Critical Cases**  
(0.30% of new cases)

**+51**  
**Deaths Verified During The Past Week**  
(0 deaths occurred on Jun 13 to Jun 26)



\*Target population refers to 80% of the total population (90,005,357 individuals)  
\*\*Target A2 population refers to 85% of the total Senior Citizen population(8,721,357 individuals)

#### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

#### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777  
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

#### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine)

**SeeYouDoc**  
✉ seeyoudoc.com  
📍 SeeYouDoc

**KonsultaMD**  
✉ konsulta.md  
📍 KonsultaMD

**CloudPx**  
✉ cloudpx.ph/

**Telimed and Medgate**  
✉ medgate.ph/shop/telimedplan/purchase

**MedCheck**  
✉ medcheck.com.ph/find-a-doctor/SeeYouDoc

**TelAventusMD**  
✉ TelAventusMD@aventusmedical.com.ph  
📍 TelAventusMD

**HealthNow**  
📍 healthnow.ph/  
✉ help@healthnow.ph  
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[healthypilipinas.ph](https://healthypilipinas.ph)



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May tanong ukol sa COVID-19? I-chat na sa KIRA!

VIBER: Kira Kontra COVID by DOH  
MESSENGER: Department of Health PH  
KONTRACOVDPH: [kontracovid.ph](https://kontracovid.ph)



28 JUNE 2022, TUESDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

# VLOGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE





Please click this link:

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

#DuterteLegacy #DolomiteBeach #BattleForManilaBay

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7,364

254

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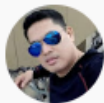
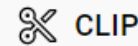
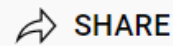
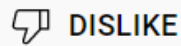
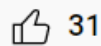


**Please click this link:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TOfd\\_f18FE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TOfd_f18FE)

MANILA BAY UPDATE: JUNE 27 2022 DAPAT NYO ITONG MAPASYALAN!  
PANOORIN NYO!!!

606 views • Jun 27, 2022



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This video is a daily update on the on-going rehabilitation of MANILA BAYWALK DOLOMITE BEACH SAND Project.

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MANILA BAY UPDATE: JUNE 27 2022 FIRST TIME ITONG NANGYARI SA MANILA BAY! LIBO LIBO ANG TAO!

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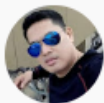
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