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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# Jellyfish swarm in Boracay cleared – DENR

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published May 15, 2022 5:02:40 PM



*The swarm of jellyfish seen on the shores of Boracay was washed away, environment officials said on Sunday. (FILE PHOTO)*

**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, May 15)** — The swarm of jellyfish seen on the shores of Boracay was washed away, environment officials said on Sunday.

The Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG), led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said a large number of thumb-sized jellyfish were seen along all three stations of White Beach in Boracay at 2 p.m. Saturday. The jellyfish were gone by 5 p.m. and were no longer spotted again.

"Yesterday, the wind direction was southwest, or habagat, which was towards the White Beach. This caused the jelly fish to accumulate in the beach area," said BIARMG general manager Martin Despi in a statement.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource in Aklan, jellyfish appearing on the coasts of the province was a "natural occurrence" every May to September. BFAR Aklan Director Evelyn Abad said the jellyfish appeared to be newborn and the office was able to get samples to determine their species.

The DENR added that more lifeguards have cautioned tourists to avoid the affected areas in case the jellyfish return.



# Habagat causes jellyfish to accumulate in Boracay's White Beach, says group

By: [Daniza Fernandez](#) - Reporter / [@DFernandezINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:17 PM May 15, 2022



The famous white sand beach in Boracay. — JACK JARILLA/CONTRIBUTOR

MANILA, Philippines — The southwest monsoon or habagat is causing jellyfish to accumulate in [Boracay's White Beach](#), the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) said Sunday.

Jellyfish were spotted in the whole stretch of White Beach on Saturday, 2 p.m., but were washed away by 5 p.m. No recurrence was seen on Sunday morning.

"Yesterday, the wind direction was southwest or habagat which was towards the White Beach. This caused the jellyfish to accumulate in the beach area," said BIARMG General Manager Martin Despi in a statement.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Aklan noted that the influx of [jellyfish](#) in Boracay Island is a "natural occurrence" in the province during the months of May to September.

BFAR Aklan Provincial Fisheries Office officer-in-charge Director Evelyn Abad said [jellyfish samples](#) will be tested on Monday to determine its species.

"We were able to get samples of the jellyfish to determine its species. They were very small and appear to be newborn jellyfish. These will be brought to our laboratory for testing on Monday," said Abad.

Meanwhile, Environment acting [Secretary Jim Sampulna](#) said that they are coordinating with the BFAR about the incident to assure the public's safety.

"The safety of the public is our primary concern. We want to assure the locals and the tourists that the DENR as chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force is closely working with the BFAR as part of our responsibility in the rehabilitation of the island," said Sampulna.

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1598014/habagat-causes-jellyfish-to-accumulate-in-boracays-white-beach-says-group>



# Jellyfish swarm washed ashore in Boracay

By GMA News

Published May 16, 2022 12:44am

Thousands of jellyfish beached themselves on Boracay's shores over the weekend, with the local government advising the public to stay away from the marine creatures.

According to Athena Imperial's report on 24 Oras Weekend, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group said that the jellyfish were spotted around noon on Saturday beached across White Beach's three stations.

BFAR-Aklan noted that jellyfish beachings occur on the island around May to September, as the wind pushes the animals to shore.

The DENR said that this particular species is not deadly, but may cause itching and allergy on contact. The local government of Malay cautioned against going into the water while the jellyfish were present.

The jellyfish, which officials noted seemed to be newly born, were swept back to sea on Saturday afternoon and have not returned so far. — **BM, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/831778/jellyfish-swarm-washed-ashore-in-boracay/story/?fbclid=IwAR3tQew49R0xxudVYZL83hcQxgAzVYIMo47za4NrJ95GoSWF7JWIRL680Zg>



GMA News

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Nagulat ang mga turista't residente sa Boracay matapos magkalat sa sikat na white sand beach nito ang mga jellyfish. Posible raw kasing makaranas ng pangangati kapag nadikit sa dikya, ayon sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources. | May 15, 2022

See Translation



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# DENR urges Protected-Area users to get SPU agreement

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA MAY 16, 2022

USERS of Protected Areas, including the controversial Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), are now required to apply for Special Use Agreement (Sapa), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said.

The UMRBPL, which has been occupied by various users, has been the subject of land dispute that often result in violent incidence. The degradation of the upper Marikina river basin has been blamed by experts for flooding in Metro Manila, due to the diminished capacity of the Marikina River, which is heavily silted.

Among the users in the UMRBPL is the Masungi Georeserve Foundation Inc. The group runs the award-winning Masungi Georeserve, a low-impact ecotourism site in Baras Rizal and Rublou Inc. and Blue Atom, which has business interests within the area. These groups have been involved in a verbal tussle, each accusing the other of wrongdoing.

But all these groups have no Sapa.

A Sapa is an agreement between the DENR and a project proponent, which has a term of 25 years and is renewable for another 25 years. It is a type of agreement applicable to special uses of protected areas.

## NIPAS, ENIPAS laws

UNDER the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act of 1992 or the Expanded Nipas (Enipas) Act, special uses may be allowed within protected areas except in strict protection zones and strict nature reserves, subject to compliance with the environmental compliance certificate and payment of corresponding user fee.

The law also states that the DENR secretary has the authority to determine a system-wide set of fees and charges to ensure sustainable financing of protected areas.

“The law requires a certain type of agreement with the DENR on special uses of protected areas. We are bound by this law,” Sampulna said. “The conversion of [a] MOA [Memorandum of Agreement] into a Sapa is also an opportunity for the DENR to correct its course and to cure defects in the MOA. Such defects include unconstitutional provisions and provisions that violate the Enipas Act and the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act.”

The implementing rules and regulations of the Enipas Act provide that MOAs issued by the DENR within protected areas prior to the effectivity of the Nipas Act shall be converted into Sapa upon satisfactory compliance with requirements.

According to Sampulna, this is the “best possible solution” that the DENR has come up with so far after a series of consultations and meetings with various stakeholders.

## Constitutional limits

THE 1987 Constitution sets a limit of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years, for the term of agreements that the State enters into for the exploration, development and use of natural resources. The rules and regulations implementing the Nipas Act provide that ecotourism is one of the special uses of protected areas.



A Sapa aims to provide access and economic opportunities to indigenous peoples, tenured migrant communities and other protected area stakeholders; optimize the development of special-use projects consistent with the principles of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in cooperation with stakeholders; guide the development of the zones of protected areas under their management objectives and provide a revenue stream for the sustainable management of protected areas. Under a MOA signed in 2017, the DENR has given a perpetual land trust to the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The MOA did not have the free, prior informed consent of the indigenous people whose ancestral domain overlaps with the 2,700 hectares covered by the MOA. It also does not provide for the payment of user fees.

### **From MOA to Sapa**

IN 2018, the DENR issued DENR Administrative Order 2018-05, Addendum to DENR Administrative Order 2007-17 on the Rules and Regulations Governing Special Uses within Protected Areas, which states that “all existing MOAs on Special Uses within Protected Area shall be converted into Sapa in accordance with DAO 2007-17 and this Order.”

Meanwhile, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Y. Bernardino said the DENR welcomes development partners that are as passionate as the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

“I believe that the aims of the DENR and the Foundation are the same. We just have to ensure that cooperation with development partners conform with the law and policy, such as the provision of sustainable financing of the protected areas system through payment of user fees,” Bernardino said.

She vowed to work with the concerned stakeholders and government officials in determining a fair, equitable and sustainable agreement toward common goals.



## Rizal watershed MOA holders encouraged to apply for SAPA

May 15, 2024 min read

By Rjhay E Laurea

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) urged holders of memorandum of agreement (MOA) for projects that are known as special uses in all protected areas, including the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape (UMRBPL), to apply for a Special Use Agreement in Protected Areas or SAPA.

A SAPA is a deal between the DENR and a project proponent, which has a term of 25 years and is renewable for another 25 years.

In the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act of 1992 or the Expanded NIPAS (ENIPAS) Act, special uses may be okay in protected areas except in strict protection zones and strict nature reserves, due to compliance with the environmental compliance certificate, and comply of corresponding user fee.

The law also says that DENR Sec has the authority to know a system-wide set of fees and charges to ensure sustainable funding of protected areas.

“The law requires a certain type of agreement with the DENR on special uses of protected areas. We are bound by this law. The conversion of a MOA into a SAPA is also an opportunity for the DENR to correct its course and cure defects in the MOA. Such defects include unconstitutional provisions, and provisions that violate the ENIPAS Act, and the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act,” DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna said.

Rules and regulations of the ENIPAS Act state that MOAs issued by the DENR in protected areas due to the effectiveness of the NIPAS Act shall be turned into SAPA upon satisfactory compliance with requirements.

Sampulna said this is the “best possible solution” that the DENR has come up with so far after a series of consultations and meetings with many stakeholders.

The 1987 Constitution sets a limit of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years, for the term of deals that the State enters into for the exploration, development, and use of natural resources.

A SAPA is the type of deal to be used for special uses of protected areas.





The rules executing the NIPAS Act state that ecotourism is one of the special uses of protected areas.

SAPAs aims to give access and economic chances to indigenous peoples, tenured migrant communities, and other protected area stakeholders; rise the development of special-use projects consistent with the principles of feasible development and biodiversity conservation in cooperation with stakeholders; guide the development of the zones of protected areas under their management objectives, and give a revenue stream for the viable management of protected areas.

Under a MOA signed in 2017, the DENR has given a perpetual land trust to the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

The MOA did not have the free, prior informed consent of the indigenous people whose ancestral domain overlaps with the 2,700 hectares covered by the MOA. It also does not for the payment of user fees.

In 2018, the DENR signed DENR Administrative Order 2018-05, Addendum to DENR Administrative Order No. 2007-17 on the Rules and Regulations Governing Special Uses within Protected Areas, which says that “all existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Special Uses within Protected Area shall be converted into SAPA in accordance with DAO 2007-17 and this Order.”

For now, Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) Director Natividad Y. Bernardino said the DENR welcomes development allies that are as passionate as the Masungi Georeserve Foundation.

“I believe that the aims of the DENR and the Foundation are the same. We just have to ensure that cooperation with development partners conform with the law and policy, such as the provision of sustainable financing of the protected areas system through payment of user fees,” Bernardino said.

She swore to work with the stakeholders involved and gov’t staff in determining a fair, equitable, and viable deal toward common goals. (ai/mtvn)

# DENR asks candidates, LGUs to clean up campaign materials

May 15, 2022



*DENR urged the national and local candidates to dispose properly their campaign materials in accordance with RA 9003 also known as the Ecological Waste Management Act of 2000. (Photo courtesy of DENR Davao)*

*By Katrina Gracia Consebido*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) asked candidates and local government units (LGUs) to dispose of campaign materials used during the recently-conducted national and local elections.

In a statement, the DENR said that election-related wastes will expectedly “increase the country’s projected waste by 30 to 40% this year.”

DENR Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna urged the candidates to encourage their supporters and volunteers to help take down campaign materials and dispose of them properly.

“Win or lose, these candidates must consider the long-term consequences of their campaign materials in the environment. Therefore, they must encourage their supporters and volunteers to take down these materials, especially those made of plastic, and dispose [of] these properly,” Sampulna added.

Sampulna said they also disseminated the advisory with the local government units and the Commission on Elections to assure the candidates will strictly enforce their heed in removing campaign materials after the campaign period.

He also recommended the recycling and upcycling campaign materials to lessen the byproducts that will be disposed of in the dumpsites. – **gb**



# DENR-12 opens rescue center for animals

By [Franz R. Sumangil](#)

May 15, 2022



The Marine Wildlife Rescue Center in Alabel, Sarangani creates a special place for this crocodile and nurses it back to health before it is released to its original habitat. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region 12 (DENR-12) along with the Sarangani Protected Seascape-Protected Area Management Board (SBPS-PAMB) and other concerned local government units inaugurated the country's first Marine Wildlife Rescue Center (MWRC) in Alabel, Sarangani.

THE MWRC was established to ensure the proper handling and first-aid administration of rescued marine wildlife.

DENR Biodiversity Management Bureau Director Natividad Bernardino said the rescue center is able to accommodate stranded and rescued wildlife in the protected seascapes of Sarangani.

Bernardino lauded the DENR-12 and SBPS-PAMB for their initiative in constructing the rescue.

Alabel Mayor Vic Paul Salarda said they are honored that the DENR chose their town as the site of the first-ever MWRC in the country.

Salarda assured the government agency of their full support in the project. The DENR and its partners through the SBPS Megafauna Response Team (MRT) have responded to several rescues of stranded marine turtles, dugongs, dolphins and whales in Sarangani Bay.

DENR-12 Regional Executive Director Felix Alicer said the survival rate of stranded animals in the SBPS will greatly increase because of the presence of the rescue center.

The construction of the center's first phase building was primarily financed by the DENR with the assistance of the SBPS-PAMB. The center's second phase will begin construction within the current year.

## Youth leaders undergo 2-day ‘Wave Camp’



Twenty-four emerging environmental youth leaders from Zamboanga Peninsula attend a Winning Advocates for Verdant Earth Camp (Wave Camp) from Thursday, May 12, until Friday, May 13, in this southern port city. A photo handout shows the participants listening intently to one of the activity’s resource speakers. (SunStar Zamboanga)

May 15, 2022

TWENTY-four emerging environmental youth leaders from the Zamboanga Peninsula attended a two-day Winning Advocates for Verdant Earth Camp (Wave Camp) in this southern port city.

Rosevirico Tan, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) information officer, said on Sunday, May 15, that the Wave Camp was held at Camp Scout Limbaga in Pasonancan village, this city, from Thursday, May 12, until Friday, May 13.

The two-day activity was conducted by the DENR, through the Regional Youth Desk Officer, together with its line bureau—Environmental Management Bureau—and I Can Make a Difference Incorporated.

Tan said the camp was aimed at producing a strong network of youth leaders dedicated to environmental stewardship who will eventually be part of the DENR regional office’s programs.

The participants of the camp took part in different activities, including talks on Climate Change and Other Environmental Challenges and Issues, Biodiversity, Environmental Principles and Laws, Environmental Conservation and Protection, Project Management and Resource Mobilization, and Public Speaking.

Workshops on Technical Writing (Proposal Making) and Drafting Small-Scale Project Briefers for Possible Funding were also conducted.

The mascot, Pinas the Basura Buster (PBB), welcomed the campers by giving a special dance number. (SunStar Zamboanga)



# Davao City waste-to-energy project to fuel climate change, groups warn

[Geela Garcia](#) - Philstar.com May 15, 2022 | 12:56pm



The New Carmen Landfill overlooks plantations in Davao.

Geela Garcia

DAVAO CITY, Philippines — Hundreds of garbage flies infest homes, flying from waste to food, to children. The decaying stench of the dumpsite lingers as families eat. It was almost noon and waste pickers like Virgilio Romero\*, 44, scavenge waste on the mountain of garbage under the scorching 51-degree celsius heat.

This is the everyday scene at the eleven-year-old seven-hectare sanitary landfill located in New Carmen, Tugbok — Davao City's only sanitary landfill.

According to the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), the city generates around 900 tons of garbage per day, and waste pickers like Romero find a living by recycling the dumpsite's overflowing waste.

"This has been our family's livelihood since we moved to the city. It was what was expected as I didn't finish my studies, and there weren't any suitable jobs for me since I do not have a degree," said Romero.

Romero comes from a family of landless peasants in Mati, Davao Oriental, tilling farmland less than a hectare in size. He doesn't earn money from working in the field and is only paid for his labor with a portion of their produce.

At New Carmen, he takes home P200 daily for scavenging for plastics, cans, and sacks for 11 hours from 6 a.m. - 5 p.m. Romero said that life as a waste picker hasn't been easy, but it's better compared to not earning anything when he was a farmer.

However, by 2023, the landfill where Romero resides and finds a living will be unserviceable as the rapid urbanization and poor waste segregation of Davao will drive it to its full capacity.

And as a response to the city's waste crisis, the local government of Davao City plans to construct a P2.5 billion waste-to-energy (WTE) facility, funded by a Japanese loan, on a 10-hectare property in Biao Escuela in the Tugbok District.

The landfill will be closed down and converted to a segregation area for the WTE facility, and over 100 waste pickers will be asked to leave.

"We don't know what will happen to us and our homes. They started measuring houses and promised to compensate us for P30,000. Until now, they don't have a concrete plan for us," said Romero.



## Waste fueling the climate crisis



*Mountain of trash at the New Carmen dumpsite*

The local government eyes the WTE incinerator as a "long-term solution" to its solid waste problem. By burning household garbage, household wastes would replace coal and oil in producing energy.

Environmental groups like Greenpeace and Plastic-Free Pilipinas Project, however, oppose this technology because the burning of non-biodegradable wastes is no different from burning fossil fuels. Plastics, after all, are made from fossil fuels.

Marian Ledesma, a zero-waste campaigner of Greenpeace, said that the whole concept and scheme of burning waste for energy is unnecessarily costly and counter to the idea of reducing waste.

"It even encourages cities to produce more waste, because these incinerators would require a minimum amount on a daily and weekly basis to produce energy," she said.

Ledesma said that the WTE incinerator also goes against the country's Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, a law designed to promote zero-waste practices and waste segregation. On top of this, it is also prohibited under Section 20 of the Clean Air Act.

"WTE projects are an easy way out to address the waste crisis. And it attempts to address the waste problem without changing problematic parts of the system, beginning from plastic production," she said.

The European Commission has also been defunding WTE incinerator projects because of the realization that such facilities do not contribute to climate action and instead even worsen the climate crisis.

Ledesma said that perhaps the reason that groups and loans are pushing for WTE projects in developing countries like the Philippines is that this technology is already being questioned in developed nations.

"If you look at WTE, it's no longer included in EU sustainable economic activities. And because they're not able to market in their region, they push that narrative in poorer regions where laws and policies have not yet decided if the technology is eco-friendly. They are banking and trying to find a way of investment elsewhere," she explained.

She also flagged that most often these types of projects are also located in low-income areas where communities are more vulnerable to suffering from climate impacts as a result of dirty technology.



## No proper consultation



***Biao Escuela is an agricultural community surrounded by banana and coconut plantations. Residents rely on growing poultry and farming for their livelihood.***

The WTE facility will be constructed at Biao Escuela, a 10-hectare of agricultural land south of Davao. The proposed site is only 2.2 kilometers away from the barangay's school and 550m from the planned relocation site.

Jill Banta, regional coordinator for Mindanao of the Plastic-Free Pilipinas Project said that the construction of the facility may also have long-term effects on residents of Biao Escuela and nearby communities.

"Persistent organic pollutants such as dioxins and furans are produced when plastics are burned. This can cause respiratory and reproductive diseases, birth defects, and cancer to the already marginalized low-income agricultural communities in Biao Escuela," said Banta.

"Beyond the community, its toxic by-products may reach our plates through the food chain because food and poultry products are sourced in Biao Escuela," she added.

Nerea Tagunon\*, 60, is a sari-sari store owner at Biao Escuela. Her family moved to the community three years ago after having been displaced from their homes due to road widening in Catalunan Grande, Davao.

Tagunon and her neighbors weren't properly consulted about the project, and it's common for residents of Biao Escuela to make uninformed decisions because of the lack of consultation with the local government.

Residents think that the facility to be built is a plastic recycling factory, providing them employment. And while the WTE project may give them jobs, what residents do not know is that the facility can only employ people with engineering backgrounds.

"I think having the waste-to-energy incinerator project here would be helpful to our community because it will give us jobs," said Tagunon.

"From the demographics of their community, who are mostly agricultural workers, poultry growers, and laborers, the only job they could secure would be short-term construction jobs for the facility," said Banta.



### ***Chapel at Biao Escuela***

Tagunon has lost hope to fight for their homes and their right to proper relocation.

"If it's going to smell, then what difference would it make? The river here stinks from poultry waste, so the smell of burning plastic is not going to matter. We'll just be a place where you could inhale all the chemicals and bad odor. Let the government do whatever they want, we can't do anything about it anymore," Tagunon said hopelessly.

The 60-year-old resident however admitted that if they were to be properly consulted, she would prefer for the project not to push through.

"Of course, nobody would want to be exposed to that hazard, nobody would want to inhale all that waste. But we have already been displaced in the past, and it's not like people like me still have a say," she said.



### ***Waterway at Biao Escuela that connects to Matina River***

A few meters away from Tagunon lives Esmelita Roxas\* 70, who, like Tagunon, knows little about the project.

"I'm worried about the effects of the incinerator, but our barangay captain said that the technology worked in Japan. We're just putting our trust in him," said Roxas.

"And even if we're against it, we can't do anything about it because we're only ordinary citizens. We'll be fighting against powerful people. At this point, we're only praying that if it pushes through, we won't be left behind."

### **Working zero-waste solutions**







### ***Inside Limadol's facility where black soldier flies are grown***

Ledesma and Banta said that the waste problem in Davao and the Philippines can be solved without burning plastics, especially when 50% of Davao's waste is biodegradable, and while 200 to 300 tons of its landfill waste is food waste.

Davao-based agronomist Peter Damary of Limadol introduced using black soldier flies to handle food waste by developing a natural insect protein for poultry that utilizes biodegradable waste from the landfill.

They collect a total of 400-700 kgs of food waste from restaurants and households at Barangay Mintal and Barangay Tacunan four times a week which they feed to the black soldier flies in their facility.

Black soldier flies consume food waste and produce a byproduct called frass which is useful as feeds for poultry or as organic fertilizers.

"At the start, it was very difficult, because people didn't really segregate their waste. They were used to dumping everything because no one was in charge of segregating, and collectors just combine already segregated waste with each other," said Damary.

From only collecting 60 kilograms twice a week in February 2021, Damary's small business now collects 150 kgs of food waste three or four times a week.

"We were able to address this problem by being strict about our collection. We took the time to educate households to segregate food waste, and eventually, they picked it up," he added. Today Limadol collects food waste from over 200 households and five restaurants around Barangay Mintal and Barangay Tacunan.

Damary said that their system works because they are consistent. According to him, people needed consistency so that they would be driven to follow.

He recalled that in the beginning, some households would still mix non-biodegradable waste with biodegradables, and to show their commitment, they didn't pick up food waste that wasn't well segregated.

"They eventually followed, and they are now very enthusiastic about it," said Damary.

When food decomposes anaerobically in landfills, it creates methane, a major global warming gas.



According to the organization Extra Food, every 100 pounds of food waste in landfills produces 8.3 pounds of methane into the atmosphere. And in over 20 years, methane has 86 times the global warming effect of carbon dioxide.

“Methane from food waste contributes to the climate crisis, and if we have systems in place then this initiative will not only be beneficial for waste management but also climate mitigation,” explained Damary



### ***Davao Thermo Biotechnology's composting site***

An odorless landfill powered by a bio activator is also segregating tons of biodegradable waste from industrial companies and restaurants an hour away from Barangay Mintal.

Aimea Lumpay, plant manager of Davao Thermo Biotech, said that their composting facility uses a patented YMO activator from Japan.

"We mix our YMO activator with collected biodegradable waste to treat them together. By doing this, we hasten the composting of biodegradable waste and eliminate hazardous waste such as leachate from contaminating the environment," explained Lumpay.

Biodegradables are converted into biofertilizers within 45 days, and the reaction of the food waste to the bio activator heats the mixture to a high temperature which destroys pathogenic bacteria, making their fertilizer organic, clean, and safe.



### ***The biofertilizer from Davao Thermo Biotech is used in their trial farm across their four-hectare composting facility***

Currently, Davao Thermo Biotech collects industrial waste from several poultry farms and restaurants. They treat 50MT of industry and food waste daily.



They also have a few household subscribers, and the technology can also be adapted at a household level, but the problem is not a lot of homes are willing to pay to have their garbage collected and treated so they don't end up in landfills.

"As of now, we have 55 households subscribed to our waste management facility. We pick up their biodegradable waste for them, and in exchange, we give them one of our products which they can use for their gardens at home," said Lumpay.

Banta said that the projects of Limadol and Davao Thermo Biotech prove that there are already working zero-waste solutions that are less harmful to the environment being implemented.

"Instead of using people's money to fund environmentally destructive projects, the government should instead invest in solutions that are already in place," said Banta.

"The projects of Limadol and Davao Thermo Biotech need not have huge large facilities, and if these are implemented on a large scale, then there would not even be a need to construct WTE facilities," added Banta.

The Plastic-Free Pilipinas Project regional coordinator also emphasized that while these initiatives work for biodegradable wastes, the problem of non-biodegradable waste can be addressed by strict implementation of banning single-use plastics and pressuring corporations to replace their packaging.

Corporations should invest in solutions that are centered on reuse-based packaging such as refillable. They can show this by not relying on false "green" solutions but committing to establishing sustainable systems.

Banta also said that before the sachet economy reached the Philippines, Filipino communities already had a culture of refilling in sari-sari stores, but because of the shift in packaging by fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies, this changed.

"Didn't we have that deposit system for carbonated drinks in glass bottles before? It was even practiced in far-flung rural communities. We can enforce zero-waste solutions, but corporations and lawmakers lack the will," said Banta.

Seventy-two percent of the 2022 national budget for solid waste management will be dedicated to the WTE of Davao.

"That's too much of a budget for a regional project that is environmentally destructive. Imagine if we reallocate our budget and invest in low-cost zero-waste solutions that are already in place," said Banta.

She also stressed that a large part of the money could have also been used for training waste workers in zero-waste projects, giving them the proper solid waste management training, and increasing their salaries and benefits.

"Waste management plays a large role in the climate crisis because the life cycle of a product or waste is already producing carbon emissions, which is why just energy transition also means hiring more waste workers, integrating waste workers in zero-waste projects, and institutionalizing their work," said Banta.

## Role of waste pickers in the climate crisis



### Overflowing waste at New Carmen Landfill

Back in New Carmen, Romero said that while he isn't familiar with climate change, he's sure that their work as waste pickers contributes to addressing the waste problem.

"I'm not sure about numbers, but perhaps, waste pickers like me address climate change by 50% because we recycle everything that we could find," said Romero.

Beyond the destructive environmental repercussions of the WTE project, Banta and Ledesma are also concerned about the consequences to workers in the formal and informal waste industry.

"We already have people doing the waste picking and the recycling, and there are also groups who upcycle, recycle, and compost. What will happen to them when this project is given a go signal?" asked Banta.

Romero said that instead of removing them from their livelihood, the local government can show their appreciation by providing them the support that they need to continue doing their livelihood.

"We aren't protected from our jobs, we go to work without proper equipment, we even step our bare feet on broken glass just so we could find a living, but still we can recycle a relevant amount of waste without much help," he said.

"What we need is an aid in terms of food, shelter, and even medicine because we earn so little, so that we may continue working," added Romero.





### ***Waste pickers sell gold found at the dumpsite***

Romero recalled that their measly income isn't even enough for his family to afford electricity. But at least he finds disposed candles in the landfill which they recycle and lights at night.

"Sometimes we even find broken solar panels in the landfill. We fix them, and they give our homes power and electricity," said Romero.

Ledesma said that waste pickers are knowledgeable of the integrity of materials found in disposal sites, that's why they should play a significant role in redesigning systems.

"Without us, nobody would dare touch our wastes. And if we're displaced of our livelihood, you're also removing hands directly reversing climate change," said Romero.

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**\*Names were changed to protect identities**  
**This story was supported by Climate Tracker and FES Philippines**

**Geela Garcia is a freelance multimedia journalist and peasant advocate based in Manila.**



# Land use plan crucial to Iloilo City's goal as 'most livable'

By Lade Jean Kabagani May 14, 2022, 8:45 pm



Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Eduardo del Rosario (*File photo*)

**MANILA** – The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) will contribute to the economic development and environmental protection of Iloilo City following the approval of its 2021-2029 Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

DHSUD Secretary Eduardo del Rosario said the nine-year CLUP, signed in a virtual ceremony on Thursday, will be crucial in helping Iloilo City set the direction in achieving its vision of becoming “a more livable, innovative and well-governed locality”.

“We will safeguard the environment and preserve culture while sustaining a robust and resilient economy by 2029,” del Rosario said in a statement on Saturday.

Del Rosario said the CLUP offers a unique opportunity to rebuild for a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable environment, although it “will be a long and even more challenging process”.

Iloilo City secured the fourth CLUP ratified by DHSUD that features mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and the adoption of the integrated watershed eco-systems management framework.

The Citizen Report Card and the integration of thematic concerns, such as biodiversity, cultural heritage, urban design, and green growth, will also be part of the city's CLUP.

As of last year, the DHSUD has already approved the CLUP of the cities of Ormoc, Mandaue and Zamboanga, all with a common goal of achieving economic progress through effective land utilization without harming the environment. **(PNA)**



# Trees aren't a climate change cure-all: Two new studies on the life and death of trees in a warming world show why

BY THE CONVERSATION MAY 16, 2022



FIRE consumes land recently deforested by cattle farmers near Novo Progresso, Para state, Brazil on August 23, 2020.

**By William R.L. Anderegg, University of Utah | *The Conversation***

WHEN people talk about ways to slow climate change, they often mention trees, and for good reason. Forests take up a large amount of the planet-warming carbon dioxide that people put into the atmosphere when they burn fossil fuels. But will trees keep up that pace as global temperatures rise? With companies increasingly investing in forests as offsets, saying it cancels out their continuing greenhouse gas emissions, that's a multibillion-dollar question.

The results of two studies published in the journals *Science* and *Ecology Letters* on May 12, 2022—one focused on growth, the other on death—raise new questions about how much the world can rely on forests to store increasing amounts of carbon in a warming future. Ecologist William Anderegg, who was involved in both studies, explains why.

What does the new research tell us about trees and their ability to store carbon?

The future of forests is on a knife's edge, with a tug of war between two very important forces: the benefits trees get from increasing levels of carbon dioxide and the stresses they face from the climate, such as heat, drought, fires, pests and pathogens.

Those climate stresses are increasing a lot faster as the planet warms than scientists had expected. We're seeing immense wildfires and drought-driven forest die-offs much sooner than anyone had anticipated. When those trees die, that carbon goes back into the atmosphere. We're also seeing evidence that the benefits trees get from higher levels of carbon dioxide in a warming world may be more limited than people realize.

This tells us it's probably not a great idea to count on forests for a widespread carbon sink through the 21st century, particularly if societies don't reduce their emissions.

Trees and forests do all sorts of other amazing things—they clean the air and water, and they provide economic value in terms of timber and tourism and pollination. So, understanding how they will grow matters for many reasons.

There's an argument that, with more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, trees will simply grow more and lock that carbon away. What did your study find?



Two key things affect tree growth: photosynthesis, which is how trees turn sunlight and carbon dioxide into food, and the process of cell division and expansion.

There's been a long-standing debate about which is the biggest driver of tree growth.

A good metaphor here is a cart with two horses. The cart moving down the road is the tree growing, and there are two horses attached, but we don't know which is actually doing the work of pulling the cart. One horse is photosynthesis. That makes a lot of intuitive sense—it's where all the carbon comes from for building cells. But we know there's another horse—in order to grow more wood, trees have to grow layers of cells, and the cells have to expand and divide. That cell growth process is very sensitive to climate changes and tends to shut down when conditions are dry.

People assume that photosynthesis is the dominant process almost everywhere. But we found stronger evidence that these cellular processes that are sensitive to drought actually do more to drive or limit growth.

We used tree ring data from thousands of trees across the US and Europe and measurements of photosynthesis from towers in nearby forests to check whether tree growth and photosynthesis were correlated over time. If they followed the same pattern, increasing or decreasing in the same years, that would have suggested photosynthesis was the horse pulling the cart. Instead, we found no correlation.

That suggests that droughts, rather than the amount of carbon dioxide in the air, may have the biggest impact on how quickly trees grow in the future. We're already seeing more frequent and severe droughts in many regions.

What did you learn about the risk of tree death in the future?

In the other study, we found that lowering global greenhouse gas emissions could have a huge impact for avoiding damage to forests from wildfires, drought and insects.

We used years of satellite observations, climate data and a network of about 450,000 tree plots across the US where each tree is monitored for climate stress and survival. With that historical data, we built statistical models of the risk US trees face from wildfires, insects and climate stress, primarily related to drought. Then we looked at what might happen under future climate scenarios, with high carbon emissions, medium emissions and low emissions.

The big picture: As the planet warms, wildfire risk increases substantially over the current century, especially in the Western US. In a scenario with medium emissions, wildfire risk is projected to increase by a factor of four. Drought and insect risks increase by about 50 percent to 80 percent.

What does this mean for the use of carbon offsets?

Together these studies suggest that the benefits carbon dioxide has for growth won't be nearly as large as people thought, and the risk of climate stress, particularly wildfire, drought and insects, will be much larger than people anticipate.

That has huge implications for using forests as carbon offsets.

So far, carbon offset protocols and markets have not really grappled with this updated scientific understanding of the risks that forests face from climate change. This tells us that climate policy-makers and offset developers need to be very careful about how they count on forest offsets to deliver benefits.





The more hopeful message is that our actions in the next decade matter enormously. If we can rein in the speed of climate change and take a lower-emissions path, that does a huge amount to lower risk and increase the benefits. This isn't a "throw up our hands and panic" situation—it is our chance to take steps that make sure resilient and sustainable forests last for the future.

What we do with our own emissions and efforts to slow climate change matters immensely for the future of forests.

This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: <https://theconversation.com/trees-arent-a-climate-change-cure-all-2-new-studies-on-the-life-and-death-of-trees-in-a-warming-world-show-why-182944>.

Image credits: [AP/Andre Penner](#)



# Climate change to make droughts longer, more common, says UN

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS MAY 16, 2022



MOHAMED MOHAMUD, a ranger from the Sabuli Wildlife Conservancy, looks at the carcass of a giraffe that died of hunger near Matana Village, Wajir County, Kenya, on October 25, 2021.

THE frequency and duration of droughts will continue to increase due to human-caused climate change, with water scarcity already affecting billions of people across the world, the United Nations warned in a report Wednesday.

The UN desertification agency, which is currently hosting a conference of parties in Abidjan in Ivory Coast, estimates that roughly one third of the world's population—2.3 billion people—is already facing water scarcity, with that number expected to double by 2050.

Although no region is spared from drought, the report noted that Africa is the hardest hit continent, with the Americas, India and Australia also highlighted as areas of particular current and future concern.

The ongoing debilitating drought in the east and Horn of Africa was highlighted as one of the “dramatic consequences” of climate change by the UN agency. The continent suffered 134 recorded droughts in the past century, with over half occurring in east Africa.

“We used to be able to grow enough tomatoes that we could stay fed for 8 months,” said Kenyan farmer Kheira Osman Yusuf, whose crops have been without rain for over a year. “We used to have luscious mango trees and papaya trees.” She added that food sources have become incredibly scarce and the drinking water supply has also greatly suffered. She explained they sometimes had to resort to drinking from the livestock reservoir, running the risk of getting sick from contamination.

The agency's lead scientist Barron Orr told The Associated Press that the world needs to be more proactive rather than reactive when it comes to dealing with drought-related disasters. Orr said the next step for hardest-hit Africa is to “direct investments to build resilience, so as to bounce back from drought.”

India saw a drought-related shrink of 5 percent to its gross domestic product between 1998 and 2017 and Australia's agricultural productivity slumped 18 percent between 2002 and 2010 due to drought. The country can also expect more wildfires like those in late 2019 and early 2020 which were spurred by a lack of rainfall, the report warned.

The same is true for the Amazon, the UN said, with three droughts occurring since the turn of the century and triggering forest fires, with climate change and deforestation also to blame. The agency estimates that 16 percent of the region's remaining forests will burn by 2050 if deforestation continues at its current rate.



But with the right adaptation measures, water scarcity across the globe can be limited, the report said. It suggests smarter agricultural techniques which use less water while producing more food, drought action plans and greater investment in soil health, new technologies and early warning systems can all help curtail food and water shortages.

“We need to steer towards the solutions rather than continuing with destructive actions,” Ibrahim Thiaw, the executive secretary of the desertification agency, said. “We must build and rebuild our landscapes better, mimicking nature wherever possible and creating functional ecological systems.”

Image credits: [AP/Brian Inganga](#)

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/16/climate-change-to-make-droughts-longer-more-common-says-un/>

16 MAY 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## Jellyfish bloom spotted in Boracay

Authorities reported the occurrence of jellyfish bloom along a beach in Boracay on Saturday, although it disappeared the following day, the Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BIARMG) reported yesterday.

"By 5 p.m. on Saturday, the jellyfish were washed away and no recurrence was observed on Sunday morning," acting Environment Secretary Jim Sampulna said.

The BIARMG reported the phenomenon to the provincial office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Aklan.

"The safety of the public is our primary concern. We want to assure the locals and tourists that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as chair of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force, is working with the BFAR as part of our responsibility in the rehabilitation of the island," Sampulna said.

Jellyfish bloom is a natural occurrence in the coastal areas of Aklan starting from the month of May until September.

"The occurrence depends on the direction of the wind," the BFAR said.

In a report, BIARMG general manager Martin Despi said the jellyfish bloom was seen at around 2 p.m. on Saturday in all three stations of White Beach, particularly along the coast of Barangays Angol and Diniwid.

The bloom was gone by late afternoon.

"The wind direction on Saturday was southwest or *habagat*, which was headed toward the White Beach. This caused the jellyfish to accumulate in the area," Despi said.

BFAR-Aklan officer-in-charge Evelyn Abad said a team dispatched on Sunday morning to check the occurrence found no trace of the bloom.

"The entire White Beach, from stations 1 to 3, was clear of jellyfish and has almost no trace of Saturday's incident," the team said.

"We were able to collect samples of jellyfish that occurred in the area to determine its species. They were so tiny and appeared to be newborns. The samples will be brought to our laboratory for testing on Monday," Abad said.

The BFAR advised the Environmental Management Bureau in Western Visayas to also collect samples of jellyfish in case of a recurrence and to note the time of the occurrence.

Despi said that lifeguards have advised tourists not to swim in any jellyfish-affected area.

— Elizabeth Marcelo



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# Importation of 'exotic' species to go through 'eye of the needle'

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA  
@jonlmayuga

**T**HE importation of agar-wood producing species that are 'exotic' is easier said than done, especially if it is intended for commercial purposes, an official of the Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) said.

Generally, the government does not allow the importation of exotic species, and if ever, it requires a strict regulatory process.

"This is unlike when you are im-

porting an endemic species which is much easier," Theresa M. Tenazas, lawyer and OIC Division Chief of the Wildlife Resources Division of the DENR-BMB, said.

Not all Aquilaria species are endemic to the Philippines and those that are non-endemic or "exotic" will need to pass the proverbial "eye of the needle" to get approval from the DENR-BMB, according to Tenazas.

Tenazas was reacting to a BusinessMirror report citing the importation of Aquilaria Mallacensis by Iba Botanicals Inc. for the purpose of commercial propagation.

Iba Botanicals became the first company to secure a "wildlife culture permit" (WCP) for the commercial propagation in the country of the Aquilaria Mallacensis, which produces premium quality agarwood or resinous heartwood, the most expensive forest product in the world.

"Planting of endemic species and importing it back to the Philippines will not entail problems as compared to the importation of exotic Aquilaria species," she said.

Citing the case of importing Aquilaria Mallacensis, Tenazas said those who applied for import permits, for the purpose of commercialization will be granted by the DENR-BMB with ease because it is endemic to the Philippines, which means there's no danger of introducing a potentially invasive species that may result in biodiversity loss.

But not all people can just import and plant any tree species if they are to commercialize it later on.

For purpose of commercialization, the importer must have a WCP so that when the time comes that they are to sell them locally or abroad, they can show proof of legal source for their product or byproduct.

Aside from the DENR-BMB, an importer of plants or animal species for commercial purposes like animal breeding or plant breeding will also have to undergo a strict regulatory process imposed by the Department of Agriculture (DA). For one, the Bureau of Plant Industry ensures that the plant being imported is disease-free and must undergo quarantine procedures.

On the part of the DENR-BMB, strict regulatory requirements are imposed under Republic Act (RA) 9147 (Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act) and RA 7586 (National Integrated Protected Areas System, or Nipas, Act).

"The general rule is, we do not really allow the importation of exotics," Tenazas said.

Such measure is put in place to prevent the danger posed by the introduction of non-native species into the wild.

According to Tenazas, Section 13 of the Wildlife Act, which pertains to the introduction of exotic wildlife, states that "no exotic species shall be introduced into the country unless a clearance from the Secretary or the authorized representative is first obtained."

The law added: "In no case shall exotic species be introduced into protected areas covered by RA 7586 and to critical habitats under Section 25 hereof."

The provision also states that in cases where introduction is allowed, it shall be subject to an environmental impact study, focusing on the bioecology, socioeconomic and related aspects of the area where the species will be introduced.

Lastly, it states that the proponent shall also be required to secure the prior informed consent from the local stakeholders.



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## MPIF shores up Tubbataha

*Commits to safeguarding the Philippine's crown jewel*

Metro Pacific Investments Foundation, Inc. (MPIF), the corporate social responsibility arm of infrastructure conglomerate Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), solidified its commitment to shore up Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, the country's largest marine protected area in a Memorandum of Understanding signing last March 11.

Represented by its Chairman, Manuel V. Pangilinan, and its President, Melody del Rosario, MPIF entered into a four-year agreement with the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board, represented by the Provincial Governor of Palawan, Hon. Jose Ch. Alvarez and DENR MIMAROPA Region OIC, RED Lormelyn E. Claudio, CESO IV.

### About Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park

Inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park is a 97,030-hectare Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Palawan, located 150 km southeast of Puerto Princessa City, at the heart of the Coral Triangle, the global center of marine biodiversity.

The park contains roughly 10,000 hectares of coral reef and houses 360 species of corals — about half of all the coral species in the world. It has also been recognized as one of the Philippines' oldest ecosystems and is considered an integral habitat for internationally threatened and endangered marine species.

UNESCO cited Tubbataha's outstanding universal value as an important and significant natural habitat for in situ conservation — the conservation, maintenance, and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings — of biological diversity and an example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes.

However, with its expansive geography and sprawling abundance of marine treasures, Tubbataha also faces various threats that require specific interventions in order to maintain the quality of life it houses.

### Shoring Up Tubbataha

A primary challenge that the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) faces annually is the maintenance of financial and manpower requirements that are requisite to sustaining effective management within the area. Albeit receiving conservation fees from diver tourists, revenues are not sufficient to address the high expenses incurred by an offshore MPA like Tubbataha. Lockdowns brought about by the pandemic caused 96.5% of trips to be canceled in 2020.

Being the spearheading advocate for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation within the MVP Group, MPIF has taken on the responsibility to contribute the needed financial support of P2 million annually for the next four years.



*Shoring Up Tubbataha.* MPIF, represented by its Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and its President Melody M. Del Rosario (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), signed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Tubbataha Protected Area Management Board, represented by Palawan Provincial Governor Hon. Jose Ch. Alvarez (3<sup>rd</sup> row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and DENR MIMAROPA Region OIC, RED Lormelyn E. Claudio (3<sup>rd</sup> row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left). Witnesses to the event were MPIF Trustee and MPIC Chief Finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer Chaye A. Cabal-Revilla (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park Protected Area Superintendent Angeliq Songco (3<sup>rd</sup> row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left).



Photos by Penn delos Santos

Beyond the financial donation however, MPIF has committed to integrate specialized interventions under its flagship environmental program Shore It Up! (SIU). Through SIU, MPIF will mobilize its Marine Protection, Inspection, and Conservation (MPIC) Guardians program in Tubbataha. Aligned with its existing implementation in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro and its pending execution in Marinduque, the MPIC Guardians program will serve a bigger purpose of creating a strategic brotherhood in the MIMAROPA region to protect the Verde Island Passage.

The commitment to Tubbataha is aligned with MPIC's efforts to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG 14 Life Below Water, 15 Life on Land, and 17 Partnerships for the Goals.



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## 14 years of shoring up the Philippine marine ecosystem

The Philippines, on average, is hit by 20 storms and typhoons each year.

Being an archipelago, the country is cyclone-prone in nature, due to its geographic location and is vulnerable to climate change impacts, including heavier rainfall and sea-level rise — factors that pose a considerable threat to the encompassing coastal communities.

Realizing the vulnerability and the value of the coast amid the vital fight against climate change, initiatives involving mangrove and marine protection are made by the Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), through its corporate social responsibility arm, Metro Pacific Investments Foundation, Inc. (MPIF), as part of its flagship environmental program, Shore it Up! (SIU).

A program engaging coastal communities, SIU comprises initiatives that raise environmental awareness, provide alternative livelihood, and promote eco-tourism.

SIU started as a simple outreach in 2009 that evolved into a sustainable stewardship program. After the Typhoon Ondoy submerged several parts of Metro Manila and other areas that year, it urged MPIF to develop and mobilize initiatives that help address climate change. Having water services provider Maynilad as one of MPIC's assets, the Foundation recognized the effects of climate change on the waters and its subsequent impact on the surrounding ecosystem.

"Simple coastal clean-ups served as the starting point for our endeavors, merely scratching the surface of how we can save our seas and shores," says MPIF President Melody del Rosario. "Developing our environmental interventions to suit the needs of our partner communities has ensured that our long-term commitments have sustainable futures."

### SAVING MANGROVES

Storms and the realization of environmental protection have also served as a wake-up call for several local governments. The mangrove population, while widely known for protecting coasts against hazards like storms, has been alarmingly declining. MPIF worked with the



Alaminos Mangrove Center



Mangrove Eco-Guides



SIU Weekend 2019 MoA Signing



SIU Weekend Divers



Galera diver

local governments of Alaminos City, Pangasinan; Del Carmen, Siargao Island; and Cordova, Cebu to establish Mangrove Protection/Propagation and Information Centers — one in each major region of the country. Across all these locations, there are almost 5,300 hectares of protected mangroves.

The Mangrove Centers operate as a hub to protect and propagate mangroves and rehabilitate the degraded ones. It also provided information to the locals and visitors to grasp the value of mangroves for the ecosystem.

After almost a decade of working with the Alaminos local government, MPIF commissioned a study with the Business for Sustainable Development (BSD) to evaluate SIU's impact in the

area. It found that around 111.92 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of carbon stock in Bued Mangrove Park, equivalent to removing greenhouse emissions from 24 passenger vehicles driven for a year, was attributed to the support and investment of MPIF.

Meanwhile, the Del Carmen Center reported 0% mangrove cutting since its inauguration. The municipality's mangrove forest, one of the largest in the country, has protected some residents hit by a storm surge during Typhoon Odette last December 2021.

### PIVOTING TOWARDS GREEN LIVELIHOOD

Such initiatives for the environment bolstered the livelihood in coastal communities, while also offering more



Marine Guardians Galera



Marine Guardians Medina

meanwhile, generated a social value worth around P770,000 through the formation of tour guides or boat owners, souvenir shops, mom-and-pop stores, and transient homes.

### MARINE GUARDIANS

MPIF also supported more environmental stewards aside from those centered on mangrove protection. Its Marine Protection, Inspection, and Conservation (MPIC) Guardians initiative has been helping local fisherfolk and *bantry digats* from its partner coastal communities in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro and Medina, Misamis Oriental, by training and equipping them to become stewards of the marine environment. It also serves as an alternative livelihood opportunity.

MPIC Guardians are also responsible for the monitoring of Marine Protected Areas, surveilling one in Medina and five in Puerto Galera. This seeks to prevent environmental degradation and protect ecologically and biologically important marine habitats.

Through the MPIC Guardians program implementation, a significant decrease in illegal fishing practices was recorded. Medina saw growth in fish catch and size, citing an estimated 40% increase as of May last year.

MPIF currently has 36 MPIC Guardians and plans to expand the program to Marikina this year to create a strategic brotherhood across the MIMAROPA region to protect the Verde Island Passage.

The MPIC Guardians and the Mangrove Centers aim to contribute to addressing several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including 14 Life Below Water, 15 Life on Land, 13 Climate Action, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, and 17 Partnerships for the Goals. The corporation also endeavors to adhere to the Sustainable Accounting Board Alliance Framework and the United Nations Global Compact.

Functioning under Gabay Kalikasan, one of the Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) Gabay Advocacies for a Sustainable Philippines, it also aims to contribute to accomplishing the Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan targets.

green employment opportunities for its locals. Incentivizing the work they do for the benefit of the environment has been MPIF's thrust to generate a more holistic impact within its partner communities.

The Mangrove Centers employed Mangrove Eco-Guides to serve as key point persons for locals and tourists who want to visit the mangrove plantations and learn more about the significance of mangroves. Throughout the three Centers, ten locals were inducted as official Mangrove Eco-guides — two in Alaminos, four in Del Carmen, and another four in Cordova.

The Mangrove Centers have become an eco-tourism hub in the respective places as well, producing several tourism-related businesses and activities that provide employment opportunities for locals.

Del Carmen established a full-fledged community-based eco-tourism program that created 1,000 direct employments, among others. The Alaminos Center,





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# BISLIG CITY BRACES FOR RISING TOURIST VISITS

By Erwin M. Mascariñas  
@InqNational



**BUTUAN CITY**— With COVID-19 restrictions easing up, tourism officials of Bislig City in Surigao del Sur province were anticipating an increase in the arrival of tourists drawn to the majestic Tinuy-an Falls.

Everlee Viola, head of Tinuy-an Falls Protected Landscape Project, said summer

bookings had spiked and could be on the way to surpassing records set in 2019, before the pandemic struck in March 2020.

Located in Barangay Borboanan, the 99-meter wide and 26-m-high Tinuy-an Falls is dubbed the “Little Niagara Falls of the Philippines” because its curtain of water that cascades from the four-tier drop resembles Niagara Falls along the borders of New York and Ontario, Canada.

The current arrivals in the ecotourism park come from Bukid-

non, Cotabato and the Davao provinces, and the cities of Cagayan de Oro and General Santos.

Viola said that in April, the park earned close to P1 million, of which P366,500 were recorded during the Holy Week, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday.

## Emerging destinations

The park earns mainly through entrance fees of P50 per visitor. It also collects rent for the use of cottages and life vests.

Lorelei Teresa Lim, Bislig City tourism operations officer, said the increase in tourist arrivals drawn to Tinuy-an Falls also helped grow the demand for other local destinations.

Lim noted that from two, the number of beach resorts in the city has grown to 16. “We also saw the rising popularity of the destination known as Kawa-kawa, which features natural rock pools that look like rounded cooking pans with free-flowing water from the mountains,” Lim added.

She said guests who went to Tinuy-an also visited Kawa-kawa and other emerging destinations, boosting the recovery of the tourism industry and the local economy.

Tinuy-an Falls, together with its surrounding watershed area, is declared a protected landscape under Republic Act No. 11038 and is under the control and supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The ecotourism park is co-managed by the indigenous peo-

ple's community which receives 10 percent of the gross income. Another 10 percent goes to the barangay, 10 percent for the environmental protection fund, and the rest to the maintenance and salary and allowances of 40 workers.

In 2019, the park earned P9.6 million, up from P7.9 million a year earlier. But growth prospects dimmed with the pandemic. When it reopened in 2021, revenues reached only P3.4 million as it had to close again due to a surge in COVID-19 infections. [INQ](#)



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# FEU JOINS ANNUAL TAMARAW COUNT 2022, HOLDS

## SOCIO-CIVIC OUTREACH PROGRAM IN OCC. MINDORO

Far Eastern University (FEU) regularly supports various initiatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Tamaraw Conservation Program. After two years since the pandemic lockdowns, the university, represented by alumnus Glenn Conception and Romel Solomon, participated in the Annual Tamaraw Population Count headed by the DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. With the aims of data gathering and observation, the FEU delegates braved the uncertain weather conditions in Mt. Iglit-Baco Natural Park with representa-

tives from different organizations from March 29 to April 3, 2022.

"For us, Tamaraws are more than just university mascots. Like the Tamaraws, we Filipinos are resilient and enduring. Therefore, it feels fulfilling to see an actual Tamaraw and know that you are contributing something towards its protection," said Solomon from the FEU Volunteerism Services Office (FEUVSO). "We must take part in conserving these endemic and critically endangered species because it is our pride as a nation. The experience is challenging but rewarding. We look forward to contributing more to the future projects of the

FEUVSO and DENR-TCP in saving our Tamaraws," said Conception of the Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation (NRMF).

The Tamaraw is the mascot of all FEU athletic teams. The FEU founder, Dr. Nicanor Reyes Sr., chose the local endemic animal because of its strength and intelligence. The program concluded through a data consolidation event attended by participants from different vantage points. The Tamaraws, estimated at 10,000 in the 1960s, have dwindled to 480 in 2019. DENR is yet to announce the current population count this 2022. The FEU has been a consistent partner of the DENR

in various efforts and programs to promote the conservation and protection of the Tamaraws. Besides its Save the Tamaraw Project, FEU also launched TAMWorld Exhibits in 2018, followed by E-Kahta at E-Sayaw mo ng "TAMA raw" song and dance competitions to drumbeat awareness of the extinction of the Tamaraws in the form of art.

Simultaneous with the Annual Tamaraw Count this year, another batch of FEU delegation held a socio-civic outreach program in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Led by the FEUVSO, together with the FEU Alumni Relations Office, NRMF, FEU Central Student Or-

ganization, FEU Media Center, Facilities, Technical Services, and representatives from the DENR, the delegation conducted a feeding program and distributed love gifts (hygiene kits, clothes, and ready to eat food) in Tamisan Elem. School, followed by a short program for the Tau-Buid community members.

The delegation also spearheaded the planting of 94 bamboo shoots around the vicinity of the school to commemorate FEU's 94th founding anniversary. The team also improved the existing mini-library and playroom it built in 2019, adding two com-

puter sets, books, toys and other school supplies. The visit also highlighted the turnover of the GRANT Certificate of TAMGabay Pangakabuhayan to the Tamaraw Rangers' "Carabao Production and Dispersal."

The socio-civic outreach program concluded with a dialogue with the Punong Tribo of the Tau-Buid Community and the administrators of Tamisan Elem. School to identify more future projects and other points for collaboration between the FEU and the Tau-Buid tribe who are directly involved in the conservation of the endangered Tamaraws.



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# FEU JOINS ANNUAL TAMARAW COUNT 2022, HOLDS

## SOCIO-CIVIC OUTREACH PROGRAM IN OCC. MINDORO

Far Eastern University (FEU) regularly supports various initiatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the Tamaraw Conservation Program. After two years since the pandemic lockdowns, the university, represented by alumnus Glenn Conception and Romel Solomon, participated in the Annual Tamaraw Population Count headed by the DENR-Tamaraw Conservation Program in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. With the aims of data gathering and observation, the FEU delegates braved the uncertain weather conditions in Mt. Iglit-Baco Natural Park with representa-

tives from different organizations from March 29 to April 3, 2022.

"For us, Tamaraws are more than just university mascots. Like the Tamaraws, we Filipinos are resilient and enduring. Therefore, it feels fulfilling to see an actual Tamaraw and know that you are contributing something towards its protection," said Solomon from the FEU Volunteerism Services Office (FEUVSO). "We must take part in conserving these endemic and critically endangered species because it is our pride as a nation. The experience is challenging but rewarding. We look forward to contributing more to the future projects of the

FEUVSO and DENR-TCP in saving our Tamaraws," said Conception of the Nicanor Reyes Memorial Foundation (NRMF).

The Tamaraw is the mascot of all FEU athletic teams. The FEU founder, Dr. Nicanor Reyes Sr., chose the local endemic animal because of its strength and intelligence. The program concluded through a data consolidation event attended by participants from different vantage points. The Tamaraws, estimated at 10,000 in the 1960s, have dwindled to 480 in 2019. DENR is yet to announce the current population count this 2022. The FEU has been a consistent partner of the DENR

in various efforts and programs to promote the conservation and protection of the Tamaraws. Besides its Save the Tamaraw Project, FEU also launched TAMWorld Exhibits in 2018, followed by E-Kahta at E-Sayaw mo ng "TAMA raw" song and dance competitions to drumbeat awareness of the extinction of the Tamaraws in the form of art.

Simultaneous with the Annual Tamaraw Count this year, another batch of FEU delegation held a socio-civic outreach program in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Led by the FEUVSO, together with the FEU Alumni Relations Office, NRMF, FEU Central Student Or-

ganization, FEU Media Center, Facilities, Technical Services, and representatives from the DENR, the delegation conducted a feeding program and distributed love gifts (hygiene kits, clothes, and ready to eat food) in Tamisan Elem. School, followed by a short program for the Tau-Buid community members.

The delegation also spearheaded the planting of 94 bamboo shoots around the vicinity of the school to commemorate FEU's 94th founding anniversary. The team also improved the existing mini-library and playroom it built in 2019, adding two com-

puter sets, books, toys and other school supplies. The visit also highlighted the turnover of the GRANT Certificate of TAMGabay Pangakabuhayan to the Tamaraw Rangers' "Carabao Production and Dispersal."

The socio-civic outreach program concluded with a dialogue with the Punong Tribo of the Tau-Buid Community and the administrators of Tamisan Elem. School to identify more future projects and other points for collaboration between the FEU and the Tau-Buid tribe who are directly involved in the conservation of the endangered Tamaraws.



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**MULA sa tuktok ng Calvary Cross na makikita sa Mystical Cave na nasa Puting Bato sa Antipolo ang pagkasira ng kagubatan ng probinsiya ng Rizal dahil sa quarrying. (Liza Madeja)**





## Every heatwave enhanced by climate change - experts

**P**ARIS (AFP) - All heatwaves today bear the unmistakable and measurable fingerprint of global warming, top experts on quantifying the impact of climate change on extreme weather said.

Burning fossil fuels and destroying forests have released enough greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to also boost the frequency and intensity of many floods, droughts, wildfires and tropical storms, they detailed in a state-of-science report.

"There is no doubt that climate change is a huge game changer when it comes to extreme heat," Friederike Otto, a scientist at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute, told AFP.

Extreme hot spells such as the heatwave that gripped South Asia in March and April are already the most deadly of extreme events, she added. "Every heatwave in the world is now made stronger and more likely to happen because of human-caused climate change," Otto and co-author Ben Clarke of the University of Oxford said in the report, presented as a briefing paper for the news media.

Evidence of global warming's impact on extreme weather has been mounting for decades, but only recently has it been possible to answer the most obvious of questions: To what extent was a particular event caused by climate change?

The most scientists could say before is that an unusually severe hurricane, flood or heatwave was consistent with general predictions of how global warming would eventually influence weather.

News media, meanwhile, sometimes left climate change out of the picture altogether or, at the other extreme, mistakenly attributed a weather disaster entirely to rising temperatures.

With more data and better tools,

however, Otto and other pioneers of a field known as event attribution science have been able to calculate — sometimes in near realtime — how much more likely or intense a particular storm or hot spell has become due to global warming.

### Courtroom evidence

Otto and colleagues in the World Weather Attribution (WWA) consortium, for example, concluded that the heatwave that gripped western North America last June — sending temperatures in Canada to a record 49.6 C (121 F) — would have been "virtually impossible" without human-induced climate change.

A heatwave that scorched India and Pakistan last month is still under review, Otto told AFP, but the larger picture is frighteningly clear.

"What we see right now in terms of extreme heat will be very normal, if not cool, in a 2-degree to 3-degree Celsius world," she said, referring to average global temperatures above preindustrial levels.

The world has warmed nearly 1.2C so far.

That increase made record-setting rainfall and flooding last July in Germany and Belgium that left more than 200 dead up to nine times more likely, the WWA found.

But global warming is not always to blame.

A two-year drought in southern Madagascar leading to near famine conditions attributed by the UN to climate change was in fact a product of natural variability in the weather, experts reported. Quantifying the impact of global warming on extreme weather events using peer-reviewed methods has real-world policy implications.

Attribution studies, for example, have been used as evidence in landmark climate litigation in the United States, Australia and Europe.



# Sale of Udenna stake in Malampaya 'alarming'

BY BERNADETTE E. TAMAYO

**S**EN. Sherwin Gatchalian is worried about the country's power situation amid reports that businessman Dennis Uy of Udenna Corp. plans to sell his stake in the Malampaya deepwater gas-to-power project.

"*Lubhang nakababahala ito* (This is quite alarming)," Gatchalian said in a statement on Sunday.

The reelectionist senator said Malampaya is the country's sole source of natural gas.

"Are we looking at rotational brown-outs again?" he said.

Gatchalian stressed that he had red-flagged the entry of Udenna Corp. in the operations of Malampaya over reports that the firm had debt and cash problems and is struggling from

technical incompetence.

He noted that Udenna's Malampaya buyout "hit a snag" last December after the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp., which owns 10 percent of Malampaya shares, withheld its consent to the deal between Shell Philippines Exploration and Udenna's Malampaya Energy XP Pte. Ltd.

A critical energy asset, Malampaya powers over 4.5 million homes and businesses in Mega Manila alone, or six out of every 10 customers in the Meralco

franchise area, Gatchalian said.

It contributes almost 20 percent of the country's power generation mix, the senator said.

Malampaya has also provided income to the government, which totaled P290.76 billion from January 2002 until June 30, 2021.

"With the expiration of Malampaya's service contract in 2024, the depletion of the remaining reserves in the gas field by 2027, and now the possible sale of participating interests of Udenna in the country's most important energy source — there's so much uncertainty ahead of us insofar as our energy security is concerned," he said.

"I have proven myself right after all, over the apparent financial incapacity of Udenna's subsidiaries that acquired the 45 percent stake of Chevron Philippines Ltd. and 45 percent stake of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V.," he added.



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## Pagbebenta ni Uy sa Malampaya shares, ikinabahala

**IKINABABAHALA** ni Senator Win Gatchalian ang magiging lagay ng suplay ng enerhiya sa bansa matapos iulat ang planong pagbenta ng negosyanteng si Dennis Uy ng Udenna Corporation sa kanyang controlling stake sa Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project.

"Mapapaso ang service contract ng Malampaya sa 2024, mauubos ang natitirang reserba ng natural gas dito pagdating ng 2027, at ngayon ay posibleng ibenta ang participating interests dito ng Udenna. Walang kasiguruhan ang hinaharap natin. Babalik ba tayo uli sa pagkakaroon ng rotational brownouts?" tanong ni Gatchalian.

"Sa simula pa lang ay iniimbestigahan na namin sa Senado ang kawalang kakayahan ng mga subsidiary ng Udenna na nakakuha ng 45% ng stake ng Chevron Philippines, Ltd. at 45% stake ng Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX)," sabi ng senador, tungkol sa kanyang babala noon pa sa pagpasok sa operasyon ng Malampaya ng Udenna Corp. dahil sa mga ulat na baon ito sa utang at walang teknikal na kapasidad.

Matatandaang nauditlot ang pagbili ng Udenna sa stake ng Shell matapos harangin noong Disyembre ng naka-raang taon ng Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) na nag-

mamay-ari ng 10 porsyento ng shares ng Malampaya, ang transaksyon.

Itinuturing na napakahalagang energy asset ang Malampaya dahil umaasa dito ng suplay ang mga planta ng kuryente na nagseserbisyo sa apat at kalahating miyong tahanan at negosyo sa Mega Manila o anim sa bawat 10 kostumer sa franchise area ng Meralco. Sa kabuuang pangangailangan ng suplay ng enerhiya ng bansa, nasa halos 20% ang naiaambag ng Malampaya. Malaki rin ang kontribusyon ng Malampaya sa koleksyon ng gobyerno dahil umabot sa P290.76 bilyon ang kita nito mula Enero 2002 hanggang Hunyo 30, 2021.

**ERNIE REYES**



# Phl power situation uncertain - lawmaker

By PAOLO ROMERO

The country's power situation faces uncertainty with the plan of businessman Dennis Uy of Udenna Corp. to sell his controlling stake in the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian warned yesterday.

Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate committee on energy, said he was deeply worried over the reported plan as it was not clear who may choose to buy the stake of Uy, whose Udenna was found to be incapable of running the project.

"With the expiration of Malampaya's service contract in 2024, the depletion of the remaining reserves in the gas field by 2027, and now the possible sale of participating interests of Udenna in the country's most important energy source - there's so much uncer-

tainty ahead of us insofar as our energy security is concerned. Are we looking at rotational brown-outs again?" Gatchalian said.

"I have proven myself right after all, over the apparent financial incapacity of Udenna's subsidiaries that acquired the 45 percent stake of Chevron Philippines Ltd. and 45 percent stake of Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. (SPEX)," he said.

The senator said he had red-flagged the entry of Udenna Corp. in the operations of Malampaya due to reports of debt and cash problems as well as its technical incompetence.

Udenna's Malampaya buyout hit a snag last December after the Philippine National Oil Co.-Exploration Corp., which owns 10 percent of Malampaya shares, withheld its consent to the transaction between SPEX and Udenna's Malampaya Energy XP Pte. Ltd.

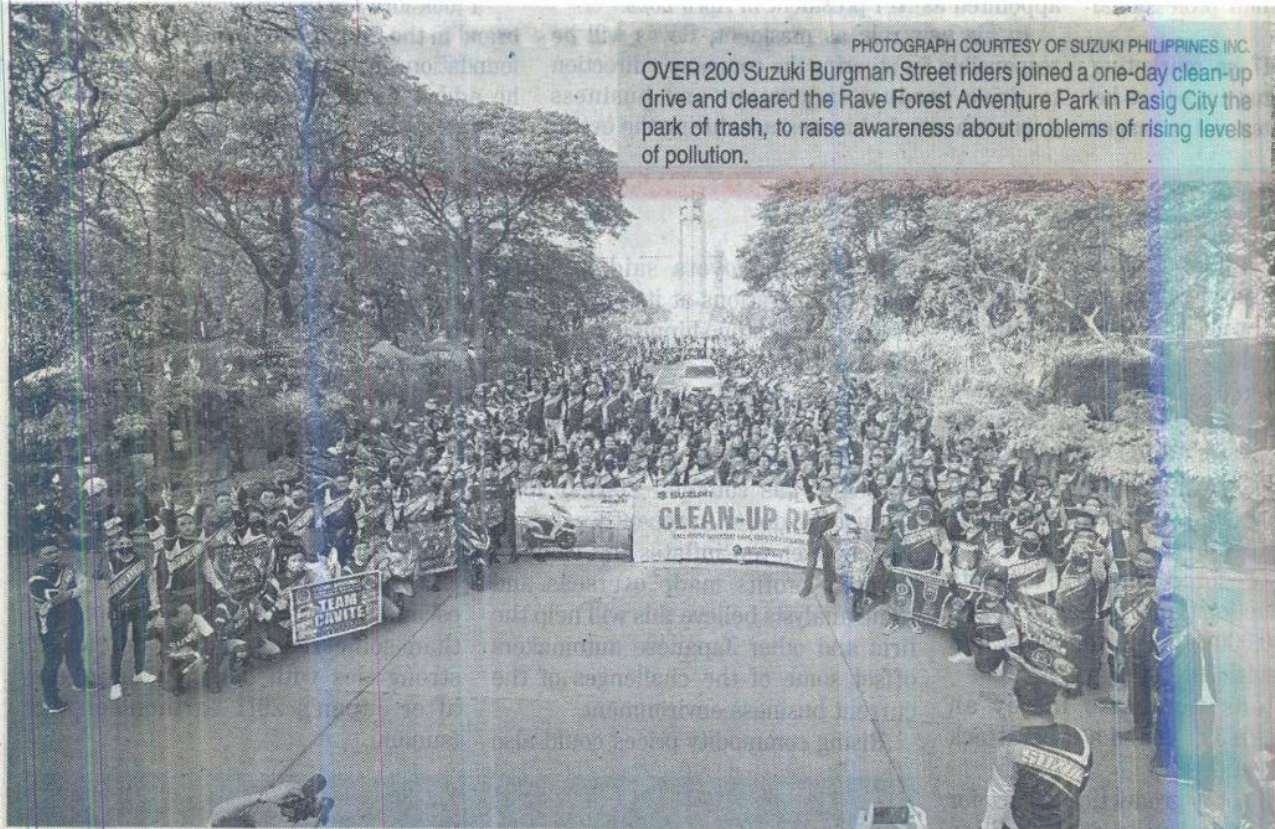
A critical energy asset, Malampaya powers more than four and a half million homes and businesses in Mega Manila alone or six out of every 10 customers in the Meralco franchise area. It contributes almost 20 percent of the entire country's power generation mix.

Malampaya has also provided significant income to the government, totaling P290.76 billion from January 2002 until June 30, 2021.

"This development is alarming. Malampaya is our only source of natural gas in the country and the Senate investigation show that the owner of Udenna is buried in debt and has no technical expertise in this kind of business," Gatchalian said in Filipino.

He said he has been warning for a long time that if Malampaya will be controlled by an entity without solid credentials, the country will suffer.





PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SUZUKI PHILIPPINES INC.

OVER 200 Suzuki Burgman Street riders joined a one-day clean-up drive and cleared the Rave Forest Adventure Park in Pasig City the park of trash, to raise awareness about problems of rising levels of pollution.

## 200 Suzuki Riders in Pasig cleanup

Promoting environmental awareness is an integral part of Suzuki Philippines' corporate social responsibility. We can start fixing the problems that threaten our ecosystem by teaching the community, our riders, and friends that the physical environment is fragile and indispensable

Over 200 Suzuki Burgman Street riders joined a one-day cleanup ride at the Rave Forest Adventure Park in Pasig City to raise awareness about the pressing problem of rising levels of pollution that hurt the environment directly or indirectly.

The Suzuki Cleanup Ride is part of the "Suzuki Helps, Aids & Rebuilds (SHARE) program and was participated by Suzuki Burgman Street Elite Riders Club PH's different chapters from Pasig, South Caloocan, Malabon, Quezon City, Laguna, Rizal, and Cavite as well as members of the press and the

"motovlogging" community.

"By showcasing the Burgman Street in this manner, it solidifies the fact that the Burgman Street is a very important product to Suzuki Philippines," according to Nenuka Guba, motorcycle marketing manager at Suzuki Philippines Inc.

Ricky Delgado, a member of the AKKAPP (Abot-Kamay ng mga may Kapansanan ang Pagunlad ng Pasigueno) PWD Federation, said the "cleanup ride aims to show the public that the riding community and Suzuki are part of the holistic approach in caring for our environment."

Suzuki Burgman Street Elite Riders: Laguna Chapter, co-founder and team leader Jaz Tan added that they utilized social media channels, including Facebook, to invite as many participants to this worthy initiative.

"I am delighted with the number of participants. I want to thank them all and Suzuki Philippines for giving us the opportunity to join this event," she added.

Her sentiments were echoed by *Lifestyle on Wheels* writer Alex Alo, who described how the riders tidied up Rave Forest and suggested that Suzuki expands the effort.

### The Burgman experience

Interestingly, Burgman Street users were in unison with their praises about the scooter, which they said is the best in its segment — that is perfect for work, leisure travel and long rides.

"I have a knee problem that makes mobility challenging for me," said "motovlogger" Telly Buhay of Turbanrider. "Burgman is perfect because of its spacious floorboard and step-through features. I am very satisfied with this scooter's performance that I use it every day!"

Arius Franco, co-Admin for the Manila Chapter and Cocz Marcelo, administration officer in the Malabon Chapter, cited the Burgman's fuel-efficiency that offers value-for-money and better mileage per liter. The large floorboard allows for more cargo space for Franco's



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200 Suzuki Riders ...

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deliveries.

The Suzuki Burgman Street comes with a 125cc, four-stroke, single-cylinder, SOHC, two-valve engine that boasts up to 53.50 km/L consumption. It has sufficient power for daily city rides, and its smooth CVT automatic makes riding effortless that it requires only a simple twist of the wrist to operate.

Burgman Street also churns out 8.58hp and 10.2 N-m of torque. The air-cooled and fuel-injected engine is efficient and straightforward enough for daily tasks around the city, while remaining smooth and easy to operate. All of these at P78,900 pesos only.

“The Burgman also offers a comfortable ride. It’s like sitting on a sofa,” Marcelo added. “For me, Burgman is packed with relevant features.”

But for Gilbert Chao, a veteran writer and rider himself of *Motoph.com*, *The Monitor Mindanao Today*, and the *Pilipino Star Ngayon*, said the Burgman provides users with one of the best acceleration in its category, in addition to a comfortable ride. Most importantly, the size of the scooter makes it safe for the rider.

“In my opinion, Burgman provides better road presence (because of its size). The more noticeable you are on the road, the safer you are from other motorists,” he said.

#### Ride for the environment

According to Buhay, the one-day clean-up activity showcased that riders are not just about leisure or cross-region travel. It also speaks of the community’s responsibility to the environment through various initiatives such as this.

“Promoting environmental awareness is an integral part of Suzuki Philippines’ corporate social responsibility. We can start fixing the problems that threaten our ecosystem by teaching the community, our riders, and friends that the physical environment is fragile and indispensable. As stewards of the environment, we encourage everyone to participate in the change and teach our community what is needed to create a sustainable future,” Guba said.

16 MAY 2022, MONDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

## COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# COVAX commits to replace expiring gov't-procured vaccines

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora [May 14, 2022, 8:39 pm](#)



(File photo)

**MANILA** – The COVAX Facility has offered to replace with fresh ones expiring coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines, both donated and procured by the government, the Department of Health (DOH) said Saturday.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said negotiations are underway to replace expiring vaccines with COVAX-donated shots.

"[M]ay commitment na rin naman po sa COVAX verbally, kung saan nag-commit naman sila na maaari naman nilang palitan, kahit na hindi iyong mga donation nila, iyong mga prinocure natin, na set to expire ay maaari din daw nilang palitan (There's a verbal commitment from COVAX that they can replace not only those that they have donated but also doses we procured and are set to expire)," she said in a "Laging Handa" briefing.

Vergeire said the DOH had complied with the requests made by COVAX, including the use of a "demand forecasting tool" to show the actual number of vaccines in the stockpiles and the doses Manila would still need in the coming months.

"Hinihintay po natin iyong response nila pero they already were able to set a meeting with us by next week (We're just waiting for their response but they already set a meeting with us by next week)," she said.

The DOH earlier said about 3.6 million coronavirus vaccine doses donated to the Philippines have expired.

COVAX is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines.

The Philippines targets to inoculate at least 77 million individuals by the end of June, representing 85 percent of 90 million eligible for vaccination.

To date, the country has fully vaccinated 68.5 million.

Meanwhile, the DOH continues to ramp up the nationwide inoculation drive, particularly in areas with low vaccination rates.



A national government-led special vaccination days are ongoing in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao until May 20.

During Monday's election, the DOH was able to vaccinate 7,407 in 333 job stations near polling precincts. **(PNA)**

# Metro Manila remains under Level 1 until end-May, more areas under loosest alert level

ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 15 2022 09:18 PM | Updated as of May 15 2022 09:30 PM



Members of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) assist commuters taking public transportation on Commonwealth-Litex Road in Quezon City on April 08, 2022. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News

MANILA - Metro Manila and dozens of other areas nationwide will remain under the loosest of the 5-tier COVID-19 Alert Level system until the end of the month, Malacañang announced on Sunday.

Acting Palace spokesperson Martin Andanar said the following areas would be under Alert Level 1. This, amid the presence of the more transmissible omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 in the capital region and tourist spot Puerto Princesa.

## LUZON

- Abra
- Apayao
- Kalinga
- Mountain Province
- Baguio City
- Kiangan, Ifugao
- Ilocos Norte
- Ilocos Sur
- La Union
- Pangasinan
- Dagupan City
- Batanes
- Cagayan
- Isabela
- Nueva Vizcaya
- Quirino
- City of Santiago
- Aurora
- Bataan
- Bulacan
- Nueva Ecija
- Pampanga



Tarlac  
Zambales  
Angeles City  
Olongapo City  
Batangas  
Cavite  
Laguna  
Rizal  
Lucena City  
Marinduque  
Oriental Mindoro  
Romblon  
Puerto Princesa City  
Albay  
Catanduanes  
Naga City  
Balud, Masbate  
Irosin, Sorsogon

## VISAYAS

Aklan  
Capiz  
Guimaras  
Iloilo  
Bacolod City  
Iloilo City  
Siquijor  
Cebu City  
Lapu-Lapu City  
Mandaue City  
Calape, Bohol  
Garcia Hernandez, Bohol  
San Isidro, Bohol  
San Miguel, Bohol  
Alcoy, Cebu  
Borbon, Cebu  
Oslob, Cebu  
Pilar, Cebu  
Santander, Cebu  
Tudela, Cebu  
Bacong, Negros Oriental  
Dauin, Negros Oriental  
Valencia (Luzarriaga), Negros Oriental  
Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental;  
Biliran  
Eastern Samar  
Southern Leyte  
Ormoc City  
Tacloban City  
Tarangnan, Samar  
Zumarraga, Samar



## MINDANAO

Zamboanga City  
Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur Diplahan, Zamboanga Sibugay  
Bukidnon  
Camiguin  
Misamis Occidental  
Misamis Oriental  
Cagayan de Oro City  
Iligan City  
Davao City  
Surigao del Sur  
Butuan City  
Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat  
Upi, Maguindanao

Under the lowest pandemic level, establishments and public transportation can operate at full capacity, while schools can also implement in-person classes.

The following areas, meanwhile, were placed under Alert Level 2 from XX until May 31:

## LUZON

Benguet  
Ifugao  
Quezon Province  
Occidental Mindoro  
Palawan  
Camarines Norte  
Camarines Sur  
Masbate  
Sorsogon

## VISAYAS

Antique  
Negros Occidental  
Bohol  
Cebu Province  
Negros Oriental  
Leyte  
Northern Samar  
Western Samar

## MINDANAO

City of Isabela  
Zamboanga del Sur  
Zamboanga del Norte  
Zamboanga Sibugay  
Lanao del Norte  
Davao del Norte  
Davao del Sur  
Davao Oriental  
Davao de Oro





Davao Occidental  
General Santos City  
North Cotabato  
Sarangani  
Sultan Kudarat  
South Cotabato  
Agusan del Norte  
Agusan del Sur  
Dinagat Islands  
Surigao del Norte  
Basilan  
Cotabato City  
Lanao del Sur  
Maguindanao  
Sulu  
Tawi-Tawi

Under Alert Level 2, casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops are banned, unless authorized by the COVID-19 task force or the Office of the President.

Philippines reported 175 new cases on Saturday, less than 200 for the 13th straight day, ABS-CBN Data Analytics head Edson Guido said.

The number of active cases, 3,008, is the lowest since April 5, 2020, he added.



# DBM issues P1.1 billion for COVID-19 ward workers

[Elijah Felice Rosales](#) - The Philippine Star May 16, 2022 | 12:00am



Health workers attend to patients at the Mandaluyong City Medical Center on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022.  
The STAR / Walter Bollozos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has issued roughly P1.1 billion in funds for the release of sickness and death benefits to workers assigned in COVID-19 wards.

The DBM yesterday announced the release of P1.08 billion to the Department of Health (DOH) for the grant of benefits to health and non-health workers in both public and private hospitals.

According to the DBM, the DOH will use the amount to provide compensation to workers who, in the line of duty, contracted COVID-19 or died from it this year.

Based on the guidelines, health and non-health workers who caught mild COVID-19 can obtain P15,000 in benefits from the DOH. If they acquire a severe case of the virus, they can apply for up to P100,000 worth of compensation.

Likewise, an indemnification of P1 million can be availed by families of hospital staff who died in the line of duty from COVID-19. The DBM said workers qualified to receive sickness and death benefits can look up to the classification requirements set by the agency with the DOH.

The DBM said the P1.1-billion release to the DOH was charged against its regular budget under the 2022 General Appropriations Act.

As such, the DBM said the amount will be downloaded by the DOH to its retained and corporate hospitals, treatment and rehabilitation facilities, centers for health development, among others.

In January the DBM disbursed the sum of P7.92 billion to the DOH for the provision of the One COVID-19 Allowance (OCA) for health workers involved in pandemic response.

The OCA replaces the special risk allowance, hazard pay and other benefits that health workers receive for working in COVID-19 wards. Upon issuance, the DBM said the OCA will be given out to a total of 526,727 health workers in both public and private hospitals.

The bulk of the amount at P4.5 billion was directed for COVID-19 benefits of 100,313 health workers in public hospitals, including those in military camps and state universities, employed by the DOH. The remaining P3.42 billion was allocated for 426,414 health personnel reporting for local governments and private institutions.



In April, President Duterte also signed into law a measure providing health workers in both public and private hospitals with mandatory benefits even for future emergencies.

On the side of the DBM, it committed to the timely approval of budget releases for programs and projects protecting the welfare of health workers.

16 MAY 2022, MONDAY



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MANILA

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10



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Miz July

May 14 at 7:17 PM · 🌐



Inararo na back to back dolomite sand at dolomite pebbles



241

17 Shares

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Miz July

May 14 at 7:13 PM · 🌐

Nako po biglang naging ganito ang Phase2 Dolomite

See Translation



👍❤️😮 1.1K

42 Comments · 97 Shares

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