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DENR

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STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Pinutol na bakawan ginawang bakod QUEZON COUNCILOR KAKASUHAN NG DENR

May 4, 2022 jp admin



KAKASUHAN ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang isang incumbent municipal councilor sa bayan ng Tagkawayan, Quezon na miyembro pa naman ng Committee on Environment, matapos nitong ipaputol ang ilang bakawan o mangrove sa Barangay Sabang, Tagkawayan upang gawing bakod sa kanilang bahay.

Ayon kay Barangay Captain Melinda Branagan ng Barangay Sabang, Abril 21, 2022 noong malaman niya na mayroong pumutol ng mga bakawan sa kanilang lugar dahil na rin sa sumbong ng ilang concerned citizen.

Laking gulat daw ni Kapitan nang makita na ibinakod sa bahay ni Councilor Victoriano Salamat ang mga bakawan na pinutol.

Agad na nag-imbetiga ang Sangguniang Barangay at doon nakumpirma na pinutol nga ang mga bakawan sa tabi ng dagat. Naabutan pa ng mga awtoridad ang mga naiwang pinutol na bakawan sa lugar.

Matapos mai-report ng Sangguniang Barangay ng Sabang sa DENR ang pangyayari ay kaagad na nagsagawa ng imbestigasyon ang CENRO Calauag.

Napag-alaman ng DENR, base sa salaysay ng mismong pumutol ng mga bakawan na si Orlando Duazo, inutusan lang siya ni Councilor Victoriano Salamat na kumuha ng mga bakawan upang gawing bakod.

Ayon kay Duazo, noong una raw siyang utusan ni Councilor Salamat na kumuha ng mga bakawan ay tumanggi siya dahil alam niyang bawal ito.

Subalit sa pangalawang pagkakataon daw nang utusan siyang kumuha ay pumutol na siya ng mga bakawan dahil nasa pribadong lupa naman ito.

Nitong nakaraang araw ay inilabas na ng DENR Calauag ang resulta ng kanilang imbestigasyon. Kinumpirma ni Joselito Barros, CENRO Officer, na mga bakawan nga ang pinutol na aabot sa higit 30 piraso na maituturing na magandang klase.

Nahaharap si Councilor Salamat sa kasong paglabag sa Section 71 ng Presidential Decree 705 as Amended by EO 227 (All Mangrove Species Shall Be Banned For Cutting) at paglabag sa Articles 309 and 310 ng Revised Penal Code. (NILOU DEL CARMEN)

Source: <https://saksingayon.com/balita/pinutol-na-bakawan-ginawang-bakod-quezon-councilor-kakasuhan-ng-denr/?fbclid=IwAR0wau4UMx3TB8HVe7-JOKGqzTjLD4wW1kl4Xkh119TkAfi9MnS389Mqunc>



SMPC fills Panian open-pit mine

May 5, 2022 | 12:01 am



SEMIRARA Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) said it had completed its backfilling operations in Panian, which it described as once the largest open-pit mine in the Philippines.

In a statement on Wednesday, the integrated energy company said it had spent 11.5 million man-hours to fill the pit with over 452 million bank cubic meters of earth material or “enough to fill 217,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.”

Maria Cristina C. Gotianun, SMPC president and chief operating officer, said: “We are mindful of our twin role as stewards and government contractor. What we accomplished in Panian is proof of that.”

Panian mine in Semirara Island covers 400 hectares. During its mine life, it had topographic elevations that ranged from 300 meters below sea level to 30 meters above sea level.

SMPC said 300 meters “is roughly the height of a 90-story building.”

The listed firm said it had fully covered the pit in six years, or ahead of the 10-year mine rehabilitation plan. The rehabilitation calls for the repair of land that was disturbed by mining activities.

“The company is now developing a science-based plan to reforest and restore the biodiversity in the area,” the company said. “Panian had a mine life of 16 years and generated P12.7 billion in royalties for the government and SMPC host communities.”

It said of the amount, P7.6 billion went to the national government while P2.3 billion and P1.8 billion were received by Caluya town and Brgy. Semirara, respectively. Up to P1 billion went to Antique province.

SMPC also said that it had won in September last year the ASEAN Energy Awards’ special submission category for its accelerated rehabilitation of South Panian pit.

It said it had completely filled North Panian with earth material last January, or four months ahead of its committed date to the Department of Energy.

On Thursday, shares in SMPC slipped by 25 centavos or 0.91% to end at P27.25 each at the stock exchange.

Source: https://www.bworldonline.com/corporate/2022/05/05/446512/smpc-fills-panian-open-pit-mine/?fbclid=IwAR0NooppAxxgJ7CEdw4G0na94kL_1kGxrgxY8RohsQ03_B6t5gI5VUuPOQ5I



NVizcaya mining firm pays P53M-tax

By [Leander C. Domingo](#) May 5, 2022



The facilities of the FCF Minerals Corp. in Runruno, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

QUEZON, Nueva Vizcaya: A London-based mining company has remitted more than P53.203 million in taxes to the local government here for the first and second quarters of this year amid the economic downturn brought by the pandemic.

[James Carmichael](#), [FCF Minerals Corp.](#) country manager, said the amount of P7.769 million in real property taxes for the first quarter of 2022 is expected to boost this municipality's economy as it recovers from the effects of the pandemic.

He said other local taxes remitted to the municipal government here were local business taxes, mayor's permit, and other regulatory fees for the first and second quarters of 2022.

These payments to the municipal treasurer's office include the mayor's permit and other regulatory fees for 2022 amounting to P508,819.72, and local business taxes for the first and second quarter of 2022 amounting to P44.924 million.

On top of this, FCF has more than P98 million allocated funds for the implementation of the 2022 Social Development and Management Program to the host and neighboring communities, including this municipality, Kasibu town (Nueva Vizcaya) and the neighboring town of Diffun in Quirino province.

For the fiscal year 2019 before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the municipal local government unit of Quezon was number one among all local government units across the country in the collection efficiency of locally sourced revenues.

Carmichael said this effort of the company has been an important factor for this municipality to be recognized for its tax collection efficiency.

He said it was no less than the [Bureau of Local Government Finance](#) which published the municipality's performance in tax collection, which was attributed to FCF's consistent payment of taxes to the local government.

FCF operates the national government-sanctioned Runruno Gold-Molybdenum Project (RGMP) under a financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) with an initial validity of 25 years.



Carmichael said their FTAA gives FCF the right to explore, mine, utilize and transport the mineral products from the contract area in Barangay Runruno in this municipality with the operation of their RGMP.

Located around 300 kilometers north of [Manila](#), FCF expects to produce at its mine site an estimated 1.3 million ounces of gold for 10 years.

FCF feasibility study showed the project has the potential to mine an average of 96,700 ounces of gold per year in 10 years of mine life at an average operating cost of \$477 per ounce.

"Paying our taxes to this municipality is also part of the company's corporate social responsibility," Carmichael added.



PH banks na nagpopondo sa 'coal,' sawatain – WFC

By Abante News Last updated May 5, 2022



Hinimok ng energy advocacy at bank watchdog group na Withdraw from Coal (WFC) ang sinumang susunod na administrasyon na sawatain ang mga bangko na patuloy na nagpopondo o namumuhunan sa 'coal' para sa enerhiya.

Ang WFC ay naglalabas ng kanilang annual Coal Divestment Scorecard mula pa noong 2020 upang alamin ang 'financing activities' ng mga 'domestic banks', sukatin ang kanilang 'divestment efforts' sa industriya ng coal o uling, at suriin ang kanilang 'climate action policies.'

"The findings of the report show us that banks managed to dodge being direct coal financiers by underwriting or selling bonds issued by coal developers. Banks cannot trick us into believing that they are truly divesting from coal unless they close this loophole of funneling funds through bonds. We need to fix this disconnect between domestic banks' no-coal stance with the reality of their financing activities," sambit ni Gerry Arances, Executive Director ng Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development at co-convenor ng WFC.

Sa report, may limang bangko pa rin umano ang sangkot sa bond issuance ng AboitizPower, ang ikalawang largest coal developer sa bansa, bagamat inanunsiyo na ang mga plano na higpitan at i-phase down ang kanilang 'coal exposures.'

Sinabi naman ni Rodne Galicha, Executive Director ng Living Laudato Si' Philippines na nakakaalarna din ang pagtaas ng domestic banks na namumuhunan sa ibang fossil fuel sa anyo ng fossil gas na tinawag na "Philippines newpreferred fuel and peddled as a cleaner alternative to coal."



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Para masala ang dami ng mga turista sa Boracay, maglalabas ng bagong QR code para sa isla ang Aklan LGU.

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'Look at the bigger picture': Environmentalists, experts warn possible health risks in plastic upcycling as initiative booms

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

Posted at May 05 2022 07:14 PM



Workers sort different types of plastic at The Plastic Flamingo upcycling facility in Muntinlupa City on March 18, 2022. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

This is the second part of a 3-part series. You can read the first part [here](#).

MANILA — Under the heat of the sun, plastics worker Aldrin Aguilar and his companions sift through plastic waste at The Plastic Flamingo's warehouse in Muntinlupa. Carrying a dulling cutter, two workers picked up PET bottles from the flexible freight bag to remove its sheet labels, as containers and other discards got separated to another sack.

At the bottom of the bag sat electronic parts from washing machines and fans. Diapers were set aside. Bubble wraps and plastic cups, meanwhile, were put into the other bag. Workers kept moving until their shift neared its end, sweat dripping from their brows, dampening their face masks.

"May pag-asa, malaki ang pag-asa... kapag malaman ng tao na magagamit ito (plastic trash) balang araw, yung kung saan saan lang itinapon, ipunin niyo lang tapos may maaano rin ang bawat tao," Aguilar told ABS-CBN News.

(There is hope, a big hope when people find out that these plastic trash, which gets thrown away everywhere, can be used some day. You can just collect it for now so it can be used in the future.)

Aguilar, 22, said he first applied as a driver for the firm at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Two years later, he is now part of the plastic extrusion process for the recycling business, filled with hope that he, too, could help solve plastic pollution.

Aguilar witnessed first-hand how marine trash gets converted into plastic lumbers and eco-boards, helping him understand the country's plastic problem from the source. He looks at the firm's first demo shelter behind him, made out of 4 tons of discarded plastics, a testimony of how the seemingly unusable plastic waste could turn into a home.

"Nakatulong (maintindihan), kasi mayroon dito galing pa sa mga lugar sa mga dagat, mga kalat doon. Nakita rin nila yung (ginagawa) ng Flamingo, napapakinabangan ng Flamingo ito," he added.

(It helped me understand it because we were able to collect marine litter, literally plastic discards from the seas. They saw what the Plastic Flamingo is doing and that we can use these.)



A view of the shelter made out of eco-lumber at The Plastic Flamingo upcycling facility in Muntinlupa City on March 18, 2022. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

In Plaridel, Bulacan, Green Antz plastics station administrator Mark Dizon touted his employer's efforts to divert plastic waste, with partners from local governments, households, and the Department of Education boosting their plastic collection.

But he added that plastic pollution cannot be solved only by recycling firms — individuals must also do their part: "Masosolve natin yan basta magkaroon ng disiplina ang bawat isa sa atin, tulad ng pagtapon ng... plastic na napupunta lang sa mga landfill."

(We can solve these as long as everyone has the discipline. For example, throwing away plastics properly that end up in landfills.)

But as recyclers look above and beyond to solve plastics pollution, scientists and advocates warn of a threat lurking from within: the potential health risks that their upcycling process have to humans, and its possible impact on the environment in the long-term.

Aside from the reported dangers of the recycling style, some cast doubt on how upcycling could solve the plastics crisis given its "limited" capacity, while other advocates said it only prolongs the problem.

"They do not address the problem at source, hindi pa rin nababawasan yung production [of plastics]. When we address the plastic pollution, it should be reduction sa production," Ecowaste Coalition's Coleen Salamat said in an interview.

WHEN PLASTIC WASTES GET MELTED

Dr. Jorge Emmanuel, adjunct professor of environmental science and engineering at the Silliman University, warned that melting plastics could discharge thousands of unknown chemicals that people directly involved in manufacturing could get exposed to.

In a study he co-wrote in 2020, scientists noted around [12,000 chemicals](#) present in some food-contact plastics, like packaging and containers, many of which have yet to be identified or tested for their impacts on human health.

"There's a total of between 11,000 to 12,000 chemicals added into plastics and food contact material. In addition, there are 30,000 or more of non-intentionally added substances," said Emmanuel, a former United Nations Development Program's chief technical advisor on global health-care waste projects.

"We are basically warning that even plastics made for food, it turns out that out of those 12,000 chemicals that have been added, only a small portion of them were ever tested for their toxic effects and their exposure data," he explained to ABS-CBN News.

This means, he said, when recycling firms melt polymer waste, some of which are food-grade plastics, they might be releasing all these chemicals. He mentioned though that melting plastics

can be done in a safe, industrial facility to avoid some of his concerns.

"Some of these chemicals cause cancer, some of these chemicals are mutagens, they cause mutations, many of them are what people _____-- endocrine disruptors or endocrine-disrupting chemicals," he said.



Workers put the shredded plastic sachets into a heat press inside The Plastic Flamingo upcycling factory in Muntinlupa City on March 18, 2022. *George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News*

At the end of the upcycled plastics life, it will still become waste, noted the scientist. What should be considered now is the perspective on the plastics' cycle – from its creation until it reaches the end of its usefulness.

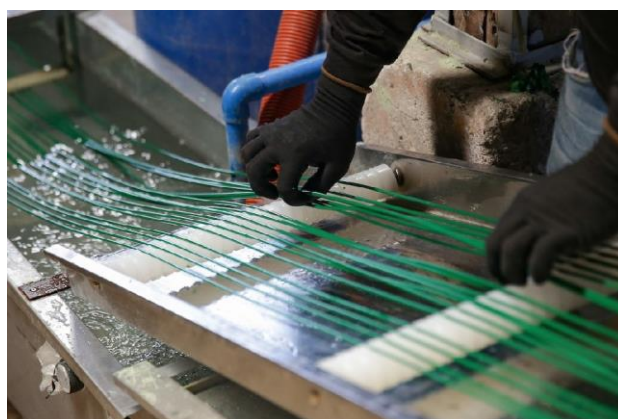
"We need to look at the entire life cycle, and we need to be able to reduce the plastic pollution problem by locating from the bigger picture," he said.

Greenpeace campaigner Marian Ledesma also expressed concern over the possible dangers plastic extrusion could have to employees directly exposed to the manufacturing process, as well as its impact on consumers.

This includes, she said, possible leaching of toxic chemicals, exposure to plastic dusts, and skin burns during accidents.

"All in all, plastic in itself is a very toxic na product, [so it's] not just [the] kinds of chemicals used to stabilize or create the right characteristics pero also toxic in the sense that 99 percent of plastics are from fossil fuels and that's also a whole other issue rin of risks," she said in an interview.

"Even if it is food-grade, there is a possibility of those chemicals going from plastic containers to our food. What are the technical specifications around that? It is something we have to look at."



In the Plaf's warehouse, as the green, melted plastic oozed in a machine that yielded recycled plastic pellets —seen as an alternative to virgin plastics — weak fumes but a strong smell of chemicals rushed in the air, defying two layers of face masks. This recycling line, the firm said, produces recycled HDPE.

Officers present during the demonstration told the news team that the smell and fumes were part of the operations, given that the machine just set off, and these would subside as operations went on.

While the firm's workers were wearing basic personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, gloves, and a helmet, these were not enough to protect them from inhaling the vapor.

Its plastics worker, Aguilar, downplayed the effects.

"Mainit siya, tapos pagtunaw namin may chemicals na ano... pero may PPE naman kami sa katawan," he told ABS-CBN News.

(It is hot and when we melt it there are some chemicals... but we wear our own PPE.)

"Normal lang naman, hindi naman siya yung matapang na chemical. Ayos lang naman yung ano niya, hindi naman siya maano sa kalusugan."

(It is normal. The chemicals were not that strong. It is okay, it is not dangerous to our health.)

MICROPLASTICS

In Bulacan, a Green Antz worker without goggles pushed PET bottles into the shredding machine, where bits of sharp plastic pieces splattered directly in front of him.

Dizon said they require workers to wear protective clothing, including face masks, "transparent shades," and gloves, so accidents would be prevented. He claimed that no accidents have happened so far, but they were concerned about the plastic dust.



"Siguro yung alikabok lang... Madali naman siyang solusyonan dahil sa face mask. Sa aksidente, wala pa kong nae-encounter na nasugatan, nasaktan," he told ABS-CBN News during the site visit in February.

(Maybe it's just the dust. It can be solved easily by wearing a face mask. When it comes to accidents, I have not encountered anyone getting wounded or even injured.)

Clarified if the dust he was referring to were plastic particles, he answered in the affirmative.

"Sa ganyan naman, pinapabasa ko kasi yung mask nila, para protective siya, hindi siya ganoon pumasok sa ano natin, ma-inhale," the officer said.

(When it comes to those things, I ask them to wet their masks to protect them, so we do not inhale the plastic dusts.)

Research has shown that inhaling plastic particles can cause inflammation and lesions in lungs. Utah-based biogeochemist Dr. Janice Brahney has warned that "repeated exposure is suspected of leading to respiratory problems like asthma and cancer."

Microplastics inhalation, she added, may also increase the vulnerability of a person to toxic chemicals from coating and the plastic's substances. Just recently, scientists detected the presence of the ubiquitous particles in [blood for the first time](#).

Emmanuel, for his part, worried about the added pollution once the ecobricks break down, thus releasing the plastic particles it first glued together but would get leaked to nature.

"The plastics will become again... waste into our environment.... In about, say 40 years from now, they will break into the environment and they will be washed through rains, runoffs, go into our lakes, our rivers, our oceans," the scientist explained.

"If they are eaten by fish, eaten by animals, we end up eating them so the net effect is that in the coming years and generations, humans, us now and future generations, will have higher exposures to toxic substances because of the microplastics in our food and in our drinks."



Workers let newly-moulded bricks mixed with upcycled plastics settle at a rack at the Green Antz site in Plaridel, Bulacan. *Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News*

The problem has been documented by the Philippine Institute Development Studies in 2020, noting the [abundance of microplastics](#) in Tañon Strait, home to a variety of whales and dolphins. It is the biggest protected area in the country, highlighting the need for the country to manage its plastic wastes.

"There is likely occurrence of human exposure because salted fish gut, locally known as 'dayok', is a common delicacy among Filipinos," the study reads.

"The relatively high microplastic occurrence in Tañon Strait shows that the Philippines has been contributing a substantial volume of plastic debris into the marine ecosystem," it added.

Filipino researchers in Cebu City, meanwhile, also found the [presence of microplastics](#) in top commercially sold fishes in the province's major public wet markets, raising concerns on the possibility of people eating microplastics, too.

Microplastics stay longer in fishes' guts, so they recommend its removal before they are consumed.

"The ingestion of fishes is of primary concern as a route of human exposure to [microplastics] because they filter a large volume of seawater and are typically eaten whole without gut removal," the study reads.

Froilan Grate, GAIA's Asia Pacific coordinator, said ecobricks' solutions are limited and do not do anything to solve plastic pollution.

The real problem, he said, is the continued production of plastics. "The biggest problem for us is, yung amount of waste that we can actually address.... what do we do with these?"

"Yung limits ng solution na yun is a problem and yung narrative na 'ay nagagamit naman namin siya, natin siya sa bricks na yun' [or] okay lang mag-continue gumamit ng plastic," noted Grate.

(The limits of the solution is the problematic narrative which states 'oh we are using them for our bricks' or 'it is okay to use plastic.')

"In this particular context, we are actually in a way, delaying the problem but it does not solve the problem."

FIRST THINGS FIRST: EXTRUSION, COMPRESSION HEATING ARE NOT BURNING

Envirotech and The Plaf clarified that they are not burning plastics. Rather, their manufacturing and production processes only melt these and mold them into recycled products. This, they emphasized, poses no harm.

Different plastic types have different melting and ignition points, but such firms usually mix plastic wastes into the extruder. A formulation is being followed for each prototype, including for compression molding, ABS-CBN News has learned.

Openly burning plastic wastes is not allowed under Philippines' [environmental laws](#).

Lemen said they dry their plastic feedstock so that dirt, oil, and other contaminants will be taken out before they get extruded at a temperature of 200-degrees Celsius.

Melting plastics through thermal heating, he pointed out, "is not direct burning." A deodorizer in their plant also muffles the fumes in their extruder when the materials are softened.

"This thermal process is widely accepted when it comes to recycling the plastic. So there's no contest about it, we just have to make sure that the temperature should be not more than 500-degrees centigrade as allowed by the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources]"

"In this case it is not emitting any foul odor or any effluents or any toxic material that can be harmful to our employees and the surroundings," Lemen explained.

"It has a cone inside it or activated carbon. And then that's the one capturing all the steam or the smoke that's coming out. It is the one filtering the smoke. When it is out of the deodorizer, it's going to be clean already."



The Plaf, on the other hand, said they do not melt their plastics to over 250-degrees Celsius. Just like Envirotech, they only accept clean plastics to avoid dangerous fumes from unwanted particles.

"If we are already melting it above then it is already burning. So iniwasan namin yun (we are avoiding that). That's why we are also accepting clean plastic kasi, so that there will be no liquid residue na makaka-affect sa (that will affect the) fumes," Reyes said.



"The process will harm you if you are burning the plastic and if you are doing a chemical reaction. Right now we are just melting the plastic, the process does not yield any chemical byproducts in melting. Meaning you are just changing [it] physically," she added.

CAMPAIGNERS ASK: WHAT IS THEIR SAFETY GUARANTEE?

Grate said he was concerned over the sale of upcycled plastic products without further studies for their possible impact on health and the environment.

"Established na that all these chemicals have health risks for us, especially food contact, kasi mas mai-ingest natin kasi kinakain natin yung laman niyan. What more pa kaya these products na hindi mo alam kung saan galing yung basura?" Grate told ABS-CBN News.

(It is already established that these chemicals have health risks for us, especially the food contact ones because we ingest the food placed in it. Then what more about the products where we do not know where the plastic wastes came from?)

While upcycled fences, planks, and eco-boards are directly sold, some items such as canisters, drink coasters, and plastic pots are sold online through their websites or e-commerce platforms.

Plastic products usually escape product review, since so far, only plastic stools, monoblocs, and plastic PVC pipes are among items under the Department of Trade and Industry's (DTI) [mandatory product certification](#).

"To see that it is currently used for food-contact materials, that's an even higher danger for us, for consumers," Grate said, referring to an upcycled food canister being sold online.

"The... comment around recycled plastic coming from plastic waste being used for food-contact materials is very very alarming and kailangan dumaan siya sa same process, and certification, and testing, and guarantees, na pinagdadaan ng (that gets through the) regular food contact materials like water bottles or food canisters or similar things," he added.

Product certification is important, the DTI said, to protect consumers from health and safety risks and "to assure the public of the consistency of standardized products in the market."

In a text message, The Plaf said while they are not producing monoblock chairs for now, they assured the public that they would have their items certified with DTI when it gets sold commercially.

Envirotech, on the other hand, said "it would help" if they get DTI's seal soon. The firm is directly selling and donating monobloc chairs to partners.

"We can register," Lemen said in an email.

Emmanuel reminded recycling firms involved in plastic extrusion to only melt acceptable and safe plastic wastes. "I support the recycling of safe plastics—number 1 (PET), number 2 (HDPE), number 5 (PP). That you can recycle— done in many years but it should be done safely."

"If you are involved in this kind of stuff, do your research of what are the chemical additives that have been put into whatever the types of plastics you are doing and also do research and what are the residual chemicals," he said.

The machines in use should also be properly maintained, with temperature controls regularly checked, he said. Plastics in the recycling line should also be uncontaminated and clean. The two firms said they only accept and extrude clean plastics.

"There is something we call cleaning and purging of plastic in the extruders and any of the residuals can cause fumes that you don't want," he said.

For his part, Sirot said plastic molding or melting as a manufacturing process are not dangerous. Fumes will only get toxic depending on the materials or feedstock being melted, he said.

"[The] emission from any plastic process... depends on the feedstock material. If the material contains harmful substances or compounds, poisonous emissions can be generated in the process," he explained.



"More on sa material siya nakadepende, sa feedstock material mo. When these harmful compounds are heated, magre-release ka ng harmful gases and usually these compounds are found in the additives na naka-incorporate doon sa plastics," he added.

(It depends on the material, on the feedstock material. When these harmful compounds are heated, you release harmful gases and usually these compounds are found in the additives incorporated in plastics.)

This was echoed by Khoiria Nor Atika Putri, a polymer scientist completing her PhD at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

In a Zoom interview, Putri said additives and chemicals play a huge role to create the new product, but warned these get evaporated during the manufacturing process.

"If you [ask] what kind of chemical... that could possibly be released, it is very related to what additives they add [for] their products," she said.

"Like if they add lead or mercury, it is very possible for the lead and mercury to be released in the environment in the evaporation process... and if they used a stabilizer, plasticizer, that could be evaporated, that could be released in the environment."

A toxicity test for Envirotech's product in July 2012 showed that it does not have any traces of mercury. Lead content, however, is at 42 parts per million (ppm).

Philippines has a lead content threshold of 90 ppm in food and drink packaging, toys, cosmetics, and school supplies.

The Plaf said they use non-halogenated flame retardants as additives to their products. Sirot said such flame retardant is safe in the production process.

The recycler, on the other hand, is still in the process of having their products tested for harmful substances, their research and development team admitted.

"Chemical tests are currently ongoing to characterize the chemical aspects of our eco-lumbers. This includes toxicity tests, heavy metal concentrations," said Mark Keanu James Exconde, The Plaf's material development engineer.



Among [dangerous plastics](#) that should not be melted or heated outside industrial setups are the polyvinyl chloride or PVC plastics, both Sirot and Emmanuel said.

Plasticizers could be found in PVCs, the plastic type used to manufacture plastic pipes and cable wirings.

Plasticizers, most of which are [phthalates](#), are endocrine-disrupting chemicals that could negatively affect a person's endocrine system when a person is exposed to it, [studies](#) have shown.

PVCs are also being collected by recycling firms but how much of it is being melted or upcycled is still unknown. An [analysis](#) by Greenpeace USA also described PVC as the "most environmentally damaging of all plastic" that even recycling it would be "impractical" because of the harms through its additives.

The Plaf also recognized the harms of melting PVC plastics, which is why they are not including it in their extrusion process.

"Actually that is why we are not melting other plastics like PVC... yun kasi yung mayroong mga fumes. But the polyolefins, wala naman siya masyadong hazardous waste," Reyes said.

(That is why we are not melting plastics like PVC. That produces fumes. But the polyolefins that we have do not have any hazardous contents.)

Sirot also warned about recycling and melting PVC plastics.

"Itong mga ito, masyadong harmful sila sa environment kasi nage-emit sila ng hazardous gases. As a matter of fact... all PVC items contain so much additives that recycling them would be impractical and expensive," he said.

(These PVCs are harmful in the environment because they emit hazardous gases. As a matter of fact... all PVC items contain so much additives that recycling them would be impractical and expensive.)

MATERIAL DEGRADATION

Greenpeace's Ledesma said that not all plastic products are "infinitely recyclable," after firms attested their products could be returned if consumers want to throw them away.

Putri also noted the degradation of upcycled plastic products as years go by. "Overtime, the mechanical strength [could deteriorate]... overtime... it could easily break. Sometimes, you see a powder inside a plastic serving spoon. It means that they are having brittleness (sic) in the material," she added.

Remelting plastics degrades its quality, noted Emmanuel.

A new plastic product made from plastic waste does not have the same purity and quality as the original one, he added.

"When you create a new product, you need to add new plastic and new additives in order to build it to what you want. So having said that, the bigger picture again is recycling of plastics is not the solution but it helps," he said.

Despite this, National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Vice Chairman Crispian Lao said they support the existing infrastructure put forward by these recycling firms.

Lao, who represents the recycling sector in the NSWMC and who is also the founding president of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS), said they want businesses engaged in waste recycling "to flourish" in what they do.



"There was a realization over the years that it is not easy for the government to do it alone, especially for the lack of infrastructure so you have to see how the private sector can come in," he said.

"You have an Envirotech, Greenantz who have the capacity to recycle, upcycle. How do we make it easier for them? How do we recover it to make it easier?"

This series was done under the GAIA-Break Free From Plastic Asia Pacific fellowship.



Legarda: Increase preparedness to prevent disasters

Published 19 hours ago on May 5, 2022 10:45 AM

By TDT @tribunephil



Senatorial aspirant Loren Legarda has reminded government authorities, communities and citizens to boost disaster resilience efforts and reiterated the need to shift from reactive efforts to proactive strategies in strengthening the country's defenses against natural hazards and climate change.

"Most natural hazards turn into disasters because of the lack of preparedness. Preparation, not reaction, is the name of the game," Legarda said.

Legarda added that community preparations for disasters should include regular pruning of trees, dredging of canals and esteros, and the practice of segregating garbage. She also called on communities to heed disaster warnings to prevent disasters.

Legarda stressed that both the national government and local government units (LGUs) must think long-term and do more for improved urban planning and disaster reduction.

"For one, let us look at the enforcement of building standards. Disaster resilience requires good building standards and effective enforcement. LGUs must confront the worsening floods. Thus, they must update their data on flood hazards and vulnerabilities, develop their information base on flood losses, invest in flood protection and mitigation, identify safe land for families to live in and implement the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law at full speed," she added.

Legarda also said that regular structural evaluation of schools, hospitals, private and public buildings and bridges, and the retrofitting of these structures must be done to withstand strong temblors. The regular conduct of safety drills is also important.

"We have seen enough tragedies. Nobody can say we have not been warned. Prevention is always better than cure. We must learn from our past experiences, practice enhanced disaster preparedness, and be proactive in reducing disaster risks," Legarda concluded.

How companies blame you for climate change



(Image credit: Getty Images)

By William Park 5th May 2022

Businesses shape how we talk about climate change, and sometimes this can stop us from paying attention to their actions.

It's an advert that is infamous in environmental circles. A man who appears to be an indigenous American paddles a canoe downstream. He starts in relatively pristine waters, but soon paddles alongside discarded newspapers, past industrial buildings, and finally pulls his canoe ashore on a bank littered with waste.

"Some people have a deep, abiding respect for the natural beauty that was once this country," reads the voiceover. "And some people don't," it continues, as a motorist throws litter from their window, spilling at the feet of the canoeist. "People start pollution and people can stop it," the voiceover concludes, as the camera zooms in on a tear rolling down the man's cheek. The advert became known as the "crying Indian" campaign.

The advert was later **heavily criticised for passing the responsibility of reducing litter pollution onto consumers** (and for employing an Italian American actor to play the role of an indigenous American), but when it first aired in 1971 it won awards for its environmental message, says Finis Dunaway, professor of American environmental history at Trent University in Canada.

The advert was paid for by Keep America Beautiful, a group established in the 1950s by leaders from packaging companies like the American Can Company and the Owens-Illinois Glass Company, and other public figures. Keep America Beautiful campaign against littering, but have also lobbied against bottle bills and legislation that would have required packaging to be returnable or recyclable rather than disposable, says Dunaway, who is also the author of **Seeing Green: The Use and Abuse of American Environmental Images**.

Rather than addressing the root cause of America's litter problem – the fact that there was much more disposable packaging after World War Two – their advertising campaigns focused on the bad behaviour of some consumers, he says. "Images and feelings were being manipulated by corporations to put the onus on the individual."



Is it the companies who supply goods and services or the consumers who create the demand who are to blame for environmental damage? (Credit: Getty Images)



Initially, "environmental groups like the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club – in other words big mainstream groups – were part of the Advisory Board for Keep America Beautiful", says Dunaway. "Many of these groups resigned their membership. They no longer wanted to be associated with Keep America Beautiful after this ad, because they saw it as what we today call greenwashing."

Similar **criticisms have been levelled at terms like "carbon footprints"** – which was first coined in a 2005 TV advert from BP. The advert appears to show members of the public being stopped in the street and asked what is "their carbon footprint". Most look a bit perplexed. **BP explains** that the carbon footprint is "the amount of carbon dioxide emitted due to your daily activities – from washing a load of laundry to driving a carload of kids to school".

Images and feelings were being manipulated by corporations to put the onus on the individual – Finis Dunaway

The question of who is responsible for climate change is incredibly complicated, explains my colleague Jocelyn Timperley in an **article for BBC Future's Climate Emotions** series. Is it the companies who supply goods and services or the consumers who create the demand?

On the one hand, **70% of greenhouse gas emissions** in the past two decades can be attributed to 100 fossil fuel producers, according to a report from the CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project). So their role is clearly important. But rich, Western consumers also contribute a **disproportionate amount of emissions** through the choices they make. Another assessment, co-authored by Diana Ivanova, a research fellow specialising in household consumption from the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds in the UK, suggests **households contribute more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions**. It depends on **whom you hold responsible for Scope 3 emissions**, which are "indirect" emissions resulting from using goods and services, for example.

But I am not just interested in whether it is fair to hold individuals responsible for climate change, I want to know how the debate was shaped in that direction. How did companies and corporations influence the language and images we associate with climate change?

Under attack

The Keep America Beautiful advert was broadcast a year after **the first Earth Day in 1970**. The climate was a hot topic; books like Rachel Carson's Silent Spring had inspired grassroots climate activists and the public had recently witnessed the awe-inspiring Earthrise image from the Apollo missions.



The Apollo missions coincided with growing grassroots environmental movements in the 1960s which caused companies to respond to their critics (Credit: Nasa)



Young people were leading a resistance movement to climate change. Companies were "very much sensing they were coming under attack", says Dunaway. Ahead of Earth Day in 1970, "the National Soft Drink Association [now going by the name American Beverage Association] sent out a memo to their members saying what to do if protesters showed up at [their] bottling plants to protest disposable containers. Their answer was to try to appease the crowd by handing out Coke."

Cooperative approaches like this, often led by lobbyists or interest groups, showed companies could be effective in limiting new regulations. Public opinion could be **shaped by the language and images brands used**, and some of the wind could be taken out of public campaigns.

In 1992, the United Nations held the Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The conference, which came to be known as the Rio Earth Summit, aimed to address inequalities in global development and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

"Borrowing a strategy from the past, business recognised that the best defence against the environmental movements' arguments for more government control over corporate activities was attack," wrote James Rowe, now an associate professor of environmental studies at the University of Victoria in Canada, **in 2005**. Corporate social responsibility, he says, became the "preferred strategy for quelling popular discontent".

"The World Business Council emerged in response to the Rio Summit," says Jessica Dempsey, a political ecologist at the University of British Columbia in Canada. "It was this kind of moment of reckoning with the environment and development challenges that were coming to a head in the late 1980s."

"The World Business Council was formed, like many other interest groups, to grow their power," says Dempsey. "[They recognised] that they could be more influential in these multilateral forums if they worked together. So the world's largest corporations were like 'we should work together because we have interests that are at threat'."

In response to this, "just before Rio, Stephan Schmidheiny, founder of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), pleaded with business that unless 'we promote self-regulation... we face government regulation under pressure from the public'," says Rowe.

The cooperative action was a success, Rowe continues. He quotes two representatives of the International Chamber of Commerce (who describe themselves as the "voice of world business"), as saying:

"In general, the feeling among business participants was that the substantive output of UNCED was positive. It could have taken a negative stance on... the role of business, and there was at one time the real possibility that the conference might be pushed to lay down detailed guidelines for the operations of transnational corporations."

But, says Rowe, business "successfully fended off the threat".

The WBCSD say the need for the "sustainable transformation of the systems that govern our world is... more urgent than ever before". The ICC's secretary general, John Denton, says "significant policy changes" will be needed to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. "We believe the best way to get those reforms right is to work hand-in-hand with the business community to design decarbonisation plans that work in the real world." Schmidheiny was asked to comment on his quote, but declined.



Opting in

Without an agreement from the governments of the 179 countries represented at the summit for tighter regulations on fossil fuel use, it was left to companies, and the lobbyists who represent them, to self-regulate, writes Dempsey along with her co-authors Audrey Irvine-Broque and Adriana DiSilvestro in a paper from 2021. This is called free-market environmentalism.

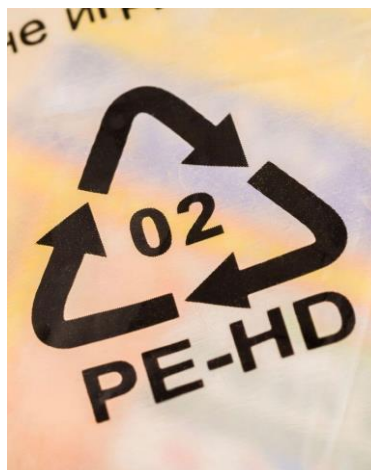
Free-market environmentalism is based on a principle of economics called "self-interest" whereby if companies act in their own best interest their output will benefit the consumer. In the case of free-market environmentalism, if companies can win over more customers by acting in a sustainable way, then they will do so, and less responsible companies will be penalised by the market.

But free-market environmentalism assumes that consumers are able to tell which companies are acting responsibly (which as [Coming Clean](#) has covered in the past, can be **difficult to tell**, particularly when **some advertising is misleading**), and are motivated to choose the most environmental option – which might not always be the best or cheapest.

Increasingly there's a recognition that [free-market environmentalism] failed – Jessica Dempsey

Companies might profit from promoting an environmental image without actually working to reduce their emissions, says Dempsey. "And that's the big problem of greenwashing, which has now become widely understood as a real outcome of free-market environmentalism," she says.

Dunaway gives another example of a method plastic packaging manufacturers have used to promote a sustainable image in a confusing way: resin identification codes. You might be familiar with codes printed on plastics that look a little like recycling symbols but which have a number in their centre.



This resin identification code represents one of the two easily recyclable polymers out of the seven different codes (Credit: Alamy/Marcus Harrison)

"The Society of the Plastics Industry [now called the Plastic Industry Association] took the recycling logo, which is in the public domain so it's not copyrighted, and they made it a bit more triangular in shape and put numbers in it to create the resin codes," says Dunaway. "It telegraphs to the consumer that this is something that is recyclable, and maybe perhaps even has been recycled before."

The PIA insists that the resin identification codes were never intended as an indication of recyclability to be used by consumers.

However, of the seven different plastic resin codes codes – which each represent a different polymer, from high-density polyethylene to PVC – **only a couple are widely recyclable and the others are either difficult or impossible to recycle**.



Then there are those other companies who might make more money selling to consumers who are not particularly motivated by climate issues. "Increasingly there's a recognition that [free-market environmentalism] failed, in part because it has been voluntary," concludes Dempsey. "There's still a lot of money to be made by not participating."

Companies which produce "green" goods tend to have **lower profitability**, according to a 2020 report from Misato Sato, a research fellow at the London School of Economics, and her colleagues. This is in part because these firms operate less efficiently. Added to this, there is still a high demand for less-sustainable products, **like SUVs**, which are among the most popular models of car.

While it might seem harmless for the public to be encouraged to reduce their emissions and recycle, Dunaway warns it could have a downside. "The disconnect between the severity of the climate crisis versus so much focus on these little actions [like recycling or picking up litter], that not only distract from corporate responsibility, but also don't seem to [make] a difference – it's trying to encourage a feeling of empowerment, but I think it sometimes can actually be disempowering."

Keep America Beautiful reprised the "crying Indian" figure in later adverts that repeated similar themes about indigenous people's "reverence" for the land. While today these adverts look out of touch, they created a narrative that lasted for decades that climate change could be tackled from our own homes, concludes Dunaway.

While there is certainly more that we could all be doing, where should we be looking for more action on the climate?

"An important question is who has the most power and agency for a change that will bring sizable cuts to emissions quickly," explains the University of Leeds's Diana Ivanova. "Which really points the finger more to governments and corporations."

We have contacted Keep America Beautiful, BP and American Beverage Association for comment. At present, we have not received a reply.

William Park is a senior journalist at BBC Future. You can find him on Twitter: [@williamhpark](https://twitter.com/williamhpark)

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Climate change ‘already’ raising risk of virus spread between mammals

Mammals forced to move to cooler climes amid global warming are “already” spreading their viruses further – with “undoubtable” impacts for human health, a new study says.



A Flying Fox native to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Southeast Asia hangs out in an enclosure at the Oakland Zoo. Image: [kqedquest](#), CC BY-SA 3.0, via [Flickr](#).

By Daisy Dunne, [Carbon Brief](#) May 5, 2022

The research, published in [Nature](#), uses modelling to map how climate change could shift the geographic ranges of 3,100 mammals species and the viruses they carry by 2070.

It finds that climate change is increasingly driving new encounters between mammal species, raising the risk of novel disease spread. The world’s “biodiversity hotspots” and densely populated parts of Asia and Africa are most likely to be affected.

The findings suggest that climate change could “easily become the dominant [human] driver” of cross-species virus transmission by 2070, the authors say.

The research comes in the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic, a disease [passed](#) from animals to humans that has so far killed more than [six million people](#) across the world.

[We are living in the Anthropocene. We are living in an era where our impact on natural ecosystems is going to lead to more pandemics.](#)

[Dr Colin Carlson, global change biologist, Georgetown University](#)

In their study, the scientists “caution against overinterpreting our results as explanatory of the current pandemic”, but add the “ecological transition” they have identified will “undoubtedly have a downstream impact on human health and pandemic risk”.

Reshuffling nature

Climate change is shifting where species live. As temperatures increase and rainfall changes, some species are being forced to seek out new areas with climate conditions they are able to tolerate. (Species that are not able to move could [face extinction](#).)

In 2008, a [scientific review](#) of 40,000 species across the world found that around half are already on the move as a result of changing climate conditions.

In general, species are seeking cooler temperatures by moving towards the Earth’s poles. Land animals are moving polewards at an average rate of 10 miles per decade, whereas marine species are moving at a rate of 45 miles per decade, according to the review.

As species migrate to new areas, they carry their viruses with them. The new study says there are “at least 10,000” viruses that have the capacity to infect humans, but “at present, the vast majority” of them “are circulating silently in wild mammals.”

The research specifically examines how climate change could affect the likelihood of species coming into contact with each other for the first time as they move into new areas.

This is because new encounters between species are a key element for a “zoonotic spillover” – the passing of harmful pathogens from animals to humans, explains study co-lead author [Dr Colin Carlson](#), a global change biologist at [Georgetown University](#) in Washington DC. He tells Carbon Brief:

“Species are going to show up in new combinations because of climate change and, when they do, that’s an opportunity for them to share viruses with each other.”

In addition to pathogen sharing, first encounters between species also provide a platform for viruses to evolve, he explains:

“The best analogy that exists is thinking about wildlife markets. One of the reasons that people are so concerned about spillover risk in markets is that, if you have a bunch of animals in poor health in close proximity, it’s not just a chance for animals to contact humans, it’s also a chance for viruses either to evolve or to jump through a stepping stone host to get to humans. We’ve seen this over and over again with [coronaviruses](#).”

The results show that any amount of future global warming is likely to drive an unprecedented increase in first encounters between mammal species, he adds:

“What we find is the level of change that species will experience because of climate change will basically leave the host-virus network unrecognisable. That makes sense because ecosystems are going to be recognisable. But it’s at a scale that I think is quite stunning.”

(There are many factors that can determine whether a zoonotic spillover turns into a pandemic. For a full breakdown, see [Carbon Brief’s explainer](#) on climate change and pandemic risk.)

Viral hotspots

For the study, the researchers used modelling to map changes to the geographic ranges of 3,100 mammal species under various future scenarios.

This includes a scenario where future land use is sustainable and the world is successful in meeting the [Paris Agreement](#)’s goal of keeping global temperature rise below 2C above [pre-industrial levels](#) (“[SSP1–RCP2.6](#)”).

It also includes a scenario with “continued fossil fuel reliance” and “rapid land degradation”, where temperatures are likely to exceed 4C (“[SSP5–RCP8.5](#)”).

The research focuses on mammals over other animal groups because they have “the highest proportion of [known] viral diversity” and hold the “greatest relevance to human health,” the authors say.

The scientists used these projections to identify where species are likely to encounter each other for the first time in the future.

In addition, they used a “viral sharing model” to predict the probability of cross-species virus transmission.

The results show that “the vast majority of mammal species will overlap with at least one unfamiliar species somewhere in their potential future range, regardless of [the] emissions scenario.”

Under either future emissions scenario, this “would permit over 300,000 first encounters” between species, the study says.

These first encounters between species are projected to lead to at least 15,000 cross-species transmission events of at least one novel virus – “but potentially many more,” the authors say.

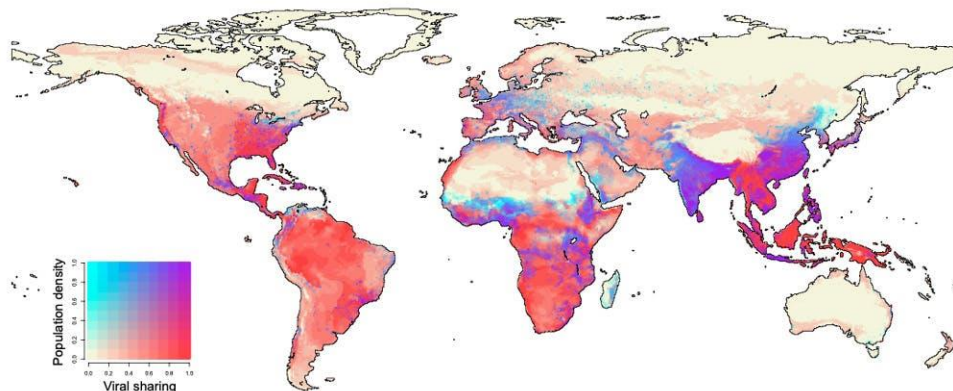
These findings suggest that climate change could “easily become the dominant [human] driver” of cross-species virus transmission by 2070, the authors conclude.

By mapping the likely locations of these cross-species transmission events, the authors found that they are likely to be concentrated in biodiverse and highly populated parts of Africa and Asia, Carlson says:

“We think that this process is most likely to impact human health in south-east Asia, east Asia and parts of central Africa – but there are also hotspots in the US and Europe.”

The map below, taken from the study, indicates where viral sharing events are likely to occur by 2070, under the low greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable land use scenario (“SSP1-RCP2.6”).

On the map, purple indicates where a high number of viral sharing events is likely to overlap with high population density.



Where novel mammal viral sharing events are likely to overlap with high population density (purple) under a low-emissions scenario by 2070. Credit: Carlson et al. (2022).

In addition to examining the likely location of viral sharing events, the authors also explored which types of mammals are most likely to be involved in pathogen transmission.

The results show that, among mammal species, bats “account for the majority of novel viral sharing.”

One major reason for this is because bats are one of the only mammals able to fly – allowing them to easily migrate to new areas in response to warming, Carlson tells Carbon Brief.

‘Ecological transition’

One major takeaway of the new research is that an unprecedented increase in virus sharing between mammals is expected under both a low- and a high-emissions scenario – suggesting accelerated action to tackle climate change would do little to alleviate the risks, the authors say.

In fact, the global migration of species in response to global warming to date suggests that the “ecological transition” identified in the study “may already be underway,” the authors say. Carlson tells Carbon Brief:

“We are living in the [Anthropocene](#). We are living in an era where our impact on natural ecosystems is going to lead to more pandemics.”



The findings suggest there is an urgent need to invest in measures to monitor and respond to the emergence of new diseases from wildlife, says study co-lead author [Dr Gregory Albery](#), a disease ecologist at Georgetown University. He told a press briefing:

“The main message is this: this is happening. It is not preventable, even in the best-case climate change scenario and we need to put measures in place to build health infrastructure to protect animal and human populations.”

“Critically, this bolstered infrastructure needs to be paired with active surveillance of wild animals, their movements and their diseases to ensure we can keep our finger on the pulse of global change,” he continued.

The results represent “a critical first step” in understanding how climate change and land use change may raise the risk of “the next pandemic”, says [Prof Kate Jones](#), an ecologist at University College London, who was not involved in the research. She tells Carbon Brief:

“This is an important study, focusing on where the twin pressures of future climate change and land conversion will increase the likelihood of viruses being shared across mammals. However, predicting the risk of viral jumps from mammals into humans is more tricky as these spillovers take place in a complex ecological and human socioeconomic environment.”

“So although this study provides an excellent basis for understanding potential viral exchange hotspots under future change, the actual risk might be mitigated by many other factors. [This may include] an inability for wild species to successfully track changes in climate and land use, viral incompatibilities preventing spillovers into humans – or an increase in investment in health care provision to prevent initial spillovers,” he concluded.

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06 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



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Task force wraps up rehab, readies turnover of Boracay Island to Malay, Aklan local execs

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA [@jonlmayuga](#)

THE Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF) led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is preparing to turn over the world-renowned Boracay Island to the local government unit (LGU) of Malay, Aklan.

Created by President Duterte through Executive Order (EO) 53 on May 8, 2018, the BIATF took over the rehabilitation and management of Boracay.

On September 14, 2021, the BIATF's term was extended for the second time until June 30, 2022, through EO 147. By the end of June, coinciding with the expiration of its mandate over the island paradise, the BIATF is expected to turn over Boracay to LGU-Malay.

In a news statement, DENR Acting Secretary Jim O. Sampulna expressed hope that the municipal government of Malay will sustain the gains of the Boracay rehabilitation as the task force's term ends next month.

"We are all excited to complete the rehabilitation of Boracay. But we cannot allow anyone to undo—immediately or otherwise—what we have accomplished, or to unlawfully stand in the way to the completion of our mission," Sampulna said.

The DENR chief led the BIATF Principals' Meeting on Boracay Island on April 29 in preparation for the turnover of Boracay Island to the Malay-LGU.

According to Sampulna, the dissolution of the task force does not mean the end of the rehabilitation of the world-famous resort island.

The various agencies and local government units, whether independent of each other or in partnership with one another, can continue the unfinished projects according to their respective priorities under the new administration.

The DENR chief believes the progress of the BIATF is "nothing short of remarkable, if not awesome," particularly in the reduction of fecal coliform counts and the rehabilitation of wetlands.

"Our comfort, by then, is that we have done our part as members of this task force, and that, hopefully, we will be in a position to do more, or that our successors will be able to protect and build on our gains," he said.

During the meeting on April 29, Boracay Inter-Agency Rehabilitation and Management Group (BI-ARMG) General Manager Martin Jose V. Despi bared that Boracay's beach is Class SB-compliant or safe for swimming, as it is within the standard fecal coliform level of 100 most probable number per 100 milliliters (100 MPN/100 mL).

In April 2022, the lowest fecal coliform level was at less than 1.8 MPN/100 mL in three of the 21 sampling stations around the island.

Wetlands recovered

AT the same meeting, Sampulna reported the successful rehabilitation of the Boracay wetlands. He said of the nine wetlands in Boracay, ongoing wetland rehabilitation efforts include improvement of water quality, construction of a linear park and amphitheater in Wetland 4 (adopted by Aboitiz Property Ventures), the establishment of an arboretum in Wetland 3 (adopted by San Miguel Corporation), construction of a boardwalk and perimeter fencing in Wetland 6 (adopted by Boracay Tubi Systems, Inc.), perimeter fencing of unoccupied portions of Wetland 8 (adopted by JG Summit, Inc.) and clearing of illegal settlers and con-

struction of a 230-meter concrete fence in Wetland 9.

All these activities are expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2022.



CEASE AND DESIST ORDER TO KIANTEG DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN QUEZON, BUKIDNON



"Press Briefing and Preparatory Meeting with agencies at the NCIP Provincial Office, Malaybalay, Bukidnon, before the delivery of the CDO"

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against the Kianteg Development Corporation (KDC) for its long due occupation and use without legal basis of a portion of the Kianteg-Pulangiyon Ancestral Domain (AD) located at Barangay Butong and Barangay San Jose, Municipality of Quezon, Province of Bukidnon.

The Commission en Banc (CEB) on its Special Session last 27 April 2022, authorized NCIP Chairperson Allen A. Capuyan to issue the said CDO against the KDC in order to put a resolution once and for all, the long plight of the Manobo-Pulangiyon Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) in their AD claim.

Based on the documents presented before the CEB's consideration, the Manobo-Pulangiyon's AD claim is originally a portion of the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) No. R10-CADC-135 which was issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on 05 June 1998 giving the Manobo ICC a recognition of their claim in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and relevant laws of the Philippines.

Under the said CADC No. R10-CADC-135, a special provision is provided under Section III, Other Special Conditions (B) which states that an area of 1653 hectares (the additional area) indicated in an attached map, shall be incorporated into the CADC area upon the expiration of the existing DENR contract, licenses or permits within the additional area unless such contracts, licenses or permits are sooner revoked or cancelled and

such incorporation shall take place without need for further application or processing.

Subsection (D) of the same Certificate says pursuant to DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 93-02 and the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA), contracts, licenses or permits issued over the CADC area shall not be renewed without the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of the recipients.

Considering that there is an application for the delineation of the Manobo-Pulangiyon AD with the NCIP, and that there was a completion of submission of proofs, conduct of perimeter survey, map validation, and publication with no opposition from adverse parties, the NCIP deems it best to implement the recognition of the Manobo-Pulangiyon's right to ownership over their AD which was well established by their native title and time immemorial possession. And part of that implementation is to deliberate the removal of any party who, without legal basis or in the absence of FPIC, continue to occupy and utilize the ICC/IP's AD to the disadvantage of the latter's rights.



"The community attentively listened to the strategy of the CDO and the next steps by the inter-agency convergence, encouraging them to strengthen their Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) and renew their trust to the Government"

Considering further that the KDC has been well notified of their loss of right to continue occupying the portion of the domain by virtue of the expiration of the FLGMA 122, and repeated attempts were done by the NCIP to the KDC to show cause why they should not be removed from

the lot through the service of a Notice to Vacate or the issuance of invitation for dialogue, all of which were unheeded without justifiable reason by the KDC, the CEB has no recourse than to authorize the issuance of the CDO so that the rights of the Manobo-Pulangiyon ICCs/IPs to their domain will finally be realized. Hence, the Resolution of the CEB authorizing the Chairperson of the NCIP to issue the CDO.



"Peaceful delivery of the Cease and Desist Order (CDO) witnessed by representatives from NICA, DENR, CHR, DILG, PNP, PA, and members of the local media"

Series of meetings were conducted with the members of the Joint Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (JRTF-ELCAC) X on 28-30 April 2022 to come up with a collective action of the Government so that the injustice inflicted upon the Manobo-Pulangiyon ICC/IPs which they have endured for years, especially in the shooting incident that happened on 19 April 2022, will be corrected.

On 30 April 2022, the CDO was peacefully delivered to KDC, witnessed by the National Government Agencies (NGAs) namely National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), DENR, Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Army (PA), Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and other members of the local media sector, and representatives from Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units (LGUs).

NCIP hopes that KDC will abide with the Order, otherwise, enforcement of the CDO will be fully implemented by the JRTF-ELCAC X.



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Manicani residents appeal to DU30 for jobs

RESIDENTS of Manicani Island in Easter Samar gather together to write to President Rodrigo Duterte, hoping to catch the government's attention about the jobs situation in the islands, or the lack of it.

If most Filipino laborers will take advantage of the yearly celebration of Labor Day to talk about increased compensations, labor rights, or better employment conditions, the men in Manicani are making noise to remind the government that there are no jobs at all in the island.

"Life is rough for us because there are no opportunities for a regular income here in Manicani and the pandemic has made the situation even worse, we hear that mining was finally allowed again in the island and we want to tell the president that we look forward to it and if he can

make it happen right away," says Herminigeldo B. Badilla, Jr., a barangay leader in Manicani.

Badilla used to have a good job before he came back to the island to be with his family so he knows the differ-

ence between having a regular income and having nothing at all.

On March 4, after 15 years of legal and social processing to secure pertinent permits, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has finally given the go signal to Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC), a subsidiary of Nickel Asia Corporation (NAC), to resume its mining operations in Manicani.

"We've waited for so long, mining operations in adjacent islands have been operating for years and we have been waiting for the same jobs to come here in Manicani and we are ready for it because we deserve it," Badilla said.

Manicani Island is a community of about 620 households. The fathers/husbands, all 40 of them who gathered to talk about the need for jobs, also talked about responsible mining. They have attended countless consultations with HMC for many years. They know how to ask the right questions pertaining to corporate responsibility, safety, security, economic free-



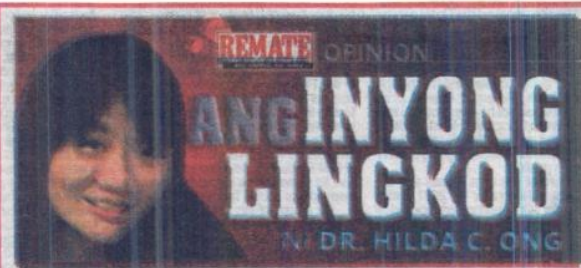
AN APPEAL FOR JOBS. Residents of Manicani Island in Easter Samar gather together to write to President Rodrigo Duterte about the lack of jobs in the islands. After 15 years of legal and social processing to secure pertinent permits, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has finally given the go signal to Hinatuan Mining Corp. to resume its mining operations in Manicani.

dom, and protecting the environment.

"The residents are made aware of their rights and of the mining company's responsibilities, it's the transparency that these 'heads of families' appreciate the most from all that HMC is doing here but they urgently need job too because their children are suffer-

ing," Allan Bando, Jr., HMC's Community Development Officer, said

Bando says HMC has a dynamic relationship with the communities in the island and he says that's what makes his job easier and rewarding because the residents are willing and ready to talk and open to discussions.



IPINAGBABAWAL ANG PAGHULI, PAGPAPARAMI AT PAGBEBENTA NG TUKO

NABABAHALA ang Biodiversity Management Bureau, isang ahensya sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources, sa laganap na ilegal na panghuhuli ng Tuko sa maraming panig ng bansa at pagbebenta nito sa black market.

Ang isang pirasong Tuko na may bigat na higit 400 grams ay binibili sa halagang 100,000 pesos hanggang isang milyong piso, depende sa bigat nito.

Karaniwang binibili ito ng mga Chinese at Koreans, sa paniniwalang mabisang gamot ito laban sa AIDS, asthma at iba pang karamdaman.

Ang Tuko ay isang nocturnal at carnivorous reptile na ang pagkain ay mga insektong gaya ng lamok at ipis, at maliliit na vertebrates. Matatagpuan ito sa Hilagang India, Bangladesh, sa Indonesia at Pilipinas at iba pang bansa sa Timog-Silangang Asya.

Tokay Gecko ang klaseng matatagpuan sa ating bansa na siyang ikalawang pinakamalaki sa lahat ng gecko species.

Tinatawag itong "pitbull of the gecko world" dahil sa matinding pagkapit ng ngipin nito kapag kumakagat na puwedeng tumagal ng maraming oras.

Kilala sila sa tunog na kanilang nililikha na ayon sa marami ay indikasyon ng panahon gaya ng pag-araw o pag-ulan.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act, mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang walang pahintulot na paghuli, pagpatay, pagpaparami, paglalako at pagbebenta ng Tuko sa ating bansa.

Kaya naman nagpaalala at nagbabala ang BMB na ang sinomang lalabag sa batas ay puwedeng makulong ng anim hanggang labingdalawang taon at multang mula Php 100,000 hanggang isang milyong piso.

Itinanggi ng Department of Health ang maling paniniwala at akala ng marami hinggil sa bisang taglay ng Tuko sa paggamot ng ilang karamdaman.

Sinabi nilang hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay wala pang siyentipikong basehan ang mga ito.

Bagamat hindi pa napapatunayan ang bisa ng Tuko sa medisina, lubhang mahalaga ang papel nito sa ba-lanse ng kalikasan at kapaligiran.



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'Vote for those who'll stop river dredging'

APARRI, Cagayan: Fisherfolk here have called on the electorate to vote for candidates who oppose the Cagayan River Restoration Project that they say has sharply decreased the catch and destroyed the livelihood of 15,000 people and their families.

"Those behind the river dredging for black sand mining in Cagayan have no regard for life," according to this town's fishermen who spoke at a virtual news conference on Tuesday.

"Our catch has dwindled since the dredging began. The tons of fish we usually get are gone," Marlyne Bugarin, wife of a fisherman and dried fish vendor, said in the vernacular.

The fishermen claim that dredging activities have shattered the habitat and spawning cycles of fish and other marine resources including the *aramang* or soft-shelled link shrimps, the *binnek* and *unnok* clams and catadromous fishes like *ludong*,

all endemic to the area.

They also claim that before the dredging operations began in early 2021, they earned from P3,000 to P7,000, which were reduced to P300 to P1,000 each for three days' work during the period from December 2021 to April 22 when there were already dredging activities.

The fishermen called on the next Philippine president who will be elected in the May 9, 2022 polls to issue an executive order to stop the government-led dredging that aims to desilt the Cagayan River and make way for the construction of an international seaport in this town.

Town parish priest Fr. Manuel Catral said the project presents a clear and present danger to the people.

"What use will the port have when there is no catch? What use is development when there is no food? What use is development when the environment is ru-

ined?" Catral also said, speaking in the vernacular alongside the fishermen.

Former fisheries instructor at Cagayan State University and long-time advocate for the fisherfolk Antonio Liguigan noted that the dredging project is good to prevent flooding in upstream Cagayan including Tuguegarao City.

He, however, said dredging is not the only solution, and it should take into account its impact on all communities.

"If you think about it, more lives will be sacrificed if this continues. It's as if the fisherfolk are worthless. They do not recognize that fisherfolk have the same dignity as they have," Catral added.

Earlier, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Region 2 disputed claims made by the fishermen that the dredging project is related to black sand mining.

Engineer Mario Ancheta, MGB Region 2 director, said an earlier

bureau-led investigation has proved that there are no black sand mining activities in the dredging project of the government to desilt the Cagayan River.

"There is no black sand mining that is taking place in the ongoing dredging of the heavily-silted Cagayan River and that the dredging will not affect the aramang catch in the coastal town of Aparri," he added.

Ancheta noted that although the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Region 2 has confirmed the decrease of aramang catch in the town, he said this has been going on for the past seven years and is not in any way related to the river dredging activities.

"The fishermen have mistaken the government dredging project to restore the Cagayan River for that of black sand mining and the ongoing dredging activities," Ancheta added.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO



Ecowaste reminds voters not to litter on election day

AS campaign activities draw to a close on Saturday, a waste and pollution watchdog group called on voters not to litter and not to leave any trail of trash in schools and designated polling centers on election day.

According to the EcoWaste Coalition, even if conducting any election campaign activity is banned on May 9, it is very likely that some quarters will still engage in distribution of "sample ballots" outside voting precincts.

In a statement, the group said that such practice leads to widespread littering just like in the past polls.

"We appeal to all voters to come to polling stations prepared with their own 'kodigo' of candidates to vote for. Aside from choosing pro-people and pro-environment candidates, we urge voters to shun 'sample ballots' and not to litter them anywhere," EcoWaste's national coordinator Aileen Lucero said.

"Comelec should enforce the ban on sample ballot distribution on election day, which is clearly a partisan political activity," she added.

As for candidates, including party-list groups, the EcoWaste Coalition called on them to conduct immediate clean-up operations after election day.

"We likewise appeal to all candidates to immediately take down campaign materials from common poster areas as well as from unauthorized places come May 10. Win or lose, we urge them to switch to clean-up mode and voluntarily remove campaign materials for recycling, reusing or repurposing," Lucero said.

Joel dela Torre



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COMMENTARY

Offsetting our carbon footprint: A way to make everyday Earth Day

**BY DIAN LUTFIANA AND
CITRA ENDAH NUR SETYAWATI**

SINCE 1970, the world has celebrated Earth Day every year on April 22 to showcase support and commitment to environmental protection. However, every day should be considered Earth Day to preserve and protect health and livelihoods.

In early 2020, the world faced an unprecedented situation as the Covid-19 disease struck globally, placing most countries under lockdown and resulting in significant alteration of many government policies on energy demand, especially on the transport sector. With many international borders closed and most people forced to stay home, transport patterns have been reduced while consumption patterns have changed. As a result, daily global CO₂ emissions of the transport sector decreased by 17 percent by early April 2020 compared to the 2019 levels (Le Quéré, et al., 2020).

However, the abrupt decline of global CO₂ emissions during the pandemic may not last as most countries have started opening their international borders at the end of 2021 and international travel has risen significantly since the beginning of 2022. In Indonesia, the government has issued a new policy to ease restrictions for domestic and international travel starting in March 2022. A negative Covid-19 test result is no longer required if the traveler has received a vaccine-booster or a third anti-Covid-19 vaccination.

An International Energy Agency (IEA) study (2021) showed that the global energy-related CO₂ emissions rose by 6 percent in 2021 to 36.3 billion tonnes

(BT) as the world economy rebounded from the Covid-19 crises from the previous year, 2020. Rapid carbon emissions will inevitably rebound and will keep rising without substantial government efforts to slow them down. Hence, as individuals, we must take steps to mitigate the climate problem, one of which is to offset our carbon footprint.

Carbon offset broadly refers to a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that is used to compensate for emissions elsewhere. Carbon offset is considered a way to trade carbon. Organizations, companies and individuals can counteract their GHG emissions by purchasing carbon offsets. Mostly voluntary, carbon offset aims to balance the amount of carbon emitted with some methods to absorb the emission. Simply, emissions contributed by air travel, for instance, may be absorbed by afforestation, use of renewable energy, and investment in carbon-reduction projects.

Carbon offset may be an important tool to try to become "carbon neutral" or "climate neutral" but reducing emissions to zero through renewables or energy efficiency measures may not be feasible. Carbon offset has many advantages. The International Energy Agency Greenhouse Gas (IEAGHG) R&D program (2007) stated that a good carbon offset project not only promotes environmental objectives but also creates supplemental benefits to local communities. It can spur economic development, improve the quality of life, or increase recreational value. Carbon offset can be profitable for companies that invest in it.

However, carbon offset projects need to be carefully carried out, so they do

not contribute to further environmental degradation or become scams as the company uses offsetting method as only a label of their corporate sustainability responsibility actions instead of changing or reducing their emitting behavior. They should be strictly monitored and verified. Additionally, communities' participation in carbon offset is critical to achieving the goal of carbon offset while also helping to protect the environment.

Carbon offset alone cannot curb carbon emissions. The best way to act is by cutting down the emission from its sources. Nevertheless, the increase in CO₂ emissions caused by travels that resumed after the Covid-19 issue had eased might be mitigated by implementing a carbon offset projects.

To persuade individuals to offset their carbon footprint, they must first understand why it is important to do so. Scientists have cited the importance of changing behavior to reduce emissions, although it is challenging and often entangled in social and cultural difficulties. Education and awareness-raising are needed to guide the community toward creating a sustainable environment. Last but not least, environmental initiatives and programs in educational institutions and public communication should be promoted as they play a major role in negating carbon emissions.

Dian Lutfiana and Citra Endah Nur Setyawati are research associates.

Disclaimer: The views expressed are purely those of the authors and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia.



JICA financing for local climate projects urged

TOKYO—Finance Sec. Carlos Dominguez III has broached the possibility of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency extending its support to the localized climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

Dominguez met here recently with Shinichi Kitaoka and Akihiko Tanaka, the outgoing president and current president, respectively, of JICA, after the signing of the JPY 30-billion loan

agreement for the second phase of the Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan facility.

Dominguez is the designated representative of President Duterte to the Philippines' Climate Change Commission.

Tanaka expressed his openness to the DoF chief's proposal and said JICA would be willing to explore climate projects in the Philippines targeting specific localities and addressing spe-

cific climate change-related threats.

He also reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the Mindanao peace process, and assistance in the development of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Kitaoka, for his part, said Japan is proud of its partnership with the Philippines, as it has led to substantial progress, especially in the areas of infrastructure cooperation and the Mindanao peace process.



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PH banks still pumping funds to coal, other fossil fuels, says watchdog report

DAYS ahead the national elections, energy advocacy and bank watchdog group Withdraw from Coal (WFC) raised alarm over Philippine banks that have yet to quit dirty energy from coal, and posed a challenge to the upcoming administration to put mechanisms in place to accelerate just energy transition and commit to ambitious climate goals.

Since 2020, WFC has been releasing its annual Coal Divestment Scorecard to assess the financing activities of domestic banks, gauge their current divestment efforts in the coal industry, and evaluate their climate action policies. The 2022 Scorecard reveals that despite the welcome development of at least 5 banks now having public stances against coal and even as no new coal loans were detected for the period covered by the report, banks still in effect enable financing to flow into coal projects by underwriting or selling bonds issued by coal developers.

"We need to fix this disconnect

between domestic banks' no-coal stance with the reality of their financing activities. The findings of the report show us that banks managed to dodge being direct coal financiers by underwriting or selling bonds issued by coal developers. Banks cannot trick us into believing that they are truly divesting from coal unless they close this loophole of funneling funds through bonds," Gerry Arances, Executive Director of Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development and co-convenor of WFC said.

BDO, China Bank, Metrobank, Security Bank, RCBC, and Unionbank are involved in the bond issuance of Aboitiz-Power, the country's second-largest coal developer, which were used in part for coal. This is despite RCBC, BDO, and Security Bank having already announced plans to restrict and phase down their coal exposures.

"We will sustain our action to demand drastic ecological economic transformation of financial institutions. Investing more in sustainability where no one is left behind is the right way forward.

Weenjoin everyone to continuously pressure our banks to divest from dirty products and services. It is not only a duty as citizens of this planet but a moral responsibility," added Rodne Galicha, Executive Director of Living Laudato Si' Philippines.

Another cause of alarm is the upsurge of domestic banks investing in another fossil fuel in the form of fossil gas - dubbed as the Philippines new preferred fuel and peddled as a cleaner alternative to coal. A total of 27 power plant projects and 9 liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal projects are in the pipeline, including an LNG Import Facility in Ilijan, Batangas through Linseed Field Power Corporation financed by China Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines.

This proposed facility is seen to have grave socio-economic and environmental impacts in Batangas, including the Verde Island Passage, considered to be the world's center of the center of marine shorefish biodiversity. Security Bank also disclosed that it has "some exposure to natural gas and LNG" in its response letter to

WFC.

"We call for banks to totally divest from coal and cease to invest in the equally climate-destructive energy source that is fossil gas. Opening up the country to gas projects is at odds with our climate targets. Allowing gas terminals into the country, including in biodiversity hotspots like our very own Tanon Strait or Verde Island Passage in Batangas, exposes us to decades of methane emissions and can cost us all remaining hope in the fight to meet Paris goals," San Carlos Bishop Gerry Alminaza said, convenor of WFC.

Philippine banks have increasingly been the recipient of calls from their respective stakeholders to end their contribution to the continued dependence on coal, gas, and other fossil fuels - including through a Pastoral Statement on Ecology released by the CBCP earlier this year.

"In it, we commit to engage our banks and use our position as shareholders, clients, or stakeholders of financial institutions in and beyond the Philippines, but especially towards domestic banks, to demand for poli-

cies and plans to phase out their exposure to coal, fossil gas, and destructive energy in line with the 1.5°C ambition. [Dioceses and religious institutions also have a deadline to withdraw all our resources that are with these banks not later than 2025, and hold them accountable to their fiduciary duties and moral obligations as climate actors] should such engagement efforts fail to bear fruit," explained Bishop Colin Bagaforo, National Director of Caritas Philippines.

WFC hopes the bank scorecard will be among the many civil society-led efforts that will wake the next administration in taking the right path for climate and energy transition action. "With the window to take action closing fast, all actors - including banks - must take drastic actions to align their policies to the Paris Agreement, divest from funding coal and fossil fuel projects of all kinds, and cease all types of financing activities that pump cash into the coal industry. Policy directions from the incoming government will dictate how easily this can happen," added Arances.



editorial

'We have the power to prevent disasters'

RISK creation is outstripping risk reduction in the world. Humanity's broken risk perception is reversing global progress in a "spiral of self-destruction", according to a new United Nations report.

The Global Assessment Report 2022 (GAR2022), released last week by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, said that between 350 and 500 medium- to large-scale disasters took place every year over the past two decades. If current trends continue, the number of disaster events is projected to reach 560 a year – or 1.5 disasters a day – by 2030.

The GAR2022 said a broken perception of risk based on "optimism, underestimation and invincibility," led to policy, finance and development decisions that could exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. These decisions will put more people in danger because we will be hit harder in the coming years by even more catastrophes.

"The world needs to do more to incorporate disaster risk in how we live, build and invest, which is setting humanity on a spiral of self-destruction," said Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, who presented the report at the UN headquarters in New York. "We must turn our collective complacency to action. Together we can slow the rate of preventable disasters as we work to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere."

The report, dubbed "Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future," found that the implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, as called for in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, had reduced both the number of people impacted and killed by disasters in the last decade. However, the scale and intensity of disasters are increasing, with more people killed or affected by disasters in the last five years than in the previous five.

"Disasters can be prevented, but only if countries invest the time and resources to understand and reduce their risks," said Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR. "By deliberately ignoring risk and failing to integrate it in decision making, the world is effectively bankrolling its own destruction. Critical sectors, from government to development and financial services, must urgently rethink how they perceive and address disaster risk."



Disasters disproportionately impact developing countries, which lose an average of one percent of GDP a year to disasters, compared to 0.1-0.3 percent in developed countries, the report said. The highest cost is borne by the Asia-Pacific region, which loses an average 1.6 percent of GDP to disasters every year, while the poorest also suffer the most within developing countries.

Climate change has a huge footprint in the growing number of global disasters, the UN report said. It called for the acceleration of adaptation efforts made at COP26 by showcasing how policymakers can climate-proof development and investments. This includes reforming national budget planning to consider risk and uncertainty, while also reconfiguring legal and financial systems to incentivize risk reduction.

Adding to the long-term impacts of disasters is the lack of insurance to aid in recovery efforts to build back better. Since 1980, just 40 percent of disaster-related losses were insured while insurance coverage rates in developing countries were often below 10 percent, and sometimes close to zero, the report said.

GAR2022 was drafted by a group of experts from around the world as a reflection of the various areas of expertise required to understand and reduce complex risks. "This report should be a wake-up call that countries need to accelerate action across the Framework's four priorities to stop the spiral of increasing disasters," said Mizutori. "The good news is that human decisions are the largest contributors to disaster risk, so we have the power to substantially reduce the threats posed to humanity, and especially the most vulnerable among us."



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Nuclear energy adoption nearing reality?

BY MARIA ROMERO
@tribuneph1_mbr

The Philippines might finally integrate nuclear power plants into its energy mix as presidential race frontrunner

former senator Bongbong Marcos has vowed to speed up its adoption if elected to the Palace on Monday.

“We have to look at nuclear power. Let’s look at it again,” Bongbong has said in a speech,

adding that a South Korean proposal to rehabilitate the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) built for \$2.2 billion during his father’s presidency should be revisited.

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Nuclear energy adoption nearing reality?

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the issuance of EO 164 aids the country’s quest for energy security by looking at nuclear power as a viable solution

From page 1

House Deputy Speaker Rodante Marcoleta said over the weekend that nuclear energy can be a viable solution to ensure the country’s long-term energy security. He cited the need to “stop vilifying nuclear energy.”

“Our country’s continued dependence on imported oil, the steady increase of the costs of coal in the international market, and the depleting Malampaya natural gas reserves are the fundamental reasons why we need to continue to explore ways to find other reliable, clean, and cheaper sources of electricity,” he said.

Marcoleta defended the issuance of Executive Order (EO) 164 adopting a National Policy for a nuclear energy program. He described the order as a “fulfillment of the two year intensive research by an inter-agency committee on the nuclear energy program commenced through the signing of EO 116 in 2020.”

Marcoleta pointed out that the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (DoST-PNRI) and the Department of Energy-Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization (DoE-NEPIO) have both backed the redevelopment of the BNPP.

The DoST-PNRI has stated that three similar technologies as that of BNPP are still operating in South Korea, the United States, and Brazil, while the DoE-NEPIO said it has secured two feasibility studies from South Korea and Russia saying that the BNPP can still be used.

Last week, the DoE proposed

to create a specialized regulatory body – to be called Commission on Nuclear Energy – to safeguard the integration of nuclear power in the country’s energy mix. It said the new agency should be composed of professionals capable of safely harnessing nuclear energy.

Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said that the issuance of EO 164 aids the country’s quest for energy security. President Rodrigo Duterte signed the EO on 28 February, and it was made public recently.

“We thank the President for seeing merit in the DoE’s recommendation to consider integrating nuclear energy into our country’s energy mix. Since we want a stable, reliable, and sustainable energy resource, I believe that nuclear power is the way to go,” Cusi said.

The energy chief likewise said the EO 164 opens the door for the next administration to tap this resource to support energy needs.



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Nuclear energy...

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TED ALJIBE/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Mothballed The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in Bataan never produced a single watt of power since its construction was finished in the 80s.



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RECYCLE, RECYCLE This girl sits on a sala set made from recycled plastic bottles at the Victoria Public Market in Victoria, Northern Samar. PHOTO BY NESTOR L. ABREMATEA



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

AVIDA TOWERS ASPIRA CONDOMINIUM
CORPORATION,

Applicant.

Case No. 22-3290

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NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Avida Towers Aspira Condominium, Barangay 30, Cagayan De Oro City, province of Misamis Oriental, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Institutional

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
½"	₱427.00	106.70	128.10	149.40	170.70	256.10

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **23 May 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Misamis Oriental and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 21st day of March 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

(Sgd.) **Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Cagayan De Oro City
Misamis Oriental

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay 30
Cagayan De Oro City
Misamis Oriental

The Homeowners Assn. President
Avida Towers Aspira Condominium
Cagayan De Oro City
Misamis Oriental

The General Manager
Cagayan De Oro City Water District
Corrales Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City 9000

(PDI - May 6, 2022)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD
8th Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

CELADON PARK MANILA CONDOMINIUM
CORPORATION,

Applicant.

Case No. 22-3299

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NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Celadon Park Manila Condominium, Barangay 350, Sta. Cruz, Manila, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF

Residential and Commercial

Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
¾"	₱205.50	51.40	61.70	72.00	82.30	123.40
1"	₱411.50	102.80	123.40	144.00	164.50	246.80

This application will be initially heard by the Board on **23 May 2022**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o'clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8th Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.

Witness the Honorable Executive Director of the National Water Resources Board this 31st day of March 2022.

By Authority of the Board:

(Sgd.) **Dr. SEVILLO D. DAVID, Jr., CESO III**
Executive Director

Affected Parties:

The Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod
Sta. Cruz, Manila

The Barangay Chairman
Barangay 350
Sta. Cruz, Manila

The Homeowners Assn. President
Celadon Park Condominium
Barangay 350, Sta. Cruz, Manila

The Administrator
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road
Balara, Quezon City

(PDI - May 6, 2022)

06 MAY 2022, FRIDAY



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



Daily PH Covid-19 cases average under 200: OCTA

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor **May 5, 2022, 5:39 pm**



MANILA – The daily average of Covid-19 cases nationwide remains under 200 with a positivity rate of 1.2 percent, the OCTA Research Group said Thursday.

In a televised public briefing, OCTA Research Group fellow Dr. Guido David said the nation's daily average in the recent week is 193, slightly higher than last week's 187.

He noted that the country's numbers are low and "there's no real increase in the cases".

"Nothing concerning at this time, iyong hospital utilization natin pati sa NCR [National Capital Region], *ay mababa pa rin, nasa 21 percent* (our hospital utilization including the NCR, still low, at 21 percent)," he said.

Data from the Covid-19 tracker showed the active cases were below 5,000 as of May 4. The total tally reached 3,686,375 with 159 new cases added.

In the NCR, a total of 1,109 active cases were logged. Its total number of Covid-19 infections reached 1,172,673.

Among the NCR cities, David said Manila logged the most number of new cases at 10.

It is followed by Makati, Pasig and Pasay with eight new cases each.

While the country's Covid-19 numbers remain low, David urged the public to continue observing the minimum public health protocols to prevent any possible surge if a subvariant enters the country.

"Mayroon pa ring danger na baka magkaroon ng pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso dahil nakikita natin na tumataas sa South Africa at saka sa India pati rin sa US [United States], umabot na naman sila ng (There is still a danger of an increase in cases as it happened in South Africa and India and the US, they reached) 100,000 cases per day," he said. **(PNA)**



OCTA: NCR, maaring makapagtala ng 1,000 kaso ng COVID-19 kada araw pagkatapos ng eleksyon

By Angellic Jordan May 05, 2022 - 03:07 PM



Maaring makapagtala ng 500 hanggang 1,000 na bagong kaso ng COVID-19 kada araw sa National Capital Region (NCR), ayon sa OCTA Research.

Sa Laging Handa public briefing, sinabi ni OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David na kung walang pagkalat ng nakahahawang sakit, ang projection nila ay mananatili sa “low risk” category ang Metro Manila.

Sa ngayon, mas mababa o higit sa 100 kaso ang napapaulat kada araw sa NCR.

Ngunit kung magkaroon ng pagtaas ng kaso, posibleng makapagtala ng 500 hanggang 1,000 na kaso ng COVID-19.

Ani David, umaasa sila na hindi ito mangyayari sa bansa.

Kaya naman paalala nito sa publiko, maging maingat sa pagboto sa mismong araw ng eleksyon sa Mayo 9.

Source: <https://radyo.inquirer.net/313900/octa-ncr-maaring-makapagtala-ng-1000-kaso-ng-covid-19-kada-araw-pagkatapos-ng-eleksyon>

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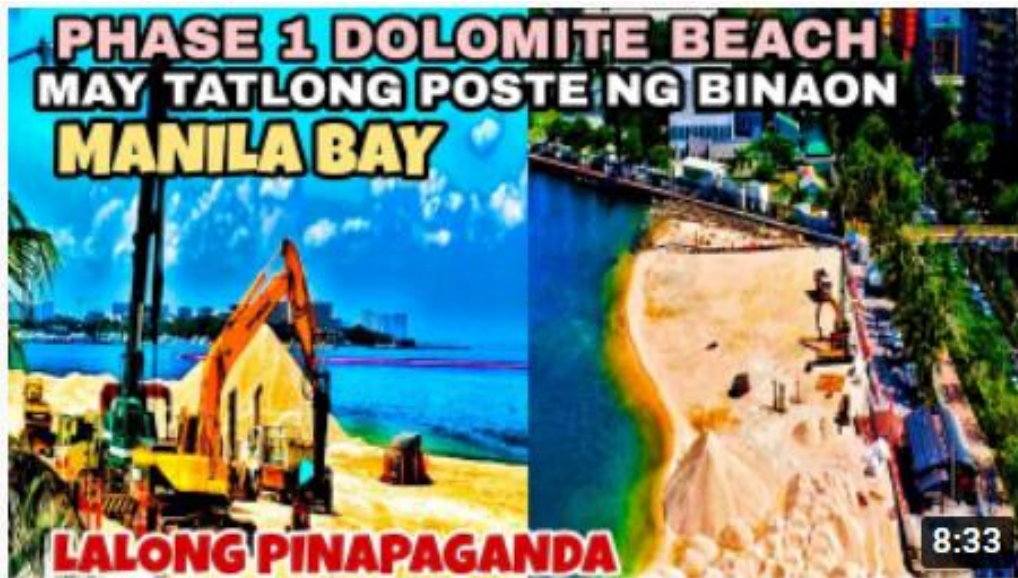
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
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