

11 September 2022, Sunday



DENR

NEWS ALERTS

NEWS CLIPPINGS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service
SUMMARY OF NEWS ALERTS
11 SEPTEMBER 2022

TOP STORIES

I. Token environmentalism, di-nakatutulong sa kapaligiran (Go North Kolum ni Artemio Dumlao, Pilipino Star Ngayon, 4)

Nagiging mapanganib ang pagtanim ng mahogany species na puno dahil ito ay isang "invasive species." Matagal na daw itong nilalako ng DENR. Gawin daw tama ang pagiging environmentalist. Magtanim ng narra, molave, apitong, rafflesia, at iba pang katutubong puno.

II. Go refiles resilience, adaptability bills (The Manila Times, A3)

Senator Christopher Lawrence Go said that he has refiled three bills that are aimed at "strengthening national adaptability and resilience." Among these is the proposed measure that seeks to establish a Department of Disaster Resilience, which will bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies.

III. Marcos wants to rejoin global extractive industries initiative (Manila Bulletin, B2)

The Marcos administration wants to rejoin the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) months after the previous administration withdrew the country's participation. According to Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, President Marcos wants to demonstrate his commitment to pursue transparency in natural resource governance by rejoining EITI and enabling the continued development of the mining sector.

IV. Egypt readies for climate confab (The Daily Tribune, B15)


Egypt will be the host country for the 2022 UN Climate Change Conference or COP27. It will begin on November 4, 2022 in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh. Beyond COP27, Egypt is working toward a 2050 national climate strategy which is based around the reduction of emissions in all sectors.

V. Mobilize world's resources for climate change (The Daily Tribune, A4)

This article is about the remarks of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres during the meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the National Flood Response and Coordination Center in Islamabad. Guterres called on stopping

the increase in emissions and mobilizing much more resources to support those countries that need to build resilience. He pointed out that what happened in Pakistan may happen to other countries.

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DENR-Calabarzon vows to enforce laws to conserve protected areas in the region

By JOEL DELA TORRE

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region IV (DENR-Calabarzon) has renewed its commitment to improving the implementation of environmental laws on protected areas in the region.

According to Region IV Executive Director and Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) chair Nilo Tamoria, the rapid growth and the protection of the country's remaining fertile environment and nature would serve as an additional challenge for environmental officials.

Tamoria called on the PAMB members and all stakeholders to come together and protect protected areas.

"Let's pool our talent and strength so that we can better protect and

maintain the integrity of protected areas," he said.

During the latest PAMB summit held in San Mateo, Rizal, the DENR-CALABARZON chief pointed out that the region's large population, which has surpassed that of the National Capital Region (NCR), has a big impact on its protected areas and natural resources as many people depend on these resources.

Based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing, of the country's 17 regions, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) had the biggest population of 16,195,042, followed by NCR with 13,484,462 and Central Luzon with 12,422,172.

The summit's theme "Sama-samang Pagpapatupad ng Batas Pangkalahatan sa Pinangangalagaang Pook Upang Protektahan ang Samut-saring Buhay para sa Sam-

bayanang Pilipino," is in line with the four-decision points presented by DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

These decision points include the establishment of natural resources geo-spatial database to manage the DENR's readily available data, which can be useful in the implementation of government projects, investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation to avoid a decrease in the protection of direct and indirect losses including nature-based solution, the establishment of natural resources accounting system including valuation of ecosystem services, and improvement of compliance, monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws.

"Even before we held the 9th PAMB Summit, these decision points have

already been submitted by our Secretary to the President. So these four decision points are exactly the theme of our Summit. This is contained in the sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development as the major thrust and direction of our department," Tamoria said.

Around 100 delegates, including members of the PAMB's 18 protected areas under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), Protected Areas Superintendents, and DENR-CALABARZON officials and personnel joined the summit, which was conducted in-person and on-line.

Calabarzon has 18 protected areas, nine of which are legislated, while nine are initial components of the NIPAS yet to be assessed for potential proclamation as regular NIPAS components and enactment into law.



DENR renews commitment to protect protected areas

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Region IV-A (DENR-Calabarzon) has renewed its commitment to improve the implementation of environmental laws on protected areas in the region.

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Joel dela Torre



US awards P288-M in grants to CSOs for biodiversity, climate solutions

THIRTEEN civil society organizations (CSOs) received P288 million (\$5.1 million) in grants from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the promotion of biodiversity conservation and natural climate solutions in the Philippines.

USAID Philippines Acting Deputy Mission Director Jennifer Crow, Environment Undersecretary Marilou Erni and Gerry Roxas Foundation Executive Director Glen de Castro awarded the grants at a ceremony held on August 30, said the US Embassy in Manila. USAID is an independent agency of the US federal government that is responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance.

Eleven CSOs each received a grant valued at around P16 million (\$300,000) to implement three-year conservation and climate projects that will help communities adopt environmentally friendly practices, engage the public and private sectors, and establish local enterprises that support conservation.

The CSOs were the ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation Inc., Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc., Mount Apo Foundation Inc., NGOs for Fisheries Reform, PATH Foundation Phil-



USAID Philippines Acting Deputy Mission Director Jennifer Crow (front, fifth from left), DENR Undersecretary Marilou Erni (front, sixth from left) and Gerry Roxas Foundation Executive Director Glen de Castro (right) join representatives of 13 grantees of USAID's Inspire project at a ceremony on August 30.

ippines Inc., Philippine Association for the Intellectual Development Inc., Philippines Biodiversity Conservation Foundation Inc., Philippine Eagle Foundation Inc., Sentro Para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Xavier Science Foundation Inc., and Zoological Society of London-Philippines.

Two other grantees were each awarded P56 million (\$1 million) to support disability-inclusive climate actions.

The Oscar M. Lopez Center for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Founda-

tion Inc. will develop a dictionary of climate change-related terms in Filipino Sign Language, while Humanity and Inclusion Philippines will engage people with disabilities in climate change governance and improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change.

All projects will also support the Philippine government in conserving and restoring areas that need urgent protection across the country, and in developing more effective and inclusive natural resource governance.

"These grants showcase USAID's longstanding commitment to part-



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BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business



09-11-22

TITLE:

US awards P288-M grants to CSOs...

PAGE

A7 1/2

DATE

ner with the Philippine government and local organizations in protecting natural resources and improving how these resources, and the places where they are found, are governed," Crow said.

"We also hope that these projects will generate local livelihoods and enterprises that uphold the value of the natural and cultural assets of the Philippines and improve the lives of local communities, including indigenous peoples," she added.

Through its Investing in Sustainability and Partnerships for Inclusive Growth and Regenerative Ecosystems (Inspire) project, USAID promotes natural resource conservation and ecosystem and community resilience by supporting civil society organizations in advocating for and participating in good natural resource governance.

"The DENR [Department of Environment and Natural Resources] values the support given by USAID to all sectors in order to deliver critical biodiversity and sustainable landscapes targets," Erni said.

"We trust that closer cooperation and collaboration between government and civil society through Inspire will increase and expand investments for conservation," he added



Token environmentalism, di-nakatutulong sa kapaligiran

ANG pag-usbong ng "environmentalism" gaya ng lingguhang tree-planting ay nauso o naging fad lalo na noong 80's. Nagpapatuloy ito hanggang ngayon na animo'y uri ng kabayanihan ang pagtatanim ng puno upang isalba ang kapaligiran.

Kalimitan, ang exotic na mahogany, na matagal nang inilalako ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), hindi mga native species gaya ng molave at narra, ang itinatanim tuwing nagti-tree planting.

Bakit ito mapanganib sa lokal na kapaligiran?

Pinipigilan ng mahogany ang mga native species na tumubo at yumabong sa kanyang paligid, lalo pa ng iba pang organismo sa lupa. Kaya tinatawag itong "invasive specie".



Mula sa mga lokal na pag-aaral, walang yumayabong na wildlife sa mga natamnan ng mahogany kumpara sa mga natural na gubat. Wala rin umanong mabubuting bacteria sa lupa, insekto, ibon o anupamang karaniwang nabubuhay sa tunay na gubat gaya doon sa Bohol's man made Mahogany forest sa Bilal, na nagmistulang "biological dead zone".

Kaya kung gusto rin lang makiuso, gawin nang tama ang pagiging "environmentalist"

Magtanim ng narra, molave, apitong, rafflesia at iba pa sa 682 katutubong puno at tanim na nanganganib nang ma-extinct.

Tandaan na nanganganib ang mga katutubong puno
(Sundan sa pahina 5)

GO NORTH... Mula pahina 4

at tanim dahil sinakop na ng exotic species ang nalalabing pagtanim dahil sa dispalinghadong pag-uudyok ng pamahalaang basta magtanim kahit mga punong mapapahamak ang katutubong puno at tanim.

Tatlong porsiyento na lamang ng mga orihinal na gubat ang nalalabing tinutubuan ng mga katutubong

puno sa Pilipinas. Salamat sa legal at illegal na pagtrotroso, land conversion, hindi mahusay na pagmimintina at iba pang pamamaraan.

Huwag nang makiuso pa sa huwad na pagkamakalikasan!

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THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

B-2
PAGE

UPPER
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PAGE 1
STORY

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STORY

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09-11-22

TITLE: _____

PAGE _____

DATE _____

Marcos wants to rejoin global extractive industries initiative

By CHINO S. LEYCO

The Marcos administration wants to rejoin the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) months after the previous administration withdrew the country's participation.

In a statement, Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said on Friday, Sep. 9, that President Marcos wants to demonstrate his commitment to pursue transparency in natural resource governance by rejoining the EITI and enabling the continued development of the mining sector.

In a letter to EITI Chair and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, Diokno cited the value of good governance and anti-corruption measures in maximizing the extractive sector's contribution to resource mobilization and sustainable economic growth.

EITI will complement the administration's agenda on transparency and accountability, the finance chief said.

"We welcome the opportunity to re-engage in EITI. We also commend the progress of the EITI Board in reviewing the validation standard and making it more relevant to implementing coun-

tries. We believe that EITI is an important tool for resource-rich countries like the Philippines to improve transparency and increase accountability in the management and governance of the extractive industries," Diokno said.

Diokno said that other government agencies, as well as industry and civil society stakeholders who have been actively implementing EITI in the country, are supportive of the move to rejoin the global initiative.

Last June 20, the Philippines through the Department of Finance (DOF) withdrew its participation in the EITI over concerns on metrics and procedures used for assessing country compliance with the international organization's transparency requirements.

In an Aug. 23, 2022 letter, Clark invited Diokno to re-state the country's commitment to the EITI on behalf of the Marcos administration and build on the progress that the Philippines has achieved in the past nine years.

The PH-EITI multi-stakeholder group is chaired by the DOF and is composed of representatives from government, industry, and civil society.

The government began implement-

ing the EITI in 2013 pursuant to Section 14 of Executive Order No. 79, s. 2012 and Executive Order No. 147, s. 2013 that created the Philippine EITI (PH-EITI).

Annual disclosure of contracts, financial, economic, social and environmental data is mandatory for extractive industries pursuant to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2017-07.

To date, the PH-EITI has produced seven country reports, covering data from mining, oil, gas, and coal industries and reconciling over P362.5 billion in government revenues from extractive projects from 2012 to 2019.

In 2017, the Philippines was recognized by the EITI as the first among 50 plus countries in the world to have fully complied with the 2016 EITI Standard. The EITI updates its standard every three years and subjects member countries to validation to ascertain their compliance.

Diokno said that the Marcos administration is committed to engage and unite various stakeholders in pursuing good governance and policy reforms in the country.

"Rest assured that we remain committed to pursuing good governance in the extractive sector," said Diokno.



Seabirds contribute to

Tubbataha's rich ecosystem

By JONATHAN L. MAYUGA

BESIDES being a popular diving destination because of its rich marine biodiversity, the Tubbataha Reef—a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) World Heritage Site, Asean Heritage Park and a Ramsar Site—is also an Important Bird Area and is known to host thousands of seabirds.

Not your typical waders or shorebirds, or waterbirds, that can be found mostly around freshwater bodies, seabirds are species that adapted to life within the marine environment.

But like the shorebirds and waterbirds, seabirds, too, are threatened with extinction.

Declining global population

At a webinar organized by protectors of the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) on August 19, ornithologist Arne Erik Jensen said seabird populations around the world, including in the Philippines, have experienced a dramatic decline.

Jensen, an associate expert at Wetlands International, chairman of the Scientific Committee and Co-Founder of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines, said the seabird population in the Philippines is concentrated in the Sulu Sea, where 63,561 of the total 71,854 can be found. The rest are in the West Philippine Sea (4,6870); Philippine Sea (1,800); Visayan/Bohol Sea (1,779); and Celebes Sea (27).

"Globally, in just 60 years, seabird population has been reduced by nearly 70 percent; the terns by 85 percent and frigatebirds by 81 percent," he said.

The causes of these declines, he said, include the practice of fishing using longline, trawl and gillnet. Another culprit are invasive species and anthropological problems, such as pollution and climate change.

Jensen noted that there is an increase in the number of threats in

the Philippines, including oil spills, toxins and oceanic events.

In addition, he said there are predatory threats from frigatebirds, turnstones, raptors and sharks.

What are seabirds

ADAPTED to life within the marine environment, seabirds are highly pelagic or inhabit the open seas, and are only on land when breeding.

"In general, seabirds live longer

breed longer and have fewer offspring than most other birds. Most species nest in colonies, which can vary in size from a few dozen to millions. Some species undertake annual migrations, crossing the equator, or circumnavigating the Earth," he said.



GREATER crested terns GREGG YAN PHOTO



BLACK noddies GREGG YAN PHOTO



TITLE: Seabirds contribute to Tubbataha's.. PAGE A7 2/3

DATE

Seabird species recorded in the Philippines include the albatrosses, storm petrels, petrels, shearwaters, tropicbirds, frigatebirds, jaegers, terns. Phalaropes are shorebirds that overwinter, or spend the winter, in open waters.

"Of the 34 species found in the Philippines, 14 are accidentally occurring. The remaining 20 species can be divided into nine breeding species, 10 migratory overwintering species, and one transmigrant. Most of them are scarce or rare in the Philippines," he said.

Jensen said seabirds are currently known or likely to be breeding or roosting on about 120 smaller islets and offshore rocks. These include the Sulu sea, 55; Philippine Sea, 39; Visayan/Bohol Sea, 16 and the West Philippine Sea, nine.

There are also seven known seabird breeding and roost habitats. These are the sand cays that are found at pelagic reefs and edge of corals; limestone-guano rock islets, offshore rocks; some beach forests; the open sea and the sky above; and bamboo poles and drifting materials like coconut and even Styrofoams.

Tubbataha Reefs Natural park

SITUATED in the middle of the Sulu Sea, the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) is approximately 50 kilometers southeast of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the most western province of the Philippines.

It has been declared as a Marine Protected Area on August 11, 1988, through Republic Act 10067. It has a total area of 97,030 hectares core zone, with approximately 10,000 hectares of coral reef area.

"The Tubbataha Reefs is a Unesco World Heritage Site and Asean Heritage Park, and it has several other distinctions because of the seabird population. It is a Ramsar Site and an Important Bird Area," said Retchie Alaba, TRNP Research Officer.



SEABIRDS near the bird islet DANNY OCAMPO PHOTO



RED-FOOTED booby GREGG YAN PHOTO

Foreign and local tourists flock to the Tubbataha Reefs. According to Alaba, a total of 3,475 tourists, all divers, arrived in 2019. She said since the quarantine restriction was lifted slowly, the number of tourists is slowly increasing.

"This year, we had 1,689 [tourists]," she said.

"Tourism season in Tubbataha is from March to June when the seas are generally calm. In 2019, we had 210 trips during these months," she said, adding that the protectors of the TRNP are hopeful that tourism will improve next year.

Seabird sanctuary

ACCORDING to Alaba, a total of 119 bird species have been recorded in the TRNP.

Of these, she said the great crested tern, sooty tern, brown noddy, black noddy, brown booby, red-footed booby and masked booby are known to breed on the two islets.

"Previously, 150 adults [birds] were recorded in Tubbataha," she said.

Alaba said via email on September

6 that TRNP has a total of 16 pelagic seabirds, with one endemic subspecies, the black noddy, that breeds in TRNP. She refers to it as the "Yamashita Treasure" of the TRNP.

"Of the 119 birds, 33 are residents to the Philippines, while the rest are migratory," she said.

Most recently, she noted that the critically endangered Christmas Island frigatebird was spotted on the Tubbata Reefs.

Gregg Yan, executive director of Best Alternatives Campaign who visited Tubbataha Reefs this year, said seabirds have evolved for life at sea.



"Millions of years of evolution have gifted them with such useful traits as waterproof plumage and the ability to drink saltwater. Sadly, the remote areas they inhabit are some of the most vulnerable to climate change effects like storms and rising sea levels," he said.

"The introduction of invasive predators like dogs, cats and rats remains the greatest threat to our seabirds. Isolated for centuries in inaccessible roosts and rookeries, most seabirds have lost their natural defense mechanisms against would-be attackers," Yan said.

"After cats were introduced on Ascension Isle in the South Atlantic over a century ago, for example, bird numbers dropped from 20 million to 400,000," he added.

According to Yan, the Tubbataha Reefs remain one of the last refuges for many Philippine seabirds.

"Other islands like Bancauan and Cawili once had thousands of them, but as reported by rangers and scientists, the 'pets' that local inhabitants brought soon turned into 'pests' and ate many of the ground-breeding birds," he said.

Important ecosystem function

ACCORDING to Alaba, seabirds play a number of important functional roles in marine ecosystems, including the transfer of nutrients from offshore and pelagic areas to islands and reefs, seed dispersal and the distribution of organic matter into the lower parts of the developing soil profile.

"Seabirds have been used as good biological indicators of marine ecosystems. Since they are considered as one of the top predators, their health and population is reflective of the status of the marine environment," she said.

Underscoring the need to protect the country's seabirds, she said these species bring nutrients to offshore islets and coral reefs, which are important inputs for the productivity of the marine ecosystems.

Unique migratory bird species

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity Executive Director Theresa Mundita S. Lim said seabirds are unique migratory bird species.

"They use isolated or mid-sea islands as nesting sites and/or resting and roosting areas as they move across oceans to migrate or to find an abundance of food sources. It is important, therefore, to keep the island biodiversity intact," she said.

According to Lim, a biodiversity conservation expert, islands constitute unique ecosystems, such as beach forests, mangroves, tidal flats and surrounding near-shore marine areas, that serve as shelter, nesting areas, and/or feeding grounds for sea birds.

"The seabirds in Tubbataha [black noddy and boobies] help maintain ecological balance by controlling the overpopulation of fish and mollusks that serve as their prey. They also move nutrients from the sea to the land and vice-versa to contribute to the richness of the soil and of the sea," she said.

According to Lim, morbidities or mortalities could be signs of toxins or pollutants in the surrounding sea areas, which should allow us to address the problems before the impacts affect human populations and become irreversible.

"In short, the seabirds of Tubbataha are an integral part of the entire island and marine ecosystem of the park, and contribute to a great extent to the variety and richness of its fisheries and to its ecotourism value," she stressed.



Climate Migration: Kenyan woman loses nearly all to lake

By BRIAN INGANGA & JULIE WATSON
The Associated Press

KAMPI YA SAMAKI, Kenya—Winnie Keben had felt blessed to be raising her children in her husband's childhood home in the community of Kampi ya Samaki—just over a quarter-mile (500 meters) from the shoreline of Lake Baringo.

The vast freshwater lake buzzing with birds and aquatic life in the semi-arid volcanic region of Kenya's Great Rift Valley had long been an oasis. It attracted fishers and international tourists to the community, about a five-hour drive from Nairobi.

But over the past decade Lake Baringo has doubled in size, due primarily to heavy rainfall tied to climate change, according to scientists, and its fast-rising waters are increasingly becoming a menace. The expanding lake has swallowed up homes and hotels and brought in crocodiles and hippos that have turned up on people's doorsteps and in classrooms.

"It was not like this in the past," Keben said. "People would move when the water moves, but it would go back soon enough."

Keben had never imagined leaving.

Then the lake took away almost everything.

In her last moments in Kampi ya Samaki, Keben was washing off garden dirt in Lake Baringo's refreshing waters. It had been a day of working her maize fields with her husband. Evening was falling. Her mind was on getting back to the house to make dinner.

Then something moved.

"No sooner had I bent down to wash my right leg, than I saw a crocodile pop up from the waters," she said. "I screamed so loudly but unfortunately, I fell into the lake."

The crocodile dragged her into deeper water as she tried to fight it off. Her husband ran from the fields toward her screams. But she was struggling to stay above the surface.

She managed to reach her hand above the water and wiggle her fingers, hoping her husband, now at the shore, would see them.

Laban Keben saw, jumped in and grabbed her but the ferocious animal held on. Laban tried again. And again. After his third attempt, his wife and the mother of their children lost consciousness, he said.

"I saw her dying, leaving me behind," he said.

He thought of their daughter, barely six months old, and their two other children.

Not knowing what else to do, he started screaming for help. Another man ran over with a machete and struck at the crocodile, Laban said, and suddenly, it swam away, leaving Winnie's limp body behind.

Doctors cut her leg

HER leg was nothing but bones with hanging flesh, said Laban, who along with local residents carried Winnie past flooded roads to the nearest paved one where vehicles could get her to medical care. But at the hospital in the next town, doctors said they were not equipped to treat such a severe injury.

Two hospitals later, she feared she would not survive.

"I told my husband to pick up my children and to take them to my mum, as I knew I was not going to make it," she said.

Doctors ended up amputating the leg to save her life. Her mom stayed by her bedside until she was discharged from the hospital.

The family was forced to sell their chickens, and goats to cover her medical costs.

But while she was healing, an incessant rain continued to fall. The lake took still more from the Kebens. It flooded their home and farmland.



TITLE: Climate Migration: Kenyan woman loses

PAGE A4 2/2

DATE

nearly all to lake

The final loss

THEY left their community, the final loss.

A resident from another village, Meisori, learned of their ordeal and offered to take them in, a gesture of kindness for which she is grateful.

But leaving Kampi ya Samaki, where her husband and children were born, still hurts.

"I loved my place very much, as I could do farming with my husband and raise money for food and school fees," Winnie said.

With only one leg, Winnie said she no longer can farm. Her husband earns a meager living digging pit latrines and working at area farms to support their growing family. She gave birth to her sixth child last month.

"Now we are land beggars," she said.

75,000 households displaced

BARINGO is one of 10 lakes in Kenya's Rift Valley that have been expanding over the past decade. The entire Eastern African rift system, which stretches south to Mozambique, and the Western Rift—all the way to Uganda—are also affected. The rainfed waters have submerged villages and islands and brought the fierce Nile crocodiles face-to-face with residents.

The rising lake waters have displaced more than 75,000 households, according to a 2021 report on the expanding lakes by Kenya's Ministry of the Environment and Forestry and the United Nations Development Program.

Flooding around Lake Baringo has been among the most severe, according to the report, with more than 3,000 households destroyed.

Lake Baringo remains an important source of freshwater for villagers, livestock, fisheries, and wildlife. But scientists fear it could someday merge with a large salt lake not far away, the also-expanding Lake Bogoria, contaminating the freshwater.

Keben remembers when the shoreline was a short walk from their home and the hippos and crocodiles stayed deep inside the lake.

"They never attacked people or animals," Keben said. "Today they attack everything."

Keben, 28, is still haunted by her attack a decade ago. She has not returned to her family's village—even for a brief visit—and with good reason. The risks of such attacks have only increased: Since she left, more crocodiles and hippos have turned up in Kampi ya Samaki.

It's not rare now to see village children scarred by sharp teeth marks.

Others, like Keben, have lost limbs, and an unknown number have died.

A 10-year-old boy was recently dragged off by a hippo and has not been found.

Keben said she doesn't plan to ever return to Kampi ya Samaki. Though she longs for the community.

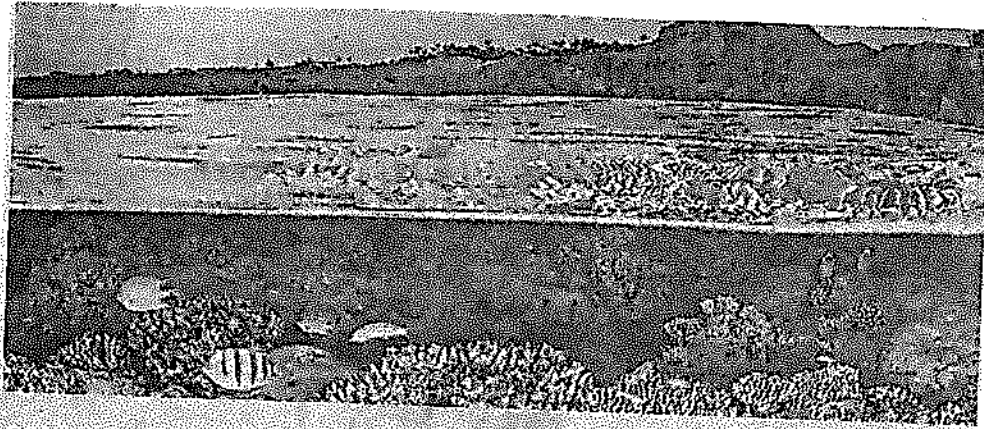
"That is the place I called home," she said, her voice still filled with pain. *Watson reported from San Diego.*



TITLE:

PAGE

DATE



CORAL reefs harbor the highest biodiversity of any ecosystem globally.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF UN

Egypt readies for climate confab

The summit needs to demonstrate the damage caused by the climate crisis, particularly in developing countries.

Regional authorities in Egypt, the host country of the 2022 UN Climate Conference, or COP27, are ramping up initiatives designed to improve the country's environmental credentials, and speed up its transition to a low carbon economy. The event will begin on 4 November in the Egyptian resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh.

Several COP27-related initiatives are underway in Egypt. They include projects related to sustainable transport, waste recycling, women's health, the transition to clean energy, sustainable cities, adaptation measures in the water and agriculture sector, and the links between peace and climate.

"The Egyptian government recognizes the huge responsibility of organizing a successful conference," Dr. Samir Tantawy, a climate change expert at the United Nations Development Program, said.

"The summit needs to demonstrate the damage caused by the climate crisis, particularly in developing countries. For example, the Aswan governorate in southern Egypt has experienced storms, snow and heavy rain for the first

time. Developing countries need to be properly compensated," he added.

Beyond COP27, Egypt is working toward a 2050 national climate strategy, which is based around the reduction of emissions in all sectors, and adaptation to potential changes in the climate in agriculture, water resources, coastal areas, and health.

The Egyptian governorates are witnessing workshops in preparation for the Climate Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh.

The national strategy also aims to bring civil society, the government, and citizens together at the local, regional, and national levels. A number of civil society organizations are participating in workshops and seminars to raise awareness of the summit in the hope that it will help Egypt to achieve its climate strategy goals.

In preparation for the Climate Summit, the regional authorities in the Red Sea Governorate, in cooperation with a number of other state organizations, are holding a series of events aimed at raising awareness of environmental and sustainability concerns. These workshops will continue through to November and the opening of the conference.



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Mobilize world's resources for climate change

“ This is the moment to say that we are heading into a disaster. We have waged war on nature, and nature is striking back and striking back in a devastating way.

I am no stranger to Pakistan. I have a love affair with your country in the past 17 years ago, when I started my functions as High Commissioner for Refugees. I have always witnessed their enormous generosity, receiving at the (time) more than six million Afghan refugees, protecting, assisting them, sharing your meagre resources with them. I've seen your generosity, helping each other, helping family, helping communities.

When I came in 2005, because of the earthquake, when I came in 2010, because of the floods, and when I came later, during the dramatic incursion of terrorism around the Swat Valley and further, closer to Islamabad, hundreds of thousands of people were displaced, and I was there, with them.

And so, I know what it means for the Pakistani people, this unprecedented natural disaster. There is no memory of



SECRETARY
GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS
ANTONIO GUTERRES

anything similar to what has happened with the impact of climate change on Pakistan. And I want to reassure you that we'll do everything possible to mobilize the international community to support your country and to support all of you in this very dramatic situation in which, beyond the numbers — the numbers are appalling — but beyond the numbers, I see the families that have lost their loved ones. I see the families that lost their houses. I see the families that lost their crops. I see the families that lost their jobs, and that are living in desperate conditions at the present moment.

I have seen the enormous effort, that response from civil servants, the government, from the army, from the NGOs, from the population, even an extraordinary demonstration of solidarity within the provinces of Pakistan.

And I want to say a few words to the international community. Pakistan needs massive financial support to respond to these crises that have cost, according to some estimates that I've heard today, about \$30 billion, and counting.

That support is entirely necessary. And it is not a matter of solidarity. It's a matter of justice. Pakistan has not contributed in a meaningful way to climate change. The level of emissions in this country is relatively low. But Pakistan is one of the most dramatically impacted countries by climate change. It is on the front lines of the impact of climate change. It is absolutely essential that this is recognized by the international community,

especially by those countries that have contributed more to climate change. And that effective solidarity, effective justice is now shown by mobilizing massive support for relief, for rehabilitation or for reconstruction after these devastating impacts of the monsoon, of accelerated melting glaciers.

At the same time, this is the moment to say that we are heading into a disaster. We have waged war on nature, and nature is striking back and striking back in a devastating way. Today in Pakistan, tomorrow in any of your countries.

We need to stop the increase in emissions and start reducing them now. At the same time, we need to mobilize much more resources to support those countries that need to build resilience. It is what is called adaptation that need to create the conditions to resist the impact of these devastating disasters caused by climate change.

And at the same time, as a matter of justice, to put seriously on the table in the next Conference of States Parties to the convention (on climate change) the question of loss and damage that is something that has been, (until) now, not discussed seriously in international climate talks. This is a time to mobilize everybody's efforts to mitigate climate change. And this is the time to mobilize every group of people to support massively the Pakistani people in this dramatic moment.

“ Pakistan is one of the most dramatically impacted countries by climate change. It is on the front lines of the impact of climate change.

Secretary-General Guterres' remarks following a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the National Flood Response and Coordination Center in Islamabad.



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Jaguar

ALAMIN KAY KUYA KIM

KIM ATIENZA

Came across an old Lino Brocka film called "Jaguar," starring Phillip Salvador, about a right-thinking

security guard who falls to temptation.

Just realized that Jaguar is the reverse of guwardia, which means security guard in Filipino.

The root word, of course, is jaguar, the real one, the animal that belongs to the huge cat family.

Jaguar is a large wild cat that's

similar to a leopard. It is found in the southwestern parts of the United States, Mexico and Central America.

Here are some interesting facts about jaguars:

They are native to the Americas.

They're on the heavy, chunky side, with spotty spots.

Jaguars are excellent swimmers.

They roar loud and clear.

They eat almost anything.

They can kill with a powerful bite.

ALAM NYO BA: Pythons, which can normally

grow up to 6 meters or more, usually eat small animals only, such as chicken.

Rare are the times when they would swallow an entire human being.

However, one such incident happened in Indonesia in 2018.

The body of 54-year-old

Wa Tiba was found when

villagers cut open a

23-foot python which

was found bloated

in Muna, offshore of

Sulawesi. It was believed

she was swallowed head

first. Her body remained

intact.

Send your questions to

Kuya Kim through my Twitter

account @kuyakim_atienza.





THIS WEEK'S MILESTONES

Sept. 11 to Sept. 17

Sept. 13, 1900

Filipino soldiers in Torrijos, Marinduque, defeated the American forces in what was known as the Battle of Pulang Lupa. This was among the first major victories of Filipino soldiers during the Filipino-American war. Local troops led by Lt. Col. Maximo Abad defeated the American contingent under the command of Capt. Devereaux Shields. Later on May 1, 1901, the United States-Philippine Commission passed Act No. 125 which created the province of Marinduque and established the provincial government at the municipality of Boac, its capital.

Sept. 13, 1986

Former rebel priest Conrado Balweg and then President Corazon Aquino exchanged tokens in Mt. Data in Mountain Province, to forge a "sipat," a term for cessation of hostilities for what was the first peace talks undertaken after the People Power Revolt ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Balweg handed Aquino an automatic rifle and accepted a rosary and a Bible from her. It led to peace negotiations that were concluded 25 years later in 2011 by Aquino's son, former President Benigno Aquino III. The talks also led to the creation of the interim Cordillera Administra-



tive Region (CAR) in 1987. Balweg led the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA), a militia that broke away from the communist New People's Army. CPLA had officially disbanded under a closure agreement signed on July 4, 2011.

Sept. 16, 1908

According to official records of the government, the municipality of Bontoc was founded and proclaimed as the capital town of the old Mountain Province. The name Bontoc was derived from the two morphemes "bun" (heap) and "tuk" (top), which, taken together, means "mountains." On July 7, 1997, the Sangguniang Bayan of Bontoc enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 35 that established the foundation day of the Municipality of Bontoc to be celebrated every Sept. 16. Bontoc has 16 barangays and a population of 24,104, according to the latest census of Philippine Statistics Authority.

Sept. 17, 2020

A new flowering plant from the madder, or coffee, family that was discovered growing in Mt. Arayat National Park in Pampanga province in 2017 was confirmed by botanists, according to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The species *Pyrostria arayatensis* was first found by a team of researchers led by Marlon Suba in a lowland forest of the 3,715-hectare park in eastern Pampanga. Mt. Arayat hosts 49 species of trees and plants, 86 species of birds, 14 species of mammals and 11 species of reptiles. President Manuel L. Quezon established Mt. Arayat as a national park through Proclamation No. 203 signed in 1937.

The Diyandi Festival in Iligan City, scheduled from Sept. 1 to Oct. 7, and the Araw ng Bansalan in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, scheduled on Sept. 18, will push through with participants and spectators urged to observe minimum health and safety protocols based on the alert level system for COVID-19 response.

Compiled by:

Marielle Medina, Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives, Official Gazette of the Philippines, Philippine News Agency, Philippine Statistics Authority, marinduque.gov.ph, lgubontoc.gov.ph, davaodelsur.gov.ph, Bansalan official Facebook page, Diyandi Festival official Facebook page



Go refiles resilience, adaptability bills

SEN. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, on Thursday said he has refiled three bills that are aimed at "strengthening national adaptability and resilience."

The proposed measures include the enactment of an e-Governance Act, the creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience, and the mandatory establishment of evacuation centers in towns and cities nationwide.

In a statement, Go noted the need to improve access to public services and connectivity in the country, thus the crafting of his proposed e-Governance Act of 2022 which mandates the government to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information and resource-sharing and communications network spanning the entirety of the national and local government.

He pointed out that more and more public and private transactions are being conducted online, which highlights the urgency of enhancing not only internet connectivity throughout the country but also access to public services through the use of available technologies.

Under Go's proposed measure, the government shall establish a program, to be known as the "Philippine Citizen Connect," to assist and help the public who does not have access to, or need help with using computers, the internet and other analogous means to transact with and request the delivery of public services from the government in their localities.

Moreover, the heads of government agencies are mandated to comply with the requirements of the proposed E-governance roadmap, including related standards for all Information and Communications Technology infrastructure, systems, equipment, designs and other technologies promoted by the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

The senator said that his proposed

measure creates a corporate body to be known as Philippine Infrastructure Management Corp. for the purpose of ensuring the proper and efficient operations and management of the country's ICT assets, as well as a training institution in recognition of the critical role of educating both the public and the government in ICT.

He explained that his measure will promote a transition to digitalization, eliminating delays and other problems associated with the traditional way of governance in communications and resource and information sharing.

Meanwhile, to promote disaster-resilient communities throughout the country, Go also refiled his proposed measure that seeks to establish a Department of Disaster Resilience which will bring together all essential functions and mandates currently scattered among various disaster-related agencies.

Once established, it shall be primarily responsible for implementing programs, projects and activities that ensure communities are disaster-resilient, adaptive and safe.

Go also refiled his proposed Mandatory Evacuation Center Act of 2022 which mandates the construction and maintenance of evacuation centers in all localities implemented by a coordinated Department of Public Works and Highways, local government units concerned, and other line agencies.

The bill also provides the minimum requirements for every evacuation center, including the location, structural or building capacity, and amenities and accessibility.

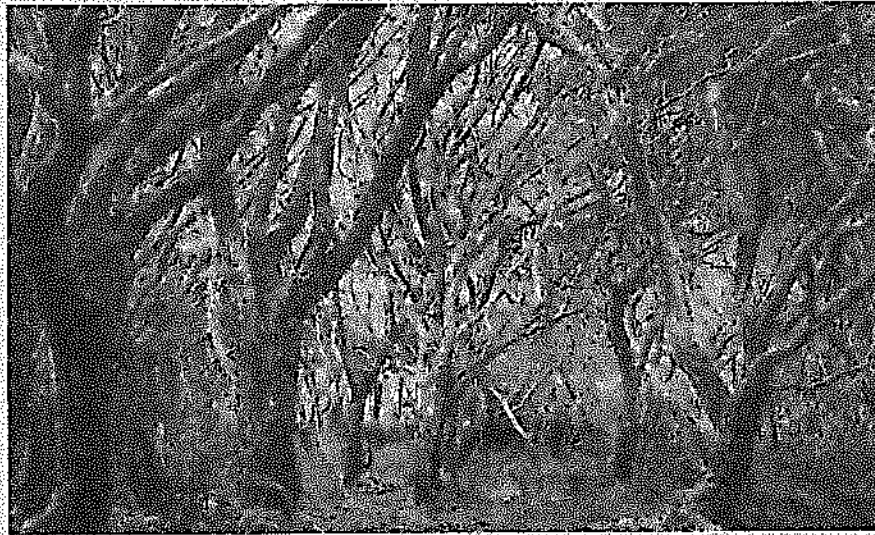
Go expressed his continued optimism for the measures' passage and pledged to continue advocating for people-centered and service-oriented legislation and policies that will increase national resilience and adaptability while ensuring continuous provision of public services to those who most require it.

JAVIER JOE ISMAEL



Beautiful orient

Davao Oriental to promote local sites via grand tourism campaign



SURREAL WOODS Forest in Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary

The provincial government of Davao Oriental is gearing up to promote its tourism through a grand campaign dubbed "Davao Oriental Beautiful."

In a statement, Governor Corazon Malanyaon described the campaign as poised to promote the province as a premier tourist destination.

At present, the provincial government has started making plans to improve its existing tourism sites.

Malanyaon envisions all of the province's tourism sites to become must-see stopover spots for tourists, giving them a relaxed ambiance as well as the beauty of nature.

These destinations include Davao Oriental's crown jewel, the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, Mindanao's first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"These sites will simply serve as support facilities to aid the entire tourism sector of the province. Tourism will not only help resorts, restaurants, hotels, and tour operators but will mainly help farmers, fisherfolk,

and the transport sector, among many others, thus, creating vibrant tourism and economic activities that will benefit everyone," said the governor.

She also expressed hope that the provincial government's initiative would inspire other private tourism operators to improve their establishments

Davao Oriental's crown jewel, the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, is Mindanao's first and only UNESCO World Heritage Site.



STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATION
AND
INITIATIVES
SERVICE

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS
SINCE 1908
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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PAGE 1
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Beautiful orient...

PAGE

2/2

DATE



PROTECTED SANCTUARY Trekkers at Mount Hamiguitan



TIME FOR A FACELIFT Governor Corazon Malanyaon (right) and her team inspect the Pintatagan Welcome Park in the municipality of Banaybanay as the province gears to improve its tourism industry

and adopt the province's standards in terms of tourism and hospitality.

Davao Oriental, according to the governor, has what it takes to become a premier tourism destination in the country that could become popular among foreign tourists.

In preparation for tourism development, Malanyaon recently led an inspection at the Pintatagan Welcome Park situated at the entrance to the municipality of Banaybanay.

Together with her team from the Provincial Tourism Office, she met with top-caliber architects to discuss

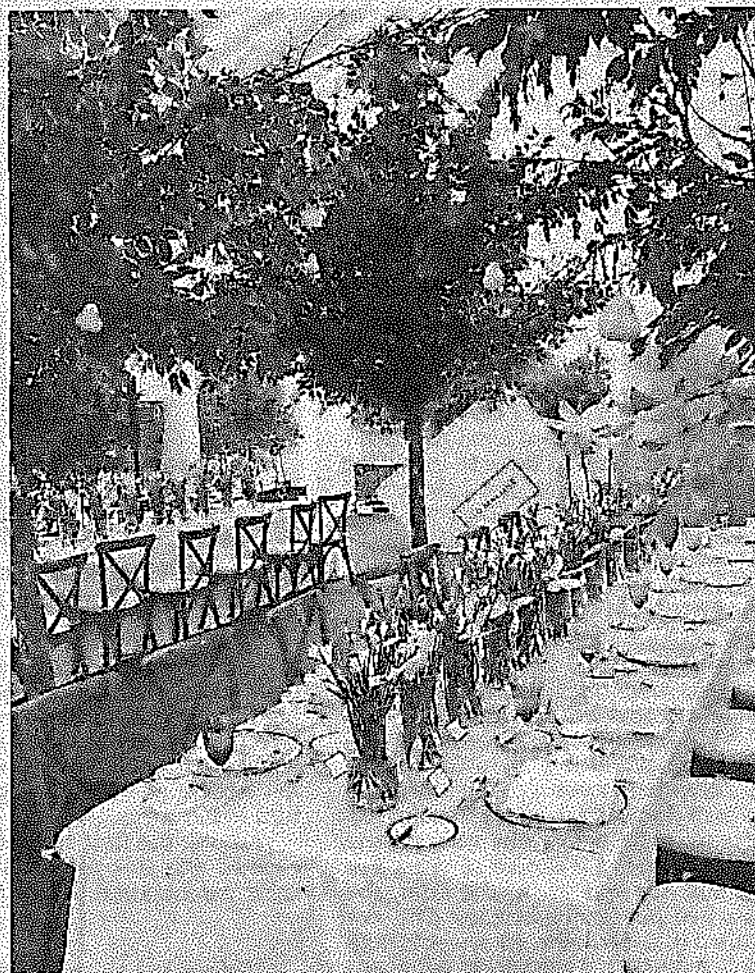
the plan and check the areas of the park that would need improvement.

The Welcome Park and all the other existing eco parks, which may serve the province's tourism come-ons, will soon be getting a well-deserved facelift.

Malanyaon plans to put up a cafe that will showcase one of the prominent tribes of Banaybanay town, the Kagan tribe.

"We want to give tourists a 'Kagan experience,' from the dishes to the decor and embellishments. Also, we will also be showcasing the Mandaya culture in all its tourist sites, especially on the east coast, which is predominantly composed of people from the Mandaya tribe," she added. (PNA)

Photos from Davao Oriental PIO



EVERYTHING'S COMING UP FREESIA The subtle scent of fresh freesia blossoms pervaded the air at the relaunch of the Jo Malone London classic fragrance English Pear and Freesia. The tent at the Palacio de Memoria was transformed into an enchanting garden with canopies of faux fruit trees providing shade for a delightful afternoon tea spread with the most buttery scones ever prepared by Chef Margarita Fores. (Y. Louise)