

DENR issues order rationalizing dredging activities nationwide

Published June 7, 2020, 6:34 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has issued an order rationalizing dredging activities in heavily silted river channels across the country to help restore their natural state and flow and reduce flooding.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MANILA BULLETIN)

Under DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2020-07 recently signed by Secretary Roy Cimatu, private contractors shall cover all expenses of dredging operations in river dredging zones (RDZ) to be identified by a provincial inter-agency committee created under the directive.

“No funding from the government shall be made for the conduct of dredging activities by the private sector,” Cimatu said in the order.

“Holders of dredging clearance shall provide the financing, technology, management, and personnel necessary to implement dredging activities within the exclusive RDZ,” he added.

Under the DAO, only duly registered companies with technical and financial capabilities to undertake large-scale flood control dredging and desilting operations may apply for a dredging clearance with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The private contractor will have to shoulder all the expenses of the dredging operation in exchange for whatever minerals it may recover, provided it pays the required national and local taxes.

Prior to engaging private contractors, local government units (LGUs) that are interested in undertaking river restoration through dredging activities within their jurisdiction must submit a letter of intent to the Office of the DENR Secretary.

The order also creates a provincial inter-agency committee composed of the governor as chair, DENR regional executive director as vice-chair, and regional directors of DPWH and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and Environmental Management Bureau as members.

The DENR noted that by removing the accumulated debris including dead vegetation, pollutants, and trash, dredging can restore the waterway to its original depth and condition, thus preventing floods.

Cimatu’s order is pursuant to Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2019, issued by the DENR, DPWH, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Department of Transportation.

The joint circular seeks to protect and restore to their natural state and water flow the heavily silted river channels in the country.

In 2019, Cimatu issued four DAOs related to the restoration of silted rivers through dredging, based on the separate requests of the provincial governments of Zambales, Oriental Mindoro, and Negros Occidental.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/07/denr-issues-order-rationalizing-dredging-activities-nationwide/>

DENR ipinag-utos ang paglinis sa mga ilog nang
hindi ginagastos ang pera ng gobyerno

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DENR ipinag-utos ang paglinis sa mga ilog nang hindi ginagastos ang pera ng gobyerno

June 7, 2020 @ 4:04 PM 16 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang maprotektahan ang kalikasan at hindi nagagamit ang pera ng taxpayers ipinag-utos ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa mga local government units (LGUs) na magsagawa ng dredging at river restoration projects.

Ito ang nakasaad sa administrative order na inilabas ni DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu na nag-aatas sa mga LGUs na magsagawa ng dredging sa mga maruruming ilog at iba pang daluyan ng tubig sa buong bansa upang maibalik ang maayos na daloy nito at maiwasan ang pagbaha.

Batay sa DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2020-07, ang mga private contractors ang sasagot sa lahat ng gastusin sa dredging operation sa mga river dredging zones (RDZ) na ituturo ng provincial inter-agency committee na bubuuin sa ilalim ng direktiba.

“No funding from the government shall be made for the conduct of dredging activities by the private sector,” ayon kay Cimatu sa kanyang direktiba.

“Holders of dredging clearance shall provide the financing, technology, management and personnel necessary to implement dredging activities within the exclusive RDZ,” dagdag pa nito.

Nabatid pa sa direktiba, ang mga registradong kumpanya na may kakayahang magsagawa ng malawakang flood control dredging at desilting operation ay maaaring mag-aplay ng dredging clearance sa Department or Public Works ang Highways (DPWH).

Ayon pa sa DENR ang mga pribadong kumpanyang ito ang sasagot sa lahat ng gastusin sa dredging operation kapalit ng kanilang makukuhang mineral ngunit kinakailangan ding bayaran ng mga ito ang national at local taxes.

Sinabi pa ng ahensya na kinakailangan ding magsumite ng “letter of intent” sa tanggapan ng DENR Secretary ang LGU kung mayroong pribadong kumpanya ang interesado na magsagawa ng river restoration sa kanilang nasasakupang lugar.

Idinagdag pa sa ulat na kabilang naman sa bubuo ng inter-agency committee ay ang governor bilang chair, DENR regional executive director na tatayong vice-chair, habang magiging katuwang ng mga ito bilang mga miyembro ang mga regional director ng DPWH, Geosciences Bureau at Environmental Management Bureau.

DENR ipinag-utos ang paglinis sa mga ilog nang

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Sa pamamagitan ng pag-alis sa mga naipong dumi ay maibabalik ng dredging operation ang maayos na agos sa mga daluyan ng tubig na magsisilbing paraang upang maiwasan ang pagbaha. Matatanggal din nito ang mga patay na halaman, pollutants at iba pang basura.

Ang pinakabagong direktiba ni Cimatú ay base na rin sa Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2019 na inilabas ng DENR, DPWH, Department of the Interior and Local Government at Department of Transportation.

Sa pamamagitan ng joint circular na ito ay mabibigyan ng proteksiyon at maibabalik sa dati ang maayos na daloy ng mga maruruming ilog sa buong bansa.

Noong isang taon nang maglabas si Cimatú ng DAO upang maibalik sa malinis na kalagayan ang mga ilog sa pamamagitan ng dredging base na rin sa hiwalay na kahilingan ng provincial government ng Zambales, Oriental Mindoro at Negros Occidental. **Santi Celario**

 PTV 23 hrs · 

TINGNAN: Top wildlife illegal trader sa Metro Manila, arestado ng pinagsanib pwersang PNP-Manila Police District at DENR-BMB enforcement team. Ito na ang ikalawang beses na natiklo ang suspek dahil sa pagbebenta umano ng mga endangered at threatened wildlife species. | via Clay Pardilla



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6 endangered na ibon na-rescue

By [Rhoderick Beñez](#)(Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 8, 2020 - 12:00am



Sa taya ng DENR, parehong matured na ang grass owl at brahminy kite habang pawang mga juvenile naman ang black shouldered kite. Hindi naman nakitaan ng anumang sugat ang nasabing mga ibon ma-liban lamang sa isa na may bakas ng sugat sa kanyang isang paa na tila matagal nang itinali.

NORTH COTABATO, Philippines — Nasa pangangalaga na ngayon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) 3rd District Satellite Office sa Matalam, dito sa lalawigan ang anim na mga ibon na may iba't ibang species matapos na maiturn-over ng mga residente mula sa dalawang barangay ng Tulusan nitong Sabado.

Ayon sa ulat ng Tulusan LGU, isang grass owl, isang brahminy kite at apat na mga black shouldered kite na uri ng ibon ang narescue mula sa barangay Popoyon at Damawato ng nasabing bayan.

Sa taya ng DENR, parehong matured na ang grass owl at brahminy kite habang pawang mga juvenile naman ang black shouldered kite. Hindi naman nakitaan ng anumang sugat ang nasabing mga ibon ma-liban lamang sa isa na may bakas ng sugat sa kanyang isang paa na tila matagal nang itinali.

Ayon sa pag-aaral, ang black shouldered kite ay kabilang sa pamilya ng Philippine Eagle na endemic na sa Marsh area habang ang grass owl naman ay matatagpuan sa Pilipinas at mga bansang Vietnam, Southeast China, Taiwan at iba pa na madadamong lugar. Ang brahminy kite naman o tinatawag ring red-backed sea-eagle ay matatagpuan sa mga kabundukan ng Southeast Asia partikular sa mga lugar na malapit sa karagatan.

Ayon sa DENR, itinuturing na endangered species ang naturang mga ibon o nanganganib ng maubos kaya't papakawalan din ito ng ahensiya kung sakaling maaari nang ma-kalipad muli sa mga lugar ng Mt. Sinay sa Arakan at Mt.Apo sa Kidapawan.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/2020/06/08/2019337/6-endangered-na-ibon-na-rescue/amp/>

Duterte reiterates opposition to Manila Bay reclamation projects

Updated June 8, 2020, 12:54 AM

By Genalyn Kabiling

President Duterte is determined to prevent Metro Manila from getting “killed” by massive reclamation projects proposed by private developers.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (ACE MORANDANTE/PRESIDENTIAL PHOTO/MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

The President has voiced anew his opposition to private sector-initiated proposals to reclaim lands along Manila Bay due to concerns these might destroy the environment and lead to the suffering of the people. Duterte made the statement after revealing the intense fighting over Manila Bay reclamation efforts worth “billions and billions” during his public address last Friday.

“Kita mo itong land registration? Nag-away-away na sila kasi 1,000 hectares. Mayayari tayo nito. Eh reclamation, marami nang away. Pera eh. Mga 1,000 reclamations, that’s billions and billions (Notice the land registration? They are fighting over 1,000 hectares. We will suffer. Fighting has been intense over the reclamation. There are 1,000 reclamations. That’s billions and billions),” he said in his public address last Friday.

“But in the process, you will kill the entire Metro Manila. Mahihirapan na ang tao doon (The people will have a hard time) and even the canals will no longer have the egress and ingress of water, let alone the absence of the water treatment,” he said.

Back in February, the President declared he would not allow reclamation projects initiated by private companies in Manila Bay due to its environmental impact on the metropolis. Duterte has advised potential investors to just wait for his successor.

“If I do that, of which I am wont to do, I will choke Manila. The entire Manila City will be environmentally at peril. So, pag-aralan ninyong mabuti ‘yan. (Study them carefully). For the next administration, whoever gets to be the President of this country, study it very carefully. Because with Manila there, that old city is an old city and it will decay if you add so many things in front of Manila Bay,” Duterte said during a visit to Sangley airport in Cavite last February.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority had earlier disclosed four proposed reclamation projects in Manila, such as the Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project, and the Horizon Manila 418-Hectare Reclamation Project.

Duterte previously admitted that he placed the reclamation agency under the Office of the President after learning about the supposed lobbying for certain projects.

“I got it back because I heard that everybody was lobbying for it and it came to my attention that we have this project and every Tom, Dick, and Harry in town was following up. Sabi ko (I said) no,” he said.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/07/duterte-reiterates-opposition-to-manila-bay-reclamation-projects/>

Reclamation projects sa mga lupain sa Manila bay,
TITLE: hindi pa rin papayagan ni PDU30

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Reclamation projects sa mga lupain sa Manila Bay, hindi pa rin papayagan ni PDU30

June 7, 2020 @ 2:31 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Muling isinatinig ni Pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte ang pagsalungat at pagtanggap sa panukala ng private sector na i-reclaim ang lupain sa kahabaan ng Manila Bay dahil sa mga alalahanin na makasisira ito sa kapaligiran at maging dahilan ng paghihirap ng mga tao.

Ang pahayag ni Pangulong Duterte ay matapos na maisiwalat ang matinding awayan sa pagsisikap na ma-reclaim ang Manila Bay na na aniya ay bilyon-bilyon ang halaga.

“Kita mo itong land registration? Nag-away-away na sila kasi 1,000 hectares. Maala — mayayari tayo nito. Eh reclamation, marami nang away. Pera eh. Mga 1,000 reclamations, that’s billions and billions ,” ayon sa Pangulo.

“But in the process, you will kill the entire Manila — Metro Manila. Mahihirapan na ang tao doon and even the canals would no longer have the egress and ingress of water, let alone the absence of the water treatment,” aniya pa rin.

Matatandaang sinabi ni Pangulo Duterte na hindi niya papayagan ang anumang reclamation project sa Manila Bay habang siya ang nakaupong Presidente ng bansa.

Harap-harapang sinabi ng Pangulo sa mga opisyal ng Cavite nang pangunahan nito ang inagurasyon ng Sangley Airport Development Project sa Sangley Point, Cavite noong Pebrero na kahit isang pribadong proyekto ay hindi niya papayagan sa Manila Bay.

Pero kung may koneksiyon ito sa mga proyekto ng gobyerno ay bibigyan ng go signal.

“Not during my time. I will only allow maybe plans of whatever reclamation if it is in connection with government projects. I will not allow massive reclamation for a private sector. Not now,” anang Pangulo.

Kapag aniya pinayagan ang mga ikinakasang pribadong reclamation projects ay tiyak na malalagay sa panganib ang buong Metro Manila.

Kaya nga ang payo ni Pangulong Duterte sa mga potential investors ay hintayin na lamang ang kanyang successor.

Reclamation projects sa mga lupain sa Manila bay,

June 8, 2020

TITLE: hindi pa rin papayagan ni PDU30

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“If I do that, of which I am wont to do, I will choke Manila. The entire Manila City would be environmentally at peril. So pag-aralan ninyong mabuti ‘yan. For the next administration, whoever gets to be the President of this country, study it very carefully. Because that Manila there, that old city is an old city and it will decay if you add so many things in front of Manila Bay,” ayon sa Chief Executive sa kanyang naging pagbisita sa Sangley airport sa Cavite noong Pebrero.

Samantala, isiniwalat naman ng Philippine Reclamation Authority na may apat na proposed reclamation projects sa Maynila, gaya ng Navotas City Coastal Bay Reclamation Project, Pasay 360-Hectare Reclamation Project, Pasay 265-Hectare Reclamation Project, at ang Horizon Manila 418-Hectare Reclamation Project. **Kris Jose**

Kalinga PNP engages in tree planting activity

By Peter A. Balocnit Published on June 7, 2020

CITY OF TABUK, June 7 (PIA) - - With the province now under modified general community quarantine, some guidelines are relaxed enabling police personnel to engage in tree planting activity.

Personnel of the Kalinga Provincial Police Office, 1503rd Maneuver Company of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) and the 1st Mobile Force Company recently conducted tree planting activity at the premises of the RMFB camp at Talaca, Agbannawag this city.

This is part of PNP's Core Value on "Makakalikasan" which aims to preserve nature through tree planting and for the next generation to feel the bounties and serenity of Mother Earth.

The different seedlings planted, mostly fruit bearing trees, were provided by the Tabuk Community Environment and Natural Resources Office and some produced by individual PNP members.

Commanders of said units committed to continue this activity taking advantage of the rainy season.



Police personnel in Kalinga take time out from their busy schedules to plant trees in line with their advocacy of protecting and preserving Mother Earth.

Meanwhile, OIC Provincial Director PCol. Davy Vicente Limmong said the PNP continue to man border checkpoints to ensure implementation of MGCQ protocols and guidelines. Programs on anti-criminality, anti-illegal drugs and anti-insurgency campaign are also routinely carried out, he added.

The 1st MFC is also providing free ride to commuters within the city particularly those in outskirt puroks who are experiencing difficulty in going to the market and other places because of limited number of tricycles allowed to ply the route. (JDP/PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

Biological hazards posed by infectious waste from Pangasinan hospitals: COA

By [Peter Tabingo](#) - June 8, 2020

GOVERNMENT auditors have warned of potential biological health hazards from five devolved hospitals in the province of Pangasinan after discovering improper handling and

disposal of used laboratory and surgical supplies as well as human waste.

Based on the 2019 audit of Pangasinan released last June 5, the hospitals are located in Alaminos City, San Carlos City, Mangatarem, Tayug and Lingayen.

Waste generated by the first four hospitals is collected by the municipal or city governments where they are located while those of the Lingayen District Hospital are handled by the provincial government.

“It was noted that infectious wastes such as vials, needles, ampules, used gloves and IV (intravenous) lines and the like were not regularly disposed of thru a transport facility but were stored at infectious waste storage area/chamber and some were disposed of in the septic vaults,” the audit team said.

“Placenta and pathological wastes were disposed of in the placenta pit. Inquiry from the pollution control officers revealed that there was no accredited transporter that will collect, transport and dispose properly the infectious wastes generated by the hospitals,” it added.

The Commission on Audit noted that Pangasinan has submitted a 10-year Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan in compliance with RA 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The province declared its vision to have “residents and visitors enjoy a clean, litter-free, green, beautiful and healthful community.”

However, it has failed to put up the required materials recovery facilities (MRFs) to segregate bio-degradable from non-bio-degradable/non-recyclable waste.

The province also has no sanitary landfill of its own for the permanent disposal of garbage generated by residents and establishments.

Instead it has entered into a contract with the Metro Clark Waste Management (MCWM) Corp. to dump its trash for P850 per ton at the landfill located in Clark Special Economic Zone (sub-zone D) in Capas, Tarlac. The contract expired on December 31, 2019 but is subject to renewal.

Auditors said the contract with MCWM is at best a temporary solution to a continuing problem.

“In case the disposal agreement is revoked or failed to be renewed for any cause or reason, unattended or improperly disposed solid waste could be a threat to the environment and health hazard to the public in general,” the COA warned.

In a separate Value for Money audit, questioned were raised on the procurement by the provincial government of three medical waste autoclave/microwaves with built in shredder for the total cost of P65.992 million.

The machines, acquired from Variance Trading Corp., uses saturated steam as a sterilizing agent to kill microorganisms and render hospital wastes harmless. It supposedly eliminates the risks of contamination to people and the environment.

According to the inspection and corroboration report by the audit team, the waste become harmless after full processing and may be disposed of as ordinary household waste.

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However, auditors noted that one of the machines was delivered to the Pangasinan Provincial Hospital on July 26, 2018 but was installed for use only in January 2020. The other two machines with a combined value of P43.995 million delivered on May 17, 2019 to the Western Pangasinan District Hospital and Eastern Pangasinan District Hospital remain unused because the necessary electrical connections and water supply have not been installed.

“The machines should have been operational at the time these were delivered and installed at the three district hospitals to maximize usage and productive hours. Thus, accumulated hospital wastes would have been treated and disposed of properly minimizing disposal costs and ensuring safe and clean environment,” the COA said.

The provincial government said it has set aside P5 million under the 2020 budget for the construction of a sanitary landfill.

For hospital wastes, it promised to avail of a qualified transport facility accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau to take charge of the treatment and proper disposal of all hazardous and infectious waste.

Air pollution levels rising anew as NCR enters GCQ

posted June 07, 2020 at 11:10 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

Air pollution levels have rebounded in the National Capital Region with the return of fossil fuel reliant transport and industry, a new report released on World Bicycle Day last week by Greenpeace and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) shows.

The groups are calling for the immediate adoption of measures that would safeguard the air quality in cities and municipalities.

They noted that while the restriction of movement during the ECQ was largely responsible for the improved air quality in the past 10 weeks, stringent policies and better city and mobility planning will, moving forward after the pandemic, truly address Metro Manila's transportation emissions problem and improve its air quality.

The Special Report on Managing Air Quality Beyond COVID-19 reveals that pollution levels in Metro Manila have been steadily increasing since the beginning of May, as industries restart and cities that have major connecting highways reportedly began seeing more vehicles on the road.

The report compiles data of two major air pollutants that are emitted from fossil fuel combustion: nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}).

Analysis of these two pollutants from March 15 to May 15 this year shows an initial and dramatic drop in air pollutant concentrations at the beginning of the lockdown, and the gradual rebound during the MECQ.

With the metropolis shifting to looser restrictions on travel and other activities under the general community quarantine (GCQ) starting June 1, a return to smog and pollution levels prior to the ECQ may not be far behind.

"Air pollution doesn't have to be an inescapable reality. The ECQ gave Filipino citizens a glimpse of what cities can be like with healthy, clean air. It also showed us that air pollution can be solved without sacrificing people's access to mobility," said Greenpeace campaigner Rhea Jane Pescador-Mallari.

"Moving forward, if the government is willing to use the opportunities and lessons learned from the pandemic and amplify it through policies and infrastructure, active mobility and micro mobility, as well as invest in efficient and safe mass public transport, then a return to the massive pollution levels before COVID-19 can be avoided."

While the report looks at the entire Metro Manila, it examined closely the air quality in seven major cities in the metropolis -- Makati, Pasig, Manila, Quezon, Marikina, San Juan, and Caloocan -- to show that the rebound trends are consistent across the capital.

Detailed analysis shows that levels of NO₂ and PM_{2.5} drastically diminished within the first two weeks of ECQ, with the exception of Caloocan. Quezon City and Manila saw the highest reductions of the six.

Although the metro's overall air quality remained much improved compared to previous years, the air quality gains are now sliding back in all these cities. This change is expected as the country remains heavily reliant on highly polluting fossil fuel energy sources across all sectors.

NO₂ and PM_{2.5} are linked to severe respiratory and cardiovascular health illnesses. Exposure to high levels of air pollution affects the body's natural defenses against airborne viruses and increases vulnerability to COVID-19.

Short-lived climate pollutants, such as black carbon (a component of particulate matter) and methane, also accelerate global warming and glacial melt.

Air pollution further threatens food and water systems, reducing sunlight that reaches plants and crops and even affecting the trajectory and intensity of monsoons, which impact on our food producers and the country's food security.

Greenpeace says that these sectors most impacted by the climate emergency are also the sectors hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic, thus the immediate need for green and just recovery measures.

The report recommends recovery efforts that prioritize clean energy sources, green transportation options, and enhanced micro mobility around localities, to keep air pollution at manageable levels and to reduce the compounding risks to human lives and livelihoods brought about by the health and climate crises.

“Our recommendations capitalize on opportunities for environmental, economic and social development in the short and long term, with efforts across local and national governments and the private sector. The ‘better normal’ must be imaginative, and better air quality must be a part of it.” said CREA analyst Isabella Suarez.

“As epicenters of growth, cities need to provide an environment that puts in high premium the health and wellness of both people and the planet. Solving air pollution, particularly from fossil fuels, is not only good for people's health, it is also a solution to the climate crisis.

“At the local level, addressing air pollution is a key aspect of making cities livable and sustainable. At the national level, it means addressing the climate crisis while helping build climate resilient communities,” said Mallari.

Give priority to frontliners

Published 7 hours ago on June 8, 2020 12:05 AM

By **TDT**



Government officials were tasked by Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go for the scrupulous implementation of the provisions of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act particularly with regards to the benefits and compensations to health workers affected by the coronavirus disease 2019.

“Considering that they willingly put themselves at risk so that they could save others” make the delays in the benefits made available to them unacceptable, according to Go.

“As a legislator, chairman of the committee on health and a member of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, I have been very supportive of the agencies tasked with spearheading our COVID-19 response,” he added.

“The government must complete and fulfill all the deliverables expected. Let us not further prolong the suffering of our Filipino brothers and sisters,” he appealed in his weekly column “GOing Forward.”

Warning fired off

The legislator, likewise, warned “those who are taking advantage of our current situation to profit from the suffering of others, especially those who are perpetrating scams and committing corruption.”

He urged the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission and other concerned agencies to investigate, file cases and arrest “those who take advantage of the vulnerabilities of Filipinos at this time.”

Go also commended the Department of Agriculture for providing agri-enterprise assistance to beneficiaries of his brainchild Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) program.

“This will not only help in ensuring the sustainability of the program but also ensure food security for the nation. Indeed, in a time when our economy is in crisis, we must go back to basics. It is time for us to appreciate the role of agriculture in revitalizing our economy and our society,” he noted.

Stronger health sector seen

To further strengthen the public health sector to overcome present and future health challenges, Go said he recently sponsored several health bills “to capacitate and improve our several local hospitals, which were all passed on second reading.”

“Among these are the Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City; the Western Visayas Medical Center in Iloilo City; the Siargao District Hospital in Surigao del Norte; the Malita District Hospital in Davao Occidental; the Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center in Las Piñas City; and the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Cagayan. Another bill also seeks to establish the Bicol Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Camarines Sur,” he noted.

The Senate member said it is about time that overcrowding and inefficiencies in hospitals, especially in the provinces, are addressed.

“Investing in this will also help us improve the delivery of health services to Filipinos not only during the COVID-19 pandemic but also in the future,” Go averred.

LATEST

'Negative' can become 'positive' later — Roque

Published 6 hours ago on June 8, 2020 01:29 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



The OFW was "negative" upon arriving in Palawan's gateway last 31 May. (Facebook grab)

People who tested negative from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) should not be complacent as they can later catch the virus.

"COVID-19 testing reflects the person's health status only at the time of testing. Between the time a test is conducted and the time of arrival of an OFW or anyone travelling, the possibility of infection remains," Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Sunday as he reminded everyone to exercise all the precautions advised by health authorities during travel to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 in the country..

Roque made the remark after a number of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) who turned out negative for COVID-19 during testing in Manila later turned out positive for the virus upon returning to their respective provinces.

Roque was referring to an OFW who was later confirmed to be COVID-19 positive after arriving in the Puerto Princesa International Airport in Palawan last 31 May. The OFW turned out negative for the virus when tested in Manila several weeks ago .

With this in mind, Roque said local government units around the country should enforce extra precaution measures or health protocols to prevent more people getting infected of the virus.

"Additional safety measures at the provincial or LGU (local government unit) level are likewise necessary to ensure that one is truly healthy and devoid of COVID19," he added.

p: wjg

PhilHealth lowers Covid-19 test rates

Quick response commendable, says Sen. Go

Published 20 hours ago on June 7, 2020 11:29 AM

By **TDI**



The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth) swift response in lowering coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing cost was a laudable move amid the country's various struggles due to the health crisis.

Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go called the attention of the state health insurer to revisit its test rates after he received reports of overpricing.

"I am commending PhilHealth for their immediate response in cutting the cost of COVID-19 test as it provides us a wider coverage for all Filipinos who need to undergo testing in this time of health crisis while maximizing limited government resources," Go said.

PhilHealth announced on Wednesday it has lowered its test rate from P8,150 to P3,409.

PhilHealth said the adjustment was because of "increased availability and affordability of testing kits in the market." The increased number of qualified facilities to do COVID-19 testing also played an important role in lowering the cost.

Under the new payment scheme, PhilHealth will pay P3,409 as long as test kits and services are provided by the testing laboratory. If test kits are donated, PhilHealth will pay P2,077, while in public hospitals, PhilHealth will pay P901 only.

"Sa pagbaba ng cost ng COVID-19 test, mas makakatipid ang gobyerno at mas mabibigyan tuon pa natin ang mga health services na kailangan din nating i-address o dagdagan bukod sa COVID-19 testing lamang," Go said.

Go highlighted that there is a constant need to re-evaluate prices, especially on medical supplies, equipment and services given the increasing demand for public healthcare services.

"Ang kailangang gawin ng gobyerno ay palaging i-check kung affordable ba ang mga health services, equipment at kahit ang mga gamot para matulungan natin ang bawat Pilipino sa kanilang mga suliraning pangkalusugan," Go said.

"Karapatan ng bawat Pilipino ang maayos na kalusugan at equal access o health care services. Ang trabaho naming ay para i-safeguard ang interes ng mga Pilipino lalong lalo na sa usaping pangkalusugan."

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/07/philhealth-lowers-covid-19-test-rates/>

Drilon: Bayanihan Law already expired

Published 5 hours ago on June 8, 2020 02:20 AM

By **Hananeel Bordey**



Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon maintained that Republic Act 10469 or the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act will expire upon the adjournment of Congress.

In a radio interview, Drilon explained that all special powers and authorities granted by Congress to President Rodrigo Duterte have already ceased, contrary to Malacañang's position claiming that the Bayanihan Law is valid until 25 June.

"For now, the law has already expired. That is in accordance with the Constitution and it is clear that the Bayanihan (Law provides) emergency powers (to the President)," he said.

"Now, they cannot arrest (anyone) due to fake news or due to violations of curfew. Police cannot arrest people due to prohibition against mass gathering. That law cannot be used because it has already expired," Drilon added.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque on Saturday said that the effectivity of the Bayanihan Law is until 25 June or three months after Duterte signed it into law, following the "sunset clause" of the law.

Under Article VI Section 23 (2) of the Constitution, special laws or emergency measures "shall cease upon the next adjournment of Congress."

According to Sen. Sonny Angara, if the Constitution is interpreted strictly, emergency powers like the Bayanihan Act ceases upon the next adjournment of Congress, which was last week.

Both Houses will open its session on 27 July before President Duterte delivers his fifth State of the Nation Address.

In the same interview, Drilon also mentioned that the death and sickness benefits for the frontliners who died and acquired the virus while helping the government address the COVID-19 pandemic will also cease upon the expiration of the law.

However, Drilon said that the President is allowed to realign budget to fund these.

"The compensation, that will already cease because that is included in (the Bayanihan Law) and that is not included in the (General Appropriations Act)," he said.

"But no one can hinder the President or there is no violation of laws if the President, as long as there are available funds, provide it from his contingent funds," he reiterated.

Drilon added that President Duterte can also use his intelligence funds and realign it to the programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/08/drilon-bayanihan-law-already-expired/>

Gov't can't allow all transport modes yet due to
Covid-19 threat

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June 8, 2020
DATE

Gov't can't allow all transport modes yet due to Covid-19 threat

By Azer Parrocha June 7, 2020, 6:24 pm



File photo

MANILA – The government cannot allow all modes of transportation to resume operations due to the prevailing coronavirus disease (Covid-19) threat, Malacañang said on Sunday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque sought for more patience from commuters, saying that they understand their sentiments but stood pat on its decision to only allow limited public utility vehicles (PUVs) and passenger capacity to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

“We have to consider, however, that Metro Manila, is still under General Community Quarantine; thus, the threat of Covid-19 still exists and is real,” he said in a statement.

Roque said allowing a hundred percent of PUVs to ply roads would put to waste government efforts to flatten the curve or slow down the rate of Covid-19 infection.

“At this juncture, we still cannot let all modes of transportation to be on the streets. This will defeat the purpose of quarantine. Unless a vaccine or cure is available, we must not let our guards down,” he said.

He, meanwhile, reiterated the importance of implementing a “gradual, calibrated and partial” resumption of public transport under two phases.

Phase 1, which will be from June 1 -21, 2020, includes train and bus augmentation, public utility buses (PUBs), taxis and Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS), shuttle services, point-to-point buses, public utility buses and bicycles.

He said the Department of Transportation (DOTr) has opened eight city bus routes last week and will open three more on Monday (June 8) and more rationalized routes in the next few days.

There are 28 point-to-point routes, with 268 bus units, provided access to commuters from peripheral areas such as Alabang, Bacoor, Bulacan and Antipolo.

Around 31,700 taxis and TNVs were likewise deployed and are using cashless transactions and online payments for fare collection.

Free rides in almost 20 routes and 95 hospitals around Metro Manila are being offered to healthcare workers and medical front-liners.

As of June 6, 2020, the DOTr Free Ride for Health Workers was able to reach 1,073,975 in terms of ridership nationwide.

Gov't can't allow all transport modes yet due to
TITLE: Covid-19 threat

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For Phase 2, modern public utility vehicles, and UV express will be added from June 22-30, 2020.

Roque also assured that daily assessments are done on the transportation sector.

“The government is trying to do more in order to help of everyone,” he said.

Meanwhile, Roque also reiterated his appeal to the private sector to provide shuttle services to their employees and only allow half of their workforce to physically report for work.

“What the administration is doing is balancing the need to revitalize the economy so that we can have livelihood and jobs while looking out for and protecting the health and safety of the public as well,” he said.

There are 21,895 confirmed cases of Covid-19 infection in the country with 1,003 deaths and 4,530 are recoveries, as of Sunday. **(PNA)**

MMDA: Number coding scheme remains suspended

Published 15 hours ago on June 7, 2020 04:53 PM

By **TDT**



The modified number coding scheme opens drivers to being cited for a violation the moment their passengers alight from their vehicles.

The number coding scheme (NCD) will remain suspended on Monday, 8 June 2020, in Metro Manila following a decision by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) not to implement a modification of the traffic-reduction scheme.

MMDA spokesperson Celine Pialago on Sunday said the agency reached the decision in view of the still limited public transport units allowed to operate in the metropolis, making it difficult for workers to move around.

The modified scheme would have resumed the effectivity of the number coding scheme, with the exception of vehicles carrying two essential travellers aboard per unit.

The modified scheme had drawn criticism because a passenger getting off a vehicle seeking exemption from the modified scheme would open the driver to being cited for traffic violation.

Under the regular number coding scheme, vehicles are barred from the road one day per week depending on the end number of their license plates.

p/jhd

MMDA calls for smooth coordination in building Metro Manila bike lanes

By Jimmiley E. Guzman Published on June 7, 2020

CALOOCAN CITY, June 7 (PIA) -- The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) calls for smoother coordination from cycling advocates as it welcomes the establishment of bicycle lanes and in promoting the use of bicycle as mode of transportation.

The MMDA told the **PIA-NCR** that it welcomes the establishment of pop-up bike lanes and elevated bike lanes in Metro Manila. The agency is not against such initiatives. However, biking enthusiasts have to remember that there are precautions for the safety of all road users. Close coordination with the MMDA and local government units is important.

The MMDA, with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and other concerned government agencies, have plans of connecting the existing bicycle lanes on EDSA to bicycle lanes of the local governments in Metro Manila as more people prefer bicycle as alternative mode of transportation in the "new normal."

Discussions with DOTr have started for the enhancement of existing bicycle lanes and creating a bicycle road network in Metro Manila. Cycling advocates are encouraged to coordinate with the government agencies concerned.

Sustainability can only be attained thru connectivity. Please be partner for change.

Under the government's long-term plan, more bicycle lanes will soon be installed along EDSA and other major thoroughfares in Metro Manila. Designated bicycle lanes would ensure the safety of bikers and encourage the use of the alternative mode of transportation.

The MMDA advocates the use of bicycle as a reliable means of transportation amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from having an active and healthy lifestyle, there is physical distancing when riding the two-wheel non-motorized vehicle.

The MMDA, in previous years, has installed bike lanes along Edsa, from Magallanes to Ayala Avenue; University Avenue up to Tandang Sora in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City; Remedios Circle up to Paraiso ng Batang Maynila on M. Adriatico Street in Manila; and from Santolan LRT-2 station to Imelda Avenue along Marcos Highway in Marikina City. (PIA NCR)

128 stranded individuals head home via Balik Probinsiya Program

Published June 7, 2020 3:25pm

A total of 128 Lanao del Sur residents who were stranded in Manila due to the COVID-19 lockdown were finally on their way home.

According to a Sunday “24 Oras News Alert,” the stranded individuals arrived in Misamis Oriental through the government’s Balik Probinsiya, Bagong Pag-asa Program.

Among the formerly stranded individuals were locals who lost their jobs in Manila and abroad amid the pandemic.

Also included in the group were students studying in Saudi Arabia.

The stranded individuals were escorted to a quarantine facility in Marawi to undergo rapid testing.

They said they are ready to be quarantined if required. — **Ma. Angelica Garcia/DVM, GMA News**

Let governors govern

[CTALK](#) - [Cito Beltran](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 8, 2020 - 12:00am

The last two weeks have had to be the worst weeks for members of the IATF and the Duterte administration in terms of crafting policies and solutions as well as communicating their decisions.

On several occasion, the IATF came up with ideas, solutions that defy common sense and logic, such as opening up business establishments, allowing millions to go to work but failing or disregarding the vital need for public transportation. Then there were the follow up solutions that would allow motorcycles on highways but only those with sidecars. That of course earned the government hundreds of memes where owners of high-end motorcycles posted photos of BMWs and Ducati's with carbon fiber sidecars like those made in the provinces. The idea was quickly dropped by the IATF but not before they declared that having back riders was still not allowed. To make matters worse, it was also suggested that married couples should also observe social distancing not only on motorcycles but even in their own homes. I suppose it's an attempt to curb the population explosion that is expected from three months of being cooped up at home. The only good out of that is that if the pandemic stretches into years, the Coronials will all have a comprehend and speak Korean!

I can only commiserate with government spokespersons who have had to push and pull back on their pronouncements every time officials discovered the absence of logic and common sense in their proclamations. At one point, it almost felt like they were suffering from Schizophrenia or dual but conflicted personality. We are five days short of 3 months or 90 days and for nearly a month I have been calling out the administration to call a time out, or put in a fresh team or do some substitution or increase the number of players on the team because the ones doing all the work at the moment are showing visible signs of over fatigue, burn out and are running out of fresh ideas. Unfortunately, it is apparently the players themselves who are too busy to notice, are living in denial, or because the President wants to finish the game with his original team.

But three months after the fact, there is no denying that the IATF that is based in Metro Manila which has the highest concentration of cases, already has its hands full and has no businesses telling provinces and regions how to run or manage their constituencies especially since the IATF are not the elected officials of said provinces. Instead of simply giving general guidelines and logistical support, the national government has ended up micro managing the state of affairs in every region and province, completely debunking their claims that the local governments are in charge. As a result, Governors are denied the right and the responsibility to govern, Mayors and Village Chiefs have ended up being clerks, accountants and errand boys of the IATF and what's worse is that the IATF is imposing policies and instructions, making pronouncements based on the arm-chair science of experts located in Metro Manila.

The reason we have Governors is for them to govern and not be dictated upon, certainly not by political appointees. Governors and all those local officials were elected and will be held accountable by their constituents so they should be held accountable for how they formulated and implemented their response to Covid-19 and not how dutifully and faithfully they adhered to the orders and instructions coming out of Malacañang and the DILG. The national government has already done a good job of fighting off the first wave of the plague now let's give the elected officials some flexibility to fine tune the health and safety protocols as well as the stabilization of their respective areas and economies.

Let the Governors govern.

* * *

The current crisis in the US and parts of the world brought about by the death of George Floyd and the BLACK LIVES MATTER movement must be giving some local officials cause for concern if not sleepless nights. Long before the global protests, Filipinos have been raising the issue of Extra Judicial Killings and how things finally got out of hand after three minors were killed in what were claimed to be drug related incidents. The policemen who were charged in the murder of Kian Delos Santos were recently found guilty which shows that our justice system works.

The question is how well is the system of recruiting, training and monitoring of police officers in the Philippines? If anything, the number of incidents showing Police Officers behaving in very unprofessional manner during the ECQ and GCQ of Metro Manila reveals the lack of consistent training, briefing, reminder and orientation of police officers. The various incidents inside Bonifacio Global City where cops threatened foreigners and Filipinos alike, where certain police officers violated social distancing, where a high ranking police officer was even heard saying “lets give a medal to piss off the critics”, all this show signs of flawed character and maturity. At the moment, a video is going around Facebook where seven PNP personnel accosted a mother of two, shouting at her, not realizing the mother was Indonesian. Apparently it was not the first and unless the entire unit is replaced by better-trained police officers, we will suffer the bad PR and its consequences.

In one conversation/interview I had with General Guillermo Eleazar, I strongly suggested that the PNP should stop wearing combat fatigues. The PNP officers might think it's cool to wear combat outfits during quarantine but they fail to realize that in trying to look like “Soldiers” they are revealing their lack of pride in being a Police Officer. Maybe that is what's wrong with our police today. They do not fully understand their role and their relationship with the citizens. You are one of us. You are not above us. You swore to serve and protect not to “swear at” and “police”. Educate yourselves and discover what a Police Officer is and take pride in it.

* * *

E-mail: utalk2ctalk@gmail.com

PH travel spots receive Forbes nod

Published June 7, 2020, 8:58 PM

By Hanah Tabios

With its pristine white sand beaches and rich biodiversity, the Philippines was hailed in Forbes.com as one of the major potential tourist destinations in a post-COVID world.



Forbes contributor Jared Ranahan listed the Philippines as one of the potential major travel destinations in a post-COVID world. (Photo by: Hanah Tabios/MANILA BULLETIN)

The Philippines was one of the seven country destinations cited by Forbes writer Jared Ranahan as among the “rising stars in travel” along with Ethiopia, Iran, Myanmar, Georgia, Slovenia, and Tunisia. The Department of Tourism (DOT) welcomed the recent international distinction, especially now that the tourism industry has suffered serious losses amid the ongoing global health crisis.

“We are pleased to have received this bit of good news, especially after our industry had been hit hard by the global health pandemic. International recognition, especially by a well-respected publication like Forbes in this post-COVID-19 world will go a long way in helping the Philippine tourism industry get back on its feet,” tourism chief Berna Romulo-Puyat said.

In his article published May 31, Ranahan wrote that these countries all possess the qualities needed to become world-class destinations, as they have “pristine natural beauty, historic ruins, and fascinating cultural experiences can be encountered in abundance.”

Ranahan said the country, as an archipelago comprising some 7,500 islands, has something to offer even to the most finicky of tourists.

He wrote that the capital Metro Manila and Quezon City are two popular destinations ideal for “a deep immersion into Filipino culture.”

Those who seek the finest white sand beaches and endemic flora and fauna species, he wrote, can visit island destinations and world-renowned Boracay Island in the province of Aklan, as well as Palawan province.

Last April, the editors of New-York based Travel+Leisure magazine also shared their must-go destinations after the COVID-19 crisis.

In a post, editorial producer Karen Chen said: “My friends and I originally had plans to visit the Philippines and Vietnam in May, but those plans, like so many others this year, have since been thwarted. I’ve traveled all over East Asia and Southeast Asia, but these two countries I’ve yet to check off my bucket list — and from what I hear, I’ve saved two of the best for last.

“I can’t wait to get a chance to go back and spend some tourism dollars in this incredibly vibrant, culturally rich part of the world,” she added.



Meanwhile, Puyat said the DOT is now preparing the country's tourism sites in areas under the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) for the gradual reopening of domestic tourism.

In the meantime, the tourism department has been posting video advertisements under its "Wake Up in the Philippines" campaign where it showcases the country's most picturesque travel destinations.

NIA fast-tracks Bulacan dam repair

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 8, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is fast-tracking the rehabilitation of the Bustos Dam in Bulacan to ensure water supply for farmlands in the area.

The repair is being conducted due to damage on Rubber Bladder No. 5 of the Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam in Bustos town.

NIA officials recently met with the project contractor, ITP Construction Inc.-Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co. Ltd. Consortium, to discuss the repair and rehabilitation of the dam.

One of the things they agreed to do was for the contractor to replace the damaged rubber bladder as provided under a 20-year warranty period policy from 2017 to 2037.

The NIA instructed the ITP-Guangxi to coordinate with the regional office to determine the best remedial measures in addressing the problem.

It was agreed that contractor would construct a cofferdam without any cost to NIA.

The cofferdam will serve as a temporary replacement of the rubber bladder at Bay No. 5, prior to the repair of the damaged one.

The contractor committed to revise its proposal by incorporating NIA's recommendations.

It also committed to immediately start the mobilization and preparatory works. It said it would not proceed with the construction of the cofferdam until the final design plan is approved.

The ITP-Guangxi has completed all preparatory works.

The notice to commence work has also been issued.

Bustos Dam rehab given green light

June 8, 2020 | 12:04 am



NIA

REHABILITATION of the damaged Bustos Dam in Bulacan has been approved for repairs under warranty, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) said.

In a statement Sunday, NIA said a coffer dam will be constructed as a temporary replacement for the damaged Rubber Bladder in Bustos Dam's Bay No. 5.

The NIA said the construction of the coffer dam will be executed by the consortium of ITP Construction, Inc. and Guangxi Hydroelectric Construction Bureau Co. Ltd.

NIA inspected Bustos Dam on May 13.

It said the contractor has completed all preparatory works to repair the dam's rubber bladder.

The Notice to Commence Work was issued to the contractor after NIA approved the plans from the Regional Office.

The dam's damaged rubber bladder is covered by the contractor's 20-year warranty policy which is in force until 2037. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SM Cares for oceans and entire environment

By [The Manila Times](#)

June 8, 2020

MILLIONS of people around the world observe two of the most important dates dedicated to the protection and conservation of the environment — World Environment Day on June 5 and World Oceans Day on June 8.

World Environment Day aims to raise awareness on issues that affect the environment and inspire action to address them. Now on its 46th year, the theme for 2020 revolves around biodiversity, deemed a concern that is both urgent and existential.

World Oceans Day is another yearly celebration for nature, dedicated to the protection and restoration of the world's oceans. This year, one of its goals is to encourage world leaders to use their influence into having at least 30 percent of the world protected by year 2030 — called the 30×30 initiative.

SM joins these global celebrations through several of its digital communications campaign that encourage everyone to be mindful of their collective and daily choices that affect the environment.

Some of SM's environmental initiatives include its water recycling program across all SM Malls, wherein water is recycled and is used back for non-potable needs; the monthly Trash to Cash Recycling Market that advocate for responsible solid waste management; Solar rooftops in several of its malls that promote the use of clean energy; regular coastal clean-up activities at the SM by the Bay; the Green Film Festival that feature documentaries about biodiversity, climate change and solid waste, offered for free to high school students, held at SM Cinemas.

In line with the two celebrations, SM Supermalls, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. (PRRCFI) are also set to launch their information and education campaign later this year, titled "AweSMseas" campaign.

The goal of the initiative is to highlight how the beauty and biodiversity of Philippine seas are being threatened by plastic pollution, and inspire Filipinos to become more mindful of their use of plastic materials, especially disposable ones, as well as take responsibility for their waste through efforts like proper segregation and recycling.

Both World Environment Day and World Oceans Day are perfect occasions for everyone to finally heed nature's plea: for mankind to save it from further destruction before it's too late.

"As we observe these two very important global events, now is the best time to think about what we can do for the environment. It's never too late for all of us to make positive changes for the benefit of our planet, but to succeed, we will need to work together," said Engr. Liza Silerio, Head of SM's Program on Environment and Sustainability.

To learn more about SM Cares, visit the SM Supermalls Facebook page at www.facebook.com/smsupermalls/.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/08/public-square/sm-cares-for-oceans-and-entire-environment/730117/>

Turtle care

posted June 07, 2020 at 10:25 pm



The municipal government of Maitum, Sarangani recently released 657 marine turtle hatchlings into the Celebes Sea in line with the observance of International Ocean Month. The sea turtles, belonging to the olive ridley (*lepidochelys olivacea*) and green sea turtle (*shelonia mydas*) species, were the latest batch released from the nesting site at the Barangay Kiambing Pawikan Learning Center.



The hatchlings sum up to around 2,000 hatchlings nurtured and released back to the sea, making it one of the most productive months. Over 4,000 eggs are nurtured in Kiambing and other nesting sites along Maitum's municipal shorelines (inset photo). The hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelyz imbricata*) species will be hatched in July and released into the sea.



News5

20 hrs · 🌐

Pinakawalan na ang 71 green sea turtles sa Casiguran, Aurora. Ito ang kauna-unahang pagkakataong nag-release ng sea turtle hatchlings ang local government ng Casiguran.



👍❤️😮 827

57 Comments 72 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2023592201130857&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



ABS-CBN News

19 hrs ·

TINGNAN: Isa sa pinakamalaki umanong species ng pating sa buong mundo, natagpuan sa dalampasigan sa bayan ng Buenavista, Agusan del Norte nitong Sabado ng umaga.

Ayon sa BFAR, tinatawag itong megamouth shark. Tinatayang nasa 500 kilos ang pating na ito at may haba na 20 feet.

Nang matiyak na buhay pa ang megamouth shark ay pinakawalan din ito ng mga mangingisda at pinabalik sa laot. (Photo courtesy: Joannlee Calooy) | via Charmaine Awitan



19K

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ITCZ, magpapaulan sa ilang bahagi ng bansa ngayong Linggo, Hunyo 7

June 7, 2020 @ 8:15 AM 23 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Makakapekto ang Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) o ang lugar kung saan nagtatagpo ang trade winds mula sa hilaga at timog sa Palawan at Mindanao ngayong Linggo, ayon sa PAGASA sa early morning forecast nito.

Bunsod nito, magdadla ito ng pag-ulan at pagkidlat sa Palawan, SOCCSKSARGEN, BARMM, Davao Region, at Zamboanga Peninsula.

Samantala, iiral sa Northern Luzon ang ridge ng high pressure area.

liral naman ang easterlies sa nalalabing bahagi ng bansa. Magdadala ito ng bahagyang maulap hanggang sa maulap na kalangitan sa Metro Manila at sa nalalabing bahagi ng bansa.

Magiging mainit at maalinsangan sa araw habang makararanas naman ng isolated rain showers dahil sa localized thunderstorms sa hapon o gabi. **RNT/MM**

Thunderstorm expected over Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Pampanga

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June 8, 2020
DATE

Thunderstorm expected over Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Pampanga

Published June 7, 2020 5:46pm

By MA. ANGELICA GARCIA, GMA News

Moderate to heavy rain showers with lightning and strong winds are expected over Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, and Pampanga within the next two hours, PAGASA warned Sunday.

In its 5:01 p.m. thunderstorm advisory, the weather bureau said heavy to intense rain showers with lightning and strong winds, meanwhile, are being experienced in the following areas:

PAGASA-DOST @dost_pagasa

Thunderstorm Advisory No. 3 #NCR_PRSD
Issued at: 5:01 PM,07 June 2020

Thunderstorm Advisory No. 3 #NCR_PRSD
Issued at: 5:01 PM,07 June 2020

Moderate to Heavy rainshowers with lightning and strong winds are expected over #Tarlac, #NuevaEcija, #Quezon, and #Pampanga within the next 2 hours.

Heavy to Intense rainshowers with lightning and strong winds are being experienced in #MetroManila(Caloocan, QuezonCity, Marikina), #Zambales(Candelaria, Masinloc, Palauig, Iba), #Bulacan(Angat, Norzagaray, SanJoseDelMonte, SantaMaria), #Cavite(Alfonso, Magallanes), #Laguna(LosBanos, Bay, Calauan, Alaminos), #Rizal(SanMateo, Rodriguez), #Batangas which may persist within 2 hours and may affect nearby areas.

Thunderstorm in other areas are now terminated.

All are advised to take precautionary measures against the impacts associated with these hazards which include flash floods and landslides.

Keep monitoring for updates.

THUNDERSTORM LEVELS		
Level	Symbol	Meaning
Advisory		Thunderstorm threatens specific area within the next 2 hours.

53 5:03 PM - Jun 7, 2020

27 people are talking about this

- Metro Manila (Caloocan, Quezon City, Marikina)
- Zambales (Candelaria, Masinloc, Palauig, Iba)
- Bulacan (Angat, Norzagaray, San Jose del Monte, Santa Maria)
- Cavite (Alfonso, Magallanes)
- Laguna (Los Baños, Bay, Calauan, Alaminos)
- Rizal (San Mateo, Rodriguez)
- Batangas

Thunderstorm expected over Tarlac, Nueva Ecija,
Quezon, Pampanga

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PAGASA said the conditions may persist within two hours and may affect nearby areas as well.

Thunderstorms in other areas, meanwhile, are now terminated, PAGASA added.

“All are advised to take precautionary measures against the impacts associated with these hazards which include flash floods and landslides,” PAGASA said. — **DVM, GMA News**

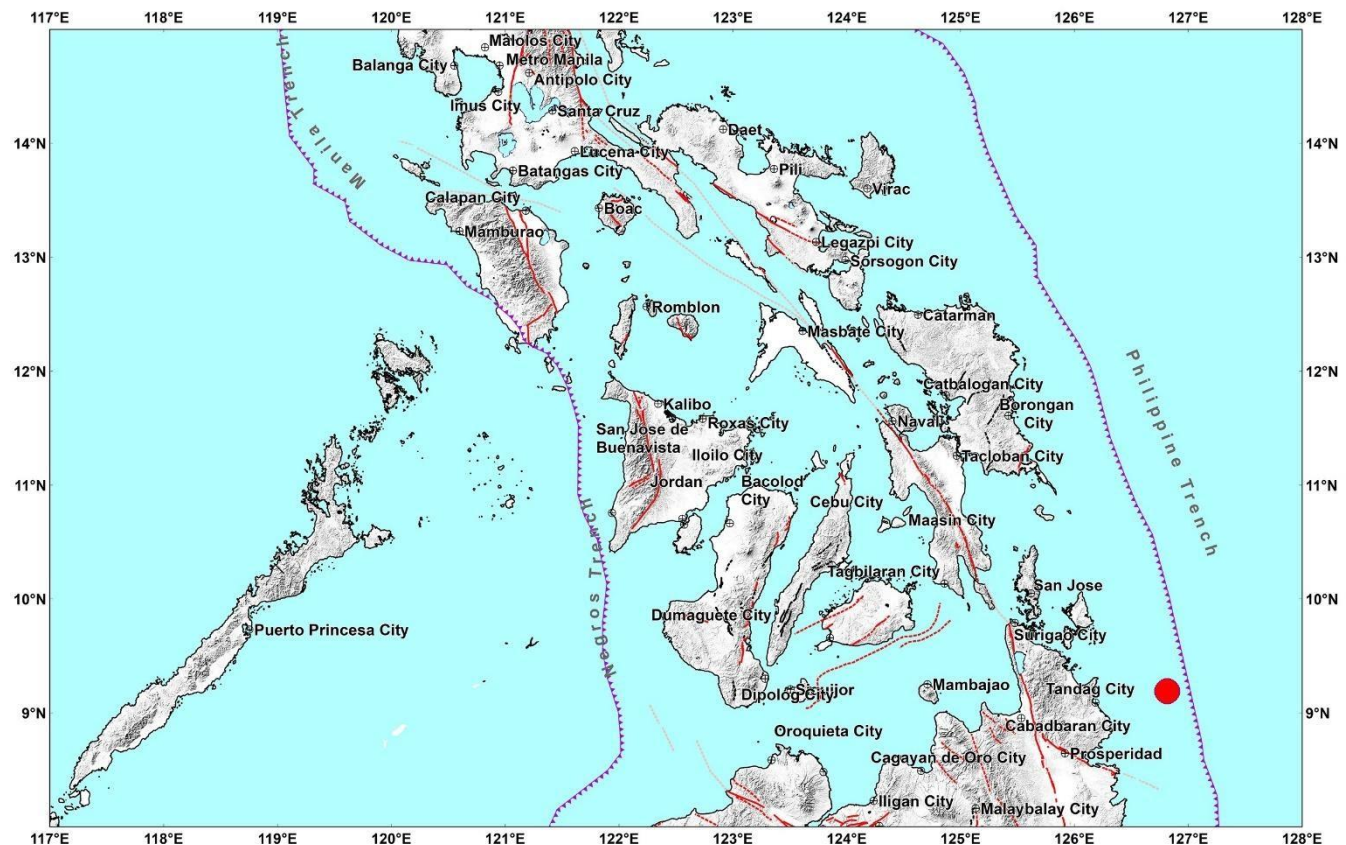
Source: https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/weather/741558/thunderstorm-expected-over-tarlac-nueva-ecija-quezon-pampanga/story/?fbclid=IwAR33dV2QpUOfndYUtZoIPsb4rybjlN_H5lrZtkA82-Y9rAXLS7I4wP3RcTw

Magnitude 4.9 earthquake detected in Surigao del Sur

Published June 7, 2020, 11:17 PM

By MB Online

A magnitude 4.9 earthquake was registered in Surigao Del Sur Sunday evening (June 7), the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) reported.



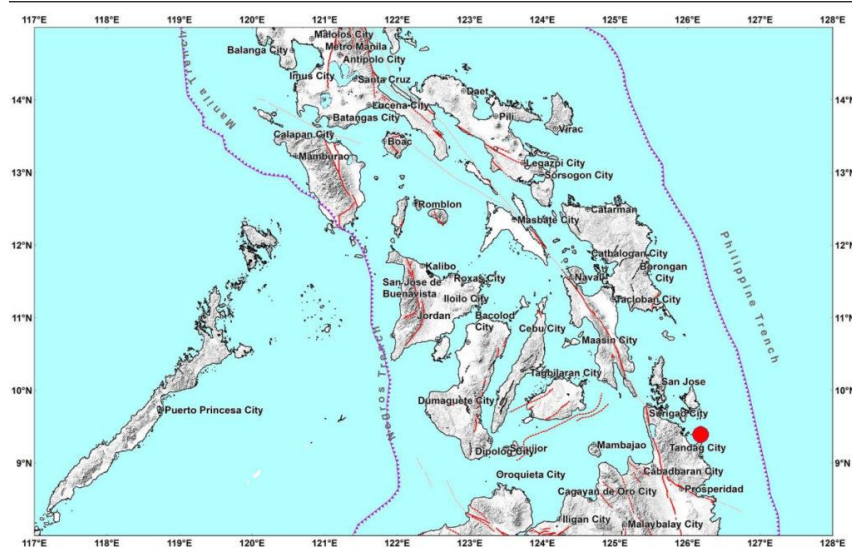
The earthquake, which occurred at 10:09 p.m., was tectonic in origin and its epicenter was traced to 68 kilometers (km) northeast of Bayabas, Surigao Del Sur. It had a depth of 15 km.

Phivolcs said no aftershocks and damages are expected from the tremor.

Magnitude 3.4 lindol yumanig sa Surigao City

Balita

By Leifbilly Begas June 07, 2020



NILINDOL ang Surigao City kaninang umaga, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Naramdaman ang magnitude 3.4 lindol alas-3:59 ng umaga at ang epicenter nito ay 12 kilometro sa silangan ng Surigao City. May lalim itong 24 kilometro.

Nagdulot ito ng Intensity II sa Surigao City.

Russia sees melting permafrost behind Arctic fuel spill

Maria Antonova, Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jun 07 2020 09:31 AM



This handout photograph taken and released by the Marine Rescue Service of Russia on June 3, 2020, shows a large diesel spill in the Ambarnaya River outside Norilsk. Russian President Vladimir Putin on June 3 ordered a state of emergency and criticised a subsidiary of metals giant Norilsk Nickel after a massive diesel spill into a Siberian river. *Handout / Marine Rescue Service / AFP*

MOSCOW - An unprecedented fuel spill that has polluted huge stretches of Arctic rivers was caused by melting permafrost, Russian officials said Friday, ordering a review of infrastructure in vulnerable zones.

The spill -- which has colored remote tundra waterways with bright red patches visible from space -- has highlighted the danger of climate change for Russia as areas locked by permafrost for centuries thaw amid warmer temperatures.

News of the cause of the accident came amid a huge cleanup effort outside the Arctic city of Norilsk which President Vladimir Putin said should be bankrolled by metals giant Norilsk Nickel.

A national-level state of emergency was announced after 21,000 tons of diesel fuel spilled from a reservoir that collapsed last Friday.

Norilsk Nickel owns the reservoir through a subsidiary.

Three criminal probes have been launched, and Russia's prosecutor general's office said in a statement that preliminary findings indicate sagging ground as the reason for the disaster.

"To prevent a similar situation on especially hazardous structures on territories prone to melting of permafrost," the prosecutor general has "ordered a comprehensive review of such objects," it said.

Norilsk, one of the country's biggest industrial centers, lies above the Arctic circle and Norilsk Nickel had already said it suspects permafrost thawing.

Other factors may be at play too: the country's technical safety watchdog told TASS news agency that since 2016, it has been unable to check the condition of the 35-year-old reservoir, because the company said it was under repairs.

The metals giant tried to contain the damage on its own for two days before specialists were called in from companies and agencies across Russia and managed to stop the spill from spreading further.

Speaking with officials at the site by video call, Putin told Norilsk Nickel chief Vladimir Potanin he expected the company to pay for a comprehensive cleanup.

"It's necessary to carry out all the compensatory measures to restore biodiversity and the environment," he said.

Potantin estimated that the operations would cost about 10 billion rubles (\$146 million), on top of any fines.

"We will spend whatever is needed," said Potantin. "We will return the ecosystem back to normal."

Russia's environmental watchdog Svetlana Radionova said the damage was being calculated, and called the accident "unprecedented in scope".

WORST SPILL IN ARCTIC HISTORY

A vast Arctic state, Russia is warming 2.5 times faster than the world average.

Sixty-five percent of the country is covered by permafrost and the environment ministry warned in 2018 that the melt threatens pipes and structures, as well as buried toxic waste, which can seep into waterways.

Northern regions have also rung the alarm, with the eastern Arctic Yakutia area for years lobbying Moscow to pass legislation protecting permafrost.

Environmentalists said the spill was the worst such accident ever in the Arctic region and the second worst in modern Russian history.

The Ambarnaya River, which is affected by the spill, feeds into Lake Pyasino, a major body of water and the source of the Pyasina River that is vitally important to the entire Taimyr peninsula.

Satellite images released by the European Space Agency and Russia's Roscosmos show a large spot of reddish fuel had traveled over 20 kilometers (12 miles) toward the lake from the spill site.

Russia's fisheries agency and some environmentalists have said that the floating barriers erected on the river by responders are unable to stop the majority of the pollution, which can quickly dissolve or sink.

The spill also polluted 180,000 square meters of land before reaching the river, regional prosecutors said.

The area has been pummeled by decades of pollution from metals production and other industrial activity in Norilsk, Russia's most polluted city.

World Wildlife Fund expert Alexei Knizhnikov said local residents have long since stopped fishing in the river.

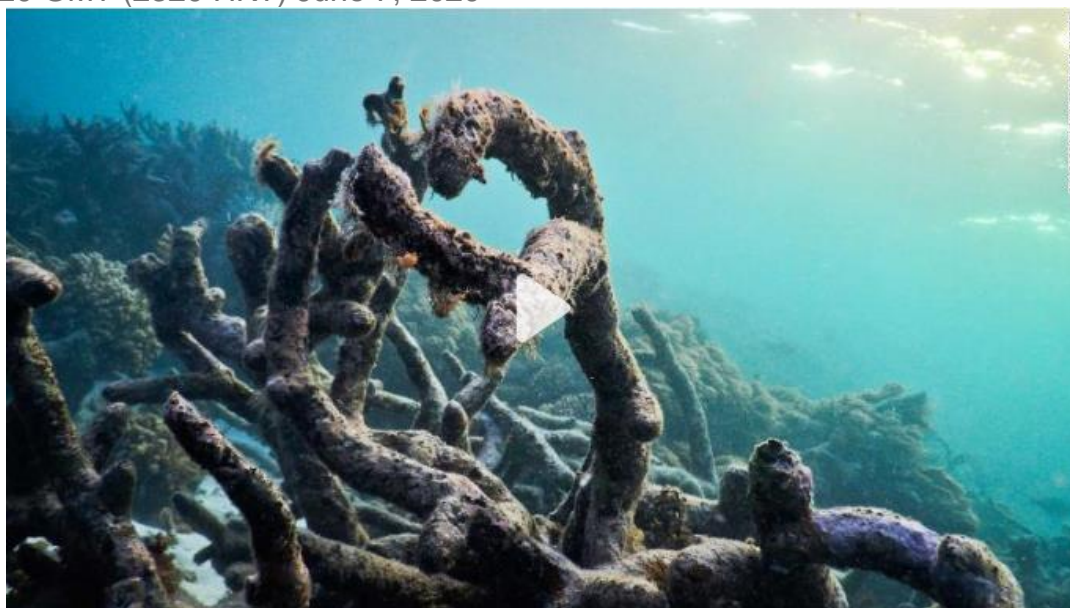
He added that despite damage to permafrost, the disaster could have been avoided if the company followed the rules, such as erecting a barrier around its fuel reservoir to contain spillage.

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Coral reefs are facing their own pandemic -- but we have a survival guide

Jack Kittinger

Updated 1520 GMT (2320 HKT) June 7, 2020



The Great Barrier Reef is the most damaged in history 01:02

Editor's note: [Jack Kittinger](#) is the senior director of the Global Fisheries and Aquaculture Program for [Conservation International](#), a non-profit environmental organization. He is also a [professor of practice](#) and Nippon Foundation Ocean Nexus Chair in Arizona State University's Global Futures Laboratory and School of Sustainability.

(CNN) Coral reefs are facing their own pandemic. For years, people have compromised the immunity of these ecosystems through pollution and overfishing. Meanwhile, climate change has created a fever in our oceans by raising temperatures and acidifying seas. The resulting outbreak has decimated approximately [half of the world's reefs](#).

This devastation is well known. When I tell people that I work on coral reefs, their instinct is to offer condolences. What is less well known, and arguably more important, is that it's not too late to save our remaining reefs. We can -- and must -- take action to save these vital ecosystems.

By some estimates, coral reefs provide food and livelihoods for a billion people around the world. They also support [one out of every four marine species](#). But their value isn't just economical or biological. Reefs are the undersea wonders of the world -- vibrant, kaleidoscopic places that have inspired the art, science and cultures of people for millennia. To lose these treasures is to diminish ourselves.

Those of us working to save reefs have a few different strategies we can implement. The two most fundamental ones involve putting in place strong fishing regulations or creating a marine protected area. These approaches come in many different forms -- we have a lot of tools in the toolbox we can apply.



Jack Kittinger, Conservation International.

Think of these strategies collectively as a coral reef first-aid kit. There are a range of potential cures inside, but the effectiveness of each depends on the particular injury suffered.

[Read: Glowing coral reefs are striving to recover from bleaching, study says](#)

Over the past decade, I've worked with a team of global researchers to study these remedies and their effectiveness at treating various maladies. Together, we analyzed management strategies in 1,800 coral reefs across the Indian, Pacific and Atlantic oceans to understand why some strategies work and others do not.



The race to save the Great Barrier Reef 03:49

We found that the effectiveness of a strategy depends on the initial health of the reef and the level of human pressure it experiences. How much an individual reef has been degraded and how much stress it is exposed to inevitably shapes our ability to restore that ecosystem.

Conservation potential

Unfortunately, for highly degraded reefs where there is a lot of human pressure, our options are limited. About half of the world's reefs fall into this category. A lot of reefs surrounding the island I live on, O'ahu, Hawaii, are in this highly degraded state, owing in part to the million people that live on this island. Conservation gains in these places are going to be hard to achieve, even if we use everything in the first-aid kit.

The picture is very different on the other side of the spectrum. The least degraded reefs, which represent only about 10% of the global population, have it all: diverse fish populations, and functioning ecosystems. These include places like Indonesia's Raja Ampat. Our strategy for these areas should be simple: keep them intact and highly protected. By minimizing threats like pollution and overfishing, we can help these reefs stay as healthy as possible in the face of climate change.

Where things really get interesting is in the places where human pressure is relatively limited --the less stress a reef is under, the greater the conservation potential. Reefs in this category exist in all the oceans -- they aren't in just one country, or one region. Some of these reefs are fairly degraded. Others are fairly healthy. But they all have the potential for significant conservation gains.

By establishing marine protected areas and more effectively regulating fishing practices, we can dramatically improve the outcomes for these reefs, and ensure that they have a fighting chance to withstand the climate crisis.

Clearly, these are the areas where we must focus our efforts. If we do nothing, these reefs may eventually become highly degraded and beyond our ability to help. But if we invest intensively now, we can help these areas join their healthiest and most vibrant peers.

Coral reefs are facing their own pandemic – but we have
TITLE: a survival guide

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Nancy Knowlton, a prominent marine scientist at the Smithsonian Institution, has [championed the idea](#) that we need to move "beyond writing the obituaries" for coral reefs. So, my co-authors and I set out to understand the science of reef survival.

What has [emerged from our research](#) is a survival guide, one that can explain what works -- where and why. If we want to overcome the pandemic destroying our reefs, we must put this plan into action.

Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save
endangered species

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Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save endangered species

[Associated Press](#) / 06:40 AM June 07, 2020

WASHINGTON — Biologist Carlos Ruiz has spent a quarter-century working to save golden lion tamarins, the charismatic long-maned monkeys native to Brazil's Atlantic Forest.



This 2019 photo provided by Noel Rowe and Centre ValBio shows a golden bamboo lemur in Madagascar. Conservation isn't work that can simply be dropped for a while, then picked up again, "because it depends so much on relationships with people and local communities," said Patricia Wright, a biologist at Stony Brook University who has spent three decades building a program to protect Madagascar's lemurs, big-eyed primates that live only on the island. (Noel Rowe/Centre ValBio via AP)

Thanks to painstaking reforestation efforts, the population of these endangered monkeys was steadily growing until an outbreak of yellow fever hit Brazil in 2018, wiping out a third of the tamarins. Undeterred, Ruiz's team devised an ambitious new experiment: This spring, they would start vaccinating many of the remaining wild monkeys.

Enter the coronavirus, which is now hampering critical work to protect threatened species and habitats worldwide.

First, members of Ruiz's team exposed to the virus had to be quarantined. Then the government closed national parks and protected areas to both the public and researchers in mid-April, effectively barring scientists from the reserves where tamarins live.

"We are worried about missing the window of opportunity to save the species," said Ruiz, the president of the nonprofit Golden Lion Tamarin Association. "We hope that we ... can still do our work before a second wave of yellow fever hits."

While the scientists follow government guidelines, they know that people intent on illegally exploiting the rainforests are still entering the parks, because several motion-activated research cameras have been smashed.

Around the world, government resources diverted to pandemic efforts have opened opportunities for illegal land clearing and poaching. Lockdowns also have derailed the eco-tourism that funds many environmental projects, from South America's rainforests to Africa's savannahs.

Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save
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“Scientists and conservationists have faced interruptions from big global disasters before, like an earthquake or a coup in one country,” said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, founder of the nonprofit Saving Nature. “But I can’t think of another time when almost every country on the planet has faced the impacts of the same big disaster at once.”

In Guatemala, indigenous communities that monitor rainforests are struggling to contain one of the worst fire seasons in two decades, as government firefighting resources are devoted to the pandemic.

“Ninety-nine percent of these fires are started by people, and it’s mostly done deliberately to open space for illegal cattle ranching,” said Erick Cuellar, deputy director of an alliance of community organizations within Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve called Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén.

Indigenous people are stepping up as volunteer firefighters, but they are now doubly strained: Closed borders have shriveled their income from sustainably harvested forest exports, such as palm fronds sold for flower arrangements.

“Tropical forests are rich in biodiversity, so we’re losing rare flora and fauna,” said Jeremy Radachowsky, director for Mesoamerica at the nonprofit Wildlife Conservation Society. “The situation is different in every country, but reduced enforcement of environmental laws is a common concern.”

In Nepal, forest-related crimes like illegal logging have more than doubled since lockdowns began, including in five parks with endangered Bengal tigers, according to the government and World Wildlife Fund.

In many African countries, wildlife tourism provides significant income to maintain parks where vulnerable species such as elephants, lions, rhinos and giraffes live.

But after the coronavirus struck, “the entire international tourism sector basically closed down overnight in March,” said Peter Fearnhead, the CEO of nonprofit African Parks, which manages 17 national parks and protected areas in 11 countries.

“We saw that \$7.5 million was suddenly wiped off our income statement for the year,” he said, adding that ecotourism next year may recover to only about half of previous levels.

While keeping up essential maintenance and ranger patrols to dissuade potential poachers, Fearnhead’s team is cutting travel costs by holding meetings over Zoom and also reaching out to potential international donors.

“A protected area that is not being actively managed will be lost,” he said.

Jennifer Goetz, co-founder of a web site that provides information about ethical travel packages, said many safari operators in Africa hope to sustain some revenue and are urging clients to reschedule their bookings.

In a poll of operators on the Your African Safari site, nearly two-thirds said the majority of their bookings had been postponed, not canceled.

Coronavirus disrupts global fight to save
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Tropical biologist Patricia Wright notes that conservation isn't work that can be simply dropped for a while and then picked up again "because it depends so much on relationships with people and local communities."

Wright is a primatologist at Stony Brook University who has spent three decades building a program to study and protect Madagascar's lemurs — big-eyed primates that live in the wild only on the island.

Her team expects no tourism revenue — a large chunk of its operating budget — through at least the end of the year, although she's keen to keep her more than 100 staffers employed during difficult times.

For now, the plan is to produce virtual safari and travel videos about Madagascar to sell to tour operators and schools looking for online science content.

"We have to get through this year," she said.

GSG

Covid disrupts fight to save endangered species

By [Associated Press](#)

June 8, 2020

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Biologist Carlos Ruiz has spent a quarter-century working to save golden lion tamarins, the charismatic long-maned monkeys native to Brazil's Atlantic Forest.

Thanks to painstaking reforestation efforts, the population of these endangered monkeys was steadily growing until an outbreak of yellow fever hit Brazil in 2018, wiping out a third of the tamarins. Undeterred, Ruiz's team devised an ambitious new experiment: This spring, they would start vaccinating many of the remaining wild monkeys.

Enter the coronavirus, which is now hampering critical work to protect threatened species and habitats worldwide.



This undated photo provided by AMLD in June 2020 shows endangered golden lion tamarins, which live in the wild only in Brazil's Atlantic rainforest. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, scientists monitoring the devastating impacts of yellow fever on golden lion tamarins are unable to work in closed forest reserves. ANDREIA MARTINS/AMLD VIA

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Wright is a primatologist at Stony Brook University who has spent three decades building a program to study and protect Madagascar’s lemurs — big-eyed primates that live in the wild only on the island.

India arrests man over shocking death of elephant

Published June 7, 2020, 9:00 AM

By *Agence France-Presse*

Indian police have arrested a plantation worker and are hunting two others after a pregnant elephant died after eating fruit laced with explosives, officials said Saturday, in a case that shocked the country.



Footage of the animal standing in a river for hours with its badly injured mouth and trunk in the water as it slowly weakened went viral, triggering horror online (AFP Photo/STR)

The elephant died in agony last week in the southern state of Kerala, the latest casualty of a growing conflict in South Asia between nature and humans as ever more forest is lost to urban expansion.

Footage of the animal standing in a river for hours with its badly injured mouth and trunk in the water as it slowly weakened went viral, triggering horror online.

P. Wilson was arrested on Friday after he allegedly placed fruits filled with explosives to keep creatures — mainly wild boar — away from his rubber plantation.

“The man has admitted that they used the explosive-filled coconuts to target the wild animals,” Surendra Kumar, Kerala’s chief wildlife warden, told AFP.

Two of his associates were still at large, the officer said.

Kumar said the men made several “coconut bombs” in the second week of May, and left them near the plantation boundary.

Officials said it was unclear when exactly the 15-year-old elephant consumed the rigged fruit but it was found injured on May 25, two days before it died.

Forest officials said the explosion caused severe damage to its mouth, leaving the creature unable to eat or drink for days.

Villagers across India often use explosive or firecracker-filled fruits — which act like pressure-activated landmines — as bait to target wild animals that threaten crops and homes.

A similar incident was reported last month in a nearby Kerala district, when a female pachyderm was found with serious mouth injuries.

If convicted, the men could face up to seven years in jail for killing an elephant, a protected animal under Indian wildlife laws.



Lord Ganesh

The latest incident caused widespread outrage on social media, including from several sports and Bollywood celebrities, who condemned the “inhuman act” and called for harsh action against the perpetrators.

But it stirred another controversy after several Hindu right-wing figures on social media turned the death into a hate campaign against Muslims, falsely claiming that the community were behind the incident.

Many right-wing Hindu figures alleged online the creature was specifically targeted because the animal is an embodiment of Lord Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu deity.

Members of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s party, including environment minister Prakash Javadekar and parliamentarian Maneka Gandhi, also claimed the event happened in Malappuram, a Muslim-majority district.

The incident took place in Palakkad district, some 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.

India is home to nearly 30,000 elephants, equivalent to 60 percent of the world’s wild Asian pachyderms.

But urban expansion has put the animals in conflict with humans.

About 2,360 people were killed in elephant attacks between 2014 and 2019, according to Indian government data.

In the same period about 510 elephants died, including 333 from electrocution and roughly 100 from poaching and poisoning, the figures stated.

Suspek sa pagkamatay ng elepante sa India, arestado

By [Bombo Sol Marquez](#)

-June 7, 2020 | 12:41 PM

Pinaghahanap na ng mga otoridad sa India ang dalawa pang suspek na sangkot sa pagkamatay ng isang buntin na elepante matapos itong pakainin ng prutas na may pampasabog.

Inaresto ng mga pulis ang isang plantation worker dahil ito ang hinihinalang naglagay ng paputok sa prutas upang ilayo ang mga hayop mula sa rubber plantation.

Makikita sa viral video na ilang oras nakatayo sa gitna ng ilog ang elepante habang iniinda ang sakit na nararamdaman sa kaniyang bibig. Unti-unti itong nanghina at namatay.

Sinabi ni Surendra Kumar, chief wildlife warden sa Kerala, umamin daw ang suspek sa ginawang krimen kung saan marami pa raw itong inihandang “coconut bombs” at iniwan malapit sa boundary ng plantasyon.

Hindi raw malinaw sa mga kapulisan kung kailan kinain ng kawawang hayop ang prutas ngunit namataan itong sugatan noong May 25.

Kalimitang ginagawa ng mga mamamayan sa India ang paglalagay ng pampasabog sa mga prutas para targetin ang mga hayop na maaaring maging sanhi ng pagkasira ng kanilang mga tanim.

World Environment Day 2020: How a pandemic is changing sustainability

To mark World Environment Day, experts in green finance, circular economy, renewable energy, eco tourism, regenerative agriculture, environmental journalism and sustainable cities tell Eco-Business how the coronavirus pandemic has changed their worlds.



Firefighter looking towards the bushfires in Victoria, Australia. Image: [Sascha Grant, CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

By [Robin Hicks](#)

June 5, 2020

Today is World Environment Day. And it is like no other in the 46 years since the United Nations first announced that 5 June would be a day devoted to environmental advocacy.

Instead of planting trees or participating in public events, people in the 143 countries where World Environment Day is celebrated are mostly stuck at home, under lockdown, commemorating the day through online seminars and programmes.

The Covid-19 pandemic has upended more than environmental movements. The virus, which is believed to have emerged from a wildlife market in China late last year, has infected 6.4 million and killed approaching 400,000 people at the last count, has impacted all aspects of sustainable development.

We will continue to look for companies that have built sustainability into their strategies. We want to bank on long-term winners.

Mike Ng, managing director, structured finance and sustainable finance, OCBC Bank

To mark this occasion, Eco-Business spoke to experts in travel and tourism, green finance, circular economy, sustainable cities, regenerative agriculture, renewable energy, and environmental journalism to ask how the pandemic has changed them and their worlds.

GREEN FINANCE - Mike Ng, managing director, structured finance and sustainable finance, OCBC Bank:

We have noticed a bit of a slowdown in sustainable investments over the Covid period, although it has still been busy—and we expect the pace to be quite hectic going forward.

There is a growing awareness of environmental issues, and that affects the business world. This past year, two key events have happened: the Australian bushfires—which are more easily linked to climate change—and Covid-19. Coming out of Covid, most businesses will be focused on their immediate survival. But once the economic shock is over, businesses will start thinking about how they could be affected in the future. Covid has exposed weaknesses and vulnerabilities.

Investors will focus even more on ESG [environmental, social and governance] performance, as companies with a high ESG focus have [shown to perform best while](#) stock markets have been tanking. Regulators will respond to stronger calls from consumers for a stronger policy focus on sustainability. For us, we will continue to look for companies that have built sustainability into their strategies. We want to bank on long-term winners.

And I do expect consumer behaviour to change. I have realised that I can live simply, and I think other people have found this too. I don't need to shop or consume as much, and that influences my children. People are buying more from local producers, as things arrive quicker. They are exercising more, and running outside rather than on treadmills. People won't travel as much. Now, I can do three to four meetings in a day, whereas if I was travelling I could do one or two. People are seeing bluer skies, and will want them to stay that way.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES - Jacqueline Lam, deputy regional director, East, Southeast Asia and Oceania, C40 Cities:

The pandemic has provided a preview of the disruptions to come if we do not address climate change. Mayors of C40 Cities [a group of 96 cities that [have committed](#) to climate action] have rallied together to launch a [Covid-19 Recovery Task Force](#), ensuring that we do not return to business-as-usual and instead focus on an equitable and sustainable recovery.

In the wake of the outbreak clusters found [in migrant worker dormitories](#) in Singapore, the city-state has [announced improvements](#) to migrant worker dormitory conditions. This is a clear signal to build back better, although local community not-in-my-back-yard responses [to where the new dormitories are built] are not conducive to this growth mindset, and need to be addressed.

Quezon City in the Philippines has pledged to continue with its [Inclusive Climate Action plans](#), with a focus on pandemic recovery measures. This will entail extensive public engagement, including those in low-income communities, on the city's climate action planning process.

In many cities, we've seen how much of the workforce, barring essential services, can be productive working at home. This gives impetus for more compact developments avoiding congestion and carbon emissions from commuting to city centres, reimagining urban land use and design.

The pandemic has made people realise the fragility of human biology, and in turn people are realising that our environment is vulnerable to human industrial activity.

Lionel Steinitz, CEO, LYS Energy Group

Cities such as Paris have embraced the 15-minute city concept, where work, amenities and residences are located within a 15-minute commute to reduce emissions and improve efficiency. Melbourne has pledged to bring forward plans for 44km of cycling lanes to be delivered in 2021, seven years earlier than originally planned.

It has been heartening to see many local authorities and businesses move their activities into virtual formats. But we must bear in mind those who do not have access to technological tools, and work harder to ensure their voices are heard. The post-pandemic new normal must allow us to leverage technology to bridge distances not widen them.

RENEWABLE ENERGY - Lionel Steinitz, CEO, LYS Energy Group:

As a manager of a company, I get overwhelmed by work and lose perspective on what's important. Covid-19 has meant I've spent more time with my family. Before Covid-19 travel restrictions, I was travelling to at least one different country every week. We oversee the construction of solar energy assets, and maintain and change the equipment. But there's a lot we can do remotely, as we monitor hundreds of thousands of solar panels globally.

Covid-19 has caused some delay to distribution and I expect to see a Darwinian process play out among some companies with cash flow issues. But I'm positive about the future of the sector. There's been renewed interest from the investment community—we [received a loan from UOB](#) to fund green infrastructure in Southeast Asia—and we have been receiving a lot of calls from clients thinking about how to decarbonise.

The pandemic has made people realise the fragility of human biology, and in turn people are realising that our environment is vulnerable to human industrial activity. It has made people more aware that solutions exist. But there are different speeds of adoption, and I fear that we will miss the opportunity as a civilisation to go down the right path. Corporations are starting to see the light, and consumer awareness is there. But at the government level, we're still not seeing the right signals.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM - Eric Ricaurte, founder, Greenview:

Covid-19 has been devastating for travel and tourism. It's probably been the hardest hit of any industry. A lot of people are out of work, not only in tourism companies, but people in the many communities that depend on tourism. Those that are still going are stretched with fewer staff to maintain operations, and put safety measures in place.

Sustainable tourism has been impacted on various fronts. The pandemic is making consumers much more sustainability-aware, and there will be a bigger drive for responsible tourism as people are more conscious of their purchasing decisions. In turn, destinations are becoming more conscious of managing the impact of tourism, and the more environmentally-focused operators are looking the most competitive. More online travel agencies are embedding sustainability in their valuations of tourism supply.

Investor interest in sustainable tourism is still there, but there's currently a pause on it. The industry needs to get back on its feet first. It's unfortunate that Covid hit just as sustainable tourism was getting started. One positive outcome of Covid-19 is that overtourism, which was a big issue, isn't one now. Destinations have had some time to recover, and operators have the opportunity to think about how to manage the impact of tourism better.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE - Huiying Ng, co-founder, Foodscape Collective:

One thing that struck me when pandemic news waves started rolling in was a sense of liberation. I felt the fear that others were feeling, but I knew why they are scared, and this means that people are preparing for the future in the way they need to.

As the possibility of food shortages emerged, there was a huge wave of interest among people—from gardeners and never-ever-gardened types in Singapore—asking how they can grow their own food. That's where regenerative agriculture begins. We can as a society start to hold the institutions and policies that allow unsustainable practices, such as forest destruction for industrial, monocrop agriculture—which [increases the risk of pandemics](#)—accountable. We can start to see that we can move past business-as-usual and practise new ways of living.

We're seeing major impacts from Covid-19, including the collapse of ecotourism, reduced patrols of protected areas, increased poaching and illegal logging, and reduced field access for researchers.

Rhett Butler, founder, Mongabay

The pandemic has woken people up to what happens when we have to live in place, when connectivity is suspended. In Singapore, people have been tending to the Biodiverse Edible Garden in Jurong Central Park, because they want to learn about regenerative agriculture. In other places, lands with soil degraded from half a century of chemical input are being reclaimed and the soil restored.

The resilience of communities has opened up political and social possibilities. Amid the fear and uncertainty, when you find connection and humanity, that is the spark that drives change. We need mental shifts: to move beyond fighting against the system as an end goal, towards growing differently so that methods of control and domination become irrelevant.

ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM - Rhett Butler, founder, Mongabay:

Mongabay has not been spared the widespread disruption caused by Covid-19, but so far, the organisation is weathering the situation well in part due to our virtual operations, distributed nature, and careful stewardship of resources.

To protect our staff, contributors, and the vulnerable populations we often cover, in mid-March Mongabay recalled all contributors and implemented a freeze on travel-based assignments. To continue supporting contributors, we opened a call for desk-based reporting, including stories based on analysis of satellite data, remote interviews, and already-completed fieldwork. Mongabay's readership has surged to record levels since the beginning of the year. Lockdowns across much of the world are probably a significant factor in this sharp increase in traffic, although we're also seeing more outlets picking up our stories. Our overall content production is up.

Beyond our organisation, we're seeing major impacts from Covid-19 in the conservation field, including the collapse of ecotourism, reduced patrols of protected areas, increased poaching and illegal logging, and reduced field access for researchers. Some industry observers view this disruption as an opportunity to shift away from stagnant and ineffective approaches to conservation. In some places, big NGOs have left the field, while community-based projects have continued to operate.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY - Susan Ruffo, executive director, The Circulate Initiative:

Our work in the circular economy has been directly impacted by the pandemic, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities in the waste management systems we are trying to fix. Jobs such as waste picking that are already unsafe have become even more so. Systems that struggle to manage waste are grappling with increased volumes and contamination. Entrepreneurs in the sector are affected by the economic slowdown, and declining oil prices have made virgin plastic even more appealing. Positive behavioural changes, like using reusable bags and cups, have [been rolled back by regulation or practice](#).

Covid-19 has highlighted the interconnectedness of the circular economy and ocean plastic solutions with other needs and priorities, such as protecting public health, building community resilience, and building a diverse and vibrant economy. To develop circular economy solutions that are sustainable, we need to design new systems that address these multiple needs instead of forcing tradeoffs.

We are at a crossroads. We can either choose to ignore the learnings and continue on the path that we were on prior, where existing ways of doing business survive, or we can embrace the opportunity for change by using the resources and efforts that will be put toward recovery to choose and support systems that help us move forward.

While there is no place that has all the answers to this issue, there are lessons to be learned from what cities are trying. In Pune, India, efforts are being made to engage and include informal waste pickers, particularly women, who make up most of the city's collectors. And in San Fernando, the Philippines, an approach that includes government commitment, public investment, public engagement, and citizen education has helped reduce the percentage of trash diverted from landfills from 12 per cent to 80 per cent.

Such systems should include incentivising circular economy businesses; recognising workers in the informal sector, with greater access to healthcare and education; and setting new design or recycling standards for industry, such as recycled packaging content standards. These measures are crucial to reducing and mitigating waste – and therefore contaminated waste – and serve as a critical tool to build social and environmental resilience against crises such as the one we face now.

Source: <https://www.eco-business.com/news/world-environment-day-2020-how-a-pandemic-is-changing-sustainability/>

Surfer killed in shark attack off eastern Australia

posted June 07, 2020 at 01:30 pm

by [AFP](#)

A surfer has died after being attacked by a three-metre shark at a popular beach off Australia's east coast, police said Sunday.

The man was surfing at Kingscliff, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of Brisbane, on Sunday morning when the shark mauled his leg.

"Police have been told several board-riders came to his assistance and fought the shark off before the injured man could be helped to shore," police said in a statement.

"He was rendered first aid for serious injuries to his left leg but died at the scene."

Police said the man had not yet been formally identified but was believed to be a 60-year-old from Queensland state.

His death is the third known fatal shark attack Down Under this year.

Australia has one of the world's highest incidences of shark attacks, but fatalities remain rare.

There were 27 attacks but no deaths off Australia last year, according to data from Sydney's Taronga Zoo.

10-foot great white shark kills surfer in Australia

By [Associated Press](#)

June 8, 2020

SYDNEY: A 60-year-old surfer was attacked and killed by a 3-meter (10-foot) great white shark off the coast of northern New South Wales (NSW) state on Sunday, officials said. The man received a bite to the back of his thigh and was brought to the shore by other surfers who had fought off the shark, a surf rescue group, Surf Life Saving NSW, said in a statement. The victim, from Tugun just over the state border in Queensland, received first aid on the shore but died on the beach. The Department of Primary Industries said that a shark biologist assessed photographs and confirmed that a white shark was responsible for the fatal attack. Nearby beaches were cleared of swimmers and surfers and will remain closed for 24 hours.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/08/news/world/10-foot-great-white-shark-kills-surfer-in-australia/730158/>