



# Leader News Philippines

22 hrs · 🌐

\*\*\*

We mark the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on a somewhat somber note, knowing that we could have compiled more achievements by this time of the year had not the COVID-19 pandemic supervened.

For more than three months now, this pandemic has compelled us to scale back our operations and activities, although we have continued to perform our duties according to our mandate.

We will not, however, allow COVID-19 to dominate our future. We will continue fighting COVID-19 with vigilance. We shall keep up our guard against infections, at both the personal and institutional levels. As we await the development and availability of vaccines and mass immunization, we shall formulate measures to enhance defenses against this insidious threat.

We must also learn lessons from this dark episode in world history. COVID-19 has been associated with the consumption of wildlife, particularly bats and pangolins. We hope that this will greatly curb, if not fully eradicate, illegal wildlife trading.

On the brighter side, the broad cutbacks in economic and social activities imposed by governments to control the spread of COVID-19 have significantly reduced pollution, giving us cleaner air, waterbodies, and urban landscapes. This is a confirmation that reducing human activities that drive and aggravate climate change can allow our planet to regain its health, and thereby make our future more sustainable.

On this note, I call on all members of the DENR family to be vigilant in the fight against COVID-19. We will dispense with a formal celebration of our 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary for now, so that we may emerge from this crisis tougher and more resilient. Eventually, we will regain full productivity and rebuild our momentum, and have more reasons to celebrate.

*Mabuhay!*

**ROY A. CIMATU**  
Secretary

@DENROfficial | www.denr.gov.ph




DENR urges households to segregate suspected

June 11, 2020

TITLE: hazardous waste

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

# DENR urges households to segregate suspected hazardous waste

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:59 PM June 10, 2020



ENHANCED EXPOSURE A garbage collector does a balancing act while stacking up bags of trash on a moving dump truck en route to a waste transfer station in Barangay Santo Niño, Marikina City, in this photo taken on April 11. —LYN RILLON

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday urged households, especially those with individuals undergoing home quarantine, to [segregate](#) used face masks and other personal protective equipment to help keep garbage collectors safe from the coronavirus disease.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said that while the disposal of PPEs in the country is being done accordingly, it could be a challenge in the future if the number of COVID-19 cases in the country continues to swell.

Cimatu said strict sanitation measures and proper disposal of wastes are necessary during this time of pandemic to ensure also the health and safety of garbage collectors.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, DENR spokesperson and head of the department's solid waste management, also encouraged households to separately dispose of used face masks, gloves and other COVID-related protection gear.

“That’s why we are trying to encourage households to segregate it well. Ang mangyayari ngayon, meron tayong tinatawag na recyclable, biodegradable, of course yung residual. Ngayon meron pa tayong tinatawag na suspected hazardous waste,” Antiporda said during an online press briefing that coincides with the 33rd anniversary of DENR.

(What’s happening now is we have what we call recyclable, biodegrade, and of course the residual waste. Now, we will also have what we call suspected hazardous waste.)

Antiporda said households should separate suspected hazardous waste in a plastic container and inform garbage collectors of its content.

According to Antiporda, the used PPEs are being brought to treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities where there are special cells for the treatment of suspected hazardous waste before it is disposed of.

He said the DENR’s environmental management bureau continues to explore other ways of [dealing with possible hazardous waste](#), although he said the actions of the department are currently sufficient.

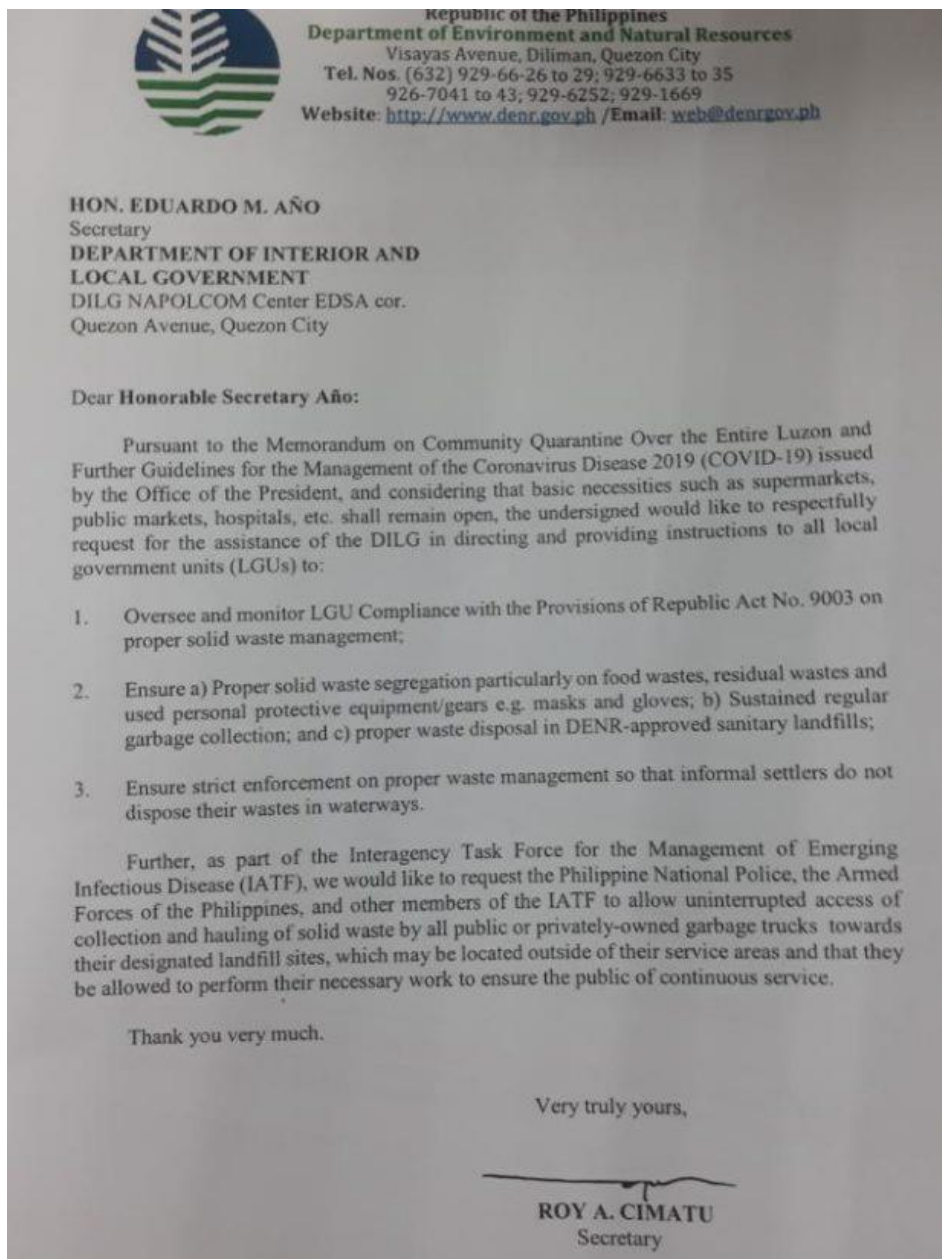
DENR urges households to segregate suspected hazardous waste

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

“But we are not letting our guards down,” he assured.

The DENR official also said it issued a memorandum addressed to the Department of the Interior and Local Government to seek assistance in informing service providers that they should ensure that garbage collectors are wearing sufficient PPEs at work.



“Sad to say, marami pa rin ang hindi sumusunod. We are calling on them to act on it and to avoid na magkasakit ang kanilang mga tao,” he said.

(Sad to say, there are still a lot who don’t follow. We are calling on them to act on it and to help their people avoid being sick.)

Antiporda added that hospitals also have temporary storage facilities where used PPEs are treated first before being transported to sanitary landfills as he also assured that Filipinos are safe from COVID-19 in terms of disposal of garbage.

# DENR reminds households anew to segregate 'suspected hazardous wastes'

Published June 10, 2020 7:50pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Wednesday appealed to the public to practice responsible waste disposal, especially of items which may be hazardous to the health of garbage collectors.

In a virtual press conference, Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said households, especially those who have occupants practicing home quarantine, must be mindful of how they get rid of masks and other protective gears.

"We're trying to encourage the households to segregate well. Mayroon tayong tinatawag na recyclable, biodegradable, at residual. Ngayon mayroon pa tayong tinatawag na suspected hazardous waste," Antiporda said.

"Yang suspected hazardous waste na 'yan, ihiwalay lang po natin ng container and i-inform natin sa garbage collector bago tayo magtatapon. Kailangan may prior information na makarating sa ating garbage collector para hindi mapahamak," he added.

Antiporda said the DENR has formally communicated with the Department of the Interior and Local Government to relay these instructions to local government units.

"Dito po papasok ang tulong ng ating local government units to notify their private contractors na ganito 'yung situation so we will be needing their support," he added.

Last April, a garbage collector in Cavite [tested positive for COVID-19](#).

Meanwhile, medical wastes from hospitals and other treatment facilities are carefully being transported to specific sanitary landfills with special cells to ensure that there would not be any leakage in the surrounding areas.

"We're also coordinating with the private sector doon sa possible na thermal treatment or thermal destruction nitong mga contaminated wastes na ito," Antiporda said. **-NB, GMA News**

# DENR warns of proper hospital waste disposal

June 10, 2020



The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) cautioned hospitals and waste disposal companies to observe proper discarding of hospital wastes.

“Kapag positive, ‘yong itinapon natin na toxic or hazardous, ‘yong mga itinatapon na ‘yan, maari pong mailagay sa alanganin ang buhay ng ating mga garbage collectors (If it is positive that disposed wastes are toxic or hazardous, we may be putting the lives of garbage collectors in danger),” DENR USec. Benny Antiporda pointed out.

The warning from the environment department came after receiving reports that some establishments are just abandoning and burning used masks, personal protective equipment, and other contaminated waste.

The DENR said healthcare facilities are obliged to segregate their wastes through color coding and disinfect before and after dumping in sanitary landfills. Individuals and establishments caught violating environmental laws may face charges for violating the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. – *Report from PTV News*

# DENR fast-tracks processing of permits for crematoriums amid deaths due to COVID-19

Published June 10, 2020 3:51pm

By DONA MAGSINO, GMA News

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Wednesday said its Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) is streamlining the process to expedite the opening of more crematoriums in the country amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Yung mga crematorium na nagbubukas ngayon pina-fast-track natin 'yung mga documentation nila, 'yung kanilang permits and approval na kailangan sa EMB eh kumbaga talagang minadali natin," Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda said in a virtual press conference for the 33rd anniversary of the DENR.

"Alam naman natin na because of rising deaths sa COVID, eh talagang kailangan i-cremate ang mga bangkay kung kaya minamadali natin. Ito 'yung nakikita nating maitutulong natin para hindi na makapanghawa pa ang patay," he added.

According to Antiporda, out of the 89 crematoriums nationwide, only 69 are operational. Since March 18, these facilities have cremated 8,131 bodies of COVID-19 patients, suspected cases, and of those without the virus.

As of June 9, the Philippines recorded a total of 22,992 COVID-19 cases with 4,736 recoveries and 1,017 deaths. Only six new deaths were reported on Tuesday.

Seventy-five percent or 758 of the COVID-19 fatalities in the country were recorded in Metro Manila where there are 16 operational crematoriums capable of processing 66 bodies per day.

Ten other crematoriums in the capital region are currently not in operation, Antiporda said.

In April, Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases spokesperson Karlo Nograles said the Cabinet officials agreed that the cadavers of [patients who succumbed to COVID-19 must be cremated within 12 hours after death](#).

"Ang desisyon ng grupo ng mga Cabinet secretaries, dapat yung 12 hours na cremation dapat ma-fulfill yan. Ang nagiging problema ay 'yung delay sa payment, naghihintayan ng bayad. So ang naging desisyon ng Gabinete is do not wait for payment. Kung kailangan i-cremate, i-cremate na 'yan at huwag nating hintayin na kung sino pa magbayad at magturuan," he said.—**AOL, GMA News**

# DENR set to finish Manila Bay sewage treatment plant by July, at the latest

Published June 10, 2020, 4:43 PM

By *Ellalyn de Vera-Ruiz*

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has expressed optimism that the sewage interceptor and treatment plant located in front of the Manila Yacht Club will be operational by June or July.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MANILA BULLETIN)

“We are now testing the treatment plant on a 24-hour period to slowly bring down [the Manila Bay’s] coliform level to its standard level,” Secretary Roy Cimatu said in a virtual presser on June 10, Wednesday.

The standard coliform level for coastal waters, which is safe for swimming and other similar recreational activities, is at only 100 most probable number per 100 milliliter (mpn/100ml).

Cimatu said the project contractor has committed to completing the construction of the treatment facility by June or July this year. A solar panel is just being installed to provide continuous electricity for the sewage treatment plant.

The facility, which is capable of treating 500,000 liters of wastewater per day, will ensure that no untreated wastewater from the three major drainage outfalls flows into the Manila Bay, the DENR chief said.

These outfalls are the Padre Faura outfall, Rajah Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall across Aristocrat Restaurant, and Manila Yacht Club outfall.

Even before the completion of the project, the DENR on January reported that fecal coliform count at the Padre Faura outfall was down to 920,000 mpn/100ml from its pre-rehab record of 7.21 million mpn/100ml.

From 35 million mpn/100ml recorded before the rehabilitation began, the coliform level at the Rajah Soliman/Remedios drainage outfall went down to 11 million mpn/100ml.

The coliform level at the Manila Yacht Club outfall was 54 million mpn/100ml from a high of 110 million mpn/100ml.

Cimatu also said that the construction of a bay walk that is 100 meters wide and 60 meters long is ongoing at the beachfront.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/10/denr-set-to-finish-manila-bay-sewage-treatment-plant-by-july-at-the-latest/>

Manila Bay rehab at pagprotesta sa kalikasan,  
tututukan ng DENR sa kabila ng pandemya

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE



## Manila Bay rehab at pagprotekta sa kalikasan, tututukan ng DENR sa kabila ng pandemya

June 10, 2020 @ 6:03 PM 14 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tiniyak ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu na patuloy ang isinasagawang clean up at rehabilitasyon sa Manila Bay partikular na ang Bay Walk area.

Ayon kay Cimatu sa kabila ng nararanasan krisis ng bansa dulot ng coronavirus disease COVID-19 pandemic nananatiling nakatuon ang DENR para pangalagaan ang kalikasan at ang mandato nito na proteksyon ito.

Sa virtual presser na isinagawa kanina kasabay ng selebrasyon ng ika-33 anibersaryo ng DENR, sinabi ni Cimatu na pangunahing hangarin at responsibilidad ng ahensya ang mapababa ang coliform level ng bacteria ng Manila Bay.

“Clean up sa Bay Walk (Manila Bay) tuloy-tuloy” ani Cimatu.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na patuloy rin ang paglilinis sa mga estero upang tuluyan ng maisagawa ang rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay, maging ang clean up ng Bay Walk area.

Nilinaw pa ni Cimatu na pangunahing concern ng ahensya ang proyekto ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay at mga estero na siyang pangunahing nakaatang sa kanilang responsibilidad at target na matapos ito sa buwan ng Agosto.

“Sa Agosto sakaling matapos ang project ng paglilinis sa Manila Bay at estero” ani pa ni Cimatu.

Idinagdag pa ng kalihim na bilang panimula ng economic recovery ng bansa bunsod ng krisis dala ng COVID-19 pandemya dapat umanong magsimula ito sa mga kabahayan sa komunidad ng ating mga barangay.

Sinabi pa ni Cimatu na sa pamamagitan ng community base gamit ang mga pamilya at barangay at iminungkahi nito na isa sa proyekto ng ahensya ang pagtanim at ang paglilinis sa mga river upang magkaroon ng kabuhayan ang mga nawalan ng kabuhayan dulong ng COVID-19.



Manila Bay rehab at pagprotesta sa kalikasan,  
tututukan ng DENR sa kabila ng pandemya

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

Samantala, kaugnay nito sinabi ni DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda na patuloy na mahigpit na ipatutupad ng DENR ang pagprotekta sa kalikasan sa kabila ng krisis dulot ng COVID-19 pandemya.

Ayon pa kay Antiporda patuloy na magbabantay ang ahensya sa mga kalikasan kabilang na ang mga kagubatan at katubigan nito upang maprotektahan ito.

“Tuloy tuloy ang operasyon naming para protektahan ang environment” ani Antiporda.

Sinabi pa ni Antiporda na sa ganitong panahon lumalakas ang loob ng mga illegal logger at ang mga aktibidad nito kung kaya patuloy na nakabantay ang DENR para protektahan ang kalikasan. **Santi Celario**

Wildlife trader charged over P20,000 offer to sell a  
TITLE: pair of 'lawin' birds

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

## Wildlife trader charged over P20,000 offer to sell a pair of 'lawin' birds

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 10, 2020



*Brahminy kite, known as Lawin*

A 45-year-old wildlife trader was arrested by authorities during an entrapment operation in Sampaloc, Manila.

Lt. Col. John K Guiagui, station commander of the Sampaloc police station identified the suspect as Sharon Jon Jon Lim, a resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila. A case of violation of Republic Act 9147 was filed against him before the Manila Prosecutor's Office on Monday.

Lim was arrested around 4:30 p.m. on June 6 along Geronimo Street in front of Trinidad Tecson Elementary School in Barangay 432, Zone 44, Sampaloc, Manila, during a buy-bust operation initiated by the Sampaloc police in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB).

He is now facing charges for violation of Republic Act 9147, or the Wildlife Act, for trading endangered species. Illegal wildlife trade is a major driver of biodiversity loss, which is the fourth-largest transnational crime after drugs, arms and human trafficking. In the Philippines, illegal wildlife trade is a P50-billion industry.

The suspect was supposed to sell for P20,000 two brahminy kites, or P10,000 per bird, to a policeman who posed as buyer of the endangered birds. Brahminy kite, known locally as *lawin*, is a popular exotic pet among hobbyists.

Following his arrest, the police and DENR wildlife law enforcers led by Steven Toledo and Rogelio Demelletes conducted a follow-up operation at the suspect's residence wherein a white-breasted sea eagle and an hawk-eagle were eventually rescued.

The brahminy kites, along with the sea eagle and hawk-eagle were turned-over to the DENR-BMB.

Lim, a recidivist wildlife trader according to Demelletes, has been in the radar of the DENR-BMB for years.

Wildlife trader charged over P20,000 offer to sell a  
TITLE: pair of 'lawin' birds

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

“We’ve been hunting him for five years. Finally, we got him this time,” Demelletes said.

Lim, according to Demelletes, discreetly buys and sells endangered species, mostly rare birds of prey.

The DENR-BMB said campaign there’s no letup in the drive against illegal wildlife trade, even as he appealed to the public to report suspicious activities of members of a syndicate engaged in on-line trading of endangered wildlife species which has become rampant in social media.



TV Patrol Palawan · Follow

June 9 at 5:57 PM ·

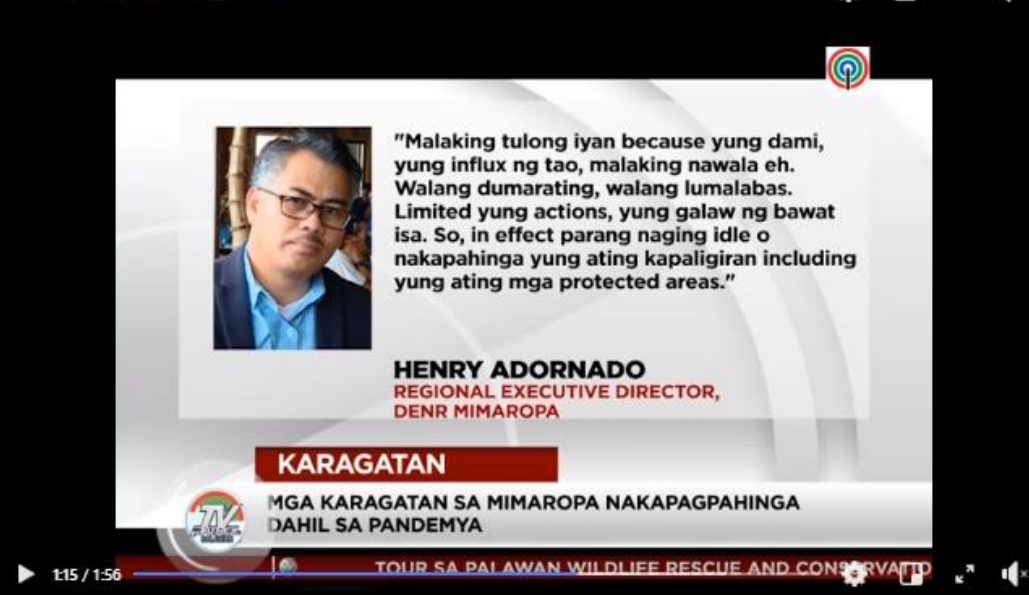
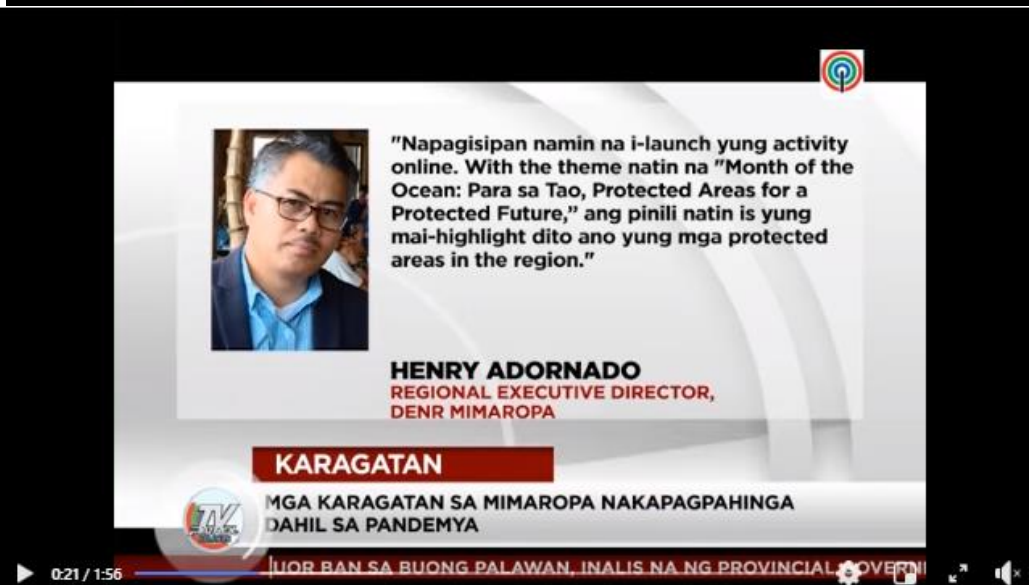
### NAKAPAGPAHINGA

MGA KARAGATAN SA MIMAROPA NAKAPAGPAHINGA DAHIL SA COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Para sa ibang mga balita:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgyY1WylJUmhwCDxp5daOjrQVivGFwOOw>

iWant: <https://www.iwant.ph/tv/TV-Patrol-Palawan?id=1a729491-0286-455f-90e8-d7c97e523cda&sid=1a729491-0286-455f-90e8-d7c97e523cda> See Less





Palawan Daily

12 hrs · 🌐



[BREAKING] DENR employees and team arrested at gunpoint

Some 10 individuals including DENR employees, and Barangay Tanods of Barangay Bucana-Matahimik who are part of the team composed of the City Government of Puerto Princesa, DENR, and other enforcers of environmental laws were arrested by a team of City PNP officers in full battle gear around 11:00 AM today in Barangay Bucana-Matahimik, a few meters from the barangay hall.

The DENR team was about to notify the informal settlers within the mangroves area to vacate the place within 30 days. They were also about to inspect and investigate the cutting and clearing of mangroves in the said barangay, allegedly involving a high ranking official of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Puerto Princesa City.

Before the arrest, they were allegedly ordered to drop on the ground with PNP personnel pointing their firearms at the DENR personnel and barangay tanod. The reported brutality and physical harm inflicted to them was witnessed by the residents. They were detained in Barangay San Pedro until 5pm today.

Full story to follow

Via Gerardo Reyes Jr



👍👎👍 3.7K

368 Comments 3.1K Shares

DENR, Cagayan provincial gov't collaborate on

June 11, 2020

TITLE: Aparri port, Cagayan River projects

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

# DENR, Cagayan provincial gov't collaborate on Aparri port, Cagayan River projects

Published June 11, 2020, 1:07 AM

By **Liezle Basa Inigo**

CAGAYAN – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the provincial government of Cagayan have started collaborating on the development of the Aparri Port and the tributary along the Cagayan River.

Gov. Manuel N. Mamba said he and other provincial officers recently met with the representatives of the agency about the projects.

“The DENR from Metro Manila came here just to tell us that there’s a new direction na gusto ng ating Presidente tungkol sa (that our President wants about) rehabilitation of our river channels and the opening of the Aparri Port,” Mamba said.

The governor said the local government and the national government see the potential of the two important projects that will propel economic activity in the province.

“We talked lengthily about this in our meeting. Makikita natin dito na iisa ang gustong patunguhan ng (We can see from this that there is one united direction of the) national government and of course the local government, especially the province of Cagayan,” Mamba added.

Mamba is thankful to the President and optimistic that with the national government’s support his vision for the province of Cagayan will soon materialize.

“As you can see, hindi tayo umalis doon (we didn’t give up on it). Looking northward, moving forward, and reconnecting to our neighbors especially China, Taiwan, and our neighbors up north,” Mamba said.

With the support of the national government, Mamba expressed his belief that Cagayan will be more progressive for the next generation to see.

“Bigla kong nakita na (I suddenly saw) our vision, our dream is not far na makukuha natin (from our reach). I want you to dream with me here. Do things with me here and make this a reality not only for ourselves but more so for our children and our children’s children.

“Let us see to it na kapag iniwan natin ang probinsiya natin (that when we leave our province), it is much, much better than when we found it,” Mamba said.



(Photos from Aaron Agron/DPWH 2)

DENR, Cagayan provincial gov't collaborate on  
Aparri port, Cagayan River projects

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

Ocular drone inspection of the Aparri Port Apagonan river connecting Cagayan river



Aparri port connecting estuary Cagayan river to South China Sea



Aparri port connecting estuary Cagayan river to South China Sea

# CDO urges public to reduce plastic bottle use

By Nef Luczon June 10, 2020, 6:55 pm



**NO PLASTIC HERE.** Armen Cuenca (inset), head of Cagayan de Oro City's Local Environment and Natural Resources Office, shares on Wednesday the photographs of a flooded area where no plastics can be seen floating. He says the absence of plastics is an indicator that the banning of single-use plastic has been effective. *(Screen grab courtesy of City Government of Cagayan de Oro)*  
**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY** – The City Local Environment and Natural Resources Office (CLENRO) Wednesday stepped up its campaign against plastic use, urging the public to reduce the use of plastic or polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles.

CLENRO assistant head Elvisa Mabelin noted that the city has seen the improvement from banning single-use plastics, but added that PET bottles remain floating in creeks and canals.

"There's a need to campaign on minimizing the use of PET bottles, as there are replacements (for containers). Instead of buying mineral water (in PET bottles), why not bring containers," Mabelin said.

Based on the recent waste analysis by CLENRO, Mabelin said PET bottles are found to be prevalent kind of plastic waste, as compared to other plastic-based materials.

"We have cellophanes--low-density and high-density polyethylene plastics--and PVC (polyvinyl chloride) pipes, and the PET bottles which are usually found in water canals," she said.

## Noticeable reduction

Armen Cuenca, CLENRO head, said a year after the ban on single-use plastic there has been a noticeable reduction in the amount of plastic wastes in the city.

"If we look at the sanitary landfill, we can see less plastic floating (in mid-air). We also saw that there were less plastic materials floating in water drainages," he said, referring to a flood-prone highway in the city.

Cuenca said while the city is implementing a drainage rehabilitation program, the absence of plastics in the floodwater is an indicator that the banning of single-use plastic has been effective.

The ban on single-use plastic was implemented in January last year, following the passage of City Ordinance No. 13378-2018, otherwise known as the "Integrated Eco-biological Solid Waste Management Ordinance."

Cuenca said the city's continuing campaign against plastic is part of the office's commitment to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), whose head, Secretary Roy Cimatu visited the city in February.

"During his visit, Sec. Cimatu said that he has drafted an order that will ban single-use plastic (nationwide), but it was put on hold after plastic manufacturers appealed to give time in finding alternative means (in adjusting to the proposed order)," he said. **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1105516>



# Plastic-for-milk project resumes in San Pedro City

*posted* June 10, 2020 at 09:10 pm

by [Benjamin Chavez](#)

The Office of the Mayor of San Pedro City in Laguna continues to carry out its milk project “Wrapper and Plastic Residual Replacement of Milk” under the leadership of Mayor Lourdes S. Cataquiz.

“The redemption periods of our Wrapper Redemption Project have evolved due to the fact that they are postpone due to the ECQ Period. So, let us keep putting together plastic residuals,” Cataquiz said.

To join, residents may collect and exchange five kilograms of empty sachets, wrapper pouch or aluminum foil of any brand of powdered milk, 3-in-1 sachets, biscuits wrappers, and other plastic residuals in place of one kilo of milk. One kilogram of sachet wraps and other plastic residuals is worth 165 grams of Alaska Milk.

They can exchange collected wrappers, sachets and other plastic residuals at the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) on the second floor of San Pedro City Hall on July 21, August 25, Sept. 22, and Oct. 20.

“You can walk into our office from Monday to Friday, 8 AM-5PM, or call 8808-2020 local 208 to pick-up your plastic residuals. Thank you very much! Let us keep our environment clean and present for the next generation! Clean community, Healthy citizen!” said Cataquiz.

Project Super BB (Bawas Basura) and ALASKAkalikasan Wrapper Redemption Program is a joint project of the City Government of San Pedro and Alaska Milk Corp.

## Zambo research team gives hope to PH Eagle

posted June 10, 2020 at 09:40 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

(First of two parts)

For the longest time, proof of Philippine eagles (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) inhabiting Pasonanca Natural Park in Zamboanga City relied merely on brief sightings by forest guards or eagle feathers found on the forest floor.



*SIGNS OF LIFE. The Pasonanca expedition team spotted the eagle parents numerous times soaring together and displaying their talons. Meanwhile, from their tree platforms, expedition members scanned the forest canopy for signs of Philippine eagle activity (inset). Philippine Eagle Foundation and USAID*

But this changed in 2019 when, for the first time, a Philippine eagle family and their nest were fully documented and observed in a series of field expeditions led by Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), together with partners from the Zamboanga City government, Zamboanga City Water District, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Threatened by hunting and habitat loss, the Philippines' national bird has around 400 pairs left all over the country; half of which can be found in Mindanao.

While PEF has led Philippine eagle studies in various parts of the region, an eagle subpopulation in Zamboanga Peninsula, including those in Pasonanca, is yet to be studied and fully understood.

"We can only save what we can understand," said Dr. Jayson Ibañez, PEF Director for Research and Conservation. "For a critically endangered species like the Philippine eagle, finding, studying, and protecting each individual bird in the wild are the only means to save it from extinction."

This has led PEF, USAID, and partners in Zamboanga City to roll out the first-ever field study to survey Philippine eagles and find an active nest inside Pasonanca Natural Park. The 17,000-hectare protected area is one of the few remaining intact forests in Zamboanga Peninsula, making it an important habitat for many bird species and other wildlife.

Through a series of expeditions, the field study aims to locate nesting sites in the park, record and observe behaviors of resident eagles, and tag and monitor live Philippine eagles.

Led by experts from PEF, the expedition team is composed of personnel from the city government and local DENR, forest guards from Zamboanga City Water District who patrol Pasonanca's forests, and representatives from universities in the city.

PEF and USAID chose this multisectoral approach to involve partners in experiential learning on eagle research, and to ensure that eagle conservation efforts are sustained beyond the field study.

"Eagle conservation is never the work of just one person. It requires partnerships, multiple skills, and resources toward a common goal," said PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador. "This collaboration paves way for building regional capacity on research and conservation to help address the unique needs of Philippine eagles in Zamboanga."

Before going on their first expedition, PEF experts trained the partner institutions on eagle research techniques, such as surveying nesting areas, observing eagle behaviors, trapping and tagging live eagles, and analyzing telemetry data.

## Find an eagle, find the nest

In October 2019, the team embarked on their first expedition inside Pasonanca, just in time for the eagle breeding season in Mindanao. Team members set up at their observation posts—both on the ground and high above on tree platforms—on a site near the edge of the park. Using scopes and binoculars, they scanned the forest canopy every day to search for signs of eagle activity.

After almost 10 days into the expedition, an adult Philippine eagle was finally photographed emerging from a tree line—the first time that the national bird was officially documented inside Pasonanca.

The male eagle was seen carrying a large prey and was spotted again by the team for three consecutive days. These observations mean that the eagle could be providing food for a potential mate and their eaglet, and that an active nest was not too far from the site.

“Finding active eagle nests and protecting them is very important,” Dr. Ibañez said. “As centers of reproduction, protecting nesting areas ensures that eagle pairs can nest safely and that their young survive to become future breeders for their species.”

The team returned for a second expedition in November to December 2019 to record more sightings of the male eagle, observe its behavior, and map out its flight patterns and home range, with the goal of locating its nest.

The team also scoured the forest for clues, such as eagle droppings, prey remains, molted feathers, and large masses of ferns growing on tree branches that could be suitable nests for eagles.

Finally, on the morning of December 4, 2019, as the team spotted the male eagle flying from a tree canopy after delivering food, an adult female eagle emerged into view from a thicket of ferns.

From afar, the team observed the nest and its feathered dwellers, including a healthy and well-fed one-month-old eaglet. This is the first active Philippine eagle nest recorded in Pasonanca and the third in the whole Zamboanga Peninsula.

“The presence of an eagle nesting pair and their young is strong proof that conservation is working in the park.” Dr. Ibañez explained. “Eagles breed and nest only in safe and healthy forest habitats. If forests are intact, that means the rest of biodiversity therein is also diverse and thriving.” *(To be continued)*

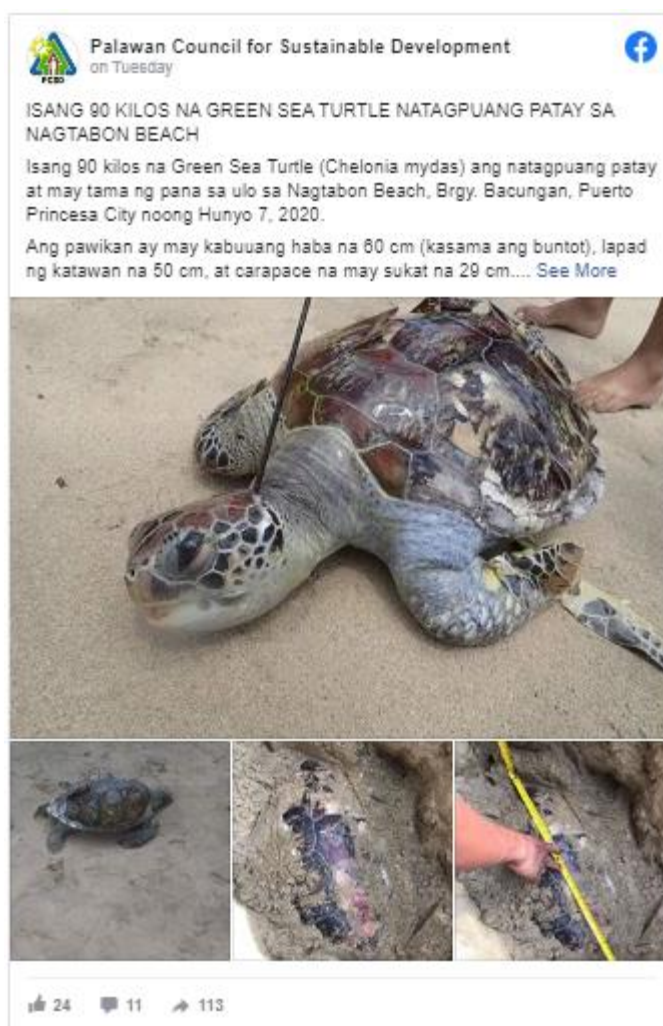
# Endangered green sea turtle found dead in Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Published June 10, 2020, 3:37 PM

By *Richa Noriega*

A 90-kilo green sea turtle was found dead in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on Monday, June 7.

In a Facebook post of Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), the turtle was found dead with a bow shot on its head in Nagtabon Beach, Brgy. Bacungan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.



The turtle has a total length of 60 centimeters (including its tail), with a body width of 50 centimeters and a carapace measuring 29 centimeters. PCSD said that G. Adel Pancho, Purok president of Brgy. Bacungan, found the turtle dead while floating in the sea.

A concerned citizen Alfie Aladin Cornel reported the incident on the Facebook page of PCSD. It was believed that the turtle had been dead for almost two to three days when it was discovered. G. Richard Bermudez, a fisherman, buried it near the beach front area.

According to the Brgy. official Marlon Balmores, their village is saddened about the death of the sea turtle in the hands of the people who should have been taking care of it.

PCSD said the Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) is among the endangered species according to Resolution No. 15-521. It is also protected under the Republic Act No. 9147 or also called the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

Source: <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/06/10/endangered-green-sea-turtle-found-dead-in-puerto-princesa-palawan/>

# 300 wild animals seized from poachers in Bacolod City

By [Shiela Gelera for CNN Philippines](#)

Published Jun 10, 2020 8:00:31 AM



**Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 10)** — Around 300 wildlife animals, some of which were already dead, were seized in a recent entrapment operation in Bacolod City.

Three suspects were arrested and identified as Ramil Cabale, 45; Ruzzel Taghoy, 27; and Dexter Belleza, 36, all residents of neighboring town of Murcia in Negros Occidental, a report from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Bacolod said.

Operatives of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Bacolod conducted the operation last Friday after they traced the suspects through Facebook selling wildlife animals on a secret buy-and-sell group of the social networking site.

The suspects sold the animals, kept in plastic bottles and sacks, to the poseur-buyer for ₱150,000.



CIDG-Bacolod reported that the suspects failed to show documents that they were authorized to possess or sell the wildlife animals.

The 300 wild animals, including the Asian palm civet, Philippine orange tarantula, tarantula, assorted centipedes and millipedes, Philippine sailfin lizards, Negros forest dragon (gecko), and north Philippine temple pit vipers, are believed to have been collected from the Mount Kanlaon Natural Park.

Twelve Asian palm civet, Negros forest dragons, and sailfin lizards were already dead upon retrieval and were properly buried at the City Environment and Natural Resources Office in Bago City, Negros Occidental.

The poachers will be charged for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

**PAGE THREE**

# IATF Thursday meet reset to Monday instead

Published 7 hours ago on June 11, 2020 01:00 AM

By [Francis Wakefield](#)



Malacañang said the scheduled meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) with President Duterte will no longer be held in Davao City but in Manila on Monday, 15 June, instead.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque also said the President's public address to the nation will also not push through and has been reset to Monday as well.

"The IATF meeting with the President is on Monday. His address to the nation today, Thursday, is moved to Monday as well," Roque said.

The IATF is expected to present its recommendation on whether the general community quarantine (GCQ) over Metro Manila is further downgraded to the less restrictive modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) or reverted instead to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

He said the decision depends on the rate of doubling of COVID-19 infections and the critical care capacity of hospitals in the country.

The GCQ in Metro Manila, Cebu and other parts of the country is set to end on Monday, 15 June.

"As I always said, any IATF decision on whether or not Metro Manila graduates to the next regime is dependent on data. We will examine the case-doubling rate, the critical care capacity of hospitals. If these rises, then we may not proceed to the next phase," Roque said.

The infection numbers in Metro Manila and Cebu City will determine what happens on 16 June as all classifications are flexible depending on the data, he added.

He noted a number of provinces are under MGCQ and GCQ because Metro Manila is the epicenter of the virus, the IATF is expected to focus on whether it graduates to MGCQ or GCQ.

"We are looking at the epicenter of the virus; it has always been the epicenter. Although indicators appear to be improving, the reality is, numbers remain high and are increasing in Metro Manila.

So, I would say Metro Manila will take more of the time of the IATF as we meet this afternoon to determine if it graduates to MGCQ from GCQ," Roque said.

# Duterte meeting with IATF postponed to Monday, June 15 — Palace

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#) - Reporter / [@DJEsguerraINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:21 PM June 10, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte's scheduled meeting with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) in Davao City on Thursday has been postponed, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Duterte spokesman Harry Roque told reporters that the meeting will be held in Manila on Monday, June 15, the last effectivity date of the prevailing nationwide lockdown measures to curb the spread of COVID-19.

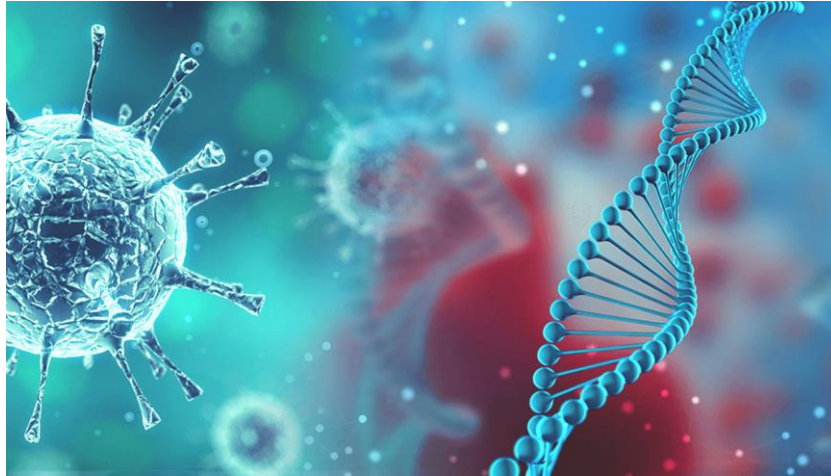
Metro Manila, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Pangasinan, Albay, Western Visayas, Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Davao City are [currently under GCQ until June 15](#). Meanwhile, the rest of the country is under MGCQ, the lowest form of community quarantine enforced by the government.



# COVID cases in PHL breach 23K mark

Published 13 hours ago on June 10, 2020 06:23 PM

By **MJ Blancaflor**



Over 23,000 individuals in the Philippines have been infected with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as the Department of Health (DoH) logged 740 additional cases on Wednesday.

In its latest bulletin, the Health department reported 452 “fresh” and 288 “late” cases — raising the nationwide total to 23,732.

The fresh cases were composed 91 infections from Metro Manila, 83 from Central Visayas, 277 from other regions and one Filipino repatriate, while the 288 late cases were composed of 100 infections from Metro Manila, one from Central Visayas, 142 from other regions and 45 Filipino repatriates.

The number of recoveries, on the other hand, surged to 4,895 after 159 recuperations were reported while the death toll rose to 1,027 after 10 fatalities were recorded on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the government will assess if areas under the modified general community quarantine can shift to the “new normal” beyond 15 June.

According to Roque, the health indicators appear to have been improving in the larger part of the Philippines, but cases remain high in Metro Manila — the epicenter of the outbreak in the country.

The Philippines ranked third among all Western Pacific countries with the highest number of confirmed coronavirus cases as of 9 June, next to China and Singapore.

More than seven million individuals worldwide have been infected with COVID-19 according to the World Health Organization, six months after the first case was reported in China.

# Govt warns against misting, spraying

By [Red Mendoza](#)

June 11, 2020

The government on Wednesday warned that misting and spraying can be dangerous, citing the death of a member of the Philippine National Police who inhaled a toxic disinfectant.



SPRAY MISTY FOR ME Workers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport pass through a mist of disinfectant before entering the airport even after the Department of Health warned that there was no evidence to support that the spray could kill the novel coronavirus. The government on Wednesday warned that misting and spraying can be dangerous. PHOTO BY J. GERARD SEGUIA

Capt. Casey Gutierrez died at the Philippine Sports Arena Quarantine Facility in Pasig City on May 30.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said an investigation is ongoing.

“Titignan natin kung may violations ba or breaches in protocol na nangyari at ang mananaig d’yan ay mga patakaran at batas na mayroon tayo sa bansa. (We will see if there are violations or breaches in protocol and these will be subject to the rules and laws in our country)” Vergeire said in a press briefing.

She explained that while misting and spraying are common in healthcare settings especially during the decontamination process, these are dangerous when people are sprayed with disinfectant.

“Misting and spraying are not really recommended for direct spraying sa mga tao (on people),” Vergeire added.

The Department of Health issued in April a memorandum prohibiting the installation of misting tents in public places and spraying of individuals.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año also reiterated the ban on misting and spraying.

“Tiyakin ninyong wala ng susunod na ganitong insidente (Make sure that no similar incident will happen),” Año said of Gutierrez’s death.

Año said local government units (LGUs) and all the attached agencies of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, including the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and Bureau of Fire Protection should be aware of the dangers of misting and spraying chemicals.

In an advisory in April, he advised LGUs to prohibit the use of disinfection tents, misting chambers or sanitation booths for individuals without personal protective equipment.

“Let’s be informed of the dos and don’ts as we continue to fight Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) in a concerted and scientific-based efforts and strategy,” Año said.

“LGUs and all public and private establishments are reminded that misting causes additional health concern because pathogens may be dispersed further, may result in skin irritation and inhalation of chemicals, and could even cause environmental pollution,” he added.

**With reports from DARWIN PESCO**

Año sa pagkakatay ng police-doctor: Spraying at  
misting matagal nang pinagbabawal ng DILG

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE



## Año sa pagkamatay ng police-doctor: Spraying at misting matagal nang pinagbabawal ng DILG

June 10, 2020 @ 7:21 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – “Ikinalulungkot namin ang pangyayaring ito lalo pa’t nilinaw naman namin at ng Department of Health (DOH) noong Abril pa na mapanganib sa kalusugan ang misting at spraying.”

Ito ang siyang naging pahayag ni Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año kaugnay na rin sa pagkamatay ni police doctor Capt. Casey Gutierrez na sinasabing nakalanghap ng ‘disinfectant’ sa loob ng quarantine facility sa Pasig City.

Ayon sa kalihim, noon pa man ay pinaalalahanan na nila ang mga Local Government Unit (LGUs) gayundin ang lahat ng Department’s attached agencies, kabilang ang Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) at Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), na masama sa kalusugan ng tao ang ‘misting disinfectant chemicals.’

Aniya, nakasaad sa DOH’s Memorandum 2020-0157, “there is no evidence to support large scale misting, fogging, or spraying indoor or outdoor with disinfecting agents kills the virus.”

“LGUs and all public and private establishments are reminded that misting causes additional health concern because pathogens may be dispersed further, may result to skin irritation and inhalation of chemicals, and could even cause environmental pollution,” giit ng kalihim.

Binigyang diin ni Año, sa kaniyang advisory na may petsang April 18, 2020, pinayuhan niya ang LGUs ang pagbabawal sa paggamit ng disinfection tents, misting chambers o sanitation booths para sa mga indibidwal na walang personal protective equipment (PPE), base na rin sa DOH Memorandum 2020-0157.

“Let’s be informed of the do’s and don’ts as we continue to fight COVID-19 in a concerted and scientific-based efforts and strategy,” pahayag pa ng kalihim.

Kasabay nito, ay nagpahayag ng pakikiramay si Año sa pamilya ng 31-anyos na police physician na binawian nang buhay kamakailan dahil sa posible umanong ‘disinfectant poisoning.’

Año sa pagkakamatay ng police-doctor: Spraying at  
TITLE: misting matagal nang pinagbabawal ng DILG

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

“Napakasaklap mawalan ng isa na namang frontliner doctor sa gitna ng pandemya. Ang masakit pa rito’y kapabayaang ang ikinamatay ni Capt. Gutierrez, hindi ang kalaban nating COVID-19. Inatasan ko na ang PNP na siguruhing lumabas ang katotohanan sa imbestigasyon at managot ang dapat managot,” saad pa ng kalihim.

Bukod dito, mahigpit na tagubilin ng kalihim na tiyakin ng PNP na hindi na muling maulit ang ganitong insidente.

Matatatadaan na nilinaw ng DOH na bagamat maganda umano ang intensyon ng misting, hindi ito mainam sa kalusugan kaya’t noon pa man ay nagsabi na ang ahensya na ipinagbabawala na nila ito. **Jan Sino Cruz**

# When will the Covid-19 pandemic end in Philippines?

By [BusinessMirror Editorial](#)

June 11, 2020

AN online article published by msn.com titled “Singaporean AI Predicts When Covid-19 Will End in the Philippines” should cheer up this nation of 100 million people. Trixie Zabal-Mendoza wrote: “Singapore University of Technology and Design is able to project the infection curve and when the virus will end for a particular country using an AI algorithm. For the Philippines, the algorithm predicts the virus will end some time in July.” The article paints a rosy scenario, but the good news being proffered should be taken with a grain of salt.

A Women’s Health article written by Lauren Krouse quoted Dr. Faheem Younus, the chief of infectious diseases at University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health, saying: “Honestly, it’s impossible to say if and when the coronavirus will die down because it’s a totally new virus, and therefore unpredictable. But pandemics have happened before, and they eventually pass as they become more contained, and as vaccines are developed and distributed. But researchers do look at past pandemics to make very baseline predictions about when it might end. In the past, pandemics have typically lasted between 12 and 36 months.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading national public health institute of the US, gives a sample of a past pandemic timeline: In 2009, a novel H1N1 flu pandemic (swine flu) occurred. The World Health Organization declared a pandemic in June 2009, and by mid-September, the Food and Drug Administration approved four vaccines for the virus, and they started getting administered in October. In late December, vaccination was opened up to anyone who wanted it, and the pandemic was deemed over in August 2010.

Sarah Cobey, epidemiologist and evolutionary biologist of the University of Chicago said no one knows yet how the pandemic will end. “This coronavirus is unprecedented in the combination of its easy transmissibility, a range of symptoms going from none at all to deadly, and the extent that it has disrupted the world. A highly susceptible population led to near exponential growth in cases. This is a distinct and very new situation,” she said.

Cobey said projections about how the pandemic will play out are speculative, but the end game will most likely involve a mix of everything that checked past pandemics: Continued social-control measures to buy time, new antiviral medications to ease symptoms, and a vaccine. The exact formula—how long control measures such as social distancing must stay in place, for instance—depends in large part on how strictly people obey restrictions and how effectively governments respond.

Dr. Rishi Desai, a former epidemic intelligence service officer in the division of viral diseases at the CDC, said better predictions will be made as more information becomes available about Covid-19. “My expectation is that Covid-19 will continue to be a threat for a good part of 2020, and that we will start to see the page turn in 2021. At that point, we may have a vaccine, and we will have much more experience with this disease,” Desai said.

We know that the Covid-19 virus is an unknown entity, and the best minds on Earth can only make educated guesses about what comes next and when. Medical researchers have banded together like never before and are working on multiple fronts to develop remedies. If any of the several antiviral medications currently in development prove effective, then we can say that an end to this global disaster is in sight.

In the meantime, let’s all enjoy spending a lot more quality time with our families.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2020/06/11/when-will-the-covid-19-pandemic-end-in-philippines/>



## **BUNTIS DITO, BABY ROON**

June 10, 2020 @ 10:51 AM 22 hours ago

Malamang na maraming buntis ngayon dahil sa coronavirus disease-19.

Maaaring dalagang single, hindi kasal, kasal, balo, diborsyada at nakakalawit siguro pati ang mga nagme-menopause na.

Ang hindi maganda ay kung may nadawit na mga menor-de-edad at kung may mga biktima ng rape.

'Yang lockdown at utos na stay-at-home mga Bro, ang pumwersa sa kalagayang buntisan.

Nahuli ng mga kababaihan ang oras sa labas ng mga kalalakihan at vice versa.

Tumigil ang oras ng pag-aaral, pagtatrabaho, pagbiya-biyahe at maging ang mga alibi na pagod sila, beribisi, may mga miting at seminar at iba pa.

Kaya 'yang umibig ang isa sa mga napagdidiskitahan ng mga nagkakagustuhan, mag-boyfriend man o hindi, mag-asawang kasal o hindi at kung ano-ano pa.

Resulta?

Baby boom, sabi ng mga awtoridad.

### **TUNAY NA SOCIAL DISTANCING NASIRA**

Naging maganda ang social distancing para hindi manalasa ang COVID-19, lalo na sa labas ng bahay.

May social distancing sa mga pila at pagsakay sa mga sasakyan, paglalakad, pamamalengke, pagpunta sa mga bangko, ospital at opisina ng gobyerno.

Pero 'yung social distancing na tunay na nakapigil sa pagiging malapit sa isa't isa ng isang lalaki at babae na magmahalan sa kalaunan ay nasira dahil sa lockdown at stay-at-home.

'Yang social distancing na dala ng pagpasok sa paaralan, trabaho, pagbiyahe at iba pa ay talagang nasira.

Nakulong sina misis at mister sa kanilang bahay.

Nakulong ang mga magbo-boyfriend sa mga inuupahan o hinuhulugang bahay, condo at iba pa.

Sa konting masamang tinginan, lalo na kung maganda ang tinginan, kung saan-saan na lamang humantong.

At maaaring mula Nobyembre 2020 hanggang Marso 2021, daragsa ang mga manganganak sa mga ospital, lying-in clinic, bahay-ampunan at iba pa.

## HINDI MAPIGILAN

Heto ang isang babantayan.

‘Yung mga dating ayaw may mangyari dahil sa iba’t ibang kadahilanan ngunit napasubo sa mga araw ng lockdown, stay-at-home at naburang social distancing ay maaaring magtuloy-tuloy nang gagawa ng baby.

Dagdag sila sa mga may gustong magka-baby kasal man o hindi.

Maaaring hindi na sila mapigilan ng lipunan o anomang kalagayan para hindi magkita magkaway-kawayan.

Magkikita at magkikita ang mga iyan na susundan at susundan ng mga malalagkit na kaway-kawayan.

Kaya nga, maghanda-handa na ang gobyerno ng napabilis na pagdami ng mga Pinoy.

Kung may 1-2 milyong ipinanganganak sa mahal kong Pinas bawat taon, simula sa Nobyembre 2020 hanggang Marso 2021, baka lulundag ‘yan sa 2-3 milyon.

## BIRTH CONTROL NASIRA

Siyempre pa, ninais ng gobyerno na tuloy-tuloy ang pagkontrol sa pagdami ng populasyon ng Pinas upang mapigilan ang pagdami ng naghihirap at nagugutom.

Tingnan na lang natin ito.

Sa pagdami ng mga tao at nag-aasawa, nauubusan tayo ng mga lupang pagtayaran ng mga bahay kaya nadadamay nang husto ang mga palayan, maisan at gulayan.

Habang dumarami ang tao, naririyang din ang katotohanan na nababawasan ang lupang pinagkukunan natin ng pagkain na tiyak na nagbubunga ng kagutuman at paghihirap na rin, lalo na sa parte ng mga magsasaka na nawawalan ng mapagkakitaan.

Pero nang dumating ang COVID-19, nawala sa pwesto ang mga midwife kahit sa mga barangay at naging bahagi ng mga frontliner.

Ayon sa Department of Health, nagkandaloko-loko rin ang suplay ng mga condom at pills at maging ang paglalagay ng ilang birth control method gaya ng intrauterine device dahil ang mga ospital ay inihanda sa COVID-19 at hindi sa mga may gustong mag-birth control.

Kaya naman, wala nang magawa ang mga misis at iba pang kababaihan sa pananalakay ng mga kalalakihan hanggang sa sila’y mapunlaan na paglaki’y magiging Filipino citizen by birth of place and by blood. Hehehe!

Oo, sa bisa ng prinsipyong ‘Jus Soli’ at ‘Jus Sanguinis, Sir Gabby Lopez.



**HEADLINES**

# Pressure mounts vs Anti-Terror Bill

We cannot disclose our comments to anyone else.

Published 7 hours ago on June 11, 2020 01:00 AM

By [Alvin Murcia](#)



The Department of Justice (DoJ) has given its lawyers 15 days to pore over the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill 2020, an enrolled measure transmitted by the Senate and the House of Representatives on Monday night for President Rodrigo Duterte's signature.

But while the bill did not encounter much opposition from both houses of the Congress, its fate now hangs on the DoJ which will look into provisions which may be questioned as unconstitutional at the Supreme Court (SC).

Even with the bill yet signed into a law by the President, its critics and oppositors have declared their intention to question its constitutionality before the Highest Court.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, however, assured his lawyers would check the measure's provisions to make sure that they are in order before the Chief Executive affixes his signature to the law.

"It will be studied by lawyers and state counsels of the DoJ, line by line, unpressured by anyone, with nothing to guide but their knowledge of the law and their own conscience," he stated.

Guevarra also reiterated that the deadline for the review of the proposed law will be set by the Office of the President (OP). But the DoJ work on an internal timetable of 15 days. The clock ticked since Monday. Comments will be submitted to the OP, incorporated in a memo to the president.

"Until then we cannot disclose our comments to anyone else," he said.

"Perhaps this is the more significant thing to know: should the anti-terror bill be enacted into law, the DoJ will endeavor to define more clearly — in the IRR, that the ATC (Anti-Terrorism Council) and the DoJ will be tasked to promulgate the parameters within which the law will be implemented and enforced in order to erase any latitude for misapplication or abuse," he added.

Guevarra also stated the Palace stand that the review is not a mere perfunctory statement as from his experience as a former senior deputy executive secretary, he knew that all enrolled bills are carefully scrutinized with the help of the relevant executive agencies before submission to the president for appropriate action.

He added that as a lawyer himself, the president has a good grasp of any legal or constitutional issues involved.

Guevarra explained that President Duterte has three options, which are to sign, veto or allow it to lapse into law.

“As far as I know, there is no indication of any possible direction at this time, because the enrolled bill is yet to be reviewed by the legal staff of the president, in collaboration with relevant executive agencies concerned.”

Earlier, Senators Risa Hontiveros and Francis Pangilinan expressed their intention to join the groups which will question the proposed law before the SC.

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) was the first to announce its plan to take the issue to the SC, saying it has no other recourse but to question its constitutionality if signed by the President.

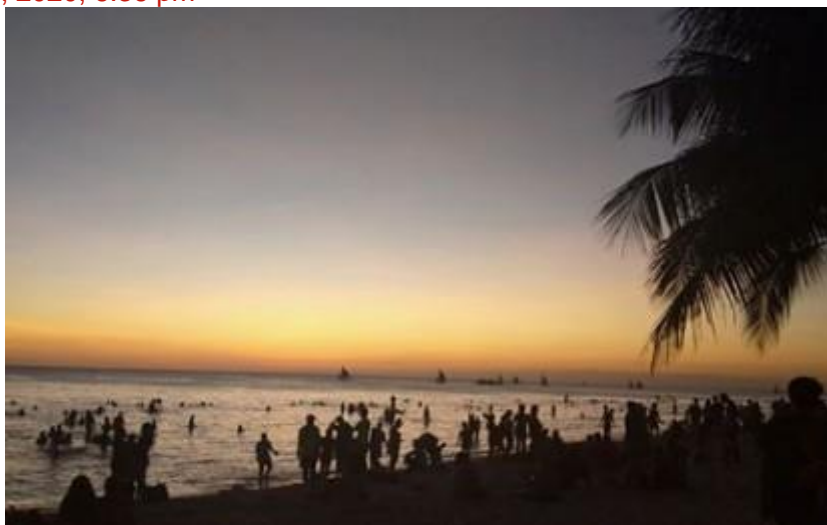
IBP president Domingo Egon Cayosa claims the proposed Anti-Terror law contains several provisions which are contrary to the Constitution, the most violative, according to the group, is the creation of the ATC.

The council is to be chaired by the Executive Secretary, and composed by the secretaries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, National Defense, the Interior and Local Government and Finance, including the National Security Advisor.

Cayosa said the council can designate one as a terrorist or a terrorist organization, based on probable cause. It then becomes a signal and excuse for law enforcers to arrest, place under surveillance, limit travels and even order the Anti-Money Laundering Council to freeze his or their assets. Suspects could be detained for a maximum of 24 days without court charges.

# Boracay set to reopen, but for regional tourists only

By Perla Lena June 10, 2020, 6:36 pm



**DOMESTIC TOURISTS FIRST.** Boracay Island will soon be open to domestic tourists coming from Western Visayas only. Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores said on Wednesday (June 10, 2020) that they are preparing for the island's soft opening. *(PNA file photo)*

**ILOILO CITY** – The province of Aklan is preparing for the opening of Boracay Island in the town of Malay to welcome domestic tourists from Western Visayas only.

“For the rest of June, we will be preparing for the eventual opening. By July we will be ready for domestic tourism only in Western Visayas,” Aklan Governor Florencio Miraflores said in a press conference on the sidelines of the meeting of the region's local chief executives in this city on Wednesday.

Miraflores said they are “preparing already for the soft opening”. Tourism Secretary Bernadette Puyat will be coming to the island to assess its preparations on Thursday, he added.

The governor added that they are also in the process of accrediting establishments that are compliant with the guidelines of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

So far DOT has accredited hotels that are equivalent to 360 rooms.

“In the next two weeks, we will start inspecting all the hotels that have indicated their intent to open. But we would like to make sure that in the event that we open our hotels, they really are compliant with all the safety requirements,” he said.

Miraflores appreciated the proposal of Negros Occidental economic adviser Alfredo Benitez for the region to come up with a single application for a unified database that would capture movements of people in Western Visayas.

“The presentation is really appropriate for our plans, especially the contact tracing that we would want to do. While we are doing it on our own, but with the proposal of Western Visayas Stay Safe Application, that would really boost the movement of people and also help us open up our tourism industry,” the governor said.

The “Stay Safe” application is free, Benitez said. Each person will have a QR code that is either stored in the smart cellular phone or printed in their identification cards.

Upon arrival in a place, the QR Code will be scanned and will automatically register in the database the identity of the individual, time of arrival, and places that were visited.

“That is something that we can promote and we can use as an added tool for us to do contact tracing. In case a positive case is identified, we have the means and the technology to contact trace as soon as possible,” Benitez said.

June 11, 2020

DATE

TITLE: Boracay set to reopen, but for regional tourists only

PAGE 1/ 2/2

Miraflores said for now, they “do not want to open it to the rest of the country first but we are willing to open it within Western Visayas”.

Miraflores and Benitez were among those who attended upon the invitation of Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas for a meeting of political leaders of Western Visayas to discuss areas that they can work together to “push the development and recovery of Region 6 right away” amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

“We see that we do not have local transmission for the past several weeks. While there are OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) and LSIs (locally stranded individuals) who are positive, I think we will have to live with that. As long as all the protocols are in place, we should not worry so much about that,” the mayor said.

The meeting was also attended by Iloilo Governors Arthur Defensor Jr. of Iloilo Province, Rhodora Cadio of Antique, Samuel Gumarin of Guimaras, Esteban Contreras of Capiz, Eugenio Jose Lacson of Negros Occidental, and former Bacolod City Rep. John Orola representing Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia. **(PNA)**

# Boracay, Bohol may open first to tourists – DOT sec

Published June 11, 2020, 12:57 AM

By *Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat*

Boracay and Bohol islands are expected to be the first to open among tourist destinations in the country.



Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat  
(CZAR DANCEL / MANILA BULLETIN FILE PHOTO)

Speaking at the Kapihan sa Manila Bay, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Boracay remains COVID-free while Bohol has recorded only one case.

Romulo-Puyat raised the possibility of opening the two-island destinations early to tourists.

“What is important is the RTPCR (reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction) lab, so we can test all the incoming tourists to ensure safety,” she added.

Starting June 1, Malay, Aklan Mayor Frolibar Bautista allowed residents to swim in the pristine waters of Boracay when the world-class vacation resort shifted to modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), two months after the lockdown only at eight specific swimming areas from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. both at the front beach and the secluded Puka Beach.

Each of the 200-meter swimming area can only have a maximum of 100 swimmers. Red flags have also been installed in non-swimming areas.

With 7,641 islands, Romulo-Puyat said the country will have to look at travel bubbles or travel corridors. These are islands that are zero COVID, or practically very minimal COVID cases.

Romulo-Puyat said Boracay has remained COVID-free and they are going to the island province today (June 11) to check on the safety and health protocols of the accommodation establishments and the local government’s preparedness to accept tourists.

“Bohol is another candidate since it only has one COVID-19 case so very minimal. So, we have two possible tourist havens that may open up,” she said.

What is important, she stressed is that the health and safety protocols are in place in tourist destination areas. She cited the private sector Makati Medical Foundation for helping equipped Bulanog Hospital in Boracay.

The secretary also expressed gratitude to Filinvest City Foundation for donating RT-PCR machine to the COVID laboratory.

Bohol Governor Arthur Yap said they are building a COVID laboratory in the island and that Aboitiz Foundation has donated an RT-PCR machine.

While it is just mostly domestic tourism that will kick-start tourism in the country once the quarantine is over, Romulo-Puyat said international tourists will follow.

“And eventually, we can open it to foreign tourists, because you can match it with another ASEAN country, and we can market it let’s say Boracay because tourists can go to a safe place. Health protocols must be in place, and we will not open it until these are present,” she added.

### **DOT certificate required**

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) said a DOT certificate of authority is required for accommodation establishments (AEs) going back to business during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), and General Community Quarantine (GCQ) periods.

A provision of IATF’s Resolution No. 43, Series of 2020 of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine states that “Accommodation Establishments (AEs) may operate only upon the issuance of a Certificate of Authority to operate by the DOT.”

“This is a welcome development for us to ensure that the safety and health of visitors will be given utmost priority and will not be compromised,” Romulo-Puyat said.

The tourism chief said erring AEs will be subjected to relevant penalties under applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

The application for the DOT certification is free of charge. DOT-accredited hotels and other AEs need only to submit to the DOT Regional Office with jurisdiction over their area the Letter of Intent to Operate, while NonDOT-accredited hotels and AEs will need to apply for accreditation to ensure compliance of basic requirements.

Under the same resolution, AEs refer to establishments operating primarily for accommodation purposes including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartment hotels, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, private homes used for homestay, ecolodges, serviced apartments, condotels, and bed and breakfast facilities.

“With this ‘No DOT Certification, No Operation policy’, we shall further implement the DOT Health and Safety Guidelines for Accommodation Establishments Under the New Normal based on protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) for the safety of our guests and tourists in the resumption of tourism activities,” Romulo-Puyat said.

# SMC won't fail Viggo

Published 4 hours ago on June 11, 2020 03:10 AM

By **TDT**



Viggo is a male Philippine Eagle which is an important part of the Philippine Eagle Center's Cooperative Artificial Insemination Program. / PHOTOGRAPH courtesy of SMC

San Miguel Corp. affiliate Eagle Cement Corp (Eagle Cement) had solidified its partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) during the Philippine Eagle Week held 4 to 10 June by pledging continued care and support to Viggo, the company's adopted Philippine Eagle within the PEF's conservation program.

Viggo is an official ambassador for the conservation of the species.

"We join the PEF in calling on corporations, large and small, and regular Filipinos to support the conservation of Philippine Eagles, especially as they are still considered endangered today," Eagle Cement President and CEO John Paul Ang said.

"As our national bird, they embody the health of our forests, the state of our natural resources, and the proud national heritage of our people. In these disruptive times, the Philippine Eagle, like the people it represents, should not only be celebrated but also protected," Ang shared.

## Successful breeding

Since turning into an adult, Viggo has successfully established a bond with his caretaker as his "human surrogate mate" through sexual imprinting.

This enables PEF to collect sperm samples from Viggo for its artificial insemination breeding program. As such, Viggo plays a significant role in safeguarding the species from extinction as he is one of the PEC's potential semen donors.

Furthermore, Viggo is the first captive-bred eagle trained to perch on a gloved fist. He continues his flight training to be one of the featured eagles in the flight demonstrations at the PEC.

### **Well cared for**

Eagle Cement has been providing essential benefits such as food, enclosure maintenance, and veterinarian and keeper care annually for Viggo since 2017, and will continue to do so until 2022.

The partnership with the PEF is among a series of initiatives that the company is taking to advocate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations. Promoting biodiversity (SDG 15)<sup>1</sup> and leveraging the power of partnerships to generate sustainable development (SDG 17)<sup>2</sup> are two pillars of Eagle Cement's commitment to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem.



# Why plastic-clogged Philippines must face up to dearth of waste disposal and recycling

The debate on plastic pollution and single-use packaging rages on but more than finding alternatives to plastic, it is vital to address the lack of disposal facilities and stop plastic from leaking into the oceans.



An elderly female waste picker carries a basket full of trash at a dumpsite in Dumaguete City, Philippines. Although the Solid Waste Management Act mandated for all open dumpsites to be converted into sanitary landfills by 2006, there are still 403 open dumpsites and 108 controlled dumpsites in the country. Image: Greenpeace Philippines

By [Hannah Alcoseba Fernandez](#)

June 10, 2020

Even as fierce debate on plastic pollution and single-use packaging continues in the Philippines, it is vital to address the lack of disposal facilities and stop the leakage of plastic waste into the oceans, industry experts said.

The use of plastic packaging by food and consumer goods companies has been blamed for the marine pollution crisis, but no other material is as effective in ensuring the safe transportation of food, Crispian Lao, head of the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS), pointed out.

“If there is packaging that meets the demand of food safety and accountability in an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where food has to be transported from one island to another, then we are very much open to that,” said Lao, whose multi-sectoral organisation aims to develop zero-waste programmes for schools and communities.

“But we are still in the process of looking for those solutions, so right now, we need to address problems as they come. What is important for now is to ensure that none of the waste enters our ecosystem.”

After China and Indonesia, the Philippines ranks as the world’s third biggest polluter, with [2.7 million metric tonnes of plastic waste](#) generated each year.

Although the Philippines has a [high garbage collection rate](#) among Southeast Asian countries, rubbish is not properly disposed of, according to a 2018 study of waste management practices in the region.

Lao said 70 per cent of the Filipino population has no access to disposal facilities and sanitary landfills, causing waste to leak into the oceans.

While the Philippines enacted a solid waste management [law](#) nearly 20 years ago to convert all open dumpsites into sanitary landfills, government data [shows](#) that there are still 403 open dumpsites and 108 controlled dumpsites in the country.

If there is packaging that meets the demand of food safety and accountability in an archipelagic country like the Philippines, where food has to be transported from one island to another, then we are very much open to that.

Why plastic-clogged Philippines must face up to  
dearth of waste disposal and recycling

PAGE 1/ 2/3

June 11, 2020  
DATE

Crispian Lao, founder, Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability (PARMS)

The low compliance of cities to establish sanitary landfills has been [blamed](#) on the high cost of closing dumpsites, but Lao argued that regulations for building landfills are also “too strict”.

Among other requirements, landfills must be built on clay, and at a distance from earthquake faults. But the country has very little clay and sits on several tectonic plates, he said.

### ***Collected waste leaking into the oceans***

Czarina Constantino, who spearheads the World Wide Fund for Nature’s (WWF) global campaign in the Philippines to stop the flow of plastics into nature by 2030, agreed that the lack of waste disposal facilities is one of the main causes of plastic pollution in the country. Poorly resourced municipal governments are the reason for this.

According to a 2018 [report](#) by WWF, up to [74 per cent of plastic](#) in the Philippines that ends up in the ocean is from waste that has already been collected.

The report said that 386,000 tonnes of waste are leaked into the ocean every year because of hauler dumping—where private hauler companies unload their trucks into water bodies on the way to proper disposal sites in order to cut costs—and because of poorly located dumps situated near waterways.

The low recycling rate of low-value plastic material contributes to the marine litter problem, Constantino added.

“In the Philippines, recycling is focused on high-value plastics like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) that is readily available in junk shops, but there is very limited infrastructure for recycling of low-value plastics like single-use sachets, which usually ends up in landfill,” she told Eco-Business.

Single-use sachets—typically made of fossil fuel–based chemicals that are meant to be disposed of right after use—have been a mainstay in low-income households in the country, where *tingi-tingi*, or a retail culture, is prevalent. Not all consumers can afford to buy products in bulk, and sachets allow them to purchase items such as coffee, shampoo and detergents in small amounts.

The shortage of recycling facilities in the country is due to a lack of space to install them in congested areas, said Constantino. Apart from the actual recycling plant, the local waste management system also requires a materials recovery facility, which is a specialised plant that segregates materials for recycling and prepares them for marketing to end-user manufacturers.

Cities also struggle with a lack of funding for recycling infrastructure, although the government has started to push for [cluster sanitary landfills](#), where local government units may share financial resources to establish sanitary landfills. There are currently only five recycling companies in the Philippines, but solid waste generation has steadily [increased](#) from 37,427 tonnes per day in 2012 to 40,087 tonnes in 2016.

### ***Businesses are not exempt from the war on waste***

The non-profit Alliance to End Plastic Waste acknowledged that waste disposal systems of countries like the Philippines may not be designed to cope with the volumes of trash generated from consumer goods.

However, brand owners and other stakeholders such as producers, retailers and waste management companies need to come together to develop solutions to reduce plastic pollution, said Jessica Lee, its vice-president of communications. The Alliance to End Plastic Waste, based in Singapore, comprises some the world’s biggest plastic producers and users that have set up a US\$1.5 billion fund to improve waste collection and recycling in developing countries.

Why plastic-clogged Philippines must face up to  
dearth of waste disposal and recycling

PAGE 1/ 3/3

June 11, 2020  
DATE

Lee cited a [study](#) released in January by think tank Green Alliance that revealed how alternative materials like paper and glass may generate higher carbon emissions than plastic or aluminium.

“If businesses don’t come together to address the waste issue, there will be actions which trigger the usage of alternative materials that may bring about an even bigger challenge that the modern lifestyles of eight billion people in the world bring,” Lee told Eco-Business.

If business don’t come together to address the waste issue, there will be actions which trigger the usage of alternative materials that may bring about an even bigger challenge that the modern lifestyles of eight billion people in the world bring.

Jessica Lee, vice-president of communications, Alliance To End Plastic Waste

Food manufacturer Mondelez Philippines is making efforts to tackle plastic waste through management and recycling.

The snacks giant, known for products such as Cadbury chocolate and Oreo cookies, recognised the need for a multi-strategy approach to address waste including reducing plastic use, developing alternatives to plastic packaging, and recycling.

“We still cannot eliminate sachets because they are the best means to preserve freshness and shelf-life... we are not removing them until we are certain that replacement will be just as effective,” said Mondelez Philippines’ corporate & government affairs country manager Kristoffer Rada.

Parent company Mondelēz International is trying out various packaging technologies. For instance, it trialled a 100 per cent recyclable paper packaging that does not contain laminates, foils or plastic in one of its products in New Zealand and Australia last year.

Mondelez Philippines also supports the idea of the [extended producer responsibility](#) (EPR), which makes various companies responsible for the entire life cycle of plastic products, Rada said.

Plastic in itself is not evil. It is the disposal of it. We have to see that we are working towards a solution.

Kristoffer Rada, country manager, Mondelez Philippines

The company is auditing the volume of plastic it uses to set more concrete take-back targets. One of the early ways it is helping recycle is by repurposing plastic into [eco-bricks](#) for schools.

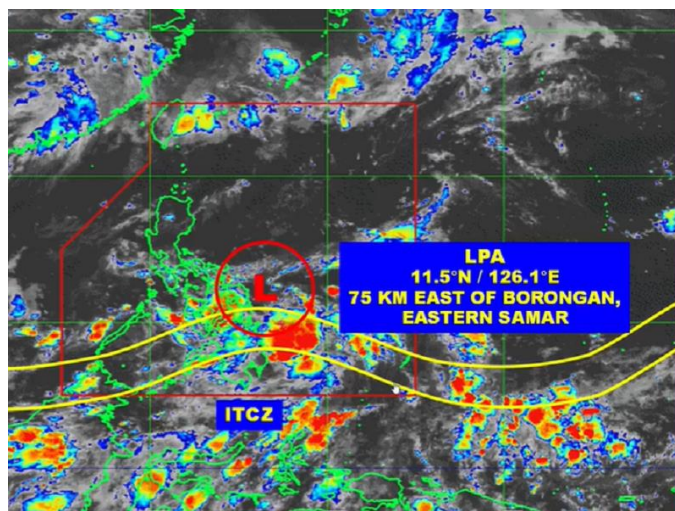
Globally, Mondelēz International is also making 100 per cent of its packaging recyclable by 2025. On the homefront, the company is working with PARMS for a zero net waste commitment by 2030.

To boost recycling facilities in the country, the conglomerate has contributed US\$30,000 to the construction of a recycling facility in Parañaque City. Together with PARMS and its member companies, it can churn out 100 to 200 eco-bricks a day from 60 to 120 kilogrammes of plastic waste once operational.

Rada said: “Plastic in itself is not evil. It is the disposal of it. We have to see that we are working towards a solution. We are doing this through education and by partnering with NGOs.”

# LPA sa Silangan ng Eastern Samar posibleng maging bagyo sa susunod na 1 hanggang 2 araw

By Dona Dominguez-Cargullo June 10, 2020 - 05:44 AM



Magiging ganap na bagyo ang binabantayang Low Pressure Area ng PAGASA sa bahagi ng Eastern Samar.

Ang LPA ay huling namataan ng PAGASA sa 75 kilometers East ng Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

Nakapaloob ito sa Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) at nakaapekto na sa Palawan at Visayas.

Ayon sa PAGASA, sa susunod na 24 hanggang 48 oras ay posibleng maging ganap na bagyo ang LPA at papangalanan itong Butchoy.

Para sa magiging lagay ng panahon ngayong araw, dahil sa LPA at ITCZ, ang mga lalawigan ng Marinduque at Romblon at mga rehiyon ng Bicol, Caraga, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Central at Eastern Visayas ay makararanas ng maulap na papawirin na may kalat-kalat na pag-ulan.

Ang Western Visayas at nalalabing bahagi ng Mindanao ay makararanas din ng maulap na papawirin na may kalat-kalat na pag-ulan dahil sa Southwesterly Windflow.

Ang Metro Manila naman at nalalabing bahagi ng Luzon ay makararanas lang ng bahagyang maulap na papawirin.

Sa susunod na dalawa hanggang tatlong araw magiging maulap sa Bicol Region at sa ilang bahagi ng Luzon kasama na ang Metro Manila dahil sa dahil sa LPA na magiging bagyo.

# Barko ng China nagpapatrolya sa palibot ng Pag-asa Island

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 10 2020 08:10 PM



Nangangambang magpunta ang ilang residente ng Pag-asa Island sa West Philippine Sea sa mga sandbar na dati nilang pahingahan at pangisdaan. Madalas kasi silang nilalapitan ng malalaking barko ng China na nakapalibot sa lugar na ito. Nagpa-Patrol, Chiara Zambrano. **TV Patrol, Miyerkoles, 10 Hunyo 2020**

# Aussie scientists turn to drones to protect sea turtles

Agence France-Presse / 04:22 PM June 10, 2020

## Green turtle

*Chelonia mydas*



Range: Tropics, subtropics

Weight: 68-181 kg

Length: 0.8-1.2 m

2018: **48-67% fall in nesting females over 3 generations**

Sources: IUCN, WWF

© AFP

BRISBANE, Australia — Australian researchers have discovered they were underestimating numbers at the world's largest sea turtle nesting site after turning to drone technology for the first time.

Raine Island, off the northern tip of Australia, plays host to around 60,000 female green turtles who migrate hundreds of kilometers from the Great Barrier Reef to lay their eggs each year.

Scientists working to protect the endangered species had struggled with how best to keep track of the nesting turtles but revealed in a paper published in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS One last week that their new use of drones showed they had been underestimating numbers by more than 50 percent.

Stunning drone footage released by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation on Tuesday shows thousands of turtles swimming in the crystal blue ocean.

The researchers had previously counted turtles as they landed on the beach to lay eggs — with about 23,000 counted in a single night — and by marking the creatures with non-toxic soluble paint to more easily track them in the ocean.

“Trying to accurately count thousands of painted and unpainted turtles from a small boat in rough weather was difficult,” the paper’s lead author Andrew Dunstan said.

“Using a drone is easier, safer, much more accurate, and the data can be immediately and permanently stored.”

Their work, as part of the Raine Island Recovery Project, also includes rebuilding the remote cay’s nesting beaches and constructing fences to prevent turtle deaths.

/MUF

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1289360/aussie-scientists-turn-to-drones-to-protect-sea-turtles/>

Spectacular drone footage captures thousands  
of turtles nesting

TITLE :

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

# Spectacular drone footage captures thousands of turtles nesting

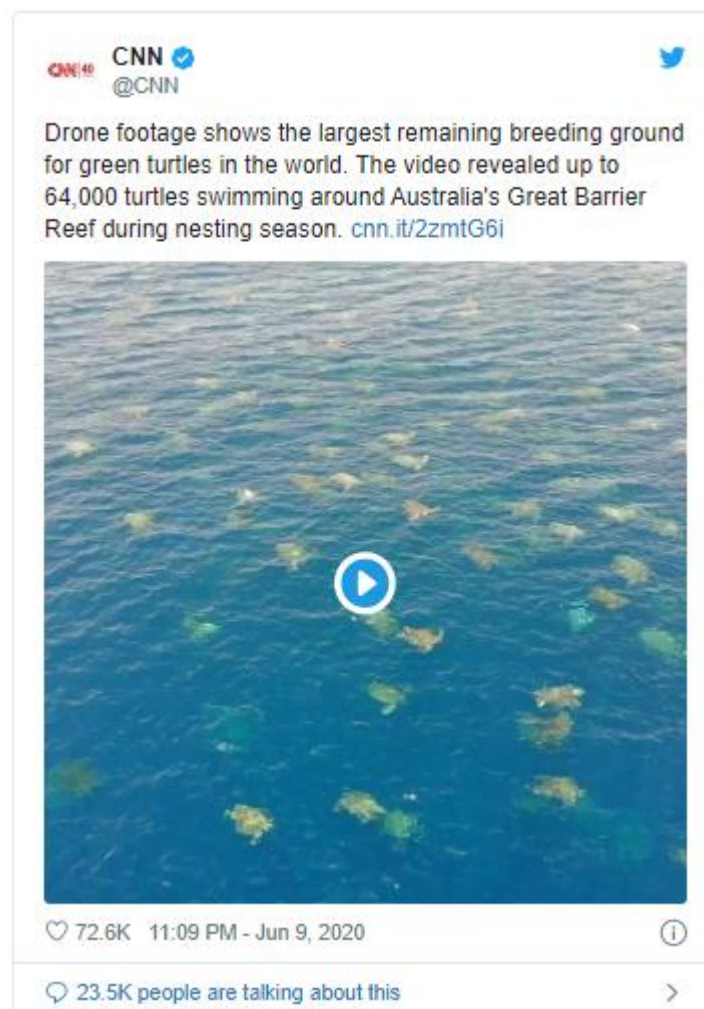
By Amy Woodyatt, CNN

Published Jun 10, 2020 7:44:04 AM



**(CNN)** — Researchers have captured beautiful aerial footage of thousands of green [turtles](#) congregating on the edge of Australia's [Great Barrier Reef](#) during the nesting season.

Scientists from Queensland Government's Department of Environment and Science (DES) captured the footage using a drone at the world's largest green turtle rookery at Raine Island, a vegetated coral cay approximately 620 kilometers (385 miles) northwest of Cairns.



Green turtles, named after the color of their cartilage and fat, are found mostly in tropical and subtropical waters, and migrate long distances between feeding grounds and the beaches where they emerged as hatchlings, some 35 years after they were born.

Spectacular drone footage captures thousands  
of turtles nesting

TITLE :

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 11, 2020

DATE

The creatures are endangered and are under threat due to hunting, overharvesting of their eggs, loss of beach nesting sites and becoming trapped in fishing apparatus.

Raine Island is the biggest remaining turtle rookery in the world, but despite attracting a "massive aggregation" of the creatures, scientists noticed that they were not reproducing as expected due to nests flooding and inhospitable terrain.

"We sort of became aware that although there's these massive aggregations, the actual reproduction isn't working so well," Dr Andrew Dunstan, from the DES, told CNN Tuesday, explaining that his team noticed turtles were falling off cliffs, becoming trapped in the heat and suffering flooding in their nests.

After implementing a series of interventions to help the struggling turtles, scientists then sought to track the population.

In research conducted in December and published in scientific journal PLOS ONE on Thursday, they found that using drones -- or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) -- was the most accurate way of documenting the endangered sea creatures.

In order to count the creatures, researchers had initially painted the turtles' shells with a white stripe of non-toxic paint while they gathered on the beach and then waited for them to return to the water.

When they tried to count the turtles from the boat, they found that they came away with biased results. For accuracy and ease, scientists deployed drones to film the creatures.

"Trying to accurately count thousands of painted and unpainted turtles from a small boat in rough weather was difficult. Using a drone is easier, safer, much more accurate, and the data can be immediately and permanently stored," Dunstan, senior research scientist and lead author of the paper, said in a statement.

Using drones, the team revealed up to 64,000 turtles swimming around the island waiting to come ashore to lay their eggs.

"We were underestimating that a lot. We're finding 1.73 times as many turtles with the drone and as we do when we directly compare with the observer counts," Dunstan told CNN, adding that the team can now go back and adjust historic population estimates.

Researchers plan to use the results to understand and manage the turtle population, and hope that in the future they will be able to automate the counts from video footage using artificial intelligence.

This story was first published on CNN.com [Spectacular drone footage captures thousands of turtles nesting](https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/10/Spectacular-drone-footage-captures-thousands-of-turtles-nesting.html)



**WORLD**

# Pangolins out

China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes — including research and traditional medicine.

Published 5 hours ago on June 11, 2020 02:00 AM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



A pangolin is seen out of its cage after being confiscated by the Department of Wildlife and Natural Parks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. / JIMIN LAI/agence france-presse

BEIJING, China (AFP) — China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported Tuesday, 9 June, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal.

Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along with substances including a pill formulated with bat feces, the state-owned Health Times reported.

The pangolin, the world’s most heavily trafficked mammal, is thought by some scientists to be the possible host of the novel coronavirus that emerged at a market in China’s Wuhan city last year.

Its body parts fetch a high price on the black market as they are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine, although scientists say they have no therapeutic value.

China’s forestry authority on Friday, 5 June, gave pangolins the highest level of protection in the country due to its threatened status.

“Depleted wild resources” are being withdrawn from the Pharmacopoeia, Health Times reported, although the exact reason for the removal of pangolins was unclear.

China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes — including research and traditional medicine.

The World Wide Fund for Nature on Saturday, 6 June, said it “strongly welcomed” China’s move to upgrade protections for the pangolin, calling it an “important respite” from the illegal pangolin trade.



Image shows a pangolin hanging from a tree.

Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Photo

## China removes pangolin from traditional medicine list

(Agence France-Presse) - June 10, 2020 - 2:03pm

BEIJING, China — China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported Tuesday, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal.

Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along with substances including a pill formulated with bat faeces, the state-owned Health Times reported.

The pangolin, the world's most heavily trafficked mammal, is thought by some scientists to be the possible host of the novel coronavirus that emerged at a market in China's Wuhan city last year.

Its body parts fetch a high price on the black market as they are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine, although scientists say they have no therapeutic value.

China's forestry authority on Friday gave pangolins the highest level of protection in the country due to its threatened status.

"Depleted wild resources" are being withdrawn from the Pharmacopoeia, Health Times reported, although the exact reason for the removal of pangolins was unclear.

China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes -- including research and traditional medicine.

The World Wide Fund for Nature on Saturday said it "strongly welcomed" China's move to upgrade protections for the pangolin, calling it an "important respite" from the illegal pangolin trade.

# A dangerous leak of diesel fuel in the Arctic

Opinion by Christopher Reddy

Updated 1629 GMT (0029 HKT) June 9, 2020



In this photo provided by the Russian Marine Rescue Service, rescuers work to prevent the spread of an oil spill outside Norilsk, Russia, on June 2.

Editor's Note: Christopher Reddy is a scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. The opinions expressed in this commentary are his own. View more [opinion](#) at CNN.

**(CNN)** An approximately 5-million-gallon diesel fuel [spill](#) from a power station storage tank near the Arctic town of Norilsk, Russia, poses a deadly threat to the region's people, plants, and animals. Even Russian President Vladimir Putin, who doesn't have a strong environmental track record, has declared a state of emergency.

Nornickel, the parent company of Norilsk-Taimyr Energy Company, which operates the station, said the accident could have been the result of the foundation of the storage tank sinking due to thawing permafrost, the Russian state news agency TASS reported.

As an oil spill scientist, I see unique dangers in the Arctic. This spill is a warning of a precarious future that we are unprepared for.

Whenever I learn about an oil spill, I immediately ask two questions: What type of oil spilled and where did it spill? Crude oil, the kind spilled in the Exxon Valdez (1989) and Deepwater Horizon (2010) disasters, is thicker and stickier, but that also makes it visually obvious and easier to track and clean up.

Crude oil spills can be [corralled with the help of booms](#) -- large, floating barriers -- and skimmed with equipment that physically removes the oil from the water. Crude oil-covered objects along shorelines can be cleared away.

Diesel oil, which spilled in the Arctic disaster, is less viscous and harder to contain and recover. Once the oil is in the water, plants and animals will find themselves enveloped in a coat of potent hydrocarbons. Pound-for-pound in the short term, diesel fuel is significantly more lethal than crude oil and can cause longer-lasting damage.

Then there's the "where" part of my first question. With oil spills, it's all about location. Among the worst places for a diesel spill to occur is an enclosed body of water, like a slow-flowing river or inlet. I have studied three such spills.

In September 1969, [a barge ran aground](#) in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, spilling diesel and [causing](#) massive deaths of marine life and marsh grass in bays that are similar to those found along the Arctic coastline.

Residents still refer to the "Silent Autumn" that followed for the lack of bird life in the area that season. It took up to [five years](#) for marsh grasses to grow back, and 50 years later, grasses, crabs, and mussels in the area still show detrimental impacts from the spill.

While a total volume of about 5 million gallons pales in comparison to the 11 and 168 million gallons [released](#) from the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon disasters, respectively, the "what" and "where" of the spill will lead to a much greater relative amount of damage.

Despite its similarities to Cape Cod, the [Arctic](#) is unknown territory for oil spill responders. Unlike coastlines here or in the Gulf of Mexico, we haven't mapped the Arctic Ocean's seafloor or traced currents in detail. Its weather is harsher, particularly in winter. We also don't know nearly as much about its fragile and intricate ecosystem.

On top of all that, the vast, remote Arctic has singular logistics problems. It has limited ports, roads and airports, available to for bringing in equipment, supplies, responders, and scientists -- and few places to house and feed people who show up to help. On Friday, TASS [reported](#), the first stage of the cleanup operation was completed.

The Deepwater Horizon spill was a major challenge, but the established infrastructure and ready access in the Gulf of Mexico was instrumental to the cleanup effort. Little such infrastructure exists in the Arctic.

All of these things mean that we have a vast learning curve ahead of us and a short time to navigate it. The Ambarnaya River region in Siberia will have to make do with what the responders can manage in a hurry and with the clock ticking. But this will almost certainly not be the last spill we hear about in the Arctic.

Warming temperatures mean that more ship traffic will soon be plying the northern passage between Europe and Asia -- ships powered by diesel and other refined fuels. Warming temperatures also mean more thawing permafrost, which makes the soils move and collapse and puts infrastructure, like the Russian fuel tank, increasingly at risk.

The world is fraught with dangers for which we could have and should have been more prepared. To that list, we need to add the Arctic's vulnerability to oil spills. We need the foresight, will, and investment to develop strategies and policies to minimize the costs and impacts of future spills -- to prepare effective responses now for inevitable oil spills in the Arctic, and not react futilely to them after they happen.



News5

18 hrs · 🌐

"It's a new type of pollution."

Nagbabala ang French group na Operation Mer Propre sa pagdami ng mga kalat, gaya ng face masks at gloves, na napupunta sa dagat ngayong #COVID19 pandemic.



👍👎 139

13 Comments 68 Shares

Source:

[https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=2029850477171696&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus\\_composer=0](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2029850477171696&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0)

Powerful photo series of indigenous activists fighting  
TITLE: to save the Amazon scoops top award

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 11, 2020  
DATE

# Powerful photo series of indigenous activists fighting to save the Amazon scoops top award

Updated 10th June 2020

Written by Jack Guy, CNN

A powerful series depicting the plight of activists fighting to preserve their communities from mining and agribusiness has led to Uruguayan photographer Pablo Albarenga being named Photographer of the Year at the Sony World Photography Awards 2020.

Albarenga won the award for his series "Seeds of Resistance" and will take home the \$25,000 prize, according to a press release from the World Photography Organisation published Tuesday.

The series pairs photographs of landscapes at risk with portraits of the activists fighting to save the territories.



Albarenga's series uses aerial photography. Credit: Pablo Albarenga

"With this important award, I see two victories: first, the opportunity to tell the stories of the traditional communities of the Amazon by highlighting the people who are still fighting not only for their future, but for everyone's," said Albarenga in a statement.

"Secondly, that the photographer of the year award has landed in Latin America, a continent historically told through the eyes of foreigners."

Mike Trow, chair of the 2020 professional competition, said the series "is a brilliant set of images which offers a powerful visual record of how deforestation goes hand in hand with the destruction of communities and peoples."



This photo by Robin Hinsch shows the impact of the oil industry in the Niger Delta, Nigeria. Credit: Robin Hinsch

Powerful photo series of indigenous activists fighting  
to save the Amazon scoops top award

TITLE:

PAGE 1/ 2/2

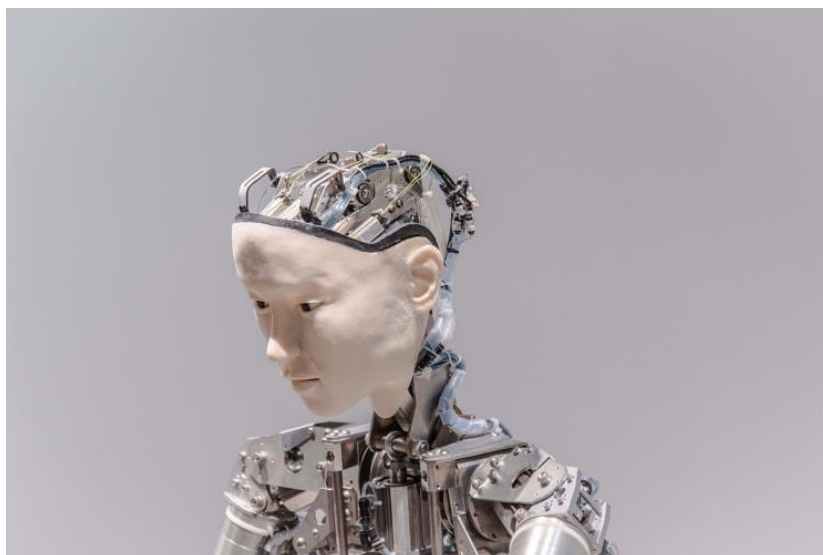
June 11, 2020  
DATE

Winners were also announced in ten other categories. They include Sandra Herber in the Architecture category, Maria Kokunova in Discovery, Chung Ming Ko in Documentary and Robin Hinsch in Environment.



This image by Brent Stirton shows a pangolin, the world's most illegally trafficked mammal. Credit: Brent Stirton

Ronny Behnert took home the prize for the Landscape category, Brent Stirton won Natural World and Wildlife, and Cesar Dezfuli won Portraiture, while Ángel López Soto won Sport and Alessandro Gandolfi won Still Life.



Alessandro Gandolfi won the still life category for work including this shot of a robot. Credit: Alessandro Gandolfi

Six of the winners come from European countries, with one each from North and South America, Asia and Africa.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Sony World Photography Awards also honored UK photographer Tom Oldham in its Open category -- in which judges select the best single photograph -- Greek photographer Ioanna Sakellaraki in the Student category, and Hsien-Pang Hsieh from Taiwan as Youth Photographer of the Year.

The annual awards ceremony this year was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/sony-photography-awards-winners-scli-intl/index.html>