

DATE: JULY 14, 2020

DAY: TUESDAY

# DENR

## IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DENR

**MoA on Air Quality Monitoring** William P. Cuñado (left), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Haile Pargad B. Biteng, Power Marketplace and Exchange Corp. president, present the memorandum of agreement between the two parties to improve the department's air quality monitoring system. With a more accurate means of measuring air quality, EMB can better ensure compliance and effectively measure implementation of its Environment Management Plan.

# Dolphins, killer whales seen in Bohol waters

**Published** July 13, 2020 11:05pm

Several dolphins and killer whales or Orcas were seen in the waters off Garcia Hernandez in Bohol province amid the resumption of local tourist activities after the implementation of modified general community quarantine protocols.

According to Oscar Oida's report on 24 Oras on Monday, tourist John Brian Galendez was able to capture on video the presence of the dolphins and orcas that are rarely seen in Bohol.

"Sobrang saya po. 'Di ko po ine-expect na ganoon po makikita namin kasi ano po, 'yong mga cousins ko po, naliligo lang kami sa baybayin. Tapos hindi namin alam na makapunta kami doon sa aming paroroonan," Galendez said.

Residents said they first saw the marine mammals on June 29 amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. It has been decades since the Orcas were last seen in the area.

An official from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said there are three reasons that the dolphins and orcas were seen in Bohol.

Environment undersecretary Benny Antiporda said one of the reasons the marine mammals appeared in Bohol was that they were just lost or this may be due to climate change.

"Change noong lamig or init noong tubig 'no sinusundan din ng mga isda 'yan na kung saan sila magiging comfortable, doon sila pumupunta," Antiporda said.

He added the mammals might be looking for food in the area.

"Positive na nakikita natin dito because of ECQ, dumami 'yong isda natin dito. Pinagbawal din 'yong mga mamalakaya, yung mga mangingisda natin kung kaya't nagkaroon ng chance mag-produce ang mga isda at dumami sila. So noong dumami sila, dumami ang pagkain dito sa Pilipinas and yet alam natin since island country itong ating bansa, maraming breeding ground dito 'yong ating mga isda na nakikita naman natin na dito patungo ngayon 'yong malalaking isda dahil naghahanap pagkain," Antiporda said.

Galendez, meanwhile, said the phenomenon could also be a reminder to protect the marine environment. -- **Ma. Angelica Garcia/BAP, GMA News**

# Dolphins, killer whales pumapalaot sa Bohol waters

ni [Lolet Abania](#) | July 14, 2020



Pumapalaot ang maraming dolphins at killer whales sa katubigan ng Garcia Hernandez Bohol province kasabay ng pagbubukas ng local tourist activities matapos na ipatupad ang modified general community quarantine protocols.

Nakuhanan ng video ng turistang si John Brian Galendez ang paglangoy ng mga dolphins at orcas na hindi karaniwang nakikita sa Bohol.

“Sobrang saya po. ‘Di ko po ine-expect na ganoon po makikita naming kasi ano po, ‘yong mga cousins ko po, naliligo lang kami sa baybayin. Tapos hindi nmain alam na makapunta kami doon sa aming paroroonan,” sabi ni Galendez.



Source: John Brian Galendez

Ayon sa mga residente, una silang nakakita ng marine mammals noong June 29. Ilang dekada na mula nang huli silang makakita ng orcas sa lugar.

Isang opisyal mula sa Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang nagsabi na may tatlong rason na nakakakita ng dolphins at orcas sa Bohol.

Ayon kay Environment undersecretary Benny Antiporda, isang dahilan ng papunta ng marine mammals sa Bohol ay sanhi ng pagkawala o maaaring sa climate change. “Change noong lamig or init noong tubig ‘no sinusundan din ng mga isda ‘yan na kung saan sila magiging comfortable, doon sila pumupunta,” sabi ni Antiporda.

Maaaring ang mammals ay naghahanap ng pagkain sa lugar.

“Positive na nakikita natin dito because of ECQ, dumami ‘yong isda natin dito. Pinagbawal din ‘yong mga mamamalakaya, yung mga mangingisda natin kung kaya’t nagkaroon ng chance mag-produce ang mga isda at dumami sila... maraming breeding ground dito ‘yong ating mga isda na nakikita naman din natin patungo ngayon ‘yong malalaking isda dahil naghahanap ng pagkain,” sabi pa ni Antiporda.

# Killer whales namataan sa dagat sa Bohol

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 13 2020 01:09 PM



Video mula kay Jervz Galido

Viral ngayon sa social media ang video ng isang netizen, kung saan namataan ang mga Orca o killer whale sa karagatang sakop ng Bohol.

Ayon kay Jervz Galido, ang kumuha ng video, namamangka sila ng kaniyang pamilya para mag-dolphin watching sa may dagat sa bayan ng Garcia Hernandez.

Pero bukod sa dolphin, nagulat umano sila Galido nang makakita sila ng mga killer whale.

Ayon kay Galido, nasa 8 hanggang 10 whale ang nakita nila na tila sumasabay pa sa kanilang bangka.

Ang killer whales ay migratory animals at posibleng dumayo ang mga ito sa dagat ng Bohol para maghanap ng makakain, ayon kay Allan Poquita, direktor ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources sa Central Visayas.

Pero ipinayo ni Poquita na kailangang mag-ingat kapag nakakita ng mga killer whale at huwag umanong gambalain ang mga ito.

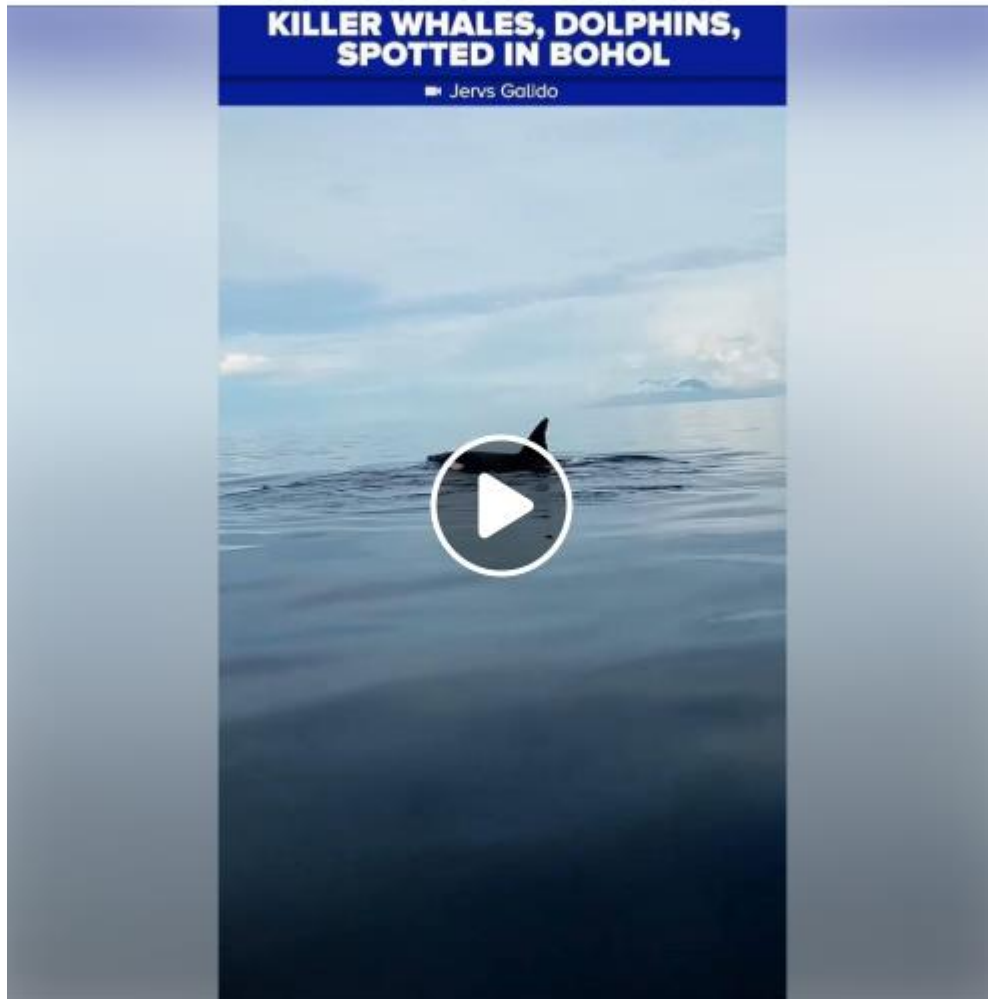


News5  
7 hrs · 🌐



Nakipagunahang lumangoy ang mga bottlenose at spinner dolphins 🐬 na ito sa isang bangka malapit sa bayan ng Garcia Hernandez, Bohol. Namataan din ang isang pod ng mga killer whales o orca sa lugar.

⚠️ Siguraduhing dumistansya at mag-ingat sa mga killer whale o orca dahil kahit cute silang tignan, wild animals pa rin sila at itinuturing bilang isa sa mga top predators sa mundo.



👍 🤔 ❤️ 996

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DENR urged to implement program for vegetable  
farming and consumption

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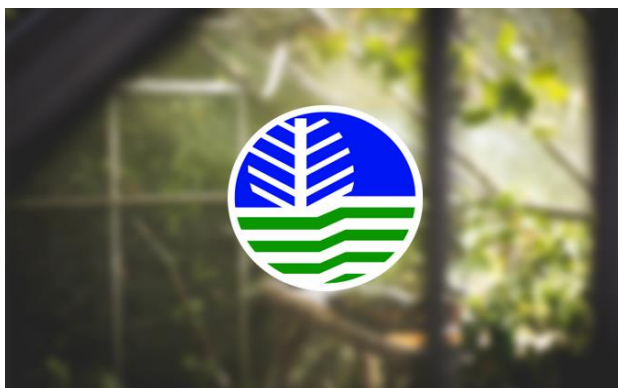
July 14, 2020  
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# DENR urged to implement program for vegetable farming and consumption

Published July 13, 2020, 9:59 AM

by Charissa Luci-Atienza

Lawmakers on Monday (July 13) urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to implement a program that would promote vegetable farming and consumption, and provide incentives to farmers.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

Nueva Ecija 1st district Rep. Estrellita Suansing, and Bataan 1st District Rep. Geraldine Roman rallied behind the call made by the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to the public to switch to a plant-based diet to help reduce their ecological footprint that will help fight climate change.

“That’s what we are doing in our district. We have a program for SK Federation to come up with Gulayan ng mga Kabataan and I will support them with funding,” she said in a text message.

When asked if there is a necessity to file a bill promoting or incentivizing plant-based diet, Suansing said, “In my opinion, there is no need. EMB/DENR can come up with a program and provide funds to LGU. Come up with incentives. Ang tagal kapag idaan pa sa bill (It will take long if we will go through the legislation process).”

In celebration of July as Nutrition Month, the DENR launched the month-long “Plant-Based Solutions for Climate Change” campaign.

Bataan 1st District Rep. Geraldine Roman said the government should further promote vegetable farming and consumption, given its health benefits.

“I’m a firm believer in a diet that is rich in vegetables and fruits with minimum animal protein. In my district I have patients in their early 20s who already have different types of cancer and their common denominator is a diet that is poor in vegetables and fruits but high in meat, especially processed meats. This is why I promote vegetable farming and consumption. It is the secret to a longer life. Gaganda pa skin mo (Your skin will glow) at magmumukhang bata (and you will look younger)!,” she said.

She proposed the integration of vegetable farming in school curriculum and the grant of incentives to farmers producing organic vegetables and crops.





DENR urged to implement program for vegetable  
TITLE: farming and consumption

“We can mandate schools to integrate this in their curriculum and incentivize farmers to produce more and through organic means,” Roman said.

In a statement, EMB Director William Cuñado said over the weekend that switching to a plant-based diet not only benefits one’s health but it can also help protect the environment, as it reduces greenhouse emissions.

According to a University of Oxford study, cutting meat and dairy products from a person’s diet could reduce the individual’s carbon footprint from food by up to 73 percent.

# DENR pushes plant-based diet to fight climate change

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

July 14, 2020

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has recently launched a campaign to promote plant-based food production and consumption.

Dubbed “Plant-Based Solutions for Climate Change,” the month-long public information drive spearheaded by the DENR’s Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) aims to encourage Filipinos to veer away from animal-based products toward the consumption of more fruits and vegetables.

The campaign aims to help fight climate change by switching to a plant-based diet, which has been shown to reduce the ecological footprint of human food consumption.

The campaign, which coincides with the July commemoration of Nutrition Month, is urging Filipinos to include more vegetables and fruits in their diet following the recommendation of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) on proportion by three main food groups—go, grow and glow foods.

EMB Director William Cuñado said shifting to a plant-based diet is one way to greatly reduce the environmental impact of one’s food consumption.

“Switching to a plant-based diet not only benefits one’s health, it can also help protect the environment due to the smaller environmental footprints plant-based diets tend to have,” Cuñado said.

Citing a 2013 study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Cuñado said meat and dairy—particularly from cows—account for around 14.5 percent of the global greenhouse gases each year. That’s roughly the same amount as emissions from all the cars, trucks, airplanes, and ships in the world combined.

A recent study by the University of Oxford suggested that cutting meat and dairy products from a person’s diet could reduce his carbon footprint from food by up to 73 percent.

Cuñado said a plant-based diet could help reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, water consumption, and land used for factory farming, which are all factors in global warming and environmental degradation.

“By gradually modifying our meals and shifting to balanced diets with more plant-based food, we have already taken part in reducing greenhouse gases, which in turn will help slow down the rise in global temperatures,” Cuñado said.

The monthlong campaign is being done virtually, or online, given the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The EMB has been regularly posting infographics about plant-based diet as a climate-change solution on its official Facebook page to make it easier for people to understand and follow the concept. It also launched an online food photo contest called #UOTD, or Ulam of the Day, where participants can send photos of their meal based on Pinggang Pinoy food guide developed by FNRI.

Pinggang Pinoy is an easy-to-understand food guide that uses a familiar food plate model to convey the right food group proportions on a per meal basis. This aims to help Filipinos acquire healthy eating habits needed to attain optimum nutrition.

The EMB started receiving entries for the #UOTD on July 4 through its e-mail address [ceidcentraloffice@gmail.com](mailto:ceidcentraloffice@gmail.com).

The photo contest will run until July 20. Further details about the contest are posted on the Facebook page of EMB Central Office.

# Plant-based diet vs climate change pushed

[Rhodina Villanueva](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 14, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines – Filipinos are being urged to help fight climate change by switching to a plant-based diet, which has been shown to reduce the ecological footprint of human food consumption.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through its attached agency Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), has launched a month-long public information campaign to encourage every one to consume more fruits.

The campaign, which coincides with the celebration of July as Nutrition Month, urged Filipinos to follow the recommendations of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute regarding the proportions of the three main food groups – go, grow and glow – that should be taken every meal.

“Shifting to plant-based diet is one way to reduce the environmental impact of one’s food consumption. It does not only benefits one’s health, but also helps protect the environment due to the smaller environmental footprints that plant-based diets tend to have,” EMB director William Cuñado said.

A 2013 study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization showed that meat and dairy, particularly from cows, account for around 14.5 percent of the global greenhouse gases each year.

The figure is roughly equivalent to the global amount of gas emitted by all cars, trucks, airplanes and ships combined.

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Cuñado said a plant-based diet could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and land use for factory farming, which are factors in global warming and environmental degradation.

The month-long campaign is being conducted virtually or online due to the restrictions brought about by the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic.

# Ilocos Norte town's 'slash and burn' practice alarms DENR

By Leilanie Adriano July 13, 2020, 5:17 pm



Law enforcers witness a "slash and burn" site just a kilometer away from one of the town's pristine waterfalls where tourists enjoy trekking and swimming on Saturday (July 11, 2020). Adams tourism officer Anavic Medrano said the area is covered with cogon grass and it will be planted with banana saplings. *(PNA photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)*

**LAOAG CITY** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) office in Ilocos Norte expressed alarm on the rampant practice of "slash and burn" in this eco-tourism destination of the north.

During a tree planting program participated by the DENR on Saturday together with members of the Philippine National Police and a non-government organization, forester Estrella "Baby" Sacro, expressed her dismay on the rampant practice of slash and burn in the said municipality as seen by her naked eyes during the activity.

Overlooking a lush forest and streams that surround a population of less than 2,000 or a total of 269 households based on the latest survey, the one-barangay town of Adams located east of Pagudpud has a wildlife critical habitat as declared in December 2013 by the DENR.

This covers a 3,250-hectare forest described as the "last frontier of dipterocarp forest" in the province and home to several threatened species like the country's falconet, hanging parakeet, brown deer and warty pig.

As stated in DENR Administrative Order No. 2013-23 signed by then Secretary Ramon Paje, the Adams Wildlife Critical Habitat should be free from destructive activities like dumping of wastes, illegal occupation of parts of the habitat, quarrying, mineral exploration and extraction including burning and logging.

According to Sacro, the threat of slash and burn technique or the clearing of forest land for agriculture and involves the cutting of vegetation and setting it alight is "very alarming" as a developing country like the Philippines is currently battling climate change.

"Adams, being one of the most beautiful places in Ilocos Norte blessed with a picturesque scenery should be well taken care of, and protected from damage to landscape and natural aesthetic," said Sacro as she wrote a letter on Monday addressed to the governor seeking for his intervention to save Adams from further destruction.

According to Sacro, Adams residents should refrain from the cheap slash and burn practice and adopt some environment-friendly agriculture practices to earn for a living.

The ENRO under the provincial government of Ilocos Norte is currently on the forefront of leading green revolution program, urging all local residents to make all idle lots in the province to be planted with more fruit-bearing trees and indigenous trees as a source of livelihood and at the same time protect Ilocos Norte's remaining forest reserved. *(PNA)*

Baguio City Council suspends Vista Residences' tree cutting activities

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# Baguio City Council suspends Vista Residences' tree cutting activities

Published July 13, 2020 4:33pm

By JON VIKTOR D. CABUENAS, GMA News

The Baguio City Council has ordered Villar-led Vista Residences Inc. to suspend its tree-cutting operations in the summer capital, with 24 pine trees still set to be felled.

In a statement released through social media and shared by the Facebook page of Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, the Baguio City Council said it suspended the tree-cutting activities to give more time for deliberations on the matter.

"Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan instructed the officers of the real estate company to postpone the cutting of the remaining 24 trees within the construction site at Purok 3, Outlook Drive Barangay," the statement read.

"The suspension order would give the council more time to deliberate on the matter in aid of legislation," it added.

It was referring to the Vista Residences project which has scored the necessary permits to cut down 54 trees — 53 Benguet Pine and one Norfolk Pine.

The company already earlier said the [cutting of the 54 pine trees was in "full compliance](#) with all relevant rules and regulations" and has been issued the paperwork to do so.

This was echoed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), which said that the [tree cutting activities is aboveboard](#).

The City Council said 24 out of the 54 trees remain standing, but the DENR said Vista Residences may still proceed with the cutting as it has already secured a Special Private Land Timber Permit (SPLTP).

"The trees may pose danger to lives and properties because they are hanging on steep slopes," Ralph Pablo, regional director of the DENR for the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), was quoted as saying.

Citing Vista Residences Consultant Teresita Castro, the City Council noted that the SPLTP is set to expire on Wednesday, July 15.

However, it noted that Vista Residences services head Allan Santos said it is not possible to reconfigure the architectural plan of the condominium that will be built in the area.

The [DENR earlier said that Vista Residences committed to plant 10,800 seedlings](#) in exchange for cutting down the 54 pine trees.

Baguio City Council suspends Vista Residences' tree  
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An online petition has since been mounted, urging Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong to stop the cutting activities.

"We are appealing to you because we know you also recognize the importance of trees in our beloved city and also because the company has already acquired a tree-cutting permit from DENR," the petition read.

Started by Michael Bengwayan, the petition has already reaped in 17,070 signatures as of this posting, short of its new goal of 25,000.

For his part, Magalong — who in his campaign was vocal in imposing a moratorium on cutting trees — expressed his dismay over the felled trees.

"We are saddened because we feel it is a big blow to our Regreening Master Plan amidst our request to the Office of the President for a tree-cutting moratorium," he said in a separate statement.

Vista Residences is a subsidiary of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. (VLL), which is chaired by [businessman Manuel Villar Jr.](#) — the Philippines' richest man, according to Forbes' Billionaires 2020 list.

Villar is married to Senator Cynthia Villar, who currently chairs the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, as well as the committee on agriculture and food.

VLL, a publicly listed company, posted a net income of P2.439 billion in January to March of 2020, down 7% from P2.622 billion the same quarter in 2019.

For the full-year 2019, the company reported a bottom line of P11.6 billion, up 10% from P10.5 billion in 2018.—**AOL, GMA News**

Source: [https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/746669/baguio-city-council-suspends-vista-residences-tree-cutting-activities/story/?fbclid=IwAR0FI1zts8mhmRtkv9VF6bZb9MqiKBEXtu96PSxAt\\_XYF\\_qWBituRpBHpEY](https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/746669/baguio-city-council-suspends-vista-residences-tree-cutting-activities/story/?fbclid=IwAR0FI1zts8mhmRtkv9VF6bZb9MqiKBEXtu96PSxAt_XYF_qWBituRpBHpEY)

# Baguio Rep. files tree-cutting moratorium

The youth of Baguio with all its people, denounces this type of blatant disregard to the value of trees to our people and our future.

Published 2 hours ago on July 14, 2020 04:59 AM

By [Aldwin Quitaso](#)



BAGUIO CITY — In response to the call of the people to save the pine trees of Baguio, the City's lone Representative filed a bill seeking the imposition of a moratorium of tree-cutting in the summer capital also popularly known as the "City of Pines."

Rep. Mark Go's proposed legislation seeks to stop tree-cutting activities in the city except for dead trees that pose danger to lives and properties or risk infecting other live trees.

Once enacted into law, big corporations, private property owners, and all government lands must adapt and design their buildings and other infrastructures to co-exist with the trees.

Go's bill complements two of his other earlier proposed laws — House Bill 6930, mandating parents to plant two trees for every child born to them, and House Bill 6931 which requires Senior High School and college students to plant two trees as a requirement of their graduation. Both have already been approved on second reading in the House of Representatives.

According to the legislator, with the passage of the bills into law, approximately 7 million trees will be planted annually.

Earlier, City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) head Renan Diwas expressed the immediate need to save the pine trees of Baguio. He stressed that losing the trees means losing the very identity of Baguio as the "City of Pines."

Baguio City Councilor Lloyd Orcales likewise demanded for a moratorium.

"The youth of Baguio with all its people, denounces this type of blatant disregard to the value of trees to our people and our future. The City of Baguio will remain as steward for the protection and preservation of our remaining tree covers. Further, we do not want our children and our children's children not to be able to breathe clean fresh air and deprive them of the future they deserve, let us together save our youth while we still can," Orcales noted.

The issue of enforcing a moratorium on tree-cutting recently became hot topic when developers who happened to secure permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started to clear lands of trees to pave way for the construction of commercial buildings.

One of such activities that caught the ire of Baguio environment advocates and residents is the cutting of 53 trees by Vista Residences owned by Vista Land.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/14/baguio-rep-files-tree-cutting-moratorium/>



# Baguio solon seeks tree cutting moratorium

Published 18 hours ago on July 13, 2020 12:06 PM

By [Aldwin Quitasol](#)



Rep. Mark Go wants property owners and developers to build around trees. (Facebook grab)

**BAGUIO CITY**– In response to the crave of the people to save the pine trees of Baguio, the city's lone representative filed a bill seeking the imposition of a moratorium on tree-cutting in the summer capital of the Philippines.

Rep. Mark Go's bill aims to preserve the trees of the city, except the dead ones that pose danger to lives and properties and may infect other healthy trees.

The proposed law covering big corporations, private property owners and all government lands will require making designs that will allow them to build around the trees.

Said measure will compliment Go's two bills he filed earlier: House Bill 6930 mandating parents to plant two trees for every child born to them, and House Bill 6931 requiring senior high school and college students to plant two trees as a requirement for their graduation. Both HB 6930 and 6931 have been approved on second reading in the House of Representatives.

Go said that with the passage of the bills into law, approximately 7 million trees will be planted annually.

Earlier, City Environment and Parks Management Office head Renan Diwas expressed the need to save the trees of Baguio.

Diwas said losing the trees means losing the very identity of Baguio as the "City of Pines."

Baguio City Councilor Lloyd Orcales also has demanded for a moratorium.

"The youth of Baguio with all its people, denounces this type of blatant disregard to the value of trees to our people and our future. The City of Baguio will remain as steward for the protection and preservation of our remaining tree covers. Further, we do not want our children and our children's children not to be able to breathe clean fresh air and deprive them of the future they deserve, let us together save our youth while we still can," Orcales said.

The issue of having a moratorium on tree cutting became hot as developers who happened to secure permits from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources started to clear lands of trees to pave way for the construction of commercial buildings. One such activity that caught the ire of Baguio's pro-environment advocates, tree lovers and residents is the cutting of 53 trees by Vista Residences owned by Vista Land.

*p: wjg*

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/13/baguio-solon-files-tree-cutting-moratorium/>



Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM

7 hrs · 🌐

Kung maisabatas ang panukalang batas, mapaparusahan ang mga indibidwal na lalabag ng dalawa hanggang anim na taong pagkakakulong o multang nagkakahalaga ng P100,000 hanggang P300,000 sa kada punong apektado.

FULL POST: [bit.ly/3fssb68](https://bit.ly/3fssb68)



👍❤️ 94

11 Comments 7 Shares

# Consulate to send 98 rescued endangered animals back to Indonesia

Published July 13, 2020, 11:54 AM

by Antonio Colina IV

DAVAO CITY — The Indonesian Consulate General in Davao is scheduled to repatriate 98 smuggled endangered exotic animals back to Indonesia on July 21, more than a year after these were confiscated in a raid in Mati City, Davao Oriental.

According to Geovani Mocodompis, the consulate's Information & Socio-Cultural Affairs staff, the remaining animals were the only ones that survived among the 450 that were rescued in a joint operation conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine Operations Group Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade, and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI)-Environmental Crime Division on April 8, 2019.

He said several animals died due to stress.

Mocodompis added the repatriation was originally scheduled last March 27, but it was postponed due to the declaration of the state of public health emergency amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in the country.

Last July 1, Indonesian Consul General Dicky Fabrian and other Indonesian officials from Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Indonesian Embassy in Manila held a virtual meeting with officials from DENR-Davao and Biodiversity Management Bureau-Manila to finalize the repatriation of endangered animals from Davao to Manado by sea.

He said the shipping of the exotic animals, which included black palm cockatoos, wallabies, and echidna, would be paid for by the Indonesian government.

A month after the raid, the exotic animals were transported from Mati City to Davao Crocodile Park, Inc. in Davao City "for further observation, care, and management."

In a briefer released by the consulate, the raid last year resulted in the arrest of Joel L. Toledo and Rompas M. Lumakore, who were facing charges before the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Mati City for violations of Section 27(e) Wildlife Trading and (f) Illegal possession of wildlife of Republic Act 9147, also known as "Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act."

On May 3, 2019, Dr. Indra Exploitasia, Indonesia's Director for Biodiversity Conservation, agreed to repatriate the animals back to Indonesia after being informed by authorities here of the seizure of several wild animals, smuggled from Indonesia, in compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Semiramis Bituin C. Castro, presiding judge of the MTCC in Mati City, issued an order dated October 14, 2019, granting "the repatriation of the remaining animals back to Indonesia and directed the DENR Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer to turn over the animals to the director for Biodiversity Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Government of Indonesia."

On December 3, 2019, test results of the blood samples collected from the animals showed they tested negative for "salmonella, avian influenza, and newcastle disease."

Mineral firms in Caraga campaign for environmental  
protection

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# Mineral firms in Caraga campaign for environmental protection

By Venus L. GarciaPublished on July 13, 2020



SURIGAO CITY, Surigao del Norte, July 13 (PIA) -- As part of the culmination activity of the Environment Month celebration this year, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Field Office 13 (MGB-Caraga) conducted the succulent dish gardening and environmental video-making contests.

These were participated and supported by several mining companies in the Caraga region wherein the winning entries will be utilized as information, education and communication (IEC) and advocacy materials for environmental protection and preservation.

The CTP Construction and Mining Corporation won the first place for the succulent dish gardening competition followed by Taganito Mining Corporation in second place and Mindanao Mineral Processing Refinery Corporation for the third place.



Mineral firms in Caraga campaign for environmental  
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Meanwhile, for the environmental video making contest, the Agata Mining Ventures, Inc. got the first place; MMPRC as the second-place winner and NAC-Hinatuan Mining Corporation garnered third place.

According to MGB-Caraga regional director Engr. Glenn Marcelo Noble, their agency is encouraging the mining firms to help in improving the lives of the host and neighboring communities.

"MGB targets Caraga region to become the center and model for responsible minerals industry. Apart from the contribution of the mining institutions in the economy, they have also helped the affected communities during this time of the pandemic," said Noble.



The Caraga-based mining firms have spent around P140 million as assistance to the frontliners, host communities and non-impact communities through their Social Development and Management Program (SDMP).

The mining firms have also pooled their resources together for the establishment of the first molecular testing laboratory for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the region.

"The mining firms here have manifested their concern to the community members. They promote the principle of people empowerment and give the necessary aid as a form of strengthening their hopes in overcoming the crisis brought about by the pandemic," said Noble. (VLG/PIA-Surigao del Norte)



**Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM**

11 hrs · 🌐

Nailigtas ng Philippine Coast Guard ang isang injured at stranded na green sea turtle sa mangrove forest malapit sa Brgy. Bato, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. 🐢

Dinala ito ng mga otoridad sa Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office para gamutin at i-check ang kalusugan bago muling pakawalan sa dagat.

📷: Philippine Coast Guard



👍❤️ 258

5 Comments 4 Shares

# Giant leatherback turtle found dead in waters off Bohol island

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINQ](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 02:46 PM July 13, 2020



A giant leatherback sea turtle is found dead in the island- barangay of Cataban in Talibon town, Bohol on Sunday, July 12, 2020. — PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR

TAGBILARAN CITY — A giant leatherback sea turtle locally known as “pawikan” was found dead by a local fisherman in the waters off the island village of Cataban in Talibon town on Sunday.

Elpidio Palaca, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO)-Talibon, said the marine reptile was 1.9 meters long, 160 centimeters wide, and 200 kilograms in weight.

Palaca said Edgardo Abellar, a fisherman, informed the local government about the dead turtle after the latter found it around 11 a.m.

Palaca said the sea turtle could have died after running out of oxygen.

Leatherback sea turtles, named for its unique “leathery” shell, are the world’s biggest turtles.

They are among the endangered species since their population has continued to decline over the years.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) provincial director Charlie Fabre said the dead sea turtle would be brought to Tagbilaran City by personnel of the National Museum of the Philippines-Bohol and Bohol Environment Management Office on Wednesday. It will be used for scientific and exhibition purposes by NMPB.

LZB

# Giant leatherback turtle, natagpuang patay sa Bohol

ni [Ronalyne Seminiano Reonico](#) | July 13, 2020



Natagpuan ng isang mangingisda sa Talibon town, Bohol ang ang patay na giant leatherback sea turtle o mas kilala sa tawag na pawikan nu'ng Linggo. Ayon kay Talibon Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Elpidio Palaca, ang marine reptile ay 1.9 meters long, 160 centimeters wide at may bigat na 200 kilograms.

Saad naman ni Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Provincial Director Charlie Fabre, ang patay na pawikan ay dadalhin sa Tagbilaran City ng National Museum of the Philippines-Bohol and Bohol Environment Management Office personnel sa Miyerkules.







ABS-CBN News

14 hrs ·

Inaalam na ng awtoridad ang dahilan ng pagkamatay ng isang leatherback sea turtle na nakita sa karagatang sakop ng Talibon, Bohol.

Sinubukan pa ng awtoridad na isalba ang buhay ng pawikan pero unti-unti itong nanghina hanggang sa binawian ng buhay.

Ayon kay Angelito Oroyan, municipal agriculturist, hindi sinasadyang na-trap sa lambat ang pawikan na may taas na 1.9 metro at lapad na 1.6 metro.

(Photo: CMEMP Tagbilaran)



Kryshlaine Raquel and 12K others

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News5 10 hrs · 🌐



Napadpad ang isang pawikan sa dalampasigan ng Carillo Village, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan dahil sa malakas na along dulot ng Tropical Depression #CarinaPH.

Balak itong i-turnover sa DENR pero binigyan muna ng first aid dahil nanghihina at may sugat.

📷 : Ronnel Sacupaso



👍❤️ 274

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# OceanaGold hopeful of Didipio mine resumption

By ...

-July 14, 2020

OceanaGold Corp. is confident of securing a renewal of its Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) to resume its operations at the Didipio Mine in Nueva Vizcaya.

OceanaGold made this statement following reports the Court of Appeals has denied its application for injunction questioning the legality of an order issued by the governor of Nueva Vizcaya stopping its mining activities pending renewal of the FTAA.

“The company has not received any formal order from the Court of Appeals and is seeking confirmation. If the denial of the injunction is in fact accurate, the company will continue to defend its right to operate the Didipio mine in the interim whilst it completes the FTAA renewal process. To this end, OceanaGold intends to follow the usual appeal process with the Court of Appeals, and if necessary, to the Supreme Court of the Philippines,” the company said.

OceanaGold said the Local Government Code of 1991 does not grant the power or authority to any local government officer to restrain any aspect of the site’s operations.

“The company will continue to work with the national government to finalize the renewal of the FTAA and remain open to the opportunity to engage with the provincial governments of both Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino that are hosting the FTAA and work together in the best interest of local stakeholders,” OceanaGold said.

The company said it has obtained the support of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which have allowed it to continue operations even if it still in the process of renewing the FTAA.

But the Nueva Vizcaya government has denied the company access to and from the mine site following the expiry of its FTAA in June last year.

# OceanaGold vows to defend right to operate Didipio mine

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

July 14, 2020

Didipio gold mine owner and operator OceanaGold Corp. said it will defend its right to operate the mine while it completes the Financial and/or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) renewal process.

The company made the statement following a still unverified report of its defeat in the legal proceedings at the Court of Appeals (CA). In a statement emailed to reporters on Monday, OceanaGold said it is currently seeking confirmation of the reported CA decision which was widely circulated in social media.

OceanaGold said it is seeking confirmation of the report as it has not received any formal order from the CA. It says that if the denial of the injunction is accurate, it will continue to defend its right to operate the Didipio Mine in the interim while it completes the FTAA renewal process.

“To this end, OceanaGold intends to follow the usual appeal process with the Court of Appeals, and if necessary, to the Supreme Court of the Philippines.”

On June 30, the CA’s 16th division said OceanaGold’s financial and technical assistance agreement (FTAA) has expired and thus the company has no right to continue operating the Didipio Mine, according to a report.

The CA decision stated that since the initial term of the FTAA already expired without it being renewed yet, there is no prevailing agreement on which the petitioner can anchor its right to continue its mining operations.

On June 10 last year, following the FTAA’s expiration, Nueva Vizcaya Governor Carlos Padilla issued an advisory that led Barangay Didipio officials to issue Resolution 59, stopping OceanaGold’s operations. This prompted OceanaGold to question the legality of the governor’s order.

In July 2019, the company applied for an injunction “as a temporary measure” while challenging the legality of the order halting its operation.

According to OceanaGold, the company’s main petition in the Regional Trial Court in Nueva Vizcaya challenging the legality of the governor’s order is still ongoing.

However, due to delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the parties are still undergoing pre-trial conference.

“The company maintains authority over the Didipio Mine rests with the National Government. The Local Government Code of 1991 [Republic Act 7160] does not grant the power or authority to the Provincial Governor or any local government officer to restrain any aspect of the Didipio Mine operations,” the company said.

OceanaGold vows to defend right to operate Didipio

July 14, 2020

TITLE: mine

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Moreover, OceanaGold said the renewal of the FTAA is a separate and independent process which the national government has authority over.

“In this regard, the status of the FTAA renewal has not changed, and it remains with the Office of the President of the Philippines.”

OceanaGold said it will continue to work with the national government to finalize the renewal of the FTAA and remain open to engaging with the provincial governments of both Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino that are hosting the FTAA.

# DoST-FPRDI prioritizes study of tree plantation species

By [The Manila Times](#)

July 14, 2020



*Large-fruited red mahogany (left) and river red gum are two of the most common tree plantation species in the country.*

THE country's wood industries have been suffering from a shortage of raw materials for many years now. This has been caused mainly by decades of indiscriminate logging, which has systematically reduced the areas of our natural growth forests.

To help beef up the country's wood supply, the Department of Science and Technology's Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DoST-FPRDI) started a research program for studying different kinds of tree plantation species (TPS).

According to the Institute's Dr. Dwight Eusebio, "TPS are fast-growing trees that are either native or introduced to a particular place, and grown in tree farms at least half a hectare in size." Tree farms or plantations became popular in the Philippines starting in the 1980s, and especially in the last 10 years after the government finally imposed a logging moratorium on all natural growth forests.

TPS are grown mainly as substitutes to traditional species, and the ones commonly found in local tree farms include yemane (*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.); malapapaya [*Polyscias nodosa* (Blume) Seeman]; mangium (*Acacia mangium* Willd.); river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh); falcata [*Falcataria moluccana*(Miq.) Barneby & J.W. Grimes]; large-fruited red mahogany (*Eucalyptus pellita* F.v. Muell); large-leaf mahogany (*Sweitenia macrophylla* King) and bagras (*Eucalyptus deglupta* Blume).

"DoST-FPRDI studies TPS not only because they make good construction and housing materials, but also because they have a host of other industrial uses," says Eusebio.

They can be used for pulp and paper, veneer and plywood, composite boards (particleboard, fiberboard, etc.), power and telecommunication poles, and packaging materials (pallets, fruit boxes, crates, etc.).

They can also be tapped for builders woodworks (doors, windows, door and window jambs, moldings, balusters, stairs and railings, shingles and shakes, parquets, etc.), fancy woodwork, wooden shoes, pencil slats, ice cream spoons, chopsticks, matchsticks, toothpicks and many more.



News5  
13 hrs · 🌐



Sa tulong ng Department of Public Services at MMDA, nakapaghakot ang Manila LGU ng nasa 84.85 tonelada ng basura sa Quiapo Pumping Station.

📷 : Isko Moreno Domagaso



👍 🤔 ❤️ 322

145 Comments 7 Shares



Bustos Dam irrigates farmlands in Bulacan and some parts of Pampanga, while Angat and Ipo supply potable water for Metro Manila residents.

[pna.gov.ph/Bustos](http://pna.gov.ph/Bustos) MDRMO

## Bustos Dam water level up; Angat, Ipo down

[Ramon Efren Lazaro](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 14, 2020 - 12:00am

MALOLOS, Philippines – The occasional moderate to heavy rains experienced in Bulacan in the last two days have slightly increased the water level in the Bustos Dam, but not in Angat and Ipo dams.

Bustos Dam irrigates farmlands in Bulacan and some parts of Pampanga, while Angat and Ipo supply potable water for Metro Manila residents.

Records from the provincial disaster risk reduction and management council showed the water level in Bustos Dam increased to 16.28 meters as of 8 a.m. yesterday from 15.97 the previous day.

Angat's water elevation yesterday morning was down to 186.13 meters from 186.42 meters on Sunday morning.

Ipo had 99.28 meters yesterday from 99.46 meters the previous day.

Larry Ballesteros, National Irrigation Administration provincial manager for Bulacan, told The STAR that the spilling level of Bustos Dam has been lowered to 17 meter from the previous 17.34 due to repairs made on the reservoir's Rubber Gate Number 5.

Rehabilitation of the Bustos Dam will be completed next year.

The water level in Angat Dam was 6.13 meters above its minimum operating level of 180 meters, and is 25.87 meters below its normal high water level.

Ipo Dam is 1.72 meters below its spilling level of 101 meters.





## Duterte set to announce new quarantine classifications

[Alexis Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - July 14, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines – President Duterte is expected to announce new quarantine classifications tomorrow as Malacañang cautioned Metro Manila residents to temper their expectations because coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) data do not seem to support the easing of restrictions.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said Duterte was scheduled to return to Manila from Mindanao yesterday and meet with members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

“It’s possible that the classification of areas will be announced on Wednesday because the IATF still has a meeting tomorrow (July 14) for the final recommendation to the President,” Roque said at a press briefing.

“I would like to clarify that while the President has not made a decision, we will look at the data to determine if we can ease restrictions. Maybe at this point, the data does not indicate that we can relax (quarantine measures) at least in Metro Manila, just to manage the expectations,” he added.

Roque said he was referring to the case doubling rate and critical healthcare capacity of the capital region, which has the most number of infections in the country at more than 22,000.

Carlito Galvez Jr., chief implementer of the national policy on COVID-19, said restrictions in some areas might even be tightened.

“The IATF met last Thursday and Friday and it was agreed upon that there are areas (whose quarantine measures would be escalated) considering that we observed rising severe and critical cases and at the same time, the new cases are also increasing... We saw that some of the hospitals in (Metro) Manila are being filled up,” Galvez said.

He declined to enumerate the areas but revealed that Metro Manila mayors want to remain under general community quarantine (GCQ), noting that the second phase of the government’s action plan on COVID involves the rebalancing of health and economic objectives using the “hammer and dance” theory and localizing response.??

“As (Finance) Secretary (Carlos) Dominguez said, the economy is now in the tipping point, meaning the situation would be very difficult once we fail to recover. There is really a huge crisis. So, what we are doing is we visit all mayors of Metro Manila and we see how they implement the localized lockdown. In all battles, implementation is always at the ground level... If we empower our leaders, the implementation would be better because the response would be faster,” Galvez noted.

Cities like Manila, Makati and Taguig only impose lockdowns on specific establishments to preserve their economic gains. Metro Manila, which contributes a third of the country’s gross domestic product, has been under GCQ since June 1.

Under the scenario, the majority of businesses and some modes of transportation can operate partially but public gatherings remain limited.? ?

“If we implement ECQ (enhanced community quarantine) in the whole of NCR (National Capital Region), in an entire city, the economy will suffer. We have also seen that the ECQ has its limits. Implementation by local (governments) is better because they are closer to the people,” Galvez said.

According to him, Metro Manila mayors are recommending a “hybrid” GCQ, wherein there would be restrictions in the movement of people but economic activity would continue provided that the private sector, including businesses, should take “equal responsibility” for containing the spread of the virus.

The capital region, Galvez added, should remain under a single quarantine classification because the NCR is interlocking.

Last Sunday, Cabinet Secretary and IATF co-chairman Karlo Nograles said Metro Manila may be downgraded to the most lenient modified GCQ if local governments can act swiftly to prevent the spread of the virus in their respective areas.

Under MGCQ, more modes of mass transportation and more sectors, including tourism, are allowed to operate and some limits on public gatherings are lifted.

Nograles has said the capital region may also remain under GCQ to give mayors more time to get used to relaxed protocols. The IATF has also asked local governments to lengthen localized lockdowns to 14 days, noting that the symptoms of the virus do not manifest immediately.

Only Cebu City remains under the strictest ECQ because of the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases that threaten to overwhelm its healthcare capacity. Only essential industries can operate and all forms of mass transportation are suspended under the lockdown scenario.

The Philippines has more than 56,000 COVID-19 cases as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, senators backed yesterday proposals for localized lockdowns to help contain the surge in coronavirus cases as the government continues to gradually ease quarantine restrictions.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III said localized lockdowns “can work without sacrificing the areas that are open for near normalcy already.”

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said localized lockdowns can make the easing of restrictions, particularly in Metro Manila, much safer.

“As we have seen for the past four months, the shotgun approach did little to contain the virus. If anything, the strategy only crippled our economy and left thousands of Filipinos jobless. Hence, we need a more rational approach and one that will not cause too much damage to our already bleeding economy,” he added.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the government must speed up and focus on improving its mass testing, contact tracing and isolation and treatment activities as it should have done since Day One.

He said, “repeating the ineffective and simplistic restriction of movement of citizens in the local level has proven to have failed to manage the spread.” **Paolo Romero**

# MGCQ unlikely for MM

Published 6 hours ago on July 14, 2020 12:05 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#)



President Rodrigo Duterte is set to announce on Wednesday the new quarantine classifications across the country with Metro Manila likely to remain under general community quarantine (GCQ) after 15 July, the Palace said Monday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque stated that the region would unlikely be placed under the less stringent modified GCQ since present data shows that hospital bed occupancy and new coronavirus infections continue to rise.

“Let me clarify. Even though there is no decision yet, and the President will be the one to announce that, we are looking at data to determine if we should relax the quarantine,” Roque said in a televised briefing.

“Perhaps at this point, data does not indicate that we can ease measures at least in Metro Manila,” he added.

Metro Manila mayors have also recommended to keep the region under GCQ, which has been its status for the past six weeks, said National COVID-19 task force chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr.

He also said that some local chief executives in the region recommended a “hybrid” form of MGCQ, where restrictions on social activities are maintained while rules on economic-related movements are eased. This suggestion would be reviewed by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), he added.

Latest data from the Department of Health shows that Metro Manila remains as the region with the highest number of COVID-19 cases with 25,183 infections, followed by Central Visayas (10,502) and CALABARZON (3,798).

Among all cities in the capital region, Quezon City, Manila, and Caloocan have tallied the highest number of cases.

The government began to ease some measures on 1 June and allowed a partial return of public transportation in Metro Manila in a bid to prevent the country from plunging into a recession.

President Duterte would decide on the quarantine status on 15 July, a day after a third meeting of the IATF as they finalize their recommendations. On the same day, the existing quarantine classifications and guidelines would also end.

Galvez refused to reveal the current recommendations by the IATF, but he said that cities with growing number of infections could see quarantine rules “escalate” — hinting on stricter lockdown measures. Most of the country remains under the most relaxed MGCQ, but Cebu City is currently under the strictest form of quarantine due to a spike in cases.

There are now 56,259 positive cases in the country, with 2,124 new cases tallied on Sunday. Some 16,046 patients have recovered while 1,534 died.

Last week, President Duterte said the Philippines cannot completely reopen the economy for now since it would put the country in “deep shit,” admitting that the government would find it difficult to deal with another surge of infections with limited funds.

The President said the country cannot follow the “bold” move of other countries such as China and the United States in easing restrictions on economic activities, noting that they have almost suffered a “relapse” when they saw another wave of cases.

# Senators back localized lockdowns

Published 11 hours ago  
on July 13, 2020 06:53 PM  
By [Hananeel Bordey](#)



Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon on Monday expressed his support to localized lockdowns and easing of quarantine protocols in the National Capital Region (NCR), saying that the implementation of total lockdowns in the entire Metro Manila has resulted in negative economic impacts which showed that the government should adopt a policy that will not cause further damage to the country's bleeding economy.

"I support localized lockdowns. I support calls to ease restrictions in the National Capital Region. As we have seen for the past four months, the shotgun approach did little to contain the virus. If anything, the strategy only crippled our economy and left thousands of Filipinos jobless," said Drilon.

Senate President Vicente Sotto III, on the other hand, noted that localized lockdowns can work "without sacrificing the areas that are open for near normalcy already."

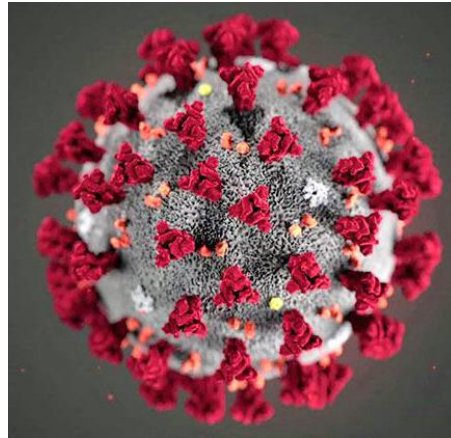
Senator Francis Pangilinan, meantime, reiterated the need for mass testing, contact tracing and isolation to effectively combat the spread of the virus.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has previously recommended localized lockdowns to stop the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

# Deaths flood new DoH count

Published 6 hours ago on July 14, 2020 12:05 AM

By [Gabbie Parlade](#)



The Philippines reported its highest single-day number of deaths on Monday following the adoption of a new format of case reporting by the Department of Health (DoH).

The DoH, as of 12 July, listed 162 COVID-19 deaths with 18. These were recorded in the past weeks and 33 others came in the first weeks of July.

Initially, the DoH did not include in its reports on Sunday the daily case update that was attributed to the volume of data validated and the change in the format currently adopted.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire revealed that in ramping up its data reconciliation, many recoveries and deaths were found to have been unreported.

“With this harmonization, we were able to find that a lot of these patients were not tallied in our office because we are cleaning our data, we also saw a lot of deaths,” she said.

Vergeire added the increase in the reports were due to the delay on the validation of cases.

Of the total number of fatalities, only 51 were reported within July while 90 occurred in June, 20 in May and one in April.

The largest percentage, however, at 61 percent is Region VII (Central Visayas) followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) at 23 percent.

Other regions in the count also included Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Eastern Visayas, the Zamboanga Peninsula and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

“One too many deaths are a concern. But only 18 were reported last week, and we see that all deaths were due to the thorough acquisition of data among LGU (local government units),” she said in this morning’s virtual presser.

She also said that the DoH is still expecting more reports of recoveries and cases to be added to the total tally as it harmonizes its data with the local government units.

“Our data collection team will do the data reconciliation every week so there may be days where the reported cases won’t be as high as what we’ve reported today,” she said.

Meanwhile, Vergeire clarified that home quarantine protocols are not entirely discouraged among mild and asymptomatic patients but only with sufficient monitoring and resources.

“They have their own room with their own restroom in the house, and that we can be sure they are adequately monitored,” she said.

“If these conditions cannot be complied, then the best would still be in temporary treatment and monitoring facilities,” she added.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles earlier said that the Inter-Agency Task Force is now advising COVID-19 patients to be referred to temporary treatment and monitoring facilities rather than undergoing home quarantine.

Nograles said that this is due to a higher chance of infection among household members should they continue to house infected patients.

“We’re now shifting that even asymptomatic patients will be given a priority in facility quarantine areas. Anyway, we have a number of facilities that can still accommodate mild cases,” he said.

National Task Force Chief Implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. explained that the move was attributed to the spread of cases in Cebu City after about 1,900 patients under home quarantine became the sources of infection in many of the local communities.

As of 11 July, Vergeire said that 12,684 suspected and probable cases of COVID-19 are currently under home quarantine where some had already been transferred by the LGU to temporary treatment facilities.

She likewise added that last Friday’s data says the facilities managed by local government units still have 74.57 percent available beds, while Mega Ligtas facilities under the national government still have about 61.32 percent availability rate.

To date, the country has reported 56,259 total confirmed cases where over 38,000 were identified as active cases.

In its latest data, the World Health Organization showed that the Philippines is still in second among the Western Pacific Region countries with the most number of cases reported behind China — the epicenter of the virus.



# ARTA chief to gov't agencies: comply with AO 23 or face sanctions

By ARTA Published on July 13, 2020

QUEZON CITY, July 13 -- The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) reminds all government agencies covered by R.A. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 to submit to the Authority their Compliance Report, duly signed and approved by the head of agency not later than 25 July 2020 to avoid administrative sanctions.

"With less than two weeks prior to the deadline, we would like to reiterate the importance for you to comply with the submission of the Compliance Report as the failure to do so shall result to the filing of appropriate administrative cases pursuant to Civil Service Commission Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service", Director General Jeremiah Belgica reminds government agencies.

On 8 June 2020, ARTA issued Memorandum Circular 2020-04 (MC 2020-04), detailing the guidelines for compliance to Administrative Order 23, s. 2020 (AO 23) titled "Eliminating Overregulation to Promote Efficiency of Government Processes". AO 23 mandates all national government agencies covered by R.A. 11032 to hasten the reform of their processes in order to eliminate overregulation.

As per Section 1 of AO 23, "The imposition of tedious or time-consuming regulations on socially beneficial activities, as to render such activity impossible or extremely difficult to undertake, shall be especially targeted for reform". In view of this, it also requires said agencies to provide ARTA with a copy of their Compliance Report on how their respective Citizen's Charters conform with the requirements of R.A. 11032. The updated Citizen's Charter of the government agencies shall hence also be submitted with their Compliance Report.

The respective copies of the Compliance Report which will be submitted to ARTA shall also be provided to the Office of the President (OP). ARTA will then be evaluating the reports and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the OP not later than 25 January 2021, six months from the deadline of the submission.

In its MC 2020-04, ARTA first announced the extension of the submission of the Compliance Report until July 25, as opposed to the initial deadline of 60 working days upon the effectivity of AO 23 on 21 February 2020. The extension was made pursuant to a memorandum from the Office of the Executive Secretary which allows for consideration in view of the then-continuing implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and Modified ECQ in NCR and other high-risk geographical areas in the Philippines.

The government agencies may refer MC 2020-04 for the guidelines for compliance in the official ARTA website via this link: [arta.gov.ph/pages/downloads/ARTA Memorandum Circular No 2020-04.pdf](https://arta.gov.ph/pages/downloads/ARTA_Memorandum_Circular_No_2020-04.pdf). (ARTA)

# Ecija farmers get land title, farming support

Published 17 hours ago on July 13, 2020 01:35 PM

By [Jonas Reyes](#)



DAR Secretary John Castriciones (left) hands a CLOA to an ARB from Nueva Ecija. (Ria Vergara photo)

CABANATUAN CITY – A total of 20 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB) from Nueva Ecija have received Certificate of Land Ownership Awards (CLOA) from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as part of President Duterte’s program of improving the lives of farmers.

The CLOA for the ARB from Cabanatuan City, Bongabon and General Natividad towns cover 16 hectares of agricultural land.

“No matter what circumstances we face, pandemic or no pandemic, we will follow the President’s national goal of improving the economic lives of farmers by pouring various support services to farm communities,” DAR Secretary John Castriciones said during CLOA distribution ceremony here dubbed “The PaSSOver: ARB Old Move to Heal as One Deliverance of our ARBs from the COVID-19 Pandemic” held last 7 July 2020.

Aside from the CLOA, Castriciones and DAR Undersecretary Emily Padilla turned over farming equipment and supplies worth P4.8 million to two ARB organizations and individual ARB as part of the agency support services to farmers.



An ARB checks a tractor handed by DAR as Sec. John Castriciones (left) looks on. (Ria Vergara photo)

Each of the organizations received two Kubota four-wheel drive, 35-horsepower diesel farm tractors complete with rotary tiller and trailer. A total 27 ARB received vegetable seeds, seedling trays and fertilizers. Five women ARB received poultry egg-laying business.

Padilla said the support services to ARB will “greatly help the farmers in fulfilling their role as frontliners by continually producing and delivering food crops in critical areas affected by the ongoing health crisis.”

p: wjg

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/07/13/ecija-farmers-get-land-title-farming-support/>



## 217 PATAY, 2,836 NAIMPEKSYON SA COVID-19 SA 48 ORAS

July 13, 2020 @ 1:03 PM 18 hours ago

KUNG totoo may 217 patay at 2,873 na bagong kaso ng coronavirus disease-19 sa nakalipas na 48 oras sa mahal kong Pinas, magdasal-dasal na tayo bilang bahagi ng mga aksyon natin kontra sa nasabing sakit.

Hindi biro-biro ang rekord na 'yan, kahit pa pinagsama ang mga bagong patay at lumang patay.

Sa pag-uri-uri ng Department of Health, bagong patay ang mga nadale sa nakalipas na tatlong araw at lumang patay ang mga nasa labas ng mga araw na ito.

Dumami rin ang bilang ng mga maituturing na patay dahil sa pagkakaroon natin ng resulta ng pagsusuri mula sa 82 testing facility na nakakalat sa buong bansa na hawak ng pamahalaan at mga pribadong ospital o kompanya.

Sa araw na ito, hindi kumpleto kundi 58 lang sa kabuuang 84 testing facility ang nakapag-ulat sa DOH,

Tiyak na mas nakatatakot ang ulat kung lahat ng 84 testing facility ang nakapag-ulat.

Ang masama pang balita, mahigit 10,000 na ang idinami ng mga naimpeksyon sa Pinas kumpara sa Singapore sa nakalipas na isang linggo at naungusan na natin ang bansang ito na dating pangalawa sa Indonesia sa rami ng naimpeksyon.

### MAGBANTAY LAHAT

Kung totoo nga ang ulat na nakarating na rin maging sa mga dayuhang organisasyon na nagkakaroon ng live report sa COVID-19 gaya ng Worldometer, aba, nakababahala 'yan.

Para sa ating Uzi, nang magsimulang mag-ulat ang DOH ng mahigit 1,000 hanggang lagpas 2,000 na bagong impeksyon, kasunod na nito ang pagkakaroon din ng mas maling bilang ng patay sa Pinas.

Kaya nga noong, Huwebes, zero death ang ulat ng DOH ngunit sinundan ito ng 42 patay noong Biyernes, 12 noong Sabado at kaninang umaga, binulaga tayo ng 162 patay makaraan ang kawalan ng balita noong Linggo na sinundan ngayong hapon ng 55 patay at 836 na naimpeksyon.

Itong ulat ng kamatayan ang higit nating binabantayan dahil ito ang palatandaan ng bagsik ng COVID-19.

'Yang mga impeksyon, nagbubunga lamang ng mga lockdown at iba pang kagipitan na malalagpasan ngunit 'yang kamatayan, lahat sira at forever na kawalan ang bunga.

## PAANO MAGBANTAY?

Matagal na at halos sumusuka na tayo sa pagtanggap ng mga paulit-ulit na paalala ukol sa mga hakbang laban sa COVID-19.

Makapagbabantay tayo sa pagsusuot ng face mask, lalo na sa paglabas ng bahay; social distancing; palaging paghuhugas ng kamay o paggamit ng mga hand sanitizer gaya ng mga alcohol; regular na disinfection sa mga opisina, bahay kung kinakailangan at lugar ng trabaho; work from home; bawal-biyahe ng mga bata at senior citizen at may sakit kahit katamtaman ang edad at marami pang iba.

Gayundin na makatutulong tayo sa pag-uulat sa mga kinauukulan ng pagdating ng mga Locally Stranded Individual, overseas Filipino worker at iba pa para sa kaukulang aksyon gaya ng paglalagay ng mga ito sa mga quarantine facility.

Sa parte ng mga awtoridad, andiyan ang maramihang testing upang sa maagang panahon ay makilala ang mga positibo at mailagay ang mga ito sa dapat nilang kalagyan upang hindi makahawa.

Huwag ding balewalain ang mga patakaran sa transportasyon gaya ng kalinisan sa kamay, social distancing sa loob ng sasakyan at pila ng mga pasahero, no face mask-no boarding at iba pa.

## PAGTUTULUNGAN AT PAGSUNOD SA BATAS

Kung mapananatili natin ang pagtutulungan sa giyera sa sakit at pagsunod sa mga batas na pinaiiral na nabanggit sa itaas sa pagpigil sa pagkalat ng sakit, mapagtatagumpayan natin ang nakamamatay na salot na ito.

Ang pagbubukas ng lahat ng pagkakataon sa atin para magtrabaho at kumita ay pagbubukas din ng pintuan sa sakit para kumalat, magbunga ng mga lockdown at iba pang nakasisira sa ating mga kalayaan at pumatay.

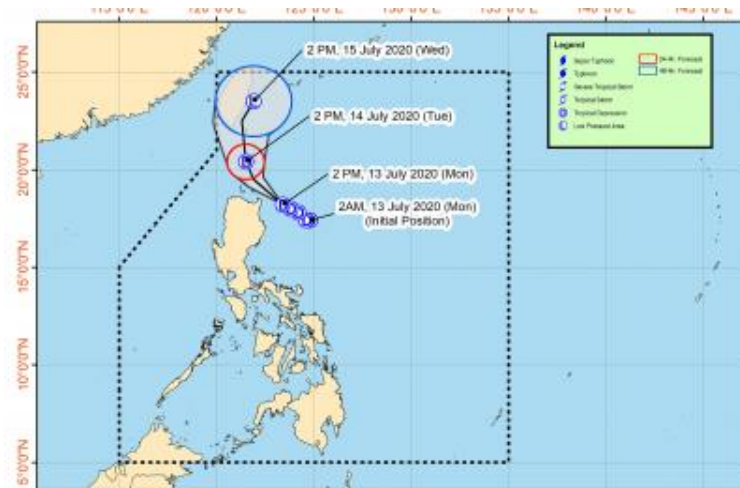
Ito'y dahil sa paglabas sa bahay ng milyon-milyong mamamayan, pagbiyahe ng mga ito, pagtitipon-tipon at pag-uwi sa kani-kanilang tahanan.

Muli, magagawa nating kumasa at magtagumpay sa giyera kung magtutulungan tayo lahat at marunong sumunod sa mga batas at pakaran laban sa COVID-19.

# TD Carina maintains strength

Published 11 hours ago on July 13, 2020 07:42 PM

By **TDI**



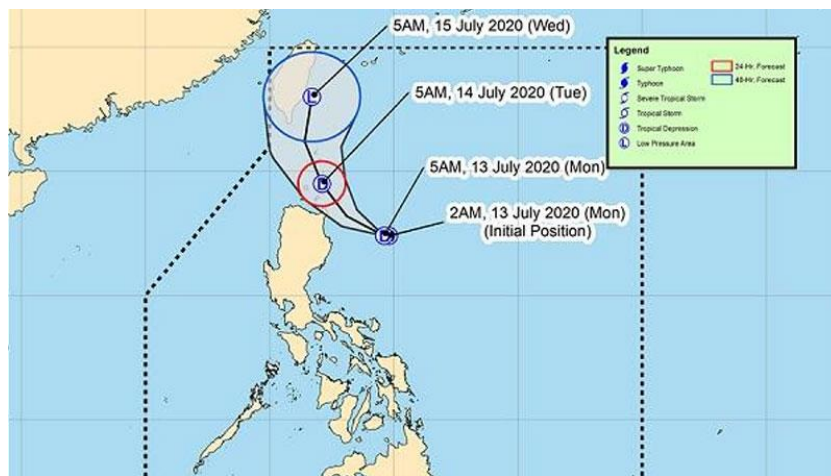
Central Luzon and the rest of Northern Luzon will experience scattered light to moderate with heavy rains from time to time.

Tropical Depression Carina heads towards the Luzon Strait, weather bureau PAGASA said in its 5 p.m. bulletin on Monday, adding the weather system has maintained its strength with sustained winds of 45 kph near the center and gusts of up to 55 kph.

Carina was last seen 165 kilometers east of Aparri, Cagayan, moving west-northwestward at 15 kph and bringing forth scattered to widespread moderate to heavy rains over Cagayan, including Babuyan Islands, Isabela, Apayao, Abra, Kalinga and Ilocos Norte.

Central Luzon and the rest of Northern Luzon will experience scattered light to moderate with heavy rains from time to time.

Tropical cyclone wind signal No. 1 is still hoisted in Batanes, Babuyan Islands, and the northeastern portion of mainland Cagayan (Santa Ana, Gonzaga, Santa Teresita, Buguey, Camalaniugan, Aparri, Lal-lo, Gattaran, and Baggao).



## Bagsik ni #CarinaPH nanatili habang tinatahak ang Luzon Strait

July 13, 2020 @ 6:11 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Pinananatili ng Tropical Depression Carina ang lakas nito habang kumikilos ito pa-hilagang-kanluran ng Luzon Strait habang tumatawid sa 100 kilometro hilagang-silangan ng Luzon at malapit sa Babuyan Islands at Batanes.

Subalit, nananatili ang posibilidad na mag-landfall ito sa mga naturang lugar.

Namataan ang sentro o mata nito bandang alas-4 ng hapon sa 165 kilometro silangan Aparri, Cagayan.

May lakas ito ng hangin na nasa 45 km/h malapit sa sentro at may bugsong aabot sa 55 kp/h. Kumikilos naman ito pa-hilagang-kanluran sa 15 km/h.

Nakataas ang Storm Signal No. 1 sa mga lugar ng Batanes, Babuyan Islands, at hilagang-silangang bahagi ng Cagayan (Santa Ana, Gonzaga, Santa Teresita, Buguey, Camalaniugan, Aparri, Lal-lo, Gattaran, at Baggao).

Tinatayang hihina ang tropical depression at magiging isang Low Pressure Area sa Miyerkoles. **RNT/MM**

# The plastic pandemic

Plastic may have helped to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. But the Covid-19 crisis threatens to stall progress made in tackling plastic pollution, writes Jacob Duer of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste.



A pile of PET plastic awaits recycling in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Many developing countries struggle with poor waste management infrastructure. Image: Robin Hicks/Eco-Business

By [Jacob Duer](#)

July 13, 2020

There is no denying that single-use plastic has been a lifesaver in the fight against Covid-19, especially for frontline health workers. It has also facilitated adherence to social-distancing rules, by enabling home delivery of basic goods, especially food. And it may have helped to curb transmission, by replacing reusable coffee cups and shopping bags in many cities over fears that the virus could stick to them.

But widely circulated images of [plastic sacks](#) of medical waste piling up outside hospitals, and used [personal protective equipment](#) floating in coastal waters and washing up on the world's beaches, illustrate yet again the dark side of single-use plastics. If we are not careful, short-term thinking during the pandemic could lead to an even larger environmental and public health calamity in the future.

Of course, the proliferation of plastic waste – and its [pollution of the world's waterways](#) – already was a major concern for a growing share of the world population before the Covid-19 pandemic, with policymakers, companies, and international organizations like the [United Nations](#) urged to take action. Some national and local governments implemented [taxes](#) and [bans](#) on single-use plastics (though not all have [followed through](#) on their pledges). Major companies [invested](#) in more environmentally friendly packaging.

Now, however, the Covid-19 crisis threatens to stall and even reverse progress.

Though it will take time to learn precisely how much additional plastic waste has been generated during the crisis, preliminary data are staggering. In China, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment estimates that hospitals in Wuhan produced more than [240 tons of waste daily](#) at the height of the outbreak, compared with 40 tons during normal times. Based on these data, the consulting firm Frost & Sullivan [predicts](#) that the United States could generate an entire year's worth of medical waste in just two months because of Covid-19.

A similar uptick in waste can be seen among ordinary citizens. In China, daily production of face masks [soared to 116 million](#) in February, 12 times higher than the previous month. Hundreds of tons of discarded masks were being collected daily from public bins alone during the outbreak's peak; there is no telling how many more were being discarded in household waste systems. According to the Thailand Environment Institute, plastic waste has [increased](#) from 1,500 tons to 6,300 tons per day, owing to soaring home deliveries of food.

Compounding the problem, many waste management services have not been operating at full capacity, owing to social distancing rules and stay-at-home orders. In the US, curbside recycling pickup has been suspended in many places, including parts of Miami-Dade and Los Angeles counties.

In the United Kingdom, so-called [fly-tipping](#) – illegal waste disposal – has risen by 300 per cent during the pandemic. In some countries, companies that are advancing innovative methods of recycling and reusing waste plastics are [reporting](#) reduced amounts of plastic coming through waste streams, suggesting that a growing volume of plastic is ending up in landfills or leaking into the environment.

During the Covid-19 crisis, it is essential to protect the vulnerable, ensure that health workers have the tools and support they need to do their jobs safely, prevent health-care systems from becoming overwhelmed, and avoid additional waves of infection. But, in meeting these imperatives, we cannot lose sight of the other – perhaps greater – long-term challenges facing humanity, including the environmental and public-health risks generated by [excessive plastic waste](#).

For starters, companies all along the plastic value chain, from manufacturers to retailers, should show their commitment to public health and welfare by expanding and accelerating their efforts to end plastic waste. Those that step up to the challenge of environmental stewardship by contributing to the creation of a circular economy will reap a rich bounty of public trust and profitability well into the future.

Governments, for their part, must recognise the crucial role of waste-management services and their workers in the transition to a sustainable future, and allocate Covid-19 spending accordingly. Such efforts would advance multiple Sustainable Development Goals, including [SDG 11](#) (which calls for cities to ensure effective waste management), [SDG 12](#) (reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse), and [SDG 14](#) (reduce marine pollution of all kinds).

But governments cannot always do it alone. Many developing countries struggle with nonexistent or broken waste-management infrastructure. With the Covid-19 crisis highlighting the need for cooperative action, now is the moment to change that.

As the global economy restarts, aid agencies, development banks, and NGOs should invest in building effective waste-management systems. Beyond helping to keep plastic waste out of our oceans, such systems can provide decent jobs and improved livelihoods, resulting in stronger, more sustainable economies in the long term.

Covid-19 is often described as a sudden shock. In fact, some say it was a [known risk](#) that policymakers chose to ignore. The last thing the world needs is to allow other well-known threats to remain unaddressed. And, when it comes to plastic waste, the warning bells have been ringing loud and clear for years.

*Jacob Duer is president and CEO of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste.*



# Deadly under-the-radar heatwaves ravaging Africa

Published 7 hours ago on July 13, 2020 11:14 PM

By [Agence France-Presse](#)



THE YELLOW sands of the Sahara desert continue to creep their way south, encroaching on the farmlands of sub-Saharan Africa. Eleven African countries are trying to stop this drift with a 15-kilometer wall of trees, with the roots to stabilize and aerate the soil, allowing the absorption of water and stopping desertification. (AFP)

The impacts of extreme heatwaves amplified by climate change are going unrecorded in sub-Saharan Africa, making it nearly impossible to detect patterns and set up early warning systems, researchers said Monday.

While detailed records of hot spells and their aftermath exist for the world's wealthier regions, in Africa scientists and governments are mostly flying blind in assessing the damage to human health and economies, the researchers reported in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

"Both real-world observations and climate modelling show Sub-Saharan Africa as a hotspot for heatwave activity," said lead author Luke Harrington, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute.

"But the consequences of these heatwaves are not being recorded," he told AFP. "It is as if they haven't happened, but we know they have."

Only two heatwaves in sub-Saharan Africa have been listed over the last 120 years in the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), the most complete registry of extreme weather event impacts in the world.

By contrast, 83 European heatwaves — resulting in more than 140,000 deaths and \$12 billion in damages — have been logged since 1980 alone.

"There is an urgent need to address this discrepancy," said Harrington.

There is also an absence of data for other types of extreme weather in Africa, such as drought, heavy rains and major storms.

Global warming is expected to increase the number of "deadly heat days" — beyond the threshold of human tolerance — in coming decades, especially in the tropics, earlier research has shown.

But gathering data on the location, duration and intensity of heatwaves is only part of what is needed to plan ahead, the researchers said.

## African voices not heard

“The problem is not the absence of weather data per se,” senior author Friederike Otto, director of the Environmental Change Institute, told AFP.

“It is the lack of impact data, such as records from hospitals on mortality, or power and infrastructure impacts.”

Climate models show that sub-Saharan Africa is going to be disproportionately affected by worsening heatwaves due to climate change, and the current lack of data hampers the region’s ability to prepare, she said.

“Is five days above 40 degree Celsius (104 degree Fahrenheit) the threshold for serious impacts on mortality? Does one extremely hot day lead to infrastructure failure?,” Otto asked.

“Without assessing impact data and weather data together, you don’t know how an early warning system should be designed.”

In Europe — where extreme hot spells rarely last more than a couple of weeks — emergency response measures are usually triggered after three days.

A rare “heat dome” settling this week over much of the United States is on track to produce scorching temperatures for weeks.

In tropical and sub-tropical Africa, heatwaves can last longer. One in 1992 went on for four months, compounding a record drought.

It was never recorded in the EM-DAT registry.

“People in Africa are certainly aware of the growing number of heatwaves on the continent,” said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa and former climate lead for Christian Aid, where he saw firsthand the impact of extreme weather on the continent.

“But if they are not being recorded by scientists, it will be much harder for African voices to be heard in the climate debate,” said Adow, who was not involved in the new research.

[Environment and Nature](#), [News](#), [World](#)

# Kenya wildlife reserves threatened as tourists stay away

Published July 13, 2020, 2:47 PM

by Agence France-Presse

In the majestic plains of the Maasai Mara, the coronavirus pandemic spells economic disaster for locals who earn a living from tourists coming to see Kenya's abundant wildlife.



A pair of young male lions sit in a bush at the Ol Kinyei conservancy in Maasai Mara, in the Narok county in Kenya, on June 23, 2020. (Photo by Tony Karumba / AFP)

Even before the virus arrived in Kenya mid-March, tourism revenues had plummeted, with cancellations coming in from crucial markets such as China, Europe and the United States.

According to the tourism ministry, the sector has lost \$750 million this year — roughly half of the total revenue in 2019.

“We were fully booked in June but now we have zero bookings. Nothing. It’s terrible,” said Jimmy Lemara, 40, the manager of an eco-lodge in the private Ol Kinyei conservancy.

In the Maasai Mara, one of Africa’s most highly-rated wildlife reserves located in the vast flat plains of the Great Rift Valley, the local Maasai community, traditional herders who make up 2.5 percent of the population, now depend almost exclusively upon tourism for their livelihood.

In a unique model set up to engage local communities in tourism, enabling them to see the value of wildlife and thus protect it, the Maasai now get revenue from renting their land to form private wildlife conservancies. Some work as cooks, guides and security guards in the lodges while others give tours of their traditional homes or sell homemade crafts to tourists.

## ‘Survival mode’

People in Talek, a dusty town situated at one of the entrances to the Maasai Mara national reserve, are gloomily buckling down, hoping for better days.

Kenya has announced international flights will resume on August 1, but the high season is already lost.

“Since December, work has been extremely low, and now we’re in survival mode hoping to make 150 to 200 shillings (\$1.4 to \$1.9) a day, to be able to buy a meal,” said Ibrahim Sameri, 38, whose small mechanic workshop can generate up to \$30 a day in the high season.

Nalokiti Sayialel normally sells bead necklaces and bracelets to tourists passing through.

“It’s been three months that I haven’t sold anything,” the 45-year-old told AFP.

“This is terrible. Everything is stuck. Everything is shut down. (I have) never seen something like that”, said tour guide Petro Nautori who has had no work since January.

The Maasai Mara national reserve, run by the Narok county government, extends to the north with several privately-managed conservancies renting land from the Maasai who in exchange do not graze their cattle or settle there.

This model has since 2005 allowed the doubling of the habitat for wildlife in this area.

On average, each land owner earns \$220 per month, far more than the minimum wage in the area.

However like other conservancies, Ol Kinyei is struggling and has agreed to only pay half the usual rent to the Maasai, after having to pay back deposits to tourists who cancelled their holidays.

The salaries of lodge employees have also been cut by half.

## Forced to sell livestock

Some Maasai families are having to turn to selling their precious livestock to earn money.

“Because we’re getting little and it’s not enough to sustain the family for a living, I had to sell two goats worth about 12,000 shillings to put on top of what I’m getting to keep me going,” said Julius Sanare, 41, head chef at the eco-lodge in Ol Kinyei.

However livestock markets have been shut due to coronavirus prevention measures.

Residents said the Maasai are instead selling their animals on the black market for a pittance to unscrupulous buyers taking advantage of their desperation.

Mohanjeet Brar, managing director of Porini safari camps which run two conservancies and several lodges in the Mara, said the “catastrophic” situation could threaten the existence of the reserves.

“If the landowners are not getting any revenue, they can’t feed themselves, they can’t send their kids to schools, they would have no option but to look at other forms of land utilisation,” he said.

“Fencing it off, selling it to people, building businesses... all those alternate land uses don’t go together with wildlife and elephants and big cats and so this would be completely lost,” he said.

“And once it’s lost, if you look at Kenya and its very fast population growth rate and good economic growth over the last few years, it would be lost forever. It would be a real shame.”

# Global Summit tackling pandemic impact

Published 1 day ago on July 13, 2020 03:30 AM

By [Elmer N. Manuel @tribunephl Imer](#)



More than 50 Heads of State and government — alongside global employers' and trade union leaders — have been taking part in an online discussion on Wednesday looking at the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the world of work.

The Global Summit is part of a five-day virtual event organized this month by the International Labor Organization (ILO), to examine issues that include countering the economic and social impact of the crisis.

In a video message, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres told leaders that they are essential to global efforts to “build back better” after the pandemic.

“Together, we can emerge from this crisis stronger, with decent jobs and a brighter, more equal and greener future for all,” said Guterres.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the extreme vulnerability of millions of workers and businesses worldwide as it has led to a 14 percent drop globally in working hours during the second quarter of this year — equivalent to the loss of 400 million full time jobs, according to data from the ILO.

Furthermore, most of the world's workers — a staggering 93 percent — continue to live in countries that have implemented some form of workplace closures.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported more than 11.6 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, and nearly 540,000 deaths.

The UN chief pointed out that while some countries are just entering the worst days of the pandemic, others are struggling to open up their economies amid the threat of a resurgence in cases.

“But let's be clear: It's not a choice between health or jobs and the economy,” said Guterres. “They are interlinked. We will either win on all fronts or fail on all fronts.”

He underscored the importance of global solidarity as no country can solve the crisis alone.

“This Global Summit is an opportunity for governments, workers and employers' representatives to shape winning responses,” he added.

“Responses that stimulate the economy and employment, solutions that support enterprises, decent jobs and incomes, approaches that safeguard workers and expand social protection. Plans that promote gender equality and reinforce social cohesion. Proposals that protect the most vulnerable and invest in essential workers — such as those in health and care services — who are on the frontlines of the response. And above all, initiatives that are grounded in unity and solidarity,” said Guterres.

Leaders addressed the summit via video messages, outlining how their countries or organizations are responding to the crisis.

“I’ve no doubt that these messages will provide us with invaluable guidance and encouragement in our efforts to overcome the pandemic and to address effectively and urgently, its impact on the world of work,” said ILO Director General Guy Ryder in delivering the opening remarks.

The Global Summit was preceded by five regional virtual events held last week looking at the challenges of recovery and building a better future of work after the pandemic.

# UN says more than 130 million people worldwide may go hungry in 2020 due to COVID-19

By Ingrid Formanek and Hira Humayun, CNN

Published Jul 13, 2020 11:22:59 PM



(CNN) - A UN report released Monday predicts the COVID-19 pandemic could send more than 130 million people around the world into chronic hunger by the end to 2020.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) published its latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, which says the pandemic is "intensifying the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems."

The report estimates "at a minimum, another 83 million people, and possibly as many as 132 million, may go hungry in 2020 as a result of the economic recession triggered by COVID-19."

The report also estimates around 690 million people went hungry in 2019 – up by 10 million from the previous year.

Africa is the hardest hit region in terms of percentages, with 19.1% of its people undernourished, according to the report, followed by Asia at 8.3%, and Latin America and the Caribbean at 7.4%.

With the toll the pandemic is taking on food security, the report says achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by 2030 is in question.

*This story was first published on CNN.com, ["UN says more than 130 million people worldwide may go hungry in 2020 due to COVID-19"](https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/13/un-says-more-than-130-million-people-worldwide-may-go-hungry-in-2020-due-to-covid-19)*