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IN THE NEWS

Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service

Cimatu assures safety standards for Cebu City Covid-
19 cemetery

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Cimatu assures safety standards for Cebu City Covid-19 cemetery

By John Rey Saavedra July 21, 2020, 12:52 pm



COVID-19 CEMETERY. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu listens as a Cebu City Hall staff briefs him on the proposed site for the Covid-19 cemetery in Sitios Patayng Yuta and Baksan of the upland village of Sapangdaku, on Monday (July 20, 2020). Cimatu assured the city residents the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases is diligent in making sure that the new site for the Covid-19 cemetery will meet the highest safety and health standards. *(Photo courtesy of IATF-EID)*

CEBU CITY – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has assured city residents here on the government’s diligence in making sure the construction of a cemetery for deceased coronavirus disease (Covid-19) patients will meet the “highest health and safety standards”.

"We have to ensure the development of roads leading up to here. There are trees here in the area, most of the mango trees. If the city can find a way to minimize the cutting of trees, the better," he said in a statement.

Cimatu, designated by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee the national government’s intervention to address the Covid-19 crisis in this capital city, released a statement late Monday amid fears on the effects of the cemetery to the environment.

Cimatu, along with Mayor Edgardo Labella and city and environment officials, visited the site earlier in the day.

He noted that the two-hectare proposed burial site is outside of the city’s protected area, and is far from residential areas.

"Out of all the sites we looked at, this is the best one," Cimatu said.

Labella said Barangay Sapangdaku is a good site of choice for the Covid-19 cemetery.

He assured the residents that the city government will secure permission from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) before introducing any development to the lot situated in the two sitios of the village.

The city, he said, will not proceed with the site development unless the DENR gives them the green light.

"I have certified as urgent the ordinance for the new public cemetery in Sapangdaku. There has to be an ordinance approved by the council for the construction of that cemetery," Labella said.

The city government decided to move the burial site for Covid-related deaths to Sapangdaku after environment groups opposed its construction in Sitio Catives II in Barangay Guba.

Cimatu assures safety standards for Cebu City Covid-
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According to them, any development in Guba is illegal as it is within the protected area defined under Republic Act 9486 or the Central Cebu Protected Landscape Act. It is also within the Kotkot-Lusaran Watershed Forest Reserve by virtue of Presidential Decree 1074, as amended.

Environmentalists also said the recent cutting of trees in Sitio Catives II had no prior approval from the Central Cebu Protected Landscape - Protected Area Management Board (CCPL-PAMB).

Meanwhile, Melquiades Feliciano, who is assisting Cimatu on the Covid-19 interventions here, thanked the City Council and residents of Barangay Sapangdaku for approving the construction of the cemetery in the area.

"The IATF-EID (Inter-Agency Task Force for the management of Emerging Infectious Diseases) is grateful for the help and cooperation of the Sapangdaku residents and the City Council. This is an urgent undertaking that directly addresses Cebu City's public health and safety," Feliciano said in a statement.

The cemetery in Sapangdaku aims to address the current backlogs being experienced by crematoriums in the city.

The move to build a cemetery exclusively for Covid-19 fatalities is a result of the proactive approach being adopted by the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with the guidance coming from IATF-Visayas led by Cimatu. **(PNA)**

Cimatu to ensure construction of COVID-19 cemetery in Cebu City follows health, safety guidelines

By IATF Visayas Published on July 21, 2020

CEBU CITY (20 JULY 2020) -- Environment Secretary and Cebu overseer Roy Cimatu is leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the construction of a COVID-19 cemetery in Sitios Patayng Yuta and Baksan in Barangay Sapangdaku will meet the highest health and safety standards.

"We have to ensure the development of roads leading up to here. There are trees here in the area, most of them mango trees. If the city can find a way to minimize the cutting of trees, the better," Cimatu told city and environment officials during a site visit on Monday.

He noted that the two-hectare proposed burial site is outside of the city's protected area, and is far from residential areas. "Out of all the sites we looked at, this is the best one," Cimatu said.

Meanwhile, retired MGen. Mel Feliciano, who is assisting Cimatu, thanked the City Council and the residents of Barangay Sapangdaku for approving the construction of the cemetery in the area.

"The IATF-EID (Inter-Agency Task Force for the management of Emerging Infectious Diseases) is grateful for the help and cooperation of the Sapangdaku residents and the City Council. This is an urgent undertaking that directly addresses Cebu City's public health and safety," Feliciano said.

The proposal to build a cemetery exclusively for COVID-19 fatalities aims to address the current backlogs being experienced by crematoriums in Cebu City.

The move is a result of the proactive approach being adopted by the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) with guidance coming from IATF Visayas led by Cimatu.

Also present during the site visit were Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella and Councilor Dave Tumalak. (IATF Visayas)

Cimatu on plan to build new Cebu City cemetery: Don't cut trees

By: [Dale G. Israel](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 07:59 PM July 21, 2020

CEBU CITY—Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has asked the city government to avoid inflicting harm on trees in the area where a new cemetery would be built.

In a meeting with the cemetery project's technical working group (TWG), Cimatu, also President Rodrigo Duterte's COVID-19 point man in Cebu, said he preferred that the trees be incorporated in the design of the cemetery project, which would be known as Cebu City Botanical Memorial Garden.

The site of the project is at the mountain village of Supangdaku.

“If possible, put the tombs and graves beneath the trees,” Cimatu said at the meeting. “Just don't cut the trees,” he said.

Cimatu visited the area where the city planned to build a new graveyard to cope with the rising number of COVID-19 deaths.

An inventory by the local Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) showed that at least 102 trees, mostly mango and gmelina, are on the site and could either be cut or transferred for the project.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources required that for every tree that is cut, at least 100 seedlings should be planted to replace it.

A tree-cutting permit should also be accomplished by the city government.

Councilor Dave Tumulak, who authored the ordinance allowing the city government to build its own cemetery, had promised to reduce the cutting of trees for the project and instead incorporate these into the graveyard's design.

As of July 20, Cebu City has recorded 8,155 cases of COVID-19 with 412 deaths and 4,478 recoveries.

TSB

Cimatu leads MOA signing for Mahiga Creek rehab

By: Rosalie O. Abatayo - CDN Digital | July 21, 2020 - 09:35 PM



This was the state of the Mahiga Creek seen from the Subangdaku Bridge at the boundary of Mandaue City and Cebu City in this September 2019 photo.

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the city governments of Cebu and Mandaue, and private groups including the Archdiocese of Cebu, signed a one-year memorandum of agreement on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, for the drafting and implementation of a rehabilitation plan to save the Mahiga Creek.

According to the MOA, the parties involved acknowledge that Mahiga River has reached a “deteriorated condition” in which communities and the government units can no longer address effectively “without help from the non-government sector.”

Under the agreement, the [Department of Environment and Natural Resources](#) (DENR), the two local government units (LGUs), the barangays traversed by the river, the Archdiocese of Cebu, and 24 private sector members committed to developing a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program to reduce the pollution load of the river and its tributaries.

The river traverses through Barangays Apas, Banilad, Mabolo, and Kasambagan in the Cebu City side, and in Barangays Banilad and Subangdaku in Mandaue City.

The signing of the MOA was held in Cebu City along with Cimatu’s visit here to oversee the city’s COVID-19 response efforts.

In the agreement, the LGUs and the barangays concerned are to collaborate with the [Environmental Management Bureau in Central Visayas](#) (EMB-7), an attached bureau of the DENR, in order to establish an integrated solid, healthcare, and household hazardous waste management.

The LGUs are also tasked to ensure the participation of the communities living within the concerned barangays in the activities for the rehabilitation of the river.

The private partners, for their part, will be assisting in providing necessary funds for the installation of trip traps, trash bins, and the procurement of personal protective equipment for the barangay environmental officers or eco aids, and other intervention to improve solid, hazardous and wastewater management, including a surface clean-up within one month from the execution of the MOA.

The private sector members are also tasked in assisting the DENR and EMB in information dissemination efforts, getting community participation, and training community leaders in solid waste management and mobilizing their fellow residents to participate in the rehabilitation program implementation. /bmjo

Granular lockdown eyed in Cebu City barangays with most number of COVID-19 cases

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital|July 21,2020 - 06:58 PM



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu. | file photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the overseer of Interagency Task Force (IATF) in Cebu, said that they have identified some barangays here that may be placed under granular lockdown here due to high number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The secretary said the best strategy the city can apply moving forward with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is to contain the lockdown to smaller areas where there are a lot of cases.

The barangay chiefs have already been appraised of their role as the primary implementors of the lockdowns in their respective jurisdictions.

Cimatu said that the granular lockdown will be covered in an Executive Order that Mayor Edgardo Labella will be releasing in the next few days.

There are [21 barangays](#) (villages) with the highest number of active cases in a period of three days that may be subjected for the granular lockdowns.

Here is the list of these barangays with their corresponding number of COVID-19 cases:

- Lahug – 38
- Guadalupe – 29
- Capitol Site – 23
- Talamban – 23
- Kamputhaw – 18
- Mabolo – 18
- Poblacion Pardo – 17
- Tisa – 17
- Sambag 1 – 15
- Apas – 14
- Labangon – 12

Granular lockdown eyed in Cebu City barangays with
TITLE: most number of COVID-19 cases

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- Basak Pardo – 11
- Cogon Ramos – 10
- Punta Princesa – 10
- Sambag 2 – 9
- Quiot – 9
- Zapatera – 8
- Banilad – 7
- Hipodromo – 7
- Basak San Nicholas – 7
- Cogon Pardo – 7

The Cebu City government will assist the locked down areas in terms of provisions and security aided by the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The granular lockdown at the sitio level will be implemented by the Barangay Captain and there should be a Barangay Lockdown plan prior to the lockdown.

While the granular lockdown is implemented in a sitio or purok, business enterprise or economy will continue based on the IATF guidelines under the MECQ, but these will be strictly monitored.

The members of the Cebu City Council have also been assigned to supervise all COVID-19 related activities in a cluster of five barangays.

Cimatu hopes that the attitude of the residents will change and will be more responsive to the city's interventions against the COVID-19.

“I am positive that the city will be downgraded by August if this trend continues,” said the secretary. /bmjo

Several Cebu City sitios, streets to be placed under 'granular lockdown'

Annie Perez, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 21 2020 09:51 PM | Updated as of Jul 21 2020 10:11 PM

The Regional Inter-Agency Task Force in Central Visayas, supervised by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, has identified 21 barangays in Cebu City which the most number of active coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in the past three days.

Cimatu was sent by President Rodrigo Duterte due to the spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the province.

During their meeting, IATF members said these barangays may have areas that would be under granular lockdown. This means specific sitios, streets, and blocks would be placed under lockdown.

"We presented sample data within the past three days and the final list depends on the outcome of the IATF meeting," said Councilor Joel Garganera who sits as deputy implementor IATF - 7.

The barangays that have sitios that will be placed under granular lockdown are: Lahug, Guadalupe, Capitol Site, Talamban, Kamputhaw, Mabolo, Poblacion Pardo, Tisa, Sambag I, Apas, Labangon, Basak Pardo, Cogon Ramos, Punta Princesa, Sambag 2, Quiot, Zapatera, Banilad, Hipodromo, Basak San Nicholas and Cogon Pardo.

The specific sitios have yet to be announced.

"We don't want na ang whole barangay ang i-lockdown, specific para yung mga workers natin ay makaalis pa rin," said Cimatu.

Authorities have also yet to announce when this will be implemented. Cimatu has also tasked the barangay chairpersons to come up with a plan on how they will implement the granular lockdown, noting that all affected residents should have their share of provisions once it takes effect.

Cebu City's quarantine status was downgraded to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) last week following an increase in the number of recoveries compared to the active cases.

Based on the latest data from the Department of Health, there are more than 4,000 recoveries while active cases remain at more than 3,200.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government continues to crack down on barangay officials whose residents refuse to follow quarantine protocols.

The latest show cause order was sent to Mambaling Barangay Captain Gines Abellana after photos and videos of residents of his barangay not wearing face masks, children playing, and swimming by the shore were seen online.

With MECQ in place, more workers complain that they are having a hard time commuting to their offices.

This prompted the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industries to lobby for more buses to ply the city.

"We need mass transport for the workers to come back to work," said CCCI President Felix Taguiam.

To date, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board only allowed 10 buses in the city for workers each with a capacity of 23 passengers with trips between 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/21/20/several-cebu-city-sitios-streets-to-be-placed-under-granular-lockdown>



DENR, LGU, stakeholders sama-sama sa pagtanim ng giant clams sa Batangas

July 21, 2020 @ 5:40 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Upang pagyamanin pa ang karagatan ay nagsama-sama ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Local government Unit (LGU), stakeholders sa pagtanim ng giant clams sa Batangas nitong nakalipas na Linggo.

Isinagawa ang programa nitong Hulyo 9, 2020 (Huwebes) sa baybay-dagat ng Barangay Balaytigue, Nasugbu, Batangas.

Pinangunahan ng Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Program ang pagtanim ng giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*, *T. deresa*, *T. crocea*) sa karagatan ng Batangas.

Kabilang sa nanguna sa pagtanim ng giant clam si Calaca-Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer Isagani Amatorio, ang isang team na binubuo ng mga kinatawan ng Nasugbu Municipal Government, Punta Fuego Village Foundation and Homeowners Association, Hamilo Coast, KKK BLC Workers Cooperative at Bukluran ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Balaytigue, ang tatlong-araw (Hulyo 9-Hulyo 11) na pagtanim ng nasa 150 clams sa mga barangay ng Balaytigue, Papaya at Calayo sa Nasugbu, Batangas.

Ayon sa DENR, walong species sa 12 kilalang giant clams sa buong mundo ay makikita sa Pilipinas.

Mas kilala sa tawag na Taklobo, ang 8 mga species na giant clams sa bansa ay idineklara na “vulnerable species” ng International Union for Conservation of Nature. Kaya naman, ang mga ito ay kasalukuyang pinapatubo sa mga laboratoryo upang sa takdang panahon, maitanim ang mga ito sa mga baybayin kung saan may pagbaba ng populasyon ng mga clam.

Layunin ng DENR na pagyamanin ang karagatan ng Batangas sa pamamagitan ng pagtanim ng mga giant clam na unti-unti nang nauubos. **Santi Celario**



TASK FORCE POGI NABAWI ANG P37M WILDLIFE SPECIES

July 21, 2020 @ 9:01 AM 20 hours ago

Mabigat na parusa ng batas ang kailangan upang masugpo ang iligal na pagbebenta ng wildlife dahil sa kasalukuyang parusa sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, nagiging paulit-ulit lamang ang paglabag ng mga sindikato, ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

“RA 9147 should be amended to include a mandatory minimum jail term of six years for those found guilty of the criminal acts defined under the law,” ani Cimatu. “This is to make sure that convicted offenders will be able to serve their sentence and will not be eligible for probation.”

Sinabi ito ni Cimatu matapos ang isang task force sa ilalim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay nakaaresto ng dalawang suspek sa iligal na pagbebenta ng wildlife noong Hulyo 10 sa Tondo, Manila.

Sa pamamagitan ng entrapment operation, nasagip ng Philippine Operations Group on Ivory and Illegal Wildlife Trade (Task Force POGI), ang 42 threatened at endangered species na pagong na nagkakahalaga ng Php550,000 mula kay Eumir Rommel Raganit na ngayon ay nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa RA 9147.

Kasama sa mga nasagip ang 11 black pond turtles (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*) na itinuturing na critically endangered sa ilalim ng DENR Administrative Order No. 2019-09 o ang “Updated List of Threatened Philippine Fauna and their Categories.”

Nakalista rin ang black pond turtle sa ilalim ng Appendix I ng Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora o CITES.

Ibig sabihin, ang bilang ng species na ito ay napakaliit na at maaaring nang maubos o maging extinct sa mundo kaya mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pagkalakal ng mga ito.

Ang Task Force POGI ay binubuo ng mga wildlife enforcer mula sa iba’t ibang ahensya, kasama na ang Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) ng DENR at ang Environmental Crime Division ng National Bureau of Investigation.

Walang nakikitang pagbagal sa iligal na pagbebenta ng wildlife kahit sa gitna man ng pandemya, ayon kay Dr. Rogelio Demelletes, Senior Ecosystems Specialist ng BMB at pinuno ng Task Force POGI.

May P37 milyong halaga na ng wildlife ang nabawi ng Task Force POGI sa pitong mga suspek na naaresto sa limang magkakahiwalay na operasyon simula Marso, kung kailan unang inilagay ang bansa sa ilalim ng community quarantine para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Isa sa mga naaresto isang Tsinay na ilang ulit nang lumabag sa batas.

Noong Hulyo ng nakaraang taon, nahuli na ito dahil sa pagbebenta at pagmamay-ari ng 13 uri ng wildlife, kasama na ang tatlong peregrine falcon na nagkakahalaga ng Php250,000 sa black market.

Noong Hunyo 6, muling nahuli ito dahil sa pagbebenta ng mga raptor sa Sampaloc, Manila.

“We at the DENR Task Force POGI DENR Task Force POGI never let our guard down against illegal wildlife trade even as the country faces the worst public health crisis of this generation,” pagdiin ni Demelletes.

Ngunit sa kabila ng mga pagsusumikap ng pamahalaan, mahirap masugpo ang krimen na ito at patuloy pa rin ang iligal na pagbebenta ng wildlife dahil magaan nga lang ang mga parusa sa ilalim ng RA 9147.

“The penalties appear to be not enough to make wildlife offenders stop their criminal acts as the fines are too low compared to the millions they earn from trading wildlife species,” sabi ni Demelletes.

“First time violators are also easily granted probation once convicted. They can also bail when caught.

“This proves that there is really a need for higher penalties and longer jail time for illegal wildlife trading and possession,” dagdag pa niya.

Sa ilalim ng RA 9147, ang parusa ay depende hindi lamang sa ginawang kasalanan, kundi pati na rin sa conservation status ng wildlife na kinuha o binenta.

Ang pinakamalaking parusa ay para sa pagpatay ng critically endangered wildlife.

Mayroon itong pagkakakulong mula anim na taon hanggang 12 taon at multa mula P100,000 hanggang P1 milyon.

Para sa hunting at pagbenta ng wildlife, ang parusa ay mula dalawa hanggang apat na taong pagkakakulong at/o kaya multang Php30,000 hanggang Php 300,000 para sa hunting at Php 5,000 hanggang Php 300,000 para sa iligal na pagbebenta.

Para sa pag-transporta ng wildlife, ang parusa ay anim na buwan hanggang isang taong pagkakakulong at/o kaya multang mula P50,000 hanggang P100,000.



INQUIRER.net

13h · 🌐

LOOK: An adult male Philippine pangolin was repatriated to Palawan through the efforts of DENR-CALABARZON which shipped the endangered species from Metro Manila to Puerto Princesa City aboard an airplane Monday afternoon.

Commonly known as "balintong", the wild mammal will go through a recovery procedure under the supervision of Dr. Sabinne Schoppe in the facility of the Katala Foundation Inc. 📍: PCSD | Via Romar Miranda, Inquirer Southern Luzon Bureau



👍❤️😱 729

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Palawan Council for Sustainable Development

15h · 🌐

1 ADULT MALE PHILIPPINE PANGOLIN REPATRIATED TO PALAWAN

JULY 21, 2020 – One (1) adult male Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) was repatriated yesterday to Palawan through the efforts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Regional Office No. IV-A (DENR-CALABARZON) which shipped the said wildlife from Metro Manila to Puerto Princesa City via airplane yesterday afternoon.

The Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS) received a letter from DENR-CALABARZON stating that their office received one (1) Philippine Pangolin on July 14, 2020 from Engr. Alvert Calingasan, OIC, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) of Balayan, Batangas. According to Engr. Calingasan, the said pangolin was captured in the vicinity of the residence of a certain Mrs. Yolanda Angeles in Brgy. Tanggoy, Balayan, Batangas on July 13, 2020. The pangolin was then transferred to the office of the DENR-CENRO in Calaca City, Batangas until July 18, 2020, and was finally shipped from Metro Manila to Puerto Princesa City by virtue of a Wildlife Transport Permit issued by DENR-PENRO Batangas and a Shipping Permit issued by the Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Animal Industry.

Mr. Alexis R. Alberio, one of the Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Officers of PCSDS, received the pangolin yesterday at the Puerto Princesa City International Airport on behalf of Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta, PCSDS Executive Director. It was then brought to the PCSDS office for an immediate medical checkup and biometrics procedure. The pangolin's body weight is 5,275 g, with a tail length of 57 cm. Its total length is 126 cm. Before its release back to its natural habitat, the "Balintong", as the pangolin is commonly known, will go through a recovery procedure under the care of Dr. Sabine Schoppe in the facility of the Katala Foundation, Inc.

The Philippine Pangolin is listed as a "Critically Endangered" species under PCSD Resolution No. 15-521. If you happen to find any wildlife within your vicinity, please report it immediately to our office thru hotline numbers 0935-116-2336 (Globe/TM) and 0948-937-2200 (Smart/TNT). You may also send a message to our Facebook page for your concerns.

📷 First two photos— taken by our very own Executive Director, Atty. Teodoro Jose S. Matta.

#Pangolin
 #Balintong



👍👎🗨️ 243

13 Comments 90 Shares



News5
10h · 🌐



Ligtas na naibalik sa Palawan ang isang "balintong" o Philippine pangolin mula Metro Manila sa tulong ng DENR-CALABARZON.

Itinuturing itong "critically endangered" species sa ilalim ng Palawan Council for Sustainable Development resolution No. 15-521. Panawagan ng ahensya, sakaling may makita kayong wild animal sa inyong lugar, makipag-ugnayan kaagad sa kanilang Facebook o hotline na 0935-116-2336 (Globe/TM) at 0948-937-2200 (Smart/TNT).

👤: Palawan Council for Sustainable Development



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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2108522745971135&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

Rescued turtle in Davao del Sur found to have ingested plastics

Published July 21, 2020, 2:34 PM

by [Ivy Tejano](#)

DAVAO CITY – Personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Digos City and Davao del Sur province with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) rescued a green sea turtle in Santa Cruz town.



PHOTO FROM DENR DAVAO/ MANILA BULLETIN

According to the World Wildlife Organization, the green turtle is one of the largest sea turtles and the only herbivore among the different species.

Green sea turtle species is one of the five sea turtles known to occur in the Philippines along with Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Loggerhead and Leatherback.

In the official Facebook page of the DENR-Davao, it said that days after the rescue, the seemingly-weak green turtle was transferred to the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park in Davao City.

The green turtle was later found to have ingested plastic trash as it has been continuously excreting plastics for three days. Plastics have been a devastating impact on sea turtles.

DENR-Davao said that with the guidance of the Aboitiz Cleanergy Park's in-house veterinary, full vitamins were intravenously given to the turtle to help restore its good condition.

DENR-Davao Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section head Marigelaine Arguillas said that they thanked the PCG as they have gone beyond their call of duty to rescue the green turtle.

“Every day they would swim in the ocean to get seaweeds for the turtle to eat,” Arguillas said.

She also said that the PCG men also provided some of their shirts and towels so the turtle will be comfortable during its transfer from Digos City to Cleanergy Park in Davao City.

The DENR-Davao has reminded the public that killing, collecting, trading, hunting, and other related activities that pose a threat to these species is punishable by the law.

Republic Act 9147 otherwise known as the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act is an act that provides the conservation and protection of wildlife resources and their habitats.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Green and Loggerhead turtles are categorized as endangered species.

On the other hand, the Olive ridley and Leatherback turtles are categorized as vulnerable. The Hawksbill turtle is categorized as critically-endangered species.

Man arrested after selling endangered bird in Manila public market

Published July 21, 2020, 8:08 PM

by [Minka Klaudia Tiangco](#)

A man was arrested on Monday (July 20) for selling a bird of an endangered species at Arranque Market in Manila.



A Myna Talking Bird, an endangered species, was retrieved by authorities and turned over to the Public Recreation Bureau of Manila. The man who sold the bird surrendered to the police and will face charges for violation of Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protect Act. (Manila PIO photo)

Arranque Market Supervisor Ruth Almodovar identified the suspect as Jerry Salaguste.

Investigation showed that Salaguste sold a mynah talking bird, an endangered species, for P10,500 last week.

On Monday, the person who bought the bird reportedly tried to return it because it seemed sick.

However, a police officer recognized the bird as belonging to an endangered species.

They then followed the buyer's car and asked him where he bought the bird.

The police led an entrapment operation against Salaguste, but found that he fled after arriving at the dry goods section of the public market and learning that police were looking for him.

Market Administration Office Director Zenaida Mapoy then ordered the temporary closure of two stalls owned by Mayet de Jesus, where the sale took place.

Mapoy said that although De Jesus was not present when Salaguste sold the endangered bird, she is still responsible for whatever happens at her stalls.

The suspect eventually surrendered to authorities on the same day. He is now in police custody and will face charges for violating Republic Act No. 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protect Act.

The mynah bird was turned over to the Public Recreation Bureau. Investigation into the matter is ongoing.

Manila gov't orders closure of 2 stalls in Arranque for selling endangered bird

By: [Katrina Hallare](#) - Reporter / [@KHallareINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:11 PM July 21, 2020



An endangered myna bird is among those seized during an entrapment operation by the Manila Market Administration and Manila Police District. Photo from the Manila Public Information Office

MANILA, Philippines — The Manila's Market Administration Office has shut down two stalls at the Arranque Market for allegedly selling an endangered myna bird.

According to Arranque Market supervisor Ruth Almodovar, a helper named Jerry Salaguste sold the bird for P10,500.

However, members of the Manila Police District (MPD) then spotted the customer returning the bird to Salaguste as it was sick.

Police then tracked down the buyer then asked where the bird was originally bought, Almodovar said.

Members of the MPD, along with the Market Administration Office, then organized an entrapment operation against Salaguste.

During the operation, the Market Administration Office also ordered to temporarily close down two stalls owned by one Mayet de Jesus.

The Market Administration Office said that while De Jesus was not present during the operation, anything that happens in her store is her responsibility.

During the shutdown, Salaguste later surrendered to authorities, Almodovar said. The suspect will face charges for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protect Act.

Meanwhile, the myna bird was turned over to the Manila Public Recreation Bureau.

JPV

Source: https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1309855/manila-govt-orders-closure-of-2-stalls-at-arranque-market-for-selling-endangered-bird?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1SISxA_G3DgtJN7ip8xLgYHnKWmti7QVMaleJ1oCICy07PwseGfeWeegM#Echobox=1595319519



Bentahan ng endangered species sa Arranque nabisto, vending stall, sarado

July 21, 2020 @ 2:27 PM 15 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Ipinasara ng Market Administration Office (MAO) ang dalawang vending stall sa isang pampublikong pamilihan nang mabuking ito na nagbebenta ng isang “endangered species” sa Sta. Cruz, Maynila.

Ayon kay Arranque Market Supervisor Ruth Almodovar, pansamantalang ipinasara ni (MAO) Director Zenaida Mapoy ang dalawang vending stall na pagmamay-ari ng isang Mayet De Jesus kung saan nabili ang isang Myna Talking bird na itinuturing na endangered species at ipinagbabawal na ibenta sa merkado.

Nabuking umano ang ilegal na pagbebenta sa nasabing ibon makaraang makita nila Lt. Robelo Rabaca at Pat. Isaiah John Michael Ilon ng Manila Police District- Station 11 ang isang indibidwal na bitbit ang nasabing Myna pabalik sa kanyang nabilhang stall sa halagang P10,500.

Nais umano nito ibalik ang ibon dahil tila nanghihina na umano ito makaraang bilhin sa helper ni De Jesus na nakilalang si Jerry Salaguste.

Dahil dito ay nakipag-ugnayan sila kay Almodovar at binalikan nila ang stall ni De Jesus upang magsagawa ng entrapment operation laban kay Salaguste ngunit nakatakas umano ito.

Iniutos ni Mapoy ang pagpapasara sa nasabing stall ni De Jesus bagama’t wala umano ito sa lugar at oras ng nangyaring bentahan ay kargo niya umano ang lahat ng nangyayari sa loob ng kanyang puwesto.

Samantala, habang sinasagawa ang pagpapasara sa mga tindahan ni De Jesus ay sumuko umano si Salaguste sa mga awtoridad.

Mahaharap si Salaguste sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9147 o ang Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protect Act.

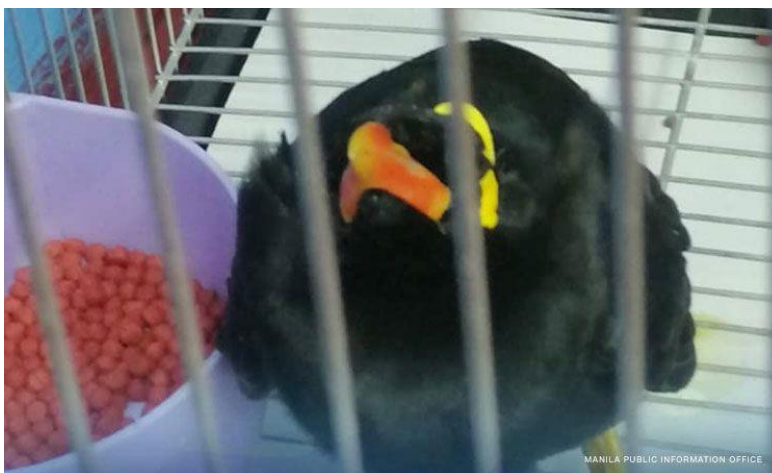
Itinurn-over naman sa Public Recreation Bureau ang Myna Talking Bird upang ito ay maalagaan nang maayos. **Jay Reyes**

Source: https://remate.ph/bentahan-ng-endangered-species-sa-arranque-nabisto-vending-stall-sarado/?fbclid=IwAR1d4JKGsxHhCMVss0A0BBlyW12XizuXyPwUFSyU-U_kBfNeFJSSUqg1rfg

Manila gov't orders temporary shutdown of stalls selling endangered myna bird

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jul 21, 2020 5:59:47 PM



Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, July 21) - The Manila Market Administration Office has ordered the temporary closure of two stalls at Arranque Market for selling a myna bird, which is considered endangered.

Arranque Market Supervisor Ruth Almodovar said a store helper sold the bird for P10,500.

Almodovar said two police officers saw the buyer returning the bird because it seemed weak.

She added that the cops followed the buyer and asked where the bird was originally brought.

The cops immediately coordinated with the office of Almodovar to conduct an entrapment operation against Salaguste.

The suspect seemed to have escaped the cops at first since he was nowhere to be found in the two stalls owned by a certain Mayet De Jesus that were ordered closed.

He later surrendered to authorities and will face charges for violating Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act.

The myna bird was turned over to the Manila Public Recreation Bureau.

There was no immediate comment from the stall owner or the helper.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/7/21/Manila-government-temporary-closure-stalls-selling-endangered-myna-bird-.html?fbclid=IwAR1gxStlGNPJnuB6gtzZgGK2cAEKp-P9jL6IeEYsn8L1DQ4AFXfkCxDhiRM>

DENR distributes 600K seedlings to boost C. Luzon's food security

By Zorayda Tecson July 21, 2020, 7:59 pm



VEGGIE SEEDLINGS. The DENR-3 has distributed more than 600,000 assorted vegetable seedlings to boost food security in Central Luzon. The assorted vegetables were given to some 200 local government units, people's organizations, indigenous people, religious organizations, non-government organizations, and families in Tarlac and Pampanga. *(Photo courtesy of DENR Region 3)*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) regional office has distributed more than 600,000 assorted vegetable seedlings as part of its efforts to support the government's food security program in Central Luzon.

The assorted vegetables were grown at the 1.26-hectare modernized and mechanized forest nursery (MMFN) of the DENR in Tarlac.

Celia Esteban, DENR provincial head, said the vegetables, mostly okra, chili, eggplant, string beans, squash, and petchay, were distributed to some 200 local government units, people's organizations, indigenous peoples, religious organizations, non-government organizations, and residents of Tarlac and Pampanga.

"We used the mechanized nursery to grow these vegetables to provide our people with food during this pandemic," Esteban said in a statement on Tuesday.

Arthur Salazar, deputy director for Technical Services of DENR-Region 3 (Central Luzon), said the MMFN was mainly to produce quality forest tree seedlings for the government's reforestation undertakings such as the National Greening Program.

"We have seen its other potential to produce vegetable seedlings to provide food for our communities," he said.

"During this pandemic, the MMFN will not only cater to the production of reforestation species but will also help us in vegetable production to secure our food in the region," he added.

The DENR has requested for more vegetable seeds from the Department of Agriculture (DA) to support more communities.

The DA has provided 11 kilograms of various vegetable seeds to DENR which were raised into seedlings in the MMFN before the distribution.

"It is better to provide our local communities with vegetable seedlings rather than seed because seedlings would yield food faster and survive better," Salazar said. **(PNA)**

Climate Change Commission helps LGUs in accessing funds for climate adaptation projects

Published July 21, 2020, 8:15 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

The Climate Change Commission (CCC) is working with more local government units (LGUs) and other stakeholders to provide them the needed information on how to access the People's Survival Fund (PSF)—the Philippines' climate finance mechanism for local climate adaptation projects.

Through the PSF eLearning Program, the CCC said it is able to address the challenges of LGUs in accessing the climate adaptation grant, such as lack of direct information on the process and requirements for PSF funding, constraints in terms of technical capacity to develop climate change adaptation projects, and the need for collaboration with community stakeholders.

The second run of the PSF eLearning Program has just concluded through a virtual culminating activity held on June 24. The online event was designed to encourage its students to share their experiences, learnings, and feedback on the program.

Graduates of the previous batches still continue to receive technical assistance from the CCC through its PSF One-on-One Mentoring Program.

CCC said it is now accepting applications for the Batch 3 of the program, which will run from August-October 2020. Only 50 applicants are selected per batch.

Interested applicants must be working in the planning and development, environment and natural resource, climate change, and/or the disaster risk reduction and management offices or units in LGUs or community-based organizations.

Registration must be done through the link: bit.ly/PSFeLearningBatch3Registration and a maximum of three participants for each LGU or organization.

The deadline of registration is on July 22 at 8 p.m., while the results will be posted on July 29.

Semirara coal mine operator confirms fatal accident near quarry site

Inquirer Visayas / 07:49 PM July 21, 2020

ILOILO CITY—A worker of Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) died in an accident near a mining pit on Semirara Island in Antique province late on Monday (July 20), the company confirmed.

In a statement, SMPC said it is “with deep regret” that it was confirming an accident at an area of the quarry called Narra Pit.

It said around 8:30 p.m. on Monday, “a limestone boulder fell and hit one of our excavator units” that led to “fatal injury to its operator.”

“We are determining the exact circumstance surrounding the incident,” it said.

The SMPC statement condoled with family and friends of the worker.

“We continue to help the family in this very difficult time as we are committed to providing them with the support that they need,” the SMPC said.

The company did not name the fatality but the environmental group Save Antique Movement, which monitors the mining operation on the island, identified him as Admer Gabinete, 29, a resident of Alegria village in Semirara.

Bong Sanchez, Save Antique Movement president, said that the accident occurred at the southernmost wall of Panian Pit, citing sources inside the company.

In October last year, a worker was buried in a mudslide at the Molave Pit.

Monday’s accident is the latest in fatal accidents related to mining operations on the island. In September 2016, three workers drowned after inhaling poisonous gas inside a barge at the SMPC pier.

Nine SMPC workers died in 2015 after excavated soil and part of the northern Panian open mine pit collapsed burying the workers and heavy equipment.

On Feb. 13, 2013, five workers also died and five others remained missing and presumed dead following the collapse of the western wall of the Panian Pit.

Owned by David M. Consunji Inc., the mining firm has been operating one of the biggest coal mines in Asia in Semirara since 1999 after it took over the then government-owned Semirara Coal Corp.

The company employs about 4,000 workers. At least 96 percent of locally produced coal is supplied by SMPC. Semirara Island is among a group of nine islands comprising Caluya town in Antique.

TSB

Source: https://remate.ph/bentahan-ng-endangered-species-sa-arranque-nabisto-vending-stall-sarado/?fbclid=IwAR1d4JKGsxHhCMVss0A0BBlyW12XizuXyPwUFSyU-U_kBfNeFJSSUqg1rfg

Backhoe operator patay matapos mabagsakan ng tipak ng bato sa mining site sa Antique

Nony Basco, ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jul 21 2020 05:44 PM | Updated as of Jul 21 2020 07:06 PM

CALUYA, Antique - Patay ang isang 29 anyos na backhoe operator matapos madaganan ng malaking bato ang minamanehong heavy equipment sa mining site ng Semirara Mining and Power Corporation (SMPC) sa Semirara Island.

Ayon sa Caluya Municipal Police Station, nangyari ang aksidente Lunes ng gabi habang nagsasagawa ng excavation activity ang biktima sa west wall ng Narra Pit sa isla.

Lumalabas sa imbestigasyon ng Caluya Police na biglang bumigay ang mga malalaking tipak ng bato at isa-isang nahulog.

Tumama ang isang malaking bato sa cockpit mismo ng backhoe na siyang dumurog sa katawan ng biktima.

Ipinaliwanag naman ng pulisya na hindi landslide ang nangyari kundi nahulog lang ang ilang malalaking tipak ng bato sa excavation site.

Kinondena naman ng grupong Save Antique Movement (SAM) ang nangyaring sakuna na ikinamatay ng backhoe operator.

Hinihiling ng grupo na maimbestigahan ang mga maaaring paglabag ng kompanya sa environmental laws.

Sa oras nang pagkakasulat nito ay hindi pa nagbibigay ng pahayag ang Semirara.

Source: <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/21/20/backhoe-operator-patay-matapos-mabagsakan-ng-tipak-ng-bato-sa-mining-site-sa-antique?fbclid=IwAR0Z3f9ElhIQWeG0m3h1EyxKWeR69-v84sXRJYjx0toxEPm7-E8nbYWhzXo>

Filipina makes it to Young Champions of the Earth finals

Published July 21, 2020, 12:30 PM

by [Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz](#)

A 28-year-old Filipina environment advocate is among 35 finalists in this year's Young Champions of the Earth Awards.



Ann Dumaliang

(Photo from Billie Dumaliang via Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz / MANILA BULLETIN)

Ann Dumaliang is the managing trustee of the conservation and sustainable development project at the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal province.

She initiated the Masungi Georeserve project in 2015.

“Seeing the destruction and threats surrounding a place I love dearly, I knew it would be the regret of my lifetime if I did not do anything to try to make it last. I hope to continue protecting it as well as other wild spaces in my country,” she was quoted as saying in her biography posted on the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) website.

“Building on two decades of restoration work, we aim to achieve conservation using the holistic three-pronged approach of protection, education, and sustainable development—primarily through geo-tourism. By doing so, we wish to keep Masungi and other landscapes/habitats alive for generations to come,” Dumaliang said.

The Young Champions of the Earth Awards is a global competition organized by the UNEP aimed towards identifying, supporting and celebrating outstanding individuals aged between 18 and 30 equipped with fresh ideas in tackling the world's most pressing environmental concerns.

The top 35 finalists were chosen from a total of 845 applicants across regions. A global jury will select seven winners, one from each participating region and two from the Asia-Pacific.

The winners, to be announced in December, will receive US\$10,000 in funding as well as tailored support to bring their ideas to life.

“Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cutting-edge solutions presented by this year's Young Champions finalists are truly remarkable.

It is clear that this pandemic did not shut down the fight for a better world. Instead, it has reminded us of what's at stake in our battle for the planet, and highlights how building back better will help address the climate crisis and preserve human and planetary health,” UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen said in a statement.

“We are committed to providing young changemakers a voice, a platform and the opportunity to make their journey a success, while inspiring millions more around the world,” she added.

In 2019, 20-year-old Filipina chef Louise Mabolo was named among seven winners of the Young Champions of the Earth awards.

She is the founder of the Cacao Project and Culinary Lounge that boosted farmers' income through climate-resilient cocoa.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2020/07/21/filipina-makes-it-to-young-champions-of-the-earth-finals/>

Amid Covid, proper disposal of medical waste flagged

By [Claudeth Mocon-Ciriaco](#)

July 22, 2020



STRESSING that the amount of Covid-19-related medical waste may also increase significantly as cases keep rising, the Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday reminded hospitals and quarantine facilities to strictly impose the proper handling of medical waste to control the source of infection and prevent transmission of the deadly disease.

As of July 21, the DOH reported that the total number of Covid-19 cases increased to 70,764.

Responding to the inquiry of the BusinessMirror during the DOH Beat Covid televised press conference, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that the DOH had come up with Department Memorandum 2020-0170, or the Interim Guidelines on the Management of Health Facilities, Community Quarantine Units and Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMF) with Cases of Covid-19, on the proper handling of hospital waste.

The memorandum is to provide guidance on the proper management of all Covid-19-related health-care waste in all health facilities, community quarantine units, and TTMF to prevent the spread of the disease.

The DOH underscored that waste management must be given priority to address the increase in the generation of hazardous waste, especially infectious waste related to Covid-19, as well as to ensure the welfare of all users of health-care facilities.

“The Department of Health hereby issues these guidelines on health-care waste management in all facilities with suspect, probable and confirmed Covid-19 patients as redefined in the latest patient classification of Covid-19 Case Definition for Surveillance,” the memo read.

Hospitals and quarantine facilities, Vergeire said, should follow the rules and regulations as mandated by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, including following the “waste route” for hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

She said the proper disposal for treated infectious waste is at designated sanitary landfills.

Public education

Earlier, an environmental group warned that medical waste is expected to increase with the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak.

Leon Dulce, national coordinator of Kalikasan Peoples Network for the Environment, said the public should be educated also on how to properly dispose of the face masks they are using.

“We need to educate the public and urge direct interventions from public authorities on the need to disinfect used face masks, tissue papers and other waste potentially contaminated with Covid-19,” Dulce said in a statement.

He added that if the government does not initiate mass disinfection measures, the country’s 44,000 tons of waste generated daily “are now likely infectious and can cause new surges in Covid-19 outbreaks.”

The group warned of potential risk as the increased use of face masks, personal protective equipment and other contaminated waste outside medical facilities may get mixed with municipal waste.

There are 135 treatment, storage and disposal facilities for hospital waste.

Covid-19 cases

A total of 1,951 confirmed cases were reported on Tuesday based on the total tests done by 73 out of 84 current operational labs.

The DOH also announced that there were 209 recoveries. This brings the total number of recoveries to 23,281.

Two deaths were reported. The death toll stood at 1,837.

Image Credits: [Artinun Prekmoung](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)



COVID-19 sa Pinas lagpas 70,000 na!

July 21, 2020 @ 5:24 PM 13 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Halos dalawang libong karagdagang kaso ng COVID-19 ang naitala ngayong araw ng Department of Health (DOH).

Ayon kay Health Usec Maria Rosario Vergeire, nasa 1,951 ang nadagdag sa kaso dahilan para umabot na sa kabuuang 70,764 COVID-19 cases sa basan.

Sa nasabing bagong reported cases, 1348 ang fresh cases at 603 ang late cases.

Ang mga kasong naitala ay base sa isinumite ng 57 mula sa 89 licensed laboratories.

Sa nasabing bilang nasa 45,646 ang mga aktibong kaso.

Karagdagang 209 naman ang gumaling sa sakit kung saan umabot na sa 23,281 ang recoveries sa COVID-19.

Dalawa naman ang naitalang nasawi sa sakit sanhi upang umakyat sa 1,837 na ang pumanaw.

Sa nasabing bilang, isa rito ang namatay nitong Hulyo habang Hunyo namatay ang isa pa.

Sa dalawang pumanaw, isa ang galing sa Region 7 habang isa naman ang galing sa Region 6.

Ang age range naman ng mga nasawi ay mula 49 hanggang 70 years old. ***Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden***

PH cases top 70k, gov't eyes 10M Pinoys for test

posted July 22, 2020 at 01:20 am

by [Willie Casas and Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

The total number of people in the Philippines infected with COVID-19 has reached 70,764, the Department of Health (DOH) said Tuesday.



SLUM SITUATION. Adults and children alike seem unmindful of the raging coronavirus pandemic as they play and congregate outside their houses—without face masks—along alleyways in an impoverished neighborhood in Cavite province. JR Josue

Based on data from 73 out of 89 COVID-19 labs, an additional 1,951 cases were added Tuesday, bringing the total number of active cases or those who have yet to recover to 45,646.

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III told President Rodrigo Duterte that the government's target is to test 10 million Filipinos for COVID-19 by 2021, accounting for about 10 percent of the total population.

This was after Duterte asked Duque if the country can afford to do COVID-19 tests "for every citizen" to arrest the further spread of the disease.

But Duque said no country can afford to do that.

"We cannot test each citizen. No country can do that, even the richest country like the United States of America cannot do that," Duque told Duterte in Filipino.

Majority or 1,464 of the additional new cases are from the National Capital Region, 90 are from Cebu province, 74 are from Laguna, 53 are from Cavite and 36 are from Rizal.

This is the sixth straight day that the NCR logged more than 1,000 additional COVID-19 cases.

The DOH also reported 209 additional recovered patients, bringing the total number of recoveries to 23,281.

There were also two additional COVID-related deaths—the lowest since March 24—which brought the total fatalities to 1,837.

Of the active cases, 91.1 percent have mild symptoms, 8 percent are asymptomatic, 0.4 percent have severe symptoms and 0.5 percent are in critical condition.

The DOH said 85 duplicate cases were removed from the previous total case count.

"These numbers undergo constant cleaning and validation," it said.

Researchers from the University of the Philippines earlier projected that the country would reach 60,000 total cases by the end of July. The UP group raised their projection to 85,000, based on current trends.

Duterte on Monday assured the public in a taped address that the government is doing its best to reduce the number of infections to “the barest minimum.”

Duterte reminded the public that they should wear face masks and observe social distancing.

Also on Tuesday, a former Health secretary urged the government to take criticism constructively during the pandemic.

““It is the function of the private sector to call out [the] government for incompetence, dishonesty, and other faults if there’ll be any. And the government should take all of these criticisms... in a constructive way,” former Health secretary Esperanza Cabral said in an online forum.

“[The] government must accept [that] this is for the good of all— and only when we work together—dynamically, smartly, competently, and inclusively—[will] we... be able to achieve good health and good life for all.”

The Zoom meeting was attended by three other former DOH secretaries who rejected a proposal to postpone the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law due to dwindling contributions to the state health insurance system during the lockdowns.

A number of individuals have come under fire from authorities for posting negative comments online about the government’s handling of the pandemic.

Senator Francis Pangilinan, meanwhile, welcomed the Department of Health (DOH) announcement that Filipino-made GenAmplify RT-PCR test kits can finally be used.

“After almost six months, we can finally use the Filipino-made test kits which are half the price [of] imported [ones],” he said.

In a joint statement on Saturday, Senate Minority Floor Leader Franklin Drilon and Senators Risa Hontiveros and Pangilinan himself urged the DoH to allow the use of the ₱1,320 RT-PCR test kits developed by the UP-National Institute for Health (UP-NIH) and funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DoST).

An interim report showed that the GenAmplify RT-PCR tests kits have up to 93.96 percent sensitivity and up to 98.04 percent specificity, at a confidence interval of 95 percent.

In the interest of transparency, Pangilinan said the public needs to know the actual and projected DoH expenses for the rapid and PCR test kits as part of its response to the pandemic.

Duterte mamimigay ng libreng face mask

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- July 22, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Balak ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bumili ng maraming face mask upang ipamigay sa mga mamamayan.

Sa kanyang ulat sa bayan, paulit-ulit na binanggit ng Pangulo ang kahalagahan nang paggamit ng face mask para mapabagal ang pagkalat ng COVID-19.

Ipamimigay aniya ito ng libre sa lahat para wala nang dahilan ang mga tao na hindi magsuot nito.

Kailangan ayon sa Pa-ngulo na tiyakin na isusuot ng mga tao ang face mask.

Sinabi rin ng Pangulo na pwede namang gamitin ng dalawang beses ang face mask basta i-disinfect lamang ito.

Noong nakaraang pulong ng Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), iminungkahi ng health expert na si Dr. Anthony Leachon na ga-wing libre para sa lahat ang face mask.

Ani Leachon, maaring ayaw naman talagang sumuway ng iba subalit wala silang pambili ng face mask.

Marami aniyang mahihirap na mamamayan ang walang pambili ng makakain kaya tiyak wala ring pambili ng face mask.

Walang face mask, arestuhin! — Duterte

By [Malou Escudero](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- July 22, 2020 - 12:00am



Naniniwala si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na ang kahihyang mararanasan ng mga mahuhuli ay magsisilbing aral na maaalala nila sa mahabang panahon.

MANILA, Philippines — Inutusan ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang mga pulis na hulihin at ikulong ang lahat ng mga lumalabag sa health protocols lalo na ang mga hindi nagsusuot ng face masks.

Naniniwala si Duterte na ang kahihyang mararanasan ng mga mahuhuli ay magsisilbing aral na maaalala nila sa mahabang panahon.

“So we will have to ask our police to be more strict. So hulihin talaga. A little shame would put them on notice forever. Sino ba namang gustong mahuli ka. But if you are brought to the police station and detained there, that would give you a lesson for all time,” ani Duterte.

Partikular na inatasan ni Duterte si Interior Secretary Eduardo Año na pagtrabahuhin ang mga pulis lalo na ngayong panahon ng COVID-19.

Ipinunto pa ng Pangulo na hindi naman basta-basta nagpapaaresto ang gobyerno ng mga mamamayan na hindi nagsusuot ng face mask o hindi sumusunod sa social distancing sa normal na panahon.

Pero sa panahon aniya na may health issues at pandemonium, isang seryosong krimen ang hindi pagsunod at dapat ituring ng lahat na sila ay carrier ng COVID-19 kaya dapat magsuot ng face mask. Sinabi naman ni Año na nag-usap na ang mga key members ng Inter Agency Task Force kung saan isa sa mga natalakay ang pagkakaroon ng pare-parehong panuntunan ang mga LGUs gaya ng kung ilang araw ikukulong ang mga hindi sumusunod sa health protocols.

“Gusto naming magkaroon po ng isang implementation lang po ng pare-parehas about LGU kung ilang araw po dapat ikukulong ‘yung mga napa --- mga nagva-violate sa pagsusuot ng masks --- face mask, at hindi nagpi-physical distancing, at kung magkano po ‘yung multa para po kahit saan pumunta ay pare-parehas ‘yung pagpapatupad. Ito po kasi ang pinakaimportante eh para ma-prevent ‘yung pag-spread ng virus,” sabi pa ni Año.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/07/22/2029660/walang-face-mask-arestuhin-duterte/amp/>

Virgin coconut oil found 'very promising' in COVID-19 prevention, management

PAGE 1/ 1/2

July 22, 2020
DATE



DOST Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña said clinical trials of virgin coconut oil aim to see if it could speed up the recovery of people infected with the new coronavirus.

Sergio01 via Pixabay

Virgin coconut oil found 'very promising' in COVID-19 prevention, management

[Ratzel San Juan](#) (Philstar.com) - July 21, 2020 - 6:45pm

MANILA, Philippines — Virgin coconut oil (VCO), extracted from fresh coconut meat and known to have anti-viral properties, has shown "very positive" results in the prevention and management of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), local researchers have found.

The group of Equilibrium Integrative Health Clinic Medical Director, doctor Jose Mondejar, administered VCO among 69 infected residents of Sitio Zapatera, Barangay Luz in COVID-19 hotspot Cebu City.

Mondejar in an Tuesday interview over DZMM Teleradyo said they initially recommended the patients to take one tablespoon of VCO, twice a day for three days before increasing the dosage to thrice a day.

Within two weeks, 45 of the cases returned negative results upon testing while the remaining 24 did not progress to moderate or severe cases, eventually also retesting negative.

Mondejar was then tapped to help the Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center (CPDRC) manage their own COVID-19 cases and VCO again yielded "very promising results and success."

A total of seven employees at the CPDRC tested negative for COVID-19 within a week after taking VCO while another three workers tested negative within eight days.

"Sa awa ng Diyos, wala na pong cases doon for the past 6 weeks. Naging preventive na po," Mondejar said.

Meanwhile, Ateneo de Manila University professor Fabian Dayrit hopes that research on VCO will be expanded to further study its effectiveness on a broader scale.

"Pero sana mabuti sigurong ma-expand natin 'yung study kasi mga ilang pasyente lang 'yun eh... Ang kailangan natin, mas malakas na katibayan."

VCO for frontliners

A similar local study under Team Asia Corporation, released exclusively to **Philstar.com**, sought the voluntary participation of medical frontliners who agreed to take VCO as part of their daily diet.

The preliminary study involving 18 doctors and two nurses, last enhanced community quarantine from different hospitals in Manila, showed the following findings and health benefits of VCO:

- Better sleep: 45% of participants
- Decreased allergic symptoms: 40%
- Decreased appetite: 20%
- Improved bowel movement: 45%
- Less hyperacidity: 20%
- Less palpitation: 5%
- Increased energy: 30%
- Increased alertness / more focus: 10%
- Reduced hunger: 25%

Respondents generally gave positive feedback on VCO use, mostly describing it as "maybe helpful" or "helpful," saying they would continue using VCO products and recommending these to colleagues as well as COVID-19 patients.



DOST: Clinical trials para sa lagundi panggamot sa COVID, sisimulan sa Agosto 1

July 21, 2020 @ 12:53 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Sisimulan na sa Agosto 1 ang clinical trial para sa lagundi (Vitex negundo) bilang supplemental treatment sa mga pasyenteng may coronavirus disease 2019.

Aarangkada na ito matapos na aprubahan ng University of the Philippines Research Ethics Board, ayon kay Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato de la Peña.

“Ang aim ng ating study na sisimulan sa August 1 or earlier kung makakalabas na ‘yung FDA [Food and Drug Administration] clearance, ay mapakita kung ito ay makakabuti para ma-address ‘yung mga symptoms,” aniya sa Laging Handa virtual briefing ngayong Martes.

“(Kung) guminhawa ‘yung pasyente doon sa kanilang pag-ubo at itong lagnat at sore throat, kasi malaking bagay kung giginhawa ‘yung pasyente,” dagdag pa ng kalihim.

Nitong Abril nang simulan ng DOST ang pag-aaral sa benepisyo ng ilang herbal na medisina tulad ng lagundi at tawa-tawa kontra sa COVID-19.

“Ito ay binibigay na adjuvant therapy or parang supplement doon sa iba pa nilang binibigay na gamot ng kanilang mga doktor,” aniya.

“Yan din ay magsisilbing parang research para makita kung ‘yun bang probability kung magpro-progress ‘yung mga mild to moderate and severe ay mababawasan kung bibigyan ng lagundi. Kasi nga meron na siyang mga napatunayan na characteristics or anti-viral properties na puwedeng gamitin sa COVID-19,” giit pa ni de la Peña. RNT

Balancing act

Published July 21, 2020, 10:36 PM

by [Former Senate President Manny Villar](#)

OF TREES AND FOREST



The COVID-19 pandemic is essentially a health crisis. The virus that causes it—severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)—has wreaked havoc on the health of people it has infected. In the Philippines, the number of coronavirus cases is at 65,204 (as of July 17). The number of active cases is at 39,541. If there is a silver lining to all these, it is the fact that more than 22,000 have recovered and we only have a rate of 596 cases per 1 million population. The latter number should be understood with a caveat that most of the cases are in the National Capital Region (NCR).

But this health crisis is developing into an economic crisis. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected that the global economy could suffer between \$5.8 trillion and \$8.8 trillion in losses—equivalent to 6.4% to 9.7% of global gross domestic product (GDP)—as a result of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Locally, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) predicted that the COVID-19 crisis will cost the Philippine economy P2.2 trillion in losses this year. April figures revealed that around 7.3 million Filipinos have temporarily or permanently lost their jobs due to business closures. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has a dire estimate of 10 million workers losing their jobs by the end of 2020. The remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)—which has saved us in past economic crises — will be severely hampered as many have lost their jobs too as their host countries struggle economically with the pandemic.

Despite the partial reopening of the economy, domestic consumption, which is the primary engine of the Philippine economy, is nowhere near its pre-lockdown levels. These are dark days in our economy.

A severe slowdown in the economy will have a negative impact on health, specifically our ability to continue the fight against COVID-19. As economic activities wane, spending and tax revenues decline. This will reduce the resources available for government and even the private sector to protect our people from the virus. Loss of jobs will also negatively impact families because it means loss of income and inability to provide for their families' daily needs, including health.

The lockdown was necessary in March when we were still trying to figure out our “enemy.” Today, a region-wide lockdown might do more harm than good in the long run. Government must perform a delicate balancing act of preserving and protecting our people's health and avoiding a deeper economic crisis after the pandemic.

We need to control the spread of the virus but at the same time we cannot allow our economy to free fall into a deep recession that would make our people suffer more even when the fight against the coronavirus is won. And we need to take these actions now not after the pandemic. This is not an either – or proposition. We cannot just impose a lockdown and immobilize the entire economy. We cannot simply open the economy without instituting measures to protect people. It has to be a balanced approach.



The key is in the proactive and decisive localized lockdowns in areas where there are high rates of infections. Health officials and local leaders need to work together to identify where the virus is spreading and immediately lockdown a building or a street or a barangay to prevent wider infections. Some local leaders in Metro Manila are already doing this. The approach has to be surgical and systematic. Pinpoint the sources of spread and contain it. In other words, heal the ailing parts without sacrificing the whole.

Government and the private sector also need a serious information drive and an even more serious implementation drive to ensure that people who go out wear protective masks, observe physical distancing, and practice good hygiene.

These are dark times indeed but we have been through other crises before and we have survived. With a proactive and balanced approach, we will survive this too.

Kostumer ng Maynilad, nagulantang sa P100,000 na bayarin niya sa tubig para lang sa isang buwan

Hulyo 21, 2020 10:57pm GMT+08:00

Laking gulat ng isang kostumer ng Maynilad nang makita niya na umabot sa P100,000 ang water bill niya na dumating ngayong Hulyo.

Sa ulat ni Maki Pulido sa GMA News “24 Oras” nitong Martes, sinabing P100,427.48 ang buong bayarin ni Dominic Songco para sa Hunyo 20 hanggang Hulyo 20.

“Ano ‘to Maynilad!!!? Inflatable pool lang gamit namin... pero ‘yung bill niyo sa’min para kaming may resort,” saad ni Songco sa isang Facebook post.

Dagdag pa niya, hindi naman lumalampas sa P2,000 ang kanilang bill kahit sa mga panahong ginagamit ng mga anak niya ang kanilang inflatable pool.

“Every month, naglalaro lang po sa P1,200 ang aming bill. Ang pinakamalaki lang namin usually ‘pag ganiyang may inflatable pool kami every summer, July no’ng nag-birthday ang anak ko, P2,000 ang pinakamalaki,” kuwento niya.

Inamin naman ng Maynilad na nagkaroon ng pagkakamali sa pagbasa ng metro matapos nilang imbestigahan ang reklamo ni Songco.

“Imbestigahan na lang namin ito at kung nakita na ‘yun talaga ‘yung actual na konsumo, ire-revise na lang namin. Tiyak na hindi ito aabot ng isang daang libo,” ayon sa tapagsalita ng Maynilad na si Zmel Grabillo.

Isolated case lang daw ang nangyari sa 1.4 milyon na kostumer ng Maynilad.

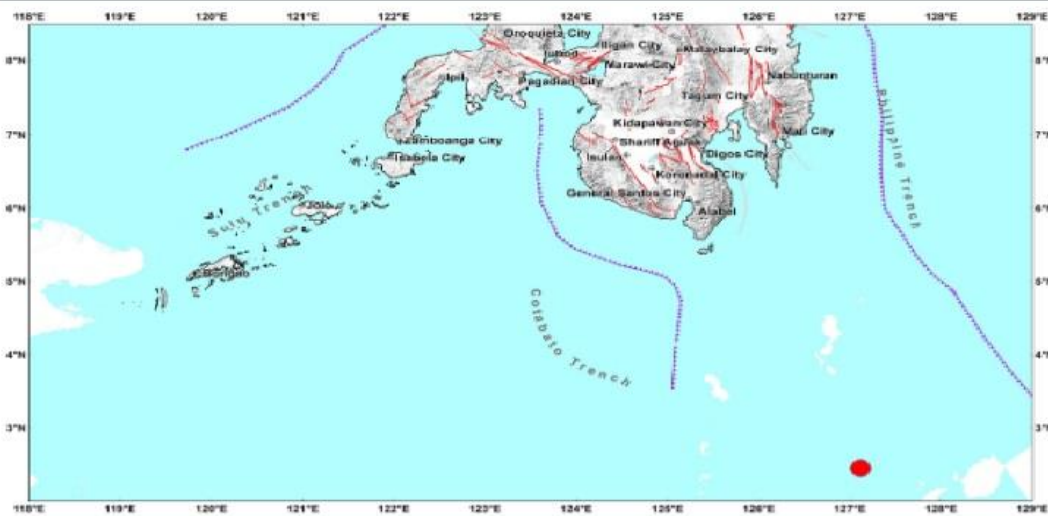
“Ang binabasa ng isang meter reader ay isang libo. Kung bubuuin ‘yung kaniyang binabasa sa isang araw, medyo marami-raming metro rin ito. May mga pagkakataon na nakakapag-input ng maling numero,” sabi ni Grabillo.--**Julia Mari Ornedo/FRJ, GMA News**

Magnitude 4.1 na lindol, tumama sa Davao Occidental

By Angellic Jordan July 21, 2020 - 07:51 PM

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND SEISMOLOGY
EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION NO. : 1
PHIVOLCS Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue, U.P.- Diliman, Quezon City, PHILIPPINES
Tel.: 8426-1468 Fax: 8927-1087

Date/Time	: 21 Jul 2020 - 03:27:43 PM
Location	: 02.45°N, 127.03°E - 372 km S 28° E of Sarangani (Davao Occidental)
Depth of Focus (Km)	: 001
Origin	: TECTONIC
Magnitude	: Ms 4.1



Niyang ng magnitude 4.1 na lindol ang Davao Occidental, araw ng Martes.

Sinabi ng Phivolcs na tumama ang lindol sa layong 372 kilometers Southeast ng Sarangani bandang 3:27 ng hapon.

Isang kilometro ang lalim ng lindol at tectonic ang origin.

Wala namang napaulat na pinsala bunsod ng lindol.

Wala ring inaasahang aftershocks matapos ang pagyanig.

Malaysia does best to save turtles

By [Agence France-Presse](#)

July 22, 2020

CHAGAR HUTANG: Aziz Mustaffa used to collect turtles' eggs from a Malaysian beach and sell them. But nowadays, he makes a living as a ranger protecting the creatures' nesting sites.

His transformation is one success in an uphill struggle to defend the endangered reptiles who swim ashore to the tropical country from the South China Sea to lay their eggs in the sand.

Several species, including Green turtles, Hawksbills and Leatherbacks, nest on Malaysia's coasts, where the spectacle of babies hatching and scurrying into the sea has long been a major tourist draw.

But their numbers have dwindled dramatically due to worsening maritime pollution, coastal development, and people snatching their eggs, which are a popular local delicacy.

Conservationists have however been making progress. As well as persuading some people like Aziz to change their ways, Terengganu state, a major nesting site, has announced it will ban the trade in eggs.

"The turtles and eggs are our national treasure," Aziz, 44, told Agence France-Presse (AFP), after watching a group of the reptiles emerge from the sea and lay eggs on a beach on Redang Island, in Terengganu.

"I feel I am their god parent and I want to protect them for future generations. It gives me joy to see the huge turtles returning here to nest."

The 20-strong group of females came ashore at night, crawling up Chagar Hutang beach, with Aziz watching alongside several other conservationists.

They dug holes and laid thousands of eggs, before swimming back into the sea. On the same 350-meter beach, one of the busiest nesting sites in Malaysia, baby turtles were hatching and scurrying into the waters.

Humans are far from the only threat they face—monitor lizards eat their eggs, while many are gobbled up by sharks and predatory fish as soon as they make it into the waters.

Aziz, from a poor fishing family on the island, remembers how he used to hide in the bushes by the beach and race out to grab the eggs shortly after they were laid, with brawls often breaking out between rival collectors.

The eggs were then sold to local traders or eaten, and were a key source of protein in limited diets, although that started to change as incomes increased and different food options became available.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/07/22/news/world/malaysia-does-best-to-save-turtles/744084/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR1klfDRT9TS0vm6YTon2tcTC1KwJUK4yq0pwfOU0hV9JCY4Puu6xeAsDpI#Echobox=1595356619

From egg hunter to protector, Malaysian battles to save

July 22, 2020

TITLE: turtles

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

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Published July 21, 2020, 12:27 PM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

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– 'Voracious appetite' –

They dug holes and laid thousands of eggs, before swimming back into the sea. On the same 350-metre (1,100-foot) beach, one of the busiest nesting sites in Malaysia, baby turtles were hatching and scurrying into the waters.

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The eggs were then sold to local traders or eaten, and were a key source of protein in limited diets, although that started to change as incomes increased and different food options became available.

At the same time, Aziz realised there were more benefits for the local community in protecting turtle nests than raiding them, as growing numbers of tourists flocked to the island to see the creatures.

"I realised that if these migratory species are protected, the villagers on Redang would be able sustain their livelihoods," he said.

From egg hunter to protector, Malaysian battles to save

July 22, 2020

TITLE: turtles

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

So he started working for University Malaysia Terengganu's turtle research unit to protect the creatures, earning about \$400 a month.

He now works with two other rangers and a group of volunteers to safeguard the eggs from poachers and predators like monitor lizards.

"Villagers on Redang Island now enjoy a stable income from tourism as a growing number of people want to watch the Green turtles lay eggs," he said.

– Centuries-old tradition –

Mohamad Uzair Rusli, a biologist working on saving sea turtles at the university, agreed that giving locals a way to earn money from looking after the creatures was the best fashion to safeguard their future.

But he warned that without tackling the "voracious appetite" for eggs — considered an aphrodisiac by many — the creatures faced an uncertain future.

Licensed collectors are still allowed to operate in Terengganu, on the northeast coast of peninsular Malaysia, and the sale of most species' eggs remains legal.

But state authorities have pledged to ban the trade in all turtle eggs by the end of this year, following sustained pressure from conservation groups.

Currently Terengganu only prohibits the trade in eggs of Leatherback turtles, after their numbers fell dramatically, but not other species commonly found in the state.

However, changing a centuries-old tradition will be tough.

On a recent visit, eggs were being sold openly at a busy market in state capital Kuala Terengganu, with buyers paying the equivalent of \$12 for 10.

Trader Nor Jannah said business was brisk, and brushed off suggestions that eating the eggs was a threat to turtles.

"It is impossible turtles will become extinct," said the 32-year-old. "I have been eating and selling turtle eggs since I was 12."

Climate change on track to wipe out polar bears by 2100

Published July 21, 2020, 7:11 AM

by [Agence France-Presse](#)

Climate change is starving polar bears into extinction, according to research published Monday that predicts the apex carnivores could all but disappear within the span of a human lifetime.



On current trends, polar bears in 18 of 19 subpopulations will have been overtaken within 80 years by the galloping pace of change in the Arctic (AFP Photo/Steven C. AMSTRUP)

In some regions they are already caught in a vicious downward spiral, with shrinking sea ice cutting short the time bears have for hunting seals, scientists reported in Nature Climate Change.

Their dwindling body weight undermines their chances of surviving Arctic winters without food, the scientists added.

“The bears face an ever longer fasting period before the ice refreezes and they can head back out to feed,” Steven Amstrup, who conceived the study and is chief scientist of Polar Bears International, told AFP.

On current trends, the study concluded, polar bears in 12 of 13 subpopulations analysed will have been decimated within 80 years by the galloping pace of change in the Arctic, which is warming twice as fast as the planet as a whole.

There is not enough data for six others to make a determination as to their fate.

“By 2100, recruitment” — new births — “will be severely compromised or impossible everywhere except perhaps in the Queen Elizabeth Island subpopulation,” in Canada’s Arctic Archipelago, said Amstrup. That scenario foresees Earth’s average surface temperature rising 3.3 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial benchmark.

One degree of warming so far has triggered a crescendo of heatwaves, droughts and superstorms made more destructive by rising seas.

But even if humanity were able to cap global warming at 2.4C — about half-a-degree above Paris Agreement targets, but hugely ambitious all the same — it would probably only delay the polar bears’ collapse.

– Timeline of demise –

“That is still way above anything polar bears have faced during one million years of evolutionary history,” said Amstrup.

The threat is not rising temperatures per se but the top-of-the-food-chain predators’ inability to adapt to a rapidly shifting environment.

“If somehow, by magic, sea ice could be maintained even as temperatures increase, polar bears might be fine,” Amstrup said by email.

“The problem is that their habitat is literally melting.”

Half of Earth’s land-based megafauna are classified as threatened with extinction, but only polar bears are endangered primarily by climate change.

But that status may not be unique for long, and should be seen as a harbinger of how climate will impact other animals in the coming decades, the authors warned.

There are approximately 25,000 *Urus maritimus* left in the wild today.

The challenge to their survival has long been understood, but the new study — building on pioneering work by Amstrup a decade ago — is the first to put a timeline on their likely demise.

The new approach overlays two sets of data.

One is the expanding fasting period, which varies across regions and can last for half-a-year or more.

The other is a pair of climate change projections tracking the decline of sea ice until the end of the century, based on scenarios from the UN’s IPCC climate science advisory panel.

– In a free fall –

“By estimating how thin and how fat polar bears can be, and modelling their energy use, we were able to calculate the threshold number of days that polar bears can fast before cub and adult survival rates begin to decline,” said lead author Peter Molnar, a professor at the University of Toronto.

A male bear, for example, in the West Hudson Bay population that is 20 percent below its normal body weight when fasting begins will only have enough stored energy to survive about 125 days rather than 200 days.

New-born cubs are even more exposed, according to the study, especially when mothers have not fattened up enough to provide nourishing milk.

Females without offspring, however, have the greatest capacity to withstand long periods without food. The polar bear’s ‘vulnerable’ status on the IUCN Red List of endangered species — less severe than ‘endangered’ or ‘critically endangered’ — does not accurately reflect their plight, the authors argue.

Categories established by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature are based mainly on threats such as poaching and habitat encroachment that can be addressed with local action on the ground.

“But we cannot build a fence to protect sea ice from rising temperatures,” said Amstrup.

“Think of it this way: If I were to push you off of the roof of a 100-story building, would your risk level be ‘vulnerable’ until you pass by the 10th floor?,” he told AFP.

“Or would you be ‘endangered’ all the way down?”

Dire predictions for polar bears has led to the mulling of alternative solutions, such as captive breeding programmes or air lifts to Antarctica, but there is no ‘Plan B’.

“The only way to save them is to protect their habitat by halting global warming,” said Amstrup.

Climate change could wipe out polar bears by 2100

posted July 21, 2020 at 08:00 am

by [AFP and Marlowe Hood](#)

Climate change is starving polar bears into extinction, according to research published Monday that predicts the apex carnivores could all but disappear within the span of a human lifetime.



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Old phone to recycle? In France, just drop it in the mail

Agence France-Presse

Posted at Jul 21 2020 07:00 PM

PARIS - Figuring out what to do with an old mobile phone just got easier in France, where people can now send them free in the mail to have them recycled or refurbished for sale by a charity group.

An estimated 50 to 110 million phones are languishing in drawers across the country, since recycling options are not always straightforward and many people worry the personal data they store might still be accessible.

Ecosystem, the NGO behind the project, said people could order a pre-paid envelope from its website jedonnemontelephone.fr (I give my phone) or simply print out a pre-paid address label.

The phones are sent to a processing center where all data is erased before the phone is either refurbished for sale at Emmaus charity shops, or in the majority of cases (83 percent) broken down for recycling and the removal of the most polluting components.

Ecosystem said Monday that it plans to distribute 100 reconditioned phones from the scheme during each of the 35 stages of this year's Tour de France cycling race that begins on August 29.

The project is an expansion of the nonprofit's main electronics recycling programmes that aim to keep appliances and other devices from incinerators or landfill sites.

In June, it collected a record 62,000 tons of material as people cleared out their homes after two months of coronavirus lockdown.



The Montague wind farm in Oregon is one of Apple's largest projects at 200 megawatts and powers Apple's Prineville data center. *Handout photo*

SAN FRANCISCO - Apple pledged Tuesday to be carbon neutral across its entire business, including its manufacturing supply chain, by 2030, in a stepped up push to fight climate change.

The tech giant, which is already carbon neutral for its corporate operations, said the move would mean no climate impact for all its devices sold.

As part of an environmental update, Apple said it plans to reduce emissions by 75 percent by 2030 while developing "innovative carbon removal solutions" for the remaining 25 percent of its comprehensive footprint.

This includes investing in projects to restore savannas in Kenya and a mangrove ecosystem in Colombia to remove or store carbon.

"Businesses have a profound opportunity to help build a more sustainable future, one born of our common concern for the planet we share," said Apple chief executive Tim Cook.

"Climate action can be the foundation for a new era of innovative potential, job creation, and durable economic growth."

Apple said it has commitments from over 70 suppliers to use 100 percent renewable energy for Apple production.

As part of the effort, Apple will also establish an "accelerator" fund to invest in minority-owned businesses to contribute to the initiative, as part of its \$100 million commitment to promote racial equity and justice.